ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
109–113 George Street, Parramatta

Volume 1: Main Report

for

Landcom

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CASEY & LOWE Pty Ltd
Archaeology & Heritage

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Executive Summary

Background
The archaeological investigation at 109–113 George Street, Parramatta was undertaken under Heritage Council approval, under S140 of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 (permit 2004/S140/001). The project involved a testing phase (permit P3/S140/059) as well as the main investigation phase. Landcom was the client for the project with on-site project management of the remediation by Cadence.

Results of the Archaeological Investigation
The archaeological investigation at 109–113 George Street, Parramatta found remains associated with the 78-year occupation of the site between c1804 and 1882. The site was considerably disturbed by twentieth-century building activities as well as the extensive demolition of the early buildings on the site in 1882 where the building materials were sold off leaving little behind.

The structural remains found at the site mostly relate to the occupation by Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall (c1804-1834). Following Elizabeth’s death (1834) the property was leased out. Rowland Hassall was a missionary and he and his wife and children fled from Tahiti to New South Wales in 1798. Among the tenants were the Mills family who operated a school there in the 1840s and the Griffiths who also operated a school there in the 1850s and 1860s.

The surviving remains included:

- The base of the cellar of the c1814 Hassall House.
- A well associated with the 80 year-occupation.
- Remains of an eastern building with chimney/flue and associated features.
- Remains of a central building, possibly a dairy.
- A series of recut pits behind the house, including a timber-lined pit.
- A second group of pits, two of which had brick-lined bases.

A total of 3731 sherds or fragments of artefacts were recovered, making a minimum total of 1821 items. Most contexts had fewer than 30 artefacts with only 12 contexts having 49 or more artefacts. Fifty-seven percent of artefacts were ceramic, with glass (18.6%), metal (11.3%) and miscellaneous (8%) being the next largest categories. Aside from these artefacts there were remains of animal bone and shell. There were 749 fragments of animal bone with five contexts having more than 50 fragments. Fifty-one percent of the bone was from sheep with 33 percent from cattle. There was some evidence of fish or poultry and a few bones from a cat and a dog, suggesting the presence of pets on the site though not their burials. Shells were found in 32 contexts but generally only between one and eight fragments were found, except for fill 5071 which was a pit containing 220 oyster shells, many with their lids on (Table 4-5). Most of the 217 shell fragments from the site were rock oyster which presumably were available from the nearby Parramatta River. For further discussion of the artefacts from this site see the three detailed Specialist Reports, Sections 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3.
## Contents

### VOLUME 1: Main Report
1.0 Introduction  
2.0 Historical Background  
3.0 Results of the Archaeological Investigation  
4.0 Artefact Analysis  
5.0 Response to Research Questions  
6.0 Bibliography  

### VOLUME 2: Subsidiary Reports
7.0 Detailed Description of the Archaeological Recording Program  
8.0 Specialists’ Reports  

### VOLUME 3: Appendices
- Appendix 1: Lists – Contexts, Photographs, Pollen and Soil Samples  
- Appendix 2: Public Interpretation Leaflet  
- Appendix 3: Artefact Catalogue
Contents

VOLUME 1: Main Report

Executive Summary

1.0 Introduction ............................................................................................................... 1

1.1 Background ................................................................................................................ 1
1.2 Heritage Significance ............................................................................................... 5
1.3 Report Methodology ................................................................................................. 6
1.4 Authorship ............................................................................................................... 7
1.5 Research Questions ................................................................................................. 7
1.6 Public Interpretation ............................................................................................... 8
1.7 Artefacts .................................................................................................................. 11
1.8 Limitations ............................................................................................................. 12
1.9 Acknowledgements ............................................................................................... 12
1.10 List of Illustrations and Tables ............................................................................. 12
1.11 Abbreviations ....................................................................................................... 16

2.0 Historical Background ............................................................................................ 19

2.1 General Background .............................................................................................. 19
2.2 Historical Occupation of the Hassall House ...................................................... 23
2.3 Rowland Hassall .................................................................................................... 34
2.4 Hassall’s Parramatta Store ..................................................................................... 35
2.5 Living on the property in 1828 ............................................................................. 35
2.6 Schools on the Site ............................................................................................... 36
2.7 Ownership After the Hassall Family ...................................................................... 36
2.8 Allotments 10 and 11 DP 1182 ............................................................................. 38
2.9 Allotments 12 and 13 DP 1182 ............................................................................. 39
2.10 Allotments 8 and 9 DP 1182 ............................................................................... 39
2.11 Twentieth-century Housing and the RTA ......................................................... 40
2.12 Chronology ......................................................................................................... 42

3.0 Results of the Archaeological Investigation ........................................................ 47

3.1 Methodology ......................................................................................................... 47
3.2 Natural Environment ............................................................................................. 48
3.3 Aboriginal Occupation ......................................................................................... 54
3.4 The Cultural Landscape of Colonial Parramatta (1790–c1821) ......................... 56
3.5 Archaeological Remains Phases 7 and 8 – Twentieth-Century Impacts ............. 63
3.6 Phase 6 – Twentieth-Century Housing ............................................................... 64
3.7 Phase 5 – Demolition of the Hassall House .......................................................... 64
3.8 Phase 3 and 4 – Construction and Occupation of the Hassall House ............... 66
3.9 Phase 2 – Pre-Hassall House Features (c1790–1840) ......................................... 102

4.0 Overview of Artefacts ............................................................................................. 105

4.1 Overview of Artefacts ............................................................................................ 105
4.2 Brief Overview ....................................................................................................... 105

5.0 Response to Research Questions .......................................................................... 109

5.1 Research Questions ............................................................................................... 109
5.2 Brief Theoretical Background ............................................................................. 110
5.3 Response to Research Questions ........................................................................ 114

6.0 Bibliography ........................................................................................................ 130

6.1 Bibliography ......................................................................................................... 130
VOLUME 2: Subsidiary Reports

7.0 Detailed Description of the Archaeological Recording Program
7.1 Trench Report – Franz Reidel
Appendix 1: Site plans
Appendix 2: Archaeological Matrix

8.0 Specialists Reports
8.1 Ceramics Report – Rowan Ward
8.2 Glass Report – Jeanne Harris
8.3 Miscellaneous, Metals and Building Materials – Robyn Stocks
8.4 Pollen Report – Mike Macphail

VOLUME 3: Appendices
Appendix 1: Lists – Contexts, Photographic, Pollen and Soil Samples
Appendix 2: Public Interpretation Leaflet
Appendix 3: Artefact Catalogue
   Appendix 3.1: Ceramic Catalogue
   Appendix 3.2: Glass Catalogue
   Appendix 3.3: Miscellaneous Catalogue
   Appendix 3.4: Metals Catalogue
   Appendix 3.5: Building Materials Catalogue
   Appendix 3.6: Bone Catalogue
   Appendix 3.7: Shell Catalogue
Archaeological Investigation  
109–113 George Street, Parramatta

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background
A series of reports have been written which address the archaeological resources on this site. These include reports by Casey & Lowe for non-indigenous archaeology and a report by Jo McDonald CHM for the Indigenous archaeology:

Casey & Lowe
- 2003a Archaeological Assessment 109 George Street, Parramatta, for Landcom, May 2003
- 2003b Archaeological Testing, 109–113 George Street, Parramatta, for Landcom, December 2003
- 2003c Excavation Permit Application, Record & Remove Remains, for Landcom, December 2003
- 2004a Preliminary Results, Archaeological Excavation, 109–113 George Street, Parramatta, for Landcom, December 2004 (this was lodged on Casey & Lowe webpage in February 2004)

Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management 2005 Archaeological Salvage Excavation of Site RTA–G1, 109–113 George Street, Parramatta, NSW, October 2005

Identification of the need for an archaeological program at 109–113 George Street arose during the feasibility study for a proposed best practice development by Landcom in 2003. The archaeological assessment was written at that time. This identified the potential State significance of the remains within the study area based on the PHALMS 2000 report but also cautioned that there was potentially substantial disturbance of the site by the 1960s RTA building.

After preliminary testing in November 2003 (permit P3/s140/059), which was carried out alongside the demolition of the former RTA building and removal of its extensive concrete strip footings, it was decided that the whole site was to be stripped of modern imported fill to enable the

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1 Casey & Lowe 2003a.
2 Godden Mackay Logan 2000.
Introduction

archaeologists to investigate any remains belonging to the nineteenth-century occupation. This work and the subsequent archaeological work were undertaken under permit application (2004/S140/001). The southeastern corner of the study area was identified as containing a large area of contamination. This contamination was removed under a remediation program. In addition the use of the site by the RTA involved the presence of in-ground petrol storage tanks and these areas also needed to be remediated.

The removal of all contaminated materials and soils started on the 15 November 2004. The whole area was to be stripped of contaminated soils which basically included all the twentieth-century material down to the natural ground. The removal of the overburden and the battering of deep areas with clean introduced fill were undertaken by Mainland Civic in the six weeks following the starting date. An area of about 30m by 25m in the southeast corner of the site was not archaeologically investigated due to the nature of the contamination which included heavy metals (Plan 1). Another area of about 20m by 30m in the northwest corner of the study site, which was the location of a south sloping ramp within the RTA complex, did not yield any significant features and was also excluded from investigation as well as an area 6m wide along George Street and stretching 13m south into the study area which had asbestos conduits running through it. To the west of this area was a smaller section of about 7.5m by 4m with an electricity substation which was also excluded. Any surviving nineteenth-century structures within the remainder of the study area were to be investigated and removed by Casey & Lowe. Further work was carried out in January 2005 by a team of archaeologists investigating Indigenous archaeology on the site.3 Two deep features requiring machine excavation were investigated on 28 February 2005, following the completion of the Indigenous archaeology program.

Figure 1-2: Location of 109–113 George Street in relation to the early Parramatta street layout and other archaeological site which Casey & Lowe have excavated in Parramatta.

3 Jo McDonald CHM 2005.
Figure 1-3: Site plan showing the location of the field plans which have now been incorporated into the main plans. These plans were initially drawn at a scale of 1:50 by Franz Reidel.
1.2 Heritage Significance

Casey & Lowe 2003a identified the archaeological potential of the site as being:

The early extensive remains are those belonging to Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall’s house, outbuildings and grounds. These are likely to have been disturbed by the construction of houses in Phase 3 and by the erection of the RTA building. Because the ground slab for the RTA building is approximately 0.5 m above ground level it is presumed that impacts on the archaeology are limited to those caused by the footing system which are reasonably extensive, with in-ground tanks and 2 to 3 m of fill as well as services. These twentieth-century developments are presumed to have had some impact on the Phase 2 remains but they should survive to a low to moderate degree.

Therefore the land within the study area is considered to have a low to moderate level of archaeological potential.

The statement of heritage significance in Casey & Lowe 2003a assessed the significance of the site as:

The archaeological remains associated with the Hassall family’s occupation of the study area are considered to provide a rare archaeological resource relating to the development of early Parramatta from convict town to free settlement. The known historical activities undertaken at the site include preaching, operating a Sunday school and printing religious tracts. The archaeological recording, analysis and interpretation of remains associated with the Hassall family phase are considered likely to provide evidence to address substantive research questions. Among these are issues concerning patterns of life in colonial Parramatta, including consumption and commerce, cultural and social practices both customary and modified, order and amenity and changing the landscape. Other avenues of inquiry are the nature of life in the Hassall household, the characteristics of their childhood and the construction of gender identities, relations between family and servants as well as the extensive religious activities undertaken within the property and how all these were expressed through material culture. The archaeological remains at this site associated with the Hassall family are considered to be of State significance.

The twentieth-century remains are expected to offer limited evidence to address research questions and are considered to be of low local significance.

Statement of Significance following Completion of Testing (December 2003)

A statement of significance was written for the potential archaeological remains following the completion of the testing in December 2003. The testing indicated that the Hassall house had mostly been removed by its demolition and by the construction of the RTA building in the 1860s. It was anticipated that little evidence of this house would survive within the site. Archaeological potential was considered as:

The study area is likely to contain archaeological remains associated with the early nineteenth-century occupation of the site. The archaeological testing has shown that these remains were considerably disturbed during the twentieth century. Yet it is still considered likely that deeper sub-surface remains survive within the site. These remains may include wells, cesspits, rubbish pits, drains, evidence of structures and the use of the site by the Hassall family as well as the demolition of these buildings.

The following statement of significance was written at that time based on this assessment of archaeological potential.

The archaeological remains associated with the Hassall family’s occupation of the study area are considered to provide a rare archaeological resource relating to the development of early Parramatta from convict town to free settlement. The known historical activities undertaken at the site include preaching, operating a Sunday school and printing religious tracts. The archaeological recording, analysis and interpretation of remains associated with the Hassall family phase are considered likely to provide evidence to address substantive research questions. Among these are issues concerning patterns of life in colonial Parramatta, including consumption.

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and commerce, cultural and social practices both customary and modified, order and amenity and changing the landscape. Other avenues of inquiry are the nature of life in the Hassall household, the characteristics of their childhood and the construction of gender identities, relations between family and servants as well as the extensive religious activities undertaken within the property and how all these were expressed through material culture.

Archaeological testing has shown that these remains are considerably disturbed and that more substantial remains have been removed from the site. While the archaeological remains at this site associated with the Hassall family are still considered to be important, the degree to which they are likely to survive has considerably decreased, making them items of Local significance rather than the previous State significance. The twentieth-century remains are expected to offer limited evidence to address research questions and are considered to be of low Local significance.

**Significance of Remains following Completion of the Archaeology Program**

The assessment of archaeological potential based on the testing report (above) corresponds reasonably closely with what was found during the archaeological program, such as deeper sub-surface features including a well and rubbish pits. Evidence of structures was also found and generally these structures were substantially disturbed. In the case of the 13-roomed house with attic and cellar, only the lowest courses of the cellar walling and flooring survived. There is limited evidence of four other structures whose function is not certain without additional research. It is considered that the surviving remains conform to those predicted in the testing report. Therefore the previous statement of significance written for the remains is considered to stand.

**1.3 Report Methodology**

This report is intended to respond to the standard conditions set by the NSW Heritage Council to produce a report presenting the results of the archaeological program and in accordance with permit application approval 2004/S140/001 and condition 16 of that approval. These results include:

**Volume 1: Main Report**
- Section 1: Introduction
- Section 2: Historical Background
- Section 3: Results of the Archaeological Program
- Section 4: Analysis of Artefacts
- Section 5: Response to the Research Design
- Section 6: Bibliography

**Volume 2**
- Section 7: Detailed Description of the Archaeological Recording Program
- Section 8: Specialists’ Reports
  - 8.1 Ceramics Report
  - 8.2 Glass Report
  - 8.3 Miscellaneous, Metals Report and Building Materials
  - 8.4 Pollen Analysis

**Volume 3: Appendices**
- Appendix 1: Lists – Contexts, Photographic, Pollen and Soil Samples,
- Appendix 2: Public Interpretation Leaflet
- Appendix 3: Artefact Catalogue
  - Appendix 3.1: Ceramic Catalogue
  - Appendix 3.2: Glass Catalogue
  - Appendix 3.3: Miscellaneous Catalogue
  - Appendix 3.4: Metals Catalogue

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*Casey & Lowe 2004.*
Introduction

Appendix 3.5: Building Materials Catalogue
Appendix 3.6: Bone Catalogue
Appendix 3.7: Shell Catalogue

Sections 3, 4 and 5 of this report draw heavily on Section 7 and 8. It is not the purpose of Sections 3, 4 or 5 to present the detailed recording of the remains but to synthesise and interpret these remains. Therefore Sections 3, 4 and 5 draw on Sections 7 and the specialist reports in Section 8. The detailed excavation results are presented in Section 7 which also includes photographs and two appendices, archaeological plans and the archaeological matrix.

1.4 Authorship
This report was written by Dr Mary Casey with major contributions by Franz Reidel, Rowan Ward (ceramics), Robyn Stocks (metals, building materials, miscellaneous) and Jeanne Harris (glass). Franz Reidel co-directed the archaeological program in association with Mary Casey and was responsible for the site planning and the inking of the field plans for the final report and wrote most of the draft text in Section 3. Tim Adams undertook the detailed excavation, planning and recording of a series of pits and wrote a report on these features which is included in Section 3. Various specialists catalogued the artefacts: Rowan Ward (ceramics), Jeanne Harris (glass), Robyn Stocks (miscellaneous, metals and building materials) and Caroline Wilby (bone and shell) and wrote specialists reports (Section 8). Dr Mike Macphail analysed and wrote the pollen report. Tim Adams annotated the archaeological plans included in this report. The history in Section 2 is based on previous work by Terry Kass for the Archaeological Assessment, with some new work by Dr Mary Casey. Tony Lowe provided advice during the archaeological program and reporting, took some of the site photographs and reviewed this report. Site assistance was provided by Glen Suey, Nicole Trapnell, and Guadalupe Cincunegui who also drew some of the site plans.

1.5 Research Questions
A series of research questions were identified as part of the permit application:

Convict and Free Life in Colonial Parramatta

- What differences were there between the lives of free or forced or institutionalised settlers?
- How did the deprivations of a frontier life alter the way in which free people lived in early colonial Parramatta?
- Nature of early agricultural practices, evidence for dairying etc. Address this issue through both the analysis of archaeological features as well as through analysis of early pottery and pollen samples.
- Pottery was manufactured in Sydney and probably in Parramatta. It is typically found on early Parramatta sites where it is frequently unglazed. Our understanding of this pottery is fairly limited to date. Recent work by Mary Casey on the analysis of early pottery in Sydney (DMR site and Palmer’s bakehouse at the Conservatorium of Music) has considerably added to our understanding of the type of forms manufactured and used at specialist sites but we know very little about pottery at Parramatta, its manufacture and the forms and their uses. The work at George & Charles Streets, Parramatta has considerably added to our understanding of the corpus of early pottery. This work has been catalogued and will be analysed in the near future.
- Consumption and commerce in colonial Parramatta:

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8 We have drawn on some of the more relevant questions in PHALMS 2000 Figure 6.4, p. 167-175. Please note there are a number of important research areas which this research framework has not engaged with, such as constructions of gender identities, frontier theory, resistance to authority, the nature of early pottery and its relation to domestic site activities and early pottery manufacture.
9 Casey 1999; Casey & Lowe 2002.
o How does it link into issues associated with local, regional and global economies?

o What does it tell us about cultural and social practices in colonial Parramatta, relating to lifeways, diet and other issues associated with consumption?

o How do patterns of consumption further our understanding of how early residents of Parramatta used material culture in the construction of personal and group identity?

**Landscape of Colonial Parramatta**

- How does the evidence from this site feed into the current perceptions of the convict-period landscape of Parramatta? Other issues to be considered are resistance to the way in which control manifested itself in the landscape and in daily life. Issues of power are central to the expression of landscapes of control.
- Nature and affect of modification of the pre-European landscape.
- Evidence for the pre-European landscape.
- Remaking of the landscape, the social cultural and political context and how it was manifest in this landscape. Are many of the same issues influencing the way in which the landscape was formed similar to those which affected the Sydney Domain?
- Order and amenity: is the layout of houses and other structures the result of cultural and social practices? What was the role of these practices in changing the landscape and modifying people’s behaviour?  

**Life in the Hassall Household**

- The nature of life in this household where the Hassall family lived for about 30 years.
- Evidence for the nature of childhood and the way in which gender identities were constructed.
- The nature of the material culture and consumption patterns of the Hassall family and their servants/staff over a period of about 30 years and how these remains related to the transformation of their environment from rural town and to an urban place.
- The way in which servants lived in this household.
- Layout of the house and outbuildings and how this structured life in the Hassall household.
- Examination of how religious life affected the way of life in the Hassall family. How was it different to convict lives or other settlers in early Parramatta?
- Is there evidence for customary patterns (buildings, food, religious practice, cultural artefacts)?

1.6 **Public Interpretation**

Only limited public interpretation was undertaken during the excavation of this site. This involved the distribution of a leaflet prepared on the archaeology and history of the site which the public were able to collected from the fence. The leaflet is accessible on Casey & Lowe’s webpage (www.caseyandlowe.com.au). A sign with much of the same information was also placed on the fence (Fig. 1-4). A press release on the site was issued on 14 January 2005 and copies were sent to the NSW Heritage Office. Newspaper articles were written in the *Parramatta Advertiser* (16/2/05) and the *Daily Telegraph* (25/2/05) about the archaeological program on the site (Figs 1-5, 1-6). The public interpretation was in response to condition 8 of the permit approval, 2004/S140/001.

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10 This general topic was the focus of Mary Casey’s PhD thesis but in relation to the Sydney Domain (Casey 2002).

11 Some of these issues were the focus of analysis in Casey 2002.
Figure 1-4: Site sign, organised by Nick Chandler, Landcom.
Remains uncovered

ANTONY LAWES

THE remains of a house belonging to one of Parramatta’s famous colonial preachers was uncovered by archaeologists last year on the site of a future apartment complex.

Archaeologists employed by the government developer Landcom found remains of rubbish pits, postholes and brick structures from the 1804 house built by the Anglican missionary and preacher Rowland Hassall on the George St site, near the corner of Charles St.

Another set of archaeologists, as well as representatives from Aboriginal groups are digging for Aboriginal relics.

The Hassall house was demolished some time in the 1880s; the site was later turned into the Parramatta offices of the Roads and Traffic Authority.

Excavation director and archaeologists Casey and Lowe’s Dr Mary Casey said while they found nothing of individual significance from the house, the information they gathered was important because it shed light on the Hassall family, an important family of the area, and early religious life in Parramatta.

“Parramatta’s got a very important archaeological history that in some ways we’re only beginning to explore,” she said.

“The lack of intensive development at Parramatta means more buildings and artefacts survived from early times.”

According to a pamphlet about the site prepared by Casey and Lowe, Rowland Hassall was an Anglican missionary who also held the post of government storekeeper and head of the granary at Parramatta in the first few years of the 19th century.

The house became a “pivotal point in the religious network of the colony” and his son Thomas opened the first Sunday school in Australia on the site in 1813.

A spokeswoman for Landcom said subject to the necessary planning approval, construction was expected start on the residential complex at the end of next year.

Figure 1-5: Article from the Parramatta Advertiser 16 February 2005.
Artefacts

Fifty-four boxes of artefacts were recovered during the archaeological program. These are stored in A1 size artefact boxes. The number of boxes in each artefact category were:

- Building Materials – 14 boxes
- Ceramics – 17 boxes
- Glass – 10 boxes
- Metals – 5 boxes
- Miscellaneous – 1 box
- Bone/Shell – 7 boxes

It is currently uncertain where these artefacts will be stored in perpetuity. Bricks from the well and stones from the footings of the Hassall House cellar were stored on pallets with the intention they be used for future potential reconstruction within the foyer.
1.8 Limitations
There were few limitations on the archaeological program as it was well funded by Landcom. There was sufficient time and money available to write an excavation report in accordance with the NSW Heritage Council’s standard conditions. It would always be good to spend more time writing sections of the report, notably Section 5, Response to the Research Design, but realistically there are limits on time and funding. There is always more research and analysis to be done at the end of a project and hopefully this will be done by university students and other researchers.

Other limitations for this report relate more to the overall system of archaeological knowledge where an archaeological report fits into the system of recording, analysis and interpretation of archaeological remains and opportunities for ongoing research. As this is not a ‘research’ project where there are three or five year timeframes in which to produce a report, this report was required to be completed within two years of the archaeological program. We do not consider that these budget or time constraints have impinged on the production of a high quality report but it does mean that we have not necessarily addressed a lot of subsidiary aspects of the site’s archaeology. To achieve as good a report as possible we have used the resources of the project in what we consider to be the most efficient manner to produce a report that will allow people, both archaeologists and members of the public, to know about and understand the results of the excavation program and where there are further opportunities for archaeological research and analysis.

1.9 Acknowledgements
Nick Chandler, Landcom
Isabel Cobas, NSW Heritage Office
Ross Lentell, Cadence

1.10 List of Illustrations and Tables

Section 1
Figure 1-1: Location Plan.
Figure 1-2: Location of 109–113 George Street in relation to the early Parramatta street layout and other archaeological site which Casey & Lowe have excavated in Parramatta.
Figure 1-3: Site plan showing the location of the field plans which have now been incorporated into the main plans. These plans were initially drawn at a scale of 1:50 by Franz Reidel.
Figure 1-4: Site sign, organised by Nick Chandler, Landcom.
Figure 1-5: Article from the *Parramatta Advertiser* 16 February 2005.
Figure 1-6: Article on the site in the *Daily Telegraph*, 25 February, 2005

Archaeological Plans
Plan 1: Site Plan
Plan 2: Area A
Plan 3: Area A - Interpretation of Structures
Plan 4: Area B
Plan 5: Detail of Area B during excavation showing post-exavagation of timber-lined pit feature 4847.
Plan 6: Detail of Area B showing post-exavagation of pit features.

Section 2

Figures
Figure 2-1: Fernando Brambila’s view of George Street showing convict huts aligned along George Street (middle ground) with Government House (middle left), 1793. This is the original drawing given by the Spanish visitors to Lieutenant-Governor Grose who sent it back to George III. The four figures in the middle ground are probably Spanish naval officers. See below for detail. This image is currently catalogued in the British Library, Maps Library. Rosen 2003:44.
Figure 2-2: Detail of Fernando Brambila’s view of George Street showing the convict huts aligned along George Street, 1793. British Library, Maps Library, copy in Mitchell Library, SLNSW.
Figure 2-3: Evans’ 1804 plan of Parramatta. This is not an accurate plan and is based on Meehan’s 1804 survey. Rosen 2003:132, 131.

Figure 2-4: Watercolour by Evans, showing High Street Parramatta and the study area, c1805. Rosen 2003, Caroline Simpson Collection, Historic Houses Trust of NSW.

Figure 2-5: G. W. Evans’ 1804 survey showed a building on Ikin’s lease, arrowed (no. 15), whilst there was no building on the southern lease of Charles Smith (no. 18). Source: G W Evans, Plan of Township of Parramatta, 1804, ML Map M2 811.1301/1813/1

Figure 2-6: Rules of the Parramatta Sunday School, August 1816. This early example of colonial printing was produced at the “Missionary Press, Parramatta” which was located on Hassall’s premises. Source: ML Safe 1/31

Figure 2-7: Hymns of the Parramatta Sunday School. This printed document has the notation “1816 Printed at Parramatta at house of Mr R. Hassall at the Mission Press, Parramatta”. Source: ML Safe 1/31

Figure 2-8: Stewart’s 1823 map showed the main building (arrowed) occupied by the Hassalls plus two smaller ones, possibly outbuildings to the west. Source: SR Map 4907

Figure 2-9: Hassall’s land in 1831. This survey, by Parramatta surveyor J. B. Richards, showed a number of buildings on the site, including many which were not marked on other surveys or plans. Source: P.6.714, Crown Plan

Figure 2-10: Brownrigg’s map shows the site in 1844 but damage to the face of the map means that only one building is clearly visible. Source: W M Brownrigg, Plan of Parramatta, ML Map M3/811.1301/1844/1

Figure 2-11: 1836 map showing there were two buildings in the eastern part of the property. SR Map 4799.

Figure 2-12: Photo of the house from Rosemary Hooke whose great grandmother and siblings were born in this house. This photo is shown the correct way around, the reproduction in Ken and Shylie Brown’s book (from a glass negative), Parramatta; A town caught in time, 1870, Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, 1995, p 24, reversed this image. It was then called Aldine House.

Figure 2-13: Hassall’s dwelling. This undated drawing of the house agrees with a later photograph. Source: J. Stewart & D. J. Hassall, The Hassall Family: Celebrating 200 Years in Australia 1798-1998, p 41.

Figure 2-14: Hassall Estate Auction, 30 September 1882. The auction plan clearly showed where the former Hassall buildings were situated. The main house ran across allotments 10 and 11, whilst there were outbuildings on allotments 12 and 13 (circled). Source: Sydney Subdivision Plans, ML, Parramatta ZSP:P6/99

Figure 2-15: Parramatta Detail Survey 1895. The Detail Survey showed that there were no buildings on the site, at that time. The red box shows the approximate position of the study area. Source: Parramatta Detail Survey, 1895, Sheet 10

Figure 2-16: In 1961 there were three houses on George Street and probably four houses on Union Street with an outbuilding in one of the Union Street properties. Listed lot numbers are taken from Figure 2.14. These houses were also shown on the 1928 aerial. They were demolished in the 1960s for the construction of the extant RTA building. Lands photo, Department of Lands and Rural Affairs, 1961.

Section 3

Figures

Figure 3-1: Redrawing of Lawrie’s 1980 map of Parramatta showing a range of environmental features as well as an early engineering works, the Parramatta barrel drain, built in response to the natural landscape. Note the drainage reserve to the southeast of the study area (arrowed).

Figure 3-2: Aboriginal family cooking over a fire near the Parramatta River close to modern day George and Charles Streets. Note the Byrnes’ mill which dominated the eastern end of the township. Augustus Earle, c1827, A view in Parramatta, NSW looking east, Picman, PXD 265, ML, SLNSW.

Figure 3-3: Evans’ c1804 plan of Parramatta with the study area indicated (arrowed). The study area is identified as Lease 15 which was given to Obediah Ikin before being purchased by Rowland Hassall. Lease 27 on this plan was given to Rowland Hassall, this is across the river and west of Church Street. This plan is based on Meehan’s 1804 survey which Evans was responsible for drawing up. Rosen 2003:132, 131.

Figure 3-4: Engraving of Parramatta, included in Collins 1796. This is an unreliable depiction of Parramatta and should only be used with caution and in relation to the other images presented in Section 2. Note the similarity with Figure 3-8.

Figure 3-5: View of Parramatta government house and convict huts lining High (George) Street, c1789. The huts on the right are in the general vicinity of the study area. This image shows Phillip’s government house with various additions. This appears to have influenced the above lithograph (Fig 3-7). Further research needs to be undertaken on this image to clarify its provenance and accuracy. The date, c1789, which is on the Mitchell Library catalogue is clearly wrong as High Street and the huts were

Casey & Lowe 109–113 George Street, Parramatta Archaeological Investigation
not built prior to July 1790 and the use of weatherboarding is not considered to be used until the repair of the huts. It is possible this view is later. View of Governor's House, Rosehill, DG, SSV1B/3 PICMAN, ML.

Figure 3-6: Brambila’s drawing of Parramatta with huts lining High (George) Street. This is the original drawing given by the Spanish visitors to Lieutenant-Governor Grose who sent it to George III. The four figures in the middle ground are probably Spanish naval officers. The original of this is in the British Library, Map Collection. A copy is lodged in ML SPF.

Figure 3-7: Governor Hunter’s rebuilt house with Governor and Mrs King’s neatly laid out garden. Compare Figure 3-8. The study area is nearly 1 mile to the east of government house, at the other end of George Street. George Evans, c1805, SSVIB/Parr/12, ML, SLNSW.

Figure 3-8: View to east along High (George) with all of the lots within palisade-fenced boundaries, convict huts set back from the road and plough marks indicating cultivation in the front and rear areas of most properties. George Evans, watercolour, c1805, Caroline Simpson Collection, Historic Houses Trust.

Figure 3-9: A view of Parramatta/Port Jackson, c1809, looking north across Parramatta River near where Smith Street meets the river. The gaol on the right was located immediately opposite Church Street. Painter unknown. Compare with the 1804 plan, Fig. 3-6. PXD 388 vol.3 f.6, ML, SLNSW.

Figure 3-10: This painting gives some idea of how Parramatta expanded in the 10 years following the arrival of Governor and Mrs Macquarie. West View of Parramatta, 1819, Joseph Lyceet, ML 53, ML, SLNSW.

Figure 3-11: The new government house at Parramatta, built for Governor and Mrs Macquarie by John Watts, architect. Louis and Rose de Freycinet, French travellers, are showing meeting Governor Macquarie. They were in Sydney in 1819. Pic/9265/1 LOC 2611*, NLA.

Figure 3-12: A 1961 aerial photo of the study area showing a range of houses and allotments prior to the construction of the RTA building. Lands photo, Department of Lands and Rural Affairs, 1961.

Figure 3-17: Overlay of 1831 (red) and 1882 (blue) plans. The 1831 plan is considered likely to be more accurate as subdivision plans are not drawn by surveyors and are often indicative and purely for marketing purposes. The grey area was impacted by the access ramp to the underground carpark and contained no archaeological remains.

Photos
Photo 3-1: Machine stripping of overburden in Area A, looking southeast.
Photo 3-2: The 1960s RTA building demolished before the start of the archaeological program. On the left is 113 George Street. On the right is 109 George Street which had underground carparking and all the archaeology was removed from this area.
Photo 3-3: Removal of petrol tanks at the southern end of the site, Dec 2004.
Photo 3-4: Looking from the southern edge of the site over the large rubbish dump area following remediation and stabilisation works, Dec 2004.
Photo 3-5: View to north of the remains of the probable dairy building with the stone footings of the cellar in the background. These were substantially disturbed by both the 1882 demolition of the Hassall House structures as well as the construction of the RTA buildings.
Photo 3-6: Remains of cellar footings (5043) and paved floor (5044), looking southwest. Scale 1m.
Photo 3-7: Location of the eastern building with traces of wall trenches (arrowed) looking south with the main remediation area in the background. Scale 1m.
Photo 3-8: Remains of chimney/flue with brick fireplace of eastern building (4913). Scale 1m
Photo 3-9: (left) Central structure with well and cellar in background, looking north. Scale 1m
Photo 3-10: (below) Central building with drain (5038) in centre and surviving wall footing (5037) to the right, looking east. The black line outlines the surviving footprint of this structure. The strip of yellow clay material on the left is the fill of a modern sewer trench. Scale 1m
Photo 3-11: Paving bricks and tiles from above the dairy drain (5039) and cellar fill (4802). Front row l-r: Dairy tiles: with little wear and some grout (#27087), clay composition in section (#27,086), with foot/hoof and water wear (#27,084). Back row l-r: Dairy paving brick showing foot/hoof and water wear on the right side (#27,082). Cellar paving brick showing foot/hoof wear (#27,061). Artefact Photo 061, Scale 10cm
Photo 3-12: Left to right: pan-1 (4818/#36453), basin/bowl (4826/#35657, 4910/#35666), pan-1 (4818/#36451). Artefact photo 092, Scale 10cm
Photo 3-13: Top of partly excavated well (5081) showing the stretchers and occasional header bricks. The cut for the well was quite was considerably larger than the well. Scale 1m
Photo 3-14: Section through base of the well (5081) and the lower natural soil profile, looking southwest. Scale 1m
Photo 3-15: Pits in Group 2 and Group 3 after excavation, looking southeast. Scale 1m
Photo 3-17: Timber-lined pit 4846 and cut 4847, the discoloration in the foreground is the fill of two earlier pits 4955 and 5016. Scale 1m
Introduction

Photo 3-18: Pomatum pot lids (5074/#36317 and 4844/#35950). Artefact photo 041, Scale 10cm...


Photo 3-20: “Rhine” pattern vegetable dish 5074/#36297.

Photo 3-21: (above) View to south across the Central Group of pits. Scale 1m.

Photo 3-22: (left) Pit with brick-lined base, 5060, cut 5061, looking east. Scale 1m.

Photo 3-23: “Abbey” plate 5074/36318.

Photo 3-24: Phase 2 post holes which constitute the eastern and western wall lines of the early timber structure with a large circular feature (5020) in the centre, looking north. Note the asbestos pipes to the north, this area was not subject to excavation due to OH&S reasons, looking north. Scale 1m

Tables

Table 3-1: Distribution of writing slates and slate pencils at the site
Table 3-2: Range of artefacts recovered from the timber-lined pit (4824/4825) near the eastern structure and the chimney/flue.
Table 3-3: Possible dairy pans found in areas A and B.
Table 3-4: List of terminus post quems and terminus ante quems for glass, metal, miscellaneous and building materials for the main contexts for Area A. This relates to beginning dates of manufacture and the dates they ceased to be manufactured.
Table 3-5: List of terminus post quems and terminus ante quems for glass, metal, miscellaneous and building materials for the main contexts for Area B.
Table 3-6: Matrix for Group 3 pits.
Table 3-7: List of sites with “Palestine” patterned ceramics.
Table 3-8: Artefacts from 4844 were in a range of categories, with most being ceramic.
Table 3-9: Animal bone from 4844 was in a range of species.
Table 3-10: The 48 fragments of bone from sheep, cattle and pig indicate that there were elements of non-food parts of animal carcasses, such as part of a cranium from a cow, pit and sheep. There were also part of the legs of cattle and sheep. Based on Colley 2006
Table 3-11: List of general, specific functions and shapes from context 4844.
Table 3-12: Range of artefacts and identified shapes and functions, context 5074. Range of different categories and general functions.
Table 3-13: The 44 fragments of bone from sheep, cattle and pig indicate that there were elements of non-food parts of animal carcasses in 5074. Based on Colley 2006.
Table 3-14: Dating and phasing of the western rubbish pits.

Section 4

Tables

Table 4-1: Number of artefacts found at the site.
Table 4-2: Categories of artefacts found at the site.
Table 4-3: Numbers of artefacts found in all contexts and the specific context to which they belonged. For bone and shell counts see below.
Table 4-4: Range and number of animal bone recovered from the site and individual context.
Table 4-5: Range and number of shells recovered from the site and the contexts in which they were found.

Section 5

Figures

Figure 5-1: Hassall House, also known as Aldine (left) and Parramatta Government House (c1805).
Figure 5-2:Attributed to Evans, c. 1809, A view of Parramatta, Port Jackson. McCormick 1987, pl. 140.
Figure 5-3: Most of the buildings in Parramatta in c1812 were single-storey vernacular structures. The only obvious two-storey buildings are Government House and the Gaol (not in detail). S W View of Parramatta in New S. Wales, McCormick 1987, pl. 138, private collection, unsigned.
Figure 5-4: Range of buildings in Parramatta in 1819. The two and three-storey buildings are all government infrastructure erected under orders from Governor Macquarie. West View of Parramatta, 1819, Joseph Lycett, ML 53, ML, SLNSW.
Figure 5-5: Eastern end of George Street, east of Harris Street and approximately 100m east of Hassall House. Earle c. 1825, ML, SLNSW.
Introduction

Figure 5-6: Brislington, built by John Hodges an emancipated convict c.1821. Located on the corner of Marsden & George Streets, Brown & Brown 1995:12.

Figure 5-7: Harrisford, c1821, directly opposite the Hassall House. Brown & Brown, 1995:2.

Figure 5-8: Built c1821 for James Elder, a former missionary, who became a storekeeper. Located in Marsden Street, south of George Street. This house has only three bays and no attic storey. The verandah was added later. Brown & Brown 1995:16.

Figure 5-9: By the 1830s this building was being used as the Red Coats Officers’ Mess. Brown & Brown 1995:6.

Figure 5-10: Rouse Hill House, built 1813-1814. Broadbent 1997:52.

Figure 5-11: Although taken in the 1870s this photo of ‘The Australian Tea, Coffee & Grocery Warehouse’ gives an indication of what Hassall’s store may have looked like. Brown & Brown 1995:8.

Figure 5-12: A dairy c1830. Note the milk pans and other dairying equipment which was unchanged for centuries until the 1880s. They include a timber bucket, ladle, jug and a butter churn. Fussell, 1966 *The English Dairy 1500-1900*, p. 55.

Photos

Photo 5-1: (above) Blue transfer-print pearlware 434 (exterior left, interior right) from Context 4815. Below is blue transfer-print pearlware 344 plate, also from context 4815.

Photo 5-2: Sherds from three vessels probably associated with dairying.

Photo 5-3: Bottom: bowl/ washbasin (4801/#35641); Back row l-r: poes (4837/#35659, 4801/#35640). Artefact photo 075.

Photo 5-4: Washbasin from Parramatta Children’s Court site.

Tables

Table 5-1: Artefacts recovered from five pits and six fills associated with the Hassall phase of occupation: 4818, 4819, 4815, 5040, 4954, and 5015.

Table 5-2: Artefacts from the Hassall-period pit fills came from three main countries.

Table 5-3: Ceramics and the country of origin from Hassall-period pit fills.

Table 5-4: Sherds of probable milking pans according to the sites various archaeological phases. Nearly half of them came from Hassall-phase western pits.

1.11 Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<td>C&amp;LD</td>
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<td>terminus post quem – date after which</td>
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Abbreviations used in Specialist Reports and Artefact Tables

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2.0 **Historical Background**

2.1 **General Background**

2.1.1 **Aboriginal People**

Parramatta was occupied by the Darug Aboriginal people prior to the arrival of the British in 1788. It is part of their traditional hunting and fishing grounds. The Burramattagal clan of the Darug lived at the head of the harbour. Areas near the Parramatta River were an important area for camping and fishing for 10,000 or more years. In the fresh water they caught mullet, crayfish, shellfish and turtles and in the salt water eels, fish, shellfish and molluscs. Fish were an important part of the diet of people living in the Sydney region in pre-colonial times. Trees, stringybark (*E agglomerates*) and bangalay (*E botryoides*), provided resources for making canoes for fishing. An extensive Aboriginal presence in the area of Parramatta was documented by the British who set out from Sydney Cove to explore the Parramatta River and locate fertile land to grow the crops needed to sustain the new arrivals.\(^\text{12}\) For more information on the Aboriginal presence likely to be within the study area, see Haglund 2004.

2.1.2 **Colonial Development\(^\text{13}\)**

Parramatta, then Rose Hill, was established in November 1788 and was the second settlement in Australia. Governor Phillip sent out exploring parties to survey Sydney Harbour and the river at the head of the harbour shortly after landing at Sydney Cove. On Sunday 2 November 1788 Governor Phillip and others, including marines, established a military redoubt at Rose Hill. Convicts were sent to Rose Hill to commence farming as this land was considered to be more fertile than the land near Sydney. Initially an agricultural settlement, it soon became a small town and grew in importance.

With the success of farming at Rose Hill, Phillip decided to expand the settlement. In 1790 Governor Phillip and Surveyor Augustus Alt laid out a town plan with High Street (George Street) running between the planned site of Government House and the Landing Place at the eastern end of Parramatta, near Harris Street. The township was laid out on land previously used for growing crops.\(^\text{14}\) As set out, George Street was 205 feet (63 m) wide and a mile (1.6 km) long. On either side of the street huts were to be erected, each capable of containing 10 persons and at a distance of 60ft (18.5m) from each other, with a garden area allotted at the rear of each hut. Tench and Collins wrote that they were 60ft (18.5m) apart but Governor Phillip had written to the British Government they were to be 100ft (30.8m) apart. The huts were to be built of wattle and daub with thatched roof and were to be 12 by 24ft (3.7 x 7.4m). The new street and the huts were built by the convicts from July 1790. By September 1790, bricks were being fired for a barracks and store house and 27 huts were being built along High Street (George Street).\(^\text{15}\)

Phillip renamed the township Parramatta by November 1791. Parramatta, meaning lots of eels, was the name given by the traditional owners.\(^\text{16}\) Parramatta township referred to the area from the foot of Rose Hill and the land for one mile along the creek (Parramatta River). In a painting by Brambila (1793), an artist on a Spanish expedition, the main street has rows of modest huts regularly spaced along the street leading towards Government House (Fig. 2-1). For a period Parramatta, as the main agricultural settlement and focus of convict labour, became the main township with Sydney being less important.\(^\text{17}\)

\(^{12}\) PHALMS 2000:94; Australian Museum website.  
\(^{13}\) This section is taken from Casey & Lowe 2004 with further work for Casey & Lowe 2005b.  
\(^{14}\) Tench 1979:195, Nov 16, 1790.  
\(^{15}\) David Collins, *An account of the English Colony in New South Wales* (1798); Watkin Tench, *Sydney’s First Four Years* (1793).  
\(^{16}\) *HRNSW* 1(2):539.  
\(^{17}\) Tench 1979:258, December 8, 1791.
In time, as convicts were freed and free settlers acquired houses in the town, a less rudimentary town emerged. Huts, and later houses, were bought and sold although the possessors had no title to them apart from the right of occupancy of a piece of land assigned to them by the magistrates or the Governor. In order to regularise the situation, the crown commenced to issue leases for town allotments, both in Sydney and Parramatta, for either 14 years or 21 years duration. There was a trickle of leases issued from the 1790s onwards, usually to people with business interests in the town who were seeking security of tenure. Between 1790 and 1820 convicts had to provide their own accommodation. After this time convicts were housed in barracks rather than the earlier huts allowing the land to become available for emancipists and new settlers. Soon convicts were sent on assignment to labour on rural properties where the owners had to provide food, clothing and accommodation. Often married convicts were assigned to their free or emancipist spouse or relative.18

After the replacement of Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1821 by Sir Thomas Brisbane and in the wake of the Bigge commission into the colony, the Surveyor-General, John Oxley, was delegated to create order from the chaos of town tenures across the colony. After Parramatta was comprehensively mapped in 1823, in order to establish the identity of the holders of town lands, many occupiers were offered leases from the crown, which they accepted. All leases were dated as 30 June 1823. On the basis of these leases, householders in Parramatta could apply for a grant of land if they had erected buildings worth over £1,000 or, alternately, they could obtain a grant by the payment of 21 years quit rent.

Since the crown took much greater interest in the nature of landholding in Parramatta after 1823, there is consequently far greater information about the nature of buildings, improvements and the identity of landholders in Parramatta after that date.

Figure 2-1: Fernando Brambila’s view of George Street showing convict huts aligned along George Street (middle ground) with Government House (middle left), 1793. This is the original drawing given by the Spanish visitors to Lieutenant-Governor Grose who sent it back to George III. The four figures in the middle ground are probably Spanish naval officers. See below for detail. This image is currently catalogued in the British Library, Maps Library. Rosen 2003:44.

Figure 2-2: Detail of Fernando Brambila’s view of George Street showing convict huts aligned along George Street, 1793. British Library, Maps Library, copy in Mitchell Library, SLNSW.

Figure 2-3: Evans’ 1804 plan of Parramatta. This is not an accurate plan and is based on Meehan’s 1804 survey. Rosen 2003:132, 131.

Figure 2-4: Watercolour by Evans, showing High Street Parramatta and the study area, c1805. Rosen 2003, Caroline Simpson Collection, Historic Houses Trust of NSW.
Interpretations of High Street usually describe it as a very wide avenue and Watkin Tench in November 1790 observed ironically that ‘it is to be of such breadth as will make Pall-Mall and Portland Place “hide their diminished heads”’. Y et this is not the image presented by early illustrations of Parramatta (Figs 2-1, 2-4). In Evans’ c. 1805 painting there is a relatively narrow dirt road with fences built up to the street frontage (Fig. 2-4). While the houses are set back from the road there were probably gardens in the area between the road and ‘convict hut’. The fences are shown in the Evans’ painting (Fig. 2-4) but not in Brambila’s 1793 drawing (Figs 2-1, 2-2) which is interesting, perhaps suggesting that they were erected later, presumably by c. 1805. Brambila does indicate the use of ditches (right foreground) which appear to have also operated as stormwater drainage lines.

The typical interpretation of a wide High Street is based on descriptions and plans. It has been interpreted by Morton Herman as Phillip laying out a grand boulevard as in a Renaissance or more probably a Baroque-style layout. Macquarie then redesigned this alignment and caused the houses to be placed on the narrower street alignment. Perhaps this interpretation needs to be considered further in the light of these two recently published images. Previous images showing High Street were a single painting or lithograph; the latter must always be treated with suspicion if it is the only evidence available for what an area looked like. Higginbotham in his various reports has adopted the interpretation of the streets and layout as being ramshackle. In the PHALMS report it was noted that Phillip’s grand avenue ‘was never really achieved. Instead a haphazard development on larger than normal allotments was a feature of the town until the mid-nineteenth century’. A report for the Hospital site calls it a ‘landscape of control’ and notes that the ‘tight regimentation reflected the fact that the majority of settlers were convicts and the colonial government sought to impose order on them…The orderly settlement of Parramatta went hand-in-hand with government policy’. This is an issue for further debate which the archaeological evidence of various convict huts may assist in furthering our understanding.

One tentative interpretation is that with the granting of further leaseholds there was a need to fence individual property boundaries because of the ‘private ownership’ of these lands rather than those occupied by convicts. Evans’ c. 1804 plan (Fig. 2-3) lines are used to represent the alignment of the original huts, the presence of fences within the original 205 ft (63 m) roadway and a narrower road alignment. It is likely that Macquarie was responding to this practice as established (or allowed) by King. Further evidence supporting the new use of the front part of the properties is that it was noted in March 1791 that the rear yards of the convict huts were to be used for individual gardens and there was no mention of the front yards. In addition the 1793 drawing is not clear on this issue but suggests this space is being used in relation to the houses rather than as part of the public road. Governor Phillip had of course left the colony some four months earlier and his instructions may no longer have been adhered to, as happened with the Sydney Domain.

In 1802 François Péron described Parramatta as:

Seated in the middle of a fine plain on the banks of a river of the same name, which can be ascended by small vessels as high as the town itself. It is not so large as Sydney Town but contains about a hundred and eighty houses, which form a grand street, parallel with the river…At one of the extremities of Parramatta are barracks, capable of accommodating two hundred and fifty to three hundred infantry…The whole population of Parramatta, including the garrison, and the inhabitants of the neighbouring farms, is estimated at from fourteen to fifteen hundred souls.

24 HRNSW 3:775.
26 Translation in Currey 1966:51.
2.1.3 The Convict Landscape
Convict huts were built on either side of George Street and the cross streets. The huts were to be capable of containing 10 persons and placed at a distance of 60 feet (18.5 m) from each other, with a garden area allotted at the rear of each hut. Tench and Collins wrote that they were 60ft (18.5m) apart but Governor Phillip had written to the British Government they were to be a distance of 100ft (30.8m) from each other.27 The huts were to be built of wattle and daub with thatched roof and were to be 12 by 24ft (3.7 x 7.4m). Only one of the two rooms had a fireplace with a brick chimney. This was the living area with the other room being the sleeping quarters. The new street and the huts were built by the convicts from July 1790. A hut on Marsden Street conforms quite closely to the 12x24 feet of the typical hut.28 This is a contrast to the huts on the George and Charles Street site which were larger.29

By September 1790, bricks were being fired for a barracks and store house and 27 huts were being built along High Street (George Street) and by November there were 32 huts.30 In November 1790, nine of the huts on the cross streets were noted as housing female convicts and/or families.

Up to 25 September 1800 Governor Hunter had been responsible for leasing 47 acres in the township of Parramatta, prior to that no official lease had been given.31 At this time there were 1226 people living in Parramatta including 9 civil officers, 86 military and six of their wives and 10 children, 49 settlers and their four wives, 590 male convicts, 245 female convicts and 221 children of convicts.32

On 25 September 1800 Governor Hunter reported that the ‘Government huts at Parramatta and Toongabbé originally built by Governor Phillip for the reception of convicts on their arrival, but which had been some years neglected, and were now in a state of ruin. Many indeed had fallen down’.33 On 28 September 1800 Governor King wrote regarding the work of convicts that were on public rations,

and shall direct as many as the remainder as can be spared from other public works to be employed in cultivation on the public account, for which purpose I shall cause the huts now in ruin at Toongabbe and Parramatta to be put into repair for the reception of such convicts as may hereafter arrive from England, and those that I may be able to draw from Sydney from other indispensable public works, and those that may return to public labour from those now employed by officers...34

On the 31 December 1800 King reported that one bricklayer and two labourers had ‘repaired, plaistered, and whitewashed the Government huts, the houses of all the officers, civil and military, the storehouses, granaries...’.35 These references suggest that the huts were only used intermittently by recent convict arrivals, who were then dispersed to other places, either to work on public works or on agriculture or were assigned to people. The disrepair of the buildings speaks to the discontinuation of their use. This break in practice was probably related to the inefficient governance of the colony during the First Interregnum and the failure of Hunter to implement their repair and use.36

2.2 Historical Occupation of the Hassall House
Parramatta had been settled for almost a decade when the subject site was formally taken up. Despite the decade of settlement the town was still a raw unsophisticated outpost in a wild new landscape.

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27 HRNSW, series 1, 1:362.
28 Casey & Lowe 2005, Parramatta Justice Precinct, Parramatta Hospital Site, Stage 1.
30 David Collins, An account of the English Colony in New South Wales (1798); Watkin Tench, Sydney’s First Four Years (1793), 1979:195.
31 Return of Lands, 25 September 1800, HRNSW, series 1, 4:592.
32 General statement for inhabitants of New South Wales – September 1800, HRNSW, series 1, 4:160.
33 Gov. Hunter to Under-Secretary King 25 September 1800, HRNSW, series 1, 4:152, enclosure 2.
34 Gov. King to Duke of Portland, 28 September 1800, HRNSW, series 1, 4:178.
35 Return of Labour 31 December 1800, HRNSW, series 1, 4:283.
36 Casey 2002: Chapter 7.
The site itself was defined initially by its natural features rather than by the grid of a measured and apportioned township.

On 18 October 1799, Governor John Hunter demised a site in Parramatta by lease for 14 years to the Reverend Rowland Hassall. The land was described as ‘the ACRE of ground on the North side of the creek in the township of Parramatta’. It was leased at a quit rent of 5/- per annum. On the same day, 18 October 1799, a lease for 14 years was made out to Charles Smith, for 4 acres 96 rods, situated ‘in the swamp near Harris’s farm in the township of Parramatta’, also for 5/- per annum. Despite the description, these parcels were adjacent to each other. Charles Smith sold his 4 ac 96 rods lease to Rowland Hassall on 24 May 1803 for £30. This transaction was not formally registered but was noted on the back of the lease document.

Some months later, on 1 September 1803, another lease for 14 years was made out to Obediah Ikin, for other land in Parramatta. The description was obscure. It was described as being bounded on the south by C. Smith’s lease W 7.5º N 175º on the west 5.5º E 2,11 ‘(Street 295 half an acre, front E 16º S 193)’ [sic]. The quit rent was 10/- per annum. Later deeds and transactions showed that this land was part of the study area.

Obediah Ikin was a veteran colonist. He had served for 26 years in the Army, of which 20 were in the colony of New South Wales, as well as 12 years as a sergeant of the 102nd Regiment (Rum Corps). He later received a 60-acre grant from Lt-Governor Paterson.

About this time, Rowland Hassall began building a house in George Street, Parramatta with bricks he had brought from England as ship’s ballast. Hassall had arrived in Tahiti as a missionary with the London Missionary Society but had fled to New South Wales where he continued to preach, as well as acquire land and government posts. He was government storekeeper and was in charge of the granary at Parramatta until his dismissal in September 1802 for not discovering fraud. His preaching veered towards Methodism, but he retained a strong working relationship with Anglican priests such as Samuel Marsden. He confined his preaching to his home in Parramatta where the barn served as the place for services. He also opened a store to supply settlers. In 1814, he was appointed as superintendent of Government Stock. His acquisitions of land were a boon to his large family. Not only did he endow them with land, he also passed on his religious convictions and fervour. There were to be many ministers with the surname Hassall in New South Wales over the next century.

As early as 1 March 1804, Rowland Hassall was identified in a letter from William Pascoe Crook to the London Missionary Society as living in Parramatta and preaching to the colonists. There was a report on 7 October 1804, that Hassall’s house at Parramatta had been burgled and that a considerable amount of property had been taken.

Surveyor George Evans’ 1804 survey of Parramatta showed that there was a house on Ikin’s lease. However, Hassall did not yet formally own it. It was not until 29 August 1805 that Ikin sold this land to Rowland Hassall for £60. Again, this transaction was not registered. The two

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37 Grants, vol 2, p 343, LTO; Col Sec, Court of Claims, Case 78, SRNSW 2/1753.
38 Grants, vol 2, p 340, LTO; Col Sec, Court of Claims, Case 78, SRNSW 2/1753.
39 Col Sec, Court of Claims, Case 78, SRNSW 2/1753.
40 Grants, Vol 3 (originally 3C), LTO, No 121.
41 Col Sec, Memorials, 1810, SRNSW 4/1821, No 155.
43 Historical Records of New South Wales, Vol 5, p 314.
44 Sydney Gazette, 7 Oct 1804, p 2.
45 G W Evans, Plan of Township of Parramatta, 1804, ML Map M2 811.1301/1813/1.
46 Col Sec, Court of Claims, Case 78, SRNSW 2/1753.
parcels belonging to Ikin and Smith were adjacent to each other. Hassall’s four acre lease in Parramatta was renewed by Governor King, for another 14 years on 1 August 1806.

Figure 2-5: G. W. Evans’ 1804 survey showed a building on Ikin’s lease, no. 15 (arrowed), while there was no building on the southern lease of Charles Smith (no. 18). Source: G W Evans, Plan of Township of Parramatta, 1804, ML Map M2 811.1301/1813/1.

Hassall’s house in Parramatta became a base for the missionaries of the London Missionary Society when they visited Parramatta. In many ways, his home became a pivotal point in the religious network of the colony. Not only did he preach there, he offered hospitality to the visiting clergy and missionaries. In May 1813, his son, Thomas Hassall, opened the first Sunday school in Australia in his father’s house in Parramatta.

Additionally, there was a printing press in operation on his premises, a rare and significant piece of equipment in a colony with few printing presses. The output of the press included the Requirements and Rules for Persons engaging themselves as teachers in the Parramatta Sunday School, printed in August 1816 at the ‘Missionary Press, Parramatta’, as well as Hymns for the Eighth Anniversary of the Parramatta Sunday School (Figs 2-6, 2-4). The surviving copy of these Hymns is inscribed with the handwritten notation ‘1816. Printed at Parramatta at house of Mr R Hassall at the Mission Press Parramatta’. The surviving copy of the Rules of the New South Wales Sunday School Institution was probably also printed there.

As death approached, Rowland Hassall prepared his will on 28 August 1820. After making a strong assertion of his religious faith, Rowland Hassall began to dispose of his property amongst his heirs. He left the three parcels of leased land, which comprised the site of his Parramatta house, to his wife for the term of her natural life and then to their son Thomas, after her death. With regard to the Parramatta house, the will mentioned the ‘dwelling house at Parramatta, wherein I now reside, with

47 Col Sec, Court of Claims, Case 78, SRNSW 2/1753.
48 Col Sec, fiche 3267; 9/2731 p.111.
50 N Gunson, Thomas Hassall, ADB, vol 1 p 522.
52 Col Sec, Court of Claims, Case 78, SRNSW 2/1753.
the garden, orchard, yard, buildings, premises and paddocks, now appurtenant thereto. Having relieved himself of that earthly responsibility, Rowland Hassall died on 31 August 1820.

Stewart’s survey of Parramatta from 1823 showed a larger building on the site along with two smaller ones to the west (Fig. 2-8). On 10 February (?1831, surveyor J. B. Richards dispatched his survey of Hassall’s land to the Surveyor-General, which showed the buildings on the site, including the main house and outbuildings (Fig. 2-9). This was by far the most detailed plan of the site, showing numerous outbuildings not depicted on other plans.

What of the rest of the site? James S. Hassall, son of Thomas Hassall and grandson of Rowland Hassall, was born in Parramatta late in 1823. He later wrote of his memories of the home of Rowland Hassall:

My father had an old-fashioned brick house opposite the school [Harrisford], built by Government for his father – I think at the time when he had charge of the colonial cattle-stations, then all Government property. There was a great mulberry-tree in the garden and the largest English oaks in the colony were there. The property comprised about four acres of land. On a Guy Fawkes’ Day, we used to make large bonfires from the dead lemon trees that had formed a hedge around it.

Although he had the use of the buildings when he required, Thomas Hassall did not own the property. His mother, Elizabeth Hassall died on 10 February 1834. The property then passed to him under the terms of Rowland Hassall’s will.

Thomas Hassall claimed this land as a grant from the Crown, but since his title was derived from his father’s will, the matter was passed on to the Court of Claims. On 11 May 1836, Thomas Hassall stated the property was held by his father over 20 years ago, who had built ‘a substantial dwelling house and other improvements upwards of one thousand pounds’. His father held it till his death in August 1820 leaving it to his wife Elizabeth who died in September 1833 [sic].

On 12 May 1836, witnesses were examined attesting to the family’s long possession of the property. Reverend William Pascoe Crook stated that he was aware of Hassall building a house in Parramatta in 1804 in George Street and that ‘the garden was very extensive’. He remembered that Hassall still held it in 1816. Rev. Ralph Mansfield stated that he had known the property since 1820 when it was held by Rowland Hassall. It was then held by his widow until her death in 1833. It was currently being rented by Hassall to Mr Dickinson.

53 Will, in Rowland Hassall, Correspondence 1810, Vol 2, ML.MSS A 860, p 361.
54 Col Sec, Court of Claims, Case 78, SRNSW 2/1753.
55 Parramatta Township, Stewart, 1823, SR Map 4907.
57 Reverend James S Hassall, In Old Australia; Records and reminiscences from 1794, R S Hews, Brisbane, 1902, pp 18-9.
58 Col Sec, Court of Claims, Case 78, SRNSW 2/1753.
59 Col Sec, Court of Claims, Case 78, SRNSW 2/1753.
60 Col Sec, Court of Claims, Case 78, SRNSW 2/1753.
Figure 2-6: Rules of the Parramatta Sunday School, August 1816. This early example of colonial printing was produced at the “Missionary Press, Parramatta” which was located on Hassall’s premises. Source: ML Safe 1/31.
HYMNS

FOR THE
EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
PARRAMATTA SUNDAY SCHOOL.

BEFORE SERVICE.

HAPPY the child whose tender years
Receive instructions well;
Who hates the sinners path, and fears
The road that lead to hell.

When we devote our youth to God,
’Tis pleasing in his eyes;
A flower, when offer’d in the bud,
Is no vain sacrifice.

’Tis easier work if we begin
To fear the Lord betimes;
While sinners, that grow old in sin,
Are harden’d in their crimes.

’Twill save us from a thousand snares,
To mind religion young:
Grace will preserve our following years,
And make our virtue strong.

To thee, Almighty God, to thee
Our childhood we resign;
’Twill please us to look back and see
That our whole lives were thine.

Figure 2-7: Hymns of the Parramatta Sunday School. This printed document has the notation “1816 Printed at Parramatta at house of Mr R. Hassall at the Mission Press, Parramatta”. Source: ML Safe 1/31.
When the Deputy Surveyor-General, S. A. Perry, reported to the Colonial Secretary on the case on 29 August 1836, he noted that there were three leases in the area of the Hassall claim – Hassall, Smith and Ikin, but the total area differed. The three leases totalled 6 acres 7 perches but Hassall’s claim only measured 4 acres 2 rods.61 In any case, no major difficulty was made over the issue.

When the Court of Claims reported on Reverend Thomas Hassall’s application for Allotment 45 Sec 18 on 14 June 1837, it recommended a grant to Thomas Hassall. They noted that his father Rowland Hassall, was ‘in quiet possession of the land and premises in 1804’ and held it until his death in 1820, after which it passed to his widow and then to his son Thomas. The buildings and improvements were worth over £1,000.62 A Town Grant was issued to Reverend Thomas Hassall of Cobbity on 29 May 1838. The land, Allotment 45, Section 18, Parramatta, measured 4 acres 2 rods 21 perches and was bounded on the north by George Street, 686 links, on the east by land held by Dangar and Broughton, 6 chains 55 links, on the south by Macquarie Street, 659 links, and on the west by Charles Street, 726 links. The quit rent was to be £74/14/- from 1 July 1837 to 30 June 1851 and £12/7/- thereafter.63

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61 36/7268, in Col Sec, Court of Claims, Case 78, SRNSW 2/1753.
62 Col Sec, Court of Claims, Case 78, SRNSW 2/1753.
63 Grants, Vol 48, p 19, LTO.
The property continued to be held by the Hassall family for a number of decades. On 9 May 1839, it was affected by a general mortgage of the family property ‘Denbigh’, by Reverend Thomas Hassall, clerk and one of His Majesty’s chaplains, to John Campbell, Campbell’s Wharf, esquire and Robert Campbell, junior, George Street, Sydney, esquire. The mortgage related to the government’s desire to establish a fund for the Hassall family rather than to give them land grants. The mortgage sum amounted to £1,379/5/5 1/4.\textsuperscript{64} That mortgage was surrendered on 12 January 1856.\textsuperscript{65}

Brownrigg’s map of Parramatta of 1844 showed a building on this site but this part of the map is badly damaged and it does not show much other detail (Fig. 2-10).\textsuperscript{66}

Thomas Hassall drew up his will on 24 March 1868. He died on 29 March 1868. The property passed to other family members.

\textsuperscript{64} LTOD, No 846 Bk O.
\textsuperscript{65} LTOD, No 124 Bk 48.
\textsuperscript{66} W M Brownrigg, Plan of Parramatta, ML Map M3/811.1301/1844/1.
A photo of the house was taken in the 1870s and it shows the main house as a two-storey masonry building with a jerkin-head roof, clad in shingles (Fig. 2-12). In this image, the dwelling appears to be somewhat decayed in appearance.67

The family resolved to sell the land. The auction of the Hassall Estate, Parramatta was held on 30 September 1882. The auction plan showed the main building on Allotments 10 and 11, with a small attached outbuilding in Allotment 9. Another smaller building straddled Allotments 12 and 13.68

The sale of the Hassall Estate was conducted by the firm of Mills, Pile and Gilchrist, which had strong Parramatta connections through its principal J. Y. Mills. The building materials in the standing buildings were sold separately. Possession of the allotments was available on all lots from 1 January 1883 except for Allotments 10 to 17, and 38-40, which were available for immediate occupation. Allotments 10 to 17 were bid for by Mrs Pringle of Parramatta. The building materials on lots 9 to 11, and 16 to 18, which included the main house, were sold to C. E. Fuller for £101. C. E. Fuller was the proprietor of Fuller’s Lightning Printing Works of Parramatta and was the compiler, publisher and printer of Fuller’s County of Cumberland Directory, which he issued from 1882 onwards. The building materials on lots 12 and 13 were sold to Michael Hagen for £17.69

In order to facilitate the sale, a number of legal procedures needed to be finalized. On 1 November 1882, by a deed of conveyance between the following parties, 1st, Ann Hassall, Parramatta, widow, 2nd, Frances Hassall, wife of Reverend Samuel Hassall, Berrima, clerk, Catherine Elizabeth Hope, Melbourne widow, Mary Ann Hope, wife of George Hope, Melbourne, Harriett Jane Oxley, wife of John Norton Oxley, Hunters Hill, esquire, Eliza Marsden Hassall, Parramatta, spinster, 3rd, James Samuel Hassall and John Norton Oxley (trustees), the land was vested in trustees for the benefit of

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69 Sale Contract, in Land Titles Office, Real Property Application Packets, RPA 5712, K 260194.
the daughters of Thomas Hassall.\textsuperscript{70} A further conveyance of 24 October 1883 between the same parties enabled the trustees, James Samuel Hassall and John Norton Oxley, to sell the land.\textsuperscript{71}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.8\textwidth]{1836_map.jpg}
\caption{1836 map showing there were two buildings in the eastern part of the property. SR Map 4799.}
\end{figure}

The following information was provided about the photo of the house (\textbf{Fig. 2-12}) by Rosemary Hooke:

The picture was probably taken between 1879 and 1881. The man in the front on the right is George Mills, my great grandmother's brother. He is in the uniform of the Parramatta Rifle Volunteers (the "weekend warriors") and since his rank is correctly on the right arm we can both verify the direction of the photo as correct and its date of between 1879 and 1881. James Mills in Perth (his great great grandson) says George has two stripes indicating his then rank as Corporal, and he occupied this between 1879 and 1881. So it was probably taken when he was paying a visit to the house, probably on Saturday when he is out for musket practice, gets his photo taken for posterity.

This photograph shows a building at the rear with a dilapidated shingled roof and a brick chimney. This may have been the kitchen. We appear not to have found any remains associated with this structure.

A description of the house in 1882 at the time it was being demolished noted:

Yesterday we went to see the old house where I was born. It is a great... old place, large and roomy. We went up into the attic where the first printing press in the southern hemisphere was worked, & where the first sunday school in Pnatta was held, & we saw the store that was opened nearly a hundred years ago. The place is being pulled down now, the room where I first saw the light is open to the day. It was a large house, thirteen rooms, attic & cellar in the main building with I don't know how many outside, - a kitchen with a room behind & two above, a dairy, a large schoolroom with one or two others attached. There must have been twenty altogether. You would have been interested had time allowed you to go over the old place. There used...[moth eaten]...but only an almond...& - wild honey -& a few pears...

\textsuperscript{70} LTOD, No 500 Bk 258.
\textsuperscript{71} LTOD, No 747 Bk 278.
The workmen were all talking together, telling wonderful things about the old place & anxious to hear something of a pit full of fine stone filled up in the yard. One man said he heard there was enough to build a house, if they could only find it, but he thought it was exaggerated (Hannah Mills 1882, letter in possession of Rosemary Hooke).

**Figure 2-12:** Photo of the house from Rosemary Hooke whose great grandmother and siblings were born in this house. This photo is shown the correct way around, the reproduction in Ken and Shylie Brown’s book (from a glass negative), *Parramatta: A town caught in time, 1870*, Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, 1995, p 24, being reversed. It was then called Aldine House.

**Figure 2-13:** Hassall’s dwelling. This undated drawing of the house agrees with a later photograph. Source: J. Stewart & D. J. Hassall, *The Hassall Family: Celebrating 200 Years in Australia 1798-1998*, p 41.
This letter appears to be describing the number of ‘rooms’ within the property rather than the number of buildings. This describes the likely structures as:

- House with 13 rooms, attic and cellar
- Outside were the:
  - kitchen with 1 room behind and 2 above
  - dairy
  - schoolroom
  - 1 or 2 other rooms

This suggests a group of four or possibly five structures with 22 or 23 rooms.

2.3 Rowland Hassall

Rowland Hassall was born in Coventry England on 31 March 1768. He married Elizabeth Hancox, both of them being silk weavers. They both joined the West Orchard Congregational Church and were influenced by Rev. George Burder. Hassall founded a Sunday school and was a field preacher. Burder recommended Hassall as an artisan missionary to the London Missionary Society. Hassall was described as “a stout young man” with a “rather bold” disposition who could read and write tolerably well but was “rather illiterate than otherwise”. The Hassall family, husband, wife and son Thomas, sailed for Tahiti in 1796 with Rowland Hassall assigned to perform carpentry duties for the society. They fled to Sydney in 1798 along with Rev. J. F. Cover, their brother-in-law.

After various jobs in the colony and a 100 acre grant in the Dundas district and a range of religious activities, in September 1800 Governor King appointed Hassall in charge of the granary at Parramatta and the stores at Toongabbie. He was eventually dismissed for failing to stop fraudulent activities. By March 1804 he was a sergeant in the Loyal Parramatta Association of Volunteers. Hassall also established a store in his house at Parramatta. He was also engaged in sheep rearing and grazing activities as well as managing Anna Josepha King’s (Governor King’s wife) holding at Dunheved, St Marys. In 1814 he was appointed superintendent of government stock, becoming manger of the Cowpastures an important government grazing run. Hassall was a supporter of Bligh.

Hassall began to minister to Calvanistic Methodists and Presbyterians, in the Hawkesbury. As new ministers arrived in the colony Hassall limited his religious preaching ‘to the services held in his own barn (“the chapel”) at Parramatta on Sunday and Friday evenings’. Hassall was evangelical in his persuasion and was a supporter of Marsden. His son-in-law Walter Lawry, a Wesleyan preacher, owned land across the road. Hassall ‘remained loyal to the London Missionary Society and his house became a base for visiting missionaries. In 1814 he was elected to the committee of the NSW Philanthropic Society for the protection and Civilization of such of the Natives of the South Sea Islands who may arrive at Port Jackson’.

‘Hassall’s life was said to have been a ‘continued example of religion and piety, extensive benevolence and hospitality’, and he had ‘never lost sight of his original designation as a missionary’. He left extensive correspondence which reveals much about the early social life of Sydney. He and his wife Elizabeth had four sons and five daughters.

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72 This section was written by Mary Casey and based on the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (ADB) 1:521-522.
73 ADB 1:521.
74 ADB 1:521.
75 ADB 1:522.
2.4  Hassall’s Parramatta Store 76
Rowland Hassall ran a store on the same property as his house. Records of daily sales from this store, as well as people who purchased the items, were recorded in day books. 77 It appears to have been a general store which sold food, alcohol, haberdashery, saddles, and building materials. Note that this research was undertaken after the completion of the reports in Sections 7 and 8 and has not been referred to in those documents.

Food: pepper, ginger, wheat, maize, meat, Otahitie pork, pork, coffee, rice, mustard, bread, palm oil.
Beverages: wine, tea, hyson tea, oolong tea.
Haberdashery: calico, printed cotton, scissors, thimbles, thread, needles, Irish linen, lace, buttons, gilt buttons, blue board cloth, dungaree, tape, bobbin, table cloth, napkins.
Ceramics, Utensils, Glassware: basons, soup plates, cups and saucers, large plates, tureen, tooth brushes, cider glasses, tea cups, glasses at 3 different prices.
Clothing: men and women’s shoes, shawls, ribbon, frill shirt, gloves, velvet collar, cotton shirts, waist coat pieces.
Toiletries and Personal items: castle soap, ivory combs, snuff box, tobacco, pen knife, looking glass, umbrella, peir glass.
Miscellaneous: saddle, side saddle, curry combs.
Ironmongery: padlocks, furniture locks, escutcheons, handles.
Building materials: bricks, nails, bolts, white lead paint, green paint, turpentine, paling nails.

These day sales books have not been exhaustively analysed for this report because we found no conclusive archaeological evidence for the store on the subject property. It may be further to the west at 107 George Street and outside the study area. But it is likely that up to 1820 and the death of Rowland Hassall that the family had access to the many goods arriving in the colony. The store may have been leased separately to the house but no details of this are currently available.

2.5  Living on the property in 1828

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref No.</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>F/B</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Ship</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H0902</td>
<td>Hassall</td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Householder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H0903</td>
<td>Hassall</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H9094</td>
<td>Hassall</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H0728</td>
<td>Flanagan</td>
<td>Barnabas</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Dorothy I</td>
<td>1820</td>
<td>7 years</td>
<td>Cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1116</td>
<td>Ivory</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Servant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2345</td>
<td>Mick</td>
<td>(An Aboriginie)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pupil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R0148</td>
<td>Ranpsy</td>
<td>Martha</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Martha</td>
<td>1819</td>
<td>7 years</td>
<td>Gardener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S1503</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Marquis of Hastings</td>
<td>1827</td>
<td>Life</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T0434</td>
<td>Thompson</td>
<td>Gamaliel</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td>P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Servant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BC    born in the colony
FS    free by servitude
GS    government servant
CF    came free

Table 2-1: List of residents on the Hassall property in 1828, according to 1828 census.

Eight people were recorded as living with Mrs Elisabeth Hassall in 1828, her two youngest children, a cook, two servants, a gardener and clerk, and a young Aboriginal boy Mick who was supposedly a pupil. Only one of these was a convict and two of the others were free by servitude, making them

76 This section was written and research by Mary Casey.
77 Hassall Family Papers, Rowland Hassall’s Parramatta Store, 1803-04, 1809-12, ML CY 1213, ZA861, ZA862, ZA863.
emancipated convicts. The presence of a clerk may indicate that the Rowland Hassall’s store was still in operation, at least eight years following his death.

2.6 Schools on the Site
There is little information available about the two known schools that operated on the site. The use of the site for schooling does not only relate to the Sunday school run by Thomas Hassall but to at least two later schools organised on the property. These are the Mills’ Aldine House Commercial and Clerical School probably there by c1840 and still there in 1846 and later on the Griffiths family’s girls school, 1859–1865. In 1865 the Griffiths moved their school across the road to Harrisford. The Mills’ school was also called Mr Mills’ Classical and Commercial Academy. Later on it moved to the corner of Marsden & Phillip Streets where it was called Mills’ Briar Cottage Academy.\(^7\) The most likely building for the school room was the eastern building but this is not definitive (Fig. 3-15) and it may have been one or both of the two western buildings at 107 George Street.

2.7 Ownership After the Hassall Family
To facilitate easy sale and to pass on a secure title, the land was converted to Torrens Title. On 15 November 1882, a Real Property Application for this land was made by James Samuel Hassall and John Norton Oxley, as joint tenants. The land was worth £3,000 and was then occupied by George Jex and Charles Arab (?) as tenants. Some of the land was subject to contracts for sale resulting from the auction on 30 September 1882.\(^8\) The deeds of 1 November 1882 and 24 October 1883 had been prepared to permit the land to be sold and converted to Torrens Title by the two trustees. A Certificate of Title was issued to James Samuel Hassall of Berrima, clerk in holy orders and John Norton Oxley, of Hunters Hill, esquire on 7 February 1884.\(^9\)

The allotments were duly transferred out of the hands of the Hassall family and the buildings were demolished. On 31 December 1884, allotments 10 to 17, which included the site of the main house and the eastern outbuildings were transferred to Annie Oakes Pringle, of Parramatta, widow (Fig. 2-14).\(^10\) Allotments 3 to 9 and 18 to 25, which included the western outbuildings, were transferred to Joseph William Withers on 1 November 1887.\(^11\)

A new Certificate of Title was issued to Annie Oakes Pringle for lots 10 to 17 on 14 March 1885.\(^12\) The Parramatta Detail Survey of 1895 showed the whole site as vacant. Annie Pringle transferred lots 10, 11, 16 and 17 to Isabella Walton, of Parramatta, widow on 8 February 1909.\(^13\) On 11 May 1910, she transferred lots 12, 13, 14, 15 to Rhoda Leabeater, wife of Alfred Thomas Leabeater of Parramatta, lime merchant.\(^14\) Annie Oaks Pringle was one of William Byrnes’ daughters and lived across the road on part of the Byrnes’ property on the corner of George and Charles Streets.\(^15\)

\(^7\) This section was written and research by Mary Casey.
\(^9\) RPA 5712.
\(^10\) C T 684 f 94.
\(^11\) C T 684 f 94.
\(^12\) C T 684 f 94.
\(^13\) C T 736 f 155.
\(^14\) C T 736 f 155.
\(^15\) C T 736 f 155.
\(^16\) Casey & Lowe 2002.
Figure 2-14: Hassall Estate Auction, 30 September 1882. The auction plan clearly showed where the former Hassall buildings were situated. The main house ran across allotments 10 and 11, while there were outbuildings on allotments 12 and 13. Source: Sydney Subdivision Plans, ML, Parramatta ZSP.P6/99.
2.8 Allotments 10 and 11 DP 1182

A new Certificate of Title was issued to Isabella Walton, Parramatta, widow, on 25 March 1909. This was the land on which the main Hassall house had stood. She mortgaged it to Charles Ernest Byrnes, solicitor of Parramatta on 16 November 1909, which was discharged on 3 November 1915.

On 4 August 1921, she transferred it to her son, Edwin Charles Walton, Parramatta, tram guard. After his death, it passed by transmission to Isabel Alice Downing, Parramatta, widow on 31 October 1957. It then passed again by transmission to James Dellow Cawood, solicitor of Parramatta on 6

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88 C T 1959 f 1.
89 C T 1959 f 1.
90 C T 1959 f 1.
91 C T 1959 f 1.
July 1959.\textsuperscript{92} He transferred it to Marjorie Hancock, widow of Parramatta on 11 August 1958.\textsuperscript{93} She duly transferred the land to the Commissioner for Main Roads on 11 September 1961.\textsuperscript{94} Both these two allotments and Allotments 12 and 13 (see below) were acquired in September 1961 for the Parramatta Motor Registry.

\section*{Allotments 12 and 13 DP 1182}

Allotments 12 and 13 were the two easternmost lots facing George Street (\textbf{Fig. 2-14}). On 18 June 1910, a new Certificate of Title was issued for them to Rhoda Leabeater, wife of Alfred Thomas Leabeater of Parramatta, lime merchant.\textsuperscript{95} It was not until 30 November 1939, that she transferred them to Roland John Hansell, of Parramatta, butcher and his wife Sibyl Caroline.\textsuperscript{96} The very same day, another transfer vested the land in the name of Roland John Hansell.\textsuperscript{97} It was mortgaged to the Ligar Investment and Building Society on 15 December 1939, which was repaid and the loan discharged on 28 August 1945.\textsuperscript{98}

A new Certificate of Title was issued for the northern part of Hansell’s land on 7 November 1945, after some changes which resulted in the land measuring 64 feet 7.25 inches along George Street and 103 feet, 0.5 inches along the side lane, which largely comprised the former Allotments 12 and 13.\textsuperscript{99} On 5 March 1954, it was transferred to Gilbert Alexander Rodger McDonald, chemist of Parramatta.\textsuperscript{100} It was then transferred to Alexander David Newman, shearer of May’s Hill and his wife Queenie Elizabeth on 14 September 1955.\textsuperscript{101} They mortgaged it to the Bank of New South Wales, on 30 September 1955, which was discharged on 1 August 1961.\textsuperscript{102} They transferred their land to the Commissioner for Main Roads on 7 September 1961.\textsuperscript{103}

\section*{Allotments 8 and 9 DP 1182}

Allotments 8 and 9 did not form part of the original acquisition to erect the Parramatta Motor Registry (\textbf{Fig. 2-14}). These lots formed part of the land held by Joseph William Withers, draper of Sydney after a transfer of 1 November 1887.\textsuperscript{104} Withers mortgaged his land to the Australian Mutual Provident Society on 7 January 1890, but he was unable to repay the loan.\textsuperscript{105} The bankruptcy of Withers was officially noted in the property register on 15 October 1895 and this land passed to the AMP Society.\textsuperscript{106}

Allotments 8 and 9 were transferred by the AMP to David Creighton, engineer of Parramatta on 30 December 1902.\textsuperscript{107} He held it for many years, and it passed by transmission to Ellen Creighton, of Parramatta, widow on 30 July 1941.\textsuperscript{108} It again passed by transmission to Leonard Baxter, carpenter and Edmund Denis Creighton, docker, both of Parramatta on 1 December 1951.\textsuperscript{109} Previously, on 15

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item\textsuperscript{92} C T 1959 f 1.
\item\textsuperscript{93} C T 1959 f 1.
\item\textsuperscript{94} C T 1959 f 1.
\item\textsuperscript{95} CT 2063 f 167.
\item\textsuperscript{96} CT 2063 f 167.
\item\textsuperscript{97} CT 2063 f 167.
\item\textsuperscript{98} CT 2063 f 167.
\item\textsuperscript{99} C T 5533 f 6.
\item\textsuperscript{100} C T 5533 f 6.
\item\textsuperscript{101} C T 5533 f 6.
\item\textsuperscript{102} C T 5533 f 6.
\item\textsuperscript{103} C T 5533 f 6.
\item\textsuperscript{104} C T 864 f 195.
\item\textsuperscript{105} C T 864 f 195.
\item\textsuperscript{106} C T 864 f 195.
\item\textsuperscript{107} C T 864 f 195.
\item\textsuperscript{108} C T 1391 f 128.
\item\textsuperscript{109} C T 1391 f 128.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
November 1950, they had already transferred the land to Mary Ellen Creighton, spinster of Parramatta.  

It was not until 23 November 1972 that Mary Creighton transferred the land to Westminster Freeholds Pty Ltd. The company mortgaged the land to Commercial General Acceptance Ltd on 18 January 1973, probably to erect offices on the site. That loan was discharged on 16 January 1975. Meanwhile another mortgage had been made to the Bank of New South Wales on 22 November 1974, which was discharged on 6 June 1978. Another mortgage to Commercial and General Acceptance Ltd of 12 December 1974 was discharged on 19 September 1975.

On 28 August 1974, the company had leased the First Floor of 109–11 George Street to Vace Insurance Ltd. This lease had expired by 30 March 1981. More importantly, on 7 January 1977, it had leased the Ground Floor of 109 George Street, along with an option to purchase the building to the Commissioner for Main Roads. That option was exercised and on 6 June 1978, it was transferred to the Commissioner for Main Roads.

2.11 Twentieth-century Housing and the RTA

As indicated above there were a series of different owners of the various allotments created in the 1880s subdivision. Houses were built on these lots along both the George Street and Union Street frontages (Fig 2-14). Three large houses were built on double blocks along George Street and four houses were built along the Union Street frontage. Lots 16 and 17 appear to be the rear yard of lots 10 and 11 because of the presence of a much smaller building. These houses were built after 1895 (Fig. 2-15) but probably by 1910. The house on the corner of Argus Lane and Union Street was built after 1928. In the 1960s the Department of Main Roads erected a two-storey office building at 113 George Street this was the RTA building (Fig. 3-1). The building erected at 109 George Street was built in the 1970s. At some point lots 12 and 13 became lot 12 and lots 14 and 15 became lot 13 (Figs 2-14, 2-16).

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110 C T 1391 f 128.
111 C T 1391 f 128.
112 C T 1391 f 128.
113 C T 1391 f 128.
114 C T 1391 f 128.
115 C T 1391 f 128.
116 C T 1391 f 128.
117 C T 1391 f 128.
118 C T 1391 f 128.
119 Viewed copy of 1928 aerial but quality too poor to reproduce.
Figure 2-16: In 1961 there were three houses on George Street and probably four houses on Union Street with an outbuilding in one of the Union Street properties. Listed lot numbers are taken from Figure 2.14. These houses were also shown on the 1928 aerial. They were demolished in the 1960s for the construction of the extant RTA building. Lands photo, Department of Lands and Rural Affairs, 1961.
2.12 Chronology

2.12.1 Ownership by the Hassall Family

18 October 1799
Lease for 14 years to Rev Rowland Hassall, “of the ACRE of ground on the North side of the creek in the township of Parramatta”

18 October 1799
Lease for 14 years to Charles Smith, of 4 acres 96 rods “in the swamp near Harris’s farm in the township of Parramatta”

24 May 1803
Charles Smith sold 4 a 96 rods to Rowland Hassall for £30

1 September 1803
Lease for 14 years to Obediah Ikin, of land in Parramatta

7 October 1804
Hassall’s house at Parramatta was burgled. Built from imported bricks.

1804
Evans’ survey of Parramatta showed a house on Ikin’s lease (lot 15)

29 August 1805
O. Ikin sold land to Rowland Hassall for £60

May 1813
Thomas Hassall opened the first Sunday School in Australia in his father’s house in Parramatta

August 1816
Requirements and Rules for Persons engaging themselves as teachers in the Parramatta Sunday School, printed in at the “Missionary Press, Parramatta”.

28 August 1820
Rowland Hassall’s will left these 3 parcels to wife for her natural life and then to their son Thomas

31 August 1820
Rowland Hassall died

1823
Stewart’s survey showed a larger building on this site with two smaller ones to the west

10 February (?) 1831
Surveyor J B Richards dispatched survey of Hassall’s land, which showed the buildings on the site, including the main house and outbuildings

10 February 1834
Elizabeth Hassall died

14 June 1837
Court of Claims reported on Rev Thomas Hassall’s application for Allotment 18 Sec 45

29 May 1838
Town Grant to Reverend Thomas Hassall, Cobbity, of 4 a 2 r 21 p Allotment 45 Section 18, Parramatta
9 May 1839
Mortgage, Reverend Thomas Hassall, ‘Denbigh’, clerk and one of HM chaplains, to John Campbell, Campbell’s Wharf, esquire and Robert Campbell, junior, George Street, Sydney

1844
Building shown on Brownrigg’s map, but this part of the map is badly damaged

12 January 1856
Surrender mortgage

24 March 1868
Will of Thomas Hassall

29 March 1868
Thomas Hassall died

1870s
Photo of house shows it as two-storey masonry building

30 September 1882
Auction plan of Hassall Estate, Parramatta

1 November 1882
Conveyance, 1st, Ann Hassall, Parramatta, widow, 2nd, Frances Hassall, wife of Reverend Samuel Hassall, Berrima, clerk, Catherine Elizabeth Hope, Melbourne widow, Mary Ann Hope, wife of George Hope, Melbourne, Harriett Jane Oxley, wife of John Norton Oxley, Hunters Hill, esquire, Eliza Marsden Hassall, Parramatta, spinster 3rd, James Samuel Hassall and John Norton Oxley. Vested in trustees for benefit of daughters of Thomas Hassall

24 October 1883
Conveyance from Frances Hassall etc to James Samuel Hassall and John Norton Oxley. Conveyance to enable sale of land

2.8.2 Chronology of Ownership after the Hassall Family

15 November 1882
Real Property Application by James Samuel Hassall and John Norton Oxley

7 February 1884
Certificate of Title issued to James Samuel Hassall of Berrima, clerk in holy orders and John Norton Oxley, of Hunters Hill, esquire

31 December 1884
Allotments 10 to 17 transferred to Annie Oakes Pringle, of Parramatta, widow

1 November 1887
Allotments 3 to 9 and 18 to 25 transferred to Joseph William Withers

14 March 1885
New CT issued to Annie Oakes Pringle for lots 10 to 17

1895
Parramatta Detail Survey showed the site as vacant

8 February 1909
Transfer of lots 10, 11, 16 and 17 to Isabella Walton, of Parramatta, widow
11 May 1910  
Transfer of lots 12, 13, 14, 15 to Rhoda Leabeater, wife of Alfred Thomas Leabeater of Parramatta, lime merchant

2.8.3 Allotments 10 and 11 DP 1182  
25 March 1909  
Issue of CT to Isabella Walton, Parramatta, widow

16 November 1909  
Mortgage to Charles Ernest Byrnes, solicitor of Parramatta

3 November 1915  
Discharge

4 August 1921  
Transfer to Edwin Charles Walton, Parramatta, tram guard

31 October 1957  
Transmission to Isabel Alice Downing, Parramatta, widow

6 July 1959  
Transmission to James Dellow Cawood, solicitor of Parramatta

11 August 1958  
Transfer to Marjorie Hancock, widow of Parramatta

11 September 1961  
Transfer to the Commissioner for Main Roads

2.8.4 Allotments 12 and 13 DP 1182  
18 June 1910  
CT issued to Rhoda Leabeater, wife of Alfred Thomas Leabeater of Parramatta, lime merchant

30 November 1939  
Transfer to Roland John Hansell, of Parramatta, butcher and his wife Sibyl Caroline

30 November 1939  
Transfer to Roland John Hansell, of Parramatta, butcher

15 December 1939  
Mortgage to Lisgar Investment and Building Society

28 August 1945  
Discharge

7 November 1945  
Issue of new CT for northern part of the land measuring 64 feet 7.25 inches along George Street and 103 feet, 0.5 inches along the side lane

5 March 1954  
Transfer to Gilbert Alexander Rodger McDonald, chemist of Parramatta

14 September 1955
Transfer to Alexander David Newman, shearer of May’s Hill and wife Queenie Elizabeth

30 September 1955
Mortgage to Bank of New South Wales

1 August 1961
Discharged

7 September 1961
Transfer to the Commissioner for Main Roads

2.8.5 Allotments 8 and 9 DP 1182
Part of land held by Joseph William Withers, draper of Sydney

7 January 1890
Mortgage to Australian Mutual Provident Society

15 October 1895
Bankruptcy of Withers officially noted in register and land passed to AMP Society

30 December 1902
Allotments 8 and 9 transferred to David Creighton, engineer of Parramatta

30 July 1941
Transmission to Ellen Creighton, Parramatta, widow

1 December 1951
Transmission to Leonard Baxter, carpenter and Edmund Denis Creighton, docker, both of Parramatta

15 November 1950
Transfer to Mary Ellen Creighton, spinster of Parramatta

23 November 1972
Transfer to Westminster Freeholds Pty Ltd

18 January 1973
Mortgage to Commercial General Acceptance Ltd

16 January 1975
Discharge

22 November 1974
Mortgage to Bank of New South Wales

6 June 1978
Discharge

12 December 1974
Mortgage to Commercial and General Acceptance Ltd.

19 September 1975
Discharge

28 August 1974
Lease, of First Floor, 109–11 George St, to Vace Insurance Ltd
30 March 1981
Lease expired

7 January 1977
Lease of Ground Floor, 109 George Street, along with option to purchase, to the Commissioner for Main Roads

6 June 1978
Transfer to the Commissioner for Main Roads