

Heritage Data Form

ITEM DETAILS							
Name of Item	Maris Park – sandstone boundary wall and park						
Other Name/s Former Name/s							
Item type (if known)	Landscape						
Item group (if known)	Parks, Gardens and Trees; Urban Area						
Item category (if known)	Urban Park; Boundary Feature						
Area, Group, or Collection Name							
Street number	26, 36, 40, 42; 2						
Street name	Turriell Point Road; Sandbar Place						
Suburb/town	Port Hacking					Postcode	2229
Local Government Area/s	Sutherland						
Property description	Lots 1, 2, 27, 29 and 30, DP 255250						
Location - Lat/long	Latitude	-34.068000			Longitude	151.124444	
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Easting		Northing		
Owner	Sutherland Shire Council						
Current use	Public park; Private gardens						
Former Use	Private garden						
Statement of significance	<p>Maris Park and the stone boundary wall along Turriell Point Road are associated with the history of urban development in Port Hacking in the early- to mid-twentieth century. The reserve and boundary wall are historically associated with Frank O'Brien, a well-known twentieth century glass merchant, who established a residential property in Port Hacking in the early 1930s. The property name 'Maris Park' was derived from the first letters of his wife's name, MARGaret ISabella. The reserve and boundary wall provide important physical evidence of the property, which was the last large, early residential property in the area to be subdivided for suburban housing, and includes residual evidence of its original garden. The boundary wall marks the original extent of the property, and gate posts mark two of the four original entrances to the property. The stone boundary wall and remnant garden features are built of locally quarried stone, and together with the mix of native and exotic plantings are representative of early- to mid-twentieth century trends in landscaping and garden design. They are distinctive elements of the local streetscape, and contribute to the landscape setting of the sandstone cottage (former servant's lodge and garage) at 1 Sandbar Place. The stone boundary wall is also rare in the local area. The stone boundary wall has social significance insofar it has been continuously maintained by local residents since the subdivision of the Maris Park property in the 1970s. Public opposition to Council's removal of the wall from the reserve also suggests that it is valued by the local community.</p> <p>Maris Park – sandstone boundary wall and park has local heritage significance</p>						
Level of Significance	State <input type="checkbox"/>				Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

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DESCRIPTION	
Designer	Unknown
Builder/ maker	Unknown
Physical Description	<p>Maris Park is a public reserve at 36 Turriell Point Road, at the corner of Sandbar Place, Port Hacking. The sandstone boundary wall delimits the north edge of the reserve and four neighbouring residential properties: Nos. 2 Sandbar Place and 26 Turriell Point Road to the east, and 40 and 42 Turriell Point Road to the west. The total length of preserved wall extends for approximately 150 metres along the south side of the street, from No. 26 to No. 42 Turriell Point Road. The wall provides important physical evidence of the original boundary of the Maris Park property, which was subdivided by the current housing estate in the 1970s.</p> <p>The boundary wall is constructed of large squared sandstone blocks, irregularly coursed, with a rock-faced finish on the outer face, tooled margins at the gate posts, and flat capstones. The wall is bonded with a relatively weak cement, lime and sand mortar, with raised and roughly squared joints on the outer street-facing side of the wall. There is evidence of a sandstone foundation at No 2 Sandbar Place. The wall is laid along a gentle slope, and accordingly increases in height, from 2-3 courses tall at the west, upslope end to 6-8 courses at the east, downslope end. Squared stone posts are spaced approximately 5m apart along the length of the wall, with taller posts marking the location of original gateways.</p> <p>The wall was originally provided with four gated entrances, of which one is extant and two are partially extant. The first gate at No 42 Turriell Point Road has been substantially removed, with only 2-3 courses remaining at the base of large square posts; early photographs of the fence show three tall stone posts in this location: two posts flanking a timber gated driveway and a third post beside a timber gated pedestrian pathway. The second gate would have been sited at the driveway entrance to No. 40 Turriell Point Road, but has now been removed. The third gate is alongside Maris Park reserve. At this gate, which is partially intact, the walls curve away from the gate posts, which are set back behind the alignment of the main wall. The western post and adjoining curved wall has been damaged by the growth of a large angophora tree, and only one course of this post is visible. The eastern post has six courses extant, but one or two upper courses have been removed, and the curving wall is being pushed out of alignment by another two large angophoras. The fourth gate at No 26 Turriell Point Road is the most intact, with two tall square posts of 8 courses aligned with the main wall. The second course from the top of the post projects slightly. Early photographs of the wall suggest that all of the original gate posts would have had a similar appearance to those at No. 26. Original gates at No 26 have been replaced with modern metal gates.</p> <p>Original stone edging of the curving driveway between the third and fourth gates can be seen in various places within the reserve. Stone retaining walls from original garden beds are also preserved on the south side of the reserve, adjacent to the property at No 1 Sandbar Place, with the reserve forming part of the landscape setting of the sandstone house on that property.</p> <p>The reserve contains predominantly large, mature native trees, and a few remnant cultural plantings from the mid-twentieth century garden. Cultural plantings include a <i>Cupressus cv.</i> (Cypress pine) at the northeast corner, beside the road: a remnant of a row of pines which originally lined the boundary wall. Garden beds along the south side of the reserve are somewhat overgrown, and it is unclear if any of the extant plantings are original.</p> <p>Native trees include: 10x<i>Angophora costata</i> (smooth-barked apple) 1x<i>Corymbia gummifera</i> (red bloodwood) 4x<i>Eucalyptus haemastoma/racemosa complex</i> (scribbly gum) 2x<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i> (grey gum)</p>

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	1x <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> (sweet pittosporum) 5x <i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i> (bangalay) 1x <i>Podocarpus elatus</i> (plum pine)				
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	<p>The boundary wall has been damaged in various places by a number of factors, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of section to create Sandbar Place road reserve. • Removal of original gate posts from front of Nos 40 and 42 Turriell Point Road. • Cracking, leaning, and partial collapse of wall and gate within Maris Park, associated with long-term growth of large trees, particularly <i>Angophora costata</i> (smooth-barked apple) and <i>Cupressus</i> cv. (Cypress pine) immediately beside the wall. • Partial removal of wall alongside Maris Park by Council due to safety concerns. • Ad hoc vandalism/removal of wall elements. <p>Overall physical condition of the park and boundary wall is good, although a discrete section of the wall beside the park is in poor condition, largely due to the factors listed above.</p>				
Construction years	Start year	1943-1955	Finish year		Circa <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates	c1970s - Partial removal of wall to create Sandbar Place road reserve. nd - Removal of original gate posts from front of Nos 40 and 42 Turriell Point Road. 2012 - Partial removal of wall alongside Maris Park by Council due to safety concerns.				
Further comments	Associated with the history of houses 1, 3 and 12 Sandbar Place, Port Hacking.				

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HISTORY	
Historical notes	<p>In 1900, the Sutherland Estate Act was passed, allowing tenants of the Holt-Sutherland Estate to convert their leases to freehold. The result was an upsurge in building activity across the Shire.</p> <p>A Holt-Sutherland Estate subdivision plan indicates that approximately 25 acres of foreshore land between Turriell Point and Little Turriell Point was subdivided into 8 lots and advertised for sale in November 1901. The subdivision was located on the south side of Turriell Point Road, and advertised as Turriell Point Port Hacking. The land was offered for sale by Richardson & Wrench as '99 year Leases with right to conversion into freehold'. Neighbouring properties were owned by high-ranking civil servant Richard Cornelius Critchett Walker, and commercial lawyer E P Simpson. Critchett Walker's holiday house 'Moombarra' was to the west of the subdivision while Simpson's house was to the east. Simpson was also a director of Richardson & Wrench, the auctioneers for the subdivision (Curby 1998:17).</p> <p>Lots 5, 6, and 7 of DP 3872 in the Turriell Point Estate were purchased by well-known glass merchant Francis (Frank) George O'Brien between 1931 and 1934. Frank O'Brien constructed a family home for his second wife Margaret Isabella O'Brien on Lot 7 around this time. The new house and property became known as Maris Park. The name 'Maris' was derived from the first letters of MARGaret ISabella (pers. comm. Rhian O'Brien 23 September 2013). In a 1973 article in the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader, Mrs Margaret O'Brien remembered that their 'Marist Park' [sic] house had been built more than 40 years previously, when Mr and Mrs O'Brien had been married. 'It was her wish to live as far as possible from neighbours and to be surrounded by trees' (Leader, 31 January 1973). Electoral Rolls confirm that Francis George O'Brien and Margaret Isabella O'Brien had become residents at 'Maris Park', Turriell Point Road by 1934, and it is therefore likely that their house had been completed by this date.</p> <p>Sutherland Shire Council rates records confirm that Lot 7 was first transferred from winegrower Frederick Harold Lindeman of Ben Ean, Polkolbin to Frank George O'Brien in May 1931. Details of the lot show improvements of a garage, fence, and a cottage called 'Avaspel' at that date. The 1930 aerial photograph of the property indicates that it was primarily bush, with one very small building towards the centre of the lot. This building may be the 'Avaspel' cottage. Grandchildren of the O'Briens recollect that Frank and Margaret O'Brien lived in a small cottage on the property while the main house was being constructed (pers. comm Rhian O'Brien 12 October 2013).</p> <p>In the 1973 Leader article, it is reported that the O'Briens' also purchased six acres of neighbouring land soon after the main house was completed. Mrs O'Brien's son and family were living on this land at the time of the article. Sutherland Shire Council rates records confirm that Lots 5 and 6 were transferred from Mary Jessie Roberts to Francis George O'Brien in September 1934. Aerial photos indicate that the O'Briens' son's house was built on Lot 5 between 1955 and 1961. This house is now on Lot 7 DP 255250 (12 Sandbar Place). The main house was sited on Lot 7 DP 3872, and is now on Lot 2520 DP 601071 (3 Sandbar Place). A sandstone 'servant's lodge and garage' was on Lot 6 DP 3872, and is now on Lot 26 DP 255250 (1 Sandbar Place).</p> <p>The 1973 Leader article reports that the O'Briens had taken sandstone from a quarry on the property to build the 'servant's lodge and garage', and that the main house had been built of common brick. Grandchildren of the O'Briens have confirmed that there were two stone quarries on the property, and that the 'servant's lodge', the front boundary fence, and various garden retaining walls were built of stone quarried on the property (pers. comm. Rhian O'Brien 23 September 2013). Aerial photographs indicate that the stone fence along Turriell Point Road was constructed between 1943 and 1955, and is contemporary with the servant's lodge.</p> <p>The main house was largely designed by Mrs O'Brien, and was given a 'tin' roof instead of tiles because she felt that 'tin belongs to the countryside'. Aerial photos indicated that this house was extended to the east between 1955 and 1961. Part of this extension was removed following subdivision of the property in the 1970s.</p>

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	<p>The 1973 Leader article also indicates that the main house was surrounded by a 'wild' garden, including rockeries and fish ponds built out of the local sandstone. Bay windows looked out onto a large lawn, surrounded by tall trees and native scrub, with a view to Port Hacking beyond. Tennis courts were also located at the rear of the house. From there the block dropped fairly steeply down to the water and a foreshore swimming pool, which was lined with glass off-cuts from the family factory. This description, of an Australian native garden interspersed with more formal stone-edged garden beds, paths, and walls, is confirmed by a collection of photographs held in Sutherland Shire Local Studies library and by grandchildren of the O'Briens who grew up on the property. The photographs show the stone built fence beside the street and a row of cypress pines planted behind, a timber gated entrance, a stone edged driveway with a carriage loop beside the house, a lily pond, and a meandering stone edged path or driveway leading to a wire gate. Grandchildren of the O'Briens recollect that there were in fact four gated entrances to the property. The first gate at the west end of the boundary wall provided driveway access to the main house. The second and third gates were located at either end of a loop driveway/path in front of the servant's lodge and garage. The fourth gate at the east end of the boundary wall provided driveway access to the O'Briens' son's house. The third gate is still extant alongside the present Maris Park, while the fourth gate is extant alongside the house at 26 Turriell Point Road. The other two gates have been removed. Formal plantings included camellias around the house, a rose garden below the house, and azaleas along the driveway. However, large areas of the block were preserved as native bushland.</p> <p>The 1973 Leader article reported that the Maris Park property had at that time been recently sold by the O'Brien family to a developer for \$700,000, and that the land would be subdivided into 32 blocks, including 9 waterfront properties. The article was headlined 'Last Rich Estate Falls to Housing' and describes the property as 'Ten acres of bushland, complete with the original home and a smaller modern house', and as the 'last big block of private land within the shire'. The house was to be retained 'in a sort of recreation area' (Leader, 31 January 1973).</p> <p>The proposed subdivision was opposed by the local Citizens' and Ratepayers' Association, and in March 1973, the Council's Finance Committee considered their request that Council buy the property for public recreation purposes (Min. No. 87 of 5/3/1973). This request was refused by the Council (21/3/1973).</p> <p>In 1977, the land was subdivided and a new deed issued for 30 lots surrounding the main house. Lot 27 DP 255250 at the corner of Turriell Point Road and Sandbar Place was made a public reserve. In 1979, Council's Parks & Recreation Committee proposed to name the reserve 'Maris Park' after the original house and property, and referred the proposal to the Geographical Names Board (Min. No. 42 of 14/5/1979). The reserved was formally named 'Maris Park' on 19th October 1979.</p> <p>In 2012, Sutherland Shire Council began to remove part of the boundary wall adjacent to the Maris Park reserve, due to safety concerns. Work was stopped following protests by local residents. Community consultation undertaken in 2012 and 2013 confirms that the stone wall is valued by local residents as important physical evidence of the history of the local area. Most residents feel that the historical evidence provided by the wall, once lost, could not be replaced. In contrast, trees adjacent to the wall, which are contributing to the deteriorating condition of the wall, could be replanted. That being said, many residents also valued the natural landscape of the park and felt that it provided important passive recreational space for the community. Various individuals had fond memories of using the park throughout their life, and felt that it had a special place in their own family history. Some local residents further indicated that they have actively maintained the park on behalf of the local community.</p> <p>Note on historical associations: the O'Brien family glass company was originally established by Frank O'Brien in 1923, based in Waterloo, Sydney (<i>Who's Who in Australia</i> 1929). This company continues to operate. Frank O'Brien took an active interest in recreational boating and was a founding member (Vice-Commodore) of the Port Hacking Branch of the Royal Motor Yacht Club of NSW.</p>
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THEMES	
National historical theme	Developing local, regional and national economies Building settlements, towns and cities
State historical theme	Environment - cultural landscape Land tenure

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APPLICATION OF CRITERIA	
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	Maris Park and the stone boundary wall along Turriell Point Road are associated with the history of urban development in Port Hacking in the early- to mid-twentieth century. The walls and park provide important evidence of the O'Brien property, the last large, early residential property in the area to be subdivided for suburban housing, including residual evidence of its original garden. The garden incorporated a variety of stone walls and edging made from stone quarried on the property, and a mixture of native and introduced plants. The boundary wall marks the original extent of the property, and gate posts mark two of the four original entrances to the property. The original Maris Park house and servant's lodge are also extant to the south of the park.
Historical association significance SHR criteria (b)	Maris Park is historically associated with Frank O'Brien, a well-known early twentieth century glass merchant. The name of the property 'Maris' was derived from the first letters of his wife's name, MARGaret ISabella.
Aesthetic significance SHR criteria (c)	Maris Park and the stone boundary wall along Turriell Point Road are distinctive elements of the local streetscape, and contribute to the landscape setting of the sandstone cottage (former servant's lodge and garage) at 1 Sandbar Place.
Social significance SHR criteria (d)	The stone boundary wall along Turriell Point Road has social significance insofar it has been continuously maintained by local residents since the subdivision of the Maris Park property in the 1970s. Public opposition to Council's proposed removal of the wall from the present park suggests that it is highly valued by the local community.
Technical/Research significance SHR criteria (e)	Maris Park and the stone boundary wall along Turriell Point Road may have some technical value insofar as the physical evidence demonstrates local methods of wall construction and early- to mid-twentieth century trends in landscaping and garden design.
Rarity SHR criteria (f)	The stone boundary wall along Turriell Point Road is rare in the local area, made of locally quarried stone.
Representativeness SHR criteria (g)	The stone boundary wall and garden features, built of locally quarried stone, and the mix of native and exotic plantings are representative of landscaping trends across Sydney in the mid-twentieth century.
Integrity	Maris Park and the stone boundary wall have fair-good integrity. However, the removal of a section of wall from the area of the reserve detracts from its overall historic and aesthetic value.

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HERITAGE LISTINGS	
Heritage listing/s	

INFORMATION SOURCES				
Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.				
Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Written	Curby	Sutherland Shire Foreshore Study: Thematic History	1998	Sutherland Shire Library
Written	St George and Sutherland Shire Leader	'Last Rich Estate Falls to Housing'	1973	NSW State Library Microfilm
Written		1900-1985 Sutherland Shire Historical Newspaper Index	Var.	Sutherland Shire Library online
Written	Sutherland Shire Council	SAF104-13 Maris Park Sandstone Fence – Options for Preservation	2013	Sutherland Shire Council
Pictorial		Maris Park album of photographs	Var.	Sutherland Shire Library, Local Studies Collection (digital only)
Pictorial		Aerial photographs	1930, 1943, 1955, 1961, 1970, 1978, 1984, 1994, 2001, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2012	Sutherland Shire Council online
Oral	Rhian O'Brian, Granddaughter of Frank and Margaret O'Brien		2013	

RECOMMENDATIONS	
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the Maris Park – sandstone boundary wall and park on the SSC LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. • Actively preserve the physical evidence of the stone boundary wall on the north side of the park and associated stone edged garden beds on the south side of the park. • Retain the historic alignment of the boundary wall and extant gate posts. Retain original stone wherever possible. • Actively conserve the natural landscape setting of the park. A succession planting strategy should be initiated, to establish new native trees of a similar scale to those impacting on the wall, albeit set back at an appropriate distance from the wall. • Consider planting one or two new Cypress pines, also set back further from the wall, with specimens propagated from the existing tree. • Consider restoration of garden beds on the south side of the park with appropriate cultural plantings, such as camellias and azaleas. • Consider installation of interpretive signage which explains the history and significance of the park to the community.

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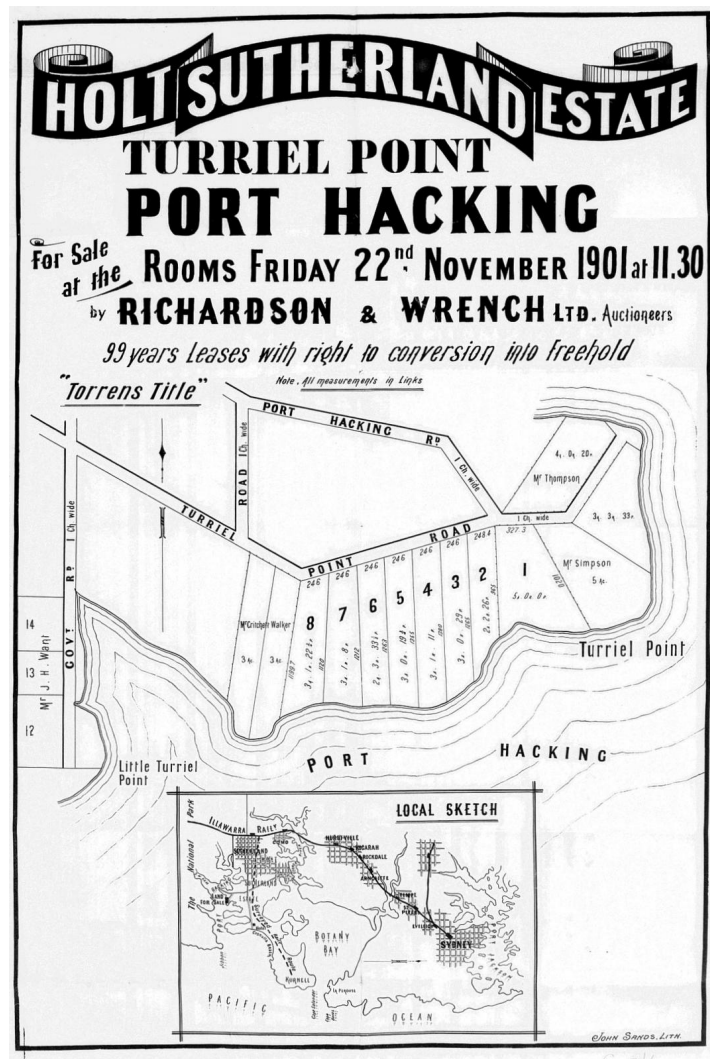
SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION			
Name of study or report		Year of study or report	2013
Item number in study or report			
Author of study or report	Australian Museum Consulting		
Inspected by	Australian Museum Consulting		
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
This form completed by	Australian Museum Consulting	Date	18/10/2013

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IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	Subdivision Plan for Turriell Point Port Hacking (Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, Carringbah Subdivision Plans, Z/SP/C9/6)				
Image year	1901	Image by		Image copyright holder	N/A



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Image caption	Boundary wall and driveway entrance to Maris Park; Gate 1. (Sutherland Shire Libraries)				
Image year		Image by		Image copyright holder	



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Image caption	Maris Park driveway and entrance gate; Gate 1 (unfinished?). (Sutherland Shire Libraries)				
Image year	Circa 1950s	Image by		Image copyright holder	



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Image caption	Sandstone 'servant's lodge and garage'; loop driveway between Gates 2 and 3. (Sutherland Shire Libraries)				
Image year	Circa 1950s	Image by		Image copyright holder	



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Image caption	View from 'servant's lodge and garage' towards loop driveway between Gates 2 and 3. (Sutherland Shire Libraries)				
Image year	Circa 1950s	Image by		Image copyright holder	



Image caption	View from 'servant's lodge and garage' towards loop driveway between Gates 2 and 3. (Sutherland Shire Libraries)				
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Image year	Circa 1950s	Image by		Image copyright holder	



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Image caption	Boundary wall alongside Maris Park				
Image year	Unknown – pre 2012	Image by	Unknown	Image copyright holder	David and Sally Wilson



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Image caption	Boundary wall and remains of Gate 1, 42 Turriell Point Road, Port Hacking; view towards the east.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Boundary wall, 36-42 Turriell Point Road, Port Hacking; view towards the east.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Boundary wall, 36 and 40 Turriell Point Road, Port Hacking; view towards the east.				
Image year	Libby Percival	Image by	2013	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Maris Park and boundary wall, 36 Turriell Point Road, Port Hacking; view towards the northwest. Cypress pine at the northwest corner of the park.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Maris Park and boundary wall, 36 Turriell Point Road, Port Hacking; view towards the east.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Maris Park and boundary wall, 36 Turriell Point Road, Port Hacking; view towards the west.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Boundary wall and remains of Gate 3, 36 Turriell Point Road, Port Hacking; view towards the southeast.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Boundary wall and remains of Gate 3, 36 Turriell Point Road, Port Hacking; view towards the northeast.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Boundary wall and remains of Gate 3, 36 Turriell Point Road, Port Hacking; east gate post.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Boundary wall and remains of Gate 3, 36 Turriell Point Road, Port Hacking; west gate post.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Boundary wall, 26 Turriell Point Road and 2 Sandbar Place, Port Hacking; view towards the west.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Sach Killam	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Detail of boundary wall, 26 Turriell Point Road, Port Hacking.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Sach Killam	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Boundary wall and Gate 4, 26 Turriell Point Road, Port Hacking; view towards the south.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	View from Maris Park towards house at 1 Sandbar Place, Port Hacking; view towards the southeast. Former 'servant's lodge and garage'.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Stone edged garden beds at the south side of Maris Park.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting



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Image caption	Maris Park; view towards the northeast.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Libby Percival	Image copyright holder	Australian Museum Consulting

