



Australian Heritage Database

Places for Decision

Class : Historic

Identification

List:	National Heritage List
Name of Place:	Old Government House and the Government Domain - Parramatta
Other Names:	
Place ID:	105957
File No:	1/14/028/0109
Nomination Date:	30/01/2007
Principal Group:	Government and Administration

Status

Legal Status:	30/01/2007 - Nominated place
Admin Status:	05/10/2006 - Under assessment by AHC--Australian place

Assessment

Recommendation:	Place meets one or more NHL criteria
Assessor's Comments:	
Other Assessments:	:

Location

Nearest Town:	Parramatta
Distance from town (km):	
Direction from town:	
Area (ha):	50
Address:	O'Connell St, Parramatta, NSW 2150
LGA:	Parramatta City NSW

Location/Boundaries:

About 50ha, O'Connell Street, Parramatta, comprising all that part of Parramatta Park and Old Government House, as entered in the New South Wales Heritage Register on 2 April 1999, that is located to the north of the Great Western Railway Line and to the south and west of the right bank of the Parramatta River.

Assessor's Summary of Significance:

Old Government House and the Government Domain (also known as the Governor's

Domain) at Parramatta Park are primary sites associated with the foundation of British colonial settlement and provide a tangible link to Australia's colonial development of 1788. Convicts built many of the structures in the place and were the labour force which operated the farming and other enterprises that occurred there. The house itself and the surrounding historic elements such as the bathhouse, carriageways and gatehouses, and the remains of Governor Brisbane's observatory, all reflect the establishment of agricultural production, the administration of the colony, the administration of the convict system in Australia, the commencement of town planning, and the site of some of Australia's earliest astronomical and botanical endeavours.

The park landscape and use has continued since 1857. The place was gazetted as a National Park in 1917. Memorial features have been erected reflecting layers of community meaning. Important amongst these is the Boer War Memorial commemorating the NSW Lancers involvement the first Australian Regiment.

As the rural seat of the colonial Governors from Governor Phillip to Governor Dennison, Old Government House provides a rare example of a surviving centre of colonial administration. Old Government House at Parramatta is the oldest surviving public building on the Australian mainland, and the only early colonial Government House to have survived relatively intact. A section of the brick flooring of the Phillip era building of July 1790 survives while the three rooms at the front of the main section of the house date to Governor Hunter in 1799. The remainder of the main house and the two side pavilions date to Governor Macquarie in 1818.

Old Government House in its setting of the Government Domain is significant as a cultural landscape of importance in Australia's history. Although the site has been reduced from the original 99.6 hectares to 85 hectares, it contains a number of historic elements that demonstrates cultural processes in Australia's development from a penal colony dependant on Great Britain to a self governing colony. These elements include the establishment of the Government Garden which marked the commencement of successful agricultural production in Australia.

Old Government House also reflects early colonial and convict administration, while other historic elements within the Domain provide evidence of the beginnings of astronomical and botanical science in this country. The pattern of use and living established by the early Governors is still clearly legible in the house and the surviving historic elements in the landscape.

Old Government House within its landscaped setting of the Domain exhibits aesthetic characteristics that are valued by the people of Australia. The three versions of Old Government House, the Phillip, Hunter and Macquarie iterations all demonstrate the direct translation of late 18th and early 19th century English building forms to Australia. While the two storey Georgian centre of the house is a common form employed throughout the colony, Palladian style houses with a central main core and flanking pavilions are rare in Australia. To enhance the setting of the house, the surrounding landscape of the Domain was opened up by Governor Macquarie and his wife to create a parklike landscape.

Old Government House and the Government Domain at Parramatta Park are

significant for their association with the life and work in Australia of the early colonial Governors. Governor's Phillip, Hunter, King, Macquarie and Brisbane all resided and worked at the house, and all have left their mark on the site through their development of the fabric of the respective buildings and the enhancement of the Domain. Old Government House and the Domain, provides a remarkable insight into the life and work of these Governors. This insight is enhanced by the wealth of information available about the site, both in terms of its documentation and the pictorial representations and photographs of the various stages of its development.

Draft Values:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Values</i>	<i>Rating</i>
A Events, Processes	Old Government House and the former Government Domain in Parramatta Park provide a tangible link with the earliest days of the foundation of the colonial development of Australia in 1788. They represent convict working places as well as the primary sites associated with the foundation of British colonial settlement. The house itself and the surrounding historic elements such as the Crescent, the governor's dairy, the bathhouse, memorials, carriageways and gatehouses, and the remains of Governor Brisbane's observatory, all reflect the establishment of agricultural production, the administration of the colony, the administration of the convict system in Australia, the commencement of town planning, and the site of some of Australia's earliest astronomical and botanical endeavours.	AT
B Rarity	As the rural seat of the colonial Governors from Governor Phillip to Governor Fitzroy, Old Government House provides a rare example of a surviving centre of colonial administration. Old Government House at Parramatta is the oldest surviving public building on the Australian mainland, and the only early colonial Government House to have survived relatively intact. A section of the brick flooring of the Phillip era building of July 1790 survives and is on display. The three rooms at the front of the main section of the house date to Governor Hunter in 1799, while the remainder of the main house and the two side pavilions date to Governor Macquarie in 1818.	AT
C Research	The Government Domain is an extensive cultural landscape that has yielded archaeological evidence and has potential to yield more, particularly in terms of a convict work place. Supporting information of historic documents and images are available in public records.	AT
D Principal characteristics of a class of places	Old Government House in its setting of the former Governor's Domain is significant as a cultural landscape of importance in Australia's history. Although the Park has been reduced from the original 99.6 hectares to 85 hectares,	AT

allocated in 1856, it contains a number of historic elements that have a tangible link with the earliest days of the foundation of British colonial settlement of Australia, and that interlink within the landscape. These historical elements include the Crescent, the governor's dairy, the bathhouse, memorials, carriageways and gatehouses, and the remains of Governor Brisbane's observatory. These historic elements demonstrates strong links with cultural processes of importance in Australia's development from a penal colony dependant on Great Britain to a self governing colony, through the establishment of the Government Garden at Old Government House, which marked the commencement of successful agricultural production in Australia. Old Government House also reflects early colonial and convict administration, while other historic elements within the Domain provide evidence of the beginnings of astronomical and botanical science in this country. The development of the house itself mirrors the growth and complexity of this process, both as the Governor's home and as the seat of administration. Uniquely for a site of this age in Australia, the pattern of use and living established by the early governors is still clearly legible in the house and the surviving historic elements in the landscape.

E Aesthetic characteristics	Old Government House within its landscaped setting of the Domain exhibits aesthetic characteristics that are valued by the people of Australia. The three versions of Old Government House, the Phillip, Hunter and Macquarie iterations all demonstrate the direct translation of late 18th and early 19th century British building forms to Australia. While the two storey Georgian centre of the house is a common form employed throughout the colony, Palladian style houses with a central main core and flanking pavilions are rare in Australia. To enhance the setting of the house, the surrounding landscape of the Domain was opened up by Governor Macquarie and his wife to reveal its parklike nature.	AT
G Social value	Old Government House and the Government Domain at Parramatta Park have strong associations for the people of Australia for social and cultural reasons. The site symbolises the most tangible link to our past and the foundations of European settlement in this country. It provides a publicly accessible cultural focus and landmark for many Australians, providing physical evidence of the earliest years of colonial development.	AT
H Significant people	Old Government House and the Governor's Domain at Parramatta Park are significant for their association with the life and work in Australia of the early colonial governors.	AT

Governors Phillip, Hunter, King, Macquarie and Brisbane all resided and worked at the house, and all have left their mark on the site through their development of the fabric of the respective buildings and the enhancement of the Domain. Old Government House and the Domain provides a remarkable insight into the life and work of these governors. This insight is enhanced by the wealth of information available about the site, both in terms of its documentation and the pictorial representations and photographs of the various stages of its development.

Historic Themes:

Group: 02 Peopling Australia

Themes: 02.03 Coming to Australia as a punishment

Sub-Themes:

Group: 02 Peopling Australia

Themes: 02.05 Promoting settlement

Sub-Themes:

Group: 03 Developing local, regional and national economies

Themes: 03.03 Surveying the continent

Sub-Themes: 03.03.04 Looking for land with agricultural potential

Group: 03 Developing local, regional and national economies

Themes: 03.03 Surveying the continent

Sub-Themes:

Group: 04 Building settlements, towns and cities

Themes: 04.01 Planning urban settlements

Sub-Themes:

Group: 05 Working

Themes: 05.02 Organising workers and work places

Sub-Themes:

Group: 07 Governing

Themes: 07.01 Governing Australia as a province of the British Empire

Sub-Themes:

Group: 07 Governing

Themes: 07.06 Administering Australia

Sub-Themes: 07.06.03 Policing Australia

Group: 07 Governing

Themes: 07.06 Administering Australia

Sub-Themes: 07.06.04 Dispensing justice

Group: 07 Governing

Themes: 07.06 Administering Australia

Sub-Themes: 07.06.05 Incarcerating people

Group: 07 Governing

Themes: 07.06 Administering Australia

Sub-Themes: 07.06.06 Providing services and welfare

Group: 07 Governing

Themes: 07.06 Administering Australia

Sub-Themes:

Nominator's Summary of Significance:

Description:

The original area of the Governor's Domain has been reduced from 99.6 to 85 hectares, and the area to the north and east of the river is now largely devoted to sporting facilities. The area contains over eighty items of cultural significance. These items include: buildings (such as Old Government House), relics (former observatory), historic plantings, archaeological sites (41 in all, including former roads, convict huts, stables, redoubt, lumberyard), vistas (across Parramatta and along George St to the former wharf) and natural items such as bushland. Evidence of Aboriginal use of this area includes stone artefacts and scarred trees (Rosen, S. 2003).

Within the boundary of the place, the layout of the major elements of the park retains much of the Governor Macquarie usage of the space. Existing roads for the most part follow the original carriage ways. The generally open Cumberland Plain woodlands survive in patches in the Park, with much of the open landscape of the broader Governor's Domain, which reflect Elizabeth Macquarie's design principles, still evident in the Park as it exists today. The 'Crescent', the natural amphitheatre which attracted Governor Phillip to the area - influencing the decision to establish the farm there, is evident today and used as an outdoor amphitheatre and performance space.

The astronomical work of Governor Brisbane at the site can still be seen in the remains of the observatory and the marker trees, and represents the commencement of Australian scientific endeavour and the start of a process during which Australia developed a world renowned reputation for scientific research and discovery.

The road ways and their layouts reflect the natural topography of the area including the River Road which follows the course of the Parramatta River and their alignments have remained substantially unchanged since the 1880s. The roads are likely to have beneath them substantial remains of older road surfaces, culverts and retaining walls. The roadways within the Park also have a park-land ambience which separate them from the busy roads surrounding the Park. River Road is a particularly pleasant and evocative tree-lined avenue.

Old Government House at Parramatta was built by convicts and is the oldest surviving public building on the Australian mainland. The original 1799 building was enlarged in 1815 to a design by John Watts to form a two storey block, two single storey end pavilions and two linked blocks. with extended eaves. The central portico is attributed to Francis Greenway (Irving 1985: 55). With its symmetrical proportions, shadow patterns from extended eaves and central portico it exhibits the 'Palladian' characteristics of Australian Old Colonial Georgian architecture. A section of the brick flooring of the Phillip era, of July 1790, survives and is on display. The three rooms at the front of the main section of the house date to Governor Hunter in 1799, while the remainder of the main house and the two side pavilions date to Governor Macquarie in 1818.

The Governor's dairy survives in its original setting, and has recently been stabilised and restored by the Park Trust. The park landscape and use has continued since 1857. The place was gazetted as a National Park in 1917. Memorials have been erected reflecting layers of community meaning. Important amongst these is the Boer

War Memorial erected in 1904 continues as a major landmark feature of the place. The Boer War Memorial, the memorial to Lady Mary Fitzroy, and the gatehouses remain in their original sites and are in good condition. Other elements, however, have been subjected to substantial change over the decades. The Macquarie stables and coachhouse were removed when the Great Western Railway line was pushed through the south-western section of the Domain. Little remains of Governor Brisbane's observatory with the exception of the transit stones and the marker trees. Similarly, Governor Brisbane's bathhouse, although still in its original site, has undergone extensive alteration. The original interior has been stripped out, the fabric within the arches removed, and the building turned into an open pavilion.

Analysis:

CRITERION (a) The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.

Old Government House and the Government Domain at Parramatta provide a tangible link with the earliest days of the foundation of British colonial settlement of Australia. They represent a place built and worked by convicts. Old Government House is the oldest public building remaining on the Australian mainland (NSW Heritage Office 2006).

Overview

Within ten months of the landing of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove, in November 1788, Governor Phillip transferred the administration of the colony to Parramatta, and the development of Old Government House and a farm. The surrounding lands later became known as the Domain and incrementally consolidated into a large working landscape. Government House and Domain marked the commencement of colonial government, early agricultural endeavours, military administration in the Colony, and convict administration and the development of a system of justice. At the time of Governor Macquarie, it was a major working property employing up to 90 convicts engaged in quarrying, timber milling, blacksmithing, farming and gardening (Rosen 2007). The first Australian botanical gardens were established in the site and contributed substantially to European understanding of Australia's unique flora. As the site was developed in the early 19th century, it also marked the first Australian participation in international astronomical scientific endeavour under Governor Brisbane.

Agricultural endeavour

The discovery of an area of fertile ground in the vicinity of the 'Crescent', on a river flat on a bend of the Parramatta River directly behind and below the present house, provided the founding colony with arable land which was accessible from Sydney Cove. In September 1788 when the Farm Cove crop failed, Phillip realised that the land around the Cove would not support the colony. In a letter to Under Secretary Nepean, Phillip subsequently observed that after the long voyage from England his first concern was to land the convicts and that he had had little time to look for the most suitable site. He remarked that had he:

"...seen the country near the head of the harbour I might have been induced to have made the settlement there, but we knew nothing of that part of the country until the

creek that runs up to Rose Hill was discovered ... three months after we landed; and although I was then fully satisfied of the goodness of the soil, and saw the advantages of that situation, most of our stores and provisions were landed... The impossibility of conveying stores and provisions for any distance inland will oblige me to mark out the first township near Rose Hill, where there is a considerable extent of good land. The sea coast does not offer any situation within our reach at present which is calculated for a town whose inhabitants are to be employed in agriculture.” (HRNSW 1978: pp.348-9)

The establishment of the colony at Rose Hill marked the beginnings of successful agricultural production in Australia and assured the eventual survival of the infant colony. The Government Domain at Parramatta Park (known originally as the ‘Government Garden’) demonstrates the importance of rural settlement in Australia, and the impetus provided by agricultural necessity in shaping exploration and the extension of colonisation (NSW Heritage Office 2006). Old Government House was the starting point for much of the early exploration of the colony (NSW Heritage Office 2006). From here expeditions gradually explored the area to the west, south-west and north, discovering other areas of productive soil at Prospect Hill, along the Georges River at Bankstown and along the Hawkesbury River. In so doing these expeditions gradually expanded the agricultural capacity of the colony. By mid 1789 both the Crescent and the slope of the ridge directly in front of the present house leading down to George Street, was under cultivation. On 21 November 1789, Phillip settled James Ruse, a convict whose sentence had expired, on 30 acres at Rose Hill in order to establish the period of time necessary to enable a man to cultivate a sufficient quantity of ground to support himself. Ruse was to be the first official ‘settler’. By the end of the first year, the Rose Hill harvest exceeded expectations, and about 200 bushels of wheat and 60 of barley, together with a small quantity of flax, corn and oats were preserved for seed. By early 1790 Phillip felt that the land around Rose Hill would meet his agricultural expectations.

Town planning

The site also marks the commencement of town planning in Australia. In his letter to Nepean, quoted above, Phillip remarks that the impossibility of conveying stores and provisions for any distance inland would necessitate marking out the first township near Rose Hill. The colony's first effective town plan was laid out by William Dawes, a young and competent naval lieutenant with a knowledge of surveying, and the establishment of his original grid pattern of streets can still be seen in the present City of Parramatta, as can the original relationship between the broad avenue of George Street, the township itself, and the Governor’s Domain and house on the rise. The roadways within Parramatta Park itself are significant as many reflect this early town planning. The original road layouts were designed to reflect the natural topography of the area, and their alignments have remained substantially unaltered (NSW Heritage Office 2006).

The Parramatta Park Trust claims Government Domain represents one of Australia's oldest and largest areas set aside and developed for public recreation in 1857. This is not a well established argument as the Domain area was an agricultural landscape at least until 1820. Other large areas of land were set aside for recreation in the early 19th Century such as Hyde Park (1810), the Sydney Domain (1816) while Adelaide Parklands were surveyed in 1837 (Aitken & Looker 2002).

Colonial administration

Old Government House has an important association with the leadership and administration of the colony of New South Wales during the first half century of settlement, with administration of the convict system, and with the establishment and growth of British power and authority in Australia over that period. As a centre of Government administration in the early colony, the site represents an important element in the process of colonial development. From the very beginnings of the colony until the mid-19th century, decisions relating to all aspects of the governance, survival, and expansion of the colony were made at the site. Old Government House provided both a home and offices for a succession of Governors from Phillip in 1788 until the appointment of Governor Denison in 1856. Its successive occupation by this series of Governors ensured that it became an official, social and administrative centre in the early colony. As such it provides a tangible link with the major decisions made during this period. The circumstances under which the colony was established as a penal settlement established a high level of authority and decision making capacity in the Governors. The absence of civil society, and the lack of any elected Government, meant that all major decisions on administration were vested in their hands. Even though an appointed advisory Legislative Council was established as early as August 1824, Governors were free to ignore their advice until 1836 when the *Australian Colonies Government Act* was passed establishing a Legislative Council of 54 Members, of which 2/3rds were elected. Governors made decisions on all aspects of colonial administration, even to the extent of determining the amount of the food ration provided to convicts and in the early days of the colony to the military and free settlers as well.

Almost immediately after the transfer to Parramatta, Phillip ordered the construction of the 'Redoubt' on the slope of the ridge above the Crescent. This construction included a post and shingle building, consisting of a barracks for the marines and a storehouse, and marks the commencement of British military administration on the site. The British military had an active role in colonial administration and in creating and shaping Australia's social and cultural climate. Military legal traditions provided much of the rough justice in the early years of the colony, and military discipline and strength were critical in containing unpredictable revolts and rebellion amongst the convicts (Bogle 1999: p.2). Records show that between April 1791 and July 1846, 25 rebellions involving five or more convicts had to be put down by the military (Bogle 1999: pp.63-4). Additionally, officers such as Macarthur were to become settlers, merchants, political figures and major landowners (Bogle 1999: p.2).

In the first fifty years of the colony the governors major responsibility was the economically effective administration of the convict penal system with due regard to emerging reforms in penal methodologies. The British government was anxious to allay criticisms from penal reformers in the United Kingdom while colonists wished to extract the maximum economic benefit from this human capital. In the friction between these competing imperatives there were few nation building tasks not undertaken by individual convicts and gangs. The governors made decisions in respect to: the assignment of individual convicts to private masters; the formation of government gangs to work on specific tasks or projects such as bridge or road building; the issue of ticket-of-leave documents that allowed convicts to work and profit from their own labour; the issue of conditional pardons which freed convicts to

work for themselves subject to certain conditions (eg. not to return to England); and the issue of absolute pardons which allowed the former convict to work as he wished or to return to the UK (Bogle 1999: p.52). The period of occupation of Old Government House by successive Governors mirrors the period of convict transportation. The last convicts arrived in NSW in 1840, and those transported for fourteen years were completing their sentences at the same time as Governor Denison decided to give up the use of the house.

The development of the site from 1788 to the time when the governors ceased to use it as a regular residence in the mid 19th century, reflects both the change and development of the colony itself and its society. In this the site reflects a hierarchy of needs, commencing with the need to ensure the survival of the colony, progressing to the military administration of a convict system of punishment and reform, and then to a functioning settlement with the beginnings of civil society, and finally as a civilising focus for that society. These changes are reflected in the development of Old Government House itself, from the vernacular cottage of Phillip hastily constructed from the wattle-and-daub materials at a time when labour could more profitably be directed to the production of food, to the more permanent brick structure of the Hunter House, its elaboration into the colonial equivalent of a baronial country seat in its landscaped grounds by Macquarie, and the further development of the site by succeeding governors to accommodate their growing retinue of staff and servants, as an aristocratic and civilising focus for society.

The development of the house and the site reflects this process of change and mirrors the changing composition of the colony itself and its society.

Scientific endeavour

The Governor's Domain at Parramatta Park is also the site of some of Australia's earliest scientific endeavours. Although the French conducted the first recorded experiments on variation to the earth's magnetic field at Recherche Bay in 1792, Governor King set up Australia's first botanical garden on the Parramatta site. When King arrived in 1800 he was accompanied by the botanist George Caley, who was sent to the Colony at the expense of Sir Joseph Banks to collect specimens of Australian flora for the Royal Gardens at Kew. King allowed Caley the use of the Government Domain at Parramatta to acclimatise native plants for return to Kew, and also to experiment with the establishment and growth of exotic species in Australia. Renowned British botanist Robert Brown, also in the employ of Banks, used Old Government House as his botanical base working along side Caley in the early 1800s. Caley's and Brown's work marked the commencement of professional scientific botany in Australia and built upon the work of Colonel William Paterson, a keen amateur botanist, and Banks collaborator, who in recognition of his efforts had been elected a member of the Royal Society in 1798. The value of these endeavours was remarked on somewhat enviously by the French botanist Peron, who stated: "It is from this spot that England has, at various times, acquired most of her treasures in the vegetable kingdom, which have enabled the English botanists to publish many important volumes."

Parramatta was also the site at which Brisbane set up his observatory. Brisbane together with his astronomers, Charles Runkler and James Dunlop, produced a stream of observations of the stars of the southern hemisphere that was acclaimed by

European astronomers and to win all three of the men gold medals from the Royal Astronomical Society.

Old Government House and the Governor's Domain at Parramatta Park are primary sites associated with the foundation of British colonial settlement of Australia: the successful establishment of agricultural production; the establishment of the civil administration of the colony and of the convict system in Australia; the commencement of town planning; and the site of some of Australia's earliest scientific endeavours.

Old Government House and the Government Domain, Parramatta has outstanding heritage values against Criterion (a).

CRITERION (b) The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.

Old Government House at Parramatta is the oldest surviving public building on the Australian mainland. A section of the brick flooring of the Phillip era, of July 1790, survives and is on display. The three rooms at the front of the main section of the house date to Governor Hunter in 1799, while the remainder of the main house and the two side pavilions date to Governor Macquarie in 1818.

As the rural seat of the colonial Governors, Old Government House provides a rare example of a centre of colonial administration. Fabric of the other Government Houses built in Australia during the Colonial period that survives is from the First Government House in Sydney and Government House in Port Macquarie which have retained only the surviving foundation footings and archaeological remains. Fabric of the first two Government House buildings from the first period of settlement of Norfolk Island only exist as archaeological subsurface remains. The 1829 Government House on Norfolk Island continues to be used as the residence of the Administrator, erected on the footings of the third Government House. Construction had commenced in 1803 and the building was deliberately burnt when the settlement was abandoned in 1814. 'The house is one of the most intact and earliest Government Houses to survive in Australia, and retains extensive evidence of its internal and external configuration, its outbuildings and its landscaped setting' (KAVHA 2007:195). The building of the present Government House on Bennelong Point in Sydney commenced in 1838, and Government House in Hobart was commenced in 1840. As with Old Government House at Parramatta, both these buildings are intact but both reflect the design principles of a later era when the role and concept of a colonial Governor had changed and both buildings are architecturally very different from Old Government House, Parramatta.

Old Government House and the Government Domain, Parramatta has outstanding heritage values against Criterion (b).

CRITERION (c) The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of

Australia's natural or cultural history

The history and development of the various elements of Old Government House and the Governor's Domain at Parramatta Park, are well documented, both in terms of the available documentary and archaeological material and also in respect to pictorial representations of the site at all stages of its development. Supporting information of historic documents and images are available in public records.

The interpretation of the currently identified dairy precinct is under question and in that area there is evidence of archaeological remains that have not been investigated. One archaeological concern is that the archaeological studies to date have not been able to make sense of the drainage. The possibility of the area being associated with Governor King's experimental brewery and maltings have not been archaeologically investigated. The site of the building extant in the 1850s at the stockyard adjacent to the Domain Creek has also not been explored. There is a lot more to be investigated in the former Domain and it has the potential to prove to be a far more complex site in terms of a convict work place than is currently given credit.

Old Government House and the Government Domain, Parramatta **has** outstanding heritage value to the nation against Criterion (c).

CRITERION (d) The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of: a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.

Old Government House in its setting of the Governor's Domain is significant as a cultural landscape of importance in Australia's history. The site contains a number of historic elements that have a tangible link with the earliest days of the foundation of British colonial settlement of Australia.

The site demonstrates strong links with historical events and cultural processes important in Australia's development from a penal colony dependant on Great Britain to a self governing colony with a civil society and a developed economy. The establishment of the Government garden near Old Government House marked the beginnings of successful agricultural production in Australia and assured the survival of the colony. The Governor's dairy, one of the oldest domestic dwellings in Australia, remains in its original location beside the river. From this point agricultural endeavour spread out over the Cumberland Plain as exploration south-west, west and north from Parramatta revealed other pockets of arable agricultural land. The commencement of this process can still be discerned in the today's relationship between the government farm area, including the Crescent, the river, and the house and its outbuildings.

Old Government House and the Governor's Domain demonstrate an integration of features with the landscape that reflect the development of colonial administration and Australian society. The development of the house itself mirrors the growth and complexity of this process. Its growth from the small vernacular cottage of Governor Phillip mirrors the development of the Governor's powers and the way they saw

themselves and their function in colonial society. Although the Park has been cut down from the original Domain, the major elements associated with the development of both the site and the growth of colonial administration remain within the present boundary. The geographical relationship between the Crescent and Old Government House still exists, as does the relationship between the house, the Domain and the township of Parramatta itself. Other elements on the site also reflect this process of growth, including the remains of the bathhouse, the memorials and the succession of gatehouses. The astronomical work of Governor Brisbane at the site can still be seen in the remains of the observatory and the marker trees, and represents the commencement of Australian scientific endeavour and the start of a process during which Australia developed a world renowned reputation for scientific research and discovery.

Present day roadways within the Park reflect the original carriageways. Uniquely for a site of this age in Australia, this pattern of use and living are still clearly legible in the landscape of the site. While there has been some development within the boundaries of the site to accommodate its use as a public park, its layout and the placement of the historic elements remains very much the same as it did when originally laid out by Governor and Elizabeth Macquarie. As a result, the relationship between the different features and components of the site remains remarkably intact and meaningful, and the place retains a coherent setting. Such 20th century development as has occurred at the site to provide facilities for its use as a public park have been kept away from the main historic elements, and plantings have been undertaken to screen modern elements from these historic elements. As a result, there has been a minimisation of disruptive or discordant components in the landscape at the site.

Old Government House and the Government Domain, Parramatta has outstanding heritage values against Criterion (d).

CRITERION (e) The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Old Government house within its landscaped setting of the Domain exhibits aesthetic characteristics that are valued by the people of Australia. The three versions of Old Government House, the Phillip, Hunter and Macquarie iterations all show the direct translation of English building forms to Australia.

The first two houses were vernacular forms, with which the British trained tradesmen would have been familiar. As a result, considerable design input was not required. As with Phillip's previous house, Governor Hunter's house was constructed with a limited range of building materials and was similar to vernacular two storey residences dating from the eighteenth century found in villages and small towns throughout the British Isles. The house is composed of a series of standard elements which the builders and tradesmen were familiar. The residence was the only two storey Georgian house in the district. The central section of Old Government House, built by Governor Hunter, is the oldest house of this form surviving in Australia (DPWS 1997: p.115). The majority of Georgian facades were made up of repeating

window elements, forming an odd number of bays, and Hunter's house has five windows across the upper front. The house still retains its original panelled doors as well as the door and windows surrounds, which date from 1799. This joinery is of a very high quality. No other examples of joinery of this standard dating from the Eighteenth century remain in Australia (DPWS 1997: p.115). Other examples of similar vernacular houses remain in NSW and Tasmania, including Rouse Hill House built by Richard Rouse between 1813 and 1818. Rouse Hill House is located on the road to Windsor and provides a comparative example of another early two storey colonial house. Rouse had a connection with Old Government House, as he was the superintendent of the public works at Parramatta and would have been familiar with the planning and detailing of the Governor's residence (DPWS 1997: p.115). Rouse Hill House retains the original vernacular configuration which makes it similar to the Hunter house, while Old Government House underwent considerable modification under Macquarie and subsequent governors.

The third iteration of the house with its two pavilions, although also British in origin, is based on the Italianate villa farm houses of Palladio. Whilst the two storey Georgian form which forms the centre of the house is a common form employed throughout the colony, Palladian style houses with a central main core and flanking pavilions are not often found in Australia. Old Government House is the only example of a Government House where this Palladian form was employed. The designer of the Macquarie house, Lieutenant Watts, was familiar with British architectural pattern books, and is known to have bought to Australia a library of architectural books including Colen Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus*. This work probably influenced the form and layout of Old Government House. The driving force behind the design for the extensions to house, however, was probably Elizabeth Macquarie. She was also familiar with architectural pattern books, bringing one with her to Australia. She was also familiar with a number of British country houses, and had also been involved in the design and laying out of the grounds at her family home at Airds in Scotland. Convict architect, Francis Greenway is also likely to have contributed to the design of the house.

Watts adapted the Palladian form to suit the small scale of the Hunter residence, and his design is one of the first Palladian style house with wings. The earlier villas constructed in Sydney were compact villas without the connecting passageways (DPWS 1997: p.103). The Female Orphan School at Parramatta is the only other major example of the application of Palladian planning, with two storey flanking pavilions being connected to the main building by single storey passageways. This building was designed to be an institution not a private residence, and its design is known to have been influenced by Elizabeth Macquarie.

Both the Sydney and Parramatta Government Houses have extensive Domains, of which a large proportion of each remains intact. In the English and Scottish country houses with which Elizabeth Macquarie was familiar, the setting of the house was as important as the design of the house itself (DPWS 1997: p.103). The completed composition of Old Government House, a Palladian style country house set in an extensive park, reflected this belief and was consciously recreating Britain. The layout of the early town of Parramatta reinforced this aspect, with the Governor's house in its park, being a focal point of the town. The vista looking up George Street from the Queens Wharf landing on the river still sweeps the eye along the street to the

colonial seat of power on its rise overlooking the town.

Elizabeth Macquarie had a strong influence on the development of the public gardens of the colony during the Governorship of her husband. Her buildings were meant to be seen as objects in a great landscape garden, and Lord Bathurst had some justification in resenting the fact that the British Government was footing the bill for these expensive ornaments (Broadbent & Kerr 1980: pp 35-36).

Elizabeth Macquarie redesigned the gardens around the new Palladian house to reflect picturesque garden design principles developed by such landscape designers as Capability Brown (1716-1783). His landscapes were at the forefront of fashion. His picturesque style in which smooth undulating grass would run straight to the house, scattered with clumps, belts, scattering of trees, and with serpentine lakes and water features was both fashionable in Elizabeth Macquarie's world, and lent itself to the terrain at Parramatta. Throughout the Domain, undergrowth was thinned with only major native trees remaining. The landscape was opened up to reveal its parklike nature, and selected English trees such as oak and elm were planted to enhance the parklike design. Open expanses of grasslands led the eye upward from George Street to the house. Although the extent of the original Domain has been reduced, Old Government House and the Governor's Domain at Parramatta still retain this picturesque plan of the country seat in its landscaped setting.

Of similar houses on large estates in New South Wales, most date from the 1830s and later. 'Vaucluse House' was built in 1830, with 'Hobartville' and 'Richmond' at about the same time. 'Elizabeth Bay House' and 'Newington' date from 1832, 'Throsby Park House' and 'Bligh House' from 1834, 'Camden Park' from 1835, 'Roseneath Cottage' from 1837, and 'Fernhill' at Mulgoa and 'Aberglasslyn' at Maitland from 1840. By this later period the simpler elegance of the early Georgian buildings was being elaborated by the addition of Grecian or Italianate elements, as at both 'Aberglasslyn' and 'Fernhill'. Similarly, 'Elizabeth Bay House' demonstrated a developing trend towards Greek revival copied in part from English architects like Sloan and Loudon (Cox & Lucas 1978: p.160).

These houses also differ from Old Government House at Parramatta in that they rarely demonstrate a continuity of development in which successive iterations can be seen developing into a coherent building. 'Vaucluse House', for example, is sited on an original grant of 80 acres made to Thomas Laycock of the NSW Corps in 1793. As such it is contemporaneous with the early Phillip house at Parramatta. After a succession of owners, it came into the possession of William Charles Wentworth in 1829, who completely re-developed the property in 1830 such that little of the original fabric is discernable today (Dupain 1974: p.22). 'Woodside' at Cressy in Tasmania is a two story Georgian villa, similar in aspect to the Hunter house at Parramatta. However, it also is from a later period, dating from the 1840s (Cox & Lucas 1978: p.20). Like 'Vaucluse House' those properties within the growing urban sprawl of Sydney have gradually been subdivided such that little of their surrounding acres remain to give the visitor a sense of the house in its grounds as it would have been during the 1830s. Today, Old Government House and its setting in the Domain are unique in providing the visitor with this glimpse of an early 19th century colonial seat within its park.

This unique characteristic is appreciated by the people of Australia through the upkeep of both the house and the remaining parklands of the Domain, and the site is visited by more than one million visitors each year (PPT 2006). It has also been the subject of paintings, etchings and photographs, from the original Hunter sketches drawn in early 1791, to the Brambila drawings of 1793, Evans watercolours of 1805 and 1809 and Freycinet's etching published in 1825. In the 1820s, Lycett produced several watercolours of the house. The first photographs of the house appeared in the late 1860s. John Campbell sketched the house in watercolour in 1890. Photographic views of various aspects of the grounds and the activities for which it has been used become current from the 1880s onward, particularly during its period of use by the King's School.

Old Government House and the Government Domain, Parramatta has outstanding heritage values against Criterion (e).

CRITERION (f) The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

There is no evidence to suggest that the construction methods used to build the various iterations of Old Government House or the other surviving structures within the Domain represent a high degree of creative or technical excellence for their time.

Based on the available evidence, Old Government House and the Government Domain, Parramatta does not meet the threshold for outstanding value to the nation against Criterion (f).

CRITERION (g) The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Old Government House and the Governor's Domain at Parramatta Park have strong associations for the people of Australia for social and cultural reasons. The site symbolises the most tangible link to our past and the foundations of European settlement in this country. It provides a publicly accessible cultural focus and landmark for many Australians, providing physical evidence of the earliest years of our colonial development. The house's siting within the surrounding parkland provides visitors with a good sense of the working and living environment of a colonial Governor, like Governor Macquarie.

Parramatta Park contains two of the oldest remaining buildings in Australia - the Dairy Cottage and Old Government House, and is one of the earliest sites of Australian Aboriginal / European contact (PPT 2006). The Park is one of the largest parks in western Sydney and offers a picturesque setting for families and community groups to enjoy. Its environment is made up of recreational spaces, remnant and regenerated Cumberland Plain woodlands. The varied landscape also contains European trees planted by early governors. The Macquaries' vision of a picturesque parkland setting for the Governor's Domain still shapes the Park today. Containing

not only the oldest surviving seat of colonial government in Australia, the Domain parklands also contain a wealth of historic sites associated with the early governors, their administration of the colony, and Australia's earliest agricultural endeavours.

Old Government House is administered by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) who have restored and furnished the building as it is believed, to the best of their knowledge from the records, it would have appeared in Macquarie's time. The house is serviced by a corps of volunteer guides who escort visitors through the building and explain its significance. The former Domain is administered by the Parramatta Park Trust which also maintains a team of volunteer guides to escort visitors around the grounds of the Domain and provide information on the various sites and buildings. Over one million people a year visit Old Government House and the Governor's Domain at Parramatta Park, including countless school children (PPT 2006).

Old Government House and the Government Domain, Parramatta has outstanding heritage value to the nation against Criterion (g).

CRITERION (h) The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history.

Old Government House and the Governor's Domain at Parramatta Park are also significant for their association with the life and work in Australia of the early colonial governors. Governor's Phillip, Hunter, King, Bligh, Macquarie and Brisbane all resided and worked at the house, and all to variable degrees, have left their mark on the site through their development of the place. Although these governor's are also associated with the first Government House in Sydney, little beyond foundations and archaeological material survives from that building to provide visitors with a sense of connection to these men. The survival of Old Government House and the Domain, virtually provides a remarkable insight into the life and work of the governors. This insight is enhanced by the wealth of information available about the site, both in terms of its documentation and the pictorial representations and photographs that also document the various stages of its development and detail the concepts and philosophy behind its design and construction. Visitors to the site are able to walk through the same rooms in which Hunter or Macquarie lived and worked, and where major decisions in relation to the administration of the colony were made.

Old Government House and the Government Domain, Parramatta has outstanding heritage value to the nation against Criterion (h).

CRITERION (i) The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous traditions.

Although the Burramutta clan of the Dharug language group lived in the area for approximately 40,000 years, there is no evidence to suggest that Old Government House and the Governor's Domain at Parramatta Park is of nationally significant importance as part of Indigenous tradition.

The aboriginal presence there has been largely neglected in the history presented in this document, Bennelong used to stay with Phillip in the house there and it was a place where officers like Tench and Dawes would have brought their Aboriginal friends and from where they accompanied them on exploratory expeditions, such as that to the Nepean. The Aboriginal feasts, distribution of blankets etc also occurred there – but is not featured in the document. It should probably be reconsidered.

Based on the available evidence, Old Government House and the Government Domain, Parramatta does not meet the threshold for outstanding heritage value to the nation against Criterion (i).

History:

Parramatta Park encompasses the remaining part of the Governor's Domain, on land that has been continually occupied for at least the past 20,000 years (PPT: 2006). It has been a significant European urban centre since the late 18th century. Parramatta Park is a significant cultural landscape closely associated with early colonial government, with the beginnings of rural settlement in Australia and with the evolution and extension of colonial settlement. The evolution of the site from Aboriginal land to colonial outpost, to Vice Regal Domain and subsequently as a public park is unique in Australia (Trust 2004-05: p14).

Indigenous history

The Parramatta River valley, from Prospect to the sea, has been occupied by Aboriginal people for at least the last 10,000 years (Attenbrow, 2002:20). The Burramatta clan of the Darug people occupied this area, and used its rich plant and animal resources. The river yielded crayfish, shellfish, eels, turtles, mullet and other fish with both the fresh and tidal portions a rich resource. The men fished from shore using special three pronged spears, and trapped and hunted native animals. The women usually fished from bark canoes using hooks fashioned from shell or bone, and traditionally dug yams from the riverbank and gathered berries, plant seeds and fruits. Animal skins provided clothing in cold weather and fur was braided into body belts for carrying tools and weapons (Kass et al 1996: pp.6-7).

NSW Heritage Register (Historical Notes) states that 'research has demonstrated that the presence of large and cohesive Aboriginal groups in the township of Parramatta represented a conspicuous and enduring aspect of the post-colonial periods of Parramatta's development (Steele, 1999, p.8). Parramatta was their traditional hunting and fishing grounds and this aspect of traditional use can be interpreted still in Parramatta Park through features such remnant indigenous plantings, scarred trees and the proximity to the Parramatta River and riverine features such as the anabranch of the Crescent and the "Island", a billabong type feature near the George Street gatehouse.'

Governor Phillip (1788- 1792)

Governor Arthur Phillip's instructions from George III required him to begin cultivation immediately on landing (Kass et al. 1996: p.9). Within days of the First Fleet's arrival at Sydney Cove, Phillip's servant Henry Dodd, who had some farming experienced, was put in charge of convicts to clear and cultivate land at the head of

Farm Cove. Immediate difficulties arose. Much of the seed had been ruined by weevils and overheating on the voyage and the local sandy soil and the February heat proved unsuitable for debilitated seed. Phillip was always acutely aware of the need for agricultural self-sufficiency as their stores would need be supplemented within the year.

On Tuesday 22 April 1788, Phillip set off with a party to explore the headwaters of what is today known as the Parramatta River. Early on Thursday 24 April, they came across a natural phenomenon where the river had scoured into the side of a hill, forming an extensive river flat in a semi-circular shape and where the former course of the river had formed a billabong, or anabranch. Phillip named the feature the 'crescent', and from the top of the hill thousands of acres of what appeared to be arable land could be seen (Kass et al. 1996: pp.11-12). The soil at the Crescent consisted of red podsolic clay soils with a deep mineralised acidic over-layer, a subsidiary heavy clay layer, and a substrata of weathered grey Ashfield shale of the Wianamatta Group (Walker 1961). Fortuitously, the area was located at both the limit of navigation on the Parramatta River, and also at the limit of tidal influence. Philip had found fertile land with a plentiful supply of fresh water which was accessible from Sydney Cove. In September when the Farm Cove crop failed, he realised that the land around the Cove would not support the colony and decided to shift the colony's agricultural efforts to Parramatta, known at that time as 'Rose Hill'.

In November 1788, Phillip sent a party of soldiers under Captain Campbell, accompanied by a convict labour force, to establish an agricultural settlement on the fertile land at the Crescent.

Land was cleared, to be used for growing crops and grazing, and a redoubt was built in the area (DPWS 1997: p.15). Hopes for the long-term survival of the colony were pinned on the area. Major Robert Ross, the commandant of the marines, expressed the hopes of many when he wrote that from:

"... my having in company with the Governor viewed that part of the country they are going to, and my knowledge of Captain Campbell's attention and perseverance in forwarding everything that tends to the good of the public, flatters me with the hope that under his fostering hand, the scheme may succeed. But should the ground, unfortunately, not answer the intended purpose, I shall give up every hope of finding any place near as fit to form a settlement upon, much less the purpose of establishing a colony." (HRNSW 1978: P.198)

The Rose Hill settlement was laid out to a plan by William Dawes, a young and competent naval lieutenant with a knowledge of surveying. The colony's first effective town plan resulted in a design described as a classic 'Renaissance scheme' (Kass et al. 1996: p.22). The east-west track from the Landing Place to the Redoubt became the major axis of the town with High (now George) Street, planned as the principal avenue, to be 205 feet wide and a mile in length. At the western end of this avenue, on the brow of the hill above the Redoubt, Phillip planned a small house for his own use which would close the western vista from the avenue. A second street (Church Street), running north south, crossed High Street. The vista through this Street was to be closed off by the planned church and Town Hall. On Church Street nine houses were built for unmarried women and several small huts for convict families of good character. On each side of High Street, 32 huts had been erected,

each 25 feet by 12 feet and spaced 100 feet apart. Each hut was of wattle and daub construction with brick chimneys and thatched roofs. They had two rooms, one of which had a brick fireplace, and were designed to hold ten convicts. By March 1791 about 100 such huts had been completed (Kass et al. 1996: p.24). Town allotments were much larger than usual, measuring 100 feet by 200 feet, and convicts were encouraged to cultivate the land around them and to grow their own vegetables.

On the hill above the Crescent and facing down the length of High Street, the Governor's cottage was built using convict labour. Captain Watkin Tench described this residence as being '44 feet long by 16 feet wide, for the governor, on a ground floor only, with excellent out houses and appurtenances attached to it' (Tench 1979: pp. 224-5). The extensive garden setting of the building, as well as its prominent position, with a view over the township, gave some status to what was essentially a vernacular cottage. Although the governor's residence was somewhat larger, and had less occupants, it was similar in form to the vernacular cottages built to accommodate the convicts. From Tench's description it would appear that Governor Phillip's House at Rose Hill was largely constructed of materials which could be obtained locally, primarily timber, 'wattles' and clay or mud. The hip roof form was used for the earliest dwellings, with either a thatched, bark or shingle roof and timber rafters. Timber posts formed the structural framework, and a network of 'wattles' woven from *Acacia* branches was inserted between the posts and the gaps filled with mud. The walls were then plastered with pale coloured clay, which required constant renewal.

There are four images of the house in the 1790s. The c.1790 watercolour, 'View of Rose Hill, Port Jackson' (artist unknown); two 1793 sketches by the Italian artist Ferdinando Brambila, the official artist to Alejandro Malaspina's Spanish expedition to the Americas, Micronesia, and New South Wales; and a 1798 engraving by Heath which was published in David Collins *An Account of the English Colony in NSW*. (London 1798) (DPWS 1997: p.17). The pattern of fenestration shown in these four etchings indicates that the house had two rooms with a central hall in a similar arrangement to the front central portion of the present house. Each of the two main rooms had a fireplace located on the rear wall. This arrangement of rooms would have provided a private bedroom for the Governor and a more public room in which guests could be received (DPWS 1997: p.18). The central hall may have functioned as a waiting room. There was also a skillion at the rear (DPWS 1997: p.18). While the construction of the Hunter cellars have destroyed a large part of the physical remains of the early dwelling, it is thought that brick flooring discovered during archaeological investigations under the north western section of the central part of today's house, dates back to Governor Phillip's original building (Proudfoot 1971: p.5). By cross referencing these surviving archaeological remains with the building portrayed in the 1793 Brambila etchings, the Phillip building's position can be relatively accurately located. It stood on the same east west axis as the centre of the present house but the front wall was set back further to the west. The back wall of the Phillip house was also located further to the west than that of the subsequent Hunter house.

The 1790 lath and plaster house also had a small outbuilding at the rear. It would almost certainly have been constructed with similar 'wattle and daub' materials to the main house and, like it, would not have been entirely weatherproof. By the time Ferdinando Brambila sketched the settlement in April 1793 this original outbuilding

had been replaced by two more substantial buildings, one almost as large as the house itself. The exact date of construction of these buildings is not known. No documentary evidence has been located referring to them, but given that Arthur Phillip left the colony in December 1792 and his successor, Francis Grose, was far less supportive of public works, a 1792 date seems probable (DPWS 1997: p.19). The configuration of the buildings forming the Government House complex are the same in both Brambilla sketches. The northern outbuilding appears to be linked to the main house through the rear skillion while the southern outbuilding is detached. The brick footings of the northern building survive, at least in part. These bricks are of a different size and texture to those used later at Old Government House and support the theory that they form the footings for the Phillip outbuilding. The substantial brick footings also suggest a brick rather than a lath and plaster structure (DPWS 1997: p.19). As depicted by Brambilla the northern outbuilding is one and a half storeys high with an attic or loft, and it may have been a bedroom wing to allow the two principal rooms in the house to be used as reception rooms. The outbuilding on the southern side was one storey and completely detached. It may have been a kitchen removed from the house to lessen the risk of fire. A substantial brick drain survives under the floor of the Macquarie additions to the central block which may in the future provide clues as to the use of these early outbuildings (DPWS 1997: p.19).

Even at this date, visitors were commenting favourably on the gardens surrounding the governor's house. The botanist of Alesjandro Malaspina's expedition described the party's visit to Parramatta:

"They visited the new Government House, which stood on a hill at the end of the chief street. In a beautiful garden surrounding it were a number of well grown fruit trees, such as pomegranates and apples, and nearly all of the vegetables known in Europe for culinary purposes. The different beds were edged with strawberries and two kinds of geraniums, the *Geranium inquinans* and *zonale* (pelargonium) and *Cheiranthus Icanus* (common stock) were all in full bloom. The shoots of vines growing on the south side appeared to be healthy, and some bunches of grapes, which the Spanish party tasted in the Gardeners residence, were of excellent flavour. There were also melons and 'arbouses' (?) in great abundance" (translation from SMH 12 November 1910).

Governor Hunter (1795-1800)

When Phillip departed in late 1792, government of the Colony was placed in the hands of the commanding officer of the New South Wales Corps, Major Francis Grose. When Grose also returned to England due to ill health in December 1794, Captain William Patterson served as Lieutenant Governor until the arrival of Hunter in September 1795. There are few references to Old Government House during the period of their respective Lieutenant Governorships, and neither Grose nor Patterson appear to have made any substantive improvements or alterations to the Phillip era buildings.

The colony was governed by Captain John Hunter from 1795-1800. He utilised Phillip's cottage until it became uninhabitable. By mid 1799, the house was regarded as being too small and the framing was so decayed that the roof fell in. It was condemned and a new residence for the governor was commenced, which was to be built of more permanent materials. Hunter was forced to hire labourers for essential work until the arrival of convict mechanics on the *Barwell* in mid-1798. The

“Statement of work executed at the different settlements during the year 1799” which indicates the scope of public works undertaken at Parramatta by the different convict work groups, shows that carpenters and sawyers were allocated to the project, and that a party of convicts was also set to collecting and burning lime for the brickwork there (Rosen 2003: pp. 48-9). In April 1799, the brick foundations of the new house were laid, but the partially completed house was badly damaged in a fierce southerly storm in early June (DPWS 1997: p.21). The extent of repairs would indicate that much of the damage was done by water, with the soft mortar being washed away and the floors and joinery swollen and twisted out of shape. The completed house was described as being 60 feet long and 24 feet broad from out to out with a suite of rooms upstairs and cellars under the house (DPWS 1997: p.21). The two storeyed single pile brick building contained reception rooms and bedrooms. The house was coated in roughcast and this original Hunter roughcast, or harling finish, survives intact on the two chimneys which were encased by Macquarie's extensions to the roof in the 1810s. Fragments of the clay roofing tiles from the Hunter house can also be seen embedded in these chimneys. The outbuildings of the original Phillip house were retained by Hunter and were probably used as a kitchen and for other uses related to the running of the house.

Governors King and Bligh, Foveaux and Patterson (1800 – 1809)

When Captain Phillip Gidley King arrived in New South Wales in April 1800 with orders for Hunter's recall to England, the new house at Parramatta was not quite ready, and by this time Government House in Sydney was uninhabitable (Rosen 2003: p.51).

King handed over the government of the Colony to Bligh in August 1806. After only seventeen months in office, in January 1808, the officers of the New South Wales Corps engineered his arrest. He remained in confinement in Sydney for over a year, then sailed to Hobart on the *Porpoise* in March of 1809, remaining there until the arrival of Governor Macquarie late that year. His successors also had brief tenures in office. Major George Johnston assumed the office of Lieutenant Governor following Bligh's arrest. Six months later he was replaced by Colonel Foveaux, who in turn was replaced in January 1809 by Lieutenant Governor William Patterson who remained in office until relieved by Macquarie (Proudfoot 1971: p.24).

No work appears to have been done on the fabric of the Old Government House during this period. Comments made in respect to the property at this time, such as those of François Peron the naturalist who accompanied the French Baudin expedition, relate to the 'Government Garden' which surrounded Old Government House. When King arrived in 1800 he was accompanied by the botanist George Caley, who had been sent to the Colony at the expense of Sir Joseph Banks to collect specimens of Australian flora for the Royal Gardens at Kew. King allowed Caley the use of the Government Domain at Parramatta, where he allocated him a 'botanical' garden under the direction of Lieutenant Governor William Patterson. Patterson himself was a member of the Royal Society and a keen botanist, who also collected plants for Banks and the Royal Gardens at Kew. Caley was to remain in the Colony for ten years, collecting vast numbers of indigenous plants and seeds, and sending descriptions and comments to Banks – including comments on the political situation in the Colony. Caley and Patterson used the gardens around Old Government House to experiment on the naturalisation of imported plants, and to establish collections of

native species for transport to England. Peron, in his *Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes* published in Paris between 1807 and 1816, remarks on the value of these gardens (quoted in Proudfoot 1971: p.22).

“...here also are collected the most remarkable of the indigenous plants, intended to enrich the famous royal gardens at Kew. It is from this spot that England has, at various times, acquired most of her treasures in the vegetable kingdom, which have enabled the English botanists to publish many important volumes.”

Governor Macquarie(1810-1821)

Governor Macquarie planned improvements to both the township of Parramatta and to the Governor's residence there. By this time the ordered town layout planned by Phillip had been overlayed by buildings without regard to the original plan. On a visit on 1811 Macquarie laid out the town once more, in regular streets crossing at right angles. He ordered that no house should be built within the town before a plan of the house or building had been submitted through a Magistrate for approval by the Governor (Proudfoot 1971: p.26).

He also determined that the grounds surrounding the governor's house at Parramatta should be reclaimed for use by the Governor, and made regulations restricting indiscriminate public entry (Proudfoot 1971: p.26). It is from this time that the term ‘Domain’ or ‘Demense’ first came into use in reference to the Parramatta Government House and the government holdings associated with it. One reason for these restrictions on access to the Domain was that Macquarie had decided to enlarge Government House to accommodate himself and his family and staff. Initially the Macquaries rarely spent more than a day or two per month at Old Government House, as it could only accommodate the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and their wives. One of the out buildings may have been used to provide accommodation for the remainder of the party, alternatively they would have been accommodated at a local inn.

In addition, by 1812 the house was in poor condition. Rouse was later to report to Commissioner Bigge that the foundations of the centre part of the Hunter house were so decayed that a great part of the foundation had to be taken out and replaced with new brickwork and woodwork (Proudfoot 1971: p.28). The ground floors had sunk, roofing shingles had rotted, and the outbuildings were in a complete state of decay (DPWS 1997: p.24).

In 1812 and 1813 an attempt was made to rehabilitate the existing building. Convict carpenters and plasterers were assigned to the work, and the kitchen was replastered, window glass was replaced, a water closet was fitted, and new doors were made. In 1815 further additions were made to prop up the decaying house. It is thought that this also included the construction of a staircase at the rear of the Hunter house (DPWS 1997: p.24). The scope of works necessitated the employment of six sawyers and nineteen plasterers, labourers, and carpenters, and lasted from May to June. One of the chief sources of grievance against Macquarie by the free settlers, was the scarcity of skilled convict labour caused by Macquarie's policy of retaining these skilled convicts for employment on public works, including the rebuilding of Old Government House. Commissioner Bigge noted in his “Report on the State of the Colony” that Macquarie was reluctant to disperse the skilled artisans, and that of the 11,767 male convicts who had arrived in the Colony between 1 January 1814

and 29 December 1820, some 4,587 were employed by the administration of which 1,587 were mechanics and 3,000 were labourers (Rosen 2003: p.64).

Macquarie instructed his Aide-de-Camp, Lieutenant Watts, to prepare plans to re-build and extend the house. Watts enjoyed the confidence of Mrs Macquarie, and in the new layout the vernacular house of Governor Hunter was transformed into an elegant Palladian style country house in the English manner. The Palladian symmetry of the new house was emphasised by the addition of two identical but mirror image side pavilions, connected by passageways to the main house. Watts also added the plinth, string course and portico to the front of the house. The whole structure was lined in plaster dressed to give it the appearance of ashlar. The zones of the house were clearly separated. The Macquaries occupied the northern pavilion, with the Breakfast Room probably being used as a private dining and drawing room. The servants occupied the southern pavilion and a rear building, separated by a yard. Sleeping accommodation for servants was provided in a separate building, and possibly also in a loft. The central portion of the house was used for receiving, entertaining and accommodating guests.

Between 24 March 1815 and 24 June 1815 the construction of the new house was the sole focus of Government public works at Parramatta, but evidence suggests that work began in fact in early 1815 (there is a gap in the Rouse returns for the first three months of this year as they have not survived). Six convict sawyers, six carpenters, four bricklayers, two plasterers, and seven labourers were engaged on construction during this period. Some 20,000 nails were manufactured by the smiths, and 400 bushels of lime, as well as two cedar logs, 80 feet of cedar planks, cedar windowsills, and a staircase were sent up from Sydney to Parramatta for use in the new building (Rosen 2003: p. 67).

Although Lieutenant Watts was commissioned to design the additions to the house, the detailed design of the portico over the front door was undertaken by Francis Greenway. In August 1816 stone steps and a plinth were ordered together with four columns and four pilasters. A sheet of lead measuring 7' 6" by 3' 9" wide was ordered in March 1817. A drawing by Watts of his portico design survives, but not the drawings by Greenway. Watts' design shows a portico with two pairs of Roman Doric columns and a plain frieze and fillet. As eventually constructed, Greenway elaborated the portico to include two sets of pillars with corresponding pilasters against the wall, and added a simplified Doric frieze with triglyphs and mutules. It is not known if the enlargement to the front door is contemporary with the addition of the portico, or if it was altered at a later date. The two elements appear to have been designed separately as the pilasters overlap the door. The French mariner, Louis de Freycinet, and his wife Rose, visited Parramatta and dined with the Macquaries. An engraving based on sketches prepared by Freycinet c.1819 shows the Greenway portico with the earlier form of door, so it is probable he saw it in its earlier configuration prior to alteration. This engraving also shows how the Macquaries had transformed the house and its setting in the image of an English gentleman's country residence.

Works were undertaken to improve the grounds. Macquarie recorded that stables and a coach-house were constructed in 1817, a fact confirmed by Greenway who claimed credit for their construction. A dove or pigeon house was added by 1820, and a rustic

'bark hut' designed by Mrs Macquarie was built on the top of the hill. No illustration of the bark hut has been found however the pigeon house can be seen in early 1820 views of Parramatta. The pigeon house was round, with a domed shingle roof. Another round building was located adjacent to it, but the use of this second structure is unknown. It was possibly either a fowl house or bath house. These two buildings did not survive for long and it appears they were removed to make way for the construction of the officers' quarters. The pigeon house may, however, have been relocated further south, as a colonnaded round structure with a similar lantern appears in later 1820s and 1830s views of the house. In 1831 the 'pigeon house' was used for accommodation, possibly for servants. No mention of the structure is made, however, in inventories later than the 1830s.

About 1818 another addition was made to the rear of the house which doubled the entire length of the original Hunter's residence. This provided more bedrooms upstairs and additional accommodation for the Governor downstairs. The roof was modified into a M shape, in cross section and may have had dormers in the back slope facing west.

The driving force behind the design for the extensions to house was probably Mrs Macquarie. She was familiar with architectural pattern books, bringing one with her to Australia. She had also been involved in the design and laying out of the grounds at her family home at Airds in Scotland. In the English and Scottish country houses with which she was familiar, the setting of the house was as important as the design of the house itself. As a result, the layout of the gardens was probably redesigned and supervised by Mrs Macquarie (DPWS 1997: p.30). In the early years of the Colony, the Garden beds at Government House were necessary for the production of food. By Macquarie's time this was no longer the case, and the garden beds from the front of the house were removed and the house set in landscaped grounds with a series of pathways. The kitchen garden and orchard were re-established in an area located away from the main house. Mature native trees were retained and exotic species such as English oaks, elms, mulberries, pears and oranges were planted in the Domain.

The Macquaries used the house extensively between November 1816 and their return to England in 1822. Governor Macquarie sometimes left his wife and child there while he toured the colony, and in November 1820 whilst he was away, the house was badly damaged by a lightning strike. No physical evidence of the damage survives, but contemporary descriptions indicate that considerable repairs to the building were required on both the upper and lower levels.

The Bigge inquiry necessitated a complete inventory of Macquarie's building activities, and gives an indication of the use of the various rooms in Old Government House during his tenure. The northern pavilion comprised the Governor's private apartments, and contained the breakfast room with French doors opening out to a bower to the north. The pavilion also contained the bedroom used by the Governor, a dressing room and lobby. The bedroom was also used for gatherings as it contained eleven chairs. This was typical of a late eighteenth century interior when the best bed chamber was second only in status to the best parlour and was used for entertaining as well as sleeping. Although all of the plans show the passage between the northern pavilion and the central block as enclosed it was termed a 'colonnade', and contained no furniture. The lack of furniture may also indicate that it was originally external, as

in the 1850s there are references to three stone columns on the southern side of the passageway. It is thought that there may have been a private entrance to the northern pavilion from the front garden through the colonnade as there was a porch or awning in this location by the mid 1850s, indicating a door. The middle hall was used as a seating area, with six adults chairs, one child's chair and a stool for a servant. This area, like the main hall, may have been used by people waiting to see the Governor. Alternatively it was used for meeting larger groups than could be accommodated in his adjacent office. The butler's pantry was located immediately off the hall. Like the middle hall the front hall also contained chairs for waiting visitors. The two front rooms were used as a dining room and a drawing room. The dining room was originally the furthest from the kitchen, but in the twentieth century this arrangement was reversed. It is not known which room the earlier governors used as a dining room (DPWS 1997: pp.36-7).

The upstairs rooms were utilised as bed rooms and dressing rooms. By 1821 the water closet was located adjacent to the staircase. The servant's loft was located between the water closet and room 7, which is thought to be the room of Macquarie's aide-de-camp, Sgt Whalan, and accessed from the southern colonnade. This servant's loft may have been in the back half of the roof of the main portion of the house accessed via a very narrow, steep staircase. No evidence of this configuration occurs on the plan however dormer windows occurred in this location. The alternate view is that the dormers may have lit the central corridor (DPWS 1997: pp.36-7).

In the southern wing at the back of the house, two of the rooms were reserved for larders. One was the kitchen proper and the other the scullery. The laundry was in a separate building (DPWS 1997: p.37).

George Salter had built a cottage on the River bank on the reach running north away from the Crescent between 1798 and 1805, and grew wheat and maize. Part of Slater's holding was purchased by Governor Macquarie in 1813 in move towards consolidating the Domain land. Up until the 1820s the Domain was a convict working property containing the Lumber Yard and up to ninety convicts working in quarrying, milling, blacksmithing, farming and gardening. Later, the Domain area was further increased with purchase of other properties.

Governor Brisbane (1821-1825)

Lachlan Macquarie's successor Governor Brisbane preferred to reside at Government House at Parramatta rather than Government House in Sydney. His preference for Parramatta was probably not due to the attributes of the house or its extensive grounds, but that the domain provided an excellent site for his private observatory.

The Observatory, erected in 1822 was part of Brisbane's intention to make Parramatta "the Greenwich of the Southern Hemisphere" (DPWS 1997: p.39). Brisbane was accompanied to Australia by two astronomers: Mr. Charles Rumker, who had already attained a good reputation as an astronomer and mathematician; and Mr. James Dunlop, whose great natural ability in mechanical appliances and instruments saw him identified as a suitable man for second assistant in the Observatory in an out of the way place like Parramatta. On arrival in New South Wales, Brisbane's instruments were immediately set up on piers in the Domain to allow the observation of the solstice on 21 December 1821. By April 1822, the construction of the

observatory had been completed in anticipation of the appearance of Encke's Comet, an event not observable in Europe or at the Cape of Good Hope (Rosen 2003: p.80). The observatory was privately funded by Brisbane and consisted of two buildings: an observatory equipped at Brisbane's personal expense; and a residence attached to it. Located about 100 yards behind Government House, the observatory was a plain building, 28 feet square by 11 feet high, with a flat roof with two domes 11 feet 6 inches in diameter projecting from it, one at the north and the other at the south. On the north and south sides were five windows, three of which were in a semi-circular projection from the wall at the base of the domes. Transit openings in the domes extended to one of the windows to allow observations of the horizon. A 16-inch Reichenbach repeating circle was located under the north dome and a 46-inch equatorial Banks telescope was under the south dome. There was also a Troughton mural circle and a 5½ foot Troughton transit instrument. A Hardy clock showed sidereal time and a Brequet clock showed mean time. All instruments were mounted on solid masonry piers. There was also a Fortin pendulum and two instruments for observing the dip and variation of the magnetic needle. Some £470 was spent on the building in 1832, when the house was extended by two small rooms. In 1835, the transit was replaced by a 3½ foot Jones' transit circle, after which the mural circle was predominantly used because Dunlop believed the Jones circle was too difficult for one person to operate (Rosen 2003: pp. 86-87).

Although comprehensive plans of the Observatory remain the building has largely vanished, with only the stone piers surviving. These piers are now the sole remnants of the astronomical activities that occurred at Parramatta; however, another substantial legacy remains. In 1824, at the instigation of the Royal Society, the measurement of an arc of the meridian of New South Wales through Parramatta was ordered by Earl Bathurst. The arc would provide data 'for determining correctly the figure of the Earth ... [and] be useful in laying a foundation for a correct Survey of our Colonies'. In 1828, when Thomas Mitchell began the first trigonometrical survey of New South Wales, his initial meridian was taken from the Parramatta transit instrument in consultation with Dunlop. That survey underpinned mapping in New South Wales until recent times (Rosen 2003: p.80). Surveyor Edward Ebbsworth, when conducting his 1887 survey of Parramatta Park, ensured that the exact location of the piers would be preserved by fixing a copper plug in the basal stone of the piers. The Observatory functioned from 1822, the year of its construction until 1829 when Rumker returned to Europe. In 1831 Dunlop, who had retired to take up farming was appointed superintendent, repairs were undertaken and the observatory operated again, until its closure in 1847, when the astronomical equipment was removed to Sydney and eventually installed in the new Observatory built on Flagstaff (later Observatory) Hill (DPWS 1997: p.39; Rosen 2003; p.81).

The work of Brisbane and his associated astronomers were the first scientific astronomical observations, and amongst the first scientific experimental work, to come from Australia (the French had conducted experiments into magnetic declination in the southern hemisphere at Recherche Bay in 1791). Rumker's publication of his observations of Encke's Comet resulted in him being awarded a silver medal and £100 by the Royal Astronomical Society and a gold medal from the Institute de France. In 1826, Rumker also discovered a new comet in the constellation of Orion. Rumker's chief publication resulting from his work at Parramatta, the *Preliminary Catalogue of Fixed Stars, Intended for a Prospectus of a Catalogue of*

the Stars of the Southern Hemisphere, Included within the Tropic of Capricorn; Now Reducing from the Observations, Made in the Observatory at Parramatta by Charles Rumker, Hamburg, appeared in 1832. Dunlop on the other hand published his observations on the length of a seconds pendulum in the *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society in 1823, and his observations of nebulae of the southern hemisphere in 1828. For this latter work, he received a gold medal from the Royal Astronomical Society. He also published, in 1829, a list of double stars observed from the Parramatta Observatory in the *Memoirs of the Astronomical Society*. Governor Brisbane's own monumental work, *A Catalogue of 7385 Stars, Chiefly in the Southern Hemisphere*, published in 1835 by the Admiralty, was regarded by the European scientific community a major scientific achievement (Rosen 2003: pp.80-81). It was in recognition of his patronage of astronomy in NSW, and for the abundance of observations that came pouring in from Parramatta, that in 1828 the Royal Astronomical Society awarded him the Gold Medal for the *Parramatta Catalogue of Stars and General Observations*, printed by the Royal Society in their *Transactions*. Sir John Herschel, at that time President of the Astronomical Society, said, in presenting the medal:

"We give this medal accompanied with the strongest expressions of our admiration for your patriotic and princely support given to Astronomy in regions so remote. It will be to you a source of honest pride as long as you live to reflect that the most brilliant trait of Australian history marks the era of your government, and that your name will be identified with the future glories of that colony in ages yet to come, as the founder of her science. It is a distinction worthy of a British Governor. Our first triumphs in those fair climes have been the peaceful ones of science, and the treasures they have transmitted to us are imperishable records of useful knowledge, speedily to be returned with interest, to the improvement of their condition and their elevation in the scale of nations." (BoM: 2001).

Associated with Brisbane's transit stones are two marker trees which stand to the south of the transit stones. These are *Pinus roxburghi* (tortoise shell pines), the same species used as marker trees at Brisbane's Makerstoun observatory in Scotland. Two more marker trees were located near the southern Domain gatehouse, spaced at an identical distance as those at the observatory, on the same north-south alignment extending through the transit stones. These original marker trees are now more than 180 years old (Rosen 2003: p.89).

Brisbane continued to maintain the Macquarie's garden and the domain pastures. He was also concerned with horticultural improvements, planting clover and rye in 1824 and irrigating the gardens using a 'garden engine'. One hundred garden pots were also purchased for a 'Botanical and Horticultural establishment' (Rosen 2003: pp.83-4). Brisbane encouraged botanical experimentation at Parramatta as well as astronomy. He conducted largely unsuccessful experiments in growing Virginian tobacco, Georgian cotton, Brazilian coffee and New Zealand flax. Imported grasses were planted to improve the quality of the pasture. Lady Brisbane continued the planting of the park begun by Mrs Macquarie (DPWS 1997: p.39).

During 1823 a series of minor repairs were undertaken at Old Government House, under the supervision of the recently appointed Civil Architect, Standish Lawrence Harris. A door was added and a brick chimney constructed (the location of both of which are now unknown). Repairs to brick work and the shingles were undertaken

and stone flagging laid.

Harris also designed a Bath House for the Governor, which had its own reticulated water supply and which continues to exist albeit in a much altered form (DPWS 1997: p.40). In 1847 a journalist noted that the bath was in the centre of the building and was furnished with a shower bath. An adjoining room was fitted with apparatus for generating steam and a third was adapted for heating water (DPWS 1997: p.40). Each of the rooms was ornamented with a handsome cornice. The Bath house was supplied with water from the Parramatta River by way of a forcing pump. The pump was sunk through rock 5 feet deep and lined in brickwork. In the garden, 276 feet of brickwork with 238 feet of lead pipe and 44 feet of stone capping was undertaken. The total excavation into the side of the hill was some 555 feet. It appears that the main house may also have been connected to the pump. In 1972, a report in the *Parramatta Advertiser* claimed that the water was pumped from the river in the vicinity of today's amphitheatre and flowed away via a brick drain to a duck pond near where the bowling club now stands (Rosen 2003: p.84). In 1886 the Bath House was substantially altered and converted into a park pavilion (DPWS 1997: p.40).

The Garrison Building, or Officers Quarter's as it was more commonly known, appears at this time. The officers quarters are not mentioned on Antill's 1821 inventory, indicating that they were probably constructed for Governor Brisbane in early 1822. The building consists of two wings, one room deep, separated by a passage. The walls are of varying thicknesses and alignments, indicating that the building was built in stages. It may have incorporated earlier outbuildings, possibly those constructed for servants accommodation between 1815 and 1816, as part of the Macquaries improvements to the house. The building was constructed to provide additional accommodation for the officers who formed the Governor's staff and for household servants. The four rooms for the officers faced the rear courtyard of the house. Lycett's 1824 aquatint, although somewhat inaccurate in its depiction of the main house, shows a rear block with no verandah connected to the main house via a covered way. The arrangement of windows pictured matches that of the south east corner of the Garrison Building (DPWS 1997: p.41). The round structure in the centre of the image may be the old pigeon house with an added colonnade. The Officers Quarters had by 1838 a long verandah running north south across the front of the building. A photograph of the rear of the building taken in 1908 shows a rear verandah, its roof integral with the back slope of the roof. The west wing, which accommodated the servants did not have a verandah. It opened into a separate yard behind the officers quarters. Two of the rooms are larger, with sandstone fireplaces. One of these was probably the servant's dining room. The dining room may have been the room located in the south east corner, closest to the kitchen wing of the main house. A covered way, connecting the back suite of buildings with the kitchen block, is indicated on the 1857 site plan. It is also described by Lady Franklin and shown in Lycett's engraving.

Governor Darling (1825-1831)

Darling's military governorship of the formerly French Mauritius between 1819 and 1823 was poor preparation for his post in New South Wales, where he was confronted by a free colonial society that was increasingly intolerant of the constraints of a penal colony. He set about reforming the administration of the colony and demanded that officials conduct themselves respectably. Darling's military bearing and attitudes

were resented, and conflict with the newly instigated Executive Council and with the judiciary marred a hard-working administration that, at last, integrated the civil service and reformed the monetary and banking system (Rosen 2003: p.91).

When Darling arrived, Government House Sydney was in a poor condition, having been uninhabited for four years. Darling described the Sydney house as 'a perfect Hovel' and, after initially staying in the house of the Chief Justice, he took up residence at Parramatta while the Sydney house was renovated. Government House Parramatta was described at the time by the artist Joseph Lycett as combining 'all the requisites of a rural residence, with the convenience of being at only a short distance from Sydney'. While the Darlings were cognisant of the attractions of Parramatta, the Governor was determined that he would not repeat Brisbane's mistake of isolating himself there. Sydney again became the principal residence of the Governor, while Parramatta served as a winter retreat and a haven when repairs were being undertaken at Sydney (Rosen 2003: p.91).

Governor Darling had little impact on the fabric of Old Government House. An inventory survives which provides evidence of how the house was used in 1831. The dining room remained in the same position, however, the larger Breakfast room was now used as a Drawing Room, with the Governor's Office and a small office adjacent. The private secretary also had an office in the house. Only two of the servants are accommodated in the main building, the remainder are accommodated in the separate servants quarters at the back of the Garrison Building. The servants hall is also now located in the separate servants quarters (DPWS 1997: p.42).

In 1828, the British Treasury considered the expense of furnishing the various colonial government houses. The decision was taken that inventories of furniture should be made, and that the Governor was to be made responsible for any deficiencies. In the future, both building maintenance and furniture costs would be borne by the NSW Colonial Treasury. This policy shift marks the beginning of the decline of Government House Parramatta. Over the next decade, the saga of the construction of the Sydney Government House dragged on, and Government House Parramatta languished as its future as a viceregal residence waned. In August 1829, after Darling received an estimate for additions to the stables, it was decided not to proceed with the work, and hostility between successive Governors and the NSW Executive Council resulted in the Colonial Treasury becoming uninterested in providing the 'indulgence' of two houses for the Governor (Rosen 2003: p.94).

Governor Bourke (1831-1837)

Governor Bourke preferred Parramatta, and initially chose to live in the house as he thought the climate might be beneficial to his wife's health. His wife died in the house in May 1832, probably of rheumatic carditis. In addition to the Governor and his wife, two of his sons formed part of his household. The eldest son John was blind and the younger son, Richard, acted as the Governor's private secretary from 1831 until 1834. The Bourkes appear to have altered the room usage, with the former drawing room being converted into a bedroom, possibly for their blind son or Mrs Bourke. The door to the rear passage was probably added to enable the room to be entered without passing through the hall where visitors might possibly be waiting. The breakfast room was used as a drawing room (DPWS 1997: p.44). The gardens continued to be maintained. The servants were for the most part accommodated in the

back suite of buildings, as were the officers of the Governor's staff.

Despite the death of his wife there, Parramatta was known to be Bourke's favourite residence. He made good use of the Domain, taking daily walks or riding and, while he resided in Sydney when required, he worked as much as possible at Parramatta and escaped there on the weekends (Rosen 2003: p.99). Bourke and subsequent governors continued to utilise Old Government House, however once the decision was made in 1832 to build a new Government House in Sydney it became difficult for the Governor's to obtain funding to maintain the house at Parramatta. Lord Viscount Goderich, in a despatch to Bourke gave instructions regarding the disposal of Old Government House. Bourke pleaded for the retention of the house:

'Were your Lordship fully acquainted with the endless labor and detail and the personal importunity attending the administration of this Government, and the expense consequent upon a constant residence in Sydney, I am convinced you would not hesitate to allow the Governor the partial rest from fatigue, and needful economy of money, which the occasional retirement to the country affords him. I believe I am correct in stating that neither the Council nor the public seem to call for the surrender of the Parramatta house' (Rosen 2003: p.99).

The correspondence continued for years and the matter was not finally resolved until the 1850s when the house was let (DPWS 1997: p.43).

Minor maintenance work, mainly plastering, repainting and reshingling, continued to be done on the main house and outbuildings. Reflecting changes in the convict system, the Department of the Colonial Architect would supply plans and specifications for work which was to be undertaken, largely by contractors under supervision by the department. With only a small number of mechanics retained for minor works, a shortage of skilled labour and high wages meant that the cost of repairs attracted the criticism of both the NSW Executive Council and the Colonial Treasury. Unskilled convict labourers continued to be supplied by the Assignment Board, and in July 1833 a shepherd and a labourer were allocated to the Domain (Rosen 2003: p.100). The only new construction approved during the period of Bourke's governorship were additions to the Guardhouse approved in 1835 at a cost of £97 (Rosen 2003: pp.100, 102).

Governor Gipps (1838-1846)

Governor Gipps corresponded with Lord Stanley regarding the continuing use of the house. Stanley agreed that the Governor could retain Old Government House provided that the expenses associated with the running and maintenance of the house were paid for by the Governor, and not from the public purse. Gipps decided in late 1845 that he did not wish to use house and advertised it for lease in a series of lots. He was unwell, having a heart condition that made even climbing the staircase difficult (DPWS 1997: p.45). He may have wished to lease Old Government House because of the considerable energy required to maintain two households. The property was to be let in two lots. The first lot comprised the entrance lodge, Old Government House itself, offices, stabling, garden, dairy, men's huts and farm buildings, with the whole of the land formerly attached thereto of about 1,000 acres. The second lot comprised the remainder of the land of the Governor's Domain, but without the stone quarries (DPWS 1997: p.46). It does not appear, however, that the house was leased for long, probably less than a year.

Governor Fitzroy (1846-1855)

The new Governor, Fitzroy, began his term in August 1846 and used the house frequently. Like the other Governors before him, Governor Fitzroy restricted public access to the Domain, reserving it for his own use, with tragic consequences. His wife, the Hon. Lady Mary Fitzroy, and his Aide-de-Camp, Lieutenant Masters, were killed in a carriage accident in December 1847 as they started out on a journey to St James Church in Sydney to attend a wedding, when the Governor was driving the carriage (DPWS 1997: p.47). The Governor did not visit the house much following her death, and it is believed that he had the house boarded up (DPWS 1997: p.47).

In 1850 the Colonial Architect requested an inspection of the house. As a result of the inspection, almost all areas of the house were found to require repair and renovation. An extensive white ant problem was identified particularly in the shingle roof, and a large nest was discovered in the ceiling over the Governor's bedroom. As a result extensive work was required to a number of the ceilings in the buildings (DPWS 1997: pp.47-8).

The list of recommended repairs indicates that the level of finishes varied from room to room, with colouring undertaken in rooms such as the governor's rooms, whereas those occupied by servants, such as the kitchen, housekeepers room, and the housemaids room were limewashed. The inspection report also noted that the public rooms were generally papered and that this was protected during the works (DPWS 1997: p.50). The extent of work actually undertaken is not known, however the reports regarding the condition of the building made five years later indicate that the white ant problem was not solved (DPWS 1997: p.50).

In 1852 the external wood work of the house was repainted by James Houison (DPWS 1997: p.50). The works were to be undertaken to the satisfaction of the colonial architect, Samuel Elyard, who noted the colours on a sketch of the house drawn in the early 1870s, as being: grey-green shutters in a light tone, but deeper than the tone of the house; all building walls in a strong yellow ochre; light warm grey roofs; light green shades in the front of the main building, with others dark green (DPWS 1997: p.51).

In early 1855 the Colonial Architect investigated the condition of the house again, and reported that the house was in such a decayed state that it was useless to attempt to repair it. The ravages of the white ants with which it was infested had more or less destroyed the whole of the timberwork in the building. The roof and the floors were for the most part rotten. The insect infestation appeared to be so extensive throughout the house that in the opinion of the Colonial Architect if any repairs were made the new work would soon become as bad as the old. He advised the Governor that the premises would require a considerable outlay to make them habitable, and felt that he could not recommend to the Governor incurring such expense upon such a dilapidated building (DPWS 1997: p.51).

Governor Denison et al. 1855-

Governor Denison did not wish to fund repairs to the house, and accordingly he leased in 1856 to James Byrnes and John Richard Harding. An argument resulted between the Governor and the NSW Legislative Council as to the income from the lease of the domain. The Legislature felt that it was public money, whereas the

Governor was of the opinion that the domain had been set aside for the use of the Governors of NSW. Denison recommended, however, that the income should be spent on the repair of the boundary fence (which had been damaged by fire) and the buildings (DPWS 1997: p.51). However, no expenditure on the house appears to have taken place at this time.

The Legislative Council eventually passed an Act in March 1857, to allow for the disposal of the surplus domain lands and for the creation of Parramatta Park (DPWS 1997: p.52). The legislation allowed for the establishment of the Park however no provision was made for the upkeep of the house or its extensive gardens. To form the park, the extent of the Domain was reduced to 246 acres, and the remainder of the land sold. The surviving buildings were leased (DPWS 1997: p.52). In the late 1850s the extent of the park was further reduced by the construction of the western railway line. The line from Parramatta was extended to Blacktown and a cutting required at Rose Hill. As a result, the stables and the Fitzroy's dog kennels were demolished as they were in the path of the new railway line (DPWS 1997: p.52).

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From the mid 1850s until after the turn of the century the house was leased. Very few details of the occupants are known, but between 1865 to 1877 the house was tenanted by Andrew Blake. From 1878 a Mrs Abrahams ran a boarding house, entitled the 'Government House Boarding Establishment'. From 1885 to 1895 D.J. Bishop was proprietor and erected some buildings in the course of his tenure. Mrs. Abrahams again leased the property in 1897 and the 'present tenant' was given a week's notice to quit. But after struggling to pay the rent across 1899, in early 1900 she was forced her to give up the enterprise. From 1901 to 1905 a Mr Drummond operated St. John's Preparatory School there.

Although the house remained in the ownership of the Government, under the management of the Parramatta Park Trust, between 1888 and 1908, there is little record of any expenditure on the house during this time. The roof was replaced with corrugated iron c. 1890 and the Garrison Building repaired after being damaged by fire. By 1908 the house was in poor condition. Large sections of the external render were missing from the front and the rear, the eaves had dropped, and Lady Gipps' Bower had collapsed (DPWS 1997: p.55).

The Park Gatehouses

The gatehouses date from the 1870s and represent an intact collection of park accommodation structures. Four of the gatehouses have been conserved. The style of the gatehouses reflects their strategic location, ranging from the grand entrances of the Tudor-style George St gatehouse and the Gothic-style Macquarie St Gatehouse, to the humble utilitarian entrances. The George St Gatehouse is a key entry point for the

Park and an iconic landmark in Parramatta. It was built by the Parramatta Park Trust in 1885, on the site of Governor Macquarie's small stone lodge. The architect was Scottish born Gordon McKinnon and it was built by local builders Hart and Lavors. The wrought iron gates were made by local blacksmith T Forsyth. Individually and as a group the gatehouses demonstrate English cultural references and concepts of nineteenth century park landscape enhancement and utility.

The Boer War Memorial

The Boer War Memorial which was erected in 1904 is one of comparatively few memorials to the Boer War throughout Australia. This particular example is an important one, as the first of the Australian troops to arrive in Africa in 1899 to take part in the Boer War came from the Lancer Barracks, Parramatta. The detachment of the NSW Lancers returning to Australia from England, was the first Australian Colonial force to land in South Africa for the Anglo-Boer War. The Lancers were soon joined in the early operations by the first Australian Regiment (formed from most of the Australian colonies). 100 Lancers from the surrounding districts took part in engagements which inspired Banjo Patterson to write a poem celebrating the pride with which the Lancers represented their country:

And out in front the Lancers rode that New South Wales had sent.

With easy stride across the plains the long lean 'Walers' went;

Unknown, untried these squadrons were, but proudly out they drew.

Beside the British regiments that fought at Waterloo

The Boer War was the first overseas military engagement in which troops representing Australia, as distinct from Britain, took part. The Memorial incorporates four Doric columns, together with entablature blocks and cornices which were recycled from the Parramatta Courthouse built by Mortimer Lewis in 1837. The gun on top of the memorial was one of six nine pound field guns purchased by New South Wales in 1856, and was originally intended to be part of the defence of Port Jackson. The memorial was constructed in 1904 and unveiled by Sir Austin Chapman, Federal Minister for Defence in the first Deakin government 1903 -1904.

The Kings School

A major program of restoration works was undertaken in 1909 under the supervision of the Government Architect, Walter Liberty Vernon. A measured drawing of Old Government House undertaken c.1908 shows the layout of the house before the conversion to a school. This plan, which shows a layout largely unmodified since 1855, shows the open configuration of verandah to the northern corridor between the main building and the northern pavilion (DPWS 1997: pp.55-6). There are no verandahs to the pavilions themselves, as these were added in 1909. The configuration of the kitchen as shown on the drawings is the reverse of the Watts plan and appears to indicate that the bread oven, shown on Watts plans, had not been constructed. This is confirmed by the 1821 inventory which describes the room as a scullery, not a bakehouse (DPWS 1997: p.56).

The King's School is the oldest independent school in Australia and was founded in a very real sense at the Battle of Waterloo, where the Duke of Wellington's success in defeating Napoleon led to a wave of popularity that swept him into office as the Prime Minister of Great Britain. There the Duke was able to exercise his preferment in appointments to significant positions. This resulted in him despatching his protégé, Archdeacon Broughton, to Australia to introduce a "superior description" of education

into New South Wales. Started by Broughton in 1831, the King's School became the most significant school for young gentlemen of its time and the site of the first quality education in the colony (King's School 2006). The first intake of boys to the school was to produce a President of the Queensland Legislative Council, a Speaker in the Lower House in Queensland, a Mayor and several other State politicians, clergymen, a police magistrate, graziers and the first Australian Methodist missionary. The school has provided education to princes and entertained members of the British Royal Family on several occasions. The King of Malaysia sent his three sons to the School in 1965, and the Royal family of Thailand also sent their Crown Prince to King's in 1970 (King's School 2006).

The drawings held in the PWD Plan Room show the extent of works proposed and the new layout on conversion to the school. The configuration of the central portion of the house was largely retained intact. Upstairs the volume of the stairhall was reduced and a WC added. The former WC had been converted into a bath room by this stage. On the first floor were located two dormitories, the married masters room, the matron's room, the sick room, the bathroom and WC. In the central portion of the house, on the ground floor, were located the Dining Room (south room) and the school hall (north room), two class rooms (north and south west rooms) and the masters sitting room. In the northern pavilion were located two dormitories and the master's room. An ablutions block was added to the rear of the north pavilion, containing showers, wash basins, WC's and urinals. To create this addition, the form of the pavilion was continued outwards and contained showers and wash basins. The toilets were in a smaller addition separated by a tar paved path. A new entrance to the northern passage was created from the rear yard. It allowed access through a lobby to the 'new' bedroom as well as to the northern passageway. The rear yard was partially tar paved. A new entrance to the cellar was created, where the steps to the French doors had previously been located. The French doors were removed. As part of the restoration, the Officers Quarters were converted to provide accommodation for the Masters and the laundress. The Officers bedrooms were utilised by the masters and a new lobby and bathroom added to the rear, accessed from a common room: Two rooms in the southern wing were converted into a laundry, with new coppers and tubs. The south western end of the building was substantially demolished (DPWS 1997: pp.59-61)

The National Trust

In 1967 an Act of Parliament was created to allow the National Trust to take over the management of the house (DPWS 1997: p.62). A program of restoration works were undertaken between 1968 and 1970 aimed at returning the house to the configuration that was used by Macquarie based on the plans of Lieutenant Watts (DPWS 1997: p.62). A number of the alterations undertaken for the Kings School were removed. The servants bedrooms were removed and the kitchen returned to its original location. A bread oven was salvaged from a bakery in Parramatta and installed in the kitchen. As no evidence of the nineteenth century layout of the kitchen survived in the room, the layout was based on the Watts plans (DPWS 1997: p.62). During the 1990s the National Trust removed a number of the earlier modifications, including many of the outbuildings. Despite the use of the Watts plans, the house both internally and externally is somewhat different in detail to its appearance in 1816. Many of the elements have been replaced once, twice or even three times. Although in most rooms the volumes are still intact, the majority of the fabric that is immediately

visible is not the original nineteenth century fabric, but is twentieth century 'restoration' (DPWS 1997: p.63).

The approach of the Trust has been to present the ground floor largely as it was used by the Macquaries, with the exception of the Governors Office (DPWS 1997: p.64). Very few of the service areas are presented to the public. Work has been undertaken in the Macquaries drawing room to present the room as it would have appeared based on the early inventories (DPWS 1997: p.64).

The garden was also modified to a layout based on nineteenth century landscaping principles by Loudon and a local nurseryman, Thomas Shepard. Some time later it was discovered that the layout that was removed, was in fact an early layout of the carriage loop that had survived intact until the 1850s when it was mapped during the preparation of surveys for the new rail line (DPWS 1997: p.63). The garden remains in its altered configuration. The grounds, which were considered by early visitors to be far superior to the house, currently provide little evidence of the landscaped setting intended and created by the Macquaries (DPWS 1997: p.63).

Condition:

The original area of the Governor's Domain has been reduced from 99.6 to 85 hectares, and the area to the north and east of the river is now largely devoted to sporting facilities.

Within the boundary of the place, the layout of the major elements of the park retains much of the Governor Macquarie usage of the space. Existing roads follow the original carriage ways. The generally open Cumberland Plain woodlands survive in patches in the Park, and the open landscape design created by Elizabeth Macquarie is still evident in the Park as it exists today. The area of the 'Crescent', the site of Governor Phillip's first agricultural endeavours, has been preserved and is today used as a natural amphitheatre and performance space.

The Governor's dairy survives in its original setting, and has recently been stabilised and restored by the Park Trust at a cost of approximately \$4 million. The Boer War Memorial, the memorial to Lady Mary Fitzroy, and the gatehouses all remain in their original sites and are in good condition. Other elements, however, have been subjected to substantial change over the decades. The Macquarie stables and coachhouse were removed when the Great Western Railway line was pushed through the south-western section of the Domain. Little remains of Governor Brisbane's observatory with the exception of the transit stones and the marker trees. Similarly, Governor Brisbane's bathhouse, although still in its original site, has undergone extensive alteration. The original interior has been stripped out, the fabric within the arches removed, and the building turned into an open pavilion.

A room by room summary of the history of interventions in the interiors of Old Government House is given in Section 6 of the 1997 NSW Department of Public Works and Services Conservation Plan, and because of its length is not repeated here. The following points, however, in addition to that history are noted:

In 1909, the original ceilings, cornices, and wall-plaster were hacked off and replaced

with a cement mix. The 1909 plaster has recently been replaced in a more porous lime mix, and cornices in the Breakfast Room and Bedroom match profiles found in roughly comparable New South Wales buildings, mainly 'Harrisford' at Parramatta, and 'Glenfield' respectively.

Also in 1909, much of the internal joinery was restored to profiles similar to the original using Californian redwood, and the whole interior re-painted. In the restoration of c.1970, this and earlier paint was stripped, and the redwood replaced in cedar to match in with surviving elements of original joinery, such as the doors and window shutters. However, many significant profiles and details were altered, so that in the Drawing Room for instance, a taller skirting copied from that in the Dining Room was installed. In 1993, this was removed and a new skirting installed, matching the earlier profile. At the same time, the missing chair rail was reinstated to a profile taken from 'Clarendon', near Windsor. A similar history of alteration and replacement took place in the Hall, but in the Dining Room it appears it was the Macquaries who removed the chair rail and installed the taller skirting. This change by the Macquaries also occurred in the Breakfast Room and has been retained. In the Bedroom, Dressing Room, and associated Lobby, the skirting and chair-rail have now been restored.

It was discovered during renovations that the backs of the shutters in the Drawing Room, Dining Room, Breakfast Room and Bedroom retained substantial areas of early paint, having been fixed shut in 1909 and thus escaping stripping in the 1970s. Paint also survived on the frames of the windows in the Breakfast Room. These paint samples have been used to duplicate the early colour scheme of the building. In addition, a staircase bannister and several lengths of door and window architrave were discovered in store, and re-fixed in locations from which their profiles indicated they could have come, notably in the Dining Room, Hall, and Staircase.

The construction of their panelled soffits indicates that the north window in the Dining Room and south window in the Drawing room may be of slightly later date than those in the east (front) wall of the house. Additionally, the panels in the doors of the Breakfast Room appear possibly to have been selected for the figure of their timber, suggesting they may not have been painted originally. Their historical status is, however, uncertain, since the surrounding mouldings have clearly been sawn-out and renewed at an unknown date.

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