Item

Name of Item: Parramatta Archaeological Management Unit 3096
Type of Item: Archaeological-Terrestrial
Group/Collection: Urban Area
Category: Other - Urban Area
Primary Address: George Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150
Local Govt. Area: Parramatta

Property Description:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lot/Vol Code</th>
<th>Lot/Number</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Plan/Fol Code</th>
<th>Plan/Fol Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Boundary: Bounded by George, Smith, Phillip and Charles Streets

All Addresses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street Address</th>
<th>Suburb/Town</th>
<th>LGA</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Street</td>
<td>Parramatta</td>
<td>Parramatta</td>
<td>St John</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Street</td>
<td>Parramatta</td>
<td>Parramatta</td>
<td>St John</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>Alternate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip Street</td>
<td>Parramatta</td>
<td>Parramatta</td>
<td>St John</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>Alternate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Street</td>
<td>Parramatta</td>
<td>Parramatta</td>
<td>St John</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>Alternate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of Significance

This AMU has no current archaeological research potential. This area was part of the early Rose Hill settlement and the commercial centre of Parramatta through the convict and colonial periods to the present day. The physical archaeological evidence within this area is unlikely to include features which have potential to yield information relating to major historic themes and current research questions. Archaeological evidence at this site is likely to be totally removed. This AMU has no archaeological significance.

Date Significance Updated: 17 Oct 00
Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Office intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.

Description

Physical Description: The subject area contains a number of multi-storey buildings with basement levels. There is a landscaped forecourt area at the front of 110 Phillip Street, though the underground parking area associated with the adjacent building appears to continue beneath this area.

Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential: The subject area has little or no potential to contain intact subsurface deposits. The eastern end of the subject area was identified in the 1991 Archaeological Zoning Plan as likely to contain a number of archaeological features; however, the construction of the existing structures, with basement levels, would have significantly disturbed archaeological resources within this area. Remains associated with the c1820s drain which ran through the CBD area are also unlikely to have survived intact within this AMU. A section of this drain is on display in the foyer of 16-18 Smith Street, Parramatta. This evaluation is based on historical resources available to, and field survey undertaken for, the Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management Study 2000 (PHALMS). Analysis of available information has been extensive but not exhaustive. Some elements of the site represented in historical records may not have been discussed within the parameters of the PHALMS project. A comprehensive archaeological assessment of this AMU has not been undertaken. Date Condition Updated: 30 Aug 00

Current Use: Commercial
Former Use: Convict hut allotments
This area was part of the early settlement at Rose Hill. It was the development of the township of Parramatta centred on George Street (formerly High Street) and Macquarie Street (formerly South Street).

Prior to 1809, leases that were granted to individuals at Parramatta were mainly on large acreages surrounding the Government town centre. While there were some free settlers in the town, it was prisoners' huts that dominated the town allotments. The first permanent dwellings constructed in the new town were concentrated along the principal thoroughfares of George, Macquarie and Church Streets. Allotments in George and Macquarie Streets were the site of a number of convict huts that were later occupied by free persons.

With the expansion of the penal colony and the gradual increase in the free population, the town of Parramatta slowly developed into a fully-fledged market town, leaving behind its penal antecedents. The 1804 Plan of the Township of Parramatta shows the early configuration of this area. Phillip and Charles Streets had not been laid out by this time and there was an laneway running north-south through what is currently 126 George Street. George Street has been narrowed since this time, with building frontages set back from the current alignment. There were a number of structures along George and Smith Streets by this time. The alignment of Smith Street has changed since this time and the front of allotments on the eastern side of Smith Street were located beneath the current Smith Street roadway.

In 1811, the newly arrived Governor Macquarie laid out the town of Parramatta in a grid pattern, extending Pitt and Macquarie Streets and creating Phillip Street.

The 1822 Plan of the Town of Parramatta shows a reconfiguration of the allotment boundaries. Phillip Street had been laid out by this time and there were a number of structures along both George and Phillip Streets. George Street had been narrowed to the current street frontage by this time.

A convict brick barrel drain was constructed through this area sometime between 1820 and 1836 to improve drainage of low lying areas in the town of Parramatta, particularly on the river flats.

Studies of the original drainage patterns at Parramatta indicate that in times of heavy rain, water would have collected around the small hills on the south side of town and run down a shallow gully across Macquarie Street, between Church and Smith Street, onto river flats at the eastern end of George Street. The construction of the drain would have improved the land in this area for building, allowing reliable drainage for the first time. (Part of this drain is currently on display in the foyer of the building currently occupying 16-18 Smith Street, Parramatta.)

During the administration of Governor Macquarie, four-fifths of the houses in Parramatta were held by permissive occupancy alone. The lack of legal status of land occupancy caused a great deal of uncertainty for occupants. Between 1822-3, Parramatta was surveyed and owners and occupiers of land were identified. Of 390 allotments, only ten were held by lease at this time. By 1833, a Commission was established to convert leasehold to grants based on the presence of a structure on the allotment worth at least 1000 pounds.

The 1844 Plan of the Town of Parramatta shows a number of larger structures along George Street by this time (especially at the corner of George and Smith Streets, granted to H Harvey), as well as a number of buildings along each other street frontage. Buildings within allotments fronting George Street were set back from the street. The allotment boundaries had not changed considerably since 1822 (but were much larger than the current configuration).

The allotment boundaries within the subject area had not changed considerably by 1871. By 1895, there were a number of structures fronting George and Smith Streets, and a few fronting Phillip and Charles Streets. Development within the subject area by this time, however, was not nearly as intensive as within blocks closer to Church Street. The 1895 Detail Survey Plan for this area (Sheet 11) shows a number of outbuildings associated with the main structures, including sheds and cess pits. These outbuildings tended to be located towards the rear of the allotments or along the boundary lines.

By 1951, the allotments within the subject area were further developed, including large commercial structures. Since 1951, the subject area has been further developed as a commercial area.