

HISTORY: The police paddock at Maddingley was used by the police from the 1850s. In 1869, several Bacchus Marsh residents moved to have the police paddock at Maddingley reserved for recreational purposes. In 1872, trustees were appointed, and in the following year, the area was leased to the grazier, Edward Sloss, and in return, he erected a fence and entrance gates and allowed public access.¹ In October 1884, the reserve was named Maddingley Park, on 12 November 1836, it was gazetted as a public reserve, and in 1887, a caretaker was appointed to develop the area as a pleasure gardens: a place for relaxation and peaceful contemplation. Trees were planted, footpaths were formed and lighting installed. This development provided the occasion for private benefaction. A.D. Hodgson donated a fountain, and William Grant donated a concrete eagle sculpture, which formed the centrepiece of a large lake. The family of George Dickie donated a memorial band rotunda, designed by D.A. Little, and erected by local contractor, J.F. Taylor.

The completion of the railway to Bacchus Marsh in 1887 made Maddingley Park a popular destination for picnickers from Melbourne: 'It was not uncommon' recalled one old resident 'for two large special trains to be lined up at the station, pouring out the living freight who on the grassy sward and cooling shade will spend the day drinking in the beauty of the scene'.²

In 1921, a shelter seat was erected by the Trustees in honour of local women who raised over £ 1,000 (\$2,00) for the Park.³ In the following year, the Australian Natives Association erected park gates as a memorial to the fallen soldiers of the district. The cast iron gates were purchased for less than £ 200 (\$400) from the owners of the 'Labassa', now at 2 Manor Grove in Caulfield, Melbourne, who intended subdividing the estate for sale as suburban allotments.⁴ Originally purchased in the 1880s, the gates were manufactured by W. Macfarlane & Co., and imported into Australia for £ 800 (\$1,600)⁵

By 1880, William Mcfarlane's Saracen Foundry in Glasgow was exporting iron buildings worldwide. The Macfarlane company produced beautiful catalogues of integrated opponents which could be ordered by mail order.⁶

In 1888-90 'Labassa'⁷ (then called 'Ontario') was redeveloped to the design of John A.B. Koch, architect, by its wealthy and flamboyant owner, Alexander William Robertson, half owner of the Cobb & Co. transport and mail contracting company.

¹ Rossimel, 'The Hierarchy of Community' pp.18-20

² Williams, *A History of Bacchus Marsh and its Pioneers*, p.8; see also Joyce Lane's recollections in Camm, *Bacchus Marsh by Bacchus Marsh* pp.337-338.

³ Moore & Oomes, *Bacchus Marsh: A Pictorial Chronicle* p.164.

⁴ *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 8 October 1921.

⁵ *Ibid.* 21 October 1921.

⁶ J Hix, *The Glass House*, Phaidon Press, London 1974, p.107.

⁷ Ian & Roslyn Coleman, *Labassa Conservation Analysis Report*, National Trust of Australia (Victoria) 1994, pp.8, 25, 67 & 70.

As the *Bacchus Marsh Express* boasted the cost of the bluestone foundations was the same as that of the gates.⁸ These were re-erected at Maddingley Park by George Rowsell, painted gold and moss green, the A.N.A. colours, and officially opened on 26 February 1922.

Other twentieth century developments included the erection of the T.G. and E. Pearce Memorial Gates in 1922 and the erection of a cast iron palisade fence around the oval in 1952.⁹ Administration of Maddingley Park was vested in the Bacchus Marsh Shire Council on 9 September 1935.

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: A public parkland reserve, containing various sporting facilities, memorials, garden elements, furniture and planting. There appears to be no unifying design. The various elements are described individually:

1. Soldier Memorial (ANA) Entrance Gates. Large, elaborately decorated cast and wrought-iron vehicular gates, flanked by pedestrian gates and these flanked in turn by curved sections of matching fence, all of uniform height. The six posts are built up of cast-iron plates, fixed together. They have a splayed base, stylised Composite order pilasters linked by an arch, with rosettes in the spandrels and an entwined vine-leaf frieze, with corner acroteria, pyramidal top and a stylised bud finial.

The gates and fence are generally wrought-iron and have a base and dado frieze, with a *cyma reversa* motif, the dado studded. The dado panel between has a sunflower motif in cast-iron, with curlicues. Spearheads (cast-iron) are round. The maker's mark, a flat triangle in shape, is embossed on each panel of the post sides. A vertical diamond symbol, with identifying numbers and letters, is embossed on the vertical stem of the sunflowers.

The name "W. Macfarlane & Co. Glasgow" is embossed on the post shaft, base and each fence panel on the second lowest rail (but not on the gates). The gates have no marks at all, nor do the locks, which survive. The brass plaque was made by "P.J. King, Melbourne".

2. Ticket Office. A square weatherboard timber pavilion, with a slate hip roof, with terra-cotta capping and finial.

3. Seating canopies. There are two types surviving. One has a diamond-shaped hip-roof with a hexagonal seat plan, supported by six timber posts. The other is a gable roof with crude finials, supported on two pairs of posts, with seats back to back.

4. Cast-iron palisade fence. This surrounds the perimeter of the cricket oval. It has cast-iron diamond-section balusters, with wrought-iron ring-motif frieze, between flat rails.

⁸ Ibid., 3 September 1921.

⁹ Ibid., 4 August 1977.

The number of balusters between posts varies. These have the same section, but formerly had a major finial. All balusters had finials, but none survive. The fence rises in a curve at the pedestrian gates, which are simpler, mild steel between timber posts. There are square iron posts at the ends of panels, each 36 balusters long (4,060mm) and 1,030mm height. The fence is now all set in a concrete base.

5. Bandstand Rotunda. This is octagonal, elevated and with a hip-roof. The masonry base is unfinished (once roughcast?). There is a fine cast-iron lace balustrade, with a Greek-derived strapwork pattern, with a frieze of circles above and below. Cast-iron round posts are a form of Doric with an egg and dart mould over the capital. There are cast-iron lace brackets and valance over a timber rail, both in a pattern matching the balustrade. The ceiling is lined with beaded boards on the rake. There is a foundation stone, timber steps and a finial.

6. Pavilion Shelter. A cruciform plan, gable-roofed timber building with open sides. It has large wavescroll fretwork barges, is supported on twenty slender Corinthian cast-iron posts, and has four tall, turned timber finials, on gable-ends. The roof is unlined. It is noted that the side gables are steeper pitch to accommodate their narrower width.

7. Concrete seating. Numerous mushroom-shaped, octagonal or rectangular plan, c1950s pre-cast concrete seats and tables.

8. Memorial cast-iron gas lamp-standard. It has a square panelled pedestal, supporting a Doric column with an octagonal top over the capital. It bears a memorial brass plaque.

9. High cypress hedge, over post and rail fence, with pickets. The timber pickets have gabled heads and there is barbed wire between the three rails. Rails and posts are split timbers.

10. The T.G. & E. Pearce Memorial Gates. These are metal ribbon and tubular steel gates, with pre-cast concrete posts. The general arrangement is similar to the A.N.A. gates, but expressed in simpler twentieth century materials. The vehicular gates are topped with cast letters. At left is a crimped woven-wire fence, with timber rails with a barbed wire top. Set in the hedge on Grant Street is a similar pedestrian gate (10A).

11. Grotto and Fountain. Granite rubble with apertures are shaped to rustic, rocky effect, over a base structure of brickwork, reinforced concrete and with a steel-angle frame.

12. Wrought-iron seats. There are two seats, formed of timber slats supported by flat metal curlicues, riveted together. There are also looped metal rod waste-bins. four of these are located near the main entrance.

13. Victorian Memorial Tree and Plaque.
14. Vietnam War Memorial. Peach tree, with plaque mounted on stone, located near Bond Street.

Landscape and garden. Victorian park with mature exotic and indigenous trees. The park is dominated by active recreation pursuits such as the football oval, tennis courts, and netball courts. Areas of the park have obviously been planted with avenue trees and others with individual specimens.

Plant species include:

<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English Elms
<i>Phoenix eanariensis</i>	Canary Island Palm
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum
<i>Cupressus semperivirens</i>	Italian Cypress
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane
<i>Fraxinus exellior</i>	English Ash
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Peppercorn Tree
<i>Araucaria bidwillii</i>	Bunya Bunya Pine
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey Pine
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky Oak
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brush Box
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak
<i>Acacia baileyana</i>	Cootamundra Wattle

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS:

1. No gates in Bacchus Marsh are more impressive. Comparable to late nineteenth century gates from Nareeb at the Botanic Gardens; Rupertswood, Sunbury; Como, South Yarra, etc.
4. Palisade fence. The Melbourne Cricket Ground has a similar fence. Similar fences are at 6 (ref: 225) and 22 (ref: 231) Lerderderg Street.

5. Bandstand Rotunda. Numerous municipal bandstands survive throughout Victoria, at: Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Beaufort, Dimboola, Fitzroy, Footscray, Geelong, Maryborough, Mildura, Terang and Traralgon. Of these, this is one of the more fine and intact.

8. Ordinary cast iron gas street lamp standards are now relatively rare in Victoria (many recent replicas have been erected however, which is not quite the same thing.) Examples: lake Daylesford; Bromby Street, South Yarra; Harrison Crescent, Hawthorn; Orrong Road, Toorak; None of these have their gas lamps intact. It seems that it is only in more elaborate examples that the lamp itself, still survives.

11. Grottos are relatively rare in Victoria. The best is a Rippon Lea, Elsternwick; others are at Werribee Park, Linlithgow Avenue, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, and at Sacred Heart, Rathdowne Street, Carlton.

Overall: Comparable significant municipal public parkland reserves in the region include: Footscray Park (1912); Queens Park, Moonee Ponds (1889); Williamstown Botanic Gardens (1860).

SIGNIFICANCE: Maddingly Park is the major public parkland and recreation reserve in Bacchus Marsh. Although it no longer has a unifying design, a number of elements are significant individually. It is planted with mature avenue trees and individual specimens. It was developed from 1887.

It has regional historical significance for its association with social and sporting developments in community life and it has social significance as a traditional community and visitor focus and meeting place as well as a landmark, illustrated on representative views including postcards. It has further historical significance to the town and the region as containing elements which offer a representative embodiment of a way of life and its social values, particularly of the period 1887-1952 and in demonstrating the effect of local government action in providing for the recreational needs of a rural municipality and region.

It has aesthetic significance to the town in revealing beauty in its plantings and elements and it has regional architectural significance as a relatively intact example of a surviving nineteenth and early twentieth century municipal garden. Finally its various commemorative elements demonstrate associations with important and influential figures in the town.

INTACTNESS: Most of the elements described are particularly intact.

1. Memorial Gates. The central posts lack their tall finials. The locks are inoperative.
2. Ticket Office. The finial is truncated.

3. Seating Canopies. The rectangular seat has a steel deck roof, the diamond shaped seat has corrugated steel. Originally they were roofed with asbestos cement (?) diamond shaped shingles.
4. Palisade fence. All balusters lack finials, presumably for the safety of players.
5. Grandstand Rotunda. The finial is truncated.
8. Lamp standard. This lacks its lamp, and presumably its gas connection.
10. Post and rail fence. A particularly intact example.
11. Grotto and Fountain. There is no sign of the fountain and the grotto lacks much of its granite decoration.

The following elements, photographed in the gardens, no longer exist there:

1. Sundial, within fence.
2. Topiary.
3. Timber grandstand.
4. Timber tennis club pavilion.
5. Lake with water lilies.
6. Rustic bridge over the lake.
7. Canon and shells.
8. Fountain, within fence. four urns on pedestals and eight urns within the fountain enclosure.
9. Concrete eagle sculpture, centrepiece for the lake.
10. Topiary.
11. Rustic seating, beside avenues of trees.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Generally the condition of the elements described is very good. The shelter is in particularly good condition. The only exception is the grotto which is in poor condition and urgently needs maintenance and repair.

BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.**Ref:** 356

Richard Peterson Architect & Conservation Consultant. Daniel Catrice Historian 1994.

NAME: Maddingley Park.**PREVIOUS NAME:** Maddingley Police Paddock Reserve.**ADDRESS:** Grant Street (SE cnr Taverner Street) (also bounded Station & Bond Streets).**TITLE DETAILS:****USE:** Public parkland.**PREVIOUS USE:** Police paddock**ESTABLISHMENT DATE:** 1887**SOURCE:** 2**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:****DATE:** 1921-2, 1935, 1952**SOURCE:** 8,9.**CRITERIA:** H2; So3/ H1,2,4; Ae1; Ar3/ H3.**HISTORIC THEME:** Community life/ Townships/ Commemorating.**CONDITION:** Fair**INTACTNESS:** Poor**THREATS:** Maintenance**SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:**

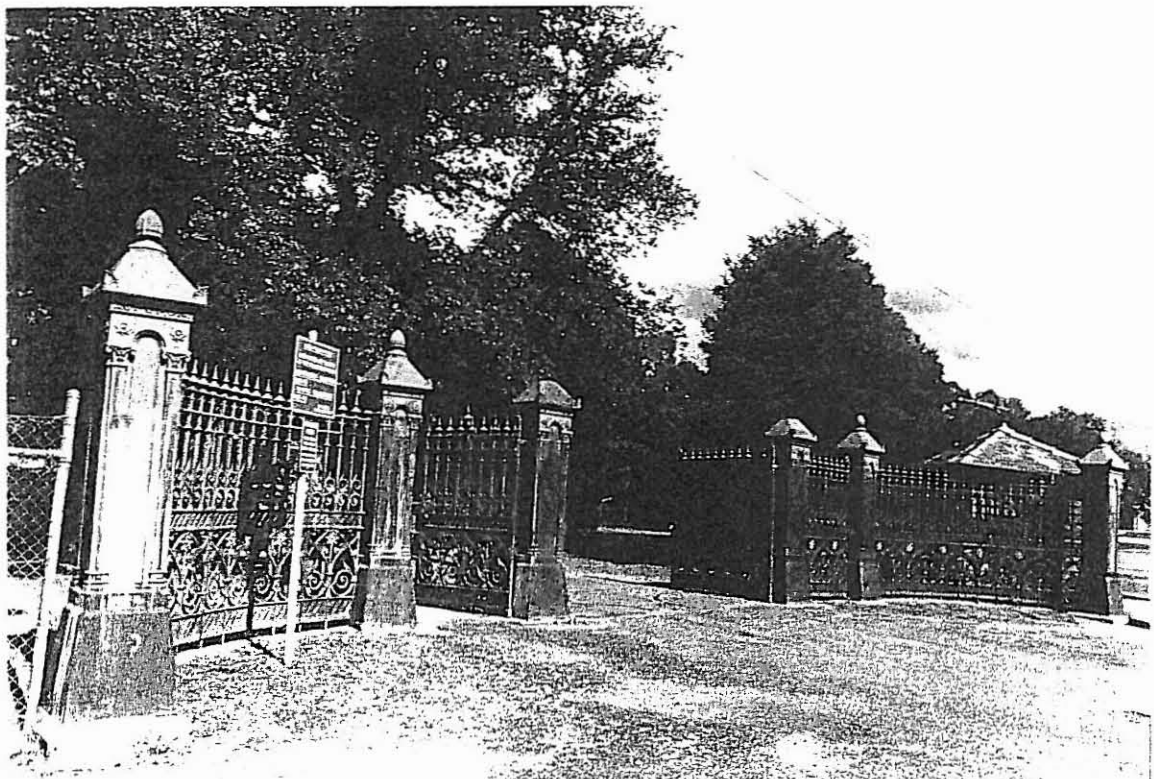
LAYOUT. USE.

GARDEN STRUCTURE.

STREET FURNITURE. FENCES/GATES/HEDGES. MEMORIALS.

SCENIC VALUE. TREES.

REMNANT VEGETATION.

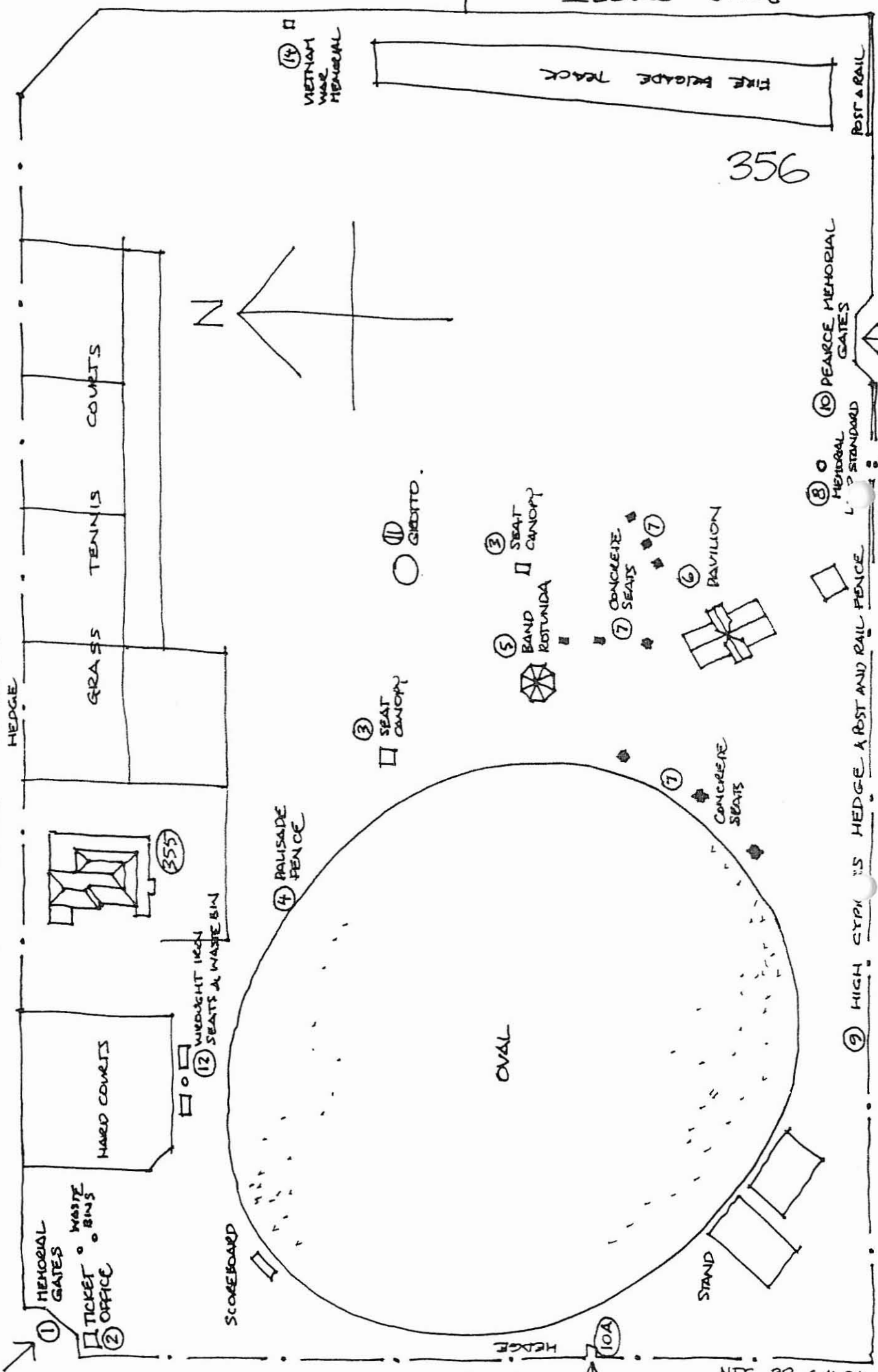
SIGNIFICANCE:**TYPE:** HISTORICAL. AESTHETIC. ARCHITECTURAL.**LEVEL:** REGIONAL**DESIGNATION EXISTING:** PLANNING SCHEME.**RECOMMENDED CONTROL:** RNE. PLANNING SCHEME.**MAP NO:** U3.09, U4.08 & U4.09**SURVEY:** RP & JS.**DATE:** 6.4.94**NEGS:** 28.12-36A, 29.1 & 0

GRANT STREET

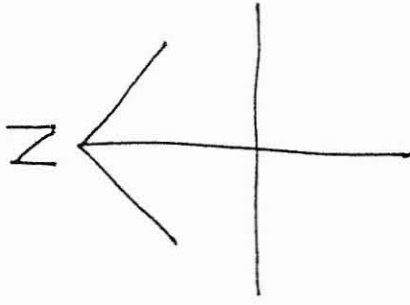
TAVERNER STREET

STATION STREET

BOND STREET



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- ① MEMORIAL GATES
- ② TICKET OFFICE
- ③ SEAT CANOPY
- ④ PALISADE FENCE
- ⑤ BAND ROTUNDA
- ⑥ PAVILION
- ⑦ CONCRETE SEATS
- ⑧ MEMORIAL GATES
- ⑨ HIGH CYPRUS HEDGE & POST AND RAIL FENCE
- ⑩ PEARCE MEMORIAL GATES
- ⑪ GIOTTO
- ⑫ WOODGATE IRON SEATS & WASTE BIN
- ⑬ STAND
- ⑭ FIRE BLADE TRACK