
Sent: 28/02/2021 3:22:32 PM
Subject: Church Point Mod2021/0005 - additional submission
Attachments: conservation-management-strategy.pdf;

Further to my submission of Feb 20 I would like to add the following.

In 2014 a Conservation Management Strategy was prepared by Altona, Burton and Gould for the Church Point masterplan area and submitted to Council in that year.

Refer to the attached document and copied extract following.

This submission was prepared over concerns of the piecemeal proposals being put forward for this area.

It is clear from this document that Thomas Stephens Reserve has high social significance.

Before Council considers this application a Conservation Management Plan should be prepared using this as a reference document.

Any future CMP should ideally be provided by an independent consultant unattached to the applicant.

Bruce Deane
McCarrs Creek Road

Church Point Conservation Management Strategy

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Conservation Management Strategy

The basis of this (CMS) is to seek recognition and re-identified as appropriate for a Heritage Conservation. This CMS has been prepared by residents and Historians to inform the nature of future development within the area. This CMS identifies the whole area (place) as a significant place including both indigenous and non-indigenous values. It aims to investigate inter-tidal areas and items of significance and provide a range of potential areas and items which require further assessment.

This CMS provides the basis for a balanced vision for the area as a mercantile centre and a recreational precinct, the area for visitors and the long-term conservation of the surrounding landscape.

It is of particular importance for its historical, aesthetic and cultural values as well as being a well-patronised and esteemed local landmark. The ongoing use of the area by the maritime industry and the local community and local people alike is one of the long-term conservation opportunities for interpretation and links to other sites for tourist and educational activities.

The site has also been identified as a significant place and has heritage values at a National level. Recommendations and management of these potential values are not provided. This CMS aims to be a practical document to guide the conservation of the heritage value of the place. It comprises one of the basic principles and provides a standard against which to assess the heritage developments. The CMS could form the basis for an assessment developed for the area.

This CMS follows the guidelines set out in the Australian Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burr Charter) which provides the Australia-wide accepted guidelines for conservation.

This report considers the place as a cultural landscape and not only on buildings, civil engineering works or landscape. The methodology for this report is based on the established methodology for a Conservation Management Strategy (CMS), as per the guidelines. The Heritage Branch advises that a CMS is a conservation planning document however if significant values within the precinct then a full CMP will need to be prepared. It should also include consideration of the natural environment.

Church Point Conservation Management Strategy

1.2 Acknowledgements

Craig Burton is a qualified architect, landscape architect, historian and a graduate in environmental studies. With an interest in environmental heritage issues, he is also a teacher of a landscape architecture and director of CAB Consulting, a practice specialising in architecture, landscape architecture, heritage conservation, horticulture, education and art projects. www.cabconsulting.com.au

Peter Altona, resident of Church Point, has been involved with Church Point for over fifteen years and now, as a retiree, aims to document a concise and accurate history to assist in the appreciation of historical factors and features at Church Point.

Sue Gould, resident of Coasters Retreat, is a historian researching primary sources and committed to preserving the history of Pittwater.

1.3 Bibliography

Barrenjoey Peninsula and Pittwater Heritage Study – M. J. & Craig Burton 1989.

Church Point History: Places, People and Activities – A. Altona & Gould, www.pittwaterhistory.wordpress.com.
Church Point; Quarter Sessions Reserve; The Cemetery; Samuel's Acre; The Church; The School; The Point Part 1-1860 to present.
Church Point Wharf- Heritage Assessment and Statement
November 2003 – Design 5 Architects

What is Social Value? – Australian Heritage Commission Series No 3, Ms Chris Johnston, Context Pty. Ltd.

NSW Environment and Heritage www.environment.nsw.gov.au
Pittwater Natural Areas Draft Plan of Management – Peter Altona (PNADPoM 2009)

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

CHURCH POINT NSW AUSTRALIA



Fig 1: Extract from 1915 Narrabeen Parish Map

Prepared by
Residents and Friends of the Church Point Community
June 2014

	Page
TABLE OF CONTENTS	
1.0 Introduction	4
1.1 Purpose of the CMS	4
1.2 Acknowledgements	5
1.3 References	5
2.0 The site and its context	6
2.1 Location	6
2.2 The Study Area	7
2.3 The Place	7
2.4 How the Place evolved	8
2.5 Place Conditions	11
2.6 Planning context	12
3.0 Significant Values and Considerations	12
3.1 Significance of the Study Area	12
3.2 Natural Values	12
3.3 Cultural Values	12
3.4 Social Values	13
3.5 Social Value aspects found at Church Point	13
4.0 Areas and Items	13
4.1 Current Heritage Listings	13
4.2 Location of Items of Significance	15
5.0 Thematic Aspects of Significance	17
5.1 Tracing the natural evolution of the environment	17
5.2 Peopling Australia	17
5.3 Developing local, regional and national economies	18
5.4 Building Settlements, towns and villages	19
5.5 Working	19
5.6 Education	19
5.7 Governing	20
5.8 Developing Australia's Cultural Life	20
5.9 Marking the phases of life	20
6.0 Conclusion	20
7.0 Appendices	21
7.1 Historical Timeline	21
7.2 Burials at Church Point Cemetery	25
7.3 Names Associated with Church Point	25
7.4 Images	26

List of Figures

Figure	Title	
1	Extract from 1915 Narrabeen Parish Map	1
2	Location Map	6
3	Land Grants close to Church Point	7
4	Topographical Map with Oliver's Grant.	7
5	Aspect, Drainage & Ridgeline diagram	8
6	Soil landscapes of the Pittwater LGA	9
7	Typical Geology of Pittwater	9
8	Boundaries of Oliver's Land Grant 1871	11
9	Graveyard with Church in background	13
10	House -Rostrevor	13
11	Store and Post Office	13
12	Church Point Wharf	14
13	House - Homesdale	14
14	Memorial Obelisk inscription	14
15	Location Map of Significant Items	15
16	Aerial view of southern Pittwater	17
17	Panorama of Lovett's Bay	26
18	House - Rostrevor 1895	26
19	Church Point wharf c1902	27
20	Church Point Wharf c1909	27
21	Bay View Road Church Point c1910	28
22	Simpson's House ('Melrose') & Boatshed 1912	28
23	The Green Frog 1912	29
24	Aerial view of Church Point 1960	29

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The basis of this (CMS) is to seek recognition and registration of the study area identified as appropriate for a Heritage Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

This CMS has been prepared by residents and Historians of Pittwater to guide and inform the nature of future development within the study area (place).

This CMS identifies the whole area (place) as a significant cultural landscape including both indigenous and non-indigenous values. This CMS does not investigate inter-tidal areas and items of significance in detail but indicates the range of potential areas and items which require further research and assessment.

This CMS provides the basis for a balanced vision for the future use of the place as a mercantile centre and a recreational precinct, the interpretation of the place for visitors and the long-term conservation of the surviving significant fabric and landscape.

It is of particular importance for its historical, aesthetic and technical values as well as being a well-patronised and esteemed local landmark. The continued ongoing use of the area by the maritime industry and for recreation by visitors and local people alike is one of the long-term conservation aims. There are also opportunities for interpretation and links to other sites in the Pittwater area with tourist and educational activities.

The site has also been identified as a significant pioneer site, aspects which may have heritage values at a National level. Recommendations for the assessment and management of these potential values are not provided in this report.

This CMS aims to be a practical document to guide decisions that may affect the heritage value of the place. It comprises one of the bases for future planning and provides a standard against which to assess the heritage impact of proposed developments. The CMS could form the basis for any future CMP that is developed for the area.

This CMS follows the guidelines set out in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter 1999). The Burra Charter provides the Australia-wide accepted guidelines for heritage conservation.

This report considers the place as a cultural landscape rather than concentrating only on buildings, civil engineering works or landscape types. The methodology for this report is based on the established methodology for the preparation of a Conservation Management Strategy (CMS), as per the NSW Heritage Branch guidelines. The Heritage Branch advises that a CMS can be used as an interim conservation planning document however if significant changes are proposed within the precinct then a full CMP will need to be prepared in the future (which should also include consideration of the natural environment and aboriginal heritage). Alternatively a CMP could be prepared for specific sites within the precinct if major change is proposed. The proposed two-level car park development adopted by Council is considered to be a major change to the precinct. The NSW Heritage Branch notes that the shorter CMS may be useful in the following situations:

- *For use with items of local significance;*
- *For use with items of State significance for which no major changes or interventions are planned in the short to medium term that have the potential to materially affect the item;*
- *As an interim planning document for SHR items pending preparation of a standard conservation management plan.*

1.2 Acknowledgements

Craig Burton is a qualified architect, landscape architect, horticulturist, fine arts historian and a graduate in environmental studies. With much experience in environmental heritage issues, he is also a teacher of architecture and landscape architecture and director of CAB Consulting, an award winning practice specialising in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, heritage conservation, horticulture, education and art practice.
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Peter Altona, resident of Church Point, has been involved in affairs concerning Church Point for over fifteen years and now, as a retired architect, is keen to document a concise and accurate history to assist in the awareness and appreciation of historical factors and features at Church Point.

Sue Gould, resident of Coasters Retreat, is a historian of Pittwater dedicated to researching primary sources and committed to preserving the integrity of the history of Pittwater.

1.3 Bibliography

Barrenjoey Peninsula and Pittwater Heritage Study – McDonald McPhee Pty Ltd & Craig Burton 1989.

Church Point History: Places, People and Activities – A series of articles by Altona & Gould, www.pittwaterhistory.wordpress.com. The Schools at Church Point; Quarter Sessions Reserve; The Cemetery: Samuel Morrison; Church Acre; The Church; The School; The Point Part 1-1860 to 1929

Church Point Wharf- Heritage Assessment and Statement of Heritage Impact November 2003 – Design 5 Architects

What is Social Value? – Australian Heritage Commission, Technical Publications Series No 3, Ms Chris Johnston, Context Pty. Ltd.

NSW Environment and Heritage www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Pittwater Natural Areas Draft Plan of Management – Part 1 December 2009 (PNADPoM 2009)

2.0 THE SITE AND ITS CONTEXT

2.1 Location

The study area is located on a prominent headland on the southern shores of Pittwater Estuary, an inland body of water approximately 30km north of Sydney. It lies at the mouth of McCarrs Creek and opposite Scotland Island.

Fig 2 Location Map (Courtesy Whereis.com.au)



2.2

The Study Area

The study area is defined by the original land grant of 66 acres to William Oliver. Refer Figures 3 & 4.

It is a regularly shaped area contained between Botham Beach Reserve to the northwest and what is unofficially known as, Bennett's Beach to the northeast respectively of the public wharf. In a north south direction it extends from the public wharf to a point south of Johnson's Trig. Refer Fig 15.

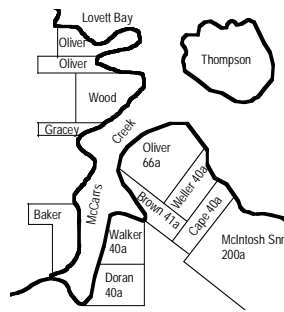


Fig 3 Land Grants close to Church Point

2.3

The Place

As a cultural landscape, human occupation of the place has been a direct response to its natural configuration and particularly its post-glacial environmental context.

The land area currently includes some of the Church Point Postcode area occupying the mid to lower slopes and the foreshore and some of the Bayview Postcode area occupying the plateau and upper slopes.

The natural areas in Pittwater are highly regarded by local residents and visitors. There is a strong desire to retain natural areas for their environmental, scenic and recreational values. (Pittwater NADPoM 2009)

Fig. 4. Topographical Map with Oliver's Grant. Map Courtesy Pittwater Council



2.4 How The Place Evolved

2.4.1 Natural forces

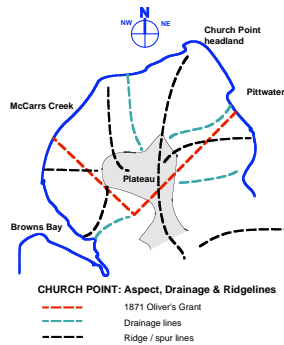


Fig 5: Aspect, Drainage & Ridgeline diagram

The area contains most of the representative elements defined as 'Natural Areas' including bushland, (inter-tidal) wetland, escarpment, watercourse and foreshore.

Eroded sedimentary geological formations of the Triassic period coupled with the impacts of the post glacial environment resulted in a distinctive spur landform and point formation influenced by the estuarine waters of Pittwater.

The overlying Hawkesbury sandstone eroded to a broken terrain with localised cliffs and remnant stone fragments found displaced on the lower slopes of the Narrabeen Series, which is dominated by shale, and clay soils with inter bedded strata of mudstone and sandstone.

Oliver's grant contained two catchments and drainage lines and a range of aspects from northeast to northwest with a narrow undulating sandstone plateau, cliffs, steep upper slopes and more gentle lower slopes on the northeast aspect and steep cliffs to the Pittwater foreshore.

The creation of Pittwater Road in the nineteenth century and McCarrs Creek Road in the twentieth century has modified the foreshore through cutting and filling.

The McCarrs Creek frontage had comparatively deeper water than the northeastern frontage, which was distinguished by large inter-tidal mud and sand flats.

The landform is distinguished by a major north/south ridgeline following Captain Hunter Drive and Quarter Sessions Roads. The ridge rises steeply to a trig point approximately 124 metres above sea level, which is visible from most parts of southern Pittwater.

The area to the west of the ridge is dominated by bushland surviving due to the steep sandstone terrain unsuitable for farming. To the east, the more arable land on the lower slopes was cleared for farming.

The inter-tidal wetland is located to the north east of the promontory consisting of sand flats supporting sea grass beds. Originally these sand flats contained large quantities of crustaceans evidenced by the adjacent aboriginal middens and subsequent shell mining.

The escarpment is part of a ridgeline connected to Terry Hills and forms a backdrop to the promontory.

Two intermittent creek lines formed by folds in the landform have created deep gullies supporting a wide variety of flora and fauna.

The foreshore, originally a drowned river valley includes sandy beaches, creek inlets, steep embankments, rocky shores, tidal flats and sandy shoals (as both fluvial deltas and flood tide marine shoal).

Fig 6: Soil landscapes of the Pittwater LGA (Lawson and Treloar, 2002) (PNADPoM 2009)



LEGEND

Of – Oxford Falls (swamp, Colluvial, Fluvial)

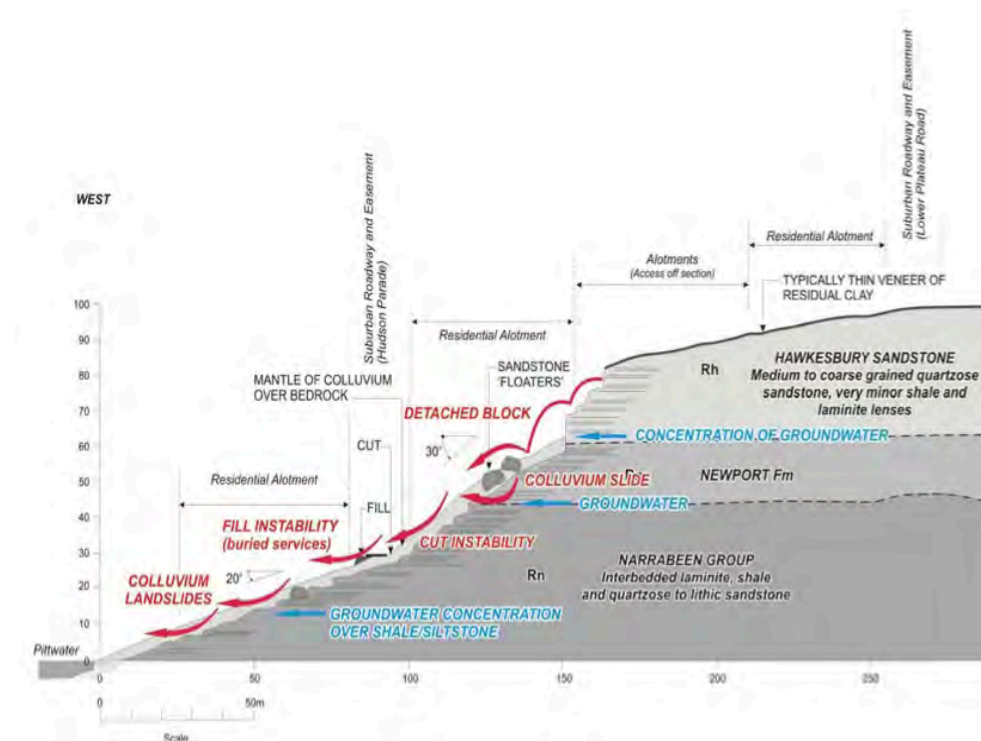
Wn – Watagan (residual and colluvial)

Xx – disturbed terrain

Gy – Gynea (erosional)

Er – Erina (erosional)

Fig 7: Typical Geology of Pittwater
(MacGregor et. al. 2007).



2.4.2 Cultural History

Indigenous. The study area is part of the territory of the Darug coastal Nation. *The diverse flora and fauna, rock overhangs, sandstone outcrops, large trees and other natural features provided for both the spiritual and physical needs of the Aboriginal peoples.*

Exploration. *In May 1770 Captain James Cook sailed past the Hawkesbury River estuary and named the inlet Broken Bay. In March 1788 Captain Arthur Phillip and a small party discovered the southern arm of Broken Bay and named it Pittwater in honour of the then British Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger. This was only six weeks after Phillip arrived at Sydney Cove.*

Pioneer farming settlements. *By the 1800s, the Pittwater area contained a number of satellite farming communities that supplied produce and raw materials to the settlement at Sydney Cove. Timber was harvested from the steep slopes and fish were taken from the estuary while wheat, oats, potatoes, fruit and vegetables were grown*

Commercial activities. *Between 1840 and 1870, cargoes of shells were transported from Pittwater to Millers Point to produce lime for the building industry. Other early industries included fish drying at Snapperman Beach, ship building at Careel Bay and Clareville and boatbuilding and saltworks on Scotland Island. In 1894 Ku-ring-gai Chase was dedicated as a national park.*

Subdivisions. *However it wasn't until after the post war period, with the completion of road transport links, that there was a marked increase in suburban development and therefore, most European heritage sites are from the early to mid twentieth-century period. (NADPoM 2009)*

William Oliver's Grant. *In 1858, William Oliver first applies to purchase 66 acres in the area now known as Church Point. As a large landholder in Pittwater as early as 1839, he saw an opportunity for a land corridor connecting Pittwater to the growing northern settlement of Lane Cove which at that time was connected to Sydney via Fiddens Wharf and the Lane Cove River. Oliver had lived in Lane Cove so was well known to its inhabitants.*

He was involved in timber getting in the Pittwater area using a bullock team to transport timbers along the old Lane Cove Road through present St Ives to finally reach Fiddens Wharf on the Lane Cove River.

The 66 acres represented an opportunity to create a 'beach head' to service Pittwater and an ideal place to locate a Church and burial ground which was sorely needed. There is no record of Oliver farming the property, probably due to the terrain, and within the same year of formal granting in January 1871, he transfers 1 acre to seven trustees and by 1872 a small wooden Church is built.

In 1881 a Provisional School commenced in the Church which became the catalyst for a Government Wharf constructed in 1885 and in 1904 the first School Motor Launch in Australia.

The burial ground, last used in 1918 to bury Oliver's son Thomas, remains today however the small weatherboard church was demolished in 1932.

Note: Detailed researched information about the history of Church Point is available from the website www.pittwaterhistory.wordpress.com and is therefore only referenced in this Report.

2.6 Planning Context

Responsibility for all development rests with Pittwater Council. The majority of foreshore land ownership is vested with the Land and Property Management Authority with Pittwater Council as trustee with only one property in Torrens Title being The Pasadena.

The foreshore is currently being developed under the Church Point Plan of Management 2009 with additional works proposed including a two-level car park, seawalls, road realignment, Reserve and cemetery upgrades, access road upgrade and sale of Quarter Sessions Reserve.

The balance of land is zoned residential, characterized by rural residential on the upper slopes and large residential blocks on the lower slopes due to the steep terrain resulting in low density in a bush setting.

3.0 SIGNIFICANT VALUES AND CONSIDERATION

3.1 Significance of the Study Area

The study area is highly significant as a cultural landscape because;

1. It contains a range of significant areas and items already identified and the potential for further items given further research.
2. It forms a conspicuous landform forming part of the special structure of the Pittwater environment and landscape.
3. It is part of the territory of the Darug Nation.
4. It is associated with the Oliver Family as early landholders and users within Pittwater and land given for a church and graveyard contributing to the sense of identity of the locale.
5. It is the termination of Pittwater Road, Quarter Sessions Road (being the residual of the historically proposed connecting road to Lane Cove) and McCarrs Creek Road.
6. It contains Church Point Wharf and Church site acting as a destination place and landing place within Pittwater.
7. It contains a significant social gathering place, both formal and informal, at the intersection of wharf site, roads and landform.
8. It contains remnant examples of rare spotted gum forest despite the continuous occupation by humans and their respective land management approaches over millennia.
9. It has a continuous history of being a place of shelter, sustenance and refreshment for inhabitants and visitors.
10. It has strong mercantile associations with Pittwater inhabitants.
11. It is part of a chain of points of interest along the southern Pittwater estuary connected by a registered 'scenic road' from Mona Vale to Terry Hills.

3.2 Natural values

A major part of Pittwater's heritage is the natural environment which provides a sense of place. Natural elements include headlands, escarpments, wetlands, foreshores, water bodies and endemic and culturally significant trees and vegetation. These elements are of paramount concern in assessing any change to landscape items of heritage. (NADPoM 2009)

3.3 Cultural Value

The Land retains its Cultural values for Indigenous Peoples and the whole landscape is of importance with high points and cliff tops linking sight lines. There is much in the Indigenous context of belonging to the land that is yet to be known and appreciated by the current population generally. (NADPoM 2009)

3.4 Social Value

Whilst Church Point has a recorded history of settlement and associated buildings, it is also the 'Social Value' which requires protection.

'Social Value' is described as '...the foundation of our identity as individuals and members of a community; an irreplaceable centre of significance. We all have this need; it is fundamental...in our everyday lives we may be largely unaware of the deep ties we have to place, only to be made so aware when we have to face up to its loss.'

(Peter Hay, Place and literature' *Island Magazine*, 34/35, 1988, p. 31)

3.5 Social Value aspects found at Church Point

- There is a traditional connection between early settlement and present
- The past is tied affectionately to the present
- A reference point is provided in a community's identity
- There is significance in the daily comings and goings of life
- An essential community function is provided, that over time has developed into a deeper attachment, more than just utility value.
- The area is distinctive due to its location and buildings
- The area accessible to the public, offering the possibility of repeated use to build up associations and value to the community of users

4.0 AREAS AND ITEMS

4.1 Current Heritage Listings

4.1.1 Graveyard and Site of Former Methodist Church - 1 McCarrs Creek Road

This is burial ground of local significance as it was one of the first to be dedicated in the Pittwater area. It also commemorates William Oliver local settler and benefactor of land for a school, church and cemetery. It was sited next to the church which is no longer standing, but gave the name Church Point to this area. (NSW State Database Number: 2270125)



Fig 9: Graveyard with Church in background (SMH April 1932)

4.1.2 House - Rostrevor - 27 McCarrs Creek Rd

This timber and corrugated iron bungalow was originally built in c1886 and was a waterfront property complete with date palms. Rostrevor is culturally significant for its association with early permanent settlement of McCarrs Creek and Church Point including the locally historic phase of Real Estate Ventures between 1880 and 1920. (NSW State Database Number: 2270005)



Fig 10: House - Rostrevor

4.1.3 Church Point Store & Post Office - Lot 318 McCarrs Creek Road

Church Point wharf is an extremely important landmark for Pittwater. The cultural significance of the post office and store is demonstrated by its role as an interchange for water borne transportation to the western foreshore of Pittwater and Scotland Island. The architectural value of the property is demonstrated by the corrugated iron gable roof and sandstone retaining sea wall dating back to the late 19th Century. (NSW State Database Number: 2270010)



Fig 11: Store and Post Office



Fig 12: Church Point Wharf

4.1.4 Church Point Wharf - Lot 319 McCarrs Creek Road

1884 Parish Map of Narrabeen shows a jetty where the wharf now stands

1895 a new wharf is designated as a Public Wharf

(NSW State Database Number: 2270336)

The wharf is an evolving structure having been fully replaced in 2012.



Fig 13: House - Homesdale -top right (WAR 41070)

4.1.5 House – Homesdale - 19 McCarrs Creek Rd

The property was part of the subdivision of the Church Point Estate in 1909, with the original residence being built in 1911 it was one of only a few residences in the area at the time. The development of the property is associated with the locally historic phase of 'Real Estate Ventures' from 1880 - 1920. The house was built as holiday retreat for the Young family and although it was constructed prior to the main timeframe of the locally historic phase of holiday and recreation development from 1920- 1950 it is considered to have an association with the phase. Early construction in this area tended to be of timber, which has meant that only a few examples of early buildings remain. The exterior of Homesdale is partly original with its distinctive dominant roofline, colonial design, gardens and gateway, retaining the character of a country retreat.

The item is also significant in the career of one of Australia's premier filmmakers and directors. In 1971 the residence was rented to the aspiring filmmaker Peter Weir, now famous for films including Picnic at Hanging Rock, Gallipoli, Dead Poets Society, the Truman Show and Master and Commander. While living here he co-wrote and made a film called Homesdale, which subsequently gave its name to the house. The 50 minute film was shot over a week at the house, with everyone involved living in the house or in tents in the grounds. Homesdale was one of Weir's earliest films. (NSW State Database Number: 2270070)



4.1.6 Memorial Obelisk -2 McCarrs Creek Rd

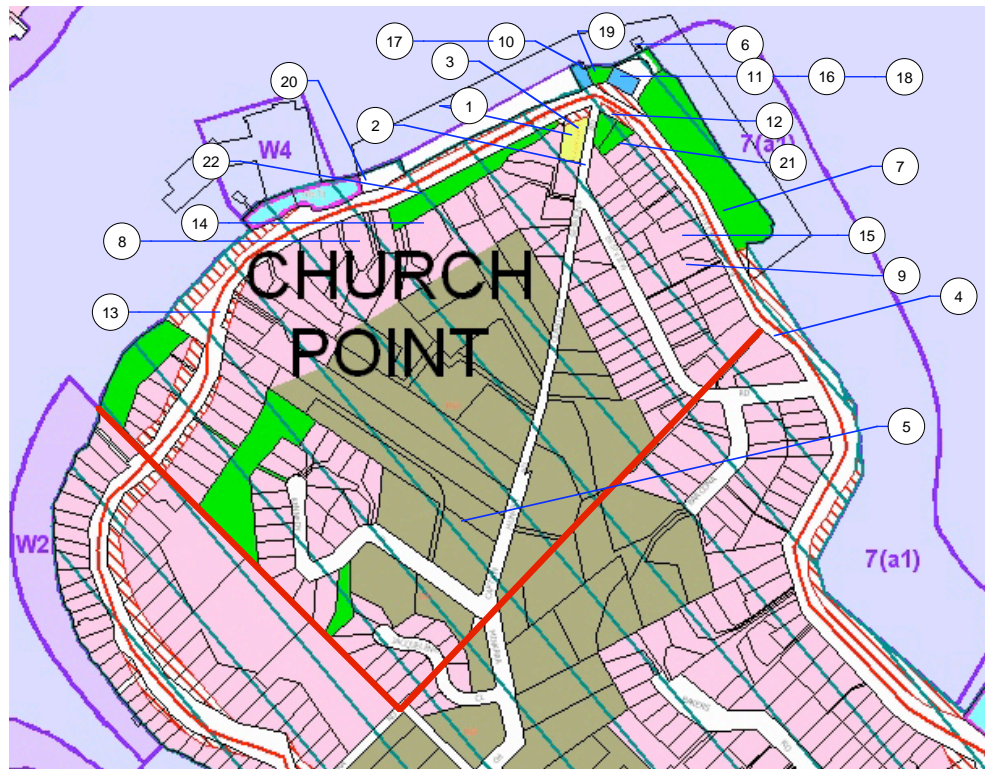
Commemorates survey of McCarrs Creek by Capt J. Hunter. 1788-89

(NSW State Database Number: 2270007)

Fig 14: Memorial Obelisk inscription

4.2 Location of Items of Significance

Fig15: Location Map of Significant Items



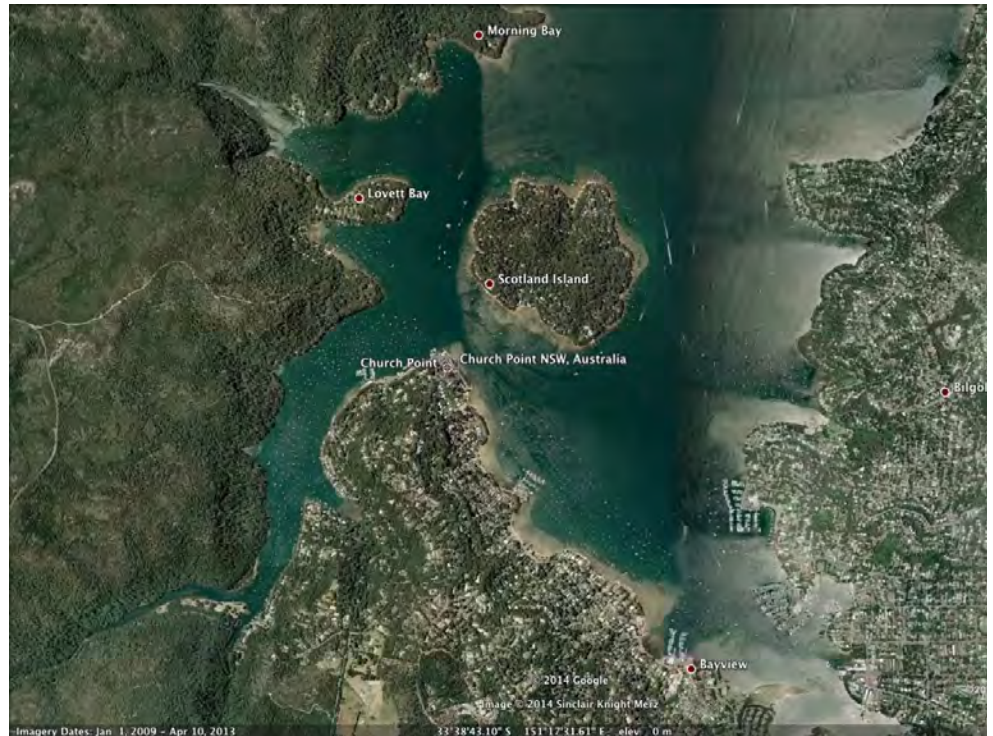
Legend

	NAME	DATE	COMPONENTS	CURRENT STATUS	SIGNIFICANCE
1	Cemetery	1871	Resting place of early pioneers of district including William Oliver who was first granted 66 acres & then donated 1 acre for a Church & burial ground.	Extant Local heritage listing.	EXCEPTIONAL
2	Quarter Sessions Road Reserve	1871?	Part of original track linking Church Point to Lane Cove. Formalized in original grant to William Oliver.	Extant	HIGH
3	Church	1872	First building at Church Point. Gives the name to the area. Important congregational & education centre for pioneer residents of Pittwater.	Demolished	
4	Bay View Road renamed Pittwater Road	1878	Connecting Church Point Wharf & Church to Mona Vale		Location is significant but not the road.
		1944	Gazetted as a Public Road	Extant	
5	Johnson's Trig	1882	Early survey mark	Extant	HIGH
6	Public Wharf and seawall	1885	Became an important link to Sydney and service the offshore community.	Remains of original wharf and seawall survive.	Remains and location are significant but not the wharf structure.
		2012	Rebuilt	Extant Local heritage listing.	
7	Church Point Reserve	1885	Initial reclamation?	Extant.	HIGH
		c1962	Improved by Warringah Council in response to parking problems due to popularity of the area.		

Church Point Conservation Management Strategy

		1971	Gazetted as a Reserve		
		1995	Re-gazetted		
8	House – 'Rostrevor'	c1886	Example of early pioneer house	Extant. Local heritage listing.	HIGH
9	House- 'Melrose'	c1888	"Benjamin James built the present residence [statement made circa 1967] and spent much of 1888 there."	Demolished	
		1890	"Major Philip Charley purchased the property [22 Dec 1890] and added considerably to the house."		
10	Booth's Boatshed	1899	First recorded commercial mercantile activity.	Demolished	
11	Booth's Store	1907	A hub of receiving, storage and distribution of goods to residents.	Demolished	
12	Booth's motor garage	1907	Constructed to service the needs of a few wealthy tourists.	Demolished	
13	Browns Road Quarter Sessions Road renamed McCarrs Creek Road	1907	In 1907 Mr Booth made a bush track from a little cove in McCarrs Creek over the hill to Coal and Candle Creek.		Location is significant but not the road itself.
		1938	Completion of road linking Church Point wharf to Terry Hills	Extant Forms part of a scenic road.	
14	House – 'Homesdale'	1911	Built as holiday retreat for the Young family	Extant Local heritage listing.	HIGH
15	'The Green Frog'	Pre 1921	Operated continuously 1923 – 1958 as Tea Rooms & accommodation. A painting of the building is hanging in the National Art Gallery, Canberra.	Demolished.	
16	Fitzherbert's Store	1925-6	In concert with subdivisions on Scotland Island, an opportunity was seen to expand services to the local community.	Destroyed by fire	
17	Jensen's Store/Mini-Market now known as Store and Post Office.	1929	The destruction of Fitzherbert's Store provided an opportunity for a new Store & Boatshed facility.	Extant. Local heritage listing.	HIGH
18	Wymark's Pasadena	1930	Constructed on Crown lease and subsequently sold at Auction. Modified into present form c1960.	Extant	Location is significant but not the fabric.
19	Thomas Stephens Reserve	c1940 1971	Initial reclamation Gazetted. Named after a local Council officer. Is an important place of social & cultural interaction & events	Extant	HIGH
20	Quarter Sessions Reserve	1941	Identified by Warringah Council as one of several well located parcels of land suitable for recreation.	Extant	HIGH
21	Survey monument; Rostrevor Reserve	1943	Commemorates survey of McCarrs Creek by Capt J. Hunter 1788 -1789.	Extant. Local heritage listing.	HIGH
22	Spotted Gum Reserve	unknown	To protect a stand of endangered spotted Gum.	Extant.	HIGH

Fig16: Aerial view of southern Pittwater



5.0 THEMATIC ASPECTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Note: This section is an outline which requires further research and elaboration.

5.1 Tracing the natural evolution of the environment

Significant Natural Features: A prominent point, island, river sand flats, estuary, mountain range, woodland, sea grass bed, protected waters.

Natural Features influencing human life and cultures: The landform has determined physical development and culture with tree clearing and farming on the northeastern slopes, retention of tree cover on the steep and rocky northwestern portion and maritime activity around the headland.

5.2 Peopling Australia

Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures: The Darug people lived in Pittwater for thousands of years when Europeans arrived in 1788 and soon displaced them. From 1810 Aboriginal lands were given to pardoned convicts and free settlers. Place name 'Whurra whurra', camp sites and shell middens

Law and Order: W Oliver's altercation with a convict.

On the 1st instant the prisoners went into the house of Mr. Oliver, who was out, and took away a pig, a pistol, two bushels of wheat, a quantity of ammunition, and several other articles. They enquired several times for Mr. Oliver whom they said they wished to see very particularly, as he was so fond of taking bushrangers. (Mr. Oliver was very active when the two negroes and the Frenchman were in the district, and it was Mr. Oliver who shot the Frenchman through the leg.) The whole of these witnesses identified portions of the property found in the boat in charge of Wicks, and Mr. Oliver identified the boat. (Accounts of Escaped Convicts and Bushrangers in Manly, Warringah and Pittwater to 1850 - Shelagh and George Champion 1992)

Ethnic Influences: English farming practices

Migration: Predominantly of British birth

5.3 Developing local, regional and national economies

Agriculture: Dairy, rural landscape, orchard, market garden, Simpson Poultry awards, flower garden, plantation.

Pittwater became a farming district, grazing sheep, cattle, horses and pigs and producing butter, milk, vegetables, fruit and wheat. (Wikipedia)

Lack of arable level land and distance from markets saw a decline in farms, replaced with subdivisions due to increase in leisure opportunities.

Commerce: Shop, boat hire and sales, boat services, fuel, water taxi.

James Booth carried on a prosperous business at Church Point with boats for hire. He built several rowing boats, a sailing vessel named either "Armateur" or "Amateur", and two large yachts (about 8 tons each), the "Claribel" and the "Menina", in which he used to take parties on fishing and pleasure excursions. (Champion)

Communication: Post office, telephone exchange.

On 1 January 1909 a receiving office was opened at Church Point, James Booth being appointed Receiving Officer/Keeper. He was succeeded in this position by A.M. Simpson on 6 February 1909. (Champion)

Environment – cultural landscape: A landscape type, nature reserve, place important in arguments for nature or cultural heritage conservation.

Events: Campsite, places of congregation, celebration; Anzac day, dog race

Exploration: Camp site, explorers route, explorer's journal, surveyor's notebook, landing site, map, Survey Monument, Capt Hunter, Surveyor Govett

McCarrs Creek. According to records, McCarrs Creek, flowing into the southwest corner of Pittwater, was first surveyed by Captain John Hunter in 1789. In his Journal in 1792, Hunter wrote: *"We visiting all those parts which are navigable to shipping and having very particularly sounded and examined all the branches before, the business was finished in little more than a fortnight. There is fresh water in various parts of this harbour, with wood in abundance and fish may be caught in all the sandy bays."*

About 230m above the headwaters of the Creek was the lofty eminence of the quaintly named Tumble Down Dick and, subsequently, a Trigonometrical Station was established there from which to take sights over Pittwater. The Government Surveyor William Govett had been over the area in 1829 and, referring to the summits he surveyed, wrote: *"Masses of rock in some instances appear like the castellated ruins of a fortress with its dilapidated walls and shattered battlements – perpendicular in some cases and sloping in others – and receding into caves overhung by massive canopies. These caves or hollows are called by the natives 'gibbie gunyahs' or homes of rock, under which they occasionally put a night"*.

On Govett's survey plan dated 13 January 1830, although he listed the creek as "romantic", it is still unnamed and the earliest plan on which the name McCarr appears is that of a survey by J. Larmer which shows a track leading from the creek to Foley's farm at Mona Vale.

In the estuary of McCarrs Creek soundings revealed a depth of six fathoms or about 11m and this was always considered a good spot for red bream, but in the upper reaches among the hills the build up of silt has, over the years, changed all that. The same stretch of water was again surveyed by Captain Sidney in 1868 and the creek was marked on the map as Pitt Inlet. (Leicester Warburton)

Fishing: Boat mooring, dock, marina, wharf, fishing excursions, Botham, boat building

James Bernard Archer Botham. 1896-1974. When the Bothams purchased their home, the address was No 1 Brown's Road, later changed to No 12 McCarrs Creek Road. It is the first house on the eastern side of the creek to have deep-water access and adjoins the (Botham) Reserve, which fronts the houses at 2-10 McCarrs Creek Road.

James Botham fished commercially and hired boats from the two jetties adjoining his home. He used a converted 18' skiff as his fishing boat and learnt how to make the nets from Greek fishermen at Mosman. His catches were sold in the markets and locally to regular customers.

His daughter, Laurel, one of the first licensed fisherwomen in NSW, helped her father from the age of five. During WWII James and Laurel were issued with a permit to be on board any type of boat in Pittwater and the Hawkesbury River Waters. (Barbara Davies)

Forestry: Timber cutting. 1826 first licence granted to cut cedar. W. Oliver acquires bullock team to transport logs from Pittwater to timber mill (St Ives)

Health: Well being – visitors, accommodation, landscaped grounds,

Mining: Shell mining. 1832 W. Oliver became involved in shell trading

Pastoralism: Prize- winning poultry, pastoral landscape

Technology: Telegraph equipment, electric domestic appliances, underwater concrete footings

Transport: Ferry, wharf, coach stop. Terminus. First school ferry in Australia.

Airplane landing/storage of local famous aviator.

Church Point was the terminus of the old coach from Manly.

5.4 **Building Settlements, towns and villages**

Towns, suburbs and villages: Scenic road, road links, village reserves (Thomas Stephens, Church Point, Quarter Sessions, Rostrevor), concentrations of urban functions, urban square, abandoned boat sheds, seawalls.

Land Tenure: Subdivision pattern, land title document, trig station

Accommodation: Holiday houses and tea rooms

5.5 **Working**

Labour: Required to initially support land clearing thereafter pastoral and maritime activities.

5.6 **Education**

A School: The weatherboard Wesleyan Church built 1871 - 1872 was offered as premises to facilitate the opening of a school. When the criteria for a Provisional School were met, the Department of Public Instruction appointed a teacher and the school opened in early 1881.

In 1884 the school became a Public School and Samuel Morrison was appointed as the school's third teacher. Morrison cemented his place in the community by marrying a local girl, Emma Chave, daughter of a prominent landholder and orchardist, Frederick Chave. (The Schools - Altona & Gould)

In 1895 Morrison, prepares a maths textbook entitled 'The New South Wales Public School Arithmetic for Third Class'.

5.7 Governing

Defence: Boats removed and Army office occupation World War 11.

Government and administration: Visit by Sir Henry Parkes.

Law & Order: Water Police and Maritime Patrols.

Welfare: Building of McCarrs Creek Rd.

5.8 Developing Australia's cultural life

Domestic life: Kitchen garden, chicken breeding varieties.

Creative Endeavour: Inspiration for writers & painters. Painting of The Green Frog in the Art Gallery of Australia, Canberra.

Leisure: Passenger carriage, swimming beach, dance hall, hotel, tourist brochures, park, beach, fishing spot, picnic place, rowing, cricket, trips to National Park, sailing. Weekend excursions.

Religion: Church, graveyard, visiting clergymen, early church in Pittwater, first Methodist church, land donation to church.

Social Institutions: Social events after Church

Sport: trophies: Calendar of fixtures, tennis court, (on site of Green Frog) rowing races - committee

5.9 Marking the phases of life

Birth & death: Grave furnishings, cemetery, burial register, memorial plantings, William Oliver, a farmer of Pittwater, enabled the Pittwater Community to have a place of worship by donating an acre of his newly acquired 66 acre land grant upon the point of McGaa's (McCarrs) Creek and Pittwater. The one acre was well situated in a prominent position suitable for land and water access. Upon the land a church was built and subsequently a cemetery was consecrated. There are 11 burials confirmed by records. These burials occurred between 1882 and 1918. "There are others whose names are not recorded and whose graves are unmarked". (Percy Gledhill) (The Cemetery- Altona & Gould) (It is an oversight that the name of William Oliver is not formally recognized for his contribution to the formation of Church Point).

6.0 CONCLUSION

Given the historic importance of Church Point, it is the responsibility of Statutory Authorities to undertake professionally documented research as a basis of community understanding and appreciation of their place.

It is suggested the first step would be to seek a grant from the NSW Heritage Council to undertake further research (i.e. a Conservation Study) in addition to already identified sites.

As stated in the introduction, the basis of this CMS is to seek recognition and registration of the study area identified as appropriate for a Heritage Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

The CMP is likely to confirm that the study area is appropriate as a Conservation Area and possibly its own Development Control Plan which respects its natural and cultural heritage values. This will assist the community with defining their expectations and in making decisions about how the place should be developed in order to retain the unique character of Church Point.

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 Historical Timeline

Pre land grant at Church Point

- 1788 March, Governor Phillip conducts a journey to Broken Bay by water.
- 1788 August, Governor Phillip conducts a journey to Broken Bay by land.
- ??? Map showing Whurra Whurra place name
- 1837 Whilst living at Lane Cove, William Oliver has a small cottage on Cape's Flat, near Fig Tree Bay at the southern shore of Pittwater.
- 1839 Oliver purchases 50 acres at The Basin (Portion 14) from Mr & Mrs McIntosh Jnr.
- 1841 Oliver applies to purchase 30 acres at Elvina Bay (Portion 12) and it is granted in 1842.
- 1845 Oliver resides at Pittwater from about 1845 to 1858
- 1854 Oliver sells the 50 acres at the Basin of which 8 acres are under cultivation
- 1858 Oliver applies for 66 acres on the point at 'McGaa's Creek'.
- 1860 Oliver applies for 19 acres on the south side of Lovett Bay but this is varied in 1862 for a conditional purchase of 40 acres. It is formally granted in 1865 (Portion 11). Oliver builds his homestead here and develops a farm on the neck of the peninsula.
- 1864 Situated on McGaa's Creek and Pittwater, Oliver has a conditional purchase of Portion 25, 66 acres on the point at 'McGaa's Creek', for the sum of £66. This is formally granted in 1871.

Activities at Church Point 1871 - 1929

- 1871 In 1871 William Oliver is formally granted the 66 acres (Portion 25) on the point of McCarrs Creek. Directly following the grant Oliver conveys one acre of his 66 acres to seven Trustees for a church to be established for the local community. Six of the trustees, including William Oliver, are farmers and residents of Pittwater. One trustee, W.H. McKeown, is an active Wesleyan and resident of Lane Cove (now Gordon).
- 1872 The church is built on the sloping ground of the Trustees acre and is a small weatherboard building measuring 25ft by 18ft. The church is associated with the Wesleyan Church Sustentation and Extension Society.
- 1875 William Oliver divides his land on the point into two sections for two son-in laws. He conveys the eastern section of 23 acres to Thomas Wilson and the western section of 40 acres to Charles Johnson. The two sections are divided by the church acre and the road reserve leading to Lane Cove.
- 1878 A road is planned to run along the full extent of the southern shore of Pittwater connecting the Church at McCarrs Creek with the Pittwater Road that leads to Manly. The road is to replace a track passing through nine large waterside properties.
- 1880 The church acre serves the community as a burial place. Tombstones on the uphill slope of the church mark the graves.
- 1880 W.H McKeown, a Trustee of the church acre, purchases the 23 acre property on the east side of the church acre from Thomas Wilson.
McKeown is a successful fruit grower of the Lane Cove District (now Gordon). He is interested in the religious welfare of the district and a prominent member of the

- 1880 W.H McKeown, a Trustee of the church acre, purchases the 23 acre property on the east side of the church acre from Thomas Wilson.
McKeown is a successful fruit grower of the Lane Cove District (now Gordon). He is interested in the religious welfare of the district and a prominent member of the Wesleyan Church - active in the establishment of the first Wesleyan churches at Pymble, Hornsby, Willoughby and Pittwater.
- 1881 The Church building facilitates the community in accommodating a Provisional School. It caters for twenty-two children aged 4 yrs to 14 yrs who live within a two-mile radius. Ten children are of Church of England denomination, one is Roman Catholic and eleven are Wesleyans.
- 1882 William Oliver is buried at the burial ground. W. H. McKeown acts for the minister.
- 1882 Johnson Trigonometrical Survey Station number 2632 is established, named after Charles Johnson, then owner of 40 acres at Church Point.
- 1883 The name 'Church Point' appears in the Sydney Morning Herald 2 June 1883. The point derived its name from the little wooden house of worship erected on the hill slope.
- 1883 Members of the community encourage the government to recognise the need for a wharf for the benefit of children going to school and persons attending church.
- 1884 The Provisional School in the church premises is declared a Public School and is recognised as Pittwater Public School.
- 1884 W.H. McKeown sells the 23 acre property, where there is a camp, to Benjamin James Junior. A house is built for Benjamin James.
- 1885 A Government Wharf is constructed on the point directly in line with the Church. The wharf is a substantial wooden structure at the end of a stone groyne.
- 1885 A narrow area of approximately one acre of 'reclaimed' land exists to the north east of the Government Wharf. It runs alongside the waterfront road to Manly, known as 'Bay View Road'.
- 1887 A ¼ mile to the east of the Church an acre is resumed from Albert Black's nine-acre property for the Pittwater Public School. Buildings will be built for the classroom and the teacher's residence.
- 1887 Sir Henry Parkes visits the school occupying the Church.
- 1888 The buildings for Pittwater Public School and the teacher's residence are completed.
- 1890 Philip George Charley purchases land from Benjamin James Junior and adds considerably to the house, 'Melrose'.
- 1891 On Saturdays, "Cook's Hawkesbury and Pittwater Trips" travelling by Steamer from Sydney, call in at Church Point.
- 1896 Church Point is the terminus of the coach route from Manly. The horse drawn coach plies daily on a one and a half hour journey. There is a large boatshed at the terminus.
- 1897 A road from the wharf at Church Point leading to George Brown's 41-acre property (Portion 26) and passing through the church acre is legally determined as an accommodation road and named Quarter Sessions Road.
- 1899 Local resident James Booth is granted Permissive Occupancy for a Boatshed to the southwest of the Government Wharf.
- 1904 The first school launch in Australia, 'Patonga', is commissioned as a conveyance for

- 1907 James Booth requests Warringah Council's permission "to erect a motor car shed in an excavation at Church Point."
- 1909 A Receiving Office for Mail opens on 1 January, in Booth's Store.
- 1909 "Church Point Estate" subdivision, originally the western portion of Oliver's Grant, is offered for Auction. The Auction excludes a small parcel of approximately 2 acres.
- 1911 With the enforcing of the Universal Saturday Half Holiday in Sydney, Church Point becomes an attractive place for tourists, day-trippers and weekenders. Church Point offers protected sandy beaches for bathing and boating and significant attractions for fishing.
- 1911 The Young family construct a concrete walled building later called 'Homesdale' when occupied by filmmaker, Peter Weir. (The building has been changed significantly in the late twentieth century however the core Federation period building fabric and garden plantings remain.)
- 1912 Steamships are regularly servicing Pittwater with cargo from Sydney. The service continues for over 25 years with steamships such as S.S. Erringhi and S.S.Kallawatta operating up until 1937.
- 1912 A section of Simpson's 23-acre property is subdivided into eight lots and advertised as The Church Point Terminus Estate. The house 'Melrose' is included in this subdivision.
- 1915 Philip Charley sells his property to Arthur Morris Simpson who runs the general store at Church Point. Simpson uses the land as a market garden.
- 1918 Thomas Albert Oliver, the son of William Oliver, is buried in the cemetery amongst numerous gravesites.
- 1920s Church Point is the terminus for the coaches from Manly. A milepost near the wharf bears the figure 13.
- 1923 Herbert Lionel Alford purchases several Lots of the 'Simpson's Garden Estate' which was originally notified for auction in 1921. The Auction Notice indicates a large house on Lot 7 which becomes known as 'The Green Frog' which is used as Tea Rooms and accommodation continuously up until c1958. The guest book contains the names of many distinguished visitors, both local and overseas. Mentioned in 1935 are Charles Kingsford Smith and Sir P.G. Taylor who flew with Smith. Taylor funded the Loquat Valley School at nearby Bayview.
- 1925 The Store and boatshed once kept by James Booth still stands.
- 1925 Herbert J. Fitzpatrick, an enthusiast yachtsman involved with the land subdivision of Scotland Island, gains a special lease of 18 perches below high water mark on the sandy shore to the east of the public wharf.
The old store beside the public wharf is to be replaced with a larger building.
- c1926 H.J. Fitzpatrick makes a pier development on the site of the special lease that has increased to 20 perches. The development includes a store, refreshment room, boatshed, garage and jetty.
- c1926 Reclaimed land exists between the Fitzpatrick Lease and the original road reserve R1475b-1603.
- 1928 Fitzpatrick's development is destroyed by fire with the loss of the general store and post office, tearooms and garage.
- 1929 Holger Jensen builds a Store on the site of Booth's Boatshed. This store is still in operation.

Activities at Church Point 1930 - present

- 1930 Electricity service is extended to Church Point from Narrabeen.
- 1930 The Pasadena Roadhouse is built on piles upon the Crown Land seabed by way of a Crown Lease. Charles Wymark's development consists of a store, cabaret, garage and boatshed in one large building.
- 1932 The 1872 church is demolished despite its historical associations with the Pittwater community and the burial ground.
- 1938 McCarrs Creek Road is constructed along McCarrs Creek and through the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park to join up with Mona Vale Road and the tourist road to Cottage Point. Men are employed on emergency relief works by the Public Works Dept as a Coronation Gift in the construction of McCarrs Creek Road.
- c1940 Area now known as Thomas Stephens Reserve is filled
- 1941 Land is acquired by Warringah Council for purposes of a public reservation known initially as Church Point Reserve - now Quarter Sessions Road Reserve.
- 1941 The Crown lease upon which the Pasadena stands is sold to Charles Wymark.
- 1960 The Pasadena is sold to John Hackett
- c1961 Infill of the sand flats surrounding the Pasadena commences.
- c1968 The Pasadena is remodeled.
- 1971 to present The Pasadena undergoes several changes of ownership

7.2 Burials at Church Point Cemetery

William Oliver 1805/82 – Donated 1-acre for a Church and graveyard.

Mary Oliver 1805 – 1870/9 – wife of William Oliver & mother of 14 children.

Lily Fahl 1887/88 - baby daughter of a local master mariner and storekeeper.

John Redmond c1815/88 – land owner at Church Point.

Jane Skillicorne 1816/91 – Spinster of Bayview.

Albert Turner 1848/92 – Farmer & fisherman, resident of Stokes Point.

Millie Austin 1820/96 – details unknown.

Frederick Chave 1831/98 – orchardist, owner of coastal vessel.

Alice Johnson 1877/98 – daughter of Charles Johnson after whom the Trig station is named.

Julius Frerichs c1841 – 1907- details unknown.

Rosamund Creagh 1913/15 - details unknown

Thomas Oliver 1843 – 1918 – son of William Oliver.

7.3 Names Associated with Church Point

William Baker – one of seven trustees of the Church acre

George McIntosh – one of seven trustees of the Church acre

James Jones – one of seven trustees of the Church acre

John Alderton – one of seven trustees of the Church acre

William Henry McKeown – one of seven trustees of the Church acre

James Booth –builder of first boatshed, store and garage at Church Point

Alfred Burton – owner of a boatshed at Church Point

Holger Jensen – manager and later owner of a store / boatshed at Church Point

Herbert Fitzpatrick – owner of a store at Church Point and a developer of Scotland Island.

Charles Frederick Wymark – developer of the Pasadena Roadhouse.

Major Philip Charley –owner of 'Melrose' and surrounding estate.

Arthur Simpson – storekeeper and postmaster at Church Point. Also owner of land in the east prior to sub-division.

Patrick Duffy – owner of a small parcel of land in the western subdivision

Sir Henry Parkes 1815 – 1896 'Father of Federation' & visitor to the school.

Jonathon Ireland - owner of a small parcel of land in the western subdivision

Dr Walter Hugh Tibbitts – owner of land at Church Point and involved in the deputation for a Public Wharf at Church Point.

Samuel Morrison – long-term schoolmaster of schools at Church Point.

Herbert Lionel Alford - owner of 'The Green Frog' guesthouse.

The Young Family - The family of the former John Young and his son George Young are associated with lot 5 of the western subdivision and with the construction of a concrete walled building in 1911 which later became known as 'Homesdale'.

7.4 Images



Fig17: Extract from Govt. Printing Office Photo, Panorama of Lovett's Bay, October 1899 (State Library NSW)



Fig 18: House - Rostrevor 1895 (Pittwater Image Library)



Fig19: Church Point wharf c1902 (State Library NSW)



Fig 20: Church Point Wharf c1909 (Warringah Library Services WLS)



Fig 21: Bay View Road Church Point c1910 (WLS)



Fig 22: Simpson's House ('Melrose') & Boatshed 1912 (State Library NSW)



Fig 23: The Green Frog 1912



Fig 24: Aerial view of Church Point 1960 (WLS)