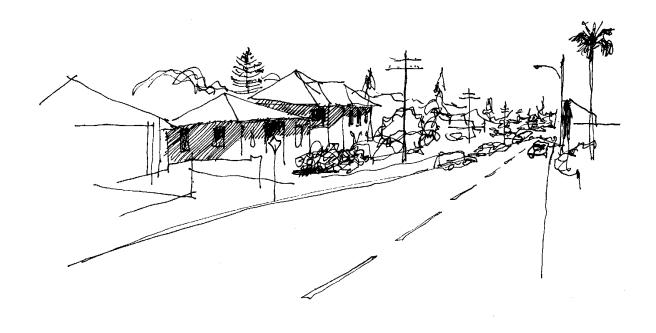
Heritage Report

PLANNING PROPOSAL | 42-58 OLD SOUTH HEAD ROAD | VAUCLUSE



November 2016

Prepared by Zoltan Kovacs Architect

Contents

1	Executive Summary	
2	Introduction	1
	BACKGROUND	
	METHODOLOGY	
	AUTHORSHIP	
	LIMITATIONS	
2.5	SITE IDENTIFICATION	
3	Historical Outline	3
4	Physical Description of the Place	7
4.1	CONTEXT OF THE PLACE	
	PLANNING PROPOSAL SITE	
	EXISTING BUILDINGS	
5	Planning Context	17
5.1	NSW HERITAGE ACT	
5.2	WOOLLAHRA LEP 2014	
5.3	NATIONAL TRUST	
6	Heritage Impact of Planning Proposal	19
6.1	INTRODUCTION	
6.2	HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
6.3	STATUTORY COMPLIANCE	
6.4	CONCLUSION	
7	Recommendations	21
8	Bibliography	22
9	Appendix	23

Executive Summary

I have been asked to review the planning proposal prepared on behalf of Parker Logan Property Pty Ltd. The planning proposal does not affect any heritage items, it is not in the vicinity of any heritage items and it is not located in a heritage conservation area, however the proposal involves of the demolition of a number of existing single storey houses and small residential flat buildings, which are over 50 years old.

Five lots within the study area formed part of a Crown grant to William Charles Wentworth, the explorer and politician, on 5 July 1838. The other four were lots were created in 1936 after a late grant to Alfred Henry Sidebottom.

The buildings were built between 1926 and 1937 as single dwellings and small duplexes. No significant architect was involved with any of them. The circumstances of the construction reflect average middle class mores of the time and place. Much of Vaucluse was developed during the Inter-war period in a similar manner, but this process was ordinary and cannot be said to exhibit historical significance.

Site inspections revealed that each building is degraded and they lost their coherent Inter-war character.

The review has established that the existing buildings in the study area do not exhibit any heritage significance in the context of the local area and their retention is not warranted on conservation grounds.

2 Introduction

2.1 BACKGROUND

I have been asked to review the planning proposal prepared on behalf of Parker Logan Property Pty Ltd. The planning proposal does not affect any heritage items, it is not in the vicinity of any heritage items and it is not located in a heritage conservation area, however the proposal involves of the demolition of a number of existing single storey houses and small residential flat buildings, which are over 50 years old.

This brief report sets out to assess if the planning proposal for demolition generates any heritage impacts.

2.2 METHODOLOGY

The methodology and terminology used in the preparation of this report has been drawn from the Australian ICOMOS *Burra Charter*, the *NSW Heritage Manual 2001 Update*, and J. S Kerr's *Conservation Plan* (rev. edn National Trust of Australia [NSW], Sydney, 1996). References to architectural styles are based on the identifications used by Apperly, R.; Irving, R. and Reynolds, P *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture* (Sydney, 1989)

This Heritage Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014, the 'Woollahra Council Heritage Report Information Requirements for Demolition of Buildings within the Woollahra Municipality' and the NSW Heritage Guide.

2.3 AUTHORSHIP

This report has been prepared by Zoltan Kovacs, Architect & Heritage Consultant with all the photographs taken by the author, unless otherwise identified. The author is a conservation architect with over thirty years experience in heritage conservation and he was Woollahra Council's heritage officer for seven years..

The documentary sources used in the formulation of a historical background were based on previous research at the Woollahra Local History Library. My contextual analysis is based on my familiarity with the area as a heritage consultant, which extends over twenty years.

2.4 LIMITATIONS

As the planning proposal is not a development application, this heritage report does not need to fulfil all the requirements of a Demolition Report. It merely needs to provide a broad overview of potential heritage issues. Consequently, detailed ownership history for each property is not provided, although the history of each property was researched. Similarly, no internal inspections were undertaken.

2.5 SITE IDENTIFICATION

The study area consists of nine allotments located on the west side of Old South Head Road. The properties are identified as:

42 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse 44 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse 46 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse 48 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse 50 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse 52 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse 54 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse 56 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse 58 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse Lot 13, DP 13528 - single storey residence
Lot 12, DP 13528 - two storey residence
Lot 11, DP 13528 - two storey duplex
Lot 10, DP 13528 - two storey duplex
Lot 9, DP 13528 - two storey duplex
Lot 4, DP 109409 - two storey duplex
Lot 3, DP 109409 - two storey duplex
Lot 2, DP 109409 - two storey duplex
Lot 1, DP 109409 - two storey residence



Figure 1 Aerial view of the locality; the nine allotments are outlined in red

Historical Outline

The land from Petersham to South Head was traditionally the land of the Cadigal people, who traversed the well-watered landscape of forested gullies and scrub covered headlands in small family groups. The local Aboriginal population, unable to withstand the effects of the development of the district brought about by European settlement, disappeared from the area by the early 19th century.

Vaucluse was named after the poet Petrarch's retreat in the south of France - Fountaine-de-Vaucluse by Henry Browne Hayes, the Irish convict and adventurer, who was sentenced to death for kidnapping a wealthy heiress, but his sentence was commuted to transportation.

The first grants in the area were issued to Captain Thomas Laycock of the NSW Corps, followed by James Cardell, a private, and Joseph Llewellyn in 1797. Once established in the colony, after he was pardoned by Governor Bligh, Hayes bought the Llewellyn and Cardell grants in 1803 and built a house at Vaucluse Farm, as he named the estate. He only occupied the farm intermittently, as he was often imprisoned for anti-authoritarian behaviour. Before returning to his native Cork, he transferred his land to fellow Irishmen, first to Samuel Blackwell and then to Maurice O'Connell. Posted to Ceylon, O'Connell transferred his lease to Captain John Piper. Hayes eventually decided to sell the land through his nephew, who still remained in the colony, setting off years of complicated claims and counter claims. Eventually the Vaucluse Estate was bought at auction by William Charles Wentworth in 1827. Wentworth's consolidation of a series of large (and sometimes disputed) holdings lead to the regularization of grants in the area with properly surveyed boundaries and registered deeds. Wentworth finally verified his ownership of the Piper lands in the Court of Claims in 1836.



Figure 2 *View of Vaucluse, aquatint by Joseph Lycett c. 819 (Source: NSW State Library)*

Figure 3 The Subdivision plan of the first release of the Vaucluse Estate in 1838 (Source: Mitchell Library MS 4000/1 MLMSS)



Figure 4 Old South Head Road near William Street, c. 1878 (Source: National Library PIC P419)

Despite the establishment of the road to South Head in 1789, the local area developed slowly as the soil was not fertile and the area was far from the city. It also lacked natural resources and after the bush was cleared during the early 19th Century, much of it was left undeveloped experiencing the gradual return of coastal heathland. There were a number of further small grants in the area during the 1820s & 30s with much of the land on the east side of the road leading to South Head remaining crown land. An alternative route to South Head was established in 1834 under Surveyor General, Thomas Mitchell and it became known as New South Head Road. The bridle track connecting Vaucluse House to Old South Head Road, as it quickly became known, was used by Captain Piper and it was soon named after him.

The gradual extension of the public transport system enabled the growth in popularity of the beach suburbs and unimproved lands were slowly developed, farming was replaced by housing subdivisions and the area started to achieve a consistent suburban character of brick houses with tiled roofs on sparsely vegetated blocks. By the end of the Inter-war period, the whole area achieved a consistent look.3

Once the locality was established as a small scale residential area by the early 1920's little further activity took place again until the mid to late 20th Century, when the general rise in property values within the Eastern Suburbs prompted a number of development phases, which gradually altered the Federation and Inter-war character of the precinct to a much more diverse and more densely occupied built environment.

3.1 **Owners**

Individual title searches have been undertaken for all the properties. No.s 42-50 formed part of a land grant to William Charles Wentworth on 5 July 1838 and the unimproved grant remained in his family's possession for most of the 19th Century. By 1898 most of the local area including the subject land was transferred to Fitzwilliam Wentworth, second son of William Charles Wentworth at his father's bequest. In 1903 Fitzwilliam Wentworth's holdings were sub-divided and offered for sale from July of that year onwards. The five allotments were included in this release.

The land forming No.s 52-58 remained in Crown possession until unusually late, as it was only granted to Alfred Henry Sidebottom in April 1930. He subdivided the grant in September 1936 and offered the four allotments for sale.

3.2 **Occupants**

None of the properties were occupied in 1933, which was the time of the cessation of the Sydney Sands Directory.

3.3 **Building Work**

A list of building and development applications for each allotment has been taken from the Woollahra Council Building Registers and Index Cards to Building and Development Applications from c. 1949 to 1988 and Council's on-line index. The list is provided in the Appendix. Further information and access to original plans is available at the Customer Service Section of Woollahra Council.



Figure 5 Old South Head Road, c. 1943 (Source: NSW Lands SIX Maps); the study area is marked in red

4. Physical Description

4.1 CONTEXT OF THE PLACE

The place for the planning proposal is located on the east facing slope of the high plateau near the geographical centre of the Vaucluse peninsula, which is formed by a steep rocky ridge separating Sydney Harbour from the ocean. The place is on the western side of Old South Head Road, which also defines the boundary between the municipalities of Woollahra and Waverley.

The area surrounding the site is characterized by an irregular pattern of post-Victorian, mostly early 20th Century and Inter-War street layout, which resulted from the restrictive topography of deep valleys and steep cliffs. Offering spectacular views over the harbour, Vaucluse is an exclusive residential area with a relatively homogeneous suburban development pattern dominated by large detached residences, which are conversely characterized by heterogeneous built forms and a multitude of design styles spanning with examples the whole of the 20th Century. While there are some important surviving Inter-war and earlier residences in the locality, the majority of the building stock is formed by post-WWII developments of often low cultural value, despite the expense lavished on them.

The buildings on the lots surrounding the place are mostly large residences built during the 20th Century. There is a recent marked tendency in the local area covered by both municipalities for development of greater density and bulk with a newly emergent character, where high quality residential flat buildings are becoming dominant.

4.2 PLANNING PROPOSAL SITE

The subject site is formed by nine adjacent and roughly rectangular blocks on the western side of Old South Head Road, between Captain Pipers Road and Clarendon Street, at its junction with Military Road. The allotments are roughly equal in size and originate from two subdivision releases with No.s 42-50 and No.s 52-58 forming each respectively.

The allotments are approx. 600 m² in area which represents the typical sub-division pattern for the area. There are no apparent culturally significant or unique features associated with the sub-division pattern of the place.

The land rises towards the rear with the irregular rear boundaries caused by the terminating ridge line which forms a natural rock outcrop behind No.s 46 & 48. As the buildings occupy most of the sites with only narrow side passages separating them, the natural rock outcrop is not visible to the public domain.

4.3 EXISTING BUILDINGS

The following list summarises each building in turn. Some of the buildings are screened from the public domain by vegetation or walls.

Address: 42 Old South Head Road

Building Consent Date: 1926

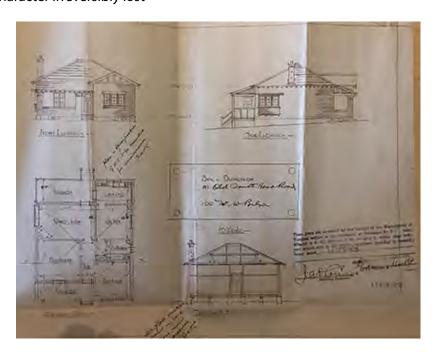
Condition: average

Integrity: Lost/degraded

Potential Local Significance: None



- originally example of modest pattern book Inter-war Bungalow, sample copy of original BA 36/1926 below
- originally face brick with open, asymmetrically positioned front veranda; open rear veranda; tiled hip and gable roof combination
- the building is now rendered, both verandas have been enclosed, chimneys lost, roof form altered;
- no evidence of surviving original fabric; extensively renovated in 1981
- Inter-war Bungalow character irreversibly lost



Address: 44 Old South Head Road

Building Consent Date: 1928

Condition: average

Integrity: Degraded

Potential Local Significance: None



- example of Inter-war Mediterranean duplex, original building application (BA19/28) file did not survive
- probably always rendered with open, asymmetrically positioned two storey bay with triple arched windows, rear garage; tiled hip roof
- the building was recently rendered in smooth hard cement, fenestration replaced, no evidence of chimneys, roof retiled;
- no external original fabric; extensively renovated (no record on council files)
- Inter-war Bungalow character degraded

Address: 46 Old South Head Road

Building Consent Date: 1936

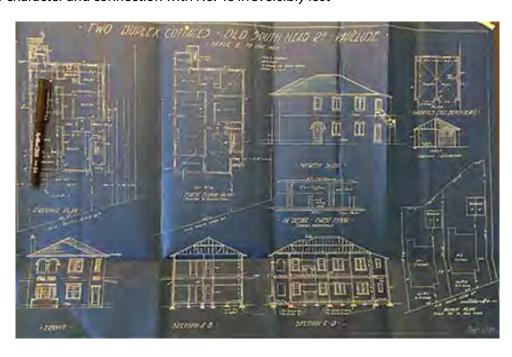
Condition: average

Integrity: Lost

Potential Local Significance: None



- paired duplex with No. 48, ordinary Inter-war duplex designed by draftsman, sample copy of original BA 36/9120 below
- originally face brick with open, asymmetrically positioned front balcony with arched windows; arched side entrance to first floor unit, hip roof combination
- the building is now rendered, front balcony with coloured wire glass dates from 1969, fenestration altered;
- no external evidence of surviving original fabric; extensively renovated in 1969
- Inter-war character and connection with No. 48 irreversibly lost



Address: 48 Old South Head Road

Building Consent Date: 1936

Condition: average

Integrity: Degraded

Potential Local Significance: None



- paired duplex with No. 45, ordinary Inter-war duplex designed by draftsman, sample copy of original building application below
- originally face brick with open, asymmetrically positioned front balcony with arched windows; arched side entrance to first floor unit, hip roof combination
- the front balcony was enclosed and fenestration altered to aluminium in 1964;
- no external evidence of surviving original fabric; interior renovated in 1988
- Inter-war character and connection with No. 46 irreversibly lost



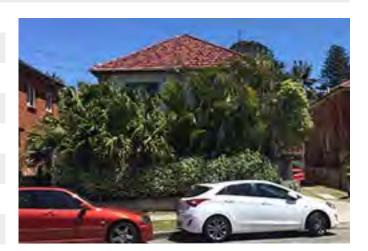
Address: 50 Old South Head Road

Building Consent Date: 1937

Condition: average

Integrity: Lost

Potential Local Significance: None



- example of Inter-war Bungalow inspired spacious duplex, sample copy of original BA 9030/1937 below, developed as a pair with No. 52
- originally face brick with open, asymmetrically positioned recessed front balconies on both floors; tiled hip roof combination
- the building is now rendered, both balconies have been enclosed, one chimneys survives, fenestration altered;
- no external evidence of surviving original fabric; extensively renovated in 1998
- Inter-war Bungalow character irreversibly lost



Address: 52 Old South Head Road

Building Consent Date: 1936

Condition: average

Integrity: Medium

Potential Local Significance: Low



- example of Inter-war Bungalow inspired spacious duplex, original BA 9048/1937 now missing
- developed as a pair with No. 50, but this is no longer apparent due to extensive changes to No. 50; the two share a driveway
- originally face brick with open, asymmetrically positioned recessed front balcony on both floors; tiled hip roof combination
- low sandstone front boundary wall appears original
- both balconies have been enclosed, chimneys lost, some original fenestration survives, others altered:
- exhibits external surviving original fabric; some renovations in 1985
- Inter-war Bungalow character retained

Address: 54 Old South Head Road

Building Consent Date: 1936

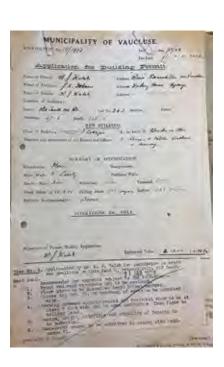
Condition: average

Integrity: Degraded

Potential Local Significance: Low



- unusual example of Inter-war Dutch Colonial, sample copy of original BA 36/9081 consent below issued in the name of J. Walsh, but drawings are missing
- originally rendered, asymmetrically positioned front veranda with Dutch gable decorated with rendered heraldic device; tiled hip and gable roof combination
- the original balconies have been enclosed, chimneys lost, fenestration altered; intrusive faceted bay added to front elevation
- surviving original fabric only on decorative gable;
- Inter-war Dutch Colonial character degraded



Address: 56 Old South Head Road

Building Consent Date: 1936?

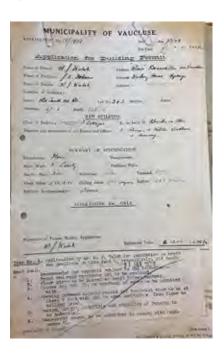
Condition: average

Integrity: Degraded

Potential Local Significance: None



- originally example of pattern book Inter-war Bungalow style duplex, no drawings or building application files survive, the file of BA 36/9081 for Lot 2 also refers to a duplex on this site built for J. Walsh
- seems similar to No. 52
- originally face brick with open, asymmetrically positioned front veranda; open rear veranda; tiled hip roof
- the building is now rendered, chimneys lost, fenestration altered;
- no external evidence of surviving original fabric; extensively renovated
- Inter-war Bungalow character degraded



Address: 58 Old South Head Road

Building Consent Date: 1936

Condition: average

Integrity: Degraded

Potential Local Significance: None



- originally example of Inter-war Mediterranean, sample copy of original BA 36/9110 below; there were a number of preceding applications which were never built
- originally rendered, two castellated asymmetrically positioned front verandas; top veranda was colonnaded with a triple arch; two single car garages in basement; tiled hip and gablet roof combination
- the colonnaded veranda has been enclosed, all windows replaced;
- extensively renovated in 1987
- Inter-war Mediterranean character degraded



Planning Context

42-58 Old South Head Road is affected by a number of statutory and non-statutory heritage controls, guidelines and lists that are relevant to the planning proposal. They are as follows:

- NSW Heritage Act 1997,
- Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014
- National Trust of Australia (NSW) Register

5.1 NSW HERITAGE ACT 1977

5.1.1 State Heritage Register

The State Heritage Register is a list of heritage items of particular importance to the people of NSW. It includes items and places of state heritage significance endorsed by the Minister on the recommendation of the Heritage Council. Items on the State Heritage Register require approval from the Heritage Council of NSW for certain works.

None of the allotments forming 42-58 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse is included nor proposed for inclusion in the State Heritage Register.

5.1.2 Interim Heritage Orders

Interim Heritage Orders can be made under Part 3 of the Heritage Act either by the Minister or, where authorised, a Local Government Council. Interim Heritage Orders replace the previous Interim Conservation Orders and orders made under Section 130. They are effective for a maximum period of twelve months.

None of the allotments forming 42-58 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse is affected by any Interim Heritage Order.

5.1.3 Archaeological 'Relics'

Under Division 9 of the Heritage Act, a permit is required for the excavation of relics, unless there is an applicable gazetted exemption. Pursuant to Clause 139 of the Heritage Act, an excavation permit is required where excavation is proposed and there is reasonable knowledge or likelihood that disturbance or excavation of the land will result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed.

There is no evidence or likelihood that excavation of the land formed by 42-58 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse may disturb relics as defined by the Act as the existing buildings are all the first on their respective allotments.

5.2 WOOLLAHRA LEP 2014

The Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014 is a statutory plan recently adopted by

Woollahra Council. The objectives of this plan are to identify heritage items and heritage conservation areas and to provide measures for their protection, conservation and enhancement; and to ensure that new development is undertaken in a manner sympathetic to their character.

None of the allotments forming 42-58 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse is listed as a heritage item under Schedule 5 of the LEP and the place is not located in a heritage conservation area. There are no heritage items in the vicinity of the place.

5.3 NATIONAL TRUST

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is a community-based conservation organisation. The Trust has assembled a Register of heritage items and conservation areas through the assessment work of its expert committees. While the Trust has no legal status, it is considered to be an authoritative guide to heritage significance, and the Trust acts a lobby group for heritage conservation.

None of the allotments forming 42-58 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse is identified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW).



Heritage Impact of Development

6.1 INTRODUCTION

None of the allotments forming 42-58 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse is not listed as a heritage item under the existing statutory controls contained in the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan and the place is not located within a heritage conservation area. None of the buildings in the place was reviewed in Council's Inter-war Bungalows Study 2014 as a potential heritage item.

6.2 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL DEMOLITION

Five lots within the study area formed part of a Crown grant to William Charles Wentworth, the explorer and politician, on 5 July 1838. The unimproved grant remained in his family's possession for the rest of the 19th Century, until 1903 when the estate was released for sale by the beneficiaries of Fitzwilliam Wentworth. The land was further subdivided by various purchasers. The other four were lots were created in 1936 after a late grant to Alfred Henry Sidebottom.

The buildings were built between 1926 and 1937 as single dwellings and small duplexes. The circumstances of the construction reflect average middle class mores of the time and place. Much of Vaucluse was developed during the Inter-war period in a similar manner, but this process was ordinary and cannot be said to exhibit historical significance.

No relevant entries for owners or occupants of the nine properties were found in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, ANU, 2006, www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/adbonline. htm or A Biographical Register 1788-1939 ed. H.J. Gibbney and Ann Smith, 1987, Canberra, ADB. The connection of the study area to William Charles Wentworth is only incidental.

No architect associated with the study area is included in the Register of Significant 20th Century Architects held by the Institute of Australian Architects. The nine buildings are ordinary without aesthetic merit or distinction. Their Inter-war fabric is degraded. They are ordinary residential buildings built to standard building typology and they are not rare examples of their kind in the Eastern Suburbs. There are several buildings of similar character nearby.

The nine buildings are ordinary residential buildings in a typical suburban setting without associations to particular community groups or cultural groups.

In a brief overview of the cultural values of the study area, it was found that its constituent buildings fail to meet the benchmarks for cultural significance, where their listing as heritage items would be warranted.

Will demolition of the building generate an adverse conservation impact?

The foregoing overview has established that the existing buildings in the study area do not exhibit any heritage significance in the context of the local area and their retention is not warranted on conservation grounds. Consequently demolition of any of the buildings will not generate an adverse impact for the cultural heritage of the Vaucluse area.

The proposed demolition does not affect the cultural heritage of the municipality of Woollahra.

6.3 STATUTORY COMPLIANCE

6.3.1 Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014

None of the allotments forming 42-58 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse is listed as a heritage item under WLEP2014 and the place is not located within a heritage conservation

The heritage provisions of WLEP 2014 do not apply to the place.

6.3.2 Heritage Act

The provisions of the Heritage Act are not relevant for the place.

6.4 CONCLUSION

Having examined the heritage impact of the development on the cultural heritage of the local area the following can be concluded:

The potential demolition of 42-58 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse forming part of the planning proposal will not generate any adverse heritage conservation impacts for the cultural heritage of Woollahra.

Recommendations

Having assessed the heritage impact of the planning proposal, the following can be recommended:

• that Council can consent to the planning proposal on heritage grounds in recognition of its lack of adverse heritage conservation impacts.

Signed

ZOLTAN KOVACS B. Arch (Hons)

ARCHITECT

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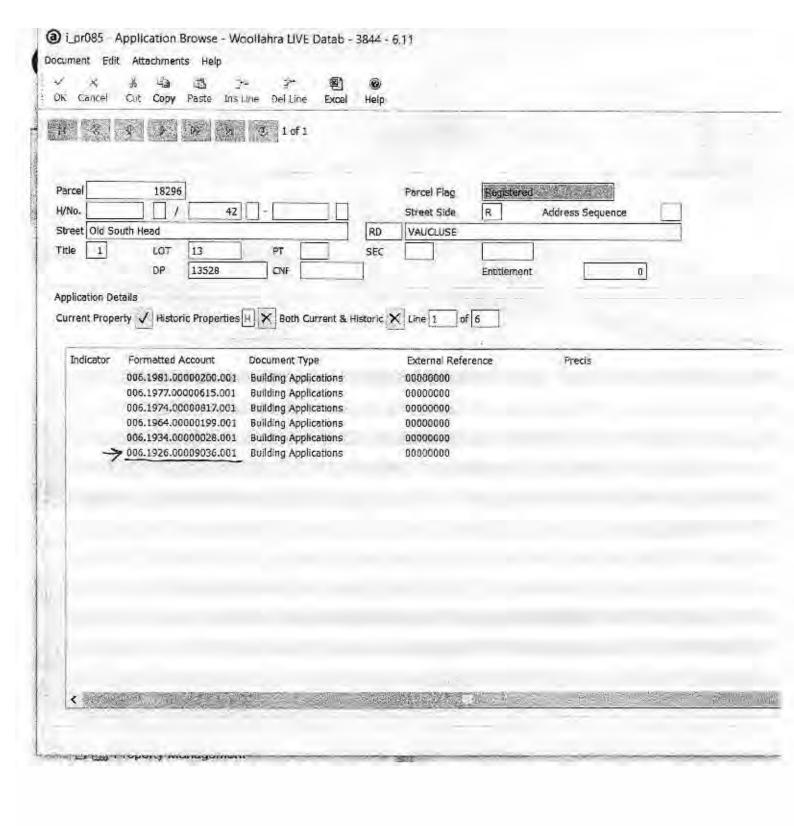
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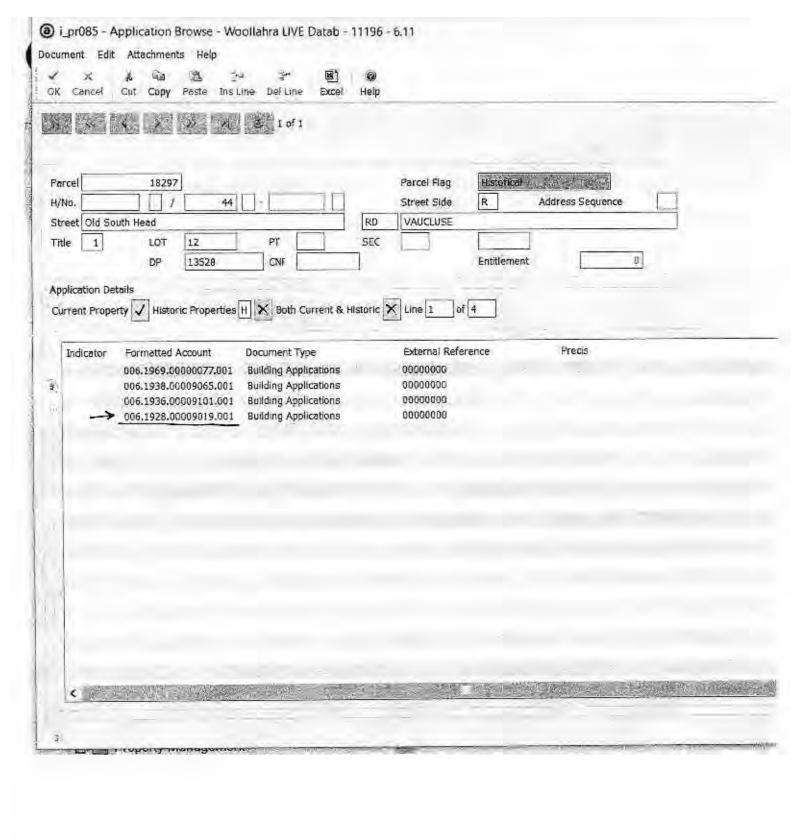
'Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 1995 (WLEP)' (2003 update)

'Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014'

'Woollahra Council Heritage Report Information Requirements for Demolition of Buildings within the Woollahra Municipality' (1996)

Appendix





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