

A stylized topographic map with green contour lines is positioned on the left side of the page, extending from the top to the bottom. The lines represent elevation changes across a landscape.

## Rosalind Park – Planning Proposal, Medhurst Road, Menangle Park - Historic Heritage Assessment

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**LEDA HOLDINGS**

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Template 2.8.1

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

Eco logical Australia (ELA) has been commissioned by LEDA HOLDINGS (LEDA) to provide a historic heritage assessment to support a Planning Proposal (rezoning application) to Campbelltown City Council for 33 Medhurst Road, 101 and 111 Menangle Road, Menangle Park (the study area), in the Campbelltown City Council Local Government Area (LGA).

The study area does not contain any listed heritage items; however, it is located in a landscape of early land grants and State significant farming properties. The Mount Gilead property, Sydney Water Upper Canal, Camden Park Estate, Sugarloaf Farm and Belgenny Farm are State heritage listed items within the vicinity of the study area. The study area is not associated with these heritage items; however, distant views of the historic mill and homestead of Mount Gilead can be seen from locations within the study area.

The study area comprises predominantly dairy pastures with an unlisted Federation-era house and associated farm buildings on the highest ridgeline. This report will identify and assess any potential impacts to significant heritage elements, including landscapes, within the study area as a result of the proposal, with special focus on the Federation-era house. Where necessary, mitigative measures and recommendations for the long-term conservation of heritage values will be provided.

## 1.2. Study area location

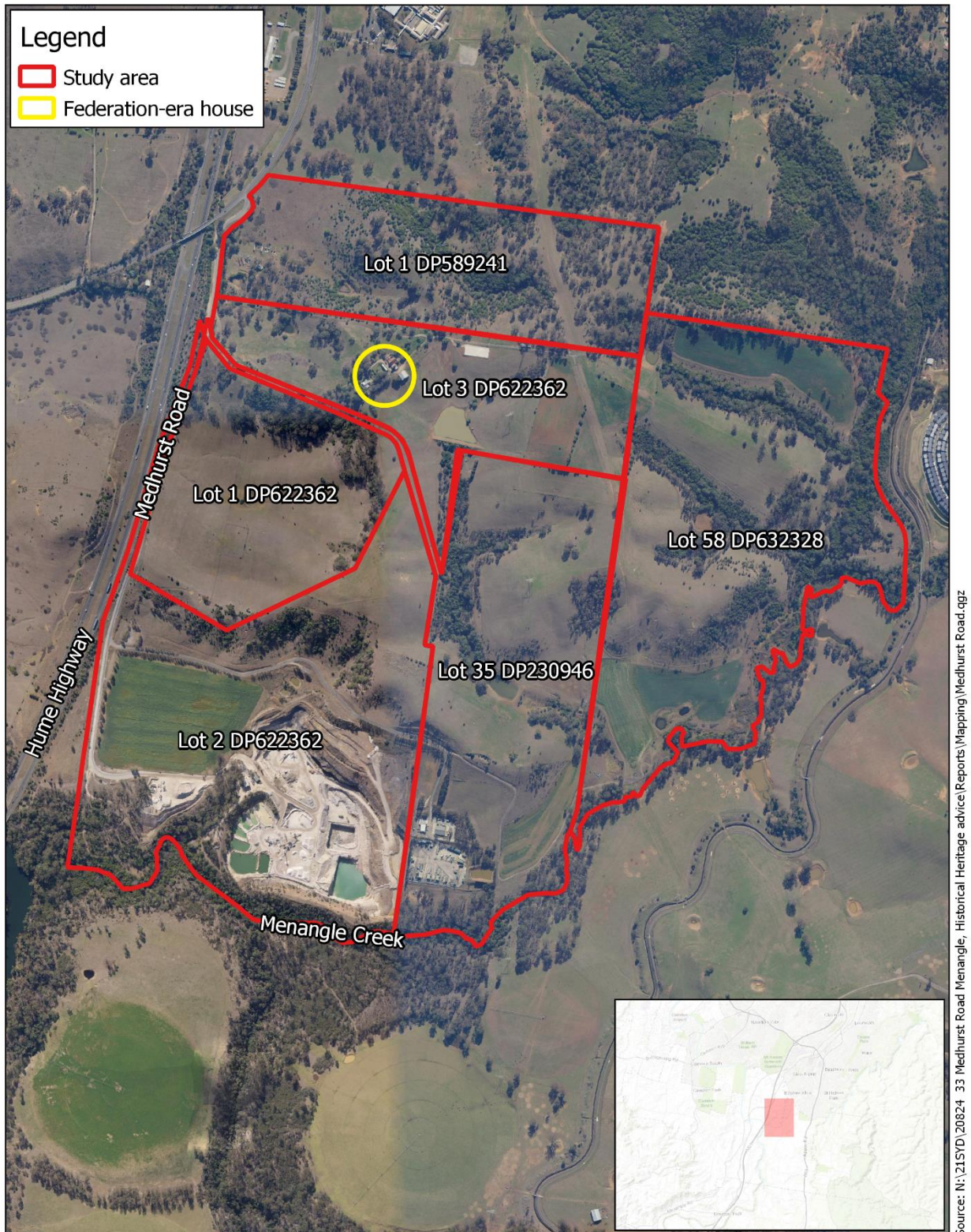
The study area is located at 33 Medhurst Road, 101 and 111 Menangle Road, Menangle Park, NSW 2563, within the Parish of Menangle and County of Cumberland. It comprises Lots 1, 2 & 3 DP 622362, Lot 58 DP 632328, Lot 1 DP589241, and Lot 35 DP 230946.

The study area is approximately 70 kilometres southwest of Sydney CBD, and 10 kilometres southwest of Campbelltown. It is bounded by the Hume Highway and Medhurst Road to the west, Menangle Creek to the south and east, and Sugarloaf Farm and the Broughton Anglican College to the north.

The Federation-era house and associated farm buildings are located within the north-western portion of the study area (Lot 3 DP622362). The location of the study area and Federation-era house is provided within Figure 1 - Figure 2.

## 1.3. Proposal

The Rosalind Park Planning proposal includes redevelopment of the study area to provide a range of lot sizes for residential housing, Retail Village and neighbourhood centres, community uses, a school, as well as parklands and environmental conservation areas (Figure 3). The proposal would include retention of the existing Federation-era house, removal of modern extensions and adaptive reuse as a café/restaurant/bar or community centre. The property's ancillary buildings are in various states of disrepair and would be removed and materials reused where possible. The landscaped gardens and historic plantings surrounding the house would largely be retained.



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**logical**  
AUSTRALIA  
A TETRA TECH COMPANY

**Study area**  
**2651 33 Medhurst Road,**  
**Menangle Park**  
LGA: Campbelltown

Scale: 1:12,000  
Size: A4  
Date: 31-05-2022

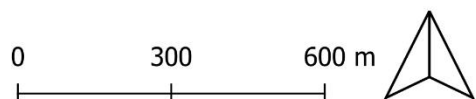


Figure 1: Location of the study area and house location indicated



**Federation-era house**  
**2651 33 Medhurst Road,**  
**Menangle Park**  
 LGA: Campbelltown

Scale: 1:1,200

Size: A4

Date: 31-05-2022

0 30 60 m



**Figure 2: Location of Federation-era house outbuildings and gardens within study area**

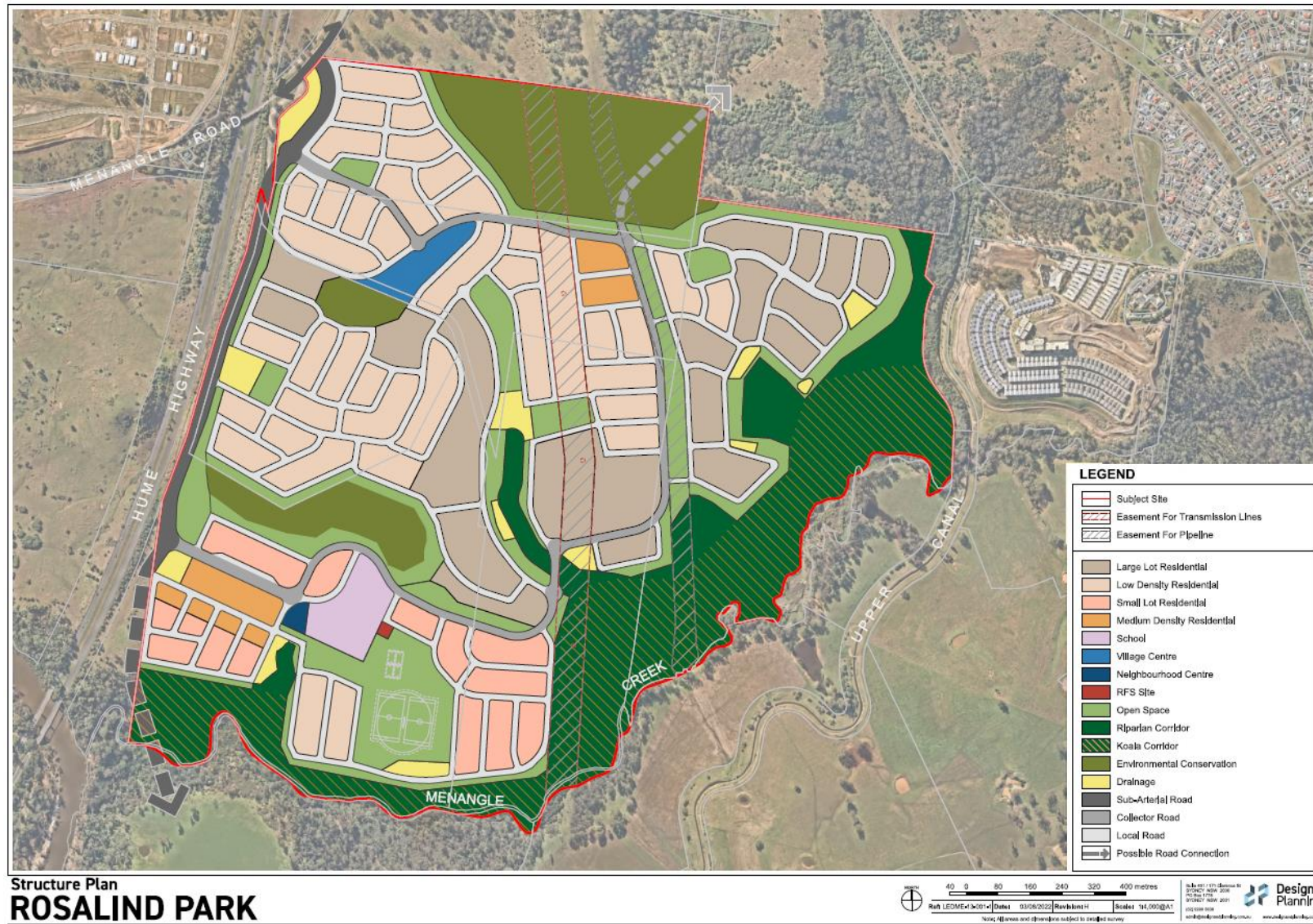


Figure 3: Indicative subdivision plan of the study area and surrounding properties (Source: Design and Planning July 2022)

## 1.4. Methodology

This Historic Heritage Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual and 'Assessing Heritage Significance' (Heritage Office 2001) guidelines. The philosophy and process adopted is that guided by the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter* 1999.

The subject proposal has also considered the Campbelltown Local Environmental Plan 2015 (LEP 2012) and the Campbelltown Development Control Plan (DCP 2015).

## 1.5. Author identification

This report has been prepared by Jessica Horton (ELA Heritage Consultant, BA [Archaeology & History] University of Sydney, MA [Heritage Conservation] University of Sydney, 2022 completion), with review and input provided by Karyn McLeod (ELA Principal Heritage Consultant, BA Hons [Archaeology] University of Sydney, MA [Cultural Heritage] Deakin University).

## 2. Historical context

This historical context has been developed through the use of primary and secondary documentary sources, supplemented by information provided by previous property owners, the Bloom Family.

### 2.1. Aboriginal context

The Tharawal are the traditional owners of the Menangle region, whose lands extend eastwards towards Botany Bay, south to the Shoalhaven River and Nowra, and inland towards Camden. ‘Menangle’ is thought to have been derived from the Aboriginal word ‘Menhangle’ meaning ‘the place of many swamps.’ Prior to the 1880s Upper Canal construction, the region was defined by a number of lagoons. These lagoons had been utilised by Aboriginal people to cultivate and raise eels, whilst fire was used to encourage grasslands on the flat, fertile land (Campbelltown City Council, n.d.).

### 2.2. Post-1788 settlement, Menangle

The earliest European activity within the vicinity of Menangle Park occurred almost immediately following settlement at Sydney Cove. Upon arrival at Sydney Cove, two bulls and five cows had escaped from the colony, to be found in 1795, as a thriving herd enjoying the grasslands along the Nepean River near Camden. This area became known as ‘the Cowpastures,’ with European settlers utilising the fertile lands for grazing and agricultural activities after land grants were issued from 1805 (Camden History Notes, n.d.).

In 1805, 2000 acres was granted to Walter Davidson on the west bank of the Nepean River near Menangle Park. Davidson named his farm ‘Menangle;’ however, it was soon engulfed by John and Elizabeth Macarthur’s Camden Park property (Campbelltown City Council n.d.). The Macarthur’s had been granted 5000 acres in 1806 to establish a sheep breeding farm at Camden (Campbelltown City Council n.d.).

East of the Nepean, additional grants went to the Taber family. Convict and School Teacher, Thomas Taber had arrived at Sydney Cove in 1797 with his wife (Frances Sarah Medhurst) and three children. Thomas was granted 100 acres and his three sons 50 acres each. Within a few decades, members of the Taber family were spread throughout Menangle and the surrounds. George Taber, known as a ‘gentleman farmer,’ constructed the historic Menangle House during the 1820s (extant, 1.2 kilometres west of the study area) (Campbelltown City Council n.d.).

One of the family properties was called Medhurst Vale, in honour of Frances Sarah’s maiden name. In 1977, Campbelltown Council gave an unnamed roadway on the western side of the study area the appellation of Medhurst Road after a request by the family (Campbelltown City Council, n.d.). There is little historical information to attest to the location of Medhurst Vale, it is unconfirmed whether this residence is the Federation-era house located within the study area.

Additional land grants in the area comprised a 60-acre parcel to the south of Taber made to James Harrex (or Hurux) ex-convict in 1812, (Casey & Lowe 2010, p. 17). An 1834 map of Menangle indicates that James Harrex’s grant was ‘in trust’ by Charles Marsden following Harrex’s death in 1825.

To the south of Harrex, 200 acres was granted to John William Lewin around 1809. Lewin was a naturalist and artist producing books of faithful and delicate representations of insects and birds. Lewin seized every opportunity of making expeditions to enlarge his collections and was befriended by Governor Macquarie with whom he accompanied on the first crossing of the Blue Mountains on William Cox's new road in May 1815. Lewin and his wife lived in Sydney and he appears to have not had the time or means to develop his land (Australian Dictionary of Biography).

The majority of surrounding district was then divided into small 30-60-acre land grants from August 1812, with larger land parcels provided to prominent individuals including Mary Reiby and Robert Campbell. Additional grants were made in 1816, 1821, 1831, and 1835. Overall, most land holders within Menangle Park are known to have undertaken land clearances and fencing and attempted agricultural or pastoral activities on their properties (Casey & Lowe 2010, p. 17). On his October 1815 tour of the area, Governor Lachlan Macquarie confirmed this by writing: *'where we crossed the River Nepean into the District of Airds, first passing through Harrex's and then afterwards thro' several other smaller farms, some few of which were tolerably well improved, and the crops in the ground looking well and healthy'* (Macquarie 1815, p 114).

The Cumberland Plain woodland was cleared on the large estates that flanked Cowpasture Road (later Camden Valley Way) and the Northern Road which were run largely as sheep and cattle farms from the 1800s onwards. Wheat, corn and other grain crops were being grown until the wheat industry collapsed in the 1860s (Benson and Howell 1990:75). Dairying became the major agricultural industry in the region after that time.

The Macarthur family are known to have established Menangle village for their estate workers. It was officially recorded as a village in 1866, centring on the railway (1863) which significantly opened the region and encouraged steady growth (Campbelltown City Council n.d.). A school was established in 1871 followed by St James Church (1876), St Patrick's Church (1896), the General Store (c1904) and the Hall (c1904).

Parish maps would indicate that the study area falls within original land grants made to Thomas Taber (100 acres), James Harrex (60 acres), John William Lewin (200-acres), Charles Gray (104 acres) and George Marriott Woodhouse (200 acres) at the turn of the nineteenth century (Figure 6). A detailed historical context for each land grant is provided within Appendix A.

Historical records would attest that early nineteenth century land grants at Menangle Park were utilised for agricultural purposes, many of which were not developed or occupied by their owners and were managed by an overseer (Casey & Lowe 2010, p. 17). Initial activities would likely have comprised land clearances and fencing, whilst crops were grown up until the collapse of the wheat industry during the 1860s, at which point dairying redefined the region.

The Federation-era house within the study area is located with an original 60-acre land grant made to convict James Harrex in 1812 (Casey & Lowe 2010, p. 17). An 1834 map of Menangle would indicate that James Harrex's grant was 'in trust' by Charles Marsden following Harrex's death (1825); the Woodhouse and Lewin grants had transferred to Harrex's estate by this time, and the Gray property was in Thomas Rose's ownership (Figure 7). The property has operated in a pastoral and dairying capacity from the 1860s and comprises a brick Federation era house (1890-1915), and timber and brick ancillary buildings all of which have been extensively modified.

Maurice and Rosalind Bloom purchased the property in 1962 from the Foo (or Fu) family. The Bloom family did not initially reside at the property; however, they employed the Mutton family to assist in the operation of a dairy farm there. The Mutton family resided in a '50-year old timber building' where the hay-store currently stands on the site (Canberra Times 1966, p. 8). In August 1966, this timber structure burnt down resulting in the deaths of all six Mutton family members (Robert, 30, Mary, 27, Robert Bruce, 7, Kim, 4, Kerry, 3, and Karen, 12 months) (The Canberra Times 1966, p. 3).

Seven years of drought resulted in the closure of the dairy in 1969 and the Bloom family moved into the property. The Federation-era house had succumbed to neglect, comprising the four front rooms and a separate kitchen at this time. As such, the family undertook extensive renovations to make the house a family home, resulting in the present-day layout, whilst Rosalind Bloom undertook widespread landscaping and gardening work. The Bloom family sold a western portion of their land (Lot 3 DP622362) in the early 70's to Illawarra Coal. Lendlease then purchased from Illawarra Coal, however the land has remained undeveloped.

1960s aerial imagery indicates that the study area continued to be utilised for agricultural purposes into the twentieth century. Evidence of development appears to be limited to fence lines, cropland, grazing paddocks, whilst modifications were made to the federation-era house and associated gardens and outbuildings, undertaken by the Bloom family (Figure 6). The 1970s aerial imagery shows that the sandstone quarry located within the southern portion of the study area was developed between 1972 and 1975 (Figure 9 - Figure 10), whilst 1980s aerial imagery indicates that the study area has largely remained in its present configuration since this time.

There are no other structures on the property, and no historical evidence that earlier buildings were present within the study area.



**Figure 4: 'Bloom,' Menangle Park, 1980 (Source: Campbelltown Library)**



**Figure 5: 'Bloom,' Menangle Park, 1980 (Source: Campbelltown Library)**

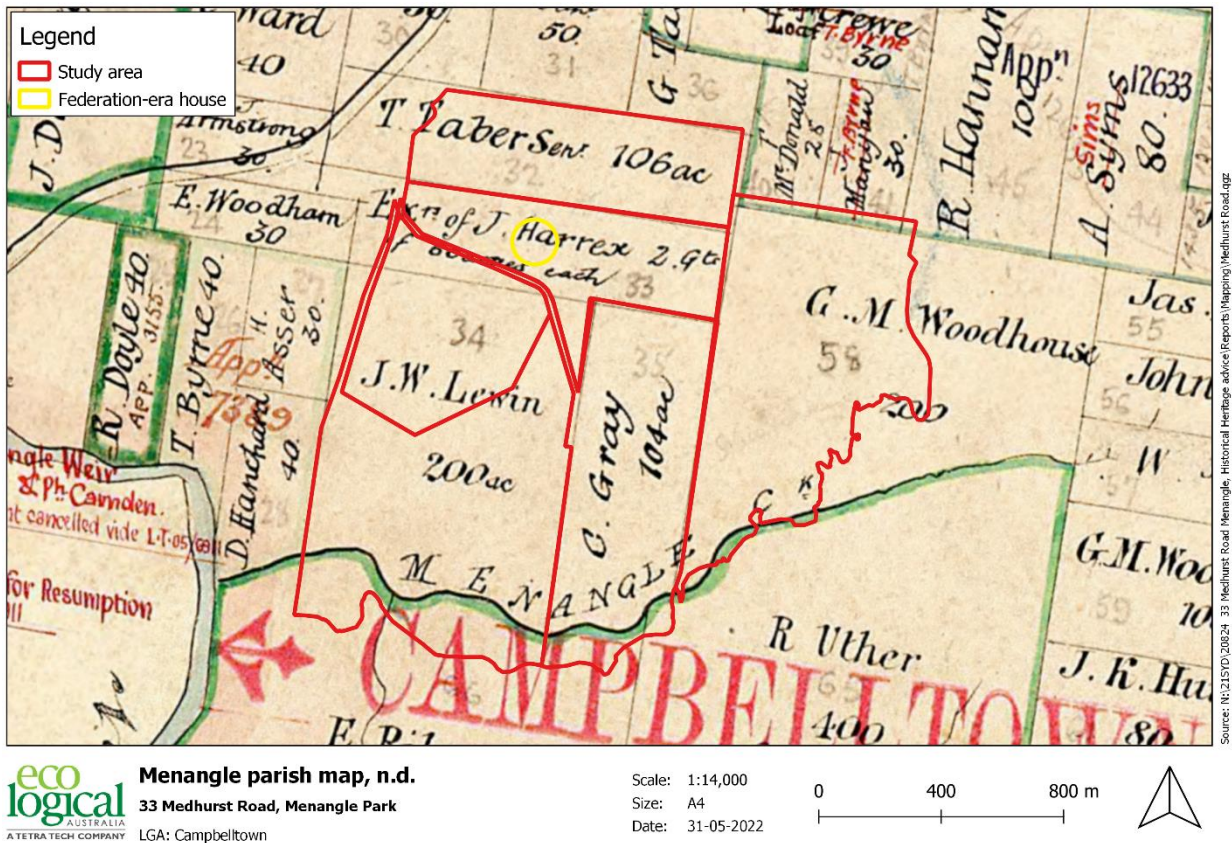


Figure 6: Menangle parish map, n.d., showing original land grants within the study area (Source: HLRV)

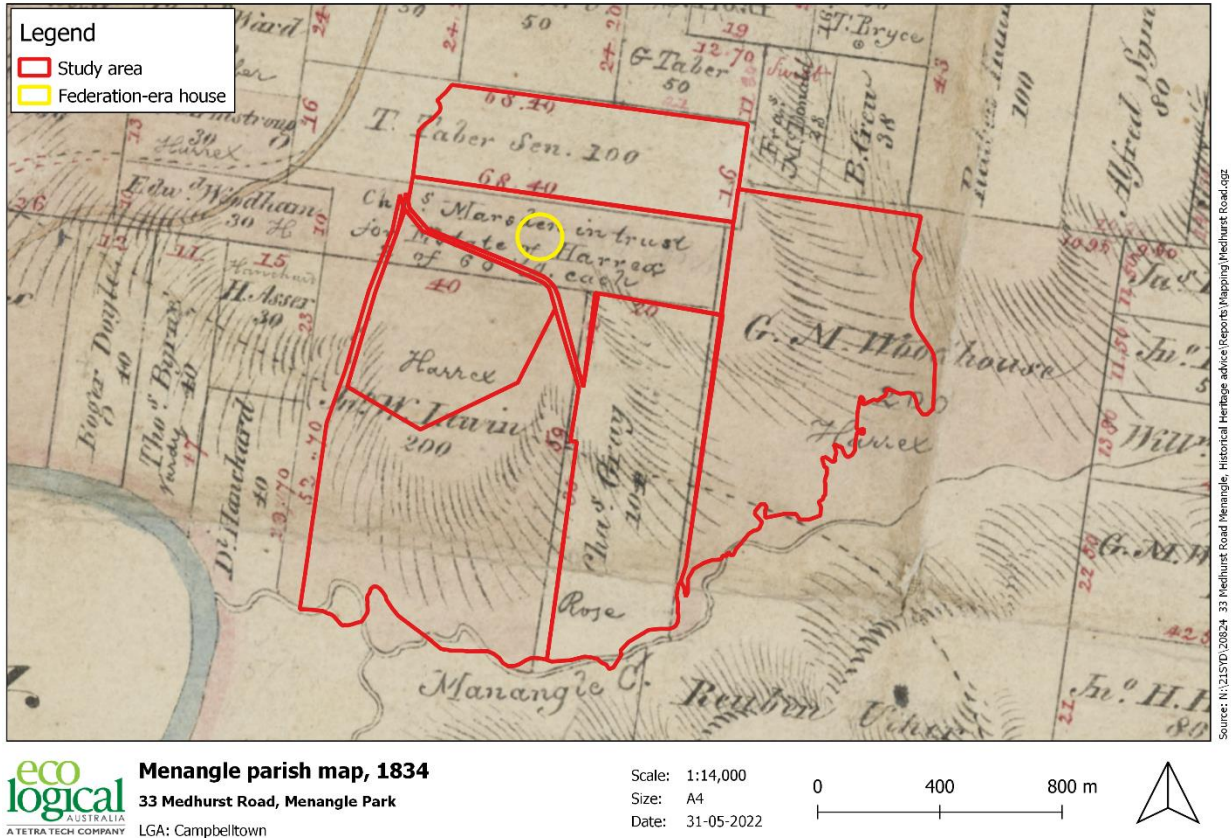


Figure 7: Menangle parish map, 1834, showing changes in land ownership (Source: State Library NSW)

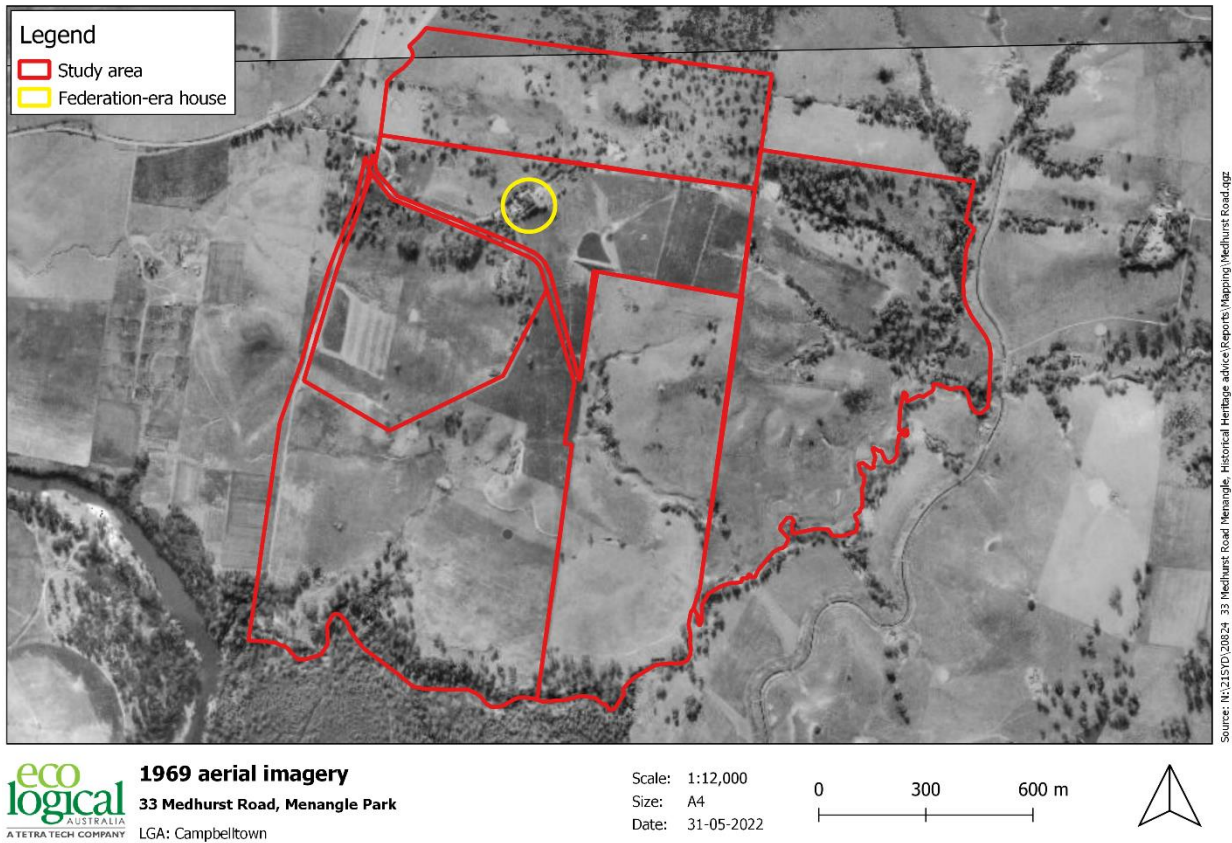


Figure 8: Aerial imagery, 1969, showing the study area defined by agricultural activity (Source: NSW Govt. Spatial Portal)

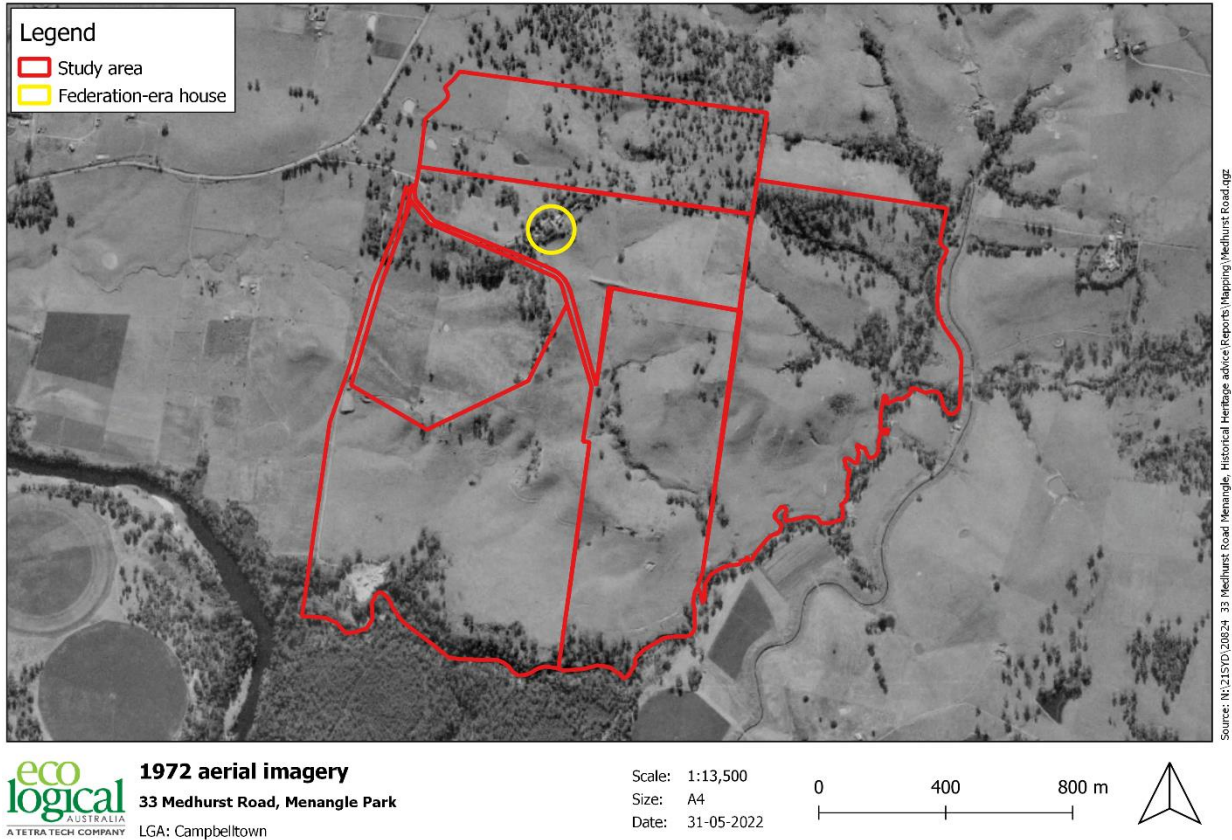
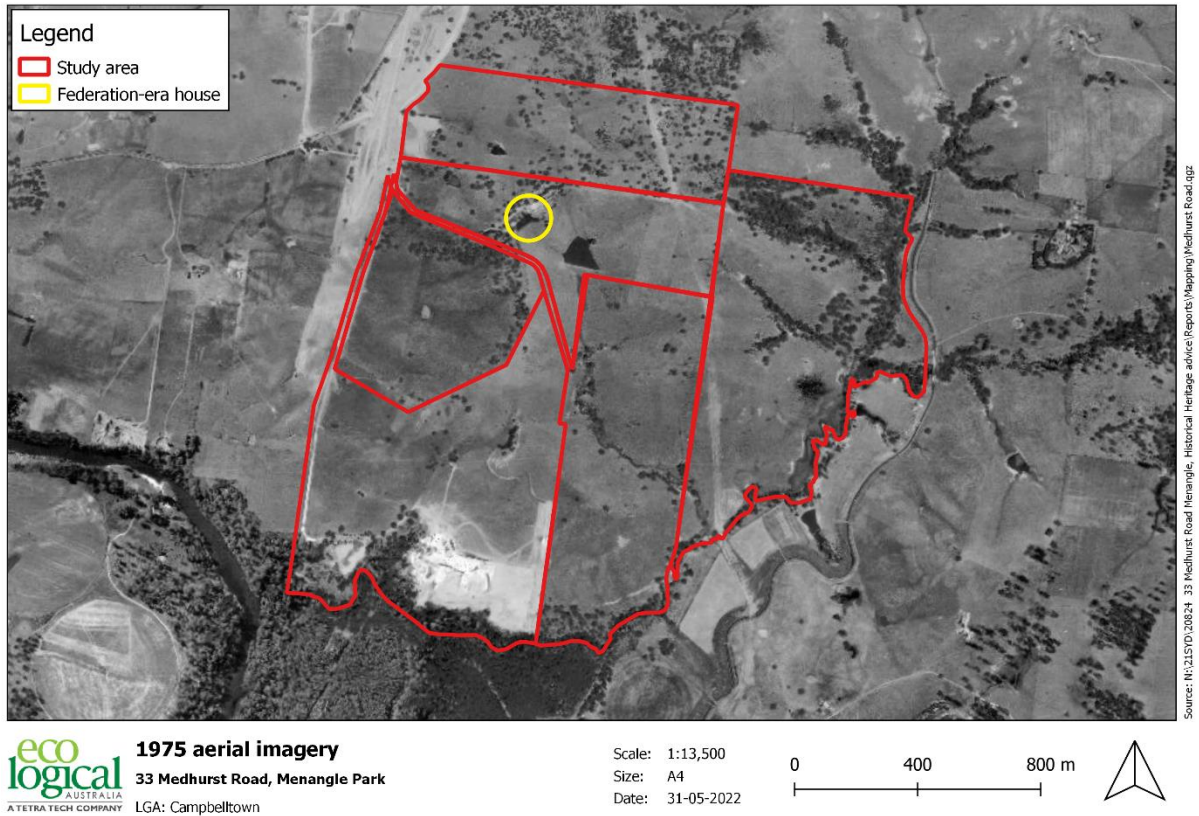
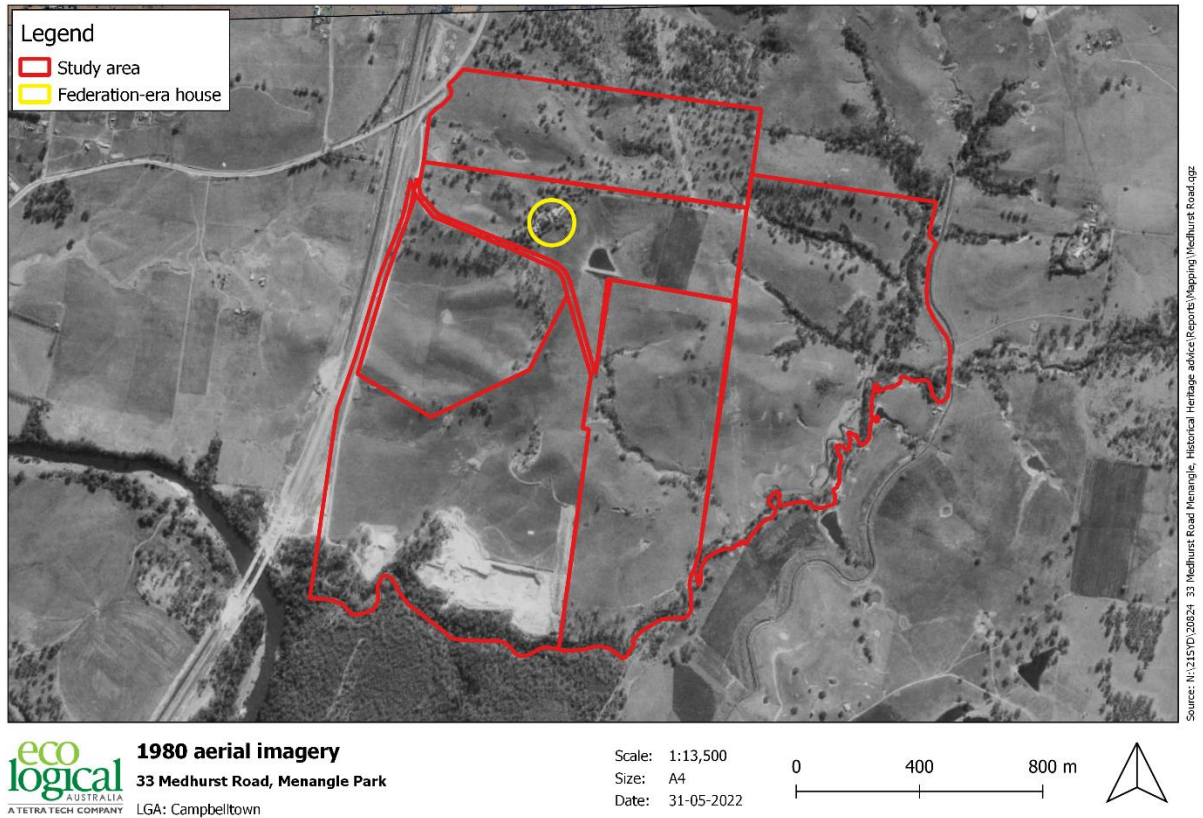


Figure 9: Aerial imagery, 1972, showing the study area defined by agricultural activity (Source: NSW Govt. Spatial Portal)



**Figure 10: Aerial imagery, 1975, showing development of sandstone quarry in the southern portion of the study area and the Hume Highway construction to the west (Source: NSW Govt. Spatial Portal)**



**Figure 11: Aerial imagery, 1980, showing the study area in the same configuration as today (Source: NSW Govt. Spatial Portal)**

### 2.3. Site inspection

A site visit was conducted by Jessica Horton (ELA Heritage Consultant) and Karyn McLeod (ELA Principal Heritage Consultant) on 13 January 2022. The study area had also been previously assessed by ELA in 2021 and 2016.

The study area comprises the Medhurst sandstone quarry operated by Hi Quality Environment Services and a Coal Seam Gas plant operated by AGL to the south, adjacent to Menangle Creek, and the Federation-era house with landscaped gardens and associated outbuildings (also known as Rosalind Farm), to the north-west. The remainder of the study area is defined by open agricultural grazing land, interspersed with trees and vegetation, minor lagoons, or dams, and accessways.

#### **Lot 3 DP622362**

Rosalind Farm has a strong dairying history, running cattle and producing cattle feed since the c1860s. The property comprises a brick Federation era (1890-1915) farmhouse with a hipped iron roof, that has been extensively modified (Figure 42). The site inspection revealed that the original portion of the residence is likely limited to the four south-westernmost rooms (front of residence), and the kitchen. At point of construction, the kitchen was detached from the residence, later joined by the addition of a pantry on one side and a lounge room on the other. The remaining rooms, including second bedroom with ensuite and verandah, second sitting room, carport, ensuite and dressing room (first bedroom), and front verandah are considered later additions (likely mid-twentieth century). The original portion of the Federation-era house maintains several original features including chimney stacks, ceiling roses, fireplaces, skirting boards, cornices, timber floorboards, timber sash windows and hallway arch mouldings.

The Federation-era house is located on the highest point of the study area and is surrounded by a garden of exotic and native trees and shrubs (including Bunya Pine and Palm Trees). The property was originally accessed from Menangle Road but is now accessed from Medhurst Road due to the construction of the Hume Motorway. To the rear of the house (northeast) there are a number of timber, brick and corrugated iron buildings and sheds, including a dairy, silos, an equipment shed that may have been a stable and a number of brick and concrete platforms that held previous structures.

Hand-cut sandstone blocks taken from the local quarry, and repurposed for landscaping, and repurposed c1860s bricks are located within the site. There is no documentary evidence to support former structures being present within the study area, however, dairies established during the mid-nineteenth century often contained a shed or small structure to support farm workers, whilst the main residence was often located at a distance from the 'working areas' and frequently on the highest point with views over the surrounding property.

The study area may have potential to contain archaeological resources from sheds and previous farming infrastructure (i.e. building foundations, and subsurface features including cesspits, rubbish pits, cisterns etc.). Archaeological resources of this nature are unlikely to fulfil the criterion for local significance as they are commonplace and unlikely to answer important questions about the history or development of the property and wider area. It is unlikely that significant archaeological resources or 'relics' will be disturbed as part of the proposed works as no early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings are known to be located in the study area.

Other historic features in the study area include numerous fence lines planted with box thorn and African olive, a small sandstone quarry, a number of dams across drainage lines and stones piled along a fence line to the east of the farm. Much of the property consists of moderate to steep slopes and only three paddocks in the south and western part of the study area appear to have undergone recent cultivation. The Mount Gilead mill, homestead and associated buildings are visible from parts of the study area. Photographs (Figure 12 - Figure 37) and an indicative floorplan of the homestead complex (Figure 42) have been provided below. Additional photos are provided within Appendix B.



**Figure 12: Northeast facing view of house, showing south-western façade and historic palm tree plantings (Source: ELA 2022)**



**Figure 13: East facing view of house, showing north-western façade and historic palm tree planting (Source: ELA 2022)**



**Figure 14: South facing view of house (rear), showing modern extension (second sitting room) with original structure behind (Source: ELA 2022)**



**Figure 15: North-west facing view of house, showing exterior of original kitchen. Note, the windows are later additions (Source: ELA 2022)**



**Figure 16: North-west facing view of house, showing modern extension (second bedroom and verandah) (Source: ELA 2022)**



**Figure 17: South-east facing view of modern carport extension on house (Source: ELA 2022)**



**Figure 18: North facing view within house sitting room, note the original fireplace (Source: ELA 2022)**



**Figure 19: North-west facing view within house dining room, note the original fireplace (Source: ELA 2022)**



**Figure 20: South facing view within house drawing room, note original fireplace and skirting boards (Source: ELA 2022)**



**Figure 21: South-west facing view within house bedroom with views into the modern ensuite extension (Source: ELA 2022)**



Figure 22: North-east facing within house hallway, towards modern extension (Source: ELA 2022)



Figure 23: South-west facing view within house hallway, towards front entryway (Source: ELA 2022)



Figure 24: East facing within kitchen. Windows are later additions, whilst an original fireplace has been block-up behind the modern oven (Source: ELA 2022)



Figure 25: North-east facing view within house kitchen (Source: ELA 2022)



Figure 26: East facing view within house bedroom 2 (modern extension) (Source: ELA 2022)



Figure 27: North facing view within house second sitting room (modern extension) (Source: ELA 2022)



Figure 28: South-east facing view within house ensuite, (modern extension) (Source: ELA 2022)



Figure 29: South-west facing view of house dressing room (modern extension) (Source: ELA 2022)



Figure 30: East facing view of house complex outbuildings (Source: ELA 2022)



Figure 31: South facing view of house complex outbuilding (Source: ELA 2022)



Figure 32: South-east facing view of house complex hay-store (Source: ELA 2022)



Figure 33: Detail view of c1860s bricks set in concrete surrounds, evidence of a former structure associated with the farming infrastructure (Source: ELA 2022)



**Figure 34: Detail view of hand-cut sandstone blocks utilised within the garden (Source: ELA 2022)**



**Figure 35: South-east facing view of historic Bunya Pine trees within the garden (outlined in green) (Source: ELA 2022)**

### **Lots 1 & 2 DP622362, Lot 35 DP230946, Lot 58 DP32328 & Lot 1 DP622362**

The topography of Lot 1 DP622362 is undulating with high tree covered ridges to the north and west (Figure 38 - Figure 41) and land sloping steeply down to the south and east where a dam is located. There are no permanent creek lines within Lot 1 DP622362, and the dam has been constructed at the lowest point in the site to collect run-off from the surrounding slopes. The remainder of Lot 1 DP622362 is open grassland. Pedestrian survey of Lot 1 DP622362 noted piles of sandstone along fence lines to the east of Lot 1 DP622362 but there was no outcropping sandstone, exotic plantings, evidence of previous structures or potential heritage items in the study area.

Lot 2 DP622362 and Lot 35 DP230946 maintain the sandstone quarry operated by Hi Quality Environment Services and a Coal Seam Gas plant operated by AGL along Menangle Creek, with dams and agricultural land to the north. Lot 58 DP32328 solely comprises open agricultural land, dams, and tree lines, whilst Lot 1 DP622362 contains an informal roadway and a post 1970 building complex.



**Figure 36: Landscape view within Lot 1 DP589241 showing cleared agricultural land and post 1970 building complex (Source: LEDA 2022)**



**Figure 37: Landscape view within Lot 1 DP589241 showing cleared agricultural land (Source: LEDA 2022)**



**Figure 38: View east from Menangle Road showing western boundary tree line in the background Lot 1 DP 622362**



**Figure 39: Medhurst Road entry to quarry and gas extraction area in the south of the study area**



**Figure 40: Fence line in the central western part of the study area Lot 1 DP 622362**



**Figure 41: View north east to the study area from the Hume Highway, note the ridgeline in the background**



**Figure 42: Federation-era house, showing room layout and construction phases (indicative)**

### 3. Statutory Controls

#### 3.1. Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)

The *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) provides protection of the environmental heritage of the State which includes places, buildings, works, relics, movable objects or precincts that are of State or local heritage significance.

The NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) is the statutory register under Part 3A of the NSW Heritage Act. Listing on the SHR means that any proposed works or alterations (unless exempted) to listed items must be approved by the Heritage Council or its delegates under section 60.

Section 57(2) of the Heritage Act provides for a number of potential exemptions to Section 57(1) approval requirements to reduce the need for approval of minor or regular works such as maintenance. Exempted development does not require prior Heritage Council approval. Standard exemptions do not apply to the disturbance, destruction, removal or exposure of archaeological relics.

Archaeological features and deposits are afforded statutory protection by the ‘relics provision’. Section 4(1) of the Heritage Act (as amended 2009) defines ‘relic’ as any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

- (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and
- (b) is of State or local heritage significance.

The ‘relics provision’ requires that no archaeological relics be disturbed or destroyed without prior consent from the Heritage Council of NSW. To determine if an area has historical archaeological potential or relics an assessment is made using the guidelines ‘Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics’ (Heritage Branch 2009). The Heritage Council must be notified on the discovery of a relic under Section 146 of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

State Government Agency’s Section 170 register includes items that have been identified as having state or local level significance and are owned or managed by state government agencies.

#### 3.2. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) [EP&A Act] requires that consideration is given to environmental impacts as part of the land use planning process. In NSW, environmental impacts are interpreted as including cultural heritage impact. Proposed activities and development are considered under different parts of the EP&A Act, including:

Major projects (State Significant Development under Part 4.1 and State Significant Infrastructure under Part 5.1), requiring the approval of the Minister for Planning.

Minor or routine development requiring local council consent, are usually undertaken under Part 4. In limited circumstances, projects may require the Minister’s consent.

Part 5 activities which do not require development consent. These are often infrastructure projects approved by local councils or the State agency undertaking the project.

The EP&A Act also controls the making of environmental planning instruments (EPIs) such as Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) and State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). LEPs commonly identify, and have provisions for the protection of, local heritage items and heritage conservation areas. Campbelltown Council LEP 2015 is relevant to this site.

### 3.3. Heritage listings and significance

The following registers and statutory instruments were searched for the study area:

- National Heritage List (NHL)
- State Heritage Register (SHR)
- Section s170 Government Agency heritage and conservation registers
- Campbelltown LEP 2015
- Wollondilly LEP 2011
- Register of the National Estate and National Trust Register (non-statutory)

The Federation-era house and associated outbuildings are not listed on any statutory or non-statutory heritage registers. Whilst the house maintains several elements of original fabric, it has been modified to a point where it would be largely unrecognisable to its original configuration and aesthetic. Considering the extensive modifications the house has undergone, it is not deemed a good representative example of its type, with a number of better examples located within the surrounding landscape including Beulah, Denfield, Denham Court, Glen Lea, St Helens Park, Sugarloaf Farm, Denbigh, Gledswood, Mount Gilead, and Varroville. Furthermore, the Federation-era house would not reach the threshold for local significance under the NSW Heritage Office criterion (historic, associative, aesthetic, social, research potential, rarity, or representativeness).

There are four heritage items within the vicinity of the study area. Sugarloaf Farm is located to the northeast of the study area (Figure 43) and is listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR 01389). The Upper Canal System is listed on the SHR (01373) and is located to the southeast. Mount Gilead has recently been added to the SHR (02020) and is also located to the southeast. The Menangle Landscape Conservation Area (Wollondilly LEP 2011 item C6) is a locally listed item located to the southwest. The Federation-era house is not visible from these heritage items, whilst the southeast boundary of the study area maintains a riparian corridor (Menangle Creek) which acts as a visual buffer.

### 3.4. Significant items in the vicinity

#### 3.4.1. Sugarloaf Farm (SHR 01389)

Located on Menangle Road, Gilead, Sugarloaf Farm is a largely intact farm complex dating from the 1840s through to the 1940s and demonstrating a range of uses throughout its life. The main homestead represents the first phase of use of the site for cereal cropping and the associated outbuildings represent various changes of use to dairying (1890s), a horse and cattle stud (1940s) and riding school (1980s). The site has retained much of its original setting allowing a high degree of interpretation of the historic landscape.

Sugarloaf Farm is of State Significance for its association with the early settlement and development of Menangle as a farming district. The farm has high historical, visual, aesthetic and research value as a remnant of an earlier cultural landscape. The surviving rural landscape setting has cultural significance due to its ability to demonstrate important aspects of the early European occupation such as early plantings, paddocks, fences, early grant areas and some archaeological features and sites.

The farm is of state significance as it exhibits characteristics typical to Cumberland Plain colonial landscapes and setting, which are becoming increasingly rare in the Sydney region due to the pressure of modern urban development. The farm buildings themselves are amongst a declining number of rural groups surviving in the area, now part of the urban development edge of Campbelltown.

The farmstead complex has high visual and aesthetic value, located in a prominent position and retaining elements of their original setting and a relationship to Menangle Road and the rural setting to the west and south.

The farmhouse is of State significance as a good example of Colonial farmhouse in the Georgian style retaining much of its original form and fabric. The 1880's-1900 additions to the buildings allow interpretation and the changing needs of its occupants.

The late nineteenth century farm buildings, particularly the remnant dairy, allow interpretation of a prosperous rural holding and demonstrate the changing farming practices and land usage of the district over a period of 160 years.

### 3.4.2. The Upper Canal System (SHR 01373)

The Upper Nepean Scheme consists of two diversion weirs in the Upper Nepean River at Pheasant's Nest and Broughton's Pass, collecting water from the four major dams on Cataract, Cordeaux, Nepean and Avon Rivers which feeds into The Upper Canal, a 64km-long series of tunnels, canals and aqueducts, feeding by gravity to Prospect Reservoir.

The Upper Canal System is significant as a major component of the Upper Nepean Scheme. As an element of this Scheme, the Canal has functioned as part of Sydney's main water supply system since 1888. Apart from maintenance and other improvements, the Upper Canal has changed little.

As part of this System, the Canal is associated with Edward Moriarty, Head of the Harbours and Rivers Branch of the NSW Public Works Department.

The Canal is aesthetically significant, running in a serpentine route through a rural bushland setting as an impressive landscape element with sandstone and concrete-lined edges;

The Canal is significant as it demonstrates the techniques of canal building, and evidence of engineering practice. The Canal as a whole is an excellent example of 19th century hydraulic engineering, including the use of gravity to feed water along the canal.

The Upper Nepean Scheme is significant because:

- In its scope and execution, it is a unique and excellent example of the ingenuity of late 19th century hydraulic engineering in Australia, in particular for its design as a gravity-fed water supply system.

- It has functioned as a unique part of the main water supply system for Sydney for over 100 years, and has changed little in its basic principles since the day it was completed.
- It represented the major engineering advance from depending on local water sources to harvesting water in upland catchment areas, storing it in major dams and transporting it the city by means of major canals and pipelines.
- It provides detailed and varied evidence of the engineering construction techniques prior to the revolution inspired by reinforced concrete construction, of the evolution of these techniques (such as the replacement of timber flumes with wrought iron and then concrete flumes), and of the early use of concrete for many engineering purposes in the system.
- The scheme possesses many elements of infrastructure which are of world and national renown in technological and engineering terms.
- Many of the structural elements are unique to the Upper Nepean Scheme.

### 3.4.3. Mount Gilead (SHR 02020)

Located at 901 Appin Road Gilead, the property is listed as a historical landscape item and includes a homestead, outbuildings, former two-storey stable/store, granary and (wind-)mill tower, all constructed of sandstone, prominently sited on a long spur of land running parallel to (and west of) the Appin Road.

Mount Gilead is of State heritage significance as an early nineteenth century colonial estate with rare surviving features and outstanding picturesque qualities. It forms one of a continuum of notable colonial properties along Appin Road.

Mount Gilead provides intact evidence of the colonial expansion into the Camden and Campbelltown areas southwest of Sydney in the period 1810-1840 and its development throughout the nineteenth century, including changes in agricultural pursuits and approaches to estate planning. Extant structures and landscape features, such as the artificial lake, sandstone granaries and homestead group, sandstone mill tower, mature plantings and archaeological sites have the potential to reveal evidence of how colonial estates were planned and developed, as well as the domestic and working lives of its residents and workers, and Aboriginal occupation and use of the land prior to its colonial development. The estate's artificial lake and mill tower are rare and early examples of their type.

Mount Gilead is a colonial landscape with outstanding picturesque qualities, bestowed by its undulating topography, the conscious siting of the estate's various sandstone structures and cultural plantings along its central ridgeline, and the contrast of open paddocks with remnant stands of indigenous vegetation. Views within the estate, particularly over the artificial lake to the homestead group and mill tower and between the mill tower and One Tree Hill, capture its aesthetic highlights. The mill tower is a landmark in the local area, visible from considerable distances in the surrounding landscape. The beauty of Mount Gilead's archetypal rural landscape and built features have inspired celebrated artists and photographers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Mount Gilead is associated with three individuals of importance in the development of New South Wales: Reuben Uther, Thomas Rose and Edward Woodhouse, each of whom made a lasting contribution to the colony's agricultural development (SHR Listing).

#### 3.4.4. Menangle Landscape Conservation Area (WLEP C6)

The Menangle cultural landscape is historically significant for its evidence of early 19th century rural settlement and for its location along Menangle Road and the Main Southern Railway Line. The historical significance of the landscape derives from the fact that it was part of the Macarthur family's Camden Park rural enterprise and includes the routes of major historic road and rail links south of Sydney. The cultural landscape is considered to be significant for the presence of these transport corridors and development directly associated with them, together with the conspicuous response of the patterns of settlement and agricultural land use to the strong influences of the topography, soils, flooding and the availability of water.

Menangle Village and its landscape setting have strong associations with the surveying and construction of the main Southern railway Line, a major mid-19th century engineering work in NSW. The area also has strong associations with many individuals and families influential in the settlement and subsequent development of the area. Aesthetically significant are the visual contrasts of surrounding ridges, hill slopes and cultivated river flats. The placement of buildings generally above the flood prone lands reinforces the dual unity between the landscape and its powerful biophysical determinants. The Study Area includes a number of buildings of outstanding architectural quality, designed by prominent architects John Horbury Hunt and Sulman and Power. Members of the Menangle community have very strong views about the significance of the place, for its European historic heritage values and its cultural landscape values. Archaeological investigations could reveal information about the fabric and methods of construction of various structures including the road and rail bridges, the Railway Station, the former Menangle Creamery and the former Rotolactor, as well as cottages, dairies and other agricultural structures.

The area possesses a rare mix of natural, indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values arising from the local topography, geology, soils, streams and vegetation and the ways in which those environmental attributes influenced the occupation of the land by Aboriginal people, the construction of the Menangle Road and the Main Southern Railway Line, early European settlement and agriculture, decline following development of alternative land uses and transport routes and residential subdivisions and rural lifestyle developments. Menangle is representative of villages established along English country estate lines to provide accommodation and services for rural estate workers and a focus for particular agricultural enterprises, in Menangle's case, the estate's dairying operations (SHI Listing).

### 3.5. Proposal

LEDA propose the removal of non-original additions to the Federation-era house and demolition of existing outbuildings. The removal of later (mid-twentieth century) additions and modifications would retain the original portion of the structure for adaptive reuse. In addition, the landscaped gardens and historic plantings would be largely retained, whilst road construction and landscaping works would take place. The Federation-era house and gardens (planted by the Bloom family from the c1960s) do not reach the threshold for local significance, however their partial retention and reuse as public space is considered a positive heritage outcome, contributing to the surrounding historic landscape, whilst providing a community space for local residents and visitors. LEDA also propose to reuse brick and timber from demolished structures for landscaping and future development in the area.

LEDA propose residential, retail and recreational development of the study area that will tie in with development of the surrounding properties and meet the demands of population growth in Campbelltown and Camden Centres. This includes a variety of lot sizes, roads, parks, protection of mature vegetation and screening from the Hume Highway.

No heritage items or archaeological sites will be impacted by the proposal. Mount Gilead, part of Sugarloaf Farm and a small section of the Upper Canal is visible from the study area. Land adjacent to Menangle Creek, Sugarloaf Farm and the Upper Canal is zoned open space.

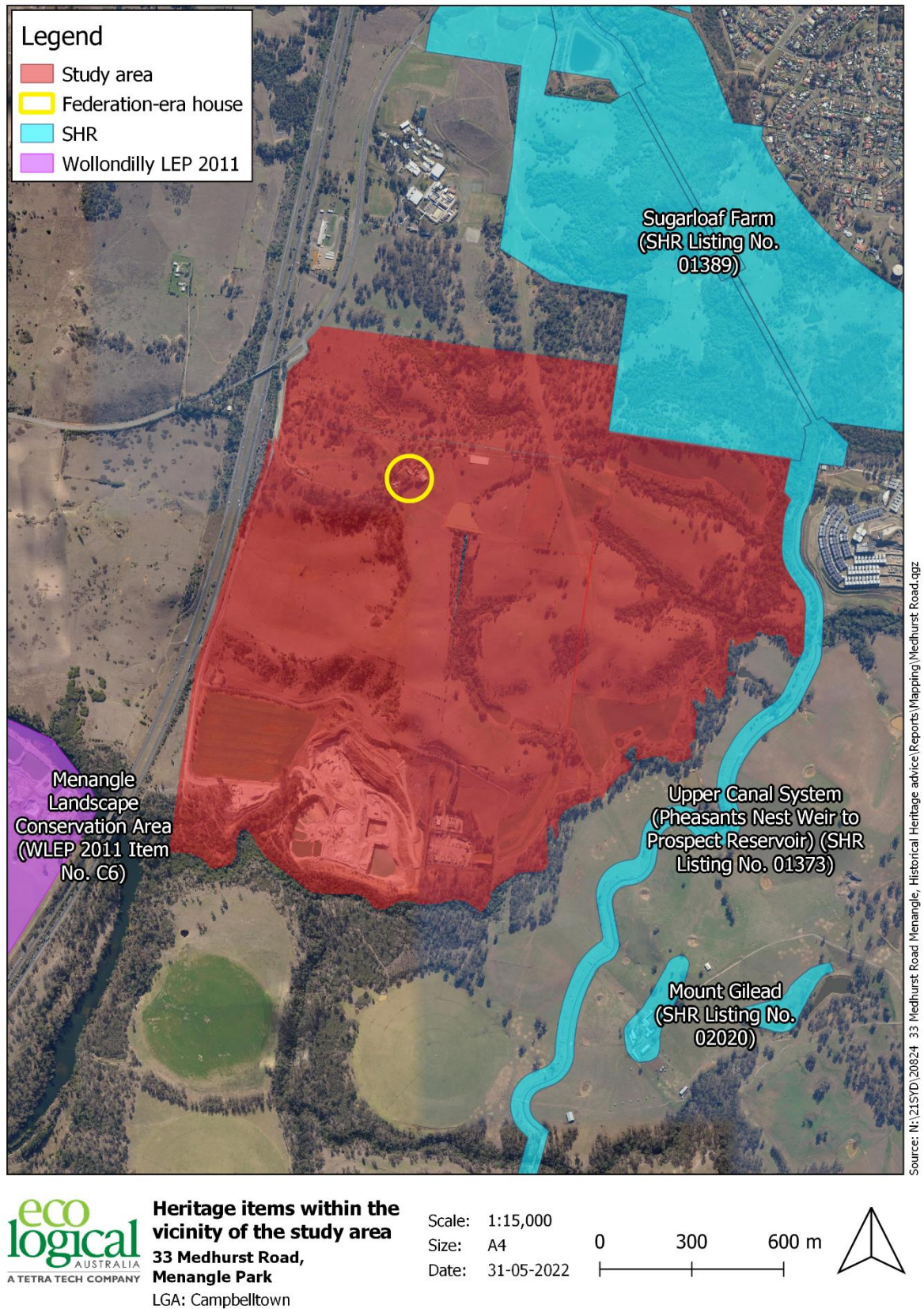


Figure 43: Heritage items within the vicinity (600 m) of the study area

## 4. Summary

### 4.1. Conclusions

- There are no heritage listed items within the study area, as such, there would be no direct (physical) impact to heritage listed items.
- The 'Upper Canal Sydney (Pheasants New Weir to Prospect Reservoir)' (SHR Item No. 01373); 'Sugarloaf Farm' (SHR Item No. 01389); 'Menangle Landscape Conservation Area' (WLEP 2011 Item No. C6), and 'Mount Gilead' (CLEP 2015 Item No. I58) heritage items are located within the vicinity (600 m) of the study area. The proposal at the study area is unlikely to cause any direct impacts or indirect impact to these heritage items. Tree screening and retention of open space near heritage items has been proposed.
- The Federation era (1890-1915) house with gardens within the study area does not reach the threshold for local significance, however the site is considered to contribute to the surrounding historic landscape. Due to the surrounding gardens the house is not visible from much of the study area.
- The proposed redevelopment of the Federation-era house would result in a positive heritage outcome. The removal of mid-twentieth century additions and modifications and retention of the original house layout, as well as some of the surrounding gardens, would contribute to the surrounding historic landscape. Adaptive reuse would provide a community space for local residents and continue the use and maintenance of the building.
- Documentary evidence would suggest that the study area was granted from the turn of the nineteenth century, with dairying activities operating at the site from the c1860s. Historical records and discussion with previous occupants of the property indicate that no buildings predating the existing house were located on the property, resulting in little archaeological potential.

### 4.2. Recommendations

- A suitably qualified Architect should be engaged prior to the partial demolition and adaptive reuse of the Federation-era house (prior to development stage) to achieve the best heritage outcome in redesign.
- A suitably qualified Arborist should be engaged to assess the historic plantings within the study area prior to development stage. Where possible, these historic plantings should be retained within the site.
- Historical records and discussion with previous occupants of the property indicate that no buildings predating the existing house were located on the property, resulting in little archaeological potential. As such, an archaeological excavation permit is not required, however, should any unexpected finds be uncovered during proposed works, the following applies:
  - An 'unexpected heritage find' can be defined as any unanticipated archaeological discovery, that has not been previously assessed or is not covered by an existing approval under the *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) or *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). These discoveries are categorised as either:
    - (a) Aboriginal objects (archaeological remains ie: stone tools),

- (b) Historic (non-Aboriginal) heritage items (archaeological remains (ie: artefacts) or movable objects),
- (c) Human skeletal remains.

Should any unexpected historical archaeology be uncovered during any future excavation works, the following procedure must be adhered to:

- Stop all work in the immediate area of the item and notify the Project Manager.
- Establish a 'no-go zone' around the item. Use high visibility fencing, where practical. Inform all site personnel about the no-go zone.
- No work is to be undertaken within this zone until further investigations are completed.
- Engage a suitably qualified and experienced Archaeologist to assess the finds.
- The Heritage Council must be notified if the finds are of local or state significance. Additional approvals will be required before works can recommence on site.
- If the item is assessed as not a 'relic', a 'heritage item' or an 'Aboriginal object' by the Archaeologist, work can proceed with advice provided in writing.
- Where original fabric or landscaping elements are required for removal, relocation or reuse of materials within the study area should be considered.
- The study area is considered to contribute to the surrounding historically significant Menangle Park landscape. In addition, there are four heritage listed items within the vicinity of the study area which have views to the study area. Additional mitigation measures should be considered including the retention and planting of additional trees to provide visual screening to the study area and obscure the new development from the wider historic landscape.
- The adaptive reuse of the Federation-era house would result in significant changes to its existing layout and aesthetic, this report may serve as a photographic record of this existing phase in historical development (Appendix B).
- If changes are made to the plans issued July 2022 this assessment will need to be reviewed to reflect the new designs.

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## 6. Appendix A

Appendix A provides a detailed historical context for each original land grant encompassed by the study area.

### 6.1. Thomas Taber, 100-acre grant (Lot 1 DP589241)

Convict Thomas Taber arrived at Sydney Cove in 1797 with his wife (Frances Sarah Medhurst) and three children aboard the *Ganges*. Thomas and Frances Taber bore 13 children together, however nine of these children died during childhood. Taber was granted an absolute pardon in 1803 and worked as a teacher and parish clerk.

He was granted 100-acres at the study area, with three of his sons receiving grants within the area soon after. Within a few decades, members of the Taber family were spread throughout Menangle and the surrounds. George Taber, known as a 'gentleman farmer,' constructed the historic Menangle House during the 1820s (extant, 1.2 kilometres west of the study area) (Campbelltown City Council n.d.).

One of the family properties was called Medhurst Vale, in honour of Frances Sarah's maiden name. In 1977, Campbelltown Council gave an unnamed roadway adjacent to the homestead the appellation of Medhurst Road after a request by the family (Campbelltown City Council, n.d.). There is little historical information to attest to the location of Medhurst Vale, it is unconfirmed whether this residence is the Federation-era house located within the study area.

There is little evidence regarding the use of Taber's property at the study area, although it is likely that it was used for agricultural purposes and dairying by his family.



Figure 44: Members of the Taber family outside Menangle Park House, n.d. (Source: Campbelltown City Library)

### 6.2. James Harrex, 60-acre grant (Lot 3 DP622362)

The Federation-era house within the study area is located with an original 60-acre land grant made to convict James Harrex in 1812 (Casey & Lowe 2010, p. 17). James Harrex had been found guilty of stealing

a lamb in Suffolk, England in 1795 and sentenced to death. His sentence was reduced to incarceration on a hulk in the Thames, and later, transportation to Sydney Cove (Australian Royalty, n.d.). Harrex arrived at the new colony in 1797 aboard the *Ganges*. Thomas Taber and his family were also aboard the *Ganges* at this time, remaining in contact with Harrex following arrival. In 1807, Harrex (aged 40) married Taber's daughter Frances Sarah (aged 17), with whom he had seven children. The pair were granted 200 acres at Menangle in 1809, later acquiring additional land within the region, encompassing the study area (Australian Royalty, n.d.).

Harrex was listed in the 1806 Government Muster as a carpenter, later appointed overseer for Reverend Samuel Marsden's farm at Windsor, and Government contractor for roads and bridges. Despite this success, was convicted and sentenced to 14 years for receiving two stolen cows in 1813. Harrex was pardoned in 1818 and is known to have continued farming practices until his death in 1825 (Australian Royalty, n.d.).

An 1834 map of Menangle would indicate that James Harrex's grant was later 'in trust' by Charles Marsden (1803 – 1868). Charles Marsden was the son of the Reverend Samuel Marsden and is known to have amounted large debts by the 1840s, subsequently living as a gentleman at Mamre, supported by his family (Australian Royalty, n.d.). The property is known to have been utilised for dairying from this time. The Federation-era house and surrounding buildings underwent were likely constructed between 1890-1915.

The property was bought by Maurice and Rosalind Bloom in 1962 from the Foo (or Fu) family, utilised as a dairy farm and family home. It was under the Bloom ownership that the Federation-era house underwent extensive modification, whilst Rosalind Bloom is known to have developed the landscaped gardens over her 60 year occupation.

### 6.3. John William Lewin, 200-acre grant (Lots 1 & 2 DP622362)

The south-westernmost portion of the study area falls within an original 200-acre land grant made to naturalist and artist John William Lewin in 1817, where he is known to have established a farm (Mander-Jones & Ellis 1992). Lewin arrived at Sydney Cove aboard the *Minera* in January 1800, settling with his wife Maria at Parramatta later that year.

Lewin was involved in several expeditions along the Nattai River and to the Cowpastures, engraving plates for his two books on insects and birds. Unable to invest time into his agricultural pursuits at Parramatta, and his artistic pursuits not proving lucrative, Lewin moved to Sydney. His continued ambition of owning a farm was granted by Governor Macquarie in 1817, when he was granted 200-acres encompassing the study area (Mander-Jones & Ellis 1992). These pursuits also did not prove fruitful, and the farm was mortgaged and then sold the next year. Lewin died in 1819, his wife Maria returned to England where she published new editions of Lewin's books (Mander-Jones & Ellis 1992).

An 1834 map of Menangle would indicate that the Harrex family had taken over Lewin's property by this time. The property is known to have been utilised for dairying from this time.

### 6.4. Charles Gray, 104-acre grant (Lot 35 DP230946)

Parish maps would indicate that the central portion of the study area falls within an original 104-acre land grant made to Charles Gray. Little information is available regarding Gray; however, it is likely that

this relates to convict Charles Gray born in 1776, sentenced to transportation for theft in 1800 (Australian Royalty, n.d.). Gray arrived at Sydney Cove aboard the *Royal Admiral* later that year, where he met convict Susannah Ashman. Gray was sent to Norfolk Island from 1802, whilst Ashman stayed in Sydney where she gave birth to Gray's first child. Ashman relocated to Norfolk Island between this time and the birth of her second child in 1804 (Australian Royalty, n.d.).

In 1809, Gray and Ashman, who was pregnant with her fifth child, left Norfolk Island for Sydney. Charles Gray was granted his certificate of freedom in 1810, and the pair married the same year. The Ashman's bore ten children and are known to have had their main residence along York Street, in Sydney where Gray worked as a clerk to the Naval Officer (Australian Royalty, n.d.).

It is unclear whether Gray developed this portion of land, however, an 1834 map of Menangle would indicate that Thomas Rose had taken over Gray's property, and Reuben Uther's 400-acres directly adjacent (east), by this point. Rose had been the owner of property within the region for some time, yet he had not moved there until the death of his wife in 1826. Rose had been sentenced to transportation for life for breaking and entering and theft, arriving at Sydney Cove in 1798 aboard the *Barwell* (Australian Royalty, n.d.).

Rose is known to have had an affair with recently separated Elizabeth Aiken (Woodhouse) from 1827, resulting in the birth of two children. He then married Sarah Pye in 1829, bearing five children. Rose renamed his land holdings 'Mount Gilead' where he further improved Reuben Uther's former residence, constructed a windmill, and earned fame for his experiments in water conservation, until his death in 1837 (OEH 2020). The property remained within the family until 1867, when it was purchased by Edmond Woodhouse, son of Elizabeth Aiken, who established a successful dairy (Australian Royalty, n.d.).

The property continued to be utilised as a dairy into the 1940s, owned by the Australian Mortgage Company and leased to various residents. In 1941, the estate was purchased by Sylvia Macarthur-Onslow, remaining in the family and utilised for dairying and cattle breeding until 2013. In 2015, Lend Lease acquired the property, developing a masterplan for rezoning and subdivision.



**Figure 45: Windmill at Mount Gilead, 1911 (Source: Campbelltown City Library)**

### 6.5. George Marriott Woodhouse, 200-acre grant (Lot 58 DP632328)

The eastern portion of the study area falls within an original 200-acre land grant made to free settler George Marriot Woodhouse. Woodhouse had arrived at Sydney Cove in 1809 aboard the *Dromoderry* forming part of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's entourage, engaged by Judge Advocate Ellis Bent as a chief clerk (Australian Royalty, n.d.).

In 1811, Woodhouse married Elizabeth Aicken who had inherited a substantial estate from her father. In 1816, Woodhouse left Government service, and was granted 'Schuldham Farm' north of Menangle Creek (the study area). The Woodhouse's added to their land holdings near Mount Gilead between 1816 and 1827, bearing four children (Australian Royalty, n.d.).

In 1823, the Woodhouse's moved from Schuldham Farm to another of their properties east of Appin Road, here they built a residence and they bore their fifth child. George and Elizabeth separated in 1827, with Elizabeth retaining all the properties and homes in the Appin area (encompassing the study area), and George moved to Burryong (Australian Royalty, n.d.).

An 1834 map of Menangle would indicate that the Harrex family had taken over Woodhouse's property by this time. The property is known to have been utilised as a dairy from this time.

## 7. Appendix B

### 7.1. Photographic record





