



PHOTO 1

The street pattern of Sydney was, initially, overlaid on established Aboriginal pathways.

Hunter Street, being in a location close to the quay where the First Fleet set down in 1788 was established early in the settlement connecting High (George) Street and Pitts Row to connect the Military Barracks and their Parade Ground. By 1806 it was developing as a trading street and by the late 1820s it was lined with terraced shop-houses.

This photo shows Hunter Street c1912 with the Sports Club on the left, with an awning extended over the footpath.

PHOTO 2

The prosperity and growth of the colony saw this area become a hub of commercial activity and the terraces were making way for higher rise commercial buildings, including those that became the NSW Sports Club in 1900. The club operated here until 2012 with very little change to the exterior of the buildings. The major exception being the changes to the Ground Floor and a rear addition in the 1980s.



PHOTO 3

Internally, the club withstood many alterations and insertion of services at different times. Each layered over the previous installations.

This photo shows the state of the building when we were commissioned to develop a plan for its adaptive reuse following abandonment of a previous attempt. Stripping out had been underway already.





PHOTO 4

Cutting the story short, based on clues of the indirect photos that we were able access, this is the adapted facade. The principle liberty taken was the decision not to reinstate an entry door to a stairway at the centre of the Ground Floor facade. This work was completed in 2019.



PHOTO 5

This is a detail of the main building entry. Adaptation to a modern use requires a degree of compromise to ensure that expectations for modern occupation are accommodated. The entry has 'borrowed' some of the space that was, originally, occupied by the central entry to the stair to upper floors but, allowed a more generous shopfront for street engagement.



PHOTO 6

The objective of adaptive reuse, and restoration, is to keep the story alive. The Interpretation Strategy focussed, mainly, on the integrity of the work that was necessary to enable contemporary use of the building, ensuring that it was fit for purpose whilst maintaining the connection to the history and sense of place that the building evokes. This has been reinforced by installations to, more explicitly, tell stories that cut across time and place.

VIDEO

NSW Quarantine Station, Manly - operational from 1830s to 1980.

Built to protect the colony from smallpox, 'plague', Spanish Flu and any other pestilence that would affect life in New South Wales. This was the home to many stories that map the cultural development of Australia in c19 and c20.

