



Attachment 2 to Item 3.1.3.

Combined Information on 394 George Street,
Windsor provided by Jan Barkley Jack & Carol
Edds

Date of meeting: 6 March 2025

Location: Council Chambers

Time: 5:00pm

HERITAGE STUDY OF THE NORTH WESTERN SECTOR OF SYDNEY H/W-90

LISTINGS		TOWN/DISTRICT	WINDSOR
NATIONAL TRUST	C Listed	MUNICIPALITY	HAWKESBURY
REG. OF NATURAL ESTATE	Listed	NAME/ADDRESS	394 George St.
N.S.W. HERITAGE COUNCIL	Listed		
OTHER:	MTPS H.PR. O.C.		
TITLE DETAILS	Pt Lot 72 Sec K.	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	1897

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

WALLS	SAND ST., ROOF C.G.I.,	VERANDAH	Awning	CHIMNEYS	None	FENCING	None	LANDSCAPE	
	BR.								

Erected in 1897 at the cost of 600 pounds, this building was built by Mr. George Robertson as a general store. The ground floor features a sandstone faced shop-front with a circular arched main door at the centre, surmounted by two elaborately carved sandstone figures representing trade and commerce. A large shop display window flanks either side of main door. At the first floor level there are rendered decorations including false quoins. The building is crowned by a balustrade parapet and a central allegorical figure of Britannica. The building is in good general state of repair. It formerly had a rooftop lookout which was demolished many years ago. The ground floor level is sandstone, the upper level double clinker brick. The carvings were the work of an Irish stonemason named O'Kelly, who lived opposite and was brought to Australia to work on the Cardinal's Palace at Manly. Except for the shop awning, it is in good original condition.

SIGNIFICANCE A large Victorian shop with excellent stone carvings and a significant
STATE: example of a Victorian commercial building.

RELATED HISTORICAL THEME:

A3: Later settlement pattern J: Services & community institutions.

CURTILAGE Property boundary.

PHOTO AND SKETCH PLAN
(IF APPLICABLE)



ABBREVIATIONS

C.G.I. - CORRUGATED GALVANISED IRON
C.I. - CAST IRON
F.BR. - FACE BRICK
GSL - GABLED
GSL - GABLED
HP - HIPPED
P.BR. - PAINTED BRICKWORK
R.M. - RENDERED MASONRY
SL - SLATE
ST. - STONE
T - TIMBER
W.B. - WEATHERBOARD

SURVEY FOR THE N.S.W. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING, INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND LANDSCAPE FEATURES 1983-1984
HOWARD TANNER AND ASSOCIATES PTY. LTD., ARCHITECTS AND CONSERVATION PLANNERS
89 BLUES POINT ROAD, MCMAHONS POINT, 2060. 529 6752, 92 8873
IN ASSOCIATION WITH MAX KELLY AND ELIZABETH WINES

HERITAGE STUDY OF THE NORTH WESTERN SECTOR OF SYDNEY H/W-87

LISTINGS	TOWN/DISTRICT	WINDSOR
NATIONAL TRUST	MUNICIPALITY	HAWKESBURY
REG. OF NATURAL ESTATE	NAME/ADDRESS	WAR MEMORIAL, McQUADE PARK
N.S.W. HERITAGE COUNCIL		George St.
OTHER: H.PR.		(cnr. Tebbutt St.)
TITLE DETAILS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

WALLS	ROOF	VERANDAH	CHIMNEYS	FENCING	LANDSCAPE
SAND ST. Base & Granite column.					

This simple obelisk is a memorial of Soldiers from the Windsor district who lost their lives during the Boer War in South Africa. It is set in an attractive garden setting.

SIGNIFICANCE An elegant plinth surmounting a naive carved memorial depicting Australian LOCAL (1): Lighthorsemen. An important and historical landmark in Windsor.
RELATED HISTORICAL THEME: F: Law and Order (War Memorials).

CURTILAGE Tebbutt St., George St., 20m from other faces.

PHOTO AND SKETCH PLAN (IF APPLICABLE)
F3-18



ABBREVIATIONS

C G I CONFLUGATED GALVANISED IRON
C I CAST IRON
F BR FACE BRICK
G BL GABLED
H BR HERSH
P BR PAINTED BRICKWORK
R M REINFORCED MASONRY
SL SLATE
ST STONE
T TIMBER
W B WEATHERBOARD



NATIONAL TRUST HAWKESBURY BRANCH TOUR, 18 May 2008:

'Hawkesbury Stone: houses, churches and cherubs'

Background.

In the Hawkesbury district, from St Albans to Richmond Hill, are located more than 50 stone buildings.

There was usually a fine supply of sandstone close to the site where the building was to be constructed. Sometimes the stone was cut away from the side of the ridge to level the ground. A trench was made along the rock outcrop's surface with gad and hammer, and ironbark wedges were driven in. The trench was then filled with water. The swelling wedges split off huge slabs of rock, from which the blocks were cut to size and trimmed using a gad and hammer and for the finer work, a pick and chisel. Gunpowder could blast off the slabs of stone but this was more expensive and the holes for the powder still had to be hand drilled.

Primitive slides were made from a forked limb of a tree and slabs. The stone was then dragged to the building site by bullocks. Because the window sills and door lintels weighed in excess of half a ton, they needed to be put in place using wooden poles (sheerlegs) with double and triple pulley blocks to raise them to the required height.

Tour Notes.

Site 1: General Store, 394 George Street, Windsor.

George Anderson Robertson was a Hawkesbury builder and monumental mason, in Windsor by 1870. His premises were in George Street, Windsor beside the Catholic Cemetery. By 1888 he had expanded to also have a business outlet in High Street Penrith, advertising that 'he has on hand one of the largest assortments outside of Sydney'. He supplied not just granite, marble, 'freestone' materials and iron railings for tombstones, but for mantle pieces and fenders as well. His business was rounded, for he sold, in addition, garden tiles and wreathes.

George Robertson played his part in community organisations, such as being a trustee for a General Cemetery planned in 1897 for Windsor, along with Messrs J.J. Paine, William Walker and Brinsley Hall. The cemetery never eventuated, and by 1918 Robertson was dead. He was buried with other family members in the Presbyterian cemetery at South Windsor.

In 1897 he built a General Store and, for his daughter, a spacious residence at 394 George Street, Windsor adjacent to his premises. Proximity to the Railway Station allowed materials to be easily transported by rail from suppliers at Lidcombe.

The stone for 394 George Street is believed by the current owner to have come from Pitt Town Quarry, near Longneck Lagoon.

Of particular interest is the building's splendid decoration. On the upper storey are an elaborate balustrade with two urns and a female figure with an anchor. Carvings on the front entrance at street level make this a unique shop entry. Above the doorway are finely sculptured life-sized carvings representing Commerce and Industry. A female figure resembling Britannia reclines on a ship's wheel, opposite a nautical figure with a coil of rope. Above him is carved a two-masted ship.

On the sides of the dwelling, around doors and windows there are the delicate floral carvings that so readily identify the firm's Victorian grave marker specialty. Amongst other carvings, female heads appear on all the upper storey lintels on the east side and over the door and a window on the western ground level.

All the doors downstairs at the back of the Store were once the external doors at the back of the house, but are now internally painted doorways to an extension. There is evidence of a different verandah, with a post hole in the front stonework of the house just below the present awning on the northern side of the building. All sheds and garages appear modern.

Site 2: Robertson and Company Stone Mason's Yard:

The Robertson monumental stone mason's yard in Windsor was to the north and to the rear of the General Store [approximately where computer supply shop and the garages is now]. In the beginning of the twentieth century a local, Jack Rutter, remembered as a child stopping there on the way home from school with his friends to watch the mason at work. The marble, granite and sandstone pieces used to make the grave markers were kept in the yard.

Grave markers labelled Robertson and Company, as well as many unmarked ones which by style appear to be from the Company, are to be found in the Windsor grave yards of St Matthews Church of England, the Catholic Cemetery and possibly the Presbyterian Cemetery, as well as in the Wilberforce Cemetery. The large marble monument in St Matthews' grounds was erected by Mr George Robertson, of Windsor in 1882, in memory of Ann Amelia McQuade who had died in 1875. The work had been carved in Carrara, Italy.

During the 1890s Robertson employed Irish immigrant John Charles O'Kelly as a stone mason in the firm. John O'Kelly came to New South Wales in the 1880s and probably assisted in the construction of the Cardinal's Palace at Manly. O'Kelly married Matilda Collins who was a schoolteacher.

In July 1896 Kelly was reported to have completed 'an excellent piece of sculpture of a woman holding a cross representing 'Faith' and the newspaper noted that it 'was carved from a solid piece of free-stone obtained at a quarry on Pitt Town Common'. Soon after, the carvings that adorn the General Store were created, likely therefore to also be the work of O'Kelly.

By 1897 O'Kelly lived in a cottage opposite 394 George Street, Windsor, and is said to have been able to admire his carvings from his verandah. The floral patterns and intertwined Morning Glory vines, and other flowers are thought also to be his creations.

The Boer War (1898 to 1902) Memorial in McQuade Park, Windsor to the memory of those who went, but 'came not back' in that war another of the works of O'Kelly.

The Hawkesbury Gazette of 19 January 1901 noted that a marble slab in Robertson's yard at that time was executed by 'Mr. George Kelly [read John O'Kelly], who as a sculptor can hold his own with anyone in the colony'.

John O'Kelly died in 1907 and is buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery at Richmond.

Site 3: Windsor Catholic Cemetery, Windsor

Quite a few graves in the Catholic Cemetery, Windsor are marked as the work of Robertson's Company, for example, the grave of John Murphy of Kurrajong, who had died in the last years of the nineteenth century. It features the lovely floral carvings of O'Kelly and possibly Robertson, and was described as 'one of the grandest pieces of monumental work in the district' when supplied in 1901. The Windsor and Richmond Gazette described the monument as:

It consists of granite and marble imported from Italy, the home of sculptors. The huge marble cross which stands on the top of this handsome monument is a magnificent piece of sculptural work.

Another of Robertson and Company's monuments that aroused praise in the newspaper a few years previously was the large granite and marble monument erected in 1897 to the memory of Herbert May. Some like the Lehane grave has no engraved Company name, but by its style appears to be clearly the work of O'Kelly.

Site 4: Presbyterian Cemetery.

From his grave marker, George Anderson Robertson was born in 1855 or 1856 and died 2 August 1918, aged 62. He had married around 1877 his wife Elizabeth dying in 1929. The stone and marble marker with its surrounding minimally carved scroll and simple decorated stone kerbing is in great contrast to the decorative tombstones and figures the Robertson Company produced in its heyday. It is difficult to reconstruct the family tree, but it may be that Mary Ann (1839-1895) was George Robertson's mother and James Brunel and Donald Marshall Robertson were his brothers.

The three are all recorded on one metal marker, a tapering box with tall thin decorated metal pipe supporting a metal urn, a few metres from George and

Elizabeth's markers. This is blacksmith made, possibly indicating the family were relatives of Duncan Robertson, the Windsor blacksmith (in George Street like George) of the 1870s. Iron markers of modest proportions are often found in country cemeteries in this period, but not of this design.

Site 5: Boer War Memorial, McQuade Park, Windsor.

The Boer War, conducted between 1899 and 1902 in southern Africa, was a conflict fought between the British Empire and descendants of Dutch descent in the Transvaal Republic (South African Republic) and the Orange Free State. The Hawkesbury Squadron of New South Wales Lancers was formed in the district, with half squadrons at Windsor and Richmond. A number of mounted soldiers went to the war from the district, and this monument was erected to those who died in the conflict: George Montgomery, Charles Gosper and George Dickson.

The carving on the pedestal was executed by John O'Kelly.

SPECIAL THANKS ARE GIVEN TO TRISH MOON FOR CONDUCTING THIS SECTION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST HAWKESBURY BRANCH'S TOUR, AND FOR HER GENEROUS SHARING OF HER RESEARCH ABOUT JOHN O'KELLY.

Site 6: Ebenezer Church, Churchyard and Quarry.

The Stephens family were well-known stonemasons in the Ebenezer-Wilberforce area in the second half of the nineteenth century. Much of the stone work of John Stephens and his son James Brown Stephens survives in many forms, from the monumental mason work in Ebenezer Cemetery to elegant stone houses of varied size and design, and even to churches and the grand 'Tizzana Winery'. Works dated to the period 1840s to late 1860s would seem to be the craftsmanship of John, whilst those undertaken in the next twenty years were those of a father and son team. Since John died in 1890, the 1890s and early twentieth century buildings are those of James Brown Stephens.

Ebenezer Churchyard:

The Stephens partnership undertook work for the Grono and Books families of Pitt Town and down river, descendants of the well-known colonial shipwrights and sailors. The vaults still stand. Esther Grono (granddaughter of John Grono) kept a diary, and noted the work being undertaken on the graves:

**Grono old vault.....'Wed. 1st September 1880 Alex [Books II] paid Mr Stevens the stonemason £1.10.0 for engraving the names of his father and mother on the old vault.'

.....'January the 3, 1882 this day Mr Stevens came here and Alex paid him 7 pounds for doing up the old vault and putting Grandfathers and Grandmothers names on it.'

**Grono new vault.....'Tuesday 22 february 1882 we paid Mr. John Stevens 5 pounds for painting and putting up the pallasading of the new vault'

Ebenezer Church and Quarry:

William Barren and William Harvey were the stone masons who built Ebenezer church, completed in 1809. William was the brother of Jacintho Barren, an assigned servant to Andrew Johnston at Portland Head. These men are reputed to have built both of Andrew's homes, one before they built the church and one after. The first was completed before 1806. Andrew Johnston had arrived as a free settler in 1802 On the *Coromandel*, and is reputed to be the architect of Ebenezer Church. Many of the farms in the neighbourhood, originally called Portland Head, were settled in 1803 by other *Coromandel* arrivals.

The Ebenezer Church is the oldest church in use in Australia today, having been built in 1809, and been in continuous use. The land was donated by one of the settlers and built by local donations and voluntary effort.

The quarry is located nearby, and the stone was removed by the traditional methods outlined at the beginning of these notes. Settler George Hall swam his bullocks across the river to draw the stone to the building site.

Site 7: 'Tizzana Glen'

James Brown Stephens purchased portion 16 of Wilberforce Parish on 10 April 1879, for £60- being £1 per acre. He already had a leasehold on the property. He and his father proceeded to build a two-roomed stone cottage on the site. Extensions soon followed, with two rooms added behind on the northern side. Later another two rooms were added onto the southern side of the original cottage, one behind the other. All were of beautifully crafted stone blocks. The exact evolution of the house is difficult to determine, and there appears to have been another free standing chimneyed room (kitchen?) behind the southern extension. Verandahs paved with stone blocks were built on the front and southern sides of both wings. Further rooms have been added onto the back, and a modern room encloses the earlier back courtyard. The well is blocked in handsomely with stone, and the early stone bread oven survives behind the house. The outside toilet too is built of stone, dating possibly to the early twentieth century.

John Stephens (buried in Sackville Cemetery) had married Elizabeth Brown in 1843. Possibly this is Elizabeth, the granddaughter of pioneer exconvict settler David Brown who held 155 acres in Wilberforce by 1804. James Brown Stephens was the third of their seven children, born in 1848.

In January 1923 the property was inherited by his two children, John Bradley Stephens and Hannah Effie Stephens. In 1927 it was bought by John Mund, of German extraction, and his wife Jennie. Their son John inherited it in 1954, and then Daryl Bruce Mund received it in 1985 owning it until 1996. It has had two owners since then.

Besides 'Tizzana Glen', The Stephens stone masons, father and son, between them are thought to have built the houses in the district known as:

Coromandel, Stoneleigh, Ebenezer Villa, Tom Lillas' house, Pickwick Park, Rockleigh, Stonehill, Merit Farm and Peppertree Hill (previously Boulder Farm, and now separated from a modern house of that name on a subdivision of the property).

Other constructions believed to be the work of the Stephens stone masons are the Sackville North Public School, now part of Brewongle Field Studies Centre, St Thomas' Anglican Church at Sackville Reach, the Lower Portland Public School, the Methodist Manse at Sackville, the old ruin on Portland Head Road and Tizzana Winery.

Site 8: 'Peppertree Hill' [previously Boulder Farm] 711 Sackville Road, Ebenezer

This charming stone cottage was built as a wedding present for a Mrs Brown in 1913. This was possibly the wife of the grandson of Elizabeth Brown who had married John Stephens. The stone mason was James Brown Stephens. It consists of four charming rooms built around a hallway that runs through to the back of the house. Each of the rooms still has its original metal ceiling, all decorated in different patterns. A stone addition was made to the house in 1935, and identified by several roughly carved initials in the stone, with the date. The stone blocks of the addition are more golden in colour and more finely grained than those of the original section of the house. They have had two previous uses, coming from the demolished Walsh's Chambers in Penrith, and previous to that from Sir John Jamison's famous 1820s mansion 'Regentville' near Penrith

The quarry is readily identifiable nearby.

Site 9: Tizzana Winery, Tizzana Road, Sackville

The large stone winery with gabled ends and stone chimney was probably built by the Stephens stone masons for Thomas Fiaschi. It is located on a grant to John Turnbull given in 1803. From Dennis Kirwan (Turnbull's son-in-law) the property was sold to Dr Fiaschi, a distinguished surgeon from Italy, in 1882. Fiaschi established the Jubilee vineyard at Sackville, and the building dates from 1887. After he died in 1927 the winery was carried on by his wife. It was unroofed in fire in 1955, and has since been lovingly and carefully restored by the current owners, Peter and Caroline Auld. It operates as Tizzana Winery.

References:

- RI Jack, *Exploring the Hawksbury*, 2nd edition, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, 1990.
- R. Arndell, *Pioneers of Portland Head*, smith and Paterson, Brisbane, 1976.
- Nepean Times* of 15.9.1888.
- C. and N. McHardy, *Sacred to the Memory: a Study of Wilberforce Cemetery*, authors, Kurrajong, 2003.
- Steele, *Early Days of Windsor*, 1916, facsimile, Library of Australian History, North Sydney, 1977.
- Information from the owner of the Antiques shop[Bob and Dot's Antiques], now in General Store building, 9.2.2008
- Jan Barkley Jack from personal inspection of the General Store, 9.2.2008.
- Jan Barkley Jack, interview with Jack Rutter of Blacktown, 25.12.1997.
- Jan Barkley Jack, transcriptions of the Catholic Cemetery, 1998.
- Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 18.7.1896, 2.12.1897, 4.5.1901.
- Windsor and Richmond Gazette*,.
- Windsor and Richmond Gazette*,.
- Presbyterian Cemetery, South Windsor, transcribed 9.2.2008 by Jan Barkley Jack and Ian Jack.
- Grono-Books Association, *Two Hawkesbury Sailors*, MTR Printing, Richmond, 1984.
- Information supplied by Trish Moon.
- Information supplied by Nicholas and Anna Lisa Mahboub.
- Information supplied by Val Tuckerman.
- Information supplied by Peter Auld.

S 9698

WINDSOR (Town or District)	SHOP WITH RESIDENCE ABOVE	394 George Street
Post Code 2756 Local Govt Area Windsor		
Author of Proposal K E R Parsons		
Date of Proposal 23/10/78	(Name or Identification of Listing)	(Address or Location)
Suggested Listing Category CLASSIFIED	Bibliography Historic Places of Australia Vol 1, Cassell, 1978 (A C N T) page 24	Owner and Address Mrs John Milne
Committee (Trust Use) see over		
Council (Trust Use) APPROVED CL 18/2/80		advised: 22/2/80

Description Briefly cover the points on the following check list where they are relevant and within your knowledge.

Style The building's architectural merit lies in;

Construction Use (a) Ground level features sandstone faced shopfront with circular arched main door at centre, surmounted by two elaborately carved sandstone figures representing Trade and Commerce. A large shop display window flanks either side of main door.

Architect/s Builder/s

Date of Construction (b) First floor level - rendered decorations including false quoins. The building is crowned by a balustraded parapet and a central allegorical figure of Britannica.

Present Condition The building has recently been repainted and is in good general state of repair.

History It formerly had a rooftop lookout which was demolished many years ago.

Owners Date 1897, cost 600 pounds, built by Mr George Robertson as a general store

Boundaries of proposed listing (boots, saddlery, groceries etc). Ground level sandstone, upper level double clinker brick. The carvings were the work of an Irish stonemason named O'Kelly, who lived opposite and was brought to Australia to work on the Cardinal's Palace at Manly. Except for shop awning, it is in good original condition.

Reasons for listing

Excellent stone carvings around the main entrance door; the building is a significant example of a Victorian period structure in Windsor & which serves as a landmark

Sketch plan and photos
Attach additional photos if any.

Committee References:

HBC/172: 5/12/72: to inspect
ISC/59: 21/6/76: recommended CLASSIFY
HBC/216: 5/7/76: " "
HBC/245: 25/11/78: " RECORD
HBC/246: 5/2/79: prepare CLASSIFY listing proposal
Council: 5/3/79: approved RECORD
HBC/256: 3/12/79: approved CLASSIFY listing proposal
Council: 18/2/80: approved CLASSIFY listing



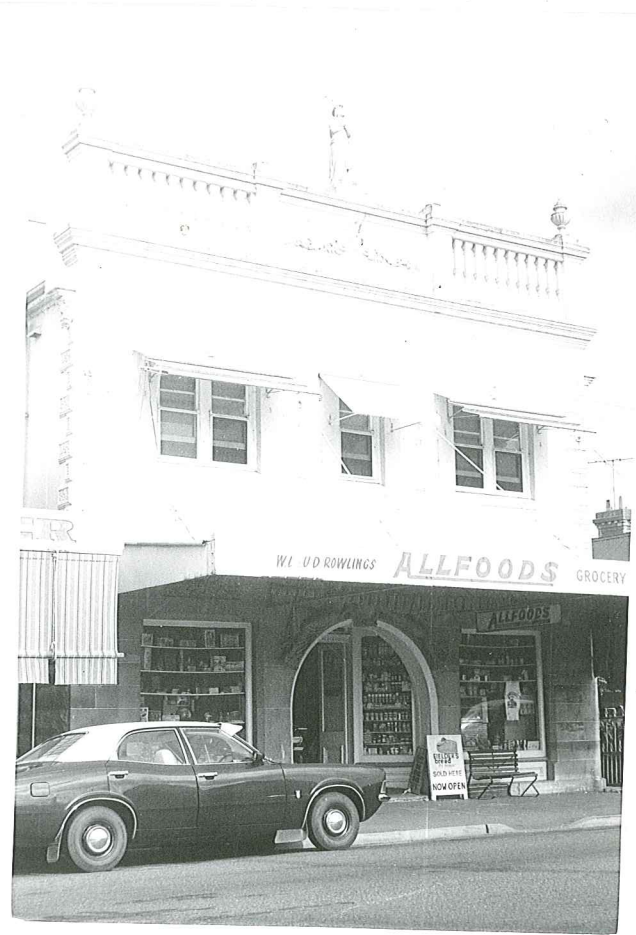
Shop 394 Geo. St. Windsor

314E

D. Sheedy April '76.

George
394 ~~Windsor St~~
Windsor

25-11-78



394 George St

Windsor

25.11.78

Shop - 394 Geo St. Windsor - prop.

W.C. & U.D. Roulings. Very good
sandstone sculpture over doorway.

S

F

STONE

E

D. Sheehy April '76

394 George St

Windsor

25.11.78

394 George St

Windsor

25.11.78

