



Hon Tony Kelly MLC  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister for Lands  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **STATE HERITAGE PROTECTION FOR McQUADE PARK**

The site of a former town square in George Street, Windsor, linked to Governor Lachlan Macquarie and his chief surveyor James Meehan, has been given the State's highest level of heritage protection.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, today approved State heritage listing for McQuade Park which is an outstanding and rare feature of Governor Macquarie's concept of a planned country town in 1810.

"A central square played a pivotal role in Macquarie's towns such as Windsor, Richmond and Wilberforce," the Minister said.

"McQuade Park retains this role in relation to public activities and open space, while retaining its relationship to St Matthews Anglican Church, one of the great early churches and cemeteries in NSW."

Windsor was unique in 1810 towns because it incorporated an existing government village in the area called Green Hills. There was already a public square inside the area designated for the new town.

Member for Riverstone and Chairman of The Lachlan Macquarie Bicentenary Commemorations Committee, John Aquilina, said the original square was named Thompson Square by Macquarie and was located at the extreme north-east end of the town.

"James Meehan started to lay out the new central square on 9 January 1811," Mr Aquilina said.

"The new square, known as the Great Square evolved to become McQuade Park and was located in a more central position within the new grid-plan for the town of Windsor.

"The park had an early military association from as early as 1811 when it was envisaged as a parade ground.

In 1861 the governor presented colours to the local Volunteer forces in the park and in 1874 the park became the official parade ground for the Windsor Volunteers."

Mr Kelly said memorials in the park commemorate the involvement of local men and women in war while there's a monument to Governor Macquarie.

"Today's State listing means the site is protected for future generations under the Heritage Act," the Minister said.

"Any major work on the site will now be subject to decisions or advice from the Heritage Council of NSW."

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