



Hawkesbury City Council

attachment 1
to
item 194

Draft Thompson Square Conservation
Management Plan
Part 1

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Thompson Square Conservation Area Windsor, NSW

Conservation Management Plan



Prepared for:
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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 20th 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.¹ 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 <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).

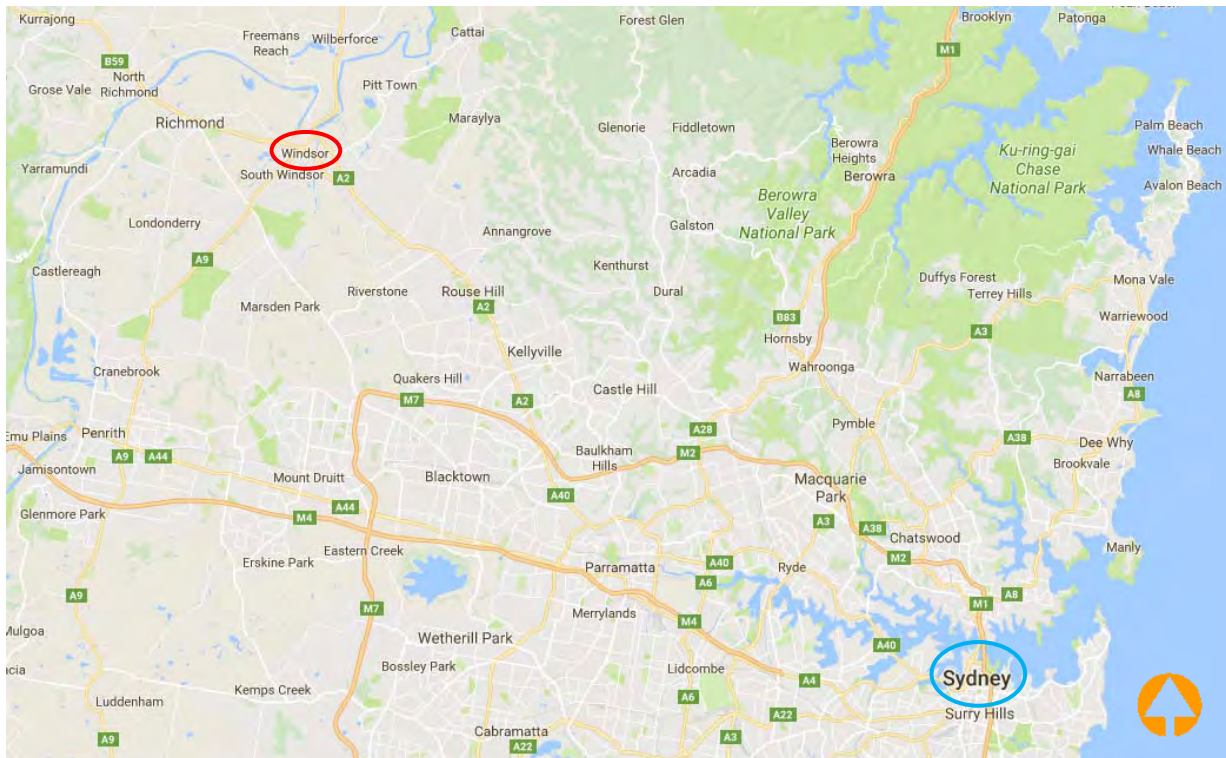


Figure 1. 2: Plan showing location of the town of Windsor (circled in red) to the northwest of the Sydney CBD (circled in blue). Source: GoogleMaps, 2017



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 or 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)
<i>Individual Properties</i>		
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
Public Recreation Areas/Open Spaces		
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
Streets/Roads		
Old Bridge Street	-	Hawkesbury City Council
Part of Bridge Street	-	RMS
Part of George Street	-	Hawkesbury City Council
Thompson Square	-	Hawkesbury City Council

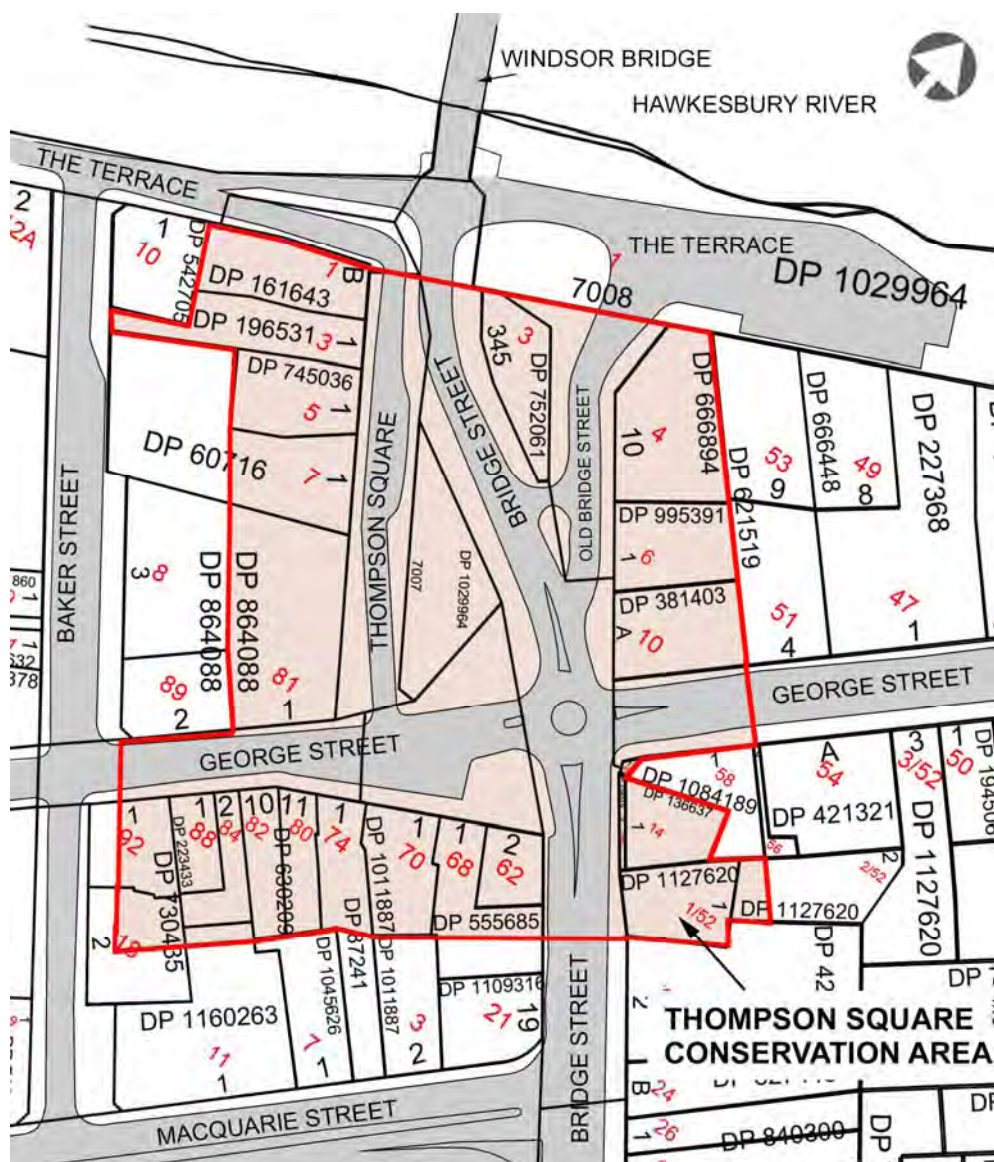


Figure 1. 4: The TSCA study area showing real property information. Source: Cadastral information and base plan supplied by HCC

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
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 Scheme involving excavation of the lower reserve in Thompson Square.¹ 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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¹ <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement/index.html>

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- Hawkesbury City Council Heritage 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 various lines of documentary evidence that are relevant to the Aboriginal history of the Windsor area. The majority of this evidence often relates to locations and events outside of the town of Windsor and its immediate surrounds, and the use of specific circumstances or events to illustrate or emphasise points considered important has been selective. Overall, a simplified chronological approach has been used but this timeline is not exhaustive or without gaps.

Discussion regarding the Aboriginal history of the district “begins” in 1794 with the first official colonial settlement and the resultant displacement of the Aboriginal people who were living on this land at this time. The following discussion highlights an issue central to the Aboriginal history of this period which was the need for these Aboriginal people to relocate to other (unoccupied or sparsely settled) parts of the river, away from what were to become permanent and persistently expanding colonial settlements. This section also touches on some of the complexities of the racial violence that occurred on the Hawkesbury River in the locality of the Argyle Reach (west of the TSCA) in 1794 and the connections between the recorded hostilities, the impacts of drought and the expansion of the colonial settlements.

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).¹

Andrew Thomson had a role in these hostilities when chief constable of Windsor (Green Hills) in 1805.² 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.

¹ The term “Hawkesbury and Nepean Wars” appears in a Wikipedia article, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawkesbury_and_Nepean_Wars

² 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.³

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*"⁴ and family groups and individuals probably continued to "aggregate" around Sackville Reach. Historian Jack Brook notes⁵ 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).

³ Kohen 1985

⁴ Brook 1994:16

⁵ *ibid*:16-17

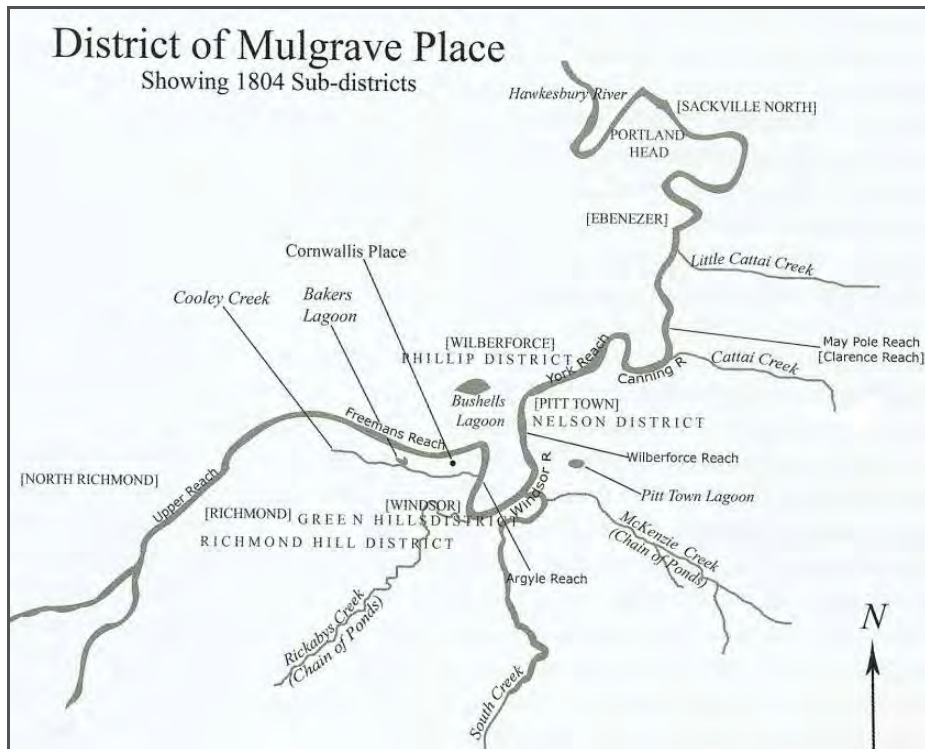


Figure 2. 1: European place names for important Aboriginal river landscape elements in 1804. Source: Jack, 2009: Figure 3

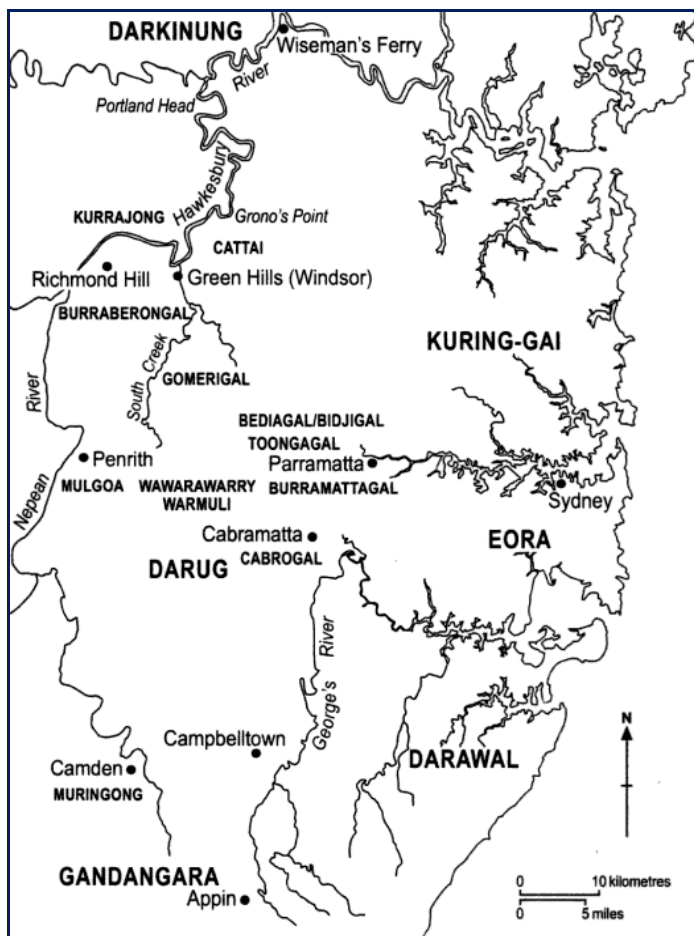


Figure 2. 2: Darug land, 1795. Source: Connor 2002: Figure 3.

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 colonial settlement immediately and increasingly from 1794 because the new settler's farms resulted in the destruction (or replacement by cultivation) of yam beds already in existence on the river banks, favoured and possibly cultivated by Aboriginal people.⁶ The settler's farms also restricted access to lagoons that were important for fish, eels and birds, and there was loss of game having been shot or driven away by the new arrivals. In short, colonial settlement not only took over the lands most densely occupied by Aboriginal people and the locations of their richest food sources, but also took over their sacred and teaching places.⁷

In an (unsuccessful) attempt to slow or deflect settlement away from the Hawkesbury, David Collins⁸ 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.⁹ 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

⁶ Hunter recorded on the river banks at the junction of the Grose and Nepean Rivers in 1789 evidence for Aboriginal people digging for yams and speculates on their methods of preparation (Hunter 1793:6th July 1789 diary entry).

⁷ Karskens, G., 2009:123

⁸ David Collins (1756-1810), Deputy Judge Advocate and Lieutenant-Governor

⁹ Collins, 1794:308-309

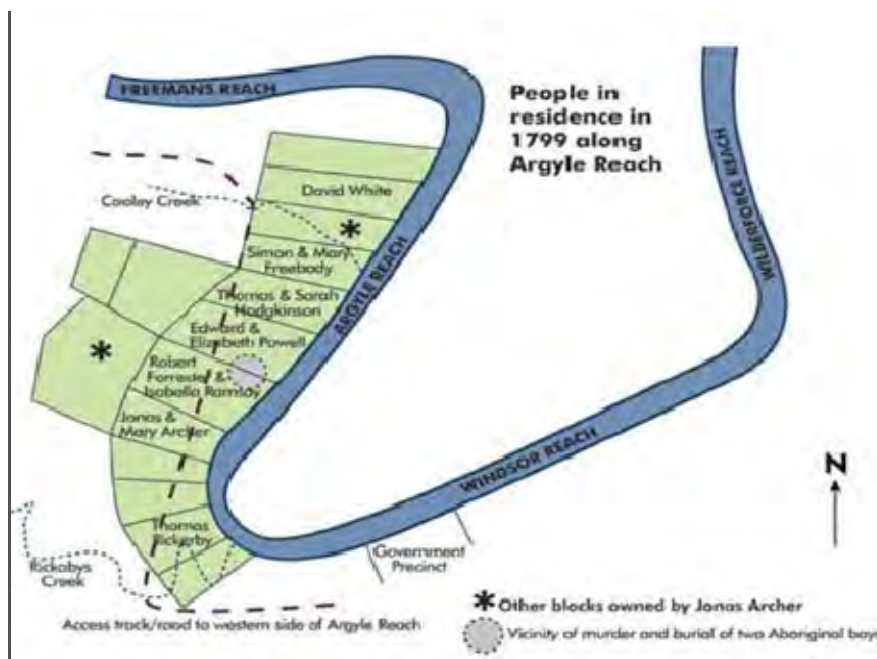


Figure 2. 4: Inferred location of an early 1790s Aboriginal historic site. Source: Stewart, L.; 2015

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".¹⁰ 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*".¹¹ 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*".¹² 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

¹⁰ This seems doubtful as the boys hands were tied and therefore it was impossible for him to swim to the opposite river bank and to safety.

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

¹² 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”.¹³ 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.”¹⁴

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.

‘Inter-war violence’ (1804-1805) up to 1814

It wasn’t until 1804 that Governor King met with Hawkesbury Aboriginal people (at Ebenezer) to discuss their grievances about the impacts being caused by settlement:

*“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 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”.*¹⁵

¹³ 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>

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Historical Records of NSW Vol 5:512-513

The Aboriginal people had just been forced to move a second time along the river, following the settlement of the Coromandel families. Some of these displaced Aboriginal people were already living beyond Sackville or above Richmond Hill at this time.¹⁶

The second phase of hostilities on the Hawkesbury broke out in May 1804 following an Aboriginal attack on the farm of Matthew Everingham at Portland Head. Everingham's 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"¹⁷ 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*".¹⁸ Two 'chiefs' of the Richmond Hill 'tribe', named Yaragowhy and Yaramandy (the latter seemingly corrupted posthumously to Yarramundi in the 1900s)¹⁹ were summoned by the local Magistrate, Surgeon Thomas Arndell and Rev. Marsden in June 1804 to help put an end to the "mischief's".²⁰

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*²¹ 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.²² 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 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*".²³

¹⁶ Barkley-Jack 2009:272

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ *Sydney Gazette*, 1 July 1804

¹⁹ 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).

²⁰ *Sydney Gazette*, 1 July 1804

²¹ *Sydney Gazette*, 12 May 1805

²² *Sydney Gazette*, 28th April 1805

²³ *Ibid.*

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 wreak [sic] their vengeance upon the solitary unoffending settler, or the unguarded traveller".²⁴

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."²⁵

Key points from Macquarie's Government Proclamation released on the 4th May 1816²⁶ are summarised below:

- 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.

²⁴ Sydney Gazette, 11th January 1812

²⁵ Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, Saturday 4th May 1816, p. 1

²⁶ Ibid.

- 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 11th 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.²⁷

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.²⁸ 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 12th 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.²⁹ 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.³⁰

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 the 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.³¹

²⁷ HRA, Volume IX: 139-140.

²⁸ 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).

²⁹ Referring to Little Wheeny Creek near the junction of modern Bell’s Line of Road and Comleroy Road.

³⁰ The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* 25th October 1890, p. 3 reported Edward Tuckerman’s claim that “not less than 400 blacks were killed in 1816”.

³¹ 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

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.³² He also mentioned “tribes” at Portland Head, Caddie (Cattai) and Prospect.³³ 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.³⁴

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).³⁵ 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.³⁶ 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.³⁷

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.³⁸ 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.

beyond the Liverpool Plains where the dialect was seen to be different to that used on the sea coast (*Sydney Gazette*, 16 July 1836).

³² 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.

³³ Kohen 1993

³⁴ Brook and Kohen 1993

³⁵ Sainty and Johnson 1985:15

³⁶ Kohen 1993:19

³⁷ Sainty and Johnson 1985:15

³⁸ 1993:19

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”³⁹ 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,⁴⁰ 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”.⁴¹

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.⁴² 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.”*⁴³

³⁹ 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.

⁴⁰ 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)

⁴¹ 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.

⁴² Kohen 1993: 19

⁴³ Ibid., 97

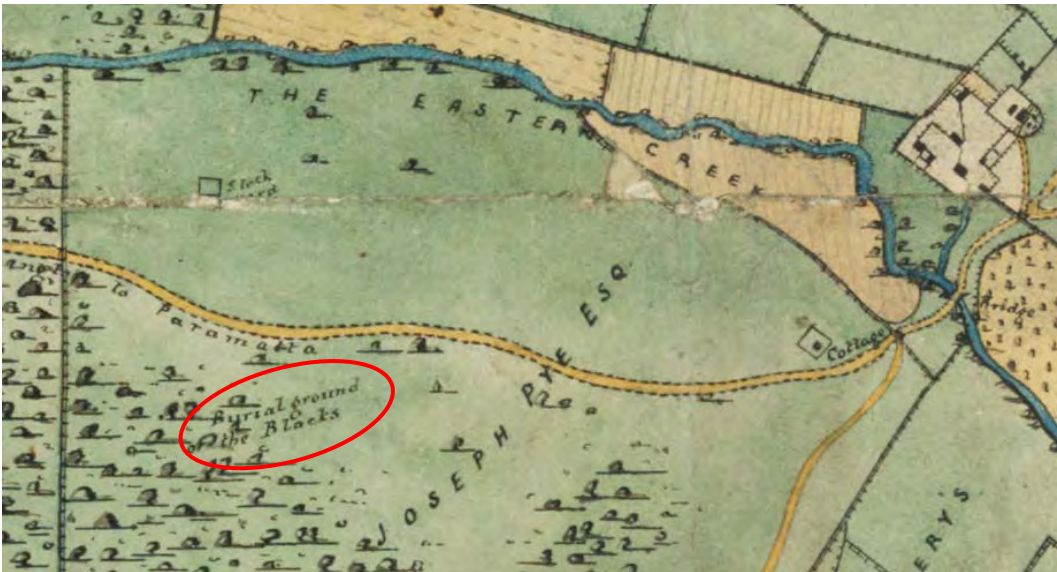


Figure 2. 5: Detail of the 1842 Musgrave plan showing the Pye Farm complex adjoining Eastern Creek and 'burial ground of the blacks' (circled). Source: SLNSW, Mitchell Map Collection, Z/M4 811.1122/1842/1



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*”.⁴⁴ 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.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ Brook 1994:5

⁴⁵ 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 Plumptre, 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.⁴⁶

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.⁴⁷ 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

⁴⁶ Brook 1994:11

⁴⁷ Brook 1994:16-17

was recorded playing against a Lower Portland eleven.⁴⁸ It was also reported in 1899 that a Military team had played an Aboriginal team in Windsor.⁴⁹ 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
Affe, 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
Affe, 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*”.⁵⁰

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.⁵¹ The Halls

⁴⁸ *Australian, Windsor, Richmond, and Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 18th April 1874, p. 2

⁴⁹ *Australian, Windsor, Richmond, and Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 3rd February 1899, p. 3

⁵⁰ Brook 1994:22

⁵¹ 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.

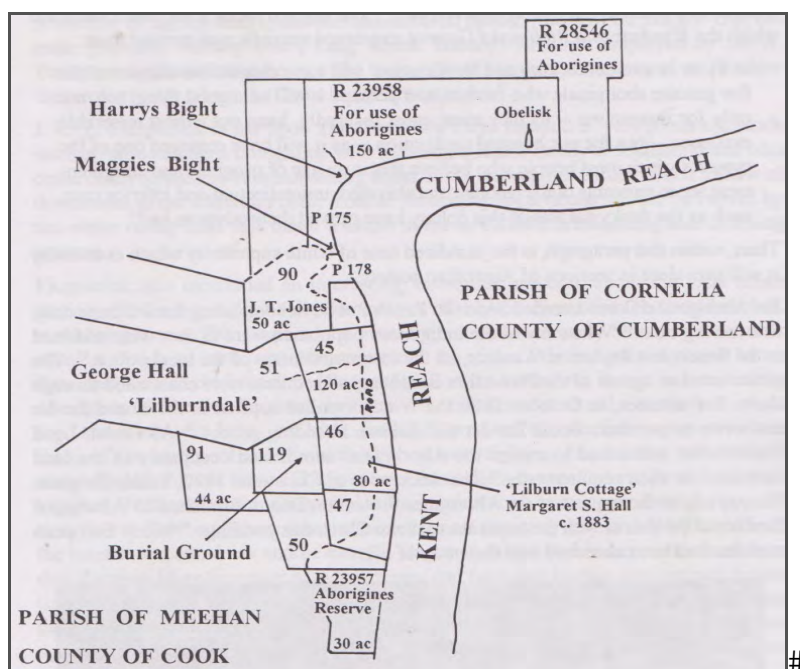


Figure 2. 9: Crown land parcels Nos. 9857 and 9856 in the County of Cook, Parish of Meehan, set aside for the ‘use of aborigines’ as notified 18 September 1889. The former contained an area of about 150 acres and the latter 30 acres (left) and location of the reserves, burial ground, Harry’s Bight, Maggie’s 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.⁵² Despite being on Cumberland Reach, the reserve was apparently so named because Aboriginal people had lived on Sackville Reach for some considerable time.⁵³ 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.⁵⁴

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 1943.⁵⁵

⁵² 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.

⁵³ Brook 1994:17

⁵⁴ There were six Aboriginal children attending Sackville Reach Public School in 1890 (WRG, 31 May 1890).

⁵⁵ Obituary: “Andrew Barber”, *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 6th 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.⁵⁶ 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”.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ Obituary: “Mrs. Martha Everingham”, *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 22nd October 1926, p. 3

⁵⁷ 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,⁵⁸ 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.”*⁵⁹

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.⁶⁰ 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 1924.⁶¹

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”.⁶² 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

⁵⁸ *Illawarra Mercury*, 23 August 1892

⁵⁹ *Hawkesbury Courier*, 13 February 1845

⁶⁰ Ford 2012

⁶¹ 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*, 16th February 1924, p. 18

⁶² SL NSW R3706:109

North Richmond (North Richmond) groups.⁶³ 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.⁶⁴

Stephen Tuckerman (Esq, J.P) supervised the yearly distribution of blankets at Windsor Courthouse in 1850 where forty-one blankets were passed out.⁶⁵ 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”.⁶⁶

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 1881.⁶⁷ 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.⁶⁸ 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.⁶⁹

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.⁷⁰

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

⁶³ 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).

⁶⁴ Sainty & Johnson 1985

⁶⁵ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 June 1850

⁶⁶ *Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 30 May 1874

⁶⁷ *Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 8 October 1881.

⁶⁸ *Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 28 May 1881

⁶⁹ *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.’

⁷⁰ 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.”⁷¹

“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 Aborigines) 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”.⁷² 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”.⁷³ 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

⁷¹ *Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 10th September 1892, p. 2

⁷² see Brook & Kohen, 1991

⁷³ *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’.*⁷⁴

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.⁷⁵ 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.⁷⁶

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,⁷⁷ 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.⁷⁸ 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.⁷⁹

Later records refer to four Aboriginal “residents” on the Hawkesbury River awaiting the government to provide a boat for use in times of flood.⁸⁰

⁷⁴ see Brook & Kohen 1991

⁷⁵ 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).

⁷⁶ SMH, 16 November 1860

⁷⁷ SMH, 31 December 1846

⁷⁸ SMH, 14 November 1845

⁷⁹ ATCJ, 7 January 1871

⁸⁰ 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 led 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.⁸¹ 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.⁸² In February 1795, a number of military officers selected land as well.⁸³

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.⁸⁴ A narrow sandy beach in this location appears to have attracted watercraft landing people and stores.⁸⁵ 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.⁸⁶

⁸¹ Map by Augustus Alt, *HRNSW*, volume 3

⁸² J Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed: A new look at Australia's third mainland settlement 1793-1802*, Rosenberg, Dural, 2009, pp 55-70

⁸³ 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

⁸⁴ J Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, p 104

⁸⁵ 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

⁸⁶ SA Map 5968

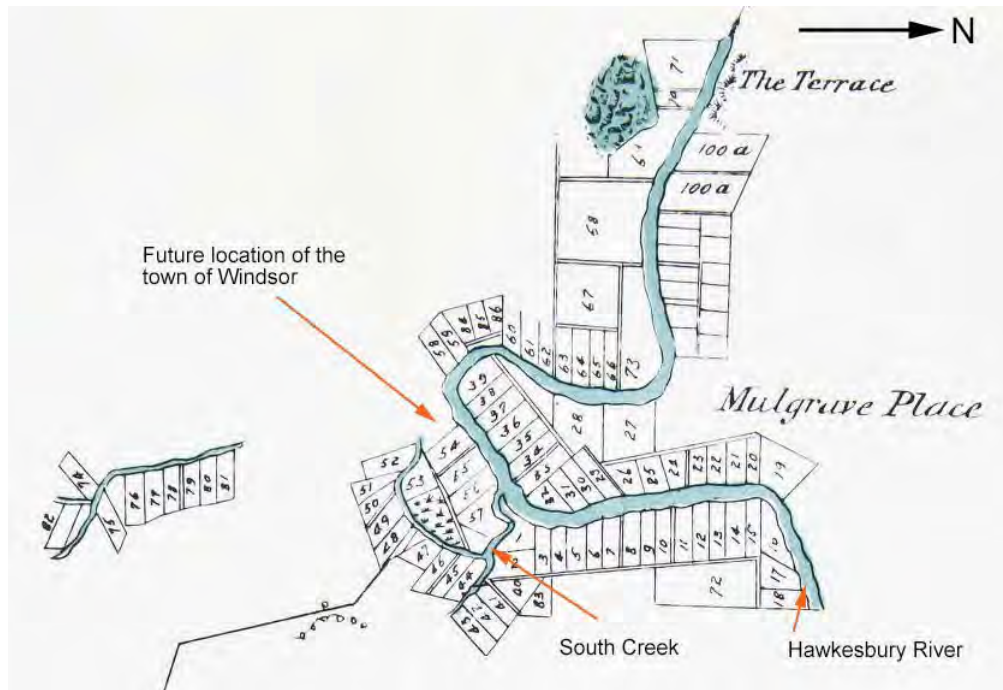


Figure 2. 11: Detail from Surveyor General Alt's plan showing the first farms along the Hawkesbury River. Source: *HRNSW*, Vol. 3, p. 7



Figure 2. 12: This detail from the 1813 view by Philip Slaegeer showed the small beach on the river bank at the foot of the open square of ground (circled). Source: P Slaegeer, "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.⁸⁷ 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 1795.⁸⁸ 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.⁸⁹ 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.⁹⁰ 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

⁸⁷ *Historical Records of Australia*, [HRA], series 1, vol. 1, p 490

⁸⁸ 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

⁸⁹ Grants, Volume 1, page 300, LRS

⁹⁰ Grants, Volume 2, No 172, LRS

William Baker. Like the previous grant to Whitehouse, there was no eastern boundary on the grant deed.⁹¹

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 1799.⁹² The site of the Government wharf was suggested by a small mark on Meehan's 1811 survey (see Figure 2.16).⁹³

Two log granaries were constructed between 1796 and 1800. The first log granary was constructed in August 1796.⁹⁴ By 1800, an additional log granary had been built.⁹⁵ The military guard initially occupied part of the store but separate barracks were constructed by 1796.⁹⁶ 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".⁹⁷ 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 1802.⁹⁸

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

⁹¹ Grants, Volume 3, No 51, LRS

⁹² 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

⁹³ SA Map SZ529

⁹⁴ HRNSW, vol 3, p 80

⁹⁵ HRNSW, vol 4, p 151

⁹⁶ J Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, p 105

⁹⁷ J Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, pp 66, 292-294; HRNSW, vol 3, p 80; vol 4, p 152

⁹⁸ 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.⁹⁹ 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*”.¹⁰⁰ 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.¹⁰¹

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).¹⁰² 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*”.¹⁰³ 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.¹⁰⁴ 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

⁹⁹ Grants, Volume 2, No 320, LRS

¹⁰⁰ Grants, Volume 2, No 241, LRS

¹⁰¹ The following information regarding Harris and Kemp has been provided by Jan Barkley-Jack and Graham Edds

¹⁰² 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.

¹⁰³ 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.

¹⁰⁴ 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 10th June 1799, ex-convict civil rights were enshrined in a colonial verdict.¹⁰⁵

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 1805.¹⁰⁶

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.¹⁰⁷ The Reverend Henry Fulton was schoolmaster, sexton and bellman.¹⁰⁸ 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.¹⁰⁹

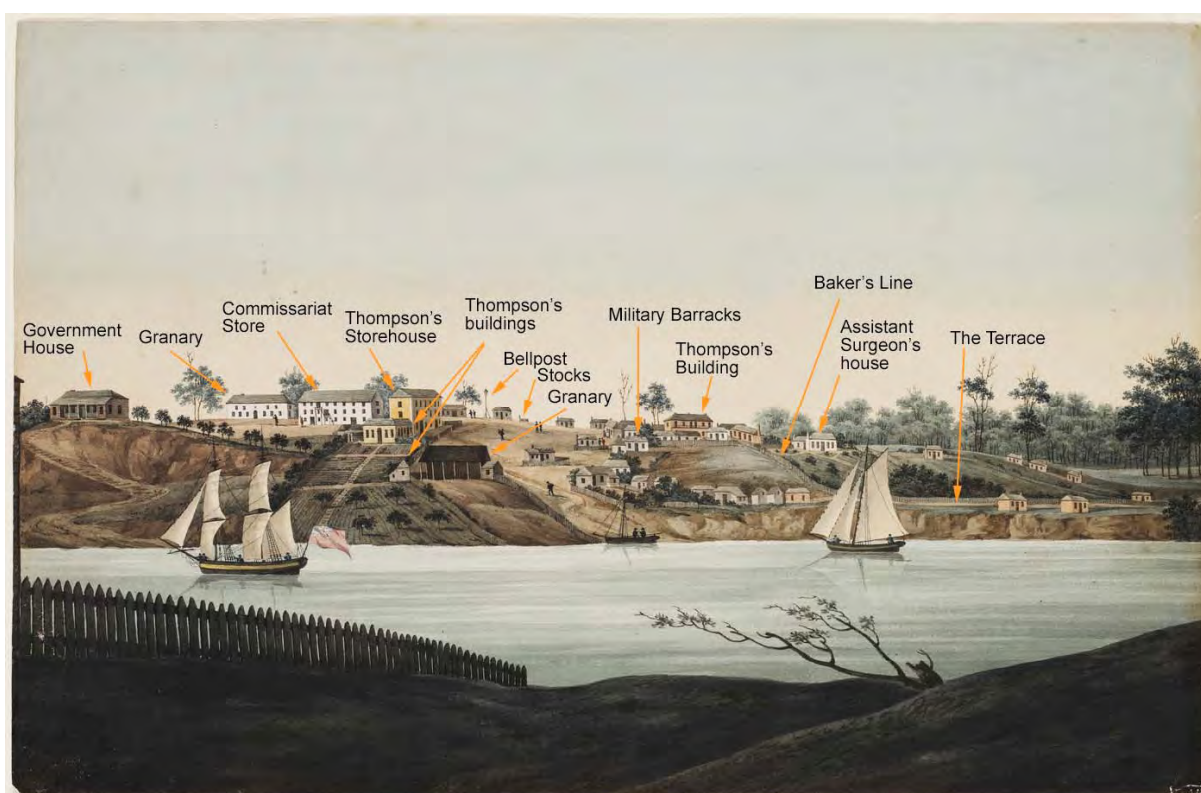


Figure 2. 14: The painting by G W Evans believed to date from 1807 or 1809 showing the configuration of the government precinct on southern bank of the Hawkesbury River. Source: G W Evans, *Settlement on Green Hills*, ML, PXD 388 Vol 3, No 7

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.

¹⁰⁵ 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.

¹⁰⁶ *HRNSW*, vol 5, p 163; vol 6, p 43

¹⁰⁷ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 5 Aug 1893, p 8

¹⁰⁸ J Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, p 332

¹⁰⁹ *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.¹¹⁰

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.¹¹¹ 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.¹¹² 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.¹¹³

¹¹⁰ G W Evans, Settlement on Green Hills, ML, PXD 388 vol 3, No 7

¹¹¹ Grants, Volume 4, page 32 (1), LRS

¹¹² Grants, Volume 4, page 114 (2), LRS

¹¹³ 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 1182.¹¹⁴ 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.¹¹⁵

James Mileham also petitioned Macquarie for the confirmation of 600 acres granted by Paterson but made no mention of his Green Hills lease.¹¹⁶ 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.¹¹⁷ 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.¹¹⁸

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.

¹¹⁴ Grants, Volume 53, No 108, LRS

¹¹⁵ Col Sec, Letters Received, 1810, SANSW 4/1821, No 22

¹¹⁶ Col Sec, Letters Received, 1810, SANSW 4/1822, No 220

¹¹⁷ SA Map 5968; W.443.a, Crown Plan

¹¹⁸ NRS 17513, Real Property Application Packet, RPA 19257, SANSW

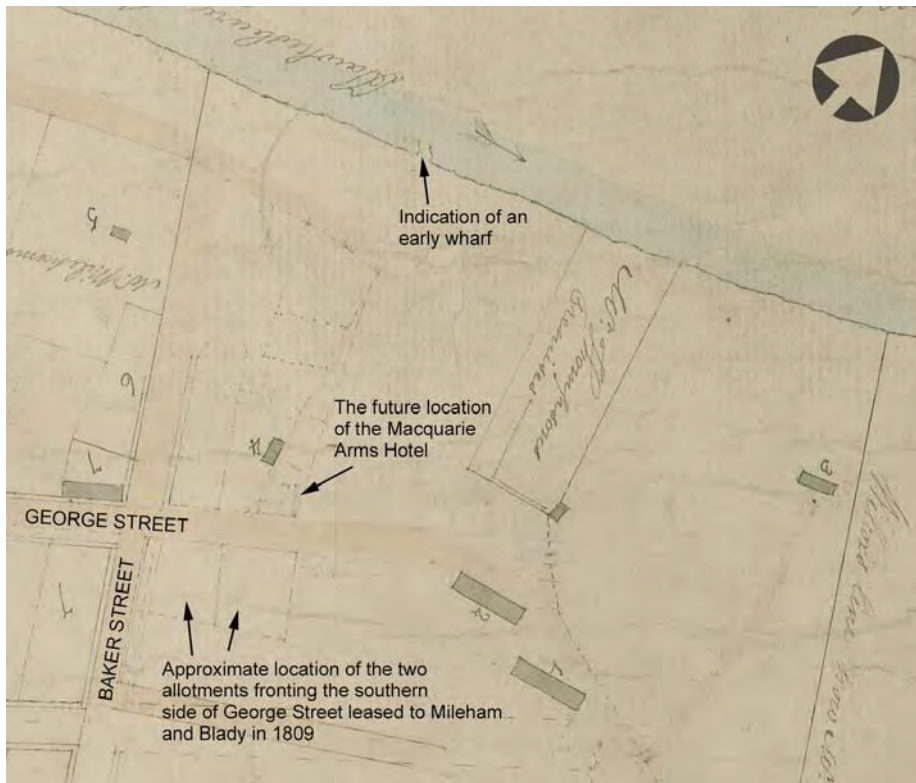


Figure 2. 16: Detail from Meehan's 1811 survey of the town of Windsor showing the approximate location of Blady's and Mileham's leases of 1809 on the southern side of George Street. Source: SA Map SZ 529



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.¹¹⁹ 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.”¹²⁰

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.¹²¹

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.”¹²²

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.¹²³ It was also a source of considerable and

¹¹⁹ HRNSW, vol 3, p 217

¹²⁰ Sydney Gazette, 11 March 1804, p 2

¹²¹ 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

¹²² HRA, 1, Volume 10, p 691

¹²³ 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”.¹²⁴

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*”.¹²⁵ 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”.¹²⁶ 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”.¹²⁷ 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.¹²⁸

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

¹²⁴ 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

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ NRS 13889, Surveyor-General, Surveyor’s Fieldbook, No 83, Meehan, 1811, SZ901

¹²⁷ SA Map SZ 529

¹²⁸ 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).¹²⁹

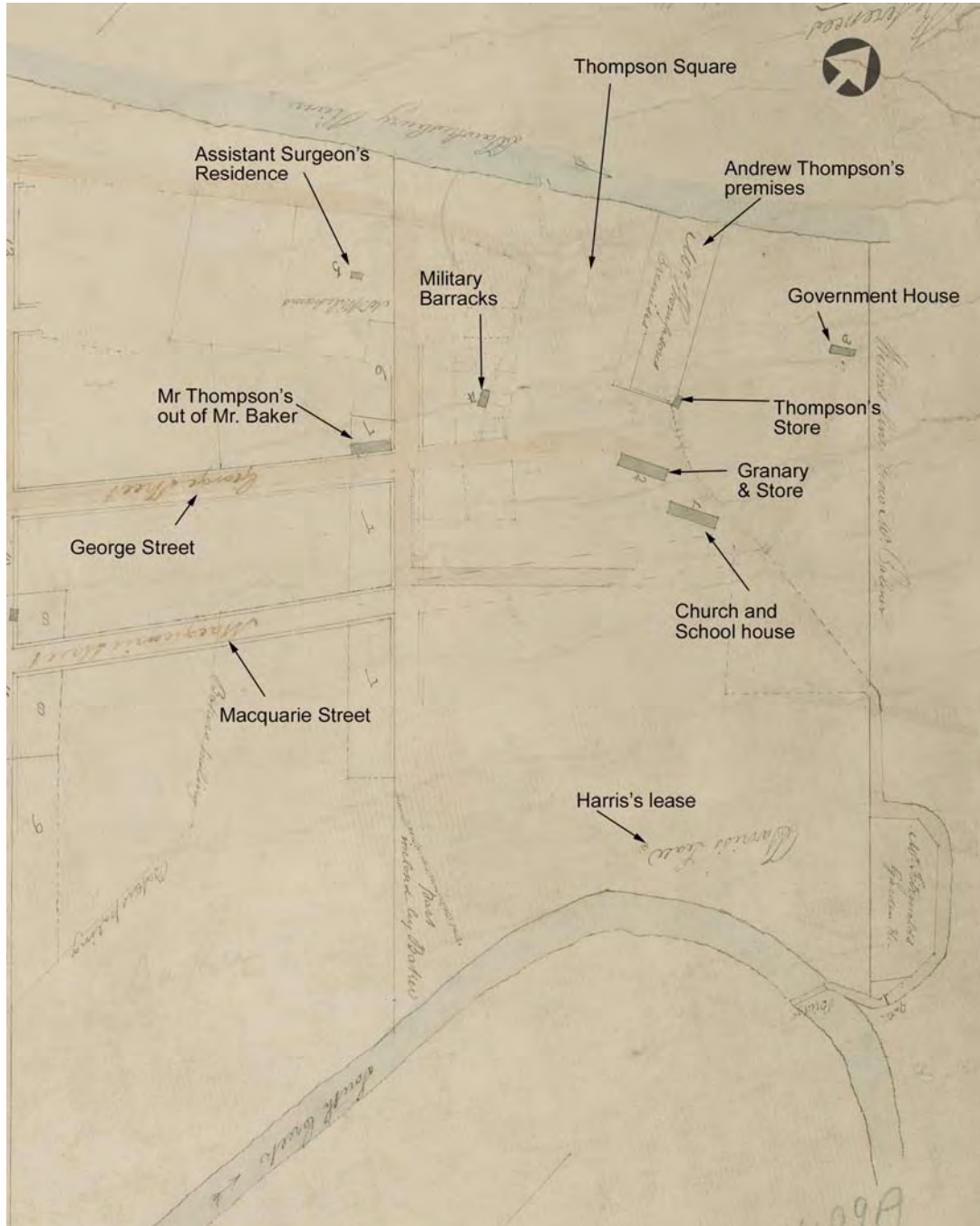


Figure 2. 18: Detail from Meehan's survey of 1811 showing the principal features of the early town of Windsor with Macquarie's overlay of street and subdivision patterns. Source: SA Map SZ 529

¹²⁹ 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.

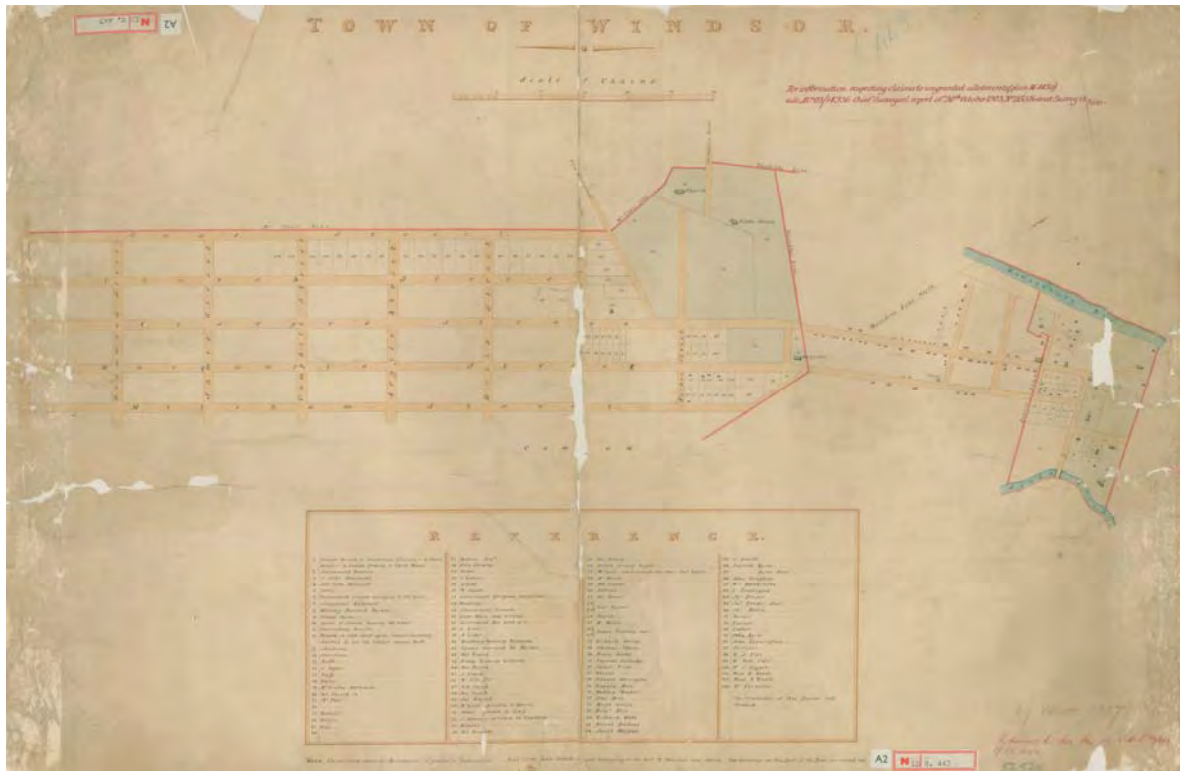


Figure 2. 19: 1827 survey by Assistant Surveyor George Boyle White showing the Government Domain lands between the Hawkesbury River and South Creek incorporating Thompson Square and Government House (to the right). The new town plan for Windsor is shown to west (left) with McQuade Park in the centre 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.¹³⁰

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.¹³¹

¹³⁰ 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

¹³¹ G W Evans, (attrib.), Head of navigation, Hawksbury [sic] River 'Windsor', 1810? Possibly 1812, ML SV1B/WIND/6

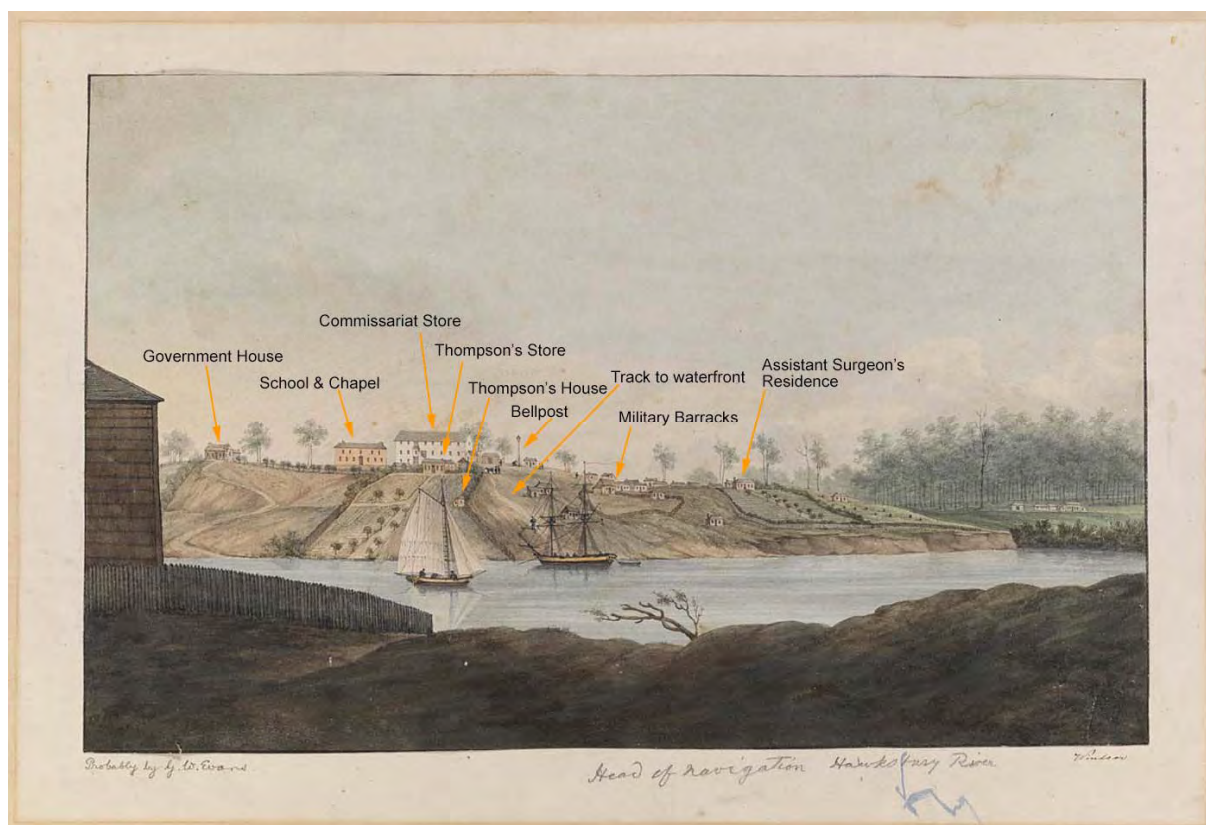


Figure 2. 20: The painting attributed to Evans believed to date to 1812, annotated to show the principal feature of the precinct at the time. Source: G W Evans, (attrib.), Head of navigation, Hawksbury [sic] River 'Windsor', ML SV1B/WIND/6

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 1815.¹³²

¹³² 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."¹³³ 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."*¹³⁴

¹³³ 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

¹³⁴ 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".

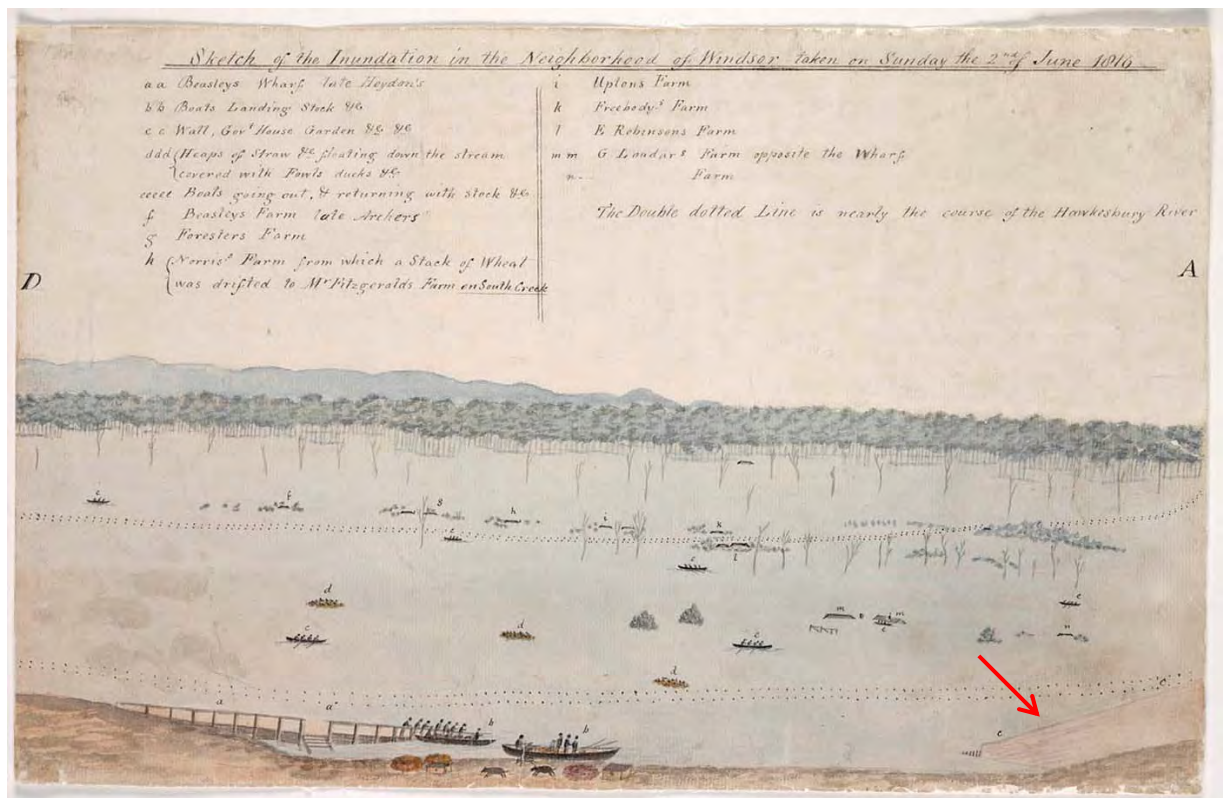


Figure 2. 23: Panel 4 from the panorama entitled *Sketch of the Inundation in the Neighborhood of Windsor taken on Sunday the 2nd of June 1816*, artist unknown, dated 1816. The brick wall to Thompson's garden is in the bottom right corner marked with "cc" (indicated with an arrow). Source: SLNSW, PX*D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

Public Infrastructure in Thompson Square¹³⁵

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.¹³⁶

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.¹³⁷ 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.¹³⁸

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.¹³⁹ 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.*

¹³⁵ 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.

¹³⁶ State Library of NSW, Mitchell Library, ML MSS 106, items 37. 38.

¹³⁷ 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.

¹³⁸ 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.

¹³⁹ *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.”*¹⁴⁰

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 1820.¹⁴¹

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.¹⁴² 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.”*¹⁴³

¹⁴⁰ 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.

¹⁴¹ Colonial Secretary Correspondence, State Archives NSW, Reel 6050, 4/1746, p.209.

¹⁴² *HRA*, 1, Volume 10, p 690

¹⁴³ *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.¹⁴⁴

The military left Windsor in 1842 and the barracks was occupied by the police from the 1860s until 1924.¹⁴⁵ A survey of the military barracks made by military engineer H W Lugard in July 1842, showed the buildings on the site.¹⁴⁶

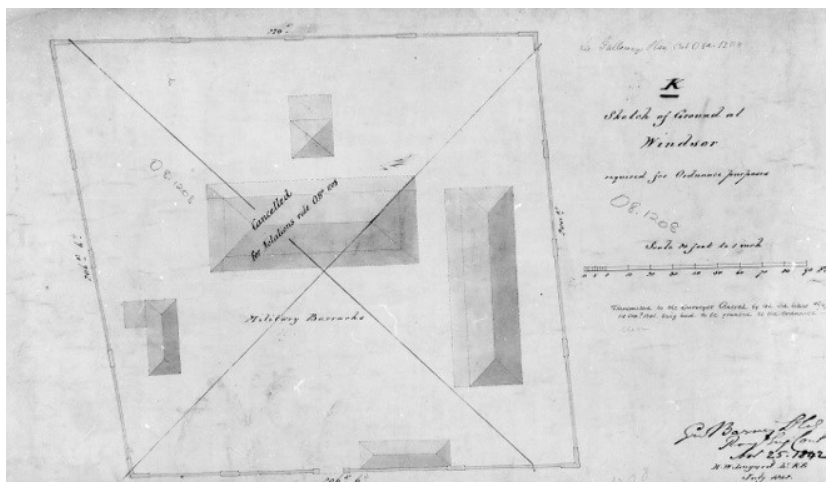


Figure 2. 24: H W Lugard's survey of Windsor barracks in July 1842. Source: SA Map 4681

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.¹⁴⁷

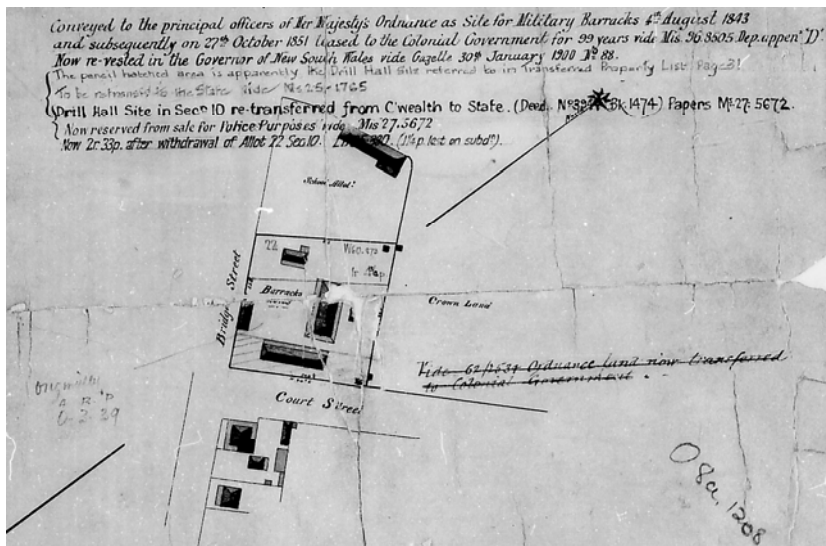


Figure 2. 25: Detail from Assistant Surveyor J J Galloway's survey of the Windsor barracks in July 1843. Source: SA Map 4682.

¹⁴⁴ 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

¹⁴⁵ J Steele, *Early Days of Windsor N S Wales*, Tyrrell's Ltd, Sydney, 1916, pp 141-142

¹⁴⁶ Sketch of ground at Windsor required for Ordnance purposes (Military Barracks), (O.8.1208) H W Lugard, July 1842, SA Map 4681

¹⁴⁷ 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 10.¹⁴⁸ It was later sold by an auction held on 12 February 1936 to Amelia Dickson, widow of George Street, storekeeper.¹⁴⁹ 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).¹⁵⁰ By 1936, a cottage had been constructed on the site.¹⁵¹

The Barracks guardhouse along Bridge Street was demolished probably before 1879.¹⁵² Archaeologist Kate Holmes excavated its foundations in 1976-77 (see Figure 2.26).¹⁵³

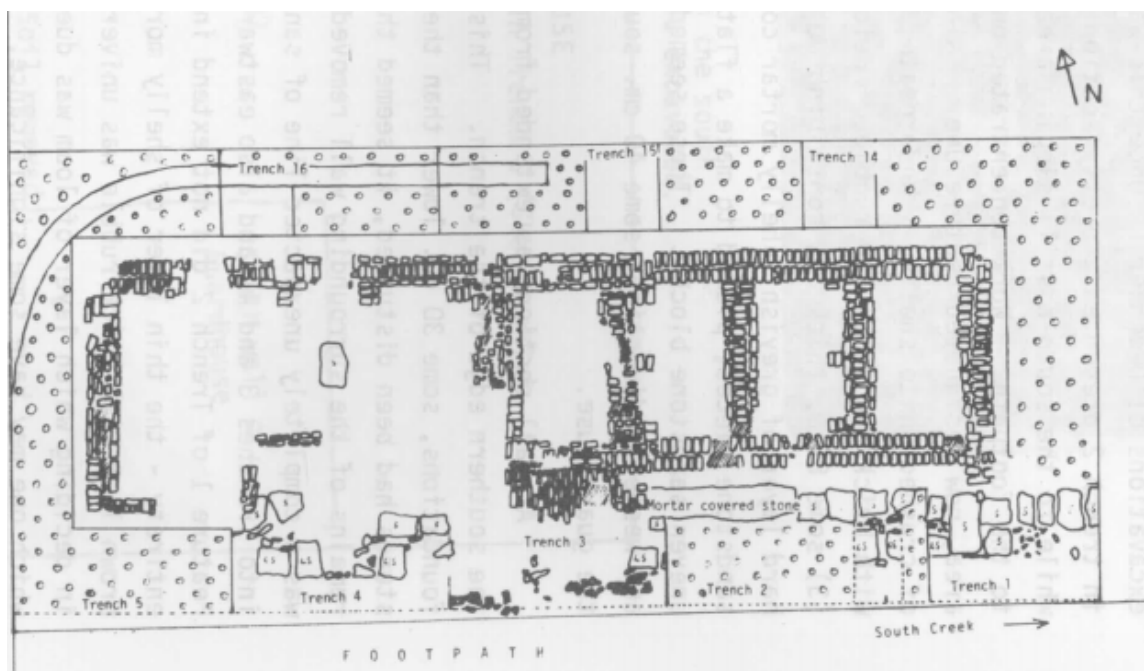


Figure 2. 26: The diagram of the guardhouse footings excavated in 1976-1977. Source: K Holmes, *Windsor Barracks – the guardhouse*, The Australian Society for Historical Archaeology, University of Sydney, Sydney, 1979, p 15

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).

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

¹⁴⁹ CT 4795 f 187

¹⁵⁰ OSD, No 394 Bk 1475

¹⁵¹ 1936 sewerage plan

¹⁵² J Steele, *Early Days of Windsor N S Wales*, photo facing p 25

¹⁵³ 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.¹⁵⁴ 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.”*¹⁵⁵

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.

¹⁵⁴ Macquarie, *Journals*, p 42

¹⁵⁵ *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.¹⁵⁶ 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'.¹⁵⁷

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.¹⁵⁸ 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 19th 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."*¹⁵⁹

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.¹⁶⁰

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 1827.¹⁶¹

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).

¹⁵⁶ W H Wells, *A Geographical Dictionary or Gazetteer of the Australian Colonies*, W & F Ford, Sydney, 1848, p 426

¹⁵⁷ *Fuller's County of Cumberland Year Book*, Parramatta, 1883, p 127

¹⁵⁸ J Barkley-Jack, *History of Thompson Square*, Typescript, 14 March 2013, p 14

¹⁵⁹ "Windsor", *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 4th September 1874, p. 3.

¹⁶⁰ "Windsor", *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 3rd February 1877, p. 7 and 8th January 1877, p. 6

¹⁶¹ 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.”¹⁶²

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....*”¹⁶³

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 2nd 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 23rd April 1988, with a plaque placed at the south-west corner of the Bridge Street and George Street intersection.

¹⁶² State Planning Authority of NSW, 1967; *Historic Buildings- Windsor and Richmond*

¹⁶³ 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 Scheme.

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>

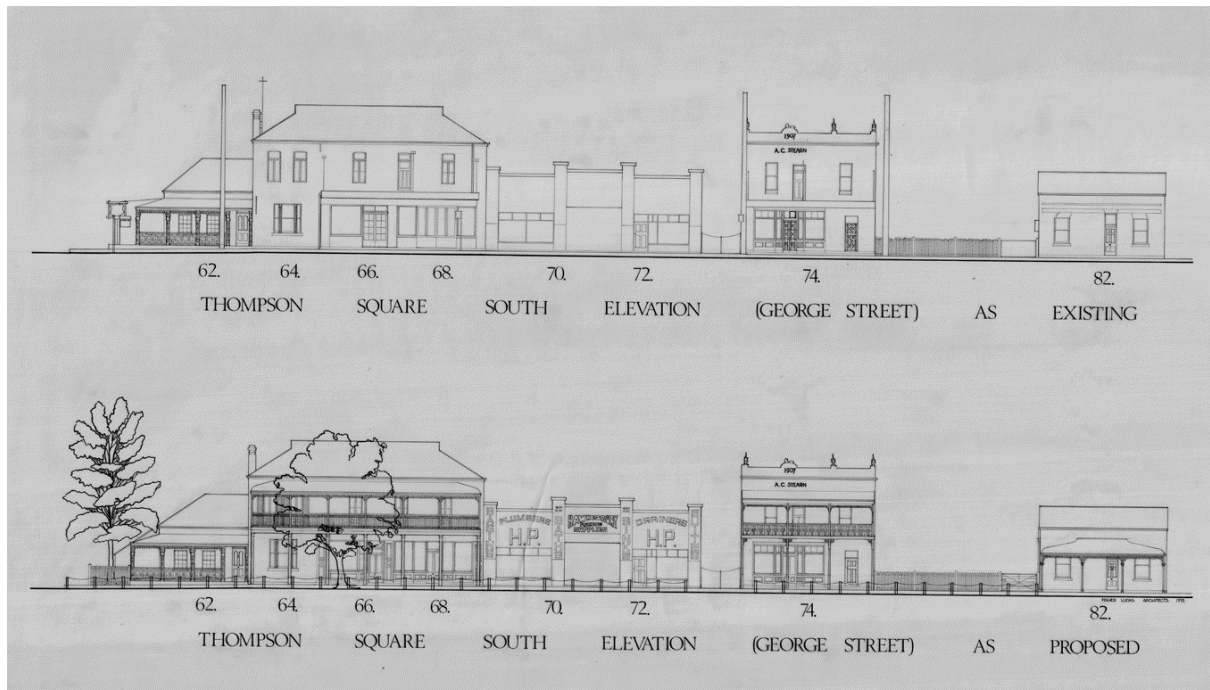


Figure 2. 32: Thompson Square restoration proposal for the George Street buildings, dated 1975, by Fisher Lucas Architects. Source: LSJP archives

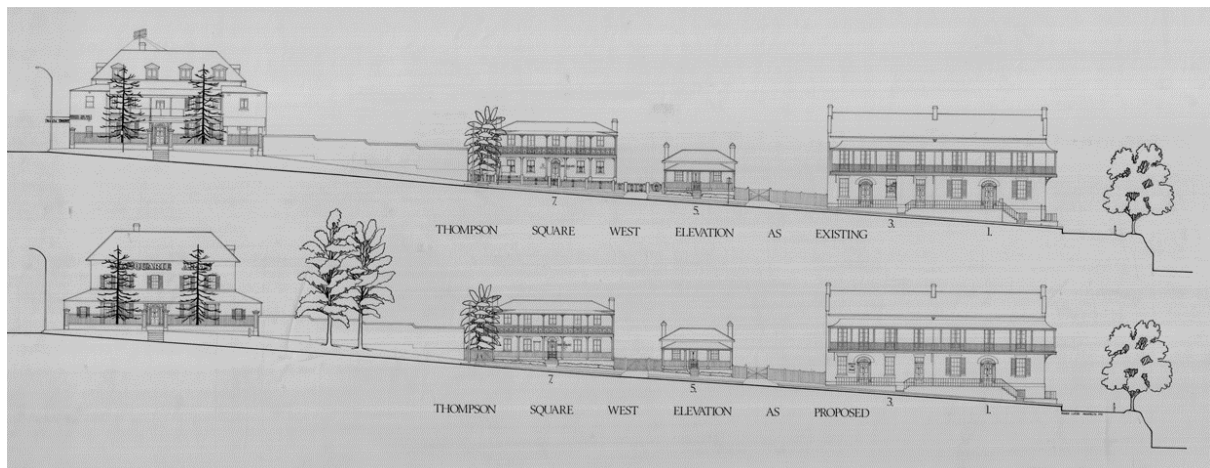


Figure 2. 33: Thompson Square restoration proposal for the Thompson Square buildings, dated 1975, by Fisher Lucas Architects. Source: LSJP archives

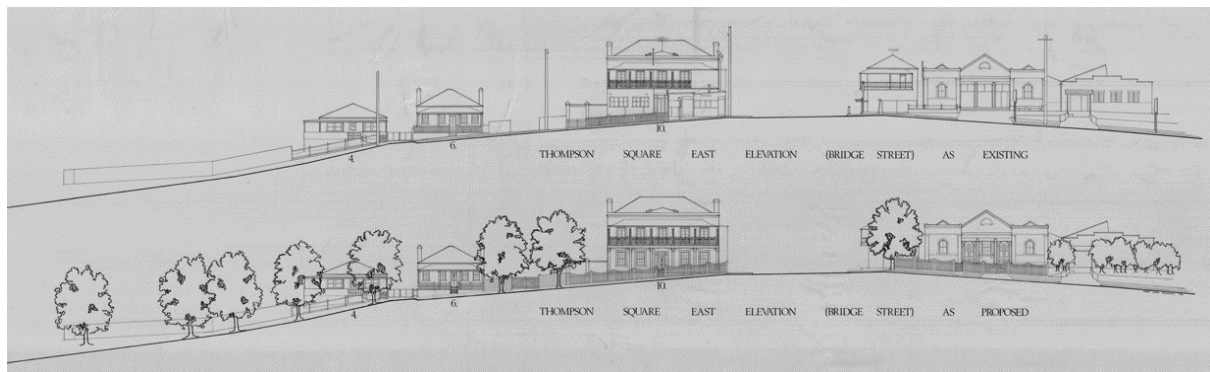


Figure 2. 34: Thompson Square restoration proposal for the Old Bridge Street buildings, dated 1975, by Fisher Lucas Architects. Source: LSJP archives

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 1804-06.¹⁶⁴

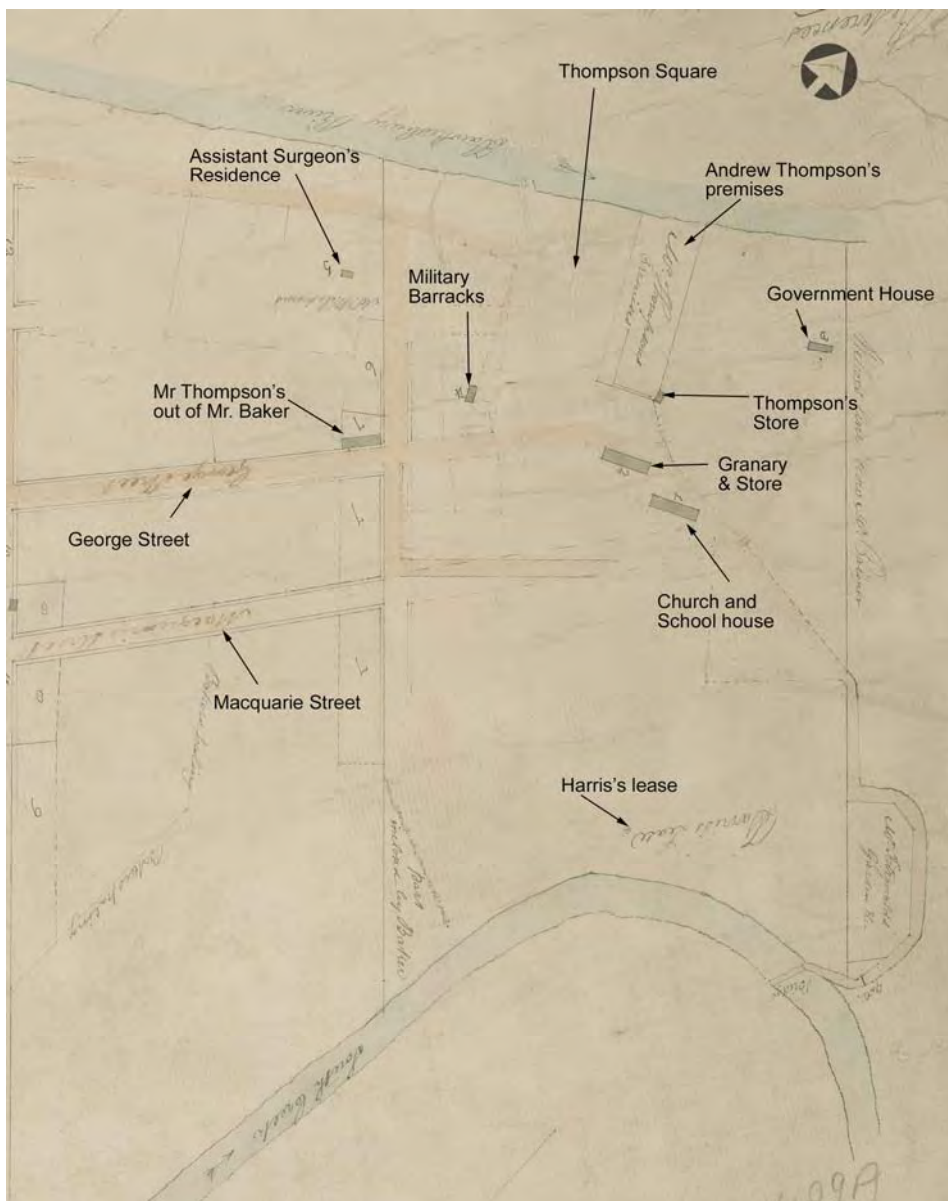


Figure 2. 35: James Meehan's 1811 town layout plan. Source: SA Map SZ529

¹⁶⁴ 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).¹⁶⁵

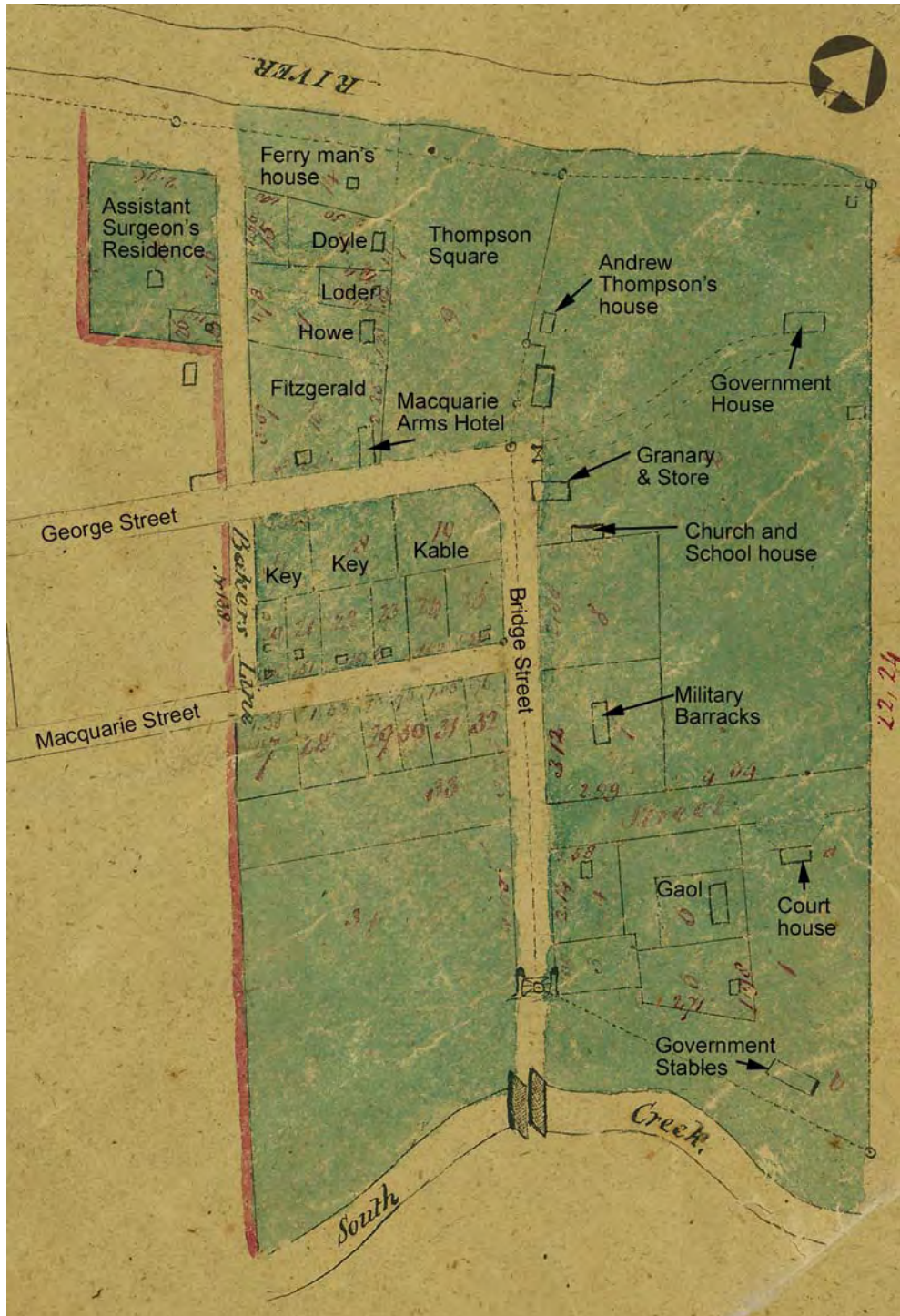


Figure 2. 36: Assistant Surveyor George Boyle White's 1827 survey providing details of landholdings. Source: SA Map SZ 523

¹⁶⁵ 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.¹⁶⁶



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

¹⁶⁶ 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.¹⁶⁷



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

¹⁶⁷ 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.¹⁶⁸



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

¹⁶⁸ 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.¹⁶⁹



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

¹⁶⁹ 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 1847.¹⁷⁰ The condition of the map suggests it may be an earlier version of the plan he eventually completed as the town design.¹⁷¹

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).¹⁷²



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

¹⁷⁰ 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

¹⁷¹ The Town Design map is W.443a and is dealt with below.

¹⁷² 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 1841.¹⁷³



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

¹⁷³ 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.¹⁷⁴ 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.¹⁷⁵ The other copy was handed in to the Registrar General by John Armstrong himself.¹⁷⁶ The version of the sale plan provided by Armstrong to the Registrar General now held by Land Registry Services has some differences.¹⁷⁷



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

¹⁷⁴ J Armstrong, CXXIII Building and 24 Cultivation Allotments comprising the Peninsular Farm adjoining the Town of Windsor to be sold by Auction 5th Feby 1842 by Laban White at Windsor, ML Map M2 811.11222/1842/1

¹⁷⁵ 28 (N), LRS

¹⁷⁶ 411 (A), LRS

¹⁷⁷ 411 (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.¹⁷⁸



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

¹⁷⁸ 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.¹⁷⁹



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

¹⁷⁹ 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.¹⁸⁰

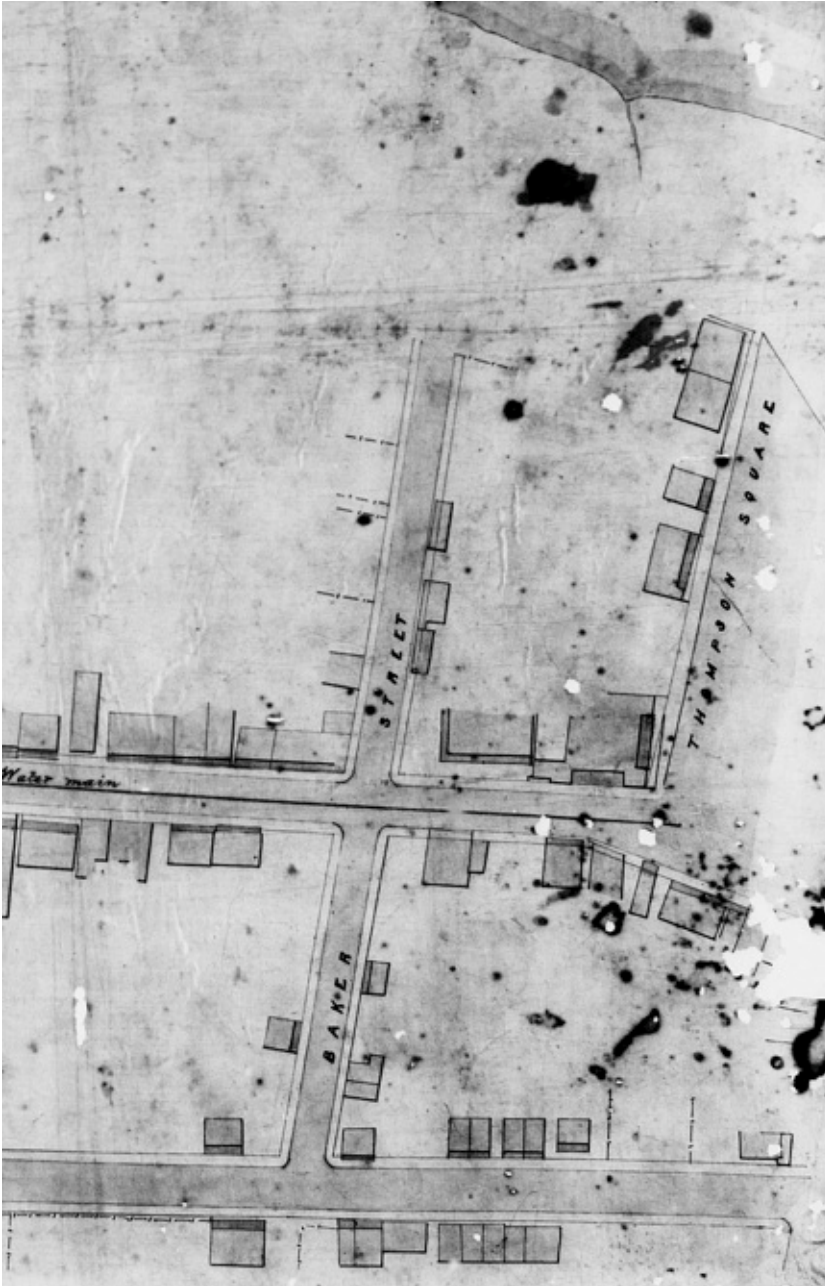


Figure 2. 47: Map of the proposed water supply for Windsor showing building footprints. Note also the location of the riverlet/creek still discernible on the river bank. Source: Proposed temporary water supply for Town of Windsor, c 1888, ML Map M4 811.11222ghhd/1888/1

¹⁸⁰ 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 1874.¹⁸¹



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

¹⁸¹ 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.¹⁸²

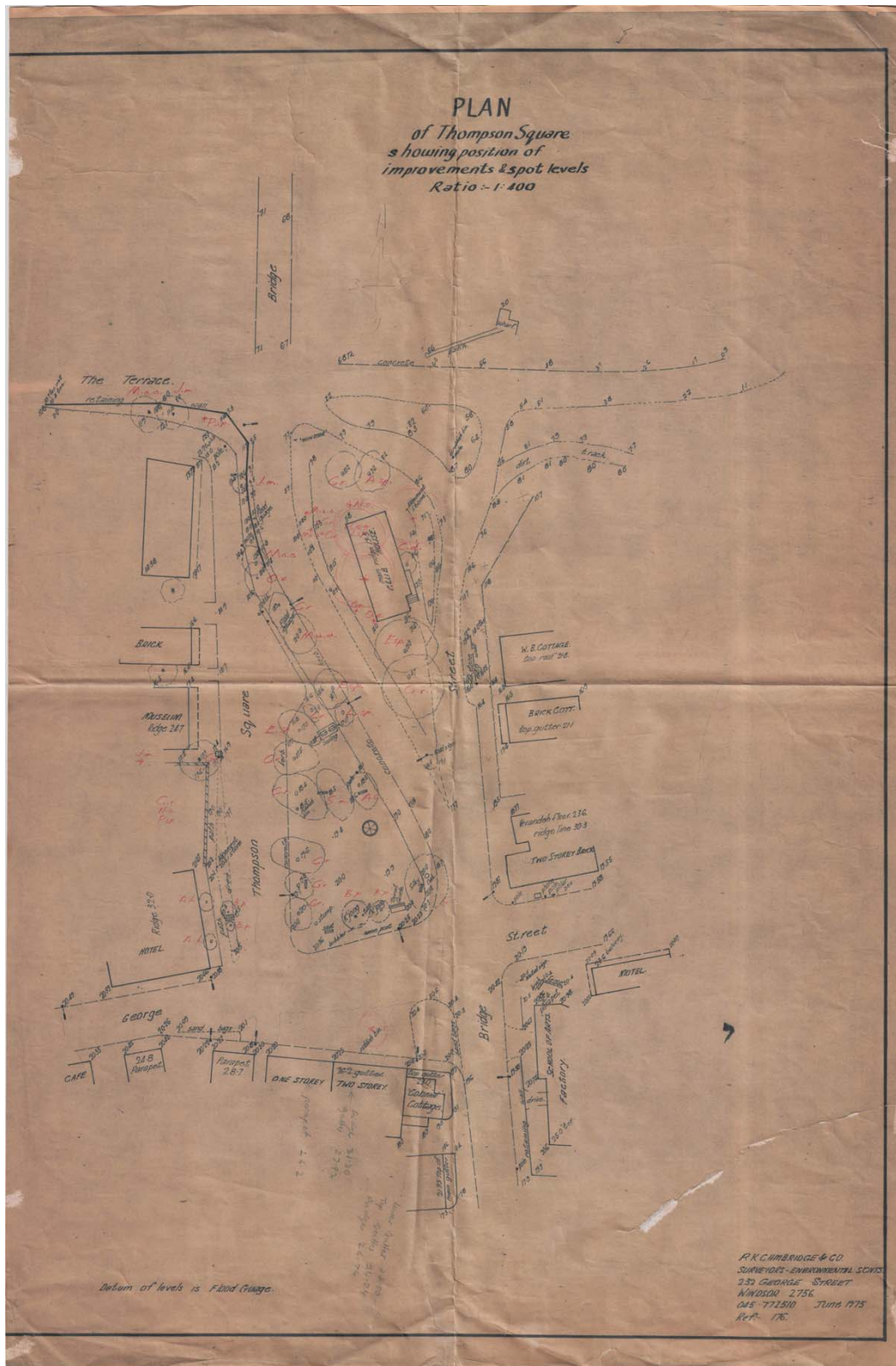


Figure 2. 50: This survey in June 1975 of Thompson Square by R K C Cambridge, surveyors showed partial building footprints and some planting detail. Source: LSJP archives

¹⁸² 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 1815.¹⁸³ 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.¹⁸⁴

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.

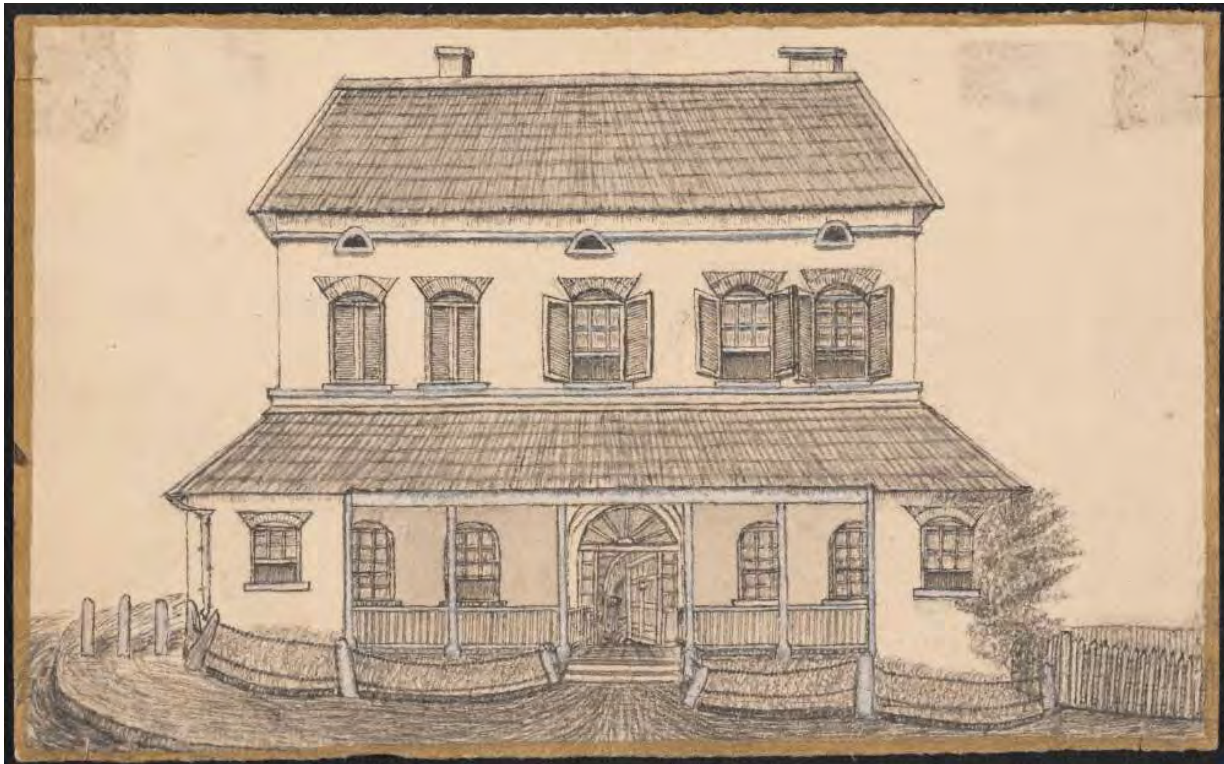


Figure 2. 51: The Macquarie Arms Hotel in 1842 when used as an officer's mess for the military. Source: E Palmer, Officer's Quarters, north front detached altogether from the main barrack, Windsor, New South Wales, July 29, 1842, NLA NK2036

¹⁸³ *Sydney Gazette*, 29 July 1815, p 2

¹⁸⁴ 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.'*¹⁸⁵ 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."*¹⁸⁶

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.¹⁸⁷

No. 5 Thompson Square

The dwelling on Loder's land (5 Thompson Square) was apparently built in the 1850s.¹⁸⁸ 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 1851.¹⁸⁹ 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

¹⁸⁵ Sydney Gazette, 31 Oct 1812, p 2

¹⁸⁶ Sydney Herald, 27 March 1837, p 2

¹⁸⁷ 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

¹⁸⁸ D G Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey: Up the Windsor Road from Baulkham Hills*, Library of Australian History, Sydney, 1986, p 88

¹⁸⁹ 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".*¹⁹⁰

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.¹⁹¹ It is notable that Maloney was shown as the holder of this land on Charles Scrivener's December 1894 survey of Thompson Square.¹⁹² 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.¹⁹³

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.¹⁹⁴

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.¹⁹⁵ Heydon had previously received a liquor licence in August 1813.¹⁹⁶ 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).¹⁹⁷ 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.

¹⁹⁰ SMH, 23 Dec 1857, p 7

¹⁹¹ OSD, No 53 Bk 54

¹⁹² Ms.1009.3000, Crown Plan

¹⁹³ NRS 17513, Land Titles Office, Real Property Application Packet, RPA 10716, SANSW

¹⁹⁴ J Armstrong, CXXIII Building and 24 Cultivation Allotments comprising the Peninsular Farm adjoining the Town of Windsor to be sold by Auction 5th Feby 1842 by Laban White at Windsor, M2 811.11222/1842/

¹⁹⁵ Recited in OSD, No 820 Bk 1119

¹⁹⁶ SG, 7 Aug 1813, p 2

¹⁹⁷ 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."*¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁸ 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.¹⁹⁹ 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 1922.²⁰⁰

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 1827.²⁰¹ 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).²⁰²

On 10 February 1830, Richard Charles Pritchett sold part of what was Lot 27 Section 7 to Richard Fitzgerald for £87/10/0.²⁰³ Fitzgerald sold that land to John Booth on 23 and 24 June 1830 for an unspecified sum.²⁰⁴ 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'.²⁰⁵ 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.²⁰⁶

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.

¹⁹⁹ Grants, Volume 53 No 108, LRS

²⁰⁰ CT 3354 f 28

²⁰¹ SA Map SZ526; SA Map 5968

²⁰² D G Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, pp 92-93

²⁰³ OSD, No 297 Bk C

²⁰⁴ OSD, No 509 Bk C

²⁰⁵ Statutory Declaration. Henry Moses, Potts Point, 2 Feb 1923, NRS 17513, Land Titles Office, Real Property Application Packet, No 24580, SANSW

²⁰⁶ 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.²⁰⁷

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 1995.²⁰⁸



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

²⁰⁷ 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

²⁰⁸ 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.²⁰⁹ 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.²¹⁰ In 1923, it was described as a two-storey shop and residence, with 3 rooms.²¹¹



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 1844.²¹² 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.²¹³

²⁰⁹ D G Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, p 94

²¹⁰ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 3 Aug 1907, p 11

²¹¹ Valuer-General, Valuation Cards, SANSW 13/7922

²¹² Grants, Volume 53 No 108, LRS

²¹³ 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.²¹⁴ 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.²¹⁵

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.²¹⁶

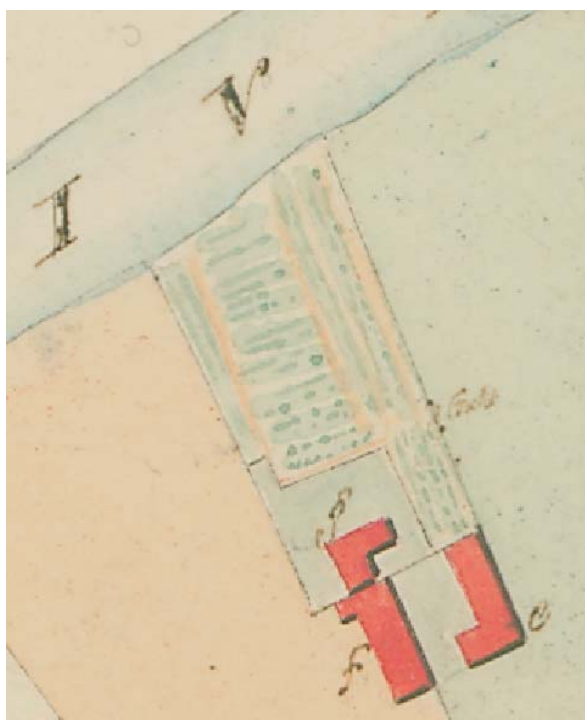


Figure 2. 57: Detail from Assistant Surveyor John Abbott's survey of 1831 showing Thompson's 1 acre lease and garden leading down to the river. The buildings shown are the Police Barracks, Prisoner's Barracks and Police Stables. Source: SA Map 1816#

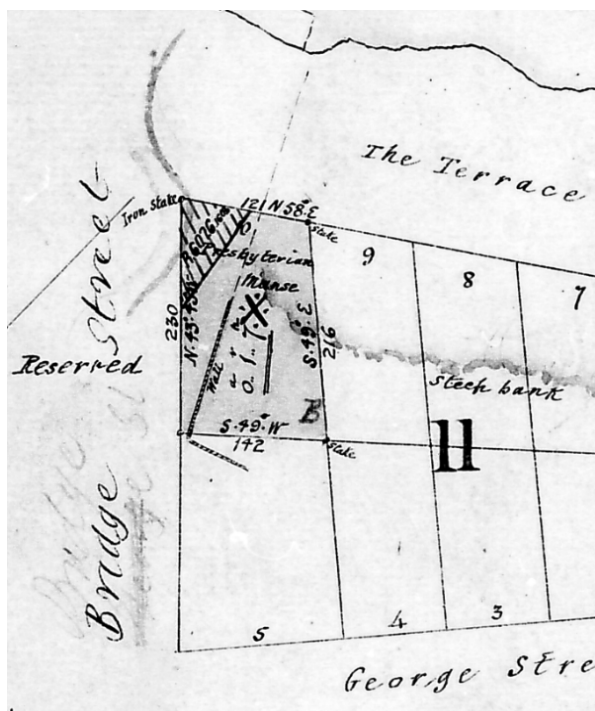


Figure 2. 58: Detail from William Shone's survey of the Presbyterian manse allotment. Source: SA Map 2161

²¹⁴ 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

²¹⁵ Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, p 44; SA Map 1816

216 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 1886.²¹⁷ On 15 January 1856, Joe Dransfield, Sydney, merchant, sold the northern part of Allotment 5 Section 11 to George Cunningham, farmer of Wilberforce for £147.²¹⁸ The building was shown as a brick building on Licensed Surveyor Robert Handcock's Street alignment survey of 23 June 1871.²¹⁹ Fuller's Directory of 1885 showed that it was occupied by Mrs E Hopkins.²²⁰ Mrs Hopkins was shown as the holder of this land on Charles Scrivener's December 1894 survey of Thompson Square.²²¹



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

²¹⁷ D G Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, p 90

²¹⁸ OSD, No 839 Bk 41

²¹⁹ W.1.1039, Crown Plan

²²⁰ *Fuller's County of Cumberland Directory*, Parramatta, 1885, p 195

²²¹ 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.²²² 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 1856.²²³ When he mortgaged that land plus lots 8 and 9 on 19th June 1860 for £2,500, there was a dwelling on the land, probably the dwelling at 10 Bridge Street.²²⁴ 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.”*²²⁵

The building was shown as a brick building on Licensed Surveyor Robert Handcock's Street alignment survey of 23 June 1871.²²⁶ The building was used as St Katherine's School for Young Ladies in the 1870s and as Windsor Grammar School in 1875.²²⁷ In 1923, it was a private hospital and was described as a two-storey brick building with ten rooms and a slate roof.²²⁸



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>

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²²² D G Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, p 91, “Windsor” *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6th February 1855, p. 5 and “Windsor” *Empire*, 2nd October 1857, p. 2

²²³ OSD, No 838 Bk 41

²²⁴ OSD, No 888 Bk 68

²²⁵ *SMH*, 27 June 1860, p 10

²²⁶ W.1.1039, Crown Plan

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

²²⁸ 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.²²⁹ 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.²³⁰

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.²³¹ The buildings were apparently removed shortly afterwards.

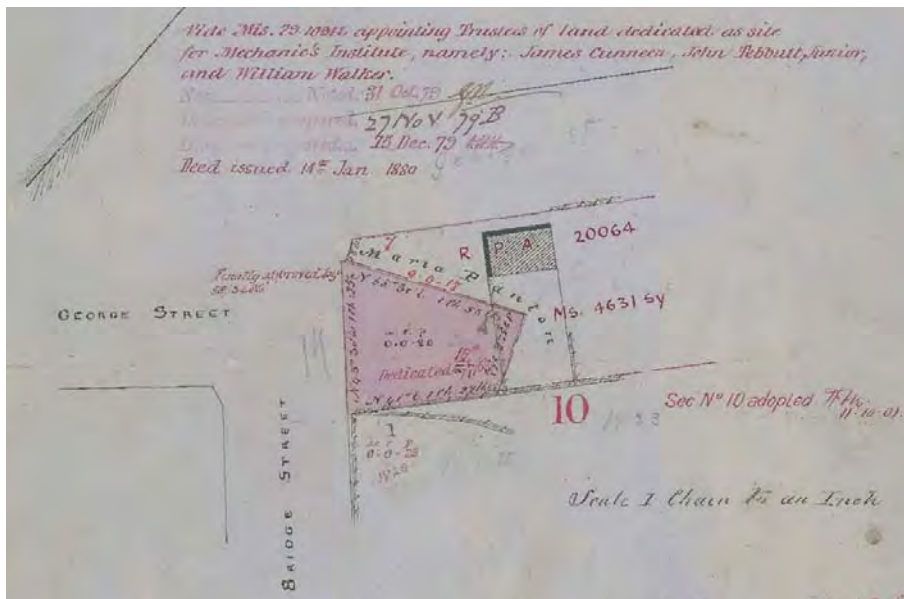


Figure 2. 62: Detail of Licensed Surveyor Charles Whitaker's survey of the land intended for a Mechanics Institute that became the School of Arts site. Source: W.28.873, Crown Plan



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

²²⁹ W.28.873, Crown Plan

²³⁰ W.22.873, Crown Plan

²³¹ LdsPW 56/935, Lands and Public Works, Letters Received, SA NSW 5/3565

The School of Arts was constructed on the site of the original government Commissariat Store building. It was erected in 1861 to cater for the recreational and social needs of the town. The site was formally dedicated for a School of Arts on 16 July 1863. It sheltered people driven from their homes during the great 1867 flood and served as the meeting place for Windsor Council from 1874 to 1876. The building was later extended and additional wings added and by December 1905, it was described as a hall capable of seating 300 people, built of brick with a galvanised iron roof. Apart from the main hall, there was a library and reading room 13 feet 9 inches by 21 feet 9 inches, plus a clubroom of the same dimensions, and a dressing or ante room 14 feet by 17 feet. A shed measuring 23 feet by 22 feet had been erected along the southern wall to serve as a billiard room. In 1947, it was sold to Enoch Taylor who operated a boot factory in the building until 1988.²³²

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.²³³

16-18 Bridge Street (now part of 52 George Street)

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.²³⁴ 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.²³⁵

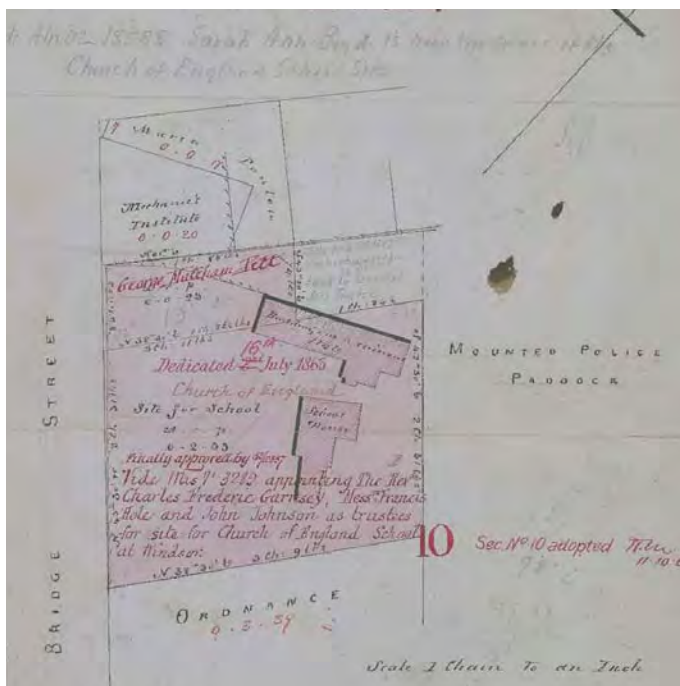


Figure 2. 64: Detail of Licensed Surveyor Charles Whitaker's survey of the proposed school allotment showed the earlier storehouses on the site. Source: W.29.873, Crown Plan

²³² W.28.873, Crown Plan; NSWGG, 16 Jul 1863, p 1548; D G Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, p 93; J Barkley & M Nichols, *Hawkesbury 1794-1994*, p 77, 122, 153; Colonial Secretary Correspondence, CS 08/33646, SANSW 5/7020

²³³ W.48.873, Crown Plan

²³⁴ W.29.873, Crown Plan

²³⁵ 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.²³⁶ On 8 March 1806, he was

²³⁶ Col Sec, Correspondence, SANSW, SZ989, pp 57-9; SZ756, p 201

granted the exclusive right for 14 years to charge tolls on that bridge.²³⁷ 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 c1814²³⁸ 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.²³⁹ The building appears to have been enlarged by 1835.²⁴⁰

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.²⁴¹ 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.²⁴² 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 29,901.²⁴³ 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).²⁴⁴

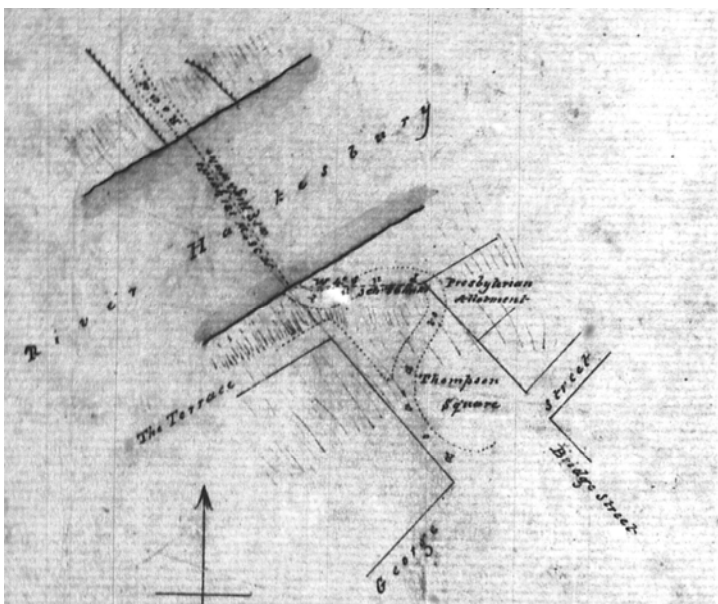


Figure 2. 66: Detail of sketch by Licensed Surveyor Charles Whitaker on 8 June 1854 showing the ferry across the river as well as the track leading to it across Thompson Square. Note also that the allotment that now contains No. 4 Old Bridge Street is annotated with "Presbyterian Allotment". Source: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

²³⁷ Grants, Volume 3, No 213, LRS

²³⁸ *Government Public Notice: The Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser*, 29 Oct 1814, p. 1

²³⁹ SA Map SZ526

²⁴⁰ SA Map 5268

²⁴¹ SB 7 f 8, SANSW

²⁴² *SMH*, 29 Dec 1855, p 3

²⁴³ *NSWGG*, 14 Oct 1899, p 7793

²⁴⁴ 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 1894.²⁴⁵



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.²⁴⁶ 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".²⁴⁷

²⁴⁵ R.6026.1603, Crown Plan

²⁴⁶ GPO 1 1879-1880

²⁴⁷ *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.²⁴⁸ It was gazetted on 18 May 1951.²⁴⁹

On 18 May 1951, the northern part (lower reserve) of the Square became Reserve 74215.²⁵⁰

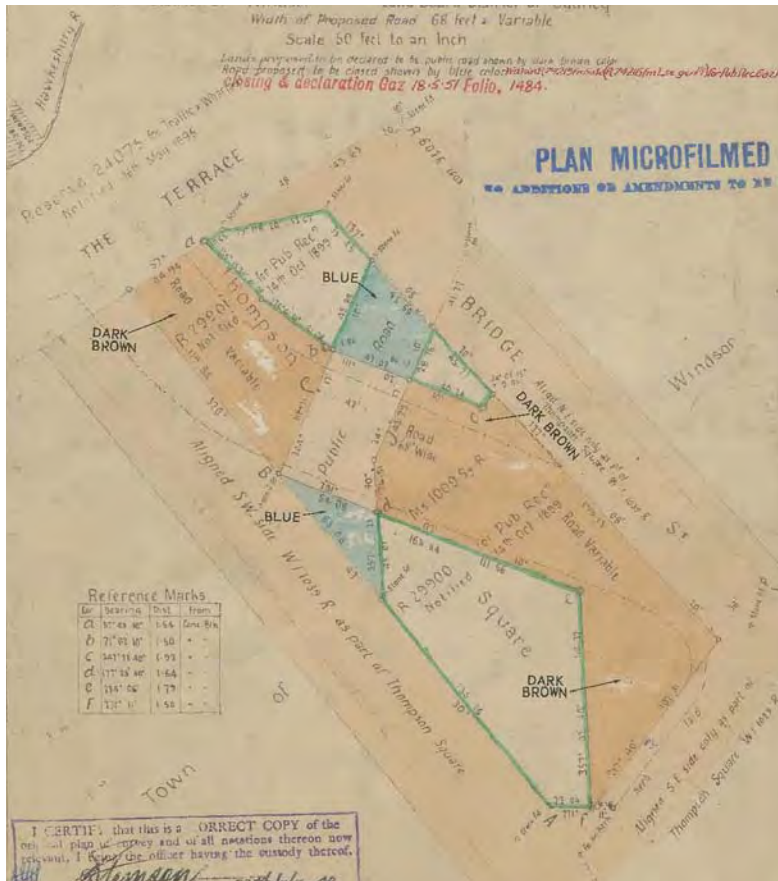


Figure 2. 69: The survey of the new line of road completed on 12 December 1946 by Licensed Surveyor Clarence E Seccombe showed the reserves. Source: R.23477.1603, Crown Plan

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.²⁵¹ 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.²⁵² Circuses had performed there as early as 1878.²⁵³ A summer house was constructed in Thompson Square in 1882 and removed around 1900.²⁵⁴

²⁴⁸ R.23477.1603, Crown Plan

²⁴⁹ NSWGG, 18 May 1951, p 1484

²⁵⁰ NSWGG, 18 May 1951, p 1497

²⁵¹ *Australian*, 7 Dec 1832, p 4

²⁵² *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 26 Jan 1895, p 3

²⁵³ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 28 May 1892, p 3

²⁵⁴ *Australian, Windsor, Richmond & Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 25 March 1882, p 2



Figure 2. 70: Late 19th 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 1896.²⁵⁵ 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 1899.²⁵⁶ The upper reserve of Thompson Square was leased to Dan Whyte, fish shop proprietor for a mini golf course from December 1930 to May 1932.²⁵⁷ That course was closed by May 1932.²⁵⁸

Early in 1949, the Upper Hawkesbury Power Boat Club opened a boathouse on the river.²⁵⁹ 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 1966.²⁶⁰ 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

²⁵⁵ NSWGG, 16 May 1896, p 3502

²⁵⁶ NSWGG, 14 Oct 1899, p 7793

²⁵⁷ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 12 December 1930, p 5

²⁵⁸ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 20 May 1932, p 8

²⁵⁹ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 3 March 1948, p 8; 3 Nov 1948, p 3

²⁶⁰ 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 20th 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 20th 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.²⁶¹ 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.²⁶²

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

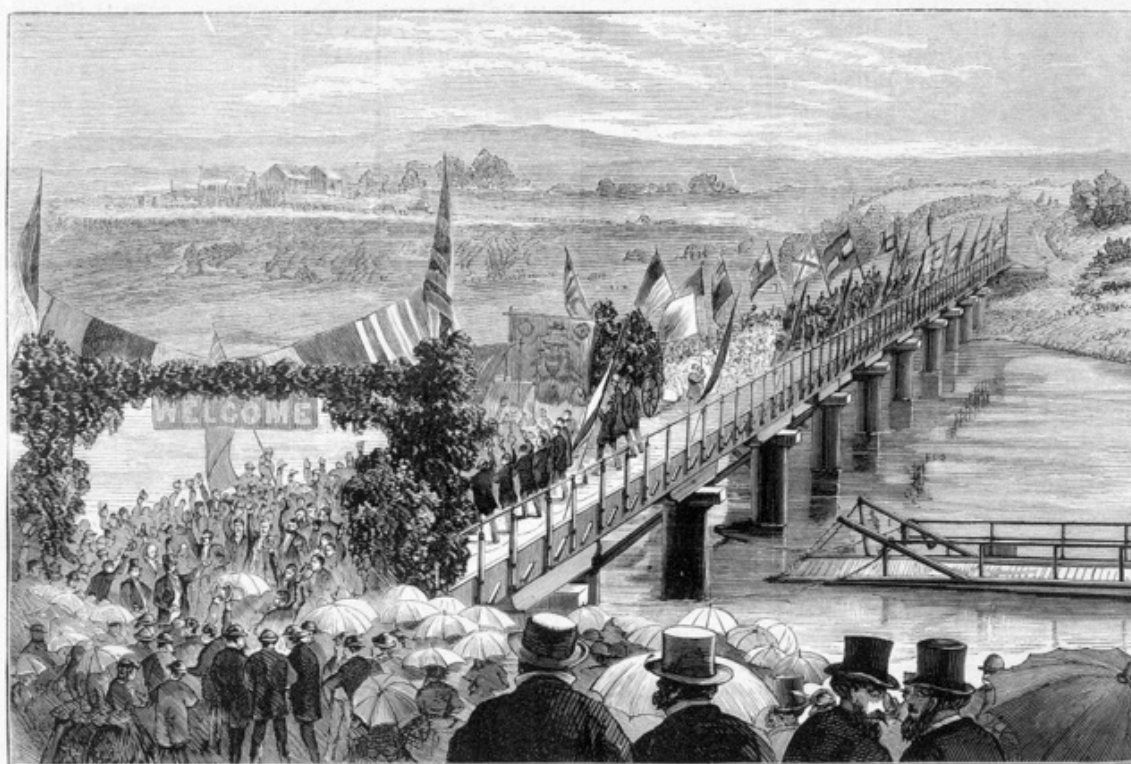
²⁶¹ "Home from War", *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 27th July 1901, p. 9

²⁶² "Hawkesbury's Homage", *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 29th 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 1871.²⁶³ 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.²⁶⁴

²⁶³ *Empire*, 12 August 1871, p 2; *SMH*, 3 April 1871, p 4

²⁶⁴ 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.²⁶⁵

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.²⁶⁶



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

²⁶⁵ D. G. Bowd, 1973, p. 29

²⁶⁶ 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.²⁶⁷ A photograph of 1911 showed the bridge in its new configuration.²⁶⁸ 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.²⁶⁹ 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 wharf²⁷⁰ and any discussion of its refurbishment did not eventuate until the 1930s.²⁷¹



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

²⁶⁷ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 3 April 1897, p 6

²⁶⁸ ML.SPF, PXA 2113, Box 74

²⁶⁹ 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

²⁷⁰ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 15th October 1920, p. 2

²⁷¹ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 27th 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 20th 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

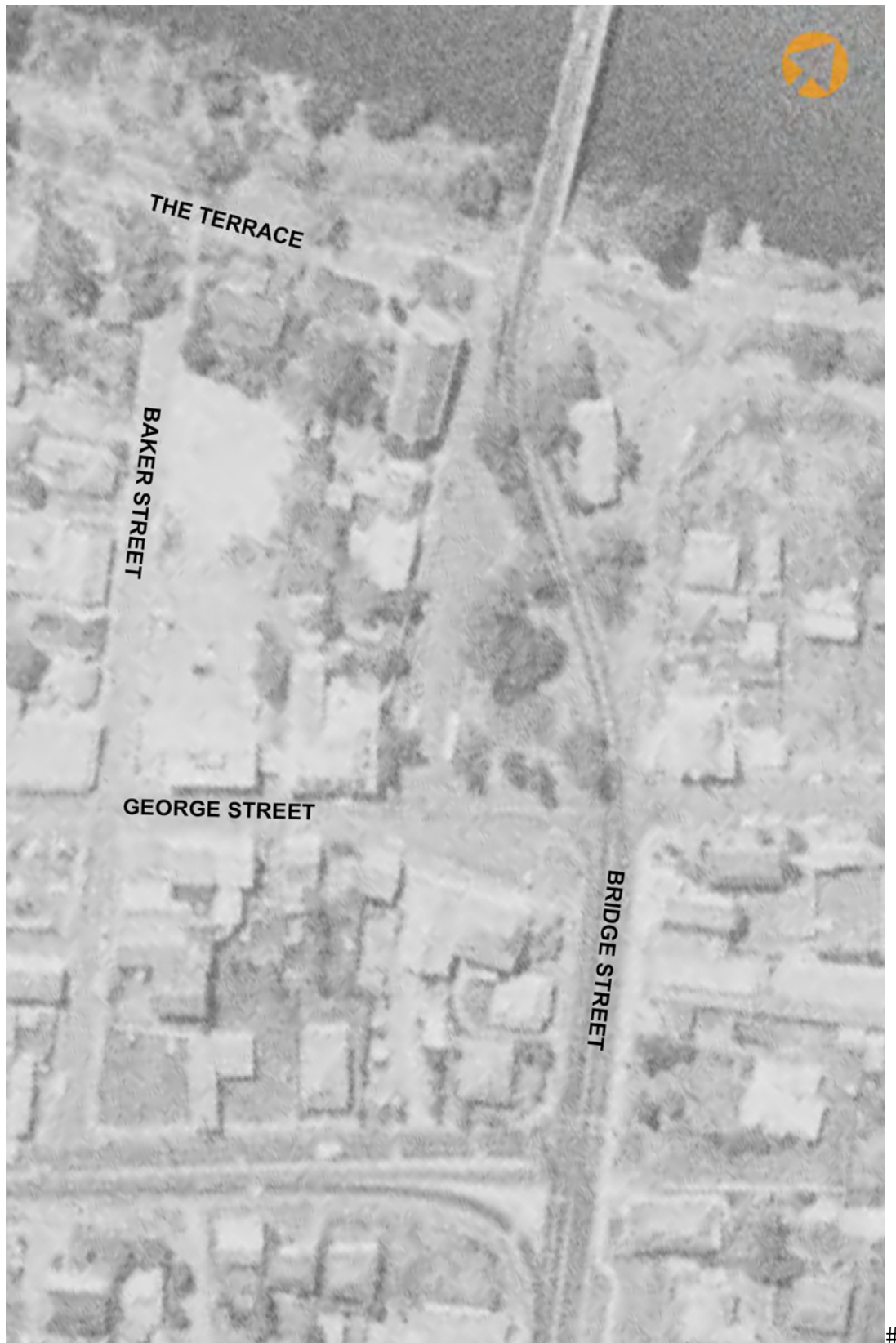


Figure 2. 85: 1979 aerial photograph. Source: NSW Spatial Services



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

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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 the Windsor between the Hawkesbury River (to the north) and South Creek (to the south).

The conservation area is centred around 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 20th 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.”¹

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

¹ 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 1992.² The 1867 flood was the highest-ever recorded flood when the river rose over 19.7 metres above AHD³ 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;⁴ however Nos. 4 and 6 Old Bridge Street are noted as being exposed to flooding in the 50-year event.

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

³ Australian Height Datum

⁴ Brewsher, 2012; *op cit*, p. 91

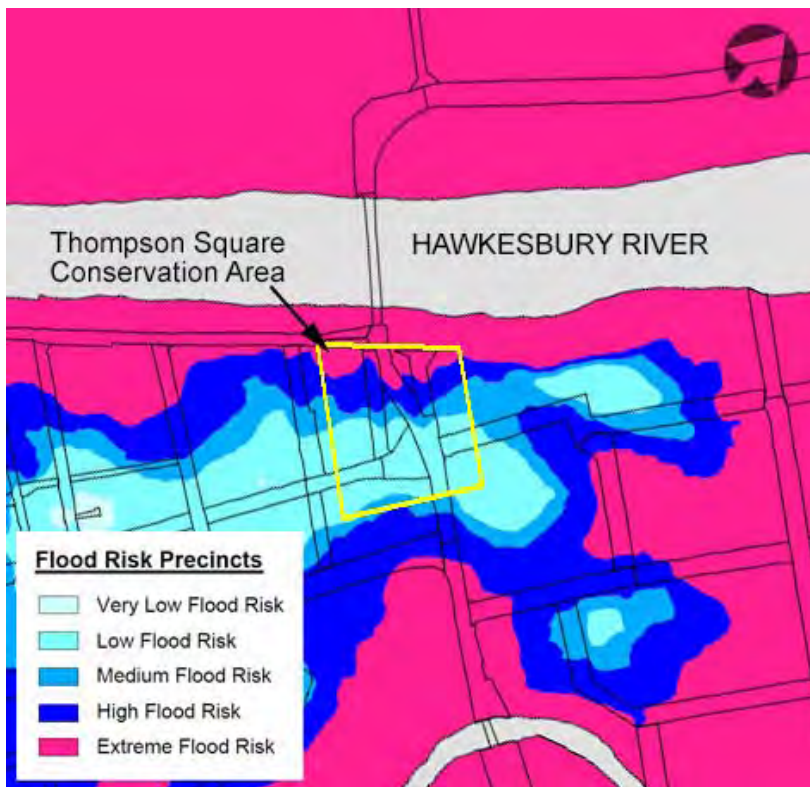


Figure 3. 3: Extract from Figure 3.3 Flood Risk Precincts showing the flood risk identified for the TSCA and surrounding areas. Source: *Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan*, 2012, p.91



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 18th 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 19th 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

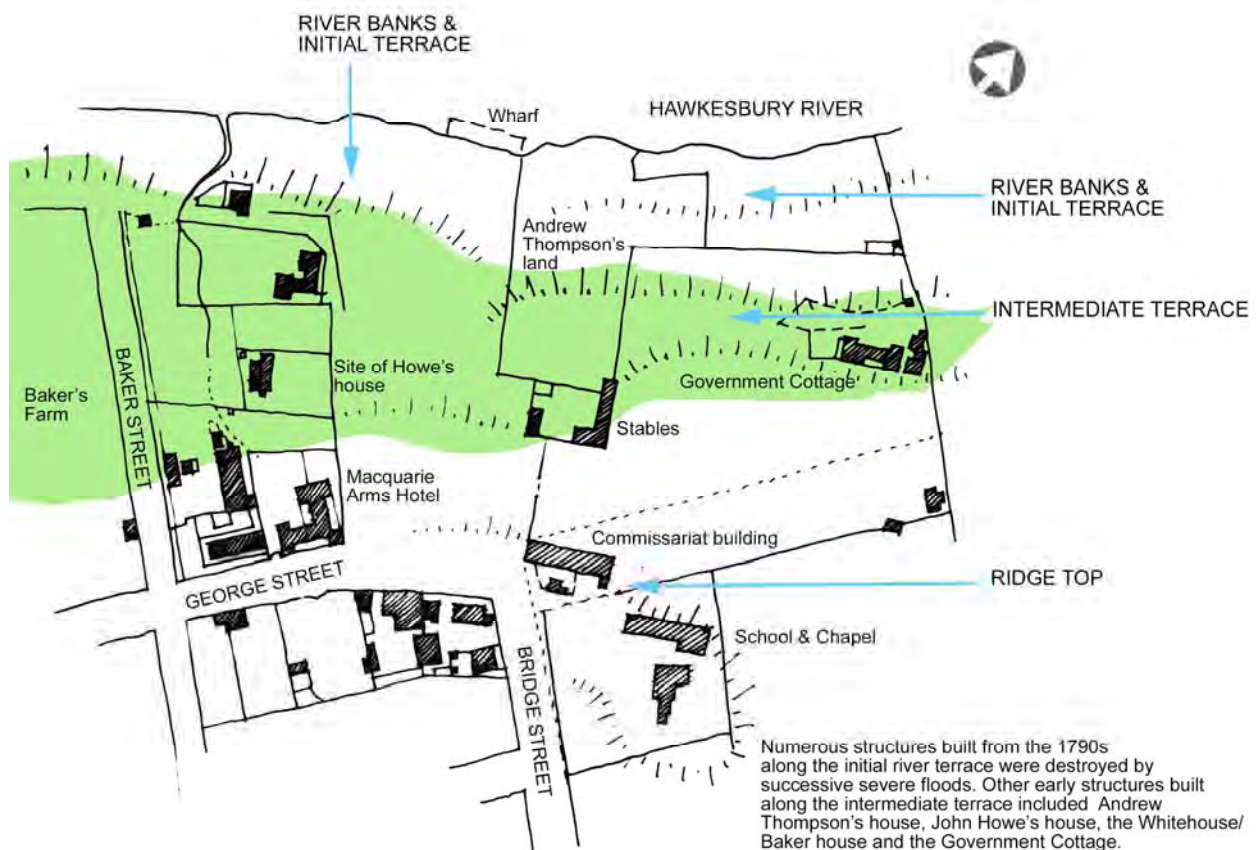


Figure 3. 7: Topographic Analysis of the TSCA prior to the 1934 road cutting. Diagram based on c.1848 William Shone survey & 1879 and c. 1888 photographs. Drawing base from the 1848 Shone survey. Prepared by G. Britton

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 19th and 20th 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).

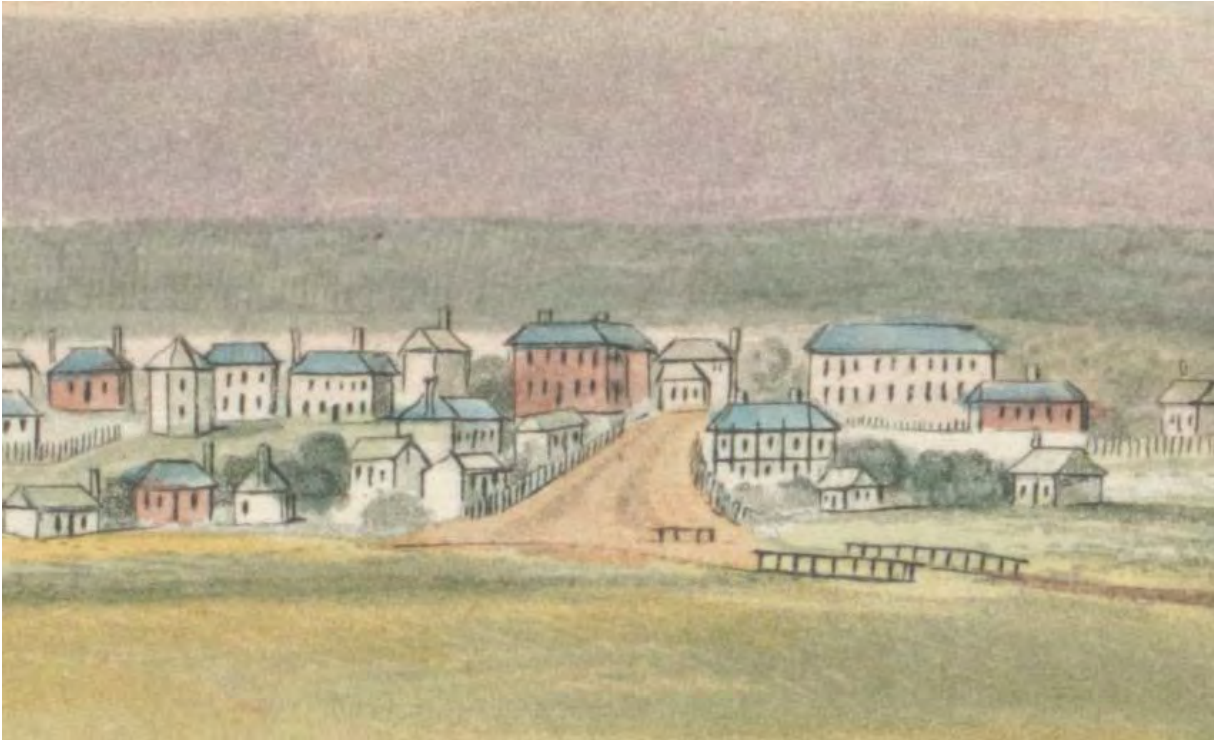


Figure 3. 12: Detail from J. Lycett's 1824 painting of Windsor as seen from the south from McGraths Hill. Source: SLVic, 50628979



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 19th century and into the 20th 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
Views within the TSCA	
V1	Mid to long range views in all directions from the intersection of Bridge Street and George Street. Includes historic view dating from the mid 19 th century to mid 20 th 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.
Views to the TSCA from surrounding areas	
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. Historic view 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.	Key historic view dating from 1809 (see G. Evans's painting Figure 2.14) and numerous photographs dating from the 19 th and early 20 th 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.
Views from the TSCA to the surrounding areas	
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.

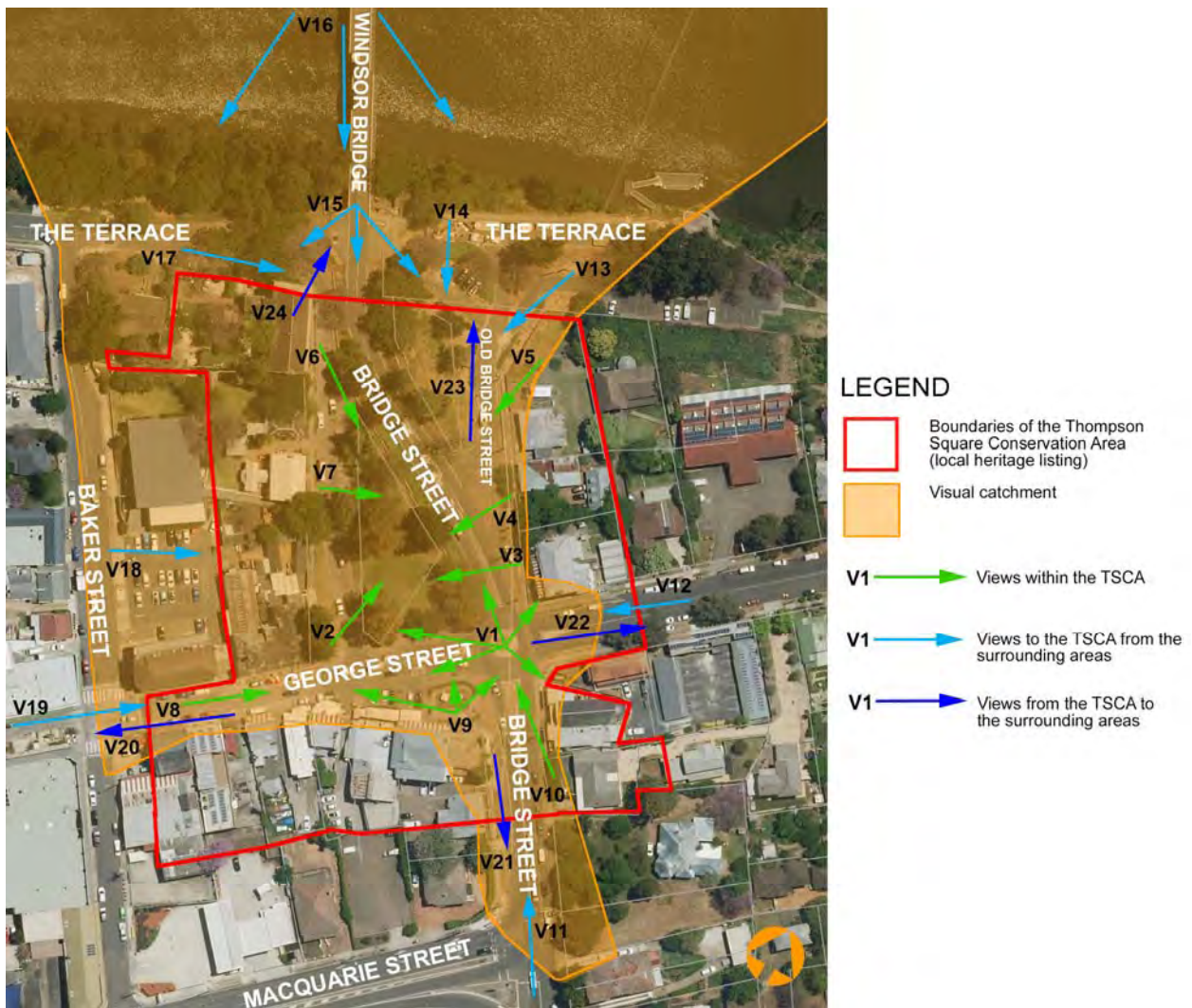


Figure 3. 16: Diagram identifying views to and from the TSCA and views within the boundaries of the TSCA.

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 2005-2007.⁵ 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 occupation of 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.⁶ 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*".⁷

However, results from data reanalysis at the former site suggest the original 40,000 year old dates may have been largely accurate after all.⁸ 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 for 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*⁹ 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.

⁵ Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd 2011

⁶ Attenbrow; 2012

⁷ Jo McDonald CHM; 2005

⁸ Stockton & Merriman; 2009

⁹ 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.¹⁰

The multi-stage investigation program resulted in the excavation of approximately 200 metres² 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.¹¹ 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.¹²

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 2009.¹³ The investigations were situated on an elevated and moderately steep ridge (~20m AHD) about 100m from the river.

¹⁰ AHMS Pty Ltd 2006, 2011, 2012; Williams et al. 2012

¹¹ AHMS 2011

¹² AAJV 2016:7

¹³ 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 ago¹⁴ 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).¹⁵ 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.

¹⁴ Ibid:152

¹⁵ 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 tuff¹⁶) 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 (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.¹⁷

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.¹⁸

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)¹⁹ and a separate document detailing excavation methods and research objectives proposed to guide future salvage.²⁰ 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/m²) 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.²¹ 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.

¹⁶ Tuff: Rock formed from solidified volcanic ash, which often is re-formed after the eruption and deposited elsewhere by water runoff.

¹⁷ KNC 2012:19

¹⁸ AAJV 2016:8

¹⁹ RMS, 2017; *Thompson Square Conservation Area Strategic CMP*, Vol 2:77-84

²⁰ AAJV 2017

²¹ 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 occupation between 27-18ka (onset and peak of the LGM²²) 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/m²). 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.

²² Last Glacial Maximum

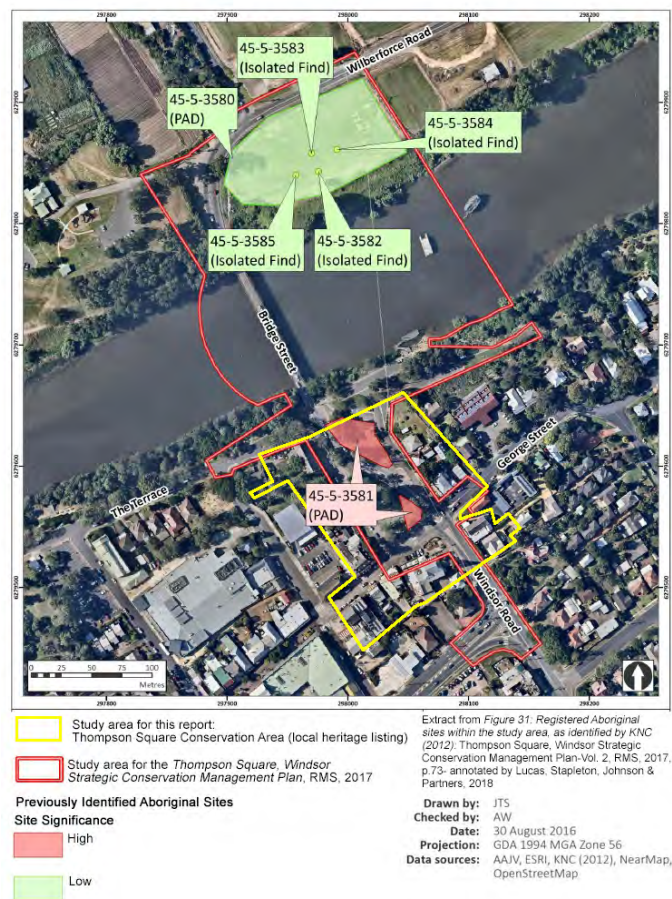


Figure 3. 38: Registered Aboriginal archaeological sites (after KNC 2012) within the TSCA in 2012.

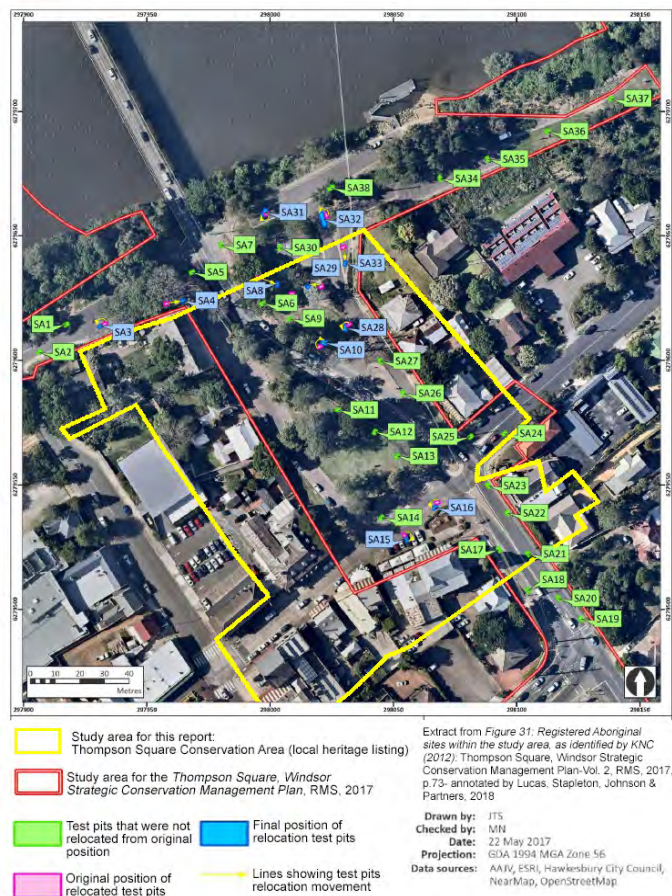


Figure 3. 39: Archaeological test square and geotechnical borehole locations within the TSCA

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 during the earliest periods of occupation of the region possibly 40,000 years or more and including use of the place during the LGM (24-18,000 years BP) that was a period of significant climatic variability and change. These sand deposits in Thompson Square also contained glass artefacts that are tangible evidence of post 1788 interracial interactions at Windsor that add to the story from the historical records.



Figure 3. 40: Archaeological landscapes within the study area, based on the 2016 test excavation

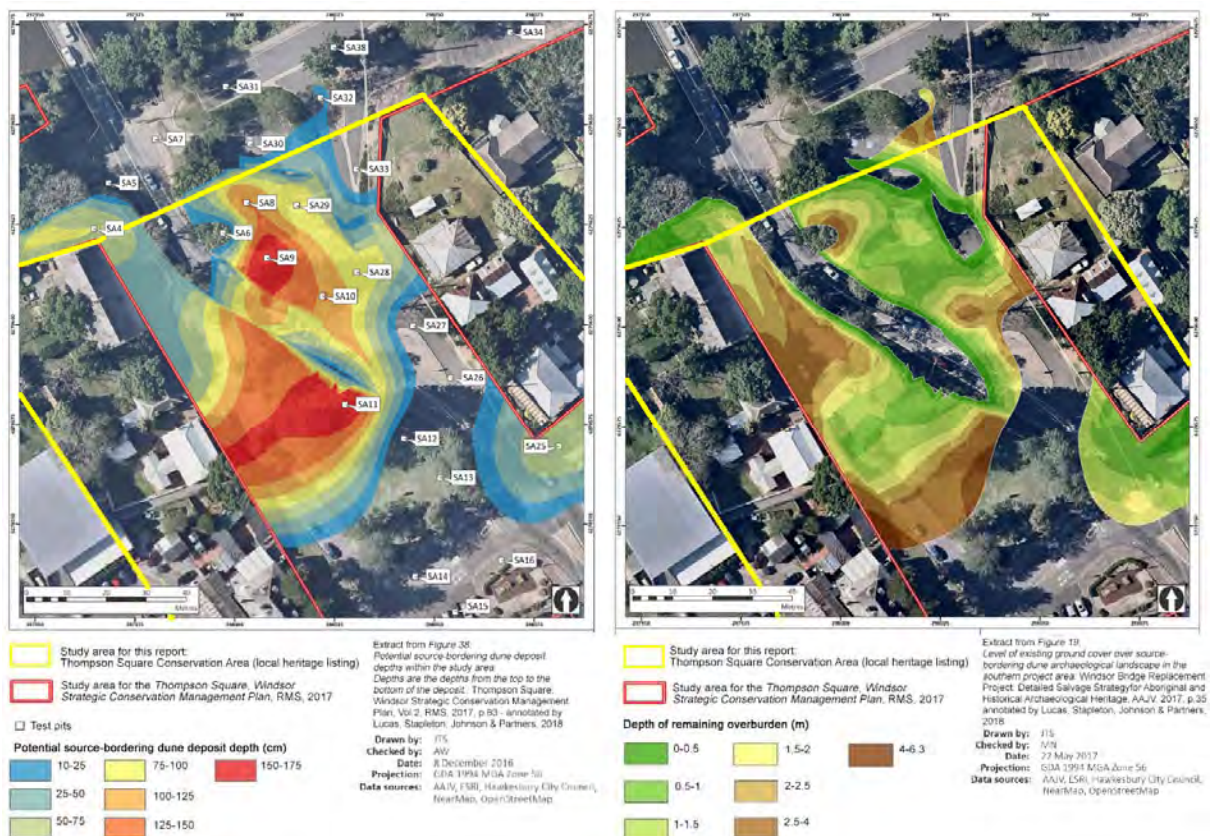


Figure 3.41: Potential source-bordering dune deposit depths (left) and existing ground cover over this archaeological landscape (right). Depths are from the top to the bottom of the deposit.

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,²³ 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 1986.²⁴
- *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.

²³ 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.

²⁴ 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,²⁵ as well as a focused area in the exterior yard.²⁶ The house itself, the former home of John Howe, was likely constructed in the 1820s and 1830s,²⁷ 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.²⁸ The basement walls were built of sandstone rubble and blocks, with dividing walls lined or constructed with sandstock bricks.²⁹ The walls were predominantly plastered with shell-lime plaster and then whitewashed.³⁰ 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.³¹ 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.³² 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.³³

Excavations within the yard revealed a sequence of deposits including: several structural elements related to the 1860s alterations of the property;³⁴ a series of rubbish pits dating c1780–1840;³⁵ various pits, postholes, and possible yard surfaces,³⁶ and a sequence of timber outbuildings dating to c1820.³⁷ 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.³⁸

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.³⁹ 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.

²⁵ Higginbotham 1986b.

²⁶ As determined by the proposed location of the Hawkesbury Museum extensions, Higginbotham 1993.

²⁷ Higginbotham 1986b, pp. 6, 12ff.

²⁸ Higginbotham 1986b, p. 14.

²⁹ Higginbotham 1986b, p. 15.

³⁰ Although the hall wall was whitewashed without plaster, Higginbotham 1986b, p. 16.

³¹ Higginbotham 1986b, p. 16.

³² Higginbotham 1986b, pp. 17–21.

³³ Higginbotham 1986b, p. 21.

³⁴ Higginbotham 1993, p. 11.

³⁵ Higginbotham 1993, p. 12.

³⁶ Higginbotham 1993, pp. 12–13.

³⁷ Higginbotham 1993, p. 14.

³⁸ Higginbotham 1993, p. 50.

³⁹ Thorp 2002, p. 20.

The earliest feature identified is that of the c1819 boundary wall,⁴⁰ 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.⁴¹
- A brick-lined cesspit at the junction of the hotel boundary wall and internal wall, to the west of the internal wall.⁴²
- A timber structure, possibly related to the subsequent property division in 1865.⁴³
- A box drain at the junction with the boundary wall and internal wall, to the east.⁴⁴
- A timber drain, to the east of the internal wall.⁴⁵
- A sandstock-brick structure (cesspit), associated with the Macquarie Arms Hotel.⁴⁶
- A discrete area of sandstock-brick paving, dating to c1850, although likely constructed on an earlier (similar) structure.⁴⁷

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,⁴⁸ 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,⁴⁹ 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 Excavations⁵⁰

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.)⁵¹ suggest the area was in use from perhaps as early as c.1800, and certainly by 1830.⁵² 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

⁴⁰ Thorp 2004, p. 32.

⁴¹ Thorp 2004, pp. 32-33

⁴² Thorp 2004, p. 27-28.

⁴³ Thorp 2004, p. 27.

⁴⁴ Thorp 2004, p. 30.

⁴⁵ Thorp 2004.

⁴⁶ Thorp 2004, pp. 30, 35.

⁴⁷ Thorp 2004, pp. 29, 35.

⁴⁸ Thorp 2004, p. 32.

⁴⁹ <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].

⁵⁰ BIOSIS/CRM 2012, Appendix 3.

⁵¹ BIOSIS/CRM 2012, Appendix 3, p. 13.

⁵² BIOSIS/CRM 2012, pp. 214-215, Appendix 3, pp. 11-13, 17.

1860s-1870s service pipe in Trench 1,⁵³ 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 2.⁵⁴ The upper deposits were noticeably truncated by the subsequent construction and roadworks here throughout the 20th century.⁵⁵

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.⁵⁶ 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.⁵⁷ Historical archaeological evidence was also recovered during testing for Aboriginal archaeology.⁵⁸ 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:⁵⁹

- Brick footings related to the c1815-1820 entry gate and compound wall of the Government domain.⁶⁰
- Evidence of a fenceline situated along the Terrace and identifiable as part of the western wall of Thompson's former premises.⁶¹
- 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.⁶²
- Yard deposits and features associated with the Punt House.⁶³
- Evidence for early cultivation in the area, including modified topsoils.⁶⁴
- Previous roadways / paths, including a 19th-century cobblestone path or road surface,⁶⁵ a Telford-type sandstone road base,⁶⁶ and evidence for a roadway possibly built during the construction of the bridge in 1874.⁶⁷

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,⁶⁸ and artefacts recovered from two Test Trenches were dated to the mid-19th century.⁶⁹

⁵³ BISOS/CRM 2012, p. 215.

⁵⁴ BISOS/CRM 2012, p. 216.

⁵⁵ BISOS/CRM 2012, pp. 215-216.

⁵⁶ AAJV May 2017a, p. 85.

⁵⁷ AAJV May 2017a, p. 87.

⁵⁸ AAJV May 2017a, p. 8, Fig. 44. Note these trenches are not marked on the above Figure 3.42

⁵⁹ AAJV November 2017, pp. 22-23.

⁶⁰ Situated at the junction of George and Bridge Streets, AAJV May 2017c, p. 78, Figs. 52, 53.

⁶¹ AAJV May 2017c, p. 60.

⁶² AAJV May 2017c, pp. 81-82, Figs. 54, 55.

⁶³ AAJV May 2017c, pp. 64-67, Figs. 40, 41.

⁶⁴ AAJV May 2017c, p. 77, Fig. 51. See also the evidence on the north side of the Hawkesbury, p. 96, Fig. 68.

⁶⁵ AAJV May 2017c, p. 88, Figs. 61, 62.

⁶⁶ AAJV May 2017c, pp. 72-76, Figs. 46-50.

⁶⁷ AAJV May 2017c, p. 46, Fig. 23.

⁶⁸ AAJV May 2017a, p. 92.

⁶⁹ 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.⁷⁰ The barracks belong to the Macquarie era, and were constructed between 1818 and 1842.⁷¹ 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.⁷² 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.⁷³ The majority of the artefacts had been subject to considerable modern disturbance and therefore lacked clear stratigraphic information.⁷⁴ Nonetheless those that were datable were predominately c.1830s-1880s.⁷⁵

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*).⁷⁶ 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.⁷⁷ In places near the river, this latter species has reappeared though probably by way of recent plantings.

The early 19th 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.

⁷⁰ Holmes 1977; 1979.

⁷¹ Holmes 1979., p. 24.

⁷² Holmes 1977, pp. 15-17.

⁷³ Holmes 1979., p. 21.

⁷⁴ Holmes 1979., p. 23.

⁷⁵ Holmes 1979., p. 24.

⁷⁶ Doug Benson and Jocelyn Howell, *Taken for Granted: The Bushland of Sydney and its Suburbs*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, 1990 p.77

⁷⁷ 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*”.⁷⁸

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*”.⁷⁹



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 20th 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).

⁷⁸ *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

⁷⁹ *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 20th 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: The Hoop pine 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.

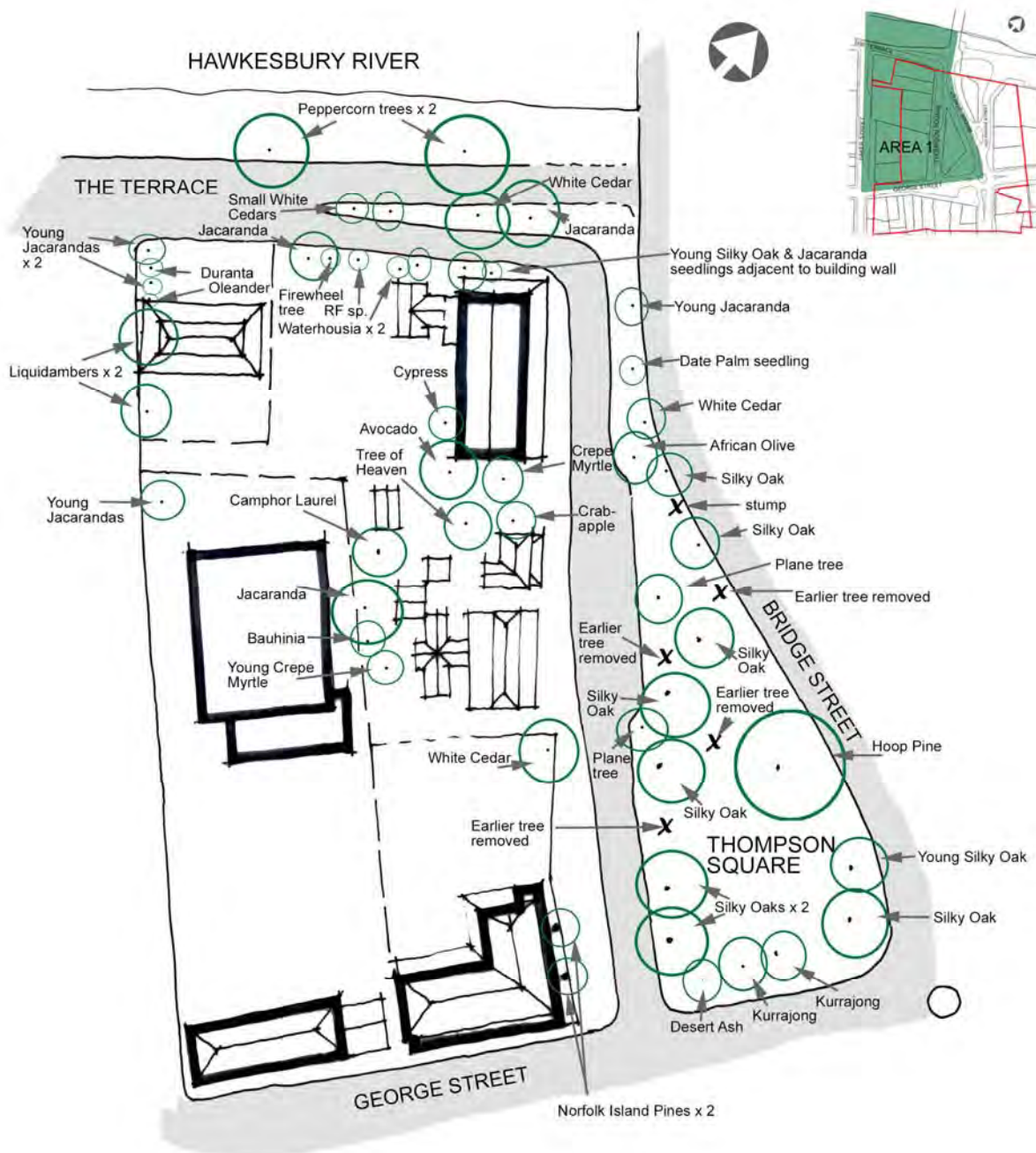


Figure 3. 50: Area 1 (north-west section of the TSCA) Vegetation (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018

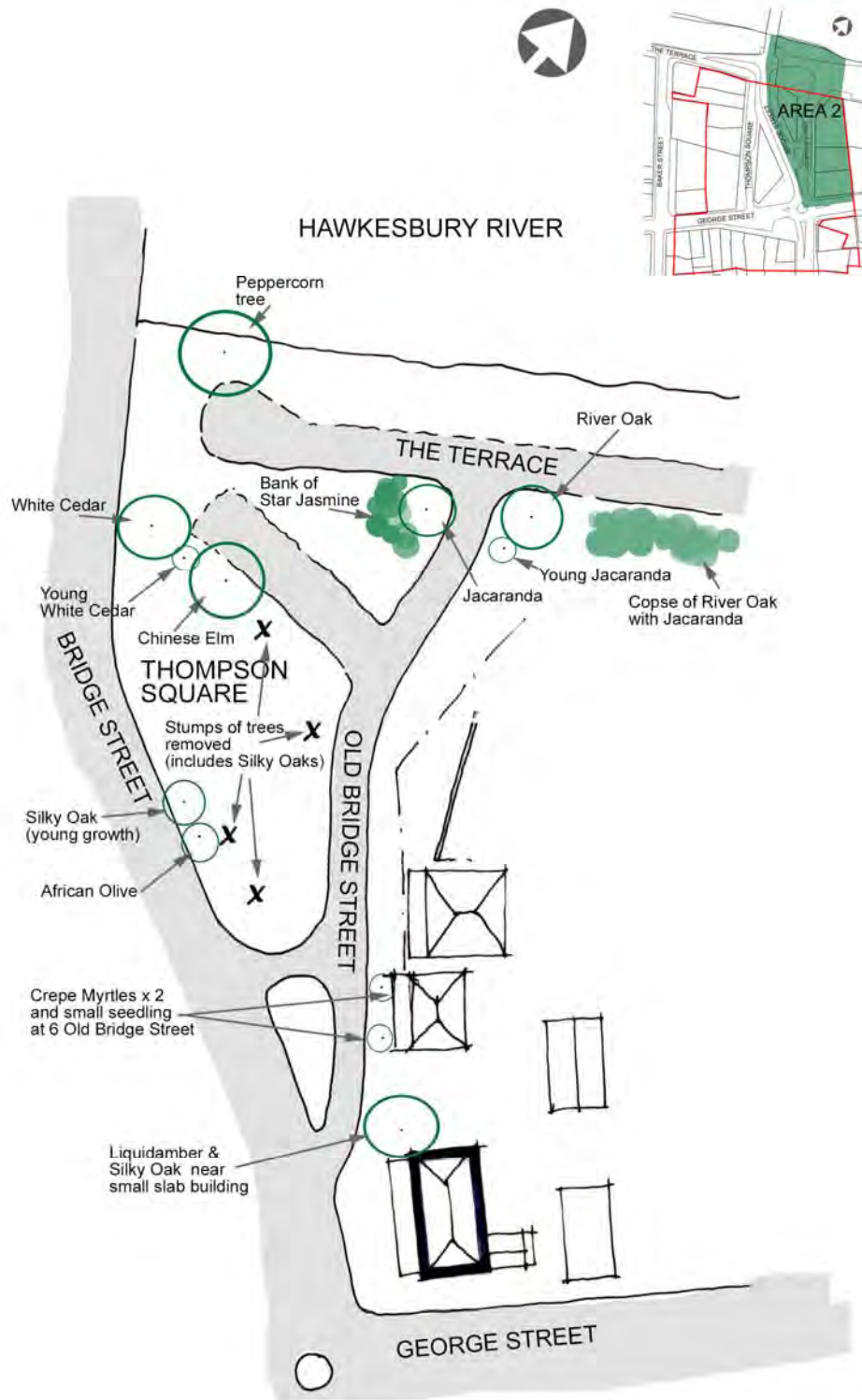


Figure 3. 51: Area 2 (north-east section of the TSCA) Vegetation (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018



Figure 3. 52: Area 3 (south-east section of the TSCA) Vegetation (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018

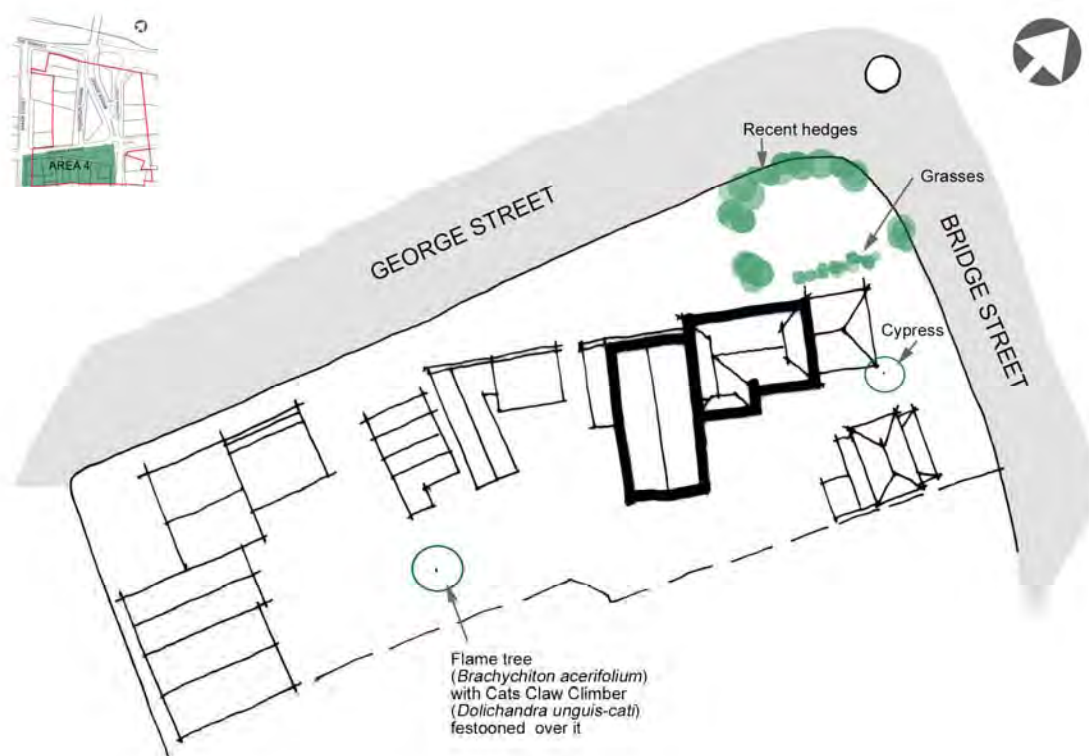


Figure 3. 53: Area 4 (south-west section of the TSCA) Vegetation (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography (Geoffrey Britton, 2018)

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 20th century. The park has also served as the location for a range of community based events from the late 19th century to date including the 150th 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 Scheme 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 four 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.⁸⁰

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.

⁸⁰ Advertising; *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Thursday 5th 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 east 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 east 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 east river bank.



Figure 3.77: Signage for the Hawkesbury Artist's Trail located on the west 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 19th 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 19th 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 18th century as part of the initial European settlement of Windsor (refer to Section 2.2).⁸¹ 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.”*⁸²

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 19th 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

⁸¹ 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.

⁸² 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-19th 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 19th century buildings as well as 20th 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 20th 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 19th 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.

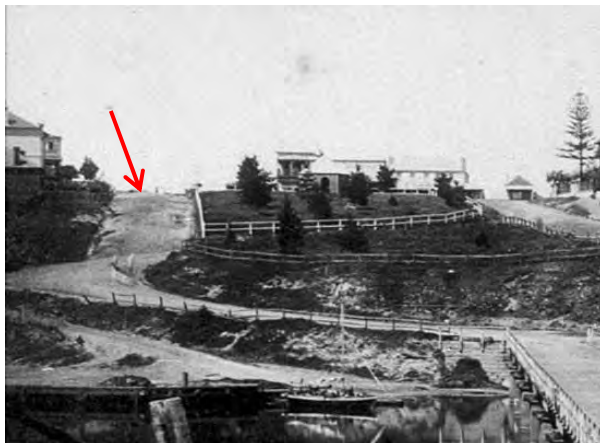


Figure 3. 96: Detail from c1888 photograph of Thompson Square showing what is now Old Bridge Street (indicated with an arrow). Source: SLNSW T Square undated At work and play 04405

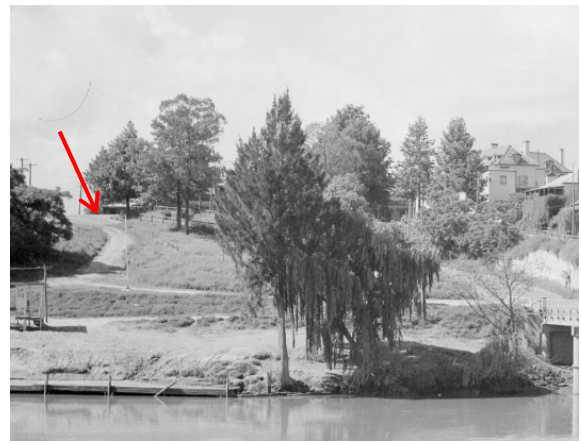


Figure 3. 97: Detail from c1935 photograph by E.W. Searle showing what is now Old Bridge Street (indicated with an arrow). Source: NLA, PIC P838_1419 LOC Cold store SEA Box 11



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)⁸³ is a one-way road leading from George Street northwest toward The Terrace and defines the eastern boundary of the north open space of Thompson Square. The street continues eastward 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).

⁸³ Notice: "Naming or Altering Names of Roads"; *Government Gazette of the State of NSW*, Friday 6th 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 western 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 eastern 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 19th century in character given the date of the buildings fronting the eastern 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 Hoop pine.



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.

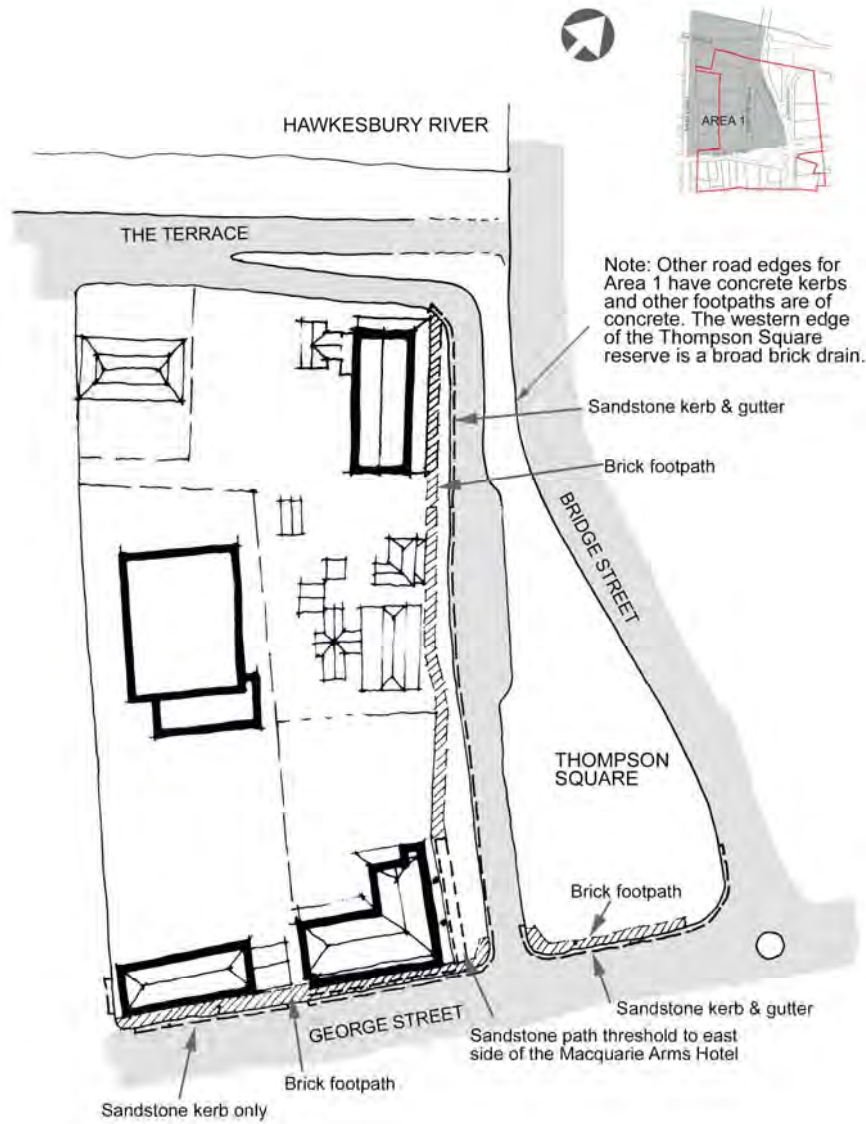


Figure 3. 117: Area 1 (north-west section of the TSCA) Edges & Paths (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018

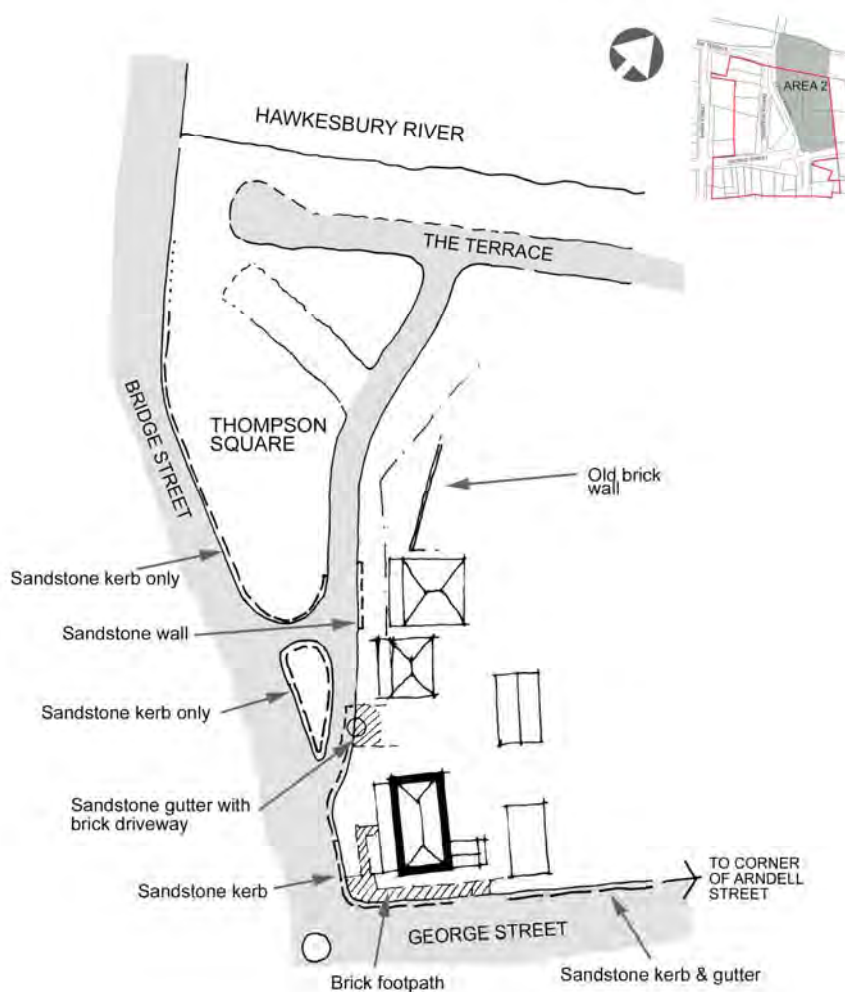


Figure 3.118: Area 1 (north-east section of the TSCA) Edges & Paths (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018

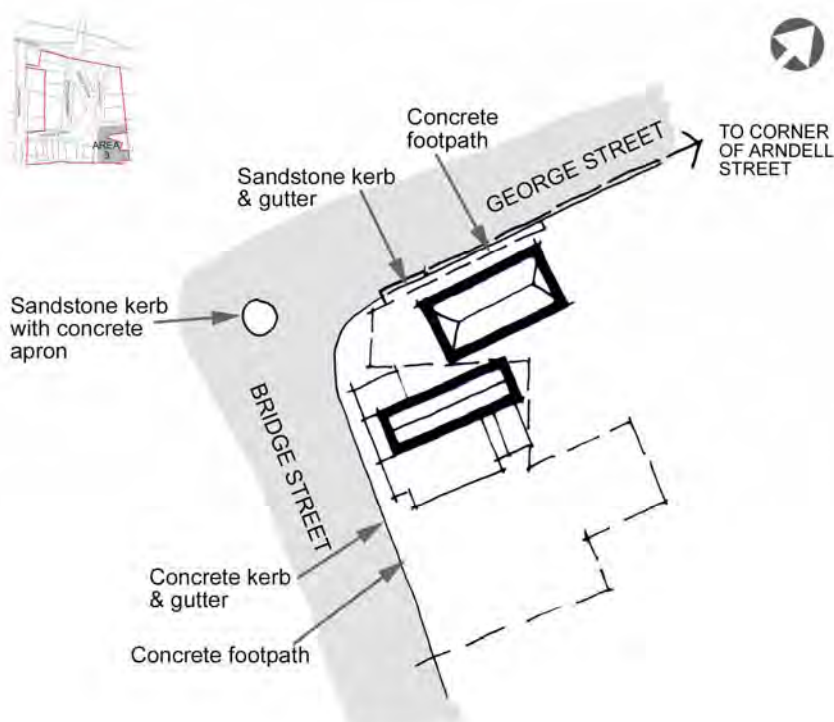


Figure 3.119: Area 3 (south-east section of the TSCA) Edges & Paths (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018

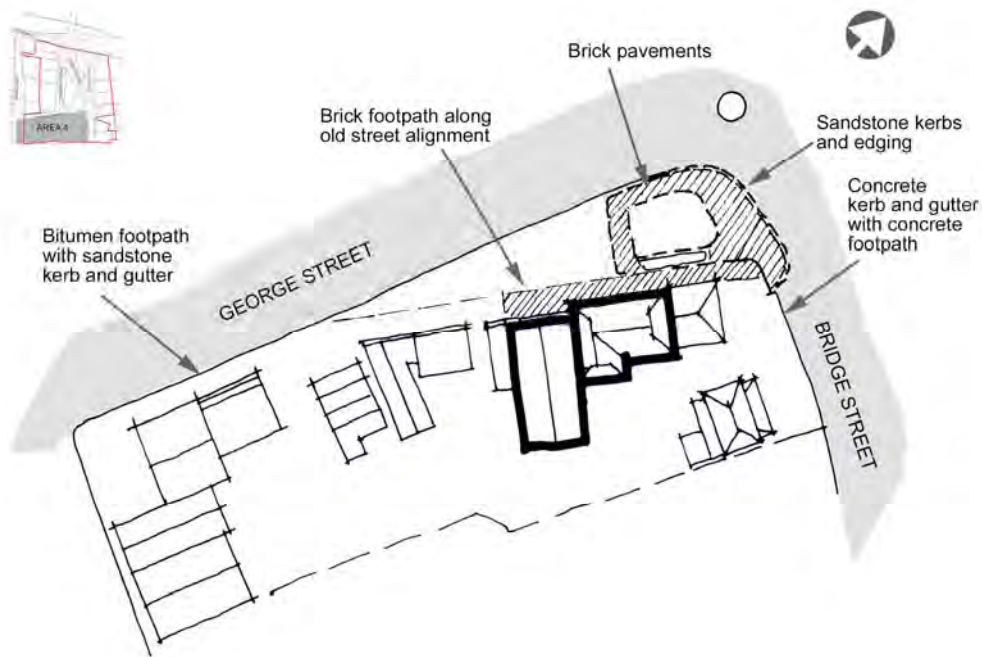


Figure 3. 120: Area 4 (south-west section of the TSCA) Edges & Paths (2018). Drawing base from current aerial photography. Prepared by Geoffrey Britton, 2018

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 east 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 is a single timber and metal bench 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 19th 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 20th 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.

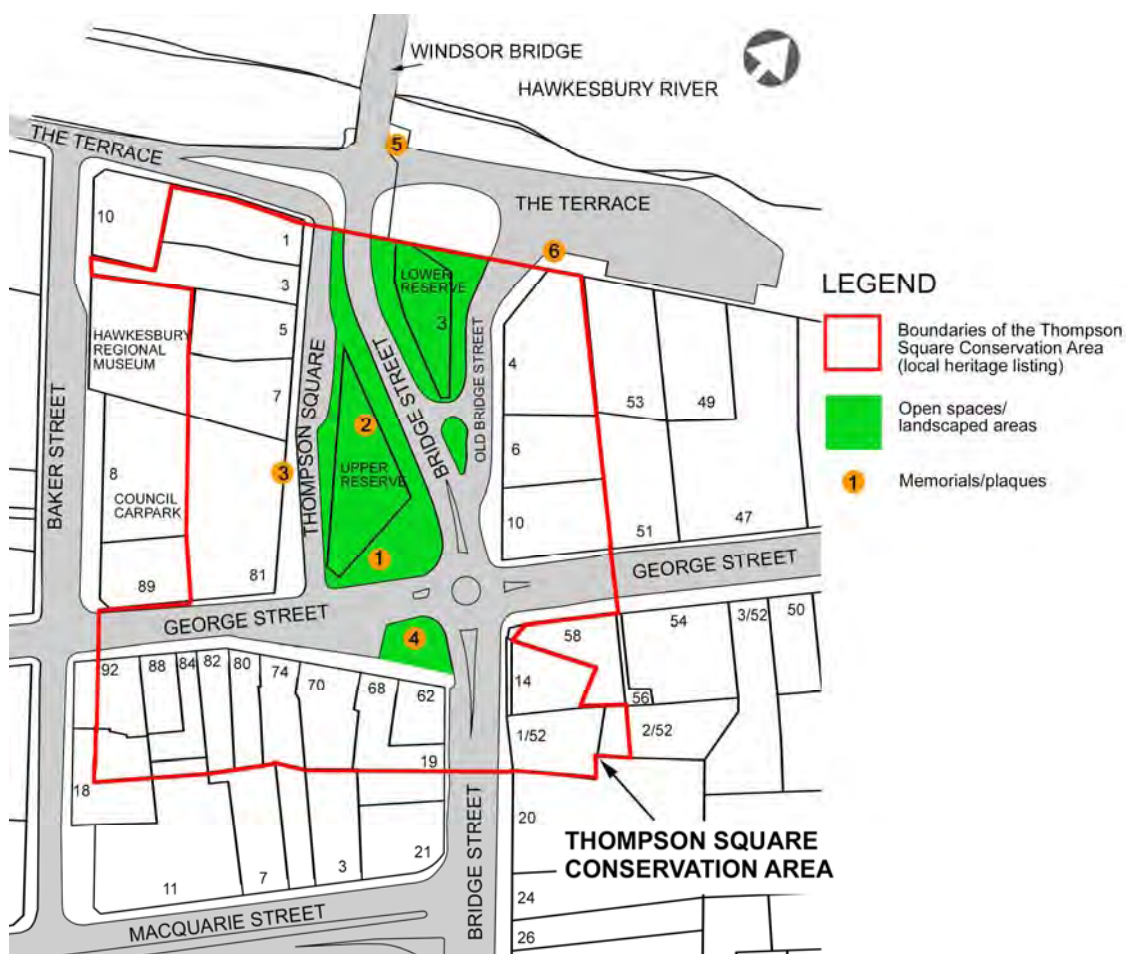


Figure 3. 147: Plan showing the location of the memorials and plaques located within the TSCA

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 TSCLA (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 State 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.”⁸⁴

The situation described above has changed little over the decades, where the built environment of the TSCA is comprised of a majority of 19th 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.

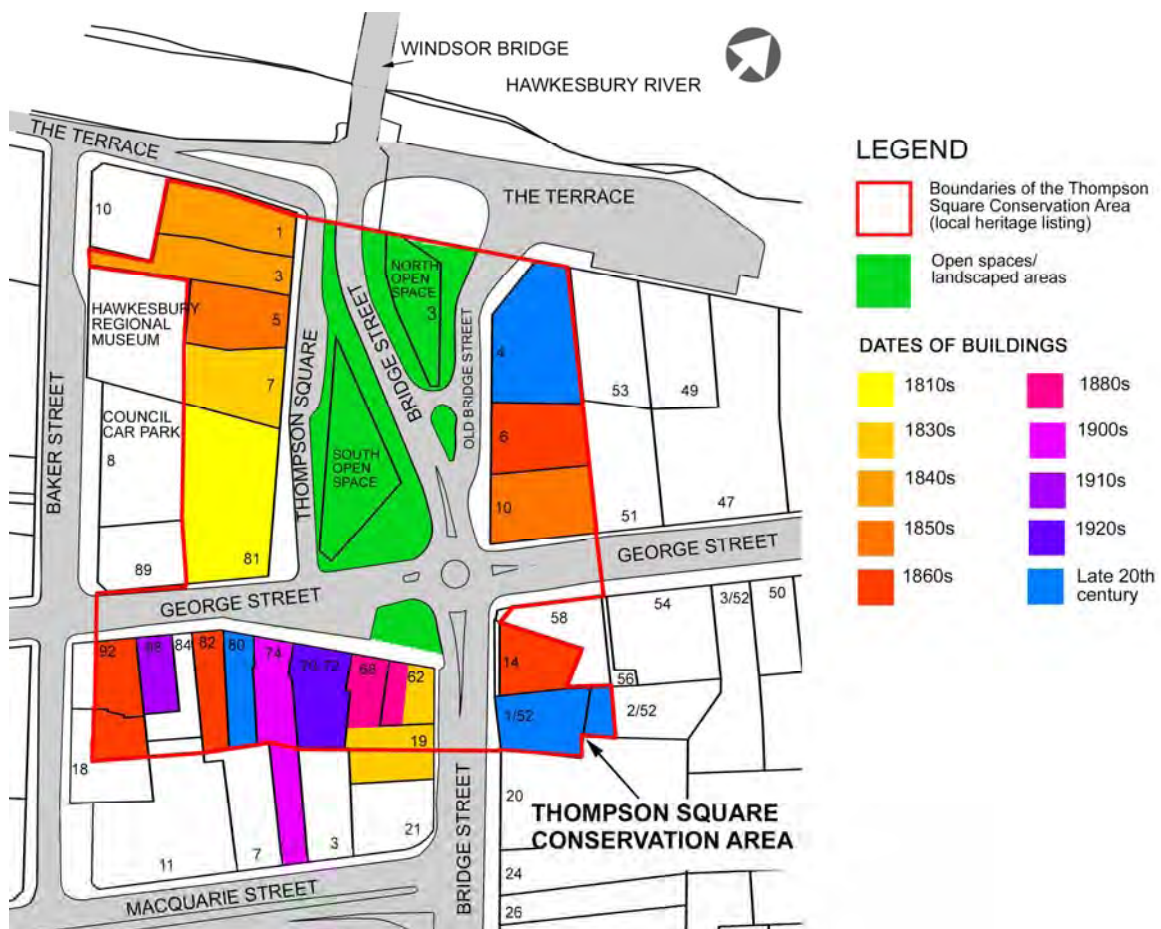


Figure 3.154: Site plan showing the dates of the buildings within the boundaries of the TSCA

⁸⁴ 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.

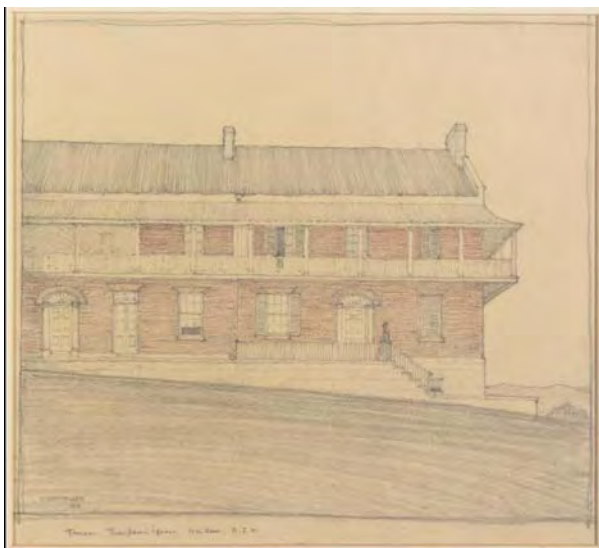


Figure 3. 155: W. H. Wilson's 1912 sketch of the Doctor's House. Source: NLA/ PIC R608 LOC1421

The building dates from 1844 and was used as a post office from 1851 to 1855.⁸⁵ 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

⁸⁵ 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.⁸⁶ 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 1837.⁸⁷ 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.

⁸⁶ Fisher Lucas Architects, Thompson Square Windsor, A Concept Plan for Future Development, 1975.

⁸⁷ 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-20th 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.

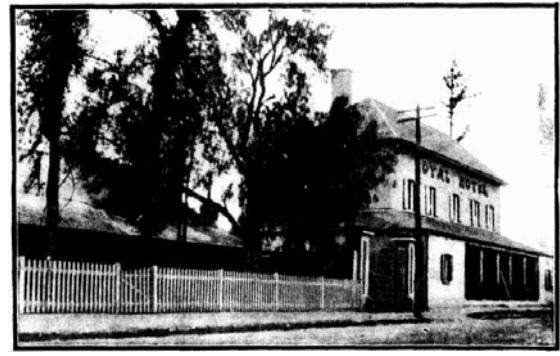


Figure 3. 167: Image of Fitzgerald's cottage adjacent to the Macquarie Arms Hotel. Source: Article: "A Macquarie Pilgrimage: Windsor and its Relics", *Sydney Mail* Wednesday 12 November 1919 p. 13

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 19th century but the joinery in the front and side elevations is from the mid- or late-20th 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-20th 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-20th 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 gablets 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 Street⁸⁸ 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

⁸⁸ Town Improvements: *Hawkesbury Chronicle and Farmers Advocate*, 16th 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 1835.⁸⁹ 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

⁸⁹ 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 20th 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 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 20th 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>
Built Form and Siting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single or 2 storeys in height maximum. • Minimal setbacks- no front gardens or minimal front garden (max 1-2 metres in depth), front verandahs define the front boundary line. • Simple colonial cottage forms, no bay windows or similar projections with front verandahs • All houses have unenclosed front verandahs. • Outbuildings, including garages, car parking detached and located behind the main building (in rear yards), glimpsed views only down driveways from the public domain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum scale of 2 storeys in height • Built to front boundary. • Front verandahs projecting over public footpaths with timber posts and cast iron or timber balustrades. • Outbuildings and additions below ridge line of main building
Setting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front fences timber picket or timber post and rail with wire mesh (min. 1000mm high) • Driveways brick paved or bitumen, blending with adjacent road surfaces • Gates and fences to driveways set back behind front building line. • Side fences timber paling (max. 1.8m high) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open driveways of bitumen located beside or behind main buildings leading to concrete paved or bitumen open carparking areas • Views down driveways to rear outbuildings, fences and landscaping • No garages or car parking provisions in driveways or visible from main street
Roofs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hipped or gabled roofs with at least 35° pitch. • Corrugated galvanized steel or slate roofs to main buildings and front verandahs. • Visually prominent chimneys. • Absence of dormer windows and skylights • Absence of aerials etc. and other visual clutter to roof scape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hipped or gabled roofs, many behind front parapets • Corrugated metal roofs to main buildings and front verandahs • Visually prominent chimneys. • Absence of dormer windows and skylights (the exception being the Macquarie Arms Hotel) • Absence of aerials etc. and other visual clutter to roof scape.
Walls	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpainted and painted face brick or rendered masonry. • Vertically proportioned door and window apertures, symmetrically arranged. • Sandstone sills, plinths and some lintels/ arches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpainted and painted face brick or rendered masonry. • Door and window apertures mainly vertically proportioned or square and symmetrically arranged. • Use of string courses, mouldings, changes of materials to break up large expanses of

<i>Residential Buildings</i>	<i>Commercial Buildings</i>
	<p>walling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandstone or rendered sills, plinths and some lintels/ arches. • Signs on parapets and front and side faces of verandah awnings
Joinery	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional timber doors and windows • Traditional colour schemes • Timber shutters • Multi-paned windows to windows in front elevations • Front doors with fanlights to residential buildings • Georgian and Victorian characteristics and detailing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional timber door and window framing • Traditional colour schemes • Double fronted shop fronts with plate glass windows and central front door • Victorian and Edwardian characteristics and detailing including reconstructed front balconies.

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."¹ 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.²

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

¹ Kerr, 2013 *The Conservation Plan*, p. 4.

² 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 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 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 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 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 19th 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).

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 (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.

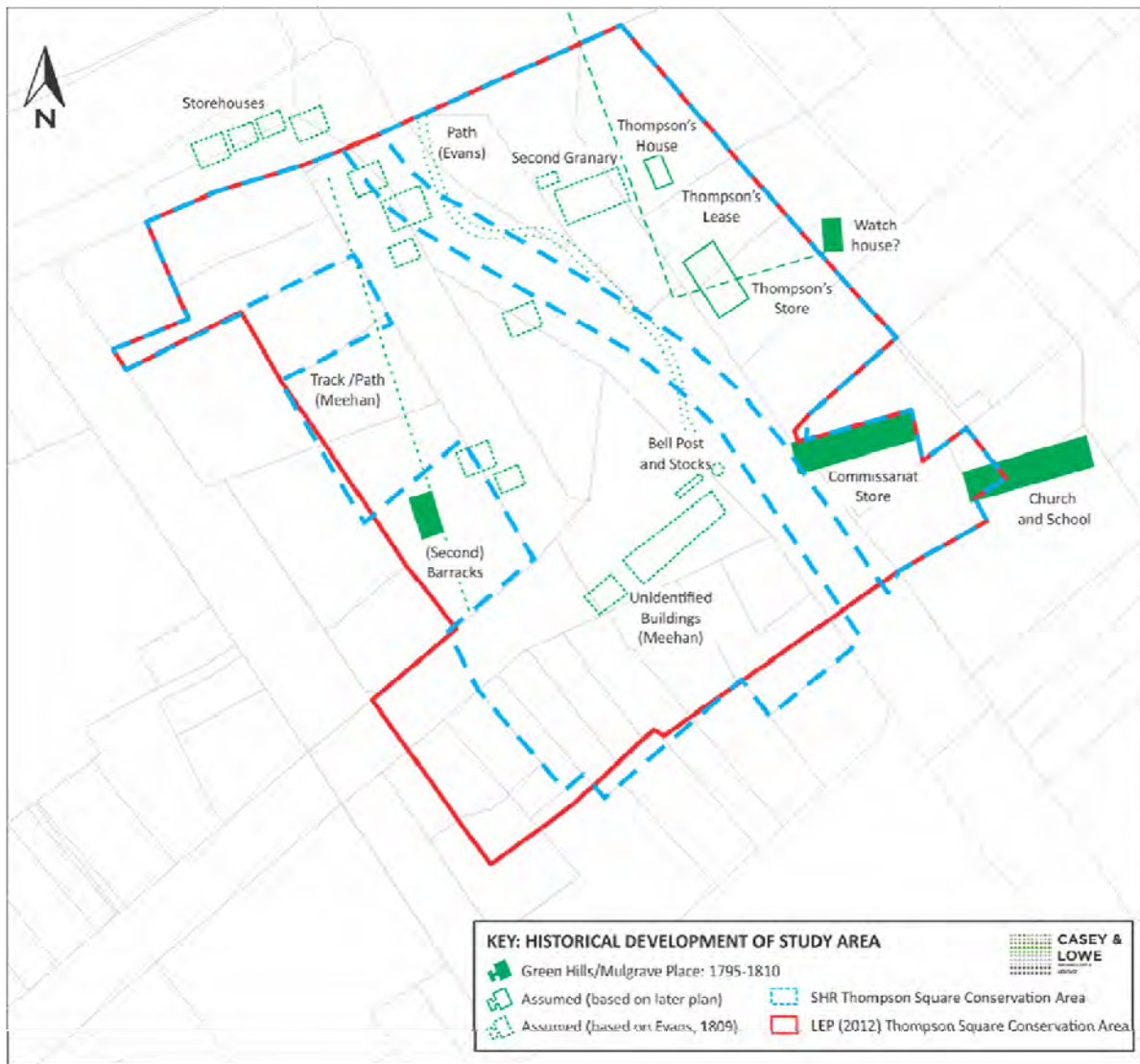


Figure 4. 1: The overall settlement for the study area during the **Mulgrave Place/Green Hills Government Domain, (c 1795-1810)** (assumed and determined, using historical overlays). The SHR and LEP boundaries for the TSCA and marked in blue and red respectively. The locations of the (second) barracks, 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.

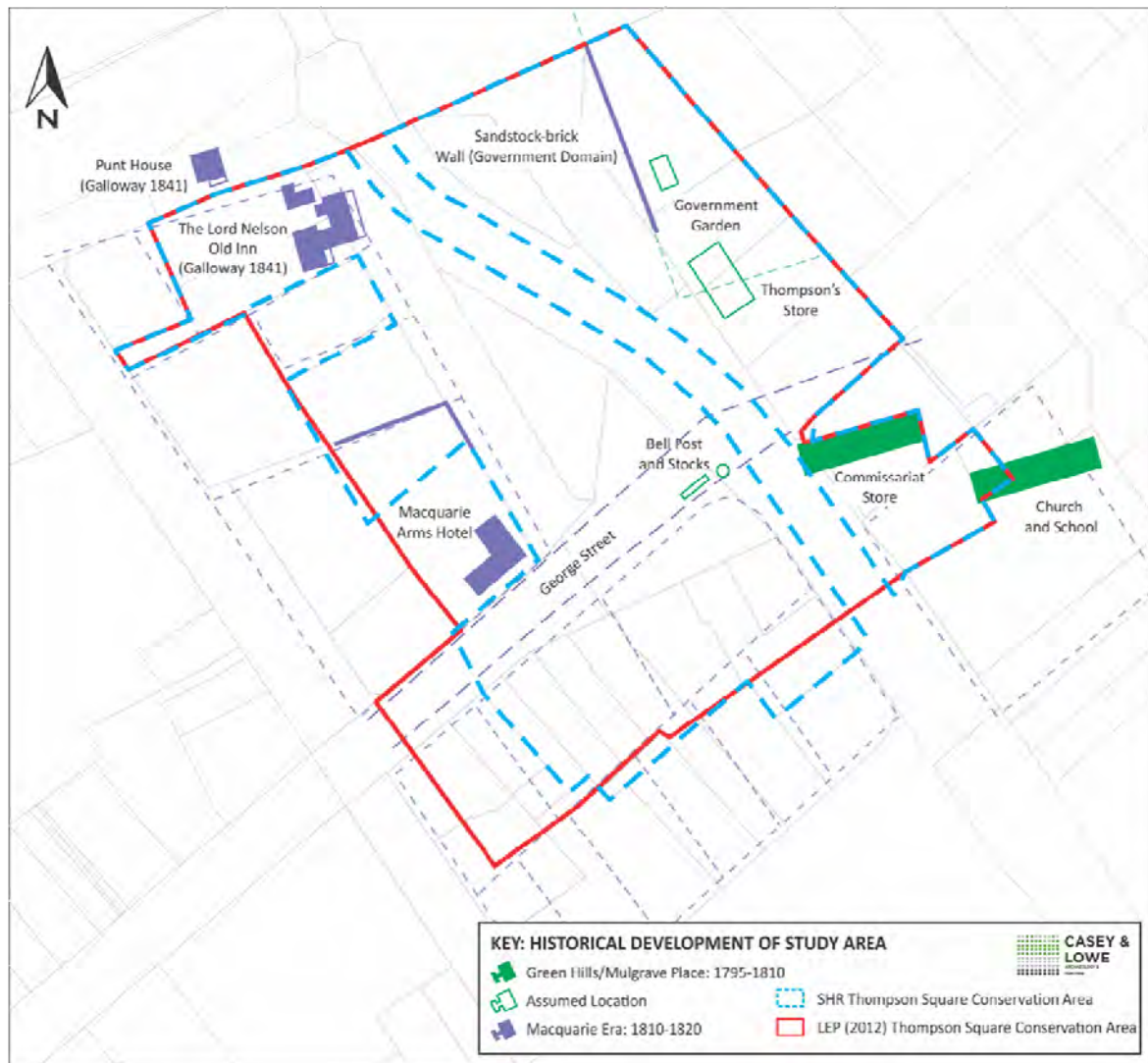


Figure 4. 2: The overall settlement for the study area during the **Macquarie era (c1810-1821)** (assumed and determined, using historical overlays). The SHR and LEP boundaries for the TSCA and marked in blue and red respectively. A number of buildings pre-dating the Macquarie-era (specifically Thompson's 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.

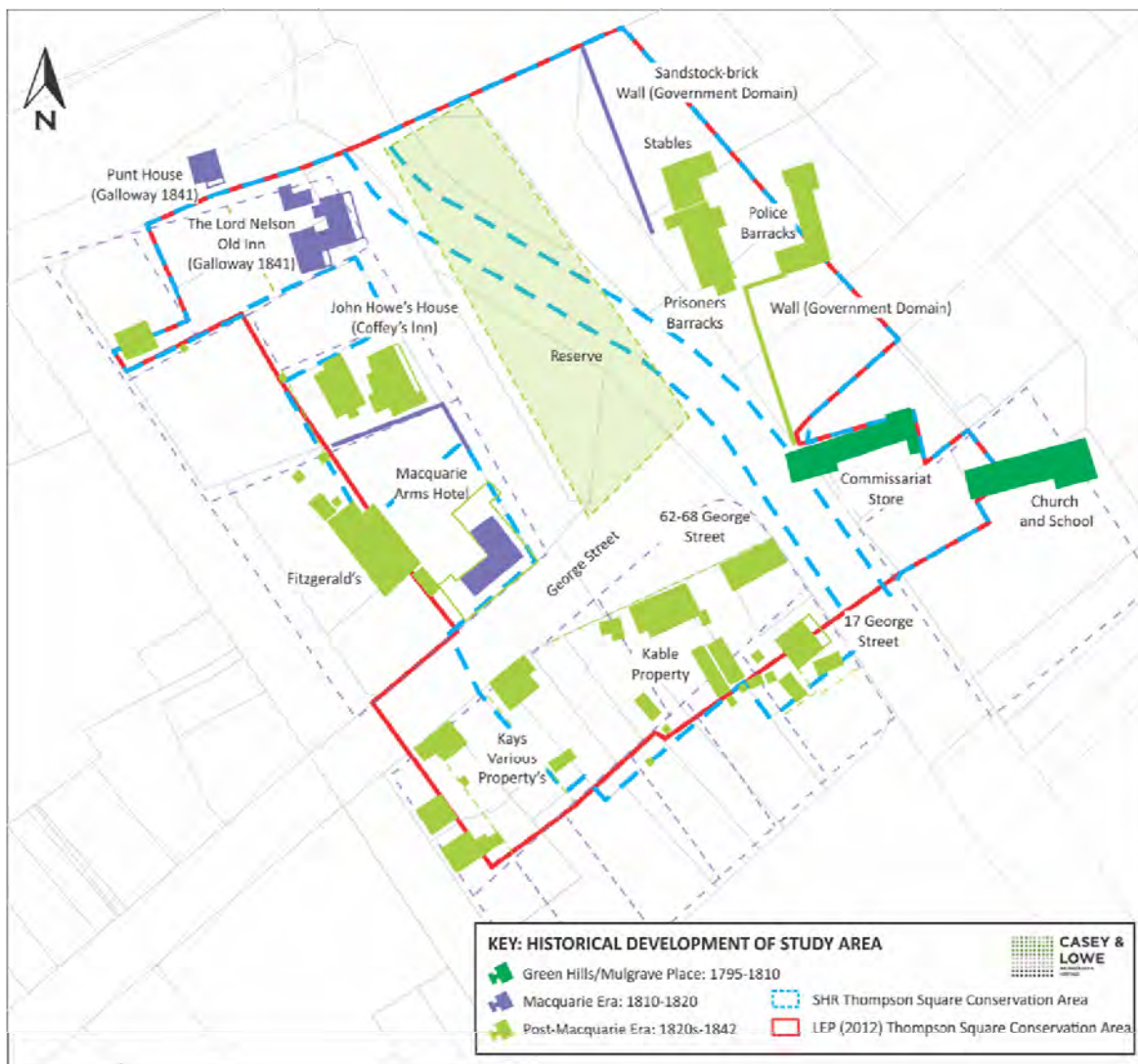


Figure 4. 3: The overall settlement for the study area during the **post-Macquarie era (c1822-1842)** (determined using historical overlays). Several buildings from the Macquarie-era, and earlier, remained standing at this time (including the Commissariat Store, the adjacent Church and School, the 'Lord 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.

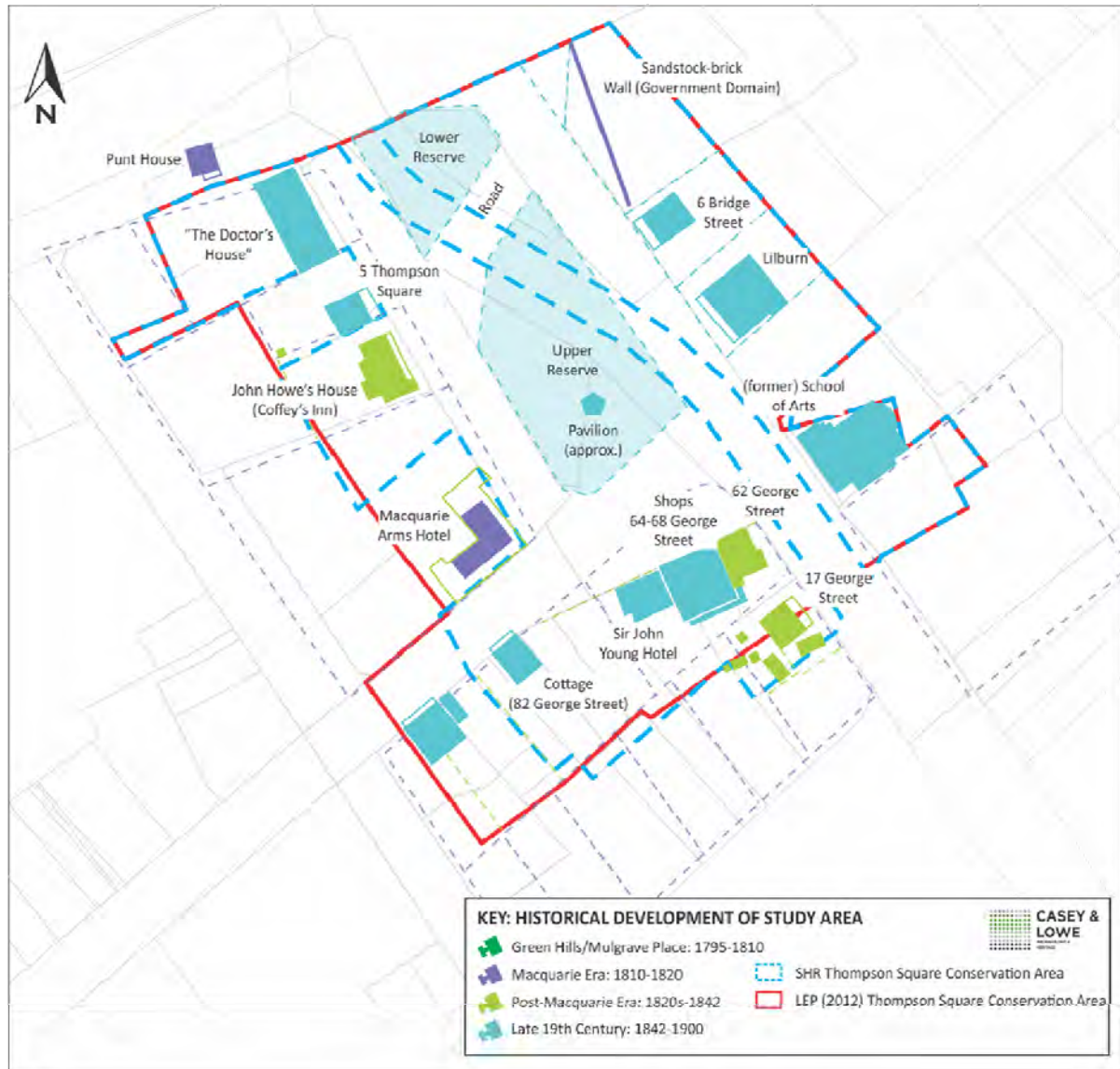


Figure 4. 4: The overall settlement for the study area during the **late 19th-century (c1842-1900)** (determined using historical overlays). Considerable development to the properties around the Thompson Square reserve is evident, with few buildings from the early 19th-century remaining (specifically 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.

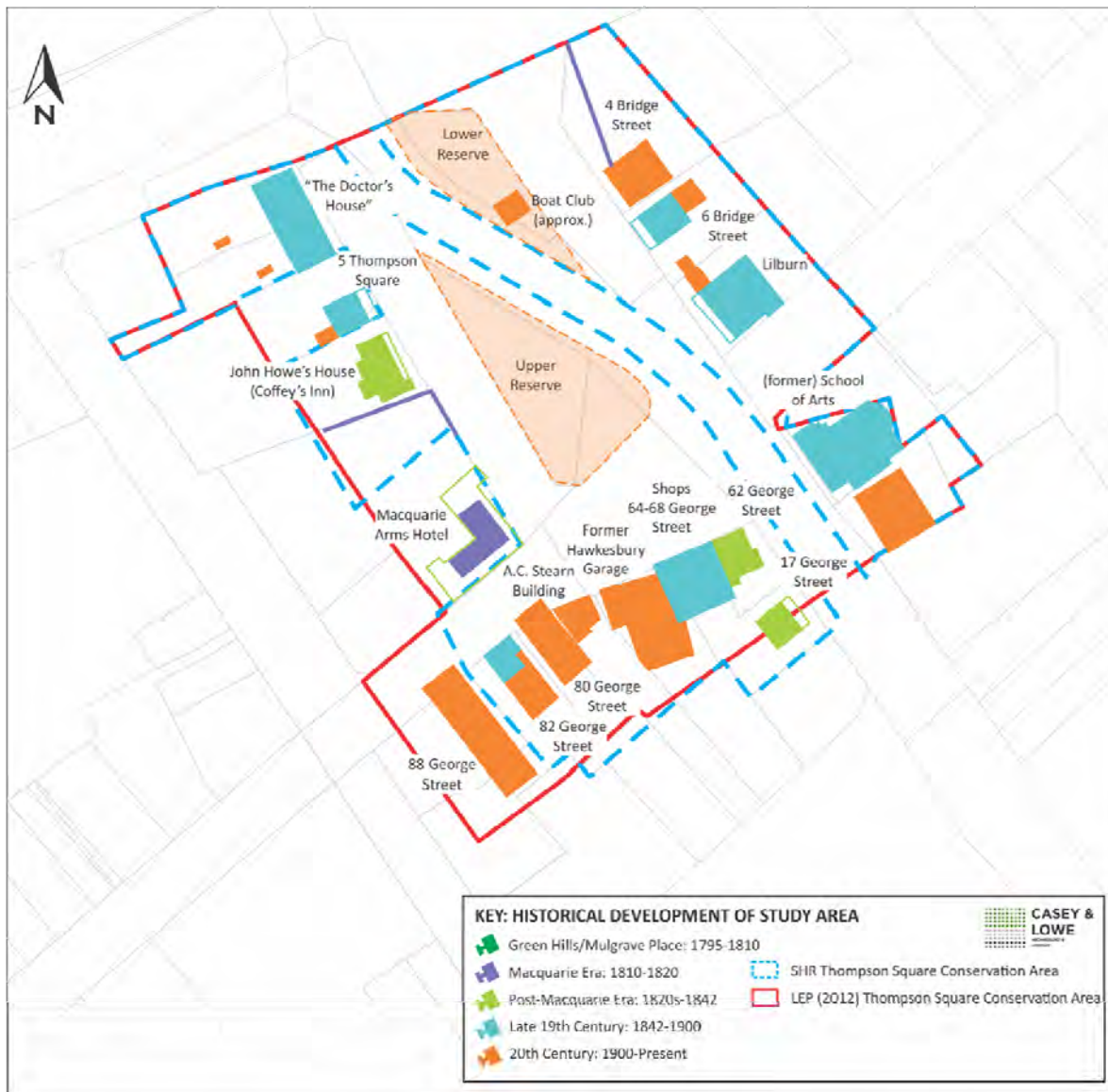


Figure 4. 5: The overall settlement for the study area during the **20th-Century (c1900-present day)** (determined using historical overlays). The layout of the buildings as depicted in this plan remains largely unaltered today, with the exception of the Hawkesbury Motor Boat Club building (within the 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’.³ 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*”.⁴ 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.

³ Kohan, 1993; p.75

⁴ 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*)⁵, the Windsor district is way ahead of all other settlements in terms of agricultural production until the middle of the 19th 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”.⁶ This was out of a total population of 1494

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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”.⁷

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.⁸

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.*”⁹

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.

⁷ *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.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ State Library of NSW web exhibition: 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.¹⁰ 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:

¹⁰ 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.¹¹

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, explore, 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

¹¹ 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.¹²

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.¹³

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.¹⁴ 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 extend 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

¹² 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,

¹³ 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

¹⁴ <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.¹⁵

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 18th 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 19th 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.

¹⁵ 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.

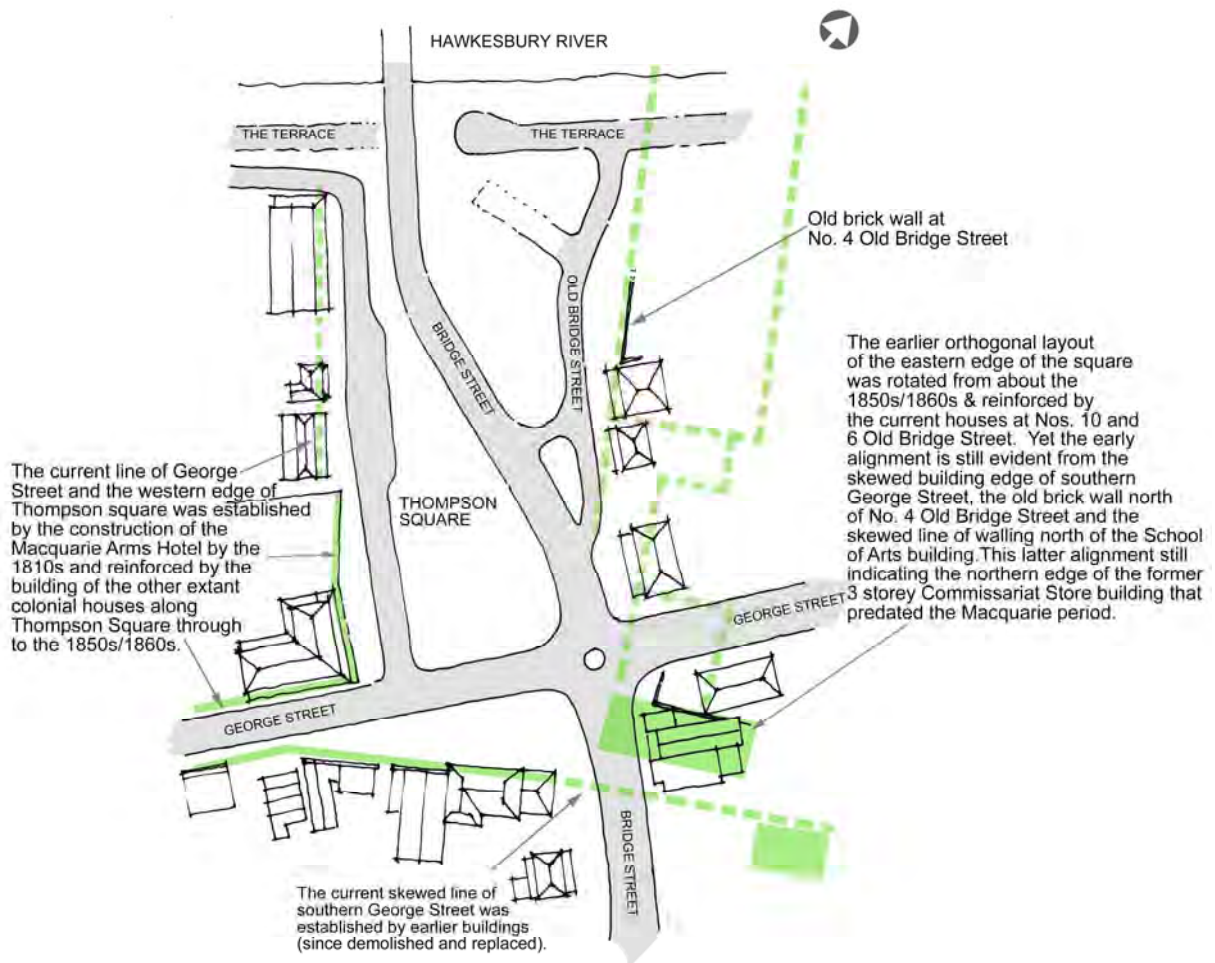


Figure 4. 11: Thompson Square's Early Spatial Definition (c/- 1841 town plan of J. J Galloway [W.443.a Crown Plan]) Drawing base from the current aerial photography. Prepared by G. Britton

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 18th century Government reserve lands at the Green Hills through to the mid-20th 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
Late 18th Century	
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.
Early 19th Century	
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.
Mid 19th Century	
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
Late 19th Century	
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
Early 20th Century	
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.
Mid 20th Century	
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.
Late 20th Century	
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
Early 21st Century	
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.

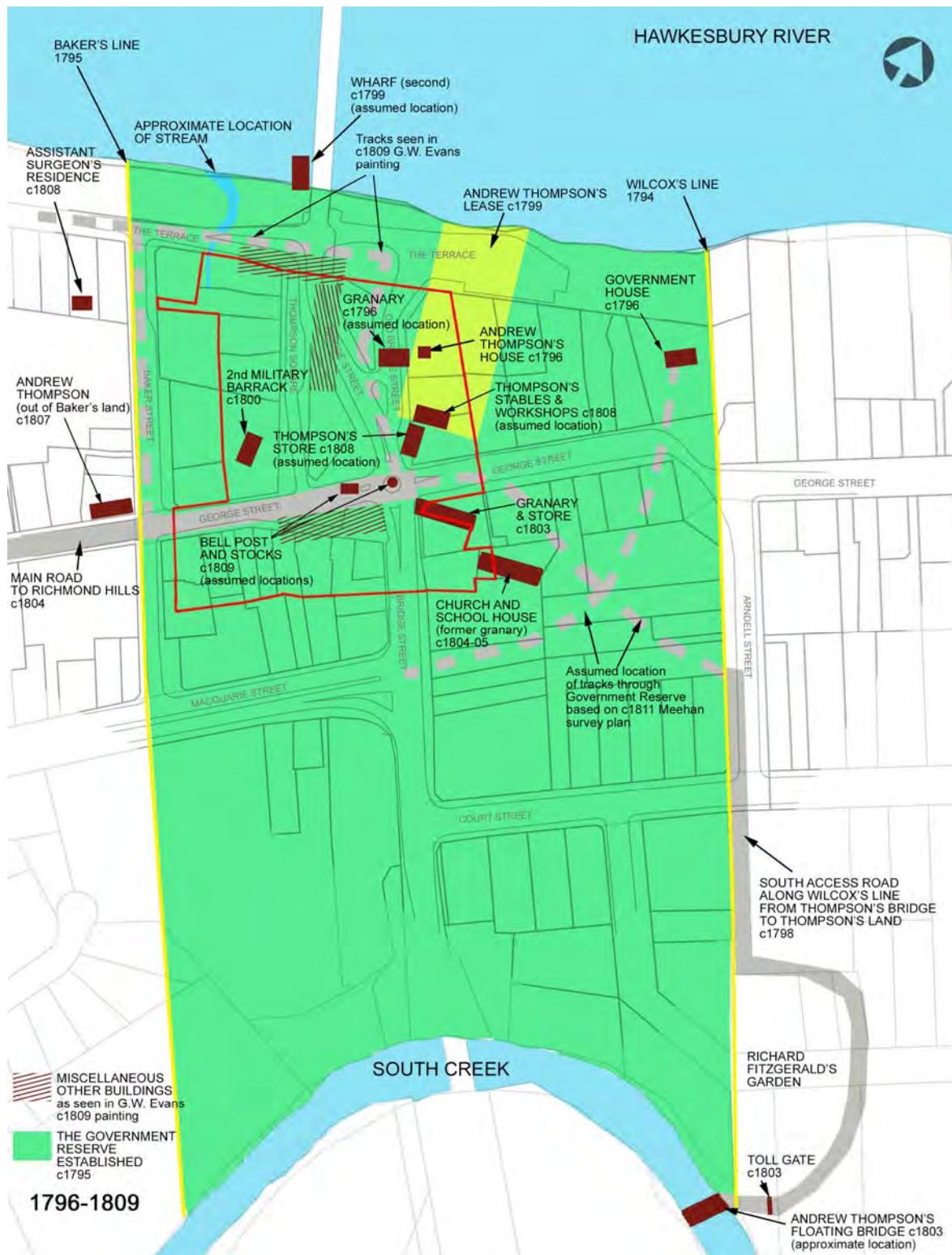


Figure 4. 17: Diagram showing the layout of the Green Hills: 1796-1809.

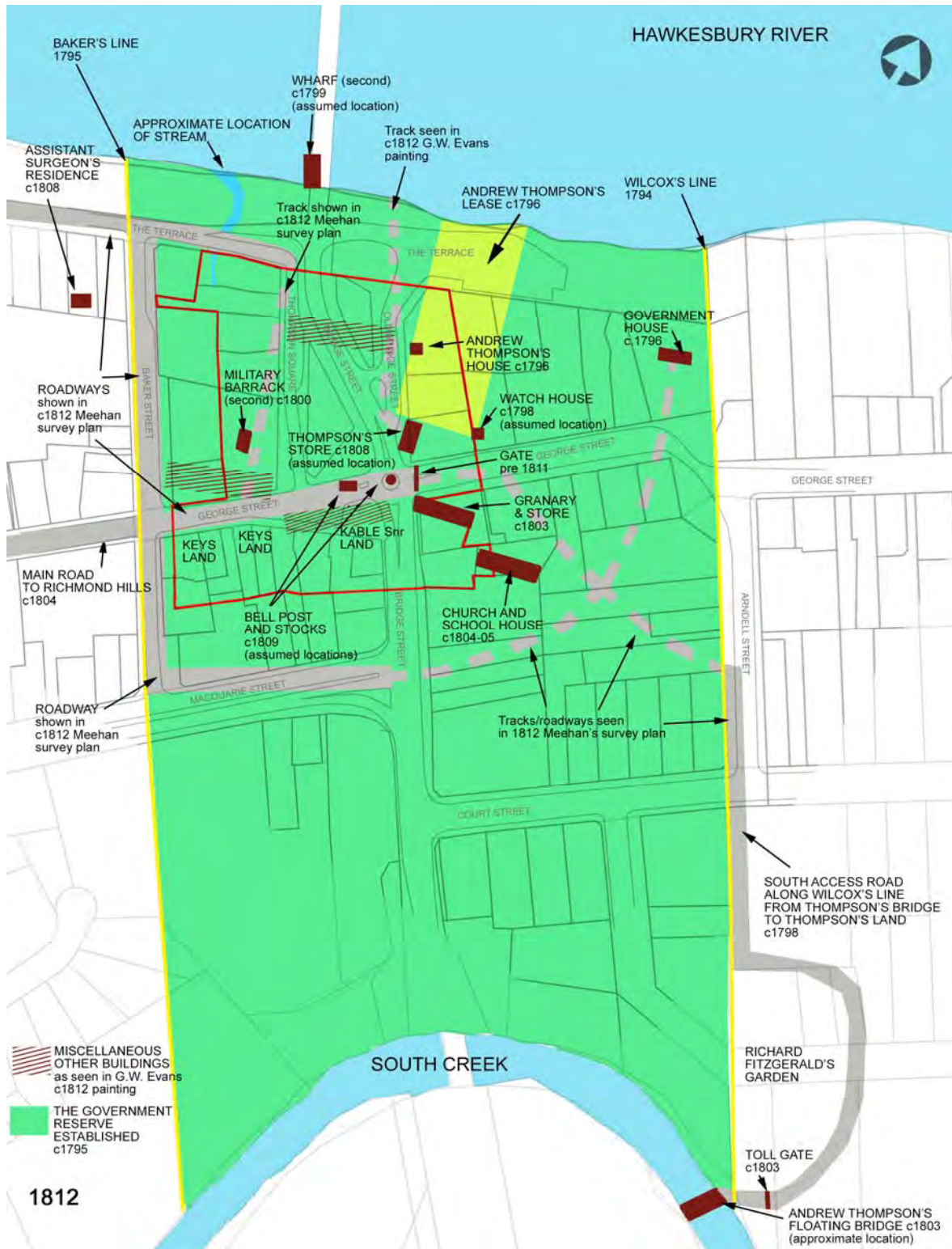


Figure 4. 18: Diagram showing the layout of Windsor and Thompson Square: 1812

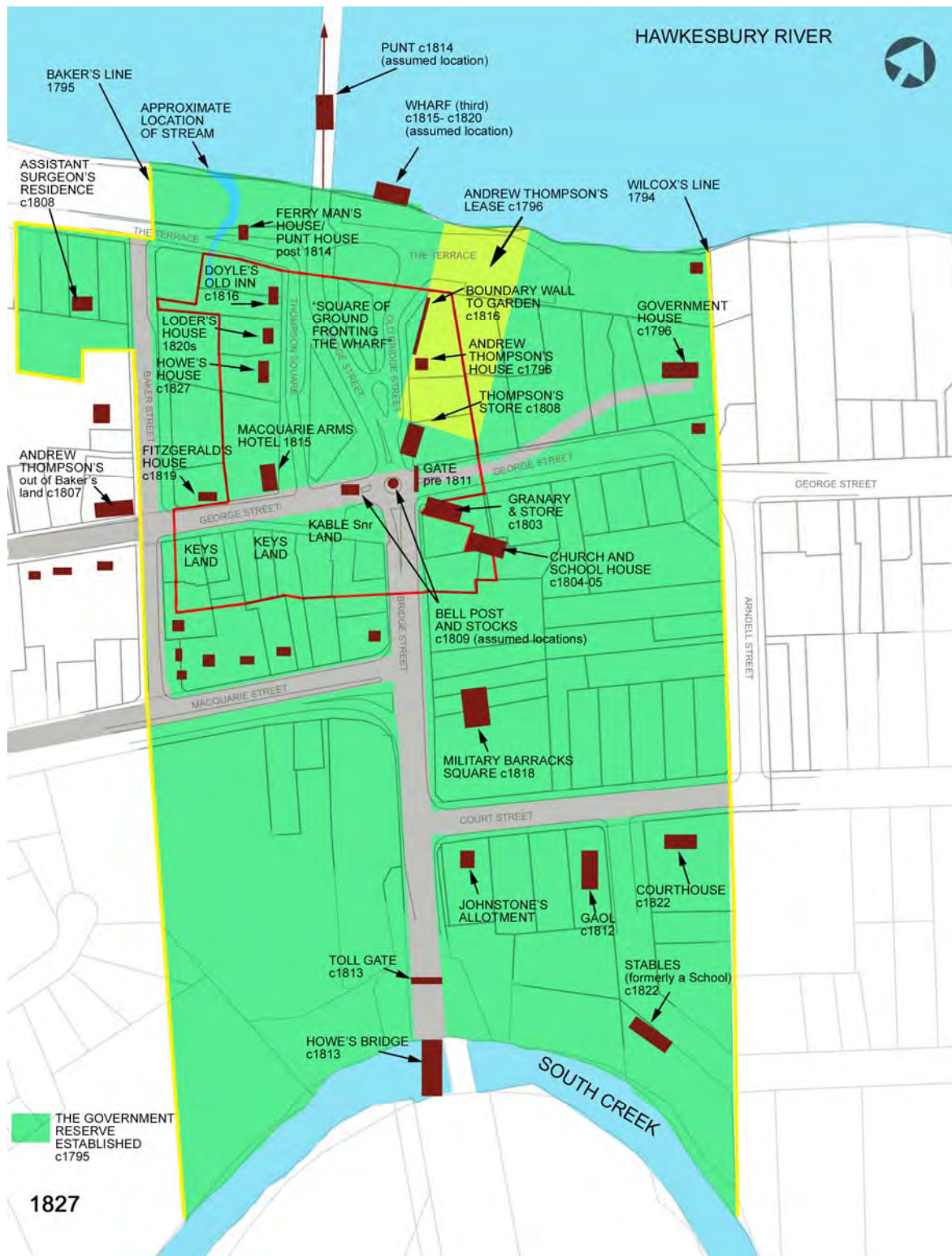


Figure 4. 19: Diagram showing the layout of Windsor and Thompson Square: 1827

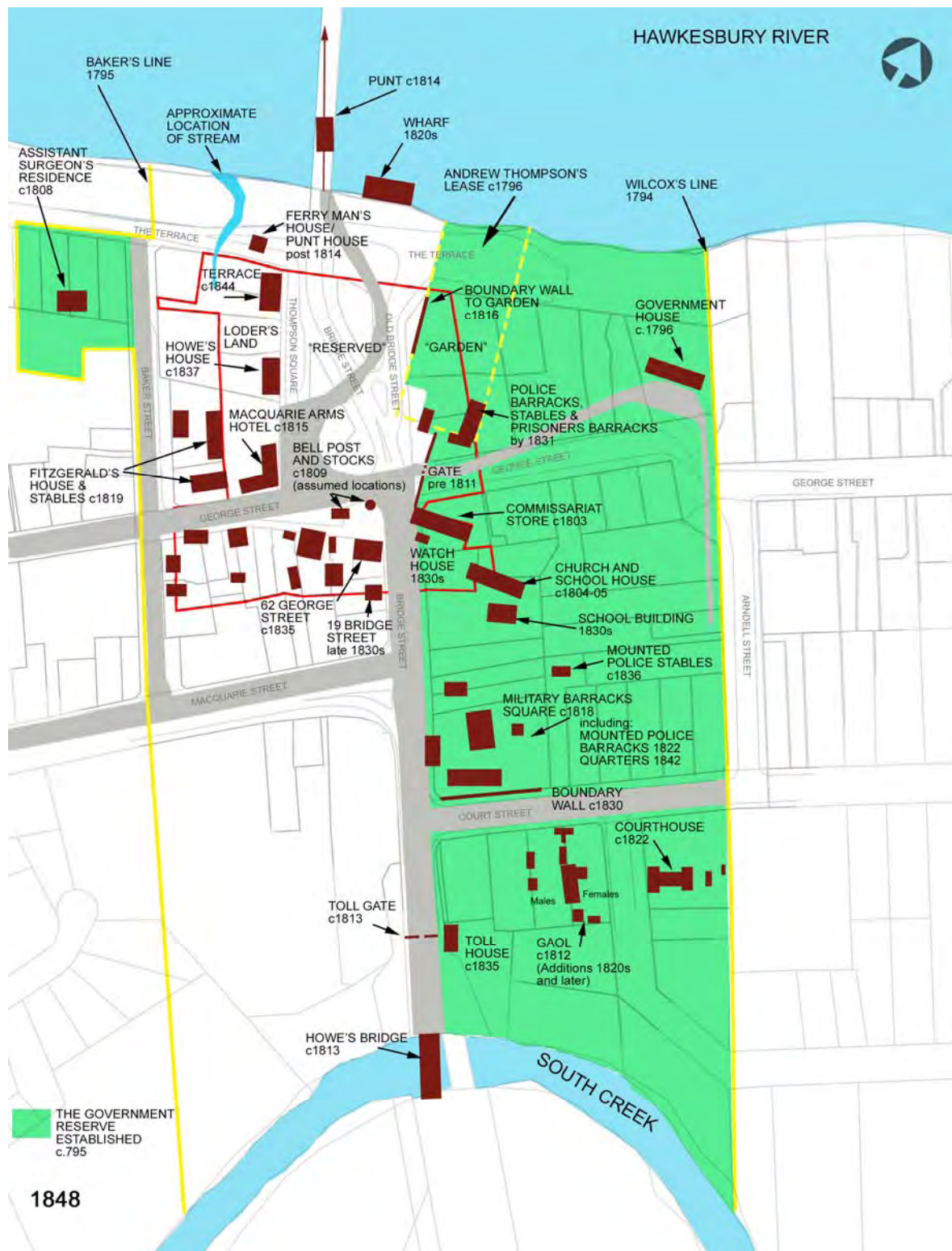


Figure 4. 20: Diagram showing the layout of Windsor and Thompson Square: 1848

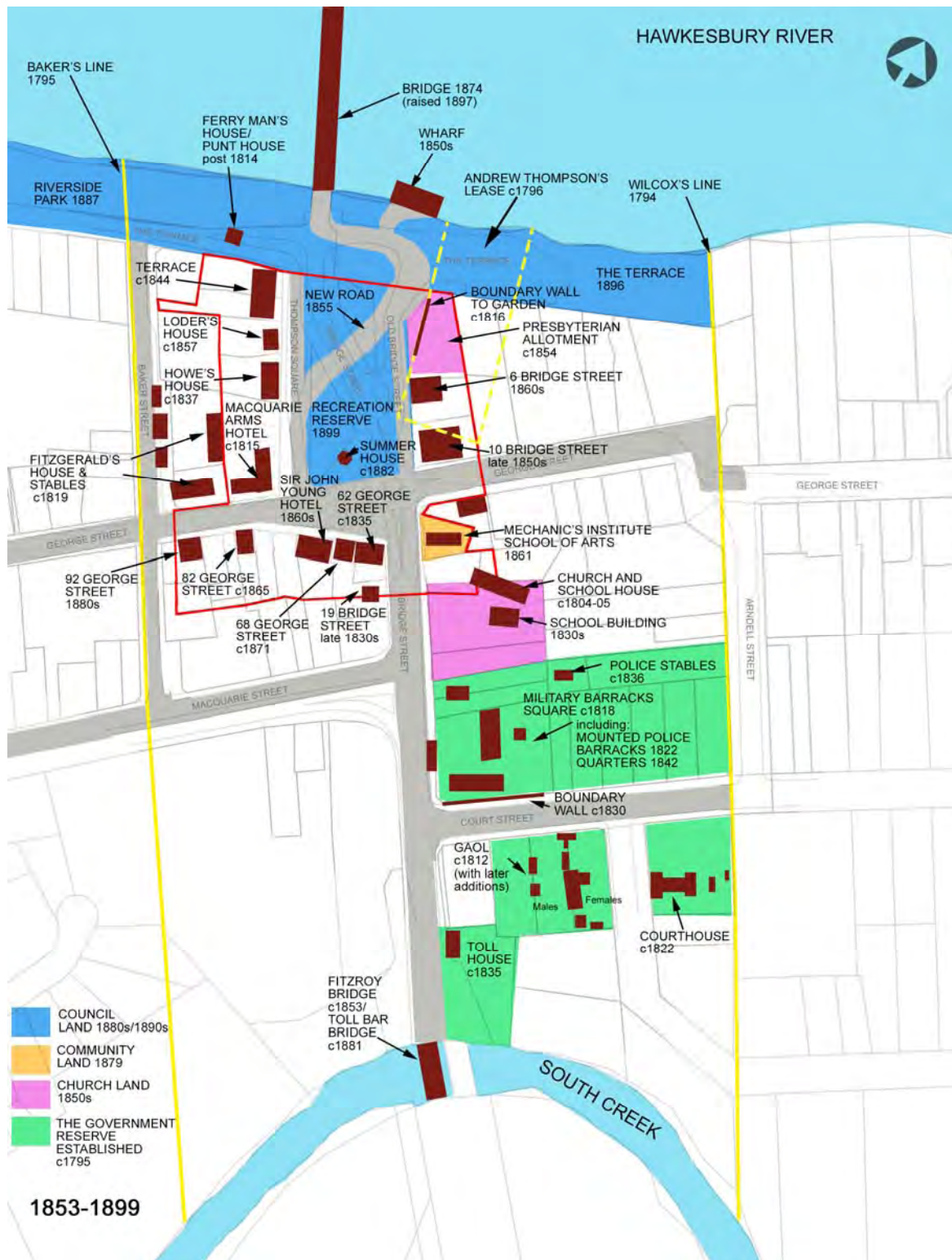


Figure 4. 21: Diagram showing the layout of Windsor and Thompson Square: 1853-1899

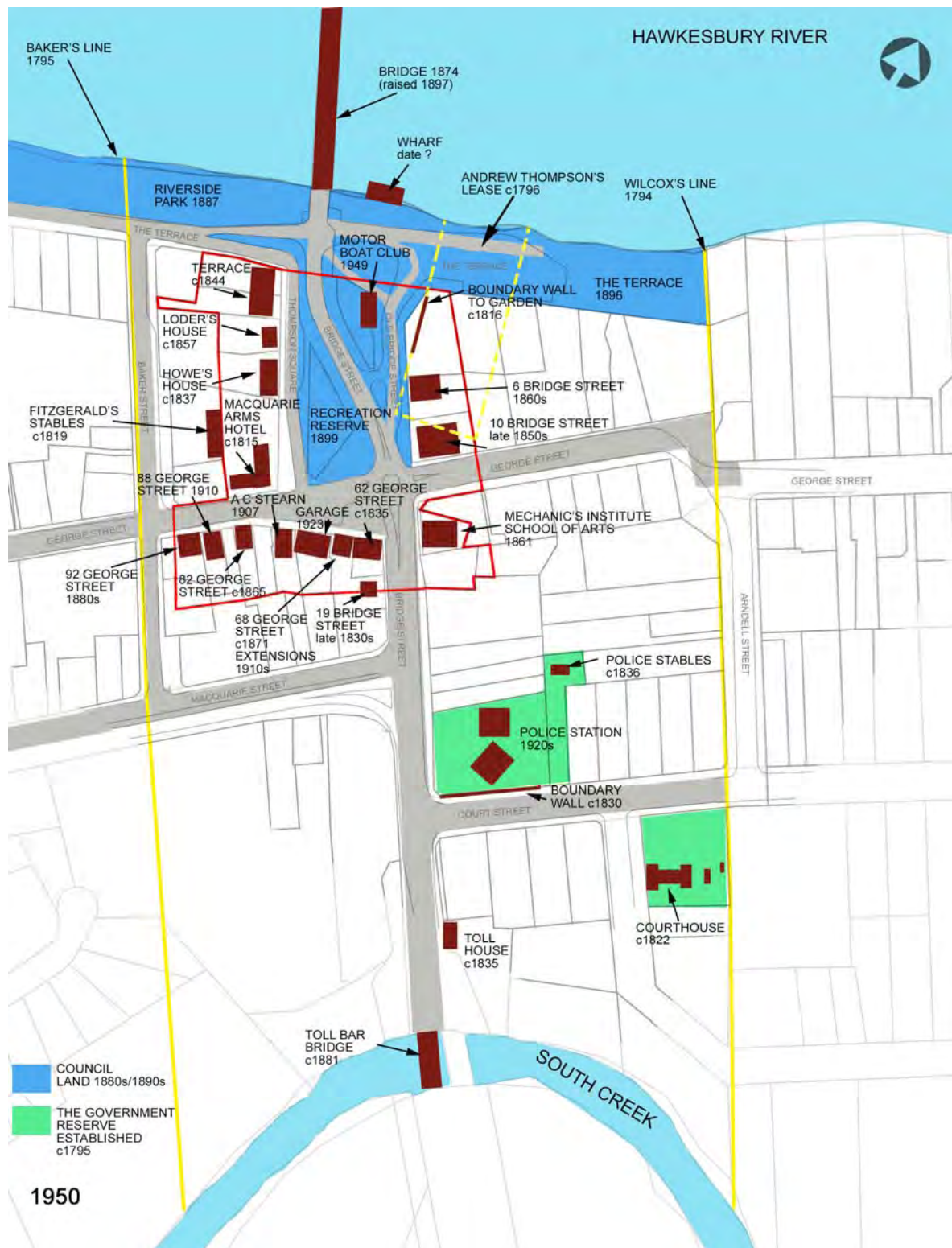


Figure 4. 22: Diagram showing the layout of Windsor and Thompson Square: 1950

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 19th 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.¹⁶

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

¹⁶ 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 19th 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 20th 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.



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