20 March 2000, Monday

Rainy, 11mm. Continued as yesterday. Bruce assisted me an hour before and after lunch. It rained most of the afternoon but Kieran and I continued with the machine until about 3.15. We removed more of the upper layer of the original garden soil deposit and then the lower deposit as well (but turned out not to be as deep as suspected before we reached the loamless sandy soil and subsoil). The further east we proceeded, the more mixed the deposits seemed to become. The deep sewer line had destroyed more of the stratigraphy than anticipated. There were signs of later disturbances (1930s - 1950s) when they seem to have excavated a trench (or trenches) leading northward and backfilled it with contemporary rubbish mixed with the earlier deposits. One appeared to be a crude agricultural drain but with twentieth century materials.

Informed Craig that most of the area to the south of No 14 is now fully excavated to subsoil and the trucks can be allowed there to deliver the huge concrete pipes for the work at the end of Downshire Street. The rain had turned the surfaces to slush.

Jim, Simon, Greg, Ben and others raised the timber buttresses today, reinforcing the ruins at Bond 4 East. The great tarpaulins were raised over the site on Saturday with some difficulty.

21 March 2000, Tuesday

Rained all day, 55mm. Retreated to Bond 4 East so that I could work under cover. Began retrieving the many fragments from the washed away hearthstone to reconstruct it. Some water still coming in through the plugged hole (mild sewer smell) so Jim fitted another pipe under it. The kitchen and kitchen yard mildly flooded. Inspected all the other sites – all waterlogged. Mentioned that the proposed tour for locals of the Bond 4 East site could not happen unless the tarpaulins were removed. Visited Craig to report the progress and to say that I might as well go home.

Over the following two days more than 39mm of rain fell.

24 March 2000, Friday.

Cool and occasionally windy. Kieran and I continued as on the 20th. The loamy sand deposit did continue eastward but was compromised by the wide excavation for the deep sewer line (backfilled with bedrock rubble, surface soil and even bricks from the demolition of Nos 1 - 4 Old Downshire Street found their way into the backfill). Bagged the artefacts. Brian secured the high fence panels along Downshire Street because of the wind. Gave the release documents to Bruce to give to Craig. Craig visited, highly pleased at the progress (he has to do a report on Monday).
Today about half of the excavation spoils had been removed from the Hickson Road level of Bond 4 East.

Today they began to demolish the brick walls of Substation 3 (next to the Hickson Road part of Bond 4 East) using hammers.

25 March 2000, Saturday.

Don tracked too close to my unreleased site (south of Nos 1 - 4 site) with the 30 tonner but luckily had excavated that area yesterday. He's always co-operative but gets frustrated: unexpected 'live' drains, archaeological zonings, tight corners, and may only excavate for 20 minutes in every hour. Supervised the hole dug next to the Ferry Lane wire fence, adjoining the great hole at the end of Downshire Street (previously supervised). The same sequence was found from the asphalt of the road down to bedrock. Few artefacts.

Continued as yesterday but the further east we went the more mixed rubbish that we found. A case of where the deep sewer line was re-excavated during the 1950s to lay on another sewer connection and backfilled with surface rubbish dating between ca 1918 and the mid 1950s but most of the rubbish belonging to the latter period (beer bottles with the dates, 1947, 1952 and 1953). The original garden soil almost nonexistent here.

Checked out the crude 'agricultural drain' area again. It seems that the work was an attempt to raise the land and drain a natural spring or slight water course. Noticed that the drain led to a platform of mixed bricks of the same sort as excavated from the demolition layers of No 14, Nos 1 - 4 and including drypress bricks. The feature and drain are at the level of the yellow subsoil (near bedrock). The platform is at an oblique orientation to all other site features found so far and was located in line with the very east end of the No 14 yard but on the so-called 'Vacant Lot'

Bruce constantly called away so excavation of the West of Ferry Lane area had to be delayed. Collected building material samples and cleaned down the whole area around the modern brick shed on the boundary in readiness.

Craig still pleased with the progress. Most of the spoils now removed from Bond 4 East, Greg and or Ben recording the truck loads. Work progressing steadily on Substation 3.

27 March 2000, Monday.

Sunny. I officially released the south half of 52.2 except for the shoring area and the Davis Cottage site. Kieran and I finished the remainder of the deposits between the present and Old Downshire Streets. Discovered a retaining wall (north-south orientation) relating to Davis Cottage. The face on the cottage side was smooth but the other side was rough and uneven - the buried side of the retaining wall.
Had Greg take over from me so that I could work on Block 1 (west of Ferry Lane, the first house area from Pottinger Street). Was given Brian and Ben because I didn't get any help on Friday and Saturday as promised. Ben worked extremely well on Block 3 (cellar) fireplace leaving the delicate deposits for me (ceiling lath and plaster deposit 50mm - 80mm thick in a black soil matrix directly under the demolition layer). Got Brian at 1pm and had him scour the floor - turned out to be a Portland cement floor over blocks of sandstone, the spaces between them filled with small rubble. Craig came about to see if I was happy with the staff allocation and promised that they would not be called away to other jobs for two days. I continued on Block 1.

28 March 2000, Tuesday

Hot. Kieran forged a track for the excavator to reach the lower Ferry Lane area. Ben on the west bay of the Block 3 fireplace. Asked Ben to excavate the area next to the fence in Block 4 and discovered the west wall of the structure. Brian worked on defining the brick work of Block 4 - turned out that the south wall of the two is actually part of a fireplace.

Kieran cut two of the marked divisions under the modern brick shed along the boundary fence. The divisions were marked out by Jim because the structure needs underpinning in several stages. The concrete poured in the voids must completely dry before the next section can be excavated.

Kieran then busy excavating around the 'corner structure' in Block 1. Found that the north part of the corner structure does continue northward. Asked Ben and Brian to help me excavate the newly uncovered wall. The wall continued until we came across a remnant of a return wall. Jim really pleased with the rapid progress until he saw the newly uncovered wall. Craig inspected progress and we all have till work till 5pm.

29 March 2000, Wednesday

Ben and Brian continued the work on Block 4. Brian's brick wall (south wall of Block 4) appears to end before the line of Ben's! Had Kieran remove more soil to the east of Block 1 wall and found several more terracotta drains, one of them located within a substantial cut into the bedrock. The latter is apparently the remains of a very early stone drain serving the hotel once on the north-east corner of Windmill and Pottinger Streets - part of the Whalers' Arms complex by the 1840s.

The Italian workmen, Guido and Alfons, set up the forming for the first two of the underpinning pillars. Shaun (Roef) supervised the work.

I excavated the cement floor remains of the Block 1 structure - similar in technique as found at Block 3.
Called away at 10am by Maryanne Graham to give my first tour. Bruce had made a fence and viewing area over around the area overlooking the ruins at Bond 4 East. Maryanne had the group assembled on the corner of Ferry Lane and Windmill Street (hard hats arranged). We took them to the site and as I could only take about 5 on the viewing area at a time, I introduced them to a good selection of artefacts and explained what they could tell about the district, the houses they were found at and the individuals that lived there. They were welcome to take a closer look, which the ones left behind eagerly did. I took the second group at 4.30. Mac North and Lester Tropman present at both tours and talked to the various ones. I think everyone agreed that the tours were a great success.

30 March 2000, Thursday.

Partly Cloudy. Started to record the features at Block 1 before the others arrived. Kieran removing more material to the west of Block 3; the asphalt floor (up to 200mm thick in some places) was located over a surface of roughly shaped stones – discovered another terracotta drain line. We also removed more of the shoring along the boundary and the south end of Block 3. Greg had to secure the forming and after that cleaned surfaces and concrete spills for me. I continued recording. Jim made regular inspections throughout the day.

Sparked a meeting before 12 o'clock regarding the excavation of the strip between Bond 6 and Downshire Street. Discovered that part of the street would be involved. Jim, Craig, Bruce, Sam and others present. I had a close look at some of the half buried features and dug around some of them – all seem to be twentieth century features (relating to the street or the LEAP program).

1 April 2000, Saturday

Continued to record the footings of the structures on the west side of Ferry Lane. Two more sections were prepared for underpinning. It took a while for Kieran to remove the stump (Celtis paniculata) against the brick structure - the excavation for the section becoming much wider than wanted, as Shane noted. The forming was done and later filled with cement. Asked Kieran to remove the soil to the east of the wall remains, exposing the bedrock.
5.4 AREA 25.4, STRIP BETWEEN DOWNSHIRE STREET AND BOND 6

5 April 2000, Wednesday

Cloudy. Though not recovered, Craig persuaded (begged) me to return to work at this crucial time. The following account of work between Bond 6 and Downshire Street will be described in relation to the house numbers of Lower Fort Street.

Excavation began behind No 55. A shallow retaining wall was unearthed on the east side of the central back door of No 55, stopping in line with what could once have been a path leading from the back door (no sign of paving). It seemed a late phase feature because the stone blocks had no rubble base, just being stacked on garden soil (beneath the darkish sandy soil, over a light sand deposit leading to bedrock. Very few artefacts. Measured and drew up the feature and numbered the stones: 55 with a 1 under it and so on. Lester called to see the wall. Greg, Ben and Bruce dismantled the wall and strapped the stones onto pallets. Brent carted the pallets away with the large excavator. We then took down the deposit behind the stones to bedrock. Bruce, Ben and Greg securing the existing fencing. Others putting up very high fencing attached to the upright RSJs (set deeply in bedrock and secured with concrete). Greg Arrell, safety officer, inspected the site in order to write guidelines.

6 April 2000, Thursday

Rain, 5mm since yesterday. Continued with No 55 with Kieran but we were soon called away to Block 1 and 2 to do more of the underpinning, three sections. Simon filling in for Shane. Guido and Alfons preparing for the cement work. A pipe had broken and raw sewage running out – plumbers called. Recorded the stratigraphy and took soils samples.

Back to No 55 around 11.30 and clarified the stones on the west half of No 55. Found that the stones related to the construction of the road, retaining the slope at the edge of the road. The stones were well cut and obviously came from demolished buildings (not likely to have been local). Two halves of a window sill were found further under the road in line with the west side of the back door of No 55. Made rapid progress to the triple trunked stump (Celtis paniculata).

Greg Arrell, Security Manager and safety officer, came to the site again, his report expected tomorrow. Spoke to Craig about the destruction of the Davis Cottage retaining wall by those drilling holes for the huge RSJs - just a set of excavator tracks there now. Brian, Bruce and Greg putting up safety fences.
7 April 2000, Friday

Jim borrowed Kieran to uncover the sewage line at the underpinning site. Bagged the artefacts. At 9.30 Kieran took away the spoils at No 55 and scraped the area along the drop back to bedrock so that Ben and Bruce could drill for the extra secure safety fencing. After reading the safety guidelines we had to sign a paper to say that we would follow them. We have to keep a distance of 1.5m from the edge of the cliff. Got pounced on by Bruce when he thought I was too close to the 1.5m point, then got railed for standing too close to Kieran's machine but there was absolutely no other place for me to stand and it conformed to the rules. This was to be a work and safety excavation! Craig later looked in to make sure we all knew what to do and not to do.

Kieran removed the retaining blocks and the fill deposits next to and under them. Stopped Kieran when I saw some well squared stones appear in the profile. Spent the rest of the time exposing the feature. It turned out to be a wall relating to 57 Lower Fort Street. Luke and two of the Ladies came to take photographs. Lester came later. He wishes me to write a statement regarding the nature and significance of the cultural material already excavated. Seems that the plan of a dedicated artefact room was dropped ages ago.

Bruce and Ben working hard on removing the great stump. The root system of Celtis paniculata must be one of the most tenacious I have come across.

8 April 2000, Saturday

The hoarding along Downshire Street (attached to the upright RSJs) has passed us, working toward the west. I cleared away as much of the soil around the 'wall' and it has turned out to be an outbuilding (privy) relating to the construction period of No 57... accords with the 1865 plan. A large slab covered an opening on the north elevation of the structure. The inside was full of coarse white sand and stone fragments but no artefacts. The excavation for the deep sewer was found in the bedrock on the north side of the structure. We had also come across it at Vacant Lot East. The excavation created a lot of interest.

The struggle with the stump continued, Bruce with the chain saw and Ben with a shovel. Frustrating - we even tried the Gurney. The stump didn't move even after the main roots had been severed.

Instructed Bruce on what to do with the dismantling in case I wasn't in on Monday (my work being held up by the stump). Stayed after everyone had left so that I could number the stones of the structure after making the measured drawings. Numbered them 57/1 to 57/20 in the usual manner.
11 April 2000, Tuesday

Bruce, Ben and Brian did a great job on the stump and the dismantling of the structure yesterday. Kieran arrived but soon left as it seemed that he didn't have the required comprehensive insurance. I tidied up and attended to 'outstandings' but as it appeared that there would be no machine work today I thought it best to retire. Before I left had a surprise visit from Robert Prentice, my machine operator from October to January 6. He had an operation on his injury and might be ready for duties with Civil National soon. Mirvac has been good to him.

12 April 2000, Wednesday

Cloudy. All hands on deck. Lots of delays in the morning. Craig said that we had to extend the excavation to the street side of the upright RSJs. Too many people milling about on the narrow site. Ben obliged to wear the harness again when drilling for the safety fence. Greg, Bruce and Ben busy with the pallets of stone. After the big excavator had scraped away the spoils to bedrock, Kieran and I could take back the profiles to where Craig wanted them. Exposed more of the No 57 footing. Recovered fragments of an elaborate transfer printed toilet bowl associated with the footing. Discovered a terracotta pipeline going through the west side of the privy structure - obviously a later development when the privy was converted to a sewered one (the sandy fill (quarry sand?) inside would date to this development). We also extended the excavation another two metres westward. The Mirvac men who had been involved with the Key West development had their photo taken under the Harbour Bridge.

13 April 2000, Thursday

Had to fetch Craig for an on-site meeting to sort out a blurring of rôles between Bruce and I. Nicely resolved with good will all round. Progressed well until two No 57 sewer pipes were severed and sewage spilled onto the site at regular intervals. Plumbers called but nothing much achieved by 1pm. Greg had to dig out one of the old drain courses (wherein the later sewer pipe). We had to disinfect our tools. I left at 1pm as work was at a standstill. Wrote two short reports for Lester: Summary of the archaeological issues regarding the development of Bond 4 East and a summary of the nature and significance of the cultural material excavated to date.

14 April 2000, Friday

Very little achieved until 2.30 when the plumbers finished. Before that the main sewer line had to be exposed - told them that it was about 3 metres deep. Ben had to loosen the stone fill - tough job - and Kieran removed what he could with the excavator. Excavations began at 3pm after thick
metal plates were placed over the new PVC sewer line. Exposed the dividing wall between Nos 57 and 59. Discovered a huge drainage stone – beautifully carved – against the No 57 side of the dividing wall. Under the classic drainage stone was a very early brick drain, square in profile. I've seen many such stones on Norfolk Island (1820s-1850s), generally like a scooped out dish in a square stone with five square holes in the base (to filter out leaves. The edge of the stone had been drilled away due to the drilling for the RSJs. Craig and Tom visit the site.

15 April 2000, Saturday.

Everyone present. As a priority I recorded (measured drawings and photography) the Nos 57/59 wall and the drain stone. I numbered the stones with paint with the prefix 59 (including, for convenience, the drainstone which is actually in No 57). The work had to go at such a pace that the paint did not have time to dry; the measured drawings and photographs may be required at a later date to identify some of the stones. Craig putting the pressure on to keep the excavator working at full capacity. Greg, Ben and Bruce dismantled the wall and loaded the stones on pallets; hard work due to the size and weight of the stones. A couple of the stones disintegrated because they had pre-existing fractures.

After the removal we concentrated on uncovering the drain on the east half of No 59, a pre-1918 drain because it is under the asphalt yard of No 59. Came across a late (19th - early 20th deposit right against the south fill of the drain stone which probably extends under the street. Recorded the drain and a connected riser. The top of the latter was found to be flush with the old asphalt yard, so may have been part of a flush privy or sink arrangement. The late-period wall constructed on top of the asphalt was recorded but the stones were not saved. Kieran and I made good progress over the drain and wall, I recorded the features as they emerged.

17 April 2000, Monday

Warm to hot. Chaos all day over the narrow site because the Civil National group, Noel and Andrew mainly, were securing the thick iron retaining sheets behind the upright RSJs - hence the need for us to cut the profile under the north edge of the road as straight as possible, not easy because the RSJs are not arranged in a straight line. Lost Kieran from time to time as he had to hoist the heavy sheets in place behind the RSJs. The sheets had to be held in place until they could be fused together.

During this time went to the area west of Ferry Lane to finish the recording and take some more samples, completed at 10.30.

We are now permitted to drop spoils over the edge into Bond 6. I discovered another huge drainstone in No 59, boundary of 59/61. Brian Sonter and I excavated around it to reduce damage to Downshire Street and carefully levered it out. As predicted, I found the outbuilding to Nos 59/61 (at about 3.30). Too much of a rush for an ideal excavation.
18th April 2000, Tuesday

Cloudy. Much improved site conditions. I recorded the east end of the Nos 59/61 privy. The remains showed signs of modification from the time when it was converted to a sewaged privy. The modification included a new privy floor of cement over various brick types including drypress bricks. The void of the old privy arrangement was filled with the same type of fill as seen at No 57 except that the base 600mm had a layer of 'champagne' bottles of a ca 1900 date. It appears that the concrete and brick floor (resting on the fill) replaced an earlier floor of timber. The deposit was difficult to excavate because of the stone chips in the sand and the fine roots of the Celtis. The bottles were nearly all the same (appearance of a half size champagne bottle but were mostly used for wine or beer); retained a large sample.

The north privy outbuilding wall of the No 59 side was found to be very unstable. By mid afternoon had excavated the north elevation of the No 61 half and the east side of the mid dividing wall (between 59 and 61). Both privies were found to have flat cover stones over the access doorways on the north side, as was found at No 57. The privy structures had ashlar stone footings to floor level but were otherwise constructed of brick, a few courses of the brick wall were still in situ. Ben in harness most of the time, drilling holes for the safety fence or down below 'watching'. Someone must stand below in Bond 6 on watch when spoils are dumped over the edge. The bedrock ledge here in two levels, making it difficult for the excavator.

Change in policy regarding the stone. Squared stone no longer needed to be saved Craig and Bruce assured me that Lester had agreed to that. It was felt that there was too much stone and that it took up too much of the men's time and resources to retain it. The only stone to be retained are the ones I want for archaeological reasons. By 5pm I had delineated and began the recorded of the 59/61 outbuilding. Craig pleased with the progress. While Craig present we both spotted a glass crucifix with a candle holder (perfect condition) emerge from the upper loam and rubbish layer.
5.5 AREA 25.4 EXCAVATION OF DAVIS COTTAGE

19 April 2000, Thursday

Cold and cloudy, periodic showers. Completed the recording of Nos 59/61. Cleaned the surfaces for the numbering and used the prefix 61 for the 59/61 outbuilding; numbered from 61/1 to 61/40. The rain delayed the painting of the numbers. The No 59 covering stone (61/39) was discarded because it disintegrated on removal.

Craig wanted us to begin on Davis Cottage. When I inspected the site I discovered that the men (working on the pit at the west end of Downshire Street) removing a pile of metal from over the Davis site (dug about a week earlier without approval) had dug a crater in the middle of the site and had dislodged the row of stones representing the north footing of house. They had also dislodged the east end of the kitchen wall of No 14 Ferry Lane (breaking the stone skirting). Informed Craig. Brian, Kieran and I carefully removed the stone rubble they'd dumped along the south of the No 14 footings, (Brian re-erected the fence there).

We removed most of the rubbish overburden over the Davis Cottage site and then some of the upper rubble fill. At about 2pm Lester took my place supervising for an hour or so and found a collapsed wall. Work began on the deconstruction of the Nos 59/61 privy outbuilding but the rain put a stop to the work. The excavator John, also Irish, (ex-Gosford Quarries), continued Kieran's work at 59/61. I bagged the bottles. Noel and Andrew almost reached No 59 regarding the iron sheet shoring (there is yet to be a large section to be completed along Vacant Lot East).

20 April 2000, Thursday

Work continued at both ends (No 61 and Davis Cottage). Bruce deconstructed the Nos 59/61 outbuilding and John scooped out the stone chip and sand fill inside of No 61 - no cultural material.

A reverse in progress at Davis cottage when we had to pile earth back against the road profile because they were afraid of instability. Made a mess of the site. We had to rebury the collapsed wall. Brian put up a wire panel fence cutting the site in half.

21 April - 26 April, 2000 Easter break.

27th April 2000, Thursday

Kieran and I progress eastward from over the Davis Cottage site, discovering a number of outbuilding and retaining wall remains belonging to the ca 1900 terraces on Lower Fort Street - a jumble of reused road curb stones, drypress bricks and Portland cement for
mortar and surfaces. We made good progress but were hampered by the safety fence and the shoring.

Greg breaking up concrete under Pottinger Street. (From here on Greg working mostly elsewhere).

Supervised Ben and Daniel deconstruct Nos 59/61 - excellent work. While clarifying the upright sewer pipe in the No 61 privy part of the profile collapsed scraping my lower leg. I then returned to Davis Cottage. Ben and the others knowing to call me if anything needs my attention. The distance between the two excavations shrinking all the time making it easier to supervise both sites.

28th April 2000, Friday

All hands except Greg. The morning was spent removing two Celtis paniculata stumps (No 61 and opposite the west of the two brick terraces). Daniel seems to have replaced John on the excavator. Chaos again when two 'live' sewer pipes were severed resulting in untreated sewage pouring onto the site at No 61 and also just east of Davis Cottage. We almost reached the line of Downshire Place (old Davis Street). Kieran and I concentrated on removing the soil along the edge to bedrock for the safety fencing. Craig joined us around their lunch time and again 2pm when Lester visited. Kieran the subject of praise: 'you've trained him to the Nth degree' they told me). Craig wanted us to concentrate on Davis Cottage, so we'll have to leave the remainder of the gap to be done by Daniel under the eyes of Ben, Bruce and Lester. Ben in harness drilling safety fence holes and sometimes on watch duty. Brian down below on watch duty.

Started to do some of the more detailed work on Davis Cottage with Kieran at last.

29 April 2000, Saturday.

Took down a maximum of 1.5 metres along the west end edge of Bond 6. Where the soil had not been disturbed by the deep sewer line, it was mainly early garden soil (usual dark loamy soil). Small scoops were taken in the areas too close to the edge, the soil being shaken from the scoop two or three times. Some early ceramics and glass from the garden deposits on the north side and part of the east side of the cottage site. The garden soil was over neutral subsoil and then bedrock, as found elsewhere.

Today Lester Tropman started some supervision duties with Daniel as excavator, which he obviously enjoyed. He's also keeping an eye on the deep drain excavation at Pottinger Street near the junction with Windmill Street (plus his usual duties). Discussed my Davis Cottage excavation methodology with Craig. He's enormously pleased with the progress.

Bruce and Ben continued on the safety fencing at the cottage site – almost totally secured now and the site ready for systematic excavation. I discovered what seems to be another
privy footing at the very east end of the cottage site. Although the squared stones are old, they were from several different sources (different widths) and were bound in Portland cement. Probably ca 1900 and seemed to relate to the houses along Windmill Street.

1 May 2000, Monday

Cloudy and drizzle from 3pm. At about 12 o'clock the east and west excavations met at the point of the great sewer inspection pit (in line with Downshire Place). Lester arrived at about 8.30 to continue the supervision for me, this time with John at the machine. He paid great attention to the subsurface remains of previous roads and fill in line with Downshire Place.

Had Kieran remove the recent fill (against the Street profile) and later fill layers until we again reached the cottage demolition levels. We began from the east-end sewer that was severed the other day and worked westward.

Discovered a wall running east-west, a fireplace and rediscovered the fallen brick wall. Lester successfully arranged permission for me to excavate into the shoring along the street, so I had to have the new discoveries covered again until we removed the shoring. The profiles were excavated within a few hours. I then had Kieran take down the site 100mm at a time. New features emerged with each 100mm slice, further constricting the site, making it quite difficult for Kieran's excavator. Got Kieran to concentrate on the west end of the site, next to the remains of the west wall of the cottage. Discovered a set of stone steps on the west side of the wall. Also rediscovered the remains of the retaining wall.

At the end of the day, I clarified the east-west wall and uncovered a wall at right angles to it. Also began to clarify the 'fallen' brick wall.

2 May 2000, Tuesday

Had Kieran start at the east end of the cottage site to carefully scrape down the soil to bedrock. Found the great sewer deposit (backfill from the original excavation) was wider than anticipated and running right through the north half of the cottage, leaving only the north wall (actually verandah wall) and a small portion of the north-west corner. The west section of the corner evidently had been rebuilt at a very late stage (drypress bricks and Portland cement - possibly in connection with a new plumbing system at the north end of the kitchen extension). I excavated the cottage demolition deposit in the north-east room. Bagged finds and soil samples. Ben and Bruce? working along Downshire street fencing off dangerous areas. John continued work on the east side.
3 May 2000, Wednesday

Kieran not well but got him to take down the remaining shoring further west of the cottage from the cottage retaining wall (accidentally heavily damaged). He helped Noel and Andrew lifting the large metal shoring plates to the east and west of the cottage site. Craig decided that he couldn't wait for the cottage area to be excavated before putting in the metal plates over the site (public liability) but we compromised by placing half sheets initially along the upper half. Annoying because there would be people walking over the site and damage to the exposed walls guaranteed and it would hold up the trowel excavations. I also supervised Brent who used the 28 tonner to shift the spoils from the site and into Bond 6 - good careful work. Huge trucks today and yesterday removing spoils from Bond 6. Simon and others putting up tall grey cloth screens below to keep out the dust. I helped Andrew make the profiles as even as possible for the half iron sheets (to minimise potential damage to the archaeology).

Recorded the east side privy and the 1830s fireplace or oven platform in plan and elevations as a precaution against damage. Noted that there was a second phase to the ca 1900 east privy involving the use of drypress bricks. The fireplace discovered earlier is on the west side of the cottage site - part of a later kitchen addition. Lester visited the site on his way to a meeting with Tasman Storey.

4 May 2000, Thursday

Asked Kieran to remove the deposits directly against the north verandah wall of the cottage. The surface deposit was the usual dark loamy garden soil which became lighter at deeper levels to bedrock. Few Finds and no trace of a demolition deposit. Excavated the remainder of the area directly to the west of the cottage site. Kieran spent the rest of the day assisting Noel and his men secure the metal sheets and excavating for the replacement PVC sewer lines - Greg had to do the hand digging there. Brian and Ben putting up a high fence along Ferry Lane because the hire fence had been taken down.

I excavated the old terracotta sewer line set in a rock channel (earlier drain) to the north of the cottage verandah. The line used to flow east to west and via another rock channel into a riser at the east end of Old Downshire Street, on the south side. Granted Greg for an hour - he delineated the verandah/kitchen wall perfectly. Photographed the site. Nick came by for the monthly archaeological progress report, he also took photographs.

5 May 2000, Friday

Sporadic rain. Today had Ben working for me all day, Brian half day and Greg for a short while. Ben took down the remainder of the fill in the privy - nothing except for a number of egg outlines in the sand and a chicken skull. The excavation behind (south side of) the privy was taken over by Brian but he found little else than rock, soil and charcoal. At 12.30 set Ben onto the charcoal/coal darkened soil deposit on the east side of the kitchen.
fireplace where a number of very interesting finds were made. I began on a similar deposit on the west side later. A number of heavy downpours interrupted work, though Ben continued under the shelter of a tin sheet. Craig visited a number of times - keen to see the work finished by next Friday (and demolition on Saturday). Jay Davidson left.

6 May 2000, Saturday

Bruce away. Brian mostly busy elsewhere but worked some more on the deposit behind the privy. Ben and I continued as yesterday - quite a number of interesting small finds. I continued working after 2pm because there was a fair amount of trowel excavation to do. Found evidence of spoils in the stratigraphy dating to the construction period of the fireplace and west wall (not seen on the east side). Began the west of fireplace, north half trench (north of the dividing wall) by removing a 300mm - 350mm deposit of small stone rubble, fragments of old and drypress bricks, fragments of a blackish sharp edged terracotta tile but otherwise few artefacts. (Measurements taken from the hearthstone level). A thin but similar deposit was found on the south side of the fireplace where also fragments of a 1790s roofing tile was found. The fireplace is not a double one. Also began a trench along the 'west wall' trench starting at the north end (blacking jar and a ha'penny). The cultural deposits may date to around the 1890s but it is not clear how the deposits were created because there were too many artefacts to suggest a gradual accumulation.

Electricians putting up lights along the street side of the hoarding.

8 May 2000, Monday

Ben and I continued as on Saturday until 1.30, Ben basically removing the ash deposit to a depth of 300mm. I expanded the 'west wall' trench northwards. Found a line of bricks to the west of the fireplace which turned out to be a part of a brick lined pit. The pit was filled with sandstock brickbats in a matrix of soft brownish sand. No other finds apart from shards of a stencil pattern cup and a pipe stem (associated with a light brownish gritty sand), probably content remnants of a privy pit which was emptied when then the kitchen extension was built. The pit seemed to predate the kitchen addition. (Note: later thought to be contemporary due to the pit height compared to the exterior ground level).

Ben called away at 1.30 but Bruce said I could have all my men back tomorrow. Kieran working elsewhere. Craig came to inspect the progress.

9 May 2000, Tuesday

Bruce and Ben away. Not good in terms of having been set the Saturday deadline. Civil National called away to do a five hour course on how not to wreck a construction site. Ben and Brian's new fence had already been wrecked and then there was the damage to
the archaeology.... Got Brian at 11pm but he had to go at 12.30 for the Mirvac lunch at Key West. Given Greg for an hour or so in the morning and afternoon - cleaned down the 'collapsed wall' and dug a small trench along the west end of the south-east room.

I excavated the south-east room, taking out the 'collapsed wall' after full recording. The bricks had cement render over earlier mortar on the under side of the bricks - there had been traces of a whitish render on the upper surface but appear to have been removed during the machine excavation (reburied twice). Found a shadow (decomposed timber) of a stud under the bricks. It is possible that the bricks represent a brick nogged wall. Davis Cottage had always been described as a timber structure. Took down the underfloor deposit but found mainly bones along the walls, evidence of rat activity. The interior walls of the cottage were found to be quite shallow, about 200mm.

I extended Brian's excavation along the east fireplace or oven platform. Extended this into the east end of the south-east room. Recorded the brick privy pit (no mortar between the bricks) and the profile leading into the west trench. Craig visited and apologised regarding the lack of help.

10 May 2000, Wednesday

18mm rain in the morning and up to 1pm. Bruce and Ben away again and Greg helping Jim (Substation 3 is half way down). I began by recording the east privy and part of the fireplace or oven platform. Excavated the north side of the platform to bedrock and extended the excavation along the north wall of the south-east room. Found that the wall was straight after all - the missing north edge and the exposed plinth course along the south edge made it appear to be a different wall until it was all excavated. Exposed the plinth course along the full length - evidence of rat activity (holes and bones). Lowered the underfloor deposit in the south-east room, finding several more early coins (1797, 1799 and 1826) in the underfloor deposit (40mm - 80mm maximum thickness).

Cleared the soil from the tops of the walls to allow the rain to wash them clean. The rain had softened the very hard soil deposits so made good progress with the excavation of the underfloor deposits. Began the excavation of the area to the north of the kitchen fireplace: the surface 120mm deposit was very compacted (sandstone rubble, brick pieces including one drypress brick). Below the loamy soil was soft (domino with traces of decomposed wood).

No site visits except for Alex and a colleague (drains). Paddy (County Kerry) replaced John re excavator work on both sides of the cottage site.

11 May 2000, Thursday

Sunny. Ben and Bruce still away. Bruce's mother gravely ill and Ben with flu according to Tom. Told Craig that I needed Ben to finish his detailed work (he's the only one that
gets a 95% for excavation technique). Tom apologised for the lack of help but said they had great faith in me!

Worked through the day excavating the north of the fireplace deposits. Drew up the profile of the mid wall.

Plumber doing a video probe of the great sewer under the site as there was a blockage. Noel Davidson now working on the new sewer line to go through Ferry Lane. No Lester so far this week. Craig informed me that my mobile (archaeological repository) would be shifted from wharves 6/7 to 2/3 in preparation for the wharf demolition. Michael Doyle visited.

12 May 2000, Friday

Sunny. Spent the entire day drawing up Davis Cottage, barely finished by 5pm.

Ben there recording the coming and going of trucks. Craig came by to gloat at the progress. Told him the site would be ready for demolition tomorrow and I'd need Kieran for that. Kieran could be seen on his machine on top of Substation 3 contrasting against an immense pile of twisted metal - absolutely surreal. Jim Dempsey arrived with two of the Tropman & Tropman ladies to take photographs. Lester visited later to take black and white photographs. Noel pleased at the progress too because he was under pressure to complete the shoring. Both Andrew and Noel gave me surface finds from the Ferry Lane area where they are working. Simon below in Bond 6 marking out the ground from large plans.

13 May 2000, Saturday.

It was just Kieran and I working on the systematic demolition of the Davis Cottage remains. Ben there recording the number plates of the huge trucks and trays as they were being loaded up with spoils. Told me the sad news that Bruce Dodd's mother had passed away. Greg Mitchell absent.

Began work on the kitchen area, Kieran cutting perfect profiles of the fireplace and the east and west walls for me to record. Craig, under severe pressure, told me this was a waste of time but I told him this was my duty. Kieran and I then began on the north-east room, then the shallow mid wall, then the south-east room. This careful work made Craig extremely nervous - I diffused the situation by assuring him we'd be finished at 2pm. Without relaying pressure on Kieran we continued step by step, at last leaving only the two perfectly excavated, now free-standing, east and west walls of the kitchen. After recording, Ben and I watched as Kieran demolished the walls, brick privy pit and steps, finishing at exactly 2pm. Shook Kieran's hand and thanked him for the excellent work he'd done over the months. Craig Prebble, obviously greatly satisfied, came up to say
'Thank you'. And so ended a very eventful and significant Sydney excavation which lasted seven months and one day.
5.6 POST EXCAVATION LOG


Collected the last of the bags from the site, Ben had already taken down the sample bricks. Bruce back and we consoled him regarding his mother's passing. Ben and I loaded the bricks in my ute and took them to wharf 2. After unlocking the gate we off-loaded the bricks and bags of artefacts.

The mobile is located behind the shower/locker rooms, just off the main drive. The bags of artefacts had been perfectly arranged on the floor with a path in the middle - thanks to Bruce and Nick, according to Craig. We were shocked at the number of the (large) bags.

To Bond 4 East because Craig reminded me to make an inspection and Lester wanted me to excavate the courtyard to the east of the kitchen. I cleaned out the silted rock tanks and spaded out collapsed and silted areas (the result of 'the flood') after making a thorough inspection (all in good order). After an hour began the excavation by removing the spoils and starting at the east side of the door threshold until I reached rough flagging. Surprised that the stratigraphy had survived (rich in artefacts). Had to transport the spoils to the east side of where the stone drain was. Jim, Bruce and Ben visited at various times to see if I was alright. Too dark to continue after 4.15 because the site is covered with tarpaulins.

16 May 2000, Tuesday.

Began the day recording Nos 12 and 14 Ferry Lane. I had to wait until now because they wanted me to continue immediately on other sites (since Nos 12 and 14 were not to be demolished). At 11am went to Bond 4 East to continue the excavation of the west half of the kitchen courtyard (left the east half which is covered in spoils). The stratigraphy is complex, seems to represent periods of slow build up of soil and periods of dumping plaster and soil rich in artefacts (largish rocks thrown in at the same time - hence not a slow build up). The minor lenses can be explained by material thrown in by bucket or barrow. The rough flagging continued a little past the door and was found to slope considerably from the south to northward.

Informed Jim I would be working there (he's in charge of this area and Substation 3). Was warned of the dangers. Bruce and Ben visited. Gave Bruce the Release document for Area 25 to give to Craig. I spoke to Craig about what I had yet to do. Don excavating a deep hole on the Pottinger Street side of Bond 4 East - just clean sandstone fill. Ben collected for Bruce's mother's funeral tomorrow, everyone signing a card and there was $100.- for a donation to the Cancer Council.
18 May 2000, Wednesday

I continued recording Nos 12 and 14. Later to Bond 4 East (the light best there after about 10am). Completed the excavation to a thick plaster deposit. Had uncovered a rough row of stones a short space from the kitchen wall - rests on the plaster deposit - artefact rich loam layers to the sides of the stones. The plaster layer along the wall appeared to have been cut into, perhaps to improve drainage. The plaster layer commenced at about the level of the north end of the flagging. Cleaned down the profile at the north end of the little courtyard (long drop), as seen below from the kitchen garden area - may make a good display. Began to re-assemble the fractured hearthstone. Left at 3.10 because of the bad light.

23 May 2000, Tuesday

Bruce, Ben and Greg had to place new green tarps over the Bond 4 East site, difficult but finished by 2pm. I continued measuring No 12 Ferry Lane. Noel and assistant gave me some items found at Ferry Lane and the Davis Cottage site.

24 May 2000, Wednesday

Cold. Continued on Nos 12 and 14 Ferry Lane. Discovered a series of three sets of 'mortises' for door jambs at No 12, resolving where the doors were and what the floor levels were. These features previously filled with sand. At 12 o'clock went to Bond 4 East, tidied up the area after the tarps had been re-established, bagged outstanding finds and reconstructed the hearthstone. Found several more pieces embedded in silt but about 15% to 20% is still missing. Some of the pieces were very worn and fragmentation may have rendered them unrecognizable. There are still a few pieces that can't few placed. Left at 3.30.

5 June 2000, Monday

Sent a lump sum estimate to Lester Tropman regarding the report and artefact analysis phase. Prepared and sent my March to May invoice.

12 June 2000, Monday

Began on the Walsh Bay Report by starting on the site log, which will be the backbone of the report. Completed the unedited draft of the log on June 22, over 40,000 words.
20 June 2000, Tuesday

Was asked by Fleur of Tropman & Tropman to visit the site to identify stone housed under Pottinger Street (soon to be removed to Botany). Spent two hours on this. The stone is all over the place, several pallets split when they were deposited and metal straps broken. One pile of stone from an unknown place was recently deposited over un-palleted stones which I believe originate from the great wall at Pottinger Street (Vacant Lot East). There is a considerable layer of very fine dust over the stone making it difficult to see painted labels or surface details. I regretted leaving my torch at home because of the lack of light. Took the opportunity to check the site and take some more outstanding measurements. The top course of the south wall of the No 14 kitchen (back room) has been knocked over, including the section with the stone skirting. That is the third time the latter feature has been damaged. The Nos 12 and 14 site has now been securely fenced off with signs forbidding access. The walls have all been securely braced with timbers to prevent further accident or from vibrations from the rock excavations (deep) to the north and west sides. The tarpaulins at Bond 4 East are down (due to the heavy winds) but will be going up on Thursday, after some filming takes place. The Bond 4 East site appears to be in good condition. The deep excavation for the main drain under Pottinger Street near the junction with Windmill Street appears to be completed - nothing more than clean sandstone fill around the old inspection hole and northward of it. Spoke with Craig about the protection of the site. Also spoke with Jim, Shane and Brian. Saw no-one familiar apart from Noel. Very quiet.
6.0 SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following publications were used directly or indirectly in the research phase of this report. Tropman & Tropman, Architects also produced a number of reports which are not listed here because they were not directly relevant to the archaeology of this site. Minor reports produced by myself dealing with temporary or incomplete matters are also not listed. Further references relating to Walsh Bay, but not directly relevant to this report, may be found in the report 'Walsh Bay Precinct Conservation Plan' by Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners Pty Ltd, Appendices 9.1, pages A.1 and A.2.

6.1 PUBLICATIONS


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6.2 REPORTS (VARIOUS)

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6.4 MAPS

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-Peddle, Thorp & Walker. Walsh Bay Redevelopment. September 1997 Masterplan D.A.

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