Section 8.3

TRENCH REPORT
Area C

710 – 722 George Street,
Sydney

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Area C is the northern part of the archaeological site at 710-722 George Street. The site was divided into three areas (A, B and C). Area C deals specifically with No. 710 George Street. Four main phases of structural occupation were found in this area during excavation.

- The earliest phase dates back to the 1840s with the remains of a footing of a building facing onto George Street and a brick well at the rear of the property (1840s-1860s). Only the eastern end of this structure was exposed within the excavation area. The rest may still be under George Street.

- Between the 1860s and 1890s internal changes were made to this building. There were also remains of underfloor deposits, a laneway and two cesspits found.

- By the 1890s the property at 710 George Street was subdivided and new structures were built. Remains of larger footings were found extending eastwards.

- Finally around the 1940s another new structure was built at 710 which survived until 2008. This last building consisted of sandstone and machine-made brick footings. It seems likely that the stone footings were reused from the previous phase (1890s-1930s) with the main changes being to the superstructure.

There was no evidence of any Aboriginal occupation or early brickfield activity found in Area C, although quite a lot of brickfield activity was found right next door (Area B) at 712-718 George Street (See Area B Trench Report).
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background
Archaeological excavation took place at the site of 710-722 George Street, Haymarket over a nine week period between August and November 2008. Casey & Lowe were commissioned by Parkview on behalf of Inmark to undertake an archaeological assessment of the study area prior to the excavation. Casey & Lowe have already undertaken the assessments and excavations of similar related sites in this area, i.e., 16-20 Albion Street, 242 Elizabeth Street, and the adjacent Silknit House, 19-41 Reservoir Street and a nearby site on the corner of Pitt and Campbell Streets.

The study area is triangular in shape and is on the eastern side of George Street, north of the corner of Campbell Street (Fig. 1.1). The proposed development of the property is for a multi-storey residential and commercial development with two levels of underground parking. The site is situated above two railway tunnels which limits the amount of bulk excavation to two levels of carparking. This development will remove all surviving archaeological remains within the footprint of the study area.

This report deals specifically with Area C which contained 710 George Street. Numerous phases of construction, occupation and demolition did occur throughout Area C right up to the present day. No evidence of Aboriginal occupation was found in Area C as the only topsoil that survived was in section. There was no evidence of brickfield activities in this area. Most of the early brickfield activity was found further south in Areas B and C (712-722 George Street). By the 1820s brickmaking had moved from this area. Between the 1840s and 1930s there were at least four phases of rebuilding of structures at No. 710 George Street, mostly into shops and commercial premises. Evidence of these structures did survived. The last structure at 710 George Street was replaced in the 1930s by the current buildings which were only demolished prior to excavation.

1.2 Study Area
The study area, 710-722 George Street, is bound on the western side by George Street, on the eastern side by Cunningham Lane and on the northern and southern sides by the extant buildings No. 708 and 724 George Street respectively (Fig. 1.1). For excavation purposes the study area was divided into three areas, Area A to the south, Area B in the centre and Area C to the north. These divisions into areas also correspond with the early allotment numbers assigned along George Street. This report deals specifically with Area C (Lot 4).

Area A (Lot 2), consisted of the southern end of the site which included buildings 720 and 722 George Street. Below these large footings were the remains of an earlier structure, the 1830s Woolpack Inn and evidence of early backfilling of a large cut associated with the brickfield era.

Area B (Lot 3) comprised the central portion of the study area which included Nos 712–718 George Street. This area contained extensive remains from the brickfield days along with early residential occupation and many phases of commercial occupation. Area B will be discussed in detail in a separate trench report.

Area C (Lot 4) will be discussed in detail in this report and is the area of No. 710 George Street and contained many phases of occupation, mostly commercial. Context numbers 7301 – 7700 were assigned to the study area.

1.3 Plans
All the plans for this excavation were drawn to a scale of 1:50. A total of ten plans were drawn of the study area, most of which contained overlays from the different stages of excavation. Plans nos. 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 specifically cover Area C (see Volume 3, Section 10 of Report).
1.4 Phases
The study area has been divided into eight main phases. The analysis of the historical occupation of the study area is presented in Section 2. The phases are based on a combination of the historical records and the archaeology of the site. While a number of phases were predicted for the site as a whole, they were not all relevant to Area C.

- Phase 1: Natural Landscape
- Phase 2: Aboriginal Occupation
- Phase 3: 1788–c1823: Brickfields and pottery manufacture and early village.
- Phase 4: c1823–c1840: Post-Brickfields occupation by former convicts and families. Allocation of new grants, operation of private businesses by former convict George Richards and Michael Joyce with the assistance of assigned convicts. Both have structures on their properties but only Michael Joyce’s are within the study area.
- Phase 5: c1840–1860s: Rebuilding of the structures in 1840s into a series of shops. This block was considered to be one of the worst blocks in Sydney for its poor living standards and vice by 1858.
- Phase 6: 1860s–c1890: Another rebuilding phase in 1860s associated with the general cleansing of this block. More substantial rebuilding and continued commercial occupation.
- Phase 7: c1890–1930s: Rebuilding of both properties c1890 sees the replacement of the earlier shops by buildings which survive into the twentieth century.
- Phase 8: 1930s–1990s: The structure at 710 is again replaced in the 1930s by the current buildings. The structures at 712–718 appear to survive into the late twentieth century when they were demolished and replaced by the current low level building.

Some of these phases were subdivided under more specific headings, which will be dealt with throughout this report. The natural landscape (Phase 1) in Area C was quite level. Little remained of the original topsoil, although there were very thin spreads of the A1 horizon towards the western end of the area. Most of the topsoil that remained was only visible in section below the twentieth-century footings. The subsoils (A2 and B1 horizons) were more evident with some features cutting through them. No evidence of Aboriginal occupation (Phase 2) survived.

Evidence of brickfield activity (Phase 3) did not extend as far north as Area C. Evidence from this phase was only present in Areas A and B. There were no structural remains from the immediate post-brickfield era (1823-1840) in Area C (Phase 4). The earliest structures are from the 1840s (Phase 5) with stone footings (7441) surviving at the western end of the site along George Street. These footings were probably reused in the 1860s (Phase 6) when a phase of restructuring occurred. Underfloor deposits were found from Phase 6. By 1891 there were three temporary single-storey buildings in Area C. The buildings were numbered 710, 710A and 710½ but were soon replaced by one larger building which survived into the twentieth century (Phase 7). The structure at 710 was replaced in the 1930s by the building that was demolished prior to the excavation in 2008 (Phase 8). The brick and stone footings (7440) from this twentieth century structure were still in situ at the time of excavation.

1.5 Limitations
This report was written without access to the artefact catalogue and any dates these may have provided to assist with phasing. The information came from the recording done on site and the historical material available from the Archaeological Assessment compiled by Casey & Lowe in June 2008.
1.6 Authorship
This report has been written by Jill Miskella. I supervised Area A and Area C for the period of excavation from 29/8/08 to 11/10/08. During this time I was involved in the supervision of work, excavation of features and deposits, recording of information and the annotation of plans. The history included in this report comes from the Archaeological Assessments completed by Casey & Lowe in June 2008. This report was reviewed in detail by Mike Hincks and Dr Mary Casey.

Figure 1.1: Location of site on the eastern side of George Street.
2.0 Brief Historical Background

2.1 General Background
Extracts have been taken from the Archaeological Assessment for 710-722 George Street, Area C, Lot 4 to put together this brief historical background.

The site, prior to British settlement, was on the lower side of what became known as Brickfield Hill. The early plans show that the site was somewhat outside the town of Sydney. From an early stage it was subject to clearance and subsequent use of the area as ‘Brickfield Village’. Bricks were being manufactured here by 1788. Many of the Aboriginal occupants of the eastern shore of Darling Harbour would have disappeared from this area soon after settlement because of its proximity to the Brickfields and George Street.

The original part of the Brickfields centered on the blocks between Campbell, Elizabeth, Goulburn and George Streets. This includes the current study area. Once the clay resources were used up in the original brickfield area, brickmaking activities spread out towards Darling Harbour and Surry Hills. Lesueur’s 1802 Plan of the Town of Sydney (Fig. 2.1), depicts allotments and houses on both sides of George (High) Street, labeled “Brickfield Village, where there are manufacturies of tiles, pottery, crockery, etc”. Meehan’s 1807 plan has a notation that “These Houses are irregularly Built very few of them good”. By the 1820s brickmaking moved from the area as the available clay was used up or as the encroaching town made the process objectionable or uncommercial.

The street layout in the area was settled in the 1820s, and from 1831 the plans of Sydney show how the study area had become part of the town proper. The frontages of the new streets were already dotted with buildings.

When William Jevons visited the colony in 1858 and carried out his Social Survey of Australian Cities his attention was often drawn to the more depressed parts of the places he visited.

He stated:

That part of Sydney where the lowest & vicious classes most predominate & where the abodes are of the worst possible description is the square block of land between George, Goulburn, Pitt, & Campbell Streets. Towards the first & last of these streets it is occupied by shops or business premises, and among which are no less than seven public houses or inns & two or three livery stables, a stable yard of large size. It is however within this block of land that the bad features appear. Several lanes of irregular angular shape proceed into it burdened by very closely packed & chiefly brick cottages, the dirty low appearance of which defies description. Such is Durands Alley, some female inmate inhabitant of which is punished almost every day at the Police Court for offences chiefly connected with prostitution. I walked through these miserable alleys which are quite shut out from common view & form almost blind alleys. No more secure & private retreat for vice is afforded in Sydney.\(^1\)

Jevons description of the block of land bounded by George, Goulburn, Pitt and Campbell Streets includes the study area, and it does indeed feature hotels and inns on its northern and southern perimeters. The description of the housing within the block, specifically within Durands Alley, does by association imply that the study area was associated with an area renowned for its more dubious qualities by the middle of the nineteenth century. This also suggests that the commercial enterprises located within this area were of a type, and in a location, that were directed towards a customer base comprising of the lower working class, Jevon’s so-called third class.

\(^1\) Jevons 1858:18
None of the properties within the study area were resumed by Council but there was redevelopment of structures at 712–718 when the c1840s buildings were replaced by four two-storey shops in the 1860s. It also appears that the building at 710 was also demolished by 1867. There is an additional phase of redevelopment in the 1890s.
2.2 710 George Street

A number of sources were initially used to help construct a history of the site’s occupation and land use and included: Sands Directory, the Council Rate Assessment books, pictorial material (plans and photographs) and land title material.

This area is the southern part of George Richard’s grant from Governor Darling, Section 2, Lot 4 (Fig. 2.2). It was granted on 8 March 1831 to George Richards, shopkeeper. This was a confirmation of title as Richards had already sold it to Thomas Etchells, a hatter, of Sydney in May 1828. Richards is probably living on this property by 1823 when he is listed as living in the Brickfields. He is still there in the 1828 Census with his two sons, George (junior) and William. When Richards sold it there were five structures on this plan all of which were to the north of what later became the property at 710 George Street. It was separately fenced from the northern part of this allotment.

In 1845, the property was listed as a two-storey, six-roomed shop, but was likely to also be a residence. It was brick with a shingled roof and had a value of £70. It was owned by Samuel Power with Thomas Dally in residence. In 1848, the property was listed as a five-roomed structure but otherwise remained the same. Ownership had passed to Terrance Daly, who was also listed as the occupant.

By 1861 the property had changed ownership to William Daley. The building was still listed as being brick with shingled roof and two stories but only six rooms. Sands Directory indicates that No. 710 was used as a grocer shop by 1858-59 to c1868. Thomas Grogan was the first known grocer (1858-59 to c1865), eventually being replaced by the Lenehan Brothers (c1868 to c1871). It is also considered that the upper floor of this building was a residence.

Between 1861, 1867 and 1871 the building remains the same structurally, with just the number of rooms varying, from six to eight to ten, perhaps indicating interior changes rather than major rebuilding. The function of the building during these years is listed as a house and store (1861) or a house and shop (1867 and 1871). In 1882 the only difference to the building is that it appears to have been re-roofed since 1871, with the roof now listed as iron (which may well have been laid directly over the shingles). It is here, under a column headed ‘Remarks’, that it is noted that this building was subsequently ‘pulled down’. This apparently happened by 1891. However, the Metropolitan Detail Series 1895 plan shows the same buildings at No. 710 as on the 1880 plan (Fig 2.3) which is also the same as on the 1865 plan. The 1880 plan is typically quite accurate so it is doubtful that it is inaccurate in this case. It may suggest that the drawing up of the 1895 plan was based on earlier surveys, dating prior to 1891. Another Metropolitan Detail Series of plans is typically dated to 1888 and it is perhaps that this plan is based on a survey dating to c.1888. This would explain the anomalies between these plans and the rate assessment books.

By 1891 three single-storey shops were listed at this property, designated 710, 710A and 710½, the three shops of brick and stone construction, a shingled roof. Each was a one-storey with one or two rooms. The description of these buildings is anomalous with the preceding and subsequent year descriptions. This suggests that there were some temporary buildings erected or there was a mistake in the description of the building in 1891. The presence of three separate buildings is similar to the listings in following years and may indicate that the new building had already been erected or partly erected. That this building is identified as being dilapidated by 1901, possibly 20 years after originally constructed, may indicate that it was not well-built in the first place.

In 1902 two shops were listed at 710 and 710½. They were made of brick and had iron roofing. The shop at 710 was identified as two stories with 10 rooms, whereas the shop at 710½ was a single storied, one-roomed structure. In 1911 only number 710 was listed, still two storied but with just three instead of 10 rooms. Charles Israel, a clothier and tent maker was resident at 710½ in 1891 and 1893. Samuel Levy (also a clothier) was at the same residence in 1898. Between 1903 to c.1918 the
tenant was the New York Novelty Company. Between 1923 and 1933 the tenant at 710a was Sargent’s Refreshment Rooms. There were a variety of offices upstairs.

In the years 1921 and 1931 the property appears to remain the same. This building is just visible in the 1930 photo (Fig. 2.4). The shop listed at number 710A was brick with an iron roof, single storied and has one room. The address of 710B is again brick with an iron roof, single storied and has rooms ranging from seven (1921) to four (1931), suggesting some interior changes. The building is defined as offices in 1921 and chambers in 1931. The shop at 710 is of the same description as that at 710A. In 1939 and 1948 the two shops and offices at 710, 710A and 710B are listed together, as two shops and chambers/hall, although they are identified as being two storied. While the rates when compared with the maps and Sands are problematic it does suggest that there were two separate buildings on the site prior to the modern building which was probably erected in the 1940s or 1950s. The current building remained extant until just before excavation began in 2008. The footings of this building were recorded during excavation.

Figure 2.2: The area outlined in red is the southern end of Lot 4 which became 710 George St. At this time it did not contain any buildings and was fenced off from the northern half of the allotment. c1831, Field Book Survey of the City of Sydney, A. Hallen, SR Reel 2628 (2/5195), Item 347, p5.
Figure 2.3: Dove’s 1880 plan outlining Areas B and C. Area C (710 George St) is the northernmost property on the plan.
Figure 2.4: ‘Huge crowd in George Street at Mick Simmons Sports Store to see Don Bradman 1930’. This photo shows the buildings in the study area. No. 710 George Street (Area A) is a low two-storey building as are the buildings 712-718 George Street (Area B). The large three-storey building is 720-722 George Street (Area C) and was demolished in the twentieth century. ML, SLNSW
3.0 Results of Fieldwork – 710 George Street (Area C)

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 State of Site when opened
When we arrived on site all the buildings had been demolished. Initial excavation work began in Area A on 29th August 2008. The first action was the bulk excavation of unstratified fills. As archaeological remains became exposed in Area A machining moved northwards into Areas B and C. Bulk excavation by monitored machine began in Area C around 9 September 2008. All modern deposits were removed and the area was cleared down to the natural soil to expose any features. After machining the area was cleaned by hand (Fig. 3.1). Two context numbers were given to these unstratified fills and any artefacts found during the initial cleaning, 7388 for the western end of 710 George Street and 7393 for the eastern end. The sandstone and machine-made brick footings of the recently demolished twentieth century building (7440) remained in situ along with some earlier phases of buildings (7441, 7443), two cesspits (7418, 7419), a brick well (7520) and some yard/path surfaces (7537). The building to the north of Area C, 708 George Street remains extant.

3.1.2 Excavation and Recording Methodology
The Archaeological Assessment compiled for this site by Casey and Lowe Pty Ltd in June 2008 anticipated that, ‘710 and 712–718 will contain some earlier archaeological evidence of nineteenth-century occupation and potential late eighteenth-century occupation. It is anticipated that 710 should have a moderate to low level of archaeological potential’.

The focus of the excavation program was the exposure and recording of intact remains within Area C. The approach to the site involved monitoring the removal of the concrete ground slabs from the study area and then using a machine to open up areas to determine where potential remains were likely to be found. When intact remains were found, detailed archaeological open area stratigraphic excavation with detailed recording was undertaken. This included: planning, photography, video recording and written contextual recording of the remains in line with current best practice and Casey & Lowe practices.

Initial site works involved clearing down to archaeological deposits using a mechanical excavator. When remains were found, detailed recording of the various archaeological remains was undertaken. The methods included:
- Underfloor deposits recorded and excavated within a 50cm x 50cm grid, in 5cm spits with stratigraphic priority. All material was 100 per cent wet sieved.
- Cesspits were excavated stratigraphically according to tip lines (where identifiable), or in 10 to 20 cm spits with changes of context numbers where relevant. These deposits were either sieved or carefully sorted according to their archaeological potential. The methodological limitations imposed by the confined space of the well meant that the majority of material was removed by machine. Archaeological monitoring ensured that any changes in context were identified during the excavation process. The fill was carefully sorted for artefactual material after excavation.
- All structural remains, post holes and features were planned.
- All archaeological remains were photographically recorded to archival standards. A video was taken of the site.
- All artefacts were labelled with the appropriate context number and excavation details. Artefacts were cleaned, labelled, sorted, bagged and boxed on site.
Figure 3.1: View to George Street frontage (west) of footing remains of 710 George Street after initial cleaning. The southern wall of the extant building, No. 708 to the north (Wk4.IMG_0273).

3.2 Phase 1: Natural landscape

Early modification to the landscape involved the removal of unknown quantities of A horizon material. This may have been the result of erosion after land clearance or intentional levelling of the site during the brickfield period. As a result, the original topography of the site was not directly observable.

Truncation of the landscape resulted in the creation of a gentle slope from the eastern end of Area C (where A2 and B horizons were exposed) towards George Street where the remnant topsoil (7386) remained in situ. This suggested that the original gradient was much greater, and sloped to the west. The artificially created slope dropped from RL 6.08m in the east to RL 5.97m in the west.

The intact A1 horizon was a mid-brown sandy clay loam. This one-time surface material contained charcoal, tiny brick and stone fragments and some small artefacts (including lead glaze pottery). Most of this deposit was removed by machine because it had been cut and disturbed by twentieth century activity. The topsoil was visible in section below the late nineteenth and early twentieth century footings (7440). Evidence of biotubation in the A2 horizon (7535) was observable in section (Fig. 3.2). Soil and pollen samples were taken of the topsoil (samples 49, 50, 55, 56, 61 and 62) which varied in depth from 80-170mm.

The A2 and B1 horizons were given two separate context numbers. The A2 horizon (7535) was light brown-beige coloured fine clayey silt, becoming more compacted and clayey with depth (7549). This deposit had a maximum depth of 250mm. The only inclusions were small ironstone gravels (<2mm). Soil samples 51 and 52 were taken for pollen and soil analysis. The remains of a burnt out tree root/bole were evident cutting through the A2 horizon. This tree bole (7559/7560) was probably removed quite early on as part of the initial site clearing before any structures were built (Fig. 3.3).
The lower subsoil (7549) was compact, yellow-brown silty clay which sat directly above the very compact natural yellow clay (7536). This deposit was culturally sterile with occasional ironstone gravels (<3mm) and was mostly evident in the eastern end of Area C (Plan 14). Soil samples 57 and 58 were taken. The natural yellow clay (7536) was only exposed in limited areas including the area beneath Room 1 of 7441 close to George Street and in the base of the excavated wall trenches and cesspits. Soil samples 53 and 54 were taken of the clay. There was no evidence of any brickfield activity in Area C.

3.3 Phase 4: Post-Brickfields Occupation (1823 – 1840s)
Area C describes the southern part of allotment 4 (Fig 2.2). Lot 4 was granted to George Richards from Governor Darling in March 1831 although it is known that Richards was probably living on this property by 1823. When Richards sold it there were five structures on this plan all of which were to the north of what later became the property at 710 George Street. It was separately fenced from the northern part of this allotment. There were no archaeological remains found to suggest that there was a structure on the southern part of this allotment which became 710 George Street. The earliest structural remains appear to be from the 1840s – 1860s (Phase 5).

Figure 3.2: View to north, sandstone footings (7440) of 710 George Street sitting directly above the natural topsoil, A1 (7386) and A2 (7535) horizons. Scale 1m, (Wk6.IMG_0225).
3.4 Phase 5: 1840s – 1860s Occupation – 710 George Street

In 1845, the property was listed as a two-storey, six-roomed shop, but was likely to also be a residence. It was brick with a shingled roof and had a value of £70. It was owned by Samuel Power with Thomas Dally in residence. In 1848, the property was listed as a five-roomed structure but otherwise remained the same. Ownership had passed to Terrance Daly, who was also listed as the occupant.

By 1861 the property had changed ownership to William Daley. The building was still listed as being brick with shingled roof and two stories but only six rooms. Sands Directory indicates that No. 710 was used as a grocer shop by 1858-59 to c1868. Thomas Grogan was the first known grocer (1858-59 to c1865), eventually being replaced by the Lenehan Brothers (c1868 to c1871).

The archaeological remains found during excavation suggest that there was an early structure at 710 George Street fronting onto George Street. Sandstone footings (7441) of a rectangular structure were found. Only the eastern end of this structure was exposed. The remainder may still survive to the west, under George Street. The early footings may have been retained and reused during the next phase of development (Phase 6) from the 1860s to the 1890s.

3.4.1 Footings

The footings were roughly cut, rectangular blocks of stone laid in two rows with smaller packing stones and buff shell sand mortar between the blocks (Plan 15, Fig. 3.4). The footings were 460mm-500mm wide. The shell mortar had been plastered on pretty thickly on the surface of the stones in the southeast corner (IMG_0236-0240) which may suggest that this is where the brick superstructure began. The lower courses of stone only contained a mud mortar. The footings were sitting directly onto the natural yellow clay (7536). A wall trench (7533) was clearly seen along the outside of the...
eastern wall (Fig. 3.5). The wall trench was 350-500mm wide with vertical sides and a flat base to a maximum depth of 460mm. The wall trench cut the remnant topsoil (7386). A test trench (Fig. 3.5) was excavated through the trench fill (7534) to see the depth of the footings (3 courses). The fill was a mix of loamy topsoil and beige-yellow subsoil, it contained some brick and stone inclusions and few artefacts. It is likely that these footings were reused when the structure was rebuilt after being pulled down c.1882.

Built into the north wall of 7441 was a stone fireplace (7576). The fireplace was rectangular in shape (Plan 15, Fig. 3.6) with a neat row of large rectangular blocks along the southern end and irregular shaped rubble stone packed into the centre of the structure. There was some buff shell sand mortar on the surface of the large blocks. Two courses were visible. The structure measured 580mm x 600mm x 300mm. The later stone footings 7440 were built directly on top of it.

Butting the outside of the north wall of 7441 was an area of paving (7537). The paving consisted of a neat row of well cut flagged stones 70-80mm in height butting right up to 7441. Towards the east the paving fabric changed to flat sandstock bricks (mostly broken) laid in different directions with no convincing bond (Plan 15, Fig. 3.7). The paving was sitting directly onto disturbed loamy topsoil. The flagged surface discontinued at the edge of the footing and the poorer quality brick paving began. The flagged surface may be from a later phase than the brick paving. All the plans from 1865 to 1895 showed a narrow lane on the northern side of 710 George Street leading into the back yard. 7537 was most likely the remains of this laneway. The northern part of this structure had been truncated by later service trenches (Fig. 3.7).

Figure 3.4: Aerial view of stone footings 7441 (below scales) truncated by the later footings 7440. Only the eastern half of the structure survived the rest is buried under George Street. View to northeast. Scale 1m, (Wk6.IMG_0304).
Figure 3.5: View to west, small test trench through wall trench fill 7534 on eastern side of structure 7441. The footings are sitting on the natural yellow clay. Scale 1m, (Wk6.IMG_0244).

Figure 3.6: View to north, of stone fireplace (7576) built into north wall of 7441. The later footing (7440) was built directly over the top of this wall. Scale 1m, (Wk6.IMG_0253).
Further east of 7441 were the remains of a small wall 7443 (Plan 15, Fig. 3.3). This wall ran north-south parallel to the structure 7441 but did not extend as far north and was on the same alignment as the back wall of an early structure in Lot 3 (No. 712 George Street). The wall was constructed of rubble stone and was 440mm wide. Only a small segment (4.1m long) had survived and it was only one course deep. There was no evidence of any mortar. With the footings being so shallow this was most likely only a one-storey structure, possibly only a shed/store room. There was no evidence of any underfloor deposit. The wall (7443), cut through the loamy burnt soil from the tree bole (7559/7560) which would have had to have been removed prior to its construction and was then later cut by the late nineteenth-century footings (7440).

3.4.2 Underfloor
Within Room 1 of the 1840s building (7441) was an underfloor deposit (7444). This underfloor deposit was associated with the occupation of the building. The underfloor deposit consisted of mid-dark brown coarse grained clayey sand with inclusions of sandstone brick, sandstone and shell fragments and frequent charcoal flecking. This deposit was removed in 50mm spits within a grid, although a lot of the time the spits were less than 50mm. The grid consisted of 500mm x 500mm squares beginning with square A1 in the northeast corner of Room 1 with the alphabetical value increasing westwards and the numeric to the south (Fig. 3.12). The room was cut by two later sandstone walls (7440 and 7443). Wall 7443 was removed prior to the removal of deposit 7444 while the larger footing 7440 remained in situ (Plan 16, Fig. 3.8). The room measured approximately 6m x 3m. This underfloor deposit was 100 per cent wet sieved through 5mm and 3mm sieves. Pollen and soil samples were also taken (samples 39 and 40). 7444 varied in depth from 20mm–110mm.

Below the underfloor deposit was a thin layer of construction debris (7518) this deposit was most concentrated in the southern half of Room 1 particularly the southwest corner (Fig. 3.9). It was a
mortar rich, coarse grained deposit with inclusions of crushed brick, sandstone, whole bricks and glass bottles. In the rest of the room remnant construction debris was mixed in with a mid-brown clayey sand (7519). Deposit 7519 butted right up to the footings with no evidence of a cut for the wall through this deposit. Deposit 7519 was deepest in the northern half of this room (Fig. 3.10) but extended southwards. It contained inclusions of brick rubble with shell mortar, stone fragments and artefacts and was also construction debris. The artefacts included metal barrel rims, whole and broken glass bottles and stoneware jars. All of these artefacts were much too large to have accumulated as an occupation deposit.

Deposit 7519 was found to be sitting directly onto clean yellow clay (7536) (Plan 15, Figs 3.4 and 3.11). Throughout the clay were shallow cuts containing planks of wood of varying sizes (7540 and 7543). The rest of the clay was very smooth and clean and did not show any evidence of being an exposed surface for long. The fill (7541 and 7544) around these wooden planks was the same as 7519. There was no evidence of cuts through 7519. It is likely that when the interior changes took place to this building post 1860, the old floor surface was removed from Room 1 and all fills and deposits were down to natural clay (7536). When the internal renovations took place the planks of wood may have been laid to support scaffolding and the deposit 7519 was laid as a temporary levelling fill over the clay or 7519 built up as part of the construction work alongside the more obvious construction debris 7518. Throughout this second phase of occupation of the structure the underfloor deposit 7444 accumulated and then finally when the building was demolished by 1891 a layer of demolition debris (7313) was deposited. The demolition debris was loose sandy material, frequent sandstock brick fragments, yellow render and set and buff mortar/rend. In the northwest corner of Room 1 directly west of the fireplace (7576) and extending into the western section below George Street frontage was another brown silty sandy deposit (7581). Deposit 7581 was very similar to context 7519 but was only found in the area directly around the fireplace.

Figure 3.8: View to north, Room 1 of structure 7441 prior to the excavation of the underfloor deposit 7444. Under the black board is the rubble wall 7443 which was removed while further north the large footing 7440 also cuts through Room 1. Scale 1m, (Wk4.IMG_0285).
Figure 3.9: Construction debris (7518) within southern half of Room 1. View to west. Scale 1m, (Wk6.IMG_0054).

Figure 3.10: Dark brown sandy deposit (7519) within Room 1 of 7441. It is sitting directly onto natural yellow clay and was deepest in the northern half of the room. Later service trench running east-west through northern end of structure. View to east. Scale 1m, (Wk6.IMG_0259).
Figure 3.11: Planks of wood pressed into shallow cuts in the natural yellow clay (7536) within Room 1 of 7441. View north. In the northeast corner were remains of shell mortar (construction debris). Scale 1m (Wk6. IMG_0222).
Figure 3.12: Plan 25 shows the underfloor grid within the front room of the house at 710 George Street. The grid squares measure 500 x 500mm and the grey shading indicates all the squares excavated and wet sieved.
3.4.3 Well
Further east in the back yard of the property at No. 710 George Street was the remains of a circular brick well (7520). The northern side of the well had been truncated by a modern service trench encased in concrete and it also lay directly below the large stone footings of 7440 (Plan 15, Fig. 3.13). The well had an internal diameter of 1460mm. The bricks were all flat sandstock bricks bonded with mud mortar in a stretcher bond. There were small gaps between the bricks in the well which are referred to as “putlugs”. These small gaps were used to insert a short plank of wood for getting in and out of the well during its construction. The bricks measured 240 x 115 x 70mm. A sample of the grey loamy mud mortar was taken (samples 52 and 53) along with samples of the bricks (S40, S54). With the bricks all being flat sandstocks it is likely that this well was constructed before c. 1840 and could be contemporary with the structure 7441.

Figure 3.13: View to east of brick well (7520) after it was hand excavated to a depth of 1.5m. The well was cut to the north by a service trench and to the south by the stone footings 7440. Scale 1m, (Wk6.IMG_0042).
The top 1.5m of the well was excavated by hand (Fig. 3.14), due to safety requirements the rest of the well had to be excavated by machine. The machine removed the eastern half of the well and roughly separated the fill from each metre excavated. The water table was reached at a depth of 3m and the base of the well at a depth of 4m (Fig. 3.9). The well contained five fills. The top 1.5m that was hand excavated was given two context numbers 7465 and 7466. The upper fill (7465) was 1 metre deep and all modern demolition material which included concrete and dry pressed bricks, while the next fill (7466) was 1m–1.5m deep and contained no machine-made brick and a lot more artefacts and was probably associated with the 1890-1930s occupation of No. 710 George Street. The three lower fills excavated by machine (7567, 7568 and 7569) were all rich with artefacts and were the original backfill of the well probably post the 1860s. Sample sieving was done on each of these fills to look for smaller artefacts and soil samples were taken from each fill (samples 63-68).
These lower fills were all very wet and was mostly mid-dark grey sand with organic material, occasional brick and stone and lots of artefacts.

3.5 **Phase 6: 1860s – 1890s Occupation – 710 George Street**

Between 1861 and 1871 the building remained unchanged, with just the number of rooms varying, perhaps indicating interior changes rather than major rebuilding ones. The function of the building during these years is listed as a house and store (1861) or a house and shop (1867 and 1871). In 1882 the only difference to the building was that it appeared to have been re-roofed since 1871. By 1891 this first building was demolished and replaced by the second building on the site although this contradicts the accuracy of some of the plans. By 1891 three single-storey shops were listed at this property, designated 710, 710A and 710½, with the three shops being of brick and stone construction. Between the 1870s and 1880s some of the commercial activities at 710 George Street included; the Berlin wool and fancy warehouse (haberdashery), a toy bazaar and a tobacconist.

Although some of the underfloor deposit undoubtedly originated in this period, the only archaeological features that exclusively belonged to this phase were cesspits at the rear of the yard, in the middle of the property. They were probably relocated during this phase as stores took up all of the rear of the property, and access to clean out cesspits could only be gained from the northern laneway with a street front entrance.

![Figure 3.15: 1865 plan showing the location of the cesspits (marked with red circles).](image)

3.5.1 **Cesspits**

In the back yard area of 710 George Street were the remains of two brick cesspits. The northern most cesspit 7418 (Plan 16) abutted right up to the wall of the extant building 708 George Street (Fig. 3.17) while the other cesspit (7419) further south (Plan 16) had been greatly impacted by the early twentieth century footings (7440) and by a concrete encased service trench (Fig. 3.18). Although both structures have different construction methods, both were built with the same style bricks which suggest they were probably built at a similar time. It is quite likely that the second cesspit was built when the building at 710 George Street was split into three separate commercial properties and separate toilet amenities would have been needed.

The cesspit 7418 butted right up to the north wall of the property boundary of 710 George Street. After the stone footings 7440 were removed from above the structure the north wall of the cesspit was visible. This structure was a minimum of 11 courses deep and measured 1700mm x 1350mm x 820mm. Both whole and broken sandstock bricks were used in its construction. Some of the bricks were flat while others had shallow rectangular frogs and measured 235mm x 110mm x 70mm. The
bricks with the frogs were dated to around the 1850s but all appear to have been reused. The walls of the cesspit were two courses wide with the bricks all laid header to header forming a stretcher bond (Fig 3.17). Only one course of the north wall was visible. Evidence of a buff coloured sandy shell mortar was found between the bricks. Mortar samples (41, 42) were taken along with brick samples (35, 36). The cesspit had a natural clay base.

The backfill of this cesspit (7459) was late nineteenth century fill. The fill was mostly brownish-grey sand (80%) with large brick, sandstone, render and plaster inclusions (20%). There was no artefact-rich cess deposit which suggests that these cesspits were completely cleaned out and backfilled before being plumbed into a main sewer line in the late nineteenth century.

Figure 3.16: Photo of the water closet at 710 George Street. ‘Views taken during Cleansing Operations, Quarantine Area, Sydney, 1900, Vol. III’, 172. W.C., rear of 710 George-street. SLNSW computer catalogue.

Figure 3.16 shows the terrible condition of the outdoor toilet at 710 George Street at the end of the nineteenth century. It is not certain which of the buildings at 710 George Street this water closet belongs to but it clearly shows the poor sanitation conditions that prevailed at the time.
Figure 3.17: View to northeast of brick cesspit 7418. Only one course of the north wall was visible the second course is probably extant under the footings of 708 George Street. No remains of the plumbing survived. Scale 1m, (Wk5.IMG_0409).

The southernmost cesspit 7419, within 710 George Street (Area C) was also rectangular in shape with a stretcher bond but was only one brick wide (Fig 3.18). Only five courses of this structure remained. The bricks were again a mix of reused broken sandstock bricks. Some had rectangular frogs (the same as in 7418) and there were also some diamond-shaped frogs. There was sandy bedding (mud mortar) between the bricks but also some evidence of buff sand with occasional shell specks. Brick samples (37) and mortar samples (49, 50) were taken. This cesspit was truncated by a concrete encased service trench running north-south and the later stone footings 7440 running east-west. Only the eastern end of the structure survived.

The backfill (7445) of this cesspit was similar to that found in 7418, a yellow-grey clay loam with brick and charcoal inclusions, few artefacts and no evidence of any cess-like fill. This fill did not contain the same demolition material render, plaster and large stone and brick fragments) as 7459. This structure also had a natural clay floor. Having two cesspits in the back yard of this property does suggest that they were in use when 710 was split from one commercial property into two or three individual premises.

A small blackened dump of material (7389) was found in the back yard of 710 George Street in the area between the two cesspits. This shallow yard deposit/dump was excavated as it contained artefacts but was just sitting on the natural A2 horizon (7535).
3.6 1890s – 1940s Occupation – 710 George Street
During the 1890s a new building replaced the earlier structure. This was probably the two-storey building shown on the 1901 plan (Fig. 3.19) and mentioned in the 1902 rates. That this building is identified as being dilapidated by 1901, possibly 20 years after originally constructed, may indicate that it was not well-built in the first place. In 1902 there were now two shops listed at 710 and 710½, made of brick and with iron roofing. The shop at 710 was identified as two storied with 10 rooms, whereas the shop at 710½ was single storied, one-roomed structure. In 1911 only number 710 was listed, still two storied but with just three instead of 10 rooms. The tenants were Charles Israel, clothier and tent maker, (1891 and 1893 at 710½) and clothier Samuel Levy (1898). Between 1903 to c1918 the tenant was the New York Novelty Company (Fig 3.19) probably a development of the toy bazaar. Between 1923 and 1933 the tenant at 710a was Sargent’s Refreshment Rooms. There were a variety of offices upstairs.
In the years 1921 and 1931 the property appeared to remain the same. This was the building just visible in the 1930 photo (Fig. 2.4). The shop listed at number 710A was brick with an iron roof, single storied and one room. No. 710B was brick with an iron roof, single storied and had rooms ranging from seven (1921) to four (1931), suggesting some interior changes. The building was defined as offices in 1921 and chambers in 1931. The shop at 710 is of the same description as that at 710A. In 1939 and 1948 the two shops and offices at 710, 710A and 710B are listed together, as two shops and chambers/hall, although they are identified as being two storied. While the rates when compared with the maps and Sands are problematic it does suggest that there were two separate buildings on the site prior to the modern building which was probably erected in the 1940s or 1950s.

The archaeological remains for this phase of occupation are not fully clear. Large sandstone footings and machine-made brick footings (7440) do remain in situ and are the footings for the later building which was constructed around the 1940s and remained extant until just before the excavation began. It is quite likely that the stone footings (7440) also belonged to the earlier buildings (post-1890s) and were reused in the later structure. There is no evidence of any earlier wall trenches for the 1890s structure so it is probably safe to assume that the footings remained pretty much the same and just the superstructure was rebuilt.

The large sandstone footings of 7440 were all sitting on the natural topsoil and subsoil and were not built into footing trenches (Fig. 3.20). Only one course of stone footings was visible except at the west end where two courses survived where this later structure was sitting on fill above the earlier building 7441. The footings were all running east-west with a north-south return at the east end (Plan 17). The southernmost wall of 7440 consisted of machine-made shale bricks and cement mortar, nine courses in height. This wall was the remains of the last phase of construction of 710 George Street which was only demolished in 2008. The rest of the structure consisted of large rectangular blocks of cut sandstone laid end to end. The central wall and the northern (external wall) both contained large blocks of stone 500mm-560 mm wide while the other two remaining walls (most likely internal partition walls) were only 300 mm in width (Fig. 3.21, Plan 17). The stones of these two narrower walls were still mostly rectangular in shape but were more rougher and appeared reused. The mortar between these stones was mostly mud mortar towards the base but more compact cement like mortar nearer the surface. The cement mortar had been applied after the footing was constructed and belonged to a rebuild of the structure. It is quite likely that these footings were reused in the early part of the twentieth century.

The larger footings (c. 500mm-560mm wide) suggested they were intended to support a large building. These large rectangular blocks measured around 1560mm x 550mm x 330mm and were also laid end to end. Between the blocks mud mortar was used towards the base but compact cement like mortar closer to the surface. The cement mortar had been applied after the footing was constructed and belonged to a rebuild of the structure. Only part of the northern footing of No. 710 George Street was visible as the neighbouring building No. 708 was still extant. Sitting above the stone footings were machine-made shale bricks which were part of the superstructure (Fig. 3.20). These larger footings would have been in use right up to the time the building was demolished. These larger stone footings also cut through the two cesspits (7418 and 7419) which again confirmed that they belong to the later phase of this building.

At the western end of 7440 was a small segment of wall (7442) directly below the larger footings of 7440 (Fig. 3.20, Plan 17). This small segment of wall consisting of rubble stone, cement mortar and rubble sandstock bricks appeared to be a base for the main footings of 7440 and is filling in the depression created by the earlier structure (7441).
Figure 3.19: Between 1903 and 1918 the building highlighted in red at 710 George Street was the New York Novelty Company. This plan dates to c.1901, Fire Underwriters Association of NSW: City of Sydney detail survey maps, ‘Ignis et Aqua’ Series, Sheet 11 Vol. 1, ML MAV/FM4/10537.
Figure 3.20: View to west of large stone footings at No. 710 George Street. These five rows of footings (7440) were mostly sitting on the natural topsoil and subsoil. In the centre of the photo are the larger footings while either side were the narrower footings (internal walls or earlier phase). In the left background a small part of the brick wall (last phase of construction) remains. Scale 1m, (Wk4.IMG_0288).
Figure 3.21: The five rows of footings running east-west making up the later buildings of 710 George Street. Under the chalkboard is a rubble wall (7442) which appears to have supported the larger footings of (7440) at the west end where the later structure was above the earlier building (7441). In the background the north wall of (7440) is evident butting right up to the extant building at 708 George Street. Some of the machine-made bricks of the superstructure of 710 George Street were still evident above this footing. Scale 1 m, (Wk4.IMG_0285).
4.0 Overview of Results

4.1 Overview
The archaeological remains found within Area C, formally Lot 4 and today known as No. 710 George Street showed clear evidence of occupation from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present day. With no remains of any brickfield activity found in this area (unlike Area B next door) we can safely assume that the main evidence of occupation of No. 710 dated to the 1840s with the initial construction of a house with stables and sheds. By the 1850s this building had a commercial use. Throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century both the Council Rates Assessments and Sands Directories list many different occupants and many different uses of the buildings at 710 George Street.

Three main phases of occupation were identified during the excavation. The first building (7441), at the western end of the site consisted of rubble footings and may be the original footings of the 1840s building. Also associated with this early building was the brick well (7520) which may have pre-dated the 1840s building. During the 1860s the building underwent many changes internally to the number of rooms but appears that these same footings (7441) which were found during excavation were also the footings for the 1860s building.

Evidence from this second phase of occupation (1860s-1890s) consists of the underfloor deposit (7444) within the structure (7441) and a laneway (7537) to the north of the building. This laneway is clearly marked on plans from 1865 to 1895. Two cesspits (7418 and 7419) also belong to this phase of occupation. The well was probably backfilled in the 1870s but may have been out of use before then.

The third and fourth phase are not as clearly defined by the archaeological remains, as most of the footings that remain are associated with the post 1940s occupation of 710 George Street but it is quite likely that these footings were originally from the 1890s-1930s structures and were then reused for the later structure. There was no evidence of wall trenches or any occupation deposits associated with the third phase of occupation of Area C which could also suggest that the stone footings (7440) have been reused. Between the 1890s and 1930s 710 George Street was subdivided numerous times into two and three different buildings. There are some discrepancies between the information provided by the Sands Directory and Council Rates when compared to the information on plans from this period but little archaeological evidence survived to clarify this. The large stone and machine-made brick footings (7440) of the post-1940s building on 710 George Street did survive cutting all the earlier structures showing the continued use of this area right up to the present day.