

Attachment L

**Draft Inventory Sheet – Quarry Street,
Ultimo**

Heritage inventory sheet

Based on the NSW Heritage Office State Heritage Inventory sheet

ITEM DETAILS			
Name of Item	Quarry Green Reserve		
Former name			
Item type	Landscape		
Address	Number	Street Quarry Street	Suburb Ultimo
Property description	Lot		DP
Use	Current		Former
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 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.		
Level of significance	State:	Local:	
Heritage listings			
DESCRIPTION			
Designer	City of Sydney Parks and Civic Affairs Department – Ilmar Berzins, Chief Technical Officer/Director of Parks; Andrew Prowse		
Builder			
Construction years	1981-1983		

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Physical description	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. The Quarry Green Reserve retains much of the original conceptual layout of tree planting to the periphery of 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. 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.
Physical condition	
Modification and Dates	Upgrading circa 2014
Archaeological potential	

HISTORY

The coastal regions of Sydney between Port Jackson and Botany Bay are the ancestral territories of the Eora people. The traditional owners of the land now within the City of Sydney local government area were the Cadigal (Gadigal) people. In common with other tribes living by Sydney Harbour, the Cadigal lived in harmony with the natural resources within their country, fishing from canoes or hunting the animals that lived in their surroundings. The tribe appears to have moved within its territory in response to the seasons and family connections. Shell middens and other archaeological remains in the area provide material evidence of many

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centuries of sustained connection to the land that also sustained them. The arrival of white settlers caused the wholesale disruption of traditional life and the cultural practices of the Eora people generally. Despite enormous challenges, today many Indigenous people identify as Eora and maintain cultural practices and a connection to Country.

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 up of 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 developed 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. This Action Plan related to various locations in Central Sydney and streets in various suburbs close to it.

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 Prowse, 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

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scheme. The completed landscaped closure was officially opened by the deputy mayor, Tony Bradford, on 12 May 1983.

Quarry Green was formed out of the road closure of the central section of Quarry Street. Land was given to the City when the Country Producers Store site was redeveloped. Part of the approval conditions for the development of the site was the granting of lots 1 and 2 facing Quarry Street as public reserve. In return, the City agreed to the closure of Burlinson Street (which ran parallel between Bulwara Road and Jones Street) to permit development. The City prepared Landscape Plans for the 'Green' between 1981-82 and it was constructed in 1983. The current layout still reflects this design of pathways, turf areas and mix of native tree planting. The existing round brick planter bed within the park marks the site of the former junction of Burlinson and Quarry Street. The paperbarks street trees were planted in the 1970s

HISTORICAL THEMES

Australian Theme	State theme	Local theme

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

Historic significance SHR criteria (a)	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.
Historical association SHR criteria (b)	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 Berzins. Quarry Green Reserve meets the threshold for listing at a Local level.
Aesthetic significance SHR criteria (c)	Quarry Green Reserve is representative of several 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 SHR criteria (d)	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.

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Technical/Research significance SHR criteria (e)	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 SHR criteria (f)	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 SHR criteria (g)	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.
Integrity	

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	• Manage Quarry Green Reserve in accordance with Sydney LEP 2012 and Sydney DPC 2012. • Quarry Green Reserve should be retained and conserved. • The external form of Quarry Green, any original spaces, fabric and finishes should be retained and conserved in any future development. The original landscaping, including planting selection and use of materials, reflected the influence of the Sydney Bush School aesthetic and future works should respond to this. • All conservation and new works should be undertaken in accordance with the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter). • It is recommended that a Conservation Management Strategy be prepared to guide future works and conservation at the place. A heritage impact statement should be prepared prior to any major works being undertaken.
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INFORMATION SOURCES

Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Written	TKD Architects, Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects	Landscaping, Quarry Street Reserve, Ultimo, Heritage Assessment	2025	City of Sydney

AUTHOR OF THIS REPORT

Name	Date
TKD Architects	2025

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IMAGES

Image Caption

Looking north-east along Quarry Street from its intersection with Bulwara Road.



**Image
Year**

Circa 1924

**Image author
and Copyright
Holder**

State Library of NSW – Alice
Haigh photograph.

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Image Caption

Aerial photograph of Quarry Street showing the site of Quarry Green Reserve.



Image Year

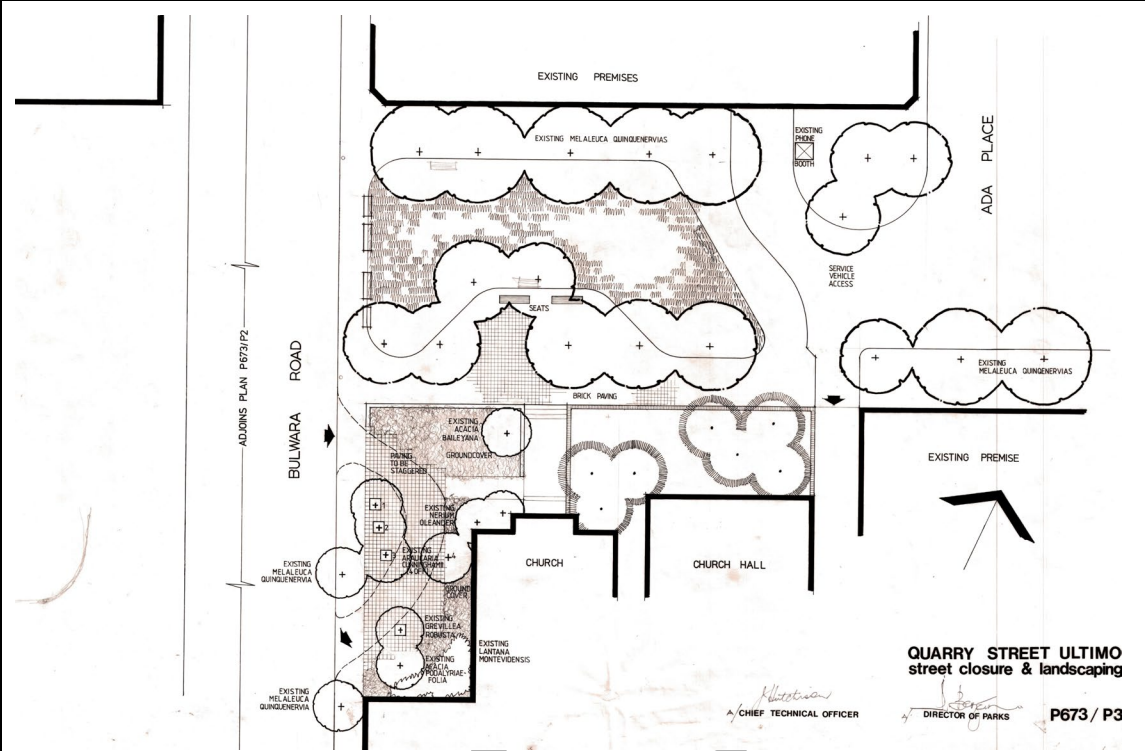
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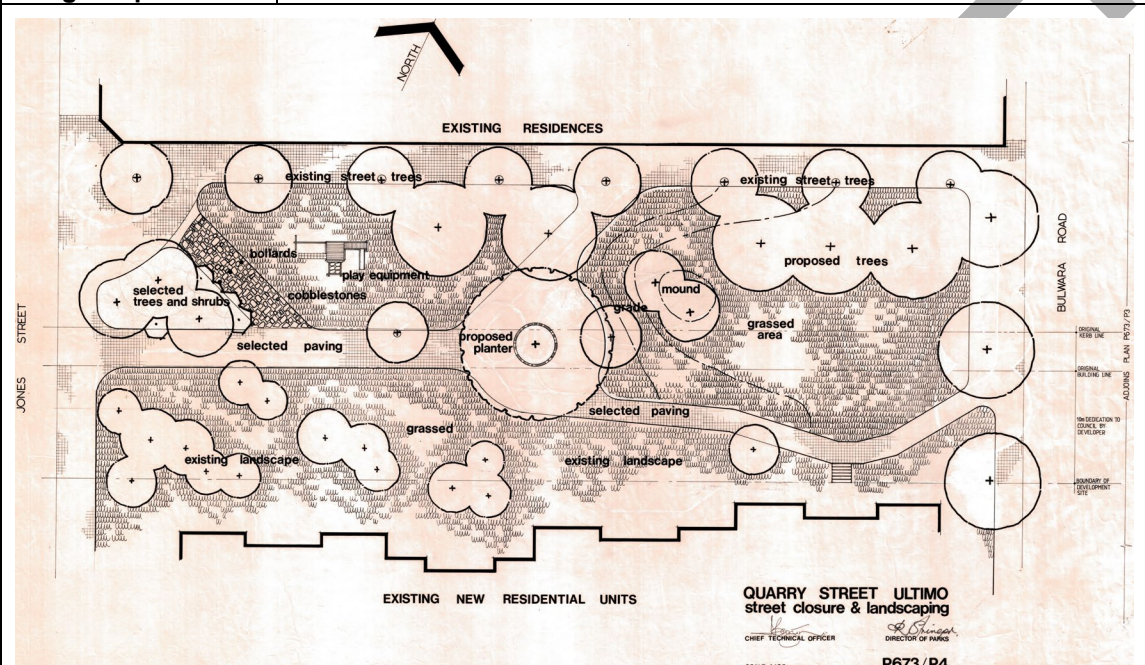
Image author and Copyright Holder

<https://portal.spatial.nsw.gov.au/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html>

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IMAGES

Image Caption South-west along Quarry Street from Ada Place



Image Year	1986	Image author and Copyright Holder	City of Sydney Archives
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