



dem

9.14 Archaeological Assessment Report



Global Switch, 273 Pyrmont Road, Ultimo
BASELINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSESSMENT

FINAL REPORT



Prepared by
Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd
Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Consultants

For
DEM Architects

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Job No: 9037

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEM (Aust) Pty Ltd have been appointed as architects and urban planners for the design of a new DataCentre to be located at 273 Pyrmont Road, Ultimo. Global Switch propose to extend its current Ultimo facility (*commonly referred to as Global Switch Sydney 1*) to create a new data centre which will involve construction of a purpose built 6 storey specialist Data Centre building above 3 basement levels.

Austral Archaeology has been commissioned by DEM to provide archaeological assessment and advice as part of the Environmental Assessment. The objectives of this report are to produce a Baseline Archaeological Assessment that defines the level of archaeological potential of the site. The results of the report will assist in determining if further archaeological work is required in order to progress the project and to provide recommendations for further work should they be required.

The site is bounded by the western distributor to the north, Pyrmont Street to the east, Quarry Street to the south and the current Global Switch building (former Government Printing Office) to the west. The site is not identified as a heritage item and is not located in a conservation area. The proposed new data centre is a Part 3A project under the *Environmental Protection and Assessment Act 1979*. Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) is the delegated authority.

Surgeon John Harris was granted 34 acres of land on the peninsula west of Cockle Bay and south of the Parramatta Road in 1803. Over the next few years, Harris acquired several other grants that resulted in 233 acres of farm land known as Ultimo Estate. The estate was divided into 70 blocks in 1859 based on a grid of roads that had not yet been formed and distributed amongst the children of his brothers. William Henry Harris acquired block 33 and built his home 'Livingstone' with frontage to Harris Street 1872. The remainder of the block was subdivided creating rows of terraces on both Pyrmont and Harris Streets as well as a number of (possibly free hold) allotments on Quarry, Pyrmont and Harris Streets.

The original block sloped reasonably steeply to the shores of Darling Harbour in the east. Creation of a lane in 1880 cut into the sloping topography between Harris and Pyrmont Streets which determined the future development of the eastern and western parts of original block. The subject site consists of the eastern portion of the site which has developed independently of the western portion. Extensive excavation of the original slope was necessary for the 20th century development of the site and it appears that much of the archaeological resource is likely to have been disturbed or destroyed.

By 1915 all the properties on Pyrmont and Quarry Streets had been demolished and a number of buildings were constructed to house the Government Meat Market. The government printing office was established on the western part of the original block fronting Harris Street in 1955. The site has been vacant since the redevelopment of Darling Harbour in 1987 and used until recently as a car park.

Analysis of the site's history, geotechnical information and previous archaeological investigations of sites in the vicinity indicates that the site has been substantially modified and is unlikely to retain archaeological potential for pre 1915 occupation of the site.

The site is unlikely to reveal further information that would contribute to the significance of the site or the area.

Recommendations:

1. Historical archaeology

In the event that archaeological resources not predicted in this assessment are unearthed during any stage of the development, work in the immediate vicinity is to cease and an archaeologist contacted to make an assessment of the find. Consultation with the Heritage Branch and further assessment may be required prior to works progressing on site. Further research may be required. It should be noted by the Client that further research and an application for an excavation permit would delay construction schedules.

2. Aboriginal archaeological values

In the event that objects pertaining the Aboriginal cultural values are unearthed during any stage of the development, works must cease and an archaeologist contacted to make an assessment of the find. Consultation with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water may be required prior to works progressing on the site. Aboriginal objects and/or sites are protected by the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* and cannot be destroyed without a permit. It should be noted by the Client that further research and an application for an excavation permit or permit to destroy would delay construction schedules.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

DEM (Aust) Pty Ltd have been appointed as architects and urban planners for the design of a new Data Centre to be located on Pymont Road, Ultimo. According to the Director General's Requirements (DGR), specialist archaeological advice will be essential prior to finalising the Environmental Assessment. Austral Archaeology has been commissioned by DEM to provide a Baseline Archaeological Assessment and recommendations for the management of any archaeological issues identified for the site. Archaeological assessment will determine whether archaeological excavation will be necessary to progress the development.

Global Switch provides secure data storage and IT infrastructure management. To meet the growing need for this resource, Global Switch is now proposing to extend its current Ultimo facility (*referred to as Global Switch Sydney 1*) to create a state of the art, purpose built data centre within a 6 storey specialist Data Centre building above 2-3 basement levels which would require bulk excavation of sandstone to a depth of 12-17 m below existing levels. The proposal seeks to develop the whole of the vacant Pymont Street site to the east of the existing Global Switch Sydney 1 facility located at 400 Harris Street Ultimo.

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) under delegated authority has issued DGR's for the construction of a 9 storey commercial building with 180 car spaces. The new data centre is a Part 3A project under the *Environmental Protection and Assessment Act 1979*.

1.2 STUDY AREA

The proposed development site is located at 273 Pymont Road, Ultimo (to the rear of 400 Harris Street) in the Local Government Area (LGA) of the City of Sydney. The site is bounded by Quarry Street to the south, Pymont Street to the east, Fig Street and the Western Distributor to the north and the existing Global Switch 1 building to the west (former Government Printers Office).

The site consists of two allotments identified as Lot 12 DP 632526 and Lot 3 DP 632525. Lot 10 DP 840467 consists of the current Global Switch 1 Building. The total site area of all three allotments is 5065.9 m².



Figure 1.1. The location of the study area in Ultimo, NSW (subject site outlined in red). (Source: SIX Viewer Department of Planning).

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT

The objectives of this report are as follows:

- to carry out primary research to gain an understanding of the site's history and previous use;
- produce a Baseline Archaeological Assessment that defines the level of archaeological potential of the site. The results of the report will assist in determining if further archaeological work is required in order to progress the project;
- recommendations based on the findings of the Baseline Archaeological Assessment will be made. The recommendations will direct subsequent steps should they be required. Should substantial, intact relics be predicted to survive, a more detailed assessment that includes a comparative analysis may be required;.
- to formulate an appropriate research design and methodology to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development if required.

1.4 REPORT METHOD

This report was prepared using the *Assessing Heritage Significance* guidelines in the *NSW Heritage Manual* (2001) published by the NSW Heritage Office. The terminology of the *Heritage Terms and Abbreviations* published on the Heritage Office website (n.d) has been used to discuss the archaeological resource. In addition, the publication *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice*, published by the Heritage Office, Department of Planning (2006) has also been consulted. This report is generally underpinned by the philosophy of the ICOMOS *Burra Charter*.

The content of this report, includes investigation (history, physical evidence, and previous studies), assessment (significance assessment and assessment of archaeological sensitivity), and managing significance (the impact of the proposed works and the recommended mitigation process).

1.5 AUTHOR IDENTIFICATION

This report was prepared by Karyn McLeod, Senior Archaeologist, Austral Archaeology and reviewed by Justin McCarthy Managing Director.

1.6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Austral Archaeology acknowledge the assistance of the following;

David Guth - Global Switch

Rudi Valla - DEM

Elizabeth Robinson - Heritage Branch Librarian.

1.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE REPORT

The Department of Lands are currently digitising their map and plan records and historic documentation such as government surveys, subdivision plans and waterway plans were unavailable during the preparation of this report. Historic maps and plans in this report were limited to those available from the National Library and NSW State Library as well as various on-line resources.

The results, assessments and judgements contained in this report are constrained by the limitations of historical research and by the unpredictability inherent in archaeological zoning from the desktop. Whilst every effort has been made to gain insight to the historical archaeological profile of the subject site, Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd cannot be held accountable for errors or omissions arising from such constraining factors.

1.8 ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations may be used within this report:

AHC	Australian Heritage Council
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AZP	Archaeological Zoning Plan
Burra Charter	The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance
CHL	Commonwealth Heritage List
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
CMS	Conservation Management Strategy
DECCW	NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change and Water
DoP	NSW Department of Planning
EPA Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999
EPI	Environmental Planning Instrument
GPR	Ground Penetrating Radar
GPS	Global Positioning System
Heritage Act	NSW Heritage Act, 1977
IHO	Interim Heritage Order
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
NHL	National Heritage List
NPW Act	National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974
NSW HO	NSW Heritage Office
NSW HC	NSW Heritage Council
NT Register	Register of the National Trust (NSW)
PHALMS	Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management Study
REP	Regional Environmental Plan
RNE	Register of the National Estate
S.60	An application under Section 60 of the Heritage Act for works required by Section 57(1) of the Heritage Act (SHR & IHO affected places)
S.136	An order under Section 136 of the Heritage Act to cease work which is harming an unlisted site in NSW
S.140	An application under Section 140 of the Heritage Act for works required by Section 139 of the Heritage Act (archaeological relics)
S.170 Register	A Heritage and Conservation Register by a State Government Agency required by S.170 of the Heritage Act
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
SHI	State Heritage Inventory
SHR	State Heritage Register
SOHI	Statement of Heritage Impact

Refer also to the document *Heritage Terms and Abbreviations*, published by the Heritage Office and available on the website: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

2.0 HERITAGE LISTINGS & OBLIGATIONS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The following section summarises the relevant statutory context, including heritage listings, Acts, and environmental planning instruments which are relevant to the site and its cultural heritage.

The subject site, 273 Pyrmont Road, Ultimo is not listed on the city of Sydney Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or the Department of Planning (Heritage Branch) State Heritage Inventory (SHI). There is a conservation area in Ultimo adjacent to the subject site to the west which encompasses Harris, Quarry, Fig and Jones Streets. There is also a conservation area in Pyrmont, to the north of the subject site, which includes the block surrounded by Bulwara, Union and Pyrmont Streets. City of Sydney Council is currently reviewing existing heritage items and conservation areas within Pyrmont and Ultimo. Preparation of heritage inventory sheets using the State Heritage Inventory format is proceeding.

There are 14 locally listed items on Pyrmont Street, the majority of which are at the northern end of the street. There are four locally listed items on Quarry Street while on Harris Street, there is one State listed and 14 locally listed items. These items are not associated with the subject site and will not be impacted by the proposed development.

- The subject site is not on the National Heritage List
- The subject site is not on the Commonwealth Heritage List
- The subject site is not entered on the Register of the National Estate (RNE)
- The site is not entered on the Register of the National Trust
- The site is not entered on a Section 170 Register
- The site is not listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR)
- The site is not included in the City of Sydney Local Environment Plan (LEP)
- The site is not subject to an Interim Heritage Order.

2.2 LEGISLATION

The site lies within the boundaries of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Site under Schedule 2 of the Major Projects SEPP 2005. Global Switch 1 (former GPO) falls outside the jurisdiction of City of Sydney LGA. The relevant planning controls governing development of the site are:

Master Plan;

In 1999, the Minister of Urban Affairs and Planning adopted a site-specific Master Plan for two adjoining land parcels known as the former Government Printing Office and the Australian Mortgage Land and Finance Company sites.

The current DGR's proposal for a nine (9) storey commercial building sought key variances from the Master Plan in a number of areas, namely total floor space, building height and building configuration. Whilst the New Global Switch Sydney 2 extension proposal, which is the subject of this submission, is very similar in bulk and scale to the current DGR's office building proposal, it also seeks variance to the Master Plan in areas of height, maximum business floor space and building configuration, including the provision of a public space.

Darling Harbour Development Plan No 1;

Darling Harbour Development Plan No.1 is the relevant environmental planning instrument that controls development of the site within the Darling Harbour precinct. The Plan aims to encourage the development of a variety of tourist, educational, recreational, entertainment, cultural and commercial facilities within that area. For the purpose of permissibility it is submitted that the proposed building is defined as "commercial premises" which is permitted with approval.

Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005;

The site lies within the boundaries of Sydney REP (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005. The aim of this Plan is to ensure that the catchment, foreshores, waterways and islands of Sydney Harbour are protected, enhanced and maintained. As a consequence of its location, it is necessary to take into account various REP principles and considerations when determining a development application. The site is unzoned under the REP and has no land/water interface. Given its location, the primary planning principle of relevance is:-

(e) development that is visible from the waterways or foreshores is to maintain, protect and enhance the unique visual qualities of Darling Harbour.

Sydney Harbour Foreshores & Waterways Area DCP;

DCP 2005 is a supplementary document to REP 2005 incorporating detailed design guidelines relating to foreshore access, visual and natural environments, recreation and maritime industrial uses. The DCP pertains mainly to land/water interface and therefore is not directly applicable to the subject site. Section 5.4 of the document incorporates built form guidelines for land based development, stating that buildings should generally be of a sympathetic design to their surroundings.

Heritage Act 1977 section 139;

All archaeological sites and relics in NSW are protected by the Heritage Act 1977.

Under Section 139 of the Heritage Act, "a person must not disturb or excavate any land knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit". A relic is defined under the Heritage Act as "any deposit, object or material evidence" which:

- (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and
- (b) which has State or local heritage significance.

An excavation permit is also required if a relic has been discovered in the course of excavation without a permit (Section 139(2) of the Act).

Under Section 76A (9) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the Minister for Planning is the consent authority for Major Projects. Under Part 3A of the Act, the proponent would not require the usual consents as per s140 or s60 of the Heritage Act 1977 nor is the Planning Minister under any obligation to accept the advice of the Heritage Council. However, archaeological advice is required as part of the Environmental Assessment and the Heritage Council should be notified. Research, assessment and archaeological investigation according to the Historical Archaeology Code of Practice, published by the Heritage Office, Department of Planning (2006) and the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter is good heritage practice.

National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974;

The National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPWS Act) provides for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage. Under Section 87 of the NPWS Act, a permit is required to conduct works which will excavate, disturb, damage or move an Aboriginal object. A permit under Section 90 of the Act is required to destroy any Aboriginal objects.

There are no registered Aboriginal sites on the property. At present there is no trigger to seek an excavation permit under the terms of the NPWS Act.

3.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 LANDSCAPE

The Ultimo-Pyrmont topography is characterised by a central ridge running the length of the peninsula along Bulwara Road and Harris Street. The land form slopes down to the shores of Darling Harbour in the east and to Glebe and Blackwattle Bay in the west. The pre European landform consisted of sandstone cliffs and rocky outcrops, supporting Moreton Bay fig trees, Grass-tree (*Xanthorrhoea resinifera*), a number of edible lilies, Heath Banksia (*Banksia ericifolia*), cycads (*Macrozamia communis*), Lilly Pilly (*Syzigium paniculatum*) and Paperbark tree (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), all of which thrive on the poor sandy soils of the harbour (Benson).

Author Anna Maria Bunn (1799–1884) lived at Newstead House (also known as Bunn Cottage) on the peninsula at Pyrmont. She described a “place of ferny gullies and many creeks. Birds abounded there, such parrots as you have ever seen and cascades of rock lilies on what seemed ruined villages of outcropping sandstone” (http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/exhibitions/paradise_early_pyrmont.asp).

Over time the land has been cleared, heavily quarried, subdivided, densely occupied, redeveloped and industrialised. As a result, very little of the original vegetation and land form now survives in the Ultimo area.

3.2 ABORIGINAL BACKGROUND

The Ultimo and Pyrmont area was known as Pirrama by the Cadigal Aboriginal people that inhabited it. Cadigal territory extended along the southern shores of Port Jackson, from South Head to Petersham. The environment was abundant in fresh water, game, oysters, fish, plants and seeds valued by its Aboriginal inhabitants (Attenbrow 2002:7)

Bands of Aboriginal people of up to 50 identified as an extended family group were bound together through territory, spirituality, kinship and language. However, with the arrival of the British colonists in 1788, introduced diseases such as small pox and influenza resulted in the death of at least half the population. Remaining Cadigal people moved away from the settlement and in combination with further land dispossession and violence, by 1820, the traditional tribal life of the Sydney Aboriginal community had been destroyed.

Their presence, however, is evident in the thousands of recorded paintings, rock engravings, camp sites, scarred trees and middens that exist around the harbour foreshores. Cadigal middens have been dated in the harbour as old as 4,500 years. (Attenbrow 2002:9) Aboriginal sites within the vicinity of Ultimo include, a camp site at Cumberland Street on the ridge overlooking The Rocks, consisting of the remains of a snapper and rock oyster (Attenbrow 2002:20); the banks of the Tank Stream under Angel Place where Aboriginal artefacts, pollen and botanic remains of eucalypt rainforest were recovered (Godden Mackay 1998); and Moore’s Wharf (Lampert & Truscott 1980:19) on the shore of Walsh Bay where a shell midden was identified beneath the rubble floor of the building. Archaeological investigation of the KENS Site, East Darling Harbour (Thorp in prep) and the Quadrant Site at Broadway (Mider 2002) uncovered Aboriginal artefacts in remnant soils despite long term development and occupation of the sites.

3.3 HISTORY OF ULTIMO

European occupation of Sydney focused on Sydney Cove and Parramatta for the first decade of settlement however market garden lots bounding the Parramatta Road were leased to settlers from the 1790s. Thomas Jones was granted land at the northern end of the peninsula in 1794 (Jones Bay Pyrmont) which was later acquired by John Macarthur. John Mallone and William Mitchell were also granted land on the western Cockle Bay foreshore in 1794. For many years after the settlement of Sydney Cove however, Ultimo and the surrounding area were the periphery of the settlement and sparsely occupied (Matthews 1982:9).

Surgeon John Harris was connected with the Ultimo area as early as the 1790s but did not establish Ultimo Estate until 1803 after receiving a grant of 34 acres (140,000 m²) from Governor King. He received a further two grants within the Parish of St Andrews, totalling over 144 acres from Governor King in 1806 and from Governor Macquarie an additional 12 acres in 1818. The

Mallone (24 acres) and Mitchell (18 acres) grants were absorbed into the 233 acres that made up the Ultimo Estate. Harris also held all of Five Dock and Drumoyne as well as land in South Creek, St Marys (Fitzgerald and Golder, 1994:15-17).

Surgeon John Harris' Ultimo House was regarded as one of the finest houses in the colony during its day. Harris engaged convict architect Francis Greenway to extend the house in 1814 which was Greenway's first colonial commission. Harris also cleared the bush and stocked deer to produce an imitation English park (http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/exhibitions/paradise_early_ultimo.asp)

Despite subdivision and development of Glebe and Pyrmont from the 1830s, Ultimo Estate remained as farmland, in possession of the Harris family, until subdivision of parts of the property commenced in 1859. The descendants of John Harris built their own houses in the area and constructed terrace type residences for rental (Matthews 1982:14). Sandstone was also quarried in both Ultimo and Pyrmont catering to the building boom of the gold rush period. In the second half of the nineteenth century, much of the western side of the peninsula was quarried and carted away to build Sydney's finest buildings (Fitzgerald & Golder 1994:19).

In 1853 the Sydney Railway Company acquired seven acres (three hectares) from the Harris Estate, to build a rail terminus and goods yards on the shore of Darling Harbour. The line was opened in 1855 and land reclamation at the head of Darling Harbour was undertaken for the creation of the Darling Harbour goods yard. Deep-water access and proximity to the city meant the land was quite valuable (Matthews 1982:9). At that time, most of the current streets in Ultimo were not laid out and it was not until the 1880s when residential development accelerated and factories and industries grew with the development of rail and transport infrastructure available in Darling Harbour.

Pyrmont and Ultimo developed as working class industrial and port communities. By 1891 Pyrmont and Ultimo had become the most densely populated areas in NSW. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Ultimo housed many industrial sites such as the Ultimo Power Station, Ultimo Tram Depot, the Government Printing Office, numerous wool stores, the Government Meat works Darling Harbour Goods Yard and in Pyrmont, iron works, flour mills, the Dairy Farmers distribution depot and a major sugar refinery operated by CSR Limited. The construction of industrial premises in the early 20th century saw the demolition of hundreds of houses, and a steady decline in population (Matthews 1982:26). Until the late 1950s electric trams ran down the length of Harris Street, when they were replaced by a government bus service.

Late twentieth century redevelopment of Ultimo from a largely industrial suburb to a more residential and commercial precinct has seen the construction of the University of Technology, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the conversion of the Power House to a museum and the more recent redevelopment of derelict industrial sites for residences, mostly as apartments, a process that continues to the present (Fitzgerald & Golder 1994:60).

3.4 HISTORY OF THE SITE

Harris Street was constructed along the ridge of the peninsula as early as the 1830s providing the main access to the Pyrmont Estate and its subdivision in 1840. In 1865 Pyrmont street ran parallel to Harris Street through Pyrmont ending at Union Street to the north of the site. Streets north of Union Street were developed and occupied by 1850.

Mitchell's 1853 *Trig. Survey of Port Jackson* (SR NSW 6329) shows at least 3 irregular allotments containing small structures that were located within the subject site. These buildings were likely to be associated with the quarry located along the western shore of Darling Harbour. A photograph of the area in 1870 (Figure 3.2) shows Mrs Bunn's house and several small buildings on the mostly vacant land of the western shore of Darling Harbour. There is also clear evidence of quarrying in the area.

After Harris died in 1838, his estate was split between his two nephews and their offspring. Subdivision of the estate was not finalised until 1859 due to controversy over the settlement of the will (Matthews 1982:14). Seventy blocks were formed based on a grid of roads that had not yet been formed and William Henry Harris (Councillor of the Royal Agricultural Society) took possession of Block 33 on which the subject site is located, as well as Block 57 diagonally to the south west (and several others). William Henry was one of the sons of the surgeon's nephew and had lived in Ultimo house as a child. He built 'Livingstone House' on the northern corner of Block

33 fronting Harris Street in 1872 (now Global Switch 1). He and his siblings are commemorated in the surrounding street names, William Henry, John and Mary Anne (Matthews 1982:15).

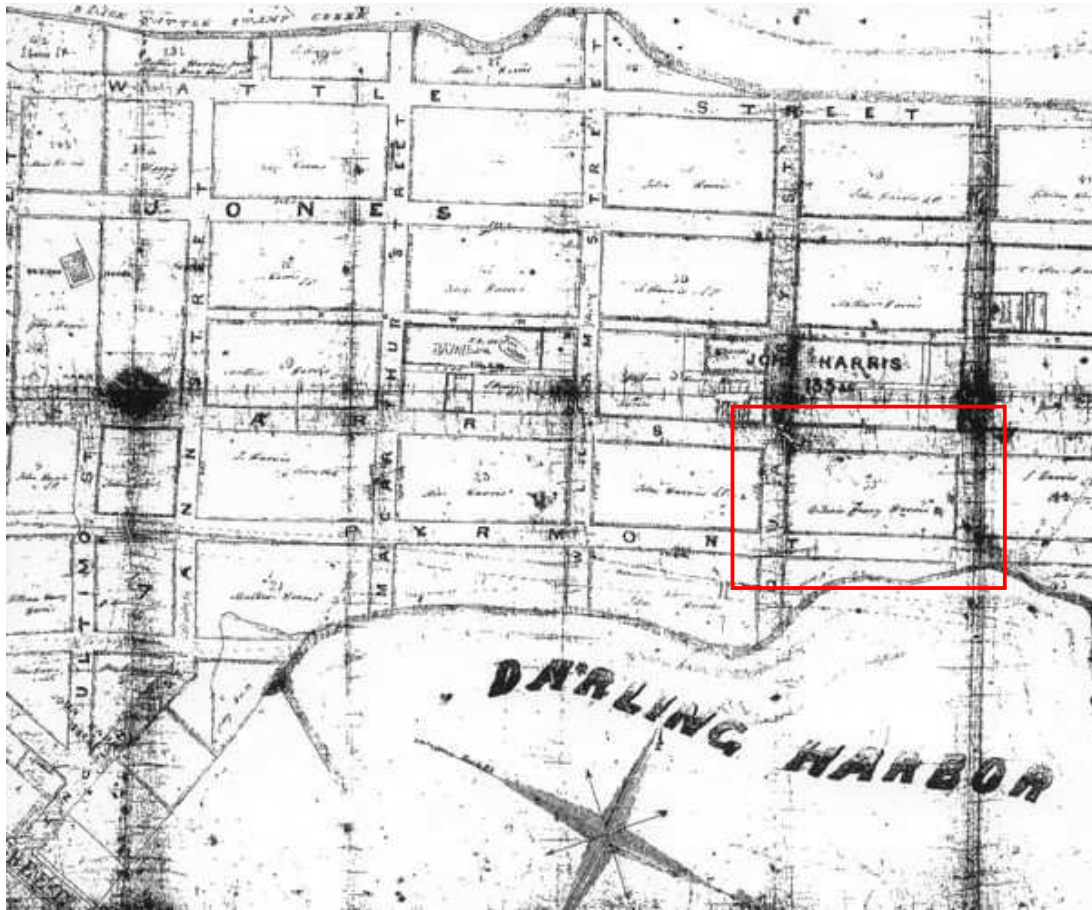


Figure 3.1. Location of Block 33 within the 1859 subdivision of the Ultimo Estate (ML Z M4 811.173 1866 1).

The Harris family remained the dominant land owners of the area into the the next century, building residential terraces, shops and small business premises to let. Block 33 was bound to the west by Harris Street and the unformed Fig Street to the north, Pyrmont Street to the east and Quarry Street to south. A track to the quarry located adjacent to the site on the foreshore of Darling Harbour is likely to have become Quarry Street. Until the late 1870s much of the eastern side of Harris Street in the vicinity of the site consisted of open paddocks and railway goods sheds.

Darling Harbour is underlain by Hawkesbury sandstone bedrock and the area was characterised by its rocky outcrops and ridges. The topography of Block 33 sloped reasonably steeply from Harris Street to the shores of Darling Harbour in the east and it is likely that the subject site remained undeveloped until the late 1870s due to the steep topography. At least 3 small irregular land holdings and a number of rectangular buildings were located on the subject site prior to subdivision and are likely to have been related to the quarrying activity in the area.



Figure 3.2. View to the western shore of Darling Harbour in the vicinity of the subject site showing Bunn Cottage on the far right hand side, a quarried rock face in the centre of the image and two small sheds on the waters edge (Ultimo 1860 Macleay Museum in Matthews 1982:18).

By 1879, rapid residential development of Block 33 was underway. William Henry Harris had subdivided the Harris Street frontage which included the Stanley Terraces and at that time, a number of unfinished houses and vacant blocks of land. Quarry and Pymont Streets were formed and Pymont Street had been subdivided to include nine double storey terraces (Harris Terraces) and at least six allotments, some of which were vacant. Quarry Street had been subdivided into seven allotments with the Trevado Hotel on the corner of Quarry and Pymont Streets (Sands Directories 1870-1880).

Schlinker's Lane was created between Harris and Pymont Streets in 1880, accessed from Quarry Street and ending approximately in the centre of the block. This lane extended into the block to the south and was later known on the adjacent site as Bullecourt Lane. Schlinker was a German immigrant listed on the Sands Directories as a fireman living on the site at 136 Quarry Street between 1882-1887. The lane probably cut into the sloping topography to terrace the site and provide rear access to a row of terraces constructed by Harris with frontage to Pymont Street. The lane essentially acted as a division between the Harris Street frontage allotments on the higher western part of the block and Pymont Street allotments on the lower eastern part of the block. This lane has remained a division between the development of the eastern and western portions of the original block to the present allotment configuration. The subject site consists of the eastern part of the original Block 33.

Further building and subdivision of the site by the turn of the century resulted in 16 allotments on Pymont Street between Fig Street and Quarry Street and five properties or businesses on Quarry Street between Pymont Street and the lane. The Darling Harbour rail yards were established in the 1850s on the eastern and southern shores Darling Harbour, predominantly on reclaimed land. The eastern side of Pymont Street consisted of rail infrastructure, stores and workshops.

The development and operation of the rail yards and associated businesses employed a large labour force and the majority of the local population was employed in work associated with the rail yards, the wharves at Pymont or the other major industries of the area. The Sands Directories do not list all the occupations of the inhabitants of the properties on the subject site during the late 19th century, however those that are recorded present a working class population typical of harbour side inner city suburbs of the time. Merchants, a shipping agent, a milk vendor, a wheelwright, a publican, carters, mechanics, a number of butchers, labourers, a dress maker and a blacksmith were listed occupying residences on the site during the late 19th century (Sands Directories 1880-1900). It appears that occupants of the site worked locally or conducted small scale businesses from their homes.

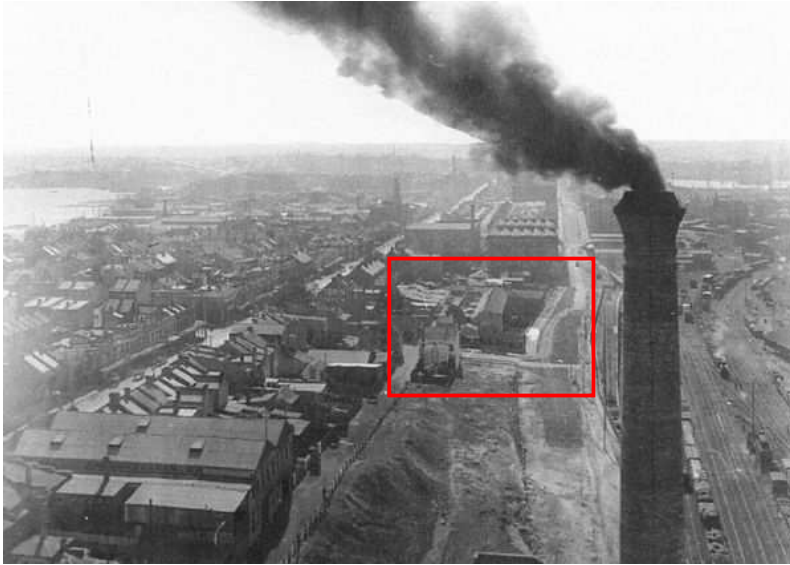


Figure 3.3. View to the north from the Ultimo Power Station showing the site prior to 1915 and the demolition of all buildings on the site. Schlinkers Lane can be seen running diagonally from the bottom of the image. A row of terraces backing onto the lane occupies the site. The vacant site in the foreground became the location of the AML&F woolstores no 1-4 constructed between 1909 and 1925. The large building to the north of the subject site is the Goldsborough wool store (SLNSW Hall Collection 38206).

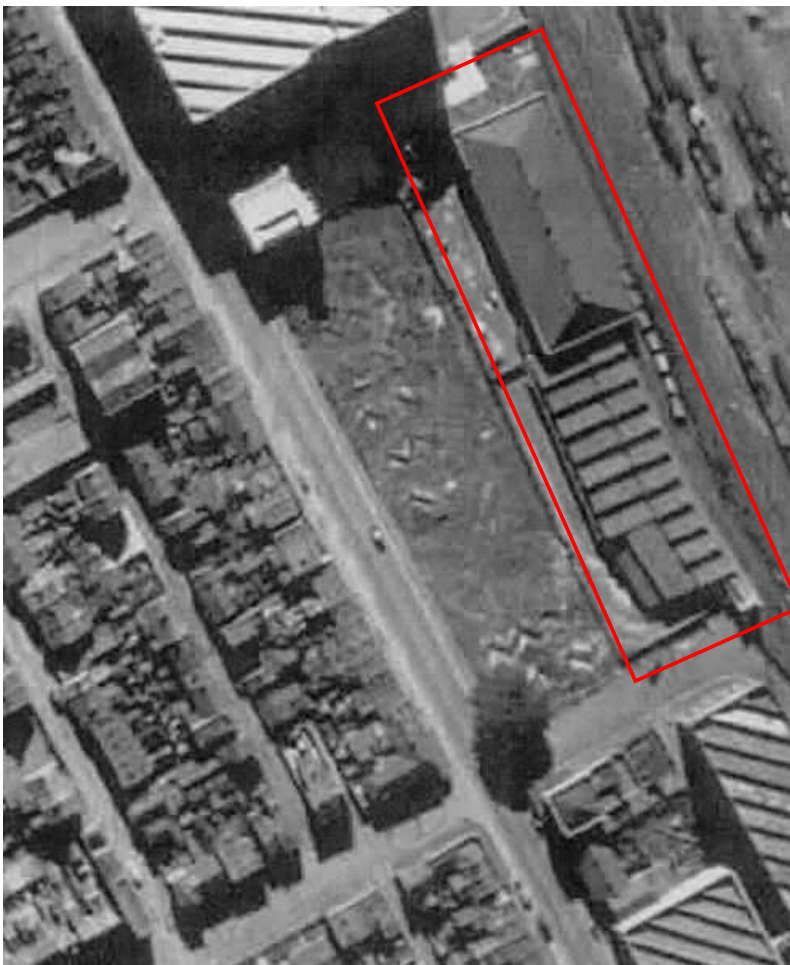


Figure 3.4. Aerial view of the subject site in 1943 showing the saw tooth sheds occupying the southern part of the site and the large brick building at the north. The buildings fronting Harris street have been demolished and slit trenches can be seen cut into the vacant lot.

The buildings on the subject site are separated from the Harris Street frontage by Schlinkers Lane, part of the subject site. (RTA 1943)



Figure 3.5. View west to Ultimo in the 1940s with the subject site in the mid ground. The saw tooth sheds and the large brick building can be seen on site and the buildings on the Harris Street frontage have been demolished and replaced with storage sheds (NLA PIC an-23503996).



Figure 3.6. Development of the Government Printers Office in 1955. Sheds and the toilet block at the rear of the site as well as the boundary fence can be seen in the far left corner of the image (ML GPO2-01525).

By 1905 occupation of properties on the site began to decrease with only nine individuals listed on Pymont Street. In 1913 the Pymont Street properties were demolished and a year later the Quarry Street buildings were also removed from the site. The Sands Directories list the Australian Mercantile Land and Finance Company (AML&F) which had constructed stores on the site. The company later took advantage of the boom in wool production during the first few decades of the 20th century and built a number of wool stores in the area, including Woolstore nos. 1 - 4 on the adjacent block to the south. In 1917 the subject site became the Government Meat Markets which relocated from the eastern side of Pymont Street. Construction included a long single storey saw tooth building fronting Pymont Street and a number of associated buildings accessed from the rear lane occupying the southern part of the site (Lot 12 DP 632526), and a large double storey brick building located on the northern part (Lot 3 DP 632525). The State government abattoir was established in Homebush in 1915 and meat was transported to Darling Harbour, generally in

refrigerated vans, where it was sold for the local market or frozen to be shipped to Britain and the United States. Wheat and wool markets were also located in Darling Harbour taking advantage of the transportation and warehousing facilities in the area.

Schlinkers Lane originally provided access to the rear of the Pymont Street properties at approximately the centre of the Quarry Street frontage. After the demolition of the Pymont Street buildings, the subject site appears to have been modified extensively, cutting the lane deeper into the slope at the western and southern boundary and levelling the site to form a flat terrace. As the site was now much lower than Quarry Street, the property was accessed from the corner of Quarry and Pymont Streets. The site appears to have been divided into the two lots at this stage with a wall constructed across the lane (Figure 3.4).

All buildings on the Harris Street frontage of the original block were demolished in the early 1940s and slit trenches were present during the war (Figure 3.4). In 1955 construction commenced on the new Government Printing Office, now Global Switch 1. Some of the buildings on the subject site were still present and in use during the construction of the Murray Street flyover in 1972. Photographs of the redevelopment of Darling Harbour during the 1980s shows the site vacant.

The building was converted by Global Switch in 2001. Global switch has a 45 year lease on the former government printing office.



Figure 3.7. View south from the Goldsbrough building (1955) during the construction of the Government Printers Office. Schlinkers Lane and the rear of the meat works buildings can be seen at the left of the image. The saw tooth building appears to have been modified at the rear. (ML GPO2-07059)

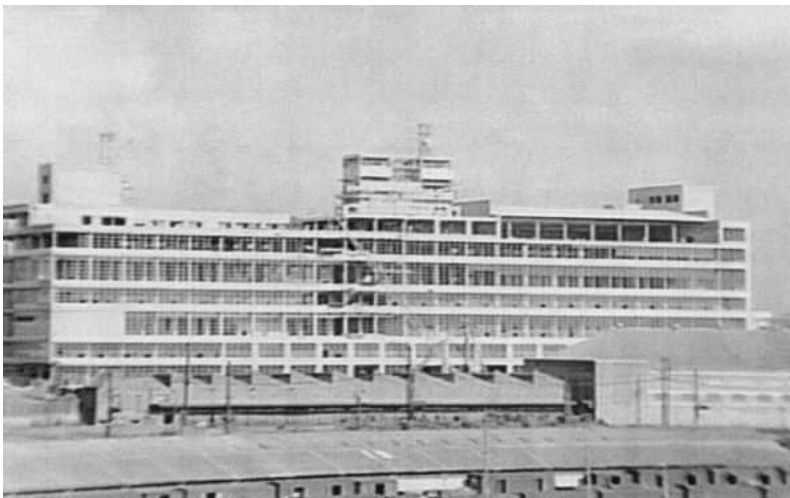


Figure 3.8. View to the west of the partially completed government Printing Office 1955-1960. the saw tooth roof sheds and the large brick building of the meat works are still present and further construction of rail sheds has been undertaken to the east of the site (ML GPO2-08771).



Figure 3.9. 1972 construction of the Murray Street flyover. The Government meat markets building can be seen in the mid ground but the saw tooth buildings have been removed from the site.(Photograph courtesy of SHFA).



Figure 3.10. Aerial view of the redevelopment of Darling Harbour 1987. The Government Printers Office is in the centre of the image. The subject site is vacant (Photograph courtesy of SHFA).

4.0 SITE ANALYSIS

4.1 SITE LOCATION

Ultimo is an inner-city suburb of Sydney, New South Wales. It is located in the Local Government Area (LGA) of the City of Sydney, two kilometres south-west of the Sydney Central Business district (CBD). Ultimo forms the southern part of the Pymont Peninsula, bounded by Darling Harbour on the east, Blackwattle Bay on the west and Broadway to the south. Fig Street to the north of the subject site is generally agreed as the boundary between Pymont and Ultimo.

The subject site is located mid slope on the northeastern side of the Pymont ridge. Pymont Street forms the eastern boundary beyond which is the light rail and the Darling Harbour Exhibition Centre. The elevated roadway of the western distributor is located to the north and Quarry Street to the south. The Global Switch site is terraced down the hillside and the current building is constructed on cut and fill earthworks. The subject site formed a lower level car park on the eastern side of the Global Switch building up until recently.

The site consists of three allotments, Lot 10 DP 840467 contains the current Global Switch 1 building and the study area is made up of Lot 12 DP 632526 and Lot 3 DP 632525.



Figure 4.1. The allotments which make up the Global Switch site between Harris, Quarry and Pymont Streets. (Source: SIX Viewer Department of Planning).

4.2 SITE INSPECTION

The site was inspected by Karyn Mcleod (Senior Archaeologist of Austral Archaeology) on Tuesday 8 December, 2009. David Guth, Development Manager for the Global Switch project provided site access and the inspection was unimpeded by weather or other constraints.

4.3 SITE DESCRIPTION

The original topography sloped down from Harris Street in the west to Darling Harbour in the east. The site is cut directly into the bedrock creating a vertical rock face at the western and southern perimeter. A sandstone block and brick retaining wall has been constructed on top of the rock face and surface levels of the site are approximately 3.7m below the top of the retaining wall.

The rock face varies in height between 1-3m and there are remnant cylindrical air drill marks from blasting in the exposed sandstone as well as hand picked sections demonstrating the terracing of the site to accommodate the construction of the previous buildings.

The vacant site consists of concrete slabs covered with asphalt. There are no standing structures apart from the perimeter fence. The alignment of the laneway is clearly visible running along the western edge of the site as is the raised platform on which the saw tooth buildings were constructed. The footings of a number of other structures, such as sheds and the toilet block, can also be distinguished. The site contains no vegetation apart from weeds growing along the rock face.



Figure 4.2. View to the south of the Global Switch 2 site with Global Switch 1 to the west of the site and the Bullecourt apartments on the corner of Quarry and Pyrmont Streets in the background .



Figure 4.3. View to the north showing the difference in level between the lane on the left and the building platform on the right.



Figure 4.4. Vegetation growing along the rock face and retaining wall on the western perimeter of the site.



Figure 4.5. Overhanging retaining wall section supported by an iron lintel.



Figure 4.6. The south west corner of the site, view toward Quarry Street demonstrating the depth of exposed bedrock. Approximate location of bore hole 1.



Figure 4.7. The south east corner of the site showing the sloping grade of Quarry Street (on the right) down to Pymont Street.



Figure 4.8. The exposed rock face on the western perimeter with sections of brick and sandstone block retaining wall and a raised concrete slab at the base.



Figure 4.9. The north eastern perimeter of the site stepping down to Pymont Street. This corner of the site is the only part at a higher level than the street.



Figure 4.10. View to the east demonstrating the level of the site and the level of Pymont Street. Approximate location of bore hole 2.



Figure 4.11. Concrete footing of a small shed located in the laneway at the north western corner of the site.



Figure 4.12. Raised concrete slab with evidence of brick walls, toilet cubicles and sewer pipe. This building can be seen built up against the rock face in Figure 3.6.



Figure 4.13 The Pymont Street frontage of the site and the light rail and Darling Harbour Convention Centre to the east. The light rail is approximately 5m below the level of Pymont Street.

4.4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

There have been no previous archaeological investigations of the site. It is understood that a heritage assessment was previously carried out during preparation of the Master Plan that identified an area of potential archaeological significance in the north eastern part of the site. It is not clear what these investigations entailed, and the client has not been able to locate this document.

A large number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken on sites throughout Ultimo and Pymont. The most relevant to the subject site concerns Bullecourt Place, located on the adjacent block to the south. An archaeological assessment was carried out in 1993 for the Bullecourt site and an archaeological excavation was undertaken in 2002 by Godden Mackay Logan (GML 2004).

Assessment of the Bullecourt site identified archaeological potential despite considerable disturbance from the construction of the AML&F woolstores. Six test trenches were excavated in the areas of highest archaeological sensitivity, four of those were found to be extensively disturbed. The excavation provided a limited but significant picture of a small portion of an inner city neighbourhood. There was no evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the site while the evidence of European impact dated from the last decades of the 19th century and major redevelopment in the 20th century. Areas that were not investigated included the location of woolstores 2 and 3 as their construction included deep cutting into the slope. These areas were assessed as containing low to nil potential for the survival of an archaeological resource.

4.5 GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION

Jeffery and Katauskas Pty Ltd undertook geotechnical testing of the subject site in 2000 and 2009. The stratigraphy of the site generally consists of existing concrete pavement overlying fill and sandstone bedrock. The concrete varies from 150 - 200mm thick and bedrock was located between 0.2 - 0.7m below current levels across the site. Bedrock was located directly under the concrete slab in the location of bore hole 2 on the Pymont Street frontage at the southern end of the site and bore holes 5 & 6 located in Schlinkers Lane just to the east of the rock face (Appendix 1). The area of deepest fill (500mm) was located in bore hole 1 adjacent to Quarry Street. This is somewhat of an anomaly as the bedrock has been cut down 2-3 m in this location (Jeffery & Katauskas 2009: Appendix A).

The sand and gravel fill in some of the bore holes contained small amounts of glass and ceramic fragments, while other bore holes appeared to contain clean road base. The bore logs do not record brick in the fill and it is likely that all earlier structures and features were removed with further excavation of the site to create the flat platform for the post 1915 industrial buildings.

4.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

Having analysed the historical and physical evidence above, the following section presents a summary of the potential for an archaeological resource to exist on the subject site and the predicted level of integrity (or sensitivity) of the archaeological resource.

The double storey terraces built after 1879 fronting Pymont Street had outbuildings sheds and cess pits to the rear of the property with access from Schlinders Lane. Pymont Street and Schlinders Lane were constructed at a lower level than Harris Street around 1880, probably truncating the slope slightly. No evidence of the location of Schlinders Lane access from Quarry Street is evident and it is likely that the current perimeter and levels were created after the buildings fronting Quarry and Pymont Streets were demolished in 1915.

Creation of the post 20th century levels required further terracing of the site for the construction of the Meat Markets. These works appear to have truncated the already modified slope creating a flat platform across the entire site. Evidence from archaeological investigation of the adjacent Bullecourt site demonstrated the construction of a level base for the woolstores and meant that earlier structures were destroyed (GML 2004:3).

Generally the stratigraphy across the site consists of concrete slab and road base laid directly on bedrock or concrete laid on 300-500mm of fill above bedrock. It appears that the platform created for the construction of the 20th century buildings was uneven and covered with moderately compacted fill on which the concrete building platforms were constructed.

The survival of archaeological features or deposits is likely to be similar across the site with only deep features having potential to survive. Two phases of levelling and construction and two phases of demolition are expected to have disturbed the archaeological resource considerably reducing the potential for the survival of evidence of earlier phases of occupation. Evidence of footings for the Meat Market buildings and associated services are present on the site. The archaeological potential of the site to retain evidence of pre 1915 occupation is low to nil.

5.0 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

5.1 INTRODUCTION

An assessment of cultural significance seeks to establish the importance that a place has to the community. The concept of cultural significance is intrinsically tied to the fabric of the place, its history, setting and its relationship to other items in its surrounds and the response it evokes from the community.

Archaeological deposits and features provide important evidence of the history and settlement of New South Wales. These heritage items may include deposits containing material culture (artefacts) that can be analysed to yield information regarding early urban development that is unavailable from other sources. Archaeological investigations can reveal much about technology, industry, past economic and social conditions and people's lives.

Sites that contain these elements therefore have scientific value that may be of considerable significance when analysed in association with documentary evidence. It is through this potential to reveal information about the past use of a place that archaeological sites have heritage significance.

The Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS was formulated in 1979 (revised 1999), based largely on the Venice Charter (for International Heritage) of 1966. The Burra Charter is the standard adopted by most heritage practitioners in Australia. The Charter divides significance into four categories for the purpose of assessment. They are: Aesthetic, Historical, Scientific/Technical, and Social significance.

The Heritage Council of NSW has established a set of seven criteria to be used in assessing cultural heritage significance in NSW. These are published in the Heritage Council's *Assessing Heritage Significance* guidelines (2001). The Heritage Council's criteria incorporate those of the Burra Charter, but are expanded to include rarity, representative value, and associative value.

5.2 SIGNIFICANCE

The site is historically associated with John Harris and Ultimo House and subdivision of grand estates into residential and commercial development. The site is located in an area where typical key elements of Victorian architectural styles are common but the site itself does not contribute to landscape and aesthetic values. As a vacant site, with evidence of destructive modification for 20th century industrial development, it is unlikely that the site would reveal further information that would contribute to the significance of the site or the area.

On the basis of the historical development of the site and given the impact of several phases of demolition and leveling, it is considered that the site retains no archaeological potential and the significance is nil.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion:

- The site is not identified in archaeological zoning plan and is not a State or locally listed item;
- Historical and physical evidence indicates that the site has been substantially modified and is unlikely to retain archaeological potential for pre 1915 occupation of the site;
- The site is unlikely to reveal further information that would contribute to the significance of the site or the area;

Recommendations:

1. Historical archaeology

In the event that archaeological resources not predicted in this assessment are unearthed during any stage of the development, work in the immediate vicinity is to cease and an archaeologist contacted to make an assessment of the find. Consultation with the Heritage Branch and further assessment may be required prior to works progressing on site. Further research may be required. It should be noted by the Client that further research and an application for an excavation permit would delay construction schedules.

2. Aboriginal archaeological values

In the event that objects pertaining the Aboriginal cultural values are unearthed during any stage of the development, works must cease and an archaeologist contacted to make an assessment of the find. Consultation with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water may be required prior to works progressing on the site. Aboriginal objects and/or sites are protected by the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* and cannot be destroyed without a permit. It should be noted by the Client that further research and an application for an excavation permit or permit to destroy would delay construction schedules.

7.0 REFERENCES

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ONLINE/ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

APPENDIX 1

Plan of the site with location of bores (Jeffery & Katauskas 2009: Appendix A).

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