



Hawkesbury City Council

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to  
item 18

Final Thompson Square Conservation  
Management Plan

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# **Thompson Square Conservation Area Windsor, NSW**

## **Conservation Management Plan**



Prepared for:  
**Hawkesbury City Council**  
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**Frontispiece:** 1879 photograph of Thompson Square and Windsor Bridge as seen from the northern bank of the Hawkesbury River. Source: SLNSW, GPO SH1658

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# Executive Summary

## The Brief

This report is a conservation management plan (CMP) for the Thompson Square Conservation Area (TSCA), Windsor, NSW. Hawkesbury City Council has received funding from the Office of Environment and Heritage to facilitate the preparation of this conservation management plan.

Thompson Square and its immediate surrounds is recognised as the oldest surviving public square in Australia, dating from the 1790s and formally named in 1811 by Governor Macquarie. The conservation area is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register and in the Hawkesbury City Council's *Local Environmental Plan 2012*.

The purpose of this CMP is to ensure that the historically significant features of the Thompson Square Conservation Area are preserved for the future generations. Given there are a number of matters which have the potential to affect the Thompson Square precinct and its surrounding areas, particularly in respect to development pressures and ageing infrastructure, this CMP has been prepared to enable its better conservation and management by Hawkesbury City Council and other relevant authorities.

## The Structure of the Report

The CMP incorporates documentary research (Section 2) and the study of the fabric including the Historic and Aboriginal archaeology (Section 3) to provide an understanding of its cultural significance (Sections 4 and 5).

Opportunities and constraints on the treatment and use of the place are outlined in Section 6. This discusses the statutory heritage listings and their legislative requirements, the existing condition of the place, the requirements of Hawkesbury City Council for the ongoing care and management of the place and the likely expectations of the public.

The CMP provides in Section 7 a clear set of policies to guide the future care of the place, derived from an understanding of the place's significance, which lead to draft urban design guidelines and principles addressing infill development, infrastructure and urban landscape, boundary development and archaeological management (Section 8).

## The Place

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is located within the township of Windsor, NSW, which forms part of the third oldest place of British settlement on the Australian mainland, and Thompson Square is acknowledged as being one of the oldest public squares in Australia. The square is comprised of two central open landscaped areas (public reserves), bisected by Bridge Street leading to Windsor Bridge over the Hawkesbury River to the north and the streets and surrounding buildings on the east, west and southern sides of the public reserve lands.

As a group, the buildings, streets and open spaces of Thompson Square are included on the NSW State Heritage Register as the Thompson Square Conservation Area (TSCA) and are identified as a heritage

conservation area under Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012*. The conservation area is partially owned and managed by Hawkesbury City Council (Council).

### **The Significance of the Thompson Square Conservation Area**

*The Thompson Square Conservation Area is of exceptional significance as rare surviving evidence of the earliest years of the British colony in Australia, being the third settlement on the mainland established as an agricultural outpost to supply the young colony and Thompson Square is tangible evidence of this history. The only known public space named after an emancipist (Andrew Thompson), Thompson Square is also an important expression of Macquarie's vision for the future of the colony as an equitable and productive society.*

*The Thompson Square Conservation Area contains physical evidence of both the pre-Macquarie and Macquarie eras that is considered to be rare and exceptional, including the 1814 sandstock brick barrel drain, the 1816 sandstock brick wall defining the eastern boundary of the public square, the 1815 Macquarie Arms Hotel, the alignments of George Street, Bridge Street, Old Bridge Street, Baker Street and The Terrace, the topography and the configuration and subdivision patterns of the place.*

*The visual and spatial relationships between the place, the Hawkesbury River and the agricultural lands beyond combined with the collection of buildings defining the east, west and southern sides of the public square are evocative of an earlier time and have a strong colonial character that is considered to be unique.*

*The Thompson Square Conservation Area is recognised and appreciated as a valued historic place, as demonstrated by early and numerous heritage listings, the involvement of the Federal and NSW state governments in restoration programmes of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, being the inspiration for artists and architects as well as the subject of numerous books and reports about the history of the place and being the focus of recent community action and national public interest in the future conservation of the place.*

*The archaeological potential of the place for both the pre-settlement and settlement phases is very rare and of high historic and social significance.*

### **Limitations**

This report does not include an assessment of the natural (ecological) heritage values of the place.

At the time of writing this report, RMS working with Austral Archaeology and Extent Heritage were undertaking salvage work as part of the Windsor Bridge project involving excavation of the north open space in Thompson Square.<sup>1</sup> As such, access to this location was not available and a detailed site inspection was not undertaken as part of the preparation of this report.

It should also be noted that as this report is for the Thompson Square Conservation Area as a whole detailed fabric surveys of the individual buildings within the boundaries of the conservation area were not undertaken.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement/index.html>

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background to the Conservation Management Plan

This conservation management plan (CMP) for the Thompson Square Conservation Area has been commissioned by Hawkesbury City Council

The area known as Thompson Square is located within the township of Windsor, NSW, part of the third oldest place of British settlement on the Australian mainland, and Thompson Square is acknowledged as being one of the oldest public squares in Australia. The square is comprised of two central open landscaped areas (public reserves), bisected by Bridge Street leading to Windsor Bridge over the Hawkesbury River to the north and the streets and surrounding buildings on the east, west and southern sides of the public reserve lands.

As a group, the buildings, streets and open spaces of Thompson Square are included on the NSW State Heritage Register as the Thompson Square Conservation Area (TSCA) and are identified as a heritage conservation area under Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012*. The conservation area is partially owned and managed by Hawkesbury City Council (Council).

Due to recent development pressures, Hawkesbury City Council have recognised that a number of matters have the potential to affect the Thompson Square Conservation Area, its individual components and its immediate surrounds. Council therefore has commissioned this conservation management plan (CMP) for the Thompson Square Conservation Area to enable its continued conservation and management.

This project is being jointly funded by Hawkesbury City Council and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

### 1.1.1 The Brief

This conservation management plan has been prepared for Hawkesbury City Council. The brief for the report requires the preparation of a practical and comprehensive management document to ensure that the historic features of Thompson Square and the surrounding conservation area are conserved and managed in accordance with their cultural significance.

The aim of this project is to provide Council with a guide for the future care and use of Thompson Square and its surrounding areas, including:

- providing a strong focus on identifying the key features located within the conservation area that define and contribute to the cultural significance of the locality;
- undertaking a review of the current boundaries of the conservation area and providing recommendations for any appropriate adjustments;
- assessing the significance of the Thompson Square Conservation Area and its individual components (including Thompson Square) and preparing a statement of cultural significance for the locality (in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office's *Heritage Assessment Guidelines*, 2002); and

- developing conservation policy arising from the statement of cultural significance addressing the existing character and condition of the conservation area, ownership and management of the locality and individual heritage items within and adjacent to the conservation area, including potential future uses of individual elements within the conservation area.

Although a number of reports have been produced in relation to the history, significance and physical evidence of Thompson Square and some of the individual buildings and site features within its immediate surrounds, this report is the first comprehensive conservation management plan prepared for the whole of the State heritage listed Thompson Square Conservation Area.

### 1.1.2 Relationship with the Windsor Bridge Replacement Scheme

The Windsor Bridge, located directly to the north of the Thompson Square Conservation Area (although not within the boundaries of the conservation area), is an important link for communities located on both the south and north sides of the Hawkesbury River in the Windsor locality and is an important regional road transport link between western Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the Hunter Valley region.

In December 2013, the Minister for the (then) NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure approved the State Significant Infrastructure application (SSI- 4951) for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Scheme including the construction and operation of a replacement bridge, construction of northern and southern approach roads, partial removal of the existing Windsor Bridge and ancillary works including rehabilitation and landscaping. The proponent for the proposed works is Roads & Maritime Services (RMS).

This CMP also does not include an assessment of the potential heritage impacts of the proposed Windsor Bridge Replacement Project on the Thompson Square Conservation Area or its immediate surrounds.

#### Draft Strategic Conservation Management Plan

As a condition of the above approval, RMS completed a draft *Strategic Conservation Management Plan* (SCMP) for the area on the southern side of the Windsor Bridge Replacement Scheme area, which was placed on public exhibition in March 2017. The SCMP covers approximately 50% of the Thompson Square Conservation Area, excluding the properties located on George Street, Thompson Square, Bridge Street and Old Bridge Street.

This CMP for the Thompson Square Conservation Area incorporates a review of the *Thompson Square Windsor Draft Strategic Conservation Management Plan* (RMS, March 2017) to identify what gaps exist in the history, analysis and policy sections of the document, particularly with respect to those areas of the conservation area not addressed within the Draft SCMP. Other areas of review include identifying discrepancies (if any) in the documentary, physical and archaeological evidence and their interpretation. This information has been clarified (where possible) and incorporated into the body of this CMP.

This CMP does not provide a critique of the Draft SCMP and no comment is made in relation to the structure, content or recommendations included within the RMS report.

## 1.2 The Study Area

The Thompson Square Conservation Area (TSCA) is located on the southern bank of the Hawkesbury River within the township of Windsor, in the Parish of St Matthew, the County of Cumberland. Windsor is located within the north-western outskirts of Sydney, within the local government area of Hawkesbury City Council. See Figures 1.2 and 1.3.

The area known as Thompson Square is bounded by George Street to the south, The Terrace to the north, Thompson Square (street) to the west and Old Bridge Street/Bridge Street on the east. Bridge Street, being the main north-south road through the early town of Windsor travels in a south-east to north-west direction through Thompson Square, bisecting the public open spaces into two separate landscaped areas and providing road access to Windsor Bridge located directly to the north. The Thompson Square Conservation Area consists of the two public open spaces together with portions of the adjacent streets and the properties (public and private) located to the east, west and south of the central landscaped areas.

The TSCA is identified as both a State heritage item and a local conservation area, however, the defined boundaries of each listing are slightly different (refer to Section 4 for Heritage Listings). For the purposes of this report, the study area consists of the Thompson Square Conservation Area (C4) as defined on Heritage Map- Sheet HER\_008DB of the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012*, which is the larger of the two conservation areas. See Figure 1.1.



Figure 1. 1: The study area: Thompson Square Conservation Area (outlined in red).

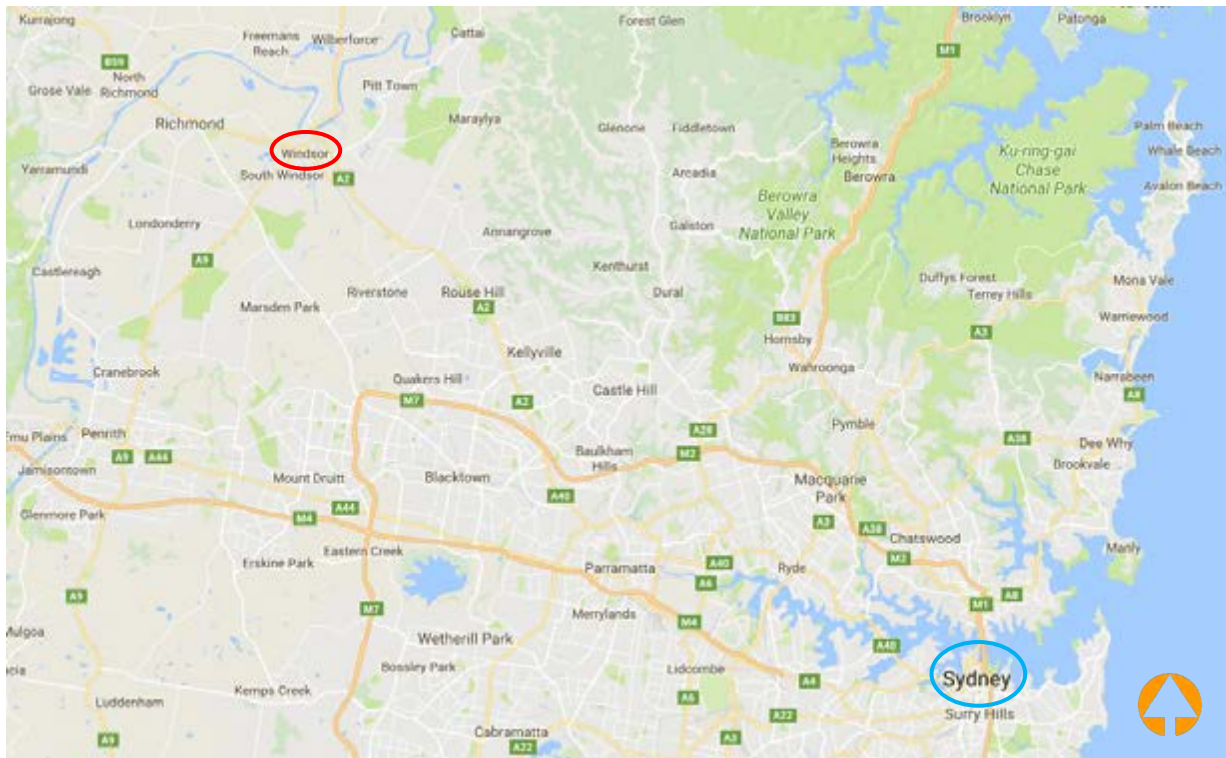


Figure 1. 2: Plan showing location of the town of Windsor (circled in red) to the northwest of the Sydney CBD (circled in blue). Source: GoogleMaps, 2017



Figure 1. 3: Aerial view of the north-eastern part of the town of Windsor showing location of the Thompson Square Conservation Area (circled in red). Source: NSW Land & Property Information <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>



## 1.3 Heritage Listings

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is listed as a heritage item as per the following:

- *Thompson Square Conservation Area*, NSW State Heritage Register, Item No. 00126
- *Thompson Square Conservation Area*, Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012*, 'C4'

The place is also included on the non-statutory heritage lists of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Register and the Register of the National Estate.

Contained within the boundaries of the conservation area are a number of individual heritage items included on the State Heritage Register either as part of the general listing for the Thompson Square Conservation Area (SHR No. 00126) or as individual items. Individual items located within the boundaries of the conservation area are also included in Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012*.

Refer to Section 6: Constraints and Opportunities for further details regarding heritage listings and Appendix X for copies of all listings.

## 1.4 Land Ownership

The ownership of the land and the individual properties within the boundaries of the Thompson Square Conservation Area are as follows:

Street Address	Real Property Definition	Owner (Public or Private)
<b><i>Individual Properties</i></b>		
1 Thompson Square- The Doctor's House	Lot B DP 161643	Private
3 Thompson Square- The Doctor's House	Lot 1 DP 196531	Private
5 Thompson Square-	Lot 1 DP 745036	Private
7 Thompson Square- Former Coffey's Inn/ Howe's House/ Hawkesbury Regional Museum	Part Lot 1 DP 60716	Hawkesbury City Council
81 George Street- Macquarie Arms Hotel	Lot 1 DP 864088	Private
92-94 George Street	Part Lot 1 DP 730435	Private
18 Baker Street	Part Lot 2 DP 730435	Private
88 George Street	Lot 1 DP 223433	Private
84 George Street	Lot 2 DP 233054	Private
82 George Street	Lot 10 DP 630209	Private
80 George Street	Lot 11 DP 630209	Private
11 Macquarie Street	Part Lot 1 DP 1160263	Private
74 George Street- A C Stearn building	Part Lot 1 DP 87241	Private

Street Address	Real Property Definition	Owner (Public or Private)
70 George Street	Lot 1 DP 1011887	Private
62 George Street- Hawkesbury Stores	Lot 2 DP 555685	Private
68 George Street- Hawkesbury Stores	Part Lot 1 DP 555685	Private
1/ 52 George Street	Lot 1 DP 1127620	Private
2/ 52 George Street	Lot 2 1127620	Private
19 Bridge Street	Part Lot 1 DP 555685	Private
14 Bridge Street- School of Arts	Lot 1 DP 136637	Private
10 Bridge Street- Lilburndale	Lot A DP 381403	Private
6 Old Bridge Street	Lot 1 DP 995391	Private
4 Old Bridge Street	Lot 10 666894	Private
<b>Public Recreation Areas/Open Spaces</b>		
Lower Reserve, 3 Old Bridge Street	Lot 345 DP 752061	Crown Land/Road Reserve
Upper Reserve	Lot 7007 DP 1029964	Crown Land/Road Reserve
Commemoration Reserve	Part of George Street road reserve	Hawkesbury City Council
<b>Streets/Roads</b>		
Old Bridge Street	-	Hawkesbury City Council
Part of Bridge Street	-	RMS
Part of George Street	-	Hawkesbury City Council
Thompson Square	-	Hawkesbury City Council

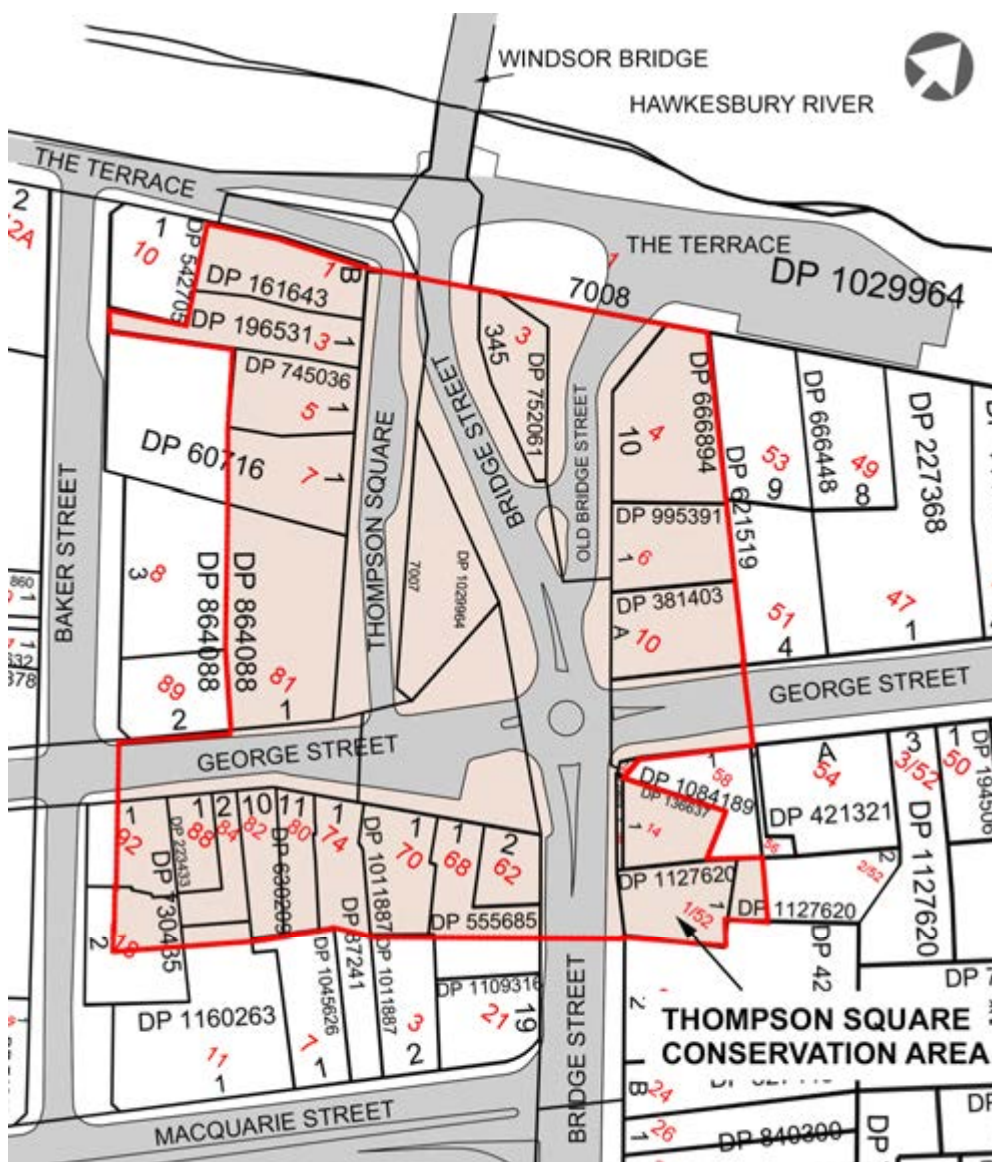


Figure 1. 4: The TSCA study area showing real property information. Source: Cadastral information and base plan supplied by HCC

## 1.5 Methodology

The form and methodology of this report follows the general guidelines for conservation management plans outlined in the following documents:

- *The Conservation Plan*, J. S. Kerr, Australia ICOMOS, Seventh edition, 2013
- *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter)*, Australia ICOMOS Inc. 2013
- *Assessing Heritage Significance*, NSW Heritage Office, 2001
- *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites & Relics*, NSW Heritage Office, 2009
- *Conservation Management Documents*, NSW Heritage Office, 2002
- *Ask First: A Guide to respecting Indigenous Heritage Values and Place*, Australian Heritage Commission, 2002.

## 1.6 Terms & Abbreviations

### Terms

This report adheres to the use of terms as defined in the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter* 2013 (see Appendix 1), together with the following definitions:

**Aboriginal object:** means any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains (as per Clause 5 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* 1974).

**Aboriginal place:** means any place declared to be an Aboriginal place under section 84 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* 1974.

**Place:** means a geographically defined area that may include elements, objects, spaces and views. Place may have tangible and intangible dimensions. The term place is defined under the *Burra Charter* and is used to refer to sites and areas of cultural significance.

### Abbreviations

AAJV	Austral AHMS Joint Venture
ADB	Australian Dictionary of Biography
ANU	Australian National University
Area	Thompson Square Conservation Area
Bk	Book
BP	Before Present (years)
c	Circa
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
CT	Certificate of Title
Council	Hawkesbury City Council
DP	Deposited Plan
HCC	Hawkesbury City Council
HRA	Historical Records of Australia
HRNSW	Historical Records of New South Wales
TSCA	Thompson Square Conservation Area
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LRS	Land Registry Services, NSW (formerly Land & Property Information, NSW)
LS	Licensed Surveyor
LSJP	Lucas Stapleton Johnson & Partners
ML	Mitchell Library
NLA	National Library of Australia
No.	Number
NSWGG	New South Wales Government Gazette



NRS	State Record Series (State Archives of New South Wales)
NT	National Trust of Australia (NSW)
OSD	Old System Deed, LRS, NSW
RMS	Roads and Maritime Services
RNE	Register of the National Estate
RPA	Real Property Application
SA	State Archives of New South Wales
SANSW	State Archives of New South Wales
SB	Surveyor's Book
SCMP	Strategic Conservation Management Plan
SHR	State Heritage Register
SLNSW	State Library NSW
SRNSW	State Archives and Records, NSW
WBRP	Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

## 1.7 Exclusions & Limitations

This report does not include an assessment of the natural (ecological) heritage values of the place.

At the time of writing this report, RMS working with Austral Archaeology and Extent Heritage were undertaking salvage work as part of the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project involving excavation of the lower reserve in Thompson Square.<sup>1</sup> As such, access to this location was not available and a detailed site inspection was not undertaken as part of the preparation of this report.

It should also be noted that as this report is for the Thompson Square Conservation Area as a whole, detailed fabric surveys of the individual buildings within the boundaries of the conservation area were not undertaken.

## 1.8 Author Identification

This report has been produced at Lucas Stapleton Johnson & Partners Pty Ltd and is the compilation of work by the following team:

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement/index.html>

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## 1.9 Acknowledgments

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- Hawkesbury City Council Heritage Advisory Committee

## 1.10 Copyright

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## 2 Collected Evidence

### 2.1 Aboriginal History

The following Aboriginal historical overview has been extracted from the report *Aboriginal Heritage Review, Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW*, prepared by Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology for the purposes of this CMP. Refer to Appendix 5 for a copy of the full report.

#### 2.1.1 Introduction

This Aboriginal historical overview discusses in context various lines of documentary evidence that are relevant to the European invasion of the Hawkesbury districts and subsequent Aboriginal history of Windsor. The Aboriginal history of the Hawkesbury is complex, and the stories are also increasingly being told from an Aboriginal perspective (see Corr 2016 for example) that has shifted the narrative of the place from a solely agricultural-historical standpoint to a post-invasion racially ‘shared landscape’. A great deal of the evidence referred to below relates to locations and events outside of Windsor and immediate surrounds, and the use of specific circumstances or events to illustrate or emphasise points considered important has been selective.

Discussion ‘begins’ in 1794 with the first official ‘settlement’ of the district and initial displacement of the Aboriginal people who owned and were living on this land at this time. A central theme of this period of Aboriginal history was the need for these Aboriginal people to relocate to other (unoccupied or sparsely settled) parts of the river and away from what was to become a permanent and persistently expanding settlement. This section also touches on some of the complexities of the racial violence that occurred in 1794 and connections between the hostilities and drought and the continual extension of the settlement.

#### Overview of the Historical Evidence

A substantial proportion of the documentary records relating to the Aboriginal history of the Windsor district from 1794 to 1816 are concerned with interracial violence that took place along the Hawkesbury River. The recorded hostilities include both isolated one-off events or clusters of events, but overall appear to have peaked and then subsided during three separate time periods that form part of what has been referred to as the “Hawkesbury and Nepean Wars” (1795-1816).<sup>1</sup>

Andrew Thomson had a role in these hostilities when chief constable of Windsor (Green Hills) in 1805.<sup>2</sup> The (violent) context of the times provides a background to Thompson’s actions as leader of a punitive raid on an Aboriginal camp near Shaw’s Creek that resulted in the killing of Aboriginal people, followed by a relatively prolonged period of “peace” until hostilities broke out again in 1812.

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<sup>1</sup> The term “Hawkesbury and Nepean Wars” appears in a Wikipedia article, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawkesbury\\_and\\_Nepean\\_Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawkesbury_and_Nepean_Wars)

<sup>2</sup> Andrew Thomson held the role of Constable from 1796 to 1808 at the settlement of Green Hills (later known as Windsor). Refer to below for further history regarding Thompson’s role in the development of Thompson Square.

Military expeditions ordered by Macquarie in 1816 resulting in the loss of Aboriginal life and social fragmentation of the communities living in the Hawkesbury, Liverpool and Nepean districts is also important to the Aboriginal history of Windsor. Some of the soldiers departed on their respective expeditions from the township, and the results of these military actions contributed greatly to the ending of organised Aboriginal resistance on the Cumberland Plains.<sup>3</sup>

By the 1820s-1840s, the historical records indicate people were camping long-term on land occupied by (granted to) particular settler's farms in the district, but no camps were necessarily located close to the town of Windsor itself. Situated to the north of the long-standing Aboriginal settlement at "The Blacktown" on Richmond Road in Plumpton, the settler's properties closest to Windsor for which there is the most documentary evidence included those of Rev. Samuel Marsden at Mamre on South Creek, at his son Charles Marsden's "Tumbledown Barn" located at Riverstone at the junction of South Creek and Eastern Creek, and on Archibald Bell's land situated on Richmond Hill ("Belmont"). It is also very likely that some Aboriginal people continued to live on the river around Sackville Reach and Portland Head during this period, having already been relocated a number of times by c1804 as a result of the increased settlement of the district (discussed later). However, documentary evidence for these isolated communities is comparatively limited by comparison to that for the "farm camps" of the same period.

The Aboriginal records from c1840 to about 1880 are also sparse but suggest that Aboriginal people were "*living in quiet seclusion during this period*"<sup>4</sup> and family groups and individuals probably continued to "aggregate" around Sackville Reach. Historian Jack Brook notes<sup>5</sup> that following the gold strikes of the 1850s, the government and the churches largely ignored these Aboriginal people for the next thirty years or so and argues that those "quiet" years allowed a new generation of Aboriginal people to "consolidate, strengthen" unhindered by white bureaucracy.

The later nineteenth century records for Windsor itself, including Thompson Square and other town spaces and buildings, frequently relate to Aboriginal people coming into town and gathering during the annual distribution of blankets at the courthouse on the Queen's birthday. Many of these people had been living on the river country around Sackville Reach well before the Sackville Reach Aboriginal Reserve was established in the late 1880s.

The historical records document aspects of Windsor's cross-cultural past and continue to have resonance with Aboriginal people today. Together with the archaeology of the district (refer to Section 3.5), the historical evidence is important for its detail and because it establishes a continuous and unbroken record of Aboriginal occupation of the place, probably extending back to the Pleistocene era (12,000+ years ago).

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<sup>3</sup> Kohen 1985

<sup>4</sup> Brook 1994:16

<sup>5</sup> *ibid*:16-17

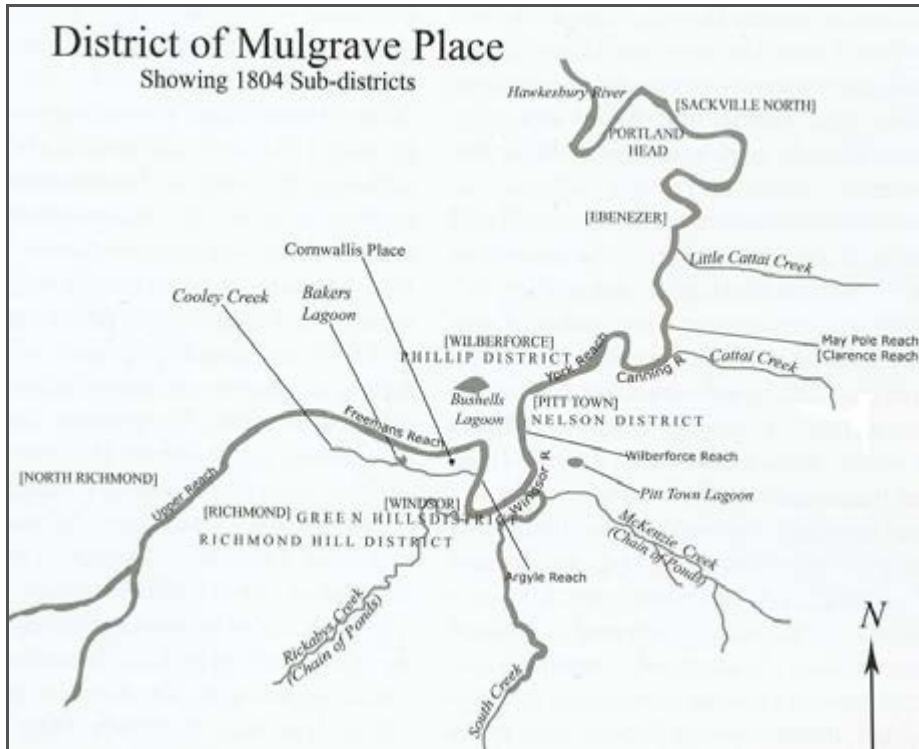


Figure 2. 1: European place names for important Aboriginal river landscape elements in 1804. Source: Jack, 2009: Figure 3

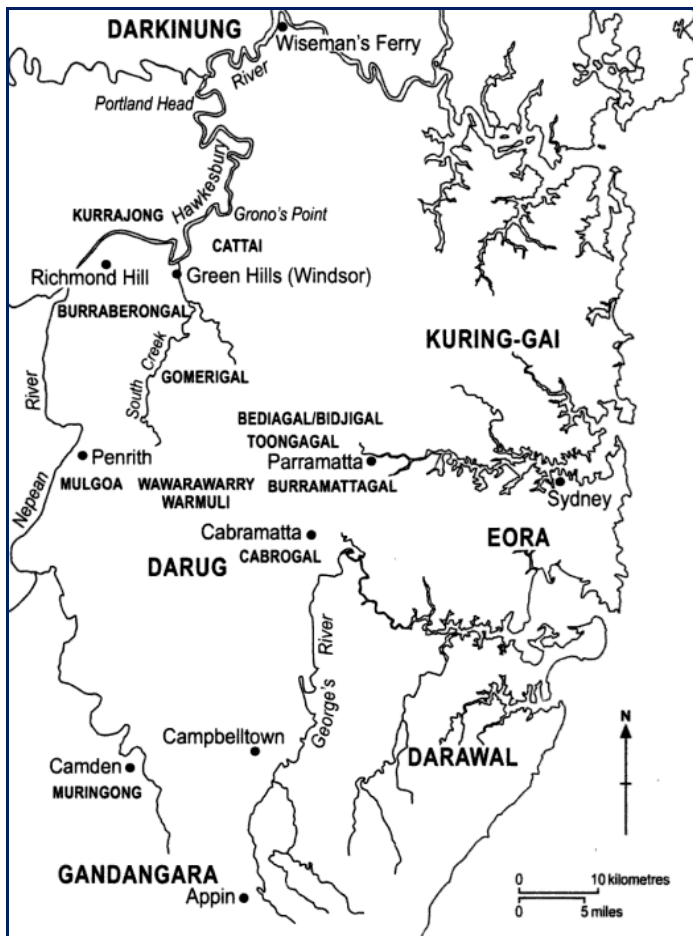


Figure 2. 2: Darug land, 1795. Source: Connor 2002: Figure 3.

## 2.1.2 Outline Aboriginal History of the Windsor District & Surrounds

### First settlement, racial interactions and conflict in the 1790s

Aboriginal people felt the direct impact of settlement immediately and increasingly from 1794 because the new farms resulted in the destruction (or replacement by cultivation) of ‘yam’ beds already in existence on the river banks that were favoured and possibly curated by Aboriginal people.<sup>6</sup> The settler farms also restricted access to lagoons that were important for fish, eels and birds, and there was also the probable loss of game that was shot or driven away by the new arrivals. White settlement not only took the lands that were most densely occupied by Aboriginal people and the locations of their richest food sources, but also took the Aboriginal people’s sacred and teaching places.<sup>7</sup> The consistent increase in settler numbers from 1794 left Aboriginal people little option other than to move as far as possible away from settlement (but to where?) or to resist.

In an (unsuccessful) attempt to slow or deflect settlement away from the Hawkesbury, David Collins<sup>8</sup> in his publication from his own records *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales* (Volume 1, 1798) reported that in mid-1794 “some natives, who had observed the increasing number of the settlers on the banks of the Hawkesbury” advised of “a river of fresh water which ran into the sea” not far from Botany Bay that would be suitable for settlement.<sup>9</sup> However, the consistent increase in settler numbers from 1794 left Aboriginal people little option other than to move as far as possible away from settled areas or to resist.

One of the first recorded instances of violence nearby to the future town of Windsor occurred in August 1794 when an Aboriginal boy was seized, detained, tortured and murdered on or near the farms of Robert Forrester and Michael Doyle. These farms were situated on the edge of settlement upstream from Windsor on the right bank of Argyle Reach (see Figure 2.1). The names of Forrester and Doyle reoccur again in a trial of five settlers for the murder of two other Aboriginal boys in the same location in 1799.



Figure 2. 3: Detail from John Lewin watercolour entitled “View of the Hawkesbury River”, dated c1810, showing Argyle Reach and the farm owned in 1799 by Jonas Archer (ploughed field in the centre of frame), Forrester’s farm (next on right) where the two boys were interrogated, and Doyle’s farm (owned by Edward Powell in 1799) with two silos. Source: SLNSW, DG V1B /3

<sup>6</sup> Gov. Hunter recorded in 1789 at the junction of the Grose and Nepean Rivers evidence for Aboriginal people digging for “yams” (Hunter 1793: 6<sup>th</sup> July 1789 diary entry). Ford (2012) suggests the riverside yam described was a marsh club-rush (*Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*) that grows on wet banks and can withstand flood, and has a walnut sized tuber at the stem base, as described by Hunter.

<sup>7</sup> Karskens, G., 2009:123

<sup>8</sup> David Collins (1756-1810), Deputy Judge Advocate and Lieutenant-Governor

<sup>9</sup> Collins, 1794:308-309



Figure 2. 4: Inferred location of an early 1790s Aboriginal historic site. Source: Stewart, L.; 2015

The bench of Magistrates convened to investigate the murder were told by Forrester that a large party of Aboriginals had appeared at the back of his farm. Alarmed, he and his neighbours went out to observe what was going on, where they found a boy (age unknown) alone in the road that they suspected was coming in for the purpose of discovering what arms they possessed. The settlers tied the boy's hands behind his back and delivered him to Doyle. The boy was subsequently further tied hand and foot and dragged several times through a fire before being thrown into the river and shot. Forrester admitted to kicking the boy but told the Magistrates he had done so "from motives of humanity".<sup>10</sup> Aboriginal reprisal attacks soon after killed a local settler and a convict which in turn resulted in a military raid in which six to eight Aboriginal people were killed. Richard Atkins wrote in September 1794 that the "*settlers at the Hawkesbury have killed 6 of the Natives, since which time they have not seen them. How far this is justifiable I cannot say*".<sup>11</sup> Five years later, in August 1799, two teenage Aboriginal boys, Little Jemmy and Little George, were murdered on Constable Edward Powell's Argyle Reach farm in the same general location as the 1794 murder. Five settlers were charged and although found guilty, the panel of judges was divided, and the case was referred to London. Ultimately all of the accused were acquitted.

By mid 1795 over 400 Europeans were living at the Hawkesbury (approximately). The colonists occupied most of the river banks and principal tributaries leaving few locations where Aboriginal people had direct access to the river bank or inland lagoons. Pressure on space and resources was also exacerbated by a drought that was causing food shortages in the colony, and the subsequent arrival of more settlers on the river. Collins had noticed "*that as the corn ripened, they [Aboriginal people] constantly drew together round the settler's farms and round the public grounds, for the purpose of committing depredations*".<sup>12</sup> Corn was often taken, and individual settler's reactions varied.

Aboriginal attacks on farms during this period included farms in relatively isolated positions and as well as farms located on the edges of settlements. It is likely some Aboriginal people specifically targeted isolated farms in an attempt to discourage further expansion of the settlements. Two military

<sup>10</sup> This seems doubtful as the boy's hands were tied and therefore it was impossible for him to swim to the opposite river bank and to safety.

<sup>11</sup> Journal of Richard Atkins during his residence in NSW: 1791-1810 (online).

<sup>12</sup> Collins, 1798:235



expeditions as a result of the attacks on farms resulted in the deaths of about eight Aboriginal people and a number of men, women and children being taken prisoner.

Historian Barry Corr (2014) draws attention to evidence provided by Sergeant Goodall (of Windsor) in 1799. He was asked a series of questions and replied in the affirmative when asked if he had been “sent to the Hawkesbury for the express purpose of defending the Settlers from the attacks of the Natives in consequence of the representation from the Settlers that they were in Danger of being murdered by the Natives”.<sup>13</sup> Other questions and answers included:

*“Q. - Did you not serve in the Detachment at the Hawkesbury as a Sergeant?”*

*A. - Yes I did upwards of two years I was discharged two years ago last April since which I have lived as a free settler.*

*Q. - Do you recollect during your service at the Hawkesbury the Natives committing any Murders Robberies or other Outrages?*

*A. - I do some I particularly well remember.*

*Q. - What steps were taken to Punish such Natives?*

*A. - Parties of Soldiers were frequently sent out to kill the Natives but being the Senior Sergeant at the Hawkesbury I had the care of the Stores and did not go out with any Detachments.*

*Q. - From whom did you receive your Orders from time to time at the Hawkesbury?*

*A. - I received my Orders in writing from Captain John McArthur at Parramatta and those orders were issued in consequence of a Number of Murders about that Time Committed by the Natives.”<sup>14</sup>*

There are links between what were individual and often unrelated killings (on both sides) during this period and the rate and scale of the expanding settlement, and the effects of drought on both the settlers and Aboriginal people. Settlement grew rapidly around Windsor between one drought that started around 1794 and another drought that finished in 1799. The 1799 murder trial transcripts reported between fourteen and sixteen settlers were killed and four wounded during 1794-1799. All settlers killed were men, except for one infant. About double this number of Aboriginal men, women and children were recorded to have been killed and several wounded during the same period.

## Impact of Settlement and Conflict up to 1814

Corr (2018) makes an important observation with respect to the timing and motivations behind the often quoted pledge by Governor King (repeated below) to limit the spread of downstream settlement on the Hawkesbury. In the wider context it wasn't until 1804, and after a decade of continual and by now consolidated-permanent settlement, that Governor King had met with Hawkesbury Aboriginal people (at Ebenezer) to discuss their grievances about the taking of their land. However, this occurred at least concurrently with King having an accurate survey of the river between Portland Head to Mullet Island made because he ‘anxious to ascertain what number of people could be fixed on the lower part of the Hawkesbury and its branches’.<sup>15</sup>

*“On questioning the cause of their disagreement with the new settlers...[the Aborigines at Portland Head] very ingeniously answered that they did not like to be driven away from the few places that were left on the banks of the river, where alone they could*

<sup>13</sup> HRA Volume II:417-418, cited in Corr, B., 2014, *Pondering the Abyss: The Language of Settlement on the Hawkesbury 1788-1810*; <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/144576/20150204-0136/www.nangarra.com.au/documents.html>

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> HRA V:166-167



*procure food; that they had gone down the river as the White men took possession of the bank; if they went across White men's grounds the settlers fired upon them and were angry...The observation [and subsequent request] appear to be so just and so equitable that I assured them no more settlement should be made lower down the river".<sup>16</sup>*

These Aboriginal people had just been forced to move for (at least) a second time along the river, following the settlement of the Coromandel settlers at Portland Head. The records are limited, but some of these displaced Aboriginal people were seemingly already living (or continuing to live) beyond Sackville or above Richmond Hill at this time.<sup>17</sup>

A renewed phase of hostilities on the Hawkesbury broke out as a result of the land annexure of Portland Head, and in May 1804 Aboriginal people attacked the farm of Matthew Everingham. His house and outbuildings were burnt, and he and his wife and their convict servant were speared (non-fatally). Their children were left unhurt. Governor King blamed "Branch Natives"<sup>18</sup> for provoking the violence, but did not acknowledge the role played by the extension of settlement into the lower reaches of the river, and contrasted their behaviour with that of the Aboriginal people at Richmond Hill who were described to be "*for the most part adverse to the hostile measures adopted by their brethren down the River*".<sup>19</sup> Two 'chiefs' of the Richmond Hill 'tribe', named Yaragowhy and Yaramandy (the latter seemingly corrupted posthumously to Yarramundi in the 1900s)<sup>20</sup> were summoned by the local Magistrate, Surgeon Thomas Arndell and Rev. Marsden in June 1804 to help put an end to the "mischief's".<sup>21</sup>

Details of the renewed (continued) hostilities on the Hawkesbury during 1804 and 1805 are not especially relevant to this study. One incident however warrants mention because it ended this historical phase of conflict. It was a punitive raid led by (then chief constable) Andrew Thompson on an Aboriginal camp on the Nepean River in April 1805. The *Sydney Gazette*<sup>22</sup> reported the attack was a "*successful assault made upon the Branch natives by a party of Richmond Hill and adjacent settlers*". In the context of its timing, the attack on the camp took place shortly after General Orders had been issued that banned Aboriginal people from approaching farms and troops had been sent to protect outlying settlements.<sup>23</sup> Tensions were high.

The logistics of the attack appear to have been well planned. The party headed out for the Nepean from "*the small port township at the green hills*" at a time the country was inundated from flood. Their baggage wagon included a boat to cross the river which could not be otherwise forded. The road approaches to the river however were also inundated that prevented the wagon from proceeding and the party carried the boat for several miles on their shoulders. After crossing the river at the spot where the Aboriginal encampment had been the day before and seemingly recently abandoned, the party was guided by a couple of unnamed "*Richmond Hill natives, who in consequence of repeated proofs of fidelity*" were armed with muskets. They were promised permission to "*seize and retain a wife a-piece*". The story goes that "*after much additional fatigue*", at a site somewhere on the western

<sup>16</sup> Historical Records of NSW Vol 5:512-513

<sup>17</sup> Barkley-Jack 2009:272

<sup>18</sup> The term 'Branch Native' at first referred to the (then less familiar) 'First and Second Branches' of the Hawkesbury River (or the McDonald and Colo Rivers) but its application by the settlers was, according to Ford (2012), used to identify the Hawkesbury Aborigines extending across the Nepean River into the Grose Valley towards Springwood.

<sup>19</sup> *Sydney Gazette*, 1 July 1804

<sup>20</sup> This is probably the same Yellomundy who camped with Governor Phillip in April 1791 at Portland Head Rock which was also not far from where the Everingham family was attacked (Ford 2012).

<sup>21</sup> *Sydney Gazette*, 1 July 1804

<sup>22</sup> *Sydney Gazette*, 12 May 1805

<sup>23</sup> *Sydney Gazette*, 28<sup>th</sup> April 1805

bank of the Nepean River upstream of Yarramundi Bridge and probably near nearby Shaw's Creek, at least seven Aboriginal people were killed by Thompson's party including Yaragowby who had slipped away from Green Hills overnight to warn the Aboriginal people at their camp of the impending attack. He was the first "*of the seven or eight that fell*". For the six years prior to his death, Yaragowby had acted as an intermediary between Aboriginal people and settlers. After the attack all the "*spears [ 'several thousand' ] and other war implements were burnt, and little molestation had since been felt about Hawkesbury*".<sup>24</sup>

A later incident in 1812 illustrates the nature of race relations in the first years of Governor Macquarie's term and relates to a group of Aboriginal people who were able to complain to Matthew Locke (then Chief Constable at Windsor) because they had been shot at and one person killed, although the outcome of the complaint is unknown.

*"A few days ago a party of Natives went to the house of Mr. Locke, Chief Constable at Windsor, with a representation that one of their tribe had been fired at and supposed to be killed, at Richmond. They appeared very positive in the truth of their information, and vehemently solicited an immediate cognizance of the complaint; with which Mr. L readily complied. Attended by a party of his sub-ordinates, he went accordingly to the farm whereat the circumstance was alleged to have taken place, and as no traces were visible that could give colour to the information, the enquiry was extended to the surrounding hamlets; the consequence of which was, that a White man and woman were taken in to Windsor, where, as stated by the latest accounts from thence, they awaited an investigation of the challenge.-Whether the Natives were correct in their information or otherwise...., as it is our undoubted duty to avoid every excitement to acts of hostility from these uninformed tribes, who, acting from momentary impulse upon all occasions, have it ever in their power to reek [sic] their vengeance upon the solitary unoffending settler, or the unguarded traveller"*.<sup>25</sup>

## End of hostilities on the Cumberland Plains (1814-1816)

Between 1814 and 1816 there was a drought and food was scarce. The drought broke in May 1816 with further flooding in June. In response to renewed outbreaks of violence that were no doubt related to or exacerbated by these conditions, Macquarie made a public proclamation for the future treatment of Aboriginals in and around the settled areas, stating:

*"Whereas the ABORIGINES, or Black NATIVES of this Colony, have for the last three Years manifested a strong and sanguinary Spirit of ANIMOSITY and HOSTILITY towards the BRITISH INHABITANTS residing in the Interior and remote Parts of the Territory, and been recently guilty of most atrocious and wanton Barbarities, in indiscriminately murdering Men, Women, and Children, from whom they had received no Offence or Provocation; and also in killing the Cattle, and plundering and destroying the Grain and Property of every Description, belonging to the Settlers and Persons residing on and near the Banks of the rivers Nepean, Grose and Hawkesbury, and South Creek, to the great Terror, Loss, and Distress of the suffering inhabitants."*<sup>26</sup>

Key points from Macquarie's Government Proclamation released on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 1816<sup>27</sup> are summarised below:

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<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Sydney Gazette, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1812

<sup>26</sup> Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 1816, p. 1

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

- Aboriginal people were not to appear at or within one mile of any town, village or farm occupied by or belonging to any British subject armed with any warlike or offensive weapons.
- No more than six Aboriginal people could approach a settlement or farm together.
- Gatherings for ritual punishments were banned.
- Any Aboriginal person who wished to have government protection could apply monthly for a passport (at Sydney).
- Aboriginal people who wished to become ‘civilised’ could apply for a small land grant.
- The 28th of December was fixed as the date for the annual feast at Parramatta.
- Settlers were empowered to drive off hostile natives and magistrates and troops at Sydney, Parramatta and Windsor were ordered to support settlers in this under what was effectively Martial Law.

Governor Macquarie also sent out three punitive military expeditions to areas of the Nepean, Hawkesbury and Grose Rivers under the commands of Captain Schaw, Captain Wallis and Lieutenant Dawes.

Aboriginal guides were arranged to accompany the expeditions, with Bidgee Bidgee and Harry joining Schaw from Sydney, and William Possum and Creek Jemmy (Nurragingy) joining Schaw at Windsor. Schaw was ordered after consulting with magistrates at Windsor (on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 1812) to scour the “Kurry Jong Brush” (Kurrajong) and banks of the Grose River before marching south to the Cowpastures to join forces with Wallis and Dawes.<sup>28</sup>

The military attachments with Aboriginal guides met no resistance and failed to locate any Aboriginal people. The only detachment without guides (led by Captain Wallis) that was sent to the Appin and Airds districts surprised and fatally attacked a sleeping camp in Appin. This camp was nearby to another where Aboriginal people had been camping on a settler’s farm and the camp occupants may have felt relatively safe. The soldiers killed (at least) fourteen Gundungurra people (including women and children) with another five people being taken prisoner to Liverpool.<sup>29</sup> The bodies of the dead men were hung from the trees. After the massacre a patrol of soldiers remained in the districts to protect farms and capture ‘troublesome’ or ‘banned’ Aboriginal people on Macquarie’s lists.

In the Hawkesbury, Schaw’s first detachment to leave Windsor on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1816 comprised constables, settlers and Aboriginal guides who marched first to Bell’s farm at Richmond Hill, then up to the Grose River and upstream before the party swung north through Kurrajong to Singleton’s Hill.<sup>30</sup> At Kurrajong the Aboriginal guides pointed out tracks and led the party to a recent camp which appeared to have been slept in the night before but no contact was made. Schaw had also been informed that “*Flying Fox Valley....was a likely place to find some natives*” but found no one and returned to Windsor three days later. His march south to Bringelly was interrupted by orders to go to Arndell’s Cattai farm first because of reports of recent attacks. This detachment failed to track any people or surprise any camps. Schaw’s accounts of these actions suggest there was less hostile activity and fewer Aboriginal people on the Hawkesbury River than in previous years.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>28</sup> HRA, Volume IX: 139-140.

<sup>29</sup> Macquarie to Bathurst, 8th June 1816. HRA Vol 1(9):139-140. Over a decade later the 1828 Census makes a specific point to note Airds (district adjoining Appin to the north) that ‘no natives residing in this district’ (Sainty and Johnson 1985:15).

<sup>30</sup> Referring to Little Wheeny Creek near the junction of modern Bell’s Line of Road and Comleroy Road.

<sup>31</sup> The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* 25<sup>th</sup> October 1890, p. 3 reported Edward Tuckerman’s claim that “not less than 400 blacks were killed in 1816”.

Nurragingy was rewarded for his guiding services with a brass gorget (“king plate”) that named him as chief of the South Creek Tribe. He and Colebee were also each promised a 30 acre parcel of land on South Creek. The grants didn’t eventuate until 1819 and were located on marginal land at Bell’s Creek on the Richmond-Blacktown Road near where the Native Institution was later relocated to from Parramatta. At the end of hostilities in 1816 Aboriginal-European relations appear to have entered a new phase, and although traditional practices continued in many places, Aboriginal people became increasingly dependent on the settlers for food, clothing and shelter.<sup>32</sup>

## 1828 Census

By the time the 1828 Census was taken the Sydney Aboriginal population had been dispossessed of their land and dramatically reduced in number by disease, neglect and violence. Access to traditional food resources was restricted and new Aboriginal groups began to band together and congregate on the fringes of colonial settlements. This occurred in particular on the estates of some larger landowners. Aboriginal people referred to at the time as the “South Creek Tribe” camped at Mamre and “Tumbledown Barn”, and a Tharawal clan group of Cubbitch-Barta people lived on John Macarthur’s land at Camden.

In 1821, the missionary William Walker recorded Aboriginal groups under locality names including Kissing Point, Windsor, Hawkesbury, South Creek, Mulgoa, Liverpool, Botany Bay, Cow Pastures, Five Islands (Illawarra) and Broken Bay.<sup>33</sup> He also mentioned “tribes” at Portland Head, Caddie (Cattai) and Prospect.<sup>34</sup> The connections between these “tribes” is reflected (for example) by 1820s records of people from the Botany Bay tribe travelling to the Hawkesbury to attend a corroboree at Pitt Town.<sup>35</sup>

As part of his mission, Walker was interacting regularly with people in distant “bush” settings and continued to work with these communities after the Parramatta Institution closed in 1823 and was relocated to “The Blacktown” where it was under his charge for a time. The “bush” settings referred to was the country around the twin land grants made to Colebee and Nurragingy by Macquarie in 1816, and which had continued to be a largely autonomous focus for Aboriginal “settlement”.

The 1828 Census for the area between Parramatta and the Blue Mountains records Aboriginal people living at Parramatta, Richmond, Mulgoa, Burragorang, Cowpastures, Nepean and the First Branch (later Lower Branch - McDonald River).<sup>36</sup> On the Hawkesbury River, Aboriginal people are recorded as “residing” at Mullet (Dangar) Island, Mangrove Creek, North East Arm (Brisbane Water), Broken Bay, Erina and Narara.<sup>37</sup> The Census also recorded seventy three Aboriginal people at Windsor (but are referred to as the ‘Richmond tribe’) and one hundred and fourteen people under the grouping of Portland Head.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> In 1836 Aboriginal people from Lake Macquarie and headed by M’Gill were reported travelling to Windsor, Parramatta, and Sydney, to teach other tribes a new song and dance which had lately been brought from far beyond the Liverpool Plains where the dialect was seen to be different to that used on the sea coast (*Sydney Gazette*, 16 July 1836).

<sup>33</sup> There are two William Walkers mentioned in this report. The first had been appointed in 1820 by the London Wesleyan Missionary Society to the role as the first ‘missionary to the Aborigines in Parramatta’. The second is a later nineteenth century local resident of Windsor.

<sup>34</sup> Kohen 1993

<sup>35</sup> Brook and Kohen 1993

<sup>36</sup> Sainty and Johnson 1985:15

<sup>37</sup> Kohen 1993:19

<sup>38</sup> Sainty and Johnson 1985:15

Recorded in the “Returns of Natives” for the period 1832-1843, several hundred Aboriginal people were living in a dispersed range of locations across Sydney during this period.<sup>39</sup> Locations and “tribes” labelled by the colonial administrators at this time included Sydney, Broken Bay, Botany Bay, Duck River (Wategora), South Creek, Windsor, Nepean Cattai Creek (Caddie), Richmond, Kurrajong, Prospect (Weymaly), Breakfast Creek (Warrywarry), Georges River (Liverpool), Cowpastures (Muringong), Lower Branch (McDonald River), Colo River, Mangrove Creek, Wollumbine and Putty.

### Aboriginal camps in the 1830s and 1840

By the 1830s Aboriginal people were camped at the junction of South Creek and Eastern Creek at “Tumbledown Barn”<sup>40</sup> and Mamre on South Creek near Penrith. Aboriginal people had probably always camped on or around Mamre where Rev. Samuel Marsden encouraged work in exchange for food and clothing. In September 1835, James Backhouse and George Washington Walker,<sup>41</sup> Quaker missionaries, were guided from Parramatta to South Creek by a South Creek Aboriginal man known as Johnny, and from there to Penrith by another, Simeon, who was also from South Creek. It is not clear whether the South Creek property in question was Mamre or “Tumbledown Barn” but the Blacktown settlement had apparently been abandoned by this time. Backhouse in 1843 wrote of his visit: *“the south creek natives may be considered as half-domesticated, and they often assist in the agricultural operations of the settlers”*.<sup>42</sup>

The 1842 Musgrave map of the Windsor district (see Figure 2.6) appears to show Tumbledown Barn and a ‘burial ground of the blacks’ is marked on the land of John Pye and his son Joseph who had bought and consolidated land from 1815 amounting to over 800 acres on both sides of Eastern Creek. The family homestead was called “Wawarawarry” (or Warrawarry) and blanket returns between 1832 and 1843 record a Warrawarry “tribe” at Breakfast Creek.<sup>43</sup> Historian J. Kohen also noted:

*“Johnny Cox and Betty Cox were married in 1819 and lived at the Blacktown. They are mentioned by the missionary Backhouse who had a guide named Johnny provided for him by Samuel Marsden. Johnny was described as belonging to the ‘South Creek Tribe’ and is listed on with his wife and up to 8 children on various ‘blanket returns’ in the 1830s and 1840s. He is said to belong to the Waawaarawari clan, which lived along Eastern Creek, a tributary of South Creek. The wife Betty belonged to the ‘Carrai’ or ‘Hawkesbury tribe’, and she was also educated at the Native Institution.”*<sup>44</sup>

<sup>39</sup> 1993:19

<sup>40</sup> Hassall (1902:32,33) writes he was at school in Mulgoa between 1836 and 1839 and that his uncle (Charles Simeon Marsden) ‘had a dairy farm near Windsor called the Tumbledown Barn’. Charles Marsden (b. 1803) was the son of Rev Samuel Marsden.

<sup>41</sup> James Backhouse (1794-1869), naturalist and Quaker missionary and George Washington Walker (1800-1859), Quaker, shopkeeper and humanitarian. In 1831 Walker accompanied Backhouse on a nine-year mission to the Australian and South African colonies. The partnership combined the initiative, imagination and adventurous spirit of James Backhouse and Walker's methodical organizing and secretarial skill. They investigated convict and Aboriginal conditions, returned statistical accounts to Quakers in England, and presented a picture of the emigrant's life and prospects. (Mary Bartram Trott, 'Walker, George Washington (1800–1859)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/walker-george-washington-2764/text3923>, published first in hardcopy 1967)

<sup>42</sup> Corr (2013) also notes that on their return from their trip to Wellington together in October 1835, Backhouse and Walker visited the Hawkesbury and their host at Richmond knew of their visit to Wellington several days before from local Aboriginal people.

<sup>43</sup> Kohen 1993: 19

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., 97

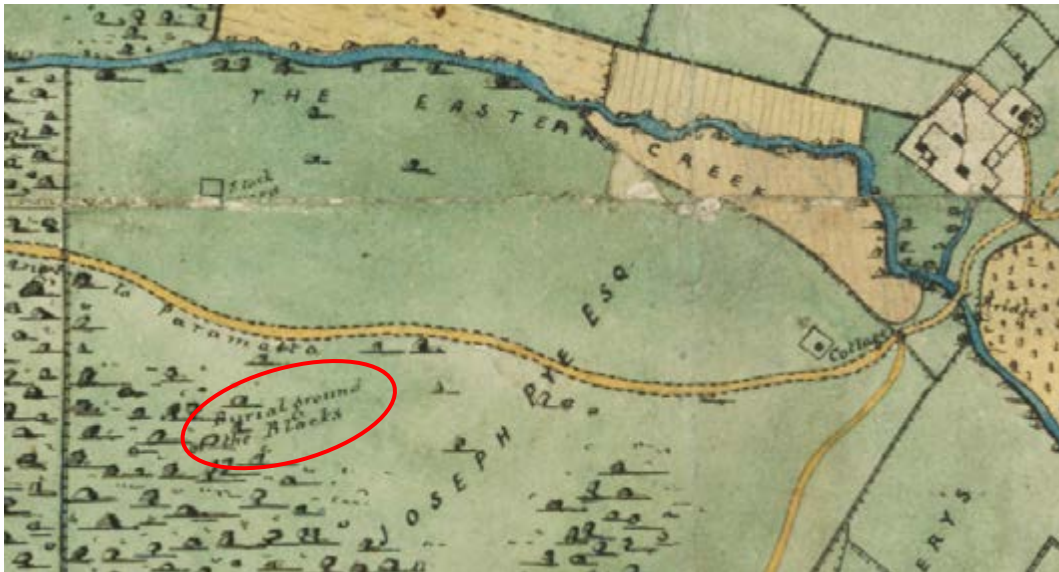


Figure 2. 5: Detail of the 1842 Musgrave plan showing the Pye Farm complex adjoining Eastern Creek and 'burial ground of the blacks' (circled). Source: SLNSW, Mitchell Map Collection, Z/M4 811.1122/1842/1



Figure 2. 6: Tumble Down Farm (circled) on the junction of Eastern and South Creeks was an important Aboriginal camp in the 1830s and 1840s according to a number of independent historical sources. Source: SLNSW, Mitchell Map Collection, Z/M4 811.1122/1842/1

A Select Committee of the House of Commons (London) recorded in 1837 the effects of colonisation on Australian Aboriginals was “*dreadful beyond example, both in diminution of their numbers and in their demoralisation*”.<sup>45</sup> An Aboriginal Protection Society (APS) had been established in England in 1835 by the humanitarian movement to foster the rights of Aboriginal people throughout the Empire but when the initial enthusiasm faded, so did the APS.<sup>46</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Brook 1994:5

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.





Figure 2. 7: 'Black Town' (circled) on the main road to Windsor. Source: SLNSW, Mitchell Map Collection, Z/M4 811.1122/1842/1

### Mid-nineteenth century records

It is very likely that by the mid 1800s traditional clan and tribal structure on the Cumberland Plains was only remembered by a few of the older people, but Aboriginal people increasingly banded together to live in close proximity to each other. The largest settlements were, from north to south, at Sackville Reach, Richmond Road at Plumpton, Holsworthy and La Perouse. The information for this period is however limited, and our understanding for example of the process of how people “transitioned” from living on the settler’s farms to living together autonomously or on other settler’s farms (around Sackville) is poorly understood.<sup>47</sup>

Questions and replies to a circular sent by a Diocesan Board of Missions to a number of Anglican priests in 1851 enquiring about the Aboriginal people in their dioceses reflect the times and prevalent attitudes.<sup>48</sup> The circular requested numbers, names and ages of adults, their places of resort, social condition (single or parents, or “*living in a complete state of nature, partly civilised, or in employment by Europeans*”), and if employed, by whom and doing what. The capacity of the young for instruction was also asked, as was the “*probable difficulties to be encountered to bring them up under instruction*”. According to the reply from Reverend Henry Stiles of Windsor (May 1851) there was not a single Aboriginal person in his parish, but a few wandered “*from other places, during seasons of public amusements, and at the time of distribution of blankets, but not one do I know belonging to the town, or to the parish under my charge*”. From the Pitt Town parsonage, Reverend T.C. Ewing wrote “*we see no blacks here anymore*”, and he reported that he never met any on his travels between Freemans Reach and Portland Head.

Prior to the establishment of the Reserve at Sackville (see overleaf) Aboriginal people were living in huts on the Tizzana Vineyard property owned and operated by Dr. Thomas Henry Fiaschi who was an Italian immigrant and the Windsor hospital surgeon. Fiaschi employed Aboriginal people seasonally as vineyard workers. The vineyard operated successfully from 1887 to 1927.

Aboriginal people were also participating in rowing regattas at Windsor (discussed below) and were forming Aboriginal teams and playing in local district teams. As early as 1874 an Aboriginal team

<sup>47</sup> Brook 1994:11

<sup>48</sup> Brook 1994:16-17

was recorded playing against a Lower Portland eleven.<sup>49</sup> It was also reported in 1899 that a Military team had played an Aboriginal team in Windsor.<sup>50</sup> The Aboriginal team won the game.

On Friday 3rd April 1874, a cricket match was played at Lower Portland, between eleven of the Lower Portland cricket club and eleven Aborigines.		
ABORIGINALS.—1st Innings.		
H. Barber, c and b T. Christie	...	4
A. Barber, b F. Watkins	...	0
Hiram, b F. Watkins	...	0
J. Campbell, c Mitchell, b Watkins	...	2
George, c J. Smith, b Watkins	...	0
Perry, b Watkins	...	2
J. Barber, b Watkins	...	0
Dick, b Watkins	...	11
H. Cox, c J. Smith, b T. Christie	...	4
T. Cox, not out	...	1
Aflee, b T. Christie	...	0
Sundries	...	2
Total 1st Innings	...	26
LOWER PORTLAND.—1st Innings.		
J. Mitchell, b Perry	...	7
Jos. Mitchell, c Campbell, b Dick	...	16
F. Watkins, b Dick	...	14
E. Mitchell, c Perry, b Dick	...	4
C. Green, c and b Dick	...	8
S. Wall, b Dick	...	0
J. Smith, b Dick	...	5
J. Lowe, not out	...	2
W. Everingham, c and b H. Barber	...	2
J. Ealos, c and b H. Barber	...	0
T. Christie, c and b Perry	...	1
Sundries	...	5
Total	...	64
ABORIGINALS.—2nd Innings.		
H. Cox, b F. Watkins	...	0
George, c and b Watkins	...	2
Aflee, b Watkins	...	1
H. Barber, b T. Christie	...	15
J. Campbell, c and b Watkins	...	2
Perry, not out	...	3
A. Barber, b T. Christie	...	1
Dick, c Wall, b Christie	...	5
J. Barber, c Wall, b Watkins	...	0
Hiram, c Smith, b E. Mitchell	...	1
T. Cox, b E. Mitchell	...	0
Sundries	...	3
Total 2nd Innings	...	33
Total both Innings	...	59
The Lower Portland beating their sable brethren in one innings with 5 runs to spare. The Aborigines intend playing the same club on Wit-Monday.		

Figure 2. 8: A 1870s Aboriginal cricket team scorecard featuring a number of individual and family names associated with the Aboriginal history of the Hawkesbury including the Barbers, Coxs, Hiram and Dick. Source: *Australian, Windsor, Richmond, and Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 18 April 1874, p. 2#

## Sackville Reach Aboriginal Reserve

The formal naming of the Sackville Reach Aboriginal Reserve in 1889 recognised that Aboriginal people had been living at the place for some considerable time, and its location was in line with the Aboriginal Protection Board's (APB) guidelines which suggested Aboriginal people were better-off when living in small communities and in "*comparatively isolated and removed from intimate contact with Europeans*".<sup>51</sup>

The APB was established to manage Aboriginal reserves and the welfare of Aboriginal people in NSW in 1883. Although rations and farming implements were supplied to the Aboriginal community at Sackville Reach prior to the establishment of the Aboriginal Reserve, the people living there were not overly "harassed" by the APB because many had been living there in "quiet seclusion" for a long time, where they worked on local farms such as that of the Hall family during the harvest.<sup>52</sup> The Halls

<sup>49</sup> *Australian, Windsor, Richmond, and Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 18<sup>th</sup> April 1874, p. 2

<sup>50</sup> *Australian, Windsor, Richmond, and Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1899, p. 3

<sup>51</sup> Brook 1994:22

<sup>52</sup> Brook 1994:19



purchased food first from Windsor and then sold it to local Aboriginal people who paid for it with their wages. The Hall family property “Lilburndale” at Sackville Reach was the distribution point for rations. The APB policy was that only people unable to support themselves (the aged and infirm) or children attending school of parents who couldn’t provide for them could receive aid.

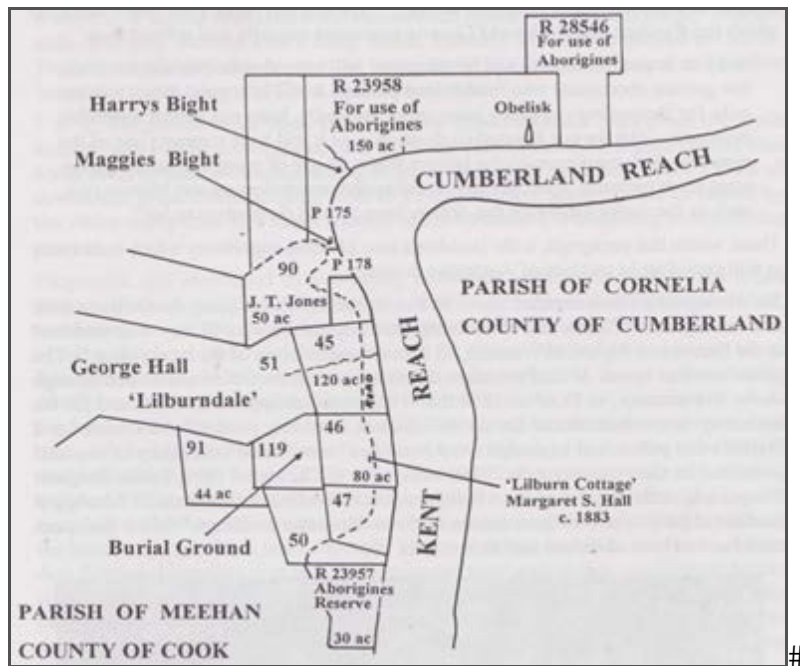


Figure 2. 9: Crown land parcels Nos. 9857 and 9856 in the County of Cook, Parish of Meehan, set aside for the ‘use of aborigines’ as notified 18 September 1889. The former contained an area of about 150 acres and the latter 30 acres (left) and location of the reserves, burial ground, Harry’s Bight, Maggie’s Bight. Source: Brook 1994

The Sackville Reach Aboriginal Reserve, of about 150 acres, was proclaimed in September 1889 and an additional 30 acres was also set aside on Kent Reach.<sup>53</sup> Despite being on Cumberland Reach, the reserve was apparently so named because Aboriginal people had lived on Sackville Reach for some considerable time.<sup>54</sup> The Reserve was in fact located about 4km downstream of the Colo River. The Reserve functioned until the 1940s as something of a base for dislocated Aboriginal people and many took on employment on homesteads and farms within the broader community. There is no recorded history of the Reserve from an Aboriginal perspective or of other important Aboriginal locations on the river. Occasional newspaper accounts describe a well-functioning “Aboriginal Village” at Sackville Reach where the people had transport, the children attended the public school and learned to read and write, and adults engaged in fishing to supplement government rations.<sup>55</sup>

Andy Barber was the last Aboriginal person associated with the place. He had been at “Lilburndale” in the 1850s, and for a time after his wife died he had lived alone beside the Ebenezer Church before moving down river to Sackville Reserve. Barber reportedly died at the age of 103, but more likely in his 90s, in Hawkesbury Hospital in 1943.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>53</sup> This was not prime agricultural land. The larger land parcel (No. 23958) consisted of scrub and rock except for about three acres that was suitable for an orchard. There was no fencing and it was not cleared. The smaller land parcel was similar.

<sup>54</sup> Brook 1994:17

<sup>55</sup> There were six Aboriginal children attending Sackville Reach Public School in 1890 (WRG, 31 May 1890).

<sup>56</sup> Obituary: “Andrew Barber”, *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 6<sup>th</sup> October 1943, p. 2

Soon after both reserves were revoked and set aside for public recreation. Prior to that in 1926 the passing of Martha Everingham (*nee* Hobbs) had been observed.<sup>57</sup> Martha was an important Aboriginal woman who featured in the later nineteenth and early twentieth century Aboriginal history of the region. It was reported she was “*one of the original Hawkesbury Aboriginals*”, had been “*married according to the Aboriginal Rule*”, and had lived in the district all her life.

### 2.1.3 Local Aboriginal historical context

#### General Observations in Windsor

There are a number of late nineteenth century newspaper references to Aboriginal people in Windsor but the majority (particularly in the 1880s and 1890s) often relate to the annual distribution of blankets to Aboriginal people at the Windsor Courthouse on the Queen’s Birthday.

An early account (1837 to c1844) is contained in the memoirs of a long-standing Windsor resident, William Walker. He makes reference to the previously noted Aboriginal camp near the South Creek and Eastern Creek junction (“Tumbledown Barn”) that was seemingly the last (main) Aboriginal camp close to Windsor at this time. The extract below is abridged:

*“My parents, with myself and a younger brother and sister, arrived at Windsor...in December, 1837—more than fifty-two years ago. ... There were few good houses in Windsor then, and my father was obliged to take an unfinished place in Macquarie-street. We resided there about four years, during which my father succeeded in establishing a large superior school of boys and girls, many of whom in after life occupied important positions.*

*During our residence in Macquarie-street we were frequently visited by a small tribe - or rather the remains of a tribe, of local blacks. They consisted only of King Jamie and his gin, and two sons, Billy and Bobby. Their camping place was a short distance off, up the South Creek. Jamie wore a brass plate suspended by a string from his neck, bearing his name, and which he said had been given him by good Governor Macquarie. The old couple were very harmless, and were the objects of charity. They all, however, have now passed away—like the Mohicans. First the Queen went, then the King, then Bobby, who, as well as his brother, was much addicted to rum, foolishly given them by friends in town. Billy had been taught by one of the early clergymen to read, was intelligent, and used to work a little on some of the farms, generally at Mr. Freeman's, Cornwallis. With them the Windsor tribe of blacks became extinct. It was a common thing then for the mothers to frighten their children into quiescence by telling them that if they didn't be still, Black Bobby would be brought to them, and this, I think, was about the only good use that was ever made of that dark specimen of humanity. ... we had at the same time a pleasant establishment in town, namely one of Her Majesty's regiments of the line - the gallant 80th, or Staffordshires. ... There were a good many blacks down the Hawkesbury then, and I remember the officers on one occasion getting up a corroboree in Thompson's Square. Of course they plied the darkies well with wine, or something stronger. I never saw a corroboree before, and have never seen one since. I will not attempt to describe it - such a thing could not be conceived in the present day. The 80th left Windsor after a year or two”.*<sup>58</sup>

<sup>57</sup> Obituary: “Mrs. Martha Everingham”, *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1926, p. 3

<sup>58</sup> Walker 1890:6-9

## Thompson Square

There are also a number of late nineteenth century newspaper references to single individuals or small groups of Aboriginal people, sometimes described as coming from ‘downriver’ and camping overnight (or being moved-on) at Thompson Square,<sup>59</sup> and there are reports from the same period relating to Aboriginal people in and around town in general.

Most of the post 1850 Aboriginal records for the town are however associated with the court house (or the lock-up, the hospital, or benevolent asylum) as described below. An 1840s report of Aboriginal people in Thompson Square reflects how tightly the space was controlled at that time and also sheds light on a number of aspects of racial relations at Windsor during this period:

*“Monday evening as three Aborigines were amusing themselves and several of the Military who flocked around them by throwing the Boomerang in Thompson's Square, Robert Fitzgerald, Esq., on seeing the crowd and hearing the noise which they occasioned, ordered the Natives to be confined in the Watch-house. A constable named Brien, who was present at the time, on hearing the Magistrate's order, immediately rushed on one of them, and dragged and cuffed him along until he was fairly incarcerated. We do not question the propriety of Mr. Fitzgerald's order for imprisoning them - but we do question the right of this constable to ill-treat them or any of her Majesty's subjects in the manner in which he is invariably reported to do on similar occasions; and we hope if any of the inhabitants are spirited enough at any future time to appear against this worthy, and bring home charges of unnecessary severity against him - the Magistrates will do their duty in dismissing him from the police, and otherwise punishing him as he may deserve. We regret to be obliged to notice this man's conduct, but our duty to the Public will not permit us any longer to remain silent on the subject.”*<sup>60</sup>

In addition to inheriting the Macquarie Arms Hotel from his father Richard Fitzgerald, Robert Fitzgerald was the second largest property owner in the Hawkesbury after William Cox, and it has been suggested that his attitude may have been shaped by the ongoing conflicts on his properties along the Namoi and Gwydir Rivers in the late 1830s.<sup>61</sup> Although the above quote is in isolation, it suggests Thompson Square was a controlled military space in the mid-1840s. The military withdrew from Windsor in the late 1840s and the barracks was occupied by police from the 1860s until 1924.<sup>62</sup>

## Windsor Courthouse (Blanket Distribution)

Windsor Courthouse was built in 1821 (on Court Street, south of the TSCA), and was likely to have been the place where blankets and rations were distributed to local and district Aboriginal people from the outset. However, pre-1850 records are incomplete or in some years were not taken. In 1834, thirty-five blankets were to be forwarded to “Windsor including Wiseman's and the Hawkesbury”.<sup>63</sup> Designations of “tribes” & “places of usual resort” noted on the return for this year included South Creek (Windsor), Richmond (Richmond) and Lower Branch (Lower Branch). People on the list from the previous year, but who did not attend, belonged to Caddie (Windsor), South Creek (Pitt-Town) and

<sup>59</sup> *Illawarra Mercury*, 23 August 1892

<sup>60</sup> *Hawkesbury Courier*, 13 February 1845

<sup>61</sup> Ford 2012

<sup>62</sup> Holmes, K., 1979; *Windsor Barracks: The Guardhouse*, The Australian Society for Historical Archaeology Occasional Paper, No. 6, p. 5; Country News: “Historic Buildings Closed”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16<sup>th</sup> February 1924, p. 18

<sup>63</sup> SL NSW R3706:109

North Richmond (North Richmond) groups.<sup>64</sup> Less than a decade before, the 1828 Census had recorded the Richmond Tribe at Windsor, but under the heading of Portland Head, described people belonging to the “N.E. Arm, Mullet Island and 1st Branch Tribes” which is suggestive of a wide distribution of Aboriginal people on the Hawkesbury with strong attachments to many different and dispersed parts of the river.<sup>65</sup>

Stephen Tuckerman (Esq, J.P) supervised the yearly distribution of blankets at Windsor Courthouse in 1850 where forty-one blankets were passed out.<sup>66</sup> He was again supervising the proceedings a quarter of a century later in 1874 when what were described as the “remnant of the aboriginals belonging to this district received their blankets”.<sup>67</sup>

The distribution of a suit of clothes in addition to a blanket given annually to each Aboriginal person was under government consideration following the Queen’s Birthday in 1881.<sup>68</sup> Newspaper accounts of this “blanket day” describes Aboriginal people of the “Lower Portland tribe”, some of whom were of mixed parentage, who were living around Lower Portland at the time.<sup>69</sup> Many of these individuals and their families (Barber, Cox, Everingham, Shaw) were living on the Aboriginal reserve at Sackville Reach within a decade. Town folk often came to watch the distributions, and a few visitors from the City also came in 1881 expecting to see a Corroboree.<sup>70</sup>

In 1890, Mr G.A. Gordon (former Police Magistrate at Windsor) was reported as having taken up “cudgels” with the government about reserving a piece of land for the use of local Aboriginals, and which was to ultimately result in the establishment of the Reserve at Sackville. Gordon’s home was situated next to the School of Arts building in Windsor (exact location is unknown at this time) and his yard was apparently a rendezvous for all the Aboriginal groups in the district for some days prior to “blanket day” proceedings at the courthouse.<sup>71</sup>

The Aboriginal Protection Board reported for 1891 the following information for the Hawkesbury River District (Windsor):

*“Number of aborigines in the district, 91 — 11 full-blood, and 77 half-castes. The men, as a rule, are employed on farms during the spring and harvest. Thirty adults and, thirty-three children, receive aid from the Board in the shape of rations. The following supplies have been distributed during the year: —flour, tea, sugar raisins currants beef, and 50 blankets. Two reserves have been set apart for the use of the aborigines at Sackville Reach, one of 150 acres, the other 30 acres.*

*Both consist of scrubland and rocks, only a small portion being suitable for cultivation.*

*They are both occupied by aborigines, galvanized iron having been supplied them to roof their huts. They are provided with a boat. It is in good order, and is used for fishing purposes. Three children are received instruction at the Public School at Sackville. All are supplied annually with blankets by the Government. The issue is necessary, 'and they*

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<sup>64</sup> A composite band of Aboriginal people, known as the North Richmond Tribe or Belmont tribe, resided at North Richmond on land granted to Archibald Bell. St John of God Hospital stands on part of this land today (Brook 1999:15).

<sup>65</sup> Sainty & Johnson 1985

<sup>66</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 June 1850

<sup>67</sup> *Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 30 May 1874

<sup>68</sup> *Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 8 October 1881.

<sup>69</sup> *Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 28 May 1881

<sup>70</sup> *Hawkesbury Chronicle and Farmers Advocate*, 28 May 1881. This article also reports the government were considering the ‘bestowal of a suit of clothes in addition to the blanket given annually to each of the aboriginal natives.’

<sup>71</sup> Brook 1999:25

*are in no way misappropriated. They are not addicted to habits of intemperance; on the contrary, they are very temperate. When ill, they are admitted to the Benevolent Asylum at Windsor, on the recommendation of the local police officer.”<sup>72</sup>*

### “Mission House”

The “Mission House” referred to a house that was bought for Wesleyan missionary, Rev. Benjamin Carvosso by his (unordained missionary) colleague Walter Lawry in 1820 following the opening of the first Methodist chapel in Windsor. The chapel site is the present site of the Wesleyan Church on Macquarie Street (to the southeast of the TSCA), but the location of the “Mission House” is unknown at this time, although it was possibly located not too distant from the first chapel. The land on which the chapel was built had been granted to Rev. Samuel Marsden and formed part of a 50 acre grant on South Creek that he added to by purchase to other land forming part of the town and was gifted to Lawry in 1817.

The Aboriginal connection to this building is via Bennelong’s son “Dicky” who had been placed in the Parramatta Native Institute in 1816. He stayed at Parramatta, with occasional absences, until 1821 when he was adopted by (missionary to Aboriginals) William Walker and lived for a time with other Aboriginal students Walker had “collected” and taught in Parramatta. During this period Dicky returned to the “bush” with a second young boy in Walker’s care (Adam Clarke). Dicky returned (sleeping on the floor in the same room as Walker wrapped in a blanket) and was baptised Thomas Walter Coke (pronounced Cook and named after Dr. Coke who founded the Methodist Missions) at Lawry’s Chapel in 1822 and died early the following year in February 1823 in the Mission House.

Prior to Dicky’s death, Walker and Lawry provided a connection between the town and the Aboriginal communities in the “bush” and people (mainly youths) often lived with or stayed for a while at the Mission House that was “*known to all as the vagrant train*”.<sup>73</sup> Walker wrote to London that he had been forced to change his situation “*as this generation of natives will never live at my present residence in consequence of some deaths having happened*”. He was referring to Dicky and another boy, Jemmy, who as soon he fell sick went into the bush and in a few weeks also died. He also stated that the Aboriginal people he knew and came into contact with were so “*superstitious that they believe the place where one has died to be equally fatal to themselves; and they so fret as to be disordered and often die in consequence*”.<sup>74</sup> Later he reported:

*“The natives have been engaged in a terrible conflict, in consequence of the death of Coke....a year has elapsed since he died, but his death was avenged only last week. The blacks believe their deaths to be occasioned by the malice and craftiness of the opposite tribes, who unperceived and unfelt shoot a poisoned dart and dies. The discovery of the murderer depends upon some dreamer, and the individual who is identified in the dream is to stand punishment. In Coke’s case, his aunt dreamt about it 12 months after and dreamed it was his companion who had speared him. Was ordered to stand punishment at the race ground [Hyde Park] in Sydney, last Sunday but one.*

*One spear wounded the youth (unnamed). The man who threw the spear that wounded the boy had to then stand punishment for his transgression and 300 or 400 blacks assembled to do their utmost. He defended all spars successfully with a 1ft broad 3ft long*

<sup>72</sup> *Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 10<sup>th</sup> September 1892, p. 2

<sup>73</sup> see Brook & Kohen, 1991

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*

*shield. His friends then had to 'offend' his punishers with the result that one had a fractured skull, and they then 'made it up'.*<sup>75</sup>

This type of historical evidence provides insights into the nature and development of some aspects of an urban Aboriginal history at Windsor during the Macquarie period and contrasts with the strong and better known history of the Aboriginal-settler conflicts up to at least 1816.

### Other Town Spaces & Places

A number of buildings and spaces (still-standing or archaeological) in Windsor are also likely to have Aboriginal historical records associated with their use. This detailed research is beyond the scope of this report, but a few places are flagged for future consideration. These include the previously mentioned yard of G.A. Gordon's house adjacent to the former School of Arts building that was used for camping before and after the "blanket day" proceedings at the court house. The police lock-up and gaol are likely to have "robust" Aboriginal histories but also noting Colebee was a constable at Windsor sometime between 1819 and 1822. Future research for the hospital and benevolent asylum may reveal more "'compassionate" records.<sup>76</sup> Finally, nineteenth century Windsor had a large number (and a high turnover) of hotels or inns and some of these were frequented by Aboriginal people, and a small number of references also note that a few hotels, such as the Bell Inn in 1860 were used as venues for inquests into Aboriginal deaths.<sup>77</sup>

### The Hawkesbury River

A considerable number of references to Aboriginal people at Windsor relate to their involvement with variously named regattas on the river at Windsor extending back to the 1840s. At the maiden Hawkesbury Regatta in 1845 that was held on the reach of the river facing Windsor,<sup>78</sup> a prize of £1 with a jacket, pair of trousers, and cabbage-tree hat was offered for a canoe race (using a pair of paddles) open to both Aboriginals and Whites.<sup>79</sup> Only one canoe entered (possibly Aboriginal) and no race was contested. In January 1871, five Aboriginals won against a "brigade" crew in a boat race over a distance of one mile. The Aboriginal crew took the lead early and kept it throughout, coming in amidst a round of applause, winning the race by four yards.<sup>80</sup>

Later records refer to four Aboriginal "residents" on the Hawkesbury River awaiting the government to provide a boat for use in times of flood.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> see Brook & Kohen 1991

<sup>76</sup> The old Benevolent Society Home was on the corner of George and Brabyn Streets. It was built in 1835-36 and used as a home for the old folks up till 1846 and was demolished in 1915 (Steele 1916).

<sup>77</sup> SMH, 16 November 1860

<sup>78</sup> SMH, 31 December 1846

<sup>79</sup> SMH, 14 November 1845

<sup>80</sup> ATCJ, 7 January 1871

<sup>81</sup> Sydney Mail, 12 June 1869



Figure 2. 10: Engraving for James Wallis's *Australian Views/Historical Account of the colony of New South Wales*, entitled "A View of Hawkesbury, and the Blue Mountains", 1817-1819 showing Windsor and buildings on the eastern edge of the government precinct (left of frame behind the trees). Source: SLNSW, PXD 373

## 2.2 A History of Thompson Square

Thompson Square has been the subject of numerous studies and reports, many of which repeat much of the same information. Many of those studies are heavily focussed on the formal space represented by Thompson Square and the bridge across the Hawkesbury River. This report is an overview and review of the history of Thompson Square in an attempt to distil the material focused on Thompson Square and its built form. The following history has been prepared by Dr. Terry Kass for the purposes of this Conservation Management Plan for the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

### 2.2.1 Settling an Urban Place

European settlement in the colony of New South Wales in 1788 quickly faced problems with food supply. Other settlements were established apart from Sydney Cove aimed at increasing agricultural production. The discovery of the Hawkesbury River with rich alluvial soil with ample water supplies and access to Sydney by boat via a circuitous route lead to the establishment of farms along the river. The earliest allocations of land in the district of Mulgrave Place were close to a site, which was originally known as Green Hills but would eventually become Windsor.

Before April 1794, Surveyor General Augustus Alt laid out the first farms along the eastern bank of the Hawkesbury River mostly in what is now the parish of Pitt Town. The district would soon be known as Mulgrave Place. Early convict settlers occupied land along the banks of the river.<sup>82</sup> As a means of placing emancipated convicts upon the land, numerous grants were allocated to them. In 1794, the Governor made 118 land grants along the upper Hawkesbury, creating the settlement of Mulgrave Place.<sup>83</sup> In February 1795, a number of military officers selected land as well.<sup>84</sup>

Along the Windsor Reach of the Hawkesbury River, an area was left as vacant crown land with a small inlet and a minor stream feeding into the Hawkesbury River. The inlet was a suitable place to land stores and ship grain for Sydney.<sup>85</sup> A narrow sandy beach in this location appears to have attracted watercraft landing people and stores.<sup>86</sup> A small stream draining into the Hawkesbury River on the western side of the current Thompson Square possibly also attracted administrative functions to this location.<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> Map by Augustus Alt, *HRNSW*, volume 3

<sup>83</sup> J Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed: A new look at Australia's third mainland settlement 1793-1802*, Rosenberg, Dural, 2009, pp 55-70

<sup>84</sup> D Collins, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, originally published 1798, A H & A W Reed edition, Sydney, 1975, edited by B H Fletcher, Volume 1, p 340

<sup>85</sup> J Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, p 104

<sup>86</sup> P Slaeger, A view of part of the town of Windsor in New South Wales, taken from the banks of the River Hawkesbury, 1813, NLA

<sup>87</sup> SA Map 5968



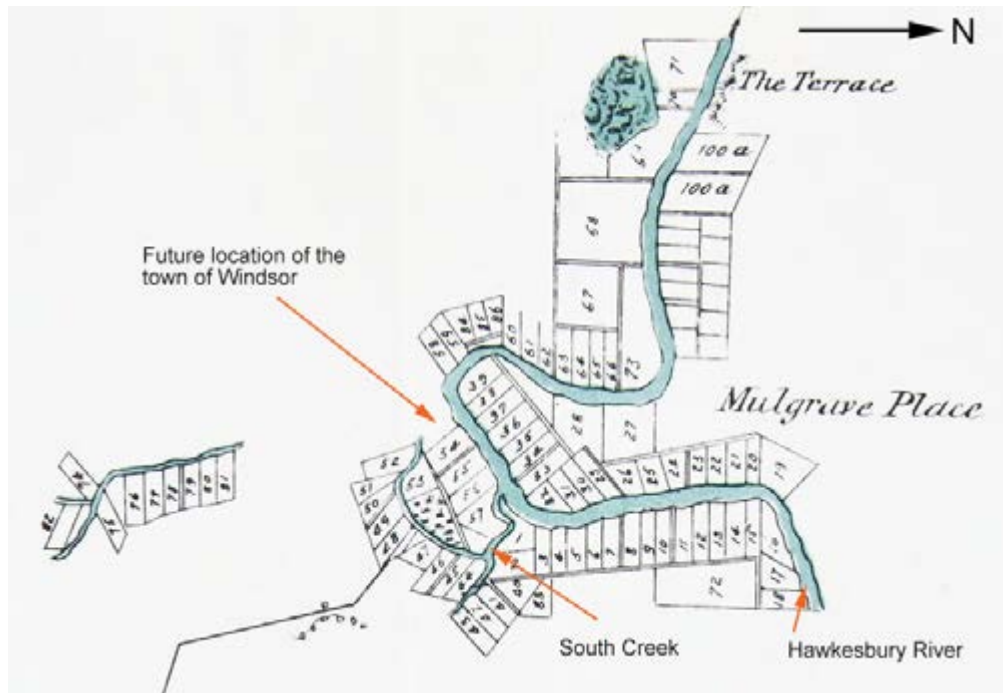


Figure 2. 11: Detail from Surveyor General Alt's plan showing the first farms along the Hawkesbury River. Source: *HRNSW*, Vol. 3, p. 7



Figure 2. 12: This detail from the 1813 view by Philip Slaeger showed the small beach on the river bank at the foot of the open square of ground (circled). Source: P Slaeger, "A view of part of the town of Windsor in New South Wales, taken from the banks of the River Hawkesbury", NLA, PIC Drawer 2230 U2028 NK2044B



Figure 2. 13: The small creek running to the river between Baker Street and Thompson Square that may have been the original water source (indicated with an arrow). Source: SA Map 5968

In 1795, Acting Governor Paterson arranged the construction of buildings to house crops.<sup>88</sup> Provisions unloaded from boats were put under the protection of a small military guard of privates and a sergeant, all initially to be accommodated within the storehouse. The storehouse at the Hawkesbury was completed in February 1795.<sup>89</sup> That storehouse and the small garrison established what became Thompson Square.

Among the grants that would be parcelled out to settlers, two were significant in defining what became the government precinct at Green Hills, from which Thompson Square evolved. A grant of 30 acres was made to Samuel Wilcox on 19 November 1794. It was at the Hawkesbury River, and was bounded on the north-east by land granted to Alexander Wilson.<sup>90</sup> Its western boundary was not specified on the grant deed. That imprecise boundary established what became the eastern boundary of the government precinct (now defined in part by Arndell Street).

Another grant was also significant in defining the government precinct. In 1794 land at the Hawkesbury was promised to James Whitehouse. It was situated west of the future Thompson Square. The land was granted to him as 30 acres on 1 June 1799 bounded on the south-west by Smallwood Farm. Like Wilson's grant, not all boundaries were defined. No eastern boundary was recorded, eventually becoming the western boundary of the government precinct. It was cancelled for William Baker's grant.<sup>91</sup> In 1800, Whitehouse sold his grant to William Baker, who was the first Government storekeeper at Mulgrave Place. On 20 June 1800, Whitehouse's former grant was re-granted to

<sup>88</sup> *Historical Records of Australia*, [HRA], series 1, vol. 1, p 490

<sup>89</sup> D Collins, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, originally published 1798, A H & A W Reed edition, Sydney, 1975, edited by B H Fletcher, Volume 1, p 340

<sup>90</sup> Grants, Volume 1, page 300, LRS

<sup>91</sup> Grants, Volume 2, No 172, LRS

William Baker. Like the previous grant to Whitehouse, there was no eastern boundary on the grant deed.<sup>92</sup>

About 1796, an emancipated convict named Andrew Thompson was appointed as a constable at Green Hills. It seems he took up informal occupation of a cottage near the granary in what later became Thompson Square. In 1799, one acre of land within the government precinct was leased to him. Thompson's lease in the government precinct became the centre of his commercial activities.

The space between Wilcox's and Whitehouse's/Baker's grants remained as government land catering to the settlers of the Hawkesbury.

### **Defining an Administrative Space – The Government Precinct at Green Hills to 1811**

As noted above, the grant of 1794 to Samuel Wilcox established what became the eastern boundary of the government precinct whilst the grant to James Whitehouse later purchased by William Baker set the approximate western boundary of the future Government Domain and what became Thompson Square. Within that administrative space, facilities were established for communication, warehousing, administrative purposes, law and order, military defence, and as a corollary to all of these functions, residential buildings also arose. The Government constructed stores, a wharf and a building for the military guard, which served to cement the administrative functions of this space.

In February 1795, a wharf was completed on the river at the foot of the open square of land, but it was destroyed in a flood in 1799.<sup>93</sup> The site of the Government wharf was suggested by a small mark on Meehan's 1811 survey (see Figure 2.16).<sup>94</sup>

Two log granaries were constructed between 1796 and 1800. The first log granary was constructed in August 1796.<sup>95</sup> By 1800, an additional log granary had been built.<sup>96</sup> The military guard initially occupied part of the store but separate barracks were constructed by 1796.<sup>97</sup> In 1799 flood waters washed away this building and by 1800, the soldier's barracks that had earlier been described by Governor John Hunter as 'miserable' had been replaced by a new building "further uphill".<sup>98</sup> The site of this second barracks, which was still extant in 1811, was suggested by its position on James Meehan's map, showing it was at the intersection of George Street and what is now known as the street Thompson Square (within the allotment of the current Macquarie Arms Hotel).

Accommodation was also constructed for the commandant of the settlement, eventually becoming known as Government House, since it was the residence of the governor whenever he visited the Hawkesbury. The commandant was originally Edward Abbott, but he was replaced by the Deputy Surveyor, Charles Grimes and then by surgeon Thomas Arndell on April 1802.<sup>99</sup>

Constable Andrew Thompson was living in the current Thompson Square on 1 October 1799 when one acre was leased to him for "building on" for 2/6 quit rent annually. He was obliged to leave a public road 100 feet wide through the land, suggesting either the intention to drive the road across this

<sup>92</sup> Grants, Volume 3, No 51, LRS

<sup>93</sup> D Collins, *An Account of the English Colony*, vol 1, p 348, noted that a boat had previously stopped at the wharf in February 1795

<sup>94</sup> SA Map SZ529

<sup>95</sup> *HRNSW*, vol 3, p 80

<sup>96</sup> *HRNSW*, vol 4, p 151

<sup>97</sup> J Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, p 105

<sup>98</sup> J Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, pp 66, 292-294; *HRNSW*, vol 3, p 80; vol 4, p 152

<sup>99</sup> *HRNSW*, vol 3, p 80; vol 4, pp 152, 171, 190

land or the pre-existence of what would eventually become George Street. The lease to Thompson referred to the “public store houses” nearby and the lease included a provision for his land to revert to the Crown if the stores needed to be enlarged, noting that “*it is probable that not any part of the above named allotment maybe wanted by Government for these three years next ensuing*”. After that period, if the government wished to “*build or enlarge the public store houses adjacent*”, the government could acquire that land with compensation at a fair valuation.<sup>100</sup> Thompson’s cottage was visible in most early views of Windsor. Meehan’s plan of 1811 showed the boundaries of Thompson’s lease (see Figures 2.16 and 2.18).

Another part of the government’s land on the eastern side of the square measuring 6½ acres was leased to John Harris for 14 years on 1 January 1798. It was bounded on the north-east by Wilcox farm, on the north-west by government land and on the south by the “*Publick [sic] Road on the Bank of the Creek*”.<sup>101</sup> It ran from Government House towards South Creek from January 1798. It is shown on Meehan’s 1811 map in the area later occupied by the gaol and courthouse (see Figure 2.18).

It was emancipist John Harris’ imprisonment in the watch-house in the government precinct in 1798 that led directly to his being the first ex-convict in Australia to test his human and political rights in an Australian Court and to win.<sup>102</sup>

For years John Harris had been a respected member of the Sydney and Norfolk Island constabulary, who, even before Andrew Thompson, had been allowed a lease in the government precinct at Mulgrave Place as a reward for his services. Harris and his family conducted the Cross Keys Inn and farmed in the south-eastern corner of the government precinct below the residence of the Commandant (see Figure 2.18).<sup>103</sup> After the Commandant’s pigs roamed into Harris’ crops, Kemp complained that Harris had responded with defiance when told he or his government man should be punished for setting the dogs on the Commandant’s pigs that were ruining Harris’ corn.

Commandant of the upper Hawkesbury River settlement in 1798, Anthony Fenn Kemp thought it “*a duty...to order [ex-convict John Harris]... into Confinement*” for otherwise he would have to “*expect Insolence from every man of the Plaintiff’s Description*”.<sup>104</sup> Kemp put Harris in the watch-house in the government precinct. The magistrate, the Reverend Samuel Marsden, tried to sort the disagreement amicably, but Harris, declaring he was “as free a man as” Kemp and “a Citizen of the World” fuelled the situation, for the phrase, “Citizen of the World”, though not illegal, had been used in the French revolution.<sup>105</sup> Harris took the officer to Court.

Commandant Kemp’s confining of a free person for no legal reason went against the Duke of Portland’s ruling on the matter in 1796, and Kemp’s fellow officers, to their chagrin, had no choice

<sup>100</sup> Grants, Volume 2, No 320, LRS

<sup>101</sup> Grants, Volume 2, No 241, LRS

<sup>102</sup> The following information regarding Harris and Kemp has been provided by Jan Barkley-Jack and Graham Edds

<sup>103</sup> Land Grant Register 2, SRNSW, Pardons, p. 5; Court of Petty Sessions, SRNSW, Reel 655, p. 92; M. Gillen, *The Founders of Australia: A Bibliographical Dictionary of the First Fleet*, Library of Australian History, Sydney, 1989, pp. 149-150, 161-162; J. Copley, *Sydney Cove 1795-1800: The Second Governor*, V, p. 152.

<sup>104</sup> Harris against A. F. Kemp, May-June 1799, Court of Civil Jurisdiction, SRNSW, CY1093, Reel 2651, pp. 49, 50, defence statement of Lieutenant Anthony Fenn Kemp, quoted in J. Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed: a new look at Australia’s third mainland settlement*, Box 9.12, p. 365.

<sup>105</sup> Harris against A. F. Kemp, May-June 1799, Court of Civil Jurisdiction, SRNSW, CY1093, Reel 2651, pp. 46-47 evidence of Samuel Marsden, p. 49 evidence of Neil McKellar, pp. 49, 50, defence statement of Lieutenant Anthony Fenn Kemp; National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, G. Mealmaker, ‘Address to Fellow Citizens, Dundee 1793, MS 1.4.156; National Archives, Kew, G. Mealmaker, ‘The Moral and Political Catechism of Man’, Home Office, HO102/16 fos. 28-48, quoted in J. Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed: a new look at Australia’s third mainland settlement*, Box 9.12, Box 9.13, pp. 368-369.]

but to find Kemp guilty. For the first time, on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1799, ex-convict civil rights were enshrined in a colonial verdict.<sup>106</sup>

Expansion of government facilities mirrored the growing settlement along the Hawkesbury. In 1803, Governor King was building three storey storehouses and a granary of brick measuring 101 feet by 25 feet. They were complete by December 1805.<sup>107</sup>

By 1809, a bell atop a tall post had been erected at the top of the ridge. At 6 o'clock every morning, it called convicts to breakfast.<sup>108</sup> The Reverend Henry Fulton was schoolmaster, sexton and bellman.<sup>109</sup> The first concrete evidence of its existence was in Evans' painting dated about 1809. It was also shown in his later painting of about 1812 as well as in Slaeger's view of the town (see Figure 2.21). It is unclear when it was removed, though there is a reference to a 'post' in Thompson Square in 1856, which appears to be a well-known marker, though there is nothing to clearly link it to the original bell post.<sup>110</sup>

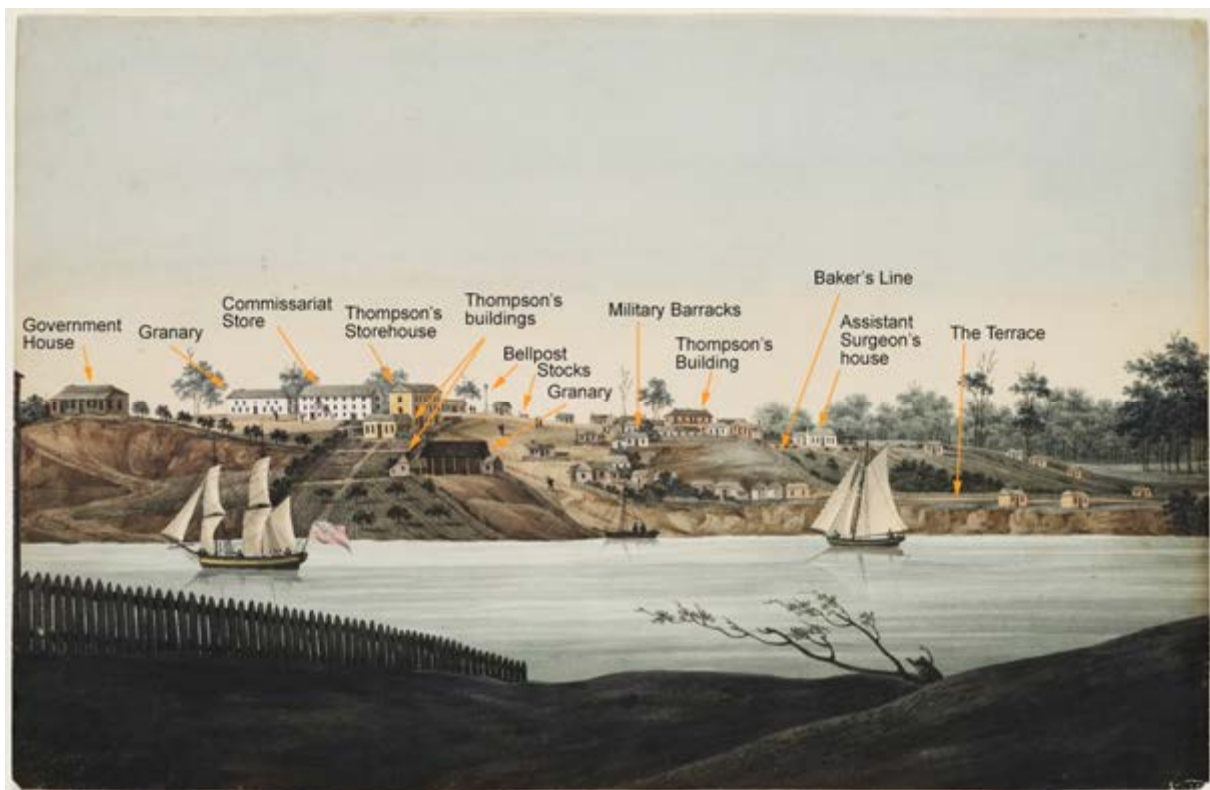


Figure 2. 14: The painting by G W Evans believed to date from 1807 or 1809 showing the configuration of the government precinct on southern bank of the Hawkesbury River. Source: G W Evans, *Settlement on Green Hills*, ML, PXD 388 Vol 3, No 7

Surveyor George William Evans's painting of the settlement dated about 1809 showed the state of development around the open square of land later known as Thompson Square (see Figure 2.14). The log granary is evident in the foreground with posts supporting its roof. Immediately to its left is a small cottage occupied by Thompson, possibly the same one that he had occupied since 1796.

<sup>106</sup> Duke of Portland to Hunter, August 1796, *HRNSW*, III, p. 98; Harris against A. F. Kemp, May-June 1799, Court of Civil Jurisdiction, SRNSW, CY1093, Reel 2651, p. 50 Court verdict.

<sup>107</sup> *HRNSW*, vol 5, p 163; vol 6, p 43

<sup>108</sup> *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 5 Aug 1893, p 8

<sup>109</sup> J Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, p 332

<sup>110</sup> *SMH*, 17 Dec 1856, p 1



Running towards the river from that cottage was his garden planted with fruit trees, defined by what appears to be a timber paling fence along its eastern and western boundaries. Government House is visible at the extreme left. The three storey government storehouses are visible between the log granary and Government House. At the top of the slope, the bell can be seen, whilst a little to its right on the other side of the small cottage, the public stocks for punishing offenders is visible. Winding its way down the east side of the open square leading from the top of the ridge near the bell post, a dirt track leads to the water. No sign of a wharf is visible.<sup>111</sup>

Another part of the government precinct was leased to Andrew Thompson on 9 May 1809. It consisted of 1 acre 43¼ rods bounded on the north-east by Wilcox's land 7 chains, on the north-west by 1 chain 60 links, on the south west and on the south east by South Creek.<sup>112</sup> It was on this land that Thompson had established his floating bridge and toll gate across South Creek in c1802.



Figure 2. 15: Detail from 1842 plan of Windsor entitled "CXXIII building and 24 cultivation allotments comprising the Peninsular Farm adjoining the town of Windsor to be sold at auction on 5th. Feby. 1842 by Mr Laban White at Windsor". The location of Thompson's floating bridge is noted as "Old Bridge" (circled) to the south of the Courthouse and to the east of the South Creek bridge. Source: SLNSW M2 811.11222

In 1809, Acting Governor William Paterson issued two leases in Green Hills/Windsor that have significant bearing on Thompson Square.

On 6 September 1809, he leased 39½ 'rods' [perches] 'on the Green Hills Hawkesbury District of Mulgrave Place' to William Blady. The lease was bounded on the north west 'by the street bearing South 43¼° West' 101 feet, on the south west 'by an Allotment in the possession of A Thompson' E 42¾° S 105 feet, on the south east by a line E 42° N 95 feet and on the north east by a line N 45° W 115 feet. The lease was for a term of 14 years at the quit rent of 5 shillings.<sup>113</sup> Later that year, on 3 October 1809, Paterson issued a lease to James Mileham, esquire of 24¼ 'rods' [perches] at 'the Green Hills Hawkesbury in the District of Mulgrave Place'. It was bounded on the south west by Blady's Lease bearing N 45° W 119 feet, on the north west 'by a Street' E 27 2/3° N 66 feet, on the north east by a line S 40° E 104 feet and on the south east side by a line W 42° S 55 feet. No term of years was specified, though these leases were normally for 14 years. The lease issued from that date at an annual quit rent that was also not specified.<sup>114</sup>

<sup>111</sup> G W Evans, Settlement on Green Hills, ML, PXD 388 vol 3, No 7

<sup>112</sup> Grants, Volume 4, page 32 (1), LRS

<sup>113</sup> Grants, Volume 4, page 114 (2), LRS

<sup>114</sup> Grants, Volume 4, page 130 (2), LRS

Years later, on 30 March 1844, John Johnston and James Bligh Johnston, as trustees for Anna Maria Johnston and Jane Alexandrina Johnston received a grant of 1 rood 4 perches, Lot 26 Town of Windsor. The land was bounded on the north west by George Street. It had originally been leased by Governor Macquarie to William Blady on 1 January 1810. It was granted in accordance with Court of Claims report on Case 1182.<sup>115</sup> It is on the south side of George Street/Thompson Square immediately south of the Macquarie Arms Hotel.

No lease to William Blady dated 1 January 1810 has been located. However, the grant to the Johnstons can be tied to the lease of September 1809 to Blady. After he took control of the colony, Governor Lachlan Macquarie withdrew all grants and leases issued by the rebel administration under William Paterson. In January 1810, William Blady petitioned Governor Macquarie seeking the confirmation of his property. He explained he had petitioned Paterson for “a grant of land and also for a Lease of the House and Ground Your Petitioner occupies at the Green Hills Hawkesbury and which Your Petitioner purchased for the sum of £190”. Paterson gave him a 70 acre grant plus the lease. Blady’s grant and lease were withdrawn on 29 January 1810, but Lachlan Macquarie minuted Blady’s petition that the grant and the lease would be confirmed.<sup>116</sup>

James Mileham also petitioned Macquarie for the confirmation of 600 acres granted by Paterson but made no mention of his Green Hills lease.<sup>117</sup> James Meehan’s Town design of 1811 showed two parcels of land in this position that possibly relate to these leases (see Figure 2.18).

The Windsor Town map shows the allotment granted to John Johnston and James Bligh Johnston. This demonstrates the position of Blady’s lease. It is unclear if Mileham’s lease was part of the land later granted to John Johnston and James Bligh Johnston or was further east. The grant to John Johnston and James Bligh Johnston was larger than the land leased to Blady.

The land later granted to John Johnston and James Bligh Johnston was shown as held by Kays/Keys on early surveys.<sup>118</sup> On 6 November 1871, in a Statutory Declaration, William Perry, Windsor, tailor stated that he had lived in Windsor since 1820. He confirmed that this land was occupied in 1820 by Sergeant George Keys who died on 22 December 1841 leaving the property to his son George.<sup>119</sup>

The implications of these leases are significant. Firstly, the reference to a street in both leases confirms the de facto existence of the street that became George Street prior to the formal laying out of the town of Windsor by James Meehan. The granting of these leases indicates that the southern boundary of what became Thompson Square was already in embryo in 1809 or even earlier. That was before Lachlan Macquarie established Thompson Square and before he apportioned land on the western side that served to define the western boundary of the Square.

Blady’s reference to a transaction purchasing this land demonstrates the existence of an active property market at Green Hills/Windsor, even for land within the government precinct. These leases also indicate the position of some of the private buildings in the government precinct visible in Evans’ 1809 painting.

Yet another implication is that Acting Governor William Paterson must be accorded some credit in defining what became Thompson Square.

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<sup>115</sup> Grants, Volume 53, No 108, LRS

<sup>116</sup> Col Sec, Letters Received, 1810, SANSW 4/1821, No 22

<sup>117</sup> Col Sec, Letters Received, 1810, SANSW 4/1822, No 220

<sup>118</sup> SA Map 5968; W.443.a, Crown Plan

<sup>119</sup> NRS 17513, Real Property Application Packet, RPA 19257, SANSW

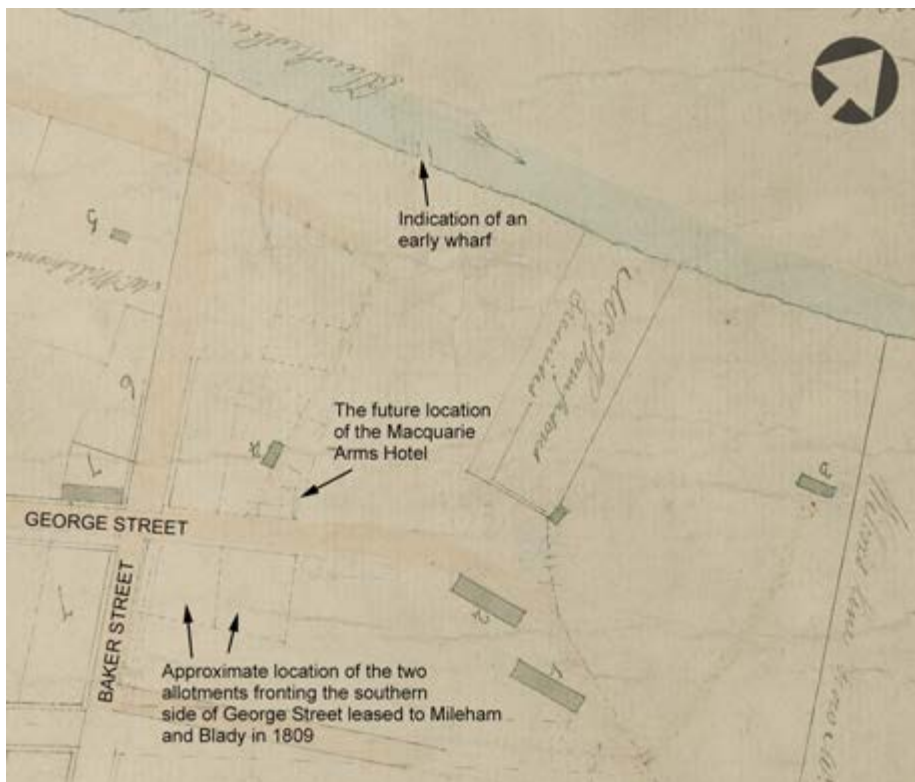


Figure 2. 16: Detail from Meehan's 1811 survey of the town of Windsor showing the approximate location of Blady's and Mileham's leases of 1809 on the southern side of George Street. Source: SA Map SZ 529



Figure 2. 17: Detail from Town Plan of Windsor (Ed. 4, 1967) showing Lot 26 with owners listed as J & J.B. Johnston. Lot 26 is outlined in orange. Source: NSW Land Registry Services, Historical Land Records Viewer



## Defining a Public Place:

### The Government Precinct at Green Hills becomes the Government Domain and Thompson Square at Windsor from 1811 onwards

From its earliest days the government precinct was used for public meetings, including regular musters of the population.<sup>120</sup> Settlers regularly went to the precinct, bringing grain to the storehouses, seeking the help of the constables or magistrates and obtaining provisions. The area was also the site of the punishment stocks and a bell that summoned people for official occasions. The bell post was a significant focus for formal gatherings. Population musters were conducted in the open square. Public punishments ranging from those for petty offences to capital crimes were also held in the square. Minor offences might be punished by a period in the public stocks. Floggings for more severe crimes were also inflicted there.

The significance of the government precinct as a place of public display of government authority was demonstrated in the aftermath of the 1804 convict rebellion. Philip Cunningham, the leader, was used as an example:

*“Philip Cunningham, the Principal leader, who was carried along the wounded to Hawkesbury, being still alive, and very properly considered by Major Johnston as a proper object to make an immediate example of, by virtue of the Martial Law that then existed, and the discretionary power given him by His Excellency, and after taking the opinion of the Officers about him, directed him to be publicly executed on the Stair Case of the Public Store [Commissariat Store], which he had boasted in his march, he was going to plunder.”<sup>121</sup>*

Small houses began to be built by private persons in the square as well as on lots subdivided from the adjoining grants to Whitehouse/Baker, Smallwood and Rickerby. William Baker, for example, was selling land and dwellings on Whitehouse Farm by December 1806 on the site of the future Town of Windsor.<sup>122</sup>

### Macquarie’s building program

In 1810, the newly arrived Governor, Lachlan Macquarie converted the larger granary into a temporary chapel and public school. It was later described thus:

*“The largest of the two Government Granaries in the Town of Windsor was converted in the year 1810 into a Temporary Chapel, the Ground Floor being fitted up as such, and one part of the Upper Floor as a residence for the Chaplain, and the remaining part for a Public School, Out Offices having been added for the use of the Chaplain, the whole of the Premises, including a small Garden, being enclosed with a Strong Fence.”<sup>123</sup>*

On 14 January 1810, Macquarie inaugurated what would become his most controversial policy when he announced the appointment of Andrew Thompson as a magistrate. This made Thompson the first ex-convict to be appointed as a magistrate, a clear signal of the policy of rehabilitating former convicts that became a defining issue of Macquarie’s term of office.<sup>124</sup> It was also a source of considerable and

<sup>120</sup> *HRNSW*, vol 3, p 217

<sup>121</sup> *Sydney Gazette*, 11 March 1804, p 2

<sup>122</sup> Sales by Baker - Old Register, Book 1, page 147, No 1137; Volume 5, page 86, No 635; Volume 5, p 309, No 1240, Sale by Thomas Rickerby, Volume 5, page 49 No 518, LRS

<sup>123</sup> *HRA*, 1, Volume 10, p 691

<sup>124</sup> *Sydney Gazette*, 14 January 1810, p 2

persistent friction with free settlers and was probably the first sign of the acceptance that Australia was founded and largely built by convicts in its early years.

The appointment of Thompson recognised the considerable high regard in which Thompson was held by the inhabitants of the Hawkesbury. During the 1809 floods, he had been particularly active in rescuing and aiding the inhabitants of the District. However, the effects of hypothermia and constant soaking he received during his efforts severely affected his health. On 22 October 1810 Andrew Thompson died and following his death, his lease was added to the square.

Shortly afterwards, on 15 December 1810, Governor Macquarie announced his intention to create five new towns on the high land along the Hawkesbury-Nepean River. Green Hills would be renamed as Windsor. On 12 January 1811, Macquarie walked over the site of the settlement of Green Hills, the future site of Windsor. In his diary, he specifically mentioned the “present square” from which the main street named George Street would run and referred to Thompson’s allotment and the lands to the east of the square as the “Government Garden or Domain”.<sup>125</sup>

In addition, he noted that the existing Square would be named “*Thompson Square in honour of the memory of the good and worthy late Andrew Thompson*”.<sup>126</sup> By naming the Square after a prominent and respected ex-convict, Macquarie deviated markedly from the usual naming practice of his time in honouring British nobility or the patrons of one’s own success. Macquarie was addicted to naming places after himself or his wife, Elizabeth, so the honour he bestowed on Thompson is remarkable. It also appears to be the first time a place was officially named after a convict or ex-convict.

Of the five new towns established by Macquarie, only Windsor was formed with an existing village as its nucleus. He issued instructions to his surveyor James Meehan to lay out the town. Meehan’s survey commenced on 9 January 1811 from “Thompson’s new Brick Building”.<sup>127</sup> This was probably the building shown on the North side of George Street and its west corner with Baker Street, noted on Meehan’s July 1811 survey map as “7 Mr Thompsons out of Mr Baker”.<sup>128</sup> The town layout was formally approved by Macquarie in 1812. By 24 July 1811, the main streets had been established on a grid pattern with George Street as its principal spine. It incorporated the existing government space that became Thompson Square.<sup>129</sup>

Macquarie’s establishment of formal public squares in each of his five towns established public squares as a significant element in town planning in Australia, an achievement that no previous governor had managed. At Windsor, as well as absorbing the existing government space as Thompson Square, he laid out another square to the west opposite the future site of St Matthew’s Anglican Church (McQuade Park). This process regularised Thompson Square as a government space, which paralleled the creation of squares in the other towns he established. (Refer also to Section 4.5 Comparative Analysis.)

Thompson Square took on the form of a Georgian square, such as were constructed in major towns across Britain. As buildings were constructed along its eastern, southern and western boundaries, they faced the Square, addressing their principal facades to it. Unlike Georgian squares in Britain, these buildings did not assume an overall plan, with a similarity of form, function and materials. Thompson Square represented the conjunction of convict aspiration and social mobility with a town planning

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<sup>125</sup> L Macquarie, *Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales: journals of his tours in New South Wales and Van Diemens Land, 1810-1822*, Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales, Sydney, 1956, p 42

<sup>126</sup> Ibid.

<sup>127</sup> NRS 13889, Surveyor-General, Surveyor’s Fieldbook, No 83, Meehan, 1811, SZ901

<sup>128</sup> SA Map SZ 529

<sup>129</sup> Ian Jack, *Macquarie’s Towns*, Heritage Council of New South Wales & Land and Property Management Authority, Sydney, 2010, p 38

form that was exclusive and even aristocratic in its inspirations. As such, Thompson Square was a distinctively Australian expression of the Georgian square.

Meehan's map of the new town to be called Windsor dated 18 July 1811 showed Thompson's lease and a small building adjoining what was his store and Harris' lease plus: 1. Church and schoolhouse; 2 Granary and store; 3 Government House; 4 Military Barrack (Fitzgerald's land on the site of the Macquarie Inn). Faint pencil lines also showed where later allotments were laid out (see Figure 2.18).<sup>130</sup>

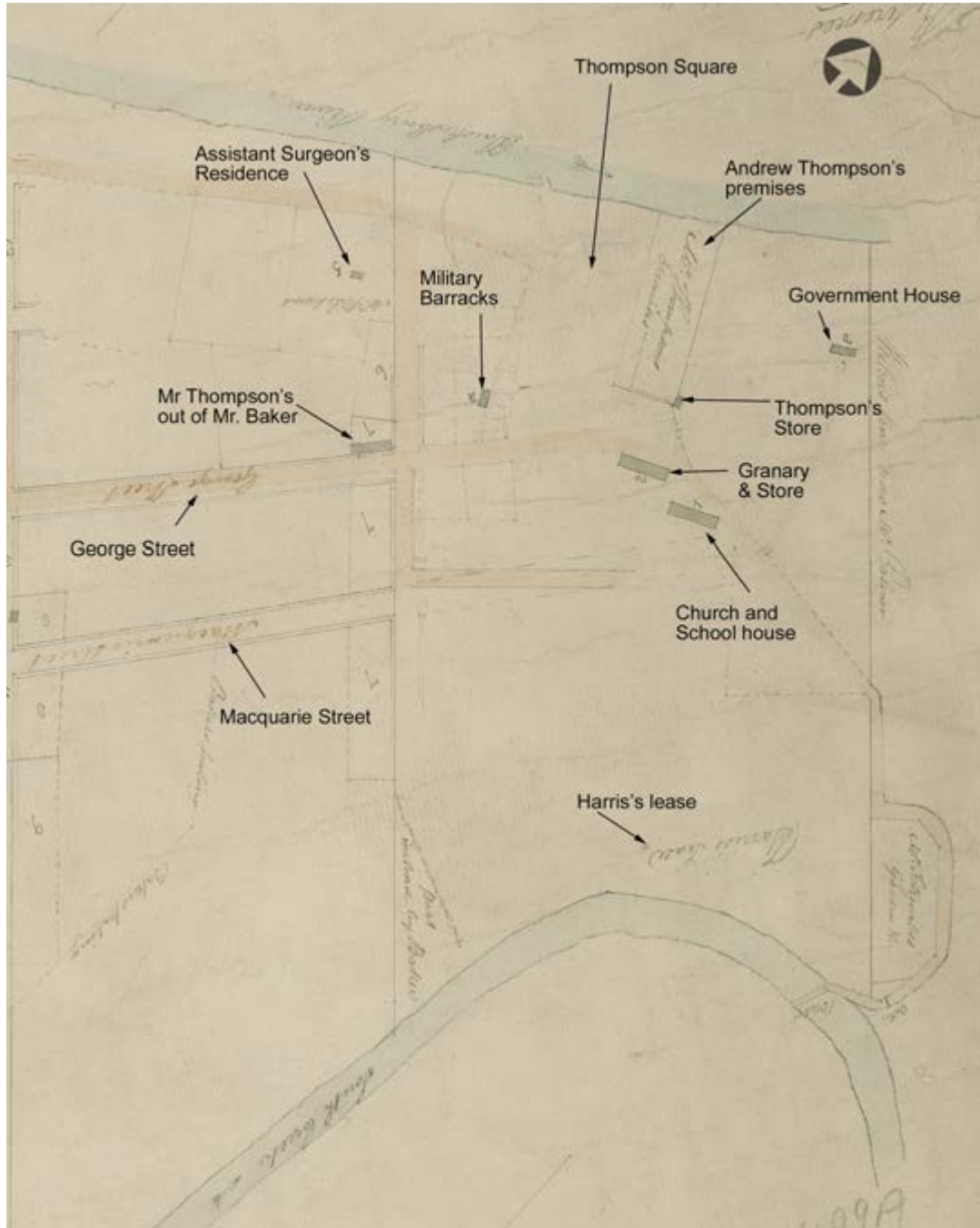


Figure 2. 18: Detail from Meehan's survey of 1811 showing the principal features of the early town of Windsor with Macquarie's overlay of street and subdivision patterns. Source: SA Map SZ 529

<sup>130</sup> SA Map SZ 529

When Macquarie's surveyor James Meehan laid out the town of Windsor west of the government square, he established a formal town that grew to become the regional centre for the Hawkesbury. He also defined Thompson Square by establishing a formal boundary along its western edge. Though Baker's Line which is now Baker Street was the original edge of the Government Domain, the allocation of land east of that line gave a sharp formal edge to Thompson Square along its western boundary further defined by the construction of buildings.

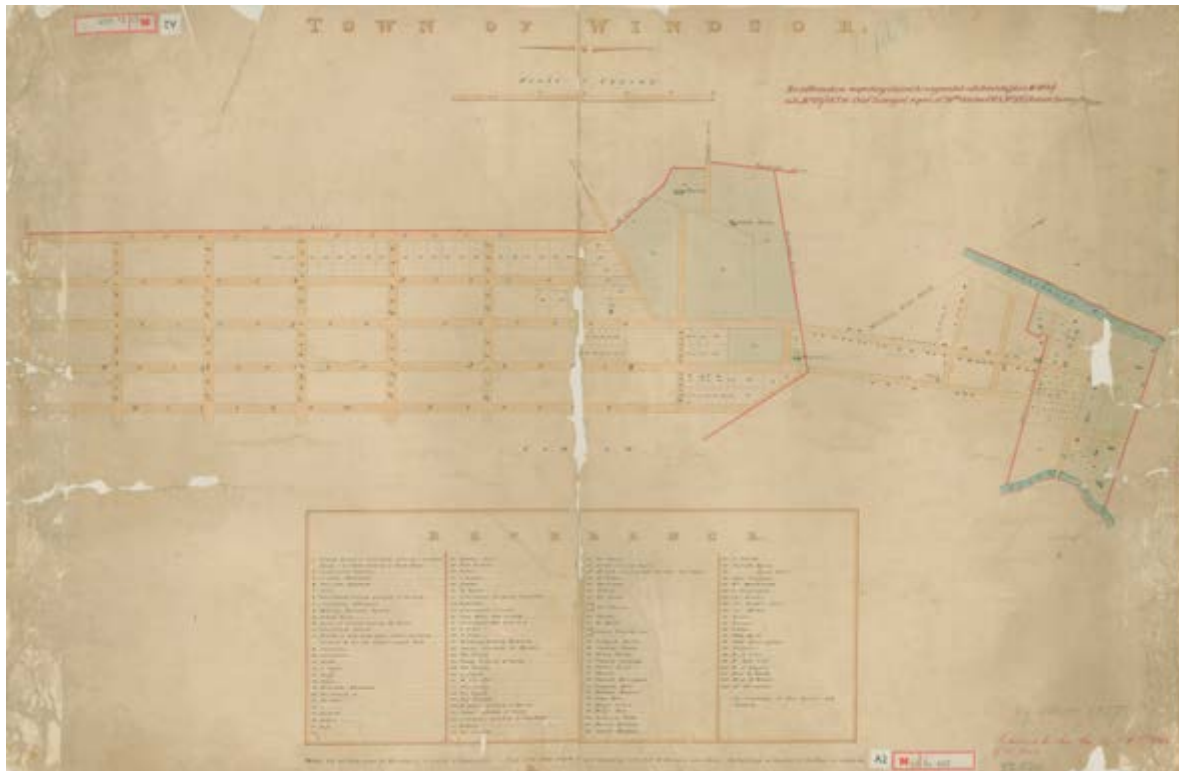


Figure 2. 19: 1827 survey by Assistant Surveyor George Boyle White showing the Government Domain lands between the Hawkesbury River and South Creek incorporating Thompson Square and Government House (to the right). The new town plan for Windsor is shown to west (left) with McQuade Park in the centre of the plan as laid out by Meehan. Source: SA Map SZ 524

From late 1811, Macquarie cleared away a number of the lesser buildings erected across the Government Domain by officials and private individuals leaving only the most significant government buildings: the storehouses, Government house, Thompson's house, and the barracks.<sup>131</sup>

Another painting of the new settlement at Windsor possibly completed about 1812 and believed to also have been painted by George William Evans showed changes made by Macquarie (see Figure 2.20). The log granary that figured prominently in the foreground of the earlier painting had gone, though the small cottage immediately adjacent owned by Thompson remained. His garden running to the river was still evident, as were the boundary fences to Thompson's allotment. There is also what appears to be a loading dock on the river edge with a pathway leading up the slope through Thompson's land to his storehouse. The three storey storehouses also remained. The bell post also stood at the centre and the muddy track still led to the water's edge.<sup>132</sup>

<sup>131</sup> G W Evans, Settlement on Green Hills, PXD 388 vol 3, No 7; G W Evans, (attrib.), Head of navigation, Hawksbury [sic] River 'Windsor', 1810? Possibly 1812, ML SV1B/WIND/6; P Slaeger, A view of part of the town of Windsor in New South Wales, taken from the banks of the River Hawkesbury, 1813, NLA

<sup>132</sup> G W Evans, (attrib.), Head of navigation, Hawksbury [sic] River 'Windsor', 1810? Possibly 1812, ML SV1B/WIND/6

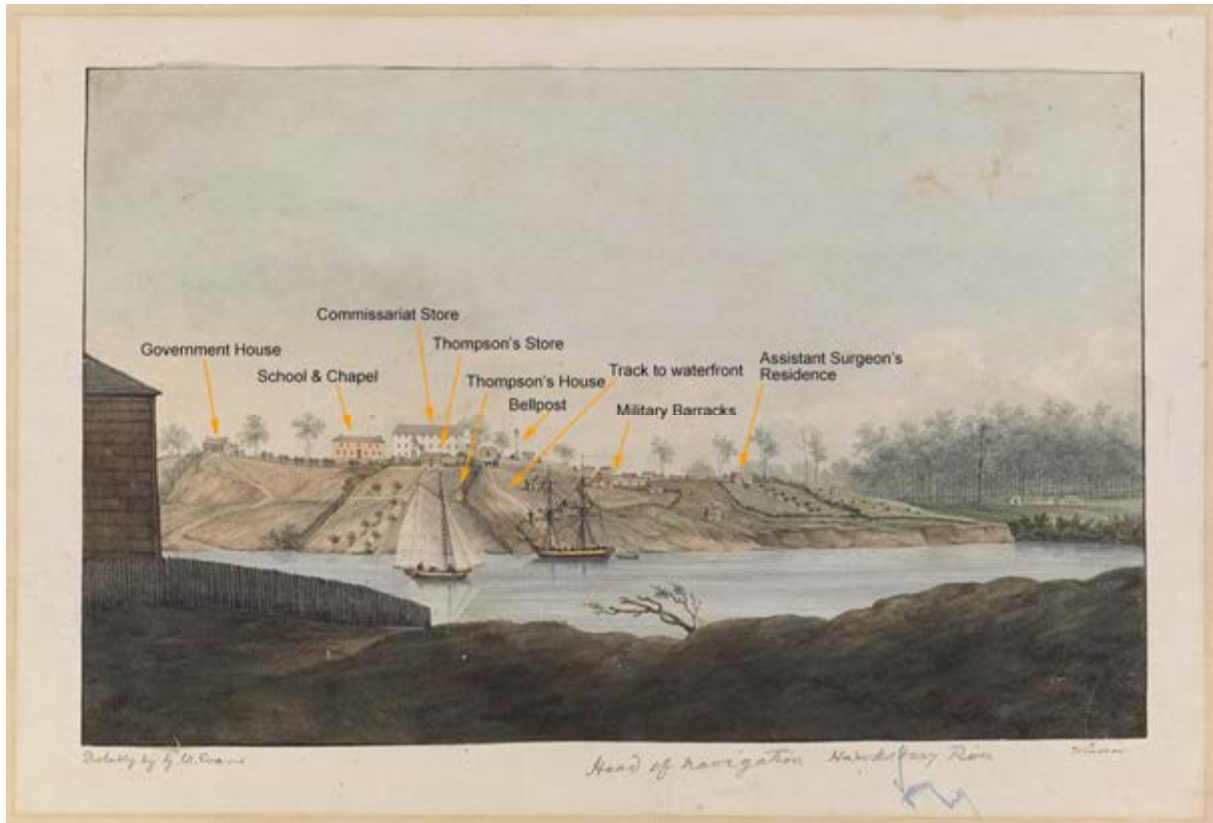


Figure 2. 20: The painting attributed to Evans believed to date to 1812, annotated to show the principal feature of the precinct at the time. Source: G W Evans, (attrib.), Head of navigation, Hawksbury [sic] River 'Windsor', ML SV1B/WIND/6

The etching published in 1813 by Slaeger can be precisely dated. It confirmed some of the detail of the painting apparently completed by Evans in 1812 (Figure 2.21). The three storey storehouses remained as did Government House. Thompson's garden had been absorbed into the Government Domain. The small inlet and beach on the riverbank that may have inspired the establishment of a landing place and subsequently, the Government Domain at this spot, was also visible. A notable addition compared to the earlier painting was a three storey building to the right of the image. It is almost exactly in the position where the Macquarie Arms Hotel was built. There is no other contender comparable to that building. Problematically, the Macquarie Arms Hotel is not a three storey building. If it is the Macquarie Arms Hotel, it suggests that it was already under construction by 1813, even though it was not finished until 1815.<sup>133</sup>

<sup>133</sup> P Slaeger, A view of part of the town of Windsor in New South Wales, taken from the banks of the River Hawkesbury, 1813, NLA



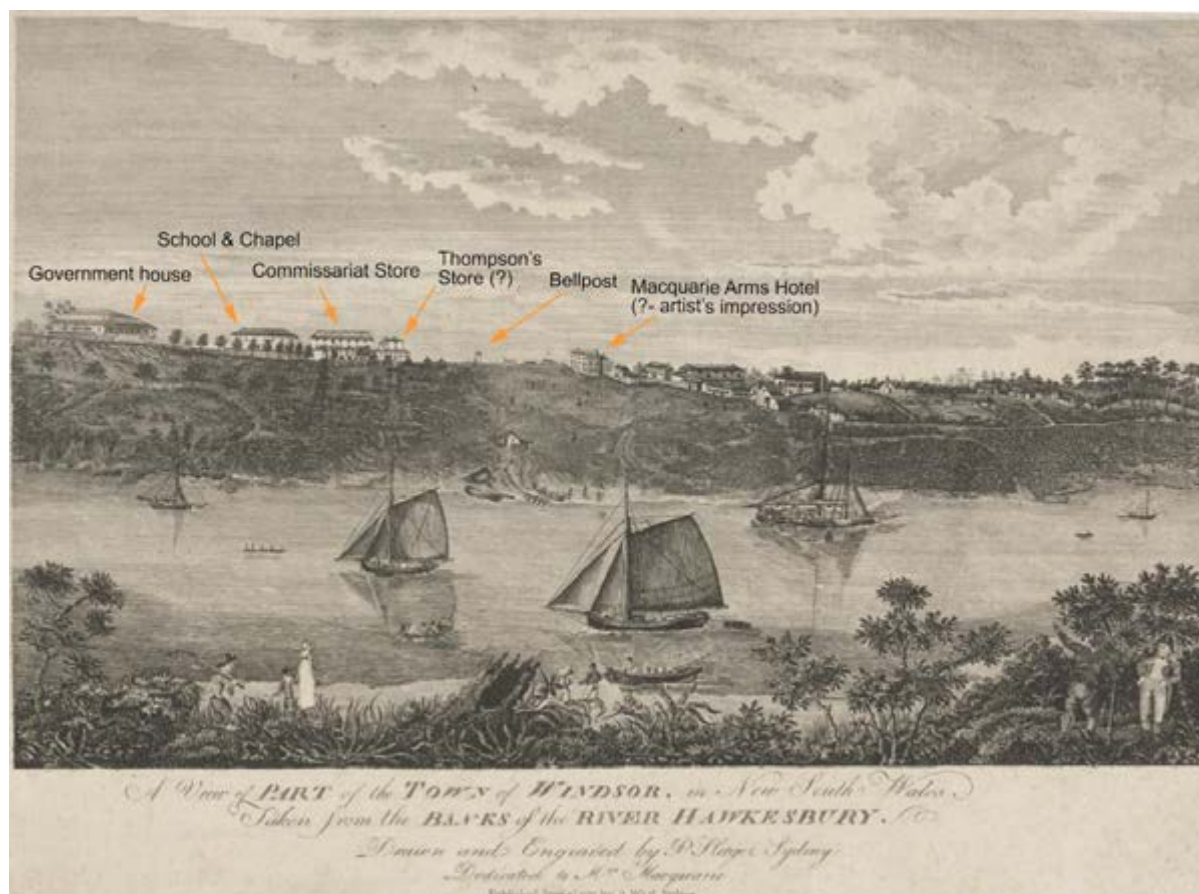


Figure 2. 21: Slaeger's published view of Windsor is significant not only for its detail but for the fact that it has a precise date of publication. Annotated to show the principal elements of the precinct. Source: P Slaeger, A view of part of the town of Windsor in New South Wales, taken from the banks of the River Hawkesbury, 1813, NLA

In 1815, the Government purchased Thompson's store for £1,500. In 1819, Thompson's property was described as "an acre from the waterside, the Cottage Garden, in front towards the River, as well as a range of Stabling and Workshops at the back of the Store near to which the present Govt. Stables are built."<sup>134</sup> Andrew Thompson had planted fruit trees in his garden and was absorbed into the Government Domain. In 1822, the group of buildings and garden were described as:

*"A Large Brick Built 3 Story Provision Store and Granary purchased from the Executors of the late Mr. Andrew Thompson, which became indispensably necessary and was fitted up as such accordingly with the addition of an Office for the Commissariat Officer stationed at Windsor.*

*N.B. A small Cottage A small Cottage and Garden, belonging to the same Estate and attached to the said stores, was purchased along with it and added to the government Domain at Windsor, which joined Mr Thompson's premises."*<sup>135</sup>

<sup>134</sup> BT 2 pp 48981-2, 48977, 48979 cited in E Higginbotham, Historical and Archaeological Investigation of Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW, For Hawkesbury Shire Council, July 1986, p 17

<sup>135</sup> HRA, 1, volume 10, p 691

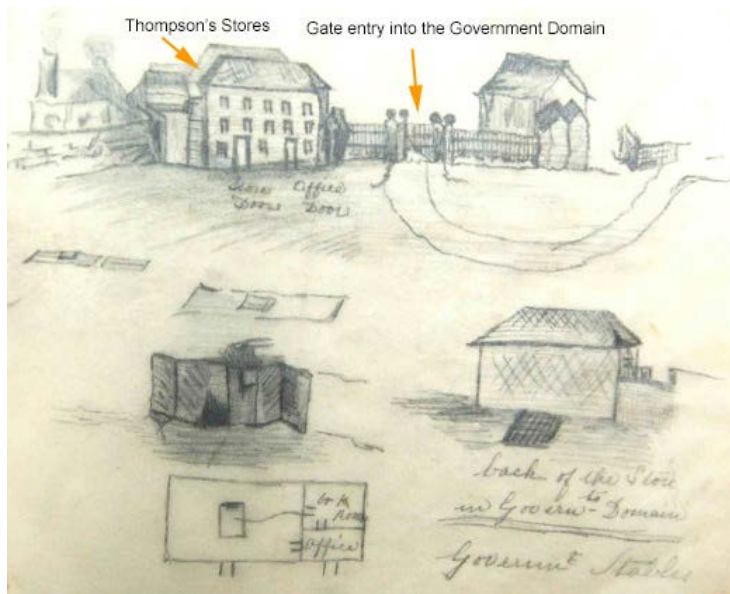


Figure 2. 22: This sketch of Thompson's stores was completed in 1820. Source: Bonwick Transcripts, BT 10, p 4259, ML

A sandstock brick wall below the house currently standing at 4 Bridge Street appears to be part of a wall constructed by the government around Thompson's garden between 1813 and 1816. The brick wall appears in the panorama sketch (artist unknown) entitled: *Sketch of the Inundation in the Neighborhood of Windsor taken on Sunday the 2nd of June 1816* (Figure 2.23) annotated as "Wall, Govt. House Garden".

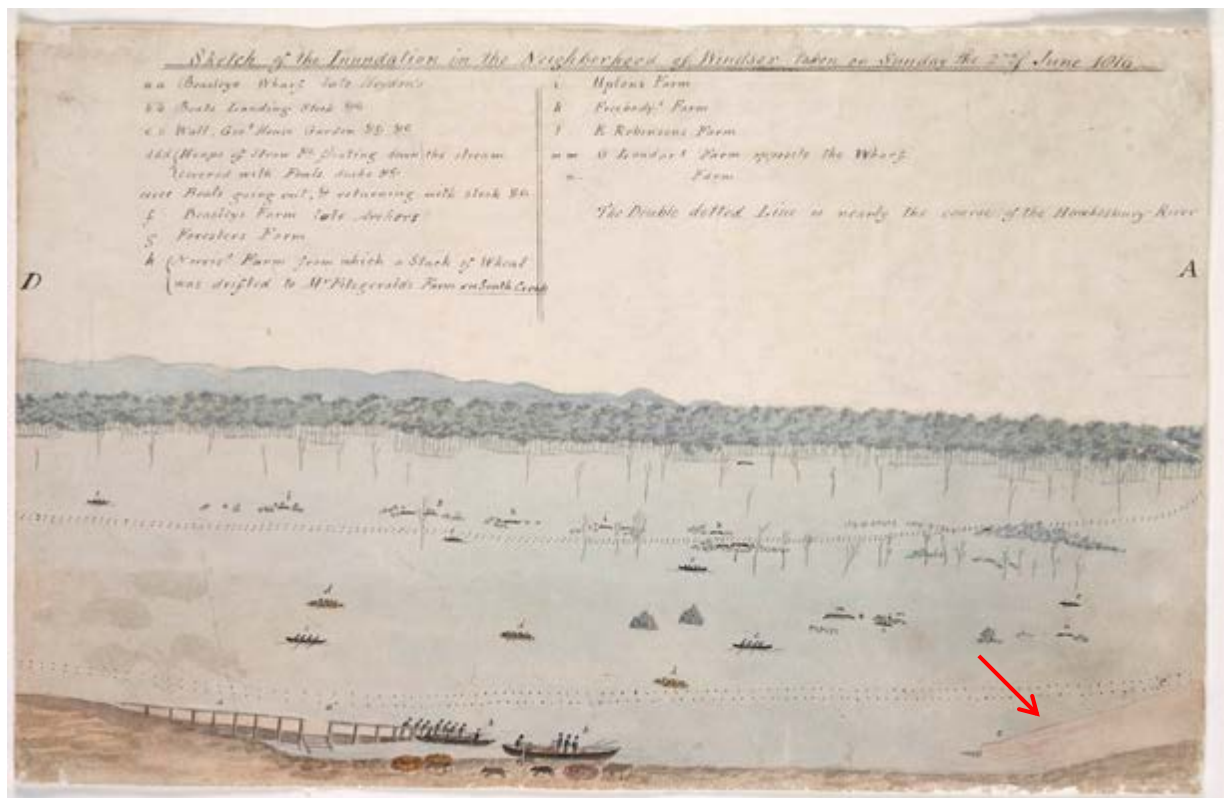


Figure 2. 23: Panel 4 from the panorama entitled *Sketch of the Inundation in the Neighborhood of Windsor taken on Sunday the 2nd of June 1816*, artist unknown, dated 1816. The brick wall to Thompson's garden is in the bottom right corner marked with "cc" (indicated with an arrow). Source: SLNSW, PX\*D 264

***Public Infrastructure in Thompson Square***<sup>136</sup>

A contract for public works in the square, involving drainage, levelling and wharfage, was issued by Governor Macquarie in 1814 to two prominent, entrepreneurial Hawkesbury men, John Howe (who was the chief constable) and James McGrath. This original document and a related contract made in April 1815, both signed by Macquarie himself, were retained by the Howe family and are now in the State Library of New South Wales.<sup>137</sup>

On 8 August 1814 Howe and McGrath agreed to complete three separate commissions within twelve months. One of these was:

*To Sink and Erect one Sewer in the middle of the Square with Channels leading thereto or to Sink and Erect two sewers one on each side of the Square as laid down in the Plan in the possession of His Excellency Governor Macquarie and as His Excellency may please to direct.*

This plan has not been located, but it is clear from local knowledge and confirmed by the current excavations that in 1814 Howe and McGrath elected to build a single central drain, with ancillary channels. The governor permitted the contractors to manufacture between 120,000 and 150,000 bricks ‘on the Brick Ground now making at Windsor for Government’. Since bricks were not relevant to the other works in the contract, this substantial number was earmarked for the drains.

By 24 April 1815, the date of the second contract, well ahead of schedule, both the new wharf and the barrel drain had been completed.<sup>138</sup> The new contract gives details of the remaining work. This was the very large enterprise of extending the wharf and reducing the steep angle of the square as it dropped down from George Street to the river.<sup>139</sup>

Levelling the square was a substantial operation. Although only six months were allowed for completion, the fee was almost double that for stage 1 in 1814-1815 (£600 against £350, plus spirits in each case). The magnitude of the task was recognized by Macquarie, who added to Howe’s copy of the contract a note in his own handwriting, allowing the starting-date for the six months to be postponed for two months until 24 June 1815.

The methods to be used by Howe and McGrath were carefully specified. A new wooden ‘Wharf or Platform’ was to be created along the whole length of the riverside part of the square ‘in a line with the present Jetty or Wharf but three feet higher [than the deck of the wharf]’. There were to be three rows of piles, 550 in all, to support the new structure. The improved wharf was 276 feet long and 33 feet wide, according to the *Sydney Gazette*, whereas the first Howe wharf was only 50 by 18 feet.<sup>140</sup> The piles on the landward side, taking the full weight of the infill, which was to reach the top of the new wharf, were to be: *well secured with Land Ties and Caps and planked with sound two inch Planks and not more than six inches wide to be spiked with five inch spikes.*

<sup>136</sup> Text provided by Professor Ian Jack, entitled *The Drainage System in Thompson Square, Windsor*, dated March 2018 following the revealing of the brick drains within the Lower Reserve as a result of archaeological investigations carried out for the WBRP.

<sup>137</sup> State Library of NSW, Mitchell Library, ML MSS 106, items 37. 38.

<sup>138</sup> The wharf was in use by early March 1815 (*Sydney Gazette*, 4 March 1815, p.2); the completion of the barrel drain is inferred since it is not included in the new contract in April 1815.

<sup>139</sup> It is this levelling of Thompson Square which explains why the barrel drain was found no less than 3.5 metres under the present surface. It also offers a satisfying interpretation of the archaeologists’ discovery of a series of brick-lined sump-walls going vertically up some two metres from the barrel drain to a brick box drain on the surface. The nature of the bricks found in all three strata is consistent with a Macquarie-period date.

<sup>140</sup> *Sydney Gazette*, 3 June 1815, p.2; State Library, ML MSS 106, 3+ item 37.



It was envisaged that 5,000 such spikes would be needed from government stores. Although the dimensions of the vertical piles were not specified in 1815, the earlier contract had stipulated that each pile should measure between 16 and 18 inches and that the piles should be placed from three to four feet apart. Standing at least three feet above the land-surface, the reinforced landward side of the wharf was a substantial buffer for the weight of the fill required to diminish the slope.

Obviously, the greatest quantity of fill would be required in the lower part of the square. Howe had already in 1814 and early in 1815 built the large barrel drain just below the original surface. To maintain an efficient drainage system, as the barrel drain was to be covered with a great deal of fill, an additional drainage channel on the surface would be necessary, connected to the barrel drain by a series of brick-lined sumps. The box drain now excavated was therefore added by Howe once the land-fill had altered the landscape of the square, particularly the part closer to the river. Further minor brick drains running to the surface box drain have been identified by the archaeologists. These are the “Channels” stipulated in 1814 but first constructed only after the initial levelling of the square was complete in 1815.

The 1815 wharf was, however, severely damaged in the 14-metre flood of June 1816, when it was reported that: *“all the planking is carried away and there is no part of the wharf that can be built on again.”*<sup>141</sup>

The 1816 flood would have implications for the new landfill and for the new surface drains. Under the direction of Francis Greenway, Howe and McGrath constructed a third wharf between 1816 and 1820 and it is probable that replacement infill, new box drains and new side-channels were required, with further repairs likely after the 14-metre flood of February 1817 and the 12-metre flood of March 1819 which postponed completion of the new wharf. Howe and McGrath received their final payment for “filling in Thompson Square and Erecting a Sewer and laying drains” only on 15 February 1820.<sup>142</sup>

### ***Windsor Barracks***

The need for a new barracks for troops at Windsor was recognised in January 1817 and its construction was undertaken soon afterwards. The new military barracks were built in 1817-1818 on a site at the corner of Bridge Street and Court Street, replacing the previous one whose site was sold. It was later occupied by the police station. Lieutenant John Watts designed the work.

In July 1822, Governor Lachlan Macquarie noted that during his tenure ‘A Brick Built Barrack with the necessary out Offices and Parade Ground for Fifty Soldiers, enclosed with a Stockade’, had been built at Windsor.<sup>143</sup> In 1830, a sandstock brick wall with stone coping was erected to the design of Captain Charles Wilson. Construction of the barracks reinforced the line of Bridge Street, which had not been defined in Meehan’s original town layout.

Macquarie had also built new convict barracks by 1822 described as, *“A Brick Built Barrack with suitable Out Offices for the residence and accommodation [sic] of 100 Male Convicts, enclosed with a strong high Brick Wall.”*<sup>144</sup>

<sup>141</sup> Report by Cox, Mileham and Fitzgerald, 4 July 1816, State Archives NSW, Reel 4045, 4/1735, p.83; D.G Bowd, *Macquarie Country*, rev. ed, 1973, p.42.

<sup>142</sup> Colonial Secretary Correspondence, State Archives NSW, Reel 6050, 4/1746, p.209.

<sup>143</sup> *HRA*, 1, Volume 10, p 690

<sup>144</sup> *HRA*, 1, Volume 10, p 690

In 1836, a total of £342/18/0 was expended on construction of a Mounted Police Barracks and Stables at Windsor. The work was started and completed within that year. Officer's quarters to the design of George Barney were added in 1842. The buildings on the site were accurately shown in two survey plans of July 1842 and July 1843. The police stable was shown on these plans. The northern part of the police barracks site was later alienated, though the brick wall is still extant.<sup>145</sup>

The military left Windsor in 1842 and the barracks was occupied by the police from the 1860s until 1924.<sup>146</sup> A survey of the military barracks made by military engineer H W Lugard in July 1842, showed the buildings on the site.<sup>147</sup>

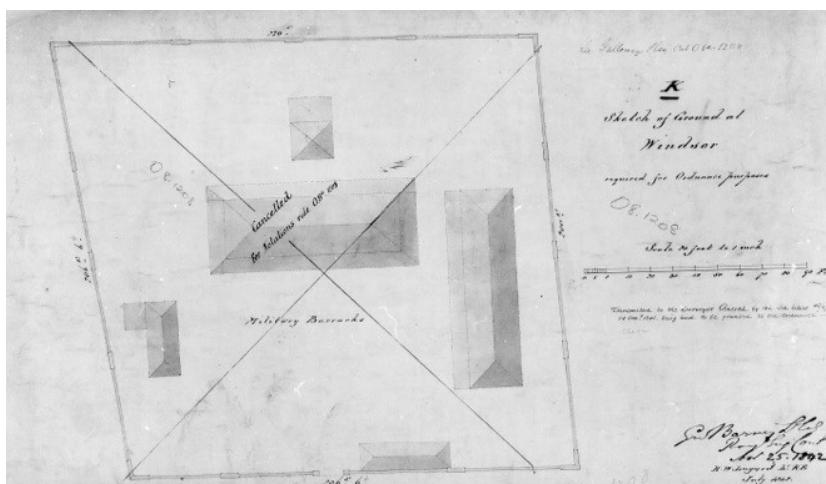


Figure 2. 24: H W Lugard's survey of Windsor barracks in July 1842. Source: SA Map 4681

Assistant Surveyor John James Galloway completed a survey of the military barracks in July 1843 showing buildings on the site. As a bonus, his plan also showed buildings south of Court Street.<sup>148</sup>

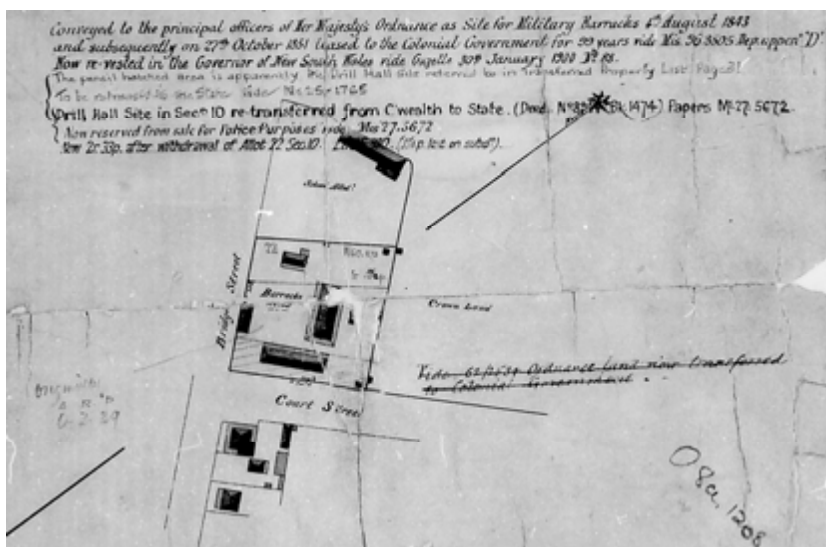


Figure 2. 25: Detail from Assistant Surveyor J J Galloway's survey of the Windsor barracks in July 1843. Source: SA Map 4682.

<sup>145</sup> SANSW 4/1737, p 15; HRA, I, Vol 10, p 690; NRS 1286, *Blue Book*, 1837, SANSW 4/269, p 71; SA Maps 4681, 4682

<sup>146</sup> J Steele, *Early Days of Windsor N S Wales*, Tyrrell's Ltd, Sydney, 1916, pp 141-142

<sup>147</sup> Sketch of ground at Windsor required for Ordnance purposes (Military Barracks), (O.8.1208) H W Lugard, July 1842, SA Map 4681

<sup>148</sup> Resurvey of the Windsor Barracks, (O.8a.1208) J J Galloway, June 1843, SA Map 4682

The northern part of the site measuring 1 rood  $4\frac{3}{4}$  perches, which had been occupied by one of the buildings was later excised to become lot 22 Section 10.<sup>149</sup> It was later sold by an auction held on 12 February 1936 to Amelia Dickson, widow of George Street, storekeeper.<sup>150</sup> The military drill hall adjoining the new police station occupied the southernmost part along Court Street. On 5 May 1927, it was transferred from the Commonwealth to the state of New South Wales (the notation on the plan is incorrect).<sup>151</sup> By 1936, a cottage had been constructed on the site.<sup>152</sup>

The Barracks guardhouse along Bridge Street was demolished probably before 1879.<sup>153</sup> Archaeologist Kate Holmes excavated its foundations in 1976-77 (see Figure 2.26).<sup>154</sup>

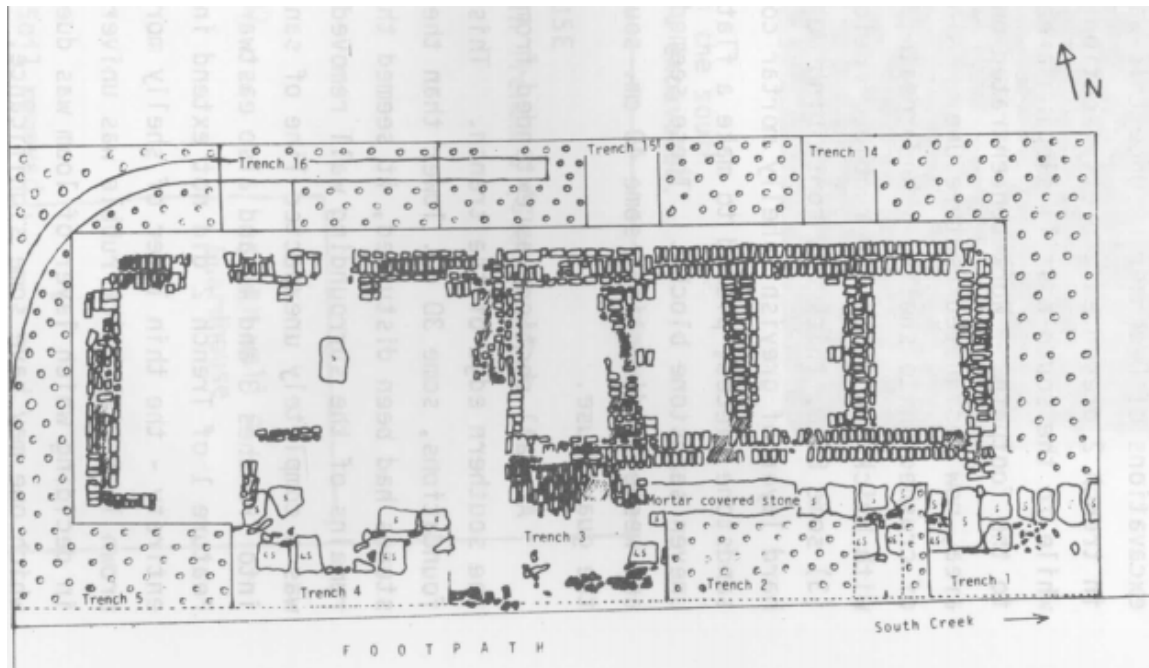


Figure 2. 26: The diagram of the guardhouse footings excavated in 1976-1977. Source: K Holmes, *Windsor Barracks – the guardhouse*, The Australian Society for Historical Archaeology, University of Sydney, Sydney, 1979, p 15

Various photographs of Bridge Street from the 1870s onwards show that the guardhouse building had been removed (see Figures 2.27 to 2.29 below).

<sup>149</sup> Resurvey of the Windsor Barracks, (O.8a.1208) J J Galloway, June 1843, SA Map 4682

<sup>150</sup> CT 4795 f 187

<sup>151</sup> OSD, No 394 Bk 1475

<sup>152</sup> 1936 sewerage plan

<sup>153</sup> J Steele, *Early Days of Windsor N S Wales*, photo facing p 25

<sup>154</sup> K Holmes, *Windsor Barracks – the guardhouse*, The Australian Society for Historical Archaeology, University of Sydney, Sydney, 1979

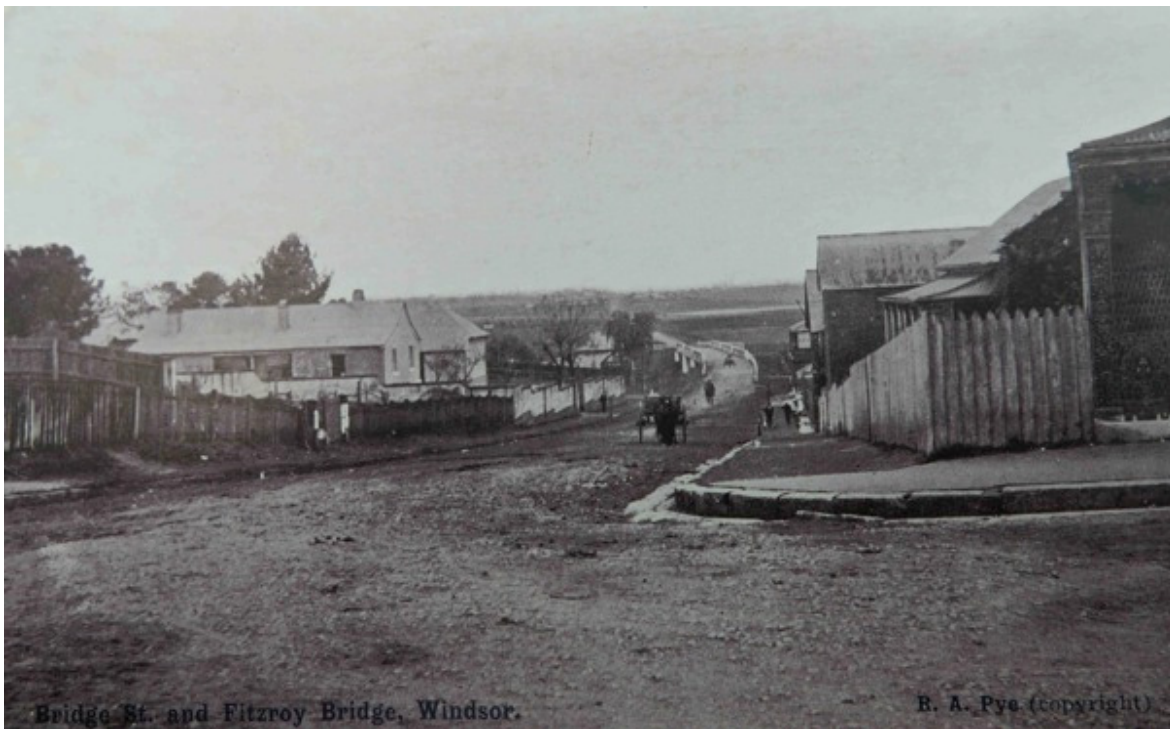


Figure 2. 27: Bridge Street possibly in the 1870s from a postcard published by R. A. Pye. Source: ML.SPF, PXA 2113, Box 74



Figure 2. 28: Bridge Street probably in the 1890s, published by Kerry & Co. Source: ML.SPF, PXA 2113, Box 74





Figure 2. 29: The Windsor Military barracks probably in the 1890s, published by Kerry Ltd. Source: ML.SPF, PXA 2113, Box 74

### ***Granting of Allotments***

Macquarie laid out “several new allotments for building new houses according to a prescribed plan not to be deviated from” on the western side of Thompson Square.<sup>155</sup> A large allotment was given to Richard Fitzgerald to construct a large masonry hotel (the Macquarie Arms Hotel). Other parcels along the western side were allocated to John Howe (No. 7 Thompson Square) and George Loder (No. 5 Thompson Square).

The allotments along the western edge of Thompson Square buttressed the creation of a formal square with buildings facing the public space. These allotments firmly anchored the western boundary of what became known as Thompson Square and in turn, Thompson Square became a select part of Windsor – sometimes referred to as the aristocratic part of town. In 1900 it was claimed that:

*“Thompson Square is, or was, the aristocratic quarter of old Windsor town; its position is elevated, and the houses, on two sides at least, are large and commodious, if not particularly aesthetic in appearance. Famous men have resided here in days gone by.”*<sup>156</sup>

The land along the western boundary of Thompson Square was taken up by those offered grants but only the lot given to Richard Fitzgerald was given a formal deed of grant.

<sup>155</sup> Macquarie, *Journals*, p 42

<sup>156</sup> *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 21 April 1900, p 1

## Developing Thompson Square within Windsor: the Regional Centre

Windsor consolidated its regional role in the decades after 1810, paralleling the importance of Parramatta as a significant regional commercial and administrative centre. In 1848, Wells Gazetteer of New South Wales noted that Windsor's 'buildings are similar to those of Parramatta', whilst its inns were 'large and excellent'. Stage coaches ran daily from Sydney via Parramatta. The wealth of the agricultural district around Windsor was the key to its significance and prosperity.<sup>157</sup> Many of the inns identified by Wells were in Thompson Square. In 1883, Windsor was 'the chief town of perhaps the richest agricultural district of the colony' with 'several fine buildings'.<sup>158</sup>

Macquarie established the street pattern at Windsor. Jan Barkley-Jack has argued that George Street, which forms the spine of Windsor was already an embryo street in 1799, when the lease to Thompson specified he leave a road reserve 100 feet wide.<sup>159</sup> Macquarie's surveyor James Meehan laid out Windsor west of the Government Domain, establishing a formal town that grew to become the regional centre for the Hawkesbury. Regardless, Thompson Square remained the centre of the township in terms of administration and trade and the importance of Thompson Square continued well into the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1874 the site was marked for Windsor's Town Hall and the idea was discussed at the Windsor Council meeting in September 1874 as follows:

*"In answer to the letter from Department of Land, that the clerk be instructed to write and say that the Council desired the river banks to be dedicated for the purposes of a recreation ground, and Thompsons [sic] square as a site for a town hall."*<sup>160</sup>

This option for the future development of the square was still being discussed in 1877, however, it was instead decided to make use of the Old Telegraph Office building down George Street for Council offices.<sup>161</sup>

Macquarie further refined Thompson Square by establishing a formal boundary along its western edge when he parcelled out allotments on its western edge. The granting of these allotments along the western edge of Thompson Square assisted in creating a formal Georgian style square with buildings facing the square. These allotments firmly anchored the western boundary of what became a public space. These allotments became the sites of the Macquarie Arms Hotel (81 George Street), Howe's house (7 Thompson Square), the cottage at 5 Thompson Square and the building known as the Doctor's House (1-3 Thompson Square). Howe, Loder and Doyle were shown as holders on the 1827 plan by John Thompson but the buildings were only shown as schematic footprints. More accurate footprints were shown in the 1835 plan by White and the 1841 plan by J J Galloway. There was no building shown on Loder's lot in 1835 or 1841 but one had been shown in 1827.<sup>162</sup>

Even though the form of Thompson Square was established by the early nineteenth century or even the late eighteenth century, the surrounding building fabric apart from the Macquarie Arms Hotel and Howe's house at 7 Thompson Square, the Doctor's House at 1-3 Thompson Square and the buildings that are located at 62-68 George Street and 19 Bridge Street date from the mid to late nineteenth century onwards (refer to below and Section 3: Physical Evidence for further details).

<sup>157</sup> W H Wells, *A Geographical Dictionary or Gazetteer of the Australian Colonies*, W & F Ford, Sydney, 1848, p 426

<sup>158</sup> *Fuller's County of Cumberland Year Book*, Parramatta, 1883, p 127

<sup>159</sup> J Barkley-Jack, *History of Thompson Square*, Typescript, 14 March 2013, p 14

<sup>160</sup> "Windsor", *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 4<sup>th</sup> September 1874, p. 3.

<sup>161</sup> "Windsor", *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1877, p. 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> January 1877, p. 6

<sup>162</sup> SA Maps SZ523, SZ524, SZ526, 5868; W.443a, Crown Plan

## Recent History of the Thompson Square Conservation Area

In 1949 the (then) Royal Australian Institute of Architects in NSW prepared the first list ever of historic buildings in NSW and included Thompson Square. Likewise, the buildings of Thompson Square were included in the first Register of Historic Buildings, prepared by the fledgling National Trust in 1971.

In the late 1950s the architect Morton Herman restored the façade of the Doctors Terrace, 1-3 Thompson Square and in 1967 the State Planning Authority of NSW heralded Thompson Square in its publication *Historic Buildings – Windsor and Richmond* (and again later by the NSW Heritage Council in their 1987 publication *Historic Buildings of Windsor and Richmond*), which included the statement:

*“As a town with strong echoes of its colonial days, it has few equals in Australia, and it is important that these tangible evidences of the past be retained in future years when greater pressures for change will be exerted on this pioneering district by the growing proximity and influence of the great metropolitan area of Sydney.”*<sup>163</sup>

As a result of the years of growing interest in 1970, “to protect the square”, the State Planning Authority acquired the cottage at 5 Thompson Square and, in 1972, the architects Fisher Lucas were engaged to restore the building.

In 1975, via a grant from the newly established Register of the National Estate (under the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*), Fisher Lucas prepared a concept plan for the development of Thompson Square, which essentially called for the “*restoration of Thompson Square as an example of nineteenth century townscape and, by virtue of its location, as the gateway to Windsor....*”<sup>164</sup>

Subsequently in 1976, Fisher Lucas were again engaged to restore the front of the Hawkesbury Museum, 7 Thompson Square (Howe’s House/Coffey’s Inn) for the then Windsor Municipal Council.

In 1981 the newly formed Heritage Council of NSW engaged Fisher Lucas to do a measured study and restoration proposal for Nos. 62 to 74 George Street and the School of Arts building in Thompson Square.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1982, Thompson Square was given a Permanent Conservation Order under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

In the lead up to the Bicentenary of the colonisation of Australia, Bicentennial Grant money was obtained and the Fisher Lucas restoration proposals were carried out by the Hawkesbury Shire Council. All the facades (except for the Macquarie Arms Hotel and Nos. 80 to 92 George Street and No. 19 Bridge Street within the TSCA) were restored to the appearance that the buildings essentially retain today.

The ‘restored’ Thompson Square was unveiled by the then Premier of NSW Nick Greiner on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1988, with a plaque placed at the south-west corner of the Bridge Street and George Street intersection.

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<sup>163</sup> State Planning Authority of NSW, 1967; *Historic Buildings- Windsor and Richmond*

<sup>164</sup> Fisher Lucas Architects, 1975; Thompson Square Windsor- A Concept Plan for Development, p. 7

In December 2013, the Minister for the (then) NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure approved the State Significant Infrastructure application (SSI- 4951) for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project including the construction and operation of a replacement bridge, construction of northern and southern approach roads, partial removal of the existing Windsor Bridge and ancillary works including rehabilitation and landscaping. The proponent for the proposed works is Roads & Maritime Services (RMS). Refer also to below for discussion of recent archaeological investigations in the Lower Reserve of Thompson Square.

Since 2013, the grassroots organisation Community Action for Windsor Bridge (CAWB) made up of the local residents of Windsor and surrounds have occupied an area of the upper reserve in Thompson Square, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to protest against the proposed Windsor Bridge Replacement Project.

In 2017, the anniversary of the June 1867 Great Flood was held by Hawkesbury City Council, with various events and activities held around Thompson Square and at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum and Howe's House, No. 7 Thompson Square.

In 2018, as part of the RMS Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, archaeological investigations were undertaken in the Lower Reserve of Thompson Square. As a result of this work several items of colonial and Aboriginal significance were uncovered including Aboriginal stone tools and other artefacts (including ceramics, bottles, bricks, etc.) and a brick barrel drain and box drains, dating back to 1814.



Figure 2. 30: The CAWB tent located in the upper reserve of Thompson Square which has been continuously manned since 2013.



Figure 2. 31: Archaeological investigations being conducted in the Lower Reserve of Thompson Square. Source: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement/index.html>



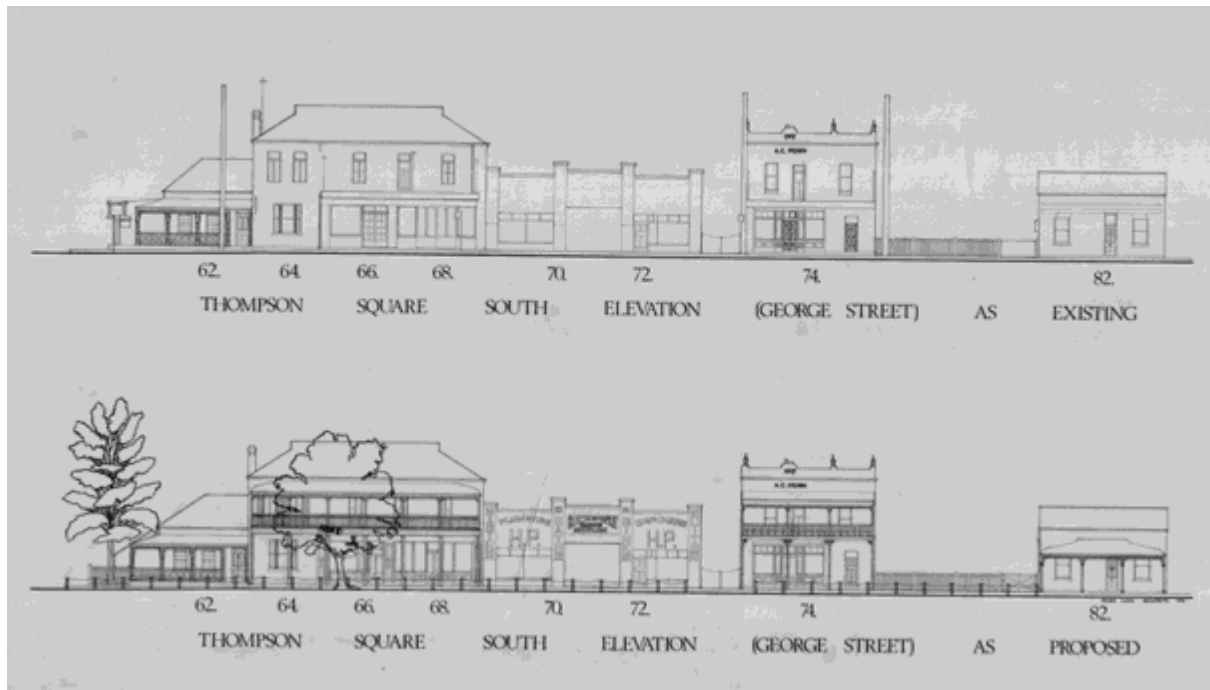
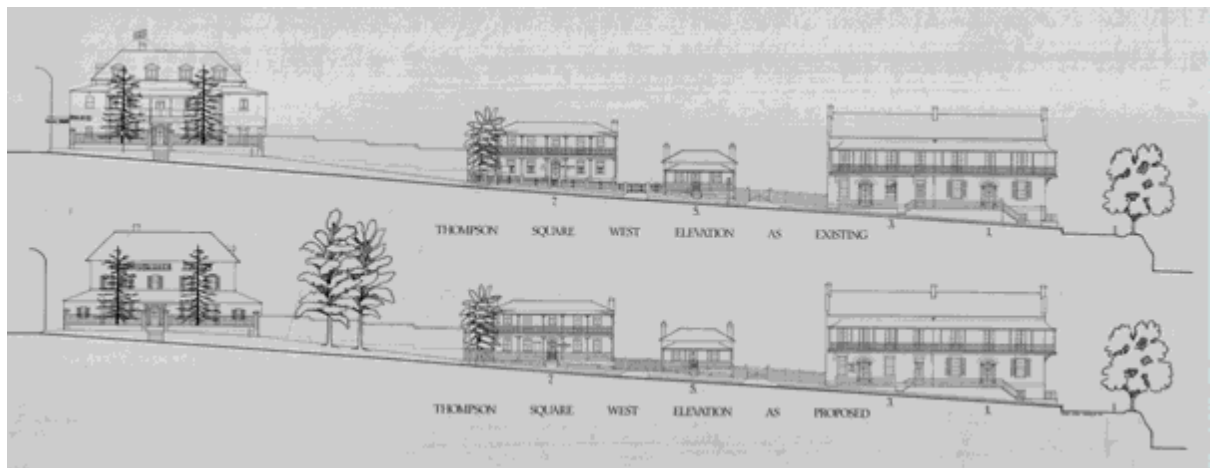


Figure 2.32: Thompson Square restoration proposal for the George Street buildings, dated 1975, by Fisher Lucas Architects. Source: LSJP archives



## 2.2.2 Historical Development of the Thompson Square Conservation Area

The following section provides a brief historical analysis of the physical development of the TSCA, including the configuration of the precinct (roads, subdivision patterns and buildings).

### Mapping Windsor: 1811 to 1975

A series of maps of Windsor have been compiled demonstrating the evolution of the townscape.

**1811:** The first of these was James Meehan's 1811 plan that laid out the town. Buildings shown on Meehan's Map included the Government House of 1796, the military barracks constructed in 1800, the granary/store of 1803, and the schoolhouse/church of 1804-06.<sup>165</sup>

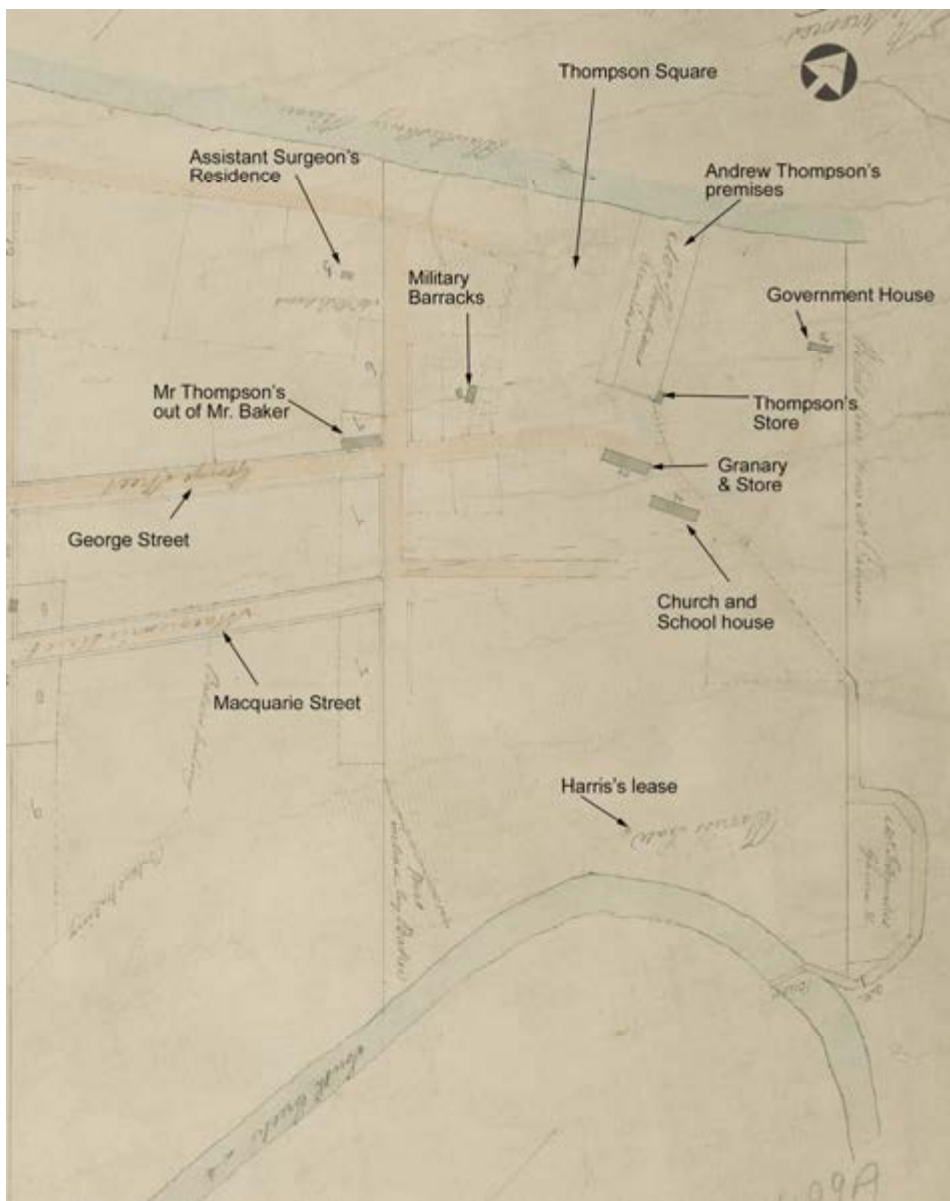


Figure 2. 35: James Meehan's 1811 town layout plan. Source: SA Map SZ529

<sup>165</sup> SA Map SZ529

**1827:** A survey of part of Windsor by Assistant Surveyor George Boyle White dated 1827 showed details of land holdings. The faint key to the numbers on the plan was later transcribed onto a table with additional information added in 1894 mainly relating to descriptions supplied by Assistant Surveyor J J Galloway in 1841. The key identified the following buildings or allotments: No 8 schoolhouse; No 9 Space to wharf [i.e. Thompson Square]; No 10 Fitzgerald's allotment; No 11 Howe's allotment; No 12 Loder's allotment; No 13 Doyle's allotment (claimed by Canton).<sup>166</sup>

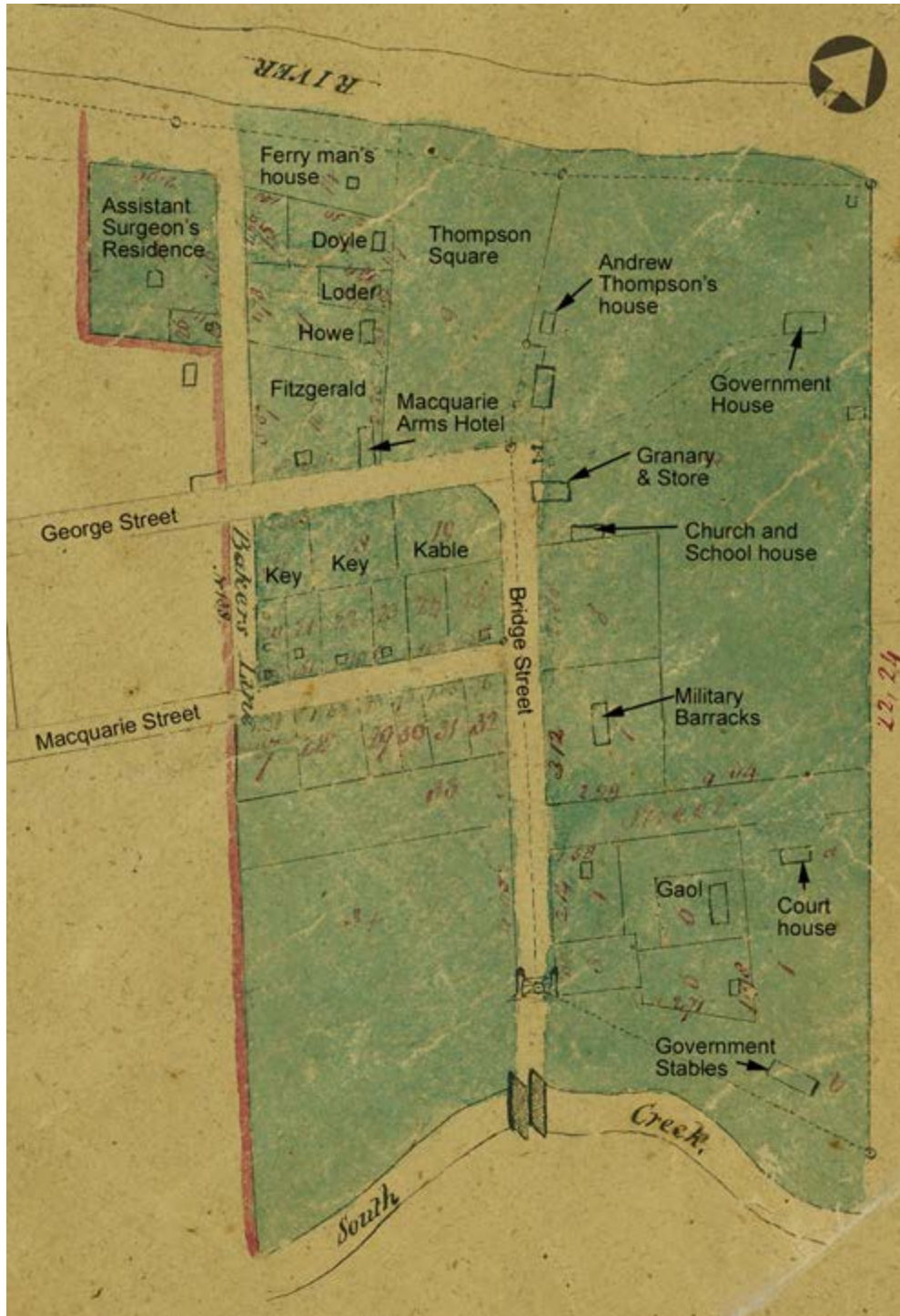


Figure 2. 36: Assistant Surveyor George Boyle White's 1827 survey providing details of landholdings. Source: SA Map SZ 523

<sup>166</sup> SA Map SZ 523



**1827:** Another survey plan of 1827 also by Assistant Surveyor George Boyle White showed buildings on Fitzgerald's, Loder's, Howe's and Doyle's [1-3 Thompson Square] land.<sup>167</sup>

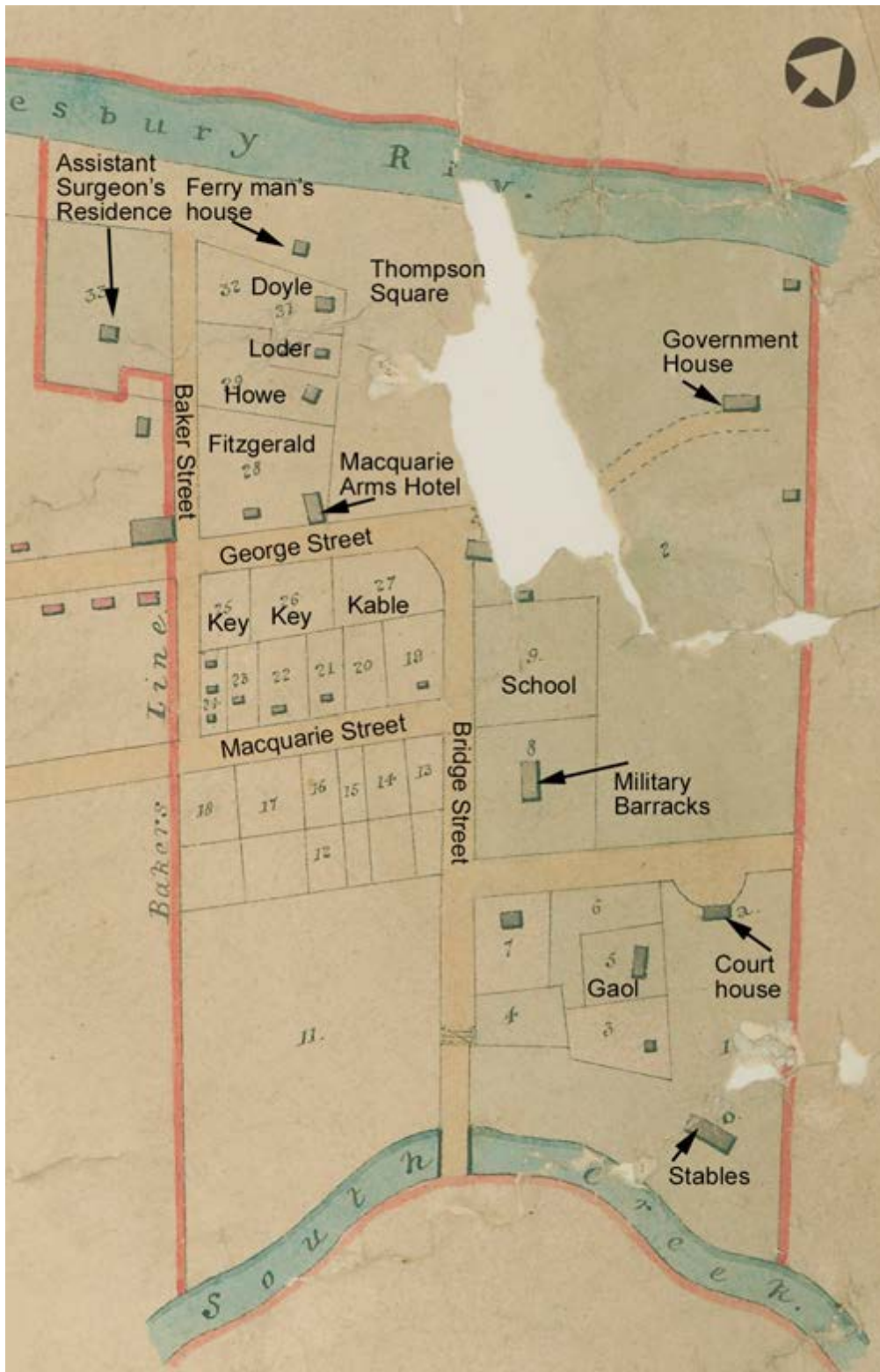


Figure 2. 37: The other 1827 survey by Assistant Surveyor George Boyle White. Source: SA Map SZ 524

<sup>167</sup> SA Map SZ 524

**1827:** A survey by Assistant Surveyor John Thompson also dated as 1827 appears to be a copy with almost identical detail to White's survey except that the position and alignment of the buildings on Numbers 29, 30 and 31 differ.<sup>168</sup>



Figure 2. 38: The 1827 plan by John Thompson. Source: SA Map SZ 526

<sup>168</sup> SA Map SZ 526

**1831:** A plan by Assistant Surveyor John Abbott dated as 24 September 1831 showing land for a School showed details of government buildings on the plan. It may have been copied from one of the earlier 1827 maps. It also showed the layout and plantings of the garden on Thompson's former lease.<sup>169</sup>



Figure 2. 39: Assistant Surveyor John Abbott's survey of September 1831. Source: SA Map 1816

<sup>169</sup> SR Map 1816



**1835:** The 1835 survey of Windsor by Assistant Surveyor George Boyle White showed government buildings including the garden area, Government House and its stables, the commissariat buildings, the school site and the school building, the military barracks (labelled 'Ordnance'), the gaol site and the toll house. Private buildings shown included the buildings on the site of the Doctor's House, two buildings on Howe's land, buildings on Fitzgerald's land including the Macquarie Arms Hotel and the buildings behind facing George and Baker streets. On the south side of George Street the buildings owned by Uriah Moses were shown as well as buildings on Kable's and Keys'/Kays' lots.<sup>170</sup>



Figure 2. 40: The 1835 survey plan by Assistant Surveyor G B White provided the first plan with accurate details of building footprints around Thompson Square. Most of the lots on the western and southern sides of the Square had been built upon, whilst government buildings dominated the eastern side. Source: SA Map 5968

<sup>170</sup> SA Map 5968

**Pre 1847:** A survey of the town of Windsor by Assistant Surveyor J J Galloway was partially completed 'before his departure for squatting districts'. He left for the squatting districts after the Deputy Surveyor General S.A. Perry instructed him to proceed to the Districts of New England and Gwydir on 3 November 1847.<sup>171</sup> The condition of the map suggests it may be an earlier version of the plan he eventually completed as the town design.<sup>172</sup>

This undated map showed Baker's line (boundary) on the western side of Baker Street. It sketched in the building on Howe's land as well as showing a building on what is now 5 Thompson Square, though this may be the hotel on the site later occupied by the Doctor's House (1-3 Thompson Square), plus a small building on the Doctor's House site. Government buildings shown included the Commissariat store also labelled as watchhouse (e); police barracks (f and h); prisoner's barracks (g); Gaol near Court Street (5); Military Barracks (8 and building c); School allotment (with an area of 2 roods 35 perches) and the School (9 and d).<sup>173</sup>

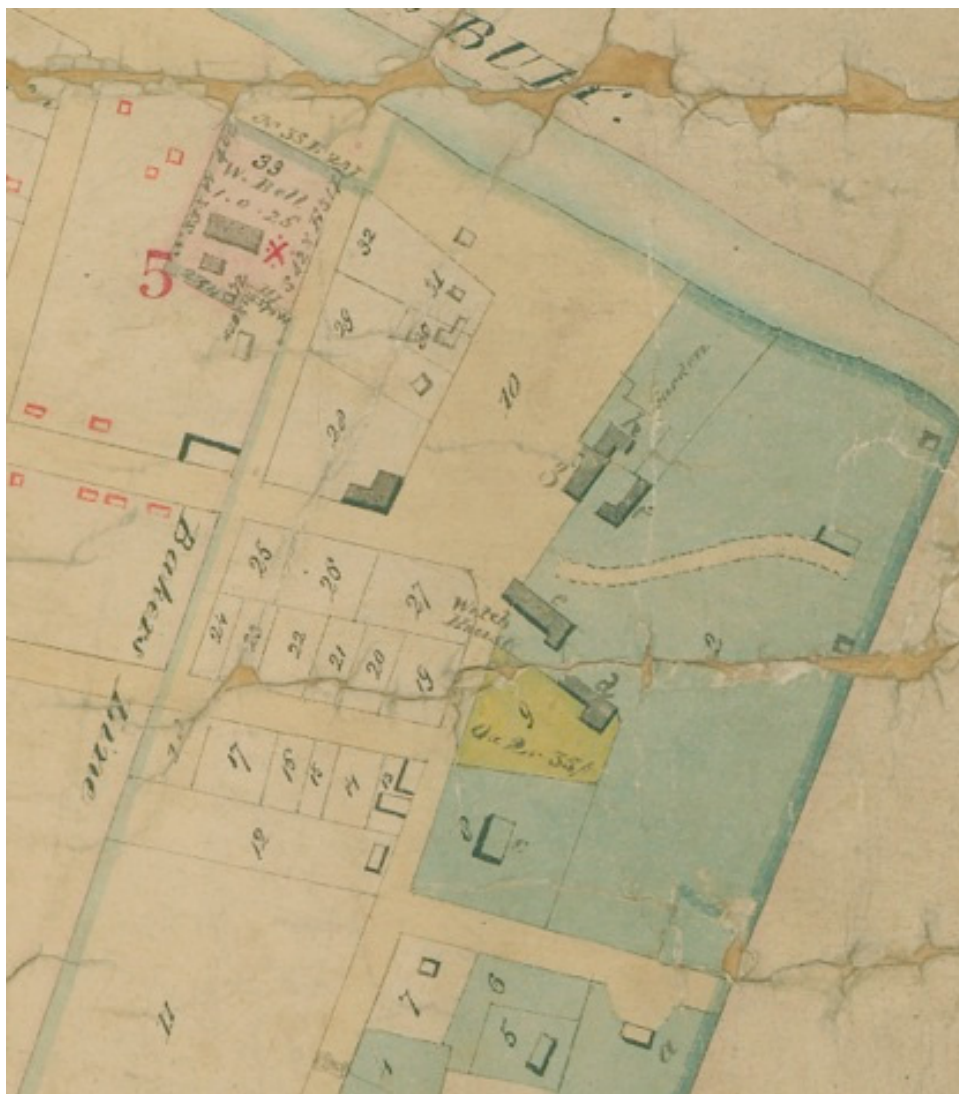


Figure 2. 41: This partially completed map compiled before 1847 by J J Galloway showed some building detail but it appears incomplete. Source: SA Map 5966

<sup>171</sup> J S Ryan, 'The Shaper of New England – Some Account of the Middle Years of John James Galloway – Part 1', *Armidale and District Historical Society Journal and Proceedings*, No 17, March 1974, p 10

<sup>172</sup> The Town Design map is W.443a and is dealt with below.

<sup>173</sup> SA Map 5966



**1841:** A significant group of maps were completed in the early 1840s. Assistant Surveyor J J Galloway completed his Town Design survey of Windsor in December 1841.<sup>174</sup>



Figure 2. 42: J J Galloway's Town Design of Windsor dated December 1841 provided significant detail of buildings and their relationship to the cadastre. Source: W.443.a, Crown Plan

<sup>174</sup> W.443.a, Crown Plan

**1842:** Surveyor John Armstrong compiled a subdivision map of the Peninsula Farm, lying eastward of Thompson Square. There are three different versions of his plan. The one most commonly used was the final printed version, which was probably exhibited at the sale.<sup>175</sup> Two other versions were handed to the Registrar General who used them as charting maps. One of them handed in by 'Norton' was almost identical to the printed copy exhibited at the day of sale and the details around Thompson Square are very faint.<sup>176</sup> The other copy was handed in to the Registrar General by John Armstrong himself.<sup>177</sup> The version of the sale plan provided by Armstrong to the Registrar General now held by Land Registry Services has some differences.<sup>178</sup>



Figure 2. 43: Armstrong's sale plan of 1842 provides a useful comparison to Galloway's plan. Source: ML Map M2 811.11222/1842/1

<sup>175</sup> J Armstrong, CXXIII Building and 24 Cultivation Allotments comprising the Peninsular Farm adjoining the Town of Windsor to be sold by Auction 5<sup>th</sup> Feby 1842 by Laban White at Windsor, ML Map M2 811.11222/1842/1

<sup>176</sup> 28 (N), LRS

<sup>177</sup> 411 (A), LRS

<sup>178</sup> 411 (A), LRS, NSW





Figure 2. 44: The version of Armstrong's sale plan held by LRS. Source: 411 (A), LRS, NSW

A comparison of the two versions of Armstrong's sale map with Assistant Surveyor Galloway's 1841 town design reveals some differences. The following buildings have differing footprints in Galloway's and Armstrong's maps – Fitzgerald's buildings at the corner of George and Baker Streets behind the Macquarie Arms; buildings on Howe's lot; buildings on the site of the Doctor's House; and the buildings on Kable's allotment facing George Street and the government stables. Galloway also showed a small building towards the river in the Government 'Garden'.

Between the two versions of Armstrong's map, the copy held at LRS, NSW has the following differences to the more commonly used version of that plan at the National Library of Australia and the Mitchell Library. On the plan held by Land Registry Services, the ferryman's cottage is shown; Moses' buildings are labelled as 'Moses'; the line of George Street across the Government Domain was shown with dashed lines and the compass hearings on the street were also included; the commissariat store that later became the site of the School of Arts was labelled as 'Site for gaol'. Though the copy of the Armstrong map held at LRS has the same title as the usual version, it lacks the more polished elegant title block seen in the usual version. The LRS copy was probably a draft copy of the sale plan that was later given by Armstrong to the Registrar General's Office in the nineteenth century.

The eastern boundary of Thompson Square continued to be dominated by government buildings. The Government Domain prevented George Street from running north-east beyond Thompson Square, until the government buildings became dilapidated. Once they had deteriorated significantly, land on the eastern side of Thompson Square was sold.

The winding down of the convict system with the cessation of transportation meant that the extensive network of convict barracks, hospitals and gaols, with the accompanying infrastructure of military barracks was a financial burden on the colonial administration. Former convict hospitals at Parramatta and Liverpool were converted to public use. Storehouses and barracks built to accommodate and supply the convict workforce were demolished or sold.

**1848:** Licensed Surveyor William Shone surveyed some of the government land on the eastern side for auction in December 1848. Though sales were slow and some sales were cancelled, the land was gradually alienated. This significantly reduced the government presence in Windsor. Shone's survey showed the various buildings around Thompson Square and the surviving government buildings. Buildings shown included the hotel on the site of 1-3 Thompson Square, Howe's cottage at 7 Thompson Square, the Macquarie Arms Hotel, Fitzgerald's cottage facing George Street, and the buildings constructed by Uriah Moses at the corner of George and Bridge Streets.<sup>179</sup>



Figure 2. 45: Detail from Shone's 1848 plan showing Thompson Square. Source: W.22.873, Crown Plan

<sup>179</sup> W.22.873, Crown Plan



**1871:** Robert Handcock, licensed surveyor and civil engineer, dispatched his street alignment survey of Windsor to the Surveyor General on 23 June 1871. It showed the buildings around Thompson Square including 1-3 Thompson Square (Doctor's House), 5 Thompson Square, 7 Thompson Square (Howe's cottage now Museum), the Macquarie Arms Hotel, Fitzgerald's house facing George Street, 6 Bridge Street, 10 Bridge Street and the dwellings at the corner of George and Bridge Streets constructed by Uriah Moses.

Other buildings on the south side of George Street facing the square were also shown. Though it was apparently in existence, the School of Arts building was not shown nor were any Government buildings such as the watchhouse, even though they were extant. However, buildings on the western side of Bridge Street were included in the alignment survey. To further complicate the issue, Court and Catherine streets to the east of Bridge Street were aligned and existing buildings facing them were shown.<sup>180</sup>



Figure 2. 46: Licensed Surveyor Robert Handcock's street alignment survey of June 1871 included footprints of buildings close to Thompson Square. Source: W.1.1039, Crown Plan

<sup>180</sup> W.1.1039, Crown Plan

**1888:** A survey map of a Water Supply scheme for Windsor dated 1888 showed buildings around Thompson Square including 1-3 Thompson Square (Doctor's House), 5 Thompson Square, 7 Thompson Square (Howe's cottage now Museum), the Macquarie Arms Hotel, Fitzgerald's house facing George Street. Other buildings on the south side of George Street facing the square were also shown though the map is damaged where Uriah Moses buildings were situated.<sup>181</sup>

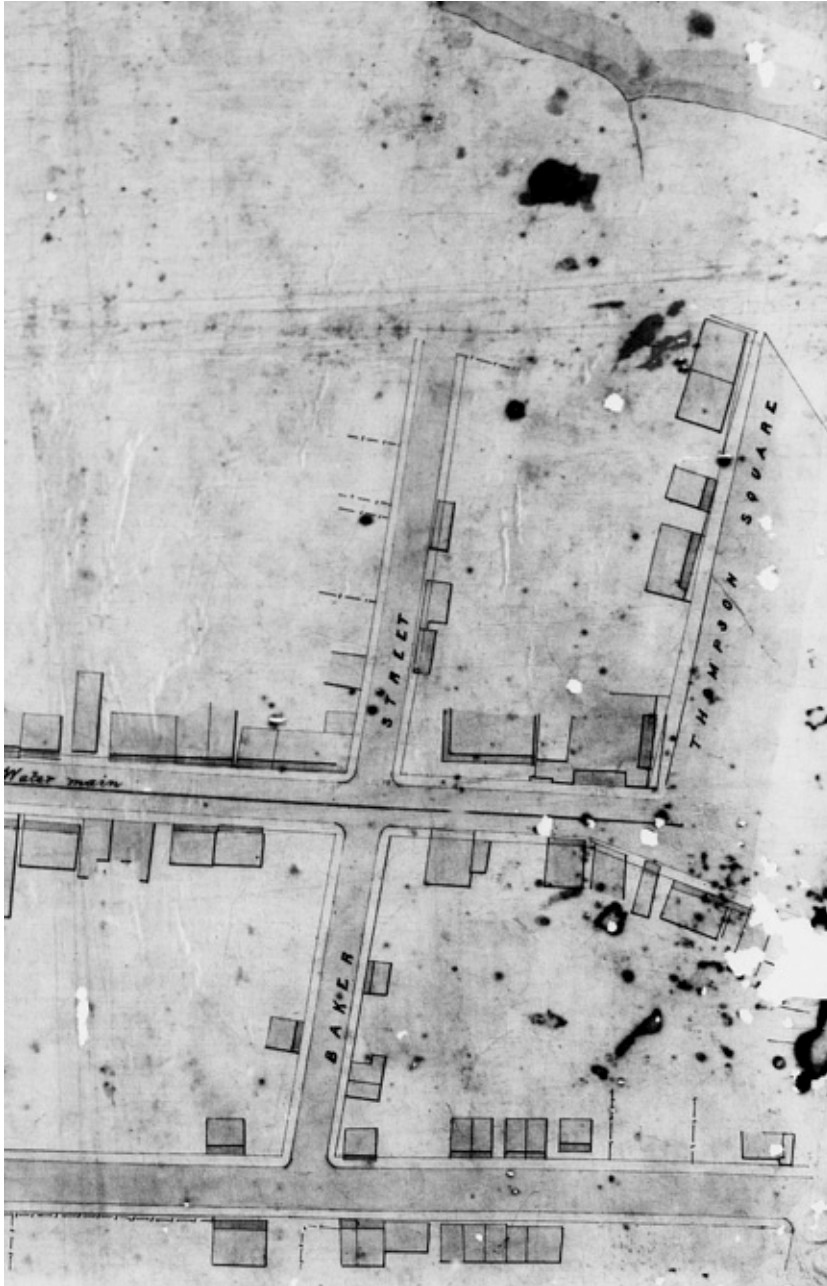


Figure 2. 47: Map of the proposed water supply for Windsor showing building footprints. Note also the location of the riverlet/creek still discernible on the river bank. Source: Proposed temporary water supply for Town of Windsor, c 1888, ML Map M4 811.11222ghhd/1888/1

<sup>181</sup> Proposed temporary water supply for Town of Windsor, c 1888, ML Map M4 811.11222ghhd/1888/1

**1894:** On the other hand, Charles Robert Scrivener's survey of Thompson Square in December 1894 showed buildings around its perimeter. He also showed the two reserves created when the new road was cut through in 1874.<sup>182</sup>



Figure 2. 48: Charles Robert Scrivener's survey of Thompson Square in December 1894 showing the adjacent landholders and some details of buildings. Source: Ms.1009.3000, Crown Plan

<sup>182</sup> Ms.1009.3000, Crown Plan



**1936:** A sewerage scheme plan dated as 3 November 1936 provides a Detail Survey of the buildings around Thompson Square.



Figure 2. 49: The November 1936 sewerage survey that provides footprints of buildings around Thompson Square. Source: Windsor Sewerage, 3 November 1936, Hawkesbury City Council

**1975:** A survey of Thompson Square by R K C Cambridge, surveyors in June 1975 showed where buildings impinged upon the square as well as details of plantings, trees and paths within it.<sup>183</sup>

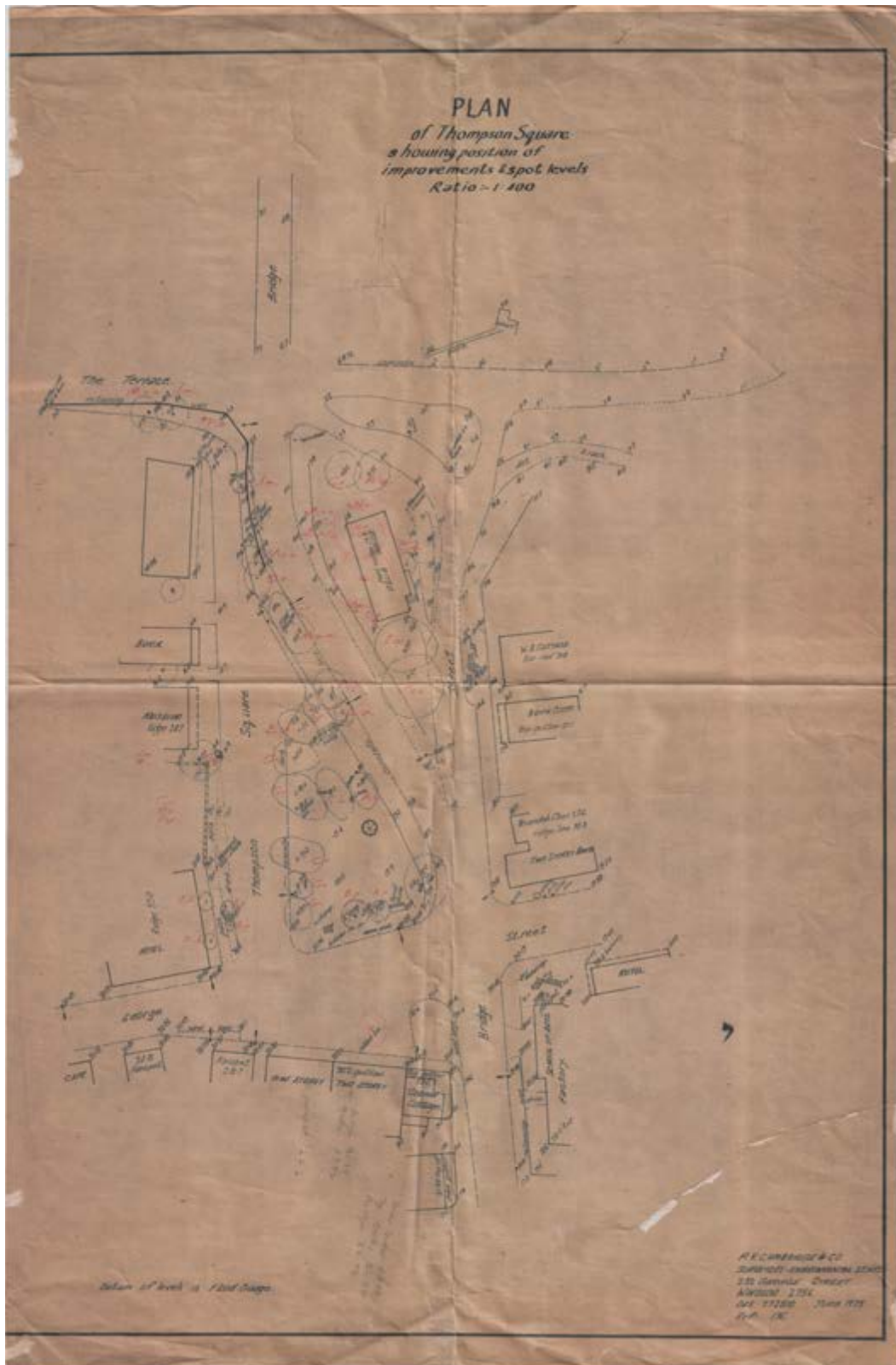


Figure 2. 50: This survey in June 1975 of Thompson Square by R K C Cambridge, surveyors showed partial building footprints and some planting detail. Source: LSJP archives

<sup>183</sup> Supplied by Hawkesbury City Council



### 2.2.3 Creating the Built Fabric

#### The Western Side of Thompson Square

The western side of Thompson Square had been consolidated by buildings by the 1850s.

##### *Macquarie Arms Hotel, 81 George Street*

The Macquarie Arms Hotel was built on land given to Richard Fitzgerald. It is possible it was under construction as early as 1813 since a building with similar form (though with an extra storey) in its location is visible in Slaeger's view of 1813. Macquarie himself opened the new hotel auspiciously named the Macquarie Arms at a dinner for the magistrates and notables of the district on 26 July 1815.<sup>184</sup> It was on the site of the military barracks. Though conducted as a hotel for some years, it became the mess house for military officers in the district and was being used for that purpose in July 1842 when it was drawn by Elise Palmer.<sup>185</sup>

Richard Fitzgerald constructed a cottage on George Street behind the Macquarie Arms. A small building was shown on that site on Thompson's 1827 plan and with much more detail on White's 1835 plan.

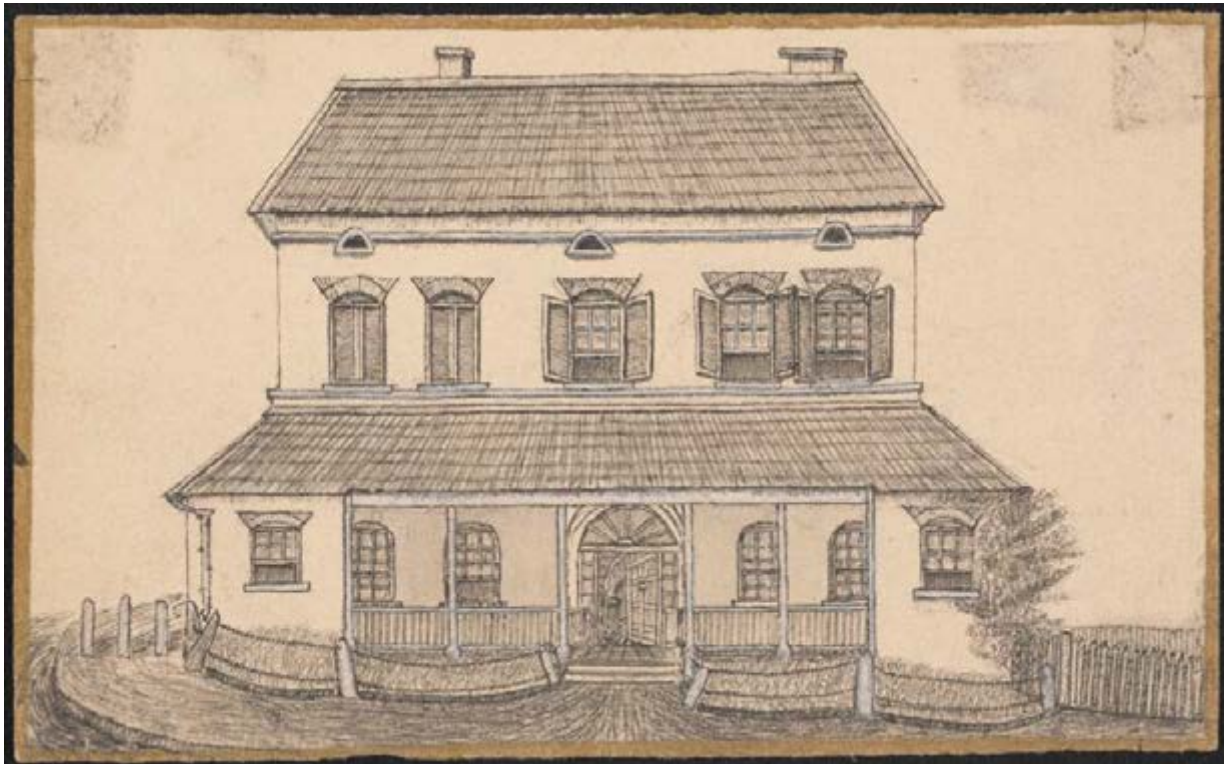


Figure 2. 51: The Macquarie Arms Hotel in 1842 when used as an officer's mess for the military. Source: E Palmer, Officer's Quarters, north front detached altogether from the main barrack, Windsor, New South Wales, July 29, 1842, NLA NK2036

<sup>184</sup> *Sydney Gazette*, 29 July 1815, p 2

<sup>185</sup> E Palmer, Officer's Quarters, north front detached altogether from the main barrack, Windsor, New South Wales, July 29, 1842, NLA NK2036

### ***Howe's House, 7 Thompson Square***

A small building was shown on the site of 7 Thompson Square in Thompson's map of 1827. An earlier building was on this site by the 1830s, a fact confirmed by a number of old residents of Windsor in 1898, when the title was converted to Torrens Title. The earlier building was described in an auction sale advertisement by 'Mr Howe' in October 1812 as *'the House and Premises situate in Thompson's Square Windsor comprising a commodious Dwelling House, Granary, Warehouse, convenient Domestic Offices, Stabling, Coach house etc. etc.'*<sup>186</sup> In June 1829, when the owner, John Howe of Windsor mortgaged this land for £200, there was a cottage on the site. Howe's House now part of the Museum, seemed to have replaced that earlier house closer to Baker Street.

In March 1837 Howe advertised a new house on his land:

*"To Let:*

*A ROOMY substantial and newly-erected House, situate in Thompson's Square, Windsor, containing five roomy Dry Cellars, flagged and planked; on the ground floor two Parlours, a spacious Hall, 24 by 10, two Bed Rooms, Office and Store Room, and five sleeping Rooms above stairs. The situation is particularly adapted for an Inn, which is much wanted; it is in view of the Wharf, facing the Market-place and with proper attention would secure to the holder an independence; the back premises contain a Kitchen, Wash-house, Servants' Room and a Granary over all, capable of containing six hundred bushels of grain with Stabling for six horses and a Garden of about half an acre. Possession may be had the latter end of June. Apply on the Premises to the Proprietor Mr Howe who is about removing to the Hunter."*<sup>187</sup>

The new building was specifically mentioned in Howe's will of March 1841, when it was let to Edward Coffey. A subdivision plan of February 1842 showed the site occupied by 'Coffey's Inn'. The land was sold to George Louis Asher Davies, printer of Windsor in April 1876 for £400. Davies printed and published his newspaper *The Australian* from this building for many years. In 1923, it was described as a brick two-storey residence, with eight rooms, an iron roof and garage.<sup>188</sup>

### ***No. 5 Thompson Square***

The dwelling on Loder's land (5 Thompson Square) was apparently built in the 1850s.<sup>189</sup> It was not shown on the 1841 or 1848 maps but was shown on the street alignment survey of June 1871. John Cunningham constructed the dwelling during the early 1850s. He purchased the land from Joseph Plunkett for £23 on 30 January 1851.<sup>190</sup> Boatbuilding activities later took place in its yard. In December 1857 John Cunningham offered a cottage in Thompson Square for sale when he was leaving the area that was described as:

*"That newly erected brick-built cottage, containing four rooms, detached kitchen, out offices etc, with verandah in front and rear, situated in Thompson's-square. Windsor at present rented to Mr James Atkinson, builder, at £50 per annum.*

*This cottage being situate in the most healthy and pleasant locality in the town of Windsor commanding a splendid view of the river Hawkesbury and the adjacent country is strongly*

<sup>186</sup> *Sydney Gazette*, 31 Oct 1812, p 2

<sup>187</sup> *Sydney Herald*, 27 March 1837, p 2

<sup>188</sup> SA Map SZ 526; OSD, No 126 Book C; OSD, No 501 Bk 159; *Sydney Herald*, 27 March 1837, p 3; Real Property Application 10716; DP 60716; *Fuller's County of Cumberland Directory*, Parramatta, 1885; 1887; ML Map M2 811.11222/1842/1

<sup>189</sup> D G Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey: Up the Windsor Road from Baulkham Hills*, Library of Australian History, Sydney, 1986, p 88

<sup>190</sup> OSD, No 83 Bk 20

*recommended to invalids or parties in want of a comfortable and superior residence; the cottage stands in an allotment of land having 70 feet frontage to Thompson's-square by a depth of 100 feet".*<sup>191</sup>

When John Cunningham sold that land to Thomas Ambrose Maloney on 4 February 1858, the price was £600, a clear indication of a new building on the land.<sup>192</sup> It is notable that Maloney was shown as the holder of this land on Charles Scrivener's December 1894 survey of Thompson Square.<sup>193</sup> In 1898, when the property now known as 7 Thompson Square was being converted to Torrens Title, a number of old local residents swore that the brick cottage occupied by Maloney at the south-west boundary had been on the site for over forty years.<sup>194</sup>

By the early 1840s, hotels dominated the western boundary of Thompson Square, with the Macquarie Arms Hotel, Coffey's Inn (7 Thompson Square) and the 'Old Inn' on the site of the Doctor's House.<sup>195</sup>

### ***The Doctor's House/The Terrace, 1-3 Thompson Square***

The building known as the Doctor's House was built on the site of an earlier building used as a hotel. On 9 April 1816, William Heydon sold the 'house lands and premises being at lower part of Thompsons Square known by the sign of the Freemasons Arms' to Charles Beasley. Beasley soon sold that land with the Freemasons Arms by a deed of Lease and Release of 6 and 7 September 1816 to James Doyle.<sup>196</sup> Heydon had previously received a liquor licence in August 1813.<sup>197</sup> James Doyle died in 1836 leaving it to his widowed sister Bridget Canton, who left it to her son-in-law Bartholomew Burke. The original building was demolished and the present building built.

By 1853, when F.C. Terry drew the building later known as the Doctor's house, it was used as the post office. He also showed a small cottage to its left (south side), and the roof of the ferryman's cottage to its right (north side).<sup>198</sup> The cottage south of the Doctor's house does not agree with any of the survey plans. It appears to be too close to the Doctor's House to be the building now known as Number 5 Thompson Square.

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<sup>191</sup> *SMH*, 23 Dec 1857, p 7

<sup>192</sup> OSD, No 53 Bk 54

<sup>193</sup> Ms.1009.3000, Crown Plan

<sup>194</sup> NRS 17513, Land Titles Office, Real Property Application Packet, RPA 10716, SANSW

<sup>195</sup> J Armstrong, CXXIII Building and 24 Cultivation Allotments comprising the Peninsular Farm adjoining the Town of Windsor to be sold by Auction 5<sup>th</sup> Feby 1842 by Laban White at Windsor, M2 811.11222/1842/

<sup>196</sup> Recited in OSD, No 820 Bk 1119

<sup>197</sup> *SG*, 7 Aug 1813, p 2

<sup>198</sup> ML.SPF, PXA 2113, Box 74



Figure 2. 52: The Doctor's House in 1853 when it housed the post office. Source: ML.SPF, PXA 2113, Box 374

The new building was offered for sale in December 1858 when occupied by Doctor Day and H Denley (publican) and the land measured 96 feet frontage to Thompson Square and 163 feet along The Terrace:

*"The entire range is built of brick with slated roofs, and now occupied as two homes. The dwelling house occupied by Dr Day contains on the ground floor, a spacious entrance-hall extending through into which open by separate doors four large rooms, all of which have fireplaces in them. A wide staircase leads to the landing on the first floor, on which there are four good bedrooms – the largest 25 x 16 feet and the smallest 16 x 14 feet all with fire-places. Above these again is the attic floor, in which there are three rooms, measuring respectively, 19 x 15 feet, 19 x 10 feet, and 26 x 9 feet.*

*In the basement are a hall, kitchen 18 x 16 feet, laundry, wine and coal cellars.*

*At the rear is a large yard with poultry-houses, coach-house and servants' apartment. Also a small garden.*

*These premises occupy the corner.*

*The remaining portion of the range of buildings is let to Mr. Donley, [sic] as a licensed hotel, and contains on the ground floor, large tap-room, bar, and 4 parlours.*

*The first floor, which is reached by a good wide staircase, contains a large concert room, 38 feet x 16 feet, and three bedrooms.*

*The attic floor also contains 3 bedrooms.*

*The basement-kitchen, and coal cellars, and 4 other cellars, now used as wine and spirit stores.*

*A large yard at the rear, with stabling, sheds, and other conveniences.*

*There are iron balconies to both houses extending along the full frontage and commanding a very pretty view.*"<sup>199</sup>

<sup>199</sup> SMH, 15 Dec 1858, p 7





Figure 2. 53: Thompson Square in 1879 showing from right to left Numbers 1-3, 5 and 7 Thompson Square.  
Source: GPO 1 SH 1652



Figure 2. 54: George Street probably in the 1890s or earlier showing the Macquarie Arms Hotel and single storey buildings along the south side of George Street. Source: ML.SPF, PXA 2113, Box 74

## Southern Side of Thompson Square

The southern side was largely in place by the 1860s.

The southern side of Thompson Square running along the south side of George Street was defined by James Meehan's town layout of 1811. Although, as discussed above, land on the southern side of the street was being granted from at least 1809, indicating that the southern boundary of what became Thompson Square was already in embryo in 1809 or even earlier. Like the allotments along the western side of Thompson Square, formal grants were either belated or never issued. Lot 26 measuring 1 rood 4 perches south of the Macquarie Arms Hotel was shown on White's 1835 map as 'No 25' held by 'Kays'. It was not granted until 30 March 1844 when it was granted to J and J B Johnston.<sup>200</sup> Immediately to the east on the same map was 'No 27' measuring 1 rood 29 perches held in the name of 'Kable'. No grant was issued for this lot, though part of it was being sold as early as 1830 (see below). The western part of Lot 27 was eventually granted to John Lane Mullins and Lawrence Cotter on 14 August 1922.<sup>201</sup>

### *Nos. 62 & 64-68 George Street*

Buildings now standing at 62-68 George Street incorporate significant early buildings including the bakery building and Hawkesbury Stores possibly expanded from a small cottage built about 1830 by Uriah Moses. The cottage at 62 Bridge Street was shown on White's 1835 plan but not Thompson's plan of 1827.<sup>202</sup> It is believed Moses built the building about 1830.

His son Henry later demolished the western half and built the two storey addition consisting of shops on the ground floor and residential areas above (64-68 George St).<sup>203</sup>

On 10 February 1830, Richard Charles Pritchett sold part of what was Lot 27 Section 7 to Richard Fitzgerald for £87/10/0.<sup>204</sup> Fitzgerald sold that land to John Booth on 23 and 24 June 1830 for an unspecified sum.<sup>205</sup> That land then appears to have come into the hands of Uriah Moses, though no registered sale has been located. In February 1923, Henry Moses, son of Uriah Moses stated that he had been born at the corner of Bridge and George Streets, Windsor, in 1833 on Lot 19 and part of lot 27 Section 7. He also stated that 'as far back as the year 1831 he [his father Uriah Moses] resided in a house at the corner of George and Bridge Streets, Windsor until the time of his death in the year 1848'.<sup>206</sup> A building with a similar footprint at its eastern end is shown on the 1835 map and on the 1848 map of Crown Land to be sold. Though the later map of 1848 copied numerous building footprints it also showed buildings that had been added as well as removed.<sup>207</sup>

Uriah Moses died in February 1847 leaving the property to his children. He had started a general store and bakery in Thompson Square known as the Hawkesbury Store. Hancock's survey of 1871 showed that at least one of the two storey buildings now known as 64-68 George Street was on the site. In 1876 and 1880, Moses' children sold their shares in the property to William Moses, grandson of Uriah Moses, for £600. He was in business as a dealer in Windsor. Fuller's Directory listed him in this position as W Moses, storekeeper, in 1885. By 1922, the "Hawkesbury Stores" occupied this site.

<sup>200</sup> Grants, Volume 53 No 108, LRS

<sup>201</sup> CT 3354 f 28

<sup>202</sup> SA Map SZ526; SA Map 5968

<sup>203</sup> D G Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, pp 92-93

<sup>204</sup> OSD, No 297 Bk C

<sup>205</sup> OSD, No 509 Bk C

<sup>206</sup> Statutory Declaration. Henry Moses, Potts Point, 2 Feb 1923, NRS 17513, Land Titles Office, Real Property Application Packet, No 24580, SANSW

<sup>207</sup> SA Map 5968

When the Valuer-General first assessed Windsor for rates in December 1923, there was a six-roomed brick cottage on the land plus shops.<sup>208</sup>

### ***No. 70-72 George Street***

A hotel known as the Sir John Young was built in the mid 1860s on the site of what became 70-72 George Street. After it was burnt down in 1913, a service station with petrol pumps was built on the site in 1923 becoming a plumber's supplier from 1973 to 1995.<sup>209</sup>



Figure 2. 55: c1940 photograph showing the Hawkesbury Garage and the Hawkesbury Stores building in the background. Source: Fisher Lucas Architects, *Thompson Square Windsor: A Concept Plan for Future Development*, 1975

<sup>208</sup> Real Property Application 24580; Valuer-General, Valuation Cards, SANSW 13/7922; W.22.873, Crown Plan; W.1.1039, Crown Plan; *Fuller's County of Cumberland Directory*, Parramatta, 1885, p 196; J Barkley & M Nichols, *Hawkesbury 1794-1994*, p 119

<sup>209</sup> D G Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, p 94

### ***A.C. Stearn building, 74 George Street***

In 1907, 74-78 George Street was developed as the A C Stearn building of two storeys.<sup>210</sup> The shop opened on 3 August 1907. A particular attraction was the promise that Les Douglass would give 50 records on his gramophone from the balcony.<sup>211</sup> In 1923, it was described as a two-storey shop and residence, with 3 rooms.<sup>212</sup>



Figure 2. 56: c1907 photograph of A.C Stearn General Storekeeper building. Source: Hawkesbury Library No. 000008

### ***82 George Street***

The building currently known as 82 George Street is located on Allotment 26, Section 7 granted to John and James Bligh Johnson on 30 March 1844.<sup>213</sup> On 2 November 1864, they sold it to George Cunningham, who mortgaged it for £200 on 10 April 1865, possibly to build the cottage, which is the core of the current building. Another loan for £100 followed on 5 February 1868.

Cunningham sold the property, slightly reduced in area on 8 April 1868 for £645 to Thomas Richards, butcher of Richmond. Richards conveyed the property to his son, also named Thomas Richards, on 16 June 1879. When Thomas Richards, junior, made up his will in June 1908, he specifically referred to 'my cottage in George Street Windsor, with the furniture therein, the butcher's shop adjacent and the cottage at the rear'.

The Valuer-General described the property in December 1922, as a brick cottage of three rooms with an iron roof. The adjacent butcher's shop has long since been demolished and a sympathetic single storey building built in the 1980s is now located at No. 80 George Street.<sup>214</sup>

<sup>210</sup> D G Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, p 94

<sup>211</sup> *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 3 Aug 1907, p 11

<sup>212</sup> Valuer-General, Valuation Cards, SANSW 13/7922

<sup>213</sup> Grants, Volume 53 No 108, LRS

<sup>214</sup> OSD, No 315 Bk 108; OSD, No 258 Bk 192; OSD, No 444 Bk 1209; Valuer-General, Valuation Cards, SANSW 13/7922

## Eastern Side of Thompson Square

The eastern side remained more open until it was better defined by the buildings constructed at 10 Bridge Street and 4 and 6 Old Bridge Street.

### 4 Old Bridge Street

In January 1851, Licensed Surveyor William Shone surveyed land for the Presbyterian Manse site, showing part of the wall around the government garden.<sup>215</sup> The land was never built on in the nineteenth century. It partially occupied the land that had been Andrew Thompson's garden on his lease that was later added to Thompson Square after his death. A single storey house was built at 4 Old Bridge Street in 1955, in a 'sympathetic style'. The remnant brick wall supporting part of the lawn may be a part of the wall surrounding the government garden.<sup>216</sup>

As the land on the eastern side of Thompson Square was sold, buildings were erected on the different allotments. The eastern boundary was gradually defined by the grant of land for a Presbyterian manse, even though it was never used for that purpose and the establishment of the School of Arts building. The Domain had prevented George Street from running north-east beyond Thompson Square, until the government buildings became dilapidated and land on that side was sold. In November 1853, Licensed Surveyor Charles Whitaker surveyed the land occupied by the Government House and its stables. The stables site (lot 5) plus lots 4 and 9 were sold to John Icke Kettle.<sup>217</sup>



Figure 2. 57: Detail from Assistant Surveyor John Abbott's survey of 1831 showing Thompson's 1 acre lease and garden leading down to the river. The buildings shown are the Police Barracks, Prisoner's Barracks and Police Stables. Source: SA Map 1816#

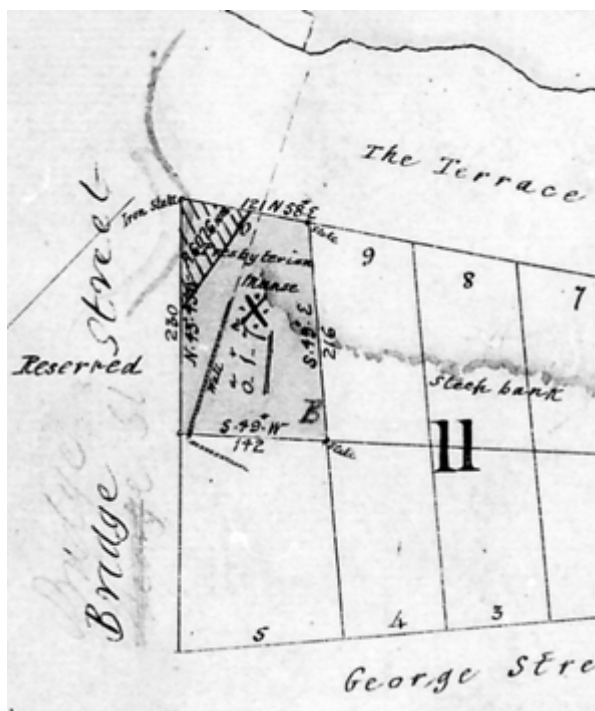


Figure 2. 58: Detail from William Shone's survey of the Presbyterian manse allotment. Source: SA Map 2161

<sup>215</sup> Survey of allotment No 10 Town of Windsor Authorised as the Site for a Presbyterian Manse, Ph St Matthew, County of Cumberland, 1851 (C.436.730) SA Map 2161; Not available as Crown Plan

<sup>216</sup> Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, p 44: SA Map 1816

<sup>217</sup> W.26.873, Crown Plan





Figure 2. 59: Detail from Licensed Surveyor Charles Whitaker's survey of lots occupied by Government House and its stables. Source: W.26.873, Crown Plan

### 6 Old Bridge Street

The house at 6 Old Bridge Street is believed to have been built in the 1860s and was used as a private school during the 1870s and early 1880s. Eliza Hopkins used a school building at the rear as a private school from 1871 to 1886.<sup>218</sup> On 15 January 1856, Joe Dransfield, Sydney, merchant, sold the northern part of Allotment 5 Section 11 to George Cunningham, farmer of Wilberforce for £147.<sup>219</sup> The building was shown as a brick building on Licensed Surveyor Robert Handcock's Street alignment survey of 23 June 1871.<sup>220</sup> Fuller's Directory of 1885 showed that it was occupied by Mrs E Hopkins.<sup>221</sup> Mrs Hopkins was shown as the holder of this land on Charles Scrivener's December 1894 survey of Thompson Square.<sup>222</sup>



Figure 2. 60: Detail from Licensed Surveyor Robert Handcock's Street alignment survey of 23 June 1871. No. 6 Bridge Street is indicated with an arrow. Source: Crown Plan W 1 1039

<sup>218</sup> D G Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, p 90

<sup>219</sup> OSD, No 839 Bk 41

<sup>220</sup> W.1.1039, Crown Plan

<sup>221</sup> *Fuller's County of Cumberland Directory*, Parramatta, 1885, p 195

<sup>222</sup> Ms.1009.3000, Crown Plan



**Lilburn Hall, 10 Bridge Street**

The house at 10 Bridge Street known as Lilburn Hall is believed to have been built in the late 1850s (between 1855 and 1857) for Doctor Joshua Dowe.<sup>223</sup> This house was built on Allotment 5 Section 11, which was purchased from the Crown by John Icke Kettle. It was granted to him on 4 September 1854. Joshua Dowe, doctor of medicine, purchased the southern part of Lot 5 Section 11, plus lot 4 for £374 on 15 January 1856.<sup>224</sup> When he mortgaged that land plus lots 8 and 9 on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1860 for £2,500, there was a dwelling on the land, probably the dwelling at 10 Bridge Street.<sup>225</sup> It was complete by June 1860 when it was advertised for lease as:

*“TO LET, that commodious DWELLING now in the occupation of Joshua Dowe, M.D., situate in Thompson’s-square, Windsor (on such terms as may be agreed soon), commanding extensive views of the Bine Mountains, and the whole of the country around. It has recently been built; the compartments are so arranged as to combine every convenience with comfort; it is fitting for a family of the highest respectability, also suitable for a family hotel, which is much required, more particularly as the railroad to Blacktown will be opened on the 2nd proximo, and the Government has sanctioned the opening of a road from the Blacktown terminus to Windsor, to and from which places omnibuses will be running several times during the day. There is an entrance hall, fronting Thompson’s-square; flower garden, enclosed with a neat paling fence; balcony and verandah; five spacious rooms on ground floor, with an entrance from George-street, six rooms on second floor, with a kitchen and cellarage underneath; verandah at the back, and the roof covered with slates; an extensive yard, enclosed, with stables, haylofts, coach-house, etc etc. Also a small paddock, leading down to the river Hawkesbury.”*<sup>226</sup>

The building was shown as a brick building on Licensed Surveyor Robert Handcock’s Street alignment survey of 23 June 1871.<sup>227</sup> The building was used as St Katherine’s School for Young Ladies in the 1870s and as Windsor Grammar School in 1875.<sup>228</sup> In 1923, it was a private hospital and was described as a two-storey brick building with ten rooms and a slate roof.<sup>229</sup>

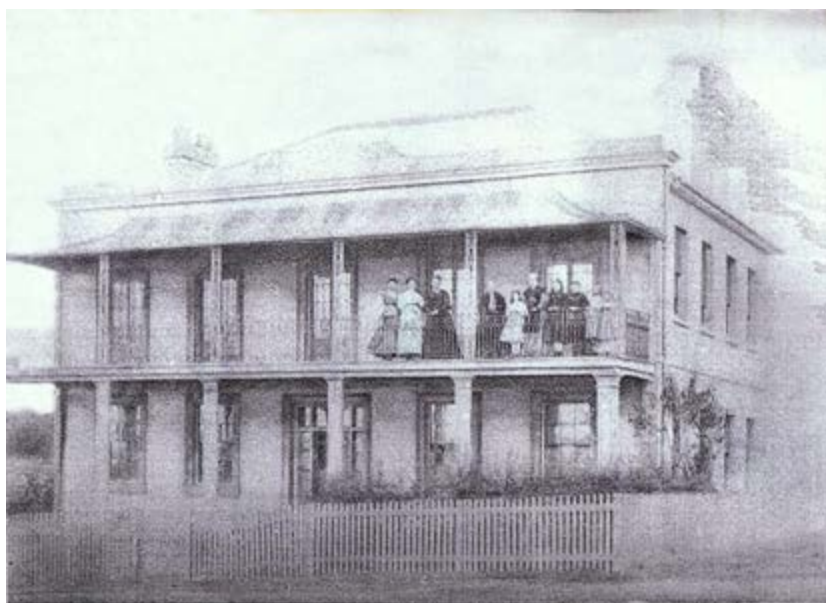


Figure 2. 61: Undated (1870s?) photograph of 10 Bridge Street Windsor. Source: CAWB website:  
<http://www.cawb.com.au/10-bridge-st---part-one.html>

# #

<sup>223</sup> D G Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, p 91, “Windsor” *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6<sup>th</sup> February 1855, p. 5 and “Windsor” *Empire*, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1857, p. 2

<sup>224</sup> OSD, No 838 Bk 41

<sup>225</sup> OSD, No 888 Bk 68

<sup>226</sup> *SMH*, 27 June 1860, p 10

<sup>227</sup> W.1.1039, Crown Plan

<sup>228</sup> “10 Bridge Street, Windsor” notes by CAWB; <http://www.cawb.com.au/10-bridge-st-windsor.html>

<sup>229</sup> Valuer-General, Valuation Cards, SANSW 13/7922

### *The School of Arts Building, 14 Bridge Street*

Land at the corner of George and Bridge Streets was surveyed by Charles Whitaker in December 1857. An area of 20 perches was set aside as a Mechanics Institute and later as the School of Arts site.<sup>230</sup> Its odd configuration was due to the fact it was on the site of the storehouse shown in a ruinous state on the 1848 survey.<sup>231</sup>

On 30 April 1856, the citizens of Windsor led by Henry Day, surgeon, had petitioned the Governor requesting that the old Store house in Windsor be demolished, since its ruinous condition was a public danger, particularly if it collapsed. An additional irritation was that it projected 12 feet into Bridge Street. Local resident William Hopkins was chosen on 13 December 1856 as the successful tenderer for his offer of £65 for the removal of the building and the purchase of its materials.<sup>232</sup> The buildings were apparently removed shortly afterwards.

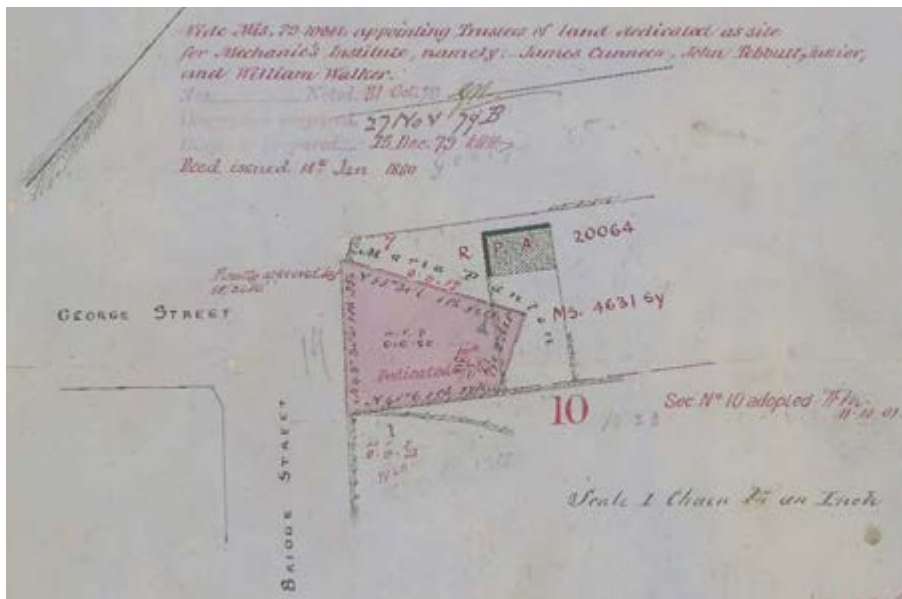


Figure 2. 62: Detail of Licensed Surveyor Charles Whitaker's survey of the land intended for a Mechanics Institute that became the School of Arts site. Source: W.28.873, Crown Plan



Figure 2. 63: Detail of R J A Roberts' survey of Lot 10 Section 10 revealed the footprints of adjacent buildings including the School of Arts. Source: W.48.873, Crown Plan

<sup>230</sup> W.28.873, Crown Plan

<sup>231</sup> W.22.873, Crown Plan

<sup>232</sup> LdsPW 56/935, Lands and Public Works, Letters Received, SA NSW 5/3565

On 15 November 1905, when Staff Surveyor R. J. A. Roberts surveyed Allotment 10 Section 10, he showed the form of the School of Arts building on its site. He also showed some brick and wood outbuildings along the rear boundaries of lots 5, 6 and 7 Section 10 that faced George Street.<sup>234</sup>

A parcel of land adjacent to the School of Arts allotment was formerly occupied by a ruinous long building (the former School and Chapel building) and a School House building when surveyed by Charles Whitaker in January 1858. An area of 23 perches was later sold to George Matcham Pitt, surveyor. The larger part measuring 2 roods 33 perches was dedicated as a Church of England school site.<sup>235</sup> On 1 December 1874, it was formally granted to the Church of England. On 28 October 1902, the church transferred it to Sarah Anne Boyd, wife of George Boyd, Windsor, senior sergeant of police.<sup>236</sup>

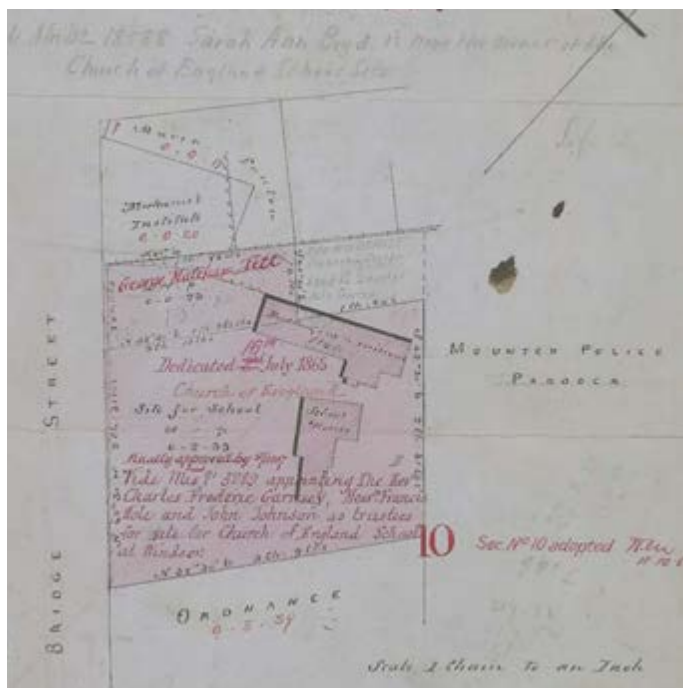


Figure 2. 64: Detail of Licensed Surveyor Charles Whitaker's survey of the proposed school allotment showed the earlier storehouses on the site. Source: W.29.873, Crown Plan

236 CT 325 f 7



### 19 Bridge Street

Occupying the southern portion of the allotment also containing Nos. 62 and 64-66 George Street, the Hawkesbury Stores, the single storey cottage fronting Bridge Street first appears on Galloway's town plan of 1841. Although difficult to read, the plan appears to note that the property was occupied by a druggist at this time. The 1840s cottage survives today.



Figure 2. 65: J J Galloway's Town Design of Windsor dated December 1841 showing No. 19 Bridge Street (indicated with an arrow) noted as being the location of a "Druggist". Source: W.443.a, # Crown Plan

### Land Valuations

Even though it dates from the early twentieth century, well after the built fabric of Thompson Square had been well established, the descriptions of the properties in Windsor coupled with assessments of their value by the New South Wales Valuer General provide an overview of the built form of the town. (See Appendix 4 for a transcription of the earliest assessment by the Valuer General made in December 1923).

### 2.2.4 Linking People and Places

The Government Domain was a focus of transport from its establishment. Settlers used the wharf at the foot of the Domain for transshipping goods from its earliest days. Evans' painting of 1809 suggests the location of a track leading to the landing place in Thompson Square.

Not only did a track serve to provide the space towards the wharf with access roads, it brought settlers and their produce to the government stores. As early as 1802, Andrew Thompson built a floating bridge across South Creek and traffic began to flow towards the square.<sup>237</sup> On 8 March 1806, he was

<sup>237</sup> Col Sec, Correspondence, SANSW, SZ989, pp 57-9; SZ756, p 201

granted the exclusive right for 14 years to charge tolls on that bridge.<sup>238</sup> Additionally, George Street may have already been used as an embryo track to the storehouses.

When John Howe's ferry across the Hawkesbury River started operation in c1814<sup>239</sup> it enabled settlers from the opposite bank easier access to the government storehouses. The ferry or punt masters lived in a house on the bank below the later site of the Doctor's house.<sup>240</sup> The building appears to have been enlarged by 1835.<sup>241</sup>

Bridge Street may have been created about 1814 when the road from Sydney into Windsor was altered to a new alignment. Armstrong's 1842 map shows a road curving across the square to the punt or ferry. A plan of the ferry across the Hawkesbury completed by Licensed Surveyor Charles Whitaker on 8 June 1854 showed the curve of the line of road leading to the ferry.<sup>242</sup> It is notable that his line of road differs slightly to the curve shown on the 1842 subdivision plan by Armstrong and that it extends onto part of the Presbyterian manse allotment that was later resumed (Figure 2.65).

A sum of £35 was spent in 1855 improving the access road to the wharf.<sup>243</sup> The road across Thompson Square to the newly built bridge was reconfigured in 1874 resulting in two separate reserves on either side of the road. On 14 October 1899, they were gazetted as Reserves 29,900 and 29,901.<sup>244</sup> When Licensed Surveyor George Matcham Pitt surveyed the road north from the bridge across the Hawkesbury in November 1877 he showed some details of the bridge but none of Thompson Square (Figure 2.67).<sup>245</sup>

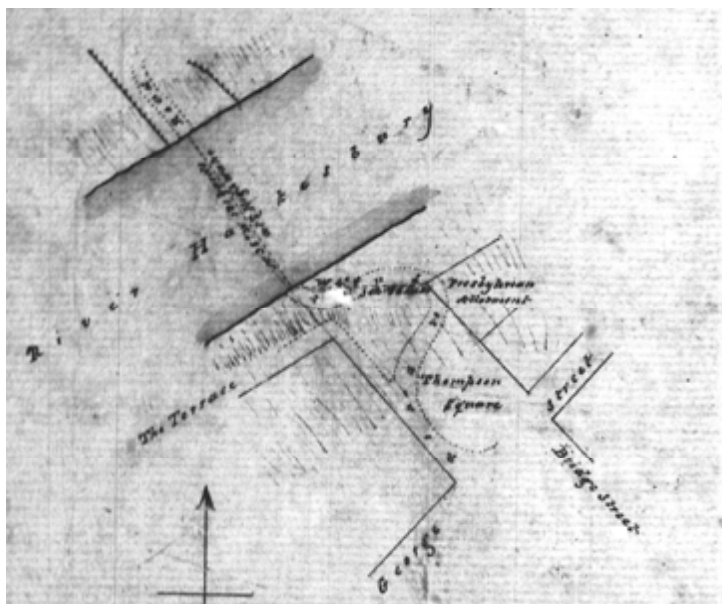


Figure 2. 66: Detail of sketch by Licensed Surveyor Charles Whitaker on 8 June 1854 showing the ferry across the river as well as the track leading to it across Thompson Square. Note also that the allotment that now contains No. 4 Old Bridge Street is annotated with "Presbyterian Allotment". Source: Surveyor General, Sketch Book volume 7 f 8, SANSW

<sup>238</sup> Grants, Volume 3, No 213, LRS

<sup>239</sup> *Government Public Notice: The Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser*, 29 Oct 1814, p. 1

<sup>240</sup> SA Map SZ526

<sup>241</sup> SA Map 5268

<sup>242</sup> SB 7 f 8, SANSW

<sup>243</sup> *SMH*, 29 Dec 1855, p 3

<sup>244</sup> *NSWGG*, 14 Oct 1899, p 7793

<sup>245</sup> R.1533.1603, Crown Plan



Figure 2. 67: When Licensed Surveyor George Matcham Pitt surveyed the road north from the bridge in November 1877 he did not show any details of Thompson Square. Source: R.1533.1603, Crown Plan (detail only)#

A plan of the resumption of part of the lot granted for a Presbyterian manse, was prepared in the Lands Office based on Scrivener's survey, copying most of the details from Scrivener's survey of December 1894 and was dated as December 1894.<sup>246</sup>

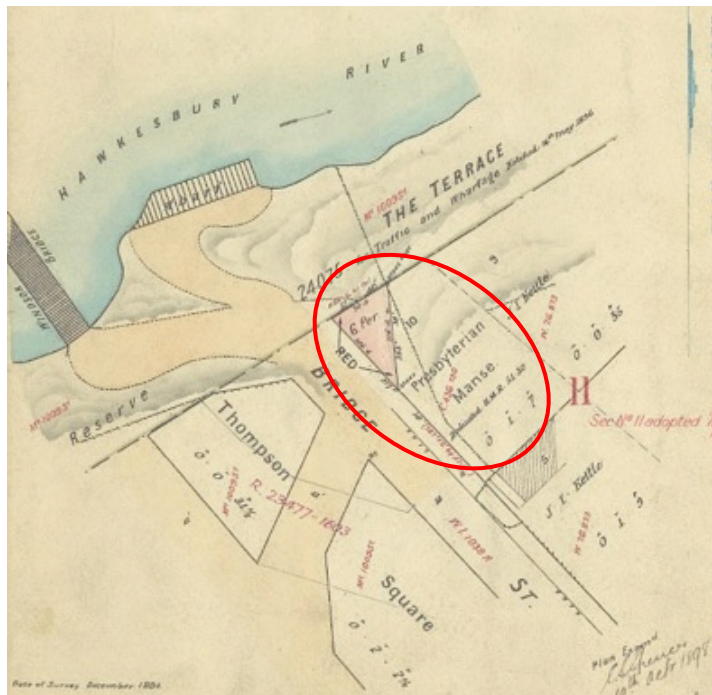


Figure 2. 68: This survey of the land taken from the Presbyterian manse lot (circled) for road access in Thompson Square appears to have been copied from Scrivener's survey of December 1894. Source: R.6026.1603, Crown Plan

A new approach road through Thompson Square in 1934 to provide better access for motorcars to the bridge created a deep cutting to the bridge.<sup>247</sup> The Department of Main Roads decided that the "steep and winding road" through Thompson Square was "unsuited for use as a main road" so a new approach was created for better access to the bridge. The report admitted that the work was "in proximity to a site having some of the oldest associations in the State". That road then became the first road to be built with a "roller-consolidated concrete base with premixed bitumen macadam wearing surface laid with a drag spreader".<sup>248</sup>

<sup>246</sup> R.6026.1603, Crown Plan

<sup>247</sup> GPO 1 1879-1880

<sup>248</sup> *Main Roads*, May 1934, p 55



The new line of the road from Bridge Street across Thompson Square was surveyed on 12 December 1946 by Licensed Surveyor Clarence E. Seccombe showing the altered road configuration.<sup>249</sup> It was gazetted on 18 May 1951.<sup>250</sup>

On 18 May 1951, the northern part (lower reserve) of the Square became Reserve 74215.<sup>251</sup>

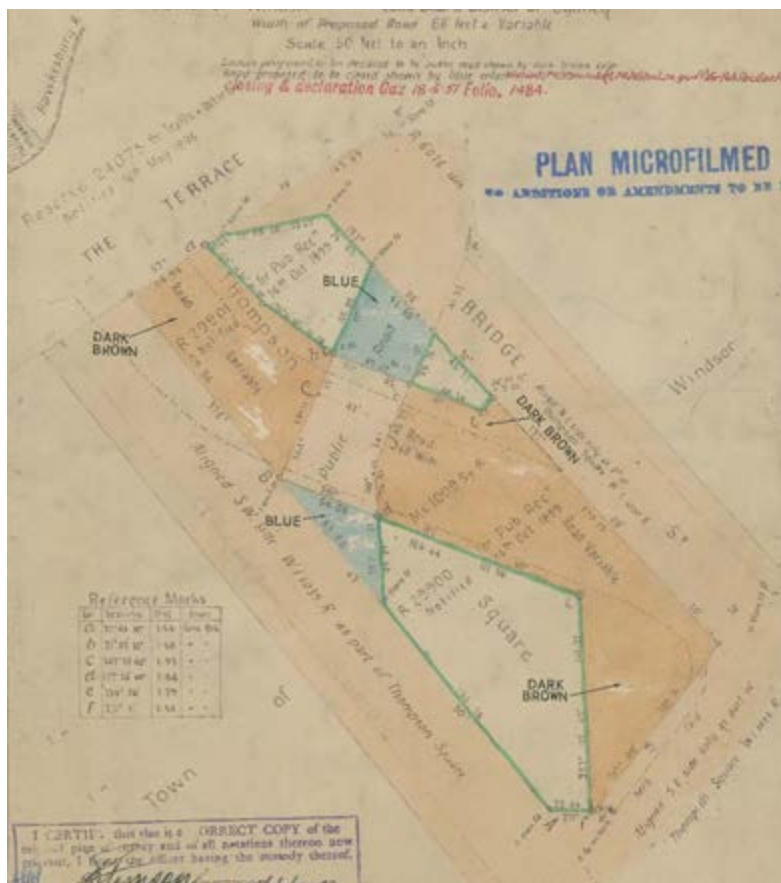


Figure 2. 69: The survey of the new line of road completed on 12 December 1946 by Licensed Surveyor Clarence E Seccombe showed the reserves. Source: R.23477.1603, Crown Plan

## Maintaining an Open Space

As a public space, Thompson Square continued its initial role as a place where people congregated for business and for pleasure. A weekly market was planned to operate in Thompson Square from January 1833 onwards.<sup>252</sup> At times an open grassy space and at other times the site of formal plantings, Thompson Square continued as a public space.

Thompson Square was a major public space in Windsor by the 1860s and 1870s. Games were played on the open area and it was also sometimes used for entertainments such as circuses.<sup>253</sup> Circuses had performed there as early as 1878.<sup>254</sup> A summer house was constructed in Thompson Square in 1882 and removed around 1900.<sup>255</sup>

<sup>249</sup> R.23477.1603, Crown Plan

<sup>250</sup> NSWGG, 18 May 1951, p 1484

<sup>251</sup> NSWGG, 18 May 1951, p 1497

<sup>252</sup> *Australian*, 7 Dec 1832, p 4

<sup>253</sup> *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 26 Jan 1895, p 3

<sup>254</sup> *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 28 May 1892, p 3

<sup>255</sup> *Australian, Windsor, Richmond & Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 25 March 1882, p 2



Figure 2. 70: Late 19<sup>th</sup> century photograph of the Summer House located in Thompson Square adjacent to George Street. Source: HCC Local Studies Library

Land along the riverbank was proclaimed as the Riverside Park in 1887. The area of The Terrace between Thompson Square and the wharf was gazetted as Reserve 24,075 on 16 May 1896.<sup>256</sup> Part of the land originally set aside for the Presbyterian manse but never used was also resumed about this time (see Figure 2.67).

Thompson Square was dedicated as a recreation reserve on 14 October 1899.<sup>257</sup> The upper reserve of Thompson Square was leased to Dan Whyte, fish shop proprietor for a mini golf course from December 1930 to May 1932.<sup>258</sup> That course was closed by May 1932.<sup>259</sup>

Early in 1949, the Upper Hawkesbury Power Boat Club opened a boathouse on the river.<sup>260</sup> In 1964, a Special Lease of the land was sought. The site was measured becoming Portion 345 and a Special Lease was granted on 11 March 1966.<sup>261</sup> The clubhouse was removed by 1987.



Figure 2. 71: The boat club located in the lower reserve in 1975. Source: LSJP archives



Figure 2. 72: The boat club located in the lower reserve in 1975. Source: LSJP archives

<sup>256</sup> NSWGG, 16 May 1896, p 3502

<sup>257</sup> NSWGG, 14 Oct 1899, p 7793

<sup>258</sup> *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 12 December 1930, p 5

<sup>259</sup> *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 20 May 1932, p 8

<sup>260</sup> *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 3 March 1948, p 8; 3 Nov 1948, p 3

<sup>261</sup> C.9052.2030, Crown Plan; NSWGG, 11 March 1966, p 1143

The open spaces of Thompson Square also retained strong connections with the military from the initial establishment of the town of Green Hills/Windsor up to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as a key location for marches and parades. Defined on its eastern boundary by the Government Domain and a number of government run facilities from the 1790s (the Commissariat Store and Watch house for example), military supervision and control of the open spaces of Thompson Square were part of the day to day operations of the early township. Although the early square was open land used for a mix of commercial and community uses, the military did have a strong presence.

Following the removal of the military in the 1840s and the opening up of the Government Domain for subdivision and purchase, the role of the military in Windsor disappeared and government services (such as the Courthouse and the Police) were located to the south of Thompson Square. With this change, the role of Thompson Square in the town also altered, with a greater emphasis (initially) on its commercial and community uses. However, by the 1880s, with the cessation of trade via boat transport to Windsor wharf (refer below for further detail) Thompson Square became almost exclusively a recreation space.

Nevertheless, for a period in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the key role of the square in the town of Windsor continued to be demonstrated as it was often used for parades, marches and other ceremonies associated with the military. For example, in 1901 Staff Sergeant-Major Duke was welcomed home by a crowd of 500, meeting his train at Windsor Station and then forming a procession up George Street to Thompson Square where Duke was formally welcomed with speeches and a band.<sup>262</sup> Likewise, in 1925, a procession led by the Salvation Army Band headed off from Thompson Square to McQuade Park to unveil the new War Memorial.<sup>263</sup>

The historical importance of Thompson Square and its central significance for public understanding of Windsor's character and history was encapsulated in an information sign that stood in Thompson Square in the 1960s.



Figure 2. 73: Information sign in Thompson Square in 1975. Source: LSJP archives

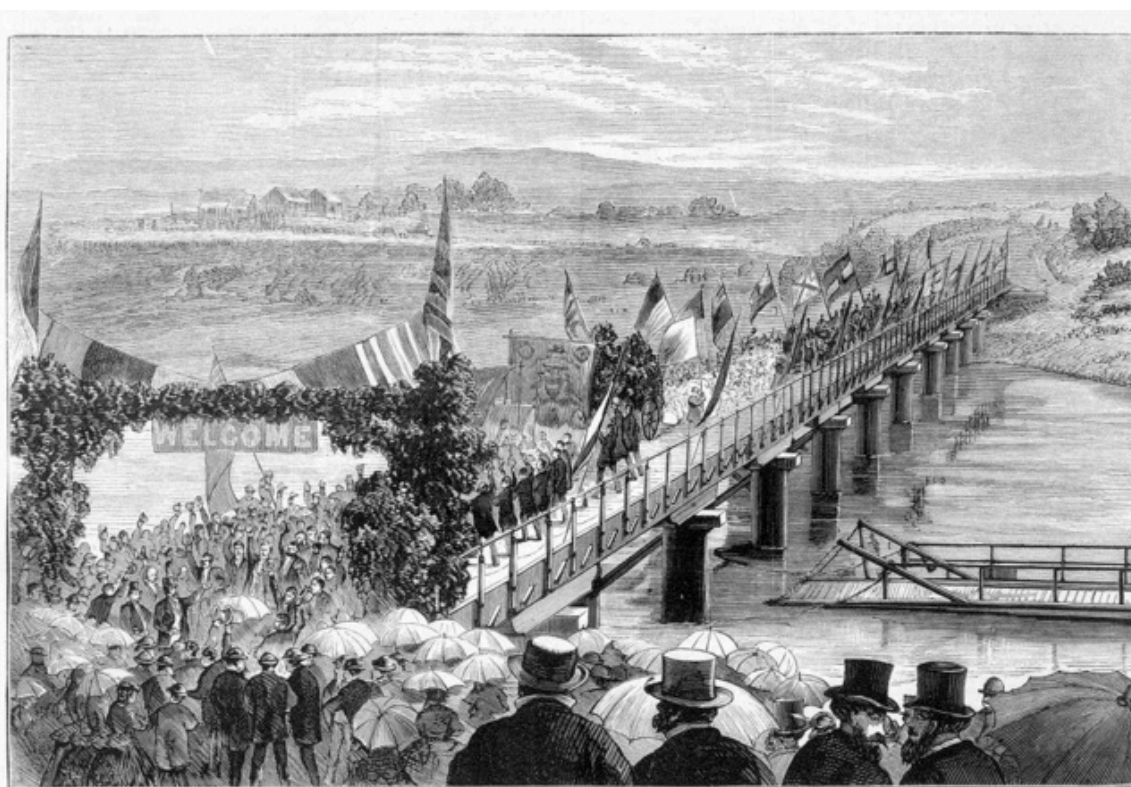
<sup>262</sup> "Home from War", *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 27<sup>th</sup> July 1901, p. 9

<sup>263</sup> "Hawkesbury's Homage", *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 29<sup>th</sup> May 1925, p. 1

### 2.2.5 Maintaining Links

The opening of the railway to Windsor in 1864 changed the transport dynamics and network, so that the railway increasingly became the focus and shipment point for local produce as well as goods brought into the district. Nonetheless, Thompson Square remained a major artery due to the bridge across the Hawkesbury.

Funds for a bridge across the Hawkesbury were approved in 1871.<sup>264</sup> Construction of the low-level bridge commenced in January 1872. The work was largely complete by August 1874. The new bridge was officially opened on 24 August 1874.



OPENING OF THE NEW BRIDGE OVER THE HAWKESBURY, AT WINDSOR, N. S. W.

Figure 2. 74: The official opening of the bridge. Source: *Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers*, 4 Nov 1874

There are various images available showing the low-level bridge, the earliest dating from the 1870s shortly after its construction.<sup>265</sup>

<sup>264</sup> *Empire*, 12 August 1871, p 2; *SMH*, 3 April 1871, p 4

<sup>265</sup> ML.SPF, PXA 2113, Box 74





Figure 2. 75: The original low level bridge in the 1870s. Source: ML.SPF, PXA 2113, Box 74



Figure 2. 76: A painting of the bridge by W Andrews dates from 1883. Source: W Andrews, Windsor Bridge, 1883, ML SV1B/WIND/7



Figure 2. 77: A photograph from 1888 showed the bridge from Thompson Square. Source: At Work and Play Collection, Windsor Bridge, c 1888, ML No 4404



After the construction of the low-level bridge, the transport network changed. Instead of farmers bringing produce to Thompson Square to load onto boats that shipped produce to Sydney, it became the place where farmers brought produce by boat or cart to the railway for shipping to Sydney. Thompson Square still had a role since the new bridge allowed carts across the river through Thompson Square on their way to the railway station or produce would arrive by boat at the wharf before it would be despatched to the railway.

Despite the continuing relevance of river transport bringing produce to Windsor at the wharf at the foot of Thompson Square, silting of the river reduced river traffic in the 1880s. Until the 1880s most of the river produce was still being carried to Sydney or Windsor under sail, but the first steam vessels had begun appearing at the wharf in the 1830s. Passengers also were conveyed from their farms to Windsor wharf to catch the train to Sydney. By the beginning of the 1880s the hey-day of the port facilities in Thompson Square culminated with 468 large boats berthed at the Thompson Square wharf in 1881. However, silting of the river downstream of Thompson Square in the 1880s, for the first time in almost 100 years saw the ever-present river focus of the Square diminish, but not disappear.<sup>266</sup>

Instead, the bridge grew in importance as produce was carted across the river and Thompson Square to the railway station. In October 1890, Licensed Surveyor Joshua Josephson surveyed the Hawkesbury River around the bridge taking soundings of the river.<sup>267</sup>



Figure 2. 78: Licensed Surveyor Joshua Josephson's survey of the river near Thompson Square. Source: SA Map X1080

<sup>266</sup> D. G. Bowd, 1973, p. 29

<sup>267</sup> SA Map X1080

After being raised to a higher level by 8 feet by placing additional cylinders on top of the original ones, the bridge reopened in April 1897. The contractor for the work was James McCall.<sup>268</sup> A photograph of 1911 showed the bridge in its new configuration.<sup>269</sup> Extensive work was carried out on the bridge in 1922 including the replacement of the timber superstructure by reinforced concrete.



Figure 2. 79: The bridge in 1911 showing its new form after being raised. Source: ML.SPF, PXA 2113, Box 74

During the late 1940s or maybe during the 1950s, the wharf appears to have fallen into disrepair and may have either been demolished or left to collapse.<sup>270</sup> It appears to be visible in the 1947-51 aerial photograph (see Figure 2.83) but was not there on the 1966 aerial photograph (see Figure 2.84). Certainly, during the 1920s, newspaper articles in the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* complained of the dilapidated condition of the wharf<sup>271</sup> and any discussion of its refurbishment did not eventuate until the 1930s.<sup>272</sup>



Figure 2. 80: Detail from c1879 photograph showing the Windsor Wharf to the east of the Bridge which at this time was quite a substantial structure. Source: GPO SH1658

<sup>268</sup> *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 3 April 1897, p 6

<sup>269</sup> ML.SPF, PXA 2113, Box 74

<sup>270</sup> Remains of the wharf dating from 1816-1820 were recorded in 1986 by E. Higginbotham: *Historical and Archaeological Investigation of Thompson Square, Windsor*, p. 42

<sup>271</sup> *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 15<sup>th</sup> October 1920, p. 2

<sup>272</sup> *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 27<sup>th</sup> January 1933, p. 4



Figure 2. 81: Detail from c1935 photograph by E.W. Searle showing the Windsor Wharf to the east of the Bridge, much reduced in size. Source: NLA, PIC P838\_1419 LOC Cold store SEA Box 11

### 2.2.6 Aerial Photographs of the Thompson Square Conservation Area

A series of aerial photographs showed the various changes to Thompson Square in the late twentieth century (see Figures 2.82 to 2.87 below). The earliest available aerial photograph of the TSCA dates from 1929 and shows the configuration of the through road from George Street to Windsor Bridge travelling in a south-north direction. Bridge Street continues northwards to the riverbank and is a well-defined road at this time.

By 1947-51, the new Bridge Street running south-east to north-west through the square is in place and Old Bridge Street appears nothing more than an unformed track. In 1966, the aerial photograph shows that the boundaries of Thompson Square had become more clearly defined and tree planting within the public reserves is becoming established. The boat club building had also been constructed in the lower reserve by this time.

The 1970 aerial photograph shows a car park had been established to the north-east of Thompson Square. The 1982 aerial photograph showed Thompson Square (the street) had been widened while the 1991 aerial photograph showed that the street had been narrowed again.

It should also be noted that landscaping along the river bank remains sparse from the 1920s through to the 1990s, with only the occasional tree appearing in the photographs. It has been assumed that clear views of Thompson Square from the northern side of the river would have been readily available as per the earliest paintings of the place throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The latest aerial photograph of the locally shows the density of vegetation now located along the riverbank, obscuring clear views of Thompson Square.



Figure 2. 82: 1929 aerial photograph of Thompson Square Conservation Area. Source: Carol Roberts, Windsor, from the collection of her mother, the late Iris Cammack. Photographer Frederick Halpin Willson, RAAF, 1929.





Figure 2. 83: 1947-51 aerial photograph. Note the alignment of the previous road through Thompson Square remains clearly visible in the tree plantings in the Upper Reserve. Source: NSW Spatial Services





Figure 2. 84: 1966 aerial photograph. Source: NSW Spatial Services

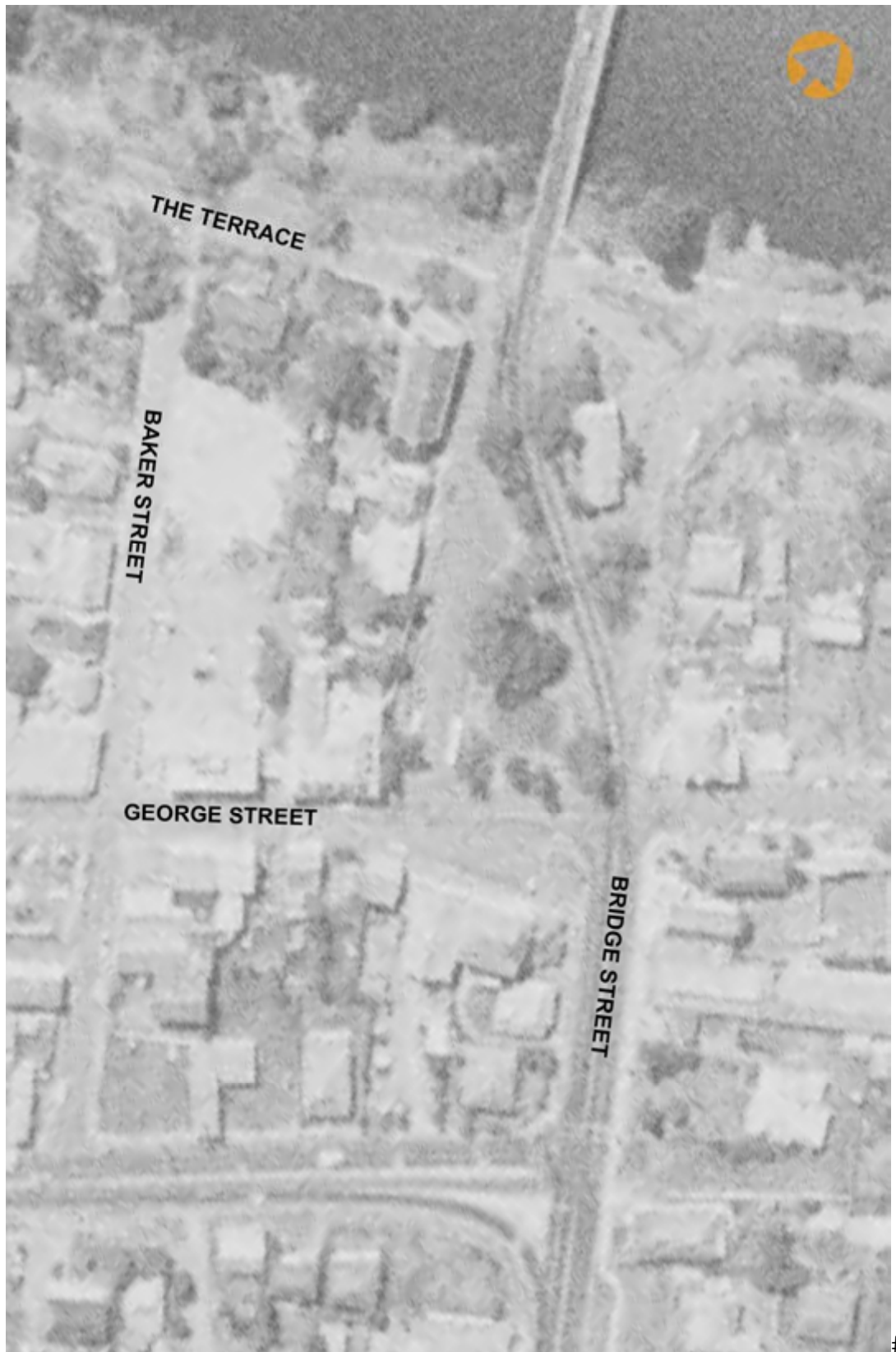


Figure 2. 85: 1979 aerial photograph. Source: NSW Spatial Services



Figure 2. 86: 1991 aerial photograph. Source: NSW Spatial Services





Figure 2. 87: c2015 aerial photograph. Source: NSW Spatial Services

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## 3. Physical Evidence

### 3.1 Introduction

The place and its setting were visually inspected by the authors on a number of occasions in November and December 2017. In addition, a number of earlier reports were reviewed to form an understanding of the current configuration of the place (see Appendix 3 Bibliography).

Likewise, the known resources related to Aboriginal and historic archaeology associated with the place were reviewed to provide an overview of the current state of understanding of the archaeology (see Appendices 5 & 6).

As a result of the above investigations and review of past reports, the current configuration of the landscape and buildings were recorded and the history of the development of the place analysed. The following descriptions of the built fabric, setting, landscape and archaeology aims to summarise the physical composition of the place and at the same time explain how each component reached their current configuration.

It should be noted that as this report is for the Thompson Square Conservation Area as a whole detailed fabric surveys of individual buildings or site and landscape features were not undertaken.

### 3.2 Description of the Place

#### 3.2.1 Generally

Located towards the eastern end of the town of Windsor, the TSCA is located on the northern side of the main ridgeline that runs east-west through the length of Windsor between the Hawkesbury River (to the north) and South Creek (to the south).

The conservation area is centred on two open spaces bisected by Bridge Street: the north open space (lower reserve) and the south open space (upper reserve), which are together referred to as Thompson Square. The south, east and west boundaries of the conservation area are defined by a mix of commercial and residential buildings dating from the early 1800s through to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, while the north boundary is defined by the southern alignment of the roadway running along the river foreshore, The Terrace.

Both the east and west sides of Thompson Square are predominantly residential in character and building use, while the southern side along George Street forms part of the commercial precinct of Windsor.



Figure 3. 1: The Study Area

### 3.3 Topography

#### 3.3.1 Landform and Geology

The Hawkesbury River floodplain in the Richmond-Windsor area is part of the extensive Hawkesbury valley floodplain broadening from the less extensive floodplain precincts further upstream associated with the Nepean River (the same waterbody) and certainly contrasted with the narrow sandstone gorges of the upper Nepean and lower Hawkesbury where it turns east towards the sea. The geographer Griffith Taylor famously noted the impressive variety of scenery and landscape character of the Nepean-Hawkesbury river system. In his well-known monograph *Sydneyside Scenery*, Taylor – speaking of its geomorphology - maintained that “few rivers in the world have a more interesting development than the stream between Menangle and Wisemans Ferry. Almost every feature that may diversify the development and scenery of a river appears in this 50 miles, though following the meanders would more than double the distance.”<sup>1</sup>

The geology of most of the floodplain system features alluvial silt with the lower floodplain areas comprising relatively recent (Holocene) silts and the low rises (such as the Windsor ridgeline) being formed from much older silt deposition from the Pleistocene period (before the last major glacial epoch). Of course, it was the superior quality of soil from this alluvium that distinguished the

<sup>1</sup> Griffith Taylor, *Sydneyside Scenery*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1970; quoted in Jocelyn Howell, Lyn McDougall and Doug Benson, *Riverside Plants of the Hawkesbury-Nepean*, RBG, Sydney, 1995 p.2

Hawkesbury region as a dependably viable food production area over the less fertile sandstone areas to the east at Sydney. However, the ongoing geological processes that led to these desirable soils also provided considerable challenges for settlers as the frequent floods brought not only rich alluvium but also heart-breaking destruction. Early pictorial depictions of the river – such as G.W. Evans’s 1809 (or 1807) and 1812 paintings and the 1879 photography - show heavily eroded high banks as a result of floodwaters impacting on the generally vulnerable riparian zone, unsecured by its natural vegetation.



Figure 3. 2: Detail from 1879 photograph showing the condition of the river bank and terracing to Thompson Square. Source: SLNSW, GPO SH1658

### 3.3.2 The Hawkesbury River and Flood Events

As discussed above, the TSCA is located on sloping ground, running southwards down from a ridge line to the river frontage of the Hawkesbury River. The topography of the precinct allowed for the successful settlement of the locality by Europeans in the mid-1790s, with an easy landing spot on the river bank and access to fresh water via a nearby stream (see Figures 2.12 and 2.13). The ridgeline which forms the spine of the town of Windsor (running roughly east-west from South Windsor to Thompson Square) also provided a suitable area for development, above the flood zone of the Hawkesbury River.

However, also due to the siting and topography (refer to below) of the TSCA and its proximity to the Hawkesbury River, flood events have played an important role in the use and development of the place, including the gradual stepping back of the buildings from the river frontage and the various attempts to manage flooding via the terracing of the land in Thompson Square.

Flooding has been recorded at Windsor from the very early days of the settlement including in 1799, 1806, 1809, 1816/17, 1818 and 1819. Further floods were recorded in the 1850s, 1860s and 1870s through to the most recently recorded flood in 1992.<sup>2</sup> The 1867 flood was the highest-ever recorded flood when the river rose over 19.7 metres above AHD<sup>3</sup> and the impacts of this flood event were commemorated by the Hawkesbury City Council in June 2017. A small plaque is also located on the eastern wall of the Macquarie Arms Hotel noting the reach of the 1867 flood (see Figure 3.150).

According to the *Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan* (Brewher, 2012), Windsor has the largest number of dwellings (up to 110) exposed to flooding in the 20-year event, although none are located within the boundaries of the TSCA;<sup>4</sup> however Nos. 4 and 6 Old Bridge Street are noted as being exposed to flooding in the 50-year event.

<sup>2</sup> Brewsher for Hawkesbury City Council, 2012; *Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan*, p. 8

<sup>3</sup> Australian Height Datum

<sup>4</sup> Brewsher, 2012; *op cit*, p. 91

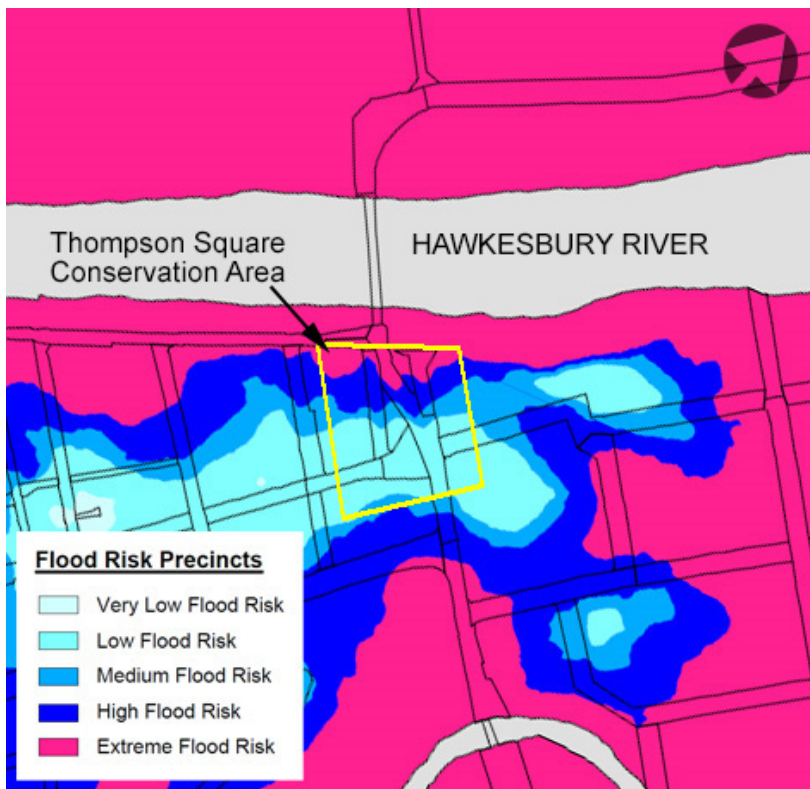


Figure 3. 3: Extract from Figure 3.3 Flood Risk Precincts showing the flood risk identified for the TSCA and surrounding areas. Source: *Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan*, 2012, p.91



Figure 3. 4: Engraving by Oswald Rose Campbell entitled “Floods in New South Wales- Windsor, at Nightfall, dated 27th July 1867”. The image shows the flooding of the lower lands to the west of Thompson Square, looking west up George Street towards the top of the ridge. Source: State Library of Victoria, IAN27/07/67/8



## 3.4 Views and Setting



Figure 3. 5: Current aerial view of Windsor. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps, 2018

### 3.4.1 Siting

The TSCA is located on the southern bank of the Hawkesbury River covering an area of approximately 2 hectares. Fronting the river, the TSCA extends from southwards up the slope of land to the intersection between George Street and Bridge Street, located at the top of the main ridgeline which extends east-west through the length of the town of Windsor. Although the northern boundary of the conservation area is located on the southern side of The Terrace, the physical boundary is somewhat amorphous with no strong delineation between the river foreshore and the conservation area. As such, the conservation area appears to run down the slope of land from the ridge to the river frontage, taking in the foreshore lands and including Windsor Bridge and the adjacent wharf, as well as the river itself.

From its formative planning the township of Windsor was sited along an elongated ridgeline dividing the broad Hawkesbury River floodplain to the north and the more confined South Creek floodplain to the south. This very long, gridded, but particularly narrow, town plan distinguished Windsor from all of the other townships that Governor Lachlan Macquarie eventually planned or extended in the 1810s. Even today, the extent and layout of an enlarged Windsor generally respects the need to avoid the floodplain by concentrating urban development along the prominent rise. In relation to this distinctive linear landform, Thompson Square is located near the north-eastern end (note Joseph Lycett's 1824 painting of the ridge line from McGrath's Hill, see Figure 3.12).

Thompson Square retains the essence of its overall topographic character where the dramatic 20m drop in elevation from the George Street ridge to the river is still appreciable. Even from its European settlement in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, various forms of localised earthworks are shown in the early pictorial evidence (such as the paintings of G.W. Evans and Philip Slaeger's print). The late 19<sup>th</sup> century photography of Thompson Square shows efforts to retain steep banks such as near the Doctor's House at No. 1-3 Thompson Square.

The same archival pictorial resource indicates distinct benching across the slope with a lower river terrace apparent then a winding intermediate terrace before a final bank up to the upper ridge. On the eastern side, a deep bank is notably apparent just below the former Government Cottage whereas the



western side is generally more gradually sloped and less abrupt. This overall topographic character is still apparent in the present landscape with most of the Colonial era buildings on the western side of the square being sited over the intermediate terrace (see Figure 3.6).

The most dramatic alteration to the historic landform came with the 1934 cutting for the road linking the raised bridge over the Hawkesbury River with George Street. This cutting and the increasingly busy Bridge Street have effectively divided the Thompson Square open space into two distinct halves. A prominent bench is apparent in the upper reserve between the western Silky Oaks (opposite the Macquarie Arms Hotel) and Bridge Street to the north of the roundabout.



Figure 3. 6: Detail from P. Slaeger's 1813 engraving entitled A view of part of the town of Windsor in New South Wales, taken from the banks of the River Hawkesbury, showing the topographic character of the TSCA on the banks of the Hawkesbury River. Source: NLA

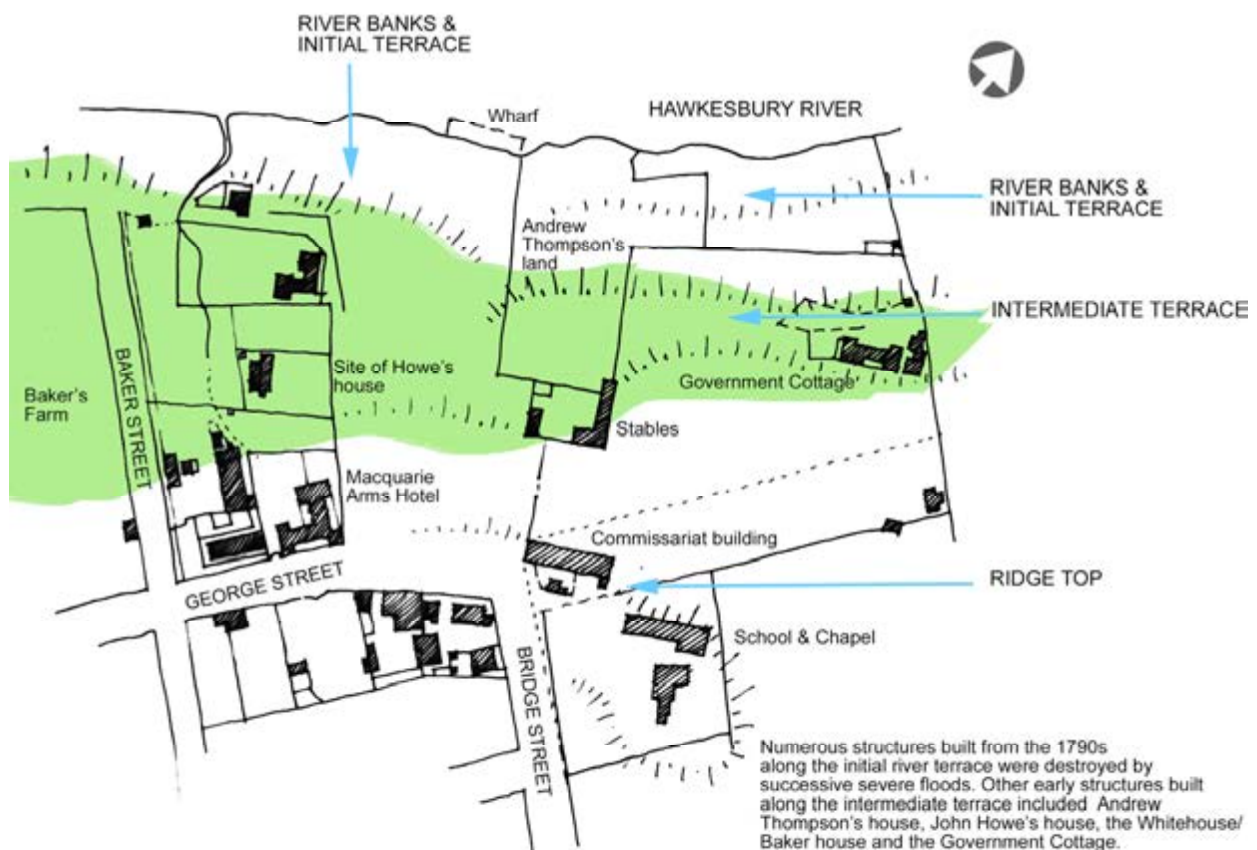


Figure 3. 7: Topographic Analysis of the TSCA prior to the 1934 road cutting. Diagram based on c.1848 William Shone survey & 1879 and c. 1888 photographs. Drawing base from the 1848 Shone survey. Prepared by G. Britton

### 3.4.2 The Setting



Figure 3. 8: Detail from c.1935 aerial view of Windsor by E.W. Searle. The location of Thompson Square is indicated with an arrow. Source: NLA, PIC P838/1407a LOC Cold store SEA Box 16

Located on the north-western outskirts of Sydney, on the southern bank of the Hawkesbury River, Windsor retains a strong rural character, being a small township with a predominant scale of two storeys and surrounded by agricultural lands. The productive surrounding agricultural lands and the regular occurrences of flooding of the Hawkesbury River and South Creek have served to limit the spread of development.

Within this context, the TSCA is a compact precinct of colonial and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings surrounding open park areas intersected by main roads, and the discreet size of the conservation area relates to the small rural centre of Windsor.

#### Visual Relationship with the Hawkesbury River

Although the Hawkesbury River is the principal element for the settlement of Windsor and the establishment and development of Thompson Square, the river is no longer a prominent feature in the setting of the TSCA or in current views to and from the conservation area. From settlement through to the 1880s, the river played a prominent role in the use and development of the locality, being an essential part of the economic development of the region. The open space of Thompson Square functioned as the original loading dock, market place, gathering space, punishment area and civic administration space for the community of Windsor and the surrounds. As such, Thompson Square was once a more utilitarian space and sparsely vegetated (having been cleared by the colonists), and there was a strong visual and physical connection between the land and the river.

Today however, the foreshore lands along The Terrace are well vegetated which, although necessary for the stabilisation of the riverbank, effectively obscures most views of the river from throughout the TSCA (see Figures 3.9, 3.10 and 3.11).

### 3.4.3 Views

#### Historic Views

Due to the topography of the land (refer to above) and the increased tree growth in the locality as discussed above, views to and from the TSCA are somewhat restricted. However, two important view corridors exist following the alignments of Bridge Street and George Street which cut through the conservation area, providing some clear views across and through the locality. As both roads date from the establishment period of the 1790s, these view corridors are historic, although the actual views of the buildings and surrounds may have changed over time.

Other historic views which are still available include the views from the northern bank of the Hawkesbury River looking southwards to Thompson Square as illustrated in 1812 by G. W. Evans (see Figure 2.20) and following the construction of the Windsor Bridge in 1874, similar views were also documented by photographs. This documentary evidence illustrates the historic development of the buildings located on the east, west and southern boundaries of the place, as well as the alterations to the land form and road alignments through and around Thompson Square (see Figure 3.9). Today however, these views are somewhat obscured by the density of vegetation and tree growth along the bank of the river on the Windsor side area and within the open spaces of Thompson Square (see Figure 3.11).



Figure 3. 9: c.1888 photograph of Thompson Square as seen from the northern bank of the Hawkesbury River. Note the absence of vegetation, although young trees are seen in the southern portion of the square. Source: SLNSW, At Work and Play - 04405





Figure 3. 10: 1975 photograph of Thompson Square as seen from the Windsor Bridge looking south. Note the relative absence of vegetation along the riverbank although the public reserves are quite well vegetated by this time. Source: LSJ archives



Figure 3. 11: Recent photograph of the view of Thompson Square as seen from the northern bank of the Hawkesbury River. Note the density of vegetation and maturity of trees prohibits clear views into the TSCA.

An opposite view of Thompson Square, as seen from McGraths Hill to the south, looking across the pasture lands and over South Creek to the southern side of the town as illustrated in 1824 by Joseph Lycett is not readily available due to vegetation and later development. Although the clear view up Bridge Street does remain (see Figure 3.13).

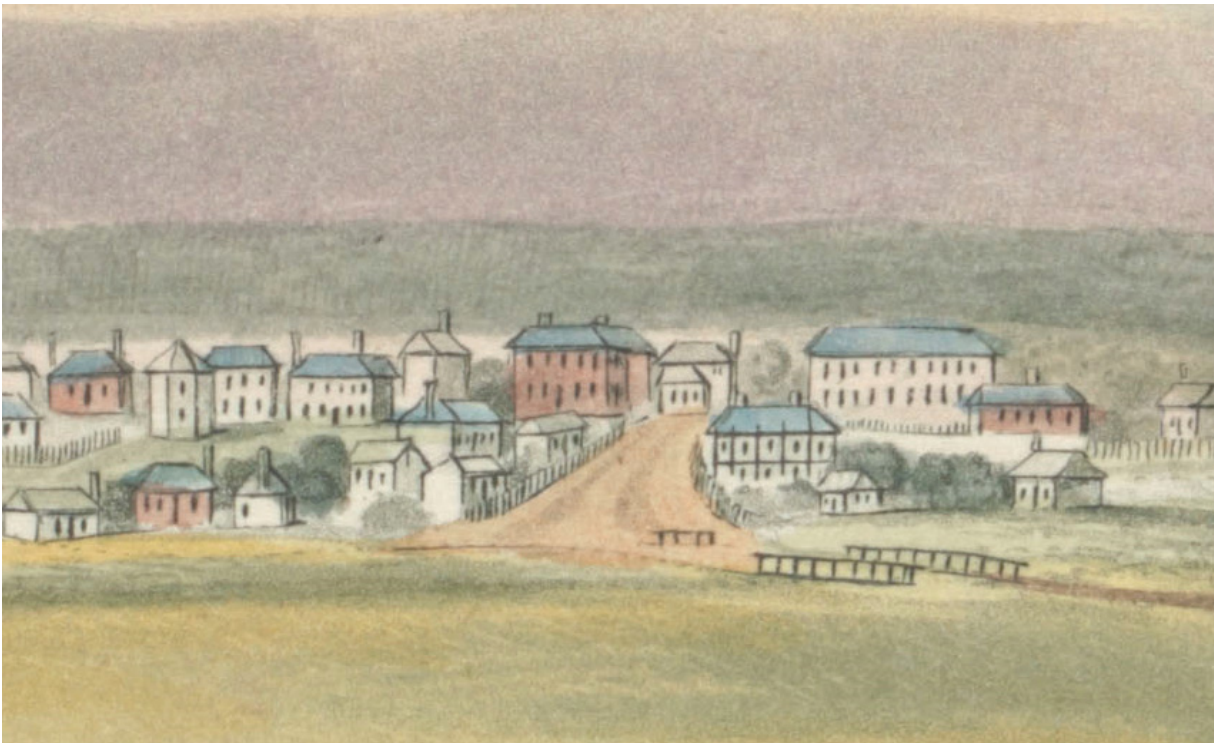


Figure 3. 12: Detail from J. Lycett's 1824 painting of Windsor as seen from the south from McGraths Hill. Source: SLVic, 50628979



Figure 3. 13: Recent view looking up Bridge Street showing the clear view line to George Street at the top of the ridgeline. Source: GoogleMaps-street view, 2017



Finally, a consistent view documented throughout the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century is that of the eastern end of George Street as seen from the intersection of George and Bridge Streets, looking west, with Thompson Square to the north. Numerous photographs of this view survive showing the gradual development of the commercial precinct defining the southern boundary of the TSCA with the grand Macquarie Arms Hotel dominating the south-west corner of the square. Little has changed in this view since it was first captured by film, other than for street furniture, signage and hard landscaping etc. mainly within the road reserves (see Figure 3.15).



Figure 3. 14: Late 19th or early 20th century postcard of George Street looking east with the Macquarie Arms Hotel on the right and Nos. 70-72 George Street on the extreme left, the site of the Sir John Young Hotel and later the Hawkesbury Hotel from 1880. The building was destroyed by fire in 1913 and demolished about 1915 and now the site of the 1920s Hawkesbury Motor Garage. Source: HCC Local Studies Library



Figure 3. 15: Recent photograph of George Street looking east with the Macquarie Arms Hotel on the right and the Hawkesbury Motor Garage on the left.

Table 3. 1: Table of identified views

View No.	Description
<b>Views within the TSCA</b>	
V1	Mid to long range views in all directions from the intersection of Bridge Street and George Street. Includes <b>historic view</b> dating from the mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century to mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century looking down George Street to the commercial development on the southern boundary of the TSCA.
V2	Short to mid range views looking northwards across the North Open Space from the intersection of George Street and Thompson Square. Historic view dating from 1815 from the Macquarie Arms Hotel building.
V3	Short to mid range views looking eastwards across the North Open Space from the east side of Old Bridge Street.
V4	Short to mid range views looking south-west from the east side of Old Bridge Street to the cutting defining the west side of Bridge Street and the North Open Space.
V5	Short to mid range views looking southwards from the northern end of Old Bridge Street to the South Open Space (currently obscured by security fencing) with the North Open Space in the background.
V6	Short to mid range views looking eastwards across the North Open Space from Thompson Square.
V7	Short to mid range views looking eastwards across the North Open Space from the northern end of Thompson Square.
V8	Historic View Corridor with short to mid range views looking west along George Street of the commercial precinct to the intersection with Bridge Street.
V9	Short to mid range views looking north, east and west from landscaped area at corner of Bridge and George Street to the southern end of Thompson Square, Old Bridge Street and along George Street.
V10	Historic View Corridor with short to mid range views looking north up Bridge Street to the top of the ridgeline and the intersection with George Street.
<b>Views to the TSCA from surrounding areas</b>	
V11	Mid to long range views looking north up Bridge Street from South Creek to the top of the ridgeline showing the roof scape of the buildings within the TSCA. <b>Historic view</b> illustrated in Lycett's painting of 1824 (see Figure 3.12).
V12	Mid range views looking west from the eastern side of George Street to the top of the ridgeline with the George Street commercial precinct in the background.
V13	Mid to long range views from the eastern side of The Terrace looking up Old Bridge Street, across the South Open Space to the ridgeline of George Street.
V14	Short to mid range views from eastern side of The Terrace looking up Old Bridge Street, across the South Open Space.
V15	Short to mid range views from the intersection of The Terrace and Windsor Bridge to the northern end of Thompson Square and looking up Bridge Street.
V16	Long range views from along Windsor Bridge and the north side of the Hawkesbury River looking south to Thompson Square. Views obscured by vegetation on the south river bank.

View No.	Description
V16 cont.	<b>Key historic view</b> dating from 1809 (see G. Evans's painting Figure 2.14) and numerous photographs dating from the 19 <sup>th</sup> and early 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries.
V17	Oblique mid range views of the southern end of Thompson Square, looking eastwards from the western side of The Terrace.
V18	Mid range views from Baker Street looking east to rear elevations and roofs of buildings fronting Thompson Square, in particular the west and north elevations and roof forms of the Macquarie Arms Hotel.
V19	Mid to long range views looking west up George street to the commercial development on the north and south sides of George Street with the Bridge Street intersection and the School of Arts Building in the distance.
<b>Views from the TSCA to the surrounding areas</b>	
V20	Mid to long range views looking east down George street to the commercial development on the north and south sides of George Street and the pedestrian mall.
V21	Mid to long range views looking south down Bridge Street to South Creek and the bridge.
V22	Mid range views looking east down George Street into the residential precinct adjacent to the TSCA.
V23	Mid to long range views looking north down Old Bridge Street, across The Terrace to the Hawkesbury River with the north bank in the distance.
V24	Mid to long range views looking north and north-east from the Doctor's Terrace and the northern end of the street known as Thompson Square to the Hawkesbury River, the north bank and historic farmlands.



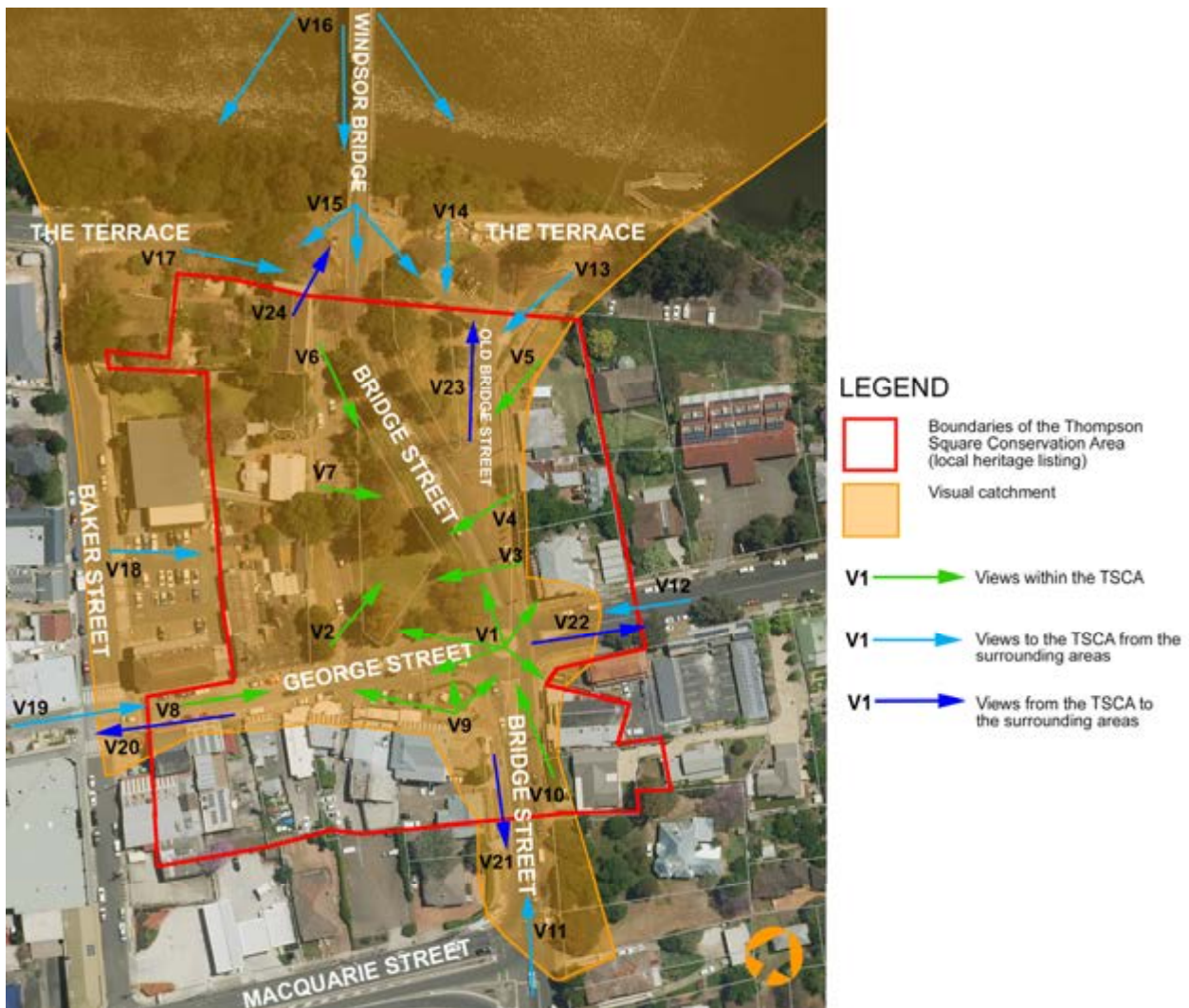


Figure 3. 16: Diagram identifying views to and from the TSCA and views within the boundaries of the TSCA.

### Recent photographs of Key Views



Figure 3. 17: View looking south from the north bank of the Hawkesbury River to Thompson Square, with the Windsor Bridge on the right.



Figure 3. 18: View looking northward from the upper reserve to the Windsor Bridge and river.



Figure 3. 19: View from the south side of George Street to the upper reserve of Thompson Square



Figure 3. 20: View from the south side of George Street to the upper reserve of Thompson Square. No. 10 Bridge Street is in the distance.



Figure 3. 21: View looking northward down Bridge Street (on the left) and Old Bridge Street (on the right).



Figure 3. 22: View of the George Street/Bridge Street intersection looking south from Old Bridge Street



Figure 3. 23: View looking east along George Street to the Macquarie Arms Hotel.



Figure 3. 24: View looking east from Baker Street down George Street.





Figure 3. 25: View looking east along George Street from Thompson Square to the School of Arts building.



Figure 3. 26: View looking west along George Street from Old Bridge Street with Thompson Square on the right.



Figure 3. 27: View looking east across Baker Street to the rear elevation and roofscape of the Macquarie Arms Hotel.



Figure 3. 28: View looking north up Bridge Street to the School of Arts building (on the right).



Figure 3. 29: View from the upper reserve looking east to Old Bridge Street and No. 10 Bridge Street.



Figure 3. 30: View from the upper reserve looking west to Thompson Square (the street) and No. 5 Thompson Square.



Figure 3.31: View from the upper reserve looking west to the east boundary wall of the Macquarie Arms Hotel.



Figure 3.32: View from The Terrace looking south up Old Bridge Street.



Figure 3.33: Partial view of the Hawkesbury River from the northern end of Old Bridge Street.



Figure 3.34: Glimpse views of the river and agricultural lands within the setting from the Upper Reserve, looking northwards.

## 3.5 Aboriginal Archaeology

The following information has been extracted from the *Aboriginal Heritage Review: Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW*, prepared by Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology, January 2018 (see Appendix 5 for full report).

The Aboriginal archaeological record of occupation of Windsor first came into focus following archaeological excavations within close proximity to Thompson Square undertaken at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum site during 2005-2007.<sup>5</sup> Significant new archaeological information about the timing and nature of prehistoric Aboriginal occupation of the river at Windsor has become increasingly available through excavation for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project (WBRP) since about 2009. This information, and in particular that relating to the known and potential Aboriginal archaeological resources contained within the TSCA, has greatly assisted the preparation of this report. (Refer to Appendix 5: Bibliography)

### 3.5.1 Regional Archaeological Overview

The documented and anticipated antiquity of the archaeological record of Aboriginal in the Sydney region has been progressively extended back in time over the last decade or so due to a combination of the timely discovery (and subsequent salvage excavation) of a number of what are regionally rare archaeological sites on the Hawkesbury River at Windsor and Pitt Town in particular, and the concurrent and rapid improvements in archaeological dating technologies and techniques in recent years. The *Dictionary of Sydney* entry for the archaeological heritage of Sydney life recorded in 2012 that a little over 160 dates had been determined through radiocarbon (C14), thermoluminescence (TL) and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) methods for over sixty sites.<sup>6</sup> Many of the historically older C14 dates derive from rock shelter habitation sites, and an increasing number of open sites (especially sand bodies on watercourses) are now being dated using the latter dating methods.

The earliest accepted age for a habitation site in the Sydney region was reported to be 14,000 year BP (Before Present) which dates a rock shelter on Shaw's Creek located adjacent to the western side of the Nepean River. Also noted in this entry was that two significantly earlier dates from Sydney, one of c.40,000 years BP (C14) for stone artefacts from Cranebrook Terrace near Penrith (Nanson, Young and Stockton 1987) and a second date (C14) of 30,000 years BP from a river bank terrace site on the Parramatta River in the Parramatta CBD "*continue to be questioned*".<sup>7</sup>

However, results from data reanalysis at the former site suggest the original 40,000 year old dates may have been largely accurate after all.<sup>8</sup> The results of more recent investigations on the Hawkesbury River (associated with both the current WBRP and studies elsewhere on the river nearby) provide solid evidence and detail about Aboriginal occupation of the Hawkesbury River Valley extending back approximately 35,000 years or more. A similar use of the Parramatta River Valley during the Pleistocene is likely. It fits if Aboriginal people initially used the main Sydney river valleys, like Parramatta and the Hawkesbury and as possibly a *refugia*<sup>9</sup> during periods of extreme or rapid climate shift or variation that are likely to have characterised the earliest periods of Aboriginal life in the region.

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<sup>5</sup> Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd 2011

<sup>6</sup> Attenbrow; 2012

<sup>7</sup> Jo McDonald CHM; 2005

<sup>8</sup> Stockton & Merriman; 2009

<sup>9</sup> Locations which support isolated populations through a period of unfavourable conditions

## Pitt Town

Salvage excavations were undertaken in advance of housing development at Pitt Town between 2008 and 2012 on the edge of an elevated ridge (approx. 25 metres AHD) above and approximately 200m from the river.<sup>10</sup>

The multi-stage investigation program resulted in the excavation of approximately 200 metres<sup>2</sup> of deposit combined at a series of individual ridge top locations. This revealed a 1-2m deep Kandosol soil profile of fine to medium red to brown loamy sand above (culturally sterile) Pitt Town Sands and/or Londonderry Clay. The sand body was deposited primarily through river-flood (fluvial) processes about 120,000 years ago. The upper metre or so of the Kandosol showed reworking by wind action and probably formed within the last 40,000 years. This soil profile extended for approximately 400m from the edge of the ridge and originally formed part of a small dune-field that covered much of the township.<sup>11</sup> Williams *et al* (2012) detail the results of salvage excavation of one of the locations (PT12) investigated:

*“Salvage excavations of 25 m2 on a levee adjacent to the Hawkesbury River identified a 1.5 m deep sand body containing three discrete artefact assemblages. While problematic, six Optically Stimulated Luminescence ages provided a chronology of the sand body, which began forming > 60 ka. Peak artefact numbers of the two lowest assemblages were centred on ~15 ka and ~11 ka, and retained Capertian characteristics, including amorphous pebble tools and manuports composed of locally-derived river cobbles probably exposed through entrenchment of the river during lower sea-level.*

*Comparisons with nearby KII rock shelter shows a similar assemblage dated to ~13 ka. The upper assemblage was dominated by backed artefacts composed primarily of silcrete. Reliable OSL ages indicate this assemblage may have been deposited in the early Holocene with a backed blade proliferation centred at ~ 5 ka, although comparisons with other local studies suggest an age of <4.5 ka is more likely. Along with other studies, the site indicates the systematic exploitation of resources, such as river cobbles, along the Hawkesbury River from ~15 ka before an apparent abandonment of the Pitt Town region in the early/mid-Holocene. Late Holocene artefact numbers suggest a subdued re-occupation of the area following this hiatus”.*

Approximately 10,000 stone artefacts were recovered during the investigations at Pitt Town (combined) and they document a largely continuous Aboriginal occupation of the Hawkesbury River from about 36,000 years ago. It is one of the most significant sites in the Sydney Basin.<sup>12</sup>

### 3.5.2 Previous Investigations in Windsor

#### Hawkesbury Regional Museum, 7 Thompson Square

Archaeological excavations were undertaken in advance of the expansion of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum, Baker Street in 2009.<sup>13</sup> The investigations were situated on an elevated and moderately steep ridge (~20m AHD) about 100m from the river.

<sup>10</sup> AHMS Pty Ltd 2006, 2011, 2012; Williams et al. 2012

<sup>11</sup> AHMS 2011

<sup>12</sup> AAJV 2016:7

<sup>13</sup> Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd; 2011



Excavation identified a deep (>1.8m) sandy-soil profile consisting of fine to medium grained and dull orange to bright reddish brown sand that overlay Londonderry Clay. The sand body may have begun developing up to 150,000 years ago<sup>14</sup> and formed as a source bordering dune or sand sheet (the sand deriving from the river floodplain and channel) and appeared to extend along the high ground marked by George Street and to taper-off to the south east along Macquarie Street. Following the initial discovery of Aboriginal artefacts during historic-archaeological excavations at the site (that recorded AHIMS #45-5-3011), subsequent Aboriginal archaeological excavation of twenty-six contiguous sqm of deposit to depths of up to 1.8m resulted in the recovery of over 12,000 stone items from a sandy deposit believed to represent an intact Pleistocene (Aeolian) sand dune.

Artefacts were concentrated at depths below ground between 0.5m-0.8m but were also recovered as deep as 1.5m. Analysis of a sample of the finds showed mudstone (68.7%), followed by silcrete (13.8%) and quartz (7.6%) artefacts were dominant. Most finds were unmodified flakes, and no backed blades were recovered. Of four Thermoluminescence dates, one from the artefact bearing layers was dated to between 8,500 +/- 800 years to 33,900 +/- 1,700. It is a very broad range, but provides evidence of long term occupation of the river from the mid Holocene through to the late Pleistocene.



Figure 3. 35: Photographs of salvage excavation of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum site showing examples of intact archaeological deposit that can be expected beneath Windsor. Source: Austral Archaeology 2011: Figure 5.5



Figure 3. 36: Photographs of salvage excavation of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum site showing examples of intact archaeological deposit that can be expected beneath Windsor. Source: Austral Archaeology 2011: Figure 5.6.

### Thompson Square Conservation Area Test Excavations 2012

Aboriginal archaeological test excavation was undertaken as part of the original Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project (WBRP).<sup>15</sup> This included the excavation of five test pits (of a total of nine) located on the higher elevation and sloping south bank of the river and around the edges of Thompson Square and within the roadway (Old Bridge Street) leading to the wharf. The remaining four test pits were excavated in conjunction with geotechnical investigations across the other (north) side of the river.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid:152

<sup>15</sup> Kelleher Nightingale Heritage Consulting 2012



The 2012 testing identified relatively shallow aeolian topsoil at the upper slope locations investigated (with deposits possibly continuing southwest and beyond the study area) and deeper intact sand profiles at mid to lower-slope locations. The nature and preservation of deposit varied depending on slope position and extent historic disturbance.

In Thompson Square at the top of the bank the deposits were truncated and bioturbated sandy loams and within the roadway the deposits were either truncated showing exposed basal clay and complete truncation of original surface deposits that may have once contained Aboriginal cultural deposits or deep fluvial sands.

A sample of 185 Aboriginal artefacts (mainly tuff<sup>16</sup>) was recovered from the five test squares excavated in and within the proximity of Thompson Square. A partially intact sand body was found at the top of the bank (20.5m AHD) in the southeast corner of the Square that revealed high stone artefact numbers (n=114). The majority were in a single layer of fine grained sand. A mid slope square also had moderate artefact densities (n=64) in a more mixed historical context. Both test pits were excavated to a depth of about one metre below present ground surfaces.<sup>17</sup>

Although these investigations did not identify the age of the artefact bearing deposits themselves or the origins of the sand body deposits in general, the investigations did establish that high densities of artefacts occurred within parts of the TSCA and there existed the potential for deep and possibly very old archaeology to be contained within sand body deposits recorded.<sup>18</sup>

### Thompson Square Conservation Area Test Excavations 2016

An extensive programme of Aboriginal archaeological test excavation was undertaken in the WBRP area in late 2016. Although full details of these investigations have not been sourced for this report, the following summary is drawn from the *Thompson Square Conservation Area Strategic CMP* (2017)<sup>19</sup> and a separate document detailing excavation methods and research objectives proposed to guide future salvage.<sup>20</sup> The plan below (see Figure 3.39) shows 38 test pits were excavated in the southern WBRP area.

The excavations recovered 1,434 Aboriginal objects. The majority (1,330) were recovered from testing in the southern project area (18.26 items/m<sup>2</sup>) and were found throughout the soil profile but predominantly between 70cm and 210cm below current surfaces.

Ten geomorphological (or stratigraphic) units that characterised the project area were identified. Along with cultural materials, these could be divided into four archaeological landscapes comprising an elevated ridgeline and a source-bordering dune and alluvium at the river edge.<sup>21</sup> The sand body deposits identified in Thompson Square are of particular significance.

The ridgeline had shallow duplex soils (frequently disturbed by historical activity and buried beneath historical overburden) that contained discrete pockets of soil and concentrations of Aboriginal objects.

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<sup>16</sup> Tuff: Rock formed from solidified volcanic ash, which often is re-formed after the eruption and deposited elsewhere by water runoff.

<sup>17</sup> KNC 2012:19

<sup>18</sup> AAJV 2016:8

<sup>19</sup> RMS, 2017; *Thompson Square Conservation Area Strategic CMP*, Vol 2:77-84

<sup>20</sup> AAJV 2017

<sup>21</sup> AAJV 2017:12-13

The landscape encompasses the elevated areas in the vicinity of George and Bridge Streets, and extends into the upper part of Thompson Square. The source-bordering dune is a fluvial and aeolian-derived sand body (typically 1-1.5m in thickness) that extends across the upper and lower portion of Thompson Square and into parts of Old Bridge Street and The Terrace. The landscape is more intact in upper Thompson Square but has been subject to varying levels of burial and/or truncation from past activities.

The deposit formed discontinuously between >82ka and the mid-Holocene (~5ka) and the archaeology within this deposit recorded in the WBRP is suggestive of two periods of archaeological occupation between 27-18ka (onset and peak of the LGM<sup>22</sup>) and early-to-mid Holocene. The river edge alluvium is a thick clay and fine sand encompassing the entire northern project area and lower areas of the southern project area. Cultural material is found throughout the deposit in low numbers.

The sand units within Thompson Square contained the majority of the Aboriginal objects (n=995/75% equating to 56 items/m<sup>2</sup>). The lower unit was formed by fluvial processes (terrace, levee) and the upper layer through wind-blown processes. It is likely to be the remnants of a source-bordering dune. Dating (OSL) indicates these deposits contain cultural materials older than 23,000 years in age. They appear visually and compositionally similar to the nearby Hawkesbury Regional Museum archaeological site which contained archaeology dating to between 33,000 and 8,000 years BP. The remaining archaeological landscapes appear younger (less than 10,000 years) in age and were found to be often disturbed and/or truncated by historical and/or modern activities. With the exception of one test pit (SA12) within Thompson Square, cultural deposits were generally sparse in these units and have either been reworked by natural (fluvial/alluvial) or human (reclamation/earthworks) processes.

A number of glass artefacts (n=5) were found in the lower portion of Thompson Square (east of Bridge Street). Other historical material found in association and in past records of Windsor suggest that the artefacts likely date to between c.1794 and the 1830s.



Figure 3. 37: Location of Aboriginal archaeological test squares within and adjacent to Thompson Square investigated in 2012.

<sup>22</sup> Last Glacial Maximum



Figure 3. 38: Registered Aboriginal archaeological sites (after KNC 2012) within the TSCA in 2012.



Figure 3. 39: Archaeological test square and geotechnical borehole locations within the TSCA



## Summary

The primary areas of Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity that has been identified in the WBRP area are located on the southern side of the river and within and in the immediate vicinity of Thompsons Square. Substantial and intact archaeological deposits associated with an ancient source bordering dune archaeological landscape were found in Thompson Square and particular in the northern (lower) portion of the Square. These deposits have a great potential to provide detailed and new information about Aboriginal life dating back possibly 40,000 years or more and including people's use of the place during the LGM (24-18,000 years BP) that was a period of significant climatic variability and change.



Figure 3. 40: Archaeological landscapes within the study area, based on the 2016 test excavation



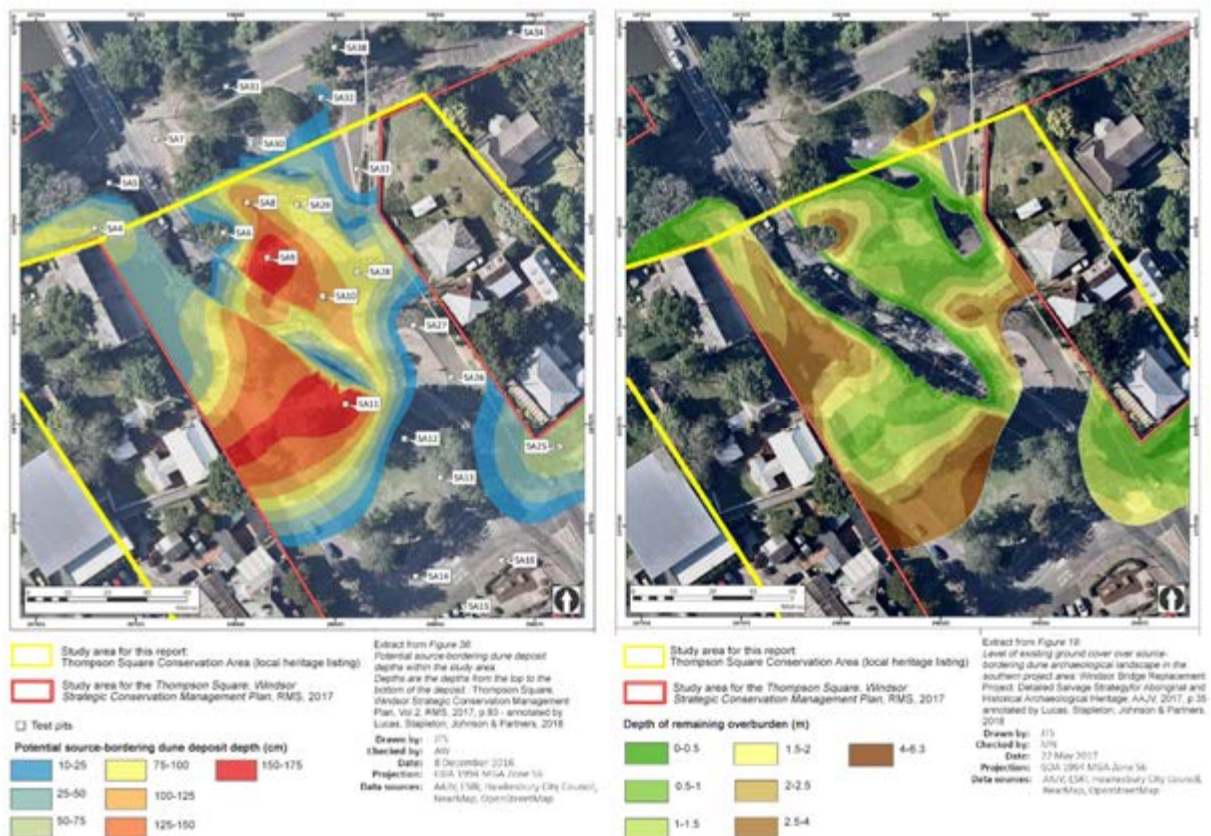


Figure 3.41: Potential source-bordering dune deposit depths (left) and existing ground cover over this archaeological landscape (right). Depths are from the top to the bottom of the deposit.

## 3.6 Historic Archaeology

The following information has been extracted from the *Thompson Square, Windsor, Historical Archaeological Assessment* prepared by Casey & Lowe Archaeology & Heritage, January 2018 (see Appendix 6 for full report).

### 3.6.1 Archaeological Investigations & Assessments in the Vicinity of Thompson Square

Several historical archaeological assessments and investigations have been undertaken within the area surrounding, and incorporating, the Thompson Square Conservation Area. Research and results from these assessments and testing programs can help inform our understanding of the types of remains and levels of preservation that can be expected within Thompson Square, as well as locating the study area within a broader contextual landscape of significance and associations.

Sites in the vicinity of the Thompson Square Conservation Area that have been subject to historical archaeological excavations are shown in Figure 3.42 below and include:

- 7 Thompson Square, Edward Higginbotham and Associates Pty Ltd (1985 and 1992).
- 8 Baker Street / Hawkesbury Museum Site, Wendy Thorp CRM (2002 and 2004).
- Thompson Square Testing, Wendy Thorp for BIOSOS (2012).

- *Thompson Square Testing*, Austral Archaeology / Extent Heritage (formerly AHMS) Joint Venture (henceforth AAJV, 2016).
- *Thompson Square Salvage Excavations*, AAJV (2017-2018).
- *Windsor Military Guardhouse and Barracks, Bridge Street*, Kate Holmes and Sydney University Archaeological Society (1976).

The following section provides a brief summary of the results of each of these investigations, with the exception of the (ongoing) open area salvage excavations undertaken by Austral and Extent Heritage (AAJV) for RMS, 2017-2018. Although a number of interim reports have been published on the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project (WBRP) webpage,<sup>23</sup> the results of these excavations remain largely unwritten.

In addition to the *Thompson Square Strategic Conservation Management Plan* prepared by RMS & AAJV (2017), several historical assessments and investigations have been prepared as part of the RMS WBRP, as well as independently for Thompson Square. These reports provide a significant resource regarding the historical landscape of Windsor, and more specifically Thompson Square and include:

- *Historical and Archaeological Investigation of Thompson Square*, report prepared by Edward Higginbotham and Associates Pty Ltd. July 1986.<sup>24</sup>
- *Windsor Bridge Replacement Project Historic Heritage Assessment and Statement of Heritage Impact*, report prepared by BIOSIS Research and CRM. November 2012.
- *Proposed Windsor Bridge Replacement Maritime Archaeological Statement of Heritage Impact*, report prepared by COSMOS Archaeology. October 2012.
- *Windsor Bridge Replacement Project. Historical and Maritime Archaeological Research Design*, report prepared by AAJV. October 2016.



Figure 3. 42: Plan showing excavated sites (green) within the vicinity of Thompson Square, with testing programs in red and purple. The current excavation areas of the ongoing 2017-2018 RMS/AAJV salvage excavation program are marked here in blue, with grey indicating maritime salvage excavations. Source: base map-SIX MAPS (accessed 10/11/2017) with alterations by Casey & Lowe.

<sup>23</sup> Found at: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement/index.html> [accessed 08/01/2018 and 19/01/2018]. The recovery, in early December 2017, of two sections of a brick-barrel drain (likely constructed in c.1814) received particularly wide coverage in the media.

<sup>24</sup> Higginbotham 1986a.

## Summary of Historic Archaeological Investigations

### 7 *Thompson Square*

Investigations at 7 Thompson Square (Part Lot 1, DP 60716) were conducted by Edward Higginbotham in 1985 and 1992, and comprised the archaeological excavations of the house's basement fill deposits,<sup>25</sup> as well as a focused area in the exterior yard.<sup>26</sup> The house itself, the former home of John Howe, was likely constructed in the 1820s and 1830s,<sup>27</sup> and is registered within the State Heritage Register (SHR) listing for the TSCA.

Excavation within the basement revealed a significant sequence of accumulated deposits overlying the remains of sandstone flagging, mortar floors, and partially rotted joists.<sup>28</sup> The basement walls were built of sandstone rubble and blocks, with dividing walls lined or constructed with sandstock bricks.<sup>29</sup> The walls were predominantly plastered with shell-lime plaster and then whitewashed.<sup>30</sup> A lath and plaster ceiling was partially preserved in two of the rooms, although in most rooms there was no evidence of a ceiling, and the joists were left exposed.<sup>31</sup> The deposits and artefacts recovered from the 7 Thompson Square basement provided substantial evidence as to the original configuration of these rooms, and the changing use of the property over time.<sup>32</sup> Most of the deposits within the basement were likely deposited following the 1867 flood, and some of the artefacts were easily related to specific periods of use within the property.<sup>33</sup>

Excavations within the yard revealed a sequence of deposits including: several structural elements related to the 1860s alterations of the property;<sup>34</sup> a series of rubbish pits dating c1780–1840;<sup>35</sup> various pits, postholes, and possible yard surfaces,<sup>36</sup> and a sequence of timber outbuildings dating to c1820.<sup>37</sup> There was no substantial evidence that could be dated to the pre-1810 government domain, and Higginbotham notes the likelihood of the c1800 barracks being located within modern boundaries of the Macquarie Arms Hotel.<sup>38</sup>

### *Hawkesbury Regional Museum, Baker Street*

Excavations at 8 Baker Street (Part Lot 1, DP 60716, and Lot 3, DP 864088) were conducted by Wendy Thorp of Cultural Resources Management in 2002 and 2004, prior to the construction of the new Hawkesbury Regional Museum. The property lies to the immediate west of the current limits of the SHR TSCA, although is in part (Lot 1, DP 60716) listed under the Hawkesbury LEP listing (I00126) for Thompson Square. Excavation on Site 1 (Lot 1, DP 60716) revealed very little evidence of 19th-century occupation and is not discussed here.<sup>39</sup> Excavation at Site 2 (Lot 3, DP 864388), however, revealed a substantial sequence of 19th and 20th-century deposits, including several structural features that may be related to the initial construction of the Macquarie Arms Hotel, c1811–1830.

<sup>25</sup> Higginbotham 1986b.

<sup>26</sup> As determined by the proposed location of the Hawkesbury Museum extensions, Higginbotham 1993.

<sup>27</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, pp. 6, 12ff.

<sup>28</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, p. 14.

<sup>29</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, p. 15.

<sup>30</sup> Although the hall wall was whitewashed without plaster, Higginbotham 1986b, p. 16.

<sup>31</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, p. 16.

<sup>32</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, pp. 17–21.

<sup>33</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, p. 21.

<sup>34</sup> Higginbotham 1993, p. 11.

<sup>35</sup> Higginbotham 1993, p. 12.

<sup>36</sup> Higginbotham 1993, pp. 12–13.

<sup>37</sup> Higginbotham 1993, p. 14.

<sup>38</sup> Higginbotham 1993, p. 50.

<sup>39</sup> Thorp 2002, p. 20.

The earliest feature identified is that of the c1819 boundary wall,<sup>40</sup> running along the northern edge of the original Macquarie Arms property. Excavation also revealed significant evidence for structural elements that may be dated to the c1840s-1860s, during which time the Macquarie Arms Hotel was in use as a private residence and likely distinct from the adjacent stables and Fitzgerald's cottage. These include:

- A north-south sandstock-brick wall, abutting the hotel boundary wall, dating c1841. Presumably erected to create a division between the two private properties (the Macquarie Arms Hotel and Fitzgerald's cottage) at this time.<sup>41</sup>
- A brick-lined cesspit at the junction of the hotel boundary wall and internal wall, to the west of the internal wall.<sup>42</sup>
- A timber structure, possibly related to the subsequent property division in 1865.<sup>43</sup>
- A box drain at the junction with the boundary wall and internal wall, to the east.<sup>44</sup>
- A timber drain, to the east of the internal wall.<sup>45</sup>
- A sandstock-brick structure (cesspit), associated with the Macquarie Arms Hotel.<sup>46</sup>
- A discrete area of sandstock-brick paving, dating to c1850, although likely constructed on an earlier (similar) structure.<sup>47</sup>

Additionally, substantial sandstone footings were identified at the western edge of the boundary wall. Thorp relates these footings to an observed gap on the 1842 survey,<sup>48</sup> and they may be broadly dated to the use of the Macquarie Arms as a mess hall.

### ***Thompson Square***

Two testing programs have been conducted within the TSCA, as part of the broader RMS WBRP, undertaken by CRM / BIOSIS in 2012, and AAJV in 2016. The results of these testing programs are particularly pertinent to the evaluation of any archaeological potential within Thompson Square. The ongoing salvage program (AAJV, 2017-2018) is not discussed here, however the discovery of a brick barrel drain (dating c1814), as well as sections of three, albeit damaged, brick box drains,<sup>49</sup> demonstrates the strong potential for the preservation of archaeological remains in the TSCA, despite the impacts of 20th century activities here.

#### **1. CRM/Biosis Historical Archaeological Test Excavations<sup>50</sup>**

CRM / BIOSIS excavated two Test Trenches located within Old Bridge Street Thompson Square (marked in purple in Figure 3.42). Artefacts recovered from remnant surfaces and within various land modifications (including planting holes, postholes, etc.)<sup>51</sup> suggest the area was in use from perhaps as early as c.1800, and certainly by 1830.<sup>52</sup> Evidence related to the 19th-century expansion of Bridge Street was recovered from both trenches: including a service trench dating to c.1855, and a later

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<sup>40</sup> Thorp 2004, p. 32.

<sup>41</sup> Thorp 2004, pp. 32-33

<sup>42</sup> Thorp 2004, p. 27-28.

<sup>43</sup> Thorp 2004, p. 27.

<sup>44</sup> Thorp 2004, p. 30.

<sup>45</sup> Thorp 2004.

<sup>46</sup> Thorp 2004, pp. 30, 35.

<sup>47</sup> Thorp 2004, pp. 29, 35.

<sup>48</sup> Thorp 2004, p. 32.

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement/windsor-bridge-replacement-project-community-update-march-2018.pdf> [accessed 19/03/2018].

<sup>50</sup> BIOSIS/CRM 2012, Appendix 3.

<sup>51</sup> BIOSIS/CRM 2012, Appendix 3, p. 13.

<sup>52</sup> BIOSIS/CRM 2012, pp. 214-215, Appendix 3, pp. 11-13, 17.



1860s-1870s service pipe in Trench 1,<sup>53</sup> as well as substantial structural remains in the form of concrete beams and timber formwork associated with the creation of a new approach to the bridge in 1897 in Trench 2.<sup>54</sup> The upper deposits were noticeably truncated by the subsequent construction and roadworks here throughout the 20th century.<sup>55</sup>

## 2. AAJV Historical Archaeological Test Excavations

AAJV excavated a series of 15 Test Trenches: ten in the southern half (marked in red in Figure 3.42) and five in the northern half of the study area.<sup>56</sup> Test Trenches on the northern side of Windsor Bridge produced no *in situ* historical material and are largely not discussed here. Historical artefacts were recovered in most areas and may be to at least the mid- to late-19th century.<sup>57</sup> Historical archaeological evidence was also recovered during testing for Aboriginal archaeology.<sup>58</sup> Overall, the historic deposits showed considerable disturbance from later construction and flood damage. The testing program identified a number of State and locally significant features, including:<sup>59</sup>

- Brick footings related to the c1815-1820 entry gate and compound wall of the Government domain.<sup>60</sup>
- Evidence of a fenceline situated along The Terrace and identifiable as part of the western wall of Thompson's former premises.<sup>61</sup>
- A box drain connecting either Thompson's c1803 Store, or the c1830s stables, with a c1815 vaulted brick drain running through Thompson Square to the river.<sup>62</sup>
- Yard deposits and features associated with the Punt House.<sup>63</sup>
- Evidence for early cultivation in the area, including modified topsoils.<sup>64</sup>
- Previous roadways / paths, including a 19th-century cobblestone path or road surface,<sup>65</sup> a Telford-type sandstone road base,<sup>66</sup> and evidence for a roadway possibly built during the construction of the bridge in 1874.<sup>67</sup>

Separate maritime investigations were conducted in 2008, 2012 and 2016 by Cosmos Archaeology. Archaeological survey produced evidence of historic wharf structures dating to the 1820s and possibly earlier,<sup>68</sup> and artefacts recovered from two Test Trenches were dated to the mid-19th century.<sup>69</sup>

<sup>53</sup> BISOS/CRM 2012, p. 215.

<sup>54</sup> BISOS/CRM 2012, p. 216.

<sup>55</sup> BISOS/CRM 2012, pp. 215-216.

<sup>56</sup> AAJV May 2017a, p. 85.

<sup>57</sup> AAJV May 2017a, p. 87.

<sup>58</sup> AAJV May 2017a, p. 8, Fig. 44. Note these trenches are not marked on the above Figure 3.42

<sup>59</sup> AAJV November 2017, pp. 22-23.

<sup>60</sup> Situated at the junction of George and Bridge Streets, AAJV May 2017c, p. 78, Figs. 52, 53.

<sup>61</sup> AAJV May 2017c, p. 60.

<sup>62</sup> AAJV May 2017c, pp. 81-82, Figs. 54, 55.

<sup>63</sup> AAJV May 2017c, pp. 64-67, Figs. 40, 41.

<sup>64</sup> AAJV May 2017c, p. 77, Fig 51. See also the evidence on the north side of the Hawkesbury, p. 96, Fig. 68.

<sup>65</sup> AAJV May 2017c, p. 88, Figs. 61, 62.

<sup>66</sup> AAJV May 2017c, pp. 72-76, Figs. 46-50.

<sup>67</sup> AAJV May 2017c, p. 46, Fig. 23.

<sup>68</sup> AAJV May 2017a, p. 92.

<sup>69</sup> AAJV May 2017a, p. 93.

### ***Windsor Military Guardhouse and Barracks, Bridge Street***

The Windsor military guardhouse and barracks are situated to the south of the Thompson Square Conservation Area, located at 32 Bridge Street (Lot 7017, DP 1030415 and Lot 11, Section 10, DP 759096). The stables at the rear of the former police station are listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR I01018), while the lock-ups (LEP I148) and former barrack wall (LEP I157) are listed in the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012* as items of local heritage significance. Following their initial discovery, during the widening of Bridge Street, the Bridge Street guardhouse and barracks were subject to a short excavation program in 1977, conducted under the direction of Kate Holmes and the Sydney University Archaeological Society.<sup>70</sup> The barracks belong to the Macquarie era, and were constructed between 1818 and 1842.<sup>71</sup> They were likely erected shortly following the construction of the Macquarie Arms Hotel, and the (presumed) abandonment of the second military barracks there.

Excavations revealed substantial sandstone and brick footings, belonging to an outer wall and guardhouse respectively.<sup>72</sup> No evidence was recovered to strongly indicate the date of the guardhouse's construction, although it was apparently subject to modifications in the 1860s during its use as a Police station.<sup>73</sup> The majority of the artefacts had been subject to considerable modern disturbance and therefore lacked clear stratigraphic information.<sup>74</sup> Nonetheless those that were datable were predominately c.1830s-1880s.<sup>75</sup>

## **3.7 The Vegetation**

### **3.7.1 Locally Indigenous Vegetation**

As the varied geomorphological character of the Nepean-Hawkesbury River system provides considerable scenic interest (discussed above), so the vegetative character also varies considerably. That part of the system in the vicinity of Windsor was formerly characterised by River-flat Forest - probably dominated by Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) though possibly also with Deane's Gum (*E. deanei*) and Sydney Blue Gum (*E. saligna*).<sup>76</sup> As this represented the most fertile agricultural land, most of the River-flat Forest was cleared at an early stage of European settlement and used for fuel and construction purposes. Along the banks of the river, River Oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) would have been prevalent.<sup>77</sup> In places near the river, this latter species has reappeared though probably by way of recent plantings.

The early 19<sup>th</sup> century depictions of the Green Hills/Thompson Square area show little indigenous flora remaining. A few remnant woodland trees - probably Forest Red Gum - are shown along the ridgeline before the building of further residential, commercial and official structures and their outbuildings gained pace. By 1879, early photography shows the area to have remained largely unchanged. The central reserves remained devoid of any indigenous trees as was the riparian zone on both sides of the Hawkesbury River.

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<sup>70</sup> Holmes 1977; 1979.

<sup>71</sup> Holmes 1979., p. 24.

<sup>72</sup> Holmes 1977, pp. 15-17.

<sup>73</sup> Holmes 1979., p. 21.

<sup>74</sup> Holmes 1979., p. 23.

<sup>75</sup> Holmes 1979., p. 24.

<sup>76</sup> Doug Benson and Jocelyn Howell, *Taken for Granted: The Bushland of Sydney and its Suburbs*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, 1990 p.77

<sup>77</sup> Jocelyn Howell, Lyn McDougall and Doug Benson, *Riverside Plants of the Hawkesbury-Nepean*, RBG, Sydney, 1995

The early wholesale clearing of the Windsor landscape of trees was soon recognised as a contributory cause of the destructiveness of much of the subsequent flooding. In 1803 a General Order from Governor P. G. King was published in the *Sydney Gazette* by W. N. Chapman, Secretary, Government House castigating the “*improvident method taken by First Settlers on the sides of the Hawkesbury and Creeks in cutting down timber and cultivating the banks...*” and lamenting the “*many acres of ground... removed, lands inundated, houses, stacks of wheat and stock washed away*” as well as the inconvenience of “*numerous large trees lying in this stream... rendering water carriage on the Creek almost impracticable, and in some parts of the Hawkesbury very dangerous*”.<sup>78</sup>

The Order continued with “*it is hereby directed that no Settler or other person to whom ground is granted or leased on the sides of any river or creek where timber is now growing do on any account cut down or destroy by barking or otherwise any tree or shrub growing within two rods of the edge of the bank...*”. Farmers were further counselled: “*it is earnestly recommended to those who already hold farms by grant situated on the side of any river or creek liable to floods, and which have been cleared of timber, to replant the banks with such binding plants and trees as they can procure*”.<sup>79</sup>



Figure 3. 43: Detail from G.W. Evan's 1809 painting of the “Settlement on the Green Hills” showing remnant woodland trees along the ridgeline. Source: ML, PXD 388 Vol 3, No 7

Unfortunately, the subsequent replanting, where it occurred, also included the use of various exotic species in place of the former locally indigenous ones. Some of these exotic species went on to become environmental nuisances such as willows and poplars.

Presently the river banks forming the lower end of Thompson Square include some locally indigenous species such as River Oak, White Cedar (*Melia azedarach*) and *Pittosporum undulatum*. There are also numerous exotic weed species present however some of these resemble desirable native species such that it is important to distinguish between them where any land management programs are undertaken. Some current bush regeneration work was noted at the north-eastern end of the study area (along The Terrace).

### 3.7.2 Cultural Vegetation

After several generations of concerted planting beginning in the 1880s (though all of these earliest – mainly coniferous - plantings have since been removed), the Thompson Square open space includes mainly mature Silky Oaks (*Grevillea robusta*) and Kurrajongs (*Brachychiton populneus*) from the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and a Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) from the 1920s. The latter tree appears to be the oldest surviving planting within the TSCA (refer to Figures 3.50 to 3.53 below).

<sup>78</sup> *Sydney Gazette*, October 9, 1803, quoted in JCL Fitzpatrick, *Those were the Days: Being a Record of the Doings of the Men and Women of the Hawkesbury 50 years ago or more*, NSW Bookstall Co. Ltd, Sydney, 1923 pp. 35-36

<sup>79</sup> *Sydney Gazette*, October 9, 1803, quoted in JCL Fitzpatrick, *Those were the Days: Being a Record of the Doings of the Men and Women of the Hawkesbury 50 years ago or more*, NSW Bookstall Co. Ltd, Sydney, 1923 pp. 35-36

The lower reserve includes White Cedar and a Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) along with the recent opportunistic appearance of Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), African Olive (*Olea europea* subsp. *cuspidata*) and Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*). The stumps of recently removed Silky Oaks remain in the vicinity of the current archaeological site within the lower reserve. Along the northern edge of The Terrace are three Peppercorn Trees (*Schinus areira*). To the east along The Terrace is a copse of River Oak with Jacarandas.

The riparian zone along the southern edge of the Hawkesbury River is a mixture of weeds including Lantana (*Lantana camara*), Castor Oil plant (*Ricinus communis*), Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), *Cestrum parqui*, Giant reed (*Arundo donax*), Coral tree (*Erythrina* sp.), Alligator Weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), Balloon Vine (*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*) and privet (*Ligustrum* spp.) along with various grasses.

Plantings associated with the various built edges that define the Thompson Square open space area are generally from the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with some that are more recent. The pair of Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) defining the eastern entry to the Macquarie Arms Hotel replace and interpret an earlier pair that may have dated back to the 1830s. The White Cedar on the inside of the early wall to the north of the hotel is a recent – probably opportunistic – introduction. The wall at this point is showing numerous cracks.

Plantings to the north of No. 5 Thompson Square and behind No. 1-3 Thompson Square are all from the last three to four decades as are those in front of No. 6 Old Bridge Street (Crepe Myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica* cv.) and north of No. 10 Old Bridge Street (Silky Oak and Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). Most extant plantings associated with the buildings along Bridge Street and George Street are likely not earlier than 1980 although this is difficult to determine from the aerial photography in the case of the tall Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolium*) festooned with Cats Claw Creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) behind No. 82 George Street.

Apart from all of the weed species mentioned above associated with the riparian corridor, the African Olive and Cats Claw Creeper are listed as either environmental weeds or noxious weeds by Hawkesbury City Council and the Hawkesbury River County Council.



Figure 3. 44: Recent view of the northern side of the TSCA and the south bank of the Hawkesbury River showing existing vegetation.



Figure 3. 45: Silky oak located at the south-eastern corner of the upper reserve of Thompson Square





Figure 3. 46: General view of the upper reserve of Thompson Square showing tree planting on the boundaries of the open space.



Figure 3. 47: General view of the upper reserve of Thompson Square showing tree planting on the boundaries of the open space.



Figure 3. 48: General view of the lower reserve looking west with surviving landscaping along its western boundary.



Figure 3. 49: General view of the lower reserve looking south. Note the Jacarandas.

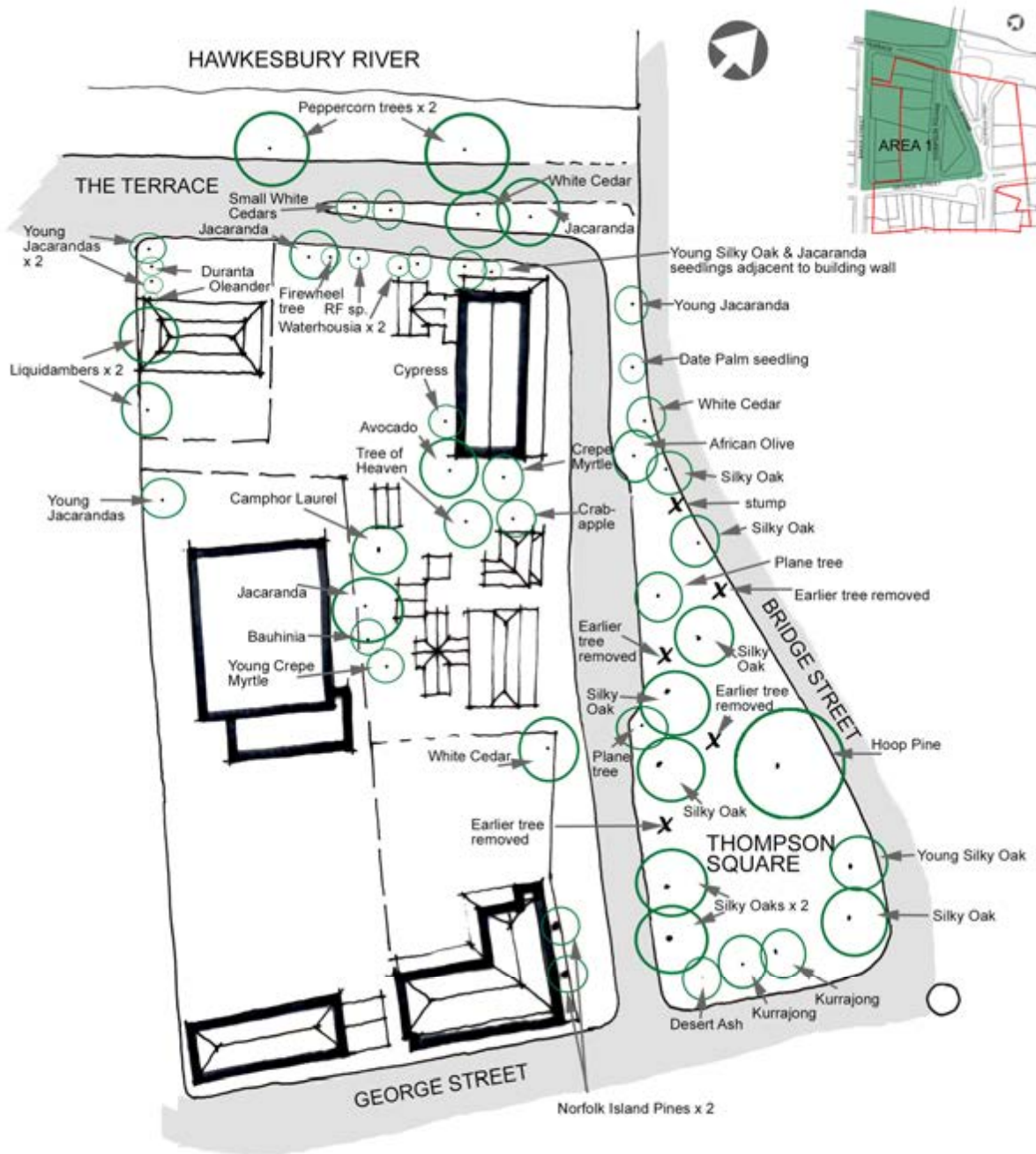


Figure 3. 50: Area 1 (north-west section of the TSCA) Vegetation (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018

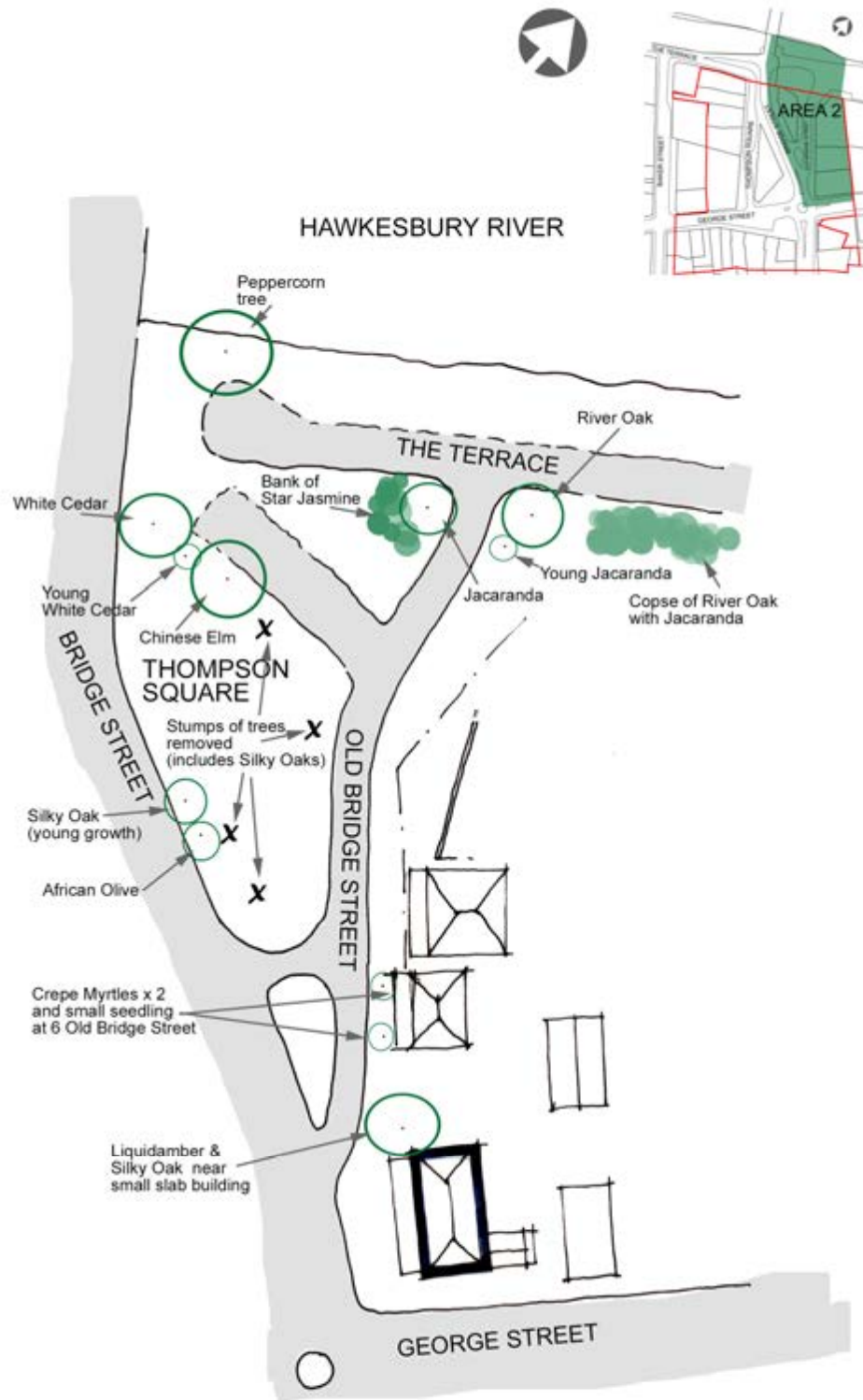


Figure 3. 51: Area 2 (north-east section of the TSCA) Vegetation (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018





Figure 3. 52: Area 3 (south-east section of the TSCA) Vegetation (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018

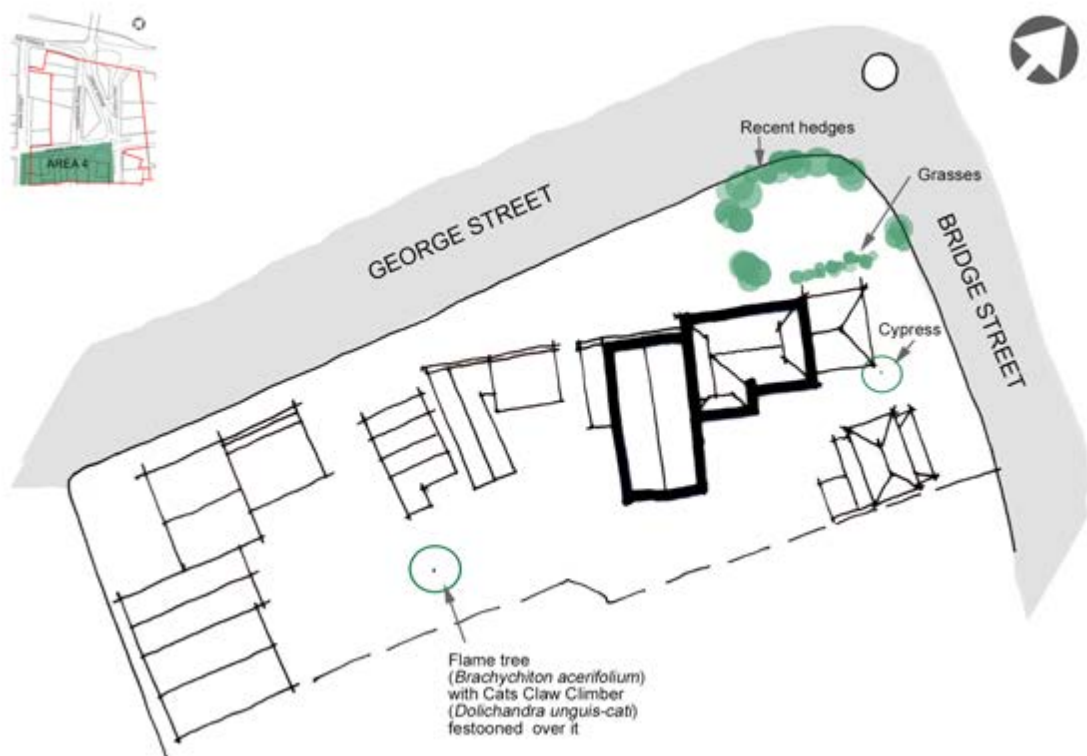


Figure 3. 53: Area 4 (south-west section of the TSCA) Vegetation (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography (Geoffrey Britton, 2018)



## 3.8 The Public Reserves

Located within the boundaries of the TSCA are three separate public reserves: the lower reserve of Thompson Square, the upper reserve of Thompson Square and a small piece of land set aside as commemoration of the Thompson Square Restoration Project. In addition, the river bank lands defining the northern boundary of Thompson Square are also public lands and are considered to be an essential component of the place.

### 3.8.1 Thompson Square Upper Reserve

Forming the larger portion of the original open ground of Thompson Square, the upper reserve (or south open space) is a triangular piece of land bounded by Thompson Square (the street) on the south-west, George Street on the south-east and Bridge Street on the north. As previously discussed the construction of the Bridge Street realignment in 1934 resulted in the current configuration of this space.

This area of Thompson Square is the main public recreation space consisting of open grassed areas with scattered trees and containing seating and tables and was the site for other public facilities (mini golf course, swings and playground equipment) in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The park has also served as the location for a range of community based events from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to date including the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1867 floods in 2017.



It is also currently the site of an ongoing, permanent public protest against the proposed Windsor Bridge Replacement Project by the NSW government, by CAWB (Community Action for Windsor Bridge) who have manned an information tent for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, continuously over the past five years.

A number of memorials are located in the park including the principal statue and memorial to Governor Macquarie (refer to below). Refer also above for identification of vegetation within the upper reserve.

Figure 3. 54: Aerial view (c2015) showing the configuration of the upper reserve of Thompson Square. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps



Figure 3. 55: General view of the upper reserve, looking north, showing the open grassed area bounded by mature trees.



Figure 3. 56: General view of the upper reserve looking south showing grassed areas and tree plantings, picnic table and benches. Thompson Square (the street) is on the right.

### 3.8.2 Thompson Square Lower Reserve

Located to the north of the upper reserve is a smaller triangular piece of land bounded by Old Bridge Street on the north-east, Bridge Street on the south and The Terrace on the north-west. As with the upper reserve, the construction of the Bridge Street realignment in 1934 resulted in the current configuration of this space.



Photographic evidence including recent aerial photography indicates that the lower reserve consisted of an open grassed space with surrounding mature trees and car parking spaces located at its northern end (on the site of the former Hawkesbury Boat Club building, demolished in the 1980s). However, at the time of writing the report, this area was undergoing archaeological excavation in association with the proposed Windsor Bridge Replacement Project by the NSW government and access to this area was restricted.

Figure 3. 57: Aerial view (c2015) showing the configuration of the lower reserve of Thompson Square before the current archaeological investigations. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps





Figure 3. 58: Recent photograph of the lower reserve as seen from Old Bridge Street



Figure 3. 59: Recent photograph of the lower reserve as seen from The Terrace to the north.

### 3.8.3 Commemoration Reserve

Located on the southern side of George Street, adjacent to the intersection with Bridge Street and directly in front of No. 62 George Street is a small area of the road reserve that has been developed as a public space with flagpole and tables and chairs. The area is raised above the road level, brick paved with sandstone edging and hedges and grasses defining the space. A timber sign for Thompson Square is located on the eastern side of the space.

The location of this public space takes up that part of road reserve where the building alignment is skewed. The reason for this change in the road alignment and building line is not known however the building alignment of Nos. 62 through to 80 George Street appears to be an extrapolation of the alignment of the northern boundary line of the School and Chapel building that was originally located to the east.

Given that the building at No. 62 George Street was constructed in the 1830s (refer to below), it may have been that there was an earlier structure located within the road reserve, preventing the construction of buildings along the same alignment as the remainder of George Street to the west.

One such structure may have been the bell post, visible in early paintings located at the top of the ridgeline in the approximate location of the Bridge Street/George Street intersection (see Figure 3.60). The bell post remained in place as a gathering point for the local community until at least 1850 and was used as a notification post and location for public auctions.<sup>80</sup>

Alternatively, given that the watch house was located to the east, next to the Commissariat Store, the alignment may have developed to allow clear view lines from the watch house towards George Street and the Macquarie Arms Hotel (see Figure 3.62).

The landscaped area that defines the southern side of the Bridge Street/George Street intersection is a later addition to the TSCA, as it is not visible in a 1930s photograph of the location. By the 1980s it is in place and functioning as a grassed traffic island of sorts. The current configuration and landscaping of the area appears to date from the late 1990s or more recently and it contains a small memorial plaque (see below) to the restoration works programme undertaken in 1988 to the buildings surrounding Thompson Square.

<sup>80</sup> Advertising; *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 1850, p. 4



Figure 3. 60: Detail from G. W. Evans's 1809 painting showing the bell post located at the top of the ridgeline. Source: ML, PXD 388 Vol 3, No 7



Figure 3. 61: 1935 photograph showing the intersection of George Street and Bridge Street. The location of the Commemoration Reserve is where the charabanc is parked (indicated with an arrow). Source: Hawkesbury Library, 022878



Figure 3. 62: Detail from 1831 plan showing location of the watch house on Bridge Street. Source: SA Map 1816



Figure 3. 63: The reserved area in 1996. Source: Australian Heritage Database, rt50319-20220



Figure 3. 64: Recent photograph of the reserve as seen from George Street with the School of Arts building in the distance.



Figure 3. 65: Recent photograph of the Commemoration Reserve



### 3.8.4 River bank lands



Figure 3. 66: Aerial view (c2015) showing the configuration of the lower reserve of Thompson Square before the current archaeological investigations. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps



Figure 3. 67: Detail from 1840s plan of Windsor showing various features located along the riverbank lands. Source: SA Map 5968

Although not currently forming part of the TSCA, the river bank lands are an essential component of conservation area, being the *raison d'être* for the settlement of Green Hills and the eventual development of Thompson Square. The area is also notable for formerly containing some of the key historic features associated with the earliest development of Green Hills/Windsor, including the various wharves, the punt, the stream, connecting paths leading to the river and a portion of Andrew Thompson's garden (see Figure 3.67).

Located on the northern boundary of the TSCA, the river bank lands contain a mix of roads, pedestrian pathways, landscaped areas and the southern approach to Windsor Bridge. To the west of the bridge approach is The Terrace which essentially terminates at the junction with Bridge Street. A brick paved pedestrian walking path runs along the river's edge that forms part of the Great River Walk which is also located at Penrith, Emu Plains, Richmond and Pitt Town, with plans for all sections to meet up. Forming as it does part of an established walking track, the western river bank lands are well kept with occasional interpretation and directional signage, bench seating and garbage bins. Tree planting is well established along this part of the river bank.

In contrast the eastern side of the river bank lands is not as well managed, although it also forms part of a walking trail: the Hawkesbury Artist's Trail (see Figure 3.77 below). Footpaths are concrete and access to The Terrace is via Old Bridge Street. On the southern side of this area the terracing of the land is formalised with The Terrace at a lower level and screened by landscaping is a bitumen paved carparking area located at the next step up. On the eastern side is also located a wharf structure with floating pontoon, jetty and intermediate landing platform (see Figure 3.75). Gabion walls line the river's edge, although weeds and other plants currently obscure these structures.

To enable pedestrian access to both sides of the river bank, a pedestrian underpass has been constructed that runs under the southern approach of the Windsor Bridge. Currently in a poor condition, the underpass is accessed via timber stairs to both the east and west sides.



Figure 3. 68: View looking east from the walking path on the west side of the river bank lands towards Bridge Street and the southern approach to Windsor Bridge.



Figure 3. 69: View looking west along walking track on the west side of the river bank lands with The Terrace on the left.



Figure 3. 70: The timber pedestrian underpass providing access under the southern approach of the Windsor Bridge and connecting the western and eastern river bank lands.



Figure 3. 71: The pedestrian underpass under the Windsor Bridge.





Figure 3. 72: The Terrace with footpath to the east of Bridge Street along the river frontage. The northern end of the Lower Reserve is seen right of frame.



Figure 3. 73: Carparking located at an upper level within the eastern River bank lands, emphasising the historic terracing of the land form.



Figure 3. 74: View looking east to access to pontoon and walking track for the Hawkesbury Artist's Trail.



Figure 3. 75: View from the pontoon looking west to the river bank lands.



Figure 3. 76: Sign post for the Great River Walk located on the west river bank.



Figure 3. 77: Signage for the Hawkesbury Artist's Trail located on the east river bank lands.

### 3.8.5 Key Characteristics of the Landscaped Areas

Based on the visual inspection of the three principal open spaces within the TSCA, the following key characteristics have been identified:

- River bank lands densely vegetated with a mix of Indigenous species and introduced species, including some identified as noxious weeds.
- Separation between the east and west sides of the TSCA as a result of Bridge Street has resulted in different characters in the public reserve lands and along the river bank, with the western side being better managed and landscaped, while the eastern side is more modest and less well kempt.
- The terraced landform is pronounced and often supported and emphasised by retaining walls and landscaping distinguishing the stepped levels.
- Public reserves are defined by open grassed areas surrounded by established tree growth and/or hedging on the boundaries.
- Jacarandas provide colourful focal interest in the spring.
- Public reserves are locations for memorials and plaques.
- Scattered public facilities are provided including seating, tables, lighting and garbage receptacles.
- Notable absence of built structures (e.g. public toilets, picnic shelters or the like).

## 3.9 The Streets & Roads

The TSCA consists of an area of land that encompasses the intersection of two important early transport links: the Hawkesbury River with the George Street/Bridge Street intersection (providing road links to Parramatta and Sydney). These historic and physical links with colonial transport routes remain dominant features of the conservation area.

Within the boundaries of the TSCA are four streets: George Street, Bridge Street, Old Bridge Street and Thompson Square which all date from the early 1800s (at least in part), if not earlier. Of the four roads, only Thompson Square retains a strong early 19<sup>th</sup> century character due to the collection of buildings fronting the street. In contrast, Old Bridge Street, George Street and Bridge Street, are mixed in character, although George Street has a stronger 19<sup>th</sup> century appearance than Bridge Street, again due to the age of the buildings lining its northern and southern sides.

### 3.9.1 George Street

Running southwest to northeast along the main ridgeline between the Hawkesbury River (to the north) and South Creek (to the south), George Street is the main commercial precinct of the early town of Windsor and extends from Richmond Road in the southwest through to Governor Phillip Park and the intersection of South Creek and the Hawkesbury River in the northeast.

Based on historic plans of the town, George Street originally terminated at the intersection with Bridge Street and was not extended further to the east (into what was the Government domain) until the 1850s. The different dates of establishment of the eastern and western sides of George Street has resulted in two distinct streetscapes for that portion of George Street located within the TSCA boundaries.



### George Street West

One of the earliest streets in Windsor, George Street appears to have been established in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century as part of the initial European settlement of Windsor (refer to Section 2.2).<sup>81</sup> In 1811, Governor Macquarie named the street as part of his scheme for the laying out of the town of Windsor, recording in his diary the following:

*“The principal street in the present town of Windsor...I have called George Street in honour of His Present Most Gracious Majesty and which street from the present square [Thompson Square] to the new intended one [McQuade Park] in the township will be nearly an English mile long.”*<sup>82</sup>

Today, the southern side of George Street with its mix of commercial properties defines the southern extent of the TSCA. With its one and two storey commercial buildings with projecting balconies and decorative parapets, absence of street trees and absence of telegraph poles, views of the streetscape have changed little since the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century (see Figure 3.14 above).

The northern side of this portion of George Street is dominated by the Macquarie Arms Hotel. The public hotel constructed in 1815 by Richard Fitzgerald and built at the request of Governor Macquarie, has defined the south-western corner of Thompson Square and the building lines for both George Street and Thompson Square since that time.

At some stage utilities have been placed underground (assumed) and there are no longer utility poles lining the street as there once were (see Figure 3.78). Other than traffic signs and a small number of light poles, the western extent of George Street within the TSCA is uncluttered by ancillary services, which serves to emphasise the historic character of the street.



Figure 3. 78: View looking east down George Street with the School of Arts building in the distance.



Figure 3. 79: View looking west up George Street

<sup>81</sup> Based on documentary evidence of early grantees, it is known that settlers were living on the south side of George Street prior to Macquarie's arrival in the district.

<sup>82</sup> Macquarie, L.; *Tour of NSW and VDL 1810-1822*; 12 January 1811: 42-43.



Figure 3. 80: View looking west up George Street



Figure 3. 81: View looking east down George Street to the Macquarie Arms Hotel

### ***George Street East***

The eastern portion of George Street was established in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century following the removal of the government in the early 1840s and the subsequent sale and subdivision of the Government Domain lands. The alignment of the eastern portion of George Street roughly follows the line of the driveway that once led from the George Street/Bridge Street intersection westwards to Government House (see Figure 3.82).

The eastern part of George Street that runs between No. 10 Bridge Street and the School of Arts Building is located within the TSCA. A quieter, residential street, this end of George Street contains a mix of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings as well as 20<sup>th</sup> century houses and motel buildings. See Figures 3.83 and 3.84.



Figure 3. 82: Extract from 1827 survey plan by John Thompson showing location of the driveway from the George Street/Bridge Street intersection to the Government House. Source: SA Map SZ 526



Figure 3. 83: View looking west to the intersection of George Street and Bridge Street. No. 10 Bridge Street is on the right of frame.



Figure 3. 84: View looking east down George Street from the intersection with Bridge Street. No. 10 Bridge Street is on the left of frame.

### 3.9.2 Bridge Street

Of the four roads, Bridge Street has undergone the most change, being as it is the main road connection between South Creek and the Hawkesbury River and forming part of a long-established road link between Sydney and Windsor via the New Windsor Road (established 1810).

#### *South Bridge Street*

The earliest plan of Windsor dated 1811 showing the laying out of the town by order of Governor Macquarie shows a road from Andrew Thompson's floating bridge (built c.1802) over South Creek travelling north along what is now known as Arndell Street (see Figure 3.87). It is not until 1814-1816 that Bridge Street as it is today leading from South Creek northwards to George Street at the top of the ridge appears in the early maps, having been established in conjunction with the development of the Government Domain to the east of Thompson Square (based on Macquarie's instructions) and the building of John Howe's Bridge across South Creek in c.1813 (see Figure 3.88).

Today, the southern portion of Bridge Street is a busy, two lane road expanding to a four-lane road at the approach to the Fitzroy Bridge over South Creek. Originally dominated on its eastern side by government buildings including the Commissariat Store, the School and Chapel and the Barracks, today the buildings (mainly residential) along the east are obscured by established hedges. However, the School of Arts Building located on the eastern side of the junction of George Street and Bridge Street together with No. 19 Bridge Street and the rear of Nos. 62-64 George Street on the western side of the junction are prominent features serve to visually mark the southern entry into the precinct.



Figure 3. 85: View looking southward down Bridge Street towards South Creek.



Figure 3. 86: View looking northwards up Bridge Street to the top of the ridgeline and the intersection with George Street.





Figure 3. 87: Detail from 1812 Meehan plan showing the road link from the Government Domain along Wilcox's Line to South Creek (indicated with an arrow). Source: SA Map SZ 529



Figure 3. 88: Detail from c.1834 Galloway survey showing Bridge Street in place running northward from South Creek to Thompson Square (indicated with an arrow). Source: SA Map 5966

### ***North Bridge Street***

Due to the topography of Thompson Square and the numerous flooding events (as discussed above) that have affected the area, providing access from the ridge down to the river frontage has been a continual problem since colonial times. The northern part of Bridge Street which today bisects Thompson Square is the culmination of a number of attempts to form and maintain a stable roadway leading to the southern bank of the Hawkesbury River.

Although the historic plans of the area indicate that until the 1870s Bridge Street terminated at the intersection with George Street at the top of the ridge, historic photographs and paintings also indicate that access of some kind did in fact continue northwards from different points along George Street down the slope to the river frontage from the very earliest days of the settlement.

G. W. Evans's painting of 1809 shows a track running down the slope alongside the western boundary of Thompson's garden, linking the ridgeline to the river frontage (see Figure 3.89 below). Likewise, Slaeger's etching of 1813 shows the same track running down the slope with another on the western side of Thompson Square, with clear vehicle (cart) tracks. This track runs down the slope to the east of the Macquarie Arms Hotel then crossing through the square in a north-easterly direction.





Figure 3. 89: Detail from G. W. Evans's 1809 painting showing the early track running from the ridge down to the waterfront (indicated with an arrow) in roughly the same alignment as Old Bridge Street today. Source: ML, PXD 388 Vol 3, No 7



Figure 3. 90: Detail from the 1813 view by Philip Slaeger showing the tracks leading down the slope from the ridgeline to the river's edge. Note the clear vehicle tracks visible on the western track. Source: NLA, PIC Drawer 2230 U2028 NK2044B

The construction of the Windsor Bridge in 1874 was the impetus for formalising a road from George Street to the river frontage and early photographs show a roadway running down the slope along the eastern frontage of the Macquarie Arms Hotel, crossing through the square in a north-easterly direction and then splitting in front of the river to provide access to both the bridge and the wharf (see Figure 3.91). This configuration remained in place until the 1930s. The street that is now Old Bridge Street appears as an unformed track.



Figure 3. 91: Detail from 1879 photograph of Thompson Square showing the configuration of the roadway through the square (indicated with arrows) following the construction of the bridge in 1874. Source: SLNSW, SH1658

The northern section of Bridge Street is a busy, two-lane through road, cutting across and through Thompson Square. The current configuration of Bridge Street from George Street to Windsor Bridge dates from the 1930s and the construction of the roadway resulted in substantial excavation works so that today the upper and lower reserves of Thompson Square are now located above the level of the roadway with an embankment on either side of the road.

The current form, alignment and the heavy use and speed of the traffic along the roadway creates a strong division through the centre of the TSCA, separating the eastern and western sides of the conservation area and physically bisecting the open spaces of Thompson Square. Bridge Street presents as an anomaly within the historic context of the TSCA and is out of character with its immediate surrounds.



Figure 3.92: View looking northward down Bridge Street with the upper reserve of Thompson Square above (on the left).



Figure 3.93: View looking southward from the upper reserve of Thompson Square showing Bridge Street below.



Figure 3.94: View looking northward from the upper reserve of Thompson Square showing Bridge Street below approaching the bridge. The lower reserve surrounded by fencing is seen in the background.



Figure 3.95: View looking southward from the upper reserve of Thompson Square showing Bridge Street below with the lower reserve surrounded by fencing opposite.



### 3.9.3 Old Bridge Street

What is now known as Old Bridge Street is a small roadway that is a remnant of an early track connecting George Street to the river frontage. Bridge Street proper now continues in a north-westerly direction from the intersection with George Street to cut across Thompson Square (refer to above).

As discussed above, tracks and unformed roads existed before the construction of Windsor Bridge connecting George Street at the top of the ridge with the river frontage as evidenced by G. W. Evans's 1809 painting and P. Slaeger's 1813 etching (see Figure 3.90 and Figure 3.91 above) and Old Bridge Street continues one of these historic tracks.

The configuration of Old Bridge Street today appears to have been formed in the 1930s when Bridge Street was realigned to cut across Thompson Square in a north-westerly direction, although there is evidence that the width of the street was altered during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A photograph from the late 1880s shows Old Bridge Street as being quite wide, although no vehicle tracks are evident, and it appears less maintained than the other roadways leading onto the bridge (see Figure 3.96). By the 1930s however, with the redirection of Bridge Street through the square, Old Bridge Street is substantially reduced in width (see Figure 3.97). The status and form of Old Bridge Street as a secondary road has continued until today.

By the 1980s or 1990s, a second branch had been introduced to Old Bridge Street providing access onto Bridge Street leading to the Windsor Bridge and this work resulted in further reducing the north open space (lower reserve) of Thompson Square.

Despite the proximity to busy Bridge Street, Old Bridge Street retains a semi-rural appearance with no footpaths and is 19<sup>th</sup> century residential in character. From Old Bridge Street are the clearest views of the Hawkesbury River and it is the only part of the TSCA where this historic relationship can still be clearly understood.

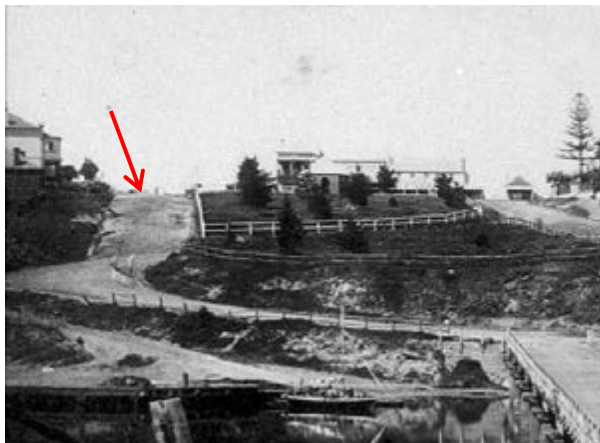


Figure 3. 96: Detail from c1888 photograph of Thompson Square showing what is now Old Bridge Street (indicated with an arrow). Source: SLNSW T Square undated At work and play 04405

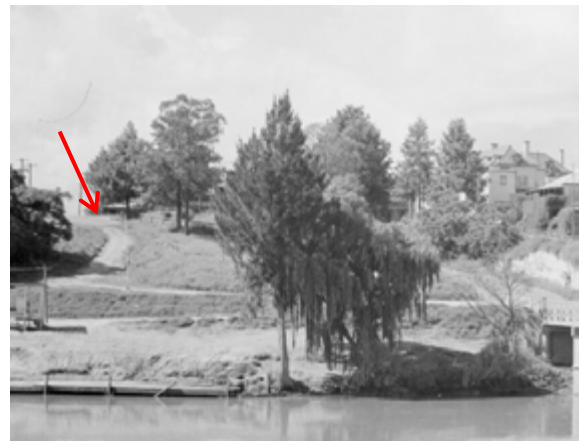


Figure 3. 97: Detail from c1935 photograph by E.W. Searle showing what is now Old Bridge Street (indicated with an arrow). Source: NLA, PIC P838\_1419 LOC Cold store SEA Box 11



Fig. 1. Connecting road Windsor. Tractor towing roller.

Figure 3. 98: 1935 photograph of Old Bridge Street being realigned following the construction of the Bridge Street extension leading to the bridge. Source: Main Roads Journal May 1935 Vol XII No 1



Figure 3. 99: View looking northwards down Old Bridge Street (on the right) and Bridge Street (on the left).



Figure 3. 100: View from Old Bridge Street looking west to the upper reserve of Thompson Square.



Figure 3. 101: View looking southwards up Old Bridge Street with the fenced in lower reserve of Thompson Square on the right.



Figure 3. 102: View looking northward down Old Bridge Street to the Hawkesbury River.



### 3.9.4 Intersection between George Street and Bridge Street

Defined by a round-about, brick paved with sandstone kerbing and concrete apron. This feature appears to be a recent addition (post 1979) to the TSCA, not being visible in the historic aerial photograph of 1979 (see Figure 2.85), but it is visible in the 1991 aerial photograph (see Figure 2.86).



Figure 3. 103: George Street and Bridge Street intersection with George Street in the background.



Figure 3. 104: George Street and Bridge Street intersection with Bridge Street in the background.

### 3.9.5 Thompson Square

The street known as Thompson Square (previously known as Callaghan Street)<sup>83</sup> is a one-way road leading from George Street northwest toward The Terrace and defines the western boundary of the north open space of Thompson Square. The street continues westward below the Doctors House, Nos. 1-3 Thompson Square at its northern end to connect with The Terrace.

The alignment of the road was established in c.1815 with the granting of land to Richard Fitzgerald by Governor Macquarie for the building of the Macquarie Arms Hotel and the hotel building (constructed in 1815), remains a prominent feature of the TSCA at the intersection of George Street and Thompson Square.

It is assumed however that, as with Bridge Street, tracks and paths had already been established in the same vicinity prior to 1815, given that buildings to the west and south of Thompson Square had already been constructed by the late 1790s and early 1800s (as seen G. Evans's 1809 painting). Certainly, the 1842 plan of Windsor by Armstrong shows an established road or track leading from George Street in front of the Macquarie Arms Hotel and cutting across Thompson Square to the punt landing on the river foreshore (see Figure 3.105).

<sup>83</sup> Notice: "Naming or Altering Names of Roads"; *Government Gazette of the State of NSW*, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 196, Issue No. 64, p. 2006



Figure 3. 105: Detail from 1842 Armstrong survey showing the early link from George Street down Thompson Square to the punt (indicated with an arrow). Source: NLA Map F 187



Figure 3. 106: c1819 wall on the eastern boundary of the Macquarie Arms Hotel.

An important feature of Thompson Square, the street and the landscape area, is the 1819 brick wall that defines the eastern boundary of the Macquarie Arms Hotel site. Although located on private land, it is a distinctive and rare colonial feature of the TSCA and one that delineates the western edge of the public space of Thompson Square (see Figure 3.103). It also displays a small plaque noting the height of the 1867 flood (see Figure 3.147).

This street is early 19<sup>th</sup> century in character given the date of the buildings fronting the western side of the street (dating from 1815 through to the 1840s) and predominantly residential in nature. Tree lined and benefiting from the trees located in open space of Thompson Square adjacent, the street has been brick paved in order to unify the street with the adjacent landscaped area, resulting in a softer transition between the edge of the open space and the built areas on its boundary.



Figure 3. 107: View looking north down Thompson Square showing grassed verge and brick paved pathways.



Figure 3. 108: View looking south up Thompson Square showing brick paving of the roadway.

### 3.9.6 Road Edgings and Footpaths

The Thompson Square urban precinct presents with a range of road edgings and footpaths, some of which currently help to define the open space areas (refer to Figures 3.117 to 3.120).

Along the northern edge of George Street sandstone kerbs are used with a three-course sandstone gutter across the Macquarie Arms Hotel frontage as well as along the entire western edge of Thompson Square, to the southern edge of the upper reserve, along the southern side of George Street to Baker Street and from 60 George Street and about the garage of 10 Bridge Street east to Arndell Street.

The western side of Bridge Street - from George Street to the bridge - retains its semi-rural landscape character in having a kerbless road edge though the eastern side of the lower reserve and the road island to the south of it are edged with a sandstone kerb. Recent road alignment definition at the southwest corner of George Street and Bridge Street has used sandstone kerbing as edges. Elsewhere, concrete kerbs are used apart from the western edge of the upper reserve where a wide brick spoon drain is used.

Footpath materials are equally varied with brick paving being used along George Street from the corner of Baker Street, along most of the Thompson Square (street address), along the southern end of the upper reserve, around 10 Bridge Street and in front of 62-72 George Street. Concrete paving is used for the footpath around the School of Arts building and down the southern arm of Bridge Street while a bitumen path is used from 82 George Street to Baker Street. As if to highlight its historical importance within Windsor and the earliest surviving building of Thompson Square, a section of sandstone flagging is used along the eastern frontage of the Macquarie Arms Hotel.

Similarly, it seems the importance of Thompson Square within the Windsor town plan has been duly acknowledged through the employment of special edges and pavements in sandstone and brick within the general precinct.



Figure 3. 109: The brick paved footpath with sandstone kerb along the southern side of George Street from No. 62 George Street to No. 74 George Street



Figure 3. 110: The bitumen footpath with sandstone kerb along the southern side of George Street from No. 80 George Street and continuing westwards to Baker Street.





Figure 3. 111: The unformed footpath along the eastern side of Old Bridge Street with grassed verge and sandstone kerbing.



Figure 3. 112: The traditional concrete footpath, kerb and guttering and verge treatment found along the southern end of Bridge Street.



Figure 3. 113: "Goat track" at the southeast corner of the Upper Reserve adjacent to the silky oak.



Figure 3. 114: Detail of sandstone kerb and edging with brick footpath paving at the junction of George Street and Thompson Square.



Figure 3. 115: Sandstone paved platform located on the eastern side of the Macquarie Arms Hotel.



Figure 3. 116: View of brick paved footpath, road and driveways with sandstone kerb and guttering to the street known as Thompson Square.



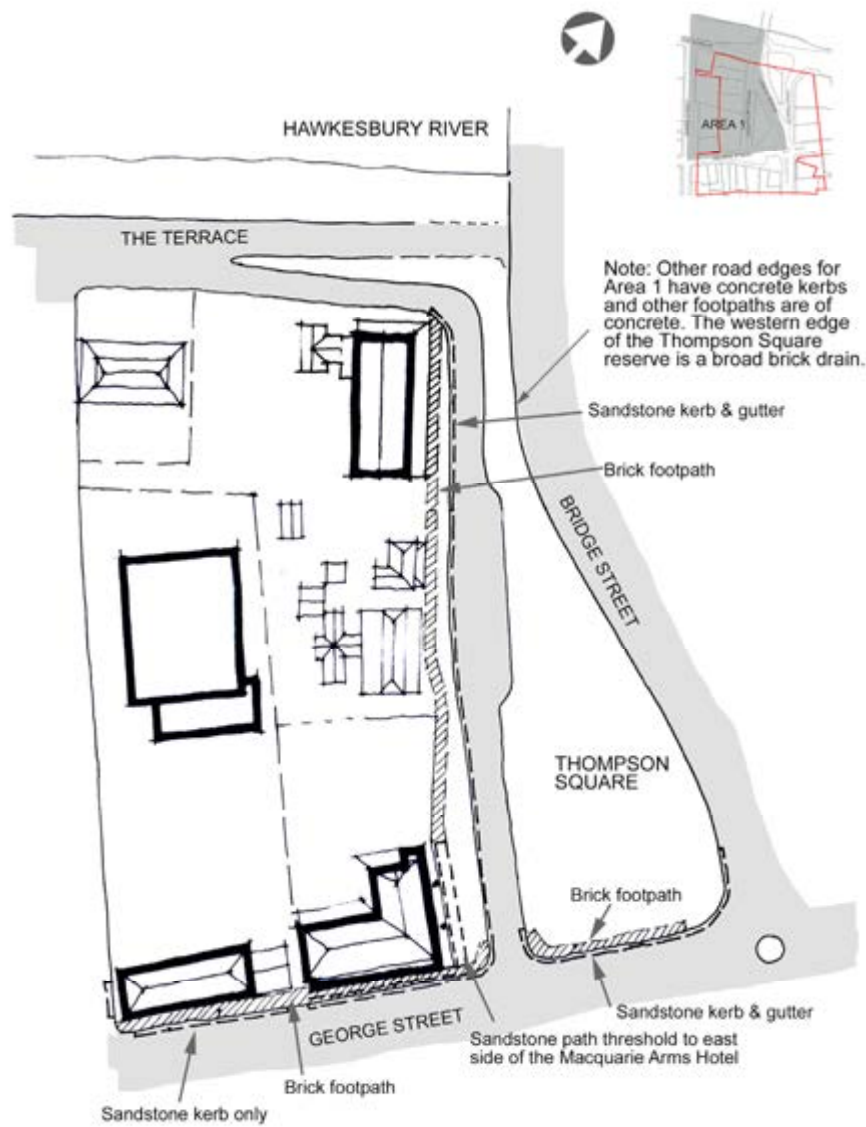


Figure 3. 117: Area 1 (north-west section of the TSCA) Edges & Paths (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018

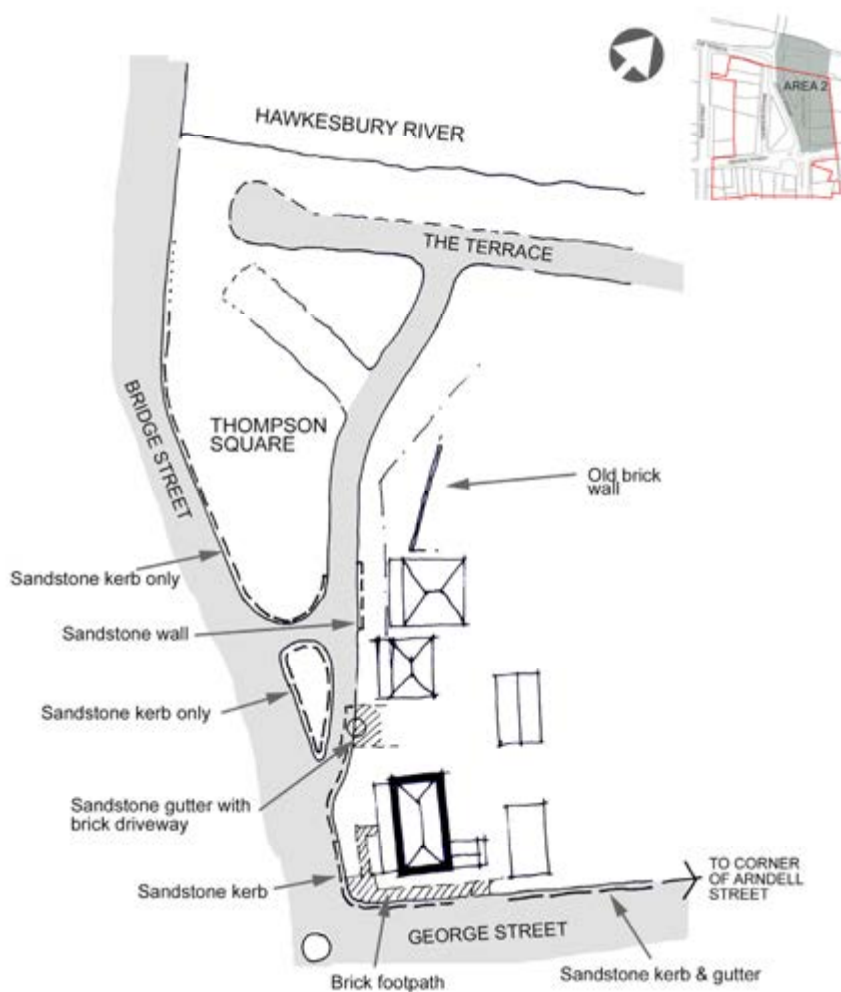


Figure 3.118: Area 1 (north-east section of the TSCA) Edges & Paths (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018

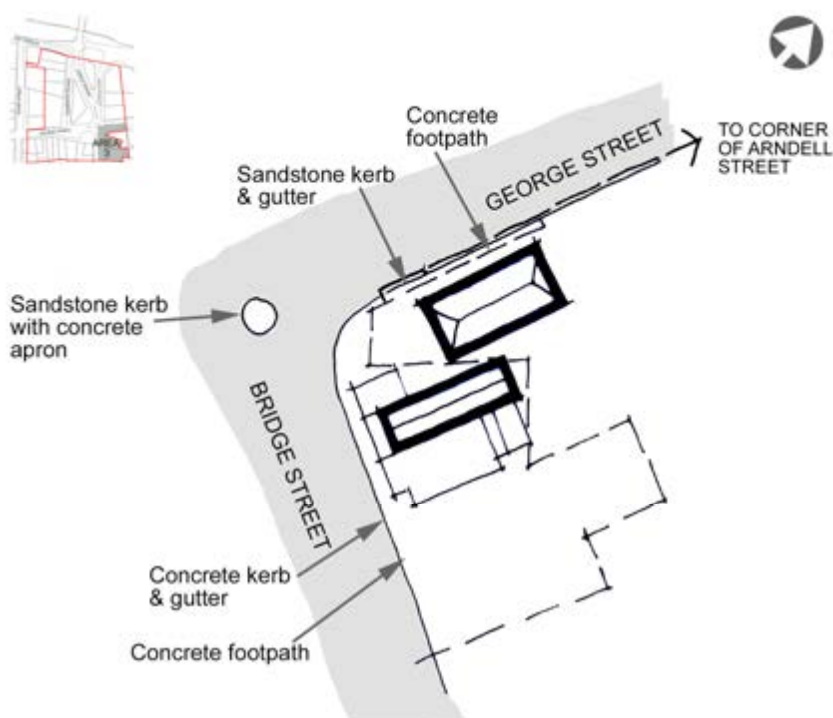


Figure 3.119: Area 3 (south-east section of the TSCA) Edges & Paths (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018

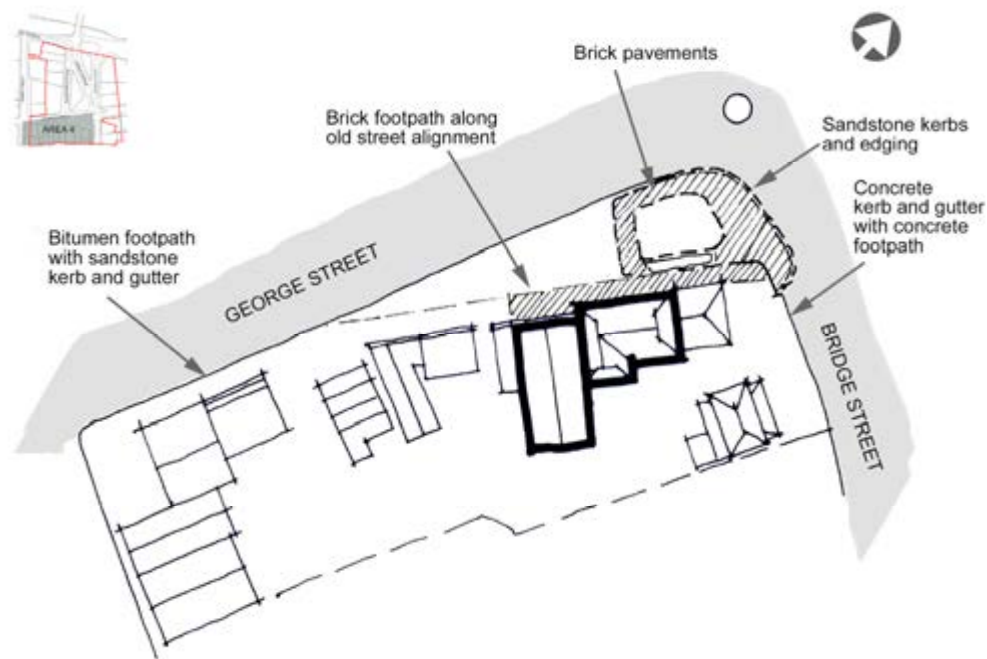


Figure 3. 120: Area 4 (south-west section of the TSCA) Edges & Paths (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018

### 3.9.7 Key Characteristics of the Roads and Streets

Based on the visual inspection of the roads and street within the TSCA, the following key characteristics have been identified:

- Simple treatment with a limited palette of materials: brick, sandstone and bitumen.
- Minimal use of concrete for kerbs and guttering.
- Grassed verges to residential streets.
- Absence of formed footpaths through the Upper and Lower Reserve and along Old Bridge Street.
- Concrete paved footpaths indicate a change of character/location, i.e. Bridge Street and along the River bank lands.
- Absence of traffic lights, but standard traffic signs throughout.

## 3.10 Site and Landscape Features

### 3.10.1 Fencing

Very little fencing is found throughout the TSCA other than a few fences to the front gardens of the residential properties along Old Bridge Street and the street known as Thompson Square. Other fencing is located along the eastern boundary of the Upper Reserve and extending to the northern end of Thompson Square (the street), above the Bridge Street road cutting and this appears to be a remnant of 1930s fencing (see Figure 3.121). This is a robust white-painted, canted top-rail fence with a mid-rail and wire.

Other safety provisions include treated pine posts of recent construction that are located along the western edge of the Upper Reserve and along the northern edge of The Terrace in the west River bank lands.



Figure 3. 121: 1934 photograph of the eastern boundary of the Upper Reserve with white timber post and rail fencing, as seen from Bridge Street below the road cutting. Nos. 1-3 Thompson Square is seen to right of frame. Source: SLNSW, GPO d1\_01880h



Figure 3. 122: Existing white timber fencing on the eastern side of the Upper Reserve.



Figure 3. 123: Existing timber posts on the western edge of the Upper Reserve.



Figure 3. 124: Existing timber posts along The Terrace in the River bank lands.



### 3.10.2 Street Furniture

Street furniture and public facilities are located within the Upper Reserve of Thompson Square and the Commemorative Reserve on George Street. These elements are fairly typical of public parks found throughout the suburbs and regional areas of N.S.W and include water bubblers, garbage receptacles, picnic tables and benches and light poles. Each area has a slightly different character in the style of the street furniture employed.

In the Upper Reserve, street furniture has an old fashioned or “heritage” character consisting of benches and tables in timber and ornate cast iron that is Victorian in style. Benches, tables and bubblers are painted in ox blood red and are placed on brick paved or concrete platforms. Light poles within the Upper Reserve are in steel, of a small scale and also have an old fashioned appearance.

It was also noted that the existing small garbage receptacles located in the Upper Reserve were not adequate as a standard council “wheelie bin” for recycling purposes was also placed next to the bins.



Figure 3. 125: Table and benches in the Upper Reserve on brick paved platform.



Figure 3. 126: Water bubbler in the Upper Reserve of Thompson Square



Figure 3. 127: Typical garbage bin in the Upper Reserve with accompanying “wheelie bin”.



Figure 3. 128: Light pole located throughout the Upper Reserve.

Street furniture to the Commemorative Reserve is contemporary in style and form and there are two slightly different styles of tables and benches in this area, although both are in timber and metal. A small garbage receptacle is also located in this area that is similar to those found in the Upper Reserve. The light pole is actually a standard street light, providing light to the adjacent roadway of George Street.



Figure 3. 129: Timber and metal fixed tables and benches in the Commemorative Reserve.



Figure 3. 130: A slightly different style of timber and metal tables and benches in the Commemorative Reserve.



Figure 3. 131: Street light located in the Commemorative Reserve providing light to George Street.



Figure 3. 132: Garbage receptacle located in the Commemorative Reserve.

There are no public facilities such as garbage bins or benches located along the footpaths within the TSCA. However there are two timber and metal benches and a metal garbage bin (similar to those found in the Upper Reserve) located in the River bank lands to the west of Bridge Street, adjacent to the walking track along the river's edge.



Figure 3. 133: The timber bench located in the River bank lands.

### George Street (South)

Located on the southern road reserve of George Street in front of Nos. 64 to 80 George Street are a series of raised timber platforms with timber balustrading and umbrellas accommodating tables and chairs for the adjacent cafes and food outlets. The umbrellas and shade sails are considered to be intrusive as they obscure views of the street frontages of the historic buildings, restrict views from the footpaths to the surrounding conservation area and detract from the overall 19<sup>th</sup> century character of the street. Banners attached to the balcony of the A.C. Stearn building (No. 80 George Street) also obscure views of the street frontage of this building.



Figure 3. 134: The A.C. Stearn building with seating area in the road reserve and banners attached to the balcony.



Figure 3. 135: View of Nos. 64 to 72 George Street with seating areas and umbrellas located in the road reserve obscuring views of the street frontages of the building.



Figure 3. 136: View under the front balcony of No. 70 George Street with adjacent raised seating platform and umbrella.



### 3.10.3 Street Lighting

A total of four different types of street lights have been identified within the TSCA. Three of these are standard street lights and it is assumed are required for road safety. Along south Bridge Street and Old Bridge Street, street lights are attached to hardwood utility poles. No street lighting is provided within the eastern side of the River bank lands. A fourth style of light is found along the street known as Thompson Square and to the west of Bridge Street in the river bank lands. It is the same type of light pole located within the Upper Reserve and is small in scale with an old fashioned appearance, reminiscent of gas lights of the past.

In some instances, street lighting is poorly located being directly in front of significant buildings and obscuring views of these important components of the TSCA.



Figure 3. 137: Street light located along Thompson Square and to the western side of the River bank lands. This type of light is also located throughout the Upper Reserve.



Figure 3. 138: Utility pole with street lighting found along Old Bridge Street and south Bridge Street.



Figure 3. 139: Street light found along north Bridge Street leading to Windsor Bridge.



Figure 3. 140: Street light found along both sides of George Street



### 3.10.4 Services and Utilities

For the majority of the TSCA, public services and utilities (aside from Street Lighting) has, at some stage, been relocated underground. George Street, Thompson Square, The Terrace, north Bridge Street and the River bank lands are all devoid of utility poles and accompanying services. This has resulted in open views along the streets uncluttered by poles and wires and is reminiscent of an earlier time before the introduction of electricity. This work appears to be quite recent as the whole area had utility poles throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, at least until the 1980s.

The exception to this is south Bridge Street and Old Bridge Street which are still lined with hardwood utility poles with street lighting and services wires.



Figure 3. 141: 1930s photograph of George Street looking east showing street lighting and utilities. Source: SLNSW, GPO 1 - 32538



Figure 3. 142: 1979 photograph of Nos. 70 to 68 George Street with street lighting and utilities. Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library, 004606



Figure 3. 143: George Street today looking east from Baker Street with an absence of utility poles.



Figure 3. 144: The street known as Thompson Square with an absence of utility poles.



Figure 3. 145: View of Old Bridge Street looking south with utility poles and street lighting.



Figure 3. 146: View of south Bridge Street looking north with utility poles and street lighting.

### 3.10.5 Memorials and Plaques

Located throughout the TSCA are a number of memorials and plaques commemorating the history of Windsor and Thompson Square. The most prominent of these is the memorial to the Hawkesbury pioneers located at the southern end of the upper reserve of Thompson Square, facing George Street (noted as No. 1 on the plan). See below for plan of the location of the memorials within the TSCA and Figures 3.145 to 3.150 for a description of each.

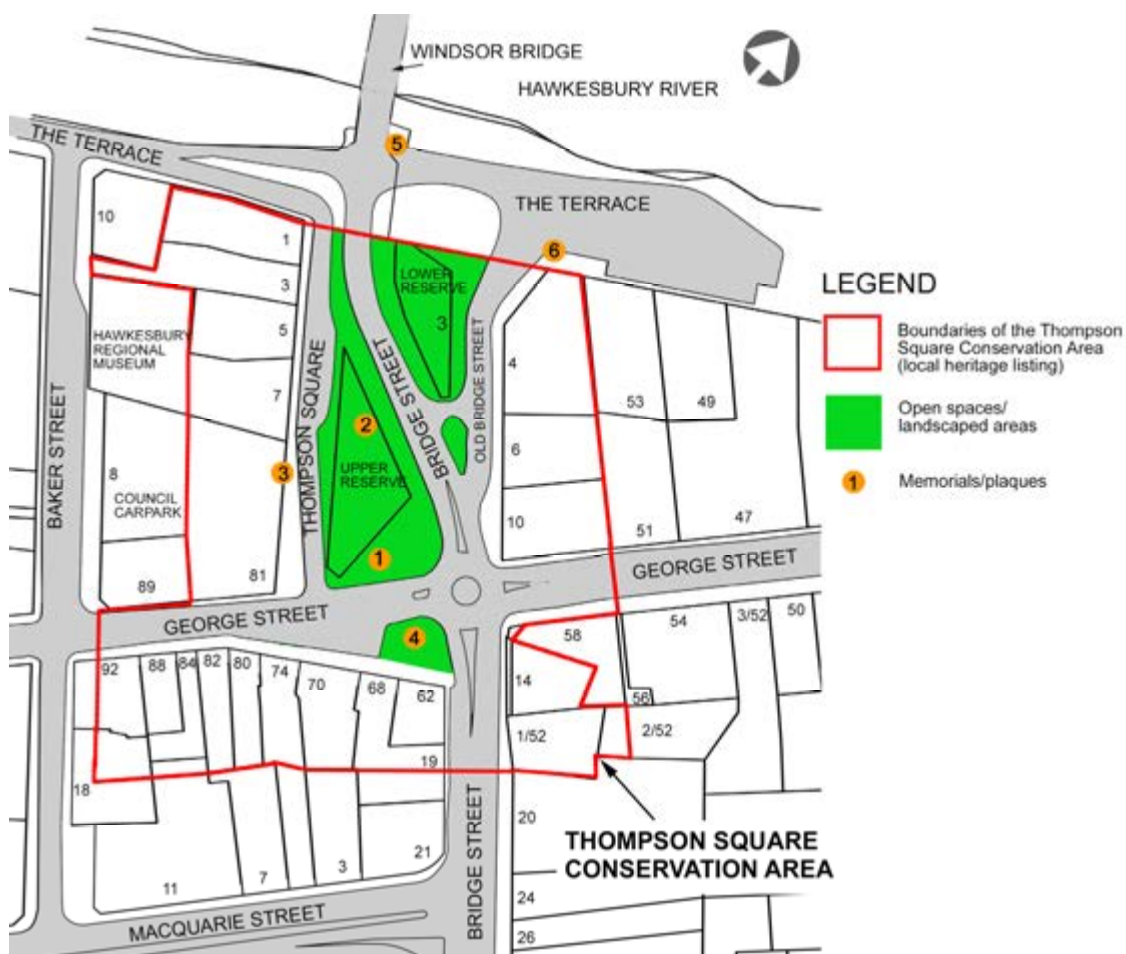


Figure 3. 147: Plan showing the location of the memorials and plaques located within the TSCA

## Memorials and Plaques



Figure 3. 148: Memorial No. 1- erected in 1988 as part of the Bicentennial celebrations dedicated to the pioneer families of the Hawkesbury and their descendants.



Figure 3. 149: Memorial No. 2- Plaque located on a rock within the upper reserve commemorating the naming of the five Macquarie towns on the Hawkesbury River. Unveiled by D. G. Bowd, OAM, (then) President of the Hawkesbury Historical Society in 1985.



Figure 3. 150: Memorial No. 3- two plaques located on the eastern face of the east boundary wall of the Macquarie Arms Hotel fronting Thompson Square. The upper plaque notes that the wall was constructed in 1819 by Richard Fitzgerald by rejected bricks from St. Matthew's Church. The lower plaque identifies the height of the flood waters in the 1867 floods.



Figure 3. 151: Memorial No. 4- plaque located at the base of the flagpole in the Commemorative Reserve relating to the Thompson Square Restoration project, a Bicentennial Commemorative project opened by (then) Premier, the Hon. N. Greiner.





Figure 3. 152: Memorial 5 located adjacent to Windsor Bridge in the east River bank lands commemorating the opening of the bridge in 1874 and erected in 1988 for the Bicentenary by the Department of Main Roads and the National Roads & Motorists Association (NRMA).



Figure 3. 153: Memorial 6- located adjacent to the carparking spaces in the east River bank lands. Unfortunately, the plaque is unreadable, but it was erected in 1995 for the opening of tourist facilities by the (then) Federal member for Macquarie, Maggie Deahm, MP.

### 3.10.6 Key Characteristics of Public Domain Features

- Street furniture concentrated in the Upper Reserve;
- Predominant use of timber and old fashioned designs and colours;
- Notable absence of utilities throughout the western half of the TSCA (services underground);
- Absence of public domain features (e.g. seating and garbage bins) located within road reserves and footpaths;
- Majority of memorials are subtle in design and small, visually non-intrusive;
- Use of hardwood utility poles rather than concrete or steel poles, appropriate to the rural character of the locality;
- Minimal street lighting.



## 3.11 The Buildings

The publication *Historic Buildings Windsor and Richmond*, produced by the Statement Planning Authority of NSW, 1967 provides the following discussion of the built environment of Windsor:

*“Because the development of Windsor slackened off, many of its early building can still be found there, some shabby and badly treated, other blossoming again after careful restoration. As a town with strong echoes of its colonial days, with few equals in Australia, it is important these tangible evidences of the past be retained in future years when greater pressures for change will be exerted on this pioneering district by the growing proximity and influence of the great metropolitan areas of Sydney.”<sup>84</sup>*

The situation described above has changed little over the decades, where the built environment of the TSCA is comprised of a majority of 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings evoking a strong colonial character to the locality. The following plan provides an overview of the age of the principal buildings within the boundaries of the TSCA.

A brief description of each building is provided below, including an analysis of restoration and reconstruction works undertaken in the late 1970s and early 1980s for the Thompson Square Restoration project, a Bicentennial Commemorative project.

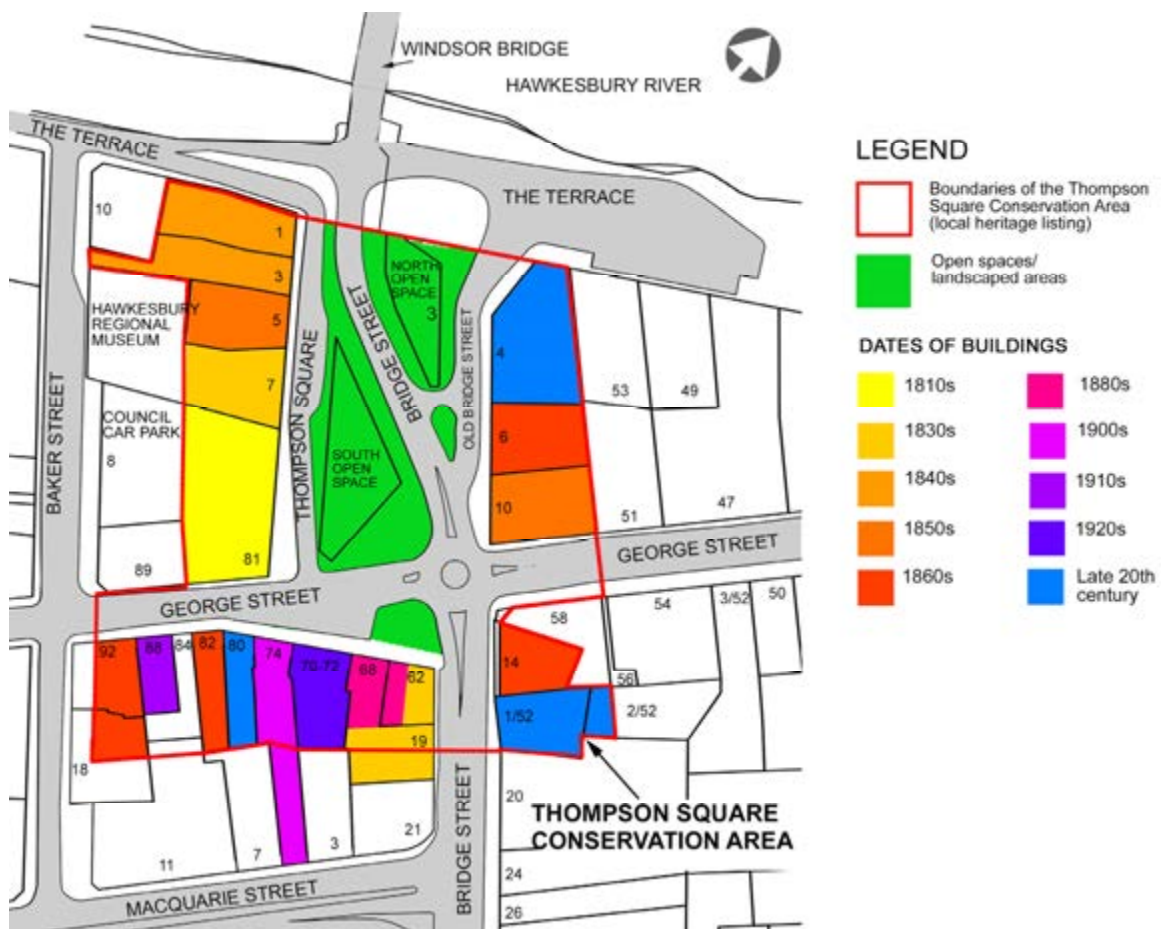


Figure 3.154: Site plan showing the dates of the buildings within the boundaries of the TSCA

<sup>84</sup> State Planning Authority of NSW, 1967; *Historic Buildings Windsor and Richmond*, p. 4

### 3.11.1 Thompson Square

#### No. 1-3 Thompson Square- The Doctor's House/The Terrace

A two-storey brick pair of houses with a sandstone basement and a slate roof containing attic rooms. A cantilevered balcony with a cast iron balustrade wraps around two sides. From photographic evidence, the balcony was roofed between 1879 and 1888. The balcony has unusual boxed enclosures at eaves level, possibly containing structural ties.

The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond and the joinery is intact, including much of the rear elevation. Windows have six-pane sashes and the windows to the northern half of the building (No. 1 Thompson Square) has shutters, while the southern half does not.

French windows have margin bars and the two original front doors have freestanding columns and elliptical fanlights.



Figure 3. 155: W. H. Wilson's 1912 sketch of the Doctor's House. Source: NLA/ PIC R608 LOC1421

The building dates from 1844 and was used as a post office from 1851 to 1855.<sup>85</sup> It was drawn by William Hardy Wilson in 1912, who also did a measured drawing of one of the front doors. It was measured and drawn by architect Allan G Robertson during the 1930s. In the 1950s a service wing was added by architect Morton Herman and the southern house was converted into flats with the addition of a door in the middle aperture of the front elevation.

The Doctor's House strongly defines the north-western corner of Thompson Square and makes a major contribution to the place's architecture character by virtue of its built quality and intactness.



Figure 3. 156: The Doctor's House, 1-3 Thompson Square



Figure 3. 157: The Doctor's House in 1975. Source: LSJP archives

<sup>85</sup> D.G. Bowd, *Macquarie Country – a history of the Hawkesbury*, (not referenced).

### No. 5 Thompson Square

This modest brick cottage with a hipped roof of slate was built in the early 1850s by John Cunningham. It has a rendered plinth, stone flagged verandah with timber balustrade and adjoining picket fence. It was acquired by the State Planning Authority and restored by Fisher Lucas Architects in the 1970s, including the fence between it and the Doctor's House.<sup>86</sup> The front façade is painted brick laid in Flemish bond. The joinery appears to be original: a four-panel front door with fanlight and windows with six-pane sashes.

There is a marker stone to the left of the cottage, possibly salvaged from elsewhere in the square. There used to be more of these stones in the square. One was positioned in the grassed verge outside the Macquarie Arms Hotel. Others further north in the square are noted on survey plans from at least the 1890s (see Figure 2.48).

This cottage makes a valuable contribution to the colonial character of Thompson Square as part of the important line of early buildings bordering its western side.



Figure 3. 158: No. 5 Thompson Square



Figure 3. 159: No. 5 Thompson Square in 1979.  
Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library, 004492

### No. 7 Thompson Square- Howe's House/Coffey's Inn

The former Howe's House/Coffey's Inn now forms part of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum.

A Georgian two-storey brick house five bays wide with a corrugated roof, Victorian balcony and window sashes. Early photographs show it had a ground floor verandah like the Macquarie Arms next door. Two of the first floor windows were converted into doors when the balcony was added. Walls are rendered and have stone arches and sills. The ground floor verandah floor has been replaced in concrete but the six-panel front door and fine fanlight survive.

An early settler and associate of Andrew Thompson, John Howe, built the house and advertised it for sale in 1837.<sup>87</sup> It retains some of its Georgian detailing, lines up with the Doctor's House and No.5 Thompson Square and is a historically important and attractive component of the streetscape that defines the western side of the square.

On the same allotment located to the rear, facing Baker Street, is the recent Hawkesbury Regional Museum building. A brick paved pathway running along the northern boundary of the Macquarie Arms Hotel leads from Thompson Square to this new facility.

<sup>86</sup> Fisher Lucas Architects, Thompson Square Windsor, A Concept Plan for Future Development, 1975.

<sup>87</sup> Biosis, p.78





Figure 3. 160: Hawkesbury Regional Museum/Coffey's Inn/Howe's House, 7 Thompson Square



Figure 3. 161: No. 5 Thompson Square in 1979. Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library, 004492



Figure 3. 162: Hawkesbury Regional Museum fronting Baker Street behind No. 7 Thompson Square.



Figure 3. 163: The pedestrian pathway leading to the rear of No. 7 Thompson Square and the new museum building.

### 3.11.2 George Street (South side)

#### No. 81 George Street- Macquarie Arms Hotel

A two-storey Georgian colonial inn with two frontages: one to George Street and one to Thompson Square.

Originally constructed in 1815, with later additions during the 1830s and early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the Macquarie Arms Hotel is the oldest surviving building in the Thompson Square Conservation Area and a key building in the historic development of the locality.

Located on an original land grant made to Richard Fitzgerald in c.1811 by Governor Macquarie, the public house was constructed by Fitzgerald at the direct request of Macquarie. An early painting shows it to have originally had face brick walls. The rendered finish may have been added some years later along with the ground floor verandah and corner box rooms. Its colonial appearance is somewhat spoilt by the first floor verandah and unsympathetic dormer windows but the quality of its original joinery, including two front doors and staircases, is outstanding.

The Norfolk Island pines are important visual markers for both the hotel and the broader conservation area. The tall brick boundary wall built in 1819 from bricks rejected from St Matthew's Church has a marker showing the level of the 1867 flood (see Figure 3.150 above).





Figure 3. 164: George Street frontage of the Macquarie Arms Hotel



Figure 3. 165: Earliest known photograph of the Macquarie Arms Hotel showing both the George Street and Thompson Square frontages, before the addition of the first floor verandahs. Source: Hawkesbury Library Local History Section

### No. 89 George Street – Fitzgerald House



Figure 3. 166: Fitzgerald House at the corner of George Street and Baker Street, with public carpark behind.



Figure 3. 167: Image of Fitzgerald's cottage adjacent to the Macquarie Arms Hotel. Source: Article: "A Macquarie Pilgrimage: Windsor and its Relics", *Sydney Mail* Wednesday 12 November 1919 p. 13

Whilst this property is not located within the boundaries of the TSCA, it has important historic associations with the Macquarie Arms Hotel, being part of the original grant of land made by Governor Macquarie to Richard Fitzgerald in 1811 and Richard Fitzgerald's original cottage with stables and outbuildings were once located on the site.

The existing building is a three-storey brick commercial building c1980s neo-colonial style. The upper floor faces the rear leaving the street frontage with a high 'forehead' not unlike the appearance of Macquarie Arms before the addition of its upper verandah. While its joinery and detailing detract somewhat from the streetscape, its overall scale and proportions are generally compatible with the conservation area. To the rear is an open public carpark, accessed from George Street (via the driveway through on the eastern side of the hotel) and Baker Street. The absence of structures in this area allows for views to the rear elevations and roof forms of the Macquarie Arms Hotel.

### 3.11.3 George Street (North side)

#### No. 92-94 George Street

A rendered two-storey commercial building with a corrugated roof, rendered chimneys with slate pots and a reconstructed two-storey verandah. The building appears to date from the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century but the joinery in the front and side elevations is from the mid- or late-20<sup>th</sup> century. Photographic evidence from 1979 shows that the first floor has been completely reconstructed and that the roof was previously tiled or slated. Enough remains of the form and exterior detailing (e.g. chimneys, fenestration pattern) to make the main building worthy of retention as part of the Conservation Area.



Figure 3. 168: No. 92 George Street



Figure 3. 169: No. 92 George Street in 1979 prior to the reconstruction of the front balcony. Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library, 004608

The allotment also contains a mix of later addition buildings including a single storey building set behind the main building which appears to be of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century origin but it has also been reconfigured to evoke an earlier period. There is also evidence of an earlier building located on the site that has been enveloped by the other buildings on the site, although its roof form and chimneys are visible from Baker Street. Further research is required to establish the history of this building and its intactness.



Figure 3. 170: The single storey garage adjoining No. 92 George Street. The roof and chimney of another (older) building on the site is also visible behind the main building (indicated with an arrow).

### No. 88 George Street

A two-storey parapeted commercial building c.1910. The first floor is of polychrome brick and render with bay windows and is intact. The ground floor has reproduction shopfront and front door joinery. The cantilevered awning is a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century replacement of the original lean-to awning which had columns. The building is of a scale compatible with George Street, the first floor adds interest and overall it contributes to the streetscape although it is marred by the unsympathetic awning and advertising.



Figure 3. 171: No. 88 George Street



Figure 3. 172: Detail from 1916 photograph looking east down George Street. No. 88 George Street is indicated with an arrow. Source: LSJP archives

### No. 82 George Street

This single storey brick parapeted building has a corrugated steel roof, a reconstructed verandah awning and reconstructed shutters. The building is thought to date from the 1860s. It was restored in the 1980s by Clive Lucas.

Brickwork in the front wall is laid in English bond, while the side wall is Flemish bond. There are stone sills and a stone plinth. The front door is not considered to belong to this building. Windows may have original frames and later sashes. To the rear is a detached dilapidated weatherboard outhouse.

Thanks to its intact envelope and reconstructed front verandah unobstructed by commercial advertising, this building makes an important contribution to this part of the south side of George Street. It deserves to be preserved.



Figure 3. 173: No. 82 George Street



Figure 3. 174: No. 82 George Street in 1979 prior to restoration. Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library, 004607



### No. 80 George Street- The Bridge Café

This painted brick single-storey commercial building is a relatively recent infill development with a simple parapet and lean-to verandah facing the street. It is sympathetic to the character of the Thompson Square Conservation Area but is somewhat spoilt by a dilapidated umbrella structure added to the edge of the verandah.



Figure 3. 175: No. 80 George Street

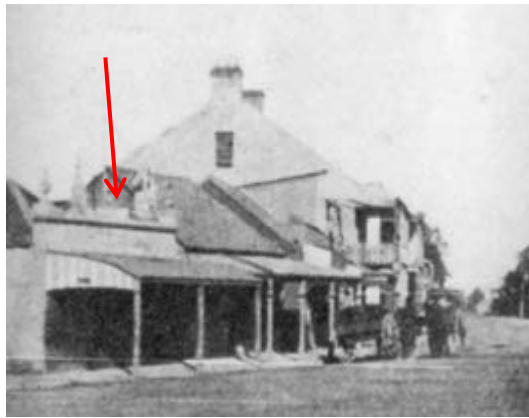


Figure 3. 176: 1890s photograph looking east down George Street showing an earlier building (indicated with an arrow) on the site at No. 80 George Street.

### No. 74 George Street- A. C. Stearn building

Originally single storey with a steep hipped roof behind a parapet with curved awning facing the street, this building was extended to two storeys in 1907. Currently the building functions as Windsor Seafoods. The earlier urns and lion on the parapet were salvaged and reused at that time. The two-storey timber and cast-iron verandah and first floor joinery were reconstructed in the 1980s by Clive Lucas.

There is a large permanent umbrella structure affixed to the ground floor verandah which obscures the shop front from the street and detracts from the otherwise valuable contribution this building makes to the Conservation Area.



Figure 3. 177: The A.C. Stearn building



Figure 3. 178: A.C. Stearn building in 1979 before reconstruction works. Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library, 004606



### No. 70-72 George Street

This single storey commercial building was once a service station. It has a rendered parapet with a dado of blue glazed tiles and cantilevered lean-to awnings designed in a neo-Federation style somewhat at odds with the 1923 date of the building.

The façade is of a sympathetic scale and colour with the Conservation Area and the building adds to the variety and interest of the streetscape. The three, free-standing, fixed umbrella structures in front detract from the building.



Figure 3. 179: No. 70-72 George Street



Figure 3. 180: Hawkesbury Motor Garage in the 1920s.  
Source: Hawkesbury Library/ 000705

### No. 68 George Street - Hawkesbury Stores

This two-storey rendered building has a hipped roof with louvred gables and appears to have originally been a three bay building of the Victorian period (early 1880s) that was extended to the east with another bay (No. 64 George Street) in the late Victorian period (c1887). This work incorporated the western half of the adjacent single storey cottage at No. 62 George Street<sup>88</sup> and internally the building may contain vestiges of this earlier building.

The two-storey verandah, first floor French windows and shop fronts of both buildings are all reconstructions carried out in the 1980s by Clive Lucas. A difference in the colour scheme and detailing of the reconstruction distinguishes the two sections.

The building makes a valuable contribution to the southern side of Thompson Square but the rear carpark and unattractive enclosed verandah are visible from Bridge Street.



Figure 3. 181: No. 64-68 George Street, street frontage



Figure 3. 182: Rear elevation of No. 64-68 George Street

<sup>88</sup> Town Improvements: *Hawkesbury Chronicle and Farmers Advocate*, 16<sup>th</sup> October 1886, p. 2



Figure 3. 183: Nos. 62 (left) and 64-68 George Street in 1979 before restoration. Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library, 004489

### No. 62 George Street – Accountants Office

As seen in the early plans of Windsor, a building appears on this site for the first time in 1835.<sup>89</sup> This cottage, believed to have been built in c1830, is a remnant of that building which is assumed to have been a terrace containing two or more dwellings. It has rendered walls, a corrugated iron hipped roof and curved verandah with a stone flagged floor. Early six-pane window sashes survive but there is a Victorian overlay of cast iron balustrading and columns to the verandah and a four-panel front door. The verandah wraps around the eastern side, terminating at an enclosure on the south side behind a round-topped paling fence on the Bridge Street boundary. Together with the Macquarie Arms opposite, this cottage is a key component of the Conservation Area and reinforces the colonial character of the south side of Thompson Square.



Figure 3. 184: No. 62 George Street, street frontage



Figure 3. 185: No. 62 George Street as seen from Bridge Street, with No. 64-68 George Street behind.



Figure 3. 186: No. 62 George Street in 1979. Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library, 004488



Figure 3. 187: Detail from 1879 photograph showing what appears to be No. 62 George Street (indicated with an arrow) before the alterations to the eastern portion of the building and the construction of 68 George Street. Source: SLNSW, GPO SH1658

<sup>89</sup> Survey plan by Assistant Surveyor G B White, SA Map 5968

### 3.11.3 Bridge Street

#### No. 19 Bridge Street – Cottage

This Colonial Georgian cottage first appears on the c.1842 survey plan by White. It has a hipped roof with concave curved verandah awning, stone flagged verandah floor and original front door with a pair of original sash windows either side. The verandah columns and window shutters are reconstructions. There is a lean-to addition to the south. Internally it appears to retain at least one original chimneypiece.

Although it does not directly face Thompson Square, No. 19 Bridge Street adds a largely intact colonial building to the Conservation Area and is therefore an important component in the overall character of the area.



Figure 3. 188: No. 19 Bridge Street, street frontage



Figure 3. 189: Rear elevation of No. 19 Bridge Street



Figure 3. 190: No. 19 Bridge Street in 1979. Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library, 004499



Figure 3. 191: Detail from 1870s postcard showing the roof and verandah of No. 19 Bridge Street (indicated with an arrow). Source: SLNSW, ML.SPF#A745

#### No. 14 Bridge Street- School of Arts

Built in 1861, this fine Italianate hall with temple front and apsidal rear has had side wings jutting forward and a verandah or loggia added to the front in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, leaving little room between it and the heavy traffic of Bridge Street. The original hall has a rendered street façade and a slate roof. Side walls are of painted brick. The wings are similar but with skillion roofs in corrugated steel.

This building gives the Conservation Area added architectural quality and civic status. Advertising, road signs and a power pole clutter detract somewhat from its appearance.





Figure 3. 192: The School of Arts building, 14 Bridge Street



Figure 3. 193: The School of Arts building in 1979. Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library/004496



Figure 3. 194: The apsidal rear of the School of Arts building in 1979. Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library/004497



Figure 3. 195: The original School of Arts building in the 1870s. Source: Hawkesbury Library/000507 45-24

### No. 1/52 George Street (fronting Bridge Street)

Included within the boundaries of the TSCA, the property at No.1/52 George Street is a single dwelling that forms part of a housing estate (“Macquarie Estate”) that appears to have been constructed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and does not contribute to the historic significance of the locality. Hidden behind a high solid wall with hedging, the property also makes no contribution to the aesthetic significance of the conservation area, although as it is not easily seen, it is not considered to be detracting. A portion of the allotment of No. 2/52 George Street is also located within the boundaries of the TSCA, however it is not seen from adjacent public spaces.



Figure 3. 196: No.1/52 George Street is located behind the masonry wall and hedging to the south of the School of Arts building as seen from Bridge Street



Figure 3. 197: View of No. 1/52 George Street. Source: GoogleMaps Streetview, 2018



### No. 10 Bridge Street- Lilburn Hall

The two storey rendered house at 10 Bridge Street known as Lilburn Hall is believed to have been built in the late 1850s for Doctor Joshua Howe. By 1923, it was a private hospital. Although mid-Victorian in date, it is of an old fashioned Regency style with a simple parapet front, French windows with margin bars and light balcony ironwork. The ground floor verandah is stone flagged and is supported on flat timber pillars. It has a hipped corrugated iron roof. The exterior is remarkably intact, including joinery.

In combination with the adjacent School of Arts building, the house makes a major contribution to the historic character of the conservation area.



Figure 3. 198: No. 10 Bridge Street, street frontage.



Figure 3. 199: No. 10 Bridge Street, George Street frontage



Figure 3. 200: No. 10 George Street in 1979 before restoration. Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library, 004495



Figure 3. 201: Undated photograph of No. 10 Bridge Street. Source: Charles Kerry Postcard series, Hawkesbury Library, 003/003016

## 3.11.4 Old Bridge Street

### No. 6 Old Bridge Street

The brick cottage at no. 6 Bridge Street, dates from the 1860s but it is of an earlier vernacular Georgian appearance. It has a hipped corrugated iron roof, two painted brick chimneys and hipped roofed verandah with timber balustrade, separated from the street only by a rendered planting box. The brick walls are painted although the front wall has been mainly stripped. The plinth, sills and lintels are all sandstone. It has two sash windows either side of the central front door and the joinery appears to be early and intact. The original cottage has two rear wings and a detached building containing garages and dormer windows but the latter is screened from the street by vegetation.

Today the cottage is partially hidden behind a screen of Crepe Myrtle street trees but still makes a valuable contribution to the definition of Thompson Square's eastern side and its prevailing colonial character.



Figure 3. 202: No. 6 Old Bridge Street



Figure 3. 203: Front door to No. 6 Old Bridge Street



Figure 3. 204: No. 6 Old Bridge Street in 1979 before restoration. Source: Photo by M Chadwick, Hawkesbury Library, 004466



Figure 3. 205: View of rear outbuilding/garage to No. 6 Old Bridge Street

### No. 4 Old Bridge Street

Built on a portion of Andrew Thompson's original 1 acre allotment of land which contained his garden until c1840s. The land remained un-development until the construction of the current house in 1955. The single storey house is of a scale sympathetic with the Conservation Area. Its garden contains a dilapidated brick wall which is thought to be a remnant of Thompson's garden boundary wall.



Figure 3. 206: No. 4 Old Bridge Street



Figure 3. 207: Brick wall located within the north garden area of No. 4 Old Bridge Street.

### 3.11.5 Key Characteristics of the Buildings

<i>Residential Buildings</i>	<i>Commercial Buildings</i>
<b>Built Form and Siting</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single or 2 storeys in height maximum.</li> <li>• Minimal setbacks- no front gardens or minimal front garden (max 1-2 metres in depth), front verandahs define the front boundary line.</li> <li>• Simple colonial cottage forms, no bay windows or similar projections with front verandahs</li> <li>• All houses have unenclosed front verandahs.</li> <li>• Outbuildings, including garages, car parking detached and located behind the main building (in rear yards), glimpse views only down driveways from the public domain.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum scale of 2 storeys in height</li> <li>• Built to front boundary.</li> <li>• Front verandahs projecting over public footpaths with timber posts and cast iron or timber balustrades.</li> <li>• Outbuildings and additions below ridge line of main building</li> </ul>
<b>Setting</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Front fences timber picket or timber post and rail with wire mesh (min. 1000mm high)</li> <li>• Driveways brick paved or bitumen, blending with adjacent road surfaces</li> <li>• Gates and fences to driveways set back behind front building line.</li> <li>• Side fences timber paling (max. 1.8m high)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open driveways of bitumen located beside or behind main buildings leading to concrete paved or bitumen open carparking areas</li> <li>• Views down driveways to rear outbuildings, fences and landscaping</li> <li>• No garages or car parking provisions in driveways or visible from main street</li> </ul>
<b>Roofs</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hipped or gabled roofs with at least 35° pitch.</li> <li>• Corrugated galvanized steel or slate roofs to main buildings and front verandahs.</li> <li>• Visually prominent chimneys.</li> <li>• Absence of dormer windows and skylights</li> <li>• Absence of aerials etc. and other visual clutter to roof scape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hipped or gabled roofs, many behind front parapets</li> <li>• Corrugated metal roofs to main buildings and front verandahs</li> <li>• Visually prominent chimneys.</li> <li>• Absence of dormer windows and skylights (the exception being the Macquarie Arms Hotel)</li> <li>• Absence of aerials etc. and other visual clutter to roof scape.</li> </ul>
<b>Walls</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unpainted and painted face brick or rendered masonry.</li> <li>• Vertically proportioned door and window apertures, symmetrically arranged.</li> <li>• Sandstone sills, plinths and some lintels/ arches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unpainted and painted face brick or rendered masonry.</li> <li>• Door and window apertures mainly vertically proportioned or square and symmetrically arranged.</li> <li>• Use of string courses, mouldings, changes of materials to break up large expanses of</li> </ul>

<b>Residential Buildings</b>	<b>Commercial Buildings</b>
	walling. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandstone or rendered sills, plinths and some lintels/ arches.</li> <li>• Signs on parapets and front and side faces of verandah awnings</li> </ul>
<b>Joinery</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional timber doors and windows</li> <li>• Traditional colour schemes</li> <li>• Timber shutters</li> <li>• Multi-paned windows to windows in front elevations</li> <li>• Front doors with fanlights to residential buildings</li> <li>• Georgian and Victorian characteristics and detailing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional timber door and window framing</li> <li>• Traditional colour schemes</li> <li>• Double fronted shop fronts with plate glass windows and central front door</li> <li>• Victorian and Edwardian characteristics and detailing including reconstructed front balconies.</li> </ul>



## 4 Analysis of the Evidence

The Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter* (see Appendix 1) defines cultural significance as *aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations*. Cultural significance is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings*, records, *related places* and *related objects*. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups. (*Burra Charter*, Article 1.2).

James Semple Kerr's *The Conservation Plan* (2013) notes that the purpose of assessing cultural significance is "to help identify and assess the attributes which make a place of value to us and to our society . . . Once the significance of a place is understood, informed policy decisions can be made which will enable that significance to be retained, revealed or, at least, impaired as little as possible."<sup>1</sup> According to Kerr, a coordinated analysis may be presented in a variety of forms, but it should establish an understanding of the following:

- The past development and use of the place (including its content and setting), particularly in relation to its surviving fabric (refer to Sections 2 and 3);
- The reasons for and context of [any proposed] changes, including requirements of owners and users (refer to Section 6);
- Comparison with contemporary developments and similar types of plans (see Section 4.5: Comparative Analysis);
- Any other aspect, quality or association which will form a useful basis for the assessment of significance.<sup>2</sup>

The assessment of the significance of a place requires an evaluation of the fabric, uses, associations and meanings relating to the place, from which a detailed statement of significance can be formulated (Section 5).

The following section analyses the documentary and physical evidence detailed in the previous sections to gain a fuller understanding of the heritage values of the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

### 4.1 Archaeological Values of the Place

#### 4.1.1 Aboriginal Archaeological Values

Our understanding of the longevity and complexity of prehistoric Aboriginal occupation of Windsor has increased significantly since 2012 through archaeological investigations undertaken for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project.

The possible antiquity of the archaeology, and some parameters for the composition and probable sequence of change in the archaeological record had previously been foreshadowed by investigations at Windsor Museum and Pitt Town. In combination this information contributes significantly to the

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<sup>1</sup> Kerr, 2013 *The Conservation Plan*, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Kerr, 2013 *The Conservation Plan*, p. 9.

ongoing development of existing regional prehistoric archaeological frameworks that have been established for decades but continuously change as new finds come to light via Aboriginal archaeological and historical research in the Sydney Basin.

On the back of this pre-existing archaeological knowledge base, and in particular on the basis of the results of the WBRP test excavations undertaken within Thompson Square itself, it is possible to predict with some accuracy what type and range of Aboriginal archaeology is likely to be contained within the Square and also the likely significance of these archaeological resources. Key results of this work along with some points for consideration are summarised below to guide future management of the Thompson Square Aboriginal archaeological resources.

Thompson Square contains two principal Aboriginal archaeological landscapes with soil and sand profiles that contain Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits. These comprise a ridgeline and the remnants of a source-bordering dune. The ridgeline contains patches of artefact concentrations but overall the soils are shallow and have often been truncated. This reduces the stratigraphic information that can be obtained from these deposits which are of moderate-low significance. The dune contains significant archaeological deposits that are suggestive of prolonged occupation for over 20,000 years and the Thompson Square dune deposit is likely to be a continuation of that excavated at Windsor Museum that previously identified Aboriginal occupation at that site to span the period c33,000 BP to 8,000 BP.

The archaeological evidence from Windsor (and Pitt Town) indicates Aboriginal people were using the Hawkesbury River corridor at least 20,000 years ago and possibly by ~30-35,000 BP and this represents some of the earliest archaeological evidence of people in the Sydney Basin. At the other end of this long timeframe, several glass artefacts were also recovered from within lower Thompson Square that document some form of post-settlement interaction between Aboriginal people and settlers between c1794 and approximately the 1830s and adds a tangible dimension to the Aboriginal historical records for this period.

As previously noted (Section 3), the very old Aboriginal archaeological record of continuous occupation of Windsor and the historical context and documented sites nearby Windsor that relate to the racial conflicts that took place along the river up to 1816 have the potential to meet State significant levels through detailed analysis and regional comparison and interpretation.

The archaeological and environmental values that are embodied by the source-bordering dune should meet State significance thresholds. It is rare and intact, and is one of only six other sand bodies with stratified Aboriginal cultural deposits known in NSW, the others being: Warkworth (Hughes et al., 2014; Scarp 2008), Pitt Town (Williams et al. 2012, 2014), Windsor Museum (Austral Archaeology, 2011), Parramatta (Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management, 2005; Extent Heritage 2016), Glenrowan (Tarro) (AHMS, 2015), and Hunter Street (Newcastle) (AHMS, 2011).

The source-bordering dune possesses very high scientific significance because it contains objects and deposits that tell us about how Aboriginal people lived on the river for over 30,000 years.

### 4.1.2 Historic Archaeological Values

Thompson Square was established in 1811 as part of Governor Macquarie's planned town of Windsor, situated on land already recognised as the civic and Government domain of Green Hills. The waterfront character of Thompson Square played a crucial role to early Windsor and continued to do so throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Despite modifications to the formal plan of the Thompson Square reserve throughout the later 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (specifically the shifting road alignments and division of the public reserve), the broad character of Thompson Square, as established by Governor Macquarie, has been maintained throughout the past two centuries.

Thompson Square was a key element in the civic activities of the early township, ships, people and grain arrived and departed, grain was brought in from surrounding farms and stored in the granary and shipped to Parramatta and Sydney. It was the focal point for many cultural, social and economic activities as evidenced by the formal recognition of the place by Governor Macquarie in 1811.

The historical archaeological remains have the ability to represent the evolving nature of Windsor's settlement throughout the late 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

The potential archaeological remains within the study area were assessed through an analysis of the overlay of historic plans (see below), comparative archaeological assessments (Section 3.5), and site inspection. The available results of testing programs within Thompson Square have proved particularly instructive with regards to the types, and preservation of, archaeological remains that may be expected within Thompson Square. While the historic archaeological deposits within the TSCA exhibited significant disturbance from later construction and flood damage, testing and salvage excavations have demonstrated evidence for:

- Various land modifications and early cultivation in the area (in the form of postholes, planting holes, topsoil modification, etc).
- 19th-century structural activity (including drains, sandstock-brick footings, timber fence lines, service trenches, etc).
- Previous (19th- and 20th-century) roadways through Thompson Square.

Archaeological potential has been determined using a series of gradations (**Nil-Low**, **Low-Moderate**, and **Moderate-High**) to indicate the degree to which archaeological remains are likely to survive. Although several significant historic buildings, structures and features remain preserved within the TSCA, there have been considerable impacts. It is expected that various structures, landscaping and infrastructure have been altered and/or demolished throughout the last 200+ years. (Refer also to Table 4.1 in the supporting report- Appendix 6).

The identified levels of historic archaeological potential within the TSCA are summarised below:

#### **Mulgrave Place/Green Hills (1794-1810)**

**Nil to Low Potential** for remains of the original landscape and evidence of subsequent landscaping (including paths and tracks). Also, for a number of government buildings known to have been destroyed during early flooding events, or subsequent construction (i.e. the first barracks, granary and storehouses, and second granary). Nil-Low potential for any evidence of the bell post and stocks situated at the top of the ridgeline (at, or near to, the intersection of George and Bridge Streets).

**Low to Moderate Potential** for the remains of a number of government structures either cleared in c1811, on establishing Thompson Square (namely various buildings whose location is undetermined), or still standing into the Macquarie-era (i.e. the Commissariat store, Thompson's store, the School and Chapel). Archaeological remains of these structures have likely been impacted to some extent by subsequent construction. There should be considerable evidence for the early topography and soil profile with the ability to interpret this across the square.

**Moderate to High Potential** for a range of archaeological features such as unrecorded structures, rubbish dumps, and associated artefactual remains. There is a Moderate-High potential for archaeological remains related to the second barracks, situated within the modern property boundaries of the Macquarie Arms Hotel, as well as Andrew Thompson's original lease and house. Remains associated with Thompson's garden are likely ephemeral and may be difficult to interpret.

### **Macquarie Era (1810-1820s)**

**Nil to Low Potential** for remains of the "Lord Nelson Inn", demolished in the 1840s and presumably removed during the construction of the cellar at 1-3 Thompson Square ("the Doctor's House").

**Low to Moderate Potential** for evidence of landscaping following the establishment of Thompson Square, including roadways and evidence relating to the original alignment of George Street. Moderate potential for the remains of the Punt house, including associated deposits (although this lies largely outside of the limits of the study area). Low-Moderate potential of undocumented yard features as well as under-floor / between-floor deposits within the Macquarie Arms Hotel (below).

**Moderate to High Potential** for the Macquarie Arms Hotel which remains extant, including related archaeological features and deposits. Moderate-High potential of evidence relating to the landscaping and infrastructure works within Thompson Square reserve (including the preserved sandstock brick wall around Thompson's lease, the c1814 barrel-drain and related landscaping fills, recently identified in salvage excavations of the lower reserve), and for a range of archaeological features such as unrecorded structures, rubbish dumps, and associated artefactual remains.

### **Post-Macquarie Era (1820s-1842)**

**Low to Moderate Potential** for several buildings constructed in the early 19th-century (i.e. the Prisoner and Police barracks and associated stables, as well as properties at No. 7 Thompson Square, prior to John Howe's house, and at Nos. 64-68 and Nos. 82-94 George Street). Original footings, associated artefacts and deposits are likely preserved underlying later 19th-century constructions.

**Moderate to High Potential** for a number of early 19th-century constructions which remain standing (John Howe's house, No. 7 Thompson Square, No. 62 and No. 19 George Street). Moderate-High potential for a variety of archaeological features, deposits and associated artefacts, related to these constructions and elsewhere. Moderate potential of evidence relating to landscaping and infrastructure works, including early road alignments.

### **Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century (1842-1900)**

**Nil to Low Potential** for the remains of the "Sir John Young Hotel" (later the "Hawkesbury Hotel", Nos. 70-72 George Street), including associated deposits and artefacts, burnt out in 1913 and demolished in 1915. Nil-Low potential for the remains of the pavilion (or summer-house) located within the upper reserve of Thompson Square and removed in 1900.



**Low to Moderate Potential** for “under-floor” / “between-floor” deposits within any of the late 19th century buildings still extant (below).

**Moderate to High Potential** for several buildings constructed in the late 19th-century and still standing (including “the Doctor’s House”, Lilburn Hall, the Former School of Arts, the cottages at No. 5 Thompson Square, No. 6 Bridge Street and No. 82 George Street, and the “Hawkesbury Stores” extension at Nos. 64-68 George Street), as well as associated archaeological deposits and features related to these structures and elsewhere. Moderate potential for evidence relating to early roadways, including evidence associated with the construction of Windsor Bridge (landscaping, roadways, etc).

#### 20<sup>th</sup> Century (1900-Present)

**Nil to Low Potential** for remains of the Boat Club, constructed in the lower reserve in the mid-20th-century. Largely demolished in the 1990s and within the current salvage excavation area. While archaeological evidence may remain intact at the site, the resource is assessed as not meeting the threshold for local or State significance.

**Moderate to High Potential** for several buildings constructed in the early 20th-century and still standing (No. 4 Old Bridge Street, the A.C Stearn building, No. 74 George Street, the Former Hawkesbury garage, Nos. 70-72 George Street, and Nos. 80, 88 and 1/52 George Street), as well as a range of archaeological features related to these structures and elsewhere, such as subfloor deposits, rubbish pits etc. While archaeological evidence may remain intact at the site, the resource is assessed as not meeting the threshold for local or State significance.

### 4.1.3 Mapping the Historical Development: Archaeological potential.

Given the complexity of the TSCA, a series of overlay maps have been produced to show the sequence of historic development within Thompson Square (see Figures 4.1 to 4.5 below). These maps have been organised chronologically to demonstrate the changing landscape across time. The historical plans used to create these overlays are presented in Section 2.

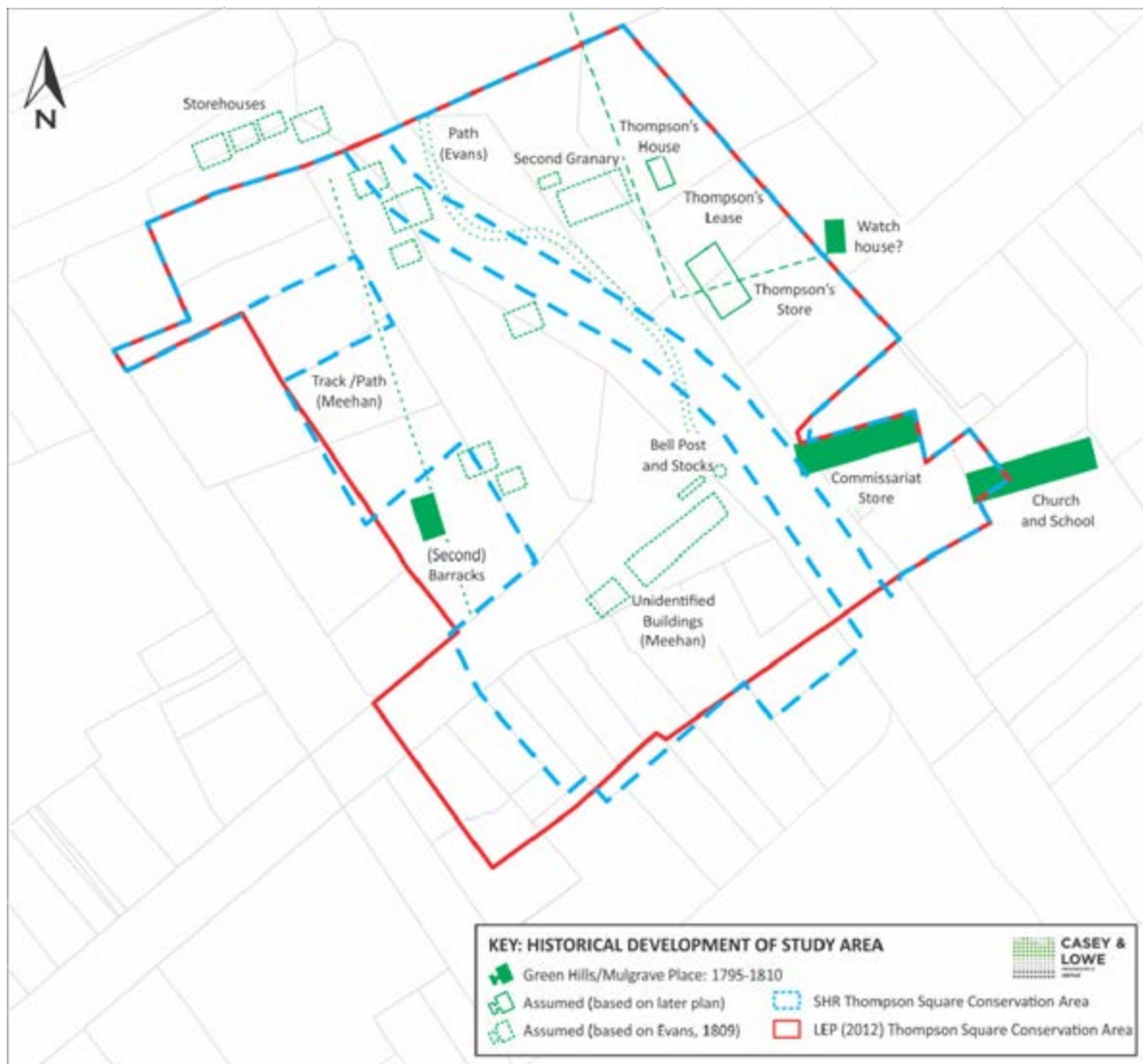


Figure 4. 1: The overall settlement for the study area during the **Mulgrave Place/Green Hills Government Domain, (c 1795-1810)** (assumed and determined, using historical overlays). The SHR and LEP boundaries for the TSCA and marked in blue and red respectively. The locations of the (second) barracks, Commissariat Store as well as the Church and School have been determined using Meehan's 1811 town plan of Windsor. The location of Thompson's house and store is determined using a later (c1827) plan of Windsor by Surveyor G.B. White. Evan's 1809 watercolour of Green Hills depicts numerous buildings and properties scattered throughout the Green Hills settlement. The location of these has been estimated and their accuracy is not guaranteed.

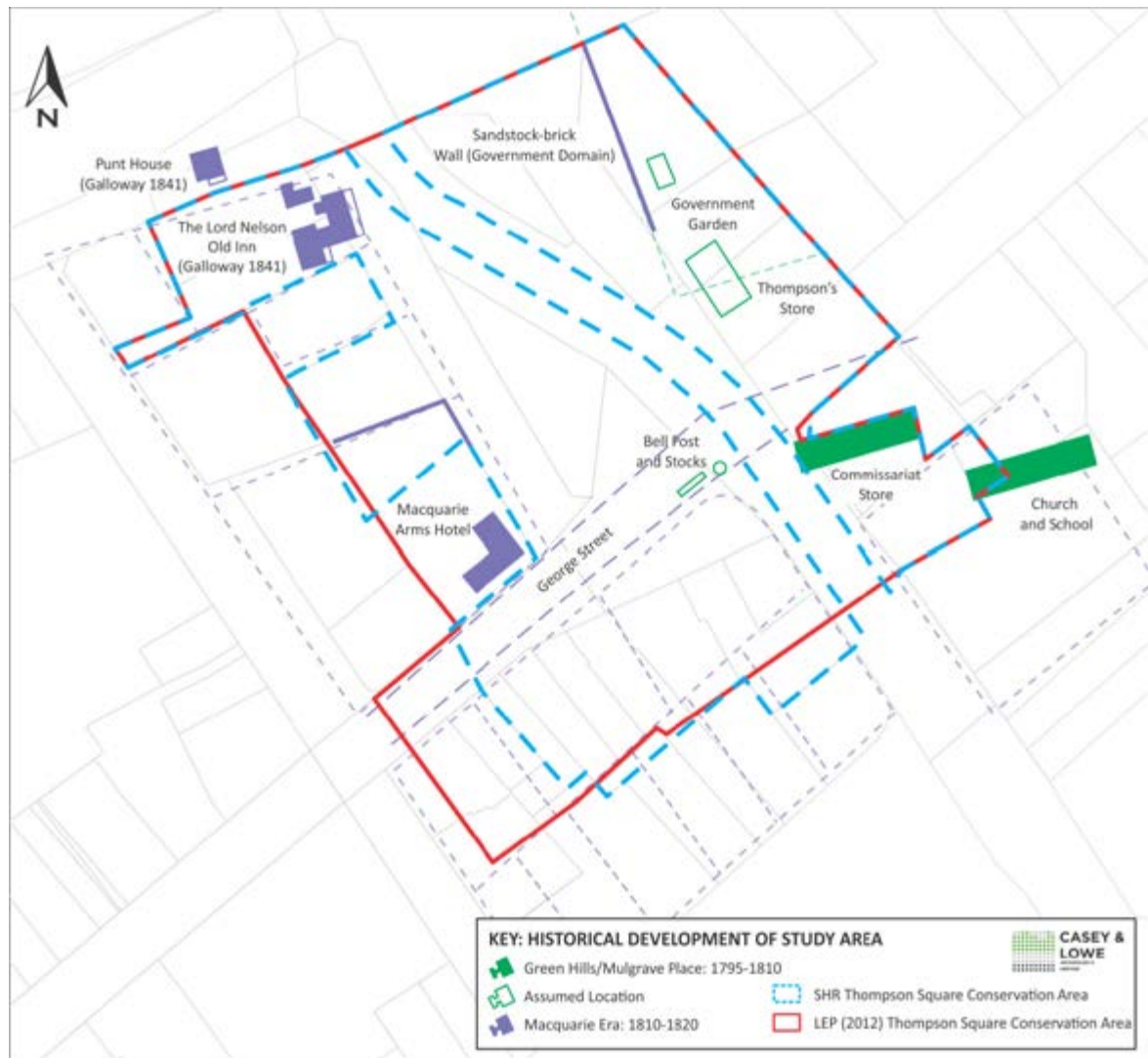


Figure 4. 2: The overall settlement for the study area during the **Macquarie era (c1810-1821)** (assumed and determined, using historical overlays). The SHR and LEP boundaries for the TSCA and marked in blue and red respectively. A number of buildings pre-dating the Macquarie-era (specifically Thompson's store, the bell post and stocks, the Commissariat Store and the adjacent Church and School) remained extant / in use at this time. The locations of the Macquarie Arms Hotel (c1815), the Old Inn at 1-3 Thompson Square (possibly the Lord Nelson Inn, constructed c1819), and punt house (post-1814) were determined through an inspection of several later plans, including Thompson and White's 1827 plans and Galloway's c1841 plan. The outline of the allotments during this time are marked with dotted lines and were determined using Thompson's 1827 plan of Windsor.

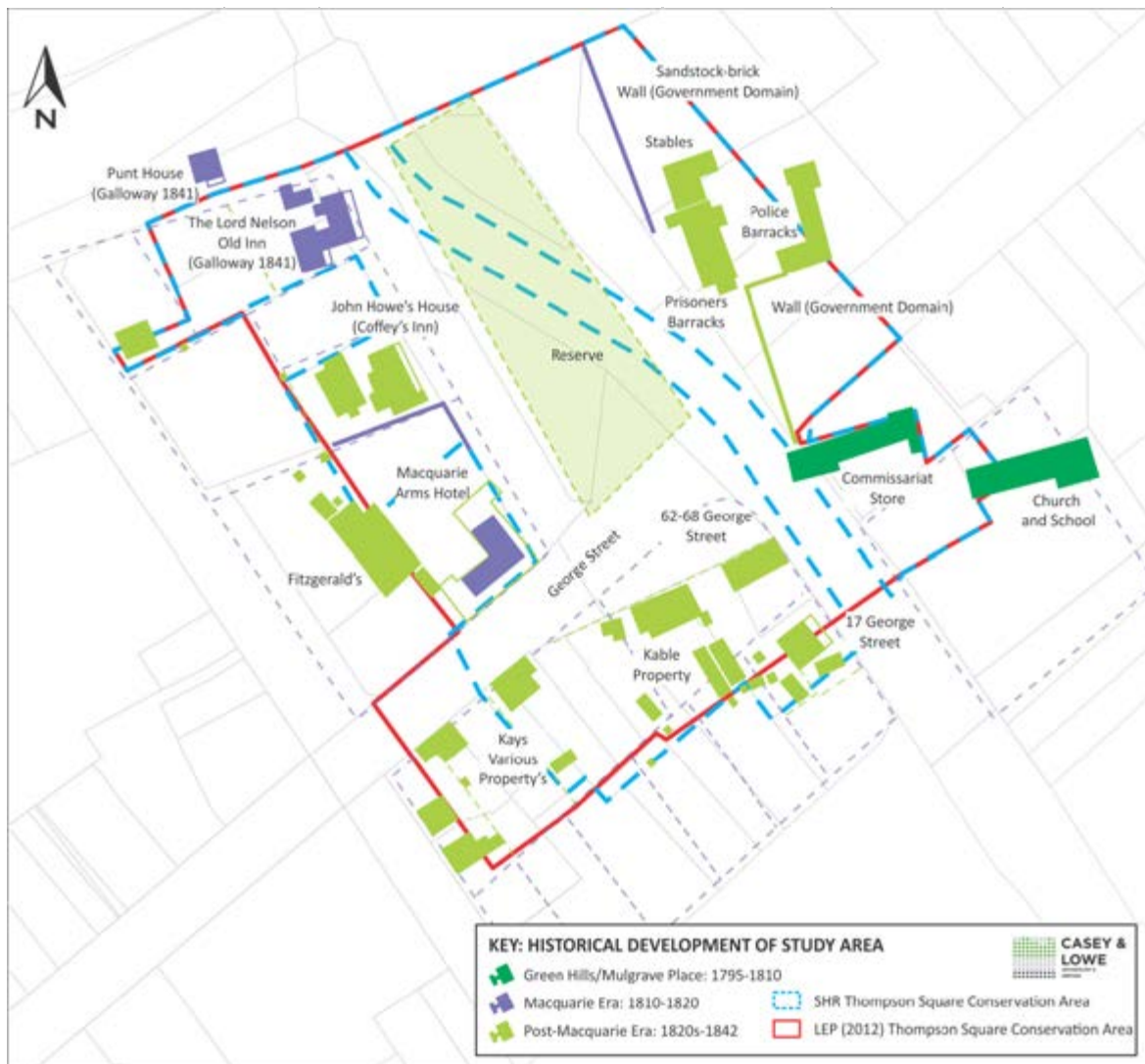


Figure 4. 3: The overall settlement for the study area during the **post-Macquarie era (c1822-1842)** (determined using historical overlays). Several buildings from the Macquarie-era, and earlier, remained standing at this time (including the Commissariat Store, the adjacent Church and School, the 'Lord Nelson Inn' and the Macquarie Arms Hotel). The locations of the new buildings were determined through an inspection of several plans, including Thompson and White's 1827 plans, Abbot's 1831 School of Lands plan, Galloway's c1841 and Armstrong's 1842 plans. There are several houses and outbuildings along George Street within the Keys / Kays and Kable lots. These were apparently demolished by the late 19th century and subsequently replaced with later constructions. The small changes to the allotments during this time (including establishing a dedicated reserve for Thompson Square) were determined using Galloway's c1841 town plan.



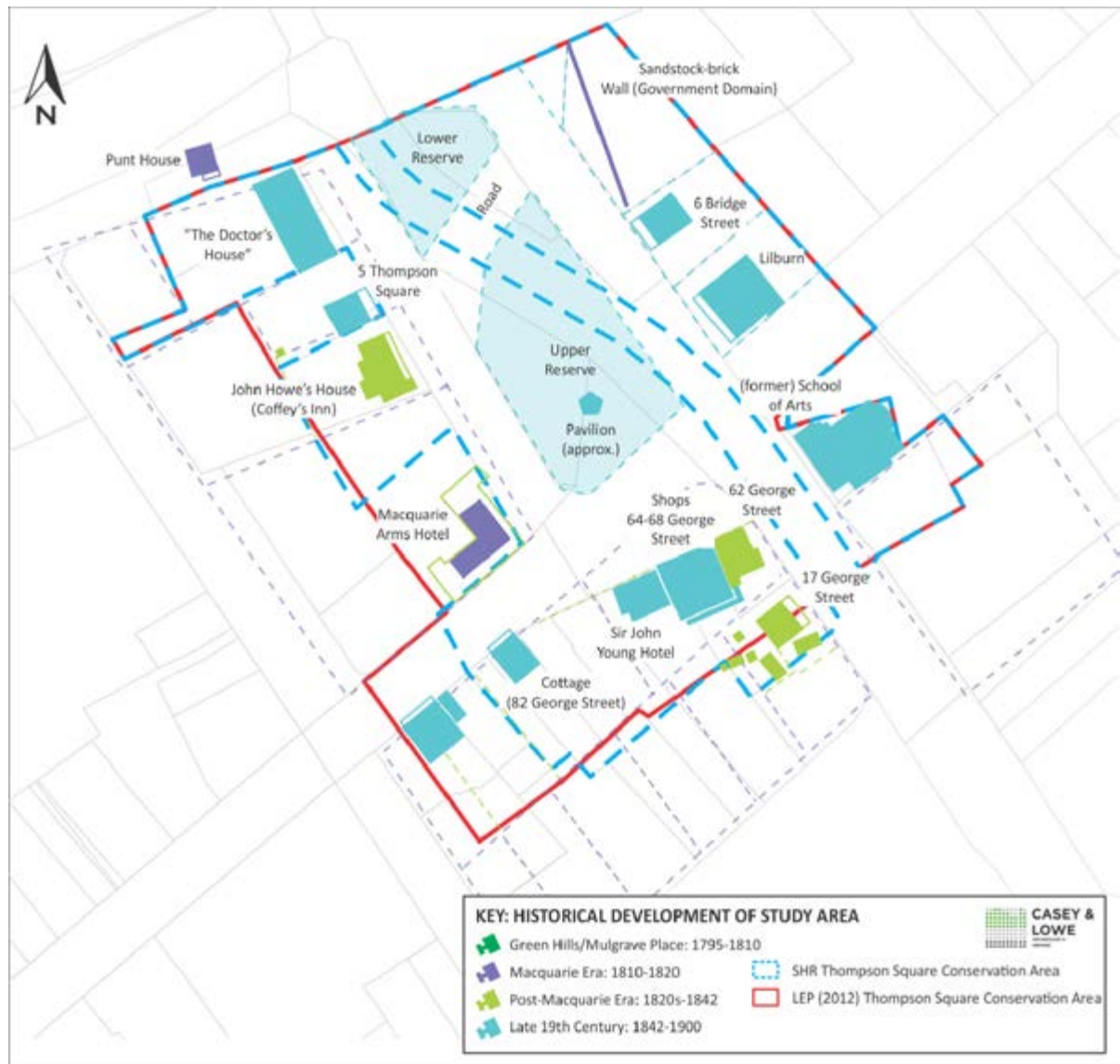


Figure 4. 4: The overall settlement for the study area during the **late 19th-century (c1842-1900)** (determined using historical overlays). Considerable development to the properties around the Thompson Square reserve is evident, with few buildings from the early 19th-century remaining (specifically the two small cottages at 17 and 62 George Street, John Howe's House / Coffey's Inn – 7 Thompson Square, and the Macquarie Arms Hotel). The locations of new buildings, and alterations to the allotments (including the division of Thompson Square into two reserves) was determined using Handcock's 1871 and Scrivener's 1894 plan.

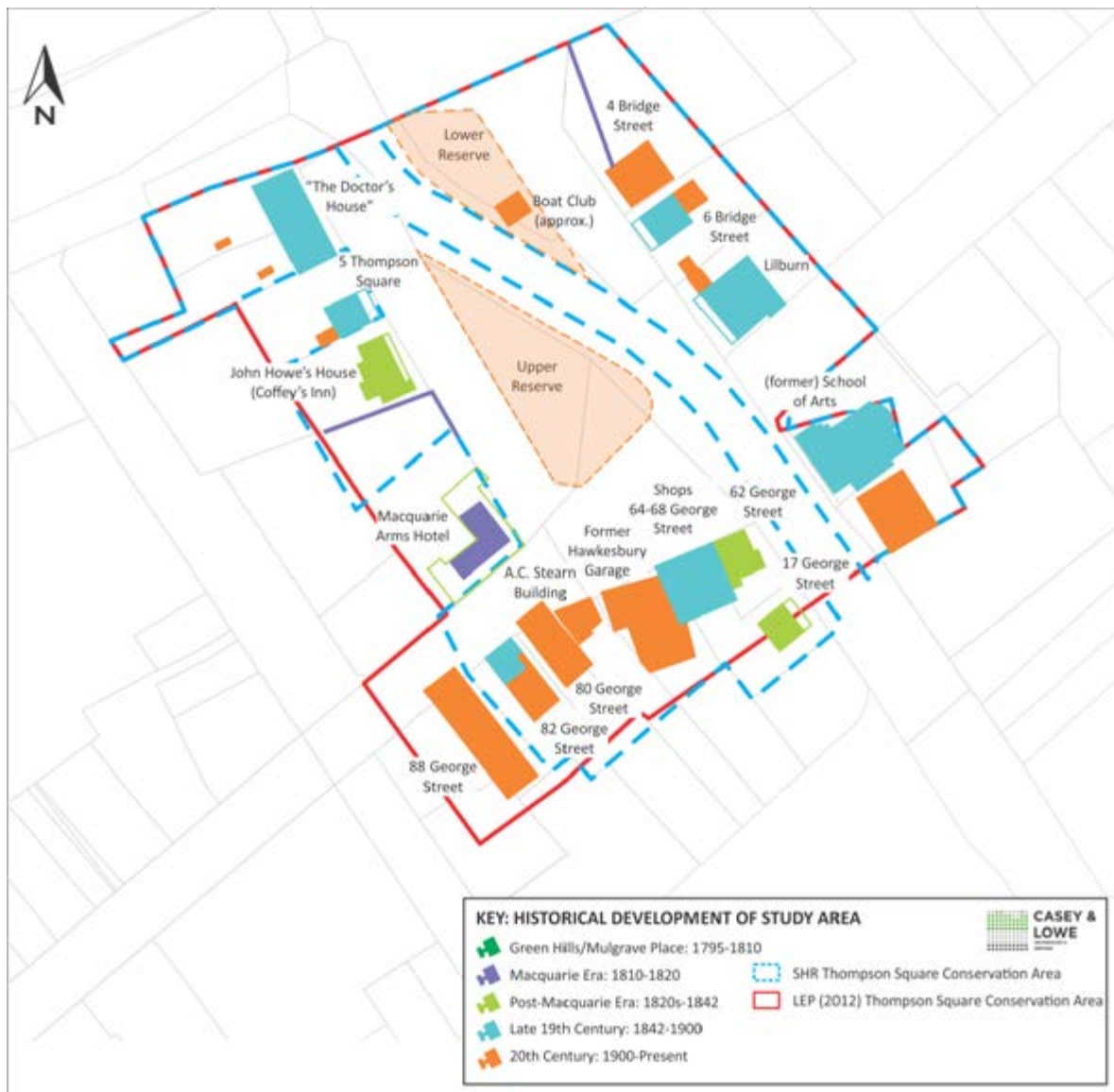


Figure 4. 5: The overall settlement for the study area during the **20th-Century (c1900-present day)** (determined using historical overlays). The layout of the buildings as depicted in this plan remains largely unaltered today, with the exception of the Hawkesbury Motor Boat Club building (within the lower reserve), demolished in the 1990s. The locations of new buildings were determined using a 1936 sewerage plan and recent aerial photography using Near Maps. The current configuration of the two reserves was determined using the 1948 Crown Plan of Thompson Square.

## 4.2 Historic Values of the Place

### 4.2.1 Aboriginal Historical Values

The earliest phases of the White settlement history of the Hawkesbury River, and the irreversible impacts it had on the Aboriginal communities that were living on the land at the time occurred as a result of a sequence of processes that were to be largely replicated across many regions of NSW during ensuing years. But the Hawkesbury district was the first area of expansion into Aboriginal country outside of the confines and relative safety of the coastal settlement where a large Aboriginal population was knowingly displaced, and the Aboriginal history of the Hawkesbury River districts tells an important chapter in the Indigenous story of the State.

The Aboriginal records for the country to become known first as Green Hills are scant for the period between first ‘Contact’ and first (White) settlement. The Sydney Aboriginal population had already been devastated by disease in 1789. It had spread rapidly up the river networks from Port Jackson, but the precise effects it had on the Hawkesbury Aboriginal population are unknown. It is likely that the Aboriginal people that were encountered during the first years of the settlement in the early 1790s belonged to groups already operating within reconfigured traditional clan and tribal structures. It is also likely Aboriginal groups using the present site of Windsor, attracted by its riverside creek and elevated terraces with flatter terrain and lagoons ‘inland’ were gone by the time (or shortly after) the first settlers arrived at the place.

The early records show that Aboriginal communities were forced to move regularly to gain distance and space between themselves and settlers. The reasons behind the racial violence that broke out from 1794 are numerous and sometimes complex but there was clearly a connection between the hostilities and droughts and the continual extension to the settlement. A 1790s Aboriginal historic site with two independent events (1794 and 1799) related to the violence of this period of history is located on Argyle Reach and not far from Windsor.

In a broader context, a number of aspects of the Aboriginal history of Windsor up to 1816 can be viewed through a military-history lens that saw hostilities break out and then subside during the Hawkesbury and Nepean Wars that spanned the period c1795-1816. Andrew Thomson had a role in these hostilities when chief constable of Windsor in 1805. The (violent) context of the times provide a background to Thompson’s actions as leader of a punitive raid on an Aboriginal camp near Shaw’s Creek that resulted in the killing of Aboriginal people and which was followed by a relatively prolonged period of ‘peace’ until hostilities broke out again in 1812.

Aboriginal historical records for subsequent periods for Windsor (1820s-1840s), which often relate to places situated outside of the town itself but tell of the continued Aboriginal occupation of the landscape during the period show people camping long-term on settler farms like Mamre situated on South Creek, ‘Tumbledown Barn’ at the junction of South and Eastern Creeks in Riverstone, and at Belmont on Richmond Hill. It is likely that Aboriginal people were also living autonomously on river stretches from around this time in other locations on the Hawkesbury River northwards of Ebenezer and including Sackville and Cumberland Reach and the river confluences at Lower Portland. It is a historical curiosity that the 1828 Census records Aboriginal people at Windsor (probably counted at the court house) but under the ‘Richmond Tribe’. William Walker had recorded a ‘Windsor Tribe’ in 1821, and blanket returns into the 1840s continue to record the presence of this named group. Likewise, the ‘Richmond Tribe’ existed as a group entity prior to the Census, and as late as 1843 there

is a reference to an envoy of the ‘Richmond Tribe’ talking to the envoy of the ‘Cabramatta Tribe’.<sup>3</sup> Aboriginal historical records for the town itself, and including Thompson Square and other urban spaces and buildings are generally random in subject and too infrequent to form strong or obvious patterns.

The permanent military presence in Windsor up to the 1840s and the number of military buildings and fixtures in close proximity to Thompson Square up to this time probably made it an uninviting place to Aboriginal people at times and at least until the end of transportation when the military withdrew from the town. Along these same lines, one old Aboriginal man, probably Tommy Cox (“King” Creek Tommy) claimed he saw the first man hanged at Windsor at a spot “*somewhere near where the Court house now stands*”.<sup>4</sup> The late nineteenth century records describe local Hawkesbury Aboriginal people (many living at Sackville) and others from farther afield gathering during the annual distribution of blankets at the courthouse and camping together in a settlers’ yard nearby for some days before and after the proceedings at the courthouse.



Figure 4. 6: Dwellings at Maggie’s Bight on the Hawkesbury River Aboriginal Mission Station Reserve at Sackville Reach circa 1900. Source: Hawkesbury Library Service, 55-17/000775

The later nineteenth century records for Windsor itself, and including Thompson Square and other town spaces (and buildings), frequently relate to Aboriginal people coming into town and gathering during the annual distribution of blankets at the courthouse on the Queen’s birthday. Many of these people had been living on the river country around Sackville Reach well before the Sackville Reach Aboriginal Reserve was established in the late 1880s.

In combination, these records document aspects of Windsor’s cross-cultural past and continue to have resonance with Aboriginal people today. Together with the archaeology, the historical evidence is important for its detail and because it establishes continuing historical phases of an otherwise long and unbroken record of Aboriginal occupation of the place probably extending back to the Pleistocene.

#### 4.2.2 Historical Values

Thompson Square is historically significant as the third British settlement on the mainland of Australia (after Sydney and Parramatta/Toongabbie). The locality of the Green Hills/Mulgrave Place district (which comprised the areas that would become Richmond, Pitt Town, Wilberforce and Windsor) was established in 1794 as an agricultural outpost to support the main settlement of Sydney. The area of land leading down to the river frontage of the Hawkesbury River, with surrounding buildings that became to be known as Thompson Square was the administrative and trade centre for the Mulgrave Place district from the time of its establishment in 1794.

<sup>3</sup> Kohan, 1993; p.75

<sup>4</sup> Brook 1994:27; WRG, 29 November 1890



As the focal civic space from the earliest days of settlement in the Hawkesbury, Thompson Square is a vital element in the understanding and preservation of Windsor's history and is historically significant as evidence of the crucial importance of Windsor as the regional centre of the Hawkesbury River region and its key role in supplying food for the early colony.

### An Agricultural Centre

The importance of Windsor and the Hawkesbury River district as the “bread basket” or “food bowl” of the early colony cannot be underplayed. When reviewing the “Blue Books” (the *Returns of the Colony*)<sup>5</sup>, the Windsor district is way ahead of all other settlements in terms of agricultural production until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. For example, in 1828, the “Blue Book” records a total of 105,577 acres of land granted, of which 32,049 acres have been cleared and 18,156 acres were under cultivation. In comparison, the next biggest agricultural producer is recorded as being the Airds and Appin district with 9,172 acres under cultivation.

By 1835, approximately 17,046 acres of land were under cultivation in the Windsor district while Campbelltown recorded 10,249 acres. By this time, areas such as Goulburn, Bathurst and Maitland had been opened-up to settlement and were producing wheat, maize and other grains, although the recorded acres of land under cultivation for these districts were well under 10,000 acres. In 1857, the final year of the “Blue Books”, Windsor is recorded as having 14,927 acres under cultivation, being second only to the Maitland district with 17,674 acres in total under cultivation.



Figure 4. 7: Wood engraving by Lionel Lindsay entitled “Harrowing, Windsor”, dated 1923. Source: NLA, PIC Drawer 8821 #S5326

The level of agricultural production in the Windsor district and the reliance of the town of Sydney on the food supply from the Hawkesbury area led to the development of essential buildings such as grain stores (first erected by Governor King in 1795), which in turn led to the development of Thompson Square.

### Convict Associations

Although settled by emancipists and free settlers, Windsor never-the-less relied on convicts to provide the majority of the labour for the building of infrastructure (roads, bridges, wharves and punt) and government buildings (Commissariat Store, the Granary, Military barracks, Convict barracks, Court house, gaol etc) and as the agricultural workers.

According to the 1822 Government Muster recorded in the *Returns of the Colony* (“Blue Books”) of that same year, the population of convicts at Windsor was 742 males and 34 females, with a further 77 males and 2 females recorded as being “Ticket of Leave”.<sup>6</sup> This was out of a total population of 1494

<sup>5</sup> Ancestry.com. *New South Wales, Australia, Returns of the Colony, 1822-1857* [database on-line]. Original source: Returns of the Colony, “Blue Books” 1822-57. Kingswood, New South Wales, Australia: State Records Authority of New South Wales. Series 1286, 176 rolls.

<sup>6</sup> A Ticket of Leave was an indulgence given at the Lieutenant-Governor's discretion. It entitled convicts to work for wages. They still had to report for regular musters.

men and 501 women which also comprised those who had received “Absolute Pardons”, “Conditional Pardons”, “Free by Servitude”, and those recorded as “Born in the Country” or “Came Free”.<sup>7</sup>

A substantial Convict Barracks was built in 1820 to Governor Macquarie’s instructions on Macquarie Street to house the “government labour” and was converted to a convict hospital in 1823. The building was taken over by the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society after the military withdrew in the 1840s and today forms a part of the Windsor Hospital complex.



Figure 4. 8: c1908 postcard of the original Windsor Hospital, situated in Macquarie Street in Windsor, formerly the convict barracks. Source: courtesy of Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Image Archive

The distribution of convicts at Windsor appears to be fairly typical of the time with the percentage of convicts compared to free settlers commensurate with most other settled districts such as Castlereagh (total of 664 convicts), Richmond (total of 381 convicts) and Wilberforce (total of 367 convict). Sydney, Parramatta and Liverpool boasted substantially larger amounts of convicts with recorded numbers reaching into the thousands.<sup>8</sup>

However, the convict associations with the TSCA are distinguished from many other early settlements given that a large proportion of the original land grants and leases were allotted to emancipists (convicts who had served their time or been pardoned) and through Governor Macquarie’s particular approach to the treatment of convicts and emancipists which he put into effect at Windsor.

While Macquarie believed in the punishment of convicts, he also believed in their reformation and saw no reason why emancipists should not be readmitted into society if they were of good character and up-standing. By promoting emancipists of ability such as Andrew Thompson, Macquarie recognised that, with convicts far outnumbering free settlers, a policy of rewarding merit would contribute to the colony’s welfare and ultimately its prosperity. In Macquarie’s own words: “*Some of the Most Meritorious Men of the few to be found, and who were Most Capable and Most willing to Exert themselves in the Public Service, were Men who had been Convicts.*”<sup>9</sup>

Macquarie’s enlightened policy towards supporting the social mobility of emancipists and acknowledgement of the convict’s role in the development of the colony is clearly demonstrated in his recognition of Andrew Thompson’s role in the development of Windsor and via the naming of Thompson Square.

This aspect of the place’s history is also of significance as being (as far as we know) the first place to be named for an emancipist in Australia.

<sup>7</sup> *New South Wales, Australia, Returns of the Colony, 1822-1857*, indexed by Ancestry World Archives Project contributors. Original data: *Returns of the Colony, “Blue Books” 1822-57*. Kingswood, New South Wales, Australia: State Records Authority of New South Wales. Series 1286, 176 rolls.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> State Library of NSW web exhibition: [www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/archive/events/exhibitions/2010/governor/10\\_emancipists](http://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/archive/events/exhibitions/2010/governor/10_emancipists)

### 4.2.3 People of Note

The place is historically associated with a number of notable persons which are of Local, State and National significance:

**Andrew Thompson** (1773?-1810), chief constable, magistrate, farmer and businessman, for whom Thompson Square was named by Governor Macquarie. In 1796 Governor John Hunter appointed Thompson to the Green Hills (Windsor) as part of the police force. He was pardoned in 1798 and rose quickly to the position of chief constable and held that office until 1808, during which time he distinguished himself by investigating crimes, capturing runaway convicts and rescuing settlers from disastrous floods. Hunter appointed him to the responsible position of grain assessor in 1799, and the settlers elected him as trustee of the common lands in the district.

As he carried out his constabulary duties Thompson gradually accumulated land by both purchase and grant. He bought the farms West Hill (the Red House), Glasgow, Wardle Bank and Moxham's Farms, and Governor King granted him Agnes Bank and Killarney, totalling 918 acres (372 ha) altogether. He rented them to suitable tenants. At his home on the river Thompson, with the aid of an English agent, John Braddick, established a general store and later an inn which became the commercial centre of the Hawkesbury. Nearby on the South Creek he built the first toll bridge in 1802. In 1804 King helped him to set up a salt manufacturing plant in Broken Bay. The first site was Mullet Island, later it was moved to Scotland Island. Because of Thompson's outstanding work in the floods of 1806 King allowed him to establish a brewery on South Creek and in addition Thompson controlled a barge for ferrying passengers and stock across the river, and at the Red House he established a tannery.

When Macquarie arrived in 1810 Thompson was appointed magistrate at the Green Hills, the first emancipist to be appointed to such a position, a clear signal of the policy of rehabilitating former convicts that became a defining issue of Macquarie's term of office. Thompson, Simeon Lord (also an emancipist) and Samuel Marsden were then appointed trustees of the new turnpike road between Parramatta and the Hawkesbury.<sup>10</sup> The appointment of Thompson as magistrate recognised the considerable high regard in which Thompson was held by the inhabitants of the Hawkesbury. By naming the Square after a prominent and respected ex-convict, Macquarie deviated markedly from the usual naming practice of his time in honouring British nobility or the patrons of ones' own success or indeed himself or his wife, so the honour he bestowed on Thompson is remarkable.



Figure 4. 9: Grave of Andrew Thompson, photograph by E. W. Searle, dated c1935. Source: NLA, PIC P838 LOC Drawer Q43-E.W.

Andrew Thompson is buried in the cemetery at St. Matthew's Church, Windsor. His tombstone was erected by Governor Macquarie and includes the following inscription:

<sup>10</sup> J. V. Byrnes, 'Thompson, Andrew (1773–1810)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/thompson-andrew-2728/text3847>, published first in hardcopy 1967

*“SACRED to the memory of ANDREW THOMPSON ESQUIRE Justice of the Peace and chief Magistrate of the District of the Hawkesbury, a Native of Scotland, Who at the age of 17 Years; was sent to this Country where from the time of his arrival he distinguished himself by the most persevering industry and diligent attention to the commands of his Superiors. By these means he raised himself to a state of respectability and affluence which enabled him to indulge the generosity of his nature in assisting his Fellow Creatures in distress more particularly in the Calamitous Floods of the river Hawkesbury in the Years 1806, and 1809 where at the immediate risque [sic] of his life and perminant [sic] injury, of his health he exerted himself each time (unremittingly) during three successive Days and Nights in saving the lives and Properties of numbers who but for him must have Perished. In- consequence of Mr. Thompson's good Conduct, governor Macquarie appointed him a Justice of the Peace. This act, which restored him to that rank in Society which he had lost, made so deep an impression on his grateful Heart as to induce him to bequeath to the governor one-fourth of his Fortune. This most useful and valuable Man closed his Earthly career on the 22nd Day of October 1810, at His House at Windsor of which he was the principal Founder in the 37th Year of, his age, with (in) the Hope of Eternal Life. From respect and esteem for the Memory of the deceased, this Monument is erected by LACHLAN MACQUARIE, GOVERNOR of New South Wales.”*

**Lieutenant-Governor William Paterson** (1755-1810), soldier, explorer and lieutenant- governor ordered the construction of buildings to house crops at Windsor (then Green Hills) in 1795, initiating the trade and government administration uses of Thompson Square. Paterson is also responsible for issuing the two leases to Blady and Mileham on the south side of George Street in 1809 further defining the configuration of Thompson Square.

**Governor Lachlan Macquarie** (1762-1824), governor, arrived in Port Jackson on 28 December 1809 and was sworn in on New Year's Day 1810. By the time Macquarie was being congratulated on the first anniversary of his government the characteristics of his twelve-year administration had emerged. One was the new modelling of the public departments, including the commissariat, and the organization of the Police Fund as the basis of colonial revenue. Other concerns included public works resulting in the construction of a new prisoners' barracks, a new general hospital, a new army barracks and a turnpike road to Parramatta (amongst numerous other achievements).

Macquarie also decided that ex-convicts, when they had shown that they deserved the favour, should be readmitted to the rank in society they had forfeited. This was a new line of conduct, he recognized, though he believed it to be 'the benign Spirit of the Original Establishment of the Colony, and His Majesty's Paternal Instructions as to the mode of its Government'. Macquarie was clearly conscious of following the colony's founder, Admiral Arthur Phillip, whom he admired and corresponded with. A conscientious Freemason he was probably also influenced by his admiration of Wilberforce 'a true Patriot and the Real Friend of Mankind' and, perhaps above all, by his wife. Accordingly, he made two emancipists (Thompson and Lord) magistrates in 1810 and invited them and others to his table.<sup>11</sup>

Macquarie is responsible for the naming of the town of Windsor, the naming of Thompson Square and the naming of George Street in 1811, the laying out of allotments on the western side of the square and for instructing Richard Fitzgerald to build a hotel at the intersection of George Street and Thompson Square (see below).

**James Meehan** (1774-1826), surveyor, explorer, settler and emancipist, was assigned as a servant to Charles Grimes, the acting surveyor-general. Meehan received an absolute pardon in 1806 and in 1812 Macquarie appointed him deputy-surveyor of lands. In 1814 he became collector of quit-rents

<sup>11</sup> N. D. McLachlan, 'Macquarie, Lachlan (1762–1824)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/macquarie-lachlan-2419/text3211>, published first in hardcopy 1967,



and superintendent of roads, bridges and streets as well. Macquarie held a high opinion of Meehan's knowledge of the country and included him in the parties which accompanied him on most of his tours of inspection in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land.

**Richard Fitzgerald** (1772-1840), convict, public servant and settler, was appointed superintendent of convicts at Toongabbie; in 1798 Governor John Hunter made him superintendent of public agriculture in Toongabbie and Parramatta, and in July 1802 Governor Philip Gidley King appointed him inspector and director of all the agricultural settlements belonging to the Crown, but he retained particular charge at Toongabbie.

In February 1808 Major George Johnston appointed him to replace Andrew Thompson as constable at the Hawkesbury. Lachlan Macquarie appointed Fitzgerald storekeeper at the Hawkesbury and superintendent of stores in 1811, and in time he became a close friend, trusted agent and protégé of the governor. Macquarie recognized his ability and praised the 'zeal, vigilance and integrity' of this 'most honest upright good man' and in 1810 Macquarie ordered him to build a 'handsome commodious inn' (the Macquarie Arms Hotel). Macquarie also appointed him superintendent of stores, and four years later he was put in charge of the commissariat and of all public works, so that in due course he supervised the building of St Matthew's Church, Windsor.<sup>12</sup>

**John Howe** (1774-1852), settler, worked in a grocery business in London while waiting for a passage to New South Wales, where he proposed to become a teacher. With his wife Frances and daughter Mary he arrived in June 1802 and received a grant of 100 acres (40 ha) at Mulgrave Place on the Hawkesbury River. Although retaining his grant until 1813 Howe showed little interest in farming. He succeeded Andrew Thompson as licensed auctioneer at Windsor in 1811 and by his successful management of the sales of Thompson's property earned the lasting favour of Governor Lachlan Macquarie. With James McGrath he contracted in 1813 to complete and repair the road from Sydney to Windsor and, for Thompson's executors, to build a toll-bridge, known for many years as Howe's Bridge, over South Creek at Windsor. In 1815 the partners enlarged the Windsor wharf and a year later began another for the government. As chief constable at Windsor from 1814 to 1821 and as coroner during the next seven years Howe's record was one of honest, reliable, if unspectacular, service.<sup>13</sup>

**Marine Corporal William Baker** (1761-1836), was the first Government storekeeper at Mulgrave Place, appointed by Governor Hunter in 1798. In 1800 he also bought and began operating the Royal Oak Hotel selling alcohol to convicts and settlers in Windsor.<sup>14</sup> Baker purchased Whitehouse's land to the west of the government domain at the Green Hills and the eastern boundary of the land became known as "Bakers Line". This division between the government lands and privately held lands defined the western extent of Thompson Square and remains in place today as Baker Street.

**Governor John Hunter** (1737-1821) was appointed second captain of H.M.S *Sirius* under Governor Arthur Phillip with the naval rank of captain when it sailed in the First Fleet to Australia in 1786. He was also granted a dormant commission as successor to Phillip in the case of his death or absence. In 1792 Phillip left the colony and the government was then conducted by Major Francis Grose as lieutenant-governor until December 1794, and by Captain William Paterson the senior military officer in the settlement, as administrator, until Hunter assumed office in September 1795. Hunter was

<sup>12</sup> E. C. B. MacLaurin, 'Fitzgerald, Richard (1772–1840)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/fitzgerald-richard-2048/text2537>, published first in hardcopy 1966,

<sup>13</sup> Nancy Gray, 'Howe, John (1774–1852)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/howe-john-2205/text2855>, published first in hardcopy 1966

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.firstfleetershunter.com.au/uploads>

responsible for erecting the second Military Barracks for the early town of Windsor on land that now holds the Macquarie Arms Hotel.

**Surveyor General Augustus Alt** (1731-1815), soldier and surveyor, laid out the first farms along the bank of the Hawkesbury River in the district known as Mulgrave Place, under the direction of Governor Francis Grose. As a means of placing emancipated convicts upon the land, numerous grants were allocated to them in 1794, followed by military officers in 1795.

**John Harris** (1759?-1803), emancipist, watchman and innkeeper, whose death sentence for stealing eight silver spoons was commuted in 1785 and he was transported to New South Wales. Harris was one of the first Jews in Australia. In the winter of 1789 he proposed to Judge-Advocate David Collins to establish a night watch, 'to be selected among the convicts for the purpose to stem the frequent commission of offences in the settlement'. This was agreed to. This first attempt at a police force in the settlement began on 8 August 1789, with Harris as one of its principal members. In 1790 he was transferred to Norfolk Island, where in 1793 he was put in charge of the police at Sydney Vale, Arthur Vale and Granville Valley. Harris was granted a pardon by Lieutenant-Governor Francis Grose before Grose left on 6 December 1794 and confirmed by Governor John Hunter on King's recommendation 'in consideration of good services as Principal of the Nightwatch at Norfolk Island'.

Harris went to the Hawkesbury district and squatted on some six acres (2.4 ha) at Mulgrave Place near Windsor, granted him in January 1798. He built an inn on it and in September received a liquor licence, which was one of the first in the colony. During this time, Harris took Commandant Anthony Fenn Kemp to court for false imprisonment and won. In 1799 he transferred his activities to Toongabbie, where he opened another inn, and soon became one of the trusted agents of John Macarthur in his trade.<sup>15</sup>

## 4.2.4 The Colonial Landscape

### The Hawkesbury River

The Hawkesbury River is a key historic component of the TSCA being the means by which the District of Mulgrave Place was first settled by the British, as well as being the principal natural feature in the landscape. Today the Hawkesbury River forms only a backdrop to the TSCA, although its presence and (sometimes) unpredictable behaviour is a constant reminder of the importance of this resource to the history of the TSCA.

Forming part of the wider Aboriginal landscape providing resources for the local communities, the river in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century became both the means and the reason for the British settlement of Windsor. During colonial times, the river provided the basis and mechanism for commercial trade, industry (boat building) and government administration and was the central transport hub from the district to Sydney and other locales. By the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century the river had been transformed into a recreational space with regular regattas and other events.

Today the river is partially visually obscured from the TSCA, intersected by Bridge Street leading to the Windsor Bridge, and is no longer the location for the wide range of services and uses it once was. Regardless, the Hawkesbury River remains a defining element in the character and history of the TSCA.

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<sup>15</sup> G. F. J. Bergman, 'Harris, John (1759-?)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/harris-john-2162/text2769>



Figure 4. 10:c1949 photograph by E. W. Searle of a motor boat regatta on the Hawkesbury River at Windsor. Source: NLA, PIC P838\_479a LOC Cold store SEA Box 6

### Topography

Despite the years of oft-times catastrophic flood events impacting on the settlements along the Hawkesbury River, including Windsor and Thompson Square, the topography of the TSCA that is evident in the early paintings of the area remains essentially in place today (although with adjustments to accommodate road access through the square).

The same lower terrace (the river frontage and The Terrace), middle level terrace (at the location of No. 7 Thompson Square and the lower reserve) and upper level terrace at the ridgeline (George Street and the Macquarie Arms Hotel) are still discernible and contribute to the unique character of the locality.

The terracing of the land leading down to the riverbank allows for an understanding of the relationship between the square and the river and possibly why this location was chosen for settlement in the 1790s.

The present bridge over the Hawkesbury River indicates the location of the earliest wharves at Thompson Square constructed in c1795 and again in c1799 (following its initial destruction by floods). By the early 1820s, the wharf seems to have been relocated further to the east and the punt established in the approximate location of where the Windsor Bridge is today (see Figures 4.16 to 4.21 below).

The Windsor Bridge originally constructed in 1874, was raised on top of the earlier stanchions in 1897 and further modified in 1920 with reinforced concrete elements, although it has maintained its original location across the river.

Elements of the various access roads through Thompson Square leading to the bridge remain to a limited extent, in particular The Terrace, Old Bridge Street, the street known as Thompson Square; as well evidence of the previous roadway intersecting Thompson Square is seen in the placement of some of the established trees through the south open space.

## Vegetation

In terms of the vegetation of Thompson Square, as seen in the early paintings, the land of the TSCA was cleared early on to support development and the use of the area. However, by (at least) the 1870s, formal plantings throughout the square are seen in early photographs of the place.

While none of the earliest (19th century) plantings within Thompson Square have survived, the existing Hoop Pine (located in the upper reserve adjacent to Bridge Street) from the 1920s appears to be the oldest surviving planting within the precinct. Apart from the pine, most of the present cultural vegetation associated with the precinct is from the latter half of 20th century.

## The Townscape

Remarkably, after over 200 years of European settlement and development of the former Green Hills site there remain important elements of its earliest phases of urban establishment. These are chiefly discernible through surviving townscape layout and, apart from potential archaeological resources, readily apparent in remnant fabric (see also Section 4.2.5 Historical Development).

Baker Street, for instance, indicates and interprets the traditional western edge of the former Government reserve established about 1795 marked out by Baker's Line which extended along this alignment from the Hawkesbury River to South Creek. The former c1803, 3-storey granary building was sited at the top of the ridgeline and aligned along it. Although this early, visually prominent building has long since gone, the orientation of this early building remains evident in the surrounding subdivision pattern of George Street and the School of Arts building and other nearby structures (refer to Figure 4.11 below).

Similarly, the early brick wall to the north of 4 Old Bridge Street, appears to indicate and interpret the alignment of the western edge of Andrew Thompson's former allotment from about 1796 to 1810 when it was absorbed into the broader Government reserve (see also Historic Archaeology above). It was this line that defined the early square and continued to define the eastern edge of Thompson Square from Governor Macquarie's town plan of the early 1810s. The alignment and location of Arndell Street also indicates and interprets the former Wilcox's Line of 1794 that marked out the eastern extent of the former Government reserve.

Townscape evidence of the Macquarie Era (1810 to early 1820s) is chiefly manifested in the Macquarie Arms Hotel and related fabric throughout its allotment. The construction of the hotel in the mid-1810s effectively defined the streetscape relationship of George Street and Thompson Square which remains today.



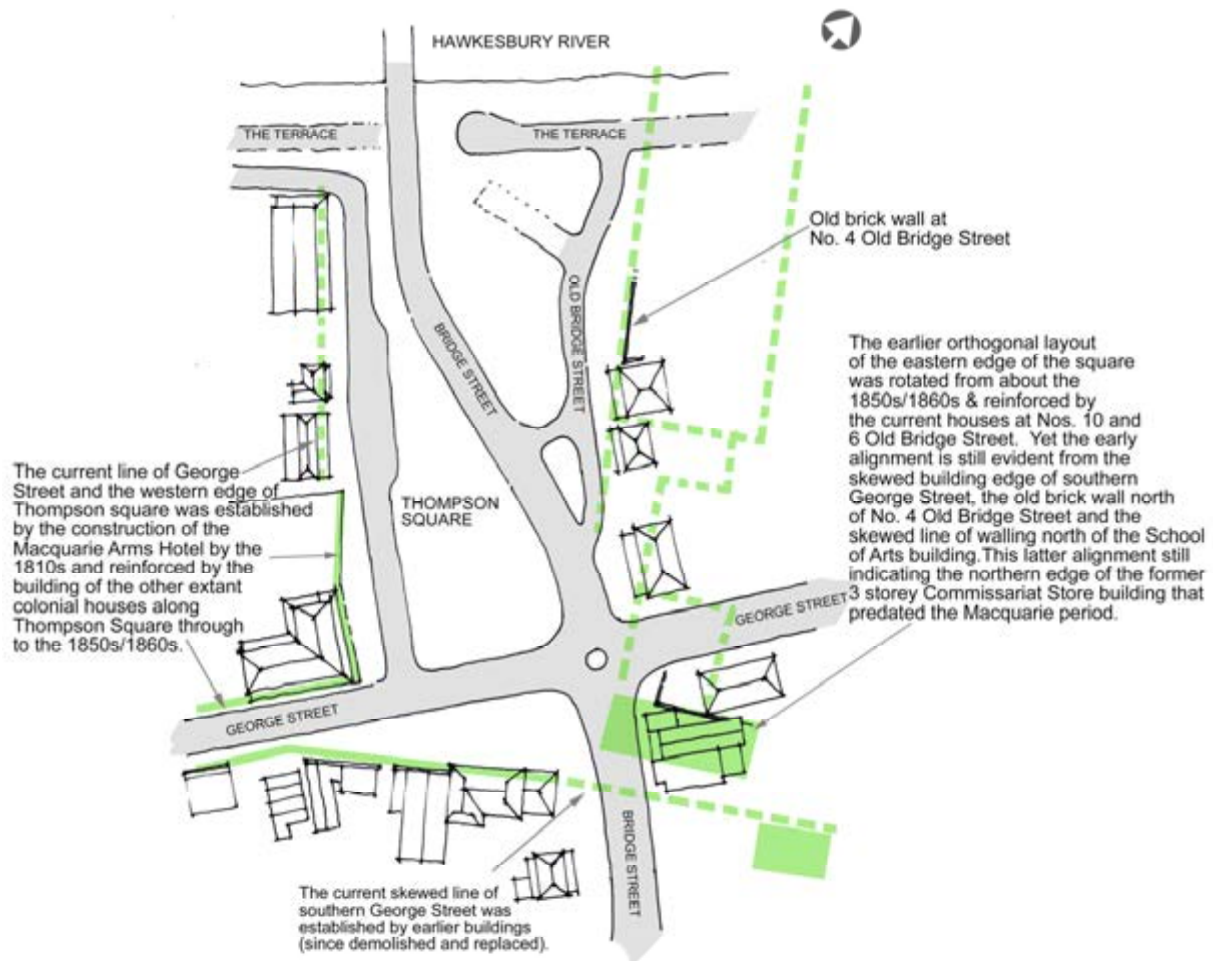


Figure 4. 11: Thompson Square's Early Spatial Definition (c/- 1841 town plan of J. J Galloway [W.443.a Crown Plan]) Drawing base from the current aerial photography. Prepared by G. Britton

### Subdivision Pattern

When Meehan laid out the town of Windsor in 1811, his plan for the town showed a strong, quadrangular arrangement of allotments, roads and a public square to the west of the already existing township centred on Thompson Square. In the area of the early town encompassed by the TSCA, Meehan's plan shows light pencil markings of allotments on the western and southern sides of Thompson Square, the clear marking out of Thompson's 1799 1 acre lease of land and the firming up of the alignments of George Street, Macquarie Street and Baker Street. By 1827, when White prepared his survey of the town of Windsor, further allotment boundaries were defined on his plan, in particular on the western and southern boundaries of Thompson Square.

Evidence of these early town plans remain in the road alignments for Baker Street, George Street, Macquarie Street and The Terrace and in some of the property allotment boundaries today, notably the allotment granted to Richard Fitzgerald in 1811 for the building of the Macquarie Arms Hotel and the western extension of this land for his cottage which he built in 1819, and the allotments leased to James Mileham and William Blady in 1809 on the southern side of George Street (see Figures 4.12 and 4.13).



Figure 4. 12: Detail from Meehan's 1811 plan with the subdivision pattern marked up by Meehan. Source: SA Map SZ 529



Figure 4. 13: Detail from Thompson's 1827 plan showing a more established subdivision pattern around Thompson Square. The Macquarie Arms Hotel allotment (No. 28) has been extended to Baker Street to the west. The two allotments granted to Blady and Mileham on the south side of George remain in place. Source: SA Map SZ 526



Figure 4. 14: Detail from Armstrong's plan of 1842 showing the progression of subdivision on the west and southern sides of Thompson Square. This is the first time the skewed alignment of George Street at the intersection with Bridge street is seen on plan. Source: ML Map M2 811.11222/1842/1



Figure 4. 15: Recent aerial photograph (c2015) showing present day cadastral boundaries. The Macquarie Arms Hotel allotment first granted in 1811 and extended in 1819 remains discernible as does the allotment for No. 5 Thompson Square and (in part) the allotment to Mileham on the corner of Baker and George Street, granted in 1809. Source: NSW Spatial Services

### 4.2.5 Historic Development of the TSCA

The following diagrams provide an analysis of the historical development of the TSCA and illustrate the physical changes and land ownership changes of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Government reserve lands at the Green Hills through to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Numerous components located within the boundaries of the Thompson Square Conservation Area and the broader Government Domain precinct can be traced back to the earliest decades of British settlement of the place.

Not all buildings located throughout the area have been included in the sequence diagrams, only those with historical relevance to the development of the Government Domain and the TSCA have been included. The images, plans and aerial photographs on which the development sequence diagrams rely on are presented in Section 2.

A brief chronology of the physical development of the TSCA and the broader Government Domain is provided below in Table 4.1.

Table 4. 1: Chronology of the physical development of the TSCA.

Date	Event/Feature
<b>Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	
1794	Surveyor General Augustus Alt lays out farms on the Hawkesbury River. An initial 22 land grants at Mulgrave Place, expanded to at least 118 by the end of 1794.
1794	Area left vacant on the Windsor Reach for government use. Wilcox granted land which defines the eastern boundary of the government reserve. Whitehouse granted land that defines the western boundary of the government reserved land.
1795	A number of military officers selected land in the District of Mulgrave Place.
1796	The Commandant's house, a weatherboard dwelling, later referred to as Government house / cottage, is built overlooking the river. Demolished in c1919.
1796	Andrew Thompson, emancipist, is appointed constable of Green Hills and takes up informal occupation of a cottage near the granary.
1796	First military barracks constructed.
1798	Harris leases majority of the southern portion of the government reserve adjacent to South Creek.
1798	Public Storehouse constructed
By 1798	A watch house is built a short distance from the commandant's place.
1799	Major flood washes away the first barracks and government stores.
<b>Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	
c1800	Government stores rebuilt and relocated closer to the top of the ridgeline above the river.
c1800	Second military barracks constructed on site of the future Macquarie Arms Hotel
c1800	Baker purchases Whitehouse's land. Western boundary of the government reserve is defined by "Baker's Line".
1802	Andrew Thompson builds floating bridge over South Creek.

Date	Event/Feature
1803	Governor King arranges for the construction of a three-storey brick granary constructed on the southeast corner of the square, replacing earlier log and thatch granaries, completed by 1805.
1804	Governor King arranges for the construction of a two-storey schoolhouse, chapel and schoolmaster's residence, started in 1804 and completed at some point following 1806.
c1804	Main road to Richmond Hills is constructed.
By 1807	Extension and repairs at Government house.
By 1808	Andrew Thompson erects a three-storied store and warehouse facing Thompson Square.
1809	Stables and workshops built at the back of Thompson's store.
1809	Bell post and stocks erected at top of ridgeline (may be earlier).
1809	Andrew Thompson leases a portion of land at corner of George and Baker Street for a new residence.
1809	Acting Governor Paterson issues a lease each to William Blady and James Mileham on the south side of George Street
1809	Flood event- Andrew Thompson is very active in rescuing and assisting the residents of the district.
1810	Governor Macquarie establishes his five 'Macquarie Towns', including Windsor.
1811	Governor Macquarie names the town: Windsor, the public square: Thompson Square and the main street: George street.
1811	Governor Macquarie grants Richard Fitzgerald land with instructions to construct an inn at the southwest corner of Thompson Square.
1811	Meehan surveys the town of Windsor incorporating the existing village of Green Hills.
1811-12	Lesser buildings cleared from across the Government Domain and Thompson Square, including the earlier log granary.
1811-12	1804 Granary converted to temporary chapel and school under instructions by Governor Macquarie
1812	Windsor gaol constructed
1813	Howe builds bridge over South Creek
By 1813	Second (?) wharf, built downslope from the Government cottage, visible in Slaeger's 1811-1812 etching of Windsor.
1814	A ferry/punt is established across the Hawkesbury by John Howe. The ferry/punt master is housed in a small hut in the river bank lands.
1815	Macquarie Arms Hotel opened mid-1815.
1815	Thompson's three-storied granary store purchased by the government.
1815	John Howe and James McGrath contracted to undertake public works in the Square: construction of a sewer with channels through the middle of the square made from bricks from the local brick ground, extensive levelling of the square particularly at the lower end, the construction of a new wharf and extending the new wharf.
1815	Macquarie Arms Hotel completed and opened in 1815.
1816	New wharf damaged due to flood event



Date	Event/Feature
1816	Freemason Arms Inn located at 1-3 Thompson Square- land leased by Heydon. Later known as the Lord Nelson Inn when owned by Doyle and for a short time as Coffey's Hotel.
c1816	Sandstock brick wall constructed along west boundary of Thompson's garden.
1817-1818	New military barracks erected corner of Bridge and Court streets.
1819	North and east boundary wall constructed to the Macquarie Arms Hotel. Richard Fitzgerald extends his grant and builds a cottage with stables and outbuildings at (what is now) No. 89 George Street.
by 1820	Third wharf built
1822	Windsor Court house constructed.
1827	Cottage constructed at 7 Thompson Square (Howe's land) replacing a larger earlier residence.
<b>Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	
by 1831	Mounted police barracks and stables constructed adjacent to Thompson's garden in Government Domain.
1835	Toll house for South Creek constructed
c1835	Cottage built at 62 George Street
1837	New two storey building constructed at 7 Thompson Square- Howe's House
1842	Military officer's quarters constructed.
c1842	Military leaves Windsor.
1844	Terrace built at 1-3 Thompson Square. Operated as a post office from 1851-1855.
1852	Government garden abandoned in preparation for the (intended) construction of a Church manse.
1853	Fitzroy Bridge constructed over South Creek
1855	Roadway running west to east through Thompson Square is constructed leading from George Street to the wharf.
c1856	1803 Commissariat Store demolished.
c1857	Cottage constructed at 5 Thompson Square (Loder's land).
Late 1850s	Two storey residence constructed at 10 Bridge Street
1860s	Sir John Young Hotel building constructed at 70-72 George Street. Destroyed by fire in 1919.
1860-1924	Military Barracks occupied by the police
1861	School of Arts building constructed at 14 Bridge Street.
1864	Windsor Railway Station opens
c1865	Cottage constructed at 82 George Street.
1867	The Great Flood

Date	Event/Feature
<b>Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	
1874	Windsor Bridge constructed.
1880s	92 George Street- two storey commercial building
1880s	68 George Street constructed- two storey commercial building.
1881	Toll Bar Bridge constructed over South Creek
1882	Summer house constructed in Upper Reserve of Thompson Square.
1887	Riverside Park is established- taking in the river bank lands.
c1887	Extension to 68 George Street encompassing the western half of 62 George Street.
1896	Area east of Windsor Bridge along river bank reserved for traffic and recreation: The Terrace
1897	Windsor Bridge raised.
1899	Thompson Square proclaimed a recreation reserve
<b>Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	
1907	A. C Stearn building constructed at 74 George Street- a two storey commercial building.
1910	88 George Street- two storey commercial building
1923	Commercial garage constructed at 70-72 George Street.
<b>Mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	
1930s	1804 Granary/School and Chapel building demolished.
1930s	Mini golf course introduced in Upper Reserve
1934	Bridge Street extended through Thompson Square running east to west leading to the Windsor Bridge.
1936	Windsor gaol demolished
1936	Fitzgerald's cottage demolished.
1946	School of Arts building converted to boot factory (until 1988)
1949	Motor boat club house constructed in Lower Reserve.
1955	Cottage constructed at 4 Old Bridge Street.
<b>Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	
1962	No. 7 Thompson Square (Howe's House) first used as the Hawkesbury Historical Museum and Information Centre.
1960s	Council carpark constructed at rear of 89 George Street
1975-1980s	Thompson Square restoration project
1976	Current bridge constructed over South Creek
1980s	Housing estate- Macquarie Estate at 52 George Street
1980	Cottage constructed at 80 George Street.
1990s	Boat club building demolished.

Date	Event/Feature
<b>Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b>	
2008	The new Hawkesbury Regional Museum building opens located to the rear (west) of No. 7 Thompson Square (Howe's House).
2018	Archaeological dig undertaken in the Lower Reserve of Thompson Square.



Figure 4. 16: Diagram showing the assumed early layout of the Green Hills: 1794-1796.

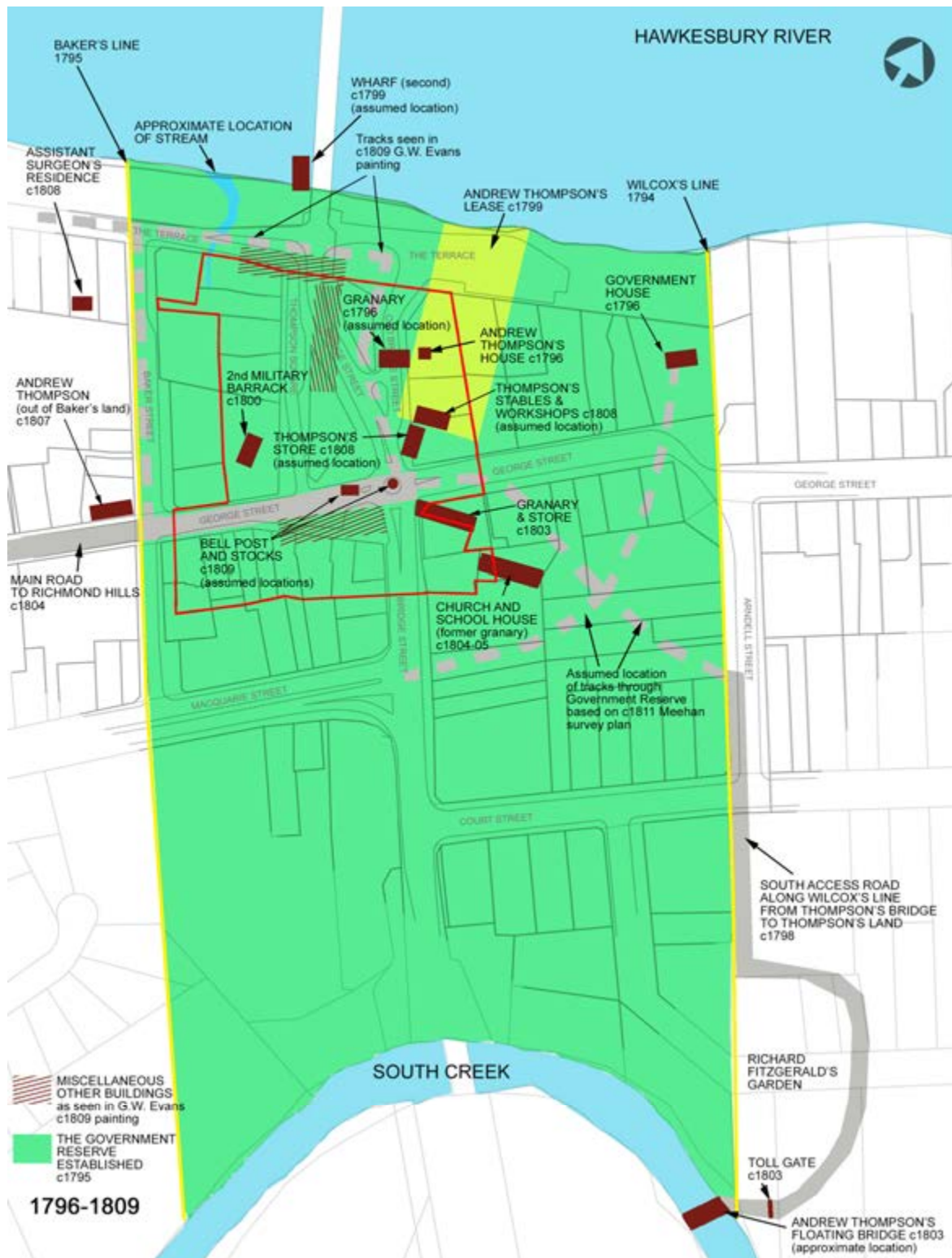


Figure 4. 17: Diagram showing the layout of the Green Hills: 1796-1809.



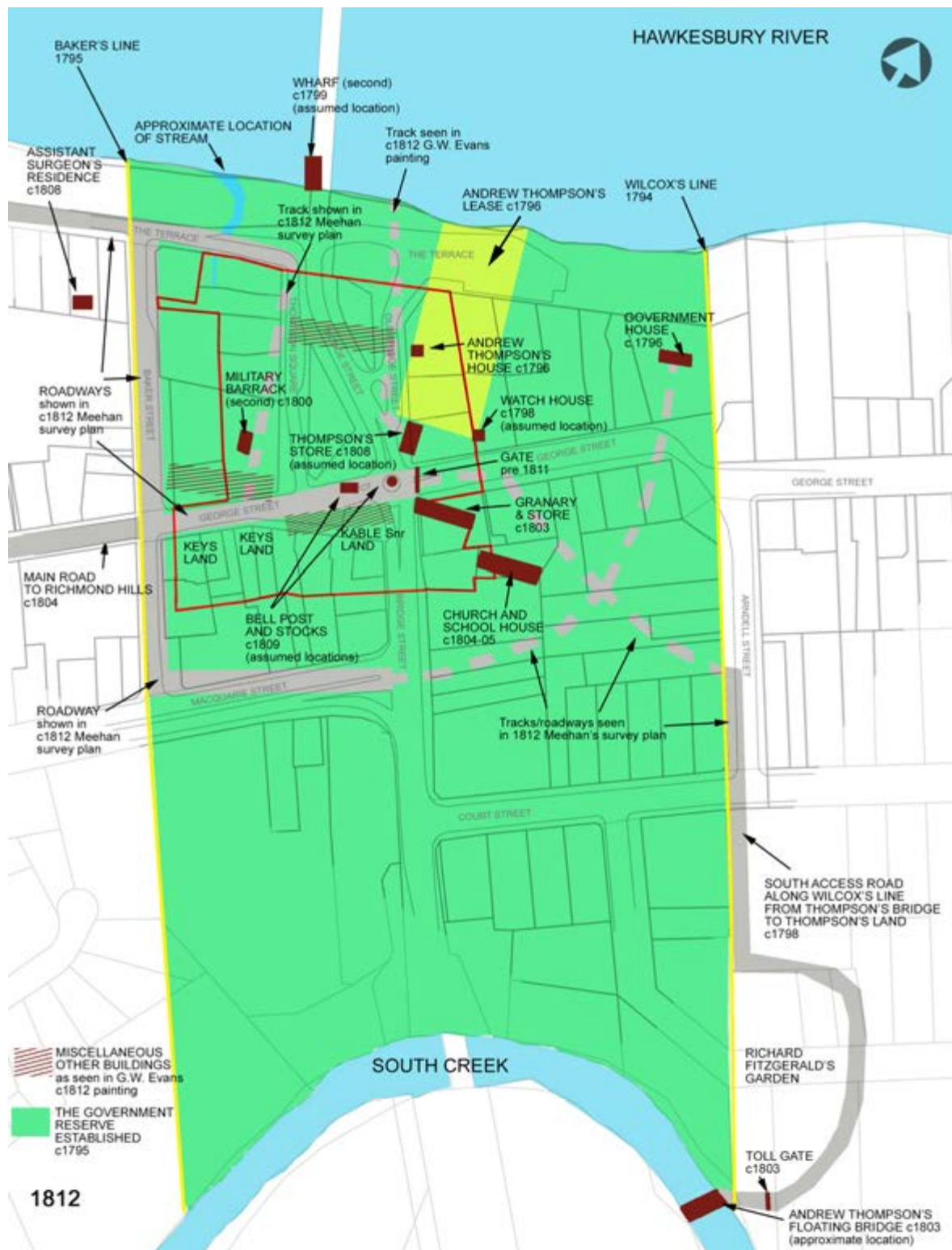


Figure 4. 18: Diagram showing the layout of Windsor and Thompson Square: 1812

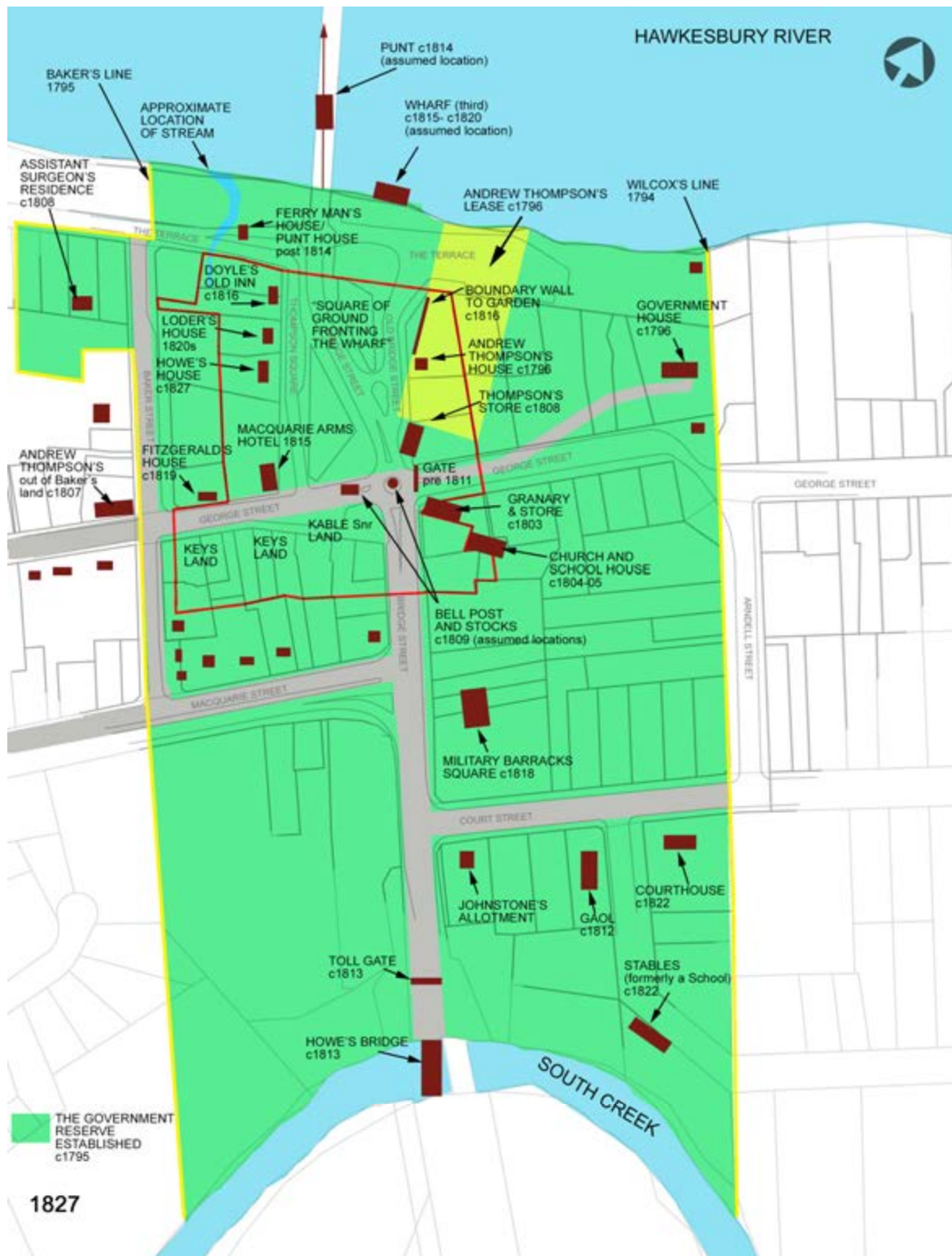


Figure 4. 19: Diagram showing the layout of Windsor and Thompson Square: 1827

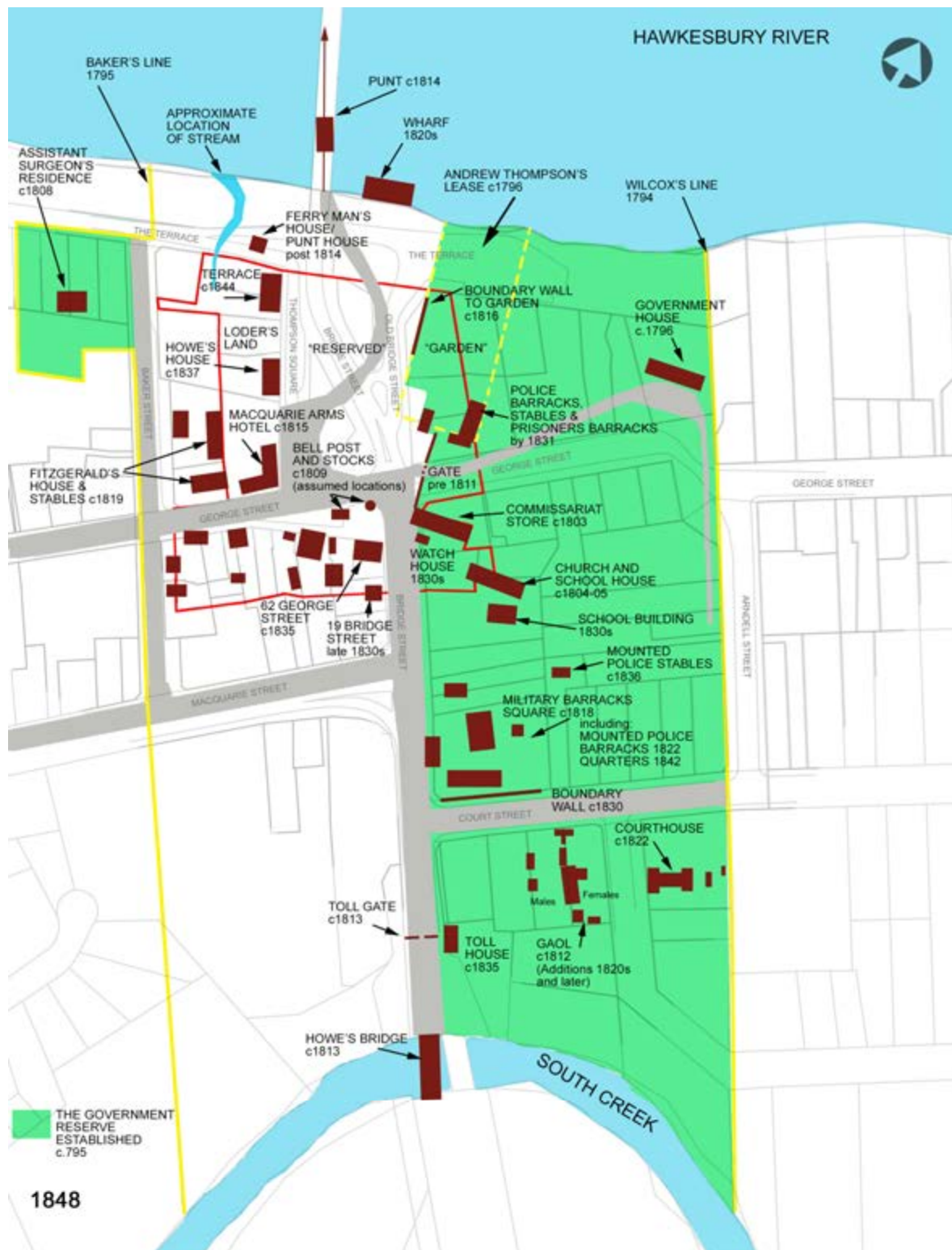


Figure 4. 20: Diagram showing the layout of Windsor and Thompson Square: 1848



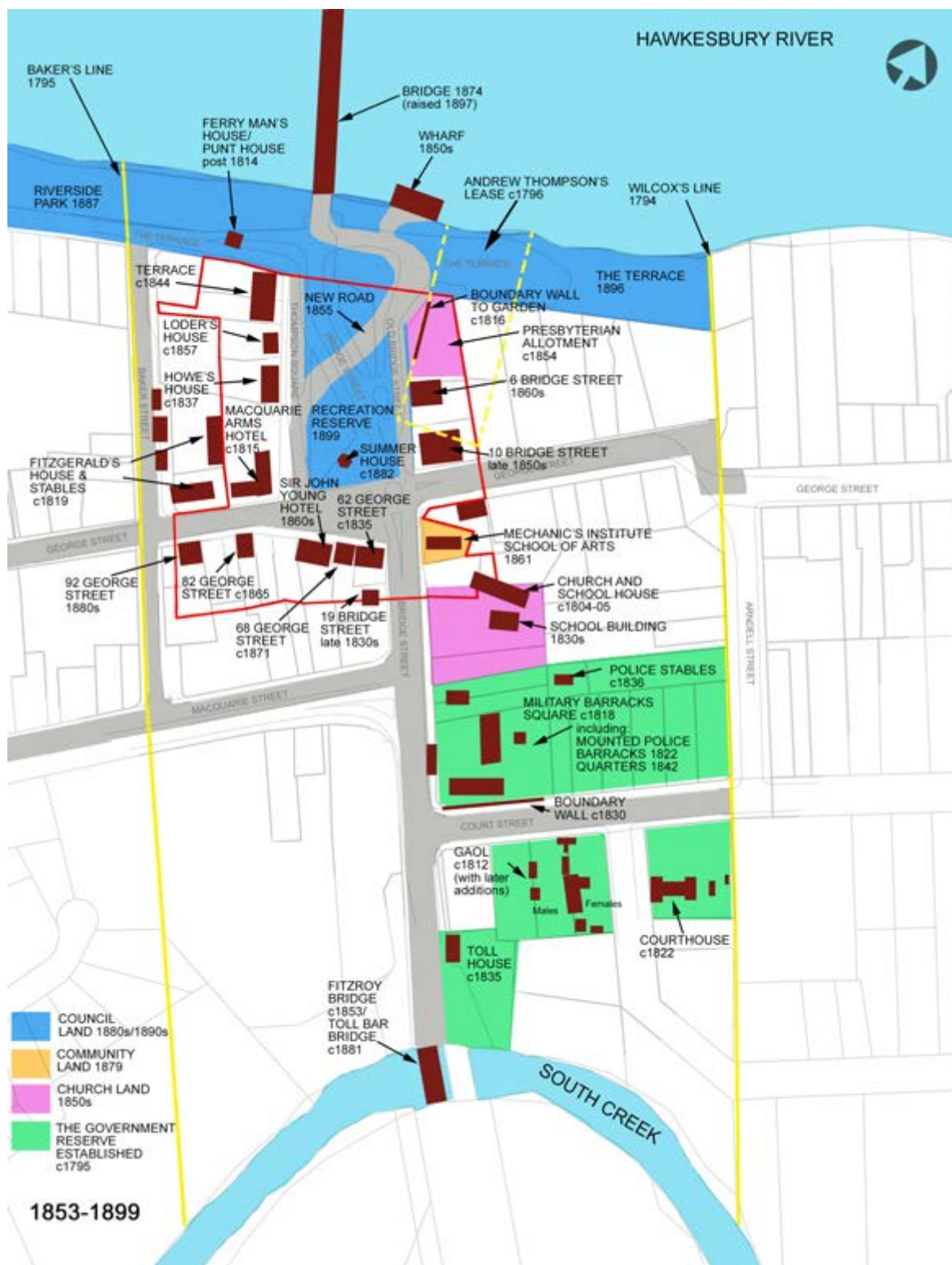


Figure 4. 21: Diagram showing the layout of Windsor and Thompson Square: 1853-1899



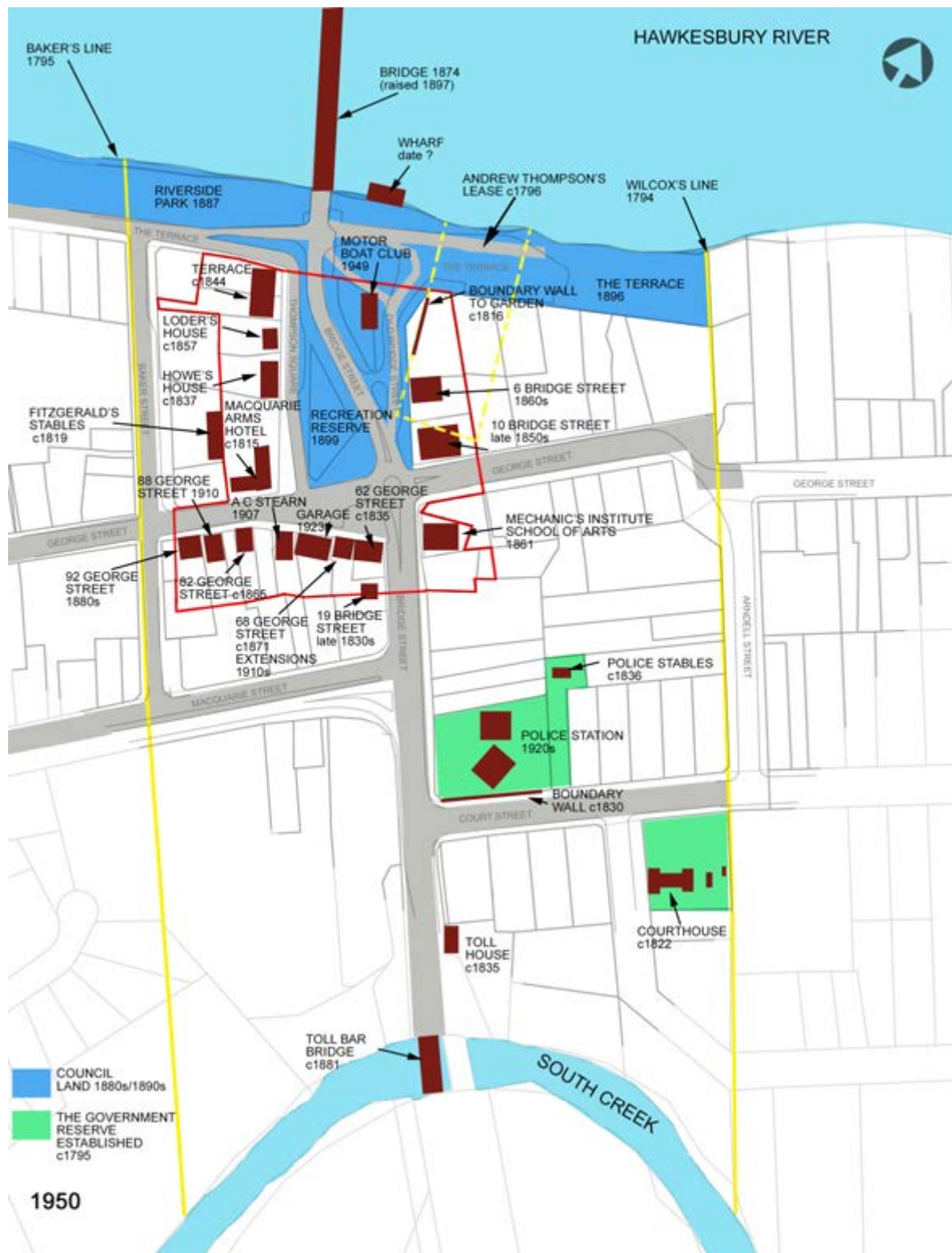


Figure 4. 22: Diagram showing the layout of Windsor and Thompson Square: 1950

## 4.3 Aesthetic Values of the Place

### 4.3.1 The Scenic Qualities of the Townscape/Landscape

Windsor retains its early townscape relationship with its enveloping landscape on account of the ongoing threat of serious inundation. The town's conspicuous concentration over the long rising landform maintains a pattern established very early in its development. As a result of this the town has a special aesthetic relationship to its surrounding agricultural flats that has been acknowledged in the work of artists since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (see below) and is particularly evident when approaching Windsor from McGraths Hill (from the south) or Wilberforce (from the north). It is this abrupt and longstanding contrast between the broad, flat floodplains and the urbanised local rise that lends the place its high scenic quality. This is evident at Thompson Square in both views to the Square and out from it to the river and agricultural landscapes beyond.

The integral open space reserves of Thompson Square, along with the adjoining riverscape, have served as an indispensable setting for the historic buildings surrounding it.



Figure 4. 23: c1825 painting by Joseph Lycett “View of Wilberforce on the banks of the River Hawkesbury, New South Wales”. Source: NLA, PIC Volume 1103 #S434

### 4.3.2 The Architecture of the TSCA

The terms Georgian or Regency architecture are rather vague, stylistic labels used to describe almost any structure built in Australia before 1850 that is symmetrical and has small-paned windows. Architecture of the Georgian period (denoting the reign of George IV who died in 1830) was the first architectural expression to develop in Australia and it tended to last considerably longer, well past 1830. The architecture produced in this period also became a basic vocabulary for Australian vernacular architecture and synonymous with an Australian style.<sup>16</sup>

In this sense, Thompson Square has a strong Georgian character, as many of the surrounding buildings are symmetrical and have windows with small panes. However, a number of these buildings actually date from the Victorian period (for architectural dating purposes, this period typically covers 1840 to 1890). Regardless, these buildings tend to have a vernacular, anachronistic quality that relates to our understanding of Australian Georgian architecture rather than the more decorative Victorian style of architecture. As such, in order to capture the character and vernacular quality of the buildings of the TSCA that date from both the Georgian and Victorian periods, a more general term to describe the buildings from 1788 up to 1850, has been adopted, that is 'colonial' architecture.

The buildings at Nos. 1-7 Thompson Square, No. 81 and Nos. 62-74 George Street, Nos. 6, 10 & 14 Bridge Street (and to a lesser degree those at Nos. 80-92 George Street, Nos. 4 & 19 Bridge Street) define the extent and character of Thompson Square on three sides, the other side being delimited by the Hawkesbury River. These buildings range from 1815 to 1955 in date. Together the group of buildings surrounding Thompson Square clearly define the square and impart a strong colonial character to the place, containing several buildings of exceptional quality.

All of those on the western side of the square were built in the colonial period but all have later overlays. The Macquarie Arms and the Doctor's House are of exceptional quality. There is only one colonial building on the south side of the square (No. 62 George Street) but it retains its 1830s form, is in a key position on the corner of Bridge Street and on the centreline of the square. The eastern side of the square contains three Victorian buildings. The fine Italianate former School of Arts is truly Victorian, but the other two display an earlier colonial character: the Georgian style Lilburn Hall, No. 10 Bridge Street and the colonial style cottage at No. 6 Old Bridge Street. Even the mid-twentieth century cottage at No. 4 Old Bridge Street has an important colonial brick wall standing in its front garden.



Figure 4. 24: Detail from 1890s photograph of Thompson Square showing the group of colonial buildings defining the western side of the square. Source: ML SPF

<sup>16</sup> Cox, P. & Lucas, C., 1978; *Australian Colonial Architecture*, Lansdowne Editions, p. 1

The square is more than the sum of its parts. It is composed of buildings of various periods, not exclusively colonial but with a mixture of Victorian, Edwardian and later architectural periods. However, there are enough genuine colonial buildings and Victorian buildings of earlier style, to make Thompson Square the best early 19<sup>th</sup> century town square in Australia.

### 4.3.3 Architectural appreciation of the TSCA

The architectural quality of the buildings of the TSCA and the colonial character of the precinct has interested architects and others from the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to date. Over 100 years ago the architect William Hardy Wilson (1881-1955) measured up and recorded both the Doctor's House, Nos. 1-3 Thompson Square and the Macquarie Arms Hotel, followed by out of work architects during the Great Depression who prepared measured drawings which are now held in the Mitchell Library.



Figure 4. 25: 1915 drawing of the doorway to the Doctor's House, No. 1 Thompson Square by William Hardy Wilson. Source: NLA, PIC R548 LOC1361

The National Trust and the (Royal) Australian Institute of Architects listed the buildings on their earliest registers of historic buildings and in the early 1970s, when the National Trust started listing groups, as distinct from individual buildings, it listed Thompson Square. It was amongst the first such listings in Australia.

In the 1980s a Permanent Conservation Order was placed on the Square and Fisher Lucas Architects were commissioned to do a survey and prepare schedules and drawings for what needed to be done to repair and restore the facades of the main buildings fronting the Square in the TSCA. The Greiner Government paid for this and, in 1988 Premier Nick Greiner unveiled a plaque, in George Street, when the work was completed.

All this evidence of early interest and appreciation of Thompson Square demonstrates its long-standing status as a valued historic place.



### 4.3.4 Artistic Appreciation of the TSCA

Since the early 1800s, Windsor and Thompson Square have drawn artists to its locale to record the landscape and buildings. Beginning with G.W. Evans who painted Thompson Square in 1809 and again in c1811, the appreciation of the historic character of the TSCA and the relationship between the place and the Hawkesbury River has been an inspiration for artists including the “Windsor Group”, nine Sydney artists who painted in the inner city as well as Emu Plains, Richmond and, especially, Windsor between 1935 and 1945. In his introduction to *The Windsor Group* (Edwards & Shaw, 1989), Bernard Smith writes:

*"The Windsor Group may be seen as part of a significant trend in Australian painting that began to emerge in the years immediately prior to World War II, when artists began to turn away from the dominance of pastoral landscape in a new awareness of the urban environment.*

*In Windsor and Richmond what drew their attention and affection was not extensive sun-lit plains but the deeply human and historic presence evoked by old barns, bridges and farmhouses. In this they were a part of the new appreciation of the built and historic environment of the countryside."*

Other noted artists who recorded Thompson Square and the surrounding buildings and landscape include Arthur Streeton (1867-1943), Lionel Lindsay (1874-1961) and Alfred Clint (1879-1936).



Figure 4. 26: 1937 painting entitled “River through the trees, Windsor” by Laurie Elbourne, one of the Windsor Group. Source: <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au>



Figure 4. 27: c1926 watercolour: “Untitled (Historic Winsor, Late Afternoon)” by Alfred Clint. Source: The FOHacaRG Collection, <https://ehive.com/collections>



Figure 4. 28: c1919 watercolour by Lionel Lindsay entitled “The Doctor’s House, Windsor”. Source: Art Gallery of NSW, <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection>



Figure 4. 29: 1896 painting entitled “The purple noon’s transparent might” by Arthur Streeton. The view is painted of the Hawkesbury River between Richmond and Windsor. Source: National Gallery of Victoria, <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/explore/collection>

## 4.4 Social Values of the Place

Thompson Square is likely to hold considerable value and special cultural associations by contemporary communities of interest. This is amply demonstrated through its longstanding and continuing recognition by way of numerous cultural heritage listings at local and State levels along with media interest and the professional writings and research of numerous historians and others. The proactive involvement of the Federal government and the NSW state government in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980 into the conservation and restoration of the buildings of Thompson Square is also a strong indication of the value placed on this historic locality.

Finally, there can be no better demonstration of the high regard in which the place is held than the fact that it has been occupied continuously (24 hours a day, 7 days a week), for the past 5 years by the group Community Action for Windsor Bridge (CAWB).

The social value and significance attached to the archaeological remains of Thompson Square may be quite accurately assessed with regards to the public response to previous, and ongoing long-term archaeological excavation, testing and salvage programs undertaken in Thompson Square and its environs. In particular the public interest in artefacts collected during the excavations at No. 8 Baker

Street (Section 3.5.1) as well as the preserved footings of a c1819 sandstock-brick wall (once part of the Macquarie Arms Hotel), which are visible on display within the Hawkesbury Regional Museum and Gallery. The museum also incorporates the Georgian property of Howe's House, No. 7 Thompson Square, and attracts a wide audience to the Hawkesbury region.

More recently, the strong community interest, engagement and protest against the salvage excavations within the Lower Reserve of Thompson Square (as part of the RMS Windsor Bridge Replacement Project) have attracted national attention, appearing in national newspapers and on the ABC news.

Thompson Square Conservation Area demonstrates strong social significance for both the local community and visitors to the Hawkesbury region. The buried archaeological remains and the cultural landscapes within Thompson Square are therefore likely to be considered to have a strong association within the community of NSW.

## 4.5 Comparative Analysis

### 4.5.1 Introduction

Established in 1795, the area of land reserved by the government that was later to become Thompson Square formed part of the initial colonial settlement of the District of Mulgrave Place and was the focus for the development of the town of the Green Hills (renamed Windsor in 1810 by Governor Macquarie). The District of Mulgrave Place was initially established via the granting of a minimum of 30acre allotments to emancipists and free settlers alike as an agricultural outpost for the town of Sydney. The rich alluvial soils of the Hawkesbury River floodplains promised good cultivation of much needed grains. In 1793 the colony was still only farming 1700 acres and the need to find tracts of fertile ground was a priority.

Mulgrave Place was not the only farming settlement to be established on the outskirts of Sydney, others included the Eastern Farms on the Lane Cove River (1794), the stock farm at Rooty Hill (1802), Emu Plains Agricultural Establishment (1819) and Toongabbie Government Farm (1791). Other than the civic centre of Green Hills with village along the ridgeline, only Toongabbie had a township, but as it was solely part of a government farm where the convict labourers were under strict regulation, it had no public congregation area.

Based on the earliest images of the locality (see Evans c1809), the open space of Thompson Square contained a mix of dwellings and government buildings such as the granary and watch house scattered over the ground which was also used as the loading dock, market place and gathering space for the settlement. However, a number of buildings were constructed to face the square including the Public Stores and Thompson's Stores on the east (now Old Bridge Street) and buildings along the ridgeline to the south (now George Street) and on the west (now the street called Thompson Square).

As discussed above (see Section 2 History), Thompson Square was both a focus for transport (primarily via the river transporting food grains etc to Sydney) as well as a gathering space for the settlers of Green Hills and surrounds. The square was used both for private commercial purposes (trading), as well as a civic administration space (muster point, punishments, blanket distribution, supply distribution etc)

The early configuration of the initial settlement of the Green Hills with the combined private, commercial and civic use of the land between the river bank and the ridgeline, already appeared as a

recognisable public square before Governor Macquarie noted in his diary in January 1811: “The Square in the present Town I have named ‘Thompson Square’”.<sup>17</sup>

The naming of the existing public square was one of a group of actions that Macquarie undertook at Green Hills together with the naming of the town (Windsor), the naming of the principal street (George Street), the laying out of new allotments in the town for building substantial new buildings (the Macquarie Arms Hotel), and the erecting of name posts for both Thompson Square and George Street.<sup>18</sup> These actions, which formalised the town planning of Windsor, were repeated by Governor Macquarie in numerous towns throughout N.S.W and Tasmania, including the five Macquarie towns along the Hawkesbury River.

Following his appointment as the Governor of NSW in 1810, Lachlan Macquarie was instructed by the British Government to survey and select five flood-free sites along the Hawkesbury River to determine which were best suited for new townships. To protect the future prosperity of the colony, the development of the selected towns was intended to expand food production and promote progress, self-sufficiency and sustainability amongst the settlers. Macquarie had intended to encourage the farming communities, established in the high-risk flood plains, to relocate and settle in the new townships, thus providing refuge and security for the farmers themselves as well as their livestock and crops.<sup>19</sup> The result was the establishment of the towns of Windsor, Richmond, Castlereagh, Pitt Town and Wilberforce. However, of these five towns, only Windsor, Richmond and Wilberforce retain evidence of Macquarie’s influence and town planning; while Castlereagh and Pitt Town were less successful, developing later and not in their original locations as laid out by Macquarie.

Given this establishment history, Thompson Square can most usefully be compared to pre-Macquarie era (1788-1810) public squares and Macquarie era (1810-1821) planned town squares.

Refer to Comparative Analysis below.

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<sup>17</sup> Macquarie, Lachlan; *Memoranda & Related Papers. 22 December 1808-14 July 1823*. Original held in the Mitchell Library, Sydney. Cited in *Lachlan & Elizabeth Macquarie Archive* <https://www.mq.edu.au/macquarie-archive/lema/1811/1811jan.html>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup>



## 4.5.2 Comparative Analysis

The following section details the establishment and subsequent history of surviving colonial public squares and spaces:

### Pre-Macquarie Era Public Squares

#### Macquarie Place, Sydney (c1802)



Figure 4. 30: Detail from 1802 plan entitled Plan de la ville de Sydney by Charles Lesueur. The precursor to Macquarie Place is indicated with an arrow, with the Public Store (no. 4), Dry Store (no. 3) and General Store (no. 5) adjacent. Source: NLA, Map RaA 2 Plate 30



Figure 4. 31: Aerial photograph of Macquarie Place near Circular Quay today. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps

Macquarie Place is shown from c1802 as a triangular area formed by the intersection of three early Colonial roads running in direct lines between three important constructions of the colonial period, including the Guard House at the entrance to First Government House at the south-eastern tip of the triangle, the bridge over the Tank Stream at the south-western tip of the triangle, and the 1788 fortifications (replaced by the Dry Store in 1791) beside the Government Wharf.

Macquarie Place may have operated as a public place of gathering for the early settlement from as early as 1791 alongside the Dry Store, located in the approximate present-day location of Customs House. At least half of the population still depended upon this Dry Store for collecting their food rations by 1801. By 1807 a triangular layout had been formalised (relating to the existing layout of the plots of land) and a guard house had been built next to Government House's main entrance.

In 1810 Macquarie named the principal roads in Sydney town, envisaging a regular grid, and set aside Macquarie Place as public ground. His General Orders of 1810 stated: *It being intended to remove all those old Buildings and Enclosures now on the space of Ground which is bounded by the Government Domain, by the Judge Advocate's, Secretary's, Chaplain's, and Commissary's Houses on the South...and by the Houses of Mr. Lord, Mr. Thompson [the same Andrew Thompson from Windsor], and Mr. Reibey on the North, and to throw the same into an open Area, the said Area or space of Ground, has been named Macquarie Place...*<sup>20</sup> Today, Macquarie Place retains its early triangular shape although none of the buildings that once fronted the square survive. The only surviving colonial feature of the place is the obelisk, erected by Governor Macquarie to mark the centre of the town of Sydney and from which all distances were measured from.

<sup>20</sup> Sydney Gazette, 6<sup>th</sup> October 1810

## Pre-Macquarie Era Public Squares

### Market Place, Sydney (c1806)



Figure 4.32: Detail from 1807 plan of the Town of Sydney by James Meehan showing the location of the Market Place. Source: NLA, Map F 105B



Figure 4.33: Aerial photograph of the western side of Circular Quay today indicating the approximate location of the Market Place. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps

In c1806, Governor King designated an area of land on the western side of Sydney Cove as a market place. An announcement in the Government Gazette stated: *Whereas great inconvenience attends Boats which come loaded with Ve-getables and other Articles for barter with the Inhabitants and others at Sydney; It is ordered, that in future no Purchase shall be made until everything is landed at the place now appointed ; and that the Mar-ket shall not be considered to be opened until Seven o' Clock in the Morning. The said Market Place shall extend from the end Paling of Daniel McKay's Garden, in the middle of High-street to-wards the Parade.*<sup>21</sup> For a short period of time, this Market Place thrived, with regulations prohibiting the sale of goods at other locations during the allotted hours for market days. There was also a bell located at the market for announcing the opening and closing hours of the market, a pillory for public punishments and public meetings were held there as well as religious services for working gangs (convicts).

However in 1810, Governor Macquarie announced: *The present Market-Place being very badly and inconveniently situated, it is His EXCELLENCY'S Intention to remove the Market very soon to a more commodious and central Situation for the Inhabitants of the Town in general. The Place thus intended to remove the Market to is that Piece of open Ground ..... bounded by George-street on the East, York-street on the West, Market-street on the North, and the Burying Ground on the South; and is henceforth to be called "Market Square."* For the further Accommodation and Convenience of the Inhabitants in general, and particularly of those Persons bringing Corn or other Grain, Goods or other Merchandize, in Vessels or Boats from the Hawkesbury, &c to the Market, it is intended to erect a Wharf immediately at Cockle Bay, contiguous to the new Market Place; and from thence there will be a good Road or Street made to communicate directly with the said Market Square; and which, when completed [sic], is to be called "Market Wharf". Today, the Queen Victoria Building occupies the new Market Place established by Macquarie, while the original Market Place no longer survives.

<sup>21</sup> General Order: *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August 1806, p. 1

## Pre-Macquarie Era Public Squares

### Dunn Place Carpark, Hobart (c1810)



Figure 4. 34: Detail from 1829 Plan of the Streets of Hobart Town showing the location of the Commissariat Stores (circled) with open space (gathering space?) directly in front. Source: Tas Archives/136187713

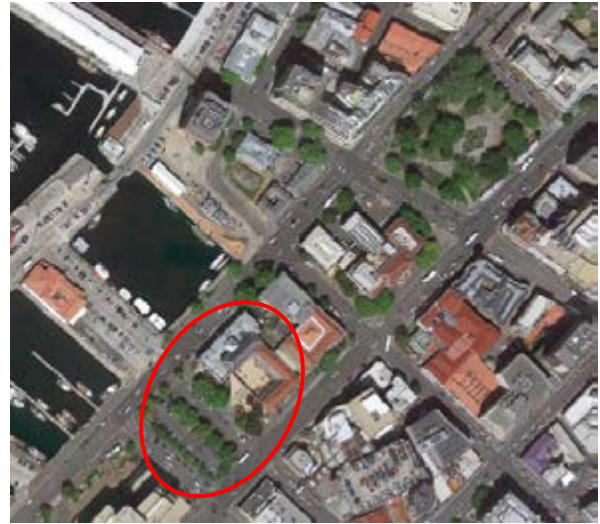


Figure 4. 35: Aerial view of Hobart with Dunn Place carpark and the Commissariat Store circled. Source: GoogleMaps, 2018

Founded in 1804 on the water frontage of Sullivan's Cove, Hobart's earliest market place/town square appears to have been located adjacent to the Commissariat Provision - or Issuing Store - built between 1808 and 1810. The building's location close to the waterfront provided easy access, and it played a vital role in the colony's early economy as the focal point for receiving and distributing goods - including both imported goods and those produced in Hobart and the southern districts. Contracts with the Commissariat were very important to many landowners, providing a guaranteed means of disposing of surplus produce such as game meat, and enabling the colony's first fortunes to be made. The Commissariat also gathered statistical information about the population and, prior to the development of private charitable institutions, assisted the poor. Today, the Commissariat Stores forms part of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery site.

The open space fronting the stores (to the east) is now a carpark<sup>22</sup> which, although it still fronts the Commissariat Store building, is not an enclosed space and is not recognisable as an early public square/gathering space.

<sup>22</sup> *The Commissariat complex: 1810*, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, cited at <http://www.abc.net.au/local>



## The Five Macquarie Towns

### Richmond Park, Richmond, N.S.W (1811)



Figure 4. 36: Detail from 1811 plan of Richmond Town showing the central square marked as "Reserve for Market Place". Source: SLNSW, M Z/M2 811.11213/1811/1



Figure 4. 37: Aerial photograph of Richmond Park in the town of Richmond. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps

In 1811 the Government surveyor, James Meehan, established the grid pattern of streets for the town of Richmond including the 'Market Square', bounded by Windsor and March Streets, East Market and West Market Streets. The town was laid out over existing land grants held by Nicholas Bayly and William Bowman, but they were persuaded to relinquish their holdings in return for larger grants elsewhere. The reserved open space was reduced after 1821 to an area of 7 acres 3 roods 37 perches (i.e. the present area of 3.23 ha). The remaining portion of Crown reserve, between the 'square' and West Market Street, was set aside for other purposes including building a watch house and later the court house, post office, masonic lodge, School of Arts and public school.

The square was presumably used for buying and selling stock and crops in the 1820s and perhaps the 1830s, though no specific description of early Richmond market days survives. In the 1840s, the land was largely cleared of vegetation and the site underwent a change in use from a market place to an area for more active recreational purposes, particularly for athletics ('foot races') and cricket. With renewed community effort to improve this area of public open space, the status of the square changed and, in 1868, the site was officially gazetted for public recreation. It was also around this same time that the site became first known as Richmond Park.<sup>23</sup>

The long use of the area as a recreational space has resulted in a very different character to that of Thompson Square. Richmond Park is not located on the river bank and not of the same intimate scale or colonial character as Thompson Square.

<sup>23</sup> *Richmond Park*, SHR No. 01808, Office of Environment & Heritage and *Richmond Park Conservation Management Plan*, Morris, Jack & Britton for Hawkesbury City Council, 2003



## The Five Macquarie Towns

### McQuade Park, Windsor, N.S.W (1811)



Figure 4. 38: Detail from 1812 Meehan plan (image quality adjusted) showing the initial layout of McQuade Park noted as "Reserved Square". Thompson Square is (out of frame) to the right. Source: SA Map SZ 529



Figure 4. 39: Aerial photograph of McQuade Park in the town of Windsor. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps

When Macquarie laid out the town of Windsor in 1811, as well as naming the existing square Thompson Square, he included a new Square a kilometre west of Green Hills that had all the important expectations of Macquarie's other town squares. James Meehan, the surveyor, spelt out in his field-book the functions envisaged for the new Square: 'Also the Space being 15 chains in length on S34W and 1550 in depth W34N is intended as a Square or Open Area - as a parade or park for the use of the Town ...'. By 1827, when new plans were drawn, the area of the Square had been more than doubled and its shape was no longer rectangular. By 1827 the only part which remained the same as Meehan's initial plan was the southern edge, along George Street, although the George Street frontage was now extended to the west to a total of about 230 metres.

Unlike Richmond's central reserve, Windsor's square was not used for markets, which were held instead at Thompson Square. Because of its position, the square was closely associated with St Matthew's Anglican Church and by the 1840s it was regularly known as the Church Green. By the 1840s cricket was a more regular feature on the Church Green. In 1868 the State government made Church Green into a Public Reserve and the park was named for John McQuade who was mayor of the municipality in 1872.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>24</sup> *McQuade Park* SHR No. 01851, Office of Environment & Heritage and *McQuade Park Conservation Management Plan*, Morris, Jack & Britton for Hawkesbury City Council, 20034

## The Five Macquarie Towns

### Wilberforce Park, Wilberforce, N.S.W (1811)

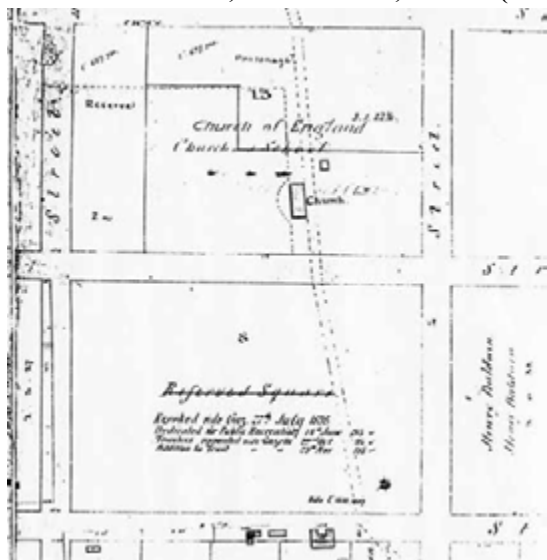


Figure 4. 40: Detail from 1833 plan of Wilberforce showing the central square marked as “Reserved Square”. Source: SRNSW AO MAP 5960 1833, *Wilberforce Park Conservation Management Plan*, 2003, p. 10



Figure 4. 41: Aerial photograph of Wilberforce Park in the town of Wilberforce. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps

The river frontage along Wilberforce Reach, close to the future town, had been fully occupied by the end of 1794 and the area along the north-eastern part of York Reach was being farmed by 1795. In Macquarie's time the greatest density of settlement on the inland side still lay to the south-west of the town, within the great bend of the river along the Argyle, Windsor and Wilberforce Reaches. The site chosen for the town on 6 December 1810 was convenient for access to the river and its farms, above the level of any anticipated flood.

The surveyor, James Meehan started his work of laying out Wilberforce on 5 January 1811 with the “Great Square” occupying the whole central rectangular section. The Square was defined by the new town streets, Macquarie to the north, George to the south and, on the short sides of the rectangle, Duke to the west and Church to the east. These new roads did not supersede the older track from the flood-plain up to the road to Kurrajong, which wound across the eastern sector of the new Square. Houses were built which encroached on George Road. Church Road had no building development at all until the very end of the nineteenth century, but the two allotments in Duke Road adjacent to the Square had been developed. On the land above the Square across Macquarie Road, the second Macquarie schoolhouse/chapel, built in 1819, dominated the scene until Edmund Blacket erected St John's Anglican church in front of the Macquarie building in 1860.

Wilberforce Square, in contrast to Richmond Square, was not designated as a market place. The pronounced slope of the land made it unsuitable for team-games. Since the Square is unlikely to have been fenced in the nineteenth century, it is likely that cattle, sheep, horses and pigs would often have grazed there, en-route to the common beyond the burial ground. On 14 June 1895 Macquarie's Great Square was reclassified as a Recreation Ground.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Morris, Jack & Britton, 2003; *Wilberforce Park Conservation Management Plan*, prepared for Hawkesbury City Council

## Other Macquarie Towns and Public Squares in N.S.W

### Bigge's Square, Liverpool, N.S.W (1810)



Figure 4.42: Detail from (undated) Town Plan of Liverpool showing Bigge Square adjacent to the church lands (to the left) and the hospital lands (to the right). Source: NSW Land Registry Services HLRV



Figure 4.43: Aerial photograph of Bigge Square in Liverpool. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps

On November 7, 1810 Governor Lachlan Macquarie founded Liverpool and named it in honour of the Earl of Liverpool, then Secretary of State for the Colonies. Macquarie noted in his diary: “*I determined to erect a Township on it, and named it Liverpool in honor of the Earl of that Title -- now the Secretary of State for the Colonies. -- The Acting Surveyor Mr. Meehan was at the same [time] directed to mark out the Ground for the Town, with a Square in the Center thereof, for the purpose of having a Church hereafter erected within it.*”<sup>26</sup>

Originally, Bigge's Square (named for John Thomas Bigge, judge and commissioner of inquiry into the colony of New South Wales) stretched from Elizabeth and Bigge Streets in the north and west, to Scott Street in the south. The Georges River formed a natural eastern boundary. Early in its history, the area east of what is now College Street was set aside as the site of the District Hospital. Until 1843, Bigge's Square functioned as a centre for convict punishment. The stock and gallows, and whipping triangles were located within the square, as was the stockade for convict labourers. The park was an integral part of the original survey of Liverpool, and has remained as open space since the foundation of the township. In 1868 Bigges Square was dedicated for public recreation and became Bigge Park, being the area bounded by Bigge, Elizabeth, Moore and College Streets.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Macquarie, Lachlan; *Memoranda & Related Papers. 22 December 1808-14 July 1823*. Original held in the Mitchell Library, Sydney. Cited in *Lachlan & Elizabeth Macquarie Archive* <https://www.mq.edu.au/macquarie-archive/lema/1810/1810.html>

<sup>27</sup> *Plan of Management Bigge Park*, 2008, Liverpool City Council



## Other Macquarie Towns and Public Squares in N.S.W

### Centenary Square, Parramatta (1812/1988)



Figure 4. 44: Extract from 1856 map entitled *Town of Parramatta*, by Bowden & Threlkeld showing the location of the original market square opposite St John's Church. Source: NLA, MAP Folder 130, LFSP 2075



Figure 4. 45: Aerial photograph of Centenary Square with the Town Hall and St. John's Church in Parramatta. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps

Although a market place located on the south bank of Parramatta River was included in the initial town plan conceived by Governor Phillip and Surveyor Augustus Alt in 1790 for the town of Parramatta, this town square was never developed and it was not until 1812 that Governor Macquarie established Parramatta as a market town. An area of open space to the east of St John's Cathedral was the site of Parramatta's first fair/market organised by Governor Macquarie and held on 13 January 1813. Later it was the site of the annual feast for Aboriginal people first held by Governor Macquarie and continued from 1816 – 1830. However, in 1883 the town hall was built on the site.

Regardless, the area which includes St John's Church (1803), the Town Hall and the Centennial Memorial (1888) is known as Centenary Square (variously Centennial Square or Bicentennial Square). St John's Square was landscaped in c 1909 as a centrepiece of Parramatta and Centenary (Bicentennial) Square was created in 1988 by the closure of Church St (north of Macquarie St and in front of the Town Hall and St John's), and the re-landscaping of the St John's Square.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>28</sup> <http://arc.parracity.nsw.gov.au/blog/revitalisation-of-the-market-space-in-parramatta-square-1880-1930> and Kass, Liston, McClymont, 1996; *Parramatta: A Past Revealed*, Parramatta City Council, p. 25



## Other Macquarie Towns and Public Squares in N.S.W

### Bathurst, NSW (1815)



Figure 4. 46: Detail from 1860 Town Plan of Bathurst map showing the undeveloped land fronting the Macquarie River intersected by the Sydney Road. Source: NSW LRS online/ <http://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au>



Figure 4. 47: Aerial photograph of the area of early Bathurst with Bathurst Showground and the Sydney Road. Note the location of the old bridge to the north of the new bridge. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps

On 7 May 1815, Governor Macquarie at the terminus of Cox's Road from Sydney raised the flag, ordered a ceremonial volley to be fired and proclaimed and named the future town of Bathurst after the Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, Henry Bathurst, 3rd Earl Bathurst. Bathurst is the oldest inland town in Australia and was initially intended to be the administrative centre of the western plains of New South Wales.

In 1818 Macquarie granted 50 acres of farmland to ten men, however Macquarie had not received permission from England to establish Bathurst and when found out he was told to stop and future settlement was restricted. These first land grants were all on the eastern bank of the Macquarie River and the western bank was reserved for Government use only (such as soldiers, convicts and stock). This arrangement continued until 1826 during which time Bathurst continued under the control of a Commandant and remained a small and isolated settlement for many years. In 1833, Governor Bourke opened up the Government Reserve lands on the west bank of the Macquarie River for public sale and Surveyor General Sir Thomas Mitchell drew up plans for the new town.<sup>29</sup>

Governor Macquarie's plans for the establishment of Bathurst did not include a town square as seen in his other towns, as he adopted a completely different approach using the Macquarie River to segregate the government functions from the graziers. Regardless, an undeveloped area of land fronting the Macquarie River adjacent to the Mounted Police/Ordnance lands appear on early plans of Bathurst. This open area (on a much larger scale than Thompson Square) held an early connecting road from the bridge over the river to the hay and corn market (see Figure 4.33). The configuration of this open space remains discernible today, containing the Bathurst Showground and with the Sydney Road to the west, following a similar alignment to the early roadway, although the river bank lands have been developed and the former government reserve lands are now residential and commercial areas.

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2015/01/13/4161443.htm?site=centralwest>; <http://www.bathurst-nsw.com/History.html>

## Other Macquarie Towns and Public Squares in N.S.W

### Queen's Square, Sydney (1819-1820)

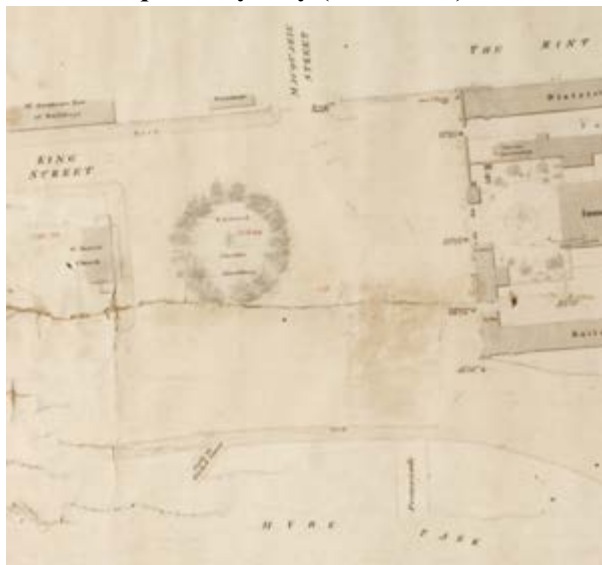


Figure 4. 48: Detail from 1845 plan Map of the City of Sydney by F.W. Shields. Source: City of Sydney Archives\_Historical Atlas

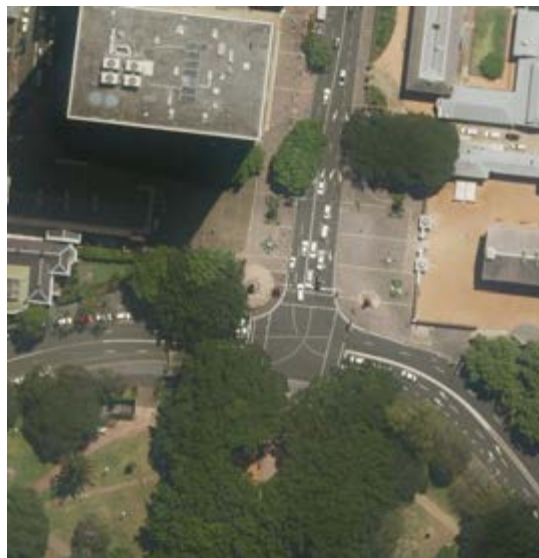


Figure 4. 49: Aerial photograph of Queen's Square in Sydney. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps

Queens Square is of historical significance as an open space terminating the Macquarie Street boulevard with views of Hyde Park, St James Church, Hyde Park Barracks, the Mint and the former Registrar Generals (Land Titles) Office.

The northern boundary of Hyde Park was at first defined by the edge of the Governor's Demesne (Domain), which the Macquarie's came to regard as their personal pleasure grounds. Macquarie himself directed the building of Hyde Park Barracks (1817-19), St. James' Church (1820) and the Law Courts (1819-28) at the northern end of Hyde Park, using Francis Greenway as his architect, with these buildings as fine embellishments to the colonial town, facing each other across a plaza which terminated Macquarie Street. Macquarie blocked the southern end of Macquarie Street with a wall and entry gate. Macquarie did not name the plaza and it was later known as Queens's Square and excluded all roadways from the park.<sup>30</sup> Today however, the roads are open to traffic linking Macquarie Street to College Street and Elizabeth Street. The opening of the roads has interrupted the relationship between the Hyde Park Barracks and St James Church.

<sup>30</sup> Extract from SHR listing for *Hyde Park*, SHR No. 01871, Office of Environment & Heritage

## Other Macquarie Towns and Public Squares in N.S.W

### Market Place, Newcastle (1823)

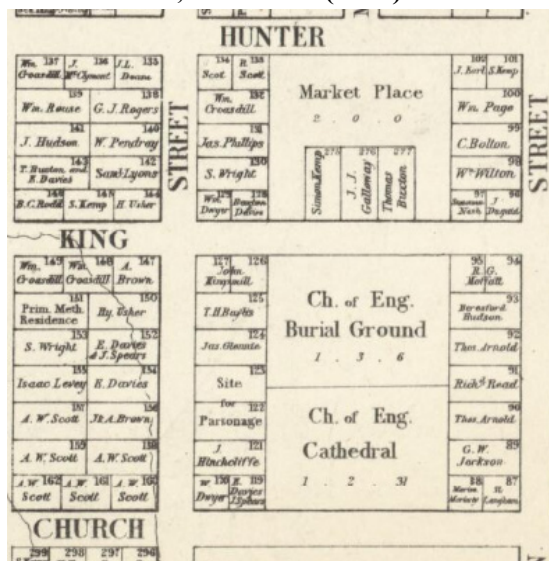


Figure 4. 50: Detail from 1873 Plan of the City of Newcastle showing the market place to the north of the church grounds. Source: NLA, MAP F 48b



Figure 4. 51: Aerial photograph of the former Market Place (circled) in Newcastle. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps

Governor Macquarie's decision to open up the Hunter Valley to free settlers necessitated the closure of the penal settlement and in 1823 Henry Dangar was directed to prepare a town plan on the site of the convict settlement. Dangar set aside land for churches, schools and government buildings and planned a market square in the centre of the town.

Today the market square or market place no longer survives, although the subdivision pattern remains evident in the road alignments of Hunter, King, Thom, Morgan and Laing Streets to the north of the surviving Christ Church Cathedral and Cathedral Park (originally laid out as the Church of England Burial Ground as seen in Figure 4.20).<sup>31</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Suter Architects, 2007; *Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study: Thematic History*, Newcastle City Council, p. 26-27



## Macquarie Towns in Tasmania

### Franklin Square, Hobart (c1811)



Figure 4. 52: Detail from a copy of Meehan's 1811 plan for the laying out of Hobart by Macquarie. George's Square in front of Government House is indicated with an arrow. Source: Tas. Archives, AF39411



Figure 4. 53: Aerial photograph of Franklin Square in Hobart. Source: NSW Spatial Services, SixMaps

In 1811 when Governor Macquarie laid out the town of Hobart he included a central square naming it George's Square in honour of the King (now known as Franklin Square). He intended it to be the site of a church, court house, town hall, public market, main guard and public garrison parade area. From 1817 regular musters were held there and the first substantial Government House for the settlement was constructed in 1817. By the 1850s, the early Government House had been demolished and the square had been transformed into a public park, although civic buildings continued to be constructed around its boundaries including a Supreme Court building (1860) and other administrative offices in the 1880s.

Today, Franklin Square does not contain any colonial buildings around its boundaries and although it is surrounded by government buildings, as per Macquarie's original plan, the square is distinctly Victorian in character.



## Macquarie Towns in Tasmania

### Regent Square, George Town (c1811)



**Figure 4.54:** Detail from 1836 plan of George Town showing Regent Square and its proximity to the waterfront of York Cove. Source: Tasmanian Archives Office, LSD264-1-14



**Figure 4.55:** Aerial view of Regent Square, George Town today. Source: GoogleMaps, 2018

Regent Square forms part of the original plan for George Town by Governor Macquarie who visited the locality in 1811 accompanied by James Meehan, the Acting Government Surveyor and decided to build a new town near the mouth of the Tamar River.

Macquarie advised Meehan that he had decided to form the town “according to a well digested regular Plan”. The key feature was a large central square, around which the principal buildings of the town should be placed including the church in Elizabeth Street, the Barracks in Anne Street, the Officer's homes in Cimitiere Street and the main working areas in Macquarie Street. In 1879 the square was fenced as a recreation ground and other improvements occurred including the planting of oaks in the Square in 1882. In 1922, Regent Square was gazetted as a Public Reserve and the park survives today substantially intact to its original boundaries, however no colonial buildings are located on its boundaries.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>32</sup> George Town & District Historical Society Inc: *History of Regent Square*; [http://gtdhs.com/html/regent\\_square](http://gtdhs.com/html/regent_square)

## Macquarie Towns in Tasmania

### Arthur Square, New Norfolk (c1811)



Figure 4. 56: Detail from the 1825 town map of New Norfolk showing Arthur Square with adjacent church and the two rivers, Derwent to the north and the Lachlan to the south. Source: Tasmanian Archives Office, AF721-1-442



Figure 4. 57: Aerial view of Arthur Square and its immediate surrounds today. Source: GoogleMaps, 2018

Located on the banks of the Derwent River with the Lachlan River to the south, New Norfolk was the third planned settlement to be undertaken in Tasmania, after Hobart and Launceston. The locality was settled in c1807 by people from the Norfolk Island penal colony who were persuaded to relocate to Tasmania (Van Diemen's land). Originally the settlement was known as "The Hills" because of its setting.

In 1811 Governor Macquarie mapped out a town site on the south bank of the Derwent River, and named the town "Elizabeth Town" (after his wife). Governor Macquarie ordered Surveyor Meehan to plan and mark out the township and details of grants and leases.<sup>33</sup> Included in the centre of the new town plan was a small square, originally named George Square and later renamed Arthur Square, after Governor Sir George Arthur. St Matthew's Anglican Church (1823) and presbytery are located on the eastern side of the square, and the government domain was located further to the east, with the military barracks to the south. The square survives today as a public park and Macquarie's town plan remains clearly visible in the street pattern and town layout (see Figure 4.57).

<sup>33</sup> [http://www.newnorfolk.org/sites/History\\_of\\_New\\_Norfolk2.shtml](http://www.newnorfolk.org/sites/History_of_New_Norfolk2.shtml)

### 4.5.3 Summary of Comparative Analysis

#### Pre-Macquarie era Public Squares/Gathering Places (1788-1810)

Green Hills, settled in 1794, is part of the third settlement (the District of Mulgrave Place which included the Richmond area and other small settlements along the Hawkesbury River and South Creek) established by the British on the mainland of Australia, the others being: Sydney (1788) and Parramatta (1788).

Within this context, only Sydney and Windsor appear to retain evidence of very early gathering places/public squares (Thompson Square and Macquarie Place) relating to a particular and very important early function of the colonial government, the supply and distribution of food. For this reason alone, Thompson Square is very rare.

The early years of the colony were beset with problems in terms of providing food for convicts, emancipists, free settlers and regimental officers alike, and a key role for the government was the distribution of supplies to the population. The District of Mulgrave Place was established in these early years specifically to ameliorate this problem and its immediate and ongoing success in providing grain to the town of Sydney gave a certain status to the principal landing place, transport hub and gathering place within the district; thus, Windsor and Thompson Square (as they were to become) became the regional centre for the Hawkesbury River agricultural outposts.

The historic relationship between Sydney and Windsor and the reliance of one on the other for food supply is represented in the survival of the two gathering places: Thompson Square as the provider and Macquarie Place as the recipient. Both locations initially contained stores for the storage and distribution of grain (as well as other goods) and both contained ill-defined open spaces within which the population could gather. Both were also located adjacent to Government Houses with watch houses and gateways separating the public from the government spaces. A further significant link between the two public spaces is the presence of Andrew Thompson, who had a residence on the boundary of both Thompson Square and Macquarie Place.

Similar gathering places for the supply and transportation of food and other goods would have been in place at all other colonial settlements, including for example at Hobart in front of the Commissariat Store and the area known as the Market Place located on the western side of Sydney Cove, however, only Thompson Square and Macquarie Place appear to survive essentially intact to their original size and configuration and as open spaces (Dunn Place in Hobart is now a carpark). Similar examples such as the Market Place have not survived.

Of the known surviving town squares/gathering places associated with the earliest settlements in Australia, Thompson Square is the only space to retain its key relationship with its setting, the Hawkesbury River. Whereas Macquarie Place retains its triangular shape as a result of early road alignments, its relationship to the waterfront has long been superseded by later development and the public park does not contain any pre-Macquarie era built fabric. Evidence of the pre-Macquarie era development and the configuration of Thompson Square remains in the built fabric, subdivision pattern, archaeology and road alignments of the place today.

### Macquarie Era Towns and Public Squares (1810-1821)

Governor Macquarie, in the majority of the settlements he either initiated or formalised (such as at Windsor), established public squares to be used by the community, around which the church, schoolhouse, gaol and guard-house (or other government buildings) could be built. This is an achievement that no previous governor had managed, and he successfully introduced the concept of the central public square into town planning in Australia.

This approach to town planning is seen in three of the five towns Macquarie established on the Hawkesbury River: Richmond Park, Wilberforce Park and McQuade Park in Windsor, as well as Bigge's Square, Liverpool. Similarly, Macquarie used the same approach to the series of settlements he established in Tasmania, including New Norfolk (previously Elizabeth Town) and George Town. The provision of public open space as the centrepiece to the government domain within the town was a recurring feature in the town planning of Governor Macquarie and these parks are rare examples surviving in NSW and Tasmania today.<sup>34</sup> Of the early settlements established by Macquarie, Bathurst (settled 1815) is most similar to Thompson Square. Located fronting the Macquarie River with a connecting road/path through the open space to the nearby bridge and adjacent to the government domain lands, the undeveloped land provided a separation between the civic and commercial precincts of the early town, much as Thompson Square did in the years up to 1850.

Macquarie also overlaid his town planning schemes onto existing settlements, regularising the street and subdivision patterns, directing the quality and function of the buildings to be constructed and giving names to existing townships, streets and squares, such as Thompson Square, Macquarie Place, the market place at Parramatta and George's Square (now known as Franklin Square), Hobart (and others including Hyde Park, Sydney, Charlotte Place, Sydney and the new Market Place, Sydney).

Of these, Franklin Square in Hobart is the most successful expression of a Macquarie designed "Georgian" town square, with a central public park (originally used as a muster point/gathering place) surrounded by government administration buildings, however all of the surrounding buildings are actually from the Victorian period. None of the original buildings that defined the square in Macquarie's time survive today. In addition, the relationship between the buildings and the square is somewhat disrupted by the main roads of Macquarie Street and Elizabeth Street on its north and west sides.

### Conclusion

Thompson Square is a very rare public square that represents two key phases in the development of the colony of Australia: the early settlement of agricultural outposts to support the population of Sydney and Governor Macquarie's grand vision for the self-sufficiency of the colony expressed in his public building and town planning program that established a solid infrastructure for the colony.

The configuration of Thompson Square as we know it today, as an open public space fronting the Hawkesbury River and surrounded on its other three sides by development began its formation in 1794 and was quickly established as a landing spot, transport and trade centre for the transporting of grain to Sydney via the river and regional centre for government administration. Although early buildings including a storehouse and small garrison, as well as scattered dwellings (as seen in Evans's 1809 painting) were located within the functional centre of this open space (what was to become Thompson Square) it is also clear that a number of buildings were established to front the nascent square including Andrew Thompson's Stores and the Public Stores on the east, houses or commercial buildings on the south along the Main Street (later to be known as George Street) and the Military Barracks on the west (on the site of the Macquarie Arms Hotel). This configuration survives today

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<sup>34</sup> Exhibition catalogue, *Governor Lachlan Macquarie 1810-1821*, State Library of New South Wales, 2010 p.20



(although the original buildings are gone) and illustrates that the area functioned as a public or town square prior to 1811.

Governor Macquarie formalised the public square at Windsor by overlaying his essential formula for the establishment of a new town onto the already developed and functioning administrative centre of Green Hills. Macquarie's *modus operandi* for all new townships was to name the town (Windsor), name the main streets (George Street and Macquarie Street), establish a central public square and name it (Macquarie named the already existing public space, Thompson Square), grant allotments of land surrounding the public square with requirements for high quality buildings (as per his instructions for the building of the Macquarie Arms Hotel) and designate land adjoining the square to the Church (at Windsor, the second granary was converted to a school and chapel by Macquarie to the southeast of the square) and for government purposes (which at Windsor were already well established along the eastern boundary of the square with the Commissariat Stores, watch house, bell post and gates and driveway entry into the Government domain).

Thompson Square, unlike Macquarie's other public squares, was not established as a recreational area or public park, rather it continued on as a functional, shared, civic and commercial space and is distinguished from all other surviving Macquarie era public squares by this early and important history and the prevailing colonial character of its architectural surroundings.

## 4.6 Analysis of the Conservation Area

The following section provides a review of the differences between the boundaries of the Thompson Square Conservation Area as identified under the State Heritage Register (SHR) and the TSCA as identified under the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012* (LEP). A detailed analysis of these differences is considered necessary to accurately define the conservation area.

In brief, the LEP identifies a larger area while the SHR listing excludes Bridge Street and four properties. For further details refer to Table 4.1 and Figure 4.42 below.

A further complication is that a heritage listing (whether it be local or state) covers the whole of the property allotment, even when some structures located on the allotment are not considered to be of heritage value. For example, the allotment Lot 1 of DP 60716 contains both No. 7 Thompson Square (Howe's House/Coffey's Inn) and the recently constructed Hawkesbury Regional Museum building at (variously addressed as No. 8 Baker Street). Although only No. 7 Thompson Square is considered to be of heritage value, the whole of the allotment is listed in the State Heritage Register listing for the conservation area and in Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury LEP 2012*. As such, although located outside of the boundaries of the conservation area, the contemporary Hawkesbury Regional Museum building is also shown shaded as a local heritage item on the relevant heritage map (see Figure 5.2).

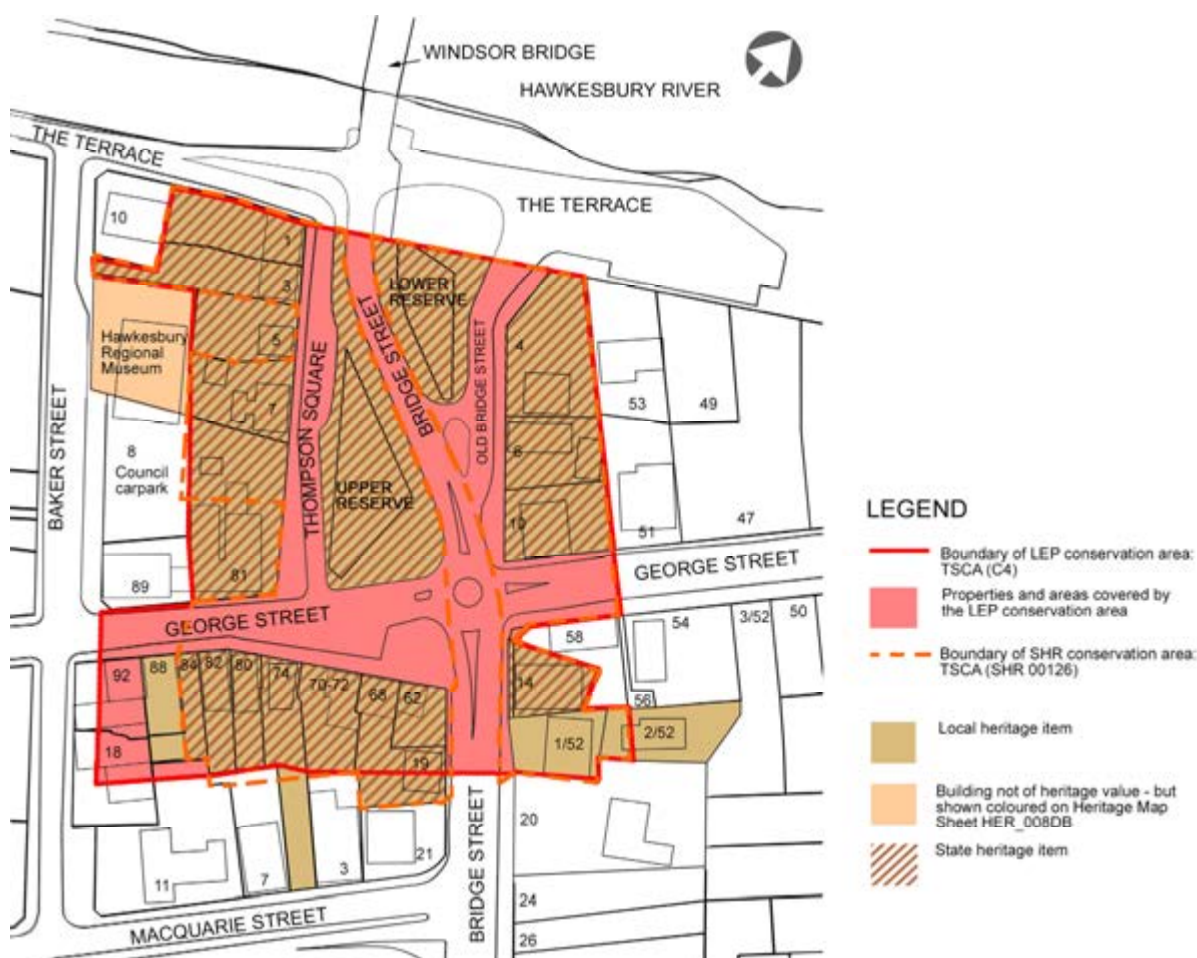


Figure 4. 58: Diagram showing the boundaries of the local and state heritage listed conservation areas and individual properties listed as heritage items in Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury LEP 2012* and the State Heritage Register.

#### 4.6.1 Analysis of Individual Properties

In analysing the listings for the two conservation areas and the individual buildings within them, the following anomalies have been identified:

##### **Bridge Street**

Within the boundaries of the LEP conservation area, all roads, road reserves and public reserves are included, although the real property definitions for the roads and road reserves are not listed in Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury LEP 2012*. Regardless, they are protected within the conservation area and are shaded as being local heritage items on the Heritage Map Sheet HER\_008DB.

Likewise, within the boundaries of the SHR conservation area, most of the roads, road reserves and public reserves are included and protected under the *Heritage Act 1979*, although the real property definitions for the roads and road reserves have not been included under the SHR listing for the conservation area.

However, a major difference between the two conservation areas is the exclusion of the entirety of Bridge Street from the SHR conservation area. At this time no explanation has been found for this

exclusion and it is assumed (though not confirmed) that it may be due to the later date (1930s) of the northern portion of the road.

It is recommended, in the absence of any justification, that the whole of Bridge Street be included within the boundaries of the SHR conservation area, as the road does form part of the historic development of Thompson Square, although it does also present as an anomaly within the historic context of the TSCA and is out of character with its immediate surrounds.

#### ***Macquarie Arms Hotel, No. 81 George Street***

The Macquarie Arms Hotel occupies the allotment Lot 1 DP 864088 and is included within the boundaries of the LEP conservation and listed in Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury LEP* 2012. However, only the northern half of the allotment for the Macquarie Arms Hotel is included within the boundaries of the SHR conservation area, while the southern half of the allotment which holds the hotel building is listed as a separate individual item on the State Heritage Register. This division across the allotment appears to relate to an earlier subdivision pattern and the details and map for the SHR conservation area have not been updated to reflect the current cadastral information for the property.

It is recommended, that the whole of the allotment for the Macquarie Arms Hotel be included within the boundaries of the SHR conservation area.

#### ***No. 5 Thompson Square***

The cottage at No. 5 Thompson Square, occupies the allotment Lot 1 DP 745036 and is included within the boundaries of the LEP conservation and listed in Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury LEP* 2012. Although this building is listed separately on the State Heritage Register (SHR No. 0005), it is not included within the boundaries of the SHR conservation area. At this time no explanation has been found for this exclusion, although it may be because a property listed separately on the SHR cannot be listed again as part of a larger area. It is recommended that the No. 5 Thompson Square be included within the boundaries of the SHR conservation area.

#### ***No. 19 Bridge Street***

No. 19 Bridge Street is a late 1830s or early 1840s cottage directly to the south of 62 George Street. The cottage is located on Lot 1 DP555685 and the allotment also contains Nos. 66-68 George Street. The allotment details are included in both the SHR listing for the conservation area and in Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury LEP* 2012. However, the boundary line of the LEP conservation area bisects the allotment, crossing through the actual building at No. 19 Bridge Street.

It is recommended that the boundary of the LEP Conservation Area be adjusted to align with the southern boundary of Lot 1 DP 55685 and encompass the whole of No. 19 Bridge Street.

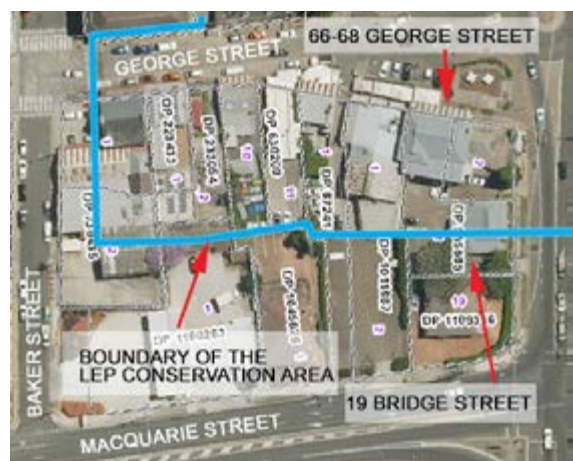


Figure 4. 59: Aerial view showing cadastral information and location of the LEP conservation area boundary crossing through Lot 1 DP55685 and the building at No. 19 Bridge Street.

**Nos. 1/52 and 2/52 George Street**

Included within both the SHR conservation area and the LEP conservation area is the whole of the allotment for No. 1/52 George Street (Lot 1 DP 1127620) and a portion of the allotment for No. 2/52 George Street (Lot 2 DP 1127620). Both these allotments to the south of No. 14 Bridge Street, the former School of Arts building, were redeveloped in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and currently hold contemporary town house buildings that are not considered to be of heritage value. Regardless, the properties are included within the conservation areas and are identified as local heritage items under Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury LEP* 2012.

Historically these allotments held the three storey Granary building (at least in part) which was converted to a school and chapel by Governor Macquarie in c1811. It is assumed therefore (although not confirmed at this stage) that the inclusion of these allotments relates to the historic archaeological potential of the properties. In addition, the odd alignment of the subdivision pattern in this area provides some clue to the locations of earlier structures.

These properties should remain within the boundaries of the conservation area until further research into the history of development of the allotments, the archaeological potential of the allotments and the surrounding subdivision pattern has been carried out.

**No. 74 George Street**

No. 74 George Street (Lot 1 DP 87241) contains the A.C Stern building and the allotment extends from George Street south to Macquarie Street (although the southern portion of the allotment does not contain any structures). Currently the boundaries of both the LEP conservation area and the SHR conservation area bisects the allotment, even though the whole of the allotment is listed as a local heritage item under Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury LEP* 2012 and is shaded on the Heritage Map.

The boundaries of the conservation area should be adjusted to take in the whole of the allotment for No. 74 George Street.

**No. 84 George Street**

No. 84 George Street (Lot 2 DP 233 054), which is a driveway, is the last allotment on the southern side of the western end of George Street to be included within the boundaries of the SHR conservation area.

The allotment is “battle-axe” shaped and the boundary line cuts through the allotment, excluding the western portion located behind No. 88 George Street (see Figure 4.61). The location of the SHR conservation area boundary line probably relates to an earlier subdivision pattern and should be adjusted to reflect the current allotment boundary.

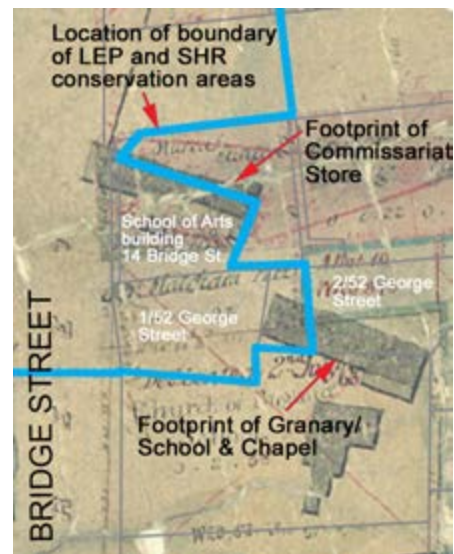


Figure 4. 60: Overlay of J. J. Galloway's 1841 survey showing the location of the boundary of the LEP and SHR conservation areas. Source: W.443.a, Crown Plan





Figure 4. 61: Aerial view showing cadastral information and location of the SHR conservation area boundary crossing through Lot 2 DP 233054. The whole allotment for No. 84 George Street is shaded orange.

### ***No. 88 George Street***

No. 88 George Street (the c1910 two-storey commercial building, Lot 1 DP 223433) is included within the boundaries of the LEP conservation area and identified as a local heritage item under Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury LEP 2012*. The property however, is not included within the boundaries of the SHR conservation area although it should be included if the boundaries of the SHR listing are extended as recommended below (see Section 4.6.3).

### ***Nos. 92-94 George Street***

As shown on the Heritage Map Sheet HER\_008DB, the boundaries of the LEP conservation area contain the majority of the property at Nos. 92-94 George Street (Lot 1 DP 730435). However, the allotment is not listed in Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury LEP 2012* and is not shaded as a heritage item on the Heritage Map. The property is also not included within the boundaries of the SHR conservation area.

The allotment for Nos. 92-94 George Street (Lot 1 DP 730435) contains a group of buildings including a two-storey commercial building fronting George Street dating from the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, a later addition single storey commercial building and other buildings located at the rear and encompassed by later additions (see Figure 4.62).

Based on the historic aerial photographs, the gable roofed warehouse building fronting Baker Street appear to have been constructed in the 1960s, however evidence remains of a hipped roof building with chimneys surviving on the eastern allotment boundary at the rear that appears to date from an earlier period (see Figure 4.63).

Although located some distance from Thompson Square, the property Nos. 92-94 George Street does form part of the early commercial precinct forming the southern boundary of the conservation area, has historic links to the earliest development of George Street and may contain other buildings of historic value (further research would need to be undertaken). As such, the whole of the allotment should be included within the boundaries of the conservation area.

In addition, the allotment itself appears to relate to the lease issued by Governor Patterson in 1809 to William Blady (being Lot 25 Section 7 of the Windsor Town Plan, see Figure 2.16) making the allotment of historical significance.

### 18 Baker Street

A portion of the property at No. 18 Baker Street (Lot 2 DP 730435) is located within the boundaries of the LEP conservation area, although as with Nos. 92-94 George Street, it is not listed in Schedule 5 of the Hawkesbury LEP 2012 and is not shaded as a heritage item on the Heritage Map Sheet HER\_008DB. The property is also not included within the boundaries of the SHR conservation area.

As with the adjoining allotment at Nos. 92-94 George Street, No. 18 Baker Street contains a group of buildings including a single storey commercial building fronting Baker Street dating from the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and other buildings located along the eastern property boundary (see Figure 4.62).

Based on the historic aerial photographs, the early hipped roof building with chimneys adjoining the rear of No. 92-94 George Street extends into the allotment for No. 18 Baker Street (see Figure 4.63).

Although No. 18 Baker Street does not appear to be historically linked to Thompson Square, as it appears to contain an early building associated with Nos. 92-94 George Street, it is recommended that the whole of the allotment should be included within the boundaries of the conservation area until further research can be undertaken to clarify the history of the property and the date and intactness of the apparent early building.



Figure 4. 62: Aerial view showing cadastral information and the location of the LEP conservation area boundary crossing through Lots 1 & 2 DP 730435. Note the early building located on the eastern boundary and across both properties: 92-94 George Street and 18 Baker Street



Figure 4. 63: Aerial view dated 1947-1951 showing the configuration of the buildings at 92-94 George Street and 18 Baker Street at that time. The early building of potential heritage value is indicated with an arrow.

Table 4. 2: Individual properties located within the boundaries of the LEP and SHR conservation areas

Street Address	Real Property Definition	LEP conservation area	Local listing	SHR conservation area	State listing
		Located within boundaries as per Heritage Map Sheet HER_008DB	Under Schedule 5 of the Hawkesbury LEP 2012	Located within boundaries of the gazetted Conservation Area	Listed as an item on the State Heritage Register
<b>Individual Properties</b>					
1 Thompson Square-The Doctor's House	Lot B DP 161643	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
3 Thompson Square-The Doctor's House	Lot 1 DP 196531	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
5 Thompson Square	Lot 1 DP 745036	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	No	Yes- SHR No. 00005
7 Thompson Square-Howe's House/Coffey's Inn/Hawkesbury Regional Museum	Lot 1 DP 60716	Yes- eastern part of the site only	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
Hawkesbury Regional Museum* (contemporary building fronting Baker Street)	Lot 1 DP 60716	No	Whole allotment is included in Schedule 5 and shaded as a local heritage item on Heritage Map Sheet HER_008DB.	No	No- although whole allotment is included in the listing for SHR No. 00126.
18 Baker Street	Lot 2 DP 730435	Yes- northeast corner included within boundaries on Heritage Map Sheet HER_008DB	No	No	No
81 George Street-Macquarie Arms Hotel	Lot 1 DP 864088	Yes	Yes- I00041	No- north portion of rear yard including only	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126 (north portion) Yes- SHR No. 00041 (south portion)
92-94 George Street	Lot 1 DP 730435	Yes- east portion included within boundaries on Heritage Map Sheet HER_008DB	No	No	No
88 George Street	Lot 1 DP 223433	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	No	No*

Street Address	Real Property Definition	LEP conservation area	Local listing	SHR conservation area	State listing
		Located within boundaries as per Heritage Map Sheet HER_008DB	Under Schedule 5 of the Hawkesbury LEP 2012	Located within boundaries of the gazetted Conservation Area	Listed as an item on the State Heritage Register
84 George Street	Lot 2 DP 233054	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
82 George Street	Lot 10 DP 630209	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
80 George Street	Lot 11 DP 630209	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
74 George Street- A C Stern building	Lot 1 DP 87241	Yes- north portion included within boundaries on Heritage Map Sheet HER_008DB	Yes- Part of I00126 (extends south to Macquarie Street outside the boundaries of the Conservation Area)	Yes- east portion included within boundaries on Heritage Map Sheet HER_008DB	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126 (North part of Lot only included)
70-72 George Street- Hawkesbury Garage	Lot 1 DP 1011887	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
68 George Street- Hawkesbury Stores	Lot 1 DP 555685	Yes- north portion included within boundaries on Heritage Map Sheet HER_008DB	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
62 George Street- Accountant's office	Lot 2 DP 555685	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
1/ 52 George Street	Lot 1 DP 1127620	Yes	Yes- Yes- listed together with No. 14 Bridge Street	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
19 Bridge Street (same allotment as 68 George Street)	Lot 1 DP 555685	Yes- boundary cuts across the actual building.	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
14 Bridge Street- School of Arts	Lot 1 DP 136637	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
10 Bridge Street	Lot A DP 381403	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
6 Old Bridge Street	Lot 1 DP 995391	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
4 Old Bridge Street	Lot 10 666894	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
<b>Public Recreation Areas/Open Spaces</b>					
Lower Reserve (3 Old Bridge Street- called 'Public Reserve') *	Lot 345 DP 752061	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126



Street Address	Real Property Definition	LEP conservation area	Local listing	SHR conservation area	State listing
		Located within boundaries as per Heritage Map Sheet HER_008DB	Under Schedule 5 of the Hawkesbury LEP 2012	Located within boundaries of the gazetted Conservation Area	Listed as an item on the State Heritage Register
Upper Reserve (called 'Thompson Square')	Lot 7007 DP 1029964	Yes	Yes- Part of I00126	Yes	Yes- Part of SHR No. 00126
<b>Streets/Roads</b>					
Old Bridge Street	-	Yes	No	Yes	-
Part of Bridge Street	-	Yes	No	No	-
Part of George Street	-	Yes	No	Yes	-
Thompson Square (the street)	-	Yes	No	Yes	

**\*Notes:**

- The Hawkesbury Regional Museum building fronting Baker Street (variously addressed as No. 8 Baker Street) is also partially constructed over the adjacent allotment to the south: Lot 3 DP 864088.
- No. 88 George Street (Lot 1 DP 223433): An incorrect Lot and DP number is included in the State Heritage Register listing for the Thompson Square Conservation Area (SHR No. 000126) being Lot 2 DP 223433. This lot and DP number does not exist.
- Lower Reserve: The Heritage Map Sheet HER\_008DB includes the Item No. 001851 adjacent to the Lower Reserve (Public Reserve) I Thompson Square. Item No. 001851 is listed as being 'McQuade Park', 361 George Street, Windsor (Lot 1 DP 556829).

**Conclusion**

At the time of writing this report, information regarding the initial establishment of the LEP conservation area and the SHR conservation area boundaries had not been located, so understanding the differences between the two conservation areas has been somewhat limited. The absence of up to date inventory sheets for the individual items located within both the SHR conservation area and the LEP conservation area also causes some difficulty in understanding why certain properties are included and others excluded. (However, it is understood that the Hawkesbury City Council are working towards remedying this problem by updating all of the relevant inventory sheets.) As such, in some cases, the reasons behind the discrepancies identified above can only be guessed at.

An obvious reason for several of the differences between the two conservation areas is shifting allotment boundaries. Boundary adjustments made since the gazettal of both conservation areas have not been transposed into the relevant listing, nor the gazetted boundaries for the conservation areas adjusted accordingly. This is a problem that can easily be remedied by both Hawkesbury City Council and the NSW Heritage Council via amendments to the existing maps for the conservation areas.

For consistency in the ongoing conservation and management of the Thompson Square Conservation Area, the desired outcome for any future adjustments to the SHR conservation area and/or the LEP conservation area boundaries, is for both conservation areas to be the same under both statutory listings. To achieve this some minor boundaries adjustments are required, as well as some additional research into the history of certain allotments to establish what (if any) contribution some properties make to the locality (see recommendations for minor adjustments and areas of research required in Table 4.2 below). Additional areas for inclusion in the conservation area are examined below.

### 4.6.2 Defining the Boundaries of the Conservation Area

Following on from the above analysis of the discrepancies existing between the LEP conservation area and the SHR conservation area and the recommended boundary adjustments (see Table 4.1), it is also worth considering whether the current boundaries accurately reflect the cultural significance of the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

According to the guideline document *Conservation Areas: Guidelines for Managing Change in Heritage Conservation Areas* (Heritage Office & Dept. of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996), a conservation area is identified by analysing its cultural significance and the special characteristics which make up that significance. For the Thompson Square Conservation Area, these special characteristics include (refer to Section 5 for further detail):

- The history of the place;
- The rarity of the place;
- The name of the place;
- The age and architectural style and form of the buildings;
- The subdivision patterns;
- The configuration of the place including the public reserves and public roadways;
- The overall character of the place;
- The archaeological potential of the place (Aboriginal and historic);
- The social links and community esteem held for the place;
- The visual and historic relationships with the Hawkesbury River and broader setting; and
- The historic associations with people of note and important events in Australia's history.

In defining the boundaries of the conservation area, the areas of significance which require the protection of heritage conservation planning should be defined both on maps and in words. Different sorts of boundaries can apply and will be influenced by various factors including land use, building scale and form, architectural periods, subdivision patterns or indeed historic events. The key questions to be asked when determining the most appropriate location for the boundary of a conservation area are:

- *Why is the area significant?* (refer to Section 5)
- *How is that reflected on the ground?* (refer to Section 3)<sup>35</sup>

It should also be noted that within the boundaries of a conservation area some items will have little or no heritage value in themselves, however their inclusion does not diminish the overall cultural significance of the area. For example, minor buildings which do little more than use compatible materials and display typical features still contribute to the significance of the area as a whole (e.g. No. 80 George Street which is a late 20<sup>th</sup> century building of a sympathetic style, form and detailing).

For the Thompson Square Conservation Area, the current boundaries (in particular the LEP conservation area boundaries) contain the majority of the principal historic features of the place; that is:

- The upper and lower reserves (remnants of the original open, shared public space known as Thompson Square);

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<sup>35</sup> Heritage Office and Dept. of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996; *Conservation Areas: Guidelines for Managing Change in Heritage Conservation Areas*, p. 20

- George Street, Bridge Street (the southern portion leading down to South Creek), Thompson Square (the street) and Old Bridge Street (evidence of the early, access road alignments);
- The Macquarie Arms Hotel, No. 81 George Street (the oldest surviving building in the conservation area with significant links to Governor Macquarie and the formalising of the square);
- No. 4 Old Bridge Street (containing a remnant of an early brick wall that defined Andrew Thompson's garden and location of former Presbyterian Manse);
- Nos. 1, 3, 5 and 7 Thompson Square (early buildings and their alignment defining the western extent of the public square);
- Nos. 6, 8 and 10 Old Bridge Street (early buildings and their alignment defining the eastern extent of the public square);
- Nos. 62 to 80 George Street (the early commercial precinct and their alignment defining the southern extent of the public square);
- Subdivision patterns showing evidence of Meehan's laying out of the town, the location of the government domain and associated buildings and pre-Macquarie era leases; and
- Views from the buildings and throughout the conservation area to the setting of the place (the Hawkesbury River and the agricultural lands beyond).

However, some key aspects of the cultural significance of Thompson Square and the town of Windsor have not been included within the SHR conservation area or the LEP conservation area. In brief, these are:

#### ***The river bank lands and the Hawkesbury River***

Currently the northern boundary of both the LEP conservation area and the SHR conservation terminates along the southern alignment of The Terrace, effectively excluding the whole of the river bank lands directly to the north of Thompson Square from conservation planning considerations (under both the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012* and the *Heritage Act 1977*).

As previously discussed (see Section 3), the Hawkesbury River and the surrounding rich alluvial lands were the principal reasons for the initial British settlement of the district of Mulgrave Place in 1794. The availability of a landing spot at (what is now known as) Thompson Square led to the development of the early town of Green Hills, centred on the shared public lands leading from the river to the ridge above (now the location of George Street), and providing a direct link via the river from the district to Sydney Cove for the transportation of a much-needed grain supply. The Hawkesbury River and the river bank lands are the *raison d'être* of the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

The river bank lands directly to the north of the Thompson Square Conservation Area were and are the location of a number of important features that have significant associations with the establishment and development of the town (many of which are from the pre-Macquarie era), including:

- the fresh water stream;
- the first (c1795), second (c1799) and third (1820s) wharves;
- the ferry man's residence (post 1814);
- early tracks connecting the ridge line to the river;
- the punt (c1814);
- the southern approach to the Windsor Bridge (1874, deck raised 1897);

- the northern portion of Andrew Thompson's lease (c1796) including his garden as seen in G.W. Evans's painting of c1809 (see Figure 2.14); and
- the archaeological potential associated with the above historic features.

Based on the above known history of the riverbank lands and the archaeological potential for evidence surviving of these early and significant features as well as the historic uses of this area (see Section 3.X), **the lands directly to the north of Thompson Square encompassing the whole of the river bank to the Mean High Water Mark (MHWM) should be included within the boundaries of the conservation area** (see Figure 4.65 and Table 4.3 below).

### ***The Terrace***

Running east-west between the northern boundary of TSCA and the Hawkesbury River and intersected by Bridge Street and Old Bridge Street is the street known as The Terrace. This street is evidence of an early road seen running along the riverbank providing a connection between Thompson Square and the land grants located along the southern bank of the Hawkesbury River to the west. A track or early cart road is visible in the location of The Terrace in the c1809 painting by G.W. Evans (see Figure 2.14) and James Meehan's 1811 plan for the laying out of the town of Windsor (see Figure 2.17).

Along with George Street and Old Bridge Street, The Terrace is surviving evidence of the earliest (pre-Macquarie era) configuration and use of Thompson Square and is considered to be highly significant. For this reason, **The Terrace should be included within the boundaries of the conservation area** (see Figure 4.65 and Table 4.3 below).

### ***The Government Reserve lands***

The area of land initially reserved by the government (i.e. not granted to emancipists and settlers for the purposes of agricultural development) and which subsequently developed into the civic and commercial centre of the town of Green Hills was defined to the north by the Hawkesbury River, the south by South Creek, to the east by the western boundary of Samuel Wilcox's grant of land (granted 1794) and to the west by the eastern boundary of James Whitehead/William Baker's grant of land (granted 1795). (Refer also to Section 4.5: Historical Development above).

Evidence of the boundaries of the 1794 government reserved lands survives in the form of the two waterways and in the alignment of two streets: Baker Street and Arndell Street.

### ***Baker Street***

Located to the west of the TSCA, Baker Street runs north-south from The Terrace (in the north) to Macquarie Street (in the south) and follows the line of the eastern boundary of the Whitehead/Baker grant which was commonly known as "Baker's Line". The notation "Baker's Line" appears on the 1827 survey prepared by Assistant Surveyor George Boyle White running down the western side of what is now known as Baker Street (see Figure 4.61). The alignment of Baker Street is also seen in Meehan's 1811 plan for the laying out of the town (see Figure 2.21).

Baker's Line (Baker Street) has from the very earliest days defined the western extent of Thompson Square with (initially) informal development by both the government and private settlers (presumably those without land grants or with farming lands away from the main centre of Green Hills) to the east of the line and formal, surveyed grants of land to the west of the line.



As can be seen on the 1811 and 1827 surveys of the government reserve lands, Baker Street is evidence of the 1795 land grant defining the western extent of the earliest configuration of Thompson Square and is considered to be highly significant. For this reason, **Baker Street (from The Terrace in the north terminating in line with the southern boundary of Lot 1 DP 730435) should be included within the boundaries of the conservation area** (see Figure 4.65 and Table 4.3 below).

### *Arndell Street*

Arndell Street is located to the east of Thompson Square and as with Baker Street (discussed above), the street, running north-south, follows the line of the western boundary of the grant made to Samuel Wilcox in 1794. Reference to “Wilcox Line” appears on the Meehan 1811 plan for the laying out of the town (see Figure 4.62 below). However, unlike Baker Street, this grant boundary did not delineate the eastern boundary of Thompson Square, rather it defined the eastern extent of the Government Domain land which began to the east of Andrew Thompson’s lease of land.

Although an historic street with significant associations to the government reserve lands and original land grants of 1794, Arndell Street does not have any direct associations with Thompson Square and the initial establishment of this civic precinct. Therefore, Arndell Street should not be included within the boundaries of the conservation area.



Figure 4. 64: Detail from White's 1827 survey showing the notation for “Baker’s Line” now known as Baker Street (circled). Source: SA Map SZ 523



Figure 4. 65: Detail from Meehan’s 1811 town plan showing the notation for “Wilcox Line” now known as Arndell Street (circled). Source: SA Map SZ 529

### *Government House*

The site of the Government House at Windsor is located on George Street to the east of Thompson Square. Constructed in c1796 and demolished in c1919, the site retains archaeological evidence of this early building. Although associated with the establishment and development of the town of Green Hills (Windsor), it did not form part of the central civic precinct of Thompson Square.

Government House was separated both in distance and by a gate with sentries (see Figure 2.22) from the daily goings-on of the public square, although its location at the top of a rise would have allowed the resident magistrate or visiting government officials (such as Governor Macquarie) to view unimpeded the workings of both the river and Thompson Square.

Significant as it is to the establishment and historic development of the town of Windsor and in particular to that area of land to the east of Bridge Street (refer below), Government House does not form part of the main story of Thompson Square and therefore, should not be included within the boundaries of the conservation area.

However, a separate conservation area encompassing the Government House site and linking to the Government Domain lands may be appropriate. Refer to below.

### ***The Government Domain***

The location of the Government House to the east of Thompson Square initiated the development of a larger government domain that began on the eastern boundary of Andrew Thompson's lease stretching east to the "Wilcox Line" (now Arndell Street) and from the riverbank of the Hawkesbury River southwards to South Creek. (See also Section 4.5: Historical Development).

The alignment of Bridge Street (which first appears in c1813 following the construction of Howe's Bridge), running from South Creek up the hill to the George Street ridgeline defines the western extent of the Government Domain. Contained within this area of land, along with the Government House, were the Commissariat Store, the Granary (converted to School and Chapel), the Watch House, the Military Barracks, the Gaol, the Courthouse and (later) the Ordnance Store and the Police Barracks and Stables.

Although highly significant as part of the initial establishment and historic development of the town of Windsor, and although the functioning of the Government at the Green Hills was intertwined with the use of Thompson Square, the Government Domain has a distinct, separate history from that of Thompson Square and therefore should not be included within the boundaries of the conservation area. The locality has also been redeveloped with residential subdivision to an unrecognisable extent.

However, given how important the Government Domain lands are to the initial establishment and history of development of Windsor, further research/study into this area is recommended with a view to creating a larger heritage precinct incorporating the Government Domain.

### ***Sites of the Commissariat Store and Granary/School and Chapel***

Although part of the Government Domain lands, parts of the former locations of the Commissariat Store and Granary/School and Chapel are located within the existing boundaries of the TSCA. These very early government buildings were located at the junction of George Street and Bridge Street (in the approximate location of the former School of Arts building and the properties at Nos. 1/52 George and 2/52 George Street. Both of these buildings are clearly visible in the early images of Thompson Square (see Figures 2.14 and 2.20), strongly defining the southeast corner of the early square and playing a crucial role in the functioning of the precinct. The Commissariat Store in particular was the location of a variety of civic functions including a muster point and a punishment location as well as a gathering spot for the distribution of supplies.

The store building and the school/chapel building represent the intersection between the public and government spaces. They were the link between the Government Domain lands and Thompson Square, where government officials, the military, settlers and convicts mixed. Therefore, the former locations of these two government buildings should be retained within the boundaries of the conservation area (unless further research into the historical development of the allotments and the archaeological potential demonstrates the allotments are of no heritage value).

There is also the potential for archaeological evidence relating to the Commissariat Store or other early 19<sup>th</sup> century government structures to survive at No. 58 George Street. Although further research into the history of this site is required based on the historic plans there is a potential for historic archaeology relating to the Commissariat Store and other early colonial structures to be located on this allotment. Therefore, **58 George Street (Lot 1 DP 1084189) should be included within the boundaries of the conservation area** (see Figure 4.65 and Table 4.3 below).

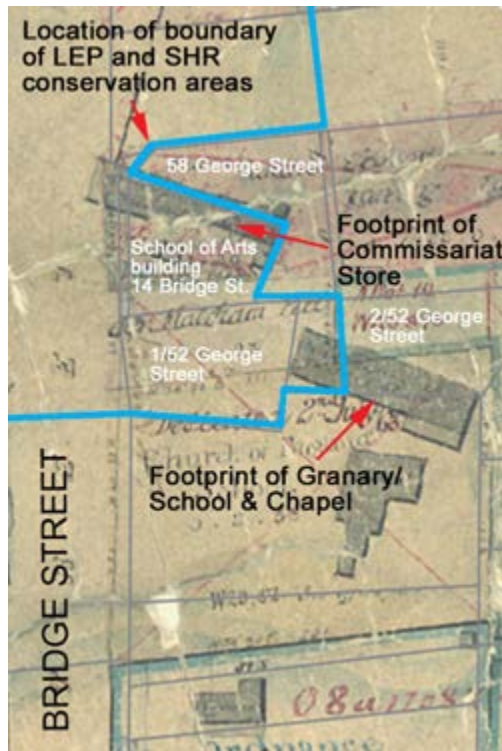


Figure 4. 66: Overlay of J. J. Galloway's 1841 survey showing the location of the boundary of the LEP conservation areas and the footprints of the Commissariat Store and School and Chapel built in the early 1800s. Source: W.443.a, Crown Plan

### ***Macquarie Street***

Macquarie Street appears to be an early road located to the south of George Street. Meehan's 1811 plan for the laying out of the town indicates the presence of an early road with annotations showing the formalising of the road to be named Macquarie Street (see Figure 4.64).

The alignment of Macquarie Street appears to have developed to provide an alternative route from Baker Street into the Government Domain, avoiding the bustling civic precinct of Thompson Square. Located on the south-side of the main ridgeline, Macquarie Street is not visible from Thompson Square and appears to have developed quite separately from the history of development of George Street and Thompson Square. Therefore, Macquarie Street should not be included within the boundaries of the conservation area.



Figure 4. 67: Detail from Meehan's 1811 town plan showing the laying out of Macquarie Street (circled) to the south of George Street and leading into the Government Domain. It should also be noted that Macquarie Street appears to be truncated at the western end at the intersection with Bridge Street. North is pointing down for this plan. Source: SA Map SZ 529

### 4.6.3 Recommendations for an Expanded TSCA

In addition to the recommended minor adjustments to the existing boundaries of the conservation area (refer to Section 4.6.2 above) and based on the above analysis, it is recommended that the boundaries of the Thompson Square Conservation Area (both the LEP listing and the SHR listing) be expanded to encompass the following additional areas of land:

- Adjust southern boundary of the conservation area to following the current southern legal allotment boundaries of Nos. 68 to 92 George Street and including No. 19 Bridge Street.
- Extend the western boundary of the conservation area to the western kerb line of Baker Street, from the intersection with The Terrace (north) to be in line with the southern boundary of Lot 1 DP 730435 (Nos. 92 George Street) (south);
- Extend the northern boundary to the Mean High Water Mark of the southern river bank of the Hawkesbury River, from the western kerb line of Baker Street (west) to be in line with the eastern boundary line of Lot 10 DP 666895 (No. 4 Old Bridge Street) (east).

For further details regarding the recommended adjustments and alterations to the boundaries of the conservation area, refer to Figure 4.65 and Table 4.3 below.

#### Contributory Items

As discussed above, not all buildings (or site and landscape features) located within the boundaries of the conservation area will be of heritage value and a simple grading system is typically applied to the individual buildings and principal site and landscape features indicating whether they contribute to the overall significance and character of the conservation area and are mapped accordingly (see Figure 4.66 below).

The following gradings apply:



**Contributory Buildings** are buildings that make an important contribution to the character of the heritage conservation area (or heritage streetscape) and have a reasonable to high degree of integrity and date from a key development period of significance. Contributory buildings, if altered, are still recognisable and the later works are reversible.

**Neutral buildings** are buildings that neither contribute nor detract from the significant character of the heritage conservation area. Neutral buildings are:

- from a significant historical period, but altered in form, unlikely to be reversed;
- sympathetic contemporary infill; or
- from a non-significant historical period but do not detract from the character of the Heritage Conservation Area.

**Detracting buildings** are intrusive to a heritage conservation area because of inappropriate scale, bulk, setbacks, setting, design or materials. They do not represent a key period of significance and detract from the character of a heritage conservation area.

For the Thompson Square Conservation Area, as most of the buildings, site and landscape features are of heritage value and are identified as being heritage items (local and state), most elements within the boundaries of the conservation area are considered to be “Contributory” to the overall significance and historic character of the place.

Later infill development constructed during the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, such as No. 80 George Street or No. 1/52 Bridge Street, is considered to be “Neutral”, as these components of the conservation area do not detract from their surroundings and do not overwhelm the adjacent buildings in terms of bulk and scale.

Note that the building at No. 4 Old Bridge Street is identified as being “Neutral” as it is a later development that does not visually detract from the surrounding historic character of the conservation area. However, the site itself is identified as being “Contributory” due to the archaeological potential of the property and its historic associations (specifically the early brick wall defining the western boundary of Andrew Thompson’s garden, see Figure 3.204).

A single exception within the proposed expanded boundaries of the Thompson Square Conservation Area is the contemporary Hawkesbury Regional Museum building fronting Baker Street. Although not considered to be visually detracting or overwhelming within the built context of Baker Street, the museum building unfortunately is constructed over the historic subdivision line that defined the northern boundary of Richard Fitzgerald’s grant of land (dated 1811 and extended in 1819). As such, the current building obscures a significant surviving component of the early development of Thompson Square and is therefore graded as being “Detracting” within the conservation area.

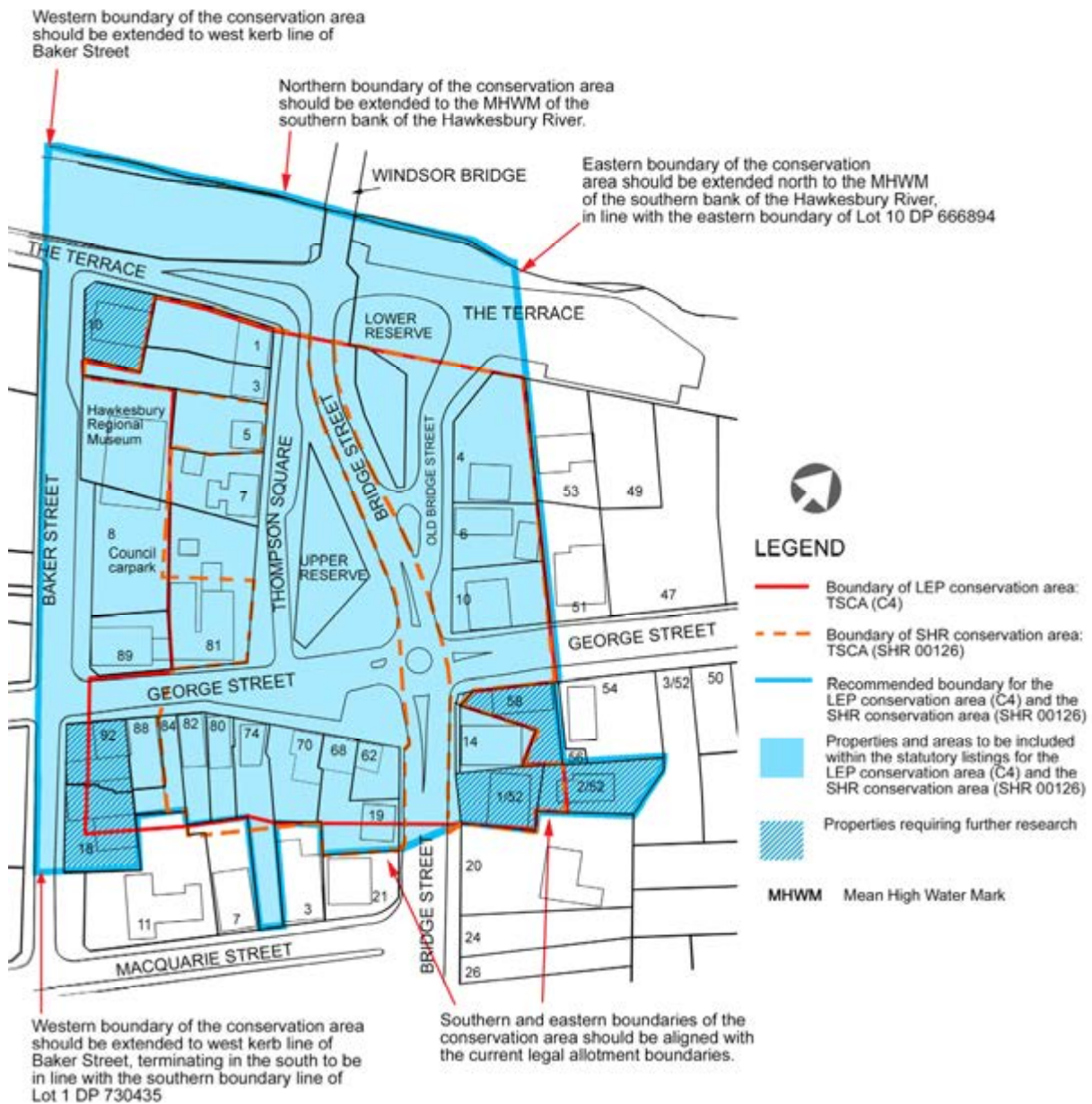


Figure 4. 68: Plan of the TSCA showing recommended adjustments to and expansion of the conservation area boundaries.

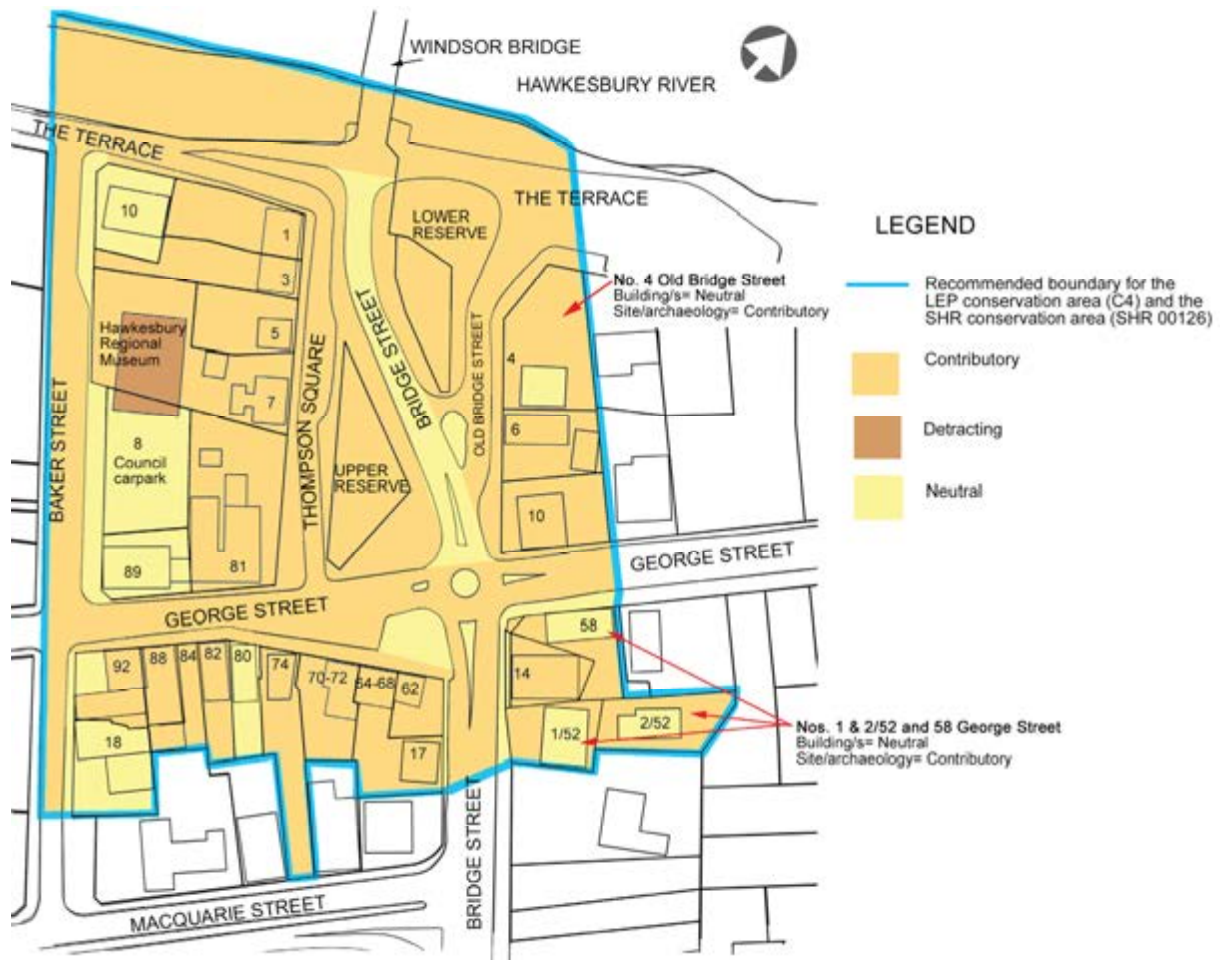


Figure 4. 69: Plan of the TSCA showing grading of the buildings, allotments, roads and street for the level of contribution to the overall significance and historic character of the conservation area.

Table 4. 3: Recommendations for minor adjustments to and the expansion of the Thompson Square Conservation Area. Note: Properties and areas shaded in blue are new additions to the TSCA.

Street Address	Real Property Definition	LEP conservation area	SHR conservation area	Contribution	Comments
		Retain, Include or Exclude	Retain, Include or Exclude	Contributory/ Detracting/ Neutral	
<b>Individual Properties</b>					
1 Thompson Square- The Doctor's House	Lot B DP 161643	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
3 Thompson Square- The Doctor's House	Lot 1 DP 196531	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
5 Thompson Square	Lot 1 DP 745036	Retain	Include	Contributory	Allotment to be included within the SHR conservation area
7 Thompson Square- Former Coffey's Inn/ Howe's House/ Hawkesbury Regional Museum	Lot 1 DP 60716	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
8 Baker Street (Council carpark)	Lot 3 DP 864088	Include	Include	Neutral	Part of the original land grant (Lot 28) made Richard Fitzgerald in 1811.  Further research required to establish archaeological potential (site of Fitzgerald's Cottage with stables and outbuildings)  Potential site for infill development.
Hawkesbury Regional Museum (fronting Baker Street)	Lot 1 DP 60716	Include	Include	Detracting	Whole allotment to be included in the TSCA
10 Baker Street	Lot 1 DP 542705	Include	Include	Neutral	Further research required to establish significance/ archaeological potential (if any)  Potential site for infill development.



Street Address	Real Property Definition	LEP conservation area	SHR conservation area	Contribution	Comments
		<b>Retain, Include or Exclude</b>	<b>Retain, Include or Exclude</b>	<b>Contributory/ Detracting/ Neutral</b>	
18 Baker Street	Lot 2 DP 730435	Retain	Include	Neutral	Whole allotment to be included.  Further research required to establish significance  Potential site for infill development.
81 George Street- Macquarie Arms Hotel	Lot 1 DP 864088	Retain	Retain	Contributory	Whole allotment to be included within SHR conservation area boundaries
92-94 George Street	Lot 1 DP 730435	Retain	Include	Contributory/ Neutral	Whole allotment to be included.  Further research required to establish significance.
88 George Street	Lot 1 DP 223433	Retain	Include	Contributory/ Neutral	Whole allotment to be included.  Further research required to establish significance
84 George Street	Lot 2 DP 233054	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
82 George Street	Lot 10 DP 630209	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
80 George Street	Lot 11 DP 630209	Retain	Retain	Neutral	
74 George Street- A C Stern building	Lot 1 DP 87241	Retain	Retain	Contributory	Whole allotment to be included.
70 George Street- Hawkesbury Garage	Lot 1 DP 1011887	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
68 George Street- Hawkesbury Stores	Lot 1 DP 555685	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
64 George Street- Hawkesbury Stores	Lot 1 DP 555685	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
62 George Street- Accountant's office	Lot 2 DP 555685	Retain	Retain	Contributory	

Street Address	Real Property Definition	LEP conservation area	SHR conservation area	Contribution	Comments
		<b>Retain, Include or Exclude</b>	<b>Retain, Include or Exclude</b>	<b>Contributory/ Detracting/ Neutral</b>	
58 George Street	Lot 1 DP 1084189	Include	Include	Neutral	Further research required to establish significance/ archaeological potential  Potential site for infill development
1/ 52 George Street	Lot 1 DP 1127620	Retain	Retain	Neutral	Further research required to establish significance/ archaeological potential  Potential site for infill development.
2/ 52 George Street	Lot 2 1127620	Retain- whole allotment	Retain- whole allotment	Neutral	Further research required to establish significance/ archaeological potential  Potential site for infill development.
19 Bridge Street	Lot 1 DP 555685	Retain	Retain	Contributory	Whole allotment to be included
14 Bridge Street- School of Arts	Lot 1 DP 136637	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
10 Bridge Street	Lot A DP 381403	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
6 Old Bridge Street	Lot 1 DP 995391	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
4 Old Bridge Street	Lot 10 666894	Retain	Retain	Neutral/ Contributory	Building is Neutral Allotment is Contributory
<b>Public Domain Areas/Public Reserves</b>					
Lower Reserve (3 Old Bridge Street- called 'Public Reserve') *	Lot 345 DP 752061	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
Upper Reserve (called 'Thompson Square')	Lot 7007 DP 1029964	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
Riverbank (west of Windsor Bridge)	Lot 7011 DP 1030959	Include	Include	Contributory	Terminating at MHWL to the north and in line with the west kerb line of Baker Street to the west Landscape Management Plan required

Street Address	Real Property Definition	LEP conservation area	SHR conservation area	Contribution	Comments
		<b>Retain, Include or Exclude</b>	<b>Retain, Include or Exclude</b>	<b>Contributory/ Detracting/ Neutral</b>	
Riverbank (east of Windsor Bridge)	Lot 7008 DP 1029964	Include	Include	Contributory	Landscape Management Plan required
<b>Roads, Street and Road Reserves</b>					
Old Bridge Street	-	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
Part of Bridge Street	-	Retain	Include	Neutral	To be included within the SHR conservation area.
Part of George Street	-	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
Thompson Square	-	Retain	Retain	Contributory	
Part of Baker Street	-	Include	Include	Contributory	To the west kerb line and terminating in the south in line with the southern boundary of Lot 2 DP730435 and in the north by the MHWL of the south bank of the Hawkesbury River.
Part of The Terrace	-	Include	Include	Contributory	In line with the west kerb line of Baker Street to the west and in line with the east boundary line of Lot 10666894 to the east.

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## 5 Statement of Significance

The Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter* (see Appendix 1) defines cultural significance as *aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations*. Cultural significance is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings*, records, *related places* and *related objects*. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups. (*Burra Charter*, Article 1.2).

### 5.1 Existing Heritage Listings

For copies of all inventory sheets for State and local listed items, refer to Appendix 7.

#### 5.1.1 State Heritage Register

Thompson Square Conservation Area, Windsor is listed on the State Heritage Register under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* as an individual item. The State Heritage Register listing includes the following Statement of Significance for the place:

*Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and notable for the large number of Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. It is the only public space remaining from the original town and has played an important part in the history of the town. It is the only remaining civic space as laid out by Governor Macquarie and is vital precinct in the preservation of the early Colonial character of Windsor. The Square reflects Macquarie's visionary schemes for town planning excellence in the infant colony.* (SHR No. 000126)

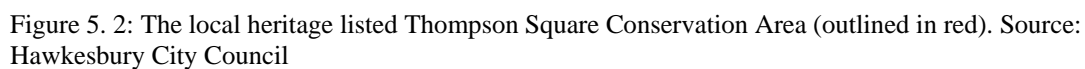
The gazetted boundaries of the State heritage listed Thompson Square Conservation Area are shown in Figure 5.1 below. All individual buildings, roads and public reserves located within the gazetted boundaries of the listing are protected under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

#### 5.1.2 Local Heritage Listing

Thompson Square Conservation Area, Windsor is also listed in Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury Council Local Environmental Plan 2012* as a heritage conservation area (C4). Section 6 of this Plan gives the statutory listing details.

The state heritage inventory includes a Statement of Significance that is identical to that provided for under the State heritage register listing (see above). The boundaries of the local heritage listed Thompson Square Conservation Area are shown in Figure 5.2 below.

The buildings located within the boundaries of the conservation area are also identified individually as being local heritage items under Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury Council LEP 2012*. The only exceptions are Nos. 92-94 George Street and 2 Baker Street, which although parts of the properties are within the boundaries of the conservation area, they are not identified as being local heritage items.



### 5.1.3 Non-Statutory Heritage Listings

The non-statutory heritage status of the TSCA according to the following organisations is as follows:

#### **National Trust of Australia (NSW)**

The TSCA is included on the Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) under the title of the Thompson Square Precinct. The listing provides the following Statement of Significance:

*Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and is notable for the large number of Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. These are now mainly on the east and west sides where the important Macquarie Arms Hotel and Doctor's Terrace are situated. A number of buildings suffer from enclosure and superficial mutilations whilst rebuilding of the southern side is necessary to preserve its Colonial Character.*

*The centre of the square is also spoilt by a main road which slices diagonally through it and into a cutting, destroying the visual integrity of the space as was originally intended, being a gently sloping park space with minor access ways to the buildings surrounding it. If the buildings were restored and replaced as necessary and the road closed then Thompson Square would become an outstanding example of Australian early 19th century town planning and urban design.*

Inclusion does not have any legal effect, but the register is widely recognised as an authoritative statement on the significance of a place.

#### **Register of the National Estate**

The TSCA is listed twice under the Register of the National Estate (RNE), one listing for Thompson Square and the other for the Thompson Square Precinct. The listings provide the following Statements of Significance:

*Thompson Square is the only public space remaining from the original town of Windsor, playing an important part in the history of the town. Possibly the only remaining civic space as laid out by Governor Macquarie. (Thompson Square, ID No. 3166)*

*One of the oldest public squares in Australia. A vital precinct in the preservation of the early colonial character of Windsor and the only public square in that town. (Thompson Square, ID No. 3167)*

Inclusion does not have any legal effect, but the Register of the National Estate (RNE) is a useful archive of information about more than 13,000 places of cultural and natural significance throughout Australia.

## 5.2 Heritage Assessment Criteria

The following section outlines the methodology for assessing cultural significance in NSW, identifies the heritage significance criteria and analyses the documentary and physical evidence detailed in the previous sections, under each of the criteria for the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

### 5.2.1 NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria

The NSW heritage assessment criteria, as set out in *Heritage Assessments* encompasses the five types of significance expressed in a more detailed form by the following criteria:

- Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or in local area).
- Criterion (d) An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- Criterion (e) An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places or environments).

The NSW Heritage Branch recommends that all criteria be referred to when assessing the significance of an item, even though only complex items will be significant under all criteria.

The NSW Heritage Branch also recommends that items be compared with similar items of local and/or State significance in order to fully assess their heritage significance (Refer to Section 4.5 Comparative Analysis).



## 5.3 State Historical Themes

Guidelines from the NSW Heritage Division emphasise the role of history in the heritage assessment process and a list of state historical themes has been developed by the NSW Heritage Council. These themes assist in determining comparative significance and prevent one value taking precedence over others. In this case the place is associated with the following NSW State Historical Themes:

Historic Associations	State Historical Theme	National Historical Theme
<p>Windsor is associated with the Hawkesbury-Nepean Wars (1795-1816). As the regional government centre, raids were led from Windsor by Andrew Thompson and other community members.</p> <p>Thompson Square was the location of food, clothing and blanket distribution as well as the site of punishments inflicted on the local Aboriginal people.</p>	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures	2 Peopling Australia
<p>First land grants issued at the Green Hills in 1794 were to emancipist convicts.</p> <p>Convicts were assigned to the settlers in the Mulgrave Place district, including at Windsor and were responsible for most, if not all, of the construction of the local roads, bridges and government buildings from 1794 to (assumed) the early 1840s.</p> <p>Some of the earliest government buildings at Windsor included the Prisoner's Barracks and the bell post, used to summon working gangs, were located in Thompson Square from at least 1809.</p>	Convicts	2 Peopling Australia
<p>The Green Hills/Windsor was initially settled as an agricultural outpost to provide food for the population of Sydney and was one of the more successful agricultural regions in the early years of the colony. Windsor and the locality continued to be an important agricultural centre up to the 1880s.</p>	Agriculture	3 Developing local, regional and national economies
<p>Establishment of the Green Hills as an agricultural outpost of the main settlement of Sydney. Success of the Windsor district as an agricultural centre providing much needed food supplies to the main settlement of Sydney from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century through to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p>	Commerce	3 Developing local, regional and national economies
<p>The land form of Thompson Square today owes much to work undertaken in the 18<sup>th</sup> century including tracks and paths, infrastructure and regrading work.</p>	Environment - cultural landscape	3 Developing local, regional and national economies
<p>The various flood events that have marked the Hawkesbury River and immediate surrounds have continued to leave an impression on the memories of the Windsor community as seen in the plaque attached to the Macquarie Arms Hotel wall commemorating the 1867 floods.</p>	Events	3 Developing local, regional and national economies

Historic Associations	State Historical Theme	National Historical Theme
Establishment of the Green Hills in 1794, as part of the third British settlement on the mainland of Australia (the district of Mulgrave Place)	Towns, suburbs and villages	4 Building settlements, towns and cities
Development of Thompson Square and the town of Windsor in the early 19 <sup>th</sup> century as the regional centre for the Hawkesbury River region.	Towns, suburbs and villages	4 Building settlements, towns and cities
<p>Establishment of the Green Hills by the leasing/granting of land from 1794 to emancipists and former regimental officers on an equal basis.</p> <p>The lease of land to Andrew Thompson in 1796 that established the eastern extent of the square and for whom the square was named.</p> <p>The leasing of land to William Blady and James Mileham by Acting Governor Paterson in c1809, defining the alignment of George Street and the southern boundary of Thompson Square.</p> <p>The grant of land to Richard Fitzgerald in 1811 by Gov. Macquarie which formalised the southwestern corner of Thompson Square.</p>	Land Tenure	4 Building settlements, towns and cities
<p>The construction of the Macquarie Arms Hotel in 1815, the oldest surviving building in Windsor.</p> <p>The groups of buildings fronting Thompson Square on the east, west and southern side dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century through to the mid/late 19<sup>th</sup> century that define the Georgian square.</p>	Accommodation	4 Building settlements, towns and cities
The influence of the government presence at Windsor from 1795 to the 1840s in forming the eastern boundary of Thompson Square, the use of the square and its subsequent development.	Government and Administration	7 Governing
The associations with Windsor and Thompson Square as the government centre for the region and the impact of the government on the Aboriginal peoples in the locality.	Government and Administration	7 Governing
Thompson Square as a site for punishment, government notices, musters and the government distribution of supplies etc.	Government and Administration	7 Governing
The associations with the landmark court case: John Harris-v-Anthony Fenn Kemp, both local residents of Mulgrave Place (Windsor), and which Harris, an emancipist, won. For the first time an ex-convict's civil rights were enshrined in judgement.	Government and Administration	7 Governing
The use of Thompson Square since its inception as a gathering place, market place, centre for government administration and a transport and communication hub for the Hawkesbury River region up to the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century.	Commercial and Domestic life	8 Developing Australia's cultural life

Historic Associations	State Historical Theme	National Historical Theme
The architectural contribution of the groups of historic buildings to the overall character of the TSCA, in particular the group of buildings that define the western boundary: the Macquarie Arms Hotel and its boundary wall and Nos. 1-3, 5 and 7 Thompson Square.	Creative endeavour	8 Developing Australia's cultural life
Later history of the use of Thompson Square as a recreation area including mini golf and boat club. The transformation of the public square from a functional, civic space to a community, recreational space is a typical pattern of change in use found at numerous other former civic squares.	Leisure	8 Developing Australia's cultural life
The naming of Thompson Square after Andrew Thompson by Governor Macquarie in 1811, one of two emancipist made magistrates by Macquarie and an influential and active member of the Windsor locality.	Persons	9 Marking the phases of life

## 5.4 Statement of Cultural Significance

The following statement of significance has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines set out in the NSW Heritage Office and Planning NSW's publication, *Heritage Assessments* (2002). Refer also to Section 5.5 for Statement of Aboriginal Cultural Significance and Section 5.6 for Statement of Historic Archaeological Significance.

### Criterion (a) Historical Significance

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is historically significant as a very rare public square that represents two key phases in the development of the colony of Australia: the early settlement of agricultural outposts to support the population of Sydney that occurred in the first decade of the British colony; and Governor Macquarie's grand vision for the self-sufficiency of the colony expressed in his public building and town planning program that established a solid infrastructure for the colony, including at Thompson Square.

The place is highly significant as it encompasses a portion of the government reserve at the Green Hills established in 1794/95, forming part of the third British settlement on the mainland of Australia (after Sydney and Parramatta). It was the original landing place for the British settlement of the District of Mulgrave Place, and later the site of wharves, the punt crossing and from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the bridge, rapidly becoming the regional civic and commercial centre and transport hub for the district. As the regional civic centre for the early settlement, Thompson Square is also significant as a location for the interaction between the government and local Aboriginal people, being used as an occasional camp ground, and the site for the distribution of food, clothes and blankets and as a starting point for government led raids.

Of the known surviving town squares/gathering places associated with the earliest settlements in Australia, Thompson Square is the only space to retain its key relationship with its setting, the Hawkesbury River. Evidence of the pre-Macquarie era development and configuration of Thompson Square remains in the land form, the configuration, the archaeology and road alignments (George Street, Old Bridge Street, The Terrace and Baker Street) of the place today.

Thompson Square is highly significant as being one of a group of surviving public squares established by Governor Macquarie in the years 1810-1811 and is a rare example of the type in that it retains its colonial character of its buildings and for being named for an ex-convict, Andrew Thompson. Evidence of the Macquarie era development and configuration of Thompson Square remains in the Macquarie Arms Hotel, the configuration of the square strongly defined on its south, east and western sides by the buildings, the name of the square and the name of George Street.

### **Criterion (b) Historical Associational Significance**

The place is historically associated with a number of notable persons who are of Local, State and National significance, including Andrew Thompson, for whom the square was named (possibly the only public space named after an emancipist) and who played an important role in the early development and government administration of the district and the commercial development of the place. Thompson Square also has strong associations with Governor Lachlan Macquarie, Acting-Governor Paterson, Governor King, Surveyor-General Augustus Alt, James Meehan, John Howe, James McGrath, Richard Fitzgerald and numerous others.

### **Criterion (c) Aesthetic Significance**

The setting of the Thompson Square Conservation Area on the banks of the Hawkesbury River, surrounded by flood plains and agricultural flats, lends the place its high scenic quality and contains historic views, many of which have been recorded in paintings and photographs since the early 1800s.

The group of buildings surrounding Thompson Square clearly defines the square and imparts a strong colonial character to the place, containing several buildings of exceptional quality, this makes Thompson Square the most intact example of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century town square in Australia and the only Macquarie era town square to retain its colonial character.

### **Criterion (d) Social Significance**

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is held in high esteem, as demonstrated by its early and numerous heritage listings dating back to 1949, the proactive involvement of the NSW state government and the Federal government in the conservation of the place in the 1960s and 1970s, being an inspiration for artists and architects including G.W. Evans, William Hardy Wilson, Morton Herman, Lionel Lindsay and others, and by the numerous books and reports that have been produced examining the history of the place. This evidence of early interest and appreciation of Thompson Square demonstrates its long-standing status as a valued historic place. More recently, public events associated with the commemoration of the 1867 floods, the ongoing occupation of the Square by Community Action for Windsor Bridge starting in 2013, and the national public interest in the recent archaeological investigations within the Square are a clear demonstration of the high regard the place is held in the hearts and minds of the Australian community.

### **Criterion (e) Research Potential**

The Thompson Square Conservation Area has high potential in its archaeology and the physical and documentary evidence associated with the place to provide further information about the early history of British settlement in Australia, including the inter-racial relationships between the British and the local Aboriginal people, the dependency of the colony on agricultural outposts for its survival and the associated farming practices, the development of infrastructure such as roads, wharves, punts and drainage systems, early boat building practices and the role of the Hawkesbury River in transportation



and commercial development, the relationships between emancipists, the government and convicts in developing the early towns in Australia, as well as the daily way of life for these early settlers.

The colonial buildings located within the TSCA such as the Macquarie Arms Hotel, the Doctor's House, Nos. 1-3 Thompson Square, Howe's House, No. 7 Thompson Square, No. 62 George Street and No. 19 Bridge Street also have the potential to contain valuable and rare evidence of early building practices in Australia.

### **Criterion (f) Rarity**

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is considered to be exceptionally rare as one of only two known surviving early gathering spaces associated with the supply and distribution of food, a critical role of the colonial government. Thompson Square is considered to be a very rare survivor of the earliest years of the British settlement of Australia and contains tangible evidence of its earliest configuration. It is the only surviving Governor Macquarie public square that retains its colonial character. Thompson Square is also considered to be extremely rare for being the only public space that we know of, named after an emancipist: Andrew Thompson.

The recently uncovered physical evidence of a complex drainage and land-fill system, conceived under Governor Macquarie in 1814 and completed in 1820 by John Howe and James McGrath is the earliest public works of its sort surviving in the colony and the barrel drain is the key surviving element in this sophisticated colonial water management system.

The potential historic archaeological remains within the Thompson Square Conservation Area are likely to reflect the ongoing use and development of Thompson Square as a civic precinct over the past 220+ years. Macquarie and pre-Macquarie-period archaeological remains are considered to be rare and are significant to the cultural history of Windsor and NSW.

The source-bordering dune within the TSCA is a rare and relatively intact deposit and is one of only six other sand bodies with stratified Aboriginal cultural deposits known in NSW.

### **Criterion (g) Representativeness**

Thompson Square is representative of Governor Macquarie's town squares which he established at a number of locations in NSW and Tasmania. At least eight other public square laid out by Macquarie survive today. The TSCA is representative of Governor Macquarie's approach to the administration of the colony and his ambitions for an equitable and productive society. Thompson Square provides a physical expression of many of the hallmarks of Macquarie's administration,<sup>1</sup> as detailed below:

- Equality of opportunity for ex-convicts in colonial society expressed via the naming of the central administrative, commercial and transport centre of the early town of Windsor Thompson Square after Andrew Thompson, emancipist.
- Establishment of new towns to act as centres for expanded settlement beyond Sydney/Parramatta, expressed via the formalising of the town of Windsor and the creation of the other Macquarie towns on the Hawkesbury: Richmond, Castlereagh, Pitt Town and Wilberforce.
- Development of private enterprise as part of the development of non-penal society, expressed via Macquarie instructing Richard Fitzgerald to build a substantial inn, the Macquarie Arms Hotel, to service the community and cater for travellers which has defined the south-western corner of the square since 1815.

<sup>1</sup> Broadbent & Hughes, eds., 1992, *The Age of Macquarie*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press.

### 5.4.1 Summary Statement of Significance

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is of exceptional significance as rare surviving evidence of the earliest years of the British colony in Australia, being the third settlement on the mainland established as an agricultural outpost to supply the young colony and Thompson Square is tangible evidence of this history. The only known public space named after an emancipist (Andrew Thompson), Thompson Square is also an important expression of Macquarie's vision for the future of the colony as an equitable and productive society.

The Thompson Square Conservation Area contains physical evidence of both the pre-Macquarie and Macquarie eras that is considered to be rare and of exceptional significance, including the 1814 sandstock brick barrel drain, the 1816 sandstock brick wall defining the eastern boundary of the public square, the 1815 Macquarie Arms Hotel, the alignments of George Street, Bridge Street, Old Bridge Street, Baker Street and The Terrace, the topography and the configuration and subdivision patterns of the place.

The visual and spatial relationships between the place, the Hawkesbury River and the agricultural lands beyond combined with the collection of buildings defining the east, west and southern sides of the public square are evocative of an earlier time and have a strong colonial character that is considered to be unique.

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is recognised and appreciated as a valued historic place, as demonstrated by early and numerous heritage listings, the involvement of the Federal and NSW state governments in restoration programmes of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, being the inspiration for artists and architects as well as the subject of numerous books and reports about the history of the place and being the focus of recent community action and national public interest in the future conservation of the place.

The archaeological potential of the place for both the pre-settlement and settlement phases is very rare and of high historic and social significance.

### 5.4.2 Grades of Significance for Components of the Place

The components of the place can be ranked in accordance with their relative significance as a tool to planning. *Heritage Assessments* (NSW Heritage Branch, 1996, amended August 2000) identifies the following grades of significance:

Grade	Justification	Status
Exceptional	Rare or outstanding element directly contributing to an item's local and State significance.	Fulfils criteria for local or state listing.
High	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	Fulfils criteria for local or state listing.
Moderate	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item.	Fulfils criteria for local or state listing.
Little	Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret.	Does not fulfil criteria for local or state listing.
Intrusive	Damaging to the item's heritage significance	Does not fulfil criteria for local or state listing.

### 5.4.3 Grades of Significance for Components of the Thompson Square Conservation Area

The tables below provide the detailed grades of significance for the individual components of the place as recorded in the fabric surveys undertaken in the preparation of this report. This detailed information should be referred to in the first instance in applying the conservation policies for the treatment of significant fabric contained within this plan (see Section 7: Conservation Policies).

Generally, the grades of significance applied relate to the historical phases of development, contribution to the overall cultural significance of the place and/or their rarity, as per the following:

#### Exceptional (E)

- Original and early addition features of outstanding interest
- Original and early addition features critical to the appreciation of the place.

#### High (H)

- Other original and early addition features
- Later features critical to the appreciation of the place

#### Moderate (M)

- Later features important to the appreciation of the place
- Recent features critical to the appreciation of the place

#### Little (L)

- Other recent features

#### Intrusive (I)

- Features that detract from the significance or appreciation of the place.

### 5.4.4 Grading the Buildings of the TSCA

The following grading of significance of the individual buildings of the TSCA has been considered in terms of **the contribution that the individual building makes to the conservation area as a whole**. In some instances, the individual buildings may be of higher (or lower) significance based on their individual histories, associations and architecture. In addition, individual components of these buildings may also be of higher (or lower) significance.

The assessment provided below should not be wholly relied on for any future proposals for the individual buildings. A plan of the place has also been provided showing indicative grades of significance for the buildings.

Table 5. 1: Significance grading for the individual buildings within the TSCA

Property	Grading of Significance
4 Bridge Street	Little
6 Bridge Street	Exceptional
10 Bridge Street (Lilburn Hall)	Exceptional
14 Bridge Street (School of Arts)	Exceptional
1-2/52 George Street (town houses)	Little
19 Bridge Street	Exceptional
62 George Street	Exceptional
68 George Street (Hawkesbury Stores)	High
70-72 George Street	Moderate
74 George Street	High
80 George Street	Little
82 George Street	High
84 George Street	Moderate
88 George Street	Moderate
92 George Street	Moderate
81 George Street (Macquarie Arms Hotel)	Exceptional
1-3 Thompson Square (Doctor's House/The Terrace)	Exceptional
5 Thompson Square (Loder's House)	Exceptional
7 Thompson Square (Howe's House/Hawkesbury Regional Museum)	Exceptional



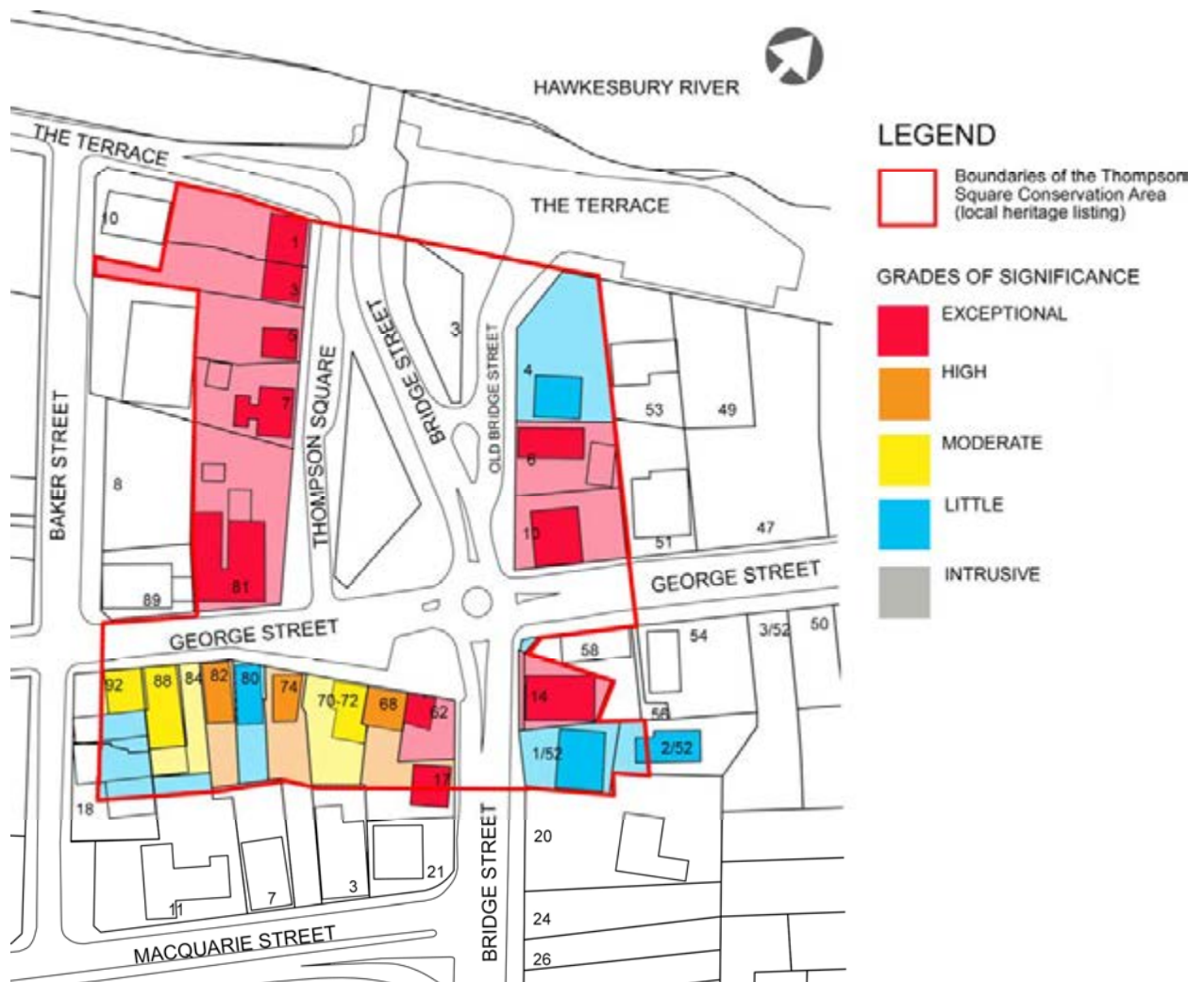


Figure 5. 3: Diagram showing the gradings of the individual buildings with the TSCA

### 5.4.5 Grading the Landscape and Site Features of the TSCA

Table 5.2: Significance grading for the landscape and site features within the TSCA

Component/Element	Grading of Significance
<b>Landform</b>	
Overall landform over which TSCA is sited	Exceptional
Remnants of 19 <sup>th</sup> century punt/bridge access earthworks	High
Deep excavation for 1934 roadway	Moderate
<b>Open Spaces</b>	
Upper Reserve of Thompson Square	Exceptional
Lower Reserve of Thompson Square	Exceptional
Commemorative Reserve	Moderate
<b>Road Alignments</b>	
George Street West (from Baker Street to Bridge Street)	Exceptional
George Street East (from Bridge Street to Arndell Street)	High
Bridge Street South (from Macquarie Street to George Street)	Exceptional
Bridge Street North (from George Street to Windsor Bridge)	Little
Old Bridge Street	Exceptional
Thompson Square (street)	Exceptional
<b>Subdivision Pattern</b>	
Evidence of pre-Macquarie era town layout at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the remnant brick wall in the garden of No. 4 Old Bridge Street defining the western boundary of Thompson's garden,</li> <li>the north and south allotment boundaries of the School of Arts (indicating location of the Commissariat Store),</li> <li>Baker Street and Arndell Street (later developments of Baker's Line and Wilcox's Line, the east and west boundaries of the government domain at the Green Hills)</li> </ul>	Exceptional
Evidence of Macquarie era town layout at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allotment boundaries of the Macquarie Arms Hotel and adjacent property at 89 George Street- granted to Richard Fitzgerald in 1811 and extended in 1819.</li> <li>alignments of George Street, Baker Street and Macquarie Street.</li> </ul>	Exceptional
<b>Urban spaces</b>	
Open space between early buildings or walling defining the Thompson Square landscape	Exceptional
Irregular street space at George Street between 72 George Street and Bridge Street.	Exceptional

Component/Element	Grading of Significance
<b><i>Walls and Fences</i></b>	
Early brick wall north of 4 Old Bridge Street (fabric and alignment)	Exceptional
East and north boundary brick wall of the Macquarie Arms Hotel (c1819)	Exceptional
Alignment of modern brick wall north of School of Arts building	Exceptional
Fabric of modern brick wall north of School of Arts building	Little
Low stone wall at frontage of 4 Old Bridge Street	Little
1934 canted top (arris) rail fence to the upper reserve (along Bridge Street and The Terrace)	High
<b><i>Road edgings</i></b>	
Sandstone kerbs and gutters	Moderate
Concrete kerbs and gutters	Little
<b><i>Footpath Paving</i></b>	
Sandstone flagging east of MAH	Moderate
Brick footpaths and (drain) edges	Little
Concrete footpaths	Little
Bitumen footpaths	Little
Grass verges and unformed footpaths (Old Bridge Street)	High
<b><i>Street Furniture</i></b>	
Picnic tables, benches and bubblers	Little
Garbage receptacles	Little
Timber platforms with seating, umbrellas and shade structures in the George Street road reserve	Intrusive
<b><i>Street Lighting</i></b>	
All four styles of street lighting	Little
<b><i>Recent Additions to the Buildings</i></b>	
Shade structures, umbrellas and the like attached to front verandahs and awnings	Intrusive
Banners and flags attached to front verandahs	Intrusive
Recent commercial signage to parapets, verandah balustrades, boundary fences, free standing signs and roof signs.	Intrusive
Recent commercial signage attached to verandahs of residential properties	Intrusive
<b><i>Memorials and Plaques</i></b>	
Memorial 1: Bicentennial Memorial	High
Memorial 2: Memorial of the five Macquarie Towns	High

<b>Component/Element</b>	<b>Grading of Significance</b>
Memorial 3: Macquarie Arms Hotel wall and 1867 flood plaques	High
Memorial 4: Thompson Square Restoration Project plaque	High
Memorial 5: Windsor Bridge commemoration plaque	High
Memorial 6: Tourist facilities plaque	Little
<b><i>Utilities and Services</i></b>	
Above ground services including utility poles	Intrusive
<b><i>Cultural Vegetation</i></b>	
Hoop Pine in TS upper reserve	High
Silky oaks in TS upper reserve	Moderate
Kurrajongs in TS upper reserve	Moderate
All other vegetation in TS reserves (upper and lower)	Little
Norfolk Island Pines at Macquarie Arms Hotel	Moderate
All other vegetation within TSCA (except species listed as environmental/noxious weeds)	Moderate
Plant spp. listed as environmental/noxious weeds	Little
<b><i>Views</i></b>	<b><i>Grading</i></b>
Views to Hawkesbury River from TSCA	Exceptional
Views to South Creek from TSCA	High
Views to agricultural floodplains from TSCA	Exceptional
Views across TSCA between early buildings	Exceptional
Views to TSCA from the northern bank of the Hawkesbury River	Exceptional
Views to TSCA from approaching streets	High



## 5.5 Significance Assessment of Aboriginal Heritage

The following assessment has been extracted from the supporting report: *Thompson Square, Windsor Historical Archaeological Assessment*, prepared by Dominic Steele (see Appendix 5 for full report).

### 5.5.1 Heritage Significance and Aboriginal Heritage

The following assessment of significance for the documented and potential Aboriginal archaeological, historical and environmental heritage values of the Thompson Square Conservation area (TSCA) is drawn from the appended *Aboriginal Heritage Review* that has been prepared for the project (Appendix 5). These are core Aboriginal heritage values and are closely interrelated, and the following evaluations of each derive from a) an independent review of the results available for previous archaeological test excavations completed within and in the vicinity of Thompson Square and b) through a consideration of how the Windsor evidence compares with that reported for other places within local and regional Aboriginal heritage contexts.

The findings of current archaeological salvage excavations that are being undertaken within the WBRP, along with the outcomes of ongoing Aboriginal community consultation that will establish the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the place its Aboriginal heritage values, are not presently available. It is likely that the preliminary Aboriginal heritage significance statements below will require some level of addition or revision when this additional Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage information is available.

Nevertheless, on the basis of the evidence that has been reported to date, and which is supported by the existing (preliminary) Aboriginal heritage statement of significance for that evidence, it is clear that the future construction of the bridge will disturb and/or destroy rare prehistoric and post-1788 Aboriginal archaeological resources of high cultural and scientific significance that are contained within the TSCA.

### Assessing Aboriginal heritage significance

Significance assessments aim to explain why particular sites, places or items may be important to the community and to allow for appropriate management approaches to be developed when changes in land use circumstances may potentially affect their assessed significance values. Cultural significance is defined by the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Significance (*Burra Charter* – Article 1.1) to mean ‘*aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations*’.

This aspect of significance may derive from the fabric of an item or place, its association with other items or places, or the research potential of an item or place. The process of linking this assessment process with a site's historical context is explained by the *NSW Heritage Manual* that establishes seven evaluation criteria which reflect significance categories and representativeness whereby a site, place or item can be evaluated in the context of State or Local historical theme. See Section 5.2.1 Assessment Criteria above.

Different components of a site, place or item may make a different relative contribution to its overall heritage value. Loss of integrity or poor condition for example may diminish a site or an item's

significance. Relative grades that can be used to determine the heritage significance of items as outlined above (see Section 5.4.2).

Places that may possess social, historic, scientific or aesthetic significance to Aboriginal people may also be important to the wider community for educational, historical and cultural reasons and to the scientific community, in particular for potential research value. Such sites and places may include or consist of:

- known places of social, spiritual, cultural value, including natural resources of significance;
- known historic places;
- known Aboriginal objects and/or declared Aboriginal places; and
- potential places/areas of social, spiritual, cultural value, including natural resources, historic or archaeological significance.

Within the context of Aboriginal heritage significance assessment, four values of cultural significance as defined under the *Burra Charter* have been interpreted to mean:

**Aesthetic value:** refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of the place. It is often closely linked with the social values. It may consider form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric or landscape, and the smell and sounds associated with the place and its use.

**Historic value:** refers to the associations of a place with a historically important person, event, phase or activity in an Aboriginal community. Historic places do not always have physical evidence of their historical importance (such as structures, planted vegetation or landscape modifications). They may have ‘shared’ historic values with other (non-Aboriginal) communities.

**Scientific (archaeological and research) value:** refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its rarity, representativeness and the extent to which it may contribute to further understanding and information.

**Social or cultural value:** refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachments the place or area has for Aboriginal people. Social or cultural value is how people express their connection with a place and the meaning that place has for them. Social or cultural value can only be identified through consultation with Aboriginal people.

## Consultation

Aboriginal people are the primary determinants of the value of their cultural heritage and how it should be protected and conserved. Current best practice Aboriginal cultural heritage management guidelines in NSW (OEH 2010:2) require Aboriginal people have an early and active role in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and management process and control of how the heritage information is subsequently used.

The *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* is the primary legislation that protects certain aspects of Aboriginal cultural heritage and one of the objectives of the NPW Act is ‘... *the conservation of objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape, including but not limited to: (i) places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people ...*’ (s.2A(1)(b)).

However, Aboriginal community consultation has not been undertaken for this report, and it is recommended that this be undertaken to establish a fuller understanding of the Aboriginal heritage values and their significance that apply to the TSCA.

### **5.5.2 Statement of Aboriginal heritage significance**

#### **Criterion (a): Historic Significance**

Thompson Square contains a rare combination of Aboriginal archaeological and geomorphological evidence, coupled with a post-1788 Aboriginal history, providing important information about the course of NSW's cultural and natural history.

The archaeology recorded in previous investigations at Windsor (and nearby Pitt Town) contributes significantly to our understanding of the nature and timing of prehistoric Aboriginal occupation of the region that extends back possibly over 40,000 years or more and is one of the oldest Aboriginal archaeological sites known in eastern NSW. The archaeological evidence contained in the TSCA has the potential to tell us about the arrival and spread of Aboriginal people through NSW via the coastal and hinterland river systems.

Thompson Square contains intact source bordering dune deposits with Aboriginal archaeological evidence occurring throughout. This deposit has the potential to provide evidence for what the natural environment of the place was like in 1788 and the nature of rapid changes that took place thereafter. At a longer timescale, and from a geomorphic perspective, the archaeological resources contained within the TSCA have the potential to tell us about prehistoric river flow and flood patterns, and to infer past climate conditions, and these avenues of research are useful to understanding the formation and history of the Hawkesbury River Valley during the period Aboriginal people occupied the country.

Because the Aboriginal archaeological record at Windsor has such a long-time depth, and was created by people that lived through periods of significant climate change and successfully managed to adapt to these changing conditions over a long period of time, the TSCA may also contain evidence for long term environmental change and human responses that may be of value in the context of modelling and managing future climate change.

The colonial settlement of the Hawkesbury River and the deep and long-standing impacts that the ensuing racial conflict and land annexure had on the traditional owners of the country each unfolded according a sequence of processes that were to be replicated across many regions of NSW. However, the Hawkesbury district was to be the first area of expansion into Aboriginal country where a large Aboriginal population was knowingly displaced, and the Aboriginal history of the Hawkesbury River tells an important chapter in the Aboriginal story of the State.

The Aboriginal heritage values at Windsor, all of which are potentially contained within and/or are directly related to the TSCA, draw direct comparison with the Aboriginal archaeological and historical and environmental heritage values that are embodied by the '*Parramatta Sand Body*' (PSB) in Parramatta's CBD. The PSB appears to be of similar geomorphic origin and to share a common set of site formation process to the deposits on the Hawkesbury River, and has a comparable Aboriginal archaeological occupation history. The PSB is listed on the SHR under the title '*Ancient Aboriginal and Early Colonial Landscape*' which is a dual heritage descriptor that could also easily be applied to the TSCA.

**Criterion (b): Associative Significance – (historic association)**

Thompson Square is named after Andrew Thompson who, as Chief Constable of Windsor, was charged with leading a punitive raid on an Aboriginal camp, setting out from Windsor in 1805 and resulting in the killing of Aboriginal people. These actions of the government representatives in the early settlement of Green Hills/Windsor indicate the negative impacts that Aboriginal peoples experienced as a direct result of the settler's permanent presence on otherwise Aboriginal country on the Hawkesbury River in the early 1790s.

The Aboriginal archaeological record of land use occupation at Windsor dating back possibly 40,000 years was created by countless thousands of generations of Aboriginal people and by virtue of this long chronology alone, this unbroken occupation of Windsor is an important part of the history of NSW.

**Criterion (c): Aesthetic Creative Significance**

The Aboriginal archaeological objects recovered from the TSCA, and those likely to still be contained within the TSCA have the potential to display a comparable degree of technical and creative achievement to that seen elsewhere in the region. The source bordering dune deposits within the TSCA from which some Aboriginal objects were recovered from during the testing program however are rare.

**Criterion (d): Social Significance**

The place is important to local Aboriginal and other communities, but the precise nature of the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the TSCA is not known at present.

**Criterion (e): Technical/Research Significance**

Thompsons Square contains two principal Aboriginal archaeological landscapes with soil and sand profiles that contain Aboriginal objects; a ridgeline and remnants of a source-bordering dune. The ridgeline soils are shallow and often truncated, contain some concentrations of artefacts but with limited potential for stratified archaeological deposits, and are considered to be of moderate archaeological significance.

The TSCA dune archaeological deposits are deeper, contain the potential for stratified and datable deposits, and are suggestive of prolonged Aboriginal occupation of the place. The Windsor source bordering dune deposits are likely to be a continuation of the soil profiles that had previously been excavated at Windsor Museum and which has identified Aboriginal occupation evidence spanning c.33,000 BP and 8,000 BP.

The archaeological evidence from Windsor (along with that recorded at Pitt Town) indicates that Aboriginal people were using the Hawkesbury River at least 20,000 years ago and possibly up to 35,000 years or more ago and that this is some of the earliest archaeological evidence in the region. Several glass artefacts (dated to between c.1794 and the ~1830s) recovered from lower Thompson Square during recent archaeological testing add a tangible dimension to the Aboriginal historical records about post-settlement racial interactions at the place during this period.

The long chronology of continuous Aboriginal occupation of Windsor, coupled with the historical relationship and proximity of Windsor to documented sites that relate to the racial conflicts that took



place along the river up to 1816 has potential through detailed analysis and regional comparison and interpretation to meet State significant levels.

### **Criterion (f): Rarity**

The archaeological and environmental values of the source-bordering dune deposits contained within the TSCA should meet State significance thresholds. It is rare and relatively intact deposit, and is one of only six other sand bodies with stratified Aboriginal cultural deposits known in NSW (Warkworth (Hughes et al., 2014; Scarp 2008), Pitt Town (Williams et al. 2012, 2014), Windsor Museum (Austral Archaeology, 2011), Parramatta (Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management, 2005; Extent Heritage 2016), Glenrowan (Tarro) (AHMS, 2015), and Hunter Street (Newcastle) (AHMS, 2011). It possesses very high scientific significance because it contains Aboriginal objects and cultural deposits that tell us about how people lived on the river for up to and over 30,000 years, how they adapted to long periods of major prehistoric climate change, and subsequently survived and persisted after White settlement.

### **Criterion (g): Representativeness**

The Aboriginal archaeological and environmental evidence contained within the TSCA is significant because it embodies the full record and tangible evidences for how a segment of the Hawkesbury River landscape has naturally developed and been used over many thousands of years. Few other places in NSW have the same level of Aboriginal archaeological, dual-heritage historical and environmental research available.

## **5.5.3 Summary Statement of Aboriginal Heritage Significance**

The documented and potential Aboriginal archaeological, historical and environmental heritage values of the Thompson Square Conservation area (TSCA) are individually rare. Each of these values also possesses comparatively high cultural heritage value and research potential, and are in combination considered to be of State significance. The archaeology documents an unbroken record of Aboriginal occupation and use of the Hawkesbury River for up to and over 30,000 years, and this long chronology was punctuated by significant changes to the living conditions and climate at Windsor at times. The dune deposits preserved in the TSCA have the potential to document the natural life history of the river prior to and overlapping the time frame people were living on the river.

This archaeological and environmental evidence is important to understanding aspects of the cultural and natural evolution of NSW and existing and future interpretations will benefit from in situ conservation of the remaining Aboriginal heritage that is currently preserved and protected in the TSCA via the development of archaeological theory, techniques and technologies.

## **5.5.4 Aboriginal Archaeological Sensitivity**

The following assessment of the Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity of the TSCA and the provisional mapping of the place into archaeological significance and management zones is based primarily on the findings reported for archaeological testing undertaken within and in the vicinity of Thompson Square in 2012 and 2016.

The first investigation confirmed the presence of Aboriginal archaeological cultural materials and provided insight into their potential antiquity and significance. The second study recovered a larger sample of soil and stratigraphic and archaeological data, and was able to provide date parameters for

some of the Aboriginal objects and deposits that are contained within a sand body that is preserved within Thompson Square and beneath adjacent streetscapes.

### **Archaeological Expectations**

In association with recent archaeological investigations for the proposed WBRP, archaeological expectations reported for the proposed salvage Aboriginal excavation were for the recovery of ~7,500 Aboriginal objects that would form a substantial collection for analysis and long-term care. In association with the assemblages from the Hawkesbury Regional Museum (~12,000) and Pitt Town (~10,000) these items would cumulatively have the potential to form one of the most substantial and significant Aboriginal artefact collections in the Sydney Basin, and across much of Australia for the LGM (Last Glacial Maximum) period.

It can be reasonably anticipated that a large proportion of the artefacts that may be recovered via the current archaeological salvage program within the WBRP area will be recovered from the sand body deposits that are contained within the TSCA. The results of the current salvage works will identify and detail the nature and significance of the remainder of the Aboriginal archaeological resources that are potentially contained within the TSCA.

In broad terms, Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits to a lesser extent are likely to be encountered in three types of subsurface archaeological/stratigraphic circumstances and contexts:

#### ***‘Modern’ topsoil and fill***

There was a seemingly extensive Aboriginal archaeological site with large numbers of stone artefacts (and other cultural materials) in pre-existence on the river sand body landform that would eventually have Thompson Square overprinted on it. These objects were possibly occasionally destroyed (but not many) but most Aboriginal objects at or near ground surfaces at the time are likely to have been buried and/or reworked and thereby largely obscured by successive land surface changes.

It is highly probable that the scale of Macquarie period drainage and levelling works in the Lower Reserve of Thompson Square for example, and concurrent development of the Upper Reserve, coupled with a subsequently long history of modification and change to the surfaces and subsurface profiles within the TSCA over time, has led to some of these Aboriginal objects being incorporated into a variety of historic-period deposits and archaeological contexts forming current lawn and landscaped profiles. For example, fills making up parts of the existing landscaped terrace surfaces and (deep) modern service line fills are types of ‘historical archaeological’ contexts that may also contain redeposited and ‘out-of-context’ Aboriginal objects that were originally displaced by widespread movement and mixing of sand and soil that occurred during creation and historic use of the TSCA.

The exception to this general observation would be in the case of modern fills used to level or shape or edge parts of Thompson Square that have by virtue of its date and source and contents would have little or no likelihood of containing Aboriginal objects. Likewise, there would be little or no likelihood of Aboriginal objects being located within demonstrably modern (twentieth century) redeveloped soil profiles (‘garden soils’) that are likely to be present as a surface mantle over most of the current open space areas of Thompson Square.

### ***Historical archaeological surfaces and deposits***

The current ground levels across the TSCA cover over what is expected to be a variety of historical archaeological ground surfaces, built elements and archaeological deposits that vary in age and occur at differential depths, but will in some locations extend well below ground and deep into the sand dune deposits as would be the case, for example, for deep-set drainage features. Aboriginal objects and possibly in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposit may be present and survive within the full depth of potential archaeological deposit that also may contain historical archaeological deposits and relics.

Because of the archaeological stratigraphic uncertainties associated with loose unconsolidated (and mobile) sand profiles, it may not be always possible to establish whether Aboriginal objects found in historic archaeological topsoil or created surface contexts are contemporary (unless made from worked European materials such as glass and ceramic) or are coeval (residual) or have been reworked into a secondary context. The objects themselves would nevertheless retain high cultural and scientific value.

### ***Prehistoric sand body and ridge top soils***

It is expected that deep sand dune profiles that contain significant archaeological deposits and large numbers of prehistoric artefacts occur in Thompson Square, and below historic disturbance, the probability also exists that these deposits will occur intact and in situ and may be very old. Rare Aboriginal archaeological deposits with significant potential to provide new information about Aboriginal life and natural evolution of the river during the earliest periods of occupation of the region may be preserved within the TSCA. This evidence may date back possibly 40,000 years or more, and may also include valuable data for the LGM (24-18,000BP) that was a period of significant climatic variability and change.

The ridge top duplex soils are likely to be shallow and often disturbed, and whilst these soils may contain Aboriginal objects, there is a limited chance that abundant or stratified archaeological deposits will occur. The alluvial influenced deposits towards the lower end of the square may also contain Aboriginal objects, but intact and in situ are not likely unless under exception preservation circumstances.

### ***Predicted Aboriginal archaeology in the TSCA***

The archaeological zoning map below (Figure 5.4) identifies that the primary areas of High Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity corresponding to the predicted distribution of the Aeolian/fluvial source bordering dune. This is one of only six known sand bodies in NSW, and is a rare Aboriginal and environmental heritage resource considered to be significant to the State, and core elements of this documented profile distribution and its associated archaeology are contained within the TSCA.

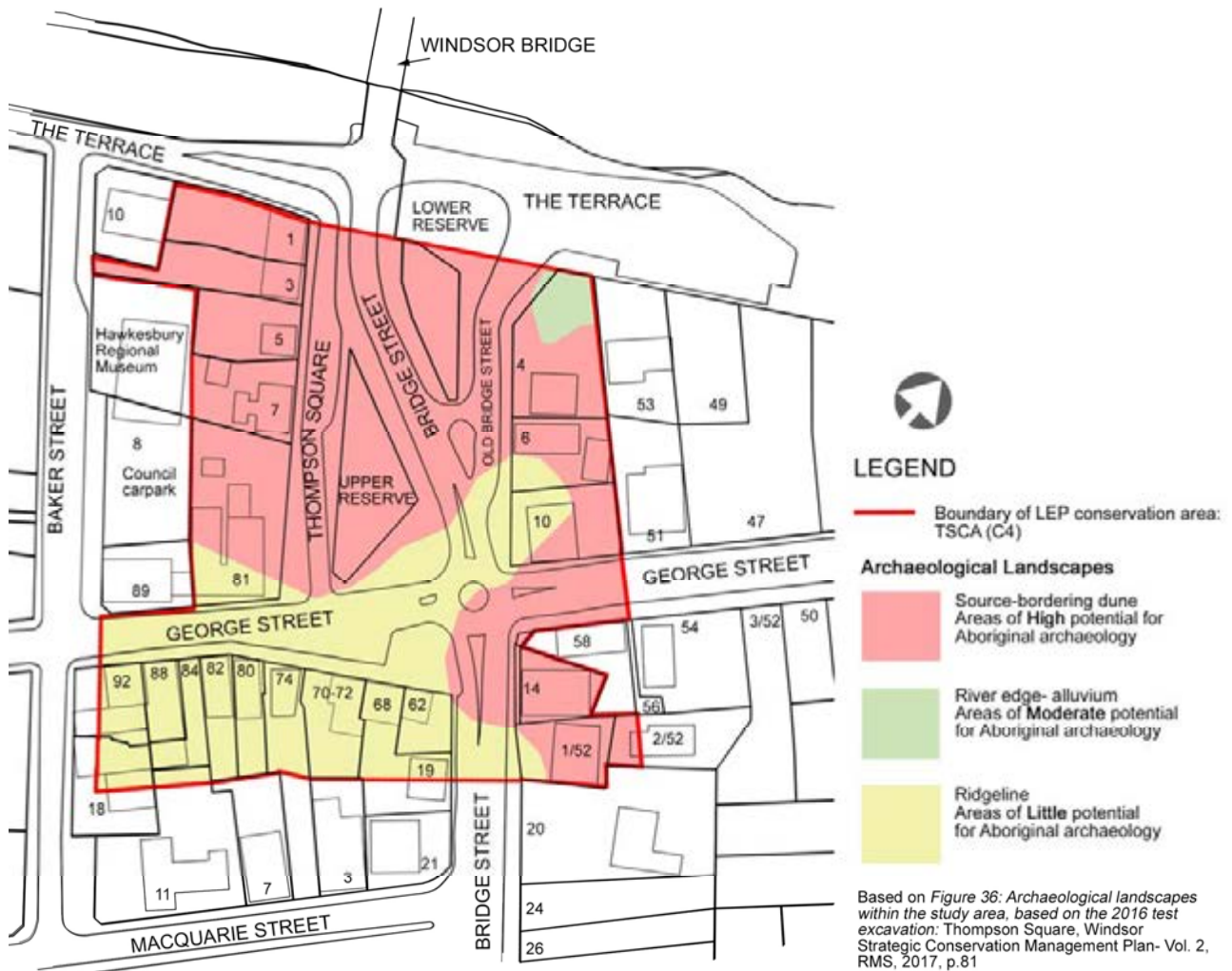


Figure 5. 4: Aboriginal archaeological zoning plan indicating areas across the TSCA with potential for Aboriginal archaeology.



## 5.6 Statement of Significance of Historic Archaeological Remains

The following assessment has been extracted from the supporting report: *Thompson Square, Windsor Historical Archaeological Assessment*, prepared by Casey & Lowe Architecture and Heritage (see Appendix 6 for full report).

This assessment of archaeological heritage significance has been written to be in accordance with the Heritage Branch 2009 guidelines: *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*. These guidelines provide the following discussion of heritage significance:

“Apart from NSW State guidelines, the nationally recognised Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Significance (*The Burra Charter*) also defines ‘cultural significance’ as meaning:

*‘aesthetic, historic, scientific and social value for past, present and future generations.’*

Significance is therefore an expression of the cultural value afforded a place, site or item.

Understanding what is meant by value in a heritage sense is fundamental, since any society will only make an effort to conserve things it values. In terms of built heritage, what we have inherited from the past is usually places that have been continuously cared for. Conversely, many archaeological sites will comprise places which, for whatever reason, have not been cared for until the relatively recent period.

Our society considers that many places and items we have inherited from the past have heritage significance because they embody, demonstrate, represent or are tangible expressions of values society recognises and supports. Our future heritage will be what we keep from our inheritance to pass on to the following generations”.<sup>2</sup>

### 5.6.1 Basis of Assessment of Heritage Significance

To identify the heritage significance of an archaeological site it is necessary to discuss and assess the significance of the study area. This process will allow for the analysis of the site’s varied values. These criteria are part of the system of assessment which is centred on the *Burra Charter* of Australia ICOMOS. The *Burra Charter* principles are important to the assessment, conservation and management of sites and relics. The assessment of heritage significance is enshrined through legislation in the NSW *Heritage Act 1977* and implemented through the *NSW Heritage Manual* and the *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* and *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*.<sup>3</sup>

#### Level of Significance

To be assessed as having heritage significance an item must:

- meet at least one of the one of the seven significance criteria
- retain the integrity of its key attributes

<sup>2</sup> NSW Heritage Branch 2009, pp 1-2. Note that this passage quotes the 1988 version of the *Burra Charter*. The 1999 and 2013 revisions also include ‘spiritual value’ in their definition of cultural significance.

<sup>3</sup> NSW Heritage Office 1996, pp 25-27; NSW Heritage Office 2001; NSW Heritage Branch 2009.

If an item is to be considered to be of State significance it should meet more than one criterion, namely in the case of relics, its research potential.<sup>4</sup> Archaeological Significance:

- may be linked to other significance categories especially where sites were created as a result of a specific historic event or decision, or when sites have been the actual location of particular incidents, events or occupancies.
- Other relevant factors may be comparative values related to the intactness and rarity of individual items. The rarity of individual site types is an important factor, which should inform management decisions.

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:

‘*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.<sup>5</sup>

### Research Potential

The heritage significance of archaeological remains most often lies in their research potential (criterion e of the Heritage Council criteria). The assessment of research potential has its own peculiarities compared with the assessment of other heritage items. The 1996 *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* comment:

“Research potential is the most relevant criterion for assessing archaeological sites. However, assessing research potential for archaeological sites can be difficult as the nature or extent of features is sometimes unknown, therefore judgements must be formed on the basis of expected or potential attributes. One benefit of a detailed archaeological assessment is that the element of judgement can be made more rigorous by historical or other research”.<sup>6</sup>

### Assessment of Research Potential

Once the archaeological potential of a site has been determined, research themes and likely research questions identified, as addressed through archaeological investigation and analysis, the following inclusion guidelines should be applied:

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<sup>4</sup> NSW Heritage Branch 2009, p 9.

<sup>5</sup> NSW Heritage Branch 2009, p 6.

<sup>6</sup> NSW Heritage Office 1996, p 26.

*Does the site:*

- (a) *contribute knowledge which no other resource can?*
- (b) *contribute knowledge which no other site can?*
- (c) *is the knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive problems relating to Australian History, or does it contribute to other major research questions?*<sup>7</sup>

If the answer to these questions is yes then the site will have archaeological research potential. The new significance guidelines have taken a broader approach.

## 5.6.2 Statement of Historic Archaeological Significance

The assessment of archaeological potential, as identified in Section 3.5, indicates that the TSCA has the potential to retain historical archaeological remains likely to reflect the ongoing use and development of the site as a civic square and Government domain since the Green Hills settlement in 1795.

### Criterion (a): Historic Significance

The known and potential historic archaeological remains within the TSCA are important to several themes in the cultural history of NSW, and likely reflect its development and continued use as and a civic precinct over the past 200+ years. Key heritage themes include: Tracing the natural environment of Australia, peopling Australia, developing local and regional economies, building settlements, towns and cities, governing, working, and developing cultural life.

Thompson Square was established in 1811 as part of Governor Macquarie's planned town of Windsor, situated on land already recognised as the civic and Government domain of Green Hills. The waterfront character of Thompson Square played a crucial role to early Windsor and continued to do so throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Despite modifications to the formal plan of the Thompson Square reserve throughout the later 19th- and 20th-centuries (specifically the shifting road alignments and division of the public reserve), the broad character of Thompson Square, as established by Governor Macquarie, has been maintained throughout the past two centuries. Thompson Square was a key element in the civic activities of the early township, ships, people and grain arrived and departed, grain was brought in for surrounding farms and stored in the granary and shipped to Parramatta and Sydney. It was the focal point for many cultural, social and economic activities as evidence by the formal recognition of it by Governor Macquarie in 1811.

The historical archaeological remains have the ability to represent the evolving nature of Windsor's settlement throughout the late 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. These historic values are considered to be at a **State** level.

### Criterion (b): Associative Significance – (historic association)

The TSCA is strongly associated with several significant historical figures, including:

**Governor Lachlan Macquarie** (1762-1824), who established the town of Windsor, and within it Thompson Square, considered to be the oldest surviving town square in Australia.

<sup>7</sup> Bickford and Sullivan 1984, p 23.

**Andrew Thompson** (c.1773–1810), the emancipated convict and for whom Thompson Square was named. Served as constable, coroner and magistrate for Green Hills. His lease formed the eastern boundary of Thompson Square, and was subsequently incorporated into the Government domain following his death. Naming a square after an emancipated convict is surprising and speaks to the favour in which Macquarie and others held him.

**Richard Fitzgerald** (1772–1840), the original owner of the Macquarie Arms Hotel, and his son **Robert Fitzgerald** (1807–1865).

**John Howe** (1774–1852), owner of Howe’s cottage. Contracted with James McGrath to build a toll-bridge over South Creek, as well as a wharf at Thompson Square and a sewerage system through Thompson Square.

**James McGrath** (1777–1831), Windsor landowner, who (with John Howe) was contracted to construct a wharf and sewerage system at Thompson Square.

Some archaeological remains within the TSCA can be expected to be connected with these individuals and may be relevant to creating a more complete picture of the Square and its development. In particular, evidence of those structures directly associated with a specific individual/s, such as the c.1814–1820 wharfage and sewerage system running through Thompson Square, known to have been constructed by John Howe and James McGrath. Additionally, all archaeological remains dating to the Macquarie era have the potential to be linked to Macquarie and his governance of the colony.

Most archaeological deposits within the TSCA are, however, unlikely to be directly associated with a particular individual or group of persons. The activities these represent are nonetheless considered a significant phase in the early cultural history and establishment of Windsor. This associative value is considered to be at a **State** level.

### **Criterion (c): Aesthetic Significance**

While the Georgian character and modified landscape of the TSCA, including its vistas and park lands, retains scenic aesthetic qualities, any below-ground archaeological remains within the study area have little potential for aesthetic significance.

Although 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 often more by accident than design.

These values are not likely to be significant at either a State or local level.

### **Criterion (d): Social Significance**

The social value and significance attached to the archaeological remains of Thompson Square may be quite accurately assessed with regards to the public response to previous, and ongoing long-term archaeological excavation, testing and salvage programs undertaken in Thompson Square and its environs. In particular, the public interest in artefacts collected during the excavations at 8 Baker Street (Section 3.5) as well as the preserved footings of a c.1818 sandstock-brick (once part of the Macquarie Arms Hotel), which are visible on display within the Hawkesbury Regional Museum and Gallery. The museum also incorporates the Georgian property of Howe’s house, 7 Thompson Square, and attracts a wide audience to the Hawkesbury region.



More recently, the strong community interest, engagement and protest (including the continued occupancy of Thompson Square by the CAWB since 21 July 2013) against the salvage excavations within the lower reserve Thompson Square (as part of the RMS WBRP) have attracted national attention.

TSCA demonstrates strong social significance for both the local community and visitors to the Hawkesbury region. The buried archaeological remains and the cultural landscapes within Thompson Square are therefore likely to be considered to have a strong association within the community of NSW. These values are significant at a **State** level.

### **Criterion (e): Technical/Research Significance**

Potential archaeological remains within the TSCA, many of which have been identified during testing and salvage excavation programs, include:

- Remains of a several early buildings and subsidiary structures dating from the late 18th and early 19th century, erected as part of the early Green Hills settlement. These includes potential remains, such as early houses and government buildings, not mentioned in the historical records or included on maps or in historic images. A number of these structures were evidently cleared in preparation for the planned Thompson Square, however remains of these structures and associated deposits and artefacts may remain under the current roadways and standing structures surrounding Thompson Square.
- Associated archaeological features and deposits related to the early Green Hills settlement and buildings within the Government precinct, i.e. rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns or cesspits, which may contain quantities of artefacts.
- Evidence of land modification, including tracks, and pockets of early cultivation following initial British settlement at Mulgrave Place / Green Hills. Limited evidence of this sort has been identified in testing programs, including planting holes, postholes, modified topsoils, etc. The possibility of archaeobotanical remains should also be considered.
- Various stages of wharfage, essential to the shipment of grain to sustain the town of Sydney, erected at the river's edge. Archaeological evidence of early wharfs, dating to the 1820s and perhaps the earlier c.1814 wharf, has already been demonstrated in maritime investigations along The Terrace.
- Structural remains and subfloor occupation-related artefact deposits associated with 19th-century buildings fronting Thompson Square reserve on its western and eastern boundaries.
- Unrecorded yard features, including rubbish pits, wells, cisterns, or cesspits, and associated deposits related to these 19th-century structures.
- Evidence of early roadways, including those made for the bridge and the 1930s road realignment. Evidence for previous roadways is well documented in the testing programs within Thompson Square. These constructions will have impacted on the potential archaeology within the study area.

The potential archaeological remains identified within the study area and their analysis can provide knowledge that is not available from other resources. The ability of a site to reflect knowledge that no other resource can is dependent upon the **Research Questions** which are posed and the methodology employed to investigate the archaeological resource. The TSCA has the potential to yield archaeological information which can address a range of questions, including:

## Environment, Climate, Agriculture & Water

### *Management and role of water*

- Evidence for the management of flood, and establishment and development of infrastructure.

### *Agriculture*

- Nature of early agricultural practices, evidence for clearing, cattle grazing, orcharding, and self-sufficiency. Address this issue through both the analysis of archaeological features as well as through analysis of early pottery, storage of food surpluses, chemical qualities of the soil and pollen samples.

### *Climate*

- How did the British meet the change of this new place climate with its heavy rain and drought and the early El Niño's and La Ninas.

## The Beginnings of British Settlement

### *Settlement of Windsor (Mulgrave Place / Green Hills)*

- Is there evidence for the pre-settlement landscape and any indication of land modification in situating the Government precinct here?
- What is the nature and effect of this modification on the landscape?
- What evidence is there for initial contact between the local Aboriginal people and the British settlers?
- Does the site retain any archaeological evidence of its pre-Macquarie use? What evidence is there for the early Green Hills settlement?
- Government buildings (granary, stores, barracks, watch-house, first wharf, Thompson's lease) and associated deposits.
- Paths and tracks.
- Early alignment of George Street (within Thompson's lease?)
- What types of archaeological evidence can be directly associated with the administrative character of Green Hills?
- How does it change or modify our understanding of early building practices or planning in early settlements?
- Evidence for the difficulty of survival in this new environment, such as the nature of diet based on rations and possible modification of scarce material culture resources, such as tools.
- How does evidence from this period compare with Rose Hill and Parramatta?

### *A Macquarie-Period Regional Settlement*

- Is there evidence for establishing a formal layout of Thompson Square?
- Defined limits for the public reserve.
- Original alignments of streets.
- Other infrastructure works (sewerage, wharfage).
- Does the site retain any archaeological evidence for early 19th-century structures no longer standing? What is the nature of these buildings? How do they define the character of the Macquarie-era settlement?
- What kinds of archaeological deposits / artefacts may be associated with the early 19th-century settlement?

***Modified Landscapes***

- Does the study area retain evidence of historical flood events?
- Is there any evidence of the changing landscape of Thompson Square reserve?
- How much of the early historical archaeological resource is disturbed by later 19th- and 20th-century modifications within Thompson Square?

***Life in Windsor: Consumption and commerce in early Windsor***

- How does the evidence found within the study area link into issues associated with the local, regional and global economies?
- What does it tell us about cultural and social practices in Windsor, relating to lifeways, diet and other issues associated with consumption?
- Does the material cultural assemblage demonstrate evidence for the shifting use of the standing 19th-century properties?
- What evidence is there for the differences between emancipated convicts, free-settlers, and the military working and living in Windsor?
- Is there any evidence of the standard of living?
- Is there evidence for distinct and shifting functions of Thompson Square; as a market space, recreation area, public reserve?

***Development of Rural Towns During The 19th Century***

- How does this archaeology of this place add to our understanding of the beginnings of Australian towns and settlements and how they developed and changed throughout the 19th-century?

These values are significant at a **State** level.

**Criterion (f): Rarity**

The known and potential archaeological remains within the TSCA are likely to reflect the ongoing use and development of Thompson Square as a civic precinct over the past 200+ years. Macquarie and pre-Macquarie-period archaeological remains are considered to be rare and are significant to the cultural history of Windsor and NSW.

Generally archaeological remains dating to the 20th-century use of the site are not considered to be a rare resource. These values are significant at a **State** level.

**Criterion (g): Representativeness**

The potential archaeological remains within the TSCA are considered to be representative of Macquarie period, and pre-Macquarie period, regional settlements. The layout of the square and its access to the river reflect the use of Thompson Square as a working environment and is further representative of early 19th-century urban planning.

**Integrity**

The results of test excavations within Thompson Square have proved particularly valuable in informing the integrity of potential archaeological remains within the square. These testing programs suggest moderate disturbance to the archaeological remains may be expected in some areas of the TSCA, particularly underlying the modern roadways. There is, however, the potential for extensive areas of intact remains.

The preservation of many of the early 19th-century structures, particularly along the eastern and western boundaries of Thompson Square, indicates there is a strong potential for the survival of many of the original architectural features, as well as subfloor deposits. There is also the potential for early archaeological features and structural remains to be preserved underlying these 19th-century constructions. While difficult to identify without open-area excavations, evidence of early tracks and various land modification cannot be discounted.

Where they remain, these values are significant at a **State** level.

### 5.6.3 Summary Statement of Heritage Significance of Historic Archaeological Remains

The TSCA has the potential to contain historical archaeological evidence relating to the development and ongoing use as a civic precinct since the earliest British settlement, c.1795. The potential archaeological remains within Thompson Square have historic significance in their ability to provide information relating to the Macquarie period and pre-Macquarie period regional settlements. They also have archaeological research significance through their ability to cast light on the administrative character of the late 18th – early 19th century settlement at Green Hills, and its relationship to the colony.

The archaeology of the square relates to a brief but crucial period of early British settlement and the use of this civic space was a key element of the early settlement activities and the distribution of grain from the Hawkesbury to Parramatta and Sydney. The sites of these early buildings testify to its significance as the bread basket of the colony. The potential archaeological remains have the ability to address a wide range of research questions regarding the use of material culture of early Windsor. The square was associated with Governor Macquarie, Andrew Thompson, Richard Fitzgerald, John Howe and James McGrath, all of whom were significant in the early history of Windsor.

These archaeological features, through archaeological analysis, have the potential to further our understanding of the historical development of Windsor, and to contribute to our understanding of its social and cultural history. They are rare as evidence for the third settlement in mainland Australia, after Sydney and Parramatta and for the continuing success of agriculture for development of a sustainable colony. The known and potential archaeological remains within the TSCA are considered to be of **State** heritage significance for historic, associative, social and archaeological values.

### 5.6.4 Historic Archaeological Potential

The potential historical archaeological remains identified within the study area are presented, in chronological sequence, below in Table 5.3. Although several significant historic buildings, structures and features remain preserved within the Thompson Square Conservation Area, there have been considerable impacts. It is expected that various structures, landscaping and infrastructure have been altered and / or demolished throughout the last 200+ years.

#### Mapping the Archaeological Potential

Figure 5.5 presents an overlay image illustrating archaeological potential within the TSCA, as determined by the location of structures at various phases of occupation (Section 4.1.3) and later known impacts. The current, and ongoing, salvage excavations (shaded dark grey) are expected to all but remove the archaeological resource within these areas.



As many of the 19th-century buildings in Thompson Square remain extant, there is a Moderate-High potential for archaeological evidence associated with the original configuration of these structures, as well as for subfloor deposits related to their early use (buildings shaded green). There is a Moderate-High potential for undocumented yard features (properties shaded green), as demonstrated by archaeological excavations on similar sites within the vicinity of the TSCA. There is a Low-Moderate potential of archaeological evidence associated with the remains of earlier buildings on these sites (shaded blue), although the exact location of some of these structures is unknown.

Buildings shaded grey are assessed as having Nil-Low potential, and the archaeological resource of these structures does not meet the threshold for local or State significance. Considering the expected level of 19th- and 20th-century disturbance, most of the roadways are considered to retain Nil-Low potential evidence for historical uses (shaded light grey).



Figure 5.5: Overlay plan of the study area indicating the levels of expected archaeological potential within the Thompson Square Conservation Area

## 5.6.5 Summary of Historic Archaeological Potential

Table 5. 3: Summary table of potential archaeological remains, and the ease to which these can be deciphered, within the Thompson Square Conservation Area. A number of items within this table are outside the limits of the study area and are highlighted in green.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
<b>MULGRAVE PLACE, 1794</b>				
	<b>Original landscape:</b> including pre-settlement landform / topography and how it was altered by natural or human impacts following initial settlement.	Throughout the TSCA.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> The results of testing in Thompson Square suggests evidence of early land modification is detectable in the landscape.  <b>Low-Moderate:</b> Original and early modified soil profiles may survive in the park areas with some other evidence across the study area.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Problematic without very clear stratigraphy. Inconsistent across the site. Unlikely this can be distinguished from later landscaping.
<b>GREEN HILLS: GOVERNMENT DOMAIN, 1795-1810</b>				
	<b>Original landscape</b> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burning, stumping, fire clearance,</li> <li>Pollen evidence,</li> <li>Flood events deposits, build-up and removal of soil profile,</li> <li>Original/modified topsoil and site topography.</li> </ul>	Throughout the TSCA.	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Results from testing suggest low-moderate potential for the preservation of the upper layers of the early landscape and modification.  Original and early modified soil profiles may survive in the park areas with some other evidence across the study area.	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Problematic without very clear stratigraphy. Inconsistent across the site.
	Range of <b>early tracks and paths</b> between the wharf and ridge line. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compacted surfaces,</li> <li>Wheel ruts.</li> </ul>	Running north-south throughout current civic square, along the ridgeline of Thompson Square (under the present alignment of George Street), and into the government reserve.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Remnant tracks may be preserved at depth, if not disturbed by late 19th- and 20th-century constructions.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Ability to identify as part of a landscape is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation to assist with interpretation.
c.1795	<b>First timber store, granary, barracks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remnants of ephemeral timber structures, postholes,</li> <li>Stone or brick foundations,</li> <li>Deposits, artefacts.</li> </ul>	Perhaps at the very northern edge of the TSCA. Partially underlying Old Bridge Street and the lower reserve.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Probably removed by flooding and buried by subsequent 1815 foreshore works, as well as later flooding, foreshore piling and stabilisation works.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> If preserved, ability to distinguish from later building works could be problematic.
	<b>First wharf</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hardwood piles.</li> <li>Timber piers, etc.</li> </ul>	Along the foreshore, exact location unknown.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Outside study area. Likely removed by flooding.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> If preserved, ability to distinguish from later wharfage could be problematic.
1796	<b>Commandant's House (later Government House / Cottage)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible brick / timber foundations (evidence for cellar),</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features and deposits, rubbish pits, levelling fills, ephemeral</li> </ul>	(41 George Street)	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Outside study area. Demolished in the early 1920s. Cellar likely filled in the late 19th century.  Strong possibility the original foundations of the cottage and known outbuildings are preserved on site, as well as unrecorded yard features / deposits, rubbish pits.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Known location, mapped on Meehan's and subsequent plans. Original structure demolished in early 20th century, with a new, smaller, cottage ('Green Hills') erected overlying the original footprint.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
	structures, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stables on eastern boundary.</li> </ul>			
By 1798	<b><u>Watch House</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes, timber log frame with log posts and superstructure,</li> <li>Dirt floor.</li> </ul>	Unknown, possibly the same as Andrew Thompson's residence, or located at the far southeast corner of Thompson's lease (i.e. the structure visible on Meehan's 1811 plan).	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Likely outside study area.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Ability to interpret the specific function of a building from postholes / footings alone is unlikely.
By 1799	<b><u>Andrew Thompson's residence</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes, timber log frame with log posts and superstructure,</li> <li>Dirt floor,</li> <li>Deposits, artefacts,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	Close to the lower reserve. (3 Old Bridge Street, perhaps underlying 4 Old Bridge Street)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Property incorporated into Government domain c.1816, and perhaps demolished shortly thereafter. Archaeological potential likely affected by 19th- and 20th-century disturbance here, including the construction of 4 (Old) Bridge Road.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Location determined on the basis of Evans' (1809/c.1810) paintings and Slager's c.1811-12 etching. Ability to interpret the specific function of a building from postholes / footings alone is limited.
	<b><u>Andrew Thompson's Garden</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fencelines,</li> <li>Garden beds,</li> <li>Tree holes,</li> <li>Archaeobotanical remains.</li> </ul>	Along eastern edge of current Thompson Square curtilage (partially outside study area). (underlying 4-10 [Old] Bridge Street)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Although archaeological remains area likely to be quite ephemeral.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Ability to identify as part of a landscape is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation.
c.1796-1800	<b><u>Two Storehouses</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes, timber log frame with log posts and superstructure,</li> <li>Fencelines,</li> <li>Evidence of grain storage, possible grain and pollen.</li> </ul>	Unknown, possibly to the western side of Thompson Square along The Terrace.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Likely outside study area. Likely removed c.1811 following land clearance for Thompson Square reserve. Survival is unlikely considering proximity to foreshore.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Ability to interpret the specific function of a building from postholes / footings alone is limited. Possible archaeobotanical and artefactual remains could prove helpful in interpretation.
	Various public buildings (and related deposits) including <b><u>Two government houses, storehouses, granaries, officers' dwellings, public brick buildings, lock up</u></b>	Mostly unknown. Evans' 1809 painting suggests some of these are located to the west of Thompson Square, while others may be located within the upper and lower reserves and along George Street.	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Likely underlying the current reserve / roadways (The Terrace, Thompson Square, George Street). Archaeological potential is low considering the expected level of 19th/20th century disturbance.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Likely removed c.1811 following land clearance for Thompson Square reserve. Ability to interpret the specific function of a building from postholes / footings alone is limited.
c.1800	<b><u>Guardhouse (second barracks)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes, timber footings,</li> <li>Rubbish pits,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	Macquarie Arms Hotel (81 George Street)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Site cleared prior to the construction of the Macquarie Arms Hotel. Likely preservation of original footings in yard.	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Known location. Mapped on Meehan's 1811 plan, no documented evidence for other (early) structures here.
	<b><u>Granary (second granary)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post holes, timber footings,</li> <li>Evidence of grain storage,</li> <li>Possible grain and pollen.</li> </ul>	Likely to the west of Thompson's lease (north of first storehouse), partially underlying Old Bridge Street.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Site cleared c.1811 (in preparation for Thompson Square). Archaeological potential is low considering the expected level of 19th/20th century disturbance, particularly the construction of Old Bridge Street.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Location determined on the basis of Evans' (1809/c.1810) paintings and Slager's c.1811-12 etching. Possible archaeobotanical and artefactual remains could prove helpful in interpretation.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
1803	<b><u>Granary / Commissariat building</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brick footings, postholes,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts,</li> <li>Evidence of grain storage, possible grain and pollen.</li> </ul>	On the ridgeline at the corner of Bridge and George Streets, underlying brick wall within the property of former School of Arts. (14 Bridge Street)	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Demolished in c.1856. Moderate archaeological potential for the preservation of footings underlying current construction. Possibility of associated outbuildings and deposits preserved here also.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Known location, mapped on Meehan's and subsequent plans. No documented evidence for other (early) structures here.
1804-1807	<b><u>School &amp; chapel (Storehouse?)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brick footings, postholes,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	To the southeast of the TSCA, partially outside of study area.	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Mostly outside study area. Recorded as being in a "ruinous" state in c.1863 and granted to the Church of England in 1874.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> No documented evidence for any other (early) structures here, strong potential for the preservation of original footings.
c.1807	<b><u>Boat slip or dry dock</u></b>	Within Andrew Thompson's lease, at eastern edge of the square along The Terrace.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Outside study area.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Probably little more than a linear ditch within the sand. May include remnant timber logs.
By 1809	<b><u>Thompson's store &amp; warehouse (stables and workshops at rear)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes, timber footings,</li> <li>Rubbish pits,</li> <li>Drains,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	Within Andrew Thompson's lease, at eastern edge of the square. (perhaps 6-10 [Old] Bridge Street)	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Condemned c.1820. Possible preservation of footings underlying current properties at 6-10 (Old) Bridge Street.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Location determined on the basis of Evan's 1809 painting and Slager's c.1811-12 etching. Ability to interpret the specific function of a building from postholes / footings alone is limited. Possibly underlying later stables.
	<b><u>Bell post and Stocks</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes,</li> <li>Remnant postpipe.</li> </ul>	Visible on Evans' 1809/c.1810 painting along the ridgeline. Likely at the intersection of George and Bridge Streets.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Likely underlying modern roadway. Archaeological potential is low considering the ephemeral nature of the remains and expected level of 19th/20th-century disturbance here.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Assumed location (determined on the basis of Evan's 1809 and 1810 painting and Slager's c.1811-12 etching at the junction of George and Bridge Streets.
1795-1810	<b><u>Archaeological Features and Deposits related to Green Hills settlement</u></b> Including fences, garden plots, rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns or cesspits, which may contain quantities of artefacts.	Throughout the TSCA, particularly within the yards of current allotments surrounding the reserve.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Evidence from excavations at 7 Thompson Square and 8 Baker Street suggest there is a high potential for unrecorded features and deposits within the properties surrounding the Thompson Square reserve.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Dependant on recovery of datable artefacts.
<b>MACQUARIE'S TOWN: THOMPSON SQUARE, 1810-1820s</b>				
1811	<b><u>Landscaping following the establishment of Thompson Square</u></b> Including the major demolition of earlier buildings within the square.	Throughout the TSCA.	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Some evidence for landscaping was documented in the excavations at 8 Baker Street, suggesting low-moderate potential for similar evidence elsewhere, particularly within those properties along the west of Thompson Square.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Ability to identify as part of a landscape is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation.
By 1813	<b><u>Wharf for Government House</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hardwood piles,</li> <li>Timber piers, etc.</li> </ul>	Along western foreshore of The Terrace. Based on Slager's c.1811-1812 etching. No other documented evidence for this wharf.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Outside study area. Survival is unlikely due to flood events which possibly removed the foreshore.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Ability to identify as part of a landscape is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation.



DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
1814	<b><u>New ferry &amp; landing place</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cutting back of western bank for landing off the ferry.</li> </ul>	Foreshore, along The Terrace.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Outside study area. Very likely removed by flooding.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Ability to identify as part of a landscape is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation.
	<b><u>Punt House</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes,</li> <li>Timber / brick footings,</li> <li>Rubbish pits,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts</li> </ul>	Along The Terrace. (adjacent to 1-3 Thompson Square)	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Outside study area. Yard deposits associated with Punt House documented in test excavations here.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Known location, mapped on Thompson's 1827 plan (and others). No other known (early) structures here, depending on the interpretation of the buildings on Evans' 1809 drawing.
1815	<b><u>Macquarie Arms Hotel</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original fabric,</li> <li>Subfloor deposits,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	Still Extant (81 George Street)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Original footprint (and some architectural elements) still extant. <b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> potential for sub-floor deposits throughout the hotel, and undocumented yard features.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Possibility of distinct use-patterns of the property (as a Hotel, Officers' mess, and private residence) dependant on the types of artefacts recovered.
1814-1815	<b><u>Modifications to the landscape of Thompson Square reserve</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drains / sewerage systems,</li> <li>Paths (new access),</li> <li>Landscaping.</li> </ul>	Throughout the TSCA, particularly through the two reserves.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Sections of the barrel drain recently recovered within the (ongoing) salvage excavations in the lower reserve. High potential for the preservation of this drain elsewhere. Evidence for landscaping has been detected in archaeological excavation and testing programs elsewhere in Thompson Square.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Barrel-drain easily recognised within current salvage excavations. Ability to identify paths and landscaping is limited without extensive linked open areas of excavation.
c.1816	<b><u>Sandstock-brick wall and fenceline around Thompson's garden.</u></b> <b><u>Gateways to government domain.</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brick footings,</li> <li>Postholes / remnant fenceposts.</li> </ul>	Along eastern edge of current Thompson Square curtilage (and partially outside study area). Within 4 Bridge Street, along The Terrace and underlying Old Bridge Street.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Original sandstock-brick wall along the west of Thompson's lease remains partially extant within the yard of 4 Bridge Street. Test excavations along The Terrace identified evidence of a timber fenceline (wooden posts) along the eastern boundary of Thompson's lease, as well as brick wall-footings identified as the entrance gate to the Government domain within George Street.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Location of eastern wall in particular is well established, and sections remain extant.
c.1815-1820	<b><u>Second wharf</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hardwood piles,</li> <li>Timber piers, etc.</li> </ul>	Foreshore, likely underlying the current Windsor Bridge. Perhaps visible on Meehan's 1812 survey plan.	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Outside study area. Maritime survey along the foreshore suggest elements of an early wharf are preserved.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Early wharf structural elements easily identified, although difficult to assign chronology of wharfage.
1817-1818	<b><u>Military Barracks</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber, sandstone and brick footings,</li> <li>Rubbish pits,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	(32 Bridge Street)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Outside study area. Excavations here demonstrate good preservation of the footings of the guardhouse, suggesting potential for footings of barracks under modern building.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Known location. No documented evidence for other (earlier) structures here.
1819	<b><u>The 'Lord Nelson Inn' and related (?) building</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber / brick footings,</li> </ul>	(1-3 Thompson Square)	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Demolished in the 1840s. Low potential for original footings considering the subsequent construction of	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Known location. Mapped on Thompson's 1827 plan. No documented evidence

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>		"the Doctor's House" included the addition of large cellars.	for other structures here.
1810-1820s	<u>Archaeological Features / Deposits related to Macquarie era</u> (fences, garden plots, rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns or cesspits, which may contain quantities of artefacts).	Throughout the TSCA, particularly within the yards of current allotments surrounding the reserve.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Comparative archaeological evidence suggests a high potential for unrecorded features and deposits within the TSCA.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Dependant on recovery of datable artefacts.
	<u>Evidence of early road alignments</u>	George Street.	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Dependant on the interpretation of Meehan's 1811 plan, and original alignment of George Street	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Dependant on type of evidence recovered.
<b>POST-MACQUARIE ERA, 1820-1842</b>				
By 1822	<u>Prisoner and Police barracks (and later stables)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber / brick footings,</li> <li>Rubbish pits, yard features.</li> </ul>	At the southern end of Andrew Thompson's lease (partially outside of study area).  (underlying current properties at 6-10 Bridge Street, and 51 George Street)	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Moderate potential for preservation of original footings, demolished prior to c.1856 (with construction at Lilburn Hall), barrack's demolished c.1835.	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Known location. Mapped on Abbot's 1831 plan. Prisoner barrack's possibly somewhat overlying (or incorporating?) Thompson's store.
By 1827	<u>Building/s, pre-dating Howe's house</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber / brick footings,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	(7 Thompson Square)	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Results of archaeological testing in the yard of 7 Thompson Square produced evidence of outbuildings dated to c.1820s, possibly related to this building, as well as several rubbish pits with quantities of artefacts dated c.1780-1840s.	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Known location. Mapped on Thompson's 1827 plan. Replaced with later Howe's house. No documented evidence for other structures here.
By 1835	<u>Buildings on Keys / Kays Lease</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber / brick footings,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	(82-94 George Street)	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Potential for original footprint (including possible cellars) and associated deposits underlying later 19th and 20th century buildings along George Street.	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Several structures visible on the Keys / Kays lease (approximately 74-92 George Street) in White's plan from c.1835. These are identified as a "cottage" and "house" on Galloway's c.1841 plan, and at the southernmost edge of the TSCA is a building labelled "Blacksmith". These buildings were apparently demolished by the late 19th century.
	<u>62-68 George Street</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original fabric,</li> <li>Subfloor deposits,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features,</li> <li>Timber, brick or sandstone footings,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	Partially still extant (62 George Street)  Western cottages demolished in the c.1870s and replaced with a two-storied building. (64-68 George Street)	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Original footprint (and some architectural elements) still extant at 62 George Street.  <b>Low-Moderate:</b> Potential for under-floor / between-floor deposits and undocumented yard features, as well as for preservation of original footings / related features of 64-68 George Street (demolished c.1870s).	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Known location, and partially (62 George Street) extant. Possibility of distinct use-patterns of the properties (as a private residence and shop) dependant on the types of artefacts recovered.
	<u>19 Bridge Street</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original fabric,</li> <li>Subfloor deposits,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	Still Extant (17 George Street)	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Original footprint (and some architectural elements) still extant. Low-moderate potential for under-floor / between-floor deposits throughout property.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Known location, and still extant. Visible on plans by the 1830s.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
By 1837	<b><u>John Howe's House (Coffey's Inn)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original fabric,</li> <li>Subfloor deposits,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	Still Extant (7 Thompson Square)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Original footprint (and some architectural elements) still extant. Excavations here suggest moderate-high potential for under-floor / between-floor deposits throughout the building, as well as a number of undocumented yard features and outbuildings.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Possibility of distinct use-patterns of the property (as a private residence and inn) dependant on the types of artefacts recovered.
1820s-1842	<b><u>Evidence of early road alignments</u></b>	Bridge Road (extending from George Street to South Creek).	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Evidence from archaeological testing suggests there is high potential for earlier roadways.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Dependant on type of evidence recovered.
	<b><u>Archaeological Features / Deposits related to Post-Macquarie era</u></b> (fences, garden plots, rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns / cesspits, perhaps with quantities of artefacts).	Throughout the TSCA, particularly within the yards of current allotments surrounding the reserve.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Comparative archaeological evidence suggests a high potential for unrecorded features and deposits within the TSCA.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Dependant on recovery of datable artefacts.
<b>LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, 1843-1900</b>				
1844-1880s	<b><u>Various Buildings, still extant</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original fabric,</li> <li>Subfloor deposits,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	1844 – <b><u>The Doctor's House</u></b> (1-3 Thompson Square) 1850s – <b><u>Cottage</u></b> (5 Thompson Square) 1850s (late) – <b><u>Lilburn / Lilburndale</u></b> (10 Bridge Street) 1860s – <b><u>Cottage</u></b> (6 Bridge Street) 1861 – <b><u>(former) School of Arts</u></b> (14 Bridge Street) 1865 – <b><u>Cottage</u></b> (82 George Street) 1880s – <b><u>Hawkesbury Stores</u></b> (64-68 George Street)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Original footprint (and some architectural elements) still extant.  <b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Potential for under-floor / between-floor deposits throughout these properties and undocumented yard features.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Known locations, and still extant, with some modifications.  Possibility of distinct use-patterns of these individual properties (as private residences, inns, a school, as well as possible evidence of boatbuilding activities at 6 Bridge Street) dependant on the types of artefacts recovered.
1860s	<b><u>Sir John Young Hotel</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber, brick footings,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	(70-72 George Street)	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Burnt out in 1913 and demolished in 1915. Low potential for preservation of original footings / related features.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Possibility of distinct use-patterns dependant on the types of artefacts recovered.
1872-1890s	<b><u>Construction of Windsor Bridge</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber retaining,</li> <li>Landscaping (along Terrace and within the reserves).</li> </ul>	Along The Terrace, within the reserves. Extension of Bridge Street (Old Bridge Street) and Thompson Square Road.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Evidence from archaeological testing suggests there is moderate potential for earlier roadways related to the construction of Windsor Bridge.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Dependant on type of evidence recovered. Evidence for landscaping is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation.
1882	<b><u>Pavilion (Summer-House)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber footings.</li> </ul>	Upper reserve, near George Street.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Ephemeral construction, low potential for preservation of original footings / related features.	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Dependant on type of evidence recovered.
1850s-1900	<b><u>Evidence of early road alignments including sandstone kerbs and</u></b>	Throughout the TSCA, particularly underlying current road	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Evidence from archaeological testing suggests there is high potential	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Dependant on type of evidence recovered.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
	<b><u>guttering.</u></b> <b><u>Landscaping of reserves, including timber fencing</u></b>	alignments and within the two reserves.	for earlier roadways. Low potential for any preserved evidence for landscaping.	Ability to identify as part of a landscape is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation.
	<b><u>Archaeological Features and Deposits related to Post-Macquarie era</u></b> Including fences, garden plots, rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns or cesspits, which may contain quantities of artefacts.	Throughout the TSCA, particularly within the yards of current allotments surrounding the reserve.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Comparative archaeological evidence suggests a high potential for unrecorded features and deposits within the properties surrounding the Thompson Square reserve.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Dependant on recovery of datable artefacts.
<b>20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, 1900-PRESENT – DOES NOT MEET THE THRESHOLD FOR LOCAL OR STATE SIGNIFICANCE.</b>				
1900-present	<b><u>Various Buildings, still extant</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original fabric,</li> <li>Subfloor deposits,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	1907 – <b><u>A.C. Stearn Building</u></b> (74 George Street) 1910 – <b><u>Commercial Building</u></b> (88 George Street) 1923 – <b><u>Former Hawkesbury Garage</u></b> (70-72 George Street) Post-1948 – <b><u>Commercial Building</u></b> (80 George Street) 1955 – <b><u>Houses</u></b> (4 Bridge Street) (1/52 George Street)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Original footprint (and some architectural elements) still extant. Moderate potential for under-floor / between-floor deposits throughout these properties and undocumented yard features.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Possibility of distinct use-patterns of these individual properties dependant on the types of artefacts recovered.
1948-49	<b><u>Boat Club</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cement slab</li> </ul>	Within lower reserve.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Demolished in 1990s. Within the limits of the current salvage excavations.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Dependant on preservation.
1900-current	<b><u>Evidence of previous road alignments including sandstone kerbs and guttering.</u></b> <b><u>Landscaping of reserves, including timber fencing</u></b>	Throughout the TSCA, particularly underlying current road alignments.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Evidence from archaeological testing suggests there is high potential for earlier roadways. Sandstone kerbing / guttering dating to the late 19th- early 20th century still preserved around the Square.	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Dependant on recovery of datable artefacts.
	<b><u>Archaeological Features and Deposits related to 20th-century</u></b> Including fences, garden plots, rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns or cesspits, which may contain quantities of artefacts.	Throughout the TSCA, particularly within the yards of current allotments surrounding the reserve.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Comparative archaeological evidence suggests a high potential for unrecorded features and deposits within the properties surrounding the Thompson Square reserve.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Dependant on recovery of datable artefacts.



## 6 Constraints and Opportunities

The significance of the place creates obligations and opportunities regarding its treatment. In addition, many other factors are relevant to the development of appropriate conservation policies for the place. These are discussed below.

### 6.1 Obligations and Opportunities Arising from Significance

The following ideals are derived from the main issues raised in the Statement of Significance. *While not all of these ideals will necessarily be achievable in conservation policies* when other issues are taken into consideration, the goal should be to work toward satisfying the maximum number possible.

- Conserve and interpret the historic values attributed to the place including those aspects of the place that demonstrate the late 18<sup>th</sup> century settlement of the Mulgrave Place District and the village of Green Hills (in all forms including the underground archaeology), as forming part of the third British settlement on the mainland and the place's role as the regional civic centre for the Hawkesbury River district in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries,
- Conserve and interpret the rarity and historic values attributed to Thompson Square as the oldest public square in Australia and the only known public space named for an emancipist;
- Conserve and interpret the group of buildings surrounding Thompson Square that define the square and impart a strong colonial character to the place and contain several buildings of exceptional quality
- Conserve and interpret the historic associations with Governor Macquarie and Andrew Thompson, as well as other persons of historical note.
- Conserve and interpret the visual and spatial relationships between the place and the Hawkesbury River and the broader agricultural setting;
- Research, conserve and interpret the values of the place associated with the history of Aboriginal dispossession through its settlement and subsequent use as a legal and judicial centre.
- Conserve the research potential of the place associated with the buildings, structures and archaeology (historic and Aboriginal).

### 6.2 Procedural Constraints Arising from Significance

Because Thompson Square Conservation Area is of considerable cultural significance, works should be carried out in accordance with a recognised cultural conservation methodology such as that of the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter*. The following procedures are recommended:

- The maximum amount of significant fabric, uses, associations and meanings should be preserved and conserved. (Article 3, *Burra Charter*)
- Works to the fabric should be planned and implemented taking into account the relative significance of the elements of the place. Unavoidable intervention should be carried out on elements of lesser significance in preference to those of higher significance. Alterations to interior spaces, such as removal of original finishes, partitioning or construction of new openings and

installation of new services should be carried out in spaces of lesser significance to those of higher significance. (Article 5.2, *Burra Charter*)

- Uses should, if possible, be related to the cultural significance rather than uses that do not take advantage of the interpretative potential of the place. (Article 7, *Burra Charter*)
- If possible, items of significance should be interpreted by either introduced interpretative devices or applicable restoration and reconstruction. (Article 25, *Burra Charter*)
- The use of the place should be organised to minimise the removal or concealment of significant fabric due to statutory requirements including the need for new services, provision of fire egress and access for disabled people. (Article 7.2, *Burra Charter*)
- All alterations and adaptations of the significant fabric should be clearly identified by means of introduced devices or by method of style of construction, as new work. (Article 22.2, *Burra Charter*)
- Work should be carried out by personnel experienced in conservation, both professional disciplines, and building and engineering trades. (Article 30, *Burra Charter*)
- Appropriate recording and documentation procedures, in accordance with the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter* should be carried out before any works. (Article 27.2, *Burra Charter*)
- Conservation guidelines for the place, formulated in accordance with the *Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Conservation Policy* should be prepared, adopted and implemented. (Article 26.2, *Burra Charter*)

## 6.3 Present Condition

Based on the visual inspection of the physical fabric of the Thompson Square Conservation Area undertaken as part of the preparation of this report, the condition of the components of the place is considered to be generally good. However, as detailed fabric and condition surveys of the individual components (i.e. the buildings and the site and landscape features) were not undertaken as part of this report, a detailed appraisal of the condition of the individual components of the TSCA has not been provided.

Of note however is the current condition of the timber stairs and pedestrian walkway running under the southern approach of the Windsor Bridge within the River bank lands. This structure is currently in poor condition and as it is not considered to be of heritage value could be repaired or replaced with a new structure.

It should also be noted that at the time of writing, the lower reserve of Thompson Square was undergoing extensive archaeological investigation by Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) which commenced in October 2017.

This investigative work involved the removal of vegetation and other site features and substantial adjustments to the topography of this portion of land within the TSCA. The Lower Reserve remains an exposed archaeological site.



Figure 6. 1: Recent photograph of “salvage work” in the lower reserve of the TSCA. Source: [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement), March 2018.

### Condition of the Archaeology

As a result of the review of archaeology at the place including the history of excavations and other works it is concluded that even though some areas and properties within the boundaries of the TSCA have been impacted on by past works, the entire precinct and including inside and outside the buildings, retains a large and complex archaeological profile.

As discussed previously (see Section 4.1.3), while the historic archaeological deposits within the Thompson Square Conservation Area exhibited significant disturbance from later construction and flood damage, testing and salvage excavations have demonstrated evidence for:

- Various land modifications and early cultivation in the area (in the form of postholes, planting holes, topsoil modification, etc.).
- 19th-century structural activity (including drains sandstock-brick footings, timber fencelines, service trenches, etc.).
- Previous (19th- and 20th-century) roadways through Thompson Square.

In addition, the buildings and building allotments located within the boundaries of the conservation area are also likely to retain significant archaeological evidence including structural remains and subfloor occupation-related artefact deposits and unrecorded yard features, including rubbish pits, wells, cisterns, or cesspits, and associated deposits related to these 19th-century structures.

## 6.4 Integrity

The integrity (intactness of the physical fabric) of the individual components and the whole of the conservation area has been discussed above (see Section 3 Physical Evidence).

Overall, many features of the Thompson Square Conservation Area retain their integrity from the date of their establishment. Such features include the topography (in part), the configuration and underlying subdivision pattern of the area, the alignment of many of the roads, the configuration, form and detailing of the buildings and the use of many the buildings and the public spaces.

The study of the built fabric and the site and landscape features of the place and the related documentary evidence indicates that some components of the place could be restored or reconstructed to an earlier known configuration, although further research is recommended for the individual buildings.

Restoration and reconstruction should only be undertaken in order to reveal culturally significant aspects of the place. (*Burra Charter* Article 18) and is to be based on the identified grades of significance for the components of the place (see Section 5.4.3) and the relevant conservation policies (Section 7).

### Integrity of the Historic Archaeology

The integrity of the historic archaeology has been discussed in Section 5.6.2 above.

## 6.5 Interpretation

Because of its significance the place has considerable potential to be explained to visitors by appropriate interpretation. This is already being done in a number of ways including the publishing of books, art exhibits and community events held by Hawkesbury City Council, historic information being made available on the CAWB website, the Hawkesbury City Council library website and local historical societies, and the memorials and plaques located within the conservation area.

However, as the historic character of the place is key to the understanding of the history and significance of the Thompson Square Conservation Area, interpretation techniques need to be controlled to ensure that the introduction of obvious interpretive devices do not detract from the character of the place. Recommendations for the appropriate interpretation of the place are included in this Conservation Management Plan and should be developed further in consultation with specialists (see Section 7).

## 6.6 Statutory Heritage Constraints

The statutory heritage status of the Thompson Square Conservation Area and its individual components is detailed in Section 4.5: Analysis of the Conservation Area. See copy of listings included in the Appendices.

### 6.6.1 (NSW) Heritage Act 1977

The *Heritage Act* 1977 established the NSW Heritage Council and the State Heritage Register (SHR).

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR No. 000126) and therefore the provisions of the *Heritage Act* 1977 apply.

The objective of the Act is to encourage the conservation of the heritage of New South Wales. The aim of heritage management is not to prevent change and development, but to ensure that the heritage significance of recognised items is not harmed by changes. 'Heritage items' refers to buildings, works, relics or places of known historic, aesthetic, scientific or social significance.

Non-inclusion of a place on the State Heritage Register does not imply that place is of no cultural significance. The place may have as yet unrecognised cultural significance, or non-inclusion may reflect administrative policy, inactivity or lack of resources.

### Development Applications

As the TSCA is included on the State Heritage Register, NSW Heritage Council approval is required for proposed works to the buildings (excluding No. 5 Thompson Square), the streets and roads (excluding Bridge Street), and the public reserves.

Activities that require Heritage Council approval are:

- demolition or partial demolition of a building or work;
- alterations or damage to a building;
- moving, damaging, destroying or excavating to expose a relic or movable object;



- development, including intangible development such as subdivision or change of use;
- the addition of notices or advertisements;
- damaging or destroying a tree or vegetation.

The first step in the approvals process is usually to apply for an Integrated Development Approval (IDA) through the local council. Local councils are required to advertise all IDAs in local and state newspapers for a period of 30 days. An IDA must be determined within 60 days of lodgment. The local council then refers the application to the Heritage Council. Copies of any public submissions received are also forwarded to the Heritage Council. The Heritage Council then assesses the application and indicates the general terms of its approval or intention to refuse the application. These general terms are then incorporated into the local council's conditions of approval for the IDA, should the local council decide to approve the application.

Approval to carry out the proposed work (a Section 60 application) is still required following the receipt of an approval pursuant the IDA process.

If major changes are proposed, the Heritage Council may request the preparation of a conservation management plan (CMP). For minor works, a heritage impact statement (HIS) may be sufficient.

### Minimum Standards

Owners of items on the State Heritage Register are required by the *Heritage Regulations* 2005 to achieve minimum standards of maintenance and repair. The standards are set out in the Regulation and include weatherproofing, fire protection, security and essential maintenance.

### Standard Exemptions

The Heritage Council has exempted the need for approval for some kinds of minor maintenance and repairs from the heritage approval process (Section 57(2) standard exemptions). These exemptions include minor maintenance and repairs, repainting, limited excavation, strictly defined restoration and specific conservation works described in a Conservation Management Plan endorsed by the Heritage Council.

Normally a conservation management plan and/or a heritage impact statement is required to accompany a S60 application and this conservation management plan may satisfy some of the requirements of the NSW Heritage Council.

Only work that is identified as being exempt under the *Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval* (NSW Heritage Council, 2009) does not require a S60 approval. Exempt works include typical activities such as building maintenance, minor repairs, alterations to certain interiors or areas and changes of use. Regardless, in many situations, the proposed work will still require the written consent of the Director-General of the NSW Heritage Council.

### Site Specific Exemptions

Additional site specific exemptions for a heritage item listed on the State Heritage Register may be requested for works other than those in the attached standard exemptions list. An application for site specific exemptions should be made to the Heritage Council of NSW. The application should be supported by a conservation management plan or similar study carried out by an experienced heritage consultant.

Site specific exemptions must be recommended by the Heritage Council and approved by the Minister and published in the NSW Government Gazette before they are applied to a specific heritage item. The owner/s of the heritage item and the local council is notified when this has occurred.

### Historic Archaeological Heritage

Historic archaeological sites and relics (including maritime archaeology) are protected under the *Heritage Act 1977* (as amended). The Act is administered by the NSW Heritage Council. A historic period archaeological relic is defined as:

*any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement; and is of State or local significance.*

This means that depending on the history of a place, most occupied land could potentially contain relics or artefacts.

The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* protects the State's natural and cultural heritage and Aboriginal places or objects that are listed on the State Heritage Register.

Development proposals that involving disturbing or excavating sites listed on the State Heritage Register are required to apply for approval for the proposed works S60 of the *Heritage Act 1977* (S60 application) through the Heritage Council.

## 6.6.2 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has the legal responsibility to protect Aboriginal heritage objects (sites and artefacts) under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* (1974).

An Aboriginal object is defined as: *any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains* [Section 5(1)].

The OEH maintains a register of identified Aboriginal sites throughout New South Wales through its Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS). Two Aboriginal sites have been recorded within the immediate vicinity of the TSCA:

- South Bank PAD (Potential Archaeological Deposit) Site ID: 45-5-3581
- BEW 97 (Artefact) Site ID: 45-5-2435

All Aboriginal objects are protected under the Act whether listed or not on the AHIMS Aboriginal Sites Register. They are protected from both knowing and unknowing harm unless under an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit issued under s90 of the Act.

The strict liability offence of unknowing harm means that a process of Due Diligence needs to be undertaken prior to any activity which may potentially impact Aboriginal heritage (both documented and undocumented). The current CMP procedures will ensure that such Due Diligence standards are met.

In the event that Due Diligence concludes that a proposed activity may impact Aboriginal objects, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit may need to be sought from the OEH. A local council cannot grant consent to a development proposal unless it is satisfied that the likely impact upon Aboriginal objects has been assessed.

### 6.6.3 (NSW) Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* (1979), local councils are required prepare a Local Environmental Plan (LEP) which guides planning decisions for local government areas. They do this through zoning and development controls, which provide a framework for the way land can be used.

#### Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is located within the boundaries of the Hawkesbury City Council area and falls under the provisions of the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan* (LEP) 2012.

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is identified as a Heritage Conservation Area under Schedule 5 of the LEP. In addition, the majority of the individual components located within the conservation area are identified as individual heritage items under Schedule 5 of the LEP.

Standard heritage provisions in LEPs require that councils must consider heritage issues when assessing development applications to listed items. Development refers to alterations, additions and demolition, damage to, defacement, or moving of heritage items and may also refer to development in the vicinity of a heritage item, and development affecting relics, identified and potential Aboriginal and archaeological deposits, trees and landscape items.

Clause 5.10(10) provides conservation incentives which also allows for the consent authority (council) to grant consent to development for any purpose of a building that is a heritage item, even though development for that purpose would otherwise not be allowed by the Hawkesbury LEP 2012.

Local councils can usually require the submission of heritage impact statements and in some cases can require the submission of conservation management plans with development applications for LEP-listed items and places located within conservation areas.

Development Control Plans (DCPs) prepared by local councils may also contain heritage planning policies which councils endeavour to implement within their boundaries.

#### Development Consent

Where items are also included on the State Heritage Register, an Integrated Development Application (IDA) is required (see under State Heritage Register (SHR), NSW Heritage Council, below). In such cases, in accordance with Section 92 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the consent authority (being the council) must not refuse the Development Application on heritage grounds.

As the TSCA is identified as a heritage conservation area in Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012*, development consent is required for proposed works to the buildings (excluding No. 5 Thompson Square), the streets and roads (excluding Bridge Street), and the public reserves. As per Clause 5.10(2) of the Hawkesbury LEP 2012, development consent via Hawkesbury City Council is required for:

- Demolishing, moving or altering the exterior of a heritage item, an Aboriginal object or a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area;
- making structural changes to the interior of a building that is a heritage item;
- 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;
- disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance;
- erecting a building on land on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance; and
- subdividing land on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance.

Hawkesbury City Council requires that development applications be accompanied by a heritage impact statement (HIS) and in some cases a conservation management plan (or conservation management strategy) will also be required.

As with the Heritage Council, the Hawkesbury LEP 2012 also includes provisions for the undertaking of some work without the need for a development consent. However, what specifically is considered to be exempt work is not clearly defined and is at Council's discretion as the written consent of Council is required before undertaking any works.

To obtain an exemption through Hawkesbury Council, the applicant for the works is required to demonstrate that the work is minor in nature, is for the maintenance of a heritage item (including an Aboriginal place or archaeological site) or a place within the heritage conservation area and will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place, archaeological site or heritage conservation area.

### **State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt & Complying Development Codes) 2008**

The State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) Exempt and Complying Development Codes, which provides for some types of development with minimal impact to be undertaken without consent, does not apply to the properties located within the TSCA, except where an exemption has already been granted under s57(2) of the *Heritage Act 1977* and the development meets the requirements and standards specified by this policy.

Under Clause 1.16 the provisions of exempt development (i.e. undertaking works without the need for development consent) must not be carried out on land that is, or on which there is, an item that is listed on the State Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

Likewise, under Clause 1.17A, consent cannot be granted for complying development (i.e. undertaking works under a Complying Development Certificate) on land that comprises an item that is listed on the State Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 1977* or on which such an item is located.



## 6.7 Non-Statutory Heritage Constraints

The non-statutory heritage status of the Thompson Square Conservation Area according to the following organisations is as follows:

### 6.7.1 Register of the National Estate (RNE), Australian Heritage Council

The Thompsons Square Conservation Area is included on the Register of the National Estate as the “Thompson Square Precinct” and as “Thompson Square”.

The Register of the National Estate is an Australia-wide reference database that operated from 1976 to 2007. A place is included in the Register of the National Estate where it has been assessed to have natural, cultural or indigenous value at a local, state, national, or international level and this significance is considered to have value for future generations.

On 19 February 2012 statutory references to the RNE in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003* were repealed. This means the register ceased to be a statutory heritage list, although it continues to exist as a (closed) inventory of Australian heritage places that were registered between 1976 and 2007.

The *EPBC Act 1999* now provides protection of heritage on Commonwealth land and from Commonwealth actions on other places, as well as targeted protection for nationally significant places found on Australia’s National and Commonwealth Heritage Lists (refer to below).

The Register remains publicly available as an information and educational resource only on the Commonwealth web site.

### 6.7.2 National Trust of Australia (NSW)

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is included on the National Trust Register (NSW) as the “Thompson Square Precinct”.

The register lists those buildings, sites, items, and areas which, in the Trust’s opinion, fall within the following definition: *components of the natural or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historical, architectural, archaeological, scientific, or social significance, or other special value for future generations, as well as for the present community.*

Inclusion does not have any legal effect, but the register is widely recognised as an authoritative statement on the significance of a place. The purpose of the register is to alert responsible authorities, property owners and the public so that those concerned may adopt measures to preserve the special qualities which prompted the listing.

When the significance of a place is under threat, the National Trust will take whatever action is deemed appropriate to ensure its protection, including giving advice to the property owner and seeking the use of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* or local government planning powers. For the purposes of such action, the National Trust makes no differentiation between classified and recorded listings in its register.

## 6.8 Other Legislation

The following is an outline of the opportunities and constraints presented by other legislation that also applies to the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

### 6.8.1 Biosecurity Act 2015

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* is about managing diseases and pests that may cause harm to human, animal or plant health or the environment. The broad objectives for biosecurity in NSW are to manage biosecurity risks from animal and plant pests and diseases, weeds and contaminants by:

- preventing their entry into NSW;
- quickly finding, containing and eradicating any new entries; and
- effectively minimising the impacts of those pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants that cannot be eradicated through robust management arrangements.<sup>1</sup>

Under Part 3 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, all land owners or land managers have a “General Biosecurity Duty” to prevent, eliminate or minimise the Biosecurity Risk posed or likely to be posed by Priority Weeds.

Within the local government area of Hawkesbury City Council, the Hawkesbury River County Council (HRCC) is the delegated Local Control Authority. The County Council has a legal obligation to manage the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by reducing the impacts of Priority Weeds on human health, the economy, community and environment. These obligations are met through programs to:

- develop weed management programs and plans;
- control Priority Weeds on Council managed lands; and
- inspect private lands to ensure that owners of land carry out their obligations to manage the Biosecurity Risk as imposed under the Act by controlling Priority Weeds.

The HRCC’s publications *Corporate Policy Biosecurity Priority Weeds Local Plan* (October 2017) and *Priority Weed List* (September 2017) identify at least 12 different species of priority weeds that are known to be located within the riparian zone within the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

### 6.8.2 National Construction Code

New building work within the boundaries of the Thompson Square Conservation Area is subject to the provisions of the National Construction Code (NCC), which includes the *Building Code of Australia* (BCA). However, the BCA is a performance based document and where it is not possible for new work to comply with the deemed to satisfy provisions, then an “Alternative Solution” may be proposed to meet the objectives of the code.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/legislation/list/biosecurity-act-2015>

### 6.8.3 Disability Discrimination Act 1992

The Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act* 1992 (DDA), as amended 2013, contains equitable access requirements for persons with a disability which applies to all buildings, new and existing, except where unjustifiable hardship in providing access can be demonstrated. In a legal sense, the DDA will normally override other Commonwealth and state heritage legislation, and solutions must therefore be found to provide dignified access to heritage buildings with minimal impact to the significant fabric.

Given the level of significance of the Thompson Square Conservation Area and the individual components of the place and the fragility of some of the significant fabric, it may not always be possible to provide equitable access to all areas of individual buildings. Regardless, every endeavour should be made by Hawkesbury City Council to reduce barriers to persons with a disability for access and enjoyment of the public domain of the TSCA as much as possible.

## 6.9 Owner's Requirements

### 6.9.1 Hawkesbury City Council

As discussed above, Thompson Square Conservation Area is located within the local government area of Hawkesbury City Council, who are the owners of some of the individual components of the place, namely, No. 7 Thompson Square, Old Bridge Street, George Street and the upper and lower public reserves of Thompson Square. Refer to Section 1 for an outline of all owners of the individual properties within the TSCA.

In addition, as Hawkesbury City Council is the local planning authority for the TSCA, Council is also responsible (via relevant planning laws), for the care and management of the majority of the individual elements within the TSCA. This includes controlling development within the conservation area and on the boundaries of the conservation area, maintaining and upgrading public roads, footpaths and public open spaces, managing local environmental issues such as flooding and noxious weeds and servicing and controlling community events associated with the TSCA.

As the local planning authority, Hawkesbury City Council have commissioned the preparation of this conservation management plan to ensure the significant aspects of the TSCA are preserved for future generations and to seek recommendations on how the conservation area can best be managed in terms of potential infill development, enhancement of public area, changes to traffic flows, dealing with aging infrastructure and urban design guidelines (see Section 7: Conservation Policies).

Hawkesbury City Council also has a number of policies guiding the management of the local government area, including some that impact on the culturally significant components of the TSCA. These include:

- *Plan of Management for the Windsor Foreshore Parks Incorporating the Great River Walk* (Hawkesbury City Council, 2009) applies to the foreshore open spaces including Thompson Square and Windsor Wharf Reserve;
- *Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2010-2030* (Hawkesbury City Council, 2010)
- The *Hawkesbury Mobility Plan 2010* consists of a Pedestrian Access Management Plan (PAMP) and a Bike Plan (GTA Consultants, 2010).

## 6.9.2 Other Owner's Requirements

Within the boundaries of the TSCA, the majority of the buildings are privately owned and Bridge Street is owned and managed by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS). For the preparation of this conservation management plan, stakeholder consultation was not undertaken and input from the individual property owners has not been sought.

For current requirements of RMS for the future redevelopment of Bridge Street, the public reserves of Thompson Square, The Terrace, the river bank lands and the Windsor Bridge, refer to below.

## 6.10 Other Interested Individuals and Groups

As an historic precinct and a conservation area listed on the State Heritage Register that contains buildings, site and landscape features and archaeology of state significance, the Thompson Square Conservation Area, would be of interest to a range of interested individuals and groups. In addition, over the long history of Thompson Square, numerous individuals and groups are known to have been involved in actively trying to protect and conserve various components of the conservation area, including:

- Community Action for Windsor Bridge (CAWB).
- National Trust of Australia (NSW).
- (Royal) Australian Institute of Architecture
- Country Women's Association.
- Royal Australian Historical Society.
- The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU).

Due to the location, history, significance, past and current uses and the heritage status of the Thompson Square Conservation Area, there would be a broad cross section of the public (Sydney based, Hawkesbury River district based and Australia wide) that have particular interests in the ongoing care and management of the place.

## 6.11 Other

### 6.11.1 Planning Controls

As discussed above, the Thompson Square Conservation Area is place is located within the local government area of Hawkesbury City Council. Local and state planning controls applicable to this locality apply. In brief, the following development standards as per the *Hawkesbury Local Environment Plan 2012* apply to some or all of the properties located within the TSCA:

Hawkesbury LEP 2012	Development Standard
Clause 2.1: Land Use Zones	B2: Local Centre R2: Low Density Residential RE1: Public Recreation SP: Infrastructure

Hawkesbury LEP 2012	Development Standard
Clause 4.1: Minimum subdivision lot size	450 metres <sup>2</sup>
Clause 4.3: Height of Buildings	10 metres
Clause 5.10: Heritage Conservation	Thompson Square Conservation Area ('C4')
Clause 6.4: Terrestrial Biodiversity	Significant vegetation

Refer to the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012* for further detail.

### 6.11.2 Legal Constraints

Other than those discussed above, no additional legal constraints have been identified by the client in relation to the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

### 6.11.3 Current Uses

The conservation area, including the public reserves and the individual buildings, is used for a variety of private, commercial, civic and community uses.

### 6.11.4 Traffic

The following information has been drawn from the *Windsor Bridge Replacement Project: Environmental Impact Statement*, Volume 1, prepared by Sinclair Knight Merz for Roads and Maritime Services, November 2012.

The TSCA contains four roads within its boundaries consisting of George Street, Old Bridge Street and Thompson Square (the street) which are all classified as Local Roads and Bridge Street which is classified as a Sub-Arterial Road or Regional Road. Of these roads, only Bridge Street and George Street experience heavy traffic, in particular during peak hours.

Bridge Street, running north-south and linking South Creek to the Hawkesbury River, provides access over the Windsor Bridge to the north of the TSCA and bisects the public reserve areas of Thompson Square. The road forms part of State Route 69 to Singleton and is part of the B-Double Route<sup>2</sup> from Windsor Road to Wilberforce Road and is approved for use by vehicles up to 26 metres in length and of a higher mass limit (HML).<sup>3</sup> Traffic volumes over Windsor Bridge via Bridge Street are estimated to be around 19,000 vehicles per day (Average Daily Traffic estimated from peak hour traffic surveys undertaken in 2011).

George Street connects Bridge Street to the Windsor town centre to the west and to the residential area to the east of the TSCA. The road has one lane in each direction with on-street parking on both sides of the street. The *Windsor Town Centre Traffic Study*<sup>4</sup> suggests that the eastern approach of George Street to Bridge Street experiences higher than expected volumes in peak times due its role as a link into Bridge Street.

<sup>2</sup> A B-double is a combination of a prime mover towing two semi-trailers all connected by B-couplings.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/maps/restricted-access-vehicles-map/map>

<sup>4</sup> Christopher Hallam & Associates Pty Ltd, July 2011



### 6.11.5 Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

In December 2013, the (then) Minister for Planning and Infrastructure approved (with conditions) the State Significant Infrastructure application (SSI-4951) made by RMS for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project. The project includes a range of works that will have direct, physical impacts on the site and landscape features and configuration of the TSCA as well as its setting, including:

- Construction of a new bridge 35 metres downstream (to the east) of the existing Windsor Bridge;
- Partial demolition of the existing Windsor Bridge;
- Construction of a new approach road that would generally follow the alignment of Old Bridge Street along the eastern side of Thompson Square;
- Removal of the existing Bridge Street and then backfilling, rehabilitating and landscaping these areas;
- Modifications to local roads and access arrangements;
- Landscaping and urban design work to the public reserve lands of Thompson Square;
- Redevelopment of part of The Terrace to provide continuous access along the southern bank of the river and under the replacement bridge to Windsor Wharf;
- Construction of scour protection works on the southern bank;
- Architectural treatments for noise mitigation, as required, where feasible and reasonable and in agreement with affected property owners;
- Ancillary works including adjustment, relocation and/or protection of utilities and services, as required; and
- Salvage excavation at identified Aboriginal heritage sites on the southern bank of the river.

At the time of writing this report, the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project was still under consideration by the NSW Parliament Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 5: Industry and Transport into the expenditure, performance and effectiveness of the project including the maintenance regime, renovation methods and justification for demolition, as well as the economic, social and heritage impacts. Public submissions closed on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and the committee is scheduled to report by 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

## 7 Development of Conservation Policies

Considering the Statement of Significance for the place and the constraints and opportunities identified in Section 6, the following conservation policies and guidelines are recommended and should be adopted by Hawkesbury City Council (HCC) in the continuing care and conservation of the Thompson Square Conservation Area (TSCA).

Given that the properties and public spaces located within the TSCA are of heritage value both as a group and individually, it is expected that over time, site specific conservation management plans may be produced for the individual properties and public spaces. This CMP provides guidance on the treatment of the TSCA as a whole. In the event that there is an inconsistency between a policy in this CMP and the corresponding policy in a site specific CMP, the policy in the site specific CMP takes precedence. In the absence of a relevant policy within a site specific CMP, the policy in this CMP should be relied on.

### 7.1 Development of Conservation Policies

A conservation management plan should provide a clear set of policies derived from an understanding of the place in order to guide the future care of the place. Conservation policies for the Thompson Square Conservation Area have been developed to address the following:

- conservation of the character of the place;
- treatment of the individual components of the place;
- interpretation of the place;
- use of the place;
- infill development and development on the boundaries of the conservation area;
- conservation procedures and practice; and
- the adoption and review of the conservation policies.

The purpose of the conservation policies is to provide guidance for the ongoing care, use and management of the TSCA including addressing any proposed future changes or development.

It should, however, be noted that depending on future circumstances (e.g. financial limitations, changes in legislation, and other external matters) not all of the conservation policies may be achievable, or their implementation may need to be deferred until such circumstances improve.

### 7.2 Definition of Terms

Many of the words used below have special meanings defined by the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter* (see Appendices). See also the Glossary (Section 1.12).

## 7.3 Defining the Place

For this report, the study area encompasses the whole of the conservation area as defined under the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012*.

However, as previously discussed (see Section 4.6), the current boundaries of the TSCA as listed under the LEP and the State Heritage Register contain anomalies that should be rectified to ensure consistency between the two listings. These anomalies are mostly due to the boundary of the conservation area no longer following the legal allotment boundaries of the properties located within it and excluding portions of land.

In addition, there have also been identified adjacent properties and areas of land that should be included within the boundaries of the conservation area as they form a part of the history of the place with significant links to the initial (c1794/95) settlement and early development of the locality. Their inclusion is recommended as these properties and areas of land would benefit from the protection of heritage conservation planning provisions, provide additional control over potential redevelopment sites of little significance abutting properties of exceptional significance, and would also strengthen the understanding of the significant history of Thompson Square.

**Policy 1.** The boundaries of the conservation area as listed under the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012* and the NSW State Heritage Register should be adjusted as shown in Figure 7.1 to address the current boundary anomalies. In order to achieve this, the whole of the legal allotment and the land areas identified below should be included in the conservation area:

- Lot 2 DP 1127620 No. 2/52 George Street
- Lot 1 DP 1084189 No. 58 George Street
- Lot 1 DP 555685 No. 68 George Street & No. 19 Bridge Street (in the LEP Conservation Area)
- Lot 1 DP 223433 No. 88 George Street (in the SHR Conservation Area)
- Lot 1 DP 730435 Nos. 92-94 George Street
- Lot 2 DP 730435 No. 18 Baker Street
- Lot 1 DP 60716 No. 7 Thompson Square
- Lot 3 DP 864088 No. 8 Baker Street
- Lot 1 DP 542705 No. 10 The Terrace
- Part of Bridge Street currently not within the SHR Conservation Area (in the SHR Conservation Area)

**Policy 2.** The boundaries of the conservation area as listed under the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012* should be adjusted as shown in Figure 7.1 to exclude the following property from within the boundaries of the conservation area:

- Northern part of Lot 1 DP 1160263 11 Macquarie Street

**Policy 3.** Extend the western boundary of the conservation area to the western kerb line of Baker Street, from the intersection with The Terrace (north) to be in line with the southern boundary of Lot 2 DP 730435 (No. 18 Baker Street) (south).

**Policy 4.** Extend the northern boundary to the Mean High Water Mark (MHWM) of the southern river bank of the Hawkesbury River, from the western kerb line of Baker Street (west) to be in line with the eastern boundary line of Lot 10 DP 666895 (No. 4 Old Bridge Street) (east).

### Windsor (Green Hills) Government Domain Precinct

In examining the historical development of the TSCA, the importance of the colonial government's role in the establishment and subsequent development of the place is very clear (see Section 4.2.5). However, many of the key elements associated with the government are located outside of the boundaries of the TSCA, for example the court house, the site of government house, the site of the military barracks etc. There is, therefore, an opportunity for either the TSCA to be expanded to include more of the Government Domain or for a new conservation area to be established that encompasses the Windsor Government Domain precinct.

**Policy 5.** HCC should undertake a future boundary review of the conservation area in close consultation with the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage following further research into the Windsor (Green Hills) Government Domain precinct.



Figure 7. 1: Recommended boundary of the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

## The Place

For the purposes of this report, the “place” encompasses the whole of the conservation area as defined under the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012* together with those areas recommended to be included within the expanded boundaries of the TSCA (see Policies 1 to 4 above); and includes the open spaces, the buildings, the streets, roads and footpaths, the subdivision patterns, the views and setting, the landscape and site features and the archaeology (Aboriginal and historic) and archaeological (Aboriginal and historic) potential.

The conservation policies developed for this report apply to all components of the place.

**Policy 6.**        **The extent of the place, for which the conservation policies apply, should be defined as that shown in Figure 7.1, and including the Aboriginal and historic archaeology and archaeological potential, the built fabric, the landscape and site features, streets and roads, the views and the setting of the place within the recommended expanded boundary of the TSCA.**

## The Setting

The TSCA is a compact precinct of colonial and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings surrounding two public reserves intersected by roads. Located at the eastern end of the town of Windsor, to the north, south and east of the conservation area are broader expanses of agricultural lands, forming part of the floodplains for the Hawkesbury River and South Creek. Partial and glimpse views of this broader setting against a distant backdrop of the Blue Mountains are available through and around the landscape features and buildings of the conservation area and its immediate surrounds.

For the TSCA, the surrounding agricultural lands and the Hawkesbury River are the principal elements for the initial settlement and subsequent development of Thompson Square and the spatial, historic and visual relationships between the place and its setting should be conserved and where possible, enhanced. In particular the vegetation located on the river bank lands on both the north and south banks of the Hawkesbury River should be managed while facilitating increased views from Thompson Square across the river to the agricultural lands beyond and from the northern side of the river looking south to Thompson Square. See also policies for Treatment of the Vegetation below.

**Policy 7.**        **The setting of the place should be recognised as shown in Figure 7.2 and the significant aspects of the spatial, visual and historic setting of the TSCA should be retained, protected and conserved, including:**

- **The visual relationships between the TSCA, the Hawkesbury River, the Windsor Bridge and the agricultural lands on the northern (Wilberforce side) bank of the river.**
- **The historic visual and spatial relationships between the place and Bridge Street, the South Creek Bridge and the agricultural lands of Mulgrave to the south of Windsor.**



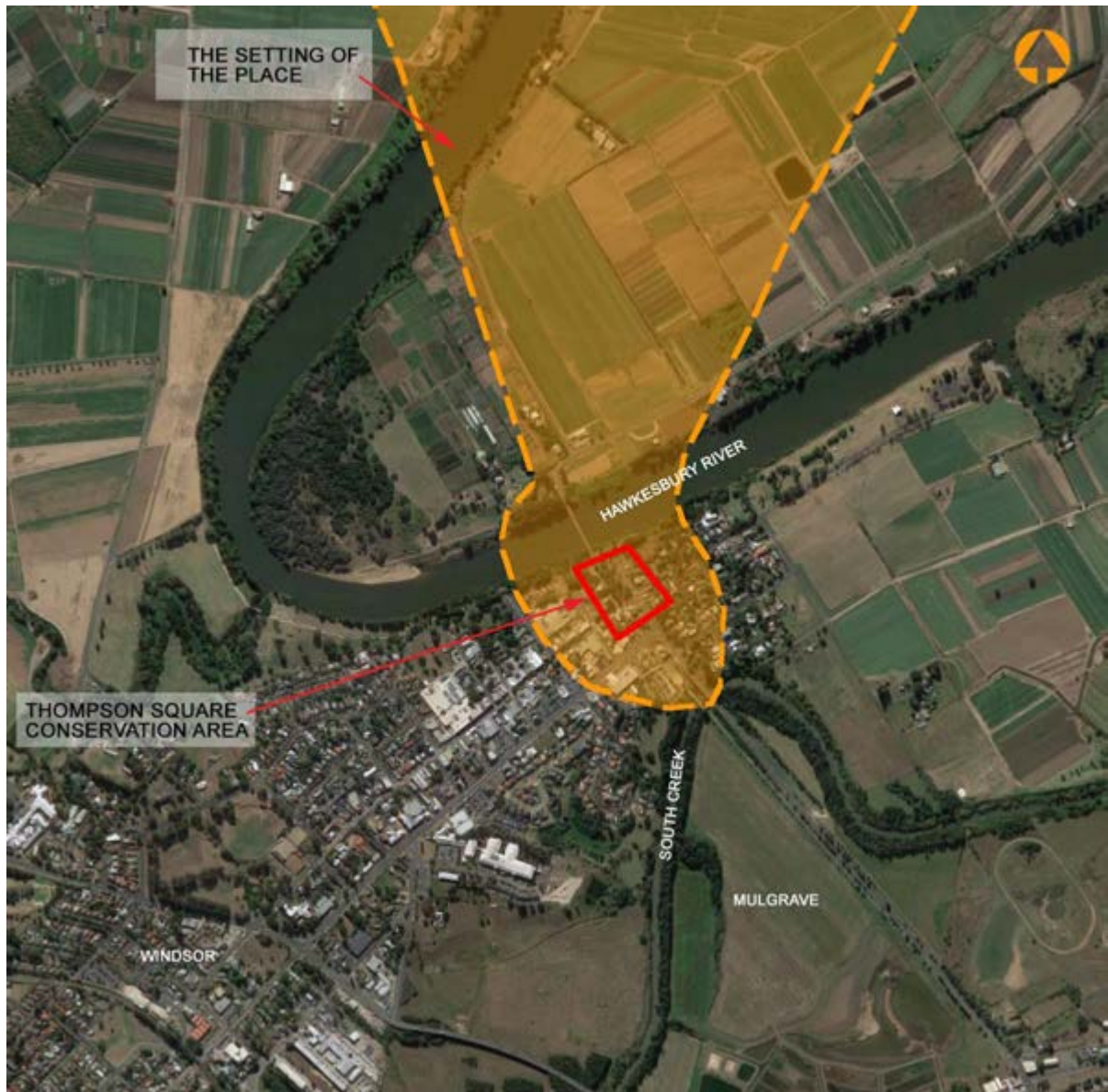


Figure 7. 2: The Setting of the Place. Source: Google Map Data\_Satellite View, 2018

## 7.4 Conservation in Accordance with Significance

Thompson Square, as one of the oldest public squares in Australia, remains a significant example of a nineteenth century townscape and the square's modest "colonial" character should be conserved and restored. The TSCA is a place where "the historical origins and relationships between the various elements create a sense of place that is worth keeping".<sup>1</sup> However, the TSCA is also more than the sum of its parts, with each side of the square contributing a different character of aesthetic significance to the place that should also be conserved:

- The western side of Thompson Square is comprised of a line of high quality colonial buildings and significant landscape features that have a strong colonial character;
- The eastern side is of a more varied character with good quality, Victorian, yet old fashioned, buildings of colonial appearance and aesthetic appeal;
- The southern side provides a strong visual enclosure via the group of mixed 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings of aesthetic appeal with a prominent colonial cottage at the corner of Bridge Street and George Street defining the southern entry to the TSCA;
- The northern side leading down to the southern bank of the Hawkesbury River provides some visual enclosure but was the permeable side of the square, linking Thompson Square with the other side of the river, Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

The guiding conservation policies for the Thompson Square Conservation Area are as follows:

- Policy 8.** HCC should continue to recognise and conserve the authenticity of the TSCA as an area where its history, broad characteristics (topography, built form, streetscapes, site and landscape features and setting) and finer detail elements (range of intact 19th and 20th century architecture, original materials, the subdivision pattern, and the historic associations and uses) are of equal importance.
- Policy 9.** The name of the place as the Thompson Square Conservation Area and more particularly, the name of the public reserve areas as Thompson Square, should be retained and conserved.
- Policy 10.** HCC should conserve the significance of the TSCA and its setting in accordance with best conservation methodology and practice.
- Policy 11.** The modest, "colonial" character of the TSCA, as a compact, mixed locality of public reserve lands surrounded by historic buildings and containing historic roads, fronting the Hawkesbury River and located in a semi-rural setting, should be retained and conserved and restored when the opportunity arises.
- Policy 12.** The Statement of Cultural Significance and the rankings of significance of the individual components of the place contained in this report should be accepted by Hawkesbury City Council and the NSW Heritage Council as the basis for the ongoing care and use of the place.
- Policy 13.** The significance of the TSCA, should be protected by maintaining and managing the place, its ongoing use and any future change and development within the boundaries and on the boundaries of the conservation area in accordance with this Conservation Management Plan.

<sup>1</sup> Heritage Office and Dept. of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996; *Conservation Areas: Guidelines for Managing Change in Heritage Conservation Areas*, p.3

## 7.5 Management of the TSCA

The overall aim for the management of the TSCA and its individual components is to avoid ad hoc changes and repairs and the introduction of inappropriate built structures, site and landscape features to both public and privately-owned lands.

### 7.5.1 Burra Charter Procedures

Because the place is of outstanding cultural significance, procedures for managing change and activities are to be in accordance with recognised conservation methodologies such as that of the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter*.

- Policy 14.** The TSCA should be treated as being of exceptional cultural significance. Consequently, activities at the place and decisions made about the future management and care of the place by HCC and other public authorities should continue to be guided by the philosophy of the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter* (see Appendix 1).
- Policy 15.** HCC should be involved in the protection of the setting of the place and related places (including South Creek Bridge, Windsor Bridge, the Hawkesbury River, the surrounding agricultural lands etc.) from inappropriate uses and activities, in those instances where there is the potential for negative impacts on the significance of the TSCA.
- Policy 16.** HCC should include/engage with qualified and experienced conservation professionals to undertake research and investigations, maintenance, repair and upgrading works to the significant fabric and components of the place (for both the private and public properties and areas).
- Policy 17.** Systematic photographic surveys of the place should be carried out by HCC before, during and after any works to the public domain within the conservation area and its setting, and the results catalogued and held in Council's archives.

### 7.5.2 Local Heritage Listing

For the benefit of future management of the TSCA it is recommended that HCC undertake the necessary arrangements to have the recommended adjustments to the boundaries of the TSCA incorporated into the current statutory planning documents of the Hawkesbury City Council (refer to Policies 1 to 4 above).

- Policy 18.** Schedule 5 of the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012* should be updated to address the recommended inclusions and exclusions of individual properties and areas within the boundaries of the TSCA as per Policies 1 to 4 and gazetted under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.
- Policy 19.** Heritage Map Sheet HER\_008DB of the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012* should be adjusted to expand the boundaries of the TSCA as shown in Figure 7.1 and gazetted under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

### 7.5.3 State Heritage Register Listing

Similarly, it is recommended that HCC coordinate with the NSW Heritage Division (or their equivalent) to have a new, revised listing for the Thompson Square Conservation Area gazetted.

It is also recommended that the heritage values currently recognised under the SHR listing be reviewed and expanded in line with the heritage values identified in this conservation management plan, including recognising Aboriginal cultural values and historic archaeology.

As with the defined boundaries of the LEP conservation area, the SHR conservation area boundaries (or curtilage of the place) should be adjusted to those recommended in this conservation management plan (see Policies 1 to 4 above).

For consistency in the ongoing conservation and management of the Thompson Square Conservation Area, the desired outcome for any future adjustments to the SHR conservation area and/or the LEP conservation area boundaries, is for both conservation areas to be the same under both statutory listings.

**Policy 20.** A new SHR listing should be prepared for the TSCA, addressing all identified heritage values for the place, including Aboriginal cultural values and historic archaeology, and gazetted under the NSW *Heritage Act 1977*.

**Policy 21.** The curtilage of the SHR listing for the TSCA should be adjusted to expand the boundaries of the TSCA as shown in Figure 7.1 and gazetted under the NSW *Heritage Act 1977*.

### 7.5.4 Council Policies and Procedures

The effectiveness of this CMP depends on as many of the conservation policies as possible being implemented, taking into account financial and other constraints. An effective management structure is therefore required to ensure that the policies are implemented and for the most part, this responsibility falls to Hawkesbury City Council.

This CMP should be made available to and read by all relevant managers and officers and council officers should be made aware of the processes that are to be followed when proposing maintenance, repair, upgrading or other work that involves changes to significant fabric within the TSCA and the setting.

This CMP should also be made available for public viewing on Council's website and at Council's Administration Office.

#### Statutory Considerations

**Policy 22.** HCC should review the current Heritage Conservation Chapter of the *Hawkesbury Development Control Plan 2002* to incorporate appropriate development provisions consistent with this Conservation Management Plan for the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

**Policy 23.** HCC should, whenever possible and in accordance with Clause 5.10.6 of the *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012*, require the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan, Conservation Management Strategy or detailed Heritage Impact Statement in support of any proposed substantial works to components of Moderate significance or higher located within the TSCA.

- Policy 24.** Upgrading of the built structures and the public domain within the TSCA to comply with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia and the Disability Discrimination Act should be undertaken in a way which does not damage the cultural significance of the conservation area, the individual components or their setting.
- Policy 25.** HCC should continue to coordinate with the Hawkesbury River County Council to ensure compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* in the management of noxious weeds located within and on the boundaries of the TSCA.
- Policy 26.** Any works proposed to address flood management issues within the TSCA and on the boundaries of the conservation area should be planned and conducted in such a manner that impacts on the potential archaeological resource are avoided. Archaeological advice (Aboriginal and historic) is likely to be required and relevant archaeological approvals obtained prior to these works.

### Management Structure

- Policy 27.** An effective management structure for the conservation area should be established which:
- Integrates conservation into the overall management of the TSCA;
  - Encourages cooperation, coordination and an open exchange of information between the various owners of the public domain components of the place and the relevant authorities, to ensure that management objectives are consistent;
  - Balances the needs of the individual owners of the private properties within the TSCA with the requirement to conserve the cultural significance of the whole of the precinct bearing in mind the contribution of the individual buildings.

### Management Committee

- Policy 28.** HCC should consider establishing a Management Committee, consisting of Councillors, council staff, conservation professionals and community members, to monitor the ongoing care and maintenance of the TSCA and to guide development within the TSCA and on the boundaries of the TSCA (the buffer zone). Issues for consideration by the Committee should include:
- Alterations and additions to buildings of Moderate, High and Exceptional significance;
  - Infill development and development on the boundary of the conservation area;
  - Location and design of street furniture: seats, tables, garbage bins, bubblers, flag poles;
  - Location and design of memorials and plaques;
  - Tree planting and management of the vegetation along the river bank and within the public reserves;
  - Materials and finishes for the repair, restoration and reconstructions works to the public domain: footpaths, gutters, verges, street paving and road surfaces;
  - Location and type of street lights and utility poles;
  - Signage including statutory signage (i.e. for traffic control), directional signage, interpretation signage and commercial signage.
  - Temporary uses of the public domain including both community and commercial events.
  - Potential impacts on the archaeological resource as a result of any proposed changes (to both the public and private domains).



### **Asset Management Generally**

- Policy 29.** An Asset Management Plan or similar should be prepared for the public domain areas under HCC's management located within the TSCA, including: the public reserves (upper and lower reserves), site and landscape features, vegetation, street furniture, utilities and infrastructure, streets, footpaths, gutters, verges and local roads, to ensure that works undertaken are coordinated across Council and comply with this CMP.
- Policy 30.** A Works Program, a minimum of five years in advance should be developed by HCC for the ongoing care and maintenance of the public domain of the TSCA and the setting, and adjusted as necessary each year.
- Policy 31.** HCC should make all council staff aware of their responsibilities in implementing this CMP and where appropriate, provide in-house training or similar to council staff about heritage matters.

### **Liaison with Other Agencies**

- Policy 32.** HCC should undertake regular inspections of the public infrastructure throughout the TSCA and the river bank lands to monitor change and imminent works.
- Policy 33.** HCC should develop a strategy for liaison with other agencies such as RMS, Energy Australia and telcos etc. to ensure works to existing public infrastructure or the proposed introduction of new infrastructure has minimal impact on the significance of the TSCA, including minimising impacts on significant views and archaeology.

### **Community Liaison and Involvement**

- Policy 34.** HCC should develop a strategy for communication between the local community, council staff and other relevant authorities (the NSW Heritage Council) to inform the community about the conservation needs of the TSCA and its setting, including care and management requirements and any future works activities.

### **Funding**

- Policy 35.** HCC should seek funding annually for conservation and maintenance works to the public domain from relevant programs, initiatives or heritage grants.
- Policy 36.** Funds should be directed to works that conserve significant fabric as a priority over other activities and in accordance with any Works Program developed by HCC.

### **Records and Archives**

- Policy 37.** Opportunities should be sought by council to establishing and developing a dedicated archive relating to the Thompson Square Conservation Area and its individual components, to be held at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum and made available to the public and professionals for research and educational purposes.
- Policy 38.** All artefacts collected and retained from within the TSCA should be held in an Archaeological Repository at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum. The museum should have suitable space for cataloguing, analysis and storage of these archaeological remains.

## 7.6 Significant Spaces, Fabric and Components

### 7.6.1 Identifying the Significant Spaces, Fabric and Components

Much of the significance of the place is embodied in the spaces, fabric and individual components. For the TSCA, given that all historic phases up to current day, have been identified as having some level of significance, (i.e. the initial British settlement and the Macquarie era phases of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century being of (potentially) National and State heritage significance through to the conservation works undertaken in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century being of local heritage significance), all spaces, fabric and components of the place can be said to reflect aspects of its history and are therefore to some extent significant.

Archaeological evidence (both Aboriginal and historic) should also be recognised as having the same values as those of above-ground structures and landscape and site features in its ability to demonstrate heritage values from all historic phases.

**Policy 39.** HCC should adopt a holistic approach to the care and management of the TSCA encompassing all significant aspects and components of the place (as identified in Section 3), including:

- The subsurface remains and occupational deposits (Aboriginal and historic archaeology) of former landscape, vegetation, buildings and site features.
- The landform of the place.
- All of the buildings, walls, vegetation and landscape and site features introduced to the place.
- The alignment of the streets and roads, the buildings and walls.
- The evidence of the historic subdivision pattern.
- The views into, out of, within and through the conservation area.
- The setting of the place.
- The practices, memories and associations with the place.
- The visual and spatial relationships between the key components of the place: buildings, walls, site and landscape features, roads and streets and the setting.

**Policy 40.** HCC should ensure that the authenticity of original and early spaces, components and fabric (both public and privately owned) is maintained.

### 7.6.2 Fabric to be Conserved

Conservation policies for the place should recommend the extent of retention and conservation of the significant fabric. The most significant fabric located within the TSCA should be retained and conserved in accordance with recognised conservation principles and procedures such as those included in the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter*. Conservation processes include maintenance, preservation and interpretation including restoration and reconstruction. It also includes adaptation which means modifying a place to suit a (proposed) compatible use.

At TSCA, not all fabric is of such significance as to warrant conservation as defined by the *Burra Charter*. Some fabric introduced during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century (and more recently) is commonplace and need not be conserved. Non-significant fabric may include introduced services and facilities, directional signage and the like.

- Policy 41.**      **The following fabric should be retained and conserved:**
- All in-situ deposits and features (Aboriginal and historic archaeology).
  - All excavated and uncovered archaeological material (artefacts).
  - The topography/landform of the place.
  - All fabric (including buildings and site and landscape features) identified as being of Little significance or higher in Tables 5.1 and 5.2, introduced to the place up to the date of this CMP.
  - The memorials and plaques related to significant events, historic phases and people associated with the place.
  - Associated objects and places (e.g. the grave of Andrew Thompson).
  - All fabric recorded in this report as previous reconstructions unless replaced by a more accurate reconstruction, based on documentary and/or physical evidence.
  - All fabric reconstructed (in the future) in accordance with these policies.

### 7.6.3 Maintenance

#### Generally

While any significant fabric is in existence it should be maintained, which means continuous protective care. Reconstructed fabric can also be of interpretive value and therefore should also be included within any maintenance strategy (or Asset Management Plan) for the place (see Policies 29 to 31).

The general requirement for the maintenance of a significant place is to comply with the *Minimum Standards of Maintenance* (Heritage Information Series, NSW Heritage Office, 1999).

- Policy 42.**      **The following fabric should be maintained with continuous protective care to the minimum standards required under the *Heritage Act 1977*:**
- all significant fabric (see Policies 39 and 41).
  - all fabric recorded in this report as a previous reconstruction.
  - all fabric reconstructed (in the future) in accordance with these policies.

Refer also to Section 7.9: Treatment of the Spaces, Components and Fabric below.

#### Maintenance of Historic Materials and Finishes

Maintenance works also applies to the original and early finishes applied to the structure of the place (e.g. external walls).

- Policy 43.**      **Replacement of significant finishes that have deteriorated due to weathering or use should be done with appropriate materials and details. These include:**
- for metal roofs, this is usually carried out in traditional galvanised steel (not zincalume).
  - for gutters, these are usually galvanised steel.
  - for slate roofs, this is usually Welsh slate
  - for paint to exterior woodwork, this is usually enamel paint
  - for painted walls, this is usually limewash or permeable acrylic paint.

The use of alternative materials should only occur when the effect of the new appearance on the character of the place has been considered and there is a body of experience to the effect that the new materials and details will be technically effective.

### Recommended Site-Specific Exemptions

Under Clause 57(2) of the NSW *Heritage Act* 1977, the Minister of Heritage may grant an exemption for obtaining approval for the carrying out of certain works (e.g. landscape maintenance, change of use, painting etc.) to an item listed on the State Heritage Register with the written consent of the Director General. Standard Exemptions have already been gazetted that apply to all State heritage items within NSW.

In this case, the TSCA contains areas of public land (including the public reserves, the roads, the footpaths, gutters and verges) which are under the care and management of Hawkesbury City Council and Roads and Maritime Services (RMS). These public lands, which contain site and landscape features identified as being of significance, are placed under physical strain through their continued use.

In addition, the public lands of the TSCA contain public infrastructure and utilities and these components also require continual maintenance as well as upgrading works to accommodate new and improved technologies.

As such, the regular and ongoing maintenance of the public lands and their individual components may also involve repair, restoration and reconstruction works on a more regular basis than, for example, a private residence or commercial building.

To support Council in their role as caretakers of the Thompson Square Conservation Area, it is recommended that additional, site specific exemptions be included in the State heritage listing for the place to allow HCC to undertake certain work to the public domain lands, site and landscape features and the existing services and utilities without the need to apply for approval through the NSW Heritage Council.

**Policy 44.** HCC in coordination with the NSW Heritage Council should seek gazettal of the following recommended site-specific exemptions:

- The maintenance of any built structure or memorial/plaque located on public land, where maintenance means the continuous protective care of existing or non-significant material.
- Horticultural maintenance, including lawn mowing, pruning, fertilising, aerating and remedial tree surgery.
- Changing the content of existing interpretation and commercial signs.
- Removal of non-significant trees considered by a qualified Arborist to be dead or dangerous and their replacement where it is satisfied that the activity will not materially affect the heritage significance of the public reserves, the streetscapes of the conservation area as a whole, the area in which the works are to be undertaken or negatively impact on significant views into and out of the TSCA.
- Erection and dismantling of temporary infrastructure (for a period of no more than 21 days) such as structures, signs, crowd control barriers, banners, stages, lighting and sound, and public-address equipment associated with special events and functions held in the Public Reserves (upper and lower). This policy does not include invasive works such as excavation, except where exempted or approved in accordance with the *Heritage Act* 1977.
- Maintenance and repair of existing roads, paths, drains, water reticulation facilities and other utilities, where this work is like for like replacement and does not involve alterations to, or opening up of existing significant fabric. This exemption does not apply to excavation, except where it can be demonstrated the subject area is previously disturbed. An Aboriginal heritage impact statement may be required as per Policy 82 to confirm that the activity proposed will have no adverse impact on Aboriginal archaeological resources within the TSCA.

## 7.7 Interpretation of the Place

### 7.7.1 Generally

As the place is of exceptional significance there are many opportunities to interpret it to visitors. However, because the place has an evocative character, care should be taken not to detract from the character of the place by the introduction of obvious interpretive devices and as such additional signage or displays within the TSCA are not considered appropriate.

- Policy 45.** Interpretation information should include all the aspects of the place included in the Statement of Significance.
- Policy 46.** The Thompson Square Conservation Area should be interpreted as:
- A very rare public square that is surviving evidence of the government reserve at Green Hills established in 1794/95 as part of the third British settlement on the mainland of Australia.
  - As one of a group of surviving public squares in NSW and Tasmania, established by Governor Macquarie as part of his extensive town planning endeavours.
  - A notable 19<sup>th</sup> century townscape containing individual buildings of exceptional significance.
  - A place associated with a number of individuals of importance to the history of NSW and Australia and including Andrew Thompson, for whom the place was named.
  - A place containing Aboriginal and historic archaeology of State significance capable of providing further information about the pre-1788 period and the British settlement era.
- Policy 47.** The place should be interpreted utilising a combination of:
- restoration and reconstruction works to the spaces, components and fabric of the place including original/early commercial signage;
  - holding memorial/commemorative events related to the history of the place (for example the commemoration of the 1867 flood event);
  - continued use of the public domain as a public gathering space;
  - books, films, websites, art exhibitions and the like;
  - dedicated exhibitions in the Hawkesbury Regional Museum which itself forms part of the TSCA;
  - school excursions and organised tours addressing topics such as Aboriginal cultural values, historic archaeology, the history of the place and the architecture of the place; and
  - minimal introduced interpretative devices including signage, memorials or public art works and the like.
- Policy 48.** Interpretation should utilise all aspects of the place (the buildings, the landscape and site features, the configuration, the archaeology and the setting) without undue focus on one component, period or group of people.
- Policy 49.** Interpretation should present the place holistically, connecting the public reserves with the buildings, the roads and streets, the archaeology, the landscape and the setting of the place.
- Policy 50.** Opportunities to enhance the modest, “colonial” character of the TSCA should be sought in association with any proposed changes and new works to both the public and private spheres.



- Policy 51.** Opportunities to strengthen the visual and spatial relationship between the TSCA and the Hawkesbury River should be sought in association with any proposed changes and new works to the public spaces.
- Policy 52.** Interpretation should be sensitive to audience needs and cater to the widest possible range of visitors.
- Policy 53.** Aboriginal peoples' cultural values associated with the TSCA should be incorporated into any interpretation strategy or plan developed for the place, recognising that Aboriginal people are the rightful interpreters of their cultural heritage. Any proposed interpretation of Aboriginal peoples' cultural heritage at TSCA should involve relevant stakeholder consultation.

### Associated Places

Given the history of the TSCA and the known associations with notable persons in Australia's history, there are a number of other places, not located within the boundaries of the conservation area that form part of the story of the historic development and use of the TSCA and contribute to its overall significance. These associated places should also be included within any interpretation scheme for the place.

- Policy 54.** Interpretation strategies should include other places not located within the boundaries of the TSCA that have historic associations with the place, including:
- The Windsor Bridge, the Hawkesbury River, South Creek and Old Windsor Road;
  - The Windsor (Green Hills) Government Domain Precinct;
  - The five Macquarie Towns: Richmond, Windsor, Pitt Town, Castlereagh and Wilberforce;
  - Other Macquarie designed town squares such as Macquarie Place, Bigge's Park, Richmond Park, Wilberforce Park and those located in Tasmania; and
  - The grave site of Andrew Thompson at St. Matthew's Church cemetery, Windsor.

### 7.7.2 Elements of Outstanding Significance to be Emphasised

The interpretation of the place should emphasise aspects of significance which are particularly interesting or important.

- Policy 55.** The interpretation of the place should emphasis the following outstanding matters:

Item	Content
Aboriginal Archaeology	The archaeological potential of the two principal Aboriginal archaeological landscapes with soil and sand profiles that contain Aboriginal objects; the ridgeline and remnants of a source-bordering dune and any archaeological objects contained within.

Item	Content
<b>Historic Archaeology potential</b>	<p>The archaeological resources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c1814/15 barrel drain (and attached box drain) located within the public reserve lands.</li> <li>• unrecorded archaeological features and deposits and subfloor deposits in 19<sup>th</sup> century extant buildings including the Macquarie Arms Hotel, No. 7 Thompson Square, No. 5 Thompson Square, Nos. 1-3 Thompson Square, No. 62 George Street, the Hawkesbury Stores, Nos. 64-68 George Street, No. 82 George Street, No. 19 Bridge Street, No. 10 Bridge Street, the former School of Arts building, No. 14 Bridge Street, No. 6 Old Bridge Street, No. 4 Old Bridge Street.</li> </ul>
<b>Configuration</b>	<p>Surviving evidence of Macquarie era and pre-Macquarie era subdivision patterns.</p> <p>The visual and spatial relationship between Thompson Square and the Hawkesbury River.</p> <p>The visual and spatial relationships between the historic buildings defining the public square.</p> <p>The skewed alignment of the southern end of George Street at the intersection of Bridge Street.</p>
<b>Public Reserves</b>	<p>The name of the place as Thompson Square.</p> <p>The configuration of the public reserves forming a shared, open gathering or recreational space defined by historic buildings on three sides and leading down to the Hawkesbury River.</p>
<b>Streets and Roads</b>	<p>The name of George Street.</p> <p>The alignment of George Street along the ridgeline</p> <p>The alignment of Old Bridge Street, The Terrace and the street known as Thompson Square (evidence of early tracks and access roadways to the river frontage).</p> <p>The alignment of Baker Street as evidence of “Baker’s Line” established in 1795.</p>
<b>Site Features</b>	<p>The 1819 wall defining the western boundary of Thompson Square (the eastern boundary wall to the Macquarie Arms Hotel).</p> <p>The c1816 sandstock brick wall located within the garden of No. 4 Old Bridge Street defining the boundary of Andrew Thompson’s 1 acre lease of land.</p>
<b>Landscape Features</b>	<p>The topography of the place.</p> <p>The undeveloped river bank lands.</p>
<b>Buildings</b>	<p>All buildings identified as being of Exceptional and High significance.</p> <p>The restoration/reconstruction works undertaken in the late 1980s by Fisher Lucas Architects</p>
<b>The Setting</b>	<p>Available views of the Hawkesbury River and the agricultural lands to the north and south.</p>

### 7.7.3 Restoration/Reconstruction Works

Another way to interpret the place is to carry out selected restoration and reconstruction works. These terms are defined in the *Burra Charter*. Restoration and reconstruction cannot in themselves increase the cultural significance of a place, but can promote understanding of the former arrangement of components of the place. In some cases, restoration/reconstruction work is essential to any proper understanding of the place.

At the time of writing this report, the lower reserve was undergoing extensive excavation work in association with archaeological investigations for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Scheme. As a result of this work, the majority of the vegetation and a substantial amount of the soil from this area has been removed. As the lower reserve forms part of the public square of Thompson Square, it is essential that the lower reserve be restored as a public reserve and the sloping landform leading down to the river bank be reconstructed. See also policies for Treatment of the Vegetation, the Landform and the Archaeology below.

Although some restoration/reconstruction works to the individual buildings may be of benefit, as this report does not address the individual buildings in detail, restoration/reconstruction works for individual components of the buildings have not been included. It is however recommended that for any future proposal for substantial changes to the individual buildings, restoration/reconstruction are to be included within these proposals. See policies for the Treatment of the Buildings below.

**Policy 56.**        **The lower reserve should be restored and reconstructed to its configuration prior to the current works, following completion of the current archaeological investigations, with the following qualifications:**

- **Minimal planting of trees (i.e. minimal root intervention) to protect archaeology and allow open views to the Hawkesbury River;**
- **No built structures other than those for public use and amenity (e.g. garbage bins, tables and benches); and**
- **Car parking provisions and hard surfaces are not appropriate.**

#### **The Amenity of the TSCA**

As discussed, the overall character of the TSCA is colonial in nature and many of the elements within the locality and in the broader setting are more rural than urban. However, the atmosphere or ambience of the place is more akin to an urban setting due to the penetrating noise levels of the through traffic.

Currently, Bridge Street cutting through Thompson Square is heavily used for trucks and other vehicles and the noise generated is extremely distracting, making it difficult to conduct normal conversation in some circumstances and lessening the appeal to use the public reserves for recreational uses. In addition, the commercial premises along south George Street tend to use high levels of sound (i.e. music) to drown out the vehicle noise.

It is worth noting that negative impacts on the amenity of a place of heritage value, such as the TSCA and the individual buildings and spaces within it, can result in the place being considered less appealing for owners, residents and visitors and therefore less likely to be used and cared for appropriately. Negative impacts on amenity also increase the likelihood that unsympathetic additions and alterations are sought in order to minimise these impacts.

As the noise levels in Thompson Square are a fairly recent occurrence and mitigating works have not as yet been introduced, restoring the rural atmosphere and amenity of the place should be given some priority, before the situation worsens.

**Policy 57.**        **Opportunities should be sought to divert heavy traffic away from Thompson Square to reduce the noise levels and lessen the impacts on the amenity of the public reserves and the conservation area as a whole.**

**Policy 58.**        **Music generated from commercial premises within the TSCA should be controlled to only be heard by the patrons of the premises and not from the adjacent public spaces; except during special occasions such as community events and/or festivals and the like.**

### **7.7.4 Provision for Future Restoration/Reconstruction**

It is desirable that present or short-term activities do not prejudice future opportunities for interpretation by restoration/reconstruction.

**Policy 59.**        **Where components of the place are not selected for restoration /reconstruction the place should if possible be managed in a way that will not preclude restoration/reconstruction of the component at a future date.**

**Policy 60.**        **Restoration/reconstruction should only be undertaken based on physical and/or documentary evidence (e.g. historic photographs).**

### **7.7.5 Identification of Reconstructions**

In accordance with proper practice and to avoid misinterpretation, restoration/reconstruction works at the place should be identifiable as such at close inspection.

**Policy 61.**        **All restoration/reconstruction works introduced pursuant to these guidelines should be identifiable on close inspection by method and/or style of construction as being introduced.**

## **7.8 Use of the Place**

### **7.8.1 Historical Uses and Land Use that should be Continued**

The cultural significance of the place is also embodied in its continuing historical use.

Historical uses will have the least impact on a place in terms of the requirements for access and egress involving less intervention than for other uses (such as introduction of sporting facilities into the public reserves or alterations to the building fabric). The *Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012* details the uses permitted by the relevant zoning and includes standard heritage incentive provisions.

#### **The Public Reserves**

The history of use of the public reserve areas of the TSCA has for the most part followed the history of other public spaces located in early towns, that is the area known as Thompson Square was initially used as a mixed commercial, civic and public space incorporating markets, punishment, boat building,

a transport hub (by road and river), and as a gathering/meeting space etc. These initial uses of the area had by the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century dropped away (in part) and the dominant use of the public reserves became passive recreation, although with some aspects of the historic uses of the public square occurring occasionally (as a gathering space for community events).

### The Private Land

For the most part the majority of the individual buildings have either retained their broad original use (the commercial buildings along George Street remain as commercial buildings) or have returned to their historic use. For example, the Macquarie Arms Hotel was built in 1815 as a hotel and today functions as such, following a brief period of other uses in the mid- 1800s.

### The River bank lands

The river bank lands (or riparian zone) historically formed part of Thompson Square and were the intersection between the river and the shared commercial/civic precinct. The river bank of the Hawkesbury River today contains the approach to the Windsor Bridge with pedestrian walking paths and historically was the location for the various wharfs and the punt.

**Policy 62.** The following existing historical uses should be continued if at all possible:

Location	Use
Public Reserves	As open, undeveloped, shared public recreational and gathering places.
Buildings	Private residential, public uses and commercial uses as appropriate.
River bank lands	As open, undeveloped, landscaped areas for shared public use.

**Policy 63.** The growth of the existing historical uses should be limited to a level compatible with the identified level of significance of the individual component (buildings, public reserves, public streets/roads, site and landscape features).

## 7.8.2 New Compatible Uses

The continued use of the public domain areas of the TSCA as shared, public areas should not restrict the introduction of other, compatible uses that involve minimum change to the significant fabric and respect the associations and meanings embodied in the place.

In introducing any new compatible use to the TSCA, those uses which take advantage of the character of the various components of the place should be preferred.

**Policy 64.** Buildings that are currently in their original or historic use should not be used for an alternative purpose unless it can be demonstrated that changing the use will result in minimal impacts on the significance of the building, the conservation area and its setting and the conservation of the building will be facilitated by the change of use.

**Policy 65.** The introduction of the following compatible uses is appropriate in conjunction with the historical uses of the place:

- Temporary use (no more than 21 days) of the public reserves for organised community and commercial events including arts and music festivals,



**commemorative events, markets, regattas, protests etc. Time period may be extended at the discretion of Hawkesbury City Council.**

- **The use of the place on a regular basis for education and tourism is desirable and should be promoted.**
- **Uses as part of an overall Interpretation Strategy for the TSCA.**

### 7.8.3 The Continued Use of the Streets and Roads

A significant component of Thompson Square and its historic development are the streets and roads located within the TSCA. George Street, Old Bridge Street, Baker Street, The Terrace and the street known as Thompson Square are of historic significance, with associations dating back to the initial decades of Thompson Square. These roads, originally established for use by foot and horse drawn vehicles, continue to be in use today for local (light vehicle) traffic, which is appropriate.

Bridge Street, which was originally established in c1813 leading from South Creek and terminating at George Street, was extended in 1934 to provide access through Thompson Square to the Windsor Bridge. A road traversing the Square has been a component of the place since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century at least and some form of access linking the ridge with the river is appropriate.

However, Bridge Street also forms part of State Route 69 and is part of the B-Double Route from Windsor Road to Wilberforce Road and is approved for use by vehicles up to 26 metres in length and of a higher mass limit (HML). According to recent surveys (refer to Section 6) traffic volumes over Windsor Bridge via Bridge Street are estimated to be around 19,000 vehicles per day.

The intensity and type of traffic permitted on Bridge Street through Thompson Square impinges on an appreciation of the Square as a colonial townscape of exceptional significance. Experiencing the internal setting of Thompson Square defined by historic buildings and the river is challenging at present as a result of the intensity, noise and size of the large trucks traversing the Square. This sits uncomfortably with the scale and character of the many 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings addressing the Square. Where the buildings reinforce a human scale, the large trucks and their speed through the space seems incongruent and affects an appreciation of the Square's otherwise quiet, relaxed and human-scaled setting. The current use of this culturally significant place as a heavy vehicle route is considered to be intrusive.

**Policy 66. The continued use of George Street, Old Bridge Street, The Terrace, Baker Street and the street known as Thompson Square for local (light vehicle) traffic is appropriate.**

**Policy 67. The use of Bridge Street as a heavy vehicle (B-Double) route is not appropriate and future use of the road should be restricted to local traffic/light vehicle use only.**

### 7.8.4 Amalgamation of Properties for Contiguous Use

Amalgamation of properties for contiguous use is not generally appropriate because of the negative impact upon building fabric, historic form, configuration and use, and loss of the original layout and potentially, evidence of the early subdivision pattern.

A proposed contiguous use may only be appropriate where a property has been divided or subdivided at some point in the nineteenth or twentieth century, and it is proposed to reinstate the original configuration of the property and recover its early form and layout.

**Policy 68. The amalgamation of properties (buildings and allotments) for contiguous use is only appropriate to restore the original/early configuration, form and use of the property.**

### 7.8.5 Organisation of the Uses and Activities at the Place and Setting

The circulation pattern and uses of parts of the place and within its setting should be arranged so as to involve the least intervention in the fabric.

**Policy 69.** The use of the place and activities at the place and within its setting should be organised in a way that allows the conservation of the spaces, components and fabric of the place in accordance with the Policy for the Treatment of the Fabric including considering:

- the effect of structural loadings (minimising impacts on the archaeological potential of the place);
- the effect of statutory requirements;
- the effect of service installations;
- the effect of providing access for people with disabilities;
- the effect of introducing contemporary servicing requirements (e.g. garbage collection, street lighting, street tree planting etc.);
- the effect of introducing other new features, including commercial signage and temporary structures (e.g. marquees, stages and sound equipment);
- the effect of restricting public access to the place (i.e. privatisation of the public reserves);
- the effect of increasing the intensity and type of vehicular traffic through the place; and
- the potential impacts on the Aboriginal and historic archaeological resource.

### 7.8.6 Inappropriate Uses and Activities within the Place and its Setting

When organising or allowing activities within the place, components of the place and its setting, care needs to be taken not to obscure or confuse its significance.

**Policy 70.** Uses and activities within the place, components of the place and within its setting, which lessen, obscure or confuse its historical associations and meanings, should be discouraged.

**Policy 71.** Uses and activities that prohibit or restrict the shared public use of the public reserves, streets and roads on a permanent basis should be prohibited.

## 7.9 Treatment of the Spaces, Components and Fabric

As per the *Burra Charter* (Article 15.1), change may be necessary to retain cultural significance, but is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to the spaces, components and fabric of the place should be guided by the cultural significance of the place. Sometimes there are cases where significant fabric needs to be altered or removed for good reasons. For example, some site features and vegetation within the public reserves will eventually need to be replaced for maintenance reasons.

When change is being considered, a range of options should be explored to seek a solution which minimises any reduction to the cultural significance of the space, component, the place as a whole and the setting.

## 7.9.1 Changing Fabric identified to be Conserved

### Generally

The higher the significance of the individual components of the place, the greater the level of care and consideration is required in making any decision or action which may affect it. The overall objective for any change to the fabric of the place is to ensure that changes at the place, whether temporary or permanent, will reinforce and not reduce, the identified significance.

- Policy 72.** The modest “colonial” character and authenticity of the conservation area consisting of the public reserve areas of Thompson Square defined on three sides by historic buildings, intersected by historic roads and fronting the Hawkesbury River, should not be diminished by altering, obscuring or removing original or early components.
- Policy 73.** The authenticity and integrity of the place should be conserved by adopting a cautious approach to any proposed change, “*as much as necessary but as little as possible*” (Article 3: Burra Charter).
- Policy 74.** For any proposal to change significant fabric, the option involving the least amount of physical intervention at the place should be given preference.

In the physical surveys for this report it has not been possible to determine the age and history of some components and care should be taken that these items are not inadvertently damaged or removed if they are significant.

- Policy 75.** Where the nature of a component of the place is uncertain, it should be further investigated by documentary and physical research, prior to carrying out work or removal.

### Controlling Change

There are sometimes cases where fabric that otherwise should be retained and conserved needs to be altered or removed for good reasons for example for maintenance reasons in which case some parts of the fabric of a place may eventually need to be replaced. Removal or alteration of some fabric may also be considered essential to maintain the historic or significant use of a place, which may involve periodic renewal and improvement of some components.

Nevertheless, some fabric is so significant that it should be changed only in exceptional circumstances and for the TSCA this is considered to be all surviving original (dated 1794/95 - 1810) and Macquarie era (dated 1811-1821) fabric and evidence (including restored or reconstructed original fabric, see also discussions above).

Considering the relative significance of components listed in Section 5, the following policy is considered appropriate:

- Policy 76.** The following fabric should be retained and conserved with the qualification indicated:

Fabric	Qualification
All fabric identified to be conserved graded ‘Exceptional’ (see Section 5.0)	Except where alteration or removal is brought about by <u>extraordinary or major ‘historic’ events</u> , or <u>essential</u> for the maintenance of the place, or to make a better reconstruction of a component previously reconstructed.

Fabric	Qualification
All fabric identified to be conserved graded 'High' (see Section 5.0)	Except where alteration or removal is <u>essential</u> for the maintenance of the place, or to make a better reconstruction of a component previously reconstructed.
All fabric identified to be conserved graded 'Moderate' (see Section 5.0)	Except where alteration or removal is <u>important</u> as part of reconstruction/restoration works of a component of High or Exceptional significance, <u>important</u> to introduce a compatible use or <u>important</u> for the maintenance of the place.  Except where fabric is to be reconstructed based on documentary and/or photographic evidence to replace existing fabric that has been identified as a possible reconstruction.
All fabric identified to be conserved graded 'Little' (see Section 5.0)	Except where alteration or removal is <u>needed</u> as part of reconstruction/restoration works of a component of Moderate or higher significance, <u>needed</u> for the viable use of the place or <u>needed</u> for the maintenance of the place.

## 7.9.2 Appropriate Changes

At places of cultural significance, there is always pressure to make changes (interventions) for many practical reasons. These include maintenance, access and improvement of services. At important sites, there is also often a need to intervene for research purposes. A conservation policy should identify what types and degrees of intervention are appropriate.

- Policy 77.** Work to the fabric identified to be conserved should be avoided, except for:
- stabilisation and maintenance;
  - introduction of interpretative devices in accordance with the Policy for Interpretation;
  - restoration and /or reconstruction in accordance with the Policy for Interpretation; and
  - other reasons only as listed below.

## 7.9.3 Unavoidable Changes

In many cases some detracting intervention is unavoidable (i.e. new services) and the policy should address this.

- Policy 78.** Unavoidable intervention should be located in areas of lesser cultural significance in preference to those of higher cultural significance.

## 7.9.4 Removal of Fabric

If not identified above to be retained and conserved, fabric at the place could be removed.

- Policy 79.** Fabric identified as being 'Intrusive' in the Fabric Surveys (Section 5) of this report could be removed for any reason without reducing the cultural significance of the place.

## 7.9.5 Treatment of the Archaeology

### Generally

- Policy 80.** All subsurface areas below and adjacent to the TSCA should be considered to have archaeological potential (both Aboriginal and historic). This potential should be recognised on statutory heritage listings for the place.
- Policy 81.** All proposed works at the place (including works to private properties) should consider impacts to the archaeological resource (both Aboriginal and historic) and minimise these where possible.

### Aboriginal Archaeology

The TSCA contains a highly significant Aboriginal archaeological site with the potential to contain Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits at almost any depth including immediately below the current ground surfaces. Deeper subsurface levels within the TSCA contain very old prehistoric archaeology, upper topsoil deposits have recorded the co-association of Aboriginal flaked glass and stone artefacts, and there is the possibility that Aboriginal objects also occur within reclaimed and redeposited river edge alluvium and other locally sourced fill materials used historically to create parts of the TSCA landscaping and levels.

Therefore, caution needs to be exercised in planning for future changes in the TSCA that may disturb existing ground surfaces. At this time all subsurface soils within the TSCA (outside of modern garden beds and top-dressing soils) should be considered to represent Aboriginal PAD (potential archaeological deposits) until such time as the precise depth and distribution of modern fills and recently developed soils with little or no potential to contain Aboriginal objects is established.

In addition, as the TSCA forms part of an AHIMS listed Aboriginal archaeological site, the place is required to be managed according to the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

- Policy 82.** Future works within the TSCA that may disturb the ground beyond anything but superficially should be guided by the findings and recommendations of a due diligence level Aboriginal heritage impact statement for the proposed activity.
- Policy 83.** Any future actions that will or are reasonably expected to disturb Aboriginal objects will require an approved Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) issued for the works.
- Policy 84.** Contractor and sub-contractor contracts should specify obligations which need to be met relating to the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* dealing with Aboriginal “objects” or artefacts.

### Aboriginal Consultation

The preparation of a AHIP application is required by the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) to include consultation with Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places as relevant to the proposed project area. OEH recommends that consultation also be undertaken where it is uncertain whether or not a proposed activity may have the potential to harm Aboriginal objects or places. Consultation is to be undertaken as per Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and is to be guided by the document *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*.



The objective of community consultation is to ensure that Aboriginal people have the opportunity to improve assessment outcomes by:

- providing relevant information about the cultural significance and values of the Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s);
- influencing the design of the method to assess cultural and scientific significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s);
- actively contributing to the development of cultural heritage management options and recommendations for any Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s); and
- commenting on draft assessment reports before they are submitted to OEH.

**Policy 85.** As part of the schematic design phases for any substantial works to Thompson Square and including the riverbank lands, and to any areas identified as having Moderate and High potential for Aboriginal archaeology (as per Figure 5.4), and as part of the development of any future Interpretation Plan for the whole of the TSCA, Aboriginal consultation should be undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation and the recommended guidelines.

### Historic Archaeology

The NSW Heritage Council's policy in relation to State significant archaeological remains is that they should be conserved *in situ*. Where there is a proposal to impact on State significant archaeology it is essential to consider ways to avoid and minimise impacts. Appropriate mitigation strategies will need to be considered which may include public interpretation, open days to view the archaeology, and dissemination of the results of the archaeological program.

The following policies derive from the historic archaeology Statements of Significance (Section 5.6) and are not restricted to any specific option for the future of the site. The policies have been informed by various archaeological programs conducted within (and within the vicinity of) the TSCA (Section 3.6).

Archaeological salvage excavations have revealed significant areas of intact historic archaeology throughout the lower reserve of TSCA.<sup>2</sup> Appropriate policies for the management of this resource are:

**Policy 86.** All actions and activities within the SHR listed curtilage of the TSCA and to individual items listed on the State Heritage Register involving subsurface impacts require an approval under S57(2) or S60 of the NSW *Heritage Act 1977*. No subsurface works can be undertaken without consideration of the Archaeological Assessment (AA) and a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) specific to the area to be impacted by the works.

**Policy 87.** An Archaeological Research Design (ARD) will need to be written as part of the S60 application. This will identify the archaeological approach and methodology to be used on the site, and the type of archaeological questions the archaeological investigation might address.

**Policy 88.** All State significant historic archaeological remains within the TSCA should be conserved *in situ*, where possible, and interpreted as part of future development proposals.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary results of the AAJV Area 1 excavation program (salvage excavations within the lower reserve) are found at: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement/index.html> [accessed 08/01/2018, 19/01/2018 and 22/02/2018].

**Policy 89.** Archaeological work should be carried out by a suitable archaeologist who shall devise appropriate management of the archaeological resource. All proposed archaeological methodology has to be approved by the NSW Heritage Council prior to any disturbance of the site and areas of identified archaeological potential taking place.

The archaeological director must meet the current NSW Heritage Council requirements for an Excavation Director of an SHR site and so be able to obtain the appropriate approval or exemptions required under S57(1) or S57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977.

**Policy 90.** Any artefacts collected and retained during the works should be catalogued and stored securely at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum following the completion of the archaeological program.

### **Investigation for Research and to Guide Conservation**

Investigation to increase knowledge of Australian history and/or to aid conservation work at the place should also be addressed.

**Policy 91.** Investigation of the place for research in response to impacts that are likely to disturb archaeological remains, may be allowed to increase knowledge of Australian history and other aspects of the occupation and construction of the place. Such investigations should only be allowed when guided by specific and scrutinised research goals and when there are adequate resources available to undertake, complete and publish results of the study and leave the place in a stable condition. Any archaeological intervention or excavation is to be approved by the NSW Heritage Council.

**Policy 92.** Archaeological investigation to provide information to guide conservation and interpretation work at the place pursuant to these policies should be allowed, but only when there are adequate resources to undertake and complete the work and to stabilise areas destabilised by the intervention.

## **7.9.6 Treatment of the Landform/Topography**

The topography of the TSCA and the town of Windsor, coupled with its strategic location on the banks of the Hawkesbury River, has played an important role in the historic development of the locality.

Despite the myriad changes that the public reserve lands of Thompson Square have undergone over the years, the public square still retains the essence of its overall topographic character where the dramatic 20 metre drop in elevation from the George Street ridge to the river remains appreciable and should be conserved.

The most dramatic alteration to the historic landform came with the 1934 realignment of the road leading to Windsor Bridge resulting in the cutting into the land. This cutting and the increasingly busy Bridge Street have effectively divided the Thompson Square open space into two distinct halves and future works to the landform of the public reserves should only involve reconstructing the lower reserve (refer to Restoration/Reconstruction works above) and minimising the impact of that part of Bridge Street that currently bisects the public square.

**Policy 93.** The terracing running east-west across Thompson Square and the stepping down of the landform from George Street to the river should be retained and conserved.

- Policy 94.** Should the opportunity arise, the northern portion of Bridge Street that currently bisects Thompson Square should be reduced in width to interpret the historic topography of the public square.
- Policy 95.** Excavations are not appropriate, other than in accordance with the remainder of these policies.

Refer also to Section 7.9.5 Treatment of the Archaeology.

## 7.9.7 Treatment of Views and Setting

### Views

The views to and from the place and views within the place have been identified as contributing to the significance of the place and should be protected from change or (if the opportunity presents itself) be re-established.

For the TSCA there are two significant historic views that have been recorded in artworks and photographs since the earliest days of Thompson Square, the view from the northern bank of the river to the TSCA and the view from Bridge Street looking west down George Street, that should be retained and conserved and, in the case of the view looking south across the river, strengthened.

In addition, views across and through the TSCA, in particular views between the properties located on George Street, Old Bridge Street and the street known as Thompson Square should be enhanced and this may require the removal of some trees. See also policies for Treatment of the Vegetation below.

- Policy 96.** Internal Views V1 to V10, within the boundaries of the TSCA, should be retained, as shown in Figure 3.16 and enhanced.
- Policy 97.** Views V12 to V19, of the TSCA from throughout the setting of the place, should be retained, as shown in Figure 3.16.
- Policy 98.** Key views V20 to V23 from the TSCA to the surrounding areas, should be retained, as shown in Figure 3.16 and enhanced.
- Policy 99.** The historic view V1 of the Macquarie Arms Hotel and George Street as seen from Bridge Street should be retained.
- Policy 100.** Opportunities should be sought to re-establish (at least in part) the historic view V11 (first depicted by G. W. Evans in 1809).

### The Setting

As discussed above, the visual relationship between the TSCA and the Hawkesbury River and the broader agricultural lands is an essential element to the understanding of the historic significance of the place. The wider setting for the place brought about by the location and history of land uses within the broader landscape of the floodplains of the Hawkesbury River and available (glimpse) views from the TSCA to the river and the agricultural lands to the north and south should be retained and where possible expanded.

- Policy 101.** Opportunities should be sought to increase available views of the Hawkesbury River to the north and the agricultural lands to the north and south as seen from the TSCA and the visual relationship between the conservation area and its broader setting enhanced.

Refer to also to Treatment of the Public Reserves below.

New structures, buildings and features and other activities within the setting of the place or at associated places may also be detrimental to the place and should be addressed in the conservation guidelines. Refer also to Section 7.9.15 Building on the boundary of the TSCA.

**Policy 56:** Works and activities within the setting of the place, particularly on the boundary of the place should, if possible, be controlled to minimise visual intrusion and misunderstandings about the associations and meanings embodied at the place.

### 7.9.8 Treatment of the Subdivision Pattern

Although not always physically expressed (i.e. through the placement of dividing fences etc.), legal boundaries of individual properties do exist and are able to be protected and retained.

As discussed previously, (see Section 4) evidence of the early town plans of the TSCA remain in some of the property allotment boundaries, notably the allotment granted to Richard Fitzgerald in 1811 for the building of the Macquarie Arms Hotel and the western extension of this land for his cottage built in 1819, and the allotments leased to James Mileham and William Blady in 1809 on the southern side of George Street. Historic allotment boundaries should be retained and conserved.

**Policy 102.** Surviving Macquarie era and pre-Macquarie era allotment boundaries of the individual properties within the TSCA should be retained, conserved and interpreted.

**Policy 103.** Subdivision or amalgamation of individual allotments that have been in place since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century is not appropriate.

**Policy 104.** Locating built structures across historic allotment boundaries is not appropriate.

#### Building Alignments

An important aspect of character of Thompson Square is the idiosyncratic skewed alignments of walls and buildings along the western edge of the upper reserve, the buildings along the southern side of George Street and the c1816 sandstock wall located within the allotment of No. 4 Old Bridge Street. These historic alignments are physical indications of early buildings and property boundaries, tracks and town plans and are of equal importance to other early components at the place and should be retained and conserved.

**Policy 105.** The skewed street alignment of the southern end of George Street, at the intersection with Bridge Street, should be retained, remaining visible in the townscape and capable of being appreciated as an unusual streetscape space adjoining George Street.

**Policy 106.** The “kinked” alignment of the street known as Thompson Square should be retained and remain visible in the townscape.

### 7.9.9 Treatment of the Vegetation

Vegetation relating to the TSCA takes two broad categories: plantings and occasional weed species associated with the public reserves and within private gardens that tend to have been selected for aesthetic reasons and are not generally locally indigenous species; and the band of mixed opportunistic vegetation along the Hawkesbury River edge.

Within the upper and lower public reserves, the sole mature Hoop Pine represents the oldest and most valuable planting. Other plantings, of Silky Oaks and Kurrajongs, are later introductions but also

serve to define landscape spaces, provide an interpretation of the alignment of the earlier roads traversing the public square and provide amenity.

Given that for the majority of its lifetime Thompson Square has been devoid of trees and other plantings and its current landscape configuration is a fairly recent (late 20<sup>th</sup> century) development, the vegetation including trees should be managed in a way that allows for the opening up views into and out of the place and re-establishes visual relationships between the historic buildings and the public square and between Thompson Square and the Hawkesbury River on its northern boundary.

- Policy 107.** In order to reinforce the historic landscape character of the TSCA, maintain two distinct vegetation zones for the public reserves and the river bank lands:
- the upper and lower reserves should feature ornamental species used typically in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with no locally indigenous species; and
  - the river bank lands should only feature locally indigenous vegetation.
- Policy 108.** The horticultural viability of the sole hoop pine located within the upper reserve should be conserved for as long as possible. Should the tree become senescent or a public safety threat, the tree should be replaced with another hoop pine in a similar position.
- Policy 109.** All plantings ranked as being of Moderate significance should be maintained for as long as possible.
- Policy 110.** Plantings within the upper and lower reserves ranked as being of Little significance could be retained or removed, however as removal would allow for increased views into, through and out of the place, removal is preferred.
- Policy 111.** Species that are potential nuisance species (invasive species and weeds) should be removed.
- Policy 112.** Trees growing towards overhead power lines should be pruned rather than removed.
- Policy 113.** Herbicidal sprays should not be used in a blanket application. Where they are used, the application should only be limited, very selective and carefully focussed on target plants.
- Policy 114.** Council should consider updating the previous Fisher Lucas landscape plan for Thompson Square by devising a landscape master plan that indicates proposed new plantings for the reserves taking into account important views into and out from the Square as well as the setting of the various key buildings surrounding and defining the Square.

### **River bank lands**

The riparian zone (river bank lands) of the Hawkesbury River is an important component of the history of the place and makes a strong contribution to the overall character of the place. Vegetation along the river bank lands including trees, weeds and shrubbery appear to have developed unchecked throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century and this area currently has an unkempt appearance that should be managed.

Currently, the visual and spatial relationship between the TSCA and the Hawkesbury River and the agricultural lands further afield are somewhat obscured due to the density of the vegetation both throughout the public reserves and along the river bank lands. The existing density of vegetation is a fairly recent development as the riverbank lands were essentially clear at least until the 1990s.

The vegetation along the riparian zone of the Hawkesbury River represents a major environmental management challenge as it includes many acknowledged environmental nuisance species. Generally, these should be either suppressed or, ideally, eliminated from the riparian zone however it is necessary



to take a more holistic approach to weed management that involves the whole river system in the vicinity of Windsor not just the zone within the TSCA.

Riparian vegetation is critically important for bank stabilisation (particularly given the history of flood events in the area) so the timing and extent of weed removal is also important. The overall objective should be to replace the existing exotic nuisance species with locally indigenous riparian species. Though in the case of the riparian zones within the TSCA, these indigenous species should be limited to low-growing species so as to maintain important views in to, and out from, the conservation area.

**Policy 115.** A program for the progressive replacement of the existing riparian weed species with locally indigenous riparian vegetation species should be devised in conjunction with the Hawkesbury River County Council.

Where this program coincides with the TSCA, local modifications should be made to ensure important views into, and out from, Thompson Square are maintained or recovered, particularly View V11 looking south from the north bank of the river to the TSCA.

## 7.9.10 Treatment of the Public Reserves

### Upper and Lower Reserves

The upper and lower public reserves form an essential and intrinsic part of the character of the TSCA. It is within this landscape, defined by the historic buildings on three sides and the river to the north, that the basic topographic identity of the Square is evident, an important archaeological resource is retained, and the idiosyncratic open spaces of the public square are preserved. As discussed above, the form of this landscape has changed with the 1934 road cutting dividing it and has undergone various other changes with site and landscape features coming and going over the decades. It is important that the landscape comprising Thompson Square is not further alienated by divisive roadways or excavations or cluttered with unnecessary structures or plantings. See also policies for the treatment of public domain features below.

**Policy 116.** The informal layout and character of the upper public reserve with open grassed areas, scattered tree planting, white timber fencing and minimal park furniture and facilities, should be retained and conserved.

**Policy 117.** The lower reserve should be restored and reconstructed to its previous configuration following completion of the current archaeological investigations.

**Policy 118.** The introduction of car parks and hard surfaces for pathways or other reasons to the upper and lower public reserves is not appropriate.

**Policy 119.** Fixed cooking facilities, picnic pavilions, amenity blocks and other large outdoor built facilities to the upper and lower public reserves are not appropriate.

### Commemoration Reserve

**Policy 120.** Commemoration Reserve could be retained, altered or removed. Any change to the reserve should retain the skewed alignment of George Street.

**Policy 121.** Built structures, other than park furniture (garbage bin, table and benches) and memorials, are not appropriate.

### River bank lands

- Policy 122.** The informal layout and character of the river bank lands with open grassed areas and tree plantings traversed by The Terrace and a river's edge footpath should be retained and conserved.
- Policy 123.** The introduction of additional car parking provisions into the river bank lands is not appropriate. Hard surfaces including pathways and roads should be kept to a minimum.
- Policy 124.** Fixed cooking facilities, picnic pavilions, amenity blocks and other large outdoor built facilities to the upper and lower public reserves may be appropriate to the eastern side the TSCA, so long as significant views into and out from Thompson Square are retained.
- Policy 125.** When the opportunity arises, kerbs and gutters to The Terrace along the river bank lands should be replaced with sandstone kerbs and gutters.
- Policy 126.** The timber pedestrian stairs and walkway under the Windsor Bridge should be repaired as a matter of urgency.

### Mobile and Temporary Structures within the Public Reserves

In most places of significance, the introduction of temporary and mobile structures for good reason is acceptable, provided they are capable of easy and quick removal and have no permanent effect on the setting.

- Policy 127.** The erection of temporary structures (for a period of no more than 21 days) within the place for ceremonial, commercial and community events and other compatible uses identified in the Policy for Use is appropriate.
- Policy 128.** The introduction of mobile or temporary structures for the purpose of distributing information relating to the place or selling light refreshments is appropriate.

## 7.9.11 Treatment of the Streets and Roads

As discussed above, the streets and roads located within the TSCA are of historic significance, some having been established during the initial decades of British settlement at the Green Hills. The historic alignments of the streets and roads should be retained and conserved. However, given the compact nature of the conservation area, widening any of the roads or introducing new roads into the place would be inappropriate.

In relation to the later extension to Bridge Street currently bisecting the public square, this road was discussed in the report *Thompson Square Windsor: A Concept Plan for Future Development*, Fisher Lucas Architects, 1975, in which the following opinion was included: "Unfortunate as it may be to have a main thoroughfare passing through the square subject to modern vehicular usage, there has always been a traffic route through the square and this is part of its tradition ..... However, any future attempts to upgrade this traffic route should be strongly resisted."<sup>3</sup> This continues to be an appropriate analysis of the future treatment of Bridge Street.

### Generally

- Policy 129.** New roads or streets within the place are not appropriate.

<sup>3</sup> *Thompson Square Windsor: A Concept Plan for Future Development*, Fisher Lucas Architects, 1975, p. 35-36

- Policy 130.** The historic alignments of George Street, Old Bridge Street, The Terrace and Bridge Street (south of George Street) should be retained.
- Policy 131.** The existing alignment of Bridge Street (north of George Street) leading to Windsor Bridge should be retained.

### **The Carriageways**

- Policy 132.** The existing widths of the carriageways of George Street, Bridge Street, Old Bridge Street, Baker Street, the street known as Thompson Square and The Terrace should generally remain as existing.
- Policy 133.** The existing surface treatments of the road being bitumen to George Street, Bridge Street, Old Bridge Street, Baker Street and The Terrace and brick paving to the street known as Thompson Square should be retained.
- Policy 134.** The use of modern traffic management devices such as roundabouts, speed humps etc. should only be used when necessary. Design of such devices should be consistent with the historic character of the TSCA and surfaced using materials already evident throughout the public domain, i.e. brick paving with sandstone edging. The use of concrete should be kept to a minimum.

### **Footpaths, Kerbs and Verges**

Throughout the TSCA, many of the footpaths have been replaced with brick paving to distinguish the conservation area from its surroundings. This technique is appropriate, as it relies on the use of a traditional material and is subtle in its design and complements the historic character of the place. However, there are some areas within the conservation area and within the recommended expanded boundaries of the conservation area that do not have brick paved footpaths, namely Bridge Street, the western end of George Street on the southern side, Baker Street and the pathway along the river bank.

Although it is not recommended that all footpaths within the boundaries of the TSCA be brick paved, there are some areas that would benefit from this treatment to provide greater consistency in the appearance of the public domain throughout the area.

However, it is acknowledged that in some cases brick paving for public footpaths is not considered safe as the bricks can eventually lift making pathways uneven and a trip hazard. If this is the case, then Council should consider replacing the brick footpaths with bitumen as this is a visually recessive material and would not be distracting within the area. Large expanses of concrete or concrete paving is not appropriate.

One street within the TSCA does not have a footpath, Old Bridge Street, and pedestrian access is via a “goat track” along the grassed verge. This treatment should be retained as it is considered appropriate to the modest, colonial character of the locality.

- Policy 135.** Existing sandstone kerbs and gutters should be retained and conserved.
- Policy 136.** The practice of using of sandstone for kerbs and guttering throughout the TSCA should be continued and should be introduced to the pathways and roads within the river bank lands.
- Policy 137.** Existing brick paved footpaths should be retained and conserved, unless considered unsafe for public use. If replacement of the footpaths becomes necessary (for public safety reasons only), then bitumen should be used.

- Policy 138.** The pedestrian walkway along the river's edge within the river bank lands should be replaced with either brick paving to match the pedestrian walkway along the "Great River Walk" in Deerubbin Park, or with bitumen.
- Policy 139.** The grass verges along Old Bridge Street and Thompson Square are to be retained and conserved.
- Policy 140.** Formal paved or hard surfaced footpaths to Old Bridge Street are not appropriate.
- Policy 141.** Extruded concrete guttering should only be used in exceptional circumstances.
- Policy 142.** Concrete footpaths and concrete paving to footpaths is not appropriate.

## 7.9.12 Treatment of Public Domain Features

### Generally

The overall approach for the treatment of the public domain features should be one of maintaining the informal, character of the TSCA consistent with the broader rural nature of the town and the setting. This can be achieved in part by avoiding cluttering the public domain with site features and facilities that distract from the historic character of the area and by avoiding the use of "historical" reproduction features and facilities.

There is already an established palette of materials used throughout the public areas of the TSCA, namely sandstone, face brick and white painted timber and the use of these materials should be continued. The aim for the public domain areas of the TSCA should be to provide a continuity across the whole area in appearance, style and materials that is not overt or overdone, but rather discreet and visually recessive.

- Policy 143.** Proposed changes to public domain features should be considered within the context of the TSCA as a whole. Piecemeal or incremental change should be avoided.
- Policy 144.** The introduction of outdoor seating, garbage receptacles, lighting, vehicle barriers, etc. associated with compatible uses identified in Policy for Use is appropriate provided they are designed and located to provide minimal visual intrusion, are low-key in design and in materials appropriate to the colonial character of the place (i.e. timber, sandstone, brick and the like).
- Policy 145.** Relevant and experienced conservation advice and practitioners should be used to assist the development of proposals for the TSCA, for assessments and works programs for the place including the public reserves, the vegetation, streets and roads, street furniture, infrastructure and for carrying out conservation and related works on significant components within the TSCA.
- Policy 146.** Incidental items, historic in nature and character, located in the public domain including retaining walls, marker stones etc. should be retained and conserved.

### Park Furniture

The existing park furniture located within the upper reserve and Commemoration Reserve is adequate and is not considered to be significant. Although the benches and tables in the upper reserve may be considered somewhat old fashioned, they are not visually distracting and are of a type that can be found in many public parks throughout NSW. However, a different, more contemporary type of bench and table has been used in the Commemoration Reserve, which is also adequate, not significant and not visually distracting.

As a means of unifying the area and discreetly defining the TSCA from its surrounds, a single type of park furniture should be used in the upper and lower reserves of Thompson Square, Commemoration Reserve and along the river bank lands, preferably of a simple design, not visually distracting and using materials appropriate to the character of the place (e.g. timber).

**Policy 147.** A consistent style of park furniture e.g. tables and benches should be adopted and installed within the public reserves and the river bank lands throughout the TSCA. Park furniture could be traditional in design or a contemporary interpretation of traditional elements, using traditional materials such as timber and should not be visually distracting or obscure significant views throughout the area.

### Street Furniture

The only street furniture located within the TSCA is currently situated along the road reserve on the southern side of George Street in the form of timber platforms with balustrading providing outdoor seating for the adjacent cafes and food outlets. The timber platforms, outdoor seating and associated umbrellas and shade structures are considered intrusive as they obscure views of the front elevations of the historic commercial buildings and inhibit views from the buildings along George Street to the public square and should be removed.

Generally street furniture should not be introduced along footpaths, verges or road reserves within the TSCA.

**Policy 148.** The introduction of street furniture to the public footpaths and verges of the streets and roads within the TSCA is not appropriate.

**Policy 149.** Existing timber platforms with outdoor seating located within the road reserve on the southern side of George Street could be removed or altered/reduced to lessen its intrusive nature.

**Policy 150.** Umbrellas and shade structures to the outdoor seating areas on the south side of George Street should be removed and not replaced.

**Policy 151.** The introduction of umbrellas and shade structures to the front elevations of the buildings along George Street or along footpaths is not appropriate.

### Garbage Bins

Currently, there are no garbage bins located along the streets of the TSCA and this is a situation that should be continued, to minimise visual clutter throughout the conservation area.

Within the upper reserve and the Commemoration Reserve are located a number of garbage bins of the type typically found in public parks, being small galvanised open bins held in timber slatted supports on a post. However, adjacent to these bins in the upper reserve are also located a council “wheelie bin” indicating that the existing bins are inadequate to cope with the amount of rubbish generated when the park is in use by the community and visitors. The “wheelie bins” are considered to be visually intrusive and should be removed.

In order to provide an adequate waste management service for the public reserves, new larger, covered garbage bins or bin enclosures for the “wheelie bins” could be introduced in the same locations as the existing bins.

**Policy 152.** The introduction of garbage bins along the public footpaths or on the verges of the street and roads within the TSCA is not appropriate.



- Policy 153.** The existing garbage bins and “wheelie bins” located in the upper reserve of Thompson Square should be removed and replaced with larger, covered garbage bins in the same location. The new bins (or bin enclosures) should cause minimal visual intrusion and be low-key in design.
- Policy 154.** The existing garbage bin within the Commemorative Reserve could be replaced with a new bin to match those selected for the upper reserve.

### Street Lighting

Currently there are at least four different styles of street lighting located within the TSCA, some of which are required for traffic safety.

- Policy 155.** Should the opportunity arise, a consistent style of street lights should be introduced throughout the TSCA consisting of simple contemporary fittings thoughtfully positioned to provide adequate lighting, with a minimum of visual ‘clutter’ and should not impinge on significant views from Thompson Square to the broader setting or on views of the significant buildings.

### Interpretation Signs, Plaques and Memorials within the Public Reserves

Although the TSCA has many factors worth recognising, including its significance, rarity, its history and the involvement of notable persons in its development, the introduction of interpretation signs, memorials, plaques etc. should be resisted to ensure that the public domain areas do not become cluttered.

- Policy 156.** The growth of plaques and memorials within the upper and lower reserves should be resisted. Utilising the existing memorials for the addition of new plaques is preferred.
- Policy 157.** Avoid introducing permanent monuments, memorials or public artworks within Thompson Square that have no direct and compelling relevance to the place or otherwise detract from the setting of Thompson Square.
- Policy 158.** The existing memorials and plaques located within the upper reserve could be rationalised including the removal or relocation of the existing Pioneer Families’ memorial with anchor, but only with the support of the local community.

### Services and Utilities

At some stage services and utilities along the street known as Thompson Square, along The Terrace in the river bank lands and along the commercial precinct of George Street have been relocated below ground, which has resulted in enhancing the historic character of these streets. A similar approach should be taken for Bridge Street and Old Bridge Street but only if the archaeological potential in these areas is conserved.

- Policy 159.** Relocating existing services and utilities below ground along Old Bridge Street and Bridge Street is preferred but only if existing underground conduits/service channels are used.
- Policy 160.** Should the opportunity arise, utility poles should be repositioned away from in front of significant buildings and should not impinge on significant views into, out from and through Thompson Square.
- Policy 161.** The introduction of new utility poles in accordance with relevant legislation and requirements by other authorities is appropriate. However, these new services should only be introduced in order to replace an existing utility pole and not to add to the numbers of existing utility poles.

- Policy 162.** Any works involving relocating services and utilities underground or the introduction of new services and utilities is to be preceded by appropriate archaeological investigation as per Policies 85 to 90. The high potential for and rarity of the Aboriginal and historic archaeology in the TSCA is to be conserved and protected.

### 7.9.13 Treatment of the Buildings

#### Generally

Part of the significance and charm of the TSCA is created by the remarkably intact early, mid and late nineteenth and early twentieth-century buildings that form both picturesque and historically important streetscapes, particularly along the street known as Thompson Square. Many of the buildings have been captured in significant early prints, paintings and photographs and the intact nature and colonial character of the townscape of the TSCA is appreciated by the broader community.

The Statement of Significance (Section 5) identifies why the whole of the TSCA is significant including the contribution that the individual buildings make to the conservation area as a whole. In addition, each street within the TSCA has a slightly different, though significant character and the buildings form important streetscapes; as well, each property has its own particular cultural significance.

Previous reconstruction and restoration work (mainly carried out in the 1980s) was based on proper research and evidence to interpret the history of the buildings around the square. This work should be respected and conserved as significant fabric in its own right.

Conservation of properties in the TSCA should take into consideration all aspects of their heritage significance and should recognise both the intangible social and historic aspects of each property as well as the more tangible architectural fabric and elements.

- Policy 163.** Generally, works to the individual buildings (including changes to the interiors) located within the boundaries of the TSCA will require a S60 application (other than S57 exemption works).
- Policy 164.** Proposed changes to the buildings, including internal changes, should be informed by the significance of the individual building and guided by a site-specific Conservation Management Plan, Conservation Management Strategy, detailed Heritage Impact Statement or similar.
- Policy 165.** Further reconstruction or restoration should be informed by research carried out for a site specific Conservation Management Plan, Conservation Management Strategy, detailed Heritage Impact Statement or similar.

#### Demolition

- Policy 166.** Demolition or partial demolition of buildings ranked as being of Moderate significance or higher is not appropriate.
- Policy 167.** Demolition or partial demolition of later addition built structures, considered to be of Little significance, located to the rear of the principal buildings is appropriate.

#### Alterations and Additions to Buildings

Alterations and additions to the buildings should be located to the rear of the main building, not clearly visible from Thompson Square and using traditional type timber framed door and window joinery or external finishes of a sympathetic design.

- Policy 168.** Alterations and additions should be of a height and bulk subservient to the existing building and should be located to the rear of the main building. Additions to the side and front elevations are not appropriate.
- Policy 169.** Enclosing front verandahs and balconies is not appropriate.
- Policy 170.** The addition of another storey/level to buildings ranked as being Exceptional or High is not appropriate.
- Policy 171.** New openings to the front and side elevations is not appropriate.
- Policy 172.** New security grilles to window and door openings in the front or side elevations at any level is not appropriate.

### **Changes to Buildings of Little Significance**

Located within the boundaries of the conservation area are a few buildings that are not of heritage value: No. 80 George Street, Nos. 1 and 2/52 George Street and No. 4 Old Bridge Street.

Similarly, there are also buildings located within the proposed extended conservation area boundaries that are also not of heritage value: No. 89 George Street, the contemporary Hawkesbury Regional Museum fronting Baker Street and No. 94 George Street.

Regardless, the form, scale, colour and materials of these buildings are considered to be appropriate; they are neither intrusive nor contributory to the conservation area and are ranked as being of Little significance (“Neutral” contributory buildings). Therefore, these buildings are capable of undergoing more change than buildings ranked as being of Exceptional, High and Moderate significance. Refer also Figure 7.4 below.

- Policy 173.** Alterations and additions to buildings identified as being of Little significance (“Neutral” buildings) should be consistent with the style of the building that is being altered.
- Policy 174.** Alterations and additions to buildings located adjacent to buildings of Moderate or higher significance (“Contributory” buildings) should be sited and designed so that they:
- do not have an adverse impact on the cultural significance of the adjacent building; and
  - do not have an adverse impact on the views of the significant building from the street or the public domain.

### **Front Fences and Gardens**

- Policy 175.** Fences of traditional timber palings of a maximum height of 1.8 metres to existing side and rear boundaries or fences to match existing are appropriate.
- Policy 176.** Front fences to match or timber picket to a maximum height of 1 metre along the front boundaries of the residential properties are appropriate.

In most places, domestic gardens constructed within or amongst existing fabric are appropriate, including the planting of trees provided the suitability of the species and their location is considered in relation to the significance of the place including structural implications and retention of views. As with fence designs, the design of front gardens should be based on archival records and use species known to have been available in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (ensuring the species does not have a serious weed propensity).

- Policy 177.** Planting new trees within the boundaries of the private properties is appropriate and should take into account the following:
- the proximity of the mature tree to adjoining properties and the road reserve.

- the location of the mature tree and its roots to household drainage. Trees should not be planted closer than 3 metres to a building.
- the location of the mature tree with identified views between the buildings defining the three sides of the public square, and views from the buildings to the public square and the broader setting.

### Ancillary Features

- Policy 178.** Ancillary features including A/C units, solar panels, antennae, satellite dishes, aerials should not be affixed to the front or side elevations or to the front or side roof planes of the individual buildings.
- Policy 179.** Roof decks, skylights, dormer windows and lanterns are not appropriate to the front and side roof planes.
- Policy 180.** Minor structures such as decks, garbage bin enclosures, clotheslines, open pavilions, water tanks etc. are appropriate to the rear of the individual buildings.

### Garages, Carports and Driveways

- Policy 181.** Garages and carports should be detached and located behind the main building (to the rear yard only).
- Policy 182.** Driveways should be crushed gravel or brick paved to match with footpath details. Large expanses of concrete are not appropriate.
- Policy 183.** Double driveways are not appropriate.
- Policy 184.** Driveways should not be laid directly against a building.

### Colours

- Policy 185.** A palette of traditional colours that is tonally appropriate, based on historic photographs or documentation is appropriate.
- Policy 186.** Overly bright colours to walls, roofs, joinery or verandahs and balconies are not appropriate.

### Historic Finishes

Generally, the original and early finishes should be retained as a way of conserving the original character of the place. Removal of added render or paint needs to be done carefully so as not to cause damage to the substrate. See also policies for Maintenance above.

- Policy 187.** Original and early plaster, render and/or paint applied to brickwork and masonry should not be removed.
- Policy 188.** If, for interpretation reasons, added plaster, render or paint is proposed to be removed, this should not be done unless by sample it can be removed without causing damage to the original brickwork or masonry and only in areas of lower significance not visible from any public area.
- Policy 189.** Original face brickwork and masonry should be retained (i.e. not covered over by paint, render or plaster).

### **Shops/Shopfronts**

- Policy 190.** Original/early shop fronts (or reconstructed shop fronts) including front doors and windows are to be retained and conserved.
- Policy 191.** Evidence of early commercial signage should be retained and conserved.
- Policy 192.** Building names are to be retained including existing painted signs and raised lettering to parapets.
- Policy 193.** Enclosing of balconies is not appropriate. Avoid the introduction of plastic screens/blinds for weather protection.

### **Signage on Commercial Buildings**

- Policy 194.** New external signage to the existing commercial buildings on George Street, Bridge Street and Baker Street is appropriate, provided it is under-awning or signage to awning fascias.
- Policy 195.** Painted or etched window signs to shop front windows that are discreet and do not clutter or dominate the shop window are appropriate.
- Policy 196.** Commercial signage (other than signs for home businesses/home industries) to residential buildings on the street known as Thompson Square, Bridge Street, Old Bridge Street, The Terrace and Baker Street is not appropriate.
- Policy 197.** Projecting wall signs are only appropriate to the Macquarie Arms Hotel building.
- Policy 198.** Changing the content (text, graphics and colours) of existing awning fascia, under-awning signs and window signs is appropriate.
- Policy 199.** New external signage should be subservient to the existing fabric and historic character of the buildings.
- Policy 200.** Introduction of new signage on significant buildings should not cover, obscure or damage significant fabric. All new signage should be reversible.
- Policy 201.** Attaching signs to front or side boundaries fences is not appropriate.
- Policy 202.** The size and placement of new signage should be carefully considered so that it does not intrude on the setting of the buildings and not detract from views and vistas across Thompson Square.
- Policy 203.** Top of building signs, projecting wall signs, freestanding signs, third party advertisements and banners, flags and fabric signs are not appropriate.
- Policy 204.** Light boxes, neon lights, moving or sequenced lights, strobe lights, video screens, digital displays, laser advertising and the like either externally or within shop windows are not appropriate.
- Policy 205.** Intrusive signage that has accumulated over time should be removed and underlying fabric repaired accordingly.

### **‘Home Business’/‘Home Industries’ Signage**

Regardless of the land use zone that may apply to the individual properties within the TSCA, buildings that were originally constructed as residences should only display signs of a type traditionally associated with residential buildings.

- Policy 206.** Signage attached to buildings originally constructed as residences should be limited to one of the following:



- small, simple flush mounted metal wall plaque attached to brick joints to the front façade of the building; or
- window sign that covers no more than 20% of the surface of the window in which it is displayed.

- Policy 207.** No more than one sign per premises is appropriate.
- Policy 208.** New external signage should be subservient to the existing fabric and historic character of the buildings.
- Policy 209.** All new signage should be reversible.
- Policy 210.** Light boxes, neon lights, moving or sequenced lights, strobe lights, video screens, digital displays, laser advertising and the like either externally or within front windows are not appropriate.
- Policy 211.** Attaching signs to verandah balustrades or to front or side boundaries fences is not appropriate.

### 7.9.14 Infill Development

Even at places of outstanding significance there are usually areas where new developments, buildings and features can be placed without detracting from or reducing the significance of the place. The impact of such adaptations depends on their bulk, form, height, proportions, scale, materials, colours etc.

In this case the configuration of the place is so intact to its mid-19<sup>th</sup> century configuration that no substantial new constructions are appropriate. In addition, as the place is relatively small in area, no substantial locations exist that could contain new development that would not detract from the significance of the place.

However, there are a few properties that could be altered/redeveloped, including those ranked as being of Little significance / “Neutral” contributory buildings in Figure 7.3 within the TSCA and the recommended expanded boundaries of the conservation area, including the council car park at No. 8 Baker Street and the commercial building at No. 89 George Street.

However, because the significance of the TSCA includes the overall colonial character of the conservation area, the streetscapes and the groups of buildings of high historic continuity, new buildings should be of traditional character and not of overtly modern design.

#### Generally

The goal with new development within the TSCA is for it to harmonise with the existing streetscapes and roofscapes and not block views or compromise the appreciation of significant buildings.

- Policy 212.** Infill development within the TSCA (expanded boundaries) is only appropriate for those properties identified as being “Neutral” contributory properties in Figure 7.3.
- Policy 213.** Infill development within the TSCA should generally comply with the policies for the Treatment of the Buildings (policies 168 to 211) and should:
- be appropriate to the character of the streetscape or context;
  - be of a similar height or less than surrounding buildings;
  - not obstruct views (including oblique views along the street) of significant buildings;
  - not visually dominate the streetscape or roofscape of the TSCA; and

- be set back or further away from the significant building if it is likely to have an adverse impact on a heritage building by virtue of scale, location or appearance.
- Policy 214.** Basing the form and design of infill buildings on the identified key characteristics for residential buildings and commercial buildings is appropriate (as per Section 3.11.5).
- Policy 215.** The siting of new buildings should respond to the established front and side building setbacks within the streetscape.
- Policy 216.** Infill buildings on Old Bridge Street or Bridge Street that appear as commercial buildings are not appropriate.
- Policy 217.** Infill buildings along George Street that appear as residential buildings are not appropriate.
- Policy 218.** The height and location of new buildings or additions to existing buildings at Nos. 8 and 10 Baker Street, No. 18 Baker Street, No. 10 The Terrace, No. 58 George Street, No. 94 George Street or to No. 89 George Street should be controlled to ensure that no more than the roofscape of any building is visible from Thompson Square and that new works do not detract from the colonial character of the place.
- Policy 219.** Interpreting traditional design concepts for infill buildings in a modern way without mimicking existing historic buildings is appropriate.
- Policy 220.** Depending on the scale of work, new infill development should be preceded by a building and streetscape character analysis, streetscape elevation, and definition of suitable envelope, all of which should be discussed with Council's heritage advisor prior to undertaking detailed design.
- Policy 221.** Prior to developing designs for any infill development to No. 10 Baker Street, No. 18 Baker Street, No. 94 Baker Street, No. 58 George Street and Nos. 1 and 2/52 George Street (as indicated in Figure 4.68), further research into the history of these allotments is required in order to establish significance. Nos. 92-94 George Street and No. 18 Baker Street is to be further researched and investigated to determine the date, intactness and significance of the early building located on the east boundary of the allotments.

### Archaeological Requirements

Given the high potential for historic archaeology of State significance at some of the properties identified as being suitable for infill development, it is imperative that an archaeological investigation is undertaken to ensure that impacts on

- Policy 222.** Any proposal for infill development to the following properties should be preceded by an Archaeological Assessment (AA) and potentially an Archaeological Research Design (ARD):
- No. 4 Thompson Square;
  - No. 89 George Street;
  - No. 8 Baker Street (Council carpark);
  - No. 58 George Street; and
  - Nos. 1 or 2/52 George Street.

Detailed design for the siting of any new building should be determined by the recommendations of the archaeological assessment.

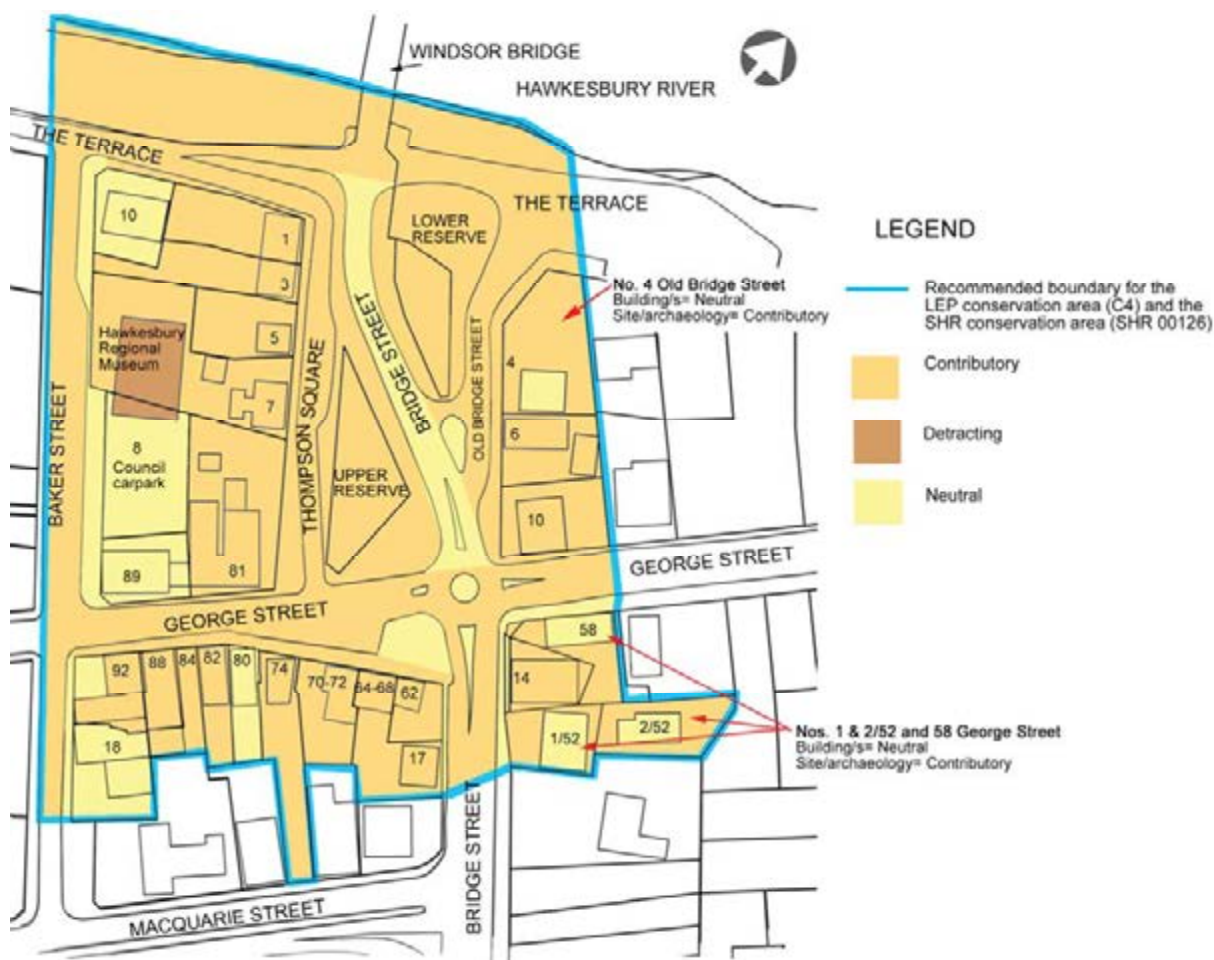


Figure 7. 3: Contributory, Detracting and Neutral properties within the TSCA.

### 7.9.15 Building on the boundaries of the Conservation Area

Areas surrounding core heritage areas, such as the TSCA, can be identified as buffer or transitional zones and development within these zones is able to be regulated in order to maintain a sympathetic relationship with the adjacent conservation area. The aim of a buffer zone is to ensure that future development on the boundary or within the immediate vicinity of a conservation area does not result in negative impacts on the heritage values, the historic character or the amenity of the properties located within the conservation area.

Generally, the scale, form and configuration of the existing buildings located around the boundaries of the TSCA are appropriate as they do not result in negative visual impacts or impinge on views into and out of the conservation area.

Regardless, in order to control future development on the boundary of the TSCA, a small buffer zone is recommended along the east, west and southern boundaries of the conservation area in which specific provisions for development of these properties is addressed via the development standards within the *Hawkesbury LEP 2012* and/or the development policies within the *Hawkesbury Development Control Plan 2002*.

**Policy 223.** Hawkesbury City Council should introduce specific planning provisions to address future development within the recommended buffer zone of the TSCA as shown in Figure 7.4, to ensure future development in this zone does not result in negative impacts on the cultural

**significance of the TSCA. Planning provisions should address (at a minimum) the following issues:**

- The height and location of new buildings or additions to existing buildings within the buffer zone should be controlled to ensure that no more than the roofscape of any buildings within the buffer zone is visible from within the TSCA.
- New development, alterations and additions to existing buildings and landscaping (including tree planting) within the buffer zone should not impede available views from the TSCA to the Hawkesbury River to the north or the agricultural lands beyond to the north and south.
- The placement of signage (traffic, directional, commercial and interpretation) and utilities and services should be controlled to minimise visual clutter on the boundaries of the TSCA.

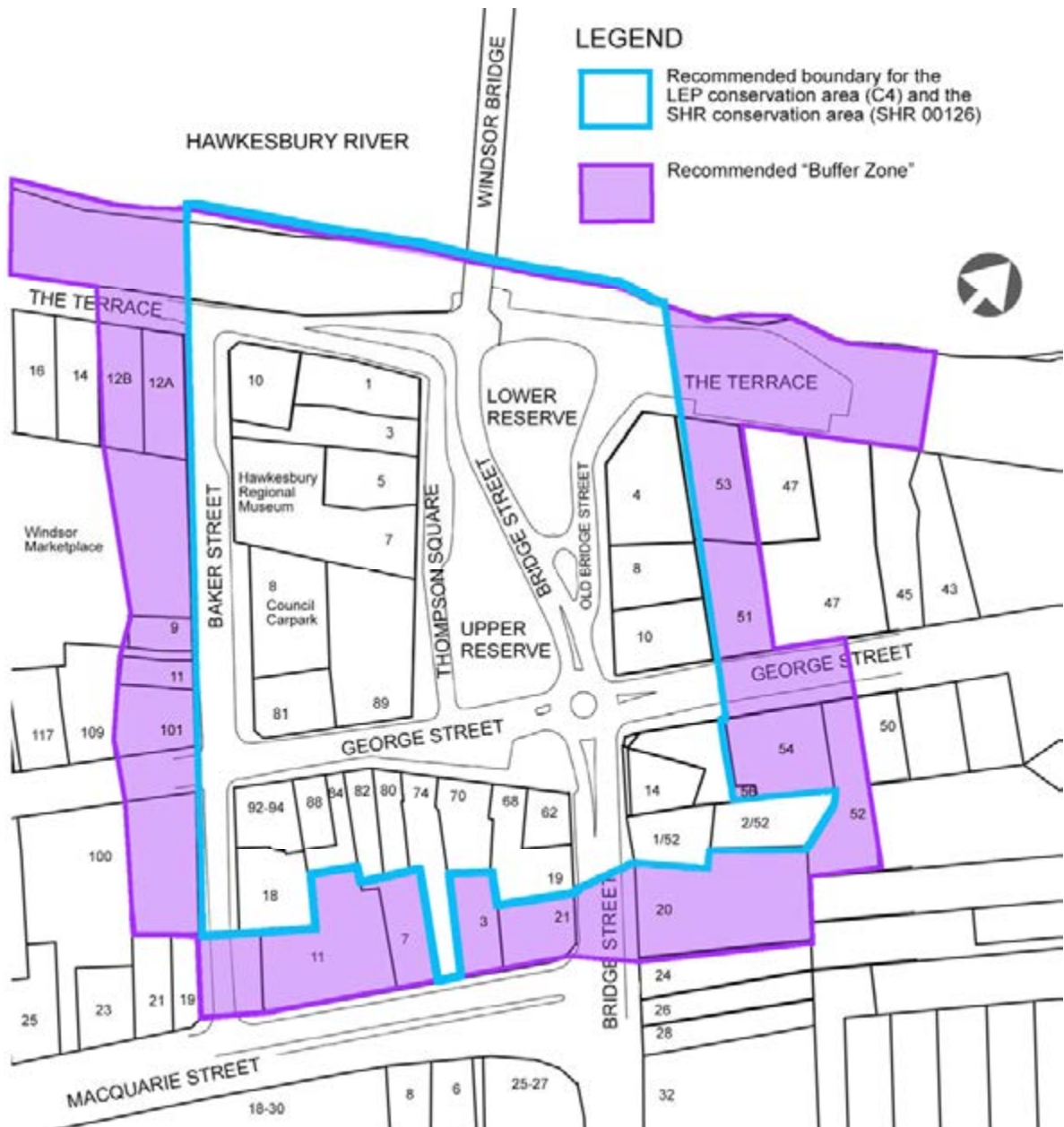


Figure 7. 4: Recommended buffer zone for the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

### 7.9.16 Adaptation for Structural, Service, Security, Access, Statutory, Hazardous Materials and Improved Amenity Reasons

Adaptations for practical reasons such as the following need to be addressed:

- For structural reasons
- For installation or replacement of services and equipment
- To deal with asbestos and other hazardous materials
- To provide access by people with disabilities

**Policy 224.**      *Structural Safety-* Adaptation of fabric to prevent structural failure of existing fabric is appropriate, provided alteration of fabric identified to be conserved is minimised.

**Policy 225.**      *Services-* The replacement of existing services (electricity, water, sewer etc.) and the installation of new services and equipment at the place in connection with uses retained or introduced in accordance with Policy for Use is appropriate, provided that, as a general rule:

- equipment is concealed and/or installed/located in areas and spaces of lower significance in preference to those of higher significance;
- that the installation is designed and constructed in a way that causes minimum damage to fabric identified to be conserved and is removable without further damage to significant fabric;
- the work is planned and carried out with regards to the below-ground archaeology of the place.

**Policy 226.**      *Statutory Requirements-* Alteration of fabric identified to be conserved in order to comply with the spirit of fire safety and other statutory requirements is appropriate, but only after investigation of alternative fire safety and other alternatives in order to determine design and construction strategies. Adaptation should be located in spaces of lower rather than higher significance, minimise damage to fabric identified to be conserved and provide for the removal of the alterations without further damage to retained fabric.

**Policy 227.**      *Hazardous Materials-* Adaptation of fabric identified to be conserved shown to contain or requiring removal of asbestos or other hazardous materials is appropriate. Removal of fabric, where it cannot practically be sealed from future disturbance, is appropriate. In such cases and where exposed to view in its normal configuration, fabric should be replaced with fabric of matching appearance.

**Policy 228.**      *Equitable Access-* Alteration of the fabric identified to be conserved to facilitate access by disabled people is appropriate, but only after investigation of alternative strategies. Adaptation should be located in spaces of lower rather than higher significance, minimise damage to fabric identified to be conserved and provide for the removal of the alterations without further damage to retained fabric.



## 7.10 Conservation Procedures and Practice at the Place

### 7.10.1 Procedures

Because the place is of outstanding cultural significance, procedures for managing change and activities at the place should be in accordance with recognised conservation methodologies such as that of Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter*. Issues to be addressed by conservation policies should include:

- management and conservation philosophy
- the setting of the place and associated places
- professional advice
- trade skills
- documentation
- archaeological finds
- site recording.

- Policy 229.** *Burra Charter.* The place should be treated as of exceptional cultural significance, and consequently activities at the place should be guided by the philosophy of the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter* (see Appendix 1).
- Policy 230.** *Management.* The place should be managed in a way which permits the maximum number of these policies included in this report to be followed.
- Policy 231.** *Setting and Associated Places.* The management body of the place should if possible involve itself in the protection of the setting of the place and associated places and objects from inappropriate uses and activities.
- Policy 232.** *Professional Conservation Team.* Personnel skilled in disciplines of conservation practice at a professional level should be engaged as appropriate to advise on and implement conservation aspects of the place.
- Policy 233.** *Skilled Trade Team.* Skilled traditional building and engineering trades should be engaged as appropriate to advise on the conservation of the place and to carry out all conservation aspects at the place.
- Policy 234.** *Reference Documentation.* Copies of all known historical illustrations and the major written primary and secondary records relating to the place should be assembled, catalogued and made readily available, in a permanent archive to be held at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum.
- Policy 235.** *Archaeological Finds.* All archaeological finds that have been or are in the future removed from the place should be assembled, catalogued and safely housed. These should be stored in the one place (preferably at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum), apart from individual items that might be loaned to repositories elsewhere for particular research or interpretative reasons.
- Policy 236.** *Systematic Photographic Survey.* Systematic photographic surveys of the place should be carried out before, during and after any works and the results catalogued and archived.

### 7.10.2 Practice- Generally

Because of the significance of the place it is important that the proposed changes are achieved involving a high standard of conservation practice.

**Policy 237.** Changes at the place should be achieved in the following way:

- (a) *Conservation Guidelines:*
  - Proposals for the place should be assessed in the light of what is recommended in this report. It may be necessary to carry out further research in order to assess and implement the proposed work to a high standard.
  - Research can include physical intervention, for example a search for former decorative surface finishes.
- (b) *Configuration Survey:* Before commencement of work to a component of the place, a full photographic and measured survey should be carried out. Recording should:
  - identify the extent and nature of the fabric; and
  - if possible, the age of each part of the fabric.

This information should be reproduced in a report with a copy held at the archive for the place, as recommended above. Some of this work may already be included in this report.
- (c) *Documentation of Conservation Works:* Proposed work to a component should be documented for implementation in a way that allows the scrutiny of others before the work is executed and also in posterity. A statement setting out the precise aims of the work should be made. The documentary or physical evidence upon which restoration and reconstruction decisions are made for each component should be cited. A copy of the documentation, including schedules and plans, should be held at the archive for the place.
- (d) *Preservation of Fabric and Patina:* During documentation of proposed work to a component of the place, and during the work, the maximum amount of significant fabric and patina should be retained consistent with the preservation of the element and in relation to the relative significance of the element. Replacements, no matter how accurate, should be considered of far less heritage value than the original fabric.
- (e) *Use of traditional techniques and materials:* Traditional techniques and materials are preferred for the conservation of significant fabric. In some circumstances modern techniques and materials which offer substantial conservation benefits may be appropriate; however the use of modern materials and techniques must be supported by firm scientific evidence or a body of experience.
- (f) *Information Revealed during Conservation Work:* New information about the materials, configuration, use, age, evolution, etc. of a component of the place that comes to light during the work should be recorded in a report, a copy of which should be held at the archive of the place.
- (g) *Identification of Personnel:* Personnel involved in the documentation and implementation of works to components of the place should be recorded for future reference.

## 7.11 Adoption and Review of Conservation Policies

Naturally, conservation policies should include recommendations about the adoption and review of the conservation policies and compliance with same.

- Policy 238.**      *Adoption of Conservation Guidelines.* These policies should be adopted as the Conservation Management Plan for the place, to guide the operation of the management body. If not adopted, these policies should be revised and then adopted before further works or activities are carried out at the place.
- Policy 239.**      *Amendment of other Plans.* Any master development plan or management plan that may exist for the place should be revised to be consistent with these policies.
- Policy 240.**      *Compliance with Conservation Management Plan.* Works and activities at the place should be in compliance with the adopted Conservation Management Plan.
- Policy 241.**      *Proposals that are not in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan* should only be implemented following a revision of the whole of the Conservation Management Plan which results in the conclusion that such proposals are consistent with the revised plan. That is, ad hoc changes in Conservation Management Plans should be avoided.
- Policy 242.**      *Review of Conservation Management Plan.* The Conservation Management Plan should be reviewed after first major works at the place and otherwise at regular intervals, firstly say, seven years from its adoption.
- Policy 243.**      *Distribution of Conservation Management Plan.* Unless for reasonable security reasons, copies of the Conservation Management Plan should be held at the archive for the place and be made available to local and other public libraries and be freely available for public inspection.

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# Appendix 1

## Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance

### The Burra Charter

Considering the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice 1964), and the Resolutions of the 5th General Assembly of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Moscow 1978), the Burra Charter was adopted by Australia; ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS) on 19 August 1979 at Burra, South Australia. Revisions were adopted on 23 February 1981, 23 April 1988, 26 November 1999 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013.

The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places), and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members.

## Articles

### Article 1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Charter:

**1.1** *Place* means a geographically defined area. It may include elements, objects, spaces and views. Place may have tangible and intangible dimensions.

**1.2** *Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.

Cultural significance is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings*, records, *related places* and *related objects*.

Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

**1.3** *Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place* including elements, fixtures, contents, and objects.

**1.4** *Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its cultural *significance*.

**1.5** *Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of a *place*, and its *setting*.

Maintenance is to be distinguished from repair which involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.

**1.6** *Preservation* means maintaining a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

**1.7** *Restoration* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

**1.8** *Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material.

**1.9** *Adaptation* means changing a *place* to suit the existing *use* or a proposed use.

**1.10** *Use* means the functions of a *place*, including the activities and traditional and customary practices that may occur at the place or are dependent on the place.

**1.11** *Compatible use* means a *use* which respects the *cultural significance* of a *place*. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

**1.12** *Setting* means the immediate and extended environment of a *place* that is part of or contributes to its *cultural significance* and distinctive character.

**1.13** *Related place* means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another place.

**1.14** *Related object* means an object that contributes to the *cultural significance* of a *place* but is not at the place.

**1.15** *Associations* mean the connections that exist between people and a *place*.



1.16 *Meanings* denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses to people.

1.17 *Interpretation* means all the ways of presenting the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

## Conservation Principles

### Article 2. Conservation and management

2.1 *Places* of *cultural significance* should be conserved.

2.2 The aim of *conservation* is to retain the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

2.3 *Conservation* is an integral part of good management of *places* of *cultural significance*.

2.4 *Places* of *cultural significance* should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state.

### Article 3. Cautious approach

3.1 *Conservation* is based on a respect for the existing *fabric*, *use*, *associations* and *meanings*. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.

3.2 Changes to a *place* should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.

### Article 4. Knowledge, skills and techniques

4.1 *Conservation* should make use of all the knowledge, skills and disciplines which can contribute to the study and care of the *place*.

4.2 Traditional techniques and materials are preferred for the *conservation* of significant *fabric*. In some circumstances modern techniques and materials which offer substantial conservation benefits may be appropriate.

### Article 5. Values

5.1 *Conservation* of a *place* should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of others.

5.2 Relative degrees of *cultural significance* may lead to different *conservation* actions at a place.

### Article 6. Burra Charter Process

6.1 The *cultural significance* of a *place* and other issues affecting its future are best understood by a sequence of collecting and analysing information before making decisions. Understanding cultural significance comes first, then development of policy and finally management of the place in accordance with the policy. This is the Burra Charter Process.

6.2 Policy for managing a *place* must be based on an understanding of its *cultural significance*.

6.3 Policy development should also include consideration of other factors affecting the future of a *place* such as the owner's needs, resources, external constraints and its physical condition.

6.4 In developing an effective policy, different ways to retain *cultural significance* and address other factors may need to be explored.

6.5 Changes in circumstances, or new information or perspectives, may require reiteration of part or all of the Burra Charter Process.

### Article 7. Use

7.1 Where the *use* of a *place* is of *cultural significance* it should be retained.

7.2 A *place* should have a *compatible use*.

### Article 8. Setting

*Conservation* requires the retention of an appropriate *setting*. This includes retention of the visual and sensory setting, as well as the retention of spiritual and other cultural relationships that contribute to the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate.

## Article 9. Location

**9.1** The physical location of a *place* is part of its *cultural significance*. A building, work or other component of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.

**9.2** Some buildings, works or other components of *places* were designed to be readily removable or already have a history of relocation. Provided such buildings, works or other components do not have significant links with their present location, removal may be appropriate.

**9.3** If any building, work or other component is moved, it should be moved to an appropriate location and given an appropriate use. Such action should not be to the detriment of any *place* of *cultural significance*.

## Article 10. Contents

Contents, fixtures and objects which contribute to the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be retained at that place. Their removal is unacceptable unless it is: the sole means of ensuring their security and *preservation*; on a temporary basis for treatment or exhibition; for cultural reasons; for health and safety; or to protect the place. Such contents, fixtures and objects should be returned where circumstances permit and it is culturally appropriate.

## Article 11. Related places and objects

The contribution which *related places* and *related objects* make to the *cultural significance* of the *place* should be retained.

## Article 12. Participation

*Conservation*, *interpretation* and management of a *place* should provide for the participation of people for whom the place has special *associations* and *meanings*, or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the place.

## Article 13. Co-existence of cultural values

Co-existence of cultural values should be recognised, respected and encouraged, especially in cases where they conflict.

# Conservation Processes

## Article 14. Conservation processes

*Conservation* may, according to circumstance, include the processes of: retention or reintroduction of a *use*; retention of *associations* and *meanings*; *maintenance*, *preservation*, *restoration*, *reconstruction*, *adaptation* and *interpretation*; and will commonly include a combination of more than one of these. Conservation may also include retention of the contribution that related places and related objects make to the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

## Article 15. Change

**15.1** Change may be necessary to retain *cultural significance*, but is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a *place* and its *use* should be guided by the *cultural significance* of the place and its appropriate *interpretation*.

**15.2** Changes which reduce *cultural significance* should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.

**15.3** Demolition of significant *fabric* of a *place* is generally not acceptable. However, in some cases minor demolition may be appropriate as part of *conservation*. Removed significant fabric should be reinstated when circumstances permit.

**15.4** The contributions of all aspects of *cultural significance* of a *place* should be respected. If a place includes *fabric*, *uses*, *associations* or *meanings* of different periods, or different aspects of cultural significance, emphasising or interpreting one period or aspect at the expense of another can only be justified when what is left out, removed or diminished is of slight cultural significance and that which is emphasised or interpreted is of much greater cultural significance.

## Article 16. Maintenance

*Maintenance* is fundamental to *conservation*. Maintenance should be undertaken where *fabric* is of *cultural significance* and its *maintenance* is necessary to retain that *cultural significance*.

## Article 17. Preservation

*Preservation* is appropriate where the existing *fabric* or its condition constitutes evidence of *cultural significance*, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other *conservation* processes to be carried out.

## Article 18. Restoration and reconstruction

*Restoration* and *reconstruction* should reveal culturally significant aspects of the *place*.

## Article 19. Restoration

*Restoration* is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the *fabric*.

## Article 20. Reconstruction

**20.1** *Reconstruction* is appropriate only where a *place* is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the *fabric*. In some cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a *use* or practice that retains the *cultural significance* of the place.

**20.2** *Reconstruction* should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional *interpretation*.

## Article 21. Adaptation

**21.1** *Adaptation* is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

**21.2** *Adaptation* should involve minimal change to significant *fabric*, achieved only after considering alternatives.

## Article 22. New work

**22.1** New work such as additions or other changes to the *place* may be acceptable where it respects and does not distort or obscure the *cultural significance* of the place, or detract from its *interpretation* and appreciation.

**22.2** New work should be readily identifiable as such, but must report and respect and have minimal impact on the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

## Article 23. Conserving use

Retaining, modifying or reintroducing a significant *use* may be appropriate and preferred forms of *conservation*.

## Article 24. Retaining associations and meanings

**24.1** Significant *associations* between people and a *place* should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the *interpretation*, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.

**24.2** Significant *meanings*, including spiritual values, of a *place* should be respected. Opportunities for the continuation or revival of these meanings should be investigated and implemented.

## Article 25. Interpretation

The *cultural significance* of many *places* is not readily apparent, and should be explained by *interpretation*. Interpretation should enhance understanding and engagement, and be culturally appropriate.

## Conservation Practice

### Article 26. Applying the Burra Charter process

**26.1** Work on a *place* should be preceded by studies to understand the place which should include analysis of physical, documentary, oral and other evidence, drawing on appropriate knowledge, skills and disciplines.

**26.2** Written statements of *cultural significance* and policy for the *place* should be prepared, justified and accompanied by supporting evidence. The statements of significance and policy should be incorporated into a management plan for the place.

**26.3** Groups and individuals with *associations* with a *place* as well as those involved in its management should be provided with opportunities to contribute to and participate in understanding the *cultural significance* of the place. Where appropriate they should also have opportunities to participate in its *conservation* and management.

### Article 27. Managing change

**27.1** The impact of proposed changes, including incremental changes, on the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be assessed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the place. It may be necessary to modify proposed changes to better retain cultural significance.

**27.2** Existing *fabric*, *use*, *associations* and *meanings* should be adequately recorded before any changes are made to the *place*.

### Article 28. Disturbance of fabric

**28.1** Disturbance of significant *fabric* for study, or to obtain evidence, should be minimised. Study of a *place* by any disturbance of the fabric, including archaeological excavation, should only be undertaken to provide data essential for decisions on the *conservation* of the place, or to obtain important evidence about to be lost or made inaccessible.

**28.2** Investigation of a *place* which requires disturbance of the *fabric*, apart from that necessary to make decisions, may be appropriate provided that it is consistent with the policy for the place. Such investigation should be based on important research questions which have potential to substantially add to knowledge, which cannot be answered in other ways and which minimises disturbance of significant fabric.

### Article 29. Responsibility for decisions

The organisations and individuals responsible for management decisions should be named and specific responsibility taken for each such decision.

### Article 30. Direction, supervision and implementation

Competent direction and supervision should be maintained at all stages, and any changes should be implemented by people with appropriate knowledge and skills.

### Article 31. Keeping a log

New evidence may come to light while implementing policy or a plan for a *place*. Other factors may arise and require new decisions. A log of new evidence and additional decisions should be kept.

### Article 32. Records

**32.1** The records associated with the *conservation* of a *place* should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

**32.2** Records about the history of a *place* should be protected and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

### Article 33. Removed fabric

Significant *fabric* which has been removed from a *place* including contents, fixtures and objects, should be catalogued, and protected in accordance with its *cultural significance*.

Where possible and culturally appropriate, removed significant fabric including contents, fixtures and objects, should be kept at the place.

## Article 34. Resources

Adequate resources should be provided for *conservation*.

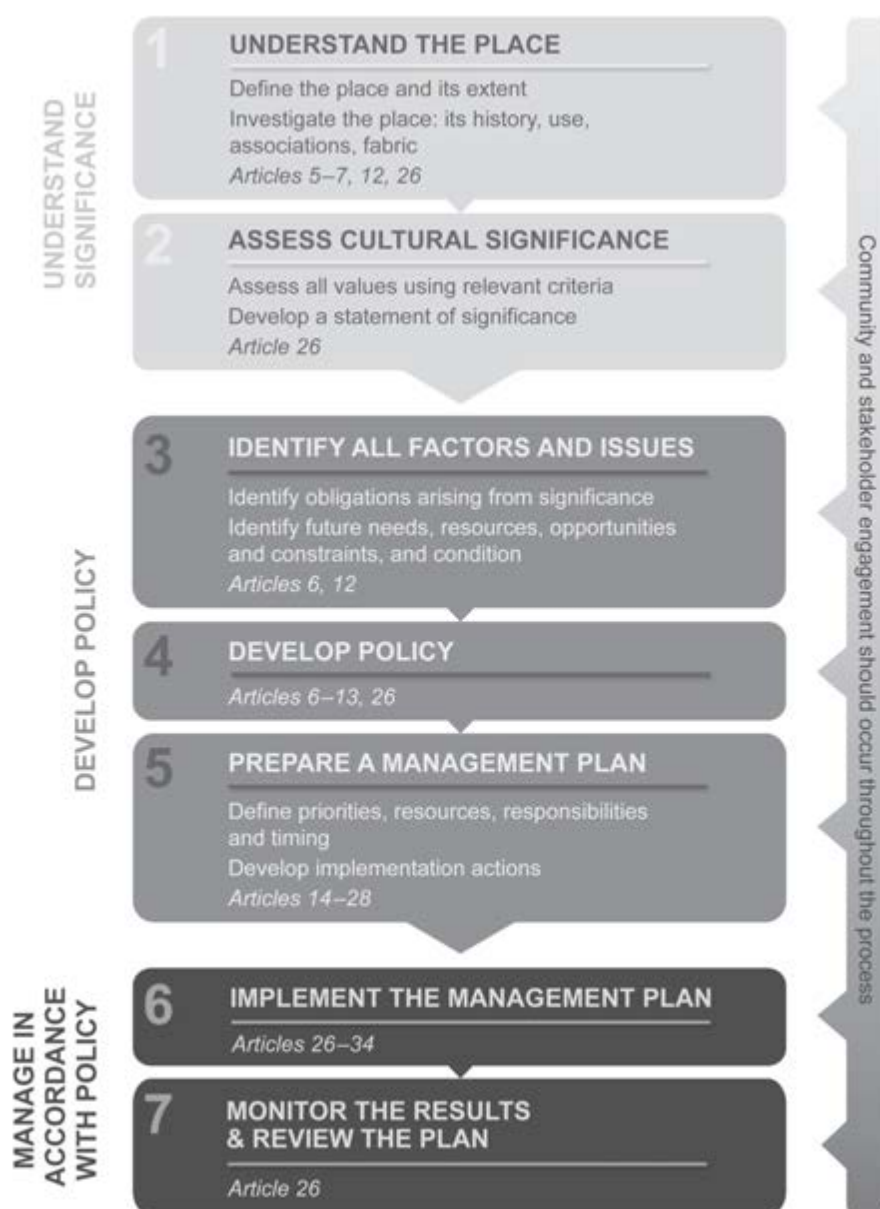
*Words in italics are defined in Article 1.*

# The Burra Charter Process

## Steps in planning for and managing a place of cultural significance

The Burra Charter should be read as a whole.

Key articles relevant to each step are shown in the boxes. Article 6 summarises the Burra Charter Process.





## Appendix 2

### Preliminary Urban Design Guidelines

The following preliminary list of urban design guidelines and principles have been drawn from the conservation policies in Section 7 of this report and have been prepared to guide Hawkesbury City Council in their role as caretaker of the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

The following principles and guidelines apply to the privately-owned properties within the TSCA.

#### Urban Design Principles

Maintain and protect the modest “colonial” character of the TSCA and the configuration of the locality consisting of public reserve lands defined by historic buildings and containing historic roads, fronting the Hawkesbury River.

Maintain and protect the visual relationships between the TSCA, the Hawkesbury River, the Windsor Bridge and the agricultural lands on the northern (Wilberforce side) bank of the river.

Maintain and protect the historic visual and spatial relationships between the TSCA and Bridge Street, the South Creek Bridge and the agricultural lands of Mulgrave to the south of Windsor.

Maintain the public open spaces and public access through Thompson Square and along the river bank lands.

Maintain the authenticity of original and early spaces, components and fabric (both public and privately owned).

Ensure development responds sensitively to the density, scale, form, materials and configuration of the historic precinct.

New development within the TSCA is to harmonise with the existing streetscapes and roofscapes and not block views, or compromise the appreciation of significant buildings.

Adopt a cautious approach to any proposed change, i.e. “as much as necessary but as little as possible”.

#### Urban Design Guidelines

##### Generally

All properties identified as being of Exceptional, High or Moderate Significance (Contributory Buildings) are to be retained and conserved.

## **Archaeology**

The extent of future works (including excavation) and the siting of new development should be guided by appropriate research into the potential for Aboriginal and historic archaeology. This may include an Aboriginal heritage impact statement and/or an Archaeological Assessment and Archaeological Research Design.

All State significant historic archaeological remains within the TSCA should be conserved in situ, and where possible, and interpreted as part of future development proposals.

## **Use**

Buildings that are currently in their original or historic use should not be used for an alternative purpose unless it can be demonstrated that changing the use will result in minimal impacts on the significance of the building, the conservation area and its setting and the conservation of the building will be facilitated by the change of use.

## **Subdivision**

Maintain existing early 19<sup>th</sup> century allotment boundaries and subdivision lines across the TSCA. Subdivision or amalgamation is not appropriate.

Locating built structures across historic allotment boundaries is not appropriate.

## **Demolition**

Demolition or partial demolition of buildings ranked as being of Moderate, High or Exceptional significance (Contributory Buildings) is not appropriate.

Demolition or partial demolition of buildings ranked as being of Little significance ('Neutral' Contributory Buildings) including later addition built structures located to the rear of the principal building is appropriate.

## **Works to Significant (Contributory) Buildings**

Proposed changes to the buildings, including internal changes, should be informed by the significance of the individual building and guided by a site-specific Conservation Management Plan, Conservation Management Strategy, detailed Heritage Impact Statement or similar.

Restoration and reconstruction should be informed by research carried out for a site-specific Conservation Management Plan, Conservation Management Strategy, detailed Heritage Impact Statement or similar.

Alterations and additions should be of a height and bulk subservient to the existing building and should be located to the rear of the main building. Additions to the side and front elevations are not appropriate.

The addition of another storey/level to buildings ranked as being of Exceptional or High significance (Contributory Buildings) is not appropriate.

Enclosing front verandahs and balconies is not appropriate.

New openings to the front and side elevations is not appropriate.

New security grilles to window and door openings in the front or side elevations at any level is not appropriate.

### **Works to ‘Neutral’ Buildings**

Alterations and additions to buildings identified as being of Little significance (“Neutral” contributory buildings) should be consistent with the style of the building that is being altered.

Alterations and additions to buildings located adjacent to buildings of Moderate or higher significance (Contributory Buildings) should be sited and designed so that they:

- do not have an adverse impact on the cultural significance of the adjacent building; and
- do not have an adverse impact on the views of the significant building from the street or the public domain.

### **Front Fences and Gardens**

Fences of traditional timber palings of a maximum height of 1.8 metres to existing side and rear boundaries or fences to match existing are appropriate.

Front fences to match or timber picket to a maximum height of 1 metre along the front boundaries of the residential properties are appropriate.

Planting new trees is appropriate and should take into account the following:

- the proximity of the mature tree to adjoining properties and the road reserve.
- the location of the mature tree and its roots to household drainage. Trees should not be planted closer than 3 metres to a building.
- the location of the mature tree with identified views between the buildings defining the three sides of the public square, and views from the buildings to the public square and the broader setting.

### **Ancillary Features**

Ancillary features including A/C units, solar panels, antennae, satellite dishes, aerials should not be affixed to the front or side elevations or to the front or side roof planes of the individual buildings.

Roof decks, skylights, dormer windows and lanterns are not appropriate to the front and side roof planes.

Minor structures such as decks, garbage bin enclosures, clotheslines, open pavilions, water tanks etc. are appropriate to the rear of the individual buildings only.

### **Garages and Carports**

Garages and carports should be detached and located behind the main building (to the rear yard only).

### **Driveways and Footpath Crossings**

Driveways should be brick paved to match with footpath details. Large expanses of concrete are not appropriate.

Double driveways are not appropriate.

Driveways should not be laid directly against a building.

Existing sandstone kerbs and gutters should be retained and conserved.

Existing brick paved footpaths should be retained and conserved.

The grass verges along Old Bridge Street and Thompson Square are to be retained and conserved.

Formal paved or hard surfaced footpaths to Old Bridge Street are not appropriate.

Concrete footpaths and concrete paving to footpaths is not appropriate.

### **Colours**

A palette of traditional colours that is tonally appropriate, based on historic photographs or documentation is appropriate.

Overly bright colours to walls, roofs, joinery or verandahs and balconies are not appropriate.

### **Historic Finishes**

Original and early plaster, render and/or paint applied to brickwork and masonry should not be removed.

Original face brickwork and masonry should be retained (i.e. not covered over by paint, render or plaster).

Replace or repair original and early finishes with materials and details to match.

### **Shops/Shopfronts**

Original/early shop fronts (or reconstructed shop fronts) including front doors and windows are to be retained and conserved.

Evidence of early commercial signage should be retained and conserved.

Building names are to be retained including existing painted signs and raised lettering to parapets.

Enclosing of balconies is not appropriate. Avoid the introduction of plastic screens/blinds for weather protection.

The addition of shade structures and umbrellas to the front verandahs and awnings or within the road reserves directly in front of the property is not appropriate.

### **Signage on the Commercial Buildings**

New external signage to the commercial buildings on George Street is acceptable provided it is under-awning or signage to awning fascias.

Top of building signs, projecting wall signs, freestanding signs, third party advertisements and banners, flags and fabric signs are not appropriate.

New external signage should be subservient to the existing fabric and historic character of the buildings and should not be in loud colours, illuminated, flashing or neon.

Introduction of new signage on significant buildings should not obscure or damage significant fabric. All new signage should be reversible.

The size and placement of new signage should be carefully considered so that it does not intrude on the setting of the buildings and public reserves and does not detract from views and vistas across Thompson Square.

Changing the content (text, graphics and colours) of existing awning fascia and under-awning signs is appropriate.

### **Infill Development**

Infill development within the TSCA should:

- be appropriate to the character of the streetscape or context;
- be of a similar height or lower than surrounding buildings;
- not obstruct views (including oblique views along the street) of significant buildings;
- not visually dominate the streetscape or roofscape of the TSCA; and
- be set back or further away from the significant building if it is likely to have an adverse impact on a heritage building by virtue of scale, location or appearance.

The siting of new buildings should respond to the established front and side building setbacks within the streetscape.

Infill buildings on Old Bridge Street or Bridge Street that appear as commercial buildings are not appropriate.

Infill buildings along George Street that appear as residential buildings are not appropriate.

The height and location of new buildings or additions to existing buildings to Nos. 4, 8 and 10 Baker Street or to No. 89 George Street should be controlled to ensure that no more than the roofscape of any buildings is visible from Thompson Square and that new works do not detract from the colonial character of the place.



Interpreting traditional design concepts for infill buildings in a modern way without mimicking existing historic buildings is appropriate. Basing the form and design of infill buildings on the identified key characteristics for residential buildings and commercial buildings is appropriate.

Depending on the scale of work, new infill development should be preceded by a building and streetscape character analysis, streetscape elevation, and definition of suitable envelope, all of which should be discussed with Council's heritage advisor prior to undertaking detailed design.

### **Building on the Boundary of the TSCA**

Ensure future development in the buffer zone does not result in negative impacts on the cultural significance of the TSCA.

The height and location of new buildings or additions to existing buildings within the buffer zone should be controlled to ensure that no more than the roofscape of any buildings within the buffer zone is visible from within the TSCA.

New development, alterations and additions to existing buildings and landscaping (including tree planting) within the buffer zone should not impede available views from the TSCA to the Hawkesbury River to the north or the agricultural lands beyond to the north and south.

## Appendix 3

### Bibliography

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this report. Refer also to the captions to figures and footnotes in this report and the separate bibliographies contained in the supporting reports at Appendix 5 and 6.

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# Appendix 4

## Valuer-General, Valuation Cards

Windsor December 1923

### Bridge Street - North side SANSW 13/7922 From South Creek

Assessment No	Cadastral	Improvements	Owner	Date	ICV	UCV
22	Sec 9 lot 4 2 r 1.5 p	Cott 3R & K Brick Iron roof	Anschau, F B, Macquarie St, Windsor	1/12/23	100	200
23	Cnr Bk 1053 No 397	Farrier's shop - shed	Matthew, Harvey, Windsor  Clarke, Bertie Wilson, motor engineer c/- M J Ross, conveyancer, Windsor (cna 1/4/24 £200)	1/12/23	100	150
24	Sec 10	Barracks 3a 3 r 32p Cott 4R O/S Brick Iron roof – Barracks 'Has been condemned four times' crossed out	Police Dept, IG Police	1/12/23  1/1/25	750  875	1800  1500
25	Bellevue CT 1884 f 49 CT 325 f 7	Cott 5R O/S Brick Iron roof	Boyd, estate of Mrs A F, Windsor	1/12/23	240	1050
26	Hall  - Here George St	Hall, Club Supper Room Library	Trustees, School of Arts, Windsor	1/12/23	230	1050
27	Cnr Sec 11, lots 4 & 5 8 & 9	Private Hospital 2 Storey Res, 10R Brick on stone, Slate roof	Armstrong, L, Windsor	1/12/23	300	1250
28	Sec 11/10 C T 1482 f 183  - Here Terrace Rd & end	Cott 3R & K Brick, Iron roof, Sheds	Armstrong, Leo, Bridge St, Windsor	1/12/23  15/7/25	138  150	500  550

**Bridge Street- South side SANSW 13/7922**  
**From The Terrace**

Assessment No	Cadastral	Improvements	Owner	Date	ICV	UCV
30	Bk 719 No 554	Cott 4R & K Brick Iron roof	Ogden, A, Windsor	1/12/23	100	200
31		Cott 3R & K WB, Iron roof	Ogden, A, Windsor	1/12/23	30	140
32		Cott 3R & K WB, Iron roof	Ogden, A, Windsor	1/12/23	40	150
33	Carrington Hotel  Bk 346 No 287	2 storey house, 17R, Brick, Iron roof & O/S	James, George Robert, Carrington Hotel, Windsor  O'Connor, Patrick Francis, hotelkeeper (cna 20/5/24 £3,000)	1/12/23	430  150	2500  2500
31	- Here South Creek & end	3 a 20p "Abt 1 a arable; Rear Grazing, liable to flood; badly scored and washed"	Curl, Thomas, Windsor	1/12/23	160	185

**George Street - West side SANSW 13/7922**  
**From end**

Assessment No	Cadastral	Improvements	Owner	Date	ICV	UCV
Bridge St & Thompson Square						
116	6 lot 28 Bk 2333 No 182	Royal Hotel Hotel, 16R, O/S, Brick, Slate roof Stables, 14 stalls, 2 garages, Septic tank, Sheds etc	Curl, Thomas, Windsor	1/12/23 Obj	1800 1400	7000 11,000
Baker Street						

**George Street - East side SANSW 13/7922**

Assessment No	Cadastral	Improvements	Owner	Date	ICV	UCV
Baker Street						
292	Cor Sec 7 pt 25 Drapery dressmaking 70' 5.75" x abt 68' Bk 556 No 961	2 St residence, 8 R, O/S, Brick, Ir 2 shops	Smith, Mrs Thomasina, c/- J J Paine, Windsor	1/12/23 Amend	500 400	1500 1000
293	Sec 7 pt 25, 26 60 x 250	Shop & residence, 6 R, O/S, Brick, Ir, sheds etc	Farlow, Claude W, butcher, Windsor	1/12/23	480	1900
294	Sec 7 pt 26 35 x 250 Bk 1399 No 771	Cott, 3 R, K, Brick, Ir	Leonard, Alexander, George St, Windsor Clements, Herbert, Australia, Windsor (cna 14/9/25, £725 with val 295)	1/12/23	240	550
295	Sec 7 pt 26 35 x 250 25' x 250 Bk 1399 No 771	Garage	Leonard, Alexander, George St, Windsor Clements, Herbert Australia, Windsor (cna 14/9/25, £725 with val 294)	1/12/23	240	550
296	Sec 7 pt 27 30 x 240 20 x 230	Shop & res, 2 st, 3R, O, Br, Ir	Stearn, Alfred Charles (estate of), George St, Windsor	1/12/23 15/6/25 (for cert)	200 200	900 900
297	Sec 7, lot 20, pt 27 Abt 50 x 215 (includes ROW front 2 streets)	Fencing	Curl, Annie, Royal Hotel, Windsor	1/12/23 Obj	350 275	375 280
298	Sec 7 pt 27 86 x 90 irregular	Cott, 6 R, O/S, & Shops, Brick, Ir	Moses, H M, Windsor	1/12/23	430	1050
Bridge Street						

**Thompson Square SANSW 13/7923**

Assessment No	Cadastral	Improvements	Owner	Date	ICV	UCV
394	Sec 6 – 44 x 215	Br 2 st res, 8R & O, Ir	War Service Homes Commission, Windsor W D W Arnold, Thompson Square, Windsor	1/12/23	110	650
395	44 x 215	Br 2 st res, 10R & O, Ir, Br garage	John Jackson Paine, Windsor	1/12/23	110	650
396	63 x 102	Br cott, 4R & K, Slate	Miss Maloney, 144 Foveaux St, Surry Hills	1/12/23	95	300
397	73 x 211	“Ravenshaw” Br 2 st res, 8R & O, Ir, Garage	William Robert Stevens, Windsor	1/12/23	140	700
George Street & end						

# **Appendix 5**

## **Aboriginal Heritage Review: Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW**

Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2018





# Aboriginal Heritage Review

Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW



Report to  
Lucas Stapleton Johnson & Partners Pty Ltd

Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology  
4 December 2018

Document control

Project Name	Aboriginal Heritage Review. Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW
Client Name	Lucas Stapleton and Johnson Partners Pty Ltd
Recipient	Kate Denny
Draft	5 April 2018
Issue Date	4 December 2018
Prepared by	Dominic Steele
Approved by	Kate Denny
Cover image	Engraving for James Wallis's <i>Australian Views/Historical Account of the Colony of New South Wales</i> titled 'A View of Hawkesbury and the Blue Mountains', 1817-1819 (SLNSW)

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## Appendices

Appendix 1: AHIMS search for the TSCA

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Project scope and objectives

*Lucas Stapleton Johnson & Partners Pty Ltd* has been engaged by *Hawkesbury City Council* to prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Thompson Square in Windsor, NSW. This Aboriginal heritage review has been prepared to inform the CMP and presents an overview and evaluation of a range of Aboriginal archaeological, historical and environmental heritage sites and values that have been identified for management within Thompson Square and its immediate surrounds.

Figure 1.1: Thompsons Square Conservation Area (LSJP 2018)



The current Thompson Square CMP is being prepared against the backdrop of the State government's plans to replace Windsor Bridge. If the development goes ahead, the construction will disturb and/or destroy documented and potential prehistoric and post-1788 Aboriginal archaeological resources of high Aboriginal historical, cultural and scientific significance that are contained within the Square.

This report identifies Aboriginal heritage values that come under the management of the Thompson Square CMP, evaluates the significance of the archaeological evidence and the historical records for the place, and recommends how these Aboriginal heritage values and resources should be conserved and managed into the future.

## 1.2 Previous Aboriginal heritage research

### 1.2.1 Aboriginal history

A significant proportion of the documentary records that relate directly or are relevant to the Aboriginal history of Windsor up to 1816 concern the interracial violence that took place at different times and in different places (and for different reasons) along the Hawkesbury River within a year of the invasion and first (official) White settlement of the country in 1794. Andrew Thomson had a role in these hostilities when chief constable of Windsor in 1805. The (violent) context of the times provide a background to Thompson's actions as leader of a punitive raid on an Aboriginal camp near Shaws Creek that resulted in the killing of Aboriginal people and which was followed by a relatively prolonged period of 'peace' until hostilities broke out again in 1812.

Along similar lines, but at in a wider context, the loss of Aboriginal life and social fragmentation that directly resulted from the military expeditions ordered by Macquarie in 1816 against Aboriginal communities living in the Hawkesbury, Liverpool and Nepean districts is also important to the Aboriginal history of Windsor. Some of the soldiers departed on their respective expeditions from the township, and the results of these military actions in the three districts in combination contributed significantly to end organised Aboriginal resistance on the Cumberland Plain (Kohen 1985).

Subsequent historical records (1820s-1840s) show people were camping long-term on the country taken in by particular settler farms in the district, but none necessarily located close to the town of Windsor itself. Situated to the north of the long-standing Aboriginal settlement at 'The Blacktown' on Richmond Road in Plumpton, the settler properties closest to Windsor for which there is the most documentary evidence for this period of Aboriginal history included those of (Rev.) Samuel Marsden at 'Mamre' on South Creek, at his son Charles's Marsden's 'Tumbledown Barn' located in Riverstone at the junction of South and Eastern Creeks, and on Archibald Bells land situated on Richmond Hill ('Belmont'). It is also very likely that some Aboriginal people continued to live on the river around Sackville Reach and Portland Head during this period, having previously relocated a number of times by c.1804 in response to increased settlement (discussed later), although direct evidence for this is comparatively limited by comparison to that for the 'farm camps' of the period.

The Aboriginal records from c.1840 to about 1880 are also sparse, but suggest that Aboriginal people were '*living in quiet seclusion during this period*' (Brook 1994:16) and family groups and individuals probably continued to 'aggregate' around Sackville Reach. Brook notes (ibid:16-17) that following the gold strikes of the 1850s, the government and churches largely ignored these Aboriginal people for the next thirty years or so, and argues that those 'quite' years allowed a new generation of Aboriginal people to '*consolidate, strengthen*' unhindered by white bureaucracy.

The later nineteenth century records for Windsor itself, and including Thompson Square and other town spaces (and buildings), frequently relate to Aboriginal people coming into town and gathering during the annual distribution of blankets at the courthouse on the Queen's birthday. Many of these people had been living on the river country around Sackville Reach well before the Sackville Reach Aboriginal Reserve was established in the late 1880s.

In combination, these records document aspects of Windsor's cross-cultural past and continue to have resonance with Aboriginal people today. Together with the archaeology, the historical evidence is important for its detail and because it establishes continuing historical phases of an otherwise long and unbroken record of Aboriginal occupation of the place probably extending back to the Pleistocene.

### 1.2.2 *Aboriginal archaeology*

The presence and potential antiquity of the Aboriginal archaeological record of occupation of Windsor first came into focus following archaeological excavations within close proximity to Thompson Square that was undertaken at Windsor Museum during 2005-2007 (Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd 2011). These investigations revealed deep and intact sandy profiles and about 11,000 Aboriginal objects (stone artefacts) were recovered. It was speculated at the time that the site represented an intact Pleistocene sand dune (ibid:39-40). The sand body is believed to have started forming about 150,000 years ago and dating of the archaeology has revealed a wide date-range (c.8,000 to 34,000 BP) but one that appears indicative of very long-term occupation of the river.

Archaeological excavations at Pitt Town (2008-2012) revealed 'corroborating' evidence for the possible age and significance of the Windsor Museum archaeology. Those investigations recovered about 10,000 Aboriginal objects from deposits that were not dissimilar from those seen Windsor Museum. These deposits and their finds were securely dated and document a largely continuous Aboriginal occupation of the river extending back possibly 36,000 years (AAJV 2016:7).

Within this context, the first study for the WBRP (Heritage Concepts Pty Ltd 2008) was a baseline Aboriginal assessment prepared for the (then) *Roads and Traffic Authority*. This study was prior to the confirmation of a fixed number of potential bridge design options.

With eight options for WBRP in mind, the *Roads and Maritime Services* (RMS) commissioned a desktop Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage assessment for the project in 2009 (Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd 2011). This study included limited Aboriginal community consultation but highlighted likely areas of potential archaeological sensitivity based on the findings from Windsor Museum and Pitt Town. Although the investigations did not date the artefact bearing deposits themselves or the origins of the

sand body deposits, they established high artefact densities occurred within parts of the WBRP and the potential for deep and very old archaeology to be contained in sand body deposits (AAJV 2016:8).

The RMS has recently prepared a Strategic Conservation Management Plan (SCMP) for the lands that would be affected by the bridge replacement. It overlaps and is larger than the current study area, but Thompson Square is central to both. Significant new archaeological information about the timing and nature of prehistoric Aboriginal occupation of the river at Windsor has become increasingly available through excavation for the WBRP since about 2009. This information, and in particular that relating to the known and potential Aboriginal archaeological resources contained within Thompsons Square, has greatly assisted the preparation of this report.

### 1.3 Key documents reviewed for this study

Key documents that have been reviewed for this study:

- Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd. August 2011. Windsor Bridge NSW. Preliminary Aboriginal Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Baseline Investigation. [Final draft version – July 2009]. Report to RMS.
- Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd. 2011. Windsor Museum, NSW: Aboriginal archaeological and cultural salvage excavation. AHIP #2119. Report to Hawkesbury City Council.
- Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd. September 2012. Windsor Bridge Replacement Project. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. Cultural Heritage Assessment. Report to RMS.
- AAJV. July 2016. Aboriginal Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology. Windsor Bridge Replacement Project 140604-2. Report to RMS.
- AAJV. November 2017. Detailed Salvage Strategy. Windsor Bridge Replacement Project 140604-2. Report to RMS.
- NSW Roads & Maritime Services. May 2017 (final draft). Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW. Strategic Conservation Management Plan. Volume 1: Site Identification, Historical Background and Heritage Status.
- NSW Roads & Maritime Services. May 2017 (final draft). Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW. Strategic Conservation Management Plan. Volume 2: Physical Analysis, Assessment of Significance, Constraints and Opportunities, Policies and Implementation.
- NSW Roads & Maritime Services. May 2017 (final draft). Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW. Strategic Conservation Management Plan. Volume 3: Windsor Bridge Replacement Project Specific Information.

### 1.4 Methods

The heritage assessment and reporting guidelines below have been considered in preparing this report:



- Australia ICOMOS. 2002 (Revised). The Burra Charter. The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance. Australia ICOMOS Inc.
- NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water. 2010 (September). Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales. DECCW. Sydney.

In addition to a general literature review, research has also included online searches of the following sources and visits to the following libraries:

- Hawkesbury City Library
- NSW State Library
- University of Sydney Fisher Library
- (OEH) Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
- National Library of Australia (Trove online)
- State Heritage Inventory (online)
- State Heritage Register (online)

## 1.5 Authorship & acknowledgements

This report has been written by Dominic Steele. A number of archaeological diagrams developed for the WBRP have been adapted by LSJP for this study and this is input are acknowledged.

This report also incorporates community submission comments provided on a draft of this document, including those by Barry Corr who has written widely on the frontier war on the Hawkesbury and has offered generous insight into the complexity of the of the Aboriginal-history prior to and following the White annexure of the land from the early 1790s.

## 2.0 Environmental heritage context

### 2.1 The Hawkesbury River at Windsor

The Hawkesbury (Deerubbin) River flows through Windsor in a meandering north-easterly direction. Its course cuts a channel through its own silty-sand alluvial flood plain and these deposits form relatively cohesive banks that are inset with modern alluvium deposits. The river is tidal to Windsor and the tide range is about 1m. The width of the river at the bridge is about 110m. The river bed is about 6m below sea-level and slopes down from the southern bank to a depth of approximately 4m AHD past the centre-line and then rises steeply towards the northern bank. The natural surface of the riverbed is mostly flat and featureless (Cosmos Archaeology Pty Ltd 2012:67).

### 2.2 Topography of the study area

Parts of Windsor are built on a ridge located on the southern side of the river. Other parts of Windsor are low-lying and have a long flood history. Bridge Street follows the descent from the elevated ridge down to the bridge on the river. The topography of Thomson square has been modified over time, and particularly through construction of Bridge Street in 1934. The Upper Square is largely level and open and slopes gently towards the river (5% fall) before it is cut off by Bridge Street. The Lower Square slopes more steeply towards the river before levelling at The Terrace and has elevated river views.

Figure 2.1: Division between the Upper and Lower portions of Thompson Square based on contours



Figure 2.2: Elevation - with elevated areas focussed on junction of Windsor Road and George Street



## 2.3 Geomorphology and soils

Windsor is built upon a ridge of Tertiary clays and gravels. Previous investigations at Pitt Town (Williams et al 2012) in comparable geomorphological and riverine landform contexts to Windsor, and at Windsor Museum (Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd 2011) that is located immediately adjacent to Thompson’s Square have shown deposition of the alluvial sands at these sites began c.120,000 (for the former) to 150,000 (for the latter) years ago.

Two primary soil profiles are likely to occur below modern and historical (archaeological) surfaces and deposits in Thompson Square. They can be predicted on the basis of results of Aboriginal archaeological testing for the WBRP in 2012 (Kelleher Nightingale Consulting 2012) and in 2016 (AAJV 2016, 2017). The first is a disparate and shallow (‘ridgeline’) duplex soil that occurs in patches and contains discrete concentrations of Aboriginal objects. This landscape encompasses the elevated areas in the vicinity of George and Bridge Streets and extends into the upper part of Thompson Square. The second and more significant soil landscape is a (Aeolian/fluviol) sand body up 1.5m or more in depth that extends across the upper and lower portions of Thompson Square (and parts of Old Bridge Street and The Terrace). The deposit probably formed discontinuously between c.80,000 years BP and ~5,000 BP. The archaeology recovered within this deposit was extensive and suggestive of two periods of occupation broadly dated to c.27,000-18,000 BP (onset and peak of the LGM) and the early to mid Holocene

## 2.4 Flood records

Flood records began at Green Hills in 1799 and the place has possibly the longest flood history record in Australia. It is believed Aboriginal people saw the March 1799 flood coming and advised the settlers, but the warning was not heeded. Using the 1867 flood as an example, the image below shows that outside of ridge top elevations, virtually all of the remainder of the town was affected by the flood waters. Windsor had been subject to repeat and extensive flooding prior to 1867, and no doubt over many thousands of years in prehistory.

The role long term flood patterns played in the formation of the archaeological deposits at Windsor is not fully understood but modern research identify long-term (decades long) flood-dominated and drought-dominated regimes (Karskens 2016:325) that may have also operated in different ways when there were significant changes to the climate and environment at Windsor during the long timeframe over which Aboriginal people were living on the river.

Figure 2.3: Extent of the 1867 Hawkesbury River flood showing the SCMP study area



## 2.5 Thompsons Square

Thompson Square was dedicated as an open space by Macquarie in 1811. It was initially bordered by the river to the northwest and (largely) pre-existing buildings and allotments on the other three sides. The general landscape position of the space close to and above the river, and its changing military and judicial oversight will have dictated when and under what circumstances Aboriginal people accessed and used this space in the centre of town and has relevance to the Aboriginal history of the place.





### 3.2 First settlement, racial interactions and conflict in the 1790s

Our understanding of the way the annexure of the land on the Hawkesbury River unfolded from the 1790s, and how this rapid land-grab affected the Aboriginal community's that were already living there at the time, has developed from ongoing research into historical processes and events (see for example Corr 2016) that are also significant to the wider Aboriginal history of the Cumberland Plain. Kohen's (1993) *'Darug and their neighbours'* is an important generalist study. Research into the background, operations and ultimate failures of the two early nineteenth century 'native institutions' located at Parramatta and Blacktown (Brook & Kohen 1991) is also relevant (up to about the c.1830s). Later nineteenth century Aboriginal historical records for the Hawkesbury region have been compiled by Brook (1994) that relate to the back history and establishment and operations of the Sackville Reach Aboriginal Reserve. That study is appropriately titled *'Shut out of the World'* and is important because (but not only because) many historical records for the period during which the community functioned (1889-1949) that relate to Windsor make reference to Aboriginal individuals and families living on the Reserve who had probably been living independently on the river reaches thereabouts for some time prior to the formal naming of the Reserve. More recent Aboriginal historical research have examined the Hawkesbury and wider Sydney Aboriginal historical evidence from various perspectives (Irish 2016, Barkley-Jack 2009, Corr 2016, Ford 2012) that shed new light on many aspects of Sydney's Aboriginal history including the complexities behind the violence that took place on the Hawkesbury.

Aboriginal people felt the direct impact of settlement immediately and increasingly from 1794 because the new farms resulted in the destruction (or replacement by cultivation) of 'yam' beds already in existence on the river banks that were favoured and possibly curated by Aboriginal people.<sup>1</sup> The settler farms also restricted access to lagoons that were important for fish, eels and birds, and there was also the probable loss of game that was shot or driven away by the new arrivals. White settlement not only took the lands that were most densely occupied by Aboriginal people and the locations of their richest food sources, but also took the Aboriginal people's sacred and teaching places (Karskens 2009:123). The consistent increase in settler numbers from 1794 left Aboriginal people little option other than to move as far as possible away from settlement (but to where?) or to resist.

One of the first recorded instances of violence that occurred nearby to the future town of Windsor occurred in August 1794 when an Aboriginal boy was seized, detained, tortured and murdered on or near the farms of Robert Forrester and Michael Doyle. These farms were situated on the edge of settlement upstream from the future town on the right bank of Argyle Reach. The names of Forrester

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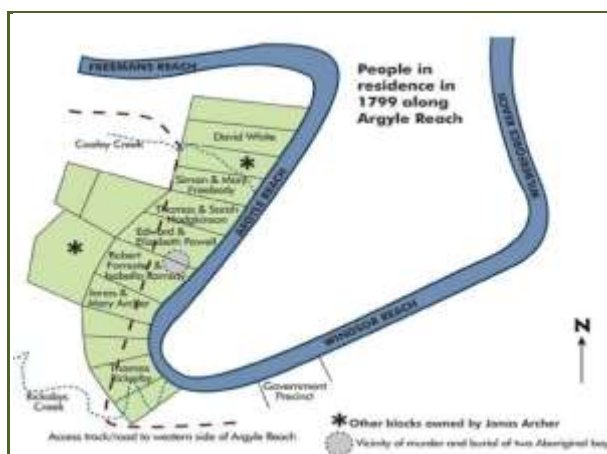
<sup>1</sup> Hunter recorded in 1789 at the junction of the Grose and Nepean Rivers evidence for Aboriginal people digging for 'yams' (Hunter 1793:6<sup>th</sup> July 1789 diary entry). Ford (2012) suggests the riverside yam described was a marsh club-rush (*Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*) that grows on wet banks and can withstand flood, and has a walnut sized tuber at the stem base as described by Hunter.

and Doyle reoccur again in the trial of five settlers for the murder of two other Aboriginal boys in the same location in 1799.

Figure 3.2: John Lewin watercolour (c.1805-1812) showing Argyle Reach and the farm owned in 1799 by Jonas Archer (ploughed field), Forrester's farm (next on right) where the two boys were interrogated, and Doyle's farm - with silos - owned by Edward Powell in 1799 (image and caption adapted from Stewart 2015)



Figure 3.3: Inferred location of an early 1790s Aboriginal historic site (Stewart 2015).



A Bench of Magistrates convened to investigate the murder was told by Forrester that a large party of Aboriginals had appeared at the back of his farm. Alarmed, he and his neighbours went out to observe what was going on where they found a boy (age unknown) alone in the road that they suspected was coming in for the purpose of discovering what arms they possessed. The settlers tied the boy's hands behind his back and delivered him to Doyle. The boy was subsequently further tied hand and foot, and dragged several times through a fire before being thrown into the river and shot. Forrester admitted to kicking the boy but told the Bench he had done so '*from motives of humanity*'; the boy had his hands

tied so it was impossible for him to swim (to the opposite side). Aboriginal reprisal attacks soon after killed a local settler and a convict and resulted in a military raid in which six to eight Aboriginal people were killed. Richard Atkins wrote in September 1794<sup>2</sup> that the *'settlers at the Hawkesbury have killed 6 of the Natives, since w<sup>h</sup> time they have not seen them. How far this is justifiable I cannot say'*. Five years later (August 1799) two teenage Aboriginal boys, Little Jemmy and Little George, were murdered on Constable Edward Powell's Argyle Reach farm in the same general location as the 1794 murder. Five settlers were charged and although found guilty, the panel of judges was divided and the case was referred to London. Ultimately all of the accused were acquitted.

By mid 1795 over 400 Europeans were living at the Hawkesbury (roughly). Their farms occupied most of the river banks and principal tributaries leaving few locations where Aboriginal people had direct access to the river banks or inland lagoons. Pressure on space and resources were also exacerbated by drought that caused food shortages in the colony, and the arrival on the river of more settlers increased the pressure. Collins (1974:235) had noticed *'that as the corn ripened, they [Aboriginal people] constantly drew together round the settlers farms and round the public grounds, for the purpose of committing depredations'*.

When corn was taken individual settler reactions varied. Aboriginal attacks on farms during this period included those in relatively isolated positions and on the edge of settlement. It is likely some Aboriginal people specifically targeted isolated farms in an attempt to restrain the expansion at the 'edges' of the enlarging settlement. In response to these attacks, at least two military expeditions resulted in the death of about eight Aboriginal people and a number of men, women and children being taken prisoner.

Corr (2016) draws attention to evidence provided by Sergeant William Goodall who had been stationed at Windsor in 1799 (HRA Volume II:417-418).<sup>3</sup> The soldier was asked a series of questions and replied in the affirmative when asked if he had been *'sent to the Hawkesbury for the express purpose of defending the Settlers from the attacks of the Natives in consequence of the representation from the Settlers that they were in Danger of being murdered by the Natives'*. Other questions and answers included:

Q. - Did you not serve in the Detachment at the Hawkesbury as a Sergeant?

A. - Yes I did upwards of two years I was discharged two years ago last April since which I have lived as a free settler.

Q. - Do you recollect during your service at the Hawkesbury the Natives committing any Murders Robberies or other Outrages?

<sup>2</sup> Journal of Richard Atkins during his residence in NSW: 1791-1810 (online).

<sup>3</sup> Macarthur took responsibility to maximise and secure the harvest for a military guard of ten soldiers led by Goodall and the erection of a store house (Corr 2015:1).

A. - I do some I particularly well remember.

Q. - What steps were taken to Punish such Natives?

A. - Parties of Soldiers were frequently sent out to kill the Natives but being the Senior Sergeant at the Hawkesbury I had the care of the Stores and did not go out with any Detachments.

Q. - From whom did you receive your Orders from time to time at the Hawkesbury?

A. - I received my Orders in writing from Captain John McArthur at Parramatta and those orders were issued in consequence of a Number of Murders about that Time Committed by the Natives.

There are links between what were individual and often unrelated killings (on both sides) during this period and the rate and scale of the expanding settlement, and the (cross-cultural) effects of drought. Settlement grew rapidly around the country to become Windsor between the onset of one drought that started around 1794 and another drought that finished in 1799, and within this environmental context coupled with space and resource competition appear likely reasons behind most recorded conflict.

Providing a historical summary of sorts, the 1799 murder trial transcripts reported that a between fourteen and sixteen settlers had been killed and four had been wounded during the period 1794-1799. All of the settlers killed were men, except for one infant. About double this number of Aboriginal men women and children were recorded to have been killed and several wounded during the same timeframe. It is probable that the true number of Aboriginal people killed during this period was far greater than that reported.

### 3.3 Impact of settlement and conflict up to 1814

Corr (2018) makes an important observation with respect to the timing and motivations behind the often quoted pledge by Governor King (repeated below) to limit the spread of downstream settlement on the Hawkesbury. In the wider context it wasn't until 1804, and after a decade of continual and by now consolidated-permanent settlement, that Governor King had met with Hawkesbury Aboriginal people (at Ebenezer) to discuss their grievances about the taking of their land. However, this occurred at least concurrently with King having an accurate survey of the river between Portland Head to Mullet Island made because he 'anxious to ascertain what number of people could be fixed on the lower part of the Hawkesbury and its branches' (HRA V:166-167.).

*'On questioning the cause of their disagreement with the new settlers...[the Aborigines at Portland Head] very ingeniously answered that they did not like to be driven away from the that were left on the banks of the river, where alone they could procure food; that they had gone down the river as the White men took possession of the bank; if they went across White men's grounds the settlers fired upon them and were angry...The observation [and subsequent request] appear to be so just and so equitable that I assured them no more settlement should be made lower down the river' (Historical Records of NSW Vol 5:512-513).*

These Aboriginal people had just been forced to move for (at least) a second time along the river, following the settlement of the *Coromandel* settlers at Portland Head. The records are limited, but some of these displaced Aboriginal people were seemingly already living (or continuing to live) beyond Sackville or above Richmond Hill at this time (Barkley-Jack 2009:272).

A renewed phase of hostilities on the Hawkesbury broke out as a result of the land annexure of Portland Head, and in May 1804 Aboriginal people attacked the farm of Matthew Everingham. His house and outbuildings were burnt, and he and his wife and their convict servant were speared (non-fatally). Their children were left unhurt. Governor King blamed '*Branch Natives*'<sup>4</sup> for provoking the violence, but did not acknowledge the role played by the extension of settlement into the lower reaches of the river, and contrasted their behaviour with that of the Aboriginal people at Richmond Hill who were described to be '*for the most part adverse to the hostile measures adopted by their brethren down the River*' (SG, 1 July 1804). Two 'chiefs' of the Richmond Hill 'tribe', named *Yaragowhy* and *Yaramandy* (the latter seemingly corrupted posthumously to Yarramundi in the 1900s)<sup>5</sup> were summoned by the local Magistrate, Surgeon Thomas Arndell and Rev. Marsden in June 1804 to help put an end to the 'mischief's' (SG, 1 July 1804).

Details of the renewed (or continued) hostility on the Hawkesbury during 1804 and 1805 are not especially relevant to this study. One incident however warrants mention because it ended this historical phase of conflict. It was a punitive raid led by (then chief constable) Andrew Thompson on an Aboriginal camp on the Nepean River in April 1805. The *Sydney Gazette* (SG, 12 May 1805) reported the attack was a '*successful assault made upon the Branch natives by a party of Richmond Hill and adjacent settlers*'. In the context of its timing, the attack on the camp took place shortly after General Orders had been issued that banned Aboriginal people from approaching farms and troops had been sent to protect outlying settlements (SG, 27 April 1805). Tensions were high.

The logistics of the attack appears to have been well planned. The party headed out for the Nepean from '*the small port township at the green hills*' at a time the country was inundated from flood. Their baggage wagon included a boat to cross the river which could not be otherwise forded. The road approaches to the river however were also inundated that prevented the wagon from proceeding. The party carried the boat for several miles on their shoulders. After crossing the river at the spot where the

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<sup>4</sup> The term 'Branch Native' at first referred to the (then less familiar) 'First and Second Branches' of the Hawkesbury River (or the McDonald and Colo Rivers) but its application by the settlers was according to Ford (2012) used to identify the Hawkesbury Aborigines extending across the Nepean River into the Grose Valley towards Springwood.

<sup>5</sup> This is probably the same *Yellomundy* who camped with Governor Phillip in April 1791 at Portland Head Rock which was also not far from where the Everingham family was attacked (Ford 2012).



Aboriginal encampment had been the day before and seemingly recently abandoned, the party was guided by a couple of unnamed *'Richmond Hill natives, who in consequence of repeated proofs of fidelity'* were armed with muskets. They were promised permission to *'seize and retain a wife a-piece'*. The story goes that *'after much additional fatigue'*, and a site somewhere on the western bank of Nepean River upstream of Yarramundi Bridge and probably near nearby Shaw's Creek, at least seven Aboriginal people were killed by Thompson's party including Yaragowby who had slipped away from Green Hills overnight to warn the Aboriginal people at their camp of Thompson's impending attack. He was the first *'of the seven or eight that fell'*. Prior to his death, Yaragowby had acted as an intermediary between Aboriginal people and settlers for the previous six years. After the attack all the *'spears ["several thousand"] and other war implements were burnt, and little molestation had since been felt about Hawkesbury'*.

An additional but later incident in 1812 illustrate the nature of race relations in the first years of the Macquarie term and relates to a group of Aboriginal people who were able to complain to Matthew Locke (chief constable at Windsor) because they had been shot at and one person killed, although the outcome of the complaint is unknown.

*'A few days ago a party of Natives went to the house of Mr. Locke, Chief Constable at Windsor, with a representation that one of their tribe had been fired at and supposed to be killed, at Richmond. They appeared very positive in the truth of their information, and vehemently solicited an immediate cognizance of the complaint; with which Mr. L readily complied. Attended by a party of his sub-ordinates, he went accordingly to the farm whereat the circumstance was alleged to have taken place, and as no traces were visible that could give colour to the information, the enquiry was extended to the surrounding hamlets; the consequence of which was, that a White man and woman were taken in to Windsor, where, as stated by the latest accounts from thence, they awaited an investigation of the challenge.-Whether the Natives were correct in their information or otherwise.... , as it is our undoubted duty to avoid every excitement to acts of hostility from these uninformed tribes, who, acting from momentary impulse upon all occasions, have it ever in their power to wreak their vengeance upon the solitary unoffending settler, or the unguarded traveller'* (SG, 11 January 1812).

### 3.4 End of hostilities on the Cumberland Plain (1814-1816)

Between 1814 and 1816 there was a drought and food was scarce. The drought 'broke' in May 1816 with further flooding in June. In response to renewed outbreaks of violence that were no doubt related to or exacerbated by these conditions, Macquarie sent out three punitive military expeditions to areas of the Nepean (Cowpastures), Hawkesbury and Grose Rivers under the commands of Captain's Schaw and Wallis and Lieutenant Dawes.

Bidgee Bidgee and Harry were arranged to accompany Schaw from Sydney. William Possum and Creek Jemmy (Nurragingy) joined Schaw at Windsor. Schaw was ordered after consulting with magistrates at Windsor to scour the 'Kurry Jong Brush' (Kurrajong) and banks of the Grose River before marching south to the Cowpastures to join forces with Wallis and Dawes.<sup>6</sup>

The military attachments with Aboriginal guides met no resistance and failed to locate (and kill or detain) any Aboriginal people. The only detachment without guides (Wallis) that was sent to the Appin and Airds districts attacked and fatally surprised a sleeping camp in Appin. This camp was nearby to another where Aboriginal people had been camping on a settler farm and the camp occupants may have felt relatively safe. The soldiers killed (at least) fourteen Gundungurra people (including women and children) with another five people being taken prisoner to Liverpool.<sup>7</sup> The bodies of the dead men were hung from the trees. After the massacre a patrol of soldiers remained in the districts to protect farms and capture 'troublesome' or 'banned' Aboriginal people on Macquarie's lists.

In the Hawkesbury, Schaw's first detachment to leave Windsor (12 April 1816) comprised constables, settlers and Aboriginal guides who marched first to Bell's farm at Richmond Hill, then up to the Grose River and upstream before the party swung north through Kurrajong to Singleton's Hill.<sup>8</sup> At Kurrajong the Aboriginal guides pointed out tracks and led the party to a recent camp which appeared to have been slept in the night before but no contact was made. Schaw had also been informed '*Flying Fox Valley....was a likely place to find some natives*' but found no one and returned to Windsor after three days later. His march south to Bringelly was interrupted by orders to go Arndell's Cattai farm first because of reports of recent attacks. This detachment failed to track any people or surprise any camps. Schaw's accounts of these actions suggest there were less hostile activity and fewer Aboriginal people on the Hawkesbury River than in previous years.<sup>9</sup>

Key points from Macquarie's Proclamation at this time (SG, 4 May 1816) are summarised below:

- The carrying of weapons by Aboriginal people was banned within a mile of any farm or settlement.
- No more than six Aboriginal people could approach a settlement or farm together.
- Gatherings for ritual punishments were banned.
- Any Aboriginal person who wished to have government protection could apply monthly for a passport (at Sydney).
- Aboriginal people who wished to become 'civilised' could apply for a small land grant.

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<sup>6</sup> HRA, Volume IX: 139-140.

<sup>7</sup> Macquarie to Bathurst, 8th June 1816. HRA Vol 1(9):139-140. Over a decade later the 1828 Census makes a specific point to note Airds (district adjoining Appin to the north) that '*no natives residing in this district*' (Sainty and Johnson 1985:15).

<sup>8</sup> Referring to Little Wheeny Creek near the junction of modern Bell's Line of Road and Comleroy Road.

<sup>9</sup> A local paper (25 October 1890) reported Edward Tuckerman's claim that '*not less than 400 blacks were killed in 1816*'.

- The 28<sup>th</sup> of December was fixed as the date for the annual feast at Parramatta.
- Settlers were empowered to drive off hostile natives and magistrates and troops at Sydney, Parramatta and Windsor were ordered to support settlers in this under what was effectively Martial Law.

Nurragingy was rewarded for his guiding services with a brass gorget that named him as chief of the South Creek Tribe. He and Colebee were also each promised a 30 acre parcel of land on South Creek. The grants didn't eventuate until 1819 and were located on marginal land at Bell's Creek on the Richmond-Blacktown Road near the where the Native Institution was later relocated from Parramatta.

Brook (1994) concludes that at the end of hostilities in 1816 Aboriginal-European relations entered a new phase, and although traditional practices continued in many places,<sup>10</sup> Aboriginal people became increasingly dependent on Europeans over time for food and clothing and shelter.

### 3.5 1828 Census

By the time the Census was taken the Sydney Aboriginal population had been dispossessed of their land and dramatically reduced in number by disease, neglect and violence. Access to traditional food resources was restricted and new Aboriginal groups began to band together and congregate on the fringes of White settlement. This occurred in particular on the estates of some larger landowners. Aboriginal people referred to at the time as the 'South Creek Tribe' camped at Mamre and 'Tumbledown Barn', and a Tharawal clan group of *Cubbitch-Barta* people lived on John Macarthur's land at Camden. In 1821, the missionary William Walker<sup>11</sup> recorded Aboriginal groups under locality names including Kissing Point, Windsor, Hawkesbury, South Creek, Mulgoa, Liverpool, Botany Bay, Cow Pastures, Five Islands (Illawarra) and Broken Bay. He also mentioned 'tribes' at Portland Head, Caddie (Cattai) and Prospect (Kohen 1993). The inter-connection of these 'tribes' is reflected by for example by 1820s records of people from the Botany Bay tribe travelling to the Hawkesbury to attend a corroboree at Pitt Town (Brook and Kohen 1993).

As part of his mission, Walker was interacting regularly with people in distant 'bush' settings and continued to work with these communities after the Parramatta institution closed in 1823 and was relocated to 'The Blacktown' where it was under his charge for a time.<sup>4</sup> This referred to the country around the twin land grants made to Colebee and Nurragingy by Macquarie in 1816, and which had

<sup>10</sup> In 1836 Aboriginal people from Lake Macquarie and headed by M'Gill were reported travelling to Windsor, Parramatta, and Sydney, to teach other tribes a new song and dance which had lately been brought from far beyond the Liverpool Plains where the dialect was seen to be different to that used on the sea coast (SG, 16 July 1836).

<sup>11</sup> There are two William Walkers mentioned in this report. The first had been appointed in 1820 by the London Wesleyan Missionary Society to the role as the first 'missionary to the Aborigines in Parramatta'. The second is a later nineteenth century local resident of Windsor.

been seen to be and had continued to be a largely autonomous focus for Aboriginal 'settlement' prior to and after that time.

The 1828 Census (Sainty and Johnson 1985:15) records for the area between Parramatta and the Blue Mountains that Aboriginal people were living at Parramatta, Richmond, Mulgoa, Burragorang, Cowpastures, Nepean, and the First Branch (later Lower Branch - McDonald River). On the Hawkesbury River, Aboriginal people are recorded 'residing' at Mullet (Dangar) Island, Mangrove Creek, North East Arm (Brisbane Water), Broken Bay, Erina and Narara (Kohen 1993:19). The Census also recorded seventy three Aboriginal people at Windsor (but who are referred to as the 'Richmond tribe') and one hundred and fourteen people under the grouping of Portland Head (Sainty and Johnson 1985:15).

Kohen (1993:19) cites evidence from 'Returns of Natives' for the period 1832-1843 and identifies several hundred Aboriginal people were living in a dispersed range of locations across Sydney during this period. Locations and 'tribes' labelled by the Whites at this time included Sydney, Broken Bay, Botany Bay, Duck River (Wategora), South Creek, Windsor, Nepean Cattai Creek (Caddie), Richmond, Kurrajong, Prospect (Weymaly), Breakfast Creek (Warrywarry), Georges River (Liverpool), Cowpastures (Muringong), Lower Branch (McDonald River), Colo River, Mangrove Creek, Wollumbine and Putty.

### 3.6 Aboriginal camps in the 1830s and 1840s

By 1830s Aboriginal people camped at the junction of South and Eastern Creek at ‘Tumbledown Barn’<sup>12</sup> and Mamre on South Creek near Penrith. Aboriginal people had probably always camped on or around Mamre where Marsden encouraged people to work in exchange for food and clothing. In September 1835, Backhouse and Walker were guided from Parramatta to South Creek by a South Creek Aboriginal man Johnny, and from there to Penrith by another, Simeon, who was also from South Creek. It is not clear whether the South Creek property in question was Mamre or Tumbledown Barn but the Blacktown settlement had been apparently abandoned by this time. Backhouse wrote of his visit *‘the south creek natives may be considered as half-domesticated, and they often assist in the agricultural operations of the settlers’* (Backhouse 1843).<sup>13</sup>

The 1842 Musgrave map of the Windsor district (c.1842) shows ‘Tumbledown Barn’ and a ‘burial ground of the blacks’ is marked on land John Pye and his son Joseph had bought and consolidated from 1815 on Eastern Creek. The family homestead was called ‘Wawarawarry/Warrawarry’ and blanket returns between 1832 and 1843 record a Warrawarry ‘tribe’ at Breakfast Creek (Kohen 1993: 19). Kohen also notes (ibid:97):

*‘Johnny Cox and Betty Cox were married in 1819 and lived at the Blacktown. They are mentioned by the missionary Backhouse who had a guide named Johnny provided for him by Samuel Marsden. Johnny was described as belonging to the ‘South Creek Tribe’, and is listed on with his wife and up to 8 children on various ‘blanket returns’ in the 1830s and 1840s. He is said to belong to the waawaarawari clan, which lived along Eastern Creek, a tributary of South Creek. The wife Betty belonged to the ‘Cattai’ or ‘Hawkesbury tribe’, and she was also educated at the Native Institution’.*

A Select Committee of the House of Commons (London) recorded in 1837 the effects of colonisation on Australian Aboriginal was *‘dreadful beyond example, both in diminution of their numbers and in their demoralisation’* (Brook 1994:5).

An Aboriginal Protection Society (APS) had been established in England in 1835 by the humanitarian movement to foster the rights of Aboriginal people throughout the Empire but when the initial enthusiasm faded, so did the APS (ibid).

<sup>12</sup> Hassall (1902:32,33) writes he was at school in Mulgoa between 1836 and 1839 and that his uncle (Charles Simeon Marsden) *‘had a dairy farm near Windsor called the Tumbledown Barn’*. Charles Marsden (b. 1803) was the son of Rev Samuel Marsden.

<sup>13</sup> Corr (2013) also notes that on their return from their trip to Wellington together in October 1835, Backhouse and Walker visited the Hawkesbury and their host at Richmond knew of their visit to Wellington several days before from local Aboriginal people.



Figure 3.4: 'J. Musgrave, Plan of part of the Windsor District contained between the Old Richmond Road and the Road from Windsor' (SLNSW, Mitchell Map Collection, Z/M4 811.1122/1842/1). This is an important Aboriginal historical map showing 'The Blacktown', two 1830-40s campsites, and a burial ground



### 3.7 Mid nineteenth century records

It is very likely that by the mid 1800s traditional clan and tribal structure on the Cumberland Plain was only remembered by a few of the older people and a thing of the past but Aboriginal people increasingly banded together to live in close proximity to each other (Brook 1994:11). The largest settlements were from north to south at Sackville Reach, Richmond Road at Plumpton, Holsworthy and La Prouse. The information for this period is however limited, and our understanding for example of the process of how people 'transitioned' from living on the settler farms above to living together autonomously or on other settler farms (around Sackville) is poorly understood.

Brook (1994:16-17) cites replies to a circular sent by a Diocesan Board of Missions to a number of Anglican priests in 1851 that enquired about the Aboriginal people in their dioceses. The questions reflect the times and prevalent attitudes, and asked for numbers, names and ages of adults, their places of resort, social condition (single or parents, or *'living in a complete state of nature, partly civilised, or in employment by Europeans'*), and if employed, by whom and for doing what. The capacity of the young for instruction was also asked, as was the *'probable difficulties to be encountered to bring them up under instruction'*. According to the reply from Reverend Henry Stiles of Windsor (May 1851) there was not a single Aboriginal person in his parish, but a few wandered *'from other places, during seasons of public amusements, and at the time of distribution of blankets, but not one do I know belonging to the town, or to the parish under my charge'*. From the Pitt Town parsonage, Reverend T.C. Ewing wrote *'we see no blacks here anymore'*, and he reported that he never met any on his travels between Freemans Reach and Portland Head.

Prior to the establishment of the Reserve at Sackville (below) Aboriginal people were living in huts on the Tizzana Vineyard property owned and operated by Dr. Thomas Henry Fiaschi who was an Italian immigrant and Windsor hospital surgeon, and employed Aboriginal people seasonally as vineyard workers. The vineyard operated successfully from 1887 to 1927.

Figure 3.5: A 1870s Aboriginal cricket team scorecard featuring a number of individual and family names associated with the Aboriginal history of the Hawkesbury including the Barber's, Cox's, Hiram and Dick (Australian, Windsor, Richmond, and Hawkesbury Advertiser, 18 April 1874)

On Friday 18th April 1874, a cricket match was played at Lower Portland, between eleven of the Lower Portland cricket club and eleven Aborigines.

<b>Aborigines.—1st Innings.</b>	
H. Barber, c and b T. Christie	...
A. Barber, b F. Watkins	...
Hiram, b F. Watkins	...
J. Campbell, c Mitchell, b Watkins	...
George, c J. Smith, b Watkins	...
Perry, b Watkins	...
J. Barber, b Watkins	...
Dick, b Watkins	...
H. Cox, c J. Smith, b T. Christie	...
T. Cox, not out	...
Alfred, c T. Christie	...
Runners	...
<b>Total 1st Innings</b>	...
<b>Lower Portland.—1st Innings.</b>	
J. Mitchell, b Perry	...
Jos. Mitchell, c Campbell, b Dick	...
F. Watkins, b Dick	...
K. Mitchell, c Perry, b Dick	...
C. Grant, c and b Dick	...
S. Wall, b Dick	...
J. Smith, b Dick	...
J. Lowe, not out	...
W. Keeningsham, c and b H. Barber	...
J. Ennis, c and b H. Barber	...
T. Christie, c and b Perry	...
Runners	...
<b>Total</b>	...
<b>Aborigines.—2nd Innings.</b>	
H. Cox, b F. Watkins	...
George, c and b Watkins	...
Alfred, b Watkins	...
H. Barber, b T. Christie	...
J. Campbell, c and b Watkins	...
Perry, not out	...
A. Barber, b T. Christie	...
Dick, c Wall, b Christie	...
J. Barber, c Wall, b Watkins	...
Hiram, c Smith, b E. Mitchell	...
T. Cox, b E. Mitchell	...
Runners	...
<b>Total 2nd Innings</b>	...
<b>Total both Innings</b>	...

The Lower Portland having their side beaten in one innings with a run to spare. The Aborigines intend playing the same side as W.G. Mackay.

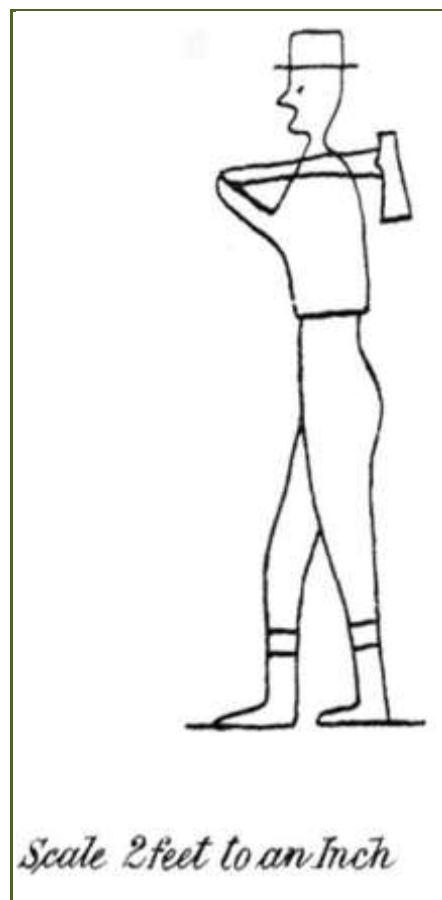
Aboriginal people were also participating in rowing regattas at Windsor (discussed shortly) and were also forming Aboriginal teams and playing in local district teams. As early as 1874 an Aboriginal team is recorded playing against a Lower Portland eleven (Australian, Windsor, Richmond, and Hawkesbury Advertiser, 18 April 1874). This newspaper also reported twenty five years later in 1899 (ibid, 3 February 1899) that a Military team had played an Aboriginal team in Windsor. The Aboriginal team won the game and the Barbers bowled best for the winners.

### 3.8 Sackville Reach Aboriginal Reserve

#### 3.8.1 *Prior sovereignty of the land*

The formal naming of the Sackville Reach Aboriginal Reserve in 1889 (below) recognised that Aboriginal people had been living at the place for some considerable time, and its location was in line with the APB's guidelines which suggested Aboriginal people were better-off when living in small communities and in '*comparatively isolated and removed from intimate contact with Europeans*' (in Brook 1994:22).

Figure 3.6: 'Rock engraving by Aboriginal man Hiram in the 1850s as recorded by Mathews' (Mathews 1896 Plate 8, caption and image from Irish 2011: Figure 6)



R.H. Mathews who concluded in 1898 a rock shelter he had located at the lower end of Sackville Reach had no doubt been used by ‘several generations’ of people on the basis of its fire blackened roof and accumulated floor deposits, along with over forty white but faded hand stencils (and one boomerang) that were likely to be of considerable age. Along similar lines, the rock engraving above was created by an Aboriginal man named Hiram around the 1850s, and who was possibly the same man recorded on the 1874 cricket score sheet, and who appears to have died in Windsor in 1879. The engraving had also been shown to Mathews in the 1890s by Andrew Barber, a resident of the nearby Sackville Aboriginal Reserve (see below) and who had witnessed Hiram engraving the image (Mathews 1896, Thomas 2007:46–47). Another man at the Reserve, Charlie Clark, was also recorded to have still been making hand stencils near the Hawkesbury around this time (Thomas 2007:46). The life and times and context of Hiram’s engraving, and its link with pre-Contact tradition require further research. Irish (2011:38-39) notes that several researchers have written about the history of the Sackville Reserve and its social context, most notably Brook (1999), but the engraving site which is located in close proximity to the Reserve is not mentioned and that consideration of the engraving is important to a fuller understanding of the social history of the reserve and its inhabitants.

### *3.8.2 Establishment and operation of the Reserve*

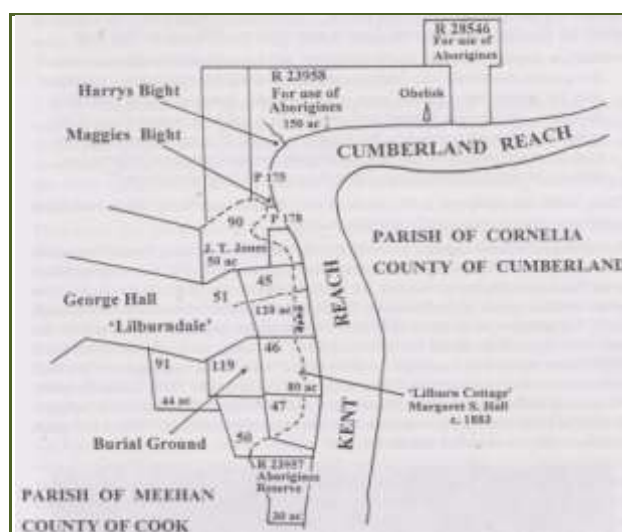
The Aborigines Protection Board (APB) was established to manage Aboriginal reserves and the welfare of Aboriginal people in NSW in 1883. Although rations and farming implements were supplied to the Aboriginal community at Sackville Reach prior to the establishment of the Aboriginal Reserve (below), the people living there were not overly ‘harassed’ by the APB because many had been living there in ‘quite seclusion’ for a long time where they worked on local farms such as that of the Hall family during the harvest (Brook 1994:19). The Halls purchased food first from Windsor and then sold it to local Aboriginal people who paid for it with their wages. The Hall family property ‘Lilburndale’ was the distribution point for rations. The APB policy was that only people unable to support themselves (aged and infirm) or children attending school of parents couldn’t provide for them could receive aid.

The Sackville Reach Aborigines Reserve, of about 150 acres, was proclaimed on in September 1889 and an additional 30 acres was also set aside on Kent Reach.<sup>14</sup> Despite being on Cumberland Reach, the reserve was apparently so named because Aboriginal people had lived on Sackville Reach for some considerable time (Brook 1994:17). The Reserve was in fact located about 4km downstream of the Colo River. The Reserve functioned until the 1940s as something of a base for dislocated Aboriginal people who based themselves at Sackville and many took on employment on homesteads and farms within the

<sup>14</sup> This was not prime agricultural land. The larger land parcel (No. 23958) consisted of scrub and rock except for about three acres that was suitable for an orchard. There was no fencing and it was not cleared. The smaller land parcel was similar.

broader community. There is no recorded history of the Reserve from an Aboriginal perspective or of other important Aboriginal locations on the river. Occasional newspaper accounts describe a well functioning 'Aboriginal Village' at Sackville Reach where the people had transport, the children attended the public school<sup>15</sup> and learned to read and write, and adults engaged in fishing to supplement government rations.

Figure 3.7: Crown land parcels No's 9857 and 9856 in the County of Cook, Parish of Meehan, set aside for the 'use of aborigines' as notified 18 September 1889. The former contained an area of about 150 acres and the latter 30 acres (left) and location of the reserves, burial ground, Harrys Bight, Maggies Bight (Brook 1994)



Andy Barber was the last Aboriginal person associated with the place. He had been at 'Lilburndale' at in the 1850s, and for a time after his wife died he had lived alone beside Ebenezer church before moving down river to Sackville Reserve. Barber died at the age of 103 in Hawkesbury Hospital in 1943. Soon after both reserves were revoked and set aside for public recreation. Prior to that in 1926 the passing of Martha Everingham (*nee* Hobbs) had been observed (WRG, 22 October 1926). Martha was an important Aboriginal woman who featured in the later nineteenth and early twentieth century Aboriginal history of the region. It was reported she was '*one of the original Hawkesbury Aborigines*', had been '*married according to the Aboriginal Rule*', had lived in the district all her life and when she died (aged 80) she had a big mob.

<sup>15</sup> There were six Aboriginal children attending Sackville Reach Public School in 1890 (WRG, 31 May 1890).



### 3.9 Local Aboriginal historical context

#### 3.9.1 General observations in Windsor

There are a number of late nineteenth century newspaper references to Aboriginal people in Windsor but the majority (particularly in the 1880s and 1890s) often relate to the annual distribution of blankets to Aboriginal people at the court house on the Queen's Birthday.

An early account (1837 to c.1844) is contained in the memoirs of long-standing Windsor resident, William Walker. He makes reference to the previously noted Aboriginal camp near the South and Eastern Creek junction ('Tumbledown Barn') that was seemingly the last (main) Aboriginal camp close to Windsor at this time. The extract below (Walker 1890:6-9) is abridged:

*'My parents, with myself and a younger brother and sister, arrived at Windsor...in December, 1837—more than fifty-two years ago. ... There were few good houses in Windsor then, and my father was obliged to take an unfinished place in Macquarie-street. We resided there about four years, during which my father succeeded in establishing a large superior school of boys and girls, many of whom in after life occupied important positions.*

*During our residence in Macquarie-street we were frequently visited by a small tribe - or rather the remains of a tribe, of local blacks. They consisted only of King Jamie and his gin, and two sons, Billy and Bobby. Their camping place was a short distance off, up the South Creek. Jamie wore a brass plate suspended by a string from his neck, bearing his name, and which he said had been given him by good Governor Macquarie. The old couple were very harmless, and were the objects of charity. They all, however, have now passed away—like the Mohicans. First the Queen went, then the King, then Bobby, who, as well as his brother, was much addicted to rum, foolishly given them by friends in town. Billy had been taught by one of the early clergymen to read, was intelligent, and used to work a little on some of the farms, generally at Mr. Freeman's, Cornwallis. With them the Windsor tribe of blacks became extinct. It was a common thing then for the mothers to frighten their children into quiescence by telling them that if they didn't be still, Black Bobby would be brought to them, and this, I think, was about the only good use that was ever made of that dark specimen of humanity. ... we had at the same time a pleasant establishment in town, namely one of Her Majesty's regiments of the line - the gallant 80th, or Staffordshires. ... There were a good many blacks down the Hawkesbury then, and I remember the officers on one occasion getting up a corroboree in Thompson's Square. Of course they plied the darkies well with wine, or something stronger. I never saw a corroboree before, and have never seen one since. I will not attempt to describe it - such a thing could not be conceived in the present day. The 80th left Windsor after a year or two'.*

### 3.9.2 Thompsons Square

There are occasional late nineteenth century newspaper references to groups of Aboriginal gathering at a pavilion in Thompsons Square, and also for individuals or small groups of people sometimes described as coming from 'downriver' (Illawarra Mercury, 23 August 1892) and camping overnight (or being moved-on) in the Square. There are others from the same period relating to Aboriginal people in and around town in general, but most references from the 1880s and 1890s relate to the annual distribution of blankets at the court house.

Most of the post 1850 Aboriginal records for the town and its buildings/spaces are however associated with the court house (or lock-up, hospital, or benevolent asylum) as described below. A much earlier reference (Hawkesbury Courier, 13 February 1845) to Aboriginal people in Thompson Square reflects how tightly the space was controlled at that time and also sheds light on a number of aspects of racial relations at Windsor during this period:

*'Monday evening as three Aborigines were amusing themselves and several of the Military who flocked around them by throwing the Boomerang in Thompson's Square, Robert Fitzgerald, Esq., on seeing the crowd and hearing the noise which they occasioned, ordered the Natives to be confined in the Watch-house. A constable named Brien, who was present at the time, on hearing the Magistrate's order, immediately rushed on one of them, and dragged and cuffed him along until he was fairly incarcerated. We do not question the propriety of Mr. Fitzgerald's order for imprisoning them - but we do question the right of this constable to ill-treat them or any of her Majesty's subjects in the manner in which he is invariably reported to do on similar occasions; and we hope if any of the inhabitants are spirited enough at any future time to appear against this worthy, and bring home charges of unnecessary severity against him - the Magistrates will do their duty in dismissing him from the police, and otherwise punishing him as he may deserve. We regret to be obliged to notice this man's conduct, but our duty to the Public will not permit us any longer to remain silent on the subject.'*

In addition to owning the Macquarie Arms, Fitzgerald was the second largest property owner in the Hawkesbury after William Cox, and (Ford 2012) suggests that his attitude may have been shaped by the ongoing conflicts on his properties along the Namoi and Gwydir Rivers in the late 1830s. Although the above quote is in isolation, it suggests Thompson Square was a controlled military space in the mid 1840s. The military withdrew from Windsor in the 1840s and the barracks was occupied by police from the 1860s until 1924 (Steele 1916:141-142).

### 3.9.3 Windsor court house (blanket distributions)

Windsor court house was built in 1821, and was likely to have been the place where blankets and rations were distributed to local and district Aboriginal people from the outset. However, pre 1850

records are incomplete or in some years were not taken. In 1834, thirty-five blankets were to be forwarded to 'Windsor including Wiseman's and the Hawkesbury' (SL NSW R3706:109). Designations of 'tribes' & 'places of usual resort' noted on the return for this year included South Creek (Windsor), Richmond (Richmond) and Lower Branch (Lower Branch). People on the list from the previous year, but who did not attend belonged to Caddie (Windsor), South Creek (Pitt-Town) and North Richmond (North Richmond) groups.<sup>16</sup> Less than a decade before, the 1828 Census (Sainty & Johnson 1985) had recorded the Richmond Tribe at Windsor, but under the heading of Portland Head, described people belonging to the 'N.E. Arm, Mullet Island and 1<sup>st</sup> Branch Tribes' which is suggestive of a wide distribution of Aboriginal people on the Hawkesbury with strong attachments to many different and dispersed parts of the river.

Stephen Tuckerman (Esq, J.P) supervised the yearly distribution of blankets at Windsor Court-house in 1850 where forty-one blankets were distributed (SMH, 1 June 1850). He was again supervising the proceedings a quarter of a century later in 1874 when what were described as the '*remnant of the aboriginals belonging to this district received their blankets*' (Hawkesbury Advertiser, 30 May 1874). The distribution of a suit of clothes in addition to a blanket given annually to each Aboriginal person was under government consideration following the Queen's Birthday in 1881 (Hawkesbury Advertiser, 8 October 1881). Newspaper accounts of this 'blanket day' (Hawkesbury Advertiser, 28 May 1881) describes Aboriginal people of the 'Lower Portland tribe', some of whom were of mixed parentage, who were living around Lower Portland at the time. Many of these individuals and their families (Barber, Cox, Everingham, Shaw) were living on the Aboriginal reserve at Sackville Reach within a decade. Town folk often came to watch the distributions, and a few visitors from the City also came in 1881 expecting to see a Corroboree (Hawkesbury Chronicle and Farmers Advocate, 28 May 1881).<sup>17</sup> Brook (1994:29) observes that the authorities did not give much thought to the conditions or care of these Aboriginal people otherwise a more appropriate and less anachronistic approach would have been initiated to replace the old custom of giving out blankets one a year.

In 1890 that a Mr G.A. Gordon has taken up 'cudgels' with the government about reserving a piece of land for the use of local Aboriginals, and which was to ultimately result in the establishment of the Reserve at Sackville. Gordon's home was situated next to the School of Arts in Windsor and his yard was a rendezvous for all the Aboriginal groups in the district for some days prior to 'blanket day' proceedings at the courthouse (ibid:25).

<sup>16</sup> A composite band of Aboriginal people, known as the North Richmond Tribe or Belmont tribe, resided at North Richmond on land granted to Archibald Bell. St John of God Hospital stands on part of this land today (Brook 1999:15).

<sup>17</sup> This article also reports the government were considering the '*bestowal of a suit of clothes in addition to the blanket given annually to each of the aboriginal natives.*'

The APB reported for 1891 (reproduced in CA, 10 September 1892) the following information for the Hawkesbury River District (Windsor).

*Number of aborigines in the district, 91 — 11 full-blood, and 77 half-castes. The men, as a rule, are employed on farms during the spring and harvest. Thirty adults and, thirty-three children, receive aid from the Board in the shape of rations. The following supplies have been distributed during the year: —flour, tea, sugar raisins currants beef, and 50 blankets. Two reserves have been set apart for the use of the aborigines at Sackville Reach, one of 150 acres, the other 30 acres.*

*Both consist of scrubland and rocks, only a small portion being suitable for cultivation.*

*They are both occupied by aborigines, galvanized iron having been supplied them to roof their huts. They are provided with a boat. It is in good order, and is used for fishing purposes. Three children are received instruction at the Public School at Sackville. All are supplied annually with blankets by the Government. The issue is necessary, 'and they are in no way misappropriated. They are not addicted to habits of intemperance ; on the contrary, they are very temperate. When ill, they are admitted to the Benevolent Asylum at Windsor, on the recommendation of the local police officer.*

#### 3.9.4 'Mission House'

The 'Mission House' referred to a house that was bought for Wesleyan missionary, Rev. Benjamin Carvosso by his (unordained missionary) colleague Walter Lawry in 1820 following the opening of the first Methodist chapel in Windsor. The chapel site is the present site of the Wesleyan Church on Macquarie Street but the location of the 'Mission House' is unknown but was possibly not located too distant from the first chapel. The land on which the chapel was built had been granted to Marsden and formed part of a 50 acre on South Creek that he added by purchase to other land forming part of the town and was gifted to Lawry in 1817.

The Aboriginal connection to this building is via Bennelong's son 'Dicky' who had been placed in the Parramatta Native Institute in 1816. He stayed with occasional absences until 1821 when he was adopted by (missionary to the Aborigines) William Walker and lived for a time with other Aboriginal students walker 'collected' and taught in Parramatta. During this period Dicky returned to the 'bush' with a second young boy in Walker's care (Adam Clarke). Dicky returned (sleeping on the floor in the same room as walker wrapped in a blanket) and was baptised Thomas Walter Coke (pronounced Cook and named after Dr. Coke who founded the Methodist Missions) at Lawry's Chapel in 1822 and died early the following year in February 1823 in the Mission House.

Prior to Dicky's death, Walker and Lawry provided a connections between the town and the Aboriginal communities in the 'bush' and people (mainly youths) often lived with or stayed for a while at the

Mission House that was ‘known to all as the vagrant train’ (see Brook & Kohen 1991). Walker wrote to London that he had been forced to change his situation ‘as this generation of natives will never live at my present residence in consequence of some deaths having happened’. He was referring to Dicky and another boy, Jemmy, who as soon he fell sick went into the bush and in a few weeks also died. ‘He also stated that the Aboriginal people he knew and came into contact with were so ‘superstitious that they believe the place where one has died to be equally fatal to themselves; and they so fret as to be disordered and often die in consequence’. Later he reported:

*‘The natives have been engaged in a terrible conflict, in consequence of the death of Coke....a year has elapsed since he died, but his death was avenged only last week. The blacks believe their deaths to be occasioned by the malice and craftiness of the opposite tribes, who unperceived and unfelt shoot a poisoned dart and dies. The discovery of the murderer depends upon some dreamer, and the individual who is identified in the dream is to stand punishment. In Coke’s case, his aunt dreamt about it 12 months after and dreamed it was his companion who had speared him. Was ordered to stand punishment at the race ground [Vaucluse] in Sydney, last Sunday but one.*

*One spear wounded the youth (unnamed). The man who threw the spear that wounded the boy had to then stand punishment for his transgression and 300 or 400 blacks assembled to do their utmost. He defended all spars successfully with a 1ft broad 3 ft long shield. His friends then had to ‘offend’ his punishers with the result that one had a fractured skull, and they then ‘made it up’.*

This type of historical evidence provides insights into the nature and development of some aspects of an urban Aboriginal history at Windsor during the Macquarie period and contrasts with the strong and better known history of Aboriginal-settler conflict up to at least 1816.

### 3.9.5 Other town spaces and places

A number of still-standing (or archaeological) buildings and spaces in Windsor are also likely to have Aboriginal historical records associated with their use. This research is beyond the scope of this report, but a few places are flagged for future consideration. These include the previously mentioned paddock adjoining the former School of Arts building that was used for camping before and after the ‘blanket day’ proceedings at the court house. The police lock-up and gaol are likely to have ‘robust’ Aboriginal histories but also noting Colebee was a constable at Windsor sometime between 1819 and 1822. Future research for the hospital and benevolent asylum may reveal more ‘compassionate’ records.<sup>18</sup> Finally, nineteenth century Windsor had a large number (and turnover) of hotels and some of these were

<sup>18</sup> The old Benevolent Society Home was on the corner of George and Brabyn Streets. It was built in 1835-36 and used as a home for the old folks up till 1846 and was demolished in 1915 (Steele 1916).



frequented by Aboriginal people, and a small number of references also note that a few hotels, such as the Bell Inn in 1860 (SMH, 16 November 1860) were used as venues inquests into Aboriginal deaths.

#### *3.9.10 The river*

A considerable number of references to Aboriginal people at Windsor relate to their involvement with variously named river regattas on the river at Windsor extending back to the 1840s. At the maiden Hawkesbury Regatta in 1845 that was held on the reach of the river facing Windsor (SMH, 31 December 1846), a prize of £1 with a jacket, pair of trousers, and cabbage-tree hat was offered for a canoe race (using a pair of paddles) open to both Aboriginals and Whites (SMH, 14 November 1845). Only one canoe entered (possibly Aboriginal) and no race was contested.

Later records (Sydney Mail, 12 June 1869) refer to four Aboriginal 'residents' on the Hawkesbury awaiting the government to provide a boat for use in times of flood. In January 1871, five Aboriginals won a race against a 'brigade' crew in this boat over a distance of one mile. The Aboriginal crew took the lead early and kept it throughout and coming in amidst a round of applause won the race by four yards (ATCJ, 7 January 1871).

## 4.0 Aboriginal archaeological overview

### 4.1 Regional archaeological overview

#### 4.1.1 Sites and dates

The documented and anticipated antiquity of the archaeological record of Aboriginal life in the Sydney region has been progressively extended back in time over the last decade or so due to a combination of the timely discovery (and subsequent salvage excavation) of a number of what are regionally rare archaeological sites on the Hawkesbury River at Windsor and Pitt Town in particular, and the concurrent and rapid improvements in archaeological dating technologies and techniques in recent years. The *Dictionary of Sydney* entry for the archaeological heritage of Sydney life (Attenbrow 2012) recorded in 2012 that a little over 160 dates had been determined through radiocarbon (C14), thermoluminescence (TL) and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) methods for over sixty sites. Many of the historically older C14 dates derive from rock shelter habitation sites, and an increasing number of open sites (especially sand bodies on watercourses) are now being dated using the latter dating methods.

The earliest accepted age for a habitation site in the Sydney region was reported to be 14,000 year BP (before present) which dates a rock shelter on Shaws Creek located adjacent to the western side of the Nepean River. Also noted in this entry was that two significantly earlier dates from Sydney, one of c.40,000 years BP (C14) for stone artefacts from Cranebrook Terrace near Penrith (Nanson, Young and Stockton 1987) and a second date (C14) of 30,000 years BP from a river bank terrace site on the Parramatta River in the Parramatta CBD (Jo McDonald CHM 2005) '*continue to be questioned*'.

However, results from data reanalysis at the former site suggest the original 40,000 year old dates may have been largely accurate after all (Stockton and Merriman 2009). The results of more recent investigations on the Hawkesbury River (associated with both the current WBRP and studies elsewhere on the river nearby) provide solid evidence and detail about Aboriginal occupation of the Hawkesbury River Valley extending back to approximately 35,000 years or more. A similar use of the Parramatta River Valley during the Pleistocene is likely. It fits if Aboriginal people initially used the main Sydney river valleys, like Parramatta and the Hawkesbury and as possibly a *refugia* during periods of extreme or rapid climate shift or variation that are likely to have characterised the earliest periods of Aboriginal life in the region.

It is worth briefly reviewing the evidence for the two sites in question, along with the main findings of other key early sites and dates for the region. This helps illustrate a shift in thinking that has taken place in recent times about how and when it is believed Aboriginal people first arrived in Sydney. When the Cranebrook Terrace date was published in 1987, there was considerable pushback from amongst the

archaeological and wider scientific community because it almost doubled the earliest known and accepted (or expected) time frame for the arrival of people in the region which was at the time in the order of c.20,000 years BP.

#### 4.1.2 *Parramatta and Hawkesbury River, Cranebrook Terrace and Shaws Creek*

Excavation in 2005 on the SHR listed *Parramatta Sand Body* on the Parramatta River at Parramatta identified (at RTA-G1) solid evidence for Aboriginal use of the river by at least 9,000 years ago. This was evidenced by concentrations of manuport ironstone, shale and sandstone materials likely to be older than a C14 determination (9,280 to 8,900 cal BP – 95.4% probability) that was derived from '*dispersed charcoal found in the vicinity*'. Charcoal was found to be rare in the lower excavation levels (and artefacts were also sparser with depth) and a small sample of dry sieved material was collected and dated as one sample to approximately c.30,000 years BP (JMCHM 2005:119). The stratigraphic associations between the lowest Aboriginal artefacts in the vicinity, the dated charcoal materials, and the surrounding sediments from which the finds had provenance and from which the charcoal was collected are not secure to automatically assume Aboriginal people were living on the river at this time, although it's becoming increasingly likely that archaeological evidence of this antiquity on this river will be identified in the future if it has survived urbanisation.

The results of investigations at Cranebrook Terrace published in 1987 included a date of c.41,000 years BP for a collection of 'choppers and steep-edged scrapers' found in association with alluvial gravels at the base of the terrace (Nanson, Young and Stockton 1987). Because the artefacts were not found in a habitation site, but rather were scattered throughout what was possibly a reworked gravel unit, their authenticity has not been universally accepted (ibid:72). Specifically, one dilemma is that while the artefacts were found associated with river gravels that were being quarried the collection included an in situ serially flaked chopper that showed no sign of damage indicating this item (and the other artefacts) had seemingly not been rolled down from upstream but had been discarded where they were found. Initial radiocarbon dating of the gravels in which the artefacts were found suggested a date of about 27,000 BP, but it was noticed the carbon samples from below the water table were contaminated by younger carbon introduced by groundwater. A new series of tests using treated carbon samples and TL dating both suggest the gravels were laid down more than 40,000 years ago (Nanson, Young and Stockton 1987). More recently, these findings have been revised (Stockton and Nanson 2004) and answer some archaeological questions by clarifying the riverine stratigraphy and dating the basal gravels up to 50,000 years ago (Nanson et al 2003).

Recent investigations ('The Cranebrook Terrace revisited') of an early Holocene alluvial deposit on the banks of the Nepean River at Peach Tree Creek sheds new light on the Cranebrook Terrace issue

(Williams et al 2017). The excavations identified two sedimentary deposits, with the lowest being part of the Cranebrook Formation, a deep alluvial deposit within which artefacts previously dated to >40,000 year BP. This study recovered four indurated mudstone/tuff and two silcrete artefacts, all having characteristics of the late Pleistocene/early Holocene, and which are OSL dated to >9.5,000 years BP from the upper portion of the Richmond Unit of the Cranebrook Formation (almost 4m below the surface). The authors note the results lend increasing support for visitation of the Nepean river corridor by Aboriginal people as a part of the initial colonisation of Australia.

One of the oldest archaeological sites in the region is one of two rock shelters excavated at Shaw's Creek (K1 and K2) near the Nepean River about 10km north of Penrith. Shaw's Creek K1 was located below a rock engraving site and revealed high densities of artefacts (c.6,000 flakes/m<sup>3</sup>). However, the deposit was found mixed and chronological resolution was poor (Stockton 1993:39). The nearby K2 rock shelter has also been partly excavated, but not to the 'bottom', and it is estimated to have a depth of archaeological deposit of up to 3.5m and the base of the artefact bearing layers has not been reached at present. Chert and quartz artefacts were dominant in the deposit excavated and dated by C14 (charcoal from 1.2m) to 14,700±250 years BP.

More recent investigations on the Hawkesbury River at Windsor (Windsor Museum and WBRP) and Pitt Town, which are discussed in more detail in following sections, have reported Aboriginal archaeological evidence dating to possibly 30-35,000 years BP which may be the earliest evidence in the Sydney Basin. This archaeological evidence securely confirms Aboriginal people were using the Hawkesbury River at least 20,000 years ago.

#### *4.1.3 Interpreting the evidence*

Mindful that 'early' archaeological sites (dating to the late Pleistocene and early Holocene) are rare, and that the range and quantity of evidence from the earliest periods at any given site is often sparse when compared with later periods, the available data suggest a pattern of exploitation of a diverse range of terrestrial and aquatic food resources by highly mobile groups of Aboriginal people (Attenbrow 2010:152-54, McDonald 2008:39). The late Pleistocene and early Holocene stone artefacts suggest a preference for silicified tuff that was probably sourced from the Hawkesbury-Nepean River gravels (McDonald 2008).

Most early archaeological occupation sites have been found in stratified (layered) rock shelter deposits or within alluvial and/or Aeolian deposits (sand bodies) on the margins of large river systems. The evidence suggests the initial Aboriginal settlement of the Sydney Basin was focused on these primary river systems and was characterised by a high degree of 'residential mobility' (frequent movement between campsites). When sea levels rose around 6-7,500 years BP, coastal groups that previously

occupied the now drowned coastal strip may have moved inland and the population possibly steadily increased to a point when around 4,000 years BP when many new sites were occupied.

There also appears apparent an increase in rock shelter occupation at this time, along with major changes in stone tool technology, most notable being the use of locally available stone. During the last 1,000 years the use of ground stone appears to have increased. An increase in bipolar flaking at this time probably indicates further intensive use of local resources, but backed artefact manufacture declines. This may be due to the fact that there was less need for these tools as result of either changing social networks or less priority being given to their bulky production.

Archaeological investigations show changes in the types of stone tools Aboriginal people made through time in the Sydney region. One of the first and most enduring sequence of changes in tool types was identified and called the 'Eastern Regional Sequence' (McCarthy 1976: 96-98) after initial excavation and analysis of material from Lapstone Creek rock shelter (Emu Cave) in 1936. This was one of the first scientific excavations in the region but was not published until 1948 (McCarthy 1948:3). Six layers of floor deposit were excavated and the lower units had significant numbers of Bondi points which gave way to 'chunky' adze flakes called eloueras (that could be gummed to a wood handle and were used for wood working) and edge ground axe heads. McCarthy called them Bondaian and Eloueran respectively as cultural markers.

The sequence was modified by Stockton & Holland (1974: 53-56) with four phases of the ERS where after the Capertian, they described the Early Bondaian and Middle Bondaian phases where Bondi points and other small tools become apparent in excavated assemblages in Eastern NSW. Late Bondaian referred to McCarthy's original Eloueran phase. Capertian assemblages contain tools which are generally larger than later items but also contain smaller tools such as thumbnail scrapers and dentate saws. Stockton and Holland's terms are used in the Sydney region today (Attenbrow 2002: 156), and are modified by a prehistoric Aboriginal landuse framework summarised below that was developed to explain the broad phases of Aboriginal archaeological history evident for the Sydney region (after JMCHM 2002a:475).

#### *4.1.4 'Phasing' the archaeological evidence*

Broad time periods commonly used to establish the Aboriginal archaeological timeline for the Sydney region, and to divide it into 'cultural phases,' are summarised below (adapted from McDonald 2008:349-50). It should be noted that some of the dates (especially those relating to sea-level changes) have been revised since 2008, and specific elements and key attributes of flaked and ground stone artefacts and tool reduction technologies that predominated and/or characterised each archaeological phase is sometimes debatable.



Pre Bondaian: c.30,000 years ago to about 8,000-9,000 BP

Aboriginal groups appear to have been highly mobile and travelled considerable distances between sites during the earliest phases. The focus of stone acquisition was the Hawkesbury-Nepean River gravels. The raw material cores and tools people transported were large, but were used sparingly. Rock art focused on iconic designs and art reinforced broad-scale social networks. The earliest Aboriginal populations will have been small, but little is known of their social organisations, or territorial ranges.

The archaeological record for the earliest periods suggests a preference for the use of silicified tuff, unless the investigated site was too great a distance from sources where it was often augmented with quartz and unheated silcrete. Cores and tools vary in size and weight (some are quite large), but there are no backed artefacts, elouera, or ground stone implements. Unifacial flaking is a predominant technique for stone tool production during this period.

Early Bondaian 8,000 years to c.4,000 years BP

It is possible that rising sea levels forced Aboriginal groups previously occupying the drowning coastal plain to move inland, but it is likely that population densities across the region were still relatively low. The use of rock shelters was increasing or at the very least artefact discard increased so as to be archaeologically visible during this period. Backed artefacts were also introduced into the stone tool kit during this period and produced intensively at some sites. The focus of stone sourcing shifted from gravel beds on the Hawkesbury-Nepean River to more localised resources. Iconic engravings continued to be produced, along with transitional forms, and the increased population pressures in the later part of this phase saw the early development of Sydney style figurative pigment art and open engraved art.

The archaeology for this time frame is complex with considerable variation, but the evidence does suggest a preference for the use of silicified tuff to decline during this period where a greater use is made of local stone materials. Backed artefacts appear sporadically and bipolar flaking was widely in use. It is unknown whether the increase in rock shelter use reflected the onset of colder climate regimes.

Middle Bondaian c.4,000 years to c.1,000 years BP

A possibly dramatic rise in population may have occurred during this period where there is a conspicuous increase in the use of rock shelters for habitation and for artefact manufacture and discard. It is argued that an increased population necessitated social mechanisms to mediate uncontrolled and possible conflict-marked interactions, and evidence for increasing cultural control is the death by ritual spearing of the 'Narrabeen man' around 3,700 cal BP.<sup>6</sup> Other evidence for increasing social prescription included a proliferation of symbolic behaviour, particularly which demonstrated local group social

affiliation which probably took many forms including body decoration and scarification, and the use of decorated portable material culture. The pigment and engraved art of the region developed and flourished in this escalating sociality.

The use of different raw material types varied between sites and within sites over time, but this is the main phase of backed artefact production and the introduction of asymmetric alternating flaking techniques of stone reduction. Substantially smaller cores and tools are prevalent, and ground stone artefacts appear, though infrequently and are present at fewer than half the dated sites in the region. Elouera (a type of backed artefact) are present but rare.

Late Bondaian c.1,000 years to European contact

There are indications of changing social organisation and stone organisation and use strategies during this period. Rock shelters continued to be used but artefact deposition rates dropped in these locations. It is argued that as a result of changes to the social system (Walters 1988) the focus shifted at this time to open camp site locations. This focus on open sites is supported by dates for open middens along the south-east coast generally and the vast number of open sites on the Cumberland Plain (some of which are dated), and the ethnohistoric evidence supports this recent habitation focus in open 'villages ... on the sea coast.' The archaeological and ethnohistoric evidence suggest that over the last millennium, occupation patterns involved a move away from shelters as a primary focus for habitation.

## 4.2 Local archaeological context

### 4.2.1 Previous investigations in Windsor

Archaeological excavations were undertaken in advance of the expansion of Windsor Museum on Baker Street in 2009 (Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd 2011). The investigations were situated on an elevated and moderately steep ridge (~20m AHD) about 100m from the river.

Excavation identified a deep (>1.8m) sandy-soil profile consisting of fine to medium grained and dull orange to bright reddish brown sand that overlay Londonderry Clay. The sand body may have begun developing up to 150,000 years ago (ibid:152) and formed as a source bordering dune or sand sheet (the sand deriving from the river floodplain and channel) and appeared to extend along the high ground marked by George Street and to taper-off to the south east along Macquarie Street. Following the initial discovery of Aboriginal artefacts during historic-archaeological excavations at the site (that recorded AHIMS #45-5-3011), subsequent Aboriginal archaeological excavation of twenty-six contiguous sqm of deposit to depths of up to 1.8m resulted in the recovery of over 12,000 stone items from a sandy deposit believed to represent an intact Pleistocene (Aeolian) sand dune.

#### 4.2.2 Pitt Town

Figure 4.2: Pitt Town residential precincts subject to archaeological investigation prior to development (AHMS 2013: Figure 4)

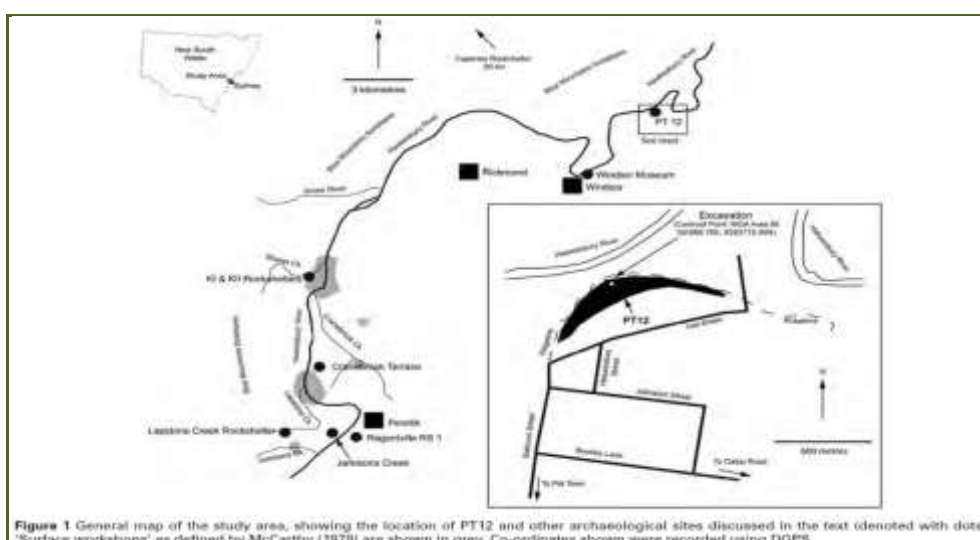


The multi-stage investigation program resulted in the excavation of ~200 sqm of deposit combined at a series of individual ridge top locations. This revealed a 1-2m deep Kandosol soil profile of fine to medium red to brown loamy sand above (culturally sterile) Pitt Town Sands and/or Londonderry Clay. The sand body was deposited primarily through river-flood (fluvial) processes about 120,000 years ago. The upper metre or so of the Kandosol showed reworking by wind action and probably formed within the last 40,000 years. This soil profile extended for ~400m from the edge of the ridge and originally formed part of a small dune-field that covered much of the township (AHMS 2011). Williams *et al.* (2012) detail the results of salvage excavation of one of the locations (PT12) investigated:

*‘Salvage excavations of 25 m2 on a levee adjacent to the Hawkesbury River identified a 1.5 m deep sand body containing three discrete artefact assemblages. While problematic, six Optically Stimulated Luminescence ages provided a chronology of the sand body, which began forming > 60 ka. Peak artefact numbers of the two lowest assemblages were centred on ~15 ka and ~11 ka, and retained Capertian characteristics, including amorphous pebble tools and manuports composed of locally-derived river cobbles probably exposed through entrenchment of the river during lower sea-level.*

*Comparisons with nearby KII rock shelter shows a similar assemblage dated to ~13 ka. The upper assemblage was dominated by backed artefacts composed primarily of silcrete. Reliable OSL ages indicate this assemblage may have been deposited in the early Holocene with a backed blade proliferation centred at ~ 5 ka, although comparisons with other local studies suggest an age of <4.5 ka is more likely. Along with other studies, the site indicates the systematic exploitation of resources, such as river cobbles, along the Hawkesbury River from ~15 ka before an apparent abandonment of the Pitt Town region in the early/mid-Holocene. Late Holocene artefact numbers suggest a subdued re-occupation of the area following this hiatus’.*

Figure 4.3: Location of PT 12 at Pitt Town (Williams et al 2012: Figure 1)



Approximately 10,000 stone artefacts were recovered during the investigations at Pitt Town (combined) and they document a largely continuous Aboriginal history of the Hawkesbury River from about 36,000 years ago. It is one of the most significant sites in the Sydney Basin (AAJV 2016:7).

### 4.3 Previous Aboriginal archaeological investigations in the WBRP

#### 4.3.1 WBRP South (KNC 2012)

Aboriginal archaeological test excavation was undertaken part of the original EIS for the WBRP (Kelleher Nightingale Heritage Consulting 2012). This included the excavation of five test pits (of a total of nine) located on the higher elevation and sloping south bank of the river and around the edges of Thompson Square and within the roadway (Old Bridge Road) leading to the wharf. The remaining four test pits were excavated in conjunction with geotechnical investigations across the other (north) side of the river. Indicative images are provided below to illustrate the nature of the soils and some of the artefacts recovered and their finds contexts at shallow depths below road bedding and redeveloped loam and grassed surfaces.

Figure 4.4: Location of Aboriginal archaeological test squares within and adjacent to Thompson Square investigated in 2012





The images below show test excavations (Square 057E 560N) undertaken at the south east corner of Thompson Square and junction of George and Bridge Streets. This revealed fill materials used during the construction of Thomson Square to establish smooth topography (KNC 2012:16). The illustrations to follow show testing in a mid-slope roadway location with sandy soils found buried beneath road construction materials (Square 035E 627N). This ground surface is likely to have been cut-down/graded prior to road construction, and an unknown depth of the profile has been either removed or reworked.

Figure 4.5: Thompson Square showing area of possible fill used to create level terrace in the park (KNC 2012: Plate 4)



Figure 4.6: Aboriginal objects recovered from testing in Thompson Square (KNC 2012: Plate 10-13)



Figure 4.7: Square 057E 560N at top of the bank in SE corner of Thompson Square. Surface elevation was 20.5m AHD and above 1:100 year flood level. The image to the left shows a grey-pink silcrete core from a fine grained sandy layer (32cm depth). To the right is the north wall section showing sandy layer with artefacts and bioturbation (KNC 2012: Plates 7 and 8)



Figure 4.8: Test square (035E 627N) excavated within Old Bridge Street (KNC 2012: Plate 19)



Figure 4.9: Indicative soils profiles exposed by excavation in 2012 (KNC 2012: Plate 20-21)



Plate 20. Test square 035E 627N within Old Bridge Street showing fluvial sand floor

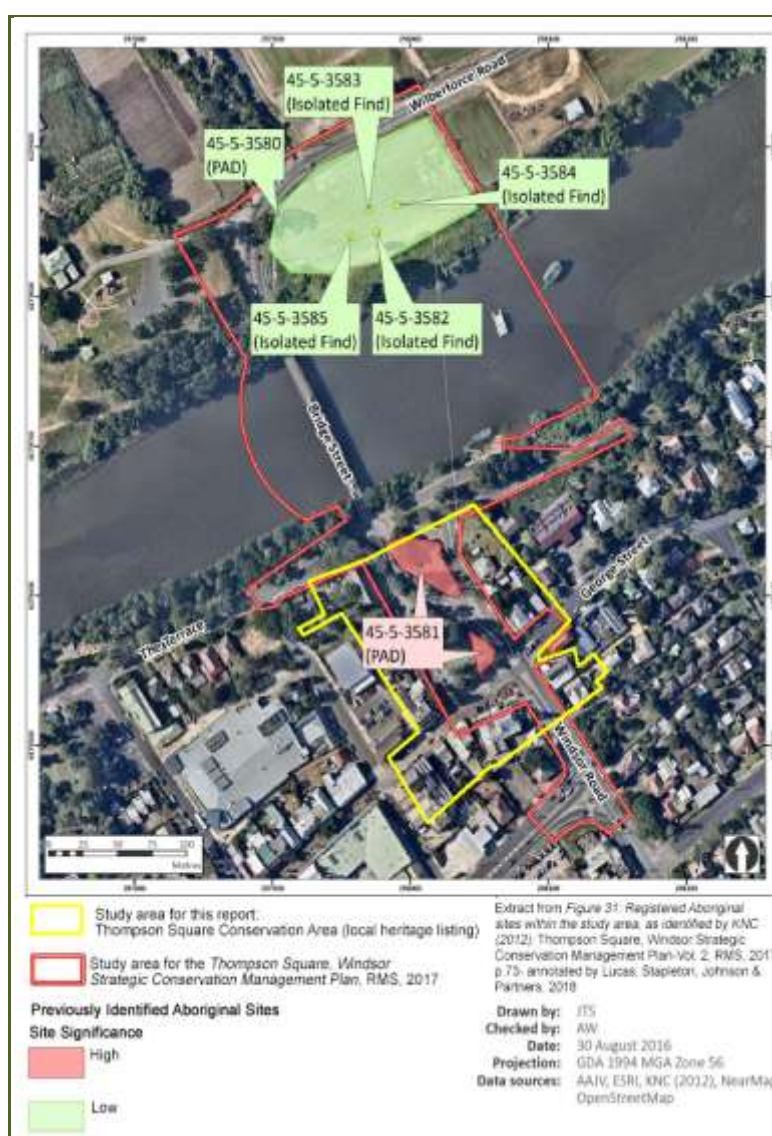
Plate 21. Test square 035E 627N section showing bioturbation and clay leaching caused by flood events



The 2012 testing identified relatively shallow Aeolian topsoil at the upper slope locations investigated (with deposits possibly continuing southwest and beyond the WBRP) and deeper intact sand profiles at mid to lower-slope locations. The nature and preservation of deposit varied depending on slope position and extent historic disturbance.

In Thompsons Square at the top of the bank (057E 560N) the deposits were truncated and bioturbated sandy loams and within the roadway the deposits were either truncated showing exposed basal clay and complete truncation of original surface deposits that may have once contained Aboriginal cultural deposits (050E 591N) or deep fluvial sands (035E 627N).

Figure 4.10: Registered Aboriginal archaeological sites (after KNC 2012) within the WBRP area in 2012



A sample of 185 Aboriginal artefacts (mainly tuff) was recovered from the five test squares excavated in and within the proximity of Thompsons Square. A partially intact sand body was found at the top of the bank in square 057E 560N (20.5m AHD) in the southeast corner of the Square that revealed high stone artefact numbers (n=114). The majority were in a single layer of fine grained sand. A mid slope square (017E 630N) also had moderate artefact densities (n=64) in a more mixed historical context. Both test pits were excavated to a depth of about one metre below present ground surfaces (KNC 2012:19).

Although these investigations did not identify the age of the artefact bearing deposits themselves or the for the origins of the sand body deposits in general, the investigations did establish that high densities of artefacts occurred within parts of the WBRP and there existed the potential for deep and possibly very old archaeology to be contained within sand body deposits recorded (AAJV 2016:8).

Figure 4.11: Archaeological test square and geotechnical borehole location



#### 4.3.2 WBRP South (AAJV 2016)

An extensive programme of Aboriginal archaeological test excavation was undertaken in the WBRP area in late 2016. Although full details of these investigations have not been sourced for this report, the following summary is drawn from the SCMP (Vol 2:77-84) and a separate document detailing excavation methods and research objectives proposed to guide future salvage (AAJV 2017). The plan below shows 38 test pits were excavated in the southern WBRP area.

The excavations recovered 1,434 Aboriginal objects. The majority (1,330) were recovered from testing in the southern project area (18.26 items/m<sup>2</sup>) were found throughout the soil profile but predominantly between 70cm and 210cm below current surfaces.

Ten geomorphological (or stratigraphic) units that characterised the project area were identified. Along with cultural materials, these could be divided into four archaeological landscapes comprising an elevated ridgeline and a source-bordering dune and alluvium at the river edge (AAJV 2017:12-13). The sand body deposits identified in Thompsons Square are of particular significance.

Figure 4.12: Archaeological landscapes within the study area, based on the 2016 test excavation

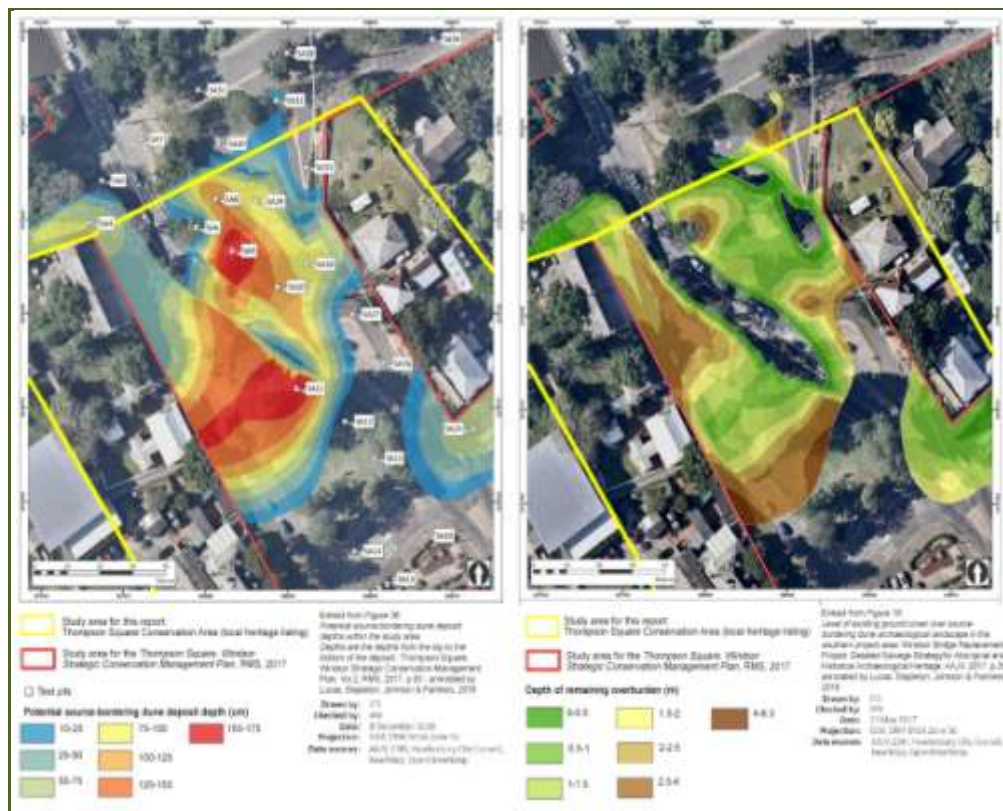


The ridgeline had shallow duplex soils (frequently disturbed by historical activity and buried beneath historical overburden) that contained discrete pockets of soil and concentrations of Aboriginal objects. The landscape encompasses the elevated areas in the vicinity of George and Bridge Streets, and extends



into the upper part of Thompson Square. The source-bordering dune is a fluvial and Aeolian-derived sand body (typically 1-1.5m in thickness) that extends across the upper and lower portion of Thompson Square and into parts of Old Bridge Street and The Terrace. The landscape is more intact in upper Thompson Square but has been subject to varying levels of burial and/or truncation from past activities. The deposit formed discontinuously between >82ka and the mid-Holocene (~5ka) and the archaeology within this deposit recorded in the WBRP is suggestive of two periods of archaeological occupation between 27-18ka (onset and peak of the LGM) and early-to-mid Holocene. The river edge alluvium is a thick clay and fine sand encompassing the entire northern project area and lower areas of the southern project area. Cultural material is found throughout the deposit in low numbers.

Figure 4.13: Potential source-bordering dune deposit depths (left) and existing ground cover over this archaeological landscape. Depths are from the top to the bottom of the deposit



The sand units within Thompson Square contained the majority of the Aboriginal objects (n=995/75% equating to 56 items/m<sup>2</sup>). The lower unit was formed by fluvial processes (terrace, levee) and the upper layer through wind-blown processes. It is likely to be the remnants of a source-bordering dune. Dating (OSL) indicate these deposits contain cultural materials older than 23,000 years in age. They appear visually and compositionally similar to the nearby Windsor Museum archaeological site which contained archaeology dating to between 33,000 and 8,000 years BP. The remaining archaeological landscapes

appear younger (less than 10,000 years) in age and were found to be often disturbed and/or truncated by historical and/or modern activities. With the exception of one test pit (SA12) within Thompson Square, cultural deposits were generally sparse in these units and have either been reworked by natural (fluvial/alluvial) or human (reclamation/earthworks) processes.

A number of glass artefacts (n=5) were found in the lower portion of Thompson Square (east of Bridge Street). Other historical material found in association, and past records of Windsor suggest that the artefacts likely date to between c.1794 and the 1830s.

Figure 4.14: Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity



Mitigation of future impacts to Aboriginal archaeological heritage within the WBRP area would focus on information recovery from the Pleistocene (>10ka) and early Holocene (5-10ka) sand-body deposits that occur within the project area (AAJV 2017:56).

*‘From an archaeological perspective, assuming average artefact densities of ~50/m<sup>2</sup> are present across the deposit (as appears to be the case), this would result in the recovery of ~7,500 artefacts. This value would form a substantial collection for analysis and long term curation, and be comparable with the assemblages at both Windsor Museum (~12,000) and Pitt Town (~10,000). Cumulatively, these three sites assemblages have the potential to represent one of the most substantial and significant artefact collections in the Sydney Basin, and across much of Australia for the LGM period’ (AAJV 2017:57).*

- To resolve questions about the stratigraphic nature of the deposits, what they tell us about all periods of Aboriginal archaeological history.
- To further characterise the formation and nature and content of the archaeology of the source-bordering dune and evidence or change through time in spatial and chronological phases of activity.
- To recover a large assemblage of Aboriginal objects for this portion of the Hawkesbury River corridor which is proving of high importance to our understanding of Aboriginal history.
- To inform future interpretation proposed for the project area.

**Study area for this report**  
 The proposed and existing drainage system  
 The proposed and existing water supply line  
 The proposed and existing sewer line

**Legend**  
 Study area for this report  
 The proposed and existing drainage system  
 The proposed and existing water supply line  
 The proposed and existing sewer line  
 Potential surface-water runoff inundation depth (cm)  
 10-25  
 26-50  
 51-75  
 76-100  
 101-125  
 126-150  
 151-175

**Scale**  
 0 100 meters

**North Arrow**

**Map Data**  
 Date: 2017-01-10  
 Author: [Name]  
 Project: [Name]

The following research directions and questions are proposed to direct proposed future Aboriginal archaeological salvage excavation (AAJV 2017:57):

- What is the spatial and stratigraphic extent of Aboriginal sites and/or material culture within the WBRP?
- What is the age, integrity and significance of Aboriginal sites and/or material culture within the WBRP?
- What are the environmental characteristics associated with the distribution of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the WBRP? Can site formation processes profile provide information on the nature/ survivability of the archaeological resources? Are there other key factors in the distribution and extent of the material culture within the WBRP?
- How do the cultural materials compare with other Pleistocene sites nearby? What can the material culture tell us about the populations and behaviour of Aboriginal hunter-gatherers during the last 30,000 years? • Is there any evidence for contact period archaeology between the local Aboriginal people and Europeans within the WBRP?
- What are the cultural, social and public values associated with the Aboriginal archaeological resource in the southern project area?
- How should the Aboriginal sites in the region be conserved and managed in future?

#### 4.5 Summary

The primary areas of Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity that has been identified in the WBRP area are located on the southern side of the river and within and in the immediate vicinity of Thompsons Square. Substantial and intact archaeological deposits associated with an ancient source bordering dune archaeological landscape were found in Thompson Square and particular in the northern (lower) portion of the Square. These deposits have a great potential to provide detailed and new information about Aboriginal life dating back possibly 40,000 years or more and including people's use of the place during the LGM (24-18,000 years BP) that was a period of significant climatic variability and change.

#### 4.6 Significance assessment

##### 4.6.1 Basis for significance

The SCMP (2017 Vol 2:124ff) provides a significance assessment of the WBRP Aboriginal heritage, with a focus on the archaeology, and this is based on a standard evaluation of three significance criteria comprising archaeological (scientific), cultural (Aboriginal) and public significance. These criteria recognise that Aboriginal sites are valuable in a number of ways:

- To the Aboriginal community as an aspect of their cultural heritage and as part of continuing traditions;
- To the broader community, for educational, historical and cultural enrichment values; and

- To the scientific community for potential research value.

The summary of key findings identified for the WBRP below that focuses on Thompsons Square is adapted from the SCMP (ibid:124-130). This is followed by a response to each of the three assessment criteria noted above, and then by a summary statement of significance for the WBRP. This evaluation has direct relevance to the documented and potential Aboriginal heritage resources contained within Thompsons Square, and the original text is unchanged.

#### 4.6.2 WBRP and Thompsons Square Aboriginal heritage - summary

Test excavation in the WBRP identified four archaeological landscapes; a ridgeline, a source-bordering dune, river's edge – alluvium, and river's edge – reclaimed/introduced fill. Thompson Square contains remnants of the source-bordering dune. This has archaeology suggestive of prolonged and/or repeat use by Aboriginal people that *'formed a key locale of Aboriginal visitation and occupation prior to 23,000 years ago'* (ibid:124). The source-bordering dune deposit is likely to be a continuation of that excavated at nearby Windsor Museum. That earliest evidence from that site is c.33,000 BP with continued use through to 8,000 BP. It is likely that the WBRP cultural assemblage is of a similar age and duration. The archaeological evidence from Windsor, along with information recovered from previous excavations in Pitt Town, lends strong support to Aboriginal people using the Hawkesbury River corridor by ~30-35,000 BP and this represent some of the earliest evidence of people in the Sydney Basin.

The later Aboriginal use of the study area is less understood but there is evidence for a Holocene peak in artefacts near the top of the stratigraphic unit (ibid:125). Several glass artefacts were also recovered from within lower Thompson Square that appear to date to between 1794 and the ~1830s.

Despite parts of the deposit in Thompsons Square having an over-lying layer of historical deposits and localised impacts (including a former road and a sewer main through the centre of the lower park) the Aboriginal archaeological deposits are reported to retain 'stratigraphic robustness' and thereby provides a rare window into the Pleistocene occupation of the region.

#### 4.6.3 Aboriginal cultural significance

The SCMP (ibid:125) identifies that *'the cultural significance of the place is a matter for the local Aboriginal community, traditional owner descendants and knowledge holders to assess'*. On the basis of consultation undertaken to date, it is assessed:

*'The Hawkesbury River is a very important cultural feature in the landscape, as a place of very early occupation during the Pleistocene, an important transit route, a major resource zone, a shared boundary between a number of clan and language groups, as the site of the important early Sackville Missions and for the river's associations with creation stories and traditional beliefs. The river represents the longevity of Aboriginal ownership and*



*cultural survival in the region, across thousands of years through the harsh conditions of the Pleistocene and through the dislocation and dispossession that occurred during the late 18th century and the 19th century. The early colonial settlement of Windsor is also important as an early point of engagement with colonial government in matters ranging from settlement of disputes to blanket distribution. Windsor was a manifestation and important symbol of colonisation and the imposition of European control over traditional Darug lands. The area therefore meets this criterion at a local level of significance’.*

#### 4.6.4 Public significance

This category concerns a site’s potential to educate people about the past, and relates to the heritage value of particular sites as being representative examples of past lifestyles, why they are important, and why they should be preserved.

Pleistocene-age Aboriginal cultural deposits have been identified within the SCMP area sand-body deposits (including Thompsons Square) which are assessed to possess considerable public significance as marking a place of early human occupation of the Sydney basin. The archaeology demonstrates the antiquity of Aboriginal life on the Hawkesbury River and provides insights into aspects Aboriginal life and adaptation to changing environmental and climatic conditions over thousands of years.

The survival of Aboriginal cultural deposits within one of the earliest locations of European settlement on the Hawkesbury-Nepean also has public value. The European glass artefacts from Thompsons Square which have been reworked by Aboriginal people demonstrate continuation of cultural practices and cultural adaptation following White settlement. These values have particular importance for the presentation and interpretation of the Aboriginal history of the area to the public.

The SCMP (ibid:126) assesses that the SCMP study area meets this criterion at a local level, and, through the detailed analysis and presentation/interpretation of findings, has the potential to meet it at a State level of significance.

#### 4.6.5 Scientific significance

Scientific significance assessments aim to determine a site’s research potential to contribute knowledge about the past and criteria used to evaluate this potential include consideration of the site’s condition/integrity, representativeness and rarity.

The source-bordering dune deposit (test pits SA4, SA8-11, SA24, SA25, SA28, SA29 & SA32) is considered to meet State significance thresholds in several respects. It contains deposits that provide significant information on how Aboriginal people lived on the river for over 30,000 years and provide opportunities to further understand the earliest periods of Aboriginal occupation (and survival) through the LGM. Of the few Pleistocene sand dune sites are known in the region, few have comparable archaeological

assemblages to Windsor that been recovered in a controlled fashion and have sound dating. The CMP (ibid:127) concludes the WBRP site is rare and intact, and is one of the most representative sites of its type with only six other sand bodies with stratified cultural deposits known in NSW. The deposit is considered to have high/very high scientific significance at both local and State level due to the presence of a stratified deposit that includes a high number and diversity of artefacts in a subsurface context.

The ridgeline landscape was found to contain patches of high artefact densities. However, the shallow soil profile (often heavily truncated) limits the stratigraphic information that can be obtained from these deposits which are assessed to be of moderate-low significance. The remaining archaeological landscapes (river's edge alluvium & fills), while cultural materials are found throughout, they are often in very low densities and frequently disturbed and/or have post-depositional mixing. The findings suggest that many of the artefacts are likely re-worked and deposited through alluvial processes from upriver and/or eroded from deposits upslope.

The cultural assemblage contains rare Aboriginal objects with research potential, including two edge-ground axe fragments, however overall it is more indicative of only transient or ephemeral occupation in the last 10,000 years. As such, the deposits are considered to have low scientific, aesthetic and historical significance.

South of the Hawkesbury River, cultural material of considerable antiquity has been identified, dating back into the early Holocene and Pleistocene within deep well preserved sand body deposits. Such deposits have considerable significance for their potential to inform about the timing and nature of early occupation of the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system and provide a source of rare and important information about social and cultural responses to climatic and environmental change over an extended period of time. Such information adds to a small but growing body of data collected from excavations on the Hawkesbury at Windsor Museum and at Pitt Town.

In the context of cumulative impact, the distribution of sand bodies with potential to contain early evidence of Aboriginal occupation during the Pleistocene is very limited. The sand bodies that remain intact and have not been truncated or removed by development, quarrying or flood scouring are limited and must be considered to have rarity and a high level of archaeological research potential and significance. The archaeological deposits within the southern portion of the study area, particularly on intact portions of sand body profile in the southern study area, have a high level of archaeological scientific significance. The part of the study area north of the Hawkesbury River identified little in the way of archaeological materials and is not considered to have Aboriginal heritage significance.

#### 4.6.6 Statement of Aboriginal cultural significance

The SCMP (ibid:127) provides the following Aboriginal heritage statement of significance for the evidence recorded within WBRP:

*'Based on the archaeological test excavation, four archaeological landscapes can be identified across the project area, Ridgeline, Source-Bordering Dune, River's Edge – Alluvium, and River's Edge – Reclaimed/Introduced Fill. The higher resolution recovery of Aboriginal objects across the project area compared with previous studies, provides a far greater understanding of the archaeological resource and its significance, as well as raising additional questions on the nature and use of the area by Aboriginal people in the past. Those landscapes south of the river have high archaeological potential and significance, particularly the Source-Bordering Dune deposits, which are significant at a State level due to the demonstrated presence of Pleistocene age artefact deposits, and the opportunity these provide to better understand the early Aboriginal occupation of the Sydney Basin. From an Aboriginal community perspective, the place is significant at a local level, due to its association with both the pre-colonial use of the area, and Thompson Square and Windsor more generally as a place of early interaction, conflict, dispossession and engagement with the settler community. From the perspective of the general public, the area has significance at a local level, through the ability of the place to present the life stories of the local Aboriginal inhabitants and has the potential to be of state significance through the analysis, presentation and interpretation of the findings of the archaeological programme and consultation with the local Aboriginal community'.*

## 5.0 Summary and evaluation

### 5.1 Key issues for consideration

#### 5.1.1 *Aboriginal historical values*

The earliest phases of the White settlement history of the Hawkesbury River, and the irreversible impacts it had on the Aboriginal communities that were living on the land at the time, occurred as a result of a sequence of processes that were to be largely replicated across many regions of NSW during ensuing years. But the Hawkesbury district was the first area of expansion into land outside of the confines and relative safety of the coastal settlement where a large Aboriginal population was knowingly displaced, and the Aboriginal history of the Hawkesbury River districts tells an important chapter in the Indigenous story of the State.

The Aboriginal records for the country to become known first as Green Hills are scant for the period between first 'Contact' and first (White) settlement. The Sydney Aboriginal population had already been devastated by disease in 1789. It had spread rapidly up the river networks from Port Jackson, but the precise effects it had on the Hawkesbury Aboriginal population are unknown. It is likely that the Aboriginal people that were encountered during the first years of the settlement in the early 1790s belonged to groups already operating within reconfigured traditional clan and tribal structures. It is also likely Aboriginal groups using the present site of Windsor, attracted by its riverside creek and elevated terraces with flatter terrain and lagoons 'inland' were gone by the time or shortly after the first settlers arrived at the place.

The early records show that Aboriginal communities were forced to move regularly to gain distance and space between themselves and settlers. The reasons behind the racial violence that broke out from 1794 are numerous and sometimes complex but there was clearly a connection between the hostilities and droughts and the continual extension to the settlement. A 1790s Aboriginal historic site with two independent events (1794 and 1799) related to the violence of this period of history is located on Argyle Reach and not far Windsor. In a broader context, a number of aspects of the Aboriginal history of Windsor up to 1816 can be viewed through a military-history lens that saw hostilities break out and then subside during the Hawkesbury and Nepean Wars that spanned the period c.1795-1816.

Aboriginal historical records for subsequent periods for Windsor (1820s-1840s), which often relate to places situated outside of the town itself but tell of the continued Aboriginal presence in the landscape during the period show people camping long-term on settler farms like Mamre situated on South Creek, 'Tumbledown Barn' at the junction of South and Eastern Creeks in Riverstone, and at Belmont on Richmond Hill. It is likely that Aboriginal people were also living autonomously on river stretches from

around this time in other locations on the Hawkesbury River northwards of Ebenezer and including Sackville and Cumberland Reach and the river confluences at Lower Portland. It is a historical curiosity that the 1828 Census records Aboriginal people at Windsor (probably counted at the court house) but under the 'Richmond Tribe'. William Walker had recorded a 'Windsor Tribe' in 1821, and blanket returns into the 1840s continue to record the presence of this named group. Likewise, the 'Richmond Tribe' existed as a group entity prior to the Census, and as late as 1843 there is a reference to an envoy of the 'Richmond Tribe' talking to the envoy of the 'Cabramatta Tribe' (Kohen 1993:75).

Aboriginal historical records for the town itself, and including Thompson Square and other urban spaces and buildings are generally random in subject and too infrequent to form strong or obvious patterns. The permanent military presence in Windsor up to the 1840s and the number of military buildings and fixtures in close proximity to Thompsons Square up to this time probably made it an uninviting place to Aboriginal people at times and at least until the end of transportation when the military withdrew from the town. Along these same lines, one old Aboriginal man, probably Tommy Cox ('King' Creek Tommy) claimed he saw the first man hanged at Windsor (Brook 1994:27) at a spot '*somewhere near where the Court house now stands*' (WRG, 29 November 1890). The late nineteenth century records describe local Hawkesbury Aboriginal people (many living at Sackville) and others from farther afield gathering during the annual distribution of blankets at the courthouse and camping together in a settlers yard nearby for some days before and after the proceedings at the courthouse.

#### 5.1.2 Archaeological values

Our understanding of the longevity and complexity of prehistoric Aboriginal life at Windsor has increased significantly since 2012 through archaeological investigations undertaken for the WBRP. The possible antiquity of the archaeology, and some parameters for the composition and probable sequence of change in the archaeological record had previously been foreshadowed by investigations at Windsor Museum and Pitt Town. In combination this new information contributes significantly to the ongoing development of existing regional prehistoric archaeological frameworks that have been established for decades but continuously change as new finds come to light via Aboriginal archaeological and historical research in the Sydney Basin.

On the back of this pre-existing archaeological knowledge base, and in particular on the basis of the results of the WBRP test excavations undertaken within Thompsons Square itself, it is possible to predict with some accuracy what type and range of Aboriginal archaeology is likely to be contained within the Square and also the likely significance of these archaeological resources. Key results of this work along with some points for consideration are summarised below to guide future management of the Thompsons Square Aboriginal archaeological resources.



Thompsons Square contains two principal Aboriginal archaeological landscapes with soil and sand profiles that contain Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits. These comprise a ridgeline and the remnants of a source-bordering dune. The ridgeline contains patches of artefact concentrations but overall the soils are shallow and have often been truncated. This reduces the stratigraphic information that can be obtained from these deposits which are of moderate-low significance.

The dune contains significant archaeological deposits that are suggestive of prolonged occupation for over 20,000 years and the Thompsons Square dune deposit is likely to be a continuation of that excavated at Windsor Museum that previously identified Aboriginal occupation at that site to span the period c.33,000 BP and 8,000 BP. The archaeological evidence from Windsor (and Pitt Town) indicates Aboriginal people were using the Hawkesbury River corridor at least 20,000 years ago and possibly by ~30-35,000 BP and this represents some of the earliest archaeological evidence of people in the Sydney Basin. At the other end of this long timeframe, several glass artefacts were also recovered from within lower Thompson Square that date between c.1794 and the ~1830s and add a tangible dimension to the Aboriginal historical records for this period.

As previously noted, the very old Aboriginal archaeological record of continuous occupation of Windsor and the historical context and documented sites nearby Windsor that relate to the racial conflicts that took place along the river up to 1816 has potential through detailed analysis and regional comparison and interpretation to meet State significant levels. The archaeological and environmental values that are embodied by the source-bordering dune should meet State significance thresholds. It is rare and intact, and is one of only six other sand bodies with stratified Aboriginal cultural deposits known in NSW. It possesses very high scientific significance because it contains objects and deposits that tell us about how Aboriginal people lived on the river since the late Pleistocene.

#### *5.1.3 Environmental heritage values*

South of the Hawkesbury River, cultural material of considerable antiquity has been identified, dating back into the early Holocene and Pleistocene within deep well preserved sand body deposits. Such deposits have considerable significance for their potential to inform about the timing and nature of early occupation of the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system and provide a source of rare and important information about social and cultural responses to climatic and environmental change over an extended period of time. Such information adds to a small but growing body of data collected from excavations on the Hawkesbury at Windsor Museum and at Pitt Town.

In the context of cumulative impact, the distribution of sand bodies with potential to contain early evidence of Aboriginal occupation during the Pleistocene is very limited. The sand bodies that remain intact and have not been truncated or removed by development, quarrying or flood scouring are limited

and must be considered to have rarity and a high level of archaeological research potential and significance. The archaeological deposits within the southern portion of the study area, particularly on intact portions of sand body profile in the southern study area, have a high level of archaeological scientific significance. The part of the study area north of the Hawkesbury River identified little in the way of archaeological materials and is not considered to have Aboriginal heritage significance.

## 5.2 Significance assessment

### 5.2.1 Preamble

The following assessment of significance for the documented and potential Aboriginal archaeological, historical and environmental heritage values of the Thompson Square Conservation area (TSCA) is drawn from the appended *Aboriginal Heritage Review* that has been prepared for the project (Appendix xx). These are core Aboriginal heritage values and are closely interrelated, and the following evaluations of each derive from a) an independent review of the results available for previous archaeological test excavations completed within and in the vicinity of Thompson Square and b) through a consideration of how the Windsor evidence compares with that reported for other places within local and regional Aboriginal heritage contexts.

The findings of current archaeological salvage excavations that are being undertaken within the WBRP, along with the outcomes of ongoing Aboriginal community consultation that will establish the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the place its Aboriginal heritage values, are not presently available. It is likely that the Aboriginal heritage significance statements below will require some level of addition or revision when this additional Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage information is available.

Nevertheless, on the basis of the evidence that has been reported to date, and which is supported by the existing (preliminary) Aboriginal heritage statement of significance for that evidence, it is clear that the future construction of the bridge will disturb and/or destroy rare prehistoric and post-1788 Aboriginal archaeological resources of high cultural and scientific significance that are contained within the TSCA.

### 5.2.2 Basis or assessment and criteria

Significance assessments aim to explain why particular sites, places or items may be important to the community and to allow for appropriate management approaches to be developed when changes in land use circumstances may potentially affect their assessed significance values. Cultural significance is defined by the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Significance (*Burra Charter* – Article 1.1) to mean ‘*aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations*’.

This aspect of significance may derive from the fabric of an item or place, its association with other items or places, or the research potential of an item or place. The process of linking this assessment process with a site's historical context is explained by the *NSW Heritage Manual* that establish seven evaluation criteria which reflect significance categories and representativeness whereby a site, place or item can be evaluated in the context of State or Local historical themes as follows:

- Criterion (a) – an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (b) – an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (c) – an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).
- Criterion (d) – an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- Criterion (e) – an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (f) – an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (g) – an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.

Different components of a site, place or item may make a different relative contribution to its overall heritage value. Loss of integrity or poor condition for example may diminish a site or an item's significance. Relative grades that can be used to determine the heritage significance of items (both built and archaeological) include:

- Exceptional: Rare or outstanding item of Local or State significance. High degree of intactness. Item can be interpreted relatively easily. Fulfils criteria for Local or State listing.
- High: High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance. Fulfils criteria for Local or State listing.
- Moderate: Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value but which contribute to the overall significance of the item. Fulfils criteria for Local or State listing.
- Little: Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret. Does not fulfil criteria for Local or State listing.
- Intrusive: Damaging to the item's heritage significance. Does not fulfil criteria for Local or State listing.

Places that may possess social, historic, scientific or aesthetic significance to Aboriginal people may also be important to the wider community for educational, historical and cultural reasons and to the scientific community in particular for potential research value. Such sites and places may include or consist of:

- known places of social, spiritual, cultural value, including natural resources of significance;
- known historic places;
- known Aboriginal objects and/or declared Aboriginal places; and
- Potential places/areas of social, spiritual, cultural value, including natural resources, historic or archaeological significance.

Aboriginal people are the primary determinants of the value of their cultural heritage and how it should be protected and conserved. Current best practice Aboriginal cultural heritage management guidelines in NSW (OEH 2010:2) require Aboriginal people have an early and active role in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and management process and control of how the heritage information is subsequently used. The *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* is the primary legislation that protects certain aspects of Aboriginal cultural heritage and one of the objectives of the NPW Act is ‘... the conservation of objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape, including but not limited to: (i) places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people ...’ (s.2A(1)(b)).

However, Aboriginal community consultation has not been undertaken for this report, and it is recommended that this be undertaken to establish a fuller understanding of the Aboriginal heritage values and their significance that apply to the TSCA.

Within the context of the following Aboriginal heritage significance assessment of Thompsons Square that addresses the standard criteria above, four values of cultural significance as defined under the *Burra Charter* that underpin this assessment are interpreted to mean :

- *Aesthetic value*: refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of the place. It is often closely linked with the social values. It may consider form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric or landscape, and the smell and sounds associated with the place and its use.
- *Historic value*: refers to the associations of a place with a historically important person, event, phase or activity in an Aboriginal community. Historic places do not always have physical evidence of their historical importance (such as structures, planted vegetation or landscape modifications). They may have ‘shared’ historic values with other (non-Aboriginal) communities.
- *Scientific* (archaeological and research) value: refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its rarity, representativeness and the extent to which it may contribute to further understanding and information.

- *Social or cultural value*: refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachments the place or area has for Aboriginal people. Social or cultural value is how people express their connection with a place and the meaning that place has for them. Social or cultural value can only be identified through consultation with Aboriginal people.

### 5.2.3 Evaluation of TSCA Aboriginal heritage values - Criterion (a) to (g)

Criterion (a) – an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Thompsons Square contains a rare combination of Aboriginal archaeological and geomorphological evidence, coupled with a post 1788 Aboriginal history, which tell us about a number of things that are important in the course of NSWs cultural and natural history.

The archaeology recorded by recent and previous investigations at Windsor (and nearby Pitt Town) contributes significantly to our understanding of the nature and timing of prehistoric Aboriginal occupation of the region that extends back possibly over 40,000 years or more and is one of the oldest Aboriginal archaeological sites known in eastern NSW. The archaeological evidence contained in the TSCA has the potential to tell us about the arrival and spread of Aboriginal people through NSW via the coastal and hinterland river systems.

Thompson Square contains intact source bordering dune deposits with Aboriginal archaeological evidence occurring throughout. This deposit has the potential to provide evidence for what the natural environment of the place was like in 1788 and the nature of rapid changes that place thereafter. At a longer time scale, and from a geomorphic perspective, the archaeological resources contained within the TSCA have the potential to tell us about prehistoric river flow and flood patterns, and to infer past climate conditions, and these avenues of research are useful to understanding the formation and history of the Hawkesbury River Valley during the period Aboriginal people occupied the country. Because the Aboriginal archaeological record at Windsor has such a long time depth, and was created by people that lived through periods of significant climate change and successfully managed to adapt to these changing conditions over a long period of time, the TSCA may also contain evidence for long term environmental change and human responses that may be of value in the context of modelling and managing future climate change.

The colonial settlement of the Hawkesbury River and the deep and long-standing impacts that the ensuing racial conflict and land annexure had on the traditional owners of the country each unfolded according a sequence of processes that were to be replicated across many regions of NSW. However, the Hawkesbury district was to be the first area of expansion into lands where a large Aboriginal



population was knowingly and not peacefully displaced, and the Aboriginal history of the Hawkesbury River tells an important chapter in the Aboriginal story of the State.

The Aboriginal heritage values at Windsor, all of which are potentially contained within and/or are directly related to the TSCA, draw direct comparison with the Aboriginal archaeological and historical and environmental heritage values that are embodied by the '*Parramatta Sand Body*' (PSB) in Parramatta's CBD. The PSB appears to be of similar geomorphic origin and to share a common set of site formation process to the deposits on the Hawkesbury River, and has a comparable Aboriginal archaeological occupation history. The PSB is listed on the SHR under the title '*Ancient Aboriginal and Early colonial Landscape*' which is a dual heritage descriptor that could easily be also applied to the TSCA.

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

Thompson Square is named after a man who as chief constable of Windsor was charged to lead a punitive raid on an Aboriginal camp that set out from Windsor in 1805 and that resulted in the killing of Aboriginal people. The other life works and achievements of Thompson are not questioned, but this fact does symbolise the sad Aboriginal histories that directly resulted from the initial permanent settlement of Windsor as the main fixed settler presence on Hawkesbury River in the early 1790s and the subsequent establishment of the Square as the central military and civic space within the town as it developed under Governor Macquarie and mid way through the wider Hawkesbury-Nepean War.

This criterion doesn't often suite the assessment of Aboriginal archaeological or historical heritage values at most Aboriginal archaeological sites. A counter point to this position is the Aboriginal archaeological record of landuse occupation at Windsor as a whole was created by countless thousands of generations of Aboriginal people and by virtue of this long chronology alone, this unbroken occupation of Windsor is an important part of the State's history.

Criterion (c) – an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)

The original river landscape setting of Windsor was depicted in the 1790s to be picturesque, and the TSCA retains enough of its topography and relationship to the river for the Aboriginal site that is partly contained within the Square to be appreciated from that perspective.

The Aboriginal archaeological objects recovered from the TSCA, and those likely to still be contained within the TSCA are likely to display a comparable degree of technical and creative achievement to that seen elsewhere in the region. The source bordering dune deposits within the TSCA from which some Aboriginal objects were recovered from during the testing program however are rare.

Criterion (d) – an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

The place is important to local Aboriginal and non Aboriginal communities, but the precise nature of the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the TSCA is not known at present.

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

Thompsons Square contains two principal Aboriginal archaeological landscapes with soil and sand profiles that contain Aboriginal objects; a ridgeline and remnants of a source-bordering dune. The ridgeline soils are shallow and often truncated, contain some concentrations of artefacts but with limited potential for stratified archaeological deposits, and are considered to be of moderate archaeological significance.

The TSCA dune archaeological deposits are deeper, contain the potential for stratified and datable deposits, and are suggestive of prolonged Aboriginal occupation of the place. The Windsor source bordering dune deposits are likely to be a continuation of the soil profiles that had previously been excavated at Windsor Museum and which has identified Aboriginal occupation evidence spanning c.33,000 BP and 8,000 BP.

The archaeological evidence from Windsor (along with that recorded at Pitt Town) indicates that Aboriginal people were using the Hawkesbury River at least 20,000 years ago and possibly up to 35,000 years or more ago and that this is some of the earliest archaeological evidence in the region. Several glass artefacts (dated to between c.1794 and the ~1830s) recovered from lower Thompson Square during recent archaeological testing add a tangible dimension to the Aboriginal historical records about post-settlement racial interactions at the place during this period. The long chronology of continuous Aboriginal occupation of Windsor, coupled with the historical relationship and proximity of Windsor to documented sites that relate to the racial conflicts that took place along the river up to 1816 has potential through detailed analysis and interpretation to meet State significant levels.

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

The archaeological and environmental values of the source-bordering dune deposits contained within the TSCA should meet State significance thresholds. It is rare and relatively intact deposit, and is one of only six other sand bodies with stratified Aboriginal cultural deposits known in NSW. It possesses very high scientific significance because it contains Aboriginal objects and cultural deposits that tell us about how people lived on the river for up to and over 30,000 years, how they adapted to long periods of major prehistoric climate change, and subsequently survived and persisted after White settlement.

Criterion (g) – an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments

The Aboriginal archaeological and environmental evidence contained within the TSCA is significant because it embodies the full record and tangible evidences for how a segment of the Hawkesbury River landscape has naturally developed and been used over many thousands of years. Few other places in NSW have the same level of Aboriginal archaeological, dual-heritage historical and environmental research available.

#### *5.2.4 Summary statement of Aboriginal heritage significance*

The documented and potential Aboriginal archaeological, historical and environmental heritage values of the Thompson Square Conservation area (TSCA) are individually rare. Each of these values also possesses comparatively high cultural heritage value and research potential, and is in combination considered to be of State significance. The archaeology documents an unbroken record of Aboriginal occupation and use of the Hawkesbury River for up to and over 30,000 years, and this long chronology was punctuated by significant changes to the living conditions and climate at Windsor at times. The dune deposits preserved in the TSCA have the potential to document the natural life history of the river prior to and overlapping the time frame people were living on the river. This archaeological and environmental evidence is important to understanding aspects of the cultural and natural evolution of NSW and existing and future interpretations will benefit from in situ conservation of the remaining Aboriginal heritage that is currently preserved and protected in the TSCA via the development and innovation of archaeological theory, dating techniques and technologies.

### **5.3 Aboriginal archaeological potential & sensitivity mapping**

#### *5.3.1 Documented Aboriginal archaeology in the TSCA*

The following assessment of the Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity of the TSCA and the provisional mapping of the place into archaeological significance and management zones is based primarily on the findings reported for archaeological testing undertaken within and in the vicinity of Thompson Square in 2012 and 2016.

The first investigation confirmed the presence of Aboriginal archaeological cultural materials and provided insight into their potential antiquity and significance. The second study recovered a larger sample of soil and stratigraphic and archaeological data, and was able to provide date parameters for some of the Aboriginal objects and deposits that are contained within a sand body that is preserved within Thompson Square and beneath adjacent streetscapes.

### 5.3.2 2012 test excavations

The primary area of Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity that was first identified within the WBRP area in 2012 was located within and surrounding Thompson Square. Substantial and largely intact archaeological deposits associated with an ancient source bordering dune were identified. Evidence for the sand body was identified at the top of the bank (Sq 057E 560N) in the southeast corner of Thompson Square at an elevation of 20.5m AHD and 14 stone artefacts were recovered. The majority of these were from a single layer of fine grained sand. A mid-slope square (Sq 017E 630N) also had moderate artefact numbers (64) but these derived from a mixed historical archaeological context. Both test pits were excavated to a depth of about 1m but cultural deposits are likely to continue below this depth.

In summary, this study involved test excavation of five squares within and in the vicinity of Thompson Square that recovered 185 Aboriginal artefacts (mainly tuff) and identified relatively shallow windblown Aeolian topsoil at upper slope locations and deeper intact sand profiles at mid to lower-slope locations.

### 5.3.3 2016 test excavations

The 2016 test excavations within the WBRP study area investigated 38 test pits and recovered 1,434 Aboriginal objects. Ten stratigraphic units that characterise the project area were identified. These could along with cultural materials be divided into four archaeological landscape units. These comprise an elevated ridgeline and a source-bordering dune and two types of alluvium at the river edge. The sand body deposits identified in Thompson Square are of particular significance and are further described below. The ridgeline had shallow and patchy and shallow duplex soils (frequently disturbed) that contained low number of Aboriginal objects. This landscape unit encompasses the elevated areas in the vicinity of George and Bridge Streets, and extends into the upper part of Thompson Square. The alluvium is thick clay and fine sand and its distribution takes in the northern project area and lower areas of the southern project area. Cultural material was found throughout the deposit in low numbers.

The source-bordering dune is a fluvial and Aeolian-derived sand body, and it is understood that the lower unit of this deposit was formed by fluvial processes (flood terrace, levee) and the upper layer through wind-blown (sand) processes. This deposit is reported typically 1-1.5m thick and extends across the upper and lower portions of Thompson Square and into parts of Old Bridge Street and The Terrace. The deposit is more intact in upper Thompson Square but has been subject to varying levels of historical burial and/or truncation.

The 2016 study identifies that the sand deposit formed discontinuously between >82ka and the mid-Holocene (~5ka) and the archaeology within this deposit is suggestive of two periods of Aboriginal occupation between 27-18ka (onset and peak of the LGM) and early-to-mid Holocene.

The sand units within Thompson Square contained the majority of the Aboriginal objects (n=995/75% equating to 56 items/m<sup>2</sup>). Dating indicate these deposits contain cultural materials older than 23,000 years in age. The remaining archaeological landscapes appear younger (less than 10,000 years) in age and were found to be often disturbed and/or truncated by historical and/or modern activities. With the exception of one test pit (SA12) within Thompson Square, cultural deposits were sparse in these units and have either been reworked by natural (fluvial) or human (reclamation/earthworks) processes.

A small number of glass artefacts (5) were found in the lower portion of Thompson Square (east of Bridge Street) and other historical material found in association suggest that the artefacts likely date to between c.1794 and the 1830s.

The 2016 test excavation reported that mitigation of future impacts to Aboriginal archaeological heritage within the WBRP area would focus on information recovery from the Pleistocene (>10ka) and early Holocene (5-10ka) sand-body deposits within the project area, and an approximately 150 sqm open area excavation was proposed for the source-bordering deposits. It is understood that this salvage, or a variation of it, is currently underway but the progress results of that work are unknown:

#### 5.3.4 *Archaeological expectations*

The archaeological expectations reported for the proposed salvage Aboriginal excavation was the recovery of ~7,500 Aboriginal objects that would form a substantial collection for analysis and long-term care. In association with the assemblages from Windsor Museum (~12,000) and Pitt Town (~10,000) these items would cumulatively have the potential to form one of the most substantial and significant Aboriginal artefact collections in the Sydney Basin, and across much of Australia for the LGM period.

It can be reasonably anticipated that a large proportion of the artefacts that may be recovered via the current archaeological salvage program that will focus on the source bordering dune deposits within the WBRP area will be recovered from the sand body deposits that are contained within the TSCA. The results of the current salvage works will identify and detail the nature and significance of the remainder of the Aboriginal archaeological resources potentially contained within the TSCA are likely to comprise.

However, in broad terms, Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits to a lesser extent are likely to be encountered in three types of subsurface archaeological/stratigraphic circumstances and contexts:

##### *'Modern' topsoil and fill*

There was a seemingly extensive Aboriginal archaeological site with large numbers of stone artefacts (and other cultural materials) in pre-existence on the river sand body landform that was to have Thomson Square overprinted on it, and these objects were possibly occasionally destroyed (but not many) but most Aboriginal objects at or near ground surfaces at the time are likely to have been buried



and/or reworked and thereby largely obscured by successive land surface changes. It is highly probable that the scale of Macquarie period drainage and levelling works in the lower Square for example, and concurrent development of the upper Square, coupled with a subsequently long history of modification and change to the surfaces and subsurface profiles within the TSCA over time, has led to some of these Aboriginal objects being incorporated into a variety of historic-period deposits and archaeological contexts forming current lawn and landscaped profiles. For example, fills making up parts of the existing landscaped terrace surfaces and (deep) modern service line fills are types of 'historical archaeological' contexts that may also contain redeposited and 'out-of-context' Aboriginal objects that were originally displaced by widespread movement and mixing of sand and soil that occurred during creation and historic use of the TSCA.

The exception to this general observation would be in the case of modern fills used to level or shape or edge parts of the Square that have by virtue of its date and source and contents would have little or no likelihood of containing Aboriginal objects, or within demonstrably modern (twentieth century) redeveloped soil profiles ('garden soils') that are likely to be present as a surface mantle over most of the current open space areas of Thompson Square.

#### *Historical archaeological surfaces and deposits*

The current ground levels across the TSCA seal what is expected to be a variety of historical archaeological ground surfaces, built elements and archaeological deposits that will vary in age and will occur at differential depths, but will in some locations extend well below ground and deep into the sand dune deposits as would be the case for example for deep-set drainage features. Aboriginal objects and possibly in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposit may be present and survive within the full depth of potential archaeological deposit that may contain historical archaeological deposits and relics.

Because of the archaeological stratigraphic uncertainties associated with loose unconsolidated (and mobile) sand profiles, it may not be always possible to establish whether Aboriginal objects found in historic archaeological topsoil or created surface contexts are contemporary (unless made from worked European materials such as glass and ceramic) or are coeval (residual) or have been reworked into a secondary context. The objects themselves would nevertheless retain high cultural and scientific value.

#### *Prehistoric sand body and ridge top soils*

It is expected that deep sand dune profiles that contain significant archaeological deposits and large numbers of prehistoric artefacts occur in Thompson Square, and below historic disturbance, the probability also exists that these deposits will occur intact and in situ and may be very old. Rare Aboriginal archaeological deposits with significant potential to provide new information about

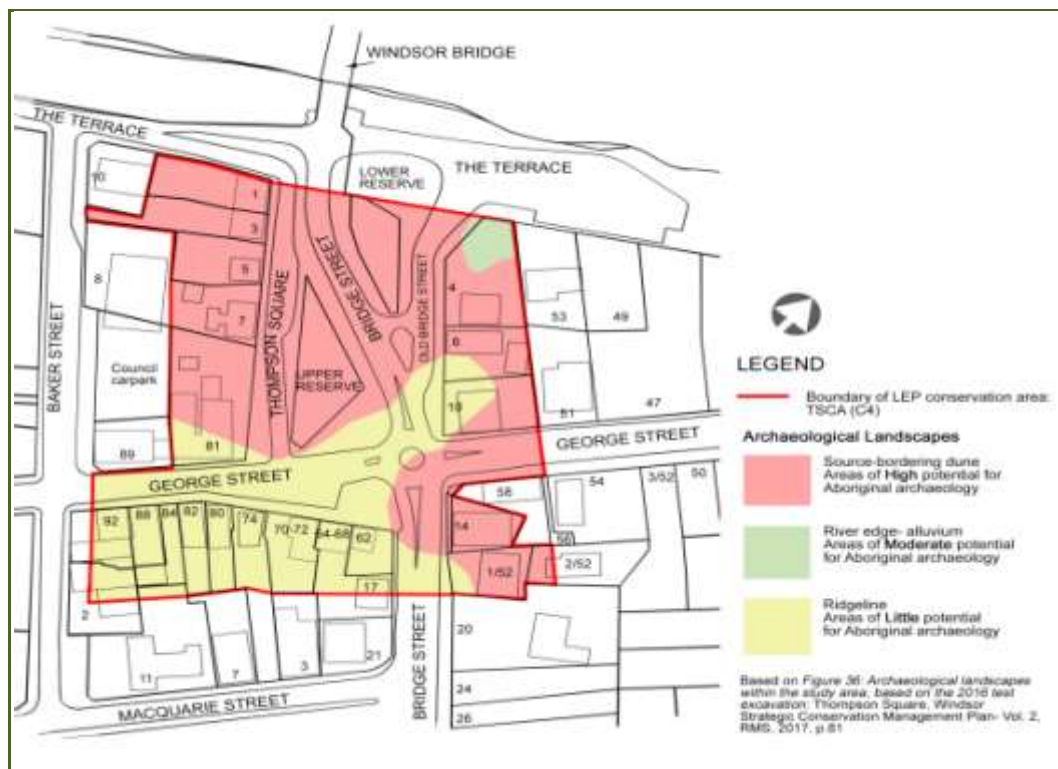
Aboriginal life and natural evolution of the river during the earliest periods of occupation of the region may be preserved within the TSCA. This evidence may include valuable data for the LGM (24-18,000BP) that was a period of significant climatic variability and change.

The ridge top duplex soils are likely to be shallow and often disturbed, and whilst these soils may contain Aboriginal objects, there is a limited chance that abundant or stratified archaeological deposits will occur. The alluvial influenced deposits towards the lower end of the square may also contain Aboriginal objects, but intact and in situ are not likely unless under exception preservation circumstances.

### 5.3.5 Predicted Aboriginal archaeology in the TSCA

The archaeological zoning map below identifies that the primary areas of High Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity correspond to the predicted distribution of the Aeolian/fluvial source bordering dune. This is one of only six known sand bodies in NSW, and is a rare Aboriginal and environmental heritage resource considered to be significant to the State, and core elements of this documented profile distribution and its associated archaeology are contained within the TSCA.

Figure 5.1: TSCA Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity map



## 6.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that HCC adopt the following Aboriginal heritage management policies for the ongoing care and protection of the archaeological resources contained within the TSCA:

### Policy 1 (General):

The TSCA contains a highly significant Aboriginal archaeological site with the potential to contain Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits at almost any depth including immediately below current ground surfaces. Deeper subsurface levels within the TSCA contain very old prehistoric archaeology, upper topsoil deposits have recorded the co-association of Aboriginal flaked glass and stone artefacts, and there is the possibility that Aboriginal objects also occur within reclaimed and redeposited river edge alluvium and other locally sourced fill materials used historically to create parts of the TSCA landscaping and levels. Caution therefore needs to be exercised in planning for future changes in the TSCA that may disturb existing ground surfaces. At this time all subsurface soils within the TSCA (outside of modern garden beds and top dressing soils) be considered to represent Aboriginal PAD until such time as the precise depth and distribution of modern fills and recently developed soils with little or no potential to contain Aboriginal objects is established.

### Policy 2 (statutory):

The TSCA forms part of an AHIMS listed Aboriginal archaeological site and is required to be managed according to the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Future works within the TSCA that may disturb the ground beyond anything but superficially should be guided by the findings and recommendations of a due diligence level Aboriginal heritage impact statement for the proposed activity. Any future actions that will or are reasonably expected to disturb Aboriginal objects will require an approved Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) issued for the works.

### Policy 3 (statutory):

Policy 22 of the CMP recommends HCC seek s.57 Standard Exemptions under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* for minor works that **do not apply to excavation, unless Council can demonstrate the locality is previously disturbed or comprises previous fill along with maintenance and repair of existing roads, paths, and services. In line with the previous Aboriginal management Policy above, it is recommended that an** Aboriginal heritage impact statement for those activities proposed for exemption under the Heritage Act also be prepared to confirm that low activity proposals will not have an adverse heritage impact on the Aboriginal archaeological resources of the TSCA.

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## Appendix 1

AHIMS site search details for the TSCA



## AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Purchase Order/Reference : Thompson Sq

Client Service ID : 336918

Dominic Steele Archaeological Consulting

Date: 04 April 2018

21 Macgregor Street  
CROYDON New South Wales 2132

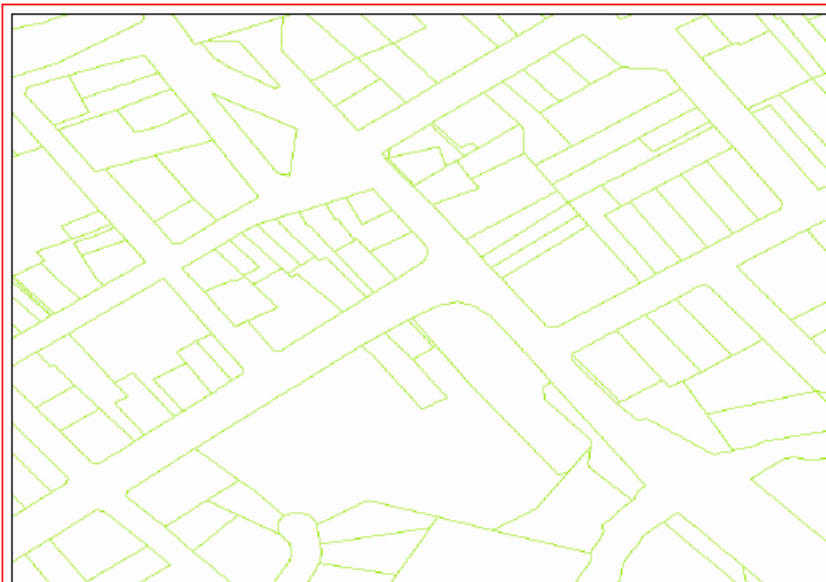
Attention: Dominic Steele

Email: dsca@bigpond.net.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 297960 - 298260, Northings : 6279300 - 6279600 with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Dominic Steele on 04 April 2018.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of the Office of the Environment and Heritage AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

2	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

**If your search shows Aboriginal sites or places what should you do?**


- You must do an extensive search if AHIMS has shown that there are Aboriginal sites or places recorded in the search area.
- If you are checking AHIMS as a part of your due diligence, refer to the next steps of the Due Diligence Code of practice.
- You can get further information about Aboriginal places by looking at the gazettal notice that declared it. Aboriginal places gazetted after 2001 are available on the [NSW Government Gazette](http://www.nsw.gov.au/gazette) (<http://www.nsw.gov.au/gazette>) website. Gazettal notices published prior to 2001 can be obtained from Office of Environment and Heritage's Aboriginal Heritage Information Unit upon request

**Important information about your AHIMS search**

- The information derived from the AHIMS search is only to be used for the purpose for which it was requested. It is not be made available to the public.
- AHIMS records information about Aboriginal sites that have been provided to Office of Environment and Heritage and Aboriginal places that have been declared by the Minister;
- Information recorded on AHIMS may vary in its accuracy and may not be up to date. Location details are recorded as grid references and it is important to note that there may be errors or omissions in these recordings.
- Some parts of New South Wales have not been investigated in detail and there may be fewer records of Aboriginal sites in those areas. These areas may contain Aboriginal sites which are not recorded on AHIMS.
- Aboriginal objects are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 even if they are not recorded as a site on AHIMS.
- This search can form part of your due diligence and remains valid for 12 months.

3 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW 2150  
Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2220  
Tel: (02) 9585 6380 Fax: (02) 9873 8599

ABN 30 841 387 271  
Email: [ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)



Office of  
Environment  
& Heritage

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Thompson Sq

Client Service ID : 336918

Shield	Site Name	Datum	Zone	Eastings	Northings	Context	Site Status	Site Features	Site Types	Reports
46-5-3581	South Bank PAD-WSP (Windsor)	GDA	56	297957	6279485	Open site	Valid	Archaeological Deposit (PAD) :- Potential		
46-5-2435	Contact	Heritage Concepts								
	BLW 97	Acid	56	297900	6279250	Open site	Valid	Artifact :-	Permits	Open Camp Site
	Contact	Recorders	Stephanie	Clarling					Permits	919

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 04/04/2018 for Domain Steele for the following area at Datum GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 297960 - 298260, Northings : 6279300 - 6279600 with a Buffer of 50 meters. Additional info: for a CMP for Thompson Sq. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 2

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW) and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such act or omission.

Page 1 of 1



# **Appendix 6**

## **Historical Archaeological Assessment Thompson Square, Windsor**

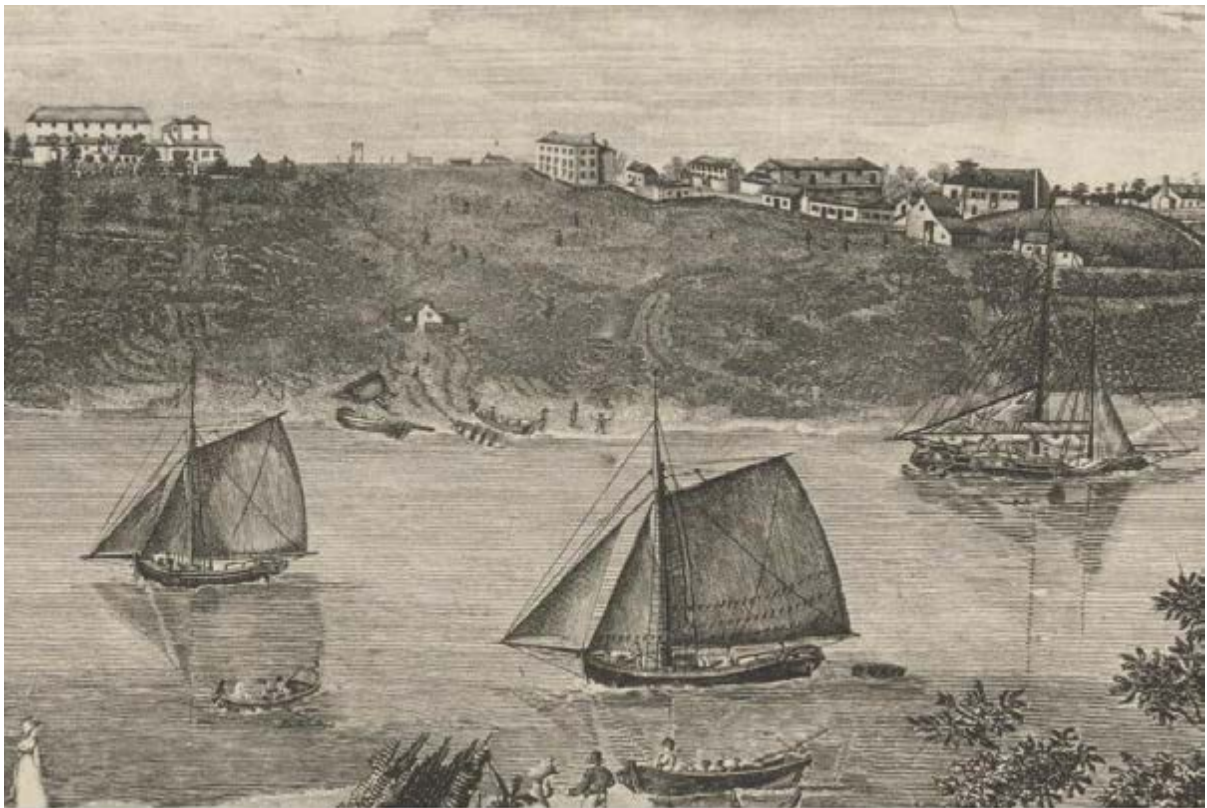
Casey & Lowe Archaeology and Heritage  
March 2018



# THOMPSON SQUARE, WINDSOR

## HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

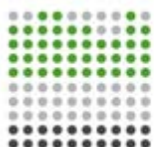
FINAL REPORT  
MARCH 2018



A view of part of the town of Windsor (detail), c.1811-1812, Philip Slager (Slaeger).

REPORT TO

**LSJ HERITAGE PLANNING & ARCHITECTURE**



**CASEY &  
LOWE**  
ARCHAEOLOGY &  
HERITAGE

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report assesses the potential historical archaeological remains of the Thompson Square Conservation Area (TSCA), as well as the heritage significance of these remains. It has been prepared to provide the historical archaeological component of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP), prepared by Lucas Stapleton Johnson Heritage Architects, on behalf of Hawkesbury City Council.

## RESULTS

- The TSCA is listed on the State Heritage Register and the Hawkesbury LEP (2012).
- It has the potential to contain historical archaeological evidence relating to its ongoing use, and development of the site, as a government and later civic precinct since the earliest British settlement, c.1795. This archaeological assessment has shown that the study area has the potential to contain the following remains:
  - Remains of a several early buildings and subsidiary structures dating from the late 18th and early 19th century, erected as part of the early Green Hills settlement. Includes potential remains, such as early houses and government buildings, not mentioned in the historical records or included on maps or in historic images. A number of these structures were evidently cleared in preparation for the planned Thompson Square, however remains of these structures and associated deposits and artefacts may remain under the current roadways and standing structures surrounding Thompson Square.
  - Associated archaeological features and deposits related to the early Green Hills settlement and buildings within the Government precinct (i.e. rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns or cesspits, which may contain quantities of artefacts).
  - Evidence of land modification, including tracks, and pockets of early cultivation following initial European settlement at Mulgrave Place / Green Hills. Limited evidence of this sort has been identified in testing programs (including planting holes, postholes, modified topsoils, etc). The possibility of archaeobotanical remains should also be considered.
  - Various stages of wharfage, essential to the shipment of grain to sustain the town of Sydney, erected at the river's edge. Archaeological evidence of early wharfs (dating to the 1820s and perhaps the earlier c.1814 wharf) has already been demonstrated in maritime investigations along the Terrace.
  - Structural remains and subfloor occupation-related artefact deposits associated with 19th-century buildings fronting Thompson Square reserve on its western and eastern boundaries.
  - Unrecorded yard features (including rubbish pits, wells, cisterns, or cesspits), and associated deposits related to these 19th-century structures.
  - Evidence of early roadways, including those made for the bridge and the 1930s road realignment. Evidence for previous roadways is well documented in the testing programs within Thompson Square. The construction of these roads will have impacted on the potential archaeology within the study area.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

As the TSCA has the potential to contain State-significant relics, any impacts on the site will require an approval under S60 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* unless the work is undertaken under Division 4.7 (State Significant Development) or Division 5.2 (State Significant Infrastructure) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. If located, opportunities to preserve the potential archaeological remains on the property should be explored.

The following recommendations are based on the historical research and archaeological analysis provided in this assessment:

1. All State significant archaeology within the study area should be conserved *in situ*.
2. Any proposal to impact on archaeology should be discussed with the Heritage Council of NSW, or its delegate (Heritage Council), and alternative design options investigated.
3. The Hawkesbury Regional Museum should be the repository for all archaeological material recovered from the TSCA.
4. As part of any development approvals agreements should be made with private landowners to ensure that that ownership (or management) of the archaeological material is vested in the Hawkesbury Council.
5. Prior to undertaking works that disturb the area within the State Heritage Register curtilage, an approval under S57 or S60 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* will need to be obtained from the Heritage Council. Discussions should be held with the Heritage Division of the Department of Environment and Heritage (OEH) regarding the nature of the impacts and the proposed archaeological program.
6. A standalone copy of this report should be sent to the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage to inform any future decision making in relation to archaeology within the TSCA and its surrounds.
7. An Archaeological Research Design will need to be written as part of any S60 application. This will identify the archaeological approach and methodology to be used on the site, and the type of archaeological questions the archaeological investigation might address.
8. The archaeological program should include a phase of archaeological testing in areas to inform and influence the location and design of any proposed subsurface impact depending on the nature of potential remains in these areas.
9. Depending on the results of the testing program and any mitigation of impacts, a program of archaeological excavation and recording may be necessary.
10. Any artefacts collected and retained during the works will need to be catalogued and then securely stored in the Hawkesbury Regional Museum after the completion of the archaeological program.
11. If located, opportunities to conserve *in situ* and interpret significant archaeological remains should be explored.
12. At the end of the archaeological program a report presenting the results of the archaeological program and artefact catalogue must be prepared (and will likely be a condition of consent of the S60 approval or any relevant planning approval).



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## APPENDICIES

APPENDIX 1: SHI PREVIOUS STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

**Document Status**

<b>STATUS</b>	<b>DATE SUBMITTED</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>AUTHORISED</b>
Draft 1	12.01.2018	Internal review	Iona Kat McRae	Tony Lowe
Draft 2	23.02.2018	Internal review	Iona Kat McRae	Tony Lowe / Mary Casey
Draft 2	25.01.2018	Client review	Iona Kat McRae	Mary Casey
Draft 3	19.03.2018	Internal review	Iona Kat McRae	Kylie Seretis
FINAL	29.03.2018	FINAL	Iona Kat McRae	Kylie Seretis

# HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT THOMPSON SQUARE, WINDSOR

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

Casey & Lowe, Archaeology & Heritage were engaged by Lucas Stapleton Johnson Heritage Architects, on behalf of Hawkesbury City Council, to provide the historical archaeological component of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the State heritage-listed conservation area of the Thompson Square Conservation Area (TSCA), Windsor and its environs (Figure 1.1). The following report provides:

- A review of the historical development of the area.
- An evaluation of prior archaeological investigations within the study area.
- An assessment of the study area's archaeological potential and significance.

This assessment has been prepared following issue of the Thompson Square Final Draft Strategic Conservation Management Plan (SCMP) in June 2017.<sup>1</sup> Hawkesbury City Council, as the owner/custodian of much of Thompson Square, has requested a revised CMP, primarily on account of the restricted focus of the Draft SCMP study area, which covered only approximately 50% of the Thompson Square Conservation Area / Precinct (SHR curtilage, Heritage Council of NSW).

The following assessment extends the focus of the study area to incorporate those areas outside the limits of the Draft SCMP boundary, but within the parameters defined by the Heritage Council of NSW (Figure 1.2). In the process of preparing this report the boundaries of the TSCA have been reviewed and revised, allowing these boundaries to more accurately reflect the historical significance of Thompson Square.

The assessment incorporates and builds upon much of the work presented in the 2017 Draft SCMP, prepared by Austral Extent Joint Venture (AAJV) for RMS, and acknowledges the value of this research in helping inform the current report.



Figure 1.1: Location of the general assessment area of the Thompson Square Conservation Area, Windsor. SIX Maps accessed 20/11/2017.

<sup>1</sup> Prepared by Austral and Extent (formally AHMS) Joint Venture for RMS.

## 1.2 STUDY AREA

Thompson Square is located in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area (LGA), situated to the south of the Hawkesbury River, and incorporating parts of George Street, Bridge Street, Thompson Square and The Terrace, Windsor (Table 1.1). The square itself, inclusive of the Colonial Georgian buildings that surround it, is centred around the historic Mulgrave Place / Green Hills. Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and the only preserved civic square established by Governor Lachlan Macquarie.

The limits of the study area used in this report are defined by the boundaries of the TSCA as registered under both its State Heritage Register (SHR) listing and within the Hawkesbury LEP (Figure 1.2). The noted irregularity between these margins is particularly apparent along the western and southern limits of the conservation area. These anomalies are largely accounted for by:

- a. The inclusion of SHR items 00041 (Macquarie Arms Hotel) and 00005 (5 Thompson Square) within the LEP Conservation Precinct,
- b. A shift in the property boundaries between the publication of Heritage Council Plan No. 383 (in 1981) and the Hawkesbury LEP (in 2012). This is particularly apparent with the properties along the southern edge (George Street) of the conservation precinct, and is discussed below in Sections 1.3.2 and 1.3.3.



Figure 1.2: Study Area showing the curtilage of the TSCA as defined under the SHR listing (red) and within the 2012 Hawkesbury LEP (blue). Note that the SHR listing excludes Bridge Street (see below Figure 1.3).



Table 1.1: Properties registered within the State Heritage Inventory (SHI) listing for the TSCA. Note that both the Macquarie Arms Hotel and 5 Thompson Square have individual SHR items. A number of properties included within the Hawkesbury LEP listing for TSCA are not registered on the SHR. These anomalies are discussed below (Section 1.3.3).

ADDRESS	LOT / PLAN NUMBER	LEP 1989	LEP 2012	SHR	ITEM NAME / IDENTIFICATION
4 Bridge Street	Lot 10, DP 666894	273	I00126	00126	Bungalow
6 (8) Bridge Street	Lot 1, DP 995391	273	I00126	00126	House
10 Bridge Street	Part Lot A, DP 381403*	273	I00126	00126	Libum Hall / Lilburndale
14 Bridge Street and 1-2/52 George Street	Lot 1, DP 136637 and Lots 1 and 2, DP 1127620**	273	I00126	-	Former School of Arts
17 Bridge Street	Lot 1, DP 555685	273	I00126	00126	Cottage
62 George Street	Lot 2, DP 555685	273	I00126	00126	House
64-68 George Street	Lot 1, DP 555685	273	I00126	00126	Hawkesbury Stores (Moses' Store)
70(-72) George Street	Lot 1, DP 1011887	273	I00126	00126	Hawkesbury Garage
74 George Street	Lot 1, DP 87241***	273	I00126	00126	A.C. Stearn Building
80 and 82 George Street	Lots 10 and 11, DP 630209	273	I00126	00126	Shop / Commercial Building
84 and 88 George Street	Lot 1, DP 223433**** and Lot 2, DP 233054	273	I00126	-	Shop
3 Old Bridge Road	Lot 345, DP 752061	273	I00126	-	Public Reserve
The Terrace, George and Bridge Street	Lot 7007, DP 1029964	273	I00126	-	Reserve and Streets
1-3 Thompson Square	Lot B, DP 161643 and Lot 1, DP 196531	273	I00126	00126	The Doctor's House
7 Thompson Square	Lot 1, DP 60716***	273	I00126	00126	Hawkesbury Museum (John Howe's House) (Coffey's Inn)
81 George Street	Part Lot 1, DP 864088	273	I00041	00041	Macquarie Arms Hotel
5 Thompson Square	Lot 1, DP 745036	273	I00005	00005	House and Outbuildings
<b>PROPERTIES LISTED IN SHI BUT NOT IN HAWKESBURY LEP 2012</b>					
-	Lot C, DP 379996	273	-	-	Former School of Arts
-	Lot 10, DP 759096	273	-	-	Former School of Arts
<b>PROPERTIES LISTED IN SHI BUT NOT IN HAWKESBURY LEP 2012 / 1989</b>					
7 Macquarie Street	Part Lot 1, DP 1045626	-	-	-	
George Street (in front 14 Bridge Street and 1/52 George Street)	Lot 2, DP 239319	-	-	-	Road / Curb

\*Listed as "Lot A" in SHI.

\*\*Listed as "Part Lot 2" in SHI.

\*\*\*Listed as "Part Lot 1" in SHI.

\*\*\*\*Listed as "Lot 2" in SHI.

## 1.3 STATUTORY CONTEXT

### 1.3.1 NSW HERITAGE ACT 1977

Listing a heritage item and any associated archaeology on the State Heritage Register (SHR) means that the Minister for Heritage considers the item is of State heritage significance and warrants conservation into the future for the State. Such listings are managed under S57 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*.



### 1.3.2 STATE HERITAGE REGISTER LISTING (SHR)

The TSCA is listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR 00126) and is therefore protected under S57 of the *Heritage Act 1977*. The limits of the SHR curtilage for Thompson Square are shown below in Figure 1.3. Both the Macquarie Arms Hotel (81 George Street), and the house and outbuildings of 5 Thompson Square are listed under individual SHR items (SHR 00041 and SHR 00005 respectively). The two items are currently not included in the SHR curtilage of the TSCA (Figure 1.3).<sup>2</sup>

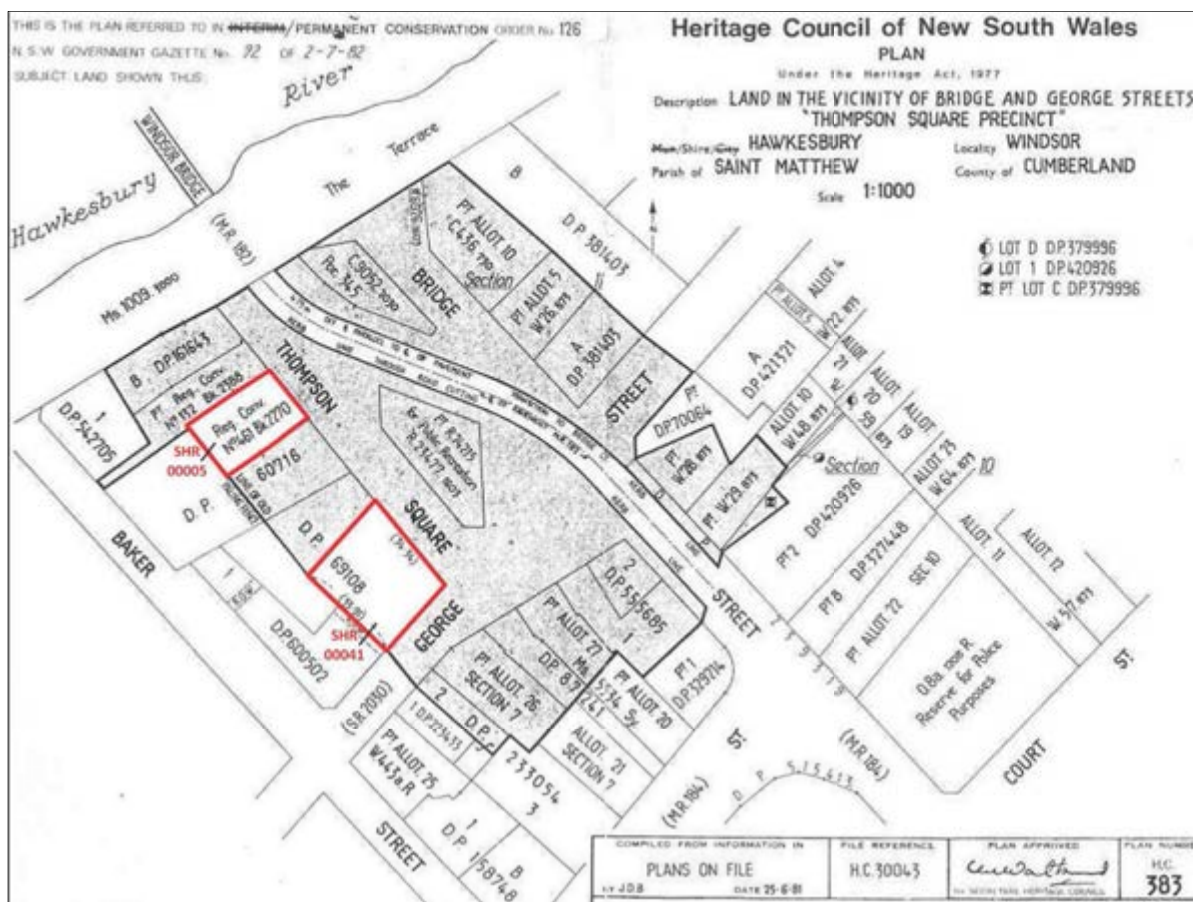


Figure 1.3: Permanent Conservation Order (PCO) No. 126, Plan No. 383, showing the boundaries of the TSCA as defined by state heritage listing. The Macquarie Arms Hotel and 5 Thompson Square are marked in red.

### 1.3.3 HAWKESBURY LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (LEP), 2012

The 2012 Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan (LEP) lists the TSCA as an item of local heritage significance (LEP I00126). In addition to defining a broad conservation area for Thompson Square, individual properties have been classified within the listing, although the margins of these do not always align (Figure 1.4). The major inconsistencies are the exclusion (within the conservation area) of:

- The property 2/52 George Street, Former School of Arts (Lot 2, DP 1127620).
- The rear of property 74 George Street (Part Lot 1, DP 87241).
- The rear of property 7 Thompson Square (Part Lot 1, DP 60716).

and the inclusion of:

- The rear of property 68 George Street (Lot 1, DP 555685).

<sup>2</sup> See Section 4.5 of the main report for further analysis of the discrepancies between the SHR and LEP curtilages and recommendations for adjusting the TSCA boundaries.

- Part of properties 92-98 George Street (Lots 1 and 2, DP 730435). Originally these properties were within the 1989 Hawkesbury LEP listing for the Thompson Square Conservation Area (LEP 273).

In addition to these discrepancies within the 2012 Hawkesbury LEP, there are further inconsistencies between the conservation area curtilage as defined under the State listing (above Section 1.3.2), and those defined in the LEP. These boundaries are defined below in Figure 1.5. Largely these anomalies are explained for by alterations (between 1981 and 2012) in property boundaries, and the exclusion, within the Thompson Square SHR listing, of the Macquarie Arms Hotel and 5 Thompson Square.

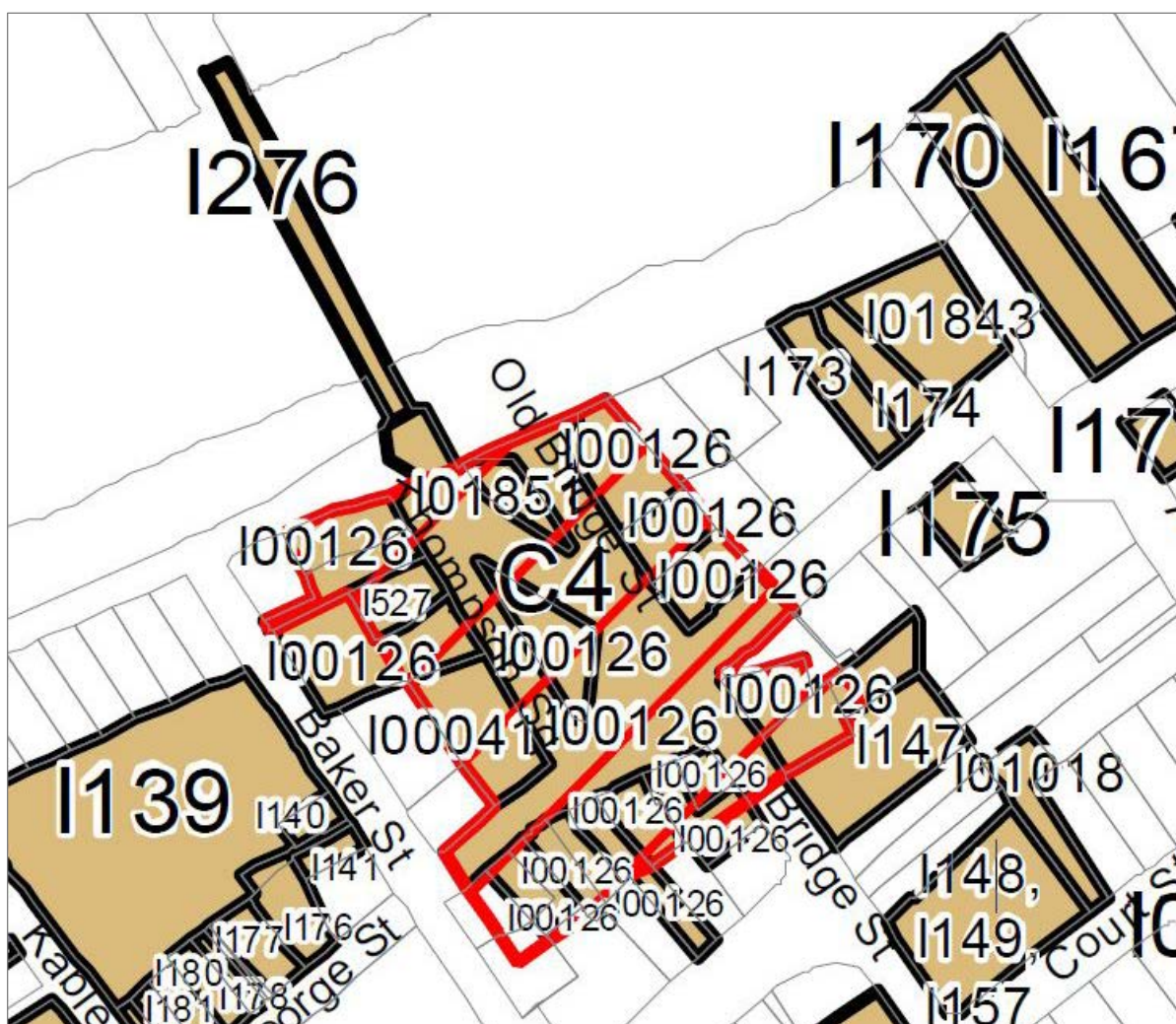


Figure 1.4: Detail of 'Heritage Map - Sheet HER\_008DB' Hawkesbury LEP 2012. The TSCA is marked with red crosshatching. Note also the incorrect labelling of both 5 Thompson Square (marked as I527 as opposed to I0005), and the lower public reserve (3 Old Bridge Road, marked here as I01851 as opposed to I00126).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> I01851 is the listing 2012 Hawkesbury LEP for "McQuade Park" situated approximately 1km to the southwest of Thompson Square at 361 George Street.





Figure 1.5: Map showing the boundaries of the TSCA as defined under State heritage listing (red) and within the conservation area as defined in the Hawkesbury LEP 2012 (blue). The individual lots listed under the TSCA LEP 100126 are marked in green.

### 1.3.4 NON-STATUTORY HERITAGE LEGISLATION

The Thompson Square Precinct is listed in both the Register of the National Trust of Australia (NT Listing No. 10510), and the (archived) Register of the National Estate (RNE Place ID 3166). The RNE and NT are non-statutory heritage registers that provide no statutory protection but are generally considered to be a sign of recognition of the heritage values of a site.

### 1.3.5 STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY GUIDLINES

The management of heritage sites in NSW should conform to the requirements of the Australian ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (the *Burra Charter*). 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.
- *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 PREVIOUS REPORTS

This Archaeological Assessment is largely based upon various earlier documents and reports including:

- *Strategic Conservation Management Plan (2017) - Thompson Square, Windsor NSW*, report prepared by Austral Extent Joint Venture (henceforth AAJV) for RMS. March-May 2017.

Volume 1: Site Identification, Historical Background and Heritage Status.

Volume 2: Physical Analysis, Assessment of Significance, Constraints and Opportunities, Policies and Implementation.

Volume 3: Windsor Bridge Replacement Project specific information.

- *Thompson Square Conservation Area, State Heritage Inventory Listing Item Number 5045195*, NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, accessed 23/10/2017.
- *Historical and Archaeological Investigation of Thompson Square*, report prepared by Edward Higginbotham and Associates Pty Ltd. July 1986.<sup>4</sup>
- *Windsor Bridge Replacement Project Historic Heritage Assessment and Statement of Heritage Impact*, report prepared by BIOSIS Research and CRM. November 2012.
- *Proposed Windsor Bridge Replacement Maritime Archaeological Statement of Heritage Impact*, report prepared by COSMOS Archaeology. October 2012.
- *Windsor Bridge Replacement Project. Historical and Maritime Archaeological Research Design*, report prepared by AAJV for RMS. October 2016.
- *The Hawkesbury: A Thematic History*, prepared by Helen Proudfoot and Hawkesbury City Council, revised 2017.
- *Hawkesbury Heritage Study*, prepared by Herbert Architects and Terry Kass for the Council of the City of Hawkesbury. June 2001.

## 1.5 AUTHORSHIP

This report was prepared by Dr Iona Kat McRae, Senior Archaeologist / Researcher, with reference to earlier historical assessments cited above. The summary historical timeline presented in Section 2.0 is supplemented by historical research prepared by Dr Terry Kass, historian. The report was reviewed by Tony Lowe, Dr Mary Casey and Kylie Seretis, Directors, Casey & Lowe.

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<sup>4</sup> Higginbotham 1986a.

## 1.6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kate Denny, Lucas Stapleton Johnson Heritage Architects  
 Rebecca Turnbull, Curator, Hawkesbury Regional Museum  
 Kathleen von Witt, Gallery and Museum Director, Hawkesbury Regional Museum

## 1.7 LIMITATIONS

This report is designed to assess the historic development of the TSCA in order to determine the nature of historic archaeological remains that may be present. It does not deal with the potential of the property to retain evidence of its Aboriginal occupation. The report is based on historical research and field inspection.

## 1.8 ABBREVIATIONS

AAJV	Austral Extent (formally AHMS) Joint Venture
c.	circa
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
HRA	Historical Records of Australia
HRNSW	Historical Records of NSW
LEP	Local Environment Plan
NLA	National Library of Australia
NT	National Trust
RNE	Register of the National Estate
SCMP	Strategic Conservation Management Plan
SHR	State Heritage Register
SLNSW	State Library NSW
SRNSW	State Archives and Records, NSW
TSCA	Thompson Square Conservation Area
WBRP	Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

## 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 NSW 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 18th and 19th-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.
  - 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.

Monitoring is a regular archaeological practice used on many building and development sites. Efforts are made so that monitoring will not impact on the planned works or unduly hold up contractors' work schedules.

### RESEARCH DESIGN

A set of questions which can be investigated using archaeological evidence and a methodology for addressing them. An archaeological research design is intended to ensure that archaeological investigations focus on genuine research needs. It is an important tool that 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'.<sup>5</sup>

### 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)

<sup>5</sup> Taken from NSW Heritage Branch 2009, p 11.

## 2.0 SUMMARY HISTORICAL TIMELINE

The following summary provides a brief historical outline of the study area, with particular focus on evidence that has helped to inform the archaeological potential in Section 4.0. A more comprehensive historical background of Thompson Square (and further references) is presented in Section 2.2 (A History of Thompson Square) of the CMP.

### 2.1 CHRONOLOGY OF THOMPSON SQUARE

#### MULGRAVE PLACE, 1794

The earliest British settlement on the Hawkesbury River. An initial 22 land grants at Mulgrave Place, expanded to at least 118 by the end of 1794.<sup>6</sup>

#### GREEN HILLS, 1795-1810: GOVERNMENT DOMAIN

Government precinct and reserve established in the location of present day Thompson Square. The original government precinct would have extended to Baker Street on its western extent, and to Arndell Street on its east,<sup>7</sup> as defined by the grants made in 1794 to James Whitehouse (to the west)<sup>8</sup> and Samuel Wilcox (to the east).<sup>9</sup> William Baker subsequently purchased Whitehouse Farm with a new grant issued in 1800.<sup>10</sup>

- c.1795 Several government-built structures, including a storehouse, granary, soldiers' barracks, and wharf erected in the civic square.<sup>11</sup> In addition to these buildings a number of tracks and paths are evidently laid out. The early (c.1809-1810) settlement at Green Hills is recorded in Figure 2.1 and Figure 2.2.
- 1796 The Commandant's house, a weatherboard dwelling, later referred to as Government house / cottage, is built overlooking the river.<sup>12</sup> Demolished in c.1919.  
The foundation of one granary laid out by the end of 1796.<sup>13</sup>
- By 1798 A watch house is built a short distance from the Commandant's house.<sup>14</sup>
- By 1799 Andrew Thompson takes up residence in what later becomes Thompson Square (within the government precinct and close to the watch house), erecting a small cottage in the one acre of land leased to him.<sup>15</sup> A public road (100 feet wide) ran through the land, perhaps the precursor of George Street.
- 1799 Major flood washes away the first wharf, barracks and government stores.<sup>16</sup>
- 1796-1800 Governor Hunter's Return of Public Works records the construction of two log granaries, enclosed with paling during this time. Hunter also notes the repair and maintenance of two government houses, military barracks, storehouses, granaries, officer's dwellings and various public brick buildings.<sup>17</sup> These structures are all presumably located within the government precinct, although the location of some of these (for example the officer's dwellings and the miscellaneous brick buildings) is not known.
- c.1800 Military barracks and government stores rebuilt and relocated closer to the top of the slope above the river. The barracks are visible on Meehan's town plan in 1811, Figure 2.3.<sup>18</sup>
- 1803 Three-storey brick granary constructed on the southeast corner of the square, replacing earlier log and thatch granaries, completed by 1805.<sup>19</sup> Visible in Figure 2.4.

<sup>6</sup> Barkley-Jack 2009, pp. 54ff, Appendix 1.1.

<sup>7</sup> Barkley-Jack 2009, p. 104.

<sup>8</sup> Register of Grants and Leases Series 2, 172.

<sup>9</sup> Register of Grants and Leases Series 1, 133.

<sup>10</sup> Colonial Secretary, Special Bundles 9/2731, pp. 46, 118, 176

<sup>11</sup> Barkley-Jack 2009, pp. 103-105, 293-294.

<sup>12</sup> HRA Series I Vol 2, p. 561; Barkley-Jack 2009, p. 105.

<sup>13</sup> HRNSW Vol. 3, p. 80.

<sup>14</sup> Harris against A.F. Kemp 1799, ML, CY1093, pp. 49, 50 in Barkley-Jack 2009, p. 363.

<sup>15</sup> Register of Grants and Leases Series 2, p. 320; Barkley-Jack 2009, pp. 105-106, 153.

<sup>16</sup> Barkley-Jack 2009, pp. 100.

<sup>17</sup> HRA Series I Vol 2, p. 560.

<sup>18</sup> HRNSW Vol. 4, p. 152; Barkley-Jack 2009, pp. 100.

<sup>19</sup> HRNSW Vol. 5, p. 163.

- 1804-1807 Two-storey schoolhouse, chapel and schoolmaster's residence, started in 1804<sup>20</sup> and completed at some point following 1806.<sup>21</sup> Marked on Meehan's 1812 town plan. Note that in 1810 Macquarie requested that largest of the two granaries apparently be converted into a temporary chapel and public school, enclosed with a 'strong fence'.<sup>22</sup>
- By 1807 Extension and repairs at Government house.<sup>23</sup>  
Slipway for shipbuilding constructed, visible on Evans' 1807 watercolour.<sup>24</sup>
- By 1809 Andrew Thompson erects a three-storied store and warehouse facing Thompson Square, visible in Evans' 1807 (not pictured) and 1809 watercolours.<sup>25</sup>
- 1809 Stables and workshops built at the back of Thompson's store.<sup>26</sup>  
Bell post and stocks visible on Evans' 1809 watercolour.

#### MACQUARIE'S TOWN, 1810-1820s: THOMPSON SQUARE

- 1810 Governor Macquarie establishes his five 'Macquarie Towns', including Windsor.<sup>27</sup>
- 1811 Thompson Square established by Governor Macquarie, various public buildings cleared from the precinct and main streets formalised.<sup>28</sup> A formal boundary on the western edge of Thompson Square was established with the provision of several allotments here, including the Macquarie Arms hotel, allocated to Richard Fitzgerald with construction began shortly thereafter.<sup>29</sup>
- 1812-1816 Thompson's three-storied granary store, attached cottage and garden/orchard incorporated into the Government domain.<sup>30</sup>
- By 1813 Second (?) wharf, built downslope from the Government cottage, visible in Slager's 1811-1812 etching of Windsor (Figure 2.5).
- 1814 A ferry is established across the Hawkesbury. A ferry / punt masters house is depicted on various maps by the foreshore.
- 1815 Macquarie Arms Hotel opened mid-1815,<sup>31</sup> likely completed in 1816.
- 1814-1815 John Howe and James McGrath commissioned to build new wharfage and sewerage system in Thompson Square,<sup>32</sup> apparently electing to build a single central barrel drain with auxiliary channels (as identified in recent excavations). These works involved significant landscaping within the reserve to level the steep angle here.
- c.1816 Government cottage repaired, and sandstock wall and fenceline erected around Thompson's garden,<sup>33</sup> formalising the eastern boundary of the Government domain.
- 1817-1818 New military barracks erected corner of Bridge and Court streets.<sup>34</sup> Various modifications made throughout the 19th century. From the 1860s until 1924 the barracks were occupied by the police.<sup>35</sup>
- c.1818-1819 Boundary wall erected around property facing Thompson Square (Figure 2.6).<sup>36</sup>
- 1815-1820 New wharf originally constructed in 1815,<sup>37</sup> and rebuilt c.1816-1820.

<sup>20</sup> HRA Series I Vol 5, p. 46.

<sup>21</sup> HRA Series I Vol 6, p. 97; HRNSW Vol. 6, p. 43.

<sup>22</sup> HRA Series I Vol 10, p. 691.

<sup>23</sup> HRA Series I Vol 6, p. 170.

<sup>24</sup> Evans' 1807 plan cannot be reproduced online for publication and is not included here.

<sup>25</sup> Higginbotham 1986a, pp. 16-18.

<sup>26</sup> Evidence of John Howe to the Commission, 15 December 1820, Bigge Report, Bonwick Transcripts, box 2, pp. 48981-2, ML SLNSW, in Higginbotham 1986a., p. 17, note 1.

<sup>27</sup> Macquarie 1979, p. 31.

<sup>28</sup> Jack 2010, p. 37.

<sup>29</sup> Macquarie 1979, p. 42; Allotment 12 of Section 6, LPI Old Systems Town Grants and Leases Volume 2.

<sup>30</sup> HRA Series I Vol 10, p. 691.

<sup>31</sup> *Sydney Gazette* 15 July 1815, 29 July 1815.

<sup>32</sup> Howe Papers, ML SLNSW, ML MSS nos. 37, 38.

<sup>33</sup> HRA Series I Vol 10, p. 691.

<sup>34</sup> Holmes 1979, p. 24.

<sup>35</sup> Holmes 1979, pp. 5-6.

<sup>36</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, p. 27. Boundary wall erected between 7 Thompson Square and Macquarie Arms Hotel, using bricks from the dismantled St Matthews Church.

<sup>37</sup> *Sydney Gazette* 3 June 1915, p. 2.

Thompson's store condemned and apparently demolished soon after,<sup>38</sup> although the building may have been used as the later Prisoner's barracks (below).

- 1819 Hotel and adjacent cottage (?) constructed at 1-3 Thompson Square, possibly the Lord Nelson, visible in Thompson and G.B. White's c.1827 plans (Figure 2.7).

#### POST-MACQUARIE ERA, 1820s-1842: DEVELOPING THOMPSON SQUARE

- By 1822 Mounted police barracks and stables erected within Government domain (see Figure 2.8 and Figure 2.9), perhaps incorporating Thompson's Store.
- By 1827 Cottage constructed at 7 Thompson Square, visible in Thompson's 1827 survey, later replaced with Howe's house.
- By 1835 Various buildings marked on the Keys / Kays and Kable lots (approximately 70-94 George Street) in plans from 1835 on (Figure 2.10 and Figure 2.11).  
62-68 George Street (three single-storied terraces) is constructed.  
Cottage at 17 Bridge Street constructed (i.e. Figure 2.12).
- By 1837 John Howe's house erected at 7 Thompson Square.<sup>39</sup>

#### LATE 19TH CENTURY, 1843-1899

- 1844 1-3 Thompson Square the "Doctor's house" is constructed, visible in Figure 2.13
- 1850s Cottage at 5 Thompson Square (Loder's house) erected. Unclear whether this is the same as a small cottage visible abutting the 'Doctor's house' in an image by F.C. Terry (c.1853). Boatbuilding activities later took place here in this yard.  
Lilburn Hall (10 [Old] Bridge Street) constructed in late 1850s, visible in Figure 2.13.
- 1851 Government garden abandoned in preparation for the (intended) Church manse.
- 1856 Commissariat Store demolished.
- 1860s Cottage at 6 [Old] Bridge Street constructed, visible in Figure 2.13. A smaller detached building in the rear yard is used as a schoolhouse.  
John Young Hotel constructed on site of 70-72 George Street.  
82 George Street is constructed.
- 1861 School of the Arts constructed on the site of the Commissariat Store.
- 1872 Construction of Windsor Bridge begun, opened in 1874.
- 1880s 64-68 George Street (Hawkesbury Stores) constructed, following demolition of several single-storied terraces attached to 62 George Street.
- 1882 Summer-house / pavilion constructed within Thompson Square. Removed by 1900.
- By 1894 Thompson Square reserve divided into two distinct reserves, visible Figure 2.14.

#### 20TH CENTURY, 1900-PRESENT

- 1907 A.C. Stearn building at 74 George Street constructed.
- 1910 88 George Street is constructed.
- 1913 John Young Hotel destroyed by fire, demolished in 1915.
- 1923 Former Hawkesbury Garage erected at 70-72 George Street (Figure 2.15).
- 1948-49 The 'Boat Club' building is constructed within the lower Thompson Square.
- Post-1948 Shop at 80 George Street constructed
- c.1947-51 New diagonal road through Thompson Square, visible Figure 2.16.
- 1955 House at 4 Bridge Road constructed.
- 1960s-90s Various adjustments to the boundaries of Thompson Square throughout this time.
- 1990s Boat club demolished.

<sup>38</sup> Evidence of John Howe to the Commission, 15 December 1820, Bigge Report, Bonwick Transcripts, box 2, pp. 5942-2, ML SLNSW, in Higginbotham 1986a., p. 18, note 7

<sup>39</sup> *Sydney Herald* 27 March 1837, p. 2.

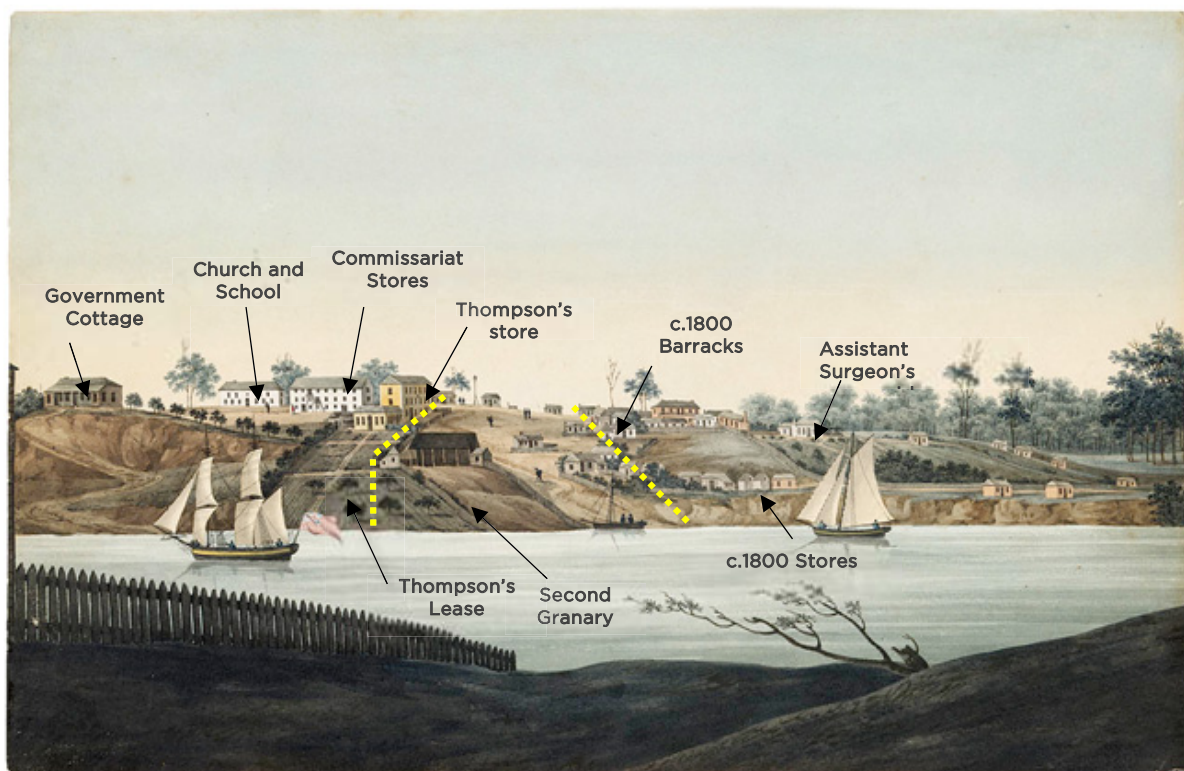


Figure 2.1: Annotated 1809 'Settlement of Green Hills', attributed to George Evans. The approximate line of the (current) western and eastern boundaries of Thompson Square are indicated with dotted yellow lines. ML SLNSW PXD 388, IE no. IE1151943.

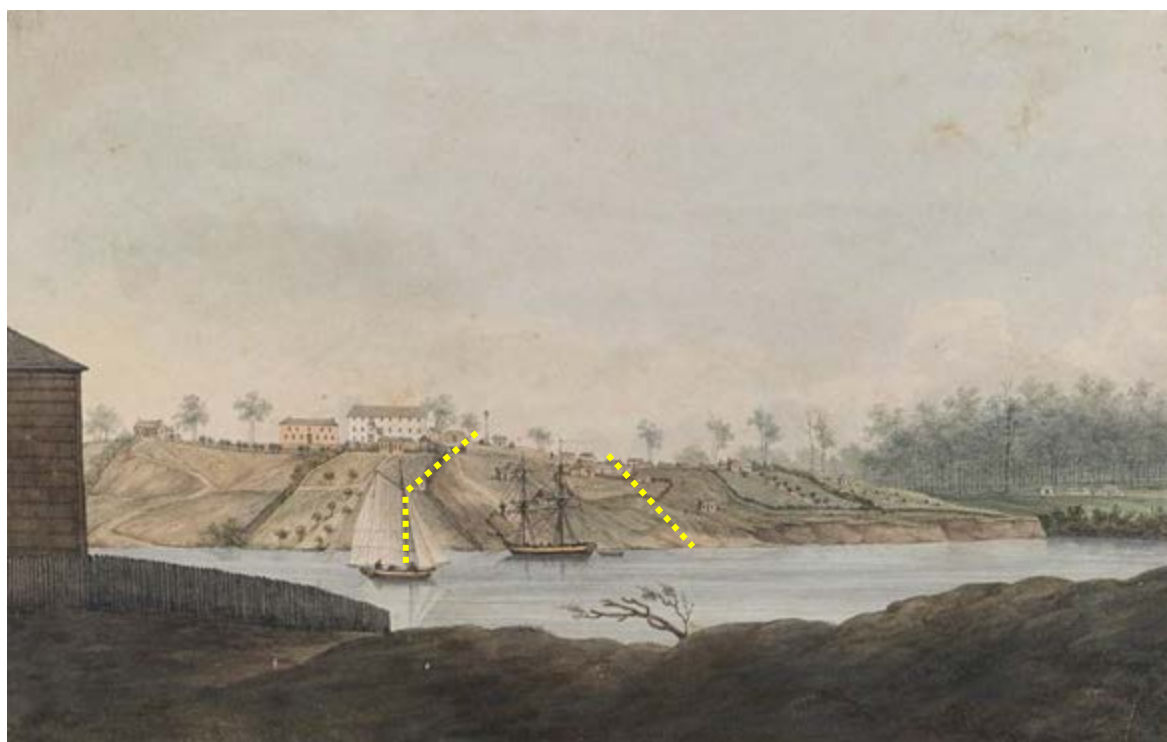


Figure 2.2: c.1810? view of Green Hills, attributed to George Evans. Likely to predate 1807 on account of the absence of "Thompson's warehouse" (constructed c.1807), and the boatyard (visible in the 1807 and 1809 views), as well as the small size of Government House, and the quantity of buildings along the riverbank to the west of the government domain. The approximate line of the (current) western and eastern boundaries of Thompson Square are indicated with dotted yellow lines. SV1B/Wind/6, IE no. IE3234197.



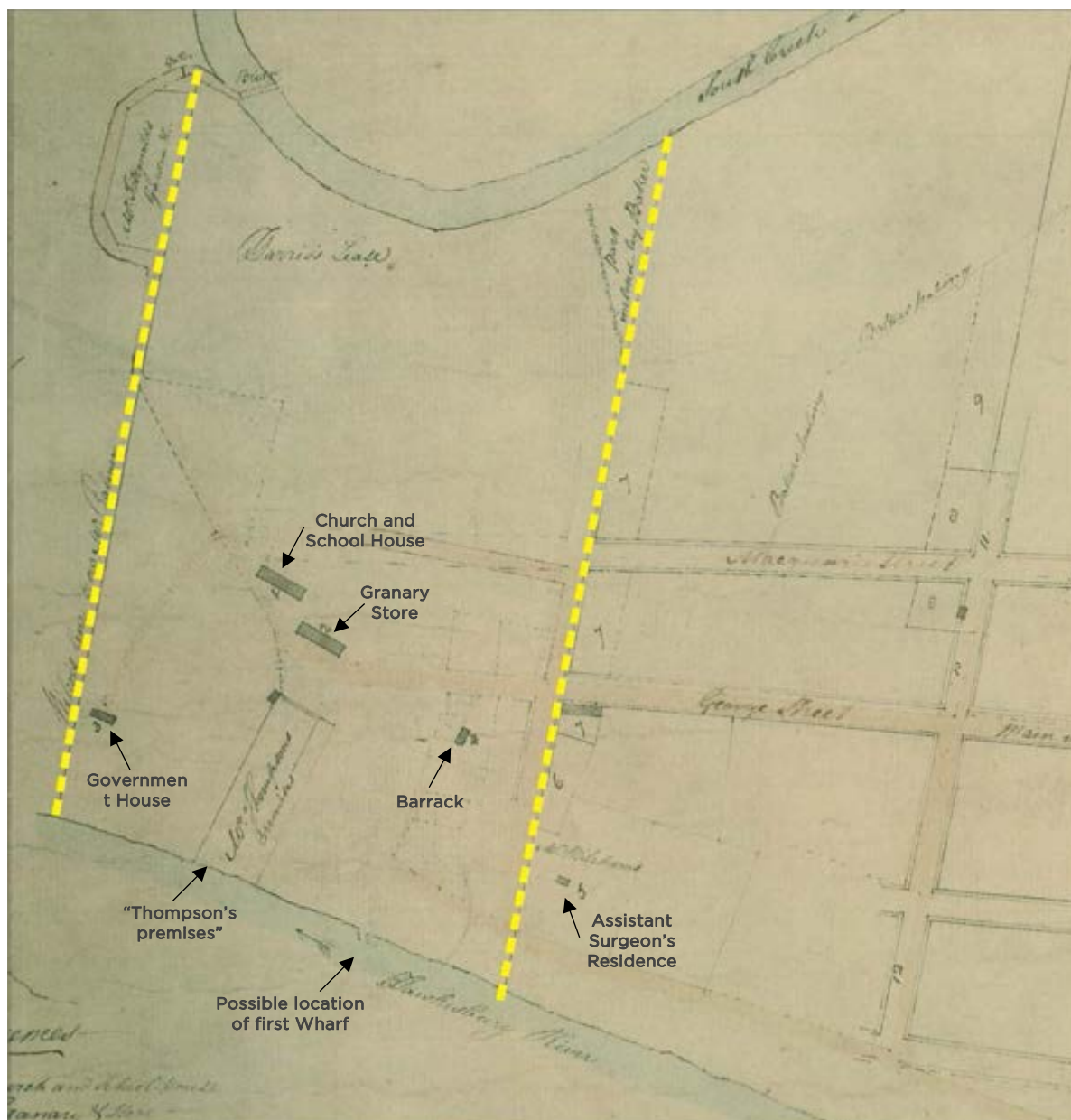


Figure 2.3: Annotated 1812 plan of Windsor drawn by James Meehan, showing the street system as laid out in 1811. The eastern and western limits of the pre-1810 government precinct are marked with dotted yellow lines. The southern and western limits of Thompson Square are defined by the position of George Street and the Thompson Square allotments, 81 George Street, 7 Thompson Square, 5 Thompson Square and 1-3 Thompson Square respectively. SRNSW Map SZ 529.

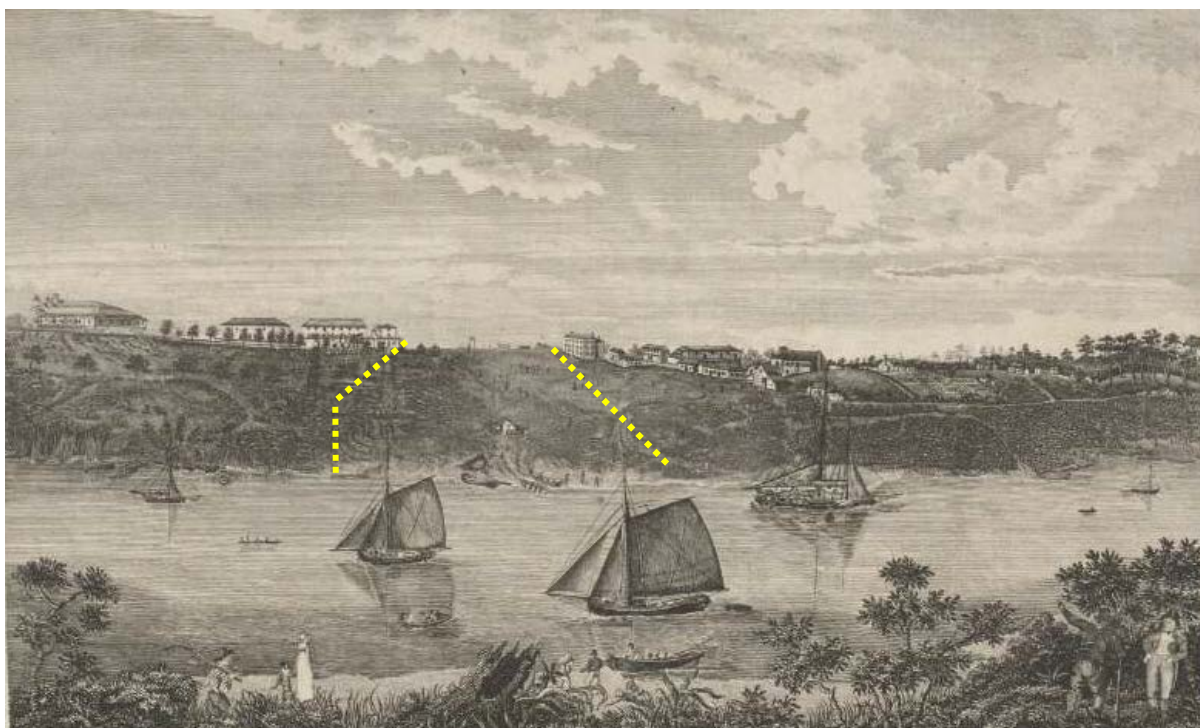


Figure 2.4: Philip Slager's (Sleager) etching of Windsor, c.1811-1812 (published 1813). Many of the buildings depicted in Evans' earlier watercolours (the Government House, school, and Government stores) are still visible to the east of the square, although considerable changes to the west of the square are evident. Note particularly the three-story building at the top of the ridge, often identified as the Macquarie Arms Hotel under construction. The approximate line of the (current) western and eastern boundaries of Thompson Square are indicated with dotted yellow lines. NLA PIC Drawing 2230 #U2028 NK2044/B.



Figure 2.5: Detail of Slager's etching of Windsor (c.1811-1812), depicting an apparent early second(?) wharf downslope from the Government House / Cottage. NLA PIC Drawing 2230 #U2028 NK2044/B.



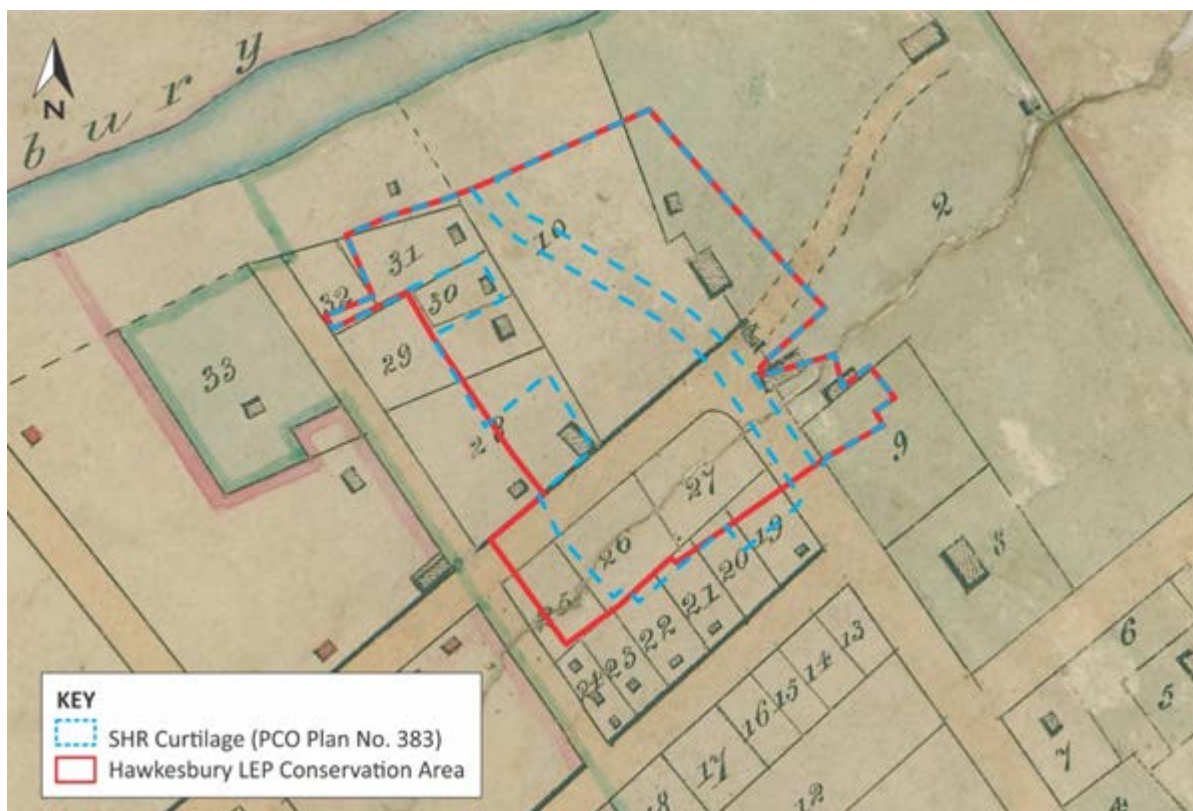


Figure 2.6: Survey of Windsor, 1827, drawn by Surveyor Thompson. The SHR (red) and LEP (blue) curtilages are indicated. SRNSW Map SZ526.

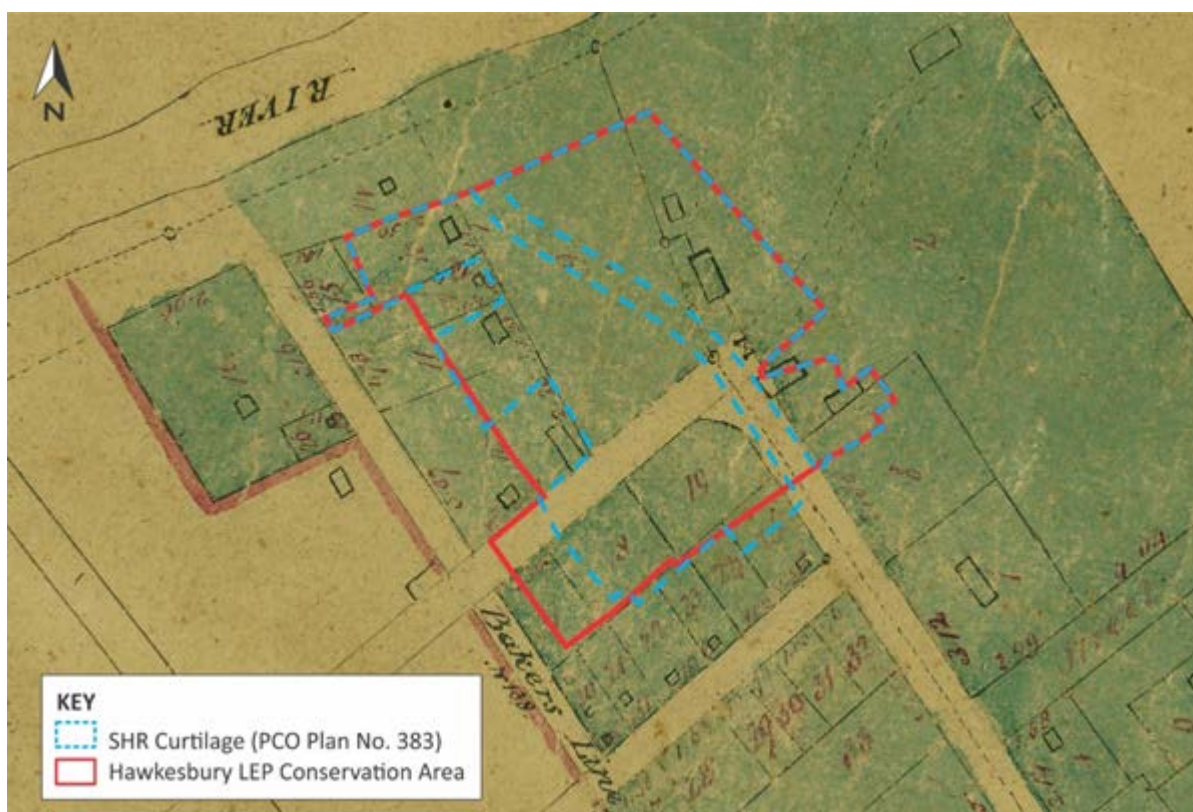


Figure 2.7: G.B. White's rough sketch of Windsor, 1827, likely taken from the same survey as Thompson's 1827 plan (Figure 2.6). The SHR (red) and LEP (blue) curtilages are indicated. SRNSW Map SZ523.

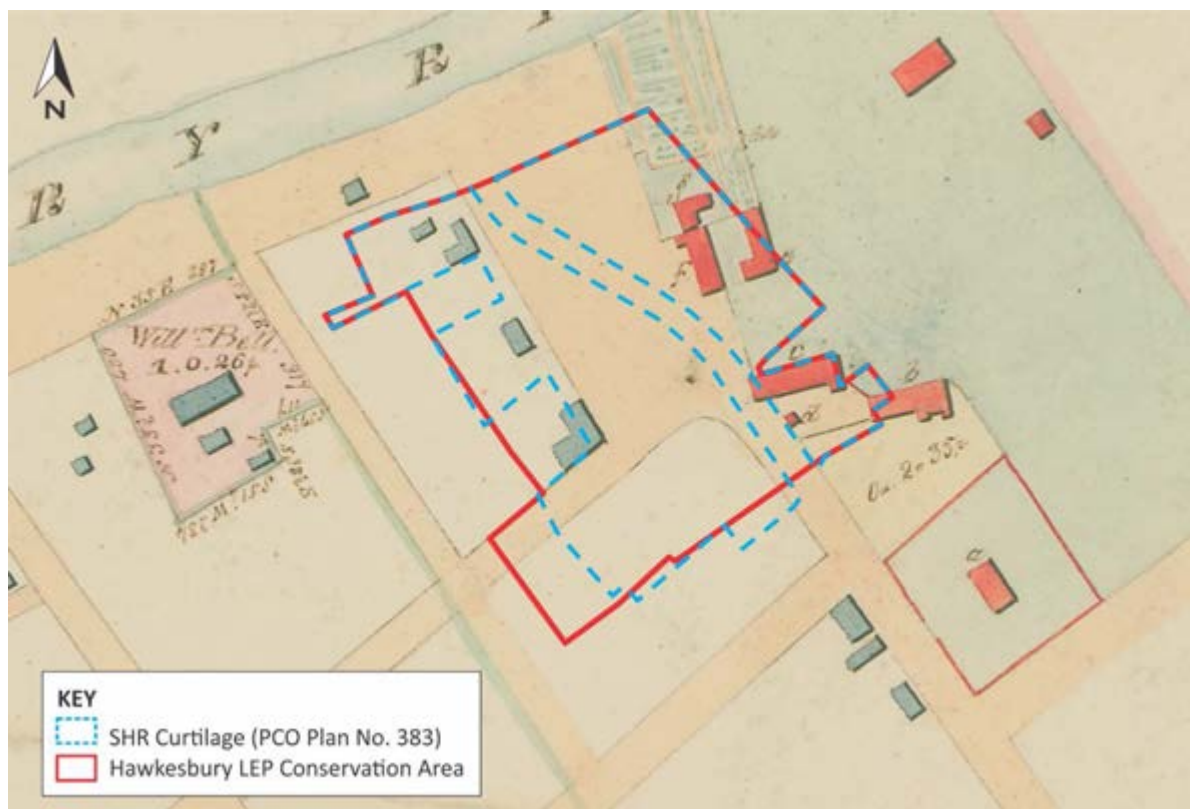


Figure 2.8: Sketch of School Lands, Windsor, 1831, drawn by Surveyor Abbott. The Government domain is shaded green, and Government buildings are coloured red. The SHR (red) and LEP (blue) curtilages are indicated. SRNSW Map 1816.

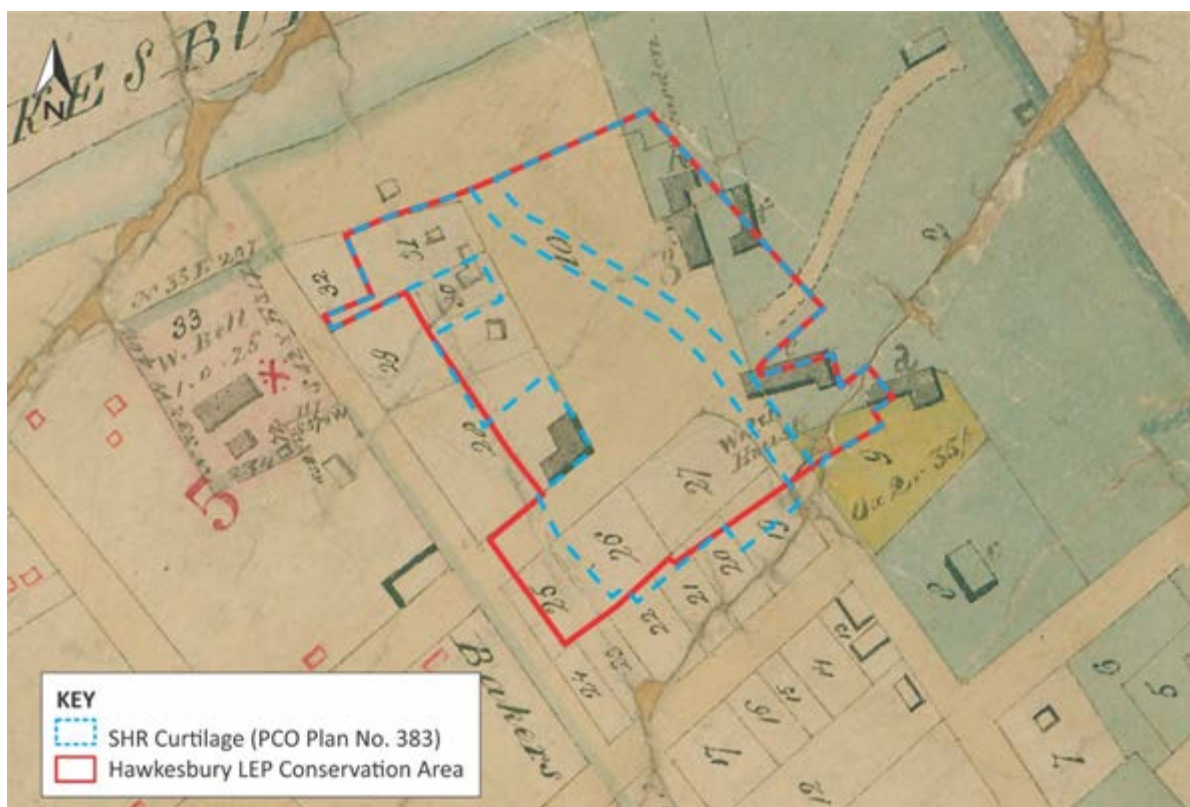


Figure 2.9: Partially incomplete Town of Windsor plan, drawn by surveyor JJ Galloway (no date, pre-1847). The SHR (red) and LEP (blue) curtilages are indicated. SRNSW Map 5966.



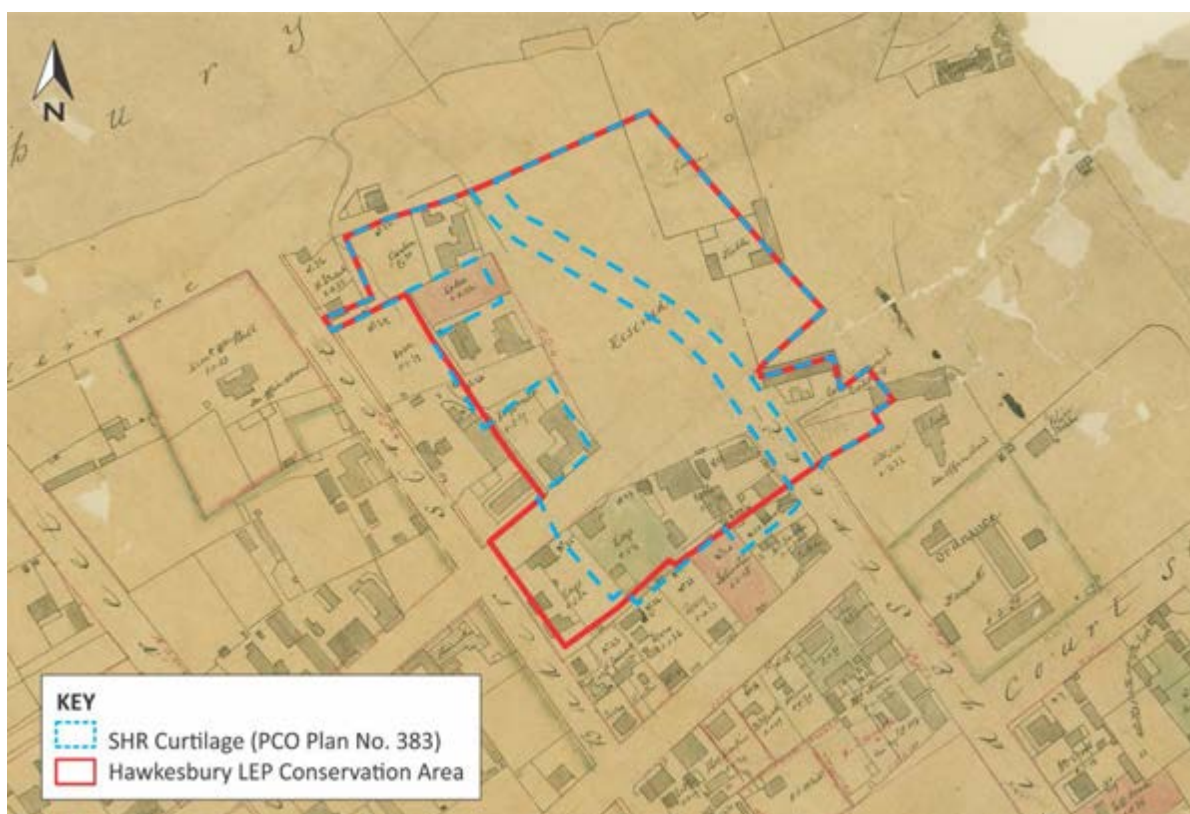


Figure 2.10: G.B. White's 'Map of Windsor', 1835, probably from the same survey as Galloway's 1841 plan. The SHR (red) and LEP (blue) curtilages are indicated. SRNSW Map 5968.

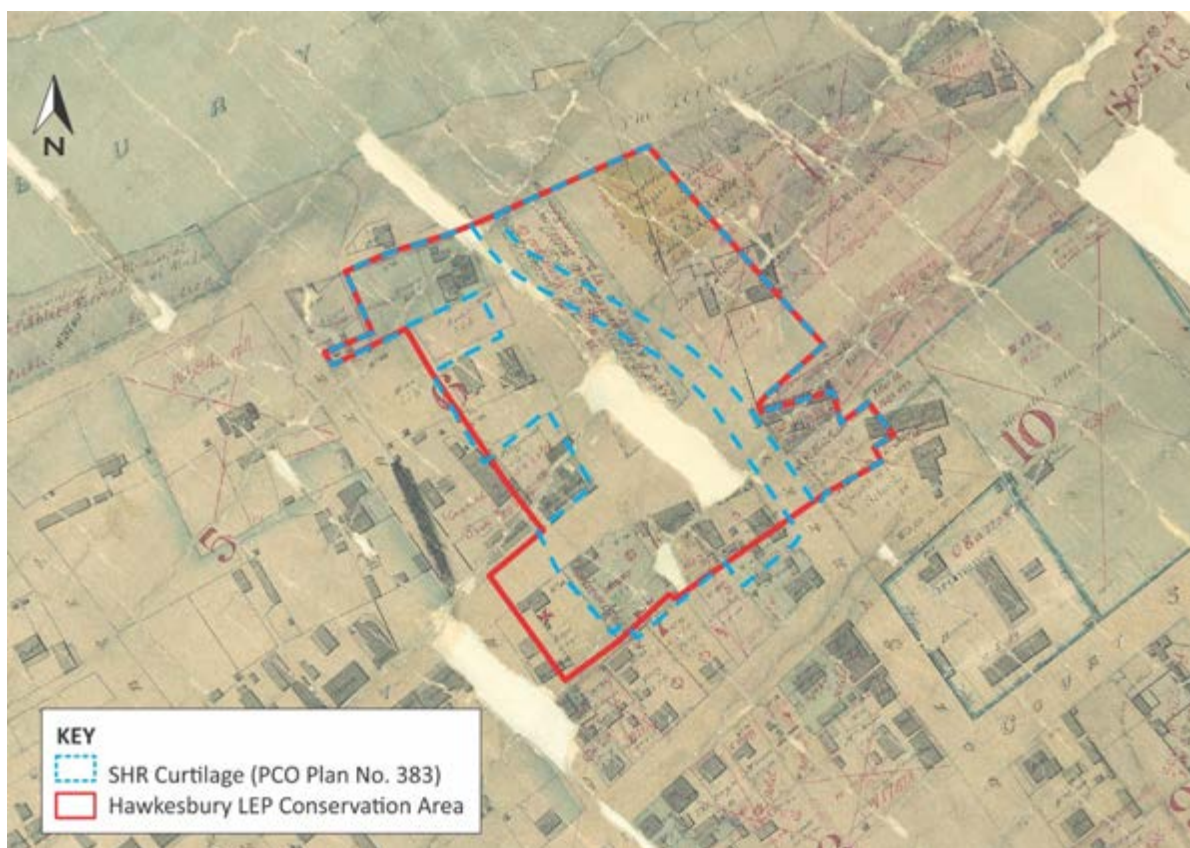


Figure 2.11: Town design survey of Windsor, 1841, by J.J. Galloway. The SHR (red) and LEP (blue) curtilages are indicated. Crown Plan W.443a.







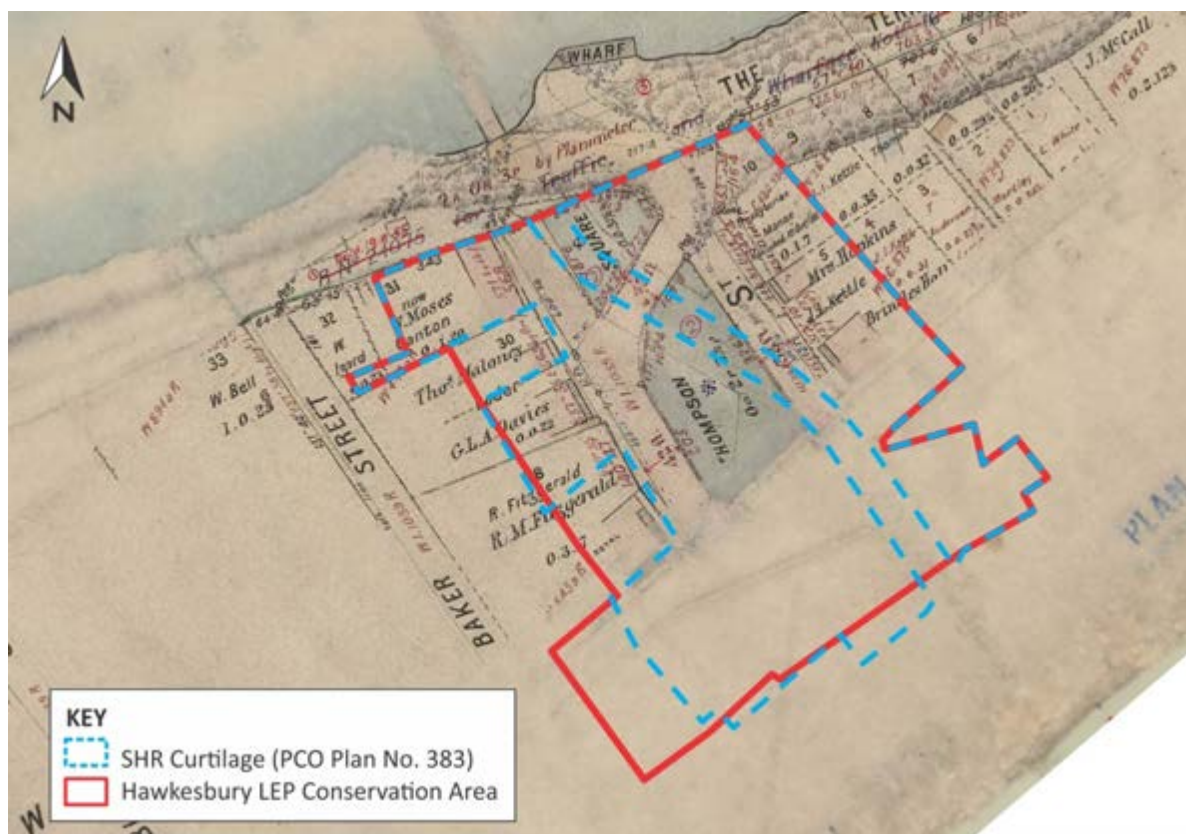


Figure 2.14: Survey by Charles Scrivener, 1894, showing the configuration of two reserves and roadways. The SHR (red) and LEP (blue) curtilages are indicated. Crown Plan Ms.1009.3000.

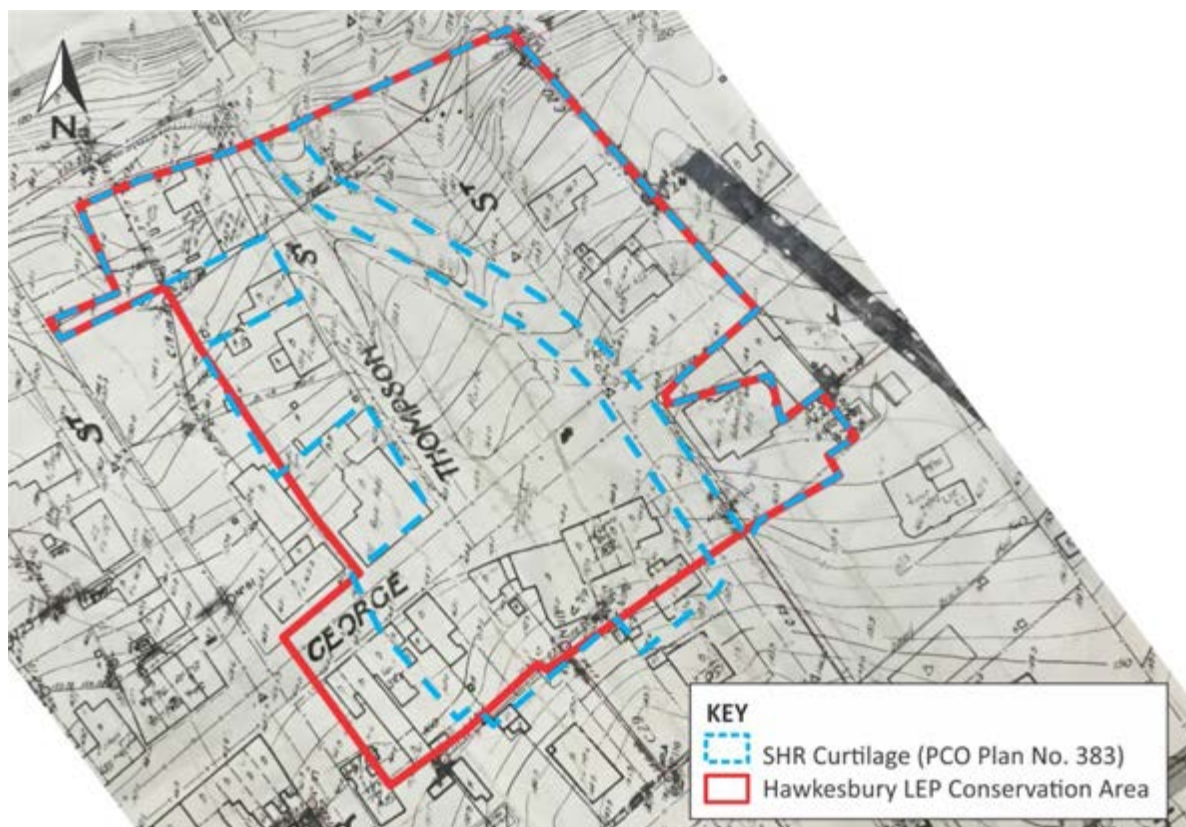


Figure 2.15: Sewerage scheme plan, 1936. The majority of these buildings are still extant. Windsor Sewerage, 3 November 1936, Hawkesbury City Council.

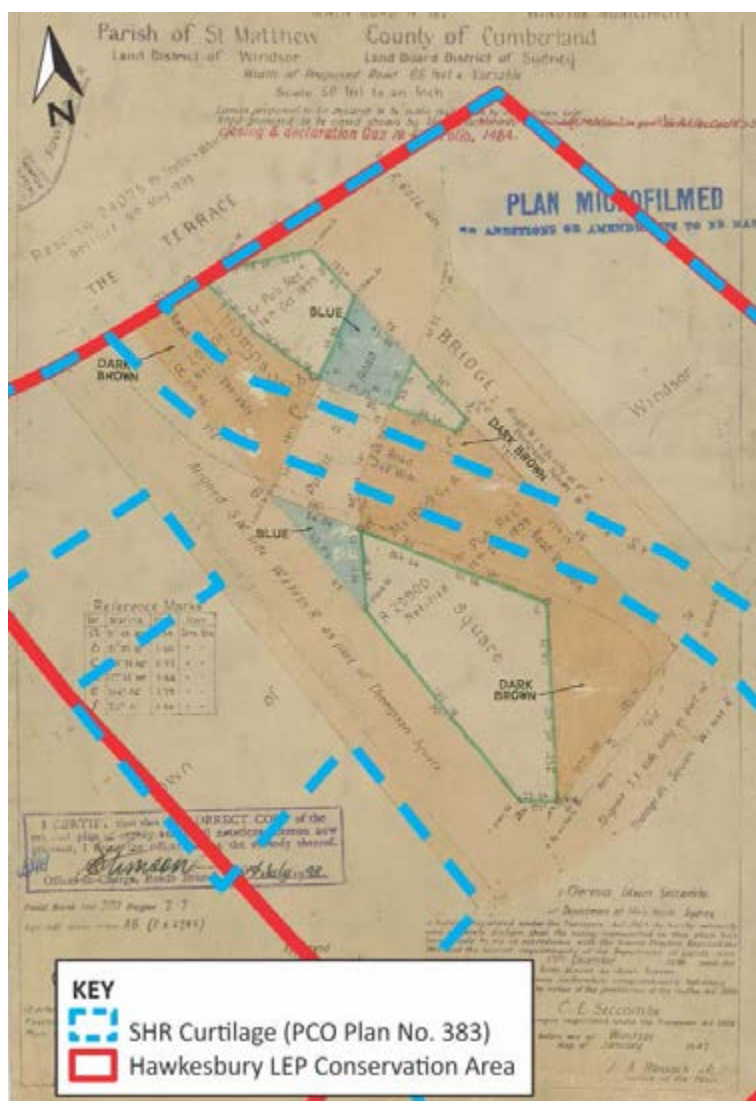


Figure 2.16: Survey by Clarence E. Seccombe, 1946, showing the newly planned configuration of the two reserves and road. The SHR (red) and LEP (blue) curtilages are indicated. Crown Plan R.23477.1603.

## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

### 3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT IN WINDSOR

Several historical archaeological assessments and investigations have been undertaken within the area surrounding, and incorporating, the TSCA. Research and results from these assessments and testing programs can help inform our understanding of the types of remains and levels of preservation that can be expected within Thompson Square, as well as locating the study area within a broader contextual landscape of significance and associations.

### 3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF TSCA

Sites in the vicinity of the TSCA that have been subject to historical archaeological excavations are shown in Figure 3.1 and include:

- 7 Thompson Square, Edward Higginbotham and Associates Pty Ltd (1985 and 1992).
- 8 Baker Street / Hawkesbury Museum Site, Wendy Thorp CRM (2002 and 2004).
- Thompson Square Testing, Wendy Thorp for BIOSOS (2012).
- Thompson Square Testing, AAJV (2016).
- Thompson Square Salvage Excavations, AAJV (2017-2018).
- Windsor Military Guardhouse and Barracks, Bridge Street, Kate Holmes and Sydney University Archaeological Society (1976).

The following section provides a brief summary of the results of each of these investigations, with the exception of the (ongoing) open area salvage excavations undertaken by Austral Archaeology and Extent Heritage (AAJV) for RMS, 2017-2018. Although a number of interim reports have been published on the WBRP webpage,<sup>40</sup> the results of these excavations remain largely unwritten.

In addition to the 2017 SCMP prepared by AAJV, several historical assessments and investigations have been prepared as part of the RMS WBRP, as well as independently for Thompson Square. These reports provide a significant resource regarding the historical landscape of Windsor, and more specifically Thompson Square and include:

- *Historical and Archaeological Investigation of Thompson Square*, report prepared by Edward Higginbotham and Associates Pty Ltd. July 1986.<sup>41</sup>
- *Windsor Bridge Replacement Project Historic Heritage Assessment and Statement of Heritage Impact*, report prepared by BIOSIS Research and CRM. November 2012.
- *Proposed Windsor Bridge Replacement Maritime Archaeological Statement of Heritage Impact*, report prepared by COSMOS Archaeology. October 2012.
- *Windsor Bridge Replacement Project. Historical and Maritime Archaeological Research Design*, report prepared by AAJV. October 2016.

<sup>40</sup> Found at: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement/index.html> [accessed 08/01/2018 and 19/01/2018], as well as within community updates issued monthly by RMS <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement/windsor-bridge-replacement-project-community-update-march-2018.pdf> [accessed 19/03/2018]. The recovery, in early December 2017, of two sections of a brick-barrel drain (likely constructed in c.1814) received particularly wide coverage in the media.

<sup>41</sup> Higginbotham 1986a.





Figure 3.1: Plan showing excavated sites (green) within the vicinity of Thompson Square, with testing programs in red and purple. The current excavation areas of the ongoing 2017-2018 RMS/AAJV salvage excavation program are marked here in blue, with grey indicating maritime salvage excavations. SIX MAPS (accessed 10/11/2017) with alterations by Casey & Lowe.

### 3.2.1 7 THOMPSON SQUARE

Investigations at 7 Thompson Square (Part Lot 1, DP 60716) were conducted by Edward Higginbotham in 1985 and 1992, and comprised the archaeological excavations of the house's basement fill deposits,<sup>42</sup> as well a focused area in the exterior yard.<sup>43</sup> The house itself, the former home of John Howe, was likely constructed in the 1820s and 1830s,<sup>44</sup> and is registered within the SHR listing for the TSCA.

Excavation within the basement revealed a significant sequence of accumulated deposits overlying the remains of sandstone flagging, mortar floors, and partially rotted joists.<sup>45</sup> The basement walls were built of sandstone rubble and blocks, with dividing walls lined or constructed with sandstock bricks.<sup>46</sup> The walls were predominantly plastered with shell-lime plaster and then whitewashed.<sup>47</sup> A lath and plaster ceiling was partially preserved in

<sup>42</sup> Higginbotham 1986b.

<sup>43</sup> As determined by the proposed location of the Hawkesbury Museum extensions, Higginbotham 1993.

<sup>44</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, pp. 6, 12ff.

<sup>45</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, p. 14.

<sup>46</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, p. 15.

<sup>47</sup> Although the hall wall was whitewashed without plaster, Higginbotham 1986b, p. 16.



two of the rooms, although in most rooms there was no evidence of a ceiling, and the joists were left exposed.<sup>48</sup> The deposits and artefacts recovered from the 7 Thompson Square basement provided substantial evidence as to the original configuration of these rooms, and the changing use of the property over time.<sup>49</sup> Most of the deposits within the basement were likely deposited following the 1867 flood, and some of the artefacts were easily related to specific periods of use within the property.<sup>50</sup>

Excavations within the yard revealed a sequence of deposits including: several structural elements related to the 1860s alterations of the property;<sup>51</sup> a series of rubbish pits dating c.1780-1840;<sup>52</sup> various pits, postholes, and possible yard surfaces,<sup>53</sup> and a sequence of timber outbuildings dating to c.1820.<sup>54</sup> There was no substantial evidence that could be dated to the pre-1810 government domain, and Higginbotham notes the likelihood of the c.1800 barracks being located within modern boundaries of the Macquarie Arms Hotel.<sup>55</sup>

### 3.2.2 8 BAKER STREET

Excavations at 8 Baker Street (Part Lot 1, DP 60716, and Lot 3, DP 864088) were conducted by Wendy Thorp (CRM) in 2002 and 2004, prior to the construction of the new Hawkesbury Regional Museum. The property lies to the immediate west of the current limits of the SHR TSCA, although is in part (Lot 1, DP 60716) listed under the Hawkesbury LEP listing (I00126) for Thompson Square. Excavation on Site 1 (Lot 1, DP 60716) revealed very little evidence of 19th-century occupation and is not discussed here.<sup>56</sup> Excavation at Site 2 (Lot 3, DP 864388), however, revealed a substantial sequence of 19th and 20th-century deposits, including several structural features that may be related to the initial construction of the Macquarie Arms Hotel, c.1811-1830.

The earliest feature identified is that of the c.1818 boundary wall,<sup>57</sup> running along the northern edge of the original Macquarie Arms property. Excavation also revealed significant evidence for structural elements that may be dated to the c.1840s-1860s, during which time the Macquarie Arms Hotel was in use as a private residence and likely distinct from the adjacent stables and Fitzgerald's cottage. These include:

- A north-south sandstock-brick wall, abutting the hotel boundary wall, dating c. 1841. Presumably erected to create a division between the two private properties (the Macquarie Arms Hotel and Fitzgerald's cottage) at this time.<sup>58</sup>
- A brick-lined cesspit at the junction of the hotel boundary wall and internal wall, to the west of the internal wall.<sup>59</sup>
- A timber structure, possibly related to the subsequent property division in 1865.<sup>60</sup>
- A box drain at the junction with the boundary wall and internal wall, to the east.<sup>61</sup>
- A timber drain, to the east of the internal wall.<sup>62</sup>
- A sandstock-brick structure (cesspit), associated with the Macquarie Arms Hotel.<sup>63</sup>
- A discrete area of sandstock-brick paving, dating to c.1850, although likely constructed on an earlier (similar) structure.<sup>64</sup>

<sup>48</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, p. 16.

<sup>49</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, pp. 17-21.

<sup>50</sup> Higginbotham 1986b, p. 21.

<sup>51</sup> Higginbotham 1993, p. 11.

<sup>52</sup> Higginbotham 1993, p. 12.

<sup>53</sup> Higginbotham 1993, pp. 12-13.

<sup>54</sup> Higginbotham 1993, p. 14.

<sup>55</sup> Higginbotham 1993, p. 50.

<sup>56</sup> Thorp 2002, p. 20.

<sup>57</sup> Thorp 2004, p. 32.

<sup>58</sup> Thorp 2004, pp. 32-33.

<sup>59</sup> Thorp 2004, p. 27-28.

<sup>60</sup> Thorp 2004, p. 27.

<sup>61</sup> Thorp 2004, p. 30.

<sup>62</sup> Thorp 2004.

<sup>63</sup> Thorp 2004, pp. 30, 35.

<sup>64</sup> Thorp 2004, pp. 29, 35.

Additionally, substantial sandstone footings were identified at the western edge of the boundary wall. Thorp relates these footings to an observed gap on the 1842 survey,<sup>65</sup> and they may be broadly dated to the use of the Macquarie Arms as a mess hall.

### 3.2.3 THOMPSON SQUARE

Two testing programs have been conducted within the TSCA, as part of the broader RMS WBRP, undertaken by CRM / BIOSIS in 2012, and AAJV in 2016. The results of these testing programs are particularly pertinent to the evaluation of any archaeological potential within Thompson Square. The ongoing salvage program (AAJV, 2017-2018) is not discussed here, however the discovery of a brick barrel drain (dating c.1814), as well as sections of three, albeit damaged, brick box drains,<sup>66</sup> demonstrates the strong potential for the preservation of archaeological remains in the TSCA, despite the impacts of 20th century activities here.

#### 3.2.3.1 CRM / BIOSIS HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST EXCAVATIONS<sup>67</sup>

CRM / BIOSIS excavated two Test Trenches located within Old Bridge Street Thompson Square (marked in purple in Figure 3.1). Artefacts recovered from remnant surfaces and within various land modifications (including planting holes, postholes, etc.)<sup>68</sup> suggest the area was in use from perhaps as early as c.1800, and certainly by 1830.<sup>69</sup> Evidence related to the 19th-century expansion of Bridge Street was recovered from both trenches: including a service trench dating to c.1855, and a later 1860s-1870s service pipe in Trench 1;<sup>70</sup> as well as substantial structural remains in the form of concrete beams and timber formwork associated with the creation of a new approach to the bridge in 1897 in Trench 2.<sup>71</sup> The upper deposits were noticeably truncated by the subsequent construction and roadworks here throughout the 20th century.<sup>72</sup>

#### 3.2.3.2 AAJV HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST EXCAVATIONS

AAJV excavated a series of 15 Test Trenches: ten in the southern half (marked in red in Figure 3.1) and five in the northern half of the study area.<sup>73</sup> Test Trenches on the northern side of Windsor Bridge produced no *in situ* historical material and are largely not discussed here. Historical artefacts were recovered in most areas and may be to at least the mid- to late-19th century.<sup>74</sup> Historical archaeological evidence was also recovered during testing for Aboriginal archaeology.<sup>75</sup> Overall, the historic deposits showed considerable disturbance from later construction and flood damage. The testing program identified a number of State and locally significant features, including:<sup>76</sup>

- Brick footings related to the c.1815-1820 entry gate and compound wall of the Government domain.<sup>77</sup>
- Evidence of a fenceline situated along the Terrace and identifiable as part of the western wall of Thompson's former premises.<sup>78</sup>
- A box drain connecting either Thompson's c.1803 Store, or the c.1830s stables, with a c.1815 vaulted brick drain running through Thompson Square to the river.<sup>79</sup>
- Yard deposits and features associated with the Punt House.<sup>80</sup>

<sup>65</sup> Thorp 2004, p. 32.

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement/windsor-bridge-replacement-project-community-update-march-2018.pdf> [accessed 19/03/2018].

<sup>67</sup> BIOSIS/CRM 2012, Appendix 3.

<sup>68</sup> BIOSIS/CRM 2012, Appendix 3, p. 13.

<sup>69</sup> BIOSIS/CRM 2012, pp. 214-215, Appendix 3, pp. 11-13, 17.

<sup>70</sup> BIOSIS/CRM 2012, p. 215.

<sup>71</sup> BIOSIS/CRM 2012, p. 216.

<sup>72</sup> BIOSIS/CRM 2012, pp. 215-216.

<sup>73</sup> AAJV May 2017a, p. 85.

<sup>74</sup> AAJV May 2017a, p. 87.

<sup>75</sup> AAJV May 2017a, p. 8, Fig. 44. Note these trenches are not marked on the above Figure 3.1.

<sup>76</sup> AAJV November 2017, pp. 22-23.

<sup>77</sup> Situated at the junction of George and Bridge Streets, AAJV May 2017c, p. 78, Figs. 52, 53.

<sup>78</sup> AAJV May 2017c, p. 60.

<sup>79</sup> AAJV May 2017c, pp. 81-82, Figs. 54, 55.

<sup>80</sup> AAJV May 2017c, pp. 64-67, Figs. 40, 41.

- Evidence for early cultivation in the area, including modified topsoils.<sup>81</sup>
- Previous roadways / paths, including a 19th-century cobblestone path or road surface,<sup>82</sup> a Telford-type sandstone road base,<sup>83</sup> and evidence for a roadway possibly built during the construction of the bridge in 1874.<sup>84</sup>

Separate maritime investigations were conducted in 2008, 2012 and 2016 by Cosmos Archaeology. Archaeological survey produced evidence of historic wharf structures dating to the 1820s and possibly earlier,<sup>85</sup> and artefacts recovered from two Test Trenches were dated to the mid-19th century.<sup>86</sup>

### 3.2.4 WINDSOR MILITARY GUARDHOUSE AND BARRACKS, BRIDGE STREET

The Windsor military guardhouse and barracks are situated to the south of the TSCA, located at 32 Bridge Street (Lot 7017, DP 1030415 and Lot 11, Section 10, DP 759096). The stables at the rear of the former police station are listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR I01018), while the lock-ups (LEP I148) and former barrack wall (LEP I157) are listed in the 2012 Hawkesbury LEP as items of local heritage significance. Following their initial discovery, during the widening of Bridge Street, the Bridge Street guardhouse and barracks were subject to a short excavation program in 1977, conducted under the direction of Kate Holmes and the Sydney University Archaeological Society.<sup>87</sup> The barracks belong to the Macquarie era, and were constructed between 1818 and 1842.<sup>88</sup> They were likely erected shortly following the construction of the Macquarie Arms Hotel, and the (presumed) abandonment of the second military barracks there.

Excavations revealed substantial sandstone and brick footings, belonging to an outer wall and guardhouse respectively.<sup>89</sup> No evidence was recovered to strongly indicate the date of the guardhouse's construction, although it was apparently subject to modifications in the 1860s during its use as a Police station.<sup>90</sup> The majority of the artefacts had been subject to considerable modern disturbance and therefore lacked clear stratigraphic information.<sup>91</sup> Nonetheless those that were datable were predominately c.1830s-1880s.<sup>92</sup>

<sup>81</sup> AAJV May 2017c, p. 77, Fig 51. See also the evidence on the north side of the Hawkesbury, p. 96, Fig. 68.

<sup>82</sup> AAJV May 2017c, p. 88, Figs. 61, 62.

<sup>83</sup> AAJV May 2017c, pp. 72-76, Figs. 46-50.

<sup>84</sup> AAJV May 2017c, p. 46, Fig. 23.

<sup>85</sup> AAJV May 2017a, p. 92.

<sup>86</sup> AAJV May 2017a, p. 93.

<sup>87</sup> Holmes 1977; 1979.

<sup>88</sup> Holmes 1979, p. 24.

<sup>89</sup> Holmes 1977, pp. 15-17.

<sup>90</sup> Holmes 1979, p. 21.

<sup>91</sup> Holmes 1979, p. 23.

<sup>92</sup> Holmes 1979, p. 24.

## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

### 4.1 NATURE OF 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 and historic activities. A series of assumptions and general principles underlie 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 40 plus years.

- Structural remains (i.e. building footings) associated with buildings and shown on plan are likely to survive but will be impacted by later phases of building.
- Certain types of remains are typically not shown on plan, although they occasionally feature on later plans. These include:
  - wells
  - 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 and more ephemeral evidence of land use including plough, hoe and drainage channels.
  - rubbish dumps
  - other types of archaeological deposits.
- 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.

### 4.2 SITE VISIT

On 20 November 2017 Tony Lowe and Iona Kat McRae, Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd, visited the study area (Figure 4.1 – Figure 4.10). The site visit was focused primarily on assessing the impact of later building works on the archaeological remains and deposits associated with earlier phases of occupation in Thompson Square.





Figure 4.1: Thompson Square (upper reserve). View to the northwest. Photo: Casey & Lowe.



Figure 4.2: Thompson Square lower reserve (3 Old Bridge Road) where the current salvage excavation program is being undertaken. View to the north. Photo: Casey & Lowe.





Figure 4.3: View showing the current salvage excavation area of the Thompson Square lower reserve, which will remove all archaeological deposits located here. View to northeast. Photo: Casey & Lowe.



Figure 4.4: View to Thompson Square lower reserve. View to south. Photo: Casey & Lowe.





Figure 4.5: View along Thompson Square. View to south, taken from "the Doctor's House" (1-3 Thompson Square). Photo: Casey & Lowe.



Figure 4.6: Thompson Square (upper reserve). View to the south. Photo: Casey & Lowe.





Figure 4.7: Detail of the sandstone curb running the length of Thompson Square. View to north. Photo: Casey & Lowe.



Figure 4.8: Thompson Square (upper reserve). View to the northeast. Photo: Casey & Lowe.





Figure 4.9: Remains of a brick wall within the premises of 4 Bridge Street. The wall may be identified as the c.1816 sandstock-brick wall constructed along the western boundary of Thompson's garden, and defining the limit of the Government domain from this time on. View to the southeast. Photo: Casey & Lowe.



Figure 4.10: Detail of c.1816 sandstock-brick wall abutting the footings of the standing property at 4 Bridge Street. View to the east. Photo: Casey & Lowe.

### 4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The potential archaeological remains within the study area were assessed through an analysis of the overlay of historic plans (Section 2.0), comparative archaeological assessments (Section 3.0), and site inspection (Section 4.2). The available results of testing programs within Thompson Square (Section 3.2.3) have proved particularly instructive with regards to the types, and preservation of, archaeological remains that may be expected within Thompson Square. While the historic archaeological deposits within the TSCA exhibited significant disturbance from later construction and flood damage, testing and salvage excavations have demonstrated evidence for:

- Various land modifications and early cultivation in the area (in the form of postholes, planting holes, topsoil modification, etc.).
- 19th-century structural activity (including drains, sandstock-brick footings, timber fencelines, service trenches, etc.).
- Previous (19th- and 20th-century) roadways through Thompson Square.

The potential historical archaeological remains identified within the study area are presented, in chronological sequence, below in Table 4.1. Archaeological potential has been determined using a series of gradations (**Nil-Low**, **Low-Moderate**, and **Moderate-High**) to indicate the degree to which archaeological remains are likely to survive. Although several significant historic buildings, structures and features remain preserved within the TSCA, there have been considerable impacts. It is expected that various structures, landscaping and infrastructure have been altered and / or demolished throughout the last 200+ years. The identified levels of historic archaeological potential within the TSCA are summarised below:

#### MULGRAVE PLACE / GREEN HILLS (1794-1810)

- **Nil to Low Potential** for remains of the original landscape and evidence of subsequent landscaping (including paths and tracks). Also, for a number of government buildings known to have been destroyed during early flooding events, or subsequent construction (i.e. the first barracks, granary and storehouses, and second granary). Nil-Low potential for any evidence of the bell post and stocks situated at the top of the ridgeline (at, or near to, the intersection of George and Bridge Streets).
- **Low to Moderate Potential** for the remains of a number of government structures either cleared in c.1811, on establishing Thompson Square (namely various buildings whose location is undetermined), or still standing into the Macquarie-era (i.e. the Commissariat store, Thompson's store, the School and Chapel). Archaeological remains of these structures have likely been impacted to some extent by subsequent construction. There should be considerable evidence for the early topography and soil profile with the ability to interpret this across the square.
- **Moderate to High Potential** for a range of archaeological features such as unrecorded structures, rubbish dumps, and associated artefactual remains. There is a Moderate-High potential for archaeological remains related to the second barracks, situated within the modern property boundaries of the Macquarie Arms Hotel, as well as Andrew Thompson's original lease and house. Remains associated with Thompson's garden are likely ephemeral and may be difficult to interpret.

#### MACQUARIE ERA (1810-1820s)

- **Nil to Low Potential** for remains of the "Lord Nelson", demolished in the 1840s and presumably removed during the construction of the cellar at 1-3 Thompson Square ("the Doctor's House").
- **Low to Moderate Potential** for evidence of landscaping following the establishment of Thompson Square, including roadways and evidence relating to the original alignment of George Street. Moderate potential for the remains



of the Punt house, including associated deposits (although this lies largely outside of the limits of the study area). Low-Moderate potential of undocumented yard features as well as under-floor / between-floor deposits within the Macquarie Arms Hotel (below).

- **Moderate to High Potential** for the Macquarie Arms Hotel which remains extant, including related archaeological features and deposits. Moderate-High potential of evidence relating to the landscaping and infrastructure works within Thompson Square reserve (including the preserved sandstock-brick wall around Thompson's lease, the c.1814 barrel-drain and related landscaping fills, recently identified in salvage excavations of the lower reserve) and for a range of archaeological features such as unrecorded structures, rubbish dumps, and associated artefactual remains.

#### POST-MACQUARIE ERA (1820s-1842)

- **Low to Moderate Potential** for several buildings constructed in the early 19th-century (i.e. the Prisoner and Police barracks and associated stables, as well as properties at 7 Thompson Square – prior to John Howe's house, and at 64-68 and 82-94 George Street). Original footings, associated artefacts and deposits are likely preserved underlying later 19th-century constructions.
- **Moderate to High Potential** for a number of early 19th-century constructions which remain standing (John Howe's house – 7 Thompson Square, 62 and 17 George Street). Moderate-High potential for a variety of archaeological features, deposits and associated artefacts, related to these constructions and elsewhere. Moderate potential of evidence relating to landscaping and infrastructure works, including early road alignments.

#### LATE 19th-CENTURY (1842-1900)

- **Nil to Low Potential** for the remains of the "Sir John Young Hotel" (later the "Hawkesbury Hotel" – 70-72 George Street), including associated deposits and artefacts, burnt out in 1913 and demolished in 1915. Nil-Low potential for the remains of the pavilion (or summer-house) located within the upper reserve of Thompson Square and removed in 1900.
- **Low to Moderate Potential** for "under-floor" / "between-floor" deposits within any of the late 19th century buildings still extant (below).
- **Moderate to High Potential** for several buildings constructed in the late 19th-century and still standing (including "the Doctor's House", Lilburn Hall, the Former School of Arts, the cottages at 5 Thompson Square, 6 Bridge Street and 82 George Street, and the "Hawkesbury Stores" extension at 64-68 George Street), as well as associated archaeological deposits and features related to these structures and elsewhere. Moderate potential for evidence relating to early roadways, including evidence associated with the construction of Windsor Bridge (landscaping, roadways, etc.).

#### 20th-CENTURY (1900-Present)

- **Nil to Low Potential** for remains of the Boat Club, constructed in the lower reserve in the mid-20th-century. Largely demolished in the 1990s and within the current salvage excavation area. While archaeological evidence may remain intact at the site, the resource is assessed as not meeting the threshold for local or State significance.
- **Moderate to High Potential** for several buildings constructed in the early 20th-century and still standing (4 Bridge Street, the A.C. Stearn building – 74 George Street, the Former Hawkesbury garage – 70-72 George Street, and nos. 80, 88 and 1/52 George Street), as well as a range of archaeological features related to these structures and elsewhere, such as subfloor deposits, rubbish pits, etc. While archaeological evidence may remain intact at the site, the resource is assessed as not meeting the threshold for local or State significance.

Table 4.1: Summary table of potential archaeological remains, and the ease to which these can be deciphered, within the TSCA. A number of items within this table are outside the limits of the study area and are highlighted in green.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
<b>MULGRAVE PLACE, 1794</b>				
	<b>Original landscape:</b> including pre-settlement landform / topography and how it was altered by natural or human impacts following initial settlement.	Throughout the TSCA.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> The results of testing in Thompson Square suggests evidence of early land modification is detectable in the landscape. <b>Low-Moderate:</b> Original and early modified soil profiles may survive in the park areas with some other evidence across the study area.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Problematic without very clear stratigraphy. Inconsistent across the site. Unlikely this can be distinguished from later landscaping.
<b>GREEN HILLS: GOVERNMENT DOMAIN, 1795-1810</b>				
	<b>Original landscape</b> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burning, stumping, fire clearance,</li> <li>Pollen evidence,</li> <li>Flood events deposits, build-up and removal of soil profile,</li> <li>Original/modified topsoil and site topography.</li> </ul>	Throughout the TSCA.	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Results from testing suggest low-moderate potential for the preservation of the upper layers of the early landscape and modification. Original and early modified soil profiles may survive in the park areas with some other evidence across the study area.	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Problematic without very clear stratigraphy. Inconsistent across the site.
	Range of <b>early tracks and paths</b> between the wharf and ridge line. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compacted surfaces,</li> <li>Wheel ruts.</li> </ul>	Running north-south throughout current civic square, along the ridgeline of Thompson Square (under the present alignment of George Street), and into the government reserve.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Remnant tracks may be preserved at depth, if not disturbed by late 19th- and 20th-century constructions.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Ability to identify as part of a landscape is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation to assist with interpretation.
c.1795	<b>First timber store, granary, barracks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remnants of ephemeral timber structures, postholes,</li> <li>Stone or brick foundations,</li> <li>Deposits, artefacts.</li> </ul>	Perhaps at the very northern edge of the TSCA. Partially underlying Old Bridge Street and the lower reserve.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Probably removed by flooding and buried by subsequent 1815 foreshore works, as well as later flooding, foreshore piling and stabilisation works.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> If preserved, ability to distinguish from later building works could be problematic.
	<b>First wharf</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hardwood piles.</li> <li>Timber piers, etc.</li> </ul>	Along the foreshore, exact location unknown.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Outside study area. Likely removed by flooding.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> If preserved, ability to distinguish from later wharfage could be problematic.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
1796	<b><u>Commandant's House (later Government House / Cottage)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible brick / timber foundations (evidence for cellar),</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features and deposits, rubbish pits, levelling fills, ephemeral structures,</li> <li>Stables on eastern boundary.</li> </ul>	(41 George Street)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Outside study area. Demolished in the early 1920s. Cellar likely filled in the late 19th century. Strong possibility the original foundations of the cottage and known outbuildings are preserved on site, as well as unrecorded yard features / deposits, rubbish pits.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Known location, mapped on Meehan's (Figure 2.3) and subsequent plans. Original structure demolished in early 20th century, with a new, smaller, cottage ('Green Hills') erected overlying the original footprint.
By 1798	<b><u>Watch House</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes, timber log frame with log posts and superstructure,</li> <li>Dirt floor.</li> </ul>	Unknown, possibly the same as Andrew Thompson's residence, or located at the far southeast corner of Thompson's lease (i.e. the structure visible on Meehan's 1811 plan).	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Likely outside study area.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Ability to interpret the specific function of a building from postholes / footings alone is unlikely.
By 1799	<b><u>Andrew Thompson's residence</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes, timber log frame with log posts and superstructure,</li> <li>Dirt floor,</li> <li>Deposits, artefacts,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	Close to the lower reserve. (3 [Old] Bridge Road, perhaps underlying 4 [Old] Bridge Road)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Property incorporated into Government domain c.1816, and perhaps demolished shortly thereafter. Archaeological potential likely affected by 19th- and 20th-century disturbance here, including the construction of 4 (Old) Bridge Road.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Location determined on the basis of Evans' (1809/c.1810) paintings and Slager's c.1811-12 etching (Figure 2.1, Figure 2.2 and Figure 2.4). Ability to interpret the specific function of a building from postholes / footings alone is limited.
	<b><u>Andrew Thompson's Garden</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fencelines,</li> <li>Garden beds,</li> <li>Tree holes,</li> <li>Archaeobotanical remains.</li> </ul>	Along eastern edge of current Thompson Square curtilage (partially outside study area). (underlying 4-10 [Old] Bridge Street)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Although archaeological remains area likely to be quite ephemeral.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Ability to identify as part of a landscape is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation.
c.1796-1800	<b><u>Two Storehouses</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes, timber log frame with log posts and superstructure,</li> <li>Fencelines,</li> <li>Evidence of grain storage, possible grain and pollen.</li> </ul>	Unknown, possibly to the western side of Thompson Square (annotated on Figure 2.1) along the Terrace.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Likely outside study area. Likely removed c.1811 following land clearance for Thompson Square reserve. Survival is unlikely considering proximity to foreshore.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Ability to interpret the specific function of a building from postholes / footings alone is limited. Possible archaeobotanical and artefactual remains could prove helpful in interpretation.
	Various public buildings (and related deposits) including <b><u>Two government houses, storehouses, granaries, officers' dwellings, public brick buildings, lock up</u></b>	Mostly unknown. Evans' 1809 (Figure 2.1) painting suggests some of these are located to the west of Thompson Square, while others may be located within the upper and lower reserves and along George Street.	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Likely underlying the current reserve / roadways (the Terrace, Thompson Square, George Street). Archaeological potential is low considering the expected level of 19th/20th century disturbance.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Likely removed c.1811 following land clearance for Thompson Square reserve. Ability to interpret the specific function of a building from postholes / footings alone is limited.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
c.1800	<b><u>Guardhouse (second barracks)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes, timber footings,</li> <li>Rubbish pits,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	Macquarie Arms Hotel (81 George Street)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Site cleared prior to the construction of the Macquarie Arms Hotel. Likely preservation of original footings in yard.	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Known location. Mapped on Meehan's 1811 plan, no documented evidence for other (early) structures here.
	<b><u>Granary (second granary)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post holes, timber footings,</li> <li>Evidence of grain storage,</li> <li>Possible grain and pollen.</li> </ul>	Likely to the west of Thompson's lease (north of first storehouse), partially underlying Old Bridge Street.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Site cleared c.1811 (in preparation for Thompson Square). Archaeological potential is low considering the expected level of 19th/20th century disturbance, particularly the construction of Old Bridge Street.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Location determined on the basis of Evans' (1809/c.1810) paintings and Slager's c.1811-12 etching (Figure 2.1, Figure 2.2 and Figure 2.4). Possible archaeobotanical and artefactual remains could prove helpful in interpretation.
1803	<b><u>Granary / Commissariat building</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brick footings, postholes,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts,</li> <li>Evidence of grain storage, possible grain and pollen.</li> </ul>	On the ridgeline at the corner of Bridge and George Streets, underlying brick wall within the property of former School of Arts. (14 Bridge Street)	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Demolished in c.1856. Moderate archaeological potential for the preservation of footings underlying current construction. Possibility of associated outbuildings and deposits preserved here also.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Known location, mapped on Meehan's (Figure 2.3) and subsequent plans. No documented evidence for other (early) structures here.
1804-1807	<b><u>School &amp; chapel (Storehouse?)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brick footings, postholes,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	To the southeast of the TSCA, partially outside of study area.	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Mostly outside study area. Recorded as being in a "ruinous" state in c.1863 and granted to the Church of England in 1874.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> No documented evidence for any other (early) structures here, strong potential for the preservation of original footings.
c.1807	<b><u>Boat slip or dry dock</u></b>	Within Andrew Thompson's lease, at eastern edge of the square along the Terrace.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Outside study area.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Probably little more than a linear ditch within the sand. May include remnant timber logs.
By 1809	<b><u>Thompson's store &amp; warehouse (stables and workshops at rear)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes, timber footings,</li> <li>Rubbish pits,</li> <li>Drains,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	Within Andrew Thompson's lease, at eastern edge of the square. (perhaps 6-10 [Old] Bridge Street)	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Condemned c.1820. Possible preservation of footings underlying current properties at 6-10 (Old) Bridge Street.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Location determined on the basis of Evan's 1809 painting and Slager's c.1811-12 etching (Figure 2.1 and Figure 2.4). Ability to interpret the specific function of a building from postholes / footings alone is limited. Possibly underlying later stables.
	<b><u>Bell post and Stocks</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes,</li> <li>Remnant postpipe.</li> </ul>	Visible on Evans' 1809/c.1810 painting (Figure 2.1, Figure 2.2) along the ridgeline. Likely at the intersection of George and Bridge Streets.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Likely underlying modern roadway. Archaeological potential is low considering the ephemeral nature of the remains and expected level of 19th/20th-century disturbance here.	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Assumed location (determined on the basis of Evan's 1809 and 1810 painting and Slager's c.1811-12 etching (Figure 2.1, Figure 2.2 and Figure 2.4) at the junction of George and Bridge Streets.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
1795-1810	<b>Archaeological Features and Deposits related to Green Hills settlement</b> Including fences, garden plots, rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns or cesspits, which may contain quantities of artefacts.	Throughout the TSCA, particularly within the yards of current allotments surrounding the reserve.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Evidence from excavations at 7 Thompson Square and 8 Baker Street (Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 respectively) suggest there is a high potential for unrecorded features and deposits within the properties surrounding the Thompson Square reserve.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Dependant on recovery of datable artefacts.
<b>MACQUARIE'S TOWN: THOMPSON SQUARE, 1810-1820s</b>				
1811	<b>Landscaping following the establishment of Thompson Square</b> Including the major demolition of earlier buildings within the square.	Throughout the TSCA.	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Some evidence for landscaping was documented in the excavations at 8 Baker Street, suggesting low-moderate potential for similar evidence elsewhere, particularly within those properties along the west of Thompson Square.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Ability to identify as part of a landscape is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation.
By 1813	<b>Wharf for Government House</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hardwood piles,</li> <li>Timber piers, etc.</li> </ul>	Along western foreshore of the Terrace. Based on Slager's c.1811-1812 etching. No other documented evidence for this wharf.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Outside study area. Survival is unlikely due to flood events which possibly removed the foreshore.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Ability to identify as part of a landscape is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation.
1814	<b>New ferry &amp; landing place</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cutting back of western bank for landing off the ferry.</li> </ul>	Foreshore, along the Terrace.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Outside study area. Very likely removed by flooding.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Ability to identify as part of a landscape is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation.
	<b>Punt House</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes,</li> <li>Timber / brick footings,</li> <li>Rubbish pits,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts</li> </ul>	Along the Terrace. (adjacent to 1-3 Thompson Square)	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Outside study area. Yard deposits associated with Punt House documented in test excavations here (Section 3.2.3.2).	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Known location, mapped on Thompson's 1827 plan (and others, Figure 2.6, Figure 2.7, Figure 2.8, Figure 2.9, Figure 2.10, Figure 2.11, Figure 2.12). No other known (early) structures here, depending on the interpretation of the buildings on Evans' 1809 drawing (Figure 2.1).
1815	<b>Macquarie Arms Hotel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original fabric,</li> <li>Subfloor deposits,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	Still Extant (81 George Street)	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Original footprint (and some architectural elements) still extant. <b>Low-Moderate:</b> potential for sub-floor deposits throughout the hotel, and undocumented yard features.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Possibility of distinct use-patterns of the property (as a Hotel, Officers' mess, and private residence) dependant on the types of artefacts recovered.



DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
1814-1815	<b><u>Modifications to the landscape of Thompson Square reserve</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drains / sewerage systems,</li> <li>Paths (new access),</li> <li>Landscaping.</li> </ul>	Throughout the TSCA, particularly through the two reserves.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Sections of the barrel drain recently recovered within the (ongoing) salvage excavations in the lower reserve. High potential for the preservation of this drain elsewhere. Evidence for landscaping has been detected in archaeological excavation and testing programs elsewhere in Thompson Square.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Barrel-drain easily recognised within current salvage excavations. Ability to identify paths and landscaping is limited without extensive linked open areas of excavation.
c.1816	<b><u>Sandstock-brick wall and fenceline around Thompson's garden.</u></b> <b><u>Gateways to government domain.</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brick footings,</li> <li>Postholes / remnant fenceposts.</li> </ul>	Along eastern edge of current Thompson Square curtilage (and partially outside study area). Within 4 Bridge Street, along the Terrace and underlying Old Bridge Street.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Original sandstock-brick wall along the west of Thompson's lease remains partially extant within the yard of 4 Bridge Street (Figure 4.9 and Figure 4.10). Test excavations along the Terrace identified evidence of a timber fenceline (wooden posts) along the eastern boundary of Thompson's lease, as well as brick wall-footings identified as the entrance gate to the Government domain within George Street (Section 3.2.3.2).	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Location of eastern wall in particular is well established, and sections remain extant.
c.1815-1820	<b><u>Second wharf</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hardwood piles,</li> <li>Timber piers, etc.</li> </ul>	Foreshore, likely underlying the current Windsor Bridge. Perhaps visible on Meehan's 1812 survey plan.	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Outside study area. Maritime survey along the foreshore suggest elements of an early wharf are preserved.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Early wharf structural elements easily identified, although difficult to assign chronology of wharfage.
1817-1818	<b><u>Military Barracks</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber, sandstone and brick footings,</li> <li>Rubbish pits,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	(32 Bridge Street)	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Outside study area. Excavations here (Section 3.2.4) demonstrate good preservation of the footings of the guardhouse, suggesting potential for footings of barracks under modern building.	<b><u>Moderate-High:</u></b> Known location. No documented evidence for other (earlier) structures here.
1819	<b><u>The 'Lord Nelson' and related (?) building</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber / brick footings,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	(1-3 Thompson Square)	<b><u>Nil-Low:</u></b> Demolished in the 1840s. Low potential for original footings considering the subsequent construction of "the Doctor's House" included the addition of large cellars.	<b><u>Low-Moderate:</u></b> Known location. Mapped on Thompson's 1827 plan (Figure 2.6). No documented evidence for other structures here.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
1810-1820s	<b>Archaeological Features / Deposits related to Macquarie era</b> (fences, garden plots, rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns or cesspits, which may contain quantities of artefacts).	Throughout the TSCA, particularly within the yards of current allotments surrounding the reserve.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Comparative archaeological evidence (Section 3.2.1, 3.2.2) suggests a high potential for unrecorded features and deposits within the TSCA.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Dependant on recovery of datable artefacts.
	<b>Evidence of early road alignments</b>	George Street.	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Dependant on the interpretation of Meehan's 1811 plan (Figure 2.3), and original alignment of George Street	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Dependant on type of evidence recovered.
<b>POST-MACQUARIE ERA, 1820s-1842</b>				
By 1822	<b>Prisoner and Police barracks (and later stables)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber / brick footings,</li> <li>Rubbish pits, yard features.</li> </ul>	At the southern end of Andrew Thompson's lease (partially outside of study area). (underlying current properties at 6-10 Bridge Street, and 51 George Street)	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Moderate potential for preservation of original footings, demolished prior to c.1856 (with construction at Lilburn Hall), barrack's demolished c.1835. .	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Known location. Mapped on Abbot's 1831 plan (Figure 2.8). Prisoner barrack's possibly somewhat overlying (or incorporating?) Thompson's store.
By 1827	<b>Building/s, pre-dating Howe's house</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber / brick footings,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	(7 Thompson Square)	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Results of archaeological testing in the yard of 7 Thompson Square produced evidence of outbuildings dated to c.1820s, possibly related to this building, as well as several rubbish pits with quantities of artefacts dated c.1780-1840s (Section 3.2.1).	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Known location. Mapped on Thompson's 1827 plan (Figure 2.6). Replaced with later Howe's house. No documented evidence for other structures here.
By 1835	<b>Buildings on Keys / Keys Lease</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber / brick footings,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	(82-94 George Street)	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Potential for original footprint (including possible cellars) and associated deposits underlying later 19th and 20th century buildings along George Street.	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Several structures visible on the Keys / Kays lease (approximately 74-92 George Street) in White's plan from c.1835 (Figure 2.10). These are identified as a "cottage" and "house" on Galloway's c.1841 plan (Figure 2.11), and at the southernmost edge of the TSCA is a building labelled "Blacksmith". These buildings were apparently demolished by the late 19th century (Figure 2.13).
	<b>62-68 George Street</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original fabric,</li> <li>Subfloor deposits,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features,</li> <li>Timber, brick or stone footings,</li> </ul>	Partially still extant (62 George Street)  Western cottages demolished in the c.1870s and replaced with a two-storied building.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Original footprint (and some architectural elements) still extant at 62 George Street. <b>Low-Moderate:</b> Potential for under-floor / between-floor deposits and undocumented yard features, as well	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Known location, and partially (62 George Street) extant. Possibility of distinct use-patterns of the properties (as a private residence and shop) dependant on the types of artefacts recovered.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	(64-68 George Street)	as for preservation of original footings / related features of 64-68 George Street (demolished c.1870s).	
	<b>17 George Street</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original fabric,</li> <li>Subfloor deposits,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	Still Extant (17 George Street)	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Original footprint (and some architectural elements) still extant. Low-moderate potential for under-floor / between-floor deposits throughout property.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Known location, and still extant. Visible on plans by the 1830s (Figure 2.10, Figure 2.11, and Figure 2.12).
By 1837	<b>John Howe's House (Coffey's Inn)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original fabric,</li> <li>Subfloor deposits,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	Still Extant (7 Thompson Square)	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Original footprint (and some architectural elements) still extant. Excavations here (Section 3.2.1) suggest moderate-high potential for under-floor / between-floor deposits throughout the building, as well as a number of undocumented yard features and outbuildings.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Possibility of distinct use-patterns of the property (as a private residence and inn) dependant on the types of artefacts recovered.
1820s-1842	<b>Evidence of early road alignments</b>	Bridge Road (extending from George Street to South Creek).	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Evidence from archaeological testing suggests there is high potential for earlier roadways (Section 3.2.3.2).	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Dependant on type of evidence recovered.
	<b>Archaeological Features / Deposits related to Post-Macquarie era</b> (fences, garden plots, rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns / cesspits, perhaps with quantities of artefacts).	Throughout the TSCA, particularly within the yards of current allotments surrounding the reserve.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Comparative archaeological evidence (Section 3.2.1, 3.2.2) suggests a high potential for unrecorded features and deposits within the TSCA.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Dependant on recovery of datable artefacts.
<b>LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, 1843-1900</b>				
1844-1880s	<b>Various Buildings, still extant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original fabric,</li> <li>Subfloor deposits,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	1844 – <b>The Doctor's House</b> (1-3 Thompson Square) 1850s – <b>Cottage</b> (5 Thompson Square) 1850s (late) – <b>Lilburn / Lilburndale</b> (10 Bridge Street) 1860s – <b>Cottage</b> (6 Bridge Street) 1861 – <b>(former) School of Arts</b> (14 Bridge Street) 1865 – <b>Cottage</b>	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Original footprint (and some architectural elements) still extant. <b>Low-Moderate:</b> Potential for under-floor / between-floor deposits throughout these properties and undocumented yard features.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Known locations, and still extant, with some modifications. Possibility of distinct use-patterns of these individual properties (as private residences, inns, a school, as well as possible evidence of boatbuilding activities at 6 Bridge Street) dependant on the types of artefacts recovered.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
		(82 George Street) 1880s – <u>Hawkesbury Stores</u> (64-68 George Street)		
1860s	<u>Sir John Young Hotel</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber, brick footings,</li> <li>Deposits and artefacts.</li> </ul>	(70-72 George Street)	<u>Nil-Low:</u> Burnt out in 1913 and demolished in 1915. Low potential for preservation of original footings / related features.	<u>Moderate-High:</u> Possibility of distinct use-patterns dependant on the types of artefacts recovered.
1872-1890s	<u>Construction of Windsor Bridge</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber retaining,</li> <li>Landscaping (along Terrace and within the reserves).</li> </ul>	Along the Terrace, within the reserves. Extension of Bridge Street (Old Bridge Street) and Thompson Square Road.	<u>Moderate-High:</u> Evidence from archaeological testing suggests there is moderate potential for earlier roadways related to the construction of Windsor Bridge (Section 3.2.3.1).	<u>Nil-Low:</u> Dependant on type of evidence recovered. Evidence for landscaping is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation.
1882	<u>Pavilion (Summer-House)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber footings.</li> </ul>	Upper reserve, near George Street.	<u>Nil-Low:</u> Ephemeral construction, low potential for preservation of original footings / related features.	<u>Low-Moderate:</u> Dependant on type of evidence recovered.
1850s-1900	<u>Evidence of early road alignments including sandstone kerbs and guttering.</u> <u>Landscaping of reserves, including timber fencing</u>	Throughout the TSCA, particularly underlying current road alignments and within the two reserves.	<u>Moderate-High:</u> Evidence from archaeological testing suggests there is high potential for earlier roadways (Section 3.2.3.2). Low potential for any preserved evidence for landscaping.	<u>Low-Moderate:</u> Dependant on type of evidence recovered. Ability to identify as part of a landscape is limited unless extensive linked open areas of excavation.
	<u>Archaeological Features and Deposits related to Post-Macquarie era</u> Including fences, garden plots, rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns or cesspits, which may contain quantities of artefacts.	Throughout the TSCA, particularly within the yards of current allotments surrounding the reserve.	<u>Moderate-High:</u> Comparative archaeological evidence (Section 3.2.1, 3.2.2) suggests a high potential for unrecorded features and deposits within the properties surrounding the Thompson Square reserve.	<u>Moderate-High:</u> Dependant on recovery of datable artefacts.
<b>20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, 1900-PRESENT – DOES <u>NOT</u> MEET THE THRESHOLD FOR LOCAL OR STATE SIGNIFICANCE.</b>				
1900-present	<u>Various Buildings, still extant</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original fabric,</li> <li>Subfloor deposits,</li> <li>Unrecorded yard features.</li> </ul>	1907 – <u>A.C. Stearn Building</u> (74 George Street) 1910 – <u>Commercial Building</u> (88 George Street) 1923 – <u>Former Hawkesbury Garage</u> (70-72 George Street) Post-1948 – <u>Commercial Building</u> (80 George Street) 1955 – <u>Houses</u>	<u>Moderate-High:</u> Original footprint (and some architectural elements) still extant. Moderate potential for under-floor / between-floor deposits throughout these properties and undocumented yard features.	<u>Moderate-High:</u> Possibility of distinct use-patterns of these individual properties dependant on the types of artefacts recovered.

DATE	TYPES OF REMAINS	LOCATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	EASE BY WHICH DECIPHERED
		(4 Bridge Street) (1/52 George Street)		
1948-49	<b>Boat Club</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cement slab</li> </ul>	Within lower reserve.	<b>Nil-Low:</b> Demolished in 1990s. Within the limits of the current salvage excavations.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Dependant on preservation.
1900-current	<b>Evidence of previous road alignments including sandstone kerbs and guttering.</b> <b>Landscaping of reserves, including timber fencing</b>	Throughout the TSCA, particularly underlying current road alignments.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Evidence from archaeological testing suggests there is high potential for earlier roadways (Section 3.2.3.2). Sandstone kerbing / guttering dating to the late 19th- early 20th century still preserved around the Square.	<b>Low-Moderate:</b> Dependant on recovery of datable artefacts.
	<b>Archaeological Features and Deposits related to 20th-century</b> Including fences, garden plots, rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns or cesspits, which may contain quantities of artefacts.	Throughout the TSCA, particularly within the yards of current allotments surrounding the reserve.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Comparative archaeological evidence (Section 3.2.1, 3.2.2) suggests a high potential for unrecorded features and deposits within the properties surrounding the Thompson Square reserve.	<b>Moderate-High:</b> Dependant on recovery of datable artefacts.



#### 4.4 MAPPING OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Given the complexity of the TSCA, a series of overlay maps have been produced to show the sequence of historic development within Thompson Square. These maps have been organised chronologically (using the basic chronological division used above in Section 2.1 and Table 4.1) to demonstrate the changing landscape across time. The historical plans used to create these overlays are presented in Section 2.0.

##### MULGRAVE PLACE / GREEN HILLS (1794-1810)

The overall plan for the study area c.1795-1810 is presented in Figure 4.11. The locations of the (second) barracks, Commissariat Store as well as the Church and School have been determined using Meehan's 1811 town plan of Windsor. The location of Thompson's house and store is determined using a later (c.1827) plan of Windsor by Surveyor G.B. White. Evan's 1809 watercolour of Green Hills depicts numerous buildings and properties scattered throughout the Green Hills settlement. The location of these has been estimated and their accuracy is not guaranteed.

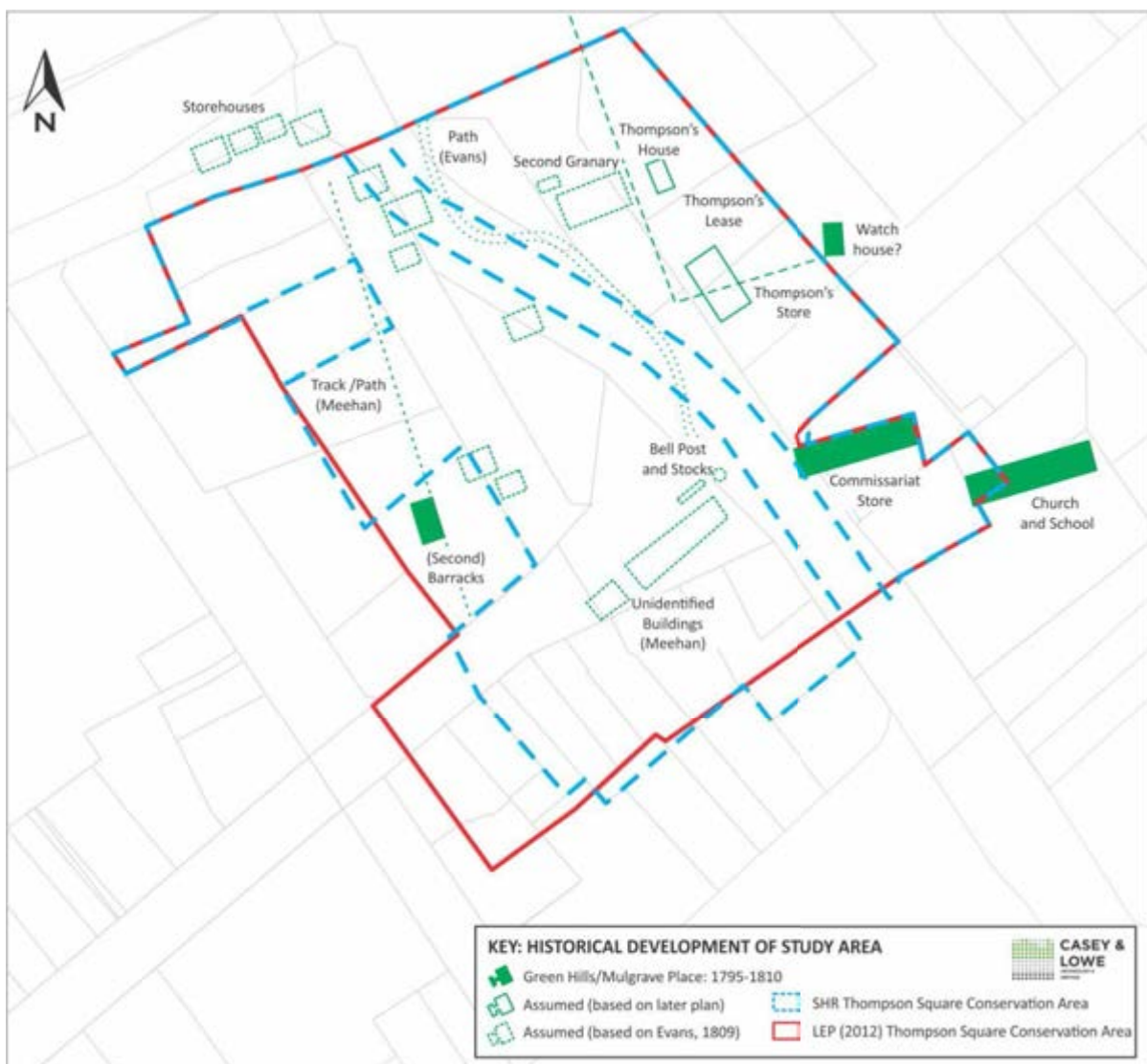


Figure 4.11: Plan showing the location (assumed and determined, using historical overlays) for the Green Hills Government Domain, c. 1795-1810. The SHR and LEP boundaries for the TSCA and marked in blue and red respectively.

### MACQUARIE ERA (1810-1820s)

The overall settlement for the study area during the Macquarie era (c.1810-1821) is presented in Figure 4.12. A number of buildings pre-dating the Macquarie-era (specifically Thompson's store, the bell post and stocks, the Commissariat Store and the adjacent Church and School) remained extant / in use at this time.

The locations of the Macquarie Arms Hotel (c.1815), the Old Inn at 1-3 Thompson Square (possibly the Lord Nelson Inn, constructed c.1819), and punt house (post-1814) were determined through an inspection of several later plans, including Thompson and White's 1827 plans and Galloway's c.1841 plan. The outline of the allotments during this time are marked with dotted lines and were determined using Thompson's 1827 plan of Windsor.

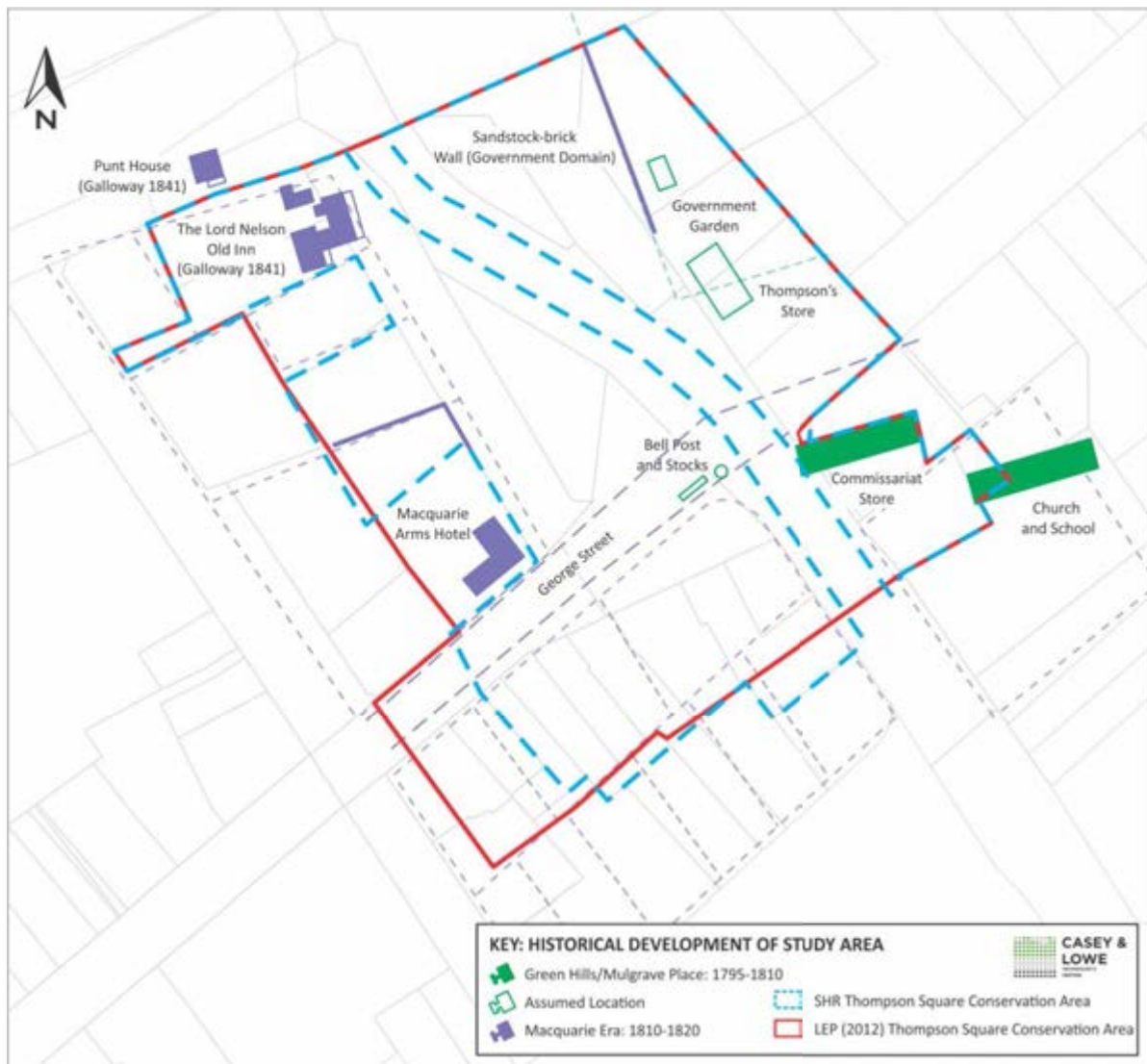


Figure 4.12: Plan showing the location (assumed and determined, using historical overlays) for Thompson Square c.1810-1820s. The SHR and LEP boundaries for the TSCA and marked in blue and red respectively.

### POST-MACQUARIE ERA (1820s-1842)

The overall settlement for the study area during the post-Macquarie era (c.1822-1842) is presented in Figure 4.13. Several buildings from the Macquarie-era, and earlier, remained standing at this time (including the Commissariat Store, the adjacent Church and School, the 'Lord Nelson Inn' and the Macquarie Arms Hotel).

The locations of the new buildings were determined through an inspection of several plans, including Thompson and White's 1827 plans, Abbot's 1831 School of Lands plan, Galloway's c.1841 and Armstrong's 1842 plans. There are several houses and outbuildings along George Street within the Keys / Kays and Kable lots. These were apparently demolished by the late 19th century and subsequently replaced with later constructions. The small changes to the allotments during this time (including establishing a dedicated reserve for Thompson Square) were determined using Galloway's c.1841 town plan.

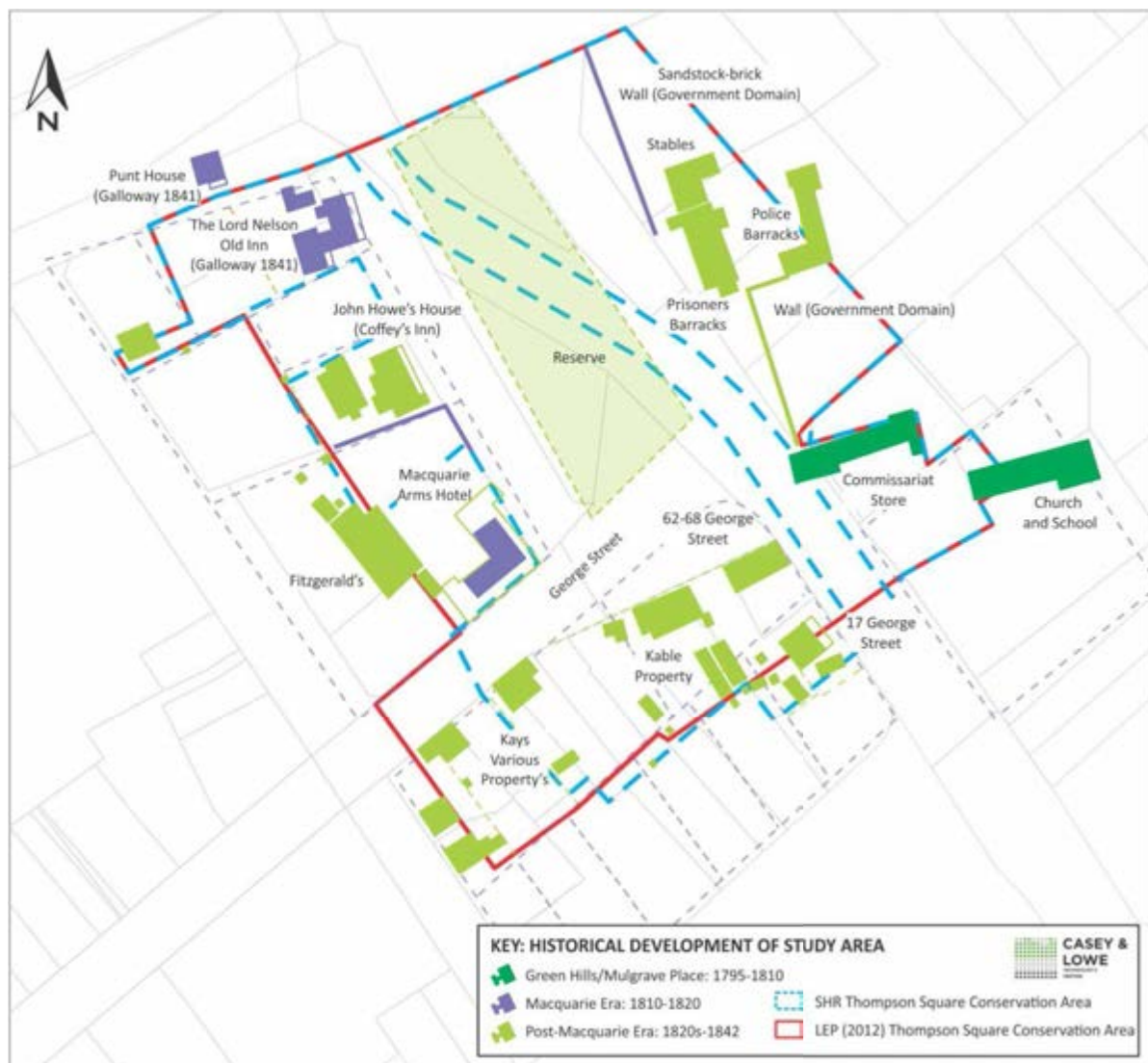


Figure 4.13: Plan showing the location (determined using historical overlays) for Thompson Square c.1820s-1842. The SHR and LEP boundaries for the TSCA and marked in blue and red respectively.



### LATE 19th-CENTURY (1842-1900)

The overall settlement for the study area during the late 19th-century (c.1842-1900) is presented in Figure 4.14. Considerable development to the properties around the Thompson Square reserve is evident, with few buildings from the early 19th-century remaining (specifically the two small cottages at 17 and 62 George Street, John Howe's House / Coffey's Inn – 7 Thompson Square, and the Macquarie Arms Hotel).

The locations of new buildings, and alterations to the allotments (including the division of Thompson Square into two reserves) was determined using Handcock's 1871 and Scrivener's 1894 plan.

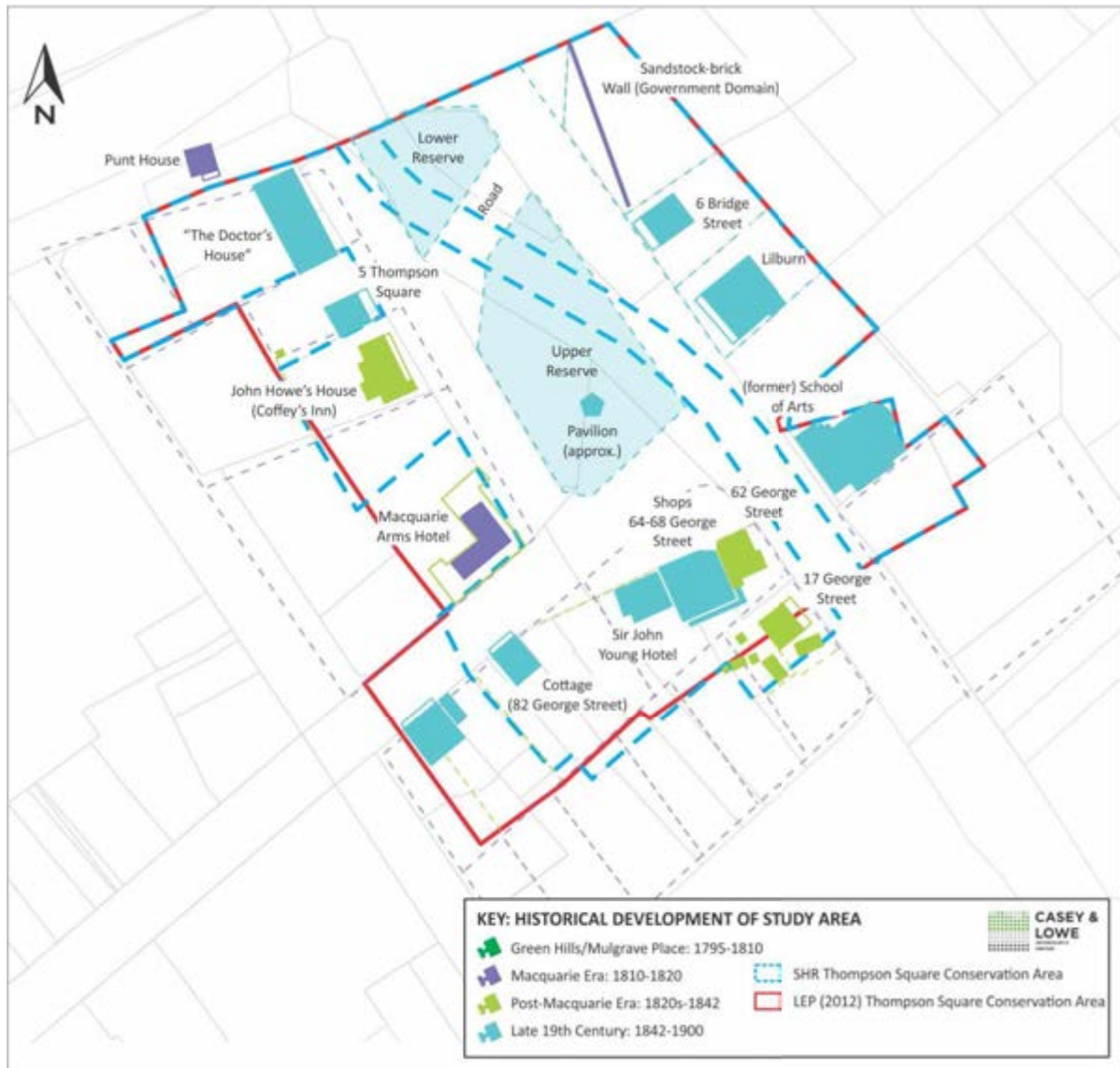


Figure 4.14: Plan showing the location (determined using historical overlays) for Thompson Square c.1842-1900. The SHR and LEP boundaries for the TSCA and marked in blue and red respectively.

## 20th-CENTURY (1900-Present)

The overall settlement for the study area during the 20th-Century (c.1900-present day) is presented in Figure 4.15. The layout of the buildings as depicted in this plan remains largely unaltered today, with the exception of the Hawkesbury Motor Boat Club building (within the lower reserve), demolished in the 1990s.

The locations of new buildings were determined using a 1936 sewerage plan and recent aerial photography using Near Maps. The current configuration of the two reserves was determined using the 1948 Crown Plan of Thompson Square.

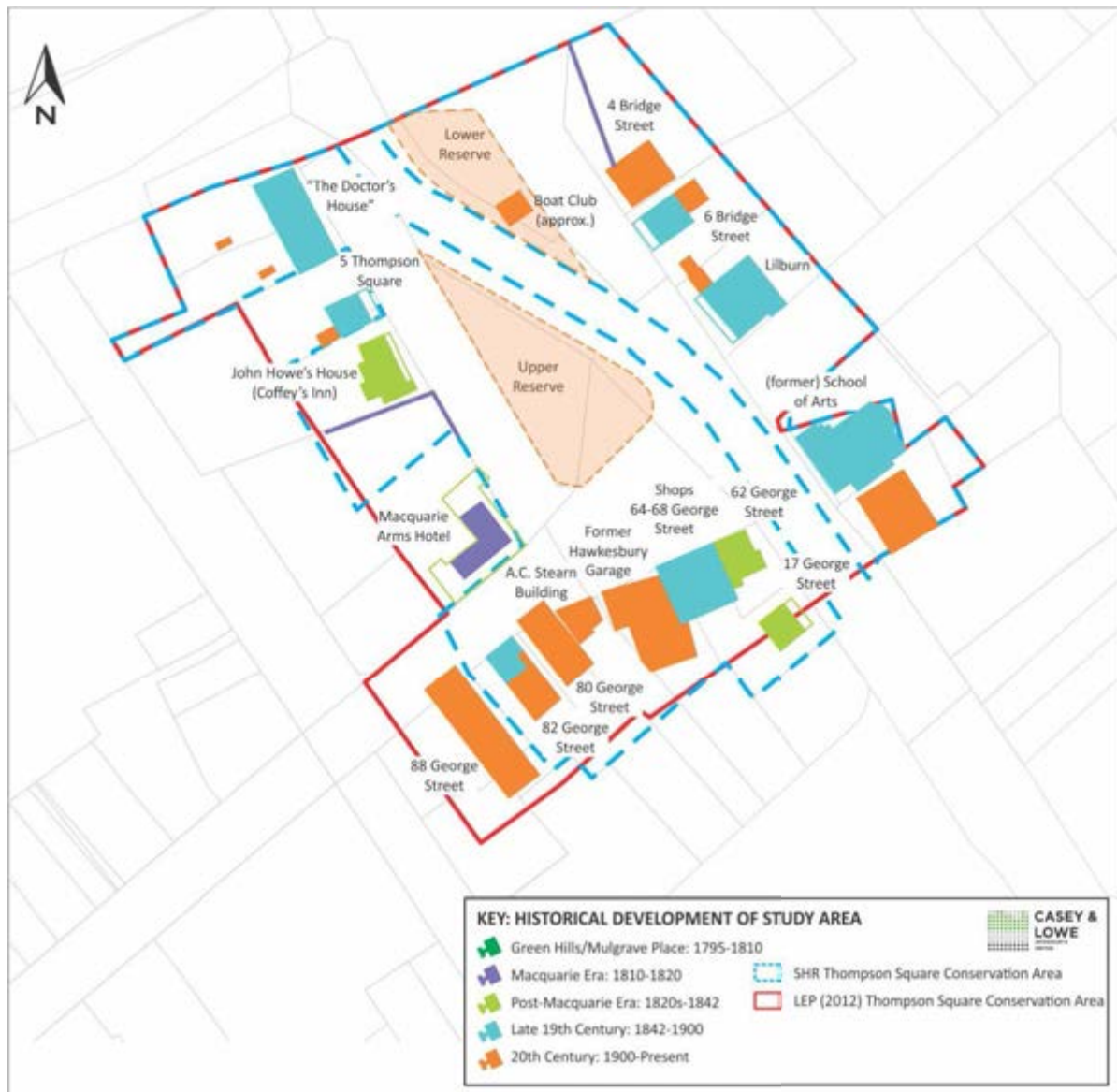


Figure 4.15: Plan showing the location (determined using historical overlays) for Thompson Square c.1900-present. The SHR and LEP boundaries for the TSCA and marked in blue and red respectively.



## 4.5 MAPPING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Figure 4.16 presents an overlay image illustrating archaeological potential within the TSCA, as determined by the location of structures at various phases of occupation (Section 4.4) and later known impacts. The current, and ongoing, salvage excavations (shaded dark grey) are expected to all but remove the archaeological resource within these areas.

As many of the 19th-century buildings in Thompson Square remain extant, there is a **Moderate-High** potential for archaeological evidence associated with the original configuration of these structures, as well as for subfloor deposits related to their early use (buildings shaded green). There is a **Moderate-High** potential for undocumented yard features (properties shaded green), as demonstrated by archaeological excavations on similar sites within the vicinity of the TSCA. There is a **Low-Moderate** potential of archaeological evidence associated with the remains of earlier buildings on these sites (shaded blue), although the exact location of some of these structures is unknown.

Buildings shaded grey are assessed as having **Nil-Low** potential, and the archaeological resource of these structures does not meet the threshold for local or State significance. Considering the expected level of 19th- and 20th-century disturbance, most of the roadways are considered to retain **Nil-Low** potential evidence for historical uses (shaded light grey).



Figure 4.16: Overlay plan of the study area indicating the levels of expected archaeological potential within the TSCA.

## 5.0 HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

### 5.1 HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Heritage significance is distinct from archaeological potential. The 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.<sup>93</sup>

The following section is limited to an assessment of the significance of the potential archaeological remains as identified in Section 4.3. The results of several archaeological testing programs within the TSCA (as outlined in Section 3.2.3), and its environs (Section 3.2 generally), have proved particularly valuable in informing the following discussion.

### 5.2 PREVIOUS STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The overall heritage significance of TSCA has been subject to several assessments, including most recently within the 2017 SCMP for Thompson Square. Additionally, several individual buildings within the TSCA have their own specific, albeit often brief, Statements of Significance (presented in Appendix A), specifically:

#### SHR Statements of Significance

- Thompson Square Conservation Area
- The Macquarie Arms Hotel (81 George Street)

#### LEP Statements of Significance

- The Doctor's House (1-3 Thompson Square)
- Victorian Georgian Cottage (5 Thompson Square)
- Coffey's Inn (former, 7 Thompson Square)
- House (6 Bridge Street)
- House - Lilburn / Lilburndale (10 Bridge Street)
- School of Arts (former, 14 Bridge Street)
- Victorian Georgian Building (62 George Street)
- Victorian Commercial Building (64-68 George Street)
- A C Stearn Building (74 George Street)
- Shop (82 George Street)

These Statements of Significance (SOS) were, with the exception of 5 Thompson Square, written prior to the 2009 Significance Guidelines,<sup>94</sup> and therefore do not comply with the current guidelines and Heritage Council requirements. The following assessment does not attempt to reassess these statements, or to provide an assessment for individual items within the TSCA. Rather, the current SOS considers the historical archaeological context and research potential of these elements within the broader scope of the TSCA.

The 2017 SCMP for Thompson Square provides the following summary statement of historic archaeological heritage significance:

...the historical archaeological remains identified within a substantially modified cultural landscape have the ability to address a range of research questions associated with the early phases of colonial settlement; evidence about the early marine activities and river traffic; the life of convicts, emancipists and military and their ability to manage their existence and social progressions; the nature of successful life of early emancipated convicts and those who had patronage of Governor Macquarie. The artefacts and remains may also have the ability to address questions relating to the evolution of the landscape, townscapes, diet, lifeways and Aboriginal contact.

<sup>93</sup> 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, p 7).

<sup>94</sup> NSW Heritage Branch 2009.

Cumulatively, both the recorded archaeological remains and the areas identified as having archaeological potential, can make a significant contribution to an understanding of the history and development of Windsor and NSW at **State** and **local** levels.<sup>95</sup>

Considering the study area of the 2017 SCMP is restricted to the RMS WBRP area, and does not include the buildings adjoining Thompson Square, this SOS is not considered an accurate analysis of significance for the TSCA. The following report is designed, therefore, to more precisely reflect the boundaries of the historical significance of Thompson Square.

### 5.3 HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

This assessment of archaeological heritage significance has been written to be in accordance with the Heritage Branch 2009 guidelines: *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*. These guidelines provide the following discussion of heritage significance:

Apart from NSW State guidelines, the nationally recognised Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Significance (*The Burra Charter*) also defines 'cultural significance' as meaning:

*'aesthetic, historic, scientific and social value for past, present and future generations.'*

Significance is therefore an expression of the cultural value afforded a place, site or item.

Understanding what is meant by value in a heritage sense is fundamental, since any society will only make an effort to conserve things it values. In terms of built heritage, what we have inherited from the past is usually places that have been continuously cared for. Conversely, many archaeological sites will comprise places which, for whatever reason, have not been cared for until the relatively recent period.

Our society considers that many places and items we have inherited from the past have heritage significance because they embody, demonstrate, represent or are tangible expressions of values society recognises and supports. Our future heritage will be what we keep from our inheritance to pass on to the following generations.<sup>96</sup>

#### 5.3.1 BASIS OF ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

To identify the heritage significance of an archaeological site it is necessary to discuss and assess the significance of the study area. This process will allow for the analysis of the site's varied values. These criteria are part of the system of assessment which is centred on the *Burra Charter* of Australia ICOMOS. The *Burra Charter* principles are important to the assessment, conservation and management of sites and relics. The assessment of heritage significance is enshrined through legislation in the NSW *Heritage Act* 1977 and implemented through the NSW *Heritage Manual* and the *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* and *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*.<sup>97</sup>

#### 5.3.2 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

To be assessed as having heritage significance an item must:

- meet at least one of the one of the seven significance criteria
- retain the integrity of its key attributes

If an item is to be considered to be of State significance it should meet more than one criterion, namely in the case of relics, its research potential.<sup>98</sup> Archaeological Significance:

may be linked to other significance categories especially where sites were created as a result of a specific historic event or decision, or when sites have been the actual location of particular incidents, events or occupancies.

<sup>95</sup> Extracted from the summary statement produced in AAJV May 2017a, p. 133.

<sup>96</sup> NSW Heritage Branch 2009, pp 1-2. Note that this passage quotes the 1988 version of the *Burra Charter*. The 1999 and 2013 revisions also include 'spiritual value' in their definition of cultural significance.

<sup>97</sup> NSW Heritage Office 1996, pp 25-27; NSW Heritage Office 2001; NSW Heritage Branch 2009.

<sup>98</sup> NSW Heritage Branch 2009, p 9.

Other relevant factors may be comparative values related to the intactness and rarity of individual items. The rarity of individual site types is an important factor, which should inform management decisions.

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:

*'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.<sup>99</sup>

### 5.3.3 RESEARCH POTENTIAL

The heritage significance of archaeological remains most often lies in their research potential (criterion e of the Heritage Council criteria). The assessment of research potential has its own peculiarities compared with the assessment of other heritage items. The 1996 *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* comment:

Research potential is the most relevant criterion for assessing archaeological sites. However, assessing research potential for archaeological sites can be difficult as the nature or extent of features is sometimes unknown, therefore judgements must be formed on the basis of expected or potential attributes. One benefit of a detailed archaeological assessment is that the element of judgement can be made more rigorous by historical or other research.<sup>100</sup>

### 5.3.4 ASSESSMENT OF RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Once the archaeological potential of a site has been determined, research themes and likely research questions identified, as addressed through archaeological investigation and analysis, the following inclusion guidelines should be applied:

Does the site:

- (a) contribute knowledge which no other resource can?
- (b) contribute knowledge which no other site can?
- (c) is the knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive problems relating to Australian History, or does it contribute to other major research questions?<sup>101</sup>

If the answer to these questions is yes then the site will have archaeological research potential. The new significance guidelines have taken a broader approach.

<sup>99</sup> NSW Heritage Branch 2009, p 6.

<sup>100</sup> NSW Heritage Office 1996, p 26.

<sup>101</sup> Bickford and Sullivan 1984, p 23.

## 5.4 DISCUSSION OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The assessment of archaeological potential, as identified in Section 4.3, indicates that the TSCA has the potential to retain historical archaeological remains likely to reflect the ongoing use and development of the site as a civic square and Government domain since the Green Hills settlement in 1795.

### 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 known and potential historic archaeological remains within the TSCA are important to several themes in the cultural history of NSW, and likely reflect its development and continued use as and a civic precinct over the past 200+ years. Key heritage themes include: Tracing the natural environment of Australia, peopling Australia, developing local and regional economies, building settlements, towns and cities, governing, working, and developing cultural life.

Thompson Square was established in 1810 as part of Governor Macquarie's planned town of Windsor, situated on land already recognised as the civic and Government domain of Green Hills. The waterfront character of Thompson Square played a crucial role to early Windsor and continued to do so throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Despite modifications to the formal plan of the Thompson Square reserve throughout the later 19th- and 20th-centuries (specifically the shifting road alignments and division of the public reserve), the broad character of Thompson Square, as established by Governor Macquarie, has been maintained throughout the past two centuries. Thompson Square was a key element in the civic activities of the early township, ships, people and grain arrived and departed, grain was brought in for surrounding farms and stored in the granary and shipped to Parramatta and Sydney. It was the focal point for many cultural, social and economic activities as evidence by the formal recognition of it by Governor Macquarie in 1811.

The historical archaeological remains have the ability to represent the evolving nature of Windsor's settlement throughout the late 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. These historic values are considered to be at a **State** level.

### 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 TSCA is strongly associated with several significant historical figures, including:

- **Governor Lachlan Macquarie** (1762-1824), who established the town of Windsor, and within it Thompson Square, considered to be the oldest surviving town square in Australia.
- **Andrew Thompson** (c.1773-1810), the emancipated convict and for whom Thompson Square was named. Served as constable, coroner and magistrate for Green Hills. His lease formed the eastern boundary of Thompson Square, and was subsequently incorporated into the Government domain following his death. Naming a square after an emancipated convict is surprising and speaks to the favour in which Macquarie and others held him.
- **Richard Fitzgerald** (1772-1840), the original owner of the Macquarie Arms Hotel, and his son **Robert Fitzgerald** (1807-1865).
- **John Howe** (1774-1852), owner of Howe's cottage. Contracted with James McGrath to build a toll-bridge over South Creek, as well as a wharf at Thompson Square and a sewerage system through Thompson Square.



- **James McGrath** (1777-1831), Windsor landowner, who (with John Howe) was contracted to construct a wharf and sewerage system at Thompson Square.

Some archaeological remains within the TSCA can be expected to be connected with these individuals and may be relevant to creating a more complete picture of the Square and its development. In particular, evidence of those structures directly associated with a specific individual/s, such as the c.1814-1820 wharfage and sewerage system running through Thompson Square, known to have been constructed by John Howe and James McGrath. Additionally, all archaeological remains dating to the Macquarie era have the potential to be linked to Macquarie and his governance of the colony.

Most archaeological deposits within the TSCA are, however, unlikely to be directly associated with a particular individual or group of persons. The activities these represent are nonetheless considered a significant phase in the early cultural history and establishment of Windsor. This associative value is considered to be at a **State** level.

### **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);*

While the Georgian character and modified landscape of the TSCA, including its vistas and park lands, retains scenic aesthetic qualities, any below-ground archaeological remains within the study area have little potential for aesthetic significance.

Although 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 often more by accident than design.

These values are not likely to be significant at either a State or local level.

### **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);*

The social value and significance attached to the archaeological remains of Thompson Square may be quite accurately assessed with regards to the public response to previous, and ongoing long-term archaeological excavation, testing and salvage programs undertaken in Thompson Square and its environs. In particular, the public interest in artefacts collected during the excavations at 8 Baker Street (Section 3.2.2), as well as the preserved footings of a c.1818 sandstock-brick (once part of the Macquarie Arms Hotel), which are visible on display within the Hawkesbury Regional Museum and Gallery. The museum also incorporates the Georgian property of Howe's house, 7 Thompson Square, and attracts a wide audience to the Hawkesbury region.

More recently, the strong community interest, engagement and protest (including the continued occupancy of Thompson Square by the CAWB since 21 July 2013) against the salvage excavations within the lower reserve Thompson Square (as part of the RMS WBRP) have attracted national attention.

TSCA demonstrates strong social significance for both the local community and visitors to the Hawkesbury region. The buried archaeological remains and the cultural landscapes within Thompson Square are therefore likely to be considered to have a strong association within the community of NSW. These values are significant at a **State** level.

### **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);*

Potential archaeological remains within the TSCA, many of which have been identified during testing and salvage excavation programs, include:

- Remains of a several early buildings and subsidiary structures dating from the late 18th and early 19th century, erected as part of the early Green Hills settlement. These includes potential remains, such as early houses and government buildings, not mentioned in the historical records or included on maps or in historic images. A number of these structures were evidently cleared in preparation for the planned Thompson Square, however remains of these structures and associated deposits and artefacts may remain under the current roadways and standing structures surrounding Thompson Square.
- Associated archaeological features and deposits related to the early Green Hills settlement and buildings within the Government precinct, i.e. rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns or cesspits, which may contain quantities of artefacts.
- Evidence of land modification, including tracks, and pockets of early cultivation following initial British settlement at Mulgrave Place / Green Hills. Limited evidence of this sort has been identified in testing programs, including planting holes, postholes, modified topsoils, etc. The possibility of archaeobotanical remains should also be considered.
- Various stages of wharfage, essential to the shipment of grain to sustain the town of Sydney, erected at the river's edge. Archaeological evidence of early wharfs, dating to the 1820s and perhaps the earlier c.1814 wharf, has already been demonstrated in maritime investigations along the Terrace.
- Structural remains and subfloor occupation-related artefact deposits associated with 19th-century buildings fronting Thompson Square reserve on its western and eastern boundaries.
- Unrecorded yard features, including rubbish pits, wells, cisterns, or cesspits, and associated deposits related to these 19th-century structures.
- Evidence of early roadways, including those made for the bridge and the 1930s road realignment. Evidence for previous roadways is well documented in the testing programs within Thompson Square. These constructions will have impacted on the potential archaeology within the study area.

The potential archaeological remains identified within the study area and their analysis can provide knowledge that is not available from other resources. The ability of a site to reflect knowledge that no other resource can is dependent upon the **Research Questions** which are posed and the methodology employed to investigate the archaeological resource. The TSCA has the potential to yield archaeological information which can address a range of questions, including:

## **ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, AGRICULTURE & WATER**

### **Management and role of water**

- Evidence for the management of flood, and establishment and development of infrastructure.

### **Agriculture**

- Nature of early agricultural practices, evidence for clearing, cattle grazing, orcharding, and self-sufficiency. Address this issue through both the analysis of archaeological features as well as through analysis of early pottery, storage of food surpluses, chemical qualities of the soil and pollen samples.

### Climate

- How did the British meet the change of this new place climate with its heavy rain and drought and the early El Niño's and La Ninas.

## THE BEGINNINGS OF BRITISH SETTLEMENT

### Settlement of Windsor (Mulgrave Place / Green Hills)

- Is there evidence for the pre-settlement landscape and any indication of land modification in situating the Government precinct here?
- What is the nature and effect of this modification on the landscape?
- What evidence is there for initial contact between the local Aboriginal people and the British settlers?
- Does the site retain any archaeological evidence of its pre-Macquarie use? What evidence is there for the early Green Hills settlement?
  - Government buildings (granary, stores, barracks, watch-house, first wharf, Thompson's lease) and associated deposits.
  - Paths and tracks.
  - Early alignment of George Street (within Thompson's lease?)
- What types of archaeological evidence can be directly associated with the administrative character of Green Hills?
- How does it change or modify our understanding of early building practices or planning in early settlements?
- Evidence for the difficulty of survival in this new environment, such as the nature of diet based on rations and possible modification of scarce material culture resources, such as tools.
- How does evidence from this period compare with Rose Hill and Parramatta?

### A Macquarie-Period Regional Settlement

- Is there evidence for establishing a formal layout of Thompson Square?
  - Defined limits for the public reserve.
  - Original alignments of streets.
  - Other infrastructure works (sewerage, wharfage).
- Does the site retain any archaeological evidence for early 19th-century structures no longer standing? What is the nature of these buildings? How do they define the character of the Macquarie-era settlement?
- What kinds of archaeological deposits / artefacts may be associated with the early 19th-century settlement?

### Modified Landscapes

- Does the study area retain evidence of historical flood events?
- Is there any evidence of the changing landscape of Thompson Square reserve?
- How much of the early historical archaeological resource is disturbed by later 19th- and 20th-century modifications within Thompson Square?

### Life in Windsor

- Consumption and commerce in early Windsor:
  - How does the evidence found within the study area link into issues associated with the local, regional and global economies?
  - What does it tell us about cultural and social practices in Windsor, relating to lifeways, diet and other issues associated with consumption?
- Does the material cultural assemblage demonstrate evidence for the shifting use of the standing 19th-century properties?

- What evidence is there for the differences between emancipated convicts, free-settlers, and the military working and living in Windsor?
- Is there any evidence of the standard of living?
- Is there evidence for distinct and shifting functions of Thompson Square; as a market space, recreation area, public reserve?

### DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TOWNS DURING THE 19TH CENTURY

- How does this archaeology of this place add to our understanding of the beginnings of Australian towns and settlements and how they developed and changed throughout the 19th-century?

These values are significant at a **State** level.

#### 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);*

The known and potential archaeological remains within the TSCA are likely to reflect the ongoing use and development of Thompson Square as a civic precinct over the past 200+ years. Macquarie and pre-Macquarie-period archaeological remains are considered to be rare and are significant to the cultural history of Windsor and NSW.

Generally archaeological remains dating to the 20th-century use of the site are not considered to be a rare resource.

These values are significant at a **State** level.

#### 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 TSCA are considered to be representative of Macquarie period, and pre-Macquarie period, regional settlements. The layout of the square and its access to the river reflect the use of Thompson Square as a working environment and is further representative of early 19th-century urban planning.

#### Integrity

The results of test excavations within Thompson Square have proved particularly valuable in informing the integrity of potential archaeological remains within the square. These testing programs suggest moderate disturbance to the archaeological remains may be expected in some areas of the TSCA, particularly underlying the modern roadways. There is, however, the potential for extensive areas of intact remains.

The preservation of many of the early 19th-century structures, particularly along the eastern and western boundaries of Thompson Square, indicates there is a strong potential for the survival of many of the original architectural features, as well as subfloor deposits. There is also the potential for early archaeological features and structural remains to be preserved underlying these 19th-century constructions. While difficult to identify without open-area excavations, evidence of early tracks and various land modification cannot be discounted.

Where they remain, these values are significant at a **State** level.

## 5.5 STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The TSCA has the potential to contain historical archaeological evidence relating to the development and ongoing use as a civic precinct since the earliest British settlement, c.1795. The potential archaeological remains within Thompson Square have historic significance in their ability to provide information relating to the Macquarie period and pre-Macquarie period regional settlements. They also have archaeological research significance through their ability to cast light on the administrative character of the late 18th – early 19th century settlement at Green Hills, and its relationship to the colony.

The archaeology of the square relates to a brief but crucial period of early British settlement and the use of this civic space was a key element of the early settlement activities and the distribution of grain from the Hawkesbury to Parramatta and Sydney. The sites of these early buildings testify to its significance as the bread basket of the colony. The potential archaeological remains have the ability to address a wide range of research questions regarding the use of material culture of early Windsor. The square was associated with Governor Macquarie, Andrew Thompson, Richard Fitzgerald, John Howe and James McGrath, all of whom were significant in the early history of Windsor.

These archaeological features, through archaeological analysis, have the potential to further our understanding of the historical development of Windsor, and to contribute to our understanding of its social and cultural history. They are rare as evidence for the fourth settlement in New South Wales, after Sydney Cove, Norfolk Island, and Rose Hill/Parramatta and for the continuing success for agriculture for development of a sustainable colony. The known and potential archaeological remains within the TSCA are considered to be of **State** heritage significance for historic, associative, social and archaeological values.



## 6.0 RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 RESULTS

- The TSCA is listed on the State Heritage Register and the Hawkesbury LEP (2012).
- It has the potential to contain historical archaeological evidence relating to its ongoing use, and development of the site, as a government and later civic precinct since the earliest British settlement, c.1795. This archaeological assessment has shown that the study area has the potential to contain the following remains:
  - Remains of a several early buildings and subsidiary structures dating from the late 18th and early 19th century, erected as part of the early Green Hills settlement. Includes potential remains, such as early houses and government buildings, not mentioned in the historical records or included on maps or in historic images. A number of these structures were evidently cleared in preparation for the planned Thompson Square, however remains of these structures and associated deposits and artefacts may remain under the current roadways and standing structures surrounding Thompson Square.
  - Associated archaeological features and deposits related to the early Green Hills settlement and buildings within the Government precinct (i.e. rubbish pits, backfilled wells, cisterns or cesspits, which may contain quantities of artefacts).
  - Evidence of land modification, including tracks, and pockets of early cultivation following initial European settlement at Mulgrave Place / Green Hills. Limited evidence of this sort has been identified in testing programs (including planting holes, postholes, modified topsoils, etc). The possibility of archaeobotanical remains should also be considered.
  - Various stages of wharfage, essential to the shipment of grain to sustain the town of Sydney, erected at the river's edge. Archaeological evidence of early wharfs (dating to the 1820s and perhaps the earlier c.1814 wharf) has already been demonstrated in maritime investigations along the Terrace.
  - Structural remains and subfloor occupation-related artefact deposits associated with 19th-century buildings fronting Thompson Square reserve on its western and eastern boundaries.
  - Unrecorded yard features (including rubbish pits, wells, cisterns, or cesspits), and associated deposits related to these 19th-century structures.
  - Evidence of early roadways, including those made for the bridge and the 1930s road realignment. Evidence for previous roadways is well documented in the testing programs within Thompson Square. The construction of these roads will have impacted on the potential archaeology within the study area.

### 6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

As the TSCA has the potential to contain State-significant relics, any impacts on the site will require an approval under S60 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* unless the work is undertaken under Division 4.7 (State Significant Development) or Division 5.2 (State Significant Infrastructure) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. If located, opportunities to preserve the potential archaeological remains on the property should be explored.

The following recommendations are based on the historical research and archaeological analysis provided in this assessment:

1. All State significant archaeology within the study area should be conserved *in situ*.

2. Any proposal to impact on archaeology should be discussed with the Heritage Council of NSW, or its delegate (Heritage Council), and alternative design options investigated.
3. The Hawkesbury Regional Museum should be the repository for all archaeological material recovered from the TSCA.
4. As part of any development approvals agreements should be made with private landowners to ensure that that ownership (or management) of the archaeological material is vested in the Hawkesbury Council.
5. Prior to undertaking works that disturb the area within the State Heritage Register curtilage, an approval under S57 or S60 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* will need to be obtained from the Heritage Council. Discussions should be held with the Heritage Division of the Department of Environment and Heritage (OEH) regarding the nature of the impacts and the proposed archaeological program.
6. A standalone copy of this report should be sent to the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage to inform any future decision making in relation to archaeology within the TSCA and its surrounds.
7. An Archaeological Research Design will need to be written as part of any S60 application. This will identify the archaeological approach and methodology to be used on the site, and the type of archaeological questions the archaeological investigation might address.
8. The archaeological program should include a phase of archaeological testing in areas to inform and influence the location and design of any proposed subsurface impact depending on the nature of potential remains in these areas.
9. Depending on the results of the testing program and any mitigation of impacts, a program of archaeological excavation and recording may be necessary.
10. Any artefacts collected and retained during the works will need to be catalogued and then securely stored in the Hawkesbury Regional Museum after the completion of the archaeological program.
11. If located, opportunities to conserve *in situ* and interpret significant archaeological remains should be explored.
12. At the end of the archaeological program a report presenting the results of the archaeological program and artefact catalogue must be prepared (and will likely be a condition of consent of the S60 approval or any relevant planning approval).

## 7.0 REFERENCES

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## **APPENDICES**

### **APPENDIX 1: SHI Previous Statements of Significance**

## **APPENDIX 1: SHI PREVIOUS STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **State Heritage Register**

#### **THOMPSON SQUARE CONSERVATION AREA (SHR 00126)**

Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and notable for the large number of Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. It is the only public space remaining from the original town and has played an important part in the history of the town. It is the only remaining civic space as laid out by Governor Macquarie and is a vital precinct in the preservation of the early Colonial character of Windsor. The Square reflects Macquarie's visionary schemes for town planning excellence in the infant colony (Sheedy 1975).

**Updated:** 30 Sep 1997

#### **THOMPSON SQUARE (SHR 00126)**

Thompson Square is one of Australia's earliest public squares. The square is an integral part of Governor Macquarie's plan for Windsor and survives as a key precinct in establishing and reinforcing the colonial character of Windsor. The survival of a number of important Colonial Georgian buildings facing the square reinforce its character.

**Updated:** 13 Dec 2006

#### **MACQUARIE ARMS HOTEL (SHR 00041)**

Opened in 1815 and constructed by emancipist Richard Fitzgerald in response to specific directions from Governor Macquarie, the Macquarie Arms Hotel is of exceptional significance as the most sophisticated and most intact major commercial building dating to the pre-1820 colonial period of Australia's history. Playing a pivotal role in Macquarie's town plan for Windsor, the Macquarie Arms Hotel is the most substantial building to form part of Thompson Square, the best Georgian town square on mainland Australia. The building contains numerous rare and aesthetically superior elements, and continues to be widely recognised for its importance to the understanding of settlement, urban design, and architecture during the colonial period, while its historic associations carry strong cultural messages of the period's society and government. It has been long established by art and architectural historians, and has a prominent place in the contemporary social life of Windsor.

### **Local Environment Plan 2012**

#### **MACQUARIE ARMS HOTEL (LEP 100041)**

The Macquarie Arms is Australia's oldest purpose-built hotel, built the same year (1815) as the Bush Inn at Norfolk Tasmania.

The hotel is associated with the important Colonial emancipist, Richard Fitzgerald who constructed the hotel.

A large building on a prominent corner, The Macquarie Arms is a rare surviving purpose built Colonial Georgian hotel in Australia and is important landmark in the commercial part of Windsor and key building in Thompson Square. It is a good example of Colonial Georgian architecture, although somewhat obscured by mid-20th century additions.

**Updated:** 14 Nov 2006

#### **THE DOCTOR'S HOUSE - 1-3 THOMPSON SQUARE (LEP 100126)**

This is a rare example of a Colonial Georgian terrace of outstanding architectural merit. It is located in an important position overlooking Thompson Square, one of the most significant public squares in Australia.

The Doctor's house has high importance as an early hotel in Windsor and for its long use as a doctor's residence.

**Updated:** 14 Nov 2006

#### **VICTORIAN GEORGIAN COTTAGE - 5 THOMPSON SQUARE (SHR 00005 / LEP 10005)**

An authentic early cottage which maintains the colonial character of Thompson Square.

**Updated:** 13 Jul 2017

#### **COFFER'S INN - 7 THOMPSON SQUARE (LEP 100126)**

Thought to be built c.1840, this is one of Windsor's early extant buildings. A substantial and well-presented two storey Victorian Georgian building, it makes an important contribution to the quality of Thompson Square. Its use as Coffey's Inn reflects the importance of Thompson Square and its location near the river.

This building is associated with Louis Asher Davies, who printed and published his newspaper the Australian from this building for many years.

The building also has importance for its role as a museum of the Hawkesbury district for a long period.

**Updated:** 14 Nov 2006

#### **HOUSE - 6 BRIDGE STREET (LEP 100126)**

A good and reasonably intact example of a single storied Victorian Georgian house that contributes to the character of Thompson Square.

**Updated:** 13 Dec 2006

#### **HOUSE, LILBURNDALE - 10 BRIDGE STREET (LEP 100126)**

This is an important and intact example of a substantial Victorian Regency building. Its prominent location in Thompson Square near the junction of George Street make it an important part of the local streetscape.

This building has historical interest for its use in the 19th century for educational uses, firstly as St Catherine's School for Young Ladies and later as Windsor Grammar School.

**Updated:** 13 Dec 2006

#### **SCHOOL OF ARTS (FORMER) - 14 BRIDGE STREET (LEP 100126)**

The former Windsor School of Arts is an important example of the Victorian Italianate style used on a public building. Located at the intersection of George Street and Bridge Street in Thompson Square, it is an important local landmark.

This building is of historic importance for its use as the School of Arts and later as the meeting rooms for Windsor Council.

**Updated:** 13 Dec 2006

#### **VICTORIAN GEORGIAN BUILDING - 62 GEORGE STREET (LEP 100126)**

The surviving building of a terrace of three, this is a rare surviving example of early Victorian terrace development in Windsor. It is an important element at the George Street end of Thompson Square.

**Updated:** 11 Dec 2006

#### **VICTORIAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING / HAWKESBURY STORES - 64-68 GEORGE STREET (LEP 100126)**

This is a good example of a substantial late Victorian commercial building and is of interest as the c.1880 extension of William Moses' Hawkesbury Stores. Located

at the top of Thompson Square, it is an important contributory element to that precinct.

**Updated:** 11 Dec 2006

**A.C. STEARN BUILDINGS - 74 GEORGE STREET (LEP 100126)**

An important commercial building that reached its present two-story form in the early 20th century that makes an important contribution to the quality of Thompson Square.

**Updated:** 11 Dec 2006

**SHOP - 82 GEORGE STREET (LEP 100126)**

This building is an important extant Victorian residential building that makes an important contribution to the local townscape.

**Updated:** 14 Nov 2006



# Appendix 7

## Copies of Heritage Listings

1. Thompson Square Conservation Area State Heritage Register listing: SHR No. 00126
2. Thompson Square Conservation Area Local Heritage listing (state heritage inventory): Database No. 1741540
3. Thompson Square Precinct, Register of the National Estate: Place ID. 3166
4. Thompson Square, Register of the National Estate: Place ID. 3167
5. Thompson Square Precinct, National Trust of Australia (NSW): Listing Card NTN .05.135





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# Thompson Square Conservation Area

## Item details

<b>Name of item:</b>	Thompson Square Conservation Area
<b>Other name/s:</b>	Thompson Square Precinct; New Windsor Bridge Project
<b>Type of item:</b>	Conservation Area
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Urban Area
<b>Category:</b>	Townscape
<b>Location:</b>	Lat:     -33.6046136779 Long:     150.8231647740
<b>Primary address:</b>	Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW 2756
<b>Parish:</b>	St Matthew
<b>County:</b>	Cumberland
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Hawkesbury
<b>Local Aboriginal Land Council:</b>	Deerubbin

## Property description

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
LOT	1		DP	1011887
LOT	7007		DP	1029964
PART LOT	1		DP	1045626
LOT	1		DP	1127620
PART LOT	2		DP	1127620
LOT	1		DP	136637
LOT	B		DP	161643
LOT	1		DP	196531
LOT	2		DP	223433
LOT	2		DP	233054
LOT	2		DP	239319
LOT	C		DP	379996

LOT	A		DP	381403
LOT	1		DP	555685
LOT	2		DP	555685
PART LOT	1		DP	60716
PART LOT	1		DP	60716
LOT	10		DP	630209
LOT	10		DP	630209
LOT	11		DP	630209
LOT	11		DP	630209
LOT	10		DP	666894
LOT	345		DP	752061
LOT	10	10	DP	759096
PART LOT	1		DP	864088
PART LOT	1		DP	87241
LOT	1		DP	995391

Refer to Heritage Council Plan No 383.

Boundary:

All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Thompson Square	Windsor	Hawkesbury	St Matthew	Cumberland	Primary Address
7 Thompson Square	Windsor	Hawkesbury	St Matthew	Cumberland	Alternate Address
George Street	Windsor	Hawkesbury	St Matthew	Cumberland	Alternate Address
82 George Street	Windsor	Hawkesbury	St Matthew	Cumberland	Alternate Address
NEXT TO 7 Thompson Square	Windsor	Hawkesbury	St Matthew	Cumberland	Alternate Address

Owner/s

Organisation Name	Owner Category	Date Ownership Updated
	Private	

	Private	
	Private	
Alkyen Pty Ltd	Private	
Hawkesbury City Council	Local Government	

## Statement of significance:

Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and notable for the large number of Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. It is the only public space remaining from the original town and has played an important part in the history of the town. It is the only remaining civic space as laid out by Governor Macquarie and is a vital precinct in the preservation of the early Colonial character of Windsor. The Square reflects Macquarie's visionary schemes for town planning excellence in the infant colony (Sheedy 1975).

**Date significance updated:** 30 Sep 97

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Designer/Maker:** Governor Macquarie

**Construction years:** 1811-

**Physical description:** Thompson Square consists of George Street, Bridge Street, Thompson Square and The Terrace. These streets surround a small turfed reserve with pleasant trees that helps to conserve an attractive frontage to the important surrounding buildings.

One large old hoop pine tree (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) over the cutting for the Putty Road is reputed to be all that remains of the mid-late 19th century plantings around the square. Once there were Norfolk Island pines (*A.heterophylla*) on the square's western side outside the Macquarie Arms Hotel and in front of the Fitzgerald wall. These were removed, as well as native fig tree species, after protests concerning acts of public indecency by people leaving the nearby hotel relieving themselves under the trees (Skinner, pers.comm., 2015). Also growing around the square are several silky oak trees (*Grevillea robusta*) and one kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) (Stuart Read, pers.comm., 2015).

Thompson Square is surrounded by a number of Colonial Georgian buildings including;

The Doctor's House - 1-3 Thompson Square

A fine, substantial two storey sandstone brick terrace building. It has a good joinery attic storey, fine front door flanked by engaged columns and a very well designed fanlight.

House & outbuildings - 5 Thompson Square

A brick Georgian single storey cottage of three bays with a corrugated iron roof and three bay timber verandah.



## Hawkesbury Museum - 7 Thompson Square

A brick Georgian two storeyed house with corrugated iron roof, five bays wide with a five bay verandah. The balcony is a Victorian addition and has a fine cast iron balustrade.

## Macquarie Arms Hotel - cnr Thompson and George Streets

A two storeyed stuccoed brick inn with attic storey and cellars and corrugated iron roof. The Colonial character has been impaired with the addition of box like protruberances to the corners of the building.

## Vacant site - 60 George Street

## Cottage - 62 George Street

A single storey Georgian cottage. A Victorian cast iron columns, balustrading and valance.

## Shops - 64,66,68 George Street

A two storey stuccoed brick house and shop formerly occupied by Georgian single storey terraces.

## 70,72 George Street

Formerly Hawkesbury Garage, now a shop.

## 74 George Street (A.C Stearn Building)

Stuccoed two storey building with a parapet to the street front (Fisher Lucas 1981:5).

## 82 George Street

One storey house turned into a shop.

## Vacant site - 4 Bridge Street

## House &amp; outbuildings - 6 Bridge Street

A brick Georgian cottage of five bays with a three bay timber verandah and balancing brick chimneys and corrugated iron roof.

## House &amp; outbuildings - 10 Bridge Street

A two storey brick Regency style building with a particularly fine cast iron verandah, balcony and stuccoed parapet.

## House - 17 Bridge Street

A brick Georgian single storey cottage with corrugated iron roof, of five bays.

## Former School of Arts - cnr Bridge Street and George Street

A single storey brick stuccoed Italianate hall with the later additions of side wings and a loggia.

## Pioneer Families Bicentennial Memorial

Featuring an anchor, symbolising the importance of the river in the history of the town and the nation, with a plaque recording the names of many of the early families (Hawkesbury City Council, 2016).

**Date condition updated:** 21 Aug 97

**Further information:**

The centre of Thompson Square is spoilt by a main road which slices diagonally through it and into a cutting, destroying the visual integrity of the space as was originally intended (Sheedy, 1975).

**Current use:**

Park, residential and commercial precinct

**Former use:**

Aboriginal land, Town Square, park, residential and commercial precinct

## History

**Historical notes:**

## INDIGENOUS OCCUPATION

The lower Hawkesbury was home to the Dharug people. The proximity to the Nepean River and South Creek qualifies it as a key area for food resources for indigenous groups (Proudfoot, 1987).

The Dharug and Darkinjung people called the river Deerubbin and it was a vital source of food and transport (Nichols, 2010).

## NON-INDIGENOUS OCCUPATION

Governor Arthur Phillip explored the local area in search of suitable agricultural land in 1789 and discovered and named the Hawkesbury River after Baron Hawkesbury. This region played a significant role in the early development of the colony with European settlers established here by 1794. Situated on fertile floodplains and well known for its abundant agriculture, Green Hills (as it was originally called) supported the colony through desperate times. However, frequent flooding meant that the farmers along the riverbanks were often ruined.

1794: The study area covering allotments at 23 through to 39 North Street, Windsor, is located on land first alienated for European purposes in a grant made by Francis Grose of thirty acres to Samuel Wilcox, who named it Wilcox Farm. It is likely that land clearance and agricultural activities as well as some building works took place during this period and during the subsequent of occupation. In the early 19th century, the former Wilcox Farm was incorporated into a larger holding of 1500 acres known as Peninsula Farm.

Governor Lachlan Macquarie replaced Governor Bligh, taking up duty on 1/1/1810. Under his influence the colony prospered. His vision was for a free community, working in conjunction with the penal colony. He implemented an unrivalled public works program, completing 265 public buildings, establishing new public amenities and improving existing services such as roads. Under his leadership Hawkesbury district thrived. He visited the district on his first tour and recorded in his journal on 6/12/1810: 'After dinner I christened the new townships...I gave the name of Windsor to the town intended to be erected in the district of the Green Hills...the township in the Richmond district I have named Richmond...' the district reminded Macquarie of those towns in England, whilst Castlereagh, Pitt Town and Wilberforce were named after English statesmen. These are often referred to as Macquarie's Five Towns. Their localities, chiefly Windsor and Richmond, became more permanent with streets, town square and public buildings.

Macquarie also appointed local men in positions of authority. In 1810 a group of settlers sent a letter to him congratulating him on his leadership and improvements. It was

published in the Sydney Gazette with his reply. He was 'much pleased with the sentiments' of the letter and assured them that the Hawkesbury would 'always be an object of the greatest interest' to him (Nichols, 2010).

In marking out the towns of Windsor and Richmond in 1810, Macquarie was acting on instructions from London. All of the Governors who held office between 1789 and 1822, from Phillip to Brisbane, received the same Letter of Instruction regarding the disposal of the 'waste lands of the Crown' that Britain claimed as her own. This included directives for the formation of towns and thus the extension of British civilisation to its Antipodean outpost (Proudfoot 1987, 7-9).

The magistrate held a key position in the colonial towns. At Windsor, Andrew Thompson, an emancipist entrepreneur, had been appointed Chief Constable and then a Magistrate by Macquarie, who was impressed by his enterprise and zeal. Thompson was the richest man on the Hawkesbury, owning a large granary, a brewery and a salt-works. He was a builder of bridges and ships and a trader who had established links with the Pacific Islands. He died in 1810, and Macquarie named Thompson Square at Windsor, where the town wharf was located in his memory. (Proudfoot 1987:7-9). Thompson was only 37 when he died and was buried in St. Matthew's Anglican Church cemetery, Windsor. During his short life he was variously a brewer, convict, emancipist, ferry owner, land owner, magistrate, police officer, salt manufacturer, sealer, ship builder, ship owner, tannery owner and wheat farmer. He also ate at the Governor's table and died a hero, having rescued a number of fellow citizens in one of the Hawkesbury's many floods. A marker of the Great Flood of 1867 is on the wall between Howe House and the Macquarie Arms Hotel (Hawkesbury City Council, 2016).

#### The Doctor's House - 1-3 Thompson Square

In 1819 James Doyle leased a dwelling and tenement known as the Freemason's Arms on the site of the Doctor's House from Charles Beasley. The 1828 census states Doyle as an inkeeper at Windsor. In 1830 Doyle was licensed to sell wine at the house known as the 'Lord Nelson' at Windsor Terrace. In 1831 Joseph Delandre is listed as the licensee of the 'Lord Nelson'. In 1837 Edward Coffey issued a notice stating that the 'Daniel O'Conner Hotel' at Windsor had opened for the reception of visitors. It adjoined the Kings Wharf, the premises formerly occupied by James Doyle. It has not been established that this was in fact the present Doctors House, though the building is certainly colonial in style. (Proudfoot 1987:20)

#### House & outbuildings - 5 Thompson Square

#### Hawkesbury Museum - 7 Thompson Square

The land on which this building stands was part of grant of 12 ha to William Baker in 1800. The site was then given as a town allotment to John Howe in 1811. The building is claimed to have been built about 1843. (Proudfoot 1987:24)

#### Macquarie Arms Hotel - cnr Thompson and George Streets

During Macquarie's tour of the district in 1811 he gave a large allotment in the square to Richard Fitzgerald on the express condition that he immediately build a handsome commodious inn of brick or stone and to be of at least two stories high. It was built in 1815 and named in honour of Governor Macquarie (Sheedy, 1975).

#### Cottage - 62 George Street

Built 1830-1840 (Fisher Lucas 1981:16)

#### Shop - 66,68 George Street

#### Shop (formerly Hawkesbury Garage) - 70,72 George Street

Probably from the 1920s. (Fisher Lucas 1981:9)

Shop (A.C Stearn Building) - 74 George Street

Photographic evidence indicated that it was originally a single storey building with parapet and with a convex profile corrugated iron street awning. The existing urns and lion were originally on the single storey building. The second storey parapet is dated 1907 (Fisher Lucas 1981:5).

Sites - 4 Bridge Street & 60 George Street

House & outbuildings - 6 Bridge Street

Built c1830.

House & outbuildings - 10 Bridge Street

Built c1850.

House - 17 Bridge Street

Former School of Arts - cnr Bridge Street and George Street

Built 1861.

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy- Developing local, regional and national economies	Agriculture-Activities relating to the cultivation and rearing of plant and animal species, usually for commercial purposes, can include aquaculture	Clearing land for farming-
3. Economy- Developing local, regional and national economies	Transport-Activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another, and systems for the provision of such movements	Wharf and shipping history-
3. Economy- Developing local, regional and national economies	Transport-Activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another, and systems for the provision of such movements	River Transport-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns	Land tenure-Activities and processes for identifying forms of ownership and occupancy of land and water, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal	Expressing lines of early grant allotments-

and cities		
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Land tenure-Activities and processes for identifying forms of ownership and occupancy of land and water, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal	Selecting land for pastoral or agricultural purposes-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Land tenure-Activities and processes for identifying forms of ownership and occupancy of land and water, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal	Changing land uses - from rural to suburban-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Land tenure-Activities and processes for identifying forms of ownership and occupancy of land and water, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal	Resuming private lands for public purposes-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	(none)-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Planning relationships between key structures and town plans-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Developing towns in response to topography-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Planned towns serving a specific industry-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Creating landmark structures and places in regional settings-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Beautifying towns and villages-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Developing civic infrastructure and amenity-



and cities		
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Indicators of early town planning and the disposition of people within the emerging settlement-
7. Governing-Governing	Government and Administration-Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs - includes both principled and corrupt activities.	Developing roles for government - providing rail transport-
7. Governing-Governing	Government and Administration-Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs - includes both principled and corrupt activities.	Developing roles for government - providing community facilities-
7. Governing-Governing	Government and Administration-Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs - includes both principled and corrupt activities.	Developing roles for government - parks and open spaces-
9. Phases of Life-Marking the phases of life	Persons-Activities of, and associations with, identifiable individuals, families and communal groups	Associations with Governor Lachlan Macquarie, 1810-1821-
9. Phases of Life-Marking the phases of life	Persons-Activities of, and associations with, identifiable individuals, families and communal groups	Associations with Andrew Thompson, master tanner, brewer, emancipist, ferry owner, magistrate, police officer, ship owner-

## Assessment of significance

### SHR Criteria a)

[Historical significance]

Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and notable for the large number of Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. It is the only public space remaining from the original town and has played an important part in the history of the town. It is the only remaining civic space as laid out by Governor Macquarie and is vital precinct in the preservation of the early Colonial character of Windsor. The Square reflects Macquarie's visionary schemes for town planning excellence in the infant colony. (Sheedy 1975)

### SHR Criteria c)

[Aesthetic significance]

Thompson Square is surrounded by a large number of Colonial Georgian buildings and sites that preserve the character of the square. (Sheedy 1975)

### SHR Criteria f)


[Rarity]

Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia. (Sheedy 1975)

### Integrity/Intactness:

Thompson Square preserves the early Colonial character of Windsor. (Sheedy 1975)

### Assessment criteria:

Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Procedures /Exemptions

Section of act	Description	Title	Comments	Action date
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Standard Exemptions	<p>SCHEDULE OF STANDARD EXEMPTIONS</p> <p>HERITAGE ACT 1977</p> <p>Notice of Order Under Section 57 (2) of the Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>I, the Minister for Planning, pursuant to subsection 57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of New South Wales, do by this Order:</p> <p>1. revoke the Schedule of Exemptions to subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act made under subsection 57(2) and published in the Government Gazette on 22 February 2008; and</p> <p>2. grant standard exemptions from subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act 1977, described in the Schedule attached.</p> <p>FRANK SARTOR</p> <p>Minister for Planning</p> <p>Sydney, 11 July 2008</p> <p>To view the schedule click on the Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval link below.</p>	Sep 5 2008

 **Standard exemptions** for works requiring Heritage Council approval

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - State Heritage Register		00126	02 Apr 99	27	1546
Heritage Act - Permanent Conservation Order - former		00126	02 Jul 82		
Local Environmental Plan			18 Dec 89		
National Trust of Australia register			16 Jun 75		
Register of the National Estate			21 Oct 80		

## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Touri		2007	Thompson Square conservation Area	

sm				<a href="#">View details</a>
Tourism	Attraction Homepage	2007		<a href="#">View details</a>
Written	Carney, Martin & Fenella Atkinson	2005	Permit Application s60 & s140 Heritage Act NSW - 1977: Archaeological Assessment, Research Design, Test Excavation Methodology & Heritage Impact Statement: 16 Bridge Rd & 52 George St including portions of the original St Matthews, Windsor, NSW	
Written	Comber, Jillian	2004	Statement of Heritage Impact for a Proposed Housing Development, 52 George Street, Windsor	
Written	D Sheedy	1975	National Trust Classification Cards - Thompson Square	
Written	Fisher Lucas Architects	1981	Thompson Square Precinct Restoration Proposals	
Written	Hawkesbury City Council	2016	Windsor Heritage Trail (Statement of Heritage Impact, Thompson Square interpretive sign installation)	<a href="#">View details</a>
Written	Helen Proudfoot	1987	The Historic Buildings of Windsor and Richmond	
Written	Nichols, Michelle	2010	Macquarie and the Hawkesbury District	

	(Local Studies Librarian)			
Written	Skinner, Dr.Stephen	2015	personal communication (email)	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



(Click on thumbnail for full size image and image details)

Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

- Name:** Heritage Office
- Database number:** 5045195
- File number:** EF14/4730; S90/7461; HC30043

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# Thompson Square Conservation Area

## Item details

<b>Name of item:</b>	Thompson Square Conservation Area
<b>Type of item:</b>	Conservation Area
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Urban Area
<b>Category:</b>	Townscape
<b>Location:</b>	Lat: 150.82316477 Long: -33.60461368
<b>Primary address:</b>	Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW 2756
<b>Parish:</b>	St Matthew
<b>County:</b>	Cumberland
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Hawkesbury

Refer to Heritage Council Plan No 383.

## Boundary:

### All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Thompson Square	Windsor	Hawkesbury	St Matthew	Cumberland	Primary Address
George Street	Windsor	Hawkesbury	St Matthew	Cumberland	Alternate Address
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NEXT TO 7 Thompson Square	Windsor	Hawkesbury	St Matthew	Cumberland	Alternate Address
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## Statement of significance:

Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and notable for the large number of Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. It is the only public space remaining from the original town and has played an important part in the history of the town. It is the only remaining civic space as laid out by Governor Macquarie and is a vital precinct in the preservation of the early Colonial character of Windsor. The Square reflects Macquarie's visionary schemes for town planning excellence in the infant colony (Sheedy 1975).

**Date significance updated:** 30 Sep 97

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

Description

**Designer/Maker:** Governor Macquarie

**Construction years:** 1811-

**Physical description:** Thompson Square consists of George Street, Bridge Street, Thompson Square and The Terrace. These streets surround a small turfed reserve with pleasant trees that helps to conserve an attractive frontage to the important surrounding buildings.

Thompson Square is surrounded by a number of Colonial Georgian buildings including;

The Doctor's House - 1-3 Thompson Square

A fine, substantial two storey sandstone brick terrace building. It has a good joinery attic storey, fine front door flanked by engaged columns and a very well designed fanlight.

House & outbuildings - 5 Thompson Square

A brick Georgian single storey cottage of three bays with a corrugated iron roof and three bay timber verandah.

Hawkesbury Museum - 7 Thompson Square

A brick Georgian two storeyed house with corrugated iron roof, five bays wide with a five bay verandah. The balcony is a Victorian addition and has a fine cast iron balustrade.

Macquarie Arms Hotel - cnr Thompson and George Streets

A two storeyed stuccoed brick inn with attic storey and cellars and corrugated iron roof. The Colonial character has been impaired with the addition of box like protruberances to the corners of the building.

Vacant site - 60 George Street

Cottage - 62 George Street

A single storey Georgian cottage. A Victorian cast iron columns, balustrading and valance.

Shops - 64,66,68 George Street

17/10/2017	<p>Thompson Square Conservation Area   NSW Environment &amp; Heritage</p> <p>A two storey stuccoed brick house and shop formerly occupied by Georgian single storey terraces.</p>
	<p>70,72 George Street</p> <p>Formerly Hawkesbury Garage, now a shop.</p>
	<p>74 George Street (A.C Stearn Building)</p> <p>Stuccoed two storey building with a parapet to the street front (Fisher Lucas 1981:5).</p>
	<p>82 George Street</p> <p>One storey house turned into a shop.</p>
	<p>Vacant site - 4 Bridge Street</p>
	<p>House &amp; outbuildings - 6 Bridge Street</p> <p>A brick Georgian cottage of five bays with a three bay timber verandah and balancing brick chimneys and corrugated iron roof.</p>
	<p>House &amp; outbuildings - 10 Bridge Street</p> <p>A two storey brick Regency style building with a particularly fine cast iron verandah, balcony and stuccoed parapet.</p>
	<p>House - 17 Bridge Street</p> <p>A brick Georgian single storey cottage with corrugated iron roof, of five bays.</p>
	<p>Former School of Arts - cnr Bridge Street and George Street</p> <p>A single storey brick stuccoed Italianate hall with the later additions of side wings and a loggia.</p>

**Date condition updated:**21 Aug 97

**Further information:**

The centre of Thompson Square is spoilt by a main road which slices diagonally through it and into a cutting, destroying the visual integrity of the space as was originally intended (Sheedy, 1975).

**Current use:**

Residential and Commercial Precinct

**Former use:**

Residential and Commercial Precinct

History

**Historical notes:**

Windsor, first of the 'Macquarie Towns' of the Hawkesbury, was officially founded on 6 December 1810 by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. He was impressed by the Hawkesbury itself, especially the advantages of having a settlement on the banks of the river.

A small settlement began to form around the Windsor site called 'Green Hills'. Settlers took advantage of higher ground bordering the river, where they were free from the floods that periodically swept through the valley. Some official recognition of the settlement was given in the building of a Government cottage, the establishment of a Government garden and the marking out of a public common. Macquarie found it a 'sweet delightful spot' when he arrived in 1810 to formalise the already existing small settlement and to mark out an extension of the town.

In his diary, Macquarie wrote that, with his surveying party he 'walked out to survey the grounds belonging to the Crown in and near the present village on the Green Hills and also the adjoining Public Common marked out ... in the time of Governor King; a convenient part of which it is now my intention to appropriate for a large town and township for the accommodation of the settlers inhabiting the south side of the River Hawkesbury, whose farms are liable to be flooded in any inundation of the river, and to connect the present village of the Green Hills with the intended new town and township.'

The site and situation of the town were decided upon, the church site chosen and plans made for a 'great square' opposite it.

In marking out the towns of Windsor and Richmond, Macquarie was acting on instructions from London. All of the Governors who held office between 1789 and 1822, from Phillip to Brisbane, received the same Letter of Instruction regarding the disposal of the 'waste lands of the Crown' that Britain claimed as her own. This included directives for the formation of towns and thus the extension of British civilisation to its Antipodean outpost.

A little over a week after the Windsor founding ceremony, Macquarie issued a Government and General order attempting to impose a measure of conformity on building standards for this new town on the Hawkesbury. It included instructions that dwelling houses were to be made of brick or weatherboard, to have brick chimneys, shingled roofs and no dwelling house was to be less than nine feet (three metres) high. A plan of the dwelling house was to be left with each District Constable. On 11 May 1811 further regulations were issued stating that no person was to build a house without submitting a plan to the resident magistrate, nor were town leases to be given without such a plan.

The magistrate held a key position in the colonial towns. At Windsor, Andrew Thompson, an emancipist entrepreneur, had been appointed Chief Constable and then a Magistrate by Macquarie, who was impressed by his enterprise and zeal. Thompson was the richest man on the Hawkesbury, owning a large granary, a brewery and a salt-works. He was a builder of bridges and ships and a trader who had established links with the Pacific Islands. He died in 1810, and Macquarie named Thompson Square at Windsor, where the town wharf was located in his memory. (Poudfoot 1987:7-9)

#### The Doctor's House - 1-3 Thompson Square

In 1819 James Doyle leased a dwelling and tenement known as the Freemason's Arms on the site of the Doctor's House from Charles Beasley. The 1828 census states Doyle as an inkeeper at Windsor. In 1830 Doyle was licensed to sell wine at the house known as the 'Lord Nelson' at Windsor Terrace. In 1831 Joseph Delandre is listed as the licensee of the 'Lord Nelson'. In 1837 Edward Coffey issued a notice stating that the 'Daniel O'Conner Hotel' at Windsor had opened for the reception of visitors. It adjoined the Kings Wharf, the premises formerly occupied by James Doyle. It has not been established that this was in fact the present Doctors House, though the building is certainly colonial in style. (Proudfoot 1987:20)

#### House & outbuildings - 5 Thompson Square

#### Hawkesbury Museum - 7 Thompson Square

The land on which this building stands was part of grant of 12 ha to William Baker in 1800. The site was then given as a town allotment to John Howe in 1811. The building is claimed to have been built about 1843. (Proudfoot 1987:24)

Macquarie Arms Hotel - cnr Thompson and George Streets

During Macquarie's tour of the district in 1811 he gave a large allotment in the square to Richard Fitzgerald on the express condition that he immediately build a handsome commodious inn of brick or stone and to be of at least two stories high. It was built in 1815 and named in honour of Governor Macquarie (Sheedy 1975).

Cottage - 62 George Street

Built 1830-1840 (Fisher Lucas 1981:16)

Shop - 66,68 George Street

Shop (formerly Hawkesbury Garage) - 70,72 George Street

Probably from the 1920s. (Fisher Lucas 1981:9)

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Photographic evidence indicated that it was originally a single storey building with parapet and with a convex profile corrugated iron street awning. The existing urns and lion were originally on the single storey building. The second storey parapet is dated 1907 (Fisher Lucas 1981:5).

Sites - 4 Bridge Street & 60 George Street

House & outbuildings - 6 Bridge Street

Built c1830.

House & outbuildings - 10 Bridge Street

Built c1850.

House - 17 Bridge Street

Former School of Arts - cnr Bridge Street and George Street

Built 1861.

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	(none)-
9. Phases	Persons-Activities of, and associations with, identifiable	Associations



of Life-Marking the phases of life	individuals, families and communal groups	with Governor Lachlan Macquarie, 1810-1821-
------------------------------------	---	---

## Assessment of significance

### SHR Criteria a)

[Historical significance]

Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and notable for the large number of Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. It is the only public space remaining from the original town and has played an important part in the history of the town. It is the only remaining civic space as laid out by Governor Macquarie and is vital precinct in the preservation of the early Colonial character of Windsor. The Square reflects Macquarie's visionary schemes for town planning excellence in the infant colony. (Sheedy 1975)

### SHR Criteria c)

[Aesthetic significance]

Thompson Square is surrounded by a large number of Colonial Georgian buildings and sites that preserve the character of the square. (Sheedy 1975)

### SHR Criteria f)


[Rarity]

Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia. (Sheedy 1975)

### Integrity/Intactness:

Thompson Square preserves the early Colonial character of Windsor. (Sheedy 1975)

### Assessment criteria:

Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Hawkesbury LEP 2012	C4	21 Sep 12		
Local Environmental Plan - Lapsed			18 Dec 89		

## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Tourism		2007	Thompson Square conservation Area	
Tourism	Attraction Homepage	2007		
Written	Carney, Martin & Fenella Atkinson	2005	Permit Application s60 & s140 Heritage Act NSW - 1977: Archaeological Assessment, Research Design, Test Excavation Methodology & Heritage Impact Statement: 16 Bridge Rd & 52 George St including portions of the original St Matthews, Windsor, NSW	
Written	Comber, Jillian	2004	Statement of Heritage Impact for a Proposed Housing Development, 52 George Street, Windsor	
Written	D	1975	National Trust Classification Cards - Thompson Square	

en	Sheedy			
Writt en	Fisher Lucas Architec ts	1981	Thompson Square Precinct Restoration Proposals	
Writt en	Helen Proudfo ot	1987	The Historic Buildings of Windsor and Richmond	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



(Click on thumbnail for full size image and image details)

Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

- Name:**Local Government
- Database number:**1741540
- File number:**S90/07461; HC 30043

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## Australian Heritage Database

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#### Thompson Square Precinct, Thompson Sq, Windsor, NSW

##### Photographs:



**List:** Register of the National Estate

**Class:** Historic

**Legal Status:** [Registered](#) (21/10/1980)

**Place ID:** 3166

**Place File No:** 1/14/040/0042

##### Statement of Significance:

Thompson Square is the only public space remaining from the original town of Windsor, playing an important part in the history of the town. Possibly the only remaining civic space as laid out by Governor Macquarie.

(The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.)

**Official Values:** Not Available

##### Description:

Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia, notable for the large number of Georgian buildings which surround it. These are now mainly on east and west sides. Number of buildings suffer from enclosure and superficial mutilations. Square spoilt by main road which slices diagonally through and destroys visual integrity of space. Was originally intended as a gently sloping park space with minor access ways to the buildings surrounding it.

**History:** Not Available

##### Condition and Integrity:

Road should be closed and buildings restored and replaced as necessary.

##### Location:

Thompson Square, Bridge Street and George Street, Windsor comprising:

Thompson Square, comprising that portion of land known as Thompson Square together with those parts of Bridge and George Streets bordering the square and reserve, the reserve in the centre with trees and turf, Thompson Square, Bridge and George Streets, Windsor;

the Doctor's house 1-3 Thompson Square, Windsor;

house, 5 Thompson Square, Windsor;

the Hawkesbury Museum, 7 Thompson Square, Windsor

the Macquarie Arms Hotel (also known as the Royal Hotel), corner Thompson Square and George Street, Windsor;

former School of Arts, excluding skillion additions at front, corner Bridge and George Streets, Windsor;  
house, including outbuildings, 6 Bridge Street, Windsor;  
house (old section) and outbuildings, 10 Bridge Street, Windsor;  
house, excluding modern additions, 17 Bridge Street, Windsor;  
historic sites bordering Thompson Square, 4 Bridge Street, 60, 64-74 and 84 George Street, Windsor.

**Bibliography:** Not Available

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Report Produced: Mon Mar 21 16:04:15 2005

## Australian Heritage Database

### *Place Details*

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#### Thompson Square, Thompson Sq, Windsor, NSW

**Photographs:** None

**List:** Register of the National Estate

**Class:** Historic

**Legal Status:** [Registered](#) (21/03/1978)

**Place ID:** 3167

**Place File No:** 1/14/040/0043

**Statement of Significance:**

One of the oldest public squares in Australia. A vital precinct in the preservation of the early colonial character of Windsor and the only public square in that town. See also main listing for precinct, RR 003166.

(The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.)

**Official Values:** Not Available

**Description:**

Village square planned by Governor Macquarie when the town of Windsor was known as Greenhills. Square named in honour of Andrew Thompson, JP and principal magistrate who was recognised founder of village. At present main road passes through centre of Square but hopefully, when highway re-routed around town, Square will be restored to former shape. Small turfed reserve with trees helps conserve an attractive frontage to the most important buildings.

**History:** Not Available

**Condition and Integrity:** Not Available

**Location:**

Comprising that portion of land known as Thompson Square, together with those parts of Bridge and George Streets bordering the square and reserve, and the reserve in the centre with trees and turf. Part of Thompson Square precinct. Thompson Square and George Street, Windsor.

**Bibliography:** Not Available

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Report Produced: Mon Mar 21 16:03:15 2005



## WINDSOR

1. THOMPSON SQUARE PRECINCT, including: CARD 1 OF 12

2. Area of land known as Thompson Square with adjacent streets and open spaces

2. The Doctor's House

3. House - including outbuildings

4. Hawkesbury Museum

5. Macquarie Arms Hotel

6. Former School of Arts

7. House, including outbuildings

8. House, including outbuildings

9. House

10. House

11. Sites, visually important

1-3 Thompson Square

5 Thompson Square

7 Thompson Square

Cnr. Thompson Sq. &amp; George St.

Cnr. Bridge St. &amp; George St.

6 Bridge Street

10 Bridge Street

17 Bridge Street

62 George Street

4 Bridge Street, No. 60

George Street

64-74 and 82 George Street

(Town or District)

Post Code 2756

Local Govt Area Windsor Mun. Council

Author of Proposal D. Sheedy

Date of Proposal 16/6/75

Suggested Listing Category CL. GROUP

Committee (Trust Use) HBC SEE FILES

Council (Trust Use) APPROVED

## Description

Briefly cover the points on the following check list where they are relevant and within your knowledge.

Style Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and is notable for the large number of Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. These are now mainly on the east and west sides where the important Macquarie Arms Hotel and Doctor's Terrace are situated. A number of buildings suffer from enclosure and superficial mutilations whilst rebuilding of the southern side is necessary to preserve its Colonial Character.

Construction Use The centre of the square is also spoilt by a main road which slices diagonally through it and into a cutting, destroying the visual integrity of the space as was originally intended, being a gently sloping park space with minor access ways to the buildings surrounding it. If the buildings were restored and replaced as necessary and the road closed then Thompson Square would become an outstanding example of Australian early 19th century town planning and urban design.

Architect/s

Builder/s

Date of Construction

Present Condition

History

Owners

Boundaries of proposed listing

## Reasons for listing

Thompson Square is the only public space remaining from the original town of Windsor and has played an important part in the history of the town. It is the only remaining civic space as laid out by Governor Macquarie; it survives to remind later generations of possibilities lost by the failure to carry out all of Macquarie's visionary town planning and building schemes.

Sketch plan and photos  
Attach additional photos  
if any.

WINDSOR - Thompson Square Precinct

curtilage:

Precinct <sup>18</sup>~~to be~~ bounded by -

south side of The Terrace from Windsor bridge; rear of lots facing Thompson Square to George St; south side of lot 2 DP 233054; rear of lots facing George St to Bridge St (including lot 1 DP 555685); east side of part lot C DP 379996; rear of lots facing Bridge St to The Terrace; south side of The Terrace returning to Windsor Bridge (see plan).

§ 4/87

# Appendix 8

## Inventory sheet for the Thompson Square Conservation Area

### Item Details

<b>Name of item:</b>	Thompson Square Conservation Area
<b>Other name/s:</b>	Thompson Square Precinct
<b>Type of item:</b>	Conservation Area
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Urban Area
<b>Category:</b>	Townscape
<b>Location:</b>	Lat: -33.6046136779 Long: 150.8231647740
<b>Primary address:</b>	Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW 2756
<b>Parish:</b>	St Matthew
<b>County:</b>	Cumberland
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Hawkesbury
<b>Local Aboriginal Land Council:</b>	Deerubbin

### Property Descriptions

Street Address	Real Property Definition	Owner Category	Contribution Contributory/ Detracting/ Neutral	Notes
1 Thompson Square- The Doctor's House	Lot B DP 161643	Private	Contributory	
3 Thompson Square- The Doctor's House	Lot 1 DP 196531	Private	Contributory	
5 Thompson Square	Lot 1 DP 745036	Private	Contributory	
7 Thompson Square- Former Coffey's Inn/ Howe's House/ Hawkesbury Regional Museum	Lot 1 DP 60716	Private	Contributory	

Street Address	Real Property Definition	Owner Category	Contribution Contributory/ Detracting/ Neutral	Notes
8 Baker Street (Council carpark)	Lot 3 DP 864088	Local Council	Neutral	Further research required to establish archaeological potential (site of Fitzgerald's Cottage with stables and outbuildings) Potential site for infill development.
Hawkesbury Regional Museum (fronting Baker Street)	Lot 1 DP 60716	Local Council	Detracting	
10 Baker Street	Lot 1 DP 542705	Private	Neutral	Further research required to establish significance/ archaeological potential (if any) Potential site for infill development.
18 Baker Street	Lot 2 DP 730435	Private	Neutral	Further research required to establish significance Potential site for infill development.
81 George Street- Macquarie Arms Hotel	Lot 1 DP 864088	Private	Contributory	
92-94 George Street	Lot 1 DP 730435	Private	Contributory/ Neutral	Further research required to establish significance.
88 George Street	Lot 1 DP 223433	Private	Contributory/ Neutral	Further research required to establish significance
84 George Street	Lot 2 DP 233054	Private	Contributory	
82 George Street	Lot 10 DP 630209	Private	Contributory	
80 George Street	Lot 11 DP 630209	Private	Neutral	
74 George Street- A C Stern building	Lot 1 DP 87241	Private	Contributory	
70 George Street- Hawkesbury Garage	Lot 1 DP 1011887	Private	Contributory	

Street Address	Real Property Definition	Owner Category	Contribution Contributory/ Detracting/ Neutral	Notes
68 George Street-Hawkesbury Stores	Lot 1 DP 555685	Private	Contributory	
64 George Street-Hawkesbury Stores	Lot 1 DP 555685	Private	Contributory	
62 George Street-Accountant's office	Lot 2 DP 555685	Private	Contributory	
58 George Street	Lot 1 DP 1084189	Private	Neutral	Further research required to establish significance/ archaeological potential Potential site for infill development
1/ 52 George Street	Lot 1 DP 1127620	Private	Neutral	Further research required to establish significance/ archaeological potential Potential site for infill development.
2/ 52 George Street	Lot 2 1127620	Private	Neutral	Further research required to establish significance/ archaeological potential Potential site for infill development.
19 Bridge Street	Lot 1 DP 555685	Private	Contributory	
14 Bridge Street-School of Arts	Lot 1 DP 136637	Private	Contributory	
10 Bridge Street	Lot A DP 381403	Private	Contributory	
6 Old Bridge Street	Lot 1 DP 995391	Private	Contributory	
4 Old Bridge Street	Lot 10 666894	Private	Neutral/ Contributory	Building is Neutral Allotment is Contributory
Lower Reserve (3 Old Bridge Street- called 'Public Reserve')	Lot 345 DP 752061	Local Council	Contributory	
Upper Reserve (called 'Thompson Square')	Lot 7007 DP 1029964	Local Council	Contributory	
Riverbank (west of Windsor Bridge)	Lot 7011 DP 1030959	Local Council	Contributory	Terminating at MHW to the north and in line



Street Address	Real Property Definition	Owner Category	Contribution Contributory/ Deducting/ Neutral	Notes
				with the west kerb line of Baker Street to the west Landscape Management Plan required
Riverbank (east of Windsor Bridge)	Lot 7008 DP 1029964	Local Council	Contributory	Landscape Management Plan required
Old Bridge Street	-	Local Council	Contributory	
Part of Bridge Street	-	Stage government	Neutral	
Part of George Street	-	Local Council	Contributory	
Thompson Square	-	Local Council	Contributory	
Part of Baker Street	-	Local Council	Contributory	To the west kerb line and terminating in the south in line with the southern boundary of Lot 2 DP730435 and in the north by the MHW of the south bank of the Hawkesbury River.
Part of The Terrace	-	Local Council	Contributory	In line with the west kerb line of Baker Street to the west and in line with the east boundary line of Lot 10666894 to the east.

## Statement of Significance

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is of exceptional significance as rare surviving evidence of the earliest years of the British colony in Australia, being the third settlement on the mainland established as an agricultural outpost to supply the young colony and Thompson Square is tangible evidence of this history. The only known public space named after an emancipist (Andrew Thompson), Thompson Square is also an important expression of Macquarie's vision for the future of the colony as an equitable and productive society.

The Thompson Square Conservation Area contains physical evidence of both the pre-Macquarie and Macquarie eras that is considered to be rare and of exceptional significance, including the 1814 sandstock brick barrel drain, the 1816 sandstock brick wall defining the eastern boundary of the public square, the 1815 Macquarie Arms Hotel, the alignments of George Street, Bridge Street, Old Bridge

Street, Baker Street and The Terrace, the topography and the configuration and subdivision patterns of the place.

The visual and spatial relationships between the place, the Hawkesbury River and the agricultural lands beyond combined with the collection of buildings defining the east, west and southern sides of the public square are evocative of an earlier time and have a strong colonial character that is considered to be unique.

The Thompson Square Conservation Area is recognised and appreciated as a valued historic place, as demonstrated by early and numerous heritage listings, the involvement of the Federal and NSW state governments in restoration programmes of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, being the inspiration for artists and architects as well as the subject of numerous books and reports about the history of the place and being the focus of recent community action and national public interest in the future conservation of the place.

The archaeological potential of the place for both the pre-settlement and settlement phases is very rare and of high historic and social significance.

## Description

<b>Designer/Maker:</b>	Andrew Thompson, Governor Lachlan Macquarie, Acting- Governor Paterson, Governor King, Surveyor-General Augustus Alt, James Meehan, John Howe, James McGrath, Richard Fitzgerald and others
<b>Construction years:</b>	1794-
<b>Physical description:</b>	<p>Located towards the eastern end of the town of Windsor, the TSCA is located on the northern side of the main ridgeline that runs east-west through the length of the Windsor between the Hawkesbury River (to the north) and South Creek (to the south).</p> <p>The area known as Thompson Square is bounded by George Street to the south, The Terrace to the north, Thompson Square (street) to the west and Old Bridge Street/Bridge Street on the east. Bridge Street, being the main north-south road through the early town of Windsor travels in a south-east to north-west direction through Thompson Square, bisecting the public open spaces into two separate landscaped areas: the north open space (lower reserve) and the south open space upper reserve), and providing road access to Windsor Bridge located directly to the north. The Thompson Square Conservation Area consists of the two public open spaces together with portions of the adjacent streets and the properties (public and private) located to the east, west and south of the central landscaped areas.</p> <p>The south, east and west boundaries of the conservation area are defined by a mix of commercial and residential buildings dating from the early 1800s through to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, while the north boundary is defined by the river foreshore.</p> <p>Both the east and west sides of Thompson Square are predominantly residential in character and building use, while the southern side along George Street forms part of the commercial precinct of Windsor.</p>

<b>Date condition updated:</b>	November/December 2017
<b>Current use:</b>	Park, community, residential and commercial precinct
<b>Former use:</b>	Aboriginal land, Town Square, part of Government Domain lands, trade and transport centre, park, community, residential and commercial precinct

## History

Date	Event/Feature
<b>Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	
1794	Surveyor General Augustus Alt lays out farms on the Hawkesbury River. An initial 22 land grants at Mulgrave Place, expanded to at least 118 by the end of 1794.
1794	Area left vacant on the Windsor Reach for government use. Wilcox granted land which defines the eastern boundary of the government reserve. Whitehouse granted land that defines the western boundary of the government reserved land.
1795	A number of military officers selected land in the District of Mulgrave Place.
1796	The Commandant's house, a weatherboard dwelling, later referred to as Government house / cottage, is built overlooking the river. Demolished in c1919.
1796	Andrew Thompson, emancipist, is appointed constable of Green Hills and takes up informal occupation of a cottage near the granary.
1796	First military barracks constructed.
1798	Harris leases majority of the southern portion of the government reserve adjacent to South Creek.
1798	Public Storehouse constructed
By 1798	A watch house is built a short distance from the commandant's place.
1799	Major flood washes away the first barracks and government stores.
<b>Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	
c1800	Government stores rebuilt and relocated closer to the top of the ridgeline above the river.
c1800	Second military barracks constructed on site of the future Macquarie Arms Hotel
c1800	Baker purchases Whitehouse's land. Western boundary of the government reserve is defined by "Baker's Line".
1802	Andrew Thompson builds floating bridge over South Creek.
1803	Governor King arranges for the construction of a three-storey brick granary constructed on the southeast corner of the square, replacing earlier log and thatch granaries, completed by 1805.
1804	Governor King arranges for the construction of a two-storey schoolhouse, chapel and schoolmaster's residence, started in 1804 and completed at some point following 1806.
c1804	Main road to Richmond Hills is constructed.
By 1807	Extension and repairs at Government house.

Date	Event/Feature
By 1808	Andrew Thompson erects a three-storied store and warehouse facing Thompson Square.
1809	Stables and workshops built at the back of Thompson's store.
1809	Bell post and stocks erected at top of ridgeline (may be earlier).
1809	Andrew Thompson leases a portion of land at corner of George and Baker Street for a new residence.
1809	Acting Governor Paterson issues a lease each to William Blady and James Mileham on the south side of George Street
1809	Flood event- Andrew Thompson is very active in rescuing and assisting the residents of the district.
1810	Governor Macquarie establishes his five 'Macquarie Towns', including Windsor.
1811	Governor Macquarie names the town: Windsor, the public square: Thompson Square and the main street: George street.
1811	Governor Macquarie grants Richard Fitzgerald land with instructions to construct an inn at the southwest corner of Thompson Square.
1811	Meehan surveys the town of Windsor incorporating the existing village of Green Hills.
1811-12	Lesser buildings cleared from across the Government Domain and Thompson Square, including the earlier log granary.
1811-12	1804 Granary converted to temporary chapel and school under instructions by Governor Macquarie
1812	Windsor gaol constructed
1813	Howe builds bridge over South Creek
By 1813	Second (?) wharf, built downslope from the Government cottage, visible in Slaeger's 1811-1812 etching of Windsor.
1814	A ferry/punt is established across the Hawkesbury by John Howe. The ferry/punt master is housed in a small hut in the river bank lands.
1815	Macquarie Arms Hotel opened mid-1815.
1815	Thompson's three-storied granary store purchased by the government.
1815	John Howe and James McGrath contracted to undertake public works in the Square: construction of a sewer with channels through the middle of the square made from bricks from the local brick ground, extensive levelling of the square particularly at the lower end, the construction of a new wharf and extending the new wharf.
1815	Macquarie Arms Hotel completed and opened in 1815.
1816	New wharf damaged due to flood event
1816	Freemason Arms Inn located at 1-3 Thompson Square- land leased by Heydon. Later known as the Lord Nelson Inn when owned by Doyle and for a short time as Coffey's Hotel.
c1816	Sandstock brick wall constructed along west boundary of Thompson's garden.
1817-1818	New military barracks erected corner of Bridge and Court streets.

Date	Event/Feature
1819	North and east boundary wall constructed to the Macquarie Arms Hotel. Richard Fitzgerald extends his grant and builds a cottage with stables and outbuildings at (what is now) No. 89 George Street.
by 1820	Third wharf built
1822	Windsor Court house constructed.
1827	Cottage constructed at 7 Thompson Square (Howe's land) replacing a larger earlier residence.
<b>Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	
by 1831	Mounted police barracks and stables constructed adjacent to Thompson's garden in Government Domain.
1835	Toll house for South Creek constructed
c1835	Cottage built at 62-64 George Street
1837	New two storey building constructed at 7 Thompson Square- Howe's House
1842	Cottage at 19 Bridge Street constructed. Military officer's quarters constructed.
c1842	Military leaves Windsor.
1844	Terrace built at 1-3 Thompson Square. Operated as a post office from 1851-1855.
1852	Government garden abandoned in preparation for the (intended) construction of a Church manse.
1853	Fitzroy Bridge constructed over South Creek
1855	Roadway running west to east through Thompson Square is constructed leading from George Street to the wharf.
c1856	1803 Commissariat Store demolished.
1855-1857	Two storey residence constructed at 10 Bridge Street.
c1857	Cottage constructed at 5 Thompson Square (Loder's land).
1860s	Sir John Young Hotel building constructed at 70-72 George Street. Destroyed by fire in 1919. Two storey commercial building constructed at 92-94 George Street. Cottage constructed at 6 Old Bridge Street
1860-1924	Military Barracks occupied by the police
1861	School of Arts building constructed at 14 Bridge Street. Side wings and loggia added in the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
1864	Windsor Railway Station opens
c1865	Cottage constructed at 82 George Street. Restored in 1980.
1867	The Great Flood
1870s	Lilburn Hall, 10 Old Bridge Street used as St Katherine's School for Young Ladies in the 1870s and as Windsor Grammar School in 1875



Date	Event/Feature
1874	Windsor Bridge opens
1880s	River trade and transport cease due to silting of the river bed.
1880s	Two storey commercial building constructed at 68 George Street (Hawkesbury Stores). Extended in 1887 to encompass one half of the adjacent cottage at 62-64 George Street.
1887	Riverside Park proclaimed
1897	Windsor Bridge raised
1899	Thompson Square dedicated as recreation reserve
1907	A C Stearn building at 74 George Street constructed (either as a new building or a second storey added to existing earlier building)
c1910	Two storey commercial building constructed at 88 George Street
1922	Extensive work to Windsor Bridge including replacement of the timber superstructure by reinforced concrete.
1923	Hawkesbury Garage constructed at 70-72 George Street
1936	Fitzgerald's cottage at 89 George Street demolished
1940s	Windsor Wharf either demolished or left to collapse
1949	The Upper Hawkesbury Power Boat Club opened a boathouse in the lower reserve. Clubhouse was removed by 1987.
1949	The Royal Australian Institute of Architects in NSW prepared the first list ever of historic buildings in NSW and included Thompson Square.
1955	No. 4 Old Bridge Street constructed on the site of Andrew Thompson's 1 acre allotment and garden. Remnant brick boundary wall remains on the site.
1980s	Existing commercial building at 89 George Street constructed with public car park at rear.
1980s	No. 80 George Street, a single storey commercial building constructed.
2008	Hawkesbury Regional Museum constructed fronting Baker Street and No. 7 Thompson Square converted as part of the museum
2013	In December 2013, the Minister for the (then) NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure approved the State Significant Infrastructure application (SSI- 4951) for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Scheme including the construction and operation of a replacement bridge, construction of northern and southern approach roads, partial removal of the existing Windsor Bridge and ancillary works including rehabilitation and landscaping.
2013	Since 2013, the grassroots organisation Community Action for Windsor Bridge (CAWB) made up of the local residents of Windsor and surrounds have occupied an area of the upper reserve in Thompson Square, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
2017-2018	Archaeological investigations in the lower reserve of Thompson Square

## Historic Themes

Historic Associations	State Historical Theme	National Historical Theme
Windsor is associated with the Hawkesbury-Nepean Wars (1795-1816). As the regional government centre, raids were led from Windsor by Andrew Thompson and other community members.  Thompson Square was the location of food, clothing and blanket distribution as well as the site of punishments inflicted on the local Aboriginal people.	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures	2 Peopling Australia
First land grants issued at the Green Hills in 1794 were to emancipist convicts.  Convicts were assigned to the settlers in the Mulgrave Place district, including at Windsor and were responsible for most, if not all, of the construction of the local roads, bridges and government buildings from 1794 to (assumed) the early 1840s.  Some of the earliest government buildings at Windsor included the Prisoner's Barracks and the bell post, used to summon working gangs, were located in Thompson Square from at least 1809.	Convicts	2 Peopling Australia
The Green Hills/Windsor was initially settled as an agricultural outpost to provide food for the population of Sydney and was one of the more successful agricultural regions in the early years of the colony. Windsor and the locality continued to be an important agricultural centre up to the 1880s.	Agriculture	3 Developing local, regional and national economies
Establishment of the Green Hills as an agricultural outpost of the main settlement of Sydney. Success of the Windsor district as an agricultural centre providing much needed food supplies to the main settlement of Sydney from the late 18 <sup>th</sup> century through to the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century.	Commerce	3 Developing local, regional and national economies
The land form of Thompson Square today owes much to work undertaken in the 18 <sup>th</sup> century including tracks and paths, infrastructure and regrading work.	Environment - cultural landscape	3 Developing local, regional and national economies
The various flood events that have marked the Hawkesbury River and immediate surrounds have continued to leave an impression on the memories of the Windsor community as seen in the plaque attached to the Macquarie Arms Hotel wall commemorating the 1867 floods.	Events	3 Developing local, regional and national economies
Establishment of the Green Hills in 1794, as part of the third British settlement on the mainland of Australia (the district of Mulgrave Place)	Towns, suburbs and villages	4 Building settlements, towns and cities
Development of Thompson Square and the town of Windsor in the early 19 <sup>th</sup> century as the regional centre for the Hawkesbury River region.	Towns, suburbs and villages	4 Building settlements, towns and cities

<b>Historic Associations</b>	<b>State Historical Theme</b>	<b>National Historical Theme</b>
<p>Establishment of the Green Hills by the leasing/granting of land from 1794 to emancipists and former regimental officers on an equal basis.</p> <p>The lease of land to Andrew Thompson in 1796 that established the eastern extent of the square and for whom the square was named.</p> <p>The leasing of land to William Blady and James Mileham by Acting Governor Paterson in c1809, defining the alignment of George Street and the southern boundary of Thompson Square.</p> <p>The grant of land to Richard Fitzgerald in 1811 by Gov. Macquarie which formalised the southwestern corner of Thompson Square.</p>	Land Tenure	4 Building settlements, towns and cities
<p>The construction of the Macquarie Arms Hotel in 1815, the oldest surviving building in Windsor.</p> <p>The groups of buildings fronting Thompson Square on the east, west and southern side dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century through to the mid/late 19<sup>th</sup> century that define the Georgian square.</p>	Accommodation	4 Building settlements, towns and cities
The influence of the government presence at Windsor from 1795 to the 1840s in forming the eastern boundary of Thompson Square, the use of the square and its subsequent development.	Government and Administration	7 Governing
The associations with Windsor and Thompson Square as the government centre for the region and the impact of the government on the Aboriginal peoples in the locality.	Government and Administration	7 Governing
Thompson Square as a site for punishment, government notices, musters and the government distribution of supplies etc.	Government and Administration	7 Governing
The associations with the landmark court case: John Harris-v-Anthony Fenn Kemp, both local residents of Mulgrave Place (Windsor), and which Harris, an emancipist, won. For the first time an ex-convict's civil rights were enshrined in judgement.	Government and Administration	7 Governing
The use of Thompson Square since its inception as a gathering place, market place, centre for government administration and a transport and communication hub for the Hawkesbury River region up to the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century.	Commercial and Domestic life	8 Developing Australia's cultural life
The architectural contribution of the groups of historic buildings to the overall character of the TSCA, in particular the group of buildings that define the western boundary: the Macquarie Arms Hotel and its boundary wall and Nos. 1-3, 5 and 7 Thompson Square.	Creative endeavour	8 Developing Australia's cultural life

Historic Associations	State Historical Theme	National Historical Theme
Later history of the use of Thompson Square as a recreation area including mini golf and boat club. The transformation of the public square from a functional, civic space to a community, recreational space is a typical transformation that	Leisure	8 Developing Australia's cultural life
The naming of Thompson Square after Andrew Thompson by Governor Macquarie in 1811, one of two emancipist made magistrates by Macquarie and an influential and active member of the Windsor locality.	Persons	9 Marking the phases of life

## Assessment of Significance

<p><b>SHR Criteria a)</b> [Historical significance]</p>	<p>The Thompson Square Conservation Area is historically significant as a very rare public square that represents two key phases in the development of the colony of Australia: the early settlement of agricultural outposts to support the population of Sydney that occurred in the first decade of the British colony; and Governor Macquarie's grand vision for the self-sufficiency of the colony expressed in his public building and town planning program that established a solid infrastructure for the colony, including at Thompson Square.</p> <p>The place is highly significant as it encompasses a portion of the government reserve at the Green Hills established in 1794/95, forming part of the third British settlement on the mainland of Australia (after Sydney and Parramatta). It was the original landing place for the British settlement of the District of Mulgrave Place, and later the site of wharves, the punt crossing and from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the bridge, rapidly becoming the regional civic and commercial centre and transport hub for the district. As the regional civic centre for the early settlement, Thompson Square is also significant as a location for the interaction between the government and local Aboriginal people, being used as an occasional camp ground, and the site for the distribution of food, clothes and blankets and as a starting point for government led raids.</p> <p>Of the known surviving town squares/gathering places associated with the earliest settlements in Australia, Thompson Square is the only space to retain its key relationship with its setting, the Hawkesbury River. Evidence of the pre-Macquarie era development and configuration of Thompson Square remains in the land form, the configuration, the archaeology and road alignments (George Street, Old Bridge Street, The Terrace and Baker Street) of the place today.</p> <p>Thompson Square is highly significant as being one of a group of surviving public squares established by Governor Macquarie in the years 1810-1811 and is a rare example of the type in that it retains its colonial character of its buildings and for named an ex-convict, Andrew Thompson. Evidence of the Macquarie era development and configuration of Thompson Square remains in the Macquarie Arms Hotel, the configuration of the square strongly defined on its south, east and western sides by the buildings, the name of the square and the name of George Street.</p>
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<b>SHR Criteria b)</b> [Historical associational significance]	<p>The place is historically associated with a number of notable persons who are of Local, State and National significance, including Andrew Thompson, for whom the square was named (possibly the only public space named after an emancipist) and who played an important role in the early development and government administration of the district and the commercial development of the place. Thompson Square also has strong associations with Governor Lachlan Macquarie, Acting- Governor Paterson, Governor King, Surveyor-General Augustus Alt, James Meehan, John Howe, James McGrath, Richard Fitzgerald and numerous others.</p>
<b>SHR Criteria c)</b> [Aesthetic significance]	<p>The setting of the Thompson Square Conservation Area on the banks of the Hawkesbury River, surrounded by flood plains and agricultural flats, lends the place its high scenic quality and contains historic views, many of which have been recorded in paintings and photographs since the early 1800s.</p> <p>The group of buildings surrounding Thompson Square clearly defines the square and imparts a strong colonial character to the place, containing several buildings of exceptional quality, this makes Thompson Square the most intact example of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century town square in Australia and the only Macquarie era town square to retain its colonial character.</p>
<b>SHR Criteria d)</b> [Social significance]	<p>The Thompson Square Conservation Area is held in high esteem, as demonstrated by its early and numerous heritage listings dating back to 1949, the proactive involvement of the NSW state government and the Federal government in the conservation of the place in the 1960s and 1970s, being an inspiration for artists and architects including G.W. Evans, William Hardy Wilson, Morton Herman, Lionel Lindsay and others, and by the numerous books and reports that have been produced examining the history of the place. This evidence of early interest and appreciation of Thompson Square demonstrates its long-standing status as a valued historic place. More recently, public events associated with the commemoration of the 1867 floods, the ongoing occupation of the Square by Community Action for Windsor Bridge starting in 2013, and the national public interest in the recent archaeological investigations within the Square are a clear demonstration of the high regard the place is held in the hearts and minds of the Australian community.</p>
<b>SHR Criteria e)</b> [Research significance]	<p>The Thompson Square Conservation Area has high potential in its archaeology and the physical and documentary evidence associated with the place to provide further information about the early history of British settlement in Australia, including the inter-racial relationships between the British and the local Aboriginal people, the dependency of the colony on agricultural outposts for its survival and the associated farming practices, the development of infrastructure such as roads, wharves, punts and drainage systems, early boat building practices and the role of the Hawkesbury River in transportation and commercial development, the relationships between emancipists, the government and convicts in developing the early towns in Australia, as well as the daily way of life for these early settlers.</p> <p>The colonial buildings located within the TSQA such as the Macquarie Arms Hotel, the Doctor's House, Nos. 1-3 Thompson Square, Howe's House, No. 7 Thompson Square, No. 62 George Street and No. 19 Bridge Street also have the potential to contain valuable and rare evidence of early building practices in Australia.</p>



<b>SHR Criteria f)</b> [Rarity]	<p>The Thompson Square Conservation Area is considered to be exceptionally rare as one of only two known surviving early gathering spaces associated with the supply and distribution of food, a critical role of the colonial government. Thompson Square is considered to be a very rare survivor of the earliest years of the British settlement of Australia and contains tangible evidence of its earliest configuration. It is the only surviving Governor Macquarie public square that retains its colonial character. Thompson Square is also considered to be extremely rare for being the only public space that we know of, named after an emancipist: Andrew Thompson.</p> <p>The recently uncovered physical evidence of a complex drainage and land-fill system, conceived under Governor Macquarie in 1814 and completed in 1820 by John Howe and James McGrath is the earliest public works of its sort surviving in the colony and the barrel drain is the key surviving element in this sophisticated colonial water management system.</p> <p>The potential historic archaeological remains within the Thompson Square Conservation Area are likely to reflect the ongoing use and development of Thompson Square as a civic precinct over the past 220+ years. Macquarie and pre-Macquarie-period archaeological remains are considered to be rare and are significant to the cultural history of Windsor and NSW.</p> <p>The source-bordering dune within the TSCA is a rare and relatively intact deposit and is one of only six other sand bodies with stratified Aboriginal cultural deposits known in NSW.</p>
<b>SHR Criteria g)</b> [Representativeness]	<p>Thompson Square is representative of Governor Macquarie's town squares which he established at a number of locations in NSW and Tasmania. At least eight other public square laid out by Macquarie survive today. The TSCA is representative of Governor Macquarie's approach to the administration of the colony and his ambitions for an equitable and productive society. Thompson Square provides a physical expression of many of the hallmarks of Macquarie's administration, as detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equality of opportunity for ex-convicts in colonial society expressed via the naming of the central administrative, commercial and transport centre of the early town of Windsor Thompson Square after Andrew Thompson, emancipist.</li> <li>• Establishment of new towns to act as centres for expanded settlement beyond Sydney/Parramatta, expressed via the formalising of the town of Windsor and the creation of the other Macquarie towns on the Hawkesbury: Richmond, Castlereagh, Pitt Town and Wilberforce.</li> <li>• Development of private enterprise as part of the development of non-penal society, expressed via Macquarie instructing Richard Fitzgerald to build a substantial inn, the Macquarie Arms Hotel, to service the community and cater for traveller which has defined the south-western corner of the square since 1815.</li> </ul>
<b>Integrity/Intactness:</b>	<p>Overall, many features of the Thompson Square Conservation Area retain their integrity from the date of their establishment. Such features include the topography (in part), the configuration and underlying subdivision pattern of the area, the alignment of many of the roads, the configuration, form and detailing of the buildings and the use of many the buildings and the public spaces.</p>

<b>Assessment criteria:</b>	Items are assessed against the <b>State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria</b> to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.
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## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number
Heritage Act - State Heritage Register	00126	02 Apr 99	27
Heritage Act - Permanent Conservation Order - former	00126	02 Jul 82	
Local Environmental Plan		18 Dec 89	
National Trust of Australia register		16 Jun 75	
Register of the National Estate		21 Oct 80	

## References

Type	Author	Year	Title
Written	Lucas, Stapleton, Johnson & Partners; Terry Kass History; Casey & Lowe; Geoffrey Britton Environmental Design & Heritage Consultant and Dominic Steele Archaeological Consultancy	2018	Thompson Square Conservation Area Conservation Management Plan prepared for Hawkesbury City Council
Written	D Sheedy	1975	National Trust Classification Cards - Thompson Square
Written	Fisher Lucas Architects	1981	Thompson Square Precinct Restoration Proposals
Written	Helen Proudfoot	1987	The Historic Buildings of Windsor and Richmond

