



Hunter's Hill Trust Journal

Volume VII No.2

OPEN SPACE AND ARMY PARKING

Clarke's Point

Professor R. Martin, the Trust's nominee on Hunter's Hill Council's Clarke's Point Advisory Committee, reports that the first steps towards the development of Clarke's Point as a reserve have been considered by the Advisory Committee and that action is proposed by Council this year.

In 1973, the State Government responded to representations from the Hunter's Hill Trust and residents, the National Trust and other organisations and resumed the harbour foreshore area in Woolwich known as Clarke's Point. On 10th June, 1976, the N.S.W. Planning and Environment Commission placed the land under the care, control and management of Hunter's Hill Council for use **only** as a public park, public reserve or public recreation area for passive recreational purposes (Government Gazette, 30/7/76).

For many years now this splendid harbour foreshore land has been neglected, strewn with debris, and has been fenced off and unavailable to the public. The proposed work by Council will change all this and make Clarke's Point an accessible and pleasant place for public enjoyment.

Council's immediate plans are to remove the debris and old concrete blocks from the site, stabilise the sea wall, grade and drain some of the land, plant grass and suitable trees and shrubs, provide a water supply and provide access for pedestrians — not cars or bikes. This will be the first step towards making a fine harbourside reserve.

The problem of car parking on and around Clarke's Point remains a problem that has yet to be solved. Until the present, the Army has been using a section of the Clarke's Point reserve as a car park. The Hunter's Hill Trust understands that, while originally the Planning and Environment Commission agreed to the temporary use of the site for car parking purposes, it subsequently notified the Army that the use of the area for car parking was to cease. Council, we understand, has also been requested by the Commission to ensure that the area is not used for car parking. The Trust is also informed that the Commission has given its assurance that the land will not be permitted to be developed for purposes other than those specified in the gazettal notice and that its approval must be obtained before any building or structure is erected on the land.

The Mayor, Alderman Landa, advises that the Army has recently sought to exchange a portion of land adjacent to Margaret Street for a portion of the Clarke's Point reserve so that it may continue to provide car parking for Army personnel (Weekly Times, 3/5/78). The Trust is pleased to learn that Council has advised the Army that it has no authority to enter into any such agreement!

The Trust strongly supports the Council in its stand on the car parking issue and it also congratulates Council on its plans to develop Clarke's Point as a foreshore reserve. It is the Trust's hope that Council will continue to plant suitable native flora and do all it can to ensure its use as passive open space.

Proposed Second Boat Launching Ramp

The proposal to construct a second boat launching ramp and **parking space for about sixty cars** and trailers at Margaret Street, Woolwich (also referred to by the Mayor in the Weekly Times 3/5/78), is a proposal emanating from the department of Public Works and supported by the Army.

The Trust understands that petitions from more than a hundred local residents have been received by Council. These petitions have all voiced their strong objection to the proposal. Council, in unequivocally opposing the proposal, is presumably in agreement with the local residents that such a development would seriously prejudice the residential character of the area and that it would create intolerable local traffic problems. The Trust supports Council in its move to prevent this objectionable development which, if permitted, would seriously damage the peace of Hunter's Hill.

see inside . . .

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 24th
new series RESTORATION & RENOVATION
VILLA MARIA HISTORY

RESTORATION AND RENOVATION

Satisfying the Streetscape

In any historic district, each building either reinforces or detracts from the consistency of the streetscape. For example, it is the overall consistency of the buildings, materials, trees and stone walls which generates the significant character so evident in Hunter's Hill.

Consequently, when we need to modify this environment with new or altered buildings, the most important civic responsibility we have is to maintain this consistency, this public expectation.

In this context it is much harder to see what makes a building successful than what makes it unsuccessful. Most people can call to mind local buildings, and sometimes groups of buildings, which don't generate a familiar response in terms of the "atmosphere" of Hunter's Hill.

There are two aspects to be dealt with here; the first is to know **what** one needs to be consistent with, and this can generally be described as a particular historic architectural style. The second aspect is to identify the individual **components** that make up that style, and which need to be matched for consistency to be publicly recognised as part of that style.

The bulk of old houses in Hunter's Hill fall into the following historic categories:

Regency	1825-1850
Victorian	1850-1880
High Victorian	1870-1890
Federation	1890-1914



St. Ives, Crescent Street, Hunter's Hill. Typical Victorian Gothic, 1861. Note the roof profile.

The earliest of these styles had distinctively French and Italian influences and progressively incorporated the then current vernacular for verandahs.



Kyarra, Madeline Street. The slate roof and cast iron balustrade were typical of the High Victorian period.

Howard Tanner and Phillip Cox offer a detailed analysis of each of these styles in their excellent book, "Restoring Old Australian Houses and Buildings" — a must for any restorer.

The first characteristic of consistency of architectural style is usually the **profile** of the building. This is where perception begins, where the shape is perceived. Consequently the **roof form and pitch** need to match the appropriate style or period of the building. All aspects of the roof form need to be consistent, such as hips, gables, projections, eaves, gutters, chimneys, etc.

Another characteristic relating to the profile of a building are the **trees and landscaping**. Not only do they affect the outline shape of the building against the sky, but they contribute to the qualities of mystery or openness.

The basic shape, or massing, of the building obviously affects its profile. Compare, for example, the profile of a contemporary split-level project house with St. Ives in Crescent Street. Our initial expectations of a Regency or Victorian building would, quickly and clearly, not be met by the profile and massing of the project house.

The next level of expectation for visual compatibility is colour, then solid-to-void ratio, rhythm, texture, pattern, and so on.

The significance of each of these aspects is that they focus progressively down to the detailed characteristics of each building style.

Roof and building forms and shapes, material selection, number and proportion of windows and doors, colour selection and column spacings are all the practical outcomes of these factors, and these will be discussed in more detail in the next issue.

THE CHURCH INSPECTION

On April 30th, the Trust held a Church Inspection, and following churches were opened:

Villa Maria — Father Fingleton; St. Joseph's College — Brother Henry; St. Mark's Church — Canon Sherlock;
All Saints' Church — Canon Sherlock; Congregational Church — Mr. Bristow.

The Hunter's Hill Trust would like to express its appreciation of the generosity of these churches and their leaders in sharing the beauty and the history of religious institutions which have contributed so much to the character of Hunter's Hill. It was an ecumenical Sunday, indeed.

A patchwork exhibition was also on view, provided by Joyce Wood and her dedicated band of workers. People came from country areas to see the patchwork, which was magnificent, and found themselves transported into the 1880's and early church history in Hunter's Hill.

The JOURNAL here reprints the information on Villa Maria from the brochure which was given to Inspection guests. Histories of the other churches will be reprinted in future JOURNALS.

Most early settlements arose around a church, and in Hunter's Hill this happened in a most unusual way. Among the French settlers, there was a second and distinct group, the Marist Fathers, and it is with their influence in Hunter's Hill that the recent "Church Inspection" concerned itself first.

VILLA MARIA

In April, 1835, the Marist Fathers operating missions in the southwest Pacific looked for what we might describe as an 'R and R' establishment for the recuperation of their missionaries. After a four month voyage, during which they called at St. Helena and brought with them the pines standing in the area, Fathers Freydier, Dubreuil and Rocher arrived in Sydney. For some years they lived in Woolloomooloo but in 1847 purchased from Thomas Stubbs his property Longwood which they re-named Villa Maria. To this they added a house and a small chapel (now demolished). In this first chapel, the body of Peter Chanel, killed on Futuna Island (and later canonised — the Church of St. Peter Chanel in Futuna Street is named after him) is said to have rested on its way back to France.

This property they exchanged in 1835 with Thomas Salter, who again named it The Priory, and as such it stands today in the grounds of Gladesville Hospital and may be seen from Salter Street.

Meanwhile, the Fathers had moved to Salter's property, where there was a large stone quarry. To these fifteen acres they later added another eighteen. This became their permanent home. Operating from The Priory, the Fathers laid out and planted gardens and vineyards and began work on their new establishment. Their first building at Villa Maria was a little hexagonal wooden chapel of St. Joseph; this is now replaced by a small stone chapel which houses a statue of St. Joseph, a relic from the first, ill-fated Marist endeavour on Woodlark Island. The Monastery was begun at the initiative of Father Rocher on the plans of Weaver and Kemp, under the supervision of Father Joly — a beautiful building in cream sandstone of two main wings joined by a deep arched verandah — and was blessed and opened in 1864 by Bishop Elloy of Samoa.

In 1867, the foundation stone was laid for Villa Maria Church, the Church of the Holy Name of Mary. Within the cavity of this stone, sunk into the foundations and not visible, is a bottle containing a Latin inscription which presents a potted history of the time:

"In the name of the Lord and under the patronage of the Blessed Mary Immaculate and St. Joseph, Pius IX being Supreme Pontiff, Victoria gloriously reigning over the British Empire, his Excellency Sir John Young, Bart.,

the Governor of the Colony, the Most Rev. Julius Favre being Superior General of the Marist Society, and the Very Rev. Francis Victor Pupinel Superior of this house and Visitor-General of the Marist Missionaries of Oceania, his Grace the Most Illustrious and most Rev. John Bede Polding, Archbishop of Sydney, Count of the Holy Roman Empire and Assistant Prelate of the Pontifical Throne, happily laid this first stone, amidst a great concourse of clergy and people, under the title and upon the festival day of the most Holy Name of Mary, B.V."

The principal architect and supervisor of the construction of the Church was Father Claude Marie Joly, S.M., born in France in 1830 and arriving at Villa Maria in 1858. Father Rocher was not to see the beginning of the Church; he sailed from Sydney four days after the Monastery was opened. The Church was not blessed and dedicated till after the first Vatican Council, on February 12, 1871, by Bishop Elloy, but it was sufficiently advanced for a marriage to be celebrated in 1868; the statue of St. Peter above the front entrance was erected in 1869 to mark the opening of the Vatican Council. During 1903-4, the Church was extended without altering its character, as a memorial to Father Z. Muraire, Parish priest for thirty-nine years; possibly at this time also, the sanctuary was enlarged and the marble altar rails installed. The stained glass windows of the sanctuary and on each side of the transept date from the building of the Church, but those in the nave are slightly later; the ones destined originally for the nave having been lost at sea on the "Walter Hood". The main marble altar was erected in 1890.



The Marist Fathers have left their mark on our map. In 1875, the Hunter's Hill Council passed a resolution naming the area of Tarban Creek, Villa Maria; their tracks, bearing the names they gave — Mary, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Futuna — are the streets of today.

TRUST ACTIVITIES

COMPANION VOLUME TO "OLD BUILDINGS OF HUNTER'S HILL"

The Committee of the Hunter's Hill Trust is considering compiling a second book, focussing on the people of early Hunter's Hill. A cadre of volunteers armed with cassette recorders will visit elderly residents who are willing to recount their and their parents' memories of what Hunter's Hill was like long ago. This, plus more academic research, should provide a comprehensive social history of the area.

Anyone who would like to help, either by contributing memories or technical skills, is urged to contact Alice Oppen (89 5175).

Additional information on old buildings is still coming in, much of it from people who have read "Old Buildings" of Hunter's Hill" and had their memories jogged. A 'correction copy' is being kept, and the Trust is most grateful for any information (telephone 89 5175 or write to P.O. Box 85).

RICHARD JARMAN'S COTTAGE FOUND

The block bounded by Alexandra, Ferdinand, Madeline and Mount Streets was sold by Dider Joubert to Richard Jarman in 1856. Jarman's cottage appeared in the rate book of 1861 and on a map in 1862. In 1878, Felix Cullen bought the block, and his house was in the position occupied by Jarman's cottage.

Present owners, in removing timber for renovation, found that the foundation of the northeast room were very much more primitive and that there were outside vents leading from this room to the central hallway. The discovery of a well under the south-west quarter of the house is additional evidence that Felix Cullen added three rooms and a hall to Jarman's cottage. Jarman's fireplace will be restored.

THE TOWN HALL

The Hunter's Hill Trust was sent a copy of the preliminary plans for the Town Hall. We have been assured that the stone facade and general appearance of the building as part of the streetscape will be retained. We have written to Hunter's Hill Council expressing appreciation for the information and assuring Council of our continuing interest.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on May 24th at the Villa Maria Hall in Gladesville Road.

The evening will begin with drinks served at 6:30, and dinner at 7:00. Members wishing to bring a contribution of food are invited to telephone 89 2035 or 89 5175. There is no set charge for the dinner, but donations will be welcome. R.S.V.P. 89 2035.

Annual elections will be held, and Trust members are reminded that memberships must be up to date before members are eligible to vote. Memberships may be renewed at the door.

Professor Frank Talbot, environmental specialist at Macquarie University, will be the guest speaker. His subject will be the Lane Cove River.

THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

Mr. Justice Hope has been appointed chairman of the Heritage Council of New South Wales. Mr Justice Hope was chairman of the Committee of Inquiry into the National Estate, and spoke at an Annual General Meeting of the Hunter's Hill Trust on this subject several years ago.

Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr. Paul Landa, has also announced the appointment of the ten other members of the Council: Mr. John Morris, Director of the National Trust (N.S.W.) of Australia; Professor Kenneth Cable, Associate Professor of History, University of Sydney; Mr. Janes Colman, President of the Royal Australian Planning Institute (N.S.W.); Mr. S. Vaughan, Secretary of the Operative Painters' and Decorators' Union, Councillor Michael Addison, Councillor of Sutherland Shire Council; Mr. Robert Nichols, Solicitor; Mr. Nigel Ashton, Chairman of the N.S.W. Historic Buildings and Sites Advisory Committee; Mr D. A. Johnstone, Director of National Parks and Wildlife Service; Mr. J. W. Thompson, N.S.W. Government Architect; Mr. G. P. Webber, Commissioner of the N.S.W. Planning and Environment Commission.

The Hunter's Hill Trust wishes the Héritage Council strength in its efforts to resist the erosion of the best of our past, wisdom in selecting battle areas, and government backing against inimical progress.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name Telephone

Address Postcode

Willing to help with.....

Type of Membership: Single - \$2.00
Family - \$4.00
Pensioner \$1.00
Youth - \$1.00

*The Hunters Hill Trust,
Box 85, Hunter's Hill, 2110*

*The Trust Centre
The Hunter's Hill Gallery*