

# *Statement of Heritage Impact*

Henson Park

*for*

AFL NSW/ACT



*Artists Impression of Proposal*

**Prepared by:**

*Archnex Designs*

Wentech Pty Ltd (ABN 310 735 41803) trading as Archnex Designs.

**December 2021**

---

Email: [archnex@bigpond.net.au](mailto:archnex@bigpond.net.au)

14 Winchcombe Ave, Haberfield N S W 2045

Phone: 0425 228176

**Henson Park**  
**Statement of Heritage Impact**  
**Table of Contents**

**Statement:**

<b>A.</b>	Purpose of Statement	Page 1.
<b>B.</b>	Grounds of Statement	Page 1.
<b>C.</b>	Limits of Statement	Page 1.
<b>D.</b>	Location	Page 1.
<b>E.</b>	Context	Page 2.
<b>F.</b>	Proposed Development	Page 9.
<b>G.</b>	Heritage Impacts	Page 13.
<b>H.</b>	Conclusion	Page 19.

**Appendix:**

**Documents**

- (i) Inventory Sheet- SHI 2030141
- (ii) DP 1035319
- (iii) MWS & DB\_PWD Sheet32

## STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT [SoHI]:

**Start Date:** 6 September 2021.

**Premises:** Henson Park

**Property Description:** Lots 423 and 424, DP 1035319

**Prepared By:** Greg Patch  
B Sc Arch, B ARCH (Hons), M Herit Cons (Hons),  
14 Winchcombe Ave,  
Haberfield NSW 2045

**For:** AFL NSW/ACT

### A. PURPOSE OF STATEMENT

This statement has been prepared to assess potential heritage impacts of proposed alterations and additions to the above property.

### B. GROUNDS OF STATEMENT

Henson Park is listed as a heritage item. This has been established through a search of Schedule 5 of Marrickville Local Environmental Plan 2011.

### C. LIMITS OF STATEMENT

This statement is based on SHI data sheet 2030141, the material at Part E and an inspection of the place in August 2021.

### D. LOCATION



1. Location of Henson Park (Source: SIX Maps © NSW Lands 2021).



## E. CONTEXT.

### E1. DOCUMENTARY

#### Inventory Sheet (SHI 2030141)

The item is described as (12 Jan 2012):

*The oval is set within a hollow formed by the upper edges of the former brickpit and forms an attractive, sheltered sporting area. It covers an area of 15 acres. The 1937 grandstand is typical of the period in which the park was established.*

*The land containing the Sportsground and Park is in good condition. The land containing the car parking area is in fair condition.*

*There are 8 buildings on the land containing the Sportsground and Park:*

- *The grandstand/pavilion, with enclosed associated facilities under, is in fair condition.*
- *The broadcasters grandstand is in fair condition.*
- *The "Charlie Meader Memorial Gates" providing entry from Centennial Street are in good condition.*
- *The entry gates from Woodland Street are in poor condition.*
- *The male and female toilet blocks near the southern boundary are in fair condition.*
- *The male and female toilet block near the eastern boundary is in poor condition.*
- *The scoreboard building is in fair condition.*

*There are 6 established Lophostemon confertus trees in good condition. There is 1 established Grevillea robusta tree in fair condition. There are 8 established Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Crippsii' trees in good condition. The turf in the Sportsground is in good/fair condition.*

*The turf in the Park is in good condition. The 2 banks of timber slatted bench row seating, on a metal frame, adjacent to the oval is in good/fair condition. The low wall and concrete pathway around part of the oval is in good condition. The low wire mesh fence surrounding the oval is in good condition. The 4 flood lighting towers for the oval are in good condition. The bituminous concrete surface in the car parking area is in fair condition. The various types of rear boundary fencing surrounding the Park are in fair/very poor condition. Tennis Courts and Car Park The land containing the tennis centre is currently in generally good condition. It is subject to minor subsidence through the centre of the site, resulting from gradual deterioration of the original fill material. Courts 3 & 4 are affected. The land containing the car parking area is currently in good condition. There are six (6) existing buildings, for the tennis centre's activities. The clubhouse (brick walls with steel roofing) is in good condition. The toilets/store (brick walls with steel roofing) is in good condition. The two (2) shelters (brick walls with steel roofing) are in good condition. The two (2) gazebos (timber walls with steel roofing) are in good condition. There are seven (7) existing tennis courts covered with artificial grass, which are in poor condition. Courts 3 & 4 are affected by subsidence. These courts are each surrounded by 5 metre high wire mesh fencing, in good condition, with attached flood lights (12 lights/court), which are in poor condition.*

A history of the place is given as:

*Henson Park is located on the site of Thomas Daley's Standure Brick Company (1886-1917). It was one of the largest brickworks in Sydney, employed about 60 people and occupied 3.6 hectares. After the brickworks closed in 1917, the pits filled with stormwater and ground water (up to 24 metres deep in parts) and became known as 'The Blue Hole'. The site became a favourite swimming spot and an illegal dumping ground. It was dangerous as a swimming hole and there were at least four known drownings.*

*1930 - Filling operations commence to convert the former Daley's brick pit into Henson Park In 1932 a grant of £5000 through the Unemployed Relief Works Program was received to level the ground and fill in the water holes. Council matched that funding with £5000 of its own, and the oval and bicycle track were constructed.*

*1933 - Official opening of Henson Park was marked by a cricket match between a representative Marrickville Eleven team and the North Sydney District team, which included Don Bradman. The Mayor of Marrickville, Alderman Frederick Rushton, bowled the first ball. When the Henson Park was opened in 1933 it consisted of an oval surrounded by an illuminated cycling track surrounded [sic] by a natural amphitheatre for 40,000 spectators.*

*March 1933 - A Gypsy Moth aeroplane made a forced landing. Both pilot and passenger escape injury. The pilot, Sidney Cheesewright, proprietor of the Stanmore Garage, Stanmore Road, commented that the Gypsy Moth had stalled at 1500 feet above Newington College and he chose Henson Park for an emergency landing. Mr*



*Cheesewright, who was accompanied by John Makinen of Holmesdale Street, said that he circled around into the wind. The park looked small and I decided to make a stall landing. The airplane was severely damaged*

*1935 - Embarkment completed 1936 - Woodland Street gates completed*

*1936 - Newtown Rugby League Club transfers their games to Henson Park.*

*1938 - British Empire Games held in Sydney. The cycling events and the closing ceremony of the Games are held at Henson Park Marrickville Council purchased the disused brickpit in 1923. Draingage [sic] and filling operations began in 1926. Henson Park was named in recognition of the Municipal service of two members of the Henson family:*

*William Henson and William Thomas Henson. Henson Park is named after William Henson and his son, William Thomas Henson. William Henson was a local and state politician (MLA for Canterbury from 1880-2 and 1885-9). His son was a local politician and a man of independent means. William Henson, senior (1826 - 1903) was born in Sydney on 1 August 1826. He was educated at St Phillips School, Church Hill and later managed an extensive sheep station at Obley. He married on 9 January 1855 at Sydney and had 4 daughters and 2 sons. He was successful on the goldfields at Ophir and Bendigo and settled at Ashfield. He was elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly on 22 November 1880 and he served as Member for Canterbury between 1880-1882, and 1885-1889. He was also a prominent Wesleyan Methodist and member of the Sons of Temperance, the Local Option League, the Orange Lodge, and Honorary Secretary of Benevolent Society. He died in his home at Ashfield on 19 March 1903.*

*William Thomas Henson was an alderman on Marrickville Municipal Council from 1897-1917 and was elected Mayor on four occasions (1902, 1906, 1907 and 1908). He died in 1926 at his residence at 152 Livingstone Road, Marrickville.*

*His son, Alfred Arthur Henson was also an alderman of Marrickville Council. Alfred Arthur Henson served from 1922 to 1931. William F C Henson, also a son of William Thomas Henson, was the captain of the Marrickville Cricket Club in the 1920s*

*Historic photographs held in the Council's Local History Collection show the site when it was Daley's Brickpit, when it was a waterhole, and during the construction and formation of Henson Park. The brick wall along the northern boundary, backing onto the row of properties in Horton Street was constructed between 1933 and 1936. One photo dated 1936 shows the original brick entrance gates at Woodland Street, built at the same time as the brick wall. The current entrance gates at Woodland Street were re-built sometime shortly after, in c1936. There is a possibility that the bricks used to construct the wall and entrance gates at Woodland Street were supplied by the Daley family.*

*The King George V Memorial Grandstand was an expression of Imperial sentiment that was rife when it was built. It was opened on 19 August 1937.*

*October 1944 - Speedway held, using the cycling track. It was a benefit for Marrickville Hospital. In the last race Dinny Pattison was nearly killed when his car went into a slide on a bend and turned over. The speed car careered down the track for 5 metres with Dinny hanging upside down in the cockpit. His injuries put him in Marrickville Hospital for six weeks.*

*1945 - The words Henson Park are painted on the brick wall at the instigation of Alderman Richardson.*

*1974 - Newtown Rugby League Club and Marrickville Council agree to erect new lighting towers, equipped with high powered flood lights.*

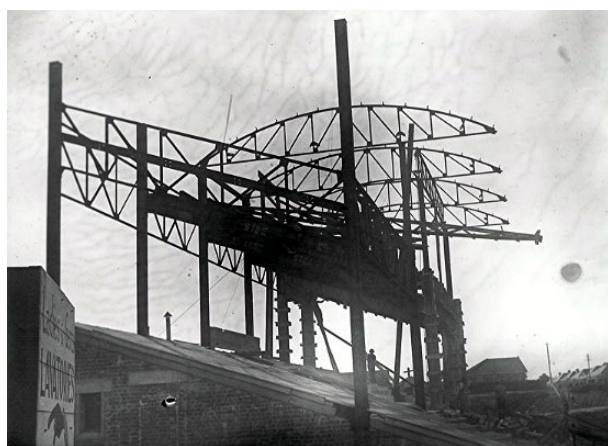
*The size of the oval was reduced in 1975 when a fence was built around the inside of the cycling track. Part of the sandstone retaining wall around the oval was constructed in c1976 as part of the Federal Government's Red Scheme.*

*Aboriginal Knockout Carnivals and the Koori United Rugby Team Henson Park is one of the playing grounds used of the annual Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival (2005 is the 35th year of the knockout) and is the home ground of the Koori United Rugby Team.*

Its significance is stated as:

*This is the only one of the many parks formed on the sites of former brickpits which has retained evidence of its former use in its shape. The shallow hollow is an attractive and historically significant feature of the site.*

An historical image is provided:



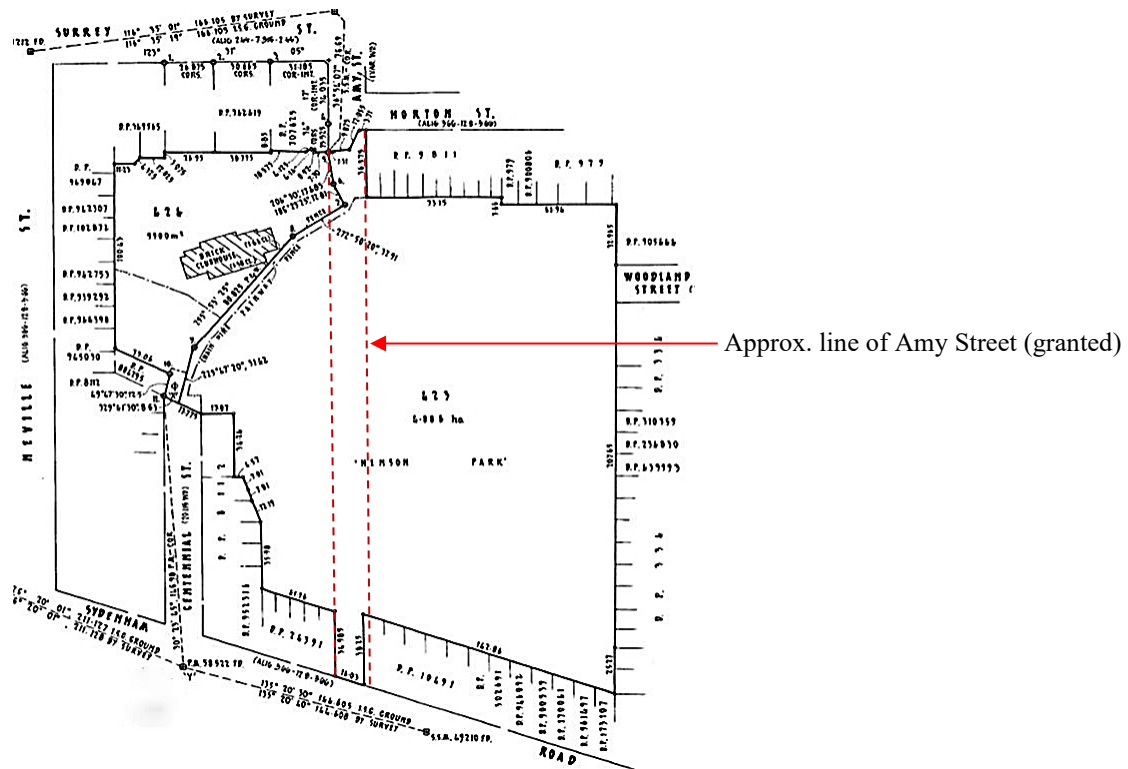
2. Under construction (IWC Local History)



3. Formwork & trusses in place. (IWC Local History)

### Land Titles

Henson Park encompasses Lot 423, DP 1035319, with the Marrickville District Hard Court Tennis Club located on the adjoining Lot 424:

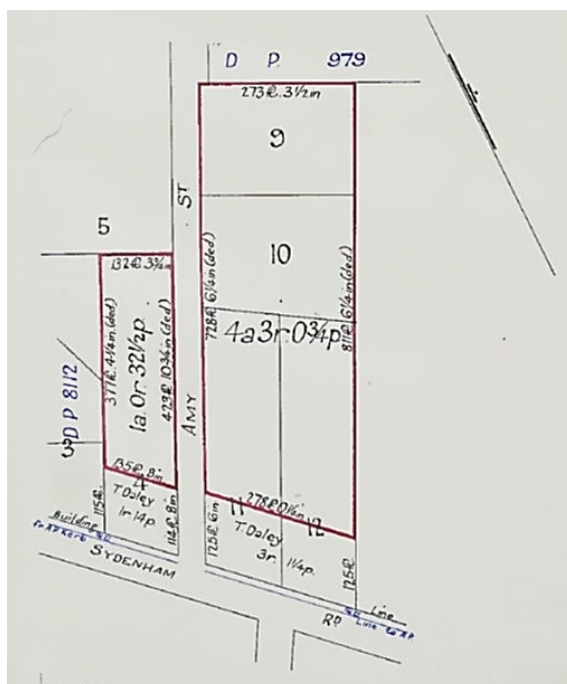


2. Diagram to DP 1035319.

It is part of a 470-acre Crown Grant made to Thomas Moore on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1799, and later part of the Petersham Estate, a portion of which was re-subdivided as “Beer’s Estate” in the 1880s.

Certificate of Title Volume 740 Folio 17 (CT 740-17) was issued to George Benjamin Crawford of Marrickville, Brickmaker [? partly illegible] in April 1885 for a parcel of land adjacent to Beer’s Estate which was subsequently transferred to Thomas Daley in September 1909. Land in CTs 816-74 & 854-60 was subject to foreclosure by mortgagee James Brierley [a director of the Standsure Brick Company-see below] in April 1891 (Lot 4 of Beer’s subdivision, Lots 20 & 21, Lots 10 & 12 and part Lot 9 of Block 3B of the Petersham Estate).

Thomas Daley of Marrickville, Brick Master was proprietor of Lots 9,10 and part of Lots 4, 11 & 12 of Beer’s Estate by the time of issue of CT 2861-215 in July 1918, and the remainder of Lots 4,11 and 12 through previous transactions (seemingly dating back to the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century).



2. Diagram to CT2861-215.



Part of the above Lot 4 was sold to Lydia Hannah Schofield following which the deed was cancelled and CT 3502-247 (12/09/1923) issued for the residue. Daley then sold the parcel to Marrickville Council in October 1925.

Daley also owned parcels of land to the north-west of the above properties (now also part of DP 1035319-see PA 23107, CT 3502-246, CT 3369-102).

A portion of Amy Street was granted to Marrickville Council by the Crown and formalised under CT 14478-61 in July 1981.

### Standsure Brick Company

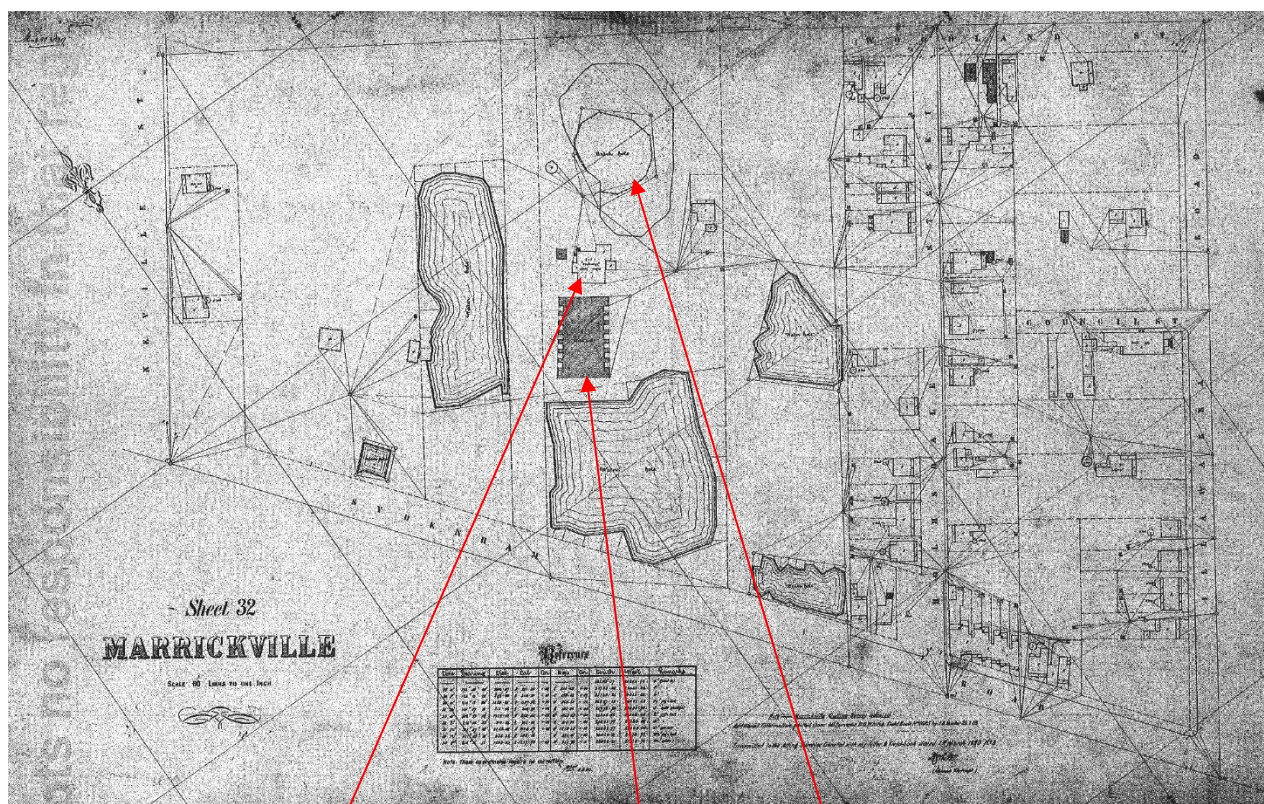
A report that the above company had been floated appears in the Sydney Daily Telegraph of 19 July 1887 and notes that Mr. Thos. Daley was appointed managing director.

An article relating to the opening of a new kiln in the Sydney Morning Herald of 7 July 1891 states:

*The company, the directors for which are Messrs J. Brierley, D. Anderson, A Kerr, E Arnold, and T. Daley, has been in existence for about four years and it possesses some seven acres of land of good brick clay, and it has erected machinery at a cost of £4000 capable of turning out 100,000 bricks per week.*

The company was wound up in 1919.

### Sydney Water Archives



3. Marrickville Sheet 32. Standsure Brick Co. Office, Brick Kiln, and brick-pit.

Sheet 32 was based on Surveyor DC White's field book of 1<sup>st</sup> March 1890, with updated information prepared in December 1892.

The areas rendered in concentric lines are waterholes, some of which are noted as "very deep" suggesting that there were a number of prior brick pits.

## E2. PHYSICAL

The place was inspected 23 and 27 August 2021, when the following photographs were taken:





4. Centennial Street gates.



5. Centennial St Gates and plaques.



6. Detail- brickwork movement.



7. Henson Park plaque.



8. Charlie Meader memorial plaque.



9. View to Sydenham Road gates.



10. Opening plaque- King George V Grandstand.



11. King George V Grandstand from pitch.





12. King George V & Broadcasters Grandstands.



13. AFL goalposts and Kiosk to north embankment.



11. Sydenham Road gates, south AFL goalposts.



12. Araucaria (Norfolk Is?) and brush box trees – south.



13. Marrickville HC Tennis Club & carpark.



14. Rear of Grandstand.



14. Depression to rear of Grandstand and adjoining track.



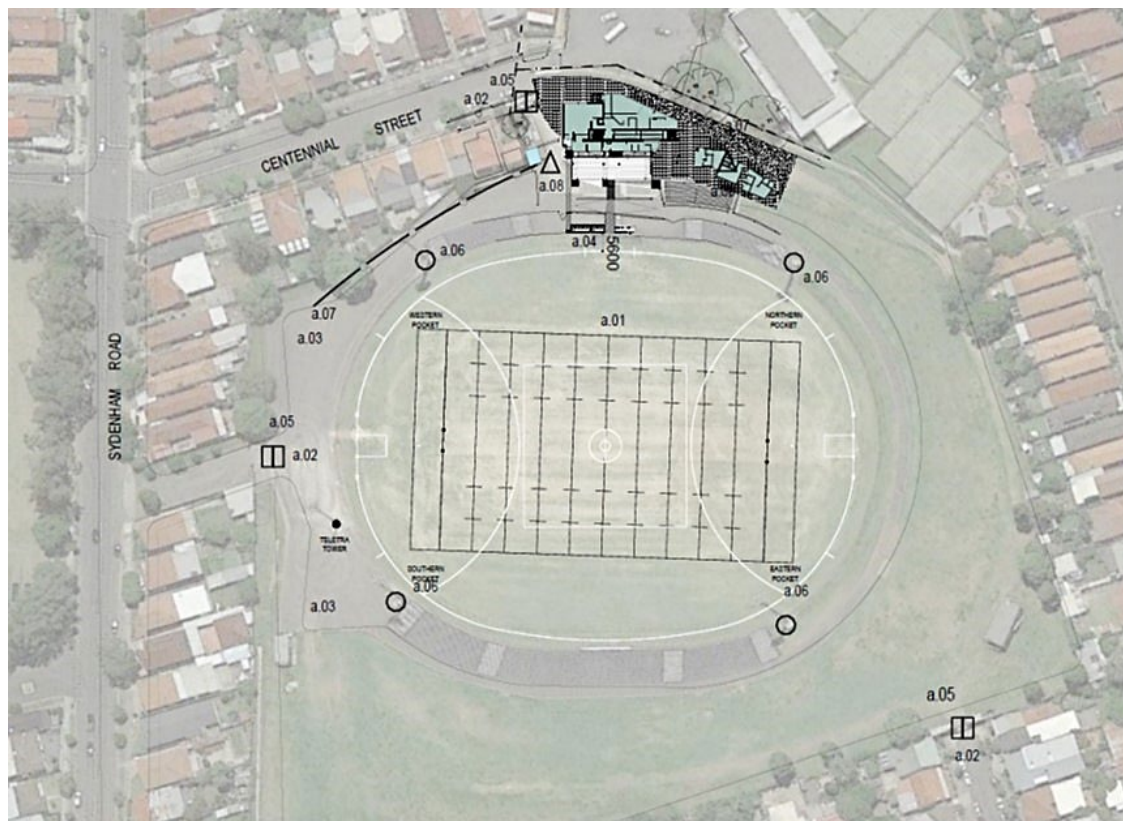
15. Rear of Grandstand from Carpark.



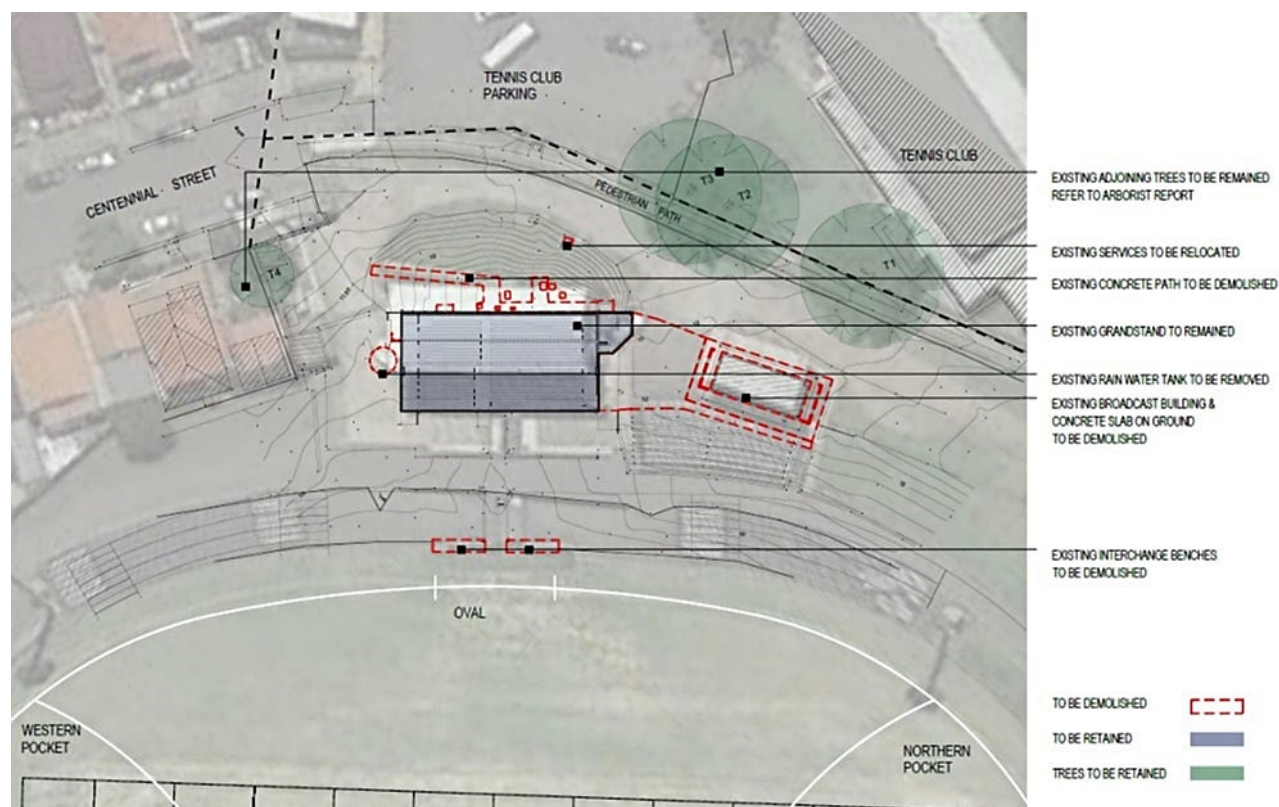
## F. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

I have examined drawings N<sup>os</sup>: 21009/A100-A115; -/A200-A204; -/A300, -/A301; -/A310;-/A311; -/A320-/A350-A325; -/A800-A805; -/A810-813; -/A830-832 by Crawford Architects [CA] and dated Nov 2021.

They depict proposed works to the item:

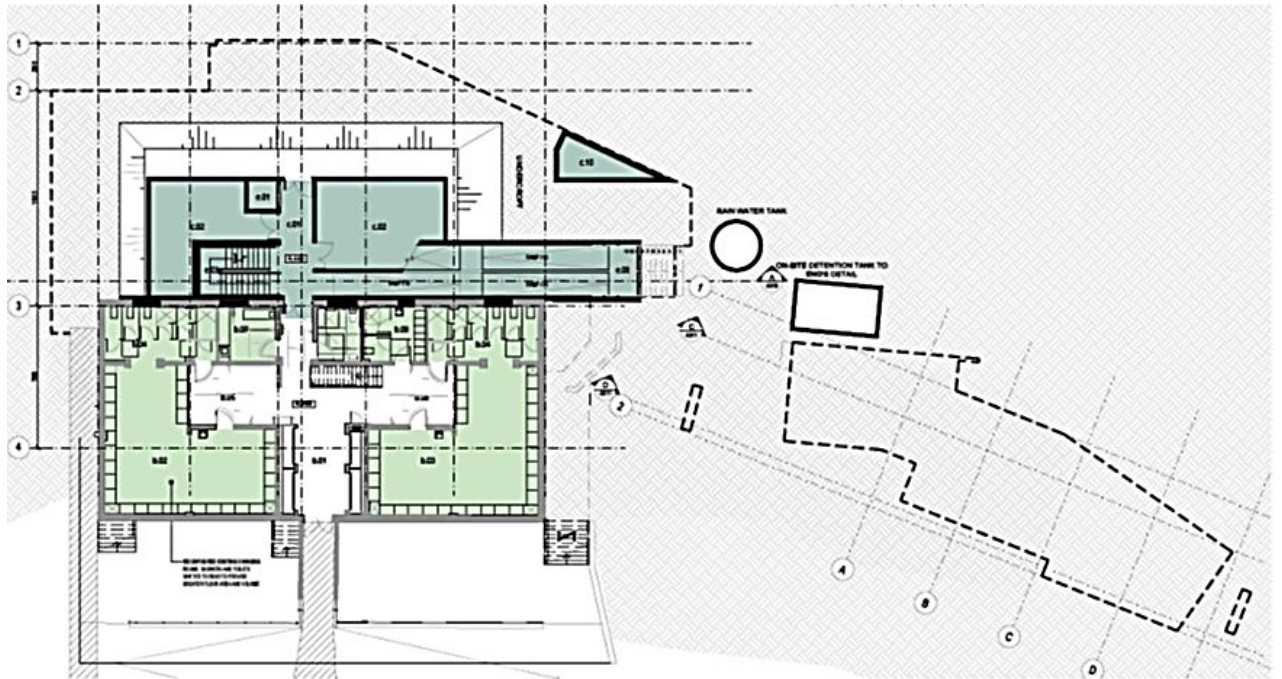


16. Site Plan (CA dwg. -/A100-01 [NTS])

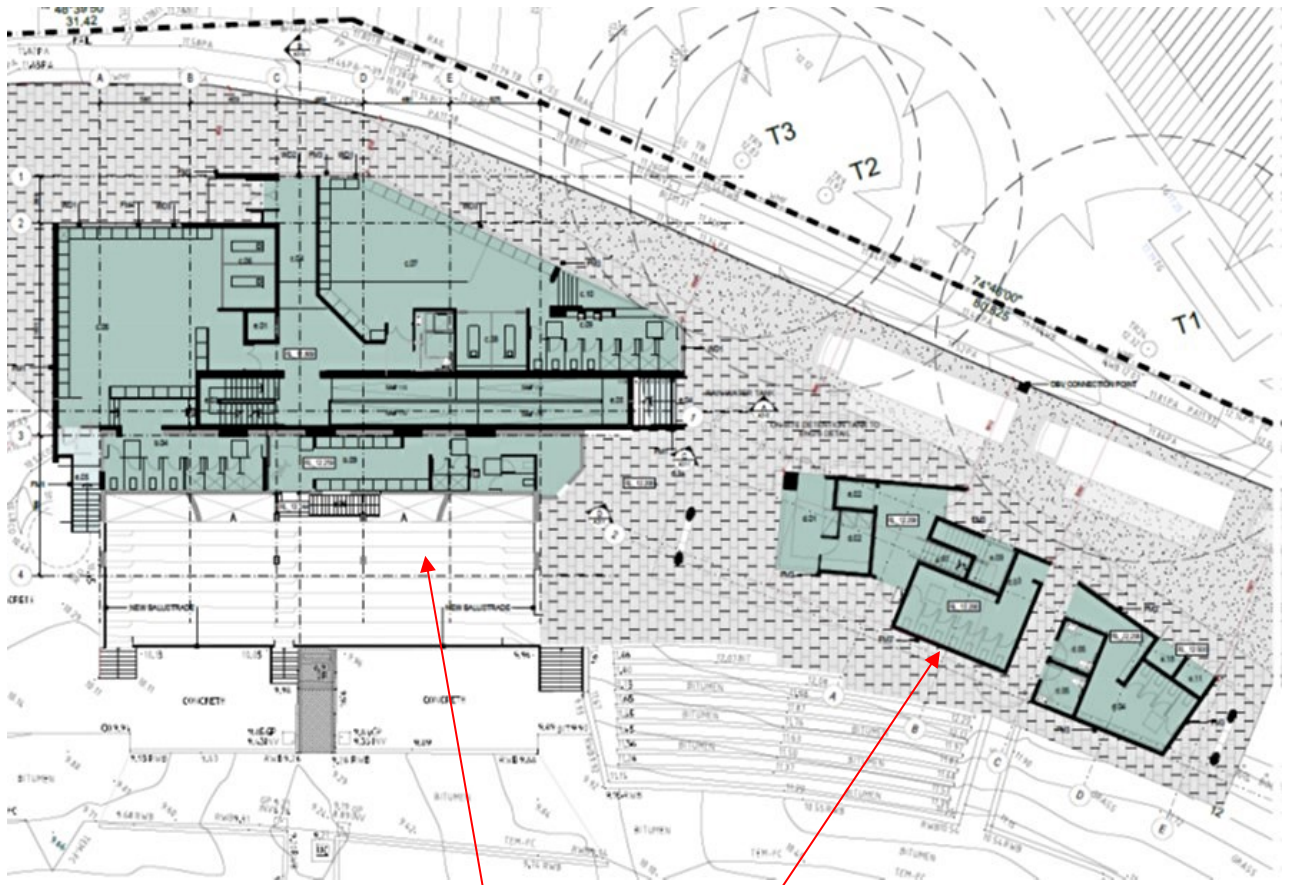


17. Proposed Demolition (CA dwg. -/A111-01 [NTS])

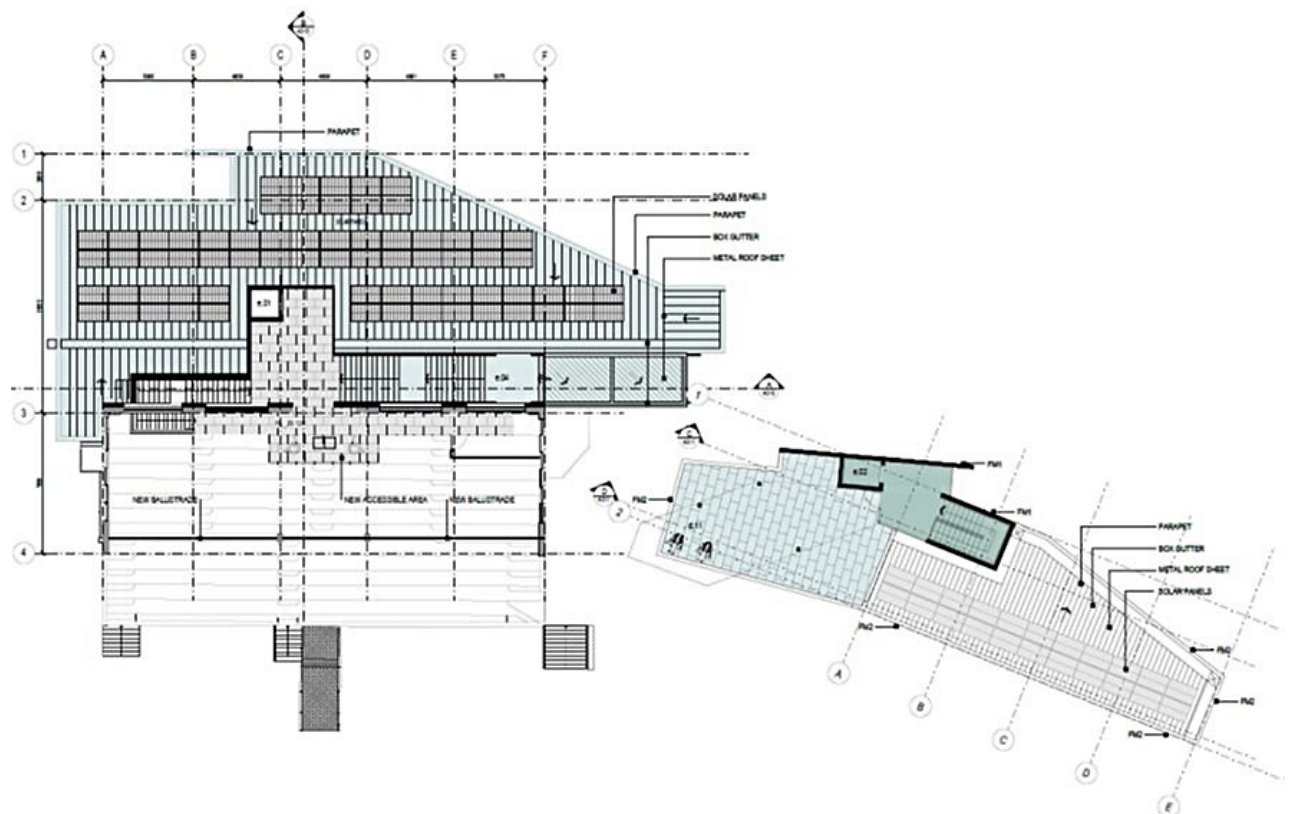
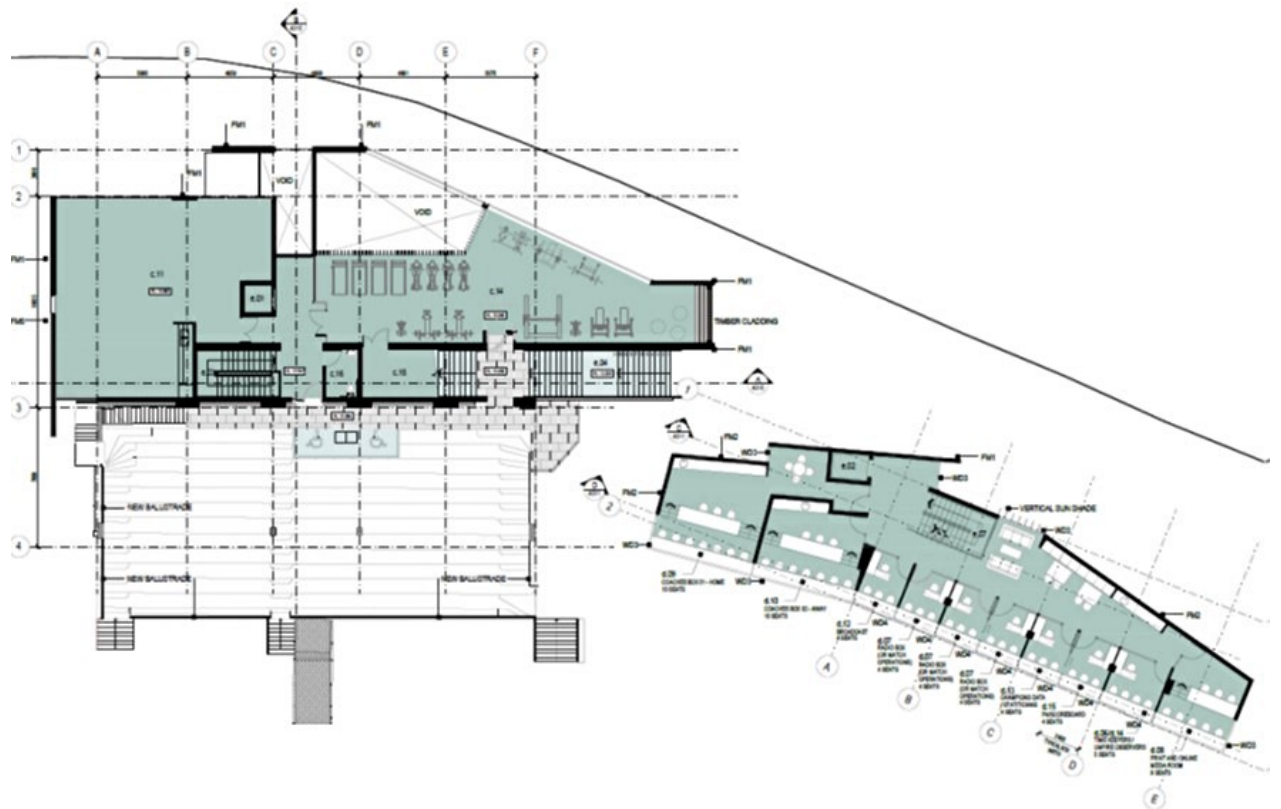




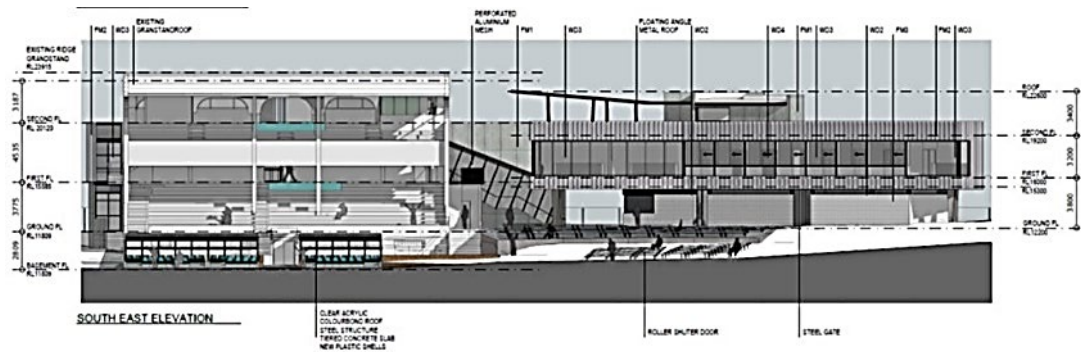
18. Plan- Lower Ground Level of King George V Grandstand (CA dwg. -/A200-01 [NTS]).



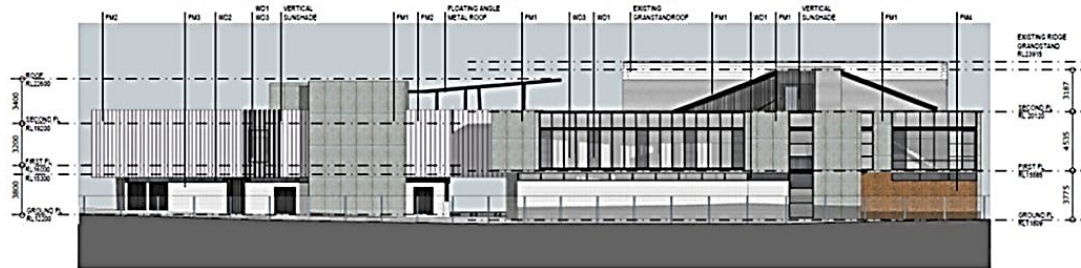
19. Plan- Ground Level of King George V Grandstand and Proposed Broadcasters Bldg. (CA dwg. -/0132-03 [NTS]).



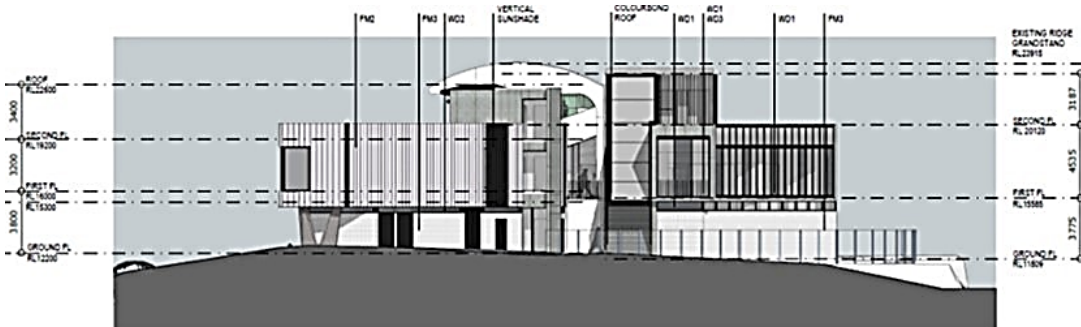




22. South-east Elevation (CA dwg. -/A300-01 [NTS]).



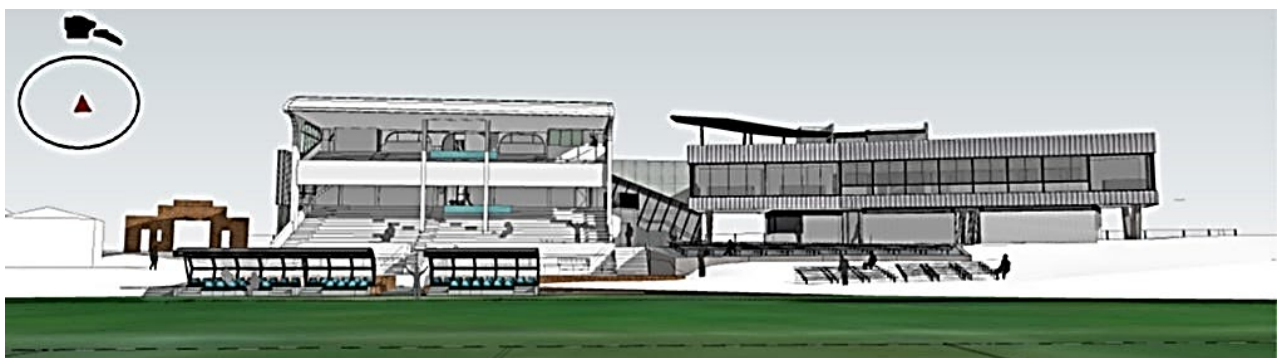
23. North-west Elevation (CA dwg. -/A300-01 [NTS]).



24. North-east Elevation (CA dwg. -/ A301-01 [NTS]).



25. South-west Elevation (CA dwg. -/A301-01 [NTS]).



26. 3D View (CA dwg. -/A810-01 [NTS]).

## G. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Henson Park is listed at:

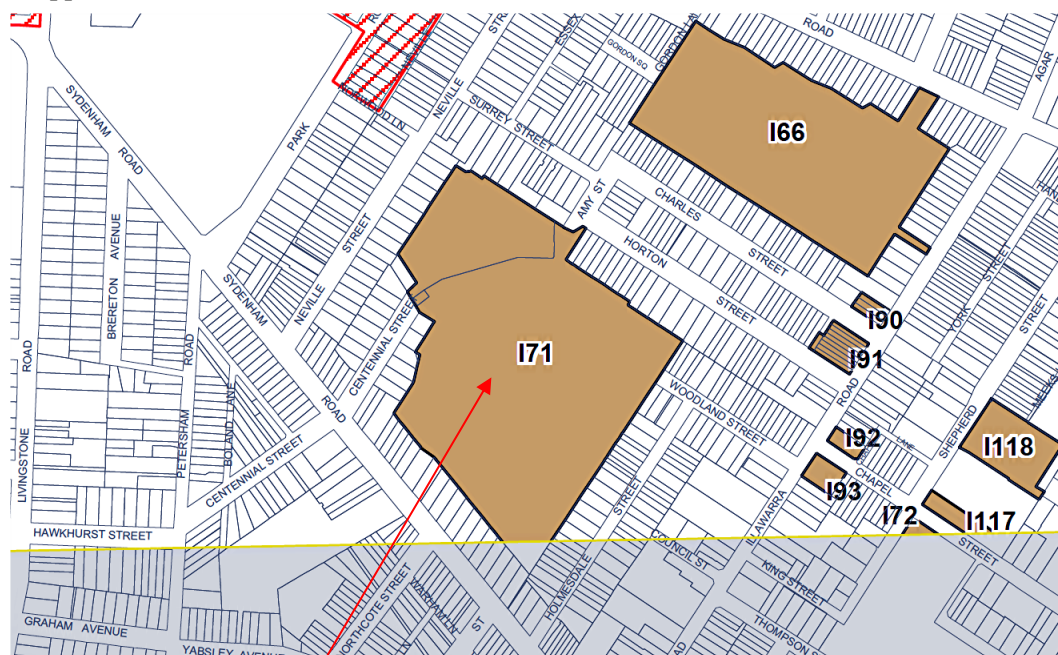
**Marrickville Local Environmental Plan 2011**

**Schedule 5 Environmental heritage**

**Part 1 Heritage items**

Locality	Item name	Address	Property description	Significance	Item no
Marrickville	Henson Park	Centennial Street	Lots 423 and 424, DP 1035319	Local	I71

It is mapped as:



27. Extract Map HER\_003. Subject property.

The relevant provisions of Marrickville LEP 2011 are:

### 5.10 Heritage conservation

**Note.** Heritage items (if any) are listed and described in Schedule 5. Heritage conservation areas (if any) are shown on the [Heritage Map](#) as well as being described in Schedule 5.

Clause	Comment
--------	---------

**(1) Objectives**

The objectives of this clause are as follows:

- (a) to conserve the environmental heritage of Marrickville,
- (b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,
- (c) to conserve archaeological sites,
- (d) to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.

**(2) Requirement for consent**

Development consent is required for any of the following:

- (a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the



*case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance):*

- (i) a heritage item,*
- (ii) an Aboriginal object,*
- (iii) a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,*
- (b) altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,*
- (c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,*
- (d) disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*
- (e) erecting a building on land:*
  - (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
  - (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*
- (f) subdividing land:*
  - (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
  - (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance.*

The proposed development entails demolishing a building (The “Broadcasters Building”) that is part of a heritage item.

The proposal development entails altering a building that is part of a heritage item (The King George V Grandstand).

The proposed development entails erecting a building on which is the site of a heritage item (new Broadcasters Building).

### **(3) When consent not required**

*However, development consent under this clause is not required if:*

Consent is required.

- (a) the applicant has notified the consent authority of the proposed development and the consent authority has advised the applicant in writing before any work is carried out that it is satisfied that the proposed development:*
  - (i) is of a minor nature or is for the maintenance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place of heritage significance or archaeological site or a building, work, relic, tree or place within the heritage conservation area, and*
  - (ii) would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place, archaeological site or heritage conservation area, or*

(b) *the development is in a cemetery or burial ground and the proposed development:*

(i) *is the creation of a new grave or monument, or excavation or disturbance of land for the purpose of conserving or repairing monuments or grave markers, and*

(ii) *would not cause disturbance to human remains, relics, Aboriginal objects in the form of grave goods, or to an Aboriginal place of heritage significance, or*

(c) *the development is limited to the removal of a tree or other vegetation that the Council is satisfied is a risk to human life or property, or*

(d) *the development is exempt development.*

**(4) Effect of proposed development on heritage significance**

*The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause in respect of a heritage item or heritage conservation area, consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the item or area concerned. This subclause applies regardless of whether a heritage management document is prepared under subclause (5) or a heritage conservation management plan is submitted under subclause (6).*

The significance of the item is stated at p.3 above.

The proposed development will have no substantive impact on the stated significance, as the shape of the former brick pit and shallow hollow will remain discernible.

**(5) Heritage assessment**

*The consent authority may, before granting consent to any development:*

(a) *on land on which a heritage item is located, or*

The development is to land on which a heritage item is located.

(b) *on land that is within a heritage conservation area, or*

(c) *on land that is within the vicinity of land referred to in paragraph (a) or (b),*

*require a heritage management document to be prepared that assesses the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area concerned.*

This document has been prepared having general regard to the guideline document "Statements of Heritage Impact" as published by HeritageNSW.

**(6) Heritage conservation management plans**

*The consent authority may require, after considering the heritage significance of a heritage item and the extent of change proposed to it, the submission of a heritage conservation management plan before granting consent under this clause.*

The preparation of a Conservation Management Plan is not warranted by the nature of the proposed development.

**(7) Archaeological sites**

*The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site (other than land listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an interim heritage order under the [Heritage Act 1977](#) applies):*

The subject place is not identified as being of archaeological significance.

(a) *notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and*



- (b) *take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.*

**(8) Aboriginal places of heritage significance**

*The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development in an Aboriginal place of heritage significance:*

The subject place is not identified as being of Aboriginal significance.

- (a) *consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the place and any Aboriginal object known or reasonably likely to be located at the place by means of an adequate investigation and assessment (which may involve consideration of a heritage impact statement), and*
- (b) *notify the local Aboriginal communities, in writing or in such other manner as may be appropriate, about the application and take into consideration any response received within 28 days after the notice is sent.*

**(9) Demolition of nominated State heritage items**

*The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause for the demolition of a nominated State heritage item:*

The subject place is not identified as being of State significance.

- (a) *notify the Heritage Council about the application, and*
- (b) *take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.*

**(10) Conservation incentives**

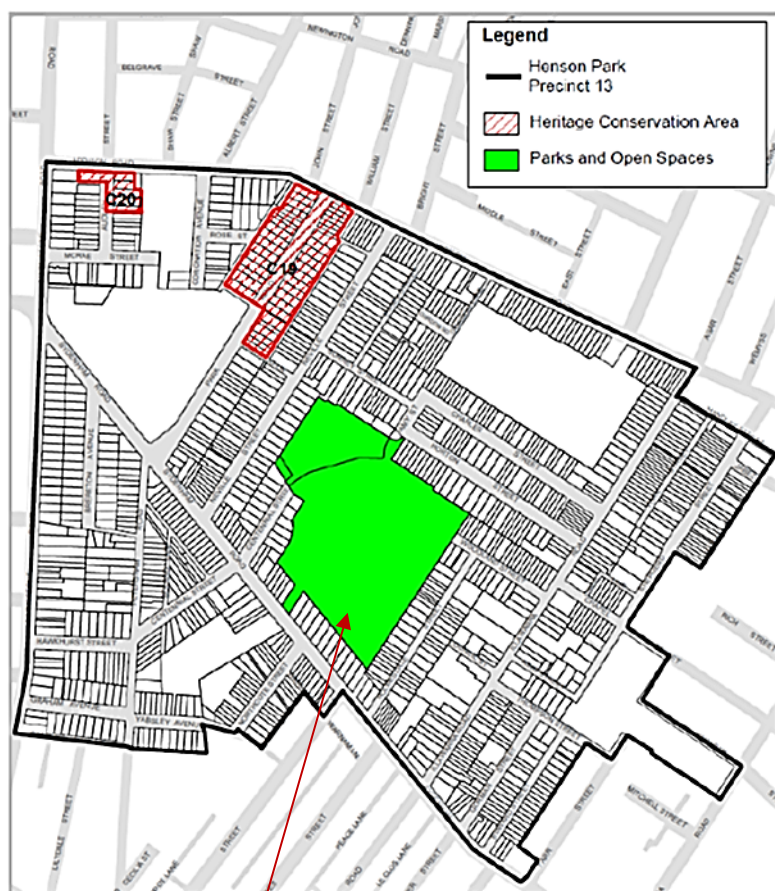
*The consent authority may grant consent to development for any purpose of a building that is a heritage item or of the land on which such a building is erected, or for any purpose on an Aboriginal place of heritage significance, even though development for that purpose would otherwise not be allowed by this Plan, if the consent authority is satisfied that:*

Conservation incentives are not sought.

- (a) *the conservation of the heritage item or Aboriginal place of heritage significance is facilitated by the granting of consent, and*
- (b) *the proposed development is in accordance with a heritage management document that has been approved by the consent authority, and*
- (c) *the consent to the proposed development would require that all necessary conservation work identified in the heritage management document is carried out, and*
- (d) *the proposed development would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, including its setting, or the heritage significance of the Aboriginal place of heritage significance, and*
- (e) *the proposed development would not have any significant adverse effect on the amenity of the surrounding area.*

## Marrickville Development Control Plan

### 9.13 Henson Park (Precinct 13)



28. Map of Precinct. Henson Park

#### 9.13.1 Existing character

*This precinct is located in the northern part of the suburb of Marrickville and generally slopes to the south east. The eastern edge of the precinct abuts the north western extent of the Marrickville industrial lands with the remainder of the precinct bounded by Addison, Livingstone and Sydenham Roads. Sydenham Road functions as an arterial connecting Parramatta Road and employment lands in southern Sydney and carries high volumes of heavy vehicle traffic which impacts on the amenity of sections of the precinct.*

*The subdivision pattern of the area is irregular with a range of lot depths and widths and streets of varying width. Few properties are serviced by rear lanes. The street system has been designed around the major community and open space uses in the precinct, particularly Henson Park at which a number of streets terminate. Road reserves within the precinct generally comprise footpaths and nature strips with landscaping predominantly of native species, generally random in pattern, although some streets feature planned planting schemes.*

*The topography rises in the vicinity of the Illawarra Road and Woodland Street intersection, with **Henson Park forming a man made low point.** The main area of open space in the precinct is Henson Park which is located towards the centre of the precinct on the site of the former Daley's brickpit. The Park comprises the main oval, grandstand and grassed hill surrounds. Prominent views and vistas within the precinct are principally along the main thoroughfares and cross connecting streets. (my emphasis)*

#### “Questions to be Answered”

The HeritageNSW publication, “Statements of Heritage Impact” (2002) posits a series of “Questions to be answered” in relation to works to heritage items, the more relevant to the proposed works being:

#### ***Demolition of a Building or Structure***

In reference to the proposed demolition of the existing “Broadcasters Building”:





29. Existing Broadcasters Building from the Henson Park pitch.

- *Have all options for retention and adaptive re-use been explored?*

Response: the existing building appears to be of 1970s/80s construction and a number of issues have been identified in terms of bringing it to compliance with current BCA requirements. It is also of a relatively mundane nature and its functionality is considered to be sub-standard and outdated.

- *Can all the significant elements of the heritage item be kept and any new development be located elsewhere on the site?*

Response: the inventory material identifies a number of elements of the place:

*There are 8 buildings on the land containing the Sportsground and Park:*

*- The grandstand/pavilion, with enclosed associated facilities under, is in fair condition.*

*- **The broadcasters grandstand is in fair condition.***

*- The "Charlie Meader Memorial Gates" providing entry from Centennial Street are in good condition.*

*- The entry gates from Woodland Street are in poor condition.*

*- The male and female toilet blocks near the southern boundary are in fair condition.*

*- The male and female toilet block near the eastern boundary is in poor condition.*

*- The scoreboard building is in fair condition.*

*There are 6 established Lophostemon confertus trees in good condition. There is 1 established Grevillea robusta tree in fair condition. There are 8 established Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Crippsii' trees in good condition. The turf in the Sportsground is in good/fair condition.*

**-but states the significance of the place as:**

*This is the only one of the many parks formed on the sites of former brickpits which has retained evidence of its former use in its shape. The shallow hollow is an attractive and historically significant feature of the site.*

- *Is demolition essential at this time or can it be postponed in case future circumstances make its retention and conservation more feasible?*

Response: demolition is essential in order to provide updated/ contemporary facilities for broadcasters and to provide compliant public WC facilities, infant changing rooms and the like.

- *Has advice of a heritage consultant/ specialist been sought? Have the consultant's recommendations been implemented? If no, why not?*

Response: yes- in my opinion, the building is of negligible heritage value. Measured record drawings have been produced and the building has been photographed in image formats from which an archival record can be generated, if required.

**Minor Partial Demolition**  
(including internal elements)

It is proposed to demolish portions of the King George V Grandstand to effect BCA upgrades and functional changes, including to access and players change facilities, and to allow functional connexions to additional facilities.

- *Is the demolition essential for the heritage item to function?*

Response: yes- the BCA upgrades are required to ensure public safety, contemporary change facilities and to ensure the viability of the building into the future.

- *Are important features of the item affected by the demolition (e.g. fireplaces in buildings)?*

Response: none of the salient features of the building will be materially affected.

- *Is the resolution to partially demolish sympathetic to the heritage significance of the item (e.g. creating large square openings in internal walls rather than removing the wall altogether)?*

Response: interpretation of the extant nature of the Grandstand will be facilitated through the manner in which connections to it and the interventions in the interior are to be expressed. Measured drawings and a photographic survey have been undertaken to provide an archival record, if required.

- *If the partial demolition is a result of the condition of the fabric, is it certain that the fabric cannot be repaired?*

Response: the proposed demolition is required to adapt the building to allow it to function for the intended inclusive use.


## H. CONCLUSION

Henson Park is the site of the former Standsure Brickworks, and the historical records of Sydney Water Archives provide detailed evidence of the extent and layout of the establishment. Associations with Thomas Daley, who took up the properties on which the brickworks had been established following the demise of the Standsure Brickworks in 1919, have been revealed in the documentary research.

The significance of the place is a function of its past use and the way in which the topography of the place is a manifestation of its genesis from Brickworks to sporting field, its associations with cycling at the Australian sesquicentenary Empire Games of 1938, and as the home ground of the Newtown Jets Rugby League Club since the 1930s.

In my opinion, the proposed works are an appropriate intervention into the place and its structures and will afford public accessibility and use of this place of acknowledged heritage significance into the future.

Prepared by



Greg Patch  
Heritage Consultant



## **Appendix: Documents**

# Henson Park

## Item details

**Name of item:** Henson Park  
**Other name/s:** Daley's Brickworks, The Blue Hole, Daley's Waterhole  
**Type of item:** Landscape  
**Group/Collection:** Parks, Gardens and Trees  
**Category:** Urban Park  
**Primary address:** Centennial Street, Marrickville, NSW 2204  
**Local govt. area:** Marrickville

## All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Centennial Street	Marrickville	Marrickville			Primary Address

## Statement of significance:

This is the only one of the many parks formed on the sites of former brickpits which has retained evidence of its former use in its shape. The shallow hollow is an attractive and historically significant feature of the site.

**Date significance updated:** 12 Jan 12

*Note: The State Heritage Inventory provides information about heritage items listed by local and State government agencies. The State Heritage Inventory is continually being updated by local and State agencies as new information becomes available. Read the [OEH copyright and disclaimer](#).*

## Description

**Physical description:** The oval is set within a hollow formed by the upper edges of the former brickpit and forms an attractive, sheltered sporting area. It covers an area of 15 acres. The 1937 grandstand is typical of the period in which the park was established.

**Physical condition and/or** The land containing the Sportsground and Park is in good condition. The land containing the car parking area is in fair condition.

## Archaeological potential:

There are 8 buildings on the land containing the Sportsground and Park:

- The grandstand/pavilion, with enclosed associated facilities under, is in fair condition.
- The broadcasters grandstand is in fair condition.
- The "Charlie Meader Memorial Gates" providing entry from Centennial Street are in good condition.
- The entry gates from Woodland Street are in poor condition.
- The male and female toilet blocks near the southern boundary are in fair condition.
- The male and female toilet block near the eastern boundary is in poor condition.
- The scoreboard building is in fair condition.

There are 6 established *Lophostemon confertus* trees in good condition. There is 1 established *Grevillea robusta* tree in fair condition. There are 8 established *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Crippsii' trees in good condition.

The turf in the Sportsground is in good/fair condition. The turf in the Park is in good condition.

The 2 banks of timber slatted bench row seating, on a metal frame, adjacent to the oval is in good/fair condition.

The low wall and concrete pathway around part of the oval is in good condition. The low wire mesh fence surrounding the oval is in good condition. The 4 flood lighting towers for the oval are in good condition. The bituminous concrete surface in the car parking area is in fair condition.

The various types of rear boundary fencing surrounding the Park are in fair/very poor condition.

Tennis Courts and Car Park



The land containing the tennis centre is currently in generally good condition. It is subject to minor subsidence through the centre of the site, resulting from gradual deterioration of the original fill material. Courts 3 & 4 are affected.

The land containing the car parking area is currently in good condition.

There are six (6) existing buildings, for the tennis centre's activities. The clubhouse (brick walls with steel roofing) is in good condition. The toilets/store (brick walls with steel roofing) is in good condition. The two (2) shelters (brick walls with steel roofing) are in good condition. The two (2) gazebos (timber walls with steel roofing) are in good condition.

There are seven (7) existing tennis courts covered with artificial grass, which are in poor condition. Courts 3 & 4 are affected by subsidence. These courts are each surrounded by 5 metre high wire mesh fencing, in good condition, with attached flood lights (12 lights/court), which are in poor condition.

**Date condition updated:** 26 May 05

**Modifications and dates:**

Recently lights have been installed for night time use and there are several out-buildings located around the site. There are also tennis courts and a clubhouse. Both the oval, surrounds and tennis grounds are surrounded by chainwire and barbed-wire fencing.

**Current use:**

Recreation - Cricket grounds and Tennis club

**Former use:**

Brickpit

---

**History**

**Historical notes:**

Henson Park is located on the site of Thomas Daley's Standure Brick Company (1886-1917). It was one of the largest brickworks in Sydney, employed about 60 people and occupied 3.6 hectares. After the brickworks closed in 1917, the pits filled with stormwater and ground water (up to 24 metres deep in parts) and became known as 'The Blue Hole'. The site became a favourite swimming spot and an illegal dumping ground. It was dangerous as a swimming hole and there were at least four known drownings.

1930 - Filling operations commence to convert the former Daley's brick pit into Henson Park

In 1932 a grant of 5000 pounds through the Unemployed Relief Works Program was received to level the ground and fill in the water holes. Council matched that funding with 5000 pounds of its own, and the oval and bicycle track were constructed.

1933 - Official opening of Henson Park was marked by a cricket match between a representative Marrickville Eleven team and the North Sydney District team, which included Don Bradman. The Mayor of Marrickville, Alderman Frederick Rushton, bowled the first ball.

When the Henson Park was opened in 1933 it consisted of an oval surrounded by an illuminated cycling track surrounded by a natural amphitheatre for 40,000 spectators.

March 1933 - A Gypsy Moth aeroplane made a forced landing.. Both pilot and passenger escape injury. The pilot, Sidney Cheesewright, proprietor of the Stanmore Garage, Stanmore Road, commented that the Gypsy Moth had stalled at 1500 feet above Newington College and he chose Henson Park for an emergency landing. Mr Cheesewright, who was accompanied by John Makinen of Holmesdale Street, said that he circled around into the wind. The park looked small and I decided to make a stall landing. The airplane was severely damaged

1935 - Embarkment completed

1936 - Woodland Street gates completed

1936 - Newtown Rugby League Club transfers their games to Henson Park.

1937 - Grandstand completed. Plaque on grandstand commemorates its opening.

1938 - British Empire Games held in Sydney. The cycling events and the closing ceremony of the Games are held at Henson Park Marrickville Council purchased the disused brickpit in 1923. Drainage and filling operations began in 1926.

Henson Park was named in recognition of the Municipal service of two members of the Henson family: William Henson and William Thomas Henson.

Henson Park is named after William Henson and his son, William Thomas Henson. William Henson was a local and state politician (MLA for Canterbury from 1880-2 and 1885-9). His son was a local politician and a man of independent means.

William Henson, senior (1826 - 1903) was born in Sydney on 1 August 1826. He was educated at St Phillips School, Church Hill and later managed an extensive sheep station at Obley. He married on 9 January 1855 at Sydney and had 4 daughters and 2 sons. He was successful on the goldfields at Ophir and Bendigo and settled at Ashfield. He was elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly on 22 November 1880 and he served as Member for Canterbury between 1880-1882, and 1885-1889. He was also a prominent Wesleyan Methodist and member of the Sons of Temperance, the Local Option League, the Orange Lodge, and Honorary Secretary of Benevolent Society. He died in his home at Ashfield on 19 March 1903.

William Thomas Henson was an alderman on Marrickville Municipal Council from 1897-1917 and was elected Mayor on four occasions (1902, 1906, 1907 and 1908). He died in 1926 at his residence at 152 Livingstone Road, Marrickville. His son, Alfred Arthur Henson was also an alderman of Marrickville Council. Alfred Arthur Henson served from 1922 to 1931. William F C Henson, also a son of William Thomas Henson, was the captain of the Marrickville Cricket Club in the 1920s

Historic photographs held in the Council's Local History Collection show the site when it was Daley's Brickpit, when it was a waterhole, and during the construction and formation of Henson Park. The brick wall along the northern boundary, backing onto the row of properties in Horton Street was constructed between 1933 and 1936. One photo dated 1936 shows the original brick entrance gates at Woodland Street, built at the same time as the brick wall. The current entrance gates at Woodland Street were re-built sometime shortly after, in c1936. There is a possibility that the bricks used to construct the wall and entrance gates at Woodland Street were supplied by the Daley family.

The King George V Memorial Grandstand was an expression of Imperial sentiment that was rife when it was built. It was opened on 19 August 1937.

October 1944 - Speedway held, using the cycling track. It was a benefit for Marrickville Hospital. In the last race Dinny Pattison was nearly killed when his car went into a slide on a bend and turned over. The speed car careered down the track for 5 metres with Dinny hanging upside down in the cockpit. His injuries put him in Marrickville Hospital for six weeks.

1945 - The words Henson Park are painted on the brick wall at the instigation of Alderman Richardson.

1974 - Newtown Rugby League Club and Marrickville Council agree to erect new lighting towers, equipped with high powered flood lights.

The size of the oval was reduced in 1975 when a fence was built around the inside of the cycling track. Part of the sandstone retaining wall around the oval was constructed in c1976 as part of the Federal Government's Red Scheme.

June 1976 - Marrickville Council received \$198,000 from the Federal Government under the RED scheme (employment project) to upgrade Henson Park. As part of the work the boundary fence was moved 12 metres inward placing it inside of the cycling track, which was removed. This increased spectator seating capacity. The scoreboard was replaced. A new press block and toilet block built. The playing service of the ground was raised by 45 centimetres. Concrete seating installed around the ground. Lighting towers erected but it was to be another four years until funds obtained for them to be operative.

October 1976 - Rock concert held with guest stars including Bo Diddley, the Silver Studs and Jeff St John. The concert was staged by Newtown Rugby League Club to raise funds to turn on the lights at Henson Park. It was estimated that over \$200,000 was required to install suitable lighting for colour television coverage of events. The concert generated 5,000 noise complaints to Marrickville Council Newtown Rugby League Club only managed to cover their costs with the rock concert.

October 1979 - NSW Government granted \$30,000 through the Department of Sport & Recreation for floodlighting. Marrickville Council provided an additional \$39,000.

23 February 1980 - The lights are officially turned on by the Deputy Mayor of Marrickville, Alderman John Gander.

1988 - Plaque placed on Centennial Street entrance gates to record the site of Daley's brickpit.

1996 - Telstra tower built

6 December 2001 - Charlie Meader Memorial Gates and plaque in Centennial Street unveiled by Mayor of Marrickville, Councillor Barry Cotter.

#### Tennis Courts

Competitive tennis has been played in Marrickville since 1935, initially as part of the large Sydenham-Bankstown Tennis Association. From the early 1950's the autonomous Marrickville & District Hardcourt Tennis Association became the local controlling body.

In 1953, Council granted approval for the use of the subject land (part of Henson Park) as a tennis centre and carpark. Debentures were issued to local tennis players and the members laid down four loam tennis courts in 1954, and constructed temporary clubhouse facilities in 1955. The current clubhouse was completed in 1961. This enabled two more courts to be built on the site of the temporary clubhouse. The final court was built in 1979. Substantial court renovations were completed in 1986 and 1990.

#### The Newtown Jets Football Club

The oval is the home of the Newtown Jets Football Club. The inaugural meeting of the club was held in the Newtown Town Hall on 8 January 1908. It originally consisted of three grades: first, reserve and third. The First Grade won the Premiership in 1910, 1933 and 1943. It was runner-up 9 times in 1913, 1914, 1929, 1944, 1954, 1955 and 1981. The club has produced many notable interstate and international players. In 1910-1911 when the Australian team toured England, seven members of the team were from the Newtown Jets Football Club. The headquarters of the club were originally in Marrickville and shortly after the completion of Henson Park in 1936, the club moved its headquarters to the park.

#### The Marrickville District Bicycle Clubs

The Marrickville District Bicycle Clubs (comprising Dulwich Hill and Marrickville Clubs) were originally based at Henson Park from 1933 when the bicycle track was completed along with the football oval. The clubs had to vacate Henson Park in 1968 when the Newtown Jets Rugby League Club wanted to remove the cycle track to bring spectators closer to the field. They moved to a newly-built velodrome in Camperdown following their lease of O'Dea Reserve from Marrickville Council.



Aboriginal Knockout Carnivals and the Koori United Rugby Team  
Henson Park is one of the playing grounds used of the annual Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival (2005 is the 35th year of the knockout) and is the home ground of the Koori United Rugby Team.

### Assessment of significance

**SHR Criteria a)** Local. Requires further assessment.

[Historical  
significance]

Henson Park is named after William Henson and his son, William Thomas Henson. William Henson was a local and state politician (MLA for Canterbury from 1880-2 and 1885-9). His son was a local politician and a man of independent means.

William Henson, senior (1826 - 1903) was born in Sydney on 1 August 1826. He was educated at St Phillips School, Church Hill and later managed an extensive sheep station at Obley. He married on 9 January 1855 at Sydney and had 4 daughters and 2 sons. He was successful on the goldfields at Ophir and Bendigo and settled at Ashfield. He was elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly on 22 November 1880 and he served as Member for Canterbury between 1880-1882, and 1885-1889. He was also a prominent Wesleyan Methodist and member of the Sons of Temperance, the Local Option League, the Orange Lodge, and Honorary Secretary of Benevolent Society. He died in his home at Ashfield on 19 March 1903.

William Thomas Henson was an alderman on Marrickville Municipal Council from 1897-1917 and was elected Mayor on four occasions (1902, 1906, 1907 and 1908). He died in 1926 at his residence at 152 Livingstone Road, Marrickville. His son, Alfred Arthur Henson was also an alderman of Marrickville Council. Alfred Arthur Henson served from 1922 to 1931. William F C Henson, also a son of William Thomas Henson, was the captain of the Marrickville Cricket Club in the 1920s

**SHR Criteria c)** Requires further assessment.

[Aesthetic  
significance]

**SHR Criteria d)** Local. Home of the Newtown Jets. Henson Park has also been identified as a place of importance to the local Aboriginal community in relation to the use of the park for annual Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnivals and as the home ground of the Koori United Rugby Team. Requires further assessment.

**SHR Criteria e)** Local. Given that the site was a brick pit for many years and was then infilled in the 1930s, the possibility of any surviving archaeological deposits is remote.

**SHR Criteria f)** Requires further assessment.

[Rarity]

**SHR Criteria g)** Local. Requires further assessment.

[Representativeness]

**Integrity/Intactness:** The grounds and buildings are relatively intact and the park retains its 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.

### Recommended management:

General maintenance especially to the grandstand.

### Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Marrickville Local Environmental Plan 2001		18 May 01	86	
Local Environmental Plan	Marrickville LEP 2011	I71	12 Dec 11	2011/645	
Within a conservation area on an LEP	within draft cons. area Marrickville LEP 2001				
Heritage study					

### Study details





## Henson Park

Image by: Marrickville Council

Image copyright owner: Marrickville Council



## Henson Park

Image by: Tropman & Tropman Architects

Image copyright owner: Tropman & Tropman Architects



SIGNATURES AND SEALS ONLY

THE COMMON SEAL OF  
MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL WAS  
HEREUNTO AFFIXED ON  
08 AUGUST 2001  
PURSUANT TO A RESOLUTION OF  
THE COUNCIL PASSED ON THE  
18 JULY 2000  
IN THE PRESENCE OF

*[Signature]*  
PETER BLACK  
GENERAL MANAGER

*[Signature]*  
BARRY COTTER  
MAYOR

Crown Lands Office Approval

PLAN APPROVED .....  
Authorised Officer .....

Land District .....  
Paper No. ....  
Field Book ..... pages .....

Subdivision Certificate

I certify that the provisions of s. 109J of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 have been satisfied in relation to

- the proposed subdivision ..... set out herein; and
- (insert 'subdivision' or 'new road')

the subdivision is for lease purposes in accordance with s. 23H of the Conveyancing Act 1919.

\*Authorised Person/General Manager/ Accredited Conveyancer

Consent Authority: .....

Date of endorsement: 27 August 2001

Accreditation No. ....

Subdivision Certificate No. 200000388.01

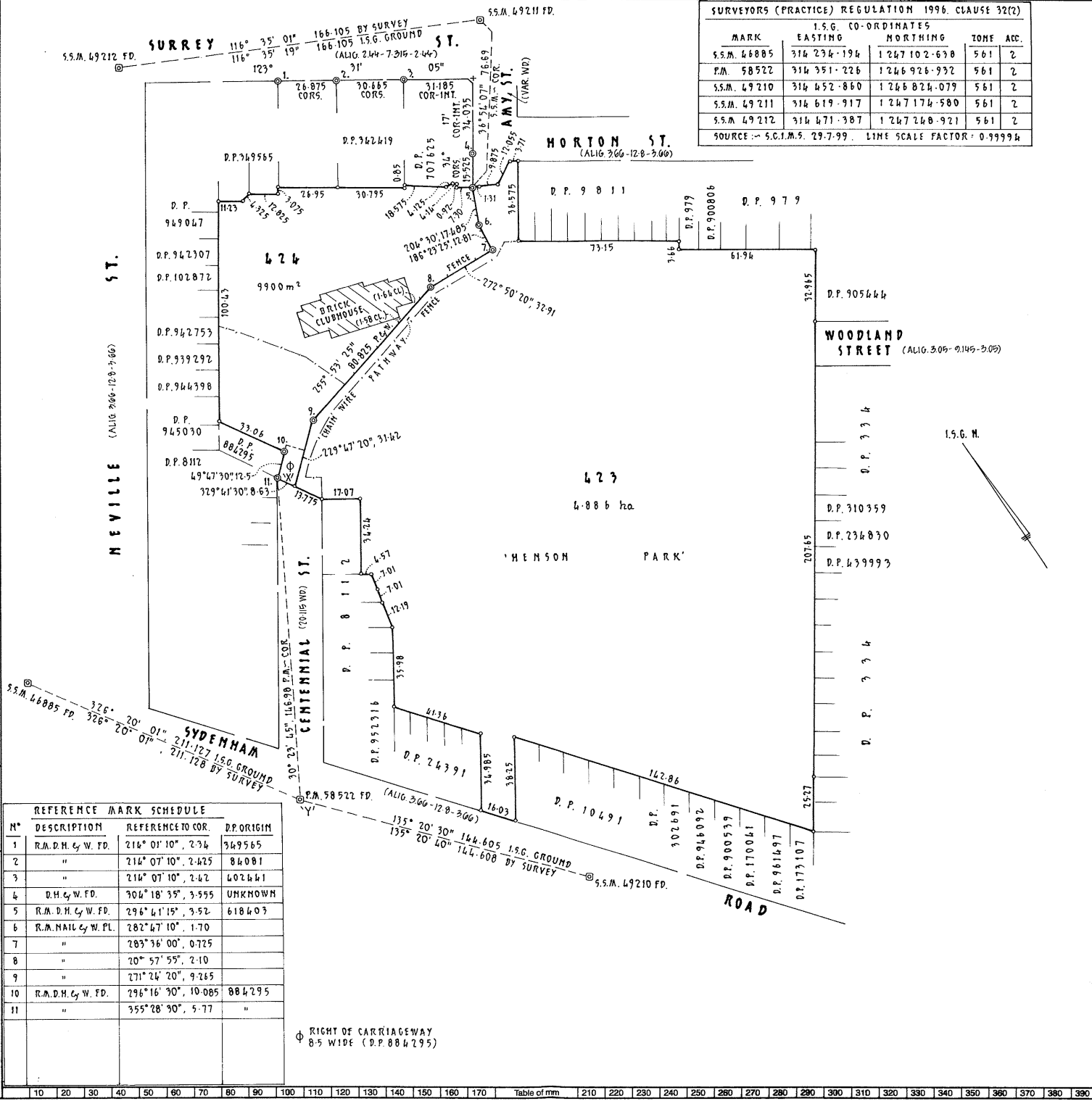
File No. 200000388

When the plan is to be lodged electronically in the Land Titles Office, it should include a signature in an electronic or digital format approved by the Registrar-General.

Document Set ID: 35767594

Version: 1, Version Date: 21/01/2022

REGISTRAR'S REFERENCE: 98171



DP1035319

Registered: 19-11-2001

CA: SEE CERTIFICATE

Title System: TORRENS

Purpose: SUBDIVISION

Ref Map: MARRICKVILLE SH. 101

Last Plan: DP884295

PLAN: OF SUBDIVISION OF  
LOT 421 D.P.884295

Lengths are in metres. Reduction Ratio 1: 1250

L.G.A.: MARRICKVILLE

Locality: MARRICKVILLE

Parish: PETERSHAM

County: CUMBERLAND

This is sheet 1 of my plan in ..... sheets.  
(Delete if inapplicable)

Surveyors (Practice) Regulation 1996  
I, GREGORY VICTOR M. HIFF  
of LAWRENCE ST. WEST RYDE 2114  
PH. 9874 8907  
a surveyor registered under the Surveyor's Act, 1929, hereby  
certify that the survey represented in this plan is accurate, has  
been made in accordance with the Surveyors (Practice)  
Regulation 1996 and was completed on 4.8.99  
The survey relates to THE COMMON BOUNDARY  
BETWEEN LOTS 423, 424  
(here specify the land actually surveyed or specify any land  
shown in the plan that is not the subject of the survey)  
Datum Line: X-Y  
Zone: Suburban/County  
(Signature) *[Signature]*  
Surveyor registered under the Surveyors Act, 1929

Plans used in preparation of survey/compilation  
D.P. 3 707 625 } BY ME D.P. 4 024 41  
618 403 }  
884 295 }  
349 565 }  
84 001 }

PANEL FOR USE ONLY for statements of intention to  
dedicate public roads, to create public reserves, drainage  
reserves, easements, restrictions on the use of land or  
positive covenants.



# MARRICKVILLE

Ship	Heaving	Dist.	Date	Con.	Wgt.	Con.	South	Wgt.	Remarks
1	201	100	May 17	100	100	100	100	100	100
2	201	100	May 18	100	100	100	100	100	100
3	201	100	May 19	100	100	100	100	100	100
4	201	100	May 20	100	100	100	100	100	100
5	201	100	May 21	100	100	100	100	100	100
6	201	100	May 22	100	100	100	100	100	100
7	201	100	May 23	100	100	100	100	100	100
8	201	100	May 24	100	100	100	100	100	100
9	201	100	May 25	100	100	100	100	100	100
10	201	100	May 26	100	100	100	100	100	100
11	201	100	May 27	100	100	100	100	100	100
12	201	100	May 28	100	100	100	100	100	100
13	201	100	May 29	100	100	100	100	100	100
14	201	100	May 30	100	100	100	100	100	100
15	201	100	May 31	100	100	100	100	100	100

*Note:* These coordinates require no correction.

Additional Information pulled from: *Albuquerque D.O. White, Field Book N-1083* (p. 1 & back 2) 1/8

Transmitted to the Acting Surveyor General with my letter & Field-book dated 14 March 1890 JH3

2014