

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST EXCAVATION REPORT

**Manilla District Hospital
Court St,
Manilla NSW**



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Group Pty Ltd

For
New South Wales Health Infrastructure
Coffey Projects

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Cover Image: Manilla Hospital 1906.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Coffey Projects, on behalf of New South Wales Health Infrastructure have commissioned Archaeological Management and Consulting Group to carry out archaeological test excavations at Manilla District Hospital, Manilla, NSW in advance of planned redevelopment. This document reports on the test excavation works and conforms to Heritage Office Guidelines.¹

1.2 STUDY AREA

The study area is a part of the Manilla District Hospital site, Court St Manilla NSW that piece of land described lot 14 in the Town of Manilla, Parish of Manilla, County of Darling, in LTO Deposited Plan 814059.

1.3 SCOPE

Archaeological testing works at Manilla District Hospital were carried out in preparation of a part 3a application. Other than the device of endorsed approval for the works, the test excavation programme was conducted in line with Heritage Office of NSW guidelines in all respects. Compliance to other Acts relevant to archaeological works in NSW was observed under the aegis of part 3a of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for major projects.

The test excavation works sought to identify the precise location, nature, condition and extent of an unidentified structure, known only from oblique photographic evidence.

The heritage value of the structures currently standing on the study area is not assessed as part of this report however some indication of the range of heritage values applicable is presented.

For full review of heritage matters please refer to the Heritage Assessment dated June 2009 (Statement of Heritage Impact).

The discovery of unknown and unassessed remains will require additional assessment or input.

1.4 AUTHOR IDENTIFICATION

This report was written by Martin Carney and reviewed by Ben Streat and Ivana Vetta.

¹ Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (1996).

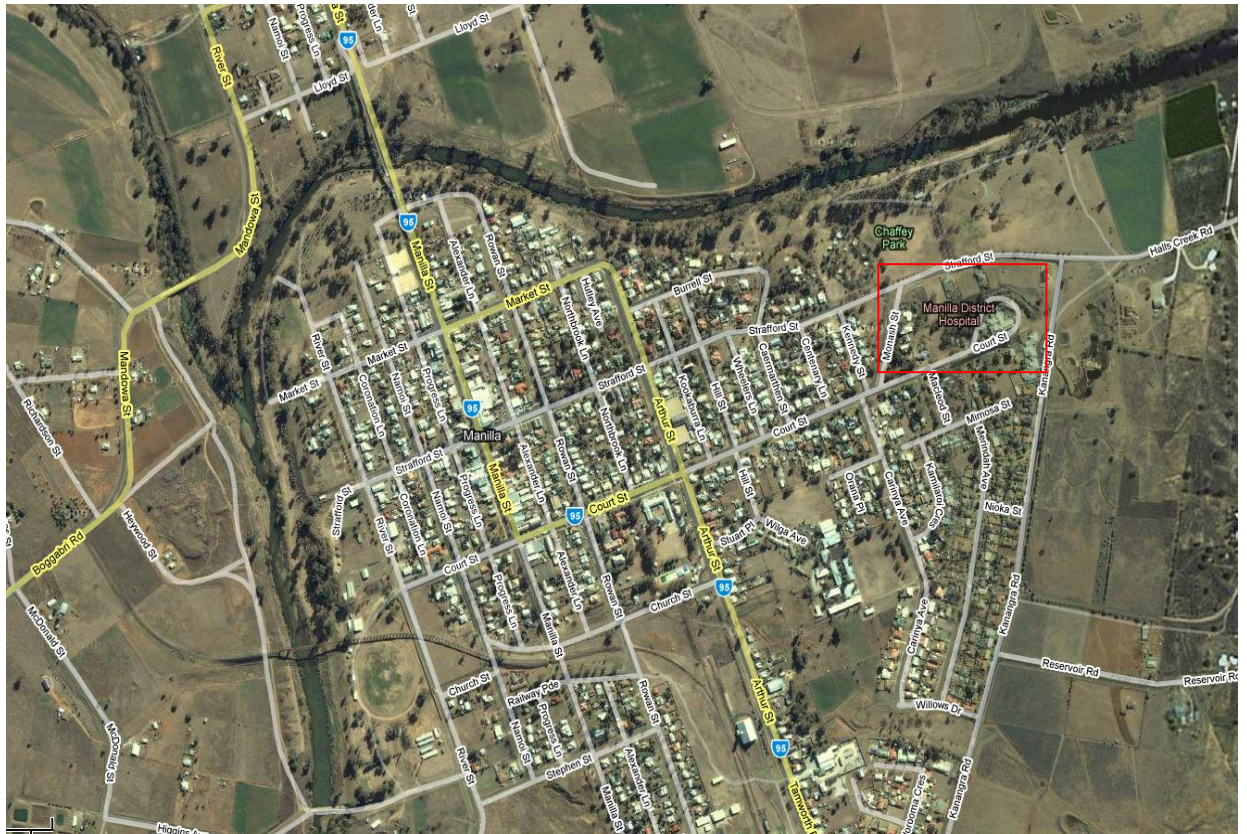


Figure 1.1 Site Location.
Red outlines approximate location of study site. google.maps.com.au
(2009)

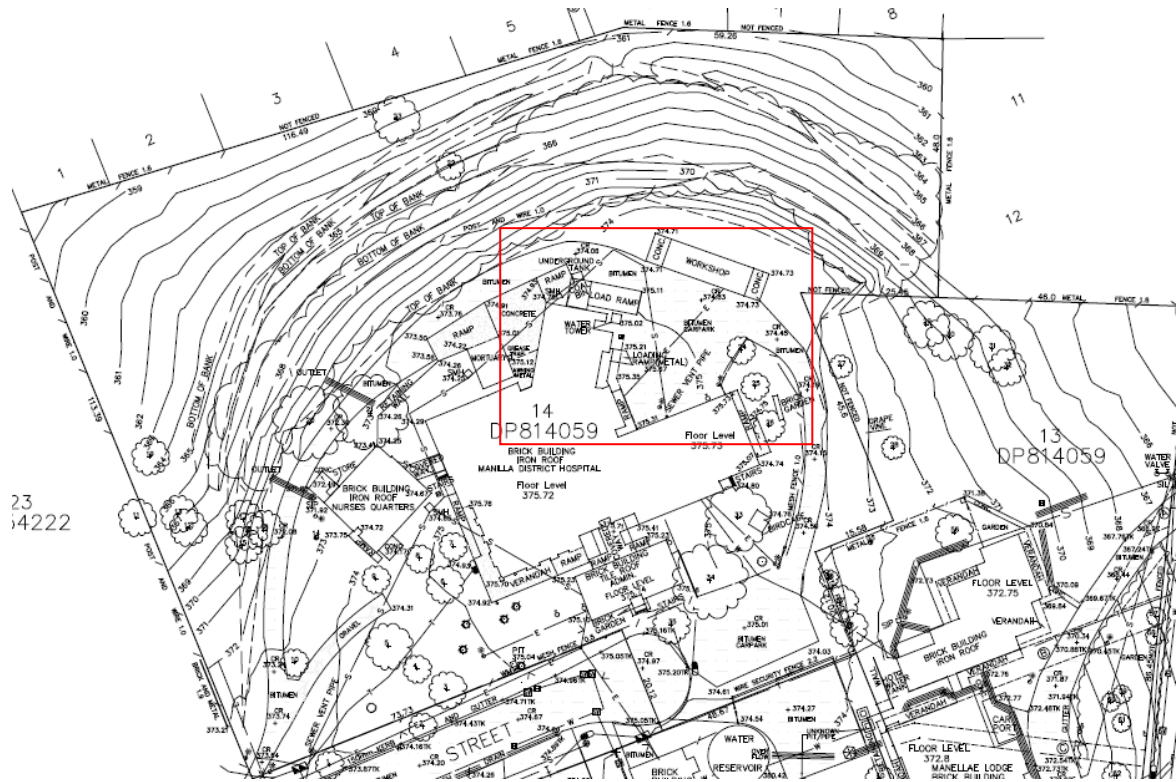


Figure 1.2 Study Area: Survey of Manilla Hospital Site (2008).
Brown & Krippner Pty Ltd (Sept 2008) Excavation area inset.

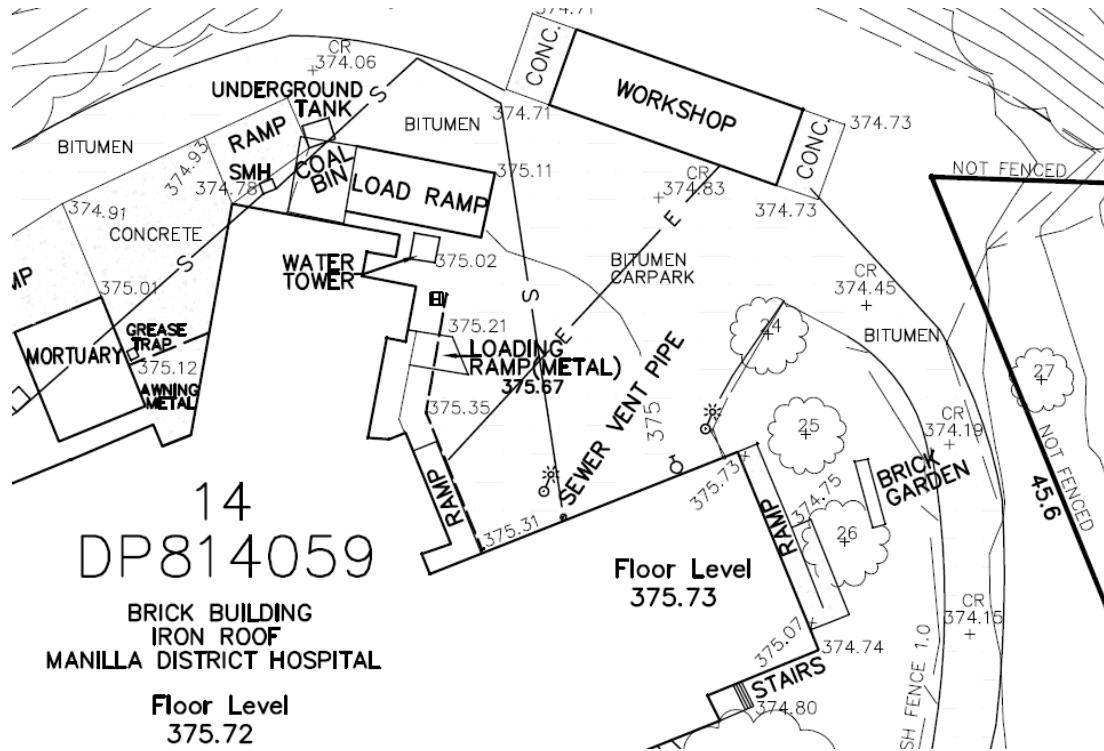


Figure 1.3 Detail of Excavation Area.
Brown & Krippner Pty Ltd (Sept 2008).

1.5 STATUTORY CONTROLS AND HERITAGE STUDIES

Archaeological testing works at Manilla Hospital were carried out under a part 3a of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for major projects.

1.5.1 NSW Heritage Act 1977 (as amended)

The NSW Heritage Act 1977 (hereafter known as the Act) affords automatic statutory protection to relics that form archaeological deposits or part thereof. The Act defines relics as:

any deposit, object or material evidence relating to the settlement of the area that comprises NSW, not being an aboriginal settlement, and which is fifty or more years old.

Sections 139 to 145 of the Act prevent the excavation or disturbance of land for the purpose of discovering, exposing or moving a relic, except by a qualified archaeologist to whom an excavation permit has been issued by the Heritage Council of NSW.

1.5.2 State Heritage Register and Inventory

The study area is not listed on the NSW State Heritage Register or Inventory for archaeological or built heritage items.

1.5.3 National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974)

This study does not consider objects covered by the National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974), as amended. However, the Act affords protection to all Aboriginal objects. These objects, previously known as relics, are defined as:

any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft for sale) relating to indigenous and non-European habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation both prior to and concurrent with the occupation of that area by persons of European extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.

It is an offence to;

damage, deface or destroy Aboriginal sites without the prior consent of the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

An Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) search was conducted for the study locality and returned nil sites relevant to the study area (see appendix in Heritage Assessment and SoHI, June 2009).

1.6 PREVIOUS STUDIES

An Heritage Assessment and SoHI has been prepared by John Carr of the Department of Commerce (June 2009) and the documentary record and development analysis contained therein form the basis of the archaeological brief.

1.7 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks are due to Dominic Clifton for his ready support in all facets of the Project and John Carr for discussions regarding the background of the hospital. The Staff of Manilla District Hospital, who provided every assistance in facilitating the works.

Several of volunteers at the Manilla Historical Society provided guidance in the location and nature of records available regarding the town and study area.

2.0 SITE HISTORY

2.1 MANILLA

Manilla is located 42 kilometres north of Tamworth. It has a population of approximately 1750 residents. Squatters arrived in the Manilla area towards the end of the 1820s.

The first permanent occupation of what is now the town site occurred in 1853. That year George Veness built a store, house and wine shop at the junction of the Namoi and Manilla Rivers. This initial settlement was known as 'The Junction' by teamsters who used it as a camping ground en route from the Hunter River to north-west NSW.

A post office was established in 1856. Veness was appointed its first postmaster and chose the official name of 'Manilla' for the village. Manilla was surveyed and its streets named in 1861. The site was gazetted in 1863. The first hotel was also established that year. In 1864 floods swept away several buildings, including Veness' original store, and killed four of the town's twelve residents. References to early maps of the town indicate that Veness was a major allotment holder (Figure 2.2).

The passing of the Lands Act allowing for closer settlement during the 1860s aided Manilla's development. Commercial wheat crops were first grown locally around 1873 and by 1880 wheat and wool had become the district's primary industries.

Manilla was proclaimed a town in 1885.

A courthouse was constructed in 1886, the same year that the Namoi River Bridge was completed. The chief engineer in the construction of the bridge was G.H. Royce whose house, Royce Cottage, was built in 1884. It was extended to house a bakery in 1908 and is now the historical museum.

The first passenger train reached Manilla in 1899. The anticipation of the arrival in the 1890s and subsequent boost in trade brought about by the rail was the catalyst for the majority of the towns' building stock today.

On 1 May 1901 Manilla was made a municipality. In 2004 Manilla became part of the Tamworth Regional Council.²

2.2 MANILLA HOSPITAL

The History of Manilla Hospital was researched and written by Mrs. Marion L. Bignall and is presented in the SoHI.

² Brief History of Manilla (June 2009) MHS

'The provisional committee for the establishment of the Manilla Hospital was appointed in April 1901; its chief function was to find a suitable site for the hospital. Several sites were considered, however two sites were eventually determined as the finalists. The Committee preferred a site on the Tamworth Road opposite the railway trucking yards. The other site was at Northbrook Hill, which was preferred by the Government Surveyor Welshman as in his opinion the former site was too close to the railway.

In September 1901 the newly formed Municipal Council took up the matter with the Government. The final site selection was the Northbrook Hill site on which the hospital now stands (Figures 2.1-2.5).

The Committee called for competitive designs for a suitable building and set out to raise £2,500. In June 1904, architect R. E. Ranclaud pegged out the site and tenders were called. The Committee offered the contract to R. Stanfield for £1,567 following withdrawal of the lowest tenderer. The laying of the foundation stone took place on November 19th, 1904, with the Hon. S. W. Moore, Minister for Mines and Agriculture, officiating. The official opening of the Hospital took place on May 10th 1905, the State Governor Sir Harry Rawson visited Manilla for the occasion'.³

³ Marion and Lindsay Bignall, MHS (1980)
Brief History of Manilla, MHS (June 2009)

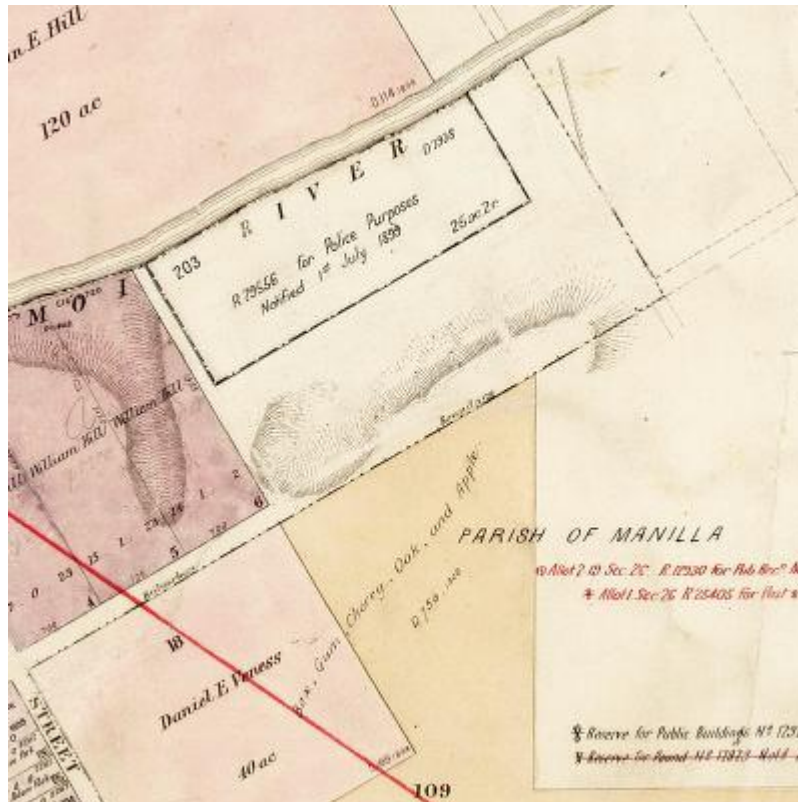


Figure 2.1 Parish of Manilla, Town of Manilla (1879).
Department of Lands 11859601. *Detail of undeveloped hillside – future hospital site.*



Figure 2.2 Parish of Manilla, Town of Manilla (1900 – with later additions).
Department of Lands, 111859501 Hospital Site.

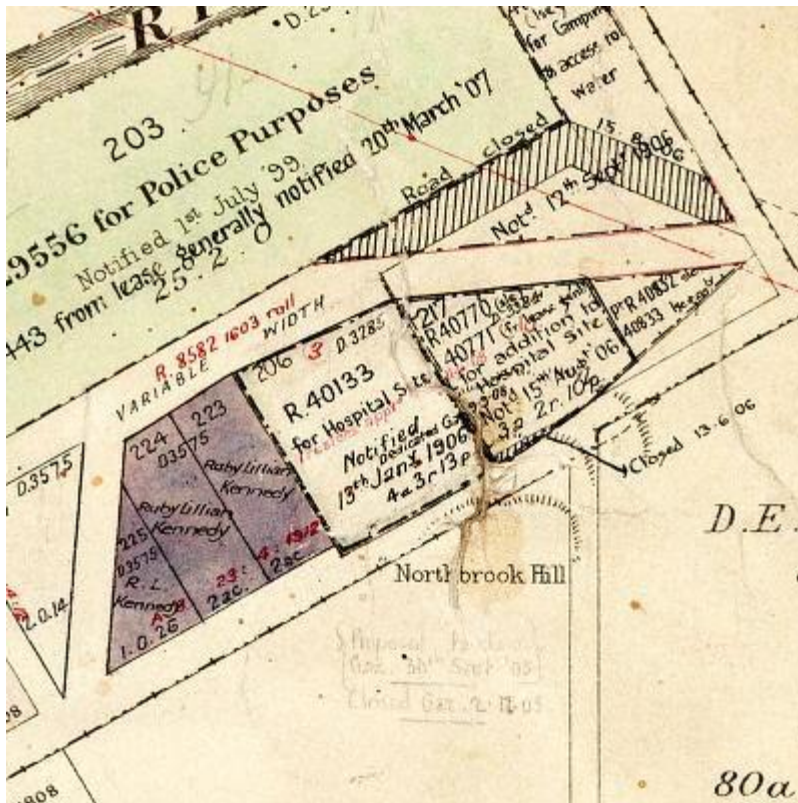


Figure 2.3 Parish of Manilla, Town of Manilla (1900 – with later additions).
Department of Lands, 111859501, Hospital Site – detail.



Figure 2.4 Photograph of the completed Hospital (c1905).
Note the Building visible through the verandah at left (SoHI).

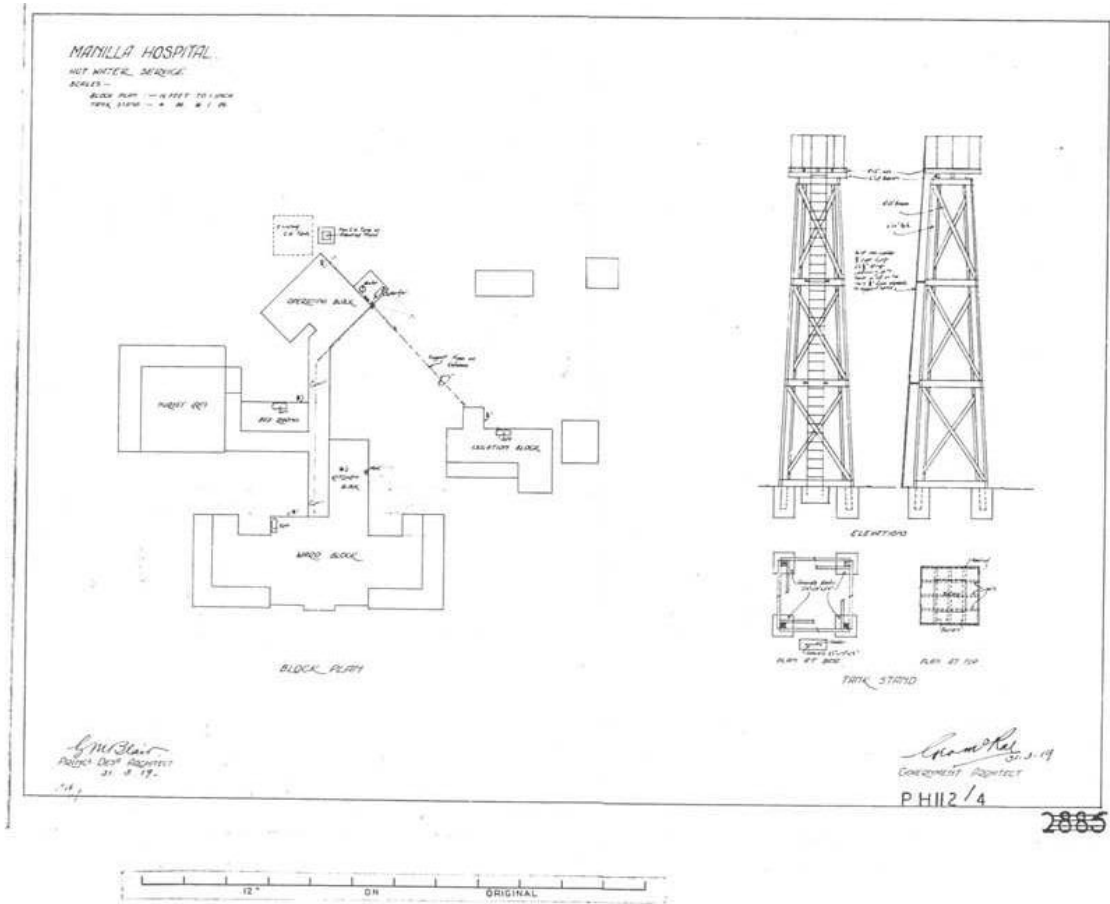


Figure 2.5 Site Plan of the Hospital (1919).
OPWS Plan Room cited SOHI. Showing the Isolation Block existing on the site.

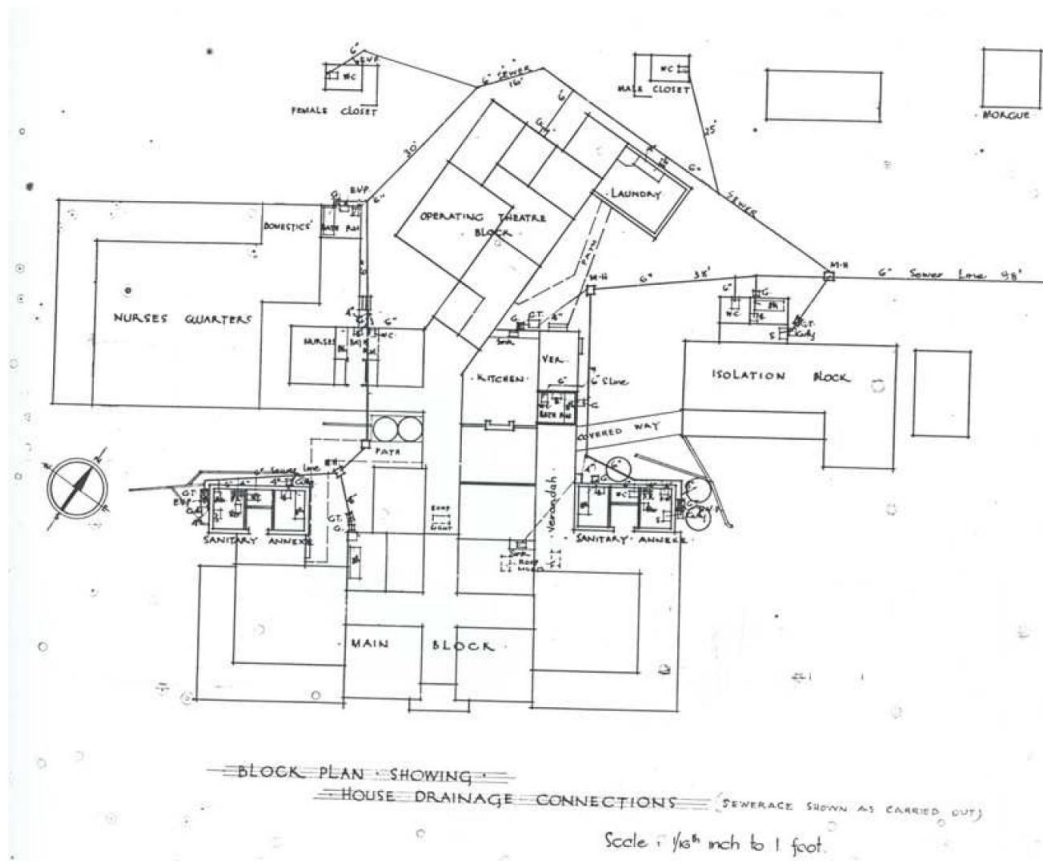


Figure 2.6 Site Plan showing Alterations and Additions (1934).
OPWS Plan Room cited SoH.

3.0 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

3.1 SITE INSPECTION

The study area was inspected by Martin Carney for this project, on July 13th, 2009. The study area for the most part is currently utilised as a car park. The greater part of that study area is covered by a degrading bitumen surface, and speed bump/ parking dividers (Figures 3.1-3.6).

At the rear of the Hospital a row of steel posts demarks the end of the parking area and a grass verge between the car park and hospital, abuts the rear wall of the hospital.

3.2 TEST EXCAVATION

Two test trenches were laid out in the study area on July 14th, 2009 (Figures 3.3-3.6). A sondage was made within trench II (named IIa) to confirm the natural soil profiles. The trenches were placed to avoid existing live services (Figures 3.1-3.12).

3.2.1 Methodology – Test Trenches

Under the supervision of and archaeologist (Martin Carney) a five tonne excavator was utilised to remove all current surfaces including bitumen and turf. The excavator removed all fills in sequence, up to a point where either significant archaeological material was encountered or natural soil profiles.

Archaeological materials were then cleaned and detailed for definition purposes. Only artefacts that were likely to be displaced by the backfilling process were removed.

Artefacts recovered from archaeological units were bagged and labelled according to the source unit. All artefacts are in temporary storage at the AMAC Offices. A summary of findings can be found in *Table 3.3* and a formal catalogue will be prepared for all artefacts at the completion of entire project.

Photographs were taken and notes and dimensions of all trenches and features discovered were recorded.

Table 3.1: Trench Details

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Max. Depth (m)	End level (AHD est.)
I	6.00	1.20	0.76	374.55
II	6.20	1.20	0.48	374.93
IIa	2.4	0.40	1.50	373.81

3.2.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

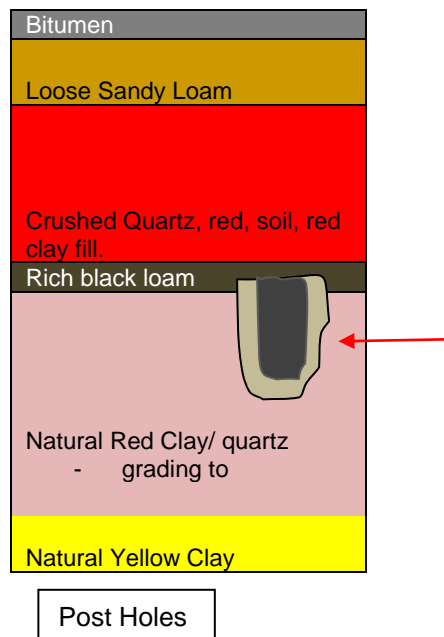
Four main stratigraphic units were identified in each trench within the car park area. The sequence differed in the grassed verge area, where bitumen was replaced by turf.

No original natural A1 soil profile was observed and this has presumably eroded at the time of the removal of the vegetation or was removed during the construction process (c.1905).

A rich, black loam topsoil evolved or was introduced in the study area in the period after removal of the A1 horizon. At some point during the development of this soil or when the original soil was present a series of post holes was cut through to the natural red clay B horizon.

In the absence of evidence for removal of stratigraphic sequence elements, this evidence places the post holes in the period immediately after or during initial development.

Table 3.2: - Soil Profile



3.2.3 Structural Elements - Posts & Post Pipes

Without obvious destruction of archaeological remains it is clear that three to five posts were at one time set into the ground surface at the rear of the original hospital. The three confirmed posts form a straight line aligning directly with the rear of the main complex wing. The posts are set 1.372 m (4' 6") apart. Post hole three appeared to have been recut.

No evidence for services or sanitary installations was observed.

Table 3.3: Unit list

Unit	Trench	Description	Action	Artefacts Collected/ Notes
001	I & II	Bitumen surface	Recorded and removed in part	Nil
002	I & II	Loose sandy loam	Recorded and excavated in part	Nil
003	I & II	Red clay, red soil, quartz fill	Recorded and excavated in part	Brick/ Ceramic drain pipe (not collected)
004	I & II	Rich black loam*	Recorded and excavated in part	Brick, down pipe fragment, flashing (II), bottle, oven door?
005	I	Turf	Recorded and removed in part	Nil
006	I	Post Hole Cut (PH1)	Not Excavated	Nil
007	I	Post packing	Not Excavated	Nil
008	I	Post pipe	Not Excavated	Ni
009	I	Post Hole Cut (PH2)	Not Excavated	Nil
010	I	Post packing	Not Excavated	Nil
011	I	Post pipe	Not Excavated	Post fragments (painted white, squared), brass uniform button, roof and other screw.
012	I	Post Hole Cut (PH3)	Not Excavated	Nil
013	I	Post packing	Not Excavated	Nil
014	I	Post pipe	Not Excavated	Post fragments (painted white), rat trap spring
015	I	Pit cut	Not Excavated	Nil
016	I	Pit fill	Not Excavated	Nil
017	II	Pit Cut (PH?)	Not Excavated	Nil
018	II	Ash Fill in 017	Not Excavated	Nil
019	II	Tree Throw?	Not Excavated	Nil
020	II	Fill in 019	Not Excavated	Nil
021	I, II, IIa	Natural Red Clay	Sondage	Upper part of clay disturbed or modified.
022	IIa	Natural Yellow Grey clay.	Sondage	Nil
023	I	Post Hole Cut (PH3 re-cut)	Not Excavated	Nil
024	I	Post packing	Not Excavated	Nil
025	I	Post pipe	Not Excavated	Nil

**Some potential exists that the loam is discretely within the form of a structure and thus related to its use and occupation. A wider sample area will resolve this question.*

3.3 Summary of Finds & Interpretation

The stratigraphic layers indicate a sequence of developments at the rear of the hospital building since 1905. At the earliest period of development a series of a minimum of three post holes was set into the ground on a grid alignment with the rear wall of the hospital (at a point where an extension is evident). Without further evidence this could be construed as a fence line. Evidence of squared painted timbers was located in the post pipes. Evidence from the succeeding archaeological layers and from within the post holes (post pipe) includes roofing and building materials, roofing screws and other hospital items (button/ rat trap) indicating the potential of a more complex use for the posts other than fencing.

One possibility is that they formed uprights for a semi enclosed structure, or a floor joist/bearer support for a largely enclosed structure. The sample size available may not have exposed the salient features that would enable the true definition of the relic, feature, fence or structure. The absence of brick work or footings related to any potential structure may also be related to the sample size location, however limited evidence for a masonry building was noted during archaeological works.

Some Possible Explanations

- Timber demountable utilised during construction phase (site office).
- Open sided covered area with post set into the ground (covered walk way or activities area).
- Timber/brick building with floor bearers set into the ground.
- Fence.

Any building in this location and within the stratigraphic sequence proposed can be placed approximately between 1905 and 1919 (Section 2.0).

No evidence for artefacts of Aboriginal archaeological or cultural significance subject to the National, parks and Wildlife Act (1974) was identified.

3.4 CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Based on the above possible functions that can be attributed to the evidence located during test excavations, using both the archaeological and photographic evidence, the relic identified can only fall within the range of local significance; however a further and more precise determination of the form and function may have the effect of elevating significance.

3.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

A second phase of archaeological works should be implemented before or during the demolition or construction phase of the proposed hospital development. This

should be carried out to ascertain, within areas to be impacted, the extent, nature, condition, form and function of the structures or materials unknown in documentary records or identified, by a glimpse in a single photograph and suggested by archaeological evidence.



Figure 3.1 Study area – Manila District Hospital – Manila
 google.maps.com.au (2009).

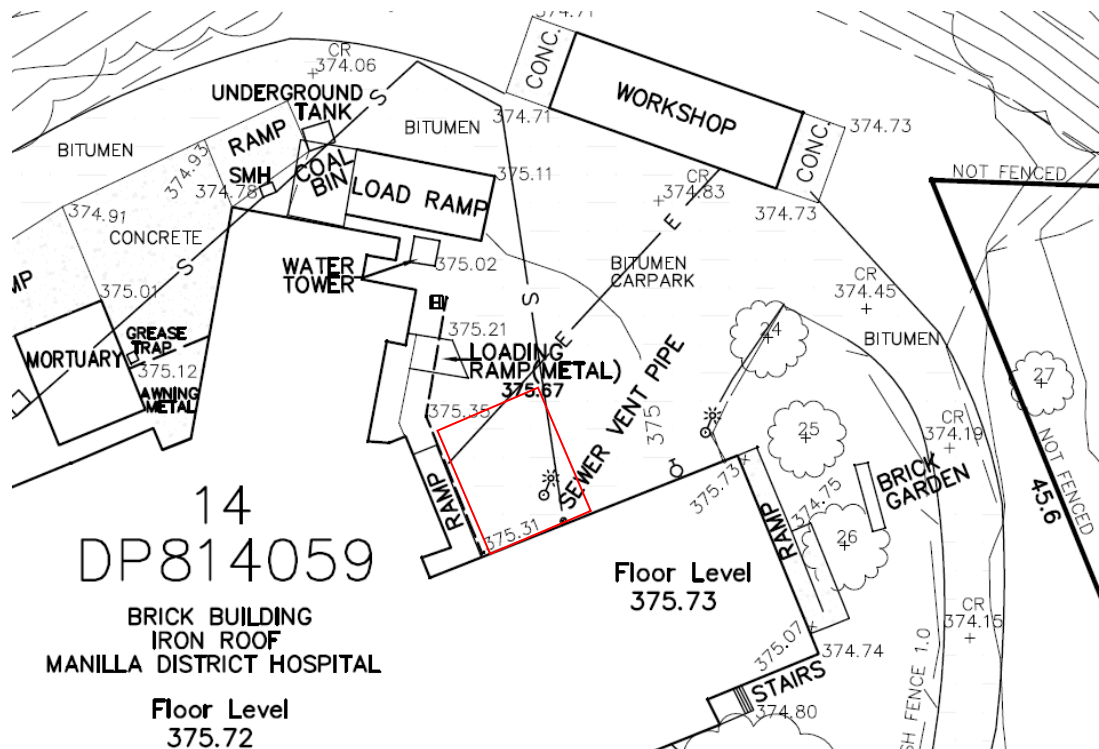


Figure 3.2 Study Location – Rear of Manila District Hospital.
 Brown & Krippner Pty Ltd, Drawing 1384 c0102, 26.09.08

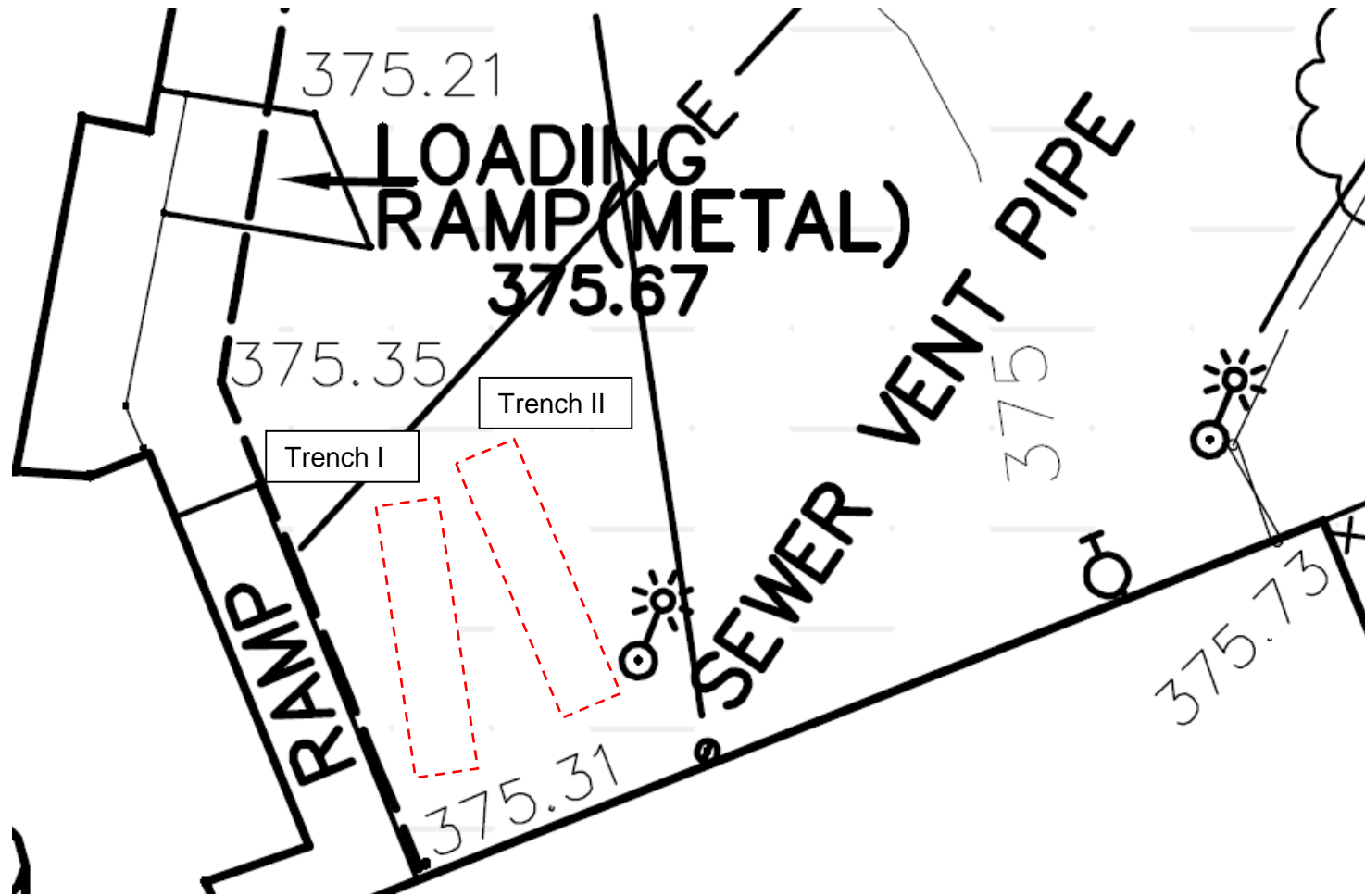


Figure 3.3 Trenches I –II Location
Brown and Krippner Pty, Drawing 1384 c0102, 26.09.08

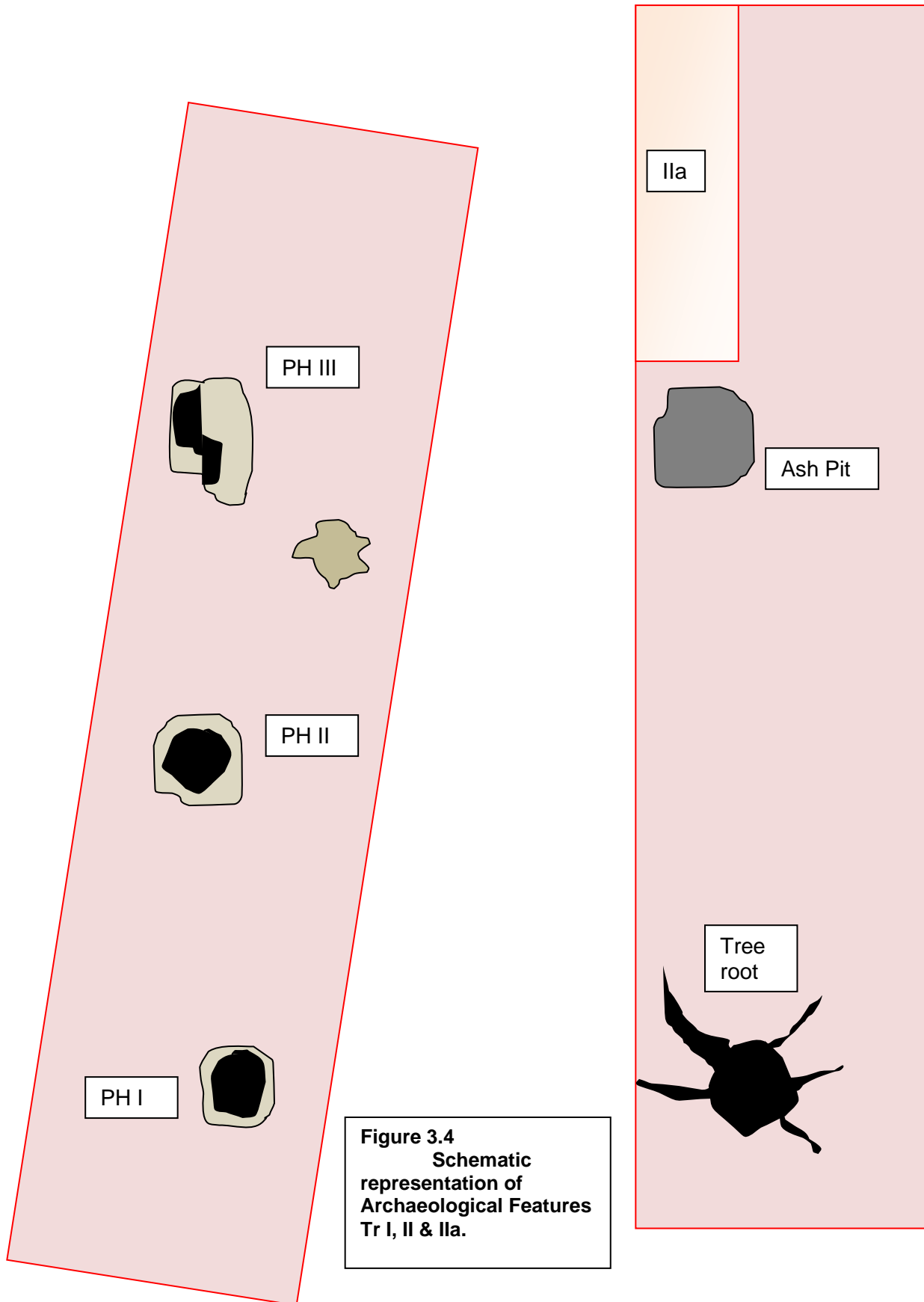


Figure 3.4
Schematic
representation of
Archaeological Features
Tr I, II & IIa.



Figure 3.5 Test Trench Location
Carney (2009).



Figure 3.6 Test Trenches in progress.
Carney (2009). White stumps indicate approximate post alignment (not height or shape).



Figure 3.7 Trench I final
Carney (2009).



Figure 3.8 PH 1 Trench I
Carney (2009).



Figure 3.9 PH II: Note timber fragments
Carney (2009).



Figure 3.10 PH III: Note re-cut and timber fragments.
Carney (2009).



Figure 3.11 Trench II: Tree throw.
Carney (2009).



Figure 3.12 Trench II - Ash Pit
Carney (2009).



Figure 3.13 Trench II: Note, ash pit and sondage in foreground. Tree throw at rear.
Carney (2009).

4.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

A History of Manilla 1853-1979, Marion and Lindsay Bignall, MHS (1980)

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<http://www.heritageaustralia.com.au/search.php?state=NSW®ion=101&view=556#a>

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