

centenary stonework program

2004 **PROGRAM** 2005
ACHIEVEMENTS



Stone acquired between 1999-2004, generally from building sites at Pyrmont and the City, stockpiled at Sandy Point.
Sufficient stone for 8-10 years of the Centenary Stonework Program's projects is held.



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Office of Public Works and Services - Department of Commerce
McKell Building 2-24 Rawson Place, Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: 02 9372 8526 Fax: 02 9372 8544 www.commerce.nsw.gov.au

editor - Ron Powell

contributors - Ron Powell, Vivian Sioutas, Catherine Macarthur, Milena Crawford, Angus Donald, Lucy Burke-Smith, Helen Andronis

graphic designer - Helen Andronis

printing - Salmat

cover image - Griffins Centennial Parklands

image above - Sandy Point stone stockpile

Initiatives, awards & media

Research

In 2004 - 2005 the Centenary Stonework Program continued the commitment to undertake research into a wide range of issues related to stone conservation.

University of Sydney researchers commenced investigation into the effects of salt on sandstone and the extent of penetration over time. Research continued into specific properties of certain sandstone with petrographic analysis and other tests being carried out on Appin Sandstone.

Stone Database Reference System

Following a decade of research into various properties of sandstone, the Department of Commerce has developed an electronic stone testing database reference collection based on over 100 research reports. Research reports have been collated and bound and incorporated into the Department of Commerce library.

Awards

The Centenary Stonework Team was awarded commendations at the National Trust Awards for the following works: conservation works at the Australian Museum, western pediment. Building 28 of the National Art School, external conservation works and internal refurbishment.

'SANDCASTLE' - Australian Museum film

A 27 minute film recording the Program's work in conserving the Museum's College Street pediment has been developed. The film was recorded on DVD format with English subtitles for the hearing impaired. The film was launched at the Australian Museum and

The Stone Institute of Australasia invited one of our conservation architects to deliver a technical presentation at the Designex held in Melbourne in April 2005. The presentation outlined the conservation approach of the Centenary Stonework Team and the stone selection process.

Sales of Yellowblock Sandstone

The Minister for Commerce's stockpile of yellowblock sandstone is predominantly used for projects under the Centenary Stonework Program.

Occasionally, the Minister has approved of sale of sandstone for non-government buildings that are considered to be of heritage significance in prominent locations in the public realm.

During the year, yellowblock was supplied for conservation work on:

- Sydney Town Hall
- Trades Hall
- Culwulla Chambers and Railway House (trachyte).



Images above left to right: Government House, Darlinghurst Court House, Sydney Observatory, Government House urn, Darlinghurst Court House

School Stone Safety Inspections

One of the responsibilities of the Centenary Stonework Program is to guard against the potential of any loose or dangerous stone posing a threat to public safety, particularly in NSW schools. Every year, funding is allocated to carrying out makesafe inspections and removal of unsafe elements.

This year the program funded the inspection of 95 metropolitan schools throughout Sydney. A report was prepared identifying the schools that required urgent 'makesafes', as the first stage of rectification works. Schools were also prioritised for possible minor works projects to significantly prolong the life of the building elements.

Makesafes were carried out and the documentation of the following schools was prepared for minor works:

- Marrickville Public School pediments and date stones (elevation, right)
- Cleveland Street Intensive English High School
- Dulwich High School
- Crown Street Public School
- Green Square Public School



Partnerships & joint ventures

The Program received a grant from The NSW Treasury of \$4.5M to undertake stone conservation work on state owned buildings occupied by Budget-dependent agencies.

Contributions were received from:

- Attorney General's Department — Darlinghurst and Singleton Courthouses.
- Department of Education and Training — Cleveland Street Intensive English High School.
- NSW Fire Brigades — Darlinghurst Fire Station
- National Parks and Wildlife Service — Fort Denison.
- Centennial Park — Jervis Avenue Gates and The Griffins.

ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

The Department of Commerce undertook a major project for RailCorp at Sydney Central Railway Station. It involved using Yellowblock Sandstone acquired by the Program, from the location of the original Saunders "paradise" quarry to ensure the best match of replacement stone to the original.

The project was valued at approximately \$1M and was funded by RailCorp.



Images above left to right: Australian Museum, Building 28 - National Art School, Australian Museum, Jervis Avenue Gates and a Griffin - Centennial Parklands, Central Station, Fort Denison.

Program Summary

I am pleased to report another successful year of the Centenary Stonework Program.

The Centenary Stonework Program is the Government's initiative to conserve the exteriors of state owned heritage sandstone structures.

During 2004/05, the Department of Commerce undertook stone conservation work on Sydney Hospital, Cleveland Street Intensive English High School, Darlinghurst Fire Station and court houses at Singleton and Darlinghurst. The program achieved full expenditure of its \$4.5 million allocation.

The Department of Commerce also successfully managed the maintenance of Parliament House and Government House ensuring efficient operation of those significant assets.

Michael Coutts-Trotter
Director-General
Department of Commerce

List of Projects

During 2004-05 conservation work was carried out on the following projects and information sheets are available.

Australian Museum	Marrickville Public School
Balmain Watchouse	Old Kings School
Bondi Public School	School Stone Safety
Chief Secretary's Building	Singleton Courthouse
Cleveland Street Intensive English High School	State Library of NSW
Darlinghurst Courthouse	Sydney Observatory
Darlinghurst Fire Station	Sydney Hospital
Government House	

Cleveland Street INTENSIVE ENGLISH High School

Cleveland Street Intensive English High School is predominantly a two-storey sandstone and masonry construction. The building complex contributes significantly to the heritage value of the precinct. The complex is being refurbished as a secondary intensive english language centre. The refurbishment works are funded through the Centenary Stonework Program to repair the dilapidated, deteriorating stone facades.

Cleveland Street High School, founded in 1856 in corrugated iron buildings is one of the earliest national schools in metropolitan Sydney, which has continued its function as a centre for public education.

The permanent buildings complex date from 1867 to the late 1960's. The range of building types demonstrate the historical development of the NSW public school system's architecture. The association of each of the buildings with their architect designers has historical significance.

In 2002 the Department of Education and Training included Cleveland Street Public School in the "Revitalisation of Inner Sydney Schools Program". The Centenary Stonework Program recognised the opportunity to optimise Treasury funds and carry out conservation works.

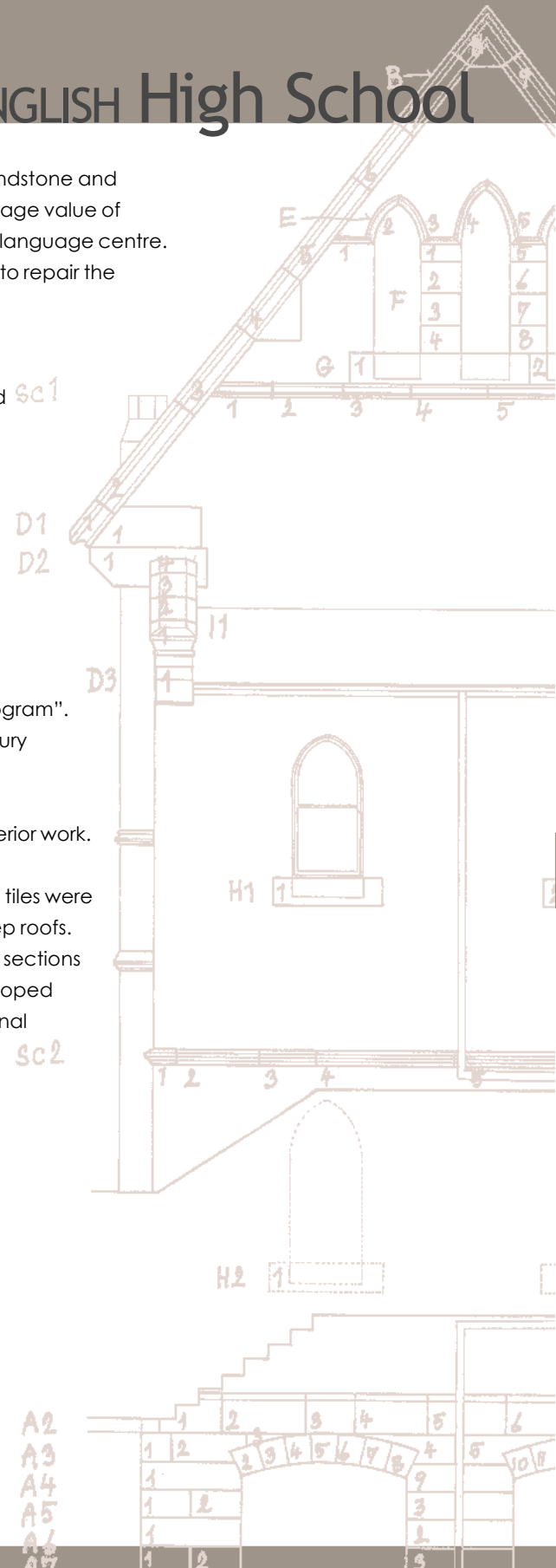
The Government Architect's Office prepared documents for the interior and exterior work.

The first concerns were to make the buildings watertight and safe. The concrete tiles were removed and replaced with corrugatedgalvanised iron to accentuate the steep roofs. The gables and chimneys were stabilised. The termites were treated and timber sections replaced. Windows were repaired and repainted. Colour schemes were developed for the internal spaces and the external elements following paint scrapes of original colour schemes.

Lead weatherings were re-instated and roof plumbing repaired. The works carried out by the Centenary Stonework Program were carried out to the 19th century building's which face Cleveland and Chalmers Streets.

Following thorough inspections by a heritage architect and stonemason, the works involved but were not limited to:

- Stonework replacement and indents
- Brick and stone repointing
- Cleaning to street elevations by the Facade Gommage method
- Repairs and repainting of external joinery
- Repairs to terracotta tiles and metalwork



All Images above: Cleveland Street Intensive English High School

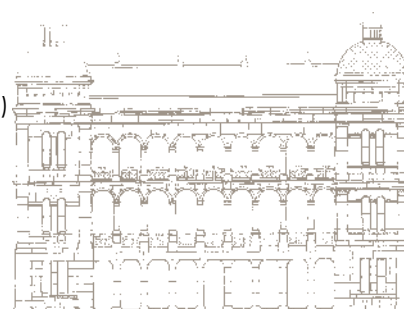
Sydney Hospital

Sydney Hospital is an integral component of a collection of important historical institutional buildings in Macquarie Street, Sydney. The four major sandstone buildings are similar; 3-4 stories high, finely crafted sandstone with over 90 carved heads of cupids and Victorian characters, set within decorative capitals and other architectural elements.

The last major works at Sydney Hospital were undertaken in the 1980s with the redevelopment of the hospital complex which included the construction of Sydney Eye Hospital building and the removal of intrusive structures around the historic buildings. Vulnerable sandstone elements, such as cornices and parapets have been 'madesafe' a number of times over the past 15 years, and deterioration has accelerated to a critical stage requiring repairs or replacement of these elements, as well as other maintenance to stonework.

Conservation works undertaken in 2004-2005 to South Block, South Elevation (work area 1a) are as follows:

- Stone replacement of the parapet, cornices and string courses
- Epoxy stone repairs
- New copper box gutter with lead returns
- New lead weatherings to cornice course and string course
- Painting windows and repairs to metal vents
- North block, east elevation and north west and south west towers (work area 7)
- Documentation of stone and associated repairs
- Stone processing and removal of stone - tower string courses
- Centre block, north elevation (work area 5)
- Documentation of stone and associated repairs
- Stone processing - string courses



Darlinghurst Firestation

Darlinghurst Fire Station was designed by the Government Architect, Walter Liberty Vernon and constructed in 1910-12 by builder, Conrad Harrs.

The building is designed in Federation Free style, a four storey building of complex massing, assymetrical in proportion and presenting a variety of different heights and sizes.

The building is constructed of red brick with stone dressing and ornamentation. The brickwork is a mixture of English Colonial and Stretcher bond.

The Darlinghurst Fire Station makes an invaluable contribution to the streetscape. It is also an outstanding example of Vernon's skill in dealing with an unusually shaped site, presenting a narrow face to the street convergence.

Conservation works undertaken in 2004-2005 included:

- Documentation and investigation of current condition.
- Conservation work required to the dilapidated elevations was prioritised and the corner elevation facing William Street was conserved first, then the engine bays to Victoria Street.
- The two stages selected for stone replacement had complex processing and fixing issues. The top stories were propped for the replacement of the stone cornices to the elevation facing William Street and the stone cornices above the engine bays to Victoria Street. The works also included lead weatherings, repointing to brickwork and stonework, birdproofing, painting of timber joinery, waterproof membrane to the balcony and roof terraces as well as repairs to the beams above the engine bays.

The remaining four stages of conservation works to the external street elevations are programmed to be completed by 2010.



Images above left to right: Sydney Hospital, Darlinghurst Fire Station, Darlinghurst Fire Station engine bay, Sydney Hospital cornice, Darlinghurst Fire Station, Sydney Hospital coping