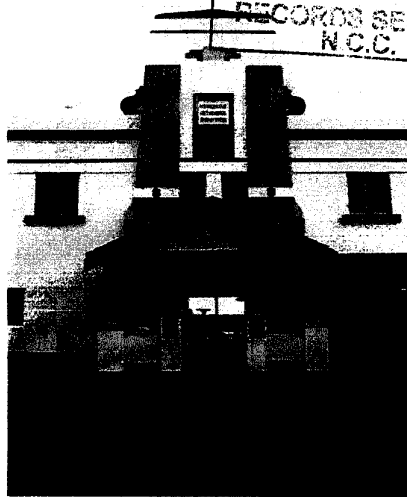
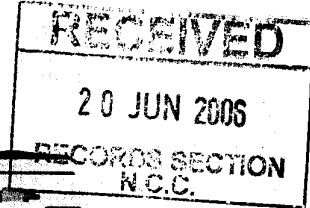


Newcastle City Council

Ocean Baths Newcastle, NSW

final report

Conservation Management Plan



*"Like a giant Hollywood film set, the façade of the old
Newcastle Ocean Baths rises majestically above the azure seas."*

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*Cover quote taken from Newcastle Morning Herald, 14 December 1994.

Executive Summary

History

late 18 th C	English medical tracts recommend cold salt water bathing beneficial for health
1810	Governor Macquarie bans bathing at the Government wharf
1818	Governor Macquarie advised bathers to avoid the surf and keep to the harbour
1820	The Bogey Hole constructed by convict labour for Commandant Morisset
1825	First formal baths in NSW constructed on the shore of The Domain, Sydney
1838	Law prohibiting daylight bathing in all waters throughout entire Colony within view of a public place
1850	Bathing accommodation for women established on Newcastle Harbour
1861	Segregated bathing for women established on the southern end of Newcastle Beach
1853	Four public harbour baths in Sydney exist
1882	Lands Department allows Newcastle Council to occupy and construct Soldiers' Baths beneath Fort Scratchley
1884	The Bogey Hole enlarged by Council
1893	Newcastle Council passed by-law permitting beach bathing at all hours for both sexes
1905-1911	Council considered numerous plans for baths on a section of Newcastle Beach, north east of the hospital
1911	Tenders called on design for baths by City Engineer L.B. Blackwell – construction commenced September
1912	Local architect F.G. Castleden appointed to remodel Blackwell's plans
1913	Baths opened to the public on New Years Day
1918	Admission charged; new dressing accommodation constructed
1922	Construction commenced on Ocean Baths Pavilion, including new dressing accommodation – opened November
1927	Pavilion façade remodelled by local architects Pitt & Merewether
1937	Young Mariners' Pool completed to the south of the baths, including concrete map of the world
1939	New boat pool completed on the ocean side of the Young Mariners' Pool, later known as the Canoe Pool
1968	Map of the world demolished

Physical Evidence

The Newcastle Ocean Baths are set in a rocky outcrop on the southern side of a natural headland forming the southern entrance to Newcastle harbour, within the suburb of Newcastle East. The immediate context is dominated by residential development, with some commercial buildings such as hotels and restaurants, fronting Shortland Esplanade.

The immediate landscape of the Baths is that of a hard landscape. The Baths and pavilion itself are masonry, surrounded by masonry paving surfaces. To the east lies rock shelves which lower into the Tasman Sea; to the west lies bitumen of carparks and roadways. Further to the west and atop the natural headland is a small parkland called Tramway Reserve, however due to the difference in level, this park does not visually link well with the Ocean Baths.

The pavilion is in the main, a rendered reinforced concrete building, housing a kiosk, male and female change rooms and first floor residence. This building replaced earlier dressing sheds (1918) and was approved for building in 1921. Later extensions to the pavilion were constructed in brick cavity with render finish. The pavilion is an elongated structure that shelters the pool from the city.

The pavilion as it appears today is detailed in an Inter-War Stripped Classical / Art Deco style, although as outlined in the history this has been adapted from an earlier style of building. The façade is dominated by engaged piers and is distinguished by the vertical parapet of the central block and two decorative parapets of each wing, both having shell motifs. The 1927-1928 alterations included amendments to the existing central block for a new pavilion entrance in the Stripped Classical / Art Deco style, raising the parapet and the addition of simplified palmette motifs to the parapet. An early photograph shows the porch entrance existing before 1927. There is also mention of a residence for the first caretaker from 1922. The main entrance is a large opening, not in the centre of the façade

through the porch as expected, but adjacent to the central section to the north. The change rooms are simple open-air structures behind the pavilion façade, which enhance the ocean beach nature of the bathing experience. The central structure is essentially a two storey block with offices and kiosk at ground, and residence above.

The Ocean Baths before alteration in 1922 was a typical Federation style façade. Although altered in 1927, the modified style appears to be most strongly that of Inter-War Stripped Classical, with Art Deco decorative elements. This style was not uncommon for recreational buildings, as it portrayed an air of fun and frivolity. The 'stage set' façade of the structure and the current Art Deco pastel colour scheme reinforces the playful mood of the building.

Features of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style which are dominant in the Ocean Baths include the symmetrical façade, division into vertical bays indicating classical origins, elements of other styles (e.g Art Deco), emphatic portal, and simple surfaces.

Significance

The Newcastle Ocean Baths is an icon of the city. It stands alone, dominating the city coastline – the pavilion a stage set for the cultural pursuit of ocean bathing. The size and prominence of the structure represents the significance which has been placed on swimming and beach culture from the early 1900s.

The ocean Baths is aesthetically significant and unique, believed to be the only Inter-War Stripped Classical ocean baths pavilion found in New South Wales. The landmark baths and pavilion is an early, and possibly the first example of this style in Newcastle. Socially, the place greatly contributes to the local community's sense of place.

The continued public enthusiasm and use of the Ocean Baths even during its construction is testament to the community value of the place.

The continued care of the place by the City Council represents local government public service.

Conservation Policy

Newcastle Ocean Baths is a place of cultural heritage, and should be conserved and interpreted in its historical recreational use as a rare example of its style in Newcastle and New South Wales.

Conserve the setting and landscape of the Ocean Baths.

Conserve the built highly significant fabric of the Ocean Baths.

Enhance the significance of the place through interpretation.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This report represents a Conservation Management Plan for the Newcastle Ocean Baths, located at 30 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle. The study area, referred to in this document as the Ocean Baths Precinct, comprises the baths and associated dressing sheds and pavilion, the Canoe Pool (children's pool), the western forecourt and parking area including four picnic shade structures, and the western retaining wall which incorporates a shaded seating area. The Ocean Baths Precinct is shown in figure 1.1 below.

This report considers the following principle issues:

- history and social context of the baths, as researched by Hunter History Consultants;
- physical assessment of the precinct, including a photographic record of the building detailed in the inventory datasheets;
- a statement of significance for the place, and identification of significant elements;
- conservation management policies, and guidelines for implementing those policies.

1.2 Authorship

This Conservation Management Plan was prepared by Linda Smith (M.Herit.Cons.) and Elizabeth Evans, and supervised by Edward Clode of Suturs Architects between November 2001 and June 2002 for the Newcastle City Council.

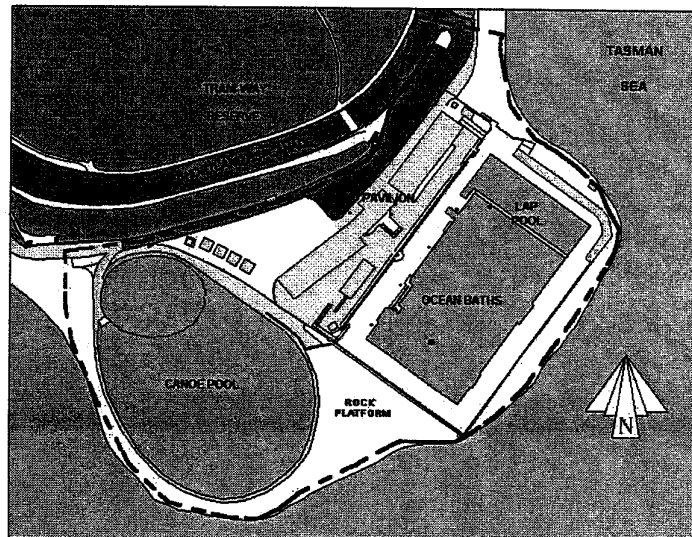


Figure 1.1
The Ocean Baths Precinct, as defined by
this Conservation Management Plan.
source: Suturs Architects, from NCC data

1.3 Methodology

The assessment the Ocean Baths has been prepared generally in accordance with the requirements of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 1999, guidelines issued by the NSW Heritage Office in 1996 (and updates), and *The Conservation Plan* by James Semple Kerr (2000).

1.4 Definitions

The terminology used in this conservation plan is specific, and the understanding of such is essential for the effective use of this document. The terminology is that defined in the ICOMOS Burra Charter, which is included as Appendix F.

1.5 Limitations

The following limitations are placed on this assessment in relation to the gathering of evidence:

- Physical evidence was limited to visual inspection of the interiors and exteriors of the building. The roof was not inspected. A general structural inspection was carried out, and is included in this report. An electrical assessment was not undertaken.

1.6 Acknowledgements

Documentary evidence has been researched and provided by Rosemary Melville, Hunter History Consultants.

The authors acknowledge the assistance provided by Paul Beck and Peter Walmsley during the research phase of this report.

2 Documentary Evidence¹

2.1 Introduction

The aim of the following history is not only to trace the development, construction and uses of the Newcastle Ocean Baths but also to locate the Baths within the broader historical context of public bathing in the city of Newcastle and New South Wales. In an attempt to assist in the interpretation of significance, this history reveals the Newcastle Ocean Baths as a site for the convergence of politics, culture and community.

2.2 Public Bathing in New South Wales & Newcastle

Colonial Days

By the late eighteenth century English medical tracts were recommending bathing in cold, salt water for health and therapeutic benefits. However, seaside bathing was an intimidating prospect for the early European inhabitants of New South Wales. "Waves, currents and sharks threatened and took the lives of bathers"² and only a small minority actually braved the open beach. But physical dangers were not the only deterrents to public bathing. The display of flesh in public was considered sinful by many and it was not long before colonial authorities were policing bathing habits. In 1803 a proclamation was issued to Sydney bathers warning that:

This bay and harbour in general, - being full of voracious Sharks and Stingrays only, it is recommended to the convicts not to go into the water without the utmost precaution and they are positively prohibited from bathing in front of the encampment.³

The development of public bathing places in New South Wales arose in part as a response to protect bathers from the physical dangers of the ocean as well as an effort to restrict the public display of bathing bodies in accordance with contemporary values and standards of behaviour.

Men swam naked in the early days of the Colony but this practice prompted intervention from the newly arrived governor, Lachlan Macquarie. In 1810 Macquarie banned bathing at the government wharf as well as the dockyard describing it as an 'indecent and improper custom'.⁴ Of course, informal bathing by colonists continued in secluded spots.

Convict Newcastle

The inhabitants of the convict settlement at Newcastle had little chance of avoiding colonial regulations issued at Sydney. Since 1804 a permanent settlement had been established at Newcastle as a place of secondary punishment for convicts who had re-offended after transportation to New South Wales. For the vast majority of prisoners, life in the settlement was marked by regimentation, monotony and deprivation.⁵

The original Aboriginal inhabitants of the Newcastle coastal area, the Awabakal tribe, had used the local beaches for both recreational and food gathering purposes. The Awabakal regarded certain areas of the local coastline as sacred and were well tutored in both the dangers and the bounties of the ocean. However, for the early Europeans at Newcastle, activity in the penal outpost revolved around the harbour rather than the beachfront.⁶

Instructions sent from Governor Macquarie in 1818 to the new Commandant at Newcastle, Major James Morisset, do indicate that some bathers had ventured into the ocean at their own risk. Morisset was told to advise bathers to avoid the surf and keep to the harbour:

¹ The Documentary Evidence has been researched and provided by Rosemary Melville, Hunter History Consultants.

² Nancy Cushing, "Newcastle's Beaches, Found and Lost", in R. John Moore & Michael J. Ostwald, (eds.), *Hidden Newcastle, Urban Memories and Architectural Imaginaries*, Gadfly Media, Ultimo, 1997, p.104.

³ Cited in EJE Landscape & Christa Ludlow, *Survey of Harbourside & Ocean Pools of the Sydney Metropolitan Region, Report & Inventory Sheets*, Prepared for the National Trust of Australia (NSW), September, 1994, section 4.2.

⁴ Douglas Booth, "Nudes in the Sand and Perverts in the Dunes", in Richard Nile, (ed.), *Fatal Shores, Journal of Australian Studies*, No. 53, University of Queensland Press, 1997, p. 170.

⁵ J.W. Turner, *Newcastle as a Convict Settlement: The Evidence Before J.T. Bigge in 1819-1921*, Council of the City of Newcastle, Newcastle, 1973, p.34.

⁶ See, Cushing, "Newcastle's Beaches ...", pp. 101-103.

Some lives having been lost by persons bathing on that part of the beach where there is a heavy surf, you are to caution all persons against bathing in any other place than on the beach within the harbour to the westward of the wharf.⁷

One of the landmarks of Newcastle's convict era is the rock pool known as the Bogey Hole at the foot of Shepherd's Hill. Originally about 15 feet long by 7 feet wide and 6 feet deep, the Bogey Hole is believed to have been excavated by convict workers around 1820 for Morisset's personal use.⁸

Regulated Bathing

The first formal baths in New South Wales were erected several years later on the shore of the Domain in Sydney c.1825.⁹ According to the *Sydney Gazette*, bathing was increasing in popularity, however, the display of bathing bodies continued to present problems for the Colony's moral regulators. In 1833 an Act was passed prohibiting bathing at Sydney Cove and Darling Harbour between the hours of 6am and 8pm. As this law was flouted, an 1838 amendment to the Act prohibited daylight bathing in all waters throughout the entire Colony within view of a public place.¹⁰ These early regulations helped to create a practice that lasted throughout the nineteenth century that attempted to confine public bathing to enclosed baths and segregated by sex.

A 'New Brighton'

Meanwhile, in post convict Newcastle, sandy beaches and convenient bathing were used to promote the town. The author of an 1828 article in the *Sydney Gazette* suggested the town would "rank, in fact as the future Brighton of New South Wales...crowds of Cumberland squires and Sydney citizens...taking weekly trips for health and amusement, or making it the summer retreat of their families when in pursuit of health or pleasant recreation."¹¹

By 1850 bathing accommodation for women had been established between the ballast wharf on Newcastle Harbour and Nobbys. John Askew, a visitor to Newcastle in the 1850s, mistakenly took this as a public bathing place:

I went to the harbour every morning, at five o'clock, to bathe. The first morning I saw a small wooden house, with a narrow stone jetty, a few feet high, running out from it to beyond the high water mark. I proceeded along this, and entered the place, which I found to be a neat little bathing house, with several rooms to dress and undress in, and a space in front entirely surrounded with a sharkproof netting of wattles.¹²

Askew only realised his error when he surprised a group of women at the baths early one morning who told him that he had "no business in the place, it was built entirely for the ladies."¹³

A segregated bathing area for women known as the Ladies Bathing Place was also provided for on the southern end of Newcastle Beach leaving the central area of the beach for the men. However, as the *Newcastle Chronicle* noted in 1861, fenced segregation was not enough to secure the women's privacy. Men had been observed along the top of the cliffs overlooking the Ladies Bathing Place:

amusing themselves by watching the flounderings of the lovely fishes disporting themselves in the waters below...It is a positive fact that some men go so far as to get behind the rocks, over top of which they level spy-glasses, in order that they may enjoy a nearer and more distinct vision.¹⁴

In the mid 1860s funds were raised to install a flight of steps from the edge of the above cliff to the Ladies Bathing Place¹⁵ and in time dressing sheds and tea rooms were also erected. This location

⁷ J.W. Turner, *Newcastle as a Convict Settlement: The Evidence Before J.T. Bigge in 1819-1921*, Council of the City of Newcastle, Newcastle, 1973, p. 186.

⁸ John Askew, *A Voyage to Australia and New Zealand, Including a visit to Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Hunter's River, Newcastle, Maitland, and Auckland with a Summary of the Progress and Discoveries made in each colony from its Founding to the Present Time, by a Steerage Passenger, John Askew*, Simpkin, Marshall & Co., London, 1857, p.261; 3-D Exhibitions, *Bathers Way Coastal Walk Interpretive Signage - Newcastle Draft Text & Image*, Prepared for Newcastle City Council, August, 2001, p. 2.

⁹ These baths were privatised in the late 1830s. See, EJE Landscape & Ludlow, *Survey of Harbourside...*, section 4.2.

¹⁰ Douglas Booth, "Healthy, Economic, Disciplined Bodies, Surfing and Surf Lifesaving in Australia and New Zealand, 1890 - 1950", *New Zealand Journal of History*, 32, 1, 1998, p.44; Lana Wells, *Sunny Memories, Australians at the Seaside*, Greenhouse Publications, Richmond, 1982, p.21.

¹¹ Cited in Cushing, "Newcastle's Beaches...", p.102.

¹² Askew, *A Voyage to Australia and New Zealand...*, p.259.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 260.

¹⁴ Cited in John Turner and Jack Sullivan, *Photos of Old Newcastle*,p.31.

¹⁵ *Newcastle Chronicle*, 28 February, 1866.

was always considered a dangerous swimming site due to the presence of large boulders in the water and several drownings occurred at the Ladies Bathing Place.¹⁶

In their attempts to foster the tourist potential of Newcastle, the town's leaders bemoaned the lack of "a suitable bathing place for the city."¹⁷ In 1866 the *Newcastle Chronicle* complained, "It has long been a reproach to Newcastle, that no proper bathing place has ever been erected",¹⁸ and claimed that such a facility "would recommend the city as a pleasant watering place and refuge from the heat, dust, and *ennui* that render inland towns in hot weather intolerable and unbearable."¹⁹

The *Chronicle* also called for an amendment to the Act which prevented daylight bathing in public view, claiming that the bathing regulations were hindering Newcastle's potential as the 'new Brighton'.²⁰ An incident where the Act was enforced in Newcastle raised the ire of the *Chronicle's* editor who observed that most Novocastrians were ignorant of the public bathing hours specified by the Act and of the penalties that could be incurred for violating the law. In tongue-in-cheek style, the editor commented:

Fancy a dripping damsel gorgeously arrayed in a blue flannel negligé fitting rather close to the figure, or a jacket and trousert à la Chinoise, being escorted down Watt-street to the stationhouse, there to be kept in durance vile until brought up before Mr. Scott, and fined for the enormous offence of taking a cold bath.²¹

Sea Bath Schemes

In Sydney, by 1853, there were four harbour public baths as well as several other privately owned baths including those restricted to women only.²² From the late 1850s onwards, several schemes to erect public sea baths at Newcastle were proposed by private syndicates.²³ At a public meeting attended by the town's leading citizens and several aldermen in September, 1879, a Mr. Mullen stated that for the past 17 years he had been trying, unsuccessfully, to persuade the Council to undertake such a project.²⁴ At a subsequent meeting between Mullen and the Council, the City Engineer tabled a report outlining seven schemes for sea baths on various sites stretching along the Newcastle coastline.²⁵

A site was finally chosen in early 1882 and the Lands Department gave approval for the Council to occupy "a portion of the foreshore under the Signal Hill"²⁶ and construction soon began on the excavation of what was known as the Soldiers' Baths beneath Fort Scratchley. This semi-circular pool with a sand and shale bottom was approximately 180 yards in length and enclosed by a sea wall and a reef.²⁷ Managed by the Council, the Soldiers' Baths were plagued with problems from the start when in June 1882 heavy seas washed away the partly constructed baths.²⁸ Opened in 1883, not only were the Soldiers' Baths considered dangerous, but by the end of the nineteenth century, storms had damaged the sea wall and the pool had filled with sand making the baths unswimmable.²⁹

¹⁶ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 12 September, 1884; Nancy Cushing, "Ocean Baths and Arc Lights: Newcastle City Council and Control on the Beach", in Jane Long, Jan Gothard and Helen Brash, (eds.), *Forging Identities: bodies, gender and feminist history*, University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1997, pp. 91-92.

¹⁷ *Newcastle Chronicle*, 15 September, 1866.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* See also, *Newcastle Chronicle*, 17 November, 1866; *Newcastle Chronicle*, 12 November, 1868.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 15 September, 1866.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 20 January, 1866.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 20 January, 1866.

²² EJE Landscape & Ludlow, *Survey of Harbourside ...*, section 4.2.

²³ For eg. see *Newcastle Chronicle*, 31 October, 1866; *Newcastle Chronicle*, 20 January, 1868; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 18 September, 1879; Cushing, "Ocean Baths and Arc Lights...", p. 91.

²⁴ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 24 September, 1879.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 1 October, 1879.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 17 February, 1882.

²⁷ Cushing, "Ocean Baths and Arc Lights...", p. 100.

²⁸ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 10 June, 1882.

²⁹ 3-D Exhibitions, *Bathers Way...*, p. 8.

In the Sydney area, coastal pools had also been built, often from the naturally occurring sandstone sometimes incorporating timber pavilions and bathers had also taken advantage of natural rock pools. A natural rock pool at Bondi was used from early in the nineteenth century and sea baths with dressing sheds were completed on the site in 1887.³⁰



Figure 2.1
The Soldiers' Baths, with Nobbys in
the distance, 1908.
source: Newcastle Region Library

A rock pool to the south of the Soldiers' Baths was also a popular public swimming spot for Novocastrians in the second half of the nineteenth century. Known as the Square Hole or the Cowrie Hole, it is believed that this cavity, long since covered with sand, was originally cut into the rock platform as a footing for a bathing house.³¹



Figure 2.2
The Square Hole, or Cowrie
Hole, c1860-1865.
source: Newcastle Region Library

The Council had also taken control of Newcastle's other ocean baths, the Bogey Hole. In 1884, the pool was enlarged to seven times its original size and deepened, an iron safety rail constructed along with access track and bridges, stairs and ledges cut into the rock face. Men and women

³⁰ EJE Landscape & Ludlow, *Survey of Harbourside...*, section 4.2.

³¹ 3-D Exhibitions, *Bathers Way...*, p. 8.

swam on different days and new dressing sheds were constructed in 1893.³² However, despite the improvements, the rock pool was not considered a safe or respectable enough bathing site for the good citizens of Newcastle. The *Newcastle Morning Herald* commented that "the Bogey Hole has become the aquatic hunting ground of the Newcastle larrikin."³³

Indoor Pools

Indoor pools were also popular in Newcastle by the end of the 1880s. Turkish Baths built by local businessman and medico, F.W. Reay, were opened in 1880 at the corner of Hamilton Road near the Castlemain Brewery.³⁴

The Corporation Baths were opened seven years later in Newcomen Street. This two storey complex was erected by the Council at a cost of £4,050 and sea water was pumped into the 90 feet long by 35 feet wide concrete pool from the ocean. Women were only permitted to swim at set times. Initially, the Corporation Baths proved popular although the baths did not meet everyone's approval. Complaints were often received about dirty water and the larrikin element. By the end of the 1890s the baths were in much need of repair.³⁵

To the Beach

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the beach was becoming popular, although more for leisure purposes rather than swimming. A carriage road built by 1890 around Flagstaff Hill enabled people to drive or walk around Fort Scratchley on the Hill. Coastal land subdivision and enhancement of Parnell Place "led to greater appreciation of the seaside environment for homes and for enjoyment."³⁶ Promenading by the seaside soon became a favoured pastime.

Newcastle bathers were sometimes prosecuted for swimming outside the prohibited hours³⁷ but it would appear that the restrictive regulations were not as rigorously observed in late nineteenth century Newcastle as elsewhere.³⁸ Under the New South Wales Local Authorities Act, municipal councils had taken over as bathing regulators and in 1893 Newcastle Council passed a by-law permitting bathing along the beach at all hours for both sexes. (However, after 1901 when the Police Offences Act was passed, bathers could still be prosecuted.)³⁹ Despite the relaxation, swimming remained segregated.

Ironically, the growth in beach popularity lead to an increase in surf accidents, drownings and shark attacks. By the turn of the twentieth century, Newcastle Council had renewed its calls for better, safer, bathing accommodation for the citizens of Newcastle.

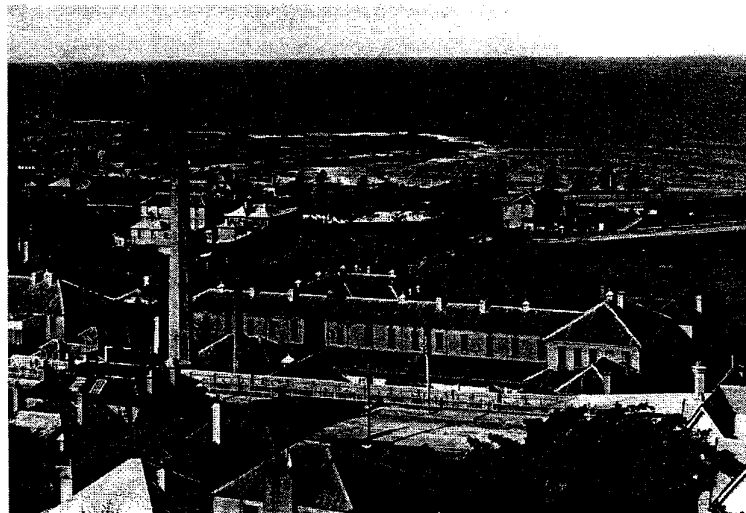


Figure 2.3
View from King Edward Park area
looking toward the rock platform on
which the Ocean Baths is now
constructed, c1907.
source: Gov't Printers Office #3276

³² *Ibid.*, p. 2; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 2 September, 1884.

³³ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 9 December, 1884.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 25 December, 1879; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 3 April, 1880.

³⁵ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 14 February, 1888; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 17 January, 1889; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 24 November, 1898; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 31 August, 1900.

³⁶ "Sign 12 Newcastle Ocean Baths", in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*, n.d., n.p.

³⁷ For eg. see *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 14 January, 1878.

³⁸ See, Booth, "Healthy, Economic, Disiplined Bodies...", pp. 45-47.

³⁹ Booth, "Nudes in the Sand...", p. 171; Cushing, "Newcastle's Beaches...", p. 105.

Newcastle Ocean Baths - Origins

One of the various schemes proffered was that by Dr. J.L. Beeston proposing to erect the largest baths in the Colony on a section of Newcastle Beach to the north east of the hospital. Beeston's plan was for two segregated swimming pools created out of the rock platform.⁴⁰ However, the Minister for Public Works rejected the private syndicate proposals claiming the baths should be the Newcastle City Council's responsibility. With mixed bathing in New South Wales finally legalised, the minister promised a £3,000 subsidy to the Council provided the baths would be open to both sexes and be at least 200 feet in length.⁴¹

The location decided, Council considered numerous plans and specifications between 1905 and 1911.⁴²

2.3 Newcastle Ocean Baths Construction

Original Plans

In October 1907 the City Engineer was instructed to prepare plans, specifications and costs for the "establishment of a suitable bathing place at that plateau of rocks on the sea-coast near the Tram Terminus about 100 yards in length by about 50 yards in width to include dressing boxes, refreshment rooms and all necessaries for an up-to-date bathing place."⁴³ However, it was not until a Council meeting in July, 1911, that Council finally adopted plans presented by the City Engineer, L.B. Blackwell, and called for tenders.⁴⁴

Situated below the hillside where the city trams terminated at Parnell Place, the site chosen for the baths was just south of the Cowrie Hole, on a slightly inclined tidal rock platform approximately two feet above high water spring tides. Fluctuation in tides played prominently in the design. Outlet design had to coincide with low water level for frequent emptying of baths. A pumping scheme was necessary because high water level would not provide sufficient depths for diving.⁴⁵



Figure 2.4
The Ocean Baths under construction, c1911.
source: Newcastle Region Library

⁴⁰ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 20 April, 1899.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 26 July, 1911, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths – Photographs and Paper Cuttings, October, 1986.

⁴² *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 13 January, 1906; *Newcastle Morning Herald* 5 April, 1906; Newcastle City Council Minutes, 14 November, 1905; Newcastle City Council Minutes, 11 June, 1906; Newcastle City Council Minutes, 5 November, 1906; Newcastle City Council Minutes, 22 October, 1907; Newcastle City Council Minutes, 16 December, 1907.

⁴³ Newcastle City Council Minutes, 22 October, 1907.

⁴⁴ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 26 July, 1911, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

Blackwell reported that under certain weather conditions the seas would break over the southern edge of the rock ledge following the dip of the strata in a northerly direction resulting in flooding of the baths. This could minimise the necessity for pumping. A natural bell-mouth shaped fissure in the rocks could also be utilised for emptying, replenishing and scouring.⁴⁶

The proposed pool was to be oblong shaped, 45,000 feet in area, 300 feet long by 150 feet wide. It would have a natural sand bottom on top of the underlying rock shelf. The depth would vary across the baths with an average depth of six feet across the centre, two feet at the northern end opposite the ladies change rooms and three feet on the southern end facing the men's quarters. An extra 18 inches could be pumped in for carnivals.⁴⁷

8,500 cubic yards of rock would need to be excavated. This material would be used in the construction of a raised area approximately 360 feet long by 66 feet wide about seven to eight feet above the rock level making it level with the ocean promenade. Several buildings were to be erected on this area. The excavated material would also be used to create a retaining wall that would be faced with fine concrete.⁴⁸

Access to the buildings would be from a promenade via a 33 feet long gangway flanked by ticket boxes and leading to a vestibule 64 feet long by 20 feet wide. The vestibule would lead to gymnasiums, refreshment room, dressing boxes, baths and promenades. A flight of stairs would lead from the vestibule to a balcony, 82 feet by 10 feet, overlooking the baths.⁴⁹

152 dressing boxes for women and 210 for men, each five feet by four feet were provided for in the plans. The women's gymnasium was to measure 35 feet by 20 feet and the men's 55 feet by 30 feet. Hot water would be provided for those willing to pay.⁵⁰

Blackwell estimated the total cost at £6,000 and Mayor Shedden intended to apply to the Governor for approval to borrow the extra £3,000. In order to pay off the interest from such a loan it was proposed to levy ratepayers at the rate of one thirtieth of a penny in the pound on the unimproved capital value of municipal land or one sixty sixth of a penny on the improved capital. It was estimated that the yearly net profit from the baths would be £657.⁵¹

Construction Progress

1911-1913

Blasting of the rock ledge was well underway by September, 1911 with an estimated 10,000 tons of rock already excavated. The *Newcastle Morning Herald* reported on public opinion that the work was being done too slowly but the paper claimed there were valid reasons for the delays in progress.

The rock type was proving difficult to bore and blast despite the use of sophisticated compressed air drills such as the large Ingersoll-Rand drill and the small Siskol drill which could put down 23 holes, four and a half feet deep in one day. Problems were also being experienced with the electrical connection to the compressor.⁵²

Stones of up to two tons were being cut and trimmed for use in the wall surrounding the site of the bathing sheds but windy conditions hampered operations. Former Caretaker/Manager, Mr Peter Walmsley believes that those who built the Baths "must have been men of iron, hard men...You've got workers by steam winches and 10-metre sandbagged barricades battling against incoming tides to jackhammer the rock away and using draught horses to haul pieces off."⁵³

Construction of buildings could not commence until the walls were completed and the excavated material used in laying the site had settled. Most of the lower section of the 400 feet long eastward facing wall had been completed but the southern end of the site needed particular reinforcement.⁵⁴

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 12 September, 1911, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁵² *Ibid.*, 1 September, 1911, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths ...

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 25 November, 1997, cited in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*, n.d., n.p.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 1 September, 1911, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

The *Newcastle Morning Herald* optimistically declared: "Given a free hand to complete the work, Mr. Blackwell should be able to construct baths that will be unequalled in Australia, and which will not only be appreciated by Newcastle residents, but by the people of a large portion of the northern district."⁵⁵

However, Mr. Blackwell was not given a free hand to complete the work and in December, 1912, the Mayor announced that architect, F.G. Castleden, had been appointed to remodel Blackwell's original plans for the buildings. The *Newcastle Morning Herald* reported that under Castleden's design, "The roof would be a flat one, of compressed asphalt, carried by strong steel girders, and would thus form a promenade."⁵⁶ Castleden also intended to raise the platform carrying the buildings by 2ft 6in and to take the buildings back 16 to 18 feet from the wall. Such remodelling plans required extra funding and the Mayor intended to ask the government for a further grant.⁵⁷

By 1913 the 100 yards long by 50 yards wide swimming pool had been constructed along with the wall and side promenades.⁵⁸ The Newcastle Ocean Baths was by no means the first public pool in New South Wales built on an ocean rock platform. Bondi Beach Pool and Bronte Beach Baths in Sydney were amongst the earliest enclosed concrete ocean pools in New South Wales and both predated the Newcastle Ocean Baths.⁵⁹ However, *Newcastle Morning Herald* readers were told that the swimming area of the Ocean Baths, "is certainly larger than that of any other enclosed ocean baths in Australia..."⁶⁰

As a public relations exercise, perhaps in part to deflect complaints regarding slow progress and rising costs, the Mayor, Alderman Shedden, opened the Baths to the public for New Year's Day, 1913. Little in the way of excavation work remained but the Baths, being referred to as the 'Griffith Ocean Baths' (in honour of the Minister for Works) were far from complete. Temporary dressing sheds were erected for the occasion and inspectors from the Newcastle Surf Club were asked to patrol the Baths "and assist the council's officers in seeing that decorum and order were observed."⁶¹ The Mayor saw the temporary opening as an opportunity for country holiday visitors to become acquainted with the Baths. He told the *Newcastle Morning Herald*:

As a matter of fact...we look upon the throwing open of the baths, even in its present unfinished condition as an advertisement which will amply repay the council for any slight delay or expense which might be occasioned by them being availed of temporarily before they are quite ready. No charge will be made, and the visitors will certainly appreciate the opportunity of being able to indulge in a swim in the new baths, and will tell their friends about them when they go home.⁶²

Although the New Year's Day opening was only meant to be temporary, it would appear that the Baths remained open to the public and by 1915 swimming carnivals were being held.⁶³ With the exception of such carnivals, admission was not charged until 1918.⁶⁴

1913-1922

Storms and heavy seas that damaged some of the already finished work wreaked havoc with the completion of the Baths but rising costs had become the real headache for the Council. The total cost of the work by early 1914 had already exceeded Blackwell's original estimate of £6,000 by more than £3,000. Several aldermen were opposed to Castleden's elaborate plan for the building at a further cost of £6,500. Alderman O'Mara claimed that "the whole matter is a monument to the incapacity of those who had anything to do with the work."⁶⁵ The Mayor, Alderman John Reid, admitted that "there had been some bungling somewhere. They had got into a muddle and they would have to get out of it."⁶⁶ Castleden submitted a modified plan for half the cost.⁶⁷

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 20 December, 1912, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 27 November, 1922, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁵⁹ See EJE Landscape & Ludlow, *Survey of Harbourside...* Inventory, Section 1.

⁶⁰ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 27 November, 1922, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 20 December, 1912, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ *Ibid.*, 15 February, 1915.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 27 November, 1922, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, 19 March, 1914.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 14 January, 1915.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

Despite the cost complaints, the pool was described in 1915 as “probably the finest salt water bath in Australia”,⁶⁸ but the onset of World War I further delayed the completion of the project. Various options for completing the Baths together with various schemes for financing the work, such as the issuing of season tickets in advance, were often discussed by Council.⁶⁹

New dressing accommodation was built in 1918. At the end of the same year, the raised rock platform was completed under the supervision of the new City Engineer, J.F. Shine, and a sluice channel with automatic gate to reduce sand accumulation was built on the north western end of the site.⁷⁰

Other improvements were implemented and the growing popularity of the Baths prompted the Council to call for new plans to replace the existing dressing accommodation. On the 10 January, 1921, the Mayor recommended that expenditure of £6,000 for new buildings as per plans submitted by the City Engineer be carried out.⁷¹ It has been suggested that the plans for this new construction, known as the Newcastle Ocean Baths Pavilion, were also designed by the architect, Castleden⁷² but the signature on the plans is that of City Engineer, Shine, who is also named as the person responsible for the project in the programme for the opening of the Pavilion.⁷³



Figure 2.5
The Ocean Baths, c1918.
source: Newcastle Region Library

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 15 February, 1915.

⁶⁹ For eg. see, *Ibid.*, 13 January, 1915

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 27 November, 1922, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁷¹ Newcastle City Council Minutes, 10 January, 1921.

⁷² Australia Street Company, Professor Barry Maitland & Manidis Roberts Consultants, *Newcastle Ocean Baths, Heritage Places Strategic Plan, Part II*, p. 69, cited in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*, n.d., n.p.

⁷³ "Official Opening of New Buildings, Sat., 25th Nov., at 3 p.m., by His Worship the Mayor (Ald. H.P. Cornish, Esq), Ocean Baths Newcastle", cited in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*, n.d., n.p.

1922 Newcastle Ocean Baths Pavilion

The Government provided a £5,050 loan for the erection of the Pavilion and building commenced early in 1922 with some alterations being made in the course of construction. Costs for the building of the Ocean Baths had blown out from the original £6,000 estimated in 1911 to £16,400 by the time the Pavilion was opened on the 25th November, 1922.⁷⁴

The Mayor, Alderman H.P. Cornish, officiated at the opening ceremony in front of a large crowd. Before declaring the Baths open he unveiled a tablet bearing the names of the Council's aldermen as well as the Town Clerk, Mr J. Glassop and the City Engineer, J.F. Shine, (Castleden's name is absent from the tablet).⁷⁵ The people of Newcastle were told that they "indeed have an asset than any city would be proud of."⁷⁶

The Edwardian façade of the two winged Pavilion included a central entrance portico. The central block behind the portico contained the caretaker's residence and refreshment rooms. The men's accommodation was provided for in the southern wing and the women's quarters in the northern wing. In its description of the Pavilion, the *Newcastle Morning Herald* reported:

...the overall dimensions of which are 300ft. and the width 40ft. The materials used in the construction is reinforced concrete, and the whole is supported by piers, carried down to the original rock. The western side of the buildings have been louvred, which adds to their appearance, and will prevent the uplifting of the roof by the strong winds and gales that not infrequently prevail about the coast. With these additions, the baths are probably the finest in the Commonwealth.⁷⁷

The separate women's and men's dressing sheds incorporated cubicles, showers, toilets and lockers. There were also spare rooms for gymnasiums and swimming clubs at the end of the wings. It was believed that the Baths could handle 7,000 patrons a day. The official opening programme for the Pavilion boasted that the Baths could now also cater to visitors with the provision of a "Refreshment Room, where light luncheon and afternoon tea can be partaken of at city prices, together with a shop where ice cream, cool drinks, confectionery, also tobacco and cigarettes, can be obtained, makes everything ideal from a picnicker's standpoint."⁷⁸

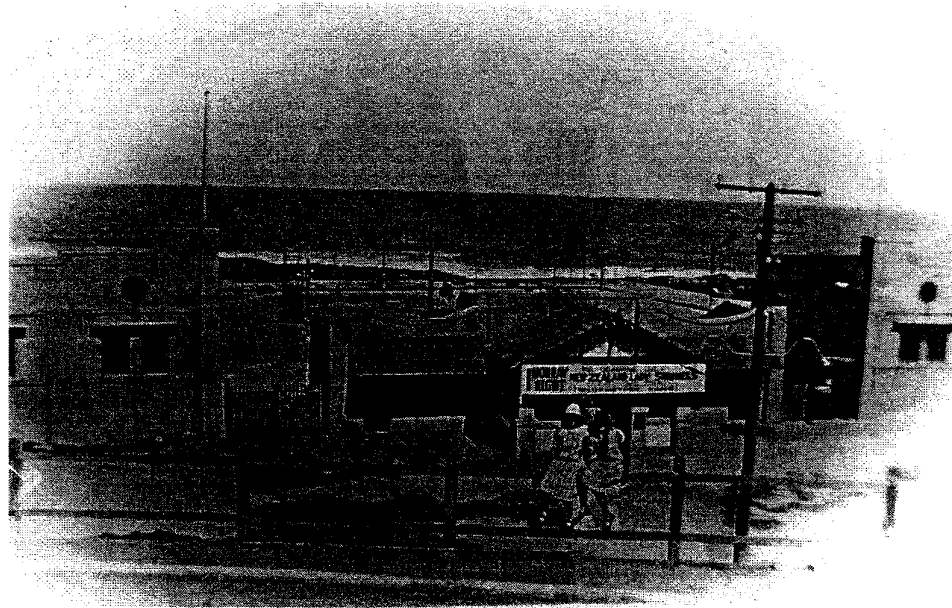


Figure 2.6
The Ocean Baths prior to remodelling, c. mid-1920s.
source: Peter Walmsley

⁷⁴ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 27 November, 1922, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...: "Official Opening of New Buildings...", cited in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*, n.d., n.p.

⁷⁵ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 27 November, 1922, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁷⁶ "Official Opening of New Buildings...", cited in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*, n.d., n.p.

⁷⁷ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 27 November, 1922, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁷⁸ "Official Opening of New Buildings...", cited in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*, n.d., n.p.

2.4 Alterations and Remodelling

Inter-war Years

Throughout the 1920s the lessee J.L. Clayton frequently requested improvements to the Baths including shelters, lunch tables, fencing, promenades, diving tower and changes to the caretaker's residence. The issue of efficient lighting was also a common topic for Council discussion.⁷⁹

In 1927 plans for a complete remodelling of the Pavilion's façade were drawn up by architects, Nigel Pitt and Edward Merewether.⁸⁰ Pitt & Merewether remodelled the original Edwardian façade in the inter-war Stipped Classical style by building up the parapet which was decorated with Art Deco motifs. The two wings were joined over the original Edwardian entrance portico by a tower like structure. The entire 300 feet long façade was rendered and the original windows were infilled with geometric concrete blocks.

Included in the proposed additions were a garage for the caretaker, a room for the Northern Amateur District Swimming Association and provision for a substation.⁸¹ The remodelling scheme also included the demolition and rebuilding of the existing central block. Pitt & Merewether were also appointed to carry out this design work.⁸²

The 1928 report on the remodelling project in the *Newcastle Morning Herald* stated:

...the whole front of the building is being remodelled, and quarters are being erected, which include bed, sitting, dining rooms upstairs, and shops, club rooms, costume rooms, and other conveniences downstairs. The old central block is being altered, and a new feature is being substituted, and when the whole building is completed, it will be an ornament to the baths.⁸³

As part of the improvements, a new three platform, steel diving tower was erected to replace the wooden structure that was continually subjected to damage in heavy seas.

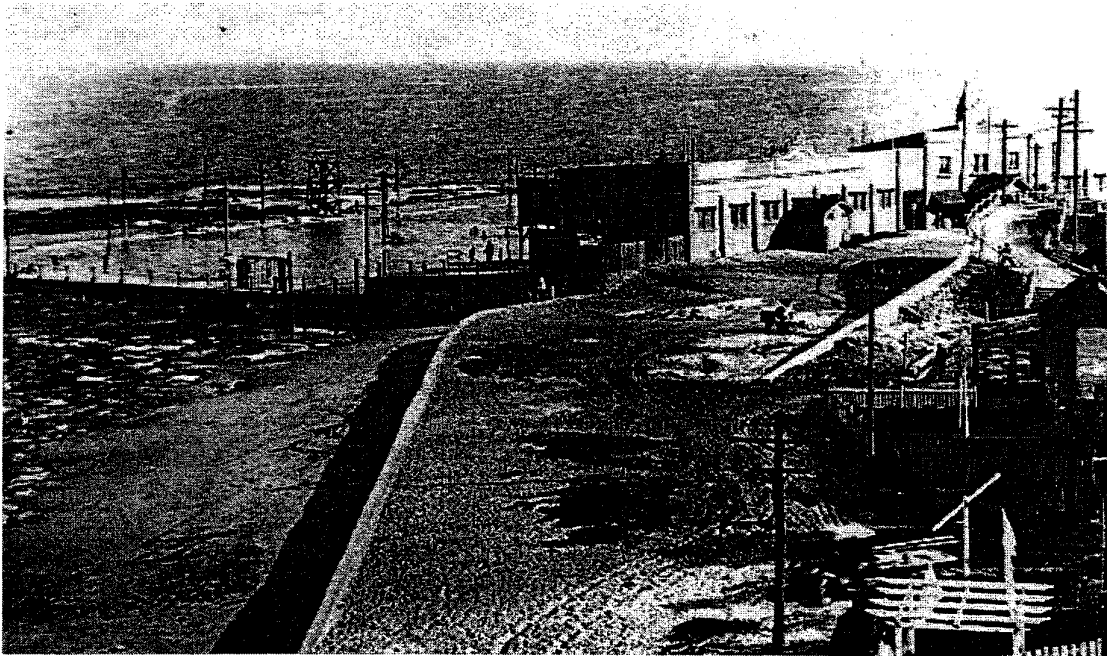


Figure 2.7
The Ocean Baths pavilion, c1930.
Note the diving tower, and the public toilets built against the facade of the women's dressing shed.
source: Newcastle Region Library

⁷⁹ Newcastle City Council Correspondence 1911-1938, A 2533, File No. 92.

⁸⁰ The business set up by Pitt & Merewether in 1913 became Newcastle's busiest architectural practice during the inter-war period.

⁸¹ Newcastle City Council Minutes, Works & General Purposes Committee, 24 March, 1927; 21 September, 1927, Council Meeting 26 September, 1927.

⁸² Newcastle City Council Minutes, Council Meeting 8 August, 1927, Works & General Purposes Committee 1 March, 1928.

⁸³ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 16 August 1928.

The remodelling drew praise from visitors. In 1930, the *Newcastle Morning Herald* reported, "only last weekend Ald. R.H. Nott, of the Waverley Municipal Council, visited the baths and remarked to the Newcastle City Council Engineer, Mr. J. Cummins, that there was not a bathing pool in Sydney equal to the Newcastle Ocean Baths."⁸⁴

The early 1930s saw various schemes for lighting installation considered by Council including the temporary installation of floodlights borrowed from the Sports Ground and the suggestion for underwater lighting.⁸⁵

Within a few years of the façade remodelling there were claims that the buildings were obsolete and calls for the erection of a colonnade along the front of the women's and men's sections as well as other improvements. In 1934 a Baths Committee was established by the Council to consider whether the Baths should be modernised. The Committee concluded that such a major overhaul, including altering the Baths to comply with Olympic standard measurements, would be too expensive but minor improvements such as painting the buildings as well as the provision of pontoons and picnic tables would be carried out.⁸⁶

In August, 1938 tenders were called to build a brick electricity substation adjacent to the Baths.⁸⁷ A year later, the design plans proposed by Chief Architect, F.A. Scorer and City Engineer, L.J. Price, for shelter colonnades providing canopies, tables and seating in front of the women's and the men's wings of the Pavilion were approved by Council. These improvements at the Baths were part of a £400,000 Council Works Programme for the city.⁸⁸ It would appear that the proposed colonnade in front of the men's wing was never built.



Figure 2.8
The Ocean Baths, c1930. Note the
concrete-based lamp posts in the
centre of the pool.
source: Newcastle Region Library

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, 8 January, 1930, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁸⁵ Newcastle City Council Correspondence 1911-1938, A 2533, File No. 92; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 30 August 1932, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁸⁶ Inspection Report, 2 November, 1933, Memo from City Engineer, 7 August, 1934, Newcastle City Council Correspondence 1911-1938, A 2533, File No. 92; *Newcastle Sun*, 15 December 1933, *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 29 August, 1934, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁸⁷ City Engineer's Report, 8 August 1938, Newcastle City Council Correspondence 1938-1940, A2547, File No. 50/1

⁸⁸ Memo from City Engineer to Chief Architect, 18 August, 1939, City Engineer's Report 19 January 1940, Newcastle City Council Correspondence 1938-1940, A2547, File No. 50/1.

Post War to Present

Night swimming had been popular before the war, attracting between 500 and 600 people a night, but after wartime lighting restrictions were imposed, the lighting equipment deteriorated due to lack of use and poor maintenance.⁸⁹ In 1946 Council decided to approve a scheme for the installation of thirteen 500 watt lamps around the pool and eleven 1000 watt flood lights at a cost of £200.⁹⁰

The swimming clubs had long urged for adequate seating for observing swimming races but it would appear from photographs that the distinctive curved concrete seating wall on the north eastern side of the site was not erected until the 1940s. It was first proposed in 1946 and constructed under the supervision of the City Engineer, Mr. Knott.⁹¹ Also in line with improvements called for by the clubs, foundations for the concrete pillars to support a bridge spanning the swimming pool commenced in 1948.⁹² This catwalk was used to create a separate pool for racing.

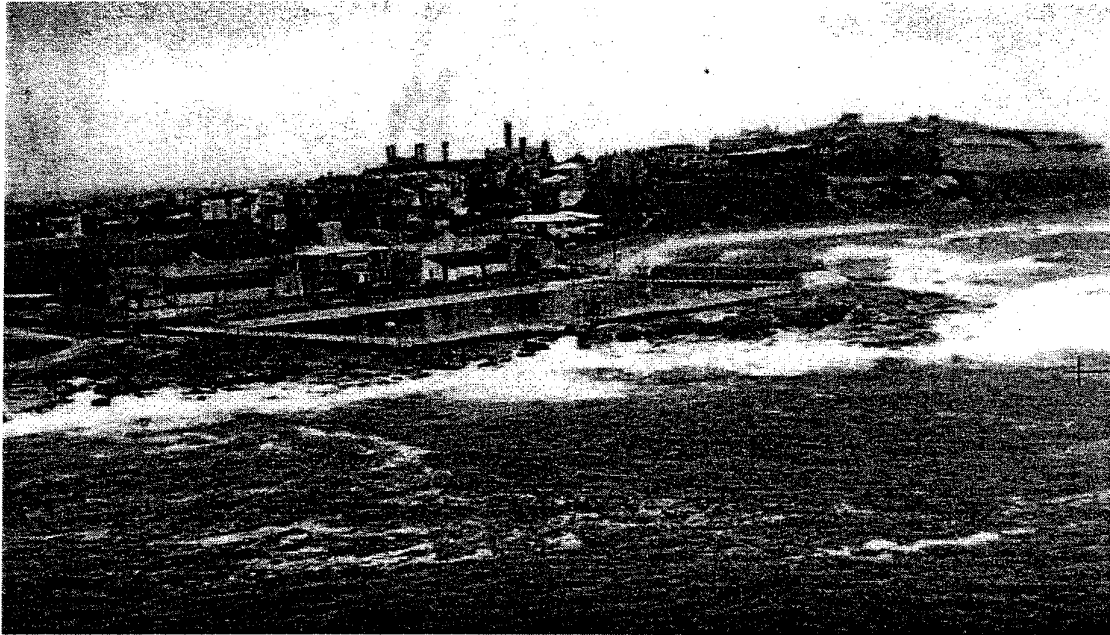


Figure 2.9
The Ocean Baths from the east, with Zaara Street
power station in the background.
source: Newcastle Region Library

In the immediate postwar years there is no recorded evidence of major structural changes to the buildings although the Baths underwent numerous repairs and improvements. These included the replacement of washed away promenade, installation of box drains and reinforced concrete piping in 1948, new flood gates in 1949, and rebuilding the pumphouse in the early 50s.⁹³

Improvements costing £5,263 were carried out during the winter of 1958 including a new club room for the Premier Men's Swimming Club, a storeroom, painting of dressing sheds and cementing of the northern promenade which was raised by one foot at the side of the pool. Brick rooms were also built for the Premier Women's Swimming Club.⁹⁴ In April 1959, an amount of £600 was allocated for the construction of a shelter and ten sets of seats and tables on the eastern wall of the dressing sheds.⁹⁵

⁸⁹ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 12 January, 1946, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, 6 June, 1946, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, 2 May, 1946, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁹² *Ibid.*, 13 October 1948, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Bath...

⁹³ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 11 August 1948, *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 1 September, 1949, *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 19 April, 1950, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths ...

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, 22 August 1958, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, 29 April 1959, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

The Council announced in November 1960 that construction of a reinforced concrete colonnade attached to the western wall of the women's dressing sheds would commence at the end of the current swimming season. However, new tenders were called in June, 1961 when the original tenderers informed Council that they were unable to carry out the work for the colonnade due to credit restrictions.⁹⁶

In 1962 the Council Works Committee recommended that additional lighting be installed on two new poles along the line of the catwalk and that the existing lighting be improved along with new lighting on the eastern side of the racing section. The cost was estimated at £500 and further lighting improvements were to be considered after the first stage had been completed.⁹⁷

By the 1980s the Ocean Baths was in dire need of renovation. In January 1981 a conservation order under the Heritage Act was placed on the façade.⁹⁸ In the early 1980s improvements and repairs were made to club rooms, the Pavilion was repainted in Council heritage colours and new floodlighting was installed. The Council recommended that the catwalk be replaced in 1987 and the installation of hot showers was approved in 1989.⁹⁹

The earthquake that struck Newcastle on 28 December 1989 caused serious damage to the Baths but insurance helped to pay for almost half of the estimated \$190,000 spent on much needed repairs and restoration.¹⁰⁰ As part of the restoration, the Pavilion's façade was repaired and repainted in six colours reflecting a maritime/heritage theme. The renovation was described by the *Newcastle Herald*, "Like a giant Hollywood film set, the ...restored façade of the old Newcastle Ocean Baths rises majestically above the azure seas."¹⁰¹

Other improvements in the early 1990s included the installation of a ramp for disabled bathers – the first at a public pool in the Hunter region. Other amenities for disabled visitors were also erected including change room, shower and toilet facilities as well as designated parking bays.¹⁰²

There have been no major alterations on the site since the mid 1990s when an upgrade to the kiosk, costing \$24,000 was required.¹⁰³

Much of the repair work needed throughout the history of the Baths has been as a result of the forces of nature. The very location of the Baths made it vulnerable to damage from storms and heavy seas. As one alderman complained, "every time there was a storm and heavy seas the council was up for a few thousand pounds to repair damage...".¹⁰⁴ Former caretaker/manager, Peter Walmsley, can remember many occasions when heavy seas created hefty repair bills. Such episodes included the 1974 cyclonic storm that wrecked the *Sygnia* on Stockton Beach and during 1983 when 14 metre peaks buffeted the port entrance. In May 1997, seven metre waves "pounded the baths unmercifully, flooded his kiosk, ripped one of the wooden front gates off its hinges and left a \$50,000 disabled access ramp mangled."¹⁰⁵

2.5 The Canoe Pool

When the *Newcastle Morning Herald* reported on the construction progress of the Ocean Baths in 1911 it noted that sand was already being swept up against the southern wall of the site which could be utilised as a sandy beach for children.¹⁰⁶ It was decided to take advantage of this phenomenon and what was known as the 'Young Mariners' Pool' was completed in 1937 adjacent to the southern end of the Ocean Baths.¹⁰⁷

Two years later, the children's pool was extended and on the 19th October, 1939, the *Newcastle Sun* reported that "The new boat pool for children on Newcastle Beach was completed to-day. On

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, 9 November 1960, *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 28 June, 1961, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean...

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, 7 June 1962, *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 28 June, 1961, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

⁹⁸ Newcastle City Council Correspondence, File No. 50/606/-/06

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 9 November 1960, *Newcastle Post*, 9 November, 1983, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹⁰⁰ *Newcastle Herald*, 17 April, 1997.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, 14 December, 1994.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, 20 December, 1991.

¹⁰³ Newcastle City Council Correspondence, File No. 50/606/-/06

¹⁰⁴ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 24 March, 1950, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, 25 November, 1997, cited in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*, n.d., n.p.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, 1 September, 1911, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹⁰⁷ Letter from Clive Hocquard to Town Clerk 10 May, 1938, Newcastle City Council Correspondence 1938-1940, A2547, File No. 50/1.

the ocean side of the existing Young Mariners' Pool, it has shelving bottoms and should prove very popular with the youngsters in the summer months."¹⁰⁸

In the early 1940s the two sections of this 100m x 70m elliptical pool were still being referred to separately as the 'Young Mariners' Pool' and the 'Canoe Pool'¹⁰⁹ but in time the pool was simply known as the Canoe Pool.

On the floor of the Young Mariners' Pool, was an oval map of the world about 40 metres wide and coloured in pigmented cement; "the countries, red-dyed concrete for those of the Commonwealth and the rest in green, were about 60cm thick, with 20cm jutting above the waterline."¹¹⁰

Initially, the Council regularly cleared the sand from the map's surface and used the excess sand as fill in local parks and gardens.¹¹¹ However, sand build up continued to be a constant problem over the years.

Sea lice was often a problem for children using the pool and complaints of dirty water were raised in the early 1960s when calls were made for the pool to be closed.¹¹² In 1962 the City Engineer, Mr. Baddeley, said the pool could be more effectively filled with fresh water by installing a pipeline between the Ocean Baths and the Canoe Pool at a cost of £500.¹¹³

The map "was demolished in 1968 because of the constant siltation by both windborne and waterborne sand in times of high seas, thus forming a harbour for bacterial contamination and rendering the facility a health hazard."¹¹⁴

Many Novocastrians have fond memories of the Canoe Pool. Ben Lexcen, who grew up to become one of Australia's most famous yacht designers, is said to have sailed his first boats in the Pool. Peter Walmsley can remember sailing boats across the map of the world at the age of six with his school mate Lexcen.¹¹⁵

The Council received many inquiries regarding the loss of the map of the world and in the city's bicentennial year in 1997 a feasibility study on rebuilding the map was carried out. The estimates for restoring the world map at a cost of \$500,000 or alternatively a map of Australia for \$60,000 were considered too expensive to undertake.¹¹⁶

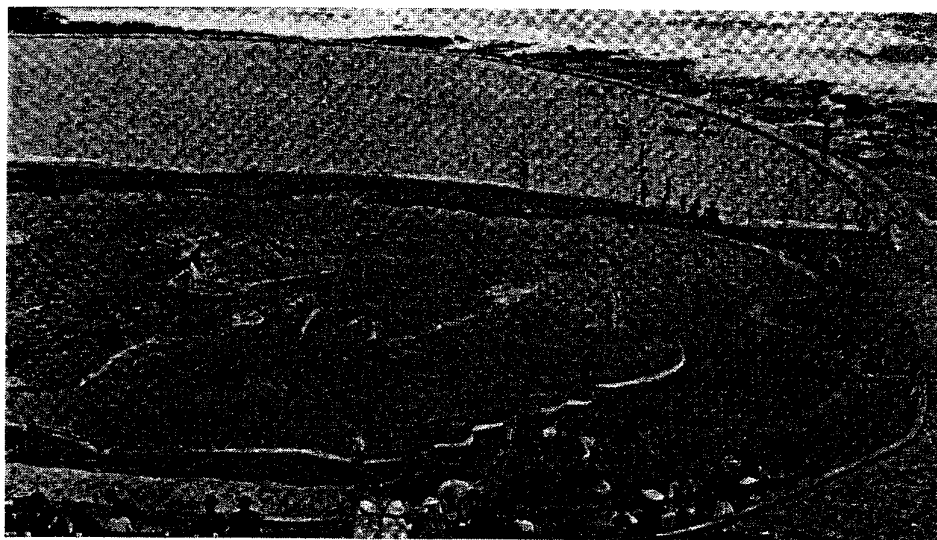


Figure 2.10
The 'Young Mariners' Pool' showing the map of the world in the foreground, with the larger 'Canoe Pool' beyond, 1950.
source: Newcastle Region Library

¹⁰⁸ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 19 October, 1939, cited in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*.

¹⁰⁹ City Engineer's Report 21 January 1942, Newcastle City Council Correspondence, 1940-1951, A2548, File No. 50/1.

¹¹⁰ *Newcastle Herald*, 14 May, 1988.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, 13 February, 1941.

¹¹² *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 16 February, 1962, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹¹³ *Ibid.*, 11 April, 1962, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹¹⁴ Letter to Mrs. E. Stoker from W.H. Grant, General Manager, 29 April, 1992, Newcastle City Council Correspondence, File No. 50/00606/00000/05-2.

¹¹⁵ *Newcastle Herald*, 14 May, 1988.

¹¹⁶ Engineering Services Division Report, 20 February, 1997, Newcastle City Council Correspondence, File No. 50/606/-/06

2.6 Operations Management

By the time that the Ocean Baths Pavilion was ready for opening in November, 1922, Council had decided that the cost of running the Baths was too expensive and put the management of the Baths out to tender. The successful tenders at the rental rate of £600 per annum were local businessmen, J.L. Clayton and R.E. Moxey of Clayton & Moxey, Auctioneers.¹¹⁷ Clayton lived on the premises in the caretakers residence as have all caretaker/managers. He was succeeded by Clive Hocquard who took over as lessee at the end of 1928 until October 1948 when James Stewart was appointed and he remained in the position until Maurice Burn commenced as subsidised licensee in October 1956. The longest serving caretaker/manager was Peter Walmsley who took over from Mr Burn in 1976.¹¹⁸ The current caretaker is Paul Beck.

In 1922 the opening hours for the Ocean Baths were from 6am to 10pm daily from October until May. Admission was 2d. for adults and 1d. for children with costumes and towels available for hire.¹¹⁹ Free admission was introduced in October, 1953 and by the time of Walmsley's appointment in 1976, the swimming season commenced the first Saturday of the August/September school vacation and ran for 36 weeks.¹²⁰

Apart from the general management of the Baths, the lessees were responsible for maintaining and overhauling the pumping equipment and the removal of sand build up in the pool. Initially, the Council employed a pump attendant but in time the lessee became responsible for emptying and filling the Baths.

A pumping plant was installed in the early construction of the Baths. The electrically driven 12 inch centrifugal pump was capable of filling the baths in four and a half hours with 1,200,000 gallons of sea water.¹²¹ The pool was emptied and refilled on a daily basis. In 1930, rumours circulated that the Baths were not being emptied daily and the lessee, Mr. C. Hocquard refuted these allegations claiming that the baths were emptied every night after closing time. Hocquard described the process to the *Newcastle Morning Herald* stating that emptying took about three quarters of an hour and after cleaning and whitewashing, the electrically driven centrifugal pump began to refill the baths with the capacity of pumping 235,000 gallons of sea water an hour. Water flowed in through a 12 inch pipe taking three to four hours to fill. There was also a reserve pump with a capacity of pumping 184,000 gallons an hour through an 11 inch pipe. A fresh supply of sea water greeted bathers when the pool was reopened at 6.00 am.¹²²

A warning alarm was sounded before the gate was opened to empty the Baths. On one occasion a teenage girl almost lost her life when the alarm did not sound, however, she managed to hold onto the gate as she was being swept out of the Baths and was rescued.¹²³

The 'dirty water' accusations answered by Hocquard were not the first or last questions over the quality of pool water faced by management. A bather at Christmas in 1917 claimed, "if a man got a mouthful of the water he would lose his appetite for any Christmas dinner. Why, it is so thick you can cut it with a knife."¹²⁴ By the early 1960s, water quality had become a serious issue for the Council and the Council Health Committee discussed ways to ensure water purity of the pool. The Chief Health Inspector, Mr. Graham, said all baths and beaches were inspected regularly and water samples taken and tested. "At no time has analysis proved that the water in Newcastle Ocean Baths had, by pollution, reached a condition where it would be dangerous to the health of swimmers," Mr. Graham reported.¹²⁵ Despite such reassurances, Council continued to receive complaints. An investigation revealed the accumulation of stagnant sand and rotting seaweed on the bottom of the pool to be the source of the problem.¹²⁶

Sand build up on the bottom of the pool has been a problem since the early days of the Baths. Excess sand dumped by heavy seas has also caused safety problems by lowering the diving

¹¹⁷ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 27 November, 1922, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...; "Official Opening of New Buildings...", cited in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*, n.d., n.p.

¹¹⁸ Newcastle City Council Correspondence

¹¹⁹ "Official Opening of New Buildings...", cited in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*, n.d., n.p.

¹²⁰ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 13 May, 1953; Premier Club's Racing Programme, 1 February, 1959, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean...; Newcastle City Council Correspondence, File No. 50/00606/00000/05-2.

¹²¹ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 27 November, 1922, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹²² *Ibid.*, 8 January, 1930, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean...

¹²³ *Ibid.*, 16 February, 1961, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹²⁴ "Ocean baths arrived through stormy seas", cited in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*, n.d., n.p.

¹²⁵ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 5 April, 1961, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*, 7 June, 1961, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

depths in the pool. Today the Ocean Baths are dredged of sand annually. The Baths are drained and cleaned on a weekly basis and walls are whitewashed and scrubbed weekly. Weekly water samples are taken.

The Newcastle City Council Correspondence files reveal that the lessees were often recommending improvements and repairs to the Baths that Council could ill afford. In 1948, Council's Finance Committee was asked to report on terms of leasing of the Baths, as it was believed the income of the lease was small compared to the cost of maintaining the operation.¹²⁷ In 1950, Alderman McDougall called for a thorough investigation of the cost of maintaining the Baths to decide whether it was economically viable to keep them open.¹²⁸ The report revealed the cost of restoring storm and other damage over the last ten years totalled just over £8,043.¹²⁹ As to suggestions that the Baths would be better moved elsewhere, the Council was told it would cost about £150,000 to construct new baths of the same size in another location. Alderman Edwards said the Baths were a community service and the Council could not expect the Baths to pay.¹³⁰

Caretaker managers were also expected to ensure that visitors to the Baths behaved in an appropriate and safe manner. The diving tower no longer exists but for many years a notice on the tower warned people that they used the tower at their own risk. Unfortunately, a number of diving accidents, a few resulting in deaths, occurred over the years.¹³¹ At a meeting of the Newcastle City Council Beaches and Baths Liaison Committee in November, 1961, it was suggested that depth signs be erected in three languages for the benefits of migrants. Despite complaints from one alderman that migrants should be forced to learn English, the committee recommended to use Roman numerals.¹³²

'Hooligans' have also presented problems for the lessees who were expected to ensure that 'order and decency' were observed at the Baths.¹³³ In his report for the week ended 7th November, 1959, Mr Burn noted that a boy acting suspiciously near clothes was asked to leave as were "six German seamen wearing brief continental costumes".¹³⁴ Signs were erected at the Baths in 1960 warning 'Any person offending against decency by the exposure of his person in these premises is liable to a penalty not exceeding £10.' This was the consequence of complaints about men "indulging in nude sun bathing in the dressing sheds."¹³⁵

2.7 A Newcastle Institution

The Ocean Baths have played a prominent social role in the lives of generations of Novocastrians. When there was talk of relocating the Baths in the early 1950s, the City Engineer, Mr Baddeley, said, "The baths are an institution in Newcastle and I don't think the people could do without them."¹³⁶

As Newcastle's only enclosed concrete, ocean pool before the construction of Merewether Baths in 1926,¹³⁷ the Ocean Baths enjoyed a deserved popularity. Easy transport access meant that the Baths catered not only to the inner city residents but also to the wider region. One of the more unusual services provided by the Baths was during the early 1930s when the facility was rented to a Mr. Van Eyk for use as a baptismal pool.¹³⁸

At the height of the popularity of the Baths in the mid twentieth century, the Ocean Baths attracted over 500,000 visitors annually and hosted 28 carnivals each season.¹³⁹ Upon his retirement as licensee in 1976, Maurice Burn reflected on the popularity of the Baths before the development of the region's suburban swimming pools. "Those were the days when people were not so surf-minded

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*, 14 January, 1948, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*, 24 March, 1950, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, 12 April, 1950, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths ...

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*, 19 April, 1950, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹³¹ See for eg. Newcastle City Council Correspondence 1911-1938, A2533, File No. 92.

¹³² *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 24 November, 1961, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹³³ *Newcastle Post*, 14 October, 1981, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean. Baths...

¹³⁴ Newcastle City Council Correspondence, 1958-1961, A2550, File No. 50/1.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*

¹³⁶ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 19 April, 1950, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹³⁷ 3-D Exhibitions, *Bathers Way*..., p. 16.

¹³⁸ Letter from Town Clerk to Clive Hocquard, 28 October, 1932, Newcastle City Council Correspondence 1911-1938, A 2533, File No. 92; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 25 October, 1932.

¹³⁹ Premier Club's Racing Programme, 1 February, 1959; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 21 April, 1960, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

and they came to the ocean baths because there were not really many other places to go...There were not many cars and whole families could come to the baths together."¹⁴⁰

Thousands have taken their first swimming lessons and undertaken surf lifesaving training at the Ocean Baths. The first lessee, J.L. Clayton, employed a swimming tutor who provided half-hourly lessons at the rates of 1/10/- for adults and 15/- for children.¹⁴¹ The popularity of the Baths, especially for school children was noted by the *Newcastle Morning Herald* at the end of the 1920s when the art-deco remodelling was undertaken:

The Ocean Baths are a feature in the northern district, and are one of the greatest conveniences in this State, being used by people from all parts, and particularly by the school children in the Newcastle district, special days being set apart for them to learn swimming and have their races.¹⁴²

A 1929 Council promotional publication boasted that "thousands of school children attend in classes weekly, during the summer months."¹⁴³ At the end of the 1950s, 29 schools held weekly swimming lessons.¹⁴⁴ Lessons were also conducted by local swimming clubs. Races were also put on by the different swimming clubs of the State, and the 'topnotchers' made their appearances at these meetings.

Swimming Clubs

Other studies have noted the close links between the development of public baths and competitive swimming, especially in the transition of the concept from 'bathing' to 'swimming'.¹⁴⁵ The first recorded swimming races were held in Australia on 14 February 1846 at Robinson's Gentlemen's Baths at the Domain. The Balmain Swimming Club formed in 1884 is regarded as the oldest swimming club in NSW. Such clubs supported the formation of the New South Wales Amateur Swimming Association in 1891. "As competitive swimming began to increase in popularity municipal councils began to build larger public baths with competitions and spectators in mind."¹⁴⁶

In 1908 a surf-lifesaving club was formed at Newcastle, two years after surf-lifesaving began in Australia on Bondi Beach.¹⁴⁷ When the Ocean Baths were first opened to the public on New Year's Day 1913, inspectors from the Newcastle Surf Club patrolled the Baths and from the earliest days, several clubs held their swimming carnivals at the Baths. Thousands of people attended the Newcastle Surf Swimming Club's annual carnival at the Baths in February 1915 and watched the display by Olympian champion swimmer, Duke Kahanamouka, organised by the Northern District Amateur Swimming Association (NDASA).¹⁴⁸

Established in 1897, the NDASA was one of several Newcastle swimming and surfing associations that played an important role in the history of the Ocean Baths. The NDASA organised the inaugural aquatic programme for the official opening of the Ocean Baths Pavilion in November, 1922. Appearing on the programme were events featuring the Newcastle Premier Amateur Swimming Club that kept a room at the Pavilion until the club moved premises to the Mayfield Pool in the early 1980s.¹⁴⁹ The club continued to provide honorary inspectors to the Baths after its transfer to Mayfield.¹⁵⁰

By the mid 1960s there were four swimming clubs, each with approximately 300 members, using the Baths on a weekly basis.¹⁵¹ As well as their contribution in popularising the Baths through carnivals and swimming classes, the clubs played key roles in bringing about improvements.

¹⁴⁰ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 4 May, 1976, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹⁴¹ Letter from J.L. Clayton to Town Clerk, 26 October 1926, Newcastle City Council Correspondence 1911-1938, A 2533, File No. 92.

¹⁴² *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 16 August, 1928.

¹⁴³ Newcastle City Council, *Souvenir of Newcastle Civic Week*, 14-12 December, 1929, cited in Newcastle City Council Landscape Architects Library, *Ocean Baths*, n.d., n.p.

¹⁴⁴ Premier Club's Racing Programme, 1 February, 1959, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹⁴⁵ EJE Landscape & Ludlow, *Survey of Harbourside...*, section 4.4.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁷ Ed Jaggard, "Australian Surf Life-saving and the 'Forgotten Members'", *Australian Historical Studies*, Vol. 112, April, 1999, p.27.

¹⁴⁸ Wooden seating was erected for the event. *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 5 January, 1915; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 15 February, 1915; Cushing, "Ocean Baths and Arc Lights...", p. 101.

¹⁴⁹ Letter from Newcastle Premier Amateur Swimming Club to Town Clerk, 10 March 1981, Newcastle City Council Correspondence, File No. 50/606/-05

¹⁵⁰ Newcastle City Council Correspondence, File No. 50/00606/00000/05-2.

¹⁵¹ Letter from M. Burn to Town Clerk, 14 January, 1966, Newcastle City Council Correspondence, File No. 50/2.

From the early days of the Baths, the clubs and, in particular, the NDASA lobbied the Council and the lessees for upgrading of facilities. The NDASA's main concern was ensuring that the Baths met the required standards for holding racing events. In September, 1934 the association wrote to the Town Clerk urging that the NDASA's recommended improvements be made for the upcoming championships:

My association is making great endeavours to place the sport of swimming in the position it deserves, and in a city like Newcastle, which depends for tourist traffic a good deal on its swimming facilities, it is not only in their interests but is in the interests of your Council I should think, to cater for the crowds attending the Carnivals at the Ocean Baths.¹⁵²

In the early 1940s, the NDASA moved the Northern District championships to Maitland with claims that the Ocean Baths were antiquated. Improvements, including the erection of the catwalk, were made so the association could hold its 1949 championships at the Baths, however, the Council's promise to deepen the water depth below the diving tower was not carried out and the diving events were held at Maitland.¹⁵³

One of the main criticisms levelled against the pool was that it did not meet Olympic standards. The Newcastle Premier Amateur Swimming Club used an enhanced photo in its programme for the 1958/59 carnival to show how the Baths could be turned into a racing pool with standard championship specifications.¹⁵⁴ Since 1938 the NDASA had been lobbying for "a swimming pool in every suburb"¹⁵⁵ and the growth of suburban Olympic standard pools in the post war period saw the gradual removal of championship racing from the Ocean Baths although carnivals continued to be held.

The swimming clubs were also instrumental in extending the swimming season at the Baths. In 1947 the recently formed Newcastle Veterans' Swimming Club lobbied to have the Baths open during the winter months.¹⁵⁶ However, it was not until the 1980s when efforts by the Prince of Wales Pirates Winter Swimming Club resulted in the public being able to swim during winter months between 6.00am and 2.00pm.¹⁵⁷ The Prince of Wales Pirates together with the Dixon Park Coldies continue to maintain club rooms at the Baths.

Current Uses

For many Novocastrians, a daily visit to the Ocean Baths has become a way of life. But whilst the Ocean Baths continue as a popular swimming and hydrotherapy facility for the general public, recent years have seen a rise in the cultural appreciation of the Baths.

Peter Walmsley believes the renovations carried out in the wake of the Newcastle Earthquake helped to bring about a rejuvenation of the Baths. Today the Baths have developed as a drawcard for tourists, artists and even wedding parties. "It's the art deco atmosphere and they know its heritage value," Mr Walmsley said.¹⁵⁸

With its Art Deco façade and stunning ocean backdrop, the Baths have become a source of inspiration for photographers, and filmmakers; the site served as a location for the movie "Bootmen".¹⁵⁹ As a cultural and evocative visual subject, the site is also a popular cultural focal point for artists including Newcastle artist Kerrie Coles and Sydney-based James Willebrant.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵² Letter from Northern District Amateur Swimming Club to Town Clerk, 7 September, 1934, Newcastle City Council Correspondence 1911-1938, A 2533, File No. 92.

¹⁵³ Letter from Northern District Amateur Swimming Club to Town Clerk, 26 April, 1939, Newcastle City Council Correspondence 1938-1940, A2547, File No. 50/1; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 17 January, 1946, *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 23 October, 1948, 1 February, 1949, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹⁵⁴ Newcastle City Council Correspondence, 1958-1961, A2550, File No. 50/1.

¹⁵⁵ *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 17 May, 1938.

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 12 April, 1947, cited in Newcastle Region Public Library, Newcastle Ocean Baths...

¹⁵⁷ Newcastle City Council Correspondence, File No. 50/606/-/05

¹⁵⁸ *Newcastle Herald*, 17 April, 1997.

¹⁵⁹ Letter from 'Bootmen' co-producer, 31 March, 2000, Newcastle City Council Correspondence, File No. 50/00606/00000/05-2.

¹⁶⁰ *Newcastle Herald*, 17 April, 1997.

2.8 Conclusion

For almost ninety years, the Newcastle Ocean Baths has served as a popular recreational and sports facility for the general public, swimming clubs, and schools. The complex was the first of only two concrete, enclosed ocean pools erected on Newcastle city's coast. With the development of suburban swimming pools in the post World War II era and the rise of backyard swimming pools, some people regard such pools as the Ocean Baths as merely the vestiges of a bygone era. However, the Ocean Baths complex is more than a reminder of the past; it continues to occupy a physical and social presence in the life of the city and its inhabitants.

As Newcastle strives to promote its beach and swimming culture in the wake of the collapse of local industrial manufacturing, the Ocean Baths serve as an integral link within the history of that culture.

2.9 Time Line

The following represents a time line of the major developments leading to the construction of the Newcastle Ocean Baths.

late 18 th C	English medical tracts recommend cold salt water bathing beneficial for health
1810	Governor Macquarie bans bathing at the Government wharf
1818	Governor Macquarie advised bathers to avoid the surf and keep to the harbour
1820	The Bogey Hole constructed by convict labour for Commandant Morisset
1825	First formal baths in NSW constructed on the shore of The Domain, Sydney
1838	Law prohibiting daylight bathing in all waters throughout entire Colony within view of a public place
1850	Bathing accommodation for women established on Newcastle Harbour
1861	Segregated bathing for women established on the southern end of Newcastle Beach
1853	Four public harbour baths in Sydney exist
1882	Lands Department allows Newcastle Council to occupy and construct Soldiers' Baths beneath Fort Scratchley
1884	The Bogey Hole enlarged by Council
1893	Newcastle Council passed by-law permitting beach bathing at all hours for both sexes
1905-1911	Council considered numerous plans for baths on a section of Newcastle Beach, north east of the hospital
1911	Tenders called on design for baths by City Engineer L.B. Blackwell – construction commenced September
1912	Local architect F.G. Castleden appointed to remodel Blackwell's plans
1913	Baths opened to the public on New Years Day
1918	Admission charged; new dressing accommodation constructed
1922	Construction commenced on Ocean Baths Pavilion, including new dressing accommodation – opened November
1927	Pavilion façade remodelled by local architects Pitt & Merewether
1937	Young Mariners' Pool completed to the south of the baths, including concrete map of the world
1939	New boat pool completed on the ocean side of the Young Mariners' Pool, later known as the Canoe Pool
1968	Map of the world demolished

3 Physical Evidence

3.1 Context of the Site

The Newcastle Ocean Baths are set in a rocky outcrop on the southern side of a natural headland forming the southern entrance to Newcastle Harbour, within the suburb of Newcastle East. The immediate context is dominated by residential development, with some commercial buildings such as hotels and restaurants, fronting Shortland Esplanade.

The Ocean Baths act as a visual centre to Newcastle and Nobbys beaches and the 'peninsula' of the city eastern precinct. The context is rich in cultural heritage, with numerous heritage items in the immediate vicinity, including the Soldiers Baths, Surf Pavilions, Royal Newcastle Hospital, the natural and man-made forms comprising Nobbys Head, the many residential and commercial buildings and varied landscape features of Newcastle East. Generally, the Ocean Baths is set within a culturally rich and diverse environment.

The Ocean Baths is set into the greater 'Bathers Way' ocean precinct, which extends from Nobbys Beach along the waters edge to Merewether Beach.



Figure 3.1
The context of the Ocean Baths
(noted here as Swim Pools).
source: UBD

3.2 Ocean Baths Landscape

The immediate landscape of the Baths is that of a hard landscape. The baths and pavilion itself are masonry, surrounded by masonry paving surfaces. To the east lies rock shelves which lower into the Tasman Sea; to the west lies bitumen of carparks and roadways. Further to the west and atop the natural headland is a small parkland called Tramway Reserve, however due to the difference in level, this park does not visually link well with the Ocean Baths.

The historical landscape of the baths is that of a natural rocky platform, into which the baths was later carved. The adjoining expanses of sandy beach stretch through to Nobbys Head in the north and the headland at King Edward Park in the south.



Figure 3.2
The landscape of the Baths, with Pavilion at left, looking through the toward the Canoe Pool.
source: Suters Architects

3.3 External Form and Fabric

The Ocean Baths is basically a pool carved into a natural rock with rubble stone and concrete walls. Blasting of rock for construction on the baths began in 1911 and building of a rock platform (completed in 1918) for the change sheds described as an island. In 1922 a sluice gate was built with an automatic gate on the north western side of the site. These flood gates were rebuilt in 1949. The pumphouse was also rebuilt in the early 1950s. An existing timber diving platform was replaced by a steel tower in 1928. The stepped seating was proposed in 1946 and the bridge dividing the lap pool constructed in 1948. Alterations have included repairs with raising of the northern promenade by one foot. The latest alterations, in 1990 for a ramp to allow disabled access into the pool. A shade structure has also been recently installed.

The pavilion is in the main, a rendered reinforced concrete building, housing a kiosk, male and female change rooms and first floor residence. This building replaced earlier dressing sheds (1918) and was approved for building in 1921. At this time it was called the Newcastle Ocean Baths. Later extensions to the pavilion were constructed in brick cavity with render finish. The pavilion is an elongated structure that shelters the pool from the city.

The pavilion as it appears today is detailed in an Inter-War Stripped Classical/Art Deco style, although as outlined in the history this has been adapted from an earlier style of building. The façade is dominated by engaged piers and is distinguished by the vertical parapet of the central block and two decorative parapets of each wing, both having shell motifs. The 1927-1928 alterations included amendments to the existing central block for a new pavilion entrance in the Stripped Classical/Art Deco style, raising the parapet and the addition of simplified palmette motifs to the parapet. An early photograph shows the porch entrance existing before 1927. There is also mention of a residence for the first caretaker from 1922. The main entrance is a large opening, not in the centre of the façade through the porch as expected, but adjacent to the central section to the north. The change rooms are simple open-air structures behind the pavilion façade, which enhance the ocean beach nature of the bathing experience. The central structure is essentially a two storey block with offices and kiosk at ground, and residence above. From 1918 a charge was required for swimming, hence the central entrance would have been used.

Additions to the building were undertaken in 1958-1959. These included separate club-rooms for the Premier Men's and Women's Swimming Club, storeroom, painting, raising of northern promenade and shelter on eastern wall of the dressing sheds. The latter shelter does not exist and may not have been built. Adjacent to each change room are the swimming club-rooms, a two storey addition which today houses the Dixon Park Coldies Swimming Club (southern addition) and the Newcastle Pirates Swimming Club (northern addition). At this time the original windows may have been removed and replaced with concrete blocks (date unknown).

A colonnade was planned in 1961 and was constructed on the eastern side of the women's change sheds. Repairs were undertaken in 1989 to the baths following earthquake damage. This included repainting in "six colours reflecting a maritime heritage theme. In 1990 with the building of an access ramp to the pool, a shower, change-room and toilets facilities were also altered for disabled users. In the same year the kiosk was upgraded.

The Canoe Pool was completed in 1937 and extended in 1939. The map at the base of the pool was demolished in 1968.

The pavilion is painted in an Art Deco colour scheme, while the pool walls are re-coated using a limewash mixture each week. The façade of the Baths was sand-blasted to a clean base during works undertaken in the 1990s, hence the original colour scheme of the building is not evident beneath the existing layer.



Figure 3.3
The west elevation of
the Baths Pavilion.
source: Suters Architects

3.4 Internal Form and Fabric

The interior form of the change rooms is relatively unaltered from the original, each male and female rooms housing changing cubicles, showers and toilets, with the central areas having long benches. The cubicle, toilet and shower areas are within the roofed structure, however the main change area is not roofed. The finishes in the change rooms are predominantly painted brickwork, with tiling to the wet areas. The floors are bare concrete.

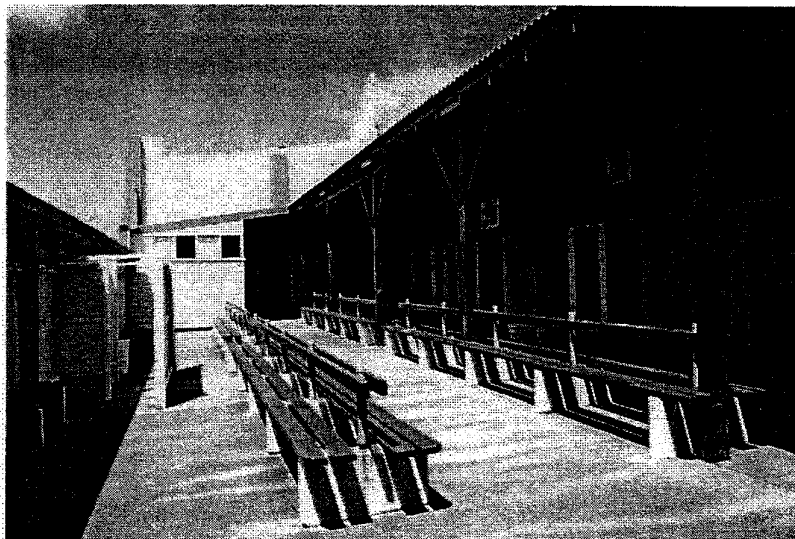


Figure 3.4
The female dressing shed.
source: Suters Architects

The central section of the pavilion has been renovated at various stages, and therefore does not exhibit many original features. The upper floor houses a three bedroom residence, with outdoor deck to the south. The interior is lined with plasterboard, and the kitchen and bathroom areas have been renovated. Some internal doors have fanlights and Art Nouveau style door hardware. The ground floor of the central section has also been renovated and now houses a large take-away food kiosk on the southern side and a staff area, workshop and first aid room on the north side. The finishes on this level are rendered and painted walls with remnant dado moulding in some areas, bare concrete floors in the staff area and tiling to the kiosk floors and walls. The ceiling throughout is predominantly sheeted.

3.5 Architectural Style

The Ocean Baths before alteration in 1922 was a typical Federation style façade. Although altered in 1927, the modified style appears to be most strongly that of Inter-War Stripped Classical, with Art Deco decorative elements. This style was not uncommon for recreational buildings, as it portrayed an air of fun and frivolity. The 'stage set' façade of the structure and the current Art Deco pastel colour scheme reinforces the playful mood of the building.

Features of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style which are dominant in the Ocean Baths include the symmetrical façade, division into vertical bays indicating classical origins, elements of other styles (e.g. Art Deco), emphatic portal, and simple surfaces.¹⁶¹

3.6 Movable Heritage

A thorough site inspection of the place has not revealed any items of movable heritage.

¹⁶¹ Apperly et. al., p166.

4 Assessment of Significance

4.1 NSW Heritage Assessment Guidelines

The Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning sets out criteria and guidelines in their *Assessing Heritage Significance*¹⁶² document to assist the assessment of an items significance. This document outlines the method required to achieve a Statement of Significance.

The steps in assessing the significance are:

- Summarise what you know about the item
- Describe the previous and current uses of the item, its associations with individuals or groups and its meaning for those people
- Assess significance using the NSW heritage assessment criteria
- Check whether you can make a sound analysis of the item's heritage significance
- Determine the item's level of significance
- Prepare a succinct statement of heritage significance
- Get feedback
- Write up all your information

Heritage Significance Criteria

The NSW assessment criteria listed below encompass the following four values of significance:

- historical significance
- aesthetic significance
- research/technical significance
- social significance

An item will be considered to be of State (or local) significance if in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Criterion (a)** *an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- Criterion (b)** *an item has strong association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- Criterion (c)** *an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of the creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);*
- Criterion (d)** *an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*
- Criterion (e)** *an item has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or local history of the local area);*
- Criterion (f)** *an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- Criterion (g)** *an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or the local area's)*
~cultural or natural places; or
~cultural or natural environments.

¹⁶² Text shown in italics is taken from the document *Assessing Heritage Significance, a NSW Heritage Manual update*.

Gradings of Significance

Gradings are used to assess the relative contribution of the parts of a place to its heritage value, and are:

- exceptional
- high
- moderate
- low
- intrusive

These gradings have been applied to the components of the Ocean Baths. The definitions for gradings and the graded components are found in the datasheets (Appendix A).

Levels of Significance

The assessment of significance requires that the level of significance be determined. State significance is defined as significant to the people of NSW. Local significance means within the local government area.

Some items of local significance may have values that extend beyond the local government area, or need a wider contextual consideration. Where this is the case these values should be included in the statement of significance.¹⁶³

4.2 Historical Themes

The relationship of a potential heritage item to its historical context is an underlying thread to assessing significance. There is a direct connection between historical themes and the evaluation procedure, with the themes providing a context within which an item can be understood, assessed and compared, especially when considering its historical value.

An historical theme is described by the Heritage Office as a major force or process which has contributed to our history. Themes may be identified as specific to state areas (themes which have been developed by the Heritage Council of NSW) or local areas (identified in the researched history of the place). Themes may also reflect a function.

Historical themes specific to the assessment of the Ocean Baths are:

Local historical themes: leisure, sport

State historical themes: leisure, sport

¹⁶³ NSW Heritage Office.

4.3 Significance Assessment

historical significance

Criterion (a) *An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

Criterion (b) *An item has strong association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

- The Newcastle Ocean Baths and pavilion are a record of the importance of beach culture and swimming as a sport and recreational activity to the people of Newcastle.
- The Baths and pavilion tell the story of the development of Newcastle's beachfront and are an integral part of the history of the beach promenade and Newcastle Beach.
- The Baths has a strong association with a significant cultural practice and represents the continuity of a significant human activity.

aesthetic significance

Criterion (c) *An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of the creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).*

- The Baths pavilion (altered) is constructed in an architectural style that may be considered rare for its type in Newcastle and NSW.
- The Ocean Baths is a dominant physical landmark in Newcastle.
- The Baths exemplifies the Inter-War Stripped Classical/Art Deco style, and its use in recreational buildings, particularly as a style used in ocean/beach side development.
- The Baths is reputedly the largest of its type (rock excavated) in the southern hemisphere.

social significance

Criterion (d) *An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*

- The Ocean Baths contributes to the local community's sense of identity.

research significance

Criterion (e) *An item has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or local history of the local area).*

- The Ocean Baths is an important benchmark type in Newcastle, representing one of the earliest known examples of the style in the City.
- The excavation of the natural rock ledge, and the natural sand bottom, is of interest for the nature of its construction.

4.3.1 Comparative Analysis

A comparative analysis of other baths and beach structures of similar age, scale and style helps to determine the significance of the Ocean Baths. Such an analysis facilitates assessment of the criteria outlined in the NSW Heritage Manual related to whether a place is rare or representative.

The building of the Ocean Baths began in 1911. The Ocean Baths pavilion was opened in 1922 with alterations in 1927 that created an Stripped Classical/Art Deco building. The large scale of both the baths and pavilion is a record of the importance of swimming as both a sport and leisure activity in Newcastle. From our research it would seem to be one of the few remaining bath pavilions in the Art Deco style in NSW and Victoria. The large scale of the Ocean Baths, the style and prominent location add to the rare qualities of the bath pavilion. No other similar bath pavilions have been identified in Sydney.¹⁶⁴ In Melbourne, the Brighton Baths appear to be similar in scale and style. The style however is more restrained and identified with the Functionalist Style.

Ocean Baths are an early part of the history of this area. The Soldiers Baths (1882) and the development of a beach promenade along Nobbys are amongst the earliest beach developments in Australia. The Bogey Hole located south of the Ocean Baths and Newcastle Beach dates back to the Penal Colony period (1819-1822) and by 1863 was in general use as a segregated pool. The earliest baths in Sydney are the Bronte Beach Baths (c1888). Newcastle's coastline similarly to Sydney tells a story of the development of beaches and baths and the culture of surfing and swimming. Baths were also built to provide shelter from surf and safety from shark attack. In 1928 the Ladies baths were built at Merewether, Newcastle and in 1935, larger baths were built on the south side of Merewether Beach. Many of the baths in Sydney such as Balmoral, and the numerous Harbour baths were built with turpentine or ironbark timber and wire netting. In less sheltered areas such as the Wylie baths, Coogee, (1907), Bondi Baths (1908) and many other coastal beaches around Sydney, pools were carved out of the rock base with rock and concrete walls.

The beaches were also developed with the growth of surfing and Surf Lifesaving Clubs. Due to the exposure of these buildings, many of the original pavilions have been demolished both in Sydney and Newcastle. Some of these pavilions were designed in the popular Art Deco style. Merewether Surf House still survives as a restrained example of a pavilion in the Art Deco style (1936). Surf Pavilions in Sydney were often designed in the Free Classical Style with elements of Spanish Mission, such as the Bondi and Balmoral Pavilion. Nobbys Pavilion, located north of the Ocean Baths, is also designed in this latter style. The beach pavilion at South Steyne, Manly (now demolished) dating from 1938 was awarded the Sulman Award in 1939. It was a more modern building in the Functionalist Style with none of the decorative detail associated with Art Deco.

As the recreation of swimming and surfing grew the beach promenades, pavilions, kiosks and baths were also developed. Beach architecture had been forming in England since the late 1800s with the building of promenades, piers, hotels and guest houses in areas such as Brighton. However, the Art Deco style as a style for the beach and associated recreation was predominant in the United States at baths in New York and on beachsides such as Miami. At Miami South Beach, the beachside promenade is lined with Art Deco style hotels, picture theatres and shops, built in the 1920s and 1930s. As in the United States, this style in Australia became closely associated with recreation and could explain its use on the promenade in Newcastle.

Figure 4.1
Middle Brighton Municipal
Baths pavilion, Melbourne.
source: Register of the National
Estate website



¹⁶⁴ *Survey of Harbourside & Ocean Pools of the Sydney Metropolitan Region*, EJE Landscape Architects, 1994.

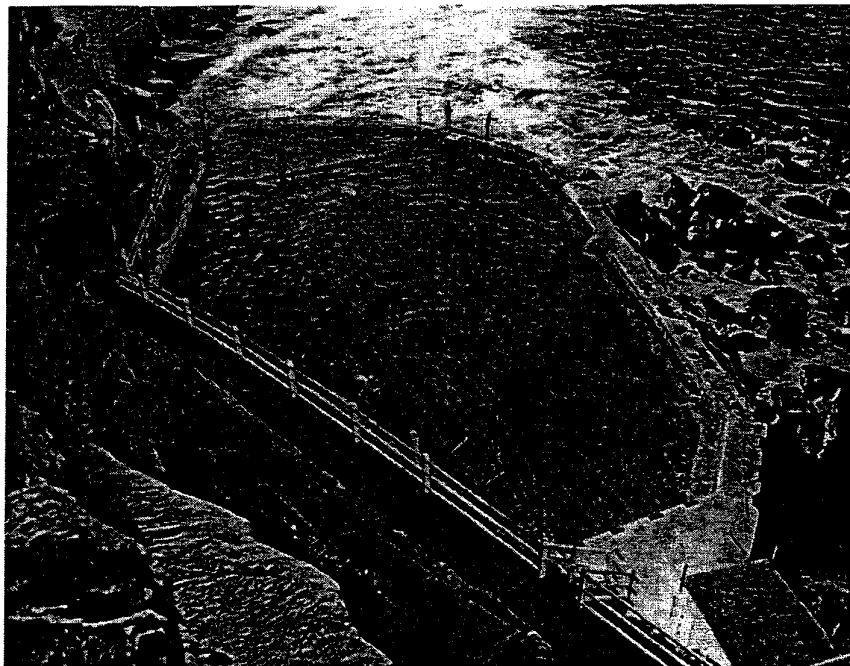


Figure 4.2
Bronte Beach Baths
source: Survey of Harbourside &
Ocean Pools of the Sydney
Metropolitan Region



Figure 4.3
South Steyne Pavilion, Manly
source: Architecture in Transition

rarity

Criterion (f) *An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

- The Ocean Baths, with its Stripped Classical/Art Deco style pavilion, is considered to be aesthetically rare for its type in New South Wales. No other baths pavilions of this architectural style have been found to exist in the State.

representativeness

Criterion (g) *An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or the local area's)*

- *cultural or natural places; or*
- *cultural or natural environments.*

- The Ocean Baths is representative historically for its association with beach and swimming culture; socially for its contribution to the community's sense of place; and representative of research value as a benchmark type and for its construction (the pool).

4.4 National Heritage Assessment Guidelines

The Newcastle Ocean Baths is not considered to be a place of cultural heritage value in a national context, therefore assessment of the place within the National Heritage Guidelines has been omitted.

4.5 Summary of Significance

The assessment of significance is summarised as follows:

criteria	level of significance local / State / national	degree of significance rare or representative
historical	local	representative
aesthetic	State	rare
social	local	representative
research	local	representative

It is considered that the Newcastle Ocean Baths is a heritage item of rare State aesthetic significance, and of representative local historical, social and research significance.

5 Statement of Significance

The Newcastle Ocean Baths is an icon of the City. It stands alone, dominating the city coastline - the pavilion a stage set for the cultural pursuit of ocean bathing. The size and prominence of the structure represents the significance which has been placed on swimming and beach culture from the early 1900s.

The Ocean Baths is aesthetically significant and unique, as it is believed to be the only Inter-War Stripped Classical/Art Deco ocean baths pavilion found in New South Wales. The landmark baths and pavilion is an early, and possibly the first example of this style in Newcastle. Socially, the place greatly contributes to the local community's sense of place.

The continued public enthusiasm and use of the Ocean Baths even during its construction is testament to the community value of the place.

The continued care of the place by the City Council represents local government public service.

6 Curtilage

6.1 Introduction

The NSW Heritage Office defines curtilage as 'the extent of land around [a place] which should be defined as encompassing its heritage significance. This area of land is known as a heritage curtilage.' There are four types of heritage curtilage:

Lot Boundary Curtilage, where the legal boundary of the allotment is defined as the heritage curtilage. The allotment will generally contain all associated features such as outbuildings and gardens within its boundaries.

Reduced Heritage Curtilage, where an area less than the total allotment is defined as the heritage curtilage, and is applicable where not all parts of a property contain places associated with its significance.

Expanded Heritage Curtilage, where the heritage curtilage is actually larger than the allotment, and is particularly relevant where views to and/or from a place are significant.

Composite Heritage Curtilage would generally apply to larger areas combining a number of separate places, such as heritage conservation areas based on a block, precinct or whole village.

6.2 Curtilage of the Ocean Baths

The Ocean Baths is uniquely located as an almost isolated element along Shortland Esplanade, enhanced by the curve in the roadway which heightens the dramatic effect of the building form and natural rock ledge protruding from the eastern headland of the city. This dominating landmark should remain as such, with no new structures likely to degrade this status allowed within the visual catchment of the Baths on approach along Shortland Esplanade.

Considering the above, an expanded heritage curtilage (as defined above in 6.1) is considered appropriate for the Baths and associated structures. Diagrammatically, the assessed curtilage is shown below in figure 6.1.

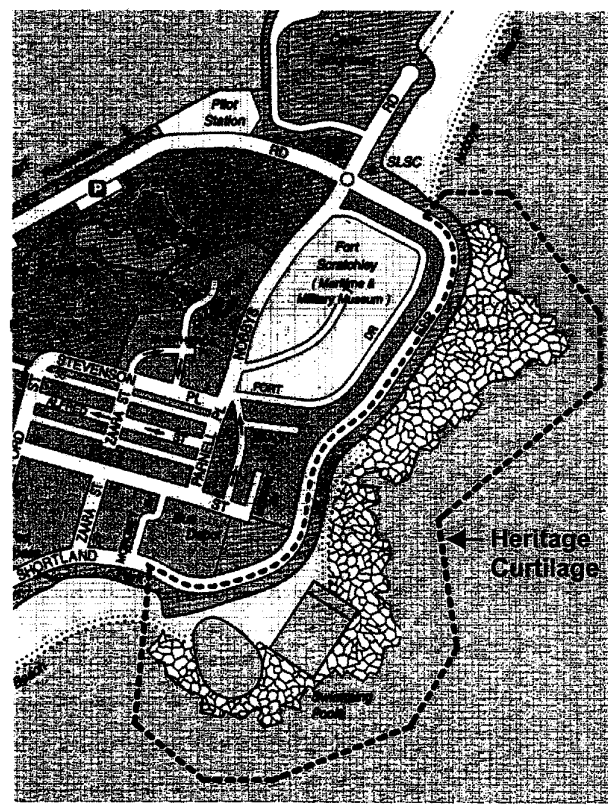


Figure 6.1
Heritage curtilage.

7 Obligations and Opportunities

7.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section is to assess the potential obligations and opportunities affecting the place, not only in terms of heritage, but also:

- Statutory Requirements
- Client Requirements

7.2 Obligations Arising from the Significance of the Place

The place has been identified as having State significance, hence any works that take place should be done so as not to diminish that significance. Adaptation may be carried out in relation to future use with regard for the assessed significance and within the recommendations of this Conservation Management Plan and any necessary community consultation. The place should continue to be used for recreational purposes, and any adaptation to the place should be done with this objective as a priority.

7.3 Obligations Arising from the Burra Charter

The Burra Charter is the *Australia ICOMOS* (International Council on Monuments and Sites) *charter for the conservation of places of cultural significance*. Guidelines set out by the Burra Charter are recognised as the basis for conservation in Australia.

The Burra Charter includes statements regarding conservation principles, processes and practice, and is supplemented by guidelines for the establishment of cultural significance and the formulation of a Conservation Policy and strategy for any item. While the recommendations of the Charter have no legal status, it is broadly accepted as a basis for heritage conservation philosophy, procedures and practice throughout Australia, and is consistent with international practice.

The following obligations for the Ocean Baths arise from The Burra Charter, with the relevant Articles noted in brackets.

- The cultural significance of the Ocean Baths should be retained and provisions made for its security, maintenance and future management. (Article 1.5, Article 2)
- All conservation work should be based on a respect for the existing fabric, use, associations and meanings and should involve minimum physical intervention. (Article 3)
- Traditional techniques and materials are preferred for the conservation of significant fabric. In some circumstances modern techniques and materials which offer substantial benefits may be appropriate. (Article 4)
- Conservation of the Ocean Baths requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place. New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate. (Article 8)
- Contents, fixtures and objects which contribute to the cultural significance of a place should be retained at that place. Their removal is unacceptable unless it is the sole means of ensuring their security and preservation; on a temporary basis for treatment or exhibition; for cultural reasons; for health and safety; or to protect the place. Such contents, fixtures and objects should be returned where circumstances permit and it is culturally appropriate. (Article 10)
- The contribution which related places and related objects make to the cultural significance of the place should be retained. (Article 11)

- Conservation, interpretation and management of a place should provide for participation of people for whom the place has special associations and meanings, or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the place. (Article 12)
- Conservation may, according to circumstance, include the processes of: retention or reintroduction of a use; retention of associations and meanings; maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation and interpretation; and will commonly include a combination of more than one of these. (Article 14)
- Change may be necessary to retain cultural significance, but is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a place should be guided by the cultural significance of the place and its appropriate interpretation. (Article 15)
- Changes which reduce cultural significance should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit. (Article 15)
- Demolition of significant fabric is generally not acceptable. However, in some cases minor demolition may be appropriate as part of conservation. Removed significant fabric should be reinstated when circumstances permit. (Article 15)
- The contributions of all aspects of cultural significance of a place should be respected. If a place includes fabric, uses, associations or meanings of different periods, or different aspects of cultural significance, emphasising or interpreting one period or aspect at the expense of another can only be justified when what is left out, removed or diminished is of slight cultural significance and that which is emphasised or interpreted is of much greater cultural significance. (Article 15)
- Maintenance is fundamental to conservation and should be undertaken where fabric is of cultural significance and its maintenance is necessary to retain that cultural significance. (Article 16)
- Preservation is appropriate where the existing fabric or its condition constitutes evidence of cultural significance, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other conservation processes to be carried out. (Article 17)
- Restoration and reconstruction should reveal culturally significant aspects of the place. (Article 18)
- Restoration is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the fabric. (Article 19)
- Reconstruction is appropriate only where a place is incomplete through damage or alterations, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the fabric. In rare cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a use or practice that retains the cultural significance of the place. (Article 20)
- Reconstruction should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional interpretation. (Article 20)
- Adaptation is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the cultural significance of the place. (Article 20)
- Adaptation should involve minimal change to significant fabric, achieved only after considering alternatives. (Article 20)
- New work such as additions to the place may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the cultural significance of the place, or detract from its interpretation and appreciation. (Article 22)
- New work should be readily identifiable as such. (Article 22)

- Significant associations between people and a place should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the interpretation, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented. (Article 24)
- The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment, and be culturally appropriate. (Article 25)
- Groups and individuals with associations with a place as well as those involved in its management should be provided with opportunities to contribute to and participate in understanding the cultural significance of the place. Where appropriate they should also have opportunities to participate in its conservation and management. (Article 25)
- The impact of proposed changes on the cultural significance of a place should be analysed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the place. It may be necessary to modify changes following analysis to better retain cultural significance. (Article 27)
- Existing fabric, use, associations and meanings should be adequately recorded before any changes are made to the place. (Article 27)
- Investigation of a place which requires disturbance of the fabric, apart from that necessary to make decisions, may be appropriate provided that it is consistent with the policy for the place. Such investigation should be based on important research questions which have potential to substantially add to knowledge, which cannot be answered in other ways and which minimises disturbance of significant fabric. (Article 28)
- The records associated with the conservation of a place should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate. (Article 32)
- Records about the history of a place should be protected and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate. (Article 32)
- Significant fabric which has been removed from a place including contents, fixtures and objects, should be catalogued, and protected in accordance with its cultural significance. Where possible and culturally appropriate, removed significant fabric including contents, fixtures and objects, should be kept at the place. (Article 33)

7.4 Statutory Controls

7.4.1 Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975

The Newcastle Ocean Baths is listed on the Register of the National Estate as an item within the Newcastle Conservation Area. The Baths is not listed as an individual item.

The Register of the National Estate is established under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 (AHC Act). Inclusion of any place on the register makes it incumbent upon Commonwealth Ministers under Section 30 of the Act to avoid any action which would adversely affect that place. The National Estate Official Statement of Significance for the Conservation Area states:

To encourage the conservation of a visually interesting townscape and complementary landscape. The close packed streets of buildings in Newcastle Hill juxtaposed and contrasted with a variety of grassed and sparsely vegetated coastline parks provide many pleasing visual experiences. The sea and sky are ever present and form a backdrop for views of many fine late nineteenth century and early twentieth century buildings lining streets within the conservation area.

There are no formal regulations governing what may or may not be done to a place on the register, rather it is intended to highlight the importance of these places to the nation, and thus avoid any actions that would diminish their significance.

7.4.2 State Heritage Legislation

The Baths is not listed by the Heritage Council of NSW under the NSW Heritage Act 1977 and Heritage Amendment Act 1998. This non-listing does not suggest insignificance, but rather indicates the Heritage Council's satisfaction that the building is adequately protected by other legislation.

7.4.3 Local Heritage Legislation

The Baths is listed as a heritage item of local significance in the Local Environmental Plan 1987 (Amendment No.52). This listing requires that any works to the place be approved by the Council.

The Baths is covered by Newcastle City Council Development Control Plan No. 57: City East Urban Design Guidelines. Although this document is not a statutory document, future works to the Baths are compelled to comply with the guidelines setout therein.

Similarly, Newcastle Development Control Plan No. 44: Conservation Area Guidelines applies to the Ocean Baths.

7.5 Other Listings

The Ocean Baths is individually classified by the National Trust, as well as falling within the Newcastle Urban Conservation Area, as defined by the National Trust.

The Ocean Baths is also listed on the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Register of 20th Century Significant Buildings.

A copy of the National Trust Classification listing cards, and the RAIA listing card, are included in this Conservation Management Plan in Appendix E.

7.6 Client Requirements

The Newcastle City Council is eager to see further uses incorporated into the Baths and the precinct, encouraging the focus of the place as a recreational centre to beach culture in Newcastle.

7.7 Physical Condition

The general condition of the fabric of the Baths appears to be fair. Previous repairs to the render are largely failing, with render drummy in numerous locations. Some sections of drummy and loose render present a danger to public safety, such as sections on the underside of the colonnade, which fall onto the seating area beneath with a single touch.

Some areas of the concrete floor surface in the changerooms is dangerously slippery when wet. This situation should be investigated further and rectified.

A structural inspection of the pavilion structure and the surrounding features such as retaining walls by Intrados Consulting Engineers reveals the precinct to be fairly stable, however the pavilion is in poor condition. Refer to Appendix C for further information.

A safety issue exists on the northern concrete seating steps, as the top step is not protected from a substantial change in height to the rock ledge below. A risk assessment should be undertaken immediately and changes implemented to protect the public from injury.

Asbestos is present in the roof sheeting, however the age of this sheeting is not known. A qualified assessor should be engaged to report on the health and safety risk present in this sheeting.

7.8 Building Code of Australia Obligations

The current amenities provision for disabled users of the baths is a single disabled toilet/shower/change area which is accessed off the main entry passageway, and requires a key

from the Ocean Baths staff in order to gain access. Although this complies in theory with the Building Code of Australia, the Disability Discrimination Act states that "A truly accessible environment is one in which a person with a disability can freely express their independence in a dignified manner and one in which any impediment to integration is removed." The current arrangement of disabled sanitary amenities at the Baths is not considered to meet this definition, as the amenities do not allow for independence in use, and do not allow for integration with other Baths users. However, it must be recognised that in some cases disabled patrons may need to be assisted by members of the opposite sex, such as spouses or children, therefore the provision of a separate unisex facility is a necessity. It is suggested therefore, that accessible facilities be incorporated into the male and female dressing sheds to allow for true independence and integration, while maintaining the existing facility.

At a minimum, access to the facilities by way of key should be amended to allow independent use, and access to the change rooms should be altered to allow for wheelchair access.

7.9 Use Opportunities

The use opportunities at the Ocean Baths are considerable, and at present the place is considered to be under-utilised. Some uses which seem appropriate include the following:

Food Service

Although the Baths currently incorporates a kiosk, the nature of the food service to the place could be greatly expanded to include a more structured café or restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and possibly dinner meals. Suggestions of a themed food service in line with the recreational/health theme of the Baths such as a health bar, is considered appropriate and is encouraged by this Conservation Management Plan. The continued operation of a kiosk serving 'fast food' is not seen to conflict with any additional food service use.

Therapeutic Use

It seems appropriate for the current recreational/sporting use of the Ocean Baths to be extended to include related uses such as alternative therapies, yoga, massage, physiotherapy, gymnasium, etc.

Residential Use

The continued use of the upper floor for residential purposes is considered appropriate for maintenance and security issues, however alternative uses for this space may also be considered appropriate.

Any change to the use of the place carries with it the increased expectation for parking spaces and amenities. This must be taken into account in any future planning.

7.10 Stakeholders

The following groups may be considered stakeholders in the conservation of the Ocean Baths. Newcastle City Council may choose to seek comment on any future works to the Baths from these, or any other community groups.

Newcastle Historical Society

NSW Heritage Office

Newcastle Alliance

Newcastle East Residents Group

Lessee

Paul Beck and family (resident)

Peter Walmsley (kiosk owner)

8 Conservation Policy

8.1 Introduction

The NSW Heritage Office states a Conservation Policy 'explains the principles to be followed to retain or reveal an item's significance. The aim is to show how the heritage significance of the item can be enhanced and maintained.'

In *The Conservation Plan* James Kerr notes that there is a 'clear theoretical distinction between policies and the strategies for their implementation.' The Conservation Policy is largely dependent on the assessed level of significance which is unlikely to change drastically over time, while the strategy for implementation, which appears in the following section of this report, interprets this policy in light of client requirements and funding, which are highly liable to change over time.

8.2 General Policy and Strategy

Policy 1 Newcastle Ocean Baths is a place of cultural heritage, and should be conserved and interpreted in its historical recreational use as a rare example of its style in Newcastle and New South Wales.

- a) The Newcastle Ocean Baths is an item of cultural significance which is valued on many levels for its demonstrable heritage. The place and its context of beaches and other baths clearly demonstrates the significance of ocean bathing as part of the cultural life of Novocastrians. The place should be recognised as such in all future works and studies.
- b) The place should be conserved in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter. This includes any and all work proposed for the building fabric, the site and context of the buildings, and the landscape.
- c) Conservation of the significant fabric (built and natural) is essential to the continued understanding and significance of the place. Any intervention in significant fabric, as defined in the accompanying Inventory Datasheets found in Appendix A, should be minimal and reversible.
- d) The landscape generally should be maintained. Refer to accompanying Inventory Datasheets found in Appendix A for specific recommendations.
- e) Future use of the place should be maintained as predominantly recreational, combined sympathetically with a commercial and/or residential use if so desired.
- f) Enhancement of significance should be further explored, possibly through interpretive displays.
- g) This Conservation Management Plan should be endorsed and adopted by Newcastle City Council, and the NSW Heritage Council prior to its use as a working document.
- h) A copy of this Conservation Management Plan should be held at the Ocean Baths and made available for viewing to interested parties. Copies should be available for purchase, if so desired. Copies should also be lodged with the following:
 - ~Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Section
 - ~Newcastle City Council, Strategic Planning Section
 - ~Newcastle City Council, Asset Management Section
 - ~NSW Heritage Council
- i) This Conservation Management Plan for the Ocean Baths should be reviewed and reassessed every five years.

8.3 Specific Policy Statements and Strategies

Policy 2 Conserve the setting and landscape of the Ocean Baths.

- a) The heritage curtilage as defined in section 6 of this document should be adopted and consciously protected by all departments within Newcastle City Council.
- b) Any intervention should be considered within the guidelines set out by this Conservation Management Plan. Intervention deemed essential should be appropriately recorded and that information lodged and stored with Newcastle City Council records.
- c) Any adaptation to the place which includes additional building works, or demolition, should be undertaken, or at the very least assessed, by a conservation architect. This would include small works such as the garage or other 'outbuildings', as well as large reconstructions and/or demolitions.
- d) Adaptive re-use of the place is considered appropriate for uses outlined the *Obligations and Opportunities* section of this document, or other uses with the approval of the Newcastle City Council Heritage Officer. Generally, the buildings and landscape should be strictly conserved in accordance with individual policies and datasheets contained herein.
- e) The existing hard landscape should be maintained, specifically in accordance with the Inventory Datasheets contained herein.

Policy 3 Conserve the built fabric of the Ocean Baths.

- a) Conservation work to highly significant built fabric should be limited to preservation, restoration, or to reconstruction where interpretation of significance would be subsequently enhanced. Adaptive re-use of spaces is encouraged within the guidelines outlined by this Conservation Management Plan.
- b) All works, unless restricted purely to maintenance or repairs, should be done under the guidance of appropriately qualified personnel. Any changes to material should be done only after consultation with a heritage architect or the Council Heritage Officer. All restoration or reconstruction should be based on a sound knowledge of its potential impact both on the significance of the place and on the condition of the fabric.
- c) Inclusion of any new services should be restricted, and concealed where possible. Replacement of original services should follow original details.
- d) All fabric, including built fabric and hardware, should be retained unless identified as intrusive, or further investigated and determined to be intrusive. Fabric identified as being intrusive should be removed. If this is unacceptable, sympathetic renovation alternatives should be investigated.
- e) Proposed conservation works should refer specifically to each room datasheet for relevant information on levels of significance and appropriate levels of conservation work and adaptive re-use.
- f) Routine maintenance should be carried out on a cyclical basis, with responsibilities of both Newcastle City Council and all leaseholders (i.e. caretaker; swimming clubs) clearly defined in a maintenance schedule. Neglect of responsibilities, by either party, is unacceptable and considered detrimental to the cultural heritage significance of the Ocean Baths.
- g) Deteriorated fabric that allows further damage, or deterioration to other fabric, should be repaired or replaced (as appropriate) immediately.
- h) Where intervention is proposed to significant fabric, such fabric and intervention work should be photographically recorded and documented.

- i) Intervention to fabric considered significant should be reversible.
- j) Specific recommendations for individual areas of fabric, where applicable, are set out in the relevant Inventory Datasheets contained in Appendix A.

Policy 4 Enhance the significance of the place through interpretation.

- a) Regardless of use, an interpretation plan highlighting the cultural significance of the Ocean Baths should be commissioned and implemented for the place. An interpretation plan should highlight the physical and social context of the Ocean Baths.

9 Implementation

9.1 Introduction

The implementation strategy defined in this document outlines suggested methods for commencement of conservation works. Implementation is not intended to be a scope of works. Following the adoption of this Conservation Management Plan by Newcastle City Council and other relevant authorities, a conservation architect should be engaged to prepare a full scope of works document.

The following strategy for implementation of policies, which appear in the preceding section of this report, has been formulated with respect to:

- items identified by Suturs Architects as requiring attention in order to retard further deterioration of fabric, and the priority of such works;
- items identified by Suturs Architects as requiring attention in order to maintain and/or enhance the significance of the place;

The strategy for implementation of Policy is liable to change over time, and regular review of the strategy should be carried out to assess:

- if the aims of the strategy to date have been achieved;
- the impact of any works on the significance of the place;
- what amendments to the strategy are required in light of altered circumstances, either in use, funding availability, or the recommendations of other strategies/plans.

The suggested review period for the implementation strategy is every two years.

9.2 Responsibility

The Conservation Policy for the Ocean Baths has been formulated after thorough research of its history and considered assessment of its cultural significance, and is therefore unlikely to change drastically over time. Following acceptance and endorsement of this Conservation Management Plan by Newcastle City Council, the Plan should form the basis of all future work to the place. This includes minor works such as repairs and general maintenance, as well as large scale restoration or reconstruction. All persons involved in the design or construction of such works should be made aware of the requirements of this Conservation Management Plan.

9.3 Essential/Desirable Priorities

Immediate Priority

The following should be undertaken within 3 months.

1. Investigate options for safety railing/balustrade at the top of the concrete seating area, and construct same.
2. Investigate options for increased safety regarding slippery concrete floor surfaces in the changerooms, and implement same.
3. Repair or remove the concrete roof structure shading the picnic tables adjacent to the female changerooms.
4. Inspect the integrity and condition of the roof sheeting and flashing to each building, and repair any leaks or defects, and replace any sheeting deemed to be unsafe. A full investigation of asbestos present in the roof sheeting should be investigated as part of this work. Roof sheeting, if replaced, should be in a material sympathetic to the building.
5. A maintenance schedule should be drawn up, highlighting cyclical maintenance and the party responsible for each item.
6. Works determined by the structural assessment, undertaken concurrently with this CMP, as being crucial to the protection of fabric should be undertaken.
7. An electrical assessment should be undertaken. Works determined by that assessment to be essential should be undertaken.
8. Investigate design options for including accessible facilities within each of the male and female changerooms.

High Priority

The following should be undertaken within 12 months.

1. Paint the exterior of the pavilion, and the interior of the changerooms.
2. Implement the Master Plan for the Ocean Baths, undertaken concurrently with this CMP.
3. Consider providing shaded seating directly adjacent to the Canoe Pool, thus allowing closer and more comfortable supervision of young bathers.
4. Undertake alterations to the change rooms to allow for adequate disabled access. Consider providing accessible facilities in each male and female change rooms.
5. Undertake a prioritised list of suggested works in each Inventory Datasheet, and implement a plan to complete same within suggested timeframes.

Moderate Priority

The following should be undertaken within 2 years.

1. Undertake a study to enhance the interpretation of the place.
2. Consider relocation of the substation (possibly offsite) and a re-use of the space for storage or other use.

9.4 Long Term Priorities

Long Term Priorities

The following should be undertaken within ten years.

1. Consider amending some of the dressing lockers to a more usable size.
2. Investigate options for additional uses which would enhance user satisfaction.
3. Undertake full conservation works, as noted in the Inventory Datasheets. Depending upon the timing of this work, a review of the suggested works contained in those Datasheets may warrant review.
4. Consider options for adaptive re-use of some of the spaces.

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Appendix A

Inventory Datasheets

Each fabric datasheet in this Appendix states the significance of relevant fabric using the following classifications from the Heritage Council's guidelines, *Assessing Heritage Significance*:

Exceptional

Rare or outstanding item of Local or State significance.
High degree of intactness.
Item can be interpreted relatively easily.
Fabric should be conserved.

High

High degree of original fabric.
Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance.
Alterations do not detract from significance.
Fabric should be conserved.

Moderate

Altered or modified elements.
Elements with little heritage value,
but which contribute to the overall heritage value of the item.
Fabric may be conserved or adapted for re-use
in accordance with the conservation of the place as a whole.

Low

Alterations detract from significance.
Difficult to interpret.
Fabric may be altered or removed with little consequence
to the overall significance of the place.

Intrusive

Damaging to the item's heritage significance.
Fabric should be removed.

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Ocean
Baths
Newcastle

Fabric Datasheet

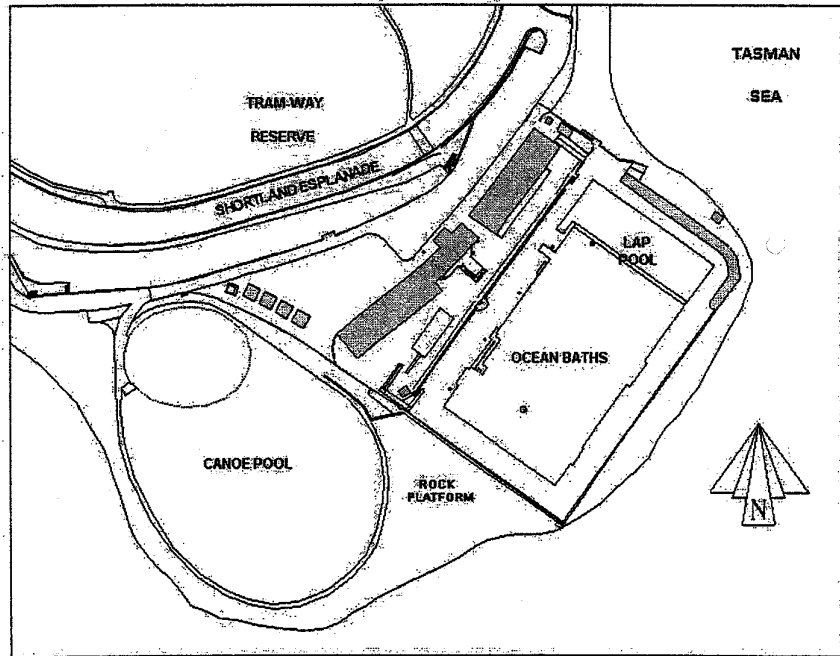
area: landscape

description: The immediate landscape of the Ocean Baths is a hard landscape, the pool concourse concrete with rock platforms beyond, and the western forecourt being bitumen carparking area. The Canoe Pool is also a concrete structure surrounded by a rock platform. Soft landscaping exists on the steep bank rising to Shortland Esplanade. Further to the west, opposite roadway, is Tramway Reserve, which is a turfed park area with a few trees, descending from the end of Scott Street. A small concrete pedestrian pathway allows access through Tramway Reserve down to Shortland Esplanade.

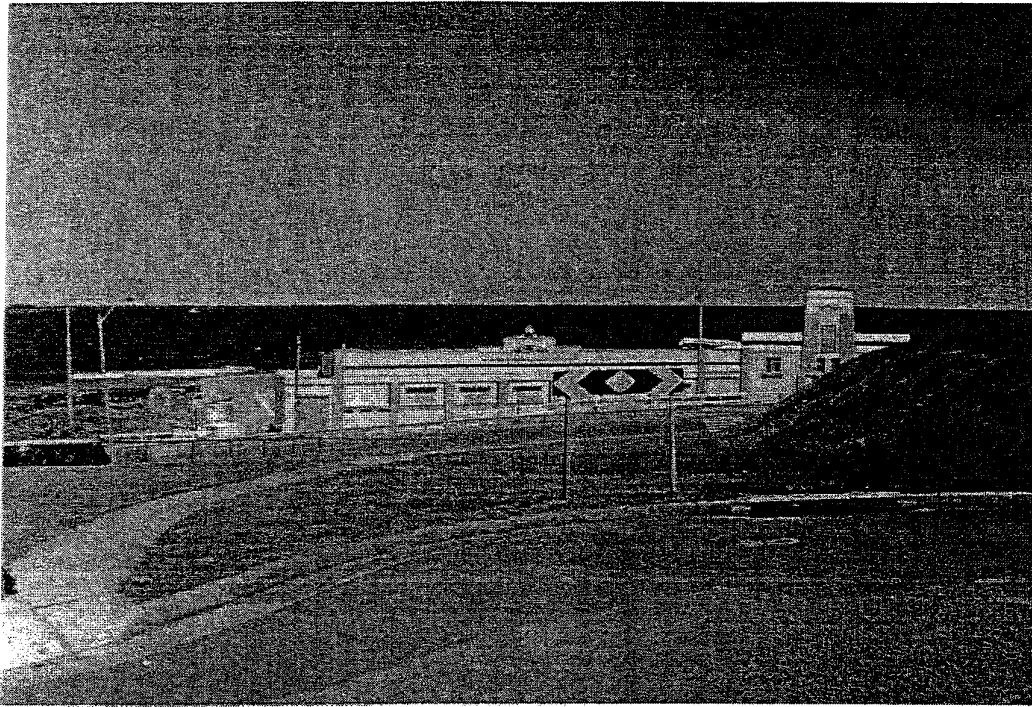
condition: The condition of the soft landscaping appears to be good, however Bitou bush is present on the carpark bank. The hard landscaping appears to be in fair-good condition, with cracking surfaces appearing normal. Pedestrian access through the western forecourt is confused, and places dangerous.

significant fabric: *high/exceptional intrusive* Rock platforms.
Carpark

recommendation & implementation: *immediate* Implement pedestrian crossing between Shortland esplanade stair and the entrance. Implement monitoring schedule for low level stone retaining wall. Undertake repairs to high level stone retaining wall, adjacent stair at western forecourt, in accordance with engineers recommendations. Consider options regarding traffic barriers (refer engineers report).
within 1 year Rationalise parking and pedestrian areas in western forecourt. Remove bitou bush and regenerate heath bank between carpark and Shortland esplanade.
within 2 years Undertake geotechnical survey in accordance with structural engineers recommendations.
long term Monitor structures in accordance with engineers recommendations.

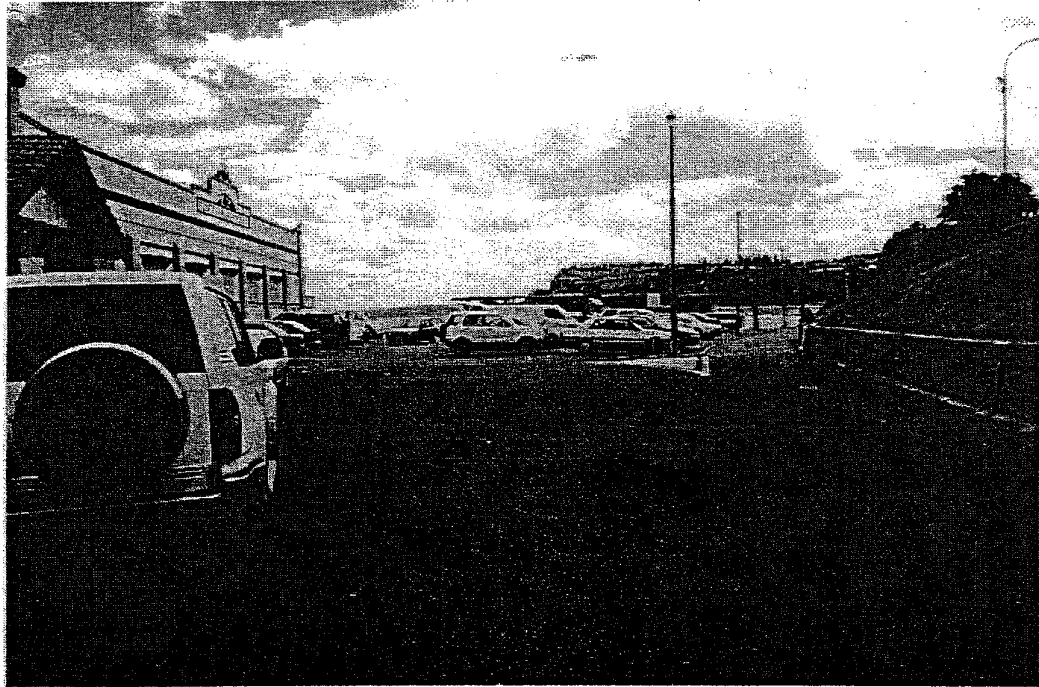
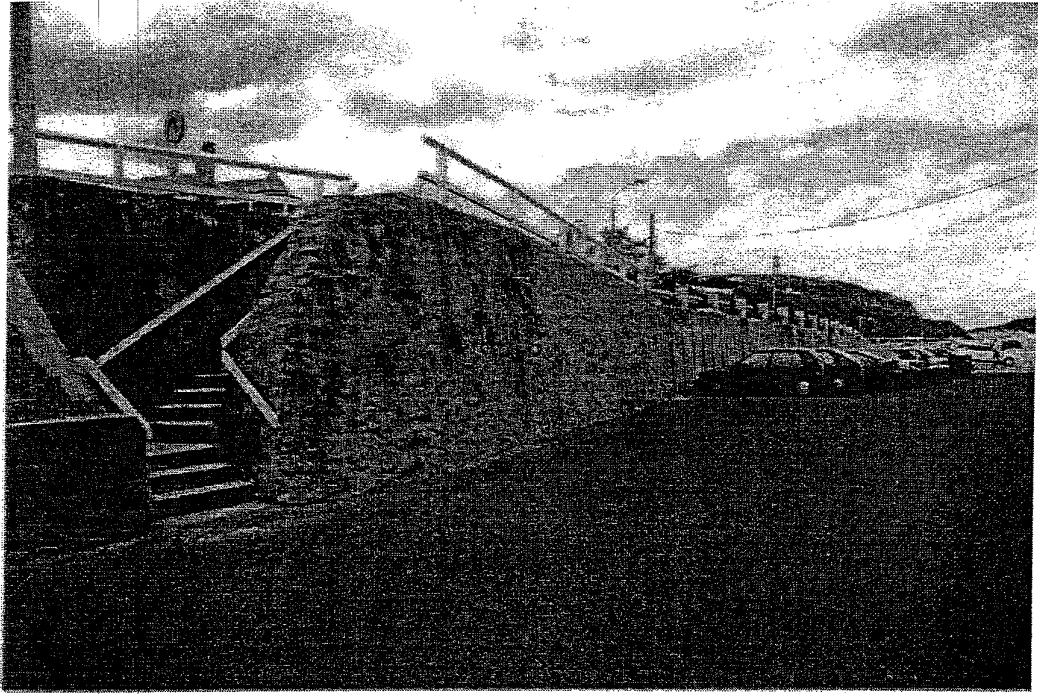


reference plan: |

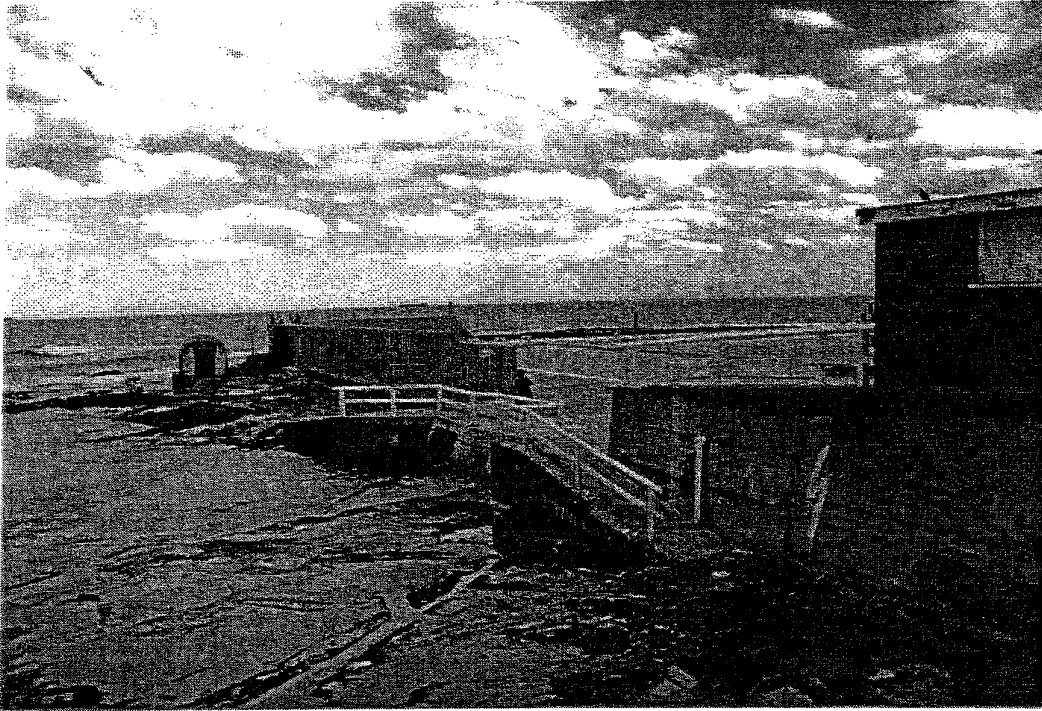


view from tram-way reserve across Shortland esplanade to the western facade | t o p

lower concourse and baths | a b o v e



carpark facing north | top
carpark facing south | above



rock platform facing south east | a b o v e

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

area: pavilion - west elevation

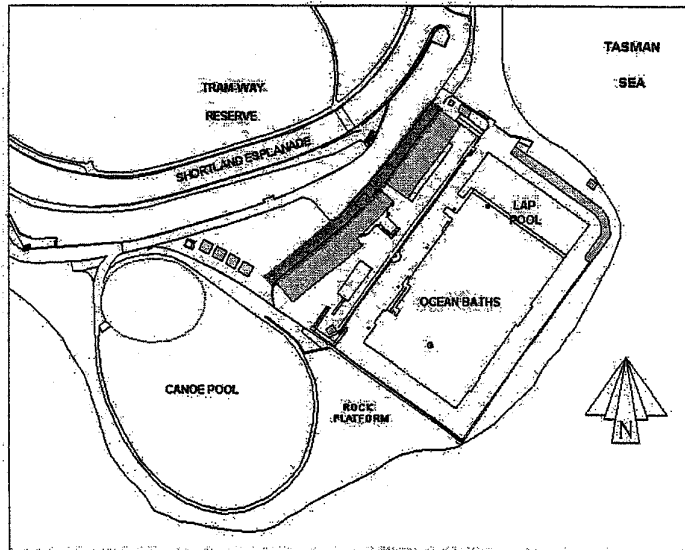
description: The rendered masonry façade (predominantly concrete, some brick) is the main façade of the Ocean Baths pavilion, having three distinct sections: two single storey dressing sheds either side of a two storey central kiosk and residence. The façade is broken visually by vertical elements such as columns, however appears horizontally streamlined by the effect of rendered banding, recessed windows (former) and strong parapets. The base of the façade is weighted by a rendered plinth which sits atop a line of sandstone blocks. The former windows are now filled in and decorated with rendered Art Deco motifs, although the original rendered window hoods remain. An Edwardian porch marks what was originally designed as the entry, and is a reminder of the original 1922 design. The entry to the Baths is now through a separation between the north dressing shed and the central kiosk pavilion, and is secured by a large timber gate. The north dressing shed has decorative section to the central parapet, a palmette motif of palm leaves and lotus, with OCEAN BATHS written beneath. The central two storey pavilion parapet has an Art Deco appearance, with a large shell motif either side. Remaining windows are intact however the breezeway and kiosk entries have steel security roller doors. Low level windows are cut into the façade at each of the north and south swimming club rooms. A single storey length rendered brick garage with steel roller door has been attached to the southern end of the pavilion, serving the residence. Similarly, a single storey rendered brick addition to the north houses an Energy Australia substation. A large floodlight is mounted on the parapet at the southern end.

condition: Fair-poor. Earthquake repairs undertaken in early 1990s. Significant amount of cracking. Paint badly peeling. Spalling concrete due to rusting reinforcement is evident in several locations.

significant fabric: *high* Façade comprising dressing sheds and central pavilion.
low/intrusive Garage, substation.

recommendation & implementation:

- immediate* Undertake recommendations for immediate and short term works of structural assessment. Put in place plan to undertake ongoing and long term works recommended by structural assessment.
- within 1 year* Repaint façade. Consider lighting the façade to highlight the building. Remove timber gates to entry and replace with a bollard. Consolidate signage at the entrance. Replace glazing to ground floor swim clubs and disabled change room.
- within 2 years* Replace roller doors on kiosk and breezeway with style sympathetic to the building, e.g. timber framed folding glass doors.
- long term* Remove garage and substation



reference plan:



central pavilion facade, showing porch and feature parapet | t o p

pavilion facade left of centre | a b o v e

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

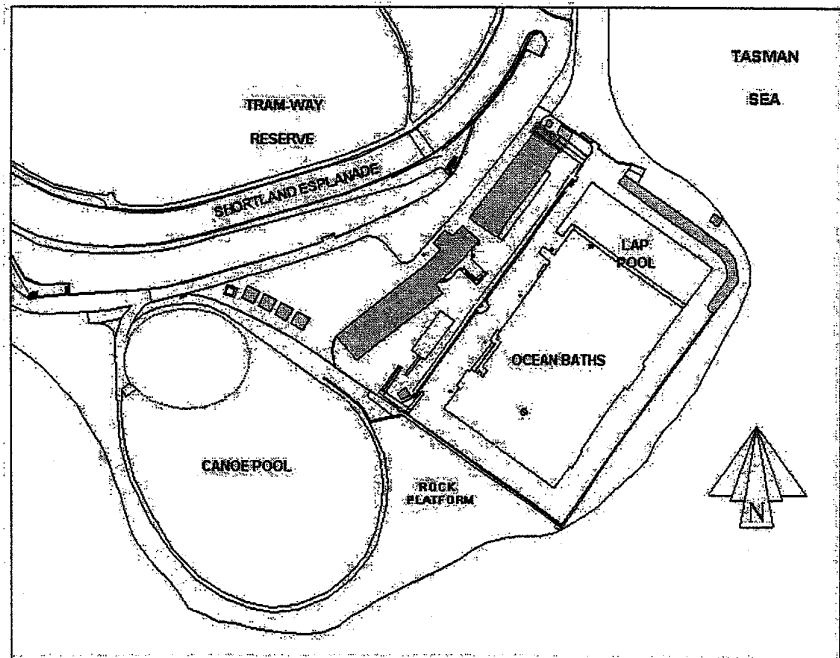
area: pavilion - north elevation

description: Rendered brick construction of the single storey Energy Australia substation, with three double timber casement windows and a horizontal row of vents above and below those windows. A rendered plinth highlights the base of the structure. The higher sloping parapet of the Newcastle Pirates Swimming Club is beyond, with two timber framed windows (awning to the east, glass louvres to the west). Note that the same parapet on the southern side does not slope. A modern spot light fitting is mounted on the north east corner of the substation near the top of the parapet.

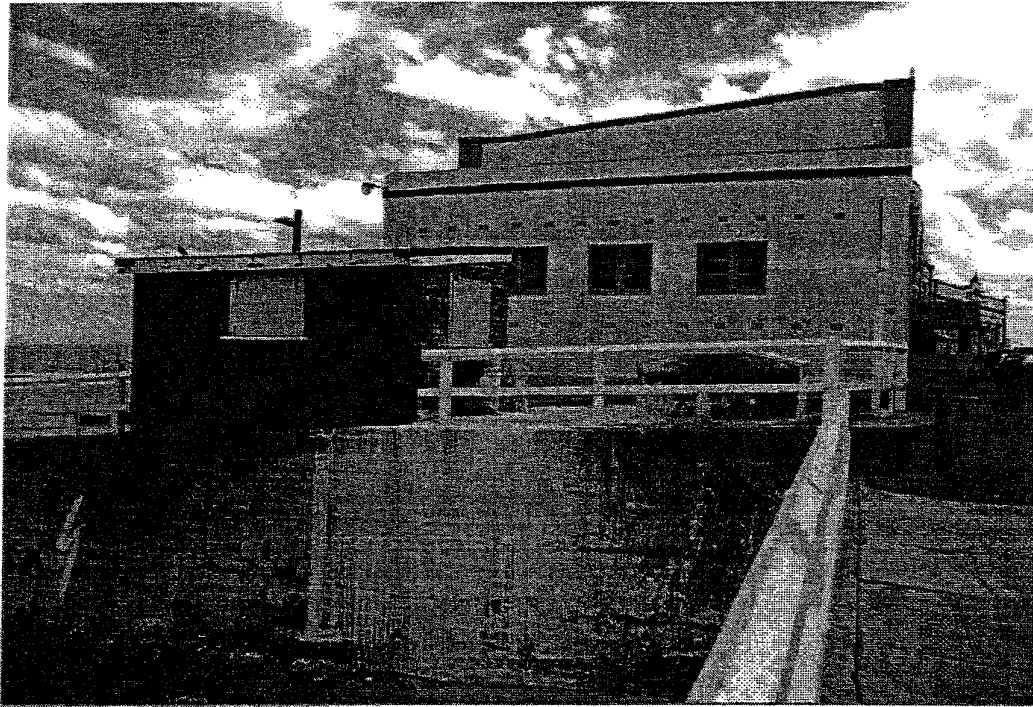
condition: Fair. Cracking. Large crack in Swimming Club parapet. Paint is peeling.

significant fabric: *high* Façade wall to swimming club
low/intrusive Substation

recommendation & implementation: *immediate* Undertake recommendations for immediate and short term works of structural assessment. Put in place plan to undertake ongoing and long term works recommended by structural assessment.
within 1 year Repaint façade. Consider lighting the façade to highlight the building.
long term Remove substation and reinstate façade wall to swim club.



reference plan



north elevation | above

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

area: pavilion - east elevation

description: The eastern elevation of the pavilion is a jumble of forms, hidden behind the front parapet. The central section is a two storey block housing the kiosk, staff area and residence, from which protrudes a large raised concrete area with disabled ramp leading down to the east. A small single storey verandah with lattice roof shades the entry to the breezeway, atop which a loud speaker is mounted. The upper floor residence has a small deck, which sits over the southern kiosk area, and has a lattice balustrade overlooking the pool deck area. This entry has a steel roller shutter. Two single door leafs lead to the first aid room and the kiosk. The windows of the central section are predominantly timber. The inspectors viewing area has a protruding triangular window. The upper level residence has a bay window, positioned over the breezeway verandah. The kiosk windows have additional steel security bars. The dressing sheds have a U-shaped configuration opening to the east. Each has a low height concrete wall reinforced with engaged piers. The northern dressing shed has a colonnade to the east which shelters picnic table seating. Under this colonnade is mounted a row of fluorescent light fittings. The rear of the parapets throughout the pavilion structure show evidence of former ventilation and window openings. Former door and window openings are also in evidence on the dressing shed walls. Wire gates lead to the dressing sheds. Several area lights are mounted on the upper levels of columns.

condition: Fair. Cracking to render. Rust covering metal surfaces. Points of rust evident throughout on walls. Paint peeling. Spalling and drummy render is evident in numerous locations.

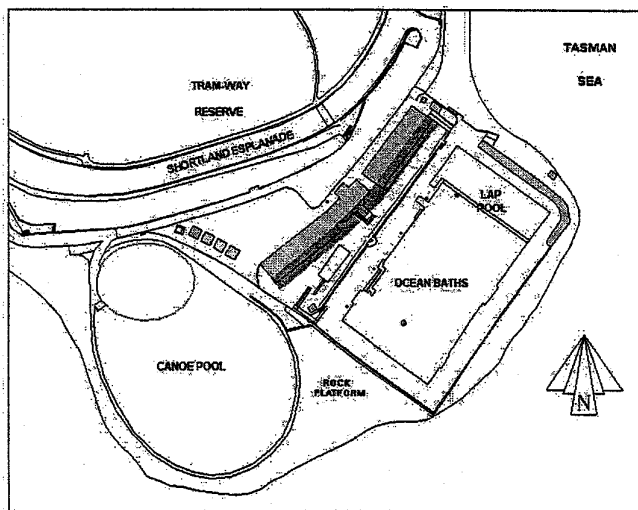
significant fabric:

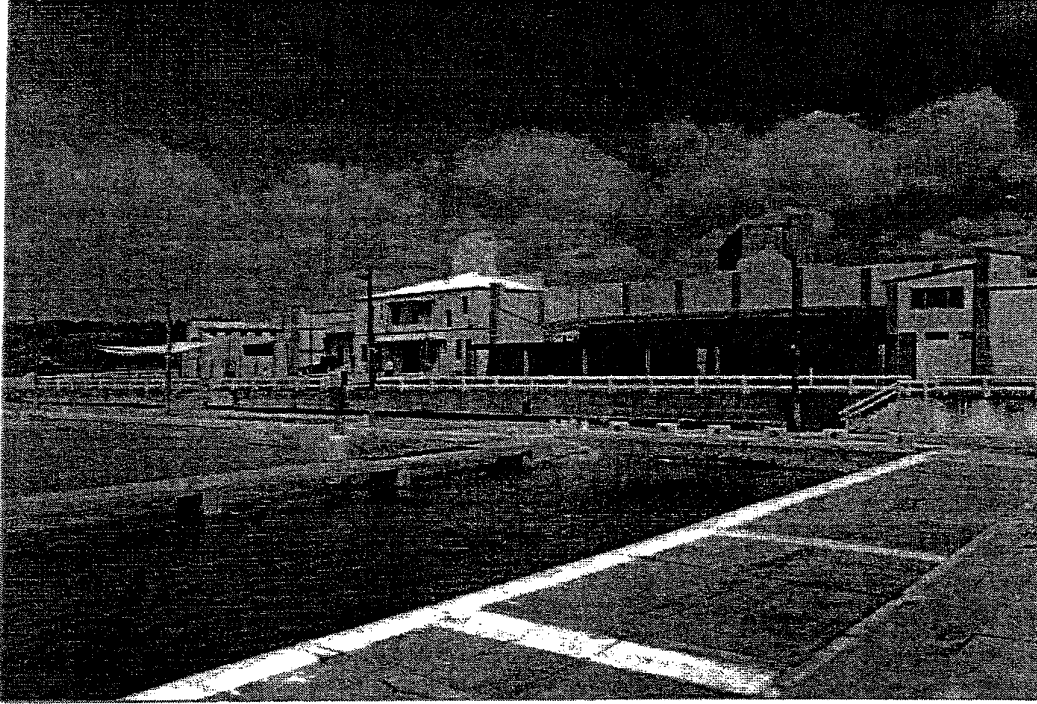
<i>high</i>	Form of dressing sheds & central section;
<i>low</i>	Colonnade to east of northern dressing shed; verandah structure and bay window to central section; lattice balustrade to residence deck; concrete area and ramp.
<i>intrusive</i>	Garage and sub station

recommendation & implementation:

<i>immediate</i>	Demolish colonnade, and provide alternative means of shade over picnic benches. Undertake recommendations for immediate and short term works structural assessment. Put in place plan to undertake ongoing and long term works recommended by structural assessment.
<i>within 1 year</i>	Re-paint façade.
<i>within 2 years</i>	Replace roller doors to breezeway with style sympathetic to use, e.g. timber framed folding glass doors. Replace steel mesh gates to dressing sheds with a style sympathetic to pavilion.
<i>long term</i>	Remove garage and substation.

reference plan:





east elevation | top

east elevation – showing back of residence and kiosk | above

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

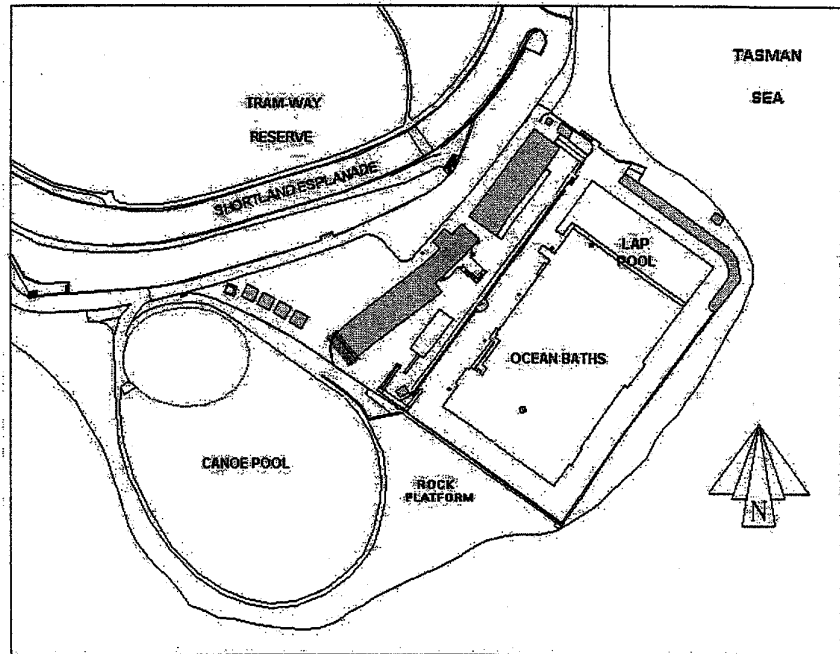
area: pavilion - south elevation

description: Plain rendered façade of the single storey garage sits proud of the two storey façade to the Ocean Park Coldies Swimming Club. The higher façade has a half-height engaged pier in the centre with mid-height banding from the front façade continuing around. Note that the parapet to the garage façade is flat, unlike the same parapet to the northern façade. A wall-mounted fluorescent light fixture sits atop the garage parapet, and a wall mounted area light is fixed to the upper parapet of the Swimming Club.

condition: Fair. Cracking evident. Paint is peeling.

significant fabric: *high* Facard wall to swimming club
low/intrusive Garage

recommendation & implementation: *immediate* Undertake recommendations for immediate and short term works of structural assessment. Put in place plan to undertake ongoing and long term works recommended by structural assessment.
within 1 year Repaint façade. Consider lighting the façade to highlight the building.
long term Remove garage and reinstate façade wall to swim club.



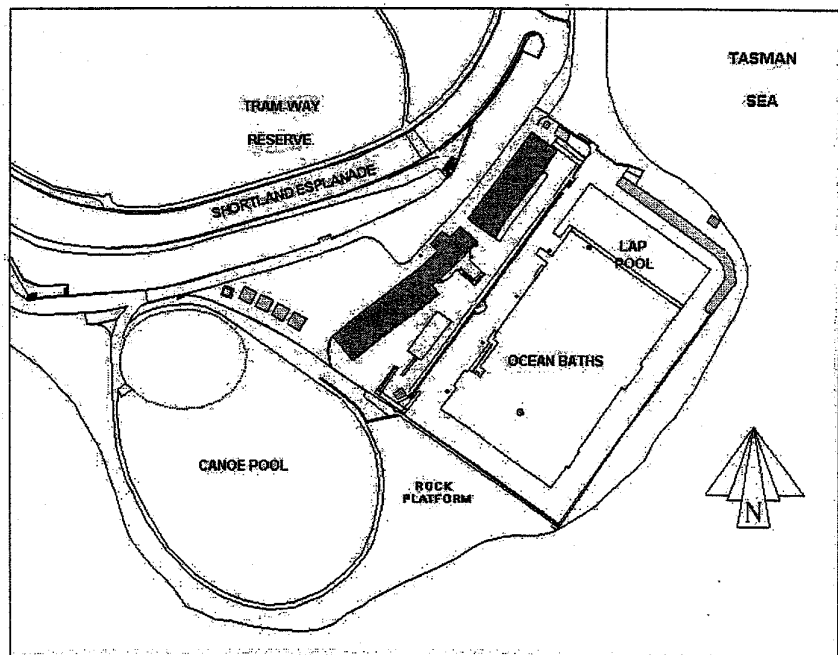
reference plan: |



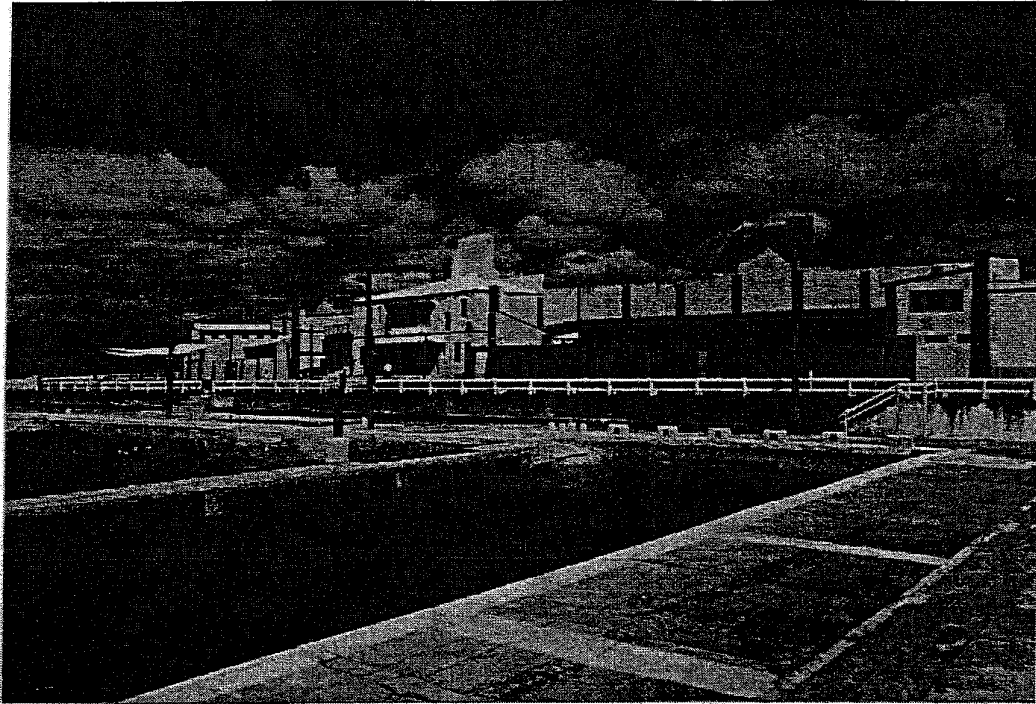
south west corner showing garage | a b o v e

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

area:	pavilion - roof
description:	The roofing material to the built forms of the pavilion is varied: the central section is a low hip form clad in metal sheet; the dressing sheds and swimming clubs are skillions clad in corrugated asbestos sheet. The garage is a skillion (cladding not inspected), the substation is a skillion clad in corrugated asbestos sheet; the storage shed is a skillion clad in corrugated asbestos sheet. The shade structures are very slight hipped forms clad in timber and topped with what appears to be a mineral surfaced asphalt roofing.
condition:	Appears to be fair, although detailed roof inspection was not carried out.
significant fabric:	<i>high</i> Roof form, skillion covering half the dressing shed leaving a large section of the dressing shed open air.
recommendation & implementation:	<i>immediate</i> Test and assess risk of all asbestos roofing material and make recommendations. Investigate options for replacement if necessary.



reference plan



east elevation showing roof | a b o v e

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

area: Newcastle Pirates Swimming Club **present use:** swimming club room

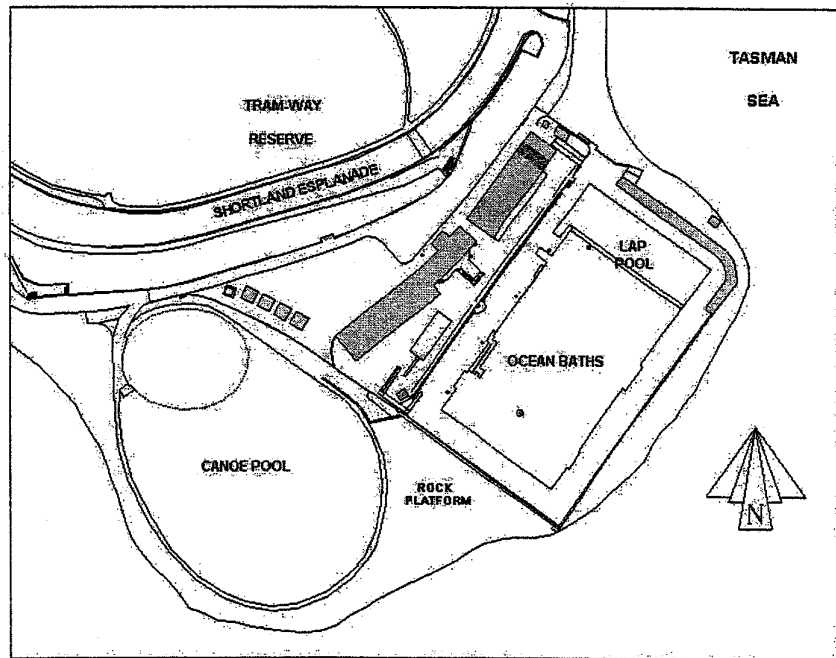
previous use: Ladies Premier Swimming Club

description: Ground floor houses showers, toilet and drying areas, with concrete floor, rendered brick walls and ceiling of compressed sheet and battens. Three horizontal timber windows to the west, one to the east, light the space naturally. Light fittings are ceiling mounted fluorescent batten. The first floor, accessed via concrete stairs, houses the club room, which has a timber floor, carpet covering the western kitchen end. Walls are rendered brickwork and the ceiling is exposed rafters with compressed sheeting and battens. A three light window (fixed centre, double panes each side) in the east wall, and two high windows in the northern wall, ensure the room is well lit. Ceiling mounted fluorescent batten augment natural lighting.

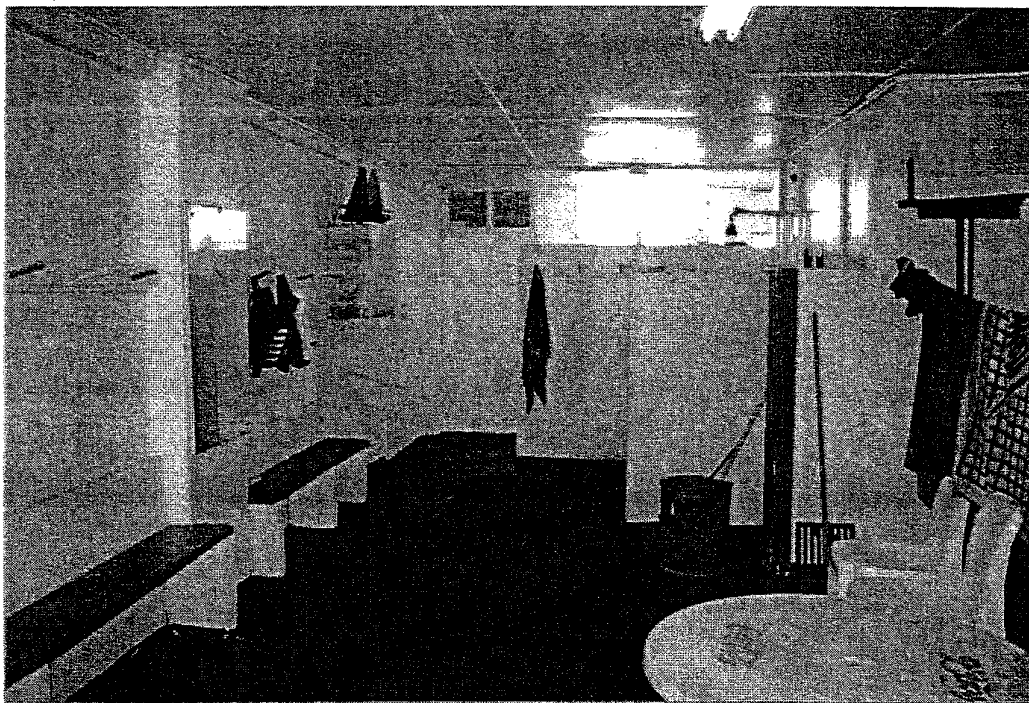
condition: Good - fair.

significant fabric: *high* Form of the building.
low Internal fitout

recommendation & implementation: *immediate* Repair cracks and repaint
within 1 year Increase ventilation to ground floor.
within 2 years Replace water damaged ceiling to ground floor
long term Swimming club to maintain a physical presence in the ocean baths complex



reference plan

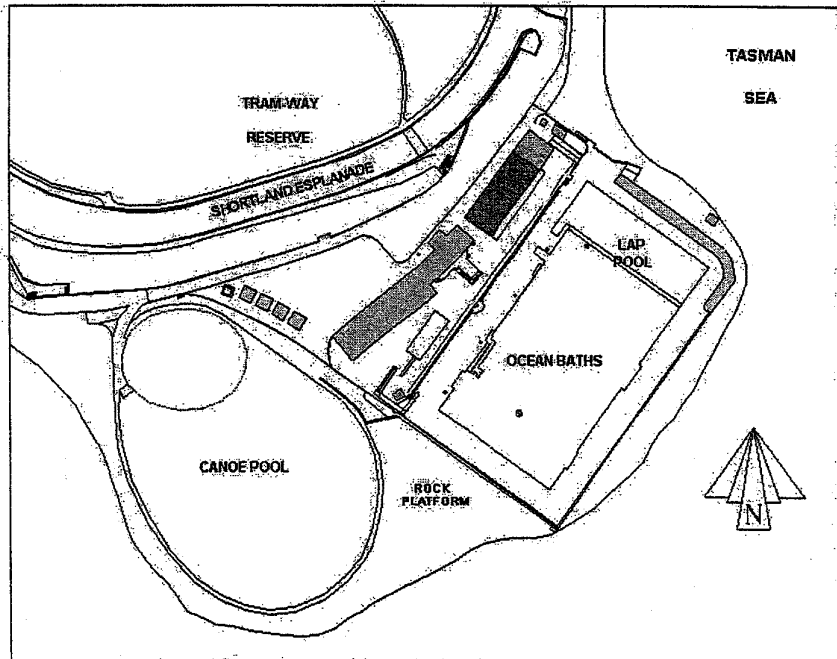


first floor | top
ground floor | above

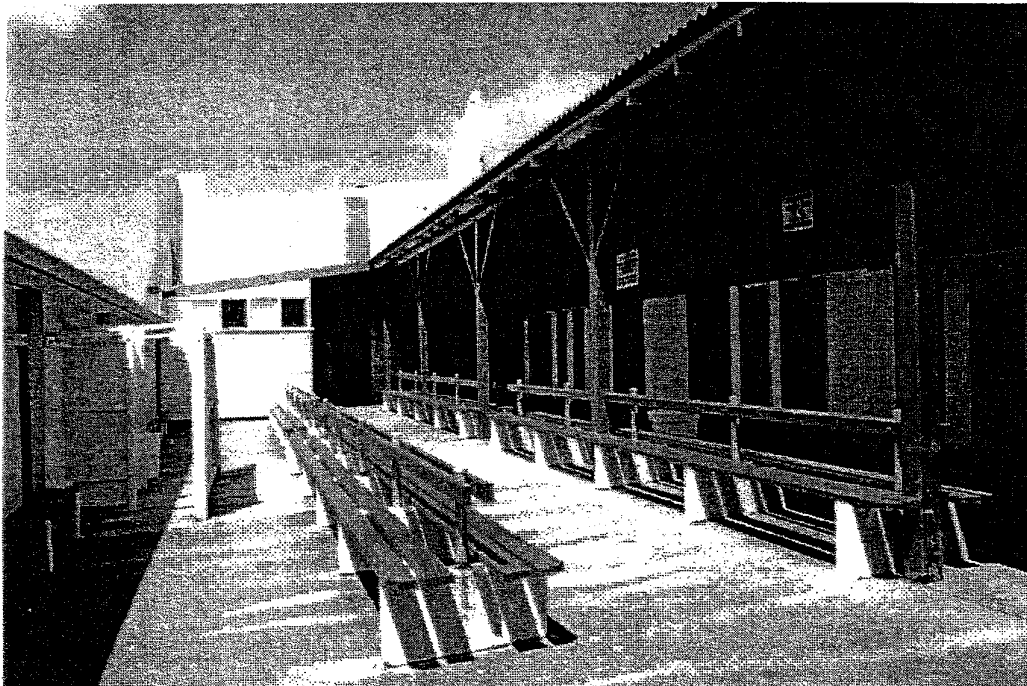
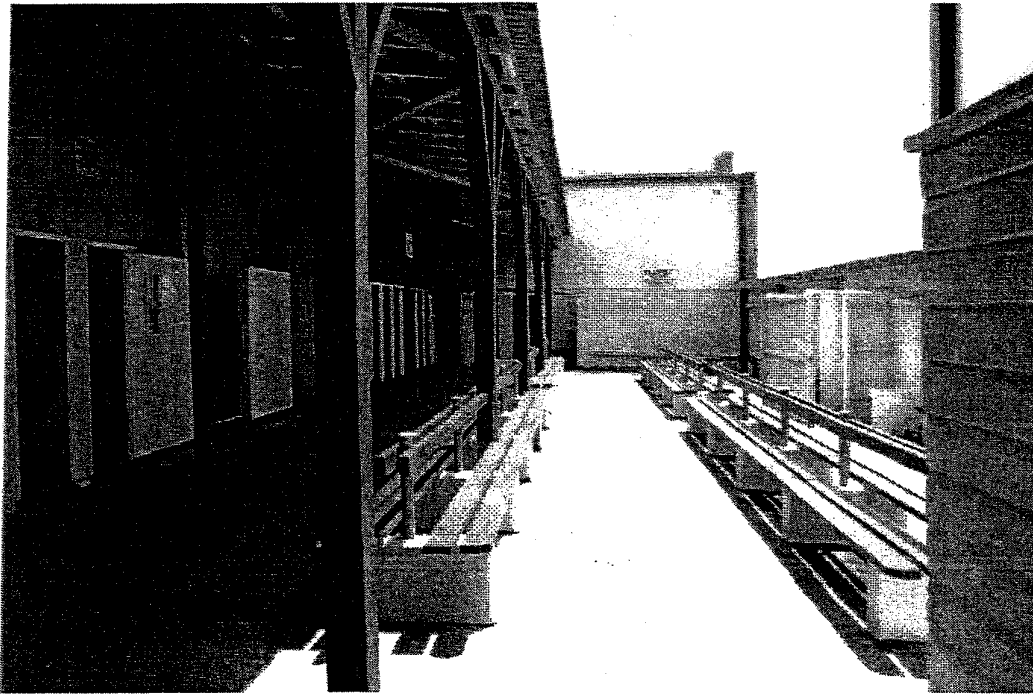
Ocean
Baths
Newcastle

Fabric Datasheet

area:	Women's Dressing Shed	present use:	dressings shed
		previous use:	dressings shed
description:	<p>Double storey concrete walls to three sides, with a lower height wall to the east enclose change area. The floor is made up of uneven patches of concrete, the shower and toilet cub are finished with ceramic tile. Columns, rafters and battens to the roof structure are of timber. The change cubicles, benches and entrance screens.</p> <p>Semi covered with an asbestos skillion roof providing shelter to the change cubicles toilets showers. The centre area consists of two rows of bench seats and clothes pegs with furniture seating and pegs located along the eastern wall.</p> <p>Weatherboard store room and masonry disabled facilities and storerooms have been erected at the south end of the change area</p>		
condition:	Floor surface can be slippery when wet. All surfaces deteriorated. Metal components rusting.		
significant fabric:	<p><i>high</i> Western wall, change cubicles,</p> <p><i>moderate</i> skillion roof</p> <p><i>low</i> showers, toilets, masonry storeroom and disabled facility.</p>		
recommendation & implementation:	<p><i>immediate</i> Provide clothing/towel hooks/rails opposite showers.</p> <p><i>within 1 year</i> Upgrade sanitary facilities, generally and in accordance with current requirements regarding numbers of fixtures. Repair or replace wiring above cubicles. Render and paint wall surface of disabled toilet. Repair and replace tiling to showers. Repair/replace rusting bolts to cubicles. Repair timber surface where uneven or otherwise dangerous. Consider providing lockers using refundable coin system.</p> <p><i>within 2 years</i> Consider amending internal dimensions of dressing cubicles to a more useable size (do not change external appearance).</p> <p><i>long term</i> Consider consolidating change areas and look at adaptive reuse of area.</p>		



reference plan



looking north | top
looking south | above

Ocean
Baths
Newcastle

Fabric Datasheet

area: **Men's Dressing Shed**

Present use: dressing shed

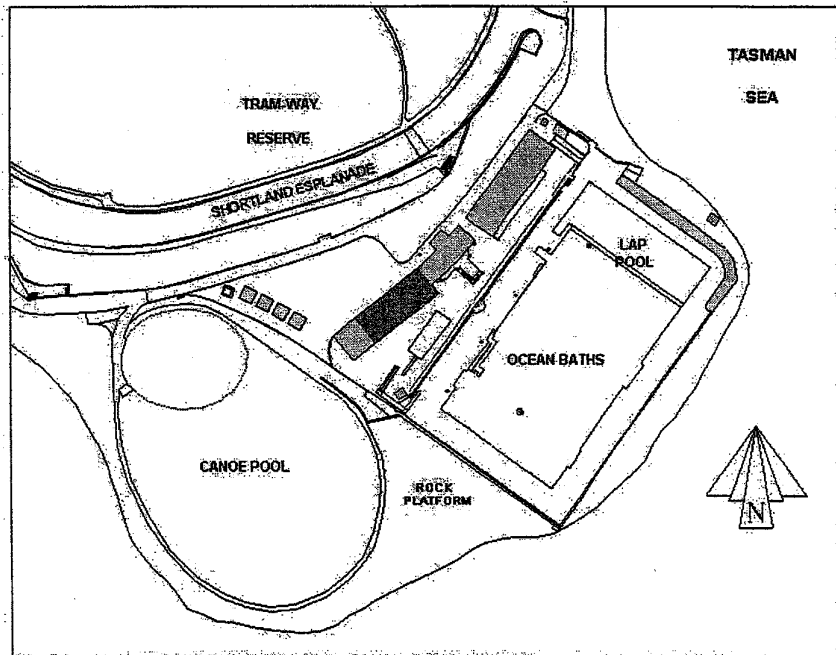
Previous use: dressing shed

description: Double storey concrete walls to three sides, with a lower height wall to the east enclosing change area. The floor is made up of uneven patches of concrete, the shower, urinal and toilets are finished with ceramic tile. Columns, rafters and battens to the roof structure are timber as are the change cubicles, benches and entrance screen. Semi covered with an asbestos skillion roof providing shelter to the change cubicles, showers. The centre area consists of two rows of bench seats and clothes pegs with further seating and pegs located along the eastern wall. Masonry entrance screen to the north.

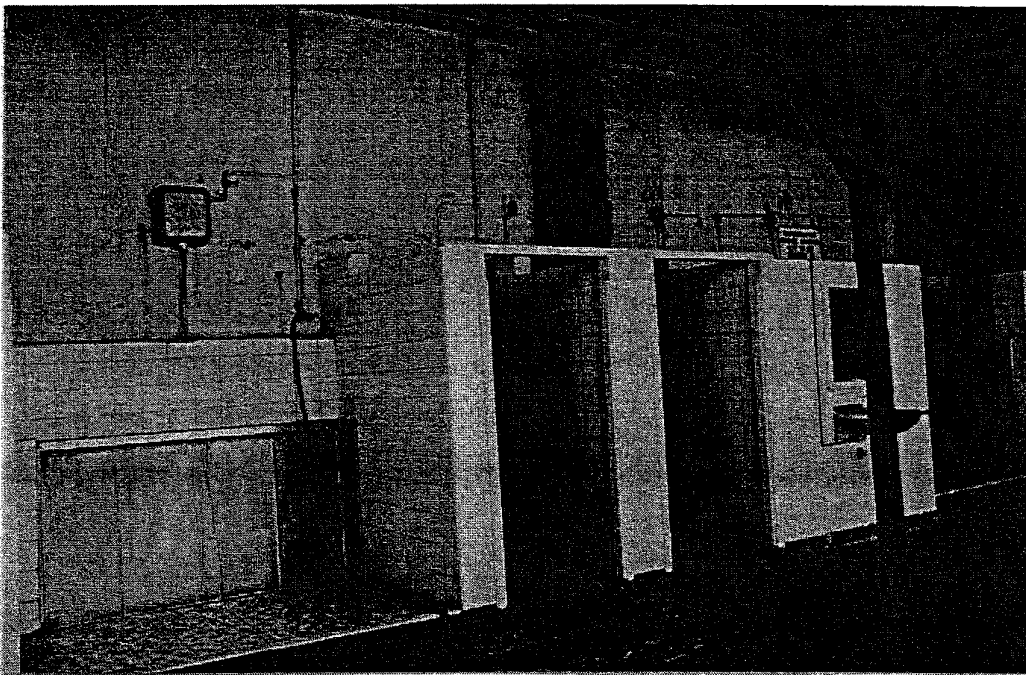
condition: Floor surface can be slippery when wet.

significant fabric: *high* cubicles, west parapet wall.
moderate skillion roof
low showers, urinals and toilets

recommendation & implementation: *immediate* Provide clothing/towel hooks/rails opposite showers. Provide
within 1 year Upgrade sanitary facilities, generally and in accordance with requirements regarding numbers of fixtures. Repair or replace wire mesh above cubicles. Render and paint wall surface of disabled toilet. Repair and replace tiling to showers. Repair/replace rusting bolts to cubicles. Repair floor surface where uneven or otherwise dangerous. Consider providing lock using refundable coin system.
within 2 years Consider amending internal dimensions of dressing cubicles to a more useable size (do not change external appearance).
long term Consider consolidating change areas and look at adaptive reuse of area.



reference plan



looking north | top
urinal and toilets | above

Ocean
Baths
Newcastle

Fabric Datasheet

area: Cooks Hill
Coldies
Swimming
Club

present use: Swimming club

previous use: Mens Premier Swimming club

description:

Ground floor houses showers, toilet and drying areas, with concrete floor, rendered brick w and ceiling of compressed sheet and battens. Three horizontal timber windows to the west one to the east, light the space naturally. Light fittings are ceiling mounted.
The first floor, accessed via concrete stairs, houses the club room, which has a timber floor, carpet covering the western kitchen end. Walls are rendered brickwork and the ceiling is expo rafters with compressed sheeting and battens. A three light window (fixed centre, double hung each side) in the east wall, and two high windows in the southern wall, ensure the room is light. Ceiling mounted fluorescent batten augment natural lighting.

condition:

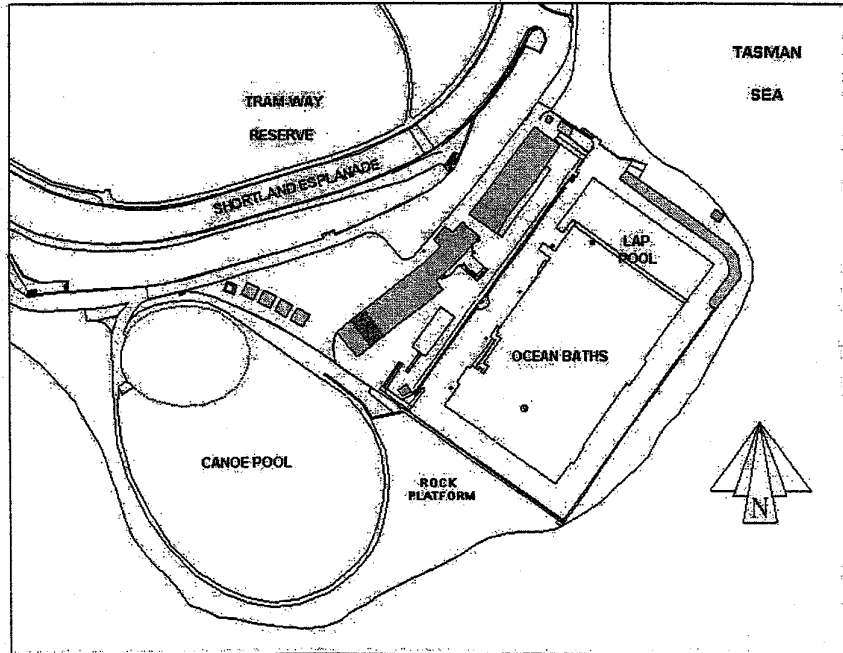
Ground floor – poor
First floor – fair

significant fabric:

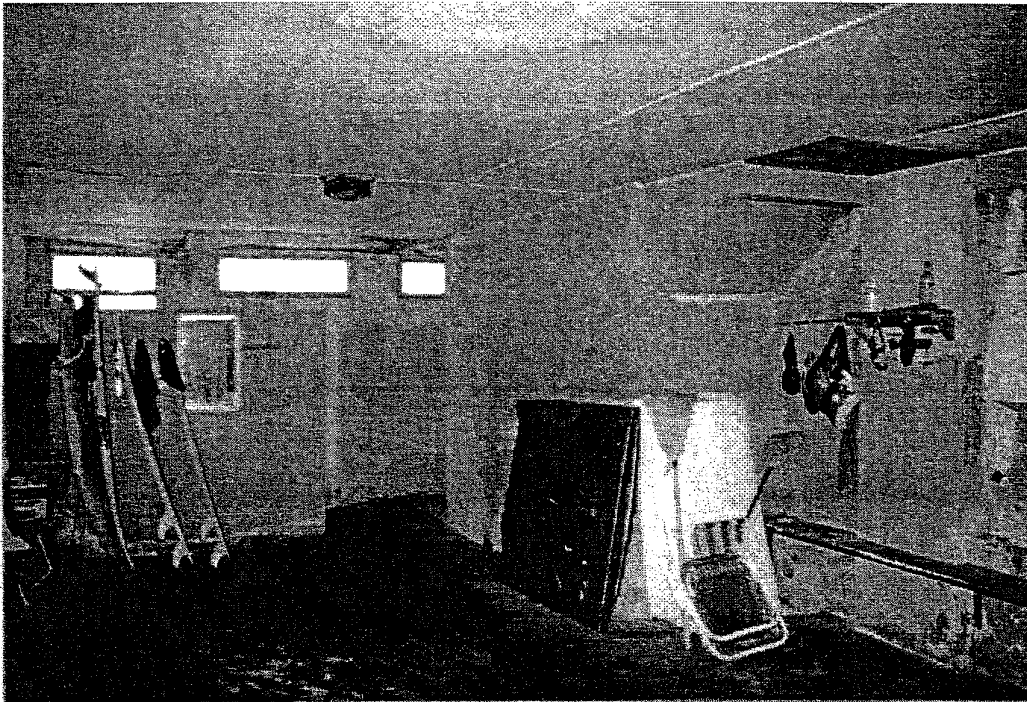
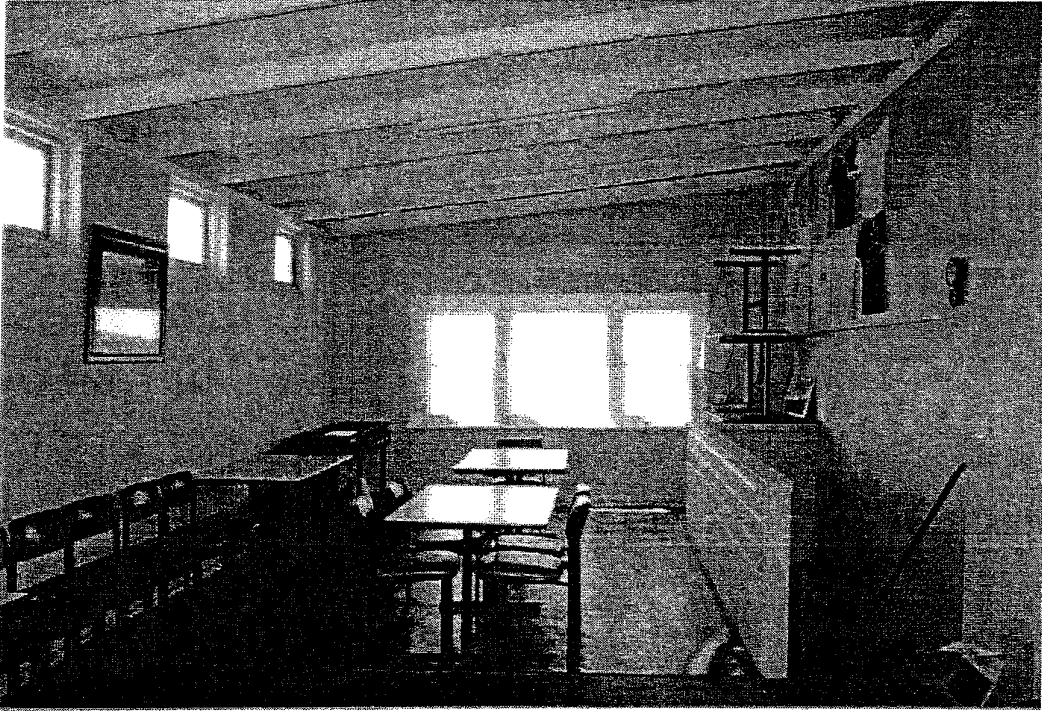
high form of the building

recommendation & implementation:

immediate repair cracks and repaint
within 1 year increase ventilation to ground floor.
within 2 years replace water damaged ceiling to ground floor
long term swimming club to maintain a physical presence in the ocean baths complex



reference plan



first floor | top
ground floor | above

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

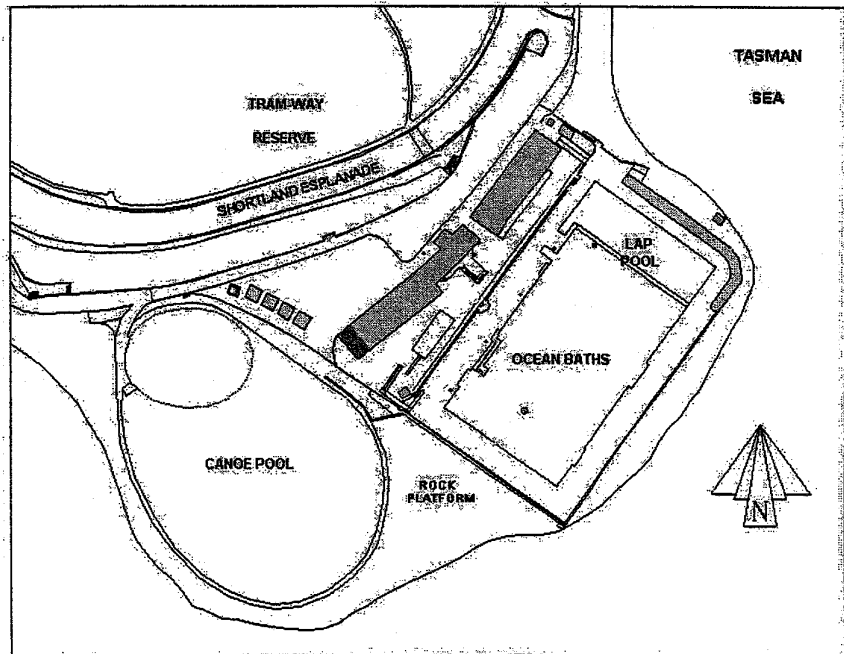
area: garage **present use:** garage
previous use: garage

description: The garage provides space for two cars and storage for the residence above the kiosk. Concrete floor, masonry wall construction with an unlined timber ceiling of timber. Roof materials inspected. Entrance to the garage is via a roller door to the west and there is a blocked door to the east.

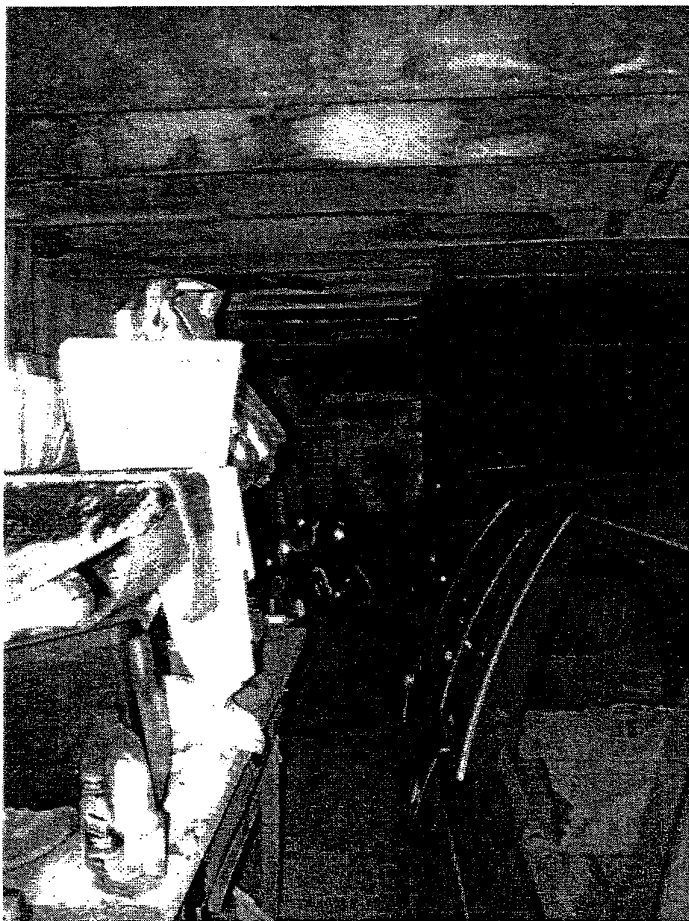
condition: Fair

significant fabric: *low-intrusive* Garage form.

recommendation & implementation: *Immediate* Repair cracks.
within 1 year Re-paint exterior.
long term Remove garage, repair facade wall to swim club.



reference plan



External | top
Internal | above

Ocean Baths Newcastle Fabric Datasheet

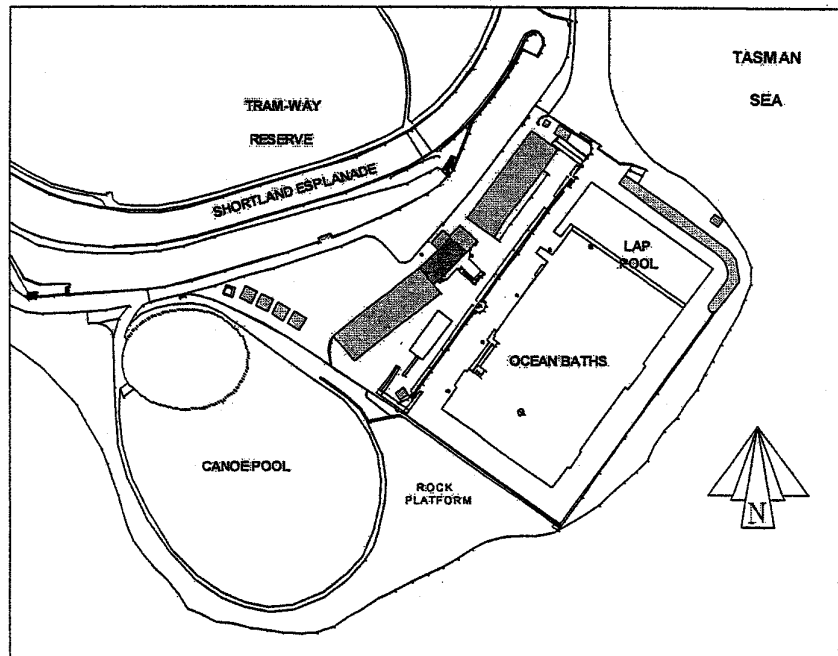
area: Kiosk **present use:** Kiosk
previous use: Costume room and passage

description: Tiled floor and walls to dado level. Plasterboard ceiling with fluorescent light fittings. Generally timber windows. Large opening to west. Hardi-lattice shading over entry. Concrete landing and disabled ramp to east.

condition: Appears good.

significant fabric: *high* Timber windows.
low Fitout.

recommendation & implementation: *immediate* Ensure food service area meets current health regulations.
within 1 year Consider providing a greater range of food and drink choices, e.g. style
within 2 years Provide outdoor seating to baths side.
long term Consider moving kiosk out of main thoroughfare and fitout in a more sympathetic style.



reference plan: |



view of kiosk from breezeway | **Top**

exterior view of kiosk | **Above**

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

area: Staff Area

present use: Inspector observation, first aid room, storage

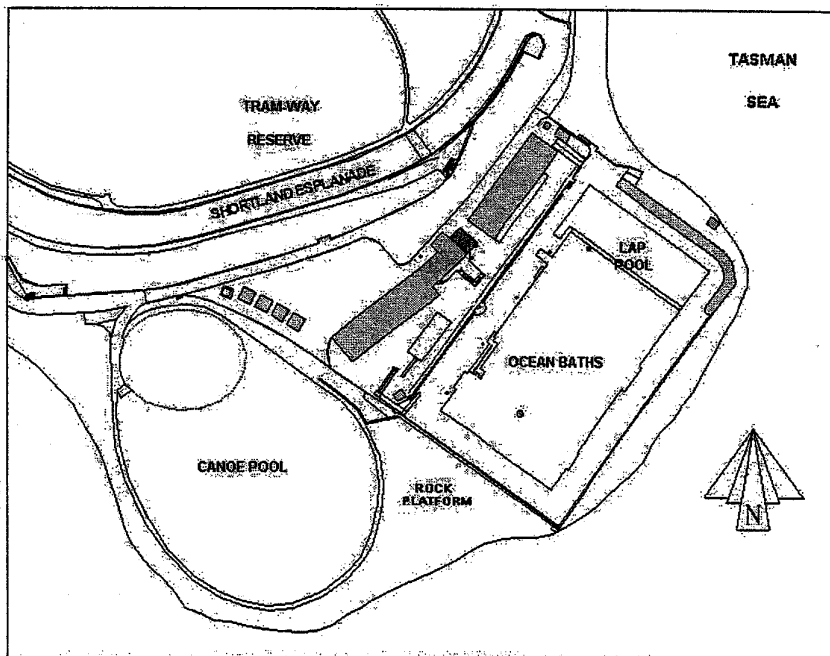
previous use: Laundry, cupboard and Association club room

description: Bare concrete floor, rendered and plasterboard wall surfaces. Rendered walls have dado rail. Plasterboard ceilings, fluorescent light fittings, timber doors.

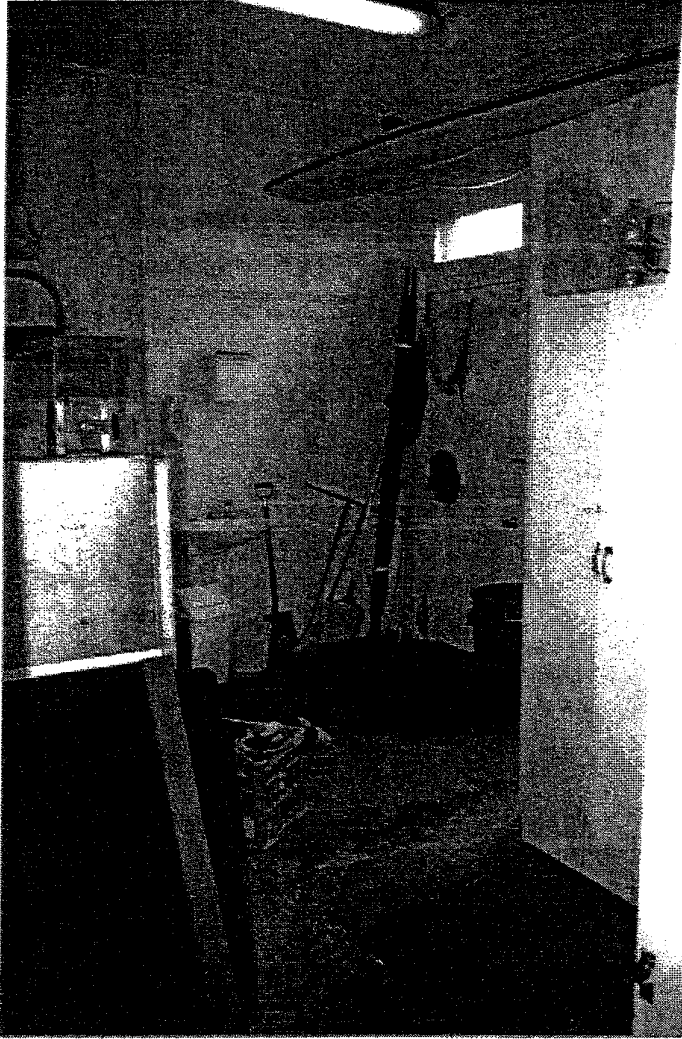
condition: Fair – good.

significant fabric: low All interiors.

recommendation & implementation: within 1 year long term Repair cracking and repaint. Consider utilising space more effectively.



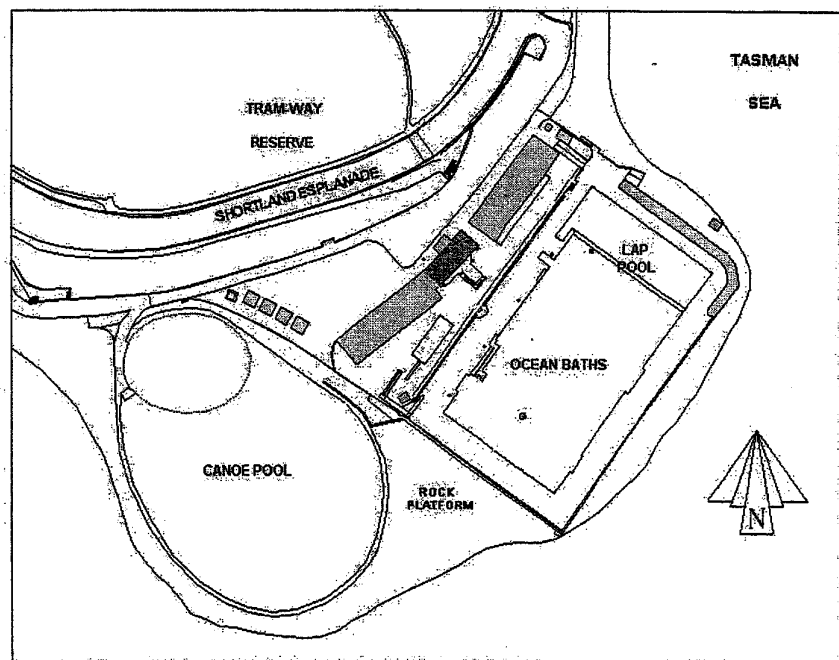
reference plan: |



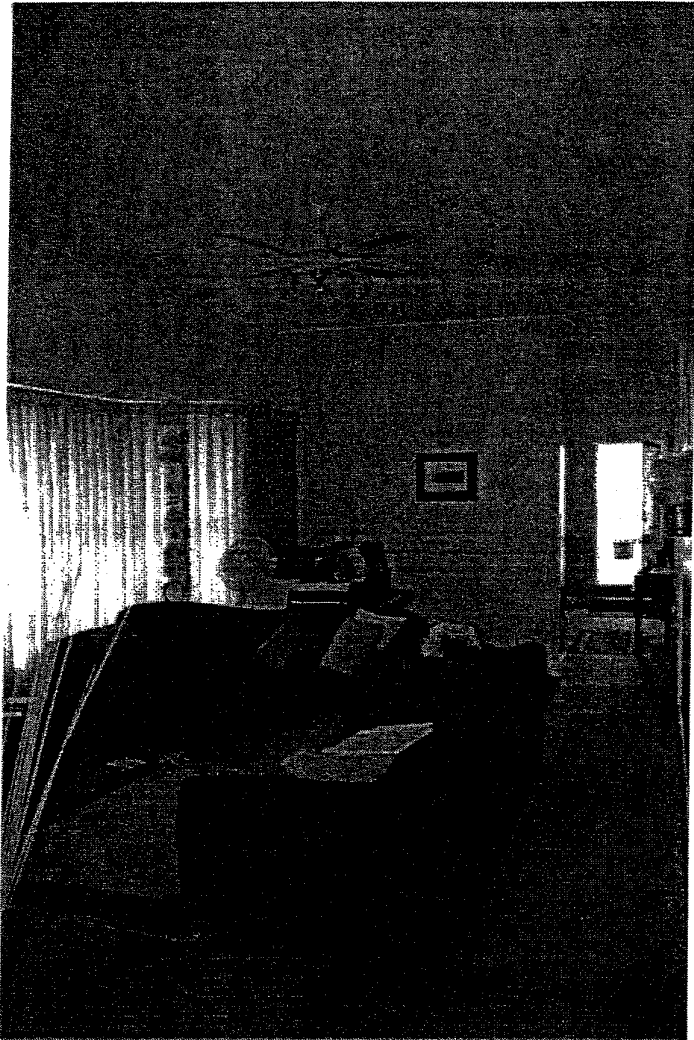
staff storage area | Above

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

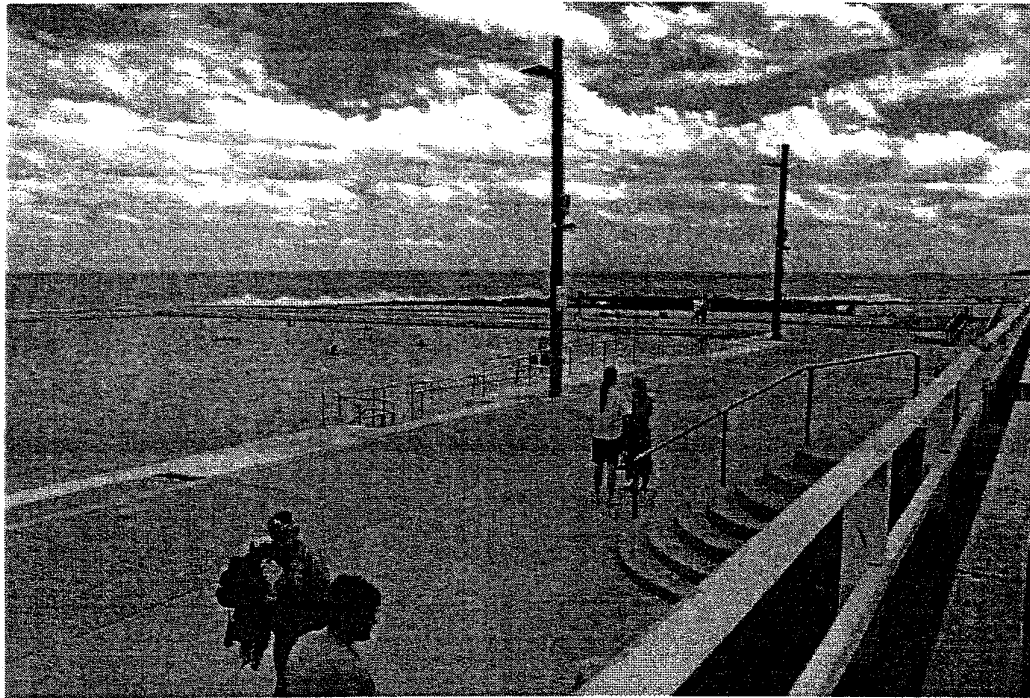
area:	Residence	present use:	Caretakers residence
		previous use:	Caretakers residence
description:	The residence has been renovated c1989, being internally re-sheeted and lined. The floor is panel timber, covered in most areas with carpet. The walls are painted plasterboard, with a splash of panel timber skirting; the ceilings are also plasterboard, with square batten cornice. The doors are panel timber, most with highlights above. A deck and drying area is accessed from the south of the residence. The entry to the residence is at ground level, off the entrance now used as the main entry to the Baths, and has a tiled foyer and store area with a staircase leading to the residence on the first floor.		
condition:	Appears good.		
significant fabric:	<i>low</i>	Internal fitout.	
recommendation & implementation:	<i>immediate</i> <i>long term</i>	Maintain caretaker presence in the interest of security. Consider the space for adaptive re-use.	



reference plan:



residence -interior above

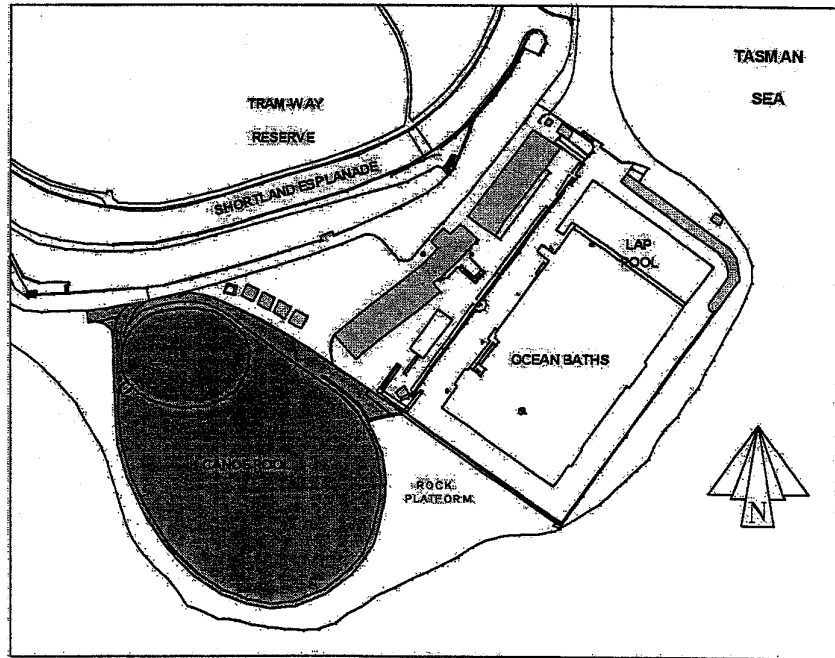


view across lower concourse and lap pool to seating looking north east **top**

view across lower concourse looking southeast **above**

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

area:	Canoe Pool	present use:	Wading pool
		previous use:	Wading pool, boat pool
description:	The wading pool known as the Canoe Pool is a rounded concrete formed structure, with steps on the western side creating a 'beach' with the structure. The pool is generally used by young children. The southern edge has iron eye-bolts linked with chain acting as a guard rail against drop to the natural rock ledge below. The north western side has a concrete concourse with timber bench seating against a further raised concrete wall, atop which is lined with ordinance fencing.		
condition:	Appears fair/good. Northern stair should have handrail. South eastern step/ledge is too high for public safety.		
significant fabric:	<i>high</i>	Pool form and remnant map of the world concrete formations. Ordinal fencing (style as opposed to actual fabric).	
	<i>low</i>	Cage waste bins.	
recommendation & implementation:	<i>immediate</i>	Construct additional step to concrete ledge at south east, near entry to south west corner of Baths. Install stainless steel handrail to northern stair. Replace cage waste bins and replace with Wiz-Bins on standard fixed metal stands; consider altered arrangement of bins.	
	<i>within 1 year</i>	Consider interpretive signage. Consider shading structure(s) over seating concourse. Commission interpretive artwork. Paint seating in colour scheme matching Baths pavilion.	
	<i>long term</i>	Maintain as a open air public recreation facility.	



reference plan: |



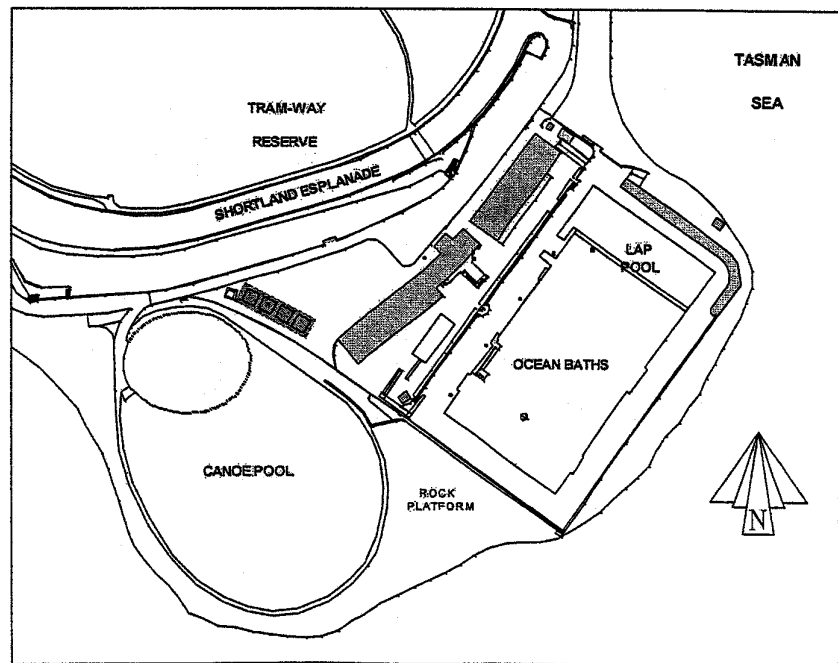
northern edge and concourse seating to canoe pool top

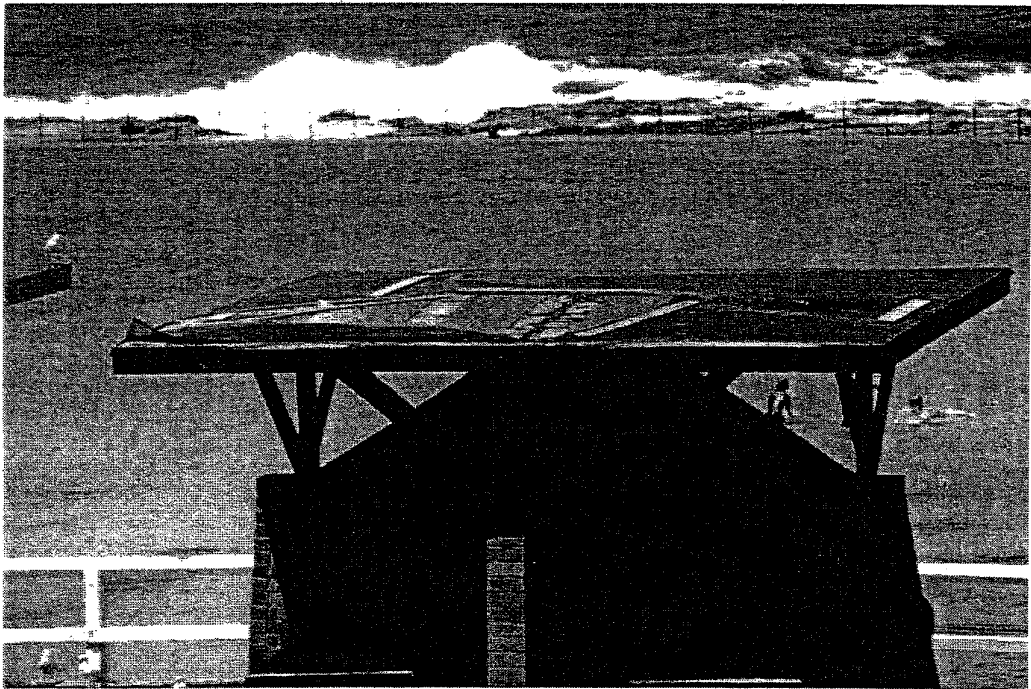
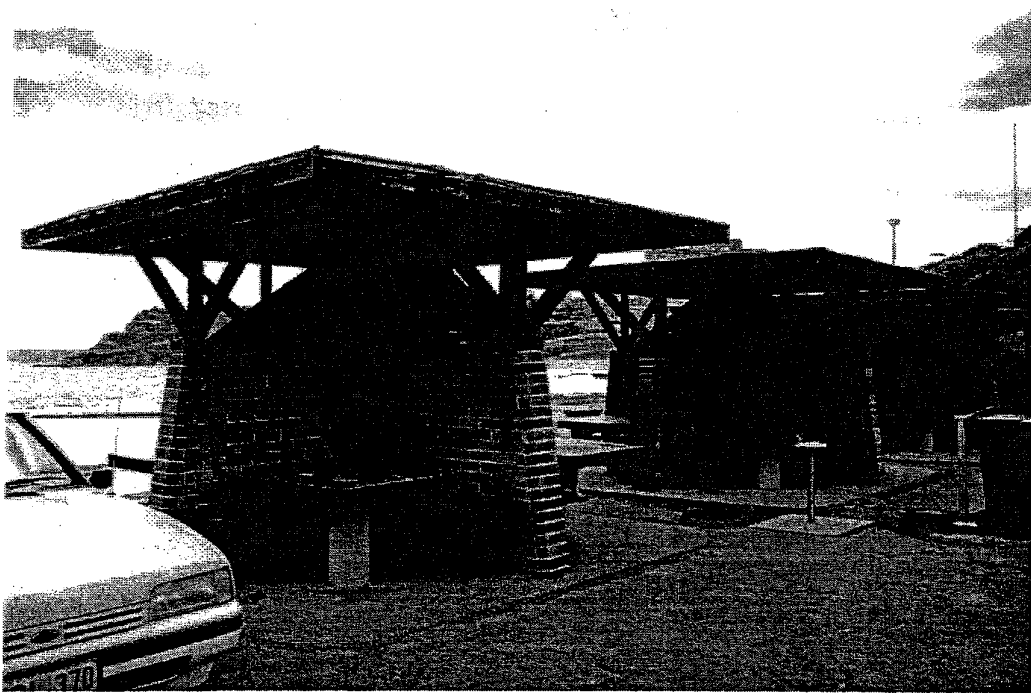
southern edge of the canoe pool above

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

area:	Shade Structures	present use:	shade structure/picnic tables
		previous use:	shade structure/picnic tables
description:	Four shade structures formed by intersecting brick walls, with timber framed flat roof supported by timber trusses. Seating and tables in each recess are of timber supported on concrete bases. Each shade structure sits on a concrete pad set into the surrounding bitum car park area.		
condition:	Fair/poor. Mortar deteriorating. Bituminous roofing is in extremely poor condition, with sections missing and plywood beneath exposed to the weather.		
significant fabric:	<i>low</i>	Shade structures.	
recommendation & implementation:	<i>immediate</i>	Repair roofing and deteriorated timber structure. Undertake recommendations put forward by structural assessment.	
	<i>within 1 year</i>	Consider some form of visual enhancement. Repaint all timber. If repair amendment of the adjacent carpark is recommended to encourage a more appropriate use of the immediate area for recreation.	
	<i>long term</i>	Consider replacing shade structures with a more sympathetic design.	

reference plan:





shade structures top

view of roof of shade structures above

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

area: Seating Shelter

present use: Seating Shelter

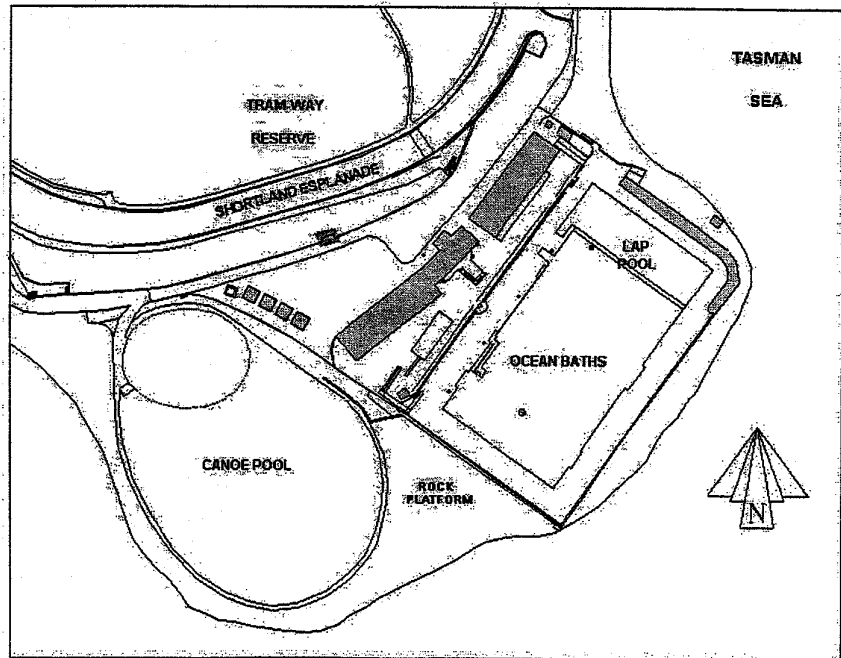
previous use: Seating Shelter

description: A recessed seating area built into the small stone retaining wall, supported by two decorative iron columns and faced with a rubble stone wall. A skillion timber roof shades the seating area and is edged with scalloped timber cornice frieze.

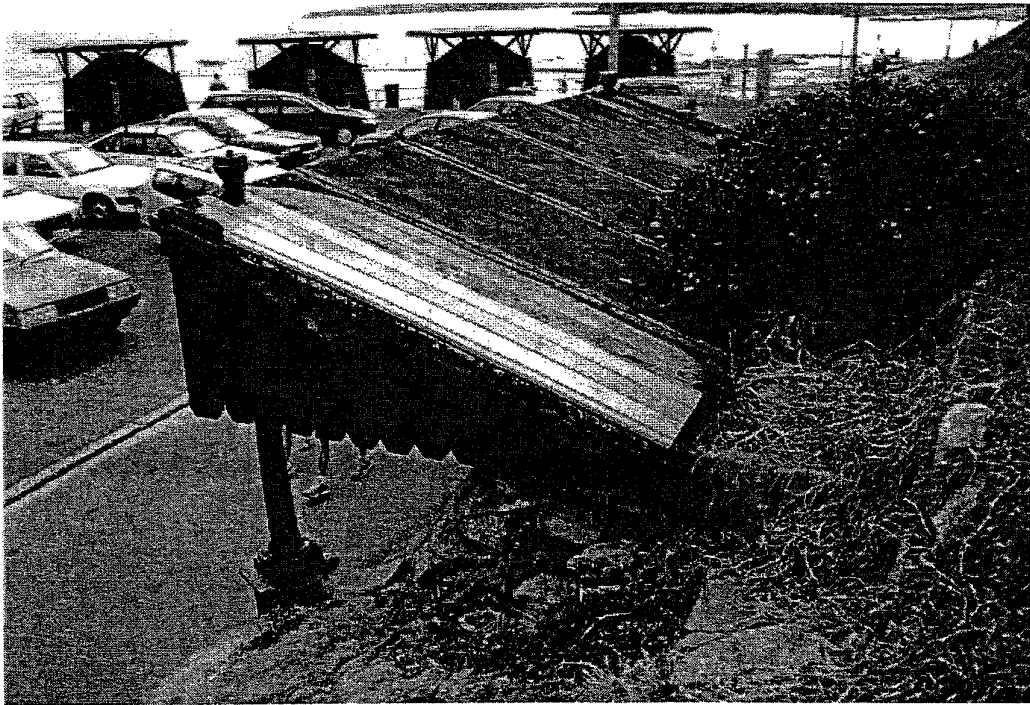
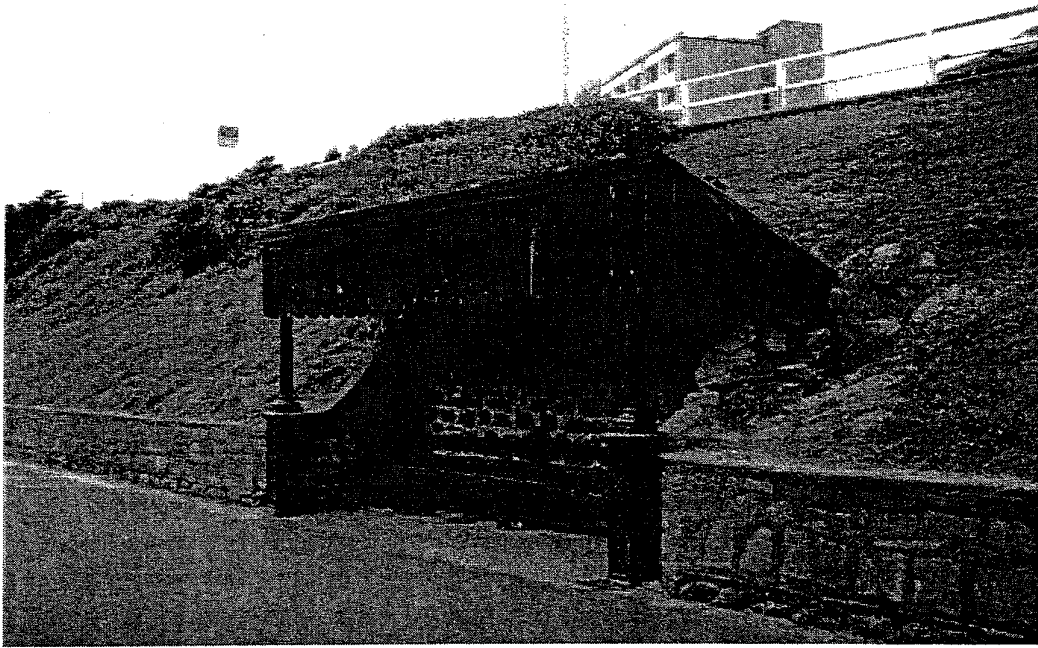
condition: Poor. Cast iron is rusting. Roof is badly deteriorated. Bench seat is deteriorated.

significant fabric: *high* Shelter structure and stone wall behind.
moderate/low Roofing and timber frieze, bench fabric.

recommendation & implementation: *immediate* Document scope of works and repair entire structure. Recommend for system timber with membrane. Undertake recommendations of structural engineer.
within 1 year Reconstruct seating bench.



reference plan:



seating structure | above

roof detail of seating structure | below

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

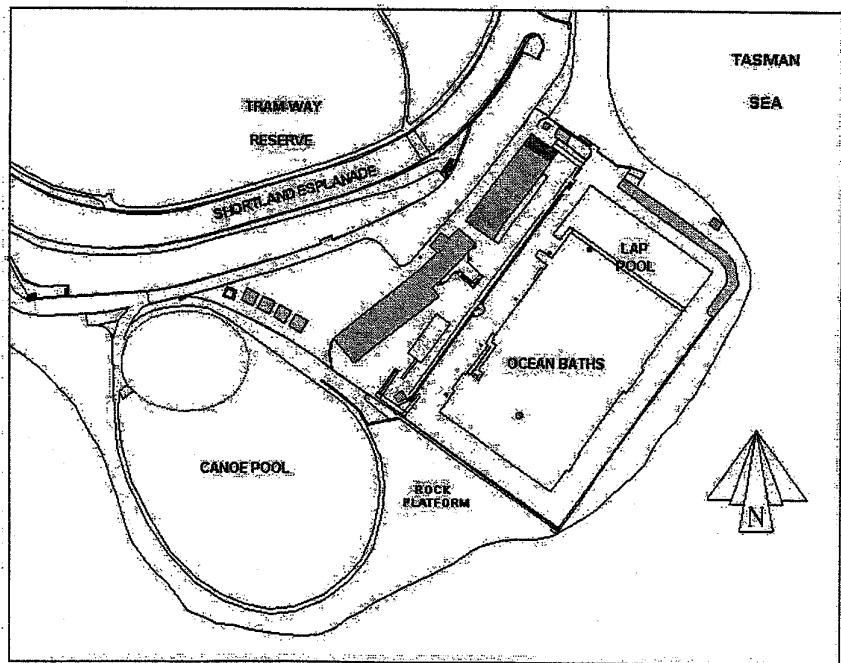
area: Substation **present use:** Substation
previous use: Substation

description: Masonry parapet walls (interior not inspected)

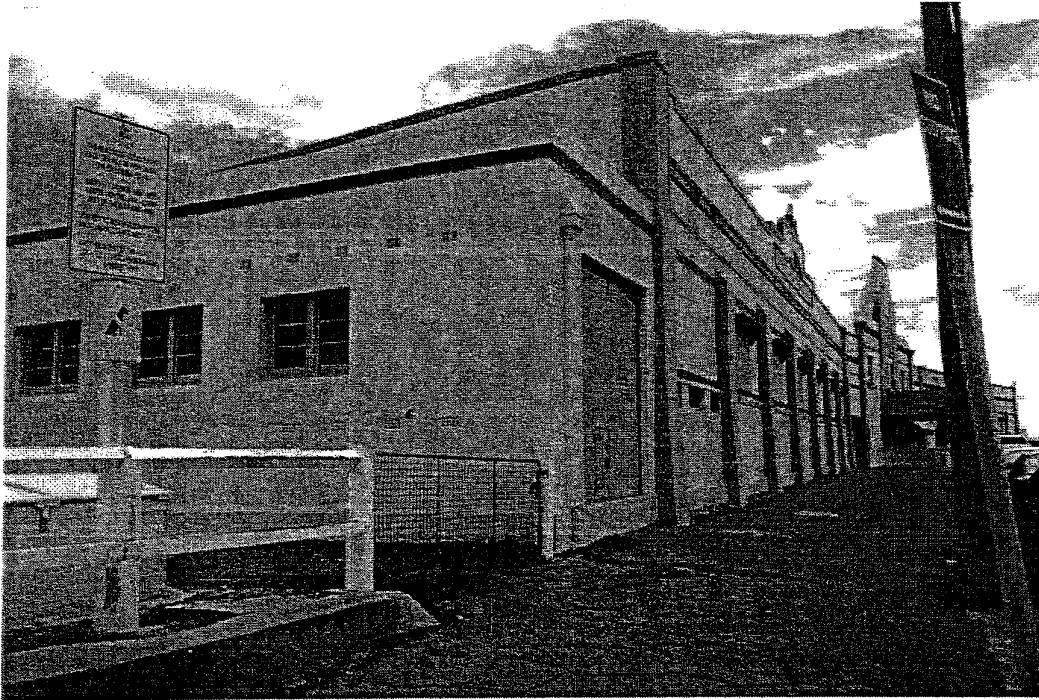
condition: Fair

significant fabric: low Substation form

recommendation & implementation: *immediate* Repair cracks
within 1 year Repaint
long term Remove substation and repair facade wall to swim club



reference plan:



substation | above

Ocean Baths Newcastle Fabric Datasheet

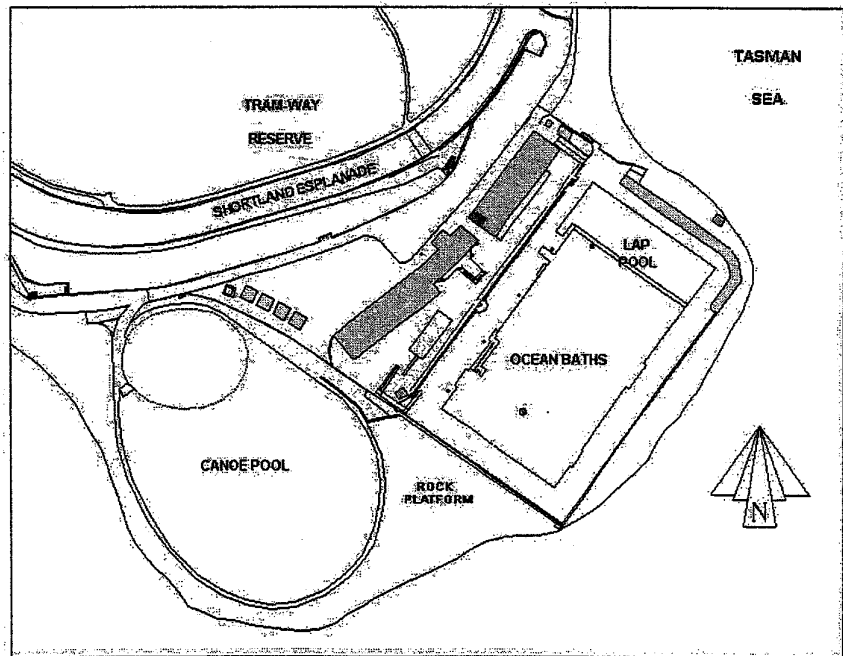
area: Disabled Change Room **present use:** Disabled change room

description: Divided into two areas, both having concrete floors with tiles and masonry walls with full height tiles. The first room, which is entered through the main entrance passageway and is currently used as a store for the pool wheelchairs, contains a tap and a doorway to an adjoining store. The adjoining room contains the toilet / shower facility (toilet pan, cistern, basin, shower and hand rails).

condition: Good

significant fabric: low Interior fit out.

recommendation & implementation: *immediate within 1 year long term* Provide bench and clothes hooks to change room that comply to BCA. Provide lockers. Relocate to area with more privacy.



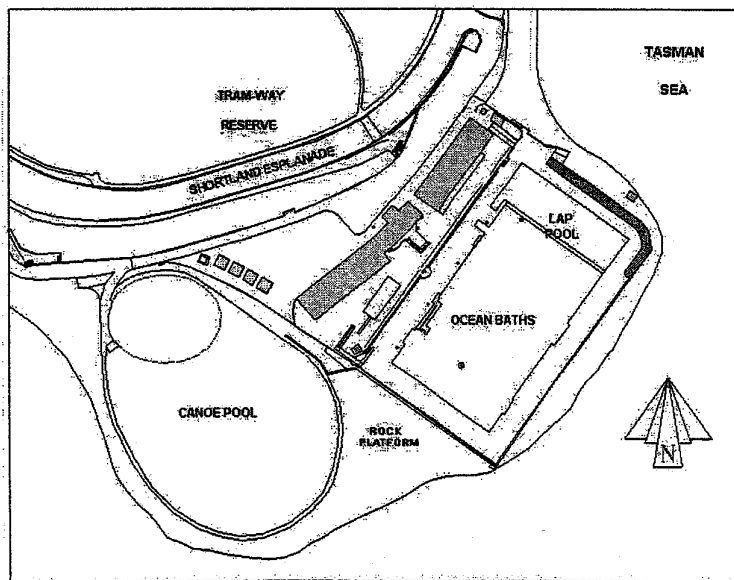
reference plan: |



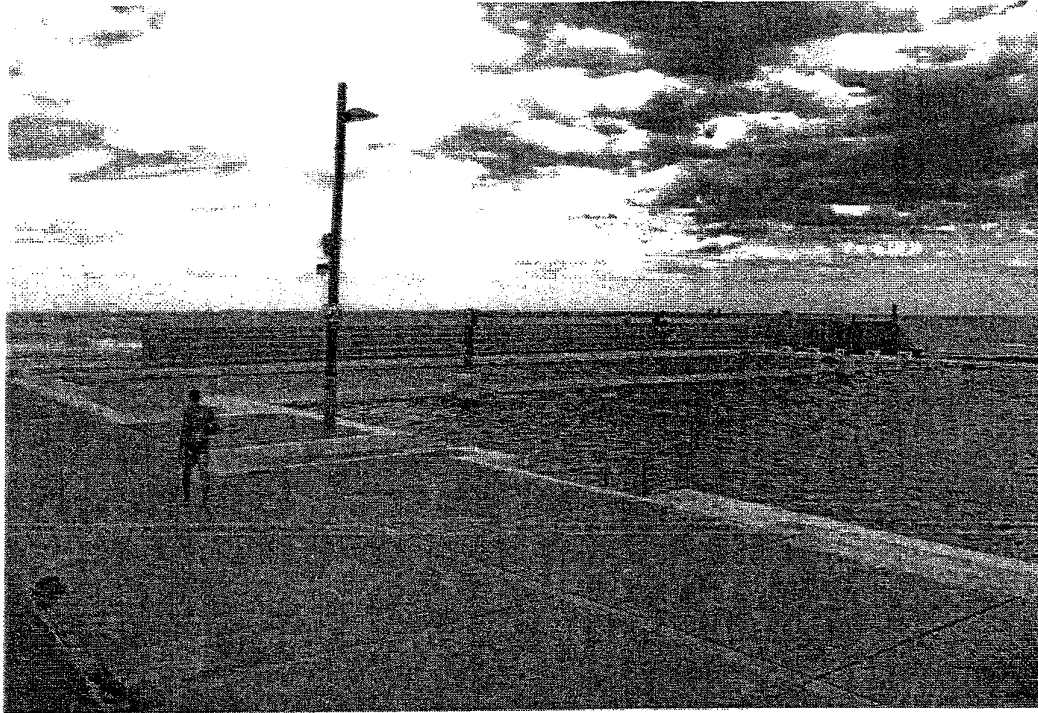
view into disabled toilet / shower facility | a b o v e

Ocean Baths Fabric Datasheet Newcastle

area:	Concourse Seating	Present use: Concourse seating
		Previous use: Concourse seating
description:	Stepped concrete structure with paint finish to vertical surfaces	
condition:		
significant fabric:	<i>high</i>	Concourse form
recommendation & implementation:	<i>immediate</i> <i>within 1 year</i>	Provide safety barrier to top of northern concourse seating, complete structural inspection of concourse seating. Paint northern concourse seating, repair and paint timber benches on upper concourse, repair store to engineer's recommendations, render walls and paint in colour to match pavilion scheme.



reference plan: |



view across lap pool to concourse seating **a b o v e**

Appendix B

Historical Plans

1905

Plan of Ocean Beach Foreshore
Parish of Newcastle, County of Northumberland

1921

Ocean Baths
Newcastle Council, Dwg No. S-36-1

c1928

Ocean Baths, Alterations to Façade
Newcastle City Council, Dwg No. S-75-1

1939

Sketch Plan of Proposed Shelter Colonnades and Central Block, Ocean Baths
Newcastle City Council, Dwg No. S-168-1

1956

Sketch Plan, Proposed Alterations and Additions to Buildings at Ocean Baths, Newcastle
Newcastle City Council, Dwg No. S-489-2

1962

Proposed Alterations and Additions to Buildings at Ocean Baths
Dwg No. S-490.1(?)

1989

Ocean Baths, Alterations Stage 1
Newcastle City Council, Dwg No. S-1618.5

1989

Ocean Baths, Alterations Stage 1
Newcastle City Council, Dwg No. S-1618.6

1992

Newcastle Ocean Baths Earthquake Damage Repairs
Newcastle City Council, Dwg No. S-1719.1

1992

Newcastle Ocean Baths Earthquake Damage Repairs
Newcastle City Council, Dwg No. S-1719.2

1992

Newcastle Ocean Baths Earthquake Damage Repairs
Newcastle City Council, Dwg No. S-1719.3

1992

Newcastle Ocean Baths Earthquake Damage Repairs
Newcastle City Council, Dwg No. S-1719.4

1992

Newcastle Ocean Baths Earthquake Damage Repairs
Newcastle City Council, Dwg No. S-1719.5

1992

Newcastle Ocean Baths Earthquake Damage Repairs
EJE Architecture, Dwg No. 2120W1

1994

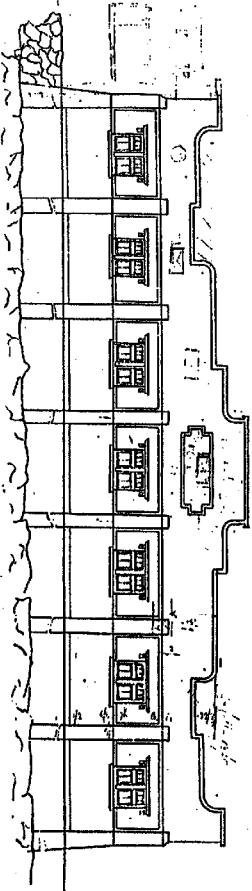
Ocean Baths Kiosk Alterations
Newcastle City Council, Dwg No. S-1618.11

*Note: The drawings contained herein have been reduced
for the purposes of presentation in this document.*

OCEAN BATHS

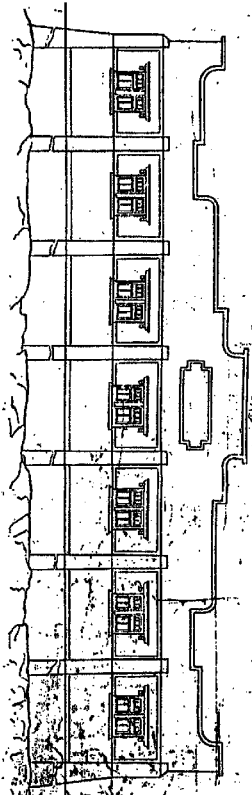
ONE EIGHT NCH
FOOT & ONE FOOT

W. H. ...
CIVIL ENGINEER

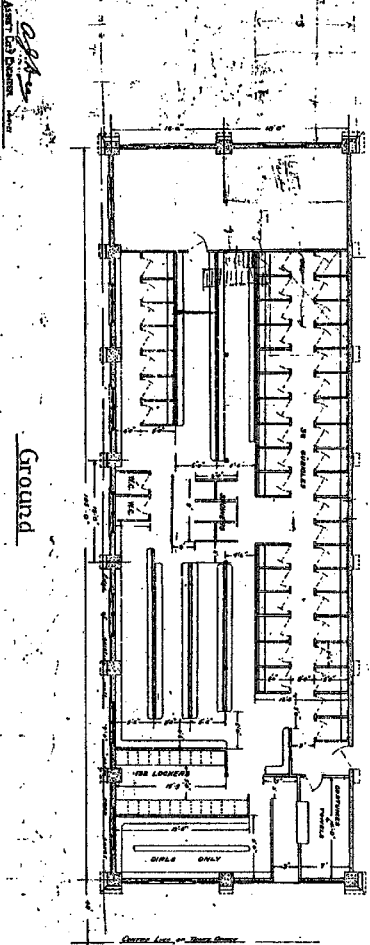


Elevator

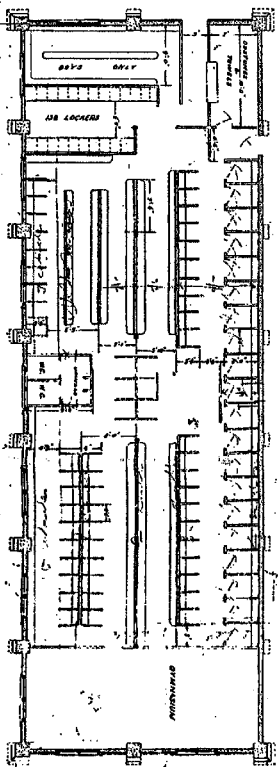
10.



Promenade



Ground



Plan

JOB NO. 115
PLAN NO. 2

536

SECTION 11.

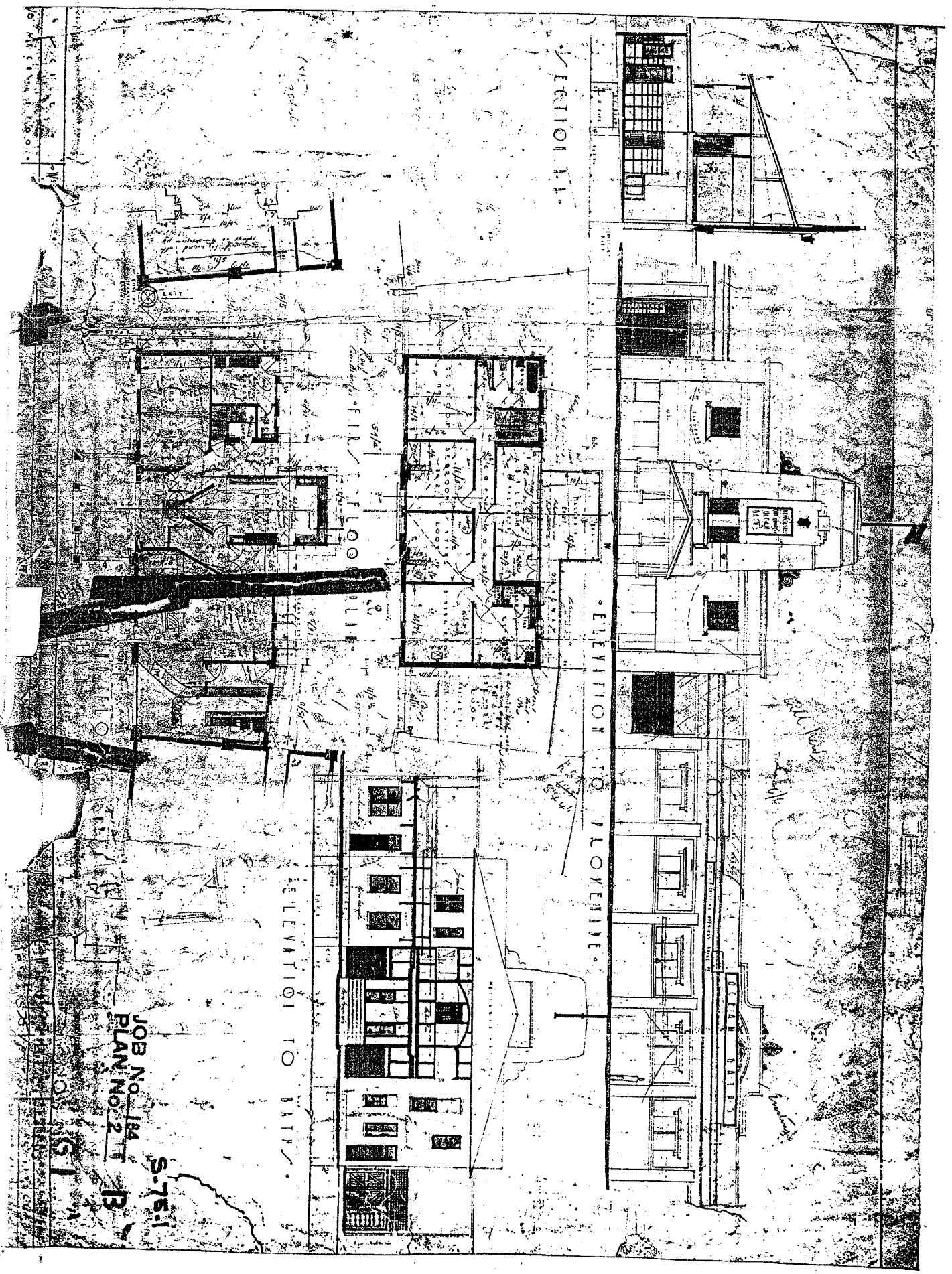
ELEVATION TO FLORENCE.

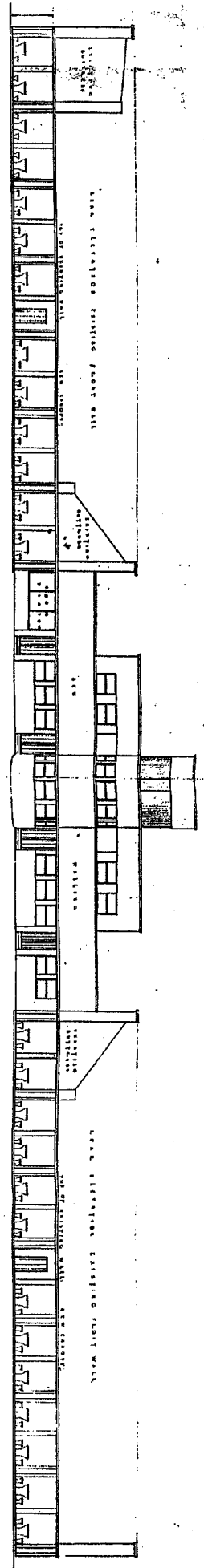
ELEVATION TO BAY.

JOB NO. 184
PLAN NO. 2 T B

S-76

61

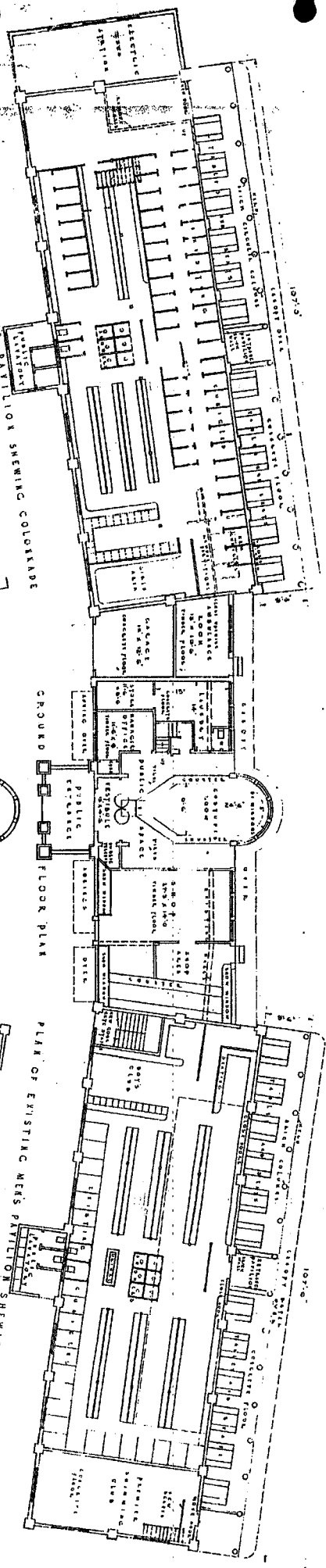




PROPOSED SOUTHERN COLONNADE

PROPOSED ELEVATION TO BATHS

PROPOSED NORTHERN COLONNADE



PLANT OF EXISTING WOMENS PATRIOT SHERING COLONNADE

GROUPED FLOOR PLAN

PLANT OF EXISTING MENS PATRIOT SHERING COLONNADE

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

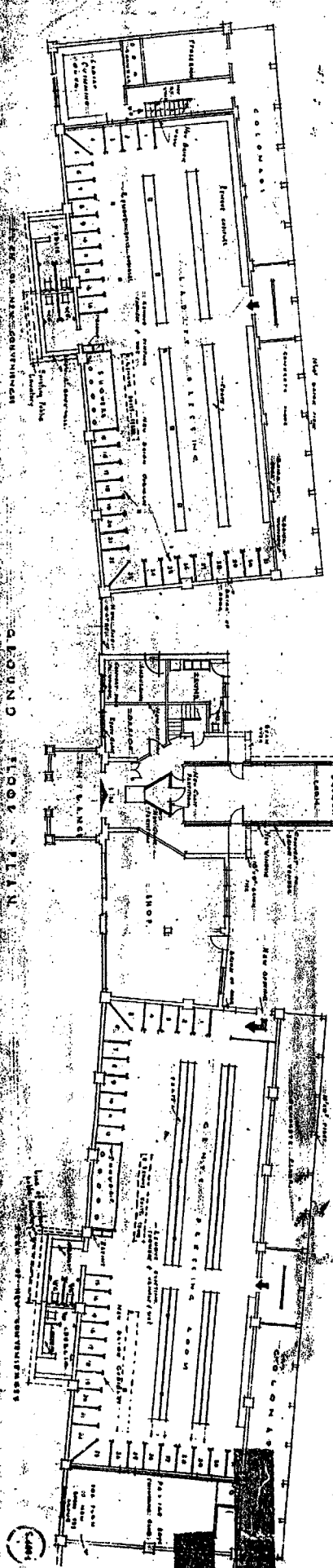
CENTRAL FEATURE

SKETCH PLAN
OF
PROPOSED SHELTER COLONNADES
AND CENTRAL BLOCK
OCEAN BATHS
NEWCASTLE

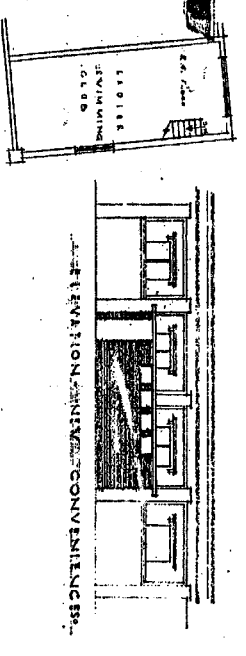
SCALE: ARCHITECTURAL
LARGE: CITY ENGINEER, CITY HALL, PASADENA, CALIF. ARCHITECT
TEMPERATURE 7-8-35
REF. E. 8

5-168-1

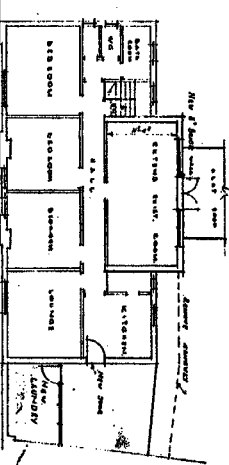
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



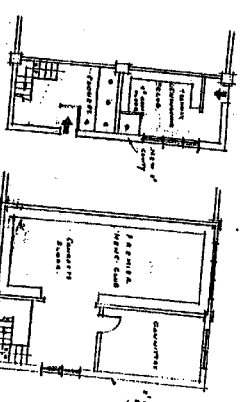
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



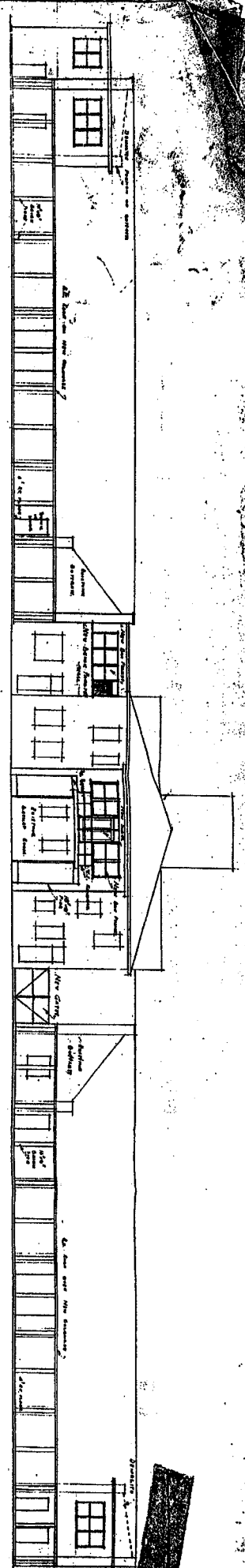
PLAN OF RESIDENCE ON 1ST FLOOR



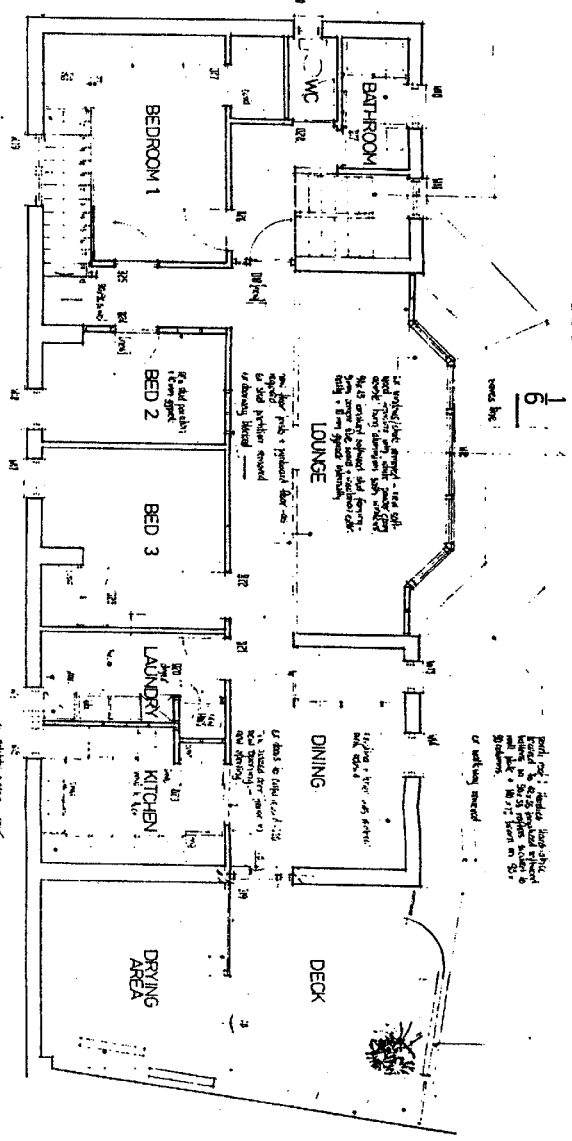
PLAN OF NEW ROOMS AT SOUTHERN END
1ST FLOOR PLAN AT SOUTHERN END



ELEVATION TO BATHS



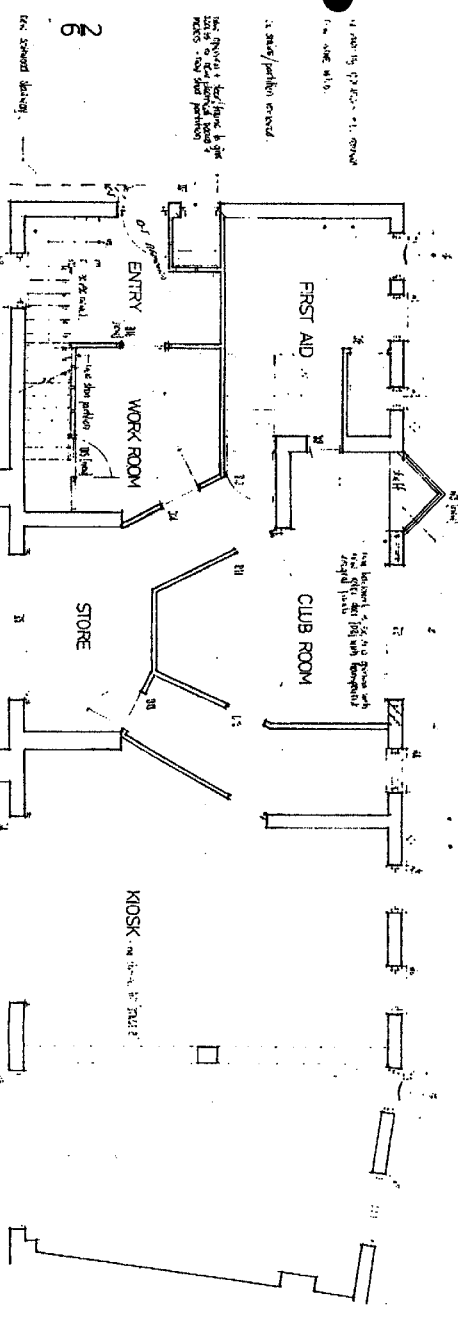
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first floor

1

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.



ground floor

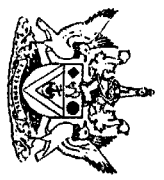
2

2

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1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

1000/89

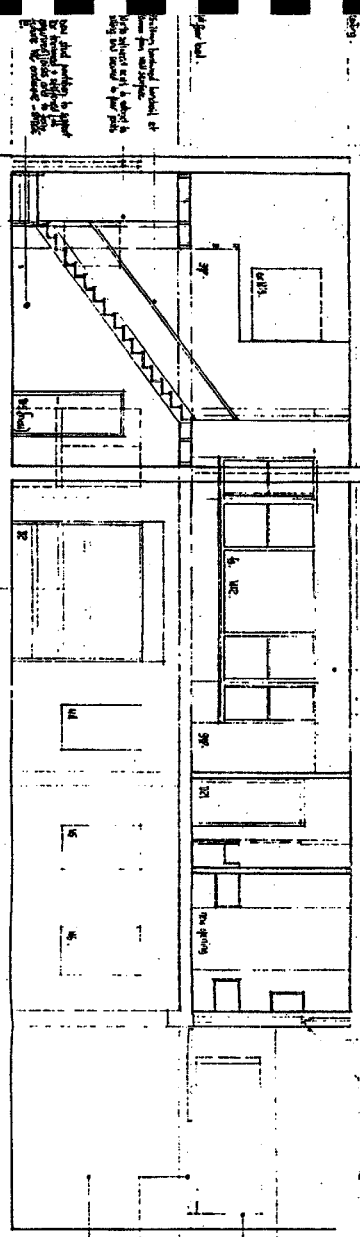


OCEAN BATHS
ALTERATIONS
STAGE 1
PLANS
NEWCASTLE
CITY COUNCIL
CITY ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT
ARCHITECT'S SECTION

| | | |
|---------------|------|-------|
| CITY ENGINEER | DATE | SCALE |
| DRAWN | DATE | SCALE |
| CHECKED | DATE | SCALE |
| PROJECT NO. | | |
| SHEET NO. | | |

section 5

east elevation

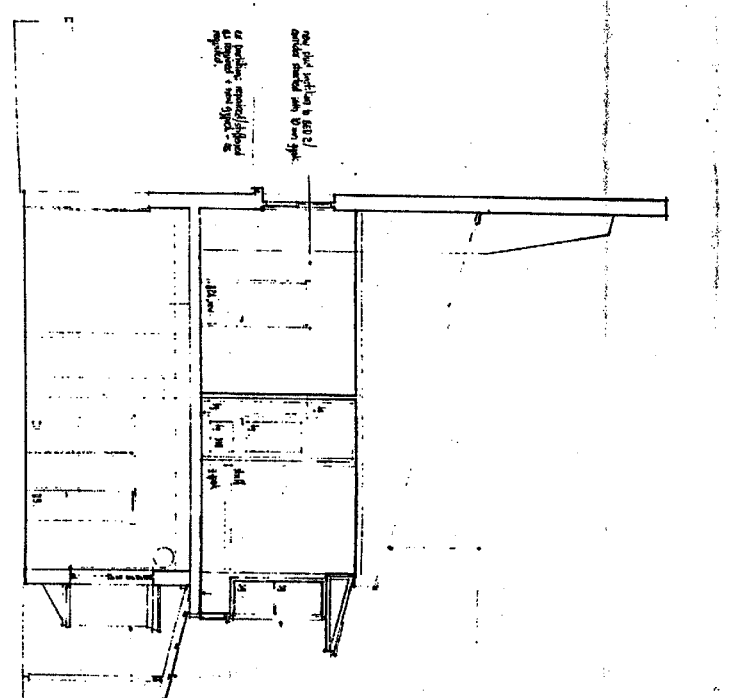
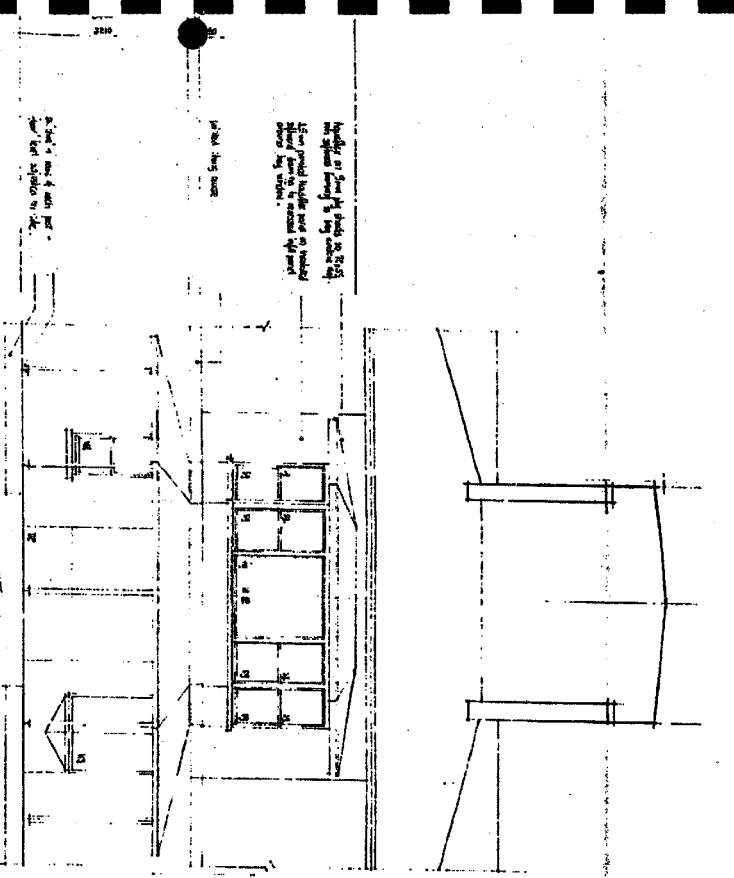


NOTE: window in left wall is to be replaced by a door frame as shown on drawing of interior elevations & in section 1.

NOTE: window in right wall is to be replaced by a door frame as shown on drawing of interior elevations & in section 1.

NOTE: window in right wall is to be replaced by a door frame as shown on drawing of interior elevations & in section 1.

section 1




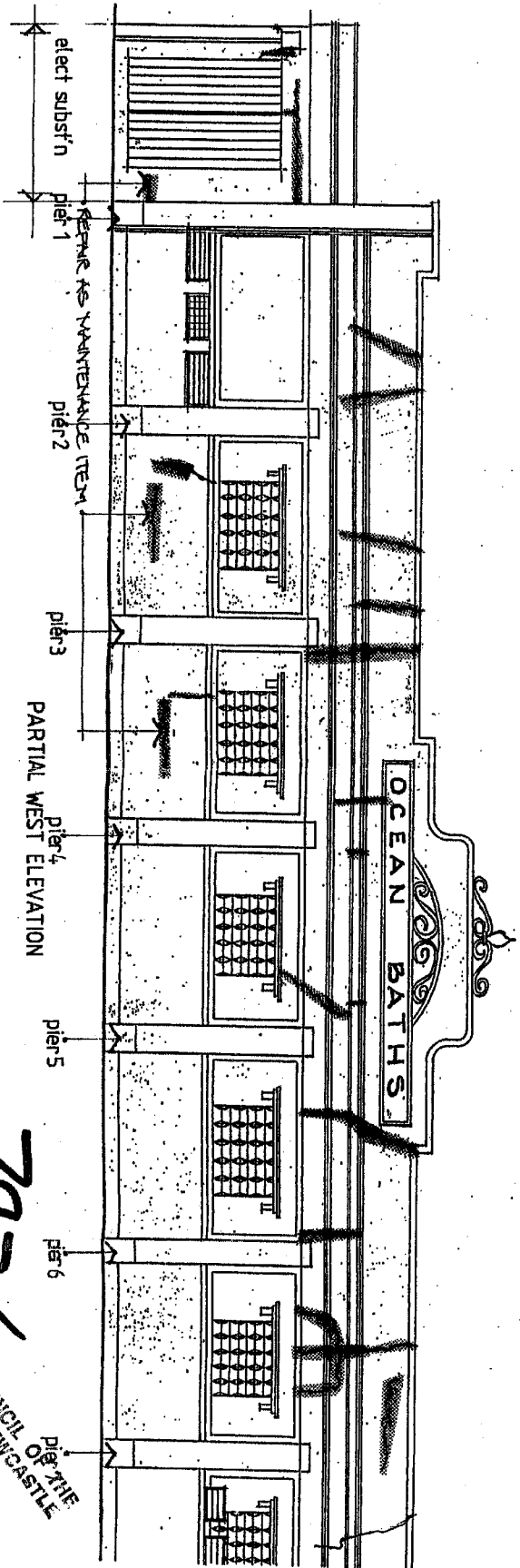
NOTE: window in left wall is to be replaced by a door frame as shown on drawing of interior elevations & in section 1.

NOTE: window in right wall is to be replaced by a door frame as shown on drawing of interior elevations & in section 1.

NOTE: window in right wall is to be replaced by a door frame as shown on drawing of interior elevations & in section 1.

1000/89

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
|  | |
| <p>CITY ENGINEERS DEPARTMENT
ARCHITECTS SECTION</p> | |
| <p>OCEAN BATHS</p> | <p>ALTERATIONS</p> |
| <p>ELEVATION SECTIONS</p> | <p>STAGE 1</p> |
| <p>NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL</p> | <p>DATE: 11/83</p> |
| <p>PROJECT NO. 8-518.6</p> | <p>SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"</p> |
| <p>DATE: 11/83</p> | <p>BY: [Signature]</p> |



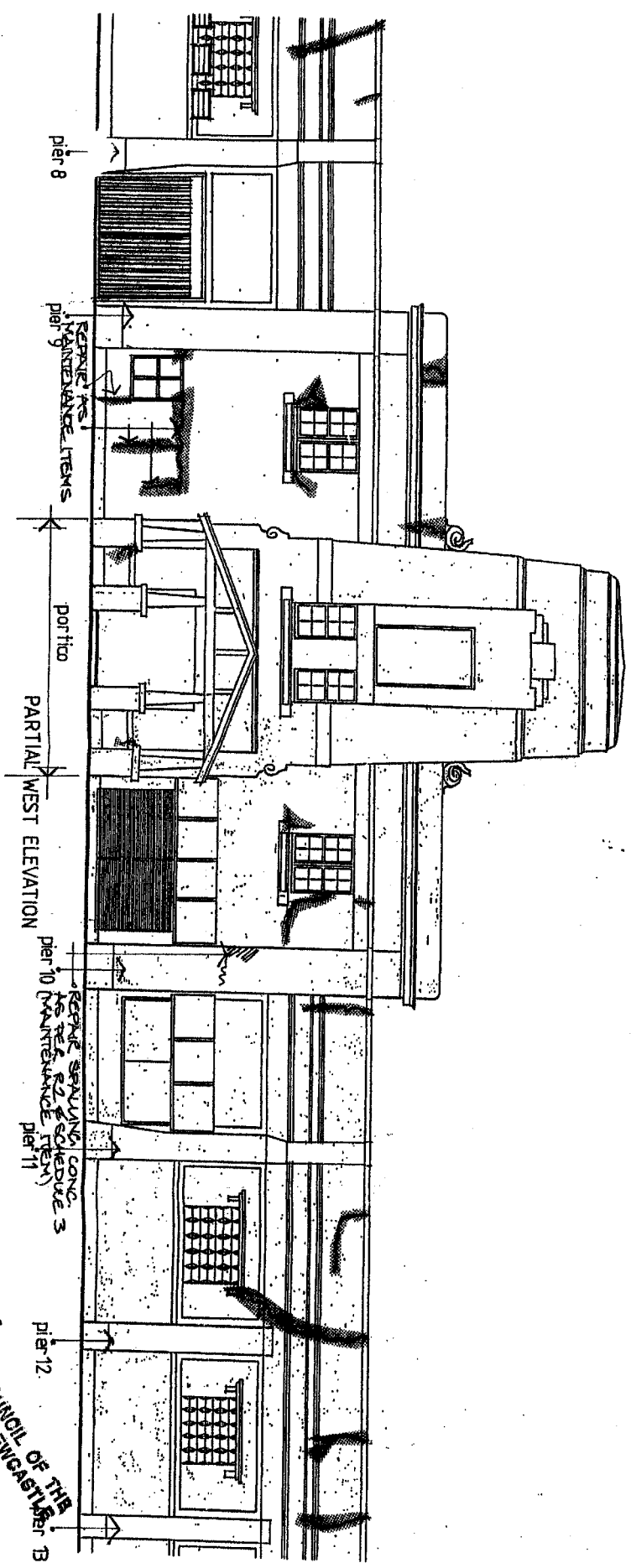
FILE COPY

793/93
 THE COUNCIL OF THE
 CITY OF NEWCASTLE

NEWCASTLE OCEAN BATHS
 SHORTLAND ESPLANADE NEWCASTLE
 EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE
 REPAIRS

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL
 DRAWN JLM
 DATE APRIL '92
 SCALE 1:100
 DWG NO S-1719.1

FILE COPY

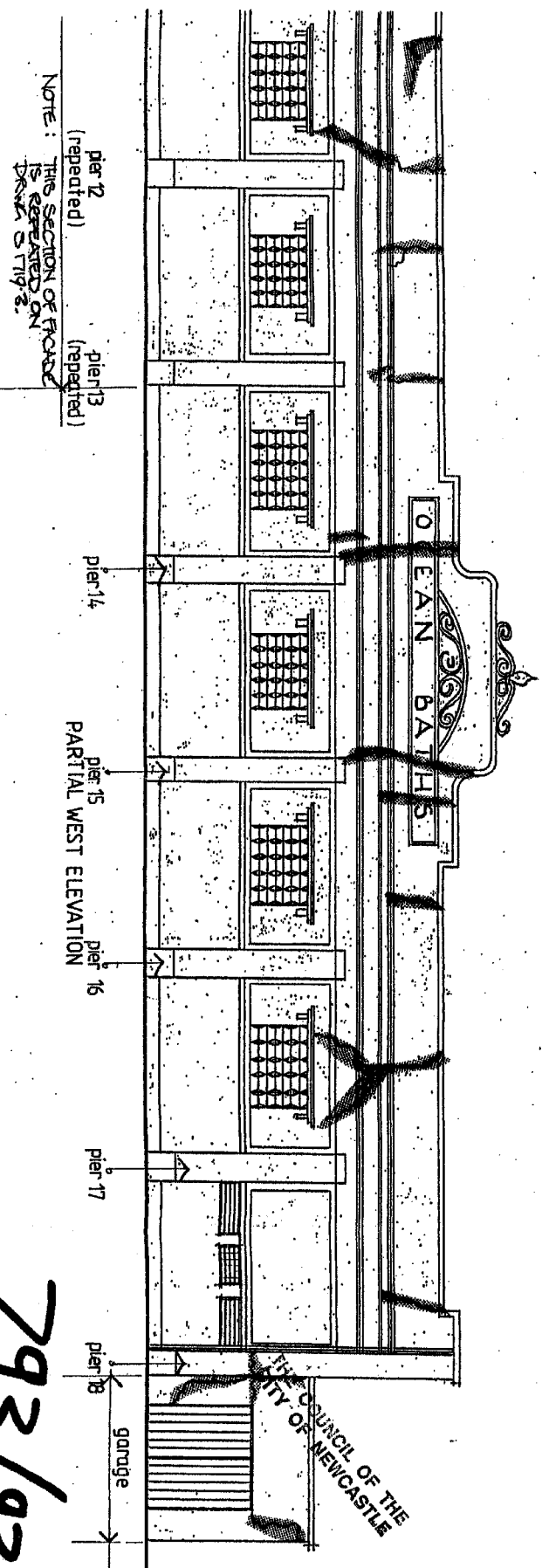


793/43
 THE COUNCIL OF THE
 CITY OF NEWCASTLE

NEWCASTLE OCEAN BATHS
 SHORTLAND ESPRANDE NEWCASTLE
 EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE
 REPAIRS

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL
 DRAWN JLM
 DATE APRIL '92
 SCALE 1:100
 DWG NO S-1719.2

FILE COPY



793/93

NEWCASTLE OCEAN BATHS
 SHORLAND ESPLANADE NEWCASTLE

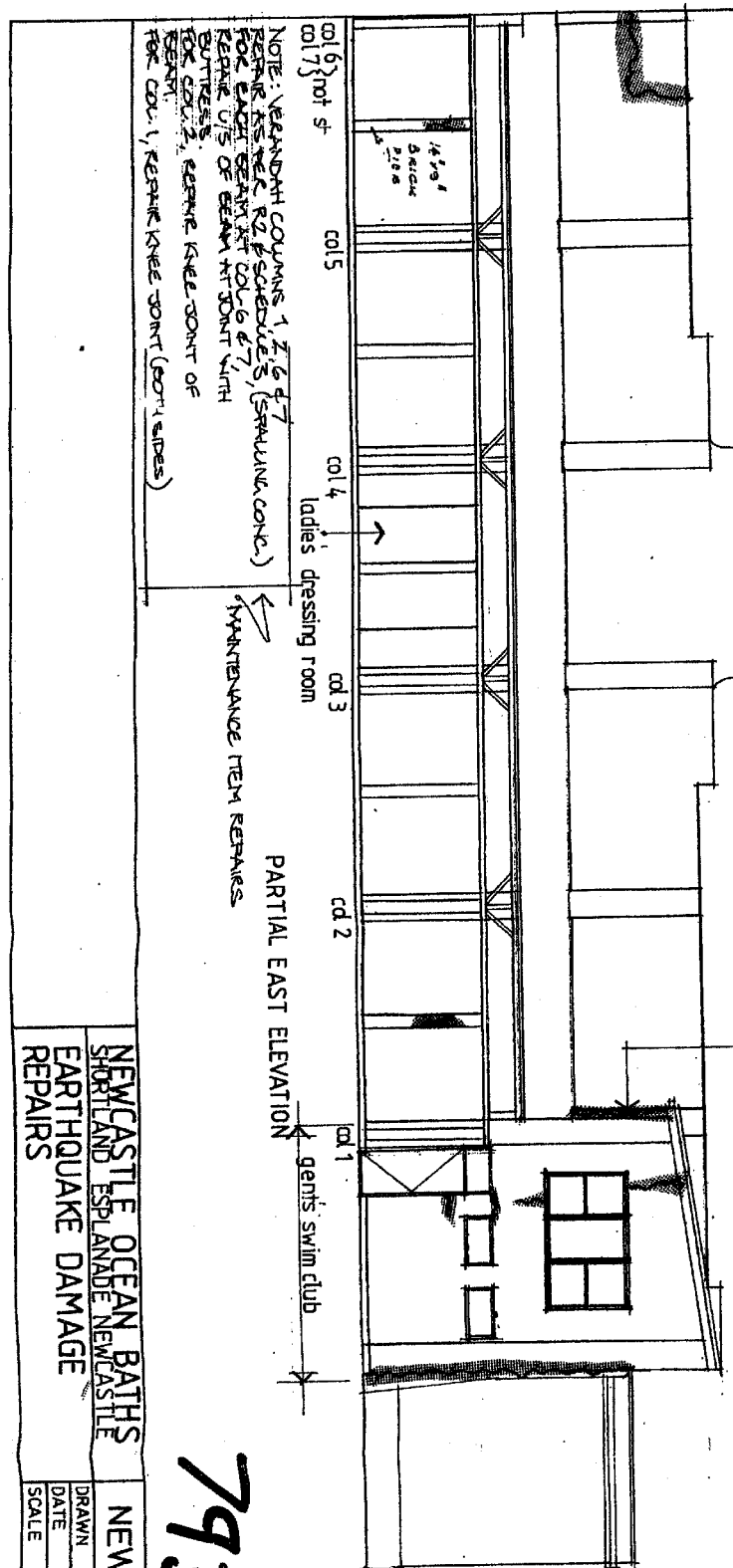
NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL

EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE REPAIRS

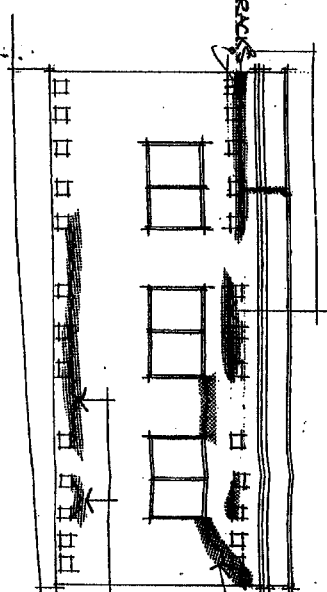
DRAWN JLM
 DATE APRIL '92
 SCALE 1:100

DWG NO S-1719.3

NOTE:
 EXTERNAL FACE OF NORTH
 WALL OF RESIDENCE:
 10-20mm WIDE VERTICAL
 CRACK ON CENTRAL PIECE
 FROM TOP OF PARAPET TO
 LEVEL OF 4500 OFF GROUND
 LEVEL.



PARTIAL NORTH ELEVATION
 (select subst'n)



FILE COPY
 MAINTENANCE REPAIR

THE COUNCIL OF THE
 CITY OF NEWCASTLE

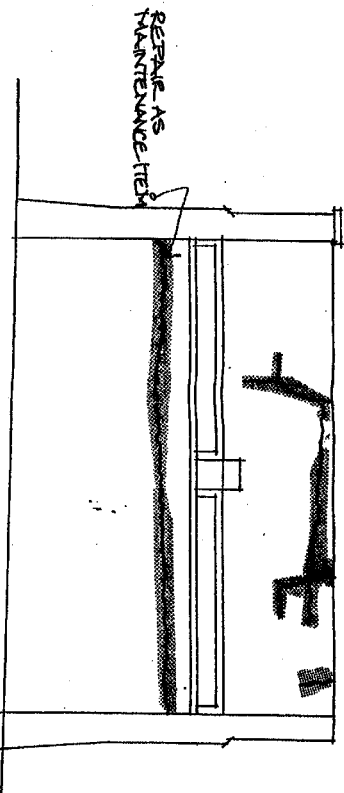
793/93

NEWCASTLE OCEAN BATHS
 SHORTLAND ESPLANADE NEWCASTLE
 EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE REPAIRS

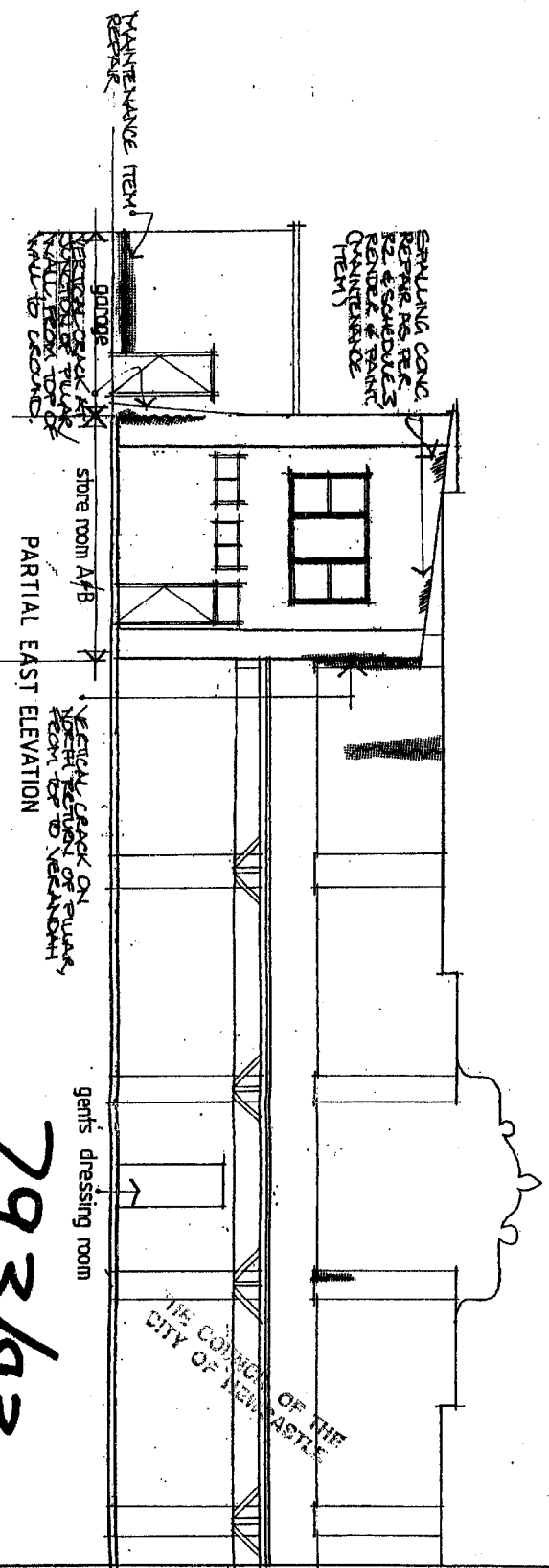
NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL

DRAWN JLM
 DATE APRIL '92
 SCALE 1:100

DWG NO
 S-1719.4



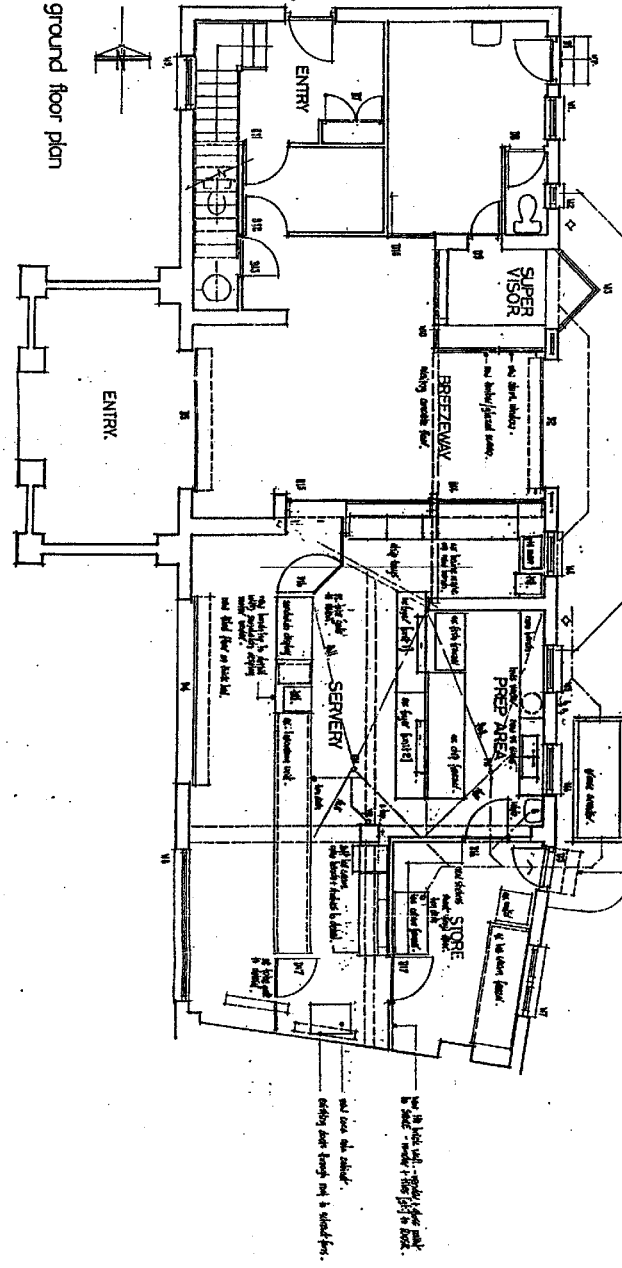
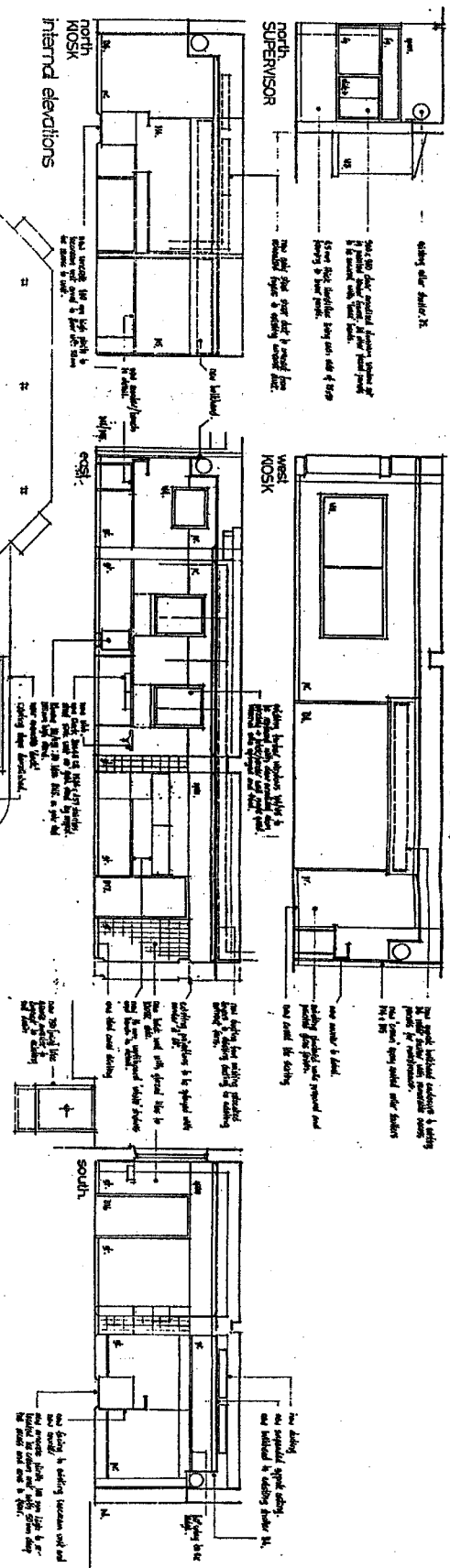
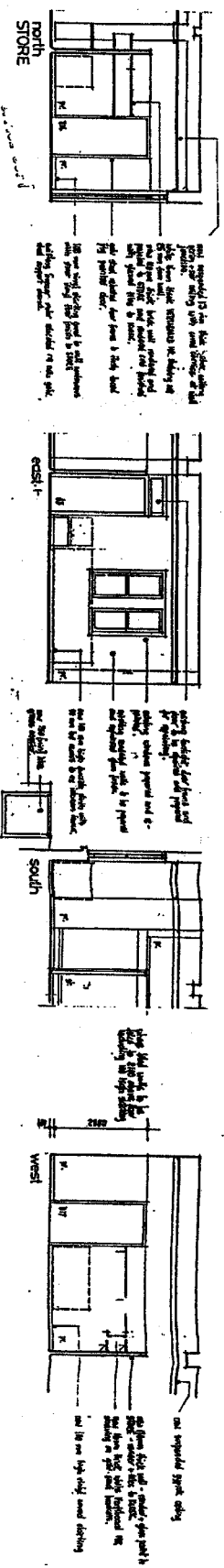
SOUTH ELEVATION



FILE COPY

793/93

NEWCASTLE OCEAN BATHS
SHORTLAND ESPLANADE NEWCASTLE
EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE REPAIRS
NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL
DRAWN JLM
DATE 1:100
SCALE APRIL '92
DWG NO S-1719.5



1982/81
1981

OCEAN BATHS
RESTORATION
KIOSK
ALTERATIONS



ARCHITECT'S SECTION
DATE: 28.8.1981
SCALE: 1/10
PROJECT NO: S-161811

Appendix C

Intrados Consulting Engineers Material and Structural Investigations and Recommendations

Appendix F

The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter)

THE AUSTRALIA ICOMOS CHARTER FOR THE CONSERVATION OF PLACES OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (The Burra Charter)

Preamble

Considering the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice 1964), and the Resolutions of 5th General Assembly of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Moscow 1978), the Burra Charter was adopted by Australia ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS) on 19th August 1979 at Burra, South Australia. Revisions were adopted on 23rd February 1981, 23 April 1988 and 26 November 1999.

The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places), and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members.

Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility.

Who is the Charter for?

The Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians.

Using the Charter

The Charter should be read as a whole. Many articles are interdependent. Articles in the Conservation Principles section are often further developed in the Conservation Processes and Conservation Practice sections. Headings have been included for ease of reading but do not form part of the Charter.

The Charter is self-contained, but aspects of its use and application are further explained in the following Australia ICOMOS documents:

- Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Cultural Significance
- Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Conservation Policy
- Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Procedures for Undertaking Studies and Reports
- Code on the Ethics of Coexistence in Conserving Significant Places

What Places does the Charter apply to?

The Charter can be applied to all types of places of cultural significance including natural, indigenous and historic places with cultural values.

The standards of other organisations may also be relevant. These include the Australian natural heritage Charter and the Draft Guidelines for the Protection, Management and Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Places.

Why conserve?

Places of cultural significance enrich people's lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape, to the past and to lived experiences. They are historical records, that are important as tangible expressions of Australian identity and experience. Places of cultural significance reflect the diversity of our communities, telling us about who we are and the past that has formed us and the Australian landscape. They are irreplaceable and precious.

These places of cultural significance must be conserved for present and future generations.

The Burra Charter advocates a cautious approach to change: do as much as necessary to care for the place and to make it useable, but otherwise change it as little as possible so that its cultural significance is retained.

Definitions

Article 1 For the purpose of this Charter:

- 1.1 *Place* means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.
- 1.2 *Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.
- 1.3 *Fabric* means all the physical material of the place including components, fixtures, contents and objects.
- 1.4 *Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its *cultural significance*.
- 1.5 *Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric* and setting of a place contents and setting of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.
- 1.6 *Preservation* means maintaining the fabric of a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.
- 1.7 *Restoration* means returning the existing *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.
- 1.8 *Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of new material into the *fabric*.
- 1.9 *Adaptation* means modifying a *place* to suit the existing use or a proposed use.
- 1.10 *Use* means the function of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.
- 1.11 *Compatible use* means a use which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.
- 1.12 *Setting* means the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.
- 1.13 *Related place* means a place that contributes to the cultural significance of another place.
- 1.14 *Related object* means an object that contributes to the cultural significance of a place but is not at the place.
- 1.15 *Associations* mean the special connections that exist between people and a place.
- 1.16 *Meanings* denote what a place signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.
- 1.17 *Interpretation* means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place.

Explanatory Notes

These notes do not form part of the Charter and may be added to by Australia ICOMOS.

The concept of place should be broadly interpreted. The elements described in Article 1.1 may include memorials, trees, gardens, parks, places of historical events, urban areas, towns, industrial places, archaeological sites and spiritual and religious places.

The term cultural significance is synonymous with heritage significance and cultural heritage value. Cultural significance may change as a result of the continuing history of the place. Understanding of cultural significance may change as a result of new information.

Fabric includes building interiors and sub-surface remains, as well as excavated material. Fabric may define spaces and these may be important elements of the significance of the place.

The distinctions referred to for example in relation to roof gutters, are:

- maintenance – regular inspection and cleaning of gutters
- repair involving restoration – returning of dislodged gutters
- repair involving reconstruction – replacing decayed gutters

It is recognised that all places and their components change over time at varying rates.

New material may include recycled material salvaged from other places. This should not be to the detriment of any place of cultural significance.

Associations may include social or spiritual values and cultural responsibilities for a place.

Meanings generally relate to intangible aspects such as symbolic qualities and memories.

Interpretation may be a combination of the treatment of the fabric (eg. Maintenance, restoration, reconstruction); the use of and activities at the place; and the use of introduced explanatory material.

Conservation Principles

Article 2 Conservation and management

- 2.1 *Places of cultural significance* should be conserved.
- 2.2 The aim of *conservation* is to retain the *cultural significance of a place*.
- 2.3 *Conservation* is an integral part of good management of *places of cultural significance*.
- 2.4 *Places of cultural significance* should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state.

Article 3 Cautious approach

- 3.1 *Conservation* is based on a respect for the existing *fabric, use, associations and meanings*. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.
- 3.2 Changes to a *place* should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.

Article 4 Knowledge, skills and techniques

- 4.1 *Conservation* should make use of the knowledge, skills and disciplines which can contribute to the study and care of the *place*.
- 4.2 Traditional techniques and materials are preferred for the *conservation of significant fabric*. In some circumstances modern techniques and materials which offer substantial conservation benefits may be appropriate.

Article 5 Values

- 5.1 *Conservation of a place* should identify and take into consideration all aspects of the cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one aspect at the expense of others.
- 5.2 Relative degrees of cultural significance may lead to different conservation actions at a *place*.

Article 6 The Burra Charter Process

- 6.1 The cultural significance of a place and other issues affecting its future are best understood by a sequence of collecting and analysing information before making decisions. Understanding cultural significance comes first, then development of policy and finally management of the place in accordance with the policy.
- 6.2 The policy for managing a place must be based on an understanding of its cultural significance.
- 6.3 Policy development should also include consideration of other factors affecting the future of a place such as the owner's needs, resources, external constraints and its physical condition.

Article 7 Use

- 7.1 Where the use of a place is of cultural significance it should be retained.
- 7.2 A place should have a compatible use.

Article 8 Setting

Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place. New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would diversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate.

The traces of additions, alterations and earlier treatments to the fabric of a place are evidence of its history and uses which may be part of its significance. Conservation action should tend to assist rather than to impede their understanding.

The use of modern materials and techniques must be supported by firm scientific evidence or by a body of experience.

Conservation of places of natural significance is explained in the Australian Natural Heritage Charter. This Charter defines natural significance to mean the importance of ecosystems, biological diversity and geodiversity for their existence value, or for present or future generations in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life-support value.

A cautious approach is needed, as understanding of cultural significance may change. This article should not be used to justify actions which do not retain cultural significance.

The Policy should identify a use or combination of uses or constraints on uses that retain the cultural significance of the place. New use of a place should involve minimal change, to significant fabric and use; should respect associations and meanings; and where appropriate should provide for continuation of practices which contribute to the cultural significance of the place.

Aspects of the visual setting may include use, siting, bulk, form, scale, character, colour, texture and materials.

Other relationships, such as horizontal connections, may contribute to interpretation, appreciation, enjoyment or experience of the place.

Article 9 Location

9.1 The physical location of a place is part of its cultural significance. A building, work or other component of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.

9.2 Some buildings, works or other components of places were designed to be readily removable or already have a history of relocation. Provided such buildings, works or other components do not have significant links with their present location, removal may be appropriate.

9.3 If any building, work or other component is moved, it should be moved to an appropriate location and given an appropriate use. Such action should not be to the detriment of any place of cultural significance.

Article 10 Contents

Contents, fixtures and objects which contribute to the cultural significance of a place should be retained at that place. Their removal is unacceptable unless it is: the sole means of ensuring their security and preservation; on a temporary basis for treatment or exhibition; for cultural reasons; for health and safety; or to protect the place. Such contents, fixtures and objects should be returned where circumstances permit and it is culturally appropriate.

Article 11 Related places and objects

The contribution which related places and related objects make to the cultural significance of the place should be retained.

Article 12 Participation

Conservation, interpretation and management of a place should provide for participation of people for whom the place has special associations and meanings, or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the place.

Article 13 Co-existence of cultural values

Co-existence of cultural values should be recognised, respected and encouraged, especially on cases where they conflict.

For some places, conflicting cultural values may affect policy development and management decisions. In this article, the term cultural values refers to those beliefs which are important to a cultural group, including but not limited to political, religious, spiritual and moral beliefs. This is broader than values associated with cultural significance.

Conservation Processes

Article 14 Conservation processes

Conservation may, according to circumstance, include the processes of: retention or reintroduction of a use; retention of associations and meanings; maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation and interpretation; and will commonly include a combination of more than one of these.

There may be circumstances where no action is required to achieve conservation.

Article 15 Change

15.1 Change may be necessary to retain cultural significance, but is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a place should be guided by the cultural significance of the place and its appropriate interpretation.

When change is being considered, a range of options should be explored to seek the option which minimises the reduction of cultural significance.

15.2 Changes which reduce cultural significance should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.

15.3 Demolition of significant fabric of a place is generally not acceptable. However, in some cases minor demolition may be appropriate as part of conservation. Removed significant fabric should be reinstated when circumstances permit.

15.4 The contributions of all aspects of cultural significance of a place should be respected. If a place includes fabric, uses, associations or meanings of different periods, or different aspects of cultural significance, emphasising or interpreting one period or aspect at the expense of another can only be justified when what is left out, removed or diminished is of slight cultural significance and that which is emphasised or interpreted is of much greater cultural significance.

Article 16 Maintenance

Maintenance is fundamental to conservation and should be undertaken where fabric is of cultural significance and its maintenance is necessary to retain that cultural significance.

Article 17 Preservation

Preservation is appropriate where the existing fabric or its condition constitutes evidence of cultural significance, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other conservation processes to be carried out.

Article 18 Restoration and reconstruction

Restoration and reconstruction should reveal culturally significant aspects of the place.

Article 19 Restoration

Restoration is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the fabric.

Article 20 Reconstruction

20.1 Reconstruction is appropriate only where a place is incomplete through damage or alterations, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the fabric. In rare cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a use or practice that retains the cultural significance of the place.

20.2 Reconstruction should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional interpretation.

Article 21 Adaptation

Adaptation must be limited to that which is essential to a use for the place determined in accordance with Articles 6 and 7.

21.1 Adaptation is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the cultural significance of the place.

21.2 Adaptation should involve minimal change to significant fabric, achieved only after considering alternatives.

Reversible changes should be considered temporary. Non-reversible change should only be used as a last resort and should not prevent future conservation action.

Preservation protects fabric without obscuring the evidence of its construction and use. The process should always be applied: where the evidence of the fabric is of such significance that it should not be altered; and, where insufficient investigation has been carried out to permit policy decisions to be taken in accord with Articles 26 to 28.

New work (eg. Stabilisation) may be carried out in association with preservation when its purpose of the physical protection of the fabric and when it is consistent with Article 22.

Adaptation is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact of the cultural significance of the place.

Article 22 New work

22.1 New work such as additions to the place may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the cultural significance of the place, or detract from its interpretation and appreciation.

22.2 New work should be readily identifiable as such.

New work may be sympathetic if its siting, bulk, form, scale, character, colour, texture and material are similar to the existing fabric, but imitation should be avoided.

Article 23 Conserving use

Continuing, modifying or reinstating significant use may be appropriate and preferred forms of conservation.

These may require changes to significant fabric, but they should be minimised. In some cases, continuing a significant use or practice may involve substantial new work.

Article 24 Retaining associations and meanings

24.1 Significant associations between people and a place should be respected, retained and not obscured.

Opportunities for the interpretation, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.

24.2 Significant meanings, including spiritual values, of a place should be respected. Opportunities for the continuation or revival of these meanings should be investigated and implemented.

For many places associations will be linked to use.

Article 25 Interpretation

The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment, and be culturally appropriate.

Article 26 Applying the Burra Charter process

26.1 Work on a place should be preceded by studies to understand the place which should include analysis of physical, documentary, oral and other evidence, drawing on appropriate knowledge, skills and disciplines.

26.2 Written statements of cultural significance and policy for the place should be prepared, justified and accompanied by supporting evidence. The statements of significance and policy should be incorporated into a management plan for the place.

26.3 Groups and individuals with associations with a place as well as those involved in its management should be provided with opportunities to contribute to and participate in understanding the cultural significance of the place. Where appropriate they should also have opportunities to participate in its conservation and management.

The results of studies should be up to date, regularly reviewed and revised as necessary.

Statements of significance and policy should be kept up to date by regular review and revision as necessary. The management plan may deal with other matters related to the management of the place.

Article 27 Managing change

27.1 The impact of proposed changes on the cultural significance of a place should be analysed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the place. It may be necessary to modify changes following analysis to better retain cultural significance.

27.2 Existing fabric, use, associations and meanings should be adequately recorded before any changes are made to the place.

Article 28 Disturbance of fabric

Disturbance of significant fabric for study, or to obtain evidence, should be minimised. Study of a place by any disturbance of the fabric, including archaeological excavation, should only be undertaken to provide data for essential decisions on the conservation of the place, or to obtain important evidence about to be lost or made inaccessible.

Investigation of a place which requires disturbance of the fabric, apart from that necessary to make decisions, may be appropriate provided that it is consistent with the policy for the place. Such investigation should be based on important research questions which have potential to substantially add to knowledge, which cannot be answered in other ways and which minimises disturbance of significant fabric.

Article 29 Responsibility for decisions

The organisations and individuals responsible for management decisions should be named and specific responsibility taken for each such decision.

Article 30 Direction, supervision and implementation

Competent direction and supervision should be maintained at all stages, and any changes should be implemented by people with appropriate knowledge and skills.

Article 31 Documenting evidence and decisions

A log of new evidence and additional decisions should be kept.

Article 32 Records

32.1 The records associated with the conservation of a place should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

32.2 Records about the history of a place should be protected and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

Article 33 Removed fabric

Significant fabric which has been removed from a place including contents, fixtures and objects, should be catalogued, and protected in accordance with its cultural significance.

Where possible and culturally appropriate, removed significant fabric including contents, fixtures and objects, should be kept at the place.

Article 34 Resources

Adequate resources should be provided for conservation.

The best conservation often involves the least work and can be inexpensive.

Appendix G

Artist's Report

Newcastle Ocean Baths Conservation

A Visual Artist Consultancy for Public Artworks

For

**SUTERS ARCHITECTS Pty Ltd
16 Telford Street
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300**

Consultant: MICHAEL BELL

January 2002

The Newcastle Ocean Baths Conservation

Overview

The 1930s Art Deco inspired facade of **The Newcastle Ocean Baths** is one of the city's visual icons. It is up there with The Obelisk, the Civic Fountain and Nobby's Headland.

It is a facility that is much used and appreciated by the public. It is a popular place for family groups, lap swimmers, kids and the elderly.

So given its continued popularity, the Conservation Project for The Ocean Baths is timely.

The Pavilion buildings require major repair work and the dressing sheds plead for upgrading and redevelopment. The pools, being the real draw-card, seem to have survived surprisingly intact over the past 89 years.

The 900 metre long Facade is in need of repair and a fresh colour scheme. The existing colours, based on a heritage/maritime theme, are now 10 years old.

Visually, the Baths are an interesting place to go. There is a strong sense of nostalgia created by the architecture and the natural environment is always stimulating, but I believe that with the installation of the right artworks, the Baths will become an even more rewarding place to visit.

Good public artwork should work on a number of levels. Firstly, the commissioned artworks should never be seen as just 'decoration'. If it is aimed at this level, then I think it will fail. Successful public artwork (or indeed any good artwork) should engage the viewer and require a certain intellectual response. At the same time, it should strive to enrich the local environment.

I have arrived at eight recommendations for artwork for the Baths project. I have listed them in what I consider to be priority order- however; I have not taken into account any budgeting restraints!

I know it may sound like a wish list, but I thought if even two of the below recommendations made it through the filtering systems of budget feasibility, time restraints, engineers reports, evolving conservation plans and any standing heritage orders, then my consultancy work has been successful.

ARTWORK RECOMMENDATIONS (priority listing)

1 THE FACADE

The early 1990s saw the last major repair and restoration work in the wake of the 1989 earthquake. As mentioned in my overview, I recommend that the current six colours used on the facade be up-dated to give the Baths a new energy. It will help to restore people's interest in this landmark and to see it with fresh eyes.

It is noted that the existing maritime/ heritage colours are also used on the nearby Nobby's Surf Pavilion (opened in 1934). So, there is an argument for a consistent use and harmony of colour across the two pavilions. However, I think both pavilions have their own character, and I think The Ocean Baths Pavilion can afford to stand apart. The nearby Newcastle Beach Pavilion (opened in December 1982) has its own colour scheme and the style of architecture has no reference to the Baths Art Deco period.

I am suggesting a 5-colour colour scheme: (see attachment #1).

The colours:

- 1 Water Green
- 2 Light Blue (sky and water)
- 3 Primrose Yellow (sand)
- 4 White (to represent sunlight and sand)
- 5 Pastel Pink (a colour reflecting the Art Deco period)

I realise this colour scheme may lack the seriousness of the existing theme, but I think a colour statement to say *The Baths is a fun place* could be a step in the right direction.

I also suggest that an innovative lighting design be incorporated into the Conservation project so, of an evening, the facade will transform into a major attraction. I don't mean a gaudy, Christmas-style lighting display, but I think a sensitive lighting design is worth considering.

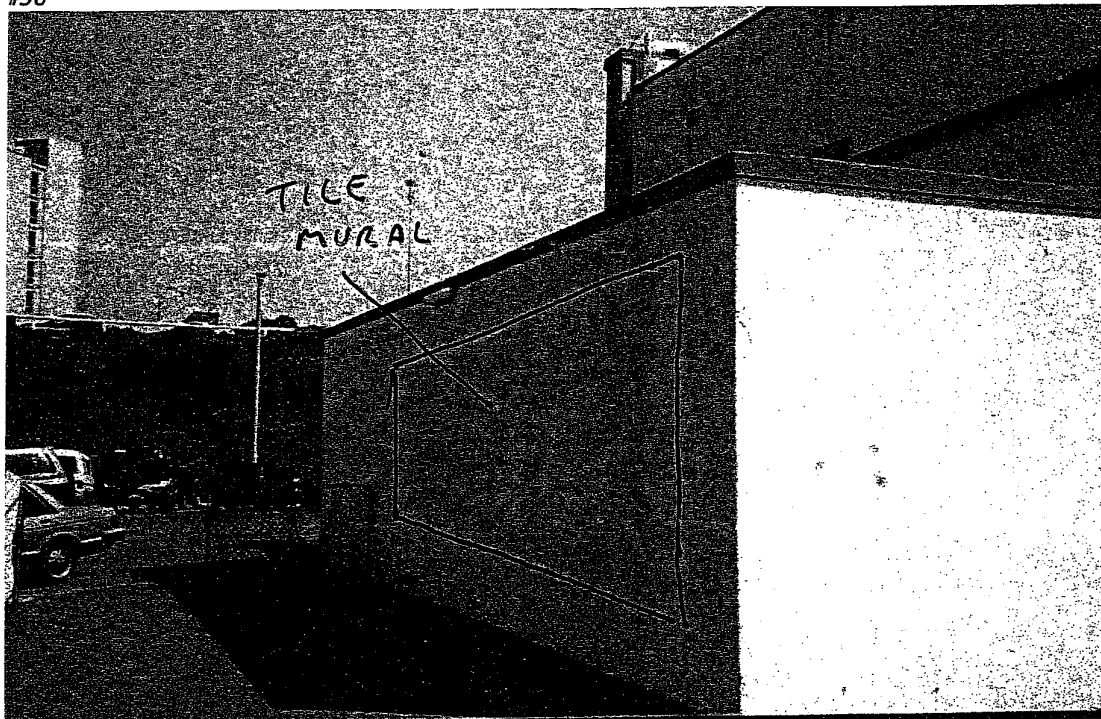
Currently, the facade is lit indirectly from street lights and the spotlight at the southern end of the car-park, but I think more could be done in a creative way using the facade itself, if any existing heritage orders permit. The contour of the facade could be subtly outlined, while the geometric patterns that cover the original windows could be colour arc-lit from below, and so on. The December edition of *The Souvenir of Newcastle Civic Week 1929* describes the Baths as being "Brilliantly illuminated at night". I think it is worth considering recreating this spectacle.

ment #3

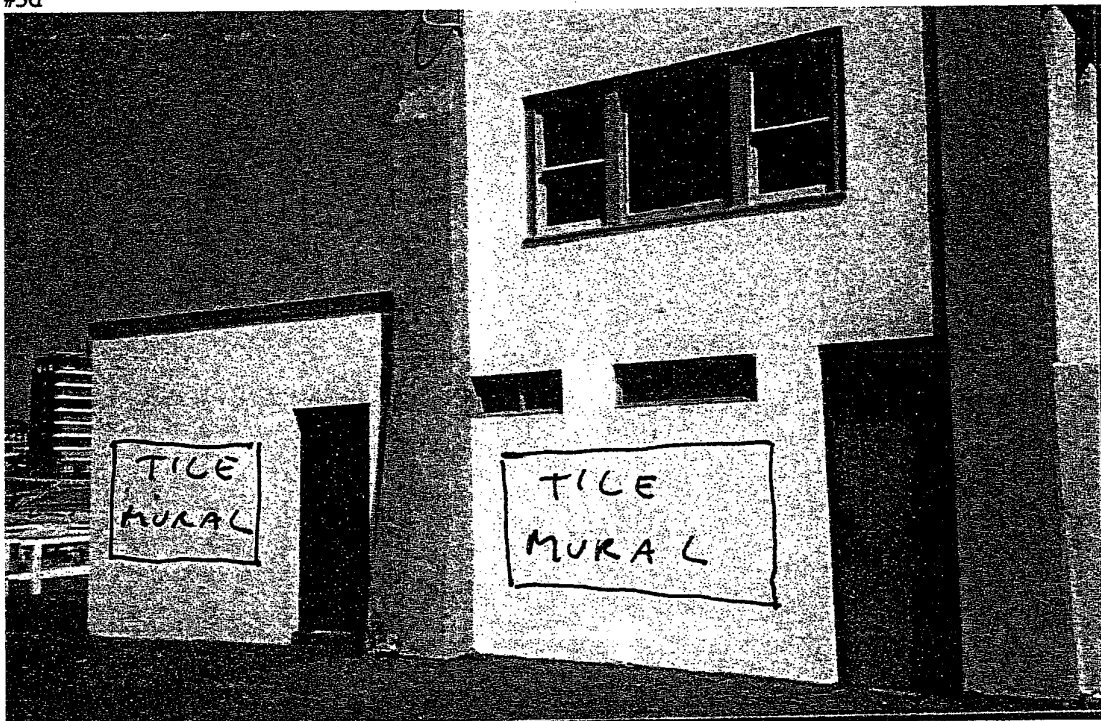
positions for Tiled Wall murals



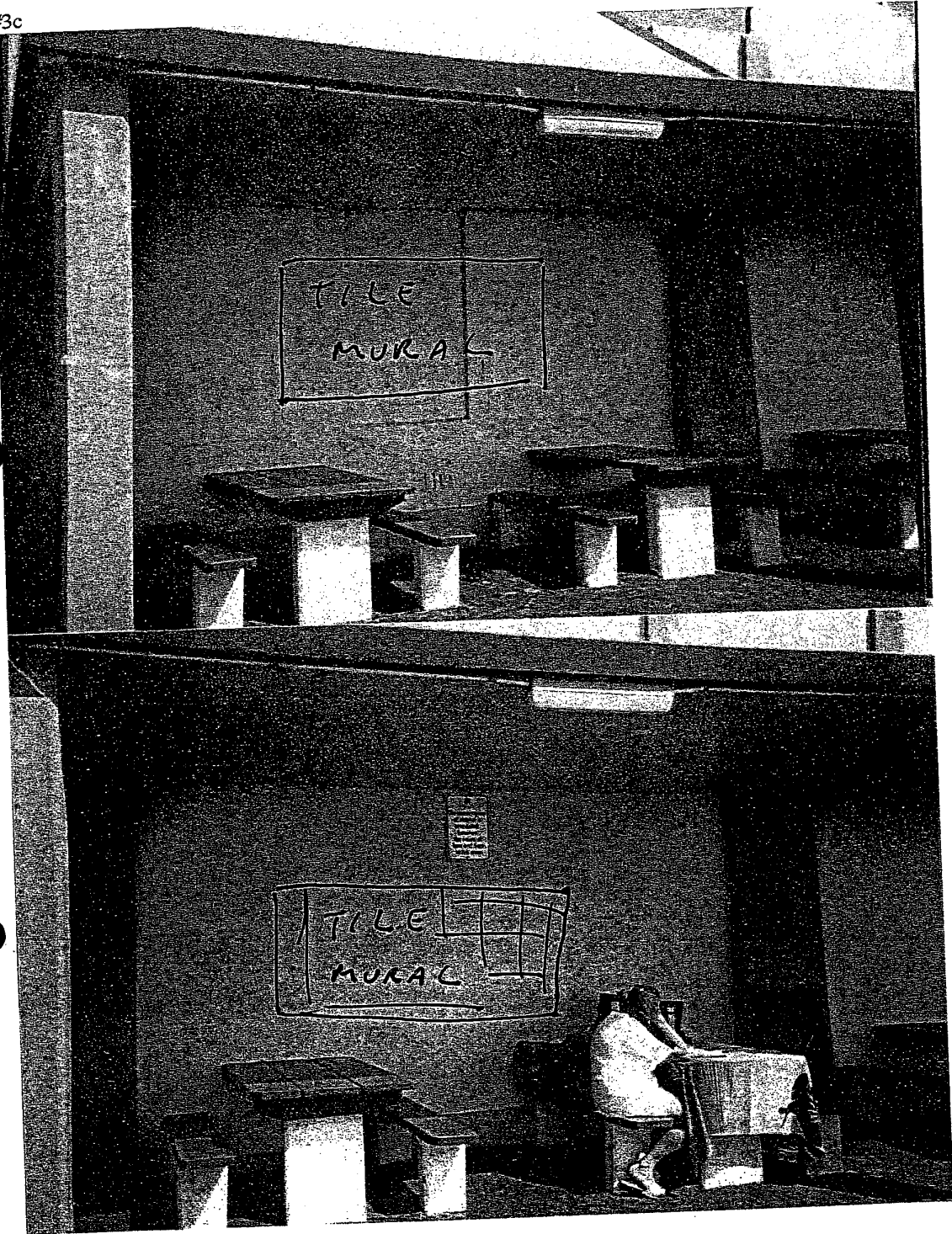
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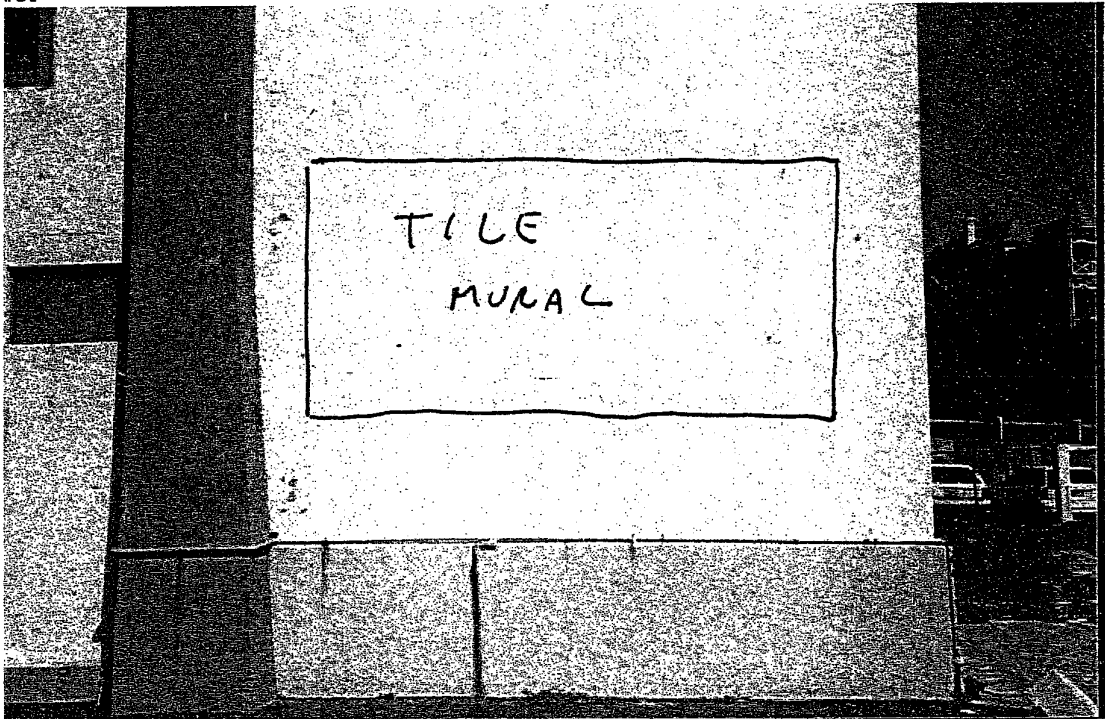
#3c



#3e



#3f



architects to develop suitable ideas. Possibilities may include themes of aquatic/ marine life or events that relate to the history of The Baths and so on.

3 INLAY GROUND MOSAICS

I suggest one major inlay mosaic in the main entrance of the baths and two smaller mosaics on the promenade at either end of the dressing sheds. I also recommend that the exterior asphalt footpath running the length of the facade be replaced with decorative pavers, incorporating small mosaic features. (See attachment #4).

The life of an inlay mosaic is a long one. If correctly installed, water, salt and sunlight will not affect the glazed tiles and grout. It is a hard -wearing, non-slip surface that would be highly suitable in these areas.

The suggested dimensions are as follows:

Main Entrance (Baths exterior): approximately 2.3 metres in length and 2.9 metres wide -shape variable

Main Entrance (Baths interior) approximately 4 metres in length and 3.5 metres wide

Promenade mosaics x 2: 2.5 metres long by 2.5 metres wide

Exterior footpath mosaics: 8 mosaics, evenly placed, sizes variable, shape variable (eg; fish, octopus shapes) approx: 0.4x 0.5

Thematically, the mosaics could relate to the wall-tile murals or they could also work independently. Imagery may relate to the ocean, marine life, Baths history and so on. I recommend that the commissioned artist/artisans for this mosaic project work in consultation with the Conservation Project architect.

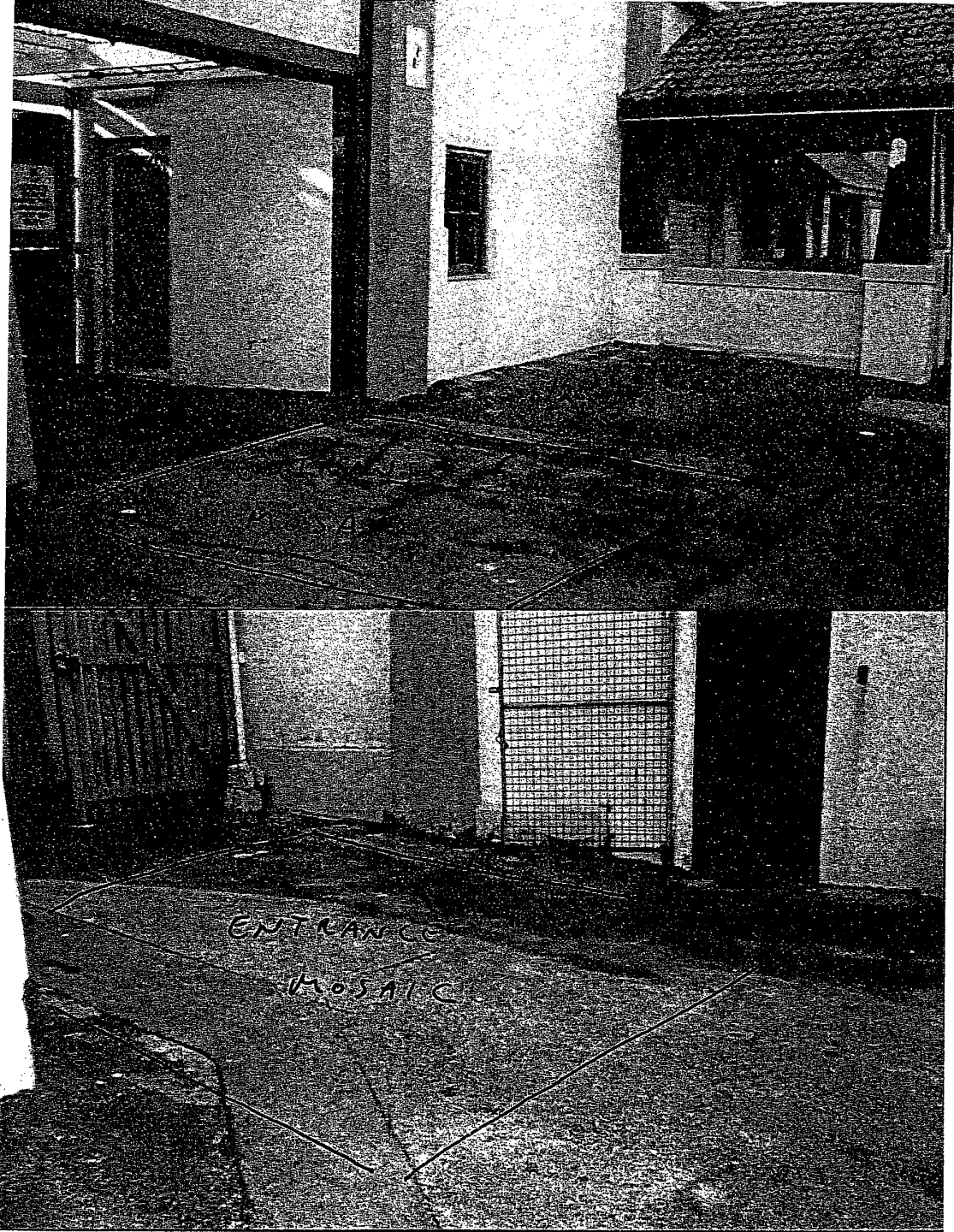
4. OUTDOOR SCULPTURE (rock platform and southern end of the pool area)

I envisage 2 major sculptures being installed outside the perimeter of the pool area onto the rock platform. These artworks should ideally be high off the ground to discourage climbing and vandalism.

I suggest the materials to be considered for these sculptures are (in any combination) smoothed formed concrete, steel, mosaic tiles, stone or cast cement. The commissioned sculptor/s must consider the affects of salt, water and weather on their chosen materials for maximum endurance. The sculptor /s must also consider the safety of the public and employees of The Baths in the final realisation of the artwork/s - for example, no sharp or pointed surfaces that may cause injury and so on.

Attachment #4

Suggested positions for paving mosaics.

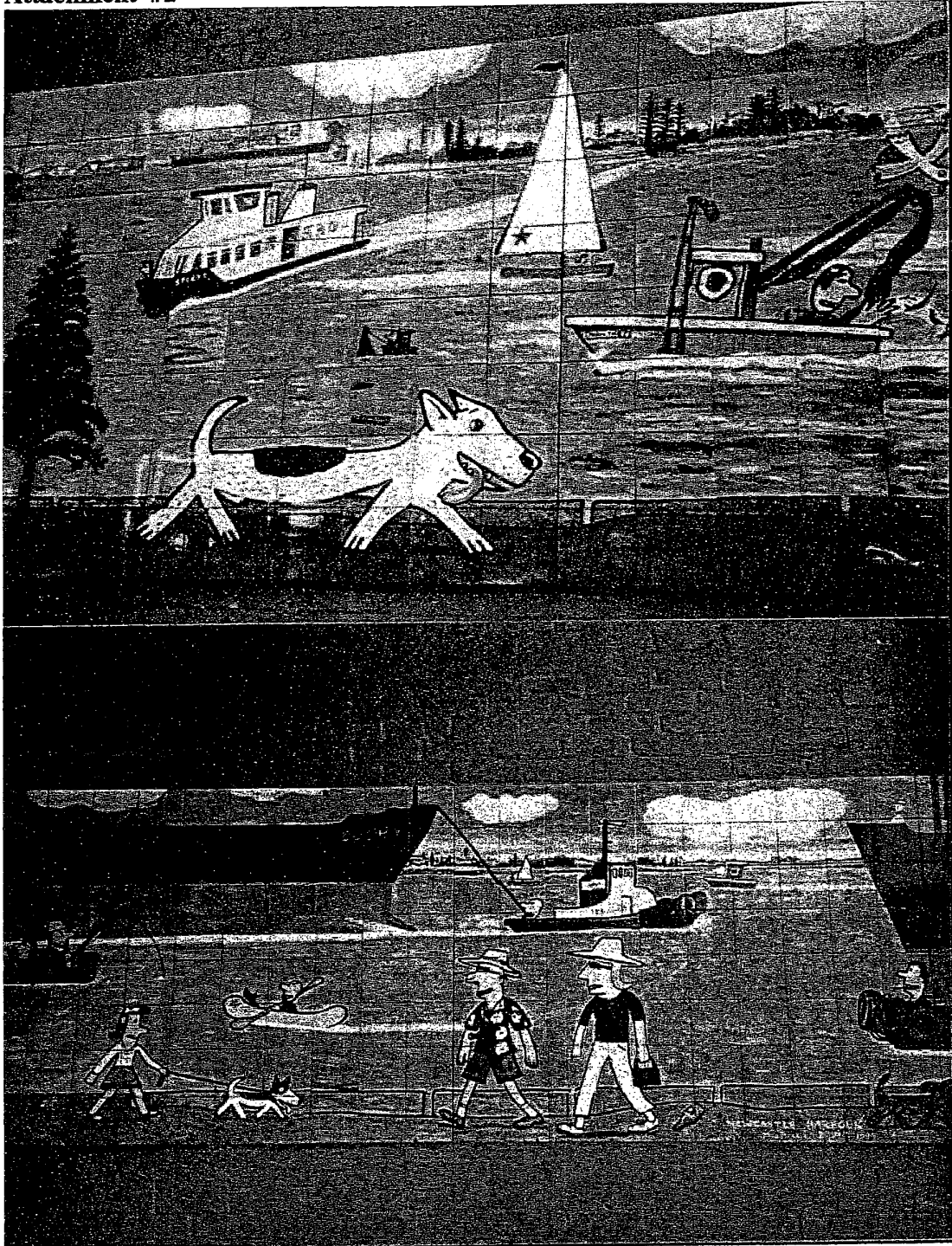


Examples of paving mosaics.



Beaumont Street, Hamilton NSW Artist: Paul Maher. Date: installed 1996

Attachment #2



Example of tiled wall mural. Newcastle Bus Interchange, Watt Street Newcastle.

Artist: Michael Bell. Fabricator: John Cliff. Title: *Newcastle Harbour*. Date: 1999.

2 EXTERIOR TILE WALL MURALS

I suggest up to seven tiled murals be considered for the exterior walls of the pavilion building. I tend to favour tiled murals as opposed to painted murals for a number of reasons.

Firstly, when exposed to weather, water and salt over a period of time, a fired tile mural will not fade, flake or deteriorate, as a painted mural will. If installed correctly, it will last as long as the life of the building. (See attachment #2)

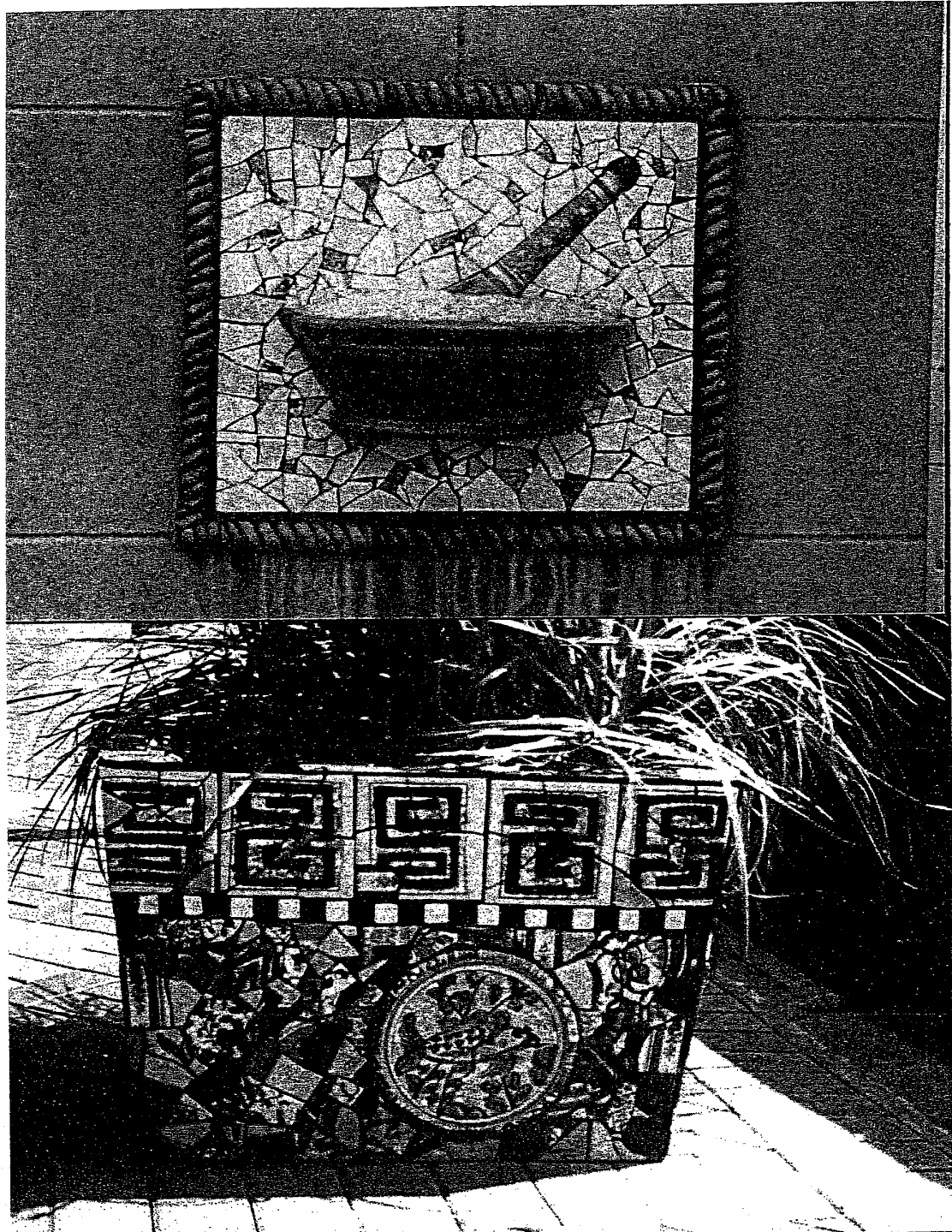
Secondly, a glazed tile mural is far easier to clean and restore if any spray paint or texta 'tagging' graffiti takes place. Solvents such as mineral turpentine, paint thinner and methyated spirit will not affect the tiled surface, unlike a painted surface.

Thirdly, I find a tiled mural tends to become 'apart' of the architecture, more so than a 2-d painted mural. It has a different presence-probably because of its perceived durability.

The **suggested positions** for the murals (see attachment #3) and dimensions are:

- 1 Above the **main entrance** there exists a blank panel that would transform perfectly into a tile mural site. I envisage this mural as being a major artwork of significance (see attachment #3a) and *give it priority over all other tile murals.*
2. The southern exterior wall of the men's dressing sheds. This feature wall has excellent visibility from the canoe pool and the promenade from Newcastle Beach. The wall also runs along the southern side entrance to the pool. The suggested dimensions are 5 metres long and 1.5 metres in height. (see attachment #3b)
- 3 A series of tiled murals in the **undercover shelter colonnade** on the exterior of the women's wing. I envisage 5 murals being installed above 5 of the lunch tables each measuring 1.2m long and 0.9 high. (see attachment #3c)
- 4 Exterior of the men's wing wall 2.5m long and 1.5 high (see attachment #3d)
- 5 Exterior wall of men's wing 1.5 long and 1 m high (see attachment #3e)
- 6 Exterior women's wing 1.5 long and 0.9 high (see attachment #3f)

In regards to themes and imagery for the murals, it will really be up to the commissioned artist/s and ceramic technicians working in consultation with the Conservation Project



Tile Mosaics Beaumont and Lindsay Streets, Hamilton NSW. Artist: John Cliff
Date: installed 1996-1997

The real possibility of vandalism needs to be taken into account. Strong fixture to the rock platform surface is highly recommended.

High seas need to be considered in the development of these artworks.

Possible themes for these sculptures could include sea and marine life, natural/organic forms, clouds, water and so forth. However, the commissioned sculptor/s in working with the Conservation project architect, should be encouraged to pursue their own personal vision

5. PAINTED MURAL

I suggest a painted mural be considered for the main entrance wall on the women's wing. (attachment 5). A blank panel is in existence which would accommodate a two-dimensional mural. I recommend that the commissioned artist work in collaboration with the conservation project architect in terms of imagery and suitable themes. I also suggest that the artist consider using **Solver** brand paints and topcoat the finished artwork with a clear layer of **Grano-shield** as a protective finish. Being high up, graffiti is unlikely.

6. LUNCH SHELTER COLONADE ROOF SCULPTURES

I propose that a series of relief silhouette sculptures be considered for this position (attachment 6). These sculptures will be highly visible from the top promenade, the pool areas and the concrete seating wall on the eastern side. Being high up, they are unlikely to attract vandalism. I suggest up to 8 sculptures be considered with variable sizes of up to 3.5 metres in height. Materials could include smoothed form concrete, mosaic and fibreglass. Imagery may be humorous and include larger than life seagulls, diving figures, sea-creatures and so on. However, the final decision should be left to the commissioned sculptor.

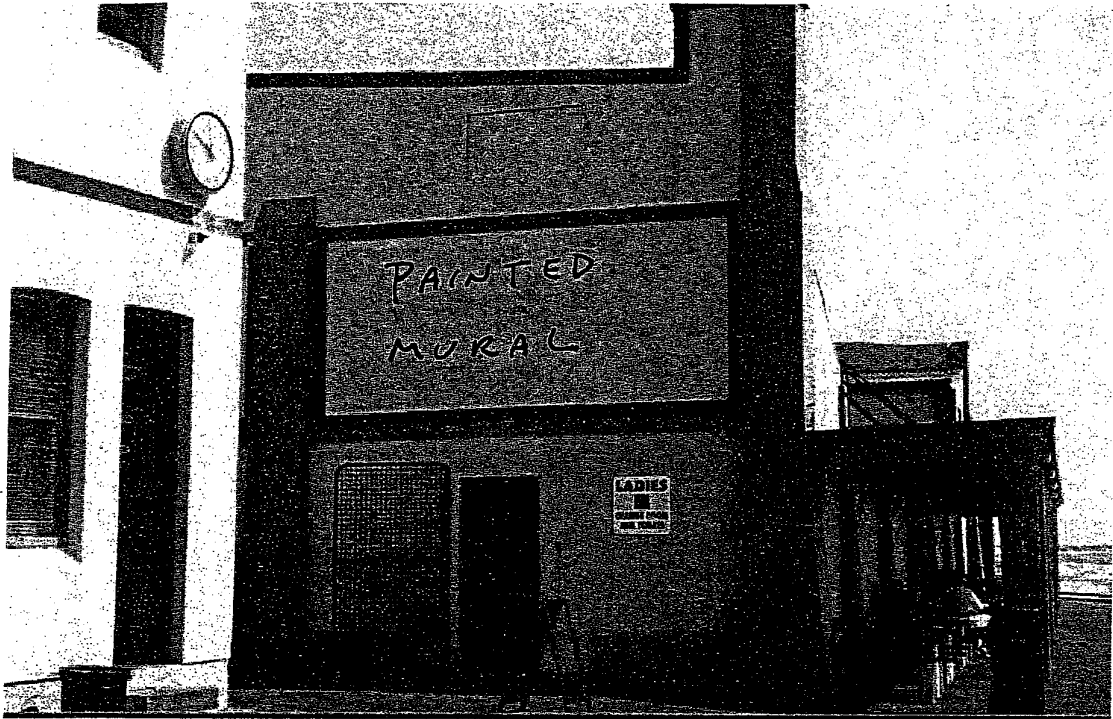
7. THE CANOE POOL

It is amazing what fond memories people have of the 'map of the world' sculpture that was removed in 1968. A feasibility study in 1997 to rebuild the map for Newcastle's bi-centennial found the proposal too expensive at \$500,000.

I suggest that an artwork be commissioned to commemorate this famous piece of Novocastrian history.

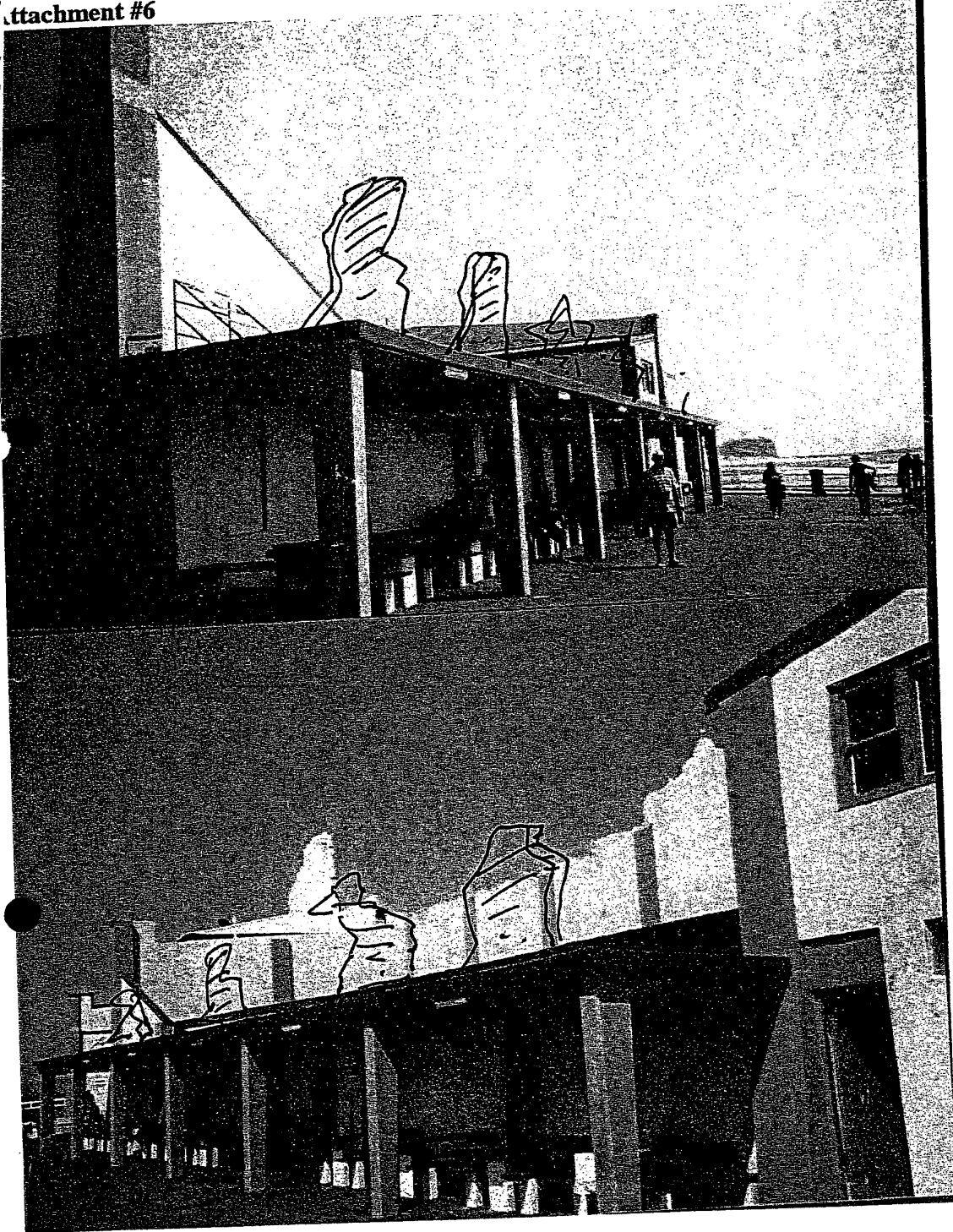
I am not suggesting any attempt at rebuilding, but rather a series of concrete relief sculptures, similar to the existing reliefs at the end of Nobby's breakwater. (These artworks were created and installed in 1997 by Julie Squires and Greg Bell.) I imagine these Canoe Pool reliefs being installed around the wall below the picnic sheds and

Attachment #5



Painted Wall mural position

Attachment #6



Roof sculptures position

shower area of the Baths car park (attachment 7). The final design should consider bench seating for this popular attraction.

(A final suggestion is to install a globe sculpture of the world in the middle of the Canoe Pool as a reference to the previous 'map'. It could be up to 2 metres in diameter and appear to be like a giant beach ball floating on the water.)

8. FURTHER IDEAS

1. Utilising the old concrete light stands in the main pool (adjacent to the catwalk) as bases for sculptural works. Currently they serve as warning sign poles but I believe they could be converted into a more aesthetically pleasing feature.

2. The four wooden lighting poles along the perimeter of the main pool are in a state of deterioration. Perhaps a sculptural element could be included in any new replacement design.

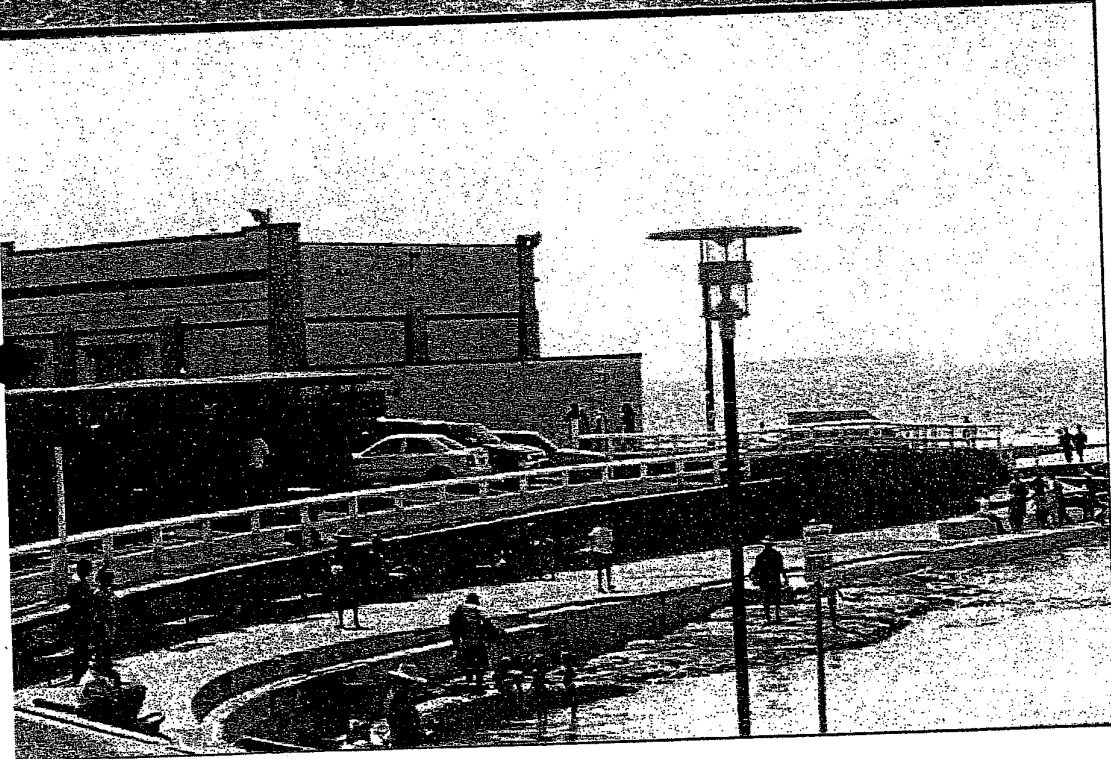
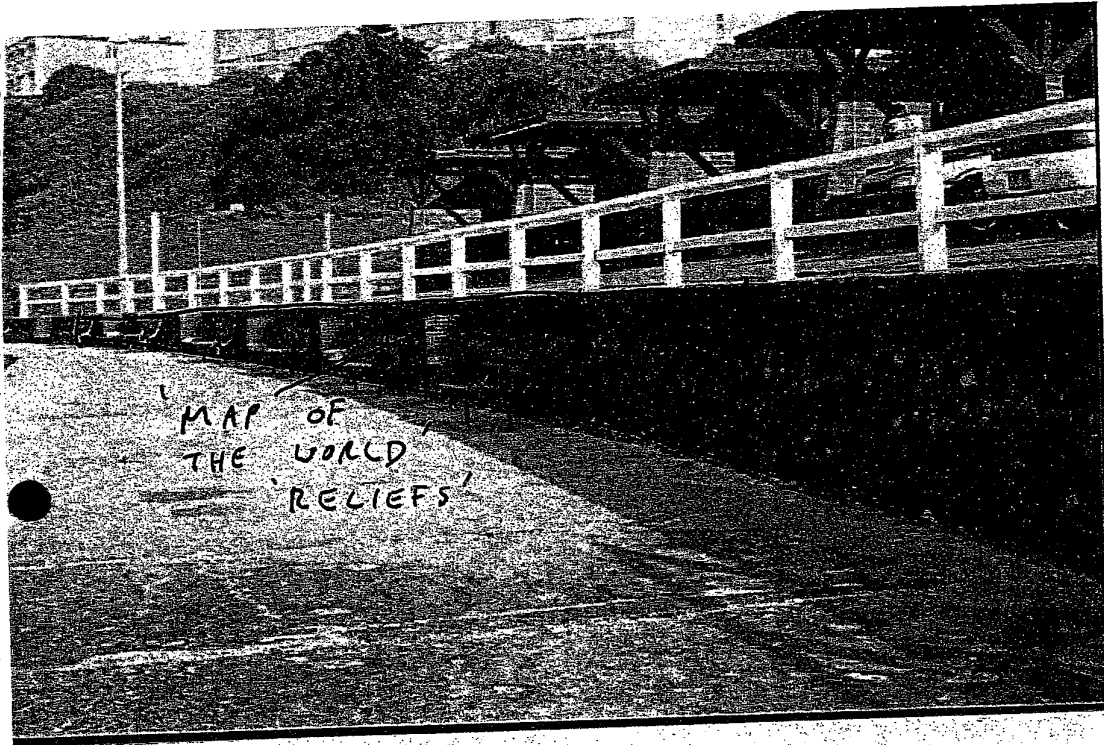
CONCLUSION

I recommend that if two or more of the above projects are undertaken, then an over seer or 'artistic director' be appointed. My concern is that with two or more artists working on this project, some form of coherence needs to be addressed. With different artists working on different projects, the end result could look a bit confusing if there is no communication between the different parties from the beginning. And at the same time, the artist's personal style and vision should not be discouraged.

Michael Bell

January 2002

Attachment #7



"Map of the World" sculpture relief wall- suggested position

MICHAEL BELL

Born 1959 Maitland NSW

SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 1983 *Brave New Smile*, Gallery 62 Newcastle
- 1985 City of Newcastle Artist in Residence, Newcastle Region Art Gallery
- 1987 Seven Deadly sins, Newcastle Contemporary Gallery
- 1993 Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney
- 1995 Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney
- 1997 *The Monkey Artist*, Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney
- 2000 New Paintings, Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 1987 Australian Drawings, Newcastle Region Art Gallery
- 1990 *Pakhunters*, Newcastle Contemporary Gallery
Pakhunters in the Lucky Country, Newcastle
- 1991 *Pakhunters*, Newcastle Region Art Gallery
- 1992 *Milestones*, The University of Newcastle
Recent Acquisitions, Newcastle Region Art Gallery
- 1993 Moet and Chandon Touring Exhibition
Invitation Purchase Prize, The University of Newcastle
The Brisbane Drawing Show, Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
The BIG Picture, Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
- 1994 The Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Fresh from the Studio, Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney
Paint on the Tracks, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
Still Life, Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
The Tickle, The Sting, The University of New South Wales, Sydney
The Prime Television Painting Prize, Newcastle Region Art Gallery and touring
- 1995 *It's a Guitar Shaped World*, Tamworth City Art Gallery
The Salon des Refuse, S.H. Ervin Gallery Sydney
- 1997 Australian Prints from the Permanent Collection, Newcastle Region Art Gallery
- 1998 Recent Acquisitions, Newcastle Region Art Gallery
STRETCHED, Newcastle Region Art Gallery
- 1999 The Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Exchanging Places Ray Hughes Gallery at The George Gallery, Melbourne
- 2000 *It's A Guitar Shaped World 6*, Tamworth City Art Gallery
Maitland City Art Prize, Maitland
The Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney and touring
Thinking Aloud, The Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney
Naturally, University of Tasmania, Hobart
- 2001 The Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney and touring
The Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Dobell + company City of Lake Macquarie Art Gallery

| ELEMENT | DESCRIPTION / CONDITION | RECOMMENDATIONS
IMMEDIATE / SHORT TERM | ONGOING WORKS / LONG TERM WORKS |
|--|--|---|---|
| FAÇADE - WEST ELEVATION | REINFORCED CONCRETE - RENDERED
CRACKING TO RENDERED SURFACE
PREVIOUS PATCH REPAIRS DELAMINATING
INSPIENT SPALL LOCATIONS DETECTED
SUN HOODS FAILING
HIGH CHLORIDE LEVELS THROUGHOUT | INSTALL CONTROL JOINTS
REMOVE PREVIOUS PATCH REPAIRS
PATCH REPAIR ALL SPALLS
LOCALLY REBUILD SUNHOODS + COLUMNS
INSTALL CATHODIC PROTECTION OR CHLORIDE EXTRACTION SYSTEMS
INSTALL PROTECTIVE COATING SYSTEM | MONITOR AND PATCH
MONITOR AND PATCH
MONITOR AND PATCH |
| FAÇADE - EAST ELEVATION | REINFORCED CONCRETE - NO RENDER
SPALLS TO BUTTRESSES
ROOF OVER CHANGE AREA IS ASBESTOS SUPER 8 PROFILED SHEETING | PATCH REPAIR ALL SPALLS
INSTALL PROTECTIVE COATING SYSTEM
MONITOR CONDITION OF ASBESTOS | MONITOR AND PATCH
REPLACE ROOF SHEETING |
| STORE - NORTH END | BRICK MASONRY + TIMBER ROOF FRAMING
FASCIA BOARDS LOOSE / MISSING | RENEW ROOF FRAMING CONNECTIONS + TIEDOWN | |
| COLONNADE (EAST SIDE - NORTH END OF POOL) | REINFORCED CONCRETE COLUMNS, BEAMS AND SLABS OFF WALL TO CHANGE AREA
EXTENSIVE SPALLS AND CRACKING REDUCING STRUCTURAL CAPACITY
INSPIENT SPALL LOCATIONS DETECTED | ERECT BARRICADES TO LIMIT RISK TO PUBLIC SAFETY
REMOVE INSPIENT SPALLS | PROGRESSIVELY REMOVE ALL CONCRETE, CLEAN / REPLACE REINFORCEMENT AND REBUILD TO SIMILAR PROFILE |
| RESIDENCE | TIMBER FRAMED CLAD UPPER STOREY DWELLING
CORRODED CLADDING FIXINGS | CONFIRM FRAMING AND TIEDOWN CONNECTIONS ARE SOUND
RENEW FIXINGS | RENEW ROOF SHEETING |
| PICNIC SHADE STRUCTURES ADJACENT TO CANOE POOL | CLAY BRICK MASONRY + TIMBER ROOF FRAMING
SALT FRETTING TO MASONRY UNITS + MORTAR | | |
| LOW LEVEL RETAINING WALLS | 1000 HIGH STONE MASONRY | | MONITOR |
| SHELTER + BENCH SEAT | 2000 HIGH STONE MASONRY RETAINING WALLS + CAST IRON COLUMNS + TIMBER ROOF FRAMING
MASONRY CRACKING DUE TO ROTATION
LIME MORTAR FRETTING
CAST IRON POSTS CORRODED | CONFIRM RETAINING WALL THICKNESS AND EXISTING SUB-SOIL DRAINAGE SYSTEM
MONITOR | RENEW MORTAR
RENEW BASE AND ROOF CONNECTIONS |
| BATTER SLOPES ABOVE LOW LEVEL RETAINING WALLS | UNPROTECTED SLOPE APPROACHING 1H:1V VEGETATED WITH GRASSES AND BUSHES
NO EVIDENCE OF LAND SLIP | MONITOR | UNDERTAKE GEOTECHNICAL SURVEY TO CONFIRM LONG-TERM SLOPE STABILITY |
| HIGH LEVEL STONE MASONRY RETAINING WALLS | 2500 HIGH GRAVITY STONE WALL, 1000 THICK AT BASE, EXPOSED SURFACES CEMENT RENDERED + 50 DIA DRAINAGE HOLES AT BASE AT 3M TO 4M CTS
SUBSIDENCE OR MOVEMENT OF PAVEMENT SLABS OVER RETAINING WALLS WAS NOT EVIDENT
VERTICAL CRACKING IN WALL + RENDER AT NORTH END ADJACENT TO REINFORCED WALL | CONFIRM EXISTING SUBSOIL SYSTEM IS SOUND AND FLUSH OUT
SEAL / REPAIR | MONITOR
MONITOR
MONITOR |
| TRAFFIC BARRIERS TO THE ESPLANADE ADJACENT TO 1V:1H BATTER SLOPE | W-BEAM TRAFFIC BARRIER TO SOUTH-BOUND LANE
TERMINATES APPROX 15M SOUTH OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING WHERE W-BEAM TERMINATES, TRAFFIC IS PROTECTED ONLY BY STANDARD KERB, NARROW FOOTPATH, AND TIMBER ORDINANCE FENCE | REFER TO NOC FOR FURTHER ACTION
REFER TO NOC FOR FURTHER ACTION | |

Appendix D

CTI Consultants
Concrete Condition Assessment

CTI Consultants Pty Ltd

Materials and Environmental Investigations

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NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL

Concrete Condition Assessment

Newcastle Ocean Baths



CTI Job Number: 1081
Report Number: C9816

December 01

Client/Contractor:
Intrados Consulting Engineers

Contact: James Thomas
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Report No. C9816

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Date 29 / 12 / 2001

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FIGURE 1081/1 ELEVATION SHOWING SAMPLING LOCATIONS AND MAJOR DEFECTS

APPENDIX A CHLORIDE PROFILES

APPENDIX B PHOTOGRAPHS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Newcastle Ocean Baths were constructed in 1922, and are of high heritage significance.

The façade is of reinforced concrete, with wall panels supported by regularly spaced columns. The wings of the façade are backed on the ocean side by change rooms (essentially open to the atmosphere) while a two-storey canteen and residence structure is located behind the centre of the façade.

The façade has a long history of concrete spalling and has also suffered damage during the 1989 Newcastle earthquake, both of which have previously been repaired by Newcastle City Council as needed.

The façade is painted in heritage livery, and the paint presently is blistering and delaminating in places, with concrete spalling present in places.

At present, Newcastle City Council has commissioned Suters Architects to develop a Conservation Plan for the Ocean Baths and surroundings, and Suters sought the assistance of Intrados Consulting Engineers to develop specifications for repair works.

Before embarking on the development of specifications, Intrados requested that a thorough survey be undertaken of the concrete to ascertain probable causes for the spalling, and to develop an appropriate long term maintenance strategy for this structure.

CTI Consultants were engaged by Intrados to carry out material testing on the façade. Specifically, CTI were to:-

- Analyse for chloride profiles at selected locations on the façade and picnic shade structures.
- Carry out in-situ carbonation testing as appropriate.
- Report on overall condition of the concrete structure.
- Provide preliminary specifications of applied finished and concrete repairs.

2 TEST PROCEDURES

2.1 Details of Inspection

The inspection of the Newcastle Ocean Baths was carried out on Tuesday, 18th December, 2001, by Robert Sutcliffe and Fred Salome of CTI. James Thomas of Intrados was present for the commencement of the inspection, and Linda Smith of Suters visited the site mid-way through the inspection program.

At the time of inspection, the baths were fully operational, and access to the women's change rooms (at the rear of the northern wing) was therefore limited to a short duration visual inspection only. A more thorough inspection of this area was carried out by Robert Sutcliffe during a routine closure for cleaning on Thursday, December 20th, 2001.

2.2 Selection of Test Areas

On arriving on site and mobilising all equipment, a general visual inspection was carried out, and appropriate test locations were selected in conjunction with James Thomas of Intrados. The exact locations of each test area described below in the relevant sections of this report.

2.3 Core Sampling

Core sections were taken from the façade at a number of locations. After marking the location of the reinforcing steel with a covermeter, a 45 mm coring bit was used to obtain full depth cores, avoiding reinforcing steel wherever possible. The retrieved core samples were marked with a unique identifying number and were photographed, and were then sectioned, crushed and analysed to determine full depth chloride ion profiles.

In addition, the reinforcing steel was deliberately exposed at selected locations, by coring through the cover concrete.

2.4 Powder Sampling for Chloride Profiles

At other locations, chloride profiles were determined by the powder sampling method. Using an electric hammer drill fitted with an 18 mm drill bit, three holes were drilled into the concrete at each sampling location within 100 mm of each other, to a depth of 10 mm, collecting all the powder from each hole in a plastic cap placed over the hole, through which the drill bit passes. The powder from the three samples was combined and placed in a pre-labelled and numbered resealable plastic bag.

Drilling was continued to the depth of 20 mm, the powder collected and placed in a plastic bag labelled with the sampling location number and the word "retain". After cleaning the holes by blowing out all residual powder, and with the drill perfectly straight, drilling was continued to 30 mm, ensuring all powder from the interval 20-30 mm was collected and placed in a labelled sample bag.

A further sample was then collected from the 40-50 mm interval, using the same procedure as above.

The powder from the non-target 30-40 mm interval was combined with the "retain" sample, and was analysed for cement content in accordance with the soluble calcium method of AS 1012.15.

2.5 Analysis for Chloride Ion Concentrations

All powder samples from the target depths at each sampling location were analysed for chloride content, using a chloride ion selective electrode after an acid digestion in accordance with the procedures of BS 1881 Part 124:1988. The results have been expressed as the concentration by weight of concrete (in parts per million) and also as the percentage chlorides by weight of cement (%bwoc), using an assumed cement content of 13% (corresponding to 300 kg/m³).

2.6 Depth of Carbonation

The depth of carbonation was determined from the full depth core samples, by scoring the edge of each core with a grinder and applying a 0.5% solution of phenolphthalein indicator. Phenolphthalein turns pink/red at pH >10, so the depth from the surface at which this colour change first occurs corresponds to the depth of carbonation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Overall Condition

3.1.1 Front of Façade

The front of the façade is of rendered concrete, painted in the Newcastle heritage colour scheme. There is only isolated evidence of concrete spalling in the front of the façade (photograph 12200009), but there has been extensive cracking and damage to the render which is mainly attributed to a lack of control or expansion joints in the façade.

Previous repairs to the render (believed to have been carried out during 1994) are showing extensive delamination or deterioration of the coating (photographs 12180006, -92 and -95), together with erosion of the repair patch itself (photograph 12180109). This indicates a serious lack of durability in the repair material used.

The sun-hoods on the front façade are showing widespread failure (photographs 12180012, -13 and -14), and the porch to the main entrance has spalling in two of the four columns (photographs 12180103 and -104).

There are a number of bulging areas in the front façade that were not accessible but which appear to be areas of drumminess or delamination (photographs 12180101, -102, -111 and -112). These might become spontaneous spalls in the short term, with serious implications for public safety.

3.1.2 Rear of Façade

The reverse (sea-side) of the façade is of off-form concrete, painted but un-rendered, with the form-board lines remaining clearly visible (photograph 12180058).

There is at present a roof over half the change area which meets the façade at about 2/3 height (photograph 12180055). The roof is clad with asbestos cement sheeting, Super 6, which is in good condition but with some exposure of surface fibres (photographs 12180053 and -54).

The reverse side has many small spalls and rust spots, some from low cover over reinforcing steel and others from redundant metal fixings (photograph 12200001), and there were extensive areas of drumminess indicating imminent spalling.

There are signs that there were once windows or openings in the façade, now corresponding to the panels of raised pattern visible on the front and with sun-hoods over them (photograph 12180012). The appearance of these panels on the reverse differs from their surrounds, and have no form lines (photograph 12180061).

The columns on the reverse (sea) side of the façade are showing localised to severe spalling and cracking (photographs 12180016, -17, 12200012 and -16) where the cover of the vertical steel bars was low (less than about 40mm). In extreme cases, the corrosion has resulted in the reduced bar sitting in an annulus of corrosion products (photograph 12200019), with no residual bond to the concrete which would have serious structural implications.

There is evidence of previous repairs having been made, some of which are again spalling (photographs 12180056 and -57).

3.1.3 Residence and Rear Colonnade

The colonnade on the northern end overlooking the baths proper was showing extensive spalling in the walls, roof slab soffit, beams and columns (photographs 12180079, -80, and -82), some of which required making safe and others that are considered to be in danger of structural collapse. These were pointed out to Intrados and others for assessment and action.

The rear façade of the residence itself is of newer construction and is in reasonable condition, except that there is significant corrosion of fixings (photograph 12180086) due to inappropriate material selection.

3.1.4 Picnic Shade Structures

The picnic shade structures are also highly exposed to salt spray (photograph 12180029). The bricks show various degrees of salt fretting erosion (photographs 12180034 and -39) and also show evidence of cracking due to brick growth (photographs 12180037 and -38).

3.2 Core and Powder Sampling

Cores or powder samples were taken at six locations, labelled A to F respectively. These locations are shown on figure 1081/1, except for location C which was taken through the brick wall of the easternmost picnic shade structure.

3.3 Chloride Profiles

The chloride profiles are shown in Appendix A, both in tabular form and graphically. All graphs have the same scale for the Y-axis for ease of comparison.

The commonly accepted threshold for chloride concentrations in reinforced concrete structures is 0.4% by weight of cement (%bwoc) which equates roughly to 500 ppm.

The results show that significantly elevated surface chlorides are present at all locations sampled, on both sides of the façade and throughout the entire wall thickness.

The chloride levels in the brick walls of the picnic shade structures are also very high and may prevent effective coating or rendering of these walls.

3.4 Depth of Carbonation

On the rendered front of the façade, carbonation was not found to be significant. The render was generally found to be alkaline (ie unaffected by carbonation) and the depth of carbonation of the concrete behind the render varies from zero (ie not carbonated) to about 10 mm (lightly carbonated), with the lightly carbonated surfaces thought to represent areas where the render had been missing for some time previously. Since there was no recorded instance of low cover in the front façade, carbonation is not considered to be a significant mechanism of steel corrosion on the front of the façade.

The depth of carbonation on the sea-side (which has never been rendered) was found to vary between 15 and 25 mm. This is generally less than the normal depth of cover on the concrete wall panels which was generally determined to be 50 mm or more, and is not considered to be a primary mechanism for corrosion of the steel in the façade in general. However at areas of low cover, the carbonation could be a secondary factor in corrosion of reinforcing steel.

3.5 Inspection of Reinforcing Steel

The reinforcing steel was inspected at a number of locations that were free of obvious defects, and was sampled by coring at locations A and D.

The steel is generally 12 mm plain round bar, and in each instance, corrosion was present on the surface of the steel. In most cases, corrosion products have migrated into the surrounding concrete.

These observations are consistent with the high chloride levels recorded.

3.6 Concrete Quality

Inspection of the core samples indicated that the concrete is generally of good quality, with large aggregate up to 50 mm but generally 25 mm or less, and reasonably well graded. Compaction is good, and the paste is dense and free of significant porosity.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Chloride Profiles

The chloride profiles show that chloride contamination of the concrete is universal, with highly elevated chloride levels found at all locations. Chloride levels vary with particular locations (front v/s reverse, and also with height) but are consistently many times the accepted thresholds. Given the age and the highly exposed location of the façade, these chloride levels are not surprising.

Elements where cover is low due to slender sections, including sunshades and columns on the front porch, are corroding freely and where the cover is low in the main columns or wall panels, spalling has also occurred and is continuing.

All of the steel in the façade is at risk of chloride induced corrosion, and it may be safely assumed that all spalling to date is the result of chloride contamination. There are only few options available for managing chloride contaminated concrete in an exposed location, as discussed further below.

4.2 Reinforcing Steel

Corrosion has been initiated at all the steel inspected, and is active at many locations. In the wall panels, the cover to concrete is quite high, which appears to be controlling the corrosion rate to some extent, but where the cover is low or where the cover has been compromised by cracks, corrosion has commenced and in many places has caused spalling.

Significant loss of section and deterioration of bond to concrete has occurred in places and may have structural implications. In the long term, all of the steel will be seriously affected by corrosion and structural failure may be expected to occur.

4.3 Carbonation

The extent of carbonation is not excessive and is not a primary cause of the deterioration of the façade. The façade has been painted for some time, and the presence of the coating is considered to have been instrumental in keeping carbonation in check.

However where the cover is low, carbonation may have resulted in or contributed to corrosion.

Continued coating of the façade should form part of any long-term maintenance or remediation strategy, using coatings suitable for this environment. The Newcastle Surf Pavilion was painted during 1995/96 with coatings recommended by CTI and appears to be performing well. Similar coatings should be considered for the Ocean Baths (refer section 6.3.3 below).

4.4 Concrete Quality

The quality of the concrete appears to be quite good, and although not tested, the compressive strength is expected to be in the order of 25 to 30 MPa. The high level of chloride ingress is taken to be a factor of the highly exposed coastal location rather than being attributed to poor concrete quality.

4.5 Repair Options

4.5.1 Patch Repair of Concrete

Immediate repairs to spalling concrete can be carried out using conventional patching techniques (modified to allow some residual corrosion to remain on the steel adjacent to patches) however in chloride contaminated concrete this has limited or only short term success unless all chloride contaminated concrete is removed.

While today's practices and materials are capable of effecting high quality repairs (notwithstanding the poor results obtained from the 1994 repairs to this structure), further corrosion in the remaining contaminated concrete usually occurs within a short time, especially immediately next to repair patches due to the "incipient anode" effect.

A recent development has been the incorporation of small sacrificial anodes in the patches to reduce the incidence of incipient anodes, and if patch repairs are to be carried out this additional precaution should be implemented to prolong the life of patches (to an estimated life of about 20 years).

If a patch repair strategy is adopted, this should also include rebuilding or re-surfacing of repairs made in 1994, using more durable materials such as proprietary concrete repair mortars.

Slender elements may need to be rebuilt *in-toto*, and columns with low cover may need to be built-up to ensure good cover to steel within the repairs.

All repairs or patching should be followed by installation of a suitable protective coating system similar to that used on the nearby Newcastle Surf Pavilion.

However it is considered that patch repairs can only be effective in managing the corrosion, and not of eliminating it or preventing future spalling.

Routine inspections will be needed to ensure public and structural safety, and continuing programs of patch repairs will be required, probably at five year intervals.

4.5.2 Rebuilding

Taking the principle of patch repair to the extreme, by removing all of the chloride contaminated concrete, would result in the total rebuilding of the façade, to existing lines and profiles.

Essentially, all of the concrete would be stripped out, all of the existing steel thoroughly cleaned and where necessary replaced with new, and then the walls and columns would be recast using high durability materials. High performance protective systems such as silane impregnation would then be installed to protect the new fabric against chloride ion ingress. Cracking would be controlled by suitably spaced expansion/contraction joints.

While this may be an expensive option, it has the advantage of being a once-only solution that will result in the façade being visually identical to the present but of modern materials and suitably protected against corrosion.

The rebuilding option would be most suited to wholesale redevelopment of the structure, so that other modifications can be integrated into the rebuilding of the façade.

4.5.3 *Electro-Chemical Protection*

For concrete with high levels of chloride contamination, electrochemical processes may be considered to provide long-term performance. These include cathodic protection and chloride extraction.

Cathodic protection (impressed current) would involve passing a DC current from inert embedded electrodes to the reinforcing steel for the remainder of the life of the structure, and may be viable for the façade. This process requires lifelong monitoring and maintenance of the electronic components of the CP system itself. In this environment, there may be some difficulties in providing the necessary DC-current requirements and in maintaining the continuous operation of the equipment.

Chloride extraction is another electrochemical technique, claimed to be a once-only procedure which is performed over a short time period (normally measured in weeks) to provide permanent protection. In this case, a much higher current is passed from an external mesh electrode for a period of days.

Either of these electrochemical techniques would first entail extensive repair of spalls and cracking, and would depend on all reinforcing steel being electrically continuous. Chloride extraction would also require the removal of all existing coatings.

5 CONCLUSIONS

Chloride levels are extremely high throughout the concrete over the entire structure, and all of the reinforcing steel is considered to be at risk of chloride induced corrosion.

Spalling has already occurred and is expected to develop at an increased rate over the medium to long term. There are indications that spalling may be imminent on the front façade and at the colonnade at the rear, with some risk to public safety.

Corrosion of reinforcing bar at places is severe with significant loss of section and loss of bond to concrete.

Previous repairs have not been successful, with spalling re-occurring at many patches, and repairs to render eroding away and leading to coating failure.

Extensive repairs will be needed to correct the current defects and maintain the structure. Patch repairs can be carried out using conventional techniques, although this should be seen as a short term solution only and will require continuing inspection and further regular maintenance if this strategy is to be adopted for the long-term protection of this structure.

A more permanent solution to the problem is to replace all of the concrete (which is all contaminated with chloride) with new material, by rebuilding the structure, probably one bay at the time, to present profiles using durable materials.

All repair strategies should incorporate an appropriate coating regime, using products specifically designed for this exposure environment and with proven performance.

Electro-chemical protection techniques such as cathodic protection or chloride extraction may offer alternative strategies for the long-term maintenance of the façade, and would need to be further explored by obtaining specific advice from appropriately experienced contractors.

6 REPAIR PROCEDURES

6.1 General

The following outlines of repair procedures and strategies are given as a broad description of the various approaches that may be considered for this building, and incorporate important design requirements. They are not in themselves specifications, and it is strongly recommended that once a strategy has been selected, that detailed and specific specifications for each part of the work be drawn up.

6.2 Conventional Patch Repair

6.2.1 Concrete Preparation

All loose and deteriorated concrete associated with the spalls shall be removed using mechanical means. Using a saw, disc cutter or other suitable tool, the perimeter of the area to be repaired shall be incised to a depth of at least 10mm to preclude feather edging of the repair mortar.

Breaking out of concrete shall be carried out to expose the full circumference of all steel reinforcement at the base of spalls, and to a further depth of 20mm. Breaking out shall be continued along the reinforcement until there is no further evidence of cracking in the concrete and the reinforcing steel is adequately bonded to the concrete. Note that there may still be signs of corrosion on the steel at this point – do not chase steel until corrosion-free steel is reached.

All concrete surfaces to receive repair mortar shall be of a rough scabbled nature. Saw/disc cut edges shall be grit blasted to lightly roughen. This preparation shall be such as to leave a sound exposed concrete substrate free from dust, loose particles and any deleterious matter.

Hydro-demolition may also be used to achieve the above requirements.

6.2.2 Reinforcement Preparation

Exposed reinforcing steel that is within 15 mm of the existing surface profile is to be bent back to ensure the repair patch provides at least 15 mm cover. Note that the steel is not to be cut or damaged without the approval of the Superintendent. Reinforcement damaged during the removal of concrete or the preparation process shall be brought to the attention of the Superintendent and if required, shall be repaired or replaced.

All exposed reinforcement shall be cleaned of corrosion products by wet or dry grit blasting or other approved means to achieve a surface finish to comply with AS 1627.4 Class 2½ standard of cleanliness.

Any pitting which may have occurred in the steel bar shall be thoroughly washed with high pressure potable water and allowed to re-rust for 48 hours. These areas are to be again cleaned by dry abrasive blast cleaning and the surface is to be inspected for rusting after 2 hours. If rusting at the pits is observed, this cycle of washing and blasting is to be repeated until no rusting re-appears within 2 hours of blast cleaning.

Immediately following preparation and cleaning, the reinforcing steel shall be primed with a suitable organic zinc-rich primer to AS 3750.9, recommended by the manufacturer for such

use. The primer shall be brush applied to the cleaned reinforcement ensuring that all exposed steel is fully coated. Special attention shall be paid to the backs of the steel bars and where steel bars are tied together. Excessive over-painting onto the concrete is to be avoided.

6.2.3 Priming Concrete

For two hours prior to application of the repair mortar, but after curing of the zinc primer on the steel reinforcement, the prepared substrate shall be thoroughly wetted with clean water to totally satisfy absorption. Any standing or excess water shall be removed.

The prepared surface shall be primed with a suitable adhesion promoter, compatible with the repair mortar and recommended by the manufacturer of the render as being suitable for this purpose.

The repair mortar shall be applied to the primed surface within the manufacturer's recommended recoat interval. If the primer is allowed to dry for longer than the manufacturer's recommended recoat interval before the mortar is applied, the area shall be reprimed before continuing with the repair.

6.2.4 Installation of Repair Patch

An approved, proprietary concrete repair mortar shall be applied in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to reproduce current profiles of concrete elements. The repair mortar shall be applied within the manufacturer's thickness limits.

The patch shall incorporate a proprietary sacrificial zinc anode, specifically designed and manufactured for this purpose, to be connected to the reinforcing steel in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.

Where necessary, thick repairs may be achieved by building up in wet-on-dry layers, where each layer of repair mortar shall be finished in wavy-line scratch keyed with a comb, cured with a suitable acrylic curing agent, allowed to dry throughout and reprimed at the time of application of subsequent layers.

Sagging of the repair mortar is not acceptable and if occurring, all the material of the affected repair shall be completely removed prior to repriming and refilling in two or more applications of mortar supported by formwork if required.

If formwork is used, it shall be pre-treated with a suitable form-release agent, or be lined with plastic, to prevent moisture absorption from the repair mortar. Special care shall be taken to ensure that the positioning of the formwork allows for compaction of the repair mortar and does not result in voids within the repair mortar.

After applying sufficient mortar to achieve a level flush with or slightly proud of the surrounding structural concrete surface, the repair mortar shall be finished with steel trowel and shall be cured with a suitable acrylic curing agent.

The repair mortar shall not be applied when the ambient or substrate temperature is below 5°C or above 35°C nor at an ambient temperature of 5°C on a falling thermometer.

6.2.5 Approved Materials

Repair Mortar and Primer

The repair mortar shall be a cementitious, pre-blended render or repair mortar, and shall have:-

- a compressive strength of 40 MPa or more when cast into 70 mm cubes, cured for 28 days at a temperature of $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and Relative Humidity $\geq 95\%$, and tested for unconfined compressive strength on an AS 2193 A-Grade universal testing machine, and
- a 28 day shrinkage not exceeding 600 micro strain when tested to AS 1012.13.

Renderoc HB 40 from Parbury Technologies is approved as repair mortar. **Nitobond HAR** primer is an approved primer and bonding agent for the mortar.

Zinc-Rich Primer

The zinc rich primer for the steel reinforcing shall be a zinc-rich organic primer recommended by the manufacturer as being suitable for such repairs and meeting the requirements of AS 3750.9. **Nitoprime Zinc-Rich** is an approved product.

Sacrificial Anodes

The sacrificial zinc anode installed in the repair patches shall consist of a zinc metal core encased in a specialised low resistivity mortar and cast-in tie-wires. **Galvashield XP** anode units from Parbury Technologies are approved sacrificial anodes.

6.2.6 Surface Coatings

All completed patches shall be treated with a silane and primed with a solvent borne acrylic primer (as further described in section 6.3.3 below). The entire element of the façade in which the patch was made shall then be repainted using a high quality, exterior acrylic paint system.

6.3 Rebuilding Major Façade Elements

6.3.1 Preparation

Thoroughly survey the specified façade elements to record existing dimensions and profiles. Create moulds of complex patterns or features before commencing demolition.

Provide any necessary temporary supports to the entire bay and/or columns to be rebuilt.

Remove all concrete from the specified element to expose all of the reinforcing steel. Mechanical or hydro-demolition techniques may be used.

Clean all of the steel by high pressure water cleaning followed by abrasive blast cleaning to produce an AS 1627.4 Class 2 ½ degree of cleanliness.

Arrange for inspection of the reinforcing steel by a structural engineer to ensure it is adequate and of sufficient quality for the design. If instructed by the engineer, reinforcing steel shall be replaced or added as necessary.

Check that all reinforcing steel is electrically continuous by carrying out a program of DC resistance checks.

Install any additional cast-in fixtures or starter bars that the engineer may direct to integrate additional building elements, services or components.

6.3.2 Casting New Fabric

Install form-work and mouldings as necessary to allow the original profile of the façade element to be accurately reproduced.

Use specialised form-work ply or form-release agents as necessary to ensure an AS 3610 Class 2 surface finish.

Install expansion joints as directed by the engineer.

Supply and place the specified concrete mix to the entire formed element, ensuring thorough compaction at all levels.

Cure the concrete in the forms for at least four days before stripping. Inspect and correct any surface defects.

6.3.3 Surface Treatment

When cured and stripped, the concrete is to be treated by the application of a 100% monomeric isobutyltriethoxy silane in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations, in two or more coats as necessary to achieve a minimum coverage of 600ml/m².

Allow the silane to react for at least 48 hours, and then apply a proprietary flexible acrylic membrane coating system, incorporating a solvent-borne acrylic primer, a high build flexible acrylic membrane coating applied at a minimum of 400 µm dry film thickness, and a 100% acrylic topcoat in the nominated colour and gloss, all applied in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

6.3.4 Approved Products

Concrete

The concrete shall be a 40 MPa 28-day strength, high durability mix incorporating a hydrophilic pore-blocking additive such as Everdure Caltite or Caltite 3CC (from Cement Aid Australia). The water-cement ratio shall not exceed 0.4, and the 56 day shrinkage shall not exceed 600 micro strain.

Surface Treatments

Emerstop S100N from Parbury Technologies is an approved silane.

Dulux Acra-Prime 501/2 is an approved solvent borne primer.

Dulux Acra-Tex Membrane 353-103 is an approved high-build flexible acrylic membrane coating.

Dulux Weathershield X10 Acrylic is an approved 100% acrylic top-coat.

6.4 Electro-Chemical Protection

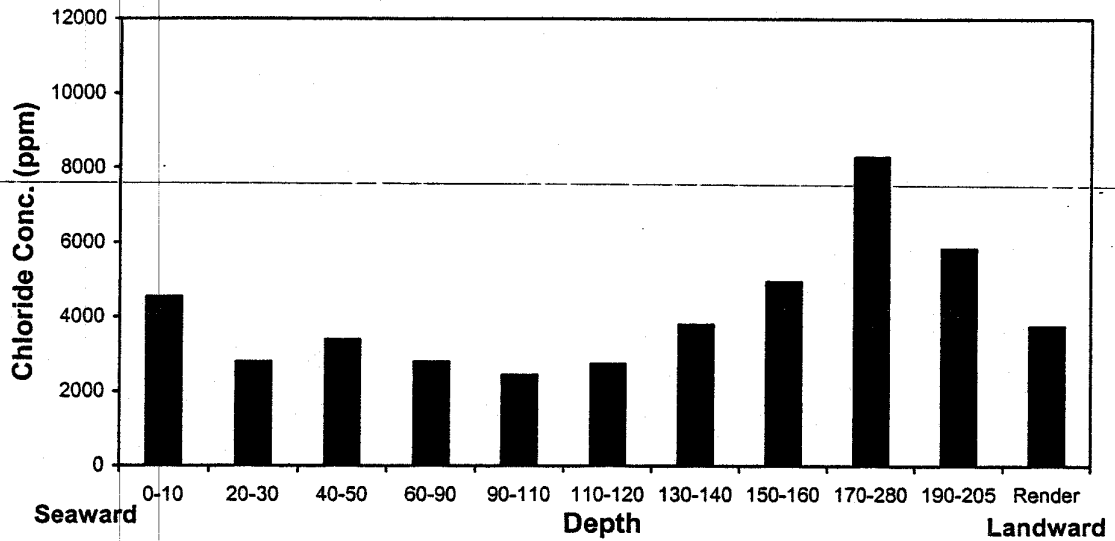
Specific recommendations and procedures for the installation of electrochemical protection techniques should be sought from specialist contractors experienced in the design and installation of such systems.

APPENDIX A

CHLORIDE PROFILES

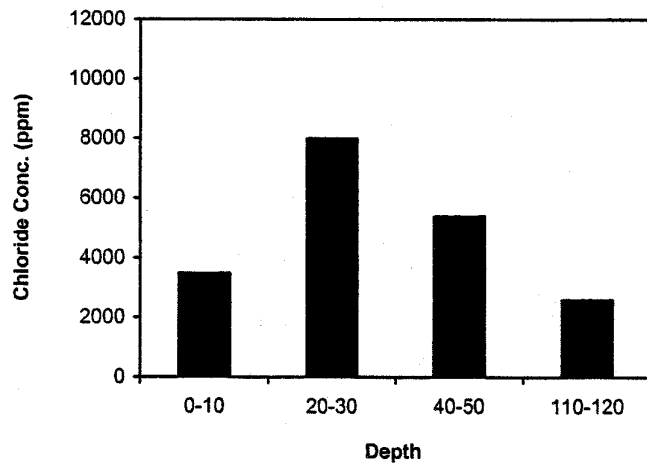
Location A – Bay 2, South Wing Core Through Wall at Waist Level

| Depth (mm) | Chloride (ppm) | Chloride (%bwoc) |
|------------|----------------|------------------|
| 0-10 | 4550 | 2.99 |
| 20-30 | 2800 | 1.84 |
| 40-50 | 3400 | 2.23 |
| 60-90 | 2800 | 1.84 |
| 90-100 | 2450 | 1.61 |
| 110-120 | 2750 | 1.81 |
| 130-140 | 3800 | 2.50 |
| 150-160 | 4950 | 3.25 |
| 170-180 | 8300 | 5.45 |
| 190-205 | 5850 | 3.84 |
| Render | 3750 | 2.88 |



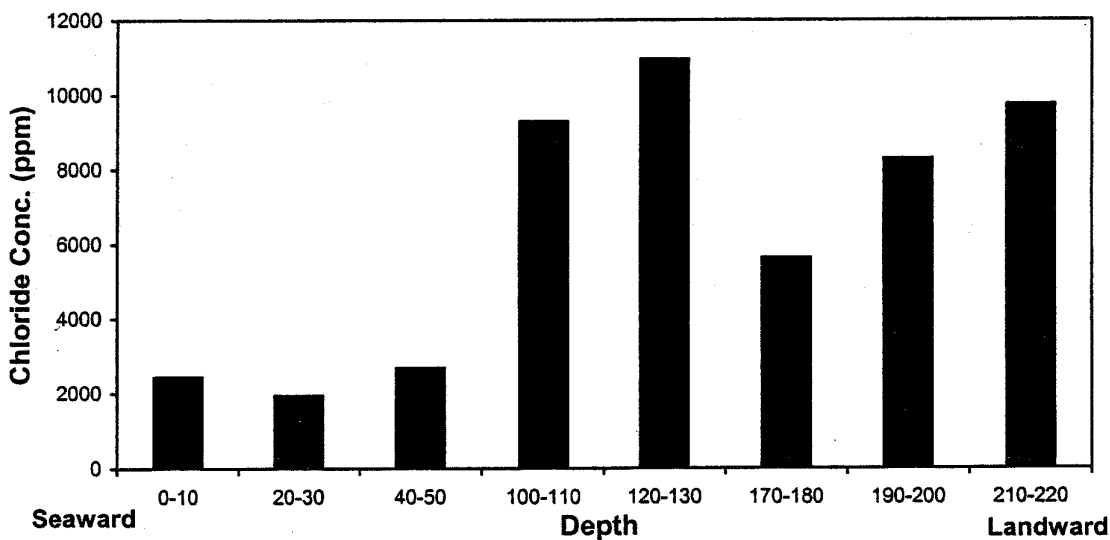
Location B (Column adjacent to Location A)

| Depth (mm) | Chloride (ppm) | Chloride (%bwoc) |
|------------|----------------|------------------|
| 0-10 | 3500 | 2.68 |
| 20-30 | 8000 | 6.13 |
| 40-50 | 5400 | 4.14 |
| 110-120 | 2600 | 1.99 |



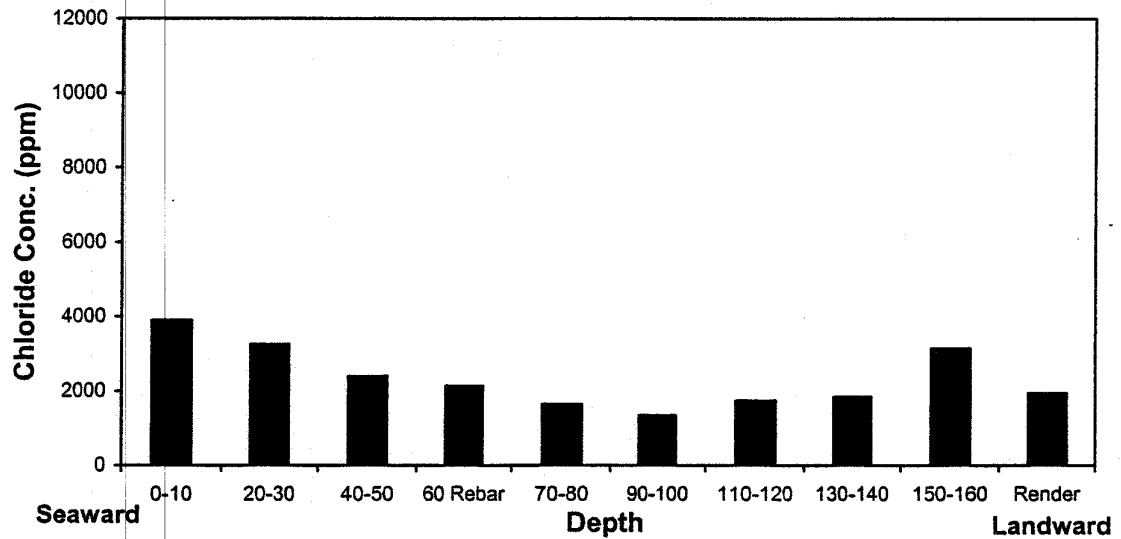
Location C Core Through Brick Wall

| Depth (mm) | Chloride (ppm) |
|------------|----------------|
| 0-10 | 2450 |
| 20-30 | 1950 |
| 40-50 | 2700 |
| 100-110 | 9300 |
| 120-130 | 10950 |
| 170-180 | 5650 |
| 190-200 | 8300 |
| 210-220 | 9750 |



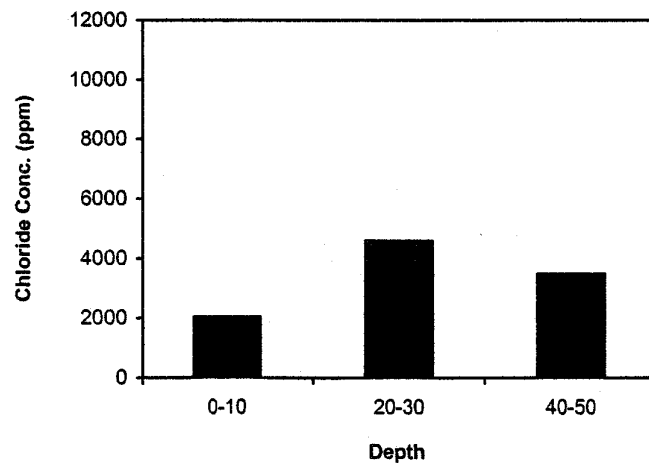
Location D – South Wing Bay 7 Core Through Wall Above Roof

| Depth (mm) | Chloride (ppm) | Chloride (%bwoc) |
|------------|----------------|------------------|
| 0-10 | 3900 | 2.99 |
| 20-30 | 3250 | 2.49 |
| 40-50 | 2400 | 1.84 |
| 60 Rebar | 2150 | 1.65 |
| 70-80 | 1650 | 1.27 |
| 90-100 | 1350 | 1.04 |
| 110-120 | 1750 | 1.34 |
| 130-140 | 1850 | 1.42 |
| 150-160 | 3150 | 2.42 |
| Render | 1950 | 1.50 |



Location D (Column on EW wall behind façade)

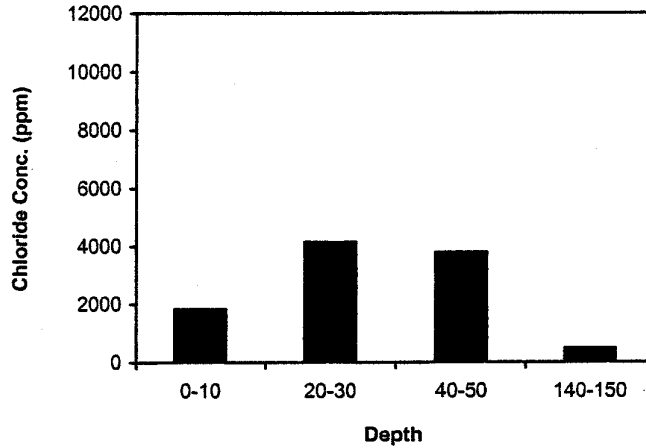
| Depth (mm) | Chloride (ppm) | Chloride (%bwoc) |
|------------|----------------|------------------|
| 0-10 | 2050 | 1.57 |
| 20-30 | 4600 | 3.53 |
| 40-50 | 3500 | 2.68 |



Location E North Wing, Front Façade, Bay 3 Waist level

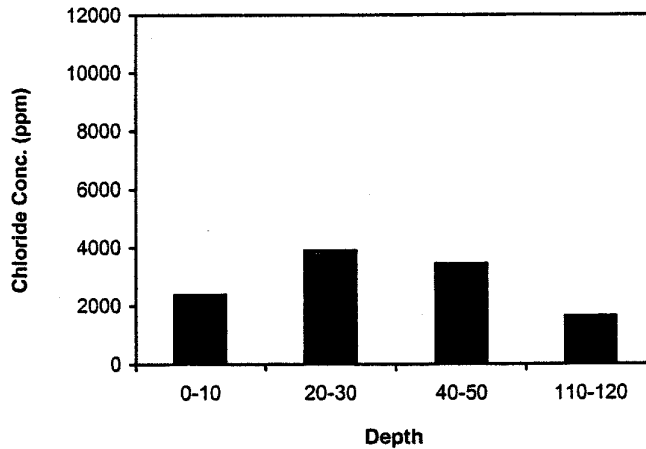
Front of Façade; Column

| Depth (mm) | Chloride (ppm) | Chloride (%bwoc) |
|------------|----------------|------------------|
| 0-10 | 1850 | 1.42 |
| 20-30 | 4150 | 3.18 |
| 40-50 | 3800 | 2.91 |
| 140-150 | 500 | 0.38 |



Front of Façade; Wall Panel

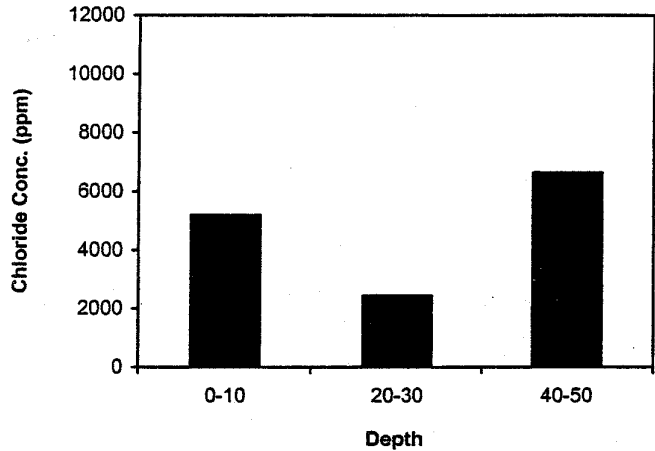
| Depth (mm) | Chloride (ppm) | Chloride (%bwoc) |
|------------|----------------|------------------|
| 0-10 | 2400 | 1.84 |
| 20-30 | 3900 | 2.99 |
| 40-50 | 3450 | 2.65 |
| 110-120 | 1650 | 1.27 |



Location F South Wing, Sea-Side, Above Change Cubicles, Below Roof

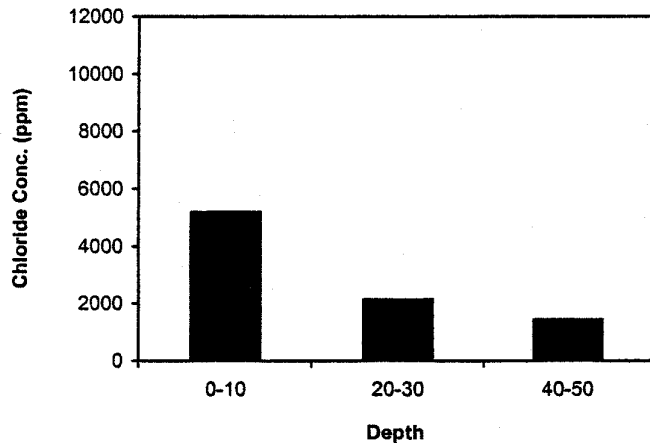
Column 6/7S

| Depth (mm) | Chloride (ppm) | Chloride (%bwoc) |
|------------|----------------|------------------|
| 0-10 | 5200 | 3.99 |
| 20-30 | 2450 | 1.88 |
| 40-50 | 6650 | 5.10 |



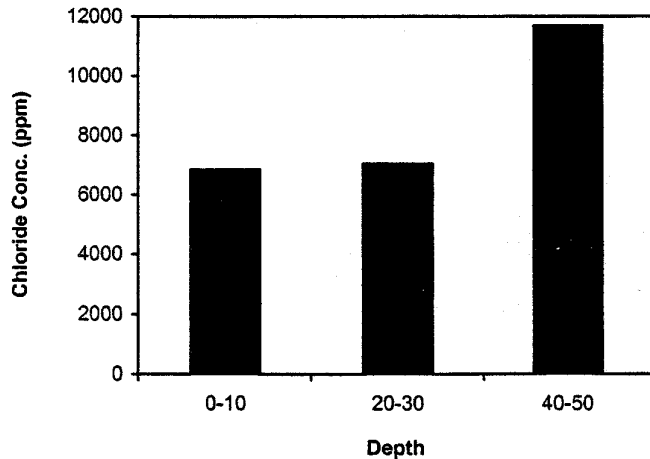
Bay 6S – Infill Concrete

| Depth (mm) | Chloride (ppm) | Chloride (%bwoc) |
|------------|----------------|------------------|
| 0-10 | 5200 | 3.99 |
| 20-30 | 2150 | 1.65 |
| 40-50 | 1450 | 1.11 |



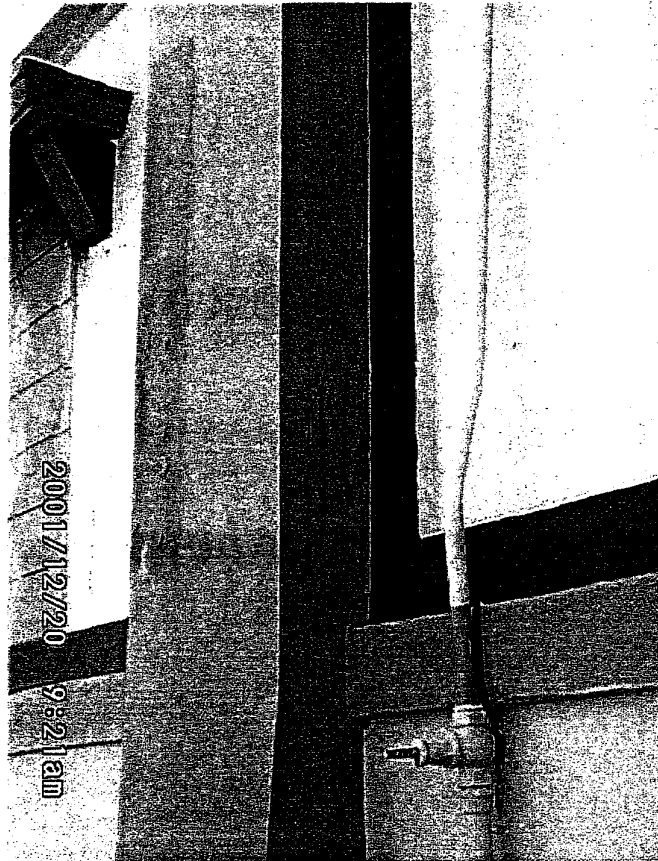
Bay 6S – Off-Form Concrete

| Depth (mm) | Chloride (ppm) | Chloride (%bwoc) |
|------------|----------------|------------------|
| 0-10 | 6850 | 5.25 |
| 20-30 | 7050 | 5.41 |
| 40-50 | 11700 | 8.97 |



APPENDIX B

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph 12200009 Rare instance of active corrosion on front of facade



Photograph 12180006 Failure of paint over recent repair to render, main façade, front



Photograph 12180092 Failure of paint over recent column repair (sea-side)



Photograph 12180095 Failure of paint over repair patches, south end front facade



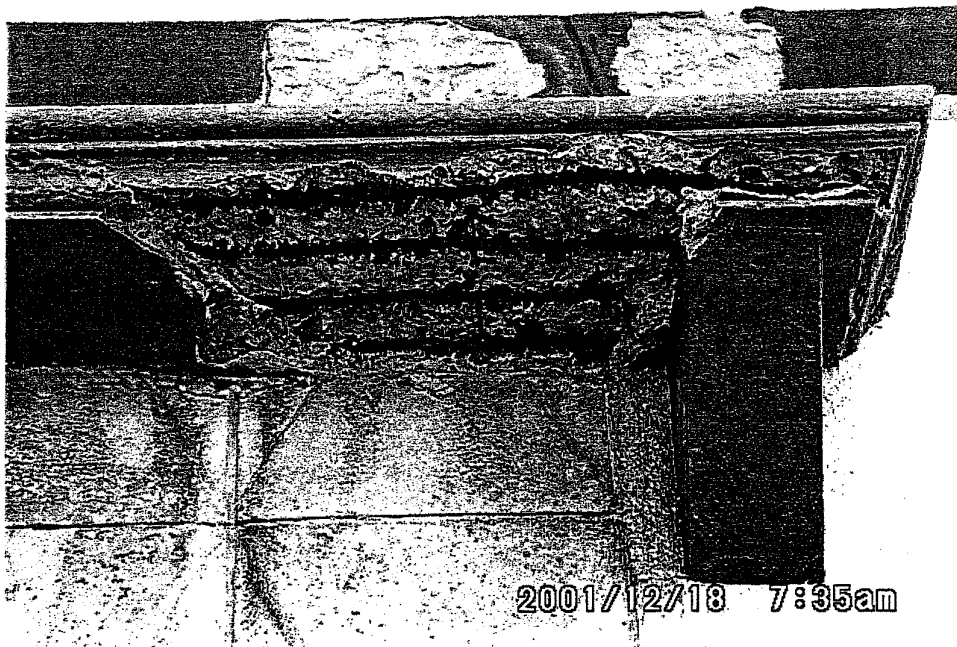
Photograph 12180109 Erosion of patch in render, with paint failure



Photograph 12180012 Cracking in front edge of sun-hood - also drumminess



Photograph 12180013 Delamination of cover concrete at drumminess



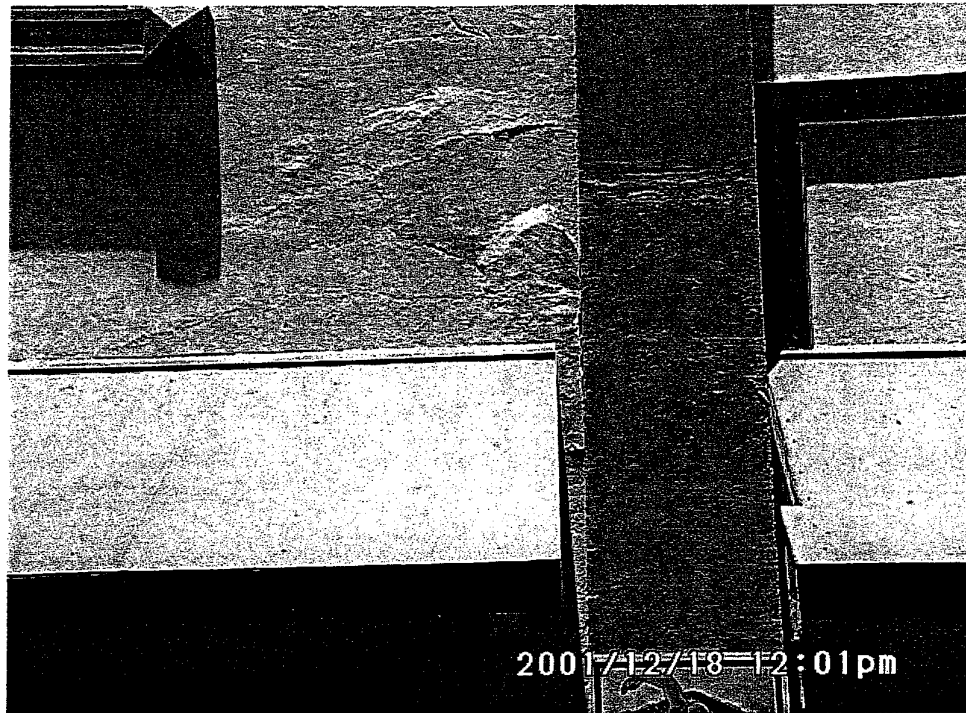
Photograph 12180014 Widespread chloride-induced corrosion of rebar causing delamination of concrete.



Photograph 12180103 Cracking in columns to main entrance porch



Photograph 12180104 Cracking in columns to main entrance porch



Photograph 12180101 Bulge in front facade indicating imminent spall



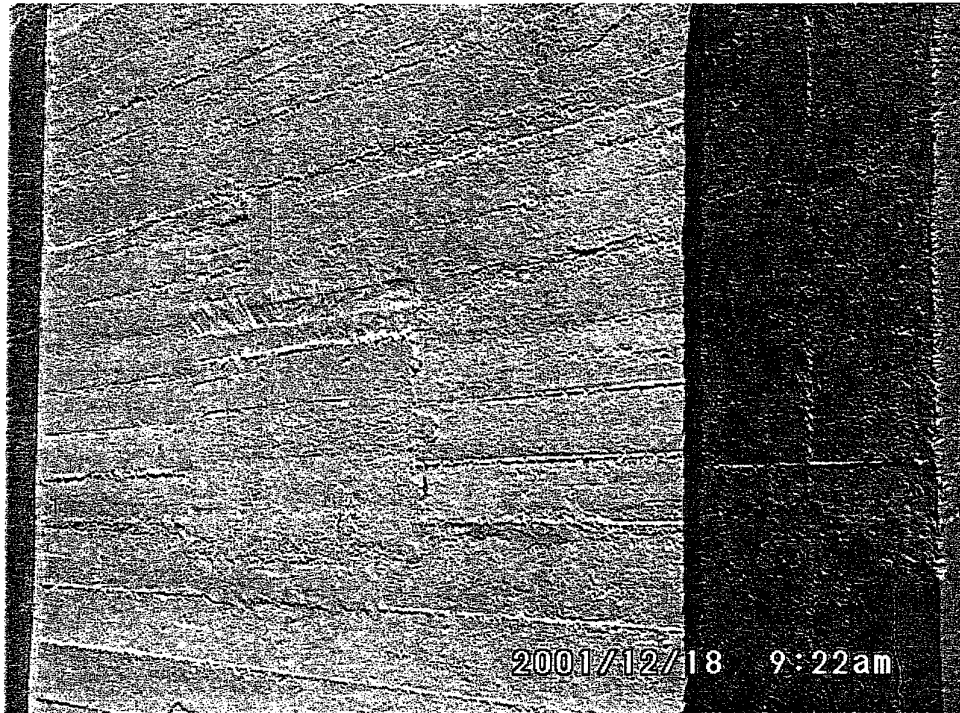
Photograph 12180102 Close-up of bulge in front facade indicating imminent spall



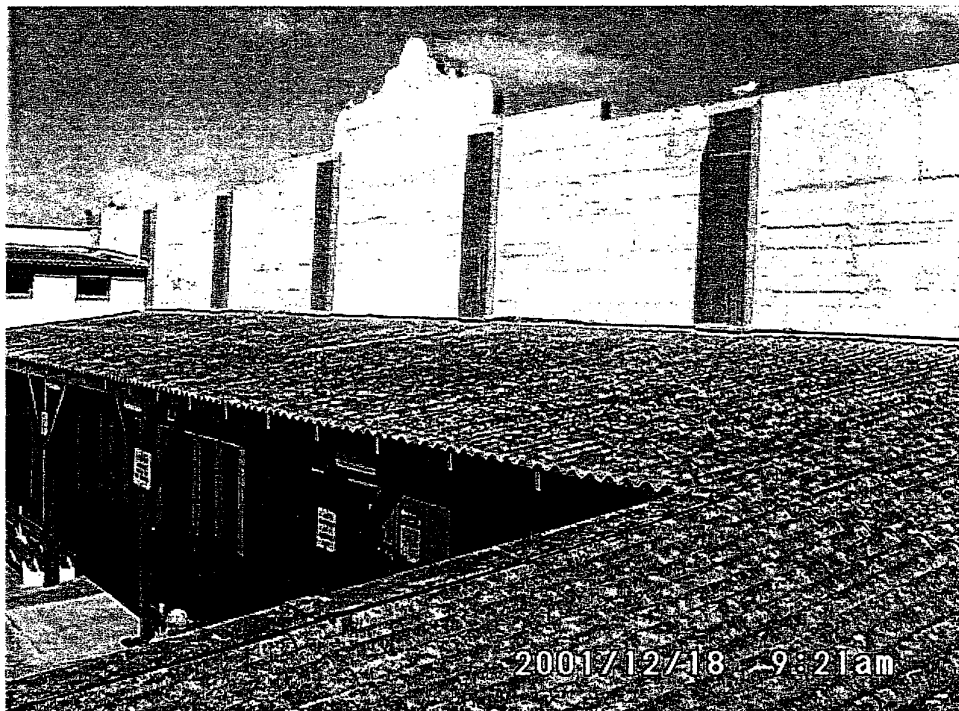
Photograph 12180111 Bulge in front facade indicating imminent spall



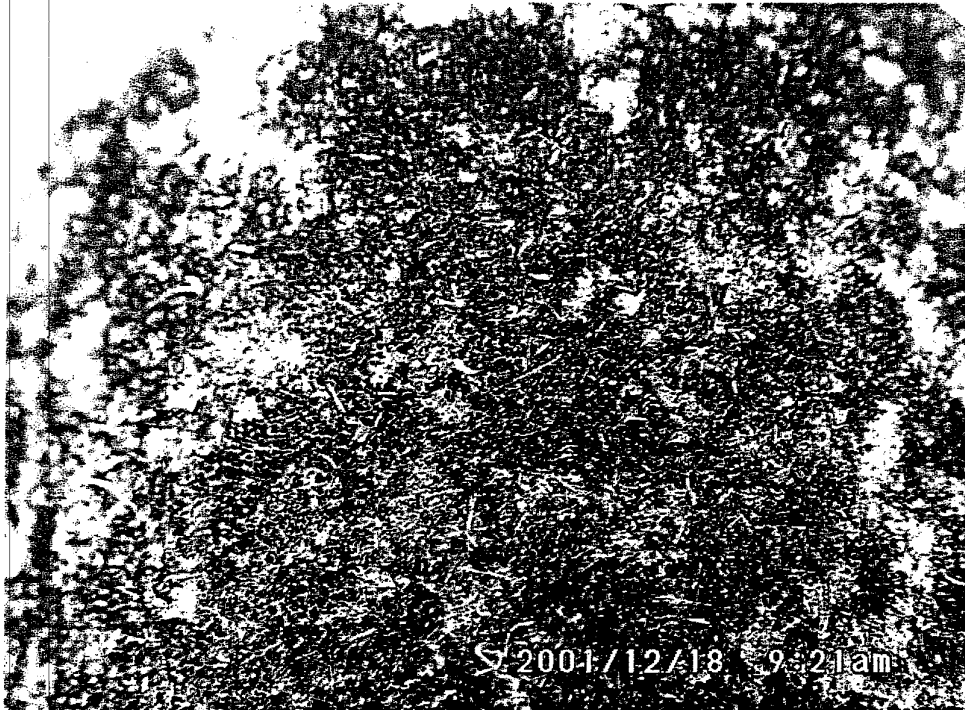
Photograph 12180112 Bulges in front facade indicating imminent spalls



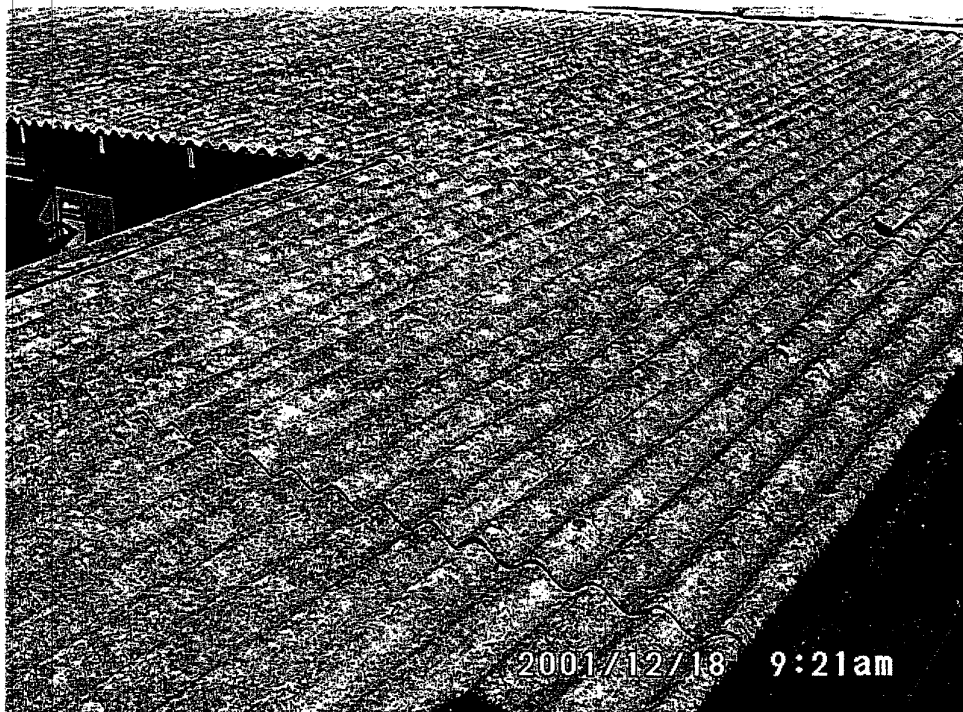
Photograph 12180058 Reverse face of façade, painted concrete with form-lines



Photograph 12180055 Half-roof over change rooms at rear of façade



Photograph 12180053 Close up of roof cladding showing fibres in surface



Photograph 12180054 Asbestos cement roof cladding (Super-6) in good condition



Photograph 12200001 Rust spots and old spalls in rear of facade



Photograph 12180012 Sun-hood over patterned in-fill, believed to be a filled in opening in the facade



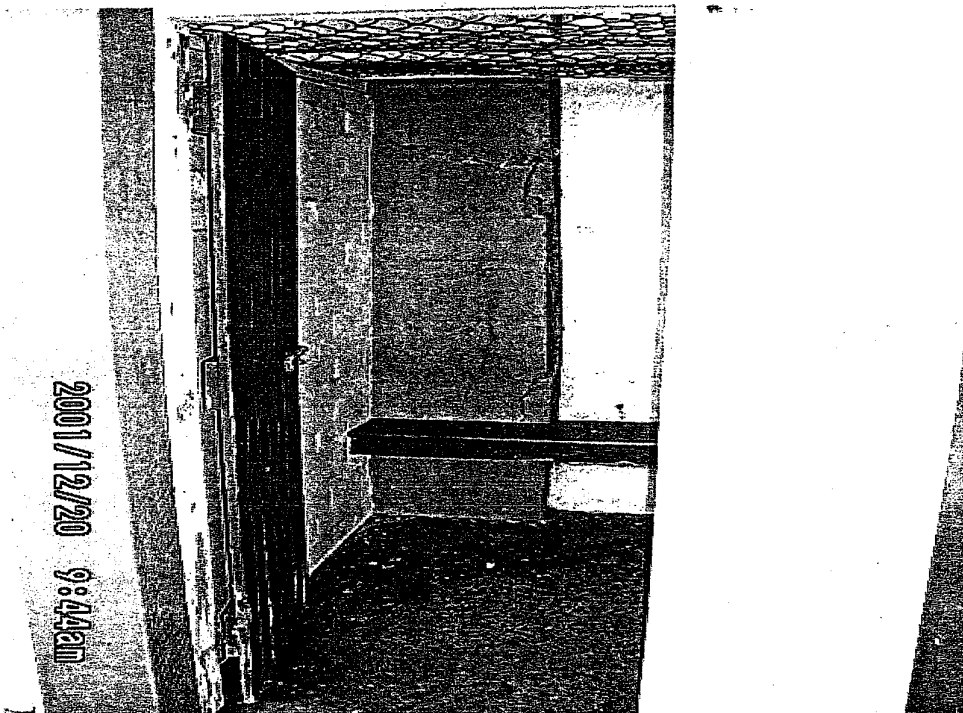
Photograph 12180061 Infill panel in rear of façade; no form-lines visible



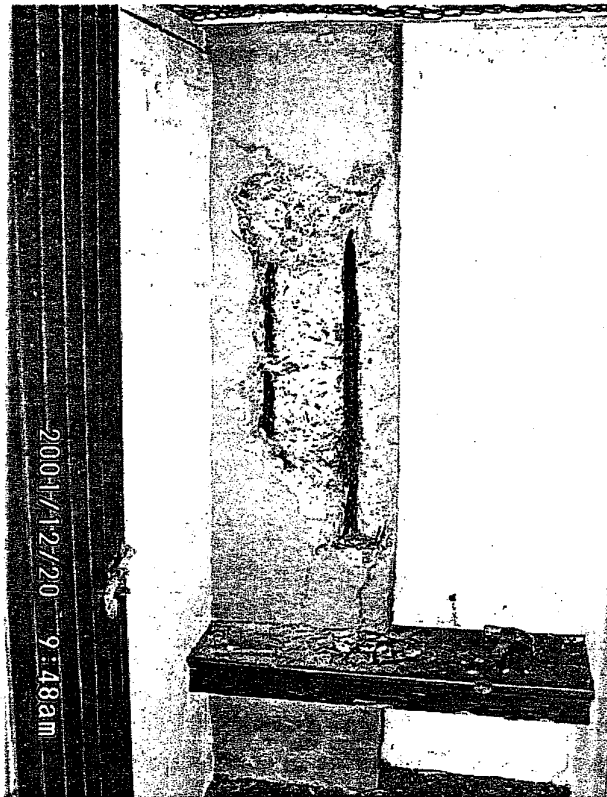
Photograph 12180016 Cracking in column on reverse, associated with low cover



Photograph 12180017 Cracking in column on reverse, associated with low cover



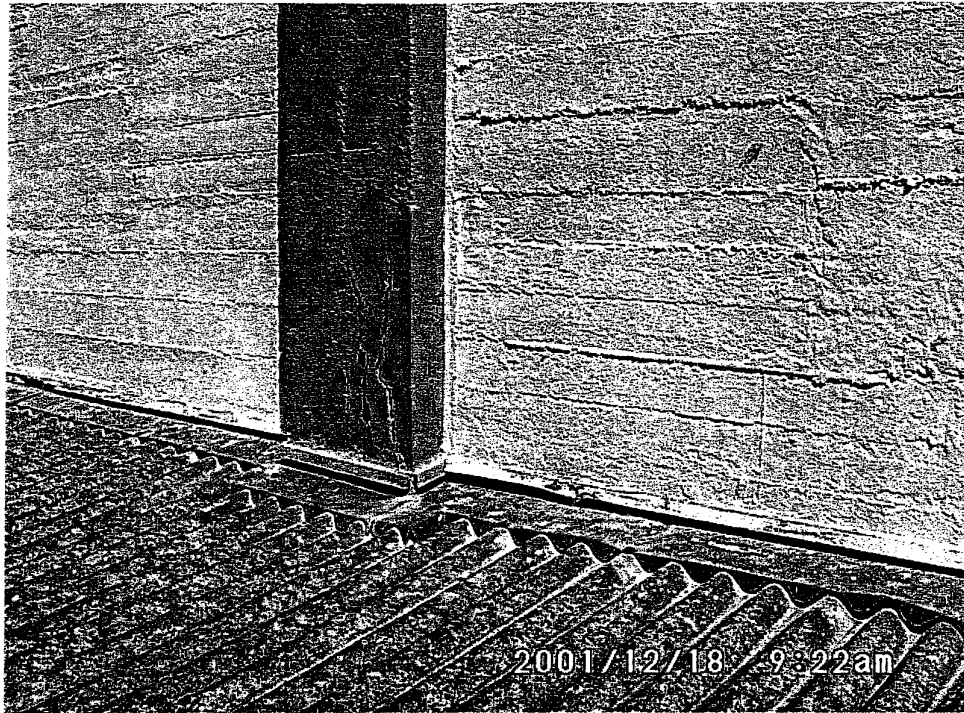
Photograph 12200012 Cracked and drummy area on column, womens change rooms



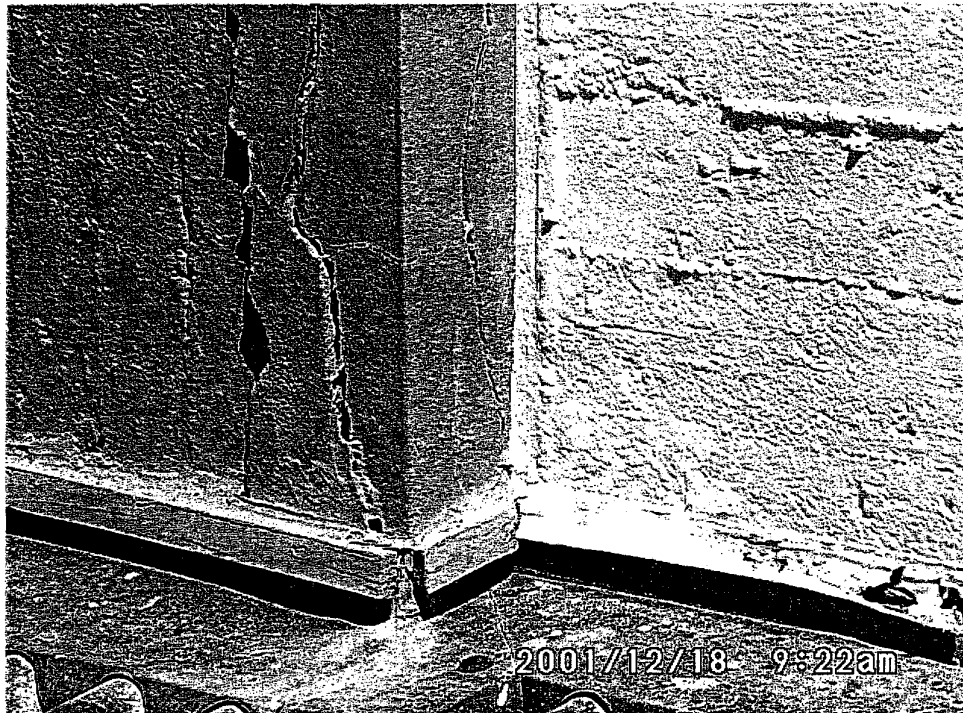
Photograph 12200016 Drumminess exposed to reveal severe corrosion of rebars.



Photograph 12200019 Corrosion products removed from around bar to reveal anulus
- no bond between remaining steel and the concrete.



Photograph 12180056 Previous repair to column now failing



Photograph 12180057 Close-up of previous repair to column now failing



Photograph 12180079 Cracking in beam to colonnade



Photograph 12180080 Spalling in roof slab soffit to colonnade



Photograph 12180082 Spalling in wall to colonnade



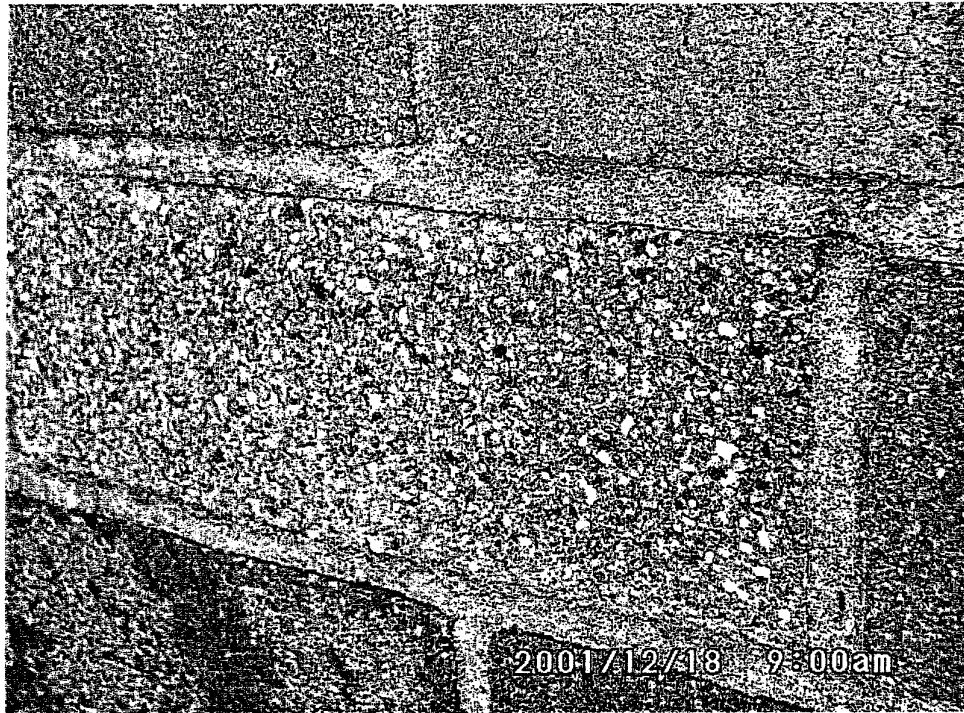
Photograph 12180086 Corroding fixtures in rear façade of residence



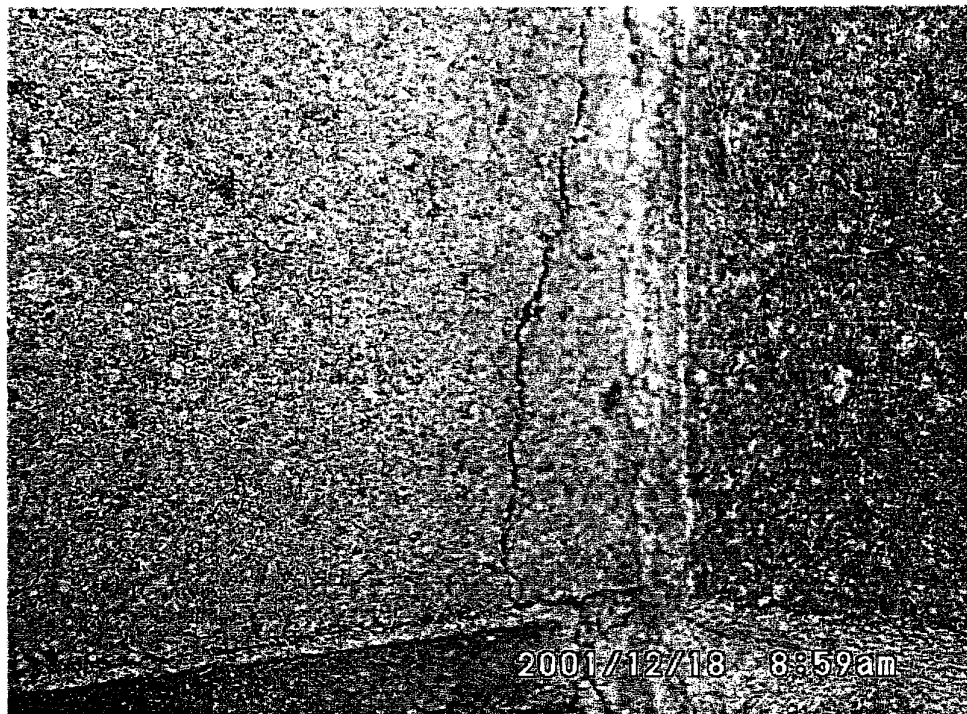
Photograph 12180029 Picnic shade structure



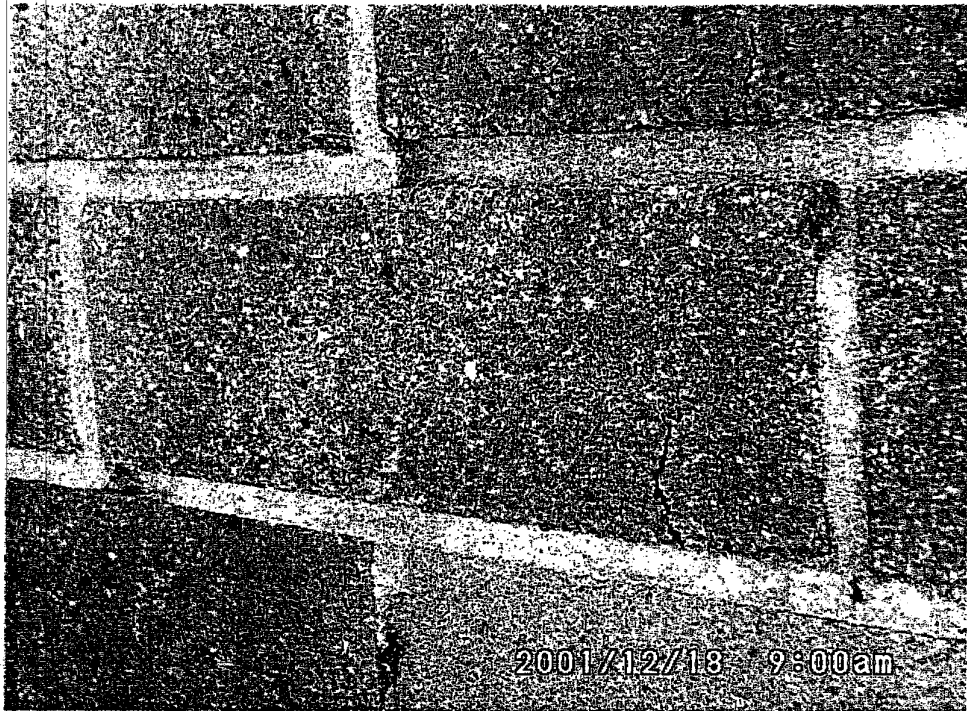
Photograph 12180034 Salt fretting of some bricks



Photograph 12180039 Severe fretting in isolated bricks



Photograph 12180037 Brick growth crack



Photograph 12180038 Brick growth crack

Appendix E

Listing Datasheets

the prolongation of the centre line of Church Street, then west along this line to the centre line of King Street, then north and east along this line to the centre line of Watt Street, then south along this line to the centre line of Church Street, then east along this line to the centre line of Shortland Esplanade, then north-east along this line to the centre line of Ocean Street, then west along this line to the centre line of Pacific Street, then north along this line to the centre line of Scott Street, then west along this line to the centre line of Watt Street, then north along this line to the point of commencement.

Bibliography:

Suters Architects, 1997. Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study 1996-97
(4 vols) NEGP Report.

The Register of the National Estate has been compiled since 1976. The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements of significance for places listed prior to 1991.

Report produced : 18/6/2002

RNEDB URL : <http://www.ahc.gov.au/register/easydatabase/database.html>

[[RNE search](#) | [AHC Home](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | ©]

NEWCASTLE Heritage Inventory.

| | |
|---|---|
| Item Name Ocean Baths | SHI Number 2170252 |
| Other Names/s | Study Number 252 |
| Group Name | Local Government Area/s |
| Location 30 Shortland Esplanade Newcastle East | Newcastle City |
| Corner location | Assessed Significance Local |
| Item Type | Statement of Significance |
| Sub Type | |
| State Theme/s | |
| Study Theme/s | |
| Property description Pt Land in Ms 1133 Md | |
| Owner | |
| Current Use | |
| Former Use | |
| Years Circa No | Physical Description |
| Designer | |
| Builder | |
| Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential | |
| Modification Dates | |
| Further Information | Historical Notes |
| | |

Date: 26/09/01

Date First Entered 11/08/1998

Date Updated: 21/04/1999

Status: 0

Page: 1

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| NEWCASTLE | | NEWCASTLE
URBAN CONSERVATION AREA | | Briefly describe contents on p. 2
From the intersection of the prolongation of Watt Street North East along the face of Kings Wharf including all the foreshore land to Nobby's Is., then follows the foreshore to a point on the shoreline at the intersection of the prolongation of the centre line of High St then North to the centre line of Cliff St, then East along Cliff St to the line of rear of properties facing Terrace St then North along rear of these properties, (including those properties fronting Bingle St) to centre line of Hill View Cr then East along this line to centre line of Terrace St, then North along this line to centre line of Pitt St, then West along this line to prolongation of the western boundary of Public School then North along this boundary to rear boundary of |
| Town, District or Location | | Name or Identification of Proposed Listing | | |
| Author of Proposal
A. STRACHAN
S. WATTS | | Population | | |
| Date of Proposal
AUGUST 1978
Revised NOV. 1980 | | Area: (in hectares) | | |
| Suggested Listing Category
CLASSIFIED | | Local Government Authority & Address
Newcastle City Council
Council Chambers
NEWCASTLE.NSW. 2300.
advised 8/11/78 | | |
| Committee (Trust Use)
UCC | | Postcode
2300 | | |
| Council (Trust Use)
APPROVED
30/10/78 | | | | |

Description

Newcastle was discovered by Lt. John Shortland in 1797 and first settled in 1800. In 1804 the first permanent settlement was established initially as a penal settlement. The early settlement grew around what is now Watt and Bolton Streets. In 1847 the Diocese of Newcastle became a City and in 1859 became a parliamentary constituency and municipality. The early years of the City and its prosperity were centred on the coal mining industry.

The Newcastle Conservation Area is south of the mouth of the Hunter River and the topography is generally low lying along the river edge and rises up to the south in the area known as the Hill. Much of the coastline remains undeveloped and is accessible. Prominent features of the coastline include Nobby's Island, the Ocean beaches, and the high shoreline cliffs at the southern end of the Conservation Area. King Edward Park with its CLASSIFIED Band Rotunda is a well developed Victorian park which slopes down to the coast.

The buildings are generally two and three storeys in height except for a few recently erected multi-storey buildings and some old brick warehouses and commercial buildings. The buildings of the Hill area are mainly brick and in the Newcastle East area weather-board houses are dominant.

The area has a particularly urban character with houses being built to the street alignment. The streets are well defined and in some places trees reinforce the enclosure of the street. Focal points include the Obelisk, Anglican Cathedral in Church Street, the Tyrrell Street Public School, Terrace Street houses, Fort Scratchley, the Tower of the Customs House in Watt Street. Important spaces include Tyrrell Street at the intersection with Wolfe Street, Terrace Street lined with on one side with trees, and to a lesser degree Stevenson Place in Newcastle East. There are many interesting vistas of the Customs House Tower in Newcastle East and the Obelisk on the Hill.

There are quite a few visually prominent and disruptive buildings of poor architectural design in the Conservation Area, many vacant sites invaded by cars and there is little vegetation to relieve the feeling of desolation. Unfortunately, today there are few streets left with a sense of enclosure and of the urban order of an earlier Newcastle.

Reasons for Listing:

To encourage the conservation of a visually interesting townscape and complimentary landscape. The close packed streets of buildings in Newcastle Hill juxtaposed and contrasted with a variety of grassed and sparsely vegetated coastline parks provide many pleasing visual experiences. The sea and the sky are ever present and form a backdrop for views of many fine late 19th century and early 20th century buildings lining streets within the Conservation Area. To encourage the redevelopment of vacant sites of Newcastle East in an urban manner which is in keeping with the low scale remaining building.

Bibliography

The National Trust, NEWCASTLE 2000.

See over for photos and map showing boundaries

National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) Listing Proposal N 07.

NEWCASTLE - NEWCASTLE URBAN CONSERVATION AREABoundary description: (Cont'd. from p.1)

properties facing Tyrrell St then West along this line to the Western boundary of Lot 35 Tyrrell St then North to centre line of Tyrrell St then West along this line to line of rear boundaries of properties facing McCormack St then North along this line to prolongation of centre line of Church St, then West along this line to centre line King St, then North & East along this line to centre line Watt St, then South along this line to centre line Church St, then East along this to centre line Shortland Esplanade, then North, East along this line to centre line Ocean St, then West along this line to centre line Pacific St, then North along this line to centre line Scott St, then West along this line to centre line Watt St, then North along this line to the point of commencement.

**NEWCASTLE
2300**

**NEWCASTLE OCEAN BATHS,
MAP/WADING POOL AND
CANOE POOL**

**OFF
SHORTLAND
ESPLANADE**

LGA

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL

APPROVED CL

28 MAY 1997

OWNER

**NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL
P O BOX 489 NEWCASTLE 2300**

AUTHOR

W G SWAN

DATE

FEB., 1997

BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Newcastle Morning Herald, 26.7.1911, 1.9.1911,
20.12.1912, 16.8.1928, 7.9.1939, 14.5.1988 & 1.3.1997.
Pitt & Merewether Plans, Local History Room,
Newcastle Regional Library.
Programme of the Official Opening, Gould
Collection, Local History Room, Newcastle
Regional Library**

HISTORY

As reported in the Newcastle Morning Herald of the 26.7.1911, Mr. L. B. Blackwell, the City Engineer of the Newcastle Council addressed the Council at length on the Ocean Baths.

He pointed out that the original design for the Baths was submitted to Council by a syndicate who proposed to find the necessary capital.

This proposal did not meet with the approval of the Minister for Public Works. He considered it was the Council's duty to construct and manage this undertaking and he expressed his willingness to subsidise the Council to the extent of 3,000 pounds, provided the length of the Baths amounted to at least 200 feet, and opened to both sexes.

In shape the proposed Baths would be an oblong, having an area of 45,000 feet, 300 feet in length by 150 feet in width, with a normal depth across the centre of six feet. The depth varied from the centre towards each end. The northernmost would be a depth of two feet opposite the accommodation intended for the ladies, and the southern end would be

a foot deeper, facing the men's quarters. In times of carnival an extra 18 inches of water could be insured by pumping. There would be approximately 8,500 cubic yards of excavated rock to be disposed of. This would be used in the formation of an "island" about 360 feet in length and 66 feet in width at its narrowest part, and seven or eight feet above the general level of the rocks forming the bath site. This would be approximately the same level as the ocean promenade opposite, and would be built about 33 feet away, so as to allow, in very severe weather, an outlet for the seas. Upon this land would be erected several buildings, comprising dressing boxes, a ticket box, refreshment room and gymnasium for either sex. The whole of the stone work of the retaining wall, containing the excavated material, would be built from the stone procured during the work, and finally faced up with fine concrete similar to that used on the ocean promenade.

The Mayor said the plan was an excellent piece of work and did the Engineer, Mr. Blackwell, credit. The Mayor was satisfied that the work would be carried out for 6,000 pounds as Mr. Blackwell had never yet been out in his estimates.

The Mayor, Alderman Shedden, stated tenders could be called for the erection of the buildings.

During September, 1911, the progress of the drilling and blasting had been interrupted by a stiff southerly breeze which flooded the place where the men were working. The crane, too, could not be worked in such weather, owing to the length of the jib. Altogether about 10,000 tons of rock was taken out of the Baths.

Given a free hand to complete the work, the Engineer, Mr. Blackwell, will be able to construct Baths that will be unequalled in Australia, and which will not only be appreciated by Newcastle residents but by the people of a large portion of the northern district.

On the 20.12.1912 it was reported that the Griffith Ocean Baths, as the Ocean Baths on the Newcastle Beach are to be designated, when they are completed, would be thrown open to the public on New Year's Day, to be temporarily availed of by the bathers during the holiday season.

With respect to the permanent buildings, the Mayor said that Mr. G. Castleden had completed plans for the structures. However the 1921 plans are signed by J. Shine, City Engineer.

On Saturday, 25th November, 1922 at 3 pm, His Worship the Mayor, Alderman H. P. Cornish, Esq., performed the Official Opening of the new buildings at the Ocean Baths, Newcastle.

On the 17.9.1927 plans were produced by Pitt & Merewether, the prolific Newcastle Architects, for a complete remodelling of the facade in the Inter-War Art Deco manner and retaining only the original Edwardian entrance portico.

It was reported in the Newcastle Morning Herald in August, 1928, that "at the Ocean Baths the whole front of the building is being remodelled, and quarters are being erected, which include bed, sitting, dining rooms upstairs, and shops, club rooms, costume rooms, and other conveniences downstairs. The old central block is being altered, and a new feature is being substituted, and when the building is completed, it will be an ornament to the Baths. On the new work the money is well spent, as there is not the slightest doubt but that the Ocean Baths are a feature in the northern district, and are one of the greatest conveniences in this State, being used by people from all parts, and particularly by the school children in the Newcastle district, special days being set apart for them to learn swimming and have their races."

The contractor for this work was Mr. H. C. Jones of Hamilton.

DESCRIPTION

The Art Deco remodelling of the facade of the Newcastle Ocean Baths by the eminent Newcastle Architect, Messrs. Pitt & Merewether in 1927-28 was a totally amazing design concept considering this style first came into prominence at the Exposition Des Arts Decoratifs Et Industriels Modernes held in Paris in 1925.

The large facade is of a slightly curved nature, covering 300 feet and retaining only the original 1922 Edwardian portico over the entrance.

The original brick Edwardian facade was remodelled by building up the parapet and surmounting the two wings by pediments crowned by stylised palmette motifs.

The two original wings were joined over the central entrance by a soaring tower like structure and the entire brick facade, with strong string courses, was rendered.

The main section of the facade conceals to the rear a two storey residence with a hipped roof and single storey dressing rooms to either side of the residence.

The original windows were retained, covered, and then decorated with a raised geometric design. The window openings are surmounted by a narrow horizontal hood and are divided by simple pilasters.

The grand and imposing Art Deco Newcastle Ocean Baths are situated on an extremely prominent rock shelf which extends seawards and is situated between Nobby's Beach and Newcastle Beach.

A wide promenade exists on all four sides of the Baths.

The Canoe Pool was completed in September, 1939, however the Map/Wading Pool was erected at an earlier unclear date.

The Wading Pool, or Map Pool, as it was more commonly called, measured nearly 20 metres in diameter and featured a map of the world, the Commonwealth Countries portrayed in red dyed concrete and the balance of the world was dyed green. The maps were approximately 60 cm thick, with 20 cm jutting above the waterline, depending on the depth of the water.

Peter Walmsley, the Licensee of the Newcastle Ocean Baths, was quoted in 1988 as stating that he was an old schoolmate of Ben Lexcen and could remember at the age of about six in the 1940's, sailing boats from Australia to the United States and back again with the famous Australian designer in the Map Pool.

Ben Lexcen was reported in 1988 to have expressed concern that the Map Pool had become dilapidated and obscured by sand and he hoped that one day the pool would be returned to its former glory.

Peter Walmsley, the Licensee of the Newcastle Ocean Baths is reported in the Newcastle Morning Herald of the 1.3.1997 as saying "it was the cyclonic storm of 1974, the one which wrecked the Sygna, that destroyed the relief map of the world in the pool alongside the Baths. Council workers broke up the rest of it, then dumped the concrete on Nobby's breakwater just past the fort on the harbour side. If you have a look at the breakwater today, you can still see what remains of the European continent."

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Newcastle Ocean Baths, the Wading/Map Pool and the Canoe Pool possess extensive historical and social significance.

Social significance because the Baths provided bathing facilities to the people of Newcastle and the northern district, being used by people of all parts, and particularly by the school children in the Newcastle District, special days being set aside for them to learn swimming and

have their races, including competition with Swimming Clubs across the State.

The Map Pool has special historical significance because of the statement of Peter Walmsley, the Licensee of the Newcastle Baths, recalling the fact that he sailed boats from Australia to the United States and back again with the great Australian yacht designer, Ben Lexcen.

The Newcastle Ocean Baths presents an impressive 300 foot semi-curved 1928 Art Deco facade to the promenade encircling the beaches from Newcastle South and Newcastle, to Nobby's to the north.

Considering this style first came into prominence at the Exposition Des Arts Decoratifs Et Industriels Modernes held in Paris in 1925, its introduction to Newcastle in 1927-28 is extraordinary, especially as Sydney was at the forefront of all the new architectural styles and Newcastle followed the new designs in Sydney at a much later date.

The sweeping curve of this imposing early Art Deco Newcastle Ocean Baths building is erected on a prominent seaside rock shelf which imparts landmark qualities to these Baths.

RAIA Register of Twentieth Century Buildings

| | |
|--|---|
| Item Name Newcastle Ocean Baths | SHI Number 4702455 |
| Other Names/s | |
| Group Name | Local Government Area/s |
| Location Shortland Esplanade Newcastle 2300 | Newcastle City |
| Corner location | |
| Item Type Built

Sub Type Swimming Pool - tidal
State Theme/s Leisure

Study Theme/s

Property description

Owner Local Government

Current Use

Former Use | Statement of Significance |
| Years 1922 Circa No

Designer

Builder

Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential Good condition. | Physical Description
The Newcastle Ocean Baths were designed during the interwar period in an art deco/functionalist ocean liner style with a distinctive façade. |
| Modification Dates

Further Information | Historical Notes
The Newcastle Ocean Baths were constructed by Newcastle City Council in 1922. The architect involved may have been F.A. Scorer. |

RAIA Heritage Inventory

Date: 11/26/01

Date First Entered 24/05/2000

Date Updated: 26/11/2001

Status: Basic

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