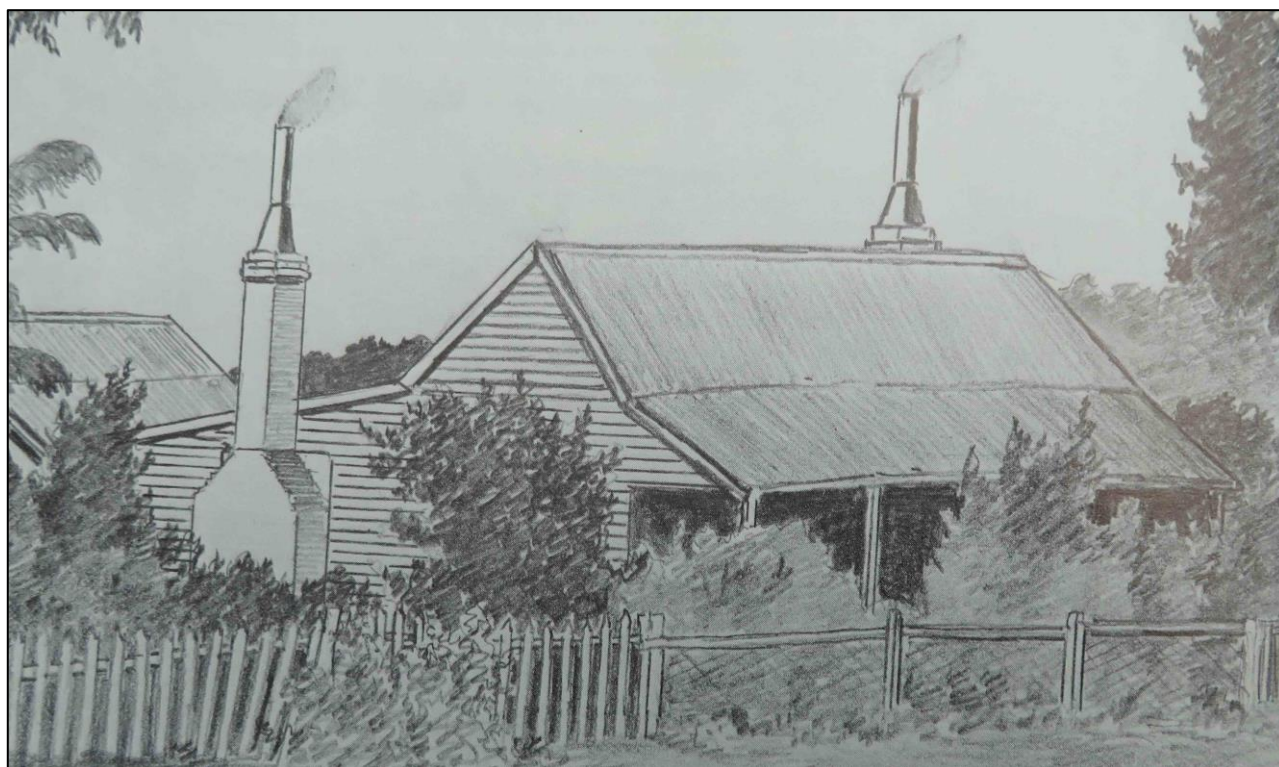


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The former Police Station, 30 Great Western Highway, Emu Plains

Historical archaeological management plan

PREPARED BY:	Tory Stening
REPORT TO:	Lucas Stapleton Johnson
LGA:	Penrith City Council
DATE:	February 2020
VERSION:	B.2020.1031.HAMP

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Executive Summary

Penrith City Council (PCC) has commissioned a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) to assist PCC in the future care and management of the Former Police Station site, in association with the Regatta Park Precinct.

The former Police Station site is listed as an item of local heritage significance in the Penrith Local Environmental Plan 2010 (PLEP).

Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage has been commissioned by Lucas Stapleton Johnson on behalf of PCC to prepare this historical archaeological management plan for integration into the CMP.

The following recommendations are made in accordance with the historic research and analysis, the site inspection and the results of this historical archaeological assessment as detailed in this report:

1. The policies detailed in Section 9.0 of this report should be implemented to guide planning for the ongoing use of the former Police Station site;
2. If works are proposed within Lots 10 DP 1216230 or Lot 9 DP 226204, an archaeological assessment should be prepared prior to design development to inform the proposed development;
3. A heritage induction should be provided to all workers to ensure that personnel are aware of the archaeological potential of the study area and their obligations and requirements under the *Heritage Act 1977*;
4. Ground disturbance should be restricted where possible across the study area to minimise the impact on the archaeological evidence;
5. A s140 permit for excavation will be required prior to any works that have the potential to impact on the potential archaeological deposits within the study area, and historical archaeological test excavations would likely be required to determine the nature and extent of any potential archaeological deposits and to provide updated management and mitigation measures;
6. If during any works within the study area, any archaeological deposits are uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of that deposit and advice sought from a suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist.

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1.0 Background Information

1.1 Introduction

Penrith City Council (PCC) has commissioned a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) to assist PCC in the future care and management of the Former Police Station site, in association with the Regatta Park Precinct.

The former Police Station site is listed as an item of local heritage significance in the Penrith Local Environmental Plan 2010 (PLEP).

Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage has been commissioned by Lucas Stapleton Johnson on behalf of PCC to prepare this historical archaeological management plan for integration into the CMP.

1.2 Study area location

The former Police Station site is located at 330 Great Western Highway, Emu Plains, within the Penrith City Council Local Government Area (LGA), in the parish of Strathdon, County of Cook. For the purposes of this report the study area comprises the following lot/DPs: Lot 10 DP 1216230 and Lot 9 DP 226204.

The site forms part of Regatta Park and is Crown Land that has been dedicated as a Crown Reserve (for Recreational Uses), owned by the Department of Primary Industries (Lands) and under the care and management of PCC.

The study area is bound by the intersection of the Great Western Highway and Punt Road to the north, the western bank of the Nepean River to the east, and Regatta Park to the north and west.

Figure 1 below shows the location of Emu Plains. Figure 2 shows the location of the study area. Figure 3 shows the study area on the aerial photograph.

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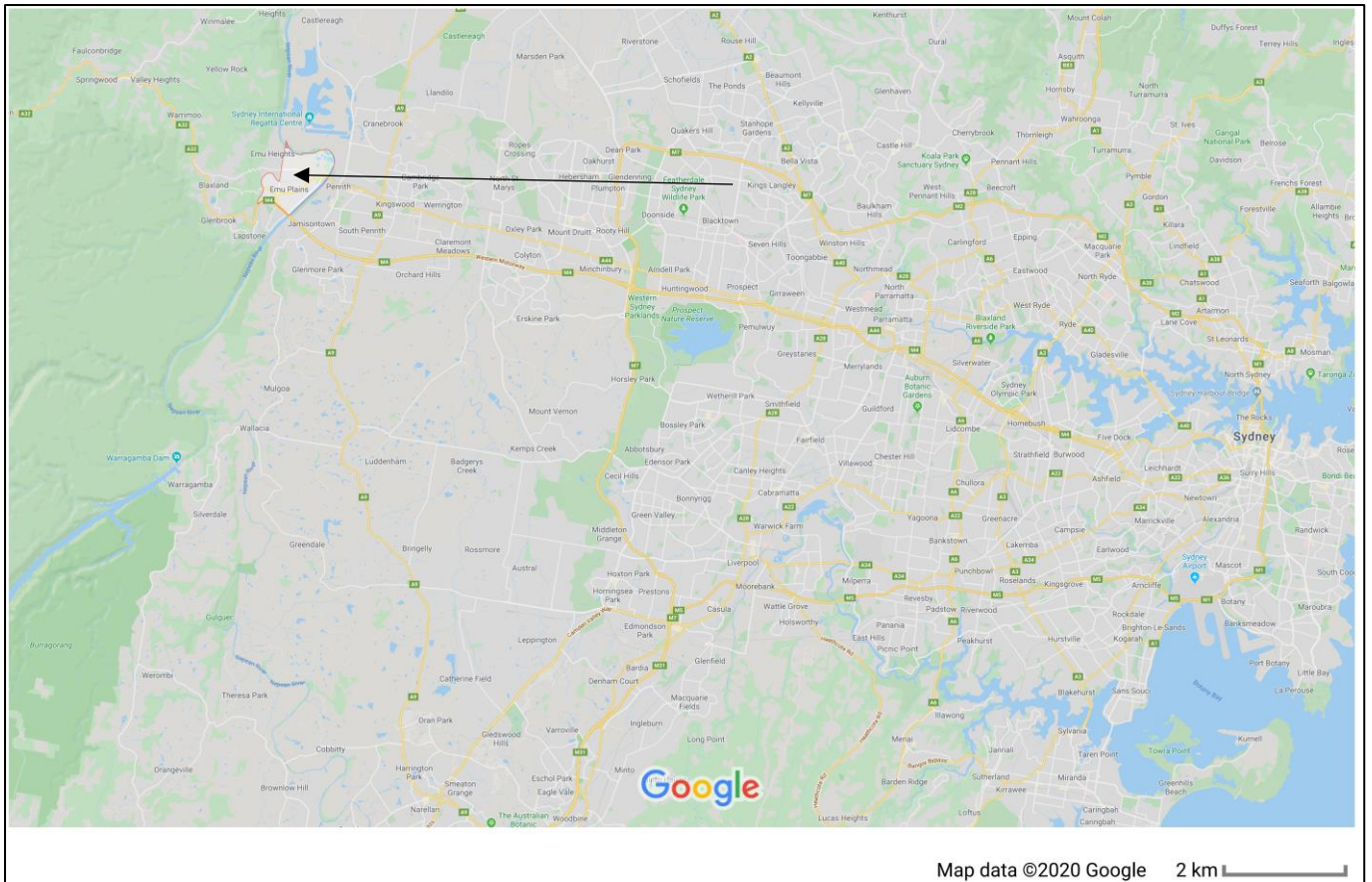


Figure 1: Showing the location of Emu Plains shaded red and indicated by the arrow (map courtesy of Google Maps).

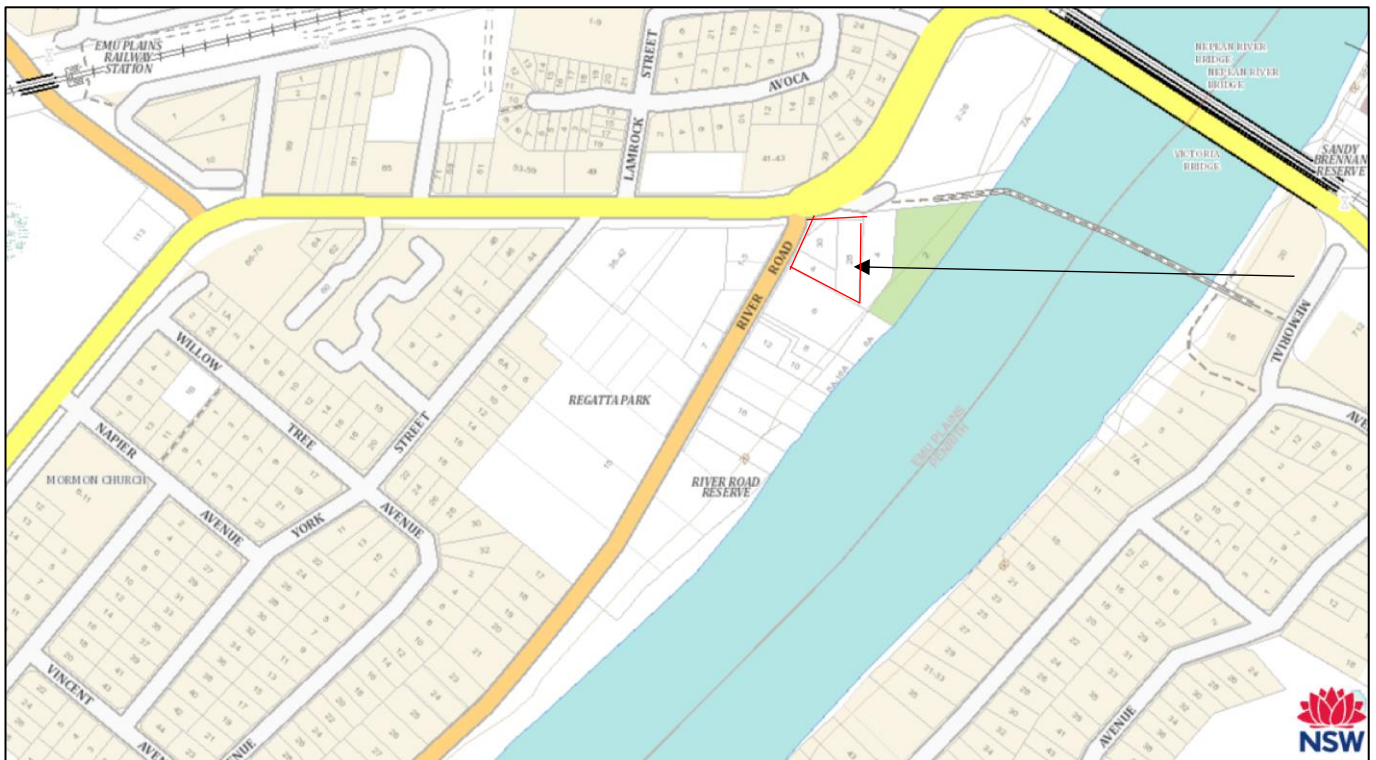


Figure 2: Showing the location of the study area outlined in red and indicated by the arrow (map courtesy of www.maps.six.nsw.gov.au)



Figure 3: Showing the location of the study area on the 2020 aerial photograph outlined in red and indicated by the arrow (map courtesy of www.maps.six.nsw.gov.au).

1.3 Aims of this Management Plan

This Historical Archaeological Management Plan aims to provide sufficient historical background information to establish the historical development of the study area. Understand the nature of any post-colonisation impacts across the site, identify any potential historical archaeological resources, assess the heritage significance of any archaeological resource and identify management issues within the context of the ongoing use and development of Regatta Park as a whole.

An assessment of the heritage significance of the archaeological resource was undertaken in accordance with the guidelines of the Burra Charter and the *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* for the establishment of heritage significance and the development of conservation policies.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) has been prepared by Biosis (2019) which details the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the study area, the results of any consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and management recommendations for the Regatta Park as a whole.

1.4 Previous Reports

The Nepean District Historical Archaeological Group prepared a report in 1981 titled *Emu Plains: Old & New Police Stations*. That report provides a detailed description of the extant fabric of the old police station. In

1987, Green prepared the report *Assessment of the Old Emu Plains Police Station*. That report detailed the documentary and physical evidence at the site and an assessment of its significance.

In 1996 Otto Cserhalmi & Partners prepared *Old Emu Plains Police Station: Report on the Effects of Fire on the Surviving Fabric*. That report details the findings of a survey conducted at the site following the fire which destroyed the old Police Station on 26 August 1996.

In 2019, Biosis (2019) prepared *Regatta Park and River Road Reserve Deviation Project: Historical Heritage Assessment and Statement of Heritage Impact*. This report found that Regatta Park contained the following locally significant heritage items, which are listed on the Penrith Local Environmental Plan 2010 (PLEP):

- Ferry Crossing (Item No. 147), Punt Road, Nepean River;
- International Style House and Garden (Item No. 666), 10 River Road, Lot B DP 33205;
- Police Station (former) (Item No. A053), 30 Great Western Highway. Lot B, DP 228204;
- Police Station Residence (former) (Item No. 52), 4 Punt Road, Lot 7038, DP 94188;
- Union Inn (former) and trees (Item No. 63), 36-42 Great Western Highway, Part Lots 1 and 2 DP 342116.

That report (Biosis 2019) also identified a number of areas of high archaeological potential across Regatta Park associated with the following items:

- Remains of the former Victoria Bridge Inn and Union Inn;
- The Police Station;
- The Police Station Residence;
- The Punt House;
- A series of residential dwellings relating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

1.5 Methodology

This Historical Archaeological Management Strategy includes the components of a typical Historical Archaeological Assessment and a Conservation Management Plan. A detailed history was prepared by Dr Terry Kass to provide a sound basis for identifying the potential archaeological resource within the study area. Assessment of the vegetation and landscape was undertaken by Geoffrey Britton.

An assessment of the heritage significance of the archaeological resource was undertaken in accordance with the guidelines of the Burra Charter and the Archaeological Assessment Guidelines for the establishment of heritage significance and the development of conservation policies.

1.6 Authorship

The history presented in Section 3.0 of this report was researched, prepared and written by Dr Terry Kass, B.A. (Hons), M.A. (Hons), PhD, historian and heritage consultant. The assessment of landscape and vegetation as presented in Sections 4.0, 7.2.3, and 8.3 was researched, prepared and written by Geoffrey Britton, Environmental Design and Heritage Consultant. The remainder of this report was researched,

prepared, written and compiled by Tory Stening, B.A., M.A. (Archaeology), archaeologist and heritage specialist.

1.7 Statutory Constraints

The Heritage Act 1977 (as amended)

Under s57 of the Heritage Act a person must not “demolish, despoil, excavate, alter, move, damage or destroy” an item listed on the State Heritage Register without a permit under s60 of the Act.

As no items within Regatta Park or on adjacent properties are listed on the State Heritage Register there is no need to apply for a s60 permit from the NSW Heritage Council.

Protection of relics

s139 of the *Heritage Act 1977* (as amended) states:

- (1) *A person must not disturb or excavate any land knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit.*
- (2) *A person must not disturb or excavate any land on which the person has discovered or exposed a relic except in accordance with an excavation permit.*
- ...
- (4) *The Heritage Council may by order published in the Gazette create exceptions to this section, either unconditionally or subject to conditions, in respect of any of the following:*
 - (a) *Any relic of a specified kind or description;*
 - (b) *Any disturbance or excavation of a specified kind or description;*
 - (c) *Any disturbance or excavation of land in a specified location or having specified features or attributes;*
 - (d) *Any disturbance or excavation of land in respect of which an archaeological assessment approved by the Heritage Council indicates that there is little likelihood of there being any relics in the land.*

A "relic" is defined under the Act as:

Any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

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

s140 details the requirements for a permit to disturb relics. It states the following:

140 Application for permit

- (1) A person may make an application to the Heritage Council for the issue to the person of a permit;
- (2) The application shall be in the approved form and shall be accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed.

As this archaeological assessment has determined that potential relics have been identified on the subject property, a permit under s140 will be required prior to any works which may disturb the archaeological resource.

Penrith Local Environmental Plan 2010

Section 5.10 of the Penrith Local Environmental Plan 2010 states that the objectives of this clause are:

- (a) to conserve the environmental heritage of the Penrith area,
 - (b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,
 - (c) to conserve archaeological sites,
 - (d) to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.
- (2) Requirement for consent Development consent is required for any of the following:
- (a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance):
 - (i) a heritage item,
 - (ii) an Aboriginal object,
 - (iii) a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,
 - (b) altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,
 - (c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,
 - (d) disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,
 - (e) erecting a building on land:
 - (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or
 - (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,
 - (f) subdividing land:
 - (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or
 - (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance.
- ...
- (7) Archaeological sites The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site (other than land listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an interim heritage order under the *Heritage Act 1977* applies):

- (a) notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and
- (b) take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.

As detailed in this report, the study area has archaeological potential, it will be necessary to gain consent from Penrith City Council prior to any works which may impact on the archaeological resource.

Statutory and non-Statutory Guidelines

The management of archaeological and heritage sites in NSW should be undertaken in accordance with the following statutory and non-statutory guidelines

- *The Burra Charter*;
- *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines*, NSW Heritage Office, Department of Urban Affairs & Planning, 1996;
- *Assessing Significance for Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*, Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, 2009;
- *NSW Heritage Manual*, NSW Heritage Office, Department of Urban Affairs & Planning, 1996;
- *Historical Archaeological Investigations: A Code of Practice*, NSW Department of Planning, 2006;
- *Historical Archaeological Sites, Investigation and Conservation Guidelines*, Department of Planning and NSW Heritage Council, 1993.
- *Excavation Director's Assessment Criteria*, NSW Heritage Office.
- *ICHAM Charter, The ICOMOS Charter for the Protection and Management of Archaeological Heritage*, ICOMOS International, 1990.
- *Recommendation on International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavations*, UNESCO, 1956.
- *Heritage Interpretation Policy and Guidelines*, Heritage Information Series, NSW Heritage Office, August 2005.
- *Photographic Recording of Heritage Items*, Heritage Information Series, NSW Heritage Office, 2006

2.0 Concept Masterplan

The following description of the proposed Concept Masterplan for Regatta Park is taken directly from the *Our River Master Plan* report by Clouston Associates (2013). The description of the Concept Masterplan includes the following:

- **Northern Curtilage, Weir Reserve and Regatta Park**

The Northern Curtilage of the project site has two large reserves (Regatta Park and Weir Reserve) that are currently heavily used by the community. The Northern Curtilage of the project site is in close proximity to the Penrith City Centre. This section of the river will continue to provide a strong sense of river arrival for the majority of the community with an abundance of facilities and attractions.

Regatta Park will provide a seamless connection between the waters edge and open space allowing a safer and increasingly flexible open space. Regatta Park will accommodate a regional play space and additional car parking and be able to hold large event and festivals.



Figure 4: Showing the proposed Concept Design for the redevelopment of Regatta Park (plan courtesy of McGregor Coxall).

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3.0 History

3.1 Allotment 2

The site is located immediately adjacent to where the ferry crossed the Nepean River on the main road from Sydney across the Blue Mountains on to the plains near Bathurst. In 1823, the colonial government commenced a ferry or punt service about half a mile south of Emu Ford near the present bridge.¹

On 22 January 1824, John Mills, lessee of the ferry boat at Emu Plains requested the rent of 'a piece of Ground that is fenced in at the back of the Ferry Hut for the accommodation of stock that pass the Emu Road' offering one Spanish dollar per acre with the lease expiring on 1 January 1825. An official memo at the bottom of his request recorded, 'The said piece of Ground I understand will lay uncultivated this year – much inconvenience is felt here for want of a small Boat'.² The rent of 'the paddock in rere [sic] of your present residence' for one Spanish dollar per acre as requested was officially approved on the condition that Mills did not cultivate the land.³ The following year, on 10 January 1825, John Mills, Penrith, tendered a sum of one dollar per acre to rent 'the paddock at the back of the ferry Hut at Emu'.⁴ The paddock was rented to him as requested on 16 February 1825.⁵

On 20 May 1832, Assistant Surveyor Henry F White prepared a plan of the town of Emu Plains, showing old and new lines of road proposed by Mitchell (Figure 5).⁶ This site was not part of that town.

¹ R Murray and K White, *Dharug & Dungaree: The History of Penrith and St Marys to 1860*, Penrith City Council & Hargreen Publishing, Melbourne, 1988, p 151

² CSIL 1824 SANSW 4/1778, p 52-52a

³ 19 Feb 1824, CSOL 1824 SANSW 4/3510, p 361

⁴ CSIL 1825 SANSW 4/1785, p 31a

⁵ CSOL 1825, SANSW 4/3513, p 440

⁶ E.744, Crown Plan (now SA Map 2666)

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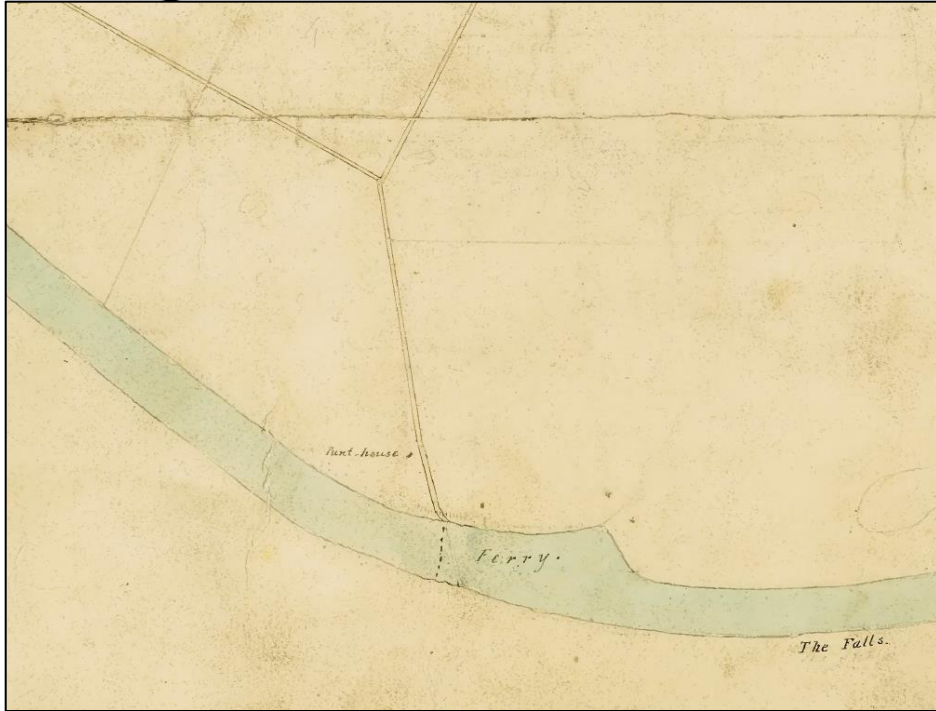


Figure 5: Surveyor H F White's plan of the Town of Emu Plains dated 20 May 1832 showed the subject site as unoccupied. Source: E.744, Crown Plan

Conrad Martens sketched 'Emu Ferry' looking west on 15 May 1835 (Figure 6). The Punt House is visible on the western bank. It also showed the subject site.⁷

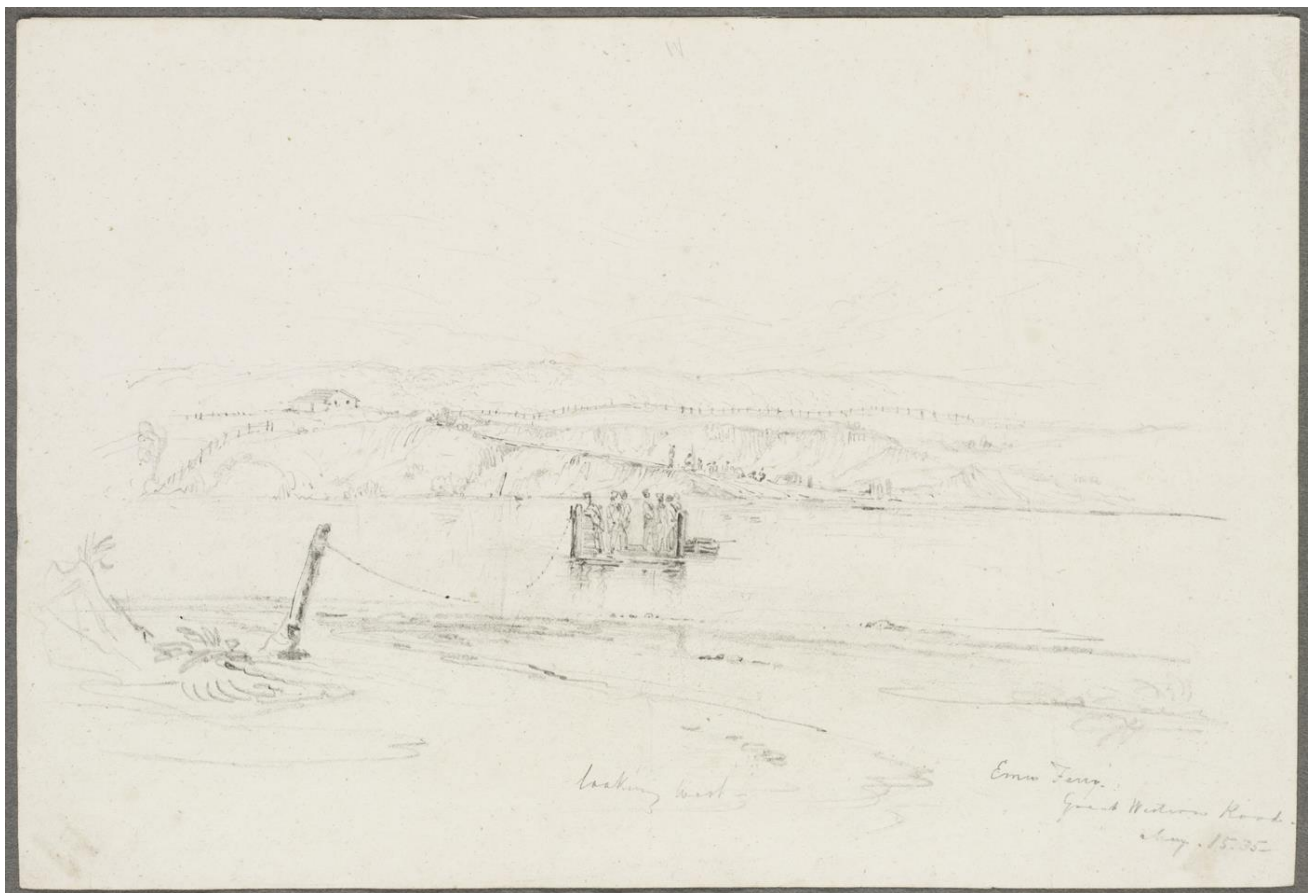


Figure 6: Conrad Martens sketch of Emu Ferry looking west showing the Punt House

⁷ Conrad Martens, 'Emu Ferry' 15 May 1835, DL PX 24, p 3

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When Assistant Surveyor Frederick D'Arcy sent in a plan of 8 allotments at Emu Plains applied for purchase by W Russell on 18 February 1854 (Figure 7), this area was marked in pencil as 'RES unmeasured'.⁸

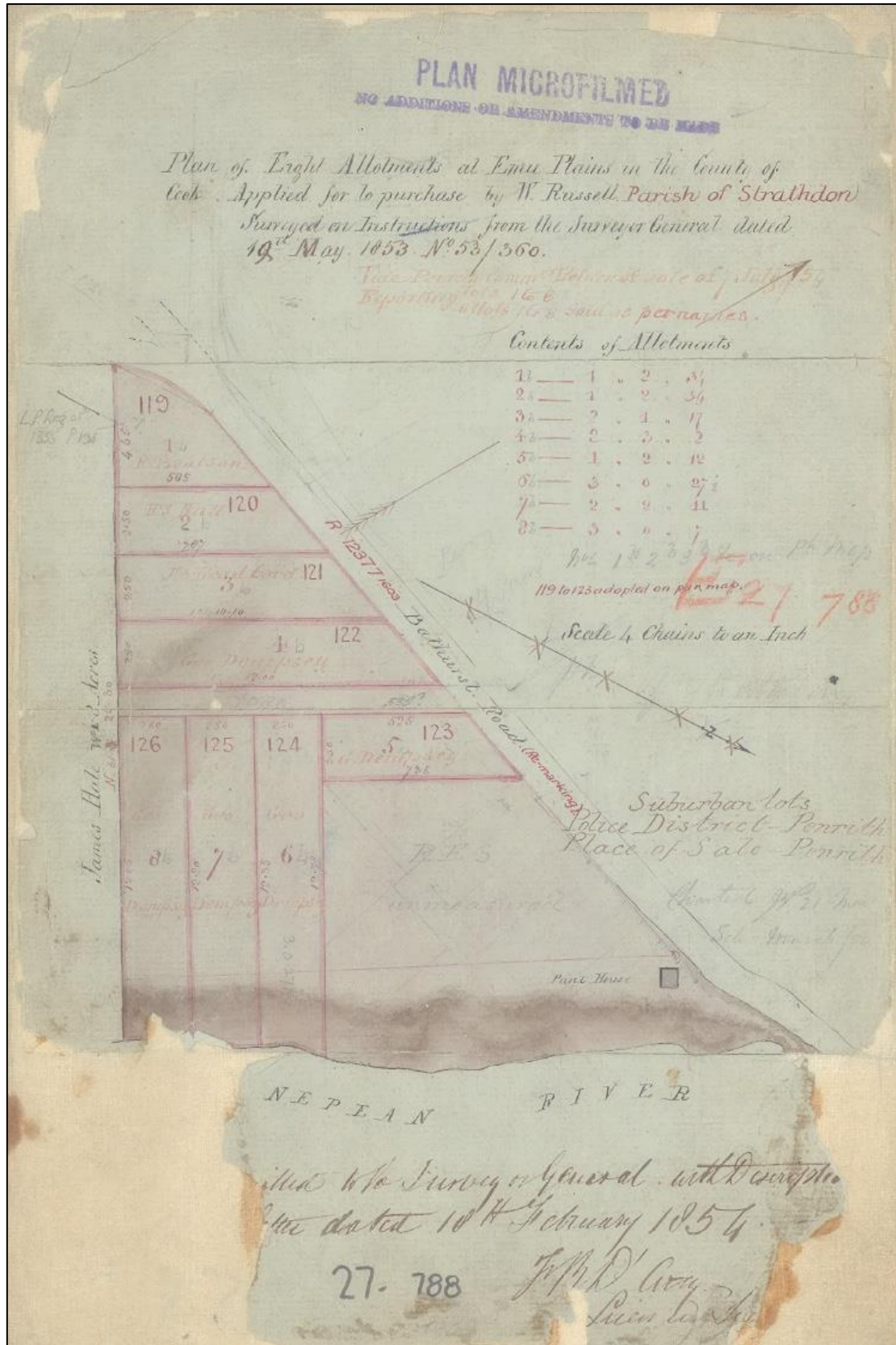


Figure 7: LS Frederick D'Arcy's subdivision survey of 18 lots showing the subject site. Source: E.27.788, Crown Plan

⁸ E.27.788, Crown Plan

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The reserve around the Punt House had been set aside as a camping area for teams. Complaints were made in May 1857 that the lessee Francis James Peisley was using the reserve for his 'private advantage'. It was decided officially to lay out that land for sale leaving about an acre for the Punt cottage. Licensed Surveyor Charles Whitaker was instructed to undertake that survey on 23 June 1857 to a suggested design. When Whitaker sent in his plan on 30 December 1858, he reported that he had altered the suggested design due to the 'inequality of the land'.⁹

Licensed Surveyor Charles Sheppard Whitaker's plan (Figure 8) showed 25 Allotments (altered on the heading to 'Parish Portions') 'near the Bridge at the Emu Plains' – altered to read 'over the Nepean River at Penrith'. The land was sold at Penrith on 11 May 1858. A total of 24 lots out of 25 offered were sold. The Penrith Bridge Company's bridge was shown leading to what is today Punt Road but labelled as 'To the Bridge', whilst the current alignment of the Great Western Highway is labelled as 'To the Punt'.¹⁰

⁹ NRS 13751, Surveyor General, Letters, SG58/7860, SANSW 5/5538

¹⁰ E.30.788, Crown Plan

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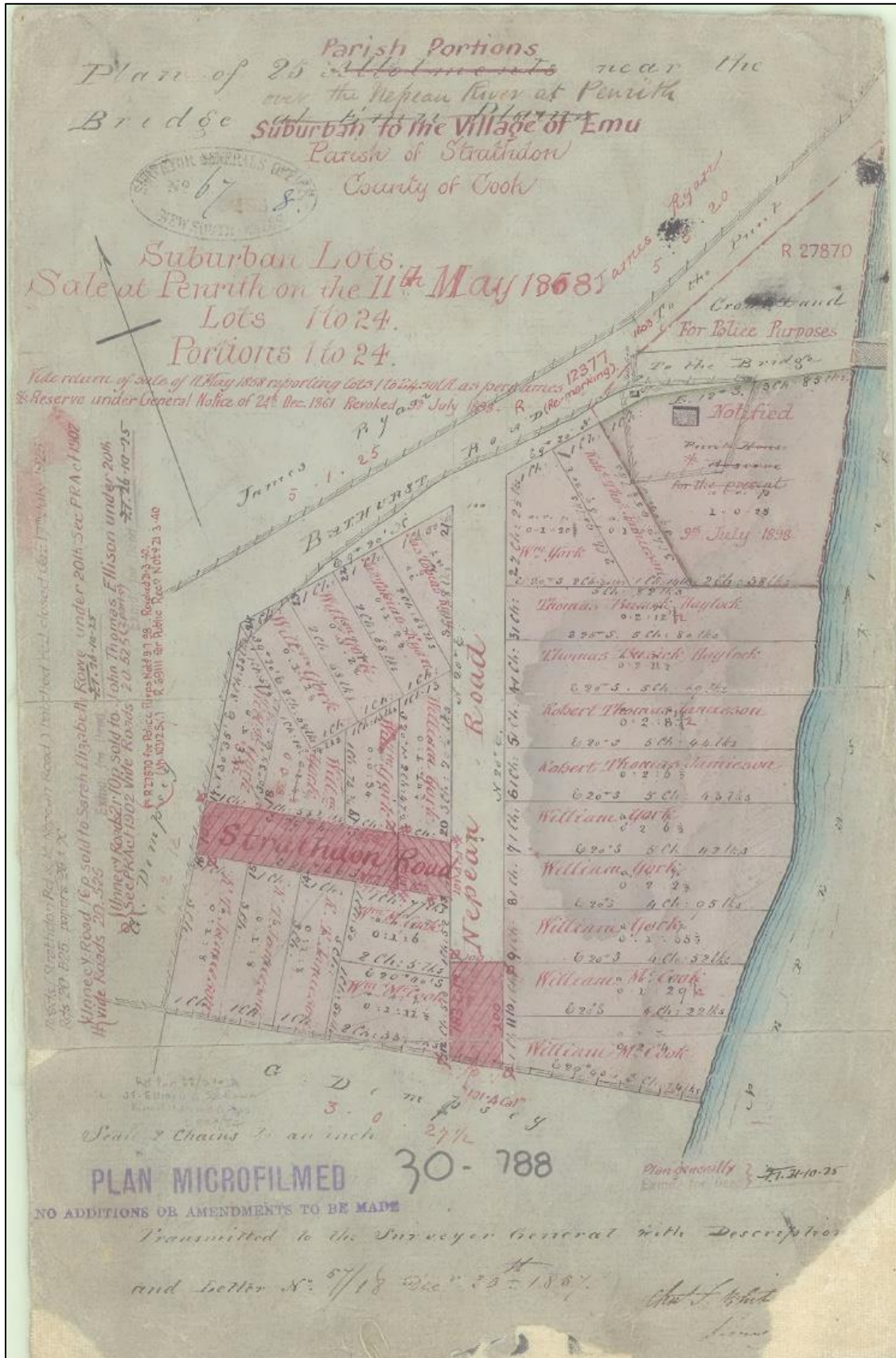


Figure 8: LS C S Whitaker's subdivision survey around the Punt House showed Allotment 2, the subject of this report. Source: E.30.788, Crown Plan

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On 28 July 1858 a grant of 1 rood 20 perches, Parish Strathdon, County Cook, 'near the bridge over the Nepean river' suburban portion number 2 was issued to William York, of Penrith for £3. It was described as beginning on the south side of a road at the northern corner of lot 3 and was bounded on the north-west by a road 2 chains 2½ links, on the north by the Bathurst road 1 chain, on the east by the western boundary of lot 1 2 chains 90 links, and on the south by lot 3 2 chains 30 links.¹¹

William York of Penrith conveyed the lot to James Tobias Ryan of Emu Plains, gentleman and auctioneer for £40 on 24 February 1859.¹² When James Tobias Ryan of Penrith, Member of Legislative Assembly mortgaged numerous parcels of land to the Savings Bank of New South Wales for £3,000 on 17 June 1862, lot 2 was included. It is notable that the property description of lot 2 specifically that the land was included 'Together with the four roomed cottage thereon erected and built'.¹³ In other words, the cottage had been built by Ryan between 1859 and 1862. The Nepean Archaeology Group believed it had been built of timber salvaged from one of the bridges across the Nepean that had been washed away in floods.

The mortgage was discharged on 15 November 1875.¹⁴ On 22 January 1878, James Tobias Ryan of Sydney, stock and station agent conveyed lot 2 to George Laing of Emu Plains, drover for £200. There was no mention of a cottage in the deed but the relatively high sale price implied a building on the land.¹⁵ When George Laing of Emu Plains, drover and his wife Mary Elizabeth conveyed Lot 2 to John Brown, of Emu Hall, Emu Plains gentleman on 14 February 1884, the price was £450. It also included Suburban Portion Lot 1 adjacent.¹⁶

John Brown signed his will on 11 October 1887. He died on 21 August 1888. John Brown's death duties file listed amongst the rents due to him the rent of a 'Small cottage, opposite Emu Hall' occupied by Bressington let at £5 per quarter. The property description had a pencilled note 'Small house occupied by Bressington'. Lots 1 and 2 were valued at £175.¹⁷ William Bressington was the police constable at Emu Plains.

On 20 July 1891, Thomas Brisbane Brown of Cannonbar, grazier, William Smith Deane, of Sydney solicitor and William Clark, of Sydney, stock and station agent, the executors of the will of John Brown, Emu Plains, esquire, deceased conveyed Lots 1 and 2 to William Bressington of Emu Plains, police constable for £320. There was no mention of the cottage on the deed.¹⁸ Bressington mortgaged both to Thomas Brisbane Brown of Cannonbar, grazier, William Smith Deane of Sydney solicitor and William Clark of Sydney, stock and station agent) for £220 at 6% the same day.¹⁹

William Bressington had been born at Corfu, Wales about 1836. As a non-commissioned officer in the 11th Devonshire Regiment he was stationed at Victoria Barracks, Sydney. After the regiment returned to Britain, he resigned and returned to the colony and joined the NSW police force serving on the Bathurst gold escort. He was involved in chasing bushrangers such as Ben Hall and Gardiner. After service as the first police sergeant in the Bourke district he was stationed at Government House, followed by brief periods at

¹¹ Grants, volume 143 No 1320

¹² OSD, No 43 Book 60

¹³ OSD, No 708 Book 79

¹⁴ OSD, No 918 Book 154

¹⁵ OSD, No 533 Book 176

¹⁶ OSD, No 42 Book 285

¹⁷ NRS 13340, Stamp Duties Office, Deceased Estate File, Z 16002, SANSW 20/7071

¹⁸ OSD, No 343 Book 483

¹⁹ OSD, No 344 Book 483

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Parramatta, Liverpool and Windsor. He was stationed at Emu Plains for about 25 years. He resigned from the police in April 1889. He died at his home, Devon, Ethel Street, Carlton on 13 September 1913.²⁰

Previously, at the Penrith Police Court on 21 February 1888 Bressington sued Claus Horstmann for threatening him on 13 February. Bressington stated he had been in the police for 38 years. The dispute related to the erection of a fence. The paddock has been used for police horses. The fence was 30 or 40 yards from Bressington's house according to evidence presented to the Court.²¹ The paddock probably included the land around the former Punt House.

William Bressington of Emu Plains, police constable conveyed his equity in the property to Amelia Margaret Nash, wife of George Nash of Emu Hall, Emu Plains for £60 on 25 April 1898.²² The mortgage remained outstanding and was not re-paid for some years.

Amelia Margaret Nash, owner of the land and cottage died on 9 February 1902 intestate.²³ The mortgage was discharged on 31 May 1902.²⁴ Her widower, George Nash of Penrith, merchant as the administrator of the estate of Amelia Margaret Nash deceased, conveyed Lots 1 and 2 to Clarence Thomas Brown Glasscock of Penrith, freeholder on 11 February 1903 for £310.²⁵ Until he moved into the newly built police residence in 1908, Sergeant Samuel McLean is reputed to have lived in this cottage.²⁶ Clarence Thomas Brown Glasscock, petty officer in His Majesty's Navy conveyed Lots 1 and 2 to Claus Horstmann, Emu Plains, freeholder on 13 February 1911 for £165.²⁷

On 1 March 1915, Licensed Surveyor William A Chadwick sent in a plan of survey of part of the Great Western Road and Russell Street (Figure 9). It showed the footprint of this building owned by Claus Horstmann.²⁸

²⁰ *Nepean Times*, 20 Sept 1913, p 3; *St George Call*, 20 Sept 1913, p 6

²¹ *Nepean Times*, 25 Feb 1888, p 2

²² OSD, No 926 Book 728

²³ OSD, No 553 Book 729

²⁴ OSD, No 927 Book 728

²⁵ OSD, No 553 Book 729

²⁶ Letter from Paula Diamond, Terrey Hills, Oct 2019

²⁷ OSD, No 479 Book 929

²⁸ R.12377.1603, Crown Plan

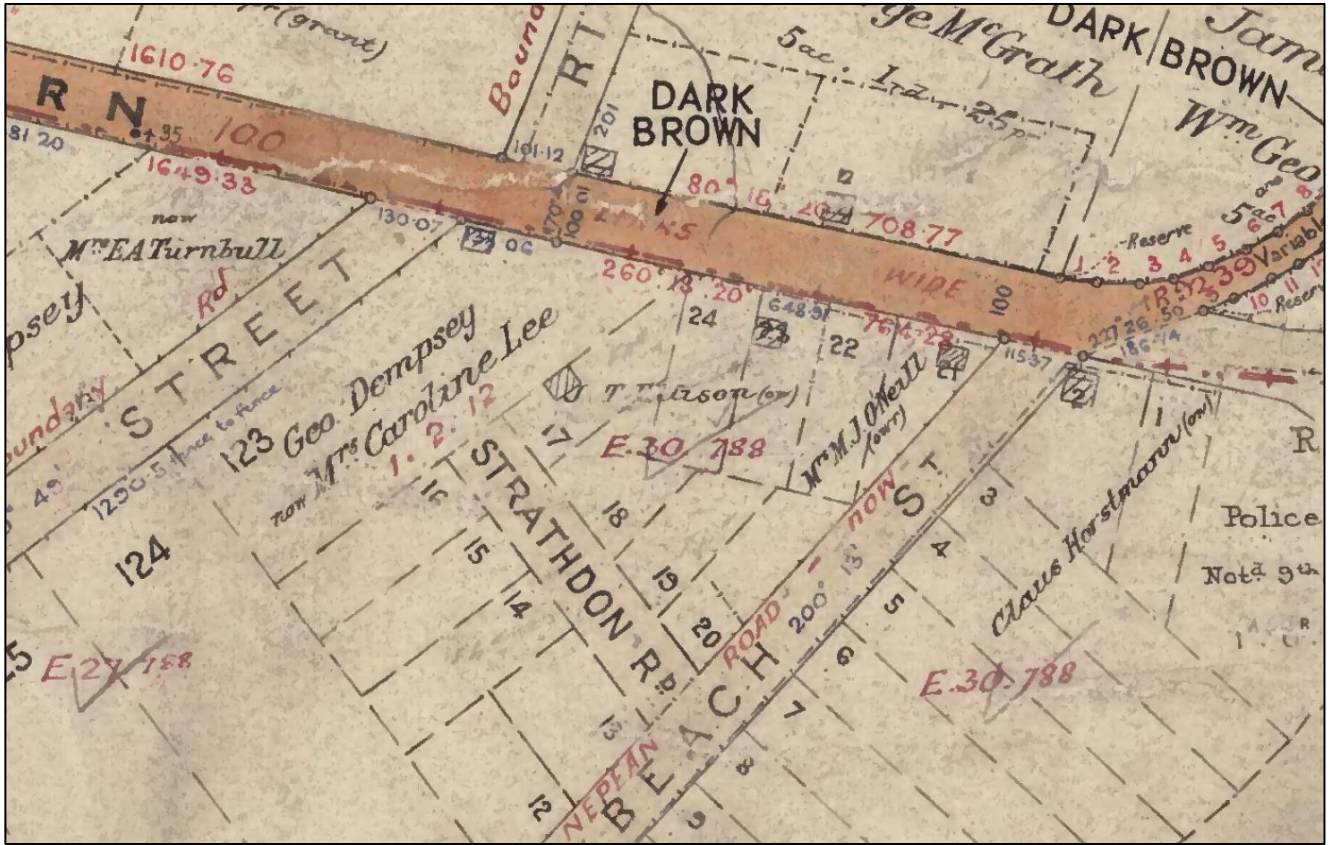


Figure 9: Chadwick's survey of 1915 showed the cottage on the site. Source: R.12377.1603, Crown Plan

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Licensed Surveyor William A Chadwick's fieldbook dated January 1915 showed the footprint of this cottage in better detail (Figure 10).²⁹



Figure 10: W A Chadwick's Fieldbook of January 1915 provided more precise detail of the cottage. Source: NRS 13889, Surveyor General, Surveyors Fieldbook, No 9359A, SANSW, p 6

Henry Barkworth Horstmann of Emu Plains, labourer conveyed Lots 1 and 2 to Henry Albert Wilkinson of Penrith, labourer, for £200 on 9 May 1919.³⁰

A valuation of Corner lots 1 & 2 by the Valuer General on 1 August 1927 described the land as measuring 2 rods 30½ perches. The owner was Henry Albert Wilkinson, labourer of Emu Plains. On 3 June 1930, the area of 2 acres 22 perches was altered to 1 acre 25 perches. On 1 August 1927, the Unimproved Capital Value was £75 and the Improved Capital Value was £390. There were various later changes to the value of the property. The last was on 20 July 1951, which gave an Unimproved Capital Value of £270 and Improved Capital Value of £350. Improvements were described as 'WB Ctge and Shed Fencing Garden etc.' Additional information added was 'Det Kit WB dining room & rough GI washhouse'.³¹

By his will of 25 April 1961, Henry Albert Wilkinson of Emu Plains, labourer appointed Jack Henry Wilkinson of Emu Plains, railway employee and Amy Elizabeth Jackson of Cambridge Park, married woman as his

²⁹ NRS 13889, Surveyor General, Surveyors Fieldbook, No 9359A, SANSW, p 6

³⁰ OSD, No 287 Book 1153

³¹ NRS 14465, Valuer General, Valuation Roll, Blue Mountains, SANSW 3/14726, No 4834

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executors and trustees.³² Henry Albert Wilkinson died the next day on 26 April 1961. The property was formally devised to Jack Henry Wilkinson of Emu Plains, railway employee and Amy Elizabeth Jackson of Cambridge Park, married woman as executors and trustees on 4 December 1962.³³

A valuation by the Valuer-General of Cor lot 2 on 16 November 1965 recorded it as measuring 1 rood 20 perches. The owner was Jack Henry Wilkinson of Emu Plains. The Unimproved Capital Value was £1700 and the Improved Capital Value was £1800. Improvements were recorded simply as 'Ctge & Det Kitchen'.³⁴ About 1974, artist Gifford Eardley drew 'Cottage, Western Road, Emu Plains' (Figure 11). The attached history showed it was the reputed police station occupied by William Bressington.³⁵

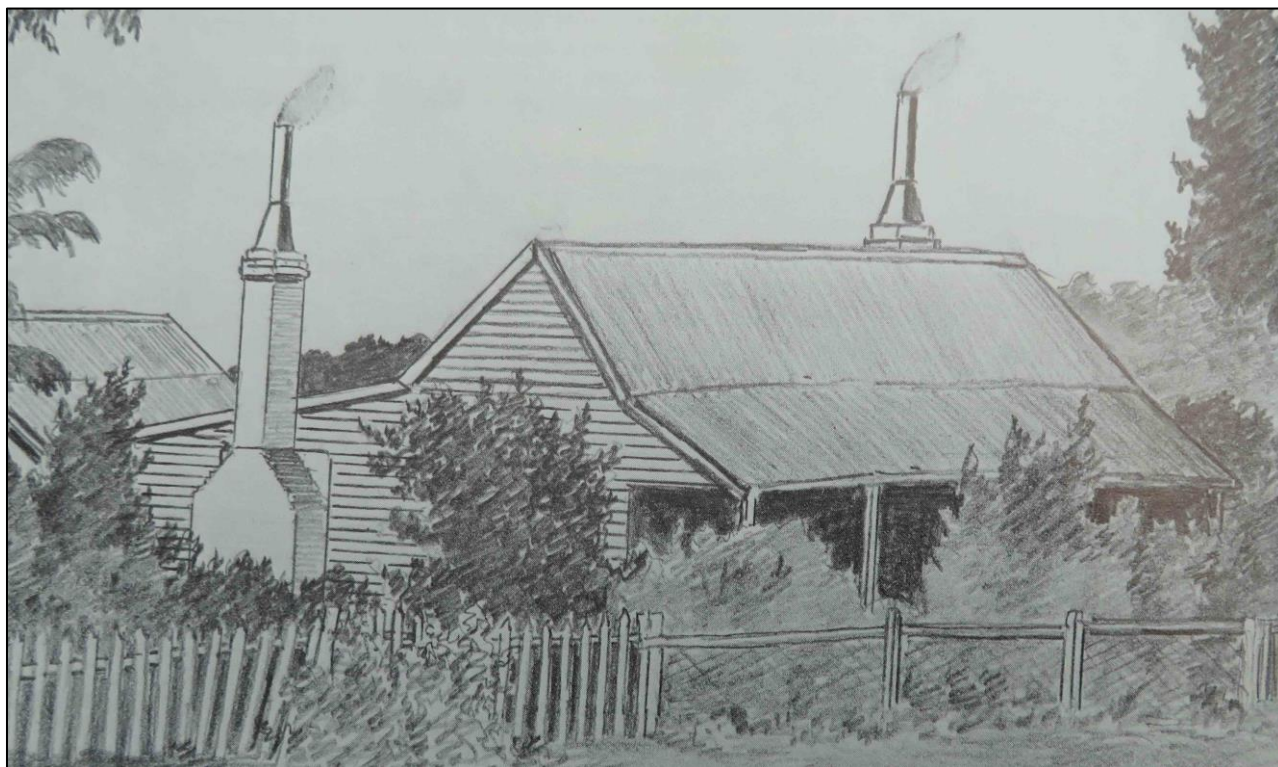


Figure 11: The Police Station formerly occupied by William Bressington. Source: G Eardley, *Emu Plains and Thereabouts*, Nepean District Historical Society, Penrith, 1980, pp 16

The land was later under the control of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning,³⁶ It was destroyed by fire on 26 August 1996. Sandstock bricks from the site were stored at the Arms of Australia Inn plus a water tank and other material.³⁷

³² Recited in OSD, No 407 Book 2656

³³ OSD, No 407 Book 2656

³⁴ NRS 14465, Valuer General, Valuation Roll, Penrith, SANSW 3/10597, No 7650

³⁵ G Eardley, *Emu Plains and Thereabouts*, Nepean District Historical Society, Penrith, 1980, pp 16-7

³⁶ Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Penrith City Council, 18 Nov 1996, p 6

³⁷ Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Penrith City Council, 18 Nov 1996, p 6

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4.0 Landscape and Vegetation

4.1 Riverine Vegetation Context

The site of the former Emu Plains cottage and police station at 30 Great Western Highway is within the broad, fertile alluvial floodplains along the Nepean River that was cleared of its forest vegetation early in the European settlement of the area. The indigenous vegetation community most affected in relation to the present site was the River-flat Forest relating to the high levee bank of alluvium and gently undulating shale plain that formed its context. This landscape type provides a strong contrast with the sandstone-dominated gorges and plateaus just a few kilometres upstream along the same river.

Plant taxa of the River-flat Forest known to occur in the section of the Nepean River corridor from about Regentville in the south to Agnes Banks in the north include the following:

Trees and shrubs

- Coast Myall (*Acacia binervia*)
- White Sally (*A. floribunda*)
- *A. parramattensis*
- Broad-leaved Apple (*Angophora subvelutina*)
- Native Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*)
- River Oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*)
- *Clerodendrum tomentosum*
- Cabbage Gum (*Eucalyptus amplifolia* subsp. *amplifolia*)
- Mountain Blue gum (*E. deanei*)
- Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*)
- Sandpaper Fig (*Ficus coronata*)
- Cheese Tree (*Glochidion ferdinandi* var. *ferdinandi*)
- Native Rosella (*Hibiscus heterophyllus* var. *heterophyllus*)
- White Cedar (*Melia azedarach*)
- Native Raspberry (*Rubus parvifolius*)
- Native Poison Peach (*Trema aspera*)

Herbs and grasses

- Maidenhair fern (*Adiantum aethiopicum*)
- Lesser Joyweed (*Alternanthera denticulata*)
- *Carex appressa*
- *Commelina cyanea*
- Berry Saltbush (*Einadia hastata*)
- Button Everlasting (*Helichrysum scorpioides*)
- Pennyworts (*Hydrocotyle* spp.)
- *Juncus usitatus*
- Spiny-headed Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*)
- Water Primrose (*Ludwigia peploides* subsp. *montevicensis*)
- *Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides*
- Coarse Stinkweed (*Opercularia aspera*)
- *Oplismenus aemulus*
- *Persicaria* spp.

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- *Stellaria flaccida*
- Stout Bamboo Grass (*Stipa ramosissima*, *S. verticillata*)
- Ivy-leaved Violet (*Viola hederacea*)

Plant taxa representing climbers, twiners and shallow water species are not listed here.³⁸ Of these taxa, only one taxon was found in the vicinity of the site - at 4 Punt Road – a solitary White Cedar. As it is locally indigenous to this part of the Nepean River corridor, the tree is possibly a natural recruit although it could also have been planted.

4.2 Landscape Elements

The site of the former cottage and Emu Plains police station is now a largely level grassed site with no standing structures apart from a recent brick plinth with a metal plate indicating the previous site uses. The level of River Road, immediately to the west, has been raised so that there is a gentle bank descending to the site from the west. A recent footpath has been installed to the north of the site.

4.3 Review of Site Vegetation History

While there appears to be a generous amount of vegetation across the site, most of this is relatively recent (later than the 1970s). The centrally located copse of Box Elder (*Acer negundo*) now occupies the site of the former cottage building (demolished in 1999 after being burnt in 1996) with the two oldest trees in this group straddling the rear wing of the early building. These two Box Elders appear to be the oldest surviving trees on the site and may well have been planted though likely sometime in the latter half of the 20th century.

Archival photography indicates a fig tree (*Ficus* sp.) to the north of the former cottage in about 1980 while the existing Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) is not apparent. The same imagery also seems to show a citrus tree in the location of the present Cumquat (*Fortunella* cv.) and a Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*) is visible to the immediate west of the front verandah in 1984 photography. As fruit trees, the Cumquat and Loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*)(if planted) testify to the site's domestic use.

4.4 Current Vegetation Status

The current status of site vegetation at 30 Great Western Highway is shown on Figure 12 and listed under the following schedule in Table 1.

No.	Plant	Common name	Comments
1	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder	Smaller trees are opportunistic while the two larger trees are shown to straddle the rear wing of the former cottage in 1970s photography
2	<i>Fortunella</i> cultivar	Cumquat	Probably from mid-20 th century

³⁸ While not exhaustive, this list of plants (applicable to this part of the Nepean River corridor) is a useful basis for future riparian zone rehabilitation and reconstruction.

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3	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common Hackberry	Likely opportunistic
4	<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Flame tree	Recent
5	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky oak	Group of three – some lightning? damage
6	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda	Likely selfsown
7	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat	
8	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda	

Table 1: Showing the vegetation schedule for the study area.

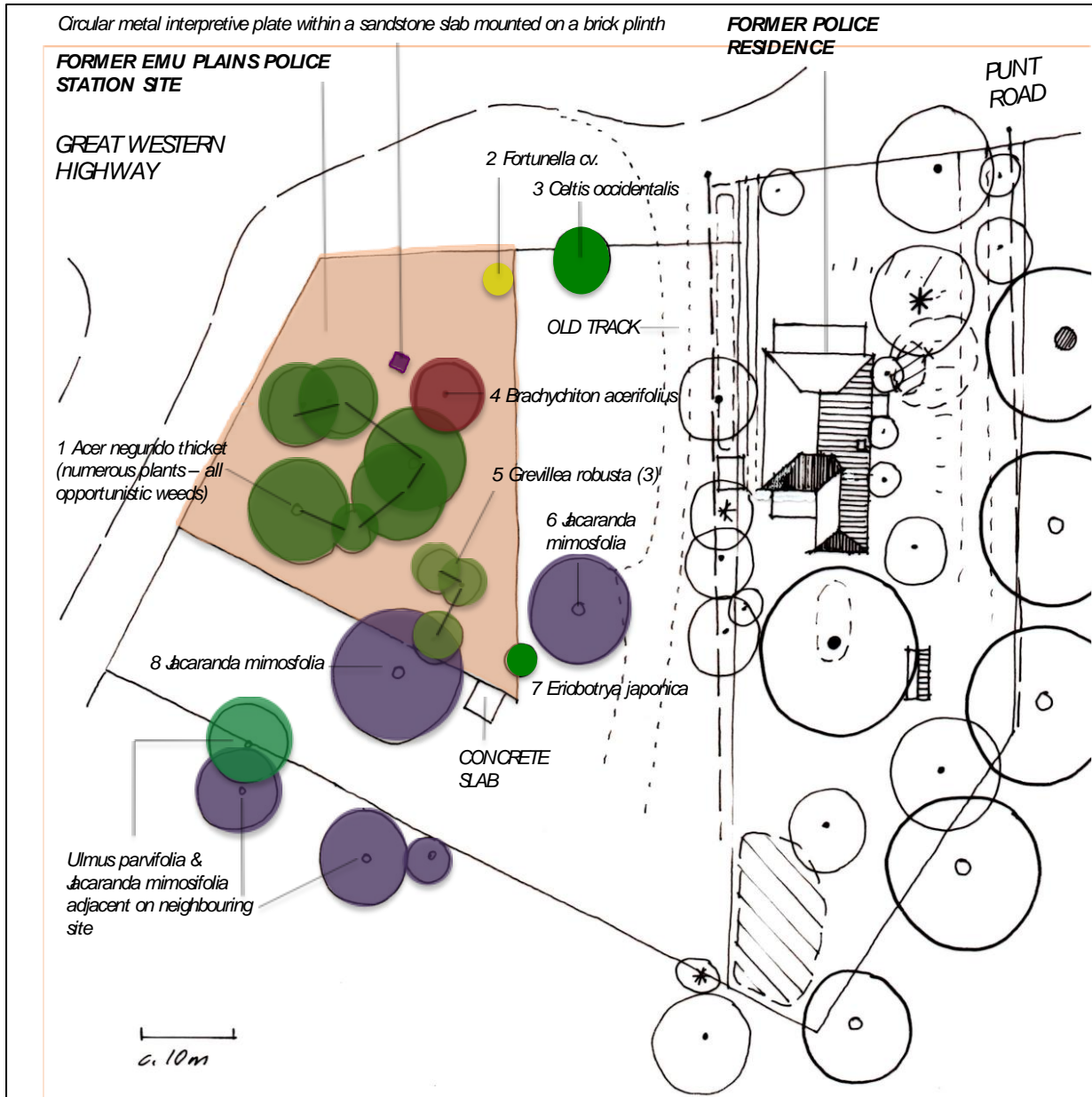


Figure 12: The Great Western Highway Vegetation Survey (plan prepared by Geoffrey Britton).

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5.0 Archaeological Context

5.1 Heritage Listings

The Police Station (Former) is listed on as an item of Environmental Heritage on Schedule 5 of the PLEP 2010 (Item No.: A53).

The Ferry Crossing is listed as an item of Environmental Heritage on Schedule 5 of the PLEP 2010 (Item No. 147).

5.2 Other sites in Emu Plains and Conservation of Remains

In 2016 Artefact Heritage undertook archaeological test excavations to the north and west of the Police Residence in respect of a proposed new shared pathway. Two test trenches were excavated, one in the approximate location of the former Police Station, and one in the alignment associated with the old ferry crossing (Artefact 2016). Those excavations revealed the presence of post holes in the natural soil profile underlying approximately 400-600mm of introduced fills. This indicates that there is a potential for intact natural soil profiles and therefore archaeological deposits to remain within the vicinity of the former Police residence and the former Police Station.

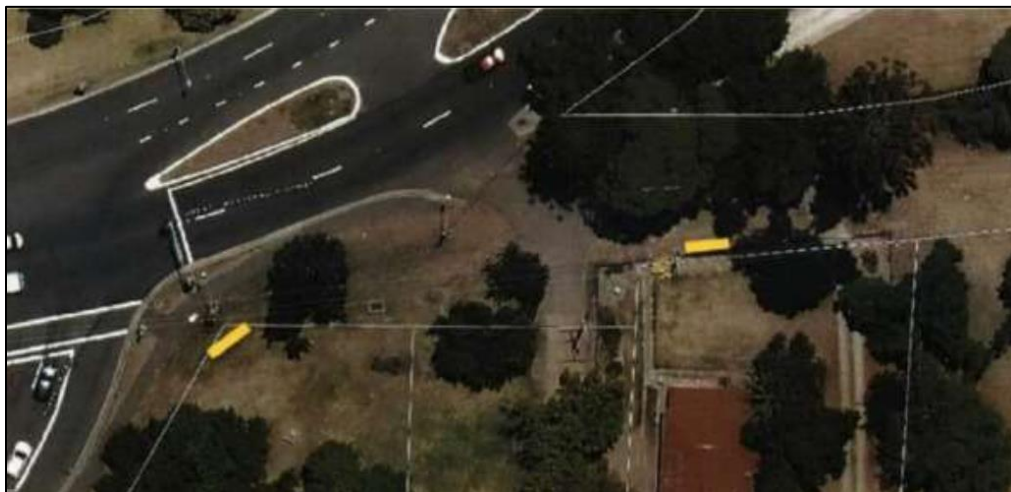


Figure 13: Showing the location of the two test trenches excavated by Artefact in 2016 indicated by the yellow rectangles (plan taken from Biosis 2019).

5.3 Comparative Analysis

A number of other Police Stations or former Police Stations are listed as items of heritage significance throughout the greater Sydney region and NSW. There are three former Police Stations listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) within the Sydney region and 43 current or former Police Stations listed as items of local heritage significance. Details are as follows:

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SHR:

- Police Station (former), 808-810 Victoria Road, Ryde, comprising an extant single storey former Police Station;
- Police Station (former), 281 Clarence Street, Sydney comprising an extant four storey building;
- Police Station (former) – Australian Craftwork Gallery, 127-129 George Street, The Rocks comprising an extant stone two storied building;

Locally significant:

- Annandale Police Station, 136-138 Annandale Street, Annandale comprising a single storey, Federation Queen Anne style building;
- Archaeological item – Police Station (Former), 281 Clarence Street, Sydney;
- Ashfield Police Station, Former, 14 Victoria Street, Ashfield, comprising an extant single storey, Victorian Italianate building;
- Balmain Police Station, 368 Darling Street, Balmain, comprising an extant Victorian Italianate building;
- Burwood Police Station and Courthouse, 24 Burleigh Street, Burwood, comprising an extant single storey, face brick building;
- Camden Police Station, 33-35 John Street, Camden, comprising an extant single storey building;
- Civic Buildings – Council Town Hall Admin. Building, Police Station and Courthouse, 1-2 Belgrave Street, Manly, comprising a group of extant 1930s Interwar buildings;
- Courthouse and Police Station (Former), including interiors, 215 Australia Street, Newtown, comprising an extant large Victorian Italianate building;
- Five Dock Police Station, 14 Garfield Street, Five Dock comprising an extant Interwar Arts and Crafts Building;
- Former Darlinghurst Police Station including interior, 301 Forbes Street, Darlinghurst comprising an extant Edwardian style building;
- Former Police Station, 210 Parramatta Road, Camperdown comprising an extant single storey stone building;
- Former Police Station, 21 Collins Street, Annandale comprising an extant single storey brick building;
- Former Police Station, 707 Darling Street, Rozelle comprising an extant two storey brick building;
- Former Police Station Buildings including interiors, 701-703 Bourke Street, Surry Hills comprising an extant single story brick and sandstone building;
- Glebe Police Station, 1-3 Talfourd Street, Glebe comprising an extant two storey Victorian building;
- Granville Police Station, 10-12 Hutchinson Street, Granville comprising an extant single storey building;
- House (former Bankstown Police Station), 76 Powell Street, Yagoona comprising an extant single storey cottage;
- Leichhardt Police Station, 30 Marlborough Street, Leichhardt comprising an extant Victorian cottage;
- Lidcombe Police Station, 11 John Street, Lidcombe comprising an extant single storey brick Federation bungalow;
- Malabar Police Station, 1234 Anzac Parade, Malabar comprising two extant Federation Queen Anne style buildings;
- Manly Police Station, 3 Belgrave Street, Manly comprising an extant two storey, brick and sandstone building;

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- Marrickville Police Station, 4-8 Gladstone Street, Marrickville, comprising an extant single storey stone building;
- Mosman Police Station, 96 Bradleys Head Road, Mosman comprising an extant Federation building;
- Mulgoa Irrigation Company Office and Police Station (former), 1298-1304 Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa comprising an extant brick cottage;
- North Sydney Courthouse and Police Station (former), Pacific Highway, North Sydney comprising an extant Victorian Italianate building;
- Paddington Police Station, 16 Jersey Road, Paddington comprising an extant single storey sandstone Victorian Italianate building;
- Petersham Police Station, 2-4 New Canterbury Road, Petersham comprising an extant two storey building;
- Picton Police Station 86 Argyle Street, Picton comprising an extant single storey building;
- Police Station, New South Head Road, Point Piper comprising of an extant single storey stone building;
- Police Station, Elizabeth Street, Riverstone comprising an extant face brick Federation building;
- Police Station (circa 1871), 1441 Botany Road, Botany comprising an extant Victorian Georgian cottage;
- Police Station (former), 264 -266 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill comprising an extant building;
- Police Station (former), 28 Coogee Bay Road, Randwick comprising an extant brick building;
- Police Station (former), Yerranderie Street, Yerranderie comprising an extant brick building;
- Police Station and residence, 3031 River Road, Wiseman's Ferry;
- Pymble Police Station, 1116 Pacific Highway, Pymble comprising an extant building;
- Redfern Police Station, 30 Turner Street, Redfern comprising an extant two storey brick building;
- Richmond Courthouse and Police Station, Windsor and New Market Street, Richmond comprising an extant single storey building;
- Riverstone Police Station, Railway Terrace, Riverstone comprising an extant brick Victorian building;
- Ryde Police Station, 808-810 Victoria Road, Ryde comprising an extant single storey sandstone building;
- Sydney Central Police Station, 7-9 Central Street, Sydney comprising an extant sandstone building;
- Tempe Police Station (Former), including interiors, 846-854 Princes Highway, Tempe comprising an extant building;
- Watling, formerly Gladesville Police Station, 147 Victoria Road, Gladesville comprising an extant building;

Only one of these is listed as an archaeological site, at the former Police Station in Clarence Street, Sydney. The others are all listed a significant for their built heritage significance.

Over 600 Police Stations across NSW are listed on the NSW Heritage Database.

Seven other heritage listed punt/ferry crossing and ramp sites are located within the greater Sydney region. They are all listed as items of local heritage. They include the following:

- Disused ramp for Punt in Taren Point comprises a maritime archaeological site;
- Mortlake Punt in Mortlake comprises the Mortlake Punt ramp and slipway which was the location of the last vehicular punt in Sydney;
- Old Punt Crossing (Lugarno Ferry) comprises a maritime archaeological site;
- Punt Ramp in Hunter's Hill;

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- Punt Road Wharf in Hunters Hill;
- Punt Road Wharf Bedlam Point Wharf in Gladesville;
- Tom Uglys Ferry Site (Punt Ramp) showing stone setting and cutting in rock which comprises a maritime archaeological site.

6.0 Archaeological Potential

6.1 Introduction

In undertaking an archaeological assessment, it is necessary to assess likelihood of the study area to contain archaeological deposits, which are protected under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*. This is the archaeological potential of the study area. The assessment of archaeological potential is guided by an understanding of the site as revealed through the historical research detailed in Section 2 of this report and a site inspection.

An assessment of archaeological potential is made by identifying areas of low, medium and high archaeological potential. This indicates the previous impact on the archaeological resource and therefore the likelihood of archaeological deposits remaining. The level of archaeological potential does not necessarily reflect the level of significance of an area. An area might be assessed as being mostly undisturbed and therefore of high archaeological potential, however the archaeological resource may be assessed as of limited heritage significance.

The following definitions of high, medium, low and no archaeological potential have been used to assist in the assessment of archaeological potential:

High potential indicates a high probability that archaeological remains, including evidence of structures and occupation deposits, are present in a reasonably undisturbed context.

Medium potential indicates a medium probability that archaeological remains, including evidence of structures and occupation deposits, are present, however it is likely to have been subjected to some later disturbance.

Low potential indicates a low probability that archaeological remains, including evidence of structures and occupation deposits survive due to later disturbance.

No potential indicates that it is not expected that any archaeological deposits exist.

6.2 Phases of occupation

Understanding the phases of occupation of the study area provides a framework to assist in determining the level of archaeological potential, as each successive phase has likely impacted on earlier phases.

Understanding the phases of occupation of the study area provides a framework to assist in determining the level of archaeological potential, as each successive phase has likely impacted on earlier phases.

Phase 1: Pre-colonial Aboriginal occupation

An Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report prepared by Biosis (2019) indicates that Regatta Park likely contains evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the form of Aboriginal objects.

Phase 2: Government Town of Emu, the River Crossing and Inns (1789-1832)

The Ferry Crossing is listed as an item of Environmental Heritage on Schedule 5 of the PLEP. The NSW Heritage Database describes the Ferry Crossing as

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...the graded road approach to the former punt crossing of the Nepean River. The unformed road reserve is located to the east of the Great Western Highway near the junction with the northern end of River Road. The reserve is defined by a graded depression and grassed banks lined with jacaranda trees. The road reserve currently provides an access to the riverside recreational reserve. The avenue of trees frames a view to Victoria Bridge. Other built items of historic association with the road reserve are Emu Hall, the site of the former police station and the police residence.

It is considered possible that evidence of former road surfaces, occupation deposits or other archaeological deposits associated with the ferry crossing could be located within the northern portion of the study area.

Phase 3: Establishment of Policing

The former Police Station was destroyed by fire and is no longer extant. It is anticipated that footings associated with the former Police Station, as well as subfloor and yard deposits, and evidence of outbuildings could be expected within the study area. It is also possible that evidence of cess pits, wells or cisterns associated with the Police Station could be expected within the study area.

6.3 Assessment of archaeological potential

Evidence of the following archaeological deposits could be expected in Lot 7038 DP 94188 (the former Police Residence site):

Areas of high archaeological potential:

- Footings and occupation deposits as well as evidence of outbuildings associated with the former Police Station;
- Former road surfaces, occupation deposits or other evidence associated with the ferry crossing.

Areas of medium archaeological potential:

No areas of medium archaeological potential were identified within the present study area.

Low archaeological potential:

No areas of low archaeological potential were identified within the present study area.

No archaeological potential:

No areas of no archaeological potential were identified within the present study area.

The entire study area is identified as being of high archaeological potential.

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7.0 Significance Assessment

7.1 Preamble

Significance assessment is the process whereby buildings, items or landscapes are assessed to determine their value or importance to the community.

The following criteria have been developed by the NSW Heritage Office and embody the values contained in the Burra Charter. The Burra Charter provides principles and guidelines for the conservation and management of cultural heritage places within Australia.

7.2 Significance Assessment

7.2.1 The former Police Station

Historic

Criterion (a) – an item is important in the course, or pattern of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The Former Emu Plains Police Station site is historically significant for its association with the establishment of early law enforcement practice in the Emu Plains district. The site has further significance for its association with early settlement in the district.

Association

Criterion (b) – an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

The Former Emu Plains Police Station site has a significant historical association with the establishment of early law enforcement practice in the Emu Plains district. The site has further significance for its association with early settlement in the district.

Aesthetic

Criterion (c) – an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)

The Former Emu Plains Police Station site no longer has any aesthetic significance except within the context of a memorial to the slab cottage erected within a public park and remnant stone footings of the former building on the site.

Social

Criterion (d) – an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

The Former Emu Plains Police Station site has social significance for its former association with the early settlement of Emu Plains and for its former use as a police station.

Research

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Criterion (e) – an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The Former Emu Plains Police Station site has high research/archaeological potential as evidence by the stone footings which are still visible on site or that may be derived from remnant building materials related to the slab cottage e.g. hand forged nails either on site or collected by Council.

Rarity

Criterion (f) – an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Many other Police Stations throughout Sydney are listed as items of heritage significance, however, it does not appear that archaeological investigation of other Police Station (or former Police Station) sites has been undertaken and therefore the archaeological deposit associated with the former Emu Plains Police Station may possess rarity value.

Representative

Criterion (g) – an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW’s:

- Cultural or natural places;
- Cultural or natural environments (State Significance); OR

An item is important

- Cultural or natural places; or
- Cultural or natural environments (local significance).

The former Police Station does not meet this criterion.

7.2.2 The Ferry Crossing

Historic

Criterion (a) – an item is important in the course, or pattern of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The approach demonstrates the importance of the river crossing to the development of Penrith and Emu Plains up to the completion of the first successful bridge crossing in 1867.

Association

Criterion (b) – an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

The Ferry Crossing does not appear to meet this criterion, however further research or archaeological investigation may provide a link to a person or group that indicates associative significance.

Aesthetic

Criterion (c) – an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)

The road reserve contributes to the scenic attraction of the riverside reserve and is a pleasant tree lined point of access to this reserve.

Social

Criterion (d) – an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

The Ferry Crossing does not appear to meet this criterion.

Research

Criterion (e) – an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Archaeological investigation of the Ferry Crossing approach has the potential to yield information about the formation of the village of Emu Plains.

Rarity

Criterion (f) – an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The approach was the focus for the river crossing up to completion of Victoria Bridge in 1867.

Representative

Criterion (g) – an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW’s:

- Cultural or natural places;
- Cultural or natural environments (State Significance); OR

An item is important

- Cultural or natural places; or
- Cultural or natural environments (local significance).

The reserve is one of a number of man made features in Emu Plains of the nineteenth century that demonstrates the pattern of a village settlement at this important location at the foothills of the Blue Mountains.

7.2.3 Vegetation Significance Grading

No.	PLANT	Common name	Comments	Significance grading	Tolerance for change
1	Acer negundo (LT)	Box Elder		Low	High
2	Fortunella cultivar (MT)	Cumquat		Moderate	Moderate
3	Celtis occidentalis (LT)	Common Hackberry	Likely opportunistic	Low	High
4	Brahychiton acerifolius (Recent)	Flame tree		Moderate	Moderate
5	Grevillea robusta (LT)	Silky oak	Group of three – some lightning damage?	Moderate	Moderate

6	Jacaranda mimosifolia (Recent)	Jacaranda	Likely selfsown	Low	High
7	Eriobotrya japonica (LT?)	Loquat		Moderate	Moderate
8	Jacaranda mimosifolia (LT)	Jacaranda		Low	High

Table 2: Showing the grading of significance for the existing vegetation within the study area.

7.3 Statement of Significance

7.3.1 The former Police Station

The site of the former Emu Plains Police Station has local, social and historical significance for its former associations with the establishment of constabulary in the Emu Plains district. The site has further significance for its association with early settlement in the district. The Former Emu Plains Police Station site has a significant historical association with the establishment of early law enforcement practice in the Emu Plains district. The site has further significance for its association with early settlement in the district. The Former Emu Plains Police Station site no longer has any aesthetic significance except within the context of a memorial to the slab cottage erected within a public park and remnant stone footings of the former building on the site.

The Former Emu Plains Police Station site has social significance for its former association with the early settlement of Emu Plains and for its former use as a police station. The Former Emu Plains Police Station site has high research/archaeological potential as evidence by the stone footings which are still visible on site or that may be derived from remnant building materials related to the slab cottage e.g. hand forged nails either on site or collected by Council. Many other Police Stations throughout Sydney are listed as items of heritage significance, however, it does not appear that archaeological investigation of other Police Station (or former Police Station) sites has been undertaken and therefore the archaeological deposit associated with the former Emu Plains Police Station may possess rarity value.

7.3.2 The Ferry Crossing

Set above the river bank and between historically significant buildings, this tree lined route and landform contributes to the scenic attraction of the riverside reserve and demonstrates the importance of the river crossing to the development of Penrith and Emu Plains up to the completion of the first successful bridge crossing in 1867. For over 50 years everything that went over the mountains passes through the crossing. The reserve is one of a number of man made features in Emu Plains of the nineteenth century that demonstrates the pattern of a village settlement at this important location at the foothills of the Blue Mountains.

8.0 Archaeological Mitigation and Management Measures

8.1 Aboriginal Archaeology

The ACHAR produced by Biosis (2019) indicates that it is highly likely that Aboriginal objects will be located within the study area and that an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will be required prior to any ground disturbance.

8.2 Historical Archaeology

High Archaeological Potential

Prior to any construction, major landscaping projects, or any activity that will cause ground disturbance, an archaeological assessment should be prepared to determine the impact of the proposed works on any potential archaeological deposits. It may be necessary to undertake archaeological monitoring and/or excavation, based on the impact, nature and extent of proposed works.

Lawnmowing, gardening and general maintenance activities may and should continue.

Medium Archaeological Potential

No areas of medium archaeological potential were identified.

Low Archaeological Potential

No areas of low archaeological potential were identified.

No archaeological potential

No areas of no archaeological potential were identified.

8.3 Vegetation and Landscape Context

Curtilage

The appropriate curtilage for 30 Great Western Highway is the allotment that defines the place as a legal and historical entity. Even though no fencing remains to indicate the area of the lot, it is desirable that this curtilage is suitably defined or recognized depending on the future uses for the place. Such definition may be subtle through simple corner boundary markers or through reinstatement of an appropriate fence or bollards. With the loss of the earlier buildings and any perimeter fencing it is easy to forget that any structures existed on the site and, as a consequence, it is easy to overlook the fact that some of Emu Plains' European social history took place here. By acknowledging its curtilage, a tangible reminder of the early cottage and former Emu Plains police station is provided.

Setting and Views

As distinct from the curtilage, the setting of 30 Great Western Highway includes visual connexions to its historical neighbour to the northeast, Emu Hall with its surviving early landmark plantings as well as to the lot adjacent to the east, the former police station and residence at 4 Punt Road. It is desirable to retain views to each of these key sites as a means of interpreting the historical setting for 30 Great Western Highway.

Building Footprint

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Above ground evidence of the former cottage and police station has been effectively removed from much of the site yet for such an early structure and an important entity within the social history of Emu Plains, it is desirable to more tangibly indicate the former building beyond a small memorial plate and plinth. As part of the future park planning for this area, an outline of the earlier cottage footprint should be designed using robust, durable materials so that it is possible to better appreciate the layout and scale of the former cottage within its curtilage.

Fabric

Most of the landscape fabric within, and in the vicinity of, the site relates to plantings and opportunistic propagules of these or earlier plantings. No plantings have been assessed as having High cultural significance, consequently no vegetation is required to be retained. However, while the retention of those assessed as having a Moderate cultural value, or lower, is discretionary, some of these plantings are useful for interpreting the former uses of the site. Vegetation determined to be opportunistic should be removed along with recognized weeds or other nuisance species.

Interpretation

A key part of the interpretation of the place would be the definition of both the site curtilage and the former cottage footprint. These measures would enable a better appreciation of the place and potentially form a basis for further interpretation about its social history.

9.0 Policies, Opportunities and Constraints

9.1 Background

The following policies are provided to guide planning for the conservation and management of relics within the study area, including their ongoing management by the current or any future owners. The management of potential archaeological deposits provide an opportunity to provide significant information about the history of Emu Plains and to share information about the development of Emu Plains with the local community and visitors to the area.

The following policies have been developed in accordance with the principles and practices contained in the NSW Heritage Manual and the Burra Charter.

The planning and implementation of these policies and conservation strategies should be undertaken in consultation with an experienced and qualified archaeologist.

9.2 Policies

The following policies in respect of archaeology are provided by Tory Stening:

Policy 1: The significant cultural heritage values are acknowledged and will be protected through appropriate management as detailed throughout this report.

Policy 2: The management and mitigation strategies for areas of high archaeological potential will be implemented across the study area to ensure the protection of the heritage and archaeological significance of the former Police Station site.

Policy 3: Any archaeological evidence within the grounds of the former Police Residence will be managed in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual and the *Heritage Act 1977 (as amended)*.

Policy 4: Prior to any works that may cause ground disturbance in areas of high archaeological potential (i.e. the whole site), an archaeological assessment will be undertaken to determine the impact of the proposed works on the archaeological resource and to provide appropriate management recommendations.

Policy 5: Prior to any works that may cause ground disturbance being undertaken in the area of low archaeological potential, a heritage induction detailing the unlikely potential for burials to be located in the area will be provided to all workers.

Policy 6: If during the course of any works, any historical archaeological deposits are uncovered, all work will cease in the vicinity of those relics or features and advice will be sought from a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

Policy 7: Any relics uncovered will be appropriately managed and conserved in a secure location.

Policy 8: Any information gained from archaeological investigation within the study area will be included in an Interpretation Strategy to enhance and promote the heritage values and history of the area.

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Policy 9: The historical and archaeological evidence relating to the former Police Station or the ferry crossing will be used to inform design for new buildings, landscape features and architectural elements.

The following policies in respect of the landscape context and the existing site vegetation are provided by Geoffrey Britton:

Policy 10: Ensure the allotment curtilage for 30 Great Western Highway is redefined on the site in order to enhance an understanding of the place (rather than leaving the site as an indeterminate space within a broad landscape of parkland).

Policy 11: Ensure clear views are maintained between the former cottage and police station site and its closely associated neighbour at 4 Punt Road and to Emu Hall with which it has shared a long history.

Policy 12: As part of any future planning for the Regatta Parklands, ensure the footprint of the former cottage and police station is indicated on the grounds to enable a better understanding of the early Emu Plains structure.

Policy 13: Consider retaining the plantings of moderate cultural value as part of an interpretation of the past uses of the site.

Policy 14: As part of the site's interpretation, ensure the curtilage and cottage footprint are suitably indicated on the ground.

Policy 15: Ensure an adequate level of maintenance for the site with particular attention to the regular monitoring and removal of weeds and other opportunistic plant taxa.

9.3 Opportunities

Archaeological investigations have the potential to assist in the development of an interpretation strategy for the former Police Station site (which includes ferry crossing), artefacts and evidence of former structures, can be analysed and interpreted to provide significant information about the historical evolution of Emu Plains. Artefacts and relics can be included in physical and virtual displays about the history of Regatta Park as a whole.

There is the potential for an interesting and exciting interpretation strategy for Regatta Park that could assist in the education of the wider community about the development of Emu Plains.

9.4 Constraints

The archaeological values and significance of the former Police Station and the ferry crossing must be considered prior to construction and major landscaping works being undertaken. If any works are likely to impact on the ground surface and therefore any potential archaeological deposits, it will be necessary to apply for a s140 permit from the NSW Heritage Council. An AHIP will also be required prior to any ground disturbance.

10.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made on the basis of:

- The statutory requirements under the terms of the *Heritage Act 1977*;
- The historical research and analysis detailed in this report;
- Results of this historical archaeological assessment as detailed in this report.

It is therefore recommended that:

1. The policies detailed in Section 9.0 of this report should be implemented to guide planning for the ongoing use of the former Police Station site;
2. If works are proposed within Lots 10 DP 1216230 or Lot 9 DP 226204, an archaeological assessment should be prepared prior to design development to inform the proposed development;
3. A heritage induction should be provided to all workers to ensure that personnel are aware of the archaeological potential of the study area and their obligations and requirements under the *Heritage Act 1977*;
4. Ground disturbance should be restricted where possible across the study area to minimise the impact on the archaeological evidence;
5. A s140 permit for excavation will be required prior to any works that have the potential to impact on the potential archaeological deposits within the study area, and historical archaeological test excavations would likely be required to determine the nature and extent of any potential archaeological deposits and to provide updated management and mitigation measures;
6. If during any works within the study area, any archaeological deposits are uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of that deposit and advice sought from a suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bk	Book
CSIL	Colonial Secretary, In Letters (SANSW)
DP	Deposited Plan (LRS)
LRS	Land Registry Services

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ML	Mitchell Library
No	Number
OSD	Old System Deed (LRS)
SANSW	State Archives, New South Wales
<i>SMH</i>	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>

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Photographs



Photograph 1: Looking across the former Police Station site.



Photograph 2: Showing remnant footings in the study area.

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Photograph 5: Showing a small extant concrete slab at the rear of the study area.



Photograph 6: Looking across the study area.