

APPENDIX 1. Historical Timeline – former Sugar House, Canterbury

Pre-history Aboriginal land:
Indigenous people have lived in Australia for at least 60,000 years and have inhabited the eastern coastline around Sydney for at least 20,000 years or more than a thousand generations (Irish, c.2017, frontispiece). There is evidence remaining of three major middens in the locality near the Cooks River. There is a surviving rock painting site featuring hand stencils (located on the south side of the river in Earlwood, east of the Sugar House), listed on the State Heritage Register (no.1801).



Image A1. c.1770. Buchan, Parkinson and Miller, *Aboriginal people on canoes in Botany Bay during Captain Cook's visit in April 1770* (recorded in Joseph Banks' journal). Pencil and watercolour, 26 x 36 cm, collection of the British Library Add,Ms.15508f.10. (Source: Australian Aboriginal Canoes website)

A recent history of the Cooks River by historian Ian Tyrrell discusses Aboriginal associations with the place: "Aboriginal people did not bequeath to the Euro-Australian era a static, 'pristine' nature. Australia's original occupants interacted with the landscape culturally and economically, influencing both flora and fauna. . . They hunted in what they called *Bulanaming*, the kangaroo ground between Sydney Harbour and [the river] . . . The Gadigal (or Cadigal), a clan of the larger and more widely spread Eora people, numbered possibly 60 to 80 members. They were the traditional occupiers of the lower river area through to Sydney Harbour and engaged predominantly in fishing, hunting and the harvesting of plants and fruits . . . To the west around present day Strathfield were lands of the Wangal, also part of the Eora people. Gadigal, Bediagal or Bidjigal (to the south), Kameygal (around the north shore of Botany Bay) and other clans ranged widely across the area" (Tyrrell, 2018, pp.16-17).



Image A2. Photograph of Aboriginal hand stencils from the "Earlwood Aboriginal Art Site" heritage entry, no date. Photo by Tanya Koeneman, c.2009. (Source: Heritage NSW entry at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5060975)

Tyrrel suggests an indigenous name for the river may have been "Goolay'yari, the place of the pelican" (Tyrrell, 2018, p.17). By contrast Paul Irish, an historian of Aboriginal Sydney, states that while the name appears in a book of Botany Bay place names by Frances Bodkin, none of his Aboriginal informants used it. He cautions that "the name is not referred to by other Aboriginal people. Unless it can be independently corroborated it should not be used" (Irish c.2017, p.38, note 18).

1770

James Cook claims east coast of Australia:

The English explorer Captain James Cook visits the east coast of Australia, making his first landfall in Botany Bay on 19 April 1770. He explores a river which empties into the north of the bay, now named after him—the Cooks River. The former Sugar House at Canterbury is positioned on this river, about 5km north west of the bay. Their map suggests they travel just one or two kilometres upstream.

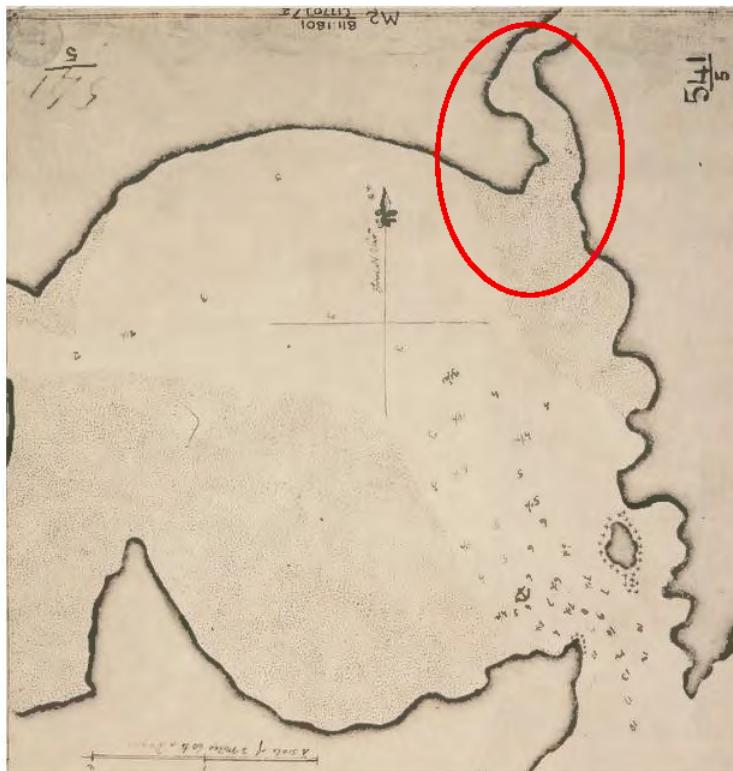


Image A3. Captain James Cook, 1770, Detail from his map of "Sting-ray Bay on the east coast of New Holland" [Botany Bay, with the mouth of the Cooks River circled in red]. Redrawn by R. Pickersgill. Collection of the Mitchell Library. (Source: SLNSW M1 811.1801/1770/2, original held in the British Library)

1788

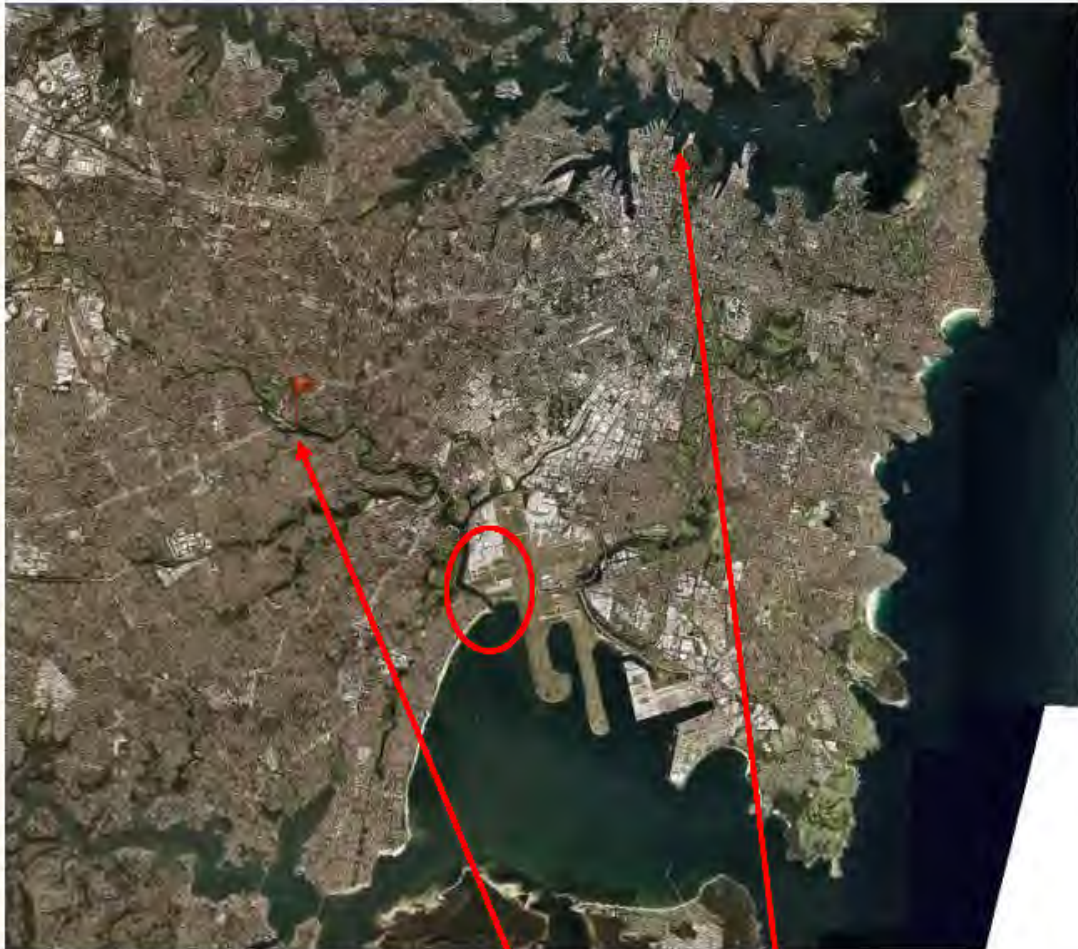


Image A4. Map indicating the Sugar House's location at Canterbury – with mouth of Cooks River circled, and shown relative to Sydney Cove. (Source: SIX)

First Fleet arrives in Botany Bay:

The British begin their occupation of the east coast of Australia with the arrival of the "First Fleet" of convicts at Botany Bay on 24 January 1788. Finding the area too dry and sandy for colonisation by a thousand people, Captain Arthur Phillip quickly relocates the penal colony to Sydney Cove, about 15 km north-east of Canterbury. Soon, "officers of the First Fleet negotiated the Cooks River as far as the districts of present-day Canterbury and Campsie. They noted the low and marshy aspect of the countryside and observed Aborigines fishing on the river" (Howard, 1995, p.4).

1793-
1799

First land grant in Canterbury:

On 28 May 1793, Richard Johnson (c.1753-1827), the First Fleet's chaplain, is granted the first of three lots of land he would own in the locality between Parramatta Road and the Cooks River then known as "the Kangaroo Ground" (Madden & Muir, 1993). With the help of convict labour he begins some of the colony's first successful agriculture there, calling it his Canterbury Farm which "he worked hard and well"; Watkin Tench considered him the best farmer in the country in 1790 and Johnson himself says "that there are not many here who understand agriculture better" (Cable, 1967). The southern tip of Johnson's land is adjacent to the present day site of the former Sugar House.



The Rev. Richard Johnson's grants..

SHOWN on today's street pattern. (Grant No. 1 – 100 acres, 1793, Grant No. 2 – 50 acres, 1796, Grant No. 3 – 260 acres, 1799). (Map courtesy Canterbury Municipal Council).

Image A5. Johnson's three 1790s grants, helpfully overlaid on a recent street plan of Canterbury / Ashbury by local historians Lesley Muir and Brian Hadden. The site of the former Sugar House is shown circled in red, adjacent to the southern tip of the estate. The third grant was named "Sheep Pasture Plains". (Source of image and quote: Madden & Muir, 1993)

1800

First sale of Canterbury land:

Before he left for England in 1800, Richard Johnson sold his Canterbury Estate to William Cox (1764-1837) for £300. Cox arrived in the colony as an army officer in 1800 and quickly acquired numerous properties including the Canterbury Estate and Brush Farm at Ryde. He overstrained his credit and in 1803, finding himself owing £7900, was suspended from office and his estates sold to pay his creditors—including the Canterbury Estate. He eventually paid off all his debts and went on to build the first road over the Blue Mountains for Governor Macquarie in 1815.

1803 Sale of Canterbury land to Campbell:
27 May Robert Campbell (1769-1846), who became a very successful merchant and businessman, bought the Canterbury Estate at auction in 1803, paying £525 for 830 acres (336 hectares) (Madden & Muir, 1993, p.7). The estate "was made up of land originally granted to various other people. For part of this land, an area of almost 80 acres, he had no secure title. Governor Richard Bourke then promised him a grant for this land in recognition of his 30 years of possession. However, in the meantime, the Australian Sugar Company had been formed and he had sold part of that land to the Company before the grant was issued" (Kass history for Higginbotham, 2000, p.6, quoting NSW Land Titles Grants, v. 61—originally B5—No. 48). Campbell is thought to have initially used the land for running cattle: "In May 1803 Campbell had purchased the 900 acres (364 ha) of William Cox's Canterbury estate, mainly to accommodate the overflow of imported cattle rejected by the government" (Steven, 1966). There is no evidence Campbell ever lived there but and by 1810 he had 640 cattle, 266 sheep and 20 horses on the land. Governor Macquarie visited Canterbury Farm on 13 December 1810 and noted in his journal that it was "an extensive farm and a good deal of the wood has been cleared, but the soil is bad and neither good for tillage or pasturage" (Madden & Muir, 1993).



Image A6. Extract of Parish of Petersham map, c.1820s, before roads were laid out or Prout's punt established in 1831. The approximate location of the Sugar House is marked with a red oval. Although Campbell later claimed to have occupied his land for 40 years, the 177 acre lot (72 hectares) was not formally granted until 7 January 1842 (Madden & Muir, 1993). (Source: NSW LPI HRLV AO341)

1833 Prout's punt established across the Cooks River:
 "In 1833, Cornelius Prout, who had a farm on the south side of Cooks River, commenced a punt across the river at Canterbury and in 1839 he and Robert Campbell agreed to a public road (now Canterbury Road) through their properties, provided that Prout built a bridge. Because subscriptions from other landowners did not meet the cost, Prout imposed a toll after the bridge was completed in 1840 (Madden & Muir, 1993, NSW Government, 2005, s.170 entry for Prout's Bridge).

1839-1840 Tempe Dam constructed:
A dam is built across the Cooks River at Tempe near the present-day Princes Highway crossing of the river. "Partly a move to open land for settlement to the south by the road that would go across its top, the dam was also expected to augment Sydney Town's water supply at a time of drought. . . . Attracted by the prospect of abundant stored water, entrepreneurs had already begun building a sugar refinery upstream . . . [Although initially seen as] a model of colonial progress, this piece of public works uncooperatively bequeathed hydrological, environmental and economic problems that plagued the area by 1880" (Tyrrell, 2018, pp.3-4).

1839 Formation of the sugar works partnership:
"Until 1842 the Colony of Sydney imported all its sugar, grown milled and processed in Java, Mauritius or the Philippines. Neither the soils nor the climate of Sydney were suitable for growing sugar, the Colony had no means to refine any imported sugar and for its [first] fifty years was not large enough to support such an industry. "In 1839, business entrepreneur, Francis Kemble, of London, who had had some experience in processing raw sugar, perceived that Sydney, now with a population of nearly 30,000, would be a profitable market for its own refinery" (Pike, 1997, p.1).

In 1839 a partnership formed in England between William Knox Child, "capitalist", and Francis Kemble, "promoter", to found the "Australian Sugar Company". They arrived in Sydney on 12 July 1840 on the "Ann Gales" [ship], with £20,000 worth of equipment including "a beautiful steam engine", as well as some 42 family members and associates to run the works (*South Australian*, 6/11/1840 p.4, via Trove; SG&NSWA, 14/7/1840; Davis, 1984, p.114-115, McKillop, 1985).

1840-1842 Construction of the Sugar Works at Canterbury:



Image A7.
Excerpt from W.H. Wells, surveyor, 1841. "Plan of 95 allotments at Canterbury adjoining the Australasian Sugar Company's Works" 44 x 29 cm. (Source: NLA, Map F 559. There is also a copy at the SLNSW Z/M2 811.1829/1841 /1)

"Because of the need for plentiful water and fuel supplies to expedite the manufacture of sugar, a site on the Cooks River was chosen on part of Robert Campbell's Canterbury estate . . . the nearest available location close to Sydney" (Howard, 1995, p.6).



Image A8. Frederick Garling, c.1842, "Australian Sugar Company Works NSW". Watercolour, 17x 24 cm, collection of the Mitchell Library. (Source: SLNSW DG SV1A/13)



Image A9. Anonymous, c.1842-45, "Sugar Works at Canterbury", watercolour painting, 17 x 24 cm. From unattributed sketchbook "Drawings in Sydney", thought to be by Joseph Fowles or Frederick Garling. Held in the collection of the Mitchell Library. (Source: SLNSW PX/D123)

Local historians Lesley Muir and Brian Madden note that: "[Campbell] agreed to convey . . . 60 acres [24 hectares] on the banks of Cooks River in return for 24 shares in the new Australian Sugar Company [valued then at £50 each, or £1,200]. The managers, with 30 bounty immigrant workers, moved to the land near the

north-eastern side of Prout's new bridge" (Madden & Muir, 1993, pp.8-9). The land was relatively undeveloped "clay plain scrub forest [carrying] wattles and eucalypts such as *Eucalyptus moluccana* (grey box)" Tyrrel, 2018, p26).

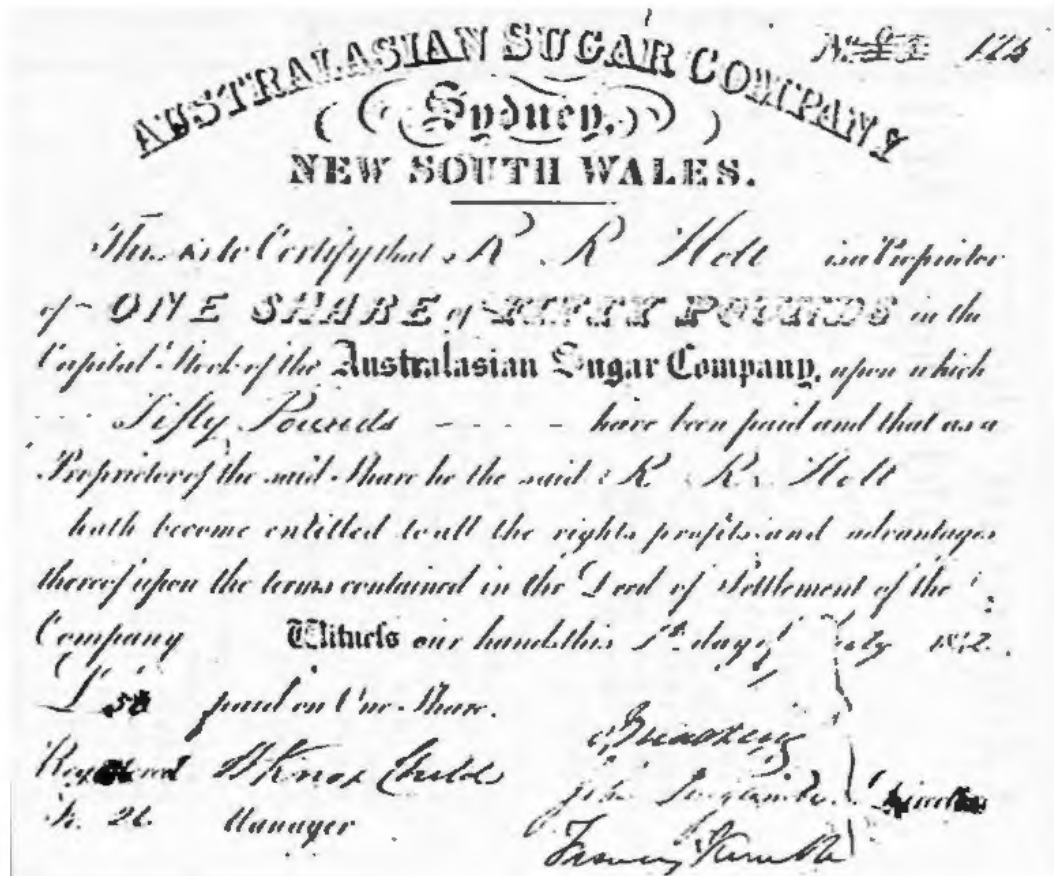


Image A10. Photo of original share issued for the Australasian Sugar Company in c1840. (Source: CSR Archives Box A5.0 courtesy of Muir, 1984, p.170)

Charles Davis' 1984 PhD on the history of CSR does not mention the names of the builders associated with the construction of the Canterbury Sugar Works but does quote advertisements in August 1840 seeking tenders from "Builders, contractors and others willing to undertake any portion of the works required . . . to be erected on their estate at Canterbury . . . plans and specifications may be seen" (Davis, 1984, p.116). This advertisement appeared in at least four newspapers in Sydney during 12-18 August 1840 (Trove). A later newspaper article, in November 1840, reported that the Australian Sugar Refining Company at Canterbury "have accepted tenders for erecting (with their own materials) buildings on Cook's River, which their surveyors tell them will, when erected, be worth [£20,000]" (South Australian, 6/11/1840 p.4).

These tender notices suggest that the founders of Australian Sugar Company arrived with plans for the building. If so, it is likely the plans were based on established designs for industrial buildings recently built in the UK for similar purposes. As historians Kass and Walker remark, "It is similar in form and scale to the textile mills built in England in the nineteenth century" (1988b).

Responsibility for the construction of the sugar house has been attributed variously, to William Lucas (Larcombe, 1979, p107) and to David MacBeath (*The Australian*, 28/9/1841, p.2; Madden & Muir, 2013). Muir and Madden write: "Between 1840 and 1842, Scottish stonemasons under the direction of David MacBeath built a

sandstone factory on the banks of the Cooks River, while John Lucas dammed the stream to provide fresh water. The building stone was quarried on the site, and ironbark timber was cut from the forests on the other side of the river [now Earlwood] to construct the interior" (Madden & Muir, 1993, pp.8-9). David MacBeath was noted as the stonemason responsible for the construction of the building in a series of newspaper articles published in late 1841, admiring of the newly completed building: *The Australian*, 28/9/1841, p.2; *Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser* 20/9/1841, p.3; *Sydney Monitor & Commercial Advertiser* 1/10/1841, p.2; *Sydney Herald*, 4/10/1841, p.2 (all obtained via Trove).



Image A11 (above). Albert Mill Dewsbury, UK, c. 1800. (Source: Alan Brooke Underground Histories online)

Typical of these are the following extracts from *The Australian* in September 1841: "We were quite astonished to find that in the short space of nine months, an extensive manufactory has been most substantially erected so near to us . . . The sugar-house is placed within one hundred feet of Cook's River . . . and is built of beautiful white sand-stone. It is one hundred feet in length, sixty feet in width, and sixty feet high, with a fine chimney shaft, one hundred and thirty feet from the ground. The house contains six spacious floors, mill-house, engine-house, boiler house, stove, and store-rooms, all heated and worked by a steam-engine of considerable power, which also drives a mill of great capabilities for the purpose of grinding animal charcoal. There is also a complete set of retorts for the purposes of the manufactory, and two smaller steam-engines of twelve horse power to act as a crane . . . The whole establishment appears to be extremely well arranged, and reflects much credit upon the engineer, Mr Outtrim, and the surveyor, Mr Williams, as well as to the masons, Messrs Macbeth & Co . . . We understand that the Sugar Works have given employment to above one hundred men during the erection . . . We could not but notice how comfortably the Company have housed their sugar-house men, in really very convenient slab huts; and we were glad likewise to see that a school has already been erected near the works, where we saw above forty children. This is used as a chapel on Sundays. We cannot conclude these remarks

without expressing how unremitting the exertions and perseverance of the manager, Mr William Knox Child, must have been in accomplishing what has been done (The Australian 28/9/1841, p.2)

So who was David McBeath? A person named "David McBeath" commenced working for the newly formed City of Sydney as an "Overseer" in 1844. According to detailed employment records of the City of Sydney which have been made available online, McBeath worked his way through the hierarchy (with a few hiccups and stints working elsewhere) as:

- Overseer, 1844-1845;
- Principal Overseer City Works, 1845-1849;
- District Surveyor or District and Building Surveyor, 1858-1860;
- Collector of Electoral Lists, 1860;
- Collector for Assessment Books, 1860-1861;
- City Architect, 1879-1880.

He died in 1887 aged 67, suggesting he would have been barely 20 years when he supervised the erection of the five-storey stone building for one of the most exciting new industrial enterprises in the country. MacBeth/ McBeath is an uncommon name, the fields of occupation are similar and the dates match up, at a time when the population of Sydney was low, at around 35,000 inhabitants. It seems likely this was the same person that Madden & Muir attribute as the builder of the Canterbury Sugar House.



Image A12. Photo of David McBeath in 1878, when he was City Architect for the City of Sydney. (Source: City of Sydney Image archive)

Although "Scottish stonemasons" were described in some local newspaper reports as responsible for the construction of the Sugar House, it is possible that convict labour was also involved. Most stonework in Sydney by this time had been undertaken by convicts. Even though transportation to NSW ended in 1840, there were many convicts serving out their sentences throughout the decade. Convict labour was cheap and accessible but at the height of the anti-transportation movement, it may well have been frowned upon and the ambitious new company may not have wished to advertise it was using such labour. Further research may elucidate this question.

In 1841, an extended newspaper article describes "a party of about twenty ladies and gentlemen" who visit the new Canterbury works "for the purpose of seeing the steam engine set to work for the first time". The only comment about the building states, "it seems almost magical that where twelve months since there was nothing but bush, there should now be an extensive building, with all the requisite machinery for carrying on a manufacture requiring extensive scientific knowledge like sugar refining. The building, which is six stories high, is one hundred feet by sixty, and the circular chimney which carries off the smoke from seven furnaces employed in different portions of the works is a noble piece of brickwork". Toasts and thanks are offered to "Mr Campbell, M.C., from whom the Company obtained the ground, and who had always acted in the most kind and generous manner to the Company", to the manager "Mr Knox Child" and to the company's engineer, "Mr Outram". No mention is made here of the builder or designer (Sydney Herald, 18/12/1841, p.2 via Trove).

Another newspaper description first published in *The Australian* outlines the initial layout of the Sugar House (much the same description was repeated in three other local publications that week):

"The Sugar Works are erected on a portion of the Canterbury Estate, lately bought by the Company of Robert Campbell, Esq, M. C, and will be about five miles distant from Sydney when the new road, now in formation, by the Petersham Gate, is completed [New Canterbury Road]. The Sugar-house is placed within one hundred feet of Cook's River, which is shortly expected to be fresh water, the Dam being quite closed, and is built of beautiful white sandstone. It is one hundred feet in length, sixty feet in width, and sixty feet high, with a fine chimney shaft, one hundred and thirty feet from the ground. The house contains six spacious floors, mill-house, engine-house, boiler-house, stove, and store-rooms, all heated and worked by a steam-engine of considerable power, which also drives a mill of great capabilities, for the purpose of grinding animal charcoal. There is also a complete set of retorts for the purposes of the manufactory, and two smaller steam engines of twelve horse power to act as a crane, to do the work of the house. The whole establishment appears to be extremely well arranged, and reflects much credit upon the engineer, Mr. Outtrim, and the surveyor, Mr. Williams, as well as to the masons, Messrs. Macbeth and Co. We heartily wish the Company all the success they desire, and congratulate the colony in being likely hereafter to have refined sugar at a moderate price. . . The works are capable of refining fifty to sixty tons per week . . . We understand that the Sugar Works have given employment to above one hundred men during the erection, and that above £30,000 has been expended on them, all the plant and machinery being of a very valuable description, and according to the most recent improvements. We could not but notice how comfortably the Company have housed their sugar-house men, in really very convenient slab huts; and we are glad likewise to see that a school has already been erected near the works, where we saw above forty children. This is used as a chapel on Sundays. We cannot conclude these remarks without expressing how unremitting the exertions and perseverance of the manager, Mr. William Knox Child, must have been in accomplishing what has been done, under circumstances and difficulties of no ordinary description; firstly, in bringing, sixteen thousand miles from England, a valuable plant, and all the mechanics necessary to work it in this colony, all of whom still continue in the Company's service; and next, in the short space of nine months, to have nearly accomplished his object by placing it and them in a township, formerly known as the Canterbury Bush" (*The Australian*, 28/9/1841,p.2).

The company had commenced its production of sugar by September 1842. Raw

sugar is imported from the Philippines and worked at Canterbury. The sugar works produces loaf and crushed sugar, also molasses and vinegar (Higginbotham, 2000, pp.9-10). Because the sugar was milled where it was grown and transported to Canterbury for further processing, historians Muir & Madden object to the building being called a "sugar mill" and prefer the term "sugar works" (Madden & Muir, 2013).

1841- Subdivisions associated with the Sugar Works:

1842 "The Australian Sugar Company intended to subdivide and sell the land around its factory to accommodate the workers and raise money to begin processing sugar. Streets named after the most generous local investors, George Minter, John Tincombe and Frederick Wright Unwin, were measured out, land for a Wesleyan church and school was set aside in Minter Street, John O'Neil commenced to make bricks out of local clay, and because the company ran out of money, some of the stonemasons were paid with allotments of land facing Canterbury Road. An exploratory coal shaft was sunk beside the factory, but . . . this venture came to nothing. In the same year, 1841, Robert Campbell subdivided a roughly triangular piece of land into 'Village allotments' adjoining the Sugar Company's Estate on the west . . . Most of the houses in both estates were only slab huts" (Madden & Muir, 2013). A brick house was built for the supervisor of the sugar works, as well as a store and a pub licenced in 1843. "The village consolidated after the Mill began operation, although it seems to have been, no unexpectedly, a company town. . . by 1848 it consisted of 65 houses and 218 inhabitants" (Howard, 1995, p.10).



Image A13. 1841. Extract of map of 1841 subdivision plan for Canterbury Estate by W.H. Wells. (Source: State Library of NSW Map F599, Z/M2 811.1841/1)



Image A14. 1842. Extract from map of the Canterbury Estate as depicted in an advertisement for the sale of land, presumably showing the 60 acres (24 hectares) acquired by the Australian Sugar Company. The map is presented upside down to orient it to the north. (Source: SLNSW Sale Plan of the Canterbury Estate)

1842 A detailed newspaper account of the sugar refining process at the Canterbury Sugar Works is published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13/12/1842 p.2:

"THE SUGAR REFINERY.

"Aware of the great interest which is at present attached to everything relating to colonial manufactures, we have much pleasure in laying before our readers, the following account: of a visit; to the Sugar Works, at Canterbury which, by the invitation of Mr. F. Kemble, the Managing. Director, we had the pleasure of making last week.

"Canterbury is about six miles from Sydney, on the bank of Cook's River—it is about a mile and a half from the Parramatta Road, the branch road turning off exactly opposite the "Cheshire Cheese" public house.

The sugar house is a large plain stone building, six stories high, at one end of 'which there is a handsome chimney; the largest we believe in the colony, and as the building stands close down to the river, it is not seen from the road until you are within a couple of hundred yards of it. The effect of' coming suddenly upon such an establishment; in the bush, is extremely striking.

"As we intend, as far as possible, to-make our readers acquainted with the general nature of the process of refining sugar, we will commence with the arrival of a load of raw sugar, and follow it through the different processes until it is manufactured into refined or loaf sugar.

"Upon a stranger entering a sugar house he is struck first by the lowness of the rooms, extending, over nearly the whole building on some floors; and next, an uncomfortable sensation of heat. The first is rendered necessary by the, large space which is required in the different stages of the process for the sugar moulds to stand in. The second is caused by larger steam pipes which run though all parts of the building, keeping it as nearly at, one hundred degrees as can be done, it being found that sugar crystallises more readily when, surrounded by the atmosphere at that heat.

"The ordinary, sugar of commerce consists of two parts, -molasses or treacle and

crystalline particles; the former is brown, and the latter, white; to separate them is the object of a sugar refiner.

"Upon the arrival of the raw material, it is taken to the top of the house, where are situated two large iron vessels, known as the "blow up cisterns," which are employed to dissolve the sugar previous to the removal of the earthy particles and other impurities which may be mixed with it. The sugar being thrown into the cistern, water is admitted into it, and also a small portion of lime water, charcoal and other ingredients known only to the initiated; steam is next turned on to the cistern, which soon heats the solution, and the sugar is assisted to dissolve by being beaten and stirred with poles. Formerly this process was a very filthy one; large quantities of blood being used, which formed a scum at the top of the cistern which was skimmed off, carrying a large portion of the impurities of the sugar with it. In the language of the refinery the solution is called "liquor;" and is a thick dirty-looking liquid.

"When it has been thoroughly dissolved, this liquor is allowed to flow into a range of filters in the room beneath. Those filters are cast iron vessels seven or eight feet high, each containing a large number of cloth tubes about four inches in diameter, attached to metallic rings which are screwed to circular holes in the tipper part, of the vessel and hang downwards. Each tube contains a large bag made of a thick kind of cloth, and coiled up so as to make an almost compact mass of cloth, so that there many hundred square feet of cloth in each bag or tube. The liquor from the blow up cistern flows into a shallow cistern which forms the top of the vessel above referred to; and then into these bags, and as the cloth is doubled a great many times nearly all the impurities are retained in the bags, and the liquor flows out in a transparent state, but with a reddish hue. The bags are occasionally taken out and washed, and as there is a quantity of saccharine impurities contained in the bag, it is boiled and the sugar extracted from it, what is left from this process being used only as a manure.

"The next process is to remove the colouring matter and make the liquor perfectly white; but before doing this, we must proceed to a shed at the far end of the house where we find two large coppers set, and a large heap of bones. These bones are used to make animal charcoal, which performs a very important part in refining sugar. The bones are first broken into small pieces, and then thrown into the coppers above referred to, where they are boiled for the purpose of removing the greasy matter from them, which is skimmed off and sold to soap makers; every thing that is produced in the refinery being apparently a merchantable article. When they are thus cleansed, the bones are removed to a retort-house, which is fitted up with three stacks of retorts, exactly like a gas-house; the bones are then placed in the retorts, which being heated, convert them into charcoal, which is afterwards ground into powder in a mill driven by a steam-engine, and is sifted through a cylindrical machine, precisely . . . as flour is done.

"To return to the liquor as it leaves the filters. A vessel four or five feet square has a bed of powdered charcoal, about three feet thick placed in it, and on to this charcoal the liquor from the filters flows, as we before said, with a red colour, and percolating through the charcoal, leaves it perfectly white and transparent, the whole of the colouring after being removed. Chemists are not exactly agreed as to the manner in which the charcoal acts upon the colouring bodies, but decoloration is most complete. We may remark that by a comparatively recent discovery it appears that the power of the charcoal can be restored by reburning it, which is done, it being first carefully washed to remove the impurities.

"The liquor (which still consists of treacle or uncrystallizable sugar, and sugar capable of assuming a crystalline form, only the earthy and colouring matter having been removed) is now ready for boiling, the most important part of the process.

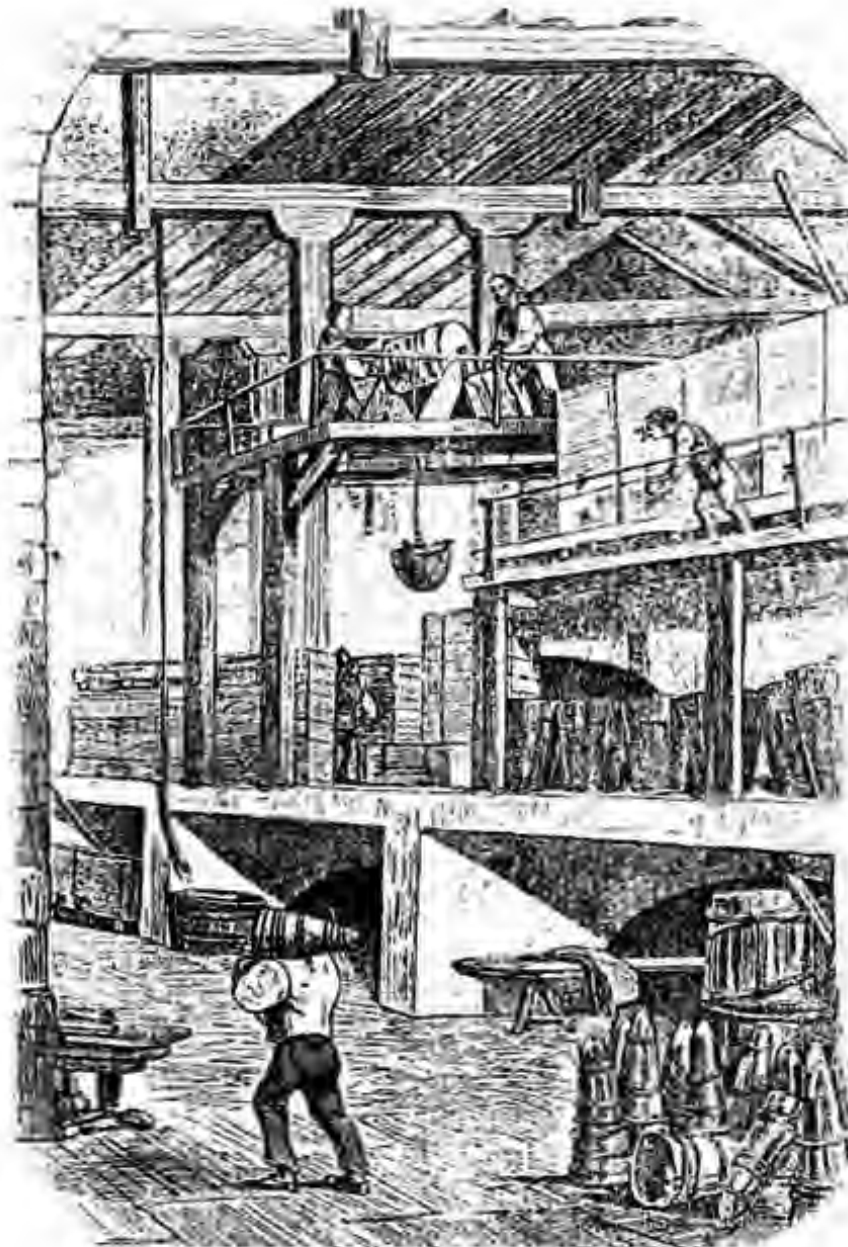


Image A15.
*Illustration of
 sugar
 manufacturing
 process in 1844,
 from a French
 pamphlet
 found in the
 CSR archives.
 (Source: CSR
 Archives Box
 A5.0, as
 reproduced in
 Muir, 1984,
 p.166)*

"Until a few years since, the liquor was boiled in an open pan, at a temperature of about 250°, until it had assumed a proper degree of viscosity when it was removed into coolers where it was beaten violently with an oar to disentangle the crystals from the molasses. At this temperature, or even at the ordinary boiling point, the sugar has a tendency to decompose and the consideration of this subject, by a gentleman named Howard, led to the, important discovery of boiling in what is called a vacuum pan. At the level of the sea, the weight of the atmospheric air, prevents liquids from boiling at a lower temperature than 212°, and it occurred to Mr. Howard that by pumping the air from a boiler and leaving a vacuum over the liquid, it would be possible to boil it at a lower temperature, and the invention being reduced to practice, was found to answer admirably. The sugar is now boiled in a close covered vessel, from which the air is pumped by the steam engine and a vacuum being obtained, it is found that the sugar can be boiled at from 130° to 150°, and which can be done without injuring it in the slightest degree. This invention which is now used in almost every sugar house in Europe, made the fortune of Mr Howard, who obtained a patent for it, and granted licenses to use it. By a very ingenious contrivance the boiler is enabled to take a small portion of the

liquor out of the boiler, to try whether it has obtained a proper degree of tenacity and granulation—a matter which it requires great practice to determine. "When it has been sufficiently boiled—that is to say, when enough of the water has been driven off in the shape of steam, to enable the sugar to crystallize—a valve in the bottom of the boiler is opened, and the sugar is allowed to run into heaters in the room beneath, its appearance being entirely altered, for it is now a mass of crystals, enveloped in a dark-coloured syrup.

"Under the old system it was necessary to allow the sugar to cool, to enable the crystallization to take place; but now crystals are actually formed in the boiler, and upon leaving the boiler the heat of the liquid is increased to about 180°, or about 40° higher than when it was in the boiler, the vessel in which this took place being then called a cooler.

"It will be borne in mind that the impure matter and colouring matter have both been removed, and that the crystals of the sugar are now-floating in a dark-coloured liquid or treacle, the remaining portion of the process is to separate the crystals from the treacle.

"The room in which the heaters are situated is in the basement story of the building and is called the "fill-house," because in it the sugar is "filled" into the moulds. Arranged in rows round the room are the moulds in which the sugarloaf, is formed, some of them made of coarse earthenware and others of sheet iron. As soon as the sugar has remained a sufficient time in the heaters, a number of men, each stripped from the waist upwards fill it into the moulds. A large copper scoop which will hold nearly a hundred weight sugar, is brought to the heaters, where, it filled by means of a large ladle : a man then carries this scoop by two iron handles to the moulds and fills as many as the liquid will supply, and immediately returns for another load, and as there are several men employed at the same kind of work a large number moulds are soon filled, which it is desirable should be the case, in order that the whole, the sugar may be removed, from the heaters at the same temperature. The moulds are allowed to remain in the fill-house until the next day, by which time the sugar has been become solid, and the syrup has become partially separated from it. It is then taken to what is called a pull-up-hole, that is, a hole running through the entire building from top to bottom, having a doorway opening into it from every story. It is here handed to one the upper rooms, where a small hole is made in the apex of the mould, which is placed in earthen jar, into which the syrup slowly drops.

This syrup, which is called, "green syrup," is poured into a pipe which leads it into the boiling house, where it is 'converted' into an inferior kind of loaf sugar, and the remainder is treacle.

"This draining, however, does not remove all the syrup from the sugar, and to separate this it is what is called washed. A solution of sugar in water is prepared; which is poured on the sugar in the mould, and as it slowly finds its way through the sugar removes a great portion of the syrup: this washing is renewed as often as necessary, until in fact the sugar becomes perfectly white. The syrups that drain from the moulds are again boiled with raw sugar, until, they have no crystallizable matter in them, when they are treacle.

"The operations we have been describing take from a week to ten days, when the sugar is removed from tile moulds, and the bottom cut level, and the point taken off to reduce the loaf to the shape in which it is usually seen in the shops they are they placed in a stove or drying room, which is about eight feet square and runs from the top to the bottom of the house, and is litted up with shelves or racks on which the sugarloaves are placed, and remain until they are thoroughly dried, the heat being kept up to about 140 degrees.

"The loaves are then removed and are ready for the grocer.

"In passing through the house there is one circumstance that cannot fail to obtain notice, and that is that although the house feels like a furnace, and the agency of

heat is everywhere felt, no fire is seen, and in fact the only fire on the premises has its mouth outside the building, so that you may go all over the works and not see any fire. Everything is done by steam. The rooms are heated by large steam pipes which run in all directions, the sugar is boiled by steam, and the additional heat is given by steam.



Image A16 (left). Photo of a sugarloaf purchased in Iran in 2010 by the photographer Petr Adam Dohnálek. (Source: Wikipedia, 2019, "Sugar loaf")

Image A17 (above). Photo of 19th century sugar nips for cutting pieces of sugar from a sugarloaf by "Hamster62". (Source: Wikipedia, 2019, "Sugar loaf")

"About thirty persons are employed at the Canterbury Works, which are at present making about twenty tons per week, but when the house is in full operation, it is expected that the average rate of work will be fifty tons, which it is presumed will be equal to the supply of this and the neighbouring colonies.

For the information of persons at a distance it may be well to mention that the sugar works at Canterbury are the property of a Company recently formed in the colony called the Australasian Sugar Refining Company, who purchased them from a company of a similar description formed in England in 1840. The circumstances that led to the dissolution of the old company it is needless to refer to, and we trust that matters are now in such a train that the Company will be a prosperous one.

The great object of the company is, to keep the price of refined sugar at one uniform rate, —five pence per pound wholesale and sixpence retail. This, it is said by those who understand the London sugar market, is lower than the English boilers can afford to sell it at in these colonies, after paying the freight and other expenses attendant upon sending it here, and therefore they feel confident of having the colonial market entirely to themselves.

"The company is under the superintendence of six directors, Mr. Francis Kemble being managing director, and having the control of the manufacturing department, the immediate management of the house being vested in Mr. Walter Kemble. The Sydney counting-house is in Bridge street, and the financial affairs of the company are managed by Mr. W. K. Child, who, as well as, the Messrs. Kemble, has a large stake in the company."

Historian Lesley Muir described this article as "one of the many 'wealth and progress' articles that are customarily published at a time of recession to cheer the

masses . . . The proprietors had brought Victorian industrial knowhow to tame and develop a wilderness, even in the depths of depression, 'progress' could be made and industry could flourish" (Muir, 1984, p171).

1840s Addition of the eastern wing

Within a couple of years of completion, an additional sandstone eastern wing is added to the main rectangular structure. It has been described as an "overseer's residence" (Corkill, 1993, p.1) but has doubtless been used for many different functions over the years. Corkill mentions in 1993 that Huttons used it as a medical clinic for its workforce (Corkill, 1993, p. 5).

Australian depression

The 1830s in Australia was a time of economic expansion with the development of the pastoral industry and whaling, the spread of land settlement and increasing capital and free migrant inflows from Britain. Economic conditions began to turn after the British financial crisis of 1839, which reduced capital flow to the colonies. Severe drought in NSW in 1838–1840 necessitated the importation of wheat and payments for this further drained capital from the colonies. A slump in land sales, falling prices and incomes culminated in an upsurge of insolvencies that substantially weakened the banks (Reserve Bank of Australia, 2020). It was unlucky timing for the commencement of a major new manufactory.

1842- Dissolution and reformation of the company:

1843 Lesley Muir's excellent research thesis on the history of the suburb of Canterbury includes a chapter describing the personal conflicts that accompany the establishment of the Sugar Works as an economic depression was enveloping the colony. It suggests that Francis Kemble's eccentric behaviour leads to the dissolution of the partnership, with William Knox Child bowing out gracefully—but with much of his capital, unlike the other early investors who side with Kemble. A new company called the Australasian Sugar Company is formed under Kemble, who employs a Danish man named Edward Knox (no relation to William Child Knox) as the new manager. Kemble dies in 1844. (Muir, 1984, **Appendix 7**).

1842- Sugar Works period of operation:

1855 "Canterbury Village became a small community after the factory began to process sugar in September 1842, but the limited opportunities for work made it a 'company town,' dependant for its existence on the sugarworks. . .
"As a factory the sugarworks was very efficient, and more workers settled in the village during the 1840s. At the time of greatest production, there were three public houses, two churches and a school. . . Between 1849 and 1850, a new line of road was opened from the city to Canterbury which crossed the Petersham Estate along the ridges. This became known as 'New Canterbury Road' and provided an easier route for the carters working for the sugarworks". (Madden & Muir, 1993, p.9)
"It is sometimes said that the raw sugar was brought up the Cooks River by boat, but this was impossible because of the dam at Tempe. The Australasian Sugar Company's factory was extremely efficient – only the distance of haulage stood against it" (Madden & Muir, 2013).
"The sugarworks produced loaf and crushed sugar, as well as vinegar and molasses from raw sugar which was said to have been imported from the Philippine islands in the Campbell family ships. The company took over two more refineries, one in Liverpool Street Sydney and one in Chippendale, and the business expanded well" (Madden & Muir, 1993, p.9).

1853 Around 1853 the ASC takes over a rival sugar works operated in Sydney by T.W. Bowden (Higginbotham, 2000, p.12 quoting G.J.R. Linge, 1979, *Industrial*

Awakening, ANU Press, p.769).

**1854-
1855**

Closure of the Canterbury Sugar Works:

"When gold was discovered . . . the workforce began to leave Sydney for the diggings, and eventually the Directors of the Company had to make a decision to close one factory. Canterbury, the furthest from the port, was the one chosen, and the doors closed in 1854. The Sugarworks was to remain empty for 30 years" (Madden & Muir, 1993, pp.9-10).

"In the early 1850s, Ralph Mayer Robey, Clark Irving and Edward Knox, three of the directors, purchased the Brisbane Distillery on Blackwattle Creek, and it was their decision that the Canterbury factory be closed down in August 1854". The ASC directors move the enterprise to Chippendale, which is more conveniently located to the city and port facilities. The stone building at Canterbury lies vacant for decades (Madden & Muir, 2013).

"On 3 April 1855, a formal deed of surrender vested the Canterbury Sugar Mill in the new company. Rev. Coles Child [son of the original investor William Knox Child], Scone, clerk in holy orders, transferred the property to Ralph Mayer Robey, Clark Irving and Edward Knox. The land was described as measuring 11 acres, 2 roods, 38 perches [4.7 hectares], and was bounded the south by Cooks River, on the east by the road of Robert Campbell Esq., on the north by the land of the Sugar Company and on the west by Robert Campbell . . . A deed signed the next day, confirmed . . . the mortgage made out to Oswald Bloxsome and Thomas Iceton, of the same land, subject to a proviso for redemption . . . the description of the other assets on the land . . . included, 'all that stone built three pan sugar house slated with the three steam engines machinery plants apparatus cisterns double boilers mill works retort works chimney shaft bone works and two stone cottages erected and built upon the said land" (Higginbotham, 2000, pp.12-13, quoting NSW Land Titles deed Nos 384 and 385 Book 37).



Image A18. Detail from H. Grant Lloyd watercolour sketch of 1859. "Canterbury and Prout's Bridge on Cooks River, July 2 1859", 13 x 10 cm. From his *Sketches of NSW*. (Source: SLNSW DLPX42)

Thus in 1855 the Australian Sugar Company is dissolved and reformed as the Colonial Sugar Refining Company (CSR). CSR remains a major manufacturer of sugar in Australia until 2010 when it sells its subsidiary Sucrogen to Wilmar International and retires from the sugar business—while continuing to expand other business ventures as a large multi-national company (Wikipedia, 2018).

1860s

An institutional use considered for the site:

In 1862 the Sugar House comes under consideration for use as a juvenile reformatory. The NSW Colonial Architect (an office then held by Alexander Dawson or James Barnet) reports the main building to be in good repair but unsuitable for this use:

“The main building is substantially erected with cut stone and in a good state of repair. The roofs are slated. The height of the rooms offers a great objection being only 7 feet 6 inches [2.3 metres] from floor to floor and 6 foot 4 inches [1.9 metres] below the girders. The window openings are furnished with cast iron sashes but their position being within 18 inches [46 cm] of the floor is badly adapted for sight and ventilation. . . The area of the ground is about 15 acres extending along the north bank of the Cooks River. The land is not fenced in and is unsuitable for agriculture, and a very small portion fitted for garden purposes, the only water to be procured is a scanty supply from surface drainage” (McKillop, 1985 reproduction of report held by State Archives 4332 [2/640A]).

Four years later, in 1866, another report investigates converting the place to a schoolroom and dormitory for 180-190 inmates. The walls are reported to be two feet six inches and two feet thick, the joists, beams and rafters made of timber, and the sashes of cast iron (Davis, 1984, p.119; Higginbotham, 2000, p.13).



Image A19. Samuel Elyard, “From Old Sugar Works, Cooks River, Looking East”, 1864. Watercolour 13 5/8 x 21 1/8. From his *Views of Sydney*. (Source: SLNSW ML a2085011 DG D5, f11)

1868

Wool scourers at the Canterbury sugar works:

In 1868, wool scourers Hill & Clissold shift their business from Newtown to Canterbury where they settle on ten acres on the southern bank of the Cooks River, “just over against the abandoned sugar refinery” (Sydney Morning Herald, 17 June 1868, p.9). Although apparently best cleaned on the sheep’s back, shorn fleeces can be sent from the inland growers to wool washing premises near the city where they are washed, steamed, rinsed, dried, sorted and transported to port. The process contributes environmental and noise pollution to the locality: “the ‘boom’ of a steam pump could be ‘heard from a considerable distance’”. Soapy, greasy water fouls the river and damages fish stocks (Tyrrell, 2018, p99).



Image A20. Photo by G.R. Reid, Wool showing wool washing on the Yarra River in Melbourne, 1870. (Source: State Library of Victoria)

"WOOL-SCOURERS AT CANTERBURY.

"Messrs. Hill & Clissold have recently shifted their quarters. They formerly pursued their useful avocation at Newtown, but finding the premises too confined, they have moved to Canterbury, and selected a spot which will allow of expansion. They are settled down, on the south bank of Cook's River, just over against the abandoned sugar refinery, which looks as though it had been built when money was more- plentiful than wit. Their plot of ground consists of about ten acres, which is approached by a dam that spans the river in about the centre of the property. The river-bank recedes from the water, leaving a narrow flat, where the scouring apparatus is fixed, the engine-house, pump, and other buildings forming three sides of a quadrangle on the top of the bank. The engine is a powerful machine of 25 horse-power, built by Chapman. It is furnished with an 18 inch cylinder, the piston having a 3-foot stroke. The principle assigned to this engine is to work the centrifugal pump, and lift 15 tons of water per minute from the river, which is at a distance of some 30 or 40 yards. A stone culvert is laid from the west side of the afore-mentioned dam, which communicates with a sort of well-reservoir, where the disc of the pump works. The lift from the water-level to the tank from which the water is allowed to fall to the spouts is 23 feet. The sorting rooms are above the scouring-yard, and the lots of wool are allowed to fall through trap-doors in the floor, whither they are conducted by sacking-tubes to the steam vats, of which there are six placed in the middle of the floor below. Half a bale of wool is allowed to each vat, the wool is immersed in cold water softened by soft soap and soda, and then the steam, turned on through a pipe in the bottom, in a few minutes raises the temperature of the contents to the desired point. The wool is next removed from the vats into baskets, and subjected to the action of a strong stream of water from the spouts, of which there are several. There is one man to each spout, whose duty it is to open out the wool for the play of the water. The next operation is to pile it in the draining-pens, where it remains some hours. The profusion of water used in these several processes drains away into a tunnel that conveys it back to the river on the east side of the dam. This shed or yard contained 15 men in full work, but the engine-power is designed to give

employment for many more. In the sorting-room were three men, each making three sorts—clothing, locks, and pieces. Some growers are careful to sort their wool before sending it to such establishments, but in many cases nothing of the sort is attempted, and what may be done with ease when the fleece is free is a matter demanding considerable labour when the fleeces have been packed closely together. From the drying-pens the wool is carried in sheets to the drying-ground, and there spread thin to dry upon the sheet in which it is conveyed. From sunrise to sundown in summer is sufficient for the drying of a lot of wool, but in winter it requires half a day longer. The drying ground consists of about four acres, and the number of men and boys employed amounted to 12. The doors of the packing-room unfold upon this little paddock, and through there the wool finds its way. There it is packed in the usual way, and the bales, which weigh about 300 lbs., are branded for their destination. All that remains to be done is to get them to Sydney, for which purpose the railway is convenient. They are generally conveyed, however, by cart. As it is at present managed, this steam-power and machinery and staff is competent to deal with 25 bales a day—the price being 11/2 d. per lb. As to the lots, it is reasonable to suppose that it varies very much—in some cases it is scarcely apparent, in others the bale is nearly washed away. The work seems to be well and expeditiously done, though the result is inferior to when the wool is washed on the sheep's back. But when squatters are not well situated for sheep-washing, it is an advantage for them to be able to send their wool to such an establishment as this, where the fullest justice will be done to it." (Sydney Morning Herald, 17 June 1868, p.9)

c.1880s

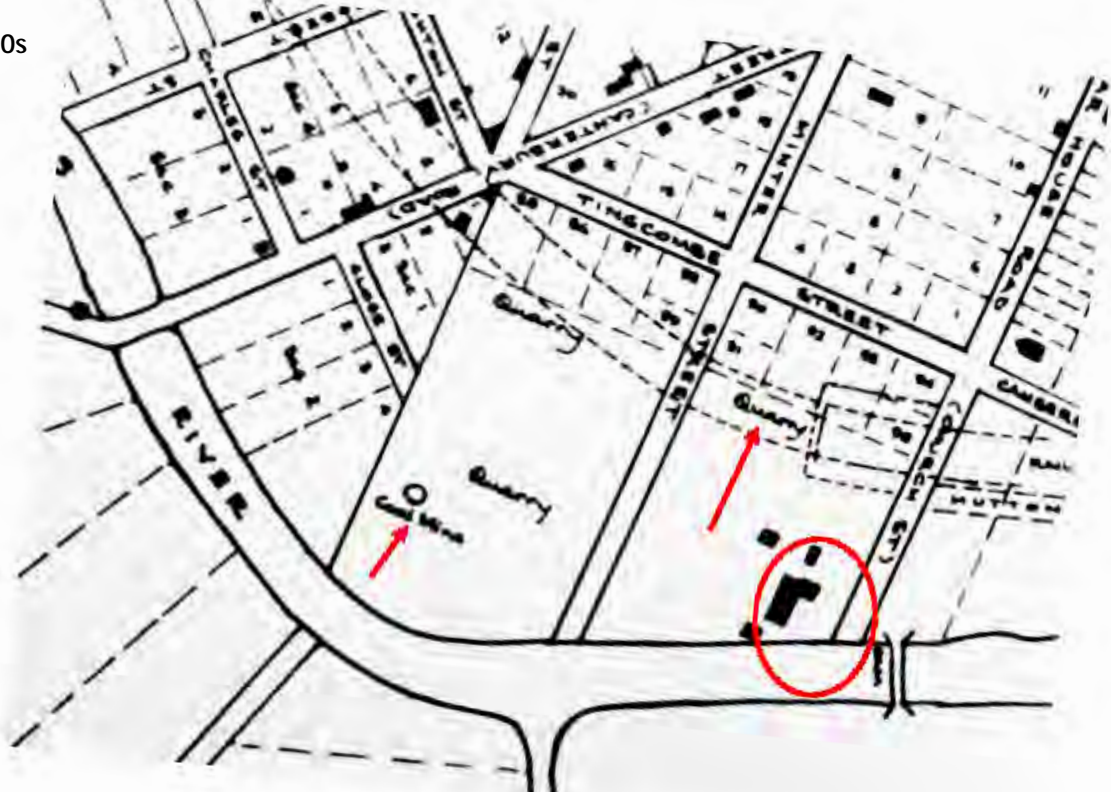


Image A21. c.1880s. Map of Canterbury with early subdivision and 1880s planned railway line. It shows sandstone quarries north and west of the Sugar House (where the train line was later laid) and also a coal mine to its west. (Source: Madden & Muir, 1989)

1880s

"On 7 January 1881, Edward Knox, of Sydney, the current director of the Sugar Company, conveyed the mill and its site to Frederick Clissold, of Ashfield, esquire, for £2,450. The land consisted of 11 acres, 2 roods, 28 perches [4.7 hectares], plus an adjacent parcel of 2 acres 2 roods 26 perches [1.1 hectare]. On 22 January

1881, Clissold mortgaged the site to Edward Knox, for £1,500 for 2 years at 6%” (Higginbotham, 2000, pp.13-14, quoting NSW Land Titles deeds nos 991 and 992 Bk 214).

“On 12 March 1884, Clissold conveyed the site to Owen Blacket, of Sydney, esquire. A more accurate description of the site, formerly listed as 11 acres 2 roods 28 perches [4.7 hectares], now measured the main parcel of land as 1 acres [sic, meaning 11 acres] 3 roods 20 perches [4.8 hectares]. Along with 2 acres nearby, the land sold to Blacket for £5,000. On the same day, Blacket mortgaged the land to Clissold, for £3,750 for 3 years at 6%. Owen Blacket was the son of Edmund Blacket, the noted architect. He was to conduct an engineering works there and set it up with sophisticated machinery. The firm produced ironwork for railways. Blacket had two partners in his enterprise. On 21 May 1884, Blacket conveyed the land to himself, John Vine Hall, master mariner, and Selwood Smyth, merchant and engineer, as tenants in common. These other two men were the partners in his engineering works” (Higginbotham, 2000, p.14, quoting NSW Land Title deeds nos 33 and 34 Bk 2686).

“According to the Echo in 1890, the firm installed turning lathes, moulding machines, punching and screwing machines. The building was divided into machinery, moulding and pattern maker’s shops. Internally, there were two smelting cupolas plus travelling cranes both inside and outside the building to Carry the castings. By 1890, when the report was written the plant was idle. The company had established itself adjacent to the surveyed route of the railway line, but the promised line was slow to arrive and in the meantime the company had gone bankrupt” (Higginbotham, 2000, p.14, quoting *The Echo*, 2/10/1890 p.3).

Heritage architect Tony Corkill also suggested that during the Blacket foundry years, “the roof of the Mill building was altered. In a photograph from 1886, the roof features a parapet running around the four sides of the building. However, the roof had been modified to include an overhang by c.1895. Additional annexes were added to the eastern and western sides of the building during this period.” (Corkill, 1993, p.4).

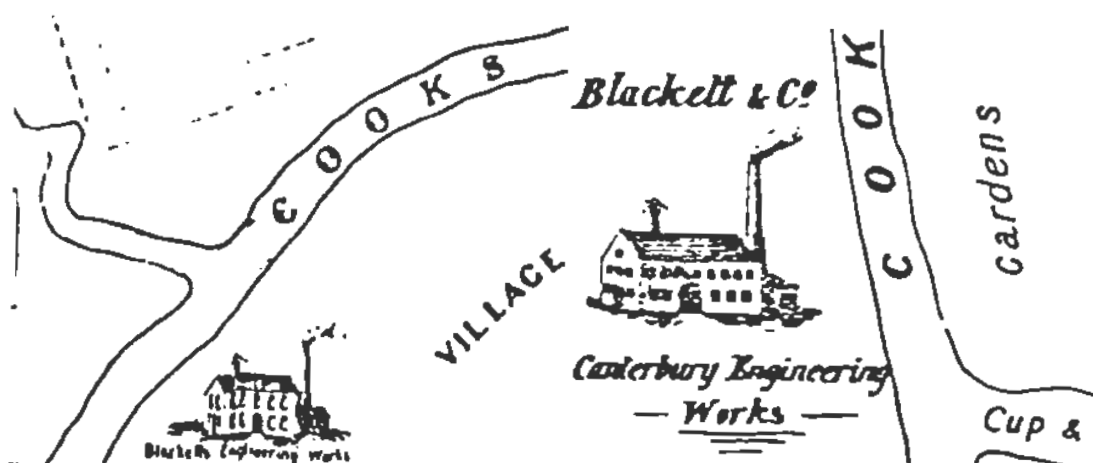


Image A22. Detail of “Bridgewater” subdivision sale plan, 23 August 1884, showing the Sugar House as “Blackett’s Engineering Works”. (Source: Kass, 1988b)

Image A23. Detail of “Redman’s” subdivision sale plan, 21 April 1884, showing the Sugar House as “Blackett & Co. Canterbury Engineering Works”. (Source: Kass, 1988b)

1886 Canalisation of the Cooks River
The first of many bouts of river works aimed at dredging and domesticating the

Cooks River is commenced on its lower reaches, between the Tempe dam and Shea's Creek, using relief works for the unemployed. Some visionaries hope the works will lead to a "series of canal-like waterways that would intersect with one another", stretching from the Parramatta River to Randwick via Alexandria, providing water-based transport for developing industry. The Alexandra Canal (named after the then Princess of Wales), based in Shea's Creek (which empties into the Cooks River), is substantially completed under this impractical scheme. It is one of only two navigation canals ever built in NSW—the other is on the Shoalhaven River (Tyrrell, 2018, pp104-112).

The works discover Aboriginal stone tools and dugong bones, later radiocarbon dated at over 6000 years old. This is a significant finding for European understanding of Indigenous habitation in Australia, suggesting a far longer pre-history than previously envisioned (Tyrrell, 2018, pp105-112).

1894



Image A24. *The Cooks River is depicted as a tranquil arcadia in a painting by Sidney Long, 1894, By Tranquil Waters, oil painting, 111 x 184. (Source: AGNSW).*

1890s

Blacket's engineering goes bust

Owen Blacket's engineering enterprise does not survive the 1890s depression. One of the factors hastening its demise is the delay in the construction of the proposed railway line between St Peters and Liverpool which promised ready transport access from Canterbury to the city (Madden & Muir, 2013).

"On 16 November 1886, [Blacket & Company, engineers, whose principals were Owen Blacket, John Vine Hall and Selwood Smyth, petitioned for voluntary bankruptcy. They cited the cause of their bankruptcy as the impending sale on 16 November 1887 under a warrant of execution of their mill and its assets to settle a debt for £100 proved in the Supreme Court. They sequestered to forestall the sale and thus enable them to meet the demands of all their other creditors. An almost illegible inventory of goods taken on 16 November 1887 for their bankruptcy showed that at their mill . . . there was an Engine Shop with grinding and working machinery and castings. In the Pattern Shop, there were tools and wooden patterns. In the Cellar, there were stores and castings . . . By the mutual consent of all their creditors they were released from their bankruptcy on 24 March 1887" (Higginbotham, 2000, p.15 quoting Supreme Court insolvency files No.21384, SRNSW 2/10291).

"The [Blacket engineering] partnership possibly recommenced operations, but . . . by 1890 . . . the engineering works was idle. On 16 September 1887, Frederick Clissold . . . sold the property to Henry Parker Tidswell, Balmain, merchant, for £3,550 . . . Tidswell mortgaged the land again on 6 July 1892 . . . to Frederick William

Parsons, Victoria Arcade, Castlereagh Street, agent, for £3,700. However he was soon declared bankrupt. When the right of way was finally being acquired for the proposed railway, the part of the route which passed through the mill land was conveyed on 9 June 1897 by Parsons, the mortgagee, and the assignees of Tidwell's bankrupt estate, plus Owen Blacket, who held some residual title to the land, to the Minister for Public Works. The land consisted of 1 rood 9 perches and 1 acre 3 roods on the land near the Sugar Works, plus other parcels of land nearby for £1,461/3/6. Until 1899, Blacket & Company, ironfounders, were still listed in the directories with A. Harding as caretaker at the mill's address. It may be that they may have undertaken some work, but it is more likely, judging from the 1890 report, that the mill remained idle" (Higginbotham, 2000, pp.15-16 quoting NSW Land Titles deeds nos 527 and 528 Bk 371; no. 653 Bk 443 and no.762 Bk 493).



Image A25. Undated photo of Sugar House in a book of views of Sydney and NSW, estimated as 1880s by McKillop, 1985. (Source: SLNSW DL PX 148 No.132)



Image A26. Hazel Elliot, .1900, apparently based on the photograph above. (Source: C.B.C.C. Local History Photo Collection)

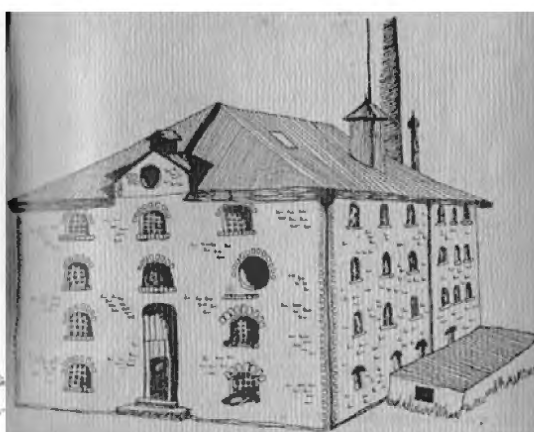


Image A27. Drawing of the south and west facades of the Sugar House made in 1985. (Source: McKillop, 1985, held by Canterbury & District Historical Society)



Image A28. Drawing of the Sugar House from the north east, before the railway line is constructed. (Source: Canterbury-Bankstown Council Library Historical Image Collection)



Image A29. B.E. Minns, c.1890. Painting of the Sugar House, included in an album of views of CSR works presented to Edward Knox in 1894. (Source: SLNSW PXA6914)

1895 Railway line opens:
 From 1892 the railway line is finally extended from St Peters to Belmore to include Fernhill Station (later renamed Hurlstone Park in 1911) and Canterbury Station, both opened in 1895 (Paul Davies, 2016, p.26).



Image A30. 1885. Extract of map of the Sugar House site in context. The red band across the image shows the proposed line of the proposed railway line (opened in 1895). (Source: City Of Sydney Archives Historical Atlas online, 1885 Suburbs: Canterbury)



Image A31. Map illustrating land bought by the NSW Government for the railway in 1897. The Sugar House footprint is circled in red. (Source: Land Titles Old System Bk 602 # 936)

1890s

More land releases:

The prospect of the railway line making for easy transport to the city encouraged the release of more lands in the Hurlstone Park, Canterbury area for suburban subdivision.

There are suggestions that the site is used as a butter factory by Foley Bros after Blacket & Company ceased operating (Howard, 1995, p.9; McKillop, 1985).

1897 The NSW Department of Public Works buys up land:
Some years after the railway line is built and in use, the land pictured in Image A29 is formally purchased by the NSW Government from F.W. Parsons, F.P. Ford and A.R. Troup, H.P. Tidswell and Owen Blacket for £3600 (Land Titles Old System Bk 602 # 936). Some of this land will soon be purchased again by J.C. Hutton and consolidated into the former sugar works site.

1900 Former Sugar House purchased by Denham Bros:
E.R.W. Denham purchases the former Sugar Works for £2,300 (NSW Land Titles Old System Book 824, No.665) on behalf of Denham Brothers (produce merchants) who convert it to a bacon factory (Larcombe, 1979, p.361; Madden & Muir, 2013). William's brother and partner in the produce and grain company, Digby Frank Denham, controls the Brisbane arm of the business and becomes a Queensland Liberal politician, Minister (from 1904) and Premier (1911-1915). He is a close business associate of John Reid, the Queensland manager for J.C. Hutton (Murphy, 1981).

The first mill chimney is demolished around this time (Higginbotham, 2000, p.6).

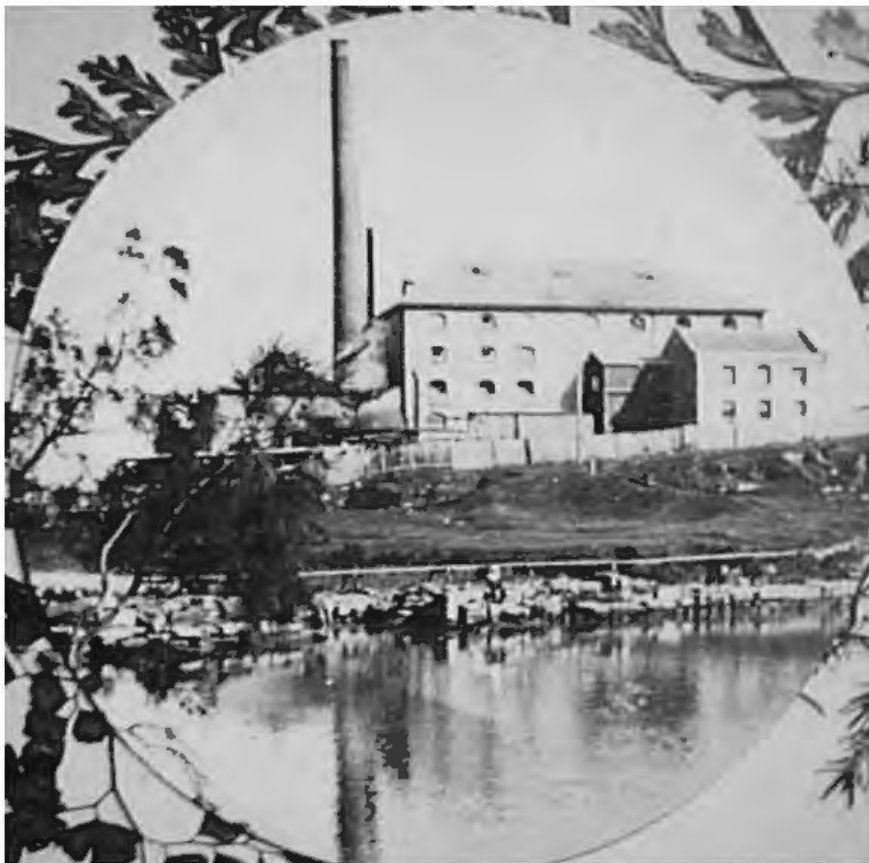


Image A32. Excerpt from Christmas card showing scenes of Canterbury c.1900. (Source: C.B.C.C. Local History Photo Collection)

1908 J.C. Hutton Pty Ltd buys the former sugar works site:
The former Sugar Works property is purchased by J.C. Hutton Pty Ltd from E.R.W. Denham for £5,500. The land consists of 6 acres 1 rood 10 perches, being part of Robert Campbell's 177 ¼ acres grant and part of Richard Johnson's 260 acres grant (NSW Land Titles Old System Book 851 No.784; Madden & Muir, 2013).



Image A33. "Bacon Factory Canterbury, 1908". (Source: C.C.B.C. Local History Photo Collection)



Image A34. Painting of the Sugar House apparently based on the 1908 photo. (Source: C.C.B.C. Local History Photo Collection)



Image A35. Photo of the former Sugar Works site from the north west, with Earlwood in the background. Broadhurst postcard, dated 1908. (Source: SLNSW a105124, PXA 635 123)



Image A36. Photo of the former Sugar Works site from the north west, with Earlwood in the background. Broadhurst postcard, dated 1913. (Source: Lawrance, c.2010)

1911

A rare article is published about J.C. Hutton praising the company's record in winning prizes for its cured hams, bacon and small goods at the Perth Royal Show in addition to the Sydney Royal Show and the Brisbane National Show (Sunday Timer Perth, 15/10/1911, p12 via Trove). The article notes that the company was established by J.C. Hutton c1860 in Melbourne in response to his perceived need to raise the quality of colonial small goods. "The business grew so rapidly that Mr. Hutton found it expedient to establish branches in the other States, so in due course branch factories and offices were opened at Zillmere (Queensland), Canterbury (NSW), Fremantle (WA) and Launceston (Tasmania). The Brisbane house, it appears has established an extensive trade with the East; whilst in recent years a large trade with the English market has been conducted by the various branches of the business . . . The weekly killings at the various branches of this business amount to several thousand animals, and the company claims that it is to be credited in a large measure for the very healthy state of the pig-producing industry at the present time . . . Their factories are stated to be all built upon most modern and up-to-date principles, and to be spotlessly clean throughout, while the artisans employed are among the most skilled obtainable".

Renaming of Hurlstone Park

Fernhill Railway Station is renamed Hurlstone Park after the name of the nearby agricultural college, "Hurlstone" (now Trinity Grammar School). The sewer is connected around this time. There are further suburban subdivisions in the area (Jackson-Stepowski, 2016).

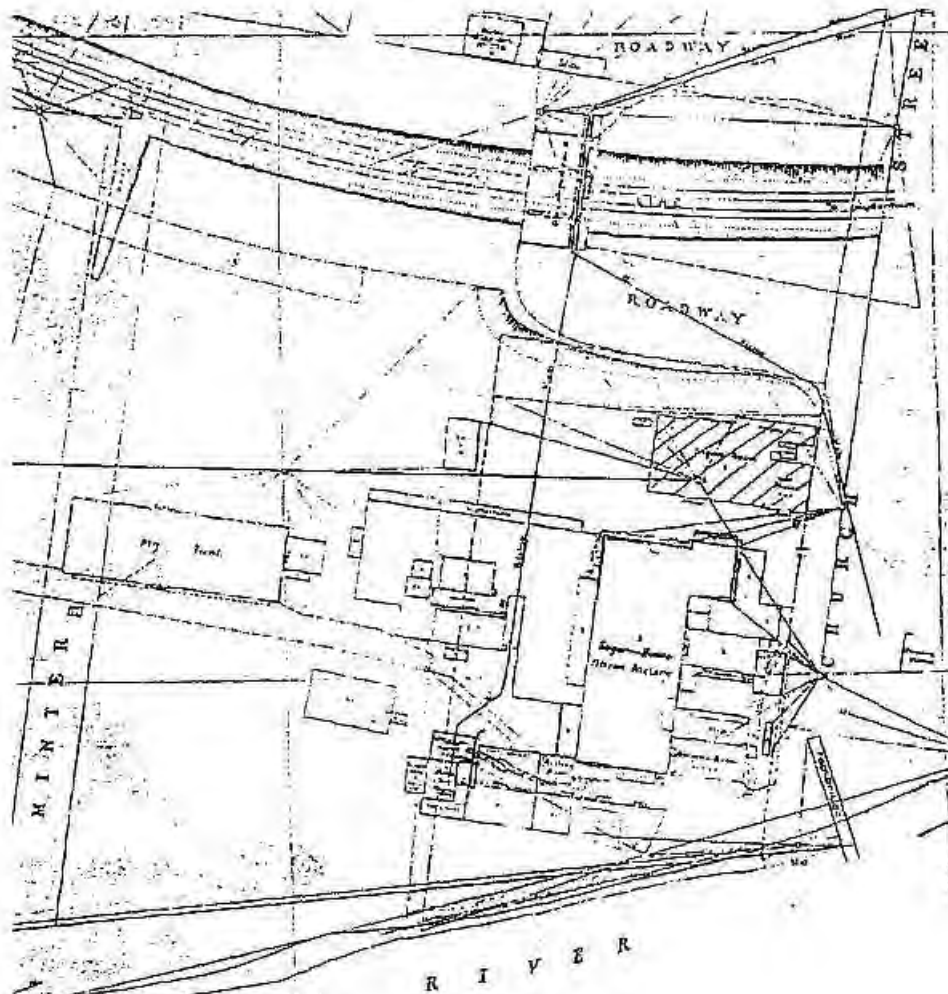


Image A37. Metropolitan Water Sewerage & Drainage Board site plan for the former sugar works site in 1912, showing the extent of buildings constructed to house the Huttons factory. (Source: Howard, 1995, p28)

1920



Image A38. 1920. Extract of aerial photo of the Sugar House building in its local context. (Source: Sydney Survey, C.B.C.C. Campsie Library Local Studies Collection)



Image A39. 1920. Detail of aerial photo of the Sugar House site, above. The Sugar House dam is still in place across the Cooks River to the east, and the concrete banks to the river have not yet been installed. (Source: Sydney Survey, C.B.C.C. Campsie Library Local Studies Collection)

1921 The tramway is extended to Canterbury Station from its previous termination at the corner of Marrickville Road and New Canterbury Road in Dulwich Hill (Jackson-Stepowski, 2016).

1920s



Image A40. Photo of the former Sugar House from the south east, c.1920s. 10 x 15 cm. (Source: C.C.B.C. Local History Photo Collection)



Image A41. Photo of the former Sugar House from the south west, c.1920s. (Source: C.C.B.C. Local History Photo Collection)



Image A42. Sugar House viewed from north west, with Earwood in the background, c1920s. (Source: C.C.B.C. Local History Photo Collection)

1930s-1940s "Concreting of the river banks [of the Cooks River] commenced in the 1930s and the *Cooks River Improvement Act* of 1946 confirmed the policy of the tidying up of an undisciplined stream within neat cement boundaries. Engineers diverted the original river mouth to accommodate Sydney Airport runways" (Wikipedia, 2020, "Cooks River").

A 1936 amendment to the NSW *Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Act* leads to further dredging and regularising Cooks River west of the old Sugarworks. "By 1937 there were 600 workmen employed on concrete, excavation and drainage works from Canterbury to Enfield . . . [and is] near completion within two years . . . Visitors reported 'big river bends being eliminated, mosquito-breeding samps being reclaimed, and a canal replacing and old channel . . . In its rationale, timing, cjoice of materials and design, this 'improvement' of the river almost exactly paralleled the challeing of California's Los Angeles River under the control of the US Army Corps of Engineers, beginning from 1936-38." However wheras the Los Angeles River was entirely paved, the Cooks River was never concreted to the same extent (Tyrrell, 2018, pp143-4).

Works on the area of river between Tempe and Canterbury continue in the post-

World War II years, following floods in 1942, and 1946 and 1948. Under NSW *Cooks River Improvements Act 1946*, bends in the river are removed, banks regularised with steel piling driven into mud, vegetation removed and new parklands created. The removal of the Tempe dam and the weir near the former sugar works enables tidal waters to flow upstream again (Tyrrell, 2018, pp147-151).

1943



Image A43. Detail of 1943 aerial photo of the Sugar House site, above. The Sugar House dam is still in place and the pedestrian bridge across the river has been constructed some time since 1920. The banks of the river beside and west of the Sugar House have been concreted. (Source: NSW Land & Property Information SIX maps)

1946



Image A44. Photo from the south east showing both the pedestrian bridge and the old dam, 1946. (Source: SLNSW)

1950s



Image A45. 1950 Extract of aerial photo of the Sugar House building in its local context.
(Source: Campsie Library map of the municipality)



Image A46. 1950. Detail from aerial photo above, showing the Sugar House site from the Engineer's Department of the Municipality of Canterbury. The Sugar House dam has been removed by this time.
(Source: C.B.C.C. Campsie Library)



Image A47. 1955. Detail of extract of aerial photo of the Sugar House site.
(Source: Campsie Library map of the municipality)

1964 A "boat harbour" is built into the north bank of the Cooks River near the former Sugar Works site "as the site of a naval cadet base (the TS Shropshire) . . . by the mid-1970s, cadets could no longer use it due to heavy silting" (Tyrrell, 2018, p168).

1970s By the 1970s the former Sugar House has been converted into a staff amenities block for use by staff of the J.C. Hutton bacon factory (Madden & Muir, 2013).



Image A48. Photo of the north façade of the Sugar House c.1970s. (Source: C.C.B.C. Local History Photo Collection)

1976 The most comprehensive planning report for a catchment-wide understanding of the Cooks River is completed: the Total Environment Centre's *Cooks River Environment Survey and Landscape Design, 1976*—"the single most important report ever published on the river" (Tyrrell, 2018, p188).

1978



Image A49. Elsie Elliott, local resident photo of the site from the east, showing what would become Hutton Street as a dirt road, 1978. (Source: C.C.B.C. Local History Photo Collection)

1979

First heritage listing:

National Trust of Australia (NSW) registers the "Former ASC Sugar Mill" on its heritage list in May 1979 (see the listing entry at **Appendix 2**), urged by the Canterbury & District Historical Society and Kevin Moss, Council alderman, mayor and later state member of parliament (WSC "Sugar Factory Future", 2/10/1985). The National Trust's Statement of Significance (or "Reasons for Listing") states:

"Only known industrial structure in Greater Sydney area dating from before the gold rushes. Built for an industry which has remained important in Australia. (Australian Sugar Company was absorbed by Colonial Sugar Company [sic, meaning CSR] when it was formed in 1854). It therefore forms part of the history of one of Australia's major manufacturing companies. Still occupied for industrial purposes, now used by Hutton's Bacon. Factory".

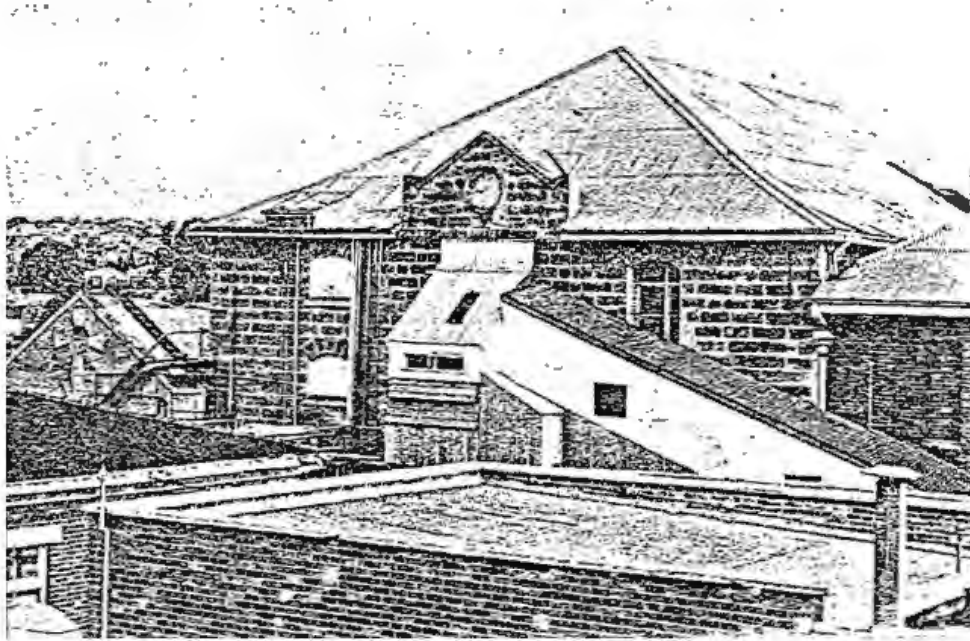


Image A50. Photo of the Sugar Works which accompanies the National Trust listing. (Source: National Trust of Australia, NSW chapter, 1979)

1982

Jun

J.C. Hutton closes down the Canterbury business in response to strike:

On 17 June 1982 the *Daily Telegraph* reports an industrial dispute at the site with the headline", Don't argue! You're fired". The article states: "The smallgoods company J.C. Hutton sacked all the employees at its Canterbury plant yesterday. The 150 employees were on strike for a 38 hour week and a \$19 a week pay rise. . . "For the past few months we have monitored our Sydney and Brisbane plants' performances", Mr Patrick said. "It was clear that the Sydney Unit was not viable whereas the Brisbane plant could be conducted, we think, at a profit". The board of Huttons resolved to close the Canterbury plant and shift east coast production to Brisbane. "We accelerated our closure program and sacked the employees". And organiser of the Meat Employees Union, Mr T. Hannan said: "We are making a claim for redundancy payments". Within a fortnight, the 1.3 hectare Canterbury property is being advertised for sale, for \$1.95 million (SMH, 29/6/1982 82).

1982

21 Aug

First statutory heritage listing:

The former ASC sugar works building is listed by NSW Heritage Council on 27 August 1982, with an emergency, temporary Section 130 Order under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*. J.C. Hutton were making plans to relocate their factory elsewhere and local community members, especially the Canterbury District & Historical Society began lobbying for it to be state heritage listed.

FOR SALE
CANTERBURY
 Cooks River Reserve Frontage
 100 m Railway Station
HUTTON
CHURCH & CLOSE STS
FOR ABSOLUTE OUTRIGHT SALE

Under instructions from J. C. Hutton Pty. Ltd. we offer for sale their Canterbury property which they have occupied since 1908.

LAND: 1.30 Ha (13,000 sq. m. abt.)
ZONED: 4B Light Industrial
BUILDINGS: Production building built 1976. Gross floor area 7,200 sq. m. Plus offices, boiler house/workshops. Gross area 950 sq. m. Plus two storey stone building of 900 sq. m.

PRICE: \$1,950,000 excluding plant

Enquiries:

PANTLING & CO. PTY. LTD.
 100 West Street, Sydney
 Telephone 233 4369

smh 29/6/82

Image A51. Advertisement for the sale of the site in the Sydney Morning Herald 29/6/1982 (Source: Heritage NSW site file S90-02268).



[Published in Government Gazette No. 113 of 27th August, 1982.]

HERITAGE ACT, 1977

ORDER UNDER SECTION 130

I, the Minister for Planning and Environment, in pursuance of section 130 of the Heritage Act, 1977, do, by this my order, declare that such buildings as are specified in the Schedule hereto shall not be demolished except in accordance with Division 8 of Part VI of the said Act (H.C. 32866)

ERIC BEDFORD

Minister for Planning and Environment

Sydney, 27th August, 1982.

SCHEDULE

The building known as the former Australian Sugar Company Sugar Works, Close Street, Canterbury. (2527)

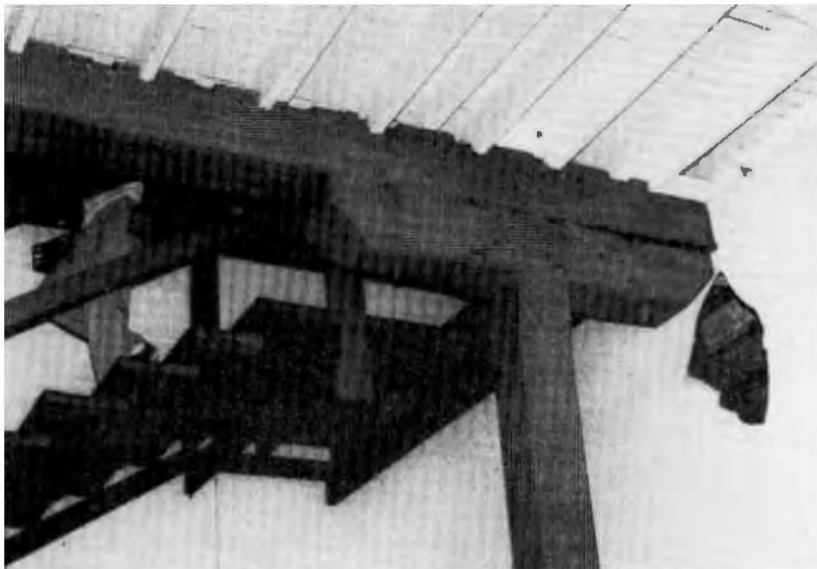
D. West, Government Printer, New South Wales—1982

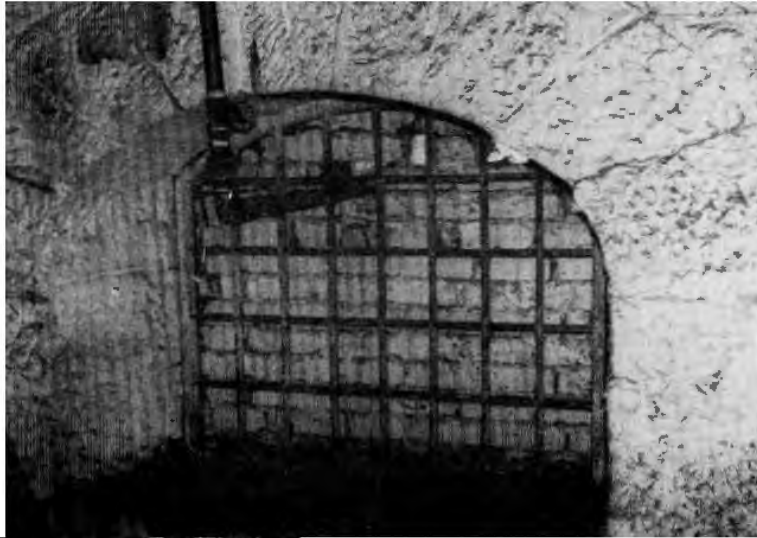
Image A52. Gazettal of the first heritage listing of the site under an emergency S130 Order in 1982. (Source: Heritage NSW site file S90-02268)

- 1983** Sale of property:
- 18 Nov** Mercantile Credits Ltd buys the former Sugar House site from J.C. Hutton for \$1,100,000. (Land Titles Old System, Bk 3568 conversion #106)
- 1985** McKillop High School project documents building:
 An excellent research report on the Sugar House is undertaken by high school students from McKillop Girls High, Lakemba, under the auspices of the the Catholic Disadvantaged Schools Program, with the guidance of teacher Sue Armstrong. The students' photos and drawings offer a unique record of the building in its relatively intact condition at that time. They were helped by Lesley Muir and the Caterbury & District Historical Society.
 Although the building is still technically owned by Mercantile Credits, the students refer repeatedly to Nick Scali as the owner in possession of the property. They also describe the neglected condition of the building: "Mr Scali didn't have any use of the Old Sugar Mill, so the old building was left standing. When vandals broke windows, pigeons took over the Old Sugar Mill making it very messy. The interior of the Old Sugar Mill is very dirty with broken glass, bird-droppings and spider webs everywhere. Nick Scali is planning to transform the Old Sugar Mill into a site for a wedding reception" (McKillop, 1985, p24, held by the Canterbury & District Historical Society).



Images A53-57. Photos of the Sugar House taken by McKillop Girls in 1984-1985 for their school project on the place. This image shows some of the original hardwood timber used throughout the interiors (Source: McKillop, 1985)





Inside Huttons' smoke room on the first floor.

35

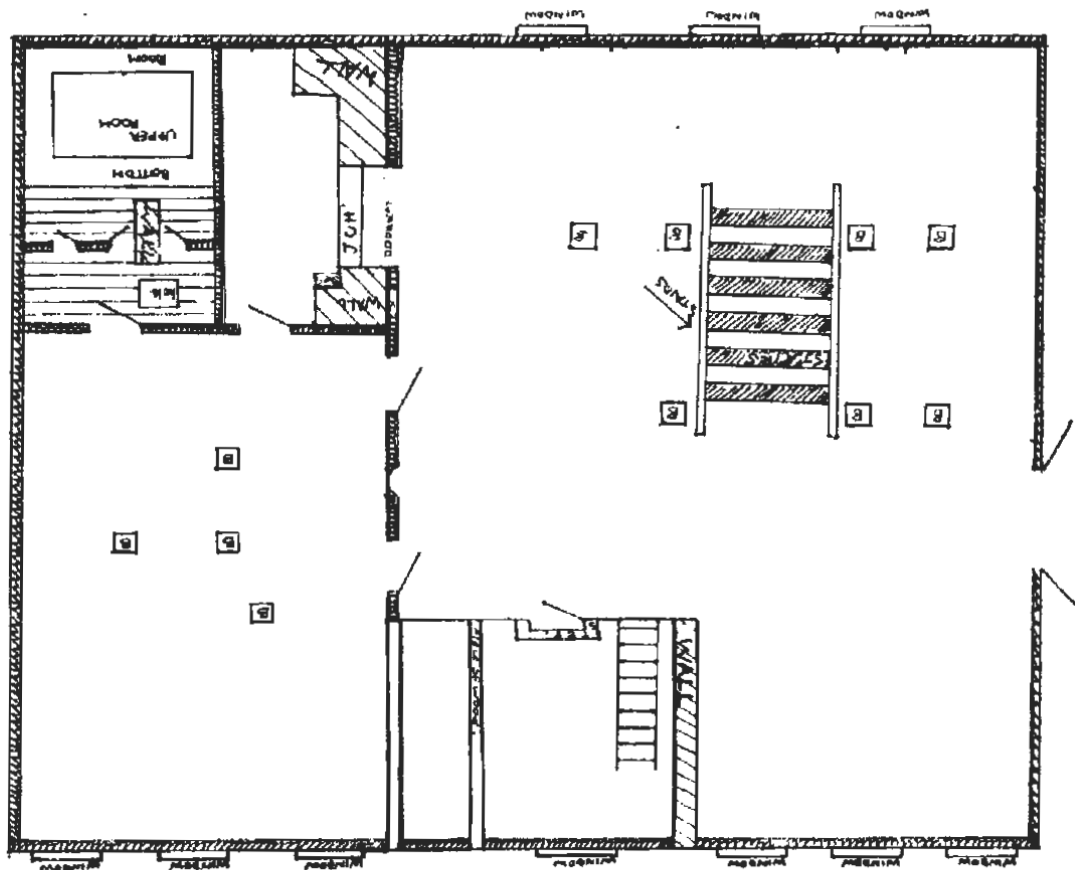


Image A58. McKillop High School students' drawing of first floor layout in 1985. (Source: McKillop, 1985)

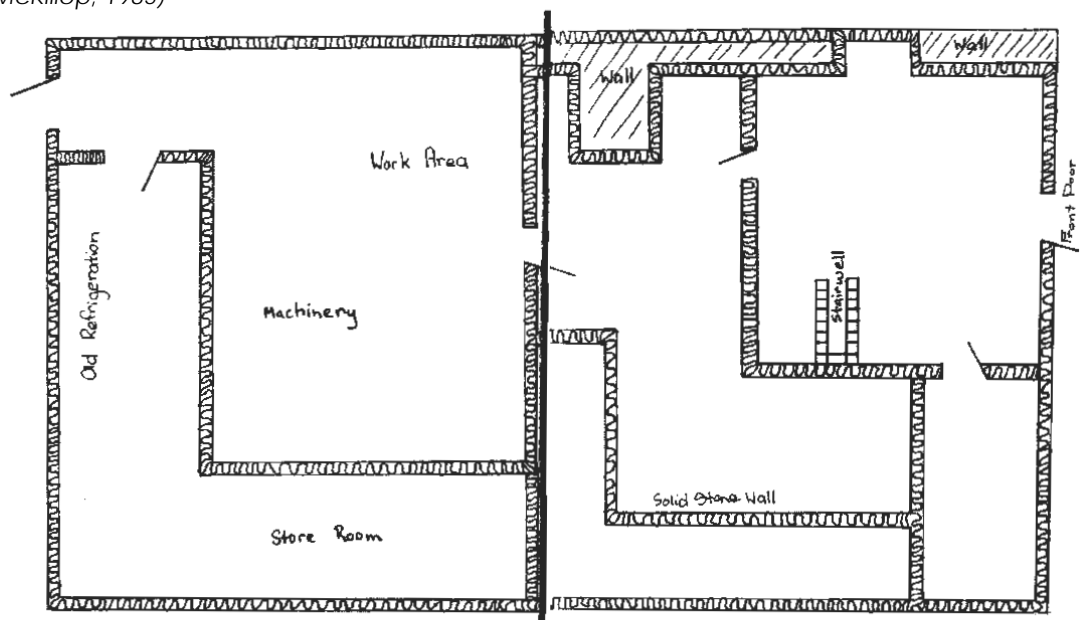


Image A59. McKillop High School students' drawing of the ground floor layout in 1985. (Source: McKillop, 1985)

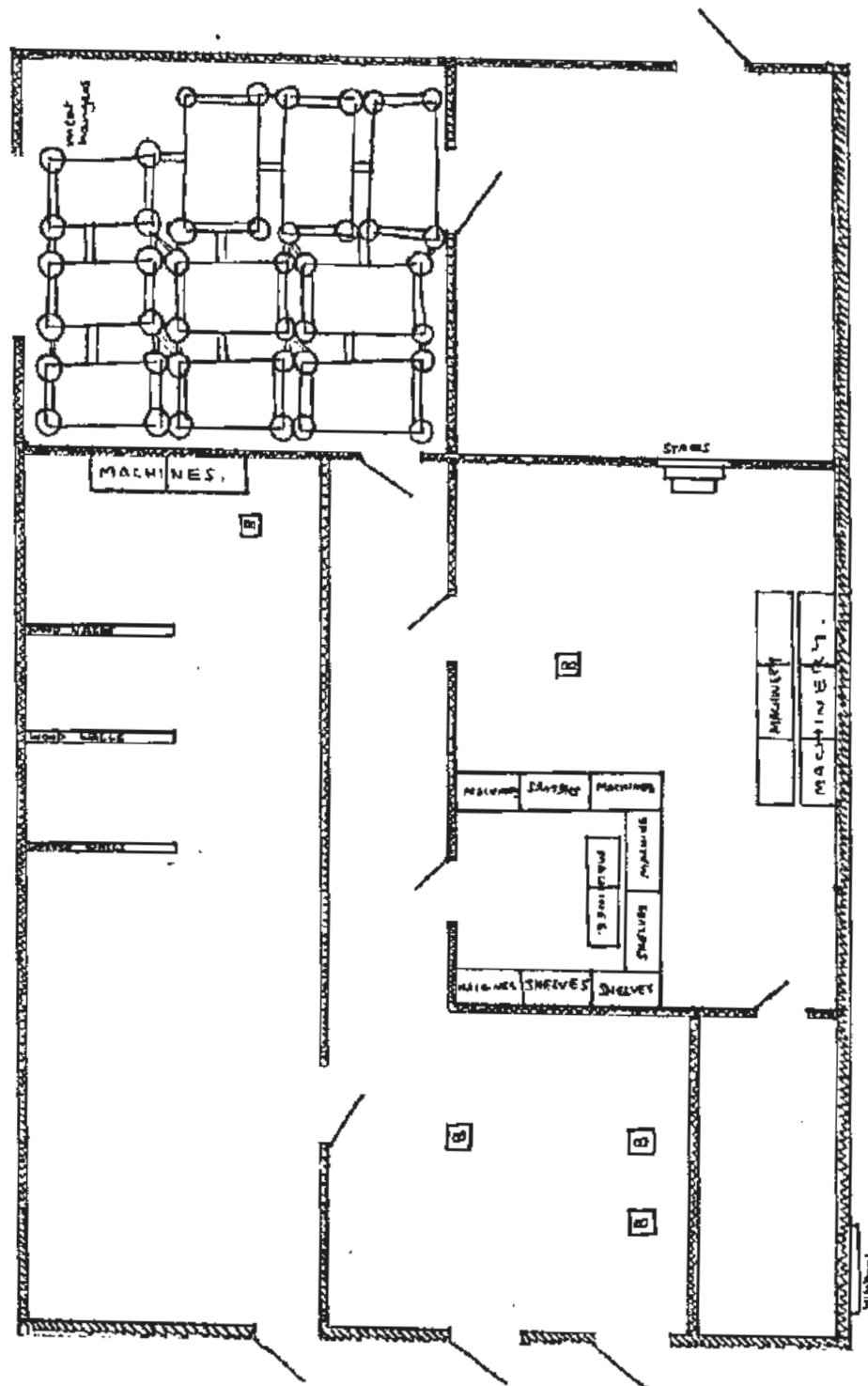


Image A60. McKillop High School students' drawing of the basement layout in 1985. (Source: McKillop, 1985)

**1985
18 Oct**

Heritage Council of Australia makes a "Permanent Conservation Order" (PCO) No. 290 on the "Former Australian Sugar Co. Sugar House", Church and Hutton Streets Canterbury, Part Portion 143 (Com. No. 106, BK.3568), part portion 553 and part of Reservation as shown map HC 714. This state heritage listing is automatically transformed into State Heritage Register listing no. 290 in 1999, when the Heritage Act is amended to turn permanent conservation orders into State Heritage Register listings.



[Published in Government Gazette No. 143 of 18th October, 1985.]

HERITAGE ACT, 1977

PERMANENT CONSERVATION ORDER NO. 290

IN pursuance of section 44 of the Heritage Act, 1977, I, the Minister for Planning and Environment, do, by this my order—

- make a permanent conservation order in respect of the items of the environmental heritage specified or described in Schedule "A"; and
- declare that this permanent conservation order shall apply to the curtilage or site of such items being the land described in Schedule "B". (H.C. 32866)

BOB CARR,
Minister for Planning and Environment.

Sydney, 1st October, 1985.

SCHEDULE "A"

The buildings being the three-storey former mill building and the two-storey annex together known as the former ASC Sugar Mill, Church and Hutton Streets, Canterbury, situated on the land described in Schedule "B".

SCHEDULE "B"

All those pieces or parcels of land situated at Canterbury, Municipality of Canterbury, Parish of Petersham, County of Cumberland, being part portion 143 (Com. No. 106 BK.3568) part portion 533 and part of Reservation, as shown edged heavy black on plan catalogued H.C. 714 in the office of the Heritage Council of New South Wales. (5954)

D. West, Government Printer, New South Wales—1985

Image A61. Gazettal of the state listing of the "former ASC Sugar Mill" 18/10/1985. (Source: Heritage NSW site file S90-02268)

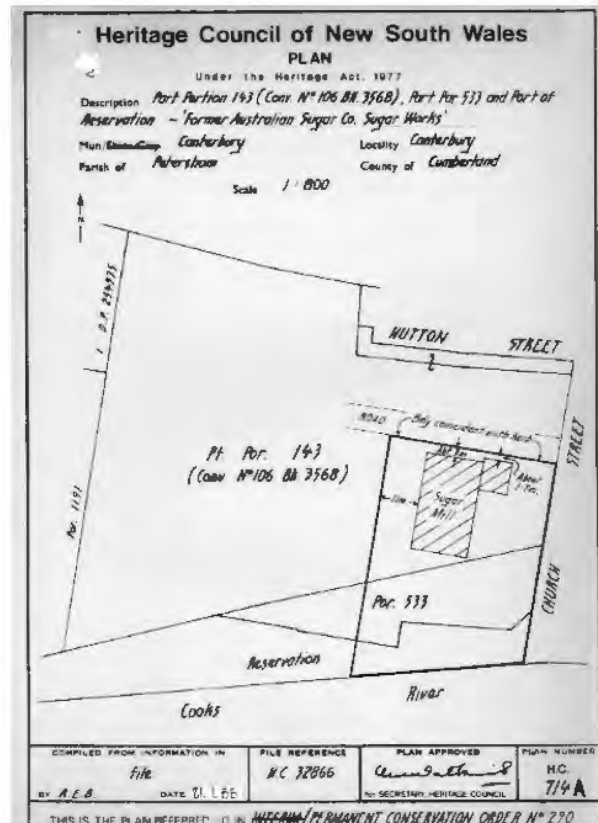


Image A62. PCO Plan 714, made on 21 January 1986, describing the boundary of the state heritage listing for the site. (Source: Heritage NSW site file S90-02268)

1986 On 29 July 1986, Nick Scali & Co Pty Ltd buys the property from Mercantile Credits Pty Ltd for \$1,350,000 including the land under Conveyance #784 Book 851, Portion 533 adjacent to #271 Book 3454 (Old System Bk 3674 No. 364). (Mercantile Credits had been taken over by Lepac Ltd on 25 June 1986.)



Image A63. Photo of the north façade of the building in 1986. (Source: Canterbury Bankstown Express, 27 October 2015)

Soon after being sold to Nick Scali, the property is surveyed by Roger Boxall, registered surveyor.

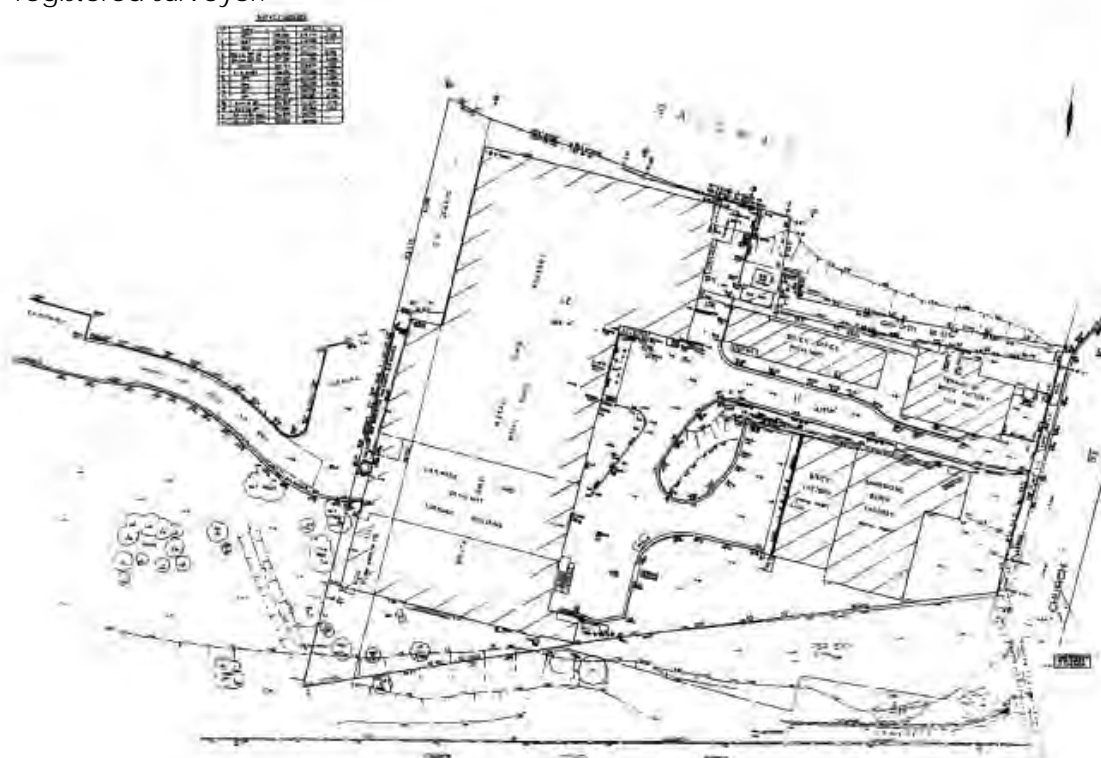


Image A64. 1986. Map of the property surveyed by Roger Boxall. (Source: Corkill, 1993)

Nick Scali also buys a small section of crown land (via Crown grant) to enable water drainage: Lot 1 DP 2454935 (NSW Land Titles Vol. 14478 F.196).

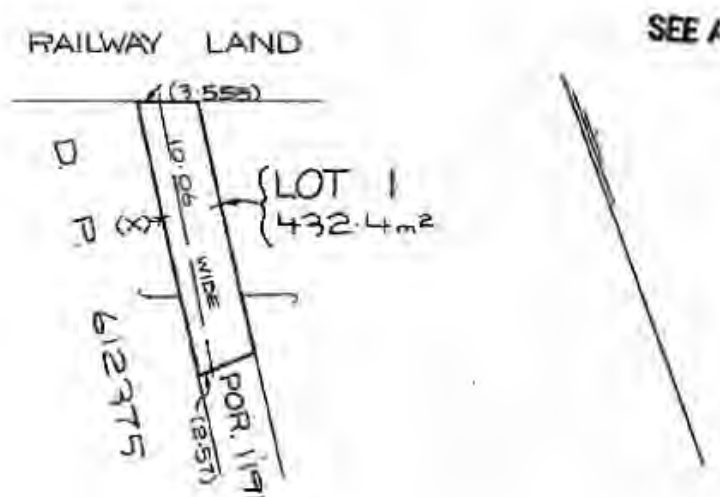


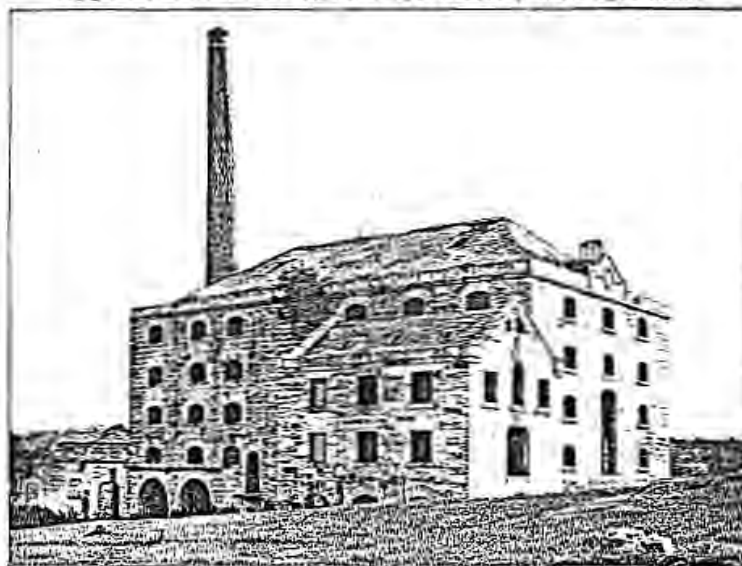
Image A65. Land title map of lot sold to Scali in 1986. (Source: Heritage NSW site file S90-02268).

Nick Scali immediately converts the land title for the property from Old System to Torrens Title.

**1988
15 Oct**

The Canterbury & District Historical Society, local residents and activists hold a picnic on the banks of the river opposite the Sugar House, at Sutton Reserve in Earlwood. The picnickers were advocating for the conservation of the Sugar House on the third anniversary of its state heritage listing.

A CANTERBURY PILGRIMAGE
Join the
Historic Walk and Afternoon Tea
on
Saturday, 8th April, 1989 at 2.30 p.m.
Gather in Hutton Ave. beside the Caretaker's Cottage
(opposite Hutton's Bacon Factory, formerly the Sugar Mill.)



Sugar Works Canterbury 1886 Government Printing Office, N.S.W.

The guided walk will re-create in our mind's eye the Canterbury Village at the time the Sugar Works was in operation, 1840-1854. "See" the church, the school, the inns, Hartsborne's and Sloccombe's village stores, Watson's butcher's shop and slaughterhouse and Rogers' bakery. See also the buildings that have replaced them, including Canterbury Hotel and the Post Office.

Afternoon tea will be served in the grounds of Beulah Vista, (the headquarters of the Canterbury Historical Society, in Church Street) 3.30-4.30pm. It's downhill all the way after that, via "Sugar House Road" to the starting point, in Hutton Street.

Cost (guided walk and afternoon tea) \$3.00
 Children half price. Bring your friends Everyone welcome!
RSVP by 4th. April (for catering purposes)
otherwise, come on the day and risk missing out
on scones and pikelets !)

Inquiries and RSVP

David Child 4983757 (h)
 Lesley Muir 6602555 ext. 315 (w)
 Norah Taylor 9776671 (h)
 Meredith Walker 8181803 (h+w)



Image A66. Flyer advertising picnic to build community support for heritage listing of the Sugar House in 1988. (Source: Canterbury & District Historical Society)

- c.1993** Around 1993 the industrial chimney located near the north eastern corner of the site is demolished, apparently without approval (since no records of approval could be sighted at Heritage NSW). Local residents protested the loss of the chimney by writing to the Heritage Council of NSW but there was no apparent response.

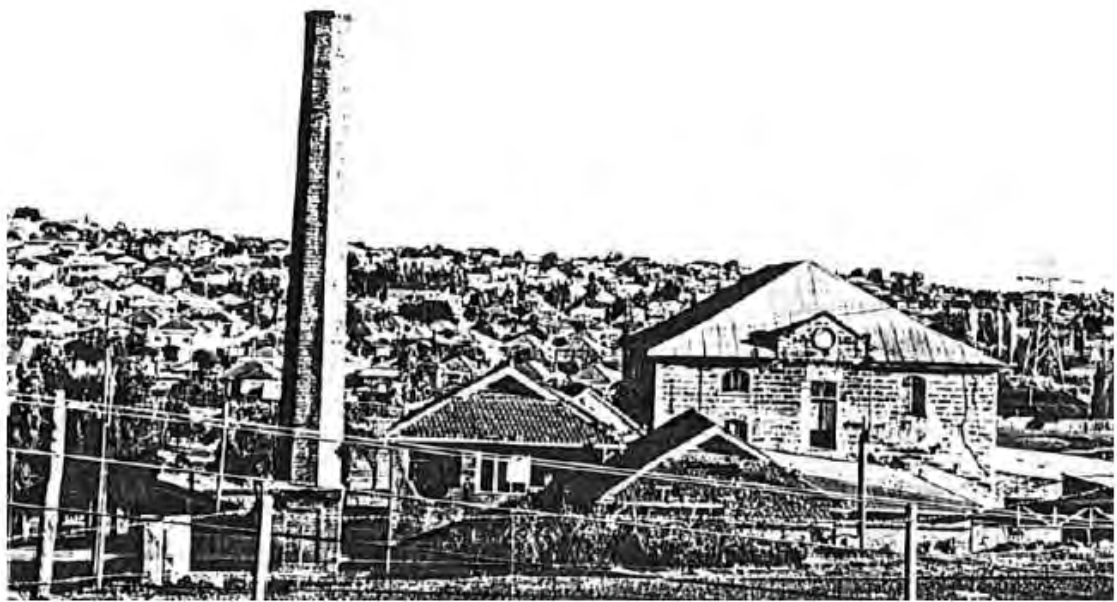


Image A67. Terry Kass, 1988, photo of the chimney relative to the Sugar House, taken as part of the Canterbury Heritage Study. (Source: Kass and Walker, 1988b)



Image A68. Mike Richter, local resident's photo of chimney included in letter to Heritage NSW, dated September 1993, protesting the apparently unauthorised demolition of the chimney. (Source: Heritage NSW site file S90-02268)

1989
18 Apr The Canterbury Sugar House is listed on the Australian Heritage Commission's Register of the National Estate as the "ASC Sugar Mill (former)" (ID 3328). The Statement of Significance for the listing reads:
"Historically significant as the foundation of one of Australia's major manufacturing companies, Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR); as one of the earliest surviving elements

of the Australian sugar industry; and as possibly the only substantial industrial building in greater Sydney dating from before the gold rushes”.

**1992-
1993**

Nick Scali engages heritage architect Tony Corkill to write a conservation plan for the former Sugar House (Corkill, 1993), and to draw up architectural plans for residential redevelopment of the place. The plans for the property originally include a row of townhouses on the eastern side of Church Street (as Sugar House Road was then known), however these are later subdivided off and developed separately. Plans are first submitted to the Heritage Council of NSW in early 1993.

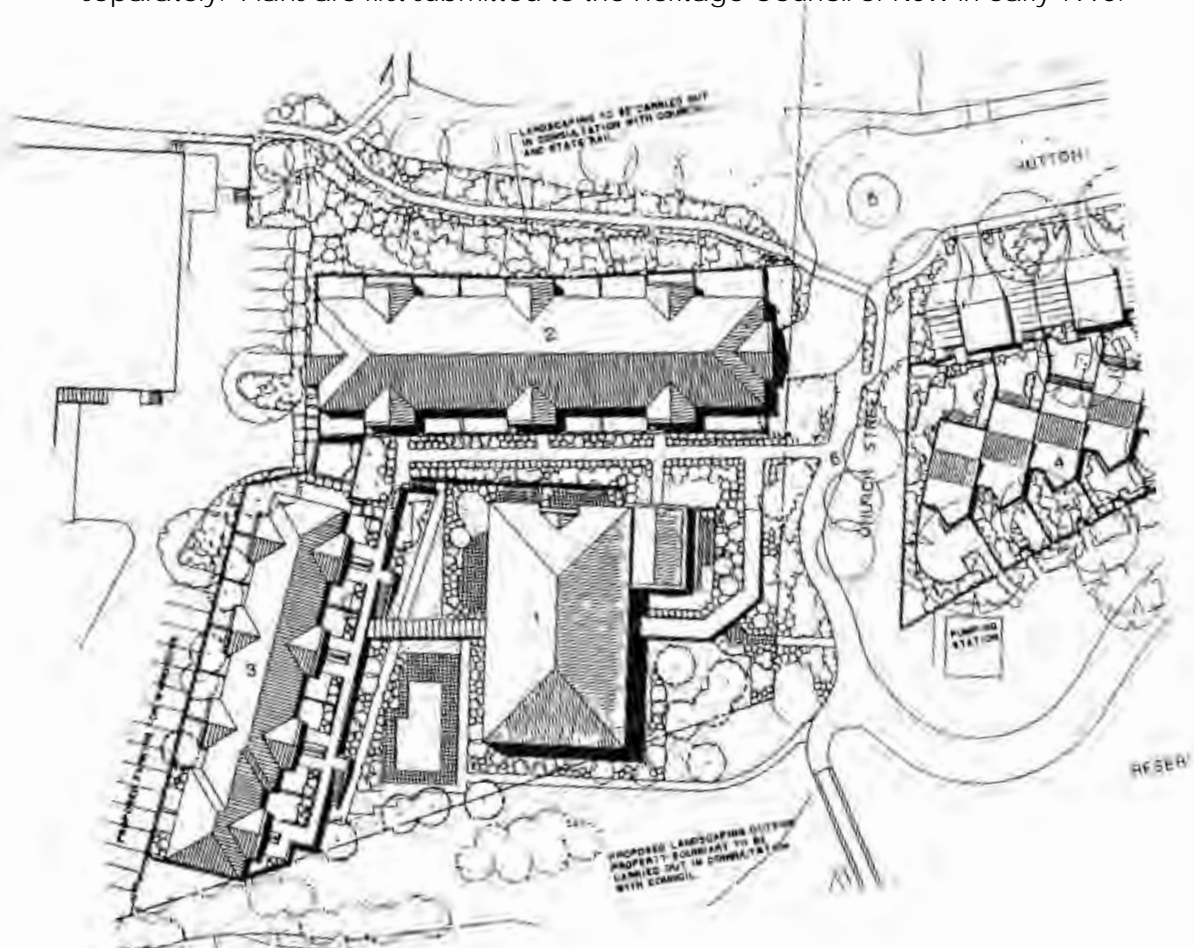


Image A69. Extract of Tony Corkill's first site plan for residential redevelopment of the former Sugar House site, submitted to the HCNSW meeting of 3 February 1993. (Source: Heritage NSW site file S90-02268)

A major difference between this initial plan and the redevelopment completed in 2004 is that the proposed new apartment block at the north (now known as Building 3) originally stretches across the entire northern boundary of the site, with just a narrow footpath and no driveway or parking area. Both consent authorities, the Heritage Council and Canterbury Council, object to this proposed building for being too large and obscuring all views of the historic building from the north. There are also many objections from local residents such as the letter from Geoff Huard "on behalf of the Residents Group" which states:

"The residents have expressed their concerns in writing and at various committee meeting that the proposed development by Mr Nick Scale (sic) will violate the historic old sugarworks. The historic building itself will be surrounded by inappropriate residential buildings that detract from its visual impact. The proposed work internally and externally must be such as it enhances the old building and preserves its life." (Letter dated 6/6/1994, held Heritage NSW site file S90-02268)



Image A70. Extract of Tony Corkill's section drawings illustrating the height and closeness of the proposed new apartment block to the former Sugar House (eventually built in a smaller profile). (Source: Heritage NSW site file S90-02268)

**1994,
18 Nov**

Canterbury Council lists the place on their Local Environmental Plan (LEP):
The "Canterbury Sugar Works" is included on the local heritage schedule of the Canterbury City Council Local Environmental Plan.



Image A71. Canterbury Municipal Council LEP 2012, extract of map showing the local heritage listing boundary for the Sugar House (Item 182). By 2012, the date of the current LEP, the name of the adjoining road has been changed back from Church Street to its original name, "Sugar House Road", in honour of the heritage listed place. (Source: CLEP 2012 HER007)

1995

Application to convert former Sugar House into apartments:
A development application to convert the building into an apartment complex is lodged with Canterbury Council by Nick Scali in 1995 and submitted to the Heritage Council as a Section 60 application. Prepared by SJPH Design Partnership and accompanied by a new conservation plan written by Rod Howard Heritage Conservation Pty Ltd (1995), it is based on the first proposal but is understood to successfully address "all the concerns of the Working Party". The Heritage Council discusses the proposal at their meeting of 6 September 1995 and approves the application subject to several minor conditions (Heritage Council Advisory Meeting minutes, 6 September 1995, Heritage NSW site file S90-02268).

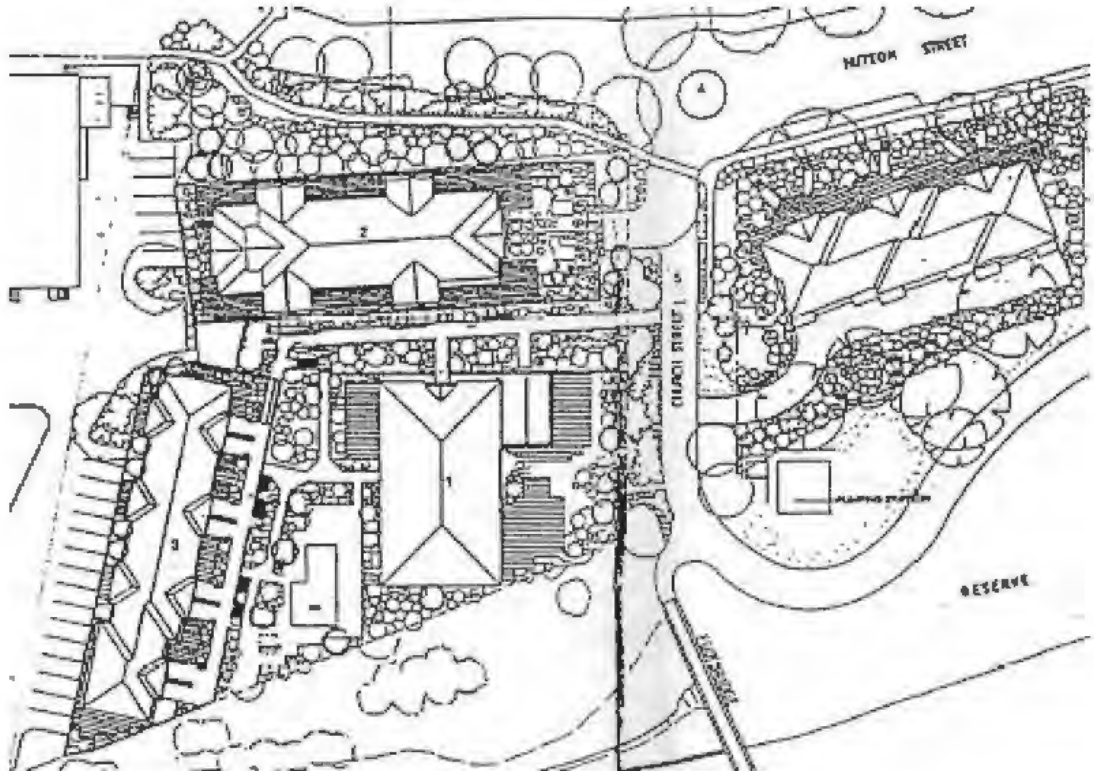


Image A72. SJPH Design Partnership's plan for the residential redevelopment, 1995. Compared with the earlier plan for redevelopment, the new apartment building at the north has been reduced in width—but is still wider and larger than the Building 3 which is eventually constructed. (Source: Heritage NSW site file S90-02268)

1995



Image A73. Ron Hammonds' photo of ceremonial unveiling of the Canterbury Council heritage plaque outside the Sugar House, 3 April 1995. (Source: C.C.B.C. Local History Photo Collection)

1996
13 Feb

Arsonist firebombs the Sugar House:
The former Sugar House is gutted by fire in the early morning hours of Tuesday 13 February 1996. The roof is destroyed and much of the interior damaged including original hardwood posts and beams (Madden & Muir, 2013). The thick stone framework of the building survives relatively intact. No arsonist is ever identified or prosecuted for the attack.



Image A74. David Nutley photo of the former Sugar House on fire 13 February 1996. (Source: David Nutley, marine heritage archaeologist)

Image A75. (right). Front page of the Bankstown Canterbury Torch reporting on the fire. (Source: CB Torch 14/2/1996 p1, CCBC Local History Collection)

1996

DCP to guide redevelopment:

Following the arson attack on the old stone building, Canterbury City Council develops and authorises a Development Control Plan (DCP no.22) to provide controls for the redevelopment of the place, operational from 23 October 1996. The making of this DCP suggests that Council aims to exert close control over the residential redevelopment. It is repealed after the re-development of the place, when Canterbury makes a new DCP applying to all its heritage items in 2012.

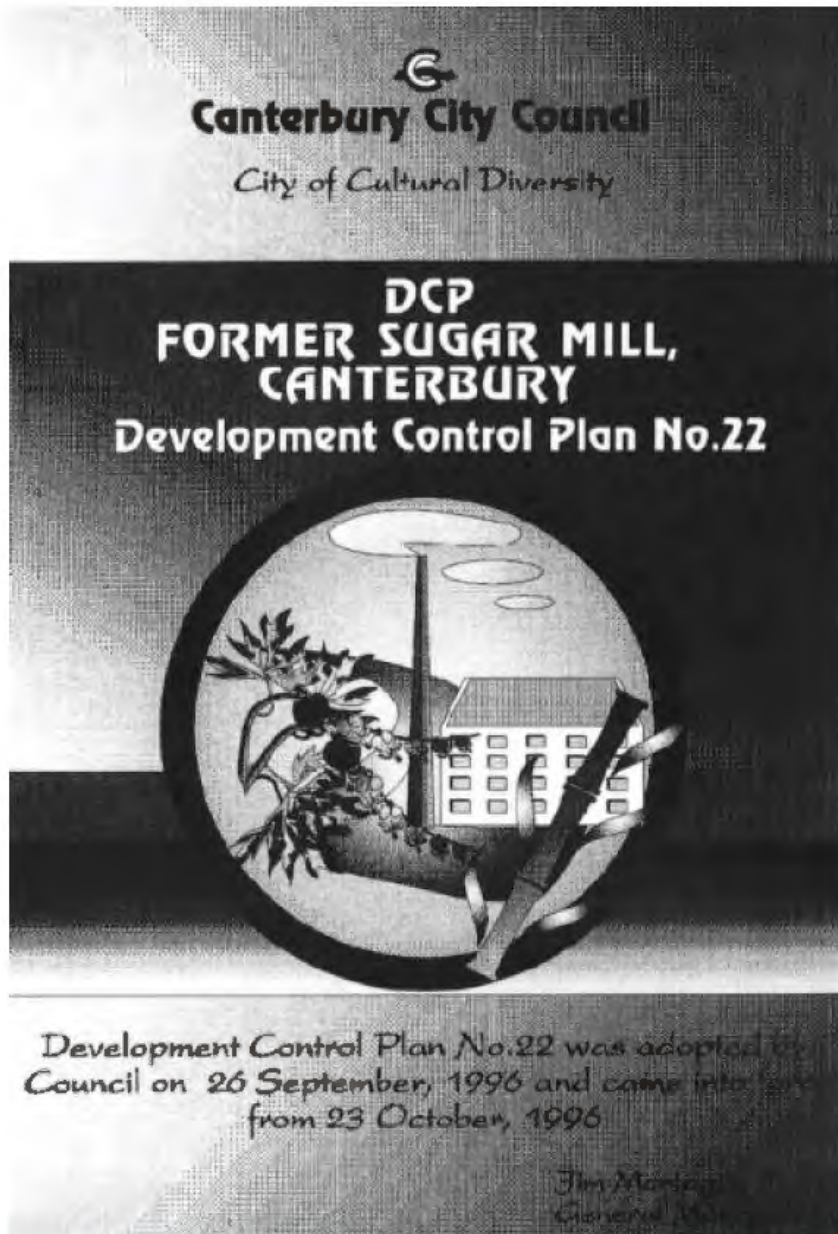


Image A76. Illustration of the Sugar House on the cover of the Canterbury DCP no. 22, 1996 (repealed 2012). The image shows the chimney, although it had been demolished at least three years prior to the finalisation of this DCP. (Source: Heritage NSW site file S90-02268)



Image A77. C.1997. Photo of the Sugar House after the fire. (Source: C.C.B.C. Local History Photo Collection)



Image A78. Photo of the Sugar House undergoing conservation works, c.2000. (Source: C.C.B.C. Local History Photo Collection)

1997

NSW Government Commission of Inquiry:

"An appeal by Nick Scali Furniture Ltd against the deemed refusal of [his 1995] development application was heard by a NSW Commission of Inquiry on 20 and 21 January 1997. Subsequently, in line with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry report, the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Mr Craig Knowles, refused the application. Mr Knowles said that the heritage significance of the Sugarworks building was of immense value and deserved to be protected. The development would dominate and obscure views of the northern aspects of the building, and it would be negligent to allow such development to proceed, he said. He asked Canterbury City Council and the developer to consider alternatives. In 1997, the Heritage Office agreed to the developer creating additional window and door openings in the sandstone walls of the Sugar House. An amended development application was submitted in 1997 and various modifications followed in subsequent years" (Madden & Muir, 2013).

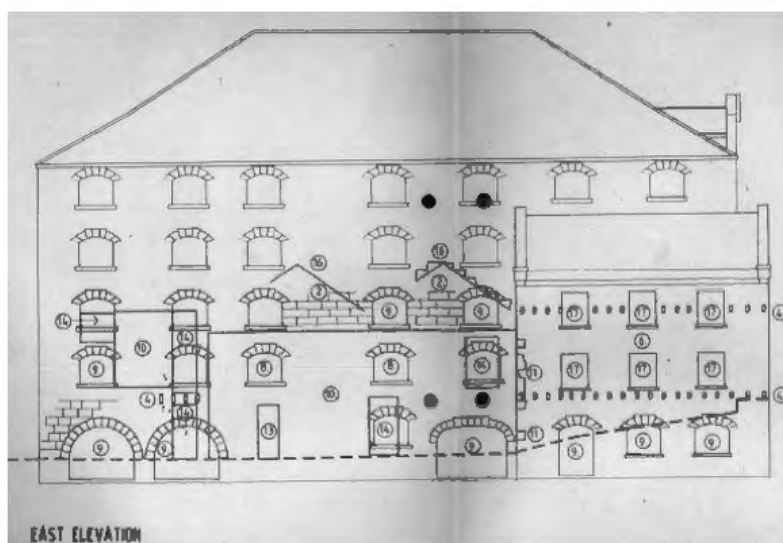


Image A79. Woodhouse & Dansk drawing of proposed repairs to the sandstone of the east façade of the Sugar House, 1999. (Source: Heritage NSW site file S90-0226, see Appendix 6)

1999 Nick Scali sells the Sugar House property and development plans to Tian Tong, which includes Gold Abacus Developments. Managing director William Mao gives a newspaper interview in 2000 explaining how he became interested in the project: "I knew Canterbury Road, but it's busy, nothing special. But when we drove off the main road it became very peaceful, very romantic . . . there was a lot, lot, lot of work but it was very exciting so I didn't mind. The modern apartments were easy – the Old Sugar Mill was the problem. But at the end I will be very proud to be able to tell my son that I did that. . . I wanted to keep the sandstone visible in the living rooms to make it something special" (Stynes, 2000, held Heritage NSW site file S90-02268).

2004, Feb Canterbury Sugar House is redeveloped as strata apartments SP70958: On 28 January 2004 the Sugar House is re-opened as part of an apartment complex called the "Sugarmill Apartments". The first new owners and tenants begin moving in, in February 2004. The redevelopment involves the removal of all ancillary factory buildings apart from the stone Sugar House building. Including its three-storey annex (Building 1), it is refurbished as 20 apartments alongside a new three storey apartment block with ten units (Building 2) and a row of nine two-storey townhouses (Building 3).

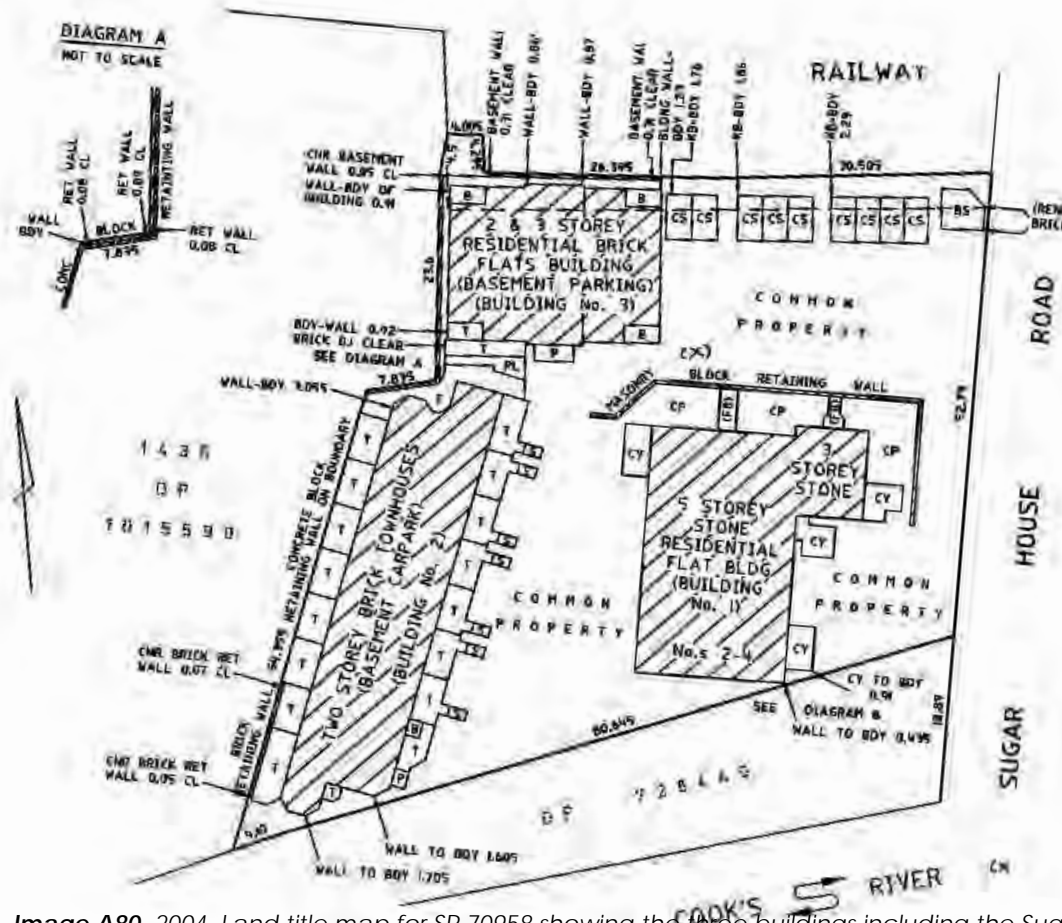


Image A80. 2004. Land title map for SP 70958 showing the three buildings including the Sugar House building which now compose this apartment complex. (Source: NSW Land & Property Information)



Image A81. Photo of residents and owners of the “Sugarmill Apartments”, taken for a local newspaper article about the development, c.2005. (Source: B. Hanna)

2013 Damp problems:
The Owners Corporation of SP.70958 begin addressing the problem with rising damp in the ground floor apartments of the Sugar House building. Hector Abrahams is commissioned to write a report explaining how the problem may be remediated. The Heritage Council of NSW helps fund the repairs with a grant of \$80,000, matched dollar for dollar by the Owner’s Corporation. The damp problem continues to be experienced in the ground floor apartments.

2017 Damp problems:
Geologist heritage consultant David Young is commissioned to report on the damp affecting the four apartments situated on the ground floor of the Sugar House building. It is proposed to dig a shallow trench around the building to better enable it to stay dry.



Image A82. Aerial photograph of the property from the north east, showing Cooks River junction with Cup & Saucer Creek in the background.

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