

# **St. John's Anglican Church Precinct Menangle Road, Camden**

## **CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**



(Source: reproduced from Herman, M, *The Early Australian Architects and Their Work*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1954, Figure 112, facing page 204)

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*Date:*  
*Final – March 2004*

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

This report is a Conservation Management Plan of St John's Anglican Church Precinct, Camden. The report has been prepared for the Churchwardens of the Anglican Parish of St, John, Camden.

The St John's Anglican Church Precinct comprises the church, rectory, cemetery, two parish halls, and grounds that are situated on St John's Hill, which is 134 m above sea-level overlooking the township of Camden. The township of Camden is located by the Nepean River, some 62 km south-west of Sydney. See Figure 1.1.

The building of the church commenced in 1840 on land donated by James and William Macarthur. The Macarthur family also contributed substantially toward the cost of construction. The church was completed and consecrated in 1849. The first burial in the cemetery took place in 1843. Alongside the cemetery ran an early road, which existed by 1842. The rectory was completed in 1859, and the first church hall in 1906. The most recent addition to the group is another hall completed in 1973.

The church has been described as the perhaps the finest single example of the early Gothic Revival architecture in Australia. The 1840 church building was large for a newly established country town and demonstrated the vision of the Macarthur family in providing a place for Christian worship and ministry to the Camden community for over 150 years. For the twenty-first century the building no longer provides sufficient accommodation.

### **1.2 Scope of Report**

The content of the report follows the guidelines set down in the study brief prepared by the client. The principal aims of the report are to prepare:

- An assessment of the cultural significance of the St John's precinct and its constituent elements.
- A conservation policy for the St John's precinct.

An implementation strategy, including the identification of a compatible range of alternative uses for all the elements of the site and how possible opportunities for redevelopment could occur in a sympathetic manner, recognising that substantially larger meeting facilities are now required for the present congregations and the future growth of the Camden community.

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### **1.3 Methodology of Report**

The assessment of significance follows the general guidelines and structure outlined in J. S. Kerr, *The Conservation Plan*, the National Trust of Australia (NSW), third edition, 1990; the Australia ICOMOS, *The Burra Charter: The Australian ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* 1999, and the NSW Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning's *Heritage Manual* (November 1996).



## 1.4 Conservation Terms

The following terms used in this report are defined in Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter*:

- *Place* means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.
- *Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its *fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects*. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.
- *Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place* including components, fixtures, contents, and objects.
- *Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its cultural *significance*.
- *Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric* and *setting* of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.
- *Preservation* means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.
- *Restoration* means returning the existing *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.
- *Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material into the *fabric*.
- *Adaptation* means modifying a *place* to suit the existing use or a proposed use.
- *Use* means the functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.
- *Compatible use* means a *use* which respects the cultural *significance* of a *place*. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.
- *Setting* means the area around a *place*, which may include the visual catchment.
- *Related place* means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another place.
- *Related object* means an object that contributes to the *cultural significance* of a *place* but is not at the place.
- *Associations* mean the special connections that exist between people and a *place*.
- *Meanings* denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.

- *Interpretation* means all the ways of presenting the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

Other terms used are:

- ◆ **National** means the Commonwealth of Australia
- ◆ **Local** means the local government area of Camden
- ◆ **State** means the State of New South Wales.

### 1.5 Definition of Place Discussed in Report

In accordance with the Burra Charter, this report uses in identifying the place and its historic associations the terms: place, related place, setting, and associations. These terms are defined as follows:

Place	<p>This is defined by the three land title boundaries that comprise the St John's precinct. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The allotment comprising the church, parish halls and cemetery described in Land Titles Office Deed Book V, No. 938.</li> <li>• The allotment comprising the 1.067 ha. of land situated between the church and the rectory described in Land Titles Office folio identifier 2/816287.</li> <li>• The allotment comprising 8815m2 of land associated with the rectory described in Land Titles Office folio identifier 1/816287.</li> </ul> <p>See Figures 1.2 and 1.3.</p>
Setting	<p>This is defined as the visual catchment of the precinct within the surrounding countryside. See Figure 1.4.</p>
Related place	<p>This is defined as other places, such as glebe land and other churches, associated with St John's and situated within the Anglican Parish of St John's Camden.</p>
Associations	<p>This is defined as historic and contemporary communities associations with either St John's or related places.</p>

### 1.6 Natural and Aboriginal Significance

This report addresses only the European cultural significance of the precinct.

### 1.7 Author Identification

Nicholas Jackson and Hector Abrahams of Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners Pty Ltd prepared the report, together with Geoffrey Britton, specialist cultural landscape consultant.

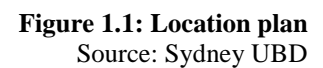
Unless otherwise stated photographs reproduced in this report are by the authors.

### 1.8 Acknowledgments

The authors wish to acknowledge the assistance of the following:

- The Rev Steven Davies, Rector, St John's, Camden
- Mr Ross Newport, church warden, St John's, Camden

- Mr Peter Hayward Parish of St John's, Camden
- Dr Louise Trott, Archivist, Sydney Anglican Diocese
- Mr. Don Truman, Camden Council Heritage Advisor
- Messrs. Bruce Baskerville and Cameron White, officers of the NSW Heritage Office



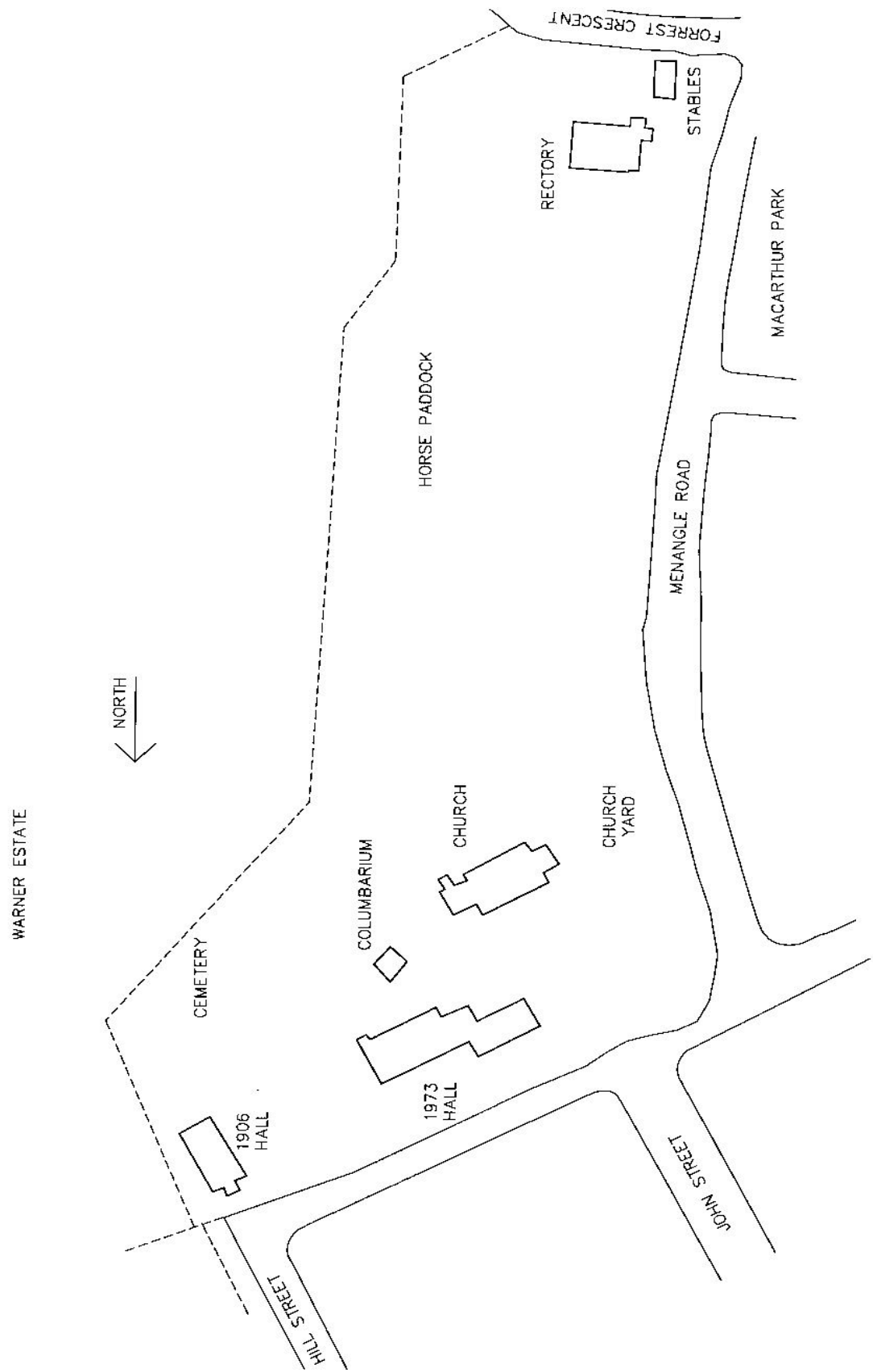


Figure 1.2: Definition of place





Figure 1.4: Definition of setting

## **2. Historical Development**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This history of the Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist, Camden provides a general background to the establishment and growth of the church, including of associated features such as the cemetery and grounds, rectory and parish hall.

Unless otherwise stated, the history is drawn primarily from the recently published brief history of the Anglican Parish of Camden, prepared for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of St John's Church.<sup>1</sup> This work is supplemented by historic plans, photographs and illustrations.

### **2.2 Camden Township**

St John's Church is situated on the south-east edge of Camden town as laid out in 1835 at the direction of James (1798–1867) and William (1800–1882) Macarthur, the sons of John Macarthur of Camden Park.

The foundation of Camden town began with a petition in 1830 by the farmers of the Camden Park Estate seeking a police establishment at the Cowpasture bridge. John Macarthur was instructed by Governor Darling to grant 320 acres of his land holdings on the south bank of the Nepean River for the purpose of establishing a township. This request was declined owing to Macarthur's view that the township 'would greatly endanger the security of the whole establishment on that estate'. No town was founded on his land while he was alive.

Following John Macarthur's death in 1834, his sons James and William, who had contrary views on the matter, began preparations for a town by clearing eight hectares. In September 1835, the brothers informed the governor of their plans for a town that would include reserves for police, magistrate's court, post office and churches (Anglican, Catholic and Presbyterian). In January 1836 the town plan was prepared in the Surveyor-General's office, then under the control of Major Thomas Mitchell.<sup>2</sup>

The original township comprised an area bounded by the present-day street alignments of Exeter, Murray (then Oxley), Broughton and Edward Streets, and situated to the south and east of the Nepean River. Intersecting the village was the Great South Road (Argyle Street) which was the main route to the colony's southernmost pastoral districts of the Monaro and beyond.<sup>3</sup>

The town allotments were initially offered for sale in July 1841. Sydney auctioneer Samuel Lyons described the village as:

*The Village of Camden is situated on the west bank of the never failing Nepean River, adjoining the Cowpasture Bridge. The Great South or Argyle Road forms the principal*

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<sup>1</sup> Anon., *The Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist, Camden, NSW*, October, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Atkinson, A., *Camden*, Melbourne, 1988, p. 28.

<sup>3</sup> Mitchell Library (ML), Village of Camden, Macarthur Papers, A4128, pp. 1&2.



*street of the village, and the extent of traffic through this 'main artery' of communication would be scarcely credited unless witnessed. The distance from Sydney is only forty miles, from Parramatta and Penrith thirty, and Liverpool twenty miles; so that it is within easy reach of the best markets, either for the sale of produce, or the purchase of supplies. It is part and parcel of the well-known and highly improved Estate of Camden, on which from two to three hundred persons are now living, so that there is already a considerable population on the Estate itself.*<sup>4</sup>

Central to the town plan was the siting of the church of St John's as the *Sydney Herald* of 14 February 1840 noted that 'on the greatest elevation of the adjacent hills it is proposed to erect a church, the situation for which will be highly picturesque and commanding'. By the time of the sale of the town allotments, the church was under construction and was the main feature of the incipient township prominently sited on the highest point overlooking the principal street, St John's Street:

*The Episcopalian Church is far advanced towards completion, and already commands the admiration of passers by, but when finished (which it shortly will be) it will be one of the finest Public Buildings in New South Wales.*<sup>5</sup>

At this time, the population of Camden totalled only eight households and increased to 45 over the following five years. By 1856 there were 76 dwellings in the town. Surrounding the town were a number of 40-acre tenant farms established by the Macarthurs. Although farming did not prove a success, these farms struggled at subsistence levels. The disease wheat rust which came in the 1860s sounded their death knell.

Throughout the 1870s and 1880s the town of Camden grew at a consistent, albeit unspectacular, manner with the coming of the Commercial Bank (1877), the Camden railway branch line from Campbelltown (1882), the Camden woollen mills (1885, which provided a new source of employment in the old Thompson flour mill), and the opening of the silver mine at near by Yerranderie (1887). The township of Camden was incorporated as a municipality in 1889.<sup>6</sup>

### 2.3 Establishment of St John's Church

At the same time as clearing land for the new township in 1835, James and William Macarthur appealed to their neighbours and employees for help in founding a church. By September 1835 £644 had been collected, with the majority (£500) coming from members of the Macarthur Family.<sup>7</sup>

The Macarthurs' plans for their church in the town coincides with the passing of Governor Bourke's *Church Act* of 1836 which promoted 'the building of Churches and Chapels and to provide for the maintenance of Ministers of Religion in N.S.W.' This Act placed all the major denominations (Anglican, Catholic and Presbyterian) and approved minor denominations on

<sup>4</sup> *The Australian*, 29/6/1841, p. 3.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Proudfoot, H., in 'Camden and Narellan Town Centres: Heritage Analysis and Development Guidelines,' prepared by Travis Partners, January 1990.

<sup>7</sup> Atkinson, op cit., p. 36.

an equal footing in providing state funding on a pound-for-pound subsidy. This aid was available for churches and rectories or parsonages costing between £600 and £2,000. To be eligible for the subsidy, all proposals had to be referred to a central ecclesiastical authority, and a professional person was required to supply the necessary plans, specifications, etc.<sup>8</sup> The Macarthurs applied for a subsidy of £1,000 toward a total cost of £2,500. The appointed trustees of the new church were Rev Thomas Hassall, Charles Cowper of Wivenhoe, James and William Macarthur, and George Macleay of Brownlow Hill. James and William Macarthur and George Macleay were subsequently elected the first wardens of the church in 1850, after the church was completed.

In May 1841 the land grant for the church of 5 acres 3 roods and 24 perches was registered between James and William Macarthur and Bishop Broughton. The deed reserved the land for the purposes of 'the erection of a church or chapel for the performance of divine worship according to the rites of the United Church of England and Ireland (and) for the erection of a residence for a clergyman in holy orders and for a burial ground according to the use of the said United Church.' The church grant was bounded on the east and south by a road from Elizabeth Street to Camden House, and on the west by a road leading from Broughton Street to Camden House. The grant deed also included 2 perches of land that is the Macarthur family burial vault.<sup>9</sup>

The architect for the church is not conclusively known. It may be the cumulative work of Mortimer William Lewis, John Cunningham and Edmund T. Blacket. Bishop Broughton had instructed James Hume (?-1868) to design the proposed church in the 'Classical style'. This design was accepted and work commenced on the foundations, a plan for which is extant (see Figure A3.4)<sup>10</sup>. The design was abandoned in favour of a new design for the church in the 'Gothic' style preferred by James Macarthur's wife Emily.

Emily Macarthur (1806–1880) was born in India, the daughter of a civil servant, Henry Stone, and Mary, the daughter of botanist to the East India Co., Dr William Roxburgh. Emily returned to England in 1811. She met and married James in 1838. The married couple arrived in New South Wales in March 1839; she was first mistress of the newly completed Camden Park.

Hume's role as supervisory architect was then replaced by the Colonial Architect Mortimer William Lewis, and later Edmund T. Blacket oversaw the final stages of the construction of the church.

The actual designer of the church, however, is conjectured by the historian Joan Kerr to be John Cunningham, an English architect known to the Macarthur family.<sup>11</sup> Cunningham (1799-1873) received his training in the Edinburgh City Works Department, although he mostly practised in Liverpool. A number of English churches in Gothic and Romanesque styles are known to have been by Cunningham.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Kerr, J. and J. Broadbent, *Gothick Taste in The Colony of New South Wales*, Sydney, 1980, p. 65.

<sup>9</sup> Land Titles Office (LTO), Book V, No. 938.

<sup>10</sup> ML, John Verge plans, Macarthur Papers, CY748 – See Figure A3.1.

<sup>11</sup> Kerr, op cit, p. 124.

<sup>12</sup> Colvin, H., *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects*, John Murray, 1978.

There is no doubt as to the identification of the builder: Richard Basden, whose brickyard (situated the south-west junction of Argyle Street and Oxley Street) supplied the 386,000 bricks used in the church's construction. Basden also built two other prominent buildings in Camden, the Post Office and the Camden Inn.<sup>13</sup> Basden was subsequently appointed a church warden in 1856.

The roof framing of ironbark was given by the Macarthur brothers, being cut from the forest at Mount Hunter by Jonathon Wheeler. (Wheeler was brought out by the Macarthur family from Gloucester, England in 1838.) The brick spire, the framing and other timberwork were constructed by John Le Fevre, who also became a church warden in 1854.

## 2.4 Building of St John's

The site was levelled and footings laid over the winter months of 1840. The foundations followed in September.<sup>14</sup> The Bishop of Australia, Right Rev W. G. Broughton, laid the foundation stone of the church on 3 November 1840. Despite the fact that the church was to be consecrated as late as 1849, progress in the initial stages of the construction appears to have been rapid. At the consecration of the Anglican parish church of Narellan (St Paul's, Cobbitty) by Bishop Broughton in April 1842, the Camden church was within sight and was described as being in 'progress of completion'. In the same year a sketch of the church was made by Lt. Thomas Woore, R.N, which shows the completion of the tower and spire (see Figure A2.1)<sup>15</sup>

From this promising start the onset of severe financial depression of the early 1840s however delayed completion for another seven years. A traveller passing through Camden in May 1844 reported on the progress on the church as follows:

*The church, to which, as in duty no less than inclination bound, the Messrs. Macarthur have contributed so liberally, is a very striking object: as you proceed along the road that most graceful object, a neat spire, catches the eye in a variety of views through the foliage, and upon approaching it the structure improves in appearance. It is really a most elegant building, although I must confess I do not like bricks plastered for a church, and, as there is stone in the neighbourhood it is a pity it was not used. The interior will be very neat: the plastering is finished, but the windows are not in, and the floor is not laid: the works are now standing still, some money due by government not having been paid, but when that is obtained, a very few weeks will put it in a sufficiently complete state for consecration and use.*<sup>16</sup>

This impression is confirmed by Bishop Broughton who in 1845 noted the 'correct style of Decorated architecture with a lofty tower and spire, and even in its unfinished state forming a most striking feature in the landscape'.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Atkinson, op cit., p. 46.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Anon., *The Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist, Camden, NSW*, July, 1975.

<sup>16</sup> Paul Cockney, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16/5/1844, p. 2.

<sup>17</sup> Quoted in Kerr, op cit, p. 124.

The *Camden News* in 1848 reported that the building's shell was completed 'all to pulpit, seats and chancel fittings'.<sup>18</sup> In January of that year the paper reported that 'active measures were in hand to fit (the church) up temporarily by means of voluntary contributions leaving the completion, according to the original plan, to be accomplished gradually afterwards'. However, this was evidently not to be, for the consecration of the church was not undertaken until June 1849, and, given the great lapse of time in gaining completion, many of the fittings were 'temporarily got up as cheaply as possible to admit of the performance of Divine Service without further delay.'<sup>19</sup>

## 2.5 Consecration of St John's

Bishop Broughton consecrated St John the Evangelist's Church on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1849. The day of the ceremony was described as 'most auspicious in the point of weather, being one of the finest of our winter days, and by ten o' clock every road and footpath leading to the village was dotted with men, women and children, wending their way to the scene of the appointed ceremonial',<sup>20</sup> The ceremony commenced shortly after eleven o' clock with the arrival of Bishop Broughton who was:

*received by Mr William Macarthur and the churchwardens at the west door. Here the petition for consecration was read and received. The service then began; the Bishop, followed by the attendant clergy, reading, as they went from porch to chancel, the 24<sup>th</sup> Psalm, by alternate verses. The Rev Thomas Hassell and Rev Robert Forrest acted as chaplains, and the Rev George F. Macarthur as chancellor, in that capacity, reading the sentence of consecration. The Rev Edward Rogers, the incumbent of the Church, read Morning Prayer, and assisted at the administration of Holy Communion. The Bishop preached the sermon from Gen. 28:16, setting forth the doctrine of holy places, and the practical benefits which they were the means of imparting to those who rightly estimated and used them. Many of the laity, we are glad to observe, remained to partake of the Holy Communion, and the demeanour of the whole congregation was devout and reverential. The old version of the 84<sup>th</sup> Psalm to Bedford tune, and the Old Hundredth, were sung by the whole congregation with a really solemn and devotional effect, being led by simple melody of a well-tuned flute.'*<sup>21</sup>

Also in attendance were the Macarthur brothers. While the congregation numbered 500, the collection totalled £13/15/1.

A good description of the church at the time of the consecration was published in the Anglican newspaper *The Sydney Guardian* of August 1849. The correspondent reported that:

*St John's consists of a nave, chancel and western tower and spire, all including the spire, being of brick, and at some future time to be covered with plaster. The spire is already stuccoed. The windows, which are of the 'decorated' period, are exceedingly well wrought in the stone procured from the neighbourhood, which is of greyer colour and closer grain, though softer in the cutting, than the sandstone around Sydney. The*

<sup>18</sup> Anon., *The Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist, Camden, NSW*, July, 1975.

<sup>19</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1/6/1849.

<sup>20</sup> *Sydney Guardian*, 2/7/1849.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

*flagging of the interior is the very best piece of work of the kind in the country. The roof is open, with tie-beams and spandrels. The windows are filled with fancy patterns of octagon and square glass, the former being ground, the latter coloured set in copper frames. The altar rail is carved with cinquefoil arches, on small shafts, with caps, bases and bands, in the style of the Church, and is of very effect. There is a want of porch and vestry, and the chancel is far too short.*<sup>22</sup>

## 2.6 Other Developments

### 2.6.1 Chancel

The size of the original chancel was disparagingly described at the opening as *far too short*. It was already out of step with the Oxford Movement's call for longer chancels able to accommodate choirs. In 1857 Sir William Macarthur commissioned the great English Gothic Revival architect Sir George Gilbert Scott to provide plans for a brick chancel and vestry addition. Some time later, Edmund Blacket was also asked to provide the same. The design for the chancel extension is believed to be a mix of Scott and Blacket's work, which was a compromise arising out of a disagreement between the preferences of Sir William and the rector, Rev Henry Tingcombe.<sup>23</sup> The vestry was to Blacket's design. The extension was completed in 1874. The bricks used in the construction came from demolition of Thompson's former steam flour mill and store in Camden, the mill having been constructed circa 1843.<sup>24</sup>

### 2.6.2 Rectory

The brick rectory (including stables and coach house) was erected in 1859. The cost of the construction, £1000, was donated by James and William Macarthur. The first rector to reside in the house was Rev Henry Tingcombe. Given Tingcombe's association with Edmund T. Blacket over the chancel extension (under discussion since 1857), it has been speculated that Blacket may have been the architect for the rectory.

The rectory and associated lands remained in the ownership of the Macarthur family up to November 1905, when 3 acres 2 roods and 3 perches were transferred from the Camden Park Estate to the Church of England Property Trust<sup>25</sup>

### 2.6.3 Parochial School

The former St John's Parochial School located at the intersection of Hill and Broughton Streets was founded in 1850 as a denominational school. The initial trustees of the local board were George Macleay, Edward Rogers and John Oxley. Bishop Broughton laid the foundation stone of the school on 1 July 1850. Public tenders for the construction of the building however were not called until February 1851.<sup>26</sup>

This 'very neat brick building' was erected with aid from the Denominational School Board.<sup>27</sup> The denomination schools were established in 1848 and were administered by the

<sup>22</sup> Quoted in King, C. J., *Notes on the History of St John's Camden*, 1919, p. 5.

<sup>23</sup> Kerr, J., *Our Great Victorian Architect Edmund T. Blacket*, Sydney, 1983, p. 19.

<sup>24</sup> Paul Cockney, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16/5/1844, p. 2.

<sup>25</sup> LTO, Vol. 1364, Fol. 143.

<sup>26</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4/2/1851.

<sup>27</sup> Atkinson, op cit, p. 158.

Denominational School Board. The denominational schools were part of a mid-nineteenth century government attempt to provide for public education. Each of the four main denominations (Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Wesleyan) was represented on the Board. A separate system of secular schools, the National Schools, was also established at this time. Both school systems were abolished in 1866 with the passing of the Public Schools Act, and the establishment of the Council of Education.<sup>28</sup>

The first master at the St John's church school was a Mr Harrington, but by 1855 Mr Henry Pollock Reeves and his wife (Reeves was also the Church organist and parish clerk) were in charge. Reeves retained this position until closure of the school in 1879 when the Camden Public School was opened. The school under Reeves' administration was considered the most successful in the district. Reeves was also an amateur photographer, and some of his images of Camden (including St John's and the school) survive in the collection of the Macarthur family papers at the Mitchell Library (see Figures A2.4, A2.15, A2.19, and A2.20). Reeves also designed the Camden School of Arts building, completed in 1866.<sup>29</sup>

Following closure in 1879, the schoolhouse was retained by the church until its sale, together with 1 acre and 11 3/4 perches of land ('one of the picked sites in the town'), in early December 1906. In evidence presented in 1906 to an enquiry on the need for the sale, Rev C. J. King considered the building 'unfit for habitation now, and it is dangerous to go into it in fact, except one little corner of it in which they have meetings, but the description of the building is, I might say, that it is almost in ruins.'<sup>30</sup> The public sale notice described the building as 'a large brick hall, the material of which is first class'.<sup>31</sup> The proceeds of the sale were used to erect the extant church hall at the intersection of Hill and Broughton Streets.

#### **2.6.4 First Church Hall**

The first church hall was constructed in 1906 during the ministry of Rev C. J. King. The architects for this building were Sulman and Power. (Sulman and Power in 1898 had designed the extensive additions to St James' Church, Menangle for Mrs Elizabeth Macarthur-Onslow.) The Sulman and Power's plans were approved by the architect Cyril Blacket, the Diocesan Building Surveyor in February 1906. The foundation stone of the hall was laid by the Bishop of Goulburn on 29 July of that year, that is prior to the sale of the old school building and associated 1 acre of land.

The brick hall as designed comprised a hall 50ft by 25ft with platform, with two retiring rooms each 15ft by 25ft on the south, and a porch 10ft by 9ft on the west (street front) elevation.<sup>32</sup> Funding for the construction was obtained from the Church Loan Fund (£200), Camden Park Estate (£250), and from other subscriptions and donations (£120).<sup>33</sup>

<sup>28</sup> State Archives Guide

<sup>29</sup> Atkinson, op cit, pp. 159 & 187.

<sup>30</sup> Church of England Synod, Church Lands Committee. Proceedings, 24/8/1906.

<sup>31</sup> *Camden News*, 29/11/1906.

<sup>32</sup> Original plan held by St John's Church.

<sup>33</sup> Church of England Synod, Church Lands Committee Proceedings, 24/8/1906.

### 2.6.5 Second Church Hall

The second church hall was completed in 1973. The hall was opened and dedicated on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1973 by the Archbishop of Sydney Most Rev Marcus Loane. Part of the funding for this new hall came from the sale in 1968 of the parish's 20 acres of glebe land situated between the rectory and the Nepean River. The architects were Martin and King of Willoughby.<sup>34</sup>

The original plan included a kindergarten. While the development application for this was approved by Camden Council, it was not built due to the lack of funds.

### 2.6.6 Cemetery and Early Road

The church cemetery forms part of the original Macarthur family endowment of 1841 of about 5 acres which included the requirement that a cemetery for the 'United Church of England and Ireland' was to be established.<sup>35</sup> The cemetery is about 1 1/4 acres in area.<sup>36</sup>

The first burial is believed to be that of a Thomas Budd of Narellan made in March 1843,<sup>37</sup> however no early parish records are available for the first 40 years for the location of grave sites. The records for the location of graves commenced c1883. A new system was introduced c1902, and a further recording system was made c1960.<sup>38</sup>

An early road used to run through the lower portion of the cemetery. This road had been used extensively by the Macarthur family but was closed some time after c1849–1850, possibly at the same time that the Church was completed and consecrated. In 1889 the newly incorporated Camden Council gave some attention to re-opening the road, but did not proceed.<sup>39</sup>

A new general cemetery for the town, at Cawdor, was dedicated in 1898,<sup>40</sup> and by 1906 the church cemetery had been closed except for burials for those who had purchased the right to burial, or family vaults. The cemetery, however, continues in use, in particular the eastern end.

Commencing in 1977 there has been an ongoing program of clearing vegetation from the cemetery, which was completely obscuring the older, western portion of the site. A plan of recording the grave locations was initiated in 1977 and completed in 1987. The total number of recorded grave sites is approximately 1600. In 1995 a Land Environment Action Program team undertook some work. This was followed in 1999 by a Work for the Dole team.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>34</sup> 'Proposed Parish Hall and Kindergarten', Martin and King, Drw'g. 298.10, February 1972.

<sup>35</sup> LTO Book V, No. 945.

<sup>36</sup> Church of England Synod. Church Lands Committee Proceedings, 24/8/1906.

<sup>37</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10/6/1933.

<sup>38</sup> Per com. Parish Council, 3/2000.

<sup>39</sup> Sidman, G. V., *The Town of Camden*, p. 36.

<sup>40</sup> Sidman, G. V., *The Town of Camden*, p. 45.

<sup>41</sup> Per com. Parish Council, 3/2000.

## 2.7 Anglican Parish of Camden

The ecclesiastical parish of Camden originates from the *Church Acts* of 1836–1837, although the date of the establishment of the parish has not been stated with any confidence in the published histories.

Under the provisions of the Sydney Diocesan Ordinance, the right of nomination of presentation to a parish was given to a patron who built a church and endowed the stipend of the clergyman. At Camden, the arrangement was that the appointment of a minister was alternately the decision of the Macarthur family and the bishop (Broughton). The first incumbent under this arrangement seems to have been Rev Robert **Forrest** in 1843, but prior to this Rev Thomas Hassall, as the ‘chaplain to all that part of Australia beyond Liverpool’ from 1827, was the local minister. Hassall resided at Denbigh estate near Cobbitty. The Bishop of London appointed Forrest (1802–1854) as the first headmaster of The King’s School at Parramatta in 1832. Subsequently between 1839 and April 1843 Forrest was the minister for the parish of Campbelltown. Forrest’s ministry at Camden was also in conjunction with the parish of Narellan. Forrest was associated with the Macarthur family, and supported James in his unsuccessful bid for the NSW Legislative Council of 1843. Forrest continued to minister until he returned to the King’s School in January 1848. He lived at his property Elderslie and officiated at services at the Narellan school-church, and the Macarthur family schoolroom at Camden Park.

The minister at the time of the consecration of the church in June 1849 was Rev Edward **Rogers** who had been appointed in early 1848. Rogers had arrived in Sydney in 1837 as an evangelical deacon sponsored by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Rogers continued to minister at Camden until his appointment to Holy Trinity, Sydney in 1858. The first couple registered as being married in St John’s was Robert Boyd of Camden and Augusta Sheather of Camden Park on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1848, by Rogers. The first couple to have been married in the consecrated church was Thomas Dunk and Maria New, both of Camden, in June 1849.<sup>42</sup>

The first minister to reside at the rectory (completed in 1859) was Rev Henry **Tingcombe**. Tingcombe had arrived in Sydney 1827. In 1846 he was appointed as minister to Armidale, and then, in August 1858 to Camden. Tingcombe’s stay at Camden was for a period of 27 years, ceasing on his resignation in October 1872.

Following the resignation of Tingcombe, arrangements for the endowment of the stipend were altered, with the local parishioners now being liable for payment of part of the money required. Accordingly, the Bishop of Sydney granted his right of nomination (again alternate with the Macarthur family) to the parish. From this period the Macarthur family continued to contribute £100 per annum to the stipend, and provided the rectory on a nominal rental. Rev John Fleming **Moran** was the minister appointed under this regime, and continued to minister at Camden for 19 years (1872 to 1891). Moran had arrived in Australia in 1870, and prior to the appointment at Camden was the minister at St Anne’s, Ryde.

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<sup>42</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10/6/1933.



Following the ministry of Moran came Rev Cecil John **King**, from 1891 but officially appointed in 1893. King was the son of Archdeacon Robert King of Moore College, and brother of Copeland King, a founding missionary of the New Guinea Mission. King's term at Camden continued through until 1927.

Later rectors of the parish of Camden include:

- 1927–1943            Rev Thomas Giles **Paul**
- 1944–1968            Rev Alfred Henry **Kirk**
- 1968–1975            Rev James Barry **Burgess**
- 1976–1988            Rev Alan Reginald **Patrick**
- 1989–1996            Rev Trevor William **Edwards**
- 1996–2000            Rev Steven John **Davis**
- 2001                  Rev Anthony Victor **Galea**

Within the parish of Camden there were and are a number of outlying churches serving the small villages. These churches are discussed below, and listed in chronological order of date of church foundation: -

#### **St Barnabas' Church, Werombi**

The first Anglican church services at Werombi commenced in the 1840s, with the first church being constructed in 1866. The present weatherboard building was completed in 1895 during the ministry of Rev C. J. King.

#### **St James' Church, Menangle**

Anglican church services commenced at Menangle in 1871 during the ministry of Rev H. Tingcombe. St James' Church was established by the Macarthur family, with the first stage of the building being constructed in 1876, attributed by some to the design of Horbury Hunt. The tower, apse, chancel and sanctuary were built c1898, with funds provided by Mrs Elizabeth Macarthur-Onslow. The architects were Sulman and Power.

#### **St Paul's Church, Westbrook (Mount Hunter)**

This weatherboard church was completed in 1878 during the ministry of Rev J. F. Moran. The chancel was added in 1893.

#### **St Peter's Church, Theresa Park**

An Anglican school-church was built at Theresa Park in 1854, with the present church being completed in 1896 during the ministry of Rev C. J. King. The church was closed in the late 1960s, and sold in 1991.

#### **St Jerome's Church, Cawdor**

The weatherboard church at Cawdor was opened in 1905 during the ministry of Rev C. J. King. The church was closed in 1975 and is currently leased to the adjacent Cawdor Public School.

### **3. Physical Description**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The physical description of the St John's, Camden is presented below in two parts. The first section provides a brief description of the major elements of St John's together with a explanatory historical notes, if required. Then follows a brief description of the urban and rural contexts of St John's, including major views.

#### **3.2 Church**

##### **3.2.1 Exterior**

**Roof:**           *Background*

The roof was originally of split timber shingles. These shingles were replaced in 1872, and again in 1901. The present terracotta shingle roof was installed in 1929. Presumably during one of these re-roofing exercises a series of four gablets (two per side of the gable) was also constructed.<sup>1</sup> There was originally a stone cross atop of the chancel arch gable which was dislodged in a severe storm in 1972 (see figure A6.1)

*Description*

Terracotta shingles, c1929; copper gutters and downpipes in 1972.

**Spire:**           *Background*

Nineteenth-century photographs indicate that the spire was rendered from the time of the church's completion. Some photographs (see Figures A2.8 and A2.9a) show a distinct banding of colour differentiation in the render. This render was removed in 1973 and new render applied. A ventilation opening to the south was made near the top in 1995.

*Description*

Render on brick in 1973.

**Tower:**           *Background*

Nineteenth-century photographs indicate that the brick tower has never been rendered. Photographs show wooden louvres fitted to the upper windows of the tower.

Early photographs also indicate that the openings for insertion of a clock face were part of the original building. The extant turret clock and peal of eight ringing bells were erected in June 1897 (Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee). They were ordered from England in 1896 by Mrs Elizabeth Macarthur-Onslow. The clock is by Gillett and Johnson of Croydon, London, and the bells are by Meares and Stainbanks of Whitechapel, London. Installation of the clock was undertaken by F. W. Syer of North Sydney, and the bells were hung by J. D. Rankin of Camden, all under the

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<sup>1</sup> This is evident from historic photographs reproduced in Appendix 2

supervision of Sulman and Power, architects.<sup>2</sup> The clock was officially started by Mr J. K. Chisholm on 21 June 1897.<sup>3</sup> In c1950, electric motors replaced the manual winding mechanism for the striking of the bells. The original church bell was installed in 1859. It was relocated to St James', Menangle at the time of the installation of present peal of bells.<sup>4</sup>

*Description*

Brick, buttressed with brick copings, stone coping at top – original.

The clock mechanism consists of three chains of wheels (one drives the clock, the others the striking and chiming apparatus) driven by three weights. The three dials are 6-ft in diameter. The chimes are of the 'Westminster' pattern. Of the eight bells, six are inscribed with the names of members of Mrs Elizabeth Macarthur-Onslow's family in the ascending order of weight:

- 1 - John and Elizabeth Macarthur
- 2 - Children of John and Elizabeth Macarthur
- 3 - James and Emily Macarthur
- 4 - Arthur Pooley and Rosa Onslow
- 5 - Arthur Onslow
- 6 - Children of Arthur and Elizabeth Onslow

Tenor bell inscribed with the doxology. The clock and striking mechanism, bell hammers and clappers are presently undergoing restoration.

Walls: *Background*

Nineteenth-century photographs indicate that the brick walls have never been rendered, although the intention was for the wall *at some future time to be covered with plaster*.<sup>5</sup>

*Description*

Brick, presented as face.

Sills: *Description*

Cement, re-rendered to approximately original detail c1995.

Windows: *Background*

The windows of the church at the time of opening were much admired being described as being *of the 'decorated' period, (and) exceedingly well wrought in the stone procured from the neighbourhood, which is of greyer colour and closer grain*. Nineteenth-century photographs indicate that the window reveals were rendered. This render was removed in 1973 and new render applied. In an effort to improve ventilation through the church, strips were cut in the base of the timber window frames in 1899.<sup>6</sup>

*Description*

<sup>2</sup> King, C.J., *Notes on the History Town of Camden of St John's Camden*, 1919

<sup>3</sup> Sidman, G.V., *The Town of Camden*, p.43

<sup>4</sup> King, op cit., p.12

<sup>5</sup> *The Sydney Guardian* of August 1849

<sup>6</sup> King, op cit., p.8

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- Stone frames and mullions – original.  
 Rendered reveals – c1973.
- Base: *Description*  
 Brick – original.
- Doors: *Description*  
 Timber Gothic style – original cedar.  
 Finish: painted external: wood grained oak painted internal.

### 3.2.2 Interior

#### Nave

See Figure 3.1.

- Ceiling: *Description*  
 175mm approx beaded sarking boards – original.  
 60 x 100 approx beaded rafters – original.  
 Timber hammer beam truss and truss purlins – original.  
 Timber work to 4 roof vents in a quatrefoil pattern – original.
- Cornice: *Description*  
 Moulded timber approx 500mm deep – original.
- Walls: *Description*  
 Lime plaster – original, painted.  
 Existing colour scheme in plain cream dates from the 1970s.  
 Grained paintwork to window mullions – original.
- Skirting: *Description*  
 N: No skirting except for 4m approx at the east end.  
 E: Rendered skirting 410 h.  
 S: At the east end approx 4m, 410 h, rendered.  
 Remainder 100mm metal skirting conduit c1995.  
 W: 300mm rendered – original.
- Floor: *Background*  
 William Buchan laid the original floor flagging (and similarly the window tracery and font).  
*Description*  
 Stone 460 x 460 slabs laid on the diagonal. Margin of 305 at the east end.  
 Three stone steps with chamfered nosings lead into the chancel.  
 The diagonal paving gives way to two squared areas on either side of a central aisle (3175 at the north side, 3095 on the south side), possibly related to the font. Fixing points are evident for fixtures at the east end.

## Nave Fittings

See Figures 3.1 and A2.14a/b.

Pews and choir stalls	<p><i>Background</i></p> <p>The first pews were ‘a number of convenient cedar seats’ provided by Bishop Broughton. It was then intended to provide for permanent ‘open’ seating.<sup>7</sup> The replacement (extant) seats were apparently obtained at various times. Rev C. J. King stating that the ‘centre seats’ were purchased with funds under the will of Richard Basden, the builder of the church.</p> <p><i>Description</i></p> <p>The polished cedar pews and stalls are of three generations with removable seat and back upholstery added to the main central block of pews in 2000.</p> <p>Original:</p> <p><u>11 pews</u>: Beaded stiles to end panels, with moulding run on, 3050mm average length. One is fitted against the north wall, probably original configuration.</p> <p><u>2 screens</u> to stand in front of the pews.</p> <p><u>2 screens</u> to stand in front of the choir.</p> <p><u>2 choir stalls</u> 2900mm long 360mm wide, beaded.</p> <p><u>2 pews</u> 890mm long beaded.</p> <p><u>1 choir stall</u> 2555mm designed to be back against a wall.</p> <p>Second Generation:</p> <p><u>15 .pews</u>: Not beaded at end panels, sunk mouldings applied. Varying in width 500–570mm, 3050 average length.</p> <p>Third Generation</p> <p><u>3 pews</u>: Similar but not matching, 1730mm long (two in children’s corner, one in vestry).</p>
Pulpit	<p><i>Background</i></p> <p>The pulpit was originally to be of sandstone from Brownlow Hill.<sup>8</sup> The present pulpit was a bequest from Dr Anderson in 1858. It was made by Mr Poulton, to a design by W. Voss.</p> <p><i>Description</i></p> <p>Pulpit, cedar, raised on five steps – original.</p>
Prayer desk	<p><i>Background</i></p> <p>The prayer desk was presented in 1905 by the ladies of the parish.</p> <p><i>Description</i></p> <p>Prayer desk or reader’s desk, cedar - Edwardian.</p>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., p.4

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p.4

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- Lectern**      *Background*  
The eagle bible lectern was purchased in London in 1894 by Mrs Macarthur-Onslow from the bequest of George Vincen.
- Description*  
Carved Burmese teak wood, date of manufacture is unknown.
- Font:**         *Background*  
The font was completed by the time of the consecration. This was the work of William Buchan, ‘a talented mason from Scotland’.<sup>9</sup> The stone was quarried at the Rev Thomas Hassall’s Denbigh estate. Buchan donated the font to the church. The location of the font has changed over time,<sup>10</sup> being placed centrally under the organ gallery in 1895 and in 2003 placed next to the Chancel arch.
- Description*  
Stone – original.  
Timber font cover: ‘In memory of Amy Pinkerton’, c1973.
- Windows:**    South Side, First Window  
This is an example of the original coloured glass windows (another is in the tower). These windows were described in 1849 as *filled with fancy patterns of octagon and square glass, the former being ground, the latter coloured set in copper frames*. All were specially ordered in 1846 by James Macarthur who had sent zinc templates to England.
- South Side, Third Window  
A memorial to the fifth rector of the church, Rev C. J. King, and his twin brother, and noted pioneer New Guinea missionary, Rev Copeland King. The windows were installed c1930 and were made by Alfred Handel of Sydney. The windows depict Jesus and the disciples, and Jesus with children of all nations.
- South Side, Fourth Window  
This is a memorial commemorating the Great War of 1914-1918 given by the local parishioners. Alfred Handel of Sydney made the window. The window depicts St Mark and St George.
- South Side, Fifth Window  
Situated near the pulpit, this is a memorial by public subscription to the third rector of the church, Rev Henry Tingcombe (d1879). The English-made window depicts St James (the traveller) and St John (the healer).
- North Side, Sixth Window  
This is a memorial by public subscription to the Hon Captain Arthur

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<sup>9</sup>Sydney Morning Herald, 1/6/1849

<sup>10</sup>King, op cit., p.12

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Onslow, R.N, MLC (d1882). The Whitefriars London-made window depicts Jesus with his disciples on the sea of Galilee.

North Side, Seventh Window

This is a memorial to Elizabeth Macarthur-Onslow (d.1911) given in 1912 by her family. The English-made window depicts Jesus with his disciples and mothers with their children.

North Side, Eighth Window

This is a memorial to Brigadier-General George Macleay Macarthur-Onslow, given in 1931 by his family. The window depicts a soldier dedicating his life to Jesus and spiritual triumph.

North Side, Ninth Window

This is a memorial to John William and Alice Wilson Clinton given c1970 and made by Stephen Moor of Sydney. The window depicts the miracle of Jesus feeding 5000.

North Side, Tenth Window

This is a memorial to Bertha Victoria Brien, an organist and Sunday school teacher with 30 years service to the church, given in 1961 by her husband and made by Stephen Little of Sydney. The window depicts St Cecilia with an organ and St Mary with the infant Jesus.

Organ	A three manual <i>Johannus</i> electric organ was installed in 1987 at the north side of the chancel/nave with loud speakers located high at gable level on each side of the chancel arch.
Artificial lighting	<p><i>Background</i></p> <p>The original interior lighting of the church was by candles placed along the top rail of the pew backs. In 1859, 34 kerosene lamps were installed. In c1910 an acetylene gas system was installed, which was subsequently connected to a town gas supply. In 1932 mains supply electricity was installed in the town with connections made to the church.</p> <p><i>Description</i></p> <p>Eight large pendant light fittings at the hammer beam, c1932.</p>
Other:	<p><i>Description</i></p> <p>Eight wall-mounted infrared electric radiators, 1990.</p>

### Interior - Chancel

See Figure 3.1.

Ceiling:	<p><i>Description</i></p> <p>Timber beaded sarking boards approx 125 – original.</p> <p>Purlins approx 125 x 100 timber, chamfered – original.</p> <p>Two raised knee trusses, timber – original.</p> <p>Supported on sandstone bosses – original.</p>
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Walls:	<i>Description</i> Render, unset, lined out in ashlar 1870s?
Skirting:	<i>Description</i> Rendered 319 high – original.
Floor:	<i>Description</i> Cement, lined out in 500 sq. diagonal lines with margin, date unknown. There are two steps to the table. Both covered by carpet. A marble margin can be seen on the north and south side.

### Chancel - Fittings

Table and reredos:	<p>Table</p> <p>In 1917 the present cedar table replaced the original 1848 altar table (location now unknown).<sup>11</sup> A front piece was added to commemorate 25 years in charge of St John's Parish by Rev C. J. King in March 1916. The panel at the bottom in the middle of the front is a recent plywood addition.</p> <p>Reredos</p> <p>The original 1848 reredos was remodelled by architects Wilson Neave &amp; Berry, and presented by the parishioners in 1916, marking 25 years of Rev C. J. King's ministry.</p> <p>The eastern end is cedar panelled; given c1970 in memory of Warwick Frank Hands replacing earlier heavy curtains.</p>
Windows	<p>East Window</p> <p>The stone frame of this window, the largest in the church, dates from the completion of the church in the 1840s. It was re-installed in 1874 when the chancel was extended. The present stained glass was commissioned and installed in 1896 as a memorial to James Macarthur (d1867) by parishioners and friends, and was made by Clayton and Bell of England. The window depicts the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–8).<sup>12</sup></p> <p>Four Lancet Windows</p> <p>A gift of Sir George Macleay of Brownlow Hill, and installed at the time of the completion of the chancel in 1874. The windows depict the Evangelists and their symbols – St Matthew with the casket; St Mark with the lion; St Luke with the bull; and St John with the eagle.</p>

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., pp. 12, 13

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.



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Communion rail	<p><i>Background</i></p> <p>The communion rails with carved Gothic arches were partly funded by Bishop Broughton and were installed shortly after the consecration.<sup>13</sup></p> <p><i>Description</i></p> <p>Original - cedar</p>
Pair of President's chairs:	<p><i>Description</i></p> <p>Gothic style, Australian made, cedar, installed at time of chancel extension 1874 - original</p>

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid., p. 4

Credence stand: *Description*  
Cedar with grapevines – date unknown.

Pair of hall chairs: *Description*  
Cedar, mid-Victorian.

### Interior – Vestry

Ceiling: *Description*  
125 beaded timber sarking boards – original.

Rafters: *Description*  
50 x 100 beaded timber – original.

Windows: *Description*  
Cedar framed with small frosted glass panes – some original.

External Door: *Description*  
External Door: Cedar replacement c1995, copy of damaged original.

Walls: *Description*  
Cement, lined out in ashlar – original.

Floor: *Description*  
Cement, date unknown.

### Vestry - Fittings

None original.

### Tablets and Memorial Fittings

The tablets in the church commemorate:

1874 Brass Plate	Sit George Macleay lancet windows	Chancel
1877 Marble Plate	Oliver Hinde, his wife and children	Nave
1897 Brass Plate	James & Emily Macarthur, Sir William Macarthur, Arthur Alexander Walton Onslow RN.	Entrance
	Peal of bells and clock.	
1907 Brass Plate	Reggie Gardener, Chorister	Vestry
1915 Brass Plate	Lance Corporal Eric Lyndon Lowe (WWI)	Chancel
1932 Bronze Plaque	Brigadier-General George Macleay Macarthur-Onslow.	Nave
1932 Brass Plate	Electric Lighting	Entrance
1940's Chromium Plate	Edward Palmer, died 1875	Chancel
1940's Chromium Plate	Edward Palmer, his son (no date)	Chancel
1949 Copper Plate	Emma Rapley. Electric winding of clock chimes	Entrance
1969 Bronze Plate	Lawrence Arthur Rideout. Pipe Organ restoration.	Nave
1988 Bronze Plaque	Bicentennial window restoration	Entrance
1999 Bronze Plaque	150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Consecration	Entrance
2001 Bronze Plaque	Clock & bells restoration	Entrance

Fittings in the church commemorate:

1917 Harbour Board	Guild of St Faith	Nave
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1930 Processional Cross	Ethel King	Chancel
1931 Framed Print	Dorothy Wheeler	Children's Corner
1935 Wood Panelling	Ada Isabel Nixon	Children's Corner
1945 Table & Chairs	Eliza Anne Turner, Mavis Turner	Children's Corner
1951 Service Book Cupboard	Private Ernest Henry McGrath, chorister, died 1941	Nave entry
1970's Wood Panelling	Warwick Frank Hands.	Chancel
1970 Front Cover	Amy Pinkerton	Chancel
1970's Service Book Cupboard	Ernest & Hannah McGrath	Nave entry
1972 History Board	Lloyd and Isa Scanlan	Nave
1981 Upright Piano	Michael Brien	Nave
1985 Electronic Organ	William and May Johnson	Nave
1992 Refreshment Trolley	-	Nave

### Interior - Organ Loft and Choir Gallery

See Figure 3.1.

#### Organ loft: *Background*

This organ loft and choir gallery were constructed at the west end of the nave. The design for this alteration was prepared by Edmund T. Blacket. The builder was John Le Fevre (a former church warden). The cost of this alteration was met by public subscription. In July 1861 Frederick Macarthur Bowman informed William Macarthur that 'the organ loft is nearly finished; the Organ was up in its place on Sunday but not playable. It is being put up by Paling for £20.'<sup>14</sup>

#### *Description*

1861 installation.

#### Stair to loft: *Background*

Originally access to the gallery was by stairs situated in the entrance area under the tower. In 1995 this arrangement was removed, and new access stairs were installed within the nave to the design of architect R.Y.Stringer.

#### *Description*

Tasmanian oak stairs, 1995.

#### Screen doors entry to nave *Description*

Pair of Tasmanian oak glass panelled doors, 1995.

### Organ Loft – Fittings

#### Organ *Background*

The original harmonium was installed in 1850 on a platform which also

<sup>14</sup> Quoted in Graeme D. Rushworth, *Historic Organs of New South Wales*. Hale and Iremonger, 1988

accommodated the choir, located at the west end of the nave. Emily Macarthur informed her brother-in-law, William, in February 1861 that:

*I have just dispatched a note to you addressed to the Camden people about the organ ... I hope it may prove a suitable instrument & add to the comfort of your ears on Sunday, the old harmonium was often positively painful in its effects.*<sup>15</sup>

The extant pipe organ was either built or rebuilt (Rev C. J. King in 1919 stated that it was second hand)<sup>16</sup> by the London firm of T.C. Bates & Son, Organ Builders, 6 Ludgate Hill, London. The organ was selected by Dr E. J. Hopkins, organist of Temple Church, London for Emily Macarthur. The purchase price was £300. Theodore Charles Bates was a builder of small finger and barrel organs<sup>17</sup> from 1812 through to 1864. His son joined the company in 1847, and was known as T. C. Bates & Son through to 1859. In alterations, possibly undertaken early in this century, the Bourdon pipes were added for the pedals and the range reduced. This work was by organ builder, Charles Richardson. Further alterations were made in 1969 by the organ builder Arthur Jones. After historical reassessment, extensive restoration was commenced in 2000.

#### *Description*

The organ is labelled 'Bates and Son, organ builders Ludgate Hill London'. The organ is housed in a timber case in the Gothic style, of gabled towers with pinnacles, and contains 17 false gilded pipes arranged 5–7–5.

### **3.3 Rectory and Stables**

The rectory of St John's, dating from c1859, is a thorough architectural essay in strict Georgian symmetry and discipline. (Figures 3.2, A2.15, A2.16, A2.17, A2.18, and A5.3a)

Its plan form is four square about a wide hall. This is repeated for the first floor. The window and door openings are set out to give symmetrical elevations and internally doors face each other across the halls.

The elevations are executed in fine face brick laid in true English bond. Large double-hung windows with divided sashes and shutters are identical throughout the house, even to the kitchen window.

The quality and details of the house are refined but simple, so simple as to impart a pure, almost ascetic quality. This leanness is exaggerated by the loss of the original single storey verandah to the front, which had a straight slated roof and timber columns. The verandah was recreated in 2003.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> King, op cit., p.11

<sup>17</sup> Barrel organ – 'An organ played mechanically by rotation of a wooden cylinder or barrel pinned with staples of varying lengths to represent the notes of a tune. The staples make contact with the equivalent of a key that causes each note to speak as required.' Graeme D. Rushworth, *Historic Organs of New South Wales*. Hale and Iremonger, 1988

Furthermore, all except two of the chimney pieces have been removed. The surviving joinery, cornices and staircase are well built and finely executed examples of their period. With the missing details intact it would be possible to say that this rectory is an excellent example of an 1850s house in NSW.

The stables are similarly executed in brick and originally provided for horse stabling, carriage and harness storage with feed loft. The building was reduced in length to enable access to church land subdivision (see section 3.5.4 item 7 and Figs 3.2 and A5.3b).

A more detailed survey of the rectory and stables is contained in Appendix 4.

### 3.4 1906 Church Hall

The church hall is entirely as built in 1906 with the exception of a partition one bay east of the original stage proscenium.

Roof:	<i>Description</i> Asbestos cement shingles with a perforated terracotta roof ridging and weatherboarding to the gable ends. The bell and its associated detail is intact.
Openings:	<i>Description</i> Timber-framed doors and windows.
Walls:	<i>Description</i> Face brick.
Interior walls:	<i>Description</i> Painted brick.
Floor:	<i>Description</i> Timber.
Ceiling:	<i>Description</i> Timber planked with compound steel and timber trusses exposed.

### 3.5 Grounds

#### 3.5.1 Plantings

The major plantings within the present boundaries are shown in Figure 3.3 and described below:

Trees	A group of exotic and native trees planted to the east and south of the church and within the terraced platforms of the cemetery. Visible in photographs from the 1860s onwards (see Figures A2.5, A2.8, A2.12a/b).
Kurrajongs	Mature <i>Brachychiton populneus</i> planted to the west of the 1973 Church Hall.

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Conifers	Clusters of <i>Cupressus funebris</i> and <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> , planted throughout the grounds, visible in photographs of the 1860s (see Figure A2.12a/b).
Bunyas	Mature <i>Araucaria bidwillii</i> planted throughout the grounds providing a reference point within the surrounding landscape. Particularly large and locally prominent examples are situated to the east of the rectory.
Palms	Two large <i>Jubaca chilensis</i> planted to the east of the rectory. Many of the now mature specimens probably came from William Macarthur's nursery at Camden Park.

### 3.5.2 Memorials

The major works (other than buildings) within the boundaries of St John's that are memorials to benefactors are shown in Figure 3.3 and described below:

Lych gate	The lych gate at the entry to the church grounds from Menangle Road was erected in 1912 as a memorial to Mrs Elizabeth Macarthur-Onslow and restored in 2003.
John Street entry	The flight of brick built steps and iron railings leading up from John Street were erected in 1935. The cost of this work was donated by General J. W. Macarthur-Onslow. The electric light and copper fitting here is a memorial to Mr & Mrs James Waterworth.
Boundary fencing	The boundary fencing of pipe railing, and other gates were erected in 1935. The cost of this work was donated by Mrs Faithful Anderson.
Sundial	The sundial was donated in 1953 by Mrs (Violet) G. M. Macarthur-Onslow. It had been at the Riley's Glenmore estate at Mulgoa since 1861, and at her property, Murrandah, Camden since 1922. It was restored in 1996.
Columbarium	The Memorial Garden / Columbarium was erected in 1964 as a memorial to William Angilley. The Columbarium walls were further extended in 1986 in memory of Mark Kernahan and again in 1994.

### 3.5.3 Other Features

The major works (other than buildings) within the boundaries of St John's are shown in Figure 3.3 and described below:

Road formation	Situated to the east and south of the cemetery are the remains of a road formation. This is likely to be the road shown in nineteenth-century maps of the area (see Figure A3.2) and photographs of the church (see Figure A2.12a). The road evidently provided an early route to Camden Park House.
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Horse paddock	The sloping area of land situated between the rectory and church is shown in nineteenth-century photographs (see Figure A2.12b) as cleared and open. It was separated from the church and cemetery by a substantial four rail fence. It was purchased by the church in 1911. The origin of the name is not known; also called the Rectory glebe.
Site of school house	The former school house (erected 1851 and demolished 1906) is now within the area of the Masonic Hall (built 1926). Nineteenth-century photographs indicate the school appears to have been intentionally sited on a rise, and accordingly was prominent within the surrounding area (see Figures A2.3 and A2.4).
Tennis courts platform	Located to the west of the 1906 Church Hall is a platform which evidently is the remains of former tennis courts (see Figure A2.10).
Undulating topography	The undulating topography of the church grounds framed by the three hills upon which are sited the rectory, church and Masonic hall (site of former school) is illustrated in a number of nineteenth-century sketches and photographs (see Figures A2.3, A2.7, and A2.12b).
Old path from the church hall to the church	The formation of the old path from the church hall of 1906 (and presumably before that from the old school) to the church is evident in a number of nineteenth-century photographs (see Figures A2.9a and A2.9b), and c1940 aerial photograph (see Figure A2.10).
Road from the lych gate to the church	The present-day road from the lych gate to the church closely approximates the same shown in early twentieth century photographs (see Figure A2.13b) although the surface treatment is different.
Road from front of the rectory and leading to the stables	There are a number of old road formations and gates associated with rectory and associated stables. The timber gate posts to the stables are comparable in detail to a gate to the church on Broughton Street shown in an early twentieth-century photograph (see Figure A2.10)
Horse paddock and Cemetery gate	These are four nineteenth-century timber gate posts with cast iron caps. (see Figure A5.2a)
Cemetery graves	The nature of the cemetery with its sloping terraced formation within which are the gravestones, tree plantings and remnant fencing is shown in both nineteenth and twentieth-century photographs (see Figures A2.12a and b and figure A5.4a).

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### 3.5.4 Past and Present Property Boundaries

The major changes of the property boundaries of St John's are shown in Figure 3.4 and described below:

- 1 Extent of original grant of 5 acres 3 roods and 24 perches of **1841**.
- 2 By the Ordinance of 1906 the original grant area was reduced to 4 acres 3 roods 12 1/2 perches by the sale of 1 acre 11 3/4 perches (inclusive of the school house)<sup>18</sup> at public auction in December **1906**. This land was considered surplus to the needs of the church, and the sale was deemed necessary for the funding of a new hall.<sup>19</sup> The sale proposal came with the consent of Mrs Macarthur-Onslow.<sup>20</sup> The highest bid at the auction was £300, and this offer was accepted.<sup>21</sup> This land now forms part of the Masonic Lodge site. The purchaser was Mr F.C. Whiteman, and the land title deed was registered in the name of Anne Whiteman.

In July 1925 some 2 roods and 40 3/4 perches of Whiteman's property was purchased by the trustees of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows for £350.<sup>22</sup> The foundation stone of the extant lodge (Masonic Lodge Camden No. 217) was laid in February 1926.<sup>23</sup>

- 3 The 3 acres 2 roods and 3 perches of land associated with the rectory (built 1859) donated in **1906** to the Church of England Property Trust Diocese of Sydney by the Camden Park Estate.<sup>24</sup>
- 4 In September **1911**, 14 acres 3 roods and 34 perches of land (neighbouring the rectory running east down to the Nepean River, and north towards the church and cemetery) was purchased by the Church of England Property Trust Diocese of Sydney from the Camden Park Estate.<sup>25</sup> This land had been originally offered to Camden Municipal Council in 1910 by the Camden Park Estate.<sup>26</sup>
- 5 7 acres 2 roods 16 3/4 perches transferred (a strip of land to the south of the rectory) was transferred to the Church of England Property Trust from the Camden Park Estate in July **1929**.<sup>27</sup>
- 6 Building blocks facing Menangle Road were sold by the church authorities in **1932**.<sup>28</sup>
- 7 At the outset of the Rev Barry Burgess's ministry at Camden in 1968, the parish's 20

<sup>18</sup> Church of England Synod. Church Lands Committee. Proceedings, 24/8/1906

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> *Camden News*, 6/12/1906

<sup>22</sup> Land Titles Office (LTO) Bk. 1395 No. 920

<sup>23</sup> Building Foundation Stone

<sup>24</sup> LTO Vol. 1671 Fol. 126

<sup>25</sup> LTO Vol. 2216 Fol. 44

<sup>26</sup> Sidman, op cit., p.59

<sup>27</sup> LTO Vol. 4302 Fol. 72

<sup>28</sup> Sidman, op cit., p.59



acres of glebe land situated between the rectory and the Nepean River was subdivided into 54 building lots and sold off. The Parish purchased an additional five acres at this time for the sole purpose of facilitating the subdivision. Twelve acres of flood prone land was donated to Camden Council; this reserve is known as 'Kings Bush'. The streets established in this subdivision were named after early ministers of the parish – Tingcombe and Forrest. The sale realised \$150,000, which was used to meet outstanding diocesan assessments, council rates, cost of new capital works, and church restoration. The money was also used to secure the stipend of the rector, and for other parochial purposes. The sale necessitated the passing in 1966 of the 'St John's Camden Land Sale Ordinance' by the Diocesan Standing Committee.

### 3.6 Urban Context

The major elements adjoining St John's are shown in Figure 3.3 and described below:

Menangle Road	The original alignment of Menangle Road ran from the top of John Street towards the rectory and included a steep bank that was part of the church grounds. In 1933 this road (and John Street) was regraded by the local council. <sup>29</sup>
Macarthur Park	Situated on the hill on Menangle Road opposite the rectory, Macarthur Park was a gift to the Municipality of Camden from Mrs Elizabeth Macarthur-Onslow made in June 1905 in memory of her father, James Macarthur (d1868). The gifted area was 6 acres 21 perches of the Camden Park Estate. One of the conditions of the gift was the requirement that native vegetation was to be preserved as far as practicable. The park was opened in 1906. <sup>30</sup> At this time a number of peppercorn trees were planted by the council on Menangle Road, opposite the park. <sup>31</sup> The park was selected as the site for the erection of the town's memorial to the First World War. The cenotaph was unveiled in February 1922. <sup>32</sup>
Warner Estate	The land to the south-east of the church and cemetery is the Warner Estate which was part of the land of Camden Park Estate Ltd.. The subdivision, through which Alpha Road is sited, was approved in 1910. Tree planting of Alpha Road was undertaken in 1939 as a council initiative. <sup>33</sup>
Forrest Crescent	The land the east of the rectory is the residential estate established following the sale of this former church land in 1968.
Broughton Street	Broughton Street is the eastern most street of original town plan of Camden. Today it, and the intersecting streets of Hill and John Street, are characterised by many fine nineteenth and early twentieth-century buildings of mixed materials, scale and design.

<sup>29</sup> Sidman, op cit., p.43 and p.87

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., p.54

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., p.55 and 79

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., p.72

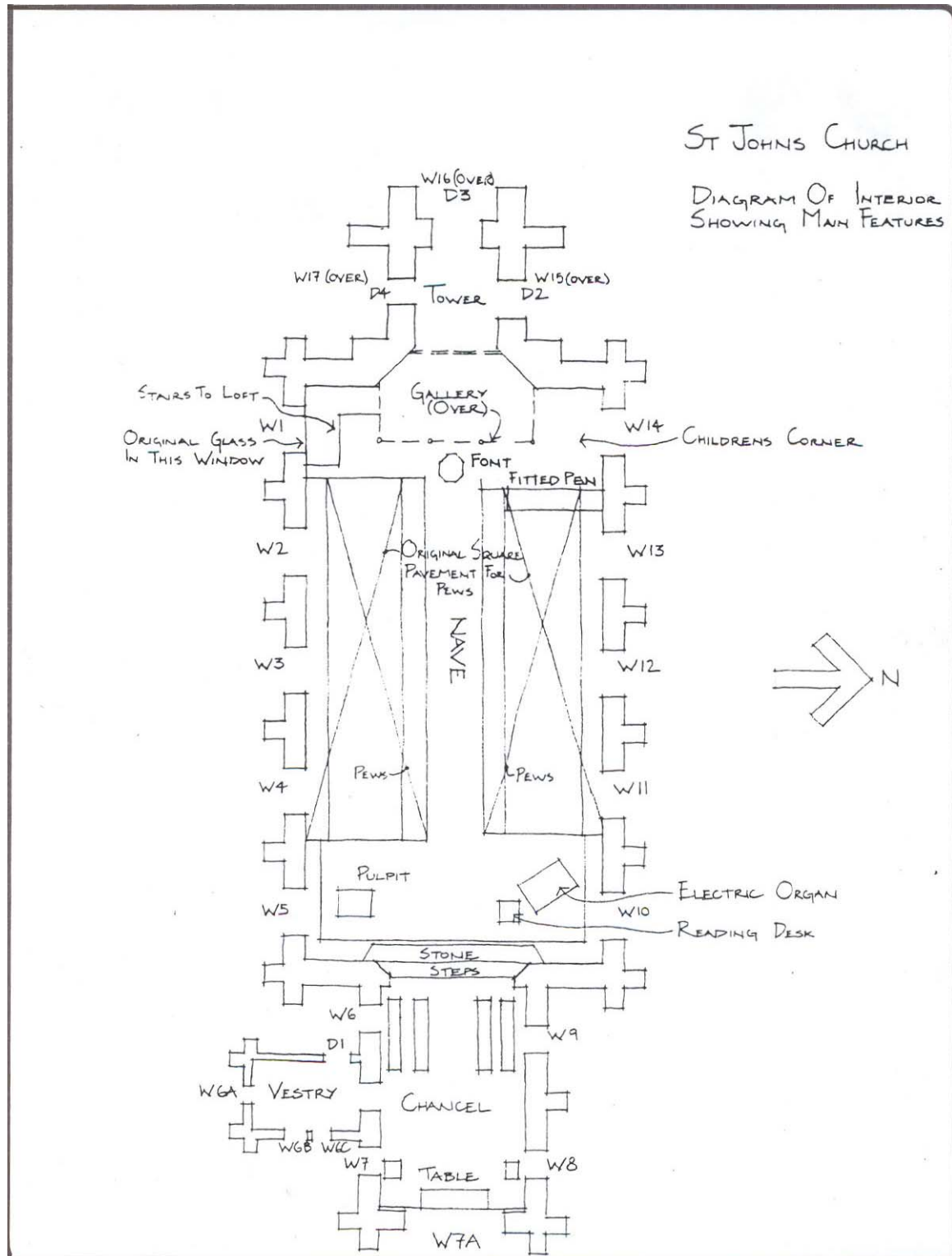
<sup>33</sup> Ibid., p.59 and 87

### 3.7 Views and Rural Context

St. John's is situated to be seen from the countryside surrounding Camden township. There are many vantage points from which the church can be seen. Present-day views of St John's are shown in Figure 3.5 and described below:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| View 1  | First view of the spire approaching Camden from Sydney on the Camden Valley Way (Cowpasture Road).  |
| View 2  | Glimpse view of spire and tower from river flat east of the Cowpasture Bridge. This view approximates the view shown in many historic illustrations of the church such as Woore's sketch of 1842 (see Figure A2.1) and Lock's photograph of c1860s (see Figure A2.3). |
| View 3  | First urban view from east on Argyle Street of the spire above the town buildings.  |
| View 4  | View of spire from new subdivision off Richardson Road adjacent to Camden By Pass between Elderslie and Narellan.   |
| View 5  | View of tower and spire from Springs Road south-east of the Nepean River. View is framed by poplars in foreground.  |
| View 6  | Glimpse view of tower from Narellan looking from the Camden By Pass.  |
| View 7  | View of tower, spire, old church hall, horse paddock, rectory and Bunya pines from countryside west of Narellan.  |
| View 8  | View of church, rectory, Bunya pines, old church hall and Masonic Lodge from Elderslie looking over Nepean River. This view approximates the view shown in Lloyd's sketch of 1857 (see Figure A2.2)   |
| View 9  | View of church spire with rectory and Bunya pines from the Camden By Pass Macarthur Bridge. View is framed in foreground by farmland and river flats.   |
| View 10 | View of spire and town from Ferguson Road west of the town. Studley Park is also visible.   |
| View 11 | View of tower, spire and Bunya pines from Druitt Lane south-west of Camden.   |
| View 12 | View of tower and spire from Cawdor Cemetery (dedicated 1898) south-west of Camden.   |
| View 13 | View of tower, spire and town from Macquarie Grove north of Camden. This view approximates the view shown in Reeve's photograph of 1870 (see Figure A2.4).  |
| View 14 | View of spire from Kirkham, north of Camden, framed by farm lands.  |

- View 15    View of spire from Camden Park south-west of Camden.
- View 16    View of Church Spire from Church Hall of St. Paul's Cobbity. This view was noted at the consecration of St. Paul's Cobbity in 1842.

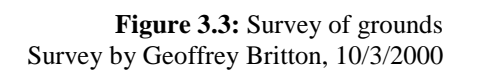


**Figure 3.1:** Interior features of church



**Legend**  
W1 – Window  
D1 – Door  
1 - Space

**Figure 3.2: Interior layout of rectory**  
Refer to Appendix 4 for accompanying text.



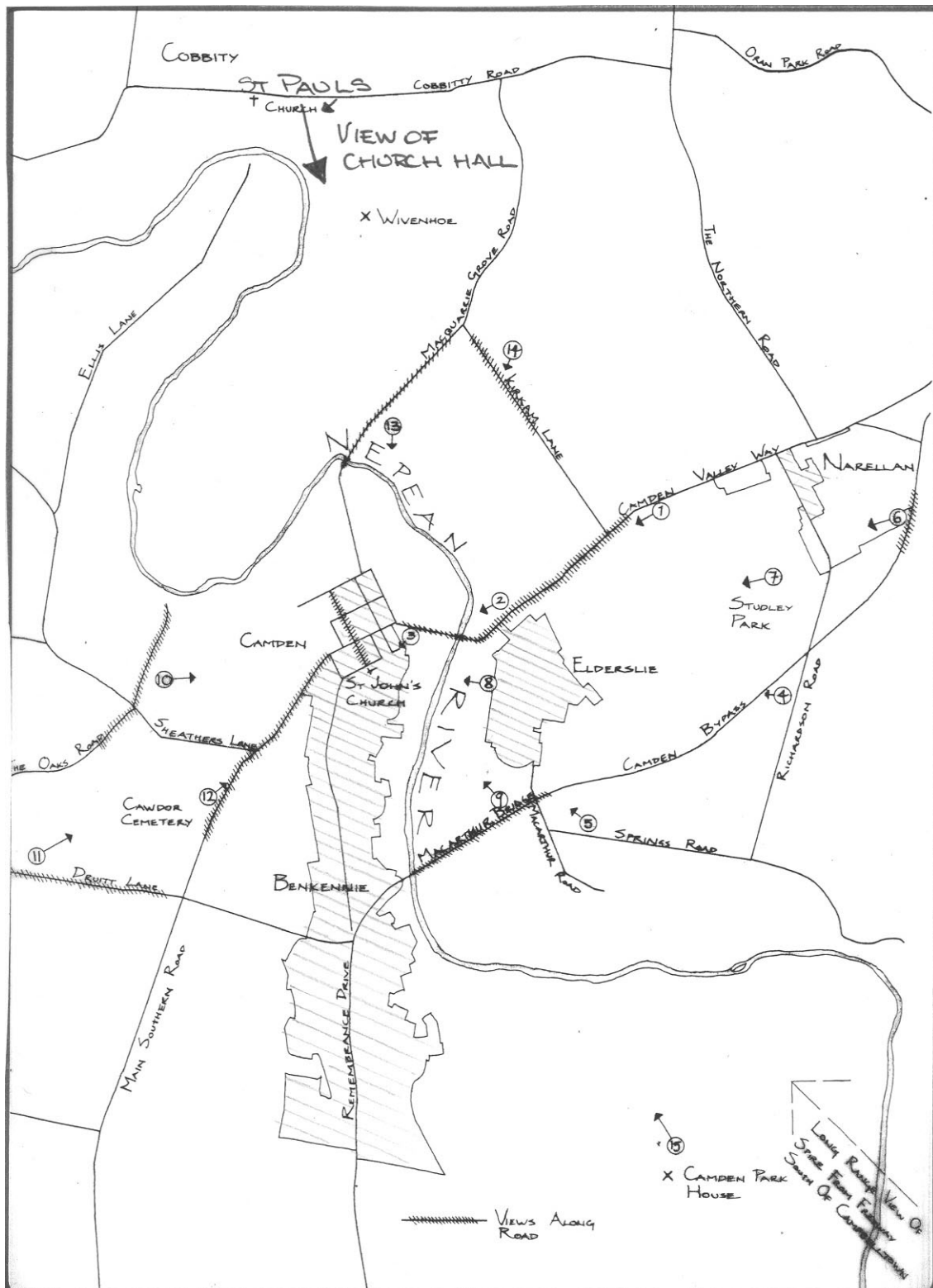


**Legend**

1 – Grant/Purchase (refer to section 3.5.4)

4/7 - Grant/Purchase and Sale (refer to section 3.5.4)

**Figure 3.4:** Description of legal boundary changes

**Legend**

1 – Refer to section 3.7

**Figure 3.5:** Present-day views



## 4. Comparative Analysis

### 4.1 Church Act Churches

St John's, Camden is one of a number of churches built in New South Wales immediately following the *Church Act* of 1836 which aimed to promote 'the building of Churches and Chapels and to provide for the maintenance of Ministers of Religion'.<sup>1</sup> Other examples of Anglican churches contemporary with St John's (ie foundation stone laid between 1836–1845), Camden include:

- **Holy Trinity, Kelso.** Consecrated in **1835**, Predates the *Church Act*. The original portion is brick built in the Gothic style, but many alterations have been made in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- **St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney.** From **1837**. Architect for early work: James Hume.
- **St Stephen's, Penrith.** Brick church in the Gothick style constructed between **1837** and 1839. James Houison is attributed as the architect. The interior was re-designed in 1860. Further alterations were made in 1906, including the rendering of the exterior.
- **St Thomas, Mulgoa.** Consecrated in **1838** to a design by James Chadley, architect. The church is in the Perpendicular Gothic Revival style. Built of stone. Tower added in 1840. Originally had gallery and box pews. The first example of a Gothic Revival style hammer beam roof built in New South Wales. The four-centred windows contain examples of Gothic Perpendicular tracery (see Figure 4.1).
- **St Peter's, East Maitland.** Constructed between **1838** and 1843. Architect: James Hume.
- **St Peter's, Cooks River, now Tempe.** Gothick church, the original portion being completed in **1839** to a design by Thomas Bird. Contemporaries described the church as 'the most beautiful specimen of Gothic Architecture in the colony'. Rebuilt in stages from 1846 (see Figure 4.2).
- **St Mary's Chapel, Denham Court.** A private church completed in **1839** in the Regency Gothick style to a design by John Verge. The church is part of the Denham Court estate and built as a memorial to Captain Richard Brooks by Thomas Bloomfield and Patrick Hill (see Figure 4.3).
- **St Luke's, Scone.** Consecrated in **1840**. Original church was designed by James Hume. Completely rebuilt in 1883 and now demolished.
- **St James', Morpeth.** Foundation stone laid **1837** and consecrated in 1840. The nave was rebuilt in 1871.
- **Holy Trinity, Millers Point.** The original portion constructed between **1840** and 1844 to designs by Henry Ginn, architect. Later completed by Edmund Blacket.
- **St Mary Magdalene, St Mary's.** Consecrated in **1840**. Designed by Francis Clarke.
- **St John the Baptist, Ashfield.** Foundation stone laid in **1840** and consecrated in 1845. A brick church designed by a Mr Williams. Transepts and chancel added in 1874–1875, and choir, vestry and porch in 1885, and tower in 1901–1904 by Edmund Blacket and his sons.
- **St Paul's Cobbitty.** Consecrated by Bishop Broughton in **1842** (see Figure 4.3). Designed by John Verge and John Bibb.

<sup>1</sup> Kerr, J. and J. Broadbent, *Gothick Taste in The Colony of New South Wales*, Sydney, 1980.

**St John the Baptist, Reid, ACT.** Foundation stone laid in **1841** and consecrated in 1845. Gothic style church of three bays in local bluestone. The nave is the earliest section. Early alterations include new tower to replace the original tower the 1860s; chancel and crypt added in 1872; and spire added in 1878 (see Figure 4.2).

- **Christ Church St Laurence, Sydney.** Original portion of nave, chancel and tower base completed in **1842** to a design by Henry Robertson. Designed changed to Gothic Revival in mid-1840s under Edmund Blacket's direction.
- **Christ Church, Kiama.** A wooden church completed in **1843**. Bishop Broughton believed to be the designer. Demolished in 1859.
- **St Mark the Evangelist, Appin.** A sandstone church in the Gothic Revival style completed in **1843**. The church is of three bays, with a small tower.
- **St Thomas', North Sydney.** Consecrated in **1843**, now demolished. A brick church designed by James Hume and Conrad Martens.
- **St Stephen's, Camperdown.** Foundation stone laid in **1844** and consecrated in 1845. Brick church. Open bench pews. Burned down in 1938.
- **St Luke's, Dapto.** Brick church probably designed by Bishop Broughton consecrated in **1844**. Now used as a hall.
- **St Mary's, Allynbrook.** Stone church designed by Bishop Broughton and consecrated in **1845**.
- **Christ Church, Bong Bong.** Brick structure, completed in **1845** to a design by John Verge.

St John's Church is one of the earliest of the churches built following the *Church Act* of 1836, and is one of the four main early Gothic Revival churches in New South Wales, the others being St Thomas', Mulgoa; St Peter's, Cook's River; and St Stephen's, Penrith.

St John's, however, represents the vanguard of archaeologically correct Gothic style in NSW. Its contemporaries are the Georgian preaching box style (St Peter's, Richmond; St Stephen's, Penrith) and the fragile attempts at Gothic at St Peter's, Cooks River, and St Mary Magdalene's, St Mary's. St John's belongs to the subsequent movement to revive an archaeologically correct Gothic style.

Each of its principal elements were conceived to carry this Victorian spirit of the Gothic revival. The location of the pulpit, prayer desk in the east end and table in the chancel, sets the church apart from the earlier centralised plans. The hammer beam roof trusses with their carved tracery and the stone tracery of the mullioned windows ambitiously reproduce the English decorated style. The spire, with its engaged buttresses, correct mouldings and finial belong to the new Victorian Gothic revival. The building was intended to be faced with render, but survives as a brick building. Although not intended, this finishing imparts a rustic character which, to the modern eye, intensifies its romantic qualities.

The building is of superior quality. The standard of craftsmanship in its fittings, in particular the font communion rail, its windows and the enormous stone flagged floor to the nave, are particularly fine and rare examples.

The church precinct is rare in New South Wales as a complete ensemble. The church building is complete with tower, spire, clock, stained glass and all its furniture. Its relationship to the town and landscape are deliberate. It possesses an equally well-treated, though not grand,

rectory, graveyard and originally had a church school. It can be said to be one of the most complete church groups achieved in New South Wales in the nineteenth century. Equivalent groups are rare and can be found at St Peter's, Richmond; St Matthew's, Windsor; and St Paul's, Cobbitty.

St John's Camden is the first 'correct' Gothic Revival church in New South Wales. Bishop Broughton considered St John's one of the most handsome in his See, built *in a correct style of Decorated Architecture ... and even in its unfinished state forming a most striking feature in the landscape*.<sup>2</sup> It is the intended picturesque focus of the Camden Region, and one of the most complete parish church groups in New South Wales.

#### 4.2 Setting in the Landscape

Even before its completion, St John's Camden was acclaimed for its picturesque landscape qualities. Because the Macarthur family was directly responsible for laying out the town of Camden and gave particular attention to the church, St John's was created to be the picturesque focus of a great landscape domain. It was positioned at the apex of important vistas and to be the pinnacle of the town.

The most important vista is the direct view between the church and its principal benefactors' house. From the front lawn of Camden Park House, the church is neatly arranged to be visible at the apex of the town. In Australia this arrangement is rarely achieved with such success. A similar, though lesser, example exists in the relationship between Hobartville and St Peter's, Richmond.

The church has an extraordinary command of the landscape. St John's occupies the high ground of the district at large and can be seen commanding that district from all the major roads, high points and several major estate houses of the region. Of particular note is the view from Wivenhoe, the house of Charles Cowper who was fellow trustee of the church with James and William Macarthur.

Its broad place in the landscape was a virtue praised from the outset. Paul Cockney in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1844 described it as '*a very striking object as you proceed along the road that most graceful object a neat spire catches the eye in a variety of views through the foliage*' and in the *Sydney Guardian* "*it's graceful and really well proportioned spire presents a cheering object to the up country traveller, as it breaks the dull outline of bush hill carrying the mind back to scenes well remembered and deeply loved by all English hearted folk*'.<sup>3</sup>

It is not too much to say that St John's relationship to its landscape is all encompassing, and St John's is the focus of the great picturesque character of the region as a whole.

The church was also laid out to dominate the town of Camden. The well-known view of the church looking up from the main street of the town is just as intentional a relationship as that to the broad landscape: the church dominates the town. These two aspects were the ideal in town and church sitings in the nineteenth century in New South Wales. In pursuit of this, spires were conceived and, if actually built, to achieve a great prominence for their churches

<sup>2</sup> Quoted in *The Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist, Camden, N.S.W.*, October, 1999

<sup>3</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16/5/1844, p.2

in the broad landscape. There are many similar examples, but few as complete as Camden, such as:

- **St Mary's, West Maitland** is visible from but does not command the broad landscape of that lower Hunter city.
- **St Paul's, Carcoar** is a smaller example of a church and tower nestled in the countryside.
- **St Mary's, Mudgee** is not dominant but the spire is the focus of the town within a very broad landscape.

For a commanding relationship to a township equal would be the Christ Church cathedral at Newcastle.

#### 4.3 Association with the Macarthur family

The association of St John's, Camden with the pioneer Macarthur family is a particularly long and strong one originating with the idea for the church in the late 1830s by James and William Macarthur continuing through to Mrs Elizabeth Macarthur-Onslow, although from the end of the century Century St James' Church Menangle church took precedence with the family.

Other examples of this historical associations between pioneer landowning families and the local parish (Anglican) church include:

- **St John the Baptist**, now within the Canberra suburb of Reid, but originally built in 1842 to serve the local population of Duntroon and neighbouring settlers. The church was built by Robert Campbell of Duntroon, who contributed half the cost of £2000 of its construction. The family maintained a close relationship with the church. The nave for example was extended in 1872 with funds provided by George Campbell. In 1850 it was created an independent parish and a permanent rector was appointed (see Figure 4.2).
- **Christ Church, Bong Bong**, completed in 1845 to a design by John Verge, is situated on land given by Charles Throsby. The church is situated within the dedicated area of Bong Bong (founded in 1821).
- **St Thomas', Mulgoa**. The foundation stone was laid in 1836, and the church consecrated in September 1838. The church was closely associated with the Cox family; Edward Cox gave 10 acres for the church, and a further 40 acres was given by George Cox for the rectory (see Figure 4.1).
- **St Mary Magdalene's, St Mary's**. Consecrated in 1840, the church was closely associated with the King, Marsden and Lethbridge families.

#### 4.4 Organ

The Bates and Son pipe organ was installed in 1861 and is the only extant example in New South Wales.

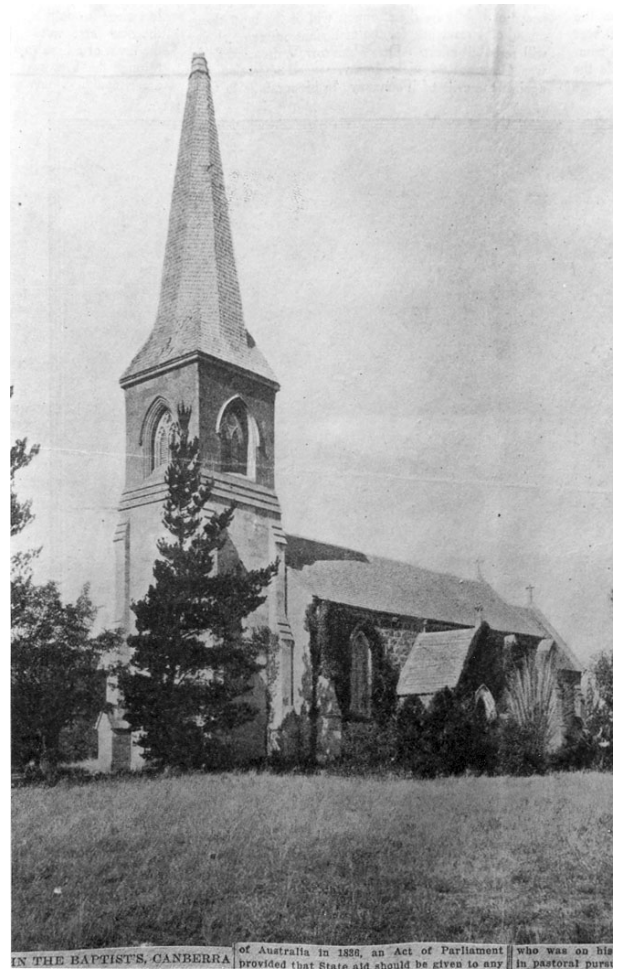


**Figure 4.1:** Comparative Analysis

**Upper:** St Thomas' Church, Mulgoa

**Lower:** St Stephen's Church, Penrith

Source: Gledhill Collection. Moore Theological College Library, Sydney



IN THE BAPTIST'S, CANBERRA of Australia in 1889, an Act of Parliament who was on his provided that State aid should be given to any in pastoral pur

**Figure 4.2:** Comparative Analysis

**Upper:** St John's Church, Canberra

**Lower:** St Peter's Church, Cooks River

Source: Gledhill Collection. Moore Theological College Library, Sydney



**Figure 4.3:** Comparative Analysis

**Upper:** St Paul's Church, Cobbity

**Lower:** St Mary's Church, Denham Court

Source: Gledhill Collection. Moore Theological College Library, Sydney

## **5. Assessment of Significance**

The assessment of the significance of a place requires an evaluation of the fabric, uses, associations and meanings relating to the place, leading to a detailed statement of significance.

The following assessment of significance has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines set out in the NSW Heritage Office and NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning publication, *Heritage Assessments* (1996, amended August 2000).

### **State Historical Themes**

Guidelines from the NSW Heritage Office emphasise the role of history in the heritage assessment process. Local historical themes are usually identified within local heritage studies and a list of state historical themes have been developed by the NSW Heritage Council. These themes assist in determining comparative significance and prevent one value taking precedence over others. For example, themes such as *events*, *industry*, *social institutions* and *welfare* can highlight important historical and social values which may be of equal or greater significance than an item's aesthetic or research potential.

NSW heritage assessment criteria, as set out in *Heritage Assessments* encompasses the four types of significance but expresses them in more detailed form according to the following criteria:

- Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or in local area).
- Criterion (d) An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- Criterion (e) An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).



- Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places or environments).

The NSW Heritage Office recommends that all criteria be referred to when assessing an item's significance, even though only complex items will be significant under all criteria.

The NSW Heritage Office also recommends that items be compared with similar items of local and/or State significance in order to fully assess their heritage significance.

The assessment also takes into consideration any previous assessments of significance.

### 5.1 Existing Assessments

The Historic Building Committee of **National Trust of Australia** (NSW) has classified St John's, Camden individually, as part of a group, and as part of the St John's Hill and John Street Conservation Area.

Their reasons for these listings are as follows:

- ◆ (St John's Hill and John Street Conservation Area) *The St John The Evangelist Anglican Church, 1841 designed by Mortimer Lewis, is called by Morton Herman "perhaps the finest single example of the early Gothic Revival in Australia", and it is superbly sited for near and distant appreciation. With only a few distractions, that siting is still effectively as it first was, and one reason for the classification is provide a lasting context for that important building. In any case it is a townscape area of unusual kind, with the large hilltop site of rural character approached by way of climbing streets closely built in the manner of a well developed country town. The combination and the total effect are most worthy of preservation. Classified May 1978.*
- ◆ (St John's Church Group) *A fine group of early ecclesiastical buildings set within a particularly appropriate rural landscaped environment. The spire and tower of the church is an exceptionally fine architectural statement that even today manages to provide the dominant element for miles around. The view of Camden from Narellan is particularly important where the full impact of St John's setting in relationship to the town can be fully appreciated. Classified June 1975.*
- ◆ (St John's Church) *The design of the church is of unusual professional competence for its date and the siting of the building is of great importance to both the town and the surrounding countryside. Notable features are the large central west tower (70' high) with multiple stepped angle buttresses which do not terminate in the customary "Church arch" pinnacles but just stop when they reach the top of the tower, which is then topped with a striking (57' high) plastered brick needle spire; an unusual and early cusped hammer-beam roof; and archaeologically correct decorated Gothic stone tracery to the windows (completed by 1843 and the earliest example in NSW), some of which still contain their unique original glass with tiny stained glass diamonds – all especially ordered in 1846 by James Macarthur who had sent zinc templates of the required size to England. Classified June 1975.*

- ◆ (St John's Rectory and Stables) *A simple yet elegant late Georgian Parish Rectory and stables that is a fitting neighbour to St John's Church and which serves to retain the 19<sup>th</sup> century atmosphere of the Church Precinct.* Classified June 1975.

The **Australian Heritage Commission** has registered St John's, Camden individually, as part of a group, and as part of the St John's Hill and John Street Conservation Area on the Register of the National Estate.

The statements of significance are:

- ◆ (St John's Church) *Built 1841-1849 primarily through the patronage of the Macarthur family. The Australian, 3 June 1841, says Mortimer Lewis architect, but Macarthur papers suggest that James Hume drew up the ground plan in 1837. Church is of unusual professional competence for its date and site of the building is great importance to both the town and surrounding countryside. Unique original glass, ordered by James Macarthur in 1846. Archaeologically correct tracery. Earliest Gothic example in New South Wales.*
- ◆ (St John's Church Group) *A fine group of early ecclesiastical buildings set within a particularly appropriate rural landscaped environment. The spire and tower of the Church is an exceptionally fine architectural statement that even today manages to provide the dominant element for miles around. Some of the graves pre-date the Church and many early settlers are buried in the cemetery. Built through the patronage of the Macarthur family.*
- ◆ (St John's Hill and John Street Conservation Area) *St John's Church is one of the finest examples of early Gothic Revival in Australia, superbly sited for near and distant appreciation, virtually as it was when erected. It has an unusual character with a hilltop site of rural character approached by way of climbing streets closely built in the manner of a well developed country town, the combination is worthy of preservation.*

(The Australian Heritage Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the commission.)

The **Macarthur Regional Heritage Study** area was undertaken in 1993 by JRC Planning Services. St John's, Camden is included in this study, with inventory entries for the church, church hall, grassed slopes, lych gate, Masonic Temple, rectory and stables, rectory garden and trees, St John's hill and cemetery. No statement of significance is given.

The **Camden and Narellan Town Centre Heritage Analysis and Development Guidelines** report was undertaken by Travis Partners in 1990 for Camden Municipal Council. The aim of this report was to identify and analyse the environmental heritage of Camden and Narellan town centres, and to make practical recommendations for the conservation and management of these areas. The St John's Church Group was identified as one of the major components which gave a sense of identity to Camden with its 'hilltop site and associated buildings (hall, manse {[sic] rectory}), cemetery, landscaping and open space' with the following characteristics:

*Ability to demonstrate early architectural style and building techniques, religious and customs, social philosophy (re: role/importance of church to community). Associations with the Macarthurs, architect Mortimer Lewis, Bishop Broughton and those of local prominence buried in churchyard.*

*Formal architectural and aesthetic significance of church and manse ([sic] rectory) widely acknowledged; also aesthetic/visual importance of views to and from church (both from within and outside town), dramatic topographical feature of spur ridge and picturesqueness of cemetery layout and associated open space.*

*Group as a whole is an early, particular fine and remarkably intact complex; high significance of individual components enhanced by relationships within group; significance local, state and national.*

## **5.2 Heritage Assessment of St. John's Anglican Church Precinct**

- Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

The church precinct is a key element in the historical development of the Camden region. Its location at the apex of the town, which was laid out around it, signifies in part the importance of the institution in the original developments of the township. Here were sited the important institutions in the township, its church, denominational school and first cemetery. The church building was also the first major building erected in the township.

The church precinct has associations with many prominent historical figures that were central to the development of New South Wales, such as the Macarthur Family, George Macleay and Bishop Broughton. The role of the Macarthur Family and George Macleay can be singularly identified with the political, social and in the case of the Macarthur Family agricultural development of New South Wales up to the 1840s. Similarly Bishop Broughton, the first bishop of Australasia and of Sydney is a key figure in the development of the Anglican Church in Australia.

The church building is one of the most conspicuous developments arising from the *Church Act* of 1836 which was itself a major development on the ordering of denominations with the state funding of stipends and church construction in the 1830s and 1840s.

The cemetery and church building contain memorials and graves to many benefactors and members of Camden township and district. It contains graves of some of the earliest burials in the district. It records and is evidence of the historical development of the people of the district of the 1830s to the present day.

Level of Significance		
	Rare	Representative
Local	✓	
State	✓	
National	✓	

- Criterion (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or in local area).

The church precinct inclusive of individual components in the grounds, is a rare example a nineteenth-century church which in its relationship to the landscape is all encompassing, making St John's the focus of the great picturesque character in the region as a whole, and one of the most complete parish church groups in New South Wales.

The church was built between 1840 and 1849, and with the addition of chancel and vestry, was completed in 1874. It is the first major example of an archaeologically correct Gothic Revival church in Australia.

The rarity of the church building also lies in its completeness with tower and spire, clock and bells, stained glass, organ and all its furniture. The standard of craftsmanship of the church's construction and fittings is of a consistently superior standard for their day.

The rectory completed in 1859 is a rare example of a mid-Victorian rectory building designed with strict Georgian symmetry and discipline, and finished equally with the church in its high standard of construction and fittings.

Level of Significance		
	Rare	Representative
Local	✓	
State	✓	
National	✓	

- Criterion (d) An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

The church precinct as a development of the Anglican Church is associated historically to the present with the Anglican Communion of the Camden region. It shares in common with all places of worship and burial particular association with the spiritual and social identity of that communion. This is particularly shown in the liturgical layout as originally designed and also changed over time which relates to the liturgies in use from one period to the next. Churches are often held up as representing community values. In this case they can be pointed at

through the listing of the church by all the major listing bodies since the 1970s. The precinct is held in high esteem.

- Criterion (e) An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- The built fabric of the church retains many elements of original and early construction, which is a unique repository for future study of nineteenth-century technologies and artisan's crafts.
- The grounds contain numerous mature exotic and native tree species which provide a veritable botanic garden in their range and rarity.
- The grounds contain evidence of past modifications to the landscape which are of high archaeological value in their potential to reveal aspects of the early European history of the region.

Level of Significance		
	Rare	Representative
Local	✓	
State	✓	
National	✓	

### 5.3 State Heritage Register

For an item to be placed on the State Heritage Register it has to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history;*
- an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history;*
- an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree or technical achievement in N.S.W.;*
- an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*
- an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history;*
- an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history;*
- an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's – cultural or natural places; or*

– *cultural or natural environments*

*An item is not to be excluded from the Register on the ground that items with similar characteristics have already been listed on the Register.*

The assessment of significance has found that the Place qualifies for this inclusion on the State Heritage Register in terms of the following criteria:

- (a) In consideration of the strong associations with the Church Act of 1836.
- (b) In consideration of the strong associations with the Macarthur family and Bishop Broughton.
- (c) As the finest and earliest example of archaeologically correct Gothic architecture in Australia, consciously and dramatically set within the landscape.
- (d) In consideration of the associations with the development of the Anglican Church in New South Wales.
- (e) In consideration of the strong of the unique repository of nineteenth century technologies.
- (g) As a complete ensemble of church with parish halls, cemetery, landscaped grounds, and rectory.

## **6. Statement of Significance**

Completed in 1849, St John the Evangelist's Anglican Church, Camden is a major edifice in the history of Australian architecture.

It is the first 'archaeologically correct' Gothic Revival church built in this country.

The church, with its tower and spire, is a landscape monument in the rural lands and town of Camden. It is also a monument to the pioneering pastoral Macarthur family who built it, and has become an icon in consideration of these values.

The church is set within a fine group of other ecclesiastical buildings that includes the rectory (1859) and church hall (1906), together with the cemetery in a rural landscaped environment resplendent in native and exotic mature trees, fence lines, paths and memorials. The church continues to serve the local Anglican community as it has done for over 150 years.

**St John's Anglican Church, Camden Precinct is of national significance.**

### **6.1 Grades of Significance**

The components of the place can be ranked in accordance with their relative significance as a tool to planning.

*Heritage Assessments* (NSW Heritage Office, 1996, amended August 2000) identifies the following grades of significance:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Status</b>
Exceptional	Rare or outstanding item of local or state significance. High degree of intactness. Item can be interpreted relatively easily.	Fulfils criteria for local or state listing.
High	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	Fulfils criteria for local or state listing.
Moderate	Altered or modified elements. Contains elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item.	Fulfils criteria for local or state listing.
Little	Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret.	Does not fulfil criteria for local or state listing.
Intrusive	Damaging to the item's heritage significance	Does not fulfil criteria for local or state listing.

### **Grades of Significance for Components of St. John's Camden**

#### **Exceptional**

- Church Building including clock, bells, pews, pulpit, font, communion table, prayer desk, choir stalls, lectern, communion rail, pair of president's chairs, pipe organ and organ gallery
- Rectory and stable
- Cemetery
- Setting of Church
- View to and from Camden Park House
- Pair of *Jubaca chilensis* palms and Bunya Pine in Rectory garden

- Views to and from Church to Rectory
- Views to the church as identified in Figure 3.5

### **High**

- Evidence of Early Road
- Mature trees around Church
- Evidence of Early Path
- Remains of early fences
- Sundial
- 1906 Church Hall
- Open Horse Paddock
- Lych Gate
- Memorial Tablets
- Memorial Windows

### **Moderate**

- 1973 Church Hall
- Flag Pole
- Columbarium

### **Little**

- Recent carparking surface and bollards
- Volcanic scoria around church
- Modern internal and external paint finishes
- Modern stair case in church



## **7. Constraints and Opportunities**

### **7.1 Introduction**

This section outlines the various major issues involved in the preparation of the conservation guidelines for St John's, Camden (the Place). It takes into consideration matters arising from the statement of significance, procedural constraints imposed by cultural conservation methodology such as that of the Australia ICOMOS 'Burra Charter', constraints imposed by the listing of the Place by authorities such as the National Trust of Australia, constraints imposed by the listing of the Place by statutory authorities, and the requirements of the owner and diocese.

Not all of these issues however will necessarily be achievable in conservation guidelines when other matters such as finance, parish and community requirements, etc. are taken into consideration.

### **7.2 Procedural Constraints Arising from Statement of Significance**

The Place is of outstanding cultural significance, and works should be carried out in accordance with a recognised cultural conservation methodology such as that of the Australia ICOMOS 'Burra Charter'. The following procedures are recommended.

- The legal boundaries of the Place should be defined by the existing allotments which contain the church, cemetery, parish halls, rectory and grounds. (Article 1, Burra Charter)
- The setting of the Place should be defined by the visual catchment of the spire within the surrounding landscape, and views to and from the Place within this setting should be retained and conserved. (Article 2, Burra Charter)
- All fabric of the Place introduced up to the present should be defined as significant fabric in consideration of the historic associations with the ongoing use of the Place as a church. The maximum amount of significant fabric should be preserved and conserved. (Article 2, Burra Charter)
- Works to the fabric should be planned and implemented taking into account the relative significance of the elements of the Place. Unavoidable intervention should be carried out on elements of lesser significance in preference to those of higher significance. Alterations to interior spaces, such as removal of original finishes, partitioning or construction of new openings and installation of new services should be carried out in spaces of lesser significance in preference to those of higher significance. (Article 3, Burra Charter)
- Should the preservation of all of the significant fabric of the Place not be achievable, works should involve the preservation and conservation of, at least, representative samples of elements that are to be removed. (Article 5, Burra Charter)
- Uses should, if possible, be related to the cultural significance rather than uses that do not take advantage of the interpretative potential of the Place. (Article 7, Burra Charter)
- The past and present uses of the Place should be interpreted through maintenance, selective restoration and reconstruction, introduced signs, and published histories. (Article 15, Burra Charter)

- The use of the Place should be organised to minimise the removal or concealment of significant fabric due to statutory requirements including the need for new services, provision of fire egress and access for disabled people. (Article 21, Burra Charter)
- All alterations and adaptations of the significant fabric should be clearly identified by means of introduced interpretative devices or by method of style of construction, as new work. (Article 22, Burra Charter)
- Work should be carried out by personnel experienced in conservation, both professional disciplines, and building and engineering trades. (Article 26, Burra Charter)
- Appropriate recording and documentation procedures, in accordance with the Australia ICOMOS 'Burra Charter' should be carried out before any works. (Article 26, Burra Charter)
- The Place should continue to be managed by the Parish Council, and their future decisions in regard to managing the cultural heritage of the Place should be determined by any specific conservation guidelines. Such guidelines should be formulated in accordance with the *Guidelines to the 'Burra Charter' - Conservation Policy* and should be adopted and implemented. (Article 26, Burra Charter)

### 7.3 Statutory Heritage Constraints

#### 7.3.1 New South Wales Heritage Office

The *Heritage Act 1977* (amended) is an Act to conserve the environmental heritage of New South Wales. The Act established the Heritage Council of NSW, and recently the State Heritage Register.

The Heritage Council, which provides advice and recommendations to the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, is the consent authority for items considered of State significance. Section 4 of the Act defines State heritage significance as being:

*.. relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to the State in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, natural or aesthetic value of the item.*

Section 22 of the Act requires the Heritage Council to keep, in addition to the State Heritage Register, a register of the following:

- *items and land that are the subject of interim heritage orders,*
- *orders made under this Act,*
- *notices served under this Act,*
- *heritage agreements entered into under this Act*

As at the date of this report the place is not included on the register.

The following items are included on the State Heritage Inventory under the registrations:

- ◆ St John the Evangelist Anglican Church Group
- ◆ St John's Rectory, stables, gates, cemetery etc.

◆ St John's Hill Conservation Area.

The State Heritage Inventory is a database of heritage items identified on statutory lists in New South Wales. In this instance the statutory listing appears to be Camden Local Environmental Plan No. 45 (see section 7.3.4).

This Act also provides for statutory protection for archaeological relics, which are defined in, section 4 as:

*any deposit, object or material evidence:*

*(a) which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement;*

*(b) which is 50 or more years old.*

Sections 139–146 of the Act effectively prevent excavation or disturbance of land for the purposes of discovering, exposing or moving a relic, except with prior approval of the Heritage Council of NSW through an excavation permit.

The Heritage Office has made a detailed response to the draft conservation plan of November 2000 by their letter of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2002 (This is attached in Appendix 8). The contents of their response has been incorporated into this document, in particular into the discussion of development on the horse paddock, graded significance of components and archaeological potential assessment.

### 7.3.4 Camden Council

The local government area for St John's, Camden is Camden Council. Advice received from this council indicates that St John's is included on Camden Local Environmental Plan (LEP) No. 45 (gazetted 13 January 1989) and LEP No. 98 - Heritage (gazetted 11 September 1998). LEP No. 98 is an amendment of LEP 45.

St John's is included in LEP No. 45 - Schedule 1 - Heritage Items, under the following registrations:

- St Johns Hill Heritage Conservation Area
- St Johns the Evangelist Anglican Church
- St John's Rectory and stables, lych gates and grassed slopes and Anglican cemetery

The aims and objectives of the LEP No. 98 are to conserve the environmental heritage of the local government of Camden by way of:

integrating heritage conservation into the planning and development control process; and providing for public involvement in the conservation of environmental heritage; and

requiring the assessment of development with regard to the principle that any development should not adversely affect the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas and their settings; and

providing consistency among Camden Council's principal local environmental plans in relation to heritage conservation.

The provisions of section 17 require Council consent for development of a heritage item where the following is proposed:

- Demolition.
- External and internal structural alterations.
- Excavation of land for the purpose of exposing or moving a relic.
- Erecting a new building.
- Subdivision of land.
- Non-structural changes to the appearance of the exterior.
- Damaging trees.

Council consent for development is also required for the erection of a new building within the St John's Hill Heritage Conservation Area (as amended).

Section 19 of the LEP requires Council to notify the Heritage Council where development consent involves the demolishing, defacing or damaging of a heritage item.

LEP 98 through section 20B also provides for protection of potential or known Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal archaeological sites through the need for assessments, notification of the Heritage Council or Director-General of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and compliance with the relic provisions of the Heritage Act 1977 (as Amended).

### 7.3.5 National Parks and Wildlife

The *National Parks and Wildlife Service Act 1974* (as amended) provides for statutory protection and preservation of Aboriginal relics in New South Wales.

This Act defines a relic as;

*any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to indigenous and non-European habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation both prior to and concurrent with the occupation of that area by persons of European extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.*

Sections 86–87 of the Act effectively prevent excavation or disturbance of land for the purposes of discovering, exposing or moving a relic, except with prior approval of the Director-General through a permit.

## 7.4 Non-Statutory Heritage Constraints

### 7.4.1 Australian Heritage Commission

St John's is included on the Register of the National Estate under the following registrations:

- St John the Evangelist Anglican Church Group
- St John's Rectory, stables, gates, cemetery, etc.
- St John's Hill Conservation Area.

A place is included in the Register where:

*being components of the natural environment of Australia, or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social*

*significance or other special value for future generations, as well as for the present community.*

Inclusion of a place in the Register (and this includes the Interim List of the Register) imposes obligations on Commonwealth Government authorities only under Section 30 of the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*. Commonwealth ministers, departments and authorities are required not to take any action, which would adversely affect a place in the Register, unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative. If there is no such alternative, then all reasonable measures must be taken to minimise any adverse effects.

Commonwealth ministers, departments and authorities are also required to inform the Australian Heritage Commission of any proposed Commonwealth action, which might significantly affect a place in the Register. The Commission must be given a reasonable opportunity to consider and comment on the proposed action.

Listing of a place in the Register does not give the Commonwealth Government any rights to manage, acquire or enter private property. Nor does it provide any direct legal constraints or controls over actions of state or local government, or of private owners.

Listing of a place does not mean that an owner is required to alter the way in which the property is managed or disposed of. Nor does it mean that owners are required to give public right of entry to listed places on private property.

#### **7.4.2 National Trust of Australia**

St John's is included on the Register of the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) under the following registrations:

- St John's Anglican Church Group
- St John the Evangelist Anglican Church.
- St John's Rectory, stables
- St John's grassed slopes and cemetery.

The register lists those buildings, sites, items, and areas which, in the Trust's opinion, fall within the following places:

*which are components of the natural or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historical, architectural, archaeological, scientific, or social significance, or other special value for future generations, as well as for the present community*

Inclusion of a place in the Register does not have any legal effect, but it is widely recognised as an authoritative statement on the significance of the place.

The purpose of the Register is to alert responsible authorities, property owners and the public so that those concerned may adopt measures to preserve the special qualities that prompted the listing.

When the significance of a place is under threat, the Trust will take whatever action is deemed appropriate to ensure its protection, including giving advice to the property owner and seeking the use of the state heritage act or the planning powers of the local government authority. For

the purposes of such action, the Trust makes no differentiation between classified and recorded listings in its Register.

### 7.5 Council Zoning

St John's is wholly zoned 3(e) Town Centre under the provisions of Camden LEP 45, gazetted 13 January 1989. The objectives of this zone are:

- a) *To encourage office, retail and service development appropriate to the town centre's status and sub-regional functions;*
- b) *To maintain and enhance the historic character of Argyle, Hill and John Streets in the town centre;*
- c) *To ensure that development is arranged and carried out in a way that maximises convenience and comfort for pedestrians; and*
- d) *To accommodate other development which complements or supports the primary office and retail functions of the zone.*
- e) *To permit development which adds to the vitality and diversity of the commercial centre while not prejudicing its principal function.*

### 7.6 Camden and Narellan Town Centres Study

The *Camden and Narellan Town Centre Heritage Analysis and Development Guidelines* were prepared by Travis Partners in 1990 for Camden Municipal Council. This report prepared a conservation policy and implementation strategy for the town centre including particular references to St John's Church as follows:

*4.5.2 (iii) .. the whole of the hilltop site and associated buildings, cemetery and landscaping should be preserved. Works to this site should also be subject to appropriate controls to ensure maintenance of heritage significance. A Conservation Plan (or equivalent document) demonstrating an appropriate understanding of the site's significance and the consequences of any proposed works is generally recommended before intervention in the site.*

*The visually prominent, and symbolically commanding, role of the Church on its projecting spur should also be preserved in major views both from within and outside the town centre, i.e. appropriate safeguards should be available to control the height and/visual obtrusiveness of any development impinging significantly on major views of the church.*

The study identifies the following particular vistas (section 5.4):

- *view of St John's Church from Macquarie Grove Road*
- *view to St John's from Argyle Street*
- *view to St John's from Camden Road*
- *nineteenth century buildings and landscape precinct surrounding the church and forming an important setting for St John's*
- *strong axial relationship of the free-standing historic buildings and tree planting of John Street*

- *rural vista from town centre down John Street.*

### 7.7 Easements

The available land titles (the church as described in Bk. V, No.938 has no up-to-date survey) notes no encumbrances in the form of easements.

### 7.8 Land Title

The current land title to the area comprising the church, hall and cemetery is Bk. V, No.938 (Old System). Given the sale in 1906 of some 1 acre 11 3/4 perches of the endowment of May 1841 of 5 acres 3 roods and 24 perches, and non-issue of new title at the time, this title would appear to be defective.

### 7.9 Position and Requirements of Parish Council

Throughout the writing of this report consultations have been held with the parish to understand their requirements for the place in the context of the parish at large, including the other churches in the parish. The consultation occurred through

- the initial briefing with the project officer, Ross Newport on 15th October, 1999.
- detailed briefing with the former warden and historian of the church, Peter Hayward on 14th January, 2000.
- a written approach to the parish council and wardens and their detailed reply in writing of 21st February, 2000.

After the drawing up of draft policies the plan was referred to the parish council on 10th August, 2000. A further meeting was held with the rector, the Archdeacon of Wollongong and wardens to discuss the guidelines in detail on 25th August, 2000.

The principle parish requirements were communicated in their response of 21st February, 2000. They were cast in the following short to medium-terms needs of the parish for the place, as follows:

The short term needs of the Camden Anglican Parish include the following:

- Enlarging the existing church hall (constructed 1972) on Broughton Street at John Street, or building entirely new premises. In either case, the desired outcome is to have a hall that is capable of accommodating 600 persons and is flexible in allowing for multiple functions, and ancillary uses.
- Retaining the old hall (constructed 1906) on Broughton Street at Hill Street, but changing the uses of the premises to commercial shop/office type uses to tap the potential commercial opportunities presented here.
- Retaining the Rectory on Menangle Road, but examine changing its use to, for example, commercial offices or childcare.
- Developing the Rectory horse paddock by building for either Parish or commercial use.
- Constructing two new residential premises within the precinct for Ministers.

A further examination of the development potential of the horse paddock has been made as part of this review. This included a survey of levels on the horse paddock.

In addition, the Camden Anglican Parish has a number of other properties which, while they do not form part of St John's precinct, they present ongoing responsibilities that may influence future decisions taken about the precinct. These properties include:

- Forrest Crescent, Camden – residence for minister.
- Sulman Place, Menangle – new residence for minister.
- St Jerome's Church / Hall at Cawdor Road, Cawdor; leased to NSW Department of Education and Training.
- Other operating churches within the parish situated at Menangle (St James), Mt Hunter (St Paul's), and Werombi (St Barnabas).

The review of these properties for the parish are cast as medium-term needs. They involve major re-organisation of church plant to support the ministry of the parish.

The principal concept of the vision contained in these requirements is to make the St John's site capable of housing large meetings of the types required by a modern parish, in particular the meeting hall, and sufficient parking for cars on the site to support it as the major venue for the parish. The implication of these needs is discussed further in Section 8, Development of Conservation Policy, 8.8, Development and New Buildings.

#### **7.10 Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney Architectural Guidelines**

The Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney has prepared architectural guidelines to assist parishes in planning and implementing building projects. The guidelines set out particular requirements for church buildings and rectories. They provide the minimum and basic requirements upon which a brief should be developed for building projects undertaken by the parish.

#### **7.11 Position of Camden Council**

Consultation was made with Camden Council by means of discussions at the time of commencement with Council's Heritage Officer, Don Truman and formal written response from the Council to the draft report on 12th March, 2001. A copy of Council's response is provided as Appendix 7. Council's principle comments have been taken up in the discussion found in Section 8.8 on development of the place and in the revision of Section 7.9.



## **8. Development of Conservation Policy**

### **8.1 Introduction**

In consideration of the significance of St John's, Camden, the constraints placed upon it by heritage regulations, use and the opportunities for development these policies are proposed. A discussion is enclosed before each policy is given.

### **8.2 Definition of the Place and Legal Curtilage**

Define the place and its legal curtilage as all that fabric, built and natural, and interconnecting space and relationships within the existing title boundaries of the church. Although the church has previously possessed greater land, for practical conservation the place should be defined by its existing legal boundary. This also is the area that should be listed, on the register of the NSW Heritage Office.

- *Policy 1 - Define the place and its legal curtilage as all the fabric within the existing year 2000 boundary allotment.*

### **8.3 Setting**

As shown in the analysis of views to the place, St John's Camden has a setting which is historically important and to which it visually relates. Whilst specific views have been identified, all lands within a radius of 5km of Camden is a regionally significant landscape to which St John's relates. Within this radius there are many public and quasi-public lands. Development on these lands should be mindful of the strong historical picturesque quality of the landscape. Authorities should control development within the setting so as to preserve the visual relationship with the place.

- *Policy 2 - Define the setting of the church as all lands within a 5km radius of the church*

### **8.4 St John's Church Building**

#### **8.4.1 Use**

St John's continues in its purpose built historic use unbroken since the 1840's. Many churches share this otherwise rare quality of an unbroken line of use since construction in contrast to other public buildings such as post offices, banks and even schools. The church building should continue to be used for public worship, the style of which may change. Provided that the basic spatial use of the interior is preserved, the existing entrance doors maintained, and an eastward facing form of pattern of worship continued, minor changes that support worship should not be prevented.

- *Policy 3 – Continue to use St John's as the prime place of Anglican Worship in Camden.*

#### **8.4.2 Fabric**

St John's is the first archaeologically correct Gothic Revival church in Australia and among the finest colonial parish churches in Australia. Because of this architectural significance, all the original and originally designed fabric of the church should be conserved. This extends to the additions made in 1874 to enlarge the chancel and the addition of the vestry. It also includes faithful reconstructions or replacements of fabric that have been made right up to the present time (such as reinstating the missing cross, re-rendering of the spire, replacing the copings and replacing the render detail to the exterior).

- *Policy 4 - Preserve all original, originally designed early alterations and reconstructed fabric of the church.*

St John's is, historically, one of the most important churches in New South Wales, with a long and important association with the Macarthur family, George Macleay and Bishop Broughton. It has been a place of worship for Anglicans in the Camden district since the 1840s. A great deal of this historic, social and spiritual significance rests in the fabric of the church, its spaces and layout. For this reason fabric directly associated with the Macarthur family, George Macleay and Bishop Broughton, the commemoration of parish people and important events should be preserved.

- *Policy 5 - Preserve all fabric directly associated with the involvement of the Macarthur family, George Macleay and Bishop Broughton, and preserve all memorials, tablets and commemorative fabric.*

St John's Camden has been the place of Anglican worship in the region since the 1840s and was purpose designed for public liturgical worship. Because of this, the essential liturgical layout of the church should be preserved where possible. Liturgical practices change, sometimes quite markedly, but usually in a gradual way. It is possible to plan for changes so that the basic liturgical layout of the interior need not change. This layout consists of the eastern chancel with its table, the nave arrangement of pulpit, reading desk, pews, central aisle and baptismal font.

- *Policy 6 - Preserve the basic historic liturgical layout of the interior of the church.*

St John's church contains individual elements and some furniture of high individual craftsmanship and artistic merit. These include the large stone flagged floor, the fine communion table, reredos, communion rails and original pews, pulpit, bible lectern, reading desk, president's chairs, stone font, pipe organ, stained glass windows, original timber framed and glazed windows, tower clock and bells. Most of these were purpose-designed for the church and have achieved a very high standard of workmanship, in materials particular to the region and time of construction.

- *Policy 7- Preserve all individual elements of high artistic quality.*

### **8.4.3 Additions to the Fabric**

#### **Memorials**

St John's has a long history of public worship as a parish church. An important part of this is the commemoration of people and events in each generation. In this the church is quite richly endowed. In the future additional memorials and commemorative furniture may be introduced to the interior. This should be done in a manner which emphasises continuity of worship and commemoration in the church such as plaques on the walls and new fittings. The important early commemorative windows and plaques, in particular to the Macarthur family, should continue to have prominence within the church interior. The surviving original timber-framed, coloured-glass windows should not be replaced even for a commemorative window.

- *Policy 8 - Continue to add commemorative plaques and fittings to the church*

- *Policy 9 - Allow the early memorials and windows commemorating the Macarthurs to remain prominent.*
- *Policy 10 – Preserve the original timber-framed, coloured-glass windows.*

#### 8.4.4 Interpretation

As stated in the Statement of Significance, St John's has a high architectural, historic and social value. As far as the building is concerned, the primary explanation of these values should be through the preservation of the fabric itself and its continued use as the place of Anglican worship in Camden.

The building is relatively intact. There are some opportunities however for making clearer the importance of the church and in particular its interior through the following things:

- Accurate reconstruction of the external stone cross over the chancel arch.
- Accurate reconstruction of early colour schemes. In the building fabric at the moment, the interior has a sympathetic but not historically accurate colour scheme. In particular the finish to the doors in the tower and possibly the walls were originally different. This could be reconstructed.
- Make clearer the arrangement of pews. Several pew arrangements have been made in the life of the building. The most significant was that which aligned the pews with the stone flagging pattern and employed a wide central aisle. It would be possible to reconstruct this and potentially gain some amenity for modern liturgy.
- Locate pulpit and reading desk in original or near original locations. Currently the pulpit and reading desk and the front row of pews are probably not very close to their original locations. With more study it should be possible to more carefully arrange them to more closely display their original positions.
- This also applies to the choir stalls.
- *Policy 11 – Reconstruct the external stone cross over the chancel arch.*
- *Policy 12 - Take opportunities to modify the internal liturgical layout and reconstruction of colour schemes to interpret the important early interior.*

#### 8.4.5 Additional building services and liturgical furniture

Today church services require additional technological devices to support the services such as overhead screens, projectors, microphones, speakers and large musical instruments such as drum kits. These can be so arranged as to minimally affect the significant spatial layout and not to obstruct the important features of the interior.

- *Policy 13 - Incorporate new technology and equipment and new services to minimise impact on the spatial layout and not obscure the principal features of the interior.*

#### 8.5 Cemetery

The cemetery requires further study of its development and present condition in order to develop specific policies for its ongoing preservation and maintenance.

- *Policy 14 – Develop specific policies for the ongoing preservation and maintenance of the cemetery.*

## 8.6 Church Yard and Early Road and Horse Paddock

### 8.6.1 Generally

St John's has a highly intact nineteenth century churchyard, and is the major picturesque focus in the regional landscape. Its cemetery, rectory, church, paddock, plantings and hall and internal layout of paths and roads are intact and make a highly complete landscape. For this reason the fabric of the grounds as it was established and evolved through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries should be preserved and maintained. The important features of this are:

- the topography of the land
- the formation of the early road along the southern boundary of the cemetery
- the formation of the old path from the old church hall to the church
- formation and fabric of the roads from the lych gate to the church and in front of the rectory and that leading to the rectory stables
- the open space of the horse paddock
- the lych gate, paddock gate and remains of the fences to the street
- the major vegetation and planting throughout the churchyard
- the cemetery graves and their related minor plantings and fences
- the tennis court platform
- *Policy 15 - Preserve the topography and landscape of the place including all original fabric and as established in the 19th and early 20th centuries up to when the church was essentially complete.*

### 8.6.2 Use of Church Yard

As with the church itself the church yard is still used in much the same way as it always has been. Therefore the policy is like that of the church: to maintain the use. The important aspects of this are to maintain the entry points at the existing gates and the historic paths, particularly that up from John Street and the line of the old path leading from the church hall.

The church yard should not have an increased amount of carparking on the road immediately around the building.

- *Policy 16 - Maintain use of the church landscape and the church yard in its various elements and in particular maintain the use of the paths and entry points and carparking restrictions.*

### 8.6.3 Interpretation

It is very important that the former road from the river crossing to Camden Park estate to the south of the church continue to exist as a formation. At several points the formation is overgrown by vegetation. It is possible to recover more the sense of this road and perhaps make a walking path or cycle way.

Most of the early photographs of St John's churchyard are taken either from the south-west or up the path leading from the church hall to the church. The line of this path should be reconstructed. Its exact location is not known at every point but should be able to be found based on aerial photographs and close inspection.

- *Policy 17 – Clear the former road to the south of the church and the cemetery.*

- *Policy 18 - Reinstate historic path between 1906 church hall and church.*

Around the church itself has begun to appear flowerpots, very basic railings and prominent red gravel which detract from the overall character of the churchyard. These should be removed and replaced with more sympathetic alternatives.

- *Policy 19 - Remove unsympathetic fabric around church, columbarium, and cemetery.*

Only possible in an ideal world, the removal of the relatively recent (1973) parish hall would recover much of a lost relationship between the church building and Broughton Street. It is more practical to suggest that the building be reduced at its eastern end and modify its form. This is discussed later (see Figures A2.5 and A2.6).

- *Policy 20 – When the opportunity arises, remove the 1973 parish hall.*

As with all gardens and landscapes, as trees grow up important and intended views are lost. By pruning and culling of the vegetation particularly that to the south of the church in the cemetery, it would be possible to recover a great deal of the relationship to the broad landscape.

- *Policy 21 - Reinstate prospects in and out to church.*

The large white house built to the east immediately off the church boundary and any future impacting neighbouring structures should be screened by carefully chosen vegetation.

- *Policy 22 - Screen by appropriate plantings the impact of neighbouring structures.*

Quite a lot of the fabric of the 1930s pipe rail fence survives in different parts of the churchyard. It would be possible to reconstruct and restore the whole fence so that the yard is secure at its boundary to the street.

- *Policy 23 - Reconstruct and restore the 1930s fence to the street boundaries.*
- *Policy 24 - Take opportunities for interpretation of the church yard so as to explain and make plain its nineteenth-century significant character.*

## 8.7 Regional Views

The relationship of St John's to its regional landscape and the town are of primary importance. All views to the church and spire from the town and region should be preserved. They should not be built out or grown out by additional plantings.

View 1: First view of the spire approaching Camden from Sydney on the Camden Valley Way (Cowpasture Road).

View 2: Glimpse view of spire and tower from river flat east of the Cowpasture Bridge. This view approximates the view shown in many historic illustrations of the church such as Woore's sketch of 1842 and Lock's photograph of c1860s.

View 3: First urban view from east on Argyle Street of the spire above the town buildings.

- View 4: View of spire from new subdivision off Richardson Road adjacent to Camden By Pass between Elderslie and Narellan.
- View 5: View of tower and spire from Springs Road south-east of the Nepean River. View is framed by poplars in foreground.
- View 6: Glimpse view of tower from Narellan looking from the Camden By Pass.
- View 7: View of tower, spire, old church hall, horse paddock, rectory and Bunya pines from countryside west of Narellan.
- View 8: View of church, rectory, Bunya pines, old church hall and Masonic Lodge from Elderslie looking over Nepean River. This view approximates the view shown in Lloyd's sketch of 1857.
- View 9: View of church spire with rectory and Bunya pines from the Camden By Pass Macarthur Bridge. View is framed in foreground by farmland and river flats.
- View 10: View of spire and town from Ferguson Road west of the town. Studley Royal is also visible.
- View 11: View of tower, spire and Bunya pines from Druitt Lane south-west of Camden.
- View 12: View of tower and spire from Cawdor Cemetery (dedicated 1898) south-west of Camden.
- View 13: View of tower, spire and town from Macquarie Grove north of Camden. This view approximates the view shown in Reeve's photograph of 1870.
- View 14: View of spire from Kirkham, north of Camden. View is framed by farm lands.
- View 15: View of spire from Camden Park south-west of Camden.
- View 16: View of Church from St. Paul's Cobbitty Church Hall. This is threatened by re-vegetation at Cobbitty.

For the region this policy can only be implemented on places where local and regional governments have control over lands. Likely locations for this level of control are shown in Figure 8.5. In those locations opportunities will come to improve and reinstate and not obscure these very important views. The whole Camden region stands to gain by a careful understanding of how the church is the focal point of its landscape.

- *Policy 25 - Preserve all regional views to and from the church and spire; viz Camden Park, Studley Park, Wivenhoe and Cowpasture Bridge.*

The short range of views of the church from the town and the riverbank are equally important. These should be preserved.

- *Policy 26 - Preserve views from the church to the town and riverbank.*

## 8.8 Development and New Buildings

The place has accrued new buildings and development since the 1840s which supported changes in the parish and its ministry. As this process continues development should be guided to a large degree by the conservation values of the place.

In order to arrive at policies that properly address the primary need for the site to house the church uses in their modern form, the following analysis is made of the needs of the parish, the opportunities that exist to meet these needs and analysis of the likely heritage impact of the developments that would be required.

Needs of Parish	Opportunities	Likely Heritage Impact
Large hall for meetings of up to 600 people with flexible space.	Enlarge existing 1973 hall – the most direct way in which to construct a large hall would be to complete (with adaptations) the entire scheme for the church hall built in 1973.	This solution would significantly detract from the heritage of the site because it would further obscure the views of the church from Broughton Street and build over more of the line of the old path to the church from the top of Hill Street. At a practical level it is doubtful that the building could be easily adapted to make a sufficiently large hall and doubts have been raised about the long term competency of the structure.
	Construction of an underground facility on the horse paddock	Camden Council has suggested investigation and discussion about an underground building on the horse paddock. It is not unheard of for underground facilities to be proposed in places of high significance as a way of creating space. Such developments are rare in Australia and confined to urban locations. The theory is that such a building would preserve the open space of the horse paddock. However there is a lot of potential for very negative impacts. Firstly, it would not be possible to build a large facility and entrance and preserve the topography of the horse paddock. The underground building must have a flat roof and either be very deeply buried or give rise to a flat terrace of land in place of the paddock. Underground buildings need to come above ground for light and air. For a building big enough to house 600 and related facilities the protrusions for light and air would be potentially very large and disruptive built elements. Underground buildings are not conventional construction. They are expensive to build, rely on artificial systems of ventilation which are expensive to run and give internal space which has very limited opportunity for natural light. This means a poor amenity for important congregational spaces. Underground buildings by definition must expose and then destroy archaeological layers which have the potential to add enormous complications to the process of building. Underground buildings profoundly affect water table regimes. In a rural landscape the water table is an important foundation of the vegetation and ecology of the site. To make profound changes to it is potentially very damaging to the vegetation of the place and adjacent places.

	Construction of an above ground hall on the horse paddock. The Heritage Office has suggested investigation and discussion about an above ground building on the horse paddock.	The open space of the horse paddock is of historical and aesthetic importance. Until 1911 it was open land belonging to the Camden Park Estate, separated from the church yards by the early road. Across the open space the church and rectory are intervisible. A survey of levels indicates that the level of the land at the lower part of the paddock is fourteen metres below that of the upper level. It may therefore be possible to site a building above ground but at a low level. The open qualities, views between the rectory and church building and out to the country side still may be preserved. Should the building be of a rural character, such as a traditional woolshed, barn or stables, this would be appropriate.  Development in this location would have the advantage of being close to the church and carparking on the upper levels of the paddock.
	Significant enlargement of the old church hall onto the tennis court sites. The area of the court to the west of the existing hall is approximately 330 sq. m. To the rear, another 330 sq. m. This is sufficient to house an auditorium for 600 people at the rate of ½ sq. m. per person.	Such a proposal would have a significant visual impact unless it were contained within certain lines; that is no higher than the existing church hall and no wall higher than the existing wall plate. Our visual analysis has shown that such a building, whilst seen, would not obscure the chancel from the long term views to the east. Such a building would need to be of a high quality design so as to appear as architecturally contiguous with the existing hall. There is substantial precedent of halls being enlarged in this way in traditional architecture particularly by use of doubling up the form or addition of aisles.
Carparking	Park on the horse paddock	The horse paddock potentially could sustain above ground parking if it were designed with minimal areas of level open parking and use of unsealed surfaces and soft rural type edges. Having said that potentially large impacts on the visual connection between the rectory and the church could happen if the car park was built without regard to these guidelines or if the existing overland water regimes were affected.
	Carparking in the church grounds adjacent to the lych gate.	As for the horse paddock the impact and need for guidelines is the same.
	Carparking adjacent to the old Church hall. A smaller area is potentially available with driveway access to the east of the hall and cars to be parked to the rear and the west.	As above.



Two new residences for minister.	Adapt 1973 Church hall.	The introduction of a new use may present opportunities to sympathetically remodel the Broughton Street elevation of the new church hall.
	Horse paddock with access from Menangle Road.	To not affect the visual character of this open space, such a house would have to be sited in the lower part of the horse paddock adjoining the existing houses addressing Alpha Road. However the need to bring driveway access across the horse paddock would have significant impact and there would be a loss of open space.
	New house on horse paddock accessed from Forrest Crescent.	A visual analysis of an area behind the houses that address Tingcombe Place shows that there is an area there where a house could be below the escarpment, not interrupting views of the elevated Rectory and its garden. To have access this would require a driveway through the front garden of the rectory.
Exploit Commercial options	Commercial activity in the hall.	Loss of direct church use would be a loss of some significance to the site. This is outweighed by a commercial return to the parish, provided the external envelope is minimally adapted.
	Commercial development on tennis court site.	Similar potential impact to use of hall or use of this space to develop a large meeting hall for the church.
	Commercial use for Rectory.	The loss of the Rectory use for the Rector would be a very great loss of significance to the site.
	Commercial use in 1973 Church hall.	Similar potential impact as for the old church hall.

In view of the above, the following further discussion and policies are proposed.

### 8.8.1 New Hall and New House Site

A new house site has been identified below the hilltop on which the rectory sits (see Figure 8.2). It is sited close to the present housing subdivision around the rectory and would need to conform in design and style to this housing, so as to read as an addition to the housing, and not detract from the historical setting of St. John's. The driveway could be sealed or unsealed, but without kerbing.

A new hall site has been identified on the horse paddock below the hilltop on which the church and rectory sit and below the adjacent Menangle Road. The fall of the land of some fourteen metres would allow a suitably designed building, rural in character, to be sited together with carparking (see Figure 8.2)

- *Policy 27 – Allow for a new hall and a new house site, as identified in Figure 8.2.*

## 8.9 Church Hall (1906)

### 8.9.1 Fabric

The church hall is part of the very complete complex of St John's Camden and a minor work of Sir John Sulman, the important early twentieth-century architect. The external fabric is more important than the interior, and in our judgement that of the front elevation and basic form are of more importance than the side elevations and minor details.

- *Policy 28 - Preserve the form, materials and front elevation of the church hall.*

### 8.9.2 Use

The church hall is part of the complete church complex. Where possible it should continue to be used for church uses.

- *Policy 29 - Continue to use the church hall for church uses or large or other uses requiring a large space.*

### 8.9.3 Development

The church hall is significant historically but architecturally its main value lies in the front façade and its general form. Therefore, on the level grounds around the building development would be possible provided that it is tightly controlled. These controls are shown on Figure 8.1. The main prescription is to build no higher than the existing hall so that the church remains prominent from its distant views in particular that from Studley Park. The development should be construed as an addition to the hall and take advantage of several traditional ways of adding to this almost timeless form of building.

- *Policy 30 - Allow for additions to the 1906 church hall as identified in Fig 8.1.*
- *Policy 31 - The 1973 hall is of low significance, and ideally should be removed.*

## 8.10 Rectory

### 8.10.1 Fabric

The rectory is one of the key elements of the St John's Group and an excellent mid-nineteenth century example of an Anglican rectory which survives relatively intact. It follows from this that the fabric of the church rectory should be retained in particular of higher significance is that external fabric and the internal plan form and fabric of the main ground floor rooms (Spaces 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as shown in Figures 3.2 and 8.3).

- *Policy 32 - Preserve original fabric of the rectory, in particular its external elevations and plan form and internal hall, study, sitting, and dining rooms.*

### 8.10.2 Use

Along with the church, the use of the rectory is unchanged since construction. It is therefore of very high importance that as far as possible the house continue as the rectory. A major constraint on this is the upgrading of the house to contemporary rectory standards. This is addressed below.

Should it be that the rectory cannot be so used, in order of acceptability alternate uses would be: house for another clergyman, house for parish use, house, office for church, office for non-church use, other domestic types of uses.

- *Policy 33 - Continue the existing historic use of the rectory and adapt to modern rectory standards.*

### 8.10.3 Adaptation

The adaptation of the rectory to a modern rectory standard would not be very difficult to achieve and would enable the large house and garden to continue to be enjoyed. The rear garden may be fenced and landscaped as in the manner of a modern house. Openings are possible between the major rooms and the upstairs bathrooms can be re-fashioned. It is possible for a separate bathroom or lavatory to be made in the dressing room off the main bedroom. These concepts are shown in Figure 8.3.

*Policy 34 - Allow adaptation to the rectory to make it suitable for modern rectory standards.*

### 8.10.4 Interpretation

As with the church the principle opportunity to interpret the importance of this building is to continue the historic use as a rectory.

It is possible to reconstruct the front fence and garden from aerial photographs. This would not suit the current driveway configuration and is mentioned but not formally proposed.

The grounds to the front of the rectory appear to have been more carefully vegetated in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century as shown in the aerial photographs. By careful planting this character of the rectory front may be recovered and the fence between the rectory and the front grounds could be reconstructed.

- *Policy 35 - As an interpretation of the rectory, opportunities for reconstruction should be noted (see Figures 8.2 and 8.3).*

### Stables

- *Policy 36 - Preserve the form and fabric of the existing stables; and preserve their existing use as garage and storeroom.*

## 8.11 Areas of Archaeological Importance

Conservation guidelines should identify areas of archaeological potential and indicate the degree of professional involvement appropriate in any disturbance.

In this case the archaeological potential is interpolated from the known historical development of the place. This is shown in Figure 8.5.

- *Policy 37 - The historical archaeological potential of parts of the place should be conserved in accordance with the following ranking table and Figure 8.5:*

Ranking	Guideline
High	An historical archaeologist should be consulted prior to any ground disturbance in this area. Depending on the locality and scope of the work, a watching brief over the work may be desirable. Manual archaeological investigation may be required.
Medium	An historical archaeologist should be consulted prior to any ground disturbance in this area. A watching brief may be required.

Some	Ground disturbance in this area could proceed without prior consultation with an historical archaeologist. However, if upon further physical intervention a sub-surface deposit is revealed, an historical archaeologist should be consulted.
Low	Ground disturbance in this area could proceed without archaeological supervision.

### 8.12 Management Procedures

The Parish Council has the responsibility of making decisions on policy for all matters affecting St John's Camden in accordance with the Ordinances of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney (Church Administration 1990; Church Grounds & Buildings 1990).

- *Policy 38 - The Parish Council, as the management body of St John's, Camden, has the responsibility for the making of all decisions affecting St John's, Camden.*

Allow investigation of St John's, Camden for research. This may include physical intervention to increase knowledge of history and other aspects of the occupation and construction of the Place, and/or to provide information to guide restoration and reconstruction work pursuant to these policies, but only when there are adequate resources to undertake and complete the work and to stabilise the works.

- *Policy 39 - Allow for further physical investigation of St John's, Camden for research purposes.*
- *Policy 40 - Further investigate where the nature of an element of St John's, Camden is uncertain by documentary and physical research, prior to carrying out work or removal.*

Reuse any significant fabric removed during any future works at St John's, Camden.

- *Policy 41 - Reuse any significant fabric removed during future works at St John's, Camden, if necessitated by circumstances such as change of use.*

Where new works or maintenance require the introduction of new materials these should respect the character of the existing fabric matching like with like, and should not damage or obscure any significant fabric.

- *Policy 42 - Respect the character of the existing significant fabric where introducing new materials, matching like with like. Do not damage or obscure any significant fabric.*

### 8.13 Conservation Practice

Because St John's, Camden is of demonstrated cultural significance, procedures for managing change and activities at St John's should be in accordance with a recognised conservation methodology such as the *Burra Charter* and associated guidelines (see Appendix 10.1).

- *Policy 43 - Guide activities at St John's, Camden by the provisions of methodology such as the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter.*

This conservation plan should be adopted by the management body to guide the operation of the management body. Proposals that are not in accordance with the conservation guidelines are only to be implemented following a revision of the whole of the Conservation Management Plan that

results in the conclusion that such proposals are consistent with a revised policy. That is, avoid *ad hoc* changes to the policies.

- *Policy 44 - Adopt these guidelines as the Conservation Policy for St John's, Camden to guide the operation of the management body and avoid ad hoc policy changes.*
- *Policy 45 - Manage St John's, Camden in a way which permits the maximum number of these policies to be implemented and followed.*

The *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter* recommends that conservation policy should be open to future review. The management body should regularly review these policies in particular if some unforeseen change of circumstance arises, or if new information comes to light

- *Policy 46 - Review the conservation policies at regular intervals; firstly say, five years from its adoption.*

Copies of the Conservation Management Plan should be freely made available to the public for inspection.

- *Policy 47 - Make copies of the Conservation Management Plan freely available to the public for inspection.*

St John's, Camden should be treated as being of high cultural significance, and consequently activities at St John's should be to the highest possible professional standards.

- *Policy 48 - Engage personnel skilled in disciplines of conservation practice at a professional level as appropriate to advise on and implement conservation aspects of St John's, Camden.*
- *Policy 49 - Employ skilled traditional building tradespeople and engineers as appropriate to advise on the conservation of St John's, Camden and to carry out all works.*
- *Policy 50 - Carry out, catalogue and archive systematic photographic surveys and other records of St John's, Camden before, during and after any major works.*

Works at St John's, Camden should be undertaken in the following manner: -

- *Policy 51 - Consult this report and assess any specific proposals for St John's, Camden in the light of what is recommended. It may be necessary to carry out further research.*
- *Policy 52 - Carry out a full photographic and measured survey before commencement of work to an element of significant fabric at St John's, Camden. This information should be reproduced in a report with a copy held by the Management Body.*
- *Policy 53 - Document any proposed work to an element of significant fabric in a way that allows scrutiny by others before the work is executed and also in posterity. A statement setting out the precise aims of the work should be made.*
- *Policy 54 - Retain the maximum amount of fabric and patina of significant fabric consistent with the preservation of the element and in relation to the relative significance of the*

*element. Replacements, no matter how accurate, should be considered of far less heritage value than the original fabric.*

- *Policy 55 - Record in a report new information about the materials, configuration, use, age, evolution, etc. of the element that comes to light during the work. The Management Body should hold a copy of the report.*
- *Policy 56 - Record for future reference the personnel involved in the documentation and implementation of works to elements of St John's, Camden.*

Records associated with the conservation of St John's, Camden, particularly the recent adaptation works, should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available subject to the requirements of security and privacy of the Management Body.

- *Policy 57 - Assemble, catalogue and make readily available copies of all records relating to the conservation and adaptation of St John's, Camden.*

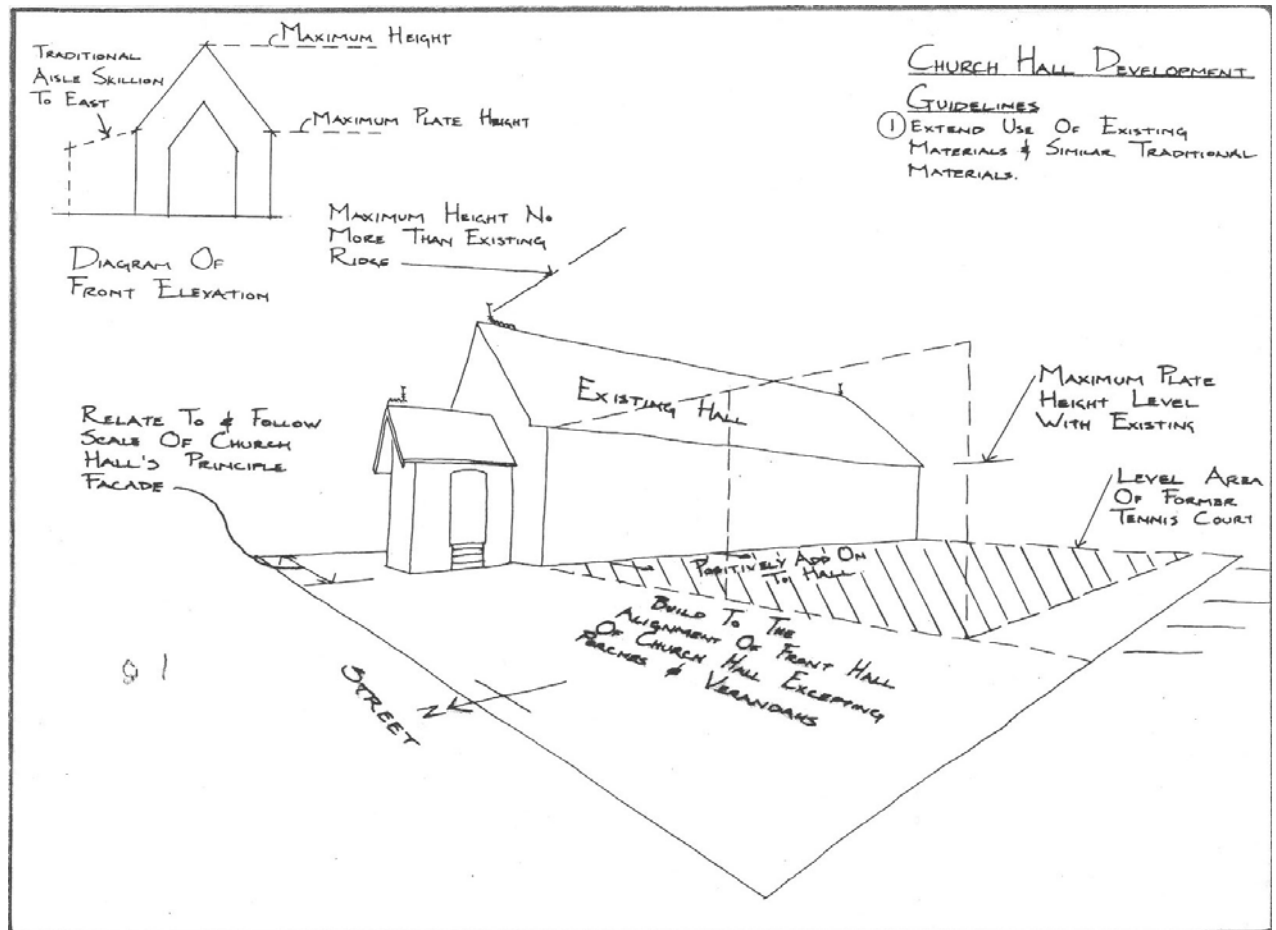


Figure 8.1: Church Hall development guidelines

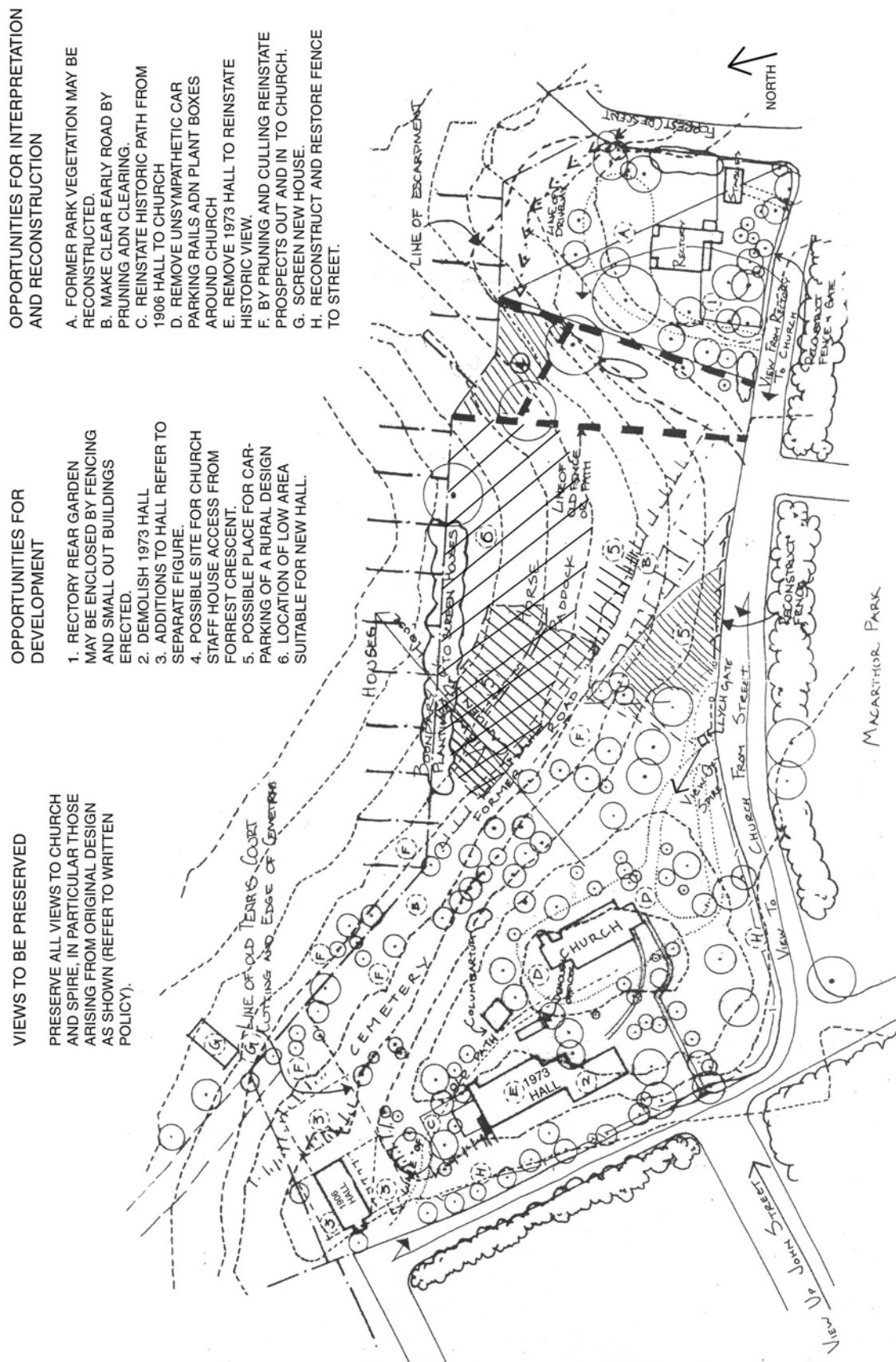


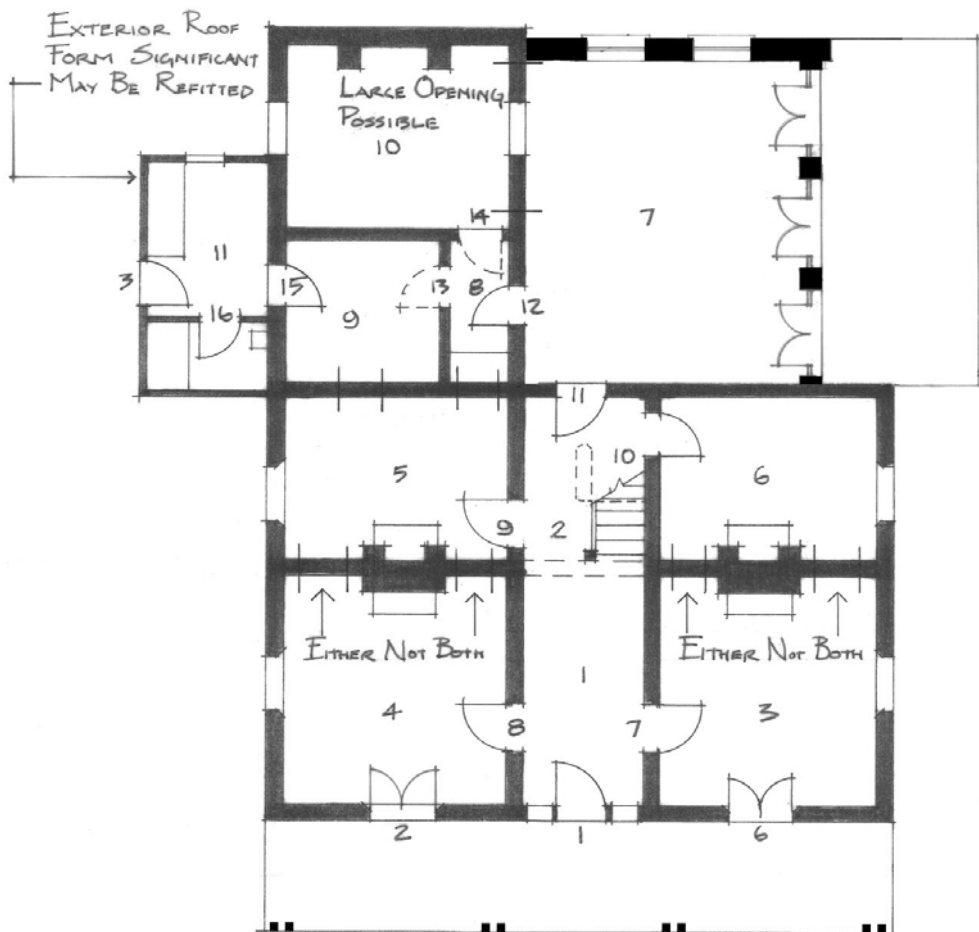
Figure 8.2: Landscape development guidelines



## RECTORY

- (A) SIGNIFICANCE
1. ESSENTIAL PART OF THE ST. JOHN'S GROUP, HISTORICALLY, FUNCTIONALLY & SPATIALLY
  2. EARLY ARCHITECTURALLY DISTINGUISHED RECTORY BUILDING, STILL IN ORIGINAL USE & VERY INTACT

- (B) CONSTRAINTS
- DIOCESAN RECTORY STANDARD  
NOT COMPLIED WITH  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECONSTRUCTION



GROUND FLOOR N.T.S

### INTERPRETATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECONSTRUCTION

- EXTERNAL COLOUR SCHEME
- INTERNAL DOOR FURNITURE/FIREPLACES (3, 4, 5)
- UPSTAIRS: REMOVE D22 & FIREPLACES (13, 15, 16, 17).

### POLICY: CONTINUE TO USE AS A RECTORY FABRIC

- PRESERVE ALL ORIGINAL FABRIC
- PRESERVE REGIMENTED PLAN FORM

### ALTERATIONS

- INTERCONNECTING OPENINGS AS SHOWN

Figure 8.3: Rectory adaptation guidelines

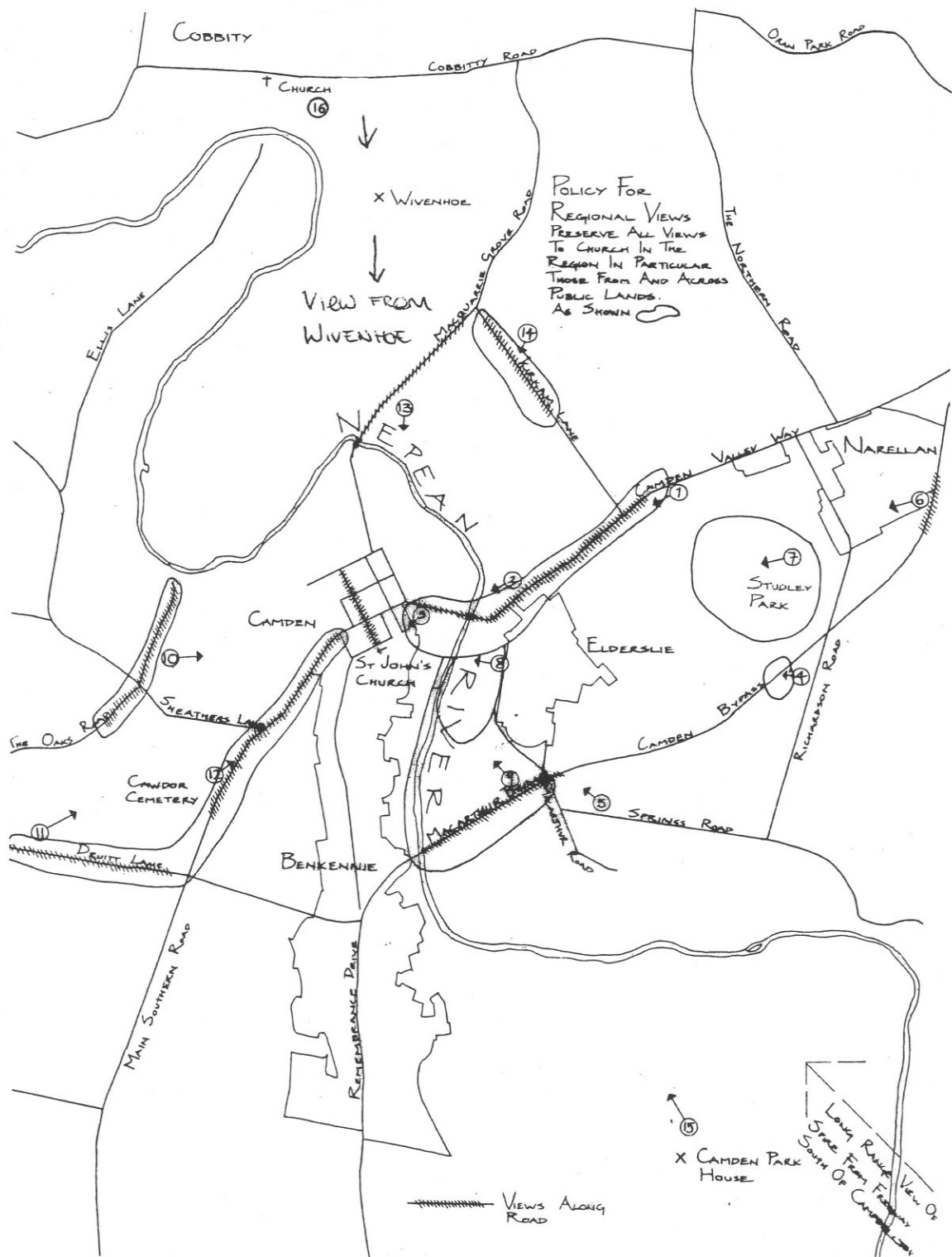


Figure 8.4: Guidelines for control of regional views

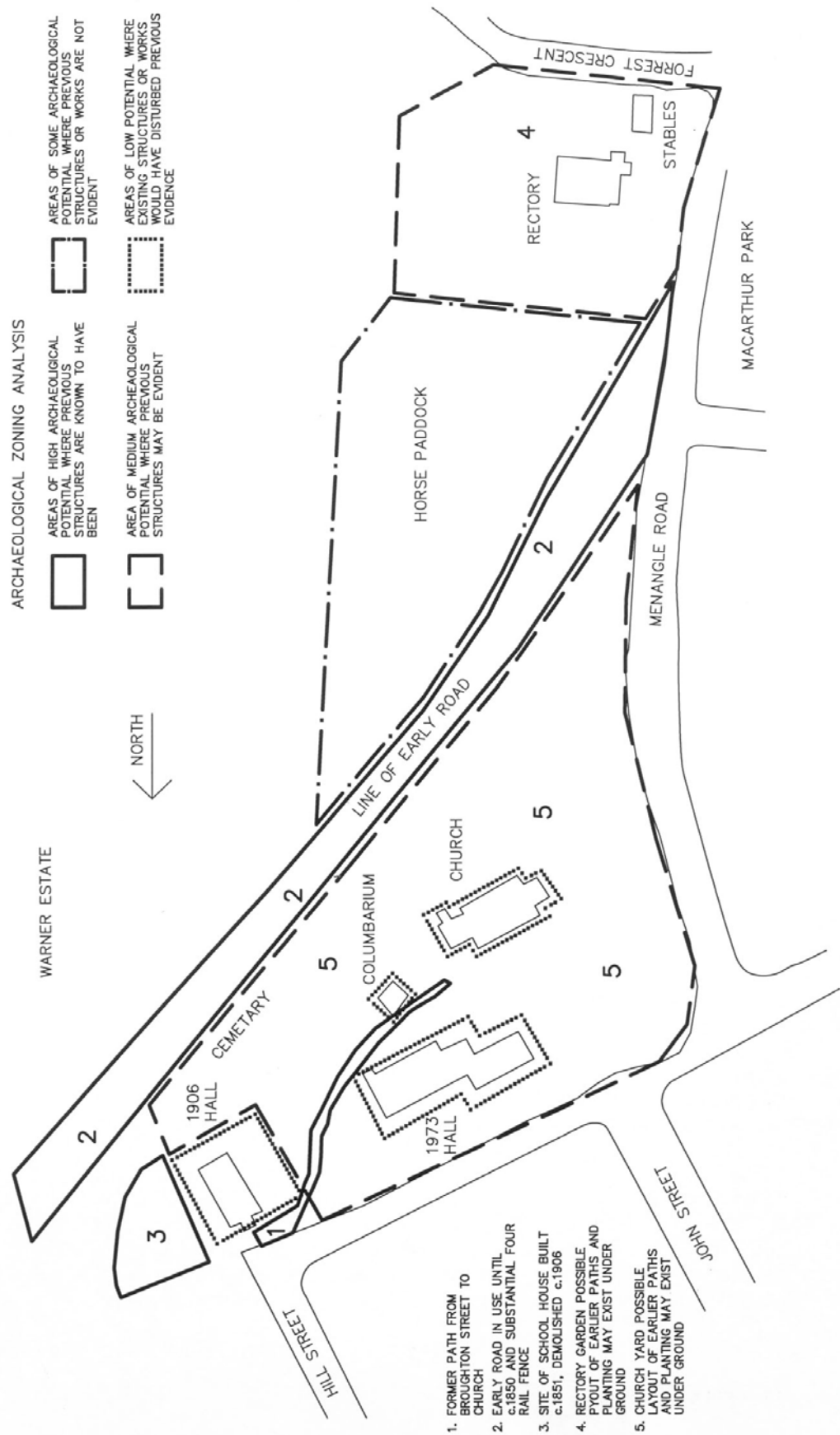


Figure 8.5: Historical Archaeological Potential

## **9. Statement of Conservation Policy**

### **Definition of the Place and Legal Curtilage**

Policy 1 Define the place and its legal curtilage as all the fabric within the existing boundary allotment.

Policy 2 Define the setting of the church as all lands within a 5km radius of the church.

### **St John's Church Building**

Policy 3 Continue to use St John's as the prime place of Anglican worship in Camden.

Policy 4 Preserve all original, originally designed for and reconstructed fabric of the church.

Policy 5 Preserve all fabric directly associated with the involvement of the Macarthur family and preserve all memorials, tablets and commemorative fabric.

Policy 6 Preserve the basic historic liturgical layout of the interior of the church.

Policy 7 Preserve all individual elements of high artistic quality.

Policy 8 Continue to add commemorative plaques and fittings to the church

Policy 9 Allow the early memorials and windows commemorating the Macarthurs to remain prominent.

Policy 10 Preserve the original timber-framed, coloured-glass windows.

Policy 11 Reconstruct the external stone cross over the chancel arch.

Policy 12 Take opportunities to modify the internal liturgical layout and reconstruction of colour schemes to interpret the important early interior.

Policy 13 Incorporate new technology and equipment and new services to minimise impact on the spatial layout and not obscure the principal features of the interior.

Policy 14 Undertake further research on the cemetery.

### **Landscape**

Policy 15 Preserve the topography and landscape of the place including all original fabric and as established in the 19th and early 20th centuries up to when the church was essentially complete.

Policy 16 Maintain use of the church landscape as the churchyard in its various elements and particular maintain the use of the paths and entry points and the carparking restrictions.

Policy 17 Make clear former road at south of church and cemetery.

Policy 18 Reinststate historic path between 1906 church hall and church.

Policy 19 Remove unsympathetic fabric around church, columbarium, and cemetery.

Policy 20 Remove the 1970s parish hall.

Policy 21 Reinststate prospects in and out to church.

Policy 22 Screen by appropriate plantings the impact of neighbouring structures.

Policy 23 Reconstruct and restore the 1930s fence to the street boundaries.

- Policy 24 Take opportunities for interpretation of the churchyard so as to explain and make plain its nineteenth-century significant character.
- Policy 25 Preserve all regional views to and from the church and spire, viz. Camden Park, Studley Park, Wivenhoe and Cowpasture Bridge.
- Policy 26 Preserve views from the church to the town and riverbank.
- Policy 27 Allow for a new hall and a house site, as identified in Figure 8.2.

### **Church Hall (1906)**

- Policy 28 Preserve the form, materials and front elevation of the hall.
- Policy 29 Continue to use the church hall for church uses or large or other uses requiring a large space.
- Policy 30 Allow for additions to the 1906 church hall as identified in Figure 8.1.
- Policy 31 The 1973 church hall is of low significance and ideally should be removed.

### **Rectory**

- Policy 32 Preserve original fabric of the rectory, in particular its external elevations and plan form and internal hall, sitting and dining room.
- Policy 33 Continue the existing historic use of the rectory and adapt to modern rectory standards.
- Policy 34 Allow adaptation to the rectory to make it suitable for modern rectory standards.
- Policy 35 As an interpretation of St John's, note opportunities for reconstruction (see Figures 8.3 and 8.4).
- Policy 36 Preserve the form and fabric of the existing stables; and preserve their existing use as garage and storeroom.

### **Areas of Archaeological Importance**

- Policy 37 The historical archaeological potential of parts of the place should be conserved in accordance with the ranking table in Section 8.11 and Figure 8.5.

### **Management Procedures**

- Policy 38 The Parish Council, as the management body of St John's, Camden, has the responsibility for the making of all decisions affecting St John's, Camden.
- Policy 39 Allow for further physical investigation of St John's, Camden for research purposes.
- Policy 40 Further investigate where the nature of an element of St John's, Camden is uncertain by documentary and physical research, prior to carrying out work or removal.
- Policy 41 Reuse any significant fabric removed during future works at St John's, Camden, if necessitated by circumstances such as change of use.
- Policy 42 Respect the character of the existing significant fabric where introducing new materials, matching like with like. Do not damage or obscure any significant fabric.

## Conservation Practice

- Policy 43 Guide activities at St John's, Camden by the provisions of methodology such as the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter.
- Policy 44 Adopt these guidelines as the Conservation Policy for St John's, Camden to guide the operation of the management body and avoid ad hoc policy changes.
- Policy 45 Manage St John's, Camden in a way which permits the maximum number of these policies to be implemented and followed.
- Policy 46 Review the conservation policies at regular intervals; firstly say, five years from its adoption.
- Policy 47 Make copies of the Conservation Management Plan freely available to the public for inspection.
- Policy 48 Engage personnel skilled in disciplines of conservation practice at a professional level as appropriate to advise on and implement conservation aspects of St John's, Camden.
- Policy 49 Engage skilled traditional building and engineering trades as appropriate to advise on the conservation of St John's, Camden and to carry out all works.
- Policy 50 Carry out, catalogue and archive systematic photographic surveys and other records of St John's, Camden before, during and after any major works.
- Policy 51 Consult this report and assess any specific proposals for St John's, Camden in the light of what is recommended. It may be necessary to carry out further research.
- Policy 52 Carry out a full photographic and measured survey before commencement of work to an element of significant fabric at St John's, Camden. This information should be reproduced in a report with a copy held by the Management Body.
- Policy 53 Document any proposed work to an element of significant fabric in a way that allows scrutiny by others before the work is executed and also in posterity. A statement setting out the precise aims of the work should be made.
- Policy 54 Retain the maximum amount of fabric and patina of significant fabric consistent with the preservation of the element and in relation to the relative significance of the element. Replacements, no matter how accurate, should be considered of far less heritage value than the original fabric.
- Policy 55 Record in a report new information about the materials, configuration, use, age, evolution, etc. of the element that comes to light during the work. The Management Body should hold a copy of the report.
- Policy 56 Record for future reference the personnel involved in the documentation and implementation of works to elements of St John's, Camden.
- Policy 57 Assemble, catalogue and make readily available copies of all records relating to the conservation and adaptation of St John's, Camden.

## **10.1 Appendix 1 - ICOMOS Burra Charter**

### **Preamble**

Considering the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice 1964), and the Resolutions of the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Moscow 1978), the Burra Charter was adopted by Australia; ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS) on 19 August 1979 at Burra, South Australia. Revisions were adopted on 23 February 1981, 23 April 1988, and 26 November 1999.

The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places), and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members.

### **Articles**

#### **Article 1. Definitions**

For the purposes of this Charter:

**1.1** *Place* means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

**1.2** *Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.

Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its *fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects*.

Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

**1.3** *Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place* including components, fixtures, contents, and objects.

**1.4** *Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its cultural *significance*.

**1.5** *Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric* and *setting* of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.

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

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

**1.8** *Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material into the *fabric*.

**1.9** *Adaptation* means modifying a *place* to suit the existing use or a proposed use.

**1.10** *Use* means the functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.

**1.11** *Compatible use* means a *use* which respects the cultural *significance* of a *place*. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

**1.12** *Setting* means the area around a *place*, which may include the visual catchment.

**1.13** *Related place* means a *place* that contributes to the cultural *significance* of another place.

**1.14** *Related object* means an object that contributes to the cultural *significance* of a *place* but is not at the place.

**1.15** *Associations* mean the special connections that exist between people and a *place*.

**1.16** *Meanings* denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.

**1.17** *Interpretation* means all the ways of presenting the cultural *significance* of a *place*.

**Conservation Principles****Article 2. Conservation and management**

**2.1** *Places of cultural significance* should be conserved.

**2.2** The aim of *conservation* is to retain the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

**2.3** *Conservation* is an integral part of good management of *places of cultural significance*.

**2.4** *Places of cultural significance* should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state.

**Article 3. Cautious approach**

**3.1** *Conservation* is based on a respect for the existing *fabric, use, associations and meanings*. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.

**3.2** Changes to a *place* should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.

**Article 4. Knowledge, skills and techniques**

**4.1** *Conservation* should make use of all the knowledge, skills and disciplines which can contribute to the study and care of the *place*.

**4.2** Traditional techniques and materials are preferred for the *conservation* of significant *fabric*. In some circumstances modern techniques and materials which offer substantial conservation benefits may be appropriate.

**Article 5. Values**

**5.1** *Conservation* of a *place* should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of others.

**5.2** Relative degrees of *cultural significance* may lead to different *conservation* actions at a place.

**Article 6. Burra Charter Process**

**6.1** The *cultural significance* of a *place* and other issues affecting its future are best understood by a sequence of collecting and analysing information before making decisions. Understanding cultural significance comes first, then development of policy and finally management of the place in accordance with the policy.

**6.2** The policy for managing a *place* must be based on an understanding of *its cultural significance*.

**6.3** Policy development should also include consideration of other factors affecting the future of a *place* such as the owner's needs, resources, external constraints and its physical condition.

**Article 7. Use**

**7.1** Where the *use* of a *place* is of *cultural significance* it should be retained.

**7.2** A *place* should have a *compatible use*.

**Article 8. Setting**

*Conservation* requires the retention of an appropriate visual *setting* and other relationships that contribute to the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate.

**Article 9. Location**

**9.1** The physical location of a *place* is part of its *cultural significance*. A building, work or other component of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.

**9.2** Some buildings, works or other components of *places* were designed to be readily removable or already have a history of relocation. Provided such buildings, works or other components do not have significant links with their present location, removal may be appropriate.



**9.3** If any building, work or other component is moved, it should be moved to an appropriate location and given an appropriate use. Such action should not be to the detriment of any *place of cultural significance*.

#### **Article 10. Contents**

Contents, fixtures and objects which contribute to the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be retained at that place. Their removal is unacceptable unless it is: the sole means of ensuring their security and *preservation*; on a temporary basis for treatment or exhibition; for cultural reasons; for health and safety; or to protect the place. Such contents, fixtures and objects should be returned where circumstances permit and it is culturally appropriate.

#### **Article 11. Related places and objects**

The contribution which *related places* and *related objects* make to the *cultural significance* of the *place* should be retained.

#### **Article 12. Participation**

*Conservation, interpretation* and management of a *place* should provide for the participation of people for whom the place has special *associations* and *meanings*, or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the place.

#### **Article 13. Co-existence of cultural values**

Co-existence of cultural values should be recognised, respected and encouraged, especially in cases where they conflict.

#### **Conservation Processes**

##### **Article 14. Conservation processes**

*Conservation* may, according to circumstance, include the processes of: retention or reintroduction of a *use*; retention of *associations* and *meanings*; *maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation* and *interpretation*; and will commonly include a combination of more than one of these.

##### **Article 15. Change**

**15.1** Change may be necessary to retain *cultural significance*, but is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a *place* should be guided by the *cultural significance* of the place and its appropriate *interpretation*.

**15.2** Changes which reduce *cultural significance* should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.

**15.3** Demolition of significant *fabric* of a *place* is generally not acceptable. However, in some cases minor demolition may be appropriate as part of *conservation*. Removed significant fabric should be reinstated when circumstances permit.

**15.4** The contributions of all aspects of *cultural significance* of a *place* should be respected. If a place includes *fabric, uses, associations* or *meanings* of different periods, or different aspects of cultural significance, emphasising or interpreting one period or aspect at the expense of another can only be justified when what is left out, removed or diminished is of slight cultural significance and that which is emphasised or interpreted is of much greater cultural significance.

##### **Article 16. Maintenance**

*Maintenance* is fundamental to *conservation* and should be undertaken where *fabric* is of *cultural significance* and its *maintenance* is necessary to retain that *cultural significance*.

##### **Article 17. Preservation**

*Preservation* is appropriate where the existing *fabric* or its condition constitutes evidence of *cultural significance*, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other *conservation* processes to be carried out.

##### **Article 18. Restoration and reconstruction**

*Restoration* and *reconstruction* should reveal culturally significant aspects of the *place*.

##### **Article 19. Restoration**

*Restoration* is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the *fabric*.

**Article 20. Reconstruction**

**20.1** *Reconstruction* is appropriate only where a *place* is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the *fabric*. In rare cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a *use* or practice that retains the *cultural significance* of the place.

**20.2** *Reconstruction* should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional *interpretation*.

**Article 21. Adaptation**

**21.1** *Adaptation* is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the *cultural significance* of the place.

**21.2** *Adaptation* should involve minimal change to significant fabric, achieved only after considering alternatives.

**Article 22. New work**

**22.1** New work such as additions to the *place* may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the *cultural significance* of the place, or detract from its *interpretation* and appreciation.

**22.2** New work should be readily identifiable as such.

**Article 23. Conserving use**

Continuing, modifying or reinstating a significant *use* may be appropriate and preferred forms of *conservation*.

**Article 24. Retaining associations and meanings**

**24.1** Significant *associations* between people and a *place* should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the *interpretation*, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.

**24.2** Significant *meanings*, including spiritual values, of a *place* should be respected. Opportunities for the continuation or revival of these meanings should be investigated and implemented.

**Article 25. Interpretation**

The *cultural significance* of many *places* is not readily apparent, and should be explained by *interpretation*. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment, and be culturally appropriate.

**Conservation Practice****Article 26. Applying the Burra Charter process**

**26.1** Work on a *place* should be preceded by studies to understand the place which should include analysis of physical, documentary, oral and other evidence, drawing on appropriate knowledge, skills and disciplines.

**26.2** Written statements of *cultural significance* and policy for the *place* should be prepared, justified and accompanied by supporting evidence. The statements of significance and policy should be incorporated into a management plan for the place.

**26.3** Groups and individuals with *associations* with a *place* as well as those involved in its management should be provided with opportunities to contribute to and participate in understanding the *cultural significance* of the place. Where appropriate they should also have opportunities to participate in its *conservation* and management.

**Article 27. Managing change**

**27.1** The impact of proposed changes on the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be analysed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the place. It may be necessary to modify proposed changes following analysis to better retain cultural significance.

**27.2** Existing *fabric*, *use*, *associations* and *meanings* should be adequately recorded before any changes are made to the *place*.

**Article 28. Disturbance of fabric**

**28.1** Disturbance of significant *fabric* for study, or to obtain evidence, should be minimised. Study of a *place* by any disturbance of the fabric, including archaeological excavation, should only be undertaken to provide data essential for decisions on the *conservation* of the place, or to obtain important evidence about to be lost or made inaccessible.

**28.2** Investigation of a *place* which requires disturbance of the *fabric*, apart from that necessary to make decisions, may be appropriate provided that it is consistent with the policy for the place. Such investigation should be based on important research questions which have potential to substantially add to knowledge, which cannot be answered in other ways and which minimises disturbance of significant fabric.

**Article 29. Responsibility for decisions**

The organisations and individuals responsible for management decisions should be named and specific responsibility taken for each such decision.

**Article 30. Direction, supervision and implementation**

Competent direction and supervision should be maintained at all stages, and any changes should be implemented by people with appropriate knowledge and skills.

**Article 31. Documenting evidence and decisions**

A log of new evidence and additional decisions should be kept.

**Article 32. Records**

**32.1** The records associated with the *conservation* of a *place* should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

**32.2** Records about the history of a *place* should be protected and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

**Article 33. Removed fabric**

Significant *fabric* which has been removed from a *place* including contents, fixtures and objects, should be catalogued, and protected in accordance with its *cultural significance*.

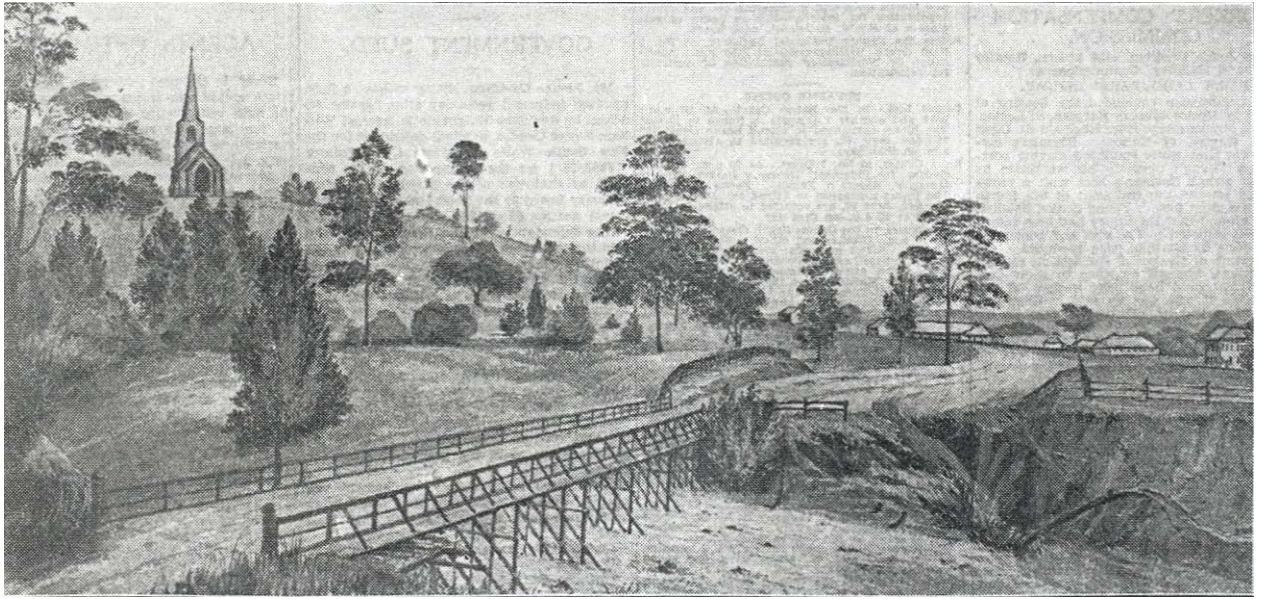
Where possible and culturally appropriate, removed significant fabric including contents, fixtures and objects, should be kept at the place.

**Article 34. Resources**

Adequate resources should be provided for *conservation*.

*Words in italics are defined in Article 1.*

## 10.2 Appendix 2 - Historic Photographs



**Figure A2.1**

Lieutenant Thomas Woore's watercolour sketch of 1842 of St John's, Camden showing the completed spire and its setting within the landscape. The Cowpasture Road Bridge is in the foreground.

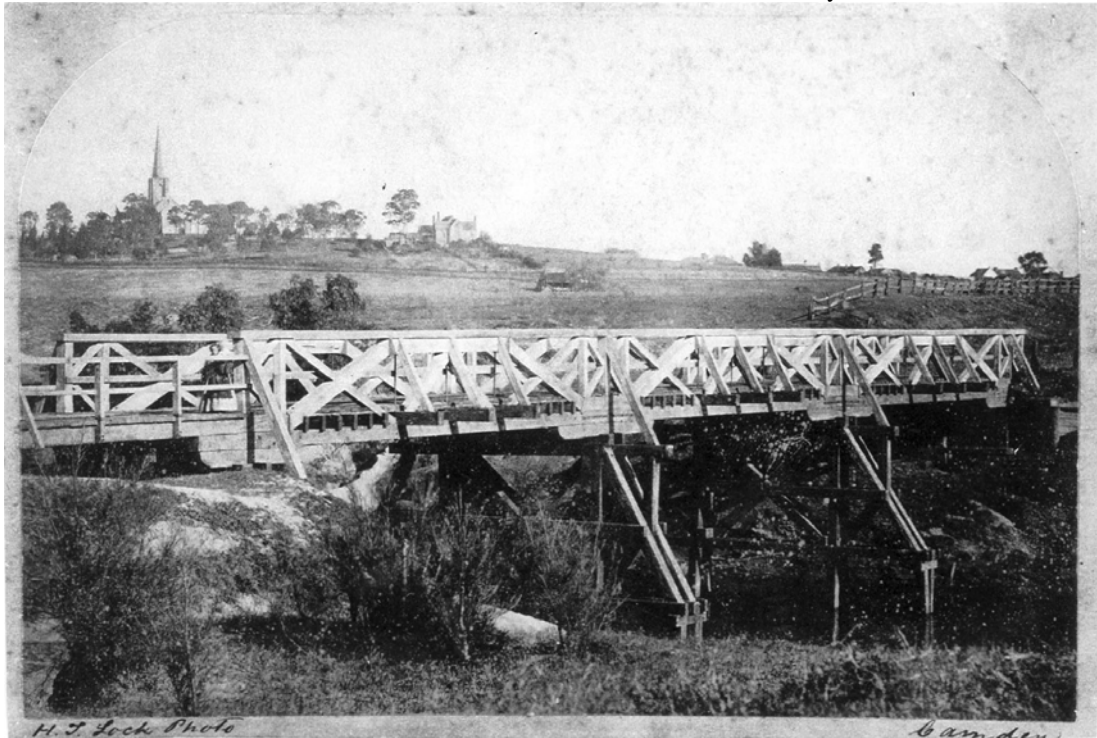
Source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 June 1933



**Figure A2.2**

Henry Grant Lloyd's watercolour sketch of 1857 of St John's, Camden.

Source: Mitchell Library - Small Picture File - Camden



**Figure A2.3**

H. J. Lock's photograph of St John's Church, Camden (c1860s) with the Cowpasture Road Bridge in the foreground.

Source: Mitchell Library - Small Picture File - Camden

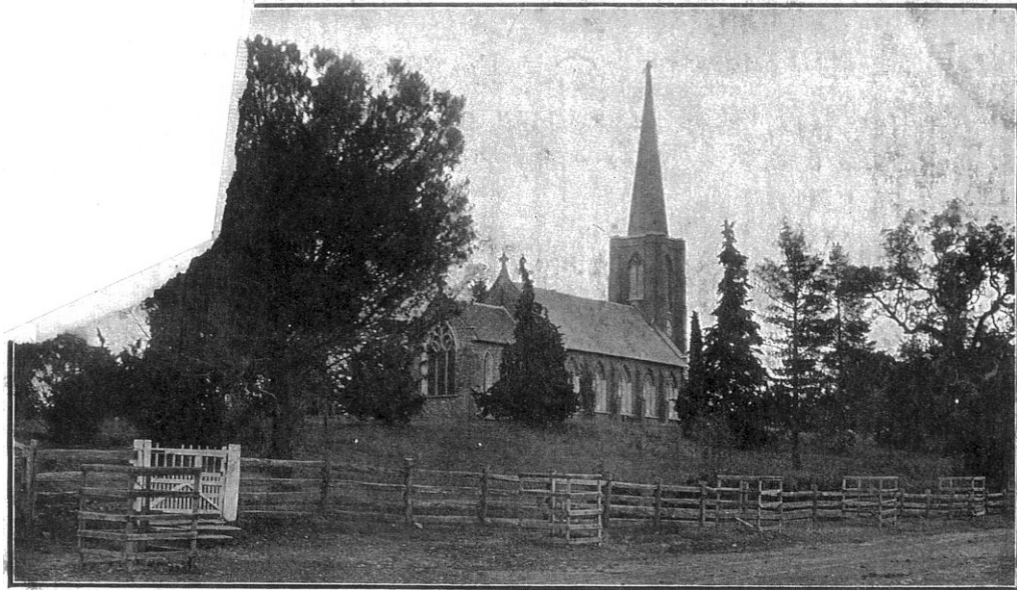


**Figure A2.4**

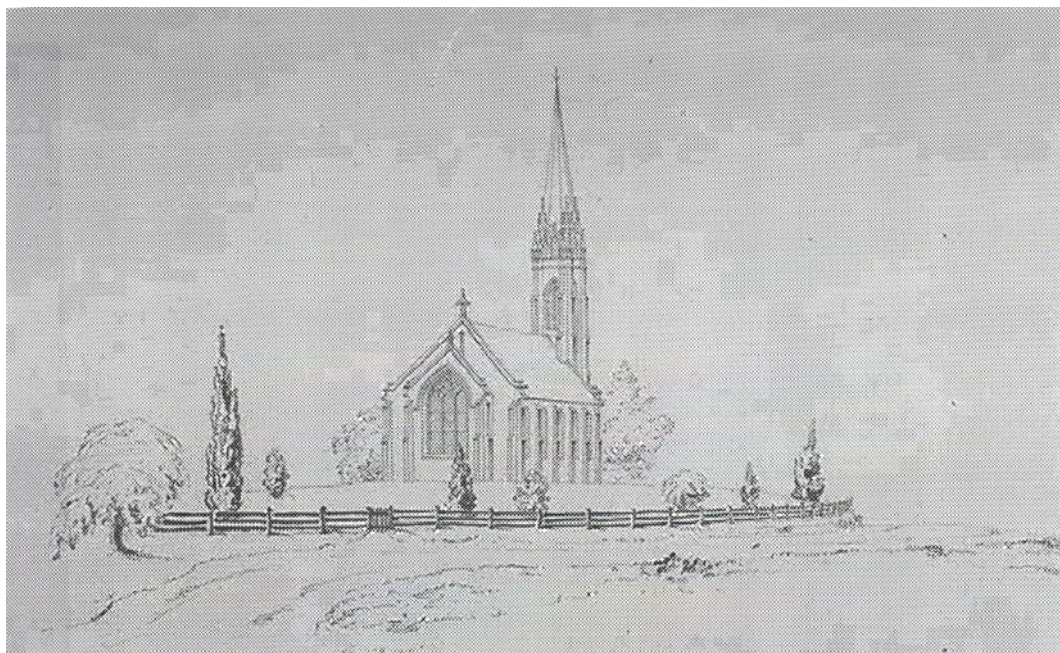
H. P. Reeve's photograph of 1870 of St John's Church, Camden. Reeve was the headmaster of the church school.

Source: Mitchell Library - Small Picture File - Camden



**Figure A2.5**

R. L. Procter's photograph of St John's, Camden from Broughton Street. Not dated, c1890s  
Source: Mitchell Library - Small Picture File - Camden

**Figure A2.6**

Emily Macarthur's sketch (c1850) of St John's, Camden. The sketch seems to show an idealised vision of the church with the addition of stone pinnacles to the spire.

Emily (1798–1867) was the wife of James Macarthur, co-owner of the Camden Estate.

Source: National Library of Australia

**Figure A2.7**

Rev W. H. Walsh (attrib.) pencil sketch of St John's, Camden. Not dated, c1850s  
Source: Mitchell Library - Small Picture File - Camden

**Figure A2.8**

Photograph of St John's, Camden from John Street. Not dated, c1860s  
Source: Mitchell Library - Small Picture File - Camden



**Figures A2.9 a/b**

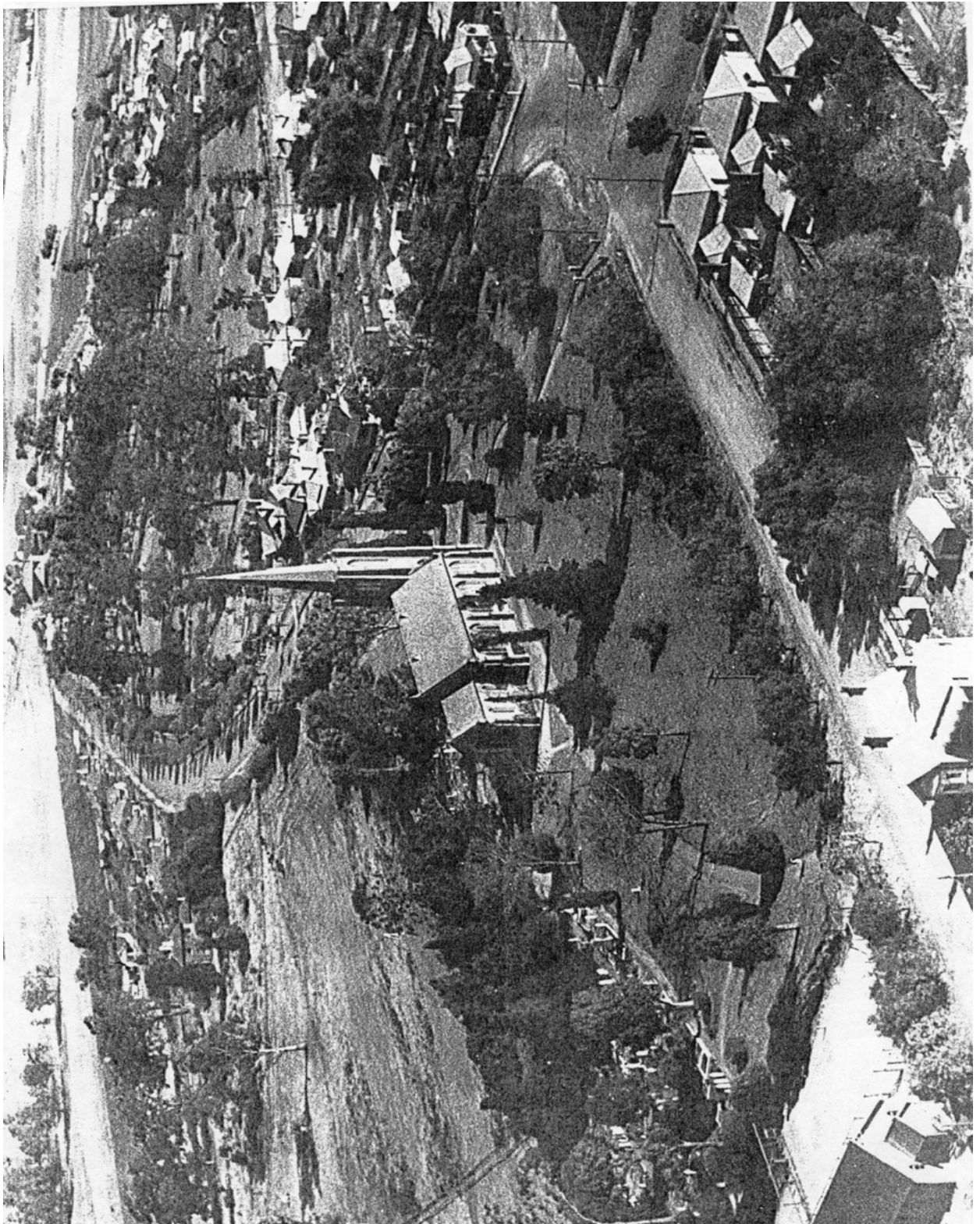
**Upper (a):** Photograph of c1900s(?) of St John's

**Lower (b):** Photograph of same, c1930s

Source: Rev C. J. King, *A History of St John's Camden*, 1919

Mitchell Library - Small Picture File - Camden





**Figure A2.10**

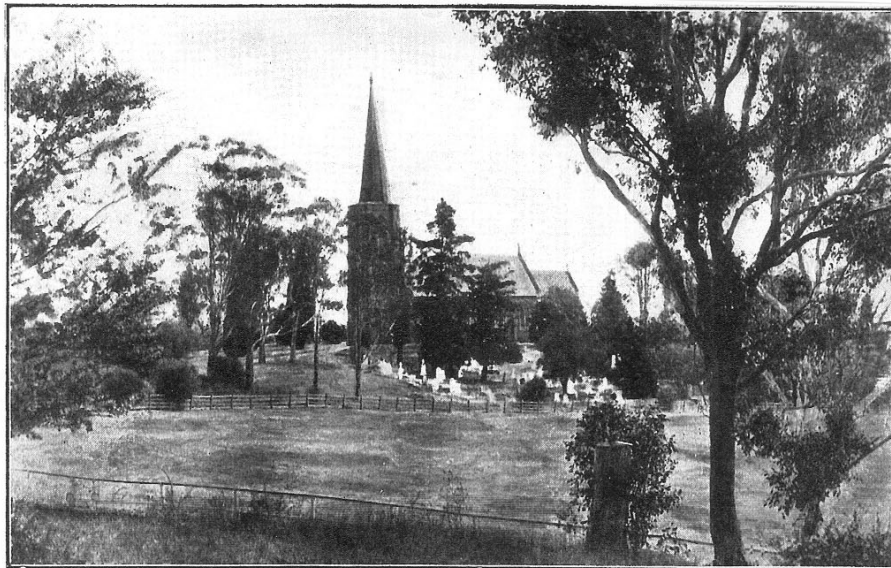
Aerial photograph c1940 showing 1906 church hall, tennis courts, St John's Church, cemetery, horse paddock, and rectory.

Source: Unknown, in the possession of St. John's Church, Camden.

**Figures A2.11a/b****Upper (a):** Photograph (c1860s) of St John's looking down John Street, Camden**Lower (b):** Photograph of same, c1910

Source: Mitchell Library - Macarthur Papers PXA 4558/2, f.398

Rev C. J. King, *A History of St John's Camden*, 1919



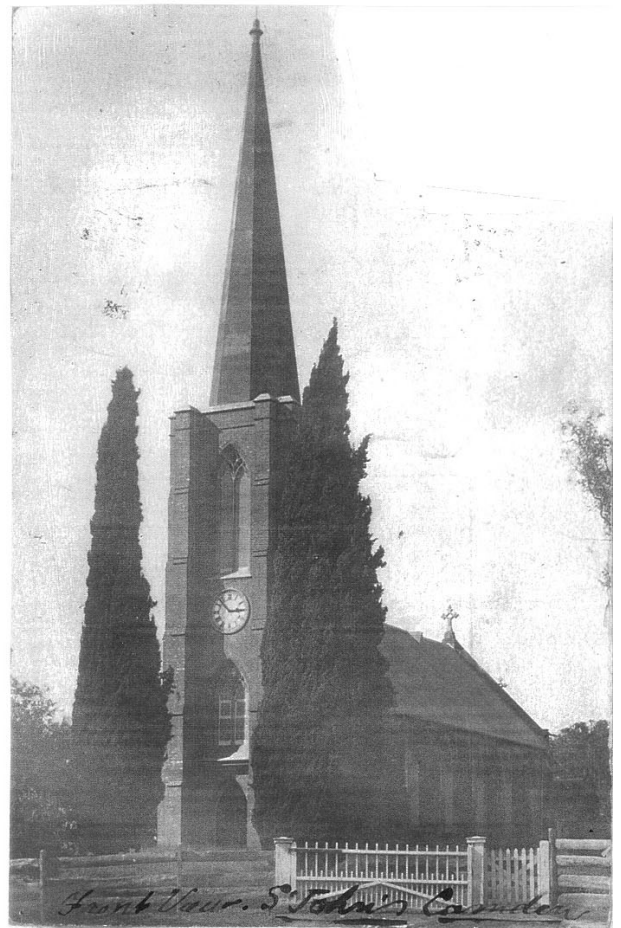
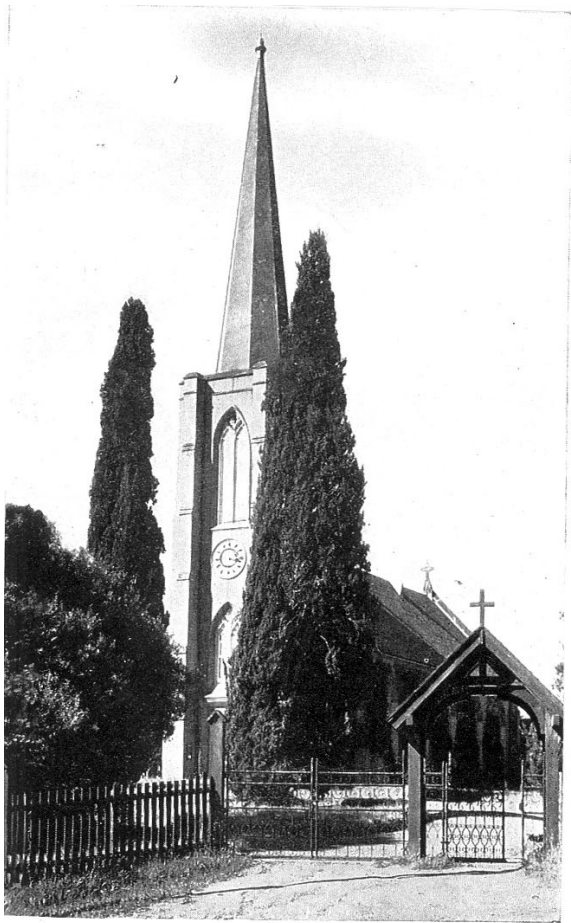
**Figures A2.12a/b**

**Upper (a):** Photograph of c1880s (?) of St John's Church and cemetery

**Lower (b):** Photograph of same, c1910s

Source: Mitchell Library - Macarthur Family Papers PXA 4359, f.425

Rev C. J. King, *A History of St John's Camden*, 1919



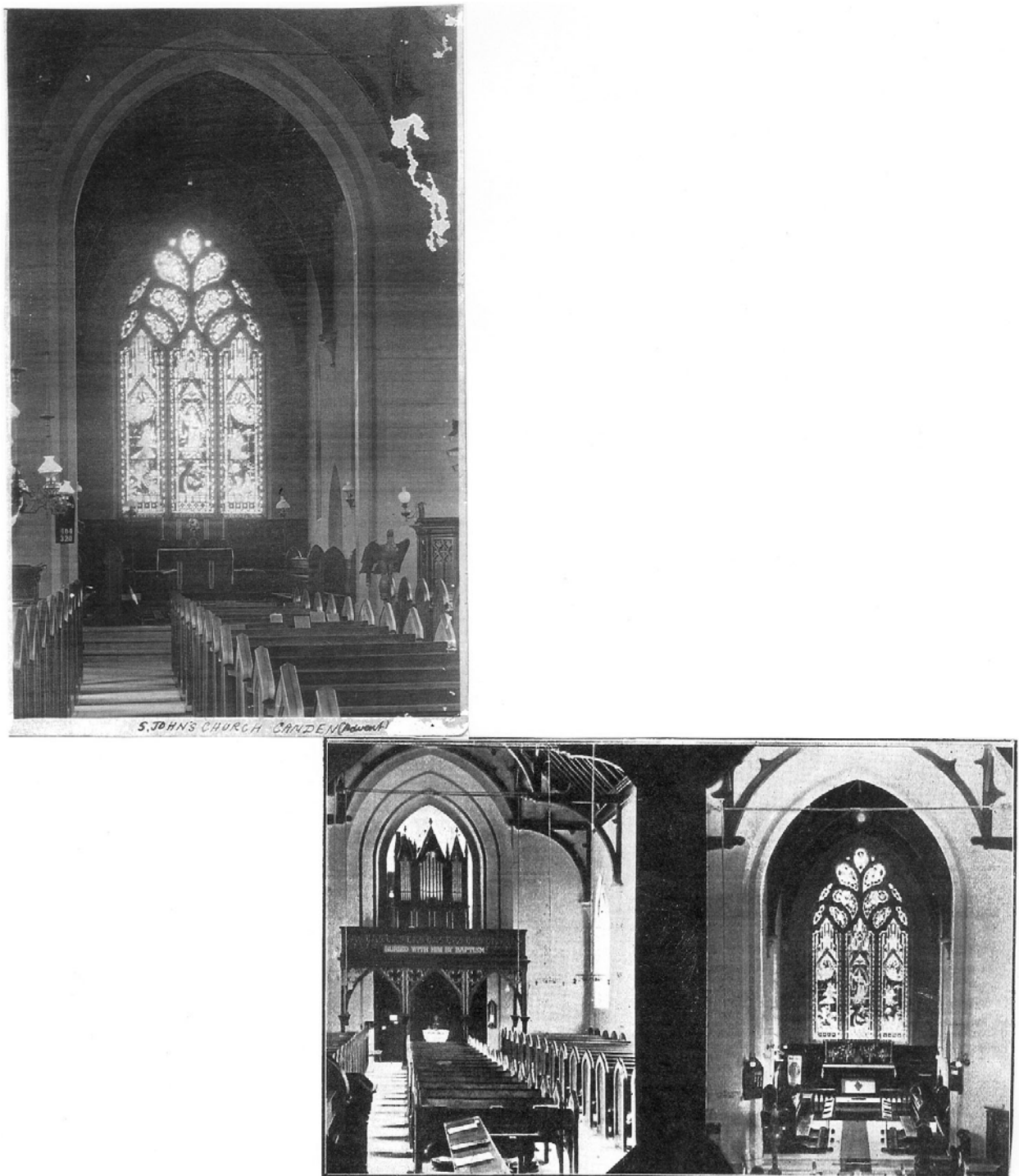
**Figure A2.13a/b**

**Upper (a):** The Menangle Road side entry to the church showing the lych gate installed in 1912 to Mrs Macarthur Onslow's memory

**Lower (b):** Photograph of same, but showing an earlier gate entry. Not dated, c1880s?

Source: Mitchell Library - Small Picture File - Camden



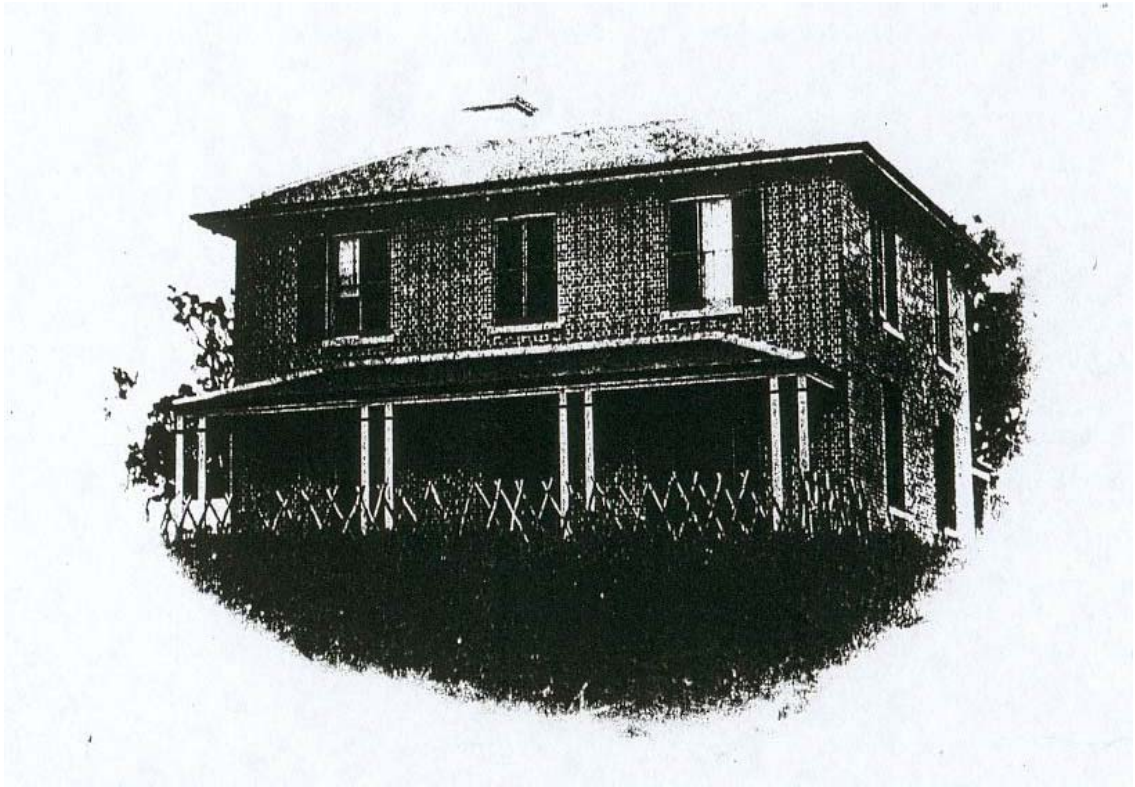
**Figure A2.14 a/b**

**Upper (a):** Photograph of church interior showing kerosene lighting fittings c1900s.

**Lower (b):** Photograph of same, but showing acetylene gas fittings c1910s.

Source: Rev C. J. King, *A History of St John's Camden*, 1919

Mitchell Library - Small Picture File - Camden



**Figure A2.15**

H.P Reeves' photograph c1865 of the front elevation of the rectory.  
Source: Camden Historical Society



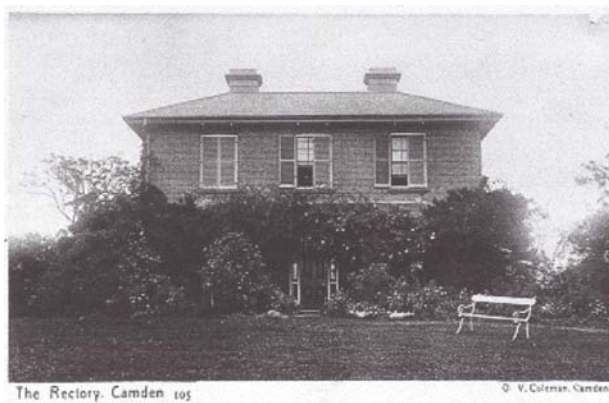
**Figure A2.16**

A postcard photograph c1910s of the front elevation of the rectory.  
Source: Camden Historical Society



**Figure A2.17**

A photograph of c1870s of the front elevation of the rectory  
 Source: Mitchell Library - Macarthur Family Papers PXA 4359, f.426

**Figure A2.18**

A post card photograph of the front of the rectory c.1911  
 Source: Rev. Barry Burgess



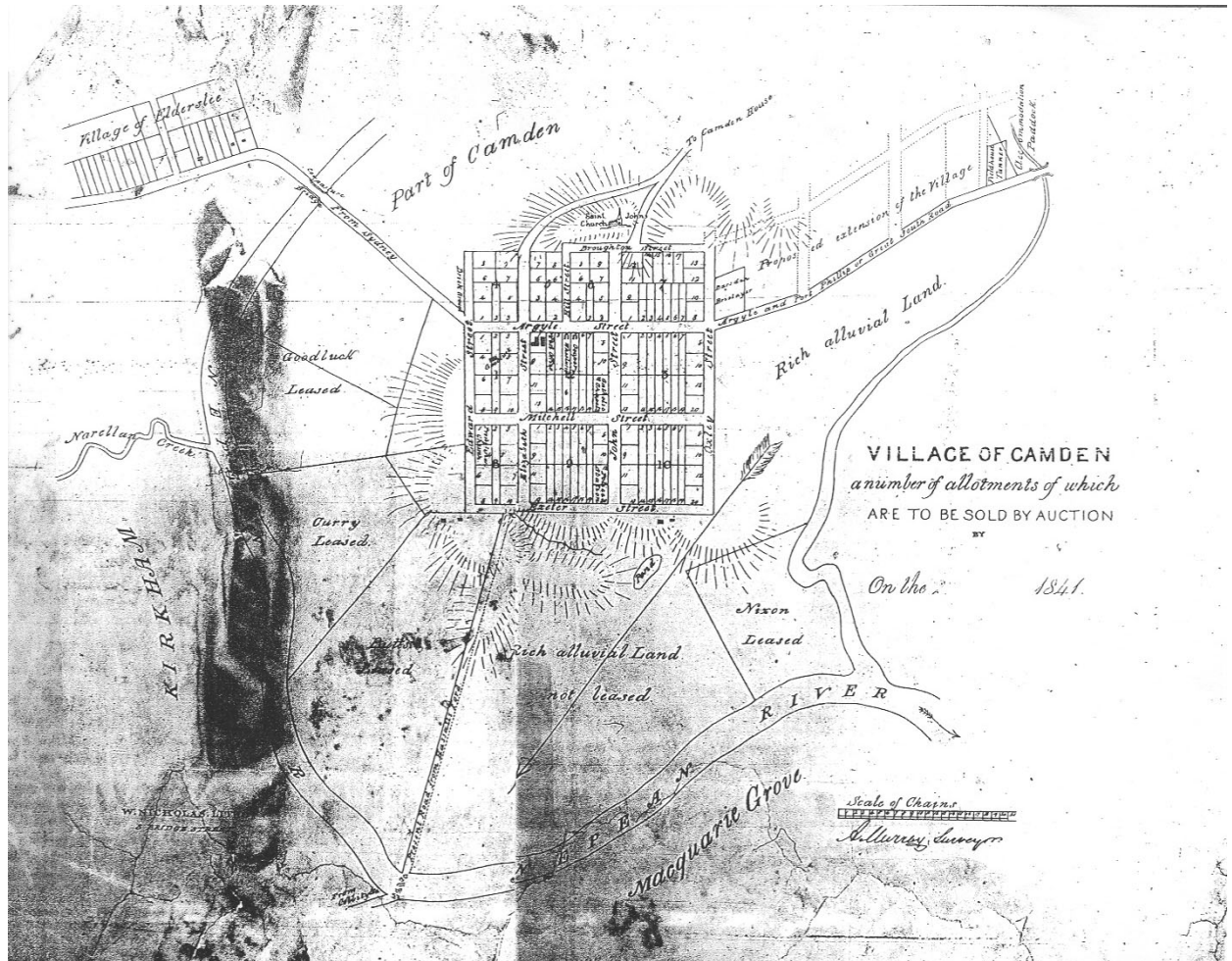
**Figure A2.19**  
H. P. Reeve's photograph of 1864 of the former school house (demolished 1906),  
which was situated in the area of the present-day Masonic Lodge.  
Mitchell Library - Small Picture File - Camden



**Figure A2.20**  
H.P. Reeve's 1874 photograph of the former school house.  
Mitchell Library - Small Picture File - Camden

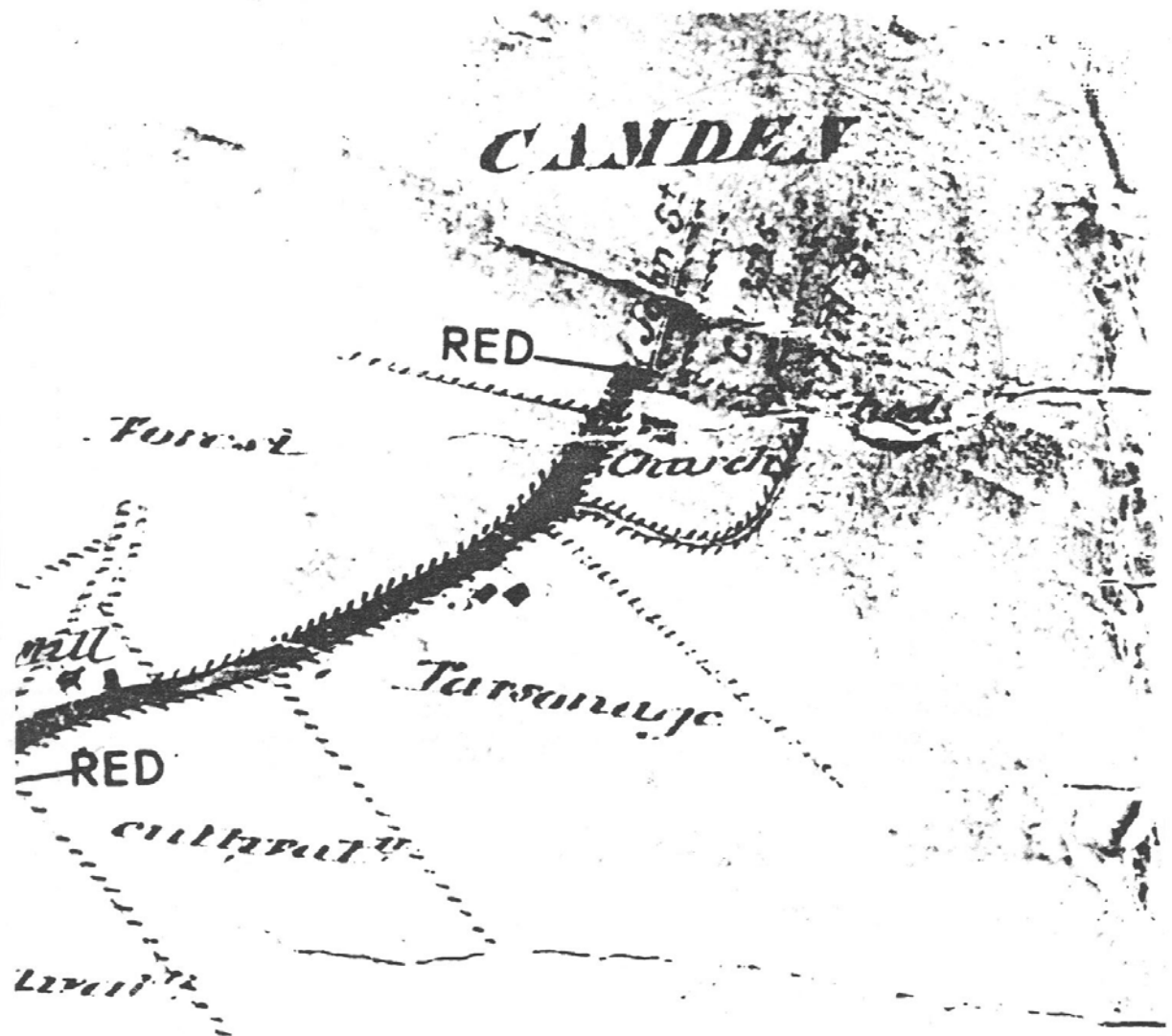


### 10.3 Appendix 3 - Historic Maps and Plans



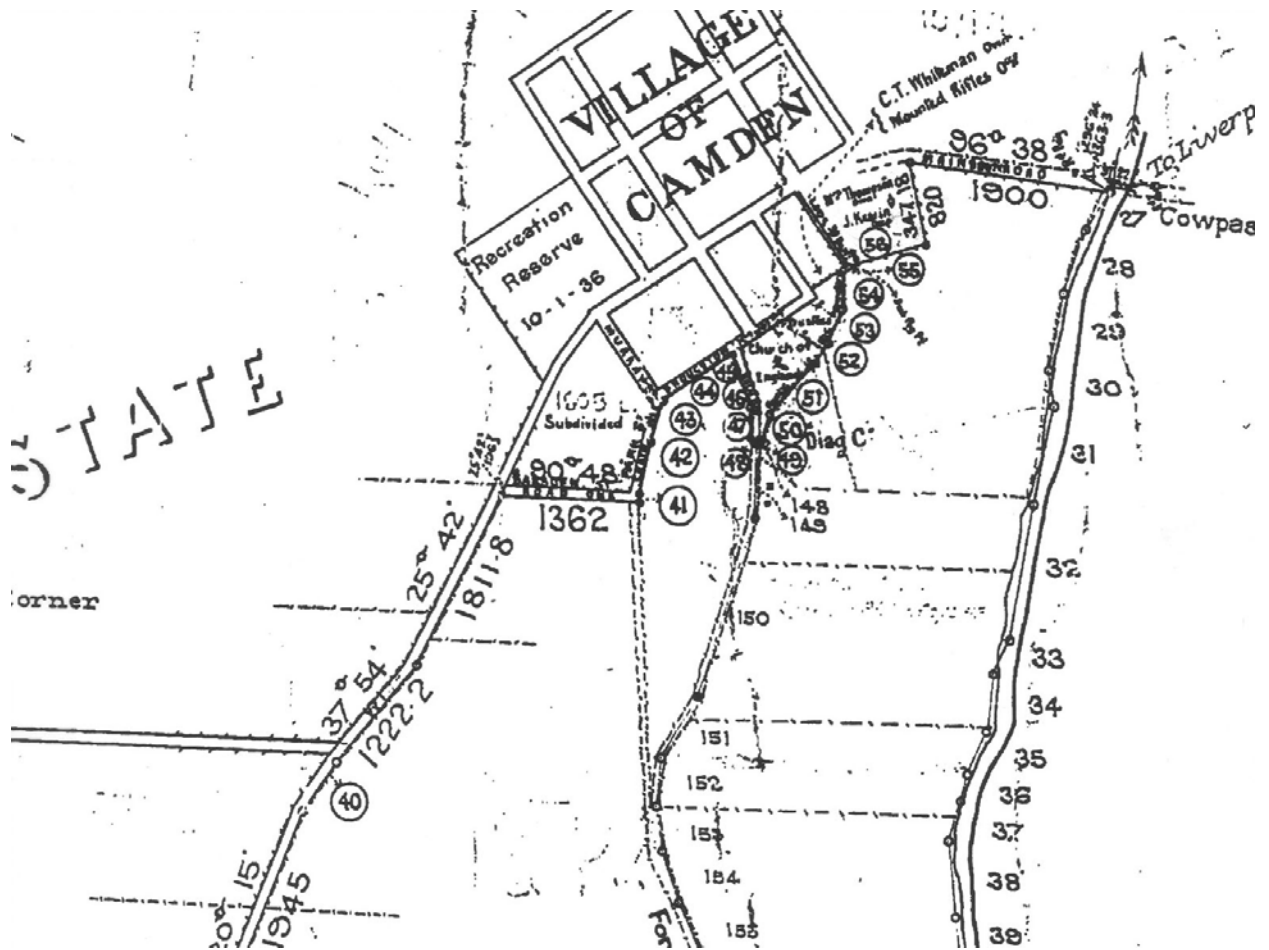
**Figure A3.1**

Plan of the Village of Camden of 1841. The sketch plan was made by Surveyor Murray as part of the sale of the town allotments by Auctioneer Samuel Lyons  
Source: Mitchell Library - Macarthur Papers A4218, ff.1-2

**Figure A3.2**

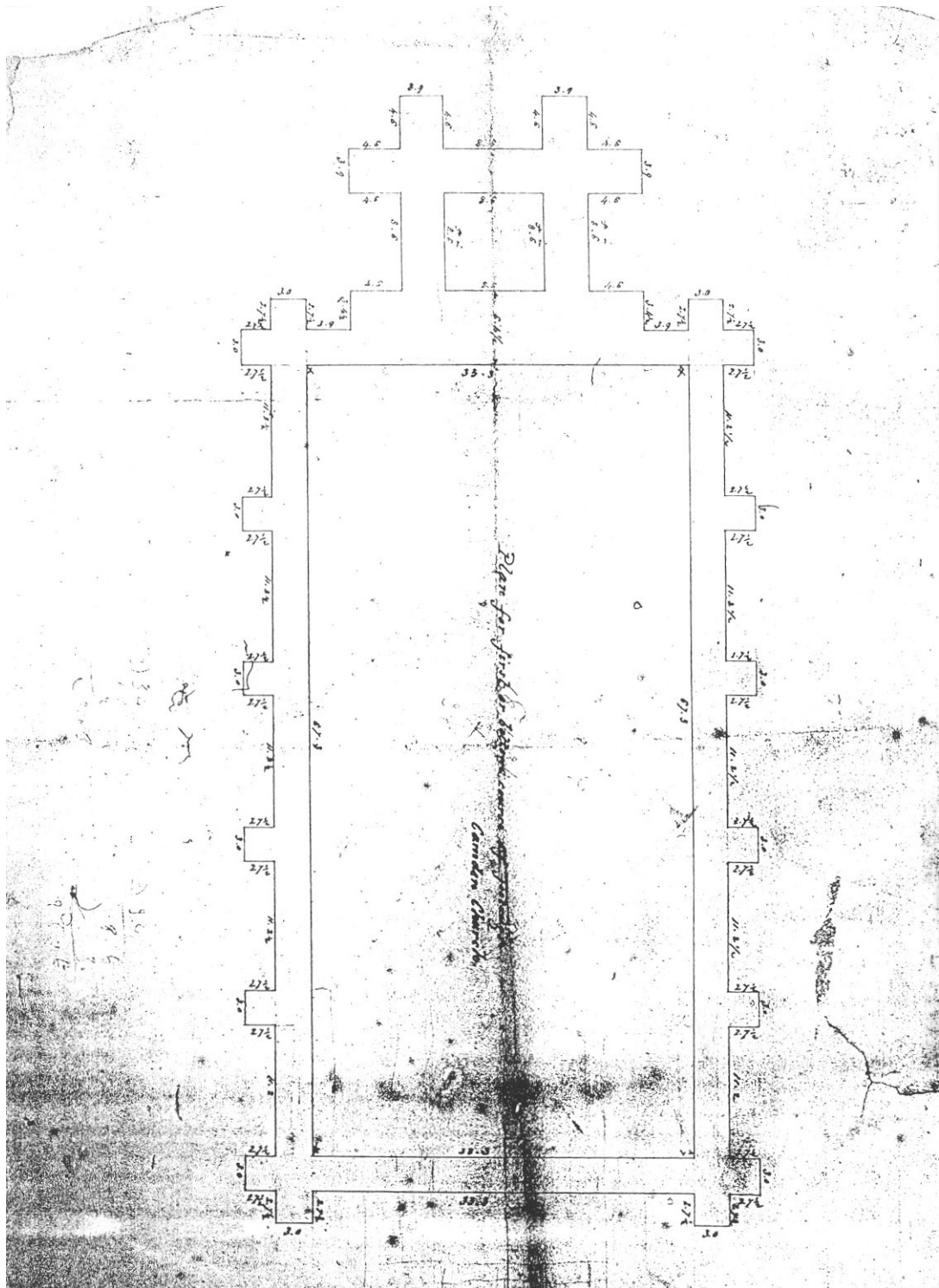
Detail of the survey of 1864 of the Parish Road between the Town of Camden and the Great Southern Railway Station at Menangle (the Menangle Road) prepared by Surveyor Parkinson. The survey shows the church, 'parsonage' (with stable) and lands attached to both, and the road alignment bounding the cemetery.

Source: Land Titles Office - Crown Plan 442-1603

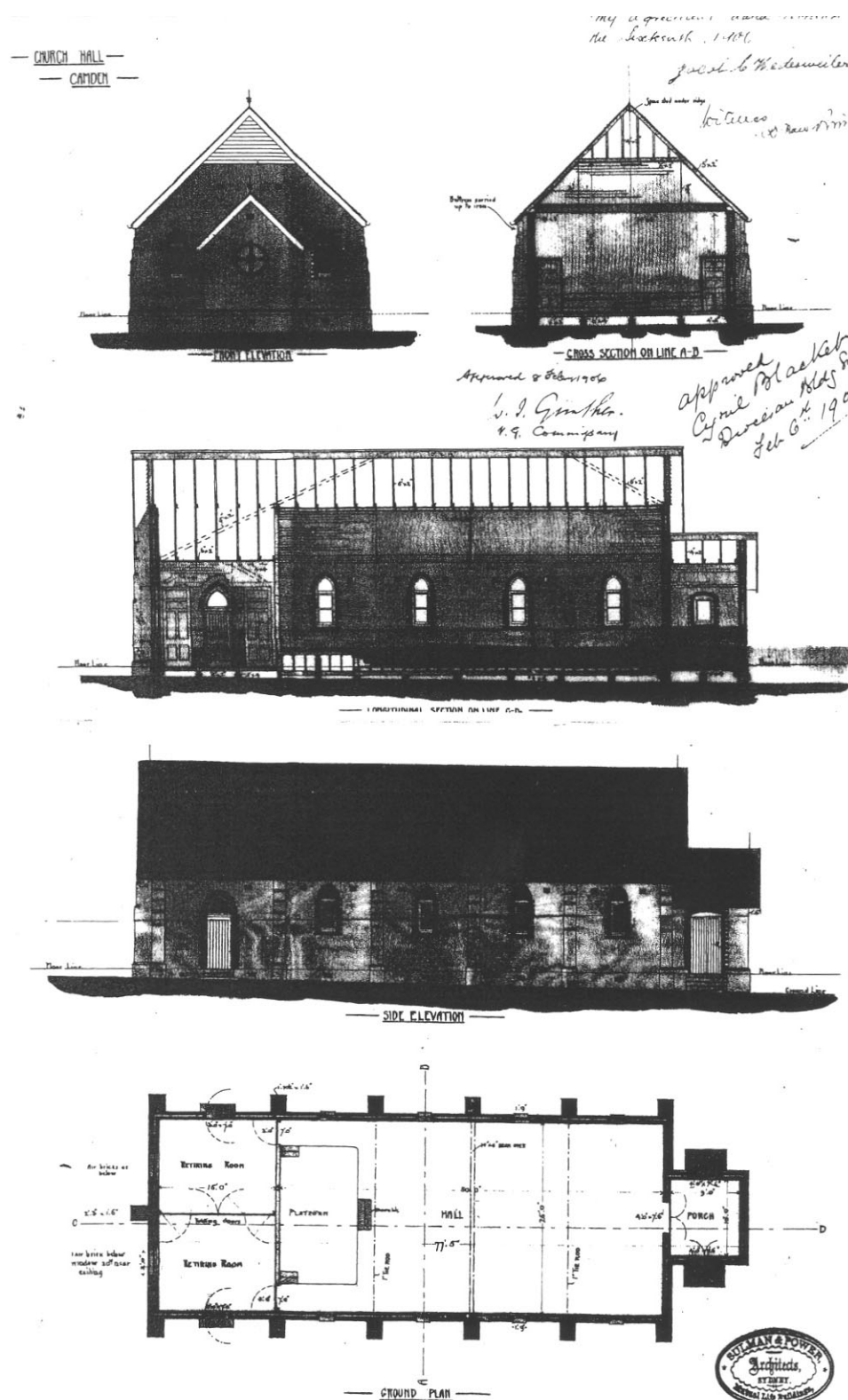
**Figure A3.3**

Detail of the survey of the Camden Park Estate Subdivision of 1900 showing the extent of the original title boundaries to the Church, and adjoining paddocks under the ownership of Mrs Macarthur-Onslow, including the Rectory.

Source: Land Titles Office - Application Roll 222 (DP61487)

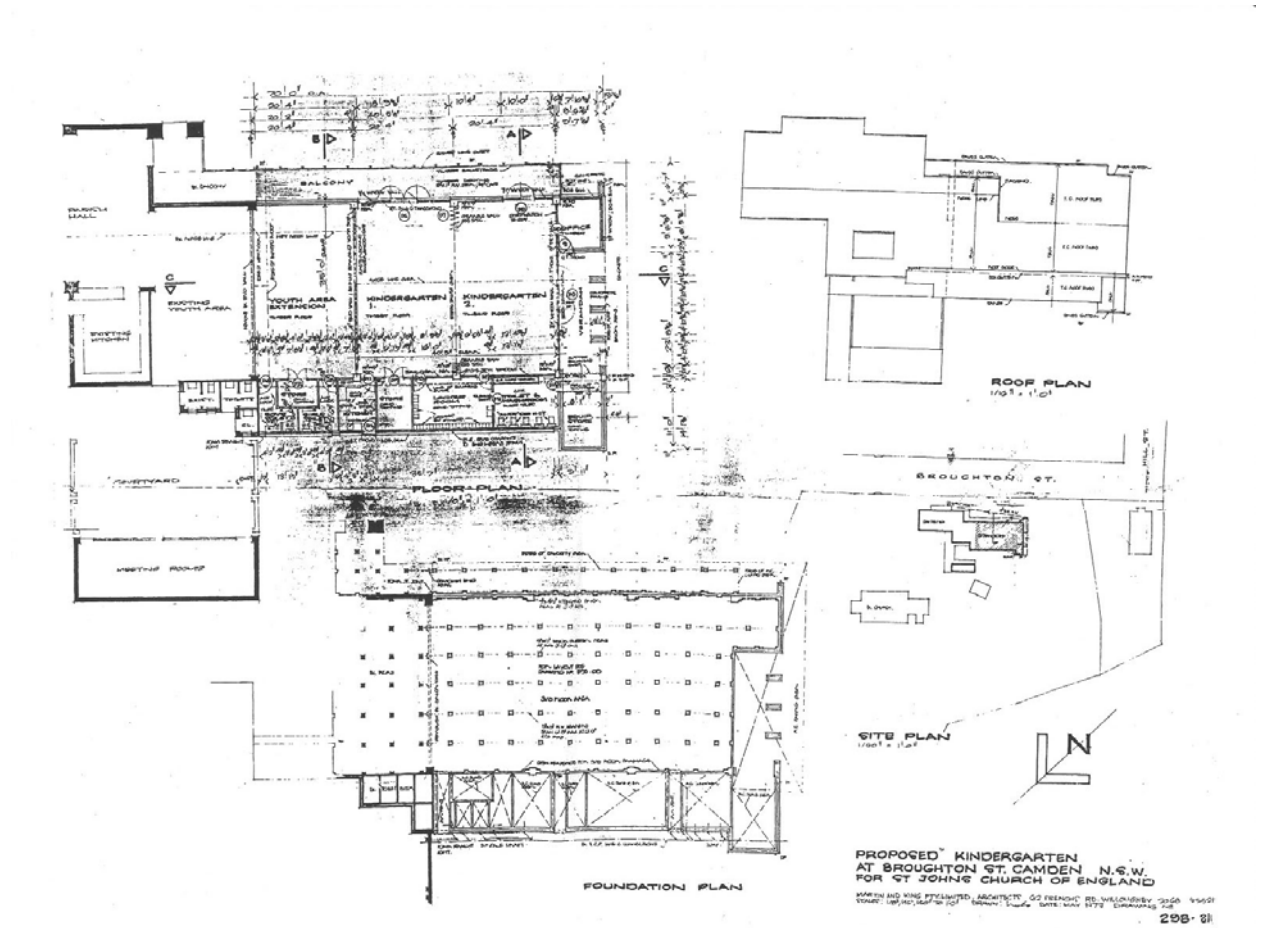
**Figure A3.4**

'Plan for first or bottom course of footings (of) Camden Church'. Plan attributed to James Hume  
Source: Mitchell Library - Macarthur Papers - PXD 188



**Figure A3.5**

Architects Sulman and Power's plan and elevation of the Church Hall, dated February 1906.  
Source: St John's Anglican Parish Council



**Figure A3.6**  
 Architects Martin and King's plan of the proposed, but not built, kindergarten, showing existing new church hall of 1972. Plan dated May 1973.  
 Source: St John's Anglican Parish Council

## **10.4 Appendix 4 – Survey of the Rectory**

### **Exterior Roof**

Chimneys:	Two rendered chimneys with moulded cornices – original. Bent metal flue caps - late 20th century.
Lining:	Natural slate with lead ridgings – original
Gutters:	Metal, quad profile – late 20th century.
Fascia:	Beaded timber – original.
Eaves soffit:	Approximately 300 wide beaded board plus 100 beaded board – original. To each elevation, six shaped timber brackets above each opening and at corners – original or replacements.
Walls:	Face brick English bond with raddle and tuckpointed gauged arches above all openings – original. Eight cast iron vents above base course – original.
Base course:	Splayed rendered base course – original.
Threshold to doors:	Stone – original.
Front verandah:	Stone flagging – evidence of original column placings at the outer edge. Flagging lifted and relaid in correct position – 2003.
Porch:	Concrete porch supported on two Doric columns – 1959, removed 2003. The 1859 verandah posts and roof were reconstructed from photographic and on-site evidence, 2003.
Plaque fixed to the wall adjacent to the front door reads:	<i>This porch dedicated 7th November, 1959 to mark the centenary 1859-1959. A gift of the parish.</i>
Windows:	Double-hung sashes, each divided into six panes, in timber box frame with a pair of louvred timber shutters, hung on parliament hinges – all original.
French doors:	Timber-framed sashes, clear glazed, no divisions in solid timber frames with pair of timber louvred shutters – original Southern pair of doors are a reproduction – 1996.
Front door case:	Four-panelled timber leaf with fielded panels and bolection moulds – original.

Two side lights and three fanlights: Timber framed and clear glazed – original.  
 Flyscreen door: late 20th century.

## **Interior Ground Floor**

### **Space 1 – Hall**

Ceiling: Set plaster – original?

Walls: Set plaster – original.  
 Moulded timber picture rail c1915.  
 Moulded three-centred arch to the rear hall – original.

Skirting: 300 timber moulded –original.  
 35mm timber quad – mid-20th century.

Floor: 75mm hardwood, polished – late 20th century.

### **Space 2 – Rear Hall**

Ceiling: Set plaster – original.

Walls: Set plaster – original.

Skirting: 300mm timber moulded –original.  
 35mm quad – mid-20th century.

Floor: 75mm hardwood – mid-20th century.

Other: Timber open string stair with square balusters and turned newel – original.

### **Space 3 – Sitting Room**

Ceiling: Set plaster – original.

Cornice: Moulded plaster – original.

Walls: Set plaster – original.  
 Timber moulded picture rail – mid-20th century.  
 Timber staff beads to chimney breast – original.

Skirting: 300mm timber moulded –original.

Floor: Carpet – late 20th century on timber (unseen).

Other: Face roman brick fireplace and hearth – c1970.

### **Space 4 – Study**

Ceiling: Fibrous plaster - mid-20th century.

Cornice: Moulded plaster, probably fibrous – c1970.



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Walls:	Set plaster – original. Timber moulded picture rail – mid-20th century.
Skirting:	300mm timber moulded – original. 35mm quad, timber – mid-20th century.
Floor:	Carpet – late 20th century on timber structure (unseen).
Other:	Roman brick fireplace and hearth – c1970. Timber staff mould to chimney breast up to picture rail – original.

### **Space 5 – Dining Room**

Ceiling:	Fibrous plaster – c1970.
Cornice:	Moulded plaster, fibrous? – c1970.
Walls:	Set plaster – original. Timber splayed picture rail – c1930.
Skirting:	300mm moulded timber – original. 35mm timber quad – mid-20th century.
Floor:	Carpet – late 20th century. Stone hearth to chimney piece – original.
Other:	Marble chimney piece – original, painted 20th century. Face brick hob and inner hearth lining – c1930. Pass through hatch to service wing – c1930.

### **Space 6 – Bedroom**

Ceiling:	Set plaster, set square - original.
Walls:	Set plaster – original.
Picture Rail:	Splayed timber – c1930.
Skirting:	150mm moulded timber – original.
Floor:	Carpet – late 20th century.
Other:	White marble chimney piece – original. Face brick inner hearth and outer hearth and hob lining – c1970. Timber staff moulds to chimney breast – original. Fitted bookcases either side of chimney breast – c1970.

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**Space 7 – Sunroom**

A new sunroom was constructed 2003.

Ceiling:	Raking plasterboard – c1980, demolished 2003.
Walls:	East and south: Painted face brick former external walls – original, sheeted in plasterboard, 2003. North and west: Glazed timber infill – c1980, demolished 2003.
Floor:	Vinyl – late 20th century on concrete – c1980, demolished 2003.

**Space 8 – Passage**

Ceiling:	Set plaster – original. Set square.
Walls:	Set plaster – original.
Skirting:	35mm timber quad – mid-20th century.
Floor:	Vinyl – late 20th century on timber (unseen).
Other:	At the east end fitted timber cupboard – 1930s.

**Space 9 – Service Room**

Ceiling:	Ripple iron, with timber lined manhole in south east corner – c1930.
Cornice:	50mm scotia – 1920s?
Walls:	Set plaster – original.
Skirting:	38mm timber quad – 20th century.
Floor:	Vinyl – late 20th century on timber structure (unseen).
Other:	East wall: pass through hatch, timber lined – c1930. West wall: fitted timber cupboards, floor to ceiling with flush doors and polished metal handles – c1970.

**Space 10 – Kitchen**

Ceiling:	Fibrous plaster? – c1970.
Cornice:	Moulded plaster, fibrous? – c1970.
Walls:	Set plaster – original. Plaster vents to the south and west walls (three) – c1930.
Skirting:	North: 50mm timber quad – mid-20th century.
Floor:	Vinyl – late 20th century on timber substructure (unseen).

Other: Large chimney breast with timber staff moulds – original.  
Fitted cupboards to east, south and west including the former fireplace opening – c1980.  
Tiling above bench – c1980.

### **Space 11 – Laundry and Lavatory**

Ceiling: Raking fibrous cement- c1930.

Walls: North: Former exterior brick wall and base – original.  
East, west and south: Fibrous cement on timber frame – mid-20th century.

Floor: Cement – mid-20th century.

Other: A pair of enamelled cast iron laundry tubs of fine quality – early 20th century.  
Shower, lavatory and basin fitout and partition – c1980.  
Hot water service and cupboard – c1980.

## **First Floor**

### **Space 12 & 12A – Stair Hall**

Ceiling: Fibrous plaster - c1970.

Cornice: Moulded plaster fibrous – c1970.

#### *Space 12A*

Set plaster – original.  
Timber framed manhole with panelled hatch cover – original.

Cornice: Set square.

Walls: Set plaster – original.

Skirting: 300mm moulded timber – original.  
35mm timber quad – mid-20th century.

Floor: Carpet – late 20th century on timber (unseen).

Other: Three centred arch with staff moulds – original.  
Stair – original.  
Gate at the top of the stair – early 20th century.

### **Space 13 – Bedroom**

Ceiling: Set plaster – original.  
75 x 19 battens – early 20th century.

Walls: Set plaster – original.

Picture rail: Splayed timber – c1930.

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Skirting:	300mm moulded timber – original. 35mm timber quad – mid-20th century.
Floor:	Carpet – late 20th century.
Other:	Chimney breast with timber staff moulds – original. The fireplace has been closed up. Door to dressing room – opening reinstated 1996.

**Space 14 – Dressing Room**

Ceiling:	Set plaster – original. Set square.
Walls:	Set plaster – original.
Skirting:	Not visible.
Floor:	Carpet – late 20th century.

**Space 15 – Bedroom**

Ceiling:	Set plaster – original. Timber 75 x 19 battens – early 20th century.
Walls:	Set plaster – original.
Skirting:	300mm moulded timber - original. 35mm timber quad – mid-20th century.
Floor:	Carpet – late 20th century.
Other:	Chimney breast with timber staff moulds – original. The fireplace opening has been closed up.

**Space 16 – Bathroom**

Ceiling:	Fibrous plaster – c1945.
Cornice:	Fibrous plaster – c1945.
Walls:	Set plaster – original.
Skirting:	On northern half of room: 300mm moulded timber - original. 35mm timber quad – mid-20th century.
Floor:	Northern half of room: carpet – late 20th century.
Other:	Tiled bathroom fitout occupies the southern half of the room – c1945. Chimney breast with timber staff moulds – original. The fireplace has been closed up. Fitted cabinet in the northern half of the room on the west wall – c1945.

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**Space 17 – Bedroom**

Ceiling:	Set plaster – original. 75 x 19 timber battens – early 20th century.
Walls:	Set plaster – original.
Skirting:	300mm moulded timber - original. 35mm timber quad – mid-20th century.
Floor:	Carpet – late 20th century.
Other:	Chimney breast with timber staff moulds – original. The fireplace has been closed up.

**Survey of Doors****Door 1 – Front Door**

Timber frame, transom, four-panelled leaf, glazed side lights, three glazed fanlights, 12” iron barrel bolt, 12” iron drawback rimlock and keeper and escutcheon, brass centre knob – original; cabin hook and eye (c1900); door bell night latch and security chain (late 20th century); cabin hook for rope (early 20th century).

**Door 2 – French Doors**

Timber frame, shutter lining, shutters, clear glazed undivided french door leaves, splayed linings, architraves, inward opening pair of fanlight casements, rimlock – original; ceramic knob set (c1920); barrel bolt (late 20th century).

**Door 3 – Laundry**

Frame, architraves and stops (c1930); framed and sheeted leaf cut down – original; rimlock (1930s); nightlatch (1960s), flyscreen door (late 20th century).

**Door 4**

Frame, pair of glazed divided doors and hardware (late 20th century).

**Door 5**

Frame, pair of glazed divided doors and hardware (late 20th century), removed 2003.

**Door 6**

Frame, shutter lining, louvred shutters, pair of clear glazed undivided french doors, splayed linings, architrave, casement hung fanlight sashes, mortice lock, escutcheon key, knob rose and table catch to fanlight – original; barrel bolt to second closing leaf (late 20th century).

**Door 7**

Double rebated lining, architraves, four-panelled leaf, mortice lock, porcelain knob set and escutcheon flaps (original).

**Door 8**

Double rebated linings, architraves, four-panelled door, mortice lock, porcelain knob set and escutcheon flaps (original; one flap from the inside is missing).

**Door 9**

Double rebated lining, architraves, four-panelled door, mortice lock, porcelain knob set and escutcheon flaps (original); porcelain and brass hat and coat hook (late 19th century).

**Door 10**

Double rebated lining, architraves, four-panelled door leaf, mortice lock, brass rose to knobs, 1 porcelain escutcheon flap (original); brass knob set (c1900); two boot hooks on inside face of door (mid-20th century); cabin hook on architrave (c1930).

**Door 11**

Solid frame, iron arch bar, splayed linings, architrave, four-panelled bead flush leaf, carpenter rimlock, brass knob set, brass escutcheon (original); mortice lock with chrome locking hardware (late 20th century); broken brass and porcelain hat and coat hook (late 19th century); brass hat and coat hook (late 19th century).

**Door 12**

Solid frame, architraves, framed and sheeted leaf, carpenter rimlock (original); metal knob set (late 19th century); thumb latch and keeper (original); mortice lock and lock and chromed knob set (late 20th century).

**Door 13**

Double rebated linings, architraves (original; leaf not in place).

**Door 14**

Double rebated linings, architraves (original; leaf not in position).

**Door 15**

Solid frame, transom, fanlight sash, clear glazed, half-glazed framed and sheeted leaf, beaded architraves (original); rimlock and knob set (mid-20th century); sash curtains (late 20th century); flyscreen frame composed of recycled shutter linings? (late 20th century).

**Door 16**

Rebated lining, architraves, flush door, mortice lock and knob set (c1970).

**Door 17**

Double rebated linings, architraves, four-panelled leaf, mortice lock, porcelain knob set, one porcelain escutcheon flap, brass and porcelain hat and coat hook (broken) (original; the internal escutcheon flap is missing).

**Door 18**

Double rebated linings, architraves, four-panelled door leaf, mortice lock, porcelain knob set, porcelain escutcheon flaps, brass and porcelain hat and coat hook (original).

**Door 19**

Single rebated lining, architraves, four panelled doors, mortice lock, porcelain knob rose, brass escutcheon flap – original; brass knobs – early 20th century.

**Door 20**

Double rebated linings, architraves, four panelled leaf, mortice lock, fragment of porcelain key escutcheon, brass and porcelain hat and coat hook – original; brass knob set – early 20th century.

**Door 21**

Double rebated linings, architraves, four-panelled leaf, mortice lock, remnant of escutcheon, one porcelain escutcheon flap (original); barrel bolt, porcelain knob set (late 20th century).

**Windows**

All windows shown on the plans are of a common type as follows:

Box frame, double-hung divided sashes, shutter linings, louvred shutters, splayed linings, architraves, sillboard, inset brass sash lifts to bottom sash (original). Original blind or curtain fixing and sash fastener survives in Spaces 14, 4, 5, 6, and 10 (northern).

The exception to this common pattern are the windows in the laundry addition, which are mid-20th century, and the window originally located in the south wall of the kitchen, which is late 19th century. This window was relocated to the sunroom in the 2003 work, and the opening converted to a doorway opening.

**Other notes****Kitchen Chimney**

Rendered with corbelled courses – original.

**Finishes**

Generally the finished joinery is clear. Last varnished in the early 20th century.

**Stables**

Roof:	Slate 20th century. Galvanised iron ridging.
Gutters:	Copper quad pattern late 20th century.
Fascia:	Bullnosed – late 20th century.
Eaves:	Grooved timber boards c1960.
Walls:	Face brick English bond – original. Gauged arch over the back door. Timber lintel over the loft door. Stone corbel kneelers at four corners – original.

Main space - not inspected

Space 2 – Store

Ceiling:	Hardboard – mid-20th century.
Walls:	Skim plaster – original or late 19th century.

Floor: 100mm Cyprus pine – 20th century.  
125mm Baltic pine – original.

Loft – not inspected

### **Survey of Doors**

#### **Door 1 – Store**

Solid frame, framed and sheeted leaf, timber lining (original); rimlock, knob set, tail bolt, pad bolt (late 20th century).

#### **Door 2 – Loft**

Timber frame, lintel, ledged and sheeted door (original), metal pull catch (late 20th century), internal elevation of this door was not seen. There is evidence of an opening for a hoist above this door.

#### **Door 3**

Opening – original; garage door – c1970.



### **10.5 Appendix 5 – Select Photographs (Contemporary)**



**Figure A5.1a/b**

**Upper (a):** St John's Church (from west): tower, spire, clock and drive from Menangle Road with lych gate (2000)

**Lower (b):** Chancel and vestry addition from east (2000)

**Figure A5.2 a/b**

**Upper (a):** Entrance gate posts on Menangle Road, leading to the 'horse paddock' area (2000)

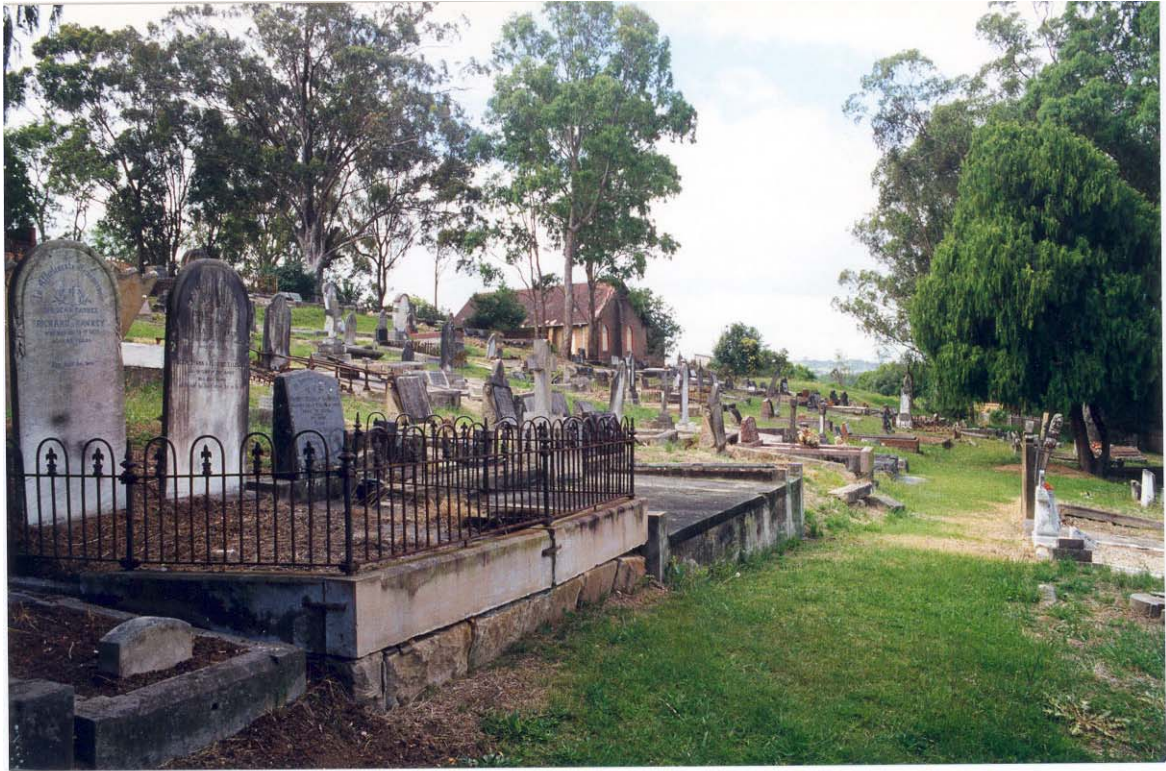
**Lower (b):** Looking from the rectory to the church (2000)



**Figure A5.3 a/b**

**Upper (a):** The rectory front (east) elevation (2000, prior to reconstruction of original verandah in 2003)  
**Lower (b):** Former stables and coach house, shortened for the making of Forrest Crescent in 1968 (2000)



**Figure A5.4 a/b****Upper (a):** The cemetery looking towards the church hall of 1906 (2000)**Lower (b):** The columbarium, established in 1964 (2000)

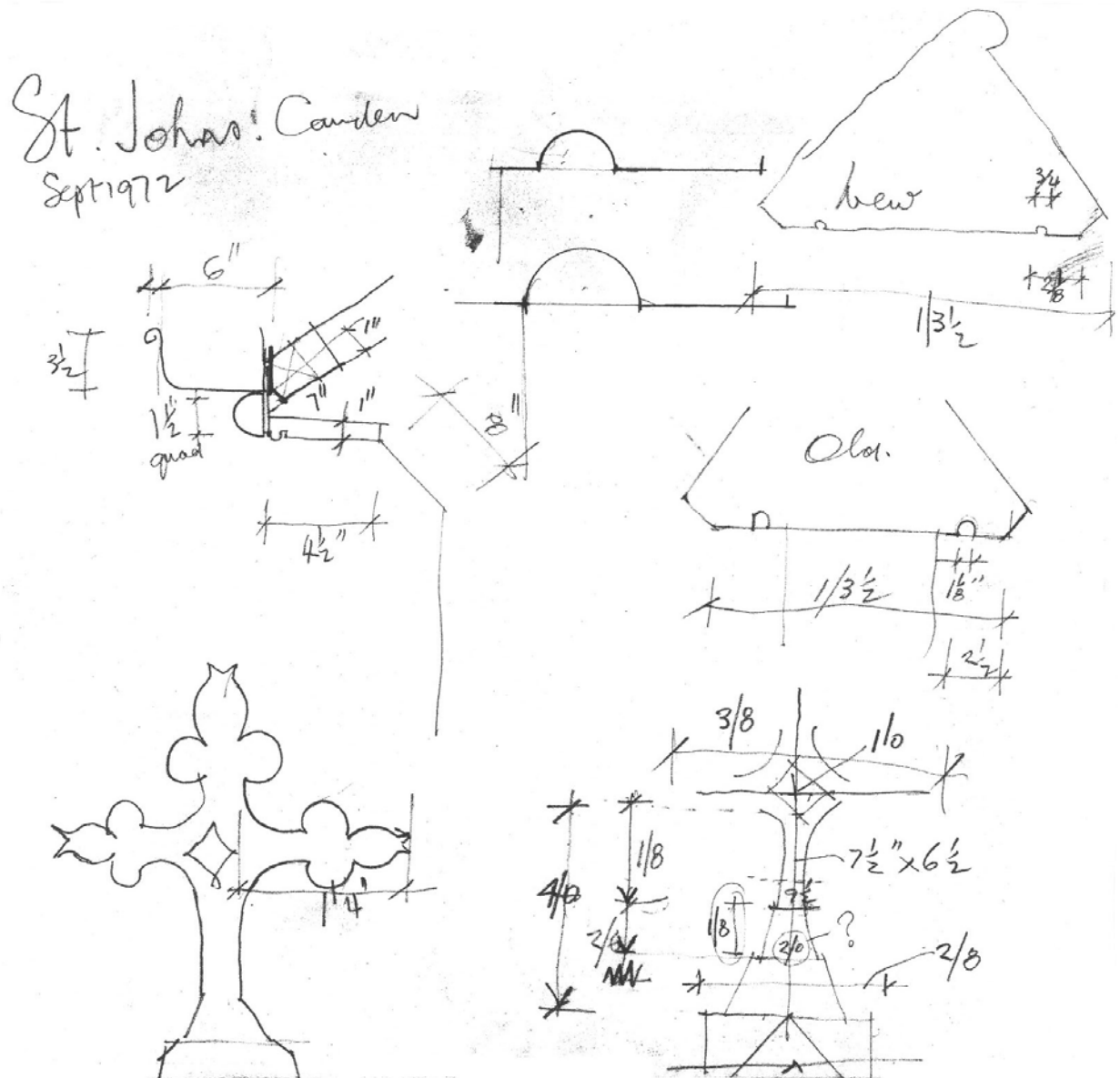




**Figure A5.5 a/b**

**Upper (a):** The church hall of 1906, with adjoining former tennis court (2000)

**Lower (b):** The parish hall of 1973, Broughton Street front (2000)

**10.6 Appendix 6 – Measured Sketch of Chancel Cross****Figure A6.1**

Measured sketch of stone Chancel Cross (now missing)

Source: Drawn by Clive Lucas, September 1972



## THE COUNCIL OF CAMDEN

(Incorporated 1889 - Reconstituted 1949)  
ABN 31 117 341 764

All communications to be addressed to:  
General Manager, Box 183, P.O. Camden 2570

KP:KP:5400.70

(OUR REF.:)

Council Office,  
37 John Street,  
Camden, N.S.W.

DX 25807

Camden

Telephone: (02) 4654 7777

Facsimile: (02) 4654 7829

(YOUR REF.:)

March 12, 2001

Mr Ross Newport  
29 Barratt Ave  
CAMDEN SOUTH NSW 2570

Dear Ross,

**Re: St. John's Anglican Church Precinct Menangle Road  
Camden Council Draft Conservation Management Plan**

I am writing to make comment on the above document on behalf of Camden Council and with input from Mr Don Truman, Council's Heritage Advisor. May I begin by thanking you for consulting with us on this important document and congratulate you and your consultants on the overall quality of the draft.

Given the significance of the St. John's precinct itself and its context in the broader development of the Camden township, a thorough and comprehensive Conservation Management Plan is considered critical in assisting consideration of, and facilitating the long term sustainability of the site.

The following comments on the draft Conservation Management Plan are offered for your consideration and not intended to demean the high quality of the document, but to express our sincere views for the place's future:

1. Firstly, as a general comment, of greatest concern is if the document is found to be too constrictive by the owners, and that therefore they are unable to grow and sustain their occupation of the place with a growing parish community. The potentially disastrous effects from a heritage point of view, of centralisation of facilities has begun in the Narellan, Elderslie and Cobbitty communities, whereby redundancy of church assets creates considerable problems in terms of proactive conservation of significance, and significant elements. This document should be able to address those issues and fully explore all avenues to ensure the parish remains on site.
2. It is suggested that as a part of the Conservation Management Planning process a nomination be made to the Heritage Office for listing on the State Heritage Register. The plan clearly indicates that the place is considered to be of national significance and recognition of such significance should be sought. This level of significance and the relevant constraints and opportunities should then be included in section 7.3 Statutory Heritage Constraints.

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[www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)





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3. The plan advocates very limited opportunities for future development, albeit the place's significance is acknowledged. Given therefore, the limited potential funding mechanisms, concern is raised as to the ability of the church to be self sustaining in the long term, and this would potentially lead to removal of a primary element of significance i.e. the church's presence itself, which must be avoided.
4. The paddock area is an ideal location for further development to be explored. Concern is raised regarding the apparent lack of exploration in this area.

Above ground development would not be supported as this would have major impacts on the significant elements identified in the plan. Underground development, however would be strongly encouraged. It would appear that this is the best opportunity for achieving the requirements of the parish in the long term, whilst having minimal impact on significance. Such development could also facilitate the removal of the 1970's hall and minimal impact occasioned by other possible new built forms above ground, for example, extensions to the 1906 hall.

Development in this area is considered to be fundamental in achieving the long term presence of the church on this site, which is a primary aspect of the significance of the place.

5. Due to the level of community interest and significance of the place, question is raised regarding the level of consultation undertaken in the preparation of the plan. It would appear that there are a number of stakeholders relevant to the issue and their level of involvement in the preparation of this plan is unclear. These include; Camden Historical Society, NSW Heritage Office, The National Trust, adjoining owners to the place and the broader parish community. Please confirm that the comments of the Heritage Council and the National Trust are in relation to this conservation plan.
6. Short to medium term requirements of the parish are outlined in section 7.9. Given the significance of the place and the clear view of all concerned that the place should continue in its current use, concern is raised that the long term position of the parish has not been assessed. There are also concerns regarding some of the stated requirements of the church and that some of these issues are not dealt with in the remainder of the document. It is suggested that a more comprehensive reconciliation of the views of the parish and the outcomes of the policy be undertaken.

Further, we have concern in relation to the owner's requirements for two new residential premises, when the existing rectory could be conserved to serve one of the two, as found in the conservation plan. We firmly believe the rectory should remain as such and as noted in the conservation plan.

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Child care may be facilitated in the (1906) hall, with minor sympathetic alterations as required. Child care is not considered to be an appropriate use of the rectory.

7. Section 8.8 refers to management procedures and recommends that the Parish Council be given "responsibility for the making of all decisions". This concept is supported, however, it is suggested that "within the church's jurisdiction" be added.
8. Figure 8.3 indicates an "I" on the map but has no description listed under opportunities for interpretation and reconstruction from the map itself.
9. Section 7.2 indicates that all fabric introduced up to the present should be defined as significant. It is suggested that this should read all fabric prior to the construction of the 1970's hall. It is considered that this hall is intrusive and policy 20 indicates this hall should in fact be removed. We believe figure 8.2 should be deleted, as it is in the best interests of the place for the hall to be eliminated, rather than add to it. Any alterations to the 1970's hall will only prolong use and further opportunity for its retention.
10. Whilst the need to accommodate large numbers of people is understood, concern is raised regarding the nature and extent of the extensions suggested for the 1906 church hall. It is thought that the extensions as outlined on page 70 overpower the existing structure and significantly impact on its street façade. Further, it would appear that policy 29 is contrary to the extensions suggested.  
  
Expansion of the 1906 hall to a 600 seat facility whilst not substantially compromising its significance, and that of views to the church is not achievable. We believe promotion of substantial development in this area and above ground, would not be in the better interests of the place, particularly in terms of views from areas around the township.
11. Figure 8.2 outlines development guidelines for the Parish Hall. It is thought that the long term objective would be to facilitate the removal of this structure rather than to extend. The potential therefore, of underground development in the vicinity of the paddock area, clearly needs to be investigated in order to accommodate the needs of the parish whilst facilitating the medium to long term removal of the 1970's hall.
12. Commercial activity associated with both the church and parish halls would be supported and encouraged, within constraints, and subject to a proportion of the funds returning to the ongoing conservation of the significant elements of the place.

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13. Options for securing ongoing financial commitment for the maintenance and repair of significant elements, and exploration and identification of mechanisms to ensure long term conservation of significant elements of the place have not been noted fully. It is understood this was part of the brief.
14. Stage 2 (a) of the brief requires consideration of the church's desires for all their properties, with cross subsidisation of uses and / or facilities. While the properties are identified in section 7, little else is noted in terms of policy guidelines for same.
15. While physical survey of the church and rectory has been undertaken, an implementation strategy has not been included which should identify what works are required to conserve significant elements of the place and ensure their ongoing conservation. We understand this was part of the brief.
16. As a general comment, it would appear that there are a number of words missing in different places. A thorough proof read is suggested.

I trust these comments will be passed on through yourself to the consultant and I look forward to receiving a final version of the plan in the near future. On receipt of a final version, the plan will go to Council ideally for their endorsement.

Please feel free to phone me on 4654 7798, should you wish to discuss any of these matters further.

Yours sincerely,

**Kylie Powell**  
**HERITAGE OFFICER**



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Contact: Sophie Read  
Telephone: 02-9849 9565  
readso@heritage.nsw.gov.au  
File: S91/0268  
Our Ref: HLR 13670  
Your Ref:

Mr Ross Newport  
29 Barratt Ave  
CAMDEN SOUTH  
NSW 2570

Dear Mr Newport

**RE: ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH PRECINCT  
DRAFT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

I am writing regarding the meeting between representatives from the St John's Parish, Camden Shire Council and the NSW Heritage Office regarding the Draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for St John's Anglican Church in Camden.

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to commend the Parish of St John's for undertaking the conservation planning process for the St John's Church Group, a site of heritage significance for New South Wales, as well as the Camden area. The preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for the site, which has been partially funded through the Heritage Office's Heritage Incentives Program, will provide long term guidance for the conservation of the site, and will assist with the consideration of any future development. The Heritage Office has been very please to be able to assist with the preparation of this important document.

As discussed at this meeting, the Heritage Office has a number of comments on the Draft Conservation Management Plan. The intention of these comments is to assist in strengthening the document, so it provides clear guidance of the nature and level of significance of the site and its various elements, and straightforward conservation policies. These comments are as follows:

1. The CMP does not currently adequately address the site's archaeological potential. A plan and discussion should be included, explaining areas on the site, which have the potential to hold archaeology, such as paths, sites of former buildings, access ways etc.
2. The report should also clarify the recommended curtilage for the site, particularly with regard Policy 1 of the CMP, and the potential listing of the site on the State Heritage Register. Currently, the report's section on Curtilage (8.3) has identified the site's setting as being within a 5km boundary. This is an inadequate heritage curtilage boundary, particularly for listing purposes, and needs to be redefined.
3. As the focus of the report is on the Church precinct, the significance of all the elements needs to be assessed. Currently, the Section dealing with assessment of significance only addresses the Church building. The assessment should also include the Rectory and stables, the Cemetery, the Church Halls, and the landscape elements. These elements should also be included in the Statement of Significance.
4. A hierarchy of significance for the elements that make up the site should also be included. Once this has been established, it should guide the preparation of conservation policies, particularly though which will guide future development of the site.

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5. The current comparison to the SHR Criteria has only one sentence for each criterion. These points need to be further argued and supported by the evidence presented in the history and fabric analysis. Due consideration should also be given to the fact that the site has been continually used by the community for over 150 years, and that the congregation has continued to grow over that time.
6. The report currently recommends the extension of the Church Hall to accommodate more space, rather than the construction of a new facility in the old horse paddock. The argument supporting this option as the preferred option has not been fully developed, and it is unclear how this resolution was reached (when compared with the other options). Reconsideration of these matters is particularly relevant, given that the analysis of the site's various elements has not yet been undertaken, therefore the impact of each option cannot be accurately determined.
7. The CMP should also include stronger policies regarding the detail of any new building, particularly a new building in the Horse Paddock. These policies should address matters such as bulk, scale and height.
8. Ensure consistent use of terminology (Church Hall and Parish Hall) and clarify the difference through clear depiction on the site plan.
9. Include Section 10 Implementation (currently listed in Table of Contents, but does not appear in the report).

With regard to point 7, it is the preference of the NSW Heritage Office that a new building be located in the Horse Paddock, rather than extending the Church Hall. It is believed that this option would have the least impact on the significance of the site. Following the recommended amendments to the CMP, it is believed that the document will also support that option.

It is also requested that the CMP address the long term objective of the removal of the 1970s building, once the new facilities have been provided. This objective also has the support of the Heritage Office, as it will allow for the reinstatement of key vistas and landscape elements, and contribute to the significance of the site.

Once the CMP has been finalised, and an appropriate solution has been designed, the NSW Heritage Office would welcome the opportunity to allow the design to be considered by its Religious Properties Advisory Panel. This Panel Provides advice on the protection and management of religious heritage property, assists with assessments of grant applications affecting religious heritage and acts as a liaison for religious organisations on heritage issues.

The NSW Heritage Office would also like to invite the Parish to nominate St John's Anglican Church, Camden for listing on the State Heritage Register, on account of its widely recognised state significance.

If you have any queries regarding the above comments, or any other matters, please do not hesitate to contact Bruce Baskerville, Senior Heritage Officer, on 9849 9565.

Yours sincerely,



Cameron White  
Acting Assistant Director

8/10/02

cc. Kylie Powell, Camden Shire Council