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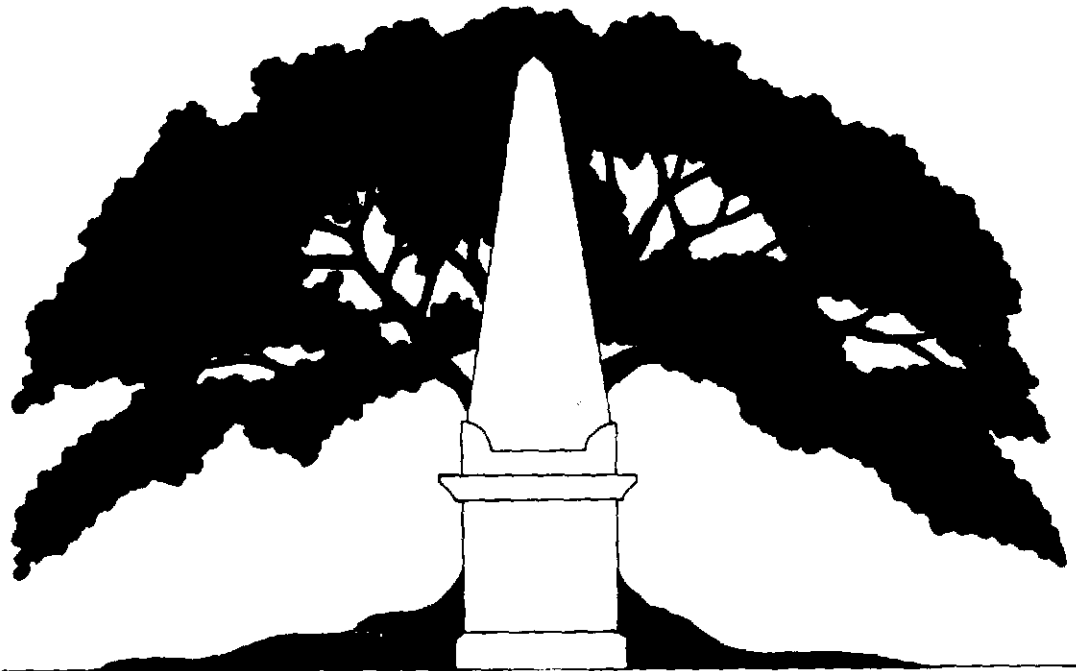
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYDNEY

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MASTERPLAN AND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

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M A C Q U A R I E P L A C E

1990

prepared by

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ARCHITECTS

Conservation Planning Landscape Interior Interpretation

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
SECTION I:	
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Location of Study	2
1.2 Definitions	3
SECTION II:	
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT	4
2.1 Historical Summary	4
2.2 Statement of Significance	23
2.3 Urban Context	24
2.4 Usage of the Park	26
SECTION III:	
MACQUARIE PLACE MASTERPLAN	27
3.1 Conservation Policy	27
3.2 Masterplan	28
SECTION IV:	
MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	29
4.1 STRUCTURES OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE	29
4.1.1 Macquarie's obelisk	29
4.1.2 'Sirius' anchor and cannon	30
4.1.3 T. S. Mort statue	32
4.1.4 Covered drinking fountain	34
4.1.5 Dwarf sandstone wall	36
4.1.6 Stone gate posts	36
4.1.7 Edwardian lavatory	37
4.1.8 Lewers' fountain	38

4.2	FUNCTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS	40
4.2.1	Paving treatment	40
4.2.2	Grassed areas	42
4.2.3	Drainage	45
4.2.4	Podium along Macquarie Place	46
4.2.5	Park furniture	48
4.3	ESTABLISHED TREES	48
4.3.1	<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	48
4.3.2	<i>Ficus hillii</i>	49
4.3.3	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	49
4.3.4	<i>Schinus areira</i>	50
4.3.5	<i>Strelitzia alba</i>	50
4.4	MACQUARIE PLACE STREETScape	52
	SECTION V:	
	IMPLEMENTATION	56
5.1	PROGRAMME OF PRIORITY WORKS	56
5.1.1	Priority one works	57
5.1.2	Priority two works	57
5.2	FUNDING	58
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	59
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	60
APPENDIX A:	A Restoration Report on the Obelisk Macquarie Place, Sydney for Council of The City of Sydney by Cox, Tanner Pty Ltd Architects Architectural Research and Restoration September 1981	
APPENDIX B:	Conservation Analysis of the 'Sirius' Cannon and Anchor by Dr Colin Pearson Cultural Heritage Science Division Canberra College of Advanced Education July 1988	

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

Council has for many years realised the value of its parks and the need to identify methods of management to assure that they are conserved and enjoyed to their maximum potential.

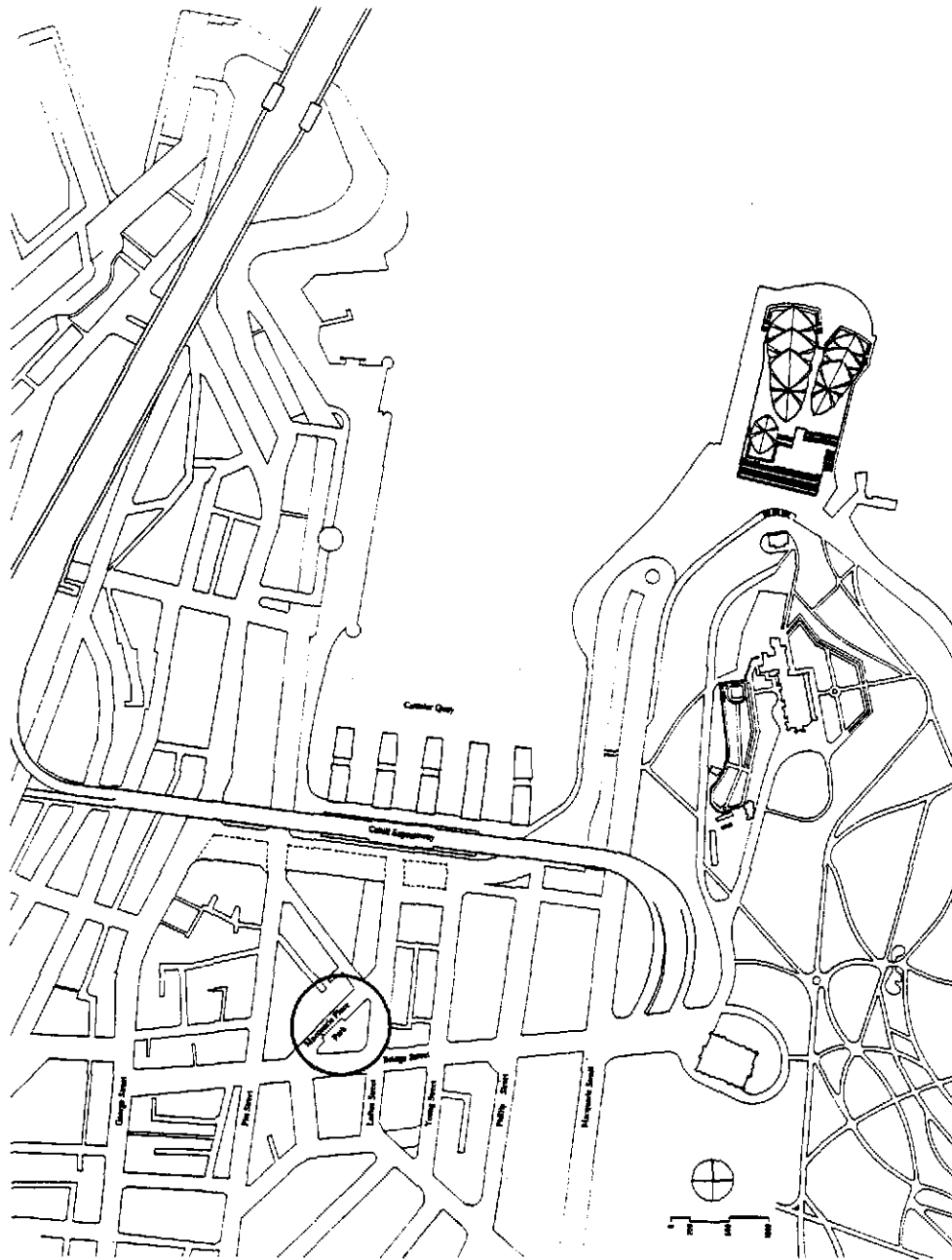
Macquarie Place is greatly valued as an open space in the intensely urbanised northern commercial precinct of the city. The historic monuments in Macquarie Place, such as Macquarie's obelisk and the anchor and cannon from HMS Sirius, pay tribute to its important role as a public space in Sydney over the last 200 years. The historic character of the precinct and its surroundings make it a fascinating place where 19th Century Sydney may still be glimpsed. In 1989 Council, with the assistance of The Council of the City of South Sydney, appointed Lester Tropman and Associates as consultants to prepare a Plan of Management and Masterplan for the conservation of Macquarie Place and the important historic monuments within it.

There is an urgent need to address the many conservation and management issues affecting Macquarie Place today, such as the deterioration of the historic monuments, the effects of changed micro-climatic conditions due to overshadowing, and the need to sympathetically incorporate new development in the area surrounding the Park. The Plan of Management and Masterplan offer solutions to the various problems facing Macquarie Place. Drawing together the information contained in numerous conservation reports relating to the Park that have been prepared over the last ten years, it will allow Council to conserve and upgrade Macquarie Place according to its heritage significance so that it may continue to function well as an important public place and green space within the city.

This study serves as a plan for the preservation, conservation, reconstruction and adaption of Macquarie Place and the important historic monuments within it.

1.1 LOCATION OF STUDY

Macquarie Place is located in the northern commercial precinct of the city, close to Circular Quay. It is a triangular portion of land bounded to the south by Bridge Street and to the east by Loftus Street with the Macquarie Place streetscape completing the triangle. The land has a westerly aspect and forms part of the eastern bank of the former Tank Stream valley. The map below shows the location of the study area.



MAP 1

Location of the study area.

1.2 DEFINITIONS

The following terms used throughout the report, are defined in The Burra Charter which is the Australian adaption of the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites. (Venice 1966).

CONSERVATION

- 'Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may according to circumstances include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaption and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these'.

MAINTENANCE

- 'Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction and it should be treated accordingly'.

PRESERVATION

- 'Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration'.

RESTORATION

- 'Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material'.

RECONSTRUCTION

- 'Reconstruction means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new and old) into the fabric'.

ADAPTION

- 'Adaption means modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses.'

COMPATIBLE USE

- In addition 'Compatible use means a use which involves no change to the culturally significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require a minimal impact'.

SECTION II

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

2.1 HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Macquarie Place occupies the land that was once the eastern bank of the Tank Stream near where it flowed into Sydney Cove. Artists' sketches from as early as 1793 show the land that was to become Macquarie Place as a triangular area adjoining the garden of the First Government House (see plate 2.1). The triangle of Macquarie Place and the alignment of Bridge Street are also visible on plans of Sydney dated from as early as 1800. Bridge Street, so named because it was the location of the bridge across the Tank Stream, formed the western approach to the First Government House.



PLATE 2.1

A Sketch of Sydney by Ferdinand Brambila in 1793, only five years after the formation of the colony, showing the large triangular space which Macquarie Place originally occupied, with a view up Bridge Street.

The alignment of Macquarie Place began as a contour path that followed the original topography of the Tank Stream valley. The early 19th Century street frontages of Macquarie Place marked the boundary between the Government House grounds and the surrounding private residential allotments.

The properties surrounding the reserve were owned by the elite of the early colony. To the west of Macquarie Place were allotments leased to Simeon Lord, Thos Randall, William Chapman, and Thos and Mary Reiby. To the south were the allotments set aside for the houses and offices of the Colonial Secretary and the Judge Advocate, the chief civic officials of the colony after the governor (see map 4).

The reserve was the dividing space between Government House and the "common land" of the Rocks area, therefore it represented, in effect, the centre of the colony. The locational importance of the reserve was increased by Governor Macquarie in 1818 when he located the famous obelisk in the centre of the triangular space. This obelisk designed by Francis Greenway was to mark the geographic centre of the colony, from which all distances were to be measured, and was inscribed with the mileages to other colonial centres (see plate 2.2).

In the following year, Macquarie commissioned Francis Greenway to design the doric fountain which was located at the western corner of the Park. Both these monuments were considered landmarks of the colony and are marked on most maps of the period, as well as being favourite subjects for artists (see plates 2.3 and 2.4).

Governor Macquarie planned the Park formally to create an appropriate approach to Government House. A path system was developed to encircle the Park and lead to the central obelisk, as seen in Harper's Plan of Sydney, 1823. An engraving from 1829 shows the Park surrounded by a low sandstone wall and palisade fence (see plate 2.5).

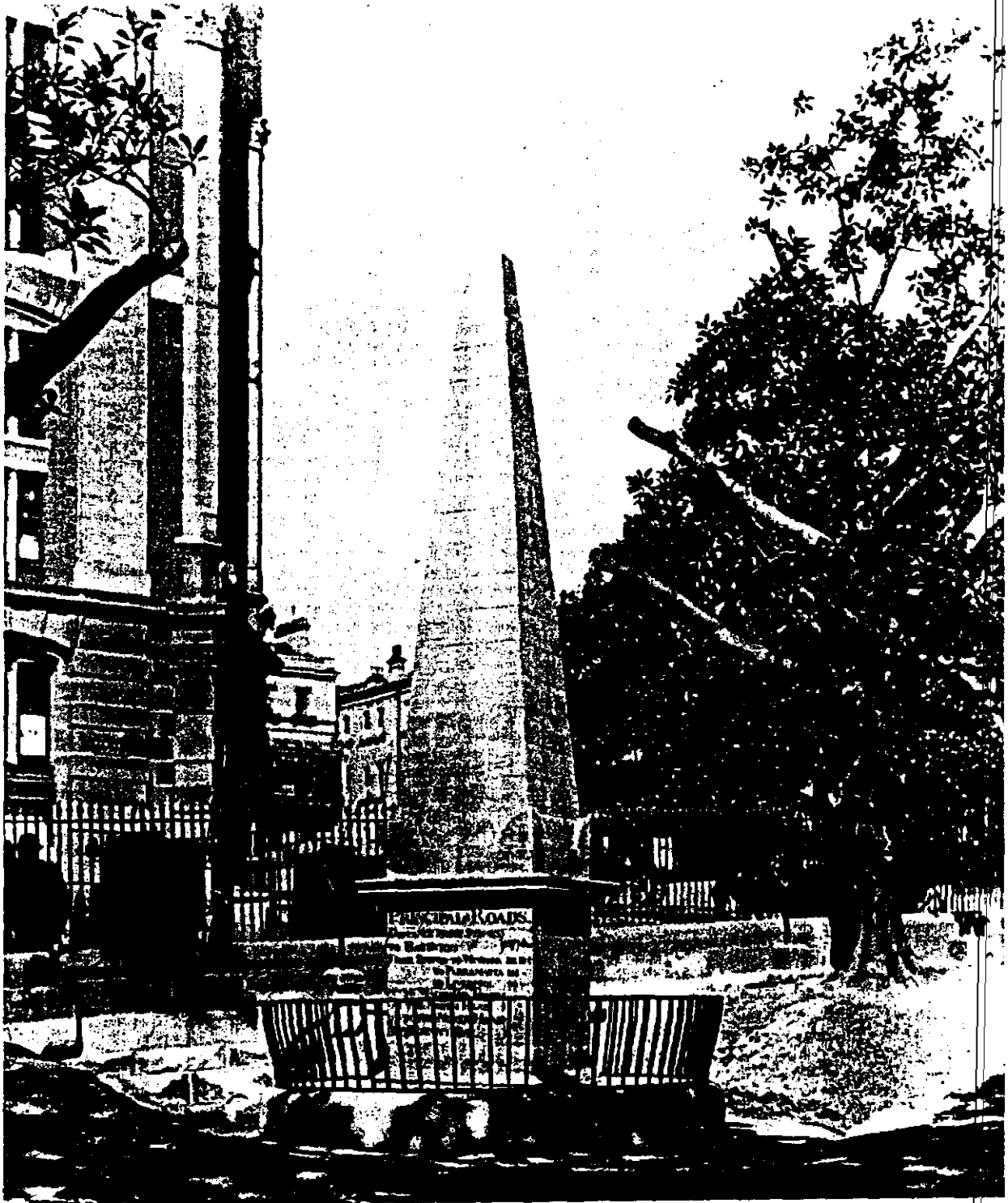


PLATE 2.2

The obelisk inscribed with the mileages to other colonial centres (c1890's)

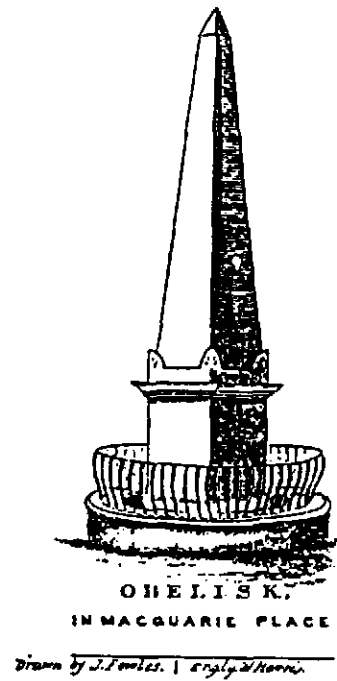
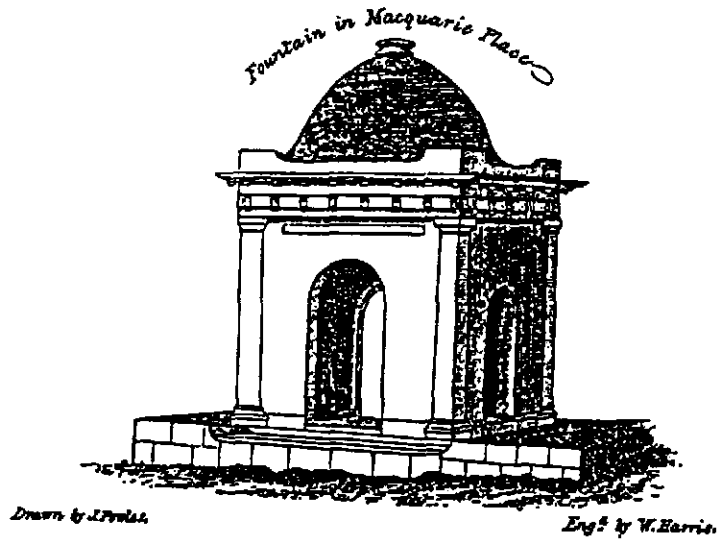


PLATE 2.3

Sketches showing the doric fountain and obelisk from Joseph Fowles' publication Sydney in 1848.



PLATE 2.4
MACQUARIE PLACE, c1870, looking N-E

The Park was surrounded by a palisade fence, and Francis Greenway's drinking fountain was located where the T. S. Mort statue stands today.

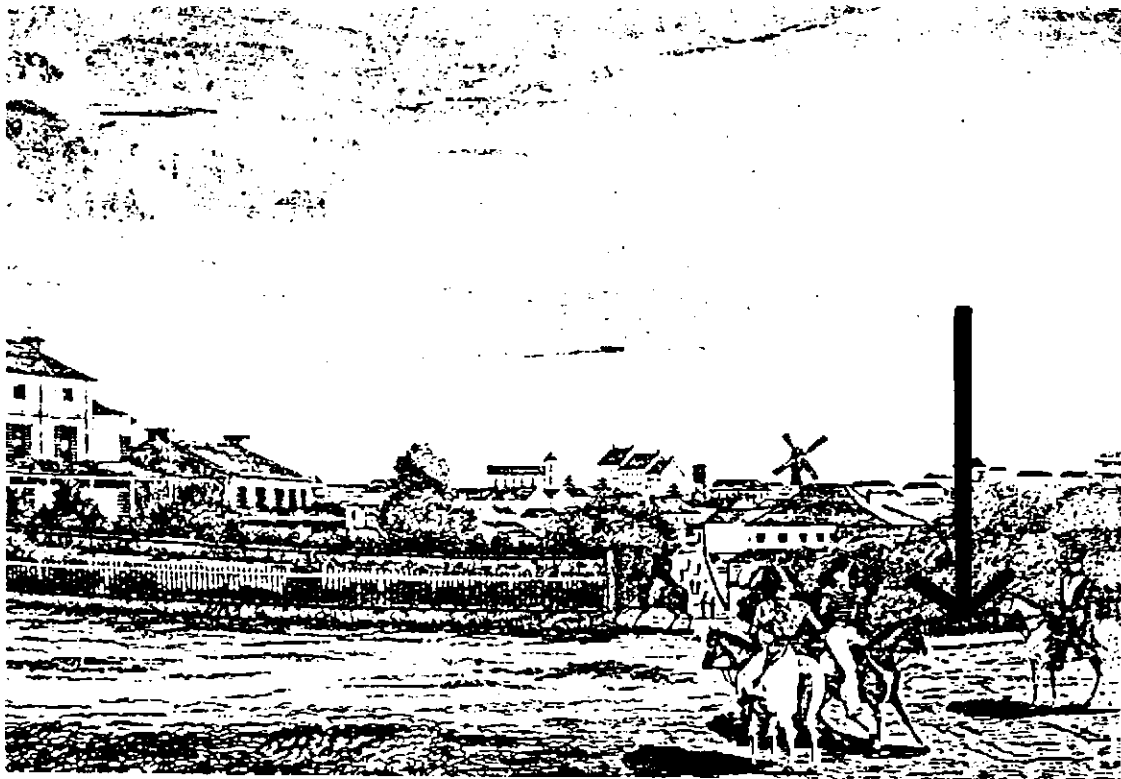


PLATE 2.5
SYDNEY FROM THE DOMAIN NEAR GOVERNMENT HOUSE
From SELECT VIEWS OF SYDNEY, 1829.

This is the first sketch to show the palisade fence surrounding the Park. This fence was probably replaced when Loftus Street was extended through the Park.

It was during the 1830's that the alignment of the Sydney streets began to change to a grid system with a north/south orientation, leading to Circular Quay. The relocation of Government House to the Domain, and the levelling of the topography (including the covering of the Tank Stream), made it possible to extend Castlereagh Street to the harbour, resulting in the reduction of Macquarie Place to the size that it is today. The proposed extension of Castlereagh Street (today known as Loftus Street) was recorded as early as 1832 (see map 2), and later in 1840 (see map 3).

During the late 19th Century, the Park began attracting various memorials. In 1869 the stone gate posts marking the Bridge Street entrance were installed and engraved by Walter Renny, the mayor at that time. Then in 1883 the ornate doric drinking fountain at the south-west corner of the site was replaced by a statue of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort, recognising Mort's important role in establishing Australia's export trade. The anchor and cannon recovered from the ship-wrecked Sirius were placed in the Park in 1907 (see plate 2.6) and in 1908 the domed lavatory was placed on the north-east corner of the Park. Gas lamps were also present in the Park at this time (see plate 2.7).

Between 1905 and 1910, Sydney was undergoing a "beautifying scheme" where dramatic changes were made to all the major parks of Sydney, not least of which was Macquarie Reserve. The following quotes are from the Sydney Times in 1910, and describe some of the changes made to the Park.

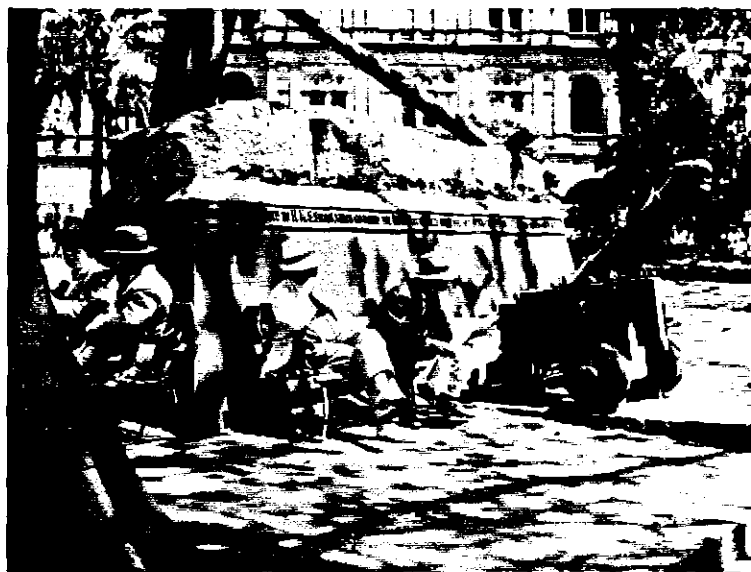


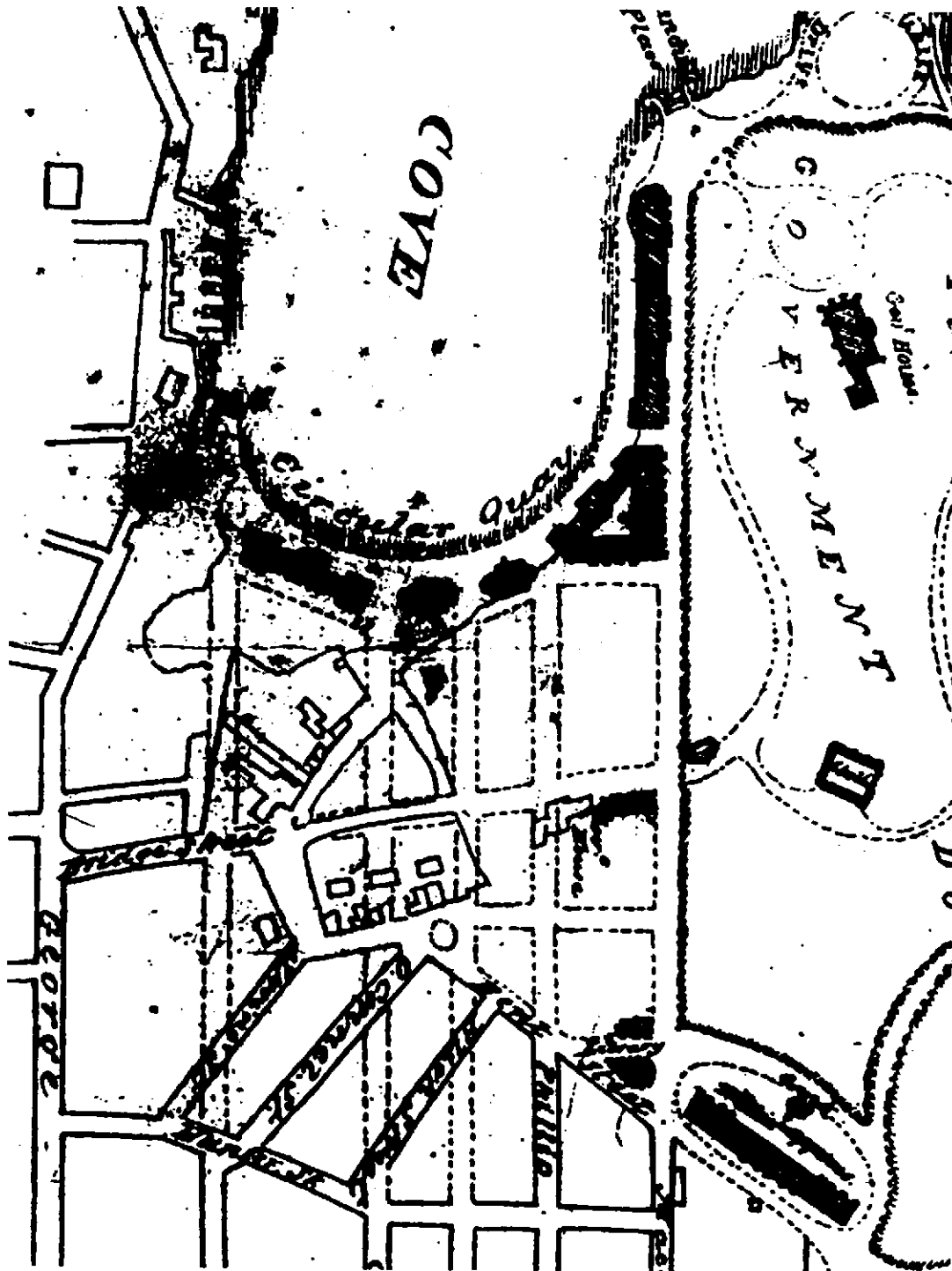
PLATE 2.6

The anchor and cannon salvaged from the ship-wrecked Sirius were placed in the Park in 1907



PLATE 2.7

Gas lamps, similar to the replicas shown above, were installed in the Park in 1908



MAP 3

Detail of 1840 PLAN SHOWING THE SITE FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT HOUSE PUBLIC OFFICES, THE LIBRARY, CIRCULAR QUAY, AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF STREETS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

This plan clearly shows the intention to re-align the streets of Sydney to the north-south grid pattern which exists today.

"At Macquarie reserve near the Quay a big change is noticeable. Here it was just grass and Moreton Bay fig trees. Now we find two sides of the three bordered with gardens plots, and on the third (the western side) seats beneath the three remaining trees. Thus shelter is given alike to man and plant from the glare of the afternoon sun. The garden plots are higher than the bed of the Park; they are built up level with the footpaths. And over the walls that keep them up are to be trained plants to cover, as in Boomerang Street and Hyde Park, the bare appearance of the stonework. Already a great deal has been done in trimming the trees left, and remaking the lawns and footways, but a lot more has yet to be done before its improvement is complete."

It was during this time that the wrought iron palisade fence surrounding the Park was removed, and the fig trees (which were planted in the 1860's under the encouragement of Charles Moore, Director of the Botanic Gardens) were reduced in number from fifteen to four. The Sydney Times article of 1910 explains,

"Areas that were caged in high iron railings and congested into a dark mass of varying green have been freed of their bondage and, unrestrained, throw out myriads of beautiful tints to catch and please the eye of passers-by. It took a long time to convince a lot of people that the removal of the railings would benefit these areas - and themselves. In fact, it was not until the irons came down that many guessed what might be possible. There is not a critic today; even the most hypercritical opponent of that first step of progress has become converted into an admirer of what is. It is well; for the commendation of the people means a city made more and more beautiful. Following the railings went lots of useless trees, and the lopping of others that had got all awry. They would have spoilt the perspective had they been allowed to retain their ungainly growth."

Not only were the iron railings removed, but the entire stone wall along Macquarie Place was replaced with two broad steps which extended the length of the Park, and the grass along that side was replaced with gravel (see plates 2.8 and 2.9). The bollards and chains which had surrounded the statue of T. S. Mort (see plate 2.10) were also removed, (see plate 2.11) allowing the public to finally enter all areas of the reserve.



PLATE 2.8

This photo, taken in 1919, shows the extent of the paved area to the north of the anchor.

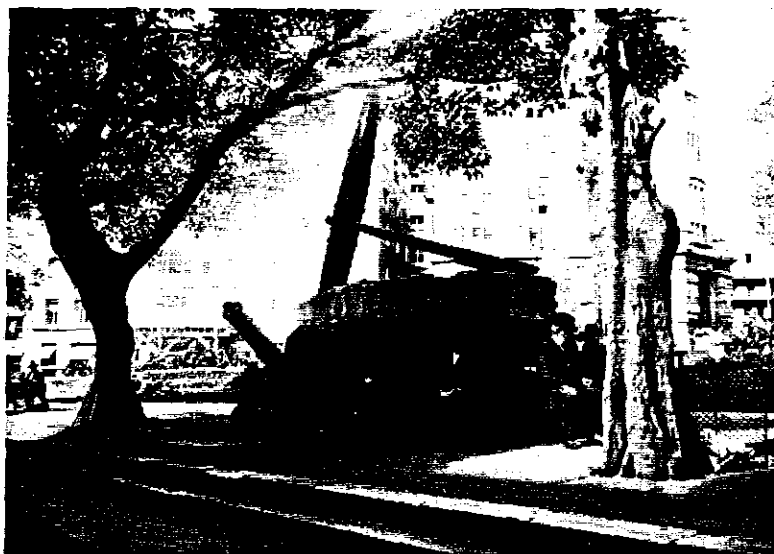


PLATE 2.9

This view of the Park from Macquarie Place streetscape shows the two steps which extended along this side of the Park.

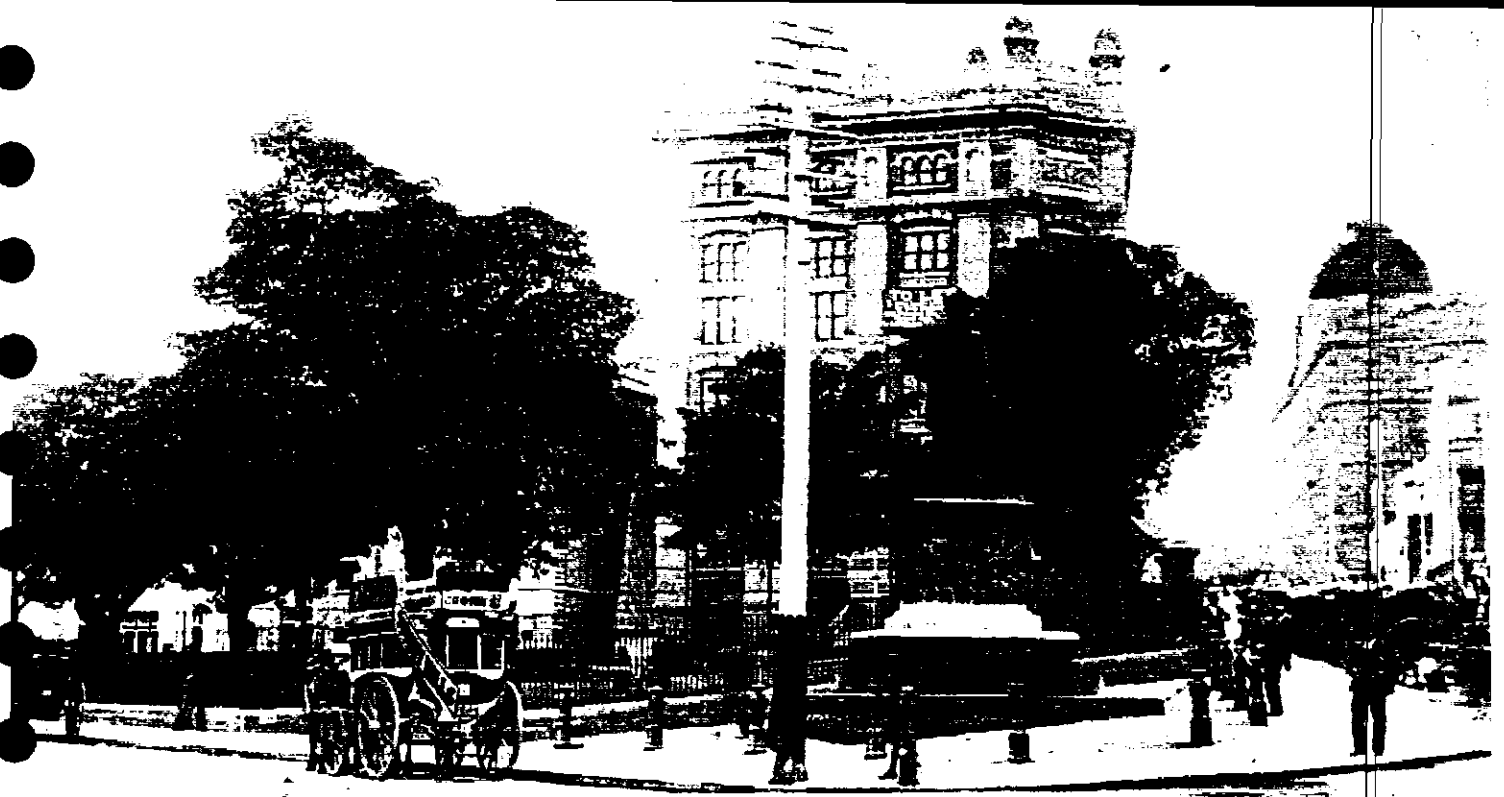


PLATE 2.10

View of the Park from the western corner showing the bollards which surrounded the T. S. Mort statue in the late 19th Century.

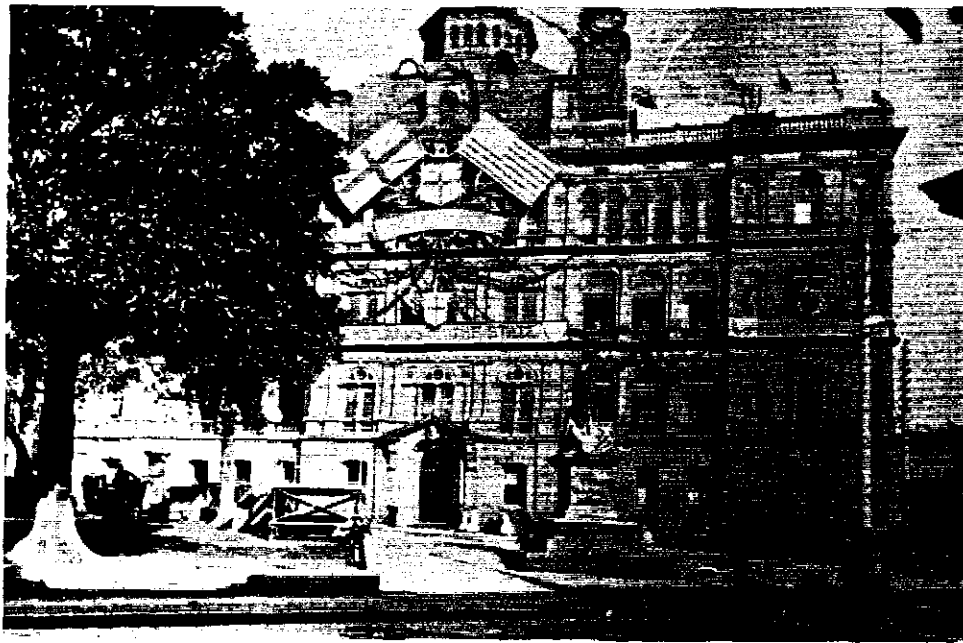


PLATE 2.11

This 1908 photograph was taken soon after the removal of the palisade fence which surrounded the Park, and the bollards which surrounded the T. S. Mort statue prior to the Sydney beautification scheme, 1905-1910.

During WWI major restructuring of the area around the obelisk was in progress, with the addition of steps either side of the obelisk leading up to street level, and a restructuring of the length of stone wall behind the obelisk (see plates 2.12 and 2.13). The area around the obelisk was paved in gravel and five years later, a metal fence was added to close the area off from the rest of the Park, so that the major access to the obelisk was from Loftus Street (see plate 2.14).



PLATE 2.12

This photo shows the obelisk surrounds, in 1898. The fence along Loftus Street was continuous prior to WWI, and there was no path leading to the obelisk.



PLATE 2.13

The obelisk in 1917 was accessible from Loftus street via the stairs either side of the obelisk, as seen in this photo. The pavement around the base of the obelisk has also been extended, using sandstone pavers.



PLATE 2.14

This photo of the obelisk, taken in 1922, shows the addition of a metal fence surrounding the obelisk area. From here, three steps led into the grassed Park.

In 1960, a small bronze fountain by sculptor, Gerald Lewers, was added to the Park in remembrance of an Australian sculptor who was killed during service in France, 1917. This fountain was originally located in the southern corner of the Park near the corner of Loftus and Bridge Streets but was moved soon after to its present position behind the Mort Statue. During this time the Edwardian steps and wall surrounding the obelisk were destroyed by a car and replaced with the current wall and steps.

An aerial photo taken in 1923 reveals a circular garden bed (possibly a rose garden) located in the grass lawn in the centre of the Park (see plate 2.15). As this is not seen in other photos or maps, it is not certain how long the garden bed was in existence.



PLATE 2.15

A birds eye view of Macquarie Place Park from the west. This photo, taken in 1923, reveals a large circular garden bed in the centre of the Park and also shows the extent of the steps along the Macquarie Place edge of the Park.

In 1954 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II planted the two London plane trees to mark the beginning of the Remembrance Driveway to Canberra. These trees are now reaching maturity.

Little change occurred in the Park from 1960 until 1976 when several major alterations were made (compare map 8 with map 9):

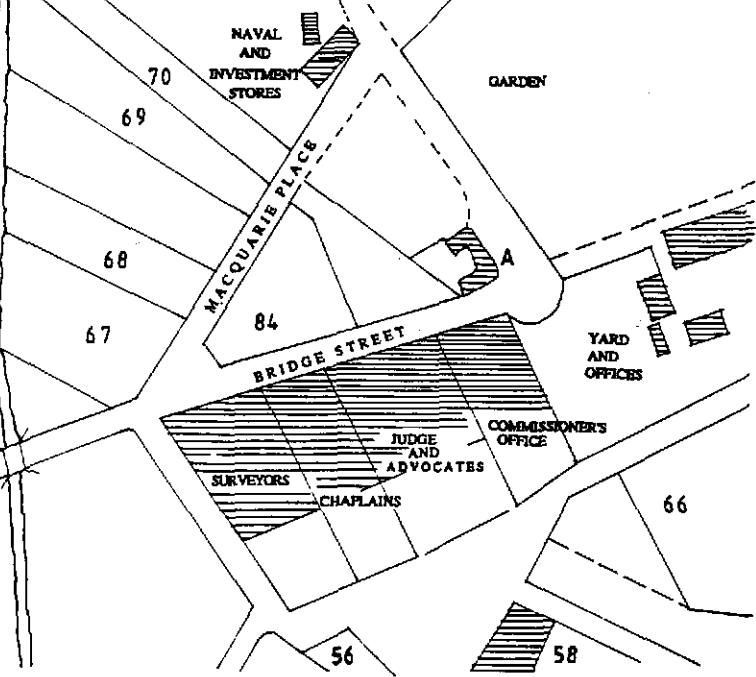
- The western corner of the Park was extended to meet the T. S. Mort statue.
- The pathways were altered.
- Macquarie Place Street was closed to vehicular traffic and the kerbs re-aligned.
- A planting bed along the outside of the wall and a podium were added along the Macquarie Place edge of the Park.
- The ornamental drinking fountain was located next to the podium.
- The asphalt footpaths around the Park were replaced with grey monier interlocking pavers.
- Garden beds were created around the base of the Moreton Bay fig trees along the Macquarie Place edge of the Park.
- Gas lamp replicas were installed.

These recent changes have weakened the previous strongly defined triangular shape of the Park, by trying to "key in" the Park with the Macquarie Place streetscape.

The following maps represent the changes to and evolution of Macquarie Place over the last 200 years.

CIRCULAR QUAY

SCALE
0 25 50M

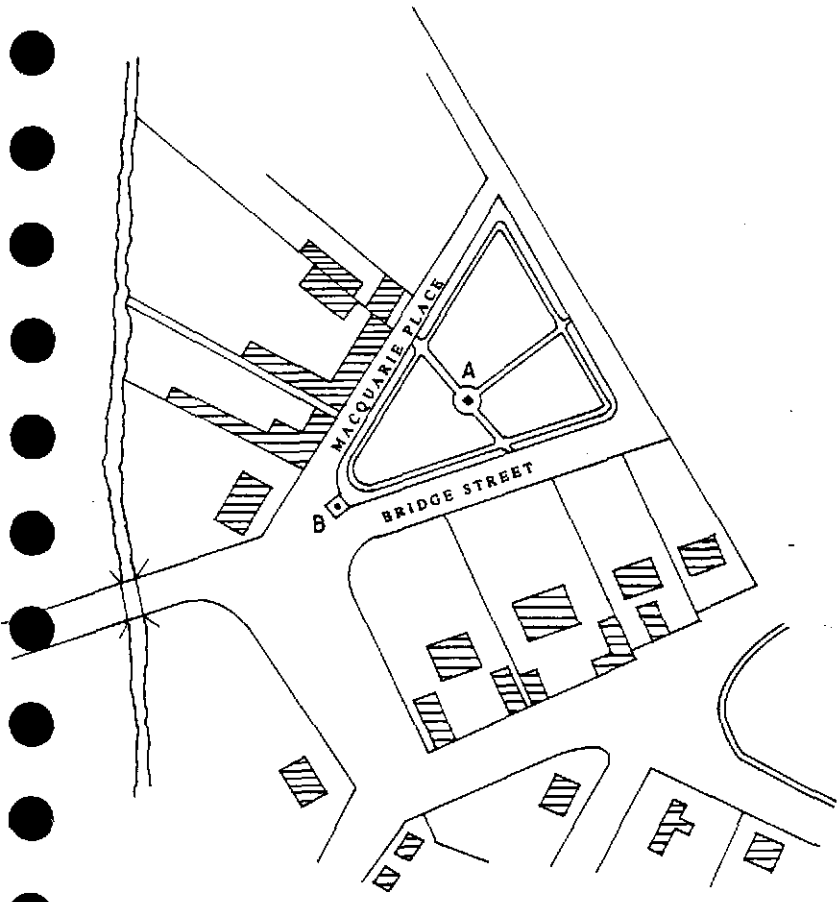


MAP 4
MACQUARIE PLACE, 1807

This map shows the guard house (A) the allotment to Shad Shaw (No. 84) and the Park's division into three sections.

Source: PLAN OF THE TOWN OF SYDNEY IN NSW, by James Meehan, 1807.

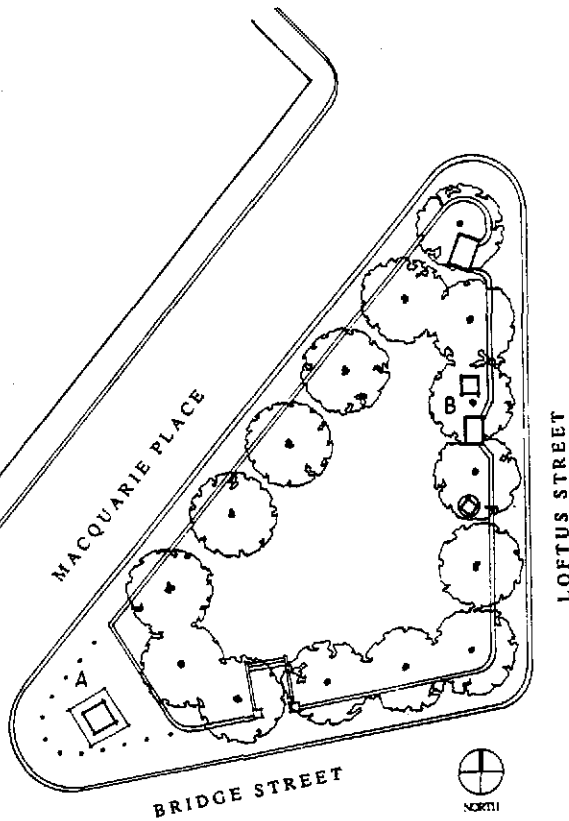
SCALE
0 25 50M



MAP 5
MACQUARIE PLACE, 1823.

The location of the obelisk (A), doric fountain (B) and path systems.

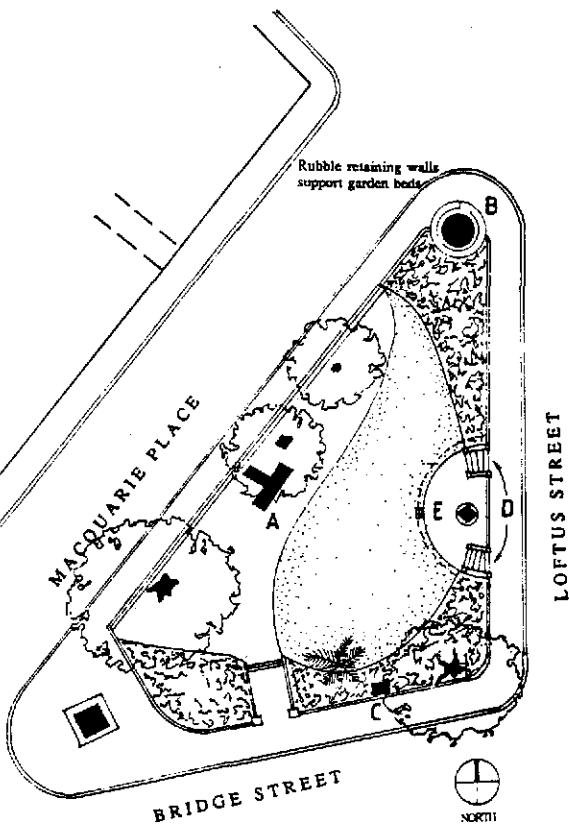
Source: PLAN OF SYDNEY, by Harper, 1823.
(AO Map S2434, four of four)



MAP 6
MACQUARIE PLACE, 1900

The Park is totally surrounded by a palisade fence, and the perimeter is planted with Moreton Bay fig trees. There are bollards around the Mort statue (A) and three temporary sheds along Loftus Street (B).

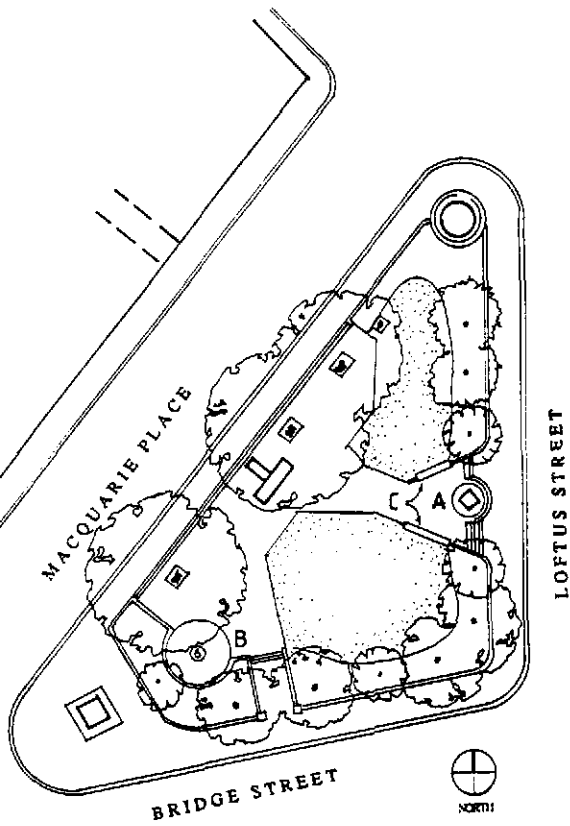
Source: LAND, METROPOLITAN
DETAIL SURVEY, CITY OF
SYDNEY.
Area H4, 1901.
Photos 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and
12.



MAP 7
MACQUARIE PLACE, 1930

Steps have replaced the wall along Macquarie Place, the bollards surrounding the Mort Statue have been removed and garden beds edge the eastern and southern boundaries of the Park. There are three additional structures in the Park: the Sirius anchor and cannon (A) the Edwardian lavatory (B) and a temporary shed along Bridge Street (C). Steps flank either side of the obelisk (D) which is set on a large paved area and surrounded by a metal fence (E). Most of the fig trees have been removed.

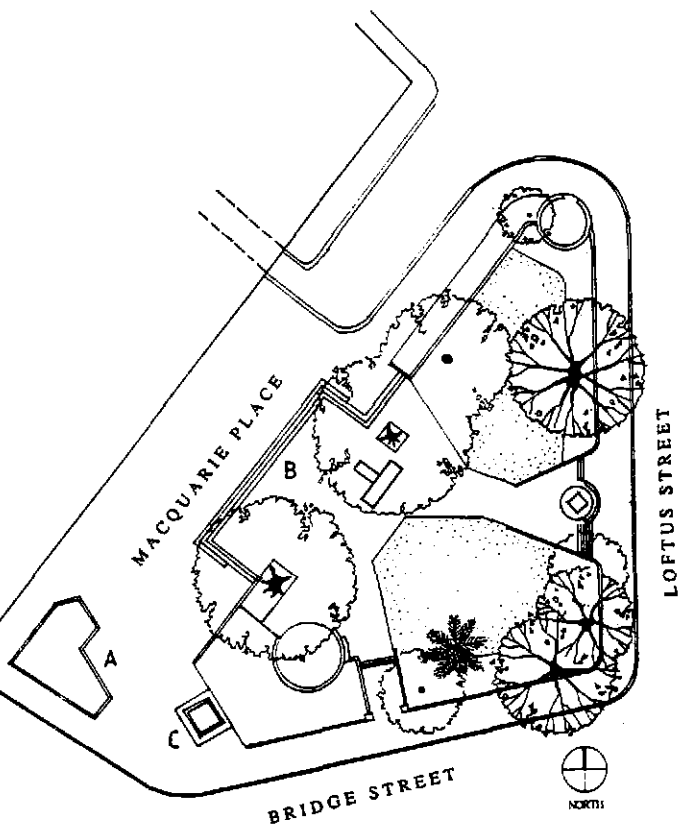
Source: Photos 14, 16, 17, 20,
21, 22 and 25.



MAP 8
MACQUARIE PLACE, 1970

A wide path to the obelisk (A) has opened the Park as a pedestrian thoroughfare. The Lewers' Fountain (B) has been relocated from the south east corner of the Park to the western corner and set in a circular pond against a sandstone wall. The sandstone walls near the obelisk have been replaced and redesigned (C).

Source: EXISTING LAYOUT OF MACQUARIE PLACE, 1970.
By the Park and Recreation Department.



MAP 9
MACQUARIE PLACE, 1989

Most changes have occurred along the Macquarie Place streetscape which is now closed to traffic. A garden bed has been placed at the southern end (A), a podium added (B) and the Park extended to meet the T. S. Mort Statue (C).

source: Site survey, 1989.

EXISTING LAYOUT OF
MACQUARIE PARK, 1976.

By the Park and Recreation
Department.

2.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Macquarie Place is an item of environmental heritage with historical, cultural and aesthetic significance. The following statement isolates the component qualities that make the Park significant, based on the historical and physical evidence analysed.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

1. Macquarie Place was the second open space in Sydney to be dedicated as a public reserve (1866).
2. Governor Macquarie had the convict architect Francis Greenway design a sandstone obelisk that was placed in the centre of the Park in order to mark that point as the geographic centre of the colony.
3. As one of the earliest ornamented spaces in Sydney, the Park and its various monuments were popular subjects for the many artists in the early days of the colony.
4. The triangular shape of the Park is a remnant of the early street layout of Sydney, that responded to the topography of the Tank Stream valley.
5. The two Moreton Bay fig trees are remnants of the street planting scheme of the 1860's, influenced by Charles Moore, the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, 1848-1896.
6. Many of the buildings which face the Park along Bridge Street and Macquarie Place are of historic significance, providing an appropriate scale and setting for the Park.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

7. Macquarie Place is an important green space in the city's central business district, providing an attractive haven for city users.

AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

8. Macquarie Place contains several mature trees which soften the surrounding urban environment and help to enclose the Park.

2.3 URBAN CONTEXT

Macquarie Place is located within the financial core of the Central Business District of Sydney, forming part of the Northern Commercial precinct as defined in the Central Sydney Strategy 1988.

Most of the buildings in the immediate area of Macquarie Place are low in scale although high buildings are generally dominant in this precinct. The low scale 19th Century and early 20th Century buildings surrounding Macquarie Place are mostly built of Hawkesbury sandstone, which gives the area a distinctive character. Many of these buildings are now protected by Conservation Instruments.

The historic buildings of particular relevance to the urban context of Macquarie Place include:

- **KYLE HOUSE: 27-31 Macquarie Place**

This building was designed by Bruce Dellit and was constructed in 1931 overlooking Macquarie Place Park. Important features include the main external stairs and barrel vaulted portico which is clad in granite.

Kyle House is built in the inter-war Art Deco style and was one of the earliest buildings to discard classical motifs on the exterior.

- SIRIUS HOUSE AND THE CUSTOMS HOUSE HOTEL:

15-25 Macquarie Place

This group of four buildings and historic facades front onto Macquarie Place. These buildings date mostly from the inter-war period and were built in a stripped classical style with sandstone being the dominant exterior construction material.

The facades of these buildings have been retained as part of the redevelopment of the site for a high rise hotel development by the Ramada Renaissance company.

- LANDS DEPARTMENT BUILDING

This important historic building occupying a whole city block, was designed by James Barnet, NSW Colonial Architect from 1862 until 1890. The Bridge Street facade presents a symmetrical composition with a formal entrance. The building is made of intricately detailed sandstone blocks, and is a major landmark in this precinct.

- EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BUILDING

This sandstone building built in 1914 compliments the scale and detailing of the Barnets Lands Department building, forming an important component of the Government building group along Bridge Street. It is a landmark building highly visible from Macquarie Place.

2.4 USAGE OF THE PARK

Macquarie Place is a highly valued green space by office workers and indeed any visitors to this part of the city. From noon to 3pm on weekdays, the Park is especially popular. The favourite places to sit depend upon the weather and season. In general however, the spaces which are in the sun are the most popular, particularly if there is some hard surface on which to sit, such as the benches, podium steps or low sandstone walls. The grass is often damp due to poor drainage and is therefore not as well used as it could be.

Other popular sitting areas are those which have a view to some form of activity, such as pedestrian traffic, or the fountain. Further hard seating is required in the Park, whether it be benches, sandstone ledges or low walls of appropriate dimensions. The location of seating must take into consideration views, pedestrian traffic, and the amount of sun/shade available.

The Park is also used as a short cut for people walking between Bridge Street and Loftus Street, and this activity tends to detract from the restful character of the Park. Pedestrian routes through the Park should be reconsidered so as not to conflict with the needs of recreational users of the Park.

It is expected that usage of the Park will increase with the opening of the Northbourne building on Macquarie Place and the Gateway at Circular Quay. As a result of this, new food outlets will encourage people to use the Park as an eating place, there will be more shoppers passing through the area and more office workers who may use the Park during lunchtime. This higher level of usage, coupled with increased shade from overshadowing buildings, means that the Park will be subject to increased pressure. Thus adequate seating, durable grassed areas and paved surfaces need to be provided.

SECTION III

MACQUARIE PLACE MASTERPLAN

3.1 CONSERVATION POLICY

The following conservation policy is the basis for the Masterplan recommended for the reconstruction and adaption of Macquarie Place. The Masterplan and Conservation Policy give consideration to both the historical and cultural importance of Macquarie Place. The Conservation Policy is as follows:

- Actively conserve the many features of historical significance within the Park.
- Emphasise the distinctive triangular shape of the Park and sense of enclosure when considering the boundary treatment.
- Attempt to dissuade by design, the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Park.
- Maximise the area available for grass, since there is a shortage of grassed areas in the city.
- Reconstruct the historic alignment of the Macquarie Place streetscape.
- Remove major obstructions from the streetscape and those materials which are not appropriate to the historic character of the area.
- Adapt the Macquarie Place streetscape as a pedestrian area providing appropriate paving, seating, shelter and lighting.

SECTION IV

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 STRUCTURES OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

4.1.1 MACQUARIE'S OBELISK

DESCRIPTION:

The sandstone obelisk was designed by Francis Greenway, and commissioned by Governor Macquarie in 1818, marking the geographic centre of the colony from which all distances were to be measured. It was inscribed with the mileages to other colonial centres.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

The obelisk suffers from rising damp, bringing with it rising salts which accumulate under the cornice and at the base of the obelisk. This aggravates the problem of stonework and mortar deterioration. Dirt has also accumulated, staining the sandstone, particularly on ledges and weatherings.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

The obelisk should undergo preservative treatments as recommended in the obelisk restoration report (see Appendix A). The report's recommendations are summarised below:

- The decorative acroteria details need to be brushed down, coated with retardant, and applied with coats of silicone rubber of a colour similar to sandstone.
- Some stonework to be replaced, joints chalked prior to cleaning, and mortar restored.
- The foundations of the obelisk are to be inspected to verify stability.
- Accumulated salts are to be removed by cyclic periods of saturation and then washing down of the salt affected areas.
- Return the ground around the base of the obelisk to its original level.



PLATE 4.1

Further deterioration of this historic landmark will diminish its aesthetic, and historic significance. It must be preservatively treated as soon as possible.

4.1.2 'SIRIUS' ANCHOR AND CANNON

DESCRIPTION:

The anchor was salvaged from HMS Sirius, one of the vessels in the First Fleet which was wrecked off Norfolk Island in 1790. The anchor was later installed in Macquarie Place in 1907 as was the cannon which was landed in Sydney in 1788.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

The cannon is itself in good condition, but the replica wooden carriage on which it rests (built in 1907 and rebuilt in the 1970's) has badly deteriorated. The paint is not only lifting off the rotten wood and iron fittings, but is harbouring chloride ions and moisture which will accelerate corrosion of the iron, and perhaps the cannon itself. The anchor has corroded much more heavily than the cannon, especially at points of contact with the concrete base and the replica wooden stock at the end of the shank (which is in a similar condition to the wooden gun carriage). The corrosion process has been aggravated by Sydney's humidity, air pollution and air-borne salt from the harbour.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

The Sirius anchor and cannon are currently undergoing preservative treatment and reconstruction as recommended in Pearson's Conservation Report (see Appendix B).

The report's recommendations are summarised below.

- The cannon and anchor should be provided with protective coatings.
- A new replica gun carriage for the cannon and new stock for the anchor should be made.
- The anchor and cannon should be redisplayed on special mounts to prevent fresh corrosion.
- A strict maintenance schedule should be drawn up involving regular inspection and maintenance by a qualified person so as to ensure the long term preservation of the relics.

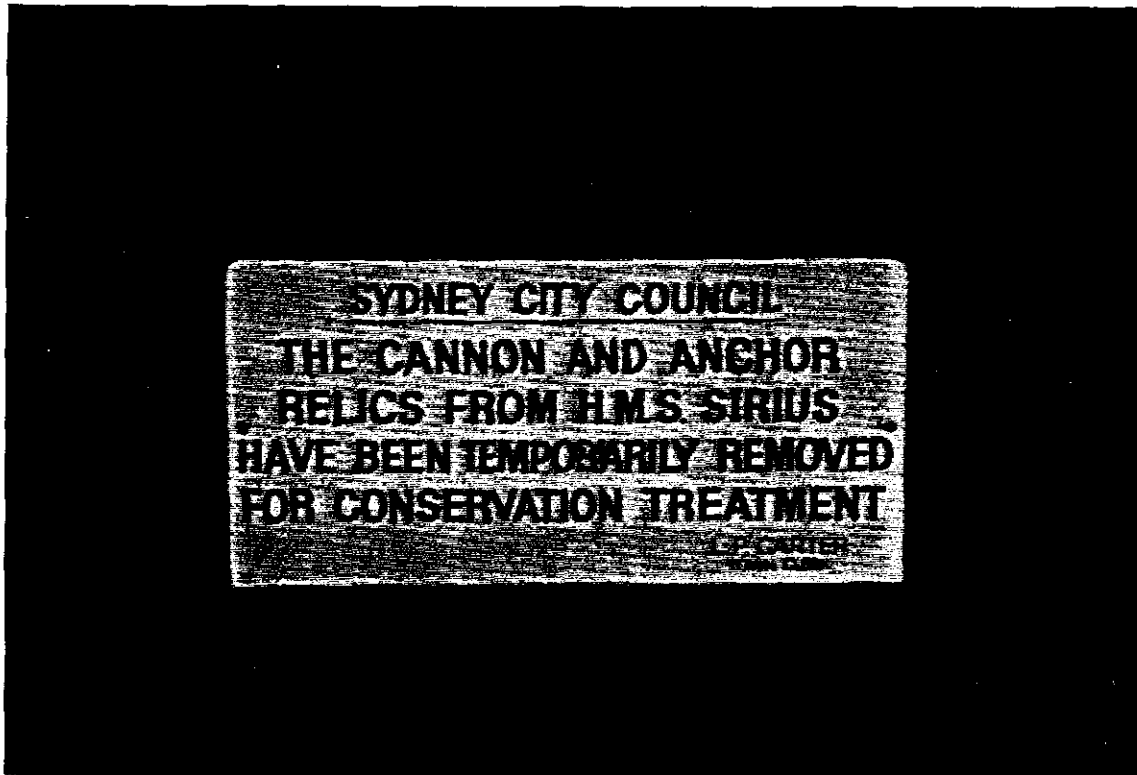


PLATE 4.2

This notice currently located in the Park, explains the absence of the cannon and anchor, salvaged from HMS Sirius, for conservation purposes.

4.1.3 T.S. MORT STATUE

DESCRIPTION:

Erected by popular response in 1883 after the death of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort (1878), recognising Mort's role in establishing Australia's export trade. It is the first public sculpture of a personage other than a governor or official.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Good condition.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

- The Statue should be reburnished and provided with a wax coating that is to be renewed yearly. (The Martin Place cenotaph has recently undergone this treatment, see plate 4.3)
- Replace the bollards and chain which originally surrounded the statue (see plate 2.10) which will not only prevent the practice of parking bikes around the statue, but the bollards and chain will also help to reinforce the triangular shape of the Park.



PLATE 4.3

Detail of the Martin Place cenotaph that has recently undergone preservative treatment which has been proposed for the T.S. Mort statue

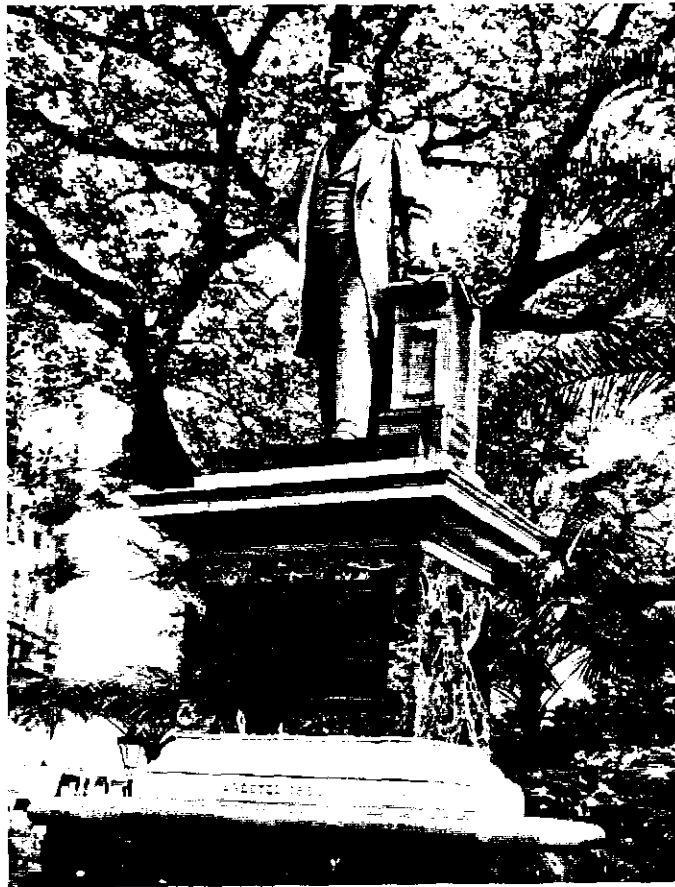


PLATE 4.4

T. S. Mort Statue

4.1.4 COVERED DRINKING FOUNTAIN

DESCRIPTION:

One of a series of decorative surrounds to drinking fountains, which were made in Britain and distributed throughout the colonies. This fountain was relocated from elsewhere in Sydney to Macquarie Place in the 1970's.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Good.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

- Reconstruct the brass swan that used to be at the centre of this drinking fountain.
- Repaint the ironwork in a colour scheme appropriate to the Victorian period.
- Consider a more suitable location for the fountain.



PLATE 4.5

The ornate drinking fountain, which is presently located along Macquarie Place.

4.1.5 DWAVE SANDSTONE WALL

DESCRIPTION:

Before 1917, the low sandstone wall surrounded the Park on all three sides with only two entry points. Originally it formed the foundation for an iron palisade fence.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

The original wall can be distinguished by the grouted holes which used to support the palisade fence that was removed earlier this Century. The following segments of the wall have since been added:

- the wall edging the path to behind the obelisk was built in 1966 to replace the wall destroyed by a car.
- the wall behind the T. S. Mort Statue was added in 1976, and the northern end of the wall along Macquarie Place was moved 2.5m inside the Park.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

- The wall should be extended along the entire length of the Loftus Street edge of the Park, and the steps on either side of the obelisk should be removed. This strategy will stop the Park being used as a pedestrian thoroughfare therefore encouraging its preferred use as a haven for city users and repository of historic monuments.

4.1.6 STONE GATE POSTS

DESCRIPTION:

The sandstone gate posts were installed in 1869 to mark the Bridge Street entrance to the Park, and were engraved with the words "Walter Renny, Esq., Mayor 1869".

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

The gate posts are generally in good condition. The cavities for the original iron gates have been grouted over. Markings on the gate posts themselves suggest that the position of the gate posts may have been changed during this Century.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

Maintain.



PLATE 4.6

Engraved gate posts show evidence of relocation on base portions. Sockets for iron gates are also evident.

4.1.7 EDWARDIAN LAVATORY

DESCRIPTION:

This structure installed in 1908, is listed by the National Trust due to its unusual architecture, in particular, the iron detailing and glazed roof. It was one of a small series of underground public toilets erected in Sydney in the early years of this Century.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

This structure should be actively conserved and be subject to the management recommendations of a separate conservation plan.

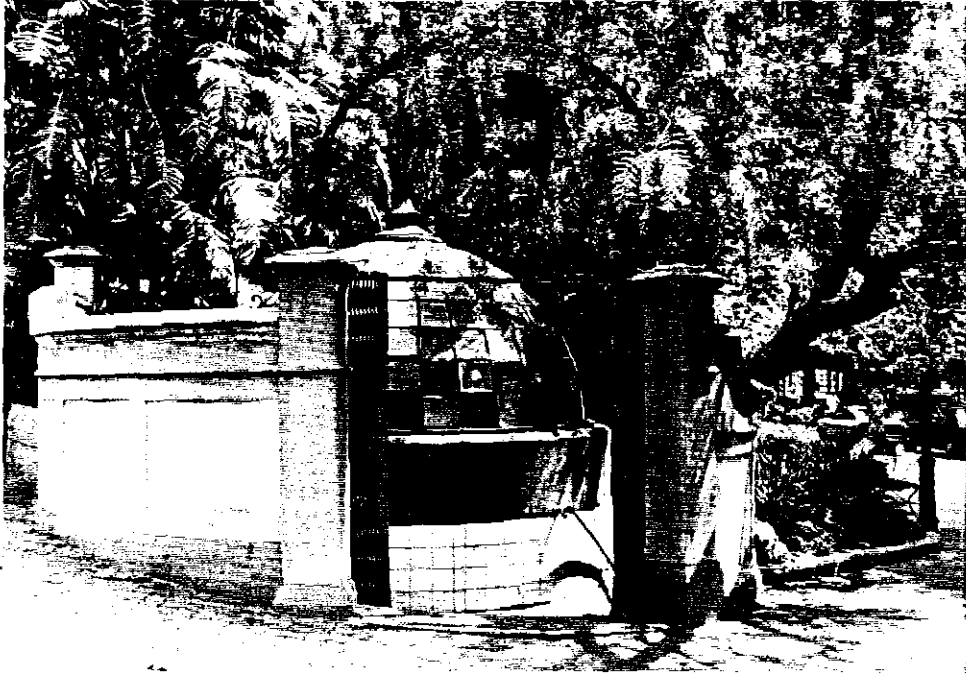


PLATE 4.7

The glazed dome of the Edwardian Lavatory.

4.1.8 LEWERS' FOUNTAIN

DESCRIPTION:

This small copper fountain, built by the sculptor, Gerald Lewers, was installed in 1960 in the southern corner of the Park in remembrance of a sculptor killed in battle (France, 1917). The fountain is an abstract curvilinear shape and careful attention has been paid to balance sculptural and water form.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

The sculpture was originally placed at the highest part of the Park, near the corner of Loftus and Bridge Street, in an informal setting surrounded by river pebbles. In the 1970's, the fountain was moved to the western corner of the Park and placed in a large circular water pond to deter vandalism. Despite this, the fountain has been vandalised, is badly dented on one side, and the fountain jets do not function to full effect. The pond is frequently choked with fallen leaves and litter, and its large formal shape is not appropriate for the informal character of the sculpture itself.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

- Thoroughly clean and repair fountain to remove dents and clear water jets.
- Relocate fountain to a more suitable position, not necessarily in Macquarie Place (any new location of the Lewers' fountain is to be advised by Council).
- Remove surrounding pond.

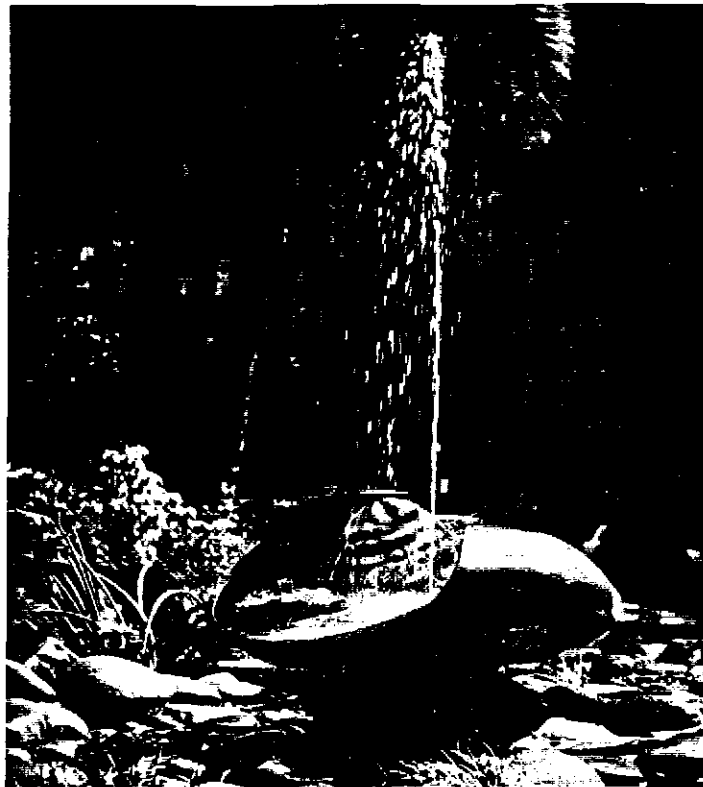


PLATE 4.8

Gerald Lewers' fountain.

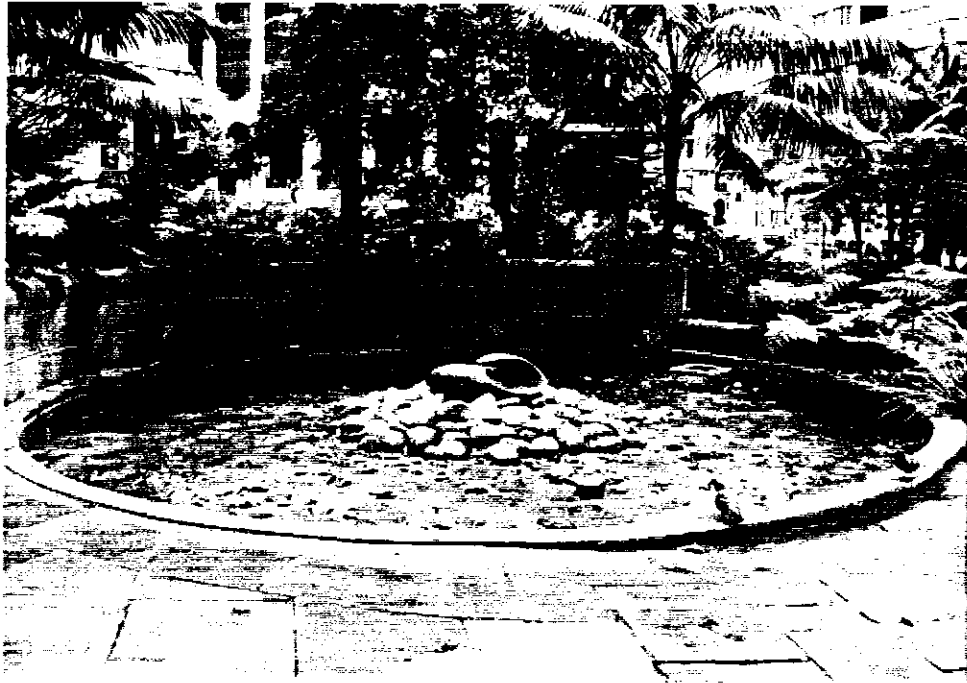


PLATE 4.9

The circular pond in which the Lewers' fountain has been placed is an inappropriate setting for such a small informal fountain.

4.2 FUNCTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.2.1 PAVING TREATMENT

DESCRIPTION:

Macquarie Place Park is currently paved with sandstone and slate flagstones installed sometime after 1930. Prior to this, gravel was used as paving as is seen in photographs from the early 20th Century.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

The slate flagstones are generally in good condition but they are slippery when wet making them a hazard to pedestrians. A prominent sign has been erected by Council in the Park warning of the slipperiness of these pavers (see plate 4.10). The sandstone flagging, laid in a random ashlar pattern, is not a pedestrian hazard but has become very dirty over the years and some of the flags are broken.

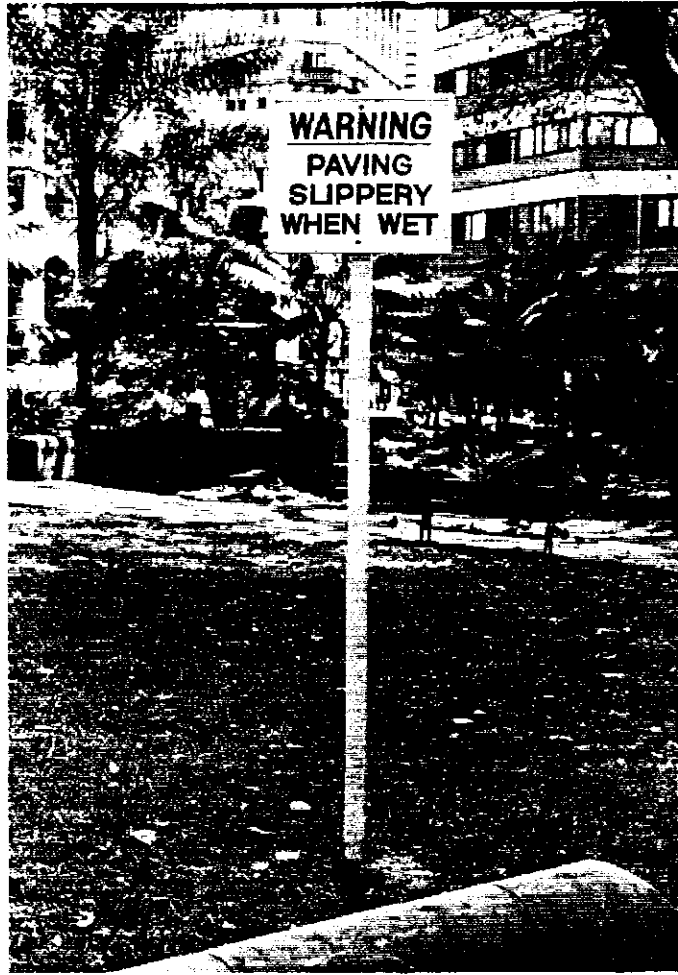


PLATE 4.10

This prominent sign in the centre of the Park clearly indicates the slip problems of slate paving.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

Due to the slipperiness of the slate paving and the poor condition of the sandstone, it is recommended that this unit paving be replaced by decomposed granite gravel. Gravel paving in Macquarie Place would not only respect the history of the Park, but would also have numerous practical advantages:

- Gravel is a continuous surface and would therefore provide a contrast to the sandstone monuments and buildings, thus highlighting these features.
- Gravel being a highly porous surface, would allow more moisture and nutrients to be received by the roots of the significant trees in Macquarie Place.
- Gravel has good grip and is therefore a safe surface to walk on. The Masterplan recommends that the Park be no longer used as a thoroughfare, and therefore there is little chance that gravel will be scattered.
- Gravel is historically appropriate to the 19th Century character of Macquarie Place and is the original paving treatment.

4.2.2 GRASSED AREAS

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

There are large areas of bare earth in Macquarie Place Park due to a combination of soil compaction and overshadowing from tree canopies and buildings (see Map 10). The grass is also being worn by people who take a short cut through the Park from Macquarie Place to Loftus Street. The areas of good grass cover are well used by office workers during lunch time.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

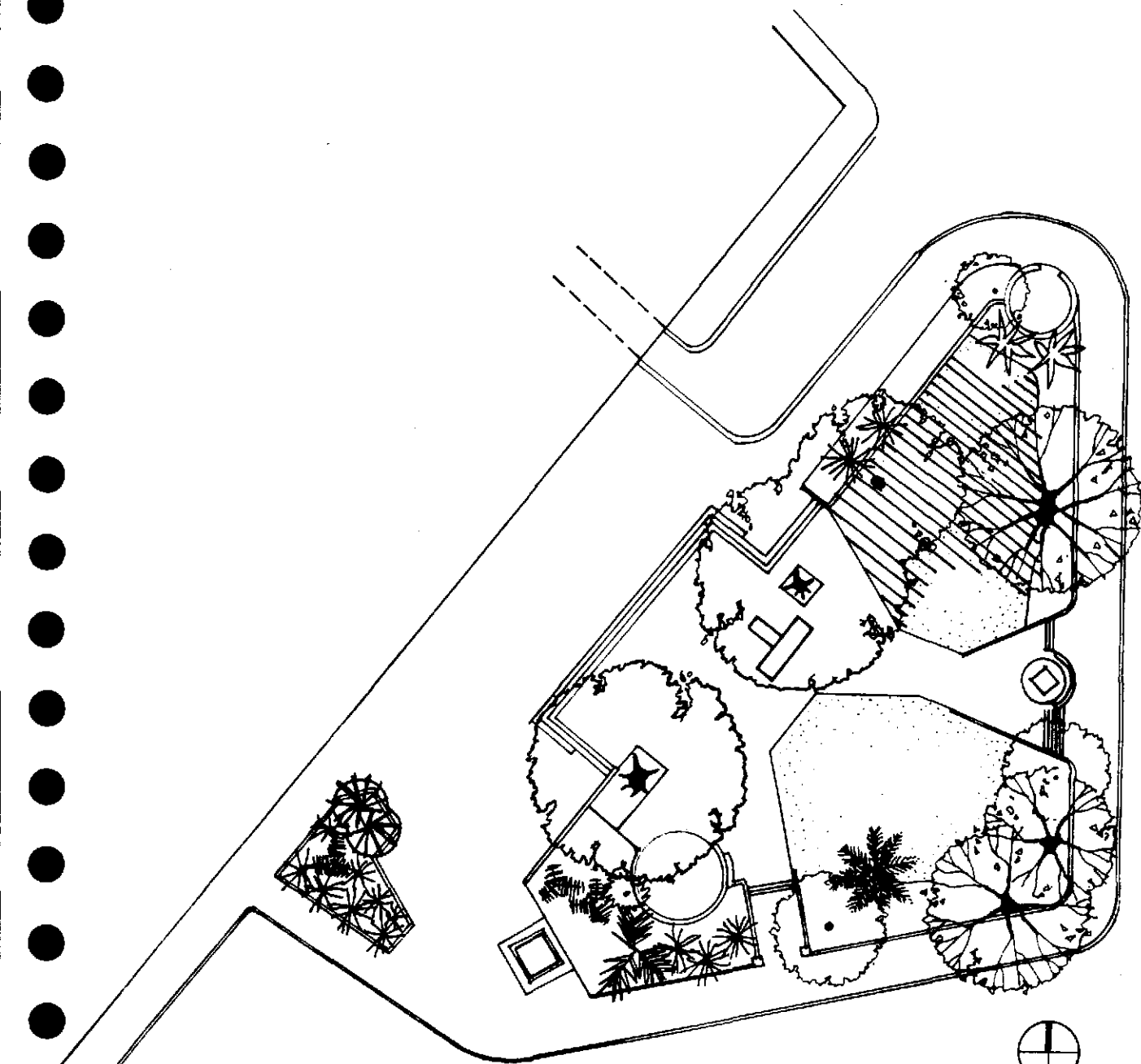
Grass is a very pleasing surface in city environments and ideal for passive recreational activities. In Macquarie Place Park the grassed areas help to visually reinforce the significant triangular shape of the Park.

To achieve a good quality grass surface in the Park, slopes need to be graded more evenly to assist drainage and new turf laid on at least 75mm of topsoil. Shady areas under trees should be turfed with Durban grass which has been grown successfully under fig trees in the Royal Botanic Gardens.



PLATE 4.11

Durban grass planted under figs in the Royal Botanic Gardens



NORTH
SCALE 1:500

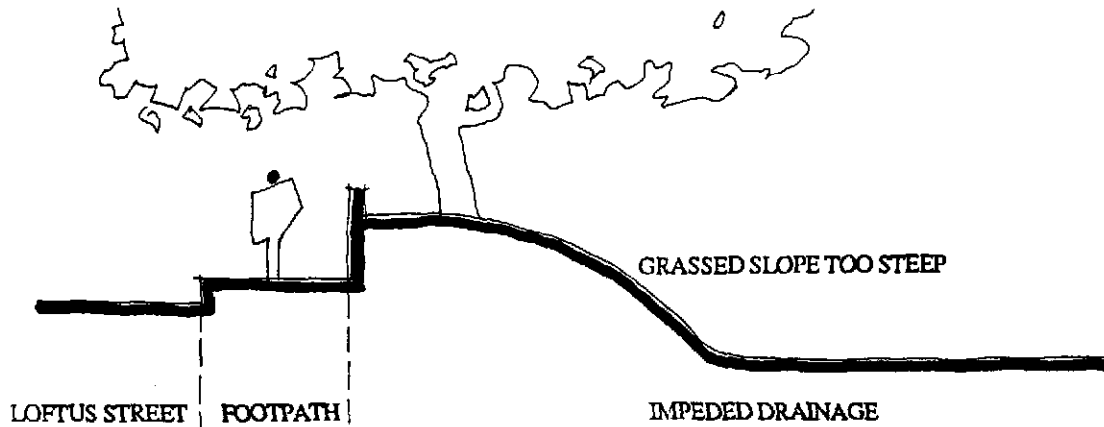
MAP 11

Areas within the Park where the grass is not growing successfully.

4.2.3 DRAINAGE

CONDITION:

Certain low points in the turfed area are susceptible to poor drainage due to the heavy clay soils and the severe embankment slopes. The section below shows the large area of grass which is often too wet to sit on. Even when dry, however, people often prefer to sit on elevated areas.



MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

- Grade the slope more evenly so that the slope is more comfortable to sit on, and there are fewer drainage problems.
- A series of agricultural subsoil drains connected to the stormwater system should be installed to further assist in draining the Park.

