

Parramatta Park Trust

Heritage and Conservation Register
(s170 Register)



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Prepared by Parramatta Park Trust



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Cover image: Boer War (Soldier's) Memorial and Bathhouse, Parramatta Park.
Photo by David Wallace Photography

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Executive Summary

The Parramatta Park Trust has prepared this *s170 Heritage and Conservation Register* in accordance with the requirements of the NSW Heritage Act 1977, (the Act). This document responds to the *State Agency Heritage Guide*, issued by the Heritage Council of NSW in December 2004, and the *State-Owned Heritage Management Principles*.

This *s170 Register* is an identification, assessment and recording of fifty eight (58) highly significant heritage items and sites managed by Parramatta Park Trust. The obligations and responsibilities arising from this custodianship are recognized by the Parramatta Park Trust and the care and management of these items is our core business, as outlined in this document.

The completion of the *Parramatta Park s170 Heritage and Conservation Register (s170 Register)* is part of the Total Asset Management program of this agency and it fulfils Parramatta Park Trust's statutory obligation under Section 170A of the NSW Heritage Act.

Introduction

The Heritage Council of NSW requires that all NSW government agencies prepare an *s170 Heritage and Conservation Register (s170 Register)* under the NSW Heritage Act 1977. This document is required to identify heritage assets of state and local significance under the management of each government agency, and to ensure that the agency makes provision for protecting and maintaining the heritage items under their custodianship.

This *s170 Register* was completed for Parramatta Park Trust by Verena Mauldon, Curator Cultural Heritage, in consultation with Trust staff and drawing on the *s170* framework developed by the NSW Heritage Branch.

The author acknowledges the advice and support of Mr Stewart Watters, Senior Heritage Officer, Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning. A peer review of the strategy was completed and the assistance of the following staff is acknowledged: Susan Clunie, Christopher Levins, Jacob Messer, and Colin Sanders.

Location: Parramatta Park is a significant cultural landscape representing a palimpsest of different cultures, landscape layers and historic evolution: from Aboriginal occupation; to convict settlement of Rose Hill; to a vice-regal domain and an early public park. As such it is one of Australia's most important cultural landscapes, whose significance lies in the extant evidence of its historical evolution, its natural heritage and its recreational values¹.

The Park is located on the western edge of the Parramatta Central Business District (Figure 1).

The boundaries of the Park have been altered on ten occasions since the original dedication in 1857, resulting in a loss of 13 hectares over 140 years. Excisions have occurred for the Wisteria Gardens (excised between 1858 -1887), the railway and public roads (c1860: 1.8 hectares), Parramatta High School (c1913: 0.9 hectares), War Memorial RSL Club (1952: 1.1 hectares), the Children's home (1958: 0.3 hectares), Old Government House dedications (1967: 0.9 hectares), and Parramatta Stadium (1981: 8 hectares).² The items listed on this *s170 Register* are all located within the boundaries of Parramatta Park at July 2009.

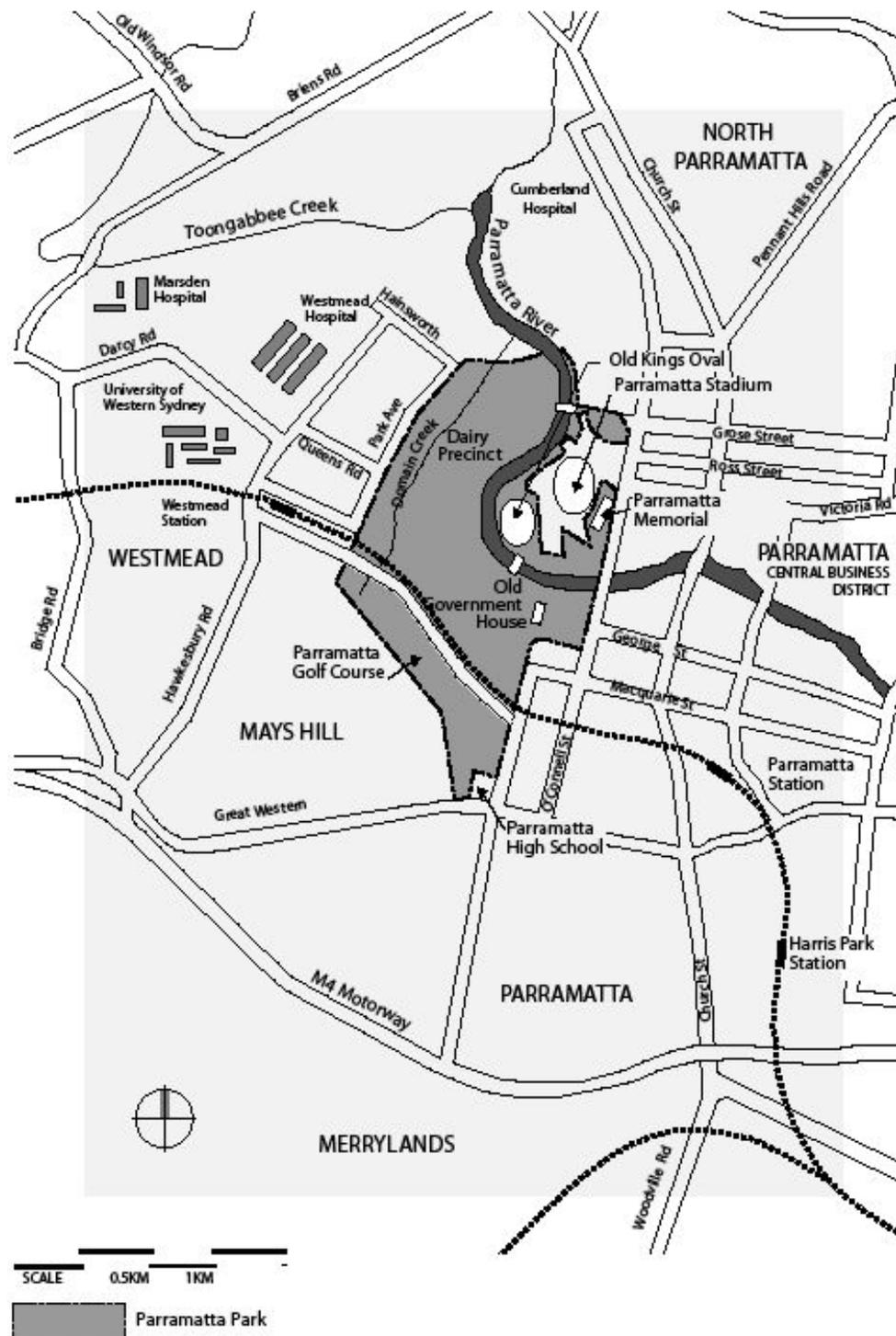
Parramatta Local Government Area (LGA) is now the geographical heart of Sydney and encompasses 51 suburbs³. Parramatta Park is one of the largest parks in the Parramatta LGA and provides the community with 86 hectares of public open space.

1 DPWS, *Parramatta Park Landscape Master Plan*, (LMP) 2002, p. 3.

2 Mandidis Roberts et.al., *Parramatta Park Draft Plan of Management 1996-2000*, (POM), p. 2.

3 http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_Regions.asp?regiontype=2&slacode=6250®ion=SO

Figure 1 Location map of Parramatta Park⁴



4 From Manidis Roberts *et al.*, *op.cit.*

Significance: The following statement of significance was endorsed by the NSW Heritage Council in the 2007 *Parramatta Park Conservation and Management Plan*:

Parramatta Park is of exceptional cultural significance to Australia, NSW and the City of Parramatta because:

- a It contains evidence of remnant vegetation of the Cumberland Plain Woodland.
- b It is the core of the territory of the Burramatta clan of the Darug.
It is still of high cultural value to the Darug people, who continue to participate in the cultural and physical management of the place.
- c It is an enduring symbol of early European settlement in Australia.
Its siting relates to the identification of 'The Crescent' by Governor Phillip and the establishment of an agricultural settlement in 1788, vital towards the survival of the early colony.
- d It is evidence of 18th Century Parramatta.
The overall place is highly regarded by the community for its significant historical role in Australian history and providing a sense of identity for the City of Parramatta.
- e It is a place of early Government enterprise.
This includes farming, agricultural experimentation, gardens and botanical collection and propagation, and public transport.
- f It is the domain of the oldest surviving Government House in Australia.
- g It is Governor and Mrs Macquarie's landscaped park and estate.
Its establishment, layout and design is directly associated with the creation of the Government Domain under Governor and Mrs Macquarie. It is a rare example of a public park reflecting the structure and character of the former Government Domain of the late 18th Century in Australia.
- h It is the site of 19th Century and 20th Century recreation and public sporting activities.
As one of the earliest public parks in Australia and the third national park it continues to be a major place for public recreation, since its dedication as a public park in 1858.
- i It is a major green space landmark and public recreation area for the people of Parramatta.
Of its landmark quality, it is a prominent feature along the Parramatta River and a focal point in the local townscape.
- j Of its substantial surviving fabric (extant and archaeological) and the substantial body of historical material documenting its historical development.
It provides a major research, educational and interpretative resource, providing an understanding of the original landscape, the impact of Aboriginal and European cultural activities, and the planning and development of the City of Parramatta.
- k Of its association with various individuals and organisations.
Including the Burramatta clan of the Darug and Aboriginal identities such as Pemulway, Baluderry and Arabanoo, Governor Phillip, Governor and Mrs Macquarie, Governor Brisbane, other governors who resided at Old Government House, aviator William Hart, the Parramatta Park Trust and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, explorers, Sydney Botanic Gardens Directors and staff, and landscape designers⁵.

⁵ Parramatta Park Trust, *Parramatta Park Conservation and Management Plan 2007*, 2007, p.4.

Management: Parramatta Park is crown land, reserved for the purposes of public recreation. It is managed by the Parramatta Park Trust, a statutory trust constituted under the *Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001* No.17. Seven Parramatta Park Trustees are appointed for terms of up to four years. A small staff contingent, attached to Communities NSW, is located at Parramatta Park and includes a director, a field services team, a visitor services team, a cultural heritage services team and an administration team. The objectives of the Trust are:

- a) To maintain and improve the Trust lands, and
- b) To encourage the use and enjoyment of the Trust lands by the public by promoting the recreational, historical, scientific, educational and cultural heritage values of those lands, and
- c) To ensure the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage values of the Trust lands and the protection of the environment within those lands, and
- d) Such other objects, consistent with the functions of the Trust in relation to the Trust lands, as the Trust considers appropriate.⁶

The Trust functions are also outlined in the Act and they include:

- a) To permit use of the park for recreational, historical, scientific, educational and cultural heritage activities.
- b) To provide or permit the provision of food and other refreshments.
- c) To promote and provide exhibits, lectures, films etc relating to trust lands.
- d) In accordance with the Trust's objectives to procure specimens, services or materials or scientific or other data.
- e) To disseminate information to the public.
- f) To maintain Trust property.
- g) To charge and receive fees for services.⁷

Heritage Management: Parramatta Park Trust is committed to the conservation of our heritage assets as evidence of our history. Conserving our heritage helps us to understand our past, and to contribute to the lives of future generations. It gives us a sense of continuity and belonging to the place where we live. The Parramatta Park Trust *s170 Register* will support these objectives and in turn is supported by:

- Parramatta Park Trust's core functions and budgetary considerations;
- Parramatta Park Trust's strategic objectives and service delivery strategy;
- the NSW State Government's TAM policies.

Parramatta Park Trust's core functions and budgetary considerations include a commitment to:

- providing quality and timely information on the history of Parramatta Park;
- managing this heritage site to the standards of best practice conservation management;
- integration of heritage into overall environmental management;
- celebration of our heritage by the community;
- provision of adequate staffing resources to meet identified annual Work Plan priorities;
- provision of appropriate funds to manage its heritage assets as best practice models.

⁶ Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001 no 17 Part 3 (6).

⁷ *Ibid.*, Part 3 (7).

Parramatta Park Trust's Service Delivery objectives include:

- providing specialist advice to the wider community about the history and management of heritage at Parramatta Park Trust;
- maintaining and modelling best practice heritage management;
- maintaining the section 170 heritage and conservation register.

The work of the Parramatta Park Trust is guided by standards established by the [Heritage Council of NSW](#), a body appointed by the Minister for Planning, to reflect a cross-section of community, government and conservation expertise⁸.

The *s170 Register* will be used as a companion document to the *Parramatta Park Conservation and Management Plan, 2007*, the *Heritage Asset Management Strategy, 2008* and the *Parramatta Park Landscape Master Plan, 2002*.

Current heritage listings: The heritage significance of Parramatta Park is recognised on the following statutory and community heritage lists or registers:

Table 1: Heritage listings of the site, in chronological order of listing:

List or Register (S) = <i>statutory</i> , (C) = <i>community</i>	Item name	Year inscribed
National Trust Register, #9237 (Park) (C)	Parramatta Park	1978
*Register of the National Estate, #3072 (Park), (S)	Parramatta Park	1978, 1980
NSW State Heritage Register, #596 (S)	Parramatta Park & Old Government House	1989
City of Parramatta, Local Environment Plan, Schedule 'Heritage Items', #418 (S)	Parramatta Park Archaeological Management Unit	1997
*Sydney Regional Environmental Plan #28, Schedule 6 'Heritage Items'	Parramatta Regional Park ⁹	1999
Parramatta City Centre Local Environmental Plan, Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage C6982,C9290, MS90SY.	Parramatta Park	2007
National Heritage List, #105957 (S)	Old Government House and Government Domain (see figure 7)	2007
World Heritage List	Nominated for inscription as part of serial listing of 11 Australian convict sites.	2008

Registers marked (*) are closed and no longer in use, but retained as historical references.

⁸ Parramatta Park Trust, *op.cit.*, p.9-11.

⁹ 'Parramatta Regional Park' was the name used when Parramatta Park was managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Register of Heritage Items

Scope and limitations: Parramatta Park is a cultural landscape of great significance and complexity. This *s170 Register* is based primarily on *The Archaeological Zoning Plan (AZP)* completed by Robert Varman in 1997, which lists one hundred and sixty (160) buildings, monuments, landscape elements and archaeological sites as of high significance. The data sheets were written based on this document and with reference to the Park specific reports referenced in the bibliography (Appendix A of this document). No original research or checking of primary documents was undertaken for this project.

Methodology: This updated *Register* has been prepared based on an earlier heritage inventory initially established in 1998. This inventory has been refined and the heritage significance of each item has been assessed against the s170 criteria. Of the 160 items assessed, 58 are recommended for listing on the Parramatta Park *s170 Register*. These are items of demonstrated state and local significance and include: standing structures, (buildings, monuments); landscape elements and underground archaeological remains of known location, where the lack of disturbance is likely to have preserved sub surface features.

Items not recommended for inclusion on the *s170 Register* include: items identified in the 1997 study which are owned/ managed by other management bodies; items which are located outside the legal boundaries of Parramatta Park and items and archaeological sites which are of only contributory significance to sites which are included on the Register. The *Archaeological Zoning Plan* remains a fundamental document recording Park heritage in detail. The sensitivity of the entire landscape which led to the Permanent Conservation Order on the Parramatta Park in 1989 is recognised, as is the possibility that the *s170 Register* may be expanded as further archaeological sites are identified as the result of ongoing research within the Park.

The data base of inventory sheets detailing the significance assessment, history and management recommendations, which forms the body of *The Parramatta Park s170 Register*, is printed in full in Appendix B of this document.

Periodic review of the *Register* will need to be made to ensure that it is kept up to date and that its use as a reference and management tool is enhanced.

Appendix A: History of Parramatta Park
Thematic History and Timeline

Thematic history of Parramatta Park

Source: *Parramatta Park Conservation and Management Plan 2007* pp 15 – 39 (original source: Brian McDonald and Craig Burton, *Parramatta Park Historic Landscape Study*, 1987).

Parramatta is a place of hope. It was hoped to establish a significant settlement at Rose Hill based on the perceived agricultural potential of the local soils. It was a European perception. It was hoped that the site would provide a river setting so familiar to English settlements. It was hoped to lay out a grand town based on the Vitruvian ideal of geometric formality with a spatial succession of square and grand avenue leading from river landing place to the Governors 'seat' on the Rose Hill surrounded by a Domain.

These hopes soon faded yet elements of the structure of the hoped for cultural landscape were implemented and still remain. The largest of these was that area of land known as the Government Domain. This land was named Cumberland Park in honour of the Prince and Duke of

Cumberland by Governor Phillip on the King's Accession Day in 1791. It was on this occasion that the name of the settlement at Rose Hill was changed to Parramatta.¹⁰

Cumberland Park, as it was then known, was in effect the estate setting for the Governors' residence situated on Rose Hill and a place for grazing the Government cattle. The alluvial soils along the line of the river were most suitable for the growing of grain crops and other useful plants. The catchment of the river was more extensive than that at Sydney Cove yet the Parramatta River was not rated very highly by comparison with the known rivers of the northern hemisphere;

*"Nothing like those tributary streams which feed rivers in other countries are here seen: for when I speak of the stream at Sydney, I mean only the drain of a morass; and the river at Rose Hill is a creek of the harbour, which above high water mark would not in England be called even a brook."*¹¹

The meeting place of the freshwater stream and the tidal waters of the drowned river valley (Sydney Harbour) occurred within the Park at its eastern boundary. The Surgeon General of the First Fleet, John White wrote of this place as part of the first European expedition to this part of the harbour in 1788,¹²

"... we proceeded to trace the river or small arm of the sea. The banks of it were now pleasant, the trees immensely large, and at considerable distance from each other; and the land around us flat and rather low, but well covered with the kind of grass just mentioned. Here the tide ceased to flow; and all further progress

¹⁰ M Kelson (comp): *Parramatta, The Early Years*, with extracts from the *Jubilee History of Parramatta*, 1984, Sydney, p.10.

¹¹ W. Tench: *Sydney's First Four Years*, reprint. Library of Australian History 1979, Sydney, p.10

¹² J. White: *Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales*, London, 1790, reprinted Sydney, 1962, pp 148-49.

for boats was stopped by a flat space of large broad stones, over which a fresh-water stream ran."

The 'stones' referred to by White are the expansive Sydney Sandstone deposits underlying the clay deposits (good soils) and exposed by river action. Several outcrops of sandstone can still be found along the river. It is assumed that the "stones" referred to by White were encountered at some point west of the present location of Charles Street, Parramatta.

Nearby to the junction of the waters a small redoubt was constructed towards the end of 1788 with the intention of establishing a productive settlement in the vicinity.

The river or fresh water stream proved to be a vital ingredient in the establishment of food crops of which maize appeared to be the dominant one by as 1790 Tench reported on the progress at Rose Hill:¹³

"He [Dod] estimates the quantity of cleaned and cultivated land at 200 acres. Of these 55 are in wheat, barley and a little oats, 30 in maize and the remainder is either just cleared of wood, or is occupied by buildings, gardens, etc. Four inclosures of 20 acres each are planned for the reception of cattle, which may arrive in the colony and two of these are already fenced in. In the centre of them is to be a house, for a person who will be fixed upon to take care of the cattle. All these inclosures are supplied with water, and only a part of the trees which grew on them being cut down, gives to them a very park-like and beautiful appearance."

The Government Domain consisted of 2000 acres stretching from the redoubt (approximately the line of the present O'Connell Street) in the east to Toongabbie in the north-west.

The progress of agriculture in and about Rose Hill appeared to be satisfactory in Governor Phillip's time in New South Wales however the repeated croppings soon led to a loss of soil fertility¹⁴ and the taking of new ground thus creating extensive clearings and depleting the soil over a wide area. This meant that the depleted areas could be used for grazing rather than for intensive agriculture which required adequate sources of manure and water. These ingredients were in short supply in 1789-90.

The Domain of 1790 was perceived as consisting of definite areas; a Governor's House and garden on the Rose Hill site; and enclosure known as the Government Farm, lying across the river and to the north of the Governor's House situated on the relatively rich alluvial soils of the river; the Crescent which is adjacent to and north-west of the Governors House. The northern aspect provided by this natural landform provided an ideal site for horticultural experimentation, particularly vines and fruit

¹³ Tench, op.cit., p. 193

¹⁴ J.F. Campbell J.R.H.S. XII, 4, 1927, P. 357

¹⁵ Tench. op. cit.

¹⁶ Tench. op. cit. p.75

trees; to the west of the Crescent and the Governor's House were the cattle enclosures, complete with a Superintendent's House, outbuildings and fenced yards (Figure 3.); the remainder of the Domain comprised of indigenous vegetation in part with a thinned tree cover for grazing purposes and isolated cleared areas under cultivation and was commonly referred to as Cumberland Park. Cattle and sheep belonging to different people could graze here and it dominated the Domain in terms of land area.

The access to Rose Hill from Sydney was most easily obtained by water and the grand avenue linking the landing place (Queen's Wharf) and the Governor's House was the generating straight line that influenced the subsequent layout of the Parramatta township.

The area to the east of the Governor's House and referred to by Tench¹⁵ as "the old field" underwent many changes as a front garden and entry to the house. Cottages built along Phillip's grand avenue (George Street) were built up to the original entrance way to Government House off Bridge Street (later Pitt Street).

"The great road from near the landing place to the Governor's House is finished and a very noble one it is, being of great breadth, and a mile long, in a strait line in many places it is carried over gullies of considerable depth, which have been filled up with trunks of trees, covered with earth. It contains as present 32 houses completed of 24 feet by 12 each, on a ground floor only, built of wattles plastered with clay and thatched.

... In passing through the main street I was pleased to observe the gardens of the convicts look better than I had expected to find them."¹⁶

FIGURE 1: ROSE HILL c.1790

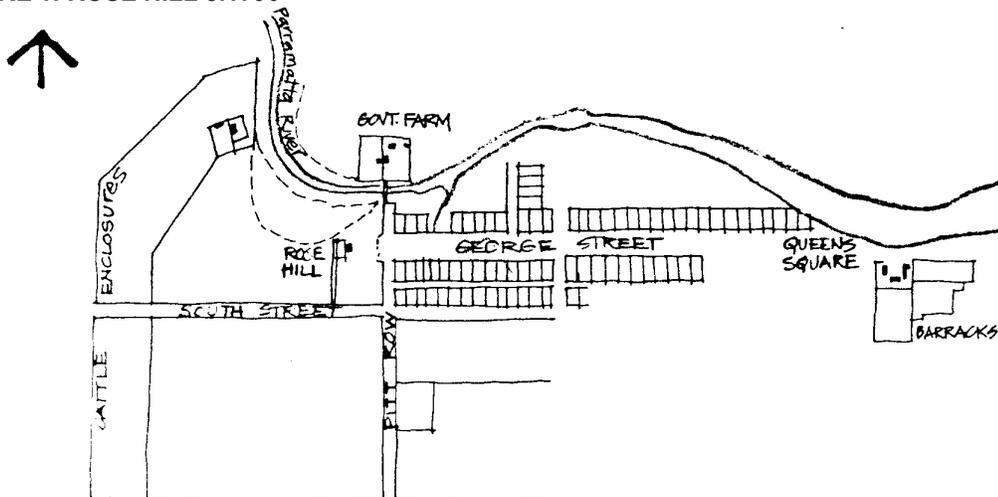
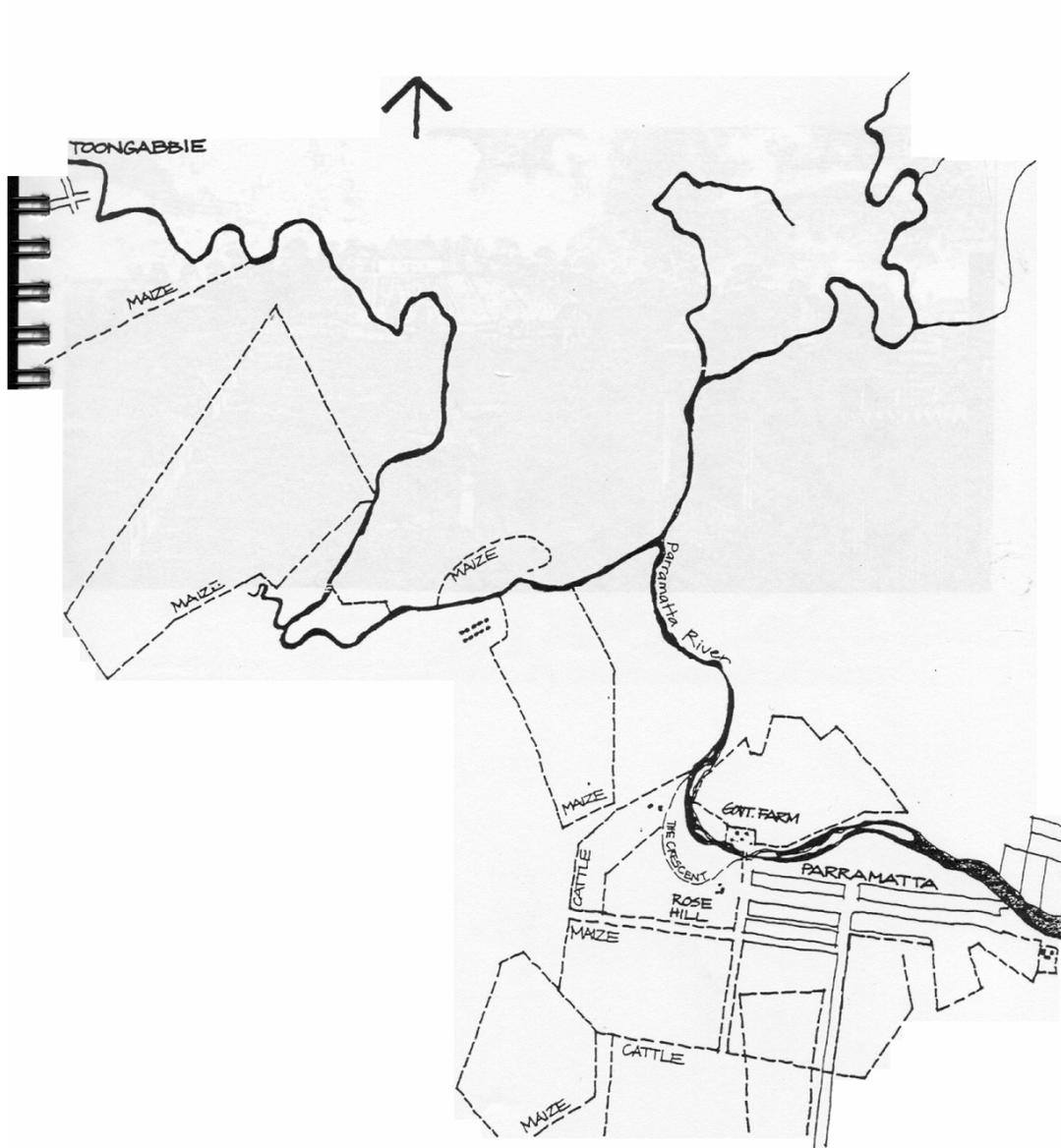


FIGURE 2: PARRAMATTA C1790



[

Some of these houses were later removed when Governor Macquarie extended the Domain eastwards to what is now O'Connell Street to form a more picturesque entry to Government House. It appears¹⁷ that the natural creek line adjacent to the present O'Connell Street was left unfilled and unbuilt upon.

The Government Farm had diminished in importance by 1810 due to Governor King's policy for the settlement to be self sufficient. Private

¹⁷ See Plan of Town of Parramatta about 1790 copied from the Bonwick Transcripts Box 36 ML (Fig.5)

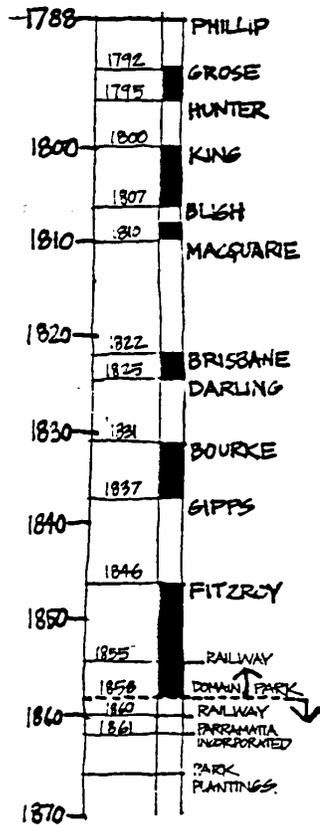


FIGURE 4:
CHRONOLOGY OF
GOVERNORS

farms assumed the role of cultivation. Governor King had established a Botanic Garden with the Government Farm and this was strengthened by the presence of George Caley (King's Botanist) and George Suttor (Nurseryman) at Parramatta. Prior to this a botanical nursery was nominally kept by Colonel Paterson and was established in 1790. Paterson was a keen amateur botanist and collected indigenous plants for shipment to Sir Joseph Banks, as well as for a garden of native plants at his Sydney residence.

During King's period as Governor horticulture was promoted in the hope of establishing a source of plants suitable for the colonists' use in gaining a sense of self sufficiency. The horticultural interest, in a more ornamental sense was taken up by Governor Bligh and extended into the realm of landscape design by Governor and Mrs Macquarie. It was from the era of the Macquarie's that the Parramatta Domain first took on the semblance of a designed park-like environment complete with carriage drives, cultural plantations, rustic out buildings and objects, expanses of grass surfaces and identified viewing points and vistas.

The Victorian era and a growing colonial population brought pressure on the Vice-regal domains in Sydney and Parramatta for increasing public use, particularly for recreation. In Parramatta, this was initiated by opening up of the northern side of the river as a racecourse in 1847 and since the establishment of a peoples' park, the landscape treatment and alienation of parcels of parkland have caused many changes.

The issue of alienation of public land is a central issue in the development of all Parks in New South Wales.

Parramatta Park was one of the first to suffer loss of open space in favour of use by special interest groups. A precedent was set in Sydney's Hyde Park with the establishment of a racecourse and informal cricket ground for the entertainment of the members of the NSW Corps.

In Parramatta a hard fought campaign by local citizens in the late 1840s for the right to gain access to the Governor's Domain for open ground and pure air eventually resulted in the establishment of Parramatta Park. However, part of the history of that "open ground" is one of gradual diminishment of accessible land area initially made available for all the people.

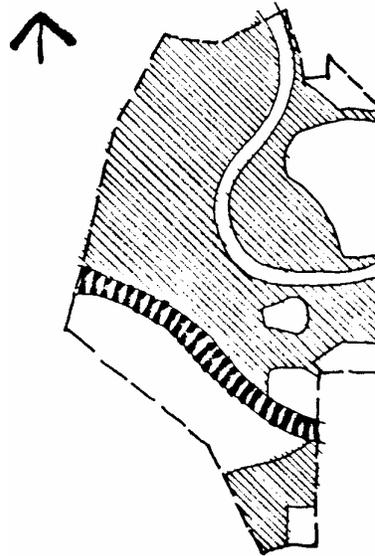
A summary of the chronological order of alienation is as follows (refer to Figure 4 for the extent of unalienated land):

- Racecourse
- Western Railway extension
- Cumberland Oval
- Girls Industrial School
- Bowling Green, Tennis Courts and Club House
- Old Kings Oval
- Parramatta High School

- War Memorial Swimming Pool
- Golf Course and Club House
- RSL Club and Bowling Greens (former Deer Park)
- Old Government House and designated grounds
- Parramatta Leagues Club and Car Park
- Parramatta Stadium
- Western Railway Line expansion.

The extent of alienated or part alienated land is dominated by the various forms of active recreation competing against the original Parramatta citizens' movement requirement for passive recreation space.

**FIGURE 4
PARRAMATTA PARK
1980S
UNALIENATED LAND
AREAS SHADED**



12.2 Historic Analysis - Main Stages of Evolution

Six major historical periods are identified as having significant influence on the landscape character and development of the Park area. These are:

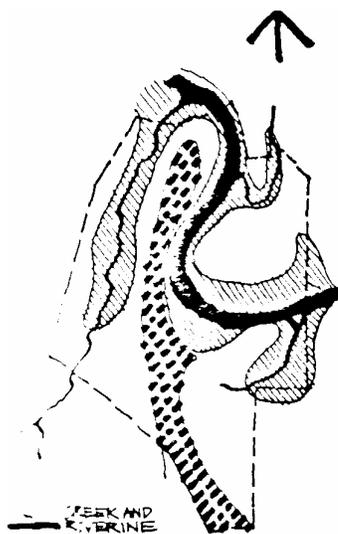


FIGURE 5

I	PRE 1788	Pre-European occupation
II	1789-1858	Agricultural pursuits, Vice Regal Residence, Farm and Domain.
III	1858-1917	Public Park under Parramatta Park Trust
IV	1917-1975	Parramatta National Park under Parramatta Park Trust
V	1975-1997	Parramatta Park under Parramatta City Council as Trustee.
VI	1997-2001	Parramatta Regional Park under NPWS

PRE-1788 VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Currently Parramatta Park is managed by the Parramatta Park Trust constituted under *Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001 No 17*.

12.2.1 Period I: pre 1788

The pre-European landscape consisted of a rolling, shale derived, landform with some outcropping sandstone to the north of the river. The vegetation was that of a woodland and was described by Governor Phillip;¹⁸

"... trees growing from twenty feet from each other and except in particular places where the soil was stony and very poor, no underwood. The country thro' which we past was mostly level, or only rising in small hills, which gave it a pleasing and picturesque appearance."

Based on studies of ecological systems in the Cumberland Plain it can be said that the predominant trees in this landscape would have been Forest Red Gum (***Eucalyptus tereticornis***) with Grey Box (***Eucalyptus moluccana***) and Ironbarks (***Eucalyptus fibrosa*** and ***Eucalyptus crebra***) occupying the more elevated ground. Boxthorn (***Bursaria spinosa***) and various pea flowers together with Acacias would have formed the shrub layer. Creeklines and poorly drained areas would be characterised by paperbarks (***Melaleuca sp.***) Forest Red Gums and (***Casuarina glauca***) together with sedges and rushes and other tufted grasses.

The riparian landscape was dominated by alluvial deposits at the junction of the freshwater stream and the tidal influence of the drowned river valley (Sydney Harbour). Mangroves and swamp-oak (***Casuarina cunninghamiana***) and *Eucalyptus* would have dominated the grassy banks of the freshwater river.

Then as now the predominant plant species were the grasses. Their presence at the PARRAMATTA DOMAIN c 1790 presence was most likely cultivated by the firing of these lands by the Aboriginal occupants. This led this type of natural landscape being compared by observers at the time with that of parks of the cultural works of the Western hemisphere, particularly those of the English Landscape School.

12.2.2: Period II 1789-1858

This period represents the most historically significant era with the first successful endeavours of cultivation of the ground for grain crops for European occupants. The subsequent establishment of a Government Farm and Botanic Gardens together with a residence and Domain for the Governor of the Colony. Decisions made and actions carried out by various Governors influenced the later periods in the development of the Park. This is especially true of the selection of plant species. With

¹⁸ Historical Records of N.S.W., 1,2, p.133 Despatch from Governor Phillip to Lord Sydney, May 15, 1788

clearing to make way for cultivation the landscape was described as:¹⁹

..."very park like and beautiful"

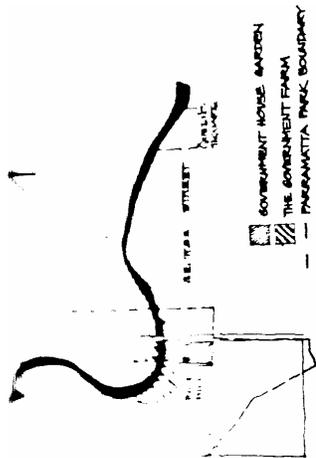


FIGURE 6
PARRAMATTA DOMAIN
c1790

Contrast of form was revealed to the colonists. The flowing line of the shale derived landform as against the rugged nature of the sandstone at Sydney Cove. Also contrast was afforded by the balance of open ground and wooded land. If Sydney was known as the 'Camp' then Parramatta (Rose Hill) could be termed the 'clearing'. A redoubt was constructed close to the river and opposite the site of the Government Farm.

Governor Philip established his country seat at Rose Hill situated in what became Cumberland Park, where by 1792 the Government cattle were put to graze. The Governor's house at Rose Hill was sited at the head of what was intended to be a grand avenue;

..."a mile long, and of such breadth as will make Pall Mall and Portland Place hide their diminished heads".²⁰

The intention was to line this avenue with plantings of English Oak trees (**Quercus robur**). The intention was similar to that proposed for the Government House at Sydney. A supply of oak trees was taken from Cape Town and survivors grown in the Grounds of Government House Sydney. It appears that these intentions were not carried out.

Oak trees were grown in the Botanic Gardens set up under Governor King's direction with the involvement of Colonel Paterson, and the King's botanist, George Caley in 1800. This garden was located to the north of the river and the site of the Government Farm and along to the site of the weir built to contain freshwater in Governor Macquarie's time.

A footbridge connected both sides of the river in the alignment of Bridge Street (later named Pitt Row and now known as Pitt Street). Before the creation of a weir a well was sunk for a reliable supply of freshwater.

A squared formal garden of mixed vegetables and flowers in the tradition of the English cottage garden lay between Bridge Street and the line of a drive running at right angles to South Street (later Macquarie Street) down to the Parramatta River. (See Figure 8).

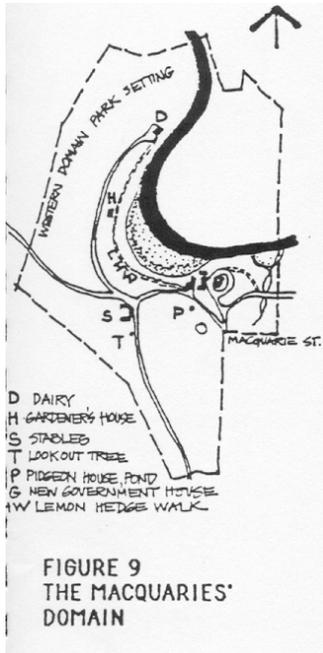
Beyond this, and, the centrally located Governor's House, The Crescent was under cultivation with vines, fruit and nut trees. The ridge lands were partly cleared however sufficient indigenous vegetation was left as a backdrop to the Government House and as protection from the westerly winds.

The Parramatta Domain consisted, in this context, of an edge of cultivation in the Cumberland Park area and some grazing land within

¹⁹ Tench p.75

²⁰ Tench, op. cit. p.195

an area of some 2000 acres of partially cleared and natural woodland with the bare beginnings of new settlement to the east. Cumberland Park was another term for the Parramatta Domain and it was a term favoured by Governor Phillip to describe the Governor's Domain in relation to the County of Cumberland.



Tracks were made to Prospect by way of South Street and on to the Nepean River and the Emu Plains. Whilst other tracks led north to Castle Hill and the Hawkesbury River valley by way of Toongabbie skirting the Governor's Domain. Toongabbie was the north western limit of the Government Domain and a large Government Farm was established there. It was noted for its large hill and immense eucalypt trees. The farm clearing was received as a welcome relief for travellers on the road to Windsor from Parramatta owing to the monotonous character of the woodland which characterised the Cumberland Plain.

The formal situation of the Government House setting did not change in concept until the arrival of Governor and Mrs Macquarie in 1810.

Mrs Macquarie seized the opportunity to implement her interests in the art of landscaping as she had done elsewhere. Indeed she saw all New South Wales as her garden with buildings sites as objects in a vast garden conforming to contemporary British tastes.

Government House and garden at Sydney were reorganised and so was the Government House and garden at Parramatta. The influence of Humphrey Repton (a prominent English Landscape Gardener 1752-1818) was to be seen in a more 'natural' approach to the creation of picturesque scenery.

In concept, the previous squared formal garden gave way to recognition of the whole Domain as a natural landscaped garden. The townscape of Parramatta provided a middle distance pictorial ground when viewed from the superior location on Rose Hill. Nature lay beyond. Mrs Macquarie had a viewing point as a tree house structure erected on one of the tallest eucalypts on the ridge behind Government House (now the position of the railway lines). It is presumed that this tree was removed for the extension of the Western railway line in 1860.

This echoes her sandstone niche, Mrs Macquarie's Chair in the Sydney Domain and underlines her interest in the picturesque viewpoint.

The Macquaries' changed much.²¹ Access to the Domain was restricted by the erection of iron rail estate fences, three-rail timber fences, picket fences and stone walls. The stone walls defined the new landscape setting between Government House and the newly laid out streets, O'Connell and Macquarie Streets (formerly South Street) and the river. Macquarie had expanded the Domain as far as the Great Western Road, where a Toll bar was erected (opposite to

²¹ J. Kerr and J. Broadbent

the present Southern Domain Gatehouse). He had Pitt Row terminated at the junction with Macquarie Street and created a new entry gateway at this junction presumably to serve the new stables built high on the ridge.

This allowed the retention of the formal access from George Street (formerly High Street) and the creation of a new entrance drive in the picturesque tradition. The entrance drive passed over a small stone bridge and lake and curved in an arc to reach the front portico of a remodelled Government House. The new drive may well have been planted out with oak trees thus fulfilling part of Governor Philip's intention even if on the other side of the fence. Macquarie had planted oak trees in the Sydney Domain and it is reasonable to think that he may have done the same in Parramatta Domain.

Oak seedlings would have been available from the adjacent Botanic Gardens, although by 1816 Macquarie had established the Sydney Botanic Garden in preference to Parramatta.

The first oaks were brought out by Governor Philip and later by George Suttor, amongst others. In the 1830s the Parramatta Domain was a source of oak seedlings for distribution throughout the colony whilst the Sydney Botanic garden concentrated on newly found sub-tropical rainforest plants.

The influence of George Suttor could have been seen in the use of citrus trees, particularly orange and lemon trees. These were an important component of the cultural landscape of the Cumberland Plain, and in particular, the nearby Hills district where Suttor resided. In the Parramatta Domain a lemon tree hedge fringed the top slope edge of the Crescent and traced the pathway from the rear of Government House to a brick house (most probably that of the gardener and that previously occupied by the overseer of cattle) at the northern end of the Crescent. This also marked the halfway point to the Dairy complex constructed under Macquarie's direction on a site further upstream. The dairy was an adaption of an earlier farm building associated with cattle grazing.²² A road linked the Dairy with the stables on the ridge, the out-offices of Government House, a small semi-circular planned dove and pigeon house and the Macquarie Street gateway.

In a report to the Colonial Secretary Macquarie summarised all the improvements made and it provides an image of the basic pattern and form of today's Parramatta Park that has survived subsequent occupying Governors and Park uses. At the end of Macquarie's

²² David Connell: The Governor's Diary, Report for Conservation and Restoration Programme, School of Architecture, Sydney University, unpubl. Circa 1978, copy held by Parramatta City Council.

²³ Helen Proudfoot: Old Government House, The Building and its Landscape, State Planning Authority, 1971, P37.

occupation of the place:²³

“The Government Domain at Parramatta, consisting of about 500 acres of ground partially cleared of the old dead timber and stumps; the whole being surrounded either by the Parramatta river or a strong fence”...

The landscape context had changed from Philip's clearing in the woodland to a park like one in the tradition of the English Landscape School. The structure of geometry to attain a sense of order was replaced by the use of architectural features, to give character by association in a pseudo natural setting. These features, as objects, besides creating a picturesque composition induced movement from one to the other. Additional objects were created by the next vice-regal occupant of the Domain, Governor Brisbane. These included a Bath House and Observatory, both built on the ridge above the Crescent and adjacent to Macquarie's stables. The Bath House has been gutted and re-roofed surviving as a park pavilion. Of the Observatory, only the Transit Stones remain as a ruin.

Brisbane was interested in the Natural Sciences and was the first patron of the N.S.W, Agricultural Society. He had set four acres apart for gardens for the Society, in 1824. These were located on the north side of the river adjoining the Government Domain. Brisbane was responsible for introducing exotic grasses such as Dutch clover and rye grasses for pasture improvement in the Domain. Before the introduction of exotic grasses the dominant grass was Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*) although much of it was grazed out by 1813. Governor Brisbane allowed the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of N.S.W. to use the old Government garden in the Crescent as a nursery and experimental plot in 1833.

Brisbane's interest in trees and science is expressed in his regular planting layout to reflect the North-South survey access between May's Hill and the Observatory by employing hoop pine and tortoise-shell pine in a geometric system similar to that of one in the set up in Scotland.

A description in 1823 indicates the condition of the Domain and serves to illustrate the continuity of the environment established by the Macquaries.²⁴

“This domain contains about 2000 acres of land, fenced partly with a stone and brick wall, part railing, and defined westward by the River. An excellent drive round the inside has been made, and the brush wood cleared away with great taste and judgment to give variety to the clumps and screens of trees that are interspersed, which have a very beautiful and pleasing

²⁴ S.L. Harris, Report & Estimate of the Value of the improvements which have take place in the Public Buildings of Sydney, Parramatta, Windsor, Liverpool & Campbelltown between 25 Dec. 1822 & 24 Dec. 1823, inclusive and an expose of the present state of the Public Building in N.S.W., 1824 Vols 2, 3.

effect. ... the Gardens are kept in good order, and every preparation made for cultivation of the vine, which is in a flourishing state. They are well supplied with water from the forcing pump that supplies the Bath..."

Despite the occupation of Governors Darling, Bourke, Gipps and Fitzroy little change was made to the Domain apart from extensions to drives, relocation of drives, a Guard House located at the Macquarie Street entrance and areas fenced and farmed.

In the early 1830s forest and ornamental trees were sent from the Sydney Botanic Garden to the Government Garden and the Agricultural Society's Garden at Parramatta.

In the 1840s there was public pressure to release some of the Domain for public recreation.

Governor Bourke and Gipps seemed to have allowed public access into the Domain, however Fitzroy wanted people excluded because of the destruction to the shrubberies and fruit trees and echoed Governor Macquarie's concern for the public trespassing on the Domain to cut wood for domestic use.

Fitzroy's actions apparently caused the Parramatta public to protest about lack of access;

"Hyde Park and Outer Domain [Sydney] are just as liable as the Domain at Parramatta to be reclaimed at the caprice of the Government. Let us hope that the Parramatta movement will be the means of inciting citizens, and the inhabitants of other towns to see that their means of exercise and recreation in open grounds and pure air are secured to them by a legal and indefeasible title."²⁵

As a result the Old Government Farm area to the north of the river was allocated in 1847 as the site of a racecourse for the Cumberland Turf Club. In 1857 a Bill was passed that provided for the disposal of the Domain lands with the exception of 200 acres to be set aside for the health and recreation of the citizens of Parramatta.

Fitzroy was the last Governor to occupy Government House. He left in 1855 and the Domain was rented. Sir William Denison, the Governor after Fitzroy also rented the property until 1858.

A railway from Sydney to Parramatta was constructed in 1855 and there was speculation among residents as to the location of an extension to the railway line to connect up both the Hawkesbury towns of Windsor and Penrith. One of the proposals put forward in 1857, was that the railway continue through the George Street gateway and skirt around the Government House following the meander line of the

²⁵ S.M.H. 2 Feb, 1847.

Crescent. This proposal did not go ahead in that location. The western railway line was extended in 1860 along the present alignment.

An 1857 plan of Parramatta²⁶ indicates extensive fencing to the of the Domain, Governor Brisbane's observatory, the Bath House and Crescent in a sweeping enclosure from Government House to the Dairy together with a fenced gatehouse an old guardhouse at the Macquarie Street entrance and an enclosed pond at the George Street entrance. There appeared to be a strong need to protect the Domain from the increasing public pressure to invade the grounds.

12.2.3: Period III: 1858-1917

This period represents the establishment of part of the Old Government Domain as Parramatta Park under the care of five Trustees appointed by the State for a seven year term of office.

The determined Boundary line of the Park was decided on the basis that:

"...all the pleasantest and prettiest part of the Domain will be reserved for the public."²⁷

With the appointment of Trustees, the Park became the venue for picnics fetes, boxing exhibitions and military parades. Prior to the opening of the Park the only other venues in Sydney for such functions were Hyde Park and the Outer Domain.

Disruption to the Park was caused in 1860 with the extension of the Western Railway line. This not only severed the park but caused the demolition of the old Government House stables and generally diminished the Park landscape quality established in the vice-regal residential period. Once open to the public the former Domain and its structures were the subject of vandalism.

Perhaps as an act of compensation the Trustees undertook a planting programme in the 1860s that was to create a new image for the place.

The plants were predominately tree species and were supplied from the Botanic Gardens Sydney. The selection suggests the influence of Charles Moore, the Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens (1848-1896) in that the species reflect his passion for sub-tropical and temperate Rain Forest species. The plants chosen were; Moreton Bay Fig (**Ficus macrophylla**), Moreton Bay Chestnut (**Castanospermum australe**), Hoop Pine (**Araucaria cunmnghamii**), Bunya Pine (**Araucaria bidwillii**), Brush Box (**Lophostemon confertus**), Cook's Pine (**Araucaria cookii syn columnaris**) and Silky Oak (**Grevillea**

²⁶ AO 1057: boundary Town of Parramatta the Parish of St John County of Cumberland N.S.W. 1857. (Fig 9)

²⁷ Trustees Report March 1858. in F. Pollon, Parramatta, the Cradle City of Australia, Its History from 1788.

robusta)²⁸. Some of these are still in evidence on the site, particularly the figs and Araucarias.

Mr Byrnes, a trustee, appears to have taken responsibility for planting an avenue of oak trees from George Street gate house around the Old Government House drive and along a riverside drive for the extent of the length of the Crescent. In fact the avenue started to the north of the old Government House because oaks were existing at the gate house and as remnant planting to the old drive. The wife of Governor Fitzroy was accidentally killed against one of these earlier planted oaks when a carriage overturned in 1846. The new oak drive was located on an area of alluvial soil and was well suited for the survival of English oaks as had been evidenced elsewhere in the Colony. It appears that the planting done at this time by the Trustees did much to reinforce the drives as much stronger landscape elements.

The Park landscape expressed new found Victorian tastes in emphasising a particular item or place at the expense of the unity of the whole place. Some of the existing plants today may well be those remnants of the early 1860s, particularly the figs, hoop pines, Cooks pines and oaks. The well known and much respected Japanese avenue trees, **Cryptomeria japonica** was also tried in this period however as elsewhere in Australia it failed because of an inappropriate environment.

A second wave of planting occurred in the late 1860s with the extensive avenue planting of stone pines (**Pinus pinea**). These avenues and plantations encircling the sporting areas to the north of the river and to the western drives contributed to the Park's landscape image well into the twentieth century. Some of these plantations still survive more particularly on the northern side of the river.

The stone pine plantations are attributed to a Mr Giles²⁹ who was the Park Ranger in the 1860s. Under Giles direction Prince Alfred planted a stone pine in the Park on 10 Feb. 1868. Again these plantations strongly defined circulation routes within the Park. The choice of this plant species may have had some bearing on the historical association with Governor Phillip and Colonel Paterson. Stone pines were introduced into Australia by the First Fleet and were purchased at the Cape of Good Hope in Cape Town where oaks and pines formed the important avenues of that town in the late 18th Century.

Stone pines were subsequently planted as a row of trees marking the entrance to Old Government House Sydney along what later became the alignment of Bridge Street Sydney. Like Phillip, Macquarie also had an interest in planting English oaks and stone pines. The discovery of different pine species throughout the world in the early 19th Century held a particular fascination with the Victorian Society. This expressed itself in Australia with the plantation of various pines and conifers throughout the 1870s and 1880s. Public Parks were one

²⁸ R.B.G.S. Plant Despatch Books, Aug. 1861, Sept. 1861, July 1862, Dec. 1866.

²⁹ Frances Pollon, Parramatta, the Cradle City of Australia, Its History from 1788, 1938, Parramatta City Council, p.116.

³⁰

of the best vehicles for expression of new planting fashions; Parramatta Park is described here in 1886.³⁰

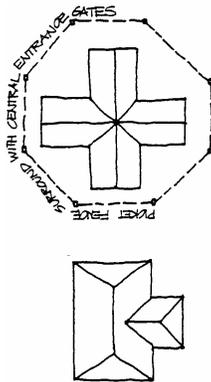


FIGURE 11
PLAN FORM OF PARK
PAVILIONS IN THE 1880s

"To all visitors of cultural, artistic, aesthetic, or even historic tastes, the chief glory of Parramatta is the park - the old Domain, admittance to which is by an archway built in the Tudor Style. Within the enclosure oaks tower aloft and shake their leaves in the light summer breeze with a cool and pleasant rustle, and willows in the damp flats bend their boughs mighty in the gift of perfect shade. Pines from Norfolk Island, only less beautiful and grand than those in Sydney Gardens; pines from southern Italy, pines from the Californian slopes, and pines from Scottish and Norwegian hills, stand tall, strong and shady, contrasting with the trees of native birth still lingering beside the shallow and generally torrid water of the characteristic Australian creek."

The list of plants sent from the Sydney Botanic Gardens³¹ to the Parramatta Park Trustees in the 1860s did not include stone pines. It is possible that they were supplied by the prominent Parramatta nurserymen, the Purchase family. John Purchase was one of the original Park Trustees and was followed by Samuel Purchase c 1865.

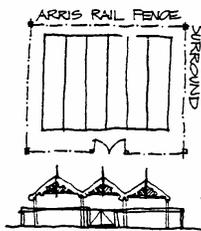


FIGURE 12
PARK PAVILION, c1911

By 1887 the Park character was established and the image of the vice-regal domain suppressed. Gatehouses were constructed first to the south, erected soon after the Toll Keeper's House was demolished in 1860. To the west in 1873, to the east (George Street entrance) in 1885 and the Macquarie Street Gate House in 1887, adjacent to the Bowling Greens. The Bowling Club was introduced into the Park in 1880 and a fenced bowling green constructed parallel to Pitt Row. Park pavilions had been erected adjacent and upslope from the Bowling Greens, adjacent to King's Oval, near to the river on the south side in what had been the Government Garden and one located facing the Long Avenue to west of the Crescent in a position close to that of the former Gardener's house erected in Governor Macquarie's time.

The use of gatehouses, usually expressed in architecturally eclectic styles, was a Victorian device initiated in the design of peoples' parks in Britain in the mid nineteenth century. It reinforced the desire for romantic and exotic imagery- an escape from reality for the working class.

A Deer Park was established in the area now taken over by the R.S.L. Club. This was in the tradition of the nineteenth century pleasure grounds such as was established at Hyde Park, Watson's Bay, the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel at Botany Bay, the Sydney Botanic Gardens and the Zoological Gardens established in Moore Park in 1879. In 1885 seven fallow deer were presented to the Trustees of the National Park by the Trustees of Parramatta Park for the establishment of a Deer park on the southern shores of Port Hacking. The Parramatta Deer Park enclosure also contained emus.

³¹ Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney: "Plants sent away 1852-69."

A sandstone dwarf wall and iron railing fence was constructed along the O'Connell Street boundary following tenders called for in 1885. The extension of this fence to Macquarie Street and Pitt Row (later Pitt Street) probably was carried out at the time of the construction of the Macquarie Street gate house and gates.

In 1886 the former Bath House structure of Governor Brisbane was altered to its present form as a Park pavilion. The remnants of the old Observatory were fenced as was a pond located on the slope between the Observatory site and the Macquarie Street gate house. An obelisk memorial was placed on the site of the former curator's cottage, mistakenly believed to be the site of the Observatory. A footbridge was also constructed over the river to link both sides of the Park in the vicinity of the existing Noller Bridge.

Apart from avenue planting, fenced plantation areas were created notably at road junctions (below Old Government House) and at corners of the Park boundaries (see Figure 17). The plantation was made up of a mixture of species both native and exotic. The one below Old Government House contained twelve commemorative trees and was surrounded by a painted timber picket fence.

The remainder of the Park was of an open grassed nature with a few areas of remaining indigenous trees. Creeks and water bodies were fenced off with a simple Park railing.

In 1889 tennis and croquet courts were constructed adjacent to the bowling green.

In 1889 a Park Improvement Association was formed and in August of that year on Arbor Day a function was held in the Park. Seventy one trees were planted along the road from the Macquarie Street gate to the George Street entrance. Money for this was raised by public subscription, everyone who paid ten shillings was allowed to plant a tree. One of the roads planted out was called Federal Avenue and most probably consisted of the planting of camphor laurels (**Cinnamomom camphora**)³². This road ran from the Macquarie Street gatehouse to Old Government House. These trees were taken out in 1924 and replaced with Pin-oaks (**Quercus palustris**).

The improvement Association also built a retaining wall along the riverbank and some fencing to the Pitt Row alignment. Also Agathis species appear to have been planted along the boundary of the Bowling Greens with the entrance to the Club distinguished by a lone Norfolk Island Pine (**Araucaria heterophylla**).

By the end of the nineteenth century the old Government House was vacant and derelict. The King's School took over the house in 1909. This resulted in the area being fenced off and that area of the Park

³² Jervis, Jubilee of Parramatta, 1911.

³³ Trustees Minute Books. 1913 land resumed 15 Oct. 1913.

³⁴ Trustees Minutes, Oct. 1911.

³⁵ Trustees Minutes, 3rd Jan 1912.

became somewhat alienated in the sense of a people's park. A triangular shaped area of two roads 16.5 perches was resumed at the Northern boundary of the Park (between Fleet Street and Grose Street) for use by the Parramatta Industrial School for Females.

In 1913³³ land at the corner of Pitt Street and the Great Western Road was resumed for the purposes of constructing a Public School (now Parramatta High School).

Apart from lease areas in the Park the greatest source of income, managed by the Trustees, came from agistment of stock and sporting events.

By 1902 the fenced cricket ground on the northern side of the River was removed and replaced by two entrance avenues to Cumberland Oval. One avenue was formed by the plantation of kurrajongs (**Brachychiton populneum**) in the line of Victoria Road and the other more informal plantation composed of Eucalyptus spp. and kurrajongs led from the direction of the Kings School. Both avenues led to the ticket box. The Cumberland Oval consisted of an outer seven foot (2.1 metres) galvanised iron fence and two inner picket and board fences with a weatherboard pavilion situated between them to the west. With these improvements the encircling ornamental trees of the Cumberland Oval were removed. However, the Kings Oval retained its encircling trees and gained a picket fence to both enclose and protect the turfed oval. Elsewhere in the Park concrete wickets and areas for football games were marked out (only to those parts of the Park north of the Main Western Railway line).

In 1911 the Bowling Club was granted³⁴ approval to extend its grounds to the west. In doing so it consumed the old croquet green and tennis courts. Active recreation pursuits began to have an impact on the park;

“As bathing in the river was now being indulged in by young and old and at all times of the day and night ... a changing shed is required.”³⁵

A picnic ground was formed on the riverbank below the Ranger's Cottage with a dressing shed and weatherboard shelter sheds constructed as well as the provision of swings.

The taste for flower gardens, that was prevalent in the Federation period up to the First World War years, was expressed in the creation of garden plots of salvia and roses. These were located near the Ranger's Cottage and in the Deer Park. A management problem with these flower gardens was the nuisance of rabbit attacks.

In 1914 Weeping Willows (**Salix babylonica**) were introduced along the water courses in the Western Domain south of the Railway bridge. Trees were obtained from the Sydney Botanic Gardens, Yates and a Dr Williamson. Two former Trustees, the Hon. Jas. Byrnes and his son Mr

C.J. Byrnes were honoured by the renaming of Oak Avenue to Byrnes Avenue in 1915.

Tree planting was carried out in an enclosure above the Bowling Green in 1917 when the Trustees resolved to apply to have the Park gazetted as a National Park. This had the promised effect of attracting Federal funds at a time when finance was critical to maintain the growing active recreational use of the Park and it was evident that a programme of replanting and replacement of trees was necessary. This did not happen and the avenues on the northern side of the river deteriorated.

Also the gatekeeper's Lodges were considered to be in poor condition. It was hoped that National Park funds could be used to repair the Lodges.

Another source of much needed funds for Park maintenance came from the excavation of topsoil and sand deposits along the flood zone of the river. Large sand islands existed in the main water body of the River.

12.2.4 Period IV 1917-1975

This represents the period of the Park's history from the time when it was recognised as a National park until a change in management from Trustees to the Parramatta City Council in 1975. Large areas of the Park were taken over by different groups in the community with specialised interest. Further alienation between major areas of the Park was created with the dedication of Park Parade in 1923. This road ran parallel to the railway line on the southern side.

In 1925, a footbridge was constructed across the river to replace an earlier structure which had been washed away. This was named the Noller Bridge after a Park Trustee and former Mayor of Parramatta.

It was Mr Noller who was responsible for much of the tree planting, provision of fencing and building facilities during the War years up until his death in 1937.

He had supervised the re-building of the gatehouses, the causeway, extensive new fencing and prepared plans for a combined refreshment kiosk and dressing pavilion at the picnic ground and swimming area between the causeway and below the Ranger's Cottage. This area was known as "Little Coogee". He was also responsible for submitting designs for the band rotunda (not constructed until 1932) and supplying second-hand bricks for road edging and retaining walls.

Noller also donated four emus to the Deer Park (the deer had been removed long ago) and the construction of a monkey house near the George Street entrance. Swans were introduced to the Deer park and eventually in 1934, deer were supplied by Taronga Zoo and a high fence erected in order for the area to be classified as a zoological park.

Mr Noller's attempts at planting programmes appear as impressive as his contribution to the built elements in the Park. In 1932 Mr Noller arranged with the Mayor of Parramatta to call a public meeting in August to inaugurate a tree planting scheme for the park. Consultations were held with a Mr Ward, the curator of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, who supplied information as to "suitable" trees for different locations in the park. The suggestions included groups of plants and further avenue plantings.

These included: the northern side of the main drive continuing the oak avenue (Byrnes Avenue) to immediately inside the George Street entrance, a "Little Coogee" avenue continuing to the Asylum grounds and thence south, the amphitheatre and from the Bathhouse pavilion to the Black Bridge (Railway).

The first planting decided was a line of trees along the avenue running north south (The Long Avenue) on the western side of the Ranger's Cottage. The remnant Jacarandas in this position may well be the survivors of that first instalment of the new programme. The Jacarandas adjacent to the kiosk at "Little Coogee" would appear to date from this period also.

It was decided to "beautify the island" in September of 1932. The plants were supplied by Hazelwood Bros Ltd.

Mr Rex Hazelwood, nurseryman of the firm Hazelwood Bros. Ltd of Epping was appointed by Parramatta Council to lay out a design for St Johns Park. It may have been this commission that prompted "A Report and Suggestions for Improving Parramatta Park" written in December 1932. His report makes reference to the need for more colour in the Park by introducing flowering and autumn foliage plants and a recommendation to remove the stone pine avenues planted in the late 1860s.

Mention is made of a number of High School pupils planting trees in the Park, presumably in that area of ground known as the Deer Park. This was apparently called the "High School Avenue" and consisted of a mixture of plant species. Hazelwood also recommended the removal of this avenue. The remnants of these species can be found in the existing "Murray Garden". Among the general remarks Hazelwood said,³⁶

"The only outstanding feature in the park at present as far as the plants are concerned are the avenues of stone pines, but as they have reached the stage of being dowdy and unsightly they are an outstanding feature of the wrong kind."

The flowering plants that he recommended were oleander - particularly for placement against the Southern Boundary Gatehouse. Today oleanders (**Nerium oleander**) exist at both the Macquarie Street

³⁶ Hazelwood p.7 Report.

gatehouse and the Southern Domain Gatehouse. These plants may be the legacy of his recommendation.

Unfortunately many of the new tree plantings died.

Rex Hazelwood's "Park Improvement" plan was considered "too costly" for the Trustees to implement however some of his ideas were carried out after the death of Mr Noller. These included the trimming of trees and the plantings of bougainvilleas to provide colourful cover to steep embankments.

In April of 1937, following the death of Mr Noller the Trust decided to arrange for the planting of native trees near the site of the Old Observatory, and later to call the spot Coronation Hill to commemorate the Coronation of HM King George VI. The tree planting took place on the 12th May and Mrs Noller planted an English Oak (**Quercus robur**) in the centre of the Coronation Hill plot. Unfortunately many of these trees did not survive. Later that year the Park Ranger planted out poplar trees (**Populus nigra "Italica"**) however he reported in November that most of the trees were stolen immediately after planting. These trees were donated by the Parramatta Asylum.

In December Sir Kelso King proposed an avenue of trees to be named "The Governor's Avenue" to extend from the Western Road entrance gates along the south side of the railway and extending to Pitt Street. The planting was carried out on 24th April, 1938. The Local historical society provided the trees and guards and the Avenue opened by the Governor Lord Wakehurst. No trees appear to have survived to the present day.

The Australian Forest League suggested that the Trust appoint Junior Tree Wardens to help check vandalism.

In June 1938 the Park Ranger planted out 50 gum trees obtained from the State Forest Nursery at Gosford. These trees may be the Lemon scented gums (**Eucalyptus citriodora**) found throughout the Park.

The Cumberland Oval was upgraded and work completed in 1938 in time for the 150th celebrations of European settlement which included motor cycle racing at Cumberland Oval, and the Western Domain roads were used as a speedway. During 1938 all of the roads in the Park were tarred to reduce dust nuisance caused by the increasing usage by motor transport. The "Little Coogee" area became a preferred point and by November 1938 "No Parking" signs had to be erected. The Ranger

³⁷ Trust Minutes, 7th Feb. 1939.

³⁸ Trust Minutes, 18th Feb. 1940.

³⁹ Trustees Annual Report, 30th June, 1945.

⁴⁰ Trust Minutes, 30th June, 1947.

⁴¹ Jervis, Jubilee History of Parramatta.

⁴² Planted by the local Historical Society, completed on 24 April, 1938.

⁴³ J. Jervis: Historic Spots in Parramatta. 1938. p114 and undated map, The Historic Parramatta Park, Item 14.

reported that people were caught driving on the open grassed areas, particularly those people teaching friends to drive motor cars.

One of the main problems of the Park Trustees in this period was the number of dead or dying trees and the need for a replanting scheme. In October of 1938, the Trust requested the Department of Lands for the services of a "landscape gardener" to provide a plan for the planting of trees.

In February 1939³⁷ a report by "two Government experts" dealt with the condition of the trees in the park and recommendations for replanting at a cost of £2,500. The report was sent to Rex Hazelwood for comment. In the meantime a number of Stone Pines (**Pinus pinea**) were grubbed out. This work was carried out under a work relief scheme and other works included the digging out of ponds and creeks together with the renewal of boundary fences and reconditioning of roads.

Rex Hazelwood commented on the need to get on with the tree planting scheme. However, the scheme was dropped because of lack of funds and staff. At this time the Park of 250 acres was maintained by four men and the situation became worse with the advent of World War II.

The Annual Report of 1959 states:

"Experience has proved that it is a mistake to plant at a time many trees of the one variety because when their useful period is complete the task of replacing is very great and expensive. However, as the replanting will cost approximately £2,000 it is still awaiting an extra grant which because of great expenditure on armament caused by the uncertain international situation, cannot be provided."

Despite the shortage of funds Willow Trees were planted along the river and some other trees on May's Hill. A Park inspection by the Trustees in early 1940³⁸ revealed that most of the Willows no longer existed and that the Coronation Hill trees were dead within their ornamental enclosure.

In November of 1939, the Western Suburbs Rugby League Club decided to make Parramatta their headquarters instead of Ashfield. A request to play two or three matches at the Cumberland Oval was granted by the Trustees for the next season and the association of Rugby League and Cumberland Oval has continued to the present day.

By 1945, and with a staff of two, the Park Trust ceased to accept agisted livestock. This action gave impetus to another wave of tree planting. Tree guards were no longer necessary due to the removal of grazing animals.

The Botanic Gardens provided the expertise and recommended using a horse and plough to contour the ground and to plant with native species. More than 200 gums were successfully planted. The trees were a gift from Parramatta Council.

*"Before long the bare appearance of so much of the Park lands will have gone and the unused surfaces will be beautified by good specimens of the Australian Eucalypti which grow so well in this locality"*³⁹

Later, in 1947, some attempt at the reconstruction of the 19th century avenues was made.

*"Many portions of the Park were some years ago almost denuded of trees by the removal of some 200 Stone Pines which were dying from old age. In their place about 100 were planted over the last two years in the coming year preparations are in train to plant at least 200 more."*⁴⁰

In 1949 the Park came within the new enlarged municipality of Parramatta and a swimming pool was contemplated by the Trustees as a memorial to the war.

The Canary Island Palms (**Phoenix canariensis**) running along the Pitt Street alignment have replaced the earlier **Agathis sp.** and they may date from the mid 1930s. The Agathis may have provided too much shade on the bowling green. In 1935 an avenue of trees was planted on the Mays Hill side of the Park to commemorate the Jubilee of King George V⁴¹. These appear to be lemon-scented gums (**Eucalyptus citriodora**) and were planted by representative citizens of Parramatta. Also in 1935 Bottle Trees (**Brachychiton rupestre**) were donated to the Trust for planting within the Park. 1935 was also the year that a miniature train track was installed in the Park.

As part of the Sesqui-Centenary 1938 celebrations an avenue of gum trees was planted⁴² along the line of a footpath from the George Street entrance, at the junction with Riverside drive and up to the Old Government House. No physical evidence of this avenue survives today.

In 1952 an area of land at the corner of O'Connell and Macquarie Streets was dedicated for a War Memorial and has subsequently become the Returned Ex-servicemen's Club and Bowling Green. The more colourful plants, such as the Jacaranda (**Jacaranda mimosifolia**) and Pin-oaks (**Quercus palustris**) may date from the post Second World War period and into the 1950s when colour was an important landscape element.

A wide area of the river, to the north of the old Dairy, had a large expanse of sand deposited on the western side of the river. This area was a favourite swimming hole and was termed "Little Coogee". From

the 1900s the river was the scene for boating parties and rowers. Today the poor water quality is a deterrent to bathing and other uses of the river. The transformation of the water catchment into suburban development and the increase in paved roads has caused a greater level of toxic run-off into the natural waterway.

Of interest was the discovery in 1930 of what appeared to be the site of the first reservoir for the conservation of water in Australia – in the hollow between the causeway and Ross Street Lodge. Now buried by the Parramatta Stadium development. The site of the reservoir is close to the nominated site of Howell's Mill which was reported to have been pulled down by Governor and Mrs Macquarie in an effort to improve the landscape.⁴³

In the 1960s the parkland was further reduced by the expansion of public roads and the railway and the dedication of the Old Government House in 1967 to the National Trust of Australia. The cultural planting of the mid-nineteenth century and of the 1930s, by the 1960s, was by then in a remnant form and it has remained so.

The RSL War Memorial grounds took over much of the Old Deer Park and necessitated the cutting down of rows of large gum trees on the Macquarie and O'Connell Street boundaries. The Trust decided to employ a landscape architect to design a rest park and garden area in the remaining Deer Park land. A former Trustee, Mr W.R.Murray had bequeathed a major portion of his estate to the Park and it was decided to commemorate his memory in the establishment of the Murray Gardens. The work was carried out in 1958 and opened by the Minister for Lands on the 8th March, 1959.

Further tree planting was carried out in the Park by the Rotary Club in the 1960s in the form of groves of trees. These were located on the northern side of the river.

In 1966 a grove of scented shrubs was planted for the Soroptimist Club whilst others bore plaques in memory of particular families.

As from the 50th June 1967 the Kings School handed over the oval which bears its name.

In 1969 the word "National" was deleted from the Park's name and once again it officially became known as Parramatta Park.

The Trust felt that by the mid 1970s, the level of financial assistance was inadequate to meet the expenses of running the Park and tendered its resignation as from the date of its 116th Annual Meeting, 4th September, 1975.

12.2.5 Period V: 1975-1987

This period is characterised by the problems of management with

increasing demands made on the environment for recreational use. Care control and management passed from the appointed Trustees to the Parramatta City Council. The [Parramatta] Council has had involvement with the Park to some degree since 1962 when new roads and structures were added to the Park to cater for a more mobile community.

Two major impacts on the Park were the alteration of the Crescent and the decision to build the Parramatta Stadium. The Crescent was converted into an amphitheatre, grassed and planted, with the focus on a stage and some partially earth covered facilities.

An emphasis, until recently, was placed on the planting of native plants to perform shading and visual screening function. These plants are made up of a combination of Tallwoods (***Eucalyptus microcorys***), Swamp Mahogany (***Eucalyptus robusta***), Paperbark (***Melaleuca quinquinervia***), New England Peppermint (***Eucalyptus nicholli***) and Lemon-scented gums (***Eucalyptus citriodora***).

Areas of steeply sloping land were left to allow natural regeneration of the indigenous plants, principally the tree species, Forest Red Gum (***Eucalyptus tereticornis***), Argyle Apple (***Angophora subvelutina***) and Broad Leafed Ironbark (***Eucalyptus fibrosa***).

A Plan of Management incorporating landscape proposals was prepared between 1980 and 1983 by the NSW Department of Lands. The recommendations included in the Plan [were] progressively being implemented by Parramatta Council. It is important to note that the historic background of the Park's evolution was not fully researched for the purposes of the Plan of Management and it [did] not contain a Statement of Cultural Significance for the Park and its constituent elements.

Source: Brian McDonald and Craig Burton, Parramatta Park Historic Landscape Study, 1987, p. 3 – 46.

12.2.6 Period VI 1987 - Present

This period was characterised by a period of change in management and saw the management of the park transfer from Parramatta City Council as trustee to NPWS and the Parramatta Regional Park Trust and then to a new Parramatta Park Trust established pursuant to the Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001 No 17.

This was also a period when comprehensive assessment of the Park's history, landscape and archaeological potential was assessed and recorded. Major reports prepared during this time include: Parramatta Park Historic Landscape Study (McDonald and Burton), Parramatta Park Historic Buildings Study (McDonald and Burton), Parramatta Park Archaeological Zoning Plan (Godden Mackay), Archaeological Zoning Plan for Parramatta Park Parts 1 & 2 (Varman), Dairy Precinct

Conservation Plan 1998 (Design 5 Architects). While the park was managed as a regional park within NPWS, extensive landscaping and other works were completed:

1994-99: conservation and interpretation of the Governor's Dairy and the Ranger's Cottage.

1999: Tourist steam train track removed from along Crescent ridgeline. Conservation and revegetation of Cumberland Plain woodlands along the ridgeline of the Crescent.

2000: Bath house repainted

2001: Conservation and adaptive re-use of the Macquarie Street Gatehouse.

2001-2002: Conservation of the Park Parade Gatehouse.

2005: Avenue plantings on Long Avenue and West Domain

2007: interpretative path of Governor Phillip's carriageway.

There have been a number of important archaeological excavation projects undertaken since the mid-1980s at The Governor's Dairy, the Parramatta Observatory, The Crescent ridgeline, and at the Rose Hill environs, including the convict hut sites, convict lumberyard site, the alignment of Governor Phillip's carriageway and Governor Brisbane's Observatory.

Timeline of post colonisation events associated with Parramatta Park

1788-1792	Governor Arthur Phillip
1788	Establishment of convict town at Rose Hill Naming of the Crescent by Governor Phillip Construction commenced on redoubt Construction commenced on wattle and daub convict huts
1789	Edward Henry Dodd commenced agricultural activities at Rose Hill and a small house was built for him First crop harvested from Rose Hill Barn and granary built
1790	George and Pitt Streets formally laid out Work commences on the Governors House Lumberyard constructed; operating until 1819
1791	Settlement renamed Parramatta after the Burramattagal people Government farm area renamed Cumberland Park after the Prince and Duke of Cumberland Cattle overseers residence and yards constructed Watkin Tench visited settlement and recorded what he saw Cultivation as far as Toongabbie and Westmead
1791	Incident with destruction of Boladeree's canoe led to diminution in trade and contact with Aboriginal people.
1792	Guard House for Government House constructed
1792-1795	Lieutenant-Governor Francis Grose
1793	Great Western Road constructed Elizabeth Farm built
1795-1800	Governor John Hunter
1796	Land grant of 30 acres to George Salter
1796-1804	Construction of Dairy Cottage
1798-1801	Construction of first mill
1799	Extensions to Government House
1800-1806	Governor Philip Gidley King
1800	George Caley, botanist, arrives at Parramatta with King Salter occupying a flourishing farm
1801	Governor King opens Government Farm at Castle Hill
1803- 4	Construction of substantial stone mill
1804	Governor King establishes Dairy farms in Parramatta Battle of Vinegar Hill at Castle Hill Granary and brewery constructed on river at Parramatta Park
1808	Government House built on site of earlier cottage
1806-1808	Governor William Bligh
1806-1808	Bligh visited Parramatta only bi-monthly and rarely stayed there
1806	Bligh granted 105 acres to north of Government House by King
1808	26 January: martial law declared and Bligh arrested with conniving by Macarthur.

1808-1810	Various Lieutenant Governors – Interregnum Period
1810-1821	Governor Macquarie
1810	Governor Macquarie arrives in Parramatta and calls the land around Government House the Domain. Governor King's emphasis on self-sufficiency policy reduces need for Government Farm
1813	Salters and other farms purchased by Macquarie
1815	Addition of north and south colonnades to Government House
1815-17	Fencing to enclose Government Farm First George Street gatehouse constructed Repairs to Government House
1815-1822	Additions to Governors Dairy
1816	Public barred from the Domain
1817	Governors Domain extended to O'Connell Street Construction of stables
1819	Bigge Inquiry
1820s	7ft high and 980 feet long stone and brick wall constructed along O'Connell Street frontage
1822	Toll way built on Great Western Highway
1821-1825	Governor Thomas McDougall Brisbane
1821	Observatory designed (probably by Governor Brisbane in Scotland before he came out to Australia). Two (2) astronomical staff, Charles Rumker and James Dunlop arrive with Gov. Brisbane. Observatory constructed and special marker trees planted
1822	First observations from Observatory made in May Campbells map of Parramatta shows the Observatory for the first time Agricultural Society formed in Parramatta and land made available to them for an Experimental garden (on site of Kings School)
1823	Construction of bath house James Rumker leaves the Observatory
1824	Brisbane recalled by Earl Bathurst. Dunlop returns to England with Brisbane
1825-1831	Governor Ralph Darling
1826	Governor Brisbane's Observatory including the instruments and references becomes government property. Charles Rumker returns and becomes the First Government Astronomer with one of his projects being the charting of the arc of the meridian.
1831-1838	Governor Richard Bourke
1831	Dunlop returns from Scotland and is appointed Superintendent of Parramatta Observatory
1832	Observatory residence completed. Dunlop begins observations recording 2 000 star observations John Macarthur declared insane Bourke's wife dies at Government House Parramatta Death of George Salter

1834	Death of John Macarthur
1837	Death of William IV. Accession of Queen Victoria
1831-1838	Questions asked in London about viability to keeping on two Government Houses. Plans for Government House in Sydney to replace old one, were discussed.
1838-1846	Governor George Gipps
1839	9 boundary stones erected in Parramatta. One survives in the park.
1843	Parramatta District Council proclaimed Legislative Council refuse to vote 700 pounds a year for maintenance of Government Domain at Parramatta. Gipps keeps it going by farming the Domain
1844	Public request for access to the Domain
1845	Tenders for the lease of Government House and surrounding land called for.
1846-1855	Governor Charles Fitzroy
1847	Fitzroy occupies Government House at this own expense and limits access to the grounds which had previously been used by the townspeople Race course and grandstand laid out by Cumberland turf club Observatory building in is bad condition and Dunlop recommends demolition. Lady Fitzroy killed in a carriage accident George Street closed. New gate erected at Macquarie Street entrance
1848	Observatory demolished. Residence left standing. King saves instruments from sale which are left standing.
1855	Railway opened to Parramatta
1846-1855	Last Governor to live at Government House
1855-1861	Governor William Denison
1855	Bush fires almost destroy Government House and destroy much fencing etc.
1855	Denison requests funds to build Observatory in Sydney.
1856-1857	Denison leases out land around Government House to James Byrnes and John Harding
1857	Edmund Blakett designs and builds Sydney Observatory An Act to provide for the Disposal of Parramatta Domain First ranger, Henry Moody, appointed to Parramatta Park
1857-1867	Parramatta Constabulary housed in old Observatory residence.
1858	Parramatta Park created. 240 acres. Trustees appointed.
1858	Old Government House let out.
1858-1917	Planting of avenue of oaks from George Street Gatehouse around Government House
1860	Railway extended through the Domain. Demolition of Governor Macquarie's stables, Governor Fitzroy's and out buildings Government House. Toll keepers house in southern domain demolished.
1861-	
1865	Acclimatisation Society conducts experiments with breeding of alpacas, deer and kangaroo at Deer Park
1870	Observatory in state of disrepair. Ranger Tebbutt recommends that an obelisk be erected on the site of the transit instruments.

1873	Southern and western domain gatehouses erected by this time
c1875	Rangers Cottage erected
1876	Observatory residence demolished by Park Ranger Giles due to constant vandalism
1879-1888	Governor Loftus
1880	Rose Hill Bowling Club green opened Obelisk to Observatory erected on site of astronomers cottage.
1883	Grand Juvenile Exhibition in park in building of 30 000 square feet
1888-	Governor Carrington
1884	Dedication as a public park
1885	George Street Gatehouse constructed Sudan War
1887	Ebsworth's survey. As a precaution against removal of the transit stones, Ebsworth places a permanent copper plug in the base stone Macquarie Street Gatehouse constructed
1888	Stone and iron picket fences on O'Connell, Macquarie and Pitt Streets replaced Macquarie period stone and brick wall. Public baths opened in River near to Lennox Bridge
1889	70 oak trees planted by Park Improvement Association on Arbor Day near to the George Street entrance.
c1890s	Rise in popularity of Little Coogee
1899	Government House vacant and derelict. Week long carnival held in June to raise funds for the improvement of Parramatta Park Camphor Laurel trees planted from Macquarie Street up to Government House and then down to George Street Gatehouse by WP Noller. Named Federation Avenue.
1900	Parts of the park leased for grazing
1901	New Commonwealth of Australia
1904	Boer war memorial unveiled
1909	Kings School moves into Old Government House
1910-1912	Ranger Attwood in residence in Dairy building
1912	Ranger Bateman in Dairy buildings. Attwoods in Rangers Cottage
1911	William Hart landed aircraft at Parramatta Park
1911-1919	Tendering for removal of river sands and top soils within the Park
1917	Park proclaimed a National Park
1922-1962	Ranger Sim appointed
1925	Noller Footbridge opened named after Mayor
1938	All roads tarred. Sesqui-centenary avenue of gums planted Melville paints New Zealand scenes on frieze in Rangers cottage
1951	Parramatta City Council refused permission to control the park
1952	Parramatta Park gives 3 acres for erection of War Memorial Hall, Bowling Club and tennis court (now RSL).
1956	Speedway racing held within the park.
1957	Parramatta City Council again refused permission to control Park

- 1958 Murray Memorial Garden opened.
- 1959 Parramatta Pool opened
- 1960 Parramatta Leagues Club opened
- 1961 Lions Club dressing sheds opened
- 1962 Minister for Lands agrees in principle for Parramatta Council to be made Trustees of park.
- 1964 Steam Train Preservation Society (STPS) established in Park.
- 1967 Old Government House vested in Trusteeship to National Trust (NSW) by Parramatta Park (Old Government House) Act 1967 No. 33.
- 1969 Parramatta National Park becomes Parramatta Park
- 1970 Old Government House restoration opened by HM Queen ER II (National Trust)
- 1973 Tracks associated with STPS extended around Crescent
- 1972-1988 Rhonda and Bob Kitching are last Rangers living in the Rangers Cottage
- 1974 Park listed as a Conservation Area by the National Trust of Australia (NSW)
- 1975 **Parramatta Park Trustees resign**
NSW Department of Lands appointed as administrator until responsibility for the Park handed over to Parramatta City Council.
Construction of amphitheatre
- 1976 **Parramatta Council becomes Trustees of Park**
- 1980 Boundary stone moved to make way for Domain Creek culvert
- 1981 Park included on the Register of the National Estate
Construction of the Parramatta Stadium
- 1982 Demolition of Bowling Club buildings
- 1986 HM Queen ER II opens Parramatta Stadium
- 1987 Parramatta Park. The Governor's Dairy Excavation of portion room 4c.
- 1989 Permanent Conservation Order No. 596 placed on the Park by the Heritage Council of NSW
- 1994 Archaeological Report, Governor's Dairy Precinct, Parramatta Park.
Doug Walters Pavilion built at Old Kings Oval
Rumsey Rose Garden constructed on convict lumber yard and bowling club sites
- 1995 **A new Parramatta Park Trust formed with community, state and local Government representation**
Parramatta Park, Parramatta, Archaeological Zoning Plan, Godden Mackay Pty Ltd
Opening of Rumsey Rose Garden, 26 August 1995
- 1996 Parramatta Park Management Plan, Mandidis Roberts
Interpretive signs relating to cultural landscape installed
- 1997 **Parramatta Park becomes Parramatta Regional Park under the National Parks and Wildlife Service**
Appointment of trustees
Restoration of the Ridgeline bushland and aboriginal sites commenced
Restoration of Murray Gardens Creek vegetation and creek commenced
- 1998 **A new trust is appointed to Parramatta Regional Park under the terms of the National Parks & Wildlife Act**
Opening of exhibition and the Burrumatta Visitor Centre at Little Coogee
Opening of interpretation at Dairy Precinct
Rotunda restoration completed
Restoration of Domain Creek commenced (bush and water quality)

- restoration, chain of ponds)
 Temporary Park Trust administration office constructed on bowling club site
 Lady Fitzroy Memorial Oak dies and replaced with a young oak tree
 Rangers Cottage no longer inhabited
- 1999**
 Parramatta REP completed
 Parramatta Leagues Club car park excised from Park and placed under ownership of the Minister for Environment
 Closure of Long Avenue to vehicles
 Steam tram track and remains of rolling stock removed
 Ridgeline restoration areas fenced and access stairs installed
 Ridgeline pedestrian footpath installed on tram track alignment
 Irrigation line installed adjacent to ridgeline path
 Dairy Precinct conservation completed. Precinct opened to public visitation.
 Visitor Centre opened to public visitation
 Formalisation of riverbank path from Amphitheatre to Visitor Centre
 Reconstruction of Byrnes Avenue footpath
 Pavilion roof replaced, picnic tables installed and site improved
 Existing picnic shelters replaced and additional shelters installed
 Public BBQ's (7) installed
- 2000**
 Bathhouse repainted
 Installation of street lighting from Macquarie Street entry to Amphitheatre
 Golf Course ponds restoration and revegetation completed. Floating litter trap installed.
 Parra-phrases: Oral Histories of Parramatta Park, Oral History project and travelling exhibition with PCC heritage Centre
 Domain Creek gross pollutant litter trap installed
 George Street playground redeveloped
 Lady Fitzroy Memorial Oak replanted
 Boer War Memorial lettering restored
 Olympic Torch Relay and cauldron lighting event attended by more than 50,000 people
 Park boundaries surveyed, pegged and digitally recorded
- 2001**
On 1 July 2001, legislation transferred management of the Park from the National Parks & Wildlife Service to a new Parramatta Park Trust pursuant to the Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001 No 17.
 Section of land along railway boundary placed under an easement for the Westmead to Epping railway development project
Dispossessed: a Burrumatta History of Parramatta Park, video produced
 Parramatta Leagues Club car park returned to Parramatta Park ownership
 Macquarie St Gatehouse restored
 Domain Creek exercise station replaced
 Mays Hill Gatehouse exterior walls stabilised
- 2002**
 Historic Bridge St alignment interpreted through mowing regime
 Landscape Master Plan completed
 Park Parade Gatehouse restoration completed
 Macquarie Street Gatehouse commercially leased to Stelvio Pty Ltd
 Parramatta Park website launched
- 2003**
 Ross St Gatehouse exterior timberwork repainted
 Macquarie Street Precinct Plan completed
 Little Coogee car park reconstructed

- Mays Hill gatehouse verandas, windows and door lintels stabilised
 Replacement of park boundary fence on Park Avenue between Hainsworth Street and Helen Street
 Conservation of Macquarie St entry gates
- 2004** Gross pollutant litter traps installed on stormwater pipe outlets in Murray gardens Creek
 Car park and depot at Administration site constructed
 Conservation of O'Connell St palisade fence
 Race course stone pines (pinus pinea) planted
- 2005** Oaks replanted along Byrnes Ave
 New toilet constructed at Bowling Green, Queens Road Gate and Coleman Oval
 Domain Creek playground upgraded
 West Domain Avenue plantings
 Boer War Memorial conservation
- 2006** New pedestrian bridge constructed over Domain Creek
 Old Kings Oval car park landscaping
 Little Coogee beach stabilisation and canoe launch constructed
- 2007** Governor Phillip's carriage way archaeological excavation and interpretation
 Conservation of George St wrought iron entry gates
- 2008** Revegetation of Parramatta River bank
 Bath House conservation completed
- 2009** Six landscape projects to interpret underlying historical landscape completed:
 Mrs Macquarie's lemon hedge; South road alignment; North Carriageway;
 George St landscape; Pitt St Bridge; Government Farm; Macquarie entrance carriageway.
 Rotunda structural repairs to floor and rear wall, repairs to woodwork and repaint
 Lady Fitzroy memorial fence conservation

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Appendix B: s170 Heritage Data Sheets
List of all s170 Register items and full item reports

