

# **Attachment B1**

**Oxford Street LGBTIQ+ Heritage Assessment  
Report (TKD Architects)**

# Oxford Street LGBTIQ+ Heritage Study

City of Sydney Local Government Area, NSW



**Cover**

The 1998 Mardi Gras on Oxford Street.

Source: City of Sydney Archives, Unique ID A-00070131

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## Executive summary

This report surveys the social history of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTIQ+) community on Oxford Street, within the City of Sydney Local Government Area. It summarises this history to contextualise the identification of sites of significance to the LGBTIQ+ community in the area.

This report identifies 32 sites of significance to the LGBTIQ+ community within the study area (or in close proximity to it). Most sites are located in a heritage conservation area (Oxford Street C17 or Paddington Urban C50).

18 of these sites are already listed as heritage items on Schedule 5 of the Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012, with some items also included on the State Heritage Register. Revisions are recommended to the existing heritage inventories of 14 of these sites, provided within the tabulated analysis of sites.

5 new sites are recommended for listing on Schedule 5 of the Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 based on their associations with the LGBTIQ+ community. These sites are:

- Club 85/Midnight Shift/Universal, 85-91 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst
- Palms, 124 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst
- Oxford Hotel, 134 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst
- Ruby Reds, 273 Crown Street, Surry Hills (outside study area)
- Taxi Club, 40-42 Flinders Street, Darlinghurst (outside study area)

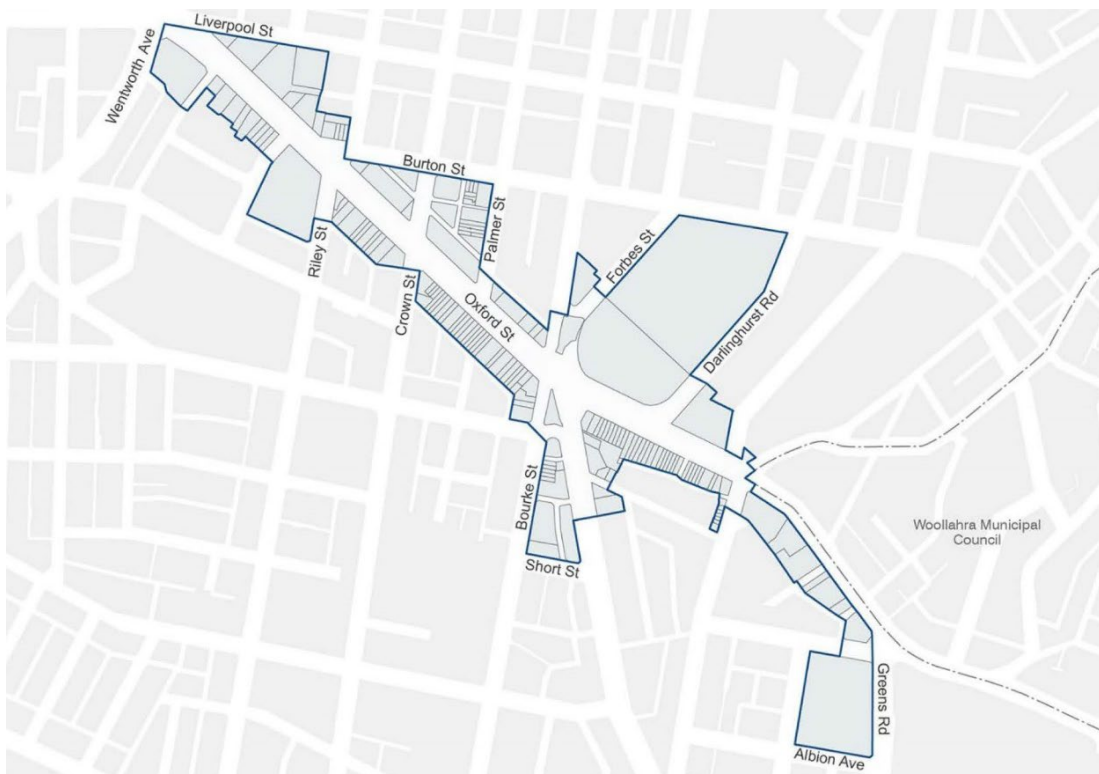
# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background and purpose of the report

This Heritage Assessment has been prepared for the City of Sydney, which is preparing a Strategy to support LGBTQIA+ places and communities on Oxford Street. Priority 1 of the Draft Oxford Street LGBTQIA+ Social and Cultural Place Strategy focuses on the recognition of the historic and contemporary connections of the LGBTQIA+ community to Oxford Street.

## 1.2 Study area

The study area is described in the following diagram. Nearby sites which are outside of the study area but were identified as being of significance to the LGBTQIA+ community, have also been included in the assessment. This study only examines sites within the City of Sydney Local Government Area. Significant sites within the Woollahra Local Government area that should be investigated due to their associations with the LGBTQIA+ community include the Albury Hotel (6-8 Oxford St Paddington) and Unicorn Hotel (106 Oxford Street Paddington).



- 1 Study area, not to scale.  
Source: City of Sydney.

### 1.3 Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANU	Australian National University
CAMP	Campaign Against Moral Persecution
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
LGBTIQA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer, Asexual. The '+' represents minority gender identities and sexualities not explicitly included in the term. <sup>1</sup>
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
NLA	National Library of Australia
R&R	Rest and recreation
SLNSW	State Library of NSW.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uts.edu.au/partners-and-community/initiatives/social-justice-uts/equity-and-diversity-uts/gender-sexuality-5>, accessed 22 November 2022.

## 2 Historical background

The thoroughfare now known as Oxford Street follows an Aboriginal track ('muru') which led to the southern headland of Sydney Harbour. The Gadigal people have lived in the area around Sydney Cove and used this route for many thousands of years prior to European settlement and the formalisation of the track as a road.<sup>2</sup> From the Gadigal people's track used by Europeans to the signal station at South Head, then a road constructed under the direction of Governor Macquarie during the 1810s, what was to become Oxford Street has occupied an extraordinary place in the history of Sydney.

Driving along the South Head Road, as the track was named and developed by Europeans, quickly "became firmly established as one of the rituals of colonial public life".<sup>3</sup> It furnished a marvellous recreational opportunity to savour wonderful vistas and for those undertaking the journey to see others and be seen by them. Driving along the road also provided healthful relief from the rigours of life in the town itself: "... the pleasure experienced, during an evening drive, enjoying the cool air from the Pacific after the heat and dust of Sydney, may be conceived but cannot be described."<sup>4</sup> At a more prosaic level, the first public house on the South Head Road had been established by the mid-1830s, if not earlier.

During the 1840s sections of the South Head Road started to become integrated into the fabric of urban Sydney. This was precipitated by the opening of Darlinghurst Gaol in 1841, the completion of Darlinghurst Courthouse the following year and the completion of Victoria Barracks in 1848. The population of the village of Paddington grew rapidly during the 1840s, while churches began to appear during the 1850s – the first of these was the Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart at the intersection of the South Head Road and Darlinghurst Road, consecrated in June 1852.<sup>5</sup> Inevitably the South Head Road became the major commercial venue for the communities that consolidated around it during the 1850s and 1860s. This was a period of rapid growth in Sydney, in the wake of the gold rushes of the early 1850s. Many of those who settled in Surry Hills and Woolloomooloo were working and middle class people, served by retailers and small businesses occupying premises on the South Head Road.

The lower section of the road, between Liverpool and Dowling Streets, was renamed Oxford Street in October 1873, referring to the prestigious Oxford Street in London. The name change was formally gazetted in November 1875.<sup>6</sup> Eventually the name was applied to easterly sections of the Old South Head Road as far as Bondi Junction.



2

The Old South Head Road looking towards Paddington, circa 1842.

Source: SLNSW V/22, attributed to Frederick Garling.

2 City of Sydney, 'Oxford Street: a history from track to high street,' (2022). Accessible online at: <https://news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/photos/oxford-street-darlinghurst-a-history-from-track-to-high-street>

3 Clive Faro and Garry Wotherspoon, *Street Seen: a history of Oxford Street*, p.42.

4 "South Head Road", *The Colonist*, 18 February 1836, p.4.

5 Faro and Wotherspoon, pp.80-83.

6 Petitions from 112 residents along South Head Road appealing for the change of name to Oxford Street were presented to the Sydney Municipal Council in September 1873 ("City Council, This Day", *Evening News*, 23 September 1873, p.2); "Sydney Municipal Council", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 October 1873, p.3.



From the early 1870s to the late 1880s Oxford Street became "one of the most vigorous commercial precincts in Sydney."<sup>7</sup> This was accompanied by rapid population growth in the neighbourhoods flanking the street and by the development of public transport, initially horse buses then steam trams from 1879. Growth was reflected by an increase in the density of businesses along the street - for instance, there were 20 hotels between Hyde Park and the eastern city boundary at the end of the 1870s and by the end of the 1880s there were five banks and two mortgage companies in the lower section of the street. In addition to this, department stores were opened at the Hyde Park end of the street during the 1880s.<sup>8</sup> Oxford Street also became a place where different ethnic groups rubbed shoulders. By the beginning of the twentieth century many small business owners were migrants from Ireland, Southern Europe, Scandinavia and China. The Jewish community was also represented.<sup>9</sup>

As time passed Oxford Street became more and more congested. During the first decade of the twentieth century proposals were put forward for its widening and a 1904 proposal by architect John Barlow proved influential. Lord Mayor Allen Taylor strongly supported widening and lobbied for increased Council powers of resumption, which was granted by the NSW government in 1905. The first stage of widening occurred in 1907 with the demolition of the Bourke Hotel at the intersection of Bourke, Flinders and Oxford Street and the formation of a civic space. This was named Taylor Square in honour of the Lord Mayor. Following a Council delegation to the government in February 1908, a Royal Commission for the Improvement of Sydney and its Suburbs was appointed the following May. The widening of Oxford Street from Liverpool Street to Paddington Town Hall was included in its recommendations.<sup>10</sup>

The process of resuming the northern side of Oxford Street between Hyde Park and Taylor Square, which had been completed in 1908, began in January 1909. Demolition and construction of buildings, several of which were designed by the Council's architectural staff, began in 1910 and was largely complete by 1914. Footpath widening and removal of verandahs on the southern side of the street followed shortly after.

7 Faro and Wotherspoon, p.91; "Alteration in Names of the Streets in the City of Sydney", *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 19 November 1875, p.3790.

8 Faro and Wotherspoon, pp.92-93.

9 Faro and Wotherspoon pp.97-98.

10 Faro and Wotherspoon, pp.116-123; National Library of Australia MAP G8974.S9G45 1909 - Plan No. 48

3

Looking east along Oxford Street in 1911, prior to resumption and widening on the northern side of the street (above) and in 1922 after rebuilding on the northern side of the street had taken place (below). Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00028669 and Unique ID A-00058107.



One result of the widening was a change in the social make-up of Oxford Street. The nineteenth century pattern of largely small family-operated stores with residential accommodation on the first floor, where storekeepers and their families lived, made way to ground floor retailing spaces with commercial chambers over. This obviously changed the character of the street, as small holdings gave way to larger commercial and institutional owners and leaseholders.<sup>11</sup>

Oxford Street was a major commercial precinct and thoroughfare during the interwar period, particularly the 1920s. The growth of Sydney's population was matched by growth in commercial activity, marked on Oxford Street by the presence of department stores at the Hyde Park end of the street, clothing manufacturers and associated trades, medical professionals, specialist retailers, cafes, restaurants and delicatessens.

<sup>11</sup> Faro and Wotherspoon, pp.133-134.

The street continued to serve the local population. One manifestation of this was the pubs on either side of the street.

Entries in *Sands directory* indicate that the section of Oxford Street within the study area was well provided with pubs over the years, with numbers peaking during the 1880s. In the study area, in 1857 there were three on the north side of the street and six on its south side. In 1887 there were four on the north side and seven on the south side while in 1909, just prior to resumption and demolition there were five on the north side and four on the south side. In 1932 there were five pubs on the north side and three on the south side.<sup>12</sup> The Depression affected businesses along Oxford Street, although “for many of the business interests on the street, the Depression was a short-lived experience.”<sup>13</sup> However, inner city suburbs along Oxford Street were undergoing decline. The majority of houses were not owner-occupied and the economic status of their occupants had diminished. The “steady downward spiral in the material well-being and status of the inner-city localities was only heightened by the Depression and then World War II.”<sup>14</sup> This was accompanied by the rise of a criminal presence in the areas around Oxford Street. Its apex became the Darlinghurst Police Station, which became notorious as the centre of police corruption, a role it served well into the 1970s.<sup>15</sup>

During the 1950s the southern end of the street and its environs were notably in decline, a victim of the growth of suburban Sydney and suburbanisation of retailing, the prominence of Central Sydney as a shopping venue from the 1930s onwards, and burgeoning car ownership. Tram services, so long a feature of public transport on the street, ceased on 28 February 1960.



4  
Oxford Street at Taylor Square,  
January 1950 – the street was a  
major transport thoroughfare from  
Central Sydney to the Eastern  
Suburbs. The presence of trams  
and buses at this time is notable.  
Source: SLNSW ON 388/Box  
044/Item 230.

12 *Sands Sydney and suburban directory* 1858, 1888, 1910 and 1932/33 editions.

13 Faro and Wotherspoon, p.182.

14 Faro and Wotherspoon, p.186.

15 Faro and Wotherspoon, p.188. See also Michael Duffy and Nick Hordern, *Sydney Noir: the golden years* (Newsouth Publishing, 2017).

However, as members of the working class were moving to suburbia, migrants were moving into the area to take their place. Here they found affordable housing and an urban fabric resembling the places they had left. Services along the street changed to meet the requirements of various nationalities. On their heels came waves of young and affluent people who were rediscovering the charms of inner city living. Both groups were amply assisted by the low property values in the area during the 1950s and 1960s. The gentrification of Oxford Street, particularly in Paddington, proceeded apace. In the section between Hyde Park and South Dowling Street “gentrification” took a different turn. In the early 1970s it became an important incubator for Oz-rock bands in venues such as the former wine bar known as French’s Tavern at 86 Oxford Street and later the Oxford Hotel at 134 Oxford Street (dubbed the Funhouse by the band Radio Birdman<sup>16</sup>), amongst others. It was around this time that Sydney’s gay and lesbian community began to congregate in this part of Oxford Street.

## 2.1 Emergence of venues in Sydney

Inevitably European homosexual behaviour in Sydney has a long history extending back to the original settlement at the end of the eighteenth century.<sup>17</sup> Equally, over much of this period homo-sex between men has been heavily proscribed by the religious, the law (which for several decades allowed for the death penalty as punishment) and the prejudice of a large part of the heterosexual community. Proscriptions against lesbians did not extend to criminalisation and there was a veil of “silence” on female same-sex desire for many years.<sup>18</sup> However, a definition of homosexuality did not emerge for several decades.

The first legislative attempt to outlaw sexual activity between men in NSW took place in 1862, some years before what is claimed to be the earliest recorded use of the terms homosexual and heterosexual. They apparently appeared in correspondence dated 6 May 1868 by itinerant Austrian-born writer Karl Maria Kertbeny.<sup>19</sup> The proposed Criminal Law Consolidation Bill of 1862, which included the death penalty for certain acts, did not get past the draft state. “Unnatural acts” and “crimes” were correlated with male homosexuality as a specific sexual genus by the end of the 1860s. Legislation outlawing male homosexual activity was finally enacted in 1883. It did not include the death penalty.<sup>20</sup>

It has been suggested that “an important corollary of the existence of the homosexual as a separate social group was the development by the 1880s of a homosexual subculture to meet the needs, social and sexual, of male homosexuals.” Boarding houses may well have been a part of this subculture. So too were beats, one of which was Sydney’s Hyde Park.<sup>21</sup>

16 Faro and Wotherspoon, p.222.

17 Paul Knobel, *A Gay History of Australia, third edition corrected and amended* (Burke and Wills, 2019), no pagination. Separately published chapter from Paul Knobel, *A Gay History of the World/Human Male Homosexuality: a world history* (Burke and Wills, 2015-2020).

18 Rebecca Jennings, *Unnamed Desires: a Sydney lesbian history*, pp.xvi-xviii, p.4.

19 “150 years ago, the word ‘homosexual’ was coined in a secret correspondence” at <https://medium.com/@gvgktang/150-years-ago-the-word-homosexual-was-coined-in-a-secret-correspondence-1803ff9a79bc>, accessed 12 December 2022.

20 Walter J Fogarty, “‘Certain Habits’: The Development of a Concept of the Male Homosexual in New South Wales Law, 1788-1900” in *Gay Perspectives: essays in Australian gay culture*, pp.65-66

21 Fogarty, pp.71-73.

Apart from pubs, Turkish baths may have been early venues for gay men to meet. The first in Sydney was established in Spring Street, by Dr Le Gay Brereton. The establishment proved so popular that he replaced it with a purpose-designed building in Bligh Street, opened in March 1861.<sup>22</sup> Towards the end of the nineteenth century there is the possibility that tangible gay associations with Oxford Street emerged after a Turkish Bath appeared on the street. Hairdresser and wigmaker Charles Edward Wigzell, who is credited with being the driving force behind the name change from South Head Road to Oxford Street, established a Turkish bath in the 1880s. Wigzell's hairdressing and wig-making business occupied premises at 143 Oxford Street (then South Head Road) from 1867. In 1880 he added ladies and gentlemen's bathrooms to his premises and then augmented them in 1883 by the construction of Turkish baths at 139 Oxford Street.<sup>23</sup> Wigzell was bankrupted in 1900<sup>24</sup> and the Turkish baths closed not long afterwards. The buildings occupied by Wigzell on Oxford Street are still standing.



5

The facilities at Wigzell's hairdressers, baths and Turkish Baths at 139-143 Oxford Street.

Source:

<http://www.victorianturkishbath.org/>  
reproduced from a hand-coloured print originally published as a black and white engraving in the *Illustrated Sydney News*, 29 September 1883, p.16.

During the mid-1890s at least one local journal reflected the prevailing English attitude that male homosexuality was an aristocratic vice that corrupted lower-class youths, at the same time suggesting where venues frequented by gay men were situated in Sydney:

... The state of things in London as regards this horrible vice is also the condition of affairs in Sydney ... many of the leading hotels and billiard saloons are haunted by these characters, whose presence is advertised by an effeminate style of speech, and the adoption of the names of celebrated actresses. America has sent over many of this class, in the person of so-called variety artists. A haunt is said to exist in Bourke-street, Surry Hills, and that part of College-street from Boomerang-street to park-street is a parade for them. ...<sup>25</sup>

22 "Social", *Empire*, 12 November 1859, p.4; "The New Turkish Bath", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 March 1861, p.6.

23 "Charles E Wigzell's Hairdressing Saloons and Turkish Baths, Oxford-street, Sydney", *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 17 January 1891, p.32.

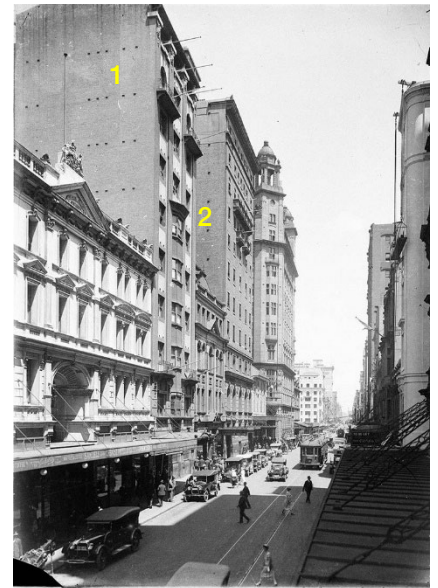
24 "A Bankrupt Hairdresser", *Evening News*, 1 August 1900, p.3.

25 "The Oscar Wilde's of Sydney", *The Scorpion*, 24 April 1895, p.2.

Because of the stigma attached to homosexuality during the first decades of the twentieth century there is little evidence concerning the social activity of lesbians and gay men in Sydney until the interwar period. According to historian Garry Wotherspoon,

... homosexual subcultures were well established in all of Australia's major cities by the late 1930s. In inner Sydney itself there was a flourishing subculture, focussed on a range of venues where male homosexuals could meet discretely. Friendship networks provided both a vital social milieu and a support system, this latter so necessary for their members in the face of society's hostility. In certain suburbs, such as Darlinghurst and Kings Cross, homosexual behaviour was far more widely tolerated. Institutions such as theatres and several churches in the city were known to have a homosexual ambience. Also several major public events – like the Artists' Ball or the more notorious 'drag and drain' balls – were opportunities for the more daring homosexuals to flaunt their difference in public.<sup>26</sup>

During the interwar period inner city hotels provided relatively safe havens for gay men to congregate. Women would have been unlikely to have frequented these venues because of negative social attitudes towards women drinking in hotels at this time and because they were highly likely to have been refused service by the licensee unless confined to a ladies' lounge.<sup>27</sup> One notable inner-city establishment was the Australia Hotel, fronting Martin Place and Castlereagh Street. It also fronted Rowe Street, where one could discretely enter its Sportsmans Bar at the rear of the building, also known as the Long Bar. The Long Bar was part of additions undertaken to the Australia Hotel in the early 1920s and "had a wide reputation in the homosexual world for being a congenial pick-up place", although "it had a snobbish atmosphere and suits and ties were required to be worn."<sup>28</sup> Other inner-city meeting places included the Carlton Hotel and Usher's Metropolitan Hotel, both on Castlereagh Street between Martin Place and King Street, and Pfahler's Hotel in Margaret Street.<sup>29</sup> All have disappeared, although the building that housed Usher's still stands.



5

The Carlton Hotel (1) and Usher's Metropolitan Hotel (2) on Castlereagh Street, photographed circa 1927. Source: SLNSW Home and Away – 35032, Hall & Co photograph.

26 Garry Wotherspoon, "The flight of the 'exiles of the spirit'" in Shirley Fitzgerald and Garry Wotherspoon (editors), *Minorities: cultural diversity in Sydney*, p.127. In the 1940s (if not earlier), "drain" was a slang term for wine or more generally any drink (<https://queerarchives.org.au/posts/history-bites/1961-at-the-cross/>, accessed 7 December 2022).

27 "Woman Complains to ULVA. Was refused drink in public bar", *The ULVA Review*, 15 January 1937, p.7. Not all pubs were equipped with a ladies' lounge.

28 "The flight of the 'exiles of the spirit'", p.129; Gary Wotherspoon, *Gay Sydney: a history*, p.42; Knobel, no pagination.

29 "The flight of the 'exiles of the spirit'", p.129; *Gay Sydney: a history*, p.42;



6

The Long Bar at the Hotel Australia  
 Source: *Sunday Herald*, 13 March  
 1949 – Magazine Section, p.1, Roy  
 Dalgarno drawing.

Gay people are also known to have congregated in less salubrious pubs, such as the Belfields Hotel at 396-400 George Street, which according to historian Garry Wotherspoon was “a workers’ pub, often frequented by navy personnel.”<sup>30</sup> The building still stands though the hotel ceased trading in July 1957. Hotels were not the only meeting places. Other venues in Central Sydney known to have been frequented by gay people during the interwar period included the Latin Café in the now-demolished Royal Arcade, and cafes and coffee shops such as Repin’s, Cahill’s and Mockbell’s.<sup>31</sup> Historian Garry Wotherspoon also mentions clubs like Black Ada’s (more respectfully known as the Academy School of Dancing) in Wentworth Avenue, an illegal underground gay club. It was closed down by the Vice Squad in the early part of World War II because it was considered “too dangerous and corrupting to the young military personnel who flocked there.”<sup>32</sup>

Other, less safe locations were the long-standing beats in Hyde Park, particularly the Archibald Fountain (completed in 1932). According to one source, “there were sometimes as many as two or three-hundred [sic] gay men standing or sitting around the fountain, or parading around the walks through the parks.”<sup>33</sup> As time passed Hyde Park was superseded by nearby Boomerang Street because of increased police presence and physical assaults. Along with the onset of the Cold War in the late 1940s, attitudes towards homosexuality in NSW hardened. “Witchhunts ... developed in Australia, and homosexuals, like communists, were soon targeted by the authorities, since they were seen as a threat to the stability of the type of Australian society that was

30 *Gay Sydney: a history*, pp.42 and 83.

31 *Gay Sydney: a history*, pp.43-44. Kabel Mockbell opened a coffee salon in Sydney during the 1890s. By 1930 there were eight Mockbell’s scattered across Central Sydney. The first Repin Coffee Shop opened in 1931 and by 1949 there was a chain of seven coffee shops. Teresa and Reg Cahill opened the Italian Coffee Shop, Castlereagh Street in 1933. The Cahill siblings visited the US regularly, introducing American style and service to their expanding café chain. By 1960 the Cahills empire included 25 themed cafes and restaurants.

32 *Gay Sydney: a history*, pp.83-84.

33 Robert Connell, “The Way it Was”, *Oxford Weekender News*, Issue 75, 13-26 October, 1983, p.18.

being planned in the postwar reconstruction.” This is reflected in changes to legislation, which in 1951 “tightened up existing laws” and in 1955 enforced new categories of homosexual crime.<sup>34</sup>

In the 1950s there were few venues where lesbians and gay men could be wholly comfortable. 6 o’clock closing meant that men would have an evening meal in restaurants following the cessation of hotel trading to get to know each other and socialise.<sup>35</sup> It has been suggested that the advent of 10 o’clock closing in February 1955 was an important event that led to the decline of beats and “provided the groundwork for more gay people to get together.”<sup>36</sup> It certainly provided greater opportunity for meeting other people in pubs. The Australia Hotel, Carlton and Usher’s continued to enjoy gay custom; the Carlton became the Carlton Rex and boasted the basement Dugout Bar which became a popular gay male meeting place.<sup>37</sup> Hotels outside of Central Sydney also attracted gay male custom, while the Sussex Hotel at 68 Liverpool Street (since demolished) was popular with lesbians, who began frequenting the establishment around 1960 – “Friday night was the girls’ night.”<sup>38</sup>

## 2.2 Kings Cross

In the 1930s Kings Cross and its environs “had a wary openness to homosexuality where the rest of the nation thought it disgusting and depraved.”<sup>39</sup> A large number of creative individuals lived in the locality at various times, among them homosexuals such as artists Adrian Feint, who lived at Elizabeth Bay, and William Dobell, a resident from 1939 to 1944 who occupied an apartment at 34-36 Darlinghurst Road.<sup>40</sup>

During the 1950s Kings Cross, parts of Elizabeth Bay and Potts Point became an increasingly important location for commercial venues frequented by gay people, aided and abetted by later hotel trading hours:

Before the time of ten o’clock closing in the pubs, there were at least four coffee shops where gay people used to gather. While there was, at that time, no really distinct beat in Kings Cross, it was possible anywhere around the Cross to meet other people and this could lead to casual sexual encounters or something much more.<sup>41</sup>

The Rex Hotel at 50-58 Macleay Street, Elizabeth Bay, which opened in 1953, was a significant commercial venue and for a time was the major hotel frequented by gay people in Sydney:

34 “The flight of the ‘exiles of the spirit’”, pp.132-134.

35 Robert Connell, “The Way It Was”, *Oxford Weekender News*, 13-26 October 1983, p.18

36 “The Way it Was”, p.19.

37 “The Way It Was”, p.18.

38 Garry Wotherspoon, *Gay Sydney: a history*, p.159; “Les Girls” at [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/les\\_girls](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/les_girls), accessed 23 November 2022; 32 Darlinghurst Road was designed by prominent Modernist architect Neville Gruzman in 1961 as a three storey commercial development containing shops, a restaurant on the first floor and office space on the second floor (City of Sydney Archives Building Application 1694/61). It has since been modified and is now the Empire Hotel. Rebecca Jennings and Sandra Mackay, *Out and About: Sydney’s lesbian social scene 1960s-1980s*, p.7.

39 Louis Nowra, *Kings Cross: a biography* (NewSouth Publishing, 2013), p.202.

40 Jill Dimond and Peter Kirkpatrick, *Literary Sydney: a walking guide*, p.111-112. Here he painted his famous Archibald prize-winning portrait of Joshua Smith and moved out of Kings Cross in the wake of the controversy surrounding it.

41 Robert Connell, “Up the Cross”, *Oxford Weekender News*, 27 October – 9 November 1983, p.10.



There was a very 'high camp' feeling about the Rex in those days and strong feelings of camaraderie began to arise and, although there was some bitchiness, there was also a great deal of friendliness. Parties started from the Rex each Friday and Saturday and at the beginning the invitations were open to everyone. Around half an hour before closing time, an address would pass around the bar, then afterwards people would pile into cars and taxis and depart to distant suburbs and parties which would often rage until dawn.<sup>42</sup>

The back bar at the Rex Hotel known as the Bottoms Up Bar was an enduring institution, only closing in August 1994 after 37 years of trading. Fitzroy Gardens assumed a new significance after the Rex opened - "When ten o'clock closing became law, it assumed a special significance, because it was just along the road from the Rex Hotel, which had become the major gay hotel in Sydney."<sup>43</sup>

The presence of the Rex Hotel, combined with later drinking hours, may possibly have been a catalyst for an emerging gay (male) community awareness:

... those who frequented the bars in the city were somewhat surprised at the people who seemed to appear from nowhere. Some had had the impression that gay people only came from one class of society – those who worked in the office or display departments of various stores, or in the radio industry. Night trading showed otherwise, with gay people emerging from the Western suburbs and a working class background. In a sense, it was an exciting period and may really have been the first coming-together of the various classes of gay society. Although we realised we were still a minority, we did come to the realisation that gay (or homosexual) people permeated every class and stratum of society

The Rex remained a popular venue for many years. Another significant establishment not far from the Rex was the public bar known as the Quarter Deck Bar in the Chevron Hotel at 81-83 Macleay Street, Potts Point – "the best draft beer in the most congenial atmosphere in Sydney"<sup>44</sup> – which opened in September 1960. For a time it stole clientele from the Rex, "which rapidly went downmarket."<sup>45</sup>

42 "Up The Cross", p.11. The Rex also had connections to prostitution and Sydney's underworld, in the 1960s if not before. Refer to Michael Duffy and Nick Hordern, *Sydney Noir: the golden years*, pp.22-23.

43 "Up the Cross", p.11.

44 Chevron Hotel advertisement, *Royal Australian Navy News*, 29 April 1966, p.5.

45 "Up The Cross", p.12; Nowra, p.315



7

Gathering of patrons outside the Rex Hotel in Macleay Street, Potts Point, 1964 (above); interior of the Quarter Deck Bar in the Chevron Hilton at the time the hotel opened from business in 1960 (below).

Sources: National Library of Australia PIC Online access #PIC/14971/10, Robin Smith photograph; *Australian Women's Weekly*, 12 October 1960 p.9, Keith Barlow photograph.



8

The Jewel Box.

Source: City of Sydney Archives, reproduced in *Camp Nites*.

Kings Cross was also home to drag show clubs:

Most of America's middle-sized cities had gay bars by the '50s and Sydney's first discreet camp spaces opened in the early '60s. They had tiny dance floors; basic stets, lights and sound systems; and drag shows.<sup>46</sup>

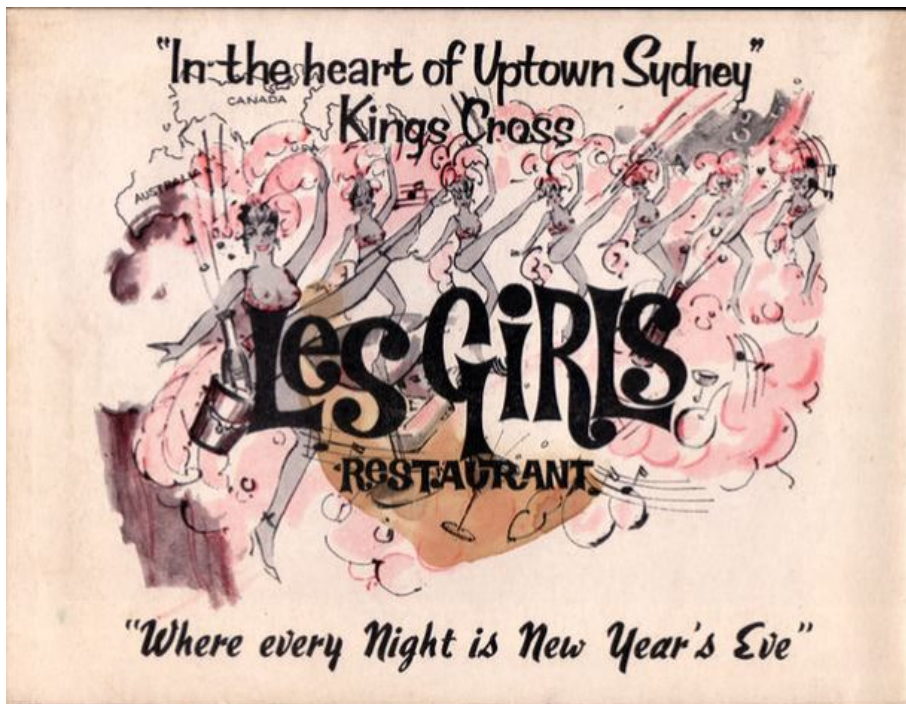
The first, the Jewel Box at 41 Darlinghurst Road, opened late in 1961 and closed two years later. The iconic drag queen Carlotta remembered it as "a sleazy place, with a long narrow stage and a Hessian backdrop covered in sequins and a small dance floor. The columns were covered in a mosaic of coloured pieces of glass."<sup>47</sup> The premises is now occupied by Show Girls strip club. The Jewel Box was followed by Les Girls at 32 Darlinghurst Road, which opened in 1963. The celebrated drag queen Carlotta quickly became its star and show compere. Les Girls remained a venue for drag performances until 1994. It was also known as the Carousel Club, located in a purpose-designed building by significant Modernist architect Neville Gruzman built by underworld figure Abe Saffron to house the show.<sup>48</sup> Drag clubs opened in other suburban locations during

46 Gavin Harris and John Witte, *Camp Nites: Sydney's emerging drag scene in the '60s*, p.5.

47 *Camp Nites*, p.9.

48 Garry Wotherspoon, *Gay Sydney: a history*, p.159; "Les Girls" at [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/les\\_girls](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/les_girls), accessed 23 November 2022. 32

the first half of the 1960s. Perhaps the most noteworthy was the Purple Onion at 83 Anzac Parade, Kensington, which opened in mid-1962<sup>49</sup> and remained a performance venue for a decade.

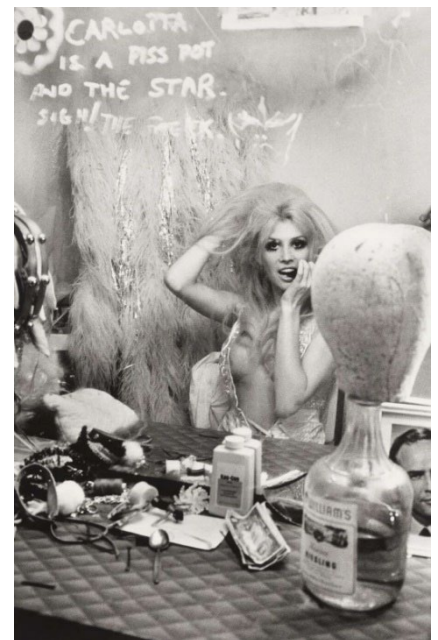


9

Poster promoting Les Girls. Date not known.

Source: Bloomfield and George via Flickr, downloaded 2009.

Drag queens were a well-established part of the gay male subculture prior to the appearance of these clubs. Male and female cross dressing in Sydney was recorded in colonial times. At the end of the nineteenth century, "homosexuality, at that time equated with effeminacy, was seen as undermining the manhood of the nation, and effeminate men, especially those who cross-dressed, were deemed worthy of public rebuke."<sup>50</sup> Cross dressing continued to be the subject of disdain and scorn during the first four decades of the twentieth century; the term "drag queen" has been traced to homosexual subcultures in the 1930s, denoting a gay male dressing as a woman primarily to entertain others.<sup>51</sup> The situation regarding men in drag appears to have softened to some extent during World War II:



10

Carlotta, photographed by Rennie Ellis, 1970-1971.

Source: NLA PIC/11403/22 LOC Drawer PIC/11403.

Although there were laws against men appearing in women's clothing, it was usually condoned if confined to the theatre. As in Britain, the 'Dame' role in pantomime was often played by men, and in the more mainstream theatre young males had, certainly since Shakespeare's time, played female roles. This was an avenue for cross-dressers to explore, and in the early years of World War II nightclubs sometimes

Darlinghurst Road was designed in 1961 as a three storey commercial development containing shops, a restaurant on the first floor and office space on the second floor (City of Sydney Archives Building Application 1694/61). It has since been modified and is now the Empire Hotel.

49 Following the closure of the Purple Onion, 83 Anzac Parade was renovated and became Kens Karate Klub, which opened in 1972 and closed in 2012. Ken's first owner was Ken "Kandy" Johnson, a drag queen from the Purple Onion who also owned the Park Inn Hotel. Johnson opened Ken's Baths in a gym at 97 Belmore Rd, Randwick in 1971, before relocating to the old Purple Onion building (Andrew M Potts, "Kens at Kensington to Close", *Star Observer*, 30 April 2012 at <https://www.starobserver.com.au/news/national-news/new-south-wales-news/kens-at-kensington-to-close/76482>, accessed 12 December 2022).

50 Garry Wotherspoon, "Drag and cross dressing" at [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/drag\\_and\\_cross\\_dressing](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/drag_and_cross_dressing), accessed 21 December 2022.

51 Kerryn Drysdale, *Intimate Investments in Drag King Cultures: the rise and fall of a lesbian social scene*, p.25.

featured local 'stars' such as 'Lea Sonia'. S/he appeared regularly in drag at the Diamond Horseshoe Club in Oxford Street, Woollahra.<sup>52</sup>



11

Benjamin O'Reilly, stage name Lea Sonia, and friend, photographed in July 1941. O'Reilly died after being struck by a tram in January 1942  
Source: SLNSW ON 388/Box 035/Item 245, Ray Olson photograph.

One event on Sydney's social calendar that provided an opportunity for male drag was the Artist's Ball, the first one of which was held in 1881. The Balls became an annual event up to World War I then resumed during the 1920s. The most notorious was the 1924 Ball, held at Sydney Town Hall. It descended into chaos and rapidly became infamous because of "disgraceful scenes of drunken riot and licentiousness." In the 1950s and early 1960s, they were held at the Trocadero ballroom at 513-515 George Street in Sydney. The balls there attracted artists and their models and much of Sydney's bohemia, including many cross-dressers. One famous incident involved drag queens arriving in giant removalist vans because their frocks and hairstyles were too large to be transported any other way.<sup>53</sup>

In the postwar era the situation became somewhat more relaxed:

The war had made many men aware that they were not alone in their dissident sexualities, and after the war what was termed 'camp life' boomed, albeit discreetly. ... Newspapers were not shy in reporting ... the Sydney parties where men dressed as women, with names borrowed from the movie stars of the era. And they had the photos to prove it. Sydney was titillated, rather than shocked. ... Gradually, a series of clubs which featured drag shows as their drawcard began to appear.<sup>54</sup>

Drag shows have remained a consistent and integral part of gay male recreation ever since, staged in pubs and in night clubs. By contrast, it is understood that a lesbian equivalent to the clubs featuring drag shows apparently did not emerge until the 1990s, although women would participate in a "mixed drag scene" during the early 1970s, if

52 "Drag and cross dressing". The Diamond Horseshoe was located at 80 Oxford Street, Woollahra. It was also known as the Maxine Hall and is understood to date to the early 1920s. The building still stands, in a semi derelict state.

53 Deborah Beck, "Scandalous nights - Sydney's artists' balls" at [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/scandalous\\_nights\\_sydney\\_s\\_artists\\_balls](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/scandalous_nights_sydney_s_artists_balls), accessed 21 December 2022; "The Artists' Ball", Sydney Morning Herald, 19 September 1924, p.11.

54 "Drag and cross dressing".



12

Cover of the *Souvenir* of the 1924 Artists' Ball.

Source: State Library of NSW Q793.3809944/1.

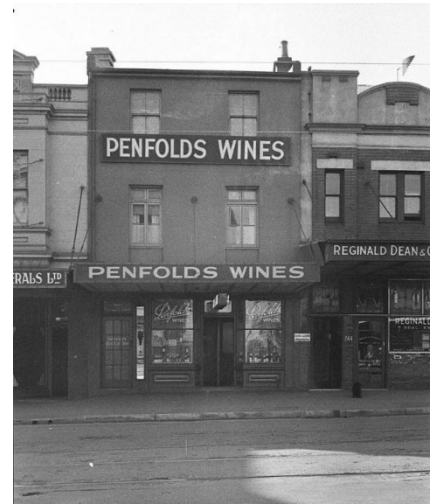
not later.<sup>55</sup> The drag king scene proliferated during the 1990s and early 2000s with performance nights in various venues. One of the first drag king events took place at the Lava Lounge at The Burdekin Hotel at 2 Oxford Street. A distinctive drag king culture consolidated with a series of competition nights held at ARQ in Flinders Street during 1999 and 2000. It became associated with Newtown rather than Darlinghurst. The Sly Fox Hotel (Enmore Hotel, 199 Enmore Road, Enmore) became the place to go for performances.<sup>56</sup>

### 2.3 The emergence of Oxford Street

While Oxford Street is well known as a pivotal location in Sydney, it took several years for it to achieve its per-eminence. Kings Cross retained its importance well into the 1970s. During the 1960s gay commercial venues started opening in various parts of Oxford Street and its environs. Initially located in Paddington and Bondi Junction, by the end of the 1960s they began to consolidate within the study area, which was already the locale for several nightclubs catering to various migrant groups. Most of these new venues were associated with the gay male community.

The Grosvenor (Taxi) Club has been claimed as Sydney's oldest LGBTQ venue.<sup>57</sup> It relocated from premises just off Oxford Street at 35 Flinders Street, which it had occupied since 1949, to 40-42 Flinders Street during 1956, where it operated until closing in May 2012. It is understood that during the 1960s performers from Les Girls came to the Club after their shows had finished, attracting a gay clientele. It appears to have been regarded as a safe and accepting place for members of the transgender community.<sup>58</sup>

In the second half of the 1960s two wine bars catering specifically to gay men opened on Oxford Street, although not in Darlinghurst. One was Enzo's at 242 Oxford Street, Paddington, opposite the Paddington Town Hall. In the 1930s the building housed a Penfolds Wine Bar. By 1963 it was occupied by The Elatos, home of Finocchios restaurant revue, which featured drag performers,<sup>59</sup> and subsequently became known as Enzo's. In the first quarter of 1977 it became the Traffic Light and its gay clientele subsequently diminished.<sup>60</sup> The other was Chez Ivy's, understood to have been at 101-105 Oxford Street Bondi Junction (since demolished).<sup>61</sup> Ivy Richter (1927-2013) was a prominent venue owner who turned a wine bar that she ran in Bondi Junction into Chez Ivy's in 1962, assisted by her husband and gay friends. Here camp men and women were served drinks by drag queens in bunny girl outfits and were entertained with live music.<sup>62</sup> She sold Chez Ivy's in 1967 and opened Ivy's Birdcage at 191-195 Oxford



13  
242 Oxford Street, Paddington  
photographed in 1939 while a Penfolds  
Wine Bar and well before it became The  
Elatos/Finocchio's and then Enzo's.  
Source: SLNSW Home and Away –  
9731, Sam Hood photograph.

55 Jennings and Mackay, p.25.

56 Drysdale, pp.33-36.

57 "Taxi Club Forced to Vacate", Star Observer, 7 May 2012 at <https://www.starobserver.com.au/news/national-news/new-south-wales-news/taxi-club-forced-to-close-doors/77002>, accessed 6 December 2012.

58 At <https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/now-thats-a-drag--lights-dim-for-the-taxi-club-20111104-1mzyn.html>, accessed 20 December 2022.

59 The term finocchio is Italian for fennel but is or was used as a negative term for homosexual men. Finocchio's was a long-established San Francisco nightclub (1936-1999) that attracted a gay crowd and staged drag shows

60 "New Gay Spots", *Campaign*, March 1977, p.27. Another new gay spot was the Royal George Hotel on the north-western corner of King and Sussex Streets, Sydney. The circa 1903 building continues in use as a hotel.

61 Advertisement for Ivy's Wine Bar in *Campaign*, Issue 8, April 1976, p.39.

62 Jennings and Mackay, p.5. According to Jennings and Mackay, Ivy decided on the change after meeting a drag queen known as Claudia at a party. Claudia took charge of the refit of the establishment.

Street, Darlinghurst.<sup>63</sup> The Birdcage, originally over two levels, staged drag shows on the top level. Both Chez Ivy's and Ivy's Birdcage were well patronised by lesbians and gay men:

*... lesbians were ... beginning to join a much longer-standing gay male bar culture in significant numbers, reflecting a broader social acceptance of women and public drinking in the wake of reforms to the licensing laws in the late 1950s. Male narrators recall seeing lesbian on the commercial scene for the first time in the early 1960s, and lesbian narrators began to discuss their participation in the bar scene from the 1960s onwards. Lesbians socialised alongside homosexual men and drag queens in venues such as Chez Ivy wine bar in Bondi Junction and the Purple Onion coffee shop on Anzac Parade ...*<sup>64</sup>



14 Ivy Richter (left); show at Ivy's Birdcage (right).

Source: <https://www.pridehistory.org.au/100-voices-by-author/richter-ivy>;  
<https://www.sbs.com.au/topics/pride/agenda/article/2018/05/03/big-city-gaybourhoods-where-they-come-and-why-they-still-matter> - Sydney Pride History Group.

According to historian Rebecca Jennings, lesbians in Sydney only started appearing in significant numbers on the commercial scene during the early 1960s, when they frequented venues alongside gay men. Evidence suggests that prior to this a unique scene existed in Sydney that was

*... centred on private networks meeting at house parties and later in social groups. The predominance of private rather than public patterns of socialising in the immediate postwar decades had a lasting impact on the development of lesbian social practices and subcultural identities throughout the period [from the 1940s to the 1970s] ...*<sup>65</sup>

Other venues that were popular with lesbians in the 1960s and early 1970s were the Sussex Hotel at 68 Liverpool Street, Sydney (demolished), and the Park Inn (now Centennial Hotel) at 88-90 Oxford Street, Woollahra, which opened as a camp venue in 1970. So too was the Trolley Car Bar in Chippendale. The Trolley Car opened in 1966.

63 Development application DA 263/1/68 for the use of 193-195 Oxford Street for a licensed restaurant and nightclub was lodged on 20 November 1968.

64 Rebecca Jennings, *Unnamed Desires: a Sydney lesbian history* (Monash University Publishing, 2015), p.58

65 Jennings, p.51. Social groups included the Chameleons (founded in 1962), Boomerangs, Kuringals the Polynesian Social Club (also known as Polly's, founded 1967) and the lesbian only Clover (founded in 1972). Refer to Jennings and Mackay, pp.15-24.



It was a mixed bar owned by Dawn O'Donnell,<sup>66</sup> a prominent lesbian businesswoman who was destined to play a major role in the development of a commercial scene in gay Sydney. One of her earliest ventures was Karen's Castle, which opened in 1965 in a converted shop in Cleveland Street, Redfern. Drag shows were staged there on weekends. Dawn sold it in 1967.<sup>67</sup>

In 1967, a group of friends that included Dawn O'Donnell established Sydney's first gay bathhouse, the Bondi Junction Steam Baths.<sup>68</sup> It was located on Oxford Street at Bondi Junction, and close to Chez Ivy's.<sup>69</sup> Gay bathhouses would appear to be significant institutions for gay men; the first to appear in the study area was the 253 Sauna at 253 Oxford Street, which closed in 1988. According to Jason Prior, Professor of Planning, Health and Environment at the Institute for Sustainable Futures at UTS,

*The gay bathhouse played a central role in the battle for gay liberation in Sydney during the latter part of the twentieth century. The evolving public domain of Sydney's gay bathhouses fostered the experiences of gay men and contributed to the development of a vibrant, validated homosexual culture within the city. The dynamic nature of these spaces allowed gay men an unprecedented opportunity to develop, experience and express, individual and collective sexual identities and practices<sup>70</sup>*

While the Bondi Junction Steam Baths endured into the 1970s, The Birdcage was short-lived. It closed later in 1969 after a second fire and the performers and the shows moved to Dawn O'Donnell's Capriccios at 163-169 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst, which opened shortly after.<sup>71</sup> O'Donnell, is often credited with turning Oxford Street into the gay capital of the southern hemisphere and Sydney into one of the most open gay cities in the world. With the opening of Capriccio's Oxford Street and its environs increasingly drew LGBTQ people away from Kings Cross, although this did not happen overnight.

There have been several reasons suggested as to why the focus of the LGBTQ scene shifted from Kings Cross to Darlinghurst. From October 1967 to December 1971 Sydney was a rest and recreation (R&R) destination for American military servicemen active in Vietnam. Inevitably, Kings Cross was an important location for them. R&R has been blamed for negative impacts on Kings Cross and Australian society, although it has been suggested that its impacts, particularly in regard to drugs, have been overstated.<sup>72</sup> The obvious presence of drugs and heterosexual prostitution in Kings

66 Jennings, p.60

67 Jennings and Mackay, p.8.

68 Jason Prior, "Experiences beyond the threshold: Sydney's gay bathhouses" in *Australian Cultural History* Vol. 27, No. 1, April 2009, p.64, accessed at [https://www.academia.edu/2243232/Experiences\\_beyond\\_the\\_threshold\\_Sydneys\\_gay\\_bathhouses](https://www.academia.edu/2243232/Experiences_beyond_the_threshold_Sydneys_gay_bathhouses).

69 Gay Sydney: a history, p.163.

70 Prior, p.61. From 1972 to 1977 the following gay steam baths opened: Ken's Karate Klub at Kensington (1972); No. 253 at 253 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst (1973); King Steam in King Street, Sydney, later relocated to Oxford Street; Silhouette American Health Centre; Colt 107 Recreation Centre; Barefoot Boy; and Roman Bath, which opened during 1977 in the basement of the National Building at 250 Pitt Street, Sydney and later relocated to Oxford Street.

71 "Richter, Ivy" at <https://www.pridehistory.org.au/100-voices-by-author/richter-ivy>, accessed 13 December 2022.

72 Duffy and Hordern, pp.245-247. The authors suggest there were only about 1,500 American servicemen on leave in Sydney at any one time, their presence "crammed into a few blocks around Kings Cross in a score or so of nightclubs and bars" (Duffy and Hordern quoting Richard Hall, *Disorganised Crime*, University of Queensland Press, 1986, p.44.

15

Dawn O'Donnell, photographed by Greg Barrett in 1993.

Source: National Library of Australia  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-142843715>.

Cross has also been suggested.<sup>73</sup> Perhaps an equally valid reason was that rents were cheaper as Kings Cross real estate became more expensive and affordable large empty spaces were readily available around Oxford Street.

In this period of transition Darlinghurst Road fulfilled an important role:

*It was Capriccio's which was to become the landmark of the new gay era which began to unfold in Oxford Street in the late sixties. To some it might have seemed too long a distance from the major meeting places of the established scene in the Cross to this new venue in Oxford Street. However, this was not really so, as the old beat at Green Park (affectionately referred to as the Wailing Wall) was on the route between the Cross and Oxford Street. In fact, many promenaders preferred to cruise along this route after the pubs had closed.*

*If you think of Green Park as having been then like it is today [1983], you'll have to think again. There were very few commercial boys out on the beat at that time and it was often something of a social occasion where many would go just for the company. There were sometimes hundreds out at any one time.*

*The walk along Darlinghurst Road from the Cross allowed time to sober up just a little and take in some of the views on the streets in the evening. Along this route one eventually came to the Maccabean Hall on the corner of Burton Street and Darlinghurst Road. This was often the site of gay dances. The most consistent were those put on by a group called the Aquarius Club, which really wasn't a club at all, but a personal charity for one enterprising individual who realised what the gay world needed.<sup>74</sup>*

## 2.4 Political action

At the same time as commercial venues were starting to appear on Oxford Street, political action for gay rights was starting to emerge. Campaign Against Moral Persecution (CAMP) was founded by public servant Christabel Poll (c.1939-2023) and psychology student John Ware (1939-2011) and their partners, who became its convenors and spokespeople, in 1970:

*In February 1971, Sydney's first lesbian and gay political organisation, the Campaign Against Moral Persecution (CAMP Inc), was founded in St John's Church Hall, Balmain. The organisation was established by John Ware, Christabel Poll and their partners in July 1970 with the aim of educating the general public about homosexuality and alleviating the isolation and low self-esteem experienced by many LGBTIQ people during this time. The new group found clubrooms at 393 Darling Street, Balmain, where they held meetings and parties. They also produced a lesbian and gay rights magazine called CAMP Ink as a means of communicating with supporters across the country and to build momentum behind their political organising activities.<sup>75</sup>*



16  
Photograph of John Ware and Christabel Poll that accompanied an article published in *The Bulletin*, 13 March 1971.

73 Faro and Wotherspoon, p.223.

74 Robert Connell, "The Birth of Gay Oxford Street", *Oxford Weekender News*, 10 – 23 November 1983, p.13.

75 "Camp Ink" at <https://www.pridehistory.org.au/camp-ink>, accessed 12 December 2022; the CAMP Inc meeting took place on 6 February 1971 and was the first public gathering of



By the end of the year branches of CAMP had been established in all capital cities and on most university campuses. On 8 October 1971, some 70 people demonstrated outside the Sydney headquarters of the Liberal Party supporting the pre-selection of Tom Hughes, then Federal Attorney-General. It marked an important milestone in the history of gay liberation and according to *CAMP Ink* "October was the month when we came of age, politically."

During 1971 the more radical politics and ideas of the Gay Liberation Front in the United States were percolating into Australia. A group calling itself Sydney Gay Liberation (SGL) broke away from CAMP Inc in January 1972. The first major demonstration organised by SGL, in July 1972, was outside the ABC offices in Sydney and was notable also for the first arrest at a gay political demonstration in Australia. Seventeen people were arrested at a march in Martin Place. It was a foretaste of similar confrontations to come, the most spectacular of which was to occur at the first Gay Mardi Gras in 1978 (refer to Section 2.7). The SGL staged fund raising dances at Paddington Town Hall, which was the scene of numerous dances for the gay and lesbian community during the 1970s and 1980s. Gay Pride Week celebrations were held in Sydney in September 1973. However, by 1974 practical achievements were limited. At least one public group, which acted as a focus for activity, had been established in the larger cities as had counselling services. But these groups were small and they failed to attract the larger membership from the broader gay community centred on the bar culture.

Women had been equal and enthusiastic partners in the early workings of both CAMP and Gay Liberation but by early 1973, many women were having increasing difficulty coping with the sexist attitudes of many gay men. At the same time, lesbians were attempting to work out their place in a feminist movement that was sometimes hostile to them. Many turned their energies and involvement to feminist or lesbian separatist organisations or drifted away from a gay movement which they felt held little for them. This trend was only reversed in the late 1980s.<sup>76</sup>

## 2.5 Oxford Street consolidates

It took some time for the commercial gay scene on Oxford Street to achieve its pre-eminence:

*When Gore Vidal trawled along Oxford Street in 1973, he quipped that they could have been in New York twenty years earlier. Five years later, The Australian had discovered the pink dollar. But there were still only three gay watering holes between Taylor Square and Hyde Park although Ruby Reds, Sydney's only lesbian bar, was just around the corner. There were some gay-friendly restaurants and coffee shops as well as back-rooms and a sauna, but there were no gay pubs. The Cricketer's Arms was in Surry Hill, The Unicorn was in Paddington and the Bottom's Up Bar was in Kings Cross. In fact Kings Cross was still the centre of Sydney's night life and had some camp-gay spaces including The Barrel Inn; the Bunk House, Castellos, the Chevron Hotel, the Rex Hotel, Ida's Disco and Les Girls.*

homosexual men and women in Sydney (Robert French, "Australia's queer history" at <https://www.ogmagazine.org.au/20/4-20/australias-queer-history/>, accessed 12 December 2022.

76 "Fifty Years of Visibility" at <https://www.pridehistory.org.au/newsletter/50-years-of-visibility>, accessed 14 December 2022.



17

Poster for a SGL fund raising dance at Paddington Town Hall, 1973.

Source: SLNSW

POSTERS/HOMOSEXUALITY/1

*The big money didn't roll into Oxford Street until 1979. However, CAMP felt that a lot of men were already drifting away from its outreach services and heading for the bars and discos.<sup>77</sup>*

In 1978 academic, author and gay rights activist Dennis Altman shared his less-than-enthusiastic observations on the nature of the emerging Oxford Street in an article on gay life in Australia:

*Meanwhile the commercial scene continued to proliferate, especially in Sydney – Oxford St [sic] has become a tawdry antipodean Amsterdam, at least in the eyes of those outside Sydney. This proliferation has been almost exclusively aimed at men; it is perhaps significant, and it is certainly sad, that the one lesbian bar in Sydney is manned by men who look like strip-club bouncers. The women, therefore, have had more reason to search for alternatives to the commercial scene, probably a major reason for their greater militancy.<sup>78</sup>*

Kings Cross and its environs did not just fade away as venues on Oxford Street proliferated. Established venues such as the Barrell Inn at in Challis Avenue, Potts Point traded throughout the 1970s. New gay venues kept opening in Kings Cross during the 1970s. They included:

- The Barrell Inn, Challis Avenue, Potts Point, which was established circa 1971.
- The upstairs bar in the Australian Heritage Hotel, 79 Bayswater Road.
- The Palace Disco in Darlinghurst Road, Kings Cross.
- The Venus Room, 6 Orwell Street, Kings Cross.
- Club Castello, 2A Kellett Street, Kings Cross.
- Colt 107 Sauna, 107 Darlinghurst Road, Kings Cross.
- The Bunkhouse, 2 Kellett Street, Kings Cross.<sup>79</sup>

Between 1973 and the early 1980s several gay men's' venues opened on Oxford Street and nearby localities. Not all of them lasted for very long. Perhaps the first was the Cricketers Arms Hotel at 106-108 Fitzroy Street, Surry Hills - some distance to the south of Oxford Street (1973; Sydney LEP item I1540). It was mainly frequented by lesbians but also served male patrons.<sup>80</sup> The Cricketers Arms was followed by the Apollo Bar at the Imperial Hotel, 25 Oxford Street, Paddington (opened circa April 1976) and Patch's at 33 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst (April 1976). Venues that followed included:

- Palms at 124 Oxford Street (c.1977)
- Tropicana at 85 Oxford Street and Flo's Palace at 97 Oxford Street (both 1978)
- the Unicorn Hotel at 106 Oxford Street, Paddington (1978)
- the Beresford Hotel at 354 Bourke Street, Surry Hills (1979)
- the Albury Hotel at 2A Oxford Street, Paddington (1980)
- Exchange Hotel, 34-36 Oxford Street (1980)
- Club 85 at 85 Oxford Street (1980), which became Midnight Shift in 1982
- Flinders Hotel, 63-65 Flinders Street (1980)



18

Advertisement for Patch's published in the Sydney Star during 1979. Source: <https://kxacf.org.au/1-what-was-gay-and-lesbian-sydney-like-in-1978/>.

77 Gavin Harris and John Witte, "Kings Cross Arts & Cultural Festival Inc: 1. What was gay and lesbian Sydney like in 1978?" at <https://kxacf.org.au/1-what-was-gay-and-lesbian-sydney-like-in-1978/>, accessed 1 December 2022.

78 Dennis Altman, "Oz Movement 1971-1978", *Campaign*, No 36, September 1978, p.17).

79 List based on articles and advertisements in *Campaign*, September 1975 to September 1978.

80 Jennings and Mackay, p.27.

## Oxford Street LGBTIQ+ Heritage Study

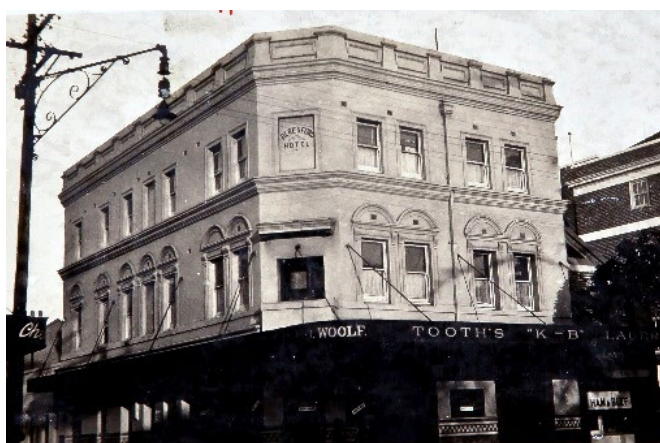
- The Green Park Diner, 219-221 Oxford Street (1981)
- the Oxford Hotel at 134 Oxford Street (1982)
- Butts Bar, 45 Oxford Street.

A leather bar/club called The Ox opened in 80 Oxford Street in the last years of the 1970s. The Ox fell victim to fire during 1981,<sup>81</sup> a fate shared by many gay venues in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Another leather bar opening at this time was The Barracks at 7-9 Flinders Street, which subsequently relocated to 1-5 Flinders Street. By way of contrast The Bookshop opened its doors at 207 Oxford Street in 1985 and remains a valuable LGBTIQ+ cultural institution within the street.

The 253 sauna was joined by the Roman Bath at 38-42 Oxford Street in 1986. Three years later the premises became King Stream (now Sydney Sauna). In 1991 Bodyline Sauna opened at 10 Taylor Street.

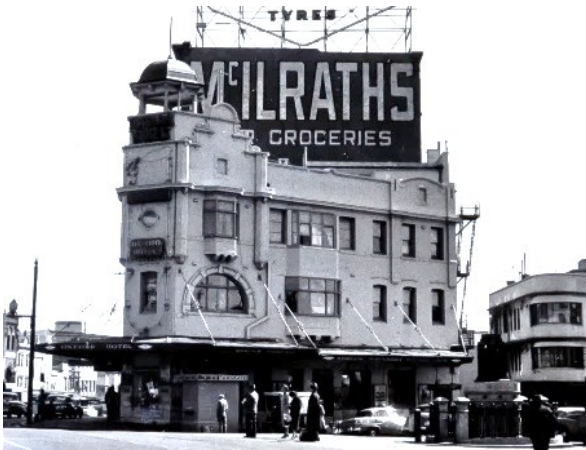


19 The Cricketers Arms Hotel in Surry Hills shortly after completion in 1922, some fifty years before it became a popular gay venue (left); the Unicorn Hotel at 106 Oxford Street, Paddington, completed around 1942 (right). Source Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Object no 86/3384-13/1. Photographer not known; *Building*, 24 June 1942, p.31.



20 The Albury Hotel in Paddington shortly after completion, 1940 (left); the Beresford Hotel in Surry Hills, which was subjected to extensive alterations and additions circa 1925 (right). Source: ANU Noel Butlin Archives at <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/95259> and <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/96432>

81 Faro and Wotherspoon, p.248.



21 Portion of a c.1934 photograph showing the Oxford Hotel in Darlinghurst (left); Exchange Hotel in Darlinghurst, photographed in 1930.

Sources: ANU Noel Butlin Archives at <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/102274> and <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/733712883>

The commercial scene for lesbians during the 1970s and the following decades was not situated on Oxford Street. Rather, it consisted of venues in several locations, as was the case in the 1960s with hotels like the Trolley Bar in Chippendale and the Sussex Hotel in Central Sydney. In 1973 Dawn O'Donnell and her business partner, gay millionaire restaurateur Roger-Claude Tesseydre, took over the restaurant known as Jools at 121 Crown Street, East Sydney (since demolished). The name was retained but the restaurant became a cabaret venue and supper club, opening around the beginning of December 1973.<sup>82</sup> It was "... far more glamorous than a lot of the other lesbian venues with chandeliers, a bar on the mezzanine level and opulent red plush velvet wallpaper and many artists performed here, including the lesbian icon Lana Cantrell."<sup>83</sup> It was destroyed by fire in January 1977.<sup>84</sup>

Pubs utilised by heterosexual or gay male patrons would have women's nights. For instance, in 1978 the Back Bar of the Oriental Hotel, at the intersection of Crown and Campbell Streets, Surry Hills, was advertised as a women's only venue from Thursday to Saturday between the hours of 7 and 10 pm.<sup>85</sup> Ruby Reds at 273 Crown Street to the south of Oxford Street, on the other hand, was an exclusively women's venue. Opening during 1979, it was a nightclub and women's bar and was owned by Dawn O'Donnell. It sported all the paraphernalia of the early disco era including strobe lighting, mirror balls and dance floors that changed colours. The bar catered to women only; men were only admitted as guests of female patrons (or worked behind the bar).<sup>86</sup> The venue was advertised as a restaurant in later years.<sup>87</sup> It is credited as Australia's first lesbian bar and club.<sup>88</sup>

The circa 1903 Royal George Hotel on the north-western corner of King and Sussex Streets, Sydney, opened as a "new gay spot" in the first quarter of 1977.<sup>89</sup> For some



22 Dawn O'Donnell and Roger-Claude Tesseydre at Jools not long after it opened.

Source: *Now*, 4 December 1973, p.2.



23 The bar at Ruby Reds, 273 Crown Street, photographed in April 1984. Source: Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives, Cayte Latta papers and photograph.

82 "Juanita's World", *Now*, 4 December 1973, p.2.

83 Jennings and Mackay, p.27. Other joint ventures between O'Donnell and Tesseydre, as was Ruby Reds included Le Cabanon, Patches, the Exchange Hotel and King Steam.

84 *Campaign*, No. 17 February 1977, p.6.

85 Advertisement, *Campaign*, April 1978, p.20.

86 Jennings, p.72.

87 *Oxford Weekender News*, 11-17 August 1983

88 <https://www.sushi-rider.com/friends-of-dorothy/first-lesbian-bar-clubs-worldwide.html>, accessed 21 December 2022.

89 "New Gay Spots", *Campaign*, March 1977, p.27.

years a favourite pub of the Sydney Push, it attracted a part-time lesbian clientele into the early 1990s. At this time venues favoured by lesbians were located away from Oxford Street, with the building formerly occupied by Ruby Reds, now containing a venue known as Pastels, the closest venue to it.

The 1907 Belmore Park Hotel at 47 Reservoir Streets, Surry Hills, opened as a lesbian venue in August 1983.<sup>90</sup> According to the *Oxford Weekender News* it was the first full-time pub in Sydney for women. Halfway between two major women's venues, it was a pub that women would patronise before moving on to other venues<sup>91</sup> It is understood to have closed for business in 1985.



24

The brick and sandstone Belmore Park Hotel at 47 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills, photographed in 1930. It has since been painted externally and the verandah replaced by a suspended awning (left); stylish advertisement for the Royal George Hotel published in *Lesbians on the Loose*, September 1990, p.3 (right).

Sources: Australian National University Noel Butlin Archives at <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/96392>.

## 2.6 1980s and after

1980 Lex Watson and Craig Johnston<sup>92</sup> assisted in setting up the Gay Rights Lobby to lobby for decriminalisation of male homosexual acts. Concerted campaigning began during 1981 and eventually led to the introduction of the Crimes (Amendment) Act decriminalising homosexual acts in NSW by Labor Premier Neville Wran on 10 May 1984. It was seconded by the leader of the Liberal Party, Nick Greiner, passed about 12 days later and assented to the following month.

In the meantime, the first case of HIV/AIDS in Sydney was diagnosed in November 1982. The disease was first identified in America during 1981. The general reaction to the disease was paranoid and marked by extensive homophobic scare mongering in the media. Sydney's gay community responded with the provision of vital support services. The AIDS Council of NSW (ACON), established in mid-1983, was followed in 1985 by Ankali, an organisation that trained volunteers to provide emotional and social support for victims, the Community Support Network, to care for affected people in their homes and the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation, to provide financial, housing and employment support. According to Garry Wotherspoon, "if ever there had been a debate as to whether or not the Oxford Street gay scene could be said to constitute a community, the response to the AIDS epidemic certainly saw a clear resolve to the issue."<sup>93</sup> Many were treated and died in Ward 17 South at St Vincent's Hospital but the

90 *Oxford Weekender News*, 11-17 August 1983, p.9.

91 "Femmes In-formation", *Oxford Weekend News*, Issue 70, 18 August 1983 p.14

92 Craig Johnston was a Labor then Independent Alderman on the then Sydney City Council from April 1984 to March 1987.

93 Faro and Wotherspoon, p.257.

numbers requiring hospitalisation became too great and in 1986 a new ward was opened at Prince Henry Hospital at Little Bay.<sup>94</sup>

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial was established in 1983. Oxford Street became an important part of Sydney's AIDS Candlelight Vigils, the first of which took place in October 1985. The vigils started at Green Park then moved down Oxford Street to Hyde Park.

In the first half of the 1980s an alternative centre of gay commercial activity in metropolitan Sydney emerged. Venues opened in suburban Sydney during the 1970s, such as Yolanta's Bar at 9 Pittwater Road, Manly claimed to be the north shore's first gay bar, which started trading as a gay venue in the Manly Wine Tavern at the end of 1976, and what was claimed to be the first gay bar and bistro in Sydney's inner west, Charlie's Place in Homer Street, Earlwood, which opened in the middle of 1978.<sup>95</sup> Neither traded for many years although Yolantas survived into the early 1980s. Venues opening in Newtown and Erskineville proved rather more enduring, mirroring the consolidation of an active and vibrant inner west gay community and perhaps reflecting a broader acceptance of the LGBTQIA+ community by the general public. Pub licensee Barry Cecchini acquired the Milton and Newtown Hotels on King Street, Newtown, in 1982. While the Milton, renamed Cecchini's, only traded as a gay venue for a few years, the Newtown lasted until 2008, although in its present guise it is patronised by members of the LGBTQIA+ community. In 1983 Dawn O'Donnell acquired the Imperial Hotel in Erskineville. It has become a highly significant venue, patronised by gay men, lesbians and other members of the LGBTQIA+ community. She also acquired the Newtown Hotel's licence during the same period

Gilligan's Island on the southern side of Taylor Square was the setting for a political demonstration on 14 February 1995 when Taylor Square Perverts Against Sexual Hypocrisy: Out Now (PASHON) staged a "kiss in" there. The demonstration was intended to "draw attention to positive sexuality, the need for legal recognition for gay and lesbian relationships and an equal age of consent for everyone."<sup>96</sup> The following June South Sydney Council's Local Environment Plan, which aimed amongst other things to reinforce Oxford Street's gay and lesbian identity, was presented to the Council's gay and lesbian community consultation committee. Several days later The PRIDE Sydney Lesbian and Gay Community Centre at 26 Hutchinson Street, Surry Hills was opened by Federal MP Peter Baldwin and the State MP Clover Moore.<sup>97</sup>



25

1995 Candlelight Vigil at the intersection of Oxford and College Streets

Source: City of Sydney Archives  
Unique ID A- 00068659

<sup>94</sup> Gay Sydney: a history, pp.226-227.

<sup>95</sup> Yolanta's Bar in the Manly Wine Tavern was advertised in the *Manly Daily*, 7 February 1974 and appeared in the gay journal *Campaign* Issue 15, December 1976, p.3; *Campaign* No 33, June 1978, p.46.

<sup>96</sup> Pride History Group, *Decades of Pride: 1995* at <https://www.pridehistory.org.au/decades-of-pride>, accessed 23 January 2023.

<sup>97</sup> *Decades of Pride: 1995*, accessed 23 January 2023.



26  
The PASH ON kiss-in in Taylor Square (1995).  
Source: City of Sydney Archives, A- 00068652

What proved to be a temporary rainbow crossing was installed at Taylor Square in 2013:

*West Hollywood saw a rainbow crossing installed on Santa Monica Boulevard as part of the 2012 Gay Pride Month in the US. The crossing was such a success it was allowed to remain a permanent feature.*

*Cities including San Francisco, Atlanta and Vancouver soon followed with their own colourful crossings.*

*A ... rainbow crossing at Taylor Square installed in 2013 proved to be a hit. Its installation was timed with the Mardi Gras Festival and appeared in countless photos across social media. The crossing was removed by the former NSW Roads Minister.*

*Following the crossing's removal, the City raised a rainbow flag at Taylor Square in 2014.<sup>98</sup>*

The flag was joined in 2019 by a permanent rainbow crossing at the junction of Bourke and Campbell Streets. It was installed at the beginning of 2019. A rainbow path was installed in Prince Alfred Park, Surry Hills, about three years later, along with a rainbow path at Coogee Beach in 2021.

From 2014, lockout laws introduced by the NSW government that year impacted on many venues, causing them to close. Among them were the Flinders and Exchange Hotels and the Midnight Shift. The laws were repealed about seven years later, leading to the re-opening of several venues.



27  
The temporary rainbow crossing at Taylor Square, 2013.  
Source:  
[https://dictionaryofsydney.org/blog/sydneys\\_rainbow\\_crossing](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/blog/sydneys_rainbow_crossing) - Megan Hicks photograph

<sup>98</sup> "Crossing the rainbow at Taylor Square" at <https://news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/articles/crossing-the-rainbow-on-taylor-square>, accessed 23 January 2023.

## 2.7 Mardi Gras

According to the State Heritage Register nomination for the Sydney Mardi Gras Parade Route,

*The Sydney Mardi Gras Parade Route along lower Oxford Street, Flinders Street and Anzac Parade within Moore Park has potential state heritage significance for its historic, associative, research, representative and rarity values, as the focus and the evolving site of Sydney's Mardi Gras parades from their beginning in 1978. These streets represent a window into alternative Sydney subcultures, a landscape where political protests, cultural festivals, shops, services and celebration of diversity have been made the most public, over decades. The Mardi Gras Parades build on a longer history of major public parades along Oxford Street, formerly South Head and Old South Head Road.*

*The corridor of space along these streets leading from Hyde Park South to Moore Park and the Hordern Pavilion and Hall of Industries where post-Mardi Gras-parade dance parties have been held since 1982 is known beyond Australia as the face of Queer Sydney and Australia, a beacon of tolerance, resilience, political activist and gradual community acceptance and celebration. As a public platform for reclaiming public space by formerly oppressed minorities, this trio of roads takes on a different meaning and purpose at least once a year, as the site of the Mardi Gras Parades.*

*Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is one of Australia's most famous and well-loved events, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to Sydney to join in celebrations.*

The Parade Route, with all of its LGBTQIA+ associations, is an outcome of events that took place in August 1978. The following summary history is based on information held at <https://www.mardigras.org.au/history-of-sydney-mardi-gras/>.

The pivotal event in the battle to achieve equal rights and recognition for gay people took place on the evening of Saturday, 24 June 1978. The original plan was for a procession along Oxford Street, commencing at Taylor Square, towards Hyde Park. It had been organised in response to a request from the San Francisco Freedom Day Committee for an international commemoration of the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York, by a small group of activities who had formed the Gay Solidarity Group. The parade followed a day of political protest and a forum staged at Paddington Town Hall. Transgender and Aboriginal people and people from migrant backgrounds all took part. The parade was shut down when it reached College Street but the participants then progressed up William Street. A riot took place on Darlinghurst Road when police tried to break up the parade and 53 people were arrested. They were incarcerated in Darlinghurst Police Station and subjected to brutal treatment.<sup>99</sup> The aftermath of the parade echoed events associated with the Stonewall riot in New York in 1969.

<sup>99</sup> *Street Seen*, p.p.233-234; <https://theconversation.com/friday-essay-on-the-sydney-mardi-gras-march-of-1978-54337>, accessed 6 December 2022; <https://kxacf.org.au/1-what-was-gay-and-lesbian-sydney-like-in-1978/>



Darlinghurst Police Station was subsequently closed in March 1987. The closure was celebrated by a ceremony led by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, where the demon of homophobia was exorcised from the building.



28 The riot in Darlinghurst Road at the end of the Mardi Gras parade on the night of 24 June 1978 (left) and Poster promoting the day of International Gay Solidarity on 24 June 1978.

Sources:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/topics/pride/mardigras/article/2018/03/02/we-found-every-sydney-gay-and-lesbian-mardi-gras-poster-1978>; <https://www.crossart.com.au/exhibition-archive/113-2018-exhibitions-projects/339-riot-candles-in-the-cross-the-first-mardi-gras-40-years-on>, Branco Gaica photographer.

On 26 June 1978, 300 protested outside the closed court in Liverpool St and seven people were arrested. At a gay rights march staged on 15 July 1978, 2,000 people took part, making it the largest ever gay rights march. More people were arrested. Further arrests took place during the march down Oxford Street for the 4th National Homosexual Conference on 27 August 1978. Most though not all of the charges against those arrested were eventually dropped.

Up to 3,000 people marched in an incident-free event in 1979. That year the Mardi Gras expanded to encompass a week of festival opening with a fund-raising dance party. In 1980 a new element was introduced in the form of a post-parade party. In the early 1980s there was disagreement as to whether Mardi Gras was a political demonstration or a celebration of coming out.

In 1981 a crowd of 5,000 attended the parade. Changes at this time that were to determine the future direction of Mardi Gras included the shifting the parade from winter to summer, establishing an independent and elected organising body and enlisting non-activist groups. The following year First Nations people were represented, with an Aboriginal flag appearing in the Parade. By 1987 it had become Australia's biggest night time parade, attended by 100,000 people. The highly popular Dykes on Bikes (members of the Vixens motorcycle club) appeared for the first time in the 1988 Parade.

By now Lesbians represented 25 per cent of the Mardi Gras membership and the name of the Mardi Gras was changed accordingly to include “Lesbian”. The 1988 Parade also saw the inaugural First Nations float, with dancer and activist Malcolm Cole dressed as Captain Cook accompanied by a First Nations Joseph Banks and two sailors standing in a long boat pulled by a European man. In 2005 the Parade was led by a First Nations float.



29

Malcolm Cole as Captain Cook, accompanied by a First Nations Joseph Banks in the 1988 Mardi Gras Parade. Source: National Library of Australia PIC88063 LOC Cold store Pic Yan – William Yang photograph.

The event began to enjoy extensive media coverage from the mid-1980s onwards and the crowds continued to swell, from 200,000 in 1989 to over 500,000 in 1993. Large numbers of interstate and international travellers had started flying in for the event as well, generating an estimated \$38 million for the NSW economy. NSW MPs marched in the parade for the first time in 1992 followed by members of the NSW Police Force in 1998. A record crowd of 500,000 attended the Parade in 1993.<sup>100</sup>

Oxford Street also played a pivotal role in the Gay Games V, held in Sydney between 2 and 9 November 2002. The Games attracted about 13,000 athletes over 32 different sports and were accompanied by an arts and cultural festival.

*The hub of the Games energy was rainbow mostly in the Hyde Park-Oxford Street area, which sported colorful street banners, food stalls, free musical performances and a huge painted rainbow on the street in Taylor Square in front of the most popular bar The Oxford Hotel. Cafes and bars along Oxford Street were energized and swollen with drinkers and diners day and night.*

*It all melded into a resplendent downtown ambience of cheerful volunteers, good food, buoyant athletes, dedicated artists and ebullient visitors from 75 countries around the world.*

The sports venues, however, were spread out across the suburbs so many native Sydneysiders didn't see much of the Games live. Nor did they see much in the newspapers as the coverage was minimal.<sup>101</sup>

<sup>100</sup> <https://www.mardigras.org.au/history-of-sydney-mardi-gras/>, accessed 22 December 2022.

<sup>101</sup> Richard Ammon, “Australia – Gay Games VI 2002” at <https://www.globalgayz.com/australia-gay-games-vi-2002/744/>, accessed 19 December 2022.

## 2.8 Chronological summary of venues

The following table summarises the chronological appearance of gay and lesbian venues on and near Oxford Street. The pink shading indicates when a LGBTIQ+ venue first opened at that address.

Address	Venue	Opened	Closed (if known)	Status
40-42 Flinders Street, Darlinghurst	Grosvenor Club/Taxi Club	1960s	2012	Not a gay venue
191-195 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Ivy's Birdcage	1969	1969	Closed
163-169 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Capriccios	1969	1982	
	Klub Kakadu	1987		
	Mars Club	1990s		
	Nevermind Nightclub			
	Heaven	2007?		
	Noir			
33 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Soul 33	c.1974		
	Patch's	1976		
	Fantasyland			
	DCM		c.2010	No longer a gay venue
85-91 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Tropicana	1978	1980	
	Club 85	1980	1980	
	Midnight Shift	1980	2017	
	Universal	c.2018		Gay venue
80 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	The Ox	c.1978	1981	
	Footballers Club sauna	1981		
	Pete's Beat	1982	1985	
	Handlebar	1985	c.1987	Not a gay venue
253 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	253 Sauna	1973	1988	Not a gay venue
124 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Palms	c.1977		
	Scooters	c.1988	1994	
	Palms	2000		Gay venue
1-5/7-9 Flinders Street, Darlinghurst	The Barracks	1978	2008	Not a gay venue
85 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Tropicana	1978		Not a gay venue
97 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Flo's Palace	1978	1983	
	The Den	1990s		Gay venue
273 Crown Street, Surry Hills	Ruby Reds	1979	1986	
	Querelle	1986		
	Boogie Room	1988		
	B's	1990		
	Pastels			
	Ruby's	1991		
	Headquarters			
Trade	2021		Operating	
63-65 Flinders Street, Darlinghurst	Flinders Hotel	1980	2015	Not a gay venue
34-36 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Exchange Hotel	1980		
	Saddletramp	1981		
219-221 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Green Park Diner	1981		Not a gay venue
134 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Oxford Hotel	1982		Gay venue
45 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Butts Bar	1983		Not a gay venue
383 Bourke St, Darlinghurst	Kinselas	c.1983		Gay venue
207 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	The Bookshop	1985		Gay venue
38-42 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Roman Bath	1986	c.1989	
	King Steam/Sydney Sauna	1989		Gay venue
10 Taylor Street, Darlinghurst	Bodyline Sauna	1991	2021	
		2022		Gay venue
Burdekin Hotel, 2 Oxford Street Darlinghurst	Lava Lounge	c.1995		

Address	Venue	Opened	Closed (if known)	Status
	Baby Bear Bar	2017		
10-24 Flinders Street, Darlinghurst	ARQ	1999	2020	Gay venue
		2022		Gay venue
117-125 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Colombian	c.2001		Gay venue
41 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Slide Cabaret and Bar	2004	2022	Closed

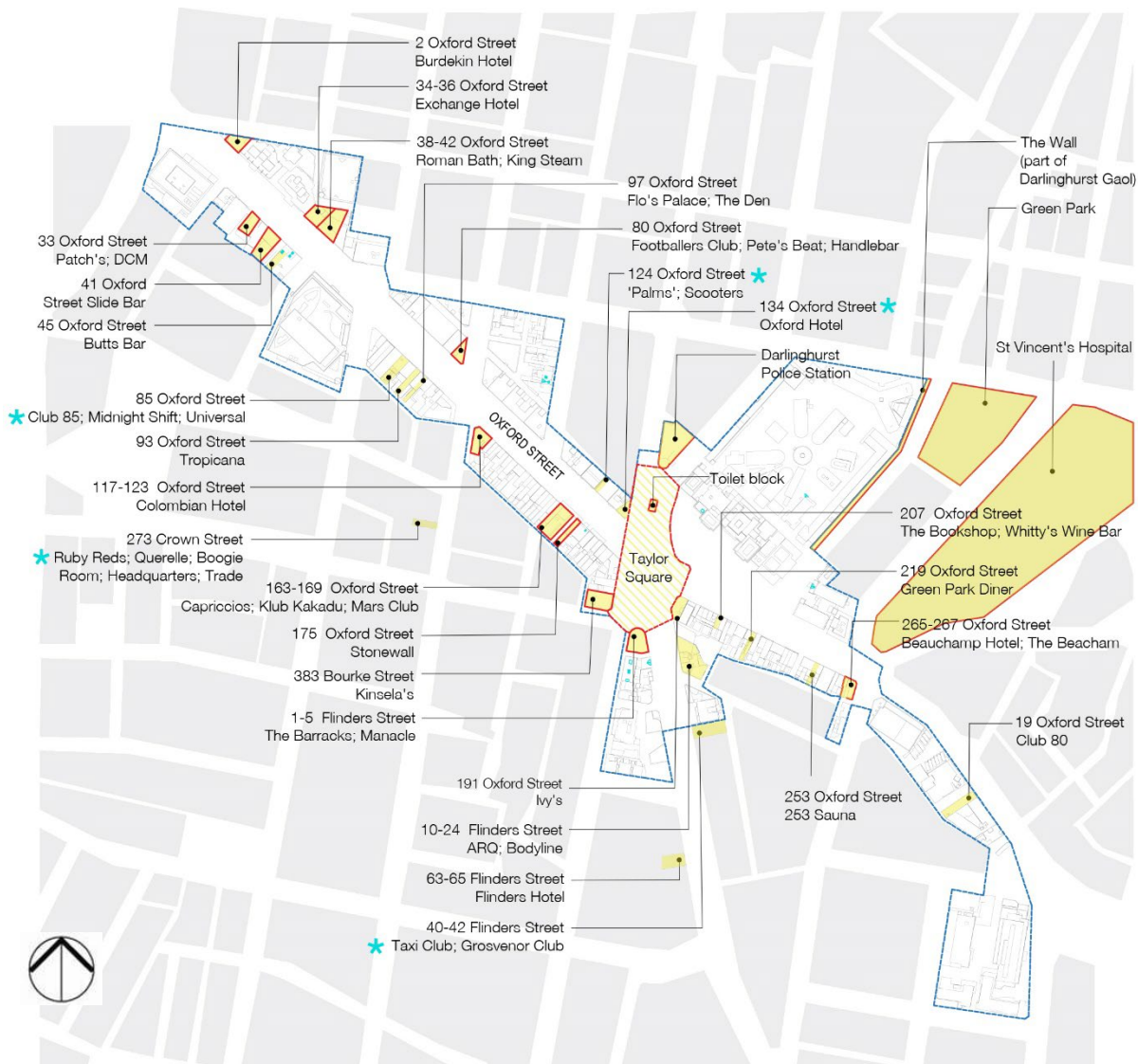
# 3 Significant sites

## 3.1 Introduction

The following tabulated analysis reviews several significant sites within the study area and in its vicinity. The analysis details the history of the sites, especially as it relates to the LGBTIQA+ history, notes current heritage listings, and provides recommendations for future management. In relation to existing heritage items, suggested revisions are provided to address the history and significance of the places to the LGBTIQA+ community if they are not already noted.

Of the 32 sites of significance identified:

- Most sites covered by a conservation area (Oxford Street C17 or Paddington Urban C50)
- 18 sites are already listed as heritage items
- 5 sites are recommended for listing
- Revisions are recommended to the inventories of 14 of the existing heritage items



30 Diagram showing the identified sites of significance (yellow shading) within the Oxford Street study area (blue outline) (not to scale). The red outlines denote existing heritage items. Source: City of Sydney with TKD Architects overlay.

**Site name/s** Underground Men's Conveniences  
**Address** Taylor Square, Darlinghurst



*The Underground Men's Conveniences in 1934 and 2022.*  
 Sources: City of Sydney Archives, A-00007468 and TKD Architects, 2022

**Typology** Meeting place.  
**Current listings** SHR Item No. 01700, 'Taylor Square Substation No.6 & Underground Public Conveniences'; Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012, Item No. 401 'Underground Lavatory Including Interior'

- Outline history**
- Public urinals constructed in Taylor Square in 1883
  - Steel structure erected over the urinals in 1885 to support elevated saltwater tanks for street cleaning
  - In the context of the outbreak of the Bubonic Plague and changing views on public health, Sydney Municipal Council removed the existing urinals and rebuilt new underground men's conveniences under Taylor Square in 1907.<sup>102</sup> It was the sixth of its type to be constructed
  - After debate and petitioning from the Women's progressive Association, in 1938 female conveniences were built nearby
  - The place served as a popular but dangerous meeting place for gay men from the 1960s/1970s onwards. Police attempted to entrap gay men at this location.<sup>103</sup> The conveniences were closed in 1998.

**Recommendations** —

**Inventory revisions** Not required – Existing history and significance (shared between LEP and SHR listings) in the combined listings that cover the site acknowledge the significance of the underground toilets as a meeting place for the gay community.

**Management recommendations** It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development, and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

102 Heritage NSW, State Heritage Inventory entry: 'Taylor Square Substation No. 6 and underground public conveniences,' Item ID 5053631.  
 103 Chloe Sargeant and historian Robert French, 'Secret sex bars and beats: joining the Sisters on a queer history tour,' SBS News, 2 March 2018.

**Site name/s** Darlinghurst Police Station  
**Address** 301 Forbes Street, Darlinghurst



Protestors outside Darlinghurst Police Station in 1978, and the building in 2022.  
 Sources: Branco Gaica via Culture Scouts (L) and TKD Architects (R)

**Typology** Place of protest / site on first Mardi Gras route  
**Current listings** Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 316, 'Former Darlinghurst Police Station including interior'.

- Outline history**
- The main section of the Police Station was constructed in 1899 to the design of the NSW Government Architect headed by Walter Liberty Vernon
  - Additions were undertaken in the 1930s, including the addition of two new cells in 1930, and the addition of an upper floor to the former single storey side wings in 1935
  - Major remodelling of the building occurred in 1955-1956
  - The Station was an important site on the route of the first Sydney Mardi gras in June 1978, when parade participants were detained there and subjected to violent treatment
  - The police station was decommissioned in 1987 with the police transferred to the new police centre in Surry Hills.<sup>104</sup> The building was then occupied by the Department of Health

**Recommendations** Revise history and significance in inventory.

**Inventory revisions** The existing inventory does not acknowledge the history or significance of the place post-1950s. The following should be added to the history:

*The Darlinghurst Police Station played an important role in the parade route of Sydney's First Mardi Gras in June 1978. When the parade had reached King's Cross, the Darlinghurst Police Force attempted to stop the parade, resulting in a riot. 53 people were violently detained and taken to cells at Darlinghurst Police Station, some seriously beaten by police. An early morning vigil was held outside the station the following morning, with attendees assisting in organising bail for those arrested.*

*The decommissioning of the Police Station was celebrated by an exorcism performed by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in March 1987, which marked the end of the violence the force had cause to the gay community in this particular location.*

The following should be added to the statement of significance:

*The Darlinghurst Police Station has social significance to the contemporary LGBTIQ+ community for its associations with the Sydney's First Mardi Gras in June 1978. Participants in the parade were violently detained at the Station following police attempts to stop the parade, and the community held a vigil outside the place the following morning and assisted in securing bail for participants.*

**Management recommendations** It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development, and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

104 Heritage NSW, State Heritage Inventory entry: Darlinghurst Police Station, Item ID 2420332.; Pride History Group, Decades of Pride Entry: 1978, published 2019, accessible online at: <https://www.pridehistory.org.au/>

<b>Site name/s</b>	The Wall
<b>Address</b>	892b Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst



View of the north-eastern corner of Darlinghurst Gaol, 1870 (L); the Wall, 2022 (R)  
Sources: SLNSW SPF/166, attributed to Charles Pickering (L); TKD Architects (R)

<b>Typology</b>	Meeting place.
<b>Current listings</b>	SHR Item No. 2048, 'National Art School, Former Darlinghurst Gaol, Former East Sydney Technical' ; Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012, Item No. 299 'Former East Sydney Technical College & Darlinghurst Gaol'
<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The perimeter walls of the Darlinghurst Gaol were constructed in 1821-1824 enclosing the original square site. New sections of wall were built along Burton Street and the northern part of Darlinghurst Road when the gaol expanded between 1864 and 1866.<sup>105</sup></li> <li>The Gaol became a military and internment camp in 1914 for German nationals, after prison inmates had been transferred to Parramatta and Long Bay Gaols.</li> <li>After WWI, the gaol was purchased by the Sydney Technical College in 1921 for use as an annex to the main campus. The Art School, Sanitation and Hygiene School, Domestic Science, Sheep and Wool School and other departments were moved here. The buildings on the site were altered and adapted for this use. The Sydney Technical College, now the National Art School, continues to occupy the site.</li> <li>During the second half of the twentieth century 'The Wall' (the tall section of wall to Darlinghurst Road between Burton and Oxford Streets) became a popular meeting spot, a place for socialising and a well-known beat for the gay male community<sup>106</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	—

<b>Inventory revisions</b>	Not required – Existing history and significance (shared between LEP and SHR listings) acknowledge the significance of the wall as a conclave and popular meeting spot for the gay and lesbian community. However, it, should be clarified to note that the segment of wall associated with the community is specifically that section on Darlinghurst Road.
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTQIA+ community are interpreted in future development, and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTQIA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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<sup>105</sup> Heritage NSW, State Heritage Inventory entry: 'National Art School,' SHI 5055522

<sup>106</sup> Chloe Sargeant and historian Robert French, 'Secret sex bars and beats: joining the Sisters on a queer history tour,' SBS News, 2 March 2018.



<b>Site name/s</b>	Kinsela's / Kinsela House
<b>Address</b>	383 Bourke Street, Darlinghurst



*Kinsela's in 1969 and 2022.*

Sources: *City of Sydney Archives A-00051665 (L)* and *TKD Architects (2022)*

<b>Typology</b>	Restaurant/bar/nightclub (former funeral parlour)
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney LEP, No. 223, 'Commercial Building "Kinsela House" Including Former Chapel and Interior'
<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A funeral parlour, chapels, office and residence designed by prominent architect C Bruce Dellit in an existing building were constructed on the site in 1932-1933 for the undertaking firm Charles Kinsela Pty Ltd.<sup>107</sup> The family-run firm established in 1830 and operated locally out of premises at 143 Oxford Street prior to the move to Bourke St in 1932-33. By 1938 the company had 38 branches in the state.<sup>108</sup></li> <li>• The company was restructured in 1955. The company went into voluntary administration in 1981 after internal disputes.</li> <li>• By 1982 the building was in use as a brasserie and theatre run by Leon Fink and Tony Bilson.<sup>109</sup> An application had been lodged to convert the place to a restaurant in November 1981. It operated as a nightclub under Fink and Bilson until March 1988 when it was sold to a new company. The new owners continued the use of the place as a restaurant and bar, lodging an application for extensions in August 1989. It became a high-class cabaret venue during this period.<sup>110</sup></li> <li>• From the 1980s onwards the place had a reputation as a welcoming place for the gay community, as a 'mixed' (gay and straight) venue.</li> <li>• Kinsela's was again sold in 1998, more recently to Universal Hotels in 2017, and then to current owner Moelis Australia in 2020.<sup>111</sup> It continues to operate as a bar and restaurant to the present day.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQA+ community.
<b>Inventory revisions</b>	<p>The existing inventory does not acknowledge the significance of the place to the LGBTIQA+ community or any social significance. The following should be added to the history:</p> <p><i>Kinsela's was a welcoming venue to the local gay community from the 1980s onwards. The place became known as a 'mixed' (gay and straight) venue.</i></p> <p>The following should be added to the statement of significance:</p> <p><i>Kinsela's is of social significance as a long-running bar and restaurant in the Darlinghurst area. It is of particular significance to the LGBTIQA+ community for its function as a safe and welcoming space for the community from the 1980s onwards.</i></p>

107 Heritage NSW, State Heritage Inventory entry: 'Commercial building Kinsela House,' SHI 2420331

108 D. B. Waterson, 'Kinsela, Charles Henry William (1886–1944)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University

109 Heritage NSW, State Heritage Inventory entry: 'Commercial building Kinsela House,' SHI 2420331

110 Ruth Pollard, 'Boulevard bears scars of history's flow,' *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 January 2008.

111 'Kinsela's sold to private equity firm for \$45 million,' *Star Observer*, 11 December 2020.

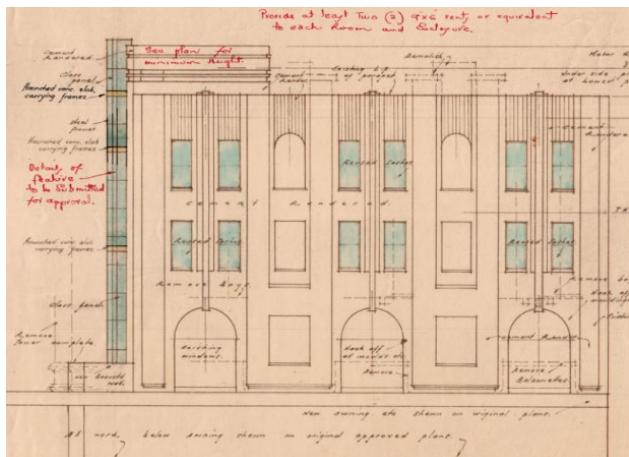
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**Management  
recommendations**

It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTQIA+ community are interpreted in future development, and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTQIA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

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<b>Site name/s</b>	Burdekin Hotel
<b>Address</b>	2 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



Elevation extracted from plans for the remodelling of the building, 1938, and the Burdekin Hotel in 2022.  
Sources: City of Sydney Archives, Unique ID A-00556874 and TKD Architects.

<b>Typology</b>	Hotel
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 379 'Burdekin Hotel'

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The hotel at the western end of Oxford Street was constructed 1911-1912 to the design of the Architect and City Building Surveyor's Department after the Municipal Council of Sydney resumed the land on this corner. The existing Burdekin Hotel was demolished and replaced by a new building</li> <li>Major alterations to the hotel were undertaken by the firm of Rudder and Grout in 1938, changing the external appearance and planning of the building<sup>112</sup></li> <li>In line with the growing gay and lesbian community in the local area from the 1970s onwards, the Burdekin Hotel appears to have become a favoured and frequented place by the community. During the 1990s, the hotel housed events for the gay and lesbian communities, including the launch of Lesbian magazine LIP<sup>113</sup></li> <li>BumpHer Bar, a Friday night lesbian venue, opened in August 2001 and closed circa 2008.</li> <li>Part of the building became the Dugout Bar (Baby Bear Bar) in 2017,<sup>114</sup> The place continues to be a welcoming place to the LGBTIQ+ community and hosts a variety of social events and celebrations</li> </ul>
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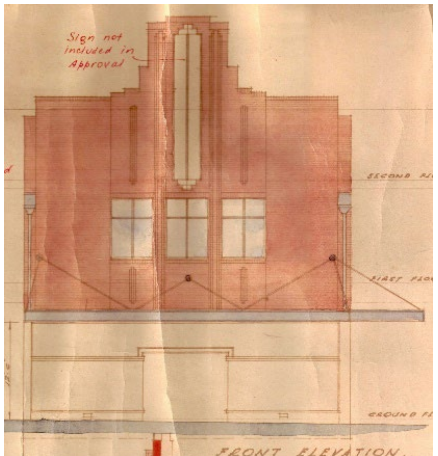
<b>Recommendations</b>	Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQ+ community.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	<p>The existing inventory does not acknowledge the significance of the place to the LGBTIQ+ community. The following should be added to the history:</p> <p><i>The Burdekin Hotel has been a welcoming venue to the local gay and lesbian community from the c1980s onwards. It continues to be an important venue to the community to the present day, hosting social events and celebrations for the LGBTIQ+ community.</i></p> <p>The following should be added to the statement of significance:</p> <p><i>The Burdekin Hotel is of social significance as a long-running pub in the Darlinghurst area. It is of particular significance to the LGBTIQ+ community for its function as a safe and welcoming space for the community from the c1980s onwards.</i></p>
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development, and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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<sup>112</sup> Heritage NSW, State Heritage Inventory entry: 'Burdekin Hotel including interior,' SHI 2421032  
<sup>113</sup> City of Sydney Archives, A-00069495  
<sup>114</sup> "Baby Bear Bar, Sydney" at <https://gaymenonholiday.com/2017/12/baby-bear-bar-sydney/>, accessed 15 December 2022.

<b>Site name/s</b>	Patch's/DCM
<b>Address</b>	33 Oxford Street, Surry Hills



*The building as designed in 1939, and in 2022. Source: City of Sydney Archives Building Application 1034/34, and TKD Architects.*

<b>Typology</b>	Club, discotheque
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 1582, 'Former Lowes including interior'

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33 Oxford Street was designed by retail architecture specialists Crawford Mackellar and Bruce Partridge for menswear retailers Lowes Ltd and constructed in 1939. The site had previously been home to a commercial building occupied by the company from around 1909.</li> <li>Lowes occupied the building until 1962, when it was sold to Adelstein investments Pty Ltd. Minor alterations were carried out by the company. In 1963, R.O Myers applied to use part of the building for a social club. Other parts of the building appear to have operated as refreshment rooms and a butcher. Further alterations to the first and ground floors and the internal stair were undertaken in the following years.<sup>115</sup></li> <li>During the 1970s, the Soul 33 disco moved into the first floor of the building. This appears to have occurred around 1974 when the "33 Social Club" applied to alter a fire door.<sup>116</sup> By 1975, development applications record alterations to the ground floor in connection with the use of the premises as a licensed restaurant and cabaret. In April 1976, Patch's disco opened with further alterations to the building taking place in connection with this use. Both were venues catering to the gay community. Patch's was sold to prominent lesbian business woman Dawn O'Donnell and her business partner Roger Tesseydre in 1979. Patch's disco had a relatively long tenure on the street, with extensive alterations carried out in January 1990 to give the club a facelift. Patch's was a popular and 'legendary' gay nightclub.<sup>117</sup></li> <li>The club Fantasyland appears to have had a short-lived tenure in the building before being replaced by DCM in the early 1990s.<sup>118</sup> DCM occupied the building until around 2010.</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQ+ community.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	<p>The following should be added to the history:</p> <p><i>Around 1974, the building became the Soul 33 discotheque. Two years later Patch's disco replaced it, becoming an extremely popular gay nightclub. Patch's disco occupied the building until the early 1990s. Another long-running nightclub venue, DCM, moved into the building at this time and occupied the place until around 2008, reopening at 196 Oxford Street.</i></p> <p>The following should be added to the statement of significance:</p> <p><i>The building is of social significance as the home of Patch's disco, a legendary and popular gay nightclub running from 1976 to the early 1990s and maintaining a nightclub presence as DCM until 2008. Whilst the building no longer houses a club, it is still remembered for serving this role by the local community</i></p>
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<sup>115</sup> Heritage NSW, State Heritage Inventory entry: 'Former Lowes including interior,' SHI 2431126

<sup>116</sup> City of Sydney Archives, A-00140107

<sup>117</sup> Stephen Allkins, '40 years of gay clubbing in Sydney,' 2018. Accessible online at: <https://www.redbull.com/au-en/stephen-allkins-on-40-years-of-gay-clubbing-in-sydney>

<sup>118</sup> City of Sydney Archives, A-00657528

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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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<b>Site name/s</b>	Exchange Hotel
<b>Address</b>	34-36 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



*The Exchange Hotel in the 1930s, and 2022.*

Source: ANU Noel Butlin Archive Identifier N60-YC-250 and TKD Architects

<b>Typology</b>	Bar/hotel
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 380, 'Exchange Hotel'.

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Exchange Hotel was designed by City of Sydney architect James Henry Merriman in 1911. It was constructed on land resumed by the City of Sydney as part of street widening.</li> <li>• Tooth and Co acquired the hotel in 1935 and retained it for several decades until the 1980s. Tooth and Co carried out several alterations including retiling of the façade. The hotel changed hands a number of times during the 1980s and 1990s, remaining a hotel up until 2015.</li> <li>• The Exchange Hotel opened as a gay venue in early 1980. Advertised in the 'Gay what's on' in the Klick Guide Sydney in the 1980s, the hotel was comprised of the Saddletramp bar (opened February 1981), 'Ragtimes' and 'Spanner.'</li> <li>• During 1993, a new club called The Katana Club was opened in the Exchange Hotel, advertised as catering for Sydney's gay Asian men and their friends. The hotel later housed the Lizard Lounge, Q Bar and Phoenix. Q-Bar was one of the longest running bars (22 years).</li> <li>• Lizard Lounge Artspace, a queer art space initiated by a consortium of Lesbians, opened in 1994. It closed in 2000.<sup>119</sup></li> <li>• In 2015 the hotel was sold and closed. It reopened as a restaurant in 2016. It is now vacant/disused.</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQ+ community.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	<p>The following should be added to the history:</p> <p><i>From 1980 onward, the Exchange Hotel was a popular gay venue and nightclub, housing an array of different bars catering to different sections of the LGBT community. Up until its closure in 2015 the hotel was a place which catered for the LGBTIQ+ community and hosted a variety of social events and feature nights.</i></p>
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The following should be added to the statement of significance:

*The building is of social significance as a popular gay nightclub running from 1980 to 2015, which progressively expanded its offerings to cater to different sections of the LGBT community. Whilst the building no longer houses a nightclub, it is still remembered for serving this role by the local community.*

<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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<sup>119</sup> Bunny Star, "The Last Lounge Act", *Lesbians on the Loose*, August 2000, p.19,

<b>Site name/s</b>	Roman Bath/King Steam
<b>Address</b>	38-42 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



38-42 Oxford Street. Source: TKD Architects, 2022.

<b>Typology</b>	Sauna, meeting place
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 381, 'Commercial Building'

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The commercial building at 38-42 Oxford Street was constructed between 1911-1912 as a factory and shops. It was constructed on land resumed by the Municipal Council of Sydney, who continued to own the property until 1974 when it was transferred to Stocks &amp; Realty Exchange limited. Schemes for the redevelopment of the site were prepared at this time but ultimately not proceeded with.<sup>120</sup></li> <li>• The property was acquired by a new company, Oscity Pty Ltd in 1986. Under their tenure, the Roman Bath was relocated from Pitt Street, Sydney to the basement of the building.<sup>121</sup> The Roman Bath was a gay sauna/bathhouse. Council gave consent for associated alterations in December 1986</li> <li>• Another gay sauna, King Steam (established circa 1975) relocated from King Street to the building in February 1989, replacing the Roman Bath.</li> <li>• The building was sold again in 1995 and converted to eight strata title lots. The ground floor of the building currently houses Daly Male, a fashion retailer which caters to the gay community, and Oxford Art Factory (established in 2007), a LGBT friendly venue which hosts a variety of shows and performances</li> <li>• Sydney Sauna (formerly King Steam) remains in occupation on the first floor</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQA+ community.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	<p>The following should be added to the history:</p> <p><i>During the 1980s, the building housed popular gay saunas/bathhouses - the Roman Bath (from 1986) and King Steam (replacing it in 1989; now Sydney Sauna). The use of the basement as a bathhouse appears to have ceased by the mid-1990s. The LGBT friendly Oxford Art Factory was established on the ground floor around 2006, with the Daly Male retail store moving in around a similar time.</i></p>
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The following should be added to the statement of significance:  
*The building is of social significance for the popular gay bathhouses/saunas it housed from 1986 to the present day. The building also houses retailers and venues which welcome the LGBTIQA+ community.*

<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQA+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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120 Heritage NSW, State Heritage Inventory entry: 'Commercial building including interior,' SHI 2421034

121 Pride History Group, Decades of Pride Entry: 1977, published 2019, accessible online at: <https://www.pridehistory.org.au/>

<b>Site name/s</b>	Handlebar/Pete's Beat
<b>Address</b>	80 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



Former Kelso's Hotel. Source: TKD Architects 2022.

<b>Typology</b>	Sauna, Club/bar, meeting place
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 391, 'Former Kelso's Hotel including interior'
<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelso's Hotel was constructed in 1911, following the resumption of the land in 1909 by the City of Sydney. It was built on the site of a previous public house. The new building to the design of architects Sheerin &amp; Hennessy. Council retained the property until the mid-twentieth century.<sup>122</sup></li> <li>• In 1950 the hotel was transferred to Wintersloe Investments Pty Ltd. The hotel continued trading until 1960 when alterations were carried out to convert it for retail and commercial uses.</li> <li>• In 1971 the building was acquired by Mifra Investments. By 1977, a basement night club had been established in the building. Its name and audience are not known, although it may have been the leather bar known as The Ox. In 1979 an application was lodged for a basement coffee shop, use of the second floor as a social club, and a restaurant on part of the first and second floors. In 1980, an application was lodged to alter and use the basement as a restaurant.</li> <li>• The Ox was destroyed by fire 9 October 1981.</li> <li>• The Footballers Club sauna opened in the building 24 August 1980, catering to the gay community.</li> <li>• The investment company transferred the building to Peter and Eva Traurig in 1982. Pete's Beat Bistro bar opened in the building in the same year, run by Peter Langford.<sup>123</sup> Around this time, the first and second floors of the building were converted to use as bachelor apartments. A residential flat was erected on the roof in 1983. In 1984, the first floor bachelor flats were converted to one bedroom flats.</li> <li>• 'Handlebar,' a denim and leather bar opened in the building on 30 May 1985, replacing Pete's Beat.<sup>124</sup></li> <li>• In 1987, an application was lodged for the use of the basement as a medical clinic, and part of the building as a coffee lounge. The property was transferred to Liu Investments in 1988. Subsequent applications were for the use of the basement as a restaurant, and the use of the premises for the sale of 'dance wear.'</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTQIA+ community.
<b>Inventory revisions</b>	<p>The following should be added to the history:</p> <p><i>During the 1980e, the building housed a number of venues catering to the gay community. These included the Footballers Club Sauna, which opened in the building in August 1980, the Peter's Beat Bistro Bar which opened in 1982, and the Handlebar which opened in 1985.</i></p> <p>The following should be added to the statement of significance:</p> <p><i>The former Kelso's Hotel is of social significance for the gay venues it housed in the 1980s, including bars, restaurants and a sauna. Whilst the building no longer houses such venues, it is still remembered for serving this role by the local gay community</i></p>
<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTQIA+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTQIA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

122 Heritage NSW, State Heritage Inventory entry: 'Former Kelso's hotel including interior,' SHI 2421040

123 Pride History Group, Decades of Pride Entry: 1982, published 2019, accessible online at: <https://www.pridehistory.org.au/>

124 Pride History Group, Decades of Pride Entry: 1985, published 2019, accessible online at: <https://www.pridehistory.org.au/>



<b>Site name/s</b>	Colombian Hotel
<b>Address</b>	117-125 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



*Colombian Hotel.  
Source: TKD Architects 2022.*

<b>Typology</b>	Club/bar
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 399, 'Westpac Bank'

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A branch for the Bank of New South Wales was constructed at 117-125 Oxford Street in 1936, designed by prominent architect C Bruce Dellit.</li> <li>• The Bank occupied the building up until 1982, when the building became a branch of Westpac after the merger of the Bank of New South Wales and the Commercial Bank of Australia. In 2001, Westpac vacated the premises and it ceased to be used as a bank building.</li> <li>• In May 2001, the new owner of the building, David McHugh, announced his plans to convert the bank to a hotel. It opened as the Colombian Hotel. From its establishment it was and continues to be a welcoming place for the gay community.</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQA+ community.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	<p>The following should be added to the history:  <i>In May 2001, the new owner of the building David McHugh announced his plans to convert the bank to a hotel. It opened as the Colombian Hotel. From its establishment it was, and continues to be, a welcoming place for the gay community.</i></p>
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The following should be added to the statement of significance:  
*The Colombian Hotel is of social significance as a club in the Darlinghurst area catering for the gay community. It is of particular significance to the community for its function as a welcoming space from the 2000s onwards.*

<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQA+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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<b>Site name/s</b>	Capriccio's
<b>Address</b>	163-169 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



163-169 Oxford Street.  
Source: TKD Architects 2022

<b>Typology</b>	Nightclub
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 411, 'Commercial building including interior'.

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The commercial building at 163-169 Oxford Street was built in two stages as the Riley Bros drapers and clothing emporium, in 1884 and 1891. The architect of the first stage was Backhouse &amp; Lough, with the 1891 stage designed by Robert Mackey. The building continued to operate as the premises of drapers after the Riley Bros moved out of the place.</li> <li>• Capriccios opened in the building at the end of 1969, after an application to use the place as a theatre restaurant. Consent was granted on 12 November 1969 as part of DA 537/69. It became a popular venue with Sydney's gay community, housing a discotheque and theatrical drag shows.</li> <li>• The club caught fire on 5 October 1973. It was subsequently restored and reopened the following year. It was burnt out around the beginning of April 1982</li> <li>• In 1983, the club moved to Randwick.</li> <li>• Another club, Klub Kakadu, opened in the premises as a mixed nightclub on 27 August 1987. During the 1990s, the place was the home of the 'Mars Club.'</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	–
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	Not required – the existing history and significance in the inventory acknowledge the significance of Capriccio's nightclub as an important focus for Sydney's gay community from 1969 to the early 1980s.
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development, and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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<b>Site name/s</b>	Stonewall Hotel
<b>Address</b>	173-175 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



*Stonewall*  
 Source: TKD Architects 2022

<b>Typology</b>	Club/bar
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 413, 'Former CBC Bank including interior'.

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Commercial Banking Company branch building was constructed at 173-175 Oxford Street circa 1882. The stone building was designed by architect George Allen Mansfield, during a period of immense growth for the bank.</li> <li>• Alterations to the bank building were carried out to the building in 1959, 1962 and 1978 by Laurie &amp; Heath architects. The building operated as a bank until around March 1993.</li> <li>• The Stonewall Hotel opened in the building in 1999. It was named after the historic Stonewall Inn in New York, a significant site in the history of LGBT rights in the United States. The Stonewall Inn was raided by the police on June 28, 1969, precipitating a series of violent events marks the beginning of the Stonewall Uprising, a series of events between police and LGBTQ+ protesters stretching over six days. These events fundamentally change the discourse surrounding LGBTQ+ activism in the United States.</li> <li>• The long-running hotel was established to cater to the LGBT community and is cited as one of the premier gay and lesbian venues in Sydney, containing to operate to the present day</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQA+ community.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	<p>The existing inventory does not acknowledge the significance of the place to the LGBTIQA+ community, and only notes 'limited social significance as a communal gathering place since its use has changed from that of a bank to a public house.' The following should be added to the history:</p> <p><i>The Stonewall opened in the former bank building in 1999, named after the historic Stonewall Inn in New York, a significant site in the history of LGBT rights in the United States. The long-running club was established to cater to the LGBT community and is cited as one of the premier gay and lesbian venues in Sydney, containing to operate to the present day.</i></p> <p>The following should be added to the statement of significance:</p> <p><i>The Stonewall Hotel is of social significance as a long-running club in the Darlinghurst area established to cater for the LGBTIQA+ community. It is of particular significance to the community for its function as a safe and welcoming space for from the 1980s onwards.</i></p>
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQA+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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<b>Site name/s</b>	Beauchamp Hotel
<b>Address</b>	265-267 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



*The Beauchamp Hotel in the 1950s and in 2022.*

Source: Australian National University Noel Butlin Archives (L) and TKD Architects (R)

<b>Typology</b>	Hotel/bar
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 416, 'Beauchamp Hotel including Interior'
<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Beauchamp Hotel was constructed between 1899 and 1900 to the design of Finlay Munro, replacing an earlier hotel on site (No. 267 Oxford Street). At the time of the re-building the property was owned by Maria Meehan, who entered into a 30-year lease with Tooth and Co. In 1910, Tooth and Co acquired the neighbouring property, a shop (No. 265), into which the premises expanded.<sup>125</sup></li> <li>The hotel was (and still is) named after the progressive Governor of NSW at the time, Lord Beauchamp. After his tenure as Governor General, Beauchamp returned to England and was later outed as a gay man by his brother-in-law in 1930. He was forced to resign from public office and exiled.<sup>126</sup></li> <li>Modifications to the hotel were undertaken by Tooth and Co in 1928 and 1935 in line with their continued operation of the hotel. In 1951 Tooth and Co acquired the property, retaining it and the neighbouring building until 1982. It changed hands a number of times in the subsequent decades, opening as a gay establishment on 30 September 1993. Around 2004 the pub was closed and stood vacant but was revived in 2008 by new owners with a new restaurant. It continues to welcome the LGBTIQ+ community.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQ+ community.
<b>Inventory revisions</b>	<p>The inventory does not acknowledge the significance of the place to the LGBTIQ+ community, and only notes social significance insofar as it being a pub since the 1860s. The following should be added to the history:</p> <p><i>The Beauchamp Hotel was named after the progressive Governor of NSW from 1899-1900, Lord Beauchamp. After his tenure as Governor General, Beauchamp returned to England and was later outed as a gay man by his brother-in-law in 1930.<sup>127</sup> He was forced to resign from public office and exiled.</i></p> <p><i>The Beauchamp Hotel was a welcoming venue to the local gay community from 1993 onwards. Whilst the pub has changed hands a number of times in recent decades and was closed for a period between 2004 and 2008, it continues to be a gay-friendly venue.</i></p> <p>The following should be added to the statement of significance:</p> <p><i>The Beauchamp Hotel is of social significance as a long-running pub in the Darlinghurst area. It is of particular significance to the LGBTIQ+ community for its function as a safe and welcoming space for the community from 1993 onwards.</i></p>
<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

<sup>125</sup> Heritage NSW, State Heritage Inventory entry: 'Beauchamp hotel including interior,' SHI 2421061

<sup>126</sup> Mick Roberts for Time Gents, 'Darlinghurst's Beauchamp Hotel was named after 'outed' gay Governor, who was exiled,' 17 January 2018, blog post: <https://timegents.com/2018/01/17/beauchamp-hotel-darlinghurst/>

<sup>127</sup> Mick Roberts for Time Gents, 'Darlinghurst's Beauchamp Hotel was named after 'outed' gay Governor, who was exiled,' 17 January 2018, blog post: <https://timegents.com/2018/01/17/beauchamp-hotel-darlinghurst/>

<b>Site name/s</b>	Slide Bar/Nightclub
<b>Address</b>	41 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



41 Oxford Street  
Source: TKD Architects 2022

<b>Typology</b>	Bar/Nightclub
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 583, Former Commonwealth Bank

- Outline history**
- The Commonwealth Bank acquired the site at 41 Oxford Street in 1935 and built a new branch on the site. It replaced Victorian shops and residences.
  - In 2004 the Banking Chamber was adaptively reused as a night club known as the Slide Cabaret, Bar and Nightclub.<sup>128</sup> Alterations were carried out in connection with this use including the insertion of a mezzanine floor, egress tunnel along the south wall, and installation of acoustic screens to upper level windows.
  - Slide Bar hosted a number of regular LGBT social and networking events, including Fruits in Suits and Lemons with a Twist, from the mid-2000s onwards.<sup>129</sup>
  - The venue recently closed.

**Recommendations**      Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQA+ community.

**Inventory revisions**      The following should be added to the history:  
*In 2004, the Slide Cabaret, Bar and Nightclub was established in the adaptively reused Banking Chamber. Slide Bar was a queer friendly venue with specific gay nights, also hosting a variety of related social events including the Fruits in Suits and Lemons with a Twist networking events.*

The following should be added to the significance:  
*The building is of social significance for its role in housing the popular LGBTIQA+ friendly nightclub "Slide Bar" for over 17 years until 2022. Whilst the building does not currently operate as a nightclub, it is remembered for serving this role by the local gay community and houses new retailers and venues which welcome the LGBTIQA+ community.*

**Management recommendations**      It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQA+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues. .

128 City of Sydney Archives D/2004/470

129 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Business Association, 'Fruits in Suits' (2017), Accessible online at: <https://www.sglba.org.au/about-the-sglba/our-history/#1994>; The Guardian, 'Gay Sydney: a guide to clubs, bars, cabaret and culture,' (2015), Accessible online at: <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2015/oct/21/gay-sydney-australia-clubs-bars-cabaret-culture>

<b>Site name/s</b>	Green Park
<b>Address</b>	Victoria Street, Darlinghurst.



*Green Park*  
Source: TKD Architects

<b>Typology</b>	Park/meeting place
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 490, Green Park including bandstand and interiors, memorials and landscaping
<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The land which now comprises Green Park was granted to the local council for use as a public recreation ground in 1875. It was named after Alderman James Green, who served on the City of Sydney Council from 1869 to 1883.<sup>130</sup></li> <li>• A "men's convenience", sited on Darlinghurst Road, was constructed to the design of the City Architect in the second half of 1922.<sup>131</sup> It was demolished in 1984.</li> <li>• A bandstand was built to the design of the City Architect in the park in 1925 to house public concerts.<sup>132</sup> It was converted to a café in the 1990s.</li> <li>• The Park houses the Gay and Lesbian Holocaust memorial, the work of architect and urban designer Russell Rodrigo. It was installed in 2001 and commemorates LGBT people killed by the Nazis during World War II. It is located on a triangular platform in an area known as Stonewall Gardens, facing Darlinghurst Road.<sup>133</sup></li> <li>• The Park has played an important role in the social history of the area, having played host to Gay Fair Days, the Aids Memorial Candlelight Rally, political demonstrations and other meetings related to the local gay community. The Park and its (now demolished) toilet block also served as a meeting place for gay men, in conjunction with the nearby site of 'The Wall' on Darlinghurst Road.<sup>134</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQ+ community.

<sup>130</sup> Heritage NSW, SHI Database Entry: 2421365 'Green Park including bandstand and interiors, memorials and landscaping.' Accessible online at: <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?id=2421365>

<sup>131</sup> City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00543748.

<sup>132</sup> City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00543749.

<sup>133</sup> <https://www.cityartsydney.com.au/artwork/gay-lesbian-holocaust-memorial/>, accessed 15 December 2022

<sup>134</sup> Garry Wotherspoon, 'Green Park' entry in the Dictionary of Sydney (2010), accessible online at: [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/green\\_park](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/green_park)

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**Inventory revisions**

The existing inventory does acknowledge that the place is held in high esteem by the local community and mentions the Gay and Lesbian Holocaust Memorial. However, this should be expanded to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQ+ community. The following should be added to the history:  
*The Park served as a popular meeting place for gay men, in conjunction with 'The Wall' nearby. In subsequent decades the Park played host to a variety of important social and political events for the local LGBTIQ+ community, including fair days, the Aids Memorial Candlelight rally, and other political rallies and organisational meetings.*

The following should be added to the statement of significance:  
*The Park is of social significance for its important role as a meeting place for gay men, a place of commemoration and the site of significant rallies and events in the LGBTIQ+ history of the area. The Park has continuing associations with the local community who remember and value it for its role in these events.*

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**Management recommendations**

It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

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<b>Site name/s</b>	St Vincent's Hospital
<b>Address</b>	394-404 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst



Ward 17 South (Cahill Building) in 2021

Source: Richard Glover for St Vincent's Art Committee

<b>Typology</b>	Hospital, HIV/AIDS Treatment and research centre
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney LEP, No. 493, St Vincent's Hospital Group Including Buildings and their Interiors and Fencing.
<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Vincent's Hospital was established on the site in Victoria Street in 1870, relocated from Potts Point. The Hospital at Potts Point was the first Catholic Hospital in Australia, founded by the Sisters of Charity.</li> <li>An additional storey was added to the two-storey 1870 building (now known as the DeLacy building) c1920, in line with alterations to the original component, giving the building a free classical style external appearance.<sup>135</sup> Several new buildings were added to the site over early to mid-twentieth century. In 1970 the new 'Ward Block' was opened, later renamed the Cahill Building.<sup>136</sup></li> <li>During the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, the St Vincent's Hospital served an extremely important role to the local gay community. The first case of AIDS was treated at the hospital in 1983. The Hospital came the epicentre of treatment for patients suffering from the disease, offering compassion and care for more than half of the country's AIDS patients within Ward 17 South of the Ward Block (the Cahill Building). Ward 17 South was the first dedicated HIV/AIDS unit in Australia and became the healthcare epicentre for patients suffering from this disease. The leadership of the Hospital showed great courage in promoting the hospital as a place where people with HIV/AIDS would feel welcome, safe and valued, in a time where homosexuality was still greatly stigmatized (and technically illegal until 1984). The Hospital continues to serve an important role in this area of healthcare for its HIV/AIDS clinical care and research.<sup>137</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQ+ community.
<b>Inventory revisions</b>	<p>The following should be added to the history:</p> <p><i>During the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, St Vincent's Hospital served an extremely important role to the local gay community. The first case of AIDS was treated at the hospital in 1983. The Hospital became the epicentre of treatment for patients suffering from the disease, offering compassion and care for more than half of the country's AIDS patients within Ward 17 South of the Ward Block (the Cahill Building). The leadership of the Hospital showed great courage in promoting the hospital as a place where people with HIV would feel welcomed, safe and valued, in a time where homosexuality was still greatly stigmatised (and technically illegal until 1984). The Hospital continues to serve an important role in this area of healthcare for its HIV/AIDS clinical care and research.</i></p> <p>The following should be added to the statement of significance:</p> <p><i>St Vincent's Hospital, in particular Ward 17 South of the Cahill Building, is of social significance to the local LGBTIQ+ community for its role in offering compassion, care and treatment to people with HIV/AIDS from the 1980s epidemic to the present day.</i></p>
<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

135 Heritage NSW, SHI Database Entry: 2421364 'St Vincent's Hospital Group Including Buildings and Their Interiors And Fencing.' Accessible online at: <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2421364>

136 Urbis, 'Heritage Impact Statement: St Vincent's Hospital' (January 2015), p35.

137 St Vincent's Currant Foundation, 'Mardi Gras and Ward 17 South' (2020). Accessible online at: <https://www.supportstvincents.com.au/about-us/our-stories/35-years-since-hiv-aids-ward-opening-17-south/>; <https://www.svhs.org.au/newsroom/news/the-cahill-building-takes-its-place-in-st-vincents-history>, accessed 15 December 2022.



<b>Site name/s</b>	Taylor Square
<b>Address</b>	Intersection of Oxford, Forbes and Bourke Streets



*Taylor Square and the Rainbow crossing, 2022.*  
 Source: Nearmap

<b>Typology</b>	Meeting place, place of protest, site on parade route
<b>Current listings</b>	All of Taylor Square is included in SHR Item No. 01700, 'Taylor Square Substation No.6 & Underground Public Conveniences'; and also Oxford Street Conservation Area.
<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taylor Square in its approximate form was created around 1906-1907 following the widening of Oxford Street. The Square is named after Allen Taylor, the Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney Council from 1905-1906 and 1909-1912. Taylor was a timber merchant and ship-owner who had a long career in local government, later serving as a member of the Legislative Council.<sup>138</sup></li> <li>• The Square went on to serve an important role in civic and social history as the setting for the first ever Gay Pride march in Australia in 1978. It remains associated with LGBTIQ+ activism and an important component of the annual Mardi Gras Parade route.<sup>139</sup></li> </ul>

<b>Recommendations</b>	–
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	Not required – the existing history and significance in the SHR listing that covers the site acknowledges the significance of Taylor Square to the LGBTIQ+ community
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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138 City of Sydney, 'Sydney's Alderman: Allen Arthur Taylor' (2022). Available online at: <https://www.sydneyaldermen.com.au/alderman/allen-taylor/>

139 Heritage NSW, SHI Database Entry: 5053631 'Taylor Square Substation No.6 & Underground Public Conveniences.' Accessible online at: <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5053631>

<b>Site name/s</b>	The Barracks; Manacle
<b>Address</b>	1-5 Flinders Street, Surry Hills



1-5 Flinders Street in 2022.

Source: TKD Architects

<b>Typology</b>	Bar
<b>Current listings</b>	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 1541, Former Commonwealth Bank.
<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The building at 1-5 Flinders Street was constructed for the Government Savings Bank in 1911 to a design by H E Ross &amp; Rowe. It replaced older structures which had been demolished for road widening.</li> <li>The Commonwealth Bank of Australia took over the premises in 1931 when it absorbed the Government Savings Bank of NSW. It undertook modifications in the following years, including alterations for a new basement lunchroom in 1957. The Bank continued to use the premises as a bank branch until the sale of the building in 1982.<sup>140</sup></li> <li>The Barracks opened around the end of 1978 or early 1979 as a leather bar for gay men. It appears to have originally been located in 7-9 Flinders Street but was shut down as a “disorderly house” in February 1983 (rescinded the following December).<sup>141</sup> Club 80, which operated from 19 Oxford Street, Paddington, was also closed down in early 1983.</li> <li>During 1988, the Taylor Square Hotel was established in the neighbouring building at 1-5 Flinders Street. Some years later the Barracks Bar reopened in the basement of the building, as a leather bar, one of several rotating bars the hotel hosted.<sup>142</sup> It was certainly a feature of the hotel by 1998 but may have been re-established there sooner (potentially by 1995). By 2005, the bar had been renamed ‘Manacle,’ continuing to cater for the leather and fetish crowds.<sup>143</sup> The Taylor Square Hotel closed in 2008, and with it the associated bars including Manacle.<sup>144</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	Revise history and significance in inventory to reflect the significance of the place to the LGBTIQA+ community.
<b>Inventory revisions</b>	<p>The following should be added to the history:</p> <p><i>The building was adaptively reused as a hotel in the late 1980s. From the mid to late 1990s until 2008, the hotel housed The Barracks Bar, a leather bar for gay men. It was later renamed ‘Manacle,’ and continued to cater to the leather and fetish communities.</i></p> <p>The following should be added to the significance:</p> <p><i>The building is of social significance for its role in housing the popular gay venues of the The Barracks Bar and Manacle from the mid to late 1990s until 2008. Whilst the building does not currently operate as a bar or club, it is remembered for serving this role by the local gay community.</i></p>

140 Paul Rappoport, ‘Conservation Management Plan – 1-5 Flinders Street Darlinghurst,’ 2013, p44.

141 Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales, ‘Notice Pursuant to Section 5 of the Disorderly Houses Act, 1943,’ 4 Feb 1983, Page 578.

142 Paul Rappoport, ‘Conservation Management Plan – 1-5 Flinders Street Darlinghurst,’ 2013, p44; Timeline - Pauline Pantsdown (Blog), Accessible online at: <https://reconciliation.tripod.com/pantsdown10.htm>; Les Wright, The Bear Book II, (Routledge, Sydney: 2006) p271.; City of Sydney Archives, BA/1995/656 and XCC/1998/5038

143 Mark Alsop, ‘Revisiting Manacle - “Unity” + “Faith, Hope & Charity”’ Blog Entry, December 2011, Accessible online at: <https://www.markalsop.com/news/revisiting-manacle-unity-faith-hope-charity>; Woof Club, ‘History,’ Accessible online at: <http://woofclub.com/history>; Alex Tibbitts and Paris Pompor, ‘Kicking on,’ Sydney Morning Herald, 14 October 2005. Accessible online at: <https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/kicking-on-20051014-gdm8sz.html>

144 <https://www.starobserver.com.au/news/national-news/new-south-wales-news/barracks-down/6798>, accessed 30 November 2022

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**Management  
recommendations**

It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

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**Site name/s** Taxi Club; Grosvenor Club  
**Address** 40-42 Flinders Street, Darlinghurst



*The Taxi Club in April 2012, and in 2022.*  
 Source: City of Sydney Archives (L) and TKD Architects (R)

**Typology** Club/nightclub  
**Current listings** Not heritage listed. Within Paddington Urban Conservation Area C50.

- Outline history**
- The Grosvenor Club, a social club for taxi drivers, was first established at 35 Flinders Street in 1949.<sup>145</sup> The Grosvenor Club Ltd applied to council to use the first and second floors of 40 Flinders Street as the premises of the club in August 1956. In subsequent years it became known as a gay venue and is cited as potentially one of the earliest in the locality.
  - The club applied to carry out various alterations in 1957.
  - The club had later expanded into the neighbouring No. 42 by the mid-1980s, with the property held on a consolidated title by the Grosvenor Club Ltd.
  - The Taxi Club, as it came to be known, was a long-running institution operating until May 2012. The club went into voluntary administration in April 2012. Following this the then-owners of the venue, Oxford Commercial Real Estate, would not enter into a long-term lease arrangement with the club.<sup>146</sup>

**Recommendations** Recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5. A heritage inventory should be prepared according to the SHI format.

**Inventory revisions** –

**Management recommendations** It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

<sup>145</sup> Sydney Telephone Directories, 1950-1954.

<sup>146</sup> Star Observer, 'Taxi club advised to liquidate,' 11 May 2012; Star Observer, 'Taxi Club forced to vacate,' 7 May 2012.

<b>Site name/s</b>	Butts Bar
<b>Address</b>	45 Oxford Street, Surry Hills



45 Oxford Street in 2022.  
Source: TKD Architects.

<b>Typology</b>	Bar
<b>Current listings</b>	Not heritage listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17.

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The building at 45 Oxford Street appears to have been constructed during the late nineteenth century. By 1904, Joe Gardiner, a bootmaker, occupied the premises at 45-47 Oxford Street.<sup>147</sup></li> <li>• From around 1972 the building at 45 Oxford Street was occupied by a licensed restaurant.<sup>148</sup></li> <li>• Butts Bar and associated restaurant opened in April 1983. An application had been lodged in January 1982 to use the first floor of the building for dancing, in conjunction with the existing refreshment rooms on the ground floor.<sup>149</sup> The venue was popular with the local gay community.</li> <li>• In 2006 the building was modified for use as an Oporto food outlet.<sup>150</sup></li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 based on its associations with the LGBTIQA+ community. The site may be worthy of listing for other values and should be assessed in a future heritage study/review.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	–
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQA+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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147 City of Sydney Archives, A-00190871  
 148 City of Sydney Archives, DA 582/72  
 149 City of Sydney Archives, A-00230154  
 150 City of Sydney Archives, D/2006/1754

<b>Site name/s</b>	Tropicana, Club 80, Midnight Shift, Universal
<b>Address</b>	85-91 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



85-91 Oxford Street in 2022; advertisement for Tropicana Nightclub.

Source: TKD Architects. Sydney Playguy, 1980 via <https://historywalk.tripod.com/tropicana.html>

<b>Typology</b>	Nightclub, disco
<b>Current listings</b>	Not heritage listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17.

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The building at 85-87 Oxford Street was designed by architects Morrow &amp; De Putron and constructed in 1920. It was commissioned by jeweller and shoemaker W. Berkman, who occupied the premises until the late 1970s.</li> <li>The neighbouring building at 89-91 Oxford Street was designed in 1913 by prominent soldier, military engineer and architect Alfred William Warden.</li> <li>Tropicana opened in 85 Oxford Street in August 1978.<sup>151</sup> Tropicana was a licensed restaurant and men's disco. Club 85, a "man's disco" opened in the premises during August 1980. It is understood to have occupied the first floors of 85-91 Oxford Street. The club was damaged by fire on 21 October 1980, though it reopened shortly after on 7 November 1980 as the Midnight Shift, also advertised as a "Disco for guys." It operated seven days from 10pm till late. The premises were granted a pub licence on 18 December 1986.</li> <li>Midnight Shift operated for many years before closing on 1 October 2017, in response to declining trade associated with lockout laws.</li> <li>In July 2018 the establishment was purchased by Universal Hotels. After refurbishment the premises reopened as Universal.</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5. A heritage inventory should be prepared according to the SHI format.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	–
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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151 Pride History Group, 'Decades of Pride: 1978' (2019). Available online at: <https://www.pridehistory.org.au/decades-of-pride>

<b>Site name/s</b>	Flo's Palace
<b>Address</b>	97 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



97 Oxford Street in 2022.  
Source: TKD Architects.

<b>Typology</b>	Nightclub/disco
<b>Current listings</b>	Not heritage listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17.

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is unclear when the building at 97 Oxford Street was constructed given the modification of its façade. The building footprint conforms to that recorded in 1919, when the building was in use as a wine shop.<sup>152</sup></li> <li>• By 1969, the building housed a restaurant. Alterations were undertaken to the existing premises at this time.<sup>153</sup></li> <li>• Flo's Palace was opened on August 30, 1978. The club was owned by Dawn O'Donnell and Roger Claude Tesseydre and managed by Dennis (Flo) Fuller. It was known for its illuminated disco dance floor. The club was notable as a venue which catered to and had a large east Asian clientele. Flo's Palace closed in August 1983 after alleged licensing law breaches.<sup>154</sup></li> <li>• In 1986, an application was lodged to use the first floor of the building for the sale of adult books, novelties and clothing.<sup>155</sup></li> <li>• 'The Den,' a cruise lounge, opened in the building in the 1990s. It continues to occupy the premises today, alongside an adult shop.</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 based on its associations with the LGBTIQ+ community. The site may be worthy of listing for other values and should be assessed in a future heritage study/review.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	–
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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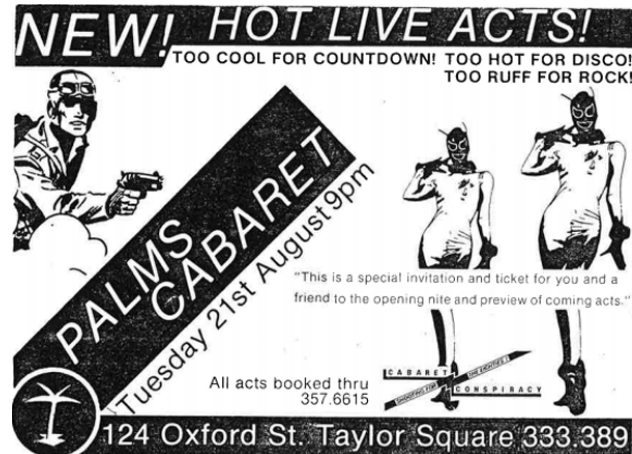
152 City of Sydney Archives, A-00555452

153 City of Sydney Archives, A-00391659

154 Pride History Group, 'Decades of Pride: 1983 (2019). Available online at: <https://www.pridehistory.org.au/decades-of-pride>

155 City of Sydney Archives, A-00235493

<b>Site name/s</b>	Palms
<b>Address</b>	124 Oxford Street Darlinghurst



124 Oxford Street in 2022, and c1979 ad for Palms. Source: TKD Architects and Dominique Pezzutto, 'The sexual politics of clubbing: a feminist corporeal analysis of Palms, Oxford Street, Sydney Australia', (2019)

<b>Typology</b>	Nightclub
<b>Current listings</b>	Not heritage listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17.
<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An 1888 building at 124-128 Oxford Street occupied by McIlraths Grocers, was partially demolished in 1910 in connection with the widening of the street.<sup>156</sup> McIlraths rebuilt on the site and occupied the building into the 1940s.<sup>157</sup></li> <li>• In 1963, an application was lodged to use 124 Oxford Street for the manufacturing of ladies' handbags for L Bonny &amp; Co Pty Ltd.<sup>158</sup></li> <li>• A fire occurred in 1974, and shortly thereafter an application was lodged to rectify the building after fire damage.<sup>159</sup></li> <li>• The gay venue of Palms opened circa 1977. In this year, an application was lodged for the erection of a portable stage at basement level, supporting this opening date.<sup>160</sup> Palms was an underground cabaret venue which hosted a popular 'Cabaret Conspiracy' a radical political drag show, which celebrated sexual and gender diversity<sup>161</sup></li> <li>• In 1985, an application was lodged for alterations to the basement and additional toilets.<sup>162</sup> Noted photographer William Yang occupied space in 126 Oxford Street.</li> <li>• By 1988, the bar occupying the basement level of No. 124 was trading as Scooters bar and Diner.<sup>163</sup> The change in name resulted from a changed in ownership, but the place remained a nightclub with a restaurant.<sup>164</sup></li> <li>• Scooters closed in 1994. The club was reopened as 'Palms' with new owners in 2000. The place operated as a basement nightclub but did not have a restaurant.<sup>165</sup> As a gay-owned bar, it aimed to be inclusive and welcoming to women as well as gay men, unlike other clubs on the street at the time.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	Recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5. A heritage inventory should be prepared.
<b>Inventory revisions</b>	–
<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

156 City of Sydney Archives, Demolition Books: Corner of Oxford and Bourke Streets, Taylor Square, Darlinghurst, 1910, A-00039118

157 City of Sydney Archives, A-00340577

158 City of Sydney Archives, DA439/63

159 City of Sydney Archives, DA499/74

160 City of Sydney Archives, DA713/77

161 Dominique Pezzutto, The sexual politics of clubbing: a feminist corporeal analysis of Palms, Oxford Street, Sydney Australia Oxford Street, Sydney Australia (2019), p11.

162 City of Sydney Archives, A-00219624

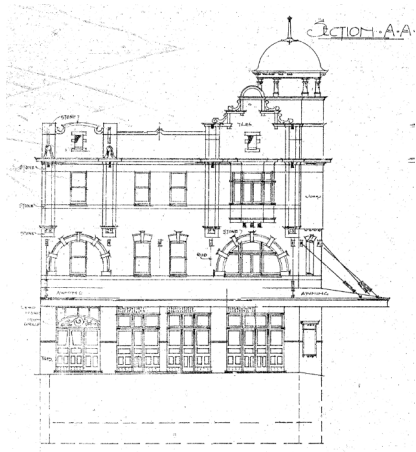
163 City of Sydney Archives, A-00573866

164 Dominique Pezzutto, The sexual politics of clubbing: a feminist corporeal analysis of Palms, Oxford Street, Sydney Australia Oxford Street, Sydney Australia (2019), p16.

165 Ibid, p19.



**Site name/s** Oxford Hotel  
**Address** 134 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



The Oxford Hotel as designed in 1913, and in 2022.  
 Source: City of Sydney Archives, A-00583553 and TKD Architects.

**Typology** Hotel  
**Current listings** Not heritage listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17.

- Outline history**
- The current Oxford Hotel was constructed to a design by E Lindsay Thompson in 1913 for WH Trautwein Esq.<sup>166</sup> Trautwein had previously run the *Trautwein's Oxford Hotel* on the same site, prior to its demolition for road widening in 1910.<sup>167</sup>
  - Oxford Hotel opened as a gay venue in July 1982. It was advertised in publications from this era as “the latest gay pub on the Strip, restaurant, the Oxford Café upstairs.”<sup>168</sup>
  - The hotel continues to operate as an LGBTQIA+ friendly pub to the present day.

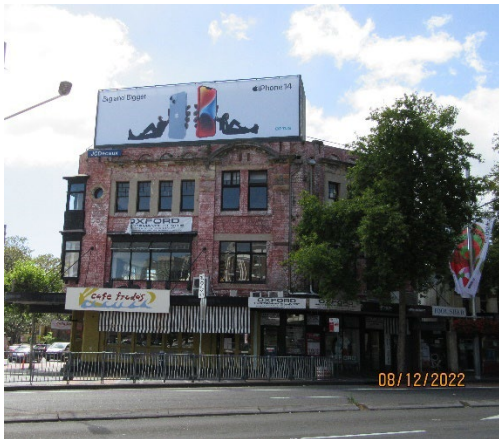
**Recommendations** Recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5. A heritage inventory should be prepared according to the SHI format.

**Inventory revisions** –

**Management recommendations** It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTQIA+ community are interpreted in future development, and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTQIA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

166 City of Sydney Archives, A-00583553  
 167 City of Sydney Archives, A-00039118  
 168 Klick guide Sydney, *Gay What's on* (circa early 1980s), accessible online at: <https://timalderman.com/tag/1980s-oxford-st-darlinghurst/>

**Site name/s** Ivy's Birdcage  
**Address** 191 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



191 Oxford Street in 2022, and Ivy's Birdcage in the late 1960s.  
 Source: TKD Architects and Sydney Pride History group via SBS News

**Typology** Club, disco  
**Current listings** Not heritage listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17.

- Outline history**
- The building at 191 Oxford Street was likely constructed in the late nineteenth century. Little information is available on the property.
  - 191 Oxford Street housed Ivy's Birdcage, a short lived but popular and successful club run by entrepreneur Ivy Richter. Richter's first venture was Chez Ivy's at Bondi Junction, opened 1962, which she moved to the site on Oxford Street in 1967. The venue hosted popular drag shows and other performances. It closed in 1969 after two fires.<sup>169</sup>

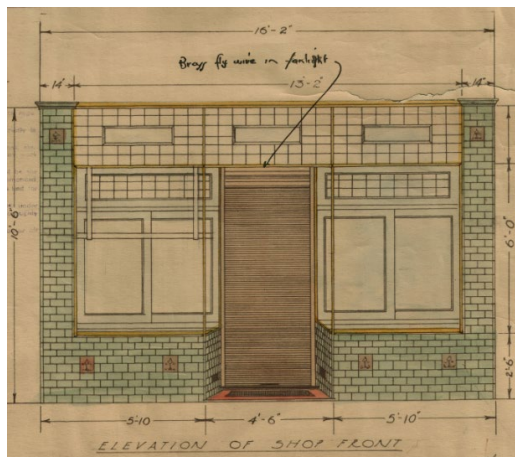
**Recommendations** Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 based on its associations with the LGBTQIA+ community. The site may be worthy of listing for other values and should be assessed in a future heritage study/review.

**Inventory revisions** –

**Management recommendations** It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTQIA+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTQIA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

169 Dictionary of Sydney, 'Ivy's Birdcage,' (2021). Accessed online at: Ivy's Birdcage | The Dictionary of Sydney

**Site name/s** Whitty’s Wine bar, The Bookshop  
**Address** 207 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



207 Oxford Street in 2022, and 1929 shopfront detail.  
 Source: TKD Architects and City of Sydney Archives, A-00577515

**Typology** Bar, bookshop  
**Current listings** Not heritage listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17

- Outline history**
- The building at 207 Oxford Street appears to have been constructed in the Federation period (possibly as part of the group at 203-209 Oxford Street). It was certainly extant by 1929, when then owner Tjannes & Co applied for alterations to the shop at 207 Oxford Street, in conjunction with its use as the “London Fish Saloon.” Alterations were carried out under the supervision of Henry S Standen, Architect.<sup>170</sup>
  - In the sixties and seventies no 207 was (Mrs) Whitty’s wine bar. It is claimed to have been the “real heart” of the musical scene in the local area featuring bands such as the Starving Wild Dogs and the Original Batterseas Heroes.<sup>171</sup>
  - Applications were lodged to use (at least part) of the building as a gift shop and pawn broker in 1964, as a bookshop in 1976, and as refreshment rooms in 1983.<sup>172</sup>
  - The Bookshop opened at 207 Oxford Street on 11 February 1985, relocated from the Link Bookshop (a Newtown branch opened in March 1986).<sup>173</sup> The Bookshop continues to operate in this location, and sells books, DVDs, erotica, magazines and other goods catering to the LGBTIQ+ communities.

**Recommendations** Recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5. A heritage inventory should be prepared according to the SHI format.

**Inventory revisions** –

**Management recommendations** It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development, and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.

170 City of Sydney Archives. A-00577515  
 171 Hugh Liney and Frank Cotterell, Rock’n’Roll Walk of Fame and Shame at file:///C:/Users/rlumby/Downloads/Rock-n-RollWalkOfFame-n-Shame%20(2).pdf, accessed 8 December 2022  
 172 City of Sydney Archives, DA540/64, DA0210/76, A-00231481  
 173 City of Sydney Archives, DA44/85

<b>Site name/s</b>	Green Park Diner
<b>Address</b>	219-221 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



219-221 Oxford Street in 2022.  
Source: TKD Architects

<b>Typology</b>	Diner
<b>Current listings</b>	Not heritage listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17.

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The building at 219-221 Oxford Street was constructed in the last quarter of the nineteenth century</li> <li>• In 1973, the building was in use as a restaurant, when alterations were undertaken and a new shopfront was installed.<sup>174</sup></li> <li>• By 1978, the building was in use as a restaurant and take away food shop.<sup>175</sup></li> <li>• Green Park Diner opened in the building on May 1981.<sup>176</sup> A new shopfront appears to have been installed in connection with this use.<sup>177</sup></li> <li>• The Diner developed a reputation as one of Sydney's most-loved gay restaurants, and is said to have been intentionally named after Green Park, the popular gay meeting place to attract the gay community.<sup>178</sup></li> <li>• In 1987, the Executive Director of the Sydney gay and Mardi Gras proposed to move the administrative centre for Mardi Gras to the first floor of the building.</li> <li>• It has not been ascertained when the Diner stopped trading.</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 based on its associations with the LGBTQIA+ community. The site may be worthy of listing for other values, and should be assessed in a future heritage study/review.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	–
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTQIA+ community are interpreted in future development, and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTQIA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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<sup>174</sup> City of Sydney Archives, A-00567276

<sup>175</sup> City of Sydney Archives, A-00165149

<sup>176</sup> Pride History Group, 'Decades of Pride: 1981 (2019). Available online at: <https://www.pridehistory.org.au/decades-of-pride>

<sup>177</sup> City of Sydney Archives, A-00197065

<sup>178</sup> Garry Wotherspoon, 'Green Park' entry in the Dictionary of Sydney (2010), accessible online at: [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/green\\_park](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/green_park)

<b>Site name/s</b>	253 Sauna
<b>Address</b>	253 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst



253 Oxford Street in 2022.  
Source: TKD Architects.

<b>Typology</b>	Sauna
<b>Current listings</b>	Not heritage listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17.

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The building is one of a series of shops that was constructed in the Victoria era.</li> <li>• From 1949 to 1957, the building housed a barber shop.<sup>179</sup></li> <li>• In 1959, alterations to the parapet of the building were approved.<sup>180</sup> By 1962, the building was being used for electrical and refrigeration sales.<sup>181</sup> In 1970, the building was in use as a shop for reconditioned furniture and accessories.<sup>182</sup></li> <li>• The building housed 253 Sauna between 1973 and 1988, which catered to the gay male community. The associated application for use of the premises as a health clinic was lodged in July 1973.<sup>183</sup> Alterations including partition walls were later installed.<sup>184</sup> The Sauna ceased operating around 1988.</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 based on its associations with the LGBTIQA+ community. The site may be worthy of listing for other values and should be assessed in a future heritage study/review.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	–
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQA+ community are interpreted in future development, and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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179 City of Sydney Archives, A-00501867  
 180 City of Sydney Archives, 1959/1080  
 181 City of Sydney Archives, DA279/62  
 182 City of Sydney Archives DA 1037/67  
 183 City of Sydney Archives, DA611/73  
 184 City of Sydney Archives, DA 1973/1407

<b>Site name/s</b>	Flinders Hotel
<b>Address</b>	63-65 Flinders Street, Surry Hills



*Flinders Hotel in 1930 and 2022.*

*Source: Noel Butlin Archive, ANU Open Research Library and TKD Architects*

<b>Typology</b>	Hotel
<b>Current listings</b>	Not heritage listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17.

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Flinders Hotel was designed in 1917 by architects Spain Cosh &amp; Dods for Tooth &amp; Co.<sup>185</sup> Tooth &amp; Co operated the venue for many decades, undertaking various alterations including cutting back the awning in 1953 and retiling the street façade in 1955,<sup>186</sup></li> <li>• The Flinders Hotel opened as a gay venue in July 1980, becoming an iconic LGBT bar until the early 2000s.<sup>187</sup> A beer garden, new roof and doorway were constructed in 1980 in association, along with alterations to the toilets in 1981 and to the ground floor bar in 1982.<sup>188</sup></li> <li>• The Flinders Hotel ceased trading in 2015 due to lock out laws. It reopened again in 2016/2017, but unlike the previous hotel, it did not target the gay community as its primary audience.<sup>189</sup></li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 based on its associations with the LGBTQIA+ community. The site may be worthy of listing for other values and should be assessed in a future heritage study/review.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	–
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTQIA+ community are interpreted in future development, and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTQIA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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<sup>185</sup> City of Sydney Archives, BA0148/17

<sup>186</sup> City of Sydney Archives, DA1953/1870 , DA1955/0813

<sup>187</sup> Benedict Brook, "Sydney's historic Flinders Hotel closes down", Star Observer, 9 January 2015 at <https://www.starobserver.com.au/news/national-news/new-south-wales-news/sydneys-historic-flinders-hotel-closes-down/131386>, accessed 6 December 2022.

<sup>188</sup> City of Sydney Archives, DA1953/1870, A-00566290, A-00576990

<sup>189</sup> "New Flinders Hotel opens to revised Sydney market" at <https://public.com.au/new-flinders-hotel-opens-revised-sydney-market/>, accessed 6 December 2022.

<b>Site name/s</b>	ARQ, Bodyline
<b>Address</b>	Albion House, 10-24 Flinders Street/10 Taylor Street, Darlinghurst



10-24 Flinders Street/10 Taylor Street, Darlinghurst.  
Source: TKD Architects

<b>Typology</b>	Sauna, Nightclub, sex-on-premises venue
<b>Current listings</b>	Not heritage listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17.

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The building at 18-24 Flinders Street was designed by architect Burcham Clamp. Similar building applications were lodged for its construction 1910 and again in 1913, it appearing to have been constructed shortly thereafter.</li> <li>• The building at 10-16 Flinders Street is understood to have been constructed in 1925 or 1926 and was known as Albion House.</li> <li>• The building at 10 Taylor Street is understood to have been built around 1922 as a hat factory for Trinder &amp; Dawson.</li> <li>• Bodyline Sauna opened in 1991 at 10 Taylor Street. It was the first legally operating gay sex-on-premises venue in NSW. It closed during 2021 due to the pandemic, but reopened during December 2022.</li> <li>• ARQ opened in 1999 at 16 Flinders Street. It is a long-running gay nightclub in the area. The club shut down in 2020 because of Covid-19. It reopened during December 2022.</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 based on its associations with the LGBTIQ+ community. The site may be worthy of listing for other values and should be assessed in a future heritage study/review.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	–
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQ+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQ+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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<b>Site name/s</b>	Ruby Red's, Pastels, Rubies, Headquarters, Trade
<b>Address</b>	273 Crown Street, Surry Hills



273 Crown Street, Darlinghurst.  
Source: TKD Architects.

<b>Typology</b>	Bar
<b>Current listings</b>	Not heritage listed. Adjoins Ryder Street Conservation Area C15.

<b>Outline history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The commercial building at 273-275 Crown Street was designed by architect Percy J Gordon circa 1922 (BA 796/22).</li> <li>• Ruby Reds opened at 273 Crown Street in 1979. It was owned by Dawn O'Connell, a prominent businesswoman in the gay and lesbian community and a former speed skater. Ruby Red's was a lesbian bar and dance venue.</li> <li>• Ruby Reds closed in 1982. The building then housed a succession of bars and clubs catering to the community. These included the mixed venue Querelle, which opened 23 May 1986, followed by the Boogie Room, opening in November 1988, 'B's in early 1990, and then Pastels a few months after. Ruby Red's reopened in the venue in 1991 as "Rubies."<sup>190</sup> Following this, the building became Headquarters, a gay male bath house and bar.</li> <li>• Trade cruise club currently occupies the premises.</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendations</b>	Recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5. A heritage inventory should be prepared according to the SHI format.
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<b>Inventory revisions</b>	–
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<b>Management recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the significant uses and associations of the building with the LGBTIQA+ community are interpreted in future development and included in future physical and digital interpretation devices for the place and street. Where new uses are proposed, preference should be given to those which support the LGBTIQA+ community and provide new cultural and social spaces or allied businesses and venues.
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190 "Rubies Re-opens, Lesbians on the Loose, December 1991, p.2



## 4 Summary of recommendations

Site	Current listings	Recommendation
Burdekin Hotel, 2 Oxford Street Darlinghurst	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 379 'Burdekin Hotel'	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.
Patch's/DCM, 33 Oxford Street, Surry Hills	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 1582, 'Former Lowes including interior'	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.
Exchange Hotel, 34-36 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 380, 'Exchange Hotel'	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.
Roman Baths/King Steam, 40-42 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 381, 'Commercial Building'	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.
Slide Bar, 41 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 583, Former Commonwealth Bank	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.
Butts Bar, 45 Oxford Street, Surry Hills	Not listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17.	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP on the basis of this study.
Handlebar/Pete's Beat, 80 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 391, 'Former Kelso's Hotel including interior'	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.
Tropicana/ Club 85/Midnight Shift, 85-91 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Not listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17.	Recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP. A heritage inventory should be prepared.
Flo's Palace, 97 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Not listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP on the basis of this study.
Colombian, 117-125 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 399, 'Westpac Bank'	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.
Palms, 124 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Not listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17	Recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP. A heritage inventory should be prepared.
Oxford Hotel, 134 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Not listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17	Recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP. A heritage inventory should be prepared.
Capriccios, 163-169 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 411, 'Commercial building including interior'	No inventory revisions required – listing acknowledges the history and significance of the site to the LGBTIQA+ community.
Stonewall, 173-175 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 413, 'Former CBC Bank including interior'	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.
Wigzell's Turkish Bath/Ivy's, 191-195 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Not listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP on the basis of this study.
The Bookshop, 207 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Not listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP on the basis of this study.
Green Park Diner, 219-221 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Not listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP on the basis of this study.
253 Sauna, 253 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Not listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP on the basis of this study.
Beauchamp Hotel, 265-267 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 416, 'Beauchamp Hotel including Interior'	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.

Site	Current listings	Recommendation
Ruby Reds, 273 Crown Street, Surry Hills	Not listed. Adjoins Ryder Street Conservation Area C15.	Recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP. A heritage inventory should be prepared.
Kinselas, 383 Bourke St, Darlinghurst	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 223, 'Commercial Building "Kinsela House" Including Former Chapel and Interior'	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.
The Barracks, 1-5/7-9 Flinders Street, Surry Hills	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 1541, Former Commonwealth Bank	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.
Arq, Bodyline, 10-24 Flinders Street, Darlinghurst	Not listed. Within Oxford Street Conservation Area C17	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP on the basis of this study.
Grosvenor Club (also known as Taxi Club), 40-42 Flinders Street, Darlinghurst	Not listed. Within Paddington Urban Conservation Area C50.	Recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP. A heritage inventory should be prepared.
Flinders Hotel, 63-65 Flinders St, Surry Hills	Not listed. Within Paddington Urban Conservation Area C50.	Not recommended for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the LEP on the basis of this study.
Darlinghurst Police Station	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 316, 'Former Darlinghurst Police Station including interior.'	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.
The wall / National Art School wall	SHR Item No. 2048, 'National Art School, Former Darlinghurst Gaol, Former East Sydney Technical' ; Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012, Item No. 299 'Former East Sydney Technical College & Darlinghurst Gaol'	Minor inventory revisions required – listings acknowledge history and significance of the site to the LGBTQIA+ community, but needs to specify which section of wall.
Underground toilets	SHR Item No. 01700, 'Taylor Square Substation No.6 & Underground Public Conveniences'; Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012, Item No. 401 'Underground Lavatory Including Interior'	No inventory revisions required – listings acknowledge history and significance of the site to the LGBTQIA+ community.
Green Park	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No. 490, 'Green Park including bandstand and interiors, memorials and landscaping.'	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.
Taylor Square	All of Taylor Square Covered by SHR Item No. 01700, 'Taylor Square Substation No.6 & Underground Public Conveniences'; and also Oxford Street Conservation Area.	No inventory revisions required – listings acknowledge history and significance of the site to the LGBTQIA+ community.
St Vincent's Hospital	Sydney Local Environmental Plan, No 493, 'St Vincent's Hospital Group Including Buildings and Their Interiors And Fencing.'	Revise history and significance in existing inventory. Suggested revisions provided.

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