

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW Approvals Committee

MINUTES OF MEETING

7 February 2007

Heritage Office, 3 Marist Place, Parramatta



PRESENT: Michael Collins (Chair), Susan Macdonald, Gary Best, Peter Mould, David Logan, Julie Bindon, Janet Dore, Diane Jones

APOLOGIES: Chris Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: Heritage Office: Vincent Sicari, Nikki Ward, Siobhan Lavelle, Jenny Climas, Rick Shapter

Parramatta Hospital: Marc Van Heemst (Multiplex), Guy Lake (Bates Smart), Ian Trapnell (International Conservation Services)

1. Opening – Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:45 pm.

1.2 Confirmation and Timing of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed.

Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary Interests

NIL

Non Pecuniary Interests

Gary Best

Item 5.2 – Former partner of Mallesons Stephen Jaques (Lawyers). Acted for Dept of Commerce in relation to the tender and contract for Parramatta Justice Precinct.

Conflicts of Interest

NIL

2. Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Approvals Committee Meeting of 6 December 2006

Members received a copy of the minutes.

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting of 6 December 2006 be adopted.

3. Action Report

Members received a copy of the action report.

Resolved:

that the Action Report of the meeting of 6 December 2006 be adopted.

4. Presentations

4.1 Parramatta Hospital – S60

Guy Lake, of Bates Smart, presented a rationale for the design objectives for the heritage courtyard at the Former Parramatta Hospital Site, stating that existing structures (footings) require imagination to perceive what may have been on the site. Therefore, while providing protection and conservation for archaeological remains, the space would become publicly accessible with displays and interpretive signage to reach as broad an audience as possible.

Pedestrian and vehicular access points and routes were outlined, as well as an overview of the proposed layout for the courtyard. The design development has used the concept of a broader 'field' to reinforce the curtilage of the third Colonial Hospital (1818-1844). The archaeological remains have been capped with a suspended protection slab. Two sections of the archaeological remains are to be left exposed for display in display cases (privies within kitchen wing and footings to eastern half of colonial hospital). Parts of the former stone boundary walls are to be reconstructed at a higher elevation to define the existing boundary of the hospital. The footprint of the surgeon's residence is to be defined by a raised platform. Building footprints, while being covered by paving, would be defined by changes in materials, colour and texture to create 2 dimensional interpretation. Interpretive nodes would be located at entries and pivot points within the courtyard, providing additional interpretive material in the form of artefacts, graphics and text. Trees will be provided within the courtyard, on raised planters, to provide shade and amenity for users.

A 15° view corridor between Jeffrey House and the Justice Building (taken from the rear of the kitchen wing foundations) has been left, in accordance with conditions of consent for the Stage 1 development application. This maintains appreciation of the site's historical connection with the Parramatta River in the context of Governor Phillip's selection of the site for health purposes due to its proximity to the river.

5. Integrated Development Applications/Section 60 and 132 Applications/Section 140 Excavation permits

5.1 Brewarrina Fish Traps – S60

The applicant sought approval for the construction of a partial width rock-ramp fishway into the southern abutment of the existing weir that spans the Barwon River immediately upstream from the Brewarrina Aboriginal Fish Traps. The Fish Traps are of profound cultural significance in the Darling Region and recognised as being of state and national heritage significance. The partial width rock-ramp fishway will reinstate native fish passage along the Barwon River.

The main concerns raised by the Brewarrina Community Working Party (CWP) were the use of dispersed stones for use in construction of the fish ladder and excavation of the river bed. According to the Community Working Party, this would impact on the cultural significance of the fish traps. The CWP asserted that the current depth of the river is sufficient for fish to pass upstream and downstream. The Heritage Council's Aboriginal Heritage Advisory Panel is in agreement with the views of the local Aboriginal community with regard to impact on cultural significance of the site.

Due to the high level of heritage significance of the site, the Approvals Committee believed further consultation with the Department of the Environment and Water Resources, the Department of Primary Industries and the local community would be required. Therefore, further consideration of the application was deferred until the March meeting of the Approvals Committee.

(Item 5.3 on the Agenda was discussed in conjunction with item 5.1)

Resolved:

The Heritage Council deferred consideration of this item pending further discussions with the Department of Environment and Water Resources and the Department of Primary Industries due to concerns raised by the community.

5.2 Parramatta Hospital – S60

The site has been occupied for hospital uses for over 200 years. Design of architecture and landscape for the Heritage Courtyard has been developed to include two pavilion buildings within the courtyard to interpret and partially expose the archaeological remains of the third Colonial Hospital (1818-1848). Hard landscaping will define the extent of the hospital curtilage, the location of other hospital buildings and other evidence of early convict settlement. Soft landscaping will provide shade and amenity for users and will also reinforce the history of the site. It is also intended that the Heritage Courtyard will include interpretation in the form of: plaques, photographic images, signage, artefact displays and other devices, including architectonic representations of the former buildings in the form of new lightweight pavilion structures.

External landscaping works and Justice Precinct way finding signage is also included as part of the current S60 Application.

Approvals Committee members were concerned that the planned paving pattern would be confusing, diffusing the strength of interpretation of the site. It was suggested that the paving pattern should be more coherent, still allowing layers and boundaries within the courtyard to be revealed. It was also suggested that planter boxes could be re-positioned in order to ensure a better relationship with the archaeological remains to assist with the interpretation.

The Approvals Committee noted that Gary Best declared a Non Pecuniary Interest with regard to this item and remained in the room, absenting from any votes.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council approve the S60 application with the following conditions:

1. The work shall be in accordance with the following documents:
 - a) Section 60 Application, number 2006/S60/110 submitted by Mr Marc Van Heemst, Design Manager, Multiplex Constructions, November 2006
 - b) 'Parramatta Justice Precinct, Heritage Courtyard: Design Report Section 60 Submission, November 2006' S/10421/8, prepared by Bates Smart with Multiplex and EDAW I AECOM.
 - c) Supplementary design statement, document prepared by Bates Smart, EDAW and ICS Pty Ltd dated 19 December 2006.
 - d) Parramatta Justice Precinct Drawings, as follows:
 - i EDAW Australia, Landscape Precinct Works Drawings and specifications:
P-LA-0555 REV 1; P-LA-9470 REV 9; P-LA-9460 REV 9; P-LA-9461 REV 7; P-LA-9462 REV 7; P-LA-9463 REV 7; P-LA-9469 REV 2; TC-LA-0553 REV 4, TC-LA-9430 REV 6; TC-LA-9431 REV 6; TC-LA-9432 REV 4; TC-LA-9433 REV 4; TC-LA-9434 REV 4; TC-LA-9435 REV 4; TC-LA-9436 REV 3; TC-LA-9437 REV 3; TC-LA-9438 REV 3; TC-LA-9439 REV 3; TC-LA-9440 REV 4; TC-LA-9441 REV 4.
 - ii Bates Smart Heritage Courtyard drawings:
P-A-DA 02-01; P-A-DA 02-02; P-A-DA 03-01; P-A-DA 03-02; P-A-DA 03-03; P-A-DA 03-04; P-A-DA 04-01.
 - iii Minale Bryce, Design Strategy and Detail drawings:
P-SI-9333; P01.1 Issue F; P02.1 Issue E; P03.1 Issue E; P03.2 Issue E; P03.3 Issue E; P04.1 Issue E; TC-SI-9334; Elevation 01 and Location Plan 02, Issue C.
 - iv Robert Bird Group, Civil Works Drawings:
P-C-9202 REV P; P-C-9203 REV J; P-C-9221 REV F; P-C-9222 REV E; P-C-9223 REV H; P-C-9224 REV E;
 - v Robert Bird Group, Public Domain Civil Works Design Certificate, dated 7 November 2006;

EXCEPT AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS OF CONSENT

2. **Significant archaeological elements, fragile 'relics' and materials shall be adequately protected during the works from potential damage. Protection systems must ensure significant historic fabric, including landscape fabric, and archaeological 'relics' is not damaged or removed. Detailed work method statements shall be submitted for the approval of the Heritage Council or its delegate before physical works commence in the vicinity of the archaeological elements;**

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3. **Final versions of the Interpretation plan for the Parramatta Justice Precinct Heritage Courtyard and the Interpretation Plan for the Parramatta Justice Precinct Public Realm are to be approved by the Heritage Council or its delegate prior to the release of an occupation certificate for the new buildings in the Heritage Courtyard;**

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4. **Specialist consultants in heritage, landscape, and interpretation; a physical conservation consultant and an historical archaeologist, are to be nominated for the Heritage Courtyard project. The consultants shall have appropriate qualifications and experience commensurate with the scope of the works. The name and experience of the consultants shall be submitted to the Heritage Council or its delegate for approval prior to the commencement of the work;**

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5. **The nominated consultants shall advise on the detail design resolution of new elements in concert with the final interpretation plan for approval of the Director, Policy and Heritage Management. The Committee noted the potential for the proposed landscape elements, including the paving pattern and planter boxes, to confuse the interpretation of the heritage elements of the site.**

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6. **The nominated consultant shall regularly inspect the physical intervention works, to minimise impacts on significant fabric, and ensure conformity to the conditions of approval;**

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7. **A report by the consultants shall be submitted to the Heritage Council or its delegate for approval within 1 month of the completion of the works which describes the work, any impacts/damage and any remedial works carried out;**

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8. **Prior to the commencement of the proposed physical works in the Heritage Courtyard, all involved parties are to be made aware by way of an induction process undertaken by the physical conservation consultant and the site archaeologist of the location, significance and fragility of the archaeological features and relics items in the vicinity of the new works and the care required to prevent damage to these items;**

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9. **Details of the interior and fit out of the Heritage Courtyard Pavilion Building are to be subject to a new S60 Application; and**

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10. **This approval shall be void if the activity to which it refers is not physically commenced within five years after the date of the approval or within the period of consent specified in any consent granted for these works under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, whichever occurs first.**

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6. Development Application Referrals and Major Project Application Referrals Under Part 3A of EP&A Act

NIL

7.0 Matters for Consideration

7.1 Collingwood Precinct Draft Liverpool DCP No. 58

The Heritage Council considered the listing of Collingwood House at its meeting of 6th December 2006 when it resolved to support the listing of the item on the SHR. The draft DCP No 58 is to provide controls to guide future development on the residential zoned land in the south east corner of the Collingwood Precinct, fronting Congressional Drive. The DCP appeared to be generally acceptable subject to suggested revisions with regard to curtilage, height controls, views to and from Collingwood House, impact on Aboriginal significance (in particular view lines from the ridge top across the Georges River to the Cubitchbarta Aboriginal Area), impact on the SHR listed area and on Collingwood House, and the need for a Heritage Impact Statement. It was also stated that the DCP should articulate the heritage significance of the site.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council:

1. Advise Liverpool City Council that it raises no objection to Collingwood Precinct Draft Development Control Plan No 58, however the Committee agreed that the document needs substantial editorial revision to articulate the heritage significance of the site, to strengthen the objectives and controls (particularly in relation to building heights and views) to reflect the significance of the site and to remove ambiguity in the document.
2. Request the Heritage Office, in consultation with the Chair of the Heritage Council, consult with Liverpool Council to finalise the DCP having regard to above point.

8.0 Matters for Information

NIL

9.0 General Business

Susan Macdonald highlighted work currently being undertaken on adaptive reuse guidelines by a committee set up specifically for the project, in conjunction with the Royal Institute of Architects. Draft text is almost complete, however the committee would appreciate suggested case studies of examples of successful adaptive reuse of buildings in New South Wales.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 3:25 pm.

Michael Collins Chair Approvals Committee Heritage Council of NSW Date:	Next Meeting of the Approvals Committee 7 March, 2007 3 Marist Place Parramatta
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