March 2018. Refer to separate file for Figures and images.

A. Nominated place (s)

1. Name

Name:

LANG PARK

Other or former name(s):

Aboriginal: not known; on the *Tarra* ridge line.¹

European: Church Hill, Charlotte Square, Charlotte Place.

2. Location

Street address:

Lang Street, Sydney, 2000.

Alternate address:

Western ridge of Tank Stream / War-ran (Sydney Cove) sub-catchment.

Local government area:

Council of the City of Sydney

Land parcel(s):

Lot 7304, DP 1157738 (SIX Maps accessed 13/07/2017)

Land size 0.27 ha

Co-ordinates:

Latitude: -33.846713 Longitude: 151.195051

- in LEP listing Lat: -33.8653558549661 Long: 151.20474802865

Zoning

RE1- Public Recreation

¹ Burton, in Thalis, *Public Sydney*, 2013: '*Nature, place and landscape*', p 185.

3. Extent of Nomination

Curtilage map of nominated area:



Includes Lang Park, its landscape, grounds and immediate surrounding streetscape.

Source of map or plan:

- (01) SIX Maps NSW Government Spatial Services, 2018
- (02) Sydney Harbour SHR Nominations AlLA NSW: Visual Catchment Diagram MHQ, 2018.

Boundary description (in words):

The curtilage boundary (the reduced area) extends along the nearest footpath edges of Grosvenor Street where it heads west and then south along York Street. The boundary turns and crosses into Lang Street. Inclusive of its roadway and footpaths, it follows the building line along Lang Street's south-eastern edge to re-join the Grosvenor Street boundary.

The medium-sized area illustrated in the diagram contains the streetscape (landscape setting) boundary of Lang Park's visual catchment. It extends to: the facades of buildings along the ridge to the west (York Street), including St Phillip Church; those multi-storey buildings to the north (Grosvenor Street) and south-east (Lang Street); and is inclusive of all the immediate surrounding streetscapes and pedestrian paths bounded by the Park.

In respect to a larger precinct, its boundary extends along the facades of those multi-storey buildings in Grosvenor Street, heading east it terminates at George Street where it returns on the opposite side of the road towards Lang Street. It continues south-west along Lang Street's building line to Jamison Street. The boundary crosses Jamison Street at an angle and returns to include the façade of the Scot Church. It crosses York Street at an angle then returns to follow the building line west along Jamison Street to Clarence Street. The

boundary turns north to include all the St Phillips Church property boundary, then east to York Street. The boundary from York Street continues to the outer edge of Bradfield Highway, from here it returns to meet the boundary along Grosvenor Street. The precinct is inclusive of all the roadways, streetscapes and pedestrian paths within the boundary.

4. Ownership

Name of owner(s):
City of Sydney Council

Contact person:

Contact position: Landscape Architect Postal address: City of Sydney Council

Phone number:
Owner explanation:

B. Significance

5. Why is it important in NSW *Statement of state significance*

Lang Park has State significance for its association with Governor Arthur Phillip founder of the first British settlement in Australian and his initial 1788 Plan for Sydney the first European city in Australia. As a primary expression, it unleashed a compelling European context and energy for the country through its broad appreciation of the topographical scale and spatial structure of the Harbour and its natural scenic beauty.

The scheme, the first designed alienation of ground, was an encapsulation of Phillip's civic hopes for the new land. It contained a Parade Ground or waterside plaza and a wide, steeply sloped Principal Street as central elements within a complex for government, religion, the military and law. Lang Park the last vestige of the Plan's open spaces is the oldest allotted area of ground for Vice-regal activities in New South Wales and Australia. The place once housed the first permanent church in New South Wales and Australia.

The locational choice for the 1788 Plan and the configuration of its significant Vice-regal components demonstrates Phillip's technical and creative ability to strategise utilizing geography, to create and project an immediate sense of colonial power over the place.

First established in 1788, the grounds of Lang Park are rare, they survive as part of the 'principal street' in Phillip's first Plan. Lang Park's slopes, benched landform and particularly its north-eastern alignment, and that of the adjacent Lang Street are the most tangible remainder of his planning apparatus. It responded to the natural geography of the Tank Stream valley, and the views and breezes of Sydney Harbour. Principals evident in the plan

have parallels to an influential Spanish document - the Leyes de Indias (Laws of the Indies) 1681.

Alignments, concepts and open space areas stemming from Phillip's 1788 Plan and 1792 Plan persisted under subsequent Governor's such as Hunter and Bligh. These links demonstrate a continuous thread and influence of Phillip's 1788 Plan up until a Vice-regal precinct established on the Tank Stream valley's eastern ridge (Government House 1837-1843, The Treasury 1851).

Lang Park is of state and national significance as an Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP). It's high archaeological potential is due to limited physical disturbance of the place. Lang Park has the ability to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural history of NSW. It is probable it will contain sites of former occupations / activity and buildings particularly related to the first permanent church in Australia. The foundation stone was laid by Governor Hunter 1798 within the area of Lang Park. Construction of St Phillips, named to honour Governor Arthur Phillip, began ca. 1798 and was completed ca.1810. It was demolished in 1856. The church extended beyond the boundaries of Lang Park at its eastern apex near the corner of Lang Street and Grosvenor Street. Above and below ground archaeological features related to this building and a clock tower (1797) and other such remnant structures, significant fabric of extant buildings / structures, as well as below ground sites may exist. A sub-station was built over the church site 1904 and demolished 1931.

The place has social significance as the central focus for the earliest spiritual development of the colony of NSW from 1798. Churches and associated church buildings facing onto Lang Park include, along: York Street, St Philips Church of England, E.Blacket, 1848-1856; Grosvenor Street, St Patricks Catholic Church, J.F Hilly, 1840-44; Church Hall, Hennessy and Hennessy, Blood and Bandages Style; and on Jamison Street, Scots Church.

Comparisons:

Main comparisons in Tank Stream/Sydney Cove catchment:

Wynyard Park, Observatory Hill, Dawes Point, Macquarie Place, Royal Botanic Gardens, and Hyde Park have similar origins to Lang Park. All occur within the same small valley of the Tank Stream in War-ran's (Sydney Cove) sub-catchment. This shallow, dish-shaped landform, its original soils, vegetation and animal communities, once a natural system, now intensely modified, retains these spaces. Collectively they are the remainder of grounds set aside by Governor Phillip 1788-1792. These open spaces were later established and protected by following governors' particularly Bligh and Macquarie and eventually legislation. All occur along ridgelines and headlands excepting Macquarie Place on the banks of the Tank Stream. Altered by a lineage of landscape professionals for over a century, these

parklands and their mature trees fringe the upper slopes of the catchment and serve as an interpretative reminder of the contained natural landform that first nurtured Australian British settlement.

Lang Park, it could be argued is the least impacted open space of all the remnants from the 1788 and 1792 plans, the north-eastern alignment of Lang Street exhibits the strongest resemblance to the geometry of Phillips original 1788 scheme.

C. Description:

6. Existing place or object

Lang Park is part of the western ridgeline of the Tank Stream catchment that drains into Sydney Cove. This inlet is an indent of Sydney Harbour, a waterway of Port Jackson - a small coastal waterway system, one of several within the Sydney Basin bio-region.

The Park's landform rises to 25m AHD along its western edge, where, bordered by York Street it follows the ridge crest. Triangular shaped, the place is edged by Grosvenor Street to the north, which drops sharply towards George Street, and by Lang Street to the south-east and east, which has a characteristic north-east incline. At 0.27 ha, Lang Park measures 56m at its widest and 85 m along its length (Lang Street). The park occurs to the north-west of the City of Sydney. Its underlying geology is Hawkesbury Sandstone.

Landscape character (refer images at the end of text)

The most recognisable geographical feature of the park is its steep eastern sloped lawn which flattens on its lower level near the apex of Grosvenor Street and Lang Street. This extensive lawn dissected by paths is enclosed by generous mass planting beds along its park borders. They house many of the park's plant species.

Lang Park's triangular expanse has a simple, formal layout with an internal space of open dappled lawns and deep shade. The nuances of the place include its seating to its western edge which provides vantage points over the reserve's terrain.

The parkland, a sub-tropical urban oasis, surrounded by an intensely built-up city environment, is distinguished by its broad-canopied mature trees, including: three magnificent Moreton Bay Fig *Ficus macrophylla* which dominate the place and date to ca. 1870s, the fig on York street is a landmark feature (20 m in height x 30 m breadth). Other species include: Hoop Pine, *Araucaria cunninghamii*, Silver Phoenix *Phoenix sylvestris*, White Oak *Quercus alba*, Hills Figs *Ficus hilli*, Jacaranda *Jacaranda mimosifolia* and an Illawarra Flame *Brachychiton acerifolius*. Its shrubs and groundcovers include: *Strelitzia nicholai*, common ivy *Hedera helix*, Gymea lily *Doryanthes excela* and *Philodendron species*.

Lang Park's enclosed canopy, presents as a lush and dark arrangement. Many of the Park's tree species represent a collection of ninetieth century planting. This plant palate strengthens the historical character of the precinct in the west-northern area of the City and links to other parks such as Wynyard Park and the Observatory parklands. This is significant as Grosvenor Street is the border of the historic Rocks precinct. The dominant street tree is the Plane, mature specimens shade the surrounding streetscape.

The park has several monuments: The Nolan Fountain, 1904, acknowledging a local council member; a RAHS monument to St Phillips Church dedicated 1942; and a Gas Light memorial 1966 'to commemorates the 125th anniversary of the first lighting by gas in Sydney' in 1841.

The borders of Lang Park are edged by substantial sandstone blocks, early fabric laid as a low wall or plinth. The stone boundary together with depression era flagging under old Moreton Bay figs hints at an early Sydney character. A recent metal fence is housed in its York Street wall. Evidence (infilled holes) of an early rail fence exists along Lang and Grosvenor Streets. Formal openings in the sandstone wall signal the entries into the place. The main access is from the junction of Lang Street and Jamison Street to Grosvenor Street via a gently sloped path. From York Street, a set of stairs with sandstone pillars at street level lead to a path crossing the park to Lang Street. Timber seats and a series of street lights furnish the parkland.

The main building facades facing onto Lang Park include, along: York Street, St Philips Church of England (locally listed, Victorian Gothic style with English Perpendicular detailing, Edmund Blacket, 1847-1858); Harrington Street, Grosvenor Place, (1988-1992, Harry Seidler); Grosvenor Street, St Patricks Catholic Church (locally listed, Old Colonial Gothick Picturesque, J.F Hilly, 1840-44), Church Hall (Hennessy and Hennessy, Blood and Bandages Style), Federation Hall and Courtyard (No.30, SHR, late Victorian Style, 1889-1891), Royal Navy House (No. 32, SHR, Federation Free Classical Style, Varney Parkes, 1907), Johnson Building (SHR, Edwardian, Federation Free Classical Style, Walter Liberty Vernon, 1912) Lang Street, Jamison Street, Scots Church (locally listed) and Suncorp Place or AAPT Centre Joseland & Gilling, 1982-1985 at No.18. The predominant sandstone and in cases brick buildings, present a wide-ranging yet cohesive sense of styles, themes, heights and street alignments which permeate the park through its veil of trees particularly in Winter.

The view catchment (landscape setting) of the place extends to and is enclosed by the facades of these main buildings, including along the ridge to the west, and those multistorey buildings to the north and south-east, inclusive of the immediate surrounding streetscapes and pedestrian paths of York Street, Grosvenor Street and Lang Street. Its view corridors, extends north along the streetscapes of Gloucester Street and Harrington Street. A view down Grosvenor Street to the east is terminated by George Street high-rise. Views to

the immediate entry road area of Jamison Street near corner of Lang Street, to the façade of the Scots Church; and views south along York Street to Wynyard Park are included. Also those around St Phillips Church and the views from it building. The catchment includes York Street north to the Bradfield Highway overpass, and views from the overpass into the park.

From surrounding streets, the flat crest (the York Street streetscape) and steep lawn of the place, convey a legible impression of the 1788 landform. The dense canopied boundary trees of Lang Park, and other mature street and parkland trees along the Tarra crest, fringe the upper slopes of the catchment and serve as an interpretation of the contained natural landform that first nurtured Australian British settlement.

From within the park, its visual catchment is filtered and partially enclosed by large, mature tree canopies. From its western highpoint, and from all view corridors extending along the streetscapes described, no ground plane view remains of the magnificent vistas over the harbour that once graced this place.

Evidence of Aboriginal response to landscape

The sub-catchment of War-ran contains a limited archive of known Aboriginal heritage evidence.² Any that exist would be of a fragile nature. However, sandstone slabs embellished with Aboriginal rock engravings, axe-grinding grooves, overhangs as rock shelters and occupation sites, sheltered stencil art and burials, as a range of site types indicative of pre-contact and post contact activity, would likely have occurred on or near the nominated precinct. Open spaces set aside in the earliest years of the colony may have archaeological potential, however low, to provide evidence of Aboriginal occupation. In this context, though no evidence exists, it is highly probable Aboriginal people pre-contact utilised the superior vantage point from along the western ridgeline near Lang Park, its brow and slopes, to view the terrain and harbour waterways for advantageous reasons including activities.

Condition of fabric and or/ archaeological potential:

The original landform of the place has been modified though there is no evidence of extensive ground modulation during its post 1788 history.

Lang Park has been assessed as an Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) in a field survey for the Council of the City of Sydney in 1992. Typically, an AAP is an area of high archaeological potential due to limited physical disturbance. This category includes both above and below ground archaeological features such as remnant structures, significant

² GML, Angel Place Project, prehistory Report. p.75. (Source: 1997,http://nswaol.library.usyd.edu.au/view?docId=pdfs/22635_ID_GoddenMackay1998AngelPlaceProjectArchExPrehistoryReportVol3.pdf; query=Aboriginal;brand=default;hit.rank=1

fabric of extant buildings / structures, as well as below ground sites. It is probable it will contain sites of former occupations / activity and buildings. These sites may be known through historic documentation (not yet undertaken) or may become evident during the fieldwork.³ An Archaeological Zoning Plan has been identified in Lang Park's local listing but has not been located. It may relate to the 1992 survey.

Integrity / intactness:

There is fabric, ground modifications, design layouts and trees evident from the 1870s and 1930s schemes. A continuity between these eras of the site's configuration and main components are intact as the dominant landscape character of the place.

Lang Park is one of the most highly utilised urban parks in the city of Sydney. This factor alone contributes to high wear and tear. Leisure and recreation activities are mostly passive.

Modifications date:

Significant modifications to the park occurred in the 1870s and 1930s, all other changes have been incremental.

Date you inspected the place for this description:

14 August 2017.

11 September 2017.

Current use:

City parkland

Original or former use:

Part of Phillips 1788 scheme.

Further comments:

D. Historical outline:

7. Origins and historical evolution

Formation:

Sandstone geology laid done in the Triassic Period, 220 million year ago.

Designer / architect: not known
Maker / builder: not known

Historical outline of place or object:

The natural attributes of the soil landscape on which Lang Park evolved has influenced its historical development since 1788. Its story therefore begins in prehistory, when its landform was forged by the same forces that shaped the Port Jackson catchment and its harbours. This occurred when the coastal plains of Triassic age Hawkesbury Sandstone became subject to east-west uplift (during the last 50 million years). The increased flow and erosional force of the Parramatta River cut gorges through the raised plateau to form steep

³ Siobhan Lavelle & Dana Mider, *The Central Sydney Archaeological Zoning Plan*, City of Sydney, 1992 and 1997, p.11. (Source: http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/120369/ArchaeologicalZoningPlan.pdf)

⁴ Erwin Scheibner, The Geological Evolution of New South Wales – a brief review, Mineral Resources of New South Wales, Department of Mineral Resources, 1999, p.17.

valleys. The present-day estuary of the Harbour was broadly evident 7000 years ago (during the Holocene Epoch) when the sea level rose to fill-up Parramatta River's deep coastal valley. This became the extensive waterway of the Port, inclusive of Sydney Harbour. Commanding panoramic views over its terrain from elevated watersheds and outlooks characterised its natural spatial quality. Lang Park once offered these extensive views over Sydney Harbour and the valley of the Tank Stream from its ridge position.

The western rim of the Tank Stream catchment, on which the Park occurs, was once part of a natural undulating landscape of rolling rises and low hills between 20-80m AHD. Its ridgelines were convex crests surrounded by benched and moderately inclined slopes of 1:10 – 1: 4 gradients; rock outcrops occurred on lower broken scarps. In these areas soils varied in depth from 0.3 -1.0m. The original soil landscape however had limitations which would influence its later use, these included areas of steep slopes and high erosion potential (once disturbed), and of low nutrient and low water holding capacities. The ridgetop and upper slopes, supported a low dry sclerophyll open woodland of; red bloodwood *Corymbia gummifera*, yellow bloodwood *C.eximia*, scribbley gum *E. haemastoma*, brown stringybark *E. capitellata* and old man banksia *Banksia serrata*. Sheltered side slopes supported black ash, *E.sieberi*, Sydney peppermint *E.piperita*, and smooth-barked apple *Angophora costata* (**Figure 1**).⁷ Cabbage tree palm *Livistona australis* and black she-oak *Allocasuarina littoralis* occurred in the Tank Stream valley.

Aboriginal History

The Cadigal lived on the south side of the Harbour and it is this saltwater people who had the most intimate relationship with the War-ran (Sydney Cove) sub-catchment and the valley of the Tank Stream including the nomination area, prior to the arrival of the colonists.

European discovery and the sketch proposal for Sydney Cove

In January 1788, Governor Arthur Phillip upon exploring Port Jackson chose Sydney Cove and the Tank Stream valley in which to nestle and initiate British settlement. In his second dispatch to Lord Sydney, 9 July, he reported on a limited workforce of 70-100 convicts, and the desperate need for skilled carpenters and bricklayers.⁸

Significantly, a plan accompanied the Governor's report (**Figure 2 and 3**). While its contributors, it is argued, included the General Surveyor Augustus Alt, Lieutenant William Dawes, Captain John Hunter and William Bradley, Phillip was its protagonist:

⁵ Attenbrow, Sydney's Aboriginal Past, Investigating the archaeological and historical records, p38.

 $^{^{\}rm 6}$ NSW NPWS, The Bioregions of New South Wales, 2003, p 186.

http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/nature/sydneyBasin.pdf accessed 08/04/ 2015.

G.A Chapman and C.L Murphy, Soil Landscapes of the Sydney 1:100 000 Sheet, Soil Conservation Service of N.S.W., Sydney, 1989, pp.64-65.

 $^{^{8}}$ Bladden, Historical Records of New South Wales , Vol. 1(2) - Phillip, p 145.

I have the honour to enclose your Lordship the intended plan for the town. The Lieutenant Governor has already begun a small house, which forms one corner of the parade ⁹

Phillip outlined to Lord Sydney his 'big picture' proposal, its practicalities – the availability of materials, and the trigger for the plan:

We now make very good bricks, and the Stone is good, but do not find either limestone or chalk. As some stores and other buildings will be begun in the course of a few months, some regular plan for the town was necessary, and in laying out of which I have endeavoured to place all public buildings in situations that will be eligible hereafter, and to give a sufficient share of ground for the hospitals, &c., to be enlarged, as may be necessary in the future.

He carefully revealed the scheme in a pragmatic, non-theoretical tone:

The principal streets are placed so as to admit a free circulation of air, and are two hundred feet wide. The ground marked for Government House is intended to include the main guard, Civic and Criminal Courts, and as the ground that runs to the southward is nearly level, and a very good situation for building, streets will be laid out in such a manner as to afford a free air.

Phillip's vice-regal plan was to respond to the landform, he sensed the grand potential of its elevated position - flat crests, superior views and the pleasant breezes off the harbour.¹⁰

Watkin Tench, Captain of the Marines, confirmed the Governor's plan was *surveyed*, and *marked out*. He supported Phillip's large-scale intentions:

To proceed on a narrow, confined scale, in a country of the extensive limits we possess, would be unpardonable: extent of empire demands grandeur of design.¹¹

Johnson (2008) considered Phillip's scheme *grandiose, if simplistic, in conception and scale*. ¹² Importantly the plan signified the commencement of British claim over the continent's ancient geography. Its lots and public spaces were of a scale to establish the vice-regal assemblage as a seat of power. Although a meagre attempt in a vast and endless wilderness, the ambitious scheme was prioritised as necessary despite little resources. To compensate for these shortfalls, the plan attempted to take advantage of the position

⁹ Bladden, *Historical Records of New South Wales*, Vol. 1(2) - Phillip, p 147.

 $^{^{10}}$ Bladden, Historical Records of New South Wales , Vol. 1(2) - Phillip, p 147.

¹¹ Paul-Alan Johnson, 'The Planning, Properties and Patriarchy of Surveyor-General Augustus Alt', , *Journal of the Ashfield and District Historical Society*, No 17, 2008, p.28.

¹² Paul-Alan Johnson, 'The Planning, Properties and Patriarchy of Surveyor-General Augustus Alt', *Journal of the Ashfield and District Historical Society*, No 17, 2008, p.29.

afforded by the landform and its majestic outlook to create an 18th century sense of grandeur and to impart an authority over the landscape. The design relied on the view catchment and its orientation north-east towards the harbour entrance. This strategic north-east alignment for the scheme and its 'principal street', was to be impactful from a distance.

Thallis (2013) labelled the plan's waterfront square¹³ a visionary concept underrated as a parade on the 1788 drawing. Its inspiration derived, it is believed, from Phillip's exposure to port towns throughout Europe, the Mediterranean and South America. Guidelines from the Leyes de Indias (Laws of the Indies), 1681, in regards new colonies, adds validity to the assertion Phillip was influenced by these Spanish colonial planning concepts. It advice in regards plazas, that they have dimensions of 200 x 300 feet, be bisected by four principal streets, and on an awareness of four principal winds, have parallels to the 1788 plan.¹⁴

As the first planned land alienation, the scheme was an encapsulation of Phillip's civic hopes for the new country, its engagement with the landform was to be his physical legacy and validate his mark-making decision to initiate settlement on a spectacular harbour and port. As a primary expression, it unleashed a compelling European context and energy for the broad appreciation of the topographical scale and spatial structure of the Harbour and of its natural landscape beauty. It also was the first alienation of land

An observer, Tench admitted the scheme was unlikely to go ahead given the limited workforce. Phillip also saw this improbability:

but I now find that without additional workmen the progress must be so slow that that design is laid aside, and the only building I shall attempt will be a storehouse.¹⁵

The momentum for Phillip's scheme slowed and its main ideas dissipated due to limited resources. The long-term survival of the Colony, Phillip's main purpose, pulled his attention to more pressing matters. The 1788 plan, had it been fully implemented, with its first public elements of 'governance, service and religion' 'would have given orientation to all in the town'. Some of its important ideas however continued to resonate, including the northeast alignment towards the harbour and for a church. In the 1788 plan a church was proposed on the lower slopes overlooking the parade ground. This religious need would persist and become significant in regards Lang Park.

By the second iteration of the scheme, produced in Phillip's final days as Governor, 1792 (**Figure 4**) the terrain set aside for its vice-regal grouping on the western crest, was reduced

¹³ Thalis, *Public Sydney*, 2013, p 213.

¹⁴ Thalis, *Public Sydney*, 2013, p 38 and p.204.

¹⁵ Bladden, *Historical Records of New South Wales*, Vol. 1(2) - Phillip, p 148.

¹⁶ Thalis, *Public Sydney*, 2013, p 38.

and shifted south. It was to house the Military Barracks only. The alignment of the 1788 'principal street' despite steep slopes persisted into this new version of the scheme, which still opened onto a reduced waterside parade. Many aspects however of the new plan remained unresolved.

The clock tower and first permanent church

The first church service was performed by Reverend Richard Johnson 27 January 1788 under the canopy of a large tree at the Tank Stream estuary. Services were held in temporary places such as a storehouse, boatshed or under trees until 1793 when Johnson constructed a large wattle and daub church to seat 500 under his own steam. Believed to have been called St Philip's after the Governor, it was burnt down in 1st October 1798. Governor Hunter organised for a newly completed storehouse to be temporarily fitted for service. Prior to this in December 1797 he built a square tower 150-feet high on the brow western ridge in proximity to the principal street. It served as an observatory and timepiece for the colony. The foundation stone for a new permanent church was laid at its base in October 1798. He planned 'a large and substantial stone Church at Sydney.' Its construction continued only when men where available after other essential labour was finished. Its location was prepared ground near to the Lieutenant-Governor's house, leading from High Street (George Street) to the brow of the hill. ¹⁷

Cantrill (2013) argues that Governor Hunter had constructed the clock tower, in an attempt to resolve the tensions of Phillip's two landscape planning schemes (1788 and 1792) by locating it near the axis of the north-western boundary of the 'principal street', and (what was to become) Bridge Street, illustrated in the later 1792 plan as a road leading over the Tank Stream bridge up to the Governor's house. The tower demonstrates a desire by subsequent governors to continue the ideas generated by Phillip's first schemes for Sydney. A structure in this axial position occurs in Grimes 1800 Survey of Sydney (Figure 5). Captain Paterson's property, No 26 on the Survey, also demonstrates the continuity of the principal street boundary and its orientation based on Phillip's 1788 Plan.

As construction of the church proceeded albeit at a slow pace, it incorporated the tower. It was completed by 1804 and consecrated in 1810 (**Figure 7**). ¹⁹ The square tower collapsed ca. 1806.

Lot 77

In 1807, Deputy General Surveyor James Meehan, under instruction from Governor William Bligh produced a new official survey of Sydney (**Figure 6**). The 1788 main street and old

¹⁷ Andrew Houison, *A Short History of St. Philip's Church, Sydney*, 1810-1910 St Philip's Vestry, 1910, pp.7-11 http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-39572890/view?searchTerm=St+Philips+Church&partId=nla.obj-39572900#page/n0/mode/1up

¹⁸ Thalis, *Public Sydney*, 2013, pp.38-40.

¹⁹ Maclehose, Picture of Sydney and Strangers' Guide in N.S.W. for 1839, p.92.

parade, remain evident in the drawing, depicted as open space they are shaped like two connected triangles. St Phillip's Church and rebuilt cylindrical clock tower, the first civic design gesture on the western ridge brow, are shown placed centrally in the open space. Orientated north-east towards the Cove and Port, this spatial arrangement, within the small catchment, invigorated Sydney's harbourside setting and proved a basic realisation of Phillip's 1788 vision.

Another change captured by the 1807 survey, included a new property. It had taken up a long slice of the sloping ground comprising the 1788 principal street. This lot, no 77, was held by John Macarthur on a lease granted by Governor King. This encroachment, a sizable portion, represented the loss of the boundary line and reduced the remaining size of the planned public open space, a relic from the 1788 planning scheme. Lot 77, did however continue to run parallel to Paterson's land (which edged the principal street) and therefore retained the scheme's 1788 alignment. Attempts to strip Macarthur of this land culminated in the Colony's dramatic 1808 flashpoint and mutiny against Bligh. Challenges to regain the grounds were unsuccessful. The conspirators of the coup had used St Philips Church for their meetings.

Further investigation of Meehan's plan in the area to become Lang Park, shows to the north a new, narrow east-west orientated street. This change opened the area to the west, where the survey outlines an embryonic triangular shape, it's upper boundary delineated by another new street, Church Street. The 1807 survey demonstrates the first formalised boundaries of the open space which was later to become Lang Park. The survey also includes the first itineration of George Street, which finalised the new extent of the 'Old Parade' its relic was an open space greatly reduced and smaller in comparison to that originally planned. This was located near the junction of today's George Street and Grosvenor Street.

Church Hill

Near the St Phillips and Church Road area, the establishment of the Methodist Church in Australia began the result of a meeting 1812. A continuous gathering of church activities and buildings in the precinct was to soon characterise the place as Church Hill.

An 1817 painting of St Phillip's Church and tower by E.C. Close, titled *Sydney Church and Regimental Mile from the Main Guard*, (**Figure 8**) was the first rendering of the Lang Street setting. It indicates the buildings sat perched on a naturally benched landform above a steep slope. Its sharply inclined road leading upwards to the windmill (**Figure 9**), judging from the painting's several townsfolk was a well-worn path. The caption of the painting infers the road to the left led to the Barracks and was a known military route. Most likely useful as the quickest way to the town from the upper levels. This was the 1788 alignment that would become Lang Street. Although used as a church, St Phillip's was a modest sandstone building

without external ecclesiastical ornament. Together with its tacked-on bookend towers, of different height and roofs, they formed an awkward grouping (**Figure 11**). Close's depiction of road tracks, buildings and open space implies the apex was a crossroads and confirms the emergent wedge-shaped form as the remnant 1788 principal street.

A Wesleyan Methodist chapel was built near Church Hill in the 1820s. Another church built in this period on the opposite ridgeline, on the eastern crest of the Tank Stream Valley, became a complementary structure to St Philips`.²⁰ St James' Church, a Macquarie period architectural example, designed by Francis Greenway and convict built, was consecrated in 1824. Its placement, across the vale from St Phillips added another recognisable vertical element to the upper slopes of the town.

The attributes of the precinct encompassing St Phillips Church was to attract another church building to its locale. In 1826 the Scots Church opened, positioned south along the ridge, it faced north overlooking the remnant 1788 street space, and down onto the old Church. Founded by Dr John Dunmore Lang who arrived in the Colony in 1823, he was the first ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church. He remained minister for 52 years until his death in 1878'. He was one of the most outspoken men in Australian public life. He edited a newspaper, the "Colonist", wrote many pamphlets, was elected a member of parliament, and was constantly active in encouraging the immigration of Scottish and German artisans and farmers to Australia. He took a leading part in effecting the separation of Victoria and of Queensland from New South Wales, and persistently advocated an Australian republic and Australian independence from Britain.

The term Church Hill came into frequent use ca.1825, as the name of the knoll where the Government Mill sat.²³

Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell, in his survey of Sydney, 1830, was first to illustrate the upper slopes of the old 1788 street alignment and open space as a recognizable triangular form with the Church at its lowest apex (**Figure 10**). The 'old parade' on the lower slopes filled-in, annexed by private ownership, was largely erased. The new western boundary of the 'principal street' once leading to the windmill, extended down to and was terminated by George Street. The street and space labelled as Charlotte Place. The Military Barracks and Parade, conceptual in the 1792 plan, is firmly established in Mitchell's outline as a dominant quarter in the town. The Scots Church and related buildings sit at the centre of the two areas.

²⁰ http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageltemDetails.aspx?ID=5054947; Maclehose, Picture of Sydney and Strangers' Guide in N.S.W. for 1839, pp.91-93.

²¹ Dictionary of Sydney http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/sydneys-history/people-and-places/park-histories accessed 5 11 2017.

http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/sydneys-history/people-and-places/park-histories/lang-park accessed 5 11 2017.

²³ The Australian (Sydney, NSW: 1824 - 1848) Thursday 11 August 1825 p

 $^{2\} http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?q\&exactPhrase=Church+Hill\&anyWords\¬Words\&requestHandler\&dateFrom\&dateTo\&sortby\&l-decade=182\&l-year=1825$

In 1837, Church Hill was considered a known accident 'man-trap' due to the eroded nature of its sloping roads, the 'Town Surveyor' required 'to immediately put the thoroughfare in travelling order' before more limbs are broken.²⁴ The first gas light (pole) in Sydney occurred on Church Hill in 1841. The Australian Gas Light Company marked the occasion 'by a special display of gas lighting.'

To the north of the Lang Park area, at Charlotte Place, work on St Patrick's Church had begun by 1840 as Sydney's second Catholic church. Completed in 1844 it continued a trend of churches facing into onto the three-cornered open space. The first permanently built church of the Colony, St Phillips, survived until 1856. A watercolour prior to this, by Reverend Alberto Dias Soares, titled, *St. Phillip's Church, Sydney*, ca. 1852-1853 (**Figure 12**), illustrates a lively street scene of couples and families promenading in their finery before an impressively scaled old church and tower. The Church Hill precinct offered breezes and views from its vantage point. Its churches, delineated paths and sophisticated homes, was also an appropriate place to be noticed while strolling, in spite of unsealed roads. By the time the old Church and tower were removed, the next iteration of St Phillips Church was almost completed. Located higher up on the ridge it overlooked the three-sided open space thought to be bare. From 1848, for a decade, this new St Phillip's Anglican church, an impressive Victorian Academic Gothic style sandstone building designed by architect Edmund Blacket, was constructed, it became the centre of Australia's first parish (**Figure 13**). ²⁶

Public Park

Named for Dr John Dunmore Lang, the place was dedicated as a public park under the control of the City of Sydney in 1867. The Park and others developed in this late Victorian Period, such as Macquarie Place (1866), Wynyard Park (1885) ²⁷ were influenced by *Land for Public Purposes Acquisition Act 1880, Crown Lands Act* 1884, *Public Parks Act* 1884 and Public Works Act 1888.²⁸ Evidence indicates the old St Phillip's Church site remained vacant (**Figure 14**) until 1870 when an iron palisade, housed in a bevelled sandstone plinth, enclosed the triangular space (**Figure 15**). Inside this formal edge, trees with shiny leaves, possibly figs were planted along Lang Street, the axial alignment vestige from the 1788 plan (**Figure 16**). These initial works, in partnership with the Department of Public Works, occurred during Director Charles Moore's tenure at the Botanic Gardens (1848-1896).

²⁴ Church Hill, The Sydney Gazette, Sat 29 April 1837, p.2.

 $[\]frac{\text{http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2210645?searchTerm=\%22Church\%20Hill\%22\&searchLimits=exactPhrase=Church+Hill]||anyWords|||notWords|||requestHandler|||dateFrom|||dateTo|||sortby||}{\text{http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2210645?searchTerm=\%22Church\%20Hill\%22\&searchLimits=exactPhrase=Church+Hill|||anyWords|||notWords|||requestHandler|||dateFrom|||dateTo|||sortby||}$

²⁵ Dictionary of Sydney http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/sydneys-history/people-and-places/park-histories accessed 5 11 2017.

²⁶ Dictionary of Sydney https://dictionaryofsydney.org/building/st_philips_anglican_church_york_street#ref-uuid=9d3c330a-0ab6-14b6-ed9b-cefa42dd9172 accessed 5 11 2017.

²⁷ http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/sydneys-history/people-and-places/park-histories/wynard-park accessed 5 11 2017.

²⁸ Burton, in Thalis, *Public Sydney*, 2013: '*Nature, place and landscape*', p 185.

Little is known of the Park's development after it was dedicated as an open space for public recreation, a role which it has maintained to present day. Wynyard Park, close by however may provide clues. Its most significant period of change was 1890 to 1910 when it was planned and established in a late Victorian Period landscape design style. Colonial Architect Mortimer Lewis (1835-1849) and the Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, Charles Moore (1848-1896), are believed to have influenced the design of the place.

An overlay of Meehan's 1807 Survey and a 1900 Health Map, provides an analytical base for charting change to the sector over approximately a century (**Figure 17**). The relic central open space once generous, was now Lang Park impinged on by surrounding streets. The 1788 alignment however remains continuous and is evident in the north-eastern orientation of Lang Street and its adjoining Park boundary.

Patrick Nolan was a grocer in nearby Princes Street, 'an alderman for Gipps Ward from 1900 until his sudden death in 1904 at the age of 42'.²⁹ A sandstone memorial fountain acknowledges his contribution at the corner of York Street and Grosvenor Street.

Some 'park development occurred during the early years of the twentieth century possibly associated with the construction of an electricity substation in 1904 (Figure 21 and 22). The substation was removed in 1931 and other improvements and additions followed (Figure 23 and 24) including a men's convenience in 1942.'

'Between 1926 and 1929 the NSW Government resumed both the Scot's Church and the church offices in York Street for the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge roadworks and Wynyard Station (Figure 20). A complex series of real estate transactions, land swaps and compensation agreements enabled the Presbyterian Church to reconstruct their church and offices on the original but enlarged site, facing both Lang and Wynyard Parks, with frontages to Jamieson, York and Margaret Streets.' A new 5-storey building was completed in 1929, the Church and Assembly Hall became a popular venue for both ecclesiastic and secular activities (Figure 18). ³⁰ In 2005 it was converted to Portico Apartments with the addition of a 22-storey tower building. ³¹ The borders of Lang Park in the 1940s (Figure 25 and 26) appears densely planted and its internal landscape open much like it is today. It lacks the simple formal layout evident today.

In Lang Park a 'Marble tablet on a plinth was installed by the Royal Australian Historical Society in 1942 to mark the site of the church named after Governor Phillip which stood here 1798-1856.'

²⁹ http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/sydneys-history/people-and-places/park-histories/lang-park accessed 5 11 2017.

 $^{{\}color{red}^{30}} \; \underline{\text{http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?id=2423854}} \; \underline{\text{accessed 5 11 2017.}} \; \underline{$

Dictionary of Sydney http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/sydneys-history/people-and-places/park-histories accessed 5 11 2017.

In 1951, the trained horticulturalist and landscape architect who studied in Germany, Ilmar Berzins, a Latvian, became a major influence in post war landscape design when he joined the Parks and Gardens Division at the City of Sydney Council.³² Berzins would have managed Lang Park but evidence of his influence is not known, though modifications are listed for the park ca. 1966 (**Figure 27**). Details of the above-ground toilets, corner of York Street and Grosvenor Street, now removed is not known.

E. Criteria

- 8. Assessment under heritage Council criteria of state significance
 - A. It is important in the course or pattern of the cultural or natural history of NSW

Lang Park is significance for its demonstration of activities and processes important in the history of New South Wales. First established in 1788, the grounds of Lang Park survive as part of the 'principal street' in Governor Arthur Phillip's Vice-regal Plan for British settlement. Lang Park's slopes, benched landform and particularly its north-eastern alignment, and that of the adjacent Lang Street are the most tangible remainder of his planning apparatus. It responded to the natural geography of the Tank Stream valley, and the views and breezes of Sydney Harbour, principals evident in the plan have parallels to an influential Spanish document - the Leyes de Indias (Laws of the Indies) 1681.

Alignments, concepts and open space areas stemming from Phillip's 1788 Plan and 1792 Plan persisted and were developed under subsequent Governor's such as Hunter and Bligh demonstrating a continuous thread of influence up until when the precinct moved to the eastern ridge (Government House 1837-1843, The Treasury 1851).

Phillip's 1788 plan made provision for a church, this planning eventuated in the first permanent church in Australia, its foundation stone was laid by Governor Hunter 1798 within the area of today's Lang Park. The church's placement, and that of Hunter's clocktower (1797) captured the nature of Phillip's 1788 Plan by taking advantage of its elevated slopes and vantage point, to create a strong visual impact and sense of transposed European culture in the settlement of the Tank Stream valley. As the setting for the earliest permanent church in Australia St Phillips Church 1798-1856, named to honour Governor Arthur Phillip, the place became known from an early period ca. 1825, as Church Hill, today several historically significant churches face onto the precinct. The first permanent church was consecrated in 1810, its replacement St Phillips Anglican Church houses Australia oldest parish.

 $^{^{\}rm 32}$ Burton, in Thalis, Public Sydney, 2013: 'Nature, place and landscape', p 187.

Lang Park, is the least impacted open space of all the open space remnants of Phillip's 1788 and 1792 plans, the north-eastern alignment of Lang Street and its adjacent park boundary exhibits the strongest resemblance to the geometry of the original scheme.

It is locally significant for its representative landscape pattern that demonstrates late-Victorian landscapes of hard materials such as an iron palisade and sandstone plinth, and plant material such as its collection of mature trees some of which date to the 1870s.

B. It has a strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW

Lang Park has State significance for its historical association with Governor Arthur Phillip the European founder of Australia, Commodore of the First Fleet and initiator of Sydney the first British settlement and city in Australia and capital of New South Wales.

The scheme, an encapsulation of Phillip's civic hopes for the new land contained two open spaces a Parade Ground or waterside plaza and a wide, steeply sloped Principal Street. The open spaces of Phillip's 1788 Plan which were to be encircled by places for government, religion, the military and law, were elements of the design that persisted.

It has associations with the spiritual development of the Colony of NSW. It also has associations with Governor John Hunter and Governor William Bligh. With prominent NSW historical figures such as Captain Paterson, John Macarthur and the 1808 Mutiny of the Rum Rebellion and Dr John Dunmore Lang whom the park is named after.

C. It is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW

The locational choice for the 1788 Plan and the configuration of its significant Vice-regal components demonstrates Phillip's technical and creative ability to strategise utilizing geography, to create and project an immediate sense of colonial power over the place.

The north-east alignment of Phillip's 1788 scheme towards the harbour's entrance illustrates his engagement with the new topography. Lang Park, its open space, sloped landform, and north-eastern boundary alignment with that of Lang Street, provide a physical legacy of the scheme that first validated his mark-making decision to initiate settlement on the shores of a majestic harbour and port. As a primary expression, it unleashed a compelling European context and energy for the country through its broad appreciation of the topographical scale and spatial structure of the Harbour and its natural scenic beauty. Lang Park as an open space, its north-eastern alignment and that of Lang Street are significant relics of this first scheme.

The area of Lang Park has an intangible historical association with Phillip's 1788 Plan and the landmark features and landform selected for the aesthetic distinctiveness of its superior views over Sydney Harbour. It was these attributes which attracted its use as a Vice-regal precinct, for the placement of the first permanent church in Australia, and it later focus for a collection of churches that the place became known as Church Hill.

It is intact as an aesthetically distinctive quarter of significant ecclesiastical sandstone buildings, the oldest date from the 1840s. The facades of built forms, encircling the parkland and impact visually on the place through a seasonal veil of trees. The predominant architecture presents a consistency of styles, themes, materials, height and street alignments. Characterised by strong visual depth, a high degree of architectural modelling and articulation, changes in architectural treatment with height and level, form streetscape facades of aesthetic distinctiveness which permeate the place.

The main building facades facing onto Lang Park include, along: <u>York Street</u>, St Philips Church of England, E.Blacket, 1848-1856 (locally listed); <u>Harrington Street</u>, Grosvenor Place, 1988-1992, Harry Seidler; <u>Grosvenor Street</u>, St Patricks Catholic Church, J.F Hilly, 1840-44 (locally listed); Church Hall, Hennessy and Hennessy, Blood and Bandages Style; Federation Hall and Courtyard, No.30, late Victorian Style, 1889-1891 (SHR), Royal Navy House, No. 32, Federation Free Classical Style, Varney Parkes, 1907 (SHR); Johnson Building, Edwardian, Federation Free Classical Style, Walter Liberty Vernon, 1912 (SHR) <u>Lang Street</u>, No.18, Suncorp Place or AAPT Centre Joseland & Gilling, 1982-1985, <u>Jamison Street</u>, Scots Church (locally listed),

The dense canopied boundary trees of Lang Park, and other mature street and parkland trees along the Tarra crest fringe the upper slopes of the catchment and serve as an interpretative reminder of the contained natural landform that first nurtured Australian British settlement.

D. It has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

The place has social significance as the central focus for the earliest spiritual development of the colony of NSW. Churches and associated church buildings facing onto Lang Park include, along: York Street, St Philips Church of England, E.Blacket, 1848-1856 (locally listed); ; Grosvenor Street, St Patricks Catholic Church, J.F Hilly, 1840-44 (locally listed); Church Hall, Hennessy and Hennessy, Blood and Bandages Style; Jamison Street, Scots Church (locally listed).

St Philip's is the oldest parish in Sydney and represents the early days of the colony when the Church of England was the State religion. St Philip's Church is a fine example of the Victorian Academic Gothic style in Australia, drawing on the details of English Perpendicular.

E. It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural or natural history of NSW.

Lang Park is of state significance as an Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP). It's high archaeological potential is due to limited physical disturbance of the place. Lang Park has the ability to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural history of NSW. It is probable it will contain sites of former occupations / activity and buildings particularly related to the first permanent church in Australia. The foundation stone was laid by Governor Hunter 1798 within the area of Lang Park. Construction of St Phillips, named to honour Governor Arthur Phillip, began ca. 1798 and was completed ca.1810. It was demolished in1856. The church extended beyond the boundaries of Lang Park at its eastern apex near the corner of Lang Street and Grosvenor Street. Above and below ground archaeological features related to this building and a clock tower (1797) such as remnant structures, significant fabric of extant buildings / structures, as well as below ground sites may exist.

F. It possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the cultural or natural history of NSW.

Lang Park is the oldest allotted area of ground for Vice-regal activities in Australia, it once housed the site of the first permanent church constructed in Australia.

Rare for its status as a remnant of Phillip's 1788 Plan, Lang Park inclusive of Lang Street retains the legible mark of its north-east boundary orientation.

G. It is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places / environments in NSW

It is representative of several parks in the city centre including Macquarie Place and Wynyard Park which evolved from the 1792 plans and developed as late-Victorian Parks under a Botanic Gardens and Public Works regime.

Listings

9. Existing heritage listings

Yes Local environment plan (LEP)

No Regional environmental plan (REP)

No LEP- Conservation area

No Draft LEP – Draft heritage item

No Draft LEP Draft Conservation area

No State heritage register No National Trust Register

No Aboriginal heritage information management system Department of Environment and Conservation)

No Royal Australian Institute of Architects Register of 20th Century Architecture

No National shipwreck database

No Engineers Australia list No National Heritage List

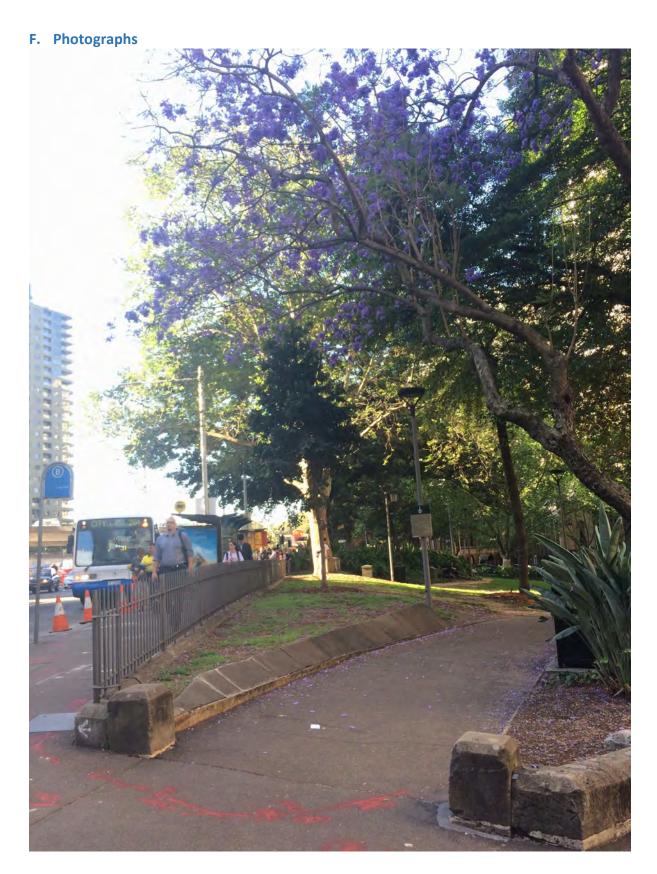
No Commonwealth Heritage List No Register of the national Estate

No NSW agency heritage and conservation section 170 register

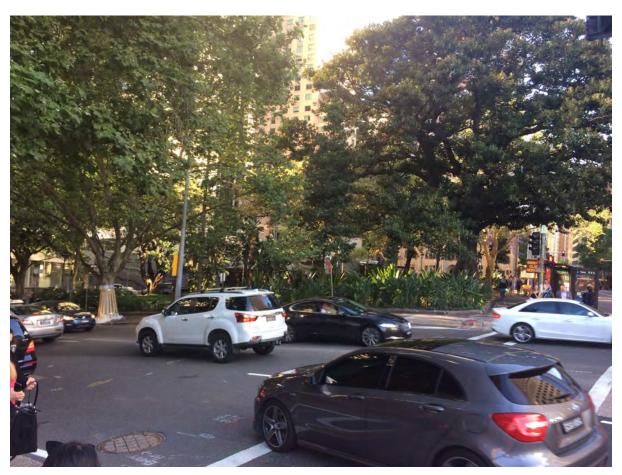
Other:

Yes Landscape-Lens AILA NSW Non-statutory database (L-LANNd).

Nominators explanation The park deserves recognition as the last vestige of Arthur Phillip's initial landscape planning scheme for the City of Sydney, the first tangible European apparatus over the natural landscape of Australia. Nominated at the Landscape Heritage Workshop for the study, 14 March 2016 which was hosted by MHQ and ALHG for AILA NSW.



Main entry view into Lang Park from cnr Lang Street, York Street and Jamison Street.



 $\label{thm:continuous} \mbox{ View south towards Lang Park from cnr Grosvenor Street and York Street.}$



View south-west towards Lang Street (LHS) demonstrating the significant alignment of the roadway and the boundary of the park and Grosvenor Street. The apex of streets (centre), was the location of St Phillips Church - the first permanent church in NSW and Australia.



The photo depicts an old Moreton Bay Fig on Lang Street and sandstone edge ca, 1870s and depression era paving. Note St Patricks Church LHS.

The memorial states: 'The Church of Saint Phillip named after Governor Phillip stood on this site 1798-1856, RAHS, 1942.'



Internal panorama of Lang Park panning south-east (RHS) towards Lang Street and south towards York Street (RHS). Note St Phillip's Church RHS



Above, a (distorted) panoramic view into park from entry mid-way along Lang Street highlighted by Strelitzia nicholai. Image below is of Norton Fountain 1904 and old Moreton Bay Fig near corner York and Grosvenor Streets.





View west from within Lang Park to significant old Moreton Bay Fig along York Street boundary. Note St Phillips Church RHS.

Primary author of this form Christine Hay

References used for completing this form

Craig Burton, 'Nature, place and landscape', in Thalis & Cantrill (eds), *Public Sydney*, *Drawing the City*, HHT NSW and Content UNSW, Sydney, 2013, pp.184-193.

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Andrew Houison, *A Short History of St. Philip's Church, Sydney*, 1810-1910 St Philip's Vestry, 1910. http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-

39572890/view?searchTerm=St+Philips+Church&partId=nla.obj-39572900#page/n0/mode/1up

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James Maclehose, *Picture of Sydney and Strangers' Guide in N.S.W. for 1839*, reprinted 1977, John Ferguson P.L. St Ives

State Heritage Register and database: Wynyard Park, Macquarie Place, Lang Park, St Phillips Church and grounds and Scots Church.

Signed by Author

Omistine Hay

Signed by copyright holder(s) of image(s) character,

Additional photographs, maps or other images

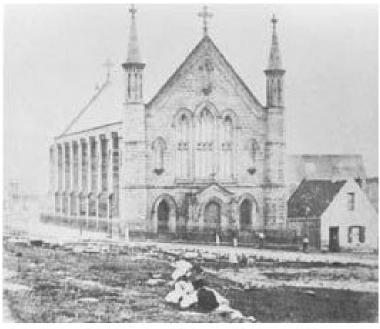
Attached in a separate file.



SIX Map plan of Lang Park, its boundary in red (North is up the page). [Accessed 16 October 2017 https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/].



1892 elevated view over Lang park RHS.



1868 image of St Patricks Church, the area now known as Lang Park is undefined RHS. http://stpatschurchhill.org/st-patricks-construction-and-opening/