

**134 - 140 Marsden Street and 45 -47 Macquarie Street,
Parramatta.**

Report on investigation of Aboriginal heritage aspects

March 2006

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Report on behalf of

Estate Constructions of Australia

and

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Executive Summary

This work was carried out under the Section 90 Consent to Destroy with Salvage #2243, issued 25th July 2005 by the Department of Environment and Conservation. It was linked with salvage of historic heritage aspects (Section 140 excavation permit, #2004/S140/068, issued by the NSW Heritage Council 2nd February 2005).

The location adjoins Marsden Street between Macquarie and Hunter Streets. Estate Constructions engaged Dr Edward Higginbotham to carry out investigations relating to the historic heritage. Aboriginal stone artefacts were found amongst foundations being investigated. Numbers were small and the artefacts isolated finds in disturbed contexts (lenses of fill).

The project area has been much altered by the activities of the last two centuries. A tiny area was identified as less disturbed at depth though a considerable depth of topsoil had been lost. This part of the study area is somewhat elevated.

As a result of the local topography, the Macquarie Street frontage of the study area was raised up to the street level during historical settlement, in order to provide well drained sites for buildings. Higher ground was located along the southern and eastern sides of the site. Low lying and poorly drained soils are located along the north-western side of the site.

Aboriginal stone artefacts were retrieved from the general project area and from the two sets of test pits excavated in the less disturbed area. Finds from the general study area were bagged and labelled using the allotment number followed by a context number. Finds from the test areas were labelled according to test square and spit.

Artefacts were found in the often much disturbed upper spits but also, in small numbers, in spits below such disturbance. There was generally little evidence of bioturbation. The presence of stone artefacts in the lower spits apparently had little or no connection with historic features above. Though they may once have rested on a surface well above that from which the excavation started, they probably generally started their downward movement before the introduction of historic features.

A distinction can be made between artefacts recovered from the northern part, roughly Lots 16 W, 16 E and 17. These are likely to have been brought in with fill from elsewhere in the Parramatta area.

Stone artefacts recovered from the southern part, Lot 26 and notably Lot 27, are more likely to have been made and deposited in the area. However, the main artefact bearing surface(s) were removed and/or disturbed by colonial or later development activities. What has been recovered from the site represents but a small portion of generalised manufacturing debris mixed with some lost or discarded cores and implements. None of this was found in its original location.

The material appears to represent Bondaian assemblages (last 5 - 6 millenia) and probably the later stages of this. It can, tentatively, be suggested that a small portion of artefacts may be older, but this cannot be demonstrated.

Sydney 30.3.2006

Laila Haglund

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shown side by side and with spit 1 at the top.**

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134-140 Marsden Street and 45-47 Macquarie Street, Parramatta.
Report on investigation of Aboriginal heritage aspects

1. Introduction

This work was carried out under the Section 90 Consent to Destroy with Salvage #2243, issued 25th July 2005 by the Department of Environment and Conservation (App. A). The study was occasioned by and linked with salvage investigations of historic heritage aspects carried out under the Section 140 excavation permit, #2004/S140/068, issued by the NSW Heritage Council 2nd February 2005.

The location is a former car park area adjoining Marsden Street (Figs.1.1 - 1.3). Dr Edward Higginbotham was engaged by Estate Constructions to carry out investigations relating to the historic heritage. The developers had not been required to do an assessment of potential Aboriginal heritage values for this project. However, the team of historical archaeologists found some Aboriginal stone artefacts amongst the building foundations being investigated. Numbers were small and the stone artefacts were all isolated finds in disturbed contexts, such as lenses of fill. Some of this had clearly been brought in from outside the project site. The area has been much altered by the activities of the last two centuries: buildings put up and pulled down, earth removed or fill brought in to create level areas, interference by trenches for services and by large tree roots.

In the southern part, along Hunter Street, a tiny area was identified as probably somewhat less disturbed at depth by early development. However, a considerable depth of topsoil had clearly been lost. This part of the study area is somewhat elevated. Contours in Figure 1.3 give an indication of the original topography on the site. Higher ground was located along the southern and eastern sides of the site. Low lying and poorly drained (gleyed) soils are located along the north-western side of the site.

As a result of the local topography, the Macquarie Street frontage of the study area was raised up to the street level during historical settlement, in order to provide well drained sites for buildings (Figs.1.4 - 1.5). On the Allotment 16 West, the fill layers were deposited before the construction of a house in the 1840s to 1880s. On the adjacent 16 East, fill layers were deposited before construction of a brick house by 1840 at the latest. A house is also shown on the 1823 Plan of Parramatta, but this could be the building previously on the site.

Detailed inspections of the area and discussions with Dr Higginbotham confirmed that the whole project area had been severely affected by early and continuing development.

In places the fill layers are up to 0.8m thick, but up to 0.5m below street level. It is envisaged that the fill layers were deposited on one occasion across two town allotments (*Allotments 16 and 17*). There was no indication that the layers were deposited on separate occasions for each allotment. On the current dating evidence it therefore appears that the fill layers were deposited by the 1840s.

The fill layers comprised a mixture of topsoils (A1 & A2) and subsoil clay (B Horizon). One soil type is foreign to the study area, namely a red inorganic topsoil (re-deposited A2). The other soil types occur within the study area but no evidence was found of quarrying or excavation for soil in historical times. This leads to the conclusion that the fill layers have been derived from elsewhere and dumped on site. The most likely interpretation for the extensive fill layers is as a public work, associated with the raising of the level of Macquarie

Street. Convict labour was often used during this period (up to 1840s) for such public works. At the time of salvage, the original soil profile survived on all parts of the site, except on the northern part of the Marsden Street frontage. Here the soil had been stripped to subsoil clay (B Horizon). But the evidence indicated that the topsoil was stripped from this area by recent settlement.

On Allotment 5 (Marsden Street), stripping of topsoil postdates the demolition of terraced houses erected in 1893. On Allotment 18 (Marsden Street), stripping of topsoil is dated to construction or demolition of buildings erected in 1951. There was thus no on site source for the fill layers on the Macquarie Street frontage.

Note that the presence or absence of units of fill must affect the interpretation of Aboriginal heritage material recovered.

2. Research design

The disturbance was extensive all over the area. For most of the area systematic excavation for Aboriginal heritage seemed unwarranted – the potential for finding Aboriginal heritage material in its original context appeared minimal or absent. However, as work progressed one small area was identified as possibly having some potential to provide information (see Section 5 below).

The salvage envisaged for the study area as a whole did not require organising a separate fieldwork program to recover Aboriginal heritage. The team of historical archaeologists working on the site included also archaeologists with experience in Aboriginal heritage studies and ability to recognise relevant items and contexts. In addition Aboriginal representatives from the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council participated in the general excavation work.

It was agreed that the historical team should continue excavating according to the needs of their program, but if they found stone artefacts or other items relating to Aboriginal culture, they should put such items into separate bags, each with a label giving the context. It was understood that lenses of sediment found to contain an Aboriginal heritage item would be excavated in full in case more were present. If additional items were found in a lens they would be bagged and labelled separately but care taken to keep items from the same context together for analysis. Soil samples representing different contexts would be set aside for possible future reference in the artefact analysis.

The artefacts might be analysed as a total sample if this seemed justifiable, but might also be analysed as groups relating to specific contexts. Dr Higginbotham would provide maps and descriptions of contexts. However, small number of artefacts in such groups would mean that statistical analysis of artefact features would be unlikely to be useful; in addition the severely disturbed condition of the area precluded any useful analysis of stratigraphic relationships. It may however be possible to put the material in a broader context by comparison with sites nearby, eg with material from the Parramatta Health Services area further north on Marsden Street.

3. History of the site (from souvenir guide prepared by Dr. Higginbotham)

The town of Parramatta was founded by Governor Phillip in 1790. Initially the town allotments were occupied by convicts, who were housed in what are known as "convict huts" - small wattle and daub buildings accommodating from 10 to 14 convicts. Gradually the huts were taken over by free persons. By 1823 the whole town was leased out and the remaining convicts were housed at the Convict Barracks (the site is on Macquarie Street opposite Governor Phillip High School).

Excavation of this study area means investigating the known (approximately) locations of four convict huts, built in the 1790s or 1800s. Two were located on the Macquarie Street frontage, the other two on the Hunter Street frontage. The one on the corner of Macquarie and Marsden Streets became a hotel by 1801 ("The Wheatsheaf" and later "The Shepherd and Flock Inn") and was leased to John Graham in 1806. The hotel survived till the 1870s.

The sites of the convict huts were redeveloped for housing in the 19th and 20th centuries. The site was most recently used as a car park. (See also Section 4 below for brief descriptions of excavated deposits.) Selected views of historic remains are included as Plates 1 -7.

The story of "The Wheatsheaf" and "The Shepherd and Flock Inn" (*Allotments 17 & 18*, Fig.1.4 - 1.5) illustrates life histories of drastic reversals of fortune:

John Graham, transported in 1797 for 7 years, was fortunate in having a faithful wife who with their children came with him on the same ship. John was assigned as a government servant to his wife and it may have been Elizabeth Graham who operated the hotel from 1801 on. John Graham soon became wealthy and took out a lease on the hotel in 1806, but the marriage collapsed, the hotel was sold in 1808 and John died in 1809. The inn was advertised as a capital and substantial dwelling with 12 years unexpired lease, 6 rooms, good stabling, a well and out buildings.

By 1823 William Sully occupied *Allotment 17*. He had been transported in 1790 as a convict, then again convicted of crimes in the colony - but was by 1814 a constable! In 1823 Sully sold to Thomas Reynolds who already possessed the building on *Allotment 18*.

Thomas Reynolds had been transported in 1816 with a life sentence, but was soon pardoned. He married in 1820, had children, and held the licence to "The Shepherd" from 1825 to 1846. Reynolds died in 1849 but the hotel continued till at least 1870.

In *Allotment 17* a cellar has survived though the main buildings are largely gone.

In *Allotment 16* a small timber cottage or "convict hut" was erected on the Macquarie Street frontage by 1804. Originally occupied by convicts it was taken over by free persons.

John Walker was a "currency lad", a "colonial boy", born in the colony in 1799. He leased this town allotment in 1823. He was a skilled wheelwright and married Elizabeth Humm in 1821 and they had several children.

John was also a farmer and involved in business. He built a fine house on Macquarie Street and converted the allotment lease to a grant in 1841, thereby securing his improvements. He died in 1846, leaving the property to his children. It was sold in 1864. The house survived till at least the 1950s.

Allotment 16 was subdivided in 1878 and the western part sold for 260 pounds indicating that it already had a house on it.

Allotment 5 was too poorly preserved to warrant excavation; no occupation deposits had survived.

Allotment 26: a small timber cottage had been erected by 1804 and survived until the 1830s; it was first inhabited by convicts and later by free persons. The land was vacant from the 1840s. By the 1880s a series of houses was built on the Marsden Street frontage.

Allotments 27 & 28: a small timber cottage had been erected by 1804 and survived until the 1840s; it was first inhabited by convicts and later by free persons. *Allotment 27* remained vacant until the 1880s when an architect, Gordon McKinnon, erected a terrace of two-storey

houses to be known as 'Gordon Terrace'. *Allotment 28* (part) remained vacant until the 1900s.

4. The retrieval of Aboriginal heritage material - locations and matrix

Section 6 comments on the Aboriginal stone artefacts retrieved from the general study area and from areas A and B, the two sets of test pits excavated in what seemed a less disturbed area (see Fig. 1.3 and Section 5 below). Complete lists are given in Appendix D.

The first type of source areas is described below. Finds from these were bagged and labelled using the allotment number followed by a context number (in Appendix D, Table A: 1 - 3, see the heading "Location"). The analysis of the historical material is not as yet completed. No map of the exact location of particular contexts was available for this report but the allotment number gives a sufficiently clear idea of find locations, given the high degree of disturbance and displacement. Original find descriptions provided by Dr Higginbotham have been used (and quoted) as they provide informative comment on matrix history and conditions in specific parts of the study area. His find descriptions are included in toto as Appendix C.

Allotment 16: The initial find was located in the more low-lying part of the allotment, 16W (fig.4.1). The Aboriginal stone artefact was found in a lens of fill (re-deposited A2 Horizon) beneath the construction layers of a house erected between the 1840s and 1880s. The lens measured 3.5m to 3.7m in diameter, with a maximum thickness of 10 cm. In the Allotment 16 West, fill layers were deposited before the construction of the house in the 1840s to 1880s.

Note that remains of a "convict hut" were found below the footings of this house. The hut had also gone through several stages of development, including the addition of a forge used by John Walker, the wheelwright. This was associated with a layer of cinders and charcoal.

During the next few days of archaeological investigation of the historical sites, another five Aboriginal stone artifacts were discovered. The locations of these finds are shown in Figure 4.2 and are described below, starting from the Macquarie Street end and moving clockwise.

Allotment 17: One stone artifact was discovered in the footings of the 1892 terraced house. The artefact was in a recent historical context, but may be associated with the imported 1830s-1840s fill layers. Another stone artefact was located directly beneath a concrete slab, east of the 1892 terraced house in a recent historical context, but may again be associated with the imported 1830s-1840s fill layers.

Table A shows that a few more artefacts were found in these allotments during excavation of the fill. Note also the presence of a cellar, probably of pre-1820 date. Excavation for this cellar may have brought Aboriginal artefacts to what was then the surface.

Allotment 26: Two stone artefacts were located between the concrete wall footings of a 20th century house, facing Marsden Street. The house was too recent to be shown in Figure 4.2. The artefacts were located in fill layers of late 19th century or of 20th century date. A third stone artefact, on the Hunter Street frontage, was located in the fill of a tree throw and mixed with late 20th century artefacts.

Remains of the original "convict hut" were poorly preserved and mostly removed by a late 19th century cistern as well as by the demolition of the 1880s terraced houses. Remains of a well associated with the "convict hut" were identified as well as a large pit possibly dug for extraction of clay, and the post holes of a structure (post- 1844?).

Allotment 27: Any remains of the "convict hut" were poorly preserved due to the demolition of later houses. A series of post holes indicated a structure from between 1836 - 1844.

In this vicinity on Hunter Street, a modern topsoil directly overlies the A2 horizon. All the footings of the 19th century terraced houses on the corner of Marsden and Hunter Streets had been removed, indicating the substantial loss of historical occupation deposits. From the sections or soil profiles visible in sewer pipe trenches, it could also be observed that up to 0.5m of the A2 horizon has been lost. The loss of original topsoils, both A1 and A2, meant that the earlier phases of historical occupation had been lost, together with the soil profile in which undisturbed Aboriginal artefacts may have been located. Little further archaeological investigation for historical sites was therefore undertaken in this area.

However, observations during the excavation of post holes etc. indicated that it could be worth testing the subsoil of the area for traces of Aboriginal heritage material. A previous study some blocks further north had shown that it may at times be possible to locate past Aboriginal activity areas from the vertical dispersal patterns of artefact debris filtering down through the sediments (Haglund 2005).

A series of photographs from the general area of historic remains have been included as well as photographs illustrating the testing for Aboriginal heritage material. These are collected as Plates 1 - 27 between the report and the Appendices.

5. Test excavations for Aboriginal heritage material - locations and matrix

This work was conducted by Brian Armstrong, Mike Hincks and Shane Willis. Aboriginal representatives assisted. The testing was done after the completion of the historical investigations and according to general methodological outlines provided by myself. These can be summarized as follows:

"As discussed in the field we are thinking in terms of two sets of test pits/trenches in the small areas A and B noted as showing most potential to contain subsurface material. Each sequence should be set up to start and finish somewhat outside the areas of estimated good potential.

Each pit needs to be 1m x 1m. A trench needs to be 1m wide and divided for recording in sequentially numbered metre squares. If excavation shows areas of artefact concentration or other indications of activity areas, sideways extension (one or more metre squares) should be considered.

The aim would be to identify possible activity areas and recover as much material as possible if an artefact scatter is small, or a representative sample if extensive. Any such activity area is likely to have vertical as well as horizontal extent as material will have filtered down over time. There may also be a slight possibility of finding horizons that may represent different land surfaces.

Skim shovelling (peeling off thin layers of sediment with a flat shovel) should be tried if the soil texture allows. This may show horizontal scatters of artefacts and debitage. If there are no obvious horizons that should be excavated as units, excavation should be in units of 10cm depths and continued down to the clay.

Prepared recording sheets for noting basic details are provided, with instructions. These are to be combined with ruled paper and graph paper for additional comment if warranted.

Details and sections are to be photographed and sections drawn when warranted.
A series of small soil samples from a typical section and going from the clay to the surface to be kept to illustrate changes (or consistency!) in texture and colour.

Excavated material can be wet sieved but not scrubbed and preferably not soaked, unless the deposit is so clayey that it became necessary. Such action should be noted in the records."

Appendix B contains the excavation data, pit by pit. These are summarized below and extensively illustrated in Plates 8 - 27.

Artefacts were found in the often much disturbed upper spits but also, in small numbers, in spits well below such disturbance. There was generally little evidence of bioturbation. It seemed clear from the excavation data and the photographs that the presence of stone artefacts in the lower spits had little or no connection with the historic features above. Though they may once have rested on a surface well above that from which the excavation started, they probably generally started their downward movement before the introduction of historic features.

This interpretation is supported by Higginbotham's comment already quoted on page five above: "The loss of original topsoils, both A1 and A2, meant that the earlier phases of historical occupation had been lost, together with the soil profile in which undisturbed Aboriginal artefacts may have been located." That little evidence of bioturbation was observed does not mean that this did not take place. Root activity, insect and other animal burrows may leave clear indications; the gradual but frequent shifting of sand grains by ants, tiny insects, root fibres etc. may leave no easily observable or identifiable marks.

Summary of test excavation data

Squares were labeled by grid lines intersecting at SE corner. See Figure 1.3 for location and distribution of test pits.

Area A:

E16/N8	Sandy, variable colour, with charcoal flecks and two irregular patches (burnt roots?) as well as some artefacts (mainly fragments) in spits 1-3.
E16/N9	Mainly pale compacted sand with some iron precipitation. Bases of two post-holes in spit 1 but stone artefacts in spits 2-3 below and no evidence of bioturbation. Artefacts may have filtered down well <u>before</u> the postholes dug.
E17/N8	Mainly pale compact sand but darker deposit with much charcoal at S edge of pit continuing into top of spit 2. Artefact fragments found in spit 1.
E18/N9	Features (post-holes) in spit 1, and some charcoal flecks. No artifacts and no evidence of bioturbation in spits below.
E23/N9	Pale compact sand with iron and manganese precipitation increasing with depth, taken down to - 80cm (undulating clay surface). Historic features cut into spits 1-2, 1 artefact fragment in spit 1, no features observed below spit 2.
E25/N9	Pale sand over red clay (spit 6), modern disturbance through most of spits 1-2. Artefacts (mainly fragments) in <u>spits 1, 2 and 4.</u>
E27/N7	Pale sand, increasingly compacted, increasing iron pan. No evidence of bioturbation but artefacts and fragments in <u>spits 1, 2 and 4.</u>
E27/N8	Pale but brownish (grading to orange with depth) compact sand with flecks of charcoal and artefacts, mainly fragments, in spits 1-2.
E27/N9	White (grading to orange with depth) fine sand over red clay; spits 1-2 much disturbed, post-hole continues down to clay, some artefacts in spit 1.

E27/N11 Pale greyish sand with patch of bleached sand in spits 3 - 5, no evidence of bioturbation but some artefact fragments in spits 2-3. Modern disturbance in spit 1.

Area B:

E34/N23 Greyish brown-yellow-orange, sandy with some clay. Historic features in parts of spit 1, some charcoal and artefacts and fragments in spits 1-2.

E35/N23 Variable colour : yellowish to orange sand over red clay, artefacts and fragments in spit 1, fragment in spit 4.

E35/N24 Pale sand grading to orange with depth. Historic feature in NW corner cut down to clay.

E36/N23 Yellowish sand grading to orange with depth, posthole through spits 1-2, some charcoal near this, artefacts including core in spit 1, fragment in spit 2 and spit 3.

E37/N23 Greyish silty sand over red clay, spits 1-3 very disturbed, contained historical debris.

E38/N23 Greyish silty sand grading to yellow - orange over red clay, spits 1-2 partially disturbed and containing historical debris. Disturbance in NE corner cut down to sandy clay, narrowing with depth. 1 artefact fragment in spit 4.

6. Artefact analysis

A complete list of artefacts recovered can be found in **Appendix D**. The diversity of contexts means that there is no point in trying to analyse the totality as a sample. Instead groups will be extracted from the list according to various criteria and their characteristics outlined.

Artefacts from the historical excavations:

Looking first at the northern area, Lots 16 W & E and Lot 17, the low-lying areas built up with fill.

Little in the way of formal or diagnostic tools was found here. A 'core fragment' of bottle glass is dubious as the negative scars seem rather fresh compared to the bottle surface. The 'anvil/pounder' was found in historic context and there could be alternative explanations to impact marks. An adze flake of good quality chert is however typical and distinctive.

Two flakes of silicified tuff were nondescript, about as broad as long, less than 50mm long; a broken blade had a focal platform and central ridge.

The southern area, Lots 26 and 27, much affected by building activities, has lost rather than gained sediments. The artefacts recovered from the historic excavations indicate some broad differences between the lots and they will be looked at separately.

Lot 26: A core fragment of pink silcrete showed removal of flakes that were longer than wide and probable subsequent use as a scraper. A large flake of silicified tuff has some scarring from blade removal but later bifacial damage from use.

Of 3 silcrete flakes one was a neat heat treated microblade, the others square or skew. Three broken flakes were chunky or battered.

There was really too little material to make any comparisons.

Lot 27: This area has a more interesting mixture of materials and artefact types as well as larger numbers. The area may not have suffered quite as severe impacts as Lot 26.

Three cores/core fragments, rather rough, show later modification for/by use but early discard. However, a chunk of good quality chert/petrified wood has been carefully worked to a narrow but stout rod ending in a rounded steep nose, apparently suited for use as a gouge.

Silcrete and silicified tuff were the materials used for artefacts. Of 9 complete flakes (all less than 40 mm, pointed, rounded or irregular) 7 were of silcrete and of 11 broken flakes 8 were of silcrete. Platforms were broad to medium, but 5 focal platforms were present. Out of 31 flake fragments 25 were of silcrete and only 1 definitely came from a micro-blade.

This set of descriptions excludes **a group of 7 flakes and 1 flake fragment** made of silicified tuff, heavily patinated and glossy. These have been indicated in bold type in Appendix D. Two of the flakes, indicated by bold type and italics, are not as patinated and the material banded. The flakes are less than 30mm long or wide, tend to be rounded or skew, with length and breadth similar and plain platforms, mostly medium to broad.

The group stood out sufficiently from the rest to be interesting and were shown to E. White who has analysed material from a number of sites in the Parramatta area. She found them to fit well in material, reduction pattern and patina to groups that she is tentatively considering Pre-Bondian, that is possibly some 6,000 years old. However, at the Marsden Street site we have no dating evidence for the group. If they belong to an early period and had filtered down they may have been brought up by construction work. Or the former occupation surface may have formed a palimpsest of debris from a sequence of working surfaces. Two pieces recovered from the test pits appear to belong in this group (see below).

Artefacts from the test excavations:

The possibility of defining past activity areas was considered and the distinction of some artefact groupings attempted through laying out the material from the test squares for comparison of raw material sources, horizontally and vertically.

Area A:

E16/N8 spits 1-3, **E16/N9** spits 1-2 and **E17/N8** spit 1 contain artefacts from various cores, but at least 4 cores may be represented in more than one square and spit.

E23/N9 and **E25/N9** show no downward continuity but the flake A10-1 appears to match the patinated group described above.

E27/N7 spits 1-2 and **E27/N8** spits 1-2 probably shared at least 1, possibly 2 cores. There was no downward continuity for **E27/N7** spit 3.

E27/N9 and **E27/N11** have a variety of materials but no continuity.

Area B:

E34/N23 Artefacts in spits 1-2 derive from at least 4, probably 5 cores; 1 piece (B1-12) appears to belong to the patinated group described above.

E35/N23 Artefacts in spit 1 derive from at least 4 cores that may be those used also for **E34/N23**. (A fragment in spit 4 appears unrelated.)

E36/N23: Artefacts in spits 1 - 3 do not appear to share source rocks with each other or those in **E34-E35**.

Conclusion: In Area A some artefacts in the upper spits of test pits **E16/N8**, **E16/N9** and **E17/N8** may represent one knapping event and those in test pits **E27/N7** and **E27/N8** spits 1-2

another. In Area B some artefacts in **E34/N23** and **E35/N23** spits 1-2 may have common source.

Artefact data for the potential groups in *{E16/N8, E16/N9 and E17/N8}*, *{E27/N7 and E27/N8}* and *{E34/N23 and E35/N23}* were therefore examined separately for distinctive traits using the listings in Appendix D.

{E16/N8, E16/N9 and E17/N8}: Silcrete dominates over silicified tuff (13:4). Of 4 flakes, 14 -23 mm long, 2 are broad but 2 are longer than wide, with plain platforms, 1 focal, 3 medium - broad. The flakes plus 1 modified fragment (neat steep retouch on one margin) and 13 flake fragments or flaked pieces include 3 microblades. Heat pitting on one flake fragment may be post-use.

{E27/N7 and E27/N8, spits 1-2}: Silcrete dominates over silicified tuff / chert (11:4). Of 2 flakes one is short and broad but with a plain focal platform, the second 30mm long and longer than wide with abroad plain platform. Broad plain platforms dominate amongst the fragments. Some heat treatment may be represented; no definite microblades.

{E34/N23 and E35/N23}: Silcrete dominates over silicified tuff (22:2). Flakes are short, 11 - 25mm long and (apart from a 2-ridge blade) about as broad as long. On 6 flakes and 2 flake butts, 4 platforms are focal, the rest medium - broad and plain or battered. The remaining 17 flake fragments represent at least 4 microblades. One fragment has been heat treated.

All three small samples would fit into the type of assemblages commonly found in the area and judged as part of the general Bondaian tradition. Flakes and blades recovered from the test excavations tend to be less than 30mm long, made of silcrete and lacking evidence of use or modification. On the whole they can be interpreted as a portion of the generalised flaking debris left behind during Aboriginal use of the area and left to gradually move or be moved downwards through sediment layers.

7. Conclusions

A distinction can be made between artefacts recovered from the northern part, roughly Lots 16 W, 16 E and 17. These are likely to have been brought in with fill from elsewhere in the Parramatta area.

Stone artefacts recovered from the southern part, Lot 26 and notably Lot 27, are more likely to have been made and deposited in the area. However, the main artefact bearing surface(s) were removed and/or disturbed by colonial or later development activities. What has been recovered from the site represents but a small portion of generalised manufacturing debris mixed with some lost or discarded cores and implements. None of this was found in its original location.

The material appears to represent Bondaian assemblages (last 5 - 6 millennia) and probably the later stages of this.

It can, tentatively, be suggested that a small portion may be older, but this cannot be demonstrated.

8. References

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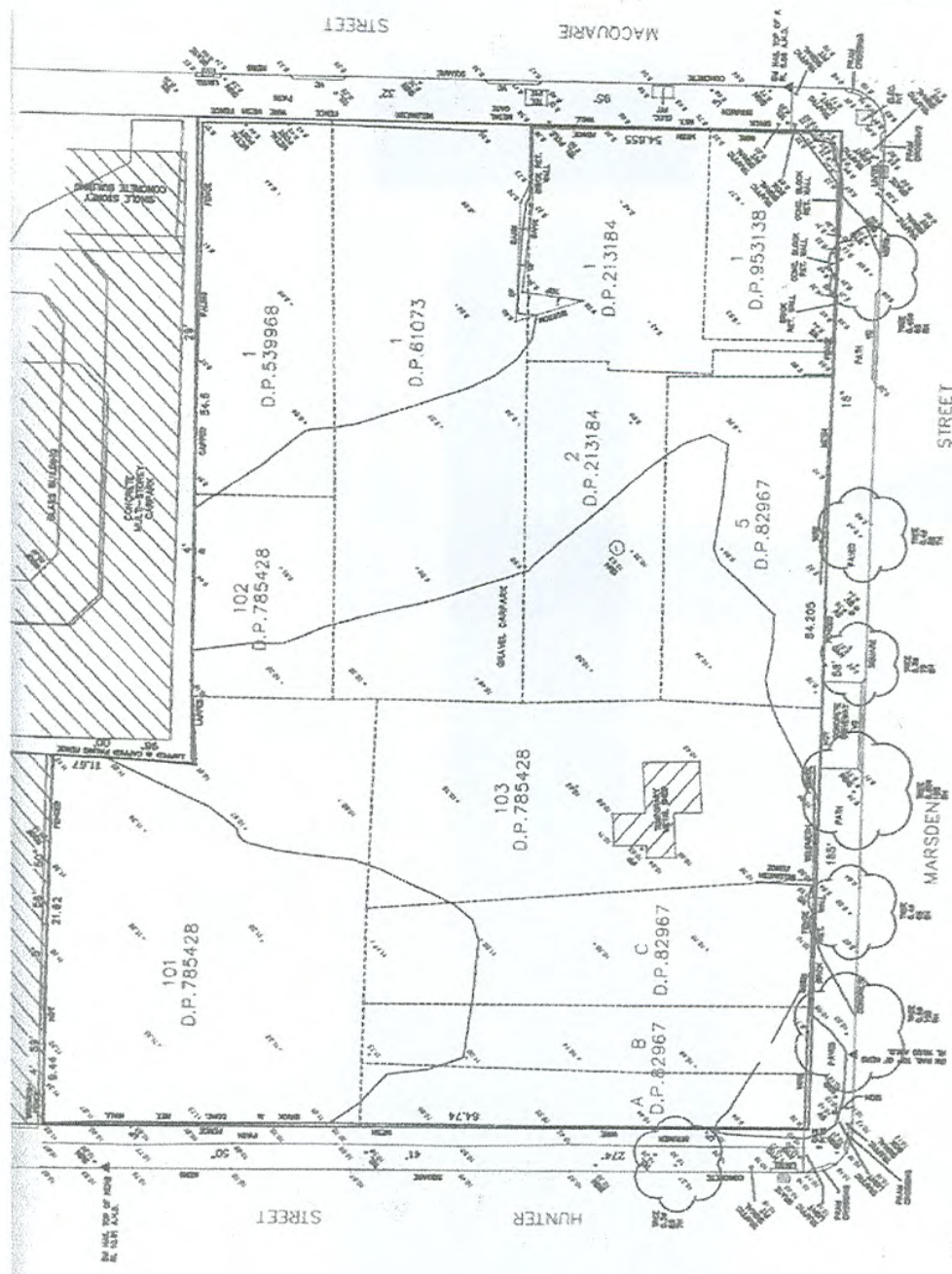


Figure 1.2. Site plan of 134-140 Marsden Street and 45-47 Macquarie Street, Parramatta.

15	Joshua High	0 1 33	16	John Walker	0 1 15	17	Thos. Leary	5 0 12	18	5 0 12
20	20 27	27	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26

Fig 1.4. Allotments 16-18 and 26-27

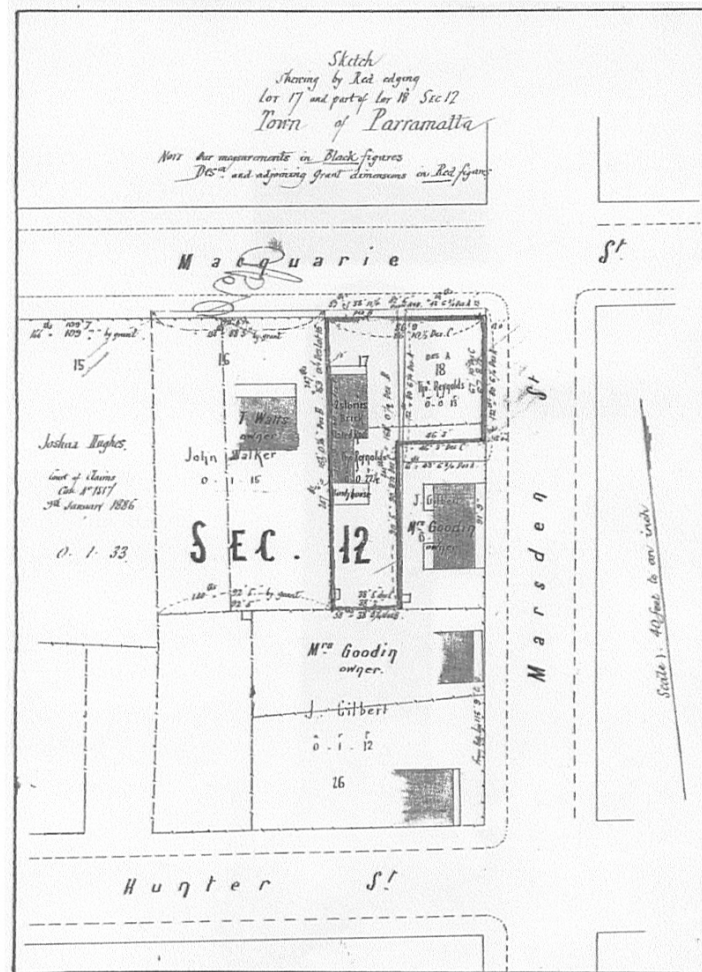




Plate 1. Allotment 16, west, Macquarie Street, showing brick and sandstone footings of cottage erected between 1844 and 1881 and concrete footings of c.1911 cottage (looking South; scale 1 metre). (DCP_5421.JPG)



Plate 2. Allotment 16, Macquarie Street: "Convict Hut", remains of wheelwright's workshop and building (1823 onwards), and brick footings of 1840s house. (The concrete footings in the foreground belong to a house erected c.1911 on Allotment 16, west (Aerial photo, oblique, looking East; scale 1 metre). (DCP_5764.JPG)



Plate 3. Allotment 17, Macquarie Street, showing cellar of "Wheastsheaf Hotel", 1801-1808 (looking West; scale 1 metre). (DCP_5533.JPG)



Plate 4. Allotment 26, Hunter Street, showing post-holes of "Convict Hut" and remains of later 19th century development (looking East; scale 1 metre). (DCP_5565.JPG)



Plate 5. Allotment 26, Hunter Street, showing post-holes of "Convict Hut" and remains of later 19th century development, including a cistern in the foreground (looking West; scale 1 metre). (DCP_5567.JPG)



Plate 6. Allotment 27, Hunter Street: Post-holes of "Convict Hut" and remains of later 19th century development (looking East; scale 1 metre). (DCP_5664.JPG)



Plate 7. Allotment 27, Hunter Street, showing post-holes of "Convict Hut" and remains of later 19th century development (looking West; scale 1 metre). (DCP_5670.JPG)

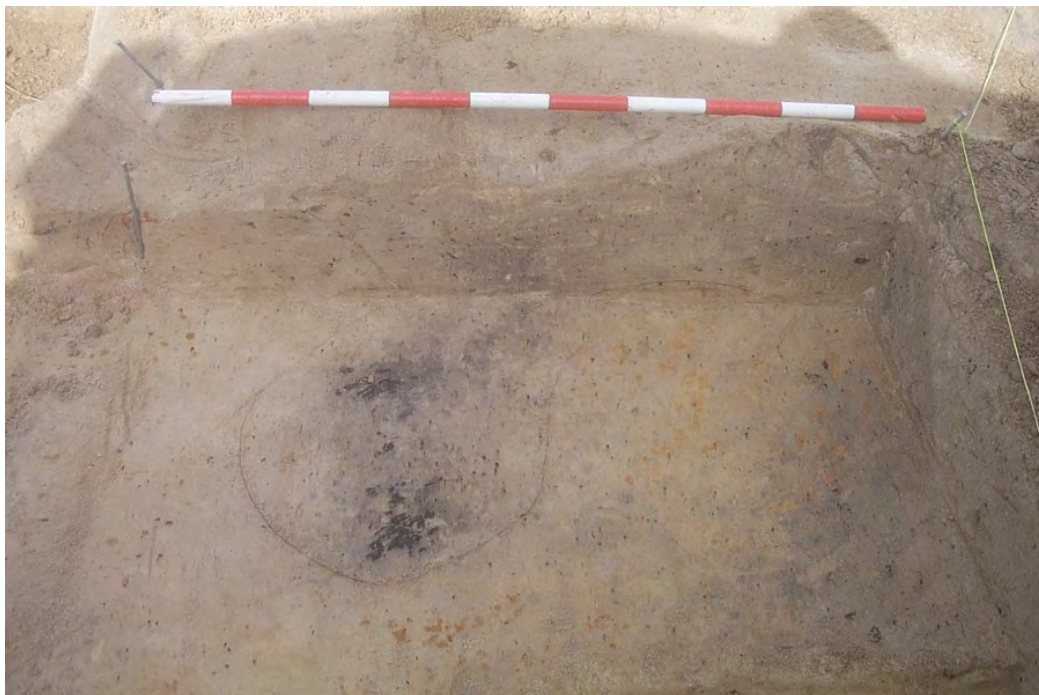


Plate 8. Test Excavations: E16/N8, looking S. Charcoal areas in spit 3. Artefacts found in Spits 1-3. (DCP_5872.JPG)

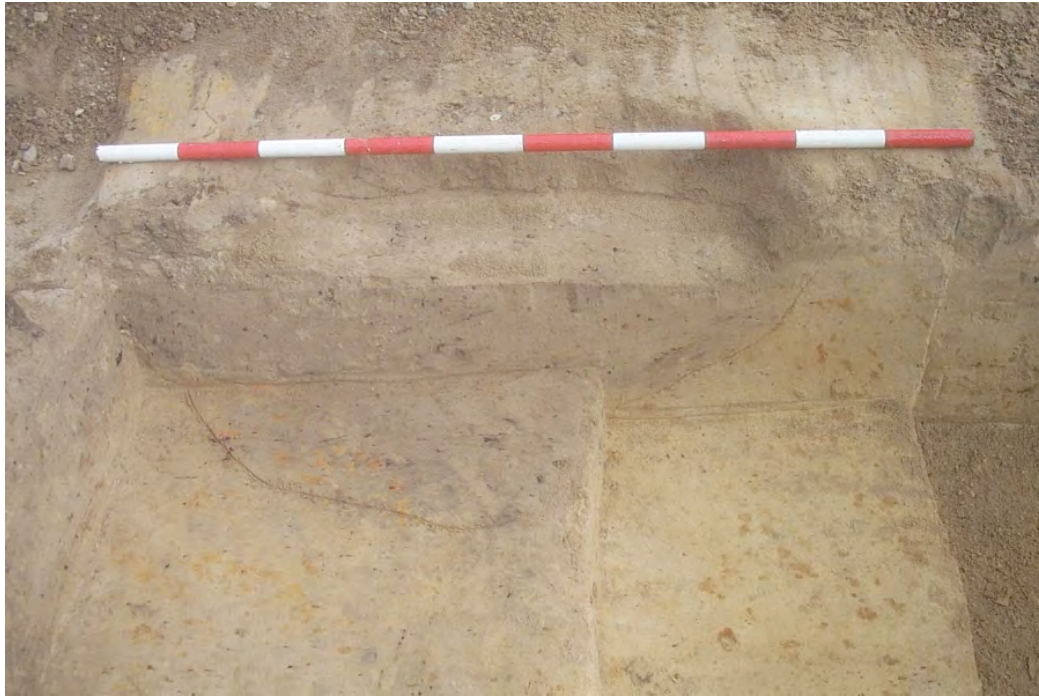


Plate 9. Test Excavations: E16/N8, looking W. Showing Feature 2 in Spit 3 as starting in spit 1 (historic feature) and continuing into E15/N8. (DCP_5874.JPG)



Plate 10. Test Excavations: E16/N8 & E16/N9, looking W. Showing historic features over spit 1 and continuing down in E16/N8. (DCP_5892.JPG)



Plate 11. Test Excavations: E16/N9, looking W. Pale sand with increasing iron precipitation. Artefacts in Spits 2-3. (DCP_5887.JPG)



Plate 12. Test Excavations: E17/N8, looking N. Fine pale sand. Patches of charcoal in Spits 1-2. Artefacts in Spit 1. (DCP_5821.JPG)



Plate 13. Test Excavations: E18/N9, looking W. Historic features in Spit 1, below this increasing precipitation of iron including ironstone nodules (see also 21 above). (DCP_5890.JPG)



Plate 14. Test Excavations: E23/N9, looking W. Historic features cut through Spit 1 into spit 2. Artefact found in Spit 1. Spits 3-8: no feature but some to heavy iron precipitation. (DCP_5889.JPG)



Plate 15. Test Excavations: E25/N9, looking W. Historic disturbance removed most of Spit 1 and much of Spit 2 except along W section. Below this featureless with some small sandstone fragments and some artefacts in Spits 1-4. (DCP_5888.JPG)



Plate 16. Test Excavations: E27/N7, looking W. Historic feature in SW corner down to - 17cm. Below this mainly increasing iron precipitation, and artefacts in Spits 1-4. (DCP_5880.JPG)