1.0
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
1.1

DR AND MRS WHITING

The property, being the farriers' buildings and garden and the house on the adjoining property built by the Michaels, was sold in 1911. The new owners were Ralph King, a stockbroker, and Lindsay Crouch, a solicitor. They held the land in trust for Mrs Keith Moore Whiting, probably a relative of the vendors. Mrs Whiting and her husband Dr Keith Whiting lived in the house next to the Marsden Street site at least into the mid-1930s. The trustees began to subdivide the property at its western end in 1913. This land was purchased by Meggitt Ltd. The subdivision created the final boundary of the present site.

When Harold Horsley left the Marsden Street site it was taken over by another farrier, William Roots, for one year in 1913. It is possible that Roots added some form of shed to the site although the evidence for it is very slight being two post-holes and the fragment of a clay floor. The old iron shed and wooden cottage at the back of the site remained in use during this period.

1.2

SONTER BROTHERS

From 1914 at least up to the mid-1930s and probably beyond Sonter Brothers, farriers and blacksmiths occupied the site. It was this company that was responsible for substantial changes and additions made to it. It is probable the wooden cottage in the north-western corner of the site was demolished soon after they took occupation of the place. The iron shed adjoining it though, was retained and used for the new business. Over the site of the former cottage a new yard surface was laid. Over the rest of the western portion of the site the garden was removed and a new surface was laid over the newly exposed drainage system. This new surface was a hard compacted deposit of loam up to 150mm in depth. This is likely to have occurred in the later 1920s the site was substantially redeveloped beginning with this new yard.

The new yard was in use for at least a short time before the most significant changes and additions were made to the site. These works began with the solution to a long-standing problem in the middle of the site. Here the water running down the hill appears to have eroded the yard. To fix it a large circular excavation was made and then filled in with a layer of broken shale including large nodules.

The majority of the western portion of the site was used for a large iron shed that covered almost the whole of this part of the allotment except for a narrow passage between it and the existing corrugated iron shed in the north-western corner of the site. Before the shed was built the entire allotment was resurfaced ending in a distinctive red clay surface that became the floor of the new shed as well as the yard beyond it.

All that remained of the new shed were tiny traces of the iron strip that had been nailed directly to the new yard surface and the copper nails holding it in place. Traces of all walls were found including internal divisions. The plan of the building revealed by this fragmentary evidence is of a large shed with one large room across the western end, a smaller and narrow room in the south-eastern corner and a larger room in the north-eastern corner. There was an open skillion to the north but the eastern end of this had been enclosed with iron walls.
This old iron shed in the north-western corner continued to be used by the new occupants of the site. When the premises were upgraded the red clay used as the surface everywhere on the site was spread up to the southern wall of the shed. This appears to have caused problems with drainage. To solve this a new surface was laid between the two buildings and a shallow dish drain was set along the southern wall of the older shed.

The red clay that was used for the floor of the shed spread beyond it to form a hard surface for an open yard in front of the building, occupying the entire eastern portion of the allotment. Before it was laid some surface preparation was undertaken to level the site of the former gardens. This encompassed several substantial deposits of sandy material being laid across the site. The red clay was then laid directly over this material. Between this yard and the eastern end of the shed, over time the red clay surface appears to have worn thin and the problem of erosion at the mid-point in the site had again surfaced; this time the eroded area was filled with pockets of chocolate brown clay that contained fragments of reinforced glass and cement. To replace the clay surface that had worn away a compact, yellow-ochre coloured sandy loam was laid down here and up to the eastern end of the shed.

Some effort was put into improving the appearance of the eastern yard. The garden path along the southern boundary was upgraded and slightly widened and shrubs were planted along it. On the northern boundary of the eastern yard remnant pieces of sandstone were used to create a raised garden bed into which were placed plants and shrubs. At the western end of this garden was a large dome of red clay that filled an old and substantial planting hole. In the centre of the yard (in fact almost exactly above the buried well) a large pit was dug to house a substantial tree or shrub. Close to it were several other post-holes that were probably used to stake plants. There was a large planting area in the north-eastern corner of the site close to the street. Set back from the street approximately a third of the way across the site was a small circular pit cut into the red yard clay that had a single circular stake set in it with evidence of roots running under the clay. Clearly this was a staked bush or shrub. Close to the footpath on Marsden Street towards the centre of the frontage were another three circular post-holes that appear to have supported shrubs as part of the planting pattern.

This appears to have been the situation into the 1940s. The property passed to Terence Whiting in 1951 and he sold it to Sydney Legacy four years later.

1.3
SYDNEY LEGACY

Two years after its purchase Sydney Legacy demolished the buildings on the site and began work to construct its new premises. Like all the previous owners the extent of demolition was particularly thorough with almost nothing being left of the buildings and all the debris removed from the site. In several places on the site the older surfaces had been dug up and redeposited and compacted to form the base for the new construction. Almost everywhere large quantities of fill were brought to the site to cover the old yard and raise and level the site before construction.

The original plans for the building show that at the very front on Marsden Street was a small car park. This was still present as was much of the foundation structure for the Marsden Street wing. It was built on large blue metal and cement strip footings. Where these had been removed robbed out trenches were quite easily identified.

In the space between the northern side of this building and the adjoining property was a narrow passage that was paved in the last instance by a gravel surface. On the southern side
of the building there was a service entry and this was bound on the southern boundary of the allotment by a dry pressed brick wall of which the base courses survived.

The northern wing was located in the north-eastern corner of the site behind the main wing on the northern boundary. It was originally used as male and female change rooms. There was a small car park behind it. All the strip footings for this wing survived and were found to be the same as those for the Marsden Street wing; 600mm cement and blue metal. Several of the foundations had remnants of the dry pressed bricks walls above still extant. In the north-western room of this wing were a number of riser pipes that serviced the female toilets and kitchen area. One later service connection was also found here probably made in the 1980s or later. The main service trench from here was located on the western side of the building. It ran to another substantial service on the northern boundary. The latter had been upgraded later in the twentieth century.

At the western end of this wing was a large underground service chamber. The large excavation for this chamber had caused considerable damage to the underlying deposits and features in this part of the site.

The long wing that occupied the southern portion of the site on its western half was used as a gymnasium. All of the foundations for this wing were intact and were made as strip footings using blue metal and cement. On the southern wall were a number of buttresses and lying under the foundation were a number of odd, timber-lined "boxes"; their purposes is unknown. More were found under the western wall. At the eastern end of the gymnasium wing in the south-eastern corner, was a small toilet or wash room not shown on plans. It appears to have been a later addition added to what is shown on the drawings as a file room. It connected to a major waste pipe on the southern boundary. A large number of the piers used to support the floor joists were found within this wing.

A central corridor separated the gymnasium wing and the northern wing; this passage gave access to the buildings from the Marsden Street wing. The foundations of this passage were all intact including the threshold for the back door.

Services that had been laid during the construction of Legacy House were identifiable by their distinctive colour. These were found on the northern boundary and from each wing. Only a relatively small number of more recent additions and replacements were found for the building.

The last surface laid on the site was for the car park at the back of the north wing. This was bitumen and it had been cut through by the construction of the wall that now provides the western boundary to the site. Prior to this yard there was evidence that a small garden had been established in this north-western corner of the site, on the boundary.

Legacy House was demolished in 2005 and the first deposits to be removed from the site as part of the salvage excavation were the rubble and debris that remained here from that work.
2.0
SONTER BROTHERS
1911-1955
2.1 DR AND MRS WHITING

The property, being the farriers' buildings and garden and the house on the adjoining property built by the Michaels, was sold in 1911. The new owners were Ralph King, a stockbroker, and Lindsay Crouch, a solicitor. They purchased it for £150. One of the applicants stated, in 1912, that the land was occupied by Mrs Keith Moore Whiting, for whom the land was held in trust. The low price and the trusteeship suggest that Mrs Whiting was probably a relative of the vendors, possibly a daughter. Mrs Whiting and her husband Dr Keith Whiting lived in the house next to the Marsden Street site at least into the mid-1930s. Directory listings cease at that time.

Plan of the site dated between 1900 and 1911 showing Dr Whiting in the house built by the Michaels on the adjoining land to the north.
Sydney Water. RE 6009

1 LPI, Old Systems Book 951 No. 88
Crouch and King began to subdivide the property at its western end in 1913\(^2\). This land was purchased by Meggitt Ltd, which also owned a large factory on Macquarie Street. Until then, it is clear from the image of 1905 and later nineteenth century surveys, the occupants of the Marsden Street property had free access to the land west of the cottage and shed and up to the open drain beyond this property. The 1905 image shows what was clearly a well-worn path running along the southern side of the wooden cottage into this land. The subdivision created the boundaries of the property as it now exists.
2.3

WILLIAM ROOTS

When Harold Horsley left the site it was taken over by another farrier, William Roots, for one year in 1913. It is possible that Roots added some form of shed to the site although the evidence for it is very slight. Lying under the back of the Marsden Street Legacy House building, the former service area of the Sharpe's house, was a long straight deposit of ochre coloured clay [482]. This may have been the floor of a shed. Fragments of this deposit were found further east [481] lying under the stratigraphy associated with the tenants that succeeded Roots.

On the western edge of the clay were two supports for posts. The northernmost [483] was a base made from blue metal and cement that had a checkout for a post. There was a second similar post just to the south of the first [542]. That was all that could be found of this potential building. The old wooden cottage and iron shed at the western end of the site remained in use during this period.

View south of the edge of the clay surface with one of the cement post supports (SR 32.08)
View west of more of the possible floor surface of Root's shed (SR 32.09)

View west of the post support (SR 32.10)
2.4

SONTER BROTHERS

2.4.1

DEMOLITION AND NEW YARDS

From 1914 at least up to the mid-1930s Sonter Brothers, farriers and blacksmiths occupied the site. It was this company that was responsible for substantial changes and additions made to it. It is probable the wooden cottage in the north-western corner of the site was demolished soon after they took occupation of the place. The iron shed adjoining it though, was retained and used for the new business. Over the site of the former cottage a new yard surface was laid; it was dark grey-brown fine soil with gravel in it. It averaged between 100-150mm in depth [036].

Over the rest of the western portion of the site the garden was removed and a new surface was laid over the newly exposed drainage system. This new surface was a hard compacted deposit of loam up to 150mm in depth [037]. In creating this new surface when the fine covering of soil was removed from the western end of the site the older yard surface predating it [035] appears to have been exposed; two coins were found on its surface that were probably dropped there during this programme of site renewal. One was a halfpenny of 1912 (CR 0451) and the other a penny of 1926 (CR 0472). This provides some dating parameters for these significant changes. It suggests that after a period of minimal change, largely confined to removing the wooden cottage, in the later 1920s the site was substantially redeveloped beginning with this new yard.

View to the south-west showing the new yard [037] exposed during excavation. (SR 86)
A NEW WORKSHOP and YARD

The new yard was in use for at least a short time before the most significant changes and additions were made to the site. These works began with the solution to a long-standing problem. Water running down the hill appears to have eroded the middle of the yard. To fix it a large circular excavation was made and then filled in with a layer of broken shale including large nodules [113]. This was laid over the relatively new yard surface [037].

Section showing the shale used to fill the eroded yard with surfaces laid over it (above) (SR 02:10) (Below) the south-eastern corner of the site showing the distinctive red clay used for the floor and yard (SR 03:18)

The majority of the western portion of the site was used for a large iron shed that covered almost the whole of this portion of the allotment except for a narrow passage between it and the existing corrugated iron shed in the north-western corner of the site. Before the shed was built the entire allotment was resurfaced. The first part of this process entailed laying down a deposit of boiler ash and charcoal [050] over the western portion of the site including the shale deposit [113] laid in the centre of the allotment. Above this was laid a distinctive deposit, up to 250mm thick and as little as 50mm, of red clay. This formed the floor of the new shed and the yard surrounding it [049]. It was also used to create a yard in front of the shed on the eastern half of the allotment (refer Section 2.4.4). In the north-western corner it ended at the front wall of the still-extant iron shed.
View west during excavation showing the remnant red clay yard [049] on the site of Sonter's shed. Also visible is some of the underlying boiler ash deposit [050] used as a base for this yard (SR 7.25).

All that remained of the new shed were tiny traces of the iron strip that had been nailed directly to the new yard surface [049] as a base for the new walls; the copper nails were still in this strip. The southern wall was set approximately one metre off the boundary. All that could be found of the wall was approximately one metre of the iron strip and copper brads [127, 132]. Only 200mm remained in the centre of the boundary [127] and the rest [132] was found at the eastern end of the Area A excavation zone.

View south. a fragment of the iron strip and copper brads on the southern wall of the shed (SR 05.10)
More of the northern "wall" remained intact. A long section of approximately ten metres of iron strip with copper brads was found in the centre of the excavation area [102, 122]. It had been partly overlaid by one of the Legacy House walls [055]. There was a small strip of the same wall several metres away to the east [146].

The western wall of the shed was set approximately 1.5 metres from the boundary. A substantial amount of the northern portion of this wall, metal strip and copper nails was found intact [077]. It had been cut at both the northern and southern ends by walls from Legacy House [055, 060]. Towards the centre of this strip was a cut made for what appears to have been a 120mm wide x 400mm long strip of wood [082]. The purpose of this was unknown. Nothing was left of the eastern wall.

The shed was divided in half with rooms to the east and west. A substantial part of the wall strip remained [101] attached to the northern wall [122, 102]. There appears also to have been a dividing wall in the south-eastern portion of the shed. A very small strip remained here running east-west [147].

There appears to have been a more substantial wall or open skillion attached to the northern side of the shed. This was clearly evidenced by a line of posts that ran from east to west three metres to the north of the iron wall [102, 122]. Each post, [046, 047, 161, 162, 163, 266], had a concrete base. These cement pads were poured into holes that had been excavated up to 800mm in depth. In the centre of each was a remnant timber post that was also sunk to the same depth.

There was a gap in the centre of the wall (between the remnant pads 0047 and 0446) that suggests there was a door leading from the main shed to the small yard between it and the older corrugated iron shed on the northern boundary of the site. Between the two pads was a line of mortar [0048]. It is likely that the eastern end of this skillion was enclosed with iron walls. One fragment of the same metal strip with copper brads was found here [143] to support this conclusion.

The plan of the building revealed by this fragmentary evidence is of a large shed with one large room across the western end, a smaller and narrow room in the south-eastern corner and a larger room in the north-eastern corner. There was an open skillion to the north but the eastern end of this had been enclosed with iron walls.

Some remnant form of drainage may have been found in the form of a shallow cut made into the floor of the building at its western end [106]. It was rounded and approximately 250mm wide. It ran under the northern wall between the two westernmost pads [162, 163]. It had been cut by a wall trench at its southern end [078/079] and there was no evidence of any pipe set into it. It must have been laid before the construction of the shed as it was cut into the floor surface, which, by its uninterrupted progress from inside the building to outside meant that both the floor and the cut were created before the iron wall was raised over them.

Approximately in the centre of the shed space, in the north-eastern room, there was a large pit that likely held a machinery base or perhaps a forge. This excavation [155] was approximately 1.5 metres square and had been made after the floor of the building had been laid; the back fill in the pit [156] included fragments of the red clay floor [049] as well as the older yard surfaces that lay under this building [036, 037].
View west of the machine-base pit cut into an older yard surface [036]
(SR 9 22)

There was a fragment of a cement pad [280] found on the southern boundary of the site similar to those along the northern end of the skillion. It was c. 280mm in diameter with a check-out for a wooden post. This would have been inside the building. On the western edge of the site a solitary post-hole [081] had been cut into the clay surface [049] close to the edge of the building [077]. Its purpose unknown.

The yard surfaces laid from the 1870s to the early years of the twentieth century in the north-eastern corner of the site.
SR 12.21
THE OLD IRON SHED

This old building continued to be used by the new occupants of the site. When the premises were upgraded there was only a little spaced left between the new workshop and the old shed. At first the red clay used as the surface everywhere on the site was spread up to the southern wall of the shed. This appears to have caused problems with drainage.

To solve this a new ashy, blue metal surface was laid between the two buildings. This deposit contained an early Coca cola bottle. A shallow dish drain was set along the southern wall of the older shed it was made using a friable coke-cement mix set into a shallow rounded depression in the ground. This only survived in any recognizable form at the western end, to a length of 1.5 metres, although a small fragment was found further to the east under the northern Legacy House wing.

Hard on the northern boundary was a shallow depression at the section line where a 280mm diameter concrete pad had been inserted, similar to those used in the skillion to the workshop. This could have been related to a repair or alteration within the shed that can now no longer be identified from the remnant evidence.

View east of the shallow drain in front of the iron shed
(SR 1:19)
THE EASTERN YARD

The red clay that was used for the floor of the shed [049] spread beyond it to form a hard surface for an open yard in front of the building, occupying the entire eastern portion of the allotment. Before it was laid some surface preparation was undertaken to level the site of the former gardens. Over most of the area was a deposit of grey sand with some inclusions of clay and charcoal and broken bitumen [486]. Above this was a deposit of dark grey sandy soil with small bitumen and gravel inclusions [484]. Above this over the entire yard area was a deposit of fine sandy loam [475]. It had some artefact inclusions, all early twentieth century, including a Rimmel bottle and some glazed kitchen baking dish fragments. These three deposits all seem to have been laid at the same time and were used to level the site so that the red clay [049] could be laid above it at the same level as the street frontage. Here the clay did not sit on the same boiler ash layer [050] that had been used as the base material on the western portion of the site.

View north showing what remained of the red clay yard [049] on the eastern portion of the site. (SR 3007)

Between this yard and the eastern end of the shed, over time the red clay surface [049] appears to have worn thin and the problem of erosion at the mid-point in the site had again surfaced despite the earlier work to fix it with the shale [113]. This time the eroded area was filled with pockets of chocolate brown clay that contained fragments of reinforced glass and cement [145]. This was found at the eastern end of the shed all the way to the southern boundary.

To replace the clay surface [049] that had worn away a compact, yellow-ochre coloured sandy loam was laid down [112]. It had numerous small sandstone fragments and some red clay nodules and sandstock brick fragments. It varied in depth between 100-120mm. It was laid directly over the red clay [049] at the eastern end and then over the exposed base fill of boiler ash [050] that had been exposed at the western end running up to the intact clay floor at the shed. It was also found on the same line further to the north.
2.4.5

LANDSCAPING

Some effort was put into improving the appearance of the eastern yard. The garden path along the southern boundary [476] was upgraded and slightly widened. The new edge was defined with some rubble [456] and shrubs were planted along it [461]. The bed was only 400mm wide. It was filled with loose loam and numerus plant roots could be seen in it. The red clay yard [049] ran up to the edge of this bed. The path was disturbed by the excavation of two pits [472, 473]. These pits were between 800mm and one metre in diameter but were only filled with rubble and loam and the displaced cobbles from the earlier path; their purpose is not evident.

View west showing the garden bed and path on the southern side of the eastern yard. One of the pits [472] is indicated by the arrow.
(SR 30.02)

On the northern boundary of the eastern yard remnant pieces of sandstone were used to create a raised garden bed into which were placed plants and shrubs. The garden bed [462] was about 280mm higher than the clay yard. When the garden was abandoned it was sealed with a layer of mottled yellow and grey clay and white clay [463]. In section it could be seen to be dome shaped running up to the vanished stone edging of which fragments remained in the fill. At the western end of this garden was a large dome of red clay that filled an old and substantial planting hole [464]. It would have been 1.5 metres in diameter and up to 500mm in depth. It lies over the garden soil [462].
North-east corner showing the garden bed with the red clay yard [049] ending at it. The clay used to seal it [463] can be seen in both sections. (SR 30:17)

View north shows the large domed planting area [464] (SR 30:22)
In the centre of the yard (in fact almost exactly above the buried well) a large pit was dug to house a substantial tree or shrub [466]. It was 1.5 metres in diameter and cut into the red clay and beyond. It cut around the old well. The cut was filled with mixed sand, red clay and bitumen [514]. The planting hole was filled with friable loam and was 500mm deep. The fill included both nineteenth and twentieth century artefacts including a spark plug and a stoneware ink bottle. Close to it were several other post-holes that were probably used to stake plants [467]. They were cut into the red clay to a depth of 500mm. There was also a much larger double cut post hole c. 500mm in diameter [474].

View west of the large planting area in the centre of the yard (SR 31:17)
There was a large planting area in the north-eastern corner of the site close to the street [465]. It was an irregular area that had been cut through the red clay [049] and some roots could still be seen in the soil. It may have been enclosed above ground. Set back from the street approximately a third of the way across the site was a small circular pit cut into the red yard clay [049] that had a single circular stake set in it with evidence of roots running under the clay. Clearly this was a staked bush or shrub [468]. When the site was demolished for Legacy House the bush was removed and the pit was filled in with the fills brought to the site to level it for the new building [454].

Close to the footpath on Marsden Street towards the centre of the frontage were another three circular post-holes that appear to have supported shrubs as part of the planting pattern. The closest to the street [471] was 280mm in diameter cut into the clay [049]. Next to this was another circular hole [470] and the third [469] had a double post-hole that appears to have been to re-stake the plant.

Post hole [469] looking east (SR 31:04)
This appears to have been the situation into the 1940s. An aerial photograph of 1943 reproduced on the next page shows the large shed at the back of the site and the vacant ground in front to Marsden Street with some of the planting.

The property passed to Terence Whiting in 1951\(^3\). He sold it four years later to Sydney Legacy\(^4\).

---

\(^3\) LPI, CT Volume 4772 Folio 201
\(^4\) LPI, CT Volume 6595 Folio 130 and CT Volume 3936 Folio 76
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
150 MARSDEN ST, PARRAMATTA
Phase 11: Sonter Bros.
1914 - 1930s

Based on field drawings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06/11/2006</td>
<td>1A</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/11/2006</td>
<td>1A-II</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/11/2006</td>
<td>1B</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/11/2006</td>
<td>1B-I</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/11/2006</td>
<td>1B-V</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/11/2006</td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/12/2006</td>
<td>2B-I</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/12/2006</td>
<td>3B-II</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/12/2006</td>
<td>3B-III</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NORTH

0 - 2 metres
3.0
SYDNEY LEGACY
1955-2005
SITE PREPARATION

Two years after its purchase Sydney Legacy demolished the buildings on the site and began work to construct its new premises. Like all the previous owners the extent of demolition was particularly thorough with almost nothing being left of the buildings and all the debris removed from the site. In the north-western corner of the site some gouges from an excavator removing foundations had been left in the ground and backfilled with loose debris [109].

In this part of the site, at the eastern end of the former iron shed, was evidence of the older surfaces in this part of the site [036, 037] being excavated and then dumped back on the site and compacted. This compacted material [165] was found under all of the northern wing of the new building where it had been used as a base for its construction. Above this was a layer of broken sandstock bricks and rubble [108] that appears to have been laid here to form a smooth working surface.

In the middle of the large wing along the southern boundary there was another compacted deposit [111] between 50-100mm deep of mixed demolition rubble including broken sandstock and dry pressed bricks, concrete fragments and loam. This appears to have been demolition rubble from the Sonter shed used to fill in some of the uneven surfaces of the old clay floor [049] before the new wing was constructed above it.

At the front of the site on Marsden Street was a deep layer of light brown sandy soil [454] that sloped from the centre of the site to the south and lay around the piers of the new building. A Legacy badge (pictured on the previous page) was found in it (CR 0518). This material was used to level the site. It lay under a deep deposit of dark brown loam with numerous small inclusions of sandstock and dry pressed brick and sandstone rubble. This was also laid after the construction of the building to level the site [453]. These fills lay directly above Sonter's red clay yard [049].
On the western side of the site much of the overburden had been removed before the excavation commenced but it was possible to see a considerable amount of mixed fills had been brought to this portion of the site to raise and level it.

Legacy constructed a large new brick building over most of the footprint of the allotment. It was two storeys in height and had a wing fronting Marsden Street (red arrow below), a full-length wing along the southern boundary, the gymnasium wing (blue arrow), and a smaller wing and car-port along the northern boundary (yellow arrow). The extremely large foundations for this building, its services and floor joist piers were the first structural elements to be uncovered on site.
3.2

THE MARSDEN STREET BUILDING

3.2.1

CAR PARK

The plans for the building show that at the very front on Marsden Street was a small car park. This was still present; a reinforced 100mm cement slab [422] laid on sand bedding 150-200mm in depth [423]. This was laid above a very deep deposit of chocolate brown clay and loam up to 500mm that had been laid to level the site for the car park [439,453]. On the southern side of the slab, resting on the fill [439] was an 80mm diameter metal gas pipe running from the street into the building [440].

View north showing the sand bedding at the front of the Marsden Street wing
(SR 27:17)
3.2.2

VOICE PRODUCTION ROOM

This room was located immediately next to the car park and was the first room in this northern part of the wing. Almost all of the strip footings for the central and northern part of this building had been removed during the demolition of 2005. The front wall that would have been the voice production room had been removed but the robbed out wall trench was visible [429]. It was 800mm wide but varied to accommodate the machine that had gauged out the foundations. Similarly the back or western wall of this room was also removed [430] leaving a 800mm wide robbed out trench. The northern wall had been completely removed leaving a robbed out trench [446]. Only the foundations of the southern wall survived [428] being a poured cement and blue metal foundation with a cavity dry pressed brick wall above. The foundation was 600mm wide. Within this space there were two remnants of piers that had supported joists for a floor [444, 445]. One was intact [444] being a dry pressed brick structure 400mm square and the second only had a compacted soil deposit where the pier had been removed [445].

View north showing the remnant foundations of the Marsden Street wing; the area of the voice production room indicated by a blue arrow and the general office by a yellow arrow.
(SR 28.24)

3.2.3

GENERAL OFFICE

Behind the Voice Production Room and taking up most of the northern side of the building was the General Office. Almost all this structure had been removed from the site. Some of the northern external wall was found, being brick over a 600mm wide poured cement and blue metal foundation [442]. There was a narrow 200mm wide foundation trench for the wall. Only the eastern end part of the wall survived; most of this wall had been robbed out leaving only a trench [441]. There was only a small fragment of the southern wall left [431] with the remainder visible as a robbed out trench. The intact portion was at the junction with the southern and western walls of the voice production room [428, 430]. Along the northern boundary of this space was a trench for what may have been a telephone cable [457]. It was one metre wide. It was filled with an iron pipe with a cable in it [459] and the trench had been back filled with underlying fill [458] deposits.
3.2.4

MEETING ROOM

This was a large room on the southern side of the building closest to the street and forward of the voice production room. The southern wall [434] was intact this being the main external wall of the building. It was the same kind of blue metal in cement footing, 600mm wide, with dry pressed bricks above it. The front wall was outside the excavation area but the back or western wall was intact. This wall [433] was built in the same way and was over a metre deep. The northern wall [427] was intact.

THE TORCH BEARERS' ROOM

Behind the meeting room on the southern side of the building was the Torch Bearers' Room. The foundations of this room were intact and constructed using the same mix of blue metal and cement. The eastern wall [433] was shared with the meeting room. The southern wall was the external wall of the building [434]. The northern wall [432] and the western wall [435] were intact. The demolition of the older structures here had been quite aggressive, possibly because of the instability caused by the buried cellar. The stratified deposits in this area including the red clay yard [049] and various sand fills were dug out and thrown back and compressed to form a firm surface in this unstable area [485].

WAITING ROOMS

Behind, to the west of the Torch Bearers' Room were two small waiting rooms; the blue metal and cement foundations for these were intact [435, 434, 436, 640, 437]. There was a shared eastern wall with the Torch Bearers' room [435] and the southern wall of both was the external wall of the building [434]. The two rooms shared a common northern wall [640].

The area of the meeting room is indicated by the blue arrow; it was one room with the central foundation supporting only the floor not a wall above it. The Torch Bearers' room is shown by the yellow arrow and the waiting rooms by the green arrows.

SR 28.24
3.2.5

KITCHEN

At the western end of the waiting rooms the Legacy House plans show a kitchen. The demolition of the site had removed all the foundations of this room but the robbed out wall trenches were visible from them [477]. Between the kitchen and the back wall of the building the plan shows a corridor running north-south in which were stairs to the upper level. Nothing distinctive remained from this area. There was also a corridor between the suite of rooms on the northern and southern sides of this wing.

3.2.6

FILE ROOM

At the back of the building on the south-western corner was a large file room. It was separated from the other rooms along the southern range by the service corridor and stairs. The foundations of this room were intact. The southern wall was the external wall of the building [434] and the western wall the back wall of this wing [449]. The northern wall was intact [450] but the eastern wall that ran along the service corridor had been removed leaving a robbed out trench [448].

3.2.7

STORE

On the northern side of the building the meeting room was separated from the back of the building by the service corridor and in the north-western corner of this wing was a large store room. The back wall was intact being the back wall of the building [449] but the southern wall of the room had been robbed out leaving a trench [451]. There was a small fragment of the eastern wall that ran along the service corridor and this had a large cement base attached to the western side 1.8 x 800mm stained red [452]. Its purpose is unknown. This red coloured base was located in the space between the store and the file room. This was a small space that had stairs to the upper floor and the cement base may have been part of the support structure for the stairs.

The area of the kitchen indicated by a green arrow; the file room by a blue arrow and the store by the yellow arrow. The service corridor is in the area shown by the purple arrows. (SR 28.24)
3.2.8

ENTRANCES

In the space between the northern side of this building and the adjoining property was a narrow passage that was paved in the last instance by a gravel surface [425]. This passage gave access to the main entrance to the building located well back from the street on the northern side. On the southern side of the building there was a service entry and this was bound on the southern boundary of the allotment by a dry pressed brick wall of which the base courses survived [438].
3.3

THE NORTHERN WING

This wing was located in the north-eastern corner of the site behind the main wing on the northern boundary. It was originally used as male and female change rooms. There was a small car park behind it. All the strip footings for this wing survived and were found to be the same as those for the Marsden Street wing; 600mm cement and blue metal [017, 055, 091, 092, 093, 094, 095]. The only differences were in the internal partition walls [094, 095], which were only 300mm wide. Several of the foundations had remnants of the dry pressed bricks walls above still extant.

In the north-western room of this wing were a number of riser pipes [136, 137, 138, 139] that serviced the female toilets and kitchen area. One later service connection was also found here probably made in the 1980s or later [186]. The main service tench from here [164] was located on the western side of the building. The waste water pipe [011] ran to the northern boundary.

Between the northern wall of this wing [093] and the boundary was a major waste water pipe [103]. This was part of the original service network for the building. It had been replaced or supplemented later in the history of this building. A second pipe [010] lay over it in a tench excavated to the surface of the older pipe [034].

At the western end of this wing was a large service chamber [179]. It measured 2 x 1 metres and was lined with a hard plastic or malthoid like substance approximately 30mm thick. The bottom of the chamber was lined with the same material but the base was shaped so that it sloped down to the north where there was an old service connection. This had been replaced by a white PVC pipe. The large excavation for this chamber [180] was 200mm wider than the structure. It had caused considerable damage to the underlying deposits and features in this part of the site.

View south-east of the foundations of the north wing (SR 16 12)
View north of the service chamber at the eastern end of the northern wing (SR 12.2)

View west showing the north wing to the right and the gymnasium to the left (SR 23.11)
THE GYMNASIUM WING

This was the long wing that occupied the southern portion of the site on its western half. All of the foundations for this wing were intact and were made as strip footings using blue metal and cement. The southern wall formed the southern boundary of the site [064]. This wall had a number of "buttresses" along its length. It was set in a 700mm wide foundation trench [061]. This trench could be traced as it rounded the south-western corner but thereafter it had been destroyed by work in the 1980s for the construction of the wall that forms the western boundary [032] and the trench for it [020/021]. The fill of the trench for the southern wall included mixed yard surfaces and a considerable quantity of sandstone rubble [063]. This is likely to have come from a displaced rubble drain from the garden phase of the site.

Under the foundations of this wall, near the centre and at the western end, were some blue metal and cement box-like structures. They lay under the wall foundations and curved up to them. There were two on the southern wall [209, 210]. The western most [209] had a timber-lined box set in it. The central one [210] also had a timber lined-box approximately one metre long set into it. There is no obvious purpose for these elements for which considerable effort was made. Similar structures were found under the western wall.

View west of the box-like structures under the western wall of Legacy House (SR 13.20)

The western wall of the gymnasium wing [062] was set on the same poured cement foundation with a double brick cavity wall above it. At the southern end of this wall was another similar curved and boxed structure [208] lying under the foundation. It had three boxes set in it. The boxes had a fibro floor and were timber-lined. What may have been the remains of a similar structure was found lying under the western wall of this wing at its north-western corner. Here there was a void under the foundation wall and it had three small dry pressed brick piers set into it [205].

At the western end of the gymnasium wing the floor was supported by two diagonally placed pier walls. The southern wall [060] was 500mm wide. A narrow 150mm wide foundation trench for this wall could be seen only on the northern side of the wall [263]. In the triangular...
portion of the building formed by this and the southern and western walls the deposits had been removed down to the later nineteenth century –early twentieth century yard surface [037]. The northern of these oblique supports [080] was built in the same manner but was only 400mm wide.

At the eastern end of the gymnasium wing in the south-eastern corner, was a small toilet or wash room not shown on plans. It appears to have been a later addition added to what is shown on the drawings as a file room. The southern wall was built hard against the external wall of the building [064]. This new wall was made using a poured cement footing with dry-pressed brick above [150]. The western wall [148] was constructed in the same way as was the northern wall [149]. This northern wall had been formed around an existing major waste water pipe [072].

View south of small toilet added to Legacy House
(SR 7.06)

This pipe ran all the way west under the gymnasium wing. It contained the same distinctive liver coloured ceramic pipe seen elsewhere on the site as part of the original construction. It was set in a 500mm wide trench [073] back-filled with displaced yard surfaces [074]. It ended at the western end of the building in a gully traps [071] abutting the southern oblique support [060]. The trap measured 700 x 300mm and was made using dry pressed bricks. This gully trap was also the junction for another waste water pipe that ran north from it under the northern wall of the wing [055]. This pipe [066] was laid in a narrow trench [065] and back-filled with mixed yard surfaces and fill [067].
There was a small fragment of another waste pipe found in the centre of the southern edge of the gymnasium wing. This small fragment of a pipe [076] ran under the southern wall [064] and joined the major east-west pipe on this boundary [072].

There were a number of piers or the base of piers that had been used to support floor joists. Originally they appear to have been laid out in a rough grid; the demolition of the building had removed many of them. There was a substantial group at the southern end of the building, at the east and in the centre; [107], [090], [070], [069], [068], [088], [087], [086], [085], [084], [089], [098], [099], [123], [124], [125], [126], [129], [133], [131], [134], [058], [059] and [083].

View north showing the remnant floor piers in the gymnasium wing (SR 05.23)

3.5

THE PASSAGE

A central corridor separated the gymnasium wing and the northern wing; this passage gave access to the buildings from the Marsden Street wing. The northern wall of the gymnasium wing formed one side [055] and a similarly constructed wall [056] formed the northern side. This wall had been completely robbed out at the western end leaving only a trench [078] and a back-filled deposit of mixed red clay and various surfaces as well as broken dry pressed bricks and slate. There was one dry pressed brick footing in the corridor area. This single pier [142] is all that appears to have remained of the supports for the floor.

The back door of the passage was identified by a small external wall [017]. Next to this was the back door threshold [140]. It was separated from the wall by 1.5 cm and was made from soldier coursed dry pressed bricks in cement. The foundation trench for this footing [141] was 300mm wide. At the eastern end of the passage, the entrance to the main building was marked by another small foundation wall [172]. Beyond this to the east was another small cross wall in the passage [328].
3.6 SERVICES

There was a complex series of services added to the site for the building. Several have already been described in the preceding sections. Apart from a major service along the southern boundary [072] most converged on the northern boundary. In the north-western corner a major 200mm collared water pipe [010] ran east-west along the boundary. It was set into a pipe trench [034] only a little wider than the pipe. Emptying into it from the back wing of the Legacy building were two large ceramic waste pipes. The westernmost [006] pipe was the same style and size as the east-west pipe. It had been set into a narrow service trench [007] the back fill including debris from lower deposits and features including brick rubble and clay [008]. The connection between this pipe and the pipe running along the boundary [010] had been cut by a later service connection [004/005]. Pieces of the broken older pipe had been flung to one side [025].

A second similar pipe [011] from the northern wing was found to the east. This pipe has been described in earlier sections. It was set in a narrow pipe trench [104] and was filled [164] with the same mix of rubble and disturbed debris from lower levels.

Between these two intact pipes dating from the construction of Legacy House [006,011] was the fragment of a third [009] also running to connect to the pipe [010] on the northern boundary. The trench for this pipe [200] cut through the foundations of what may have been the brick cottage of the 1860s almost comprehensively removed from the site [013]. This service pipe was superseded by a later trench [178] that ran parallel to the earlier excavation on its eastern side. There was no pipe left in it.

Also running from the back wall of the northern wing [017] was another trench [027]. In it was set a fibro cement service pipe 150mm in diameter [028]. It had a riser at the end [029] that was white PVC and a later addition. This later work was identified by a shallow excavation back-filled with sand and covered with a line of reused bricks [181].

Under the central corridor and running under the gymnasium wing from north to south was a pipe trench [065]. In this was laid the same liver coloured pipes seen on the northern boundary contemporary with the construction of Legacy House [066]. The trench was backfilled with various displaced yard surfaces lying under the building [067]. This pipe ran into a large brick sump [054] that was located at the back of the Marsden street wing and to the northern side of the gymnasium wing. It was 800mm wide and apart from this pipe from under the gymnasium wing a second service pipe [007] ran from it to the northern boundary. The gully trap was also the end point of a major waste water pipe from the northern wing [051] laid as part of the original construction in 1955. This 200mm pipe was set in a 300mm wide service trench [052] that was back filled with the displaced yard surfaces [053].

Several services had been added to the northern part of the site after the initial period of construction being a concrete sump in north-west corner of site [003]; a white plastic stand-pipe [004] close to this sump which was connected to it via a service cut [023]; a white pvc pipe [005] running east-west set in a wide trench [024].
3.7

THE YARD

The last surface on the site at least at the western end was bitumen laid for the car park \([030]\). It was laid over blue metal and bitumen road base \([031]\). It had been cut by a trench \([020]\) for a boundary wall \([032]\) in the 1980s and fragments of it were backfilled into the trench \([021]\).

Before this there appears to have been a garden along the north-western boundary before the wall was built there. There was a loamy deposit \([169]\) that had been covered by the back fill from the wall trench \([120/121]\). In this loam was a bottle from Lackersteen and Co that could be dated to 1922-1929 (CR 0298). The excavation for this garden bed seems to have disturbed some of the earlier yard surfaces from Sonter Brothers.

View to the north of showing former garden bed, wall trench and most recent services for Legacy House (SR 01.05)
3.8 DEMOLITION

The Legacy House site was sold in 2002⁵ and then to the present owners in 2004⁶. The building was demolished in 2005 and the demolition rubble that remained from this work was the first deposit to be removed from the site [001] prior to the salvage excavation. However some of it remained and was removed as part of the excavation including the debris between the walls of the northern wing [097], debris lying over front of site [424, 425, 426].
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
150 MARSDEN ST, PARRAMATTA
Phase 12: Sydney Legacy
1955 - 2005

Based on field drawings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Code</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1A-III</td>
<td>15/11/2006</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A-IV</td>
<td>17/11/2006</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>08/11/2006</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B-I</td>
<td>13/11/2006</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B-II</td>
<td>16/11/2006</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>13/11/2006</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A-II</td>
<td>05/12/2006</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A-IV</td>
<td>13/12/2006</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B-II/B</td>
<td>05/12/2006</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B-III/B</td>
<td>11/12/2006</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>01/12/2006</td>
<td>K. Platt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>