

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

CAMELLIA WEST
181 JAMES RUSE DRIVE
CAMELLIA NSW 2142

JUNE 2012

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This report has been prepared under the guidance of the Expert Witness Code of Conduct in the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules and the NSW Land & Environment Court Practice Directions relating to the provision of evidence by expert witnesses. The opinions in the report represent the professional opinions of the author based on an assessment of the available information cited in the report.

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Final Report Issued 29th June 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared to accompany a submission to the Department of Planning & Infrastructure for proposed re-zoning for mixed use / residential development.

The report addresses potential heritage values of the site under the provisions of the Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011 and the NSW Heritage Act 1977.

Procedures used in the analysis of information and organization of this report follow the established guidelines of *The Conservation Plan* by J.S. Kerr (6th Edition, 2004), published by the National Trust of Australia (NSW). Evaluation of any potential heritage significance of the site has been undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidelines of the NSW Heritage Office Manual publications.

The subject site is not identified as a heritage item but adjoins the Parramatta River and is in the vicinity of the original rail bridge abutments and the former Female Orphan School which forms part of the University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus at Rydalmere.

Major Recommendations

This assessment finds that there is no significant heritage value attached to the proposed development site itself beyond those already identified and that the likelihood of any significant sub grade archaeology is minimal.

The assessment also finds that the proposed use of the site in this application is compatible with the nearby heritage items associated with the site and would not unreasonably impact on the visual amenity or significant views associated with the items.

This report recommends approval of the application for re-zoning in relation to any consideration of potential heritage impacts



ROBERT STAAS
Director / Heritage Consultant
NBRS+PARTNERS

June 2012

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This Heritage Assessment was prepared for Statewide Planning Pty Ltd, by NBRS+PARTNERS to accompany an application to Planning & Infrastructure of the NSW Government for the re-zoning of the site for mixed use / residential development. The assessment is to be included in a submission to the Director General in relation to issues affecting potential development of the site

1.2 The site

The site is located on a section of land bordering the Parramatta River at Camellia, set between James Ruse Drive and the Rail line which was originally part of John MacArthur's Elizabeth Farm, became a nursery and was developed as the suburb of Camellia. In the 1960s the subject site became part of the James Hardie's Fibrolite plant which operated nearby. The site is currently vacant.

1.3 Study Objectives

This Heritage Assessment is intended to identify any potential heritage values associated with the site in accordance with the standard assessment criteria of the NSW Heritage Office and to determine the potential for redevelopment of the site in relation to impact on any heritage values.

1.4 Methodology

This report generally follows the format set out in the document entitled *Assessing Heritage Significance (2001)* published by the NSW Heritage Office.

1.5 Limitations

The report is a result of analysis of available research material combined with a physical assessment and an assessment of the proposed development potential of the re-zoned land in relation to any heritage constraints.

1.6 Identification of Author

This report was researched and prepared by Robert Staas, Heritage Consultant and Director of NBRS+Partners. The history of the site was researched and compiled by Leonie Masson, Historian of NBRS+Partners.

1.7 Sources

The main documentary sources consulted in the research for this report:

- Mitchell Library: State Library of NSW – Maps, Plans and Small Pictures File.
- Parramatta Heritage Centre.
- Brian Carroll, 'A Very Good Business; one hundred years of James Hardie Industries 1888-1988', 1988.

- John McClymont, 'Camellia', Dictionary of Sydney, 2008, <http://www.dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/camellia>, accessed 10 April 2012.
- Brian & Enid Turbit, 'A history of the extinct residential suburb of Camellia', 2004.

2.0 THE SITE

- 2.1 The proposed development site consists of land at Camellia, defined on the west by James Ruse Drive, on the north by the banks of the Parramatta River, on the east by the railway corridor and on the south by Tasman Street (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

The site comprises a number of lots and closed roads as follows:

- Lot 1 DP 724228
- Lots 1 – 4 DP 128720
- Lots 2-17 DP 6856
- Lot 1 DP 927064
- Lots 1-6 DP 2737
- Lot 7A DP 418035
- Lot 9A DP 418035
- Lot 10 DP 610228
- Lot 2 DP 512655
- Lot 1 DP 499552
- Lot 25 DP 6856
- Lot 2 DP 549496
- Closed Roads Vol 11588 Fol 137

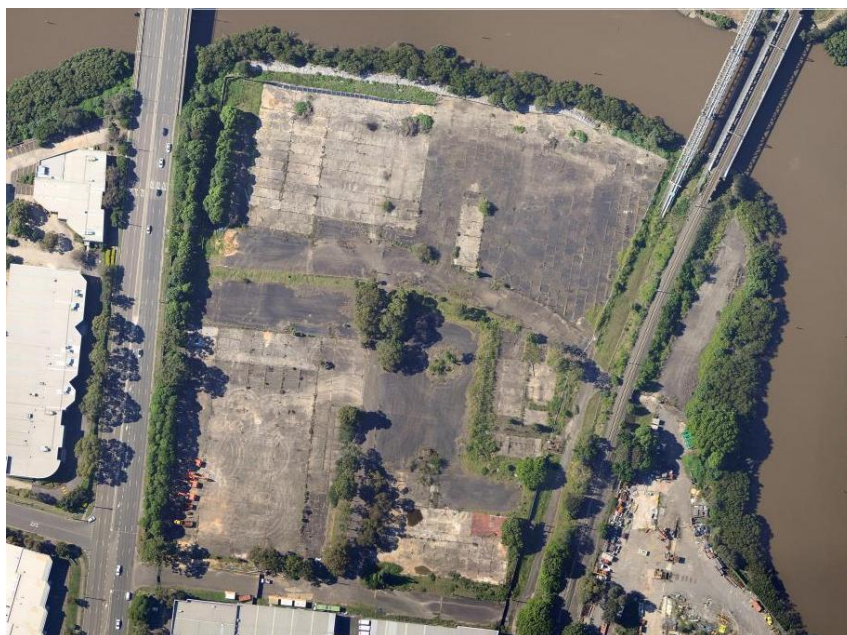


Figure 1 – Location of the site set between James Ruse Drive and the railway on the Parramatta River. Tasman Street is at the bottom of the image.

(Source: www.nearmap.com)

The majority of the site has been sealed with concrete slabs which were applied to seal in potentially contaminated soil associated with the former uses of the site. Boundary planting to James Ruse Drive and along the river bank forms a strong visual edge to the site on the west and north.

2.2 Heritage Items in the Vicinity

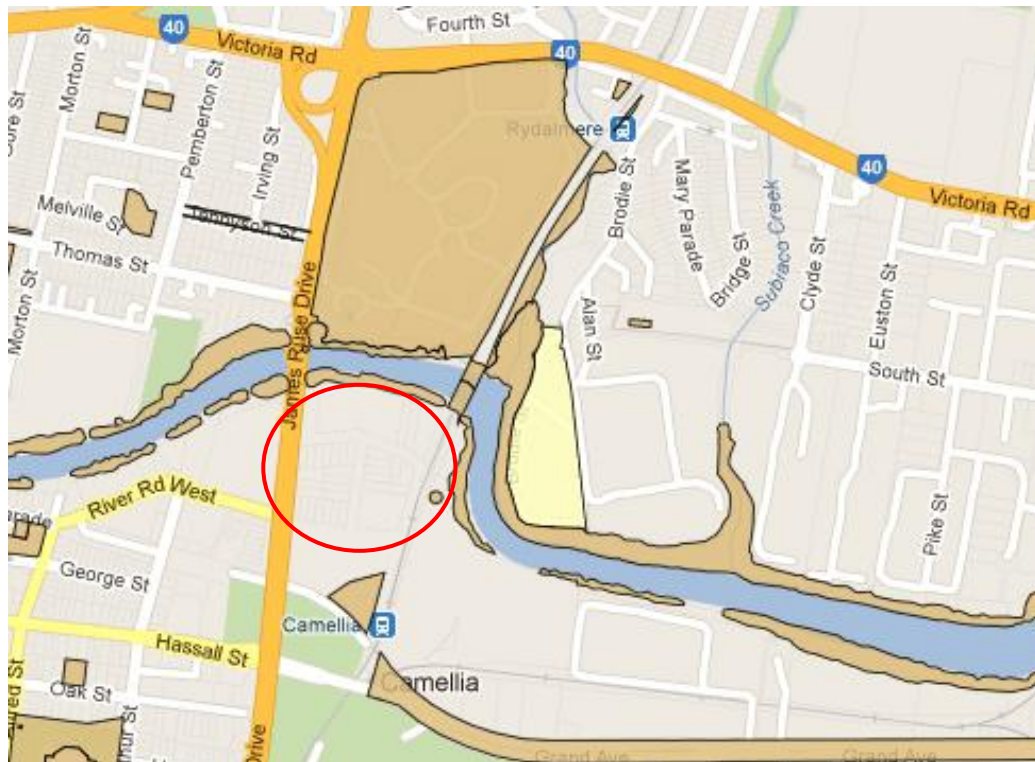


Figure 2 - Parramatta City Planning Map showing heritage item overlay with the subject site circled. (Source: Parramatta City Council)

The subject site is located on the southern bank of the Parramatta River which is identified as a heritage landscape item in the City of Parramatta Local Environmental Plan, *the Camellia Wetlands* (outside the boundaries of the subject site). The State Heritage Inventory contains the following Statement of Significance:

Remnant areas of mangroves and salt marshes which once extensively lined the foreshores and tidal water flats of the region. National Trust (Parramatta Branch): Remnant mangroves and salt marshes which once extensively lined the foreshores and tidal water flats of the region.

The site is also opposite a site forming part of the University of Western Sydney, Rydalmere Campus containing an item identified in the State Heritage Register, *the Former Female Orphan School*. The State Heritage Register contains the following Statement of Significance:

The Female Orphan School Precinct as a component of the former Rydalmere Hospital is of outstanding cultural significance, primarily for its continued use and development, between 1813 and 1989 as a public welfare institution for the care and management of the disadvantaged.

As the first purpose built orphan school in the colony, it illustrates a milestone in the establishment of national social welfare and education policies.

The surviving original buildings, constructed between 1813 and 1818, provide evidence of the development policies of Governor Macquarie and illustrates the transfer of 18th century British architectural pretensions into the design and siting of functional buildings in New South Wales. The extant central block is the oldest three storey building in Australia. (Source)

The site as a whole, and particularly the Orphan School precinct, has outstanding historical and social significance because of its continuous occupation as an institution since 1814. The original complex and its garden setting have outstanding rarity value. Its landscape is of exceptional significance for its development as a Colonial institution sited within the cultural landscape of the Parramatta River valley and influenced by Mrs Macquarie together with the continuing recognition of the heritage values of the place up to the present (Schwager Brooks, 1994)

The structure of the built and natural fabric of the place has been conserved despite the constant adaptation by institutional uses and alienation of its peripheral lands. As a complex of parkland landscape character with gardens, built form and remnant indigenous vegetation it demonstrates the evolution of different attitudes towards institutional care in NSW. The groundworks design and siting of the buildings is associated with Mrs Macquarie, Reverend Samuel Marsden, Francis Greenway and subsequent Colonial and Government Architects (particularly Walter Liberty Vernon) and individuals associated with health care such as Frederick Norton Manning and Dr Greenup (excerpt from Tanner Architects, 2005)

At the north east edge of the site, the former rail bridge abutments are identified in the Railcorp S170 Register (outside the boundaries of the subject site).

The State Heritage Inventory contains the following Statement of Significance:

The Camellia (Parramatta River) underbridge abutments are of local significance as a remnant of an excellent example of a classic 19th century bridge in the English railway design tradition remaining unaltered in their appearance since their construction. Remnants of the bridge have potential to provide information on the construction techniques of such railway underbridges. These remnant abutments were part of the (believed to be) only privately railway built underbridge to survive on the Government railway system. The remnant brick abutments are aesthetically significant in their fine classical detailing featuring large arches with decorative stone ends, brick header voussoirs, a stone course between the substructure and the classically detailed balustrade with stone capping.

Additionally the edge of the river in this location is identified as a significant Riparian zone for native landscape regeneration.

2.3 Constraints arising from location in vicinity of heritage items

The location of the site in the vicinity of the subject site will require some consideration of any potential impact on the heritage items arising from future redevelopment.

- Protection, regeneration and interpretation of riverside wetlands
- Protection of significant views to and from the former Female Orphan School and its curtilage.
- Treatment and interpretation of former riverside crossing.

3.0 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

3.1 Pre-European Development

Prior to the arrival of European settlers in 1788 the general area around Parramatta was inhabited by the indigenous Burramattagal clan who shared the Darug language with associated clans from Broken Bay to the Shoalhaven and west to the Blue Mountains.¹

The Burramattagal clan inhabited the land at the head of the harbour 'where the eels lie down'. The southern riverbank and the mostly freshwater stream now known as Clay Cliff Creek were vital sources of their food and living resources. In their seasonal rotation of campsites around their territory, the clan would have found that the reasonably abundant fish, shellfish, bird life, reptiles and marsupials large and small contributed greatly to their daily quest for food. Duck River seems to have been the agreed boundary between Burramattagal country and their neighbours, the Wategora clan.²

Clay Cliff Creek also has considerable importance in European history. Governor Arthur Phillip and his party of officers and marines having explored along the riverbank from their Duck River landing, decided to camp on the banks of Coal Cliff Creek on the evening of 23 March 1788, because of its fresh water. The following day, Phillip discovered the landforms which he named the Crescent and Rose Hill.³

In his Journal, surgeon John White recorded:

*We followed this branch westward for a few miles, until we came to a small fresh-water stream that emptied itself into it. Here we took up our quarters for the night, as our halts were always regulated by fresh water, an essential point by no means to be dispensed with, and not very abundant or frequently to be met with, in this country. We made a kettle of excellent soup out of a white cockatoo and two crows, which I had shot, as we came along. The land all around us was similar to that which we had passed.*⁴

3.2 John Macarthur and Elizabeth Farm

John Macarthur received a first grant of 100 acres (40 hectares) in 1793, and later purchased the land grants of Charles Williams (alias Christopher Magee) and William Cummings. He also acquired another grant on 8 October 1816 which he called Glenfindless Farm and comprising 825 acres (334 hectares), Macarthur built a large estate, amassing 1100 acres (445 hectares), and named it Elizabeth Farm, after his wife. Figure 3 and Figure 4 show Macarthur's land grant in relation to Parramatta River and Port Jackson.

¹ Kass, T., Liston, C. & McClymont, J., *Parramatta: A Past Revealed*, Parramatta City Council, 1996. pp. 4-6.

² McClymont, John, "Camellia", *Dictionary of Sydney*, 2008, http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/camellia?zoom_highlight=camellia, accessed 7 May 2012.

³ Ibid.

⁴ J White, *Journal of a voyage to New South Wales*, edited by A Chisholm, Angus & Robertson with the Royal Australian Historical Society, Sydney, 1962, (first published 1790), p 128, reproduced in McClymont, op. cit.



Figure 3 – Extract from Map of Port Jackson and Parramatta River, New South Wales by W. Meadow Brownrigg, 1860. The subject site is circled thereon.

(Source: NLA: Map F317)



Figure 4 – Extract from Parish of St John showing land grant (850 acres) to John McArthur, undated. Subject site is located within this portion close to Clay Cliff Creek. (Source: NSW Land & Property Information: PMapMN05 14063601)

In 1794, Macarthur became interested in raising sheep and began to selectively crossbreed his flock at Elizabeth Farm. The house was the scene of political and social activity including visits from many governors and their wives. Elizabeth managed the farm and their other properties during the years John was in England. Macarthur added a separate two storey section to the rear of the house, and built stables in the 1820s. An illustration of the house by Joseph

Lycett is shown in Figure 5 and depicts it in proximity to the Parramatta River and Clay Cliff Creek.

When Edward Macarthur died in 1872, he bequeathed Elizabeth Farm to his niece Elizabeth Onslow, the daughter of his brother James, but allowing his wife Sarah a lifetime interest in it.

The Macarthur family sold Elizabeth Farm Estate in 1881. From 1852 Elizabeth Farm was occupied by various tenants and agents, including William Billyard, Crown Solicitor of NSW from 1875 until 1883.⁵

Figure 7 shows the extent of Macarthur's landholdings in relation to the agricultural and industrial uses thereon and the approximate location of Elizabeth Farm.



Figure 5 - The residence of John McArthur Esq. near Parramatta, New South Wales by Joseph Lycett, published by J. Souter, April 1, 1825. (Source: NLA: nla.pic-an7690900)

⁵http://www.visit.heritage.nsw.gov.au/16_subnav_09_2.cfm?itemid=5051394&sort_by=&item_id=&item_name=&suburb_name=&product_category=&state_theme=&product_region=, accessed 8 May 2012.



National Library of Australia

nla.pic-an2818336-v

Figure 6 - View of the Parramatta River 1825 showing the Female Orphan School on the north bank opposite the subject site. This depiction of the river indicates the unspoiled native landscape character in the early 19th century.

(Source NLA.pic-an2818336-v, Earle, Augustus, 1793-1838)

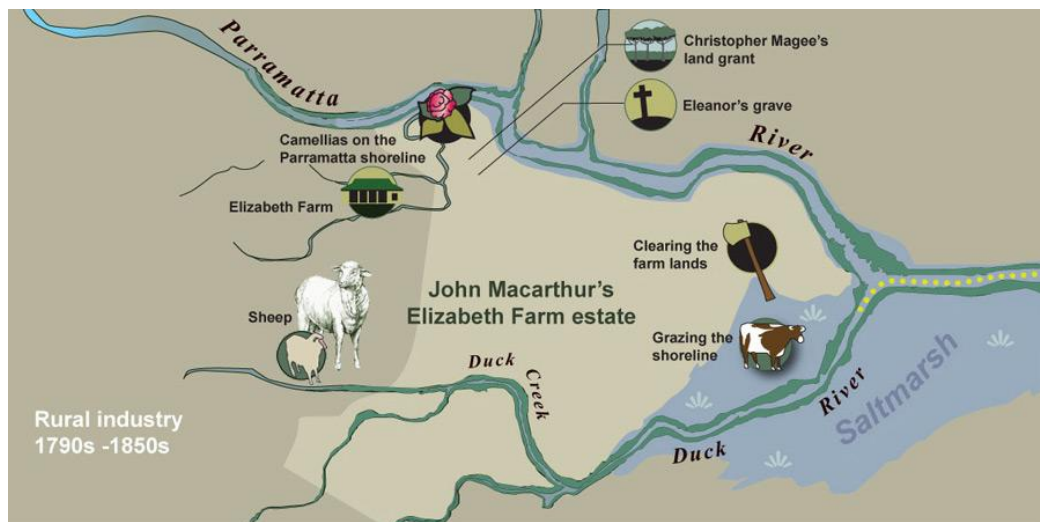


Figure 7 – Duck River Stories. The subject site is located thereon in the vicinity of “Camellias on the Parramatta shoreline”.

(Source: <http://duckcreekstories.streamline.org.au/rural-industry>)

3.3 Camellia Grove Nursery

In 1852, Macarthur's sons leased three acres (one hectare), part of Elizabeth Farm Estate, to Silas Sheather, who worked as a gardener and nurseryman for the Macarthur's at Elizabeth Farm. Upon this land Silas built a house and established the Camellia Grove Nursery, hence the name of the present-day suburb. This land is bound on the south by River Road West.

Sheather extended his leasehold in 1874, by which date “three acres of the property [were] planted solely with camellias blooming with the most glorious flowers”. Furthermore, “Mr Silas Sheather had made the cultivation of the camellia a study for years and perhaps, is the largest and most successful planter of this flower in the colony, if not in the world”⁶. *Fuller’s Sydney Handbook* of 1877 noted 59 varieties of camellias grown at Camellia Grove Nursery.

In 1889, Silas Sheather purchased his landholding, now comprising five acres (two hectares), for £1,000 from Septimus Alfred Stephen, the owner of the Elizabeth Farm Estate.⁷ In 1897, the mortgagee advertised the auction sale of the property, containing a little over four acres, a small cottage and “various shrubs and plants” and occupied for many years by Mr Sheather (Figure 8). Notwithstanding the proposed sale of the property, Silas Sheather appears to have operated the Camellia Grove Nursery until his death nearly a decade later.



Figure 8 – Auction sale advertisement. (Source: Sydney Morning Herald, 30 March 1897, p2)

Silas Sheather, described in 1870 as “a most industrious horticulturalist”⁸, died at his residence, Camellia Grove on 17 May 1906, aged 82 years.

Following his death, the property was sold by David Muller and Jane Emma Terry, mortgagees exercising power of sale, to Emily Flicker, in 1916. There is a record of a lease of the property in 1919 to George Lin and Wong Kuong, market gardeners, who, according to Brian Turbit, sold their produce at the markets in George Street, Parramatta. The land changed hands again in 1939

⁶ “Up and down the Parramatta River”, *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 22 July 1971, p16.

⁷ Certificate of Title Vol 926 Fol 232, NSW Land & Property Information.

⁸ “Empire”, 29 January 1870, p3.

to Horace Flicker of Parramatta and the following year to Gordon Henry Neville Neat of Parramatta, salesman. Emanuel Aquilina purchased the property in 1943 and within six months sold the land to Albert George Craft and his wife, Elizabeth Mary Craft. In 1948 the property was conveyed to Edward Elias Whitmont of Killara, thence to Exchange Investments Pty Ltd three years later, who in turn transferred the property to the Neuchatel Asphalt Company (Australasia) Pty Ltd in 1956. Finally in mid-1958, the major part of the former Camellia Grove Nursery site, was purchased by James Hardie & Company Pty Ltd.⁹ Prior to that date, Cecil Walshaw used the property for training horses.¹⁰

3.4 History and Development of Camellia

The subject site is located on part of 850 acres granted to John Macarthur (Figure 4). Elizabeth Farm Estate remained intact and in the Macarthur family after the deaths of John (1834) and Elizabeth (1850). In 1881, the estate was sold to Septimus Alfred Stephen, solicitor, who converted the property to Torrens title by Primary Application 5303. Within the property, then comprising the two grants of 850 acres and 75 acres, there were three extant leaseholds, namely to Sheather (1852, renewed 1874), Mr and Mrs McGee (1855) and Charles Edward Jeanneret (lease of wharf and land adjoining, 1875).

In 1869, Charles Edward Jeanneret was a shareholder and manager of the Parramatta River Steam Co. which operated a ferry service from Sydney to the Queens Wharf, Parramatta. Four years later he was manager of the Parramatta and Hunter's Hill Steam Ferry Co. When the two companies became heavily indebted and amalgamated, Jeanneret bought the goodwill and the five steamers in 1875. He increased the fleet by fifteen steamers and renamed the firm Parramatta and River Steamers.¹¹ In order to compete with the speedier train services, Jeanneret received approval from Parramatta Council for a steam tramway from the Domain Park Gates at Parramatta to Redbank at the junction of the Parramatta and Duck Rivers. In June 1884, Jeanneret signed a fifteen year lease of portion of the Elizabeth Farm property for the route of the new steam tramway which opened in 1884 and crossed a specially built bridge over Clay Cliff Creek. Sheather's Wharf then fell out of use.

The year after Jeanneret's tramway opened, John Bennett gained parliamentary approval for a private railway line from the newly opened Clyde Railway Station to his Rose Hill Racecourse and the newly opened Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company works and the riverbanks at Sandown. The railway line commenced operation in April 1886. Camellia Railway Station was opened as Subiaco Station on 21 February 1885; it was renamed after Sheather's Camellia Grove Nursery, coinciding with the 1901 takeover of the Bennet & Simpson line by New South Wales Government Railways. Camellia Railway Station is shown in Figure 9.

⁹ Certificate of Title Vol 926 Fol 232, NSW Land & Property Information,

¹⁰ Turbit, Brian and Enid, A History of the extinct residential suburb of Camellia, 2004, p23

¹¹ Rutledge, Martha, 'Jeanneret, Charles Edward (1834–1898)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/jeanneret-charles-edward-3852/text6121>, accessed 7 May 2012.



Figure 9 – Camellia Railway Station, pre-1959. (Source: Reproduced in Brian and Enid Turbit, *A History of the extinct residential suburb of Camellia*, 2004, p14)

In the same period Septimus Alfred Stephen, who had purchased Elizabeth Farm Estate for over £50,000, subdivided the land commencing in 1883 when the house block was sold to J. W. Cliff. A subdivision poster for the auction sale of Elizabeth Farm, dated between 1880 and 1899, is included at Figure 10 and which shows the basic street pattern comprising the subject site (circled red).

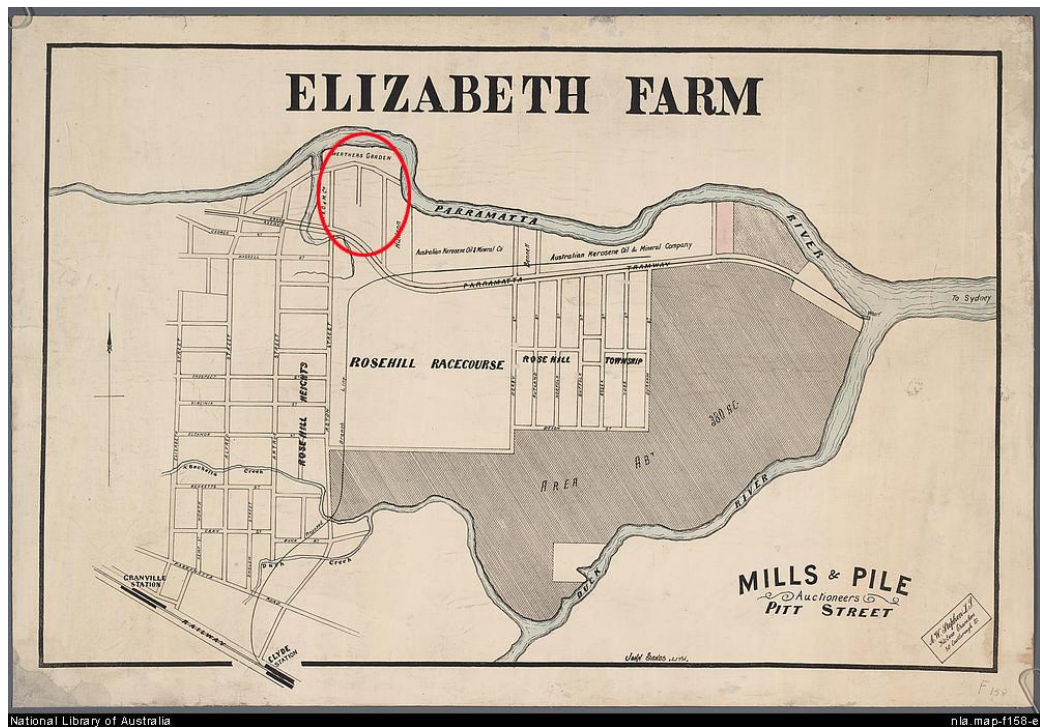


Figure 10 – Elizabeth Farm showing subsequent development including the subject site (outlined in red), 1880-1899. (Source: NLA: MAP F 158)

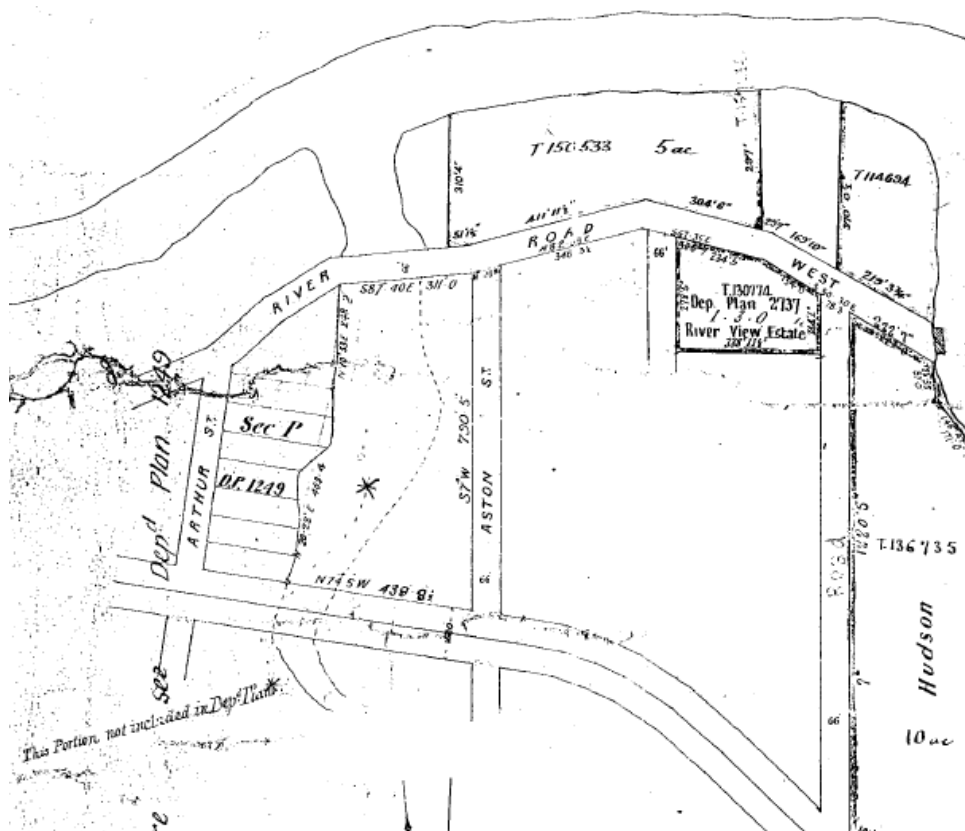


Figure 11 - Extract from DP1706, 1885 part of the subject site subdivided as the River View Estate (DP2737). (Source: NSW Land & Property Information)

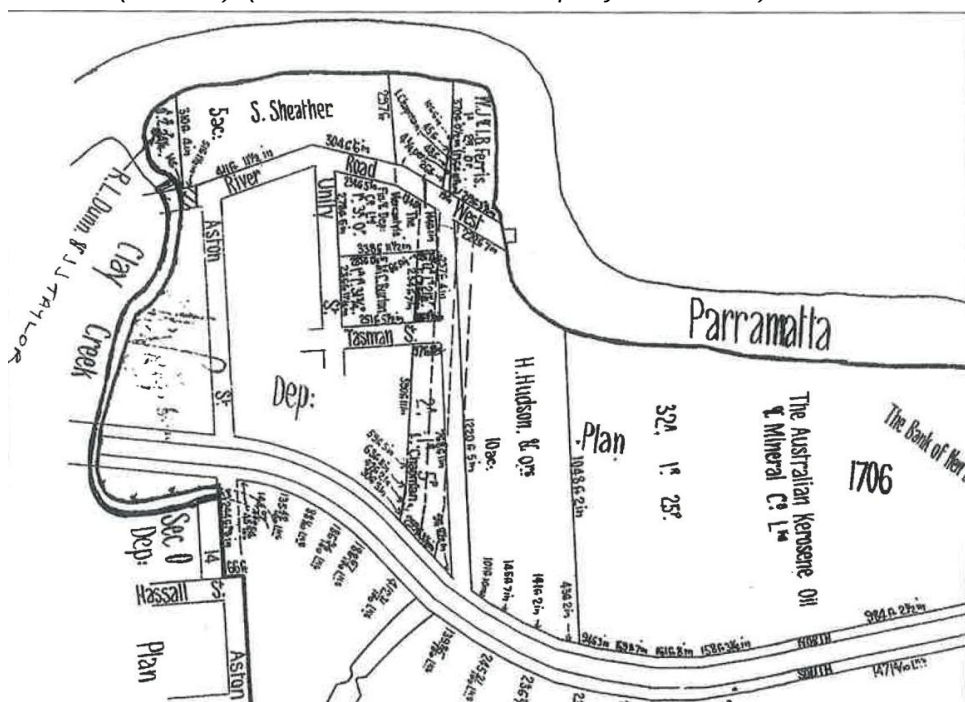


Figure 12 – Part of an early title map showing lands comprised in DP1706, undated. (Source: Reproduced in Brian and Enid Turbit, A history of the extinct residential suburb of Camellia, 2004, p23)

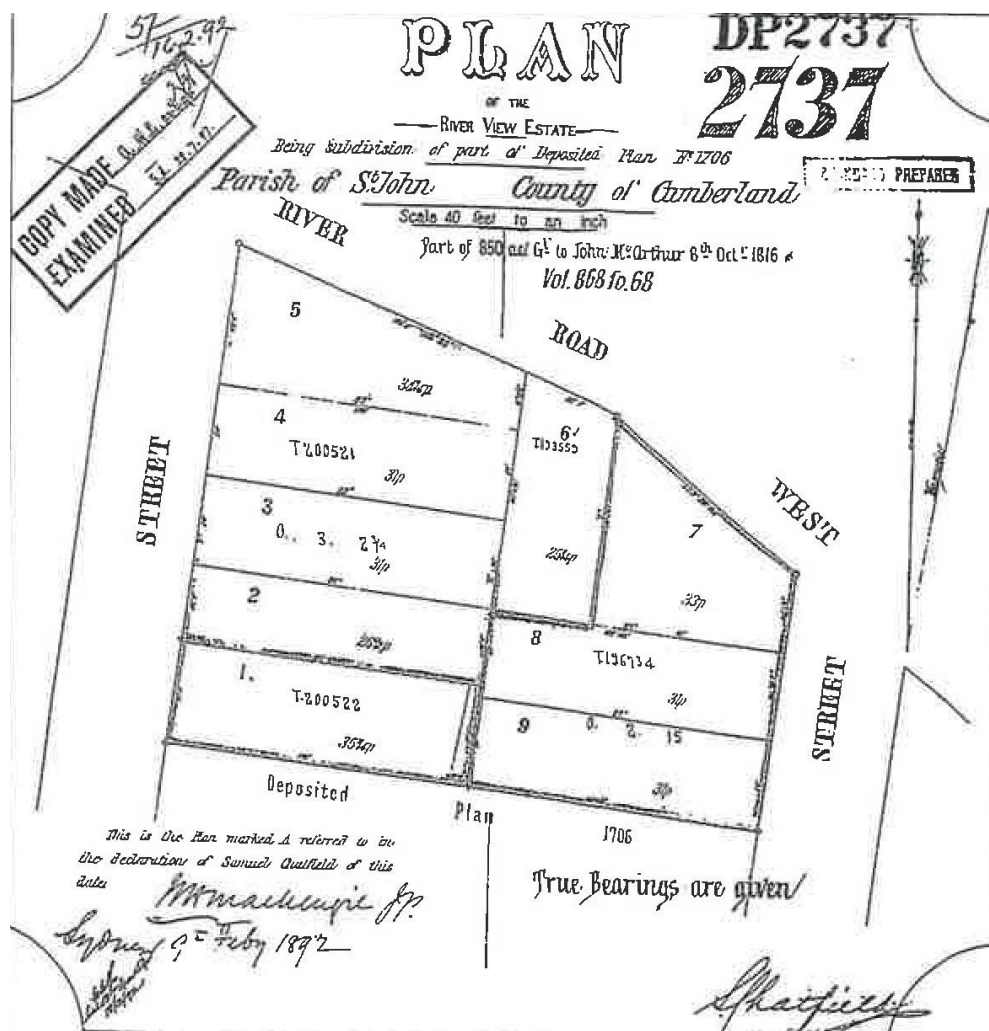


Figure 13 – Plan of the River View Estate (DP2737), 1892. (Source: Reproduced in Brian and Enid Turbit, *A History of the extinct residential suburb of Camellia*, 2004, p31)

A portion of land shown in Figure 11 and Figure 12 was subdivided into nine allotments as the River View Estate (DP 2737) by William Noller of Parramatta, builder as shown at Figure 13. He had purchased the land from The Mercantile Finance & Depositors Co. Ltd (in liquidation) in 1892. Noller was the Mayor of Parramatta in 1901, 1903-07, 1907-08 and 1923-27. The first residents of this new subdivision are Samuel and James Case who first appear in the *Sands Sydney and NSW Directory* in 1891 in River Road West (Lot 6) and Scarborough Street (Lot 7), Camellia respectively.

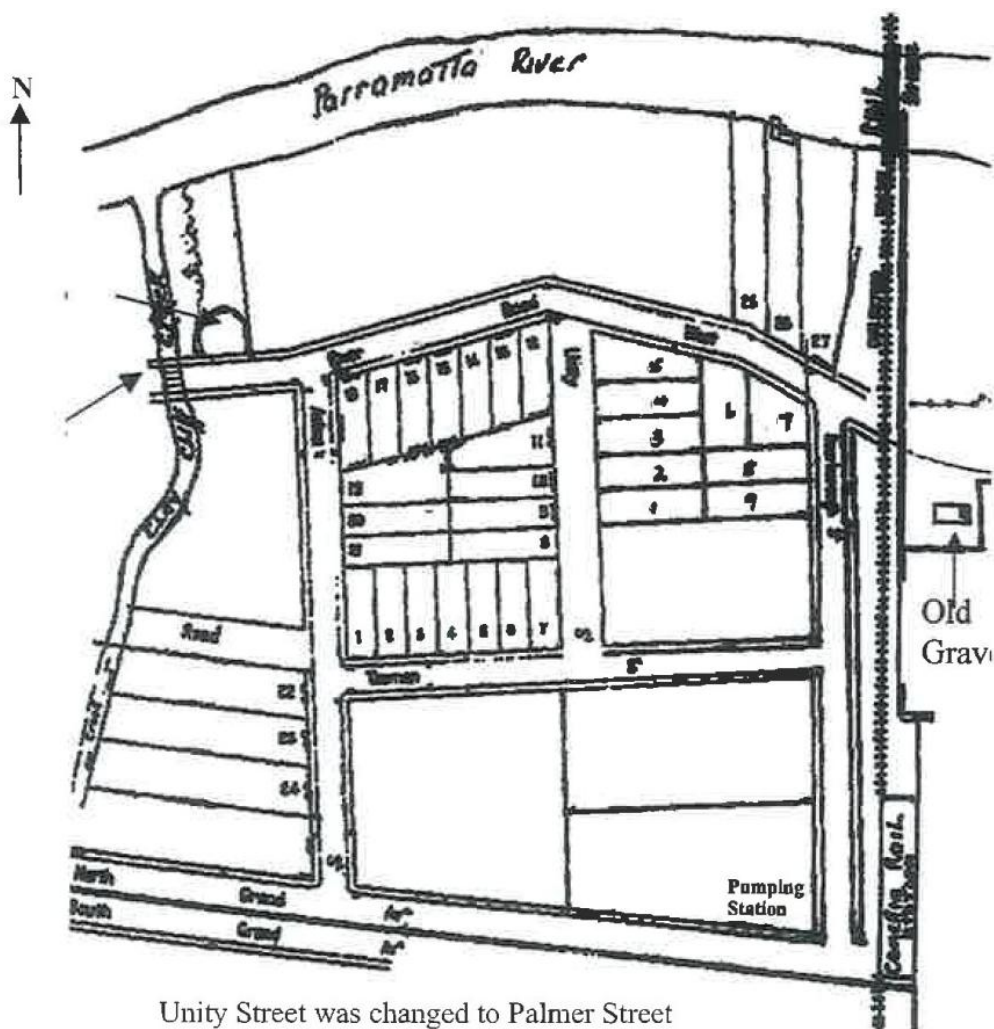


Figure 14 – Block plan showing subdivisions in DP 2737 and DP 6856. (Source: Reproduced in Brian and Enid Turbit, *A History of the extinct residential suburb of Camellia*, 2004, p30)

There was a second subdivision of the Elizabeth Farm Estate at Camellia which Septimus Alfred Stephen sold in two parts to Colin Campbell Stephen (1905) and Claude Breasley (1912). That land was purchased by George Henry Mobbs of Parramatta, auctioneer in 1913. He subdivided the land into 27 allotments as the River View Estate (DP6856) as shown in Figure 15. Aston Street (now James Ruse Drive) and Tasman Street were formed by this subdivision. According to the *Sands Directory*, residents first appear in Aston Street in 1915, while William Hunt is the only resident listed in Tasman Street from 1919-1928.

Figure 14 depicts the two subdivisions of the River View Estate, forming the residential area of Camellia, bound by Aston Street, River Road West, Scarborough Street and Tasman Street. Palmer Street (formerly named Unity Street) bisected the small residential suburb. The 1943 aerial view (Figure 13) shows the subject site outlined in yellow. The James Hardie factory is to the east of the residential suburb.

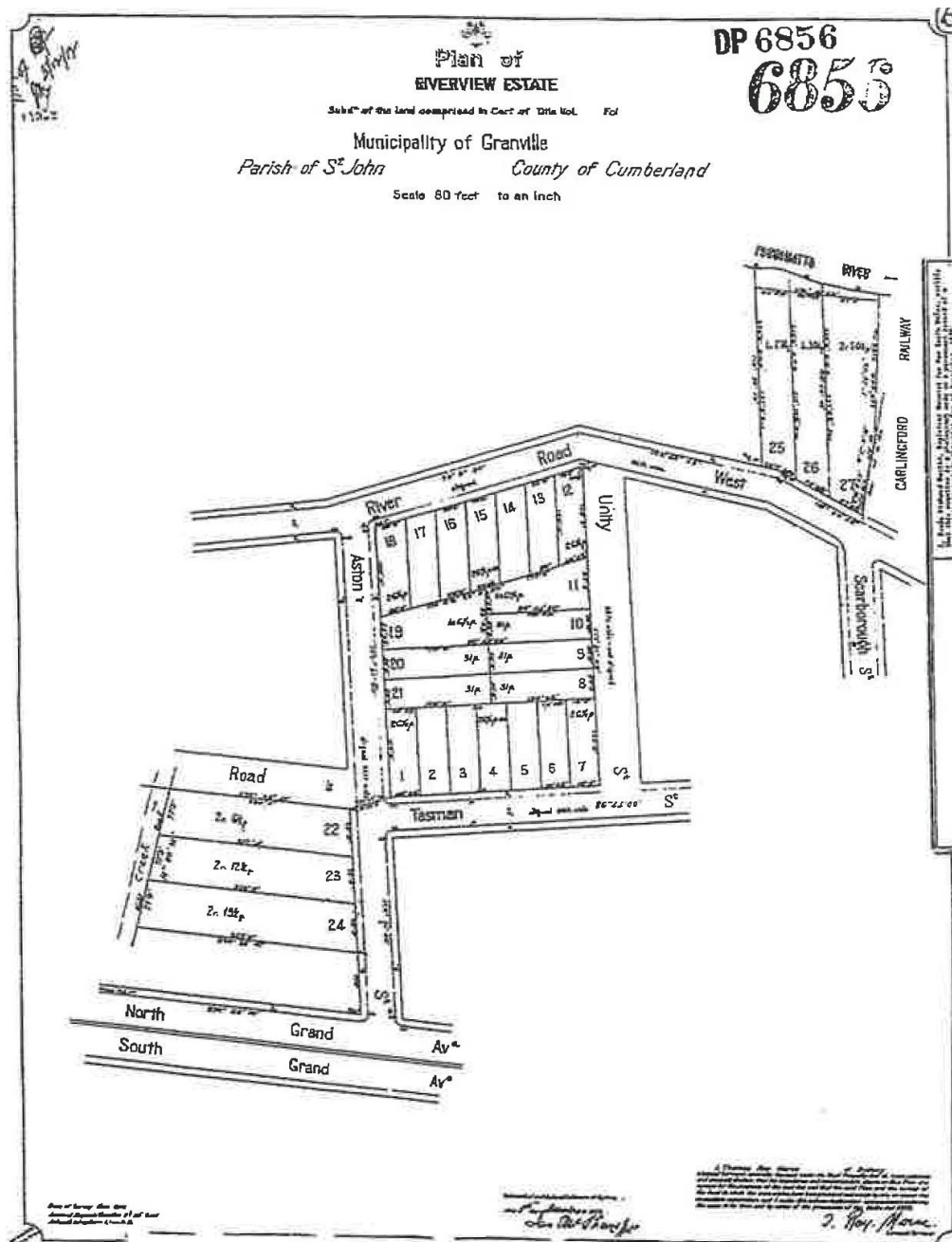


Figure 15 – Plan of Riverview Estate, about 1913. (Source: Reproduced in Brian and Enid Turbit, *A History of the extinct residential suburb of Camellia*, 2004, p41)

Camellia developed primarily as an industrial suburb. The first of these industries was Lysaght's galvanised iron and wire netting works which was established in 1884 on a riverside allotment. The following year the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company purchased 67 acres (27 hectares) of the Elizabeth Farm Estate from Hudson Brothers for £300 per acres. The kerosene refinery, employing about 170 men, closed in 1894. The buildings were not sold until 1916. Camellia was also home in the twentieth century to the following heavy and/or noxious industries, Anschau's Tannery, Sandown Meat

Co, Continental Grain Ltd, Wesco Paints (West Coast Kalsomine Co Aust Ltd), Ford Motor Company, Stauffer Chemical Company (Aust) Pty Ltd, Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Company (Australia) Pty Ltd, Australian Cream of Tartar Co Ltd and Commonwealth Oil Company.

The prime location was close to a large labour force, had a supply of water and most important had the Parramatta River as a transport corridor. Fuel and resources could be shipped from the Sydney and Darling Harbour docks and return with products manufactured around Parramatta.¹²

James Hardie Company purchased a 10 acres (4 hectares) site fronting the Parramatta River, east of the small residential area, in June 1916. They commenced the production of asbestos-cement sheets, called Fibrolite, in May 1917.



Figure 16 – James Hardie factory beside the Parramatta River, Camellia, about 1920. (Source: Reproduced in Carroll, Brian, *A Very Good Business*, 1987, pp68-69)

The *Sydney Morning Herald* contained the following report on Thursday 12th July 1917 p 6 under the title “Commerce and Industry”:

“Without ceremony, important new works, built at Camellia (NSW) for the Asbestos Slate and Sheet Manufacturing Co. Ltd, were started last week. This forms an addition to the industries of the Commonwealth doubly valuable, inasmuch as it will not only consume large quantities of raw manufactured materials produced there, but will supply a product which cannot very well be done without in the development of Australian buildings. In addition to making asbestos cement, flat wall sheets and roofing slates, the works will also produce a new material for Australia, viz, asbestos cement corrugated or ‘Fibrolite’ sheets as they will be known, as a substitute for corrugated galvanised iron. Without going far into the details, such as the suitability of such a material for cool, permanent roofing in hot weather, it is claimed that it is unaffected by fumes, acid or sea air, and never requires painting to protect it. “Fibrolite” sheets it seems will last for all time, and even improve with age, like the concrete made by the Romans. The idea of erecting the factory originated with Mr Andrew Reid, Director of Messrs James Hardie and Co., of Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. His firm were the pioneers of “Fibro Cement” asbestos sheets and slates in Australia 14 years ago, and the experience gained during these years convinced Mr Reid that the material was eminently suitable Australia’s building conditions, and this factory is the result. The site covers nine acres, and is probably unique in Australia as it is almost

¹² Duck River Stories: the Parramatta and Duck River Industrial Precinct, Parramatta City Council 2011, <http://duckcreekstories.streamline.org.au/manufacturing-1850s-1920s>, accessed 7 May 2012.

surrounded by a river, two lines of railway and a tramway. The activities are therefore ideal, for with a railway siding alongside, the cost of handling large quantities of raw materials and finished products will be reduced to a minimum. The railway siding connects the works with all the railway lines in the state while the Parramatta River affords an easy outlet for export business. In the manufacture, the best Portland cement is reinforced with long tough asbestos fibres, built up layer by layer, like the leaves of a book, this spreading out the asbestos evenly and giving uniform toughness and strength. The cement sets around the asbestos, which reinforces the sheets as interwoven steel rods or wires reinforce a concrete wall. This setting, or crystallisation goes on for years, the sheets all the while getting harder and tougher and more impenetrable. The corrugated asbestos cement sheets will be made in various sizes from 5ft to 12ft lengths with a width of 3 ft 6 inches."

A site on the Parramatta River at Camellia was purchased in June 1916 by a syndicate consisting of Andrew Reid, Stuart D'Arrietta, George Sutton and Chisholm Cameron. The site had both shipping and railway connections and local labour was readily available. On 29th July 1916 the directors met these to decide the position and layout of the factory, a task in which they were assisted by Cyprian Trueman who oversaw the construction of the first factory and then became its first manager. This factory was constructed on Grand Avenue south of Tasman Street

The Swiss expert, Ernest Witzig, arrived from Europe soon after to set up the imported machinery and see it through its pilot run. Drawings for the factory showed a neat, steel framed building, but in reality it was built of second hand telephone pole uprights and timber trusses.

The first sheets came off the Camellia production line in May 1917, and were soon being sold as 'Fibrolite' a name registered on 8th August 1917. The first Fibrolite display home was erected at the Royal Agricultural Show Grounds in Sydney in 1917. The following October (1918) the company bought another four hectares of land beside the Camellia factory site, almost doubling its size.

At its peak in the mid-1960s, 1,500 people were employed by Hardie's with a payroll of £2,500,000 annually.¹³ The factory produced asbestos products at the Camellia factory until 1996 when asbestos was proved to be carcinogenic and unsuitable for use in building materials.

¹³ McClymont, John, "Camellia", 2008,

http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/camellia?zoom_highlight=camellia, accessed 7 May 2012.



Figure 17 – Extract from 1930 aerial of Camellia showing approximate outline of subject site (red). The site was largely residential in character with some semi rural uses along the river. This view shows the MWS& DB pumping station under construction (centre bottom) and James Hardie 'Fibrolite' factory on the eastern side of the railway line (far right). (Source: Reproduced in Brian and Enid Turbit, A History of the extinct residential suburb of Camellia, 2004, p20)

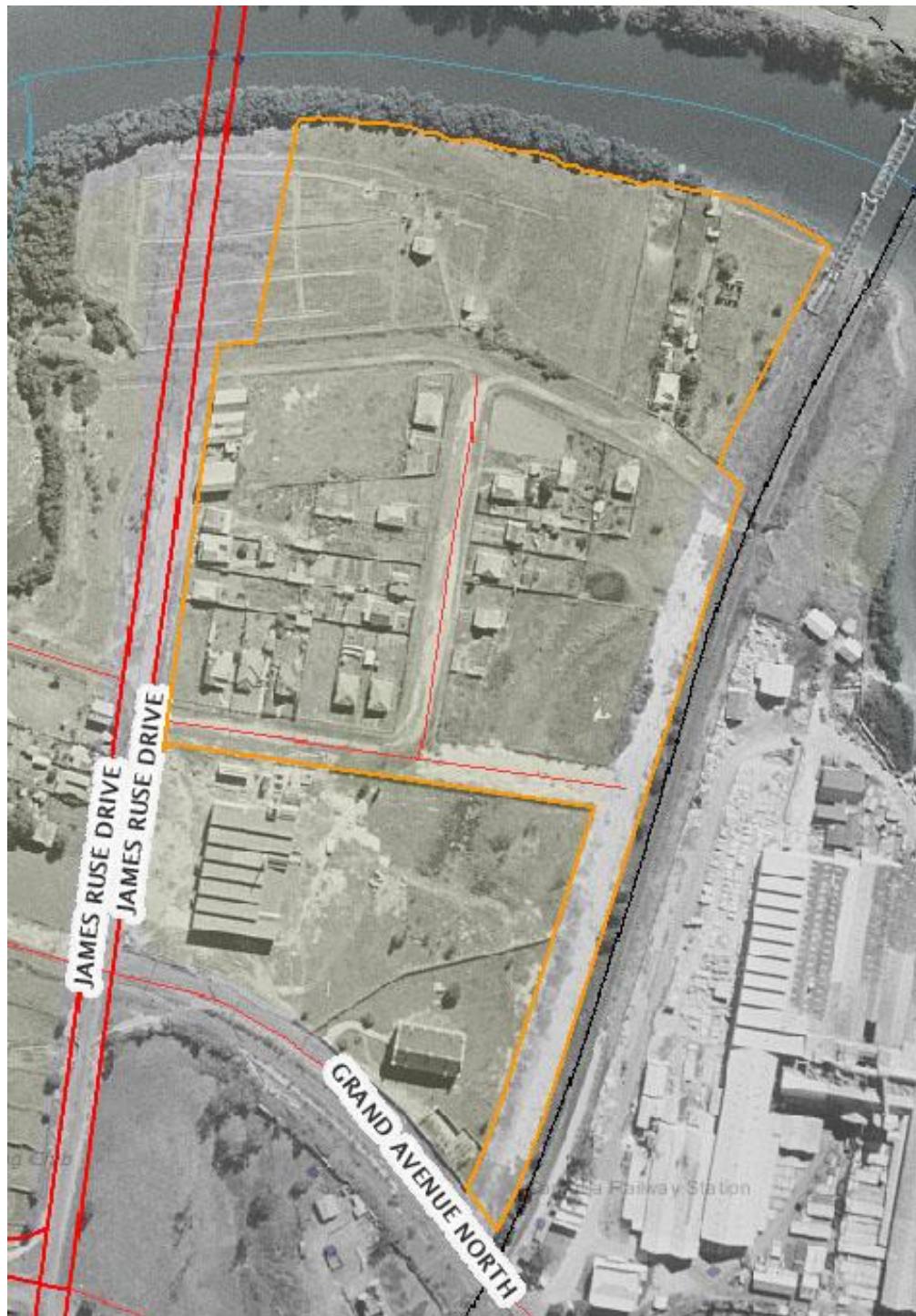


Figure 18 - Extract from 1943 aerial survey of Camellia showing subject site outlined in yellow. At this date the suburb of Camellia was still in place and agricultural uses were still in evidence on the river bank. (Source: Six Viewer, NSW Land & Property Information)

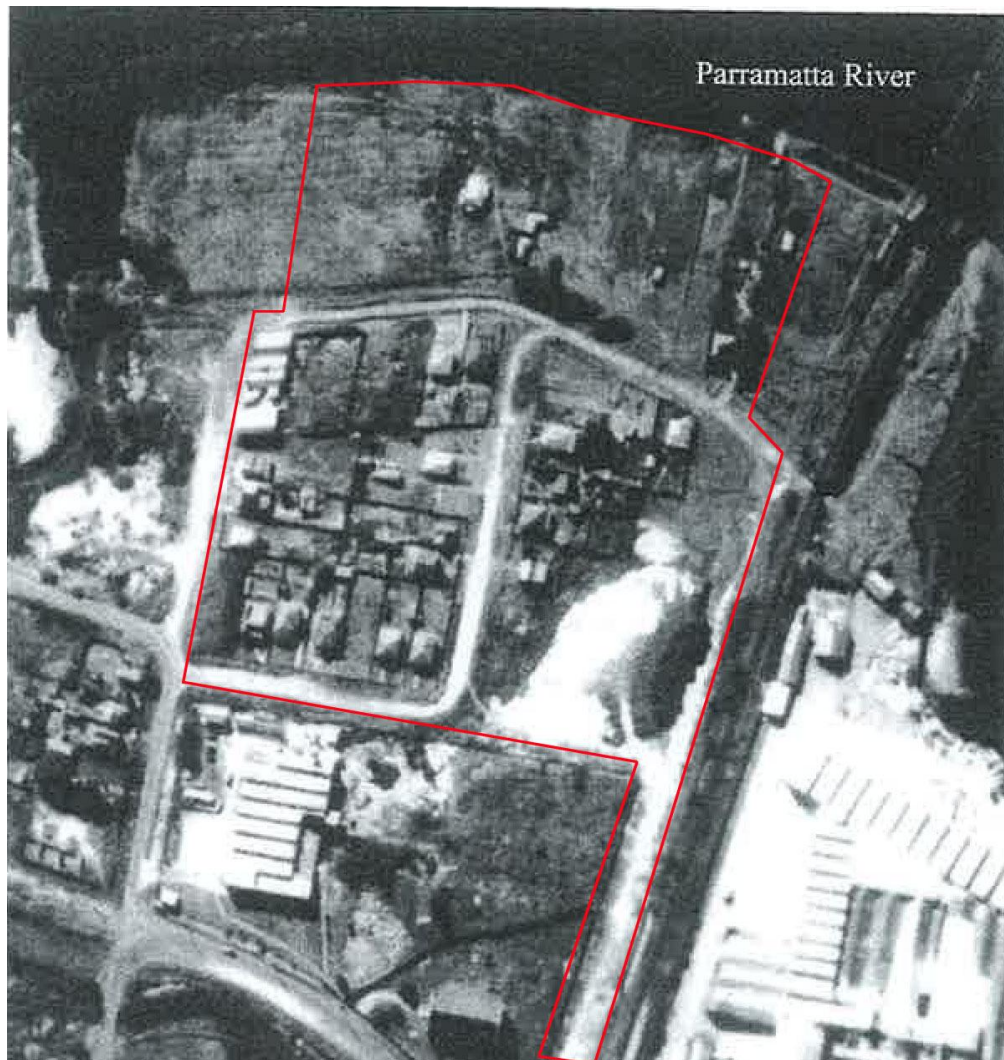


Figure 19 - Extract from 1951 aerial of Camellia showing subject site outlined in red). MWS&DB pumping station now complete (centre bottom). This also shows the James Hardie and Co building on the corner of Tasman and Aston Streets (centre left outside site boundaries). According to Brian Turbit, "the white areas are asbestos used to fill in the dam (shown as white circle) that was in the block between Palmer Street and Scarborough Street, other low areas and was also used as a street covering". (Source Reproduced in Brian and Enid Turbit, *A History of the extinct residential suburb of Camellia*, 2004, p21)

James Hardie & Co Pty Ltd progressively purchased the residential properties in Camellia that form the subject site in the 1960s. Some houses were relocated to Harris Park but most were demolished to make way for the storage of asbestos products for the adjoining factory site. Simultaneously some of the houses in Aston Street were resumed by the State Government for the construction of a bridge across the Parramatta River and a new road leading to the bridge. The bridge was opened on 22 June 1966 and is now part of James Ruse Drive.

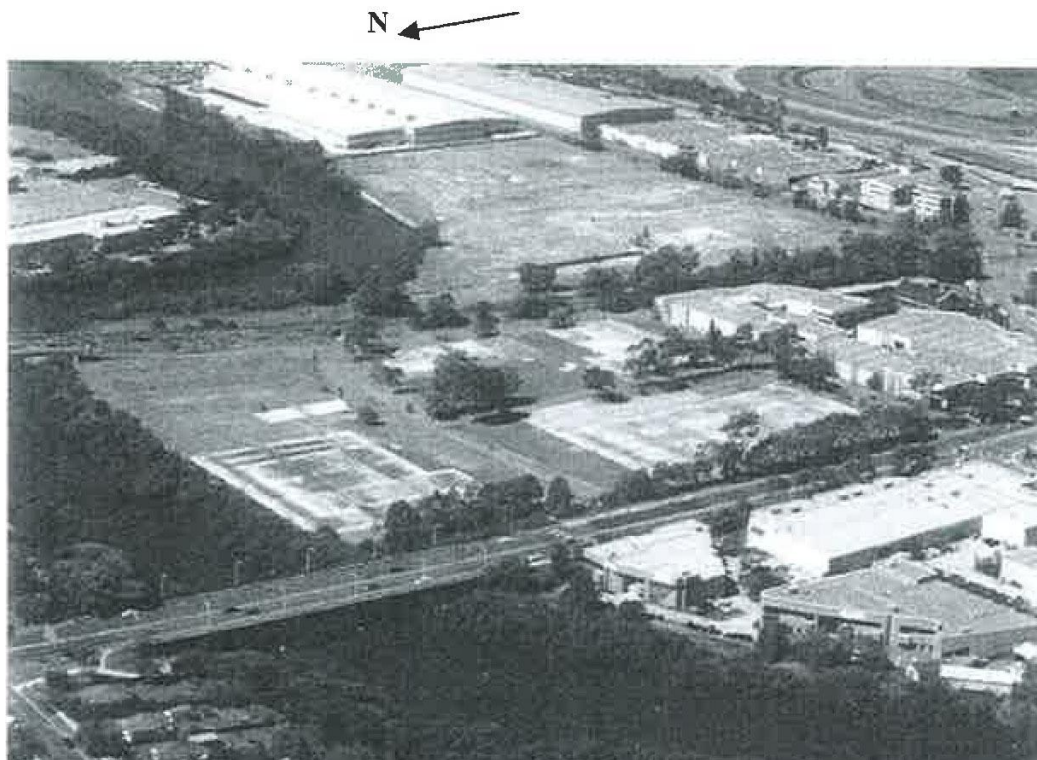


Figure 20 – Aerial view east across Parramatta River and James Ruse Drive, 2004. The subject site is that large area of land in the centre, beyond the main road and bridge. (Source: Reproduced in Brian and Enid Turbit, A History of the extinct residential suburb of Camellia, 2004, p22)

The former residential suburb of Camellia disappeared altogether in the 1960s. Asbestos sheet production ceased at Camellia in 1983, and the factory sites were vacated and cleared by 1996. Sydney Water purchased the subject site in July 1996 for approximately \$12,000,000. In response from a question in the NSW Parliament from Mr Richardson to Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry, and Minister for Western Sydney. “a major site contamination assessment was conducted by Woodward-Clyde in conjunction with the acquisition of the site in 1995. Ground water monitoring was undertaken in 2000 and 2001. These studies have identified some areas of contaminated fill on the site. The contamination is primarily asbestos that was included with other fill over the years to level the site to provide various building and carpark facilities. One isolated area of arsenic contamination was also identified”¹⁴.

Evidence of the former Camellia Township still exists in the “skeleton infrastructure of light posts and paved streets”¹⁵ west of the railway line. Figure 20 shows the subject site in 2004 following the demolition and clearance of the buildings on the subject site and for sale by tender in March by Sydney Water.

¹⁴ Legislative Assembly Questions and Answers, item 124, 8 May 2002, p353, [http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/LA/LApaper.nsf/0/97FBE3E4892C1421CA256BB200421BCF/\\$File/16-qa-p.pdf](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/LA/LApaper.nsf/0/97FBE3E4892C1421CA256BB200421BCF/$File/16-qa-p.pdf), accessed 8 May 2012.

¹⁵ McClymont, op. cit.

In 2009, American wholesale retailer Costco sought an amendment to a draft Parramatta Local Environment Plan to permit the development of a Bunnings, Officeworks and Costco retail bulk supermarket outlet on the vacant 69,000-square-metre industrial site at 181 James Ruse Drive, Camellia (the subject site).¹⁶

In October 2011 Parramatta Council lodged an application to amend the Parramatta LEP 2011 by the inclusion of 'shoptop housing' as an additional permitted use on the site at 181 James Ruse Drive, Camellia.¹⁷

In February 2012 The Director General of The Department of Planning issued requirements under Section 78A (8) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for Designated Development of the subject site in relation to a proposal for a "Contaminated Soil Treatment Works" by Summer Hill Business Estate Pty Limited.

The present application is for a mixed use development with underground parking, a retail and showroom component forming a large podium over much of the site and a series of point residential towers with increasing height away from the river. The development would require re-zoning of the site which is currently zoned B5 (Business Development)

4.0 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

4.1 Generally

The site is located on the banks of the Parramatta River between James Ruse Drive and the Railway corridor where these cross the river on bridges. Land use to the east of James Ruse Drive on the southern banks of the river is predominantly industrial in character with a limited landscaped buffer to the river. The subject site is largely screened from visibility along its edge with James Ruse Drive by mature vegetation.

4.2 Setting and Physical Context

The setting is sensitive in a visual context because of its prominence on the interface along the river of residential and recreational areas to the west, institutional uses to the north and industrial sites to the east and south.

The road and rail corridors form strong lines of physical containment of the site while the river is a natural edge which is important to the visual context of the adjacent areas. Despite the numerous changes including the road bridge, the early setting of the Female Orphan School which is one of the most significant Colonial sites in the vicinity is largely intact and should continue to be protected.

The river wetlands are identified as being significant remnants of the early character of the river and should be retained and protected with revegetation where appropriate using compatible species.

¹⁶ http://parramattas.blogspot.com.au/2009_03_10_archive.html.

¹⁷ <http://leptracking.planning.nsw.gov.au/PublicDetails.aspx?Id=573>.



Figure 21 - The surrounding locality showing the relationship of the site to the bend in the Parramatta River and the location of the Female orphan School opposite, circled.

4.3 Views and Vistas

In assessing any future development options for a re-zoned site, consideration of identified significant views and vistas should be undertaken as part of the design process. In particular the visual impact of any development on historic views to and from the former Female Orphan School and its curtilage and any links to other significant Colonial sites in the wider landscape.

In this regard the new Parramatta Development Control Plan contains a section dealing with significant corridor views which indicate that the subject site is not located within any significant view connection in the Cultural Landscape.

View Corridor 10 described in the DCP is intended to relate to views of the former Female Orphan School from James Ruse Drive. The view shown on the diagram does not exist except in relation to the rail link across the river which is unaffected by the subject site.

View Corridor 11 described in the DCP is intended to relate to views of the former Female Orphan School from land adjoining Elizabeth Farm in Arthur Street. This view is unaffected by potential development of the subject site. More recent detailed view analysis associated with this site indicates that this view has been affected by mature vegetation and multi storey development such as the Mecure Hotel as is no longer a significant historic view corridor that can be appreciated by the public.

A separate View Analysis Report has been prepared to accompany this application and this provides detailed information in regard to significant views across the subject site.

5.0 DEVELOPMENT CONTROLS & POLICIES

5.1 Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 28 Parramatta Reg 40R

The River Special Area

40R The River Special Area

- (1) Character statement: The Parramatta River system will be enhanced as the major natural asset of the area and is to be characterised by a healthy river and foreshore. Where appropriate, public pedestrian access and linkages between the hinterland and the river and recreation opportunities are to be pursued and implemented while protecting the riparian vegetation with appropriate setbacks. Properties adjoining the foreshore will address the aquatic gateway to Parramatta, with attractive and interesting buildings and appropriate set backs from the river. Opportunities for improving access to water based transport will be pursued to better serve the Rydalmere and Camellia Precincts. The less visually attractive elements of industrial development will be screened by appropriate landscaping.

The Rydalmere and Camellia Precincts will have improved connectivity for pedestrians across the Parramatta River from the Clyde-Carlingford Rail Bridge and the Thackeray Street Bridge.

- (2) Consideration Before granting development consent for development within the River Special Area, or before undertaking works within the River Special Area, the consent authority must consider whether the development is consistent with any master plan required for the land under State Environmental Planning Policy No 56-Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Tributaries , and must be satisfied that:

(a) all reasonable opportunities to establish foreshore public land are taken up, and

(b) development meets the requirements of Sydney Regional Environmental *Plan No 22-Parramatta River*, and

(c) the development retains and enhances public pedestrian access and open space links between the foreshores of the Parramatta River, Subiaco Creek, Vineyard Creek or with other nearby open space areas, and

(d) buildings adjacent to the Parramatta River address the river with high quality facades and entrances, and

(e) the scale of buildings along the Parramatta River will not dominate the topographical features of the river landscape, and

(f) the development maintains and re-establishes riparian vegetation in accordance with the requirements of the *Rydalmere Precinct Design Control Map* and building setbacks along the Parramatta River, but only if this does not have an impact on significant or historic views from or of heritage sites situated along the Parramatta River when seen from the river and nearby heritage sites, and

(g) the development improves the foreshore landscape, so that local native vegetation and natural geomorphology are preserved, restored and extended and in accordance with any government-adopted catchment strategies, and

(h) the continuity and integrity of existing mangrove stands, salt marshes and other marine vegetation as shown on *Rydalmere Precinct Design Control Map* as “Riparian Vegetation” are to be maintained and enhanced where appropriate, and

(i) where required by *State Environmental Planning Policy No 55-Remediation of Land*, the development remediates land contamination and removes any wastes from the foreshore zone so that the area is rendered suitable for public access (where natural values will not be diminished) and harm to the Parramatta River environment is addressed and minimised, and

(j) development improves the settings of the important historic places and views along the Parramatta River and facilitates their interpretation, and

(k) development does not have an adverse impact on significant or historic views from or of heritage sites situated long the Parramatta River when seen from the river and nearby heritage sites, and

(l) development will result in a neutral or beneficial effect on the water quality of the Parramatta River and will not disturb contaminated river sediments in a way that creates risk of water pollution, and

(m) any expansion of water based transport will not adversely affect the banks of vegetation of the Parramatta River foreshore, and

(n) development will result in improved visual connections to the Parramatta River, and

(o) when public pedestrian access is not appropriate for reasons such as contamination and safety issues, the development provides for appropriate vegetation in accordance with the *Rydalmere Precinct Design Control Map*, and

(p) the development minimises reclamation and dredging.

5.2 Parramatta River Foreshore Plan 2009 - 2016

Under the policies adopted by Councils along the Parramatta River for enhancement of the river, a priority was established for the preparation of a Landscape Masterplan for Camellia and the improvement of landscaping under the James Ruse Road Bridge which adjoins the subject site. Any proposal for the subject site should embody the policies and objectives of the plan to enhance the setting of the river and the significant historic sites that adjoin the river.

6.0 ANALYSIS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

6.1 Basis of Cultural Heritage Assessment

This assessment of heritage is based on the methodology and guidelines set down by the NSW Heritage Office and considers the standard values or criteria which arise from the history, construction and use of the building and its site as well as any levels of esteem by recognised groups for the site.

Evaluation Criteria

Heritage significance, *cultural significance* and *cultural value* are all terms used to describe an item's value or importance to our own society. This value may be contained in the fabric of an item, its setting and its relationship to other items, the response that the item stimulates to those who value it now and in the historical record that allow us to understand it in its own context

The historical analysis provides the context for assessing significance, which is made by applying standard evaluation criteria to the development and associations of an item. The *NSW Heritage Manual* has produced standard evaluation criteria that are compatible those included in *The Burra Charter*.

6.2 Assessment of Cultural Significance

6.2.1 Criterion (a) Historical Evolution

An item is important in the course, or pattern of the Local areas cultural or natural history.

The subject site has a common history with many similar sites along this stretch of the Parramatta River. The connections with historical events and evolution are not of any particular significance to the pattern of cultural history in Granville or Parramatta. The historical pattern of evolution is outlined in the documentary evidence stated above and the present state of the site provides little evidence of its former character or uses. Substantial interpretation would be required to provide evidence of associations with former uses and historical connections.

The site does not demonstrate heritage significance for this value.

6.2.2 Criterion (b) Historical Associations

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 the Local area

Associations with early owners and occupiers of the site have been largely obliterated by subsequent development and later demolition. The associations with these early owner occupiers are now only possible through research and interpretation.

The site is associated with the rise and fall of the significant industrial empire of James Hardie Pty Ltd which was an important part of local and national economic activity throughout the 20th century.

This association is not represented by any surviving physical evidence of significance and the site is only capable of interpretation through documentary evidence.

6.2.3 Criterion (c) Aesthetic Values

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the Local area.

The site has no aesthetic significance though it has the potential for landscape treatment along the riverbanks that would enhance both the river and the wider visual setting of the Female Orphan School. This potential for enhancement does not represent heritage significance for this heritage value under the guidelines set down by the NSW Heritage Office.

6.2.4 Criterion (d) Social Value

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

The site has very limited potential for strong associations with the local community or with former occupants or employees of industrial occupation of the site in the second half of the 20th century.

Based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria for significance the subject site does not reach a threshold for heritage significance under this heritage value.

6.2.5 Criterion (e) Technical / Research Value

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history.

The site has been substantially disturbed and is currently capped as a result of earlier potential contamination through proximity to industrial processes. The likelihood of any significant post-European occupation would not only be limited by later demolition and disturbance but would not be suitable for excavation if it did exist and is unlikely to provide any substantial evidence that is not already available elsewhere through documentation.

The site does not demonstrate heritage significance for this heritage value.

6.2.6 Criterion (f) Rarity

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history.

The site is not rare for its physical, historic or aesthetic qualities and does not reach a threshold for significance under this heritage value

The principal characteristics of a class of NSW's

- **Cultural or natural places**
- **Cultural or natural environments**

The site does not demonstrate representative significance except in relation to the River Wetland along the south bank of the Parramatta River. This attribute is already identified as having heritage significance and does not extend to the rest of the site.

6.3 Statement of Cultural Heritage Significance

The former site of the Camellia Nursery and Camellia the suburb has significance for its early associations with the development of Parramatta throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Evidence of these associations are however no longer represented on the site and are only contained in documentation which requires substantial interpretation to be understood. The site does not reach a threshold for any level of heritage significance and is capable of redevelopment subject to protection of the context of the adjoining heritage items.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Based on the above heritage assessment and the known documentary and physical evidence associated with the Camellia West Site, there is no heritage significance relating to the site that would restrict potential redevelopment subject to appropriate consideration of the setting of the Parramatta River and river wetlands; consideration of the setting and views from the former Female Orphan School and treatment in the vicinity of the former railway bridge abutments which border the site.



ROBERT STAAS
Director / Heritage Consultant

8.0 APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix A – State and Local Heritage Inventory Listing Sheets

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Wetlands

Item

Name of Item: Wetlands

Type of Item: Landscape

Group/Collection: Landscape - Natural

Category: Wetland or river

Primary Address: Parramatta River, Camellia, Clyde, Rydalmere, Ermington, NSW

Local Govt. Area: Parramatta

Property Description:

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
-----------------	-------------------	----------------	-----------------	-------------------

All Addresses

Street Address	Suburb/Town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Parramatta River	Camellia, Clyde, Rydalmere, Ermington	Parramatta			Primary
System	Camellia, Clyde, Rydalmere, Ermington	Parramatta			Alternate

Statement of Significance

Remnant areas of mangroves and salt marshes which once extensively lined the foreshores and tidal water flats of the region. National Trust (Parramatta Branch): Remnant mangroves and salt marshes which once extensively lined the foreshores and tidal water flats of the region.

Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Branch intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.

Description

Physical Description: An area of remnant wetland vegetation located along the foreshore of the Parramatta and Duck rivers and their tributaries. This area is characterised by

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT: CAMELIA RE-ZONING SUBMISSION

NBRS+PARTNERS

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31

a mangrove and saltmarsh complex, located along the foreshores of the Parramatta and Duck rivers, and the Vineyard and Subiaco creeks. National Trust (Parramatta Branch): Archit StyleAn area of remnant vegetation located along the foreshores of the Parramatta and Duck rivers and their tributaries. This area is characterised by a mangrove and salt marsh complex, located along the foreshores of the Parramatta and Duck rivers, and the Vi Parramatta Regional Environmental Study. Open Space and Recreation Heritage Study. Department of Environment and Planning Sydney. 1986

Further Information:

Assessment of Significance

SHR Criteria g)

[Representativeness]

This item is representative.

Assessment Criteria

Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan		429	21 Feb 97	20	873
Heritage study					

Study Details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines Used
City of Parramatta Heritage Study	1993	429	Meredith Walker		Yes
Parramatta Heritage Review	2004		National Trust (Parramatta Branch)		No

References, Internet links & Images

None

Note: Internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



(Click on Thumbnail for Full Size Image and Image Details)

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Name: Local Government

Database Number: 2240429

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Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)

Item

Name of Item:	Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)
Other Name/s:	Female Orphan School (former), Protestant Orphan School (former), University of Western Sydney - Parramatta Campus
Type of Item:	Complex / Group
Group/Collection:	Health Services
Category:	Psychiatric hospital/Mental institute/Asylum
Location:	Lat:151.02558682 Long:-33.81169829
Primary Address:	171 Victoria Road, Rydalmere, NSW 2116
Local Govt. Area:	Parramatta

Property Description:

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
PART LOT	100	-	DP	816829
PART LOT	100	-	DP	816829
LOT	101	-	DP	816829
LOT	102	-	DP	816829
LOT	103	-	DP	816829

All Addresses

Street Address	Suburb/Town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
171 Victoria Road	Rydalmere	Parramatta	Field of Mars	Cumberland	Primary
177-179 Victoria Road	Rydalmere	Parramatta	Field Of Mars	Cumberland	Alternate
James Ruse Drive	Rydalmere	Parramatta	Field of Mars	Cumberland	Alternate

Owner/s

Organisation Name	Owner Category	Date Ownership Updated
University of Western Sydney	University	26 Mar 99

Statement of

The Female Orphan School Precinct as a component of the former

Significance

Rydalmere Hospital is of outstanding cultural significance, primarily for its continued use and development, between 1813 and 1989 as a public welfare institution for the care and management of the disadvantaged.

As the first purpose built orphan school in the colony, it illustrates a milestone in the establishment of national social welfare and education policies.

The surviving original buildings, constructed between 1813 and 1818, provide evidence of the development policies of Governor Macquarie and illustrates the transfer of 18th century British architectural pretensions into the design and siting of functional buildings in New South Wales. The extant central block is the oldest three storey building in Australia. (Source)

The site as a whole, and particularly the Orphan School precinct, has outstanding historical and social significance because of its continuous occupation as an institution since 1814. The original complex and its garden setting have outstanding rarity value. Its landscape is of exceptional significance for its development as a Colonial institution sited within the cultural landscape of the Parramatta River valley and influenced by Mrs Macquarie together with the continuing recognition of the heritage values of the place up to the present (Schwager Brooks, 1994)

The structure of the built and natural fabric of the place has been conserved despite the constant adaptation by institutional uses and alienation of its peripheral lands. As a complex of parkland landscape character with gardens, built form and remnant indigenous vegetation it demonstrates the evolution of different attitudes towards institutional care in NSW. The groundworks design and siting of the buildings is associated with Mrs Macquarie, Reverend Samuel Marsden, Francis Greenway and subsequent Colonial and Government Architects (particularly Walter Liberty Vernon) and individuals associated with health care such as Frederick Norton Manning and Dr Greenup (excerpt from Tanner Architects, 2005)

Date Significance Updated: 06 Nov 08

Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Branch intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.

Description

Designer/Maker:

Original layout from Mrs Macquarie

Builder/Maker:

Samuel Marsden, Francis Greenway, W.L. Vernon, Francis Barrallier
1813 - 1940

Construction Years:

Physical Description:

The Rydalmere Hospital area is bounded by Victoria Road to the north, James Ruse Drive to the west, Vineyard Creek to the east and Parramatta River to the South. This area contains a significant number of buildings, landscape features, archaeological sites, natural areas, gardens and vistas. Note the State Heritage Register boundary excludes the railway corridor.

The original building is a fine symmetrically balanced composition with projecting central bay capped by a simple triangular pediment. It was designed in the Colonial Georgian style and constructed in face

sandstock brickwork with sandstone window sills, quoins and string courses. When viewed from the south the principal elevation, which faces towards the Parramatta River is flanked with Palladian style two storey pavilions connected to the central building by two storey wings. The pavilions, which stand forward of the centre, were originally almost square in plan but were subsequently extended to the north in at least two different stages. The early hipped roofs were replaced by brickwork gables and projecting barges.

The Mortuary is a fine example of the Federation Free Style. It has a simple rectangular plan and hipped, ventilated slate roof which is topped by a finely detailed zinc lantern with an oriental character.

The original Orphanage hospital from the 1860's was built as a two storey domestic style building with two storey verandahs on three elevations. Verandahs later enclosed and interiors gutted to form single open spaces.

The former Head Master's Residence is a large two storey Victorian house with extended rear additions containing service rooms.

The former Chief Attendant's Cottage is a small single storey house. It is clad in horizontal timber weatherboards and has a terra cotta tile roof.

The boatshed is a small single storey timber framed building. It is notable for the external timber stud framing and diagonal bracing supporting a gabled roof with slate covering. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 1994: 59-86)

Dept of Health s170 register lists: building1 (Female orphan school), Building 2, 4, 5, 6,12, 14, 18, 20, 21, chief attendant's cottage, building 34, 36, 38, 47, 58, 59, 66, 73, 74, 75, 76, 79, 82, 89, 92, 93, 97, 100, 105, 108, 114, 119, and landscape as state significant.

**Physical Condition and/or
Archaeological Potential:
Modifications and Dates:**

Physical condition is poor. Archaeological potential is medium. **Date Condition Updated:** 28 Jul 97

1800 & 1810 - The Parramatta site was selected for orphanage use
1810 - tender for building called for 1813 - the foundation stone laid
1818 - construction finished 1820 - work on the new facilities commences
1826 - the garden was said to consist of six acres and was well stocked with vegetables
1829 - a new kitchen and store room constructed
1830/1831 - more additions and renovations
1830's & 1840's - the surrounds improved
1854 - hospital built c.1868 - new kitchen constructed, by 1870 a meat shed was attached
1870's - an extensive programme of additions and renovations carried out
1870 - twenty figs and twenty pines sent to the school from RBG
1882 - forty bed dormitory constructed
1888 - site transferred to the Department of Lunacy
1891 - site granted independent status and renamed Rydalmere Hospital
1895 - new boat shed and landing stage constructed
1895 - Chief Attendant's Cottage built
1893 & 1896 - Royal Botanic Gardens sent trees and shrubs for planting
1905 - new stair block added to the central block
1909 - ward built to adjoin the former Drill Master's residence
1926 - former hospital extensively remodelled
1938 - verandah and balcony added to former hospital
1926 - additions made to the Master's residence and Chief Attendant's Cottage
Post WWII- service building constructed to the north and new administrative and recreational facilities in the centre of the site.
1950's & 1960's -

additions and alterations made to some buildings which considerably changed their form and appearance. 1948 - dayroom built at the corner of the former hospital 1957 - porch added to hospital. 1959 - southern faade of hospital obscured by the construction of a ward 1969 - central building closed 1960s & 1970s - further planting of a more informal natives 1975/6 National Estate Program funding of \$24,000 to restore roof of female orphan school (total cost c\$60,000). Restoration of brick work and removal of redundant structures. Preparation of CMP. 1985 towards - south campus at Rydalmere progressively closed 1993+- the site undergoing refurbishment to house the University of Western Sydney

Further Information:

PRS, RNE, NTL. Rydalmere Hospital South Campus. Heritage Assessment. Schager Brooks and Partners Pty Ltd. 1991. Rydalmere Psychiatric Centre Conservation Study. Ed Jim Kerr.
SEPP 56 - Sydney Harbour & Foreshores, lists the precinct as a conservation area, requiring a Master Plan for PNSW's endorsement before DAs will be considered.

Current Use:

University campus

Former Use:

Orphanage with farms and orchards, mental institution

History

Historical Notes:

When the Rose Hill settlement (Parramatta) was formed Surgeon Thomas Arndell became its resident medical officer. For this service he was granted 60 acres on July 16, 1792. The property was known as Arthur's Hill. This grant was later encompassed by the Orphan School allotment. Arndell established a hut and set about cultivating the land. The combination of poor land and natural disaster (bushfires) may have led Arndell to centre his interests on his Hawkesbury properties at Cattai Creek. As compensation, a site at Baulkham Hills was given to Arndell so that it likely that the Arthur's Hill site was resumed by the Crown rather than sold.

By 1800, it appears that the site has already been selected as the future location of a new orphan institute. Again in 1810 the site was selected for orphanage use. The first plans for the Parramatta Girl's Orphanage were almost certainly prepared by French settler Francis Barrallier. He spent three years in the colony from 1800-1803, as explorer, cartographer, ensign, artillery officer and engineer, aide-de-camp to Governor King, architect and ship designer. (SLNSW, 2004)

In 1810 tenders for building were called for a Female Orphan School.

1813-1850 Female Orphan School

The foundation stone for the original Female Orphan School was laid by the Governor in 1813 and construction finished in 1818. The design of the school is likely to have been supplied by Mrs Macquarie based on her remembrance of a gentleman's residence, Airds House in Scotland.

Access to the school was gained from the river by means of a stone jetty and ramped gravel drive that cut into the steep slope. Vehicular entry was from Orphan School Lane (now James Ruse Drive). It terminated on a loop laid out on the upper slopes of the hill. This loop is unlikely to have been the current carriage loop which was probably created in the 1840s or 1850's. The buildings encompassed a central three storey block surrounded on the east and west by two single wings linked to the main building. Francis Greenway was asked to submit plans to rectify serious building and joinery faults.

Work on the new facilities commenced in 1820 although the first extensions to the eastern and western wings may have been completed prior to that time. By 1826 the garden was said to consist of six acres and was well stocked with vegetables. However the structures and facilities experienced serious problems. A programme of work was undertaken to repair brickwork and drainage and new verandahs were built. An inspection of the water supply and sewerage were targeted for criticism. John Busby recommended the construction of a pump in the well with a barrel drain to be built to carry the water to the privies. At the same time serious faults were also being found in the administration and care of the orphanage.

During 1829 a new kitchen and store room was constructed. More additions and renovations were made during 1830 and 1831 including rectification of the poor water, sewerage and drainage of the school.

In 1833 the Church and School Lands Corporation was abolished and in the following year the Orphan School became an establishment managed by the state. During the 1830's and 1840's the surrounds were improved through visual contributions such as ornamental flower gardens, shrubs and trees. Plants were also sent from the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Until this time the Male Orphanage operated first at Sydney and then in Cabramatta. Rising costs, fewer children at the two institutions and the distance of the boys' school from Sydney led to the amalgamation of the two orphanages at Rydalmere in 1850. Although they shared the same site, the two schools remained separate and facilities such as bathrooms, dining rooms, school rooms and playgrounds were all replicated and clearly separated.

1850-1887 Protestant Orphan School

From 1850-1887 Protestant Orphan School developed immediately north of the Female Orphan School. It was not until 1854 that the hospital, the first purpose built structure for the combined orphanage was added to the site. A report from the Inspector of Public Charities in 1865 found Rydalmere to be in need of great repair. Ceilings were falling down, floors had given way, skirtings were dirty and the whole place shabby for want of repainting and replastering. In c.1868 a new kitchen was constructed and by 1870 a meat shed was attached to its northern side.

During 1870 an extensive programme of additions and renovations was carried out. The hospital gained a verandah on its southern facade and a new bathroom and the west wing a 'new' dining room, boys' bathroom and laundry. Another laundry was added to the site. Two shelter sheds were moved to a new location and over their former sites was built the new school building which, in 1877, was described as a 'model' building. The Master's residence may have been built at this time. It is shown complete in photographs of 1880. Many other changes and alterations were made to the site during this time.

The west wing housed most of the facilities for the boys' department including dormitories and attendants' rooms in the original section of the building, a dining room in the first extension and the Matron's kitchen and pantry at the rear of the wing. A verandah connected the

latter with the main building.

The east wing was largely devoted to the girls' department which had its dining room on the ground floor of the first extension and dormitories above. The original section of this building was used as a servant's dining room, two store rooms and a scullery on the ground floor with an internal connecting stair to the upper floor. The infants' nursery was housed on the ground floor of the most northerly extension of this wing. It had a water closet in the north-western corner and an internal staircase in the south-western corner.

These extensive structural works were complimented by improvements made to the landscape. In 1870 twenty figs (*Ficus* spp.) and twenty pines (*Pinus* spp.) were sent to the school from the Royal Botanic Gardens. By this time, a circular carriage loop and gravel drive had been constructed in the foreground of the main entrance. A forty bed dormitory was constructed on the south-west corner of the western wing during 1882.

Throughout the operational period of the combined orphanage great changes had been made in government policy for both the education and social welfare for destitute children. During the 1870's integration of orphans into the community at large, particularly through means of 'boarding out' with foster parents began to be favoured over the austere environment of the 'barrack' system used at Rydalmere. In 1882 Henry Parkes moved the passage of the State Children Relief Act. Amongst other provisions this Act created the State Children's Relief Board, inaugurated in 1882. This Board was formed with a specific mandate to foster children within the community. By 1886 in response to these political, administrative and philosophical changes there were only sixty-five children left in the Combined Orphanage at Rydalmere.

1888-1987 Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital

In 1888 the site was transferred to the Department of Lunacy. The former school then became a branch of the Parramatta Hospital for the Insane.

The formal geometric layout of the working gardens was retained when the site became a psychiatric hospital in 1888. In contrast, the ornamental gardens were re-laid to reflect the more informal designs currently in vogue. This hospital took over the Orphan School complex, growing to the north-east and north in an unusual 'village' arrangement of buildings, curved around a green, and what is called the '1900 Ward Range precinct'. The period is associated with Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect and health care advocates Frederick Manning and Dr Greenup.

When the old orphanage buildings were handed over they were found in be in a bad state. Immediately thirty patients were moved in to prevent further dilapidation and to commence tidying the site. Works carried out on the older structures included the alteration of the school house by infilling the verandahs and the construction of a new verandah in their place. Extensions were made to the old east and west wings and were both used for wards.

The former bakery was used for ward accommodation. A second storey was added to the Master's residence which was then used to house the

new Superintendent.

In 1891 the site was granted independent status and renamed Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane. In 1895 a new boat shed and landing stage located on the main north-south axis of the central block was constructed. A Chief Attendant's Cottage was built on the slope leading down to the river frontage in the same year and a path ran from the cottage down to link up with the drive from the jetty and boatshed.

In 1895 the first female patients were admitted to the site. They were housed in purpose built wards constructed for them away from the former orphanage buildings. These new wards expressed evolving theories of patient care and needs.

Development of a new style of landscape emphasised the different nature of the hospital use, particularly towards the northern sections of the study area. Many of the new paths, bridges and plantations emphasised the new alignment away from the traditional visual linkages to the river. In 1893 and 1896 the Royal Botanic Gardens sent trees and shrubs for planting at the hospital site.

In 1905 a new stair block was added to the central block to coincide with the removal of the internal staircases to allow for more space for wards. The connecting passageways to the wings were altered to become two storey, topped by stone balustrades. A second storey was added in two stages to the former school block at this time. A water closet and verandahs were added to the buildings in 1907 and stair and toilet block to the east wing in the same year.

In 1909 a ward was built to adjoin the former Drill Master's residence. This was linked by a wall to a new two storey extension that replaced the former single storey matron's kitchen at the back of the old west wing.

After the First World War resources were primarily spent on upgrading existing facilities and services, particularly sanitation and safety features, for example fire stairs. Electricity was brought to the site during this period.

By 1924 the site was considered to be antiquated in terms of contemporary management of mental hospitals. The former hospital was extensively remodelled in 1926 and a verandah and balcony were added to it in 1938. Additions were made to the Master's residence and Chief Attendant's cottage in 1926.

Symmetrical and formalised plantation design was expressed again in the inter-war period with the replacement of the federation period flower gardens and shrubs with grassed areas and Jacaranda trees and Camphor laurels.

Post World War II facilities were significantly expanded at Rydalmere in line with changing philosophies of patient care and accommodation. Existing facilities were upgraded or new structures created to take the place of older buildings that were too outmoded to update. Service aspects such as kitchens, factories, substations and workshops were generally located to the north and new administrative and recreational

facilities in the centre of the site.

During the 1950's and 1960's additions and alterations were made to some buildings which considerably changed their form and appearance. A day room and ramp was constructed at the corner of the former hospital in 1949. A porch was later added in 1957. The entire southern facade was virtually obscured by the construction of a ward in 1959.

The central building was closed in 1969. Other buildings continued to be used but for storage and minor requirements such as a handyman's store.

During the 1960s and 1970s further planting of a more informal nature was undertaken throughout the hospital grounds. These plantings are particularly represented by a mixture of native plants, principally along the western boundary and partly to the northern boundary of the precinct.

Over the years following 1985 the south campus at Rydalmere was progressively closed. The existing environment both built and vegetated now exhibits a sense of decay.

The Parramatta South Campus of UWS was established on the site from 1993. In March 1998 UWS opened classrooms to students. Conservation works and adaptive reuse of parts of the complex have been undertaken by UWS for educational use. New buildings including the auditorium, library and student union have been added and some heritage buildings require urgent remediation work (CMP, 11/2007, executive summary).

Historic Themes

Australian Theme (abbrev)	New South Wales Theme	Local Theme
6. Educating - Educating	Education - Activities associated with teaching and learning by children and adults, formally and informally.	Public (primary) schooling -
7. Governing - Governing	Government and Administration - Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs - includes both principled and corrupt activities.	Developing roles for government - providing education -
7. Governing - Governing	Government and Administration - Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs - includes both principled and corrupt activities.	Developing roles for government - caring for orphans -
7. Governing - Governing	Welfare - Activities and process associated with the provision of social services by the state or philanthropic organisations	(none) -
7. Governing - Governing	Welfare - Activities and process associated with the provision of social services by the state or philanthropic organisations	Hospital/nursing home phase -
9. Phases of Life - Marking the phases of life	Persons - Activities of, and associations with, identifiable individuals, families and communal groups	Associations with Governor Lachlan Macquarie, 1810-1821 -

Assessment of Significance

SHR Criteria a)
[Historical Significance]

It has been almost continually occupied since the early years of European settlement, initially by farming activities, but more

importantly, by successive public welfare institutions for the care and management of disadvantaged members of society. It was the first purpose built orphanage in Australia and first combined orphanage to be managed by the state. The original central block is the oldest three storey building in Australia. The actual establishment of the orphanage at Rydalmere is associated with the governorship and development policies of Lachlan Macquarie, with his wife who is thought to have provided the design and with Samuel Marsden who superintended the construction. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 118:1994)

SHR Criteria c)
[Aesthetic Significance]

It is a fine but complex collection of 19th and 20th century institutional buildings set in extensive, landscaped grounds above the Parramatta River. The central two and three storey buildings of the orphanage are a fine example of Old Colonial Georgian architectural design. The extant south elevation, with the symmetrical pavilions, retains a particular clarity of architectural composition, despite subsequent alterations and additions. The same elevation retains a largely uninterrupted visual relationship with the river, sufficient to demonstrate the aesthetic intentions of the original decision to site the orphanage on Arthurs Hill, facing towards the river valley and the contemporary settlement at Parramatta. Surviving external forms of many of the buildings retain sufficient clarity to demonstrate a range of important 19th and early 20th century architectural styles including Old Colonial Georgian, Victorian Regency, Federation Arts and Crafts and Federation Free Style. Remnant flora and site works from successive periods now combine to create a rich and varied landscape. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 118-119:1994)

SHR Criteria d)
[Social Significance]

The history of the orphanage illustrates the evolution of interrelationships between private, ecclesiastic and state responsibilities for social welfare and education. The closure of the orphanage in 1888 reflected developing public policies to foster orphaned children into the community. The initial adaptations made to the old orphan school buildings to accommodate the Hospital for the Insane in the late 1880's, represented one of the last examples of a long standing institutional approach in the care of the mentally ill, that of incarceration rather than hospitalisation. The marked changes of approach to the care of the insane, particularly the reduction in personal confinement, which took place after 1895, is clearly illustrated in the development of buildings and landscape, some of which took place within the Orphan School Precinct. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 119:1994)

SHR Criteria e)
[Research Potential]

For the potential to reveal physical evidence on Aboriginal utilisation of the resources of the region. For the potential to reveal physical evidence on the agricultural aspects of early European settlement in the region. For the potential to reveal physical evidence of former buildings and other structures, living conditions and building utilisation, patterns of land use, planting and pasturage, drainage and water supply systems and other aspects of long term institutional use. For the potential to demonstrate building design, construction and repair techniques throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, particularly from the early decades of the 19th century. For the potential to interpret the role of the Parramatta River as a major form of inland transport and communication in the early decades of European settlement. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 120:1994)

SHR Criteria f)
[Rarity]

The original, central block of the orphan school is the oldest three storey building in Australia. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 118:1994)

SHR Criteria g)
[Representativeness]

As the first purpose built orphan school in the Colony, it illustrates a milestone in the establishment of national social welfare and education

policies. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 121:1994)

Integrity/Intactness:

Buildings and landscaping in poor condition. Currently being refurbished to house the University of Western Sydney.

Assessment Criteria

Items are assessed against the  [State Heritage Register \(SHR\) Criteria](#) to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

Recommended Management Recommendations

While historical archaeology is well studied on site, Aboriginal archaeological assessment and community consultation has yet to be commissioned.

Management Category	Description	Date Updated
Recommended Management	Notify local Aboriginal Land Council	
Recommended Management	Carry out an Archaeological Assessment	

Procedures / Exemptions

Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Heritage Act	Order Under Section 57(2) to exempt the following activities from Section 57(1): (i) Conservation works carried out in accordance with the conservation plan approved by the Heritage Council; (ii) new development, demolitions, alterations or use, which conforms to guidelines included in a masterplan approved by the Heritage Council; (iii) maintenance of any building or item on the site, where maintenance means the continuous protective care of existing fabric, contents and setting of place. Maintenance does not include: (i) restoration, renovation and painting of previously unpainted surfaces unless included in an approved conservation plan; (ii) excavation or disturbances of archaeological relics; (iv) the minor repair of buildings where minor repair means the repair of materials by patching, piercing-in, splicing and consolidating existing materials and includes replacements of minor components such as individual bricks, stone blocks, timber sections, tiles and slates where they have been damaged beyond reasonable repair or are missing. Replacements should be of the same material, colour, texture, form and design as the original it replaces and the number of components it replaced should be substantially less than those remaining. (v) garden maintenance, including cultivation, pruning, weed control, the repair and maintenance of existing fences, gates and garden walls, tree surgery but not extensive lopping;	Sep 19 1997

21(1)(b)	Conservation Plan submitted for comment	Conservation Management Plan for campus		May 2 2007
21(1)(b)	Conservation Plan submitted for endorsement	CMP Endorsed Updated Conservation Management Plan, April 2008		Jul 2 2008
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Standard Exemptions	SCHEDULE OF STANDARD EXEMPTIONS HERITAGE ACT 1977 Notice of Order Under Section 57 (2) of the Heritage Act 1977 I, the Minister for Planning, pursuant to subsection 57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of New South Wales, do by this Order: 1. revoke the Schedule of Exemptions to subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act made under subsection 57(2) and published in the Government Gazette on 22 February 2008; and 2. grant standard exemptions from subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act 1977, described in the Schedule attached. FRANK SARTOR Minister for Planning Sydney, 11 July 2008 To view the schedule click on the Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval link below.	Sep 5 2008
21(1)(b)	Conservation Plan submitted for endorsement	Request for HB confirmation that the CMP issue 3 dated June 2000 still valid		May 11 2009



[Standard Exemptions](#) for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
<i>Heritage Act - State Heritage Register</i>	Rydalmere Hospital Precinct	00749	02 Apr 99	102	8151
<i>Heritage Act - Permanent Conservation Order - former</i>		00749	19 Sep 97	102	8151
<i>Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register</i>					
<i>Regional Environmental Plan</i>	SREP 28 - Parramatta		05 Dec 05		
<i>Regional Environmental Plan</i>	SREP 22 Parramatta River		05 Jun 90		

<i>Local Environmental Plan</i>		580	27 Feb 97	20	903
<i>Cumberland County Council list of Historic Buildings 1961-67</i>					
<i>National Trust of Australia register</i>			17 Jun 75		
<i>Register of the National Estate</i>			21 Mar 78		

Study Details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines Used
Parramatta River REP 22			(not stated)		No
Department of Health - s170 Register	1992	03/5/5/100	Schwager, Brooks & Partners Pty Ltd		Yes

References, Internet links & Images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written	Conybeare Morrison International & Context Landscape Design	2008	University of Western Sydney - Parramatta Campus Masterplan - Masterplan Report	
Written	Conybeare Morrison International	2007	University of Western Sydney Parramatta South Campus Conservation Management Plan	
Written	Casey & Lowe P/L Archaeology & Heritage	2007	Non-Indigenous Archaeological Assessment - University of Western Sydney, Parramatta Campus	
Written	Steve Meacham	2004	Orphans in style (SMH 16/1/04)	
Written	State Library of NSW	2004	Vive le difference - The French in NSW (in the picture gallery)	Click here
Written	Durham, Penny	2003	Orphan school's secrets (Parramatta Advertiser 22/10/03)	
Written	CAB Consulting P/L (Craig Burton) & The Tree School (Judy Fakes)	2003	UWS Parramatta Campus Rydalmere Landscape Management Plan	
Written	Tanner & Associates P/L	2001	Heritage Impact Statement: Landscape Master Plan Female Orphan School precinct, UWS Parramatta Campus	
Management Plan	Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd	2000	Female Orphan School, Rydalmere, Conservation Management Plan	
Written	Casey & Lowe Associates	1997	Archaeological assessment: University of Western Sydney, Nepean, Parramatta campus (Old Rydalmere Hospital) infrastructure works Date:	
Written	Schwager Brooks and Partners Pty Ltd	1994	Conservation Plan - Rydalmere Hospital Orphan School Precinct	

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Camellia (Parramatta River) Underbridge Abutments

Item

Name of Item: Camellia (Parramatta River) Underbridge Abutments

Other Name/s: Clyde Carlingford Rail Bridge, Rydalmere - Parramatta River Underbridge

Type of Item: Built

Group/Collection: Transport - Rail

Category: Railway Bridge/ Viaduct

Primary Address: between Camellia and Rydalmere stations Parramatta River, Camellia / Rydalmere, NSW 2150

Local Govt. Area: Parramatta

Property Description:

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
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Boundary: Curtilage to be limited to perimeter of brick abutments on either side of the bridge.
Note: a visual link between the two sides should be maintained.

All Addresses

Street Address	Suburb/Town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
between Camellia and Rydalmere stations Parramatta River	Camellia / Rydalmere	Parramatta			Primary

Owner/s

Organisation Name	Owner Category	Date Ownership Updated
RailCorp	State Government	
RailCorp	State Government	
RailCorp	State Government	

Statement of Significance The Camellia (Parramatta River) underbridge abutments are of local significance as a remnant of an excellent example of a classic 19th century bridge in the English railway design tradition remaining unaltered in their appearance since their construction. Remnants of the bridge have potential to provide information on the

construction techniques of such railway underbridges. These remnant abutments were part of the (believed to be) only privately railway built underbridge to survive on the Government railway system. The remnant brick abutments are aesthetically significant in their fine classical detailing featuring large arches with decorative stone ends, brick header voussoirs, a stone course between the substructure and the classically detailed balustrade with stone capping.

Date Significance Updated: 08 Dec 09

Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Branch intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.

Description

Designer/Maker: Messrs Horne and Shand

Builder/Maker: Messrs Horne and Shand

Construction Years: 1895 - 1895

Physical ABUTMENTS

Description: The red face brick remnant abutments are located on each side of the Parramatta River. Immediately westwards at about 12 metres distance is a steel Pratt truss carrying water main pipes. The northern abutment is located on the edge of the south west corner of the University of Western Sydney Parramatta campus. They encase the approaches of the more recent railway bridge. The remnants are characterised by one and a half sizable external arches, with decorative stone ends and arched substructures. The voussoirs are formed by brick headers and are terminated at each end by decorative stone work. A stone course separates the main structure of the bridge from the classically detailed balustrade. The balustrade is topped with stone capping. Some other remaining structural aspects of the bridge are also of stone. The southern abutment appears to have been painted brown at some time. The abutments are located below a truss bridge constructed c1995.

Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential:

The abutments are in relatively good condition in 2009. **Date Condition Updated:** 04 Feb 09

Modifications and Dates: 1901: the line was resumed by the N.S.W Government Railways who then took steps to strengthen the bridge for heavier traffic by fitting additional longitudinal girders to replace normal timber sleepers supporting the railway lines. 1995: iron lattice spans removed and replaced by the new truss bridge.

Current Use: disused remnant

Former Use: railway underbridge

History

Historical Notes: The bridge was part of Simpson's Railway, which was a private railway aimed at serving property subdivisions to the north. It ran from Rose Hill to Carlingford and opened in 1895. It is believed to be the last iron lattice truss railway bridge built in N.S.W. Most bridges built after this time were steel and of different truss forms. The bridge was constructed as a continuous lattice girder wrought iron bridge of three spans -199'0" centre span and 104'0" side spans carrying a single railway track over the Parramatta River between Camellia and Rydalmere Railway Stations. The high cost of the bridge caused the financial collapse of the company and the bridge and the railway to Carlingford was taken over in 1901 by the NSW Government Railways. It

was the last iron lattice railway bridge constructed in NSW, though only the abutments remain. The lattice girder structure was replaced by the existing truss in c1995.

see <http://www.westernsydneylibraries.nsw.gov.au/baulkhamhills/transport.html>

Assessment of Significance

- SHR Criteria a)**
[Historical Significance] The remnant abutments are the only physical evidence of the Camellia railway bridge, which was the last iron lattice truss railway bridge built in N.S.W. The bridge was part of the 1895 Simpson's Railway, which was a private railway aimed at serving property subdivisions to the north between Rose Hill and Carlingford.
- SHR Criteria c)**
[Aesthetic Significance] These remnant bridge abutments are an excellent example of a classic 19th century bridge in the English railway design tradition. The remnant brick abutments are aesthetically significant in their fine classical detailing featuring large arches with decorative stone ends, brick header voussoirs, a stone course between the substructure and the classically detailed balustrade with stone capping.
- SHR Criteria e)**
[Research Potential] Remnants of the Camellia (Parramatta River) underbridge have potential to provide information on the construction techniques of such railway underbridges constructed in the late 19th Century.
- SHR Criteria f)**
[Rarity] Prior to its demolition, the bridge was believed to be the only privately built underbridge to survive on the Government railway system.

Integrity/Intactness: Only the abutments from the original bridge are left. Prior to its demolition the bridge was believed to be unaltered in its appearance since construction. Therefore, it is likely that the surviving remnants continue to be unaltered in their appearance as they show no evidence of alteration. However, removal of the main structural spanning lattice truss elements has reduced the overall integrity.

Assessment Criteria Items are assessed against the  [State Heritage Register \(SHR\) Criteria](#) to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
<i>Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register</i>	Railcorp S170 Register				

Study Details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines Used
S170 Heritage & Conservation Register Update	2009		City Plan Heritage		Yes

References, Internet links & Images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written	O'Connor, Colin.	1985	Spanning Two Centuries - Historic Bridges of	

			Australia	
Written	Sharp, S.A.	1983	A Non Technical Outline of NSW Railway Bridges	
Written	Singleton, C.C.	1955	"Clyde to Carlingford and Sandown Railway", ARHS Bulletin, Vol. 6 No. 210, April	
Written	Register of the National Estate Listing		Camellia Railway Underbridge, Railway St, Rydalmere, NSW, Australia	

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