



FRANKLIN SQUARE CONSERVATION PLAN

Cover: Photograph from Treasury Building March 2007

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Prepared for
Hobart City Council

By
Lesley Gulson
Ferndene Studio

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PROJECT TEAM

Lesley Gulson	Ferndene Studio
John Miller	
David Parham	Austral Archaeology
Lindy Scripps	Historian

INTERDIVISIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Prue Slatyer	Manager Architectural Projects
Carole Edwards	Urban and landscape designer
Brendan Lennard	Heritage officer
Glenn Doyle	Manager, Parks and Recreation
Richard Weston	Parks Services Co-ordinator
Andrew Robert-Tissot	Arboricultural Officer

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Library and Survey staff

Landscape Maintenance, Civil Parks

June Bendzulla	Business Manager, Landscape Maintenance Crew
Bruno Gentile	Landscape Maintenance Crew
Steve Leder	
Danny Nellis	
Heath Nichols	



Franklin Square looking towards the post office tower, Autumn 2006

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Fig 1 Franklin Square aerial oblique. Source Hobart City Council

1 INTRODUCTION

Franklin Square is a public park-like open space located between the Hobart CBD and Sullivans Cove, established as an open space between 1863 and 1866. The Franklin Square open space is an integral component of the Macquarie Street ridge, a precinct that contains significant historic buildings and that constitutes Hobart's most intact Georgian-Victorian precinct.

The Franklin Square Conservation Plan was commissioned to guide Council in preparing a Master Plan for the Square.

The Plan describes the place, use, historic development, social and aesthetic values and condition and integrity followed by a summary statement of the cultural significance for Franklin Square. Background factors relevant to conservation policy are outlined before the conservation policy. Finally, processes required to guide implementation are proposed.

1.1 EXISTING LISTINGS AND REFERRALS

Franklin Square is listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR) and is therefore subject to the provisions of the 'Historic Cultural Heritage Act, 1994'. The THR data sheet contains the following Statement of Significance

This park is of historic heritage significance because its townscape and social associations are regarded as important to the community's sense of place. Franklin Square is of heritage significance because of its ability to demonstrate the principal characteristics of a Victorian inner city park. Franklin Square is of heritage significance because it has the potential to yield important information of an archaeological nature, that may contribute to a greater understanding of Tasmania's history.

Franklin Square is an open area between the Treasury Building and the Town Hall. It is bounded by Elizabeth, Davey and Macquarie Streets. It features a central fountain, various bronze statues and lychgate type arrangement off Macquarie Street. There are numerous mature ornamental trees.

Franklin Square is identified as a zone of high archaeological potential in the Sullivans Cove Archaeological Zoning Plan. This provides the basis for its entry in Table 12 of the Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme. The Square falls outside the City of Hobart Planning Scheme. It is located adjacent to Heritage Precinct 2 of that scheme.

1.2 SCOPE

The Study Area includes the roadway-open area adjacent to Franklin Square Offices owned by the Tasmanian Government. During 1890-1944 this area was fenced with Franklin Square and was understood to be part of Franklin Square. The adjacent footpaths in Macquarie and Elizabeth Street and the Davey Street embankment have also been considered.

1.3 QUALIFICATIONS

Franklin Square is close to the original shore of Sullivans Cove, and although altered from its character before European settlement this area may have significance to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community through cultural association and/or the potential for survival of evidence of Aboriginal occupation. An Aboriginal heritage assessment was beyond the scope of this study, however it is recommended that a separate policy be developed for the interpretation and management of Aboriginal heritage values, refer Conservation Policy 12.1.

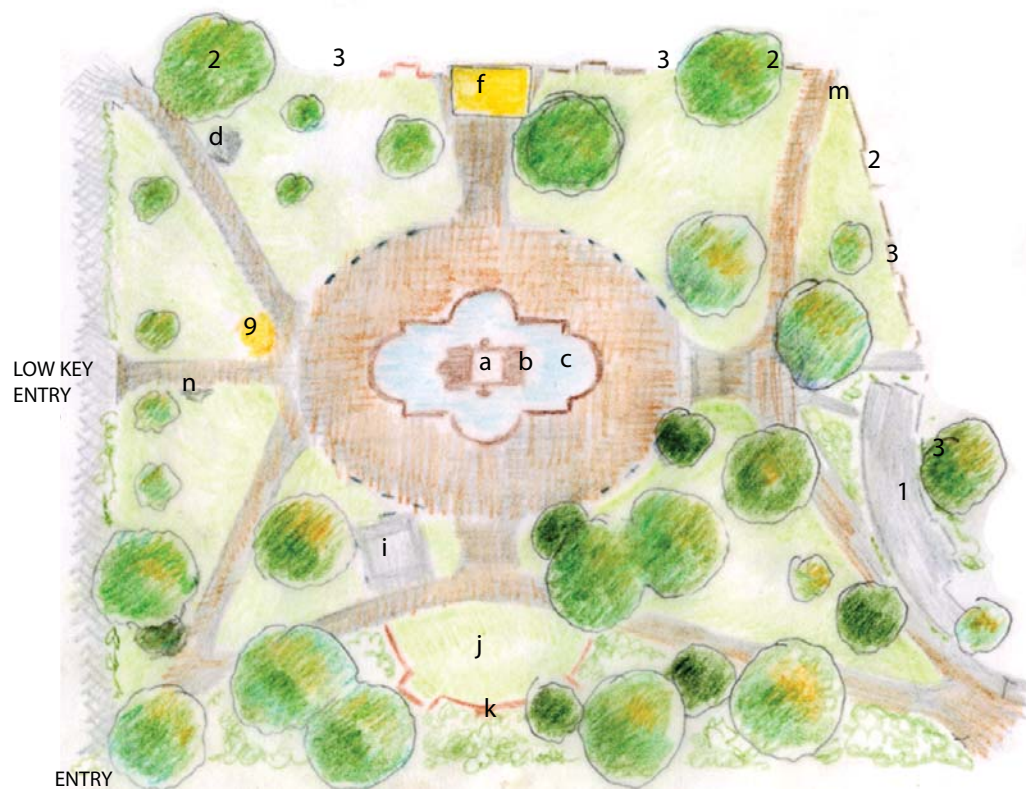
Some information has not been locatable. No original plan of Franklin Square has been uncovered and there are gaps in the minutes of the committee responsible for establishing the Square.

The contribution of heritage values of the adjacent streets and buildings to the significance of Franklin Square has been identified and assessed in a preliminary manner. More investigation would contribute to a fuller appreciation of the values of Franklin Square, refer Policy 12.3.

Additional work is required to make a provisional list of species cross checking photographs and lists of available plants, at this stage no plant lists for supply to Franklin Square have been discovered, refer Policy 12.4.

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Other matters noted during the study and incidental to the study are outlined in a letter to the Manager Architectural Projects, which it is understood will be placed on Council's central file for Franklin Square.

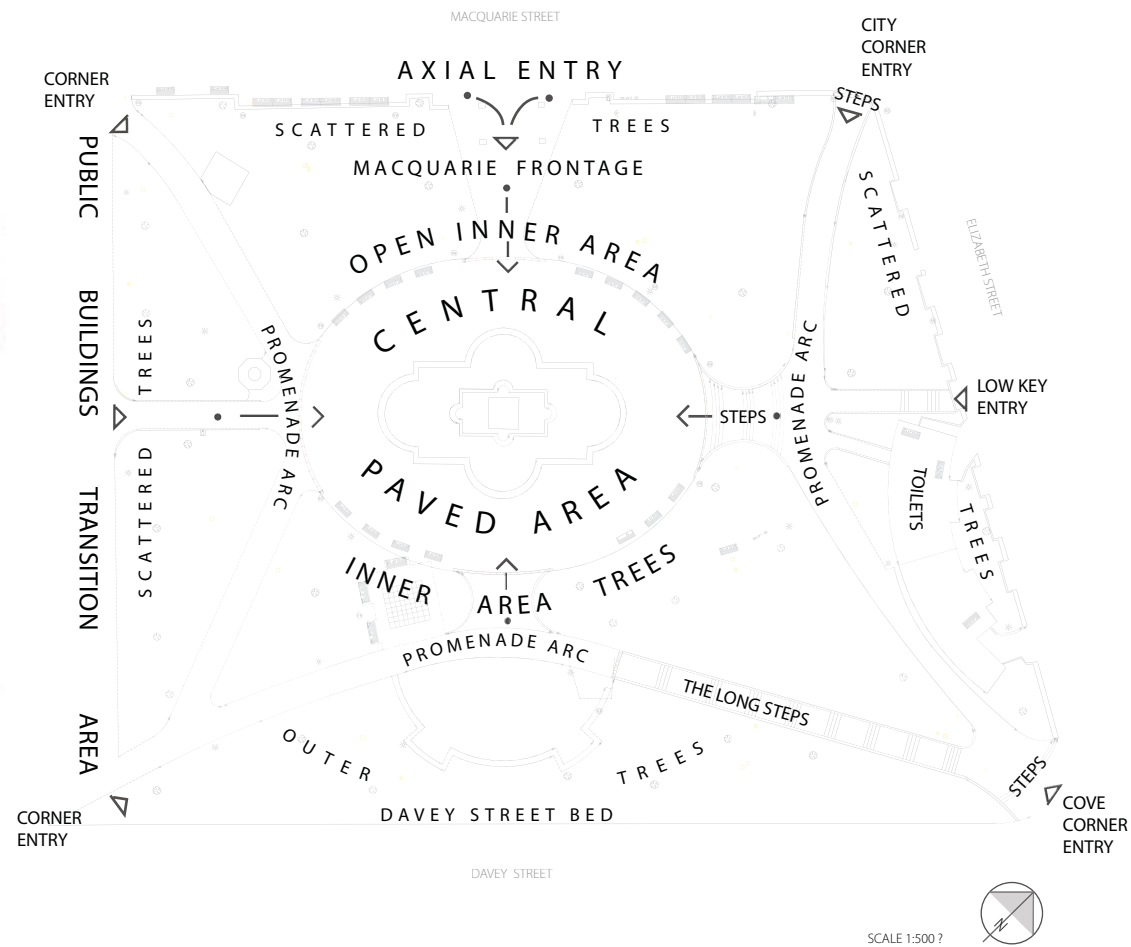


FEATURES

- a Sir John Franklin monument
- b Jet fountain
- c Water basin
- d Crowther monument
- e King Edward VII monument
- f Macquarie Street entry
- g Wishing well
- h Interpretation bay
- i Chess board
- j Hidden lawn
- k HIA section
- l Oak plaque
- m Government House plaque

FACILITIES

- 1 Elizabeth Street toilets & store
- 2 Bus stop seats
- 3 Bus stop shelter



SCALE 1:500 ?

Fig 2 Franklin Square Illustrative Plan and Landscape Structure of the Square

2 DESCRIPTION

2.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND LAYOUT

Franklin Square is a skewed rectangle of 0.63 ha open space, approximately 75 m x 85 m. It rises steeply 8 m from the eastern Davey-Elizabeth corner to a relatively flat area adjacent to Macquarie Street with a high bank to lower Elizabeth Street and to Davey Street. The Square is bounded by: a terraced retaining wall to Davey Street; the private road way or parking area adjacent to the Franklin Square Offices (previously known as the Public Buildings); and, footpaths and perimeter bus shelters along Macquarie and Elizabeth Streets.

The existing path layout has a subtle complex geometry, appearing almost regular in the way it is fitted onto the irregular rectangle shape and gradient of the Square:

- The Sir John Franklin monument is located formally in the centre of an oval shaped area of paving, itself central within the Square. The Franklin statue is installed on a tall block of stone located centrally within a formal and elaborately shaped water basin, both have the same long axis parallel to Macquarie Street and short axis parallel to the Franklin Square offices. A tartan-like pattern within the paving has become almost subtle as the paver colours weather.
- The Franklin statue and central area is approached directly on each axis. The approach from Macquarie Street is through a wide entry path from the Macquarie Street footpath which narrows as one moves under a rusticated pergola entry to face the Franklin Statue. On the Davey and Elizabeth sides short axial paths link to perimeter paths which arc inwards from entries at the corners of Franklin Square: on the Elizabeth side the axial path is continued beyond the perimeter path as a narrow linking path down to the street. A straight path connects the central area and the Franklin Square Offices roadway.
- 'Long steps' path connect the Davey-Elizabeth corner to the Davey Street perimeter path, 2 flights of steps connect the paved area to the Elizabeth Street perimeter path.

2.2 TREES

The presence of older deciduous trees, English elms and Tiliacs around 150 years old contribute strongly to Franklin Square's character. There is a single Tree of Heaven and a sprinkling of medium sized evergreen New Zealand trees to the east of the central paving.

The surviving trees are strongest in presence around the north end of the central paving and the Davey and Macquarie Street boundaries. Other areas have become relatively open.

2.3 PAVING AND HARD ELEMENTS

All paving, retaining walls and steps are constructed from pavers, darker reddish grey brown some with a central burn, edges of steps are a lighter ceramic brick. The tops of retaining walls have a redder capping course. Some steeper steps have purpose designed rails.

2.4 FEATURES AND FACILITIES

Monuments

The Sir John Franklin Monument is the central pre-eminent element in the Square. The statue is a large bronze casting with a ship's wheel behind the figure of Franklin. The statue faces Macquarie Street, its back to the Derwent. Its height is emphasised by the tall red granite plinth, the size of the fountain setting and water basin 25m x 17.5 m adds to the perception of importance.

A statue of Dr William Crowther is located on a large sandstone plinth facing towards the west Macquarie entrance to the Square, adjacent to an entry path.

An additional statue, King Edward VII, is located outside Franklin Square, in the footpath of Macquarie Street, almost in alignment with the Sir John Franklin statue. It is situated on the extreme kerb of the footpath.

Macquarie Street entry structure

An entry structure is located in the centre of the Macquarie Street boundary and perpendicular to the street. The rusticated mid-twentieth century pergola entry is noticeably of a different period to the statues close to it and the modern bus shelters adjacent.

Minor features

The Chess Board - is a relatively large area of paving 15 m x 15 m located behind the Franklin fountain. Oversize chess pieces are moved on a board 4m x 4 m, the board is bordered by box-shaped 'chess seats' in which the chess pieces are stored at night.

The Apex Wishing Well - is located on the perimeter of the central area, the well is the scale and finish of a domestic garden feature, with a fresh sandstone appearance.

The MBA lectern - at the rear of an area of lawn adjacent to Davey Street.

Plaques

Commemorative Oak – a ground mounted plaque adjacent to the oak, planted in 1865, replaces an earlier brass plate that hung on the tree. Location of the former Government House - is commemorated by an inscribed red granite plaque installed near the corner of Macquarie-Davey in 1945.

Chess Board - a ground level plaque notes the chess board was constructed by Sandy Bay Lions Club in 1960 and used timber (for the seats which store chess pieces) was donated by IXL.

A plaque intended to commemorate Aboriginal Tasmanians (1967) has not been located during this study and it is not clear from the available documents that it was ever installed.

Public conveniences and accessible roof deck

The amenities block is entered from the Elizabeth Street footpath. There are a number of seats on the concrete roof deck.

2.5 FURNITURE

Seats

The seats in Franklin Square are custom made park bench style seats with slatted timber, on a metal strap. The timber is painted deep green.

Bins

Large rectangular metal bins are located around the central paved area and elsewhere in the Square. The bins are painted a deep green. Prominent A4 sized anti-litter bill posters are displayed on the sides of the bins and some event posters are attached to the bins on occasions.

2.6 SIGNPOSTING AND INTERPRETATION

One of Council's 'classic parks' suite of signs is located on the Davey and Elizabeth corner. The content is not specific to Franklin Square and the sign is relatively large in its immediate context.

A 'Civic services' enclosed sign with advertising is located on the Macquarie street perimeter close to the entry path.

There is an interpretation bay off the path leading to the Franklin Square offices. The location is relatively subtle among other more recently installed elements, the chess board and wishing well.

2.7 LIGHTING

There is a variety of free standing lights. Some have bulky flood lights attached. The lights around the public conveniences are 'gaslight' in styling. The water basin and fountain is illuminated. The amenities block is illuminated from late afternoon.

2.8 BUS STOPS

Macquarie Street bus-shelters

Contemporary design, glazed, with black steel structure, large posters in side

divisions. The glass rear wall provides views into the Square whereas side posters obstruct views into the Square walking along the footpath.

While the black structure has a relatively low prominence for its size the silver metal (aluminium) seats have a high prominence especially viewed from close by.

Elizabeth Street bus-shelters

Bus shelters on Elizabeth Street are smaller, painted dark green (matching all Franklin Square landscape furniture). These shelter permit views into Franklin Square and allow the form of the Square to be appreciated.

Additional slatted seats are housed onto top of the perimeter sandstone wall.



Fig 3 Franklin Square looking towards the Town Hall, Winter 2005, weekday, mid-afternoon,



Fig 4 Lunch-time in Franklin Square, October 2006

3 USAGE

To some extent existing use of Franklin Square is readily observed, Council's brief describes Franklin Square as,

'... a very popular space for individuals and groups of all ages.'

A 1996 study of user conflicts in Franklin Square by Unitas Consulting identified a range of users. Unitas summarised the people visiting the Square as follows:

'Franklin Square is a major meeting and socialising point for Hobart City. It is a central public amenity that offers both peace and quiet and a place for recreational activities. Because of the Square's central location, many office workers use the park at lunch time. Also, due to the Square's proximity to the central bus terminal, many bus travellers use the park when waiting for buses. Bus travellers include commuters and school students. Franklin Square is also a convenient pedestrian thoroughfare and is visited by sightseers walking through the city.'

Unitas identified peak usage occurring on a school holiday week day with most use late afternoon, a similar pattern was observed on a school day with use peaking earlier. On a weekend day use peaks occurred in the early afternoon and users were younger. This pattern is consistent with usage observed during carrying out this study although numbers are fewer in Winter. The UniTas report also commented on use by 2 social groups, 'Mallies' and 'Skaties'.

Existing usage and social value has been identified from limited observation supplemented by observations by others and interviewing Council's grounds staff. Grounds staff (gardeners) have largely confirmed the 1991 findings with the following qualifications and comments:

1. 'Mallies' have largely moved on from Franklin Square.
2. Skateboarders are much fewer owing to the use of skate-stop fins to make their favoured areas less skate-able and possibly since the opening of the skatepark in North Hobart. Other Council staff suggested that the removal of a paved area at the rear of the Square (near the lectern) contributed.
3. Since these 2 groups moved on, Franklin Square is more popular with office workers for lunch. People lunch in the Square throughout the year enjoying winter sun and summer shade.
4. The numbers of people visiting the Square is highest on sunny summer days and between 3 and 5 pm as schoolchildren and commuters wait for buses departing from Elizabeth and Maquarie Streets.
5. There are a limited number of chess players who use the board. Council staff have noted increased use of the chess board and people observing those who play.
6. Drinkers use the area around the evergreen trees at the top of the Long Steps. Drinkers tend to be a small group, 8-10, larger in summer. By and large the drinkers keep to themselves.
7. The fountain is the most popular area with tourists and most photos are taken directly in front of the Franklin statue. Children tend to walk or run all through Franklin Square, including around the edge of the fountain.
8. Commuters mainly walk diagonally through the Square. In the morning they arrive from the St David's Park direction and most leave through the main Macquarie Street entry. A specific route is less defined in afternoons as walkers mingle with those waiting for buses.
9. Concerts in summer attract people, bands play on roof deck of the Public Conveniences block, in an amphitheatre like arrangement with music bouncing off the Town Hall. The gardeners tie down the camellias around the amenities roof deck to allow the audience to see the performers.
10. Signs of drug use are relatively infrequent, this appears to be associated with increased foot patrols by Police.
11. Use of the Square for protests rises and falls, protests seems to have moved around the Square. There is only one regular protest, a vigil by the 'Women in Black'. The WIB webpage notes that the group would have preferred a more central location in the Hobart CBD.

12. Battery Point walking tours traditionally meet at the Wishing Well.

The visitor information bureau thought the tours may have been discontinued.

13. Council's web page identifies Franklin Square as one of the locations available for issuing of a license for busking, but busking wasn't mentioned by Council outdoor staff who later confirmed that it doesn't occur.

14. Grounds staff mentioned that the Public Conveniences are used by people waiting for buses and have a reasonably high use rate.

Various urban design consultants have identified Franklin Square as a node or an orientation point.

This is confirmed by advertising, a number of tourist bus routes leave from Franklin Square, Summer Festival buses arrive here and a web search reveals the Square is one of a number of meeting places for bike rides etc.

4 HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUITIES

Historical investigation undertaken by Lindy Scripps has identified phases of development and disturbance, Appendices 1 and 2. This research has been supplemented by detailed assessment of historic features in photos and surviving elements.

4.1 ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION

Use of the original shoreline by the Mouheenneer band of the South East Tribe is likely as water edges were a favoured landscape, however aboriginal heritage is not assessed within this study.

4.2 EARLY DEVELOPMENT 1804 – C. 1817

Collins period

This was the period of initial settlement of Hobart, bushland was cleared and an officers camp established on the rise above Sullivans Cove including a modest Government House.

Macquarie Plan

Governor Macquarie's 1811 visit with the surveyor James Meehan lead to the imposition of an ordered military grid style of layout over the more organic village-like layout that had emerged under Collins.

The layout follows principles for town plans that Macquarie applied in a number of towns including Hobart and Georgetown in Tasmania and in NSW, Sydney and five towns in the Hawkesbury area. Common features of these plans were an identified main street and along that street a 'great square' typically surrounded by civic buildings and a church. He required that buildings were set well back from these streets and some of these setbacks survive along Macquarie Street.

When Macquarie left the streets had been surveyed, named and signposted. In Hobart a square was identified on the 1811 plan of the town as Georges Square (after the king). It was located on the raised ridgeline where the initial Government House and a number of other officers cottages and gardens were established. An alternative site was selected for a Government House.

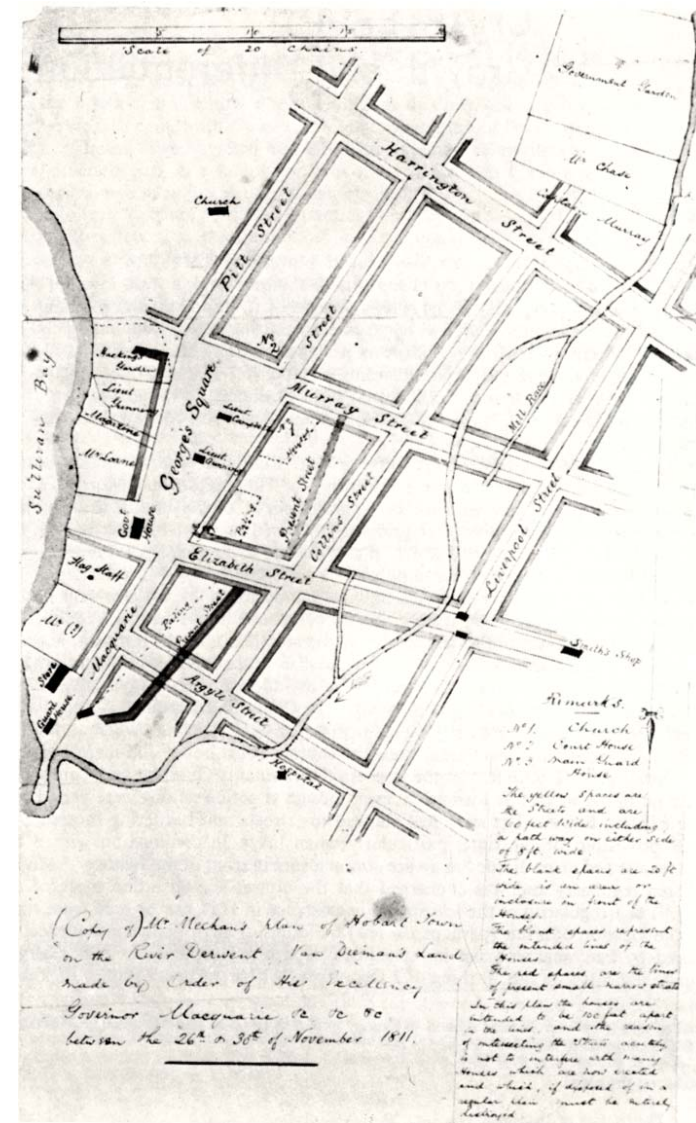


Fig 5 Copy of James Meehan plan of Hobart 1811. Hobart no. 131, Land Information Bureau, DPIW

Meehan's plan identified the existing uses on Georges Square including a cottage and 2 garden areas. 3 cottages were purchased for the Square.

The Governors did not move to the selected location for some time. A 'square' in front of Government House was used for musters and proclamations.

Expression on the present site

Collins period - little is evident, except skew angles of titles in the area. Archaeological investigation may be able to reveal more from this period. Macquarie Plan - Macquarie Street survives as the main street with a recognisably Georgian character. .

Townscape

The current townscape context of Franklin Square, St Davids, the Franklin Square Offices and the Town Hall are consistent with Macquarie's vision for the civic precinct around his Great Square, as is the setback of some buildings opposite in Macquarie Street.

4.3 GOVERNMENT HOUSE C.1817 – 1859

Georges Square was not retained. Government House occupied the area as it grew into a larger more formal complex with wings, expanding across what would become Elizabeth Street into the area now occupied by Franklin Square.

Views across Sullivan's Cove to Government House by William Huggins c.1830 and George Frankland 1830 both show a dense shrub-like planting marking the boundary of the grounds and extending to the waterline. Frankland recorded it in his c.1840 map of Hobart Town. In both prints the vegetation outline suggests planting rather than opportunistic retention of bushland and the vegetation is consistent with a planting of eucalypts about 5-10 years old.

A Benjamin Dutereau watercolour of the view down Elizabeth Street c.1836 shows Government House at the end of the street and trees and shrubs of 3 - 8 m height. In an 1841 view (Attrib. Thomas Evans Chapman) from Old

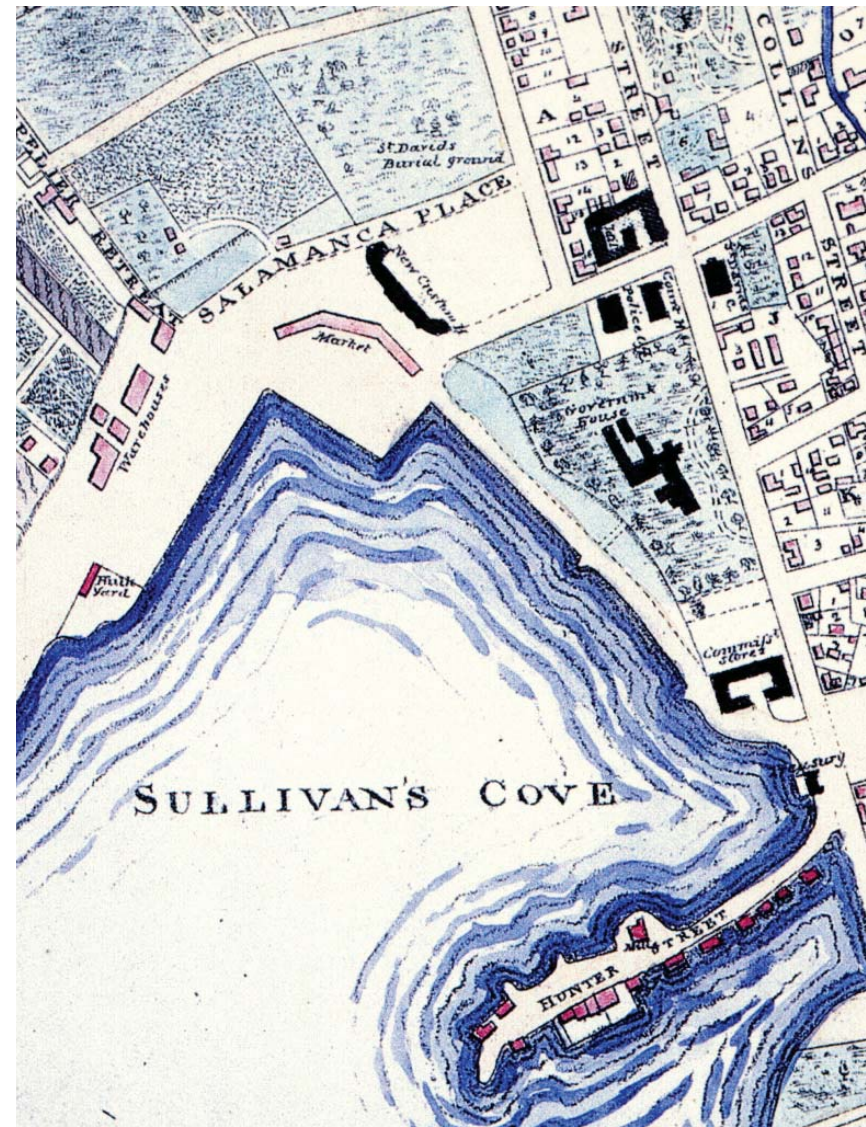


Fig 6 Grounds, planting Government House: Frankland plan of Hobart (part), 1840 Private collection



Fig 7 View across lower Argyle Street Painting: Government House, Hobart Town, c1840 Unknown Crowther Library

Wharf the open nature of the boundary planting is becoming apparent.

Paintings and sketches show Government House located in an Arcadian style garden with stately gum trees and dotted more gardenesque shrub beds. The driveway and frontage was to Elizabeth Street. It was surrounded by a picket fence, a 1834 description notes

'tastefully laid out shrubberies, which slope gradually down to the water's edge.'

Government House had an overview of Sullivans Cove, the house and gardens were a backdrop element of the Cove at this time. Over this period Sullivans Cove changed rapidly with filling of the waters edge. The trees in the Government House grounds matured and by the 1840s trees almost obstructed the view to Government House from the water.

The new Government House initially proposed by Governor Macquarie



Fig 8 Macquarie Street frontage Photograph 1856, Portion of photograph Hobart: View from the Queens Domain, AC Dreier Collection, Latrobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria, H22002

was finalised and completed in 1859. Shortly after occupation of the new building the Macquarie Street building was demolished. Plans were prepared to extend Elizabeth Street to the Cove, allocate the east portion to the Hobart Council for a Town Hall, the west most area for public buildings and subdivide the area between (Franklin Square).

Expression on site

There is little expression of the Government House period on site, a plaque near the corner of Macquarie and Elizabeth and information in an interpretation bay.

Continuing uses from history and townscape

From 1811 through the Government House period up to 1859 this area was a civic area and a garden backdrop to the Cove. The 1811 expectation of a public square in a civic precinct is partly realised in Franklin Square.

4.4 FRANKLIN SQUARE ESTABLISHMENT, A GARDEN-LIKE SQUARE, 1860 – 1884

A suitable memorial

In 1860 Parliament was considering a suitable form of memorial to former Governor Sir John Franklin, who had died on an expedition to discover the North West Passage. One member expressed regret that there was no square reserved in the town to place such a monument. This coincided with the proposals for disposal of the Government House site.

A committee was formed which included Bishop Nixon; MLAs including the architect William Archer, and; the Director of Public Works William Falconer. Surviving records show: involvement by Lady Jane Franklin, details of the sculpture to be supplied (a copy of one done for Waterloo Place) by Mathew Noble; supply of the red granite plinth (prepared and inscribed by Noble to an inscription phrased by Lady Franklin and approved by the committee); records regarding contractors for fencing and the fountain and basin. No record of the designer the water basin and no early plans have been located.

The site works were undertaken by Falconer using convict labour, described in Feb 1863 as the site being levelled, and large gum trees being removed to allow planting of 'choice shrubs' around the monument.

'so that the present unseemly spot will, when the square is completed, constitute a conspicuous ornament to one of the most prominent localities in the city.'

At least one member of the Committee was less than impressed. T. G. Gregson requested that the Premier appoint someone to replace Bishop Nixon (who had returned to England for health reasons) to make arrangement for the site - base and pedestal of the statue. Gregson noted:

Already it seems to me the cutting down of many picturesque, and umbrageous trees has destroyed the beauty of the square; and apart from the ornamental has destroyed what is so very essential, shelter from the breezes and shade from the sun.'

The statue arrived in January 1865, and was erected in March.

Initial gardenesque square

The first photo of Franklin Square was taken shortly after completion. The photo shows the statue of Sir John Franklin, on a plinth located in an almost rustic rockery garden with symmetrical jets in a classically shaped pool, reminiscent of the patterns for ornamental bedding. The caption to the photo mentions oak trees planted in May 1863 to commemorate the marriage of the Prince of Wales to Princess Alexandra of Denmark in March 1863, the first of a sequence of civic commemorations.

An almost symmetric layout of paths and shrub beds is evident, with a border and trees and shrubs dotted into lawn. The design utilised corner entries, perimeter paths leading to 4 axial entries into a more classically formal centre; it is executed in the formal idiom of gardenesque, where the formality is not immediately apparent. The statue was approached using the 'hide and reveal' view sequence typical of the picturesque style. The layout has some similarities to 1850s gardenesque layouts by William Bateman Latrobe. The central area resembled in some aspects, the design of Trafalgar Square recently finished in London 1845, including the footprint of the water basin, 2 flanking jets and the central higher statue, but was unlike Trafalgar in that it was located within a strongly defined garden setting and the statue on its plinth was located within a central rockery of spiky planting.

The central paved rounded ovoid appears to have been proportioned with reference to the forecourt of the 1841 Public Offices on Murray Street built during Franklins period as Governor and the subject of some controversy regarding Greek architectural style. The width of the ovoid is the same as the width of the forecourt to the Murray Street offices and the fountain and statue are on an axis with the central entry to the building.

The square was enclosed in a picket fence. The timber fence ran along Elizabeth and Macquarie Streets, along the edge of a roadway separating the Square and the Government Offices and continued alongside a path above the bank to a street (later Davey). Photos show two timber shepherd's gate entries, one near Macquarie Street on the roadway between Franklin Square and the public buildings, the other on Macquarie Street close to Elizabeth Street. The plan suggests there were entries at each corner of the Square and one opposite the rear entry into the Public Buildings compound.



Fig 9 Franklin Square, Macquarie Street, 1865 Samuel Clifford Crowther Library. AUTAS001122922172



Fig 10 View looking East from the Tower of St Davids Church, Henry Bailly, Crowther Library AUSTAS 001124850363



Fig 11 Franklin Square, Hobart 1880-90 Unknown Allport Library AUTAS001126251644

Plants were sourced from the Royal Society's Gardens and Port Arthur. Plants from the Royal Society included trees, shrubs and bulbs. Exact lists of plants supplied for Franklin Square are not available. Plants sold to Council in January of 1865 and 1875 were duplicates of plants in the Royal Society's Garden sold to Council and may have been planted semi-advanced.

As the garden matured the interior spaces of the Square developed a stronger sense of enclosure. A mid 1870s photo shows a low edge along the water basin and robust seats. An 1879 lithograph shows a small structure, possibly the latticed gazebo visible in 1900-1910 photographs and a cannon (both possibly mis-located within the lithograph). At some time prior to 1875 one of a set of two cannons committed to Tasmania from those souvenired from the Crimean War was installed in Franklin Square immediately in front of the Sir John Franklin statue. (These cannons were presented to communities throughout the British Empire that had supported the War Effort, the other sent to Tasmania was installed within City Park Launceston.)

Townscape

Construction of Franklin Square occurred almost concurrently with the building of the new Court House (1858) and Town Hall (1864) on land that became available following the demolition of Government House. Godden Mackay have described this brief period as an architectural expression associated with the optimism of the beginning of self government in Tasmania.

The new Court House and Town Hall on Macquarie Street were of a classical style (as was the earlier Public Buildings and the existing Royal Society of Tasmania), and which is reflected in the detail of the waterbasin and central area of Franklin Square. The use of classical styling stood in contrast to the utilitarian Georgian of the Colonial period and appears to have been a specific intention: the Government had required that the Town Hall would harmonise with buildings planned for Macquarie and Elizabeth streets.

A length of broad footpath defined a civic precinct along Macquarie Street. The Franklin Square fence and the buildings along Macquarie Street were located to a common line, well back from the prevailing setback. Again this

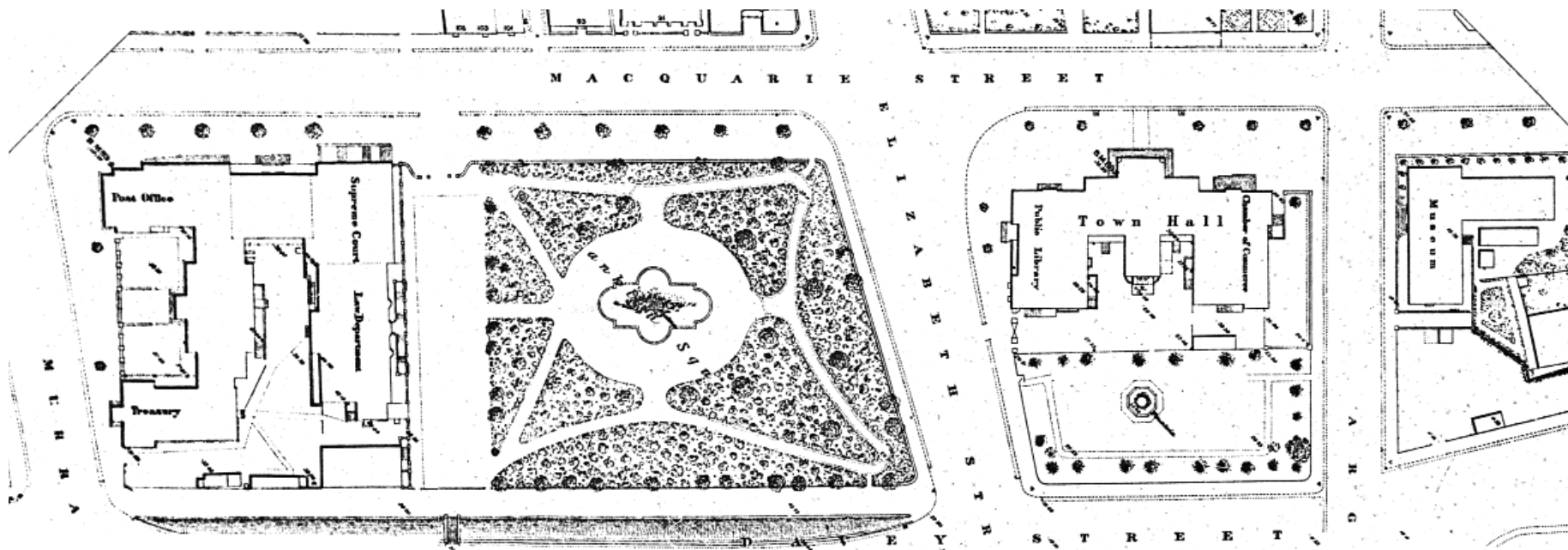


Fig 12 Franklin Square and Macquarie Street, 1897 Shows common setback of civic buildings and Franklin Square to provide a broad footpath. Also the Sir John Franklin statue on axis with the entry to the 1841 Murray Street offices, the width of central ovoid area corresponding to the width of the Murray Street offices forecourt and the statue and ovoid exactly between the rear boundary of Franklin Square and the line of street trees (which appear to be part of the geometry and proportioning of Franklin Square). Refer also Appendix 5. **Metropolitan Drainage Plan Sheet 11**, Portion of plan, tram track and minor notes removed.

appears intended, notes for competitors for the design of the Town Hall required that the building would align with the existing Royal Society of Tasmania Museum. Street trees were established along the footpath of the precinct and contribute to the geometry of Franklin Square.

The ovoid central area of Franklin Square and Sir John Franklin statue are located exactly in the centre, between the rear boundary of Franklin Square and the line of street trees, which together with the axis through the Murray Street buildings suggests an intended overall plan for the buildings and Square (not realised by later buildings). Refer also Appendix 5.

The growth of trees and shrubs quickly created a garden character within Franklin Square, and as they and the street trees matured they began to

resemble the previous presence in Macquarie Street of the trees of the gardens associated with Government House.

What remains

Franklin Square remains a garden-like public square, the original layout is largely intact, and a setting for the memorial to Sir John Franklin.

Continuing uses

Photos from the 1870s show people visiting the Square, a boy enjoying the water, people sitting on the sturdy seats around the central area or admiring and being photographed in front of the statue. Children still enjoy the water and the seats are used throughout the day.

4.5 CONSOLIDATION: HIGH VICTORIAN PARK AND FORECOURT TO THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE

During 1884-87 the Public Buildings complex was extended by a new wing constructed alongside Franklin Square with a double stairway and landing facing into the Square. The landing was used for some civic functions and proclamations.

Photos show the existing path from close to the entry to the new building into Franklin Square was laid after the building was completed.

At about this time the adjacent timber fence enclosing Franklin Square was removed and the timber boundary fencing extended to the Public Buildings with a timber double gate entry, making the Square effectively a forecourt to the new building.

In 1890-91 the Macquarie and Elizabeth Street sides of Franklin Square were refenced with an elaborate cast iron fence with pickets set into a sandstone base. The new fence generally followed the line of the extended fencing.

A vehicular entry and pedestrian gates near the Public Buildings featured square constructed columns with lights constructed as a well composed inset and a rise in the height of the fence to the entry. The fence also rose at an illuminated pedestrian gateway at the Macquarie-Elizabeth corner. The Davey-Elizabeth Street had a high sandstone base and the entry appears to have been onto Davey Street.

The taller more substantial fencing complemented the vegetation which appears to have almost 'closed in' as it matured, with larger conifers including at least one spruce having a strong presence.

The planting character within Franklin Square had matured, it had the eccentricity of Victorian planting with strong texture plants including Argaves and Cordylina in the central water basin rockery, but may well have dated from the original planting. The tall conifers and deciduous trees made an overgrown exotic canopy silhouette of contrasting forms and textures.

As the vegetation grew the character changed entirely, garden beds became walls of shrubs, views out were obstructed or restricted. Around c.1900 vegetation was thinned for the first time and lawn areas may have been introduced.

New seats of a variety of details were introduced, including some sections of joined seats around the central area and there were seats alongside the path the new building. Amenities consistent with use as a Victorian park were introduced including amusement machines and at some time prior to 1907 Ladies Retiring Rooms.

There was at least one sign at the west Macquarie Street entry, reading:

"Notice

This Square is open to the Public from 8 am to half an hour after sunset.

Visitors are requested not to injure the Flowers, Shrubs, Seats etc

Baskets provided for Orange Peel and [one word, unreadable].

Dogs are not allowed in this Square."

The erection of a statue of Dr William Crowther at the west Macquarie Street entry in 1889 continued the use of Franklin Square for civic commemorations.

Activities within Franklin Square became more organised, Button Days during The Great War and bands in the park in the early 1920s.

Townscape

As Franklin Square matured, the civic precinct extended more closely around Franklin Square. The Executive Building was built facing onto the Square almost axially with the path to central area and to the Sir John Franklin statue. An Elizabeth Street entry to the Town Hall was also constructed late nineteenth century facing into Franklin Square.

By this time Franklin Square was a strongly defined area of vegetation in the Hobarts urban fabric. Macquarie Street was further consolidating as a civic precinct, the eucalypt street trees had grown to tower over the trees in Franklin Square.



Fig 13 Franklin Square, 1910s Portion of joined photograph, Archives office of tasmania 34/9

After tram services commenced in Macquarie Street in 1893, tram seats were installed along Macquarie Street outside Franklin Square and at some time an elaborate drinking fountain was erected.

An electricity line had been run through Franklin Square including through central ovoid before 1910 and may have been associated with lighting of the Square. The original lights at the entrance gateway to the Franklin Square Public Buildings were replaced at some time before 1912. A modern light was installed at the Macquarie and Elizabeth Street entry (it is not known whether there had been lighting at this entry originally).

A statue of King Edward VII erected in Macquarie Street in 1922 further suggested that Franklin Square was located within an established civic precinct.



Fig 14 Franklin Square Hobart, Portion, view from 1883 building into central area. Archives office of tasmania NS 1013 1111

What remains

Franklin Square has retained the path to the 1884 building. Views to the 1884 building still contribute to the character of Franklin Square, particularly in winter. Most of the sandstone base of the cast iron fence is in place and a gate and gatepost has been retained alongside the building.

The Dr Crowther statue is still at the Macquarie St entry and King Edward V11 on the footpath.

Continuing uses

The seats in Macquarie Street footpaths for trams have translated into bus shelters along Macquarie and Elizabeth Streets.

4.6 COUNCIL MODERNISATION, 1923 - 1960

In 1923 Franklin Square was vested in Hobart City Council as a Recreation Ground and Council received some funding from the State for maintenance. Since Franklin Square became a Council responsibility it has been through 4 major cycles of renewal.

Hobart City Council – Park Rework 1- Paving and vegetation

When Franklin Square was acquired it was described as overgrown and Council's Parks Superintendent Liscombe described to the Mercury his plans to upgrade by introducing internal areas of lawn within 4' wide borders of layered flowering plants. The fountain rockery was to be rearranged and replanted. On the Davey Street side a laurel hedge was to be established to provide shelter against winds and the Davey Street bank would be planted.

It is not clear to what extent the intended works were implemented, although flower beds and internal lawns were introduced around the central area and significant thinning of vegetation occurs during this period, path edges are kerbed or contained, the edge of the water basin was raised and a long continuous seat replaces the park seats around the central area.

In 1938 a drafts board was introduced, this appears to be the board set into a concrete table and seats suite shown in later photos. By the 1950s there were at least 2 drafts boards and a path to their location close to the Franklin Square Offices, near the Davey Street boundary.

Rework 2 interrupted by the war

In the 1940s debate emerged regarding a proposal by the Premier to remove the iron fence. The state removed the gateway portion of the fence and paved the gravel to create a carpark around 1940.

Council commissioned and received a consultants report in 1941 proposing: removal of: laurels and ailanthus; poplar and oak; native olives; and, planting of hydrangeas and rhododendrons. This report was adopted to be implemented in part.



Fig15 Franklin Square c1930s Franklin Square, Hobart, Tas Postcards 1914-41, AC Dreier Collection, La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria Victorian State Library H21315



Fig16 Franklin Square, 1920s Archives Office of Tasmania NS869-439

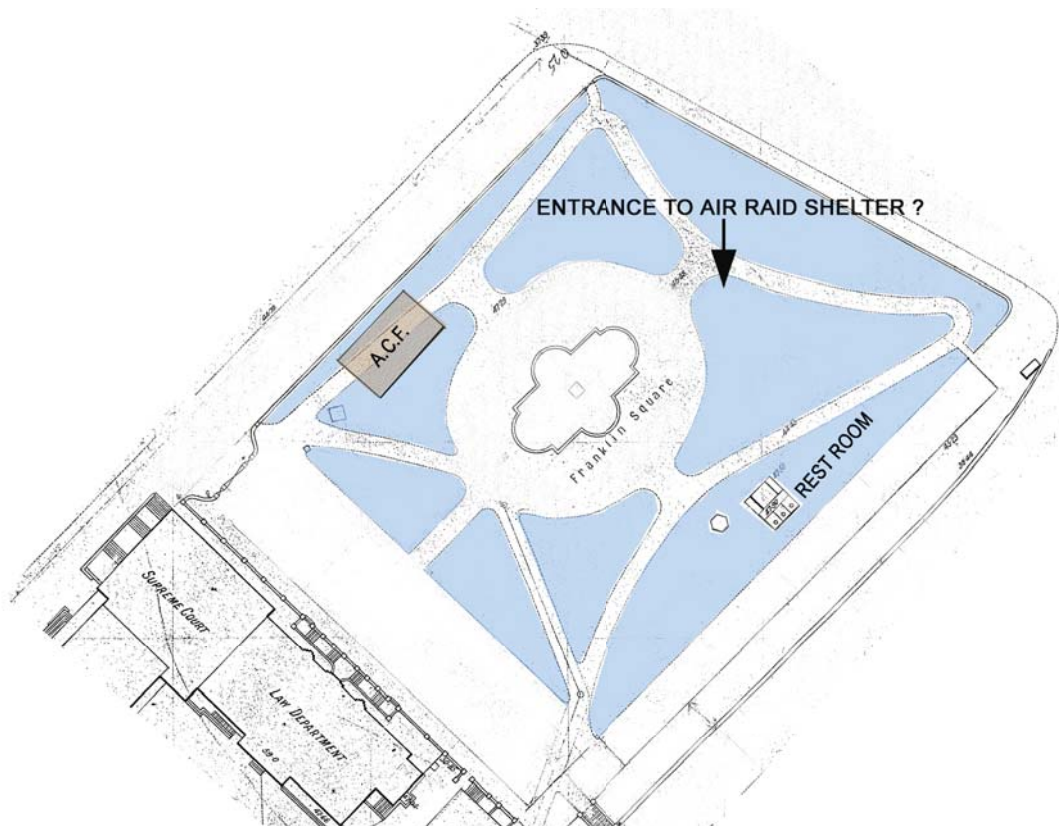


Fig 17 'Franklin Square – Present layout' c. 1944 from Archives Office of Tasmania File. Hobart City Council General Correspondence File MCC16/2/439 'Franklin Square', Metropolitan Drainage Board plans, and AOT photograph 30/7074 showing the air raid shelter. Phase 4 Overlay 'Intrusions 1900-1944' 'Franklin Square' Scripps 2005

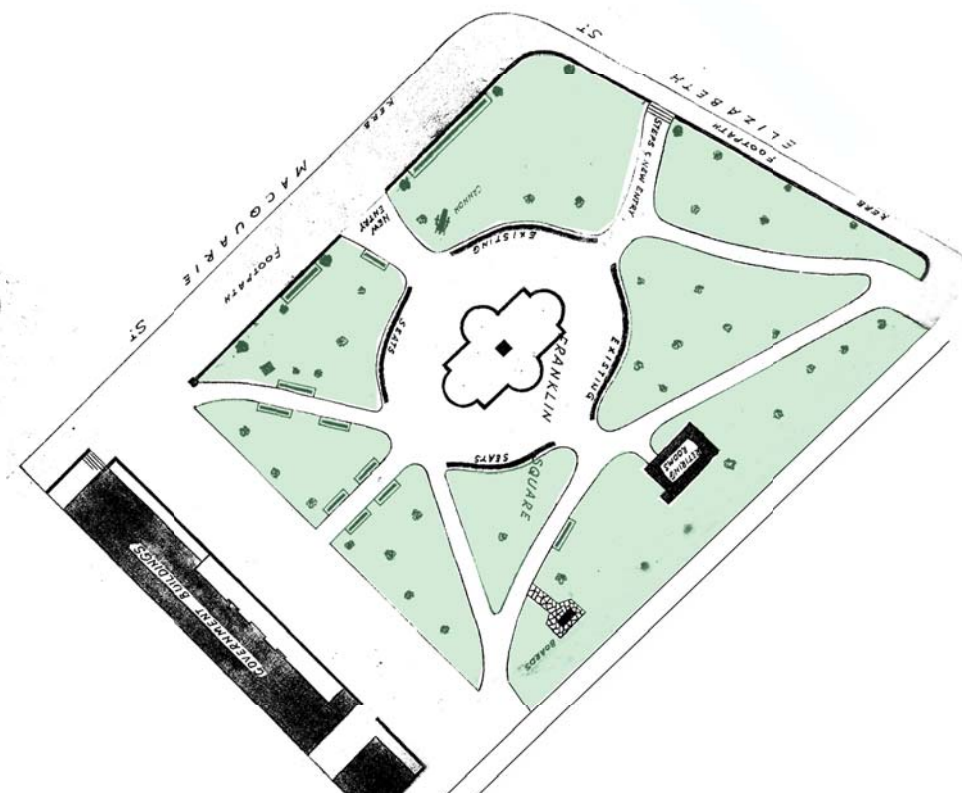


Fig 18 'Proposed layout' c. 1944 from Archives Office of Tasmania File. Hobart City Council General Correspondence File MCC16/2/439 'Franklin Square' Scripps 2005

In 1942 after the air raid on Darwin and a Japanese overflight of Hobart, air raid shelters are erected in multiple locations including, Dunn Street, Argyle Street, the Cenotaph and Franklin Square. It is not known how many shelters were constructed in Franklin Square, photos and records indicate at least eight. The boundary fence was removed in places to provide access to the shelters.

It was decided that the Victorian fence couldn't be repaired and it was removed in October 1944. The top of the plinth base of the fence was knocked down to remove the steel pickets. These stones were realigned to provide for seats for people waiting for buses to be located within the boundary of the Square.

The layout of Franklin Square was adapted (Figure 17), generally entries were made larger. The corner entry from the Elizabeth and Macquarie corner was removed and replaced by a wide entry from the centre of the Macquarie Street frontage and a narrow path entry from the centre of Elizabeth Street. The gently arcing path along the Macquarie Street side of the park was entirely removed. The Square no longer had a self contained internal path.

The resulting layout was strangely asymmetrical and unresolved, an awkward combination of the original picturesque entry conventions and a new half realised utilitarian formality. The Tasmanian Chapter of the RAIA objected strongly to the proposed layout.

A prominent entry structure was erected at the new central Macquarie Street entrance. The structure was a larger interpretation of the rusticated pergola with stone posts and a flat timber post entrance entries commonly used as municipal entrances around this time (St Davids Park, Princes Park). The new entrance changed the experience of viewing the Sir John Franklin monument. Previously the statue had been approached through the picturesque device of 'reveal and conceal', with different facets of the sculpture being viewed as it was approached: this became a simple axial approach with the statue partly obstructed by the entry and just becoming bigger as one approaches.



Fig 19 View into the entrance to the air raid shelters in Franklin Square located adjacent to the Macquarie and Elizabeth Streets entrance, between the Macquarie and Elizabeth Street perimeter paths. People sitting on seats around the central area on the upper left and silhouette of the Ladies Rest Rooms behind. Archives Office of Tasmania 30-7074

Other changes included:

- The ladies retiring rooms were enlarged, becoming more prominent behind the statue of Sir John Franklin.
- The cannon from the Crimean War was removed. It had been intended to relocate it off-axis in the Square, but the carriage was damaged and it was not returned. (It was later requested by the army and installed outside Angelsea Barracks, where it remains).
- Replanting with New Zealand evergreen trees and shrubs, consistent with contemporary planting styles. The apparent age of surviving trees suggests planting occurred around the 1950s. This appears to have been associated with further removal of vegetation.



Fig 20 Postcard Franklin Square, 1950s Archives Office of Tasmania 30/8566

- Contemporary concrete seats were introduced replacing the long seat around the centre and all other seats.
- The fountain rockery was replaced by a water display with jets of water in 1948. The distinctive layout of the basin was retained.
- At some time resurfacing occurred, paths were kerbed and perrons (sloping steps) were constructed on the steeper paths down to Elizabeth Street.

The 1945 City of Hobart 'Hobart Town Plan' proposed remaking the whole town to look more modern including removal of the Franklin Square Buildings and repeating the volume and proportions of Franklin Square to create a large forecourt to a proposed Public Offices along Davey Street.

It is not clear when Macquarie Street was widened, it appears to have occurred around 1950.

In 1955 the first of a sequence of smaller elements was installed by Apex and Legacy, a rusticated sandstone wishing well to be used to raise money for crippled children .

What remains

- Easy access for visitors with no fence allowing 24 hour a day access, including at night. Flood lighting of the fountain in the early evening to attract visitors.
- Seats for bus passengers set into Franklin Square.
- Narrowing of the wide setback in Macquarie Street.
- Use for board games originally drafts, now as a chess board.
- The Wishing Well.

4.7 FURTHER MODERNISATION, 1960-85

Davey Street was duplicated in 1959-60. The footpath alongside Franklin Square was removed to make way for a retaining wall, apparently without loss of trees, elms whose roots were to be affected being lopped. The pedestrian routes through Franklin Square would serve in place of the footpath. A stepped retaining wall was constructed alongside Franklin Square suitable for limited planting and provides a green edge to the Square.

Rework 3 60s to 80s

Franklin Square was reworked around the time of the roadworks. The drafts board was replaced by a large terrazo chess board to the rear of the central space suitable for oversize chess pieces installed by Sandy Bay Lions with timber donated by IXL.



Fig 21 Aerial oblique view, shows asymmetrical layout and perrons on steeper slopes c. 1950
Archives Office of Tasmania 30/3099

The Ladies Rest Rooms were removed and replaced by amenities designed by City Architect Bertrand Dechaineaux. The new Public Conveniences block nestles into the lower section of the Elizabeth Street bank providing rooftop seating areas. The detail of the building in a heritage park was a matter of concern for councillors and caused considerable debate.

The final design, a contemporary flat roofed modern structure and composition of volumes responds to its heritage context with sandstone cladding, screening by the bank and by trees and shrubs in planter beds. It refers to the heritage precinct in details such as the roof area balustrade which resonates with the Government Offices parapet visible behind Franklin Square.

The area within Franklin Square previously occupied by the Ladies Rest Rooms was paved and became available for activities, including sports displays and protests (with power for amplifiers).

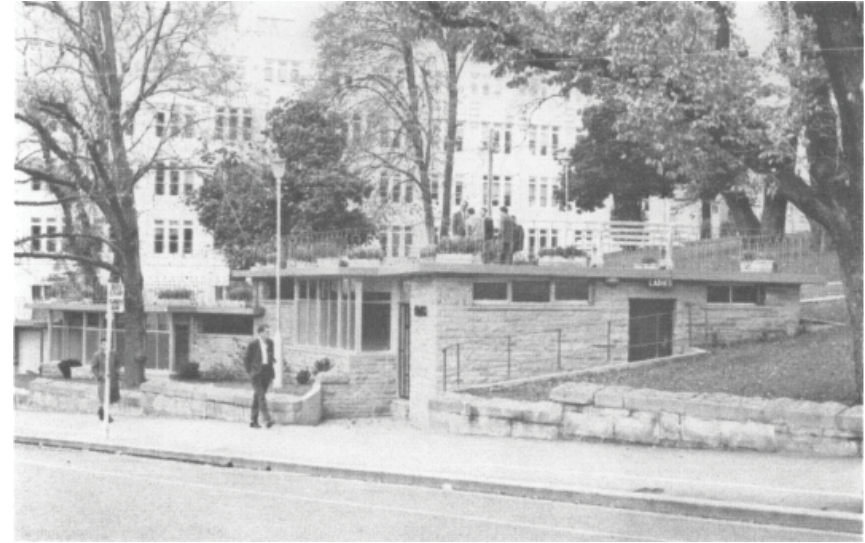


Fig 22 Elizabeth Street 'Public Conveniences' 1960 Mayors Report

An oversize terrazzo chessboard by the Sandy Bay Lions was constructed to the rear of the Sir John Franklin statue with storage seats for with large 'pieces' from timber donated by IXL .

in 1962 a first peace protest was held by the Society of Friends. Use for protests and rallies continues although the Premier vacated the Franklin Square Offices for the Executive Building.

Trees were lopped in 1969 affecting their health and structure. Further removal of trees for reasons of poor structure and to allow other trees to prosper occurred in 1980.

What remains

- Widening of Davey Street meant the paths through Franklin Square became part of the footpath network of Hobart. The historic link from the City to the Cove down the Davey Street stairs was severed.

- The 1960 public conveniences addressing Elizabeth Street as streetscape element and the rooftop area which is more part of Franklin Square.
- The paved area previously occupied by the Ladies Rest Rooms remains a defined area, being lawn within a hard kerbed edge.
- The terrazo chess board and storage seats.

4.8 REDEVELOPMENT AND SUBSEQUENT MANAGEMENT 1985- 2007

Rework 4 – Partial reinstatement and contemporary standards

Council's Parks and Recreation Department prepared a Franklin Square Redevelopment (landscape master plan) in response to Council concerns about steps and access and presentation including the ageing paving of mismatched materials, large concrete pavers (flags) and bitumen and safety issues associated with the perrons. The document describing the redevelopment makes a cursory study of the history and proposed reinstating the Macquarie and Elizabeth Streets corner entry. Bricks and pavers were used to develop a suite of hard surfacing details for paving, retaining walls and steps.

Park seats by David Shaw were purpose designed to survive people sitting on the back of seats. The design appears to be intended to reflect the seats in the park during the high Victorian period.

Subsequent changes

Changes since the 1986 works have been primarily asset management. Incremental removal of trees and staged replacement as they decline, removal of areas of paving associated with skateboarders and placement of skatestop fins to discourage skateboards, and removal of the paving over the location of the 1944 toilet block.

More recently Council has maintained an asset register, making it easier to plan for and track maintenance and changes in Franklin Square.



Fig 23 Central area, Franklin Square looking towards the post office tower, late summer 2006

LAYOUT AND FEATURES

Record & Continuity

PHASES 1 & 2

Refer to Archaeological Report

PHASES 3 - ESTABLISHMENT 1863 - 1880S-90S

- OP Original paths
- PR Path reinstated in 1988
- SR Stairs reinstated in 1988
- OPL Original path location (path removed)
- OM Original monument, Sir John Franklin and Dr Crowther

PHASES 4 - MODERNISATION 1940S - 50S

- MB Modern boundary - fences removed, Insets on boudary alignment for bus seats on Macquarie and Elizabeth
- MC Modern central paving area reduced
- ME New entry and entry shelter Macquarie Street, axial rather than from corner
- MF Modern fountain setting for Sir John Franklin monument
- MW Service Club wishing well

PHASES 5 & 6 - LATE MODERN REDEVELOPMENT

- NT 1966 toilets replace those constructed 1940s and enlarged 1950s
- NP New paving in gathering (demonstration) area
- NPa New path, path extended
- NS Stairs on earlier steep paths
- NB Original water basin edging for Sir John Franklin redetailed and renewed.
- NLA New lawn area
- NCB New chess board
- NL New lectern

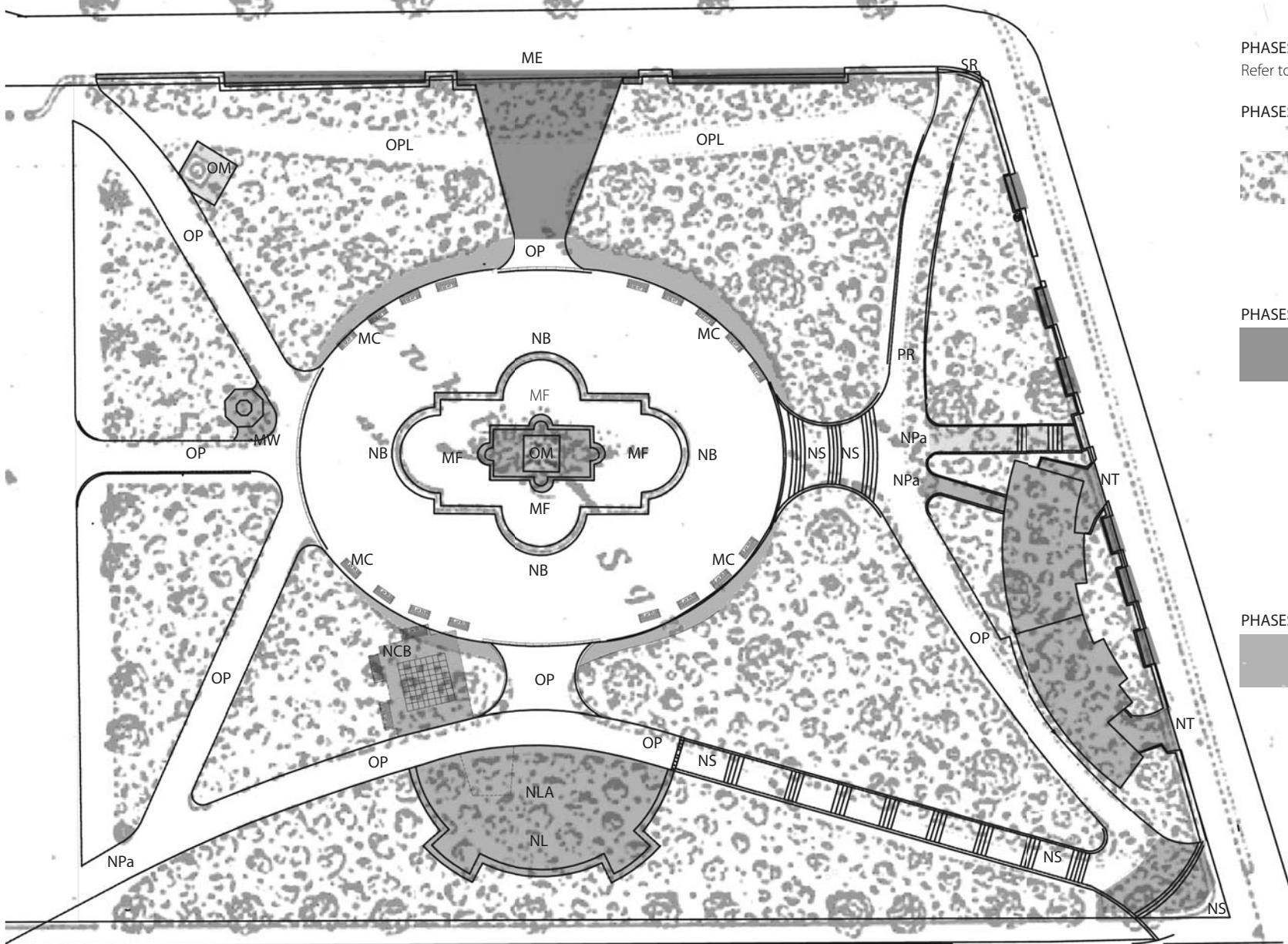


Fig 24 Layout and Features Record and Continuity

TREES & SHRUBS Record & Continuity

PHASES 1 & 2

Refer to Archaeological Report

PHASES 3 - Establishment

1863 - 1880s-90s

Gardenesque

- OH Original trees, Healthy (OH)
- OL Will lose in next 25 years (OL)

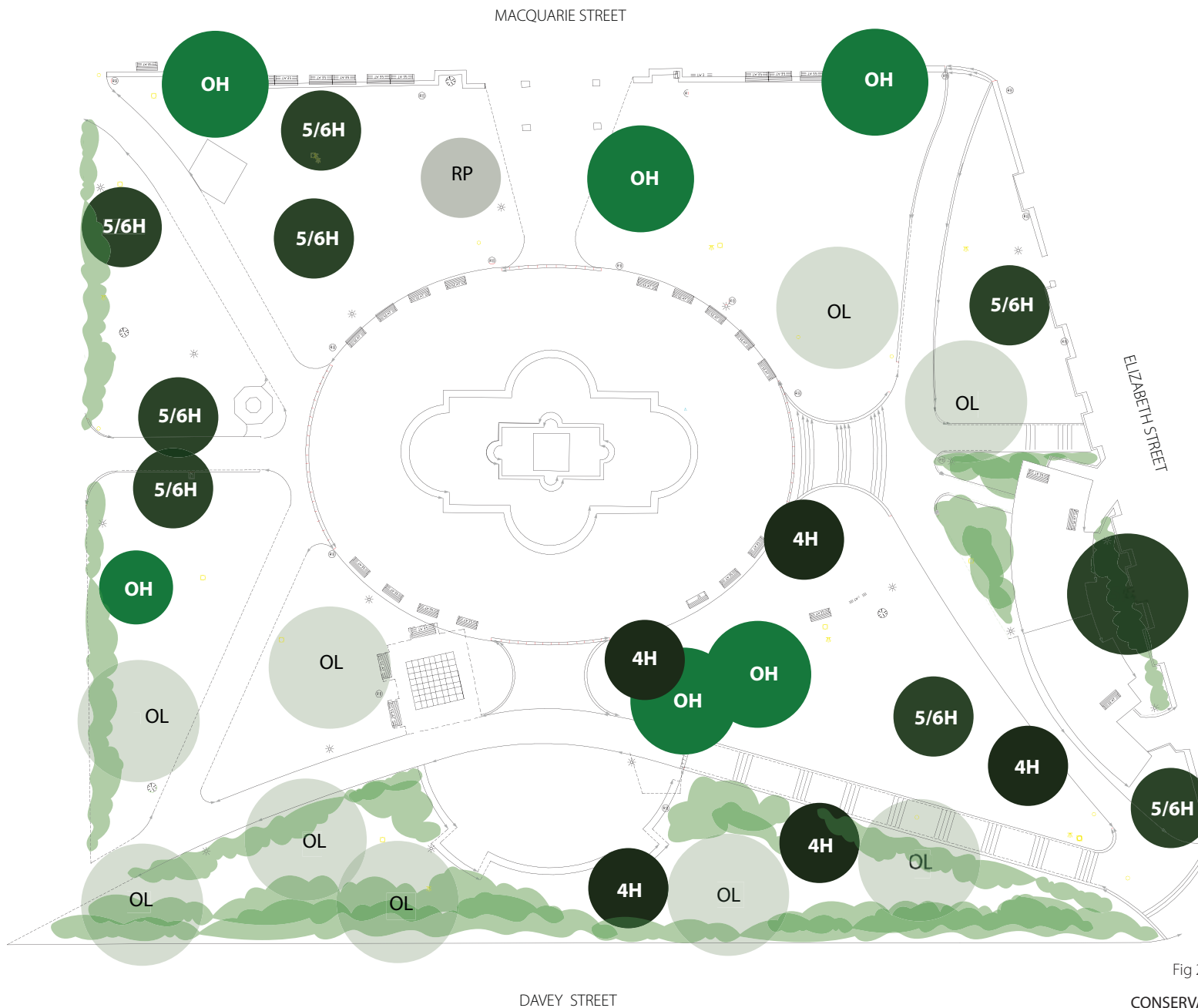
PHASES 4 - Modernisation

1940s - 50s

- 4H Evergreen NZ natives healthy
- RP Replacement oak - poor condition

PHASES 5 & 6 - Sympathetic (ish) redevelopment

- 5/6H Generational replacement trees generally healthy
- Shrub beds



SCALE 1:500 ?



Fig 25 Trees and Shrubs Record and Continuity
CONSERVATION PLAN, FRANKLIN SQUARE, HOBART



Fig 26 View into Franklin Square from the direction of the post office, people waiting for buses, late summer 2007

5 SOCIAL VALUES AND AESTHETIC VALUES

Social value is the value that a community or an identifiable group or groups ascribes to a place, it can include the ill defined quality of 'sense of place'. These values are difficult to establish without a study of attitudes over time.

Aesthetic values are also difficult to establish. Both types of values tend to change over time. The aesthetic values of communities are partly socially constructed. In assessing values at Franklin Square it has proved simpler to address social and aesthetic values together.

This assessment relies on secondary indicators, investigation and observation by others and inference from observed behaviours. It is understood that some indicators, i.e. surviving images, tourist imagery may not be fully representative of values.

Franklin Square is visited by many different types of people. Varied communities of interest: residents; tourists; and other visitors to Hobart can be inferred.

5.1 HOBART RESIDENTS

For many Hobart residents the open spaces of inner Hobart are part of their life setting, either now or in times past, sometimes they are taken for granted and not valued until there is some likelihood of change.

An outcry of sorts followed the redevelopment of Franklin Square in 1985-86, it is not clear that opinions expressed were representative or long term views.

People tend remember 'standout' incidents and the places where they occurred in detail and maintain an aggregated fuzzy memory of a recurrent experiences.

For some, Franklin Square will be remembered for specific incidents. Groups likely to be associated with specific events could include those involved in conservation protests of the 1960s through to the present, including Lake Pedder and Franklin protests, or the recurrent basketball clinics held in the 1990s.



Fig 27 Men playing drafts Franklin Square, c1940s Classic Images Photography

Communities of residents who appreciate Franklin Square are also likely to include office workers who lunch there, commuters (office workers and school children) who wait here and those who use it as a meeting place.

Indicators of social value include the listing of Franklin Square as a heritage place on the Tasmanian Heritage Register:

This park is of historic heritage significance because its townscape and social associations are regarded as important to the community's sense of place.

This listing is supported by heritage listings in both the Hobart and Sullivans Cove Planning Schemes.

Council identifies Franklin Square as one of its 'Classic Parks' and uses an image of the Square on the cover of its historic parks brochure.

5.2 TOURISTS AND OTHER VISITOR

Tourists are likely to know Franklin Square as an easily identified orientation point opposite the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre. The Centre directs people to the Square to use the amenities and to catch buses, and as an incident on the way to other more established destinations. The perception of one officer is that it was more common to direct people into Franklin Square when there were walks leaving from the Wishing Well.

Tourist literature that mentions or depicts Franklin Square draws attention to its being part of a precinct of historic buildings or to the mature trees and the Franklin statue and fountain. Imagery used in publications and posted on the web by individuals is almost completely the Franklin monument and fountain with trees in the background or the view from the docks to Mount Wellington.



Fig 28 Front cover of tourist brochure *Tasmania: The Isle of Scenic Beauty*, Undated, Nucolor Productions, Mentone Victoria, c. late 1940s, Private collection

5.3 EMERGENCE OF COMMUNITY APPRECIATION

Community appreciation can be inferred from the images made of a place.

The presence of Government House and its gardens in this location before Franklin Square was constructed, has been depicted in numerous streetscapes along Macquarie Street and views across Sullivans Cove before 1859.

Many of the sketches and prints were done for records or for sale. While the number of images doesn't necessarily reflect an aesthetic appreciation of the scene, the valued and recorded area of Hobart included Government House and its gardens, St Davids Church, the Macquarie Street ridge and Mount Wellington or the River Derwent in the background.

Franklin Square was commonly photographed shortly after it was established. Views selected showed the layout of the paths, the Sir John Franklin monument and fountain and back drop of Sullivans Cove or the Derwent. It is visible in photographs from Sullivans Cove as background element. As the planting in the square matured internal views became more popular with the fountain and trees of the Franklin Square Buildings as a backdrop.

Views along Macquarie Street in both directions continued to be produced showing the picket fence and trees protruding over it into the street in a way which resembled the Government House eucalypts. A number of photos feature the street tree eucalypts.

After construction of the cast iron fence a number of photos of the streetscape were taken showing the elaborate details at gateways, tram lines and associated seats, street trees and a Victorian water fountain.

Views around the internal perimeter fence were taken showing the walking space inside the fence. The views from Franklin Square past the statue and rockery towards the 1883 Public Offices or in the opposite direction towards the 1901 post office were both common and recurrent views in postcards.

The fountain, the water in the pool and the spiky vegetation in the rockery continue to be popular photographic subjects into the 1920s.

Photos of Franklin Square become less popular after the 1920s. Possibly the square was too old fashioned as evidenced in debate about the fence or a single C 1940s postcard shows it looking ugly with the toilets visible behind the statue of Sir John Franklin.

Removal of the cast iron fence was an issue that defined different perceptions of Franklin Square at the time.

In 1939 the premier suggested the unsightly fence should go, Council responded it might be useful for air raid shelters, the Premier suggested a carpark. The Mercury in 1940 published before and after photos showing the fence removed.

The Womens Non-Party League objected to the proposals to remove the fence:

'a unique thing and imparts a charm of its own which linked with its antiquity make sit an asset to the city.

The removal of the fence was incorporated into the re-conditioning of Franklin Square, required after the removal of air raid shelters in the Square. The reconditioning involved removal of corner entries and replacement with a dominant main entry from Macquarie Street, upgrading the ladies toilets.

These proposals were opposed by the Tasmanian Chapter of the RAIA, who objected strongly, noting that Franklin Square:

"is considered of such picturesque importance and occupies so central a position, it is felt that too much care or attention cannot be given to its reconditioning"

Photographs of Franklin Square after the remodelling, notably those by Frank Hurley celebrate the open lawns, tall mature trees and the Sir John Franklin statue.

Current day tourist literature often uses views to Mount Wellington from Sullivans Cove, looking over the Macquarie Street ridge and St David's Cathedral, with Franklin Square visible as tree canopies alongside the 1930s Hydro Building.

5.4 EXISTING TOWNSCAPE VALUES

While Franklin Square continues to be an element in the commonly photographed view across the Cove, to Mount Wellington, in some views it is now obstructed by the 2 storey Mures building between Victoria and Constitution docks or foreground distraction such as fish punts.

Franklin Square is an important openspace link between the Cove and Hobart being part of both, and an important element in the recognisably historic precinct of Hobart valued by residents and visitors.

Not a town square

Historically the steps of the Public Buildings facing Franklin Square were for the reading of proclamations of civic importance and public pronouncements including a thanksgiving held in July 1919 to celebrate Germany signing the peace treaty. People gathered on the paved open transition area and spilled onto the Franklin Square lawns.

This use has ceased and in many respects although named a 'square' Franklin Square fails to accommodate the uses typically associated within a town square. The lawn and central fountain and the trees mean there is no suitable area for a large crowd to gather to hear speakers without damage to the fabric and sightlines to speakers are poor.

Planning documents from the 1980s and 1990s proposed an alternative, a civic square near what is now Mawson Place or a square in Dunn Street.

Aesthetic values

Aesthetic values are values appealing to all the senses although most commonly understood as visual preferences. Academic analysis of peoples

preferences for different environments which underlie aesthetic values and the principles that are emerging have been used in assessing the aesthetic value of Franklin Square.

Natural-like areas in an urban setting are generally appreciated and valued across cultures. Franklin Square with shady trees and lawn is a place that would be appreciated by a wide variety of people.

The design of Franklin Square balances mystery and certainty, enclosure and openness: factors identified by the S and R Kaplan as underlying preferred landscapes and places. The design of Franklin Square demonstrates how the aesthetics of the picturesque and gardenesque styles anticipated contemporary research regarding environmental preference.

The regular yet gently naturalistic organising geometry of Franklin Square allows visitors to know where they are, while presenting alternative routes that are each subtly different. It is such that a visitor cannot view the whole area at the one time. With the loss of vegetation other than trees from within Franklin Square, the balance in the experience between mystery and certainty is being diminished as the Square opens up.

The UniTas study identified that Franklin Square was appreciated for peace and quiet. The surrounding trees provide a sense of semi-enclosure and separation from the city setting, and, more so, in summer. The seats are located in an inner space around the monument and fountain. Most of Franklin Square, is above adjacent traffic, strengthening this sense of being in a different place.

The moving water of the fountain screens city noise notably traffic and moistens the air. This may be more attractive in summer, the visitor season. The moister air, the shade and cooler surfaces make this park distinctive and Kaplans have established that an accessible local natural experience is more intensely used and differently valued to wilderness, out there somewhere.



Fig 29 Franklin Square, Frank Hurley c 1950 National Library of Australia la an23504192-v

6 ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural significance is another term for heritage value. In this section commences with a Statement of Significance for Franklin Square followed by an assessment relative to the criteria of the Tasmanian Heritage Register and an outline of the contribution of the various elements within the Square to significance.

6.1 STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The area of Franklin Square has a direct association with colonial Hobart. The Square is located on the area occupied in the first days of the settlement of Hobart by officers tents, then early cottages and gardens, Georges Square 1811 - c 1817 and by Government House up to 1859. Any archaeological features and/or deposits that survive from this period will offer rare insights to this key period in the evolution of the State's capital city.

Franklin Square was established as a setting for a memorial statue of Sir John Franklin shortly after 1859. The Square and the statue demonstrate the Hobart community's response to Sir John Franklin's term as governor and to news of his death. The Square has a strong association with Sir John Franklin and his wife Lady Jane Franklin.

The Square is an example of a civic garden. It was laid out with a strong axial symmetry achieved within the gardenesque style using classical and more picturesque techniques. The path layout, double ring of trees and enclosed central area create a sense of tranquility and of distance from the busy urban context. The relatively high intactness of the layout and central area allow the values of the distinctive original design with corner entries perimeter paths and a brief wide path into the central area to be appreciated, although compromised at the Macquarie and Elizabeth Street perimeter areas. The form of the aging trees contributes to the high aesthetic values of Franklin Square, as does the remnant areas with a gardenlike quality on the Davey St boundary and to a lesser extent the area near the Franklin Square Offices boundary.

The central area of Franklin Square with paved ovoid surrounded by trees, statue of Sir John Franklin and classically shaped water basin are highly valued by Hobart residents and by visitors. The statue and water basin have been a focus of attention since the Square was opened.

The Square is an integral part of the Macquarie Ridge civic precinct which extends along the south side of Macquarie Street from Murray Street to Dunn Place. It provides a forecourt to the Franklin Square Offices and in a less direct sense to the Hobart Town Hall. The existing civic precinct including Macquarie Street, Franklin Square and the administration use of buildings is consistent in general direction with the town plan of Governor Macquarie 1811.

Franklin Square is an accessible open space within Hobart, visited by Hobart residents and visitors to the city for almost 150 years and has significance associated with continuity of use. It has social value as the setting for routine life events and incidental visits for a wide range of people and as the location of community events, political rallies and peace vigils, promotions and private events. Prominently located in Davey, Macquarie and Elizabeth Streets it is part of the identity of Hobart and Sullivans Cove for residents and visitors.

Franklin Square's central location was of strategic defence importance as the site of air raid shelters during World War 2. Although subsequently filled in, evidence of the shelters may survive in archaeological contexts.

6.2 ASSESSMENT RELATIVE TO THE TASMANIAN HERITAGE REGISTER

The cultural heritage of Franklin Square has been assessed with reference to the criteria of the Tasmanian Heritage Register. The Australian Heritage Commission methodology for classification and assessment of parks, gardens and significant trees was used as a guide. Aboriginal Heritage was not assessed, refer Statement of Conservation Policy 12.1, 'Additional investigation: Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage'.

Levels of significance have been rated as follows:

Very High	Exceptional heritage value
High	Considerable heritage value
Some	Recognisable heritage value
Little	Compromised or little heritage value
Detracts	Elements or an area that lessens intactness, authenticity or easy recognition of heritage values. The assessment identifies detracting absences.

a The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Tasmania's history.

The Civic Precinct in which Franklin Square is located, extends along the south side of Macquarie Street from Murray Street to the Bond Store. The precinct has been associated with administration of Tasmania and Hobart, from 'the camp' of first settlement, construction of and then extension of Hobart's first Government House and emergence of civil administration in Tasmania.

Evaluation: Very High Significance: evolution of administration function located in the Civic Precinct through different periods of Tasmania's development.

The landform of Franklin Square is still recognisable as the highpoint selected for officers tents when Hobart was settled in 1804. It is a distinctive topographic form that has remained identifiable despite filling of Sullivans Cove and some cutting for Elizabeth and Davey Streets. The highpoint allows one to orient and to reconcile the early settlement landscape with the existing landscape.

Evaluation: Very High Significance: a recognisable high point within the early settlement landscape of Hobart.

Franklin Square is strongly associated with the period when civic administration was displacing colonial rule in Tasmania, 1850s and 1860s.

The transition is demonstrated by the use of convict labour to establish the Franklin Square civic open space to a well balanced yet garden-like design. The first Museum Building, Supreme Court Building, Town Hall and Franklin Square were built contemporaneously in the late 1850s - 1860s immediately adjacent along Macquarie Street. All interpret a requirement for a classical style in this area.

Evaluation: Very High Significance: associated with consolidation of civic administration in Tasmania and in Hobart.

Franklin Square is recognisably associated with the response of the Hobart community to news of the disappearance and then the death of the former Governor Sir John Franklin in his bid to find the North West Passage. The response included raising money to contribute to a rescue effort, commissioning a memorial statue and the establishment of Franklin Square.

Evaluation: Very High Significance: associated with response of the to the loss of the former Governor and explorer Sir John Franklin.

Since the 1960s Franklin Square has been used for political protests and rallies. The Square is associated with the development of conservation and peace activism in Tasmania and Australia.

Evaluation: High Significance: associated with late twentieth century community and political activism

b The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Tasmania's heritage.

Franklin Square is the oldest surviving amenity open space in the urban centre of Hobart, it is a partial realisation of Georges Square, the 'great square' identified in Governor Macquarie's 1811 re-laying out of Hobart.

Evaluation: Very High Significance: oldest urban amenity open space in the urban centre of Hobart.

c The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history

Franklin Square is assessed as a zone of high archaeological sensitivity. Within the park like spaces there is potential for survival of sub-surface features and deposits from the formative years of the settlement. This

includes the sites of dwellings and gardens, and the area formerly occupied by the first Government House extension (1817 – 1859) including stables and garden features from the period.

Evidence of later air raid shelters constructed in 1942 and backfilled in 1944 are also of archaeological interest for their ability to demonstrate co-ordinated responses to the threat of war.

Evaluation: Very High Significance: potential to add to knowledge regarding early settlement, Old Government House and WW2 air raid shelters.

d The place is representative of the characteristics of a class of heritage places

Franklin Square is one of a suite of surviving and partially surviving 'great square', open spaces laid out by Governor Macquarie alongside intended main streets of settlements. Others include Regent Square, George Town (1811-13), Macquarie Place, Sydney (1810) and Thomas Park, Windsor (1810).

Evaluation: Very High Significance: associated with a class of places remaining from early settlement open spaces and intended as the focus for establishment of civic areas.

The Square is one of a series of open spaces created on land made available after the vacation of colonial government including City Park, Launceston and Parramatta Park (NSW). Typically there has been a continuity of park-like presence in each settlement continuing from the grounds of the Government House to the public park.

Evaluation: High Significance: one of a class of open spaces established on lands set aside for early inner urban Government Houses.

The limited number of places in Hobart where civic monuments and statues have been erected collectively reflect changing understandings of

civic remembrance. In addition to Franklin Square other places in Hobart where monuments have been erected include: Angelsea Barracks, Domain, Parliament House Gardens and more recently Salamanca Place.

Evaluation: Some Significance: one of a class of open spaces used for civic memorial purposes.

e The place contains aspects of creative or technical achievement

The layout of Franklin Square is a well resolved gardenesque design, balancing gently arced naturalistic perimeter paths connecting inset corner entries and a centrally located oval of paving. This has been achieved on an irregular shaped lot with a steep fall on two sides. The path layout uses the picturesque device of 'reveal and conceal' to add to the experience of approaching the main feature of the garden, the statue of Sir John Franklin erected on a central pediment within an elaborately shaped water basin, itself centrally located within the paved oval and enclosed by a double ring of trees.

Evaluation: Very High Significance: exhibits a rich diversity of character within the gardenesque palette utilised on a difficult site to produce both subtle formality and picturesque effects.

The plan of the Sir John Franklin memorial, specifically the footprint of the water basin, reflects classical Italianate conventions or alternatively the design of the renaissance-based bedding patterns of the gardenesque. It has a relationship to the classical building style of the Civic Precinct.

Evaluation: High Significance, exhibited by composition of the oval shaped central paving, the water basin footprint and the centrally located statue.

f The place has a strong or special meaning for any group or community for cultural or spiritual associations

Since establishment Franklin Square has been primarily a place for passive enjoyment. It is in essence an inner urban park, a memorial garden and, on occasions a civic square. Since it was constructed Franklin Square has special associations for sections of the Hobart community and for visitors to the city.

Evaluation: Very High Significance: associated with being the setting for life experiences for a wide variety of Hobart residents and visitors to the city. This is a precautionary rating as social value has been inferred from coarse indicators (usage) and historic survey results (1996).

The statue of Sir John Franklin and the associated water basin has been continuously one of the most valued areas within Franklin Square and is currently the most photographed elements within the garden.

Evaluation: Very High Significance: demonstrated by consistency of being the focus of visual records of Franklin Square. This is a precautionary rating as social value was inferred from available indicators (consistent representation in photographs and postcards).

Hobart's older buildings and Franklin Square open space are highly valued by the Hobart community and contribute to the experience of visitors.

Evaluation: Very High Significance: associated with being part of a treasured historic precinct. This is a precautionary rating as social value was inferred from secondary indicators (tourist literature) and limited observation.

Specific functions take place in Franklin Square and the nature of these has changed over time from functions associated with war efforts for both world wars, band recitals in the 1920s, protest rallies and peace vigils, sports clinics, and private events.

Evaluation: High Significance: associated with specific events relevant to particular groups and sub-cultures. This is a precautionary rating as coarse indicators (web search, bookings) and limited observation were used to establish social value.

g The place has a special association with the life or work of a person, group or an organisation that was important in Tasmania's history

Franklin Square is integrally associated with Sir John Franklin the former governor of Tasmania. The Square was established as the setting for a memorial to Sir John Franklin; this place was selected as a result of its association with Sir John Franklin as the place from which he had governed during his period as Governor of Tasmania. The place name 'Franklin Square' and central location of the impressive statue of Sir John Franklin continue this association.

Evaluation: Very High Significance: clear association with Sir John Franklin, former Governor of Tasmania and a naval explorer who discovered the North West Passage and died on that trip.

Others associated with the establishment of Franklin Square include Lady Franklin who approved details regarding the nature of the memorial statue including the phrasing of the inscription.

Evaluation: High Significance: association with Lady Franklin and her continuing association with Tasmania after the Franklins left.

Franklin Square was established through the efforts of a committee formed to carry out Parliament's intention to establish a square for the memorial monument. The individual contribution of members of the committee is not known other than Thomas Gregson who moved that money be set aside for a memorial, TD Chapman who proposed a square, and Bishop Nixon who undertook liaison with the sculptor in England. Other members of the

committee charged with establishing Franklin Square were architect W Archer, MHA; WE Nairn, MLC; JM Wilson, MLC and WR Falconer, Director of public works.

Evaluation: Some Significance, unclear association of different members of the Committee with the final realisation of the design.

6.3 CONTRIBUTION OF AREAS AND ELEMENTS WITHIN FRANKLIN SQUARE TO SIGNIFICANCE

This section outlines the contribution of the different areas and elements within the Square to the overall significance of Franklin Square. The assessment utilises the same ratings as the Assessment of Cultural Significance above and also refers to the Tasmanian Heritage Register criteria.

Landform

The topography of Franklin Square is of very high significance as it is located on the highpoint recognisable as the location for the officers tents during early settlement, overlooking the Cove.

Very High Significance, Criterion a.

Franklin Square , considered as a whole

The current layout largely retains much of the original gardenesque path system with corner entries, gently arced perimeter path and centrally located statue of Sir John Franklin.

The Square as a whole is of high significance as an historic urban space although the enclosure of the Square has been greatly compromised by the loss of the fence, the introduction of the central Macquarie Street entry and by simplifying of earlier planting.

High Significance, Criteria a, e, f .

Areas within Franklin Square

Central paved area, Sir John Franklin statue and fountain

The Central Area is of very high significance as the relatively flat, central paved ovoid, the Sir John Franklin statue within the classical water basin and within an enclosing inner ring of trees has been continuously one of the most valued parts of Franklin Square and remains the most popular of the photographed features and areas within the garden.

The central paved ovoid is compromised by having been narrowed and the material and detail of the current paving. The circle of seats is among the most used areas.

Very High Significance, Criteria a, e, f and g

Franklin Square Offices perimeter area and roadway

This area of Franklin Square where the sandstone facades of the Franklin Square offices are visible contributes strongly to the highly valued sense of Franklin Square being within an historic civic precinct. The roadway adjacent to the Franklin Square Offices was effectively part of Franklin Square 1890-c.1940 (being contained within the cast iron fence and gates).

This area has very high significance associated the relationship to the Public Buildings and with the use of the roadway and adjacent open areas within Franklin Square during civic functions held on the steps of the Public Buildings.

Very High Significance, Criteria a, d and f

Macquarie and Elizabeth boundaries and perimeter areas

These areas have , due to their place in Franklin Square but with immediate values compromised by the loss of boundary definition, simplification of landscape planting and changes to paths and new paving and retaining walls.

The area above Elizabeth Street has social value associated with use of the lawn area and both areas have significance associated with the history of transport.

High Significance, Criteria a and f

Davey Street boundary and perimeter area

The planting beds along the Davey Street perimeter path include surviving mature trees and a well maintained shrub understorey. This area has some significance due to maintaining a garden form which is closest to the original garden style of Franklin Square.

Some Significance, Criterion a

The trees

Mature trees

Mature trees, located primarily in the perimeter areas which survive from the establishment of Franklin Square trace out the structure of the original planting and contribute to the very high significance historic character and aesthetic values of Franklin Square.

Very High Significance, Criteria a and f

Mid twentieth century evergreen trees

Mid twentieth century trees of some significance are may have being planted to replace trees damaged by the air raid shelter excavations and contribute to significance by consolidating the historic structure and contributing to aesthetic value especially in winter.

Some Significance, Criterion a

Recent replacement trees

The replacement trees have some significance, they reflect the most recent period of park management and an intention to conserve and recover Franklin Squares heritage values. In some areas such as adjacent to the Franklin Square offices these trees contribute strongly to the Square's aesthetic value.

Some Significance, Criteria a and f

Features outside the central area

Crowther statue

The statue of Dr William Crowther is of high significance. Dr Crowther was

eminent within the Hobart community as a medical practitioner, politician and premier and was associated with controversy regarding treatment of the remains of Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The placement of this statue is consistent with the Victorian commemoration of civic figures in urban spaces.

High Significance, Criteria a, d and f

Chess area

The existing oversize chess board is a playful 1960 evolution of the 1938 draughts table. It makes a contribution to social value of some significance as it is enjoyed by casual visitors and a clique of enthusiasts. It detracts from cultural values associated with the Central Area.

Some Significance, Detracts, Criterion f

Pergola style Macquarie St entry

The entry is of some significance as an example of a well represented class of park and garden entries: examples include St Davids Park (Hobart), St Andrews Park (North Hobart), Princes Park (Battery Point), Ogilvie High School (New Town), and Margate Memorial Park. The entry provides evidence of the modernising aspirations of the 1940s-50s. It has been mostly unphotographed which could reflect not being highly valued or primarily reflects the economic conditions when it was erected.

This entry detracts from the cultural significance of Franklin Square reducing the integrity of the central area and provides awkward views to the Sir John Franklin statue. Construction of the entry was associated with the removal of the Macquarie Street fence and the perimeter path and planting bed.

Some Significance, Detracts, Criteria a and d

Wishing well

The Wishing Well erected by Apex in 1955 is of some significance as it is associated with changing nature of charity in Hobart. The use of rusticated sandstone may reflect an appreciation of history typical of this period. The well detracts being located close to the Central Area and compromising the composition, but as it is relatively small, its impact is limited.

Some Significance, Detracts, Criteria a and f

MBA Lectern

While the lectern has been installed recently it has some social value of some significance associated with use as a focus for protest rallies and its association with a professional group. Its location means it is not overly prominent and its impact on the historic landscape is limited. Some Significance, Criteria a and f

Elizabeth Street Public Conveniences

The Elizabeth Street building is of high significance. It replaced the ladies retiring rooms in Franklin Square, and the mens toilets in the center of Elizabeth Street and shows the evolution of providing for amenity of public areas. The building represents changing attitudes towards Franklin Square. As the design was refined it moved from a modernist concept towards one, which was seen to be sympathetic to Franklin Square with use of sandstone and discreet references such as the balustrade detail echoing the Public Buildings parapet. The building makes an understated contribution to the Elizabeth Street streetscape being curved around the trunk of a Tilia established on the boundary of Franklin Square.

There is some social value associated with use of the rooftop deck areas. High Significance, Criteria e, f and g

Landscape furnishings

Seats

The location of a ring of seats around the central paved area is of high significance as variations on a ring of seats have existed in Franklin Square continuously since at least the 1870s. The current seats were purpose designed to reflect the detail of earlier seats and have some significance from their association with David Shaw the designer, as an early work an emerging designer. Highsignificance,Continuityofseating;Somesignificancecurrentseats,Criteriaa,e and f

Bins

The current bins are of limited Significance, they are a standard mass produced design and their design and location diminish appreciation of the heritage value of the Central Area while supporting its continuing use. High Significance, Continuity of supporting use by the public; Limited, Detracts, existing bins Criterion a and f

Lights

The current lights have little significance. They have some continuity of scale with those in 1920s photographs and contribute to social values associated with nighttime use of the Square. As they are not overly prominent they do not generally detract. The 1960s lighting has Some Significance associated with the evolution of the jets. SomeSignificance,continuityoflighting,lightingofthefountain,GenerallyLimited Significance, Criteria a and f

Signs

The interpretation bay reflects an intention to nurture an appreciation of Franklin Square as a historic place and the Classic Parks Sign an appreciation of Hobart's historic parks. The Civic Services Sign may have Some Significance as a continuity but detracts blocking views into the Square. Some Significance, Classic Parks Sign, Interpretation Bay; Limited Civic Services, Criteria a and f

Landscape finishes

Paving, Steps and Retaining Walls

The existing paving has little significance other than that associated with its layout and reinstating a previously removed path as a response to the Square's history. The ceramic pavers reflect contemporary considerations of safety and urban improvement in the 1980s and was recognised with a Parks and Recreation Institute award. The modular pavers, colours and patterns distract from easy recognition of Franklin Square as an historic place. Limited Significance a and d, Detracts Criterion



Fig 32 Franklin Square Late summer, 2007

7 INTEGRITY AND CONDITION

The integrity of Franklin Square reflects the survival of the original layout and features as it the Square was changed to reflect changing requirements and aspirations. As a general comment while Franklin Square is well maintained, and condition reflects the inevitable aging of plantings, landscape materials and structures as well as changing criteria such as safety standards.

7.1 LAYOUT

The existing layout is largely consistent with the original c.1863 gardenesque layout. The integrity of the path layout has been diminished by the loss of the perimeter path on Macquarie Street c. 1944, the introduction of entries from Macquarie and to a lesser extent Elizabeth Streets directly into the central area. The enclosed nature of the Square is compromised by the removal of the tall perimeter fence and associated loss of perimeter planting.

The definition of the central space has been weakened by the removal of shrubs c.1900-1910 and again in 1920s and consequently the loss of the strong landscape structure with a double ring of trees. The spatial definition is weak except in the Davey-Elizabeth quadrant. The recent removal of a large and overmature Tilia from behind the Franklin statue and a Tilia and Sycamore alongside the Franklin Square Offices have exacerbated the apparent opening up of the structure.

7.2 PAVING AND HARD ELEMENTS

The patterned brick paving jars, clearly a new material, it has little reference to the gravel and pebble drains of the original period. The paving is wearing and becoming uneven, retaining walls have been damaged on corners. Repairs are proving difficult as the brick used in the 1985 redevelopment is no longer available and difficult to match. As the brick used was hollow, it is more vulnerable to damage and continuing requirements for repair.

7.3 TREES

The majority of significant large trees are from the original planting, however all except the oak are coming towards the end of their life. There are areas of replacement planting notably towards the Franklin Square Offices.

7.4 FEATURES AND FACILITIES

Macquarie Street entry

This is a discordant element which nevertheless is part of the layered history of Franklin Square. Recently it has become more prominent due to the removal of an elm on the Macquarie Street frontage following vandalism. As a recognisably mid twentieth century park entry it dilutes the sense of Franklin Square being Hobart's oldest public urban open space. The entry is poorly located obstructing views to the Sir John Franklin statue's head in the new view from the footpath and creating a clumsy sequence of views as the Square is entered. It also confuses the streetscape setting of the King Edward VII statue. The entry appears to be in good condition

Monuments

The condition of the Sir John Franklin and Dr William Crowther monuments has been assessed for Council as part of regular programmed maintenance. The statues are in good condition and receive regular condition inspections and repatination.

The Edward VII statue in the adjacent Macquarie Street road reservation has been poorly served by road widening. The statue is now located on the extreme kerb so it is only visible across the street and to read the inscription easily a person has to step onto the carriageway .

Plaques

1. Commemorative Oak – a original plaque since set on the ground identifies the surviving oak of the two planted to commemorate the royal marriage.
2. Government House – inconspicuous marble plaque was re-located to a boundary retaining wall near the Macquarie - Elizabeth Streets entry in the 1985-87 works where is has little presence.
3. A plaque which may have been installed to celebrate Aboriginal Tasmanians has not been located.

Wishing well

A domestic garden element in a relatively prominent location close to the central area paving around the Franklin fountain seems a little out of place. The wishing well is in good condition.

Chess seats and chess board

A functional descendent of the 1938 draughts tables, this feature also seems out of place in the centre of an historic park. Although relatively large, its prominence is diminished to some extent by being located behind the Franklin statue and a ring of seats. Seat-storage units look a little worn.

MBA - lectern

While this is a discordant element, it is reasonably small and inconspicuous, possibly due to the recent reinstatement of lawn in an area previously paved.

Elizabeth Street Public Conveniences

The existing 1960s building is functional descendent from the Ladies Retiring Rooms c.1907. They are relatively inconspicuous, built into the bank and screened by a relatively mature Tilia in Elizabeth Street and by camellias from within Franklin Square. While the walls have a material relationship with other sandstone, the stone colour is aging slowly under the roof cantilever. The amenities are poorly signposted from within Franklin Square.

The jet fountain

This 1950s-60 feature has value in its own right but detracts from appreciation of the history of Franklin Square. The inner basin is in poor repair with the sandstone outer layer eroding to show the grey inner construction.

7.5 FURNITURE

Seats

The slatted timber park seats successful reflect one of the historic forms of seat previously used in Franklin Square, within an identifiable modern idiom.

Bins

Large, square section covered bins with bold graphics in Franklin Square compromise the character of the central area and throughout the Square.

Signposting

Davey and Elizabeth – one of Council's classic parks suite of signs, very large and not specific to Franklin Square, but not overly prominent.

Interpretation

An Interpretation Bay near the Public Buildings is located in a relatively inconspicuous location. Panels outline the history of the site Government House era, the development of Franklin Square and the Public Buildings.

7.6 LIGHTS

Free standing lights of modern and relatively common styling and relatively obvious within Franklin Square. Council has assessed the level of lighting as satisfactory, and the standard of lighting infrastructure as poor.

7.7 BOUNDARIES AND BOUNDARY AREAS

Macquarie St

This is the most altered boundary or frontage to Franklin Square. The original path along the perimeter has been removed, a more modern style park entry was constructed in the centre of the frontage to Macquarie Street and more recently bus shelters constructed along the boundary. While there is some sense of an older history suggested by size and form of trees behind bus shelters and limited views to the Sir John Franklins monument and fountain, this is confused by the entry structure which has an awkward relationship to the Franklin monument and to the central area.

A Civic Services advertising poster located on the boundary, while possibly part of authentic layering of history, contributes to a clutter around the park entry structure.

Macquarie/Elizabeth corner

This entry, with a limited number of trees, lawn and dominant newer features (brick paving and walls) determining its character, is the area within Franklin Square that seems most like some anonymous generic municipal park, anywhere.

Council's 1986 redevelopment partly reversed the earlier c. 1944 erosion of this area by re-instating the historic path.

This area is required to accommodate people waiting for buses, in itself of heritage value as a continuing use with wear on lawns. It is amongst the sunny lawn areas in the Square popular with younger park users.

Elizabeth Street

A single remainin golder bus shelters over old stone bases with timber seats is in poor repair. Newly constructed shelters similar to those in Macquarie Street are separate from the sandstone base of the original wall and have allowed the base to be repaired.

Elizabeth/Davey Corner

A large HCC 'classic parks' sign, with modern merged photographs graphic dominates the entry, and lessens the sense of history at this entry. A wide paved entry from the corner leads to a long run of steps which are relatively inconspicuous and overhung by older trees which contribute to a distinctive character.

Davey Street

While the Davey Street footpath has been removed, the perimeter path has been retained, as a long run of steps. A tall retaining wall to the widened Davey Street is softened by planting allusing to the historic mass planting.

Franklin Square Offices roadway

The boundary between Franklin Square and the Government Offices roadway has been recently re-established by state government using a simple older style metal fence and planting.



Fig 30 View into Macquarie Street from upper storey Macquarie Street building, start of Spring 2006

7.8 CENTRAL AREA

The central area around the Sir John Franklin statue is the focus of Franklin Square. Although the original rockery has been replaced by fountains, the spaces and relationships are essentially intact and recognisable. The central ovoid is one of the areas with most integrity, it has the most readily accessible heritage significance and provides the most continuity of meaning.

7.9 CONTEXT

Relationships to the Government Offices and the Town Hall remain, but the linking steps from the Government Offices roadway to Brooke Street and the Cove has been severed by the Davey Street works. The integrity of Franklin Square is compromised by the loss of the strong streetscape identify of the civic precinct with its broad footpath having been used to achieve a bus lane, and the loss of street trees.

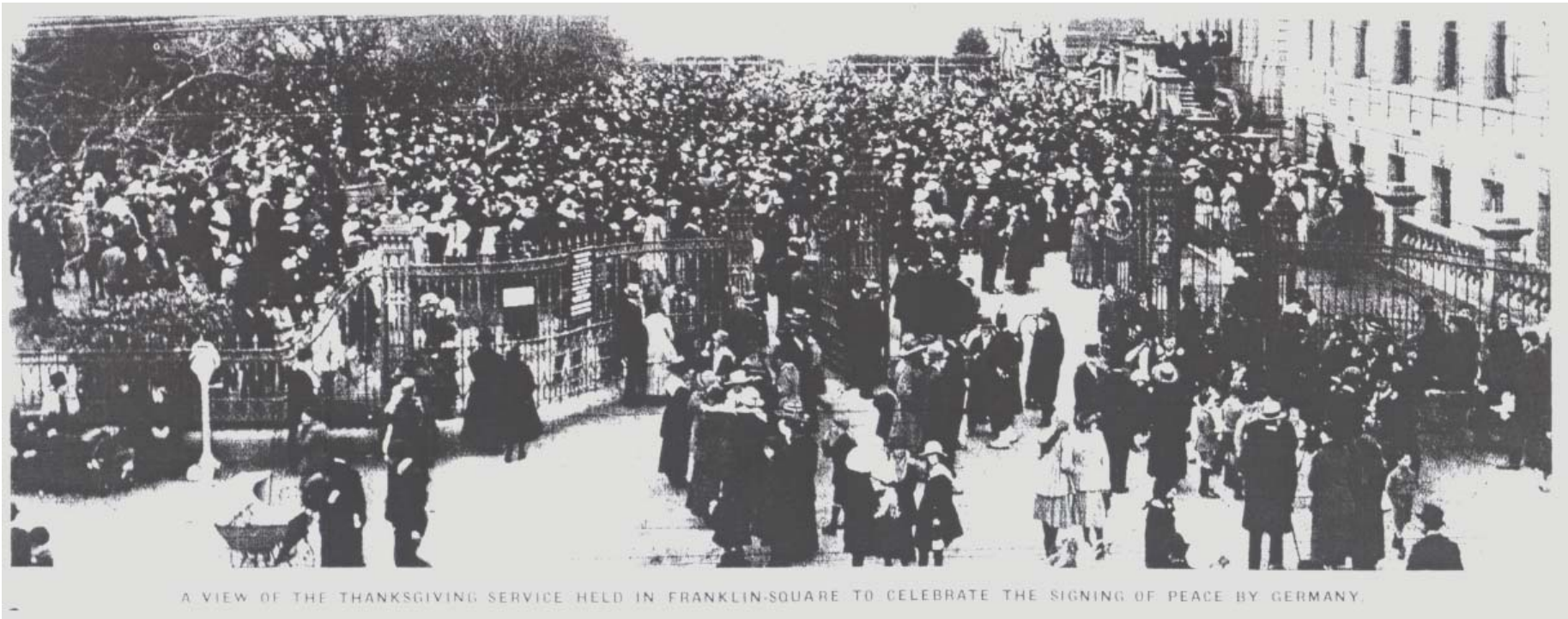


Fig 31 Tasmanian Mail, 24 July 1919, p 22

8 BACKGROUND TO CONSERVATION POLICY

The following factors underly the policies for conserving the significance of Franklin Square.

8.1 REQUIREMENTS TO RETAIN SIGNIFICANCE

As requirements that flow from the cultural significance of Franklin Square are:

1. The archaeological potential of Franklin Square must be respected. Adequate protections must be put in place to safeguard remnant material during all disturbance activities that might take place within the Square.
2. Any streetscape changes in Macquarie and Elizabeth Street must be consistent with conservation of the cultural significance of Franklin Square and of the adjacent Macquarie Ridge civic precinct.
3. The park space should continue to be available for a wide range of traditional and legitimate park users.
4. The aesthetic qualities of Franklin Square must be retained including the sense of tranquility and of being distanced from the busy Hobart centre.
6. No further erosion of the gardenesque design of Franklin Square is to occur. Path layout, paving, water basin, and the presence and structure of tree placement and the garden-like character of the Square are to be retained.
7. Where it is practical to recover significance by reversing the simplification of the landscape form of Franklin Square by accurately reconstructing or replacing landscape elements those works should be undertaken.
8. The statues and water basin are to be retained in good repair and in their distinctive setting unless reinstatement to an earlier form is possible.

8.2 PHYSICAL CONDITION - IMPLICATIONS

The conservation policies for Franklin Square must incorporate practical responses to the physical condition of the fabric (hard landscape elements,

plants and potentially subsurface material associated with earlier structures and uses) within the Square. Where fabric is vulnerable to decline or degradation those threats to cultural significance need to be identified.

Trees, shrub beds and other feature plants

The character of Franklin Square is vulnerable to tree decline as few trees and few species survive of older plantings and the structure of the early planting is now only partly intact. The surviving trees are also vulnerable to fungus attack and to changed wind load stresses after one tree of a group is removed and decline of the trees considered as a group could be quite rapid.

These aging trees are the dominant feature (other than the statues) which suggest the age of Franklin Square, their loss could leave the Square relatively featureless and looking 'new', an anonymous urban space from any city.

The layout and design of Franklin Square

Integrity of the layout

The layout of Franklin Square was compromised by changes in 1944 and partially restored in 1985 by works which introduced intrusive strongly contemporary paving.

The heritage values are highly vulnerable to any further changes which compromise the historic layout and the use of prominent contemporary materials.

Boundary - definition

The loss of the perimeter fence and Macquarie Street perimeter path has already changed the internal nature of Franklin Square and diminished its sense of separation from outside areas.

Any further loss of boundary definition, could further compromise the tranquility and the integrity of Franklin Square being a quiet place within Hobart.

Opportunities exist to strengthen boundary definition and recover cultural significance of Franklin Square, and also recover heritage value of Macquarie Street precinct and Town Hall environs.

Additional features

Franklin Square has in recent times received the Apex Wishing Well, chess board and MBA lectern. These items compromise the integrity of the layout.

If this trend were to continue the spaces of the Square could become more cluttered and disorganized.

Lighting

The existing 1960s lighting compromises heritage values associated with the long history of the Square. The heritage values of Franklin Square could be enhanced by lighting more appropriate for an historic place or diminished by inappropriate lighting.

Streetscape changes

Bus shelters along Macquarie and Elizabeth Streets, although partly transparent, diminish the streetscape presence of Franklin Square, distracting from and partly obstructing views to the Square. Those in Macquarie Street are intrusions located in the areas notched into the Square for seats in 1944.

Franklin Square would be diminished by further construction of shelters along or in the Square. Significance could be recovered by removal of the shelters or redetailing to reduce visual obstruction of views.

Sub surface material

It is likely that there is subsurface material associated with early settlement, Government House and the air raid shelters. Threats to (potential) archaeological significance include uncontrolled disturbance, such as response to trees being damaged by wind or vandalism. New plantings of trees and removal of tree roots can both cause damage.

8.3 COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

Franklin Square is vested in the Hobart City Council. Council officers from a number of departments provided the following briefing regarding Council's requirements.

Council vision

Connection to civic precinct

Franklin Square could be more identifiable in the Macquarie Street streetscape as an integral part of the historic character of Macquarie Street and contribute to the perceived authenticity of the landmark Macquarie/Murray intersection (the most intact Georgian intersection in Australia). Detail of street paving, possibly flagstones, street trees, sign conventions and lighting could all contribute towards this vision.

Retaining the sense of green space and seasonal change

This entails:

- Retain the strong season change of character of Franklin Square, possibly more diversity in evergreen, but predominantly deciduous trees and shrubs;
- Retain accessible lawns, this requires a less dense canopy for maintenance or rebuilding soil structure.

Sense of civitas

Council requires that Franklin Square continues to have a civic standard of presentation and appropriate construction, specifically they require:

- Sense of formality;
- Civic and enduring materials, selected for resonance with (not replication of) historic forms and types;
- Contemporary layer, but well crafted, not prominent in itself.

Varied uses, meeting place

Continuing and strengthening the current role of Franklin Square as an informal meeting place.

This could be supported by:

- Boundary fencing would provide more seating opportunities;
- Small scale commercial ventures, could be consistent with historic use. Any infrastructure required could be ephemeral, not remaining on site if not required.

Minimising hazard, reducing opportunities for crime and creating a sense of security;

- Existing paving is uneven and steps may constitute a hazard;
- Pathway along Davey from Murray is likely to be an entrapment space;
- Paths through would benefit from more use and informal surveillance, ephemeral commercial activity could enhance use;
- Council has currently programmed to re-light Franklin Square, and propose a single route through the Square with a wide light spill and gradual loss of light level at the sides. Planting design should reflect requirements for illumination and sight lines along the route.

Council comments on existing conditions

Retain the existing sense of tranquility.

Reduce awareness of city noise, need more perimeter planting, planting moderate but some views through as well.

Public Conveniences

The amenities block contributes positively to amenity for park users and visitors to the city. However at times anti-social behaviour occurs within the building. Redetail interior and entry to discourage inappropriate behaviour.

Davey Street ivy

Consideration of removal of ivy on Davey St bank. Outdoor staff noted this obscures ugly 1959 engineering works, the ivy is planted in sand and removal may be ill advised.

MBA lectern

Identified as a detracting element.

Resources

At this stage Council does not have a budget for their proposed Master Plan works and requested a first principles approach outlining what is optimal and providing scenarios where different approaches could be appropriate.

Relevant Council policies and strategies

Strategic Plan 2001 – 2005, Key area 7 – Protection of Cultural Heritage

Relevant priority actions are:

‘Priority Action 7.1.5 Prepare comprehensive conservation plans for all cultural heritage assets.’

‘Priority Action 7.1.7 Effectively conserve, manage and demonstrate best practice in the use of Council’s own cultural resources and products., application to safety and design.

Public Convenience Strategy

The strategy has been developed to achieve requirements of the 2001-2005 Strategic Plan. It establishes benchmark standards and outlines response to specific facilities.

The existing amenities in Franklin Square are described as having high usage especially in summer, offering shower facilities as well as toilets. While the condition is assessed as fair the strategy proposes further unspecified works to ‘meet the future needs of the local and visiting community.’

The strategy identifies as a possible opportunity associated with the Franklin Square Conveniences, establishing a coffee shop on the upper deck of the building, with the comment that it would:

‘help promote the utilisation of Franklin Square and offer a service in this popular area.’

Funds have been identified for 2007/08 and 2008/09 for the refurbishment of the public conveniences.

Other Council policies identified by Council officers as relevant to Franklin Square are: Community Safety Strategy 2004; Equal Access Strategy and Access Policy 2004; Alcohol Strategy 2002; Positive Aging Strategy 2002; Aboriginal Strategy 2002; Youth Strategy 2002; Tree Management 2005; Flora Strategy (in draft); Irrigation Strategy (in draft); Bikeplan 1997; Public Art Strategy 2005; Arts and Cultural Strategy 2002; Street Tree Master Plan 1997; Waterfront Urban Design Framework 2004.

8.4 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Federal and state requirements apply to development in Franklin Square. The Square is located within the application of the Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme administered by the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority.

Federal requirements

Disability Discrimination Act 1992, Section 23

The act states that it is unlawful to refuse to allow people access to any place that members of the public are generally allowed access to by (among other things) failing to provide access. This requirement is qualified with respect to altering existing premises in terms of the costs to upgrade the premises imposing unjustified hardship.

Hardship can be understood to include undue adverse impact on heritage value, but clarification of this application should be sought if it were to be relied on.

State requirements

Heritage Tasmania

As Franklin Square is listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register all works require an approval for works on a Heritage Place, Historic Cultural Heritage Act, 1995. As the owner of a heritage property on the Tasmanian Heritage Register Council is responsible for conservation of that significance.

In assessing an application for works the Heritage Council will not necessarily require a conservation plan but will require that the contribution to cultural significance of each element likely to be effected is assessed, and

that the full impact of proposed works is assessed. Impacts on associated streetscapes may also be required to be considered. THC Technical Notes outline some of the matters which would be considered including consideration of archaeological sensitivity, carrying out emergency works; consideration of any impacts from signs; approvals processes for historic plantings; and maintenance of historic plantings.

A Conservation Plan or subsequent Heritage Agreement can establish reporting protocols which clarify a scope of works that can be carried out without referral to the Heritage Council or with agreed reporting protocols, and, if appropriately framed, allow a wider scope of works to be carried without constant referrals. This can be of assistance to managers of historic landscapes where continuing work will be required due to maturing of plantings.

As Franklin Square has been assessed as being of high archaeological sensitivity Technical Note 2 applies outlining appropriate investigation and reporting before and during any works. Technical Note 2 is currently being reviewed and a revised form is anticipated to be available relatively soon.

Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority

The following sections of the Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme apply to any development at Franklin Square.

Section 7.3 Guiding Principles of the Scheme

The principles applying to Franklin Square require conservation of heritage value, local character and facilitating pedestrian movement between the CBD and the Cove, specifically:

Cultural Resource: To facilitate use and development which is compatible with conservation of the Cove's cultural and heritage values

Urban Character: Changes to urban character will be consistent with the conservation of cultural significance and ... and historic character of Sullivans Cove. Civic details are to be complementary to the existing different characters of the Cove.

People in the Cove: ... in particular the enhancement of pedestrian amenity and safety along the central pedestrian spine (Hunter Street to Salamanca Place) and along routes which connect the Cove to the CBD should be promoted.

Strategic Directions

Figure 2 of the Scheme identifies Elizabeth Street as requiring physical visual and activity links to be developed between the Hobart CBD and Sullivans Cove.

Section 16.0 Mixed Use Activity Area

Franklin Square is situated within the Mixed Use Activity Area.

Objective b

Applies to open spaces:

- To ensure that the amenity, character and cultural heritage values of the Cove's roads and other public spaces are conserved and enhanced.
- Use and development on ..., public parks, ... shall only be 'permitted' where they do not detract from the space's amenity or heritage value. (Performance criteria)

Objective c

Outlines requirements for generating pedestrian movement through the area and notes:

- All use and development shall facilitate pedestrian access, circulation, amenity and safety within the Cove.
- All use and development must facilitate access for the disabled and other pedestrians with limited mobility.

Section 22.0 Conservation of Cultural Heritage Values

Franklin Square is a 'place of cultural significance'. Works cannot be carried out unless in compliance with a Conservation Plan accepted by the SCWA as satisfying requirement for a Conservation Plan; requirements include using the methodology outlined by J S Kerr and a statement outlining the impact of proposed works and assessing how works comply with the Conservation Plan and an elevation or perspective accurate drawings to show likely impact on the significant place.

Section 23.0 Urban Form

This strategy requires walls to primary spaces or alternatively if open space is created that it is treated as an urban garden and fenced. There is no clear translation to an existing open space such as Franklin Square although the general direction does suggest fencing of the boundaries of Franklin Square would be the response most compatible with the intent of the Urban Form strategy.

Section 24.0 Public Urban Space

The strategy outlines requirements depending on location in the topography of the Cove. Franklin Square is identified as an Enclosing Ridge, refer Table 24.8 enclosing ridge A. Civic works and furniture are to be designed in accordance with a plan for the open space approved by the planning authority. This is subject to a current amendment to the plan.

Other owner Conservation Policies and Conservation Plans for adjacent sites

Ideally development should be undertaken with consideration of the cultural significance of adjacent sites.

HCC - Hobart Town Hall Precinct Conservation Management Policy

The Hobart Town Hall Precinct Conservation Management Policy has not been adopted by Council. It provides broad guidelines and is used as a reference document.

The brief for the Hobart Town Hall Conservation Management Policy required an assessment of the immediate urban precinct and drawing out urban design implications of the heritage values established.

The policy recommends:

- A (heritage) path connection between the Town Hall and Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and then to the Cove;
- Elizabeth Street be retained as a street, rather than being changed into a pedestrian mall;
- A relationship between a Town Hall garden (a partial re-instatement of the 1871-1955 garden alongside Davey Street) and Franklin Square,

specifically the policy contains a number of options for an entry into the re-instated garden open space opposite the central path into Franklin Square from Elizabeth Street. Such a link existed for a brief period 1940s-50s before the Town Hall garden was removed and after the central path into Franklin Square was installed c. 1944.

Treasury, Tasmania Government - Franklin Square Offices Conservation Plan

The Franklin Square offices are owned by the state as is the roadway between Franklin Square and the offices. The Conservation Plan prepared for Department of Construction in 1992 assesses the Franklin Square offices as being:

'an outstanding group of buildings of quality design and craftsmanship significance which form a landmark precinct'

The quality of the buildings on the Franklin Square side of the building complex was assessed as

'the only ones designed within the parameters of one single Academic Classical style, thereby acquire unity of a more assertive kind.'

and the 1881-84 Law Buildings (or Public Buildings) which faces Franklin Square:

'In the context of Australian architecture as a whole the individual quality of buildings is high. Two of them the 1883 Executive Building and the 1914 Public Offices are among the best examples of their styles in the nation.'

The conservation plan does not identify the relationship between the offices and Franklin Square or the wrought iron fence and gateway which connected the Square to the building complex. While it identifies significance in the historic association with Georges Square it does not recognize Franklin Square as the realization of Georges Square.

It does however identify Franklin Square as one of the key places from which to view the Franklin Square offices and describes the relationship to Franklin

Square when assessing townscape contribution to cultural significance:

'The juxtaposition of the island of civic buildings and the landscaped urban square is unusual and most effective.'

Recommendations for the Franklin Square roadway and area made in the Franklin Square Offices Conservation Plan are:

- Views to the Franklin Square offices from Franklin Square be retained;
 - Cars be removed from the roadway;
 - The roadway is landscaped or repaved, bitumen would be acceptable.
- There are no recommendations regarding fencing.

Other urban design studies

A number of urban design studies with a focus on Sullivans Cove or the Hobart city area have been undertaken. These include Sullivans Cove Framework Plan, Sullivans Cove Review, Sullivans Cove Economic Development Study, Bicentennial Walking Track and the Central Area Strategy Plan.

The concepts developed in this sequence of studies, most notably the SCR have been incorporated into the Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme, refer Waterfront Authority above.

9 CONSERVATION POLICY

The policy establishes performance objectives and makes recommendations for the physical works necessary to retain or reveal significance in Franklin Square, and outlines suitable uses. The policy outlines works required or recommended after consideration of factors affecting the future form and use of the Square identified in the Background section. The policy makes recommendations concerning the Macquarie Street Civic Precinct. It recommends an interpretation approach, additional investigation and changes to current heritage listings and land use planning framework.

Guidelines for implementation of the conservation policy, review of the policy and response to unforeseen matters are outlined the following section.

9.1 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Conservation objectives are broad statements of intent that guide the policies that follow:

- Conserve the landscape structure associated with the historic Establishment and Consolidation of Franklin Square. This must be done in a manner consistent with requirements for affordable maintenance and security, and it is proposed to refer to the period 1900-1930 for a suitable landscape structure (refer Policy 1 for explanation);
- Contribute to heritage value of the civic precinct of Hobart with a stronger and more explicit relationship between Franklin Square and the historic precinct, specifically with Franklin Square Offices and the Hobart Town Hall;
- Strengthen the social value of Franklin Square by supporting continued use as a city park and accommodate established use of lawn areas and features such as the chest board as consistent with conservation of heritage values;
- Meet contemporary requirements for minimising hazard;
- Minimise use of signs including on-site interpretation, while making the cultural value of Franklin Square more widely known.

9.2 CONSERVATION POLICIES

Policies are outlined for the following topics, with general policies followed by more detailed policies:

General policy statement	Policy 1
Use of Franklin Square	Policy 2
Urban setting:	Policy 3
Franklin Square Layout	Policy 4

Conservation of fabric	Policy 5
Archaeological sensitivity	Policy 6
Place Names:	Policy 7
Boundaries and Legal Title	Policy 8
Signage and Interpretation	Policies 9
Lighting	Policy 10
Maintenance and Management	Policy 11
Additional investigation	Policy 12
Heritage Listings	Policy 13
Land Use Planning	Policy 14

The following terminology is used in describing conservation policies

Necessity

The necessity to undertake specific strategies is described by the following:

Required	Complying with a policy is either necessary to meet conservation obligations or a legal requirement.
Strongly recommended	Conservation would be significantly more effective if this policy is implemented or heritage significance would be recovered.
Recommended	Complying with this policy would support conservation outcomes and should be undertaken when resources permit.
Long term	Complying with this policy may not be practical at present, but should be identified as a strategic objective and reviewed if the situations change. Works should not be undertaken which potentially frustrates this policy.

Explanation

Describes why the policy is required.

Discussion

Only included in some instances, notes any additional material of relevance.



Fig 33 Postcard of Franklin Square shortly after it was vested in the Hobart Council 'Franklin Square', Valentine Series, State Library of Tasmania, post card collection, au-7-0016-125396226 Shows structure towards the end of the Reference Period including rockery and twin jets of water, floral display, seats, some lawn and enclosure and definition of the central area. Refer front cover for image of landscape structure towards the beginning of the reference period and Figures 15 and 16.

Policy 1 General (overarching) policy statement

Retain existing fabric and reconstruct where practical, making reference to the period 1900-1930.

The physical fabric (hard landscape, plants and subsurface material), the layout and spaces of Franklin Square are to be retained while accommodating contemporary requirements for safety and security.

Opportunities exist to reverse some of the simplification and compromising of landscape form that has occurred to allow cultural significance of the Square to be recovered. Where practical significant restoration and reconstruction is to be undertaken with reference to the period 1900-1930, towards the end of the period of state ownership and including the commencement of Council ownership. During this period the Square had a recognisably historic landscape form, but one relatively consistent with contemporary requirements. This period closes with the introduction of concrete furniture into Franklin Square at some time prior to 1938-39.

Necessity: Required

1. Retain elements intact from the period of Consolidation, including those surviving from the earlier period of Garden Establishment 1860-1891 including path locations, tree locations and the location of the fountain basin and statue of Sir John Franklin and Crowther. Policy 5.
2. No development is to occur which obscures or compromises the historic landscape structure or site topography.
3. Reverse simplification of planting, installing trees to provide a presence as existing mature trees die and as replacements mature. Policy 5

Necessity: Strongly recommended

4. Attempt to undertake conservation activities within the context of conservation of the heritage values of the Macquarie Ridge civic precinct. Policy 3.
5. Reverse simplification of landscape form when not prompted by

imminent loss of fabric. Reconstruct lost fabric to the form from the reference period - but only where a high standard of accuracy and intactness, can be achieved. Explore practicality of reinstating elements. Policies 4 and 5:

6. Remove intrusions features in Franklin Square. Policy 5.
7. Relight Franklin Square to highlight heritage significance. Policy 10.
8. Management and administration to be consistent with conservation objectives. Provide administrative support to conservation activities, Policies 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14.

Explanation

Franklin Square is largely intact and the intact fabric is to be maintained to retain significance.

The opportunity exists for reconstruction of landscape form, by referring to the form during 1910-1930 when the planting in the Square was still rich, with varied trees species and shrub areas reflecting the Establishment and Consolidation periods. As some thinning had occurred and lawns been created the landscape form which had been established is more compatible with the contemporary use of the Square and requirements for personal security including informal surveillance sightlines.

During this period the boundary cast iron fence was intact, the waterbasin was low lipped with two single jets of water and the rockery setting around the plinth of the Sir John Franklin statue was close to its originally constructed form.

Discussion

Strategies for reinstatement need to be assessed carefully to establish whether accurate reconstruction is practical. Conjectural reconstruction is not a valid conservation response for constructed elements, but reconstruction informed by photographs and relying on historic construction techniques or period plant lists is in most cases valid.

Reinstatement to the 1900 - 30s form of Franklin Square would be best undertaken with co-operation with the state government, owners of the forecourt / roadway adjacent to the Franklin Square Offices. There might be opportunities to share costs of reinstatement of the boundary fence. Reconstruction of the fence would present the Franklin Square offices in a historically accurate setting. Alternatively if the state government would not co-operate, fencing of the boundary to stop at the end gatepost would have a significant conservation benefit.

Policy 2 Use of Franklin Square

Retain enjoyment as an inner urban garden and park

Franklin Square should continue to be enjoyed as an amenity open space, a key civic open space, an important inner urban meeting place, a respite and lunching area available to a people, residents and visitors, from a wide range of backgrounds. New uses and some current events such as promotions and rallies should only be allowed to the extent that they are not incompatible with other uses.

Council may consider the option for a coffee shop on the deck of the Elizabeth Street amenities block as identified in the Public Conveniences Strategy. It would be difficult to do this in a manner consistent with Policy 1 which requires that any new development not obscure or compromise the historic landscape structure or site topography. Opportunities for some form of kiosk or micro-cafe may be associated with the original extent and location of the gazebo. Alternatively an ephemeral 'bike-in' or similar temporary presence may be appropriate for serving refreshments.

Necessity: Requirement to retain heritage significance and to meet access and safety requirements.

1. Retain the traditional use as an urban garden square accommodating a wide range of uses.
2. Only permit new uses which can be accommodated within the existing configuration of Franklin Square.

3. Provide reasonable equity of access. refer also 5.5, 5.6.
 - Policy for application equal access requirements to be established in consultation with stakeholder representatives.
 - Reinstating a perimeter path makes all areas except the steeper Davey-Elizabeth corner accessible to those with limited mobility.
 - Work with the access groups to reconcile equitable access and retain or recover heritage values, specifically address the issue of steps in the Davey-Elizabeth area.
 - Consideration of details which are easy to change if legally required details are unduly visually prominent.
4. Undertake works consistent with Council's 'design to prevent crime' policies to encourage a sense of safety and security, to make the Square safer and to support the existing traditional use in a manner consistent with conservation of fabric.

Necessity: Strongly recommended.

5. Consideration should be given to a Council presence in Franklin Square, possibly a dedicated gardener in the Square.
6. Consider permitting limited commercial activity, including selling of food, flowers or similar, provided that selling can be done from a modest sized portable facility, e.g. flower barrow or portable kiosk which is removed from the Square when not in use. In the event of any further exploration of the feasibility of a kiosk cafe or similar use to be informed by this Conservation Plan.
7. Investigate providing additional seating to allow more people to use Franklin Square.
8. Upgrade public conveniences, with better surveillance of users. Provide discreet sign posting of the amenities within Franklin Square.
9. Upgrade lighting to contemporary standards if the Square is to be kept open at night. Refer Policy 10,

Explanation

Franklin Square should feel safe to visitors to support continuing traditional use as a city park, which is part of the Square's heritage value. Additional use and associated increased perception of safety would be encouraged by additional people attracted to a commercial use or lighting to contemporary standards.

Providing equity of access is a legal requirement.

The cultural significance of Franklin Square could be threatened by introducing uses which require alterations to the fabric or spaces.

Discussion

Council officers have noted that the presence of a gardener has had a positive impact at St Davids Park (judged by audited responses from users). Landscape maintenance staff suggest that there is not enough garden work in the Square for a gardener, which may reflect the current simplification of the garden form. These interactions could be addressed in the recommended Predesign of the Franklin Square Master Plan.

Council prefers to keep the Square open at night.

Relighting of Franklin Square is already scheduled.

Policy 3 Urban setting

Recover historic relationships in Franklin Squares urban setting

3.1 Identify and protect the heritage value of the Civic Precinct

In addition to the protection already afforded to the buildings and to Franklin Square within the Civic Precinct, the streetscape values of the Precinct require explicit conservation protection and preferably a conservation framework to guide new works.

Necessity: Strongly recommended

Council as the owner of the Town Hall and the authority responsible for

Franklin Square initiates liaison with other stakeholders: State Government agencies including, DIER, Metro, Tourism and TMAG to develop complementary strategies for presentation of the Civic Precinct including thorough investigation and consideration of road width, definition of historic property boundaries and street space, lighting, sign posting and interpretation.

Explanation

The cultural significance of Franklin Square is integrally bound to its setting within the Civic Precinct. The opportunity exists for complementary works to assist appreciation of places in the precinct individually and as a precinct.

Discussion

There could be wider cultural and economic benefits from stronger presentation of Tasmania's heritage.

3.2 Identify and protect the heritage value of current roadway space between Franklin Square and the Public Buildings

Attempt to find a way that use and the form of this space could reflect its heritage and historic relationship with both the Government Offices and Franklin Square

Necessity: Strongly recommended

1. Explore with the state government whether parking could be removed from the roadway area between Franklin Square and the Public Buildings.
2. If that is not possible explore options for its visual impact to be minimised by managing the height of the hedge on the Treasury side of Franklin Square.

Explanation

Recover heritage value for both Franklin Square and for the Government Offices.

Provide better presentation for the Government Offices.

3.3 Reinforce historic street space

Re-establish the Macquarie Street footpath as a transition space between the city and Franklin Square. Recover the space as footpath when practical.

Necessity: Strongly recommended

1. Reconstruct fencing along the original boundaries, refer Policies 1; 5.3
2. Clarify boundaries with bus areas to:
 - Ensure no further incursion of bus seats or shelters onto the area of Franklin Square and that any new shelters have a complementary relationship to the form of fencing selected for Franklin Square and be of minimal visual prominence in long views to Franklin Square.
 - Encourage existing bus shelters to be moved out of the Franklin Square boundary and if not re-located, redetailed to be narrower and less visually prominent.
3. If the bus lane in the original broad footpath cannot be moved, in the short-term re-locate the statue of King Edward VII within the footpath (retaining its relationship to Sir John Franklin statue if practical).
4. Remove the Macquarie Street entry pergola and entry into Franklin Square and re-establish the historic entries, refer Policy 2.
5. Re-establish boundary planting along Macquarie and Elizabeth Streets. Cautious selection of species, blue gums only to be used if assessed at the time of the proposed planting as safe in terms of structure and safety and any risk to Swift Parrots (This is a qualification to the recommendations within the Street Tree Master Plan).

Necessity: Long-term

6. When the opportunity exists widen the Macquarie Street footpath, re-establish street trees and explore returning the drinking fountain.

Explanation

This strategy seeks to reverse the loss of cultural value associated with the removal of the fence and the encroachment of bus seats (and subsequently

shelters) into Franklin Square.

Moving the statue of King Edward VII off the kerb would allow the statue to be better appreciated.

Discussion

As bus shelters in Macquarie Street have been constructed recently by Council and largely funded by Council (with some contribution from the Metro), Council may be reluctant to change them, however at a minimum they should be moved out of the Square and redetailed.

Widening of the footpath and removal of bus shelters could only occur if a major reworking of the bus system was being undertaken which may not occur in the short term. However removal of the bus shelters and widening of the footpath should be maintained as a long term strategy and is consistent with the direction if not the detail of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Conservation Plan and the Hobart Town Hall Conservation Management Plan.

Removal of the central entry may lessen the pedestrian flow across Macquarie Street to Trafalgar Lane, refer also policy 5.

Policy 4 Layout

Re-establish the historic layout of Franklin Square

Restore the enclosure of the Central Area, returning it to being an area one discovers in the Square. Reconstruct the historic layout and park structure with fence and planting beds along the perimeter, primarily corner entries and structured planting around the Central Area.

Necessity: Strongly recommended

1. Remove the central Macquarie Street entry pergola and wide path to Elizabeth Street. If an entry and path are retained, they should not be prominent. Refer also Policy 4.
2. Reconstruct the Macquarie Street perimeter path and plant the perimeter bed, refer Figure 24.

3. Restore the central paved area to its original larger and rounder shape, Fig 24, Policies 1, 5.1.
4. Remove the landscape features and paved areas close to the Central Area that detract from significance, Policies 1, 5.1, 5.3.

Explanation

The central Macquarie Street entry compromised the subtlety of the original indirect arrival at Central Area within Franklin Square.

Removal of the Macquarie Street perimeter path has meant one can no longer walk around Franklin Square and the structure of a central area within a perimeter path was lost.

The tranquility of Franklin Square has been diminished by the loss of separation from the city and this has compromised the central area.

Policy 5 Fabric

Fabric to be consistent with the reference period 1900 - 1930

Historic fabric to be retained and maintained, intrusions removed and lost fabric reconstructed where practical. Refer Policy 1.

Necessity: this varies as existing fabric or absences compromise the integrity of Franklin Square to different degrees.

5.1 Retain and reinstate Central Area fabric

Reinstate Central Area with reconstruction of selected removed or altered elements

Necessity: Strongly recommended to recover heritage significance

1. Re-establish the original extent of the central paved ovoid around the water basin.

2. Alter the hard surface to introduce a non-modular surface more similar to the original gravel, Policy 5.5.
3. Consider reconstructing and replanting the rockery to original detail and retaining (or re-instating) the 2 original water jets in the water basin. Investigate lowering the lip of the basin to the original detail. Consider alternatives for discouraging skateboarding on the edge of the basin, Policy 5.2.
4. Investigate relocation of the Crimean War cannon to its original location..
5. Planting to restore definition of the central area, notably replace the Tilia behind the Sir John Franklin statue and some strengthening of planting structure around each quadrant other than the Davey-Elizabeth quadrant.
6. Alter lights, large litter bins and existing seats, refer Policy 5.7 .

Explanation

The central area is close to intact with limited changes to its historic character and can be recovered.

The fountain of water jets around the Sir John Franklin statue are of some significance and should only be removed to recover greater significance, for instance reconstruction of the rockery.

The Crimean cannon was donated to the people of Hobart and was located in the central area of Franklin Square from c.1870 – 1944. It is now outside Anglesea Barracks, if the army was to vacate that site it should be relocated to its original axial location in Franklin Square.

Discussion

The recorded reason why the rockery, in place from 1860s – 1948, was removed is that soil was falling in the water basin. Modern growing media could address that problem.

5.2 Retain and re-establish trees, shrubs and floral display

Re-establish a density of planting of trees and shrubs comparable to the reference period 1900-1930.

Necessity: Required to retain heritage significance as trees are in decline and removal of shrub beds and trees has diluted the historic character.

1. As soon as practical replace lost trees to create original double ring planting structure of trees: interior trees around the central space and outer ring around the perimeter. Replacement trees to be older cultivars and if practical grown from seed for variety of form.

Reintroduce some shrubs to the extent that spaces are defined but sightlines are good.

Re-introduce some of the plants which have been removed possibly more of the Ailanthus, poplars and some conifers.

Necessity: Strongly recommended to recover landscape form.

2. Consider reintroduction of stronger floral display, reflecting that which Council introduced towards the end of the reference period.
3. Re-introduce gardenesque spiky feature plants in perimeter and in rockery if re-constructed.

Explanation

Floral display appears to have always been a part of the presentation of Franklin Square.

As the trees in Franklin Square are in decline and the canopy has opened up, the additional light provides an opportunity for growing lower plants for floral display.

Discussion

Floral display could be achieved through selection of shrubs and groundcovers to minimise maintenance.

5.3 Landscape features

Relocate relatively recent features away from the Central Area

Necessity: Strongly recommended to support heritage significance

1. Relocate contemporary elements, i.e. the chess board, MBA lectern, wishing well, preferably to other suitable amenity open spaces in the Hobart CBD or alternatively to less prominent locations within Franklin Square at a distance from the Central Area and without compromising views out such as that to the Public Buildings.

As a less preferred alternative consider alternatives to accommodate the chess board within Franklin Square in a manner consistent with heritage value, or if that is not practical the paved surfaces around the chess board could be grassed on a reinforced turf base or defined with shrub planting to give it a stronger separate definition to the historic paths.

Explanation

These features detract from the historic character individually and collectively as they are all located on the Franklin Square offices side of Franklin Square and almost all close to the highly significant and intact Central Area.

While the chess board strongly detracts from the architectural and aesthetic significance of Franklin Square in its current location it is popular and as such contributes to social value of Franklin Square.

5.4 Boundary fence

Re-establish the Macquarie and Elizabeth boundary fence and entries, preferably by re-instating the cast iron fence.

Necessity: Required

1. Investigate the recovery of the single cast iron gatepost surviving in Main Road, Claremont, alongside Hill Street.

Necessity: Strongly recommended

2. The cast iron boundary fence is to be reconstructed if practical if not explore options for a replacement fence.

Explore feasibility of reconstruction of the wrought iron boundary fence:

- Council should commission a specific investigation of whether the fabric and documentary record, together with fabricator expertise is sufficient to allow the fence to be re-constructed accurately and whether relocation of the bus shelters and reworking of public conveniences building is possible.
 - Liaison with Treasury to establish whether the gate way assembly (with lights on major gate posts and flanking kerb lights) can be re-constructed in the Franklin Square forecourt / roadway. If the full gateway is not to be re-instated consider fencing up to the last gatepost.
 - The Davey and near Elizabeth Street entry will not be able to be reconstructed and a sympathetic corner gateway will be required.
3. If reconstruction is not possible explore options for a replacement fence or for reconstruction at some time in the future:
- If replacement is the preferred option the fence should allude to the previous fence, while being clearly a contemporary fence and should not be individually prominent in its detailing, but would preferably be associated with re-establishing the original layout of Franklin Square.
 - If reconstruction is identified as the preferred option but is beyond current resources, reconstruction is to identified as a longer term objective and works towards it commenced, e.g. fabrication of moulds, relaying the sandstone base and relocation of the bus shelters.

Explanation

To recover significance associated with the historic boundary of Franklin Square and historic entries. The fence would also support re-establishing perimeter planting beds and the Macquarie Street perimeter path. The fence also allows aesthetic values associated with original gentle symmetry of the layout and the enclosing vegetation to be recovered.

If either form of a boundary fence were to be reconstructed, it would make it more feasible to re-establish and maintain the original more intimate and contained garden character of Franklin Square.

Discussion

Re-establishing a fence along St Davids Park has proved successful and has allowed for creation of garden beds, it would also support Policies 1, 4 and 5.2.

Experienced fabricators may be able to use the remaining posts and gate adjacent to the Franklin Square buildings, the single gatepost at Claremont and, with reference photos and construction conventions of the time, create moulds for the fence.

Reconstruction of fence needs to be consistent with Council policies including prevention of crime through design. Council officers have observed based on auditing of park users, that 'sympathetic' fencing' which now encloses St Davids Park appears to be associated with a high level of park user satisfaction and sense of security.

An alternative of installing a fence of recognisably modern design and fabric was considered (this is what has been done around St David's Park). A recognisably modern fence detailed to be sympathetic to the historic fence could provide an interpretative allusion to the historic fence and reinstate the historic street space. This alternative is more difficult to do well, there is rarely professional agreement about what constitutes a sympathetic response; professional interpretations change over time, and the fence could date badly. In addition the professional appreciation of 'sympathetic' is rarely shared by the general public. A contemporary 'sympathetic' fence could potentially be an intrusion into the Macquarie Ridge civic precinct, a precinct of high intactness and authenticity.

The cultural significance benefits of a reconstructed fence are considerable, including re-establishing Franklin Square as the centre of the civic precinct and providing a stronger historic setting for adjacent heritage buildings, and that is the preferred direction, however it is acknowledged that the alternative may be more affordable.

5.5 Paving

Resurface with an appearance as close to the original as practical.

Necessity: Strongly recommended to support heritage significance

1. Remove the paving bricks and brick walls, refer also Policy 5.6 Gradients and steps.
2. Use a surface similar in appearance to the original gravel, but recognisably contemporary and which is consistent with safety requirements and access requirements in terms of irregularities and unevenness of the surface.
3. Investigation of use of swale drain edging, similar to original, for historic paths or use of a detail that alludes to the original path detail for paths adjacent to Elizabeth Street.

Explanation

A non-modular surface would be closer to the original and allow original levels to be restored.

The lack of swale drains makes the paths appear wider than their originally appearance.

The existing surface is becoming uneven and unsafe and individual bricks are breaking and require work.

Discussion

The surface and associated details would be required to be cost-effective to maintain. Gravel-like surfaces which could be considered include: compacted and consolidated gravel and emulsion mix ; consolidated granitic sand; engineered gravels for steep slopes and a gravel and emulsion topcoat over bitumen.

Only some of the steeper original paths had swale drains. To meet contemporary requirements the detail would have to be such that it did not cause problems with ankle turning.

5.6 Gradient and Steps

Where practical remove or reduce steps, while bringing paths, sloping paths and steps into compliance with current standards with minimal visual prominence achievable.

Necessity: Required, to recover heritage significance and to comply with contemporary health and safety standards

1. Where possible remove steps and return the surface to a sloping path.
2. If removal in full is not practical steps are to be rebuilt to contemporary standards with details for as little visual prominence as possible while still being safe.
3. Plant to visually distract from any required handrails, in a manner which does not overly detract from use by the sight impaired and which minimises recurrent maintenance.
4. Remove or lessen the height of retaining walls where regrading is practical or appropriate, except those alongside the stairs to Davey Elizabeth entry and connecting the central area to the Elizabeth Street perimeter path. Where retaining walls are retained and there is adequate space use prostate groundcovers falling over the walls to minimise their visual impact.
5. Re-establish sloping landform to meet paths on the Elizabeth Street side.

Explanation

Some of the original sloping paths were steeper than current standards allow, so re-establishment is not practical. Levels and associated retaining walls of the 1985 construction have a strong visual impact which suggests a contemporary park in key views into Franklin Square especially from Elizabeth Street. That impact could be lessened if any walls required were detailed to have minimal prominence.

Discussion

Additional investigation is needed to determine levels and gradients prior to

the 1985-86 redevelopment.

Tactile hazard markers will be required.

5.7 Landscape furniture

Landscape furniture to be selected with consideration of contemporary requirements and the reference 1900 -1930 period.

Necessity: Strongly recommended to support heritage significance

1. Retain 1985-6 seats in the short-term; investigate reinstatement of examples of the longer seats.
2. Investigate installing a period weighing machine.
3. Remove current bins and replace with smaller less visually intrusive bins consistent with OH+S performance requirements for removal of waste. Remove red poster style anti-littering graphic from bins in Franklin Square, immediately.

Explanation

The seats are close to those original, but an example of the longer seat should be retained safe and accessible. The long seats would protect garden beds.

Particularly the bins with red anti-littering billposters on them detract from the character of Franklin Square.

Discussion

The existing seats allude to previous seats in Franklin Square at this period and have proved a practical option for presence of seats.

5.8 Elizabeth Street Public Conveniences

Retain the existing 1961 amenities block unless its removal recovers greater significance. Undertake works to meet contemporary standards in a way consistent with architectural heritage significance.

Necessity: Required for safety and to retain heritage significance

Redetail the public conveniences building consistent with current best practice for safety and security.

Any works to meet current safety standards should be designed to minimise loss of fabric or layout of the original form. Re-detail with only minor changes to meet contemporary standards e.g. any heightening of the balustrade to meet contemporary requirements should retain or allude to the existing balustrade detail and reference to the parapet of the Franklin Square Offices.

New detailing of the block should be designed to be recognisable as of a different period to the original but not prominent in themselves.

Explanation

The public conveniences have considerable significance, however their location potentially interrupts reconstruction of the boundary fence.

If changes are made to minimise any potential for public nuisance, those changes should be sympathetic to the modest rusticated modernism and contextual detailing of the original design.

Policy 6 Protect potential archaeological significance

Protect and preserve features and deposits associated with the key significant phases identified in the Historical Archaeological Sensitivity Plans.

Necessity: Required

1. [a] A co-ordinated and proactive approach to any and all activities that have the potential to disturb ground throughout Franklin Square with the exception of ground within 300 mm of existing surface levels.
 - The 300 mm trigger for archaeological oversight (and sensitivity zonings) may be revised based on future, first hand, specialist appreciation within a proactive framework where sufficient flexibility is built into HCC operations to enable preservation and protection

in preference to salvage. Generally, the latter will only apply where it can be established that there is no prudent and feasible alternative to impacting [archaeological] heritage values.

[b] Monitoring/testing of any and all ground that will be disturbed within the nominated zones of potential historical archaeological sensitivity shall be carried out by a qualified historical archaeologist within the following parameters;

- Monitoring/testing should be undertaken in accordance with s3.3c of Tasmanian Heritage Council Archaeological Practice Note No. 2 and will typically involve oversight and recording of excavations undertaken either manually or by a machine equipped with a smooth edged bucket, or by a combination of both.
 - The purpose of monitoring/testing is to determine whether alternative options need to be considered or whether any further, more detailed, phase of archaeological work is required prior to implementation of any given proposal. For this reason, sufficient flexibility (in both time and budget) should be built into works program/s to facilitate re-design or progression to a more intensive phase of investigations (where applicable and incl. statutory authority consultation) and to avoid critical path complications.
2. As an added precaution, Council's Civic Solutions outdoor staff should be briefed on archaeological sensitivity.
 3. Allied investigations to be conducted within a research framework and under archaeological supervision could include a program of geophysical inquiry (eg, where conditions are conducive, to help determine where sub-surface structures incl. air raid shelters may be located) and/or pollen analysis (where applicable, and generally only as part of any controlled archaeological excavation where salvage is justified).
 4. Protection of archaeological sensitivity to be explicitly identified in the Asset Management process and protocols developed to ensure awareness of archaeological sensitivity and required responses survives changes of management and works staff.

Explanation

Franklin Square may contain archaeological features and deposits that have the potential to yield rare, original, information on aspects of early settlement and governance.

Defensive responses to the prospect of attack during World War 2 is assessed as an area of emerging significance.

Discussion

Geophysical Investigations - Using these techniques, it may be possible to differentiate the air raid shelters, buried stone and/or brick foundation walls and the surrounding soil deposits and also, potentially, any material used to fill to current ground level. By using a combination of resistivity, electromagnetic, magnetic and/or ground penetrating radar (GPR) techniques it is possible to identify subsurface anomalies such as structural remains. Once the target area's geophysical properties are mapped, and assuming the results are definitive, the task of determining specific areas of interest may be refined.

Policy 7 Place name and location

Retain historic place names and introduce names that reveal history

7.1 Retain the name 'Franklin Square'

The name Franklin Square should be retained as it commemorates Sir John Franklin, and indirectly alludes to Georges Square. These associations require explicit protection in the Conservation Plan, preferably supported by accessible interpretation, refer Policy 11.

Necessity: Strongly recommended

Ensure that the Nomenclature Board is fully aware of the associations attached to the name Franklin Square. Refer also Policy 11 Interpretation.

Explanation

To provide explicit protection for the name "Franklin Square".

Discussion

While no suggestion to change the name is known to have been suggested, a request for a name change could be arise from the garden-like form of Franklin Square failing to meet some current day expectations of a 'square'.

7.2 Name the Franklin Square Offices roadway

The roadway should be named to be recognisably associated with both Franklin Square and the Franklin Square Offices, with a descriptor such as 'way' which alludes to this being a pedestrian route .

Necessity: Strongly recommended

1. Explore place-name options with the state government and the Treasury and with the Nomenclature Board.
2. Install discreet sign-posting once a name is agreed.

Explanation

The significance of the roadway for both the Government Offices and for Franklin Square is easily overlooked. The current carpark does not allude to the historic relationship to Franklin Square.

Policy 8 Council to seek legal title to Franklin Square

Seek legal title to Franklin Square and clarify the boundaries.

Necessity: Required

Clarify boundaries and formal seeking issue of title for the appropriate area of land.

Explanation

The edging established to accommodate bus seating in 1940s does not conform to the area as described when Franklin Square was vested in Council.

Titles or proof of ownership and extent of land is routinely required for a planning application or heritage application.

Discussion

Council has recently sought legal title to the other recreation areas to clarify status.

The area of Franklin Square vested in the Hobart City Council in 1923 for the purposes of a Recreation Ground appears to have been the original extent of the Square. The lack of clarity about the extent of Franklin Square has legal implications for works on the boundary and requirements for a Heritage Permit for works. It appears that as Franklin Square is listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the area identified as Franklin Square appears to be that vested in Council in 1923, the recently constructed bus shelters which cross over onto the boundary of Franklin Square as it existed in 1923 could be in breach of the Historic Cultural Heritage Act, 1995 (work undertaken on a heritage place without a permit).

Policy 9 Signage and Interpretation

Provide necessary information and limited on site interpretation with minimum visual impact

9.1 Minimise signs

Signs should be limited to the minimum necessary and of low visual prominence, consistent with Heritage Tasmania Practice Note.

Any on-site interpretation should be visually discrete but identifiable and readable, and lightly applied allowing the visitor to discover aspects of the Franklin Square for themselves.

Detailed interpretation should be available off-site in a variety of formats including: books, booklets, disc, on the web or in brochures.

Necessity: Strongly recommended

1. Re-mount the original 1863 plaque (or tablet) near the surviving

commemorative oak close to its current location in a manner consistent with current safety requirements.

2. New signs including interpretation signs would be discreetly located and use non-prominent darker graphics, if there are a number of signs they should be designed as a suite. Shapes, supports and background colours of signs should not be individually prominent.
3. Ensure signs are detailed or located so as not to create hazards for those with poor vision. Low ground mounted signs are not encouraged.

Explanation

The plaque in its location is of significance, in November 1903 brass tablets were hung around the two oak trees planted 1863 to celebrate the marriage of the Prince of Wales to Princess Alexandra. The current ground mounted brass shield appears to be the original tablet. At some time it was mounted on a low plinth which is a potential tripping hazard.

On-site interpretation can itself be an intrusion.

Discussion

Location and lighting of signs may be required to balance limiting prominence with not disadvantaging those with poor vision.

9.2 Further interpretation

Franklin Square is within a cluster of related historic sites, consequently the heritage value of Franklin Square is best appreciated with an understanding of the heritage values of adjacent sites.

Necessity: Strongly recommended

1. Co-operate with adjacent owners and managers to develop a rich integrated, but still subtle, mesh of interpretation that allows visitors to discover relationships for themselves.
2. Consider use of the following themes for interpretation or development

of existing interpretation. Themes overlap: multiple and inter-related themes could be developed and heritage trails:

- Pre European settlement landscape, refer Policy 15.
- Early settlement, the officers on the high ground. Cottages and gardens. Preferably this would be done in conjunction with developing interpretation of other early settlement sites;
- Macquarie plan for Hobart and other towns in Tasmania and Australia. This requires additional development and could form part of a Civic Precinct interpretation strategy and include Town Hall, Franklin Square Offices, St Davids Cathedral and the GPO;
- Civic Precinct interpretation and trail as suggested in previous conservation plans and policy (Hobart Town Hall and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery);
- Previous use as a Government House site. This could be associated with interpretation of the Town Hall site and link to changes from colonial to civil administration;
- The Franklins and their association with the Royal Society, possibly extending to other sites including Ancanthe and the Royal Society Gardens (Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens);
- Sites associated with the Royal Society Gardens, working with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens who have investigated locations where plants from the Royal Society were planted;
- Air raid shelters and war-time Hobart and use of Franklin Square during both wars for fund raising. This too could link to other sites, including shelters in Dunn Street, Argyle Street and near the Cenotaph.

Policy 10 Lighting

Relight for safety and to reveal heritage significance

Relight Franklin Square to provide routes consistent with current best practice and to draw attention to the historic features and spaces in a subtle way while also strengthening recognition of place of Franklin Square within the historic Civic Precinct .

Necessity: Strongly recommended

1. Provide lighting consistent with current best practice.

2. Light Franklin Square to pick out more spaces and historic elements while complying with safety requirements.
3. Co-operate with owners and managers of property in the Macquarie Street ridge to establish complementary lighting taking advantage of subtle lighting possibilities for older buildings that pick out detail and form now available. Refer Policy 3.

Explanation

The existing lighting fails to draw the civic precinct together or to reveal the buildings well.

Discussion

Consideration of safety needs to be done with consideration of planting forms and lighting.

Lighting can form part of an interpretation strategy as it determines which part of a landscape or streetscape is high lighted.

Recent lighting techniques such as softer uplighting and combinations of lighting direction combined with smaller lights and distance controls can allow detail of features to be revealed without 'flattening' the appearance of the feature.

Policy 11 Management and maintenance

Incorporate maintenance of conservation values of Franklin Square into Councils asset management program

The existing asset recording and management processes have contributed towards the reversal of decline of Fabric in Franklin Square.

Retain asset management program and incorporate specific goals associated with conservation performance.

Necessity: Strongly recommended

Co-operate with managers to clarify conservation management responsibilities at present and resulting from the Master Plan. Include consideration of:

- Monitoring and management of plant fabric including the maturing trees to include consideration of early replacement plantings which anticipate the loss of the older trees (without removing trees)
- Monitoring and management of infrastructure including furniture;
- Continuation of the existing assessment and management of statuary, restoration of masonry and annual cleaning and repatination of bronzework

Explanation

The existing asset recording and management processes have contributed towards the reversal of decline of Fabric in Franklin Square.

Policy 12 Additional investigation

12.1 Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage

Approach the Aboriginal Heritage Unit for advice regarding appropriate level of investigation, appropriate site management and interpretation of Aboriginal cultural values and undertake or commission tasks as required.

Necessity: Required

1. Council to approach the Aboriginal Heritage Unit about likelihood of artifacts, general cultural values and possible social values.
2. Undertake works, refining protocols as required and prior to Predesign stage of the Master Plan.

Explanation

The location beside the river and finds on adjacent sites suggest aboriginal use, and relicts have been found on close sites. There may be contemporary aboriginal social values associated with the area.

12.2 Explore feasibility of reconstruction of the cast iron boundary fence

Further investigation is required to see if accurate reconstruction of the boundary fence is practical.

Necessity: Strongly recommended, May be long term.
Undertake investigation necessary to establish whether reconstruction of the boundary fence is feasible refer Policy 1 and Policy 5.4.

12.3 Establish heritage values of adjacent street spaces

Undertake an assessment of the heritage values of the adjacent streets and specifically the Elizabeth and Macquarie Streets intersection and the Macquarie Street ridge.

Necessity: Strongly recommended
Co-operate with others with an interest in the precinct and agree on brief or alternatively a less comprehensive brief.

Explanation

This information would contribute to a fuller appreciation of the heritage values of the streetscapes adjacent to Franklin Square and the Hobart Town Hall.

12.4 Detailed study of plant material

Prepare sequential studies of probable species and cultivars used at Franklin Square.

Necessity: Strongly recommended
Use high quality reproductions of all relevant photos to identify plants as consistently as possible with contemporary lists including those from Port Arthur and commercial nurseries.

Explanation

Required to support master planning and subsequent more detailed planning and works.

Discussion

Plants lists from the Royal Society gardens for this period are available, as are a limited number of commercial nursery catalogues. At the time of writing there was no simple catalogue for plants sold from Port Arthur. Preferably this would be done by tracking plants through time using photographs, for master planning purposes the task could be reduced by restricting the exercise to the Reference Period.

12.5 Additional investigation regarding relationship to Governor Macquarie planning

When practical, additional investigation of the relationship of Franklin Square to other Governor Macquarie open spaces and commons including Great Squares.

Necessity: recommended
Prepare and resource a specific research project, preferably funded with other towns with Great Squares.

Explanation

Assists with further establishing cultural significance.

Policy 13 Heritage Listing

Amend Tasmanian Heritage Register listings

Tasmanian and Council heritage listing are to be updated to reflect information in this Conservation Strategy

Necessity: Required to protect heritage significance

1. The Tasmanian Heritage Register citation to be reviewed with consideration given to the assessment in this report.
2. When the Historic Cultural Heritage Act, 1995 is amended to allow Heritage Areas that the precinct is nominated for THR listing as a civic precinct of historic, social and aesthetic value.

Explanation

Listing identifies significance and provides protection of heritage values.

Policy 14 Land use planning

Amend planning schemes

Sullivans Cove and City of Hobart Planning Schemes are to be updated to reflect information in this Conservation Plan

Necessity: Strongly recommended

- 1 Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme and City of Hobart Planning Schemes to be amended to:
Require that consideration of impacts across Macquarie Street Ridge Civic Area heritage area, Refer policy 2, and the heritage area to be defined in plan with the same boundary and named in both plans with the same name and objectives.
2. Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme to be amended to:
Require that the views and movement between Sullivans Cove and Franklin Square be retained, (rather than just those along Elizabeth Street), refer policy 2
3. Amend both the City of Hobart Planning Scheme and the Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme with clauses or protocols allowing consideration of impacts across the scheme boundary lines, possibly a common definition;

Explanation

The two sides of Macquarie Street are in different planning schemes. The streetscape quality on the boundary of the Planning Schemes is not clearly protected.

Links between Franklin Square and Sullivans Cove are currently unprotected.



Fig 34 Removal of roots of vandalised tree (AUGUST 2005) in accordance with archaeological protocols before replanting.



Fig 35 New bus shelters (in construction February 2007) have been used as an opportunity to recover some of the form of the sandstone base to the original cast iron fence.

10 IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

10.1 ADOPTION

The immediate prompt for preparation of this Conservation Plan was Council's scheduled preparation of a master plan for Franklin Square.

The Conservation Plan will guide the Master Plan, and may in turn be refined by information uncovered during the Master Plan process or the subsequent public review and then review of both documents as part of land use planning and heritage approvals.

It is recommended that Council adopts the Conservation Plan for exhibition, possibly with the Master Plan, and adopts it in full after testing through these processes.

10.2 COPIES OF THE CONSERVATION PLAN

It is recommended that Council distribute copies of the Plan, supplying copies to Heritage Tasmania, Australian Heritage Commission library, State Library of Tasmania, DPWE library, and the University of Tasmania library.

An additional copy is required to be provided to the Permissions Officer, Photographic Services, Tasmania Museum and Art Gallery in accordance with conditions for the use of TMAG images.

10.3 INCORPORATION OF THE CONSERVATION PLAN INTO THE MASTER PLAN

The Conservation Plan would be incorporated into the Master Plan by complying with processes identified in a Predesign Report, for conservation performance. To provide for adequate conservation performance the following should occur during the preparation of the Predesign Report :

1. Conservation Policies are to be translated into the Predesign Report as necessary outcomes and required performance. The Franklin Square Conservation Plan is to be identified as a Reference Standard for conservation performance.

2. A decision is to be made requiring either a full archaeological reconnaissance to be undertaken before commencing master planning or alternatively, a process identified for archaeological reconnaissance of areas where works are being considered to be undertaken in tandem with development of the master plan concept so as to inform the masterplanning in a timely manner. The outcome of that decision is to be incorporated into the Predesign Report processes.
3. The extent and exact boundaries of Franklin Square are to be determined and associated legal conservation obligations and conservation policy applying to the boundaries with Macquarie Street, Elizabeth Street and the Government Offices are to be clarified.
4. Explore whether it is practical to prepare complementary strategies or preferably a joint civic precinct strategy which includes the Hobart Town Hall (Council), Tasmania Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG), Franklin Square Offices (Treasury), adjacent streets (Council and Department of Infrastructure, Energy and resources) and the Metro. Consideration could be given to the impact of traffic, including bus lanes, opportunities for increasing width of the Macquarie Street footpath and streetscape details including paving, reintroduction of some form of street trees, signs and interpretation.

If it does not prove practical to formulate complementary strategies, establish conservation outcomes which would not disallow a joint strategy in the future.
5. The project plan, project schedule and project costing are to identify as explicit tasks regular reviews for compliance with conservation policy.

The Predesign Report should outline the processes required to ensure an initial familiarisation with the Franklin Square Conservation Plan, continued familiarity with the Plan and processes to facilitate consistency with specific conservation policies and referrals to Heritage Tasmania where appropriate. This would include:

- Triggers and processes for review of Conservation Plan if necessary in the light of options identified in the Predesign Report stage or during the Master Plan processes.
- Protocols for responding to any additional information which may become available during the design and Master Plan processes.

10.4 STATUTORY APPROVALS

Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority

Preparation of a statement of conservation impacts and compliance with approved Conservation Plan is required for an application for works in civic places and heritage listed places. The application should be accompanied by a copy of this Conservation Plan and a brief statement outlining how the proposed works comply with the Conservation Plan, accompanied by either elevations or perspectives.

The Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority generally requires images from the street to show impacts on the heritage place, it would be advisable to check with current officers how that clause would be interpreted for changes proposed at Franklin Square.

Tasmanian Heritage Council

An application for works on a heritage place would be prepared. As above, the application should be accompanied by a copy of this Conservation Plan and a brief statement of compliance.

Develop an agreement with the Heritage Council, which provides a framework (or protocols) for:

- Continuing maintenance of Franklin Square.
- Reporting of emergency works.
- Works to be carried out to an agreed management plan with limited reporting to the Tasmania Heritage Council.

Applications which include signs, changes to trees or archaeological works should comply with the Heritage Tasmania relevant Practice Note.

10.5 PRIORITIES

Urgent works

1. Approach the owner of land at the corner of Lady Clarke Avenue and Berriedale Road to buy the single Franklin Square gatepost.
2. Council place a 'hold' on design of all works which potentially affect Franklin Square until the Master Plan is finalised, including proposed lighting.
3. Works protocols for identifying archaeological significance are developed and the Council Officers and relevant managers instructed in their use
4. Clarify whether an aboriginal heritage assessment is required and scope if required, refer Appendix 3. Provide resources for any aboriginal heritage assessment required.

Soon

1. Submit the Conservation Plan to Council to be adopted as policy or strategy.
2. Prepare the Predesign Report for Master Plan using the Conservation Plan as a reference document.
3. Determine the legal extent of Franklin Square and clarify whether the bus shelters in Macquarie Street are within the heritage place Franklin Square on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

Master Plan preparation

1. Review emerging designs in the Master Plan with reference to the Predesign (which interprets the Conservation Plan), review the Conservation Plan if it fails to provide guidance in appropriate areas.
2. Council's asset management procedures and principles to be adapted to record heritage significance and include conservation processes

including requirements for conservation of potential archaeological significance.

Monitoring and Review

The Conservation Plan should be formally reviewed at least every 5 years and If the Plan is amended, the amended Plan would need to be adopted by Council.

In addition to scheduled reviews the Conservation Plan should be reviewed if:

- The Conservation Plan fails to provide sufficient guidance, as may occur during the Master Plan process.
- Additional information becomes available including information identified by the assessment of aboriginal heritage, archaeological findings; findings from the proposed Parks Services audit of users of Franklin Square.

10.6 SCHEDULING

The Conservation Plan should be reviewed within the next 5 years, and the first review needs to be programmed into Council's 5 year Strategic Plan and into asset management processes.

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