ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS ON THE
FORMER AUSTRALIAN GAS LIGHT COMPANY SITE
HAYMARKET, SYDNEY

A Report for Australian Construction Services (NSW Region)
Department of Administrative Services

by
Rosemary Annable

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University of Sydney, Cartography Department

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Fig. 12 Section 1 North face
1 Crushed sandstone
2 Fine orange-brown sand
3 Mottled orange clay
4 Brown sand
5 Grey clay
6 Brown sand with clay
7 Yellow small sandstone
8 Mottled clay with brown fill
9 Mottled clay
10 Brown clay
11 Light brown clay with small sandstone
12 Yellow sand
13 Mortar

Fig. 13a Section 2 North face
4 Crushed sandstone
5 Fine orange-brown sand
6 Mottled orange clay
7 Brown sand
8 Grey clay
9 Yellow small sandstone
10 Mottled clay with brown fill
11 Mottled clay
12 Brown clay
13 Light brown clay with small sandstone
14 Mortar
15 Yellow sand
16 Grey clay

Fig. 13b Section 2 East face
1 Clay with sandstone rubble
2 Grey clay
3 Small pieces of brick & sandstone
4 Brown clay & small pieces of brick
5 Brown clay
6 Loose fill with brick & sandstone
7 Deep red sandy clay with charcoal
8 Grey-red sandy clay
9 Fragments of brick & sandstone
10 Yellow clay

Fig. 14  Section 45 North face. Layers 2-4 ?part of Carters' Road 1819
Layers 6-10 associated with construction of drains c.1830s
Layer 1 road metalling : post-drain construction. All layers
pre-date the construction of the manse stables
Fig. 15. Levels of the large stone and brick drain from Section 49 to Section 22. Total length of drain 34.5m.
Foundations of south wall of Hay St Stone

Limit of excavation (sandstone base)

North face
1 Dark red sandy clay
2 Brown clay
3 Light brown clay & inclusions
4 Yellow clay & clinker-like material
5 Yellow clay & inclusions
6 Brown sand with bricks & mortar
7 Dark red-brown sand & much charcoal

North-east face
8 Yellow-grey clay with red inclusions
9 Blue & yellow clay with red inclusions
10 Grey clay with sandstone rubble
11 Shell mortar
12a Dark grey clay
12b Darker grey clay
13 Black clay
14 Greenish sand

South-east face
15 Black gritty sand
16 Brown clay
17 Grey silty clay
18 White clay
19 Dark brown clay with rubble
20 Greenish gravel

Fig. 16 Section 40 North, north-east and south-east faces. Stone and...
Fig. 17  Section 40  South-west and north-west faces. Stone and brick drain c.1830s

South-west face

1 Dark red sandy clay
2 Brown clay
3 Light brown clay & inclusions
4 Yellow clay & clinker-like material
5 Yellow clay & inclusions
6 Brown sand with bricks & mortar
7 Dark red-brown sand & much charcoal

North-west face

0
1m
8 Yellow-grey clay with red inclusions
9 Blue & yellow clay with red inclusions
10 Grey clay with sandstone rubble
11 Shell mortar
12a Dark grey clay
12b Darker grey clay
13 Black clay
14 Greenish sand
15 Black gritty sand
16 Brown clay
17 Grey silty clay
18 White clay
19 Dark brown clay with rubble
20 Greenish gravel

Br. = Bricks
Fig. 18 Section 47 Large stone and brick drain with wooden drain in fill

1. Mottled grey-red clay with small sandstone pieces
2. Dark red sandy clay
3. Orange-brown loose fill with much charcoal
3a. As (3) with some clay
4. As (3) with small pieces of brick
5. Broken bricks with patches of grey clay
6. Light brown clay with orange flecks
7. Dark brown-orange clay with sandstone
8. Pale grey-orange clay with sandstone
8a. As (8) with finer particles
9. Dark grey clay with orange flecks and brick fragments
10. Grey-yellow clay
11. Wooden ?drain
12. Grey clay with charcoal and brick fragments
13. Orange clay with sandstone
14. Grey clay with brick fragments
15. Grey-blue clay with red streaks
Br. = Brick
Fig. 19 Section 44 Layers of deposit in the stone and brick drain

1 Loose rubble (from demolition)
2 Dark brown sand with brick fragments
3 Grey clay
4a Grey-brown sand with charcoal
5 Yellow sand
4b As (4a)
6 Grey sand
7 Grey sand with charcoal and many artifacts
8 Grey-brown sand with large pieces of sandstone & bricks
9 Orange-brown sand
10 Grey sand
11 Grey-brown sand
1 Clay with brick and sandstone
2 Small sandstone
3 Clay
4 Dark red sandy clay with brick at base
5 Light grey clay with charcoal and ash
6 Clay with brick and sandstone fragments
7 Dark grey clay
8 Sandy clay with charcoal and bone
9 Yellow-red sand

Fig. 20 Section 43 Small brick side drain
Fig. 21 Sydney in 1802 by Lesueur. No.38 The Brickfield Village, Sydney. James Shaw ed. M Kelly & R Croaker, 1978
Fig. 23 Surveyor's plan of 1839 showing the site for the Presbyterian church and the road across the Government paddock from the corner of Campbell Street. AONSW Map 5618
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Fig. 26. Archaeological remains of the Presbyterian Manse and its outbuildings as occupied c.1847.
Fig. 27 South elevation of manse showing south wall of original kitchen as found during demolition.
Fig. 28 North elevation of south wall of manse kitchen
Fig. 29 West elevation of west wall of mansa kitchen
Fig. 30 Layers of fill in the manse well

1. Loose rubble
2. Clay and soil with rubble and brick
3. Dark brown soil with charcoal
4. Darker brown soil
5. As (4) with sandstone and charcoal
6. Yellow mortar
7. As (3) with layer of bricks
8. Grey sand with orange staining

Brick lining
Wet sieved to base
Water seepage

Layers 1 & 2
20th century

Layer 3
Late 19th century

Layers 4-6
c.1860-1870

Layers 7-8
c.1850s (?)

Layers 9-12
Contemporary
c. late 1850s

Grey clay
Timber beam
Bricks
1 Ironwork (over 500 items). Molten metal at base.
2 Burnt sand with much charcoal and slag
3 Pale yellow sand
4 Burnt sand with charcoal
5 Grey-black clay with iron staining
6 Red-brown sand with rubble
7 Mixed rubble, hard packed
8 Dark grey sand with clay and burnt inclusions
9 Brown sand
10 Grey clay

Fig. 31 Section through mansa privies
Fig. 32 Hay Street showing the Wesleyan Chapel, house, Presbyterian manse and outbuildings and the Presbyterian church c.late 1860s.
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Fig. 34 Manse stables floors (a) cross wall removed and filled in (b) new foundations and stone piers for timber floors
Fig. 35: The Wesleyan site: the chapel & associated features c.1846-1856
Fig. 36 Section 17 North face showing post holes

1 Grey sand with clay and sandstone fragments
2 Pale grey clay
3 Grey sand
4 Red-brown sandy clay
5 Mottled clay
6 Brown fill
Fig. 37 The Wesleyan site: the Austen Building as built in 1891.
1 Clay and mortar
2 Fawn sand
3 Clay and sandstone fragments
4 Light brown sand
5 Small sandstone and brick rubble
6 Grey sand
7 Yellow sand
8 Brown-red clay
9 Thick brown-red clay
10 Pale brown clay with charcoal
11 Blue-red clay

Fig. 38 Section 8 South face, Layers 2-6 & 10 late 18th-early 19th century cut through by foundation trenches for 1850s house and Austen Building.
Fig. 39 Section 18 Stream channelled as a stone lined drain

- **Pavement level**
- **Bitumen**
- **Concrete foundations**
- **Dark top soil**

1. Dark brown sand
2. Light brown sand
3. Dark grey-black sand
4. Yellow-brown sand
5. Yellow sand with orange staining (a) with clay streaks (b) fine silt with horizontal banding
6. Red clay
7. Blue clay
8. Dressed masonry
9. Grey silt
Fig. 40 Sites for Presbyterian Manse showing the stream across the site
March 1842 AONSW Surveyor General's Sketchbooks Vol.4 Fol.77
Fig. 41 Subdivision of the George Street frontage of the Government Paddock showing the stream across the site straightened, January 1843. AONSW Surveyor General's Sketchbooks Vol. 4 Fol. 104
No. 189

No. 191

No. 193

Former store incorporated into Nos.195-197 and new facade built

No. 195

No. 197

Brick shop (2 storey)

Brick shop (2 storey)

Connection to new building

Line of former passageway retained as corridor

New Building c.1926

Original Austen Building

Additions to Austen Building c.1926

Area

Lavatories

Additions to Austen Building c.1926
Fig. 44 Austen Building as originally built and No.193 Hay Street with alterations and 1926 facade Sydney City Council Plan B.A. 22727
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Fig. 46 Reconstruction of original Austen Building in 1927 and alteration of the facade. Additions to building at back made c. 1926. Sydney City Council
Plan B.A. 227/27
Fig. 47: The Austen Building June 1988 Ground floor. Drawing by Schwager
Brooks James & Partners Pty. Ltd. for the Commonwealth Government
Entrance Carriageway

Pitt Street shops

Foundation trench for shops

Dense black timber shavings

Bricks

Line of building wall

Wooden stakes

White crushed sandstone

Corrugated iron

Metalwork and debris

Stone

White crushed sandstone

Dark grey clay (natural?)

N

Boundary walls

Fig. 48 Remains of the Pitt Street timber yard
Fig. 49 Pitt Street stables, first phase

Forge?
Stables
Yard (surface not known)

Traces of foundations
Traces of timber floors
Nails
Partition lines
Brick edging
Later disturbance
Postholes

Brick edging
Entrance to Hay Street property
Entrance

Hay & Chaff sheds

Brick foundations

Not excavated
Stone paving
Bricks
Brick floors
Bricks laid on their sides
Later disturbance
Doorway
Doorway
Bricks laid flat

Fig. 50 Pitt Street stables, second phase
New wall
Concrete
Brick floors
Brick ramps
Not excavated
Traces of wooden building
Stone cobbles
Wooden blocks/Brick paving
Wooden beam
Sandstone blocks

Fig. 51 Pitt Street stables, third phase
Fig. 52 Pit Street stables area. All features as found below the concrete flooring.
Fig. 53 Pitt Street shops west elevation June 1988
Drawing by Schwager
Brooks James & Partners for the Commonwealth Government
Fig. 54 Foundations of the Pitt Street shops, south end

Shops - North side

Carriageway

Brick piers

Sandstone and brick foundations

Stables Yard

Fire Station

Section 15

0 1 2 3 4 5

5m
Fig. 55: Layers of fill beneath the Pitt Street shops: Section 35 against the north wall of the fire station.
Fig. 56 No. 2 Gasholder: site location
Fig. 57 No. 2 Gasholder base in plan, showing brick piers and timber base

- 8.25m radius
- 54ft diameter
- Yellow clay
- Grey clay
- Timber beams
- Limit of excavation
- Projected continuation of timber base
- Area of gasometer removed by Pitt Street resumption
Fig. 58 Brick piers of Gasholder No 2 as excavated, projected on to the line of the street frontage of Pitt Street.
Fig. 59a Pier 2 of Gasholder No. 2 Section

Fig. 59b Pier 4 of Gasholder No. 2 beneath the wall of the later AGL Showroom
Fig. 60 Well beneath the Hordern Building: site location
Fig. 61 Detailed location of well beneath Hordern Building
Datum 5.37 m

1. Yellow sand with rubble & brick fragments
2. Red and pale grey clay
3. Burnt material (ferrous?)
4. Pale grey clay
5. Dark brown fibrous material
6. Brown sand with organic matter
7. Bricks, loosely tumbled, no fill

Level of basement floor of Hordem Building

Base of bricks
1 Yellow sand with rubble & brick fragments
2 Red and pale grey clay
3 Charcoal / burnt material
4 Grey clay
5 Dark brown fibrous material
6 Brown sand with organic matter
7 Bricks, loosely tumbled, no fill

Datum 5.37m
Base of bricks 3.45m

Level of basement floor of Hordern Building

Fig. 63 Well beneath the Hordern Building. Section and isometric view
Fig. 64 Gasholder No. 5 Construction details as found during excavation for the new building. Drawing by S. Neal.