

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

**WANDA -1 ALFRED
STREET, SYDNEY**

**STAGE 2 SSD DA (TOWER
B)**

(D/2015/1049)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Historical Archaeological Assessment (HAA) and Research Design and Methodology (RD&M) has been prepared to satisfy the Conditions of Consent provided by the City of Sydney Council for Stage 2 State Significant Development (SSD) Development Application (DA) (Tower B) (D/2015/1049). It has also been prepared on the basis of the Heritage Impact Statement and Preliminary Archaeological Assessment prepared for the Stage 1 SSD DA (prepared by GML Heritage in June 2014), which identified that:

“A detailed historical archaeological assessment for the area of the subject site outside the footprint of Gold Fields House should be prepared. If this assessment confirms that relics are likely to be impacted, an archaeological research design and Section 140 Excavation Permit will be required prior to completion of the Stage 2 approval process.”¹

This HAA and RD&M has reviewed the relevant historical, archaeological and environmental information relevant to the Study Area, and undertaken a review of relevant literature prepared for similar sites within the Sydney CBD.

As a result of the above, the following conclusions have been made:

- If found to be present and intact, any historical archaeological material/resources uncovered within the Study Area are likely to be of local and/or state significance;
- The redevelopment of the Study Area cannot proceed without the prior removal of the potential archaeological resource *in its entirety*. This is due to the current proposal, which incorporates six basement levels, necessitating the complete sub-surface disturbance of this area of potential;
- Impacts associated with the complete removal of the potential archaeological resource within the area of archaeological potential would be mitigated through the full excavation of the Area of Archaeological Impact (Figure 49). This excavation is to be undertaken in accordance with the Research Design provided at Section 10 of this report;
- The Heritage Interpretation Strategy that has been prepared concurrent to this HAA and RD&M will assist in further mitigating the identified impact associated with the total removal of the archaeological resource at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above discussion, the following management recommendations have been prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation and guiding documents.

It is noted that the demolition and construction management plans for the redevelopment of the site are subject to Stage 2 DA approval, and may be subject to change following DA submission and based on feedback received. As such, it is stressed that the excavation methodology presented in this report may also be subject to change. Any changes to the proposed methodology will be discussed with the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, prior to commencement of the archaeological program.

Recommendation 1

Full archaeological investigation should be undertaken in the identified Area of Archaeological Impact (Figure 49) in accordance with the Research Design provided at Section 10 of this report.

Recommendation 2

Any significant archaeological material or resources uncovered during the archaeological excavation should be incorporated into the eventual Interpretation Plan for the site, so as to enable public appreciation of the resource.

¹ GML Heritage, 2014, *Gold Fields House—Heritage Impact Statement and Preliminary Archaeological Assessment*, prepared for Dalian Wanda Group: p. 45.

Recommendation 3

The NSW Heritage Division should be consulted as part of the historical archaeological investigation, and be provided opportunity to provide ongoing comment regarding proposed excavation methodologies, management of any archaeological resource uncovered, and the incorporation of any such resource into an eventual Interpretation Plan and any interpretative displays.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

The following Historical Archaeological Assessment has been prepared for a parcel of land located within the Sydney Central Business District (CBD), which falls within the Sydney Local Government Area (LGA) in the state of New South Wales (NSW).

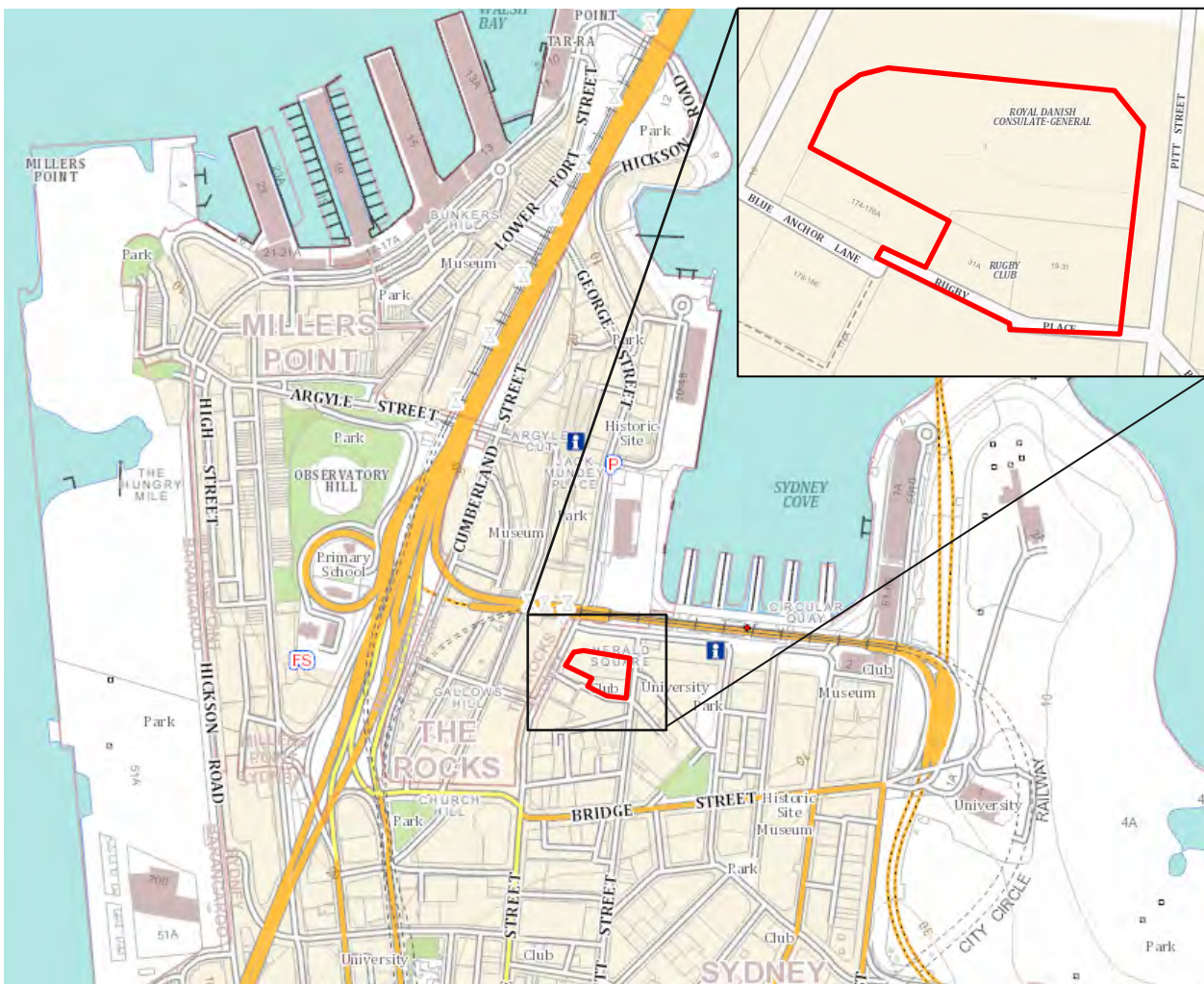
The parcel of land being assessed, which is herein referred to as the 'Study Area', is located in proximity to Circular Quay; it is bounded by Alfred Street to the north, Pitt Street to the east, George Street to the west, and Rugby Place to the south.

It comprises the following addresses/allotments:

- 'Gold Fields House', 1 Alfred Street, Lot 1 DP 220830 and Lot 1 DP 217877;
- 'Fairfax House', 19-31 Pitt Street, Lot 1 DP 537286; and
- 'Rugby Club' and part of Rugby Place, 31A Pitt Street, Lot 180 DP 606866.

The location of the Study Area is shown in Figure 1, below.

Figure 1 – Location map (Study Area indicated)



[Source: SixMaps 2016]

1.2. PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The current Stage 2 SSD DA seeks detailed consent for:

- Demolition of all existing structures on the site;
- Construction of a hotel consisting of a tower with a maximum building height of 110m (RL 112.5) including:
 - six ground floor retail tenancies
 - 182 hotel rooms (excluding caretaker room);
 - Common hotel facilities including a swimming pool, spa, gymnasium, ballroom, all day dining facilities, multimedia rooms, restaurant, and bar; and
 - 19,119sqm of gross floor area;
- Construction of a six level basement for use by the hotel (Tower B) and residential tower (Tower A) for car parking, storage, access, back of house areas, and services;
- Vehicular access via a driveway and porte cochere on Pitt Street;
- Identification of building signage zones;
- Excavation and construction of public domain improvements including provision of laneways/ pedestrian thoroughfares, public art and landscaping across the site;
- Dewatering as required; and
- Augmentation of physical infrastructure and utilities as needed.

The proposed activity is discussed in greater detail in Section 8, below.

1.3. METHODOLOGY

The report has been prepared in accordance with the following documents:

- NSW Heritage Office of the Department of Planning, 1996, *Archaeological Assessments. NSW Heritage Manual*.
- *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, 2013. *The Burra Charter and Archaeological Practice. Practice Note. 2013*.
- NSW Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning, 2009, *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*.
- NSW Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning, 2009, *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Management Plans*.

1.4. AUTHOR IDENTIFICATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following report has been prepared by Karyn Virgin (Senior Heritage Consultant/Archaeologist).

This report has been reviewed by and input received from Anne Bickford (consultant Historical Archaeologist to Urbis) and Fiona Binns (Associate Director – Urbis Heritage).

Unless otherwise stated, all drawings, illustrations and photographs are the work of Urbis.

2. RELEVANT STATUTORY CONTROLS

In New South Wales, historical archaeological sites are protected under the Heritage Act, 1977. It is noted, however, that the classification of the project as State Significant Development (SSD) means that the above listed legislation no longer applies to this DA.

Management of heritage and archaeology within the Study Area is therefore guided and governed by the applicable Conditions of Consent and the relevant SEARS for the overall project. Notwithstanding this, the above mentioned legislation and associated guiding documents (refer Section 1.3) form the basis of this HAA and RD&M in accordance with best practice.

2.1. HERITAGE ACT 1977

In New South Wales, historical archaeological sites are protected under the Heritage Act, 1977.

The purpose of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 (as amended) is to conserve the environmental heritage of the State. Environmental heritage is broadly defined under Section 4 of the Heritage Act as consisting of the following items: 'those places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts, of State or local heritage significance.'

Amendments to the Heritage Act made in 2009 have changed the definition of an archaeological 'relic' under the Act. A relic is now an archaeological deposit, resource or feature that has heritage significance at a local or State level. The definition is no longer based on age.

This significance based approach to identifying 'relics' is consistent with the way other heritage items such as buildings, works, precincts or landscapes are identified and managed in NSW.

The Act requires that historical archaeological sites and 'relics' are managed in accordance with permits issued by the Heritage Council of NSW. The consent of the Heritage Council is required before any archaeological 'relics' are disturbed.

An archaeological site is an area which contains one or more archaeological 'relics'.

2.1.1. Permits to Excavate or Disturb Land

Under the Heritage Act 1977 (as amended), an application needs to be made to the Heritage Council in the event that it is proposed to disturb or excavate any land in NSW that is likely to contain archaeological remains. There are two types of applications, depending on whether the site is listed on the State Heritage Register.

s60 Application

To disturb or excavate sites listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an interim heritage order (IHO) applies.

s140 Archaeological Permit and s144 Permit Variation

To disturb or excavate sites not listed on the State Heritage Register.

2.1.2. Archaeological Exceptions/Exemptions

In some circumstances a full excavation permit as listed above may not be required when excavating land in NSW. Usually this is where works are only minor in nature, and will have minimal impact on the heritage significance of the place. Again, the particular form to be used (Exception/Exemption) will depend on whether the site is listed on the State Heritage Register or not.

s57 Exemption Notification Form

To notify the Executive Director of the Heritage Division of certain activities covered by Standard Exemption 4 (Excavation) for items listed on the State Heritage Register.

s139 Exception and s146 Notification

s139 Exception Applications are used for sites that are not listed on the State Heritage Register and in instances where it can be demonstrated that:

- s139 (1B) The excavation or disturbance of land will have a minor impact on archaeological relics including the testing of land to verify the existence of relics without destroying or removing them;

OR

- s139 (1C) A brief written statement describing the proposed excavation demonstrates that evidence relating to the history or nature of the site, such as its level of disturbance, indicates that the site has little likelihood of Relics or no archaeological research potential.

A s146 Notification is required when a person has discovered or located a relic (in any circumstances and whether or not the person has been issued with a permit).

3. STUDY AREA DESCRIPTION

The following description of the Study Area has been compiled based on relevant aerial and topographic mapping, a review of previous and current land uses, and a field survey of the area, which was undertaken on 22 August 2016.

3.1. SITE LOCATION, ACCESS AND SETTING

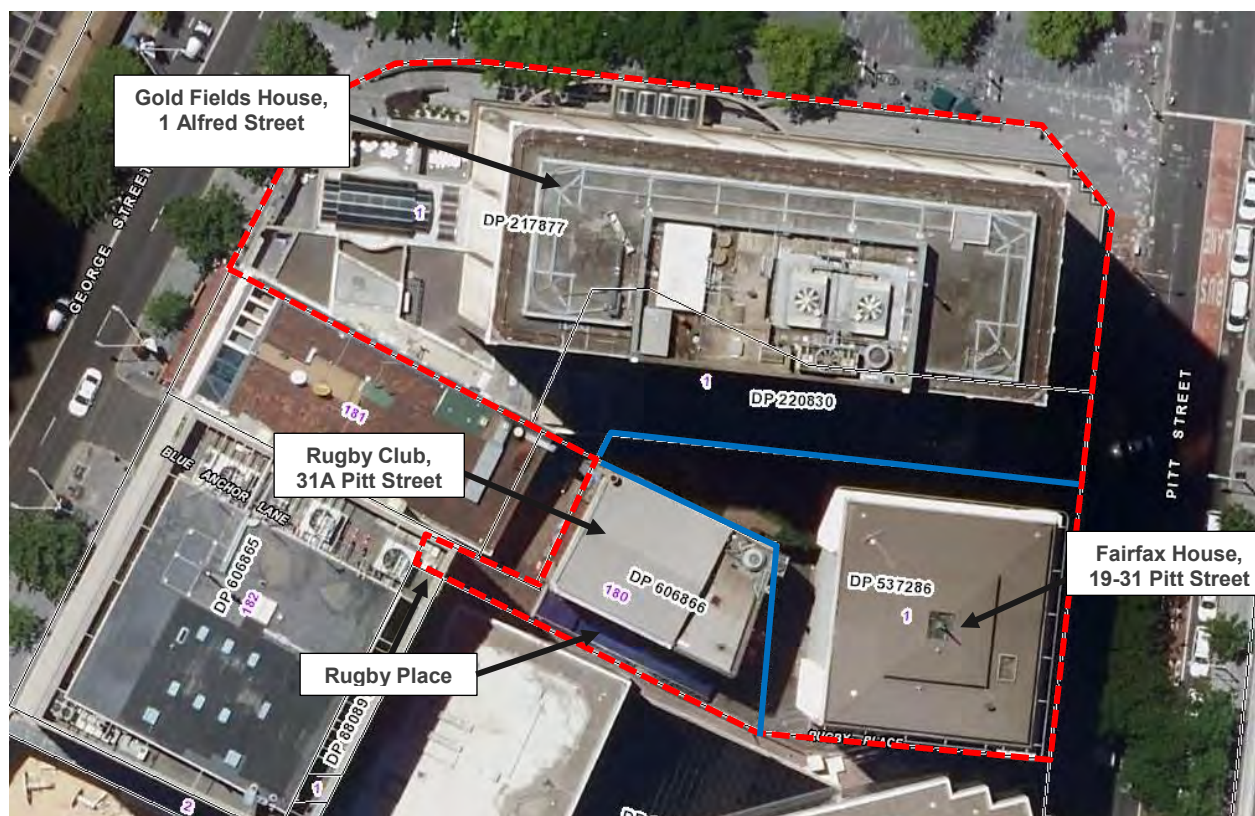
The Study Area is located within the Sydney CBD, which falls within the Sydney LGA. It is located in proximity to Circular Quay, and is bounded by Alfred Street to the north, Pitt Street to the east, George Street to the west, and Rugby Place to the south.

As already identified at Section 1.1 above, the Study Area comprises the following addresses/allotments:

- ‘Gold Fields House’, 1 Alfred Street, Lot 1 DP 220830 and Lot 1 DP 217877;
- ‘Fairfax House’, 19-31 Pitt Street, Lot 1 DP 537286; and
- ‘Rugby Club’ and part of Rugby Place, 31A Pitt Street, Lot 180 DP 606866.

Aerial imagery of the Study Area showing the boundaries of these allotments has been provided in Figure 2, below.

Figure 2 – Aerial view of the Study Area (red outline). The blue outline demarcates individual property boundaries



[Source: SixMaps 2016]

In terms of accessibility, both Gold Fields House and Fairfax House are accessible by both pedestrians and vehicles via the surrounding streets. Pedestrian access to Gold Fields House is via Alfred Street to the north and Pitt Street to the east, while vehicle access is via Pitt Street alone. Pedestrian access to Fairfax House is via Pitt Street, and vehicle access is via Rugby Place. Rugby Club does not contain parking facilities and is not accessible via vehicle. Pedestrian access to the building is via Rugby Place.

In terms of setting, the Study Area is located within a highly developed, urbanised landscape located in proximity to Circular Quay and at the northern end of the Sydney CBD. It is generally surrounded by comparable multi-storey development in all directions, though the lower-scale, three storey Ship Inn is located to the immediate east of Gold Fields House; this represents the lowest scale of development in the immediate vicinity of the Study Area.

To the immediate north of Gold Fields House is 'Herald Square', a pe. To the north of this and on the opposite side of Alfred Street is Circular Quay Railway Station and associated railway line, which runs in an east-west. The Opera House is located approximately 700 metres to the northeast, and the Harbour Bridge is located approximately 800 metres to the north.

3.2. INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

The following description of individual elements contained within the Study Area has been sourced from the preliminary environmental assessment prepared by Coffey Environments Australia Pty Ltd to inform the Stage 1 SSD Application.²

3.2.1. Gold Fields House – 1 Alfred Street

Gold Fields House, located at 1 Alfred Street, comprises 28 levels with a lower ground floor and two to three levels of basement (three to George Street and two to Pitt Street, due to slope of site). It was constructed in 1966.

The ground level of Gold Fields House is level with George Street to the west but is above street level to the east (i.e. at Pitt Street) and north (i.e. Alfred Street). The entrance to the building is from the north (i.e. Alfred Street). The ground level is currently occupied by the following:

- The main entrance lobby, escalators to the lower ground level and lifts to upper levels of Gold Fields House;
- The western portion of the ground level is occupied by retail spaces (currently occupied by a café and convenience store).

The lower ground level of Gold Fields House is below street level at the west (i.e. at George Street) but at street level to the east (i.e. at Pitt Street). The lower ground level is currently occupied by the following:

- Retail area along the north and east boundary of the site (currently occupied by wine, food, coffee shop, gifts and boots store and a convenience store);
- Car park access at the south-eastern corner of the building on Pitt Street. The car park access leads to underground car park levels and is leased by Wilson Parking;
 - On-site security officer's room and a storage room for furniture.
- Tenant storage is also available at lower ground level;
- Tenant storage is also available on levels 1 to 12, which are also known as 'low rise' levels;
- Loading dock at the central portion of the southern boundary of the site, accessed via George Street.

The basement levels are mainly occupied by car parking accessed via Pitt Street. The following additional features are also present:

- Some storage areas and facility services, including fire control room, are present on the southern boundary;
- Diesel generator;

² Coffey Environments Australia Pty Ltd, June 2015, *Wanda 1 Sydney Pty Ltd, Australia Sydney 1 Project, Environmental Phase 1 Assessment*, prepared for Wanda 1 Sydney Pty Ltd, Australia Sydney 1 Project: 4-7.

- Cleaners storage room;
- Grease trap room;
- Sump pits;
- An Energy Australia substation within a sealed room.

Figure 3 – Photographs of Gold Fields House (Urbis 2016)



Picture 1 – View facing southwest from the eastern side of Pitt Street



Picture 2 – View facing southeast from Herald Square

3.2.2. Fairfax House – 19-31 Pitt Street

Fairfax House, located at 19-31 Pitt Street, comprises 14 levels with one basement level. It was constructed in the late 1960s.

The ground level of Fairfax House is level with Pitt Street to the east and Rugby Place to the south. The entrance to the building is from the east (i.e. Pitt Street). The ground level is currently occupied by the following:

- The majority of the south eastern area of the ground level is occupied by a coffee shop;
- The central area of the ground level is occupied by lifts to upper levels of Fairfax House;
- The north eastern portion of the ground level is occupied by retail spaces (currently occupied by a jewellery store and other retail stores). These retail stores have separate entrances.

The basement level is mainly occupied by limited staff car park accessed via Rugby Place. The following features were observed:

- Car parking on concrete;
- Storage areas and facility services, including fire control room, switch room, main distribution frame for telecommunications, gas pipes and water meter are present on this level;
- Chemical storage area. A disused pit, which had been covered by a slightly elevated concrete slab is located in this room. The pit may have been used as an oil trap in the past as it has piping connected to it from the walls which a label stating 'Hp Oil Trans Pump'. No information was available with regard to the depth of the pit.

Figure 4 – Photograph of Fairfax House (Urbis 2016)



Picture 3 – View facing southwest from the eastern side of Pitt Street. Gold Fields House visible at right of frame

3.2.3. Rugby Club – 31A Pitt Street

The Rugby Club building, located at 31A Pitt Street, comprises six levels with no basement. It was constructed c. 1914.

The ground level of the Rugby Club building is level with Rugby Place to the south. The entrance to the building is from the south (i.e. Rugby Place). The ground level is currently occupied by the following:

- Bar, eating area and gaming room. To the east of the bar (north eastern boundary) is a small storage area containing gas cylinders, beer kegs and other beverage/retail items. A chilling room is located south west of this storage area and a cleaners storage room north of this area;
- Lifts to upper levels of the Rugby Club is located on the south eastern portion of the ground floor;
- The southern end of the ground level is an outdoor eating area (part of the bar area), at the entrance to the Rugby Club;

- A grease trap is located outside the building, at the south eastern boundary;
- A small electrical meter room is located at the south eastern corner of the building, adjacent to the grease trap and sprinkler system.

Figure 5 – Photographs of the Rugby Club (Urbis 2016)



Picture 4 – View of the Rugby Club facing northwest from within Rugby Place



Picture 5 – View of the ground floor of the Rugby Club facing northwest from within Rugby Place

3.2.4. Rugby Place

Rugby Place is a narrow street that runs in an east-west along the southern side of Fairfax House and the Rugby Club. It is accessible via both George Street to the west and Pitt Street to the east, and provides vehicle access to the Fairfax House basement parking and pedestrian access to the Rugby Club. It is currently asphalted with a raised footpath on either side.

4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The following historical context has been sourced from the *Heritage Impact Statement and Preliminary Archaeological Assessment* prepared by GML Heritage in June 2014, which provides a comprehensive overview of the historical development of the Study Area; note that this report was submitted as part of the Stage 1 DA, and encompasses the same Study Area as that currently being assessed in this report.

Where required, this has been supplemented by further historical research undertaken by Urbis, as well as reference to other sources relevant to the immediate area.

4.1. PRE-EUROPEAN OCCUPATION AND LANDFORM

Prior to the arrival of Europeans in 1788, the subject site was within the traditional lands of the Gadigal (or Cadigal) people, which covered the area south of Sydney Harbour from South Head to around Petersham. Aboriginal people had occupied the Sydney area for upwards of 15,000 to 20,000 years, as identified by archaeological sites in the Sydney district.³

At the time of arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 there were an estimated 1,500 Gadigal people living in the area of Sydney, although numbers have never been accurately recorded. As their territory extended along the harbour foreshore, as well as the wooded hills and valleys behind it, the Gadigal people were able to vary their diet with seafood and terrestrial foods, including edible plants and animals. Fish from the harbour were supplemented with shellfish and molluscs, including oysters, gathered from the foreshores and mudflats that characterised the natural shoreline of the harbour. The area includes the current study area, which straddled the estuarine mouth of the Tank Stream.

Figure 6 – View of Sydney from the western side of the cove, c. 1803, attributed to G.W. Evans



Source: State Library of NSW, <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/collection-items/sydney-western-side-cove>

³ Attenbrow, V, 2002, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past*, UNSW Press, Sydney: 3.

The Tank Stream, as it was to be called by the First Fleet settlers, was one of a number of small streams and creeks that entered the harbour at the time of the European arrival. Its position in a sheltered cove was a deciding factor in the choice of a landing site for the arriving Fleet. At the time of arrival, Sydney Cove was lined on the western shore by sandy white beaches graduating to mud banks at the entrance of the stream into the harbour.⁴

The slopes around the cove and the valley extending to the south would have been forested with indigenous trees and shrubs such as swamp mahogany, white gum, smooth-barked apple tree, bloodwood, turpentine and swamp oak, with an under-storey of acacia, banksias and other shrubs. The stream, which originated in marshy ground close to present day Hyde Park, ran north to meet the harbour at the tidal point close to the middle of present day Bridge Street. Its route to the harbour ran along the centre of a valley created by the stream through the sandstone bedrock, with the high points being approximately equivalent to the position of York and Macquarie Streets. The current alignment of Pitt Street, north from Bridge Street to Alfred Street, ran through the mud banks and into the open water of the original shore line.

The banks and valley area of the Tank Stream were utilised by the Gadigal people for campsites and gathering of food and fresh water. Archaeological excavation of sites in Sydney, including the Angel Place development site to the south of the Study Area (near the corner of Pitt Street and Martin Place, where a number of flaked-stone artefacts were retrieved from the remnant natural bed and banks of the Tank Stream), indicate the use of the Tank Stream Valley by the original inhabitants.⁵

The Tank Stream is shown on the view of the western side of the Cove at Figure 6 above. The GML report notes that despite the above, it is considered that because the Study Area sits within the *tidal zone and on the mud banks* of the original stream, particularly on the eastern portion of the Study Area, the likelihood of similar results being produced is somewhat lessened. The western side of the Study Area however, being located on the slightly elevated bank of the Stream, has a greater degree of the potential to contain artefactual material within residual and/or less disturbed soil profiles.

4.1.1. European Settlement and Shoreline Reclamation 1788- 1845

The arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 had an immediate impact on the shoreline of Sydney Cove and the Tank Stream. The impact of Europeans was felt immediately in the Tank Stream valley where convicts and marines went ashore on the first morning to begin felling trees and clearing the site for the settlement. Figure 7, a plan of the head of Sydney Cove as surveyed in March 1788, shows the positioning of the first shelters and buildings around the cove and on either side of the long tidal zone that formed the head of the stream. Within a few months of the arrival of the Fleet, a wooden bridge had been built over the head of the stream to allow crossings from one side to the other. A track leading down to the bridge became the basis of the future Bridge Street and represented the first east–west crossing in the new town.

In 1797, the first town leases were granted in Sydney, which included a number of sites along the western edge of the Tank Stream facing George Street. Although these areas had been previously occupied in an unofficial capacity, the issue of leases and conditions upon them represent the first phase of deliberate alteration to the stream and its bed. A number of the leases extended beyond the high watermark, across the mud flats to the edge of the actual stream bed (see Figure 9). Despite the growing population and increasing shipping trade in Sydney after 1800, much of the developing wharf accommodation, while being in Sydney Cove, was being developed on either side of the Cove rather than at the head of the Cove.

Wharfs and warehouses were being constructed further north of the study area, with the site remaining as open mud flats on the eastern side until the 1840s. Facing George Street, however, the site had buildings appearing from the 1790s.

⁴ Campbell, JF, 'The Valley of the Tank Stream', in *Journal of the Royal Australian historical Society*, Vol X, Part II, 1924: 69.

⁵ GML Heritage, Angel Place Project 1997, Archaeological Excavation Volume 3, Salvage Excavation of Site #45-6-2581, report prepared for AMP Asset Management Australia, the NSW Heritage Council and NPWS (NSW).

Figure 7 – March 1788 survey of the Head of Sydney Cove showing the approximate position of the Study Area. This plan shows the earliest positions of the European settlement on either side of the Tank Stream which can be seen emptying into the harbour. The long tidal zone and mud flats are shown on this plan



Source: *A Voyage to NSW: The Journal of William Bradley of HMS Sirius 1786-1792, facsimile edition, 1969 with Urbis overlay (indicative only)*

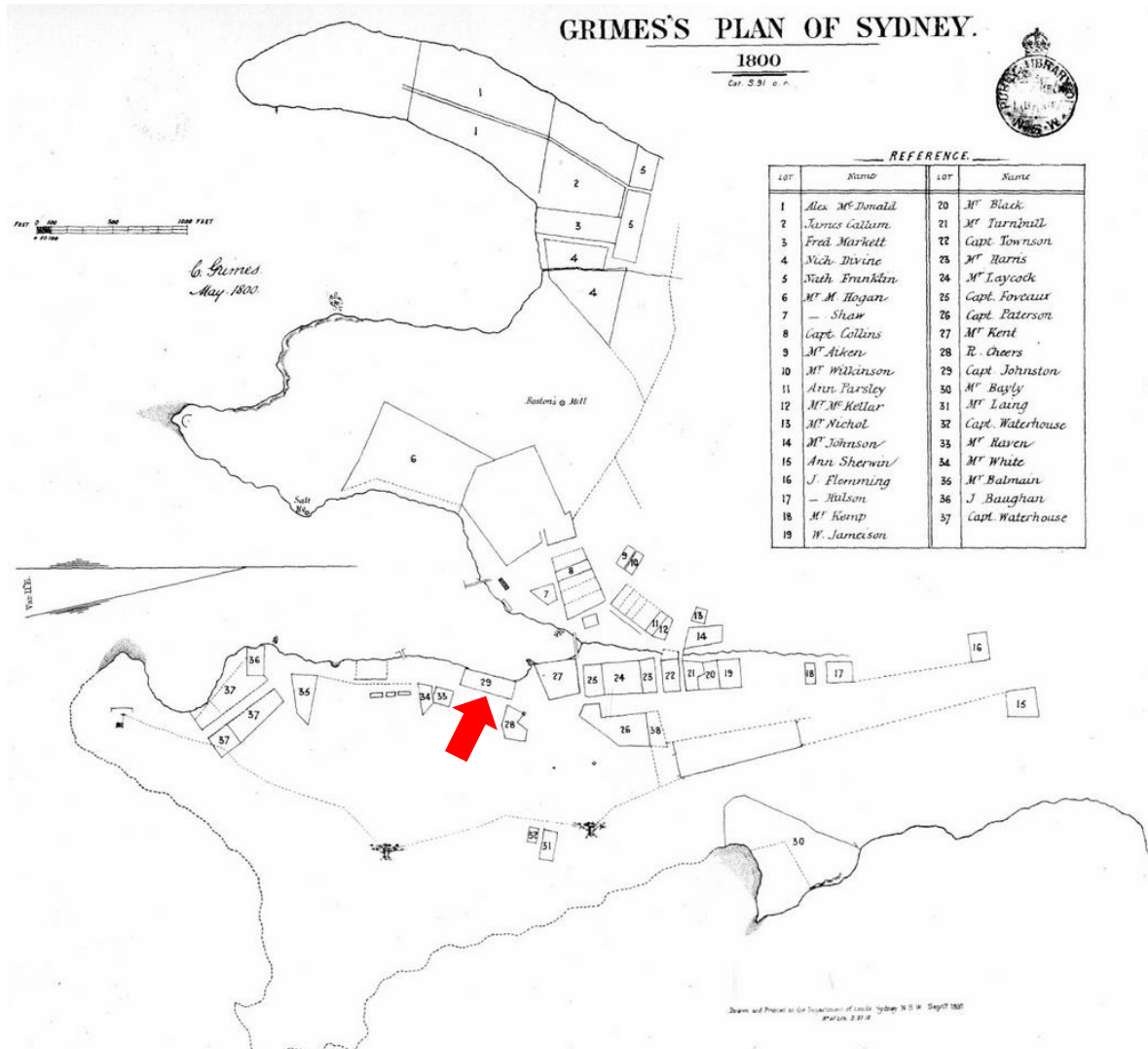
Major George Johnston's Grant

The Study Area appears to lie within the lease of Major George Johnston. Governor John Hunter leased Captain George Johnston land on the west side Sydney Cove on 7 January 1796. The allotment measured 360 feet (109.73m) 'in front' bearing west on the road leading to the hospital (later George Street) by 70 feet (21.34m) in depth. The 14-year lease specified the allotment's use for building and attracting a quit rent of 2 shillings and six pence per annum. According to Alan Roberts Johnston's early use of this land was for market gardening.⁶

⁶ Casey and Lowe, 2014, *Non-Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment & Impact Statement, Lend Lease Circular Quay Development – 182 & 33-35 Pitt Street, Sydney*, report to Lend Lease Development Pty Ltd, p: 23-24.

Johnston had arrived with the First Fleet and risen to prominence in the colony as commander of the Rum Corps, for his part in suppressing the uprising of convicts at Vinegar Hill in 1804 and as the head of the troops who arrested Governor Bligh during the Rum Rebellion in 1808.⁷ Although Johnston was returned to England and court-martialled for his involvement, he was allowed to return to the colony in 1813 where he remained until his death in 1823, farming on his large Annandale Farm estate.

Figure 8 – Grimes' plan of Sydney Cove (1800) with Johnston's grant indicated by No. 29



Source: State Library of NSW, Mitchell Library Z/Ce 89/13 ML SLNSW, Urbis arrow

Johnston reportedly took little interest in his town allotment until the early 19th century. Governor King renewed Johnston's lease in January 1806 with the area recorded, marginally reduced in size, as 340 feet (103.6m) by 70 feet (21.4m) and adjacent to William Blake's allotment (to the north). The eastern boundary of Johnston's lease appears to align with the high water mark however at low tide it was some distance from the waterline.⁸ The lease was again renewed in 1816 and by 1819 he was reputed to have been building houses. Johnston died in January 1823 and in June of that year Governor Brisbane granted the land, now described as 288 rods (0.73 ha), to Johnston's daughters, Julia, Maria and Blanche Johnston⁹ (refer Figure 10).¹⁰

⁷ A. T. Yarwood, 'Johnston, George (1764 - 1823)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, Melbourne University Press, 1967: 20–22.

⁸ A. T. Yarwood, 'Johnston, George (1764 - 1823)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, Melbourne University Press, 1967: 20–22.

⁹ A. T. Yarwood, 'Johnston, George (1764 - 1823)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, Melbourne University Press, 1967: 26.

Figure 9 – 1807 Plan of the Town of Sydney by James Meehan. This plan, with the Study Area indicated, shows the early leases along George Street which extended through the Study Area. These sites were developed early with shops and stores catering to the nearby wharves. Johnston’s land is identified as No. 8 in this map



Source: Ashton, P and D Waterson, 2000, *Sydney Takes Shape*, HEMA, Sydney, Urbis overlay

After Maria Johnston’s death in 1833 the Johnston Estate was granted to Julia Johnston, Blanche Weston née Johnston, and George Edward Weston (Blanche’s husband). The allotment included reclaimed land between George Johnston’s grant and the Tank Stream. By this time the stream was no more than an open sewer, with its attendant health and environmental problems.

¹⁰ Weingarh, J, The Head of Sydney Cove, in the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol X, Part V, 1924, p: 293.

The Assessment Book entry for 1845 records development on Weston's grant, and at least partially within the Study Area fronting George Street including two single storey, four room dwellings with a rated value of £25 and £30 respectively, the latter of which is noted to have been in a ruinous condition (and potentially redeveloped c. 1848 based on changing descriptions/valuations listed in the Rates Assessment Books). A two storey shop, store and dwelling is also recorded, incorporating a large yard with 70ft long 2 storey store and workshop (Ewen's premises shown on Fowles illustration at Figure 12 below).

The Study Area remained in Weston's ownership (and that of the estate) at least in part up until the 1870s.

Figure 10 – 1833 Plan showing Weston's Grant and illustrating further reclamation of land along the Tank Stream



Source: City of Sydney Archives, Historical Atlas of Sydney, City Survey Plans, 1833 – Section 47

William Blake's Grant (to the north)

Overlay of historical mapping suggests that the Study Area was located to the south and outside of William Blake's grant (designated by the 71 on the 1807 map above at Figure 9) which extended from George Street to the high watermark. Blake had sold the lease to Edward Wills in c1807 and buildings had been erected facing George Street by this time. Wills died in 1811 and his widow Sarah married George Howe, who had founded the Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser—Sydney's first newspaper—in 1803. Edward had run a store on the site, which was likely later used by Howe to house his publishing presses. Part of the Cove behind the store building had been resumed by the 1820s.

Figure 11 – 1822 Plan of the Town and Suburbs of Sydney. George Street and Bridge Street have been created as has Macquarie Place, all which are beginning to give shape to the area around the study site. The approximate position of the Study Area is shown in relation to the natural Tank Stream flow and the mud flats where it entered the harbour



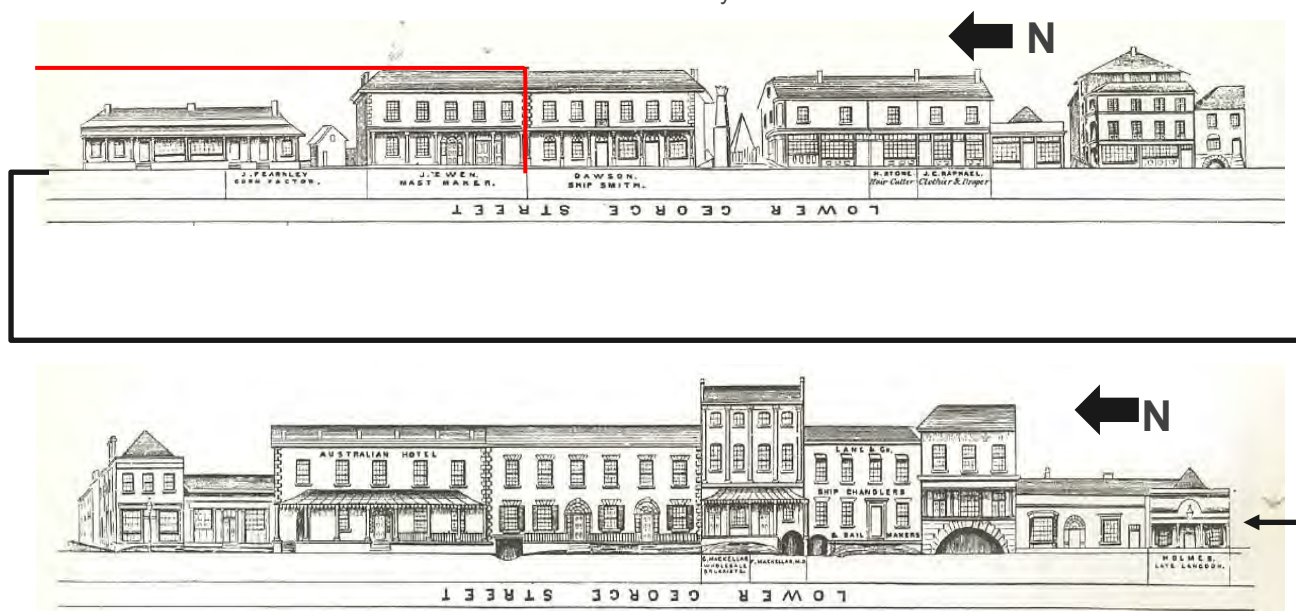
Source: Ashton, P and D Waterson, 2000, *Sydney Takes Shape*, HEMA, Sydney, Urbis overlay

Sketches of George Street in 1848 (Figure 12) show the eastern side of George Street between Essex Street and the Queens Wharf. The Study Area was north of Dawson's Foundry and appears to incorporate premises for J.Ewen, mastmaker and Fearnley's corn factor. The northernmost section includes the House of Isaac Nichols (1810) the first post master, the Australian Hotel, the premises of Shopgood, Hawkins and Co and at the far right, the home of John Lord Holmes; formerly George Howe's Sydney Gazette office. The latter was part of William Blake's grant as detailed above (refer to Figure 9 above). The illustration also shows openings under the buildings for access to the water's edge of the Tank Stream.

This section of George Street represented the hub of the colonial trade and mercantile scene, with houses, shops, warehouses, taverns and traders all vying for the trade generated by the nearby wharves and the ships that visited them. The street resembled a maritime English town, dependent largely on shipping for their subsistence.¹¹

Fowles illustration is consistent with Rates and Assessment Book entry for 1848.

Figure 12 – Joseph Fowles 1848 sketch of the northern section of George Street between Essex Lane and Queens Wharf showing the style of development fronting George Street. An approximate Study Area is given (in red). The bottom section is located outside and to the immediate north of the Study Area



Source: Fowles, J, *Sydney in 1848*, facsimile edition 1962, Ure Smith

4.1.2. The Tank Stream and Semi-Circular Quay

The Tank Stream is not located *within* the Study Area, but is located to the immediate east. It comprises a three metre curtilage around its entirety, which extends into the Study Area. Despite this, it will not be impacted or exposed by the current proposal. The following historical overview is provided for context and reference regarding the development of the Study Area.

Although the original settlement around the head of Sydney Cove had depended on the Tank Stream for its fresh water needs, within the first twenty years of settlement the stream had been fouled with sewage, rubbish and run-off from piggeries and yards, making the water undrinkable and transforming the Tank Stream into an open sewer, with its attendant health and environmental problems.

The deterioration of the Tank Stream and the unpleasant odours emitted by accumulated waste encouraged land owners and their tenants to build as near as possible to the George Street boundary facing away from the cove. The exception was secondary buildings such as stores, sheds and workshops linked to trade and maritime activities that were built towards the centre of the leases in a haphazard fashion. The condition of the stream, along with the growing need for wharf space in Sydney Cove, prompted the gradual covering over of the Tank Stream and the infill of the tidal zone at the head of the harbour.

Work began on the scheme in the 1840s with the construction of a stone seawall along the western side of Sydney Cove. This was followed by a stone seawall along the eastern side. The mud flats in the centre were crossed by a wooden bridge extending east from Pitt Street (on the opposite side of the road to the Study Area), built by private enterprise to save pedestrians the trip to the Bridge Street crossing, and on which a halfpenny toll was charged. As it joined the Bon Accord Wharf in Pitt Street, it became known as the Bon Accord Bridge.¹²

¹¹Fowles, J, *Sydney in 1848*, facsimile edition 1962, Ure Smith, p.16.

¹² Andrews. G, 1986, *Port Jackson 200: 1786-1986*, Reed Books, Sydney, p. 67.

In the early 1850s, the City Council decided to continue the wharf around the Cove to join the two stone sections. However, due to the cost involved (and the dwindling convict resource since the end of transportation in the 1840s), the work was completed using timber. A plan showing the Extension of the Semicircular Quay, dated 1854, shows the extent of the timber wharf extension from a position north of Argyle Street (within the Overseas Passenger Terminal) along the western shore line and around to approximately between ferry wharves 5 and 6. The construction consisted of metal tipped timber piles driven into the harbour bed at regular intervals of approximately 9 feet (2.7m) apart. Batons were placed across the piles and a timber decking then laid out to form the new wharf. Behind the wharf the site was reclaimed and Pitt Street extended to meet the harbour (see Figure 15).

Figure 13 – View of Sydney Port Jackson, New South Wales, taken from the Rocks on the western side of the Cove, ca. 1803, drawn by John William Lancashire



Source: State Library of NSW, <http://acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=825803>

Figure 14 – Frederick Garling’s 1842 watercolour shows the Tank Stream, emptying to Sydney Cove



Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW - ML 420

As part of this work the Tank Stream was also enclosed. At the Circular Quay end adjacent to the Study Area, as this part of Sydney Cove now became known, the Tank Stream was enclosed within a stone semicircular drain with a separate sewer line running along its eastern side. The drain was approximately 3.5

metres wide, two metres high and three metres below the street level to its base. The newly formed sewer then entered the harbour at Circular Quay to the west of the present Wharf 6. This work, and the extension of Pitt Street formed the eastern edge of the Study Area (it is noted that the Tank Stream and separate sewer are both in proximity to but outside of the Study Area, i.e. located to the immediate east).

The creation of the extended Pitt Street allowed for new development along the street, including along the eastern portion of the Study Area (i.e. within the Study Area fronting Pitt Street).

Figure 15 – c1850 plan showing proposed reclamation with the Study Area shown. Note that the allotment boundary extends from George Street, with earlier buildings shown on it, to the east across the high water mark and mud flats of the Tank Stream delta. The proposed Quay extension is shown in relation to the earlier development



Source: State Records NSW AOMAP 5634 with GML overlay 2015

4.1.3. The Study Area

Following the completion of Circular Quay and the extension of Pitt Street, the 1855 Trigonometrical Survey shows two large iron shed buildings fronting Pitt Street. The sheds are later identified on Dove's 1880 plan, at which time they were occupied by a timber merchant and cement store. The sheds may pre-date the completion of Pitt Street and may originally have been associated with Fearnley's corn factor, which included large store buildings.

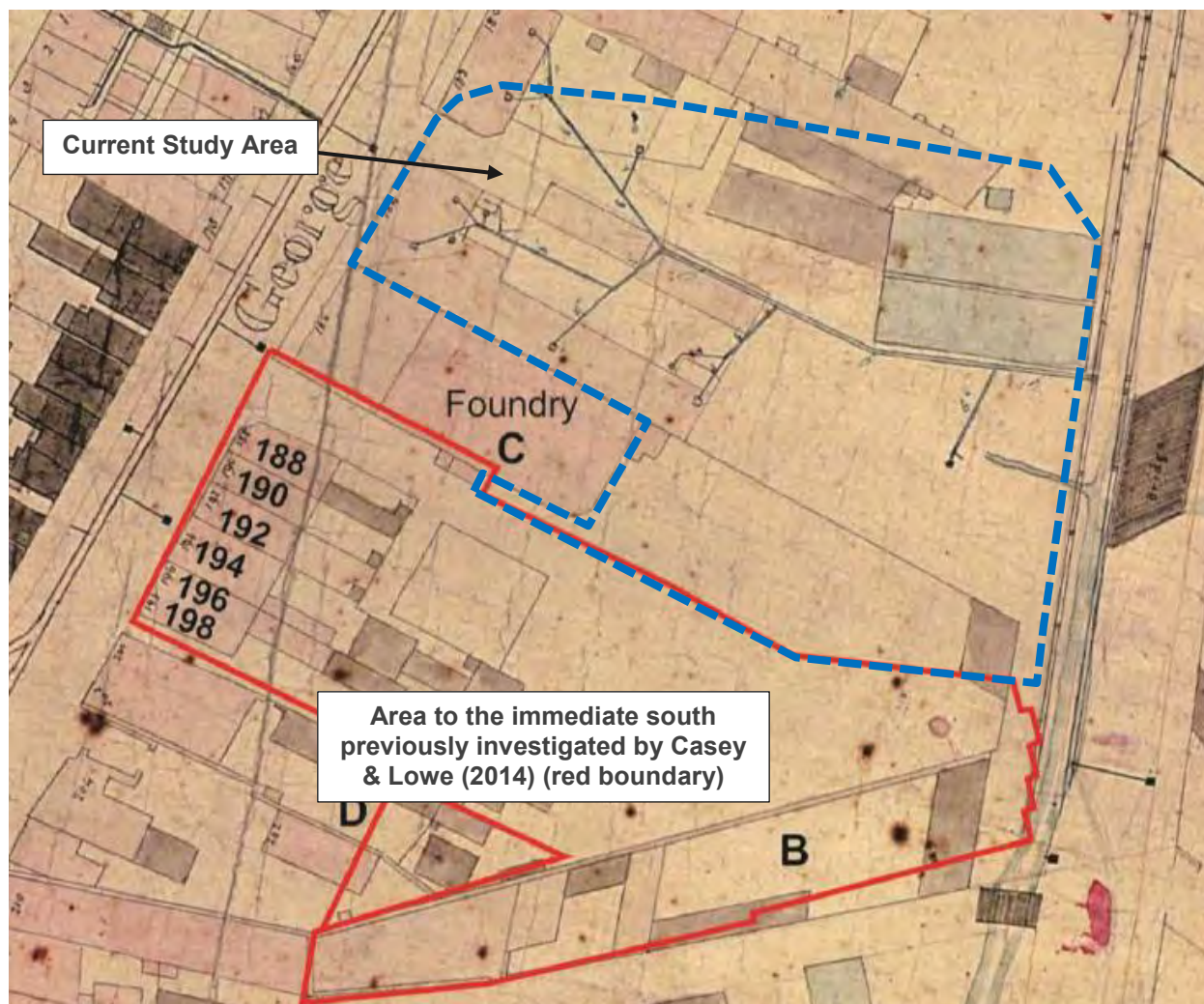
The Rates and Assessment book entry of 1858 does not record any occupation on Weston's grant on the Pitt Street frontage instead making reference to the extensively developed George Street frontage.¹³ This would suggest that the eastern frontage remained largely undeveloped (excluding the iron stores referenced above) or that any development was associated primarily with the George Street development. The amended 1865 Trigonometrical survey shows similar occupation to Dove's 1880 plan; by 1865 some additional masonry buildings were constructed south of the stores and noted in the Rates Book as single storey houses¹⁴. At least one of these was later occupied by G.E Crane and the site was later redeveloped with two storey stores (c.1880).

¹³ City of Sydney Rates and Assessment Book, 1858.

¹⁴ City of Sydney Rates and Assessment Book, 1867.

Dove's plan (refer to Figure 18 below) records the George Street frontage of the site as being occupied by two storey shop premises known as 172 George Street, occupied by Gee Ick Importers, and Loon Cheong Cabinet Makers (formerly Ewen's premises). The buildings were of masonry construction with stone and timber workshops to the rear.

Figure 16 - 1855 Trigonometrical Survey showing the position of the Tank Stream drain running along Pitt Street and the buildings occupying the Study Area (Study Area indicated in **blue**; other annotations are from the Casey & Lowe report)



Source: Casey and Lowe, 2014, *Non-Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment & Impact Statement, Lend Lease Circular Quay Development – 182 & 33-35 Pitt Street, Sydney, report to Lend Lease Development Pty Ltd, Fig. 3.9*

Way Key and Co Importers also falls partly within the Study Area at 166 George Street (formerly Fearnley's corn factor), Way Kee was a very well-known Chinese merchant (import/ export) and reputedly (little information available in the historical record) built 3 new stores on/ in proximity to the site which formed the basis of his substantial Australian property empire. The assessment book entry for 166 refers to the site as "pulled down" in 1882.

Livingstone's Timber Yards occupied the Pitt Street frontage of the site (known as 19-21), incorporating the two single storey iron sheds, one of which was used as a cement store. There is a large vacant area in the centre of the site, likely used in conjunction with the Timber Yards. To the north of Livingstone's shed building and partially within the subject site is the three storey Peacock's jam factory (17 Pitt Street), which was constructed sometime between 1865 and 1880.

At the southeast corner, on Pitt Street the site was occupied by store buildings, a single storey and two double storey stores. The larger central store (as shown on Dove's plan) appears to have been constructed for Thomas Sutcliffe Mort (wool broker) in the mid-1870s (c.1877) but a few short years later they were occupied by Crane and Son Hardware Merchants. Three timber and iron stores are also recorded to the rear. Crane and sons traded at the site into the early 1900s, after which they relocated to a new purpose built premises to the south of the site. The stores were thereafter variously occupied as shops and stores before being redeveloped for Carleton and Sutton's Chambers.

Figure 17 – 1865 Trigonometrical Survey showing the position of the Tank Stream drain running along Pitt Street and the buildings occupying the Study Area



Source: Department of Lands with GML overlay 2015

Figure 18 – 1880 Dove's plan of Sydney. This shows the high density development on the subject site and around the George Street and Pitt Street areas. This part of the city was dominated by warehouses, merchants and shops dealing with the bustling maritime trade of Circular Quay and other nearby wharves



Source: City of Sydney Council Archives with Urbis overlay

Dove's Plan corresponds with City of Sydney Rates and Assessment Books for the same year, which records Livingstone's Timber Yards and the iron store, with a rated value of £46 as well as Crane's stores, (redeveloped) albeit with a minor variation in street numbering at 31 and 33 Pitt Street. Further analysis of the Rates and Assessment Books indicates that Livingstone took over the premises of W.H Rolfe¹⁵ (along with Rolfe's second timber yard fronting Alfred Street at Circular Quay). Crane is previously recorded in the Rates Books as occupying a large single storey brick and stone store on the site in 1871.¹⁶

Much the same configuration of development is shown on the Metropolitan Detail Series mapping for the site (both the 1884 and 1894 editions – refer to the 1894 plan below at Figure 19). G.E Crane hardware stores occupied the bulk of the Pitt Street frontage into the early 1900s.

Figure 19 – Metropolitan Detail Series Map (1894) with the approximate boundary of the Study Area



Source: State Library of NSW with Urbis overlay

By the early 20th century the Pitt Street frontage had been substantially redeveloped. There was a new laneway access on the southern site boundary known as Crane Place. Carleton Chambers was constructed c.1914 at 23-29 Pitt Street. The two storey building housed various shops and offices. It is first recorded in the Sands Directory in 1914 as occupied by consulting marine and general engineers, a hairdresser, broker, customs agents, estate agent and the office of the Frankfurt Sausage Company (which had adjoining premises to the south).¹⁷

The three storey Sutton's Chambers was constructed on the site of the former iron shed buildings on the north side of the Study Area c. 1907. The building housed various tenancies and achieved some notoriety as

¹⁵ City of Sydney Rates and Assessment Books, 1871.

¹⁶ City of Sydney Rates and Assessment Books, 1871.

¹⁷ Sands Directory, 1914.

the site of a gruesome murder of one of its former occupants, a money lender Daniel Condon, in 1927. Two additional 2 storey shops were also constructed around this time at 19 and 21 Pitt Street, which were variously occupied including housing a, pawnbroker, fruit shop and restaurant. Within the area of the former yard (at the centre of the site) Bacon and Company's 5-6 storey warehouse (process engravers) was constructed c.1913 along with a smaller factory building to the north, probably constructed in the 1920s and later occupied by Bain and Company. This development is illustrated on the Fire Underwriters Association plan at Figure 20.

Figure 20 – Sydney Fire Underwriters Association Plan 1924–1949. These plans were started during the 1920s and updated until the late 1940s. This plan shows the demolition of buildings in preparation for the construction of the Cahill Expressway and remodelling of Circular Quay. The work included the extension of Alfred Street through to meet George Street



Source: <http://www.photosau.com.au/cosmaps/maps/pdf/FU/Block125.pdf> with Urbis overlay

Of the above development only the Bacon Company Building remains extant (now known as Rugby Club). The remainder of development was cleared in the latter part of the 20th century, in conjunction with the construction of Gold Fields and Fairfax House.

Figure 21 – View south along Pitt Street with Suttons Chambers at right (1926)



Source: City of Sydney Archives, Sydney Reference collection: 044\044594

4.1.4. Gold Fields House

In 1958, the Cahill Expressway was opened to traffic. Its completion created a route for traffic from the Sydney Harbour Bridge to the eastern suburbs and allowed the final link of the city circle railway. Originally proposed as part of the city railway and harbour crossing in the early twentieth century, work to resume and demolish buildings in its path had been interrupted by World War II, although any construction work came later. By 1943 though, a number of buildings between George and Pitt Streets had been demolished primarily along an alignment with Alfred Street. The demolition of these buildings created the northern boundary of the study site. With the extension of the Cahill Expressway west to east across the front of Circular Quay, the remainder of the buildings in this part of George and Pitt Streets were demolished (see Figure 22).

The site bounded by George, Pitt and Alfred Streets had been resumed by the Department of Railways as part of the City Circle extension. In 1959 the Department wrote to the Council informing them that tenders had been called to develop the block bounded by George, Alfred and Pitt Streets and with it envisaged that the accepted tender would demolish the existing buildings, which included a three-storey chambers and an old warehouse, and erect a 'modern multi-storied building thereon, somewhat comparable to the proposed new AMP Building which is now in the course of construction'.¹⁸

The AMP building, completed in 1961 at the eastern end of the Cahill Expressway, was the first tall modern tower building in Australia and the first built in Sydney following the lifting of the 150 feet height restrictions that had been imposed on the Sydney skyline since the early 1910s. The proposed Gold Fields House was to act as a 'bookend' to Circular Quay, mirroring the ground-breaking AMP building. The architects Peddle Thorp & Walker, who had designed the AMP building, were also commissioned to design the Gold Fields House development.

Work began on site in late 1963 with deep excavation through bedrock for building foundations, underground parking, plant and equipment rooms and the lift well. The excavation was taken to all four edges of the two allotments and extended two and a half levels below Alfred Street. In the process the site was cleared of any remaining footings or remnant structures from the earlier development phases, as well as any existing pre-

¹⁸ Letter Department of Railways to Cumberland County Council 17 September 1959, Sydney City Council Archives.

European landform or evidence. The edges of the excavation, which extended below the high water mark, were lined with steel sheeting and then braced to prevent their collapse (see Figure 41 and Figure 42). The Tank Stream lay outside the actual building allotment boundary below the Pitt Street footpath, with the strata through which the water course was cut restrained by the steel sheeting.

Gold Fields House was completed in 1966 as an office and commercial high rise tower development. It has maintained the same role and mix of occupation until the present time.

Figure 22 – 1943 aerial showing the Study Area (indicated in red) and demolition of buildings to the north



Source: Sixmaps 2016 with Urbis overlay

4.1.5. Fairfax House

Fairfax House, at 19–31 Pitt Street, is a fifteen storey commercial office building which was constructed in the late 1960s by Mainline Constructions Pty Ltd, for a cost of \$1.5m.¹⁹

This building lies on part of allotment 6 Section 47 of the City of Sydney originally leased to Major George Johnston, and after his death in 1823 granted to his three daughters Julia, Maria and Blanche Johnston. When Pitt Street was extended from Hunter Street to Circular Quay in 1853, it ran through Johnston's original land grant. By the 1860s this part of Pitt Street was occupied by lumber yards and merchant stores.²⁰

¹⁹ Rappaport Pty Ltd, Statement of Heritage Impact 19-31 Pitt Street, 2010: 20.

²⁰ 1865 Trig Survey, City of Sydney Archives.

From the 1880s this area was part of the land owned by G.E Crane & Co hardware merchants.²¹ Crane's Lane (now Rugby Place) runs along the southern side of the Study Area.

The area was redeveloped in the 1920s and the subject site was occupied by Carleton Chambers and the Commonwealth Bank (23–31 Pitt Street) plus two smaller buildings at 21 and 19 Pitt Street occupied by a restaurant (21) and fruit shop with dwelling above (19).²² These buildings were demolished in 1968 for the construction of Fairfax House.

4.1.6. Rugby Club

The Rugby Club is a six storey brick warehouse building that was built in c. 1914²³ and initially occupied by Bacon & Co Ltd photo engravers. It was known for many years as Bacon's Building.²⁴ Prior to the construction of this building the site was part of the land owned by G. E. Crane & Co and contained limited development. The property was purchased by the Greater Sydney Investment Company Ltd in the late 1920s.²⁵ Access to the building was via a lane off Pitt Street originally known as Crane's Lane (now Rugby Lane).

Figure 23 – View of The Rugby Club, c. 1990s



Source: City of Sydney Archives, Sydney Reference collection: 031/031387

In 1952 this building was sold to the Rugby Union Club.²⁶ The Rugby Club was formed in 1945 as a city base for all rugby players and lovers of the game. The Rugby Club was originally the HQ of the NSW Rugby Union and later the ARU and was where Wallaby touring teams were presented their jerseys. It was also where the Australian and New Zealand Rugby Boards agreed to establish the Rugby World Cup and later the Super Rugby and Tri-Nations competitions.²⁷

²¹ Certificate of Title Volume 947 folio 213, Department of Lands.

²² Sydney Fire Underwriters Association Plan of Sydney 1924–1949, City of Sydney Archives.

²³ Sands Sydney and Suburban Directory.

²⁴ 1956 City Plan, City of Sydney Archives.

²⁵ Certificate of Title Volume 3784 Folio 237, 238, Department of Lands.

²⁶ Certificate of Title Volume 4151 Folio 27, Department of Lands.

²⁷ The Rugby Club, <<http://www.rugbyclub.com.au/about/>> viewed 12 June 2015.