

Interpretation Plan

Charles St Square

Parramatta

23 June 2020

Document Information

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Local Government Area

City of Parramatta Council

Cover Image

Detail of the “Birdseye View of Parramatta”, 1870, ML_XV1B_Parr_01

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Executive Summary

Curio Projects Pty Ltd have been commissioned by Spackman Mossop Michaels (SMM) on behalf of the City of Parramatta Council to prepare an Heritage Interpretation Plan for the Charles Street Square development, located at 38 Charles Street, Parramatta, including a portion of the road reserve.

The key objectives of this interpretation plan are to:

- Outline the interpretive process which is proposed for the study area;
- Identify and summarise the key interpretive themes and messages for the subject area;
- Provide initial recommendations for elements that interpret the heritage values and significance associated with the Charles Street Wharf study area in a way that allows people to gain a better understanding of, and appreciation of the significant history of the site;
- Integrate the proposed interpretation with the overall design for the area, taking into consideration the surrounding environment as well as existing and proposed interpretation in the area.
 - o The Charles Street Square Interpretation Plan will also take the City's Public Art and Interpretation Plan into consideration, which is to be commissioned separately and concurrently by the City for a broader precinct and will provide curatorial direction, thematic foci and communication approaches.
 - o We understand that two bespoke high-quality architectural installations will be integrated within the public domain that incorporate sourced imagery, text, custom graphics and object display. These are Jason Wing's *Firesticks*, a memorial to indigenous service personnel, which is to be installed nearby in Queen's Wharf Reserve and Craig Walsh's Arthur Phillip Memorial Artwork installation which is to be installed within the study area. The Arthur Phillip Memorial will be considered in the project's interpretation plan.

The preparation of an interpretation plan as part of the Charles Street Square redevelopment has provided an opportunity to create meaningful products that continue to celebrate the significance of Parramatta Wharf and Charles Street Square, both for now and into the future.

The key themes and storylines developed as part of this process form a strong basis for developing interpretation that is relevant to the history of the site.

The information included in this plan forms the basis for the development and installation of physical interpretation products to support innovative, inclusive and engaging storytelling at this site.

1. Introduction

Curio Projects Pty Ltd have been commissioned by Spackman Mossop Michaels (SMM) on behalf of the City of Parramatta Council to prepare an Heritage Interpretation Plan for the Charles Street Square development, located at 38 Charles Street, Parramatta, including a portion of the road reserve (the study area).

This is in accordance with Section 2.8.2 (f) of the Charles Street Square Stage 1 Renewal Design Consultancy Services RFQ 2018 which states:

Interpretation

The project will be required to develop and implement an interpretation plan, informed by the outcome of heritage and archaeological investigations and assessment noted above, as well as the City's Public Art and Interpretation Plan. This plan is to be commissioned separately and concurrently by the City for a broader precinct and will provide curatorial direction, thematic foci and communication approaches.

The site interpretation prepared by this consultancy will integrate with the overall design, acknowledging a major artwork has already been commissioned. For the purpose of this quotation, assume 2 bespoke high quality architectural installations are integrated within the public domain that incorporate sourced imagery, text, custom graphics and object display¹.

The plan is informed by the interpretive concept developed in Section 8.4 of Curio Project's 2019 *Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI)*² and Section 6.2 of Curio Project's 2020 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR)*³ to present the history and associations of the study area. The location, type, materials, finishes and content summary of the interpretation devices proposed are included in section 9 of this plan.

1.1. Objectives of the Interpretation Plan

The key objective of this interpretation plan is to ensure the adequate integration of the heritage values present within the study area into the development of Charles Street Square.

In order to ensure that the heritage values present within the study area are adequately integrated the main objectives of this interpretation plan are to:

- Outline the interpretive process which is proposed for the study area;
- Identify and summarise the key interpretive themes and messages for the subject area;
- Provide initial recommendations for elements that interpret the heritage values and significance associated with the Charles Street Wharf study area in a way that allows people to gain a better understanding of, and appreciation of the significant history of the site;
- Integrate the proposed interpretation with the overall design for the area, taking into consideration the surrounding environment as well as existing and proposed interpretation in the area.
 - o The Charles Street Square Interpretation Plan will also take the City's Public Art and Interpretation Plan into consideration, which is to be commissioned separately and concurrently by the City for a broader precinct and will provide curatorial direction, thematic foci and communication approaches.
 - o We understand that two bespoke high-quality architectural installations will be integrated within the public domain that incorporate sourced imagery, text, custom graphics and object

¹ City of Parramatta Council 2018, *Charles Street Square Stage 1 Renewal Design Consultancy Services Request For Quote (RFQ)* p.18

² Curio Projects 2019c, *Charles Street Square- Statement of Heritage Impact*, Report to Spackman Mossop Michaels, p.84

³ Curio Projects 2020, *Charles Street Square- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report*, Report to Spackman Mossop Michaels; p.50

display. These are Jason Wing's *Firesticks*, a memorial to indigenous service personnel, which is to be installed nearby in Queen's Wharf Reserve and Craig Walsh's Arthur Phillip Memorial Artwork installation which is to be installed within the study area. The Arthur Phillip Memorial will be considered in the project's interpretation plan.

This report has been prepared with reference to (but not limited to) key client documentation and current best practice guidelines as detailed below:

- Curio Projects 2019a, *Historical Archaeological Assessment for Charles Street Square Development*, prepared for Spackman Mossop Michaels;
- Curio Projects 2019b, *Charles Street Square- Archaeological Technical Report*, Report to Spackman Mossop Michaels;
- Curio Projects 2019c, *Charles Street Square- Statement of Heritage Impact*, Report to Spackman Mossop Michaels;
- Curio Projects 2020, *Charles Street Square- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report*, Report to Spackman Mossop Michaels;
- *Heritage Information Series: Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines* (NSW Heritage Office 2005);
- *Heritage Information Series: Heritage Interpretation Policy* (NSW Heritage Council and NSW Government Department of Planning 2005);
- Australia ICOMOS, 2013 *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (The Burra Charter);
- City of Parramatta, *Heritage Interpretation Guidelines (Working Draft) 2017*;
- Extent 2017, 'Archaeological Heritage Interpretation Strategy' in Parramatta River CBD Foreshore Archaeological Management Strategy.

2. Site Context

The subject site is located at 38 Charles Street Parramatta, at the corner of Charles and Philip Street (Figure 1 to Figure 3). The study area is comprised of several parcels of land from various allotments including Lot 1 DP 1172250; Lot 2 DP 869816; Lot 2 DP 869820; Lot 1 DP 506760; and part of the road reserve of Charles Street.

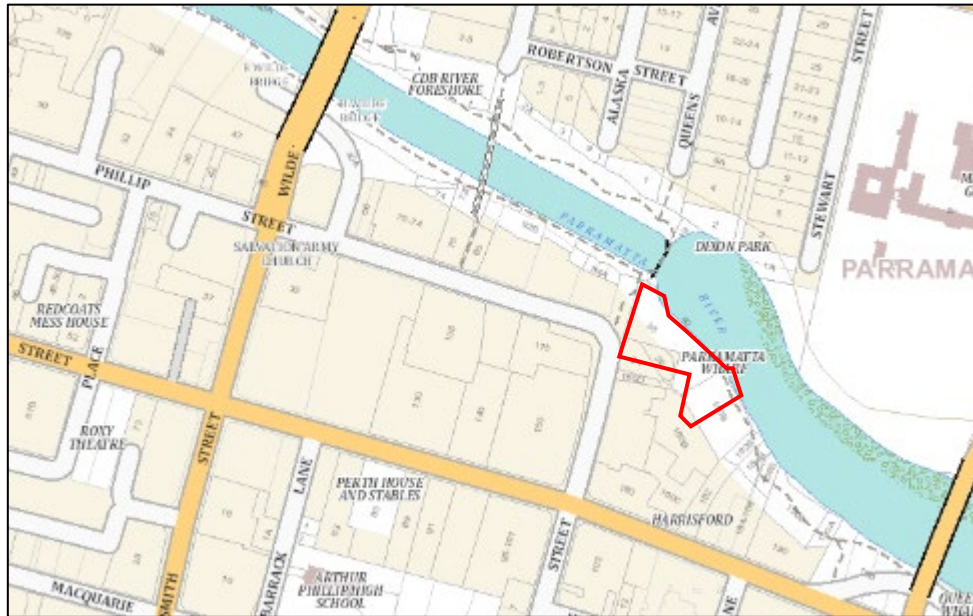


Figure 1: Charles Street Square study area outlined in red. (Source: Six Maps with Curio additions 2019)



Figure 2: A recent aerial photo of the Charles Street Square study area (Source: Six Maps with Curio additions 2019)

3. Statutory Context

In NSW, heritage items and known or potential archaeological resources are afforded statutory protection under the:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EPA Act);
- Heritage Act 1977 (NSW) (Heritage Act); and
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW) (NPW Act).

There are further planning polices and controls that provide a non-statutory role in the protection of environmental heritage. These include *Development Control Plans* for each local Council area.

This section of the report discusses the local and State planning context for the site with respect to its built heritage values associated with local heritage items and conservation areas in the vicinity of the study area.

3.1. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment administers the EPA Act, which provides the legislative context for environmental planning instruments to be made to legislate and guide and the process of development and land use. Local heritage items, including known archaeological items, identified Aboriginal Places and heritage conservation areas are protected through listings on Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) or Regional Environmental Plans (REPs). The EPA Act also requires that potential Aboriginal and historical archaeological resources are adequately assessed and considered as part of the development process, in accordance with the requirements of the NPW Act and the Heritage Act.

3.2. NSW Heritage Act 1977

Heritage places and items of particular importance to the people of New South Wales are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. The Heritage Act defines a heritage item as a 'place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct'. The Heritage Act is responsible for the conservation and regulation of impacts to items of State heritage significance, with 'State Heritage Significance' defined as being of 'significance to the state in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item'.

The subject site at 38 Charles Street, Parramatta, is not registered on the State Heritage Register as informed by the Heritage Divisions's State Heritage Inventory⁴. Heritage items in the vicinity will be discussed in Section 5.1.

3.3. National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW) (NPW Act)

The *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), administered by the (former) NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), is the primary legislation that provides statutory protection for all 'Aboriginal objects' (Part 6, Section 90) and 'Aboriginal places' (Part 6, Section 84) within NSW.

3.4. Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011

Clause 5.10 of the Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011 (PLEP 2011)⁵ sets out objective and planning controls for the conservation of heritage in the Parramatta City Council area, including the conservation of built heritage and archaeological sites.

⁴ Access at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/heritagesearch.aspx>

⁵ Parramatta LEP 2011. Access at <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2011/540/part5/cl5.10>

3.5. Parramatta Development Control Plan 2011

The Parramatta Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011 is a non-statutory development control plan that provides the detailed design guidelines to support the PLEP 2011. The Parramatta DCP 2011 provides simple guidance on how development may occur, and includes notably, main objectives to ensure that items of environmental heritage are conserved, respected and protected.

Section 3.5.2 of the Parramatta DCP concerns Archaeology and clarifies how Parramatta’s archaeological resources are to be managed⁶.

The entire study area and surrounds is included within PHALMS AMUs 3209 and 2936. This is discussed in further detail in the relevant section below.

Section 3.5.3 of the Parramatta DCP concerns Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, with the primary objective:

‘To ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the impact of development on known or potential Aboriginal archaeological sites or sites of cultural or historical significance to Aboriginal people in the Parramatta LGA’⁷

Appendix 11 of the DCP provides an Aboriginal Sensitivity Map across the Parramatta LGA. This map designates land across the Parramatta LGA as having No, Low, Medium and High Sensitivity for Aboriginal cultural heritage⁸.

The current study area is located within an area of High Aboriginal Sensitivity.

3.6. Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management Study (PHALMS)

The PHALMS project was undertaken to identify and provide a framework for the management of Parramatta City’s finite historical archaeological resources. The land within the area covered by REP 28 was the subject of historical research and archaeological survey to assess its potential to contain significant archaeological relics. For management purposes REP 28 was divided into discrete units designated Archaeological Management Units (AMU’s). Datasheets for each AMU are integrated into the SHI to provide information regarding historic land tenure, development episodes, and the significance of potential archaeological relics contained within their boundary.

The current development area falls within AMUs 3209 and 2936 (see Figure 4 to Figure 6). Information relevant to the site and contained in the AMU listings are:

AMU 3209

- This AMU has low potential to contain intact subsurface deposits;
- This AMU has moderate archaeological research potential; and
- Archaeological evidence within this AMU is likely to have been heavily disturbed.

AMU 2936

- This AMU has moderate archaeological research potential;
- Archaeological evidence within this AMU is likely to have been heavily disturbed.

⁶ City of Parramatta Council 2011, *Parramatta Development Control Plan 2011*, 3.5.2.

⁷ City of Parramatta Council 2011, *Parramatta Development Control Plan 2011*, 3.5.3

⁸ City of Parramatta Council 2011, *Parramatta Development Control Plan 2011*, A11

3.8. Relevant Parramatta City Guidelines/Documents

3.8.1. Parramatta City River Strategy 2015

The purpose of the Parramatta City River Strategy was to produce a plan for revitalising the river foreshore between Gasworks Bridge and Rings Bridge. It serves as an initial vision the City of Parramatta have for the project, for further, more focused plans to then be produced.

The key aims the Strategy puts forward are:

- Improving connections between the river and city
- Creating more recreational opportunity for residents, workers and visitors

This would be in the form of upgrades to walking, cycling and city event spaces. Ultimately the goal of the strategy is to make the Parramatta River foreshore a ‘vibrant public space for the city and its people’.

With specific relevance to the current study area, the Strategy states that the aims for Charles Street Square are:

- Develop Parramatta City Centre’s major ferry interchange connecting Sydney to Parramatta
- Improve accessibility, café activation and include a series of pedestrian plazas
- The ultimate goal is identified as producing Parramatta City Centre’s major river arrival point⁹

3.8.2. Parramatta CBD Foreshore Strategic Archaeological Management Plan 2017

Following from the City River Strategy, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd prepared an Archaeological Management Strategy (AMS) for the Parramatta River CBD Foreshore¹⁰. This area extended from the Queens Wharf Reserve to Rings Bridge, ‘study area’. The purpose of the strategy was to consider the overall archaeological and cultural heritage impacts of the Parramatta City River Strategy.

The AMS divides the Foreshore into 20 different precincts, of which, Charles Street Square is addressed as Precinct 14¹¹.

The AMS identified the following opportunities for the Charles Street Square:

- Implementation of a coordinated interpretation scheme across the corridor
- Interpretation which considers all aspects of previous uses, including the Chinese market garden, and the relationship to Parramatta River.
- Determination of the extent of the Parramatta Terrace Sand Sheet¹².

The Conservation Recommendations for the Charles Street Square Precinct 14 includes:

- A major development application for the precinct should be accompanied by a Heritage Interpretation Plan with details on implementation. The interpretation plan should include, but not be restricted to, the following themes:
 - o Harrisford, agricultural properties and contribution to the survival of the colony
 - o Parramatta River
 - o Aboriginal Local History

⁹ Parramatta City Council 2015, *Parramatta City River Strategy Design and Activation Plan*

¹⁰ Extent Heritage 2017a, *Parramatta River CBD Foreshore Archaeological Management Strategy: Volume I*. Prepared for City of Parramatta and Extent Heritage 2017b, *Parramatta River CBD Foreshore Archaeological Management Strategy: Volume II*. Prepared for City of Parramatta.

¹¹ Extent 2017b, p. 89-92

¹² Extent 2017b, p. 91

3.8.3. Charles Street Square Strategy, Urban Design Report (Hassell, 2017)

In 2017 Hassell prepared an Urban Design Report on Charles Street Square (the Square) for the City of Parramatta¹³ to 'formulate an integrated design solution which engages with the existing urban structure, transport connections and amenity at both city and river foreshore level'¹⁴.

Charles Street Square is an important intersection on the Parramatta River, providing access for pedestrians and cyclists from the river foreshore to the City, and ferry services connecting Paramatta to Sydney's Central City.

The Charles Street Square Strategy is intended to address the need for the Parramatta River Ferry Service to improve visitor arrival and public convenience while celebrating the historic and contemporary importance of the river as a gateway to the city¹⁵.

Key challenges identified were:

- Property boundary issues including access to various parts of the Square
- limited visual and physical connectivity between the City and the River
- currently non-compliant ramps and structures
- a lack of delineation between public and private space
- The current design of the square lacks definition and hinders access to and from the ferry wharf
- The accessible path is obstructed by outdoor dining, and the lengthy and inaccessible paths are not easily navigated by either cyclists or pedestrians
- Current access and waste collection limits potential activation of existing properties
- The public art which is currently on site interrupts a key axis in the alignment of the historic Phillip Street
- The river foreshore is also generally is prone to frequent flooding (the river overtops its banks about five to six times each year at the site), meaning continuous public connection above the 1:100 flood and easier access to surrounding streets is preferred for flood evacuation
- Furthermore, the space needs to celebrate the history of the place, and protect and explore possible archaeological resources.

The overall design principles that the strategy adheres to create a place where:

- people can make connections,
- People can move freely between different modes, and
- allow for the Square to become a destination in its own right¹⁶.

The design approaches developed to achieve this are:

- At the Charles Street Steps, ideally a single landscaped stair would be utilised. It would open up the view of the transition between the City and the River, while providing a tall tree canopy for shade and shelter.
- Phillip Street would be extended to reinforce the axis of the historic Phillip Street and set up a direct path of travel along the alignment the new ferry wharf where all connectivity runs in an east-west direction.

¹³ Hassell 2017, *Charles Street Square Strategy Urban Design Report*, prepared for City of Parramatta Council.

¹⁴ Hassell 2017, *Charles Street Square Strategy Urban Design Report*, prepared for City of Parramatta Council, p. 5

¹⁵ Hassell 2017, *Charles Street Square Strategy Urban Design Report*, prepared for City of Parramatta Council, p. 6

¹⁶ Hassell 2017, *Charles Street Square Strategy Urban Design Report*, prepared for City of Parramatta Council, p. 6

- A terraced bank should be implemented with the use of extensive planting to soften the transition to the river along a series of ramps, thus returning foreshore to a more natural condition while reducing the need for a lift¹⁷.

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¹⁷ Hassell 2017, *Charles Street Square Strategy Urban Design Report*, prepared for City of Parramatta Council, p. 6

4. Historical overview

This historical summary presented below has been extracted and consolidated from the Historical Archaeological Assessment (AA) (Curio 2019a) and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) (Curio 2019b). Sources have been referenced as appropriate. Direct reference should be made to the AA and ACHAR reports for more detailed historical analysis.

4.1. Aboriginal Occupation Prior to 1788

- Prior to European occupation of the region Aboriginal people inhabited the Sydney basin for thousands of years.
- The Darug clan group, that occupied modern day Parramatta, were the Barramattagal after whom that place is named.¹⁸
- The Barramattagal people enjoyed an abundant and uniquely varied food resource created by the convergence of fresh water and salt water within the river. Fresh water species included mullet, crayfish, shell fish and turtles while the salt water species included eels, fish, shell fish and molluscs, creating large shell middens along the majority of the main waterways in the region¹⁹. Much of the disturbance of shell middens occurred early in the post-contact period, particularly in areas of the river close to settlement building activity such as Parramatta and Sydney.
- The Parramatta Terrace Sand Body (PSB) is a geomorphological feature concentrated predominantly along the southern bank of the Parramatta River, and is known to contain Aboriginal cultural deposits dating to the Pleistocene period (>10,000 years BP).
- The Charles Street Square study area's proximity to the Parramatta River also indicates there is a possibility for cultural deposits to exist in the area. However, factors including the erosion of the riverbanks and the historic development and disturbance on the site have decreased the likelihood of Aboriginal cultural deposits remaining undisturbed in the study area.

4.1. Early Contact Period

- The local Aboriginal inhabitants of Parramatta would have been some of Australia's first traditional owners to experience the detrimental impacts, social dislocation and disturbance as a result of European arrival.
- Parramatta was the second settlement established in New South Wales, intended to supply the Sydney settlement with agricultural resources.
- The British first arrived in Parramatta in 1788 on the hunt for more appropriate land for agriculture- leading to the establishment of one of the colony's earliest agricultural settlement (along with a military redoubt) at Rose Hill (the original name for Parramatta).
- Following the arrival of the Second Fleet in 1790, Parramatta was officially founded by Governor Phillip as the second city on the Australian mainland. Farming was successful at Rose Hill and the decision was made to expand the settlement, with a town plan being laid out by Phillip in 1790 with High Street (George Street) running from the planned site of Government House, to the wharf at the eastern end of Parramatta (near Harris Street)
- Parramatta was renamed in 1791, after the Aboriginal name for the area (*Burramatta*, which is reported to loosely translate to 'the place where the eels lie down') (MDCA 2003)

¹⁸ Attenbrow, V, 2002, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*. UNSW Press, Sydney, p.24

¹⁹ Much of the evidence of traditional Aboriginal lifestyle and economy was disturbed in the early years of European settlement and much of our information on the local people is based on ethnohistorical sources.

- Effects of European occupation of Parramatta would have been keenly felt by the local Parramatta population, including loss of access to traditional lands, disease, starvation, inter-tribal conflict and the breakdown of traditional cultural and social practices.
- Increasing conflict between the local Parramatta people and the new colonists in the early days of Parramatta lead to the establishment of a school for Aboriginal children, known as the Parramatta 'Native Institution' by William and Elizabeth Shelley and officially opened with the first Aboriginal Annual Feast on 28 December 1814, at the marketplace in Parramatta (site of the current Parramatta Town Hall). In reality, there was no intention of returning children to their parents or of maintaining any traditional cultural connections.
- While the establishment of the 'Annual Feast' at Parramatta was originally orchestrated with the intention of encouraging Aboriginal families to give their children over to the Institution, it became a significant annual gathering and event in Parramatta from 1814–1835, attracting Aboriginal people from as far as beyond the Blue Mountains, Jervis Bay, Broken Bay and the Monaro district for the annual distribution of food, blankets, clothes, and the feast (Brook & Kohen 1991: 72).



Figure 7: Annual Meeting Of Native Tribes At Parramatta', Augustus Earle, C. 1825–1827. (Source: NLA, available from <http://Nla.Gov.Au/Nla.Obj-134502097>)

4.1. Convict Period and Initial Settlement of Parramatta

- Soon after the First Fleet reached Sydney Cove in January 1788 it became apparent that the surrounding land was not suitable for agriculture. Explorations were made further inland to locate arable land.
- A Government Farm was established at Rose Hill in November 1788. The work was undertaken by groups of convicts supervised by the Colonial Marines.
- Growing from the experimental farming settlement, Rose Hill developed into the settlement known as Parramatta. The growing population of the town in turn necessitated improvements in public

services. These included a hospital (1790), Government House (c. 1790), The Barracks (1790/91) and the Government Brewery (1804) as well as several churches, stores and pubs.

- The regularised configuration of the town plan manifest from the military administrative origin of the settlement. In 1790 Lt. William Dawes was sent to Parramatta to survey the town grid and the line of streets, the same arrangement largely survives today (Figure 9).
- Despite Governor Phillip's early endeavours, the development of Parramatta proceeded in a rather haphazard manner. In December 1810, Macquarie inspected the town with surveyor James Meehan to plan streets and improve the layout of the town.
- Macquarie returned in 1811 to regularise the streets, changing the name of High Street to George Street. By 1814 he had expanded the grid layout of the town with new north-south and east-west streets. This included the alignment of Charles Street at the eastern edge of the town (Figure 10).
- In 1823 the Government declared that 21-year leases would be offered to anyone occupying land in Parramatta. These leases could be converted to free hold by the payment of 21 years quit rent or by constructing a building worth at least £1,000. Records from this Government initiative identify the site occupants and leaseholders, including the portions of the three allotments in the Charles Street Square study area (Figure 11).



Figure 8: 'Flats at the head of Port Jackson & Channel up to Rose Hill', William Bradley 1789 (Source: SLNSW M SAFE/MT4 140/1792/1)



Figure 9: "Plan of the Township of Parramatta in New South Wales 1814", showing the newly established street grid with Charles St indicated by the arrow. (Source: ML M M2 811.1301/1814/1)

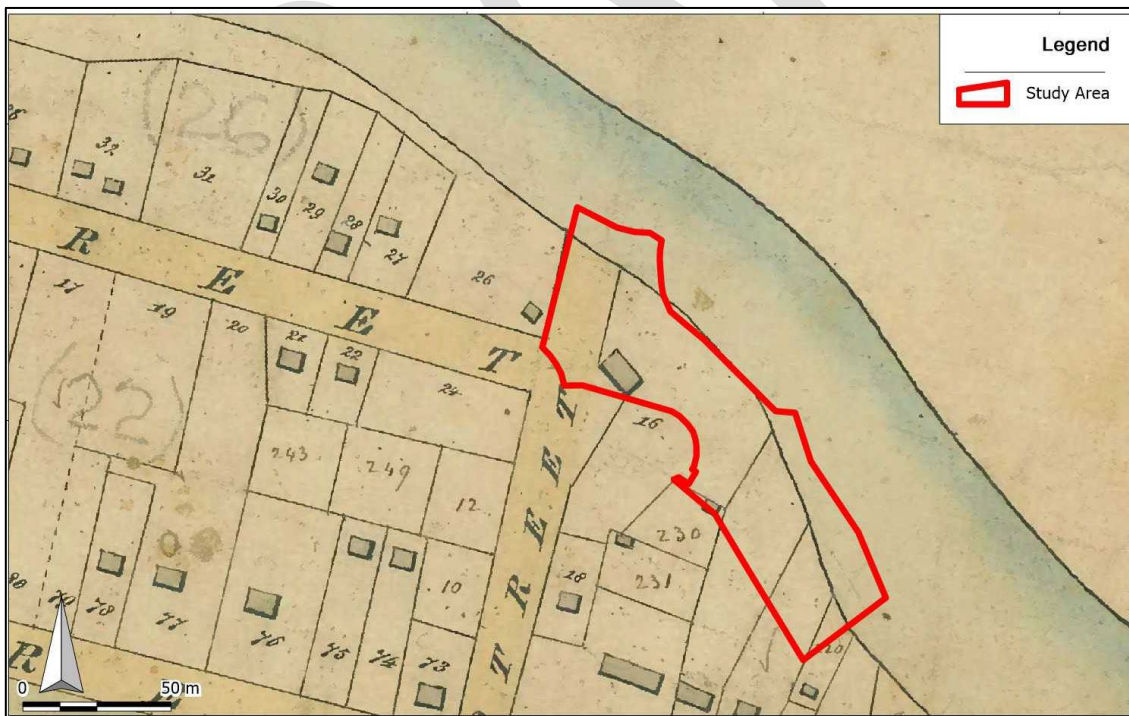


Figure 10: Detail of "Map of the Township of Parramatta", 1823 showing the early allotment boundaries. The allotments that would form part of the current site are 14, 16, and 70. (Source, LPI, CP 1.1022)

4.1. Charles Street Square Study Area

The AA report (Curio 2019a) presents a detailed study of the individual allotments contained within the Charles St Square Upgrade study area, in order to more accurately assess the historical development of the site, and gain a better understanding of potential archaeological remains that may be present. A summary of the historical development of the study area is provided below to provide historical context for this Interpretation Plan. Direct reference should be made to the AA report for the more detailed historical analysis.

The post 1788 history of the study area has been divided in the AA report into seven distinct historical phases with respect to the historical activities that may have left different archaeological signatures within the landscape. The historical overview for the study area as presented below also uses these general historical phases to present the history of the site, as follows:

Phase 1—1788 - 1820 – Convict period and initial colony settlement

Phase 2—1820s – 1840s – Residential leases and development, end of convict period

Phase 3—1850s – 1870s – Establishment of local businesses and commerce

Phase 4—1880s – 1910s – Population growth and residential subdivision

Phase 5—1920s – 1930s – Post WWI to WWII

Phase 6—1940s – 1960s – Post WWII migration period, market gardens

Phase 7—1970s – present – Ferry Wharf.

4.1.1. Phase 1 and 2 (1788-1840s) – Early Lot Development

- The study area is shown as unoccupied in the 1804 Parramatta Plan before the creation of Smith and Charles Street alignments.
- Both Smith and Charles Streets had been formed by 1810, and it is possibly shortly after this period that the site is first occupied by colonists.
- The study area had certainly been occupied by 1823 as shown by a structure near Charles Street on the plan of Parramatta from that year.
- Phases 1 and 2 of the study area are described according to the three different allotments: Allotment 16, 14 and 70 (allotments indicated on Figure 12).

Section 23, Allotment 16

- Thomas Barber, formerly of NSW Corps (later the 102nd Regiment) arrived in Australia as a free settler aboard the "Earl Cornwallis" in 1801.²⁰
- He was discharged from Military Service in 1810 and was granted 100 acres of land in the District of Airds.²¹
- Barber is later listed on the 1823 return of allotments in the town of Parramatta as holding four allotments on Phillip, Hunter and Church Streets.²²
- The allotment that is included the Charles Street study area was leased to Barber on 30 June 1823.²³

²⁰ Burns, A and Reid, L, 1996, *The Barbers: A Parramatta Family*, Aristoc Press, Glen Waverley, p39.

²¹ Burns and Reid, op cit, p.51 and Col. Sec, Fiche 3266; 9/2652 p.4

²² Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825 [hereafter Col. Sec.] (Fiche 3265; 4/7576 pp.7,9,16).

²³ CT 4530 f144

- Thomas Barber died in June 1838 in the house on the study area, and was buried in St John's Cemetery, Parramatta.²⁴
- The 1844 Brownrigg plan of the area shows the extent of Barber's holdings around the Smith and Charles St intersection where he leased at least three of the allotments (see Figure 12).
- By 1823, the study area contained a structure near Charles Street, although it is not aligned with the street frontage (Figure 11). This (presumably) wooden rectangular building remained on the site as shown on the 1844 Plan of the Town of Parramatta within an allotment leased by 'T. Barber' and granted to 'T. Barber' during the period of leasehold conversion.
- The nature of the occupation on the allotment at this time was probably mixed mercantile/domestic. Evidence of this is in the obituary for Thomas Barber by his son Samuel which notes that the Barbers kept a business on their allotment in Charles Street.

Section 23, Allotment 14

- In 1823, Allotment 14 was leased for 21 years to Hugh Owens.
- The 1823 plan shows a small structure in the centre of the allotment that was likely a wooden hut (Figure 11), which had been removed by 1844 (Figure 12).
- Owens was a soldier in the Veteran's Corp - a group of soldiers formed by Governor Macquarie in 1810 from the outgoing 102 Regiment (NSW Corps).
- Owens' life centred around Parramatta but there is little evidence of his dealings on Allotment 14. Allotment 14 was purchased by William Byrnes in 1858 for £3/16/8.²⁵

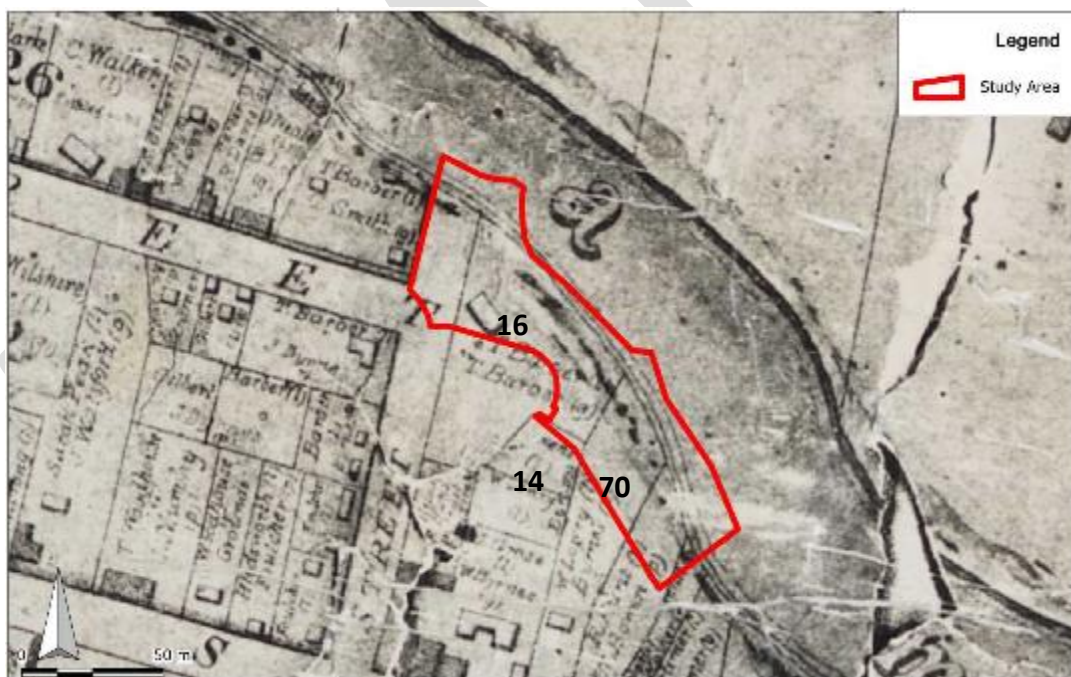


Figure 11: 1844 Map of Parramatta Township, centred on study area. Allotments noted. The allotment boundary on Charles Street has been regularised and the 1823 structure appears to remain (Source: ML M4 811, 1301/1844/1)

²⁴ Burns and Reid, op cit, p.82.

²⁵ Grants Vol 295, 1689

Section 23, Allotment 70

- The 1823 Return lists Walter Lawry, a Methodist missionary, as the holder of Allotment 70 and in 1823 the land was formerly leased to him for 21 years. It is unknown as to whether Lawry ever lived on the allotment, as he was listed as owning a number of properties in the town.²⁶
- The 1823 plan, during the period of Lawry's ownership, shows a small structure on allotment 70 but at the southern end of the allotment and not on the current study area (Figure 12).
- In 1839, brothers James and William Byrnes had both allotments transferred to them from Lawry for £500.²⁷
- When Brownrigg completes his map of Parramatta in 1844 the small structure that had appeared on allotment 13 has been removed but that on the southern portion of allotment 70 remained. (c.f. Figure 11 and Figure 12).
- By 1855 William Byrnes had purchased allotment 70 for £16/1/8.
- The Byrnes Brothers were the pioneers of the steam ferry transport on the Parramatta River in the 1830s, and were associated with the Lawry through the Methodist Church. They were highly esteemed and lucrative businessmen, known for their political careers, their steam powered flour mill, manufacturing the first tartan cloths in the colony in the 1840s, and building the first Wesleyan church (Methodist) in Parramatta in the 1860s.²⁸

4.1.2. Phases 3 and 4 (1850s-1910s) – Growth of Parramatta

- From the late 1850s the study area was held by two owners, William Byrnes (Lot 70 and 14) and Barber (16).
- In the 1860s the area could still be said to retain some sense of bucolic calm, despite the proximity of the Byrnes Mill to the east, with a gentle slope down to the river. However, this area was still subject to flooding with catastrophic floods noted in 1864 and 1890²⁹. The floods reputedly scoured the river banks at this location and required substantial reclamation and filling.³⁰
- Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the eastern end of Charles Street was changing quickly, to accommodate the expanding needs of the growing Parramatta population, a site opposite the study area was sold in 1876 and subdivided for up to 5 cottages.³¹
- In 1892, the Council announced that a special water rate would be imposed on rateable properties to construct and maintain reticulated water supplies to a variety of streets that now included Charles Street³² (a process that Council had gradually been introducing to these 'new' areas since 1889).
- By the latter part of the 19th Century, the study area is shown as vacant (1893/5 plans-Figure 15) and the 1895 Sands Directory only lists Robert Stokes occupying this end of Charles Street.³³

²⁶ S. G. Cloughton, 'Lawry, Walter (1793–1859)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/lawry-walter-2337/text3045>, published first in hardcopy 1967, accessed online 3 February 2019

²⁷ LTO Deed, Book O, No 375.

²⁸ G. P. Walsh, 'Byrnes, William (1809–1891)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/byrnes-william-3334/text4673>, published first in hardcopy 1969, accessed online 17 June 2019.

²⁹ For example, 'The Empire', 4 May, 1864, p.5.

³⁰ See PHALMS AMU 2309.

³¹ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 October, 1876, p.13.

³² *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 5 March, 1892, p.2.

³³ *Sydney Sands Directory*, 1895

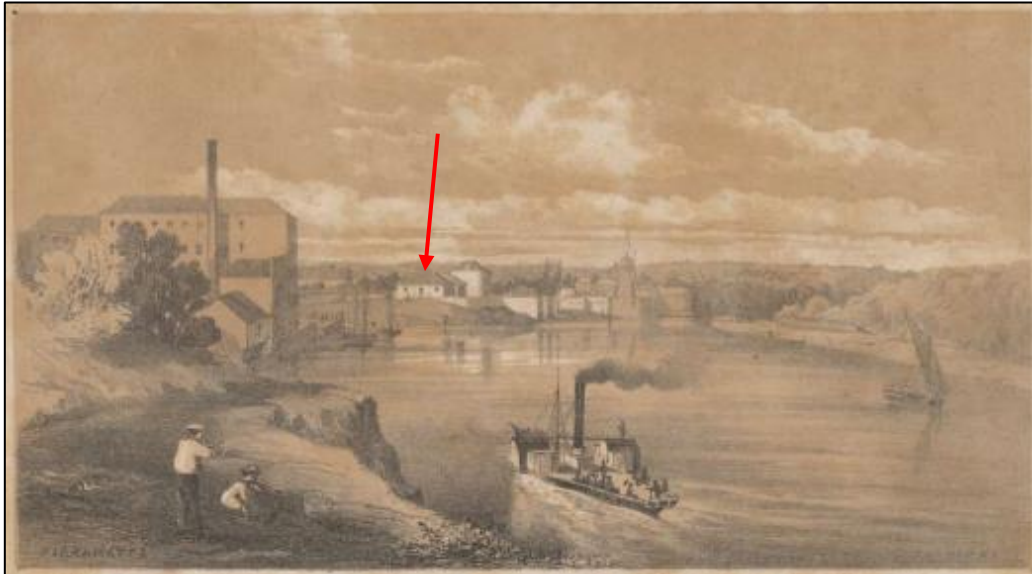


Figure 12: Parramatta, c.1860 by F, C Terry showing the southern side of the Parramatta River from Byrnes Mill to Howell's Mill in the distance. Note the structures alongside the river with Barber's House indicated. (Source: NLA PIC Drawer 2614 #S4042)

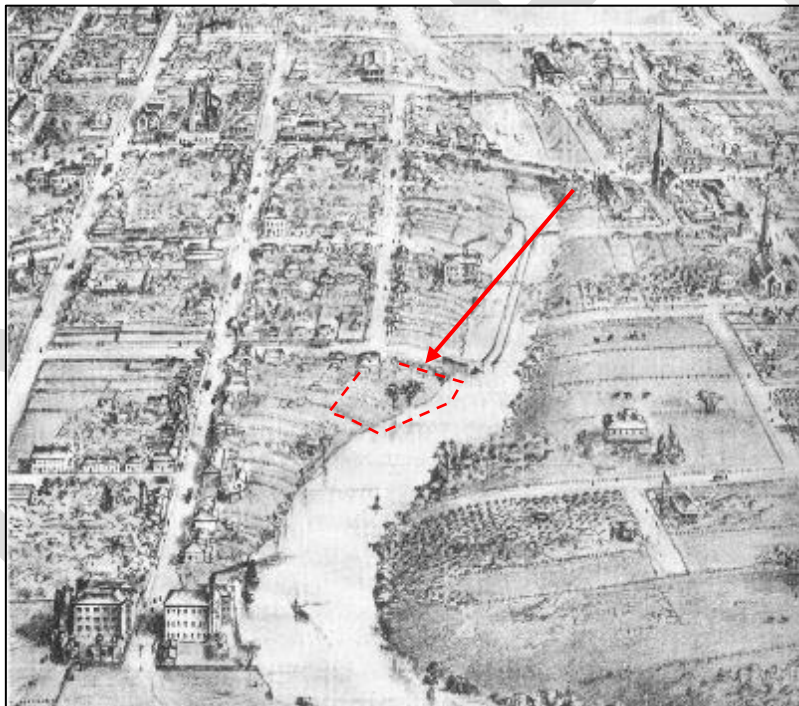


Figure 13: Detail of the "Birdseye View of Parramatta", 1870 with the approximate study area indicated, with Barber's house still evident and showing fence lines and gentle slopes down to the river. (Source: ML_XV1B_Parr_01).



Figure 14: Detail of sheet 10 of the Parramatta Survey, 1895. Note that the study area is vacant at this stage. (Source: State Library of NSW).

4.1.3. Phases 5 and 6 (1920s-1960s) – Post War, Migration, River Stabilisation

- By the 1930s, six small structures are shown fronting Charles Street, consisting of one brick and five weatherboard cottages with yards spaces to the east- of which the two most northern structures are located within the study area (Figure 16).
- In 1942, substantial works including, concrete bedding and walls along the banks, was undertaken to stabilise and improve the condition of the river between Charles Street and Church Street. These works also included replacing the 1870s structure with the Charles Street weir resulting in the new higher water level at this location of the river.³⁴
- The 1943 aerial photo of the area shows these yard spaces to be extensive vegetable gardens, likely market gardens (Figure 17). Market gardens were established in Parramatta as early as the 1890s by many of the Chinese immigrants who had not succeeded in gold digging ventures, and continued to increase as a popular endeavour for this migrant community in Parramatta until it was slowed by the White Australia policy in the 1940s.
- In the post-war period there were many changes to Parramatta and Sydney's town planning including the expansion of central retail premises and suburban residences that pushed orchards, market gardens and farmlands further out of town.³⁵

³⁴ Extent 2017, 30.

³⁵ Barnes 2017, 64.

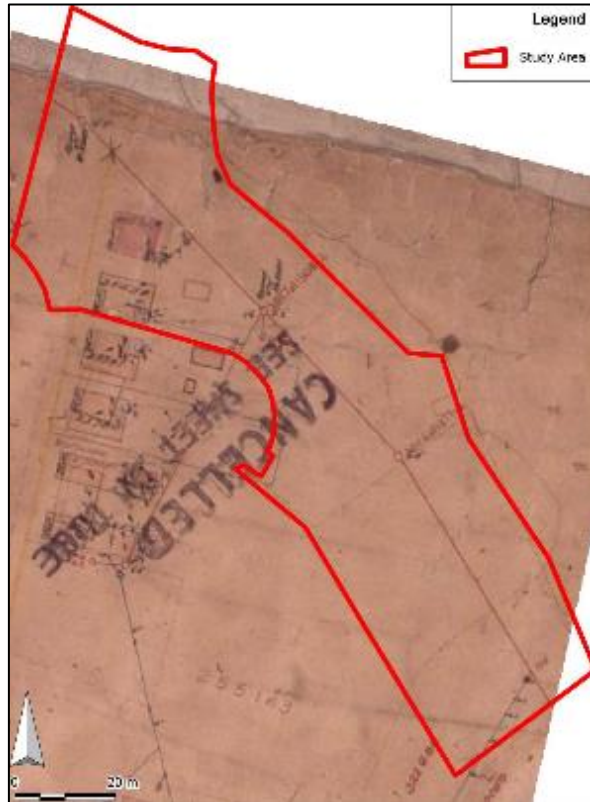


Figure 15: Detail of Sheet 10 of Sydney Water Contract 2703, c1932. The structures shown are one brick (shown in pink) and 5 wooden/weatherboard (shown in buff) cottages with rear yard spaces and attendant outbuildings. (Source Sydney Water Archives).



Figure 16: Detail of the 1943 aerial photo series of Sydney. (Source: Six Maps).

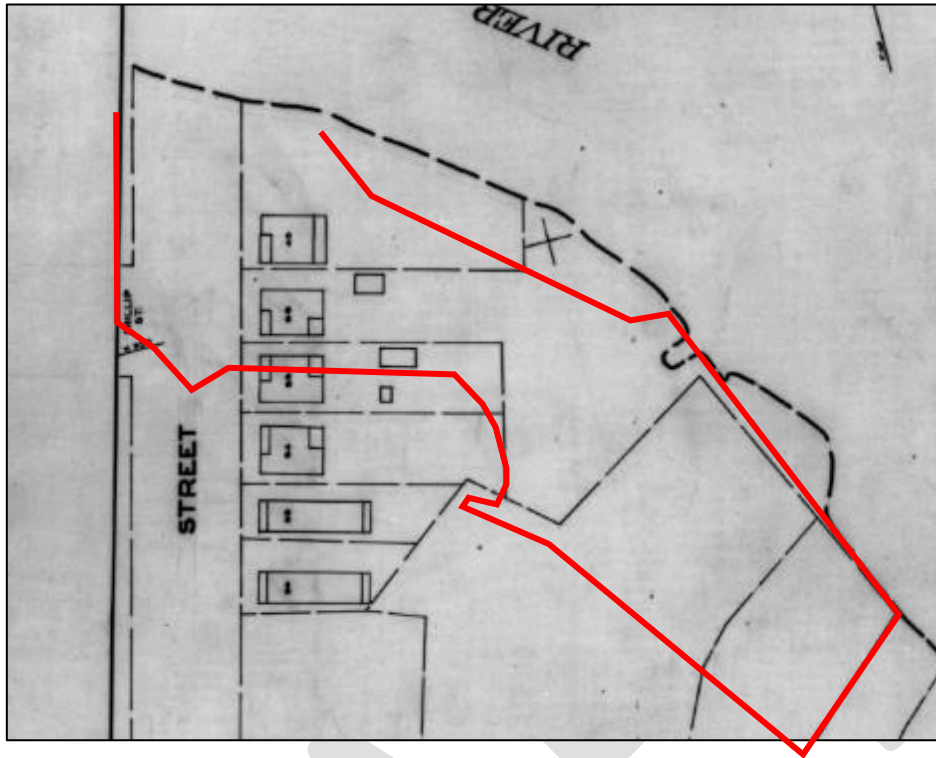


Figure 17: Detail of Sheet 2703 Sydney Water pass 1960s. (Source: Sydney Water Archives).

4.1.4. Phase 7 (1970s to Present)- Parramatta Wharf

- Following attempts to establish a ferry transport link between Circular Quay and Parramatta from the 1950s to 1970s, the NSW State Government were finally successful in 1988.
- The decision was made to establish a fast ferry service close to the CBD at Charles Street (Figure 19). As part of this process, the NSW Government financed a programme to dredge the silted river between Charles Street and Silverwater.³⁶
- The ferry service commenced on 9 December 1993 and was instantly popular. The ferry service fleet comprises seven shallow draft, low wash catamaran ferries, known as 'rivercats', named after famous sportswomen.³⁷

³⁶ McClymont 2014, 1.

³⁷ McClymont 2014, 1.



Figure 18: Detail of the 1994 aerial photo of the site after the Rivercat dredging but before the current developments on the site. (Source: LPI).

4.2. Parramatta River Flood Events

The flood history of the Parramatta River has substantially impacted on the use and development of the study area from European settlement to present day, the most damaging of which appears to be the 1889 flood that caused significant damage to the study area specifically, scouring the river bank. Historic records of the known moderate to severe floods in the study area are summarised as follows:

- **1795** earliest recorded flood in Parramatta, which was severe enough to wash away the first bridge.³⁸
- **1806 and 1809** heavy storms are reported.
- November **1812** extensive flooding particularly along the river flats west of the Church Street Bridge.³⁹
- **1826** flood caused damage to the second bridge.⁴⁰
- June **1864** major flood resulting in damage to numerous properties. Subsequently, flood gates were constructed between Charles Street and Lennox Bridge⁴¹.
- May **1889** flood caused substantial damage specifically, scouring the river bank in the study area.⁴²

Other significant flood events that likely affected the study area in the twentieth century were recorded in 1914, 1956, 1961, 1967, 1969, 1974 and 1975,⁴³ however none of these floods appear to have been as damaging as the 1889 flood.

³⁸ Lower Parramatta River Flood Study 1986, 13.

³⁹ Sydney Gazette, 28 November 1812, 2.

⁴⁰ Eagle and Geary 1986, 17.

⁴¹ Extent 2017, 28.

⁴² Eagle and Geary 1986, 17.

⁴³ see Eagle and Geary 1986, 15

5. Heritage significance

The NSW Heritage Division’s *NSW Heritage Manual Guideline—Assessing Heritage Significance* provides a framework for assessing significance of sites and heritage items, with the main aim of producing a succinct statement of significance to summarise an item or site’s heritage values.

The guidelines are predicated on the five types of cultural heritage value, as presented in The Burra Charter 2013: historical, aesthetic, scientific, social, and spiritual significance. The NSW heritage assessment criteria provides the following criterion for the assessment of heritage significance.

An item will be considered to be of State (or local) heritage significance if, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, it meets one of more of the following criteria:

- *Criterion (a)—an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *Criterion (b)—an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *Criterion (c)—an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);*
- *Criterion (d)—an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*
- *Criterion (e)—an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *Criterion (f)—an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *Criterion (g)—an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW’s (or a class of the local areas’):*
 - *cultural or natural places; or*
 - *cultural or natural environments.*

5.1. Heritage Listings

5.1.1. World Heritage Listing (Old Govt House and Domain)

Old Government House and Domain, Parramatta is one of 11 sites that, together, make up the ‘Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property’. With respect to Old Government House and Domain, the views and setting are important in demonstrating the place’s role as a centre of colonial administration and contribute to maintaining the integrity of the convict landscape.

The Charles Street Square study area is located approximately 1.2km southeast of Old Government House, and c.800m from the World Heritage site boundary, and identified as being ‘sensitive’ to the OGH. ‘Sensitive’ in this case is defined as:

*Development may have some impact but **not a significant impact** on the World and National Heritage values of the OGH⁴⁴*

⁴⁴ Planisphere 2012 ‘Development in Parramatta City and the Impact on Old Government House and Domain’s World and National Heritage Listed Values: Technical Report’ p.81

5.1.2. National Heritage Register

Within the Charles Street Square study area there are no heritage items included in the National Heritage List or the Commonwealth Heritage List. Old Government House and Domain, Parramatta is listed on the National Heritage List (Place ID 105957, listed 01/08/2007). As mentioned above, the Charles Street Square study area is located approximately 1.2km southeast of Old Government House

5.1.3. NSW State Heritage Register

Within the Charles Street Square study area there are no heritage items included in the State Heritage Register (SHR). There are seventeen heritage items included on the SHR which are in proximity to the site. Most of these listings are built heritage items, while four listings refer to historic archaeology:

1. Harrisford and potential archaeological site;
2. Parramatta District Hospital - Archaeology, Marsden Street (00826);
3. Prince Alfred Square and potential archaeological site (01997); and,
4. Ancient Aboriginal and Early Colonial Landscape, Robin Thomas Reserve, Harris Park (01863).

The closest SHR listing to the subject site is 'Harrisford' house and potential archaeological site, located at 182 George Street, located c.150m southwest. The Statement of Significance for Harrisford states that:

*Harrisford, which is located between George Street and the river, is one of the oldest houses remaining in the township of Parramatta. It is an important element at the head of the river, representing the early years of settlement. Site possesses potential to contribute to an understanding early of urban development in Parramatta.*⁴⁵

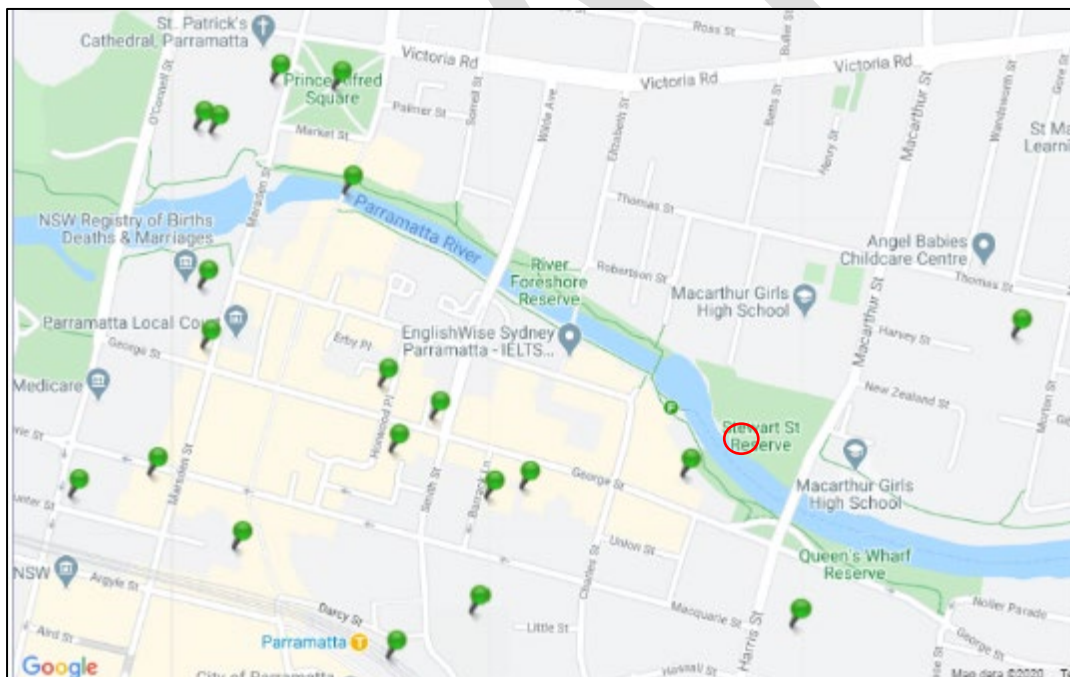


Figure 19: State Heritage Register listings in proximity to Charles Street Square study area (in red) OEH Heritage Division Maps, accessed May 2020
(<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/heritagesearch.aspx>)

⁴⁵ Harrisford SHR Listing, available at:
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5051407>

Table 1: State Heritage Register listings proximity to the Charles Street Square study area (OEH Heritage Division SHR)

ITEM NAME	ADDRESS	SHR NO.	GAZZETTE DATE
Harrisford (house) & Potential archaeological site AMU 3034 (State Significant)	182 George Street Parramatta	00248	02/04/1999
Perth House and Stables	85 George Street Parramatta	00155	02/04/1999
Warders Cottages	1 and 3 Barrack Lane Parramatta	00709	02/04/1999
Shop and Office	88-92 George Street Parramatta	00278	02/04/1999
Roxy Theatre	65-69 George Street Parramatta	00711	02/04/1999
Redcoats Mess House	Horwood Place Parramatta	00218	02/04/1999
Lennox Bridge	349-351 (adj) Church Street Parramatta	00750	02/04/1999
Broughton House	43a Thomas Street Parramatta	01302	02/04/1999
St John's Anglican Cathedral	195 Church Street Parramatta	01805	02/04/1999
Traveller's Rest Inn Group	12, 14, 16 O'Connell Street Parramatta	00748	02/04/1999
Parramatta District Hospital – Brislington and Landscape	10 George Street Parramatta	00059	02/04/1999
Parramatta District Hospital - Archaeology	Marsden Street Parramatta	00828	02/04/1999
Marsden Rehabilitation Centre Group	O'Connell Street Parramatta	00826	02/04/1999
Kings School Group (former)	3 Marist Place Parramatta	00771	02/04/1999
Murphy's House	1 Marist Place Parramatta	00238	02/04/1999

Prince Alfred Square and potential archaeological site	353 Church Street Parramatta	01997	28/08/2017
Ancient Aboriginal and Early Colonial Landscape	Robin Thomas Reserve, Harris Park Parramatta	01863	08/07/2011

5.1.4. Local Heritage Items (Parramatta LEP 2011)

There are no local heritage items within the study area itself, although several are located in the vicinity of the study area (Parramatta LEP 2011), including:

- Charles Street Weir – Parramatta River (LEP #I733)
- Harrisford (and potential archaeological site) – 182 George Street (LEP #I00248)⁴⁶
- Newlands Archaeological Site – 9 Thomas Street (LEP #A3)
- Office (and potential archaeological site) – 68A and 70 Phillip Street (LEP #I740)

When heritage items are located in the vicinity of the study area, their significance should be considered in relation to any potential visual impact that the proposed development may potentially have. The closest locally listed heritage item to the study area is the Charles Street Weir (Figure 23), the Statement of Significance states:

Charles Street Weir has historical, aesthetic, social and scientific significance. The heritage significance of the Charles Street Weir is enhanced by its place within a recreational reserve. For the local community, it holds an important sense of place.⁴⁷

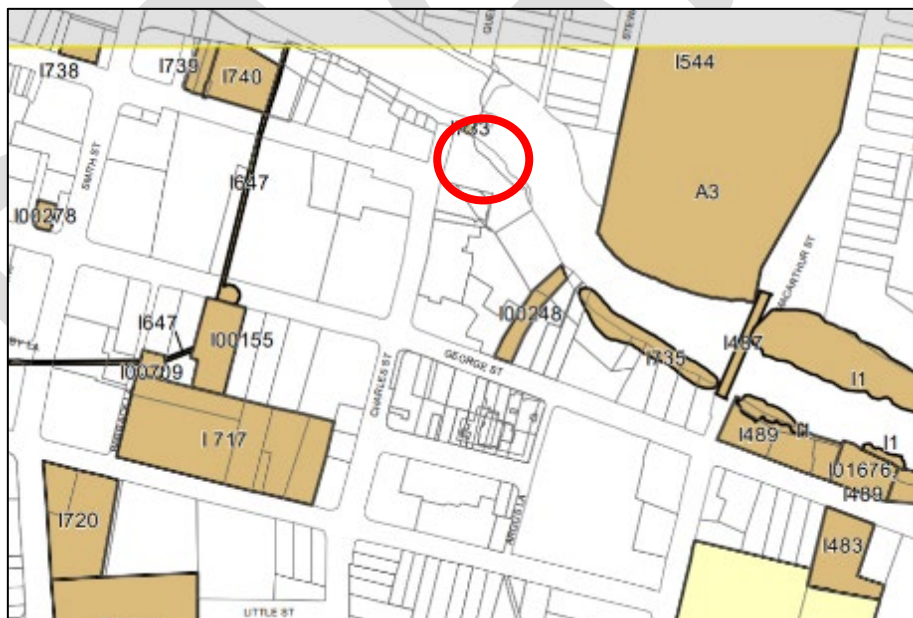


Figure 20: Parramatta LEP 2011 Heritage Map 10, Study Area in Red

⁴⁶ Harrisford is listed on both the SHR and LEP

⁴⁷ State Heritage Inventory, Charles Street Weir, Available at:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5063021>



Figure 21: Charles St Weir, View west (Source: Curio 2019)

5.2. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Significance

A formal process of Aboriginal Community Consultation has been undertaken for the Charles Street Square Upgrade Project (in accordance with OEH Consultation Guidelines), including the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR, Appendix B to the 2020 SoHI), prepared in accordance with OEH Guidelines *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW*.

The ACHAR documents the process of investigation, consultation and assessment with regards to Aboriginal cultural heritage and Aboriginal archaeology, as undertaken for the project. A summary of the process and findings of the ACHAR (Curio Projects 2019b) is presented below.

5.2.1. Aboriginal Community Consultation

On behalf of Spackman Mossop Michaels (SMM) and Council, Curio Projects initiated a process of Aboriginal Community Consultation in accordance with OEH guidelines in April 2019, which included letters to the relevant statutory bodies (NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council, the Registrar Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983, the National Native Title Tribunal, Native Title Services Corporation Limited and City of Parramatta Council), requesting names of Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the proposed project area, placement of a public notice advertising the project in the Parramatta Advertiser, and writing to all names compiled from these two steps. As a result, 17 Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) were identified for the Charles Street Square development project (in alphabetical order):

- A1 Indigenous Services
- Barking Owl Aboriginal Corporation
- Biamanga
- Butucarbin Aboriginal Corporation
- Cullendulla
- Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation (DCAC)

- Des Dyer
- Darug Land Observations (DLO)
- Goobah
- Merrigarn
- Muragadi
- Murramarang
- Phil Boney
- Ryan Johnson
- Widescope
- Yulay Cultural Services

Each project RAP was provided with written details of the proposed project and the draft proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology for review, invited to a site visit and on-site consultation meeting on 20 September 2019, and provided the draft ACHAR report for review and comment prior to finalisation of the report.

Discussions at the September 2019 site meeting included opportunities for future interpretation features for the project relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage, including:

- Opportunities for integration of Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretation initiatives within the development, such as bush tucker within proposed floral displays
- Consideration of songlines integrated within development to share stories/information of the river from Circular Quay to Parramatta Quay
- Possible use of the new amphitheatre for Burramatta NAIDOC celebrations
- Possible inclusion of storyboards in the Amphitheatre for people using the space to look at
- Suggestion for a future accessible link from the eastern part of the river corridor to Parramatta Quay, to connect east and west
- Potential for Council to consider ways to quickly clean the river following flooding events (large amounts of rubbish visible in water around Charles Street Weir)

5.2.2. Statement of Aboriginal Heritage Significance

The local Aboriginal community of Parramatta have constantly stated the high cultural and spiritual significance of the Parramatta River. The location of the study area is included within the social significance of the Parramatta River both for its more intangible values, as well as its archaeological evidence for long-enduring and continuous Aboriginal occupation of the river foreshore, and as a key component of the wider Aboriginal landscape of Parramatta.

*The study area is therefore considered to have **high social and spiritual significance** to the local Aboriginal community, connected to the significant intangible values associated with the Parramatta River foreshore, as well as part of the wider Darug Aboriginal landscape.*

*The study area holds **potential to be of historical value and significance** to local Aboriginal people in connection with the wider area in this part of Parramatta associated with early interactions between European colonists and Aboriginal people at the Parramatta settlement.*

*While the Aboriginal archaeological significance of the study area is not able to be accurately assessed until the results of Aboriginal archaeological investigations are available, the study area has **high research potential** for its location within the mapped extent of the Parramatta Sand Body (PSB), an alluvial terrace formation which is significant on a State level due to its high potential for stratified Aboriginal archaeological material dating back to the Pleistocene*

(c.30,000 years BP). The study area has potential to contain a chrono-stratified archaeological deposit that would be both rare and representative in the context of Aboriginal occupation in this area of Parramatta.

Should the PSB be present within the study area, and contain a remnant Aboriginal archaeological deposit, the study area may have **high scientific significance** for its ability to contribute knowledge to the archaeological record about Aboriginal occupation of this area of Parramatta and across the PSB itself⁴⁸.

5.3. Historical Archaeological Significance

5.3.1. Statement of Historical Archaeological Significance

The Charles Street Square study area is unlikely to contribute unique historic archaeological knowledge, which other resources can in Parramatta, especially because many similar but more extensive sites have already been archaeologically investigated. The study area will contribute archaeological information that may be compared and contrasted to similar sites in Parramatta. A unique quality of the study area is its proximity to the Parramatta River, which may contribute some knowledge which no other site can in relation to water management and use in the colony. This knowledge may contribute towards answering questions about the initial establishment and development of Australia's second colony settlement. However, considering the development and flood history of the study area the likelihood of material remains surviving is greatly reduced.

The archaeological evidence relating to the nineteenth century occupation of the study area has the potential to provide information about the study area's development in relation to the historic socio-economic profiles of the occupants. The study area also has some potential to provide information on the nineteenth and early twentieth century water supply, use and management in Parramatta that could be obtained from several wells or cisterns that may survive on the study area.

Cumulatively, the potential archaeological information gathered from the Charles Street Square study area would be able to demonstrate practices relating to lifeway patterns typical of the nineteenth and early twentieth century Parramatta, with potential to supplement the existing knowledge of the local area⁴⁹.

⁴⁸ Curio 2020 Charles Street Square SoHI p. 61

⁴⁹ Curio 2020 Charles Street Square SoHI p. 62-63

6. Interpretive framework

Successful heritage interpretation must address the necessary policy for the site, meet the requisite professional guidelines and crucially, must be thematic. In this context *thematic* differs from the historical themes (which tend to relate chronologies and era, event and design definitions such as those in heritage significance evaluations and fall under 'policy').

When done well, heritage interpretation should achieve the perfect balance in this three-pronged approach, offering the audience the missing piece to their puzzle, the answer to their enquiry & sparking their imagination. Our aim as interpreters should be to introduce, reunite, and commit people and places.



6.1. Policy Framework (NSW Heritage Council)

The conservation of cultural heritage values in NSW is a process which includes a combination of many key initiatives, ranging from the conservation of buildings, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes and moveable heritage objects through to the interpretation of tangible and intangible heritage values, and a combination of both physical conservation and interpretation.

When not supported by active interpretation, the conservation of the fabric alone, whether it be a building, an artefact or a more complex cultural landscape, often fails to connect with both the site users and the community.

In circumstances where it is not possible to retain significant heritage fabric, interpretation becomes the primary tool to ensure that significant places and stories are remembered, understood and appreciated by the people who use and visit these places.

Since the late 1990s, connecting people to their heritage has become a priority for the NSW Government. As a result of this, interpretation continues to play a key role in the active management of cultural heritage places in NSW.

6.1.1. NSW Heritage Division Interpretation Policy

The NSW Heritage Council's 2005 Interpretation Policy statement notes that:

The interpretation of New South Wales' heritage connects the communities of New South Wales with their heritage and is a means of protecting and sustaining heritage values.

Heritage interpretation is an integral part of the conservation and management of heritage items and is relevant to other aspects of environmental and cultural management and policy.

Heritage interpretation incorporates and provides broad access to historical research and analysis.

Heritage interpretation provides opportunities to stimulate ideas and debate about Australian life and values, and the meaning of our history, culture and the environment. The Heritage Office, Department of Planning, is committed to encouraging imaginative, inclusive and accurate interpretation of the heritage of New South Wales and to establishing and sustaining best practices in content, methodology, implementation and evaluation of heritage interpretation

The Heritage Office aims to:

- Promote the interpretation of the heritage of New South Wales;
- Acknowledge the associations and meanings of heritage to the community;
- Integrate heritage interpretation in environmental and cultural planning in state and local government organisations;
- Encourage high standards and skills in heritage interpretation⁵⁰

6.1.2. City of Parramatta's Vision

The City of Parramatta's 2017 Heritage Interpretation Guidelines (Draft) states that heritage interpretation should achieve four strategic priorities:

1. Liveable

Excellent heritage interpretation builds understanding and connections between people and places. Increasing knowledge of Parramatta's diverse stories consolidates trust, changes perceptions, builds pride and a sense of belonging⁵¹.

2. Sustainable

Excellent heritage interpretation helps locals and visitors understand our rich environment, and through understanding it, respect for it will grow- this will help us all care for, improve and protect our natural and cultural heritage⁵².

3. Productive

Excellent heritage interpretation adds layers of meaning and depth to our city. It will create unique experiences and places that will drive our visitor economy. If locals and visitors know where we've come from, we will move into the future with confidence⁵³.

⁵⁰ Heritage Council of NSW 2005, p. 3

⁵¹ City of Parramatta 2017, *Heritage Interpretation Guidelines (Working Draft)*, p. 5

⁵² City of Parramatta 2017, *Heritage Interpretation Guidelines (Working Draft)*, p. 5

⁵³ City of Parramatta 2017, *Heritage Interpretation Guidelines (Working Draft)*, p. 5

4. Leading

Excellent heritage interpretation assists with place-making, connecting people to place and embedding stories into the fabric of the city for the future. If we get it right, we will be a world leader in delivering story through our significant places⁵⁴.

6.2. Professional Framework (Burra and Ename Charters)

6.2.1. Burra Charter Principles for Interpretation

The Burra Charter was revised in 1999 in order to emphasise the importance of interpretation to the process of conserving significant cultural heritage sites and places. The Burra Charter defines *interpretation* as ‘all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place’⁵⁵. This can be a combination of how the fabric is treated (eg through maintenance, restoration or reconstruction), the use of the place and activities held there; and through the introduction of explanatory material⁵⁶.

Article 24.1 of the Burra Charter States:

Significant associations between people and a place should be respected, retained and not obscured, Opportunities for interpretation, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented⁵⁷

Article 24.2 states:

Significant meanings, including spiritual values, of a place should be respected. Opportunities for the continuation or revival of these meanings should be investigated and implemented⁵⁸

Article 25 states:

The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and engagement, and be culturally appropriate⁵⁹.

The Burra Charter also includes Practice Notes to guide the interpretation of places of cultural significance.

6.2.2. The Ename Charter

The ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites, 2008 (The Ename Charter) provides a set of guiding principles for interpretation and presentation as ‘essential components of heritage conservation efforts and as a means of enhancing public appreciation and understanding of cultural heritage sites’⁶⁰.

Principle 1 of the Ename Charter is concerned with access to and understanding of cultural heritage sites.

Principle 1.1 states:

Effective interpretation and presentation should enhance personal experience, increase public respect and understanding, and communicate the importance of the conservation of cultural heritage sites⁶¹.

⁵⁴ City of Parramatta 2017, *Heritage Interpretation Guidelines (Working Draft)*, p. 5

⁵⁵ Australia ICOMOS 2013, Article 1.17, p.3

⁵⁶ Australia ICOMOS 2013, p. 3

⁵⁷ Australia ICOMOS 2013, p. 7

⁵⁸ Australia ICOMOS 2013, p. 7

⁵⁹ Australia ICOMOS 2013, p. 8

⁶⁰ ICOMOS 2008, p. 3

⁶¹ ICOMOS 2008 p. 7

Principle 2.3 states:

At cultural heritage sites where traditional storytelling or memories of historical participants provide an important source of information about the significance of the site, interpretive programs should incorporate these oral testimonies—either indirectly, through the facilities of the interpretive infrastructure, or directly through the active participation of members of associated communities as on-site interpreters⁶².

Principle 3.1 states:

Interpretation should explore the significance of a site in its multi-faceted historical, political, spiritual, and artistic contexts . It should consider all aspects of the site’s cultural, social, and environmental significance and values⁶³.

Principle 3.3 states:

Interpretation should also take into account all groups that have contributed to the historical and cultural significance of a site⁶⁴.

6.3. Thematic Framework

6.3.1. Freeman Tilden

In 1957 Freeman Tilden published *Interpreting our Heritage*⁶⁵ which established not only the philosophical basis for heritage interpretation but the fundamental principles for interpretation as an art defining the then new discipline as the **‘activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships...rather than simply communicate factual information’⁶⁶.**

Tilden’s six principles of interpretation are:

1. *Any interpretation that does not somehow relate to what is being displayed or described to something within the personality or experience of the visitor will be sterile.*
2. *Information, as such, is not interpretation. Interpretation is revelation based upon information. But they are entirely different things. However, all interpretation includes information.*
3. *Interpretation is an art, which combines many arts, whether the materials presented are scientific, historical, or architectural. Any art is in some degree teachable.*
4. *The chief aim of interpretation is not instruction but provocation.*
5. *Interpretation should aim to present a whole rather than a part and must address itself to the whole man rather than any phase.*
6. *Interpretation addressed to children (say up to the age of twelve) should not be a dilution of the presentation to adults but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best it will require a separate program⁶⁷.*

⁶² ICOMOS 2008 p. 8

⁶³ ICOMOS 2008 p. 9

⁶⁴ ICOMOS 2008 p. 9

⁶⁵ Tilden, Freeman 1957, *Interpreting our Heritage*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press

⁶⁶ Tilden, Freeman 1957/2007. *Interpreting our Heritage*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press p.33

⁶⁷ Tilden, Freeman 1957/2007. *Interpreting our Heritage*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press p.34

6.3.2. Sam Ham

In 1992, the interpreter Sam Ham , built on Tilden’s work, developing four qualities that ‘*define the interpretive approach to communication*’⁶⁸. These are:

1. Interpretation is **enjoyable**.
2. Interpretation is **relevant**.
3. Interpretation is **organized**.
4. Interpretation has a **theme**⁶⁹.

This is known as the *EROT* approach.

With a thematic framework, we can organise information so that the audience can easily understand what we are trying to communicate. Each theme has its own set of relevant facts, concepts and main points, but they are selected because they best make the message clear, not because they are individually interesting to the writer, guide or interpreter. Their presentations must be built around the central message of the story they are telling.

Unless these principles are followed, audiences become lost in a sea of apparently unconnected, irrelevant facts that seem to have no connection with their lives, no use, no meaning.

⁶⁸ Ham, Sam 1992. *Environmental interpretation--A practical guide for people with big ideas and small budgets*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, p.9

⁶⁹ Ham 1992 p. 9

7. Assessment of existing interpretation

A number of existing artworks are present within the study area, including:

- Cheryl Moodai Robinson's Canoe artwork and metal aquatic creature installations near the wharf;
- Ruth Downes' Pebble mosaic and steel sculpture;
- Miles & Stonehouse's 'Story Walls'; and
- Handrail artwork panels

Recommendations for proposed changes to existing artworks are discussed in Section 10.12.

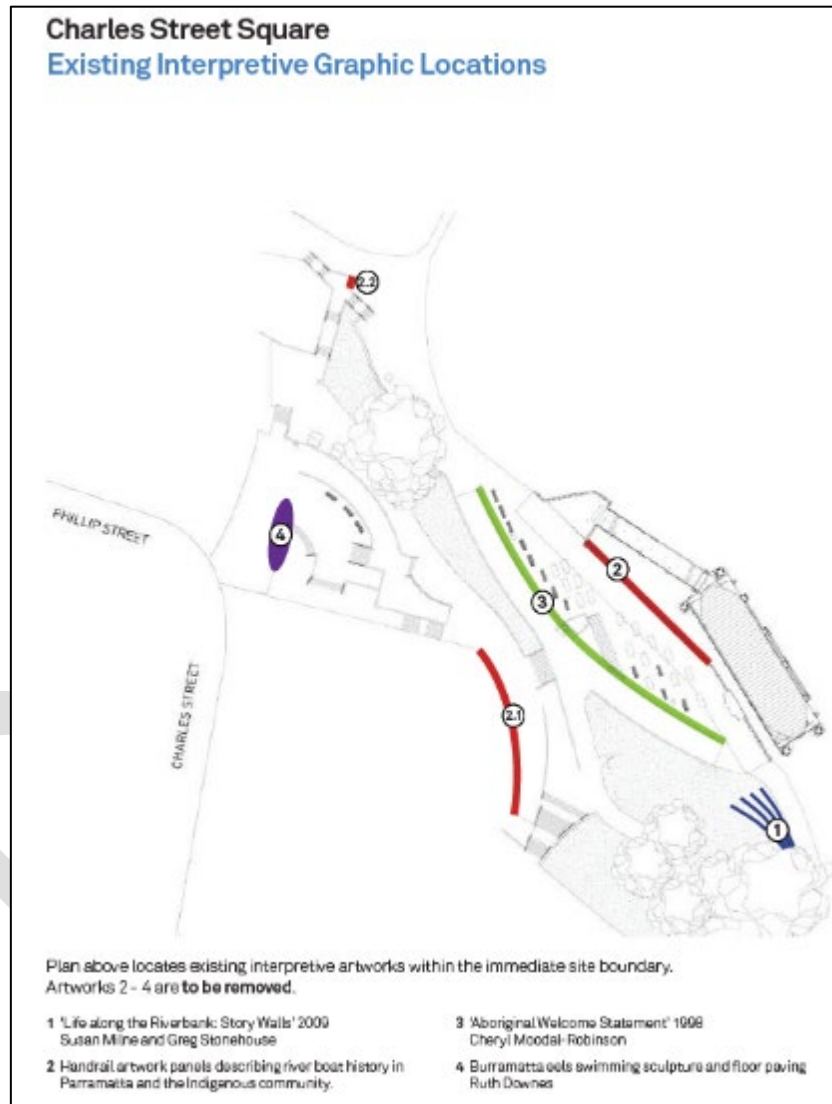


Figure 22: Location of Existing Interpretive Graphics (Source: Extrablack via SMM)

7.1. Cheryl Moodai Robinson's canoe artwork and 'Aboriginal welcome statement'

Cheryl Moodai Robinson is a multi media artist and a descendant of the Kooma (Gowamu) clan of South-West Queensland. Her works on the wharf include a canoe artwork and a metal intallation of a welcome statement accompanied by aquatic creatures on the retaining wall. The artwork's themes are Aboriginal foods, language, welcome to country and cultural associations. The canoe artwork has been decommissioned by RMS as part of

the ferry wharf upgrade and the remaining metal installations will be impacted by the upgrades to the public domain.



Figure 23: Chery Moodai Robinson's Canoe Artwork, decommissioned (Source: SMM)



Figure 24: Shell artwork (Source: SMM)



Figure 25: 'Aboriginal welcome statement' (Source: Google image)

7.2. Ruth Downes eels sculpture and mosaic

Ruth Downes is a Sydney based artist, the artwork consists of a pebble mosaic and steel sculpture and reflects the theme of the 'meeting place of the eels'. Whilst this is an important theme for Parramatta River, unfortunately the shape and scale of the artwork are problematic for the proposed redevelopment of the site⁷⁰.

⁷⁰ SMM correspondence 29/5/19

If the artwork is to be removed, it is recommended that the theme of Aboriginal connection to the river is implemented in the new interpretation strategy for the square. These will be discussed below in Section 10.



Figure 26: Ruth Downes' Eel artwork (Source: SMM)

7.3. 'Story Walls'

Susan Milne & Greg Stonehouse's 'Life along the riverbank: Story Walls' were installed in 2009 and deal with the colonial history of the site. They form part of a series of artworks by Milne & Stonehouse installed along the river front including 'Windmill Shadow', 'Sentry Box' (both 2009) and 'Wake' (2003). Recommendations for this artwork are discussed in Section 10.12.



Figure 27: Story Walls (Source: SMM)

7.4. Handrail artwork panels

Along the handrail by the river there are currently artwork panels which discuss Parramatta’s riverboat history and the Indigenous community. These are in poor condition and have been decommissioned as part of the development of the wharf.



Figure 28: Handrail art panels (Source: Extrablack via SMM)

7.5. Surrounding Artwork and Interpretation

7.5.1. Windmill Shadow

Windmill Shadow is a 2009 artwork by Greg Stonehouse and Susan Milne located just outside the study area on the southern side of the river foreshore near Gasworks Bridge. The work installed within the path represents the shadows of the blades of the wind and water mill that had been built on this site by George Howell in 1828.

7.5.2. Sentry Box

Sentry box is a 2009 installation by Greg Stonehouse and Susan Milne located just outside the study area on the southern side of the river foreshore near Gasworks Bridge. The artwork evokes Parramatta’s history as a military garrison town in the 1790’s and features stories of people who lived in Parramatta at the time.

7.5.3. Wake

Wake is a 2003 art installation by Greg Stonehouse and Susan Milne located on the Elizabeth Street Foodbridge and evokes both the flight of birds and the movement of oars.

7.5.4. Riverwalk

Riverwalk is a 2000 artwork by Jamie Eastwood, located on Riverside walk on the northern side of the Parramatta River Foreshore. The artwork was handpainted onto the walkway and traces the history of Parramatta from the perspective of the Burramatta clan.



Wake



Sentry Box



Riverwalk



Windmill Shadow

Figure 29: Interpretive artwork in the vicinity



Figure 30: Interpretive artwork in the vicinity (Source: Extrablack via SMM)

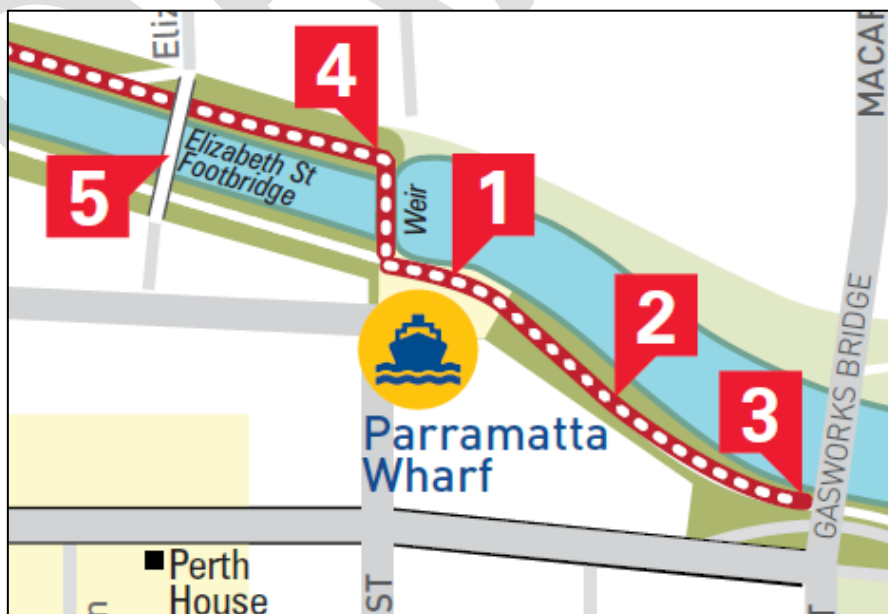


Figure 31: Parramatta Wharf and existing interop positions (1 Story Walls, 2 Windmill Shadow, 3 Sentry Box, 4 Riverwalk, 5 Wake) (Source: Parramatta Public Art Brochure)

7.6. Proposed Artworks

7.6.1. Craig Walsh's Arthur Philip Memorial

Craig Walsh has been commissioned by the City of Parramatta Council to install a memorial to Arthur Philip. The proposed artwork consists of three elements, a stone pedestal and bronze figure of Arthur Philip within the study area (see Figure 35, Figure 36) as well as a projection on the escarpment opposite the site. It is understood that the artwork will be refined during the community consultation process.

The projection component is intended to focus of the stories of Parramatta's past, present and future. There is hope to obtain recommendations and feedback on the Aboriginal stories through consultation with traditional owners. This will be discussed further in Section 10.10.



Figure 32: Proposed Arthur Philip Memorial Artwork (Source: Craig Walsh via SMM)



Figure 33: Proposed Arthur Philip Memorial Artwork (Source: Craig Walsh via SMM)

7.6.2. Jason Wing's Parramatta Memorial to Indigenous Service Personnel

Jason Wing's 'Firesticks' artworks are a memorial to Indigenous service personnel. The proposed artwork will be located at Queens Wharf Reserve, east of Gasworks Bridge, just outside the study area. This is currently in development, concept images are presented below (Figure 37, Figure 38).

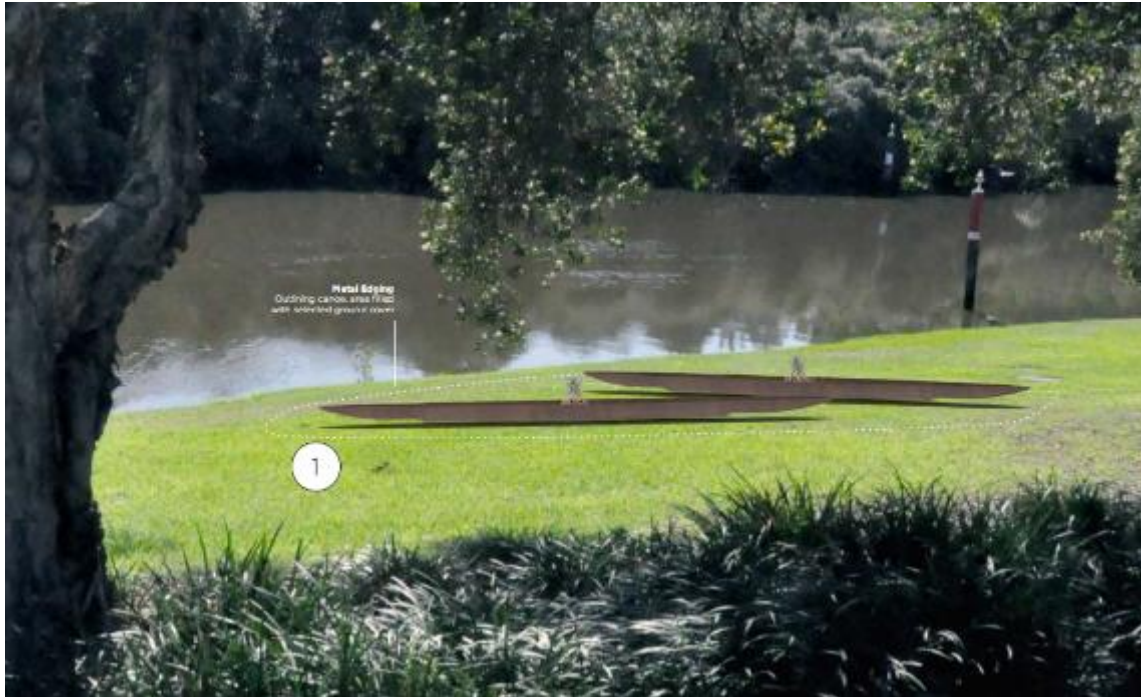


Figure 34: Jason Wing's *Firesticks* proposed artwork

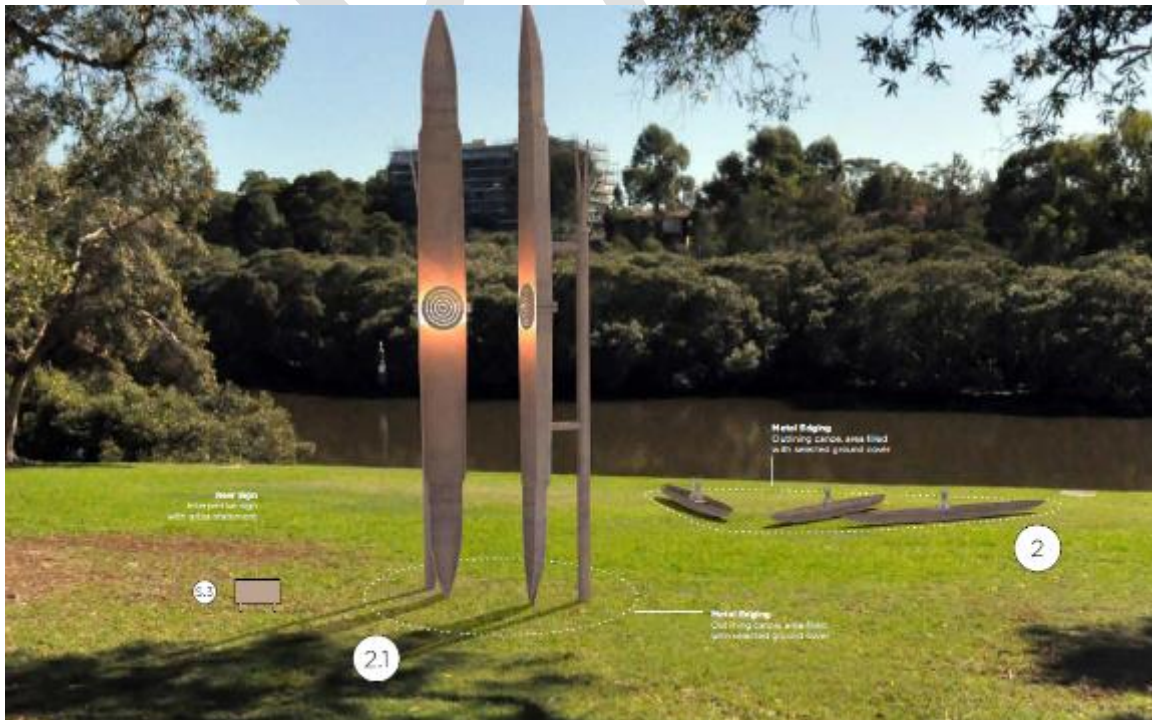


Figure 35: Jason Wing's *Firesticks* proposed artwork

8. Historical themes and storylines

8.1. The National and State Historic Theme Frameworks

In order to place the history and significance of a place within a broader Australian context, it is important to be able to use an established and widely-recognised framework of historic themes as the basis for determining what are the key historic events at a site that would be considered significant at a local, and then possibly State and National level.

8.1.1. National Historic Themes

In order to provide a consistent framework for determining appropriate historic themes for a place of cultural significance, the Australian Heritage Commission published a national framework of historic themes in 2001. Nine national key theme groups were identified, with a subset of 84 national subthemes and a further sub-sub set of 116 themes.

The key National historic themes, from which the NSW State themes flow, are identified as:

1. Tracing the Natural Evolution of the Australian Environment
2. Peopling Australia
3. Developing Local, Regional and National Economies
4. Building Settlements, Towns and Cities
5. Working
6. Educating
7. Governing
8. Australia’s Cultural Life
9. Marking the Phases of Life

8.1.2. State Historic Themes

The NSW Heritage Council developed a series of NSW State-specific themes that are linked to the Australian National Historical Themes (NSW Heritage Council 2001), considering the intent of the national sub-themes. The 36 State historic themes provide the overarching framework for a sub-set of local themes, which are generally relevant to Local Government Area boundaries and smaller subgroups, that have social or local community boundaries.

Table 2: National and State Historic Themes

RELEVANT AUSTRALIAN THEME	RELEVANT NSW THEME
1. Tracing the natural evolution of Australia	Environment- naturally evolved
2. Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures and interaction with other cultures; Convict; Ethnic Influences; Migration
3. Developing local, regional and national economies	Agriculture; Commerce; Communication; Environment-cultural landscape; Events; Exploration; Fishing; Forestry; Health; Industry; Mining pastoralism; Science; Technology; Transport
4. Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages; Land tenure; Utilities; Accommodation

5. Working	Labour
6. Educating	Education
7. Governing	Defence; Government and administration; Law and order; Welfare
8. Developing Australia's cultural life	Domestic life; Creative endeavour; Leisure; Religion; Social Institutions; Sport
9. Marking the phases of life	Birth and Death; Persons

8.2. Themes and Key Stories for Parramatta

In the 2017 Draft Interpretation Plan for Parramatta, key interpretive themes for Parramatta were developed. These are as follows:

A Landscape of Stories embraces Parramatta's river, its tributaries and tides, its valley and surrounding swamps, with their abundant and diverse plants, animals and soils. They are the reason people have gathered here for centuries and continue to do so. The landscape and environment are fundamental to the evolution of this place.

Darug Country : Darug People are inextricably entwined. Country always provides for people, and people use and manage Country. This relationship endures, in spite of many obstacles. Connections are celebrated, stories shared and seasonal rhythms observed.

Gathering Place for all time, Parramatta encourages all kinds of people to come together, to work, to learn, to trade, to create, to worship, and to build a nation and, of course, to face challenges together. People have gathered here for thousands of years and continue to do so.

Fertile Ground in so many ways, Parramatta provides its residents and visitors with a rich and varied experience of culture, ideas and food. Darug, settlers, convicts and newcomers from all corners of the world, can still enjoy the benefits. It hasn't always been easy, but Parramatta remains fertile ground for many.

Experiment, Enterprise, Governance is at the heart of Parramatta's extensive and dramatic growth. It is built on new ideas and opportunity. Each innovation reflects the needs of its time. Parramatta has incubated new concepts and inventions: some fundamental to its existence, most well-intentioned, but some less successful, even detrimental.

Waves of People have made Parramatta their home over thousands of years. Aboriginal people from across Australia came to Parramatta, there were waves of convicts and colonialists, then migrants and displaced peoples – each had their own futures to create. In the last few centuries, people from all over the world have settled in Parramatta and influenced the growing city⁷¹.

⁷¹ City of Parramatta 2017, *Heritage Interpretation Guidelines Working Draft*, October 2017 p.14

8.3. Key Themes and Storylines for Charles Street Square

Based on the historical overview provided in the Heritage Impact Statement, and the heritage significance and historic themes as determined by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the City of Parramatta Council, the themes and proposed storylines specific to the subject site are as follows:

1. *The Darug / Barramattagal⁷² people have an established an ongoing connection to both the river and the land*
2. *The agricultural development of Parramatta was vital to the survival of the colony but violently disrupted the traditional life of the Darug people*
3. *From early colonial years, Parramatta has been a place of industry and development*
4. *The river is the central force of Parramatta.*

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⁷² Community feedback is recommended for the preferred term to be used

Table 3: Summary of Historical Themes and their site specific representation of Charles Street Square

RELEVANT AUSTRALIAN THEME	RELEVANT NSW THEME	PARRAMATTA THEME	CURO PROJECTS LOCAL THEME
Tracing the natural evolution of Australia	Environment- naturally evolved	A landscape of stories	<i>The river is the central force of Paramatta</i>
Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures and interaction with other cultures	Darug Country: Darug People Gathering Place	<i>The Darug / Barramattagal people have an established and ongoing connection to both the river and the land.</i>
Peopling Australia	Convict Ethnic Influences Migration	Waves of People Fertile Ground	<i>The agricultural development of Parramatta was vital to the survival of the colony but violently disrupted the traditional life of the Darug people.</i> <i>The river is the central force of Paramatta</i>
Developing local, regional and national economies	Agriculture; Commerce; Communication; Environment-cultural landscape; Events; Exploration; Fishing; Industry; pastoralism; Science; Technology; Transport	Waves of People Experiment, Enterprise, Governance Fertile Ground	<i>The agricultural development of Parramatta was vital to the survival of the colony but violently disrupted the traditional life of the Darug people.</i> <i>From early colonial years, Parramatta has been a place of industry and development</i> <i>The river is the central force of Paramatta</i>

Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, Suburbs and villages; Land tenure;	Waves of People Experiment, Enterprise, Governance	<i>From early colonial years, Parramatta has been a place of industry and development</i> <i>The river is the central force of Parramatta</i>
Governing	Defence; Government and administration; Law and order; Welfare	Experiment, Enterprise, Governance	<i>The agricultural development of Parramatta was vital to the survival of the colony but violently disrupted the traditional life of the Darug people.</i>
Marking the phases of life	Birth and Death; Persons	A Landscape of stories	<i>The river is the central force of Parramatta</i>

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8.4. Key Stories for Interpretation at Charles Street Square

Table 4: Curio themes and possible stories to be interpreted

<p>CURIO PROJECTS</p> <p>LOCAL THEME</p>	<p>POSSIBLE STORIES TO BE INTERPRETED</p>
<p><i>The Darug / Barramattagal people have an established and ongoing connection to both the river and the land.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The enduring and ongoing cultural connection of the Darug/Barramattagal people to the land and river - The pre-European landscape of the river and banks - The traditional plants, animals and aquatic life of the area - Songlines - A place of weaving - The role of Maugoran (a Barramattagal elder) representing the Barramattagal people in his formal complaints to Arthur Philip - Any recovered archaeological evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the area
<p><i>The agricultural development of Parramatta was vital to the survival of the colony but violently disrupted the traditional life of the Darug people.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of Rose Hill farm - Arthur Philip and both the positive and negative impacts of the agricultural development of Parramatta - Harrisford House - Chinese market gardens (late 19th to mid 20th C)
<p><i>From early colonial years Parramatta has been a place of industry and development</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role of the Byrne brothers, industrial entrepreneurs who had land on the study area - The industrial nature of the area from the mid 19th to the mid 20th Century - Any recovered archaeological evidence of industry and occupation in the area
<p><i>The river is the central force of Parramatta</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The place where freshwater and saltwater meet (ideal environment for eel which meant easy fishing) - The steam ferry service (Byrne brothers) and other early businesses on the river's edge - The river brought people to the area, migration, communication, trade - The river as a gathering place - Perfect environment near river for agricultural development - Repeated flooding of the riverbank impacted the development of the land and likely destroyed heritage - The pollution of the river as a result of industrialisation - The establishment of the Rivercat Ferry service between Parramatta and Sydney's CBD - Environmental and cultural awareness going forward

9. Interpretive context

9.1. Introduction

This Draft Interpretation Plan provides the design intention and general location of the heritage interpretation products proposed to be installed as part of the redevelopment of Charles Street Square.

The colonial history has been covered quite extensively in the nearby Milnes and Stonehouse artworks and the proposed Craig Walsh artwork. Given that the main Indigenous works within the study area are to be decommissioned, Curio Projects proposes that this cultural imbalance is addressed as a matter of priority.

The proposed Aboriginal interpretation of the site will be further developed in close consultation with the local Aboriginal community.

The following sections do not provide final design content for the interpretation products, but an indication of the nature, possible number, indicative content, possible materials and general locations of such items.

9.2. Community Consultation

This section will be updated once there is a plan for consultation

10. Proposed Interpretive products

The proposed interpretive products focus on the following storylines:

- The Darug/Barramattagal people and their established and ongoing connection to both the river and the land
- The agricultural development of Parramatta, how it was vital to the survival of the colony but violently disrupted the traditional life of the Darug people
- How Parramatta has been a place of industry and development from the early years of the colony
- The role of the river as the central force of Parramatta.

10.1. Dual Place Naming: Parramatta Quay & _____ (eg: *Barramatta*)

AUSTRALIAN THEME	NSW THEME	PARRAMATTA THEME	CURIO THEME
Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures and interaction with other cultures	Darug Country: Darug People	<i>The Darug / Barramattagal people have an established and ongoing connection to both the river and the land.</i>

The use of both the traditional place name alongside Parramatta Quay is a powerful reminder of the traditional owners of this area and their continued connection to both the land and river.

The names are recommended to be used in two, highly visible locations. One, at the exit of the ferry and/or on a proposed 'welcome' sign within the ferry shelter; the other at street level, on the place sign in the square.

It is proposed that the desired traditional name will be established through consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders.

It is our understanding that *Extrablack* will be developing the 'Parramatta Quay' graphic and can include a traditional name if this is desired by the Aboriginal stakeholders.

10.2. Traditional welcome included on sign at Ferry Shelter

AUSTRALIAN THEME	NSW THEME	PARRAMATTA THEME	CURIO THEME
Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures and interaction with other cultures	Darug Country: Darug People	<i>The Darug / Barramattagal people have an established and ongoing connection to both the river and the land.</i>

In addition to the dual place naming, a brief welcome sign where the passengers exit the ferry will add depth. This presents an opportunity for Aboriginal interpretation of the site in both the language used for the 'Welcome' and in the artwork and/or design for the sign.

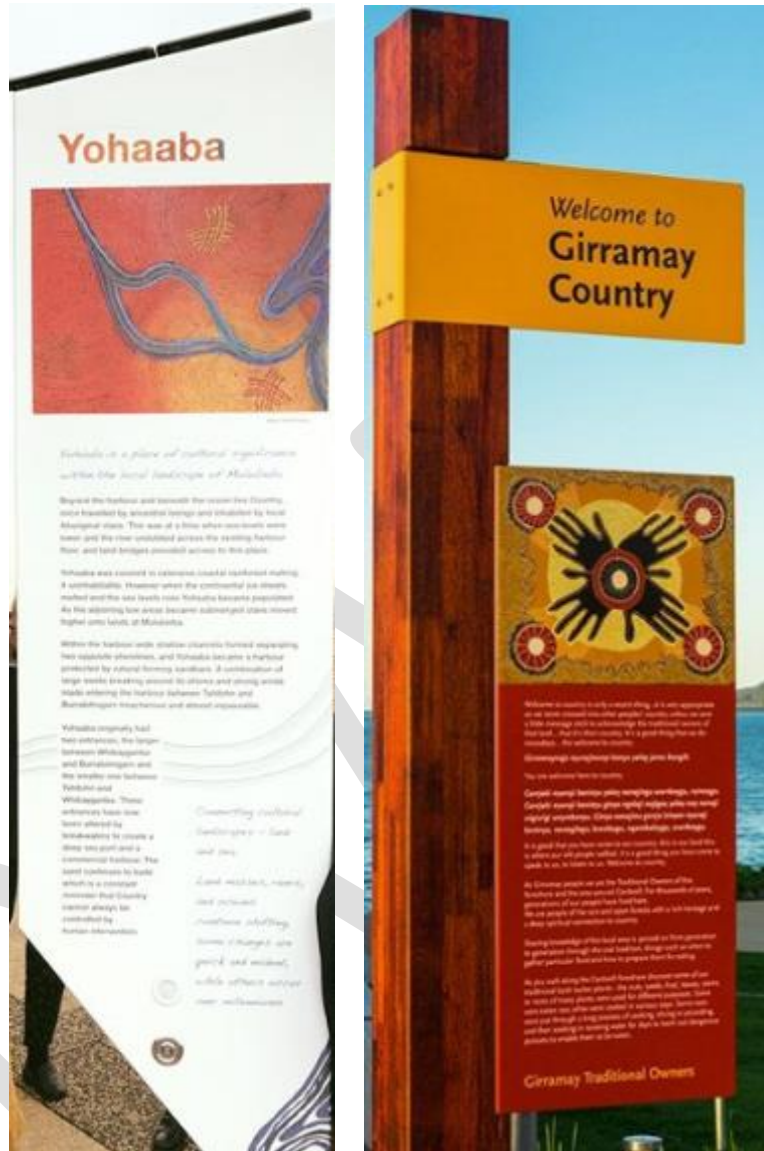


Figure 36: a. Example of signage from Newcastle. (Source: Newcastle Herald, May 28, 2018 https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/5432765/smart-city-tech-drives-dual-name-signs-for-newcastle-landmarks/) / b. Cardwell wayfinding signage (Source: Pinterest)



Figure 37: Example of welcome (From *City of Parramatta Heritage Interpretation Guidelines Working Draft*, 12 Oct 2017 p.4)

10.3. Indigenous Garden Design

AUSTRALIAN THEME	NSW THEME	PARRAMATTA THEME	CURIO THEME
Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures and interaction with other cultures	Darug Country: Darug People	<i>The Darug / Barramattagal people have an established and ongoing connection to both the river and the land.</i>

It is recommended that there is Aboriginal community input in the design of one or more garden beds in the study area. Options include approaching members of the local Aboriginal community garden *Arrunga Bardi* to develop the design. This recommendation should be confirmed following the consultation process.

The stepped garden here allows for various sizes and shapes of plants. It is recommended that the garden beds focus on Indigenous/native species, helping to create a living interpretation of Aboriginal cultural values.



Figure 38: Yerrabingin Native Rooftop Garden at South Eveleigh (Source: Yerrabingin Website)



Figure 39: Potential location for Indigenous Garden design (Source: 3D Views sheet 2, SMM May 2020)

10.3.1. Dual language signage within the Indigenous garden design

By adding sandstone or treated wood signage elements into the garden with dual language inscriptions/labels we reinforce the ongoing relationship of the Darug people to the land. It also provides an opportunity to educate visitors about traditional plants and the language of the Barramatta region. This concept and the supporting content will be developed further during community consultation.



Figure 40: a. (Source: Curio design) b & c (Source: Pinterest)

10.4. Amphitheatre Interpretation and Place of Gathering

AUSTRALIAN THEME	NSW THEME	PARRAMATTA THEME	CURIO THEME
Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures and interaction with other cultures	Darug Country: Darug People	<i>The Darug / Barramattagal people have an established and ongoing connection to both the river and the land.</i>

The amphitheatre is a potential location for the interpretation of songlines and artistic representations of traditional aquatic life and plants and traditional (eg weaving and fishing) and ongoing Darug associations with the river.

This option could offset the decommissioning of both Ruth Downe's Eels artwork and Cheryl Moodai Robinson's Canoe artwork (and potentially the metal aquatic installations).

Potential placement (noting that earlier community feedback has suggested a desire for more vertical interpretation rather than horizontal):

- the sides of the beams or into the wooden slats on the front steps
- along the rear wall of the amphitheatre
- the potential to use shadow work in the interpretation, having messages cut into the roof (although possibly not achievable with the current proposed design)
- the vertical surfaces of the precast concrete seating, so that the information is visible when walking past as well as when sitting (due to the stepped nature of the design).

10.4.1. Ongoing education and events

The amphitheatre has the potential to provide a gathering place for community events such as:

- NAIDOC celebrations⁷³
- Ceremonies and celebrations associated with the river
- Darug workshops on weaving and sandstone carving

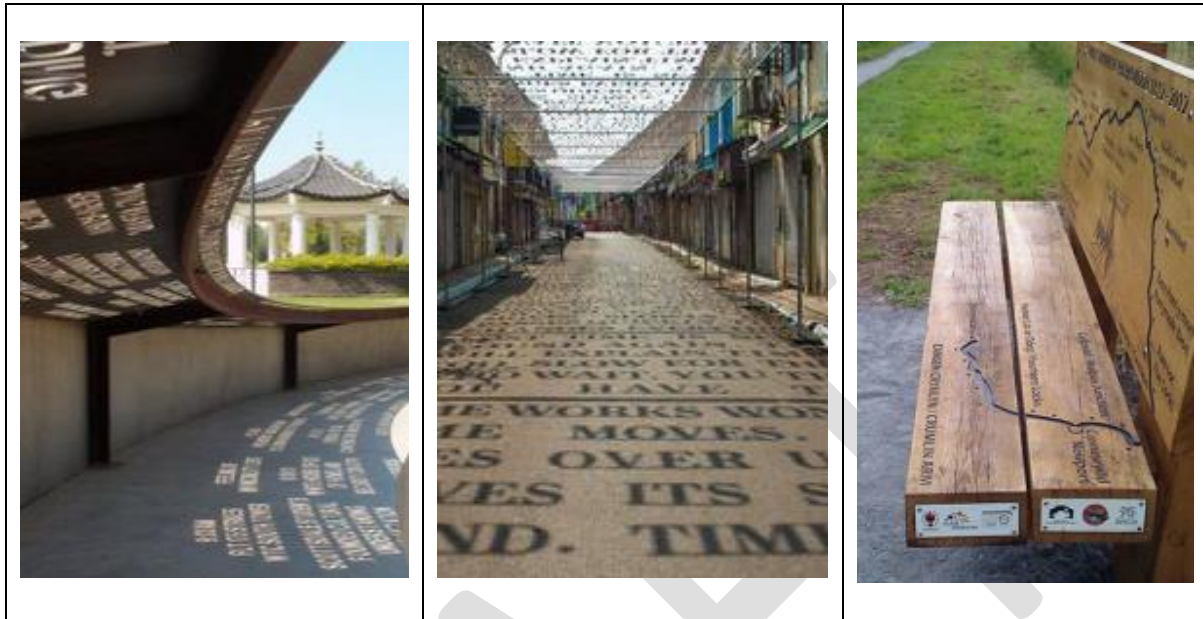


Figure 41: Potential design elements for amphitheatre



Figure 42: Charles Street Square 3D view sheet 8 (Source : Smm May 2020)

⁷³ Community suggestion from Darug Cultural Specialist Panel 2018

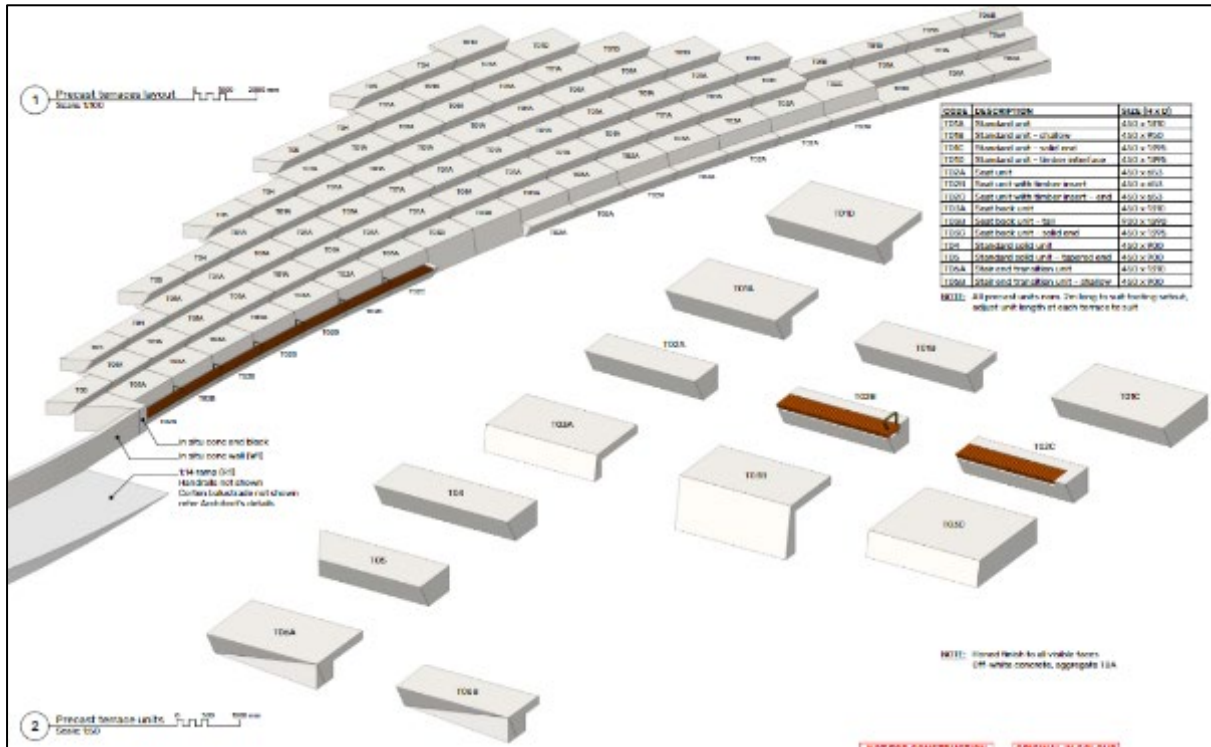


Figure 43: Seating of amphitheatre (Source: SMM May 2020)

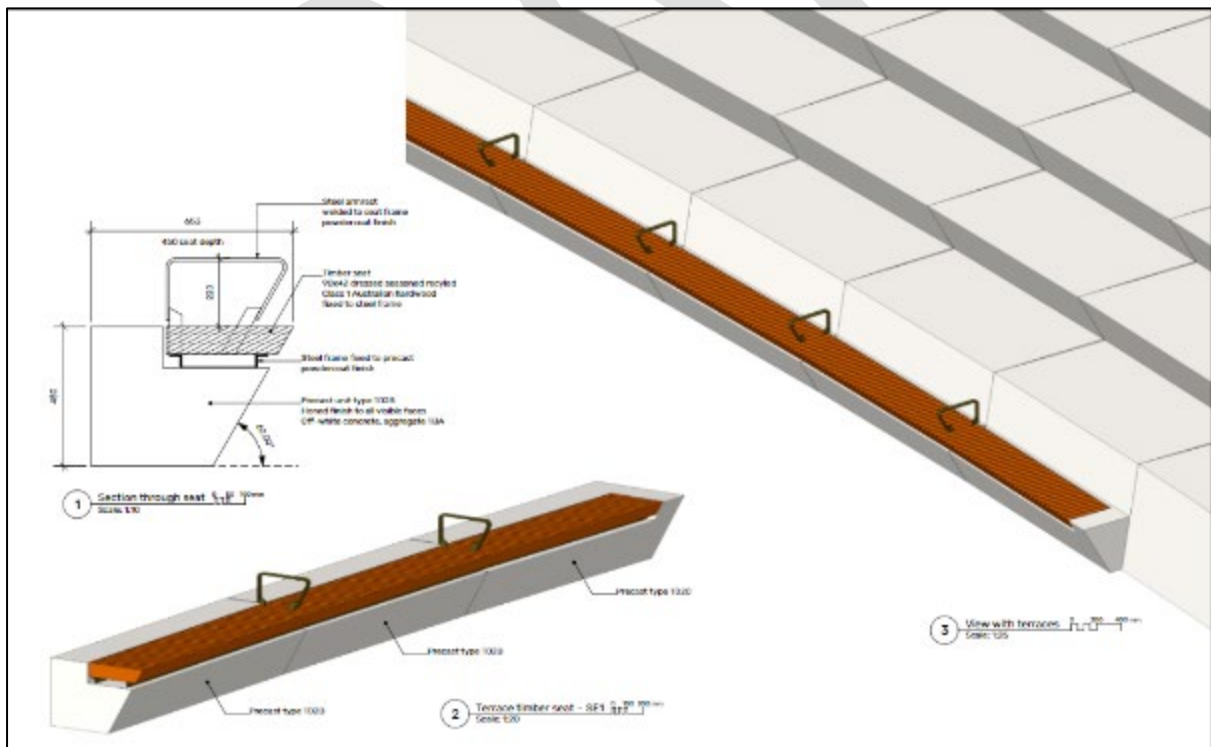


Figure 44: Seating of amphitheatre (Source: SMM May 2020)

10.5. Circular Tree “Ring” Seating design

A fig tree has been proposed in the upper square near the existing site of the decommissioned eels artwork of Ruth Downes. A circular “ring seat” has been suggested around a proposed fig tree in the upper square.

It is recommended to use the wooden circular seating to explore the history of the study area through the associations with the river eg:

- *A place of two waters*
- *Rosehill Government Farm and Military Redoubt (1888)*
- *Steam Ferries travel down the river (1830s)*
- *Industrial development on the water’s edge (Mid 19th C)*
- *Chinese market gardens aside the river (late 19th-early 20th C)*
- *Rivercats connect two cities*

Items to note:

- A non fruiting fig would be preferable to stop the fruit falling over the proposed seating and interpretive messages
- Earlier community feedback has suggested a desire for more vertical interpretation rather than horizontal
- These ‘snapshots’ of history can be expanded into more detailed stories through the interpretive signage in the study area (Section 10.9)

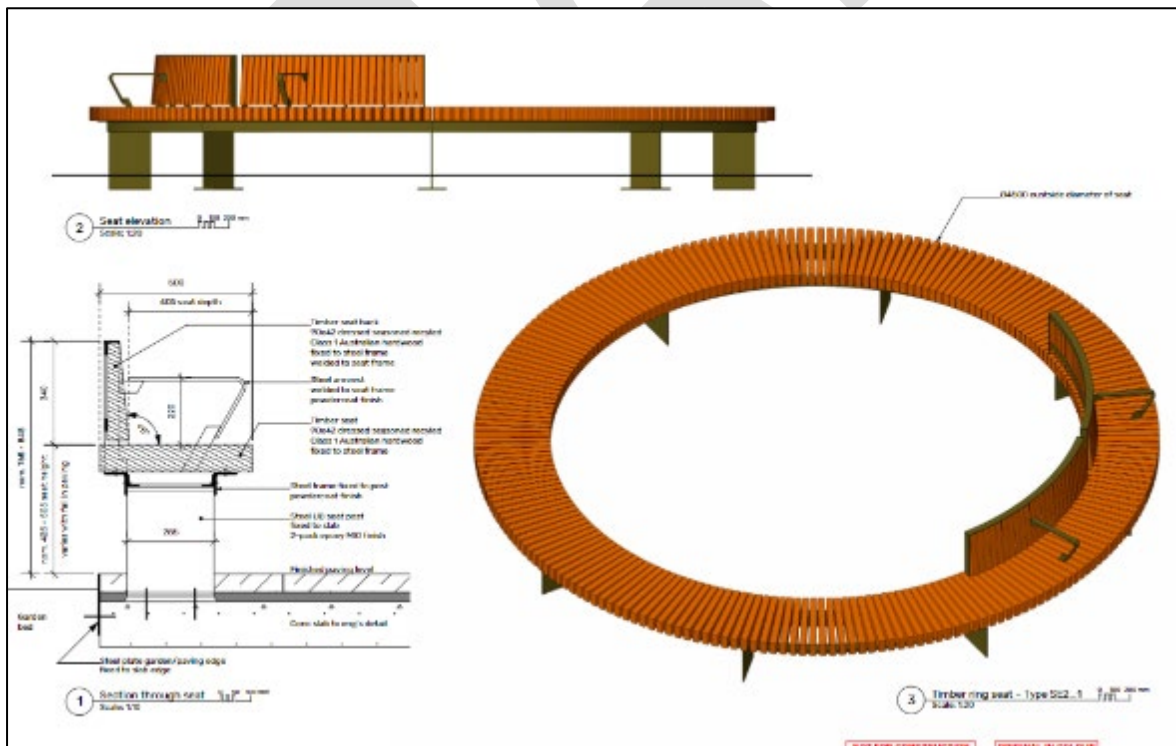


Figure 45: Timber ring seat design (Source: SMM May 2020)

10.6. Major Flood Events (Pavement or Stair Inscription)

The flood history of the Parramatta River has substantially impacted on the use and development of the study area from European settlement to present day, the most damaging of which appears to be the 1889 flood that caused significant damage to the study area specifically, scouring the river bank. It is proposed that historic records of the known moderate to severe floods in the study area are interpreted through brass inlays or etched pavers in the pavement by the river's edge (see Figure 49 for examples). The text could incorporate quotes from newspapers or date and event details as follows:

- 1795: Parramatta's first bridge is washed away
- 1864: Flood Gates constructed near Charles Street following severe flooding
- 1889: Extensive flooding scours the riverbank

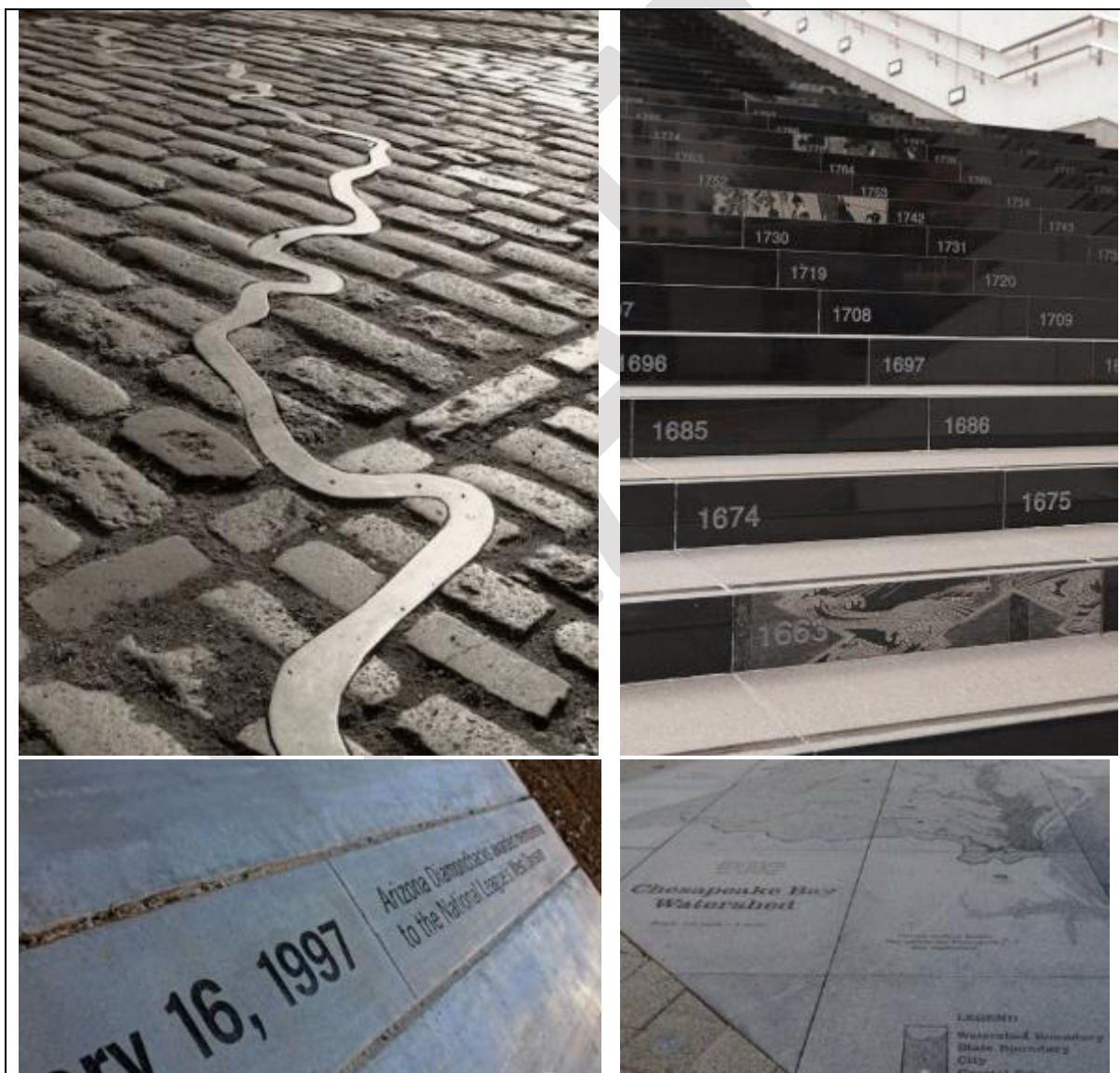


Figure 46: Potential interpretation designs to discuss the flood events (Source: Pinterest)



Figure 47: Potential stair position for flood interpretation (3D views sheet 3, SMM May 2020)

10.7. Arthur Philip Memorial Artwork

AUSTRALIAN THEME	NSW THEME	PARRAMATTA THEME	CURIO THEME
Peopling Australia	Convict	Experiment, Enterprise, Governance	<i>The agricultural development of Parramatta was vital to the survival of the colony but violently disrupted the traditional life of the Darug people.</i>

As discussed above in Section 7.6.1, Craig Walsh has been commissioned by the City of Parramatta Council to create a memorial to Arthur Philip which consists of an “off the pedestal” portrayal of the former Governor and consists of a statue in a casual position, a pedestal and a major projection component.

If requested, Curio can develop interpretation to support this artwork once we have more information on the artwork and the community feedback.

Potential idea:

- Presenting both sides of the story. The base of the pedestal could be an opportunity to present both the positive and negative aspects of Arthur Philip’s role in Parramatta whilst supporting the “off the pedestal” concept of the artwork. In the current environment it is important to acknowledge the faults and negative impacts of his role and the development of Parramatta, alongside what he achieved for example:
 - Arthur Philip’s agricultural development of Parramatta was integral to the survival of the colony.
 - His treatment of the traditional owners of Parramatta was more violent than it had been in Sydney Cove. Arthur Philip had a more peaceful approach in Sydney region, partially because he underestimated the nature of the traditional owners. When he was tasked with establishing an agricultural colony in Parramatta he knew that they would not be able to simply take the land or the farmers would likely be killed. He armed the convict settlers with muskets and sent soldiers to guard. Karsken (2014 paper) described it as an “undisguised invasion”.
 - Maugoran, a Barramattagal elder made the first formal recorded protest to Governor Philip advising that the local Aboriginal community at was upset with the increased number of White settlers at Rosehill⁷⁴.

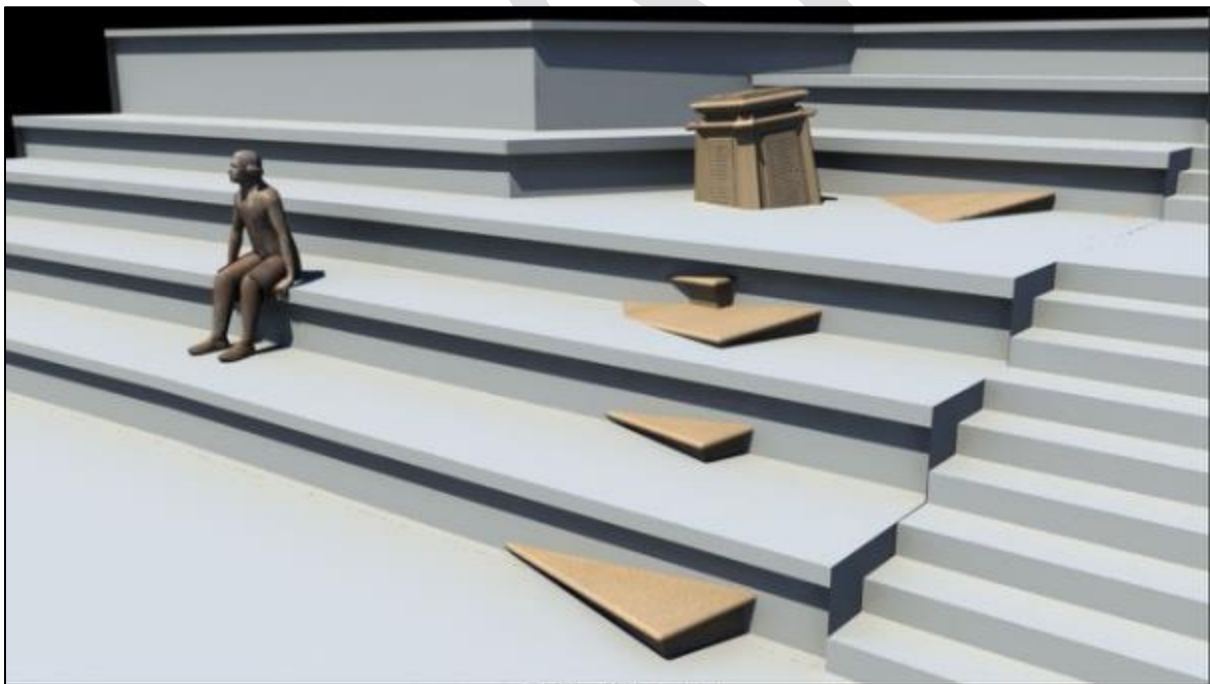


Figure 48: Proposed Arthur Philip Memorial Artwork (Source: SMM)

⁷⁴ Dictionary of Sydney, *Maugoran*, < <https://dictionaryofsydney.org/person/maugoran>>, see also < https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/governor_phillip_and_the_eora>



Figure 49: Proposed Arthur Philip Memorial Artwork (Source: SMM)

10.8. Signage Infrastructure

Wayfinding and other signage within the study area provides an opportunity to provide more traditional interpretation. These could feature expanded histories of the study area which have been presented on the circular ring seating (Section 10.6). SMM is to provide information on number of potential signs and size of space for text or image interpretation.

Possible stories that can be developed on the signs are:

Table 5: Examples of Stories

STORY	THEME	NOTES
The history of the Byrnes brothers	<i>From early colonial years, Parramatta has been a place of industry and development</i>	The Byrnes Brothers were industrial entrepreneurs who established a steam ferry service, steam flour mill and tartan making businesses in the 1830's. They conducted business on George St next to Harrisford house and their flour mill and cloth mill were on the Queens Wharf reserve site
Harrisford House	<i>The agricultural development of Parramatta was vital to the survival of the colony but</i>	Harrisford House is a two storey Old Colonial Georgian brick house located at 182 George Street Parramatta. It was constructed between 1823 and 1829,

	<i>violently disrupted the traditional life of the Darug people.</i>	making it one of the oldest extant houses in the area. Originally built for Reverend William Walker, from 1832 it was leased to the Kings School who remained there until 1836. It was later used as a private academy 'Mr Woolls Academy' until the mid 1860's ⁷⁵
The Chinese market gardens and 'Chinese quarter'	<p><i>The agricultural development of Parramatta was vital to the survival of the colony but violently disrupted the traditional life of the Darug people.</i></p> <p><i>The river is the central force of Paramatta</i></p>	During the late 19 th and early 20 th Century there was a significant Chinese population in Parramatta. There is mention of Chinese market gardens and of a Chinese fire-engine crew at Byrne's mill

⁷⁵ Brief History from Heritage Listing for Harrisford <
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5051407>>



Figure 50: Examples of interpretive signage, See also Figure 37 above (Source: Pinterest)

10.9. Street Furniture and Potential Interpretation

There is the potential to incorporate art and design work in the street furniture of the study area. This can include (but is not limited to):

- Bollards
- Tree grates
- Lighting features
- Bike lockers

It is recommended that the designs are developed by a variety of young artists, including Darug artists, who represent the current, multicultural society of Parramatta.



Figure 51: Potential location for bollard design (3D Views Sheet 10, SMM May 2020)



Figure 52: Examples of creative bollard design (Source: Pinterest)

10.10. Children's Interpretation

As the wharf is accessed by people of all ages, it would be beneficial to include interpretive elements that appeal directly to children. These could be incorporated along either the river's edge or the garden/paved ramp as presented in Figure 54 (3D Views Sheet 5, SMM May 2020). This area is recommended as parents with young children are more likely to use flat areas than stairs.

Potential interpretive elements include:

- Small signs or etched pavers along the river's edge with a variety of bird and water animals to spot
- Child directed safety signs: eg not throwing things into the river

- Stones or wooden features within a garden with images of insects/plants to spot



Figure 53: Potential location for Kid's Interp (3D views Sheet 5, SMM May 2020)



Figure 54: Example of child-friendly interpretation (Source: Prince Edwards Island National Park)



Figure 55: Examples of child-friendly interpretation (Source: Pinterest)

10.11. Artefacts recovered during excavation

If artefacts are recovered during archaeological or developmental excavations within the study area, and are determined to aid the interpretation of the site, they should be included within the interpretation of the study area. Examples of ways to incorporate these are provided below (Figure 58, Figure 59).



Figure 56: Artefact display boxes at 200 George Street (Source: N.Vinton)



Figure 57: Artefact display boxes at 200 George Street, detailed shots (Source: N.Vinton)



Figure 58: Artefact display boxes at 275 Kent Street (Source: Mirvac)



Figure 59: Artefact display boxes at 275 Kent Street (Source: Mirvac)

10.12. Proposed changes to existing interpretive products

10.12.1. Cheryl Moodai Robinson's canoe artwork and 'Aboriginal welcome statement'

As discussed in section 7.1 the canoe portion of the artwork has been decommissioned. In their current state, the metal installations appear dated. Possible remedies include discussing the artwork with relevant groups and exploring the following options:

- retaining the artworks in their current state / composition (it is recommended that the concrete setting would be repaired and preferably painted in an updated colour scheme);
- removing the artworks from the concrete and including them in a new installation (possibly on wooden panelling)
- removing the artworks and replacing them with a new artwork/ interpretive product that explores the themes represented (this could provide an opportunity for a local Darug artist to design elements for the amphitheatre).



Figure 60: Shell artwork (Source: SMM)

10.12.1. Ruth Downes eels sculpture and mosaic

If the artwork is to be removed, it is recommended that the theme of Aboriginal connection to the river is implemented in the new interpretation strategy for the square, examples are discussed above in Section 10.4.

10.12.2. Milne & Stonehouse's 'Story Walls'

If they are not impacted by the works, it is recommended that the story walls are retained as they form part of the collective artworks by Milne and Stonehouse. Further recommendation include:

- The artworks should be assessed by a conservator to ascertain their ability to last and any treatments which may be required;
- If the concrete bases are to remain, they should be cleaned, or painted in line with the additional designs;
- The garden should be updated, and the planting palette should be discussed during the consultation process; and

- The potential to include wooden panelled seating atop the concrete should be explored, this should be situated between the metal installations, to create texture and a more modern presentation of the story walls whilst keeping with the proposed design of the amphitheatre.



Figure 61: Story Walls (Source: SMM)

11. Conclusion

The preparation of an interpretation plan as part of the Charles Street Square redevelopment provides an opportunity for Spackman Mossop Michaels to create meaningful products that continue to celebrate the significance of Parramatta Wharf and Charles Street Square, now and into the future.

The key themes and storylines developed as part of this process form a strong basis for developing interpretation that is relevant to the history of the site.

The information included in this plan forms the basis for the development and installation of physical interpretation products to support innovative, inclusive and engaging storytelling at this site.

DRAFT

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