

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Organisation: Community Action for Windsor Bridge

Date received: 26 February 2018

NOMINATION FOR EMERGENCY NATIONAL LISTING
THE GOVERNMENT DOMAIN
WINDSOR

VOLUME 1

SECTION 1: CONTEXT



CONTENTS

SECTION 1: CONTEXT	2
1.1 ISSUE	3
1.2 RECOMMENDATIONS	3
1.3 DELIMITATIONS	3
1.4 REGULATORY BACKGROUND	4
1.5 REVISED PLACE	5
1.6 INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS	5
1.7 TWO DOMAINS	6
1.8 THE NOMINATION	7
1.9 DEFINING THE PLACE	9
1.9.1 The Government Domain, Windsor	9
1.9.2 Landscape and Curtilage	12
1.9.3 Nomenclature.....	18
1.10 THE RISK	18
1.10.1 Proposed Works	19
1.10.2 Aboriginal Archaeology:.....	19
1.10.3 Non-Aboriginal Archaeology.....	21
1.10.4 Expert Advice	23
1.10.5 ‘Mitigation’	23
1.10.6 Georgian Sensibilities	24
1.10.7 “Georgian” Lighting.....	25
1.10.8 Statement of Heritage Impact, 2008.....	29
1.10.9 RMS and Town Squares.....	30
1.11 CONCLUSION	35
TAB A: GRAND-PRÉ NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE	37
TAB B: GAS LIGHTING IN THE COLONY	38



NOMINATION FOR EMERGENCY NATIONAL LISTING

THE GOVERNMENT DOMAIN WINDSOR

SECTION 1: CONTEXT

To stand in Thompson Square today is to stand at what was, in 1795, the furthest point of Colonial “civilisation”; as far from the centre of civilised life as one could get ... the farthest extent of the “civilising” influence of the British Empire. For the rag-tag army of ex-convicts, convicts and their keepers who found their way to this point, the other side of the Hawkesbury River was, initially, a landscape fraught with danger; that danger manifest in the bell that gave the place its original, post-1788, name of Bell Post Square, as much as in the existence of the stockade walls Macquarie ordered built around the military garrison protecting this crucial outpost.

As it transpired, it was also a landscape laden, at least for some, with opportunity.

From its earliest days, the spectre of hunger haunted the young Colony. It was only after Philip’s departure, when Grose opened up the Hawkesbury to settlement, that agricultural self-sufficiency for the Colony became a genuine possibility - at the expense of the traditional owners of the land.

After the dry sclerophyll vegetation and sandstone of Sydney and the relatively poor soils around Parramatta, in the Hawkesbury the Europeans recognised, and felt an affinity with the landscape; it reminded them in some way of the lands they had called ‘home’ - a place with the natural qualities where they could produce the food required by the Colony, build personal wealth (and ultimately, at least for some, power).

And so an “umbilical cord” - a riverine and maritime conduit of food and resources - pulsed life from a Government domain that witnessed the Government-sanctioned lynching of a rebel, executions, floggings and punishments such as the stocks, to a very different Domain, one that a “respectable class of inhabitants ... were allowed to use”.

If the Sydney Domain was a place of Picturesque and Gardenesque principles, which created “an integrated cultural landscape of aesthetic significance with outstanding scenic qualities”, the Windsor Domain was one of vision, hard work, brutality, military “discipline” and homesickness, all of which drove the “Europeanisation” of the vast landscape surrounding Thompson Square, creating equally compelling views and vistas on a larger scale.

Neither place would have endured without the other.



1.1 ISSUE

To provide adequate evidence to support the Emergency National Heritage Listing of the Government Domain, Windsor in order to recognise and protect its unique historic significance on behalf of the Nation, pending a more comprehensive demonstration of its outstanding national heritage significance.

1.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Minister, under the powers of the EPBC Act, determine that the historic Government Domain, Windsor along with identified curtilages, meets the three criteria for National Emergency Heritage Listing:
 - The place has or may have one or more National Heritage values:
 - Any of those values is under threat of a significant adverse impact:
 - That threat is both likely and imminent.
2. The Minister accordingly, by instrument published in the Gazette, include the place in the National Heritage List.
3. The place subsequently be referred to the Australian Heritage Council for assessment with a view to National Heritage Listing.

The willingness of local historians and historical researchers to assist the Council with the assessment is commended to the Minister.

1.3 DELIMITATIONS

Due to the urgency of the matter, this nomination respectfully requests the Minister lists the Government Domain and associated curtilage as a place of National Heritage significance as an ‘emergency’ inclusion in the National Heritage List.

Due to time pressures associated with looming destruction directly attributable to the proposed Windsor Bridge Replacement Project (WBRP), this nomination, with its supporting information does not, at this juncture, attempt to provide the level or complexity of information required for consideration by the Minister for full National heritage listing. It is recognised, for example, there is potential for the narrative of First Nation peoples both pre- and post-1788 to be considerably expanded.

Nonetheless, given the time constraints inherent in an emergency situation, the Act, through use of the words ‘may have one or more National Heritage values’, clearly provides some leeway regarding ultimate proof of National significance. It is therefore respectfully inferred the Act, in using the term “may have”, chooses to err on the side of caution, rather than risk losing a potentially nationally significant item, should some unforeseen and destructive “emergency” threaten. It is further noted confirmation of Emergency Listing of the Government Domain would enable the Australian Heritage Council to then make a full assessment of its National Heritage values.

Despite the protective intent of the Act, this nomination does not presume upon emergency listing being automatically granted, but rather has set about providing the most robust case possible in the time available.



1.4 REGULATORY BACKGROUND

Modern-day Thompson Square was an early inclusion on the Register of the National Estate. Regrettably, the local community, aware of the singular historical importance of the Square, presumed upon the ongoing recognition and protection provided by that inclusion. In light of current, destructive State Government infrastructure plans and their overwhelmingly negative impact on the Thompson Square Conservation Precinct, advice such protection is no longer available has been widely met with disbelief and horror.

The co-located Windsor Bridge, a State-listed heritage item, is equally vulnerable and is currently facing demolition. A separate emergency nomination was prepared and submitted to the Minister on 5 February, 2018, in relation to the Bridge's remarkable national heritage significance.

On October 4, 2011 Michael Bushby, Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales wrote to Mr Sam Haddad, Director-General of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (File No. I IM23B6) seeking recognition of the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project as State Significant Infrastructure. In this letter Mr Bushby says, in part:

“The RTA is developing a proposal to replace the existing Hawkesbury River bridge, at Windsor (the Windsor Bridge replacement project). The RTA has formed the opinion that the impact of the project on non-Aboriginal heritage would be significant...”

Additionally, the Windsor Bridge Replacement State Significant Infrastructure Application Report, attached to the Bushby letter says (page 4),

“The RTA recognises that the project would also result in adverse impacts on non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal heritage, noise and vibration, the socio-economic environment, and landscape character and visual amenity. The RTA has formed the opinion that the impact of the project on non-Aboriginal heritage would likely be significant based on direct and indirect impacts to the Thompson Square Heritage Conservation Area as well as at least 13 other items of Commonwealth, State and/or local heritage significance.”

According to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) website, on 24 November 2011 Director General's Requirements were issued by DoPI to the RMS; effectively giving the green light to a strategically questionable project which, the RTA/RMS acknowledged, would have a significant adverse impact on “items of Commonwealth, State and/or local heritage significance”.

It was a change (in 2011) to NSW planning legislation that effectively ‘switched off’ previous State and Local Heritage protections associated with the Thompson Square precinct. This legislative change, combined with changes to the EPBC Act, which culminated on 19 February 2012, with all references to the Register of the National Estate being removed from the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity*



Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) created a regulatory vacuum, leaving a previously protected heritage place under threat.

1.5 REVISED PLACE

This emergency heritage listing nomination differs from previous nominations in that, consistent with advice received from Federal bureaucrats, it seeks recognition for a wider landscape which, whilst it includes modern day Thompson Square, now embraces the original Bell Post Square, as defined in 1794 and 1795. The historic views and vistas to the north and south, across in the Hawkesbury and McGraths Flats floodplains are included as cultural landscape within a nominated curtilage.

The proposed enlarged geographic scope has permitted the telling of a more comprehensive and connected narrative and started a more global examination of the place as it operated in colonial times. Indeed, it is argued that past nominations, by focusing on the modern day Thompson Square, have been arbitrarily restricted in the historical narrative able to be revealed.

At a physical level the area contains significant buildings and archaeological features. It has also been possible to identify functional precincts within the proposed nomination, which over time, have been illustrative of different administrative, commercial, military, domestic and educational uses. Similar to previous nominations, the Government Domain is also important due to its historic role in flood events that shaped the course of Australian history.

Other important elements contributing to the identity of this place include views and vistas, buildings, public infrastructure, archaeology and flora and fauna. Collectively they are a manifestation of a story that spans the globe and has strong international connections. The Australian Convict Sites UNESCO World Heritage Listing provides the primary context for this aspect of the narrative, speaking, as it does, of forced migration and settlement.

1.6 INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS

The document, “UNESCO Convict Sites” (page 92) says,

“They housed tens of thousands of men, women, and children condemned by British justice to transportation to the convict colonies. This vast system of transportation, for penal and political reasons, supported the British colonisation effort to conquer and settle the vast Australian continent... After being set free, the convicts generally settled in the country as colonists and they form one of the main backgrounds of the European population in contemporary Australia.” (emphasis added).

In the Hawkesbury, the earliest European settlement, established in the mid 1790s, surrounded a location then known as Bell Post Square. This place provides a



unique opportunity to explore the theme of “settlement” identified in the above quote. Convicts transported from the other side of the world to provide forced labour and a captive population did, ultimately, “settle the vast Australian continent”. But before this could happen a significant precondition had to be met. The colony had to become self-sufficient and it was the, predominantly ex-convict, settlers who first took up land in the immediate vicinity of the village of Green Hills and its civic square, who achieved this. Thus, in terms of non-Aboriginal heritage, the National significance of the nominated place derives from four interrelated conditions:

1. the concentration of ex-convicts who settled in the Hawkesbury and the enduring presence of their descendants in the area;
2. the diaspora of Hawkesbury settlers who spread to the Hunter and Liverpool Plains and onwards, making a major contribution to what the UNESCO nomination describes as the “conquering and settling of the vast Australian continent”;
3. the contribution made by the ex-convict settlers of the Hawkesbury to the survival of the settlement; and
4. the Square’s close physical and functional relationship with the oldest continuously cultivated agricultural lands in Australia; and the Square’s unique status as probably the oldest continuously operating mercantile precinct in Australia.

1.7 TWO DOMAINS

Central to this nomination is the concept of an “umbilical cord”, historically linking the Government Domain in Windsor with the Governors’ Domain in Sydney. This concept informed various investigative threads, which tell a coherent story about power, hunger, ambition, loyalty and the survival of a nascent nation.

The link between the Government Domain in Windsor and the Governors’ Domain in Sydney is particularly significant in light of the Australian Heritage Council seeking recognition of the “Governors’ Domain”. The parallels and interdependencies between the two places and equality of claims for recognition cannot be overstated. That one could be recognised without the other is inconceivable.

Consistent with the position taken in Assessment of the Governors’ Domain and Civic Precinct,¹ condition four (above), regarding the Square’s location and functions, contributes to an analysis of the role of the Government Domain in relation to “interactions between Aboriginal people and British colonisers...”

Indeed the *Assessment of the Governors’ Domain and Civic Precinct* concludes with a statement equally applicable to the Thompson Square Precinct:

“For the first several decades of British settlement, Aboriginal people and colonisers lived in close proximity and there was a complicated process of negotiating and re-negotiating relations. The Precinct has an outstanding capacity to connect people to the early history of interactions between Aboriginal people and British colonisers.”

¹ Australian Heritage Council is seeking to recognise the outstanding national significance of a set of places located within the place named ‘Governors’ Domain and Civic Precinct’, Sydney NSW



1.8 THE NOMINATION

Windsor occupies a unique place in post-1788 Australian history. Not only was the area the “food bowl” of traditional owners, it became the food bowl of the Colony, giving rise to tensions that resulted in the largest military presence outside Sydney.

The Historical Records of Australia, (page 509), show that there were ninety-four soldiers of the NSW Corps under the command of Lieutenant Abbott at the Hawkesbury by 14 June 1795, the largest detachment outside Sydney. A military presence remained part of the Thompson Square Precinct for the next 53 years (Holmes 2006).

At the same time, through what might be seen as an accident of fate, the Hawkesbury became home to many of the colony’s ex-convicts. There is an irony associated with this that cannot be ignored: the Hawkesbury is the largest area of fertile land between the Hunter and Shoalhaven. However, it was only after much of this fertile land had been taken up by those deemed the social inferiors of the military that the marines appeared to realise what had occurred.

These matters provide the context against which the central themes of this nomination: hunger and power, are explored.

The balance of this first section of the Government Domain nomination defines the geographical location of the Government Domain and examines the risks to this place.

The next section, *Location* addresses geography, flooding, and the wider landscape of the Hawkesbury; *Thompson Square*, as the name suggests describes the contemporary Square. The fourth section, *Government Domain*, describes, in some detail, the features and characteristics of the proposed nomination.

Following this, the nomination discusses the people of the Square

The historical narrative includes:

- Bligh and Hawkesbury Loyalists
- The “Rum Rebellion” and the power of the monopolists;
- Sydney, Macquarie Place, the Governors’ Domain, wealth and power
- The 1810 food crisis

The final chapter is a comparative analysis of the Government Domain, Windsor with the Governors’ Domain, Sydney and an assessment of the heritage significance of the Windsor Domain.



Further supporting information and analysis is provided in the Annexure, which includes:

- Historical Chronology
- Independent Heritage Review (Casey & Associates)
- About CAWB
- CAWB EIS Submission
- CAWB Submission on Urban Design and Landscape Plan
- CAWB Submission on Strategic Conservation Management Plan
- Government Cottage Archaeological Site SHR Listing

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*



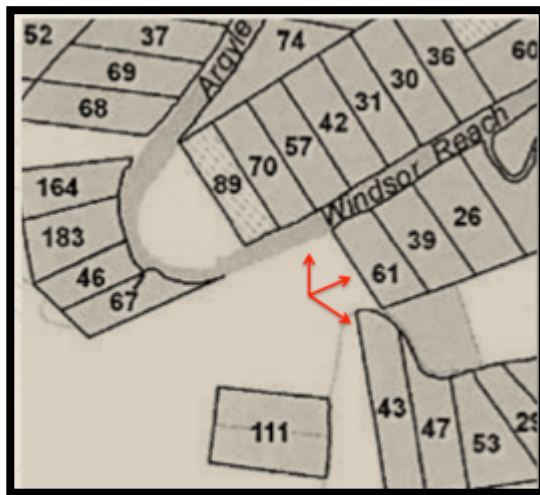
1.9 DEFINING THE PLACE

1.9.1 The Government Domain, Windsor

Before Thompson Square, Windsor there was Bell Post Square, Green Hills. It is this larger precinct, first defined in 1794 and 1795, and reflecting the original Bell Post Square, which is the subject of this nomination. The nomination also includes a significant curtilage. The co-located, historic Windsor Bridge (1874) is the subject of a separate emergency nomination.

It is understood modern day Thompson Square has previously been the subject of a number of emergency heritage nominations. The current nomination differs from these previous nominations in that they have focused on a relatively small area within the boundaries of the historic Bell Post Square.

The following plans, based on the work of historian Jan Barkley-Jack (Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed, 2009), show the initial 1794-5 land grants. These land grants, together with South Creek and the Hawkesbury River, created Bell Post Square and thus defined the place designated, in this nomination, the “Government Domain, Windsor”.



1794 settlement

In 1794 Samuel Wilcox, an ex-convict, was granted Lot 61. The western boundary of Lot 61 defines the eastern edge of the Government Domain and the Hawkesbury River and South Creek the northern and southern boundaries.



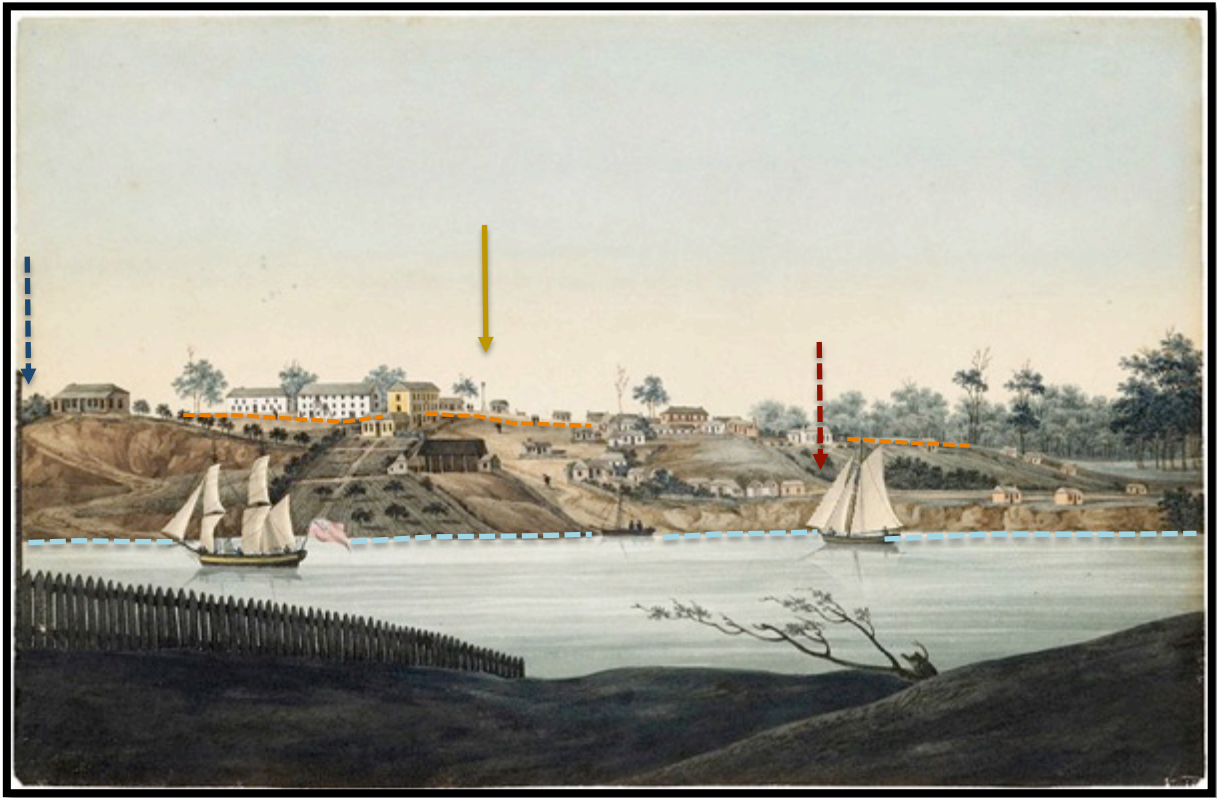
1795 settlement

In 1795 James Whitehouse, also an ex-convict was granted Lot 124 which defined the western boundary of the Government Domain



The image below, of a painting titled, *The settlement on the Green Hills, Hawksburgh [Hawkesbury] River N.S.Wales*, is dated 1809 and is thought to be the work of George William Evans PXD 388, vol. 3, f. 7.







http://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/archive/events/exhibitions/2012/macquarie/07_touring/image01.html



Above: the northern part of the place, as defined in 1795.

Below: Meehan's Plan, drawn 1811.



-  Approximate ridgeline
-  Watercourse
-  Bell Post
-  Wilcox – Arndell Street
-  Whitehouse – Baker Street
-  Area not visible in 1809 watercolour



As can be seen from Meehan's plan, Bell Post Square extended from the Hawkesbury River to South Creek. It was bounded to the east by the property of Samuel Wilcox and to the west by the property of James Whitehouse.

Following an initial visit in late 1810, Governor Macquarie returned in 1811 and named **the existing town square** "Thompson Square", in honour of the memory of Andrew Thompson (Lachlan Macquarie: Tour of NSW and VDL 1810-1822: 12 January 1811: 42-43).

Biosis, in 14020 Historic Heritage Assessment for Windsor Bridge Replacement Project November 2012, page iv, describes the precinct as follows

Thompson Square is located on the sloping southern bank of the Hawkesbury River and overlies an area that was used intensively by the inhabitants of Green Hills prior to and after its inclusion into the new town of Windsor. This area was used to access the river and river traffic, store produce from the surrounding farms as well as deliveries from Sydney and was located within the government domain. The space had a number of buildings including stores, Andrew Thompson's house and garden and the government cottage as well as a bell post. Fences and pathways and possibly a bridge were also located in the Green Hills public area. Wharves were built along the banks of the river.

When Governor Macquarie declared the town of Windsor and incorporated the settlement of Green Hills into the town plan, he also declared part of the open space "Thompson Square" and ordered the clearing of the structures, amongst other improvements. The place grew rapidly and became known for the quality of the farmland and a gateway to the west. Macquarie's Thompson Square was a fraction of the size of the earlier civic space and it became more organised with the construction of a brick drain through the centre of the square, a new wharf and continual modifications to the topography down to the river.

However it has not been possible to find contemporaneous plans or maps which confirm this reduction size, although it is acknowledge that today Thompson Square is indeed a fraction of the size of the original civic space, or government domain. In fact, for many years after 1812, contemporaneous maps appear to reinforce the original, historic boundaries of the Government Domain. Neither Macquarie's diary, nor Meehan's notebooks provide the dimensions of Thompson Square. To date, no contemporaneous description of the boundaries of the space has been discovered, beyond a reference to an absence of formal title-deeds for plots of land abutting the square on the south-west but which were recognised from Macquarie's time onwards. (The Doctors House to Macquarie Arms)

Major judicial and military elements contributing to the significance of this place generally lie within the wider boundaries of the Government Domain. Thus this expanded geographic scope permits the telling of a comprehensive and connected



narrative and a more global examination of the place as it operated in Colonial times.

Whilst the nomination focus is post-1788, this is not a reflection of what is considered to be, potentially, the pre-eminent significance of the place pre 1788, due to the existence of an Aeolian sand dune at a place that, due to topographical conditions presents a unique opportunity to reveal new insights into the earliest human settlement of the Sydney Region.

This place is also worthy of recognition because it is a nexus for interactions between European settlement and possibly the oldest surviving culture in the world.
<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2011/09/dna-confirms-aboriginal-culture-one-of-earths-oldest/>

Protection of the associated views and vistas across the Hawkesbury floodplain is further sought via a heritage curtilage.

There is a visual and functional co-dependency between Thompson Square and this historic bridge, which is accessed from the south through the Square. This has been the case since 1874, when the bridge was first opened. This bridge is integral to an appreciation of the Government Domain and surrounding floodplain as well as having remarkable heritage significance in its own right. The case for emergency listing Windsor Bridge is made in a separate nomination (submitted 5 February 2018).

In all, the proposed area will provide protection for a cultural heritage asset which, as per the requirements of the EPBC Act may have “one or more National Heritage values...” with those values achieving the threshold required for the National Heritage List, that is, 'outstanding' heritage value to the nation.

1.9.2 Landscape and Curtilage

On the subject of curtilage the High Court of Australia offers the following:

“Any building, whether it is a habitation or has some other use, may stand within a larger area of land which subserves the purposes of the building. The land surrounds the building because it actually or supposedly contributes to the enjoyment of the building or the fulfilment of its purposes.”

The New South Wales Heritage Office publication Heritage Curtilages defines a curtilage as:

“The area of land (including land covered by water) surrounding an item or area of heritage significance which is essential for retaining and interpreting its heritage significance. It can apply to either land which is integral to the heritage significance of the items of built heritage, or a precinct which includes buildings, works, relics, trees or places and their settings.”



The NSW Heritage Office further notes:

“Defining the curtilage is critical in retaining the setting or context of a cultural landscape and in regulating changes that may affect the cultural landscape.”

And,

“The scale, dimensions and forms of cultural landscapes will vary immensely, and may range from quite small, contained landscapes (such as a small farm with paddocks, fences and associated structures on fertile creek flats in a small section of a narrow valley, including transport routes to the property), to vast, extensive areas covering many square kilometres (such as a forest whose species composition and age structure has been changed through logging and silvicultural practices).

The extent of a cultural landscape is relative to its functionality and its definition within the broader landscape. The boundary of a cultural landscape is known as a curtilage”

It is noted the terms “cultural landscape” and “landscape” can be used interchangeably to describe the outcome of human interaction with the environment. Furthermore, “landscape” is both the mental and physical outcome of this relationship.

Thus, the Government Domain, as defined in 1795, is the “place”; the landscape is the area beyond, and in this case, encircling the place, and the curtilage is the boundary defining the outer edge of the landscape.

Based on World Heritage guidelines for cultural landscape types, three general categories are applied to assess culturally significant landscapes:

1. Designed landscapes are created intentionally. They include garden and parkland landscapes constructed for aesthetic reasons, such as trees, avenues, parks, gardens, cemeteries and plazas.
2. Organically evolved or 'vernacular' landscapes have developed over time in response to and in association with the natural environment. Organically evolved landscapes often develop through changes brought about by patterns of use. They fall into two sub-categories: a relict landscape where an evolutionary process has ended; and a continuing landscape where the evolutionary process is still in progress. Organically evolved landscapes include farming landscapes, industrial landscapes such as goldfields, and linear landscapes such as railway lines.
3. Associative landscapes are primarily based on religious, spiritual, artistic or cultural associations with the natural environment. Associative landscapes are often significant for their intangible, non-physical values associated with events, activities or significant people. They include landscapes such as explorers' routes, Aboriginal places and river crossings or places where



celebrations have occurred. They also include landscapes that have stories told about them. Documents and oral histories about what happened at the place are especially important in identifying and assessing how people interacted with these types of landscapes.

The UNESCO document, Cultural Landscapes (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscape/>) says cultural landscapes are 'illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal.'



The view to the north-west across the Hawkesbury River today

In identifying an appropriate landscape curtilage to the Government Domain in Windsor, it is contended that all three categories apply to a greater or lesser degree in the assessment of non-Aboriginal significance as, although the landscape is undoubtedly agricultural, there can be no doubting the intentionality of the settlers, who saw in the Hawkesbury floodplain an opportunity to create a more European landscape, their ambitions reflected in the name they chose for this place: Green Hills.

That no overall “design”, in the sense of an artistic interpretation or plan, was ever recorded, in no way diminishes these claims. The surveyors’ maps and diagrams are the overall “plan” with each landholder contributing to a shared vision. The success of those endeavours can be seen in the views and vistas from Thompson Square today. No less than the Governors’ Domain in Sydney, the Government Domain, Windsor is the product of a conscious reshaping of the environment to achieve very specific and pre-identified landscape objectives.

Thus the landscape was not a mere byproduct of agricultural enterprise. It was a deliberate attempt to assuage an aching homesickness; an attempt to create a place that was intuitively understood by the settlers; to hold back the alien-ness of the land they had unwillingly been relocated to; and to demonstrate the submission of this alien place to their imperatives.

Today, whilst 1,300 hectares (3,200 acres) of polderised marshland and archaeological sites in the Grand-Pré area in Canada have been recognized as an "exceptional example of the adaptation of the first European settlers to the



conditions of the North American Atlantic coast" and as "a memorial to Acadian way of life and deportation"[7] the landscape around the Government Domain reflects the creation of a powerful cultural landscape reflecting ambitions held by some of the nation's earliest, albeit, unwilling European settlers and reveals something of the extreme conditions that the settlers overcame in their quest to survive, on their terms, in this alien landscape.



Hawkesbury Flood Plain, Australia



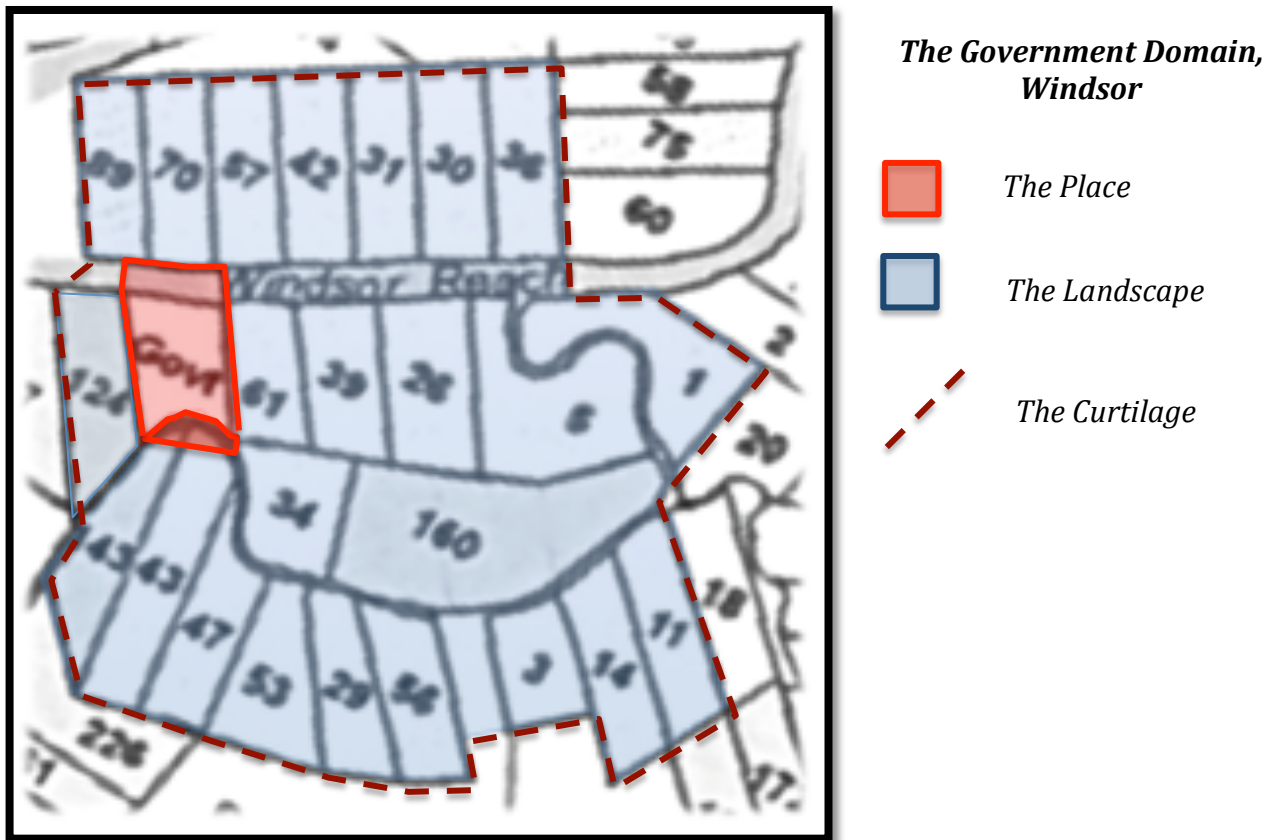
Grand-Pré, Canada

Nomination of a curtilage for the Government Domain has taken into account the following:

- Retaining historical allotments
- Demonstrating the visual setting and relationships of the features of the landscape;
- Exhibiting the design, style and taste of features in the landscape;
- Demonstrating the functional uses and interrelationships of all human-made and natural individual features;
- Identifying a satisfying proportional relationship between the place and the context provided by the surrounding landscape;
- Illustrating the contribution of vegetation to the significance of the landscape; and
- Protecting of the archaeological potential of a landscape.



Consideration of these matters has resulted in following nomination:



It is acknowledged the nominated place has very little nominated cultural landscape to the west. This is due to long-standing development in this direction. Extending the boundary beyond South Creek to include Lot 1 is due to that lot originally being owned by James Ruse. Lots to the south of South Creek recognise some of the earliest European settlement of this area, including land held by Andrew Thompson. The land to the north of the Hawkesbury River captures the quintessential agricultural views that contribute to the historic significance of this place. In addition the small section south of South Creek recognises the existence of important archaeology in this area, integral to the narrative of the Government Domain and including early wharves and Telford road paving.

Should the Minister decided to provide emergency protection for the Government Domain and associated cultural landscape it is respectfully suggested the following research initiatives may be worthy of consideration in relation to both the place and it's landscape:

- a. Engaging landowners, to the extent they are comfortable with.
- b. Undertaking further, detailed background historical research on the cultural landscape, including scrutiny of title deeds and archived maps and plans, the taking of oral histories and requests for photos.



- c. Documenting the overall historical development of the place, including periods of high or low levels of economic activity and the impacts of natural disasters such as floods.
- d. Identifying long-term photo points for keeping track of changes to landscape.
- e. Identifying and recording topographical features.
- f. Identifying and recording circulation and travel routes.
- g. Recording views and vistas.
- h. Identifying elements and features of the landscape, including:
 - i. agricultural uses
 - ii. fauna and flora
 - iii. the history of agricultural production at particular sites,
 - iv. introduced plantings and changes made to local vegetation through human activity; and
 - v. any potential archaeological fabric.
- i. Capturing the spatial organisation of various specific elements, i.e. the “spatial relationships” of buildings and structures in the landscape.
- j. Documenting building form, layout of elements and use of materials.
- k. Recording hard landscape elements such as fences, paths and paving, constructed or natural water features, archaeological fabric at surface and subsurface levels, and other small-scale details and features.
- l. Describing the environmental context: geography, topography (natural and human made), vegetation - natural and introduced including specific specimens of all types.
- m. Documenting current and historical land use,
- n. Identifying any cultural traditions that influence land use,
- o. Confirming property boundaries, both current and historic.
- p. Identifying and documenting threats to landscape integrity

Resulting in:

- The boundaries of the cultural landscape being confirmed in relation to the local topography and landmarks such as fences, roads etc.
- The identification of the site/s of any burials on the subject properties
- Comprehensive visual records

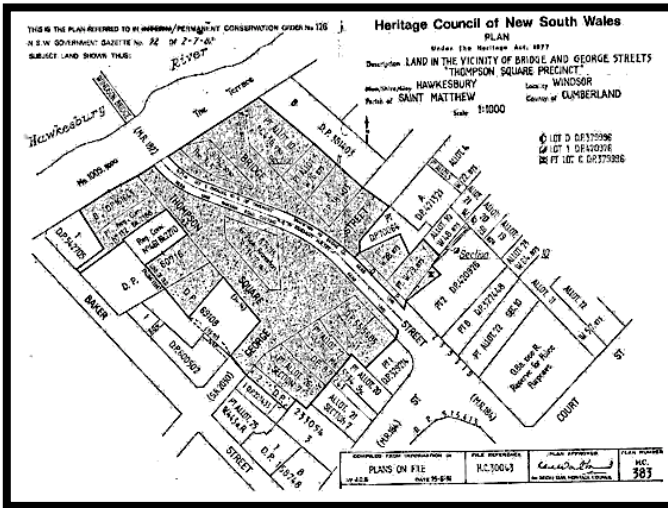
It is acknowledged that the proposed research focuses on issues of non-Aboriginal settlement. Should emergency protection trigger a more comprehensive research program, it is further recommended appropriate expertise be involved in investigating and documenting Aboriginal occupation and use of the landscape, particularly what appears to be agriculture practices in association with yam beds on the riverbank.



1.9.3 Nomenclature

For the purposes of this nomination the terms “Government Domain, Windsor” and “Government Domain” refer to the original 1794-5 precinct, first known as Bell Post Square, along with the extended areas, noted in the plan above.

“Thompson Square” refers to the area identified as the Thompson Square conservation precinct in the NSW Heritage Council plan (below).



This distinction in no way diminishes Heritage significance of Thompson Square, the enclosure of which may have commenced with Macquarie's ordering the construction of the Macquarie Arms and which, due to its surrounding Georgian and Victorian buildings and archaeological resources, today retains its own, unique national heritage significance, within the proposed, nationally significant, Government Domain.

As noted previously, no regular title-deeds seem to have been issued for the plots where Howe's House (Thompson Square no.7), Thompson Square no. 5 and the Doctors' House (Thompson Square no.13) were later built, but the private ownership of all the land abutting the square on the south-west was recognised from Macquarie's time onwards.

1.10 THE RISK

The Burra Charter advocates a cautious approach to change: do as much as necessary and as little as possible so that cultural significance is retained. Regrettably, the currently proposed changes to the Government Domain, specifically within today's Thompson Square and potential future changes in the wider domain, cannot in any way be described as 'cautious'.

The RMS acknowledges the destruction they are about to cause. The EIS Heritage Assessment confirms elements within the project area to be unique:

“Thompson Square is the single place that links the earliest settlelage that was incorporated into the Macquarie planned town of Windsorment on the Hawkesbury with the Macquarie-era town. The site was used as a civic precinct... It evolved into a small village... It was this vil: it was the only town to incorporate this layer of early settlement. It is unique.”

EIS Vol 2 Windsor Bridge replacement project p 229



In fact, the assessment confirms that:

“The archaeological resource is likely to provide a depth of historical layering and a sense of place to the acknowledged visual qualities of Thompson Square. ...The cumulative profile record of evidence of works and change over two centuries is unique. ...evidence contained within it, above and below ground ...would potentially be of National Significance.” (emphasis added)

EIS Vol 2 Windsor Bridge replacement project p 230

Similarly the significance of the Windsor Bridge is also confirmed:

“The Windsor bridge is considered to be a rare item, within the state, relating to its initial construction, its subsequent modifications and survival..., it is unique.” EIS Vol 2 Windsor Bridge replacement project p 159

And the Heritage assessment report recommends:

“As the significance of the archaeological resource within the project area, and in particular within Thompson Square and down to the river would be diminished by the project, the preferred outcome is that this resource remains intact.”

EIS Vol 2 Windsor Bridge replacement project p 347

1.10.1 Proposed Works

Whilst acknowledging the scale of destruction to heritage arising from the project, the NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) proposes to build a high, modern concrete structure, 35 metres downstream of the existing, and still functional, historic Windsor Bridge. Windsor Bridge will then be destroyed. The replacement bridge will ‘cement’ an arterial road through the oldest public square in Australia, at a time when public policy, for reasons of safety and amenity, is generally to bypass country towns. For example, in New South Wales, by-pass projects include Moree, Berry, Albion Rail, even nearby Pitt Town. Conversely, the proposed infrastructure project will force increasing levels of regional and heavy vehicles into a highly constrained, historic precinct with naturally high levels of pedestrian usage.

1.10.2 Aboriginal Archaeology:

In addition, this construction is about to wipe out an archaeological record of potentially, international significance. Construction will require the removal of an Aeolian sand body. Access to commercial documents, generally not available to the public, indicate plans to salvage only a small proportion of the total construction excavation area (see images below). There is some uncertainty regarding what is intended for a further area, and approximately one third of the excavation appears to be sacrificial.



The existence of the Aeolian sand dune has long been known. During investigations for the Windsor Museum archaeologists identified, within the Square, a 1.8m deep sand body and recovered 12,000 stone artefacts dating to ~34,000 – 8,500 years ago (Austral Archaeology, 2011). At ~34,000 these artefacts approach Lake Mungo's ~40,000. Mungo Woman and Mungo Man remain, to-date, the oldest human remains ever found in Australia and were, up until very recently, the oldest modern humans found outside of Africa. The potential, therefore, of revealing new and important information in this archaeological site, is significant. Reports of recently discovered knapped, Colonial glass artefacts indicate other important research avenues.



Using an excavator to fill transport bags.

Pre-Tender documents indicate initial, before pre-construction, Aboriginal archaeological salvage will occur in an area that contains deposits of undisturbed sand body. It is not clear what will happen to the rest of the sand body within the project zone.

To date, the archaeology, undertaken in

2016 and 2017 to satisfy requirements associated with the proposed infrastructure project, has involved mechanical excavation of material into trucks and/or transport bags; delivery to a compound on the northern bank; wet sieving which, in the case of 2016 activities, involved the subsequent disposal of the sieved material at unknown locations on the basis it was “culturally sterile”; and again in 2016, the refilling of trenches with new materials which were then topped with a 1:4 cement to sand mix with what appeared to be “quick setting” properties.

Verbal advice from contractors indicates similar processes will again be implemented during 2017 salvage operations.



Left: The completed excavation of Aboriginal test pit SA9, looking south. (RMS image) Note marks indicating the use of an excavator



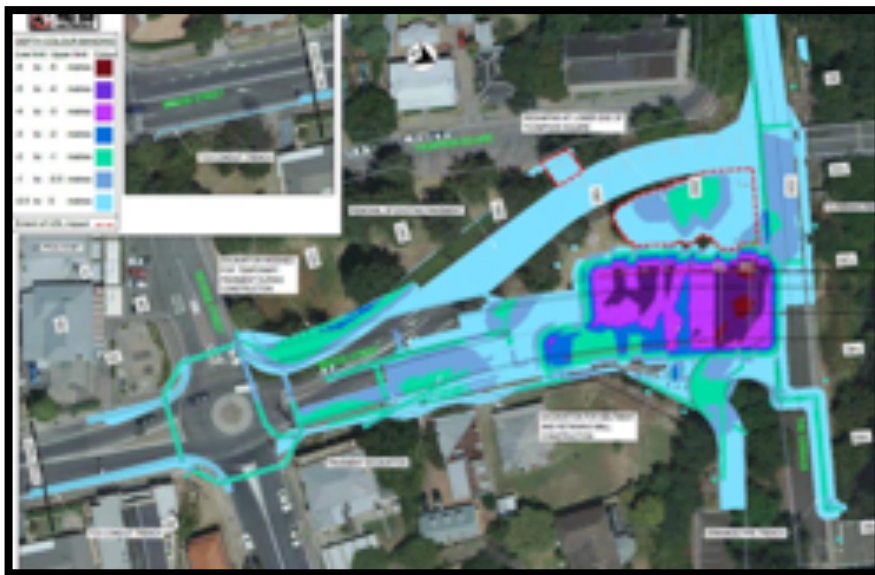
1.10.3 Non-Aboriginal Archaeology

European activity in the Thompson Square precinct dates from pre-1795 and possibly as early as 1793. During the first half of the nineteenth century the Square was to become, arguably, the most important government and mercantile centre in the European colonisation of Australia. It contains substantial remains of the earliest brick barrel drains constructed as public infrastructure, anywhere in Australia, and the remains of the wharves from whence the food and supplies that fed the colony were shipped; the earliest dating from 1795, another designed by Government Architect, Francis Greenway.

Other identified and potential archaeology includes significant pre-Macquarie structures, including early roads and inevitably the foundations of substantial buildings, constructed to meet the administrative and accommodation requirements associated with a military presence. This presence was a clear indication of the value of this particular settlement to the colony. It is also an indication of the value of the area to its traditional custodians. Whilst rarely spoken of, a story of profound dimensions and national significance, regarding the control and management of this region and its resources, is emerging.

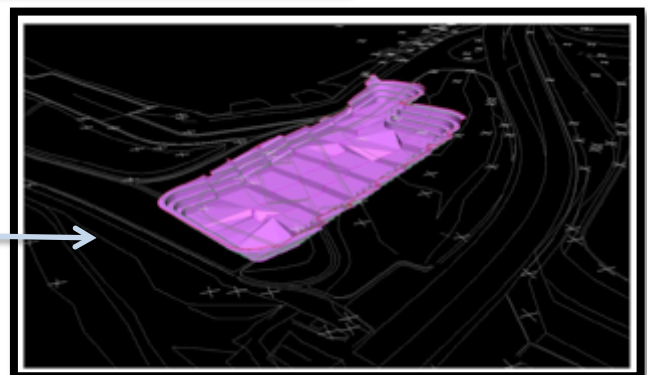
Additionally, given the duration and density of occupation, Thompson Square has the potential to be one of the richest repositories of Colonial European archaeological artefacts in Australia.

Excavation areas (EIS docs)



The Hawkesbury River

*Volume of excavation = 3,645
sq-m (EIS documentation)*



1.10.4 Expert Advice

In appreciating the extent of the risk to the Government Domain, it is worth referring to the words of Mary Casey in Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, Independent Heritage Review (page 7):

“There has been inadequate recognition that the State Heritage Register listing for the Square includes the open space and all of the buildings which surround it. Thus the Square includes the open space and all of the buildings which surround it. Thus the relationship, not only within the open space, but between the buildings and the Square, or the entire setting of the Square, is of importance. The placement of a new major road along the side of Thompson Square will sever the relationship between the buildings along Old Bridge Street to the Square, and also with the buildings on the opposite side of the Square. Thompson Square thus comprises a series of interrelated components – the setting, historic plantings, monuments, fencing, roadways, surrounding buildings and connections to the River.”

As claims by the project proponent (Roads and Maritime Services, NSW - RMS) regarding the protection of heritage significance are based on reducing the historic precinct to a remnant green space, all advice provided by the proponent regarding their protection and preservation of the precinct's potential national significance must be considered highly questionable, indeed, derisory and thus irrelevant to the Minister's consideration of emergency listing.

1.10.5 'Mitigation'.

Since 2011, NSW Roads and Maritime Service have generally ceased acknowledging heritage impacts on the Thompson Square conservation area, in fact, frequently arguing the project will “improve” the Square. Where impacts have been acknowledged, the department has relied heavily on claims of “mitigation”.

As the Government's independent heritage expert for this project, engaged by the State Government to review the EIS for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, Dr Casey addresses these claims regarding “mitigation”.

“5.0 Key Issues

The Urban Design mitigation measures must be examined closely as they do not relate to heritage significance, or heritage design principles and conservation policies. The mitigation measures do not alleviate the implication that appears to be acceptable to RMS that the WBRP can have such a major impact on a SHR conservation area and State significant archaeology. The urban design report's assessment has concluded that all visual impacts within Thompson Square are High, the highest level of impact. The heritage report's assessment has stated that the only real mitigation for the proposed impacts relates to archival recording, archaeological excavation of the site, reporting and interpretation. The main mitigation for the built heritage appears to be a design, which consolidates the park and undertakes planning for a redesign of Thompson Square and the Terraces. This proposed design is not based on a full understanding of the significance of the



heritage values of the place, nor on any heritage design principles or conservation policies, on which to base a future design. Therefore it is not mitigating impacts on heritage but an additional impact.”

Dr Casey goes on to say,

“There has been no ‘evaluation of the effectiveness of the mitigation measures’ as required in the DGRs. The tone of the report suggests that there is no real way to evaluate such mitigation measures, as the impacts are so high. Therefore when impacts are increased, the quantum of new impacts appears to become irrelevant. This is borne out by the assessment in the Submissions Report of raising the bridge by 1m just past no. 4 Bridge Street. The raising of a western embankment wall by an additional 1m is seen as being minimal as the impact is already high. There is no discussion of how the raising of the height of the bridge affects the operation of Thompson Square Conservation Area as a holistic space or that this change further Area. “severs the relationship of the eastern buildings from the rest of the Conservation Area”.

1.10.6 Georgian Sensibilities

Much has been said by the RMS, (in, for example, the EIS, Vol 2, Biosis) of the historic credentials of Thompson Square. Project Consent Conditions specifically reference its Georgian credentials.

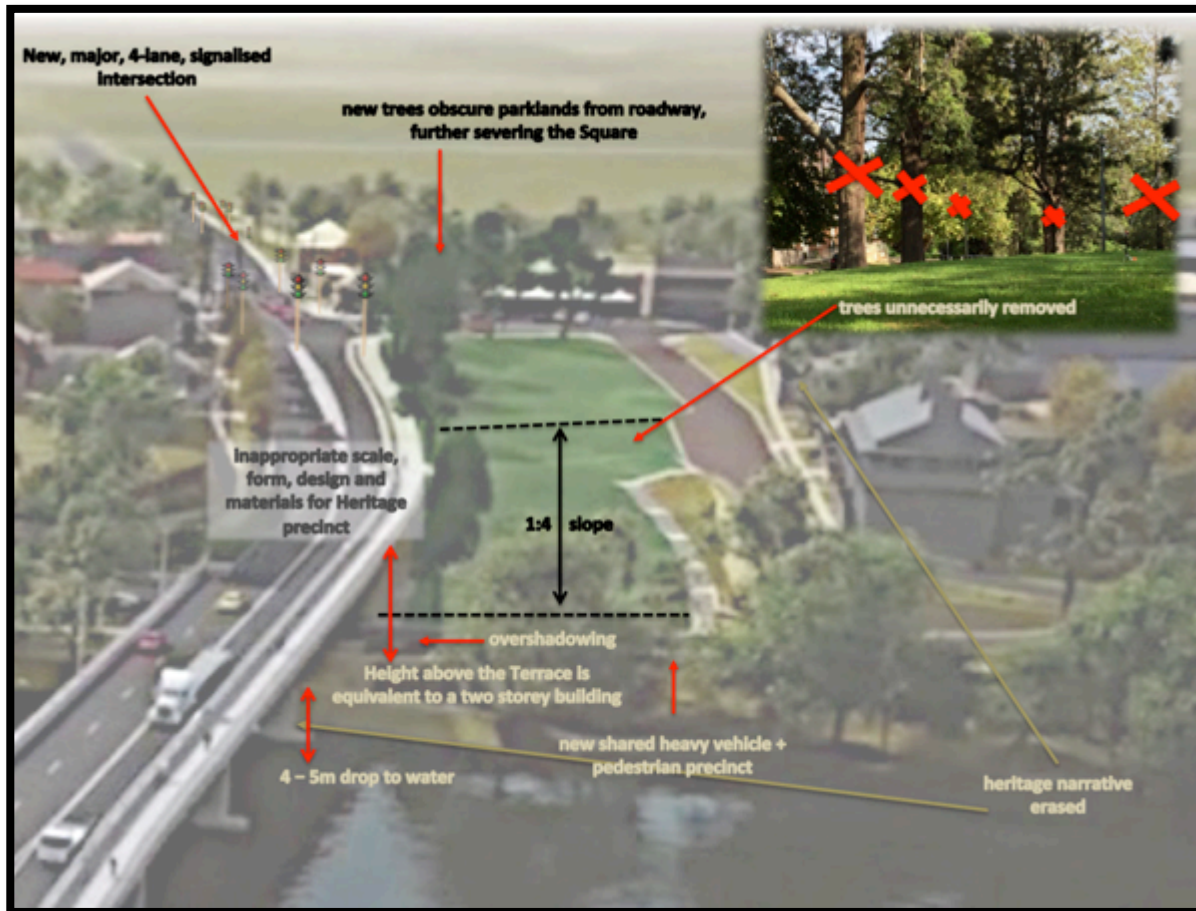
British architect, Stephen Gardiner said that, “Georgian architecture respected the scale of both the individual and the community”. This is true of Thompson Square. Its contributing buildings, whilst extraordinary achievements in a fledgling colony, are of relatively modest scale, even the tallest rising no more than two stories. And at a community level, the Square is equally proportionate, generous enough for community events, whilst respectful of its country-town responsibilities.

The scale and design of the proposed structure are inimical to these Georgian sensibilities. The new bridge, if constructed, will be disproportionate and alien. Its primary construction material, concrete, is unsuitable for this heritage context. The southern abutment will tower more than two stories above the Terrace, which is dislocated from the river via a further vertical drop of around 4 to 5 metres. The RMS already acknowledges overshadowing of the parklands as an issue. The “reunified” parklands (the narrative of the road through the cutting is being obliterated by the project) will, in places, have a fall of 1:4, too steep to be comfortably traversed. Many other design elements are suboptimal. For example, the RMS has selected a deeper more visually intrusive bridge design than is strictly necessary.

No longer diving modestly into its cutting, the new road, which is supposed to ‘reunify’ Thompson Square, will launch a higher and wider bridge, quite different from the modest 1934 cutting, with ‘lift off’ occurring approximately outside 6 Bridge Street. The bridge then continues out across the river and despite having



now “left the square” so to speak, its influence will continue be felt. No longer a simple two-dimensional structure, the road will obliterate views of the river and sever the historic relationship between the Square and its eastern façade.



The above image is based on a screenshot taken of an RMS promotional video. It gives some idea of the adverse consequences of the proposed arterial road and bridge.

There are also serious concerns regarding the wider, nominated Government Domain as, inevitably, the proposed infrastructure investment will trigger further road widening, not only on the direct approach, but also potentially involving roads in the historic peninsula precinct east of Thompson Square.

The following matter is a more granular issue, which is included as an example of equally important concerns regarding element design, and is indicative of the casual contempt of the RMS in their response to serious heritage issues.

1.10.7 “Georgian” Lighting

Nurtured and promoted, Thompson Square, without “Option One” has the potential to enhance Windsor’s economic fortunes. Heritage precincts are magnets for locals and visitors alike. It is the finding of an economic role for a heritage place that secures its future – a future being denied Thompson Square and its local community.



So, how is the RMS proposing, in detail, to preserve the heritage ambience of the oldest public square in Australia?

The description of the proposed lighting says, (repeating words from the consent conditions), its style will respect the "simple colonial georgian (sic) style", specifically, "Galvanised finishes to metalwork, will establish a simple, informal and utilitarian (sic) suite of lighting and thereby respect the colonial georgian (sic) style."

Punctuation and spelling aside, the words might imbue the reader with a degree of optimism, until accompanying illustrations are scrutinised. The following images from the RMS Urban Design & Landscaping Plan, page 55, illustrate the RMS's proposed 'Georgian' style street lighting:

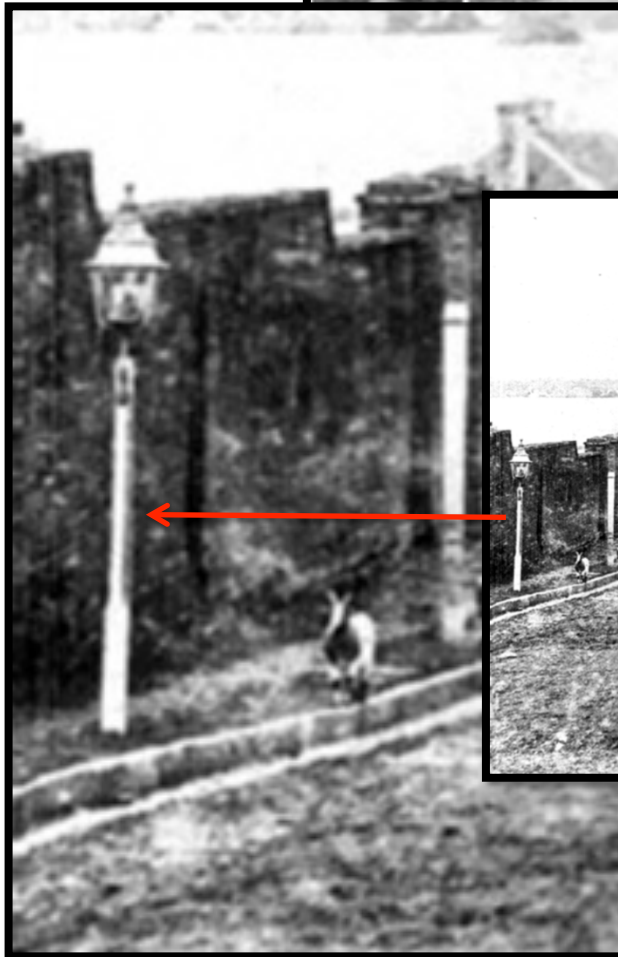


The contrast with actual Georgian street lighting underscores the contempt being shown for both the concerns of the community and the heritage significance of this place.





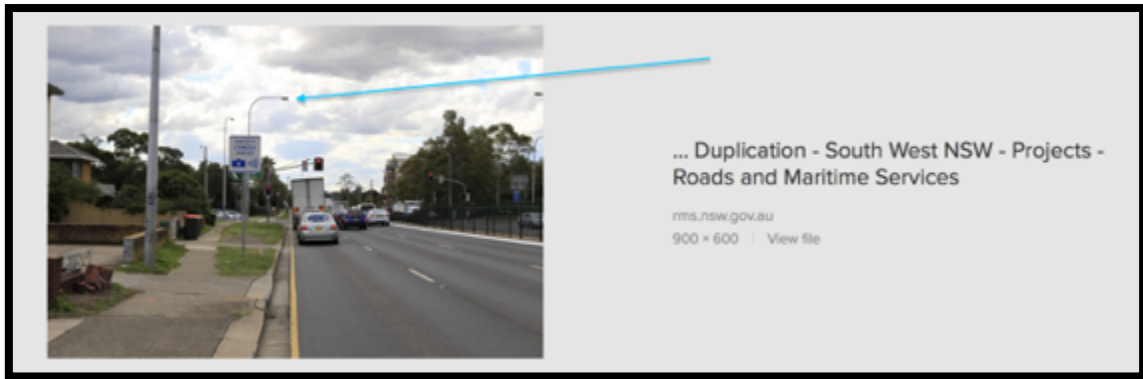
Above: Authentic Georgian Street Lights. (See also Tab B).



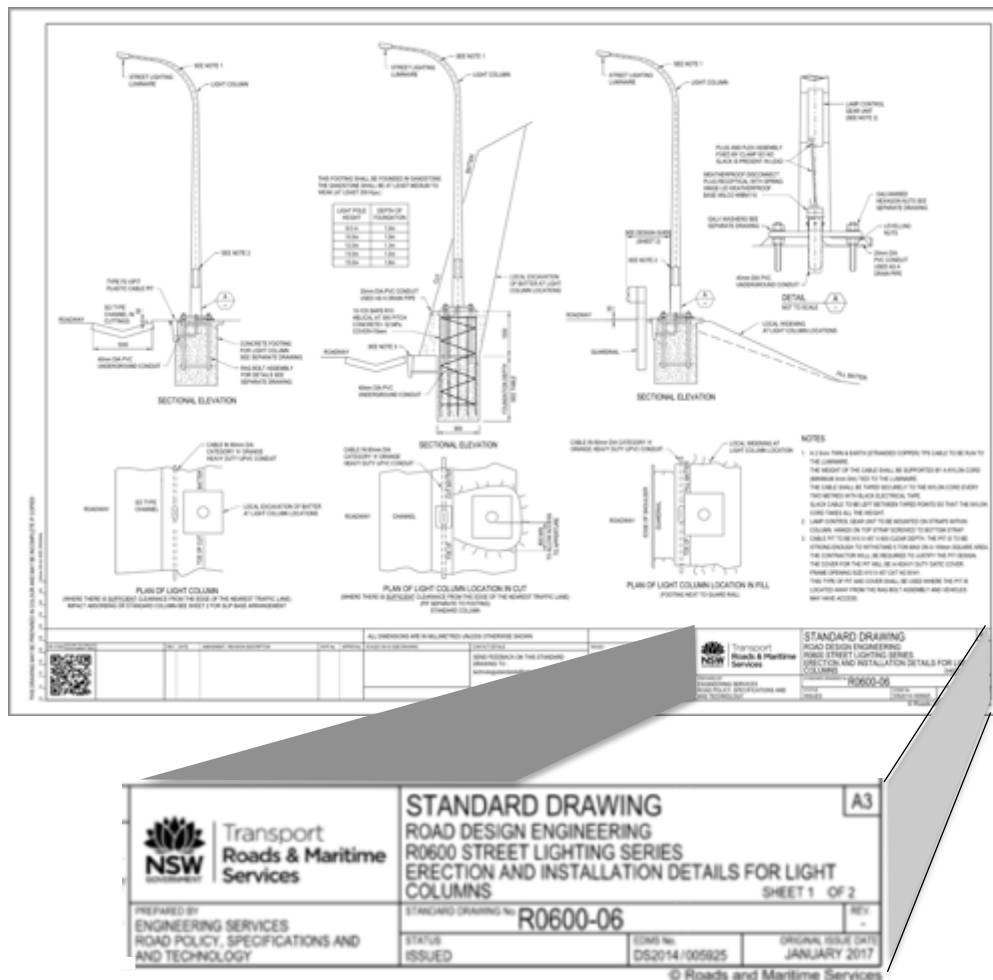
Original Windsor Street Light



In fact, the proposed street lighting looks very much like standard street lighting, used throughout NSW:



This style of light so widely used in NSW, the RMS has a “Standard” drawing to illustrate it.



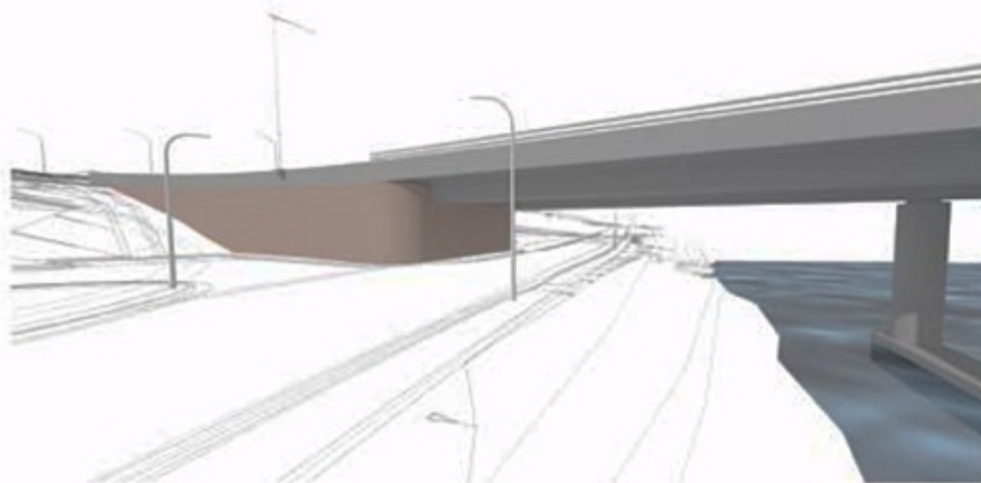


Figure 4.29: View from The Terrace with the longitudinal drainage pipe behind the downstream parapet and the two water mains and recycled water main located between the girders.

In the above illustration different styles of lighting are seen together: one type on the bridge, the other on the Terrace. (Image screenshot from draft RMS UDLP Report).

It is painfully evident the RMS has not designed lighting to fit in with the historic sensitivities of the nation's oldest town square and the Hawkesbury's premier heritage tourism precinct: they have simply specified their standard lighting and described it as 'Georgian'; this is neither consistent with the spirit, nor intent of the Conditions of Consent. It is also a worrying indication of the general attitude being displayed by the RMS towards the significance of the place.

Historical information regarding the development of gas lighting in Australia, along with a newspaper article with more detailed information regarding the development gas lighting in Sydney is included at Tab B.

1.10.8 Statement of Heritage Impact, 2008

A report by Heritage Concepts Pty Ltd, prepared in 2008 advises the company was commissioned by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) to prepare a non Indigenous Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) for the Hawkesbury River Bridge (RTA No.415) and adjacent areas to be impacted by the construction of the proposed bridge in Windsor, NSW. This included the historic Windsor Wharf and the State Heritage Registered Thompson Square Conservation Area. The report advises it was prepared in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office & Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) (1996a) NSW Heritage Manual, NSW Heritage Office (2002) Statement of Heritage Impact, and the NSW RTA (2004) Heritage Guidelines.



Noting the company identifies Windsor Bridge, the brick barrel drains of the Square and the Macquarie-Greenway Wharf as worthy of their attention, it is disturbing to report, some nine years later, the Bridge is scheduled for demolition and the current archaeological contractors engaged by the RMS, a joint consortium called AAJV, initially 'lost' both the wharf and the drains, although recently obtained contract documents indicate these two items are included in planned "salvage". It is noted that "salvage" in this case equals "destruction". The significance of all three items is discussed elsewhere in this nomination.

1.10.9 RMS and Town Squares

Whilst this nomination for emergency listing relates to the place characterised, within this document as the "Government Domain", the following discussion, necessarily, is specific to the place today known as Thompson Square.

The imminent destruction of Thompson Square and the consequent implications for the Government Domain, may have, at its roots a comprehensive lack of understanding, on the part of the RMS, regarding the functional nature of the place they are about to destroy. Indeed, the RMS has never acknowledged, or perhaps even really ever understood what Thompson Square is. Consequently, they continue to treat this heritage Square as an urban park. This lack of understanding means the narratives they create regarding the place are deeply compromised and fail to meaningfully describe and interpret the precinct, leading to plans that are not only inappropriate for the place, but also highly destructive.

In discussing this issue, it is useful to establish some definitions. Whilst not the ultimate authority on the matter, Wikipedia advises: "A **town square** is an open public space commonly found in the heart of a traditional town used for community gatherings.

Most town squares are hardscapes suitable for open markets, music concerts, political rallies, and other events that require firm ground. Being centrally located, town squares are usually surrounded by small shops such as bakeries, meat markets, cheese stores, and clothing stores."



Mediaeval Town Square

Another online resource at www.livablecities.org/articles/genius-european-square (© Suzanne H. Crowhurst Lennard. December 2004), claims it was the open air market activity in Ancient Greece, classical Rome and in the Middle Ages, that brought



people together: buyers and sellers, rich and poor, old and young, providing a catalyst for dialogue among the whole population, generating democratic decision making and a self-governing system, as well as the development of community and culture.

Crowhurst Lennard elsewhere says the Square has been a distinguishing characteristic of European cities in one form or another for over two thousand years, commenting that during the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth centuries hundreds of market squares were created as the centre of new European cities.



Renaissance ideal in urban planning

Ultimately and self-evidently, Squares exist within a built environment, and are generally an urban space surrounded by an almost continuous wall of buildings, with small entrances and exits leading in and out, creating the feeling of an outdoor room. The significance of this should not be underestimated in the Australian context.

An understanding of these issues makes clear the disastrous nature of the RMS's current plans, which are entirely at odds with this description. The proposed arterial road, about to be forced through one of the small entrances to Thompson Square - its proportions, design, materials of construction and method of exit from the Square, as well as the scale of the traffic it will carry, are all completely inimical to the concept of the Square as an outdoor room, a marketplace, political arena, or a place of recreation.



Thompson Square: no longer a town square. The RMS claim the arterial road entering Thompson Square will “Enhance the unique sense of arrival to Windsor both from the north and south while also strengthening the landscape character of historic Thompson Square through appropriate tree planting”. (sic)



Importantly, Crowhurst Lennard assists in addressing another element of RMS rhetoric when she says that every Town Square is unique: Siena’s is fan shaped, Venice’s Piazza San Marco is trapezoidal, Ascoli Piceno is rectangular, Tübingen is triangular, Telc, funnel shaped, Vigevano, elliptical, Verona, oval and Salamanca, actually a square! No matter what the shape, she claims there is a visceral sense to the town Square, a sense of inclusion and belonging, reinforced by the Square’s visual enclosure. It is self-evident to state that the above illustration is not consistent with a sense of inclusion, or belonging.



Piazza del Campo, Siena, is undoubtedly a mediaeval town Square and equally undoubtedly, not a square.

The RMS has placed a great weight on the somewhat nonsensical argument that constructing an arterial road along the eastern side of Thompson Square is in some way returning the Square to the form required for it to be considered a true town Square, that is, rectangular. This is quite clearly not the case and the damage that will be done will be irreversible.

Beyond European considerations, Thompson Square has British roots. Squares were arguably London’s most significant contribution to the development of urban form; inspired by the Italian piazza, introduced in the 17th century, extending into the Regency and Victorian periods, they were a way of creating open spaces at the centre of London’s new residential neighbourhoods and the fashion extended to Scotland and Ireland, Dublin’s Georgian Squares being particularly notable.



Eventually the gardens of the Squares became more private; as gates were locked against the "rudeness of the populace" and a desire for secluded and private spaces overtook the notion of public open recreation areas.



Gray's Inn Square, London today.

London Squares were built for people to live in. The layout of Georgian and Victorian squares created an ordered, spacious arrangement of streets and leafy open spaces, which make an enduring contribution to the quality of life in London. Squares were, and remain, a vital part of a city's fabric: a focus for local communities, attractive to tourists, and pleasant places in which to live, work and relax.



One of the small entrances and exits leading in and out of Gray's Inn Square, London.

As noted previously, the original civic space, "Bell Post Square", was both larger than today and less formal. As a place for the mustering of convicts, the dispensing of justice (for example, the stocks and lynching of Philip Cunningham); as a place for traders and farmers to gather and socialise as they unloaded their goods at the wharf or collected orders from Sydney; as the location of the government granary, Andrew Thompson's store, military stables and very important slipway and public wharf, Bell Post Square epitomises the civic place described by Crowhurst Lennard. Like the marketplaces of mediaeval towns and villages, it brought people together and had, along with its administrative functions, a strong social role, one which has continued, unabated, to the present day.

In 1811 Governor Macquarie formalised the space and named it "Thompson Square". Macquarie's Square was also the central focus for social, recreational, mercantile, military and recreational activities. Convict huts and hovels were demolished and stores, inns, grand and elegant buildings, such as the Macquarie Arms, built. As a result, men of wealth and influence would seek to build their mansions where they could be seen and appreciated by the populace at large - ambitious residences such as John Howe's house and Joshua Dowe's residence, monuments to their having "made good".

In a microcosm, Thompson Square and the Government Domain represent all that was important in the earliest days of European settlement – a place that upholds



democratic principles, brings people together, contributes to the economy, provides rest and recreation and a focus for administrative functions, as well as introducing a highly desirable and aspirational town planning feature.

Since Colonial days the Square has continued to fulfil all of its original functions: a place of recreation and entertainment; a public outdoor “room” to enjoy the greenery and river vistas; a commercial precinct with shops and restaurants bordering it; and in the grand European tradition, it has, (notably, most recently), been centre of political debate. While it has evolved since its days as Bell Post Square, the functions of the Square have continued, uninterrupted, since 1795.



Bell Post Square circa 1803. The RMS date this painting to a decade later, however their 1813 date is contested by others such Higginbotham and Casey .



1.11 CONCLUSION

Whilst this nomination does not try to capture in exhaustive detail the looming damage to what is considered to be Nationally significant heritage, it does set out evidence of catastrophic destruction. Aside from apparently “misplacing” two extraordinarily rare and important archaeological assets of the precinct and demolishing a functional and demonstrably nationally significant 1874 bridge, the RMS has oversight of an archaeological process that appears to have done more damage than good and has up until very recently, consistently failed to discover the much anticipated archaeological remains. This failure to discover any significant archaeology extends beyond the already noted “loss” of the brick barrel drains (only very recently re-discovered) and wharf. It appears, despite the longevity of the site in terms of non-Aboriginal occupation, little else of consequence has been discovered.

The documentation of this project is another area of deep concern. First issued, somewhat worryingly, was a landscape plan. This document was supposed to be the culmination of a suite of documents, which should have informed its development. However some of those reports have not yet been released. Despite consultation with Hawkesbury City Council being mandated under the conditions of consent and the conditions stipulating that the landscape plans would be informed by the SCMP, the RMS has published the final landscape plan without an approved SCMP and the council’s objections regarding consultation have apparently been ignored. There has been no public consultation regarding the archaeological reports (which have only very recently become available, well after salvage processes had begun), any interpretation plans or strategies, or the salvage strategy, which were supposed to inform the landscape plan. It is unclear how the landscape plan can be developed prior to there being completed the comprehensive reports on archaeological discoveries, (such as they may be), and related plans regarding the conservation and management of identified heritage values.

Further concerns regarding the RMS’s stewardship of this significant and sensitive heritage location relate to the scope of the strategic conservation management plan, which is constrained to the front boundaries of the properties that are such a significant part of Thompson Square. In other words, the plan being developed by the RMS to conserve and manage the site relates exclusively to the green space and makes little mention of built heritage.

Damage to archaeology associated with First Australians is also noted. It is of grave concern this archaeology may potentially be of international significance.

Whilst insisting no heritage buildings will be “affected”, the RMS tender documents tell a different story saying, “in addition to the direct impact on the fabric and curtilage of listed heritage items and direct impacts on physical relics and remains, vibration generated during construction of the project has the potential to result in physical impacts on six additional items.”



Furthermore, residents of the square have recently received correspondence from the RMS regarding noise mitigation. It is clear the lifting of State heritage protections has extended to the type of mitigation treatment being proposed in these highly sensitive heritage buildings.

The Hawkesbury community has been custodian of nationally significant heritage for generations. It is a community steeped in its own history and it is a community that has, in the past, witnessed the destruction of its heritage. It is no longer willing to accept that destruction without a fight.

The outstanding National significance of the Government Domain is demonstrated in this nomination. The community passion and determination to protect this heritage has already been demonstrated over the past five years of continuous protective occupation of the nation's oldest Town Square: Thompson Square in Windsor, New South Wales.

All that remains is for the Federal government to demonstrate its commitment to Australian heritage and provide appropriate protection for the only remaining Georgian town square in Australia.



TAB A: GRAND-PRÉ NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Grand-Pré National Historic Site is a park set aside to commemorate the Grand-Pré area of Nova Scotia as a centre of Acadian settlement from 1682 to 1755, and the British deportation of the Acadians that happened during the French and Indian War.

The original village of Grand Pré extended four kilometres along the ridge between present-day Wolfville and Hortonville. Originally a Marshland inhabited by native Mi'kmaq people, the reclamation of the land was carried out in stages in the 17th and 18th century. It is considered the best example of a historic polder in North America. It is still a living Cultural landscape of farming.



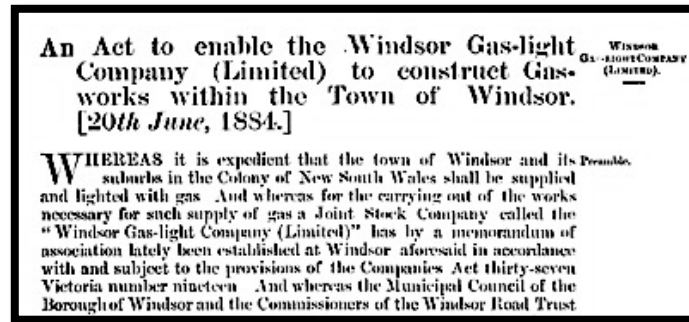
The Acadians built dykes to hold back the tides along the Minas Basin. They created rich pastures for their animals and fertile fields for their crops. Grand-Pré became the bread basket of Acadia.

In 1982, on the 300th anniversary of the arrival of the first Acadians in the region in 1682, the Grand-Pré memorial park was designated the "Grand-Pré National Historic Site of Canada" in commemoration of the settlement and later deportation of the Acadians.^[8] In 1995, the site and surrounding region were designated the "Grand-Pré Rural Historic District National Historic Site of Canada" in honour of the rural cultural landscape which features one of the oldest land occupation and use patterns of European origin in Canada.^[9] The "Grand Pré Heritage Conservation District" was designated under the provincial Heritage Property Act in 1999, and encompasses the area in and around the hamlet of Grand-Pré as well as the Grand-Pré National Historic Site of Canada.^[10] It was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO on June 30, 2012,^[5] having been added to Canada's tentative list of potential World Heritage Sites in 2004.^[6]

<https://www.worldheritagesite.org/list/Grand+Pré>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand-Pré_National_Historic_Site



TAB B: GAS LIGHTING IN THE COLONY



Gaslight was first introduced to Sydney in the 1820s and to Melbourne in the 1840s by various individuals who set up small plants which could supply a single establishment. The more complex problem of manufacturing gas and distributing it throughout a whole town, however, was first addressed by the Australian Gas Light Company.

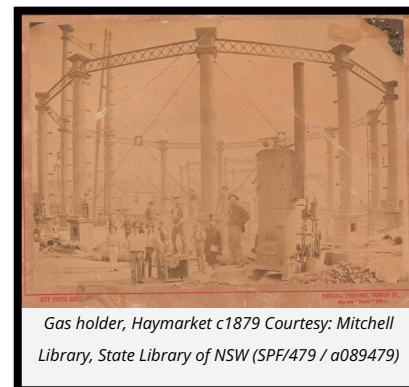
In 1837, Australian and Gas Light (AGL) was given a royal charter charged with the responsibility of lighting Sydney's streets. The lights were lit on 24 May 1841 to celebrate the birthday of Queen Victoria. Town gas was first stored in holder tanks hewn out of solid sandstone at Darling Harbour.^[3] Later, a large gas works at Mortlake supplied gas which was used over an area of 600 square kilometres and piped up to 25 kilometres away. The Mortlake Ferry was constructed with the express purpose of delivering workers who lived on the north side of the harbour to their workplace.^[4] By 1925, the company was the seventh largest gas undertaking in the British Empire.^[5]

In Melbourne, the City of Melbourne Gas Coke Company was formed in 1850, but the Company's affairs were disrupted by the onset of the Victorian gold rush in 1851. Consequently, gas supply was not begun until 1 January 1856. Hobart was the next of the colonial capital cities to enjoy gas lighting (1857) followed by Adelaide (1863), Brisbane (1865) and Perth (1885).

Regarded as a mark of civilisation and prosperity gaslight was soon in demand in the provincial centres of Australia. Foremost in this rush for modernity were the Victorian towns of Kyneton, Ballarat, Castlemaine, Talbot, Bendigo and Geelong. Each of these towns enjoyed the benefits of gas lighting by 1860 and most had to cart the necessary coal in by road -for in the gold towns, the gasworks preceded the railway- that other important measure of municipal progress.

Other gas companies include the Parramatta Gas Company, which was formed in 1872; the Manly Gas Light and Coke Company, founded in 1883 to supply gas to the Manly area, and the Windsor Gaslight Company formed in 1884.

<http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/tia/816.html>
<http://home.dictionarofsydney.org/sydneys-gas-history/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Gas_Light_Company



Gas holder, Haymarket c1879 Courtesy: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW (SPF/479 / a089479)



How Sydney's infant streets saw the light

ABRIDGED

DailyTelegraph

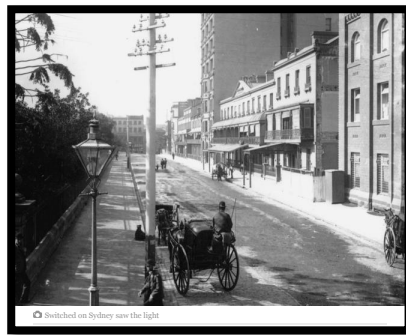
September 2, 2013 12:36pm



AT their first opportunity to submit requests to Governor Ralph Darling, in February 1826 the list provided by pioneer Sydneysiders included a plea to light the streets of the young "metropolis".

"This will be more effectual than all the patrols that could be mustered to repress rapine and nocturnal disorders, and can be effected at a considerably less expense," opined the Sydney Gazette. "It was a subject well worthy of being contemplated and effected by the present Government."

The Gazette suggested part of a watchman's duty would be maintaining street lamps to repress "those robberies which now escape the vigilance of the police, principally, if not wholly, through the darkness and gloom of the night."



In the 1820s, tavernkeepers kept a light in front of their premises to "deter riotous hordes of villains seen prowling around in every other part of town where the obscurity of the night afforded shelter".

On April 7, 1826, the "first street lamp post ever seen" in Australia was lit in Macquarie Place, with plans to put lights diagonally along the streets at 45m intervals. A regular lamplight contractor was employed in 1827, earning three-pence per lamp per night until the city had 100 lamps, achieved by 1829, when he earned an annual sum of Pound 300.

The wattage increased on May 24, 1841, when streets in the city of 30,000 people became the "first in the eastern hemisphere" illuminated by gas lights. By contrast, gas light had been in use in Britain for more than 20 years.

Turning on gas lights coincided with Queen Victoria's 22nd birthday, celebrated with a ball at Government House, as well as lighting a few street lamps that "burned very brilliantly". At Government House, then on Phillip Street and Bridge Street, a crown and V.R. glowed in gaslights.

But progress was slow. When the City of Sydney was proclaimed in 1842, the settlement was described as "little more than an unruly village of dusty poorly lit lanes and unhygienic dwellings. There was no water or sanitation. Cattle were routinely driven through the streets."

By March 1843 Sydney had 165 gas lamps, including 14 government lights, 11 corporation lamps, 106 publicans' lights, and 34 private lamps. Most private householders still used cheaper oil lamps.

But Hyde Park remained in the dark in 1855, when a letter writer requested gas lights along the dark "lovers' walk", where "rollicking, larking conduct of the young cabbage-tree mob drives away most quiet people, and renders it quite impossible for a female to pass without insult, especially on Sunday evenings".

Two years later "Nemo of Jamison St" wrote that compared with "most towns of equal magnitude in the old country, our city of Sydney with its 60,000 or 70,000 inhabitants, is but poorly supplied with light. Would it not be a great benefit to this city at large if our two leading thoroughfares, Pitt and George streets, were equally well lighted as paved from one end to the other?"

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/how-sydney8217s-infant-streets-saw-the-light/news-story/68bea34f2a8787dd8677f6754cb25485>

