

View 2 – Bradfield Highway (East)

The Fort Street Public School site is a key visual feature from the Bradfield Highway, particularly from the northern approach from the Harbour Bridge towards the city. Views to the Fort Street Public School site from the eastern side of the Bradfield Highway visually presents the site as part of the wider Observatory Hill precinct (Figure 10-), with clear eastern views to the site of the 1940s school building, and the Messengers Cottage (Figure). The eastern side of the Fort Street Public School site as visible from the Bradfield Highway approach is characterised by the open landscaping space and low scale built context of the buildings.



Figure 10-7: Fort Street Public School and Sydney Observatory viewed from the pedestrian walkway on the eastern side of the Harbour Bridge approaches. (Source: Curio 2024)



Figure 10-8: Fort Street Public School Building visible from eastern side of Bradfield Highway (Source: Curio 2024)

View 3 – Millers Point and Observatory Hill (West)

While significant differences in elevation and landform between the Fort Street Public School Site atop Observatory Hill and lower lying area of Millers Point means that direct visual connections between these two locations are somewhat limited, parts of the site are still partly visible from Kent Street and the wider Millers Point precinct to the west.

While clear visual connections between the Fort Street Public School Site and Millers Point are mainly afforded from higher elements in the landscape only (i.e. from the Palisade Hotel in Millers Point back towards Observatory Hill – Figure 10-9 and Figure 10.10 – and from the roof of the Bureau of Meteorology down over Millers Point- Figure 10-9 and Figure 10-10), these views still retain significance for their ability to demonstrate the position of the Fort Street Public School Site in its heritage and landscape context.



Figure 10-9: View from Palisade Hotel (Millers Point) to Observatory Hill and Fort Street Public School. Bureau of Meteorology visible (Source: Curio 2019)



Figure 10-10: Setting of Observatory Hill and Fort Street Public School (taken from Palisade Hotel, Millers Point) (Source: Curio 2019)



Figure 10-11: View to Millers Point from roof of Bureau of Meteorology Building. (Source: JSP 2019)



Figure 10-12: View northwest from roof of Bureau, Observatory Hill and Millers Point context and locational connection (Source: JSP 2019)

View 4 – National Trust (South)

As the original Fort Street Public School Building, the former military hospital- now the National Trust Building- is significant in its location and connection to the Fort Street Public School site. However, the visual connection between the Fort Street Public School Site and the National Trust building have been significantly impacted over time through the creation of the Cahill Cut (which has effectively created a visual and physical isolation of the site within the circle of the expressway excavation), as well as the slope of the landform. The former Environmental Education Centre building (former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium) has been demolished in the recent redevelopment of the site and has been replaced with new structures, which obstruct views between the National Trust building and the Fort Street Public School School/Messenger's Cottage.

Nevertheless, remaining visual connections between the Fort Street Public School Site and the National Trust Building are of heritage significance, representative of the former school use of the National Trust Building, and part of the wider historical context and character of Observatory Hill- prior to the creation of the Cahill Expressway.



Figure 10-13: Current view north from National Trust to Fort Street Public School Site. Prior to the redevelopment view lines to the Bureau of Meteorology were obscured by the now demolished Environmental Education Centre and remain obscured by the construction of the new buildings in 2023. (Source: Curio, 2023)

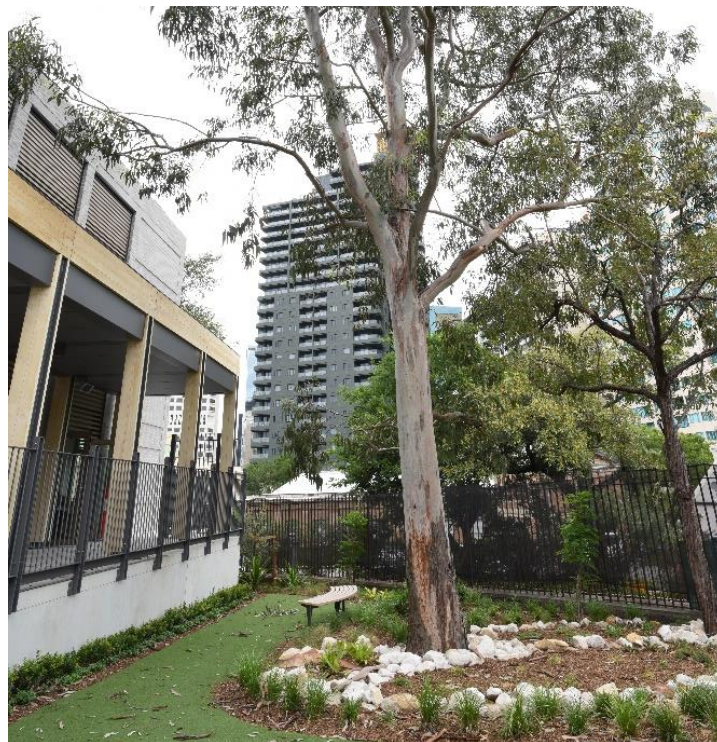


Figure 10-14: View from Fort Street Public School towards National Trust. (Source: Curio, 2023)



Figure 10-15: View from National Trust north to Fort Street Public School. Most of the view was formerly obscured by the now-demolished Environmental Education Centre and remains obstructed by the 2023 new build. (Source: Curio, 2023)



Figure 10-16: Looking North from directly outside the national trust towards Fort Street Public School. (Source: Curio, 2024)

View 5 – Harbour Bridge

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is an internationally recognisable element of Sydney Harbour, dramatic and iconic in its aesthetic quality and setting. The Statement of Significance for the Sydney Harbour Bridge describes it as:

A monumental landmark in the centre of the city of Sydney and an important visual element in the cityscape when viewed from many key points around the harbour.⁵³

⁵³ GML 2007, *Sydney Harbour Bridge, Conservation Management Plan*.

Inappropriate development within the setting of the Harbour Bridge has the potential to affect the values of the Bridge, dependent upon the type and location of the development. Minor views of the Harbour Bridge are afforded from the eastern side of the Fort Street Public School Site.



Figure 10-17: View north of Sydney Harbour Bridge approach from south of Fort Street Public School Site next to the National Trust Building (Source: Curio 2019)



Figure 10-18: View north to the Sydney Harbour Bridge from Upper Fort Street (Source: Curio 2019)

10.2 Internal Site Views

Two significant viewlines internal to the Fort Street Public School Site have also been identified as contributory to the heritage setting and character of the site:

1. Central Spine/Path east-west between Fort Street Public School Building and Messenger's Cottage/Bureau of Meteorology (Figure 10- and Figure 10 -)
2. Boundary wall (South of Messenger's Cottage/ Bureau of Meteorology) (Figure and Figure)



Figure 10-19: View east along central circulation spine between the Bureau of Meteorology (right) and Fort Street Public School (Left) (Source: Curio, 2023)



Figure 10 -20: View east along central corridor, with all three heritage listed buildings in view (Source: Curio, 2023)



Figure 10-21: View of the Boundary Wall behind the Messenger's Cottage (Source: Curio, 2023)



Figure 10-22: View north of the Boundary Wall behind the Bureau of Meteorology (Source: Curio, 2023)

11 Opportunities and Constraints

11. Opportunities and Constraints

The Burra Charter Process for development of conservation policy is underpinned by opportunities and constraints arising from several key factors including:

- the heritage significance of the site;
- owner and user requirements/resources and/or feasible uses;
- physical condition; and
- other external factors.

This section outlines the opportunities and constraints relevant to the Fort Street Public School site arising from:

- Implicit Obligations Arising from Overarching Statutory context (Section 2);
- Physical Analysis and Gradings of significance (Sections 4 and 5); and
- Assessment of Heritage Significance (Section 8).
- Current site ownership, site use
- Recently completed major redevelopment and works program.

11.1 Current Heritage Listings

Heritage legislation and listings are a functional way in which the heritage values and significance of sites and their elements can be preserved and protected. Listing on statutory registers does not represent the inability for a heritage item to change at all, rather provides a degree of legal protection and regulated approvals protocols with regards to works and future development of heritage items, with associated processes such as permitting and assessment applicable.

The following Conservation Policy and Implementation Strategy Section of this Document (Section 12) describes in detail the constraints that such heritage listings may present to the site.

Section 2 of the document outlines the statutory heritage process in more detail and policy number 1.16 in Section 12 outlines key recommendations with respect to approvals pathways.

11.2 Cultural Heritage Significance

The opportunities and constraints that arise from the Physical Analysis and Significance are mainly related to the need to conserve the significant values of the heritage item within the site in accordance with accepted best-practice conservation principles, including *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter* (2013). The Burra Charter is widely accepted across Australia as an underlying methodology by which all works to sites/buildings that have been identified as having heritage significance may be undertaken.

Significance should not be considered exclusively as a constraint to development, as there are many opportunities available to retain and enhance heritage values and fabric, which would be beneficial to the future use, and future development of the site.

Fort Street Public School, the Messenger's Cottage, the Bureau of Meteorology Building, the boundary wall and archaeological items at the site are identified as items of local heritage significance on the Sydney LEP (2012) but of State Significance within the broader conservation precinct of the Rocks and Dawes Point. In addition, the Fort Street Public School site's relationship with the Observatory, and the former Fort Street School contribute to its overall significance. The opportunities and constraints that arise from the assessment of Cultural Significance of the site, as outlined in Section 7 of this CMP, are underpinned by the need to conserve the ongoing significance

of the tangible and intangible values associated with the overall site, within its broader historical and physical context, the relationships it has with surrounding heritage items, as well as the three significant heritage buildings.

11.2.1. Opportunities

The heritage significance of the Fort Street Public School site does not preclude sensitive changes to the place that can enhance its uses and long-term viability, however all and any proposed changes must be clearly considered and well-justified from both a heritage and buildability perspective.

This CMP supports the ongoing and continuous use of the Fort Street Public School site as a school, as the best way to ensure the protection, conservation and retention of the heritage significance – tangible and intangible – of the site.

There is a much greater opportunity to use the existing built heritage, cultural landscape context documented history and archaeological resources of the site as a basis for the development of highly relevant site-specific education programs for the school itself, and beyond. The history of the site and its relevance in an Australian context is significant on a National scale and presents an incredible teaching and educational opportunity for the school to utilise in its day to day learning.

11.2.2. Constraints

Section 7 of this CMP provides a detailed assessment of the significance of the Fort Street Public School site, and Section 8 provides various gradings of significance for the fabric and spaces within the site. The gradings of significance have associated overarching management recommendations that highlight the differing levels of tolerance for change, which are then supported by individual conservation policies in Chapter 12 of this CMP.

11.3 Owner and Use Requirements

Practical and effective policies for the heritage conservation of the Fort Street Public School site needs to consider opportunities and constraints arising from the needs of:

- the site owner and operator (currently SINSW),
- the statutory heritage management authorities (Heritage NSW & City of Sydney);
- the users of the site, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors; former students and the local community

11.3.1. Opportunities

- Ongoing use of the Fort Street Public School site as school and educational facility during the school term and during enhanced holiday periods and after-hours experiences that could result in an ongoing revenue stream for the school, both in terms of unique educational and cultural tourism experiences.
- Opportunity to benchmark the recent additions to the site as heritage sensitive design outcomes, that can be used as references to inform any future works to the site.

11.3.2. Constraints

- The heritage listed Fort Street Primary School, the Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology Building should be retained and conserved as the remaining, largely intact heritage fabric at the Fort Street Public School site.

- The mature Fig Tree, Boundary Wall, relocated Stone Pillar.
- The Site Owner and/or Manager and Tenants are required to adhere to this Conservation Management Plan for any future proposed works within the subject site, including compliance with heritage statutory controls at a State and Local level.
- Majority of the site, excepting the north-western section, has reached its capacity for future development. Any further additions to majority of the site excepting the north-western section, would have a major impact on the significance of the buildings and the overall site.
- There is the need to ensure that adequate time and budget is set aside to ensure appropriate heritage expertise is factored into any conservation and adaptive reuse upgrade works.

11.4 Physical Condition

11.4.1. Opportunities

The 2023 redevelopment of Fort Street Public School has allowed for the overall improvement of the site in terms of its ongoing usability and viability as a school. The works involved retention and conservation works to the three heritage listed buildings has improved their condition specifically in the case of the Bureau of Meteorology from a previously unoccupied, dilapidated building in extremely poor condition to good, and has allowed for the successful integration of new works and uses within the Fort Street Public School Site to provide an expanded school site for future generations.

The opportunities arising from the physical analysis and significance of the place include:

- Retaining, conserving, and enhancing the heritage significance of the place including spaces, elements and fabric of significance.
- Ensuring that new works are minor in nature and that such works retain and/or complement the heritage significance of the site.
- Removal and/or replacement of site elements graded as having little, no or intrusive value could present a positive impact to the overall cultural heritage significance of the site.

The heritage significance of the Fort Street Public School site does not preclude changes to the place that can enhance its uses and viability. The ongoing use of a place is the best way to ensure its conservation into the future.

11.4.2. Constraints

The constraints that arise from the physical analysis and significance of the place include:

- Heritage fabric and/or spaces identified as having exceptional significance should be retained and conserved and are to be repaired and restored where necessary/ as required.
- With recent redevelopment work, majority of the Fort Street Public School site, apart from its western section that is earmarked for future expansion, has reached its capacity in terms of allowing for a new site layout and footprint which retains and recognises the original Fort Street Public School site layout and heritage curtilage.
- The Fort Street Public School site is severely constrained with respect to physical boundaries and geographical limitations of the site, in the form of the Cahill Expressway Cut, that currently

physically restricts future opportunities for site expansion. There is, however, a future design opportunity to manage connectedness to and from the surrounding precincts.

- Vehicular site access currently only available from one location via a single lane road- creating significant impact for site access both for students/parents and staff, but also for emergency access and other service and amenities access etc.
- Traffic congestion and safety implications for vehicular ingress and egress from the site to Observatory Hill/Bradfield Highway.

11.5 Archaeology

The archaeological potential of the Fort Street Public School site (both Aboriginal and historical) has been summarised in Section 5.9 of this CMP. The known and/or potential archaeology present within the site presents physical constraints within the site- particularly in relation to any future works within the curtilage that propose below ground impacts. The discovery of historical archaeological relics during the 2023 redevelopment works will require ongoing future management and present both opportunities (for education and interpretation) and constraints (retain, conserve and protect).

11.5.1. Opportunities

Known and potential archaeological resources within the site also present a significant opportunity for integration with future interpretation initiatives for the site, including both physical integration of archaeology within future development, as well as potential for use of archaeological relics for educational and interpretation purposes within the site.

Specifically, a small collection of artefacts was recovered from the archaeological program that is associated with the occupation of the cottage, and later school, that should be curated on site. The results of the excavation, the remains of the cottage and the associated artefacts have interpretation potential.

11.5.2. Constraints

Significant remains of the 1815 Surgeon's Cottage were exposed and recorded and remain in-situ below Building J of the new school complex. These remains were designed around in order to be retained in situ. Any future works should also adopt this approach to the conservation of any significant substantive in situ remains.

The Fort Street Public School site retains further un-investigated archaeological potential for occupation deposits and deeper sub-surface features.

Should a highly intact and substantial historical archaeological resource of State significance be encountered within the site, this may require in situ retention, precluding substantial below-ground impacts in the location.

The historical archaeological relics recovered, investigated and catalogued during the 2019-2023 works on site are required to be protected and safely stored under the curation of the Department of Education, in accordance with the procedure outlined within the Archaeological Excavation Report in accordance with the SSD consent condition C42.

11.6 Significant Views

Section 10 of this CMP identifies the key significant heritage views of relevance to the Fort Street Public School site, including view lines and vistas between the site and external features, as well as internal view lines of significance.

The site is highly visible from a number of vantage points that are heritage items of local, State and National significance, including Observatory Hill, the National Trust Building, and the Harbour Bridge. These views have been retained as part of the recent redevelopment of the site.

11.6.1. Opportunities:

- There is an opportunity to retain and incorporate key heritage view lines into future development at the site, including embedding these views into the holistic design and landscaping of any new redevelopment on site. This has been demonstrated by heritage sensitive design outcomes of the recent redevelopment where the opening of the access to the Bureau of Meteorology rooftop has made views to the heritage-listed Harbour Bridge, the Rocks and Millers Point Precinct and the Sydney Opera House accessible.
- There is the opportunity to take advantage of the new access available to these views to be incorporated into education programs and tours on site, where the context of the site and its history within the broader heritage-listed precinct can be appreciated and celebrated (both within school hours for the school itself and outside of school hours for special events).
- Retaining and enhancing existing views and sightlines between the different elements of the site and its surroundings, as has been achieved by the recent redevelopment.

11.6.2. Constraints

- Significant existing heritage views to and from Fort Street Public School should be considered and retained as part of any future development of the site.
- Significant heritage views that will require careful consideration in any future redevelopment of the site include:
 - Views to and from Observatory Hill (North)
 - Open space/low scale height to east of Messengers Cottage-views to and from site to Bradfield Hwy (East)
 - Views between Millers Point and Fort Street Public School/Observatory Hill (West)
 - Views between National Trust Building and Fort Street Public School (South)
 - Views to and from Harbour Bridge (Northeast)
 - Central Spine/Path east-west between Fort Street Public School Building and Messenger's Cottage/Bureau of Meteorology
 - Boundary wall (South of Messenger's Cottage/ Bureau of Meteorology)

11.7 Threshold for Change

The recent 2023 redevelopment of the site including the demolition of selected buildings and structures, construction of four new buildings, refurbishment of existing retained buildings and renewed landscaping has accounted for the maximum threshold for change that could be undertaken to majority of the site in terms of external changes to the existing heritage buildings and their surroundings. There is, however, the north-western section of the site which has potential for development, and has been earmarked by SINSW for future expansion.

While it is unlikely that there would be tolerance for major changes to the exterior of the heritage listed buildings, minor changes to ensure compliance with Australian standards and to ensure appropriate usability for the interiors and exteriors could be undertaken as long as these changes are appropriately designed in consultation with an appropriately qualified heritage professional and can be demonstrated to be sensitive to the retention, and conservation of the existing heritage fabric on site including buildings, walls, landscape elements.

11.8 Heritage Interpretation

Heritage Interpretation of the history and significance of a site should utilise a range of methods and techniques to present and deliver information to students, visitors and site users. It is intended to assist people to gain an understanding and appreciation of the history and heritage significance of the place, using narratives based on key themes and messages to organise the information. Interpretation of tangible items, including artefacts, buildings, structures, archaeological remains and landscape may be delivered through signage, objects and art works. It can be integrated into the design of new built and landscape elements or presented in a published format including brochures, pamphlets, books and multimedia. Interpretation can also present and explore intangible aspects of social significance.

The appropriateness of potential future heritage interpretation initiatives and elements for the Fort Street Public School site will need to be considered in the context of the use of the site as a public primary school and the opportunity to utilise the school for other events outside of school hours and terms.

12. Conservation Policy and Implementation Strategies

12. Conservation Policy

12.1 Conservation Policy Development

As noted in Article 1.4 of *The Burra Charter* (2013), “Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance”.⁵⁴ It includes the processes of preservation, restoration, reconstruction and change. Therefore, conservation seeks to safeguard that which is significant to an item or place of heritage significance within the surrounding context of change and development over time. Conservation of heritage significance is not necessarily always fabric-based and can relate to both tangible and intangible values.

Therefore, it is essential to establish overarching criteria, policies and recommendations for the conservation and on-going use of a heritage item or place to ensure best practice heritage management and preservation of heritage significance for the future.

Within this framework, owners and managers of the heritage item or place will be able to formulate suitable future conservation and maintenance works, and/or possible future development and adaptive reuse proposals, and planning authorities will be able to assess those proposals against the guidance provided in the Conservation Management Plan, along with any project-specific heritage impact statements required.

The conservation policies developed here for Fort Street Public School are intended to assist in the long-term use, maintenance, conservation and future development of the site. These policies are intended to provide overarching guidance only and are not intended to supplement the need for more detailed action items, or schedules of works required, as part of Section 170 commitments, such as Heritage Asset Management Strategy, or a Moveable Collections Management Plan. The key objectives of conservation at Fort Street Public School seek to:

- Retain the significance of the place within the State significant precinct
- Retain the continued association of the place with the Observatory site and the former Fort Street school / hospital site (physical and use)
- Retain the significance of the continued use of the site for public education over the period of 174 years
- Retain and protect remaining historic fabric and views on the site.
- Retain and protect archaeological resources.
- Retain and protect the identified moveable collections associated with the site, including recently discovered archaeological relics.

The following key principles provide the overarching context behind the policy development:

- The future conservation and development of the place should be carried out in accordance with the principles of the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (Burra Charter).
- The approach and options recommended for the conservation of specific fabrics, spaces, elements and qualities of the place should be used as a guide for future work.

⁵⁴ *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter* (2013).

- Care should be taken in any future development to avoid or minimise any adverse effect on the Fort Street Public School site in its broader context related both to the physical and historical context of the wider Millers Point and Observatory Hill area, as well as in the context of educational significance of the site as one of the earliest National Schools.
- Policies should consider practical options for the management of built fabric, both heritage and modern, and encourage opportunities for replacement of intrusive elements with more sympathetic options when opportunities arise and to continue the process of the reinstatement of heritage finishes where possible, within future works programs.

12.2 Conservation Policies

For clarity and ease of use, the conservation policies for Fort Street Public School have been grouped and presented below under three categories, seen to be of critical importance to the conservation of the heritage significance of the site. Each category is accompanied by a brief explanatory segment intended to highlight the intent behind the policies.

The policy categories for Fort Street Public School include:

- General Overall Management Policies;
- Management of the Fort Street Primary School Building (Fort Street Public School), the Messenger’s Cottage (Messenger’s Cottage) for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology Building (Bureau of Meteorology)
- Heritage Interpretation & Education

Each individual policy is accompanied by a succinct background description, followed by a series of strategic actions and guidelines, which will ensure that future decisions regarding heritage are made in an informed manner to ensure the ongoing conservation of the significance of the place.

Policies stated below are a combination of the previously approved TKD and Curio policies contained in the CMP (2020) that remain applicable, as well as any policies that required updating as a result of the site’s major redevelopment program in 2023. For ease of use, including readability, for this section the individual TKD and Curio authorship and/or contributions to policies is not indicated.

12.3 Implementation Strategy

The following section outlines the specific action-based policies for Fort Street Public School as developed through this CMP, and assigns each relevant policy a priority level, timeframe, and responsible party for implementation. The assignment of priority and timeframe for implementation has been assessed based on the level of risk each relevant policy presents to the heritage values of the site to ensure this implementation strategy is reasonable and attainable. This will ensure that this CMP will be able to function as a practical and applicable document for SINSW in their ongoing conservation management of the Fort Street Public School site, and provide a link between documented policy, and workplace actions.

Priorities have defined as having four categories, being:

High—Key implementation actions of this CMP. Required to be undertaken immediately, due to risk of impact to heritage significance, or for functionality of the site.

Moderate—Actions that are important to be undertaken in the near future in order to avoid heritage impact, but will not cause heritage impact if not undertaken immediately.

Low—Actions that should be undertaken to contribute to the overall conservation of heritage significance and safeguard against potential future impacts, but delay in undertaking these actions will not pose adverse impact to heritage fabric or values.

As Required – Actions that should be undertaken as a result of a one-off specific requirement.

Based on the assessment of priority for each strategy, recommended timeframe parameters have been assigned to encourage and ensure completion of each policy action. Timing has been divided into six categories:

Immediate—Urgent works to be undertaken as soon as possible.

Short Term—Within 0-6 months.

Medium Term—In reasonable time. 12-24 months.

Long Term—within 5-10 years.

Ongoing—Policies that should be maintained/actioned on an ongoing basis.

As Required—Action policies that do not have a specific timeframe associated with them due to variance in application.

12.4 General Overall Management Policies

General overall management policies below relate to the overarching management of the cultural heritage significance of the Fort Street Public School site, in consideration and acknowledgement of current best practice heritage conservation protocols in NSW.

1. General Management Policies

Policy	Policy Description
	<p>Relevant Documentation</p> <p>Other relevant documentation prepared for the Fort Street Public School site should be considered in combination with this CMP, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Draft Fort Street Public School: Heritage Interpretation Strategy</i> prepared by Extent Heritage, 2023. • <i>Fort Street Public School—Test Excavation Archaeological Research Design. Report to NSW Schools Infrastructure, 2019a</i> • <i>Fort Street Public School: Test Excavation Archaeological Report. Prepared for Schools Infrastructure NSW, 2019b.</i> • <i>Fort Street Public School—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. Prepared for Schools Infrastructure NSW (SI), 2020</i> • <i>Fort Street Public School Archaeological Research Design prepared for Lendlease, 2021</i> • <i>Fort Street Public School: ARD and Excavation Methodology. Report prepared for SINSW, 2021</i> • <i>Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) Fort Street Public School – Archaeological Feature report for Lend Lease, 2022</i> • <i>Fort Street Public School: Excavation Report. Prepared for Lendlease on behalf of NSW Schools Infrastructure (NSWSI), 2023</i> <p>In the event of any inconsistencies, this CMP should prevail.</p>
Policy 1.1	

1. General Management Policies

Policy	Policy Description
	<p>Heritage and planning aspects of future documents should be prepared to be consistent with this CMP. Where any unexpected inconsistencies that may be considered appropriate from a heritage perspective arise, they must be justified in accordance with the principals of the Burra Charter and current Heritage NSW management guidelines as part of a heritage impact assessment process.</p>
Policy 1.2	<p>Selling or Leasing the buildings on the Fort Street Public School site</p> <p>In the event the building is sold or leased on a long-term basis, adequate provisions should be included within the sale/lease contracts to ensure the conservation and maintenance of heritage assets on the site is carried out in accordance with this CMP, including the management of the archaeological resource collection. A copy of the CMP should be included as part of the sale/lease contract.</p>
Policy 1.3	<p>Updates to this CMP</p> <p>This CMP should be reviewed by the owner and a qualified heritage specialist every five to ten years.</p> <p>In the event of the sale of the Fort Street Public School site, change of use from a school to any other use, or in case of any major unexpected damage caused to the heritage items in site, the CMP should be updated to reflect these changes.</p>
Policy 1.4	<p>Approvals and Statutory Compliances</p> <p>The <i>NSW Heritage Act 1977</i> applies to all works and all works are to be guided by a suitably qualified heritage consultant.</p> <p>Future development should be guided by expert planning advice which outlines the appropriate development pathway for works. Identification of appropriate development pathway would be guided in part by the assessment of the degree of impact associated with the proposed works.'</p> <p>A Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) should be prepared by a qualified heritage specialist to assess any works with the potential to have an impact on the heritage significance of the Fort Street Primary School Site, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology building, including works not permitted under Standard Exemptions, and propose appropriate mitigation measures if necessary.</p> <p>A Photographic Archival Recording should be prepared for alterations to elements of moderate, high or exceptional significance (as per Section 7 of this CMP), or where the removal of less significant elements lead to the uncovering of elements of greater significance, in accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines.</p> <p>Note: See <i>Guidelines for Photographic Recording of Heritage Sites, Buildings, Structures and Moveable Items</i> (1998), prepared by the Heritage Office.</p> <p>Works required to achieve compliance with the National Construction Code (NCC) 2019 should be undertaken in a manner that does not damage the cultural significance of the site or its significant built and landscape components. Alternate solutions may be required.</p> <p>Where works are required to significant heritage fabric to achieve WHS/NCC compliance, alternative solutions to minimise heritage impact are encouraged.</p>
Policy 1.5	<p>Standard Exemptions</p> <p>Maintenance works, cleaning, and minor repairs should be undertaken in compliance with the Standard Exemptions under Section 57(2) of the Heritage Act. Any works that are not compliant with the Standard Exemptions are subject to the standard approval pathways.</p>

1. General Management Policies

Policy	Policy Description
	<p>Any works or activities completed under a standard exemption, should be recorded, along with a record of the use of the relevant standard exemption, as stipulated under section 57(2) of the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>. The recording should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a reference to the item's statement of heritage significance.• a detailed description of the proposed activities and works and how this changes the existing fabric.• an assessment of whether the activities or works impact the item's heritage significance (following the guidelines)• details of any advice received from a suitably qualified and experienced professional.• other relevant records – for example, plans, copies of heritage advice received and before and after photos as attachments. <p>All works proceeding under a Section 57(2) exemption, must have a record keeping form completed and submitted for record keeping to the SINSW Heritage team.</p> <p>The heritage listed buildings on the Fort Street Public School site are not subject to any additional site-specific exemptions.</p>
Policy 1.6	<p>Unexpected Finds</p> <p>Unexpected and unforeseen finds, including archaeological relics or objects, the survival of early building fabric, moveable heritage or any previously unidentified significant elements, should be assessed and recorded by an appropriately experience heritage consultant prior to making decisions about future management. Unexpected discoveries should be reported immediately to SINSW and Heritage NSW prior to the removal of any fabric found. Should the unexpected find relate to Aboriginal objects, then the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council should be contacted for advice in the first instance.</p>
Policy 1.7	<p>Burra Charter</p> <p>Conservation of the Fort Street Primary School Site, the Messenger's Cottage, and the Bureau of Meteorology and the Movable Heritage Collection Items including 'relics' should be undertaken in accordance with the definitions and principles of <i>The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013</i> and in accordance with current NSW Heritage Legislation and Guidelines.</p>
Policy 1.8	<p>Movable Heritage Items</p> <p>An audit of moveable heritage items should be undertaken by SI and suitably documented in the form of a Moveable Collections Management Plan in accordance with the Section 170 requirements of the NSW Heritage Act.</p> <p>Moveable heritage items, such as recent archaeological collections, should be managed carefully to protect their physical integrity and provenance. Where possible, the items should be incorporated into the heritage interpretation strategy for the site to ensure they are used for educational purposes and appreciated by users and visitors to the school.</p> <p>Items of movable heritage should be managed in a manner that is consistent with the Burra Charter the following NSW Government guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Movable Heritage Principles, NSW Heritage Office (Now Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage) and the Ministry for the Arts, 2000;</i> and• <i>Objects in Their Place: An Introduction to Movable Heritage, NSW Heritage Office, 1999</i>
Policy 1.9	<p>Qualified Professionals</p> <p>All works with the potential to have an impact on the heritage significance of the site should be carried out and overseen by suitably qualified consultants and tradespersons with proven experience and qualifications in the field of heritage conservation. This includes but is not</p>

1. General Management Policies

Policy	Policy Description
	limited to the use of heritage professionals with expertise in archaeology, architecture, cultural landscapes, conservation methods, traditional building techniques, stone masons and specialist heritage tradespeople, where relevant.
Policy 1.10	<p>Impact on Significant Elements</p> <p>Potential for changes to result in adverse impact to the significance of the site should form a key consideration of decision making for all future works to the place.</p> <p>Where potential adverse impacts are identified, all opportunities to limit or avoid adverse impacts should be investigated as part of project design. Where impacts cannot be avoided, they must be thoroughly justified as in any heritage documentation prepared for the proposed works. A planning approval would be required for works that involve an adverse heritage impact. Adverse impacts would require appropriate mitigation including, at a minimum, the completion of a detailed recording of the area proposed for impact prior to and following works.</p>
Policy 1.11	<p>Adaptive Reuse</p> <p>Proposals for adaptive reuse of the Fort Street Public School site or any of the heritage listed buildings on site namely the Fort Street Primary School Site, the Messenger's Cottage, or the Bureau of Meteorology building should be carefully developed to minimise potential heritage impacts on the subject site and its cultural heritage values, both tangible and intangible.</p> <p>Future adaptive reuse of the Fort Street Public School site should continue to promote the active interpretation and communication of the heritage values of the site.</p>
Policy 1.12	<p>People & Communities</p> <p>The social significance of Fort Street Public School to former and current pupils, the Fort Street School alumni known as "Fortians", teaching faculty and school staff should be acknowledged as having an ongoing intangible connection to the site. Community interest provides a valuable resource for understanding the significance of the place beyond its bricks and mortar.</p>
Policy 1.13	<p>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Any future site works or initiatives relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage and significance should be undertaken in consultation with local Aboriginal stakeholders, including representatives of the local branch of the 'Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG), and should be undertaken in accordance with the <i>NSW Government Architect's Connecting with Country Framework 2023 Guidelines</i>, and the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW 2010)</i>, where required.</p>
Policy 1.14	<p>Aboriginal Archaeology</p> <p>Where future ground penetrating works are proposed, an Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment would be required to assess the potential for soil deposits which may contain Aboriginal objects to be present.</p> <p>If works are proposed that are likely to impact on any remaining areas with potential for natural soil profiles capable of retaining Aboriginal archaeological objects, then an Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment, specific to proposed works, should be prepared in accordance with the <i>OEH Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010)</i>.</p> <p>Depending on the location within the site, Aboriginal archaeological test excavation under the OEH Code of Practice may not be possible, as it may be below the location of the proposed below-ground works in relation to known historical archaeology. In such cases, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) in accordance with Section 90 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 will be required to allow Aboriginal archaeological test excavation to occur.</p>

1. General Management Policies

Policy	Policy Description
	<p>Future development applications should include a process of Aboriginal community consultation to be undertaken in accordance with the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW 2010)</i>, to be supported by an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.</p> <p>Wherever possible, future ground disturbing work should avoid areas with the highest potential to retain Aboriginal archaeological deposits (i.e. areas to the north and east of Fort Street Public School.)</p> <p>Should previously unidentified Aboriginal objects be unexpectedly discovered during future works, excavation or disturbance of the area should cease and Heritage NSW and the Local Aboriginal Land Council should be contacted for advice.</p> <p>Should disturbance be required where Aboriginal archaeological deposit/Aboriginal objects has been unexpectedly discovered, an application under Section 90 of the NPW Act may be required.</p> <p>Interpretation of any Aboriginal associations with the land should be incorporated into any site-wide interpretation strategy for the site.</p>
	<p>Historical Archaeology</p> <p>Any future works on the southern portion of the site requiring excavation and/or below-ground impacts should be preceded by an historical archaeological impact assessment, specific to the location and nature of the proposed impact.</p> <p>Where an archaeological impact assessment determines that further archaeological investigation of the potential historical archaeological resource is required an archaeological investigation should be guided by a Historical Archaeological Research Design (ARD) and will require an excavation permit issued in accordance with a Section 60 of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 or in accordance with the requirements of an SSDA approval, if applicable.</p> <p>All historical archaeological excavations undertaken within the site should be carried out under the supervision of an Excavation Director who meets the Heritage NSW criteria for directing archaeological excavations of local and/or State significance (depending on the nature of the potential archaeological resource being investigated).</p> <p>The archaeological remains of the Former Surgeon's Cottage, which remain insitu in the south of the site (shown in Figure 5-104 of this report) , should be retained within any future development. Any proposal that would impact on the remains should be subject to a redesign in the first instance. Should unavoidable impact to this resource be required, this must be minimised, and would require further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with either a Section 60 Excavation Permit or an SSDA approval.</p> <p>Historical archaeological resource present within the Fort Street Public School site that are uncovered and retained in situ, along with any significant artefacts recovered during excavation programs should be incorporated into future heritage interpretation strategies for the site.</p> <p>An Unexpected Finds Procedure should be developed for the site in the case that historical archaeological relics are encountered within the Fort Street Public School site curtilage during any future works programs.</p>
Policy 1.15	
	<p>Landscape</p> <p>Management of the landscape of the Fort Street Public School site should be consistent with the assessed levels of heritage significance of its key elements and in accordance with the principles, policies and guidelines in this CMP. Key considerations relate to the following:</p> <p>Retain and conserve all landscape components of Exceptional and high heritage significance which include the Fig Tree, the (relocated) Stone Pillar and the Boundary Wall.</p>
Policy 1.16	

1. General Management Policies

Policy	Policy Description
	<p>Manage the landscape character of the site as a balance of open space and areas of planting within the context of the broader landscape character of Observatory Hill and the National Trust.</p> <p>A proactive maintenance program should be developed to manage the identified significant landscape elements of Fort Street Public School. This should include provisions for regular inspections and prompt preventative maintenance and repair.</p> <p>New landscaping works should be designed in consideration of the location and significance of the significant built and landscape components of the site and its neighbours.</p>
Policy 1.17	<p>Signage</p> <p>The Fort Street Public School site is an active facility and will continue to need signs to assist with wayfinding within the site and other guidance. The location, size and character of the signs should acknowledge and consider the heritage significance of the site, including location, form and significance of individual elements, landscape components, and key heritage views to and from the site- as well as internal views within the site.</p> <p>Proposals for new signs should be formulated with the aim of avoiding or minimising adverse impacts on the significant built and landscape components of the site.</p> <p>New entry signs should not detract from important views into the site, in particular key views to significant built components.</p>
Policy 1.18	<p>Significant Visual Connections</p> <p>Significant visual connections and specific views within the site, to and from the significant view corridors identified in Section 9 of this CMP should not be subject to any new major impacts, where possible, in order to retain the relationship between the site and its surrounding heritage precinct.</p> <p>If significant views are required to be impacted for the essential operation and/or adaptive reuse of the site and precinct, mitigative measures should be developed and undertaken, including implementing interpretive solutions to help offset the visual impact.</p>
Policy 1.9	<p>Precinct-wide Heritage Significance</p> <p>The Fort Street Public School site has historical and cultural significance as part of a wider significant heritage precinct in Sydney's centre, comprising the Sydney Observatory, the National Trust Building, and the Millers and Dawes Point Village Precinct. The Fort Street Public School site should be recognised and managed within its wider context, not just as a site in isolation.</p> <p>Any potential physical and visual impacts within the site need to be considered within this broader context.</p>

12.5 Management of the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology Building

2. Management of the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology Building

Policy	Policy Description
Policy 2.1	<p>Building Envelope</p> <p>Retain the existing fabric and character of the Messenger's Cottage, and the Bureau of Meteorology building including form, shape, scale, bulk and massing, as well as the façade composition, rhythm and articulation.</p>

2. Management of the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology Building

Policy	Policy Description
	<p>Intervention to the envelopes of any of the buildings should be minimal and should not detract from the overall heritage significance of heritage listed buildings and their relationship to the central corridor through the site.</p> <p>Retain the existing form of the envelope of the Fort Street Primary School building with the new building additions to its north-west, as the fabric, form, shape, scale, bulk and massing of the original building.</p> <p>Future growth needs for the school and any impacts to existing building envelopes would need to be carefully considered in the context of the existing bulk and scale of the buildings, post the major 2023 redevelopment works to ensure that the heritage buildings retain their core characteristic composition, rhythm and articulation, as well as prominence, within the site.</p>
Policy 2.2	<p>Building Elevations</p> <p>Retain the Messenger's Cottage with its hipped roof and verandah and skillion roof structures to south-west and south of the building, without any new additions.</p> <p>Retain the symmetrical composition of elevations of the Bureau of Meteorology building.</p> <p>The elevations of the new buildings added to the site as part of the 2023 redevelopment should be maintained such that their form, materiality and aesthetic continues to be sensitive to the significance of the heritage listed buildings on site.</p>
Policy 2.3	<p>Original openings</p> <p>The extant external windows and doors and associated hardware of the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage, and the Bureau of Meteorology building have been retained and restored where needed, as part of the 2023 redevelopment and conservation works. The extant fabric, form and materiality of these openings should be maintained.</p> <p>Any openings that need to be modified to meet future Australian accessibility and related compliance standards should seek to retain the extant fabric, form and materiality, as much as practical. Alternative solutions should be sought, where possible, with reversibility of impacts, where practical, to be a key consideration in the design outcomes.</p>
Policy 2.4	<p>New openings</p> <p>Following redevelopment of the site in 2023, additional new external openings to the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage, and the Bureau of Meteorology building, should be avoided, where possible, as they will impact the original rhythm and configuration of the building envelopes.</p> <p>While existing internal openings of the Messenger's Cottage have been retained, new internal openings have been introduced to the Fort Street Primary School building and the Bureau of Meteorology building. These new openings were required in order to provide access to new rooms that are essential for the operation and future use of the buildings, however all original openings that are still extant should continue to be retained as indicators of the original, historic layout within the buildings.</p> <p>Any new openings that may be required to meet future Australian accessibility and related compliance standards should seek to retain the significance of extant fabric, form and materiality, as much as practical. Alternate solutions for the management of accessibility and related compliance with Australian standards should be sought.</p>
Policy 2.5	<p>External Additions</p> <p>The need for any new external additions to the Messenger's Cottage, and the Bureau of Meteorology building should be avoided in any future proposals for the site.</p> <p>The new building to the north-west of the Fort Street Primary School building is a heritage sensitive design outcome and may, with sensitive design, be reconsidered for future adaptive</p>

2. Management of the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology Building

Policy	Policy Description
	<p>reuse, provided the scale, bulk, height and materiality does not detract from the existing suite of heritage buildings.</p> <p>External additions to the Messenger's Cottage, and the Bureau of Meteorology building are generally detached from the heritage listed buildings, thereby preserving the original envelope shape, form and scale of the heritage buildings and should continue to remain articulated as such.</p> <p>Further additions to Fort Street School, and the new buildings should be carefully considered in the context of the site and its setting within its immediate site curtilage and also within the broader precinct.</p>
Policy 2.6	<p>Room Configuration</p> <p>The original layout and configuration of the original rooms within the Messenger's Cottage has been retained and should continue to be retained as is.</p> <p>Changes have been made to the original layout and internal configuration of the Fort Street Primary School building, and the Bureau of Meteorology building, and these changes should be retained as is, with further additional changes to be avoided as far as possible.</p> <p>New partitions subdividing the original rooms have been designed and constructed with materials that will allow for the changes to be easily reinstated, thereby minimising impacts on the original openings, scale, layout and openness of the rooms. This design principal should be applied for any future use requirements that may require additional minor changes.</p>
Policy 2.7	<p>Original Timber Elements and Joinery</p> <p>All original timber elements and joinery which has been conserved, protected and repaired, should be retained and maintained.</p> <p>Any future restoration works should be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experience heritage tradesperson and in close consultation with a qualified heritage specialist.</p> <p>Elements that have been subject to French Polishing, including the Bureau of Meteorology Entry Vestibule should continue to be maintained in the same manner. Ongoing upkeep should continue the use of traditional French Polishing methods and other overcoatings such as painting should not be considered.</p>
Policy 2.8	<p>Colours and Treatments</p> <p>Changes to colour schemes for exteriors of heritage and non-heritage buildings should be developed in consultation with a heritage consultant to minimise potential heritage impact. Planning approval may be required to modify colour schemes."</p> <p>Contemporary colour schemes have been used within the interiors of the Fort Street Primary School building and the Bureau of Meteorology building and are more adaptable to change, whereas the colour scheme for the Messenger's Cottage is more closely based on earlier historic paint schemes.</p> <p>Where there are unpainted surfaces, no paint is to be applied, with surfaces to remain unpainted.</p>
Policy 2.9	<p>Masonry and pointing</p> <p>The 2023 redevelopment works undertaken to the masonry walls of the Fort Street Primary School included repointing that was a different colour to the earlier pointing, thereby ensuring that the pointing work was identifiable as new.</p> <p>While this is in keeping with the Burra Charter, it is strongly recommended that any future repointing of the older sections of the building, that have not yet required repointing, should</p>

2. Management of the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology Building

Policy	Policy Description
	<p>be closely colour-matched to the most recent pointing, so as to ensure aesthetically cohesive surfaces for the whole of the building façade, with differences only visible on close inspection.</p> <p>The mortar matching should be tested in consultation with a heritage tradesperson with appropriate skills, to ensure the mortar is the right mix and colour, prior to any major repointing program.</p>
Policy 2.10	<p>Fireplaces</p> <p>Extant original/early fireplaces at the Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology building should continue to be retained and conserved insitu, with the mantles to remain unpainted and maintained using appropriate French polished finishes.</p>
Policy 2.11	<p>Intrusive Fabric</p> <p>Remove intrusive elements identified in the fabric analysis of this CMP (Section 7 <i>Gradings of Significance</i>), where possible, as part of any future works program, as intrusive elements impact the overall heritage value of the heritage listed buildings.</p>
Policy 2.12	<p>Maintenance, Repair and/or Reconstruction</p> <p>Maintenance inspections of the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology building should be carried out regularly to monitor the physical condition and integrity of the significant fabric in accordance with Schools Infrastructure Section 170 obligations for heritage asset management.</p> <p>Where necessary, significant fabric should be replaced or repaired on a like-for-like basis. Removal of original fabric should only take place where it has deteriorated to a condition beyond feasible retention.</p> <p>A Heritage Asset Management Strategy (HAMS) should be prepared for the site and should include an updated Cyclical Maintenance Plan and a Moveable Collections Management Plan to ensure the ongoing conservation and care of significant heritage fabric, namely that of the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology and the archaeological relics recovered during the excavations undertaken on site between 2019-2023.</p> <p>The documentation, required as part of the Section 170 obligations for the site is to be prepared by an appropriately experienced heritage specialist/tradesperson, in accordance with all relevant <i>NSW Heritage Division guidelines</i>, including <i>The Maintenance Series 1.1: 'Preparing a maintenance plan'</i>, (NSW Heritage Office 2004)⁵⁵.</p> <p>Adequate funding and other necessary resources should be incorporated into annual budgets for the site for ongoing cleaning, maintenance and repair.</p>
Policy 2.13	<p>Fixing Methodologies & Reversibility of New Fabric</p> <p>New fabric to be installed within the site must utilise sympathetic and reversible methodologies (where possible) to protect the physical integrity of significant fabric. Acceptable methodologies include bracing and clamping, among others.</p> <p>A qualified heritage consultant and/or appropriately skilled heritage tradesperson must be commissioned to provide advice and input into the chosen fixing methodologies to ensure impacts, where required, are well-considered and minimised.</p>
Policy 2.14	<p>Accessibility</p>

⁵⁵ www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/maintenance11preparingplan.pdf

2. Management of the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology Building

Policy	Policy Description
	<p>Where possible, the buildings have and should continue to incorporate accessibility solutions which will need to be carefully designed to avoid or minimise adverse heritage impacts as much as possible in order to provide access to all users and visitors in accordance with current Australian Standards.</p> <p>Where options for installation of equitable access would present adverse impact to significant heritage fabric or values, alternative solutions should be identified and considered where possible.</p>
Policy 2.15	<p>Services</p> <p>New services should be designed and installed in a sympathetic manner, minimising physical and visual intervention to original building elements. Therefore, exposed services, including wall and ceiling-mounted elements, new penetrations, or permanent fixings should be avoided. Updates and improvements to systems for more suitable solutions are encouraged if they do not require significant modifications, rework to original building elements or the obstruction of the original spatial configuration of the rooms in each of the heritage listed buildings.</p> <p>Upgrading of existing services and the installation of new services should seek to avoid or minimise physical and visual impacts on potential archaeological relics, significant buildings, trees and other landscape elements, as much as possible.</p> <p>Where possible, works undertaken for maintenance, repair and upgrade of existing services should seek to 'make good' of any previously installed services or elements that are intrusive to heritage fabric or significance.</p> <p>Installation of new services shall be appropriately documented including annotated photographs.</p> <p>A qualified heritage consultant and/or appropriately skilled heritage tradesperson must be commissioned to provide advice and input into the chosen fixing methodologies to ensure any impacts are either avoided or mitigated as much as possible.</p>

12.6 Heritage Interpretation & Education

3. Heritage Interpretation & Education

Policy	Policy Description
Policy 3.1	<p>Heritage Interpretation</p> <p>Heritage Interpretation should be prepared for the Fort Street Public School site to assist with enhancing student education, user and visitor appreciation and understanding of the history and heritage significance of the site in terms of its former and current uses.</p> <p>A Draft Heritage Interpretation Plan for the Fort Street Public School site was prepared by Extent Heritage in 2023. At the time of finalising this CMP, the Interpretation Plan was not provided to Curio for inclusion in the CMP. Future updates of the CMP should include relevant site-specific requirements included in the final Heritage Interpretation Plan.</p> <p>In accordance with the NSW Interpretation Guidelines and the Burra Charter, interpretation initiatives should address both the tangible and intangible values of the site. Interpretation should relate to Aboriginal cultural heritage values, the history and evolution of the site, the discovery of historical archaeological resources, significant buildings and structures, the</p>

3. Heritage Interpretation & Education

Policy	Policy Description
	<p>moveable heritage collection, significant former and current functions and use, natural and cultural landscape elements of significance.</p> <p>All interpretation initiatives should seek to educate the students at the site, as part of their studies and should be able to communicate with a wide variety of people through a range of innovative, efficient, and engaging solutions and communication methods, responsive to the needs of potential audiences within the local and wider community.</p>

12.6 Implementation Table

Policies that are **not action-based** are not included in this table. For the purpose of remaining concise, many of the policies are abbreviated, rather than repeated wholesale. For completeness, always refer to Section 12.2 *Conservation Policies*. Implementation responsibility remains with the site owner (Schools Infrastructure NSW) for each of the action items.

Table below provides a summary of the key **action-based policies** developed through this CMP, and the priority, timeframe, and responsibility of implementation for each. Policies that are **not action-based** are not included in this table. For the purpose of remaining concise, many of the policies are abbreviated, rather than repeated wholesale. For completeness, always refer to Section 12.2 *Conservation Policies*. Implementation responsibility remains with the site owner (Schools Infrastructure NSW) for each of the action items.

Table 12.3: Implementation Table of Action-Based Strategies

Policy	Strategy/Action	Priority	Timeframe
<i>General Management Policies</i>			
	Documentation & Updated Listings (abbreviated version)		
	The CMP should be used as the principal document to guide the heritage conservation and management of the Fort Street Public School site.		
Policy 1.1	The State Heritage Inventory listing for the Fort Street Primary School Site, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology should be updated by Heritage NSW to reflect the current conditions of the Fort Street Public School site and the key findings of this CMP.	High	Medium Term
	Information should be provided in a user-friendly format for Heritage NSW to allow for an easy update of the State Heritage Inventory Datasheets.		
	Relevant Documentation (abbreviated version)		
Policy 1.2	Other relevant documentation prepared for the Fort Street Public School site should be considered in combination with this CMP,	As required	As required

Policy	Strategy/Action	Priority	Timeframe
	<p>In the event of any inconsistencies, this CMP should prevail.</p> <p>Heritage and planning aspects of future documents should be prepared to be consistent with this CMP. Where any unexpected inconsistencies that may be considered appropriate from a heritage perspective arise, they must be justified in accordance with the principals of the Burra Charter and current Heritage NSW management guidelines as part of a heritage impact assessment process.</p>		
Policy 1.3	<p>Selling or Leasing the buildings on the Fort Street Public School site</p> <p>In the event the building is sold or leased on a long-term basis, adequate provisions should be included within the sale/lease contracts to ensure the conservation and maintenance of heritage assets on the site is carried out in accordance with this CMP, including the management of the archaeological resource collection. A copy of the CMP should be included as part of the sale/lease contract.</p>	As required	As required
Policy 1.4	<p>Updates to this CMP</p> <p>This CMP should be reviewed by the owner and a qualified heritage specialist every five to ten years.</p> <p>In the event of the sale of the Fort Street Public School site, change of use from a school to any other use, or in case of any major unexpected damage caused to the heritage items in site, the CMP should be updated to reflect these changes.</p>	High	Long Term
Policy 1.5	<p>Approvals and Statutory Compliances</p> <p>All proposals involving the Fort Street Public School site are subject to the provisions of the <i>NSW Heritage Act 1977</i> and should be assessed against the conservation policies of this CMP.</p>	As required	As required
Policy 1.6	<p>Standard Exemptions</p> <p>Maintenance works, cleaning, and minor repairs should be undertaken in compliance with the Standard Exemptions under Section 57(2) of the Heritage Act. Any works that are not compliant with the Standard Exemptions are subject to the standard approval pathways.</p> <p>Any works or activities completed under a standard exemption, should be recorded, along with a record of the use of the relevant standard exemption, as stipulated under section 57(2) of the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>.</p> <p>All works proceeding under a Section 57 exemption, must also have a record keeping form completed and submitted for record keeping to the SINSW Heritage team.</p>	As required	As required

Policy	Strategy/Action	Priority	Timeframe
Policy 1.7	<p>Unexpected Finds (abbreviated version)</p> <p>Unexpected and unforeseen finds, including archaeological relics or objects, the survival of early building fabric, moveable heritage or any previously unidentified significant elements, should be assessed and recorded by an appropriately experience heritage consultant prior to making decisions about future management. Unexpected discoveries should be reported immediately to SINSW and Heritage NSW prior to the removal of any fabric found. Should the unexpected find relate to Aboriginal objects, then the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council should be contacted for advice in the first instance.</p>	High	Immediate (upon discovery of unexpected find)
Policy 1.9	<p>Movable Heritage Items (abbreviated version)</p> <p>An audit of moveable heritage items should be undertaken by SINSW and suitably documented in the form of a Moveable Collections Management Plan in accordance with the Section 170 requirements of the NSW Heritage Act.</p>	High	Immediate
Policy 1.13	<p>People & Communities</p> <p>The social significance of Fort Street Public School to former and current pupils, the Fort Street School alumni known as “Fortians”, teaching faculty and school staff should be acknowledged as having an ongoing intangible connection to the site. Community interest provides a valuable resource for understanding the significance of the place beyond its bricks and mortar.</p>	Moderate	Medium
Policy 1.15	<p>Aboriginal Archaeology (abbreviated version)</p> <p>If works are proposed that are likely to impact on any remaining areas with potential for natural soil profiles capable of retaining Aboriginal archaeological objects, then an Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment, specific to proposed works, should be prepared in accordance with the <i>OEH Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010)</i>.</p> <p>Depending on the location within the site, Aboriginal archaeological test excavation under the OEH Code of Practice may not be possible, as it may be below the location of the proposed below-ground works in relation to known historical archaeology. In such cases, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) in accordance with Section 90 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 will be required to allow Aboriginal archaeological test excavation to occur.</p> <p>Future development applications should include a process of Aboriginal community consultation to be undertaken in accordance with the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW</i></p>	As required	As required

Policy	Strategy/Action	Priority	Timeframe	
	2010), to be supported by an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.			
	Historical Archaeology (abbreviated version) Any future works on the southern portion of the site requiring excavation and/or below-ground impacts should be preceded by an historical archaeological impact assessment, specific to the location and nature of the proposed impact. An Unexpected Finds Procedure should be developed for the site in the case that historical archaeological relics are encountered within the Fort Street Public School site curtilage during any future works programs.	High	As required	
	Landscape (abbreviated version) Management of the landscape of the Fort Street Public School site should be consistent with the assessed levels of heritage significance of its key elements and in accordance with the principles, policies and guidelines in this CMP. Key considerations relate to the following: A proactive maintenance program should be developed to manage the identified significant landscape elements of Fort Street Public School. This should include provisions for regular inspections and prompt preventative maintenance and repair.	Moderate	Medium	
2. Management of the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology Building				
	Masonry and pointing (abbreviated version) The 2023 redevelopment works undertaken to the masonry walls of the Fort Street Primary School included repointing that was a different colour to the earlier pointing, thereby ensuring that the pointing work was identifiable as new. While this is in keeping with the Burra Charter, it is strongly recommended that any future repointing of the older sections of the building, that have not yet required repointing, should be closely colour-matched to the most recent pointing, to ensure aesthetically cohesive facades for the whole of the building, with differences only visible on close inspection. The mortar matching should be tested in consultation with a heritage tradesperson with appropriate skills, to ensure the mortar is the right mix and colour, prior to any major repointing program.	Moderate	Medium	SINSW
Policy 2.10	Fireplaces	Low	Medium Term	SINSW

Policy	Strategy/Action	Priority	Timeframe
	Extant original/early fireplaces at the Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology building should continue to be retained and conserved insitu, with the mantles to remain unpainted and maintained using appropriate French polished finishes.		
Policy 2.11	<p>Intrusive Fabric</p> <p>Remove intrusive elements identified in the fabric analysis of this CMP (Section 7 <i>Gradings of Significance</i>), where possible, as part of any future works program, as intrusive elements impact the overall heritage value of the heritage listed buildings.</p>	Low	Long Term
Policy 2.12	<p>Maintenance, Repair and/or Reconstruction (abbreviated version)</p> <p>Maintenance inspections of the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology building should be carried out regularly to monitor the physical condition and integrity of the significant fabric in accordance with Schools Infrastructure Section 170 obligations for heritage asset management.</p> <p>A Heritage Asset Management Strategy (HAMS) should be prepared for the site and should include an updated Cyclical Maintenance Plan and a Moveable Collections Management Plan to ensure the ongoing conservation and care of significant heritage fabric, namely that of the Fort Street Primary School building, the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory, and the Bureau of Meteorology and the archaeological relics recovered during the excavations undertaken on site between 2019-2023.</p> <p>Adequate funding and other necessary resources should be incorporated into annual budgets for the site for ongoing cleaning, maintenance and repair.</p>	High	Short Term
Policy 2.13	<p>Fixing Methodologies & Reversibility of New Fabric</p> <p>New fabric to be installed within the site must utilise sympathetic and reversible methodologies (where possible) to protect the physical integrity of significant fabric. Acceptable methodologies include bracing and clamping, among others.</p> <p>A qualified heritage consultant and/or appropriately skilled heritage tradesperson must be commissioned to provide advice and input into the chosen fixing methodologies to ensure impacts, where required, are well-considered and minimised.</p>	As required	As required
Policy 2.14	<p>Accessibility</p> <p>Where possible, the buildings have and should continue to incorporate accessibility solutions to promote equitable access to all users and visitors in accordance with current Australian Standards.</p>	As required	As required.

Policy	Strategy/Action	Priority	Timeframe
	<p>Services (abbreviated version)</p> <p>New services should be designed and installed in a sympathetic manner, minimising physical and visual intervention to original building elements.</p>		
Policy 2.15	<p>Where possible, works undertaken for maintenance, repair and upgrade of existing services should seek to 'make good' of any previously installed services or elements that are intrusive to heritage fabric or significance.</p> <p>A qualified heritage consultant and/or appropriately skilled heritage tradesperson must be commissioned to provide advice and input into the chosen fixing methodologies to ensure any impacts are either avoided or mitigated as much as possible.</p>	As required	As required

3. Heritage Interpretation & Education

	<p>Heritage Interpretation (abbreviated version)</p> <p>Heritage Interpretation should be prepared for the Fort Street Public School site to assist with enhancing student education, user and visitor appreciation and understanding of the history and heritage significance of the site in terms of its former and current uses.</p> <p>A Heritage Interpretation Plan for the Fort Street Public School site was prepared by Extent Heritage in 2023. At the time of finalising this CMP, the Interpretation Plan was not provided to Curio for inclusion in the CMP. Future updates of the CMP should include relevant site-specific requirements included in the final Heritage Interpretation Plan.</p>		
Policy 3.1	<p>In accordance with the NSW Interpretation Guidelines and the Burra Charter, interpretation initiatives should address both the tangible and intangible values of the site.</p> <p>Interpretation should relate to Aboriginal cultural heritage values, the history and evolution of the site, the discovery of historical archaeological resources, significant buildings and structures, the moveable heritage collection, significant former and current functions and use, natural and cultural landscape elements of significance.</p> <p>All interpretation initiatives should seek to educate the students at the site, as part of their studies and should be able to communicate with a wide variety of people through a range of innovative, efficient, and engaging solutions and communication methods, responsive to the needs of potential audiences within the local and wider community.</p>	Moderate	Long Term

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Appendix A: History

Aboriginal Ethnohistory

Aboriginal Land use and Occupation

The traditional owners of the Sydney Cove region are the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The traditional territory of the Gadigal stretches along the southern side of Sydney Harbour from South Head, west to approximately Darling Harbour, and south towards Botany Bay. The Sydney region has two main language groups: Darug—with two main dialects, one spoken along the coast, and another in the hinterland/Cumberland Plain region of western Sydney; and Tharawal—spoken to the south of Botany Bay. Within the Darug language group, people belonged to smaller family/territorial groups or clans, through which they were connected to, and occupied, different areas of land across Sydney, of which the Gadigal people are one.

While the Observatory Hill locality would most likely have been an original contact site between the new colonists and Sydney's first inhabitants, few accounts or evidence remain to provide further information about contact in this location. The local Aboriginal people living in the area of the Fort Street Public School would have pursued a mixed food economy in the region, utilising and relying on the abundant natural resources of Sydney cove, including marine resources from the harbour and surrounding waters, hunting terrestrial mammals, as well as collecting and processing local plants).

At the time of arrival of the First Fleet and Captain Arthur Phillip in January 1788, it is estimated that at least 1500 Aboriginal people would have lived along the coastal region between Broken Bay and Botany Bay. The arrival of the First Fleet devastated the lives and activities of Aboriginal people of the Sydney Harbour area, restricting access to areas traditionally used for hunting and gathering, shelter and for ceremonial purposes, while introducing devastating diseases such as smallpox. It is estimated that almost half of Sydney's Aboriginal population died in the first smallpox epidemic recorded in the colony in 1789. However, despite the widespread devastation of colonial arrival and establishment to the Aboriginal inhabitants of Sydney, the Gadigal endured and remains a continuing culture in Sydney today.

Post Contact History

Discussion of the post contact evidence for the presence of Aboriginal groups in the vicinity of the study area is problematic. As Paul Irish has pointed out:

Archaeological research into Sydney's Aboriginal past has overwhelmingly focused on the pre-contact period, while historical archaeology focusing on Aboriginal heritage has mostly been undertaken in regional or remote areas.⁵⁶

This was the result, as Irish explains, of the existence of an "Aboriginal/historical heritage divide" within the archaeological community due to a number of factors.

Two recent efforts have highlighted the presence of specific sets archaeological remains of Aboriginal presence in the Sydney Basin area in the post contact period.⁵⁷ Goward focused on Aboriginal Glass Artefacts (AGA) and identified 58 sites mostly focusing on Botany Bay and Port

⁵⁶ Irish, P. and Goward, T., 2012. Where's the evidence? The archaeology of Sydney's Aboriginal history. *Archaeology in Oceania*, 47(2), pp. 60-68.

⁵⁷ Goward, T., 2011. Aboriginal Glass Artefacts of the Sydney Region, A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Archaeology. University of Sydney and McDonald, J. 2008. Rock art and cross cultural interaction in Sydney. Veth, P., P. Sutton and M. Neale (eds.). *Strangers on the Shore: Early Coastal Contacts in Australia*. Canberra. Nation Museum of Australia Press, pp. 94-112.

Jackson.⁵⁸ Three AGAs were identified at First Government House site, only 700 m to the southeast of the study area.

McDonald recorded 37 examples of art depicting contact motifs in the Sydney Basin, mostly around Broken Bay and the Hawkesbury River, none are around Botany Bay or Port Jackson and only one is south of Port Jackson near the Georges River.⁵⁹

Irish in his 2014 thesis draws much of the available archaeological and historical information together for the Sydney region and was able to document an ongoing presence of Aboriginal individuals and communities post invasion around Port Jackson for the majority of the nineteenth century.⁶⁰ Settlements are known from the Domain (1846) and Woolloomooloo (1844) not far from the study area.

Artistic depictions also suggest a presence and level of interaction in the early period near the site, though these may need to be treated with some caution (Figure 3-2). Major James Taylor's famous panorama shows four groups of Aborigines, the first two on the grounds of the Military Hospital itself, two conversing with a member of the military – all are clothed. The third and fourth present the members of small family(?) groups, north of the study area, naked with weapons living in more demonstrably "primitive" circumstances traditionally anticipated by the European viewers.

From historical sources we also know of the relations recorded between the civil and military authorities and the local Eora in the immediate aftermath of the invasion. For example, Governor Phillips attempts to establish intercourse with the Aboriginal groups through Arabanoo and then Bennelong and Colebee.⁶¹ This relationship was focused on the east side of Sydney Cove at Tubowgulle (now Bennelong Point) and the First Government House and Domain. Nearer the study area was the early observatory established at the north end of the headland Tar-ra (now Dawes Point).⁶² William Dawes was a Marine on the First Fleet and was given the task of observing a comet expected in 1788 from the southern hemisphere. He was able to provide engineering and survey expertise to the developing settlement and also developed the first Eora language.⁶³ His relationship with fifteen-year-old native girl, Patyegarang, was close and she acted as his teacher and servant.⁶⁴

⁵⁸ Though she notes that this is likely a product of where archaeological work is being undertaken not a reflection of Aboriginal cultural behaviour – see Goward, *op cit*, p. 113.

⁵⁹ McDonald, *op cit*, p. 101.

⁶⁰ Irish, P., 2014. Hidden in Plain View: Nineteenth-century Aboriginal people and places in coastal Sydney, Thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, UNSW Sydney.

⁶¹ Smith, K, 2009, "Bennelong among his people". *Aboriginal History*. 33, pp. 7–30.

⁶² What was to become known as Dawes Point was originally named Maskelyne Point after Dr Neville Maskelyne Dawe's patron and the then British Astronomer Royal.

⁶³ Phyllis Mander-Jones, 'Dawes, William (1762–1836)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/dawes-william-1968/text2377>, published first in hardcopy 1966, accessed online 17 September 2022

⁶⁴ Gibson, R., 2010, "Patyegarang and William Dawes: The space of imagination", *In Making Settler Colonial Space: Perspectives on race, place and identity*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 242-254.



Figure 0-1: View of Parramatta River from Observatory Hill, c.1789 (Source: NLA. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135681388>)

Early Site History

Before it was named Observatory Hill, the high ridge on the western side of Sydney Cove was known in the 1790s as Windmill Hill when it was the site of the colony's first successfully functioning windmill, then Fort Phillip or Citadel Hill from 1804 and Flagstaff Hill from the time of Governor Macquarie. The name Observatory Hill came into currency during the 1860s.

The site of Fort Street Public School was originally chosen as the location for the Royal Military Hospital. It seems to have been vacant ground on Windmill Hill and was unused up until the time that the hospital was erected. The Royal Military Hospital was commissioned in 1814 by Governor Macquarie to replace the existing Regimental Hospital located at the present-day corner of Clarence and Erskine Streets, which was in poor condition and ill-suited to its use. Lieutenant John Watts (1786-1873), lately arrived in Sydney along with the 46th Regiment, was charged with its design. Watts is said to have based the design of his buildings on West Indian colonial architecture, and his hospital designs are considered to be similar to the standard

hospital/barrack buildings developed by the Royal Engineers.⁶⁵ It was a rectangular two storey building with a mansard roof, surrounded on all sides by verandahs. Its simple plan consisted of a central hall containing a stair, a large ward on either side of the hall and two small rooms at each end of the building entered via the verandah. The new hospital was ready for occupation by the middle of July 1815 and “the Sick of the Corps” were relocated to it on the 24th of that month.⁶⁶ There were two outbuildings associated with the Hospital – the single storey doctor’s house and a kitchen. Both were to its north. A wall, the stone footings of which still survive, extended along its northern boundary.

There remains some uncertainty through the historical records as to when the boundary wall was first constructed (and hence what date the extant wall within the site dates to). A plan of the compound in 1836 shows the main hospital and its two main out-buildings, all of which appear to be surrounded by a perimeter fence or wall- however, the drawing does not detail the wall, and the depiction of the northern boundary appears to be slightly splayed (Figure 0-7). An annotated drawing from the Surveyors Sketch Books dated 1854 notes that the northern boundary was fenced, the remainder of the site (including the extension to Princes Street) being walled. A 1856 plan of the site depicts the boundary line as a single faint line does not double as stone wall as for other clearly depicted walls in the plan. A 1864 photograph of the site appears to depict the boundary as a wall, indicating that the boundary was constructed first as a wall sometime in the early 1860s.

The Military Hospital was in use for over thirty years. However, on 16 October 1845 the foundation stone of a military hospital at Victoria Barracks in Paddington was laid.⁶⁷ The garrison was transferred from the York Street Barracks to Victoria Barracks in August 1848, thus rendering the Military Hospital redundant. However, its buildings were shortly to enter a new phase of use as a result of changes to the colony’s education system.

⁶⁵ Noni Boyd, “Watts, John”, in Philip Goad and Julie Willis, *Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, p.755. Other buildings designed by Watts include the Lancer Barracks at Parramatta (circa 18200, additions to Government House at Parramatta (1815), the towers of St John’s Church at Parramatta (1818) and Parramatta Hospital (1817; demolished)

⁶⁶ “Government and General Orders”, *Sydney Gazette*, 22 July 1815, p.1.

⁶⁷ “New Military Hospital”, *The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser*, 25 October 1845, p.4.

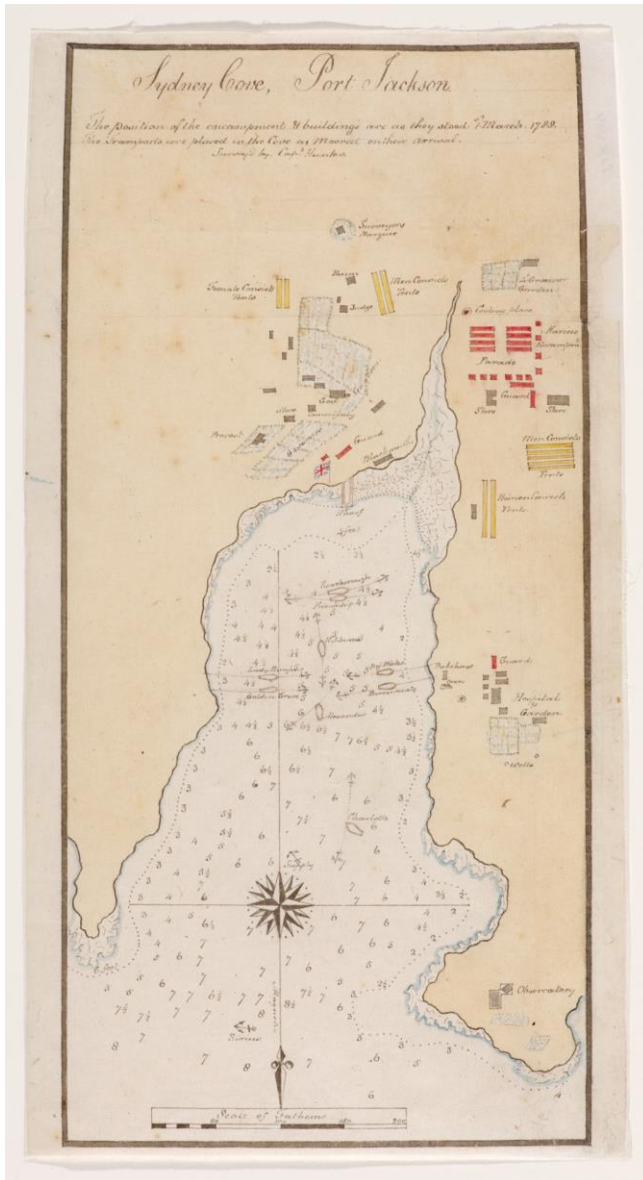


Figure 0-2: Sydney Cove, Port Jackson March 1788, William Bradley, Inset of Observatory. Charts from his Journal A Voyage To New South Wales Ca. 1802 (Source: SLNSW Safe 1 14, 7).



Figure 0-3: The Military Hospital formed a prominent part of Edward Close's depiction of the western side of Sydney Cove, circa 1818. The Government Mill and Fort Phillip can be seen to its right. (West Side Of Farm Cove With Distant View Of The Military Hospital The Smock-Mill And Fort Phillip By Edward Charles Close. Source: NLA.Pic-An4563834-S8).



Figure 0-4: c.1818 Third Government Windmill (Current School Site) in front of Fort Phillip (Source: Mitchell Library SLNSW A1528797/M1942).

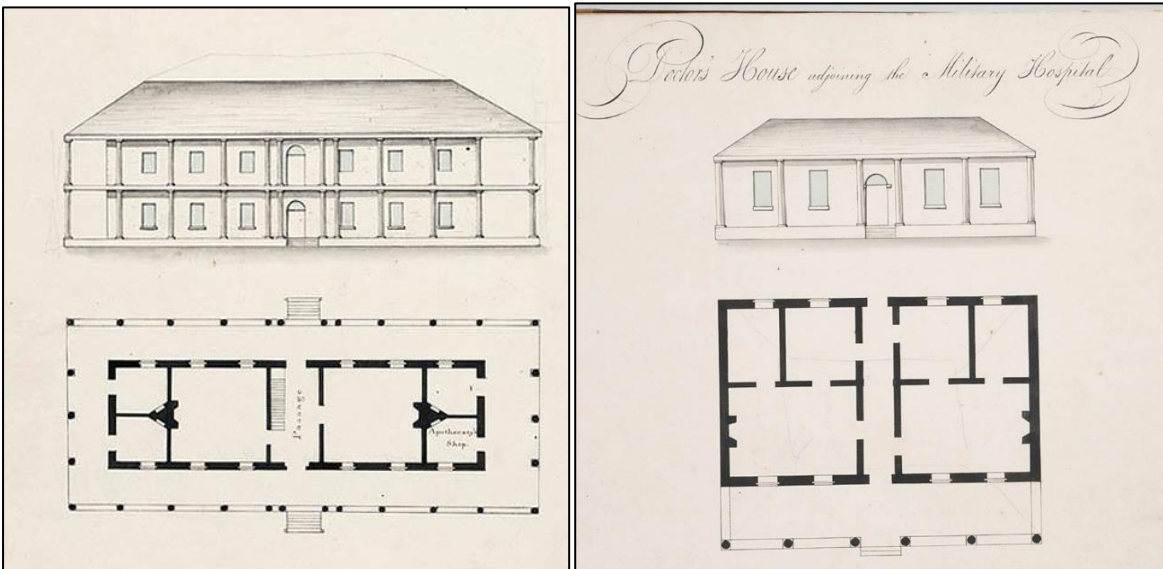


Figure 0-5: Plan of Military Hospital (1824) (Left), Plan of 'Doctor's House' (1824) From Standish Lawrence Harris – 'Report & Estimate Of The Value Of The Improvements Which Have Taken Place In The Public Buildings Of Sydney, Etc.' (Source: SLNSW C 225/ F13255340).



Figure 0-6: 1833 Plan, Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, 3rd Government mill within Fort Street Public School Site (Source: SLNSW A4694001/Ca83/14)

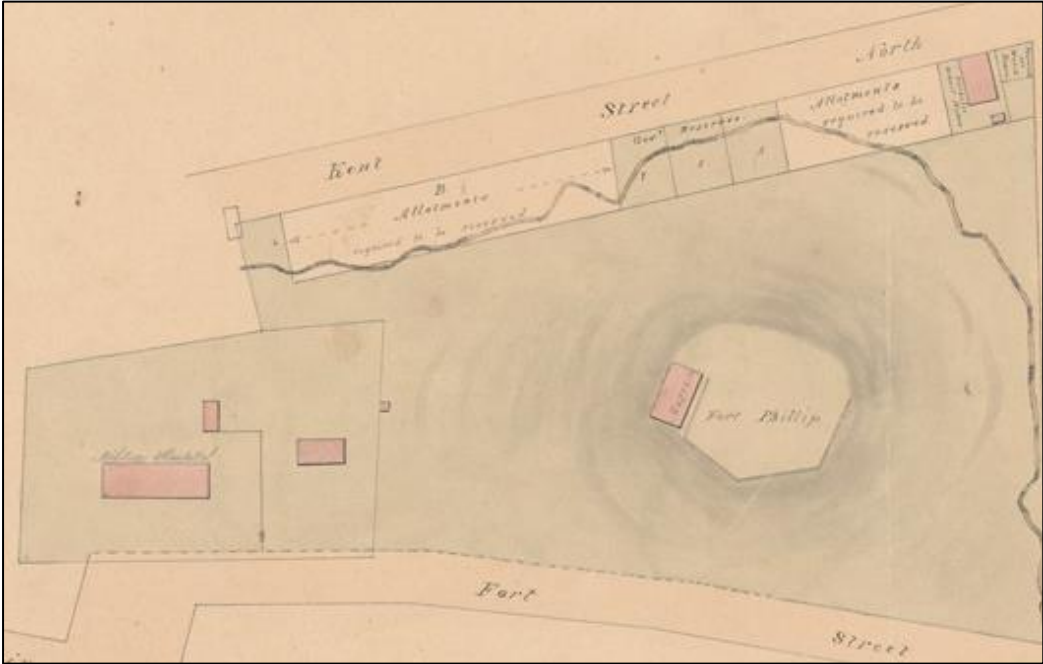


Figure 0-7: 1836 Plan of Military Hospital. Main hospital and two outbuildings surrounded by perimeter fence or wall. Detail of perimeter/boundary is not specified and north boundary appears to be slightly splayed (Source: NSW State Archives and Records, Digital ID: NRS13886[X755]_a110_000118)



Figure 0-8: W. S. Hatton Drawing, Post 1856 (1859?) Showing fence.

At the beginning of 1848 Governor FitzRoy nominated a Board of National Education, thus affirming a chain of events that started in 1836 when Governor Bourke announced his intention to introduce the National Irish system of education to NSW in a bid to provide non-denominational education for the children of NSW.

The National Irish system came into operation in 1831. The system had developed in response to the animosity between the denominations of the Christian church. The result was a state-supported system of primary education where children of all religious denominations to be taught together in the same school, with separate religious instruction. The new system was initially supported by the religious denominations but soon lost their support. However, this was countered by the enthusiasm of the general public.

Bourke, who was honoured for his principles of religious equality, left NSW in December 1837. The education of children remained the realm of the churches into the 1840s. However, this was a decade of great change, with the cessation of transportation, economic depression and the establishment of a Legislative Council. By 1848 economic conditions had improved and educational reform was more feasible, reflected by the establishment of the Board of National Education.⁶⁸ A Denominational School Board was responsible for Church-founded schools. All of the schools operated by the Board of National Education were known as National Schools.

In the middle of January 1848, the Colonial Secretary wrote to the Commanding Officer of the Royal Engineers concerning expenditure on the Military Hospital at Victoria Barracks. The correspondence included reference to the possibility that the old Hospital should be given to the Colony in recompense for the costs incurred due to the construction of the new hospital at Victoria Barracks.⁶⁹ At around the same time the Board of National Education applied to the Governor for a suitable building to accommodate both a model school and a normal school for training future teachers. At the end of July 1848, the Board received word from the Governor that the commanding Royal Engineer had been requested to hand over the Military Hospital to it once it had been vacated, although the Board did not obtain final possession until 4 January 1849.

⁶⁸ Alan Barcan, *Two Centuries of Education in New South Wales*, p.61.

⁶⁹ "Military Hospital, Fort Phillip", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 May 1848, p.2.

On 30 November 1848 the Board was able to transmit plans of alterations “necessary to render this building well adapted for two separate schools”, which plan was furnished to the Board by the Colonial Architect. The Colonial Architect at that period was Mortimer Lewis. The Governor duly approved a sum not exceeding £1,100 for the conversion of the building to a school house on 5 January 1849 and ten days later the tender of £849 submitted by Peter McBeath was accepted.⁷⁰ His bond was accepted on 15 January 1849 with a contract period of five months. The works duly proceeded:

The Board of National Education have commenced active operations. The old Military Hospital near Fort Phillip, having been granted to them, they have placed it under a course of thorough repair, and the changes which have been effected in the building are such as to increase its strength, while they add to its beauty. A wall of strong brick work has been erected at the edge of the old verandah, with ornamental arches fronting the windows; and when this wall shall have been stuccoed in the ordinary way, the hitherto unsightly hospital will form a noble feature in the prospect from the waters of Port Jackson, where, from its commanding situation, it is a distinct and prominent object. The building will be surrounded by ornamental grounds, and besides containing the model school and the residence of the master and mistress, it will contain the offices and meeting room of the Board, and the secretary's quarters. The school will be conducted on exactly the same principles as those which govern the Model School in Marlborough-street, Dublin, and a master and mistress for its management are almost daily expected from the National Establishment of Ireland. In this model school the teachers of scholastic establishments dependent upon the Board of National education will be trained ...⁷¹

The separation of boys from girls was achieved by locating the former on the ground floor of the building and the latter on its first floor. The internal stair was removed and the building enlarged by incorporating the verandahs into classroom spaces and constructing arcaded loggias around the periphery of the building. The existing roof was retained. The building's spare Georgian character was transformed by the rather ponderous Classical loggias. Access to the first floor was by means of an external stair on the northern end of the building. After inspecting the building on 1 September 1849, the Commissioners deemed the works complete, other than the installation of a stone coat of arms rather than the moulded cement arms originally intended.⁷² The school opened on 1 April 1850.⁷³

⁷⁰ “Council Paper. Report from Board of National Education”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 June 1849, pp.2-3.

⁷¹ “The National System of Education”, *The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser*, 9 May 1849, p.4.

⁷² Ronald S Horan, *Maroon and Silver: Fort Street sesquicentenary, 1849-1999*, p.10.

⁷³ Horan, p.11.

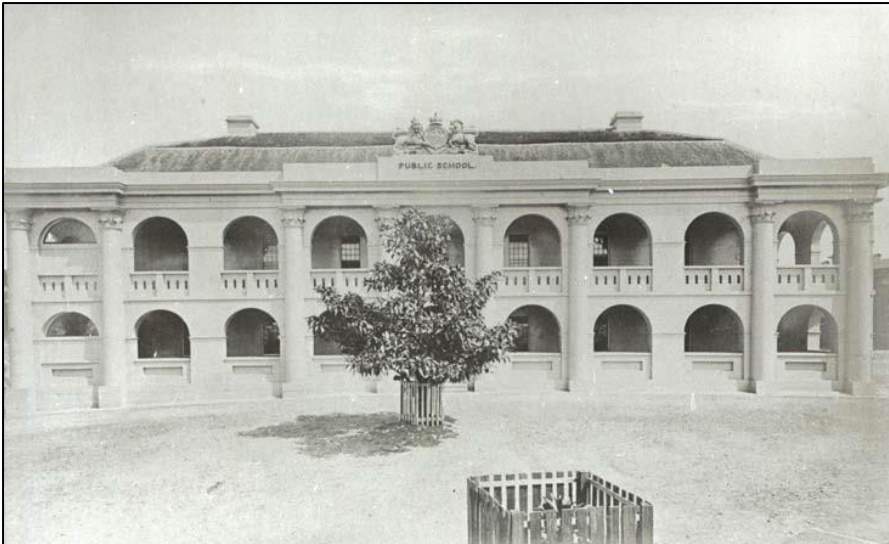


Figure 0-9 Undated photograph of Fort Street School. The roof of the original Military Hospital rises above the parapets of the loggias. (Source: State Records digital ID. 15051_a047_005335.jpg)

Fort Street was one of four early National Schools established in inner Sydney, although the first in the metropolitan area, at Botany, opened in January 1849. The first two, short-lived, schools opened in 1849 at Crown and Riley Streets while the fourth opened at William Street during 1851. Fort Street School was the largest and most important of these, the first model school intended to demonstrate the construction, organisation and management of a National School. However, Fort Street was not considered a model school until the arrival of schoolmaster William Wilkins. It was anticipated that Fort Street's first master would come from Dublin, bringing with him firsthand experience of the National Irish system, but in the event Wilkins arrived from London and with English training. Despite this disappointing start he introduced the latest European methods and advocated education that extended beyond the basics to include the liberal arts.⁷⁴

Establishment of Fort Street School

In 1854 secondary education came to Fort Street and necessitated some modifications to the building. A new building to the west of the existing school was constructed. The building contained "two capacious rooms" for male and female pupils respectively, and was nearing completion in September 1856.⁷⁵ It was designed by Henry Robertson (1802-1881), architect to the Board of National Education between 1850 and 1866. Its construction allowed more space in the older building for teacher training.

An infants' school was in course of erection during 1862.⁷⁶ The building housing the school was located to the north of the existing buildings, adjacent to the fence separating the former doctor's residence from the School playgrounds. It too was designed by Henry Robertson.

⁷⁴ Horan, p.11.

⁷⁵ "Parliamentary Papers. Eighth Report of the Commissioners of National Education in New South Wales", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 September 1856, p.8.

⁷⁶ "National Education. Report for 1862", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 July 1863, p.8.



Figure 0-10: Portion of a survey prepared by H Chauncy and dated 7 October 7 1856 showing development across the National School site, which included the modified Military Hospital (A), Henry Robertson's recently completed classroom block (B), the former doctor's residence (C) and privies (D). (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney - City Detail Sheets, 1855 - Sheet_01.)





Figure 0-11: Portion of a survey showing Fort Street School circa 1865. The infants' school is located at A, close to the former surgeon's residence at B. C= Messengers cottage. D= Cottage/outbuilding present on site c.1855-1880 (Source: City of Sydney Archives, Historical Atlas of Sydney – Trigonometrical Survey of Sydney, 1855-1865, Block A1)



Figure 0-12: View to the south from the observatory towards Fort Street School. The site of the present day Fort Street Public School is part of the open area in the foreground. Part of a panorama taken by Freeman Bros & Prout in 1864. (Source: SLNSW SV/13-16, digital order no. a260004.)

With the passage of the Public Schools Act in 1866 the Board of National Education was superseded by the Council of Education, consisting of five persons appointed by the Governor for a term of four years. Under the Act the Council was charged with the establishment of training schools for the education of teachers.⁷⁷ During the following decade there was little physical change to the school. For instance, repairs to buildings were undertaken during 1871 and the physical well-being of pupils was enhanced with the introduction of gym equipment in 1876.

As with other schools across the state, Fort Street came under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Public Instruction after the passage of the Public Instruction Act, which dispensed with the Council of Education. The Act established five classes of schools:

Public schools, which were to provide primary education to all children regardless of class or religious persuasion;

Superior public schools in towns and “populous districts”, which were to provide additional classes in higher branches of education, effectively providing primary and secondary education;

Evening public schools, which were intended to instruct those who had not received a primary education;

High schools for boys, intended to complete the public school curriculum but were also preparatory for University studies; and

High schools for girls. The Act did not define their role, which was presumably of a similar role to boys’ high schools.

In 1881 Fort Street School was made a superior public school, although for much of the 19th century it had performed both as a primary school and a secondary school, without being recognised as such.

⁷⁷ Act No 22, 1866 (Public Schools Act) Clauses 1, 3 and 15.

Superior public schools competed very well against the early private and denominational high schools that were established in NSW.⁷⁸

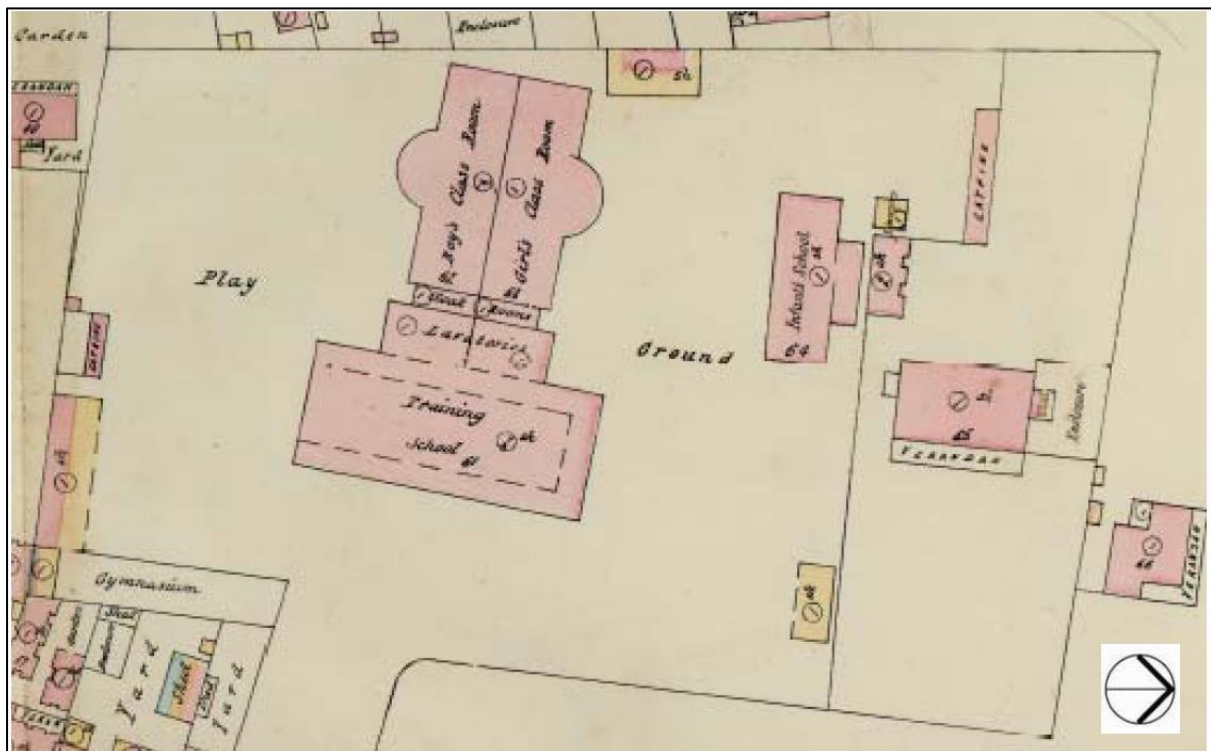


Figure 0-13: Development at Fort Street School, circa 1880. (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney – Dove's Plans of Sydney, 1880, Blocks 66 and 67)

In December 1890 a new needlework room and several other classes were to be provided. Eventually the old sheds were removed to make way for the two storey brick building which was to be open on the ground floor and used as an armoury. The enclosed area on the first floor was to be a sewing room with a second class room adjoining. The building remained open on the ground floor for some time. In 1894 the sewing room teacher complained of the draught and cold because of the wind coming up from the exposed section below. Another addition created about the same time was the link created between the former hospital building and the 1856 school building. Between 1887 and 1889 several new classroom buildings were added to the school and repairs were made to the existing buildings to the value of 1275 pounds. In approximately 1890-1891 a timber carpentry shed was built along the western end of the playground. Used for manual training this and cookery rooms were educational experiments in practical training. As space became restricted on the site the area under this shed, which was built on piles, was used as teaching space. By the end of the 19th century the impact of such intense use was evident in wear and tear in all aspects of the site. In October 1896 tenders were received for the execution of a general maintenance program of works.

The land occupied by Fort Street School (along with other land on Observatory Hill) was not formally transferred to the colonial government until 1899, by means of what was called the New South Wales Military Lands Order in Council.⁷⁹ This was an English document related to land that had been granted to the Ordnance Department. The site was not dedicated as a public school until November 1901.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ J Fletcher and J Burnswoods, *Government Schools of New South Wales, 1848-1976*, p.20.

⁷⁹ City of Sydney Archives, *Historical Atlas of Sydney – The Rocks and Foreshore Resumptions*, Plan S.

⁸⁰ *Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales*, Issue No. 791 (Supplement), 21 September 1901, p.7329.



Figure 0-14: Layout of the northern section of the School and its relationship with Sydney Observatory and parklands in 1900. The wide hatched border shows the extent of military lands transferred to the Government of NSW in 1899. (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney – The Rocks and Foreshore Resumptions, Plan S.)



Figure 0-15: Fort Street School, circa 1900. (Source: SLNSW PXE 77/365, digital order no. a116365.)



Figure 0-16: View of Fort Street School, circa 1900, showing the gates on Princes Street and the wall extending along Essex Street and Upper Fort Street. (Source: State Records digital ID 4481_a026_000240.jpg)

The early decades of the twentieth century were times of great change for both the physical environment of the school and its organisation. In 1911 the school reverted back to its primary role as a public school, but was divided into a primary school and boys' and girls' high schools. This reflected the reorganisation of the state's education system, a major part of which was upgrading secondary education to include the provision of intermediate and leaving certificates. Implementation began in 1911 and the reorganisation of Fort Street was gazetted on 8 March 1911. Fort Street Boys' High School and Fort Street Girls' High School were thus established.⁸¹

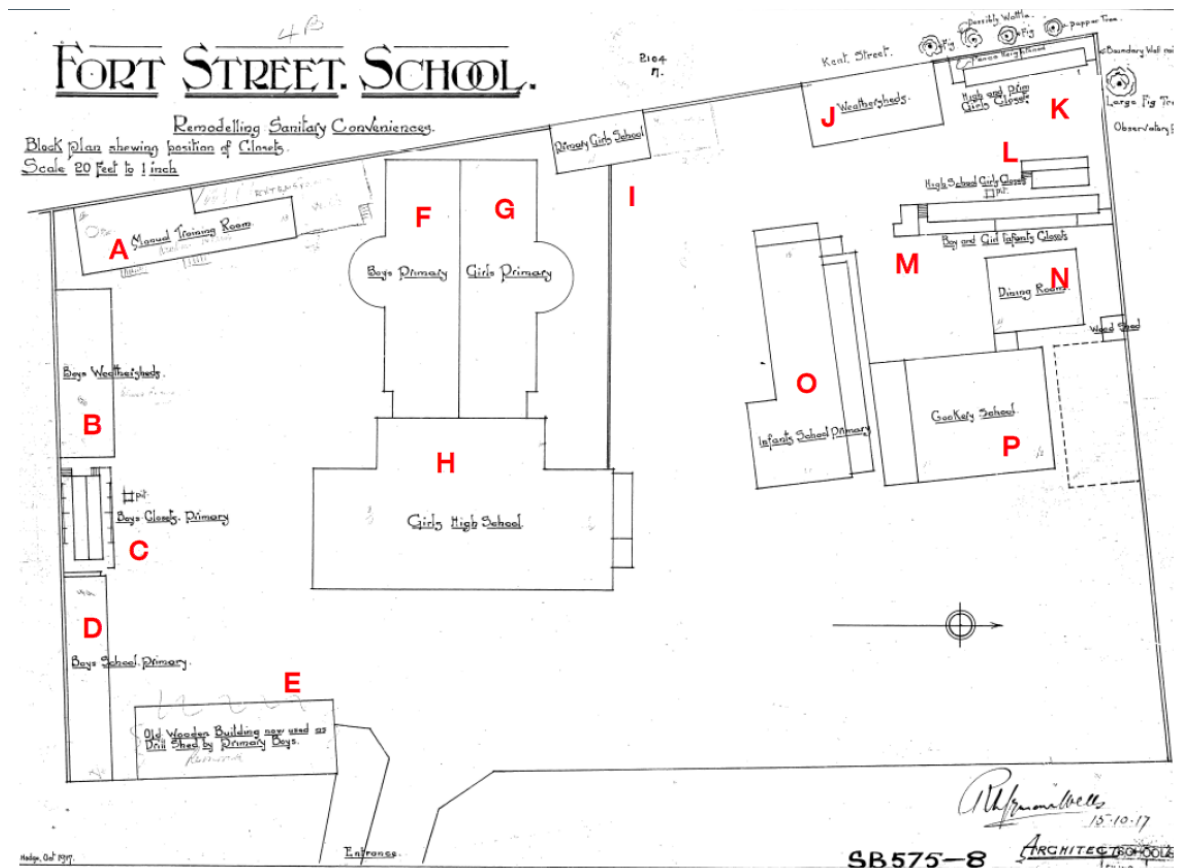
Five years later Fort Street Boys' High School was relocated to new buildings that could accommodate 500 pupils at Taverner's Hill, Petersham and was officially opened on 18 August 1916. Despite the removal of the boys' high school the Observatory Hill site was still found inadequate. Buildings were thought to be ill-adapted for their purposes and the overall site area was considered too small to adequately accommodate pupils. An effort was made to remedy some of these problems by the adaptation of a former Wesleyan chapel located on an adjoining property on Princes Street, to provide science rooms. Alterations were documented in the Government Architect's office during November 1917.⁸² At this time the former surgeon's residence associated with the Military Hospital was in use as a "cookery school."⁸³

In 1929, in order to make ample provision for Fort Street Girls High School, approval was given for the absorption of the Junior Technical and Domestic Science pupils at other schools. The buildings that became available were then remodeled for the high school.

⁸¹ *Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales*, 8 March 1911, No. 31, p.1421.

⁸² Department of Finance Plan Services drawing SB575/9.

⁸³ Department of Finance Plan Services drawing SB575/8, dated 15 October 1917.



Legend

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Manual training room B Boys' weather shed C Boy's closets (primary) D Boys' primary school E Primary boys' drill shed F Boys' primary school G Girls' primary school H Girls' high school | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Girls' primary school J Weather sheds K Primary and high school girls' closets L Girls' high school closets M Boys and girls infants' closets N Dining room O Infants' school P Cookery school |
|--|---|

Figure 0-17: Layout of Fort Street School, 1917 (Source: Finance & Services Information Services, drawing SB575/8, with TKD Additions.)

The most substantial physical impact on Fort Street School resulted from the resumption of land for the approaches to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. These works required the resumption, demolition and excavation of a large portion of the eastern part of the school. This meant the loss of several buildings including the former doctor's residence and the Princes Street entrance to the school, which had iron gates and a fountain to one side. The former Wesleyan chapel may also have disappeared at this time. Once the approaches were complete the space between them and school buildings was put to use as tennis courts (Figure 0-18).



Figure 0-18: View looking west towards Fort Street School in 1932, after completion of the approaches to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. (Source: State Records digital id.12685_a007_a00704_8735000188)

A New Primary School Building

Because of further road works associated with the Sydney Harbour Bridge it was necessary to build a new primary school on another part of Observatory Hill, which had through a relatively protracted process over several decades come under the jurisdiction of the City Council.⁸⁴

In February 1937 the Circular Quay Co-ordination Committee recommended to Minister for Local Government that a roadway over the proposed railway viaduct and station at Circular Quay to form part of the railway loop in Central Sydney was a “necessary part of city traffic facilities.”⁸⁵ This proposal, with and without an overhead roadway, had a long history extending back to the Royal Commission for the Improvement of Sydney and its Suburbs held in 1908 and was part of an integrated system that included the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Although the City Council opposed the notion, the Committee provided detailed recommendations at the end of the year that included a road loop cut through part of the Fort Street Public School site. After a period of indecision and debate, in January 1939 the State Government approved the railway and roadway at Circular Quay,⁸⁶ although work did not commence until the following August and there was lingering disagreement over who was to pay for it.⁸⁷ In December 1939 the Municipal Council of Sydney received correspondence from the Under Secretary of the Department of Works proposing the construction of a new primary school building “in the northern section of that portion of Observatory Park to be surrounded by the new roadway in open cut.” The Council agreed to transfer the land to the Department in the second

⁸⁴ At the end of the 1860s the Colonial Government contemplated the possibility of dedicating Flagstaff Hill as a reserve for public recreation, under the control of the Municipal Council of Sydney. The trustees of Flagstaff Hill Reserve were appointed by the Executive Council on 21 December 1875, under the provisions of the Public Parks Act, 1854. Their duties included effecting improvements to and maintenance of the reserve, dealing with requests for its use, and drafting regulations, the first of which were drawn up in 1876. On 29 April 1884, Flagstaff Hill Reserve was dedicated as a public park for the purposes of public recreation within the meaning of the Public Parks Act, 1884. Flagstaff Hill Reserve's name was changed to Observatory Park by proclamation on 6 May 1887 and the trustees became known as the Observatory Park Trustees. They were dissolved when the management of Observatory Park was taken over by the Municipal Council of Sydney on 6 May 1909.

⁸⁵ “Circular Quay. Roadway Over Railway”, Sydney Morning Herald, 23 February 1937, p.10.

⁸⁶ “Rebuilding Quay”, Sydney Morning Herald, 24 January 1939, p.11.

⁸⁷ “Circular Quay. Connecting Road To Bridge”, Sydney Morning Herald, 15 August 1939, p.11.

half of February 1940⁸⁸ then advertised an auction sale of the two storey brick Upper Fort Street Primary School building for the purposes of demolition and removal from the site in March 1940.⁸⁹ This clearly necessitated a new primary school building.

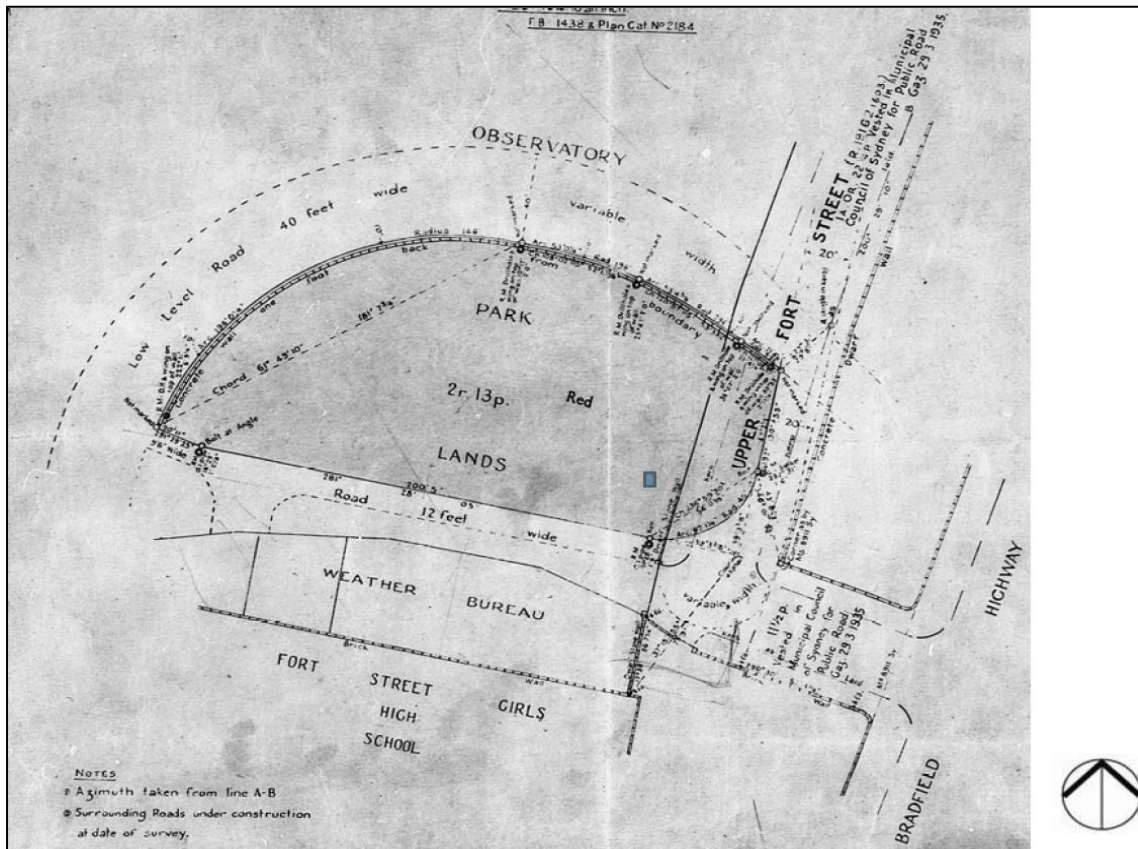


Figure 0-19: Survey of land in Observatory Park acquired for Fort Street Primary School. The survey is dated 16 February 1942. (Source: City of Sydney Archives Series 512, item G1-46/2)



Figure 0-20: Demolition of the Primary School building (left) and the site after demolition was completed, 22 May 1940. (Source: SLNSW digital order no. d1_28549; City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 66/2/17.)

⁸⁸ Proceedings of the Municipal Council of Sydney during the Year 1940, p.29 – Item 360/40, 19 February 1940.

⁸⁹ "Auction Sales", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 March 1940, p.16.

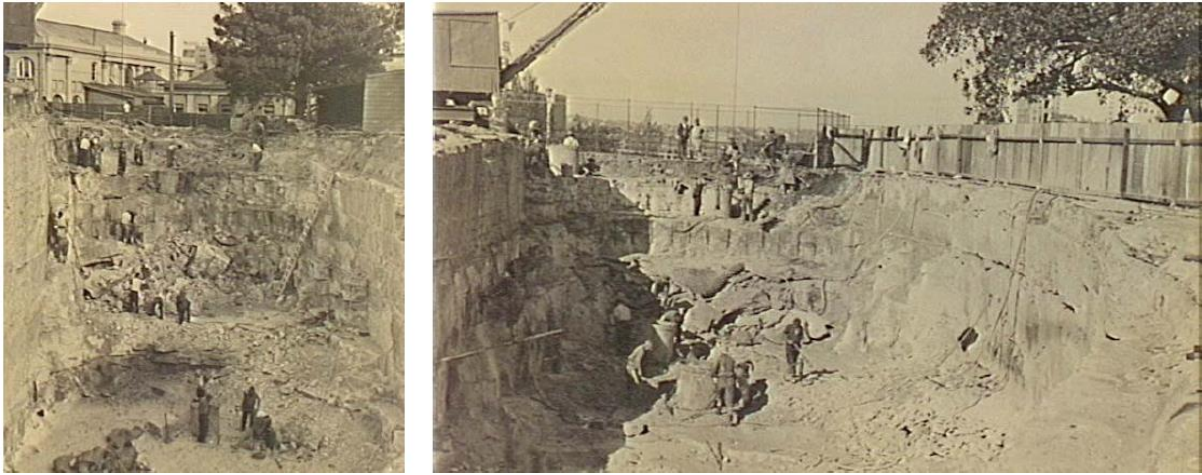


Figure 0-21: Excavating for the road loop looking south east, 22 May 1940 (left) and looking east, 4 September 1940. (Source: City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 66 2 18 and CRS 66 2 23.)

The new Primary School building was designed in the office of the Government Architect and is generally credited to architect Harry Rembert. Design and documentation took place during 1940, although drawings were not signed off by the Government Architect until February 1941. A foundation stone was set by Minister for Education Clive Evatt on 26 July 1941. Standard fencing to surround the roadway cutting and make it safe for the school and other instrumentalities, notably the Bureau of Meteorology, encircled by the cutting, was documented by the City of Sydney in the middle of 1941

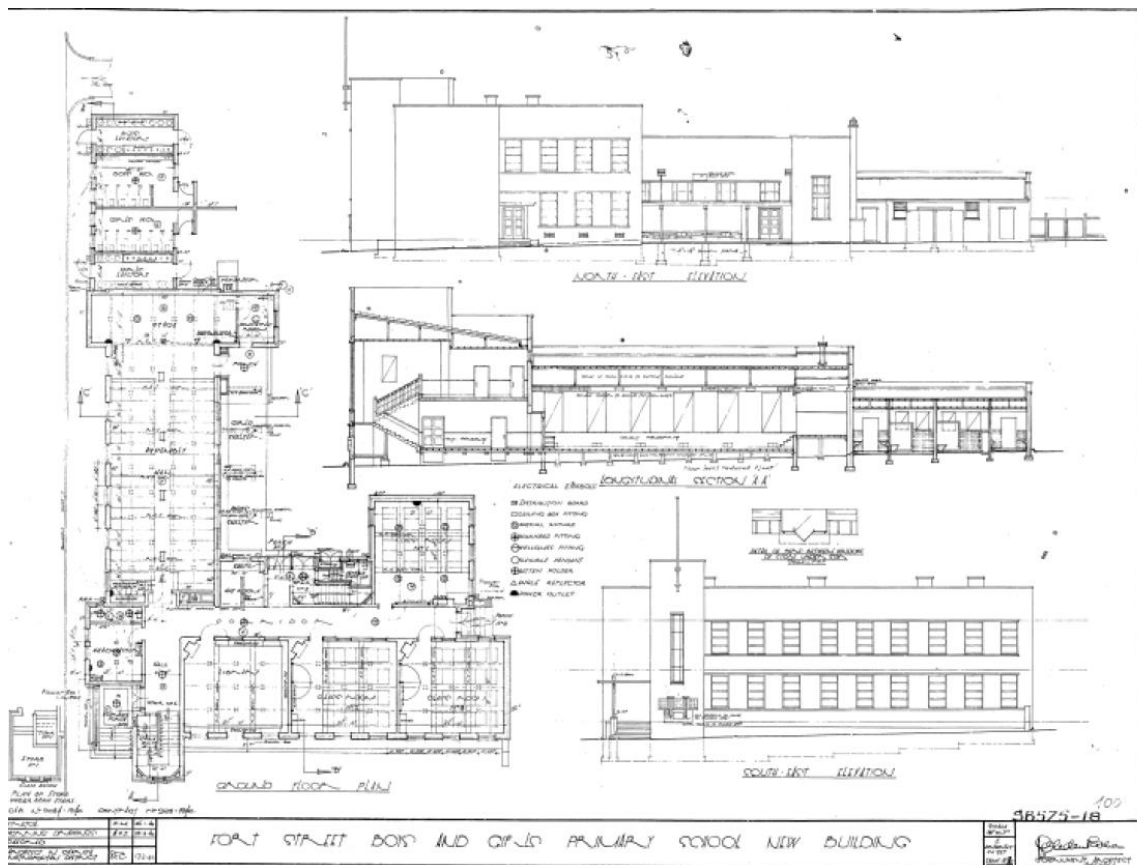


Figure 0-22: Drawing prepared in the Government Architect's office describing the ground floor plan, north east and south east elevations and a longitudinal section through the building. (Source: Finance & Services Information Services, drawing SB575-18.)

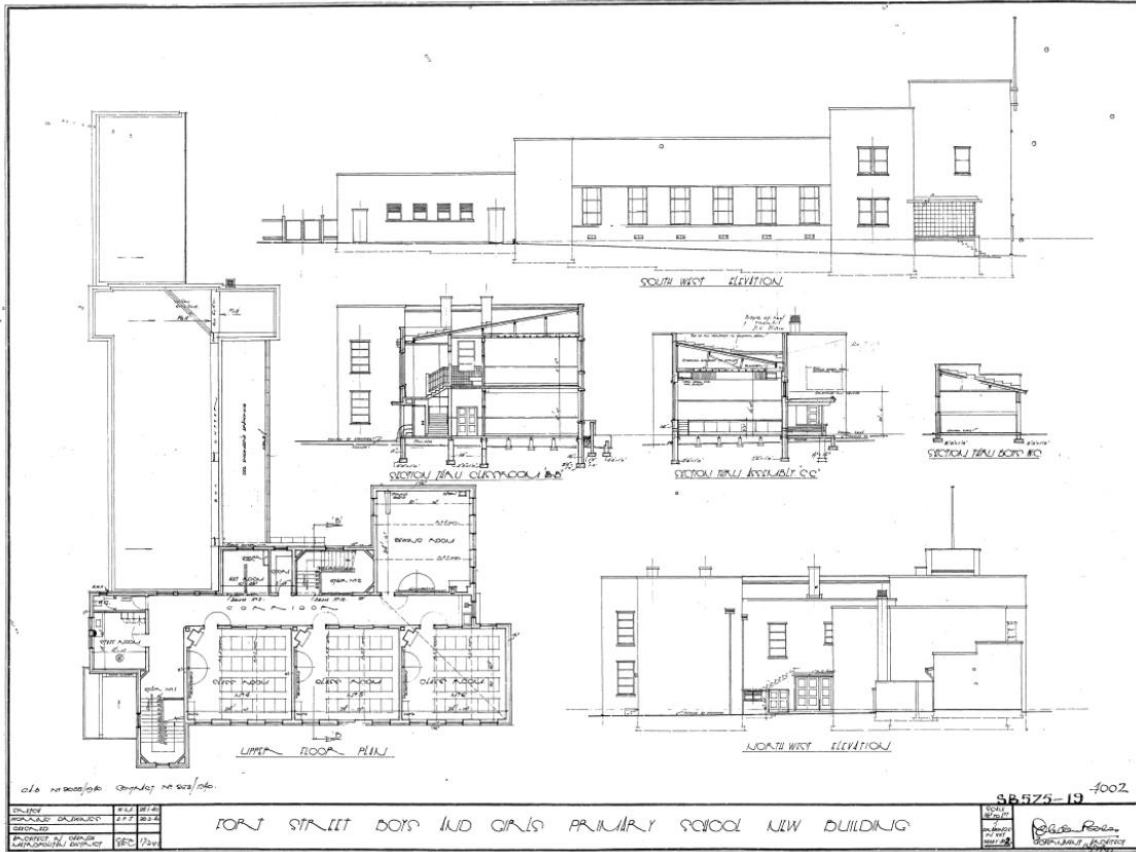


Figure 0-23: Drawing prepared in the Government Architect's office describing the first floor plan, south west and north west elevations, and cross sections through the building. (Source: Finance & Services Information Services, drawing SB575-19.)

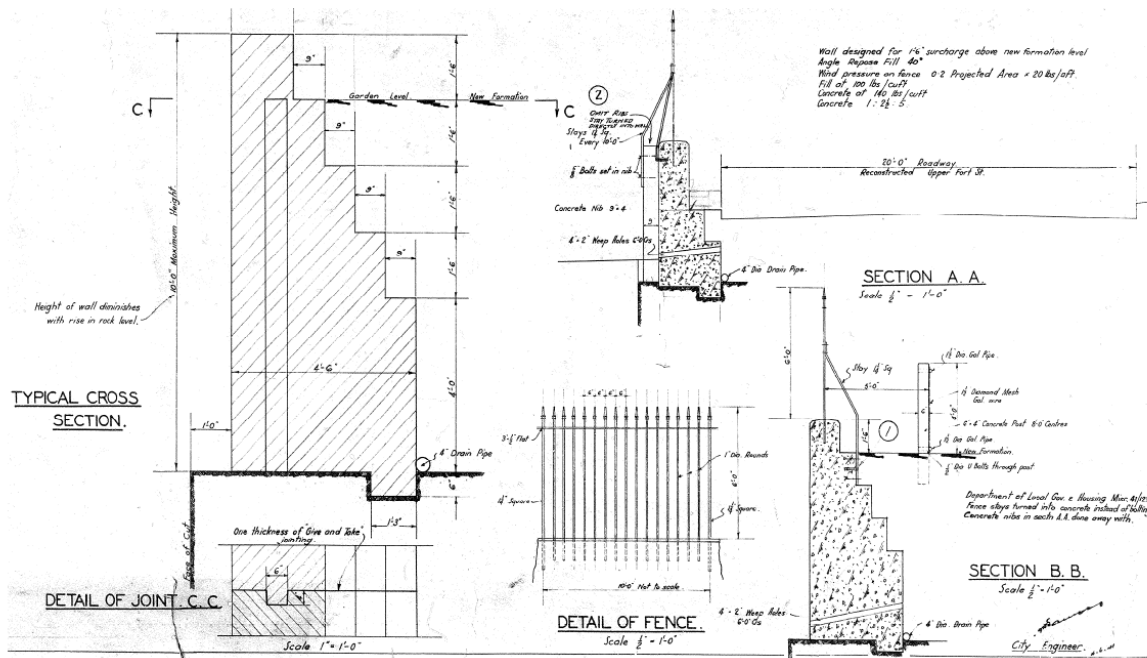


Figure 0-24: Portion of a drawing detailing the perimeter fencing around the road excavation, documented by the City of Sydney and dated 4 June 1941. (Source: City of Sydney Archives Series 466, item E3-38/28)

The Minister for Education, Clive Evatt, officially opened the new building on 20 November 1942,⁹⁰ although it seems to have been completed and occupied several months earlier. The building, which was L-shaped in plan, contained five classrooms, a library and sewing room over two levels and a lofty assembly hall with a stage and dressing rooms. There was also a headmaster's room, staff room and lavatories and a shelter for boys and girls. Steel framed awning sash windows provided light and air while the classrooms and library were provided with fireplaces. Two existing Moreton Bay fig trees in the eastern part of the site were retained to enhance the setting of the school.⁹¹ Between 1943 and 1949 a bridge was constructed across the road cutting to provide a narrow connection between the new primary school building and the rest of Fort Street School.



Figure 0-25: Photographs of Fort Street Public School taken shortly after the building was completed. (Source: Building, August 1942, pp.26-27.)



Figure 0-26: Photographs taken in 1941 showing construction of roadworks and fencing in the vicinity of the Public School. (Source: City of Sydney Archives SRC13421 and SRC13420.)

School buildings to the immediate south of the Bureau of Meteorology, which was located between the new primary School and Fort Street Girls' High School, were demolished at some time during the 1940s. Amongst them was the surgeon's residence associated with the Military Hospital. A gymnasium was subsequently constructed for Fort Street Girls' High School on the vacant land to the south of the Bureau of Meteorology. The building was documented in the office of the Government Architect. Its foundation stone was laid by Minister for Education Robert Heffron on 30 April 1949, at which time the school was celebrating its centenary. He returned around the end of April or early May 1952 to officially open the

⁹⁰ "Fort Street Primary School", Sydney Morning Herald, 23 November 1942, p.8.

⁹¹ "Fort Street Public School, Sydney", Building, 24 August 1942, pp.26-27; SB575-18 and 19.

completed building, which was named the Fanny Cohen Gymnasium. Fanny Cohen was an influential and highly regarded teacher and headmistress at the school from 1929 until 1952. The opening coincided with her retirement and she attended the ceremony.

In August 1954 the City Council agreed to lease a portion of land to the south west of the Public School and to the west of the Bureau of Meteorology for the purposes of erecting a classroom on it. A demountable building was subsequently installed on the land. A larger two classroom demountable building was documented for Fort Street Girls' High School by the Government Architect's office during 1954⁹² but does not seem to have been erected until after 1961. It was situated to the north west of Fanny Cohen Gymnasium.

A second bridge over the road cutting, which linked the gymnasium to the footway alongside the Harbour Bridge approaches, was constructed during 1957. The roadway within the cutting came into use on 24 March 1958 after the opening of the so-called Circular Quay Overhead Roadway (later to become part of the Cahill Expressway). 1958 was significant for another reason. On 24 November a memorial window to commemorate those who died in both World Wars was installed in the tall window opening on the eastern side of the stairwell of the Public School and unveiled by Deputy Premier Robert Heffron, who was still Minister for Education. The window was an initiative of the headmaster, ex-serviceman B McKervey, who came to the school in 1956 and undertook fund raising to finance its installation. The window was fabricated by the firm of John Ashwin & Co.⁹³



Figure 0-27: Aerial photographs taken in 1943 (left) and 1949 (right). During the intervening period of six years buildings associated with Fort Street School that were situated behind the Bureau of Meteorology, including the former surgeon's cottage associated with the Military Hospital (indicated at A), were demolished. (Sources: City of Sydney Archives Historical Atlas of Sydney; Spatial Information Exchange.)

⁹² City of Sydney Archives - Government Building Plans 1, Item no. G103 Fort Street Girls High School Timber Framed Classroom.

⁹³ "Memorial Window for Fort Street Primary School", Reveille, 1 March 1959, p.10.

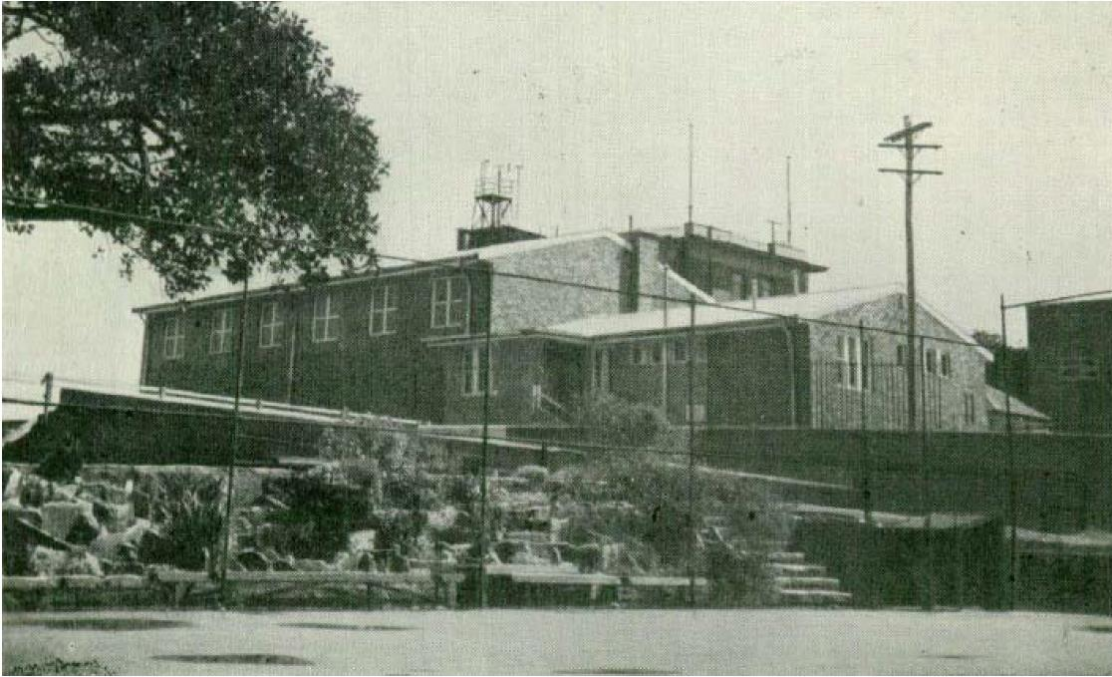


Figure 0-28: The gymnasium built for the Fort Street Girls' High School, 1952. (Source: Report of the Department of Works for the year ended 30th June, 1952, p.31.)

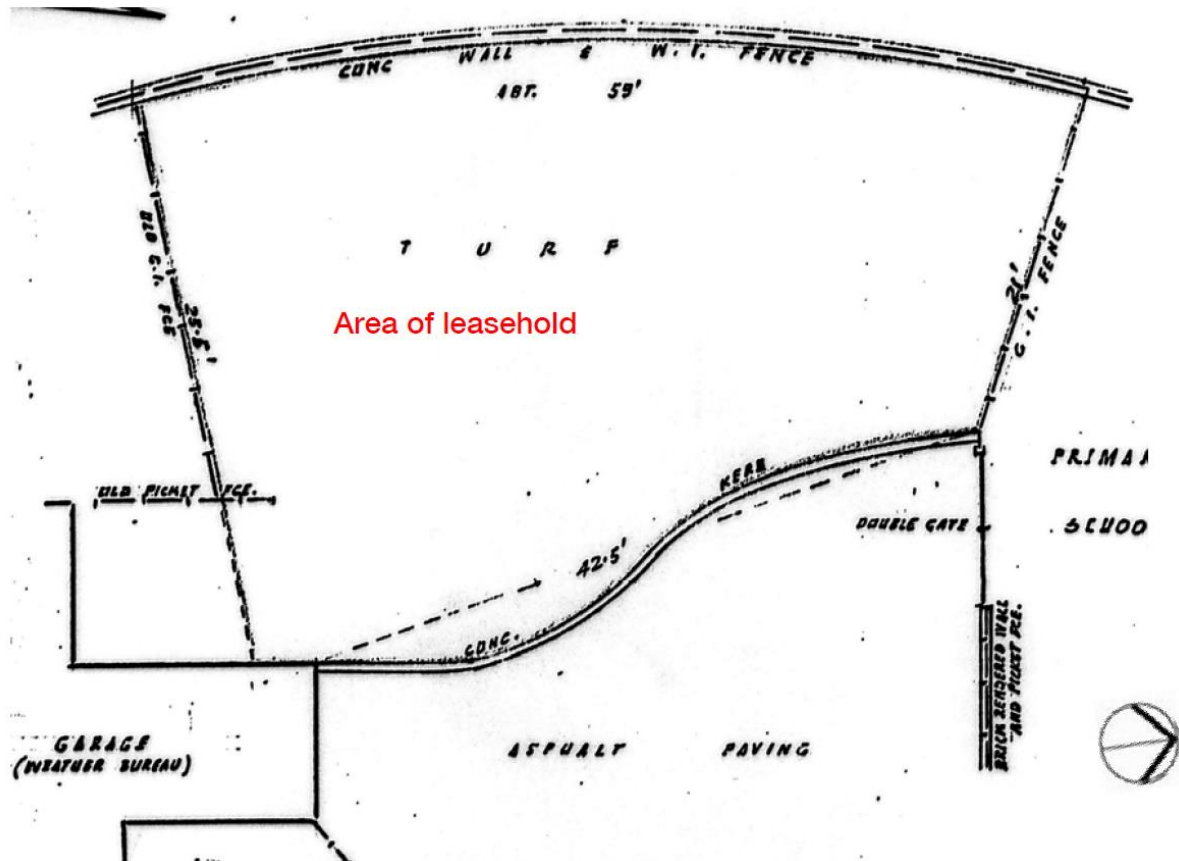


Figure 0-29: Land to the west of the Bureau of Meteorology leased from the City Council to the Department of Education (Source: City of Sydney Archives Plans of Parks, Reserves and Playgrounds – Plan P251-1; SRC1793.)

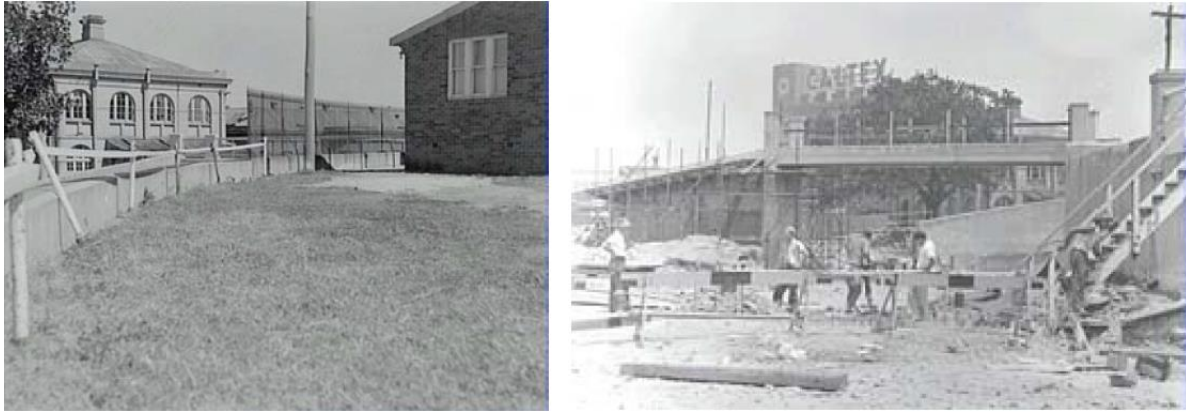


Figure 0-30: Removal of palisade fencing on the eastern side of the gymnasium in preparation for the second footbridge, 24 August 1956 (left); construction of the second footbridge over the road cutting, 18 November 1957 (right). (Source: City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 48/507 and NSCA CRS 48/707.)

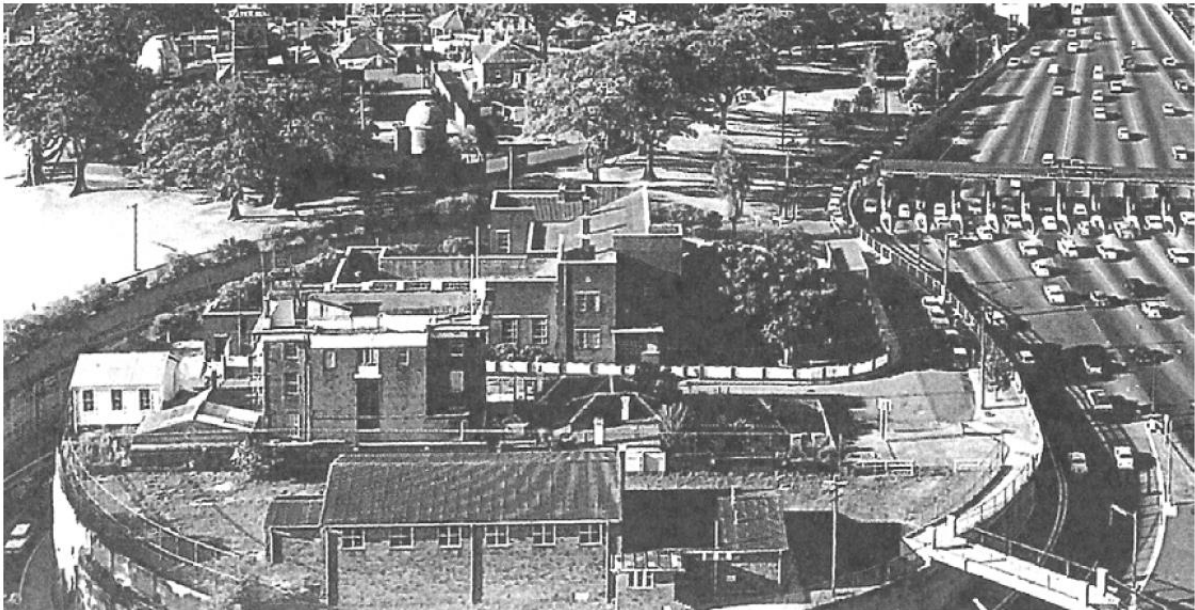


Figure 0-31: Portion of photograph, 1966. Demountable school buildings can be seen in front of the western end of the Bureau of Meteorology on the leased portion of land. (Source: Charles Pickett with Bruce Lamb, *Observer and Observed: a pictorial history of Sydney Observatory and Observatory Hill* – Max Dupain photograph.)



Figure 0-32: The area to the west of the gymnasium was occupied by a demountable school building by the first half of the 1970s, as shown in this circa 1975 photograph. (Source: City of Sydney Archives SRC80.)

Plans to close the school surfaced in the 1960s but were postponed for some time. As an alternative, in the mid 1960s a proposal to modernise buildings was prepared by the Government Architect. The only outcome was one new roof and the removal of several sheds. As discussion about the possible closure of the school became more public a delegation from the National Trust, the school and several other groups approached the Minister in 1969 to request clarification about its fate. They were assured that if the school were to be relocated the existing site would be redeveloped.

The state government released a statement concerning the school site during 1972. In it the redevelopment of the site was estimated to cost over \$3 million and as a result consideration was given to relocating the school. In 1974 Fort Street Girls' High School was closed. Almost immediately after closure the site was vested in the Department of Public Works and in 1975 was given to the National Trust of Australia (NSW). Fort Street Public School continued in operation.

In 1991 the Fanny Cohen Gymnasium entered a new phase when it became a field studies centre. Field studies centres emerged in 1971 to provide for the study and observation of the natural environment by primary and secondary pupils. The centres have no regular enrolment, but are visited by groups of pupils, with the teachers in the centres working in conjunction with the class teacher concerned. In January 1999 all field studies centres were renamed environmental education centres.⁹⁴

The Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology

Observatory Hill has important historical links with meteorological recording and observation in NSW. Between 1858 and 1963 it was the principal location of weather recording, observation and forecasting in New South Wales. The first organised network of weather stations in NSW followed the establishment of Sydney Observatory on the Flagstaff Hill at Fort Phillip in the 1850s. The fort was initiated by Governor King in response to his fears of potential insurrection and construction commenced around the beginning of 1804. The citadel, completed in March 1806, enclosed the first windmill to have been constructed in NSW, which was completed in 1797 and had by this time fallen into disuse. Not far away, to the south of the fort was a government windmill, only the third to have been erected in NSW. It was built by Nathaniel Lucas and construction was well underway in February 1806, at which time its 12 metre high octagonal frame had been completed.⁹⁵ Between 1808 and 1811 a flagstaff was erected on the east rampart of Fort Phillip, and the site became generally known as Flagstaff Hill.⁹⁶ The mill had a relatively short life and was demolished by 1836.

⁹⁴ <http://www.governmentschools.det.nsw.edu.au/glossary/e.shtm>

⁹⁵ "Sydney", Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, 16 February 1806, p.2.

⁹⁶ James Semple Kerr, Sydney Observatory: A conservation plan for the site and its structures, pp.4-11.



Figure 0-33: James Taylor's depiction of the third government mill and Fort Phillip, circa 1817-1819. The tower of the former mill encompassed by the Fort was converted to provide residential accommodation and storage for the signal master of Flagstaff Hill. (Source: SLNSW ML 942, digital order no. a1528797.)

Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane was the first to initiate weather observations for the Sydney region, which began at the observatory established at Parramatta shortly after his arrival in 1821.⁹⁷ In November 1838 the Colonial Office instructed Sir George Gipps, who had taken up the role of Governor of NSW the previous February, to maintain meteorological recordings. Three convicts were taught by the superintendent of the Parramatta Observatory, James Dunlop, to take readings and in the early 1840s one of these men started keeping records in Sydney.⁹⁸ With the closure of the government observatory in Parramatta in the latter part of the 1840s it was to be ten years before another would be constructed.

In the early 1850s Fort Phillip was accepted as the most appropriate place to locate a time ball, to be used for rating ships' chronometers. Early plans also provided space for astronomical equipment. A final decision on Fort Phillip was made in 1856 and Sydney Observatory was completed in 1859.

The government astronomer, the Reverend William Scott had obtained agreement for the appointment of a messenger and the construction of a cottage to house him in 1861. The messenger also seems to have performed the roles of porter, gardener, carpenter and general help. The small building was probably designed in the office of the Colonial Architect, headed by Alexander Dawson, who was responsible for Sydney Observatory. The cottage constructed in the location recommended by Scott to the immediate north of Fort Street School. Scott maintained that if the cottage was placed at some distance from the Observatory it could be constructed of brick rather than stone because there was less need for it to harmonise with the older building and thus would cost less to build. Tenders for the construction of the cottage were advertised in April 1862⁹⁹ the tender of contractor Alexander Graham was accepted the following month.¹⁰⁰ Early photographs showing the cottage depict it as a simple and austere building with a hipped roof and a tall chimney at one end and a skillion roofed section to the rear. There was, as yet, no

⁹⁷ <http://observatoryhillec.nsw.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Met-history-summary.pdf>, accessed 22 April 2016.

⁹⁸ David Day, *The Weather Watchers: 100 years of the Bureau of Meteorology*, p.4.

⁹⁹ "Tenders for Public Works and Supplies", *The Freeman's Journal*, 19 April 1862, p.11.

¹⁰⁰ "Accepted Tenders", *Sydney Mail*, 10 May 1862, p.3.

verandah along its northern and eastern sides. The building was subsequently enlarged in 1877, when tenders were called in January and again in March. The tender of H Wilson was accepted in April 1877.¹⁰¹

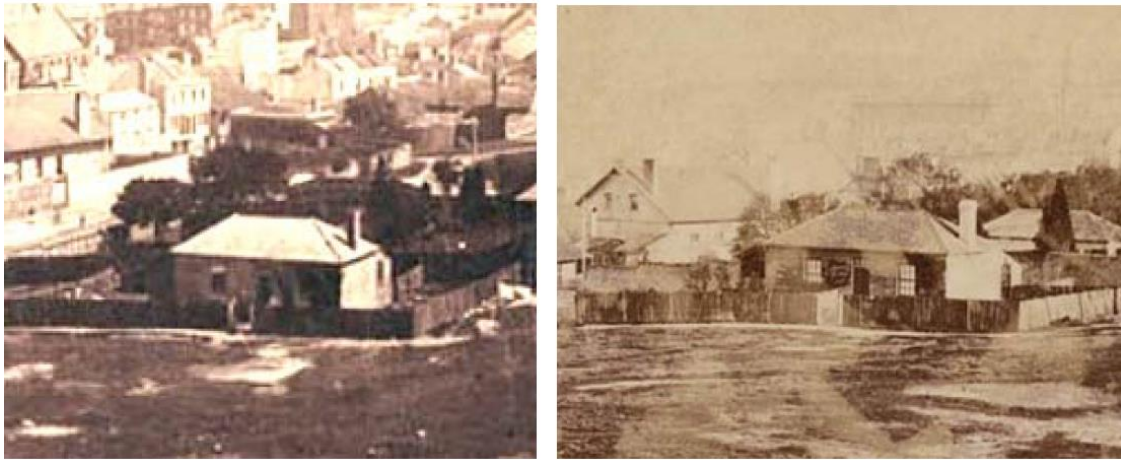


Figure 0-34: The Messenger's Cottage as it appeared in 1864, part of a panoramic series of photographs by Freeman Bros & Prout (left); and in 1871 (right). (Source: SLNSW SV / 16, digital order no. a260004; SPF / 998, digital order no. a089998.)

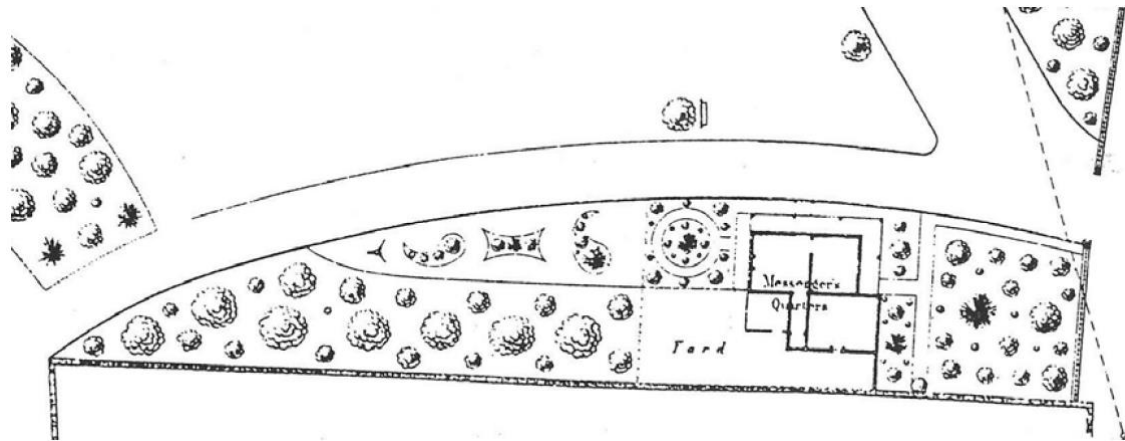


Figure 0-35: Portion of a map of the Flagstaff Hill Reserve around 1880, which indicates the planning of the Messenger's Cottage and perhaps what is idealised landscaping surrounding it. The plan suggests it originally contained only two rooms and the verandahs on two sides formed part of the 1877 additions. (Source: Henry Chamberlain Russell, Results of Astronomical Observations Made at the Sydney Observatory, New South Wales in the years 1879, 1880 and 1881, reproduced in Kerr, p.28.)

¹⁰¹ "Tenders for Public Works and Supplies", Sydney Morning Herald, 26 January 1877, p.9.; "Tenders for Public Works and Supplies", Sydney Morning Herald, 12 March 1877, p.6; "Government Gazette", Sydney Morning Herald, 11 April 1877, p.7.



Figure 0-36: The Messenger's Cottage photographed from the Observatory, circa 1900-1910. (Source: SLNSW PXE 711 / 365, digital order no. a116365.)

During the late 1890s and the 1900s the Cottage was subjected to maintenance and some improvements. Sanitary fixtures were upgraded during 1897 and repairs to building fabric carried out in 1905.¹⁰² The building was to undergo a significant change of use the following decade when it became home to the Sydney agency of the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau.

Observatory Hill had been the site of meteorological observations for many years. They were certainly taking place after the completion of Sydney Observatory in 1858. Further afield, a network of weather stations was established and expanded across New South Wales under the direction of Henry Russell, who was the NSW government astronomer between 1870 and 1905. At the state premiers' conference held in Sydney during April 1906 it was decided to hand over meteorological work undertaken in each state to the federal government.¹⁰³ The resulting Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau, which was based in Melbourne and commenced functioning on 2 January 1908, was headed by former Sydney Observatory officer Henry Ambrose Hunt. Henry Hunt had been originally appointed meteorological assistant to the NSW government astronomer in 1886.

The Sydney agency of the Meteorological Bureau was initially installed in the Observatory's residence.¹⁰⁴ However, during the second half of 1916 the Premier's Department served notice on the Commonwealth Government, terminating of the Meteorological Bureau's tenancy. This was considered necessary so that the "urgent requirements of the State Government Astronomer" could be met. The Commonwealth was offered "another strip of the Observatory ground" in compensation.¹⁰⁵ The NSW government astronomer, William Ernest Cooke, moved into the residence and the Meteorological Bureau moved into the Messenger's Cottage (known at that time as Observatory Lodge).

In 1918 David John Mares, who had entered the Observatory as a junior in 1895, was appointed State Meteorologist. He was to ultimately benefit from the new building that was constructed to the west of the

¹⁰² "Tenders". Evening News, 26 January 1897, p.7; Government Gazette, 21 July 1905, p.4921.

¹⁰³ "The Premiers' Conference", Sydney Morning Herald, 11 April 1906, p.7.

¹⁰⁴ Kerr, p.31.

¹⁰⁵ "Current News", Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, 12 October 1916, p.4.

Messenger's Cottage. The building was constructed on the site of a two small cottage and outbuilding that was built before 1855 but had been demolished by 1880.¹⁰⁶



Figure 0-37: The Messenger's Cottage in 1918, after occupation by the Meteorological Bureau. (Source: observatoryhilleec.nsw.edu.au.)



Figure 0-38: Cottages on the site of the Bureau of Meteorology Building, depicted on a circa 1855 survey of Observatory Hill. The footprint of the Messenger's Cottage roughed in above the cottages. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 35).

The process leading to the actual occupation of the new building was somewhat protracted. The Commonwealth Government's Home and Treasuries Department requested the preparation of plans and

¹⁰⁶ The buildings appear on the so-called City Detail Sheets, 1855 – Sheet 01 but are not indicated on Percy Dove's 1880 map of the same locality (City of Sydney Archives, Historical Atlas of Sydney).

cost estimates for the building in February 1917 and sketch plans were forwarded to it towards the end of the following April. Despite the urgent need to adequately house the Meteorological Bureau in Sydney there was apparently uproar in federal parliament. Many MPs thought the Bureau of Meteorology an unnecessary extravagance and deplored expenditure on the building while Australia was at war.¹⁰⁷ The new building was designed in the Federal Department of Works and Railways under the direction of architect George Oakeshott. Tenders for its construction were finally invited during May 1921¹⁰⁸ and the contract was awarded to builders Paynter & Dixon. It was not long before the building was described in the press:

The new bureau, of brick, will be of imposing appearance, and will command, incidentally, from its flat roof magnificent views of the harbour. The site, however, has been selected for its strictly utilitarian rather than its aesthetic virtues ... One floor will be set apart for general office purposes, and another floor for the meteorological library and equipment – its records and publications, and all the apparatus essential to it. Surmounting this second floor will be a residential flat for Mr Mares. Living on the spot, Mr Mares will now be able to keep his finger on the weather pulse in a far better way than at present. One thing alone shows the need for more commodious buildings. The bureau has a mass of important overseas publications, which it is unable either to house or to catalogue for reference purposes at the present time, and if any of these publications are needed at any time it is only with great difficulty that they can be brought to light. ...

It is on the flat roof, immediately above Mr Mares' residential quarters, that one sees perhaps the biggest scope for the operation and expansion of the Bureau. This roof is being so designed as to permit of the investigation of the upper air for the purposes of aerial navigation, and to enable the Bureau to prosecute research work along other far-reaching lines. In the south west corner of the roof will be a tower to carry the wind-recording apparatus. ... The roof, in the present state of meteorological progress, will be an adjunct to the work of the observatory, for it will enable Sydney, in collaboration with Melbourne, to work on parallel lines with many of the European and other overseas observatories in determining, for one thing, the directions and velocities of the wind at various altitudes.¹⁰⁹

An act was passed in the NSW Parliament in October 1923, authorising Commonwealth use and occupation of a section of Observatory Park as a weather bureau.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁷ Day, p.113.

¹⁰⁸ "Business Opportunities", Construction and the Local Government Journal, 2 May 1921, p.4.

¹⁰⁹ "Upper Air. Mapped by Balloons. New Weather Bureau", Sydney Morning Herald, 5 January 1922, p.10.

¹¹⁰ Act No. 8, 1923 – Observatory Park Weather Bureau Site Act.

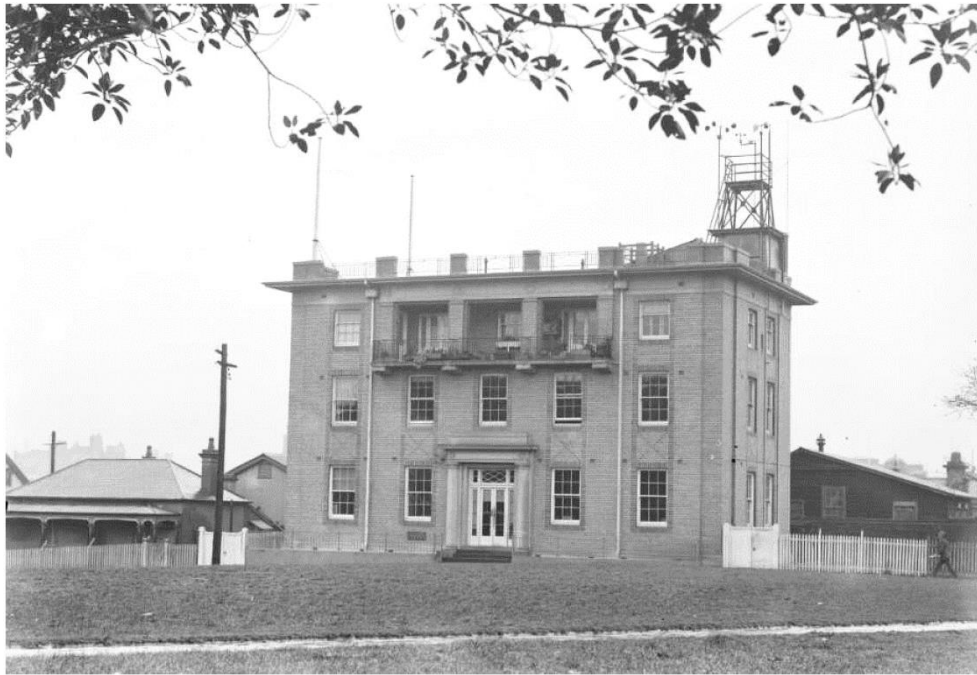


Figure 0-39: Bureau of Meteorology, photographed circa 1932. The recessed balcony of the residential apartment appears to have also served as a drying area. The building directly addressed Observatory Hill Park. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 36).

However, during the second half of the 1920s the Bureau faced a new challenge with the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. This impacted on local geography, which in turn interfered with instrument readings. Nevertheless the Bureau was allowed additional land to the west, which was authorised by the passage of an amending Act in November 1934.¹¹¹ The land was subsequently utilised by the construction of stores and garaging. The construction of the roadway loop in the early 1940s further interfered with instrument readings and so the Observing Station was raised by a metre to cope with the interference.



Figure 0-40: The Bureau of Meteorology photographed in 1941, prior to the commencement of the construction of the Public School. Garaging and stores are to the right of the building. (Source TKD 2016: Fig 37).

¹¹¹ Observatory Park Weather Bureau Site (Amendment) Act, Act No. 27, 1934.

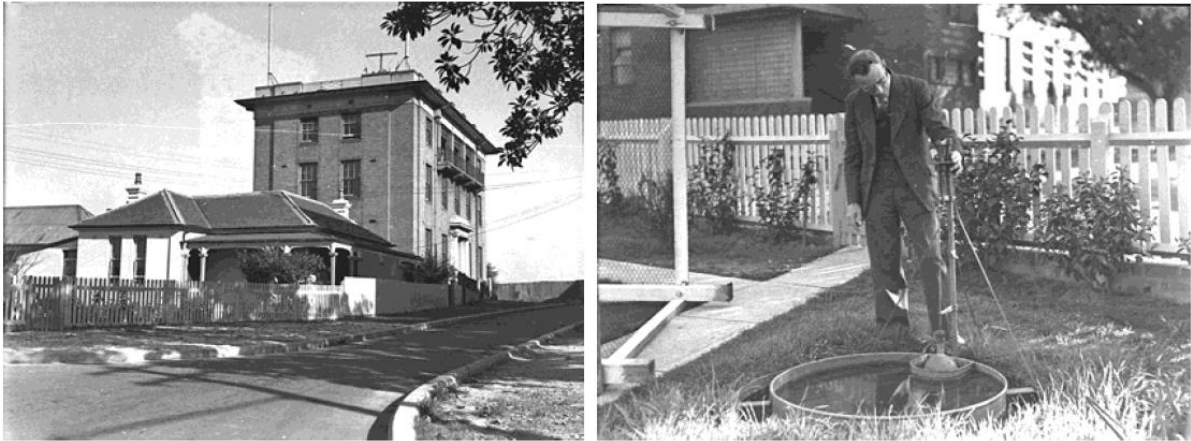


Figure 0-41: The Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology viewed from the east (left) and the grounds of the cottage with Fort Street Public School forming the backdrop (right). These photographs were taken in 1947. The Cottage has a slate roof. Palisade fencing along the roadway has not yet enclosed the Public School site. (Source TKD 2016: Fig 38).

The building underwent some modification after completion. Internal repairs and new partitions were installed during 1935, minor internal alterations were undertaken during 1951 and further internal works were undertaken prior to August 1962.¹¹² A dumb waiter was also installed at some time.

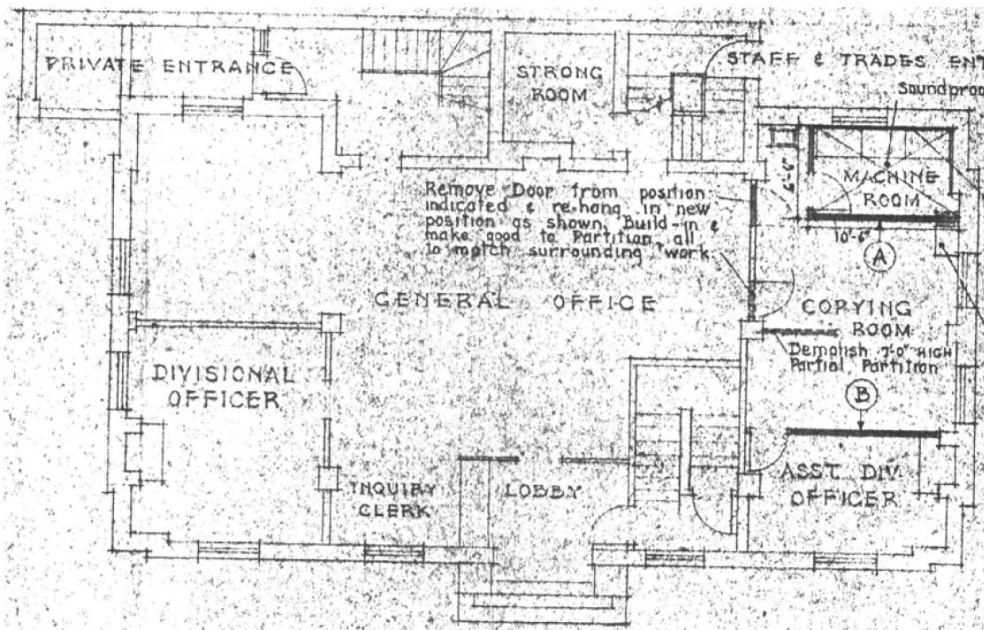


Figure 0-42: Ground floor plan of the Bureau of Meteorology, documented by the Commonwealth Department of Works and Housing, March 1951. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 39).

¹¹² David Waghorn, Meteorological Building Observatory Hill Conservation Management Plan, pp.10 and 12.

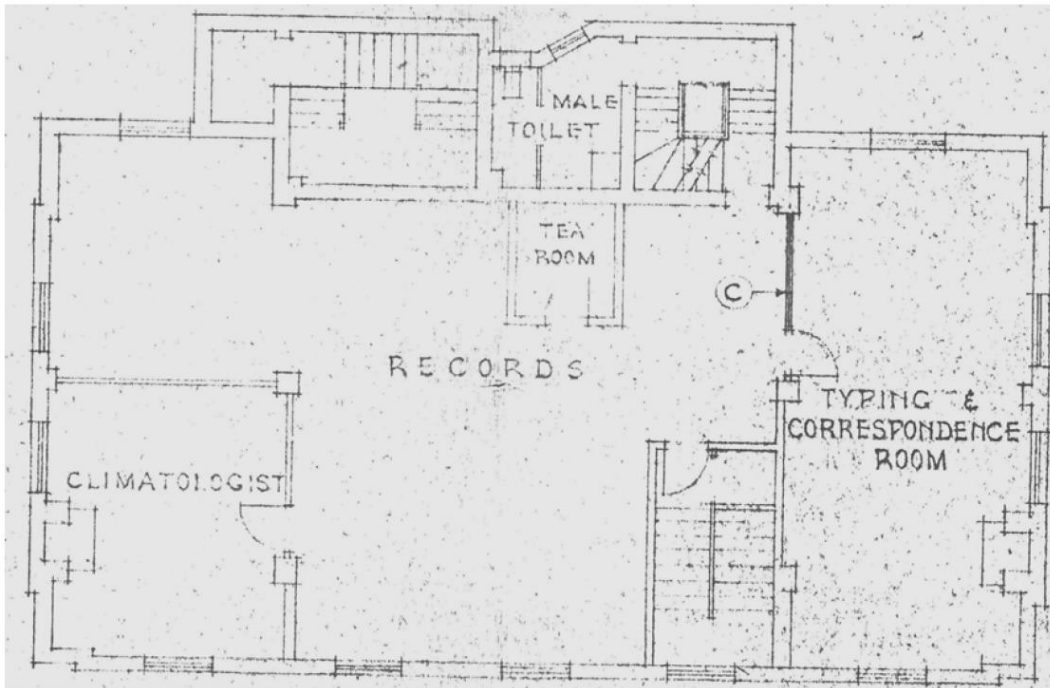


Figure 0-43: First floor plan of the Bureau of Meteorology, documented by the Commonwealth Department of Works and Housing, March 1951. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 40).

Changes to the surrounding environment after World War II, which included the development of taller buildings, made accurate readings increasingly difficult. After 1950, satellites and computer technology revolutionised meteorology and the original function of the building was becoming obsolete. The Bureau moved to the recently completed Commonwealth Centre at Chifley Square in 1963. Radar installed on the roof to give better warnings of changing weather conditions. However, weather observations continued to be made at the Observatory Hill site.¹¹³

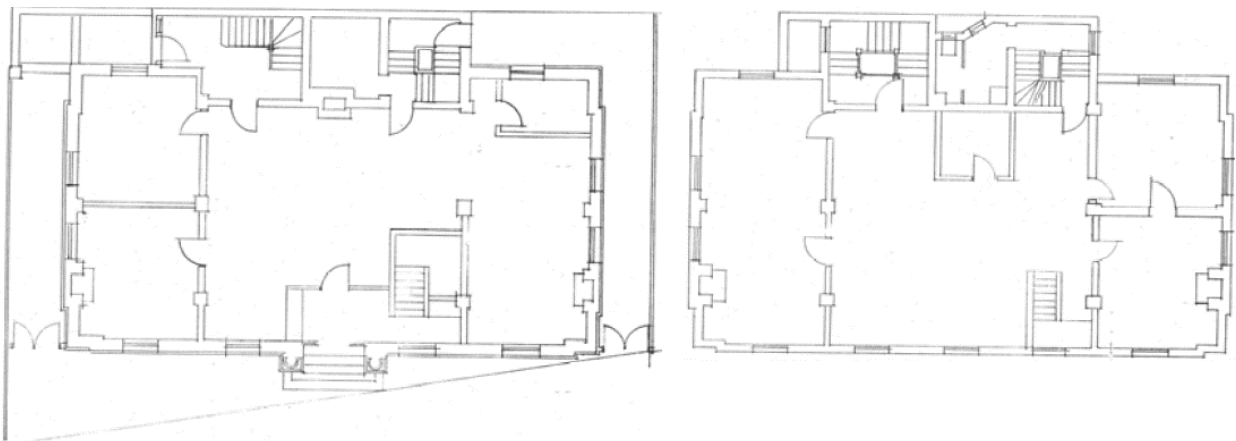


Figure 0-44: Ground floor plan (left) and first floor plan (right) of the Bureau of Meteorology, circa 1962. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 41).

¹¹³ Day, p.351.

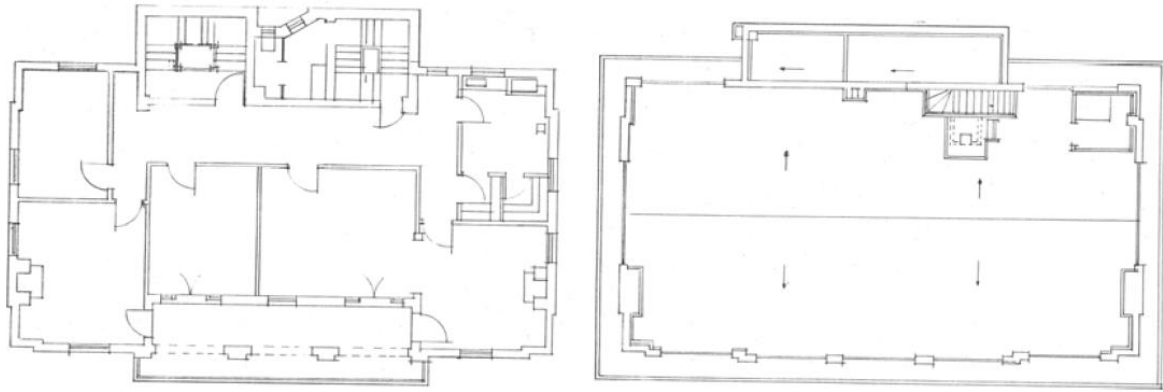


Figure 0-45: Second floor plan (left) and roof plan of the Bureau of Meteorology, 1962. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 42).

Both the Department of the Army and the Department of Defence expressed interest in occupying the building during 1962. The Army believed that the building would be suitable for a small Headquarters Unit while Defence sought the building to house the Hydrographic Service of the Royal Australian Navy. The Minister of Defence decided to occupy the building in August 1963. While the building was being cleared out after the Bureau of Meteorology vacated the premises a fire broke out in one of the stairwells on 14 November 1963, damaging timber elements, glazing and a dumbwaiter. Other parts of the building suffered smoke and water damage. Repairs were undertaken and the transfer of tenancy took place as at 1 January 1965.¹¹⁴

Concurrently part of the building was home to the Royal Australian Navy's cartographic section and archive and became known as the Admiralty Chart Building. The 1923 Act authorising Commonwealth occupation and use of a section of Observatory Hill and the subsequent 1934 amending Act were repealed with the passage of another Act in December 1983.¹¹⁵ At some period the National Trust began using the building for storage, which in 1999 provoked a response from the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Frank Sartor. He planned to remove this "unauthorised occupancy" and install a cultural group in the building. Despite this, the Trust continued to store items in the building.¹¹⁶ It no longer does so.

Although the Bureau vacated its purpose-designed building in 1963, weather forecasting and measuring equipment remained at the Messenger's Cottage. By 1970, if not earlier, the Cottage was being used as an electrical and mechanical workshop, but by the mid-1970s it was considered too small to serve these purposes. Until the end of the 1970s it was known as "Weather Bureau Cottage" and was for a time occupied by Bureau employees. After the Bureau vacated the Cottage there were rumours that the Cottage would be demolished. In April 1978 the National Trust of Australia approached the NSW Planning & Environment Commission asking if it were possible for the building to be used as the headquarters of its Junior Group Committee. The Commission was favourably disposed towards the idea and implemented its decision in March 1979. The Young Trust Group undertook some repair and conservation work on the building.

The National Trust undertook a program of works to the Cottage.

External works included:

Demolition of a brick and concrete ramp and concrete paving in the rear yard;

¹¹⁴ NAA Series Number SP857/10, Control Symbol PR521 Part 1, Observatory Hill – lease of site to Weather Bureau.

¹¹⁵ Observatory Park Weather Bureau Site (Repeal) Act, 1983, No. 126.

¹¹⁶ Waghorn, p.12.

Lowering the ground level in the rear yard and regrading to an existing sump;

Removal of verandah infill materials;

Removal of concrete roof tiles and replacement with corrugated steel sheeting, along with replacement of guttering and downpipes where needed;

Installation of a new front door, French doors, boarded door to the kitchen and replacement of the lower kitchen window sash;

Repainting external surfaces.

Internal works included:

Removal of all existing floor coverings and refurbishment of existing timber flooring;

Opening up fireplaces and installation of "traditional" chimneypieces, cast iron grates, firebricks and hearths;

Removal of many electrical conduits and outlets from walls and ceilings;

Removal of battened plaster ceilings and replacement with plasterboard and in some places timber boards;

Repainting internal walls and ceilings.¹¹⁷

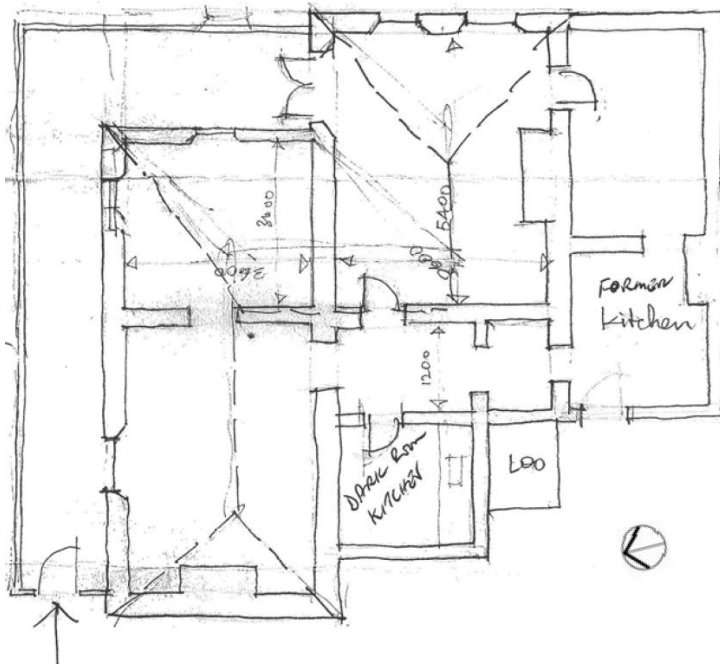


Figure 0-46: Plan of the Messenger's Cottage drawn by architect Don Ellsmore on 16 November 1978. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 43).

¹¹⁷ National Trust of Australia (NSW): David Sheedy, Schedule of proposed works for the National Trust Junior Group Committee, 5 August 1980.



Figure 0-47: The Messenger's Cottage after the Bureau of Meteorology had departed, circ1978. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 44).

The cottage assumed a new and innovative role when it became what was claimed to be Australia's first corporate childcare centre after the National Trust leased the building to Esso and Lend Lease in 1987.¹¹⁸ The facility was managed by the Kindergarten Union Children's Services. The lease arrangement lasted until 2000.

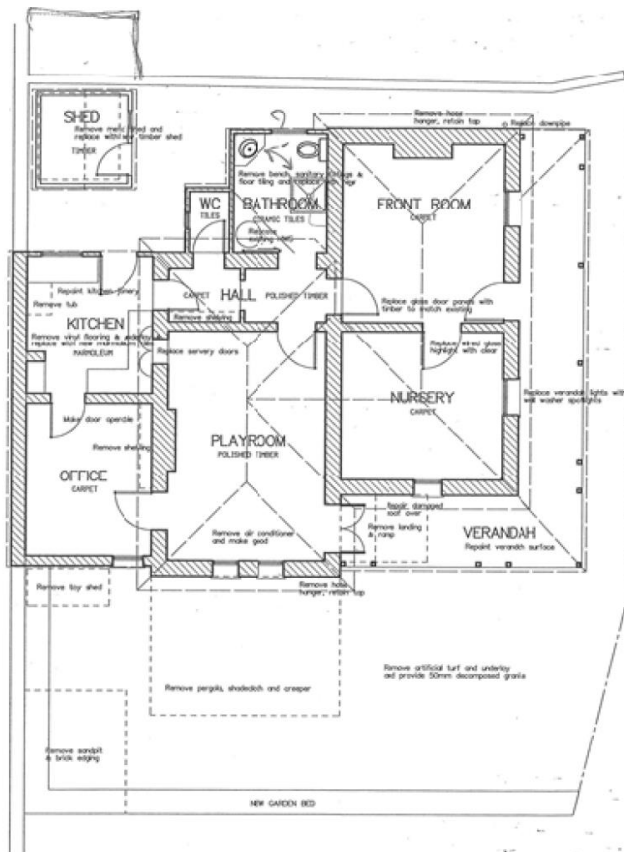


Figure 0-48: Plan describing the layout of the childcare centre, documented in the office of heritage architects Orwell & Peter Phillips, 28 May 2001. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 39).

Towards the end of 1992 the National Trust was appointed to manage the Reserve Trust for the Messenger's Cottage "for public purposes of heritage and community purposes", which was notified in the Government Gazette on 30 October 1992. About a year before this the Trust was given permission to use

¹¹⁸ Pascol News, October 1993.

the former Bureau of Meteorology building for storage, a situation that lasted until 2000. The building has deteriorated rapidly and is currently in a derelict state. The building was subsequently administered by the NSW Department of Lands but fell into disuse and disrepair. It remains disused.

The Messenger's Cottage has been taken over by Fort Street Public School and is now used for administrative purposes. The open land to the east of the Cottage is still used for taking weather recordings.

Boundary Wall

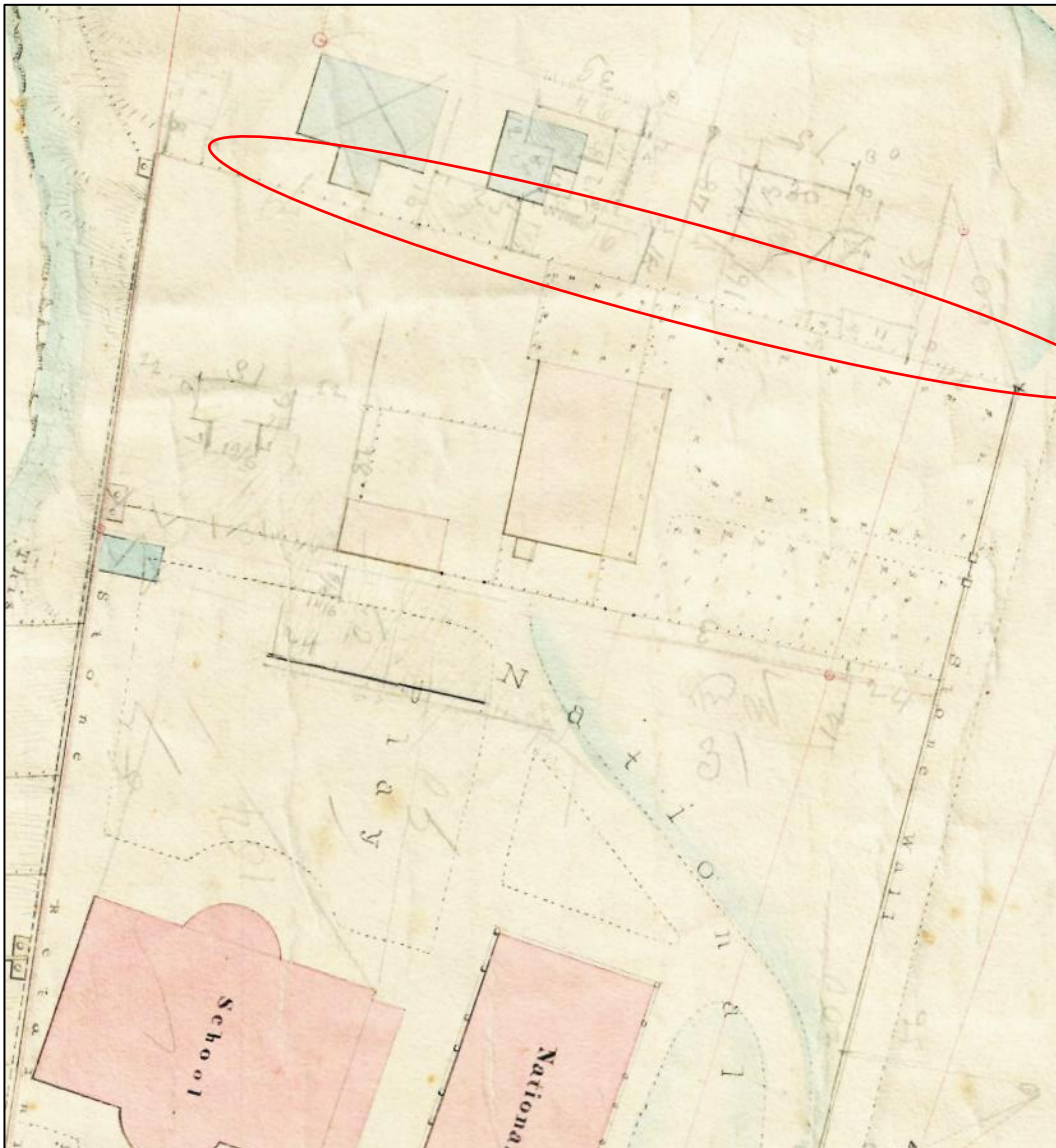


Figure 0.49: 1856 Plan showing stone wall to east and west of national school (former military) compound. Northern boundary line between Messengers cottage and school buildings not specified as stone. Likely still a fence boundary. (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney - City Detail Sheets, 1855 - Sheet_01)



Figure 0.50: Sydney 1900-01 Resumption plan showing northern boundary in its current location as a wall



Figure 0.51: Circa 1910 photograph showing children being taught about gardening in front of the southern side of the wall. (Source: State Records Digital ID 15051_a047_005381)

Historical Timeline

For ease of reference, a brief historical timeline presenting the key developments, alterations and modifications undertaken at Fort Street Public School site has been developed, based on the historical evidence as outlined in the sections above.

DATE	EVENTS
1790s:	Government windmills built on the high land; construction of Dawes Point fort and Observatory.
1804:	Construction of Fort Phillip on the heights of the peninsula ridge.
1806	A third government windmill, a large wooden structure, was built by Nathaniel Lucas near the site where Fort Street Public School now stands (Figure 0-4)
1815-20	Construction of Military Hospital and associated outbuildings (Surgeon Quarters, kitchen, servant's apartments)
1820s-80s	Spread of urban development across whole Millers Point and Dawes Point Precinct, active quarrying along Kent Street
1840	Part of Fort Phillip demolished, new signal station erected in its place, later incorporated into Sydney Observatory
1849	Relocation of Military Hospital to Paddington, Commanding Engineer officially relinquishes possession of hospital site to National School
1849	Fort Street School established, remodelling/adaptation of Military Hospital
1850	Military Hospital building modified for school use to carry the two storey arcade by infilling the encircling verandah altering the building to Victorian Mannerist style.
1850s	Adaptation of Fort Phillip site for Observatory and parklands. (Current Observatory constructed between 1857-1859.)
1862	Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory constructed
1862	Fort Street Infants school erected (west of Surgeons residence, likely associated with original structure of military kitchen outbuildings)
1880	Doves 1880s plan shows that Military Hospital has been extended to join the 1855 school building with an additional out building at the rear on the west boundary, the Infants school is on the northwest boundary and three out buildings (privies) are shown on the southern boundary of the National Trust site
1887-89	Classroom buildings added and repairs made to existing school buildings
1900s	Post plague demolitions and rebuilding throughout the precinct, less so in Dawes Point.
1909	Military Hospital kitchen block and cellar demolished, playground repairs, construction of retaining wall and fence.
1916	Boys relocated to new Fort St High School at Taverners Hill. Fort St School, Millers Point became girls school only
1920-30	Construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge and approaches on the heights of the peninsula ridge.
1922	Construction of purpose-built Bureau of Meteorology Building (MET)
1929	Military Hospital remodelled
1940s	School buildings south of Bureau of Meteorology demolished, including former surgeon's residence and infants school.
1930-50s	New group of school buildings constructed including hall, gymnasium and several classrooms.
1940-50s	Construction of the ring road to the Cahill Expressway for the Sydney Harbour Bridge
1940-41	Construction of present Fort Street Primary School by Clive Evatt the Minister for Education at the time
1949	Fanny Cohen Gymnasium constructed
1950s	Fort Street School secondary pupils relocated to Taverner's Hill. The primary school pupils vacated the model school to occupy the newer buildings (current Fort Street Public School main building)

DATE	EVENTS
1954	Classroom added to 1940 primary school building. Demountable building constructed to west of Bureau of Meteorology
1957	Second bridge over Cahill cutting, linking gymnasium to footway alongside Harbour Bridge approach
1961	Two larger demountable classrooms constructed for Fort Street Girls School to NW of Gymnasium
1963	Bureau of Meteorology vacated the building, with weather forecasting and measuring equipment remaining at the Messenger's Cottage
1975	Military Hospital/former school buildings adapted for National Trust occupation.
1979-2000s	Various uses of Messengers Cottage, including by National Trust 'Young Trust Group', and as Childcare Centre. Some repair, alterations and conservation works undertaken
1991	EEC opens in former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium
1991	Use of Bureau of Meteorology by National Trust for storage
2000	Bureau of Meteorology fell into major disrepair and disuse
2000-Current	Use of Messengers Cottage by Fort Street Public School
2019	Fort Street Public School identified as key public school for expansion in SI (NSW) Strategic Business Case Master Planning for expansion - Concept Design of Master Plan option prepared (FJMT Studio 2019).
2020-2023	Redevelopment of Fort Street Public School comprising demolition of selected buildings, namely the EEC (former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium) and structures, construction of four new buildings, refurbishment of existing retained buildings, alterations to drop-off and pick-up arrangements and associated works, including tree removal, landscaping and consolidation of lots. Refurbishment, alteration and additions undertaken to Fort Street Public School, to the Bureau of Meteorology and to the Messenger's Cottage.

Appendix B: *Draft Fort Street Public School-
Concept Design Scope of Conservation
Works (2019)*

FORT STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL
DRAFT SCOPE OF CONSERVATION WORKS
13 NOVEMBER 2019



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FORT STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL - CONCEPT PLAN HERITAGE ADVICE

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Purpose & Scope of the Report
Location & Context

04
04
04

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

Statutory Listings
Historical Overview
Description

05
05
06
09

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Analysis of Building Fabric
Development Guidelines & Summary

12
12
13

APPENDIX A

14

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF REPORT

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF THE REPORT

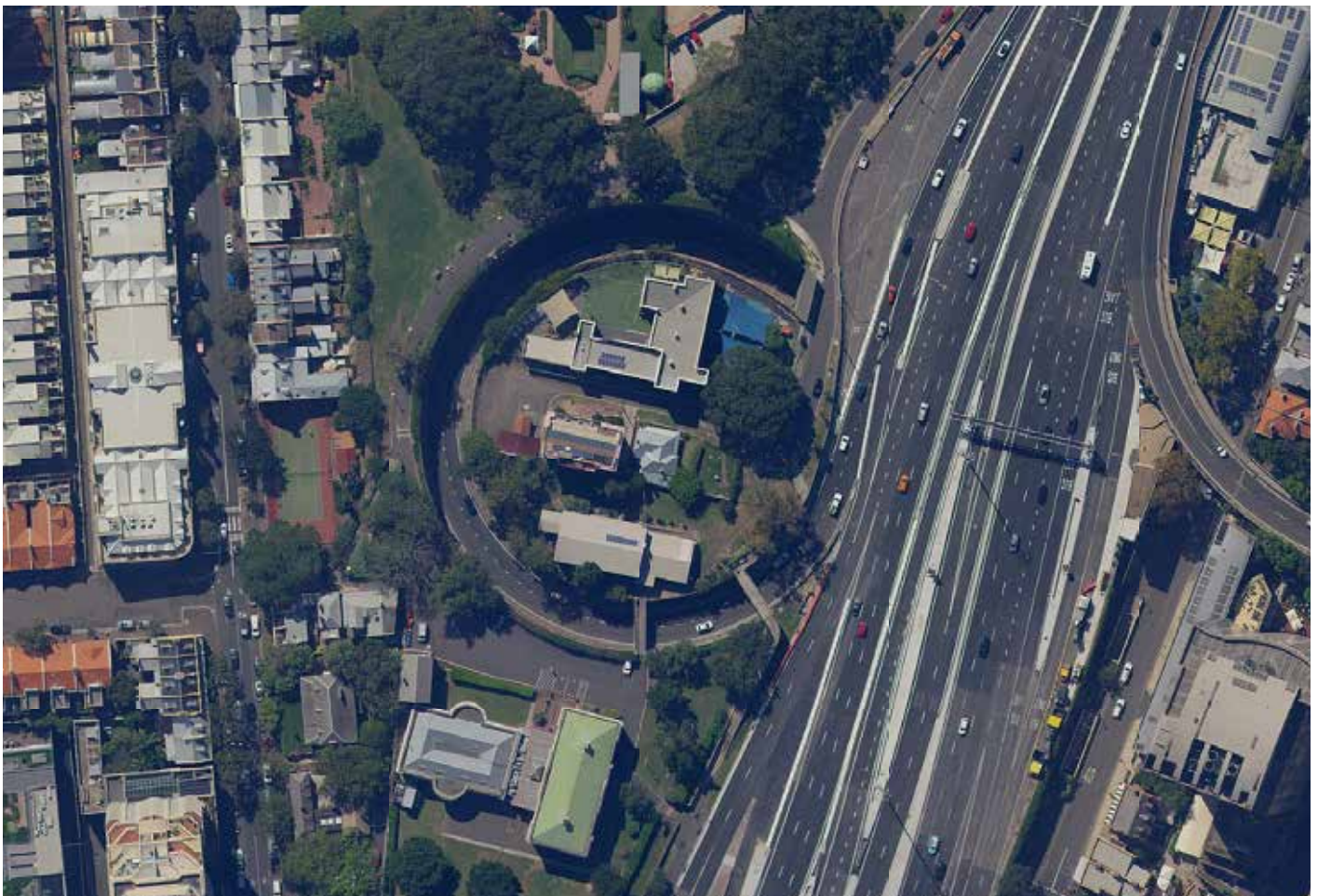
This report has been prepared to provide high level heritage advice on the CONCEPT DESIGN for the proposed upgrades to the Fort Street Public School. The report provides advice relating to the likely scope of conservation works that will be required to the existing significant buildings on the site in order to provide some guidance to early costings for the works, including their current condition, opportunities for conservation works (including reinstatement of original features), and some initial "make safe" works required for the MET Building. It examines the heritage impact upon significant buildings as a result of the proposed changes outlined in the Option 1A Concept Design drawings prepared by FJMT Architects and dated 16 August 2019.

This report does not seek to explore the history of the place or provide a detailed analysis of significant fabric. More detailed assessment will be required as the design concept progresses.

This assessment has been prepared by Purcell Asia Pacific Limited (Purcell). It has been informed by a site visit conducted by David Burdon and Tracey Skovronek on 16 July 2019, when conditions were sunny and 20 degrees Celcius. Purcell have also undertaken desktop archival research - primarily a review of the Conservation Management Plan for the site prepared in October 2016 by Tanner Kibble Denton Architects.

LOCATION & CONTEXT

The site is located at Observatory Hill, Millers Point. The site is currently occupied by a series of buildings including the original Fort Street Girls and Boys Primary School (1941), Messenger's Cottage (1861, extended c.1877, restored 1979) and the Bureau of Meteorology (MET) Building (1922). The Environmental Education Centre (EEC) Building (c.1950) is on the southern portion of the site, and is proposed for demolition. The brick wall on a sandstone foundation that extends across the boundary between the EEC and the MET is likely part of the Military Hospital compound, dating from c.1830.



Aerial View - Fort Street Public School site, located within the boundary of the Cahill Expressway on-ramp. The original Fort Street School (now the National Trust Centre) is located to the south. Source: <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au>

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

HERITAGE LISTINGS

NSW STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

Fort Street Public School, the former Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology building are situated within the State Heritage Register Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct, although none of the buildings is noted individually in the listing.

SYDNEY LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2012

Fort Street Public School is listed as a heritage item in Schedule 5 Part 1 of Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (Item I938, Lots 1 and 2 DP 732592). The Bureau of Meteorology (Item I936) and the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory (Item I937) are also listed under the LEP.

The site is included in the Millers Point/Dawes Point Conservation Area (C35) and in the immediate vicinity of a number of individually listed heritage items, including the Sydney Observatory Group (Item I934), and Observatory Park (Item I935).

OTHER LISTINGS

Fort Street Public School is not currently classified in the Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW), or the Register of Significant Architecture in NSW prepared by the Heritage Committee of the Australian Institute of Architects - New South Wales Chapter.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

SIGNIFICANCE GRADINGS

2016 CMP ASSESSMENT

The 2106 CMP for the site prepared by Tanner Kibble Denton Architects has assessed the site and assigned the following levels of significance. It is against these criteria that Purcell have undertaken their heritage assessment for the place.

Grading of Significance	Justification for Grading
Exceptional	<p>Element that makes a direct and irreplaceable contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site. It will exhibit a high degree of integrity with any alterations of a minor nature and generally reversible.</p> <p>Demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration would substantially diminish the heritage significance of the site.</p>
High	<p>Element that makes a substantial contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site. It may have alterations that do not detract from its significance.</p> <p>Demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration would diminish the heritage significance of the site.</p>
Moderate	<p>Element that makes a moderate contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site. It may have undergone alterations that detract from its heritage significance but still contributes to the overall significance of the place.</p> <p>Demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration may diminish the heritage significance of the site.</p>
Little	<p>Element that makes only a minor contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site. It has undergone substantial and irreversible alteration and is difficult to interpret.</p> <p>Demolition/removal would not diminish the heritage significance of the site.</p>
Intrusive	<p>Element (or component of an element) that adversely impacts on the overall heritage significance of the site.</p> <p>Demolition/removal would enhance the heritage significance of the site.</p>

5.5.1 Site elements

Grading	Item
Exceptional	<p>Potential Aboriginal and historical archaeological remains across the site.</p> <p>Fort Street Public School.</p> <p>Bureau of Meteorology Building.</p> <p>Brick wall between the Cottage and EEC.</p> <p>Playgrounds on the northern and eastern sides of Fort Street Public School.</p> <p>Ficus tree on the eastern side of Fort Street Public School.</p>
High	Messenger's Cottage.
Moderate	<p>Palisade fencing above the road circle and bounding Fort Street Public School.</p> <p>Garages on the western side of the Bureau of Meteorology.</p> <p>Toilets on the western side of Fort Street Public School.</p>
Little	<p>Former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium (EEC).</p> <p>Landscaping associated with the EEC.</p>
Intrusive	Shade structure on the eastern side of the Public School.

Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

OVERALL SITE SIGNIFICANCE



Built form elements

- Exceptional
- High
- Moderate
- Little
- Intrusive

Landscape elements

- Tree of exceptional significance
- Tree of little significance
- Open space of exceptional significance



Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

FORT STREET SCHOOL BUILDING

2016 CMP ASSESSMENT

The 2016 CMP for the site prepared by Tanner Kibble Denton Architects has assessed the individual built elements and assigned the following levels of significance. It is against these criteria that Purcell have undertaken their heritage assessment.

FORT STREET SCHOOL BUILDING - SIGNIFICANCE GRADINGS

Grading	Item
Exceptional	<p>The intact original external form and original external fabric of Fort Street Public School.</p> <p>Intact original spaces within the building, including the main stair, halls and corridors, classrooms, assembly hall and stage, staff room and office.</p> <p>Intact original fabric, including stair balustrades and newel posts, windows and fanlights between classrooms and corridors, original doors to external openings, terrazzo stairs, the metal balustrade between the door openings to the secondary stair.</p>
High	<p>Movable items, including rolls of honour, the memorial window and the associated commemorative plaque.</p>
Moderate	<p>Modified spaces formerly occupied by hat rooms and stores and associated fabric.</p> <p>The lavatory block at the western end of the building.</p>
Little	<p>Aluminium framed windows.</p> <p>Sanitary fitments in the boys' and girls' toilets.</p> <p>Tiling and sanitary fitments in the staff lavatory.</p> <p>Tiling and sanitary fitments in the basement lavatory.</p> <p>Sinks, sink cupboards and tiled splash backs in the first floor corridor and classrooms.</p> <p>Palisade fencing around the perimeter of the site.</p> <p>Playground items, including soft paving and synthetic grass.</p> <p>Lavatory fitout in the basement area.</p>
Intrusive	<p>Conduits and cabling installed on the exterior of the building.</p> <p>Signage on the east parapet of the school.</p> <p>Signage at the eastern edge of the site.</p> <p>Store room added to the northern side of the assembly hall.</p>

Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE

FORT STREET SCHOOL BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR

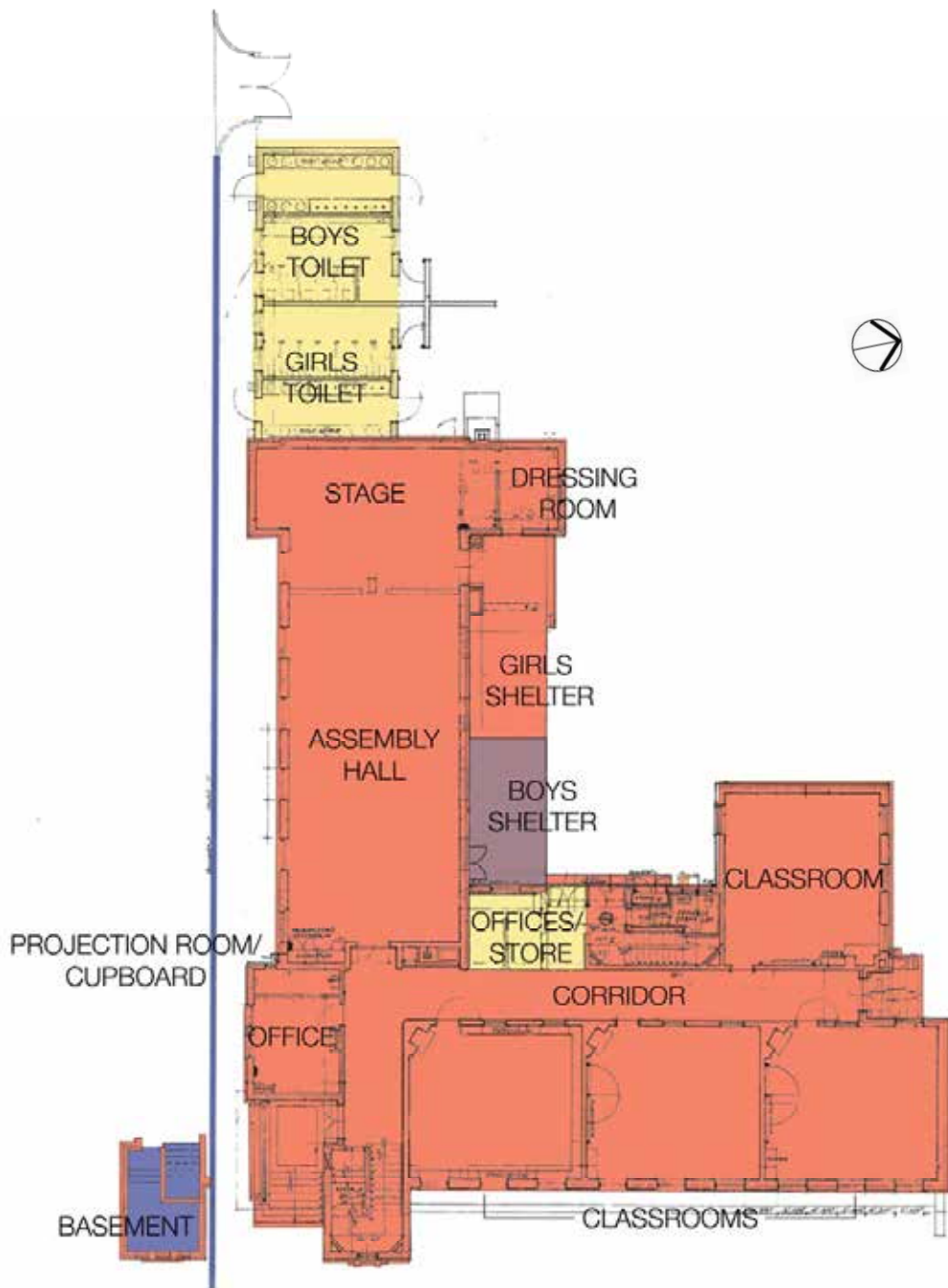


Figure 148 Significance of spaces in Fort Street Public School – Ground floor
Source: TKD Architects, 2016.

- Exceptional
- High
- Moderate
- Little
- Intrusive

Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE

FORT STREET SCHOOL BUILDING - FIRST FLOOR

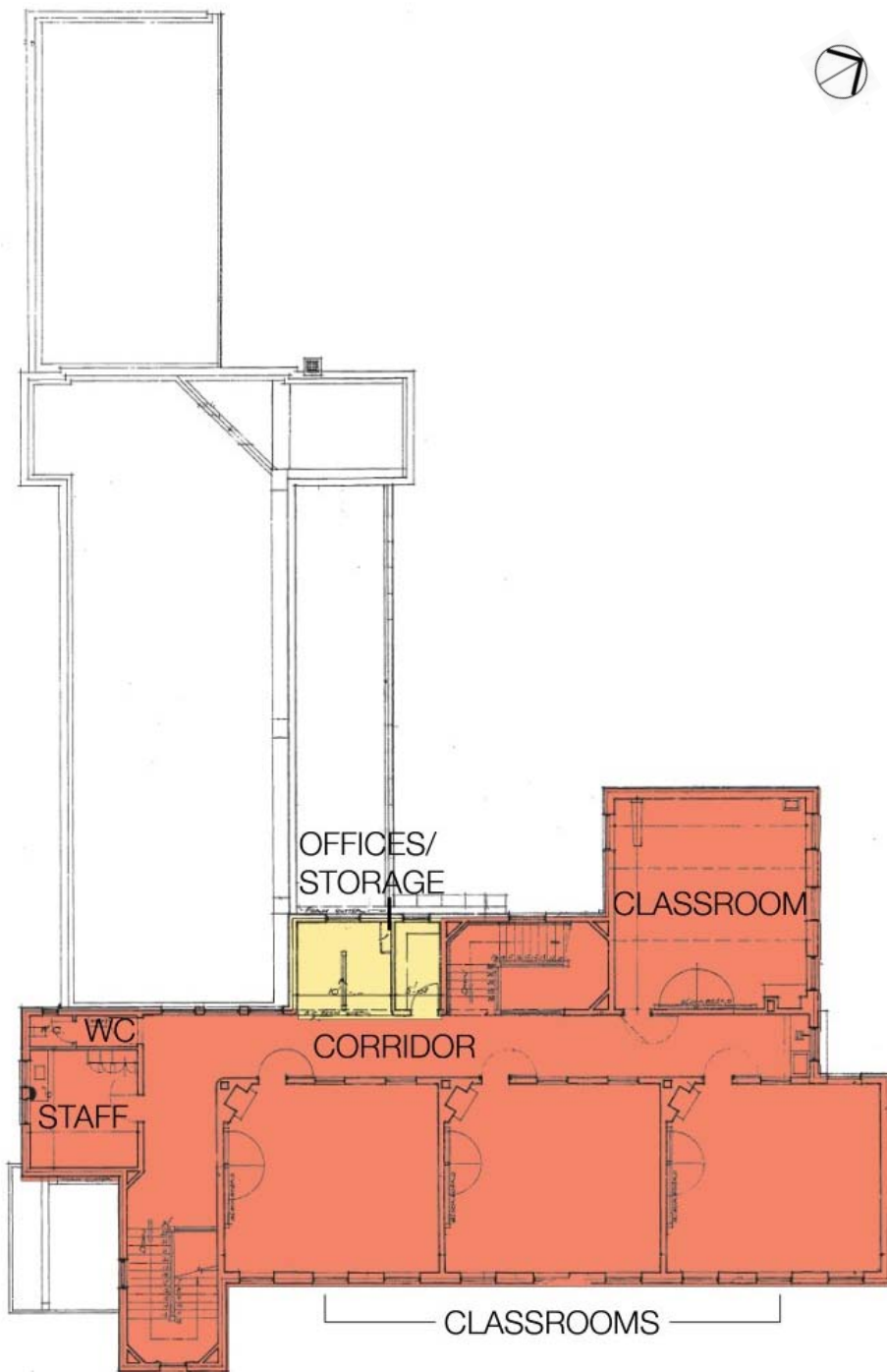


Figure 149 Significance of spaces in Fort Street Public School - First Floor
Source: TKD Architects, 2016.



Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

MESSENGER'S COTTAGE BUILDING

MESSENGER'S COTTAGE BUILDING - SIGNIFICANCE GRADINGS

Grading	Item
Exceptional	The intact original external form of the Messenger's Cottage, including the form of verandahs and rear additions; Original external and internal fabric of the Messenger's Cottage; The overall plan configuration of the building
High	The spaces within the building, including the three principal rooms, rear office and hall. Reconstructed verandah fabric and volume. Although a reconstruction, it is important for the contribution it makes to the appearance of the Cottage and an understanding of its early form; Fireplace in the kitchen; Timber floor boards.
Moderate	Spaces including the kitchen, bathroom and w.c. Although likely to be early parts of the building, they have been modified by the introduction of later fabric. Recent timber board wall linings, which are appropriate to the age and character of the place, and contribute to an understanding of its early form; Reconstructed timber joinery items including windows, doors, architraves and skirting boards; Reconstructed fabric associated with fireplaces in the principal rooms.
Little	Recent kitchen fitments and cabinetry; Sanitary fixtures and tiling in the bathroom and w.c.; Plasterboard ceiling linings; Verandah flooring; The shed near the south western corner of the Cottage.
Intrusive	There are no intrusive elements associated with the Messenger's Cottage.

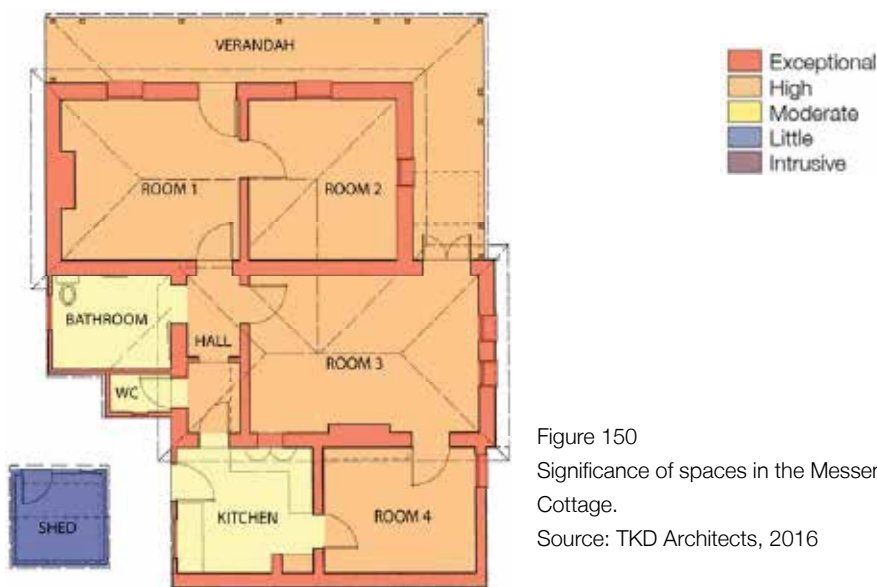


Figure 150
Significance of spaces in the Messenger's Cottage.
Source: TKD Architects, 2016

Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY BUILDING

BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY BUILDING - SIGNIFICANCE GRADINGS

The 2016 CMP assessment of the Bureau of Meteorology Building was limited by the restricted access to the building due to its poor condition. The assessment noted that "a more detailed inspection of the building may re-evaluate assessment of the relative heritage significance of spaces and fabric." Purcell have produced a summary drawing showing significance and possible existing floor plan below based on a desktop study.

Grading	Item
Exceptional	The intact original external form and original external fabric of the Bureau of Meteorology; Intact original spaces within the building - building interiors are thought to be generally intact, notwithstanding some modifications; Intact original fabric including timber, terrazzo and concrete stairs, fireplaces and chimneypieces, doors, architraves, skirting boards, counters in the ground floor reception area, ceiling linings and cornices, wrought metal balustrades (it should be noted some fabric is in poor condition); The steel tower on the roof of the building.
High	Spaces which, although modified, have retained original fabric.
Moderate	The dumb waiter and associated fabric; Any surviving internal partitions installed after World War II; The low planting bed walls and metal balustrading on the northern side of the building.
Little	Modifications to the porch associated with the private entrance.
Intrusive	Later conduits installed on wall surfaces.

Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.



CONSERVATION WORKS

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS



BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY (MET) BUILDING

The 1922 Bureau of Meteorology Building is currently in an extremely poor state of repair. It requires emergency repair works to make it safe to enter and to prevent further deterioration. The longer that the building is left in its current state, the more damage that will occur to original fabric, and the more costly will be the repair works that will need to be undertaken.

The building has been assessed as being of EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. This means that it “makes a direct and irreplaceable contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site” and that “demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration would substantially diminish the heritage significance of the site.”

Its intact external form, internal spaces, original fabric (timber; terrazzo and concrete stairs, fireplaces, chimneypieces, doors, architraves, skirtings etc) are to be conserved.

MET BUILDING - EMERGENCY / MAKE-SAFE WORKS

ELEMENT	EMERGENCY WORKS
	<p>The roof is currently in a very poor state. it has completely perished in some places and a temporary sarlon covering is doing nothing to halt further water ingress.</p> <p>URGENT WORKS: Install a temporary roof to the building that overhangs the parapet and which has temporary downpipes installed.</p> <p>NOTE: Weatherproofing the roof is the major priority. Unless the roof is repaired, additional make-safe works will be of little effect. The building needs to be able to dry-out before the majority of further assessment can be undertaken. Works are to be specified by an experienced heritage architect.</p>
	<p>The interior of the building is currently full of broken-down material, much of it related to the ceilings which have collapsed. There is likely to be a number of hazardous materials within the detritus.</p> <p>URGENT WORKS: Undertake a general clean-up of the building using approved contractors, taking care to avoid areas of collapsed floor etc. Scope of Works for clean up to be specified by an experienced heritage architect (to prevent removal/disposal of potentially significant fabric).</p>

CONSERVATION WORKS

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS



There is a large amount of original fabric within the building, including doors, fireplaces, skirtings etc. Constant water ingress is significantly damaging this fabric which is in otherwise good condition.

URGENT WORKS: With input from the heritage architect, remove existing timber doors, fireplaces etc from the building, record their location in an inventory and store in a secure, weatherproof location on site to prevent further damage.



There is a risk of debris falling from the building, including damaged eaves and possibly more major structural members.

URGENT WORKS: Install a temporary perimeter fence to the building to prevent access.



There is a risk of ceiling and floor collapse in certain sections of the building. In some cases the floor is unsafe to walk on or missing completely.




URGENT WORKS: With the advice of a structural engineer and input from heritage architect, install temporary floor joists/ columns where necessary to ensure the stability of the existing structure. Where floors are missing or severely deteriorated, install a temporary plywood floor or similar to permit access.

CONSERVATION WORKS

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS




MET BUILDING - CONCEPT DESIGN REPAIR SCHEDULE

The following schedule of works is not an exhaustive list of repairs that will need to be undertaken to the building. It provides general advice for costing purposes at the CONCEPT DESIGN stage only.

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	<p>The external brickwork to the building is in various states of repair. The patterned nature of the brickwork is no longer apparent due to the build-up of pollution on the facade.</p> <p>Downpipes and rainwater heads to the building are mostly no longer in place. Only the SE corner has a rainwater head intact.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for a general clean of the brickwork on all elevations. Allow for approximately 75% repointing of brickwork.</p> <p>Allow for three new custom copper rainwater heads and associated downpipes.</p>
	<p>The concrete parapets, door surround and base to the building appear to not have originally been painted. Window and door frames, along with metalwork were painted.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for historic paint analysis to determine original colour scheme.</p> <p>Allow for complete removal of existing (presumed acrylic) paint from concrete surfaces using approved paint stripping method.</p> <p>Allow to repaint all metalwork following stripping back, repair and application of protective coating.</p> <p>Allow to repaint all timber windows and doors.</p>
	<p>The "wind recording apparatus" to the SW corner of the building is an important element related to the original function of the building.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for complete restoration of this element. This may involve substantial off-site repair work, sandblasting, repainting, installation of missing elements or new structural members, etc. The two flagpoles (seen in the image above) should also be considered for reinstatement.</p>




CONSERVATION WORKS

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	<p>A number of noticeable structural repairs are required on the exterior of the building. Of particular concern is the major cracking to the parapet on the southern elevation.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Advice of a specialist structural engineer should be sought. Allow for complete dismantling and rebuilding of this section of parapet.</p>
	<p>The eaves to the building are in generally poor condition. In some cases they are missing or have completely rotted through. Where they remain in good condition they should be repaired.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for 100% replacement of eaves using exact matching profile.</p>
	<p>The lining boards to the upper verandah have rotted. External doors and windows are generally in moderate condition.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Replace the lining boards to the upper verandah.</p> <p>Allow to remove all external doors and windows for repair in a factory. These elements (and their frames) should be sanded back, re-primed and re-painted. New glass should be installed that assists in meeting acoustic requirements. Sash windows should be repaired and made operational. Install appropriate acoustic brush seals to the windows. Original hardware is to be retained and repaired where possible.</p>

CONSERVATION WORKS

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	<p>The building interiors need significant repair works.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for complete reinstatement of all plaster ceilings and cornices to match existing details. Allow for complete reinstatement of all timber floorboards, but retain if possible on the lower floors where there has been less damage. Aim to retain original structure (floor joists etc) where possible, but supplement with new structure where necessary. Allow for upgraded sound and/or fire insulation between floors. Strip paint from all walls, patch and repair as necessary prior to repainting.</p> <p>Remove all existing conduits, wiring etc and re-wire the entire building to meet current standards.</p>
	<p>Substantial early joinery remains in the building. it is in generally moderate condition and should be repaired to match. This includes internal doors, the entrance vestibule, fireplaces, skirtingboards, picture rails, and dividing screens.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Repair all timberwork to the building. Replace elements where missing or damaged (allow 50%). Repaint.</p>
	<p>The roof and guttering to the building is missing.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Repair the existing roof. Exact roof type is to be determined, but this roof is to be trafficable. Existing handrails are to be repaired and repainted, and a new compliant barrier is likely required.</p> <p>Allow for full replacement of the guttering to the building.</p> <p>Allow for full replacement of perimeter membrane above eaves. Allow for new cement topping to all parapets to prevent further water ingress.</p>

CONSERVATION WORKS




DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

FORT STREET SCHOOL - CONCEPT DESIGN REPAIR SCHEDULE

The following schedule of works is not an exhaustive list of repairs that will need to be undertaken to the building. It provides general advice for costing purposes to the CONCEPT DESIGN stage only.




The 1941 Fort Street Primary School Building is currently in good condition and in use. The building has been assessed as being of EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. This means that it "makes a direct and irreplaceable contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site" and that "demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration would substantially diminish the heritage significance of the site."

Its intact external form, internal spaces, original fabric (stairs and newell posts, windows and fanlights to corridors, original external doors, terrazzo stairs etc) are to be conserved.

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	<p>The external brickwork to the building is in generally good condition. Cement string courses and parapet capping are in moderate condition.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for a general clean of the brickwork and cement elements on all elevations. Allow for approximately 25% repointing of brickwork.</p> <p>Allow for removal of all non-original signage, conduit, lighting, etc and repairs to fabric as necessary. Allow for a new capping element (possibly in folded metal) to the parapet line.</p>
	<p>The main entry to the building and the three small windows at the base of the tower have had their glass block windows removed.</p> <p>The flagpole to the main tower has also been removed.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for reinstatement of the original glass block wall as per the original design.</p> <p>Allow for a new flagpole to the main tower.</p>
	<p>The original steel windows that were an integral part of the design have been replaced. Current windows do not meet acoustic requirements.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for complete replacement of all external windows. The detail of the new window is to match the original historic steel windows for the building.</p>




CONSERVATION WORKS

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	<p>The significant elements of the building interior should be retained and conserved.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for a light sanding and repolishing of the original floorboards and parquetry flooring. Repair walls to match existing where any new openings are made or original openings restored. Restore the original curved corner elements to the interior.</p>
	<p>Original elements to the exterior of the building remain in place and should be conserved. These include the original timber doors, terrazzo steps, and metal handrails.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for repairs to terrazzo steps.</p>
	<p>The internal windows, doors and fanlights are in good condition. They should be retained and conserved wherever possible.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Minimal repair works required to these elements.</p>



CONSERVATION WORKS

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	<p>Historic display cabinets, honour boards, etc should be appropriately catalogued and incorporated into the new works. There may be some minor repair works required.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for the preparation of a moveable heritage management strategy</p>
	<p>Existing air conditioning units, fans, lights etc are presumed to be upgraded in some way as part of the planned works.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for repairs to ceilings and walls to match existing surfaces.</p>
	<p>The interior of the building (and selected parts of the exterior such as the doors) may be repainted as part of the works.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for historic paint scrape analysis to selected original features (timber doors, handrails, internal window frames, skirtings, etc) to assist in preparation of historic colour schedule for appropriate elements.</p>

CONSERVATION WORKS

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	<p>The historic stained glass War Memorial window may require some repair. It would be a positive outcome to remove (or at least upgrade) the external protective grille which is in poor condition</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for the removal or replacement of the security grille to the window. Allow for any necessary cleaning and repairs.</p>
	<p>The perimeter palisade fence dates from the time of the Cahill cutting and is in poor condition in some areas. The fencing should be retained and conserved as part of the works. There is some evidence of crevice corrosion (note rusting to concrete base).</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for the removal of existing secondary wire fencing, and of any vegetation.</p> <p>Allow to repair the fence as appropriate.</p> <p>It may be judged necessary to paint the fence. Allow for cleaning and preparation, application of alkyd-based protective primer, and coating with a micaceous iron oxide paint.</p>




CONSERVATION WORKS

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

MESSINGER'S COTTAGE - CONCEPT DESIGN REPAIR SCHEDULE



The following schedule of works is not an exhaustive list of repairs that will need to be undertaken to the building. It provides general advice for costing purposes at the CONCEPT DESIGN stage only.

The Messenger's Cottage was originally associated with Sydney Observatory. It was constructed c.1862 and enlarged in 1877. Subject to numerous changes of use and modifications throughout the years, the current form of the cottage dates primarily to the 1979 conservation works undertaken by the National Trust. The Messenger's Cottage is currently in good condition and in use. The building has been assessed as being of HIGH SIGNIFICANCE. This means that it "makes a substantial contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site" and that "demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration would diminish the heritage significance of the site." It should be noted that the actual original fabric of the building has been assessed as being of Exceptional Significance.

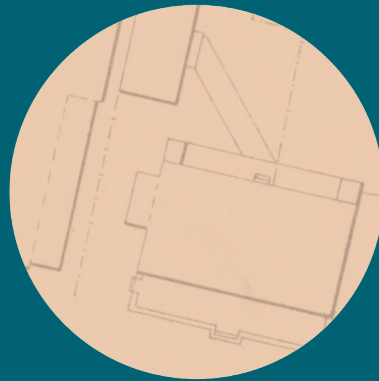
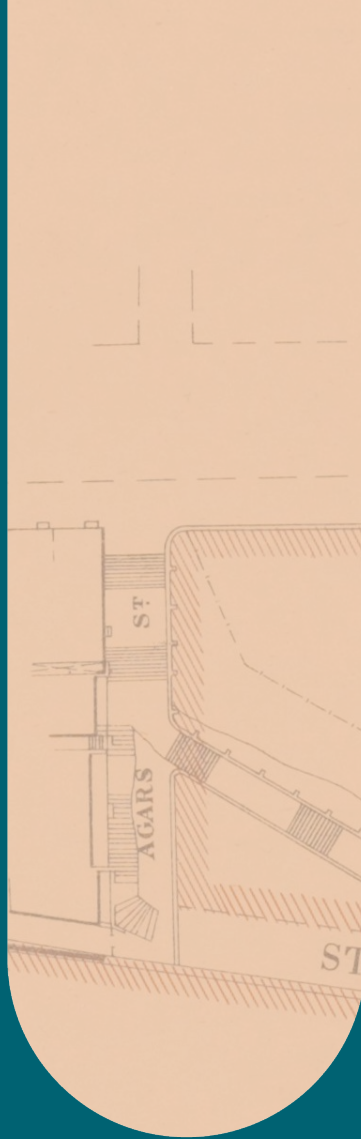
ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	<p>The exterior of the building is in generally good condition.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for minor repairs only.</p>
	<p>The interior of the cottage is in generally good condition, with a substantial amount of the internal fabric being of new construction but to historically appropriate design.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for minor repairs only.</p>
	<p>The current bathroom and kitchen are presumed to be modified as part of the works.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for careful removal and repair any elements as necessary. There may be an opportunity to expose the original external brick wall of the 1862 cottage currently in the bathroom, and this would require appropriate paint stripping.</p>

CONSERVATION WORKS

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	<p>The new roof was installed in 2016. It is in good condition, but there are some loose downpipes and gutter connections.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for repair to downpipes.</p>
	<p>Numerous modern services have been inappropriately installed to the rear of the building.</p> <p>Circulation paths around the building will likely need to be reconfigured.</p> <p>WORKS:</p> <p>Allow for removal/consolidation of necessary cabling. Install cover and paint in to reduce visual impact.</p> <p>Allow for new pathways to the building perimeter. Consider upgrading the modern concrete verandah with sandstone to appropriate detail (it is presumed the building had a stone flagged verandah).</p>

Appendix C: *Fort Street Public School—
Historical Archaeological Research Design
(2019a)*



Fort Street High School

Final Archaeological
Research Design

April 2021

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Document Information

Citation

Curio Projects 2021, Fort Street Public School Archaeological Research Design prepared for Lendlease

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7	26/04/21	Final Report 3	For Issue	Matthew Kelly	

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Chippendale NSW 2008

Australia

Contents

Document Information.....	2
Figures	5
1. Introduction.....	6
1.1. Introduction.....	6
1.2. Site Identification	6
1.3. Previous Reports.....	6
1.4. Limitations and Constraints	7
1.5. Report Author.....	7
1.6. Acknowledgements.....	7
2. Historical Context.....	10
2.1. Historic Timeline of Development of the FSPS Study Area.....	10
3. Previous Archaeological Work.....	19
3.1. 2019 Test Excavation Results.....	19
4. Archaeological Potential	22
4.1. Previous Summary of Archaeological Potential.....	22
4.2. Amended Archaeological Potential Based on Test Excavation Results.....	22
5. Identification of Potential Impacts.....	27
5.1. Demolition and Excavation (Figure 5-3, Figure 5-4 and Appendix 9.4).....	27
5.2. Building J (Figure 5-5 to Figure 5-9 and Appendix 9.4).....	27
5.3. Services Figure 5-11, Figure 5-12, Figure 5-13 and Appendix 9.4).....	27
5.4. Landscaping (Figure 5-14, Figure 5-15 and Appendix 9.4)	27
6. Assessment of Significance	43
7. Research Design and Excavation Methodology.....	45
7.1. Introduction.....	45
7.2. Demolition Plan (see Section 9.2).....	45
7.3. Heritage Induction (see Section 9.3)	45
7.4. Salvage Excavation	45
7.5. Archaeological Monitoring	46
7.6. Unexpected Finds Protocol	46
7.7. Recording and Reporting	47
7.8. Artefact Management and Analysis.....	48

7.9.	Research Questions.....	49
7.9.1.	General.....	49
7.9.2.	Specific—Fort Street Public School Site.....	49
8.	References.....	52
9.	Appendices.....	53
9.1.	Appendix 1 S60 Excavation Permit.....	53
9.2.	Appendix 2 Demolition Plan.....	57
9.2.1.	Objectives.....	57
9.2.2.	Archaeological Remains at the Site: Type Location & Extent.....	57
9.2.3.	Demolition Plan (Red and Blue Areas)	57
9.2.4.	Implementing the Plan	58
9.3.	Appendix 3 Site Induction.....	60
9.3.1.	Archaeological Heritage Induction.....	60
9.3.2.	Archaeological Activity	61
9.3.3.	Unexpected Finds	61
9.3.4.	Construction That May Affect Archaeology.....	62
9.4.	Appendix 4 High Resolution Images of Section 5 Impacts.....	63

Figures

Figure 1-1 General FSPS Study area Location. (Source: Curio 2019)	8
Figure 1-2 Fort Street Public School site photo showing major built elements currently on site. (Source: TKD 2016, Fig. 36).....	9
Figure 2-1 Plan of 'Doctor's House' (1824),From Standish Lawrence Harris – 'Report & Estimate Of The Value Of The Improvements Which Have Taken Place In The Public Buildings Of Sydney, Etc..' (Source: SLNSW C 225/ F13255340).....	16
Figure 2-2 Detail of plan of the Fort Street study area in 1901. Note the additional structures, fences etc adjacent to the Surgeon's Quarters. (Source: NSW State Archives 1901 Resumption Plans)	17
Figure 2-3 Morton Hermann's recording of the Surgeon's Quarters, 1948. (Source: ML,PXD 49, "Measured drawings, 1947-1948, 196-, Morton E. Herman").....	18
Figure 3-1 Test Trench 4 looking west with sandstock brick alignment-north wall of the Surgeon's Quarters. (Source: Curio, 2019).....	20
Figure 3-2 Western end of Test Trench 6 showing sandstock brick alignment-south wall of the Surgeon's Quarters. (Source: Curio, 2019).....	20
Figure 3-3 Location of test trenches at Fort Street Public School (Source: Curio, 2019).....	21
Figure 4-1 Overlay of 1880s plan of the study area. Note the small structures attached to the north and south walls of the Surgeon's Quarters. (Source: Curio 2019)	24
Figure 4-2 Overlay of 1901 plan of the study area (c.f. Figure 2-2). Note the small structures and wall lines surrounding the Surgeon's Quarters. (Source: Curio 2019).....	25
Figure 4-3 Amended Archaeological Potential. (Source: Curio 2020).....	26
Figure 5-1 Existing site plan. (Source: Lendlease, 2021)	28
Figure 5-2 Site Plan proposed. (Source: Lendlease, 2021).....	29
Figure 5-3 Demolition Plan – Ground. (Source: Lendlease, 2021)	30
Figure 5-4 Bulk Earthworks cut and fill plan. (Source: Lendlease, 2021).....	31
Figure 5-5 Overall general arrangement, ground level. (Source: Lendlease, 2021).....	32
Figure 5-6 Overall general arrangement lower ground, south. (Source: Lendlease, 2021)	33
Figure 5-7 Details of piles and columns and section of lift pit in Building J. (Source: Lendlease, 2021).....	34
Figure 5-8 Passenger Lift, Building J. (Source: Lendlease, 2021).....	35
Figure 5-9 Building J and H ground floor slab plan. (Source: Lendlease, 2021)	36
Figure 5-10 Heritage works Messenger's Cottage. (Source: Lendlease, 2021).....	37
Figure 5-11 Ground floor - south, drainage services. (Source: Lendlease, 2021).....	38
Figure 5-12 Ground floor - south, water services. (Source: Lendlease, 2021).....	39
Figure 5-13 Shared trenching plan for services. (Source: Lendlease, 2021).....	40
Figure 5-14 Landscape Planting Ground Plan. (Source: Lendlease, 2021).....	41
Figure 5-15 Landscape Ground Floor, southern terrace zone. (Source: Lendlease, 2021).....	42
Figure 7-1 Plan of archaeological actions associated with each zone of potential-c.f. Figure 4-3 and refer to Section 9.2. (Source: Curio 2020)	51

1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction

Curio Projects have been engaged by NSW Schools Infrastructure (SINSW) to provide heritage services for the Fort Street Public School (FSPS) project throughout the three stages of development (Master Planning/Feasibility; Expansion Options; and Planning Applications and Approvals). This ARD constitutes part of the final Stage of the planning process, to allow and guide archaeological excavation and monitoring of the study area during the construction phase of work.

Previously (2019) archaeological test excavations have been completed on the site which determined that the remains of the 1815 Surgeon's Quarters for the early Military Hospital remained intact beneath the Environmental Educational Centre on the southern portion of the site. That testing report identified other areas of the site with archaeological potential (i.e. that areas of the site other than the Surgeons Quarters may have archaeological potential that requires further investigation).

1.2. Site Identification

The Fort Street Public School site (the study area) is located on Observatory Hill, at Upper Fort Street, Millers Point, and is generally defined by the circular cut of the Cahill Expressway on ramp (Figure 1-1). The study area is located to the south of the Sydney Observatory, between the Bradfield Highway in the east, and residential development along Kent Street to the west.

The Fort Street School (FSPS) site currently consists of four main buildings (Figure 1-2): The Fort Street School; The Messengers Cottage; The Bureau of Meteorology building (MET Building), and the Environmental Educational Centre (EEC) building. Of these four structures, only the EEC building is not heritage listed.

1.3. Previous Reports

Previous relevant reports on the site include:

- Thorp W. 1992, National Trust Centre Observatory Hill, Historical and Archaeological Assessment, report prepared for Department of Public Works.
- Otto Cserhalmi Partners 2000, The National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill Precinct—Conservation Management Plan, prepared for NSW Department of Public Works and Services;
- Wahhorn, D, 2001, Meteorological Building, Observatory Hill, Conservation Management Plan.
- Tanner Kibble Denton (TDK) Architects, 2016, Fort Street Public School and environs Upper Fort Street, Millers Point, Conservation Management Plan;
- AMBS Ecology and Heritage, 2016, Fort Street Public School Archaeological Assessment.

Curio has completed the following reports in relation to the current study area:

- Fort Street Public School, Historical Archaeological Research Design, Test Excavation, 2019;
- Fort Street Public School, Conservation Management Plan, 2019;
- Fort Street Public School, Heritage Impact Statement, 2020;
- Fort Street Public School, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, 2020;
- Fort Street Public School, Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report, 2020.

1.4. Limitations and Constraints

This report has been prepared using the extensive historical data and documentation available for the FSPS study area and surrounds, including relevant Conservation Management Plans (CMP), and archaeological reports and assessments.

This report does not include assessment of Aboriginal heritage values or archaeology, nor any non-heritage related planning controls or requirements.

1.5. Report Author

This report has been prepared by Dr. Matthew Kelly, Senior Archaeologist of Curio Projects.

1.6. Acknowledgements

Curio acknowledges the assistance of Christine Eberl, Lendlease for provision of construction documentation.



Figure 1-1 General FSPS Study area Location. (Source: Curio 2019)



Figure 1-2 Fort Street Public School site photo showing major built elements currently on site. (Source: TKD 2016, Fig. 36)

2. Historical Context

The following timeline was included in the 2019 Curio ARD for the study area. It has been included here as a general guide to the development of the study area and its surrounds. More detailed historical information is available in the Otto Cserhalmi Partners 2000 and Tanner Kibble Denton (TDK) Architects 2016 CMPs.

The site occupation was divided into eight major historical phases which comprised:

Phase 1 (1788-1820)—Fort Phillip and Windmill Hill

Phase 2 (c.1820-1850)—Military Hospital and Quarrying

Phase 3 (c.1850-1890s)—Fort Street National School, Observatory and Messengers Cottage

Phase 4 (c.1890s-1900s)—Fort Street Girls High School, Additions

Phase 5 (1901-1918)—Ongoing School Use and Kent St Pavilion Construction

Phase 6 (c.1919-1950)—Bureau of Meteorology, New Fort St School and Cahill Expressway

Phase 7 (c.1950-1990s)—High School Relocation & National Trust

Phase 8 (1990s – Present)—Continued School Use and Occupation of surroundings buildings

2.1. Historic Timeline of Development of the FSPS Study Area

<u>Phase 1</u>	1790s:	Government windmills built on the high land; construction of Dawes Point fort and observatory.
	1804:	Construction of Fort Phillip on the heights of the peninsula ridge. ¹
	1806:	A third government windmill, a large wooden structure, was built c.1806 by Nathaniel Lucas near the site where Fort Street public school now stands.
	1815:	Construction of Military Hospital begins in the Old Colonial Georgian style by Lt. J. Watts (current National Trust Centre site). Included 'a brick-built barrack for the accommodation of the Military surgeon and one assistant surgeon'
<hr/>		
<u>Phase 2</u>	1820s-80s	Spread of urban development across whole Millers Point and Dawes Point precinct.

¹ Fort Phillip was proposed as a strategic stronghold, however it was never finished, and was abandoned in 1807. In 1840, part of the Fort was demolished and a new signal station erected in its place, later incorporated into Sydney Observatory.

- 1818:** Edward Charles Close’s painting of the west side of Farm Cove with a distant view of the Military Hospital and Surgeons cottage, ‘smock-mill’ third Government windmill and Fort Philip
- 1820:** Major James Tayler’s panorama shows the buildings fences and daily activities that occurred in the subject site. The Military Hospital and palling fences, the Surgeon’s house, kitchen and servant’s apartment are shown made of brick. There are also men depicted quarrying stone to the north of the building.
- 1822:** Plan for the study area shows four residential dwellings—one is the Surgeon’s house (and fences)—in the current Fort Street Public School site and two residential buildings and the Military Hospital with two outbuildings in the National Trust Centre site.
- 1827:** Colonial Engineers report describes the condition of the Military Hospital, ‘kitchen, servant’s apartments and dead house ... in a detached building’, suggested a cess pool be created in the corner of the grounds and that a pump be established at the present well. The land at the back of the kitchen and servant’s apartment was noted for being higher than the front causing damp and the ‘privies require reshingling’.
- 1829:** Robert Burford’s painting showing a panorama of Sydney with the Military Hospital, outbuildings and the windmill in the distance.
- 1830s-1880s:** Active quarry along Kent Street (current Tennis Court and Pavilion site).
- 1833:** Plan showing windmill and structures (including surgeon’s cottage) in the Fort Street School Site and the Military Hospital (National Trust site).
- 1845** Plan of the subject site shows one residence in the Fort Street School site and one residence on Kent Street in the location of the Tennis Court and Pavilion site.
- 1848:** Removal of the Military Hospital stables and coach house and replacement with stone, remove the water closets, relay floors, lathe and plaster rooms above the kitchen, two new glass windows, repair the cellars and kitchen, build a wall of stone (current National Trust Centre site).
- 1849:** Peter McBeath, builder, tendered to “build a wall of stone 6 feet high corresponding with the one presently built with copping” and “excavate the ground in front of the National school to the level of the base course to the present line of the road in front and thee yards at the end through to the line of the road at back levelling the ground with the same...”
- 1849** Relocation of Military Hospital to Paddington, Commanding Engineer officially relinquishes possession of hospital site to National School (National Trust site)

1849 Fort Street School was established, remodelling/adaptation of Military Hospital.

Phase 3

1850s Military Hospital building modified for school use to carry the two-storey arcade by infilling the encircling verandah altering the building to Victorian Mannerist style, carried out by M. Lewis. The gallery was fixed for school seats.

Thomas Brown installed a gas lamp at the front of the National School. Additions were also made to the stone walls. Flagging was laid from the front of the school to Princes Street

1850s: Adaptation of Fort Phillip site for Observatory and parklands. The current Observatory was constructed between 1857-1859.

1854: Plan of the subject site shows the 1849 school building in the Fort Street School site, which is to the north of the Military Hospital building in the National Trust site.

1855: Plan of the subject site shows the 1849 school building with outbuildings in the Fort Street School site. The Military Hospital building and the new 1855 school building, plus one brick and one wooden building (sheds) in the north-west and one brick building (privies) on the southern boundary of the National Trust site are shown.

1862 Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory was built in the study area.

1862 Fort Street Infants school erected (west of Surgeons residence, likely associated with original structure of military kitchen outbuildings).

1865: Plan of the subject site shows the 1849 school building and the Messenger's Cottage with the locations of their associated outbuildings and fences. The Military Hospital, 1855 school building, brick shed on the southern boundary, as well as the 1862 Infants school brick buildings on the north-west boundary of the National Trust site are shown. One building is shown in the Tennis Court and Pavilion site.

1870s: Military Hospital building repairs and the introduction of gym equipment. Inadequate toilet, sewerage and drainage systems were highlighted in correspondence.

1876: Cellars under the Military Hospital Kitchen being used to store the school's winter coal supply. Reported that there were only four toilets for 600 students at the school.

1880s: Vacant land at the current Tennis Court and Pavilion site on Kent Street

- 1880:** Dove Plan of the subject site shows the 1849 school building and the Messenger’s Cottage with verandahs and outbuildings in the Fort Street school site. The Military Hospital has been extended to join the 1855 school building with an additional out building at the rear on the west boundary, the Infants school is on the northwest boundary and three out buildings (privies) are shown on the southern boundary of the National Trust site.
- 1884:** It was reported that there were only three toilets for 400-500 boys at the school.
- 1887-1889:** Classroom buildings added and repairs made to existing school buildings (current National Trust Centre site).
- Phase 4** **1890-91:** Timber carpentry shed built (current National Trust Centre site) (rear of the 1855 school building).
- 1890:** Two storey brick building containing a classroom and needlework/sewing room was constructed in the place of the old sheds.
- 1894:** Construction of link between former Military Hospital building and 1855 school building.
- 1900s:** Post plague demolitions and rebuilding throughout the precinct, less so in Dawes Point.
- Phase 5** **1901:** Plan of the subject site shows the 1849 school and Messenger’s Cottage with outbuildings and landscaped paths in the Fort Street School site. The Military Hospital and 1855 school building are shown as one building, there are an additional two outbuildings shown on the south-west boundary as well as the outbuildings along the southern and western boundaries of the National Trust Centre site. A path with stairs and landscaping is shown in the Tennis Court and Pavilion site.
- 1909:** Military Hospital kitchen block and cellar demolished, playground repairs, construction of retaining wall and fence.
- 1916:** Boys relocated to new Fort St High School at Taverners Hill, Fort St School, Millers Point became girls’ school only.
- 1910s-20s:** Construction of Walsh Bay wharves. Construction of the Pavilion on Kent Street (current Tennis Court and Pavilion site).
- Phase 6** **1920-30s:** Construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge and approaches on the heights of the peninsula ridge.
- 1922:** Purpose built Bureau of Meteorology Building (MET) is constructed in the study area.
- 1929:** Military Hospital building remodelled.

- 1940s** School buildings south of MET Building demolished, including former surgeon's residence and infants' school.
- 1930s-1950s:** New group of school buildings constructed including hall, gymnasium and several classrooms.
- 1940-1950s:** Construction of the ring road to the Cahill Expressway for the Sydney Harbour Bridge.
- 1940-41:** Construction of present Fort Street Primary School by Clive Evatt the Minister for Education at the time.
- 1943:** Aerial photograph of the subject site shows buildings densely packed and the ring road leading to the Sydney Harbour Bridge has cut through the site).
- 1949** Fanny Cohen Gymnasium constructed (now Environmental Educational Centre (EEC))
- Phase 7 1950s** Fort Street School pupils (secondary) relocated to Taverner's Hill. The primary school pupils vacated the model school to occupy the newer buildings (current FSPS main building)
- 1954** Classroom added to 1940 primary school building. Demountable building constructed to west of MET building
- 1957** Second bridge over Cahill cutting, linking gymnasium to footway alongside Harbour Bridge approach
- 1960:** Removal of several sheds and new roof added to the Military Hospital building (current National Trust Centre site).
- 1961** Two larger demountable classrooms constructed for Fort Street Girls School to NW of Gymnasium (EEC)
- c.1960s:** Pavilion on Kent Street modified as a tennis court. High cyclone fencing added in the 1970s (Tennis Court and Pavilion).
- 1962:** The Cahill Expressway road isolated Fort Street School from Observatory Hill.
- 1963** Bureau of Meteorology vacated MET building, weather forecasting and measuring equipment remained at Messenger's Cottage.
- 1970-80s:** Construction of Darling Harbour wharves, moving the western shoreline c200m westwards.
- 1975:** Military Hospital/former school buildings adapted for National Trust occupation.

**1979-
c2000:** Various uses of Messengers Cottage, including by National Trust 'Young Trust Group', and as Childcare Centre. Some repair, alterations and conservation work undertaken

Phase 8 **1991:** Use of MET building by National Trust for storage

2000: MET Building fell into major disrepair and disuse

**c2000-
Present:** Use of Messengers Cottage by Fort Street Public School

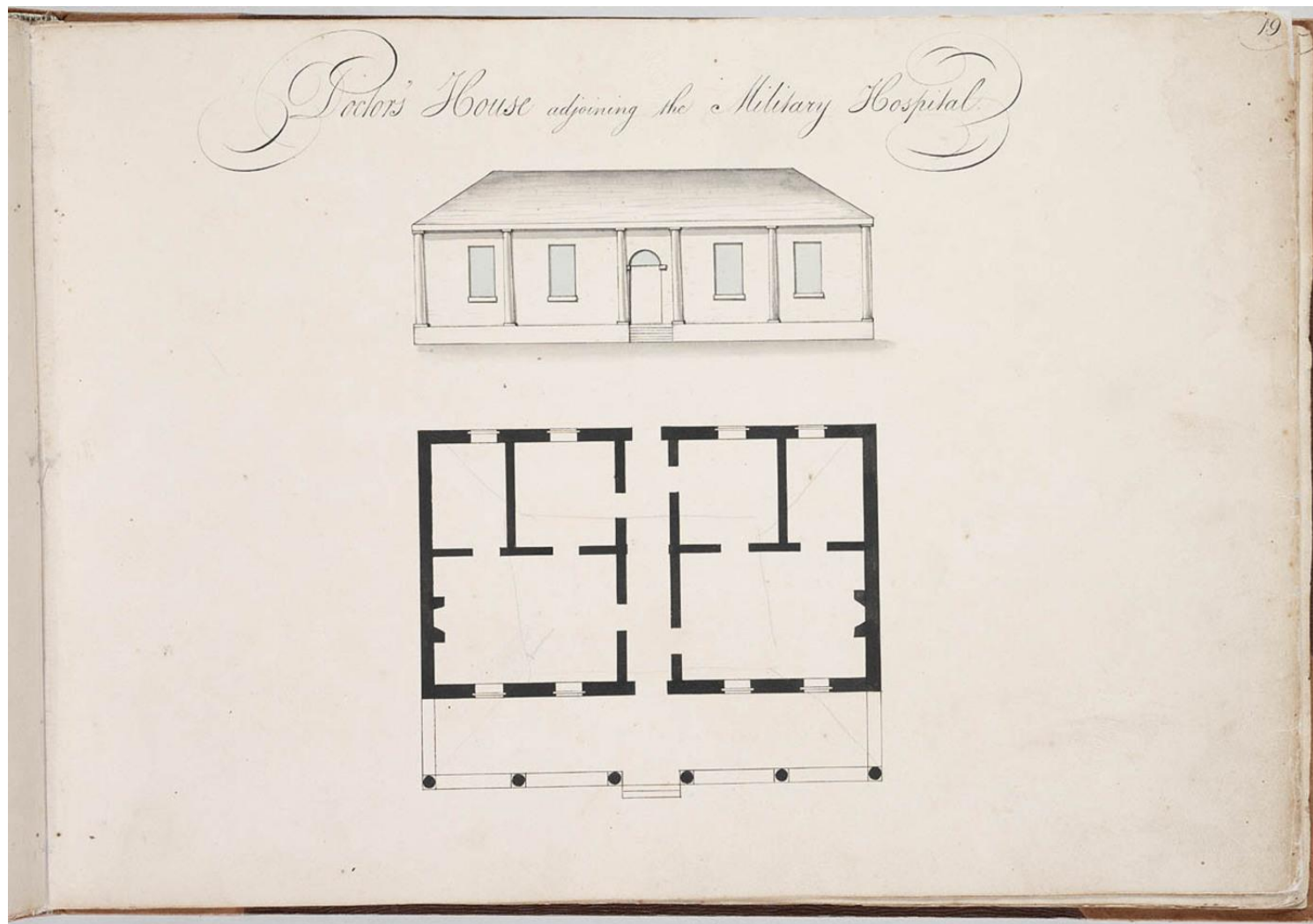


Figure 2-1 Plan of 'Doctor's House' (1824), From Standish Lawrence Harris – 'Report & Estimate Of The Value Of The Improvements Which Have Taken Place In The Public Buildings Of Sydney, Etc..' (Source: SLNSW C 225/ F13255340).



Figure 2-2 Detail of plan of the Fort Street study area in 1901. Note the additional structures, fences etc adjacent to the Surgeon's Quarters. (Source: NSW State Archives 1901 Resumption Plans)