

Attachment K

**TKD Heritage Assessment – Quarry Street,
Ultimo**



Landscaping Quarry Green Reserve, Ultimo

Heritage Assessment



Prepared for City of Sydney

January 2026

TKD Architects acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and create, recognising their continuing and unbroken connection to the land, water and sky.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and express our gratitude for their sharing of knowledge and cultures.

Cover

Photograph by Matthew Taylor.

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Image credits

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Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Historical overview	4
3	Physical evidence	8
4	Comparative analysis	10
5	Assessment of heritage significance	15
6	Conclusions	17



- 1 Aerial location image (top) and aerial detail image of Quarry Green Reserve, Ultimo. Source: NearMaps with TKD Architects overlay.



1 Introduction

1.1 Background and purpose of report

This report has been prepared on behalf of the City of Sydney to assess the heritage significance of landscaping in Quarry Green Reserve, Ultimo. The property was identified as a potential heritage item in the Albert Smillie and Ilmar Berzins City Architect and City Landscape Architect Heritage Study (TKD Architects and Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects, October 2023). Quarry Street is located within the Ultimo Heritage Conservation Area (C69).

The assessment of heritage significance has been undertaken using the heritage assessment criteria contained in the New South Wales Heritage Office Guidelines, *Assessing Heritage Significance* (2023).

1.2 Site description

The site is located between Jones Street and Ada Place, Ultimo. The reserve forms a landscaped open space on what was Quarry Street and lies along an east west axis.

The site is bounded by two storey 19th century terraces to the north and a late 20th century four to five storey apartment complex to the south. The terraces have a traditional relationship with the reserve with a formed footpath to the property alignment while the apartments have a landscape buffer and grassed berm to the reserve with limited pedestrian access from the reserve by way of a concrete path to the basement of the complex.



2 View of Quarry Green Reserve.
Source: Taylor Brammer.

2 Historical overview

2.1 Early site history

Originally the country of the Gommerigal people, the land that the reserve is located formed part of the Ultimo Estate that was developed as a rural retreat by surgeon John Harris. The estate comprised of 232 acres that was made of up land grants to Harris from 1803 to 1806.

From the mid nineteenth century the area was subdivided for housing and industrial uses and became a densely populated working class suburb with employment gained in the extensive wool stores and quarries. By the early 20th century, the development of factories replaced many houses with a resultant decline in the residential population.

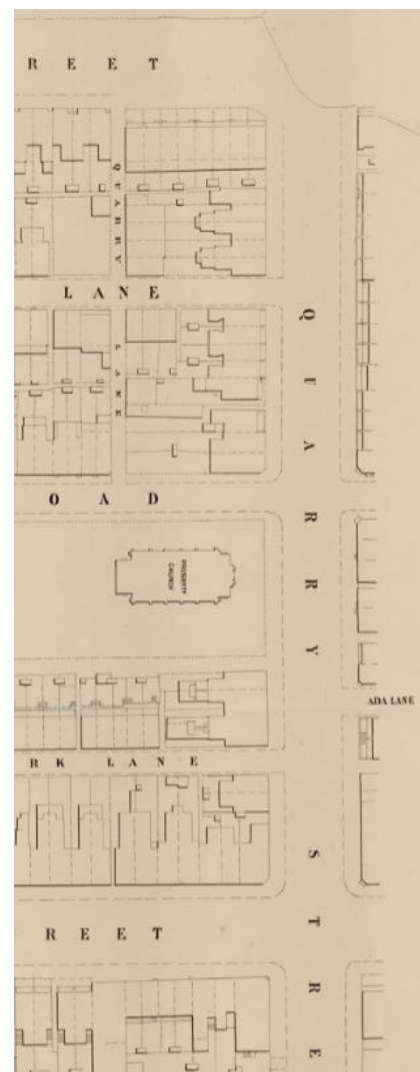
The area remained as farmland, in possession of the Harris family, until it was subdivided in 1859. At that time, most of the current streets in the locality were laid out, and the descendants of John Harris constructed the first residences in the area (at least one of which – a row of terrace houses in Wattle Street – was still owned by the family in the early 1980s). The first entry for Quarry Street (Pyrmont) appeared in the 1875 edition of Sands Directory, but no occupants were included in the entry. Two years later residences, along with vacant undeveloped land, were listed on both sides of the street.

Residential development accelerated in the 1880s. By 1888, the area was fully with houses and a Presbyterian church on south side corner of Brown Street. However, the construction of factories, quarries, woolstores and a power station in the early twentieth century saw the demolition of hundreds of houses, and a steady decline in population.

After World War II, the traditional industries that had used Ultimo were in decline, with the suburb experiencing a general period of decay. Outlying suburbs consisting of primarily detached housing became popular in the post-World War II expansion of Sydney and attached terrace housing that formed the primary housing stock of Ultimo was seen as a poor alternative.

From the 1970s onwards, Ultimo experienced a revitalisation, along with other inner city areas such as Paddington for its convenience and changing social attitudes to what were formerly seen as less desirable working class suburbs. This social movement led to a continuing gentrification of the area and introducing contemporary concepts of Greening Cities and the benefits of open green spaces within the prevailing urban framework. With this movement, many of the existing warehousing and other large scale buildings in Ultimo and Pyrmont were adaptively reused for both commercial and residential purposes.

The greening cities movement occasioned the urban greening policies of the then Labor government and resulted in extensive street tree planting through the suburb. Quarry Green Reserve Road forms one of a series of road closures undertaken by the City of Sydney in the 1970s and 80s as an ongoing outcome of the City of Sydney 'Greening of Sydney' 1971 plan, more particularly Action Plan 2, the Low-cost Streetscapes Improvements Action Plan.¹ This Action Plan related to various locations in Central Sydney and streets in various suburbs close to it.



3 Development on the southern side of Quarry Street between Jones Street (top) and Harris Street (bottom) in 1888.

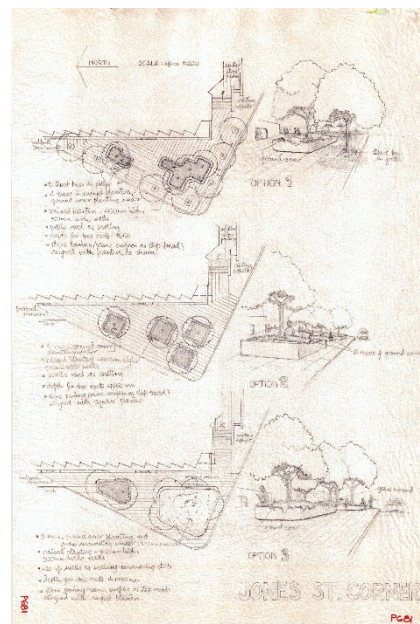
Source: State Library of NSW

Metropolitan Detail Series City of Sydney
Sheet R3, 1888

¹ *The City of Sydney Strategic Plan Objectives, Policies and Action Priorities* (Council of the City of Sydney, 1974), p.72

The demand for further pedestrian amenity through the city was the result of social changes and the impact of gentrification where former working class neighbourhoods such as Paddington, Ultimo and Glebe had been rediscovered by a new (generally) middle class educated generation as convenient places to live. Along with the street closures and increased pedestrian amenity was the extensive street tree planting that was undertaken through the city. This had the effect of increasing the aesthetic and ecological values of the place and thereby attracting further middle class people to the areas.

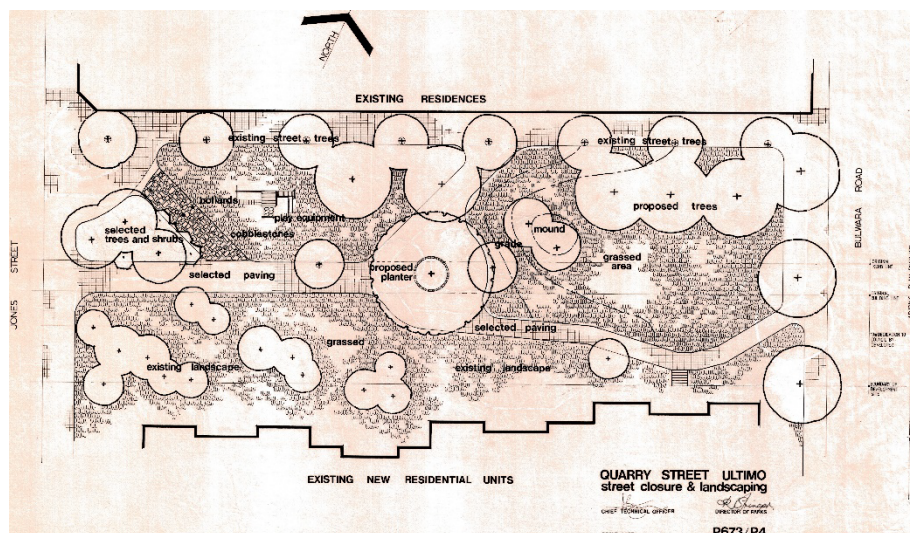
As part of this, the reserve was created in concert with the development of the apartments to the south of the reserve providing much needed green open space to what was once a dense working class suburb. Early conceptual plans of the reserve show the use of broad grassed areas, canopy trees to the periphery and a feature tree to the centre of the park. These plans are signed by Andrew Prouse, at that time a recent landscape architectural graduate from the University of New South Wales undergraduate program. The plans indicate pathways, sitting areas and an indication of play equipment. Later drawings document the evolution of the scheme. The completed landscaped closure was officially opened by the deputy mayor, Tony Bradford, on 12 May 1983.



4 Above: undated sketch drawing describing options for landscape design at the corner of Quarry and Jones Street.

Left: sketch plan of landscape works in Quarry Street, 1982. Ilmar Berzins signed the drawing as Chief Technical Officer.

Source: City of Sydney Archives
Unique ID A-01200783 and Unique ID A- 01200782



The following images describe the evolution of the place



- 5 Left: 1943 aerial view of Quarry Street showing the substantial industrial building to the south that is now apartments.
Right: 1982 aerial view - the Quarry Green Reserve, possibly under construction. The landscape grassed berm to the early 1980s apartments on the south side of Quarry Street is in place.

Source: https://www.spatial.nsw.gov.au/products_and_services/aerial_and_historical_imagery



- 6 Left: 1986 aerial view - the reserve completed showing the development of the canopies of the trees including a number to the centre. A paved path is located leading from Jones Street and terminating in the centre. The Casuarina trees are well established to the Jones Street entry.
Right: 1991 aerial view. The reserve characterised by further maturity of tree canopies and identification of two open grassed spaces separated by trees.

Source: https://www.spatial.nsw.gov.au/products_and_services/aerial_and_historical_imagery





- 7 View looking west to Bulwara Street showing new kerbing and open space, August 1986. Kerbing incorporates access to lane and vehicular parking locations. Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00059322.



- 8 Photograph taken in November 1994. The Reserve is maturing in form. Note the semi mature tree canopies to the left hand side of the image, which was established prior to the reserve being implemented as a whole. The Casuarina trees to the centre of the park have been removed to provide an enhanced resident amenity. Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00042343.



- 9 Left: 1997 aerial view. The reserve exhibits a dense tree canopy with an open grassed area to the east. Right: 2025 aerial (Six maps) The reserve's tree canopy has been rationalised with a broader grassed area to the centre and mature trees to the western portion. Trees are retained to the periphery and a pathway is located through the centre. Sources: https://www.spatial.nsw.gov.au/products_and_services/aerial_and_historical_imagery; SIX Maps.



3 Physical evidence

The landscape design of the Quarry Green Reserve features an extensive grassed open space at the centre with mature native trees forming a vegetated curtilage to the reserve. Paperbarks and Eucalypts predominate as the main tree species with Casuarina trees at the Jones Street entry. Garden beds are located adjacent to the apartments to the south, in shady areas under the canopy trees and to the footpath adjacent to the terraces to the north. These garden beds are characterised by low planting with a combination of both native and exotic plantings. These low plantings ensure clear sightlines through the reserve and to the properties that face it, assisting in the safety and security of the reserve.

Traversing the open space are a series of brick paved paths linking Bulwara Road and Jones Street. Supplementary paved areas with seating are located to the periphery of the open space and provide both tables and seats located under the tree canopy. These seats are in the form of typical park bench seating used by the City of Sydney in their parks from the late twentieth century. There is a low sandstone wall that forms the edge of a planter at the Jones Street entry to the park.

There is extensive street tree planting in the surrounding streets that complements the treed nature of the reserve, with vegetated views gained from the reserve to the western and eastern aspects. The reserve is well cared for and is enjoyed by the community as a valued green open space in Ultimo.

Popular community events, including the Ultimo Pyrmont Uptown festival, Christmas carols and Lunar New Year celebrations are held in the park.²

Layout

The Quarry Green Reserve retains much of the original conceptual layout of tree planting to the periphery to the reserve and grassed areas to the centre. The grassed central area has been rationalised to a larger and more cohesive space with the removal of some smaller trees in the middle of the reserve as a response to the maturing of the canopies of the trees. Major tree plantings are retained to the western end and to the periphery of the reserve. In recent times, some smaller trees have been placed along the central path, these forming a discordant element in the reserve.

Hard Landscape Elements

A brick paved path has been formed through the centre of the reserve that links Jones Street and Bulwara Road, along with the retention of the earlier footpath in front of the terraces along the northern edge. Brick paving is retained as the main pathways' material. A concrete path links the carpark of the neighbouring apartments to the central pathway, creating a discordant element. A low sandstone wall is located at the Jones Street entry.

2 <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/park-playground-works/quarry-green-upgrade-works>, accessed 9 October 2025.

Vegetation

There has been a rationalisation of the trees and vegetation through the reserve. While the concept of major plantings has been retained, a rationalisation of tree locations has occurred. The retained mature trees to the western portion are of a substantial canopy width, height and form, and along with the planting to the periphery are the major vegetative form. Smaller trees, previously located through the centre have been removed to form a broader grassed area. This adaption has made the reserve more suitable for year-round use, allowing access to winter sunshine in the centre of the site.

The now mature trees to the reserve are typical of the species that were used at the time of the reserves' implementation. Native evergreen trees predominate with Paperbark trees (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) extensively used for both street tree and park plantings across Sydney. Eucalyptus trees are also well established and form part of the original planting from the 1980s.

The underplanting, while perhaps consistent in character with the original plantings (possibly *Lomandra longifolia*) have been changed over time, reflecting both evolving ecological micro climate of developed tree canopies and limited life span of some of these species.



- 10 Images of the reserve showing the low sandstone wall to Jones Street, low underplanting and the mature form of the evergreen native trees. Note the broad grassed central area.

Source: Taylor Brammer.

4 Comparative analysis

4.1 Ilmar Berzins

Ilmar Berzins (1921-1993) was born in Latvia.³ He studied horticulture at the State Horticultural College in Riga, Latvia and landscape architecture at the State Horticultural College and University of Technology in Hanover, Germany. He, along with his wife Lucija (and son Alnis, arrived in Melbourne on 23 February 1949. Migration records indicate the family's destination as "Hazelhome" in Orange, the home of Lionel Sampson.⁴ While in Orange Berzins worked in the Email Ltd whitegoods factory to pay off the bond for the fares to Australia. During this time Berzins prepared a master plan and nominated plantings for the Orange Golf Course:

Something between two and three thousand trees and shrubs have been planted since 1949 – pines, elms, magnolias, chestnuts, crab-apples, flowering cherries and prunuses, rhododendrons, berry-bushes, viburnums, azaleas and a multitude of others. The plantings have been carried out under the supervision of Elmar [sic] Berzins, who has had wide European experience in landscape-planning.⁵

Ilmar Berzins and his family moved to Sydney in 1951. Berzins started working at Sydney Municipal Council on 13 June as a first-grade draftsman. His recruitment by the Council is widely said to be the first employment by local government of a formally trained landscape architect in Australia. According to pioneering landscape architect Allan Corry,

... he brought Modernist European design styles to a city desperately seeking innovative civic design ideas. Berzins was given many opportunities to create new community spaces and redesign existing parks. He developed a distinctive style that incorporated free-form shapes. Sandstone book-leaf walling, naturally sculpted boulders, water-worn pebbles, and strongly contrasting plant forms and textures, all artistically arranged to form pleasing compositions, a marked contrast to the traditional council designs of that time. His most important designs were completed during the 1950s and 1960s...⁶

In 1953 Ilmar Berzins was promoted to senior draftsman. He and Lucija became naturalised citizens in April 1958.⁷ His abilities were recognised by the City Council and he was promoted to supervising draftsman in 1964, followed by assistant landscape architect in 1966. He was promoted to chief technical officer in 1971, followed by promotion to Director of Parks and Gardens. In this role he would advise external consultants on major urban projects. Berzins retired in 1986.

Ilmar Berzins was described by his colleague John Sweaney as "very flamboyant, probably one of the best draughtsmen and most knowledgeable person associated with horticulture that I'd encountered".⁸ According to landscape architect and urban designer Tempe McGowan, "[Berzins] held the passionate belief that all people need to enjoy nature and that nature in turn



11 Ilmar Berzins, 1949.
Source: National Archives of Australia Series A2571, ID 203663834.

3 His name appears as Ilmars Berzins on immigration records held at the National Archives of Australia.

4 National Archives of Australia Series A2571, ID 203663834

5 "Golf and Blossom", *The Bulletin*, 21 October 1953, p.4.

6 Allan Correy, "Berzins, Ilmars" in Richard Aitken and Michael Looker (editors), *Oxford Companion to Australia Gardens* (Oxford University Press in association with the Australian Garden History Society, 2002), p.87.

7 Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, 'Certificates of Naturalization,' Thursday 24 Apr 1958 [Issue No.23], Page 1261.

8 John Sweaney, Interviewed by Jo Kijas on 8 May 2012 (City of Sydney oral history collection), quoted in biography of Ilmars Berzins provided by the City of Sydney.

can ameliorate the human temperament. ... His designs were socially responsive and typical of trends in international, modernist design culture in the way he created little arcadian retreats in the city wilderness.”⁹

Berzins’ abilities were suited to the task, for he had the unwavering aim of introducing nature into the city and he instigated very liberal planting programs. His aesthetic was not related to Australian indigenous landscapes, instead introducing a European sensibility to the thoughtful design of public open spaces in Sydney, detailing his landscape designs in a way that was unprecedented in public works. Over the many years which his career spanned, Berzins gradually utilised more Australian natives and applied the principles of the Sydney Bush School of landscape architecture.

4.2 Other reserves, parks and street closures

Ilmar Berzins’ time with the City of Sydney coincided with a later twentieth century movement toward pedestrianizing public spaces or closing sections of road to expand public space. According to Andrew Briger, former Deputy Lord Mayor and an important figure in the formulation of the 1971 City of Sydney Strategic Plan,

In December 1971 a new Floor Space Ratio Code and a Parking Code were approved and the long-term process of implementing the integrated city-wide pedestrian network commenced following the closure of the first section of Martin Place to vehicular traffic. This led to numerous streetscape improvements in what was referred to as the “greening” of the city. Most notable amongst these were Sydney Square, the Circular Quay and Dixon Street (Chinatown) malls, Railway Square, Wynyard Place and the street closures of South Paddington, Surry Hills, Chippendale, Pyrmont, Elizabeth Bay and the Fitzroy Gardens extensions at Potts Point.¹⁰

Berzins designed the layout and landscape treatment of a number of such pedestrianising schemes. Some notable streetscape upgrades designed by or under Berzins include landscaping to public space in Ulster Street, Paddington (1974), the street closure and landscaping for Springfield Avenue, Kings Cross (1983) and streetscape treatment of Macquarie Place and Macquarie Place Park (1975).

Quarry Green Reserve is part of a series of open spaces that have been developed by The City in the Ultimo area. Major parks in the Ultimo/Pyrmont area were formed by deliberate planning in the redevelopment of major industrial and residential sites. These sites include Ballarat Park and Refinery Square, Cadi Park, Tumbalong Park and Metcalfe Park. Other parks were formed from left over land from development sites. These include Jones Street Pocket Park and Paradise Reserve.

Paradise Reserve

Located on a leftover portion of land in Pyrmont between Bulwara Road and the expressway that links Sydney CBD to the Anzac Bridge, the reserve is defined to the south by an extensive sound wall to the expressway. The reserve is densely treed with Australian natives including Casuarinas and Eucalypts with a Hills Weeping Fig located in a raised grassed platform. Its

9 Tempe McGowan, ‘Humanising the City’, *Monument*, Issue No. 25, 1998, p.58.

10 Andrew Briger, ‘The Politics of Planning’ in Peter Webber (editor), *The Design of Sydney: Three Decades of Change in the City Centre* (Law Book Company, 1988), p.52.

name commemorates the Paradise Quarry, so named because of the good quality workable stone that came from it.¹¹

Jones Street Pocket Park

This park is located at the base of the old Pyrmont Paradise Quarry and forms an important pedestrian link between Quarry Masters Drive and Mount Street. The park was the site of the quarry was the source of the celebrated Pyrmont Sandstone that was used in significant government buildings in Sydney. The park is located between the remnant quarry face and apartments and forms an important visual amenity for the apartments and the pedestrian strategy for Pyrmont.

The park was designed by Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects and features a bitumen path that meanders through the park and low vegetated berms. Plantings include tree ferns that allow for an appreciation of the former quarry face.



12 Views of the Jones Street Pocket Park taken in January 2009.
Source: City of Sydney Archives
Unique ID A—00062071 and Unique ID A-00062067. Mark Goddard photographs.

Fig Lane Park

Fig Lane Park was designed in 1996 by Clouston Associates for the City of Sydney. The land was left over from plans for an expressway that was thwarted by community action. The park features a central grassed area and concrete unit paving around the periphery with a Fig tree in the centre of the grassed area. There are a number of stone walls and a small children's playground. The park design continues the landscape design principles of Quarry Green Reserve of a central broad open grassed space with dense tree planting to the periphery providing a vegetated curtilage to the park. Evolution of the landscape concept of Quarry Green Reserve is represented in varying tree species and a feature sandstone sculpture to the central grassed area.

¹¹ "The Quarries of Pyrmont" at <https://www.visitsydneyaustralia.com.au/lost-quarries8.html>, accessed 7 October 2025.



- 13 Views of Fig Lane Park taken in January 2009.
Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00062327 and Unique ID A-00062325.
Mark Goddard photographs.

Union Square, Pyrmont

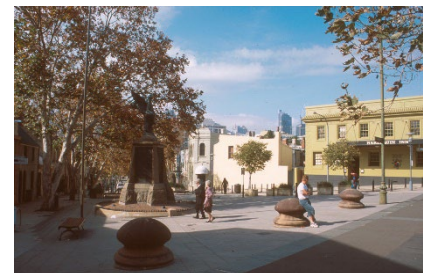
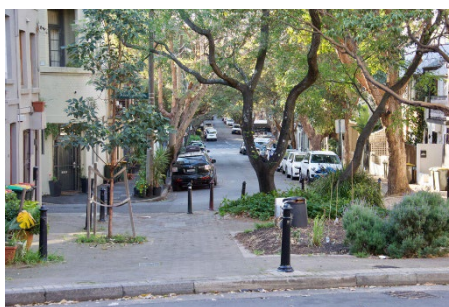
Union Square is an irregular and informal space between Union Street, Paternoster Row and Harris Street. It was formed in 1998 after Union Street and Pyrmont Bridge were closed to vehicular traffic. The Square comprises open paved space and level surfaces between steps, with a row of mature deciduous trees along its northern side. It also contains the Pyrmont War Memorial, which was unveiled in this location during April 1922. Union Square has become an important focus of community activity in Pyrmont.

Street closures

The City of Sydney undertook a relatively large number of street closures during the 1970s and 1980s. Apart from major civic precincts such as Martin Place (1968-1979), sections of streets in inner suburbs were closed off to control traffic movements and provide amenity to residents and pedestrians. They included the following closures.

Mountain Street at Macarthur Street in Ultimo was formed to form the Mountain Street Reserve, a small community park. The works are understood to have taken place between 1984 and 1986. They consisted of circular brick planting beds and low curved walls, brick paving, an area of grass and standard seating. Trees include evergreen and deciduous species, which have matured since the reserve was completed.

A pocket park was formed by the closure of Arthur Street at Alexander Street in Surry Hills, which is understood to have been completed circa 1984. Photographs taken at this time show brick paving, standard bench seating, beds containing native ground covers and Eucalypts on the edges of the small park. These details and elements are characteristic of street closure landscaping during the mid-1980s.



- 14 Looking south-east across Union Square towards Central Sydney, May 2004.
Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-01130533



- 15 The landscaping of the Mountain Street Reserve in August 1986.
Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00059318.

- 16 The small park formed by the closure of a part of Arthur Street in Surry Hills in September 1984 (left) and September 2021 (right).
Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00058726 and Unique ID A-0171874.
Ken Ryan photograph.

Other closures in Surry Hills demonstrating a similar palette of materials to Mountain Street and Arthur Street include Tudor Street at Crown Street that was completed circa 1987, Cooper Street at Riley Street that was constructed during 1978-1979 and Napier Street at Selwyn Street, completed in 1985.



17 Left: Tudor Street at Crown Street, photographed in February 2010.
Right: Cooper Street at Riley Street, photographed in February 2010.
Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00071755 and Unique ID A-00071829.
Mark Stevens photographs.

Not all street closures within the boundaries of the City of Sydney were initiated or documented by Council. For instance, the Forbes Street Reserve in Woolloomooloo was documented in 1982 by Environmental Landscapes Pty Ltd. Some years later, the southern end of Jones Street, Ultimo, was closed off as a continuation of Mary Ann Street Park. The City West Development Corporation is understood to have been responsible for the design and construction of the park.

4.3 Conclusions

The Quarry Street Reserve is representative of the social undertaking in the greening cities movement that was prevalent in the mid to late twentieth century. The closure and landscaping of the street resulted from the initiation of 1971 City of Sydney Strategic Plan and the associated Low Cost Streetscapes Improvements Action Plan (Action Plan 2), which informed street closures and landscaping in many parts of the City of Sydney.

Quarry Green Reserve is representative of a number of open space improvements through the Pyrmont and Ultimo area, along with other localities such as Surry Hills, which were inspired by the Sydney Bush School aesthetic through the use of Australian native planting as its main structural form and the use of materials such as brick for paving and planters.

5 Assessment of heritage significance

5.1 Assessment

Historical significance

Criterion A An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Quarry Green Reserve is one of a relatively large number of landscaped street closures resulting from the implementation of the 1971 City of Sydney 'Strategic Plan in Central Sydney and inner-city suburbs within the local government area. It is historically important as one of a group of landscaped street closures providing evidence of the "greening" of Sydney that came out of the Strategic Plan.

Quarry Green Reserve meets the threshold for listing at a Local level.

Criterion B An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance to NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Quarry Green Reserve is associated with Ilmar Berzins, the City of Sydney's landscape architect who oversaw extensive development of green open spaces throughout the city. Quarry Green Reserve is representative of the parks and open spaces that Berzins was associated with. It is a fine and attractive example of landscaping, but may not have been wholly the work of by Berzins

Quarry Green Reserve meets the threshold for listing at a Local level.

Aesthetic significance

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

Quarry Green Reserve is representative of a number of open space improvements through the Ultimo area that were inspired by the Sydney Bush School aesthetic through the use of Australian native planting as its main structural form with Sydney School detailing of brick paving and sandstone. The planting has matured to form an attractive landscape and provide an attractive recreational precinct in Ultimo.

Quarry Green Reserve meets this criterion at a Local level.

Social significance

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

It has not been determined whether Quarry Green Reserve has strong or special associations with the local community, although evidence indicates it is a focus of regular community activities and celebrations.

Quarry Green Reserve may meet the threshold for listing at a Local level, but more research is needed to confirm this.

Research potential

Criterion E *An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

Quarry Green Reserve is representative of the greening cities movement and social change through the gentrification of inner city suburbs. However, similar evidence can be provided by other comparable sites across the City of Sydney.

Quarry Green Reserve does not meet the threshold for listing at a State or Local level.

Rarity

Criterion F *An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

Quarry Green Reserve is not rare. There are numerous examples of street closures and attendant landscaping designed by Ilmar Berzins and others and constructed across the City of Sydney during the 1970s and 1980s.

Quarry Green Reserve does not meet the threshold for listing at a State or Local level.

Representativeness

Criterion G *An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or local area's) cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environment.*

Quarry Green Reserve is representative of the street closures and attendant landscaping designed by Ilmar Berzins and others and constructed across the City of Sydney during the 1970s and 1980s. It is also representative of the greening cities movement and social change taking place as evidenced by the gentrification of inner city suburbs.

Quarry Green Reserve meets the threshold for listing at a Local level.

5.2 Statement of significance

Quarry Green Reserve is one of several landscaped street closures resulting from the implementation of the 1971 City of Sydney 'Strategic Plan in Central Sydney and inner-city suburbs. It is historically important as one of a group of landscaped street closures, providing evidence of the "greening" of Sydney that came out of the Strategic Plan. The Reserve is associated with the significant City of Sydney landscape architect Ilmar Berzins, It is representative of the parks and open spaces that Berzins was associated with and is a fine and attractive example of landscaping, but may not have been wholly the work of by Berzins. The Reserve demonstrates the influence of the Sydney Bush School aesthetic by its use of Australian native planting and detailing of brick paving and sandstone.

6 Conclusions

Quarry Green Reserve, Ultimo, fulfils the NSW Heritage Council's criteria for historical significance, historical associations, aesthetics and representativeness at a local level. It is also likely to fulfil the criterion for social significance. Because of this it warrants listing as a heritage item in Schedule 5 of Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012.