

2.3.2 Key Historical Themes

2.3.2.1	Theme:	
National:	State:	Local:
Building settlements, towns and cities	Land Tenure; Accommodation Towns, Suburbs and Villages;	Activities and processes for identifying forms of ownership and occupancy of land and water, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal; Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation. Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages;
First land grants were in 1794, when the district was given the name Meadow Bank. A grant of 20 acres that year was made to Ann Thorn (later Shepherd, following her marriage to fellow emancipist, James Shepherd). The Shepherds developed a farm and ultimately came to own 1500 acres in the area. Son, Isaac Shepherd, built a two-story villa called Helenie around 1840. The Shepherds' estate was subdivided in the 1870s, and general improvements in transport and communication between the district and the rest of Sydney led to growth in the 1880s. The railway and subsequent Meadowbank subdivision brought professionals to the area and some residential development. Nancarrow's estate, formerly occupying the study area and home to local cultivators the Nancarrows, was formerly subdivided and sold in lots in 1912 and 1913. However, sales were poor, and the development of the area as a predominantly residential area faltered. The growth of small manufacturing enterprises in its place set the course for the area to become primarily commercial and industrial in nature.		

Key Messages:

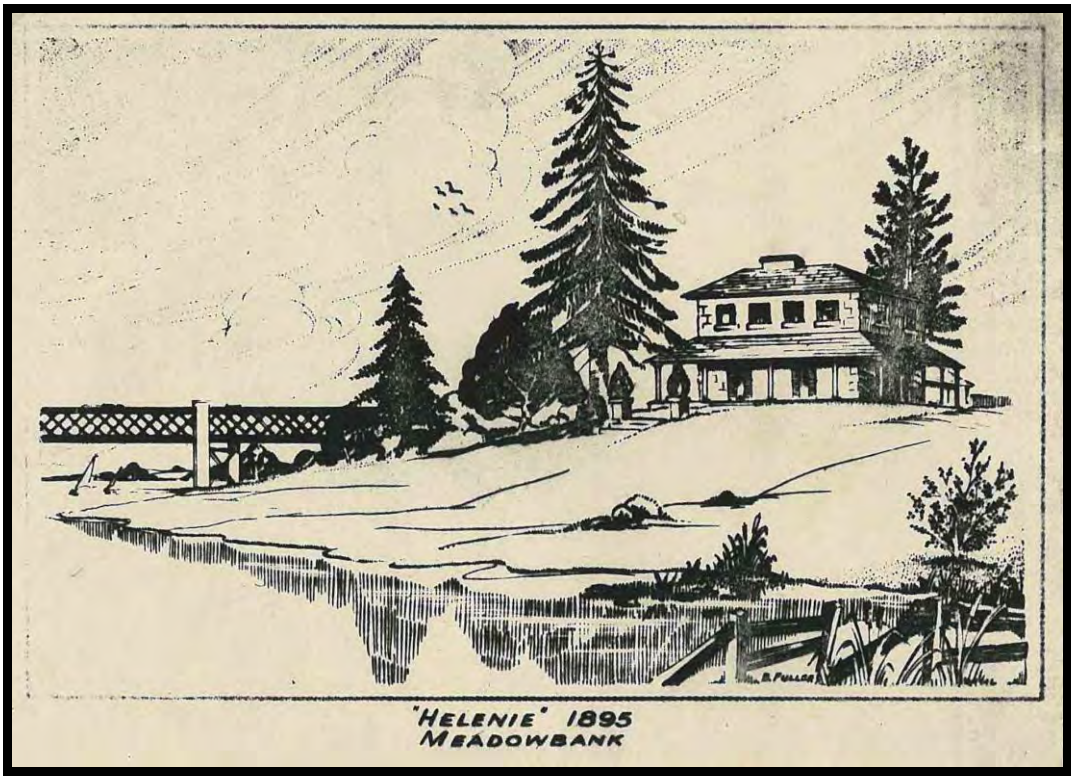


Figure 11: Isaac Shepherd's 'Helenie'.
Source: Local Studies and Family History Library, City of Ryde

The story of the subdivision of farms into residential lots; the failure of residential development and subsequent rise in commercial and industrial development in the area.



Figure 12: Shepherd's original residence. Source: Royal Australian Historical Society, Acc No.020715

2.3.2.2	Theme:	
National:	State:	Local:
Developing local, regional and national economies	Agriculture; Commerce; Fishing;	Activities relating to the cultivation and rearing of plant and animal species, usually for commercial purposes, can include aquaculture; Activities relating to the buying, selling and exchanging goods and services; and activities associated with the manufacture, production and distribution of goods; Activities associated with gathering, producing, distributing and consuming resources from aquatic environments useful to humans;

Shepherds Bay has strong associations with agricultural and fishing practices in the early part of the 19th century. A variety of fruits, including grapes and oranges especially, were grown in the area and shipped down the Parramatta River to markets in Sydney. Hops were also grown, spawning a local brewing industry, and fishing and oyster gathering took place here. Remnants of Nancarrow's Wharf remain, from which produce would have been loaded into vessels.

Key Messages:

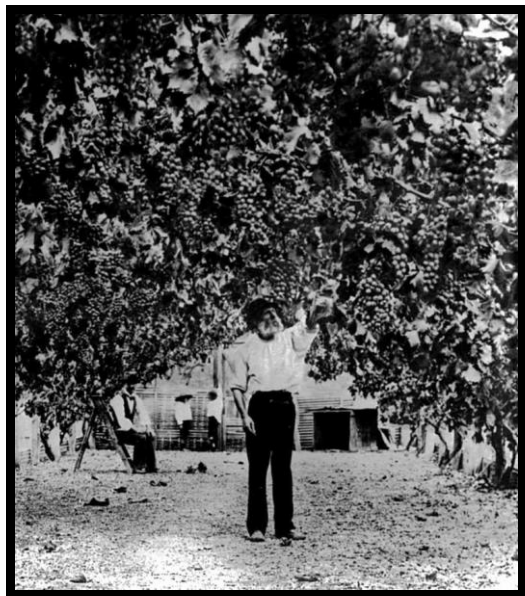


Figure 13: Michael Nancarrow and family in their trellised vineyard at Riverview, Ryde 1899 (Source: Ryde Local Studies and Family History Library)

Establishment of the area for the growing of fruit crops, including grapes, oranges, hops;
The harvesting of oysters, catching of fish;
Local dairies produced milk and butter;
The shipment of produce down the river for sale in Sydney markets



Figure 14: Nancarrow's Wharf, Parramatta River, around 1899; Bert and Jack Nancarrow, younger sons of Michael and Margaret Nancarrow, with the river - and the world - at their feet. (Source: "Pictorial History Ryde" written by Megan Martin, published by Kingsclear Books.)

Nancarrow's Wharf, around 1899. The wharf would have been used for the loading of produce from the Nancarrow's orchards onto boats for transport to the city. The stone rubble that was found at Meadowbank may be the remnants of this wharf.

2.3.2.3	Theme:	
National:	State:	Local:
Developing local, regional and national economies	Transport	Activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another, and systems for the provision of such movements.

1817 passage of the Great North Rd across the Parramatta River achieved, but dependent upon the punt at Bedlam. By the 1850s, the Parramatta River itself became the most reliable and utilised means of transport. Early steamships of the Parramatta River Steamship Company conveyed passengers into the city on a daily basis. 1886 rail crossing of the Parramatta River at Meadowbank. The railway and resulting subdivisions of land brought a new class of professionals to the area.

Key Messages:

The inadequacy of the Bedlam Punt.

The story of steamship transport of passengers into the city. The effect of the railway upon subdivision of land and arrival of new professional classes in the area.

The route across the river of the former Bedlam punt, with the new road bridge to the east.



Figure 15: Meadowbank-Rhodes Railway Bridge, 1884 (Source: Ryde Local Studies and Family History Library)



Figure 16: Early 1900s postcard of the Meadowbank-Rhodes Railway Bridge, with steamship carrying passengers to the city. (Source: Local Studies Collection, City of Canada Bay Library Services)

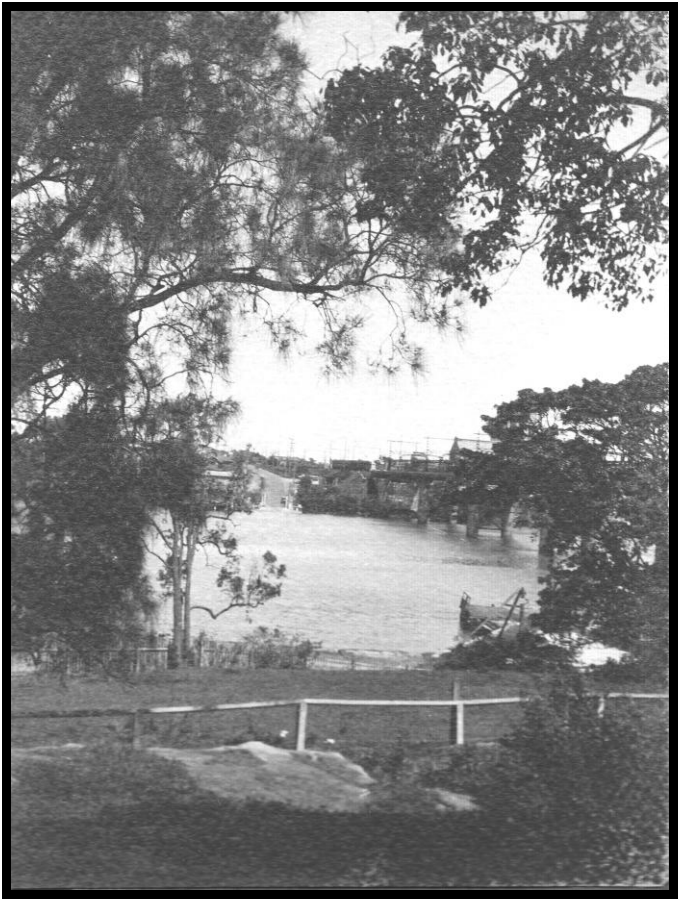


Figure 17: The road bridge and Bedlam Punt at Meadowbank. (Source: Royal Australian Historical Society)

2.3.2.4	Theme:	
National:	State:	Local:
Developing local, regional and national economies	Industry; Technology	Activities associated with the manufacture, production and distribution of goods; Activities and processes associated with the knowledge or use of mechanical arts and applied sciences;

Establishment of the Meadowbank Manufacturing Company in 1890, manufacturing mostly agricultural machinery and implements, but later tramcars and railway rolling stock. During World War II, the Docks Service Training Company trained students in the development of dock handling skills. Establishment of Automatic Totalisators Limited factory in the area in 1946-7 marked the beginning of a period where small to large scale manufacturing companies established factories in the area, including Plesseys Aust. Ltd and Hoover Aust. Pty Ltd. The Automatic Totalisator was an ingenious device that counted wagered money and added, divided and integrated to provide a continual computation of racecourse odds, and became installed at racecourses all over the world. The brain-child of George Alfred Julius, it was a piece of technology that was the pre-cursor to the modern computer.

Key Messages:



Figure 18: The above 3 images are the Manufacture of agricultural goods and equipment by the Meadowbank Manufacturing Company. (Source: TO BE INSERTED)

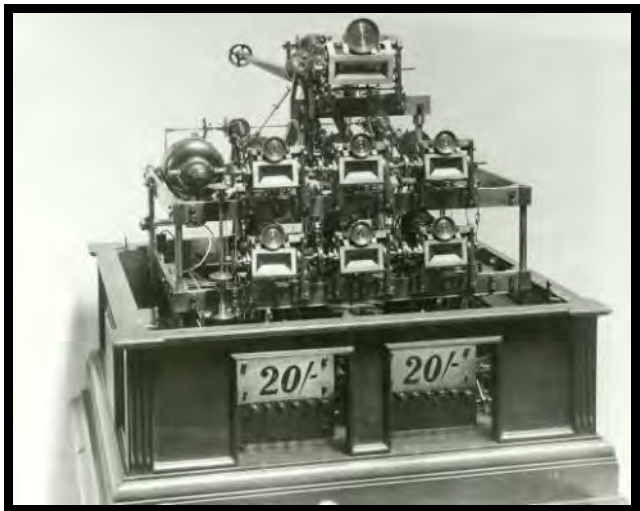


Figure 19: The automatic totalisator, designed by George Alfred Julius, installed at racecourses worldwide and manufactured at the Automatic Totalisator Limited factory in Nancarrow Avenue. (Source: L.Barrett and M.Connell, ‘An unlikely history of Australian Computing: the reign of the Totalisator’, *The Rutherford Journal*, Vol.2, 2006-07)



Figure 20: Establishment of manufacturing industries, such as Automatic Totalisator Limited, Hoover Australia, Plesseys Australia. Source: State Library of NSW Australian Photographic Agency -26871)

2.3.2.5	Theme:	
National:	State:	Local:
Working	Labour	Activities associated with work practices
The growth of industry in the area resulted in a growing number of houses being occupied by company employees. Many skilled and semi-skilled labour positions were created through the expansion of manufacturing companies in the area		
Key Messages:		



Figure 21: Workers in the Automatic Totalisator Limited factory. (Source: L.Barrett and M.Connell, ‘An unlikely history of Australian Computing: the reign of the Totalisator’, *The Rutherford Journal*, Vol.2, 2006-07)

Labour engaged at Automatic Totalisator Limited factory
Labour trained in the Dock Services Training facility during the 1940s



Figure 22: A final check before packing and despatch of automatic turnstiles, Automatic Totalisators Limited factory, Meadowbank..
(Source: Val Foreman Photography, National Archives of Australia, naa12.naa.gov.au/scripts/PhotoSearchItemDetail.asp?M=0&B=9705186&SE=1, accessed 22.7.2010)



Figure 23: Trainees of the Dock Services Training Facility, Meadowbank, 1942.
(Source: Australian War Memorial - 065606)

2.3.2.6	Theme:	
National:	State:	Local:
Developing Australia's cultural life	Creative Endeavour;	Activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works; and or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena, and/or environments that have inspired such creative activities;

Although scheduled for demolition in the redevelopment of the site, the former Automatic Totalisator factory at 37 Nancarrow Ave represents a good example of a mid-20th century modernist factory building, and the interpretation of its architectural form is encouraged.

Key Messages:



Figure 24: Detail of the former Automatic Totalisator factory. (Source: Rappoport Pty Ltd)

Automatic Totalisator Limited factory was designed on horizontal lines, with clean rendered finishes painted cream. Curved glass and steel characteristic of modernist designs of the period.

Automatic Totalisator Limited factory was a modernist building designed by the architects, Dennis and Odling.



Figure 25: The Automatic Totalisator factory at Nancarrow Ave, 1951. (Source: Government Printing Office)



Figure 26: Detail of the former Automatic Totalisator factory. (Source: Rappoport Pty Ltd)


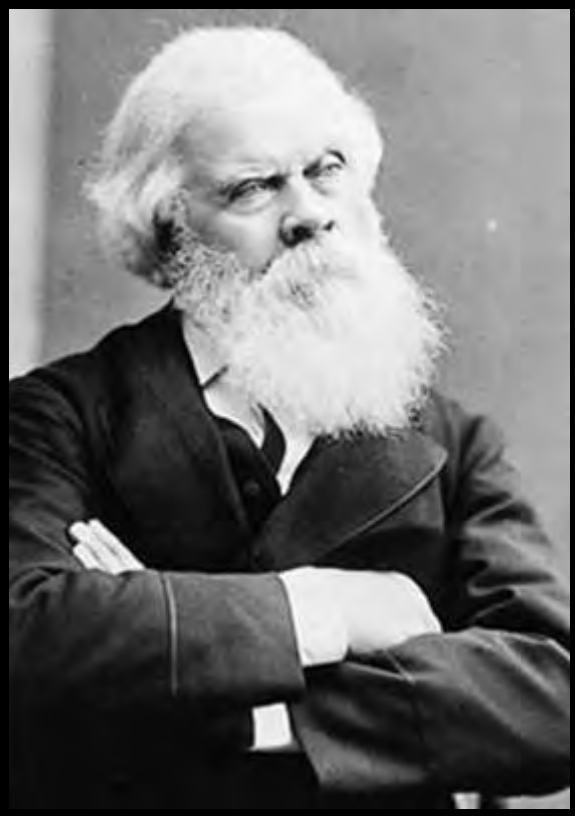

2.3.2.4	Theme:	
National:	State:	Local:
Developing Australia's cultural life	Leisure; Sport	Activities associated with recreation and relaxation; Activities associated with organized recreational and health promotional activities.

Rowing was a significant pastime on the Parramatta River from the middle of the nineteenth century. By the 1850s the annual Anniversary Regatta, held on 26 January on the Parramatta River, was a major event in Sydney's sporting calendar. From the 1850s regular regattas were held on the Parramatta River, making the river and its surrounding districts the venue for major rowing events. In the 1860s the river was the venue for major inter-colonial rowing races and from 1871 it became a venue for inter-varsity races. A championship rowing course was defined on the river, beginning at Charity Point, near Isaac Shepherd's house, Helenie, and finishing at a group of three rocks called The Brothers at Henley. The real heyday of the river as a sporting venue, however, began in 1877, when the first contest to be held in Australia for the title of Champion Sculler of the World was held there. The *Illustrated Sydney News* estimated that between 60,000 and 70,000 people witnessed the race. In August 1884 a Dapto sculler, Bill Beach challenged the then world champion, Canadian Edward Hanlan. The contest was witnessed by about 100,000 spectators including the passengers of over 60 steamers and at least 500 small boats. When Beach was victorious the cheers from the Gladesville side of the river were echoed from the Abbotsford side. Oarsmen like Beach became the objects of extravagant hero worship. Later, in the 1950s and '60s, the building and sailing of small skiffs was a popular pastime on the banks of Shepherds Bay.

- Key Messages:
- Recreational and competitive rowing in the mid-late 19th century
 - The recreational building and sailing of small skiffs in the mid-20th century



Figure 27: Model skiff building and racing in the 1950s. (Source: TO BE INSERTED)

2.3.2.7	Theme:	
National:	State:	Local:
Marking the phases of life	Persons	Activities of, and associated with, identifiable individuals, families and communal groups
<p>The area has strong associations with the Shepherd family. A grant of 20 acres was made to Ann Thorn (later Shepherd, following her marriage to fellow emancipist, James Shepherd) in 1794. The Shepherds developed a farm and ultimately came to own 1500 acres in the area. Son, Isaac Shepherd, built a two-story villa called 'Helenie' around 1840. 'Helenie' at one point was once occupied by Henry Parkes.</p> <p>George Alfred Julius , engineer and inventor of the automatic totalisator, was a highly prominent individual in Australia during the first half of the twentieth century. A man of extraordinary genius, his clients included the Commonwealth and State governments. He was president of the Engineering Association of New South Wales from 1910-13; president of the Electrical Association of Australia in 1917-18; a founder of the Institution of Engineers, Australia; he received the Peter Nicol memorial medal in 1927; fostered the formation of the Australian Commonwealth Engineering Standards between 1929-39; and president of the Australian National Research Council between 1932 and 1937.</p>		
Key Messages:		
The story of the Shepherd and Nancarrow families. Henry Parkes.		
 <p>Figure 28: Michael Nancarrow and family in their trellised vineyard at Riverview, Ryde 1899. Photograph taken by Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Source: Ryde Local Studies and Family History Library)</p>	 <p>Figure 29: Henry Parkes, who resided for a while in 'Helenie', built by Isaac Shepherd. (Source: www.australiantales.com)</p>	 <p>Figure 30: George Alfred Julius, inventor, engineer and significant contributor to Australian society. (Source: CSIRO, www.csiro.au)</p>

3.0 SITE INVENTORY AND AUDIENCE

3.1 The Circumstances of the Existing Site

The study area and location of Shepherds Bay is described in Section 1.1 above. The site is subject to an application for approval for Concept Development and Construction of Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the subject lands fronting Shepherds Bay for the purposes of residential, open space and stormwater.

The site contains the former factory of the Automatic Totalisator Limited Company at 37 Nancarrow Rd, Meadowbank. This building is listed as an item of local heritage significance in Schedule 5 of the Ryde Local Environment Plan 2010, but will be demolished if the development application is approved and works proceed as a Major Project under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979.

Currently, the area is characterized by small or medium-sized obsolete or operating commercial, industrial or warehouse premises of varying style.

There are multiple north-south and east-west access routes through the site, namely Nancarrow Avenue, Hamilton Crescent West, Rothesay Avenue, Belmore St, Parsonage St, Gale St, Well St and Porter St. A spatial inter-connection is proposed between the proposed residential development and the existing recent residential redevelopments to the east and west of the site.

3.2 Description of Proposed Development

There are currently two options proposed for the redevelopment of the site, as shown in Figures 31 and 32. The preliminary environmental assessment prepared by PLACE Design Group for Robertson Marks Architects describes the development proposals thus:

‘Preliminary Development Concept - Options 1 and 2’

This development concept explores the construction of a number of ‘perimeter’ style residential developments, with buildings oriented around central landscaped areas, while maximizing the number of dwellings afforded views to the waters of Shepherds Bay and sunlight access.

It also introduces the possibility of additional north south pedestrian, cycle and vehicular links between Constitution Road and the foreshore.

It also incorporates the opening up of additional view corridors to the water from Constitution Road and beyond. The concept also makes provision for the significant area wide stormwater management upgrade works required.’ Perhaps the most important aspect of this development concept is its objective to refocus future development on a revitalised, people friendly, active foreshore precinct.’

The Interpretation Strategy proposes a number of ideas including the revitalisation of the former Nancarrows Wharf and the use of materials drawn from the various historically characteristic materials such as timber, stone, steel, cement render and corrugated iron.



Figure 31: Map showing the study area. (Source: Robertson + Marks Architects, Meadowbank Shepherds Bay Urban Renewal Masterplan Project Application MP09_0216) November 2010

3.3 Audience

The people who have a special connection to Shepherds Bay are: the general public of the suburb of Meadowbank; former employees of the many commercial and industrial entities in the area; and the potential new residents and visitors to the proposed development at the subject site.

Currently the subject area is in a mostly degraded state. By redeveloping the area, and interpreting its history, there is the potential to increase the relevance of the area to the local community.

3.4 Interpretive Materials

Interpretive resources to hand include:

- Remnants of the 1899 Nancarrow Wharf;
- Sandstone walling to the mangrove stands in the bay, probably taken from the original wharf;
- Corrugated iron and roof ventilators from the existing industrial premises to the east of Gale St, (to be demolished).
- Historic photographs, land sale advertisements and archival records relating to the various key stages of the history of the subject area held at the national Library of Australia, the State Library of NSW, the Royal Australian Historical Society, the Local Studies Collection in the City of Canada Bay Library, and the local studies section of Ryde Library;
- Views from the site over the Parramatta River.

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4.0 PROPOSED INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

4.1 Key Messages – The Stories to Be Told

The key historic messages contained in the Historical Themes analysis in Section 2.3.2 help us to identify the fabric to be conserved and the stories to be told in order to interpret the part of Shepherds Bay subject to redevelopment and to enhance an understanding of this place. Many of the key messages under the various Historical Themes overlap and this helps to identify the pertinent stories. Storytelling is an important component of interpretation. Provided the account of the site is told in an informative and interesting manner, rather than conveying a lot of facts about the place, interpretation will be achieved which taps into the imagination of the audience.

Some of the stories which are derived from these key messages are as follows:

- The story of the early land ownerships, particularly of the Shepherd and Nancarrow families, and the subsequent establishment of commercial orchard crops, including grapes, oranges and hops;
- The story of early activities carried out on the shores of the Parramatta River at Shepherds Bay, including fishing, oyster catching and boat building.
- The story of the development of transport in the area, including the railway and steam ships, and the subsequent evolution of the suburb of Meadowbank
- The story of the former Automatic Totalisator factory, and other factories that followed, including Hoover Australia.
- The story of George Alfred Julius and his significant contribution to Australia.
- The history of rowing as a popular pastime in the area in the mid-late 19th century, and the development of the sport into organized regattas and competitions, culminating in the Champion Sculler of the World event in 1877.

4.2 Interpretation Strategy

Interpretation should engage the senses of the audience. Communicating the significance of the site should not be limited to merely providing facts and information. Thus interpretation of the site will relate also to matters such as the interpretation of some key architectural styles associated with the area, and the use of appropriate and associative materials. Nevertheless, to help to tell the stories outlined in Section 4.1, it would be appropriate to include some or all of them on the proposed interpretive media for the site.

The interpretation of the Shepherds Bay site could, if this Interpretation Strategy is approved, include (but not be limited to) the following:

Item	Element	Historical theme / Provenance	Interpretive Potential
4.2.1	Orcharding	The very earliest use of the subject site after European occupation is for that fruit growing (orcharding)	Orcharding as a landscape feature could be used in the landscape design for the proposed new development.
4.2.2	Foreshore	Nancarrow's Wharf Oyster harvesting Fishing Steamship transportation Recreational and competitive rowing Small skiff building and racing	Significant recreational and community benefit could be gained from construction of a boardwalk along the whole of the subject site's foreshore. This could be extended to a focal point through the construction of a boardwalk/jetty through the mangroves to interpret the remnants of the former 1899 Nancarrow's Wharf, terminating in a viewing platform for views up, down and across the Parramatta River, and back toward the north, providing a contextual framework for the proposed new residential development.
4.2.3	Boardwalk	Nancarrow's Wharf Early jetty alongside the Meadowbank- Rhodes railway bridge	Given the architecture of the existing waterfront in Meadowbank, it appears that the timber framed boardwalk is an identifiable theme within the historic landscape and therefore could be continued as an element into the place making of the proposed residential development on the subject site. This might find its way into the architecture of the intermediate spaces between building blocks. Instead of hard paved footpaths, the footpaths might be raised as boardwalks. This would also provide an opportunity to run services under the footpaths without having to bury them. This might also assist in post construction to services which are bound to translate into a cost benefit for the owner/ developer while satisfying an essential characteristic of the area.
4.2.4	Signage	Early residences Orchard crops Oyster harvesting Fishing Nancarrow's Wharf Steamship transportation Construction of the Meadowbank- Rhodes railway bridge to the west of the subject site. The failings of the Bedlam Punt. Construction of the road bridge to the east of the subject site. Development of industry - Meadowbank Manufacturing Company; Automatic Totalisator factory; Hoover Australia Recreational and competitive rowing Small skiff building and racing	Develop a common strategy throughout. Make use of historical indicators tapping into the essential themes identified in this report (as itemised to the left). Signage could be located not only along the public foreshore, but in the intermediate spaces between the proposed residential blocks.
4.2.5	Public Artwork	Small skiffs, fishing and oyster gathering activities, orchard cropping, turnstiles, totalisator machine (- precursor to	Administer a public art competition, open to local artists to create three separate innovative sculptures that are capable of celebrating and projecting the prominent historical themes identified within this report. A suggested budget of

Item	Element	Historical theme / Provenance	Interpretive Potential
		modern computer),agricultural machinery and ironmongery, vacuum cleaners, corrugated iron, factory roof ventilators and saw-tooth roof lines	\$25,000.00 each (including design, construction and installation) would be appropriate. The sculptures would be located in appropriate positions in the public foreshore area, selected footpaths and a central designated meeting place within the proposed scheme. These sculptures would assist in the interpretation of the historic richness of the site.
4.2.6	Historical Personages	Shepherd family Nancarrow family Henry Parkes George Julius	Incorporate images and text into signage. Potential exists for sculpture in line with the recommendation for public artwork
4.2.7	Factories	Automatic Totalisator Limited heritage listed factory Hoover Australia	The modernist lines of the Automatic Totalisator Limited heritage listed factory in Nancarrow Ave are a quintessential element of a style of architecture developed at that time, and could be interpreted in any new installation or building. Similarly the use of corrugated iron to interpret the once many factories constructed from this material on the subject site, and even the incorporation of the classic roof ventilators associated with the factory roofs, is encouraged.
4.2.8	Dock- handling	The training of personnel during World War II in the processes of dock handling	Incorporate images and text into signage. Potential exists for sculpture in line with the recommendation for public artwork
4.2.9	Waterside Leisure activities - boats, skiffs	The recreational and later competitive rowing activities on the Parramatta River on the banks of Shepherds Bay	Incorporate images and text into signage. Potential exists for sculpture in line with the recommendation for public artwork
4.2.10	Ironmongery - Meadowbank Manufacturers	The many and various types of agricultural machinery and ironmongery produced by the Meadowbank Manufacturing Company in the late 19th century.	Incorporate images and text into signage. Potential exists for sculpture in line with the recommendation for public artwork
4.2.11	Adding machines - Julius and TABtype.	The automatic totalisator machine, turnstiles, telecommunications devices all produced by George Julius' Automatic Totalisator Limited company in the Nancarrow Ave factory	Incorporate images and text into signage. Potential exists for sculpture in line with the recommendation for public artwork
4.2.12	Reclaimed materials		Use of reclaimed hardwood timbers to form additional informal seating at regular intervals along the foreshore walk; Construction of small scale facilities, such as a picnic/barbeque area and public conveniences, which could be styled to interpret the lines of the heritage listed former Automatic Totalisator factory, or even use reclaimed corrugated iron to interpret the former 'tin-shed' factories that once characterised the area;

4.3 PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVAL RECORDING

A comprehensive photographic archival recording of the subject site should be carried out prior to demolition of any of the structures in accordance with the New South Wales Department of Planning Heritage Branch's guidelines for Photographic Archival Recording

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