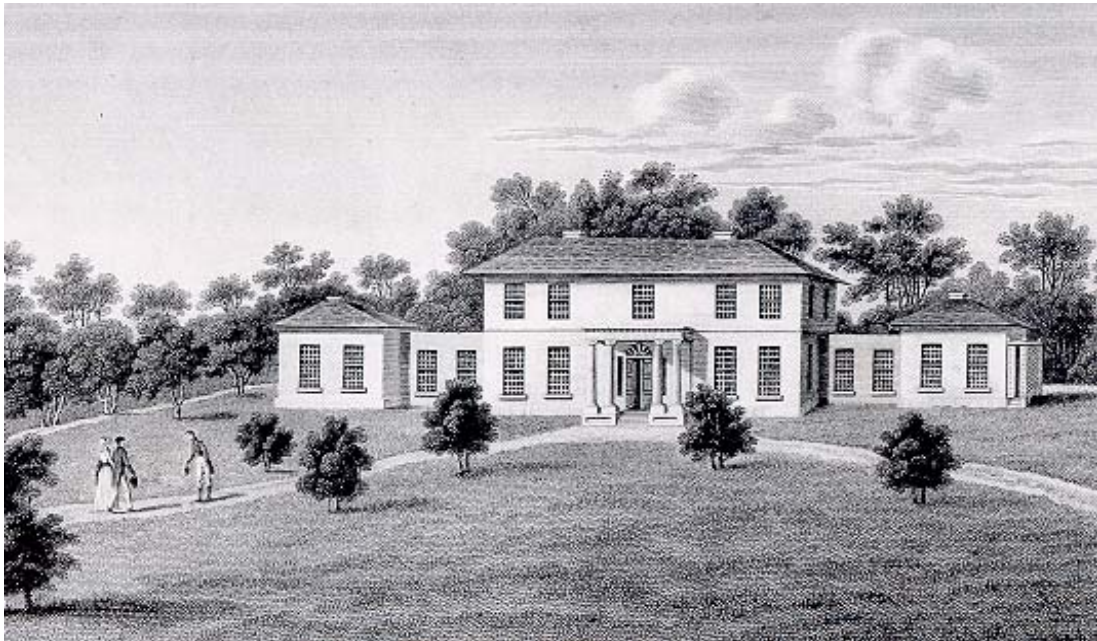


Sighting the Past

Interpreting the Historical Environment

A site study for Years 7 – 10 History
Old Government House, Parramatta Park

Teacher Resource Kit



1819, View of the House of the Governor.
Engraving published in Louis de Freycinet's Voyage Around the World 1825



Sighting the Past

Interpreting the Historical Environment

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Syllabus links | 3 |
| Aims of the site study | 4 |
| A description of the site study | 4 |
| - Orientation | |
| - Site Investigation | |
| A brief history of the site | 6 |
| - Timeline for site of Old Government House & Parramatta Park | 9 |
| Heritage significance of Parramatta Park | 11 |
| - Timeline summary of historical chronology of Parramatta Park | 12 |
| - Proposed rail development heritage issues, newspaper clippings | 13 |
| - Location and Context Map of Parramatta Park | 15 |
| Pre visit suggestions | 16 |
| Post visit suggestions | 16 |
| About the National Trust | 17 |
| Selected Sources Used during the visit | |
| Recommended Texts | 20 |

Syllabus links

Sighting the Past site study is relevant to the following History Stage 4 Syllabus Areas:

| Topic | Area of Study | Skills | Inquiry questions |
|---|--|--|--|
| Introducing History | Exploring heritage issues through a site study | Interpretation, analysis and empathy <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Using historical terms- Using historical sources- Recognising perspectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How do historians investigate the past?- How do historians record the past?- How does the historian relate the past to the present?- Why is History valued?- Why is conservation of the past important? |
| Indigenous Peoples, Colonisation and Contact History | Australia (including a study of the longevity of Aboriginal occupation and contact history before 1900) | Interpretation, analysis and empathy <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Using historical terms- Using historical sourcesRecognising perspectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What were some of the significant social, economic and environmental features of the indigenous culture prior to colonisation?- What were some of the key aspects of the contact between the indigenous and non-indigenous peoples? |

Aims

The aims of the site study are to provide opportunities for students to:

- examine a variety of primary sources in a meaningful and physical context
- use their own observations when visiting a site of heritage significance
- understand the nature of continuity and change over time of a natural and built environment
- recognise and develop empathy for the experiences of the Aboriginal people pre and post contact at a specific site
- develop an interest and involvement in the investigation of heritage

A description of the site study

The site study visit involves a 10 minute orientation slide presentation followed by smaller group work in the house and outside. Physically, the site study covers Old Government House as well as the landscape around the house including the river and creek in Parramatta Park. Students are given primary source folders to work with during the visit. A sample of the types of sources are in this kit. The total time needed for the visit is 90 minutes.

Orientation

The orientation aims to provide a snapshot of the themes included in the site: Indigenous culture, contact, colonisation, government, tenancy, education and heritage.

The orientation consists of a slide presentation which takes the students back in time from the opening of Old Government House as a house museum for the National Trust in 1970, back through the occupation of the Kings School from 1909 – 1962, the restoration of the house in 1909 by the Government and the tenanting of the house from 1857 when the Government Domain also became one of the earliest public parks. The Governors are briefly introduced, including the last Governor to live at OGH, Governor Fitzroy, whose wife was killed in a carriage accident down by the Gatehouse. The orientation also touches on Governor Macquarie who made the greatest impact on the final form of the house and the township of Parramatta and finishes with the point of contact between Governor Phillip and the Darug people.

Site investigation

In the three groups, students will rotate throughout the domain and the house to investigate three key areas:

Aboriginal Occupation and early colonisation.

- How was this site used by Aboriginal people before colonisation?
- Why was this site chosen for settlement and what was its primary function?
- What was the effect of colonisation on Aboriginal people?

Government consolidation and urban development.

- What evidence is there of the early colonial town?
- What do the sources and observation tell us about how people lived?
- What effect did Macquarie's town planning have on the relationship between town and government?
- How has this historic landscape been preserved today?

Society and change.

- How does the development of Old Government House reflect the early Australian government and society?
- What does the physical structure of the house and its contents reveal about the technology, history and lifestyle of the colonists?
- What role do present day government and non-government organisations play in the preservation and presentation of heritage sites?

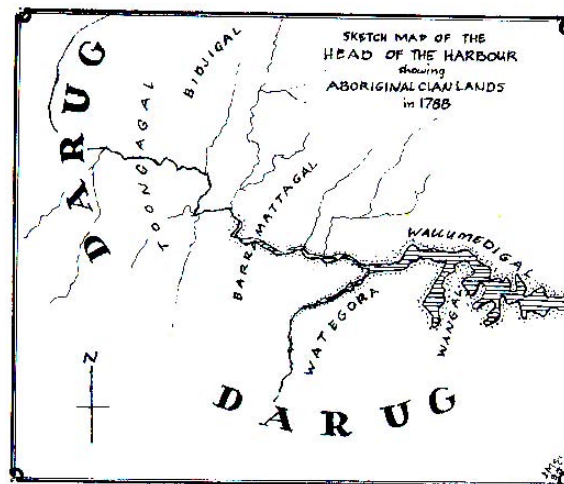


The Costume of the Australasians, watercolour
By Sophia Campbell c.1817 (Private collection)

A brief history of the site

Pre-colonization

Prior to the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 the Darug tribe occupied an area from the Blue Mountains to the Shoalhaven and Broken Bay. Tribes consisted of family associations and were divided into clans consisting of thirty to sixty people. The clan around present day Parramatta were the Burramattagal – The name Parramatta is a European interpretation of the Burramatta name. 'Parramatta' has been variously translated as meaning 'the place where the eels lie down', 'the head of a river', and 'plenty of eels'. The land was flat and rather low; the trees were described in contemporary accounts as immensely large and at considerable distance from each other and the ground covered with rich and succulent grass that extended westward from Parramatta to the Cumberland plain. A few remnant scar trees used by the Burramattagal to make shelters and canoes still survive in Parramatta Park.



Sketch map of the head of the harbour showing Aboriginal clan lands at the time of European settlement. (John McClymont)

Aboriginal people used the area as a place to cross the river and it provided access to different environments, water and land. They hunted possums and sometimes kangaroo as well as many other animals on the open grasses, and used fire as a means for changing the environment and as a tool to assist with hunting. Possum traps are still in evidence in the Park. All groups took advantage of a rich range of fruits and vegetables such as yams. Fishing from the Parramatta River supplied them with mullet, perch, mud oysters and eels.

Post- Colonization

Desperate to find fertile land to help feed a hungry military and convict population at Sydney Cove, Governor Phillip explored the Parramatta area in April 1788. He established a settlement on Darug land, which he called Rose Hill after Sir George Rose, Treasurer to the Navy.

Many documents refer to the generosity and hospitality of the Darug people to the Europeans. But as more settlers spread across the land and obviously intended to stay, violent clashes between the two groups increased. Smallpox brought in by the Europeans on the First Fleet killed a large number of the Darug people around Parramatta and at Sydney Cove. Those that survived this disease were denied access to their sacred places and hunting grounds, and the destruction of the traditional Darug lifestyle and independence was enormous. Because of this some Aboriginals responded to Europeans with such violence that Governor Phillip decided to compel them to keep a greater distance from the settlement. The most famous Aboriginal resistor, Pemulwuy, was said to be responsible for every Aboriginal 'outrage' against the settlers. In 1797 he led the Georges River and Parramatta tribes in an attack on the settlement at Toongabbie.

The Development of Old Government House

Governor Phillip built a lath and plaster cottage in 1790, the remains of one of its outbuildings can still be seen. The convict houses that were built in front of Government House on the main street – High Street were constructed the same way and housed up to 14 people. By 1799 the lath and plaster house had been damaged by termites and Governor Hunter replaced it with a two storey brick building. This is the oldest surviving section of Government House.



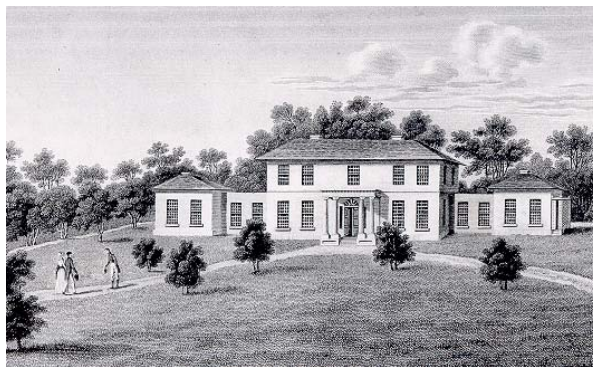
A view of the Governors House at Rosehill. Phillip's cottage is at the top of the hill overlooking the convict huts. c. 1798. (National Trust of Australia (NSW))



Government House built by Governor Hunter. Watercolour attributed to GW Evans. (Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

Between 1812 and 1818 Governor Macquarie made many additions to the house. These included demolishing the old outbuildings, doubling the size of the central block, building the north and south pavilions with linking colonnades, a new gatehouse, a laundry, a large stable, a pigeon house and even rabbit hutches, cages for the pet emus and a tree house and bark hut for Mrs. Macquarie.

It is thought that Mrs. Macquarie developed the concept for the extensions based on her uncle's house in Scotland. The Governor's Aide de Camp, Lieutenant John Watts, an amateur architect, did the drafting work except for the portico which was designed by the convict architect Francis Greenway. The Macquarie's more than tripled the size of the house. As with so many of their building projects these works were not sanctioned by the Colonial Office and were seen as being extravagant, irresponsible and self indulgent.



1819 view of the House of the Governor. Engraving published in Louis de Freycinet's Voyage Around the World Paris, 1825.

A complete list of the Governors and their residencies is included in the time line as well as the development of the landscape and town.

The house ceased to be used as a Vice-Regal residence in 1855 yet the Government still retained ownership of the house and surrounding land. In 1857 the land around the house was proclaimed a public park, one of the largest and earliest public parklands in Australia that has been retained for public use. The house itself was leased to various tenants and became run down and neglected. In 1901 it was obtained by the St. John's School. Extensive renovations were undertaken by the government in 1909 and it was leased to the King's School until 1962.

In March 1967 the house was vested in the National Trust and was opened to the public by the Queen in 1970. Today the National Trust manages the property as a house museum and the Parramatta Park Trust manage Parramatta Park.

Timeline for site of Old Government House and Parramatta Park

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Pre 1788 | Occupation by the Burramattagal clan from the Darug tribe. |
| Nov 1788 | Governor Phillip sails up the Parramatta River and identifies Rose Hill at the site for the Government Farm Fort established and land cleared. |
| 1790 | Governor Phillips Government House built at Rose Hill Convict huts constructed and town planning at Parramatta commences. |
| 1794 – 1800 | Governor Hunter in office |
| 1799 | Governor Hunter replaces Phillips house at Rose Hill |
| 1800 – 1806 | Governor Phillip Gidley King in office |
| 1806 – 1808 | Governor William Bligh in office |
| 1810 – 1821 | Governor Lachlan Macquarie in office |
| 1811 – 1814 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major town planning and infrastructure commences in Parramatta. Convict huts, Pitt Street and High Street in front of Government House are removed and the land around the house becomes the Governor's domain and private parkland. |
| Dec 1814 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First annual Meeting of the Tribes in town square next to St John's Church. Creation of the Native Institution at Parramatta for the education of Aboriginal children |
| 1815 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major work begun on Government House designed by John Watts to triple its width and double its depth by adding 2 single storey wings and a rear extension. A portico was added by Francis Greenway. |
| 1817 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The South Creek and Mulgoa clans visit Governor Macquarie at Government House Parramatta John Watts designs a dam across the Parramatta River to give the townspeople a fresh water supply. This slows the river near the house and affects the wildlife. |
| 1821 – 1826 | Sir Thomas Brisbane in Office. He makes Parramatta his principal residence |
| 1821 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brisbane builds the Observatory to the rear of the house |
| 1823 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bathhouse built to the rear of the house with water for the baths pumped from Parramatta River |

Timeline for site of Old Government House and Parramatta Park

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 1826 – 1831 | Governor Ralph Darling in office |
| 1826 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Native Institution moves to Blacktown |
| 1831 – 1838 | Governor Richard Bourke in office |
| 1832 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last feast of the Meeting of the Tribes The Governors wife Elizabeth dies in the house. |
| 1837 | Queen Victoria comes to the throne in England. |
| 1838 – 1846 | Governor George Gipps in office |
| 1840 | Decision made to end transportation of convicts |
| 1845 | New Government House in Sydney becomes the principal residence Government House in Parramatta is leased |
| 1846 | Governor Charles Fitzroy takes up tenancy of the house with his family. |
| 1847 | Lady Fitzroy killed in a carriage accident at the entrance to the domain (park) |
| 1850 | Discovery of gold |
| 1856 | Colonial self government |
| 1857 | Creation of Parramatta Park |
| 1858 | House is rented out |
| 1860 | Train line dissects Park near the Government House Stables and Observatory |
| 1901 | Federation St Johns Grammar School takes residence |
| 1909 | Government restoration of the building |
| 1909 – 1962 | House leased to The Kings School. |
| 1967 | House is vested in The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) as trustee by an Act of Parliament |
| 1995 | Parramatta Park Trust administers the parklands. |

Heritage significance of Parramatta Park

The following information is from the Parramatta Park Plan of Management 1996 – 2000

Parramatta Park is 86 hectares in size, located adjacent to the Parramatta regional centre. It is an extraordinary and complex cultural landscape of outstanding heritage value. The Park and its cultural resources, including physical elements, vistas and associations is a place of great significance.

Primary significance

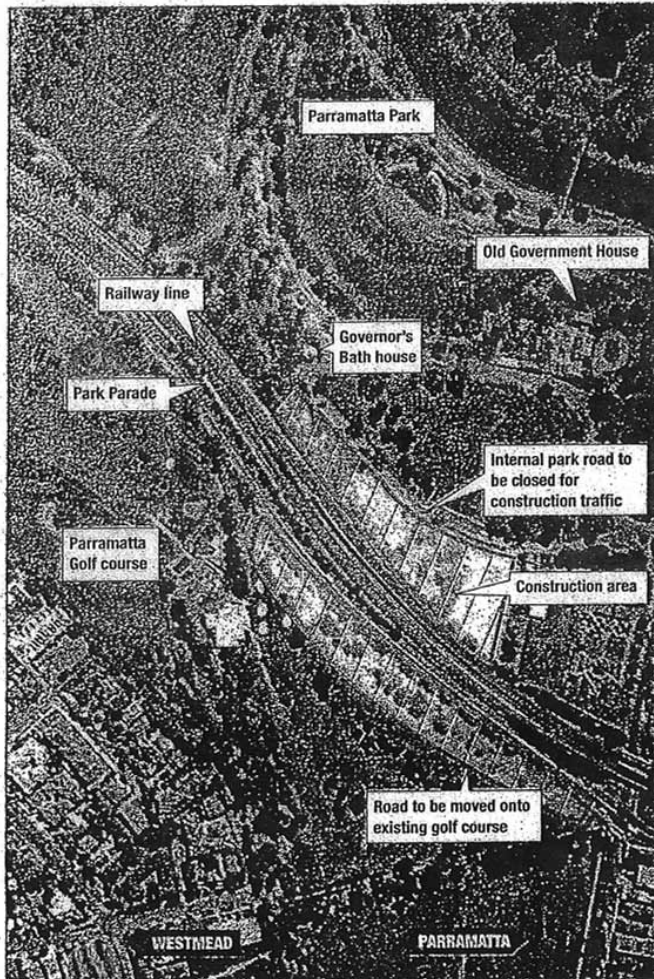
- The history and fabric of the Park demonstrated the process of colonisation, from first exploration to occupation, land clearing, building, agriculture, town planning and landscape planning on a grand scale.
- The Park lands, including topography, landscape elements and archaeological resources, were the focus for the cradle of European settlement in Australia
- The Park was the site of Australia's first successful agriculture and grape growing. The Park was also a major site of convict activity and labour. It retains physical evidence of these processes and events.
- Parramatta Park is one of Sydney's most important and earliest dedicated areas of open space and provides major regional open space in the demographic centre of Sydney.
- Parramatta Park has strong historical associations with many noteworthy people – governors, emancipists and convicts – and with many important historical events.
- Parramatta Park has been used for cultivation and land exploitation over a continuous period that extends before European occupation to Aboriginal use and management of the Cumberland Plain grasslands.
- Parramatta Park is a place that is important to Aboriginal people as the location for major interaction between Aboriginal and European people.
- Highly significant remnant flora and fauna and significant introduced flora.
- Parramatta Park is the setting for Old Government House and the Dairy buildings – two of the three surviving eighteenth-century houses in Australia
- Parramatta Park includes the site of the only eighteenth century seat of colonial government remaining largely intact in Australia
- As a site which contains a unique physical resource documenting the period prior to and immediately after European settlement, Parramatta Park is an archaeological resource of national and possible international significance.
- The site also contains historic buildings and a range of historic monuments and contemporary recreational facilities.

Timeline summary of historical chronology of Parramatta Park

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Pre 1788 | Aboriginal occupation |
| 1788 | Rose Hill settled by Europeans |
| 1789 | Government House built and first farm established |
| 1796 – 1800 | Dairy Cottage and convict huts built |
| 1813 | Salters and other farms purchased by Macquarie |
| 1816 | Public excluded from Domain |
| 1822 – 23 | Observatory and Bathhouse built |
| 1822 – 55 | Use as Governor's residence and for agriculture |
| 1857 | Setting aside of 200 acres as a public park. Domain handed to Trustees for public use |
| 1860 | Western railway line extended through the park |
| 1810 – 75 | Gatehouse and ranger's cottage constructed |
| 1884 | Dedication as a public park |
| 1917 | Named a National Park, the third in Australia |
| 1967 | Old Government House Trusteeship to National Trust |
| 1976 | Parramatta City Council became trustee of the park |
| 1981 | Parramatta Stadium constructed |
| 1989 | Placement of Permanent Conservation Order |
| 1993 | Dairy Precinct developed |
| 1995 | Parramatta Park Trust formed |

Rail link threatens park and golf course

By MARK SCALA



PART of Australia's second oldest park will be torn up and a golf course may be forced to close if the proposed rail link between Parramatta and Chatswood goes ahead, it was claimed yesterday.

Parramatta Park, with more than a million visitors a year, will temporarily lose up to two football fields of space.

Historic sites will be destroyed to make way for the rail line.

Six thousand square metres will be cleared for a road and a further 900sq/m permanently removed to allow the railway to begin its journey underground.

Space lost by the 42-year-old Parramatta golf course could reduce it to eight holes.

Course manager Debbie Prosperand said the club would lose its membership with the NSW Golf Association and its liquor licence and close down.

Not included in the figures are space for a construction site and depot in the park which will be closed to the public for up to four years.

Parramatta Park Trust chairman Tom Uren said: "The whole front of the park will go [during construction] and they are going to destroy it in the process."

"Even though some of it is temporary, by the time the project is finished all the vegetation will be gone, archaeological sites gone and you just cannot replace them."

Mr Uren said cyclists would also be forced from Parramatta Park on to busy roads.

Robert and Rita Catford often ride through the park from Westmead to work in Parramatta.

"When I heard of the damage [the link] was going to do I was quite horrified," Mr Catford said.

"So many people use this cycling circuit,"

Mr Uren said that if the proposal was adopted:

- 900sq/m of the park and 650sq/m of the golf course would be permanently lost.

- Trees more than 100 years old, including trees used to take early astrological readings would be cut down.

- Foundation stones to a 190-year-old stable would be removed and sandstone entry pillars and underground drainage pipes damaged.

- Historic roads would be widened and a temporary construction depot built, with public access to a popular cycling and walking track denied.

- Traffic would be diverted through the golf course and directly past Old Government House.

As an alternative, Mr Uren said the railway line could begin underground at Westmead and avoid the park.

Parramatta Rail Link spokesman John Lee said the proposal was still in its early stages and constructive comments were being received and considered.

Mr Lee said when construction began people could expect disruptions similar to when Parramatta stadium was built.

"I wonder where we would be if we didn't have Parramatta stadium, people tried to stop that and it would be a sad day if we didn't have it," Mr Lee said.

Parramatta Lord Mayor David Borger said: "We're supportive of the link. In terms of commercial value it is wonderful, but not at the expense of this wonderful park which deserves greater recognition."

How Parramatta Park will be affected by the proposed rail link, and (below) the main gate in early times

Daily Telegraph
27/1/2000

Parramatta's shrinking green space

□ Parramatta Park was originally the Governor's Domain from 1788, covering 809ha to Toongabbie.

□ It became a park in 1857 and is the nation's second oldest after Sydney's Hyde Park.

□ When it became a park it occupied 99ha, but over the years has been reduced to 85ha.

□ It contains two of the three oldest buildings in Australia and has a conservation order from the NSW Heritage Council.

□ Parramatta Park has been reduced over the years: 1913 — 8000sq m for Parramatta High School; 1937 — 8000sq m for school site; 1952 — 10,000sq m for RSL club; 1967 — 8000sq m, Old Government House to National Trust; 1980 — Parramatta Stadium, lands were also resumed for roads (Park Pde) and the current railway line and 1999 — 6000sq m for Parramatta Leagues Club parking.



Rail plan revised to protect heritage

By GERALDINE O'BRIEN
Heritage Writer

Plans for a crucial section of the Chatswood-Parramatta rail link have been extensively revised to protect heritage items in Parramatta Park, following strong protests.

The Minister for Transport, Mr Scully, said yesterday that the revised plans would ensure there was no permanent impact on the park. "This means no encroachment on the park."

Under the original environmental impact statement, up to 900 square metres would have been excised permanently from the park, in addition to other land temporarily excised as a work site.

The entrance would have been widened and the original stone gate pillars removed. Public access to the entry road would have been denied and all public traffic rerouted in front of Old Government House.

Other historic remnants, including the remains of the observatory, the Governor's bathhouse and several historic trees, would have been either removed or damaged by construction works.

Mr Scully said the new scheme would focus construction on the existing rail corridor, with some tunnelling under Park Parade. He said no land would be permanently taken from the park or golf course.

The announcement was welcomed by the chairman of Parramatta Park Trust, Mr Tom Uren, who said the minister had accepted the trust's concerns and had promised that "under no circumstances would he allow permanent harm to be done to our historic park".

Mr Uren said he was "pleasantly surprised" by the extent to which the trust's concerns had been met.

A spokesman for the rail link consortium, Mr John Lee, said engineers Maunsell McIntyre had spent more than 140 hours coming up with the solution.

A new environmental impact statement will not be necessary because the legislation allowed or modifications which reduced the impact of a project.

On track for a heritage disaster

Pamela Mawbey

Modern transport pressures threaten an important part of Australia's history.

WHEN Governor Macquarie's wife lived on the vice-regal estate now known as Parramatta Park, she had a treehouse built in a tall gum tree so she could climb up and admire the view.

Elizabeth Macquarie was not playing at being a tomboy like Marie-Antoinette did a milkmaid. She had an active interest in the art of landscaping and delighted in both creating and viewing beautiful vistas.

When residing at Government House in Sydney, her special vantage point for gazing out at the harbour was the sandstone outcrop near Bennington Point now known as Mrs Macquarie's Chair.

These days, there is no trace of Mrs Macquarie's tree left in the former governor's domain at Parramatta.

It is thought to have been removed (along with Governor Macquarie's stables) when the western railway line was extended from Parramatta through the park in 1860. An irreplaceable piece of Australia's cultural heritage was destroyed in the name of progress.

A similar fate is now hanging over several other old trees in the park and once again the threat is from the railway.

According to the recently released Parramatta rail link environmental impact statement, the proposed new Chatswood-Parramatta line is to be extended to Westmead.

This will involve widening the existing rail corridor that cuts through Parramatta Park and perma-

that their roots will not be able to withstand heavy trucks rumbling over them.

One is a hoop pine, *araucaria cunninghamii*, an Australian native, and the other two are chir pines, *pinus roxburghii*, originating from the Himalayas.

It is believed Brisbane planted them to reflect the north-south survey access between the southern gatehouse at Mays Hill (now on the Great Western Highway near Parramatta High School) and the observatory.

Another hoop pine, which could have been part of Brisbane's tree planting system is located on the golf course near the fifth tee.

This, the EIS says, may be removed. Three that will definitely will go, if the current proposal goes ahead, are two hoop pines and one chir pine on the western side of Coronation Hill. These are thought to have been part of an avenue planting.

This threat to Australia's cultural heritage could be averted simply by ending the rail link at Parramatta.

People wanting to travel to Chatswood from places further west would have to change trains there, just like anyone travelling from Chatswood to Cronulla has to do at Town Hall. The EIS says this would make Parramatta station too congested.

These days no-one would dare to put a railway track and a busy by-pass road through Centennial Park or the Botanic Gardens in Sydney.

Yet this is what has, in effect, been done to Parramatta Park.

As the site of Australia's first

botanic garden, surrounded by beautiful parkland, it was in fact a combination of both.

The problem is that Parramatta Park has yet to be formally acknowledged as Australia's national heritage park. One of the first "national" parks, it has since been demoted to a "regional" park, which linguistically belies its significance to Australia as a nation.

Increasing the presence of the railway will create an even greater sense of division, or "alienation", between the two areas of parkland that already exists.

By far the best solution would be to continue the tunnelling that will be involved for most of the Chatswood-Parramatta rail link, and then take both the new and existing railway, plus the road, underneath Parramatta Park. This would reunify the existing parkland and restore an uninterrupted vista.

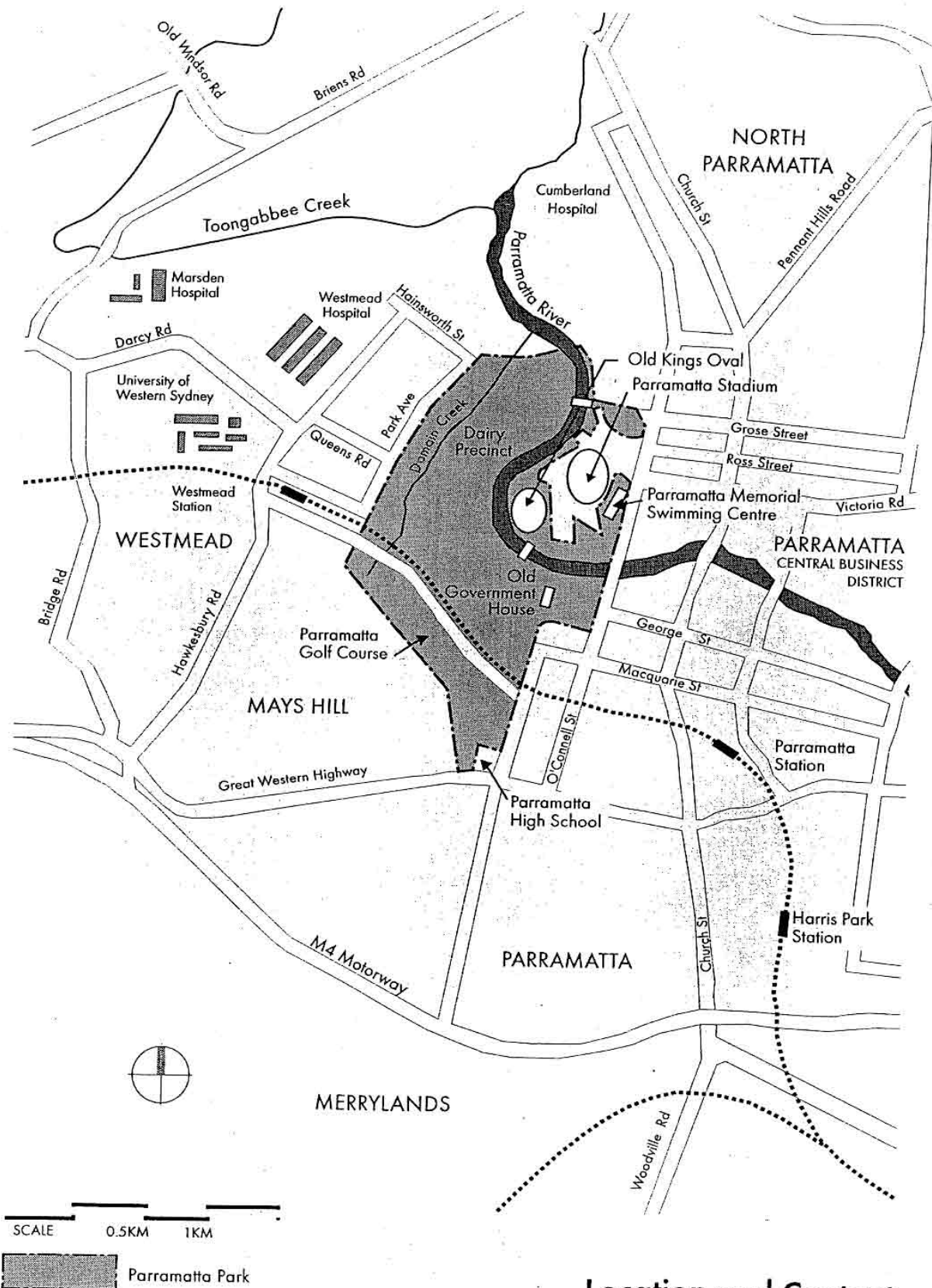
The EIS says it would cost more to continue the tunnelling, through to Westmead and to build an underground station there. But the cost to Australia's national heritage under the present proposal is much greater.

Once the integrity of the park was restored, some serious thought could be given to interpreting the landscape to re-create a better idea of what it was like in vice-regal times.

As someone who viewed the area as a special place, Mrs Macquarie would be extremely pleased.

Pamela Mawbey is a journalist living in Parramatta.

Sydney Morning Herald 26/1/2000



Location and Context Parramatta Park

Pre Visit Activities

- Conduct a small research project into the history of the school based on a variety of sources – pictorial and written, honour rolls, architectural details and design. What was on the site of the school before? Was the building ever used for a different purpose? How has the school developed and why? What are the origins of the school?
- To assist students to get the most from their site study visit, familiarize them with some of the images and text that will be used during the study. Folders will be handed out and shared among groups of students on the day. Each student should have their own copy of the site map and the plan of Old Government House shown on Plan 1 in the kit. It would also be useful if the students could write their own observations for future reference.
- Research Aboriginal history of the area and also familiarize them with the early settlement and the nature of the first colony.
- **Encourage the students to bring cameras to record particular aspects and perhaps to sketch observations.**

Post Visit Activities

In Parramatta Park – further investigation

Use the resources in this kit to investigate Parramatta Park further as an historic site. Students can do further research in Parramatta Park by visiting the site of Governor Brisbane's Observatory and Bath House which are behind OGH. Directions can be gained before the students leave OGH.

The old Government Dairy and Rangers cottage are located further along towards the Burramatta Visitors Centre which provides excellent information on the origins and history of Parramatta Park. The centre is open Thursday to Sunday 10.00am – 3.00 pm. Please ring the Visitors Centre on 9689 1452 to check opening times. A map of the Park is included in this kit.

In the class room – applying the site visit to heritage issues.

Parramatta Park was recently targeted to receive a rail line through it that would have had a large impact on the heritage aspects of the landscape, the house and the associated monuments in the park. As a class, research this debate and make recommendations based on the heritage significance of the site. Copies of some of the newspaper articles are included in the kit.

Use the site visit as a model to investigate, research and explore a site in the local area.

About the National Trust

The National Trust

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is a non-government, Community organisation which promotes the conservation of both the built and natural heritage (e.g. Buildings, bushland, cemeteries, scenic landscapes, rare and endangered flora and fauna, and steam engines may all have heritage value). The Trust has approximately 30,000 members in New South Wales and was founded in 1945.

What does the National Trust do?

The Trust does many things, including:

- owning and operating house museums and galleries;
- surveying and assessing the natural and cultural environment of New South Wales;
- making submissions and providing advice to the Federal, State and Local Government, property owners, architects and consultants on environmental issues;
- publishing and selling educational material, conducting tours, lectures, seminars and inspections,
- operating a contract Bush Regeneration/ Bush Management Program for councils and other land owners; and
- Operating historic properties for sale or lease website.

What is the National Trust Register?

Following its survey and assessment of the natural and cultural environment, the Trust maintains a Register of landscapes, townscape, buildings, industrial sites, cemeteries and other items or places which the Trust determines have heritage significance and are worthy of conservation. Currently there are some 11,000 items listed on the Trust's Register. They are said to be Classified.

The Impact of Classification

The Trust's Register is intended to perform an advisory and educational role. The listing of a place in the Register has no legal force. However, it is widely recognised as an authoritative statement of the heritage significance of a place.

Most places listed in the Register are in private ownership. Listing does not simply imply a right of access by the public, nor that the owner should open the property for public inspection. Regrettably, as a community conservation organisation, the Trust has no funds available to contribute directly towards the repair or maintenance of buildings listed in the Register.

Does the National Trust have any control over the Development or Demolition of the Classified Places or Items?

No. As stated earlier, the Listing of a place in the Trust's Register has no legal force. However, the Trust does encourage owners of the listed places to respect their heritage significance.

How is an item Classified?

The process of classification involves the identification and assessment of a place using criteria to indicate its cultural 'significance its historic, aesthetic, social and scientific value for past, present and future generations.

This assessment is carried out by a number of expert committees who advise the Trust on items to be placed on the Register. These committees are made up of individuals with professional qualifications, such as architects, historians, archaeologists, planners, botanists, lawyers, educationalists and landscape architects, who all give their time freely to the Trust.

It is possible to purchase a plaque or certificate from the Trust for your property stating that it is Classified.

Can I alter a Classified Building or Property?

Classification need not unduly restrict renovations and alterations to Classified placed and there are many examples of sympathetic renovation.

The main aim of the Trust is to ensure that all alterations are made in sympathy with the original materials and the original style and those changes do not negate or detract from the heritage value of the property. Unsympathetic changes can adversely affect the market value of a heritage building.

Who Has Legal Powers To Protect Heritage Places?

Local Government Authorities

Most powers of control are vested in local councils, which consider various criteria when they determine building and development applications. Councils adopt Local Environmental Plans (LEPS) and Development Control Plans (DCPs), which usually contain a schedule of properties of identified heritage significance.

The inclusion of a property on such a schedule can impose certain restrictions. For further details, check with your local council.

The Heritage Council of New South Wales

The Heritage Council is the State Government Authority, which administers the NSW Heritage Act. It advises the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning in relation to the placing of Heritage Orders on sites of heritage significance.

If a place is subject to a heritage order, it is illegal to demolish or damage it without making an application to the Heritage Council.

The State Heritage Register contains item and places of state heritage significance which are protected under the provisions of the NSW Heritage Act.

Full details can be obtained from the NSW Heritage Office, tel: (02) 9635 6155.

What Is The Australian Heritage Commission?

The Australian Heritage Commission is a Federal Government body, which maintains the Register of the National Estate. This Register, like the National Trust Register, has an educational and advisory role. Listing in the Register of the National Estate, in most cases, has no legal force.

What Is The Relationship of the Trust to Local Councils, The Heritage Council and The Heritage Commission?

The Trust often helps local councils in the preparation of Local Environmental Plans. The Trust encourages local councils to refer development applications affecting properties listed on the Trust's Register for advice and comment by the Trust's Architectural Advisory Committee.

The Trust nominates a member of the NSW Heritage Council and often refers details of properties under threat to the Heritage Council.

The Trust forwards information on all places in its Register to the Australian Heritage Commission for consideration of listing on the Register of the National Estate.

What Is an Urban Conservation Area?

The Trust has listed on its Register many areas in cities and country towns as Urban Conservation Areas. These areas have an overall townscape, architectural or historic character which, in the Trust's view, should be conserved, even though not every individual building in the area is significant.

The Trust requests owners, developers and local councils to ensure that any new development within an Urban Conservation Area is designed to be in harmony with the heritage significance of the Area. Once again, listing by the Trust has no legal force.

Recommended texts

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| Broadbent, J and Hughes, J | Age of Macquarie (University of Melbourne Press & Historic Houses Trust (NSW) 1992) |
| Brook, J and Kohen, J | The Parramatta Native Institution and The Black Town. (NSW University Press, Sydney 1991) |
| Collins, D | 1798, 1802 An Account of the English colony of New South Wales. (1975) |
| Flynn, M | Parramatta and the Aboriginal People of the Sydney Region, Part One 1788 – 1810 Research Report for Parramatta City Council |
| Hughes, R | The Fatal Shore (Collins Harell 1987) |
| Kass, T., C Liston J McClymont | Parramatta: a past revealed. (Parramatta City Council, 1996) |
| Kohen, J | The Darug and Their Neighbours. The Traditional Aboriginal Owners of the Sydney Region. (Blacktown and District Historical Society Sydney 1993) |
| McCormick,T | First Views of Australia 1788 – 1825: A history of early Sydney (David Ell Press, 1987) |
| Mitchell Library Journals | L.Macquarie. Gov. of NSW Journal of his Tours in NSW and Van Diemen's Land 1812-1822 (Library of Australian History.1979) |
| Parramatta Park Trust | Parramatta Park Draft Plan of Management 1996 – 2000 Parramatta Park Trust, Parramatta |
| Proudfoot, H | Old Government House (The State Planning Authority NSW in association with Angus & Robertson. 1971) |
| Ritchie, J | Lachlan Macquarie: A Biography. (Melbourne Uni. Press. 1986) |
| Tench, W | Sydney's First Four Years. (1793) Published 1979 Library of Australian History, Sydney. |