

**Submission  
No 91**

## **INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**Organisation:** The National Trust of Australia (NSW)

**Date received:** 22 January 2018

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22 January 2018

The Hon. Robert Brown MLC  
Chair  
Inquiry into the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project  
Portfolio Committee No. 5  
NSW Parliament Legislative Council  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

***Submission from the National Trust of Australia (NSW) to the Inquiry  
into the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project***

In 1975, the National Trust of Australia (NSW) listed, on its National Trust Register, the Thompson Square Precinct. This village square was planned by Governor Macquarie in 1811 when the town of Windsor was known as Greenhills. Governor Macquarie named the square in honour of Andrew Thompson, noted emancipist, Justice of the Peace and Principal Magistrate for the district who had taken up residence there in 1801. The Thompson Square Conservation Area was listed on the State Heritage Register in April, 1999 and Thompson Square has been nominated for listing on the National Heritage List.

Since the 1975 listing of Thompson Square, the National Trust has looked forward to the re-routing of the main traffic route (Windsor Road – A2) around the town of Windsor, as has happened with other historic towns such as Berrima, Goulburn and Liverpool.

The National Trust has long argued that the site is likely to contain remains from the pre-Macquarie era settlement.

A public document on the RMS website (<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement/windsor-bridge-historical-archaeological-testing-main-report-2017.pdf>) (Historical and Maritime Archaeological Research Design – Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, prepared by AAJV and dated 4 October 2016) sets out (on page 27 Section 3.2) the Archaeological Potential, which includes:

**Phase 1 – Early European Settlement: 1794-1800**

Early Environment/Clearance and farming

Tracks

First guard house (1795)

First wharf (1795)

First boat slip

Log granaries (1795-1800)

Two government houses

Storehouses, granaries, officers' dwellings, public brick buildings and a lock-up

A triangular sliver of the western portion and the river frontage of the Thompson allotment including orchards

Whitton's Farm (north of river)



### **Phase 2 – Town Expansion: 1800-1810**

1803 store house (west end only within development footprint)

Brick burning areas

Track to Government Reserve

Cottages, paths, drains fences etc. associated with allotments outside project area

1815 Wharf

Piling of foreshore

Ferry landing place

North-south brick barrel drain

Paths, drains, Ha-Ha, plantings etc. associated with allotments outside project area

The bell post

Loudar's Farm (north of river)

### **Phase 3 – Macquarie Town and Regional Centre:**

1832 Punt

Paths, plantings, drains fences etc. associated with allotments outside project area

Government garden

Approach road to river

Guard house/punt operators house

Inn at Whitton's Farm (north of river)

The Squatters Arms Hotel (north of river)

The National Trust understands that the items listed above are those that may occur which have been identified from available documentation. An archaeological excavation may find other important early relics and archaeological evidence which is not in the public record or which has not yet been identified in documentation.

A 17 January 2018 public newsletter from the NSW Government entitled "Windsor Bridge Replacement Project – additional archaeological investigations" contains the following statement: -

*"Roads and Maritime started an archaeological testing program in 2016 to inform the Strategic Conservation Management Plan for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project."*



*Testing to date has provided valuable information about both historic and Aboriginal heritage around the project site.*

*In December, archaeologists working in the area located part of a brick barrel drain believed to date back to the early 1800s. The drain was not previously identified during the Archaeological Investigation Program, likely due to its depth below ground.*

*It is important the archaeologists can understand the size and location of the barrel drain, and further information is needed.*

*From the week commencing **22 January**, Roads and Maritime will be reopening a test pit which formed part of the Archaeological Investigation Program, to gain more information about the direction and location of the barrel drain. The test pit is located on The Terrace, between the river and the current archaeological salvage site in Thompson Square.*

*Re-opening this test pit and excavating to a greater depth will help provide the information. This additional archaeological investigation will be carried out in accordance with all relevant approvals and regulatory requirements. “*

An Environmental Impact Statement for the Windsor Bridge Replacement was placed on public exhibition in December, 2012 and the National Trust, in its submission, expressed deep concern at the likely adverse impacts on Thompson Square.

The National Trust maintains its view that Thompson Square may contain evidence from the earliest days of European settlement in Australia and is worthy of listing on the National Heritage List.

The National Heritage Listing nomination for Thompson Square also recognises the Square as the earliest Australian place to be officially given the name of an ex-convict. The National Heritage List nomination states –

*“Thompson Square is the best known memorial to a man whose example helped to shape the future of the penal settlement. Macquarie’s ex-convict policy has been a much debated feature of this country’s early march toward nationhood, and its application in this first instance as early as 1811, gives both Thompson and the square named to honour his achievements rare significance in Australia’s history.”*

Thompson Square is too important and rare a place to be subjected to this major development proposal. A bypass of the Town of Windsor is the proper course of action in this situation.

The Trust believes Thompson Square and particularly its pre-Macquarie era settlement archaeology and Macquarie Period archaeology must be kept intact.

The Trust is urging the construction of a Windsor by-pass, as the adverse heritage impacts on Thompson Square, to the historic buildings to the north of the Square and to the archaeological heritage in the Square are unacceptable.

The Trust does not believe that there is any firm evidence justifying the removal of the present bridge, which the Trust believes should be retained for its heritage significance and to serve as an access way for local traffic, pedestrians and cycling.

Graham Quint  
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The National Trust of Australia (NSW)