

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**  
**King George V**  
**Recreation Centre**  
**Cumberland Street, The Rocks**  
**Volume 1: Main Report**



Moreton Plaque by the convict potter, John Moreton (Russell Workman)

for  
**City of Sydney**  
**August 2009**

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## **Executive Summary**

### **Background**

The land within the study area currently fronts onto Cumberland Street, The Rocks. Overlays of the archaeological remains onto historic plans indicate the remains found during the monitoring and recording were within three separate historic properties. These remains were:

- Footings of a building, presumably a house, 141 (127) Cumberland Street
- The base of a cesspit, 137 (125) Cumberland Street
- A well backfilled with artefacts from 88 Princes Street

The study area, at the southern end of King George V Recreation Centre, was the southern end of the western side of Cumberland Street. The current property was formed when the Sydney Harbour Bridge was built in the 1930s and the houses along this frontage of Cumberland Street and Princes Street (to the west) were demolished.

The archaeological plan of the remains (Fig. 1.3) was overlaid onto a series of historic plans to identify the historic properties with which they were associated (Figs 2.1 to 2.9). The well appears to have been located within the rear yard of 88 Princes Street. The cesspit is most likely within the rear yard of 139 (125) Cumberland Street and the house footings are probably 141 (127) Cumberland Street.

There are two series of house numbers for the study area. The original house numbers are those taken from the 1858 plan (Fig. 2.2) and used in relation to the early Sands and Council Rates. By 1880 the second series of street numbers are in use. The early street numbers are 135 to 141 (Figs 2.2, 2.4) and the second series are 121 to 127 (Figs 2.5, 2.8). The house at 88 Princes Street was demolished by 1882. Numbers 88 to 90 Princes Street and 135 to 139 (123 to 127) Cumberland Street were all located within a property owned from c1807 to 1882 by Elizabeth Boulton and her heirs. It was sold off in the 1880s (Appendix 2). Number 141 (127) was on a separate property and owned by Andrew Coss, John Johnson, and Henry Johnson until it was resumed in the early 1900s (Appendix 1).

### **Well Artefacts**

The well at 88 Princes Street contained a large quantity of artefacts, a total of 569 items. Among which were: ceramics (151), building materials (22), glass (51), metal (63), miscellaneous (132) and organic/leather (150). The most significant artefact found was the Moreton Plaque, signed with the basemark as being made by former convict potter John Moreton and his sons. The extensive collection of shoe and boot leather is important, as well as a range of ceramics which indicate the ownership of a 'Willow' patterned dinner set and Two Temples II tea and breakfast set. There was also quite a range of animal bone (537 fragments) but with an unusual domination of cattle (43.2%) over sheep (38.4%).

Who owned the artefacts thrown into the well c.1870? Elizabeth Boulton had owned the land containing the well and the cesspit from c1807 to 1866 when she died. Her children continued to own the property until the 1880s. The leather artefacts from the well were associated with a shoemaker but no shoemaker lived within the properties within the site. Shoemaker Frank Mustow lived at 129 Cumberland Street between 1958–59 to 1865. Therefore the shoe leather and offcuts came from nearby but it is thought likely that Elizabeth had owned the plaque and many of the good quality ceramics in the well.

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# **Archaeological Monitoring**

## **King George V, Recreation Centre, The Rocks**

### **1.0 Introduction**

#### **1.1 Background**

Casey & Lowe were commissioned by City of Sydney to undertake archaeological monitoring of site works following the discovery of archaeological remains during the redevelopment. Wayne Johnson, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) archaeologist approved the S140 permit for this work. Two previous reports had been written on the archaeological potential of the western side of Cumberland Street prior to the construction of the King George V Recreation Centre in 1996.

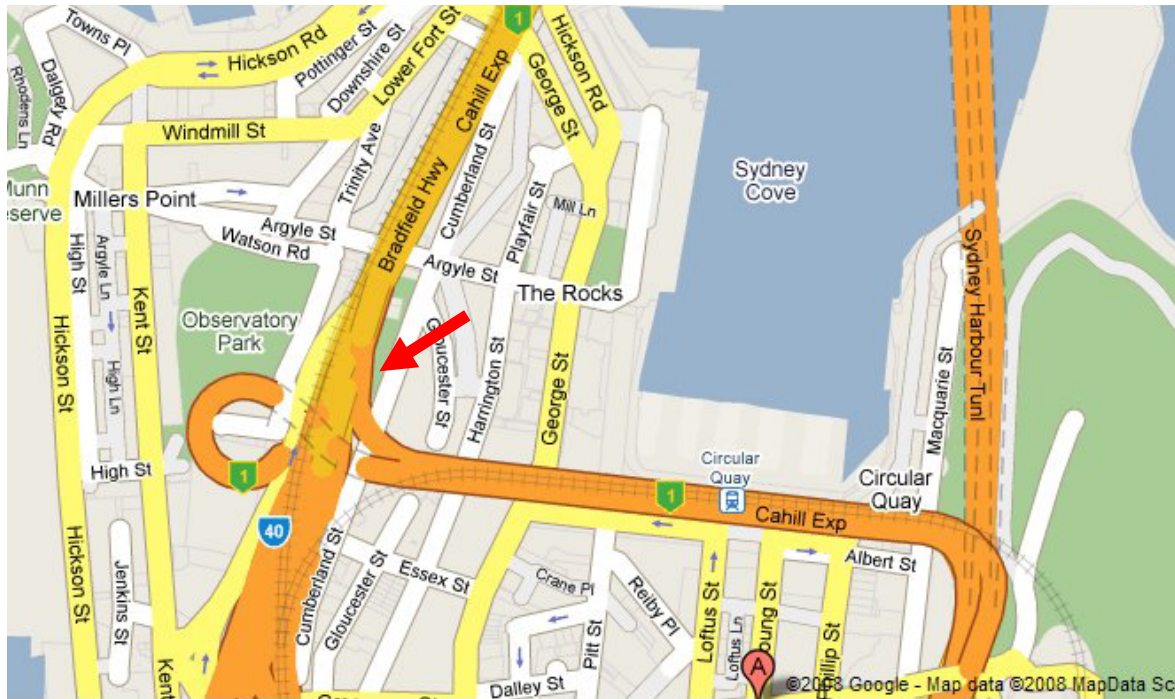
Godden Mackay wrote an archaeological assessment and Ted Higginbotham undertook archaeological testing:

- *Archaeological Assessment, King George V Recreational Centre, Cumberland Street, The Rocks*, June 1996.
- *Report on the archaeological excavation of three test-trenches at the King George V Recreation Centre, Cumberland Street, The Rocks, NSW*, August 1996.

Higginbotham undertook some limited testing across the whole footprint of the then proposed King George V Recreation Centre when it was a vacant site.

The report presents the results of the archaeological monitoring program undertaken in July 2003. The area investigated for this report was a vacant area located between the buildings of the King George V Recreation Centre to the north and steps leading up to the Cahill Expressway in the south (Figs 1.1–1.4). The western border is the concrete wall of the Expressway ramp and on the eastern side a concrete retaining wall marks a drop of about 3m down to the Cumberland Street footpath. The whole area was lowered to footpath level to accommodate a small basketball court.

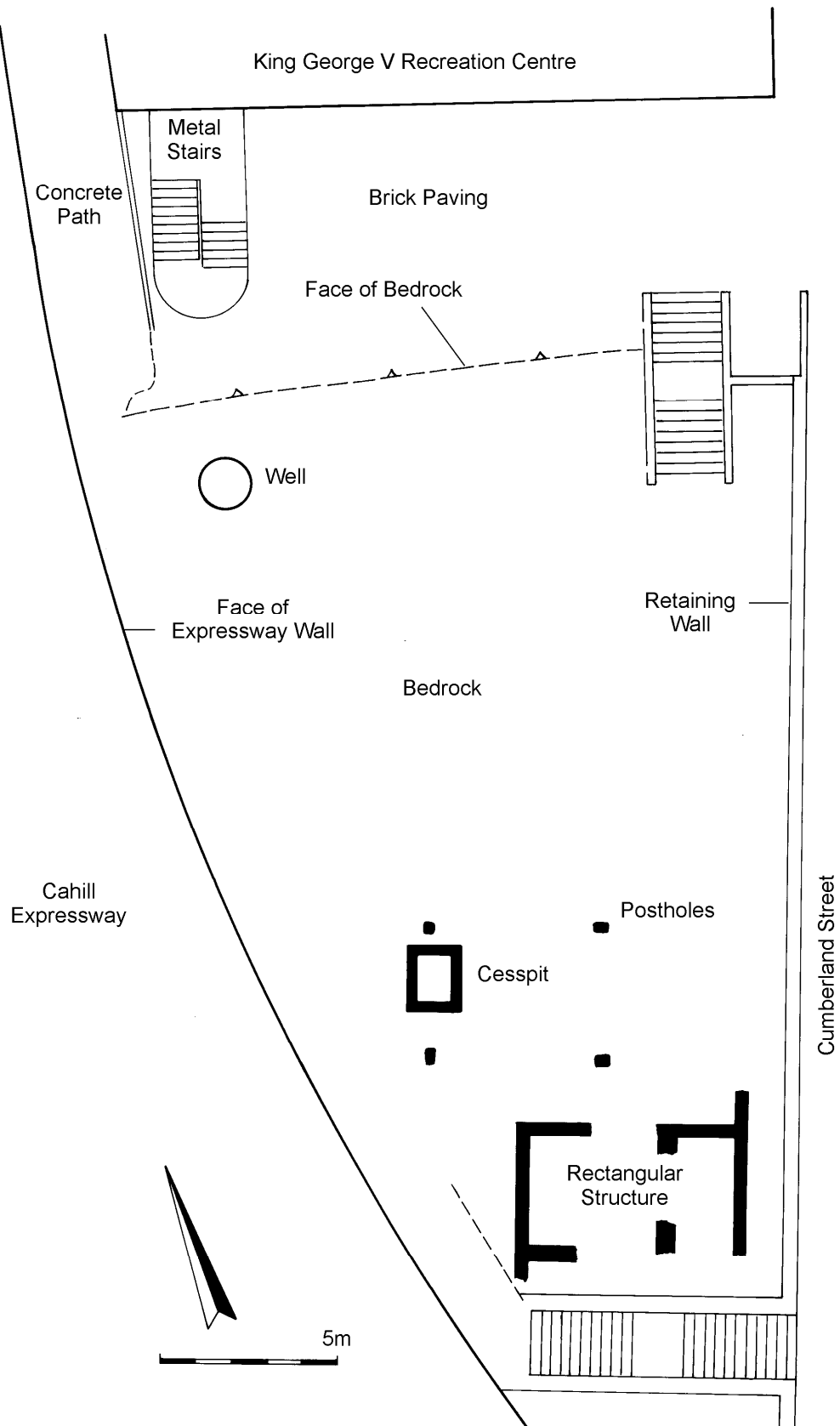
The machine removal of the vegetation and topsoil unearthed a large amount of brick rubble and what appeared to be a small segment of brick wall in the south end of the site. A few metres to the northwest the rectangular sandstone footings of a possible cesspit were also uncovered. Further machine and hand clearing of the area on Friday 4 July 2003 revealed the footings of a rectangular structure of about 4m x 6.5m, cut in the south by the retaining wall for the steps to the Expressway. Another feature was discovered during machine excavation in the northwestern part of the site, a well cut in the bedrock of about 1.35m diameter (Figs 1.1 to 1.4). Generally most of the area had been cut down during the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



**Figure 1.1:** Location plan, the site is located at the southern end of the King George V Recreation Centre in the basketball court.

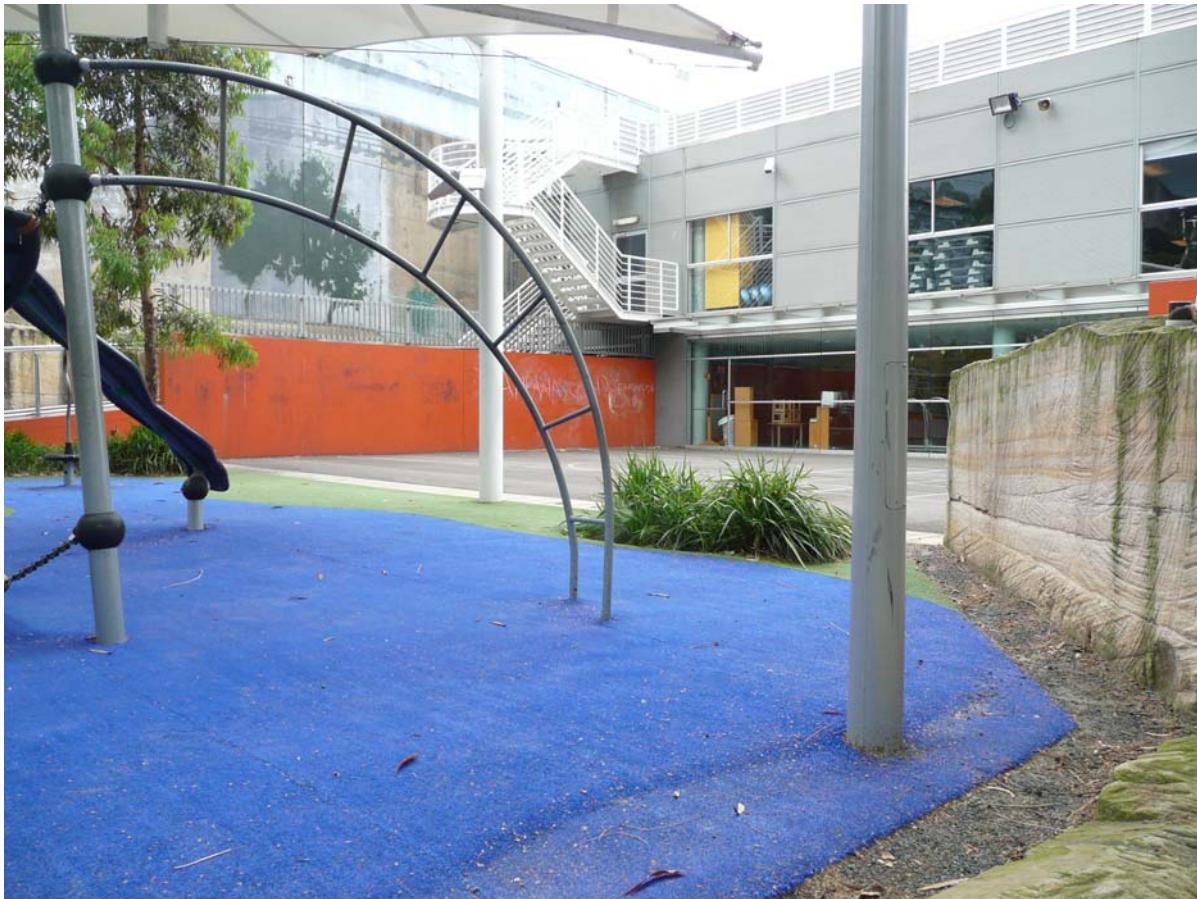


**Figure 1.2:** Looking west towards the study area situated at the southern end of the King George V Recreation Centre and bounded to the west by the southern roads to the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



**Figure 1.3: Plan of the archaeological remains within the basketball court at the King George V Recreation Centre. Franz Reidel**





**Figure 1.4:** View to northwest with the basketball court in the background where the well was situated.

## **1.2 Authorship**

This report was written by a number of people with contributions by Rowan Ward, Mary Casey, Tony Lowe, Franz Reidel, Robyn Stocks, and Caroline Plim. Franz managed the fieldwork program in association with Tony Lowe and wrote the trench report (Section 3), he was assisted on site by Tim Adams and Glen Suey. Artefacts were catalogued by various specialists: Robyn Stocks (leather, metals, building materials, miscellaneous), Rowan Ward (ceramics) and Jeanne Harris (glass). Franz Reidel also drew the site plans and produced the computer plans and artefact drawings. Robyn Stocks wrote the specialist report on the shoe leather and Rowan Ward wrote a brief report on the Moreton Plaque and the Artefact Overview and the Summary of Results. Mary Casey wrote Section 2 with overlays onto historic maps by Tony Lowe. Robert Maxwell assisted with historical research into *Sands Directories*, Council rates and State Records Office. Caroline Plim undertook research into the land titles for the site which is included in Appendix 2. Dr Mary Casey and Tony Lowe reviewed this report.

## **1.3 Report Methodology**

The historical background is briefly discussed in Section 2 and is based on the assessment report by Godden Mackay Logan (1996) and additional research undertaken by Casey & Lowe and overlays of historic plans by Tony Lowe. Section 3 presents the description of the results of the archaeological program. Section 4 presents a brief overview discussion of the artefacts recovered from the site. Archaeological plans which illustrate the remains found during the archaeological program are reproduced in the body of the report. Photographic images are used to illustrate the appropriate sections of the report.

Only one specialist report was written for the shoe leather from the well, this is presented in Appendix 3. A catalogue of all the artefacts recovered from the site is in Appendix 4.



## 1.4 Artefacts

Twenty-seven boxes of artefacts were recovered, mostly from the well contexts: 3502, 3503, 3506, 3507, and 3510, during the brief archaeological monitoring and recording program. These artefacts are stored in A1 size artefact boxes and are in the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority's artefacts repository:

- Building Materials – 1 box
- Ceramics – 6 boxes
- Glass – 3 boxes
- Metals – 1 box
- Miscellaneous – 1 box
- Organic (leather) – 9 boxes
- Bone – 6 boxes

Cataloguers were:

- Robyn Stocks : building materials, metals, miscellaneous, and organics
- Rowan Ward: ceramics
- Jeanne Harris: glass
- Caroline Wilby: bone & shell

It is noted that the shoe leather (organic boxes) was used in a PhD thesis by Maya Stephanie de Veres, Department of Archaeology, Latrobe University.

## 1.5 Limitations

This was a monitoring project and Casey & Lowe were brought in by City of Sydney Council at short notice. Our main focus was to record the remains and excavate the well deposit. This deposit was found to be quite significant and therefore the focus of this report is on the well deposits and identifying whom the artefacts might be associated with, the various residents that passed through the site and the surrounding area.

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## 1.7 Abbreviations

C&LD	Casey & Lowe database
LTO	Land Titles Office
MIC	Minimum Item Count
MNI	Minimum Number of Items
ML	Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW
NLA	National Library of Australia
SR	State Records Office, New South Wales
TAQ	<i>terminus ante quem</i> (date before which something was made)
TPQ	<i>terminus post quem</i> (date after which something stopped being made)
SG	<i>Sydney Gazette</i>

## 2.0 Historical Background

### 2.1 General Background

The land within the study area currently fronts onto Cumberland Street, The Rocks. Overlays of the archaeological remains onto historic plans indicate the remains found during the monitoring and recording were within three separate historic properties. These remains were:

- Footings of a building, presumably a house
- The base of a cesspit
- A well backfilled with artefacts<sup>1</sup>

The study area, at the southern end of King George V Recreation Centre, was the southern end of the western side of Cumberland Street. The current property was formed when the Sydney Harbour Bridge was built in the 1930s and the houses along this frontage of Cumberland Street and Princes Street were demolished.

The archaeological plan of the remains (Fig. 1.3) was overlaid onto a series of historic plans to identify the historic properties with which they were associated (Figs 2.1 to 2.9). The well appears to have been located within the rear yard of 88 Princes Street. The cesspit is most likely within the rear yard of 125 (earlier 139) Cumberland Street and the house footings are probably 127 (141) Cumberland Street.

There are two series of house numbers for the study area. The original house numbers are those taken from the 1858 plan (Fig. 2.2) and used in relation to the early Sands and Council Rates. By 1880 the second series of street numbers are in use. The early street numbers are 135 to 141 (Figs 2.2, 2.4) and the second series are 121 to 127 (Figs 2.5, 2.8). The house at 88 Princes Street was demolished by 1882. Numbers 88 to 90 Princes Street and 135 to 139 (123 to 127) Cumberland Street were all located within a property owned from c1807 to 1882 by Elizabeth Boulton and her heirs. It was sold off in the 1880s (Appendix 2). Number 141 (127) was on a separate property and owned by Andrew Coss, John Johnson, Henry Johnson until it was resumed in the early 1900s (Appendix 1).

### 2.2 Development of the Study Area

The various historic plans illustrating the development of the study area and the overlay of the main remains found during monitoring indicate that the study area has changed through time with the rebuilding of various houses and the reforming of the rocky escarpment.

A land title search of the study area did not identify any detailed plans other than the main sequence of historic plans already included in this report. The detailed land title research for this site is included in Appendix 2 which also includes a summary of the Court of Claims case 388. The land was granted to Elizabeth Boulton, widow of Thomas Boulton, in accordance with a report 'on Case No. 388 made on the 19 July 1839 by the Commissioners appointed under the Act of the Colonial Legislature'. Elizabeth was given this land by her mother Ann Sandilands who died 2 January 1809 by drowning.<sup>2</sup> Ann appears to have arrived on the *Lady Penhryn* as part of the First Fleet in 1788. The 1828 Census records Elizabeth's age as 38 indicating she was born c.1790, two years after her mother arrived. The Court of Claims indicates that Ann Sandilands received the land c.1805 and deeded it to Elizabeth in c.1807.

On 30 September 1839 Elizabeth Boulton's title to this property was confirmed when she was granted 21½ perches of land known as Lot 8 in Section 73 in the Parish of St Philip, County of Cumberland.<sup>3</sup> The allotment was described as:

<sup>1</sup> See Section 3 for details

<sup>2</sup> Transcription of Old Sydney Burial Ground, City of Sydney website.

<sup>3</sup> Refer to Land Titles Schedule



...bounded on the east by Cumberland Street bearing North eleven degrees East eighty nine and a half links; on the North by Allotments Numbers Eleven and Nine bearing West seventeen degrees North one hundred and seventy two links; on the West by the building line of Princes Street bearing South twelve degrees fifteen minutes West seventy five and a quarter links, and on the South by Allotments Numbers Seven and Five bearing East fourteen degrees thirty minutes south one hundred and seven links, then south sixteen degrees thirty minutes West twenty three and a half links then East thirteen degrees thirty minutes South sixty six and a half links.

Therefore it is most likely that Ann or Elizabeth were responsible for erecting the houses listed on this property in the 1840s and later. It was most likely Elizabeth, in association with her husband Thomas, a stonemason, who built the original houses on both Princes and Cumberland Streets.

### 2.2.1 135 to 137 Cumberland Street (later nos 123 and 125)

Numbers 135 to 137 Cumberland Street part of the site, in addition to the nos 88 and 90 Princes Street, was identified in the Council rate assessment as being owned by members of the Boulton family: Ellen Boulton (1845), Elizabeth Boulton (1848), Edward Boulton (1851), Mrs Boulton or Elizabeth Boulton (1861–1867), and finally John Boulton (1871–1882) (Figs 2.4, 2.6, 2.8, 2.9).<sup>4</sup> Members of the Boulton family were listed as living at no. 135 (123) between 1845 to 1863. The resident between c.1845 and c.1866 is usually described as Mrs Boulton or Elizabeth Boulton. Tenants are residing there by 1867 following her death in 1866. The close proximity of the Boultons to their tenanted houses is interesting but not unusual in The Rocks at this period; it may give us clues as to why the well is likely to have been backfilled from more than one house. The land titles search indicates that this property was owned by Elizabeth Boulton between c.1807 and her death in 1866 when it passed to her heirs, her four surviving children.

Elizabeth Boulton (*née* Sandland) was the wife of Thomas Boulton who came free to the colony with his father, a stonemason.<sup>5</sup> They lived in The Rocks as early as 1828 when they and their children resided in Cumberland Street. The 1822 and 1823/24/25 General Musters do not list Thomas and /or Elizabeth Boulton and their children, nor does the 1841 Census Index on the State Records webpage but both Sands and Council rate assessments identify the continuing presence of Elizabeth Boulton at 135 (123) Cumberland Street.

Her husband Thomas Boulton arrived with his parents Thomas and Grace Boulton, on the *Minorca*, in 1801 when he was 16 years of age. Both parents died in 1817.<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth was the daughter of a convict but details on her parents are scarce. Thomas Boulton died 28 June 1837 and it was noted 'yesterday Brother Thomas Boulton, of Lodge 260, who died on Monday, aged 52, an old and respected Colonist, was buried with full Masonic honors, The Town Band were in attendance'.<sup>7</sup> Both Thomas Boultons, father and son, were stone masons.

When Thomas Boulton died, the lodge met to commemorate his death:

PRIMITIVE LODGE OF AUSTRALIA.

THE Brethren of the Australian Social Lodge No. 260 on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, will congregate at their Lodge Rooms, St. John's Tavern at half-past two o'clock on Wednesday next, the 28th day of June instant, for the purpose of following to the grave (at his own special request) the remains of our deceased Brother Thomas Boulton. The presence of visitors is particularly requested, in order that the last ceremony to be performed over so old and deserving a Brother, may be such as his well known merits deserve at the hands of all Free Masons.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Rates assessments Appendix 1.

<sup>5</sup> Karskens 1995:218

<sup>6</sup> Karskens 1995:91

<sup>7</sup> *Sydney Gazette* 29 June 1837:3, col 1

<sup>8</sup> *Sydney Gazette* Tuesday 27 June 1837, page 3

The links to the Masons were also found with Joseph Pashley, the trustee of Thomas Boulton's will, who was also a well known member of the local Masonic Lodge.<sup>9</sup> He was identified as a tailor and also owned land in Cumberland Street.<sup>10</sup>

### 2.2.2 141 Cumberland Street (127 on later plans)

The house shown on the 1880 plan (Figs 2.5, 2.6) appears to be the most accurate fit for the house footings found in this area (Fig. 1.3). By this time the raised street frontage appears to have been cut back when compared with the 1865 and 1880 plans (Figs 2.4, 2.6). The base course of the footings from this house were all that were found relating to 127 Cumberland Street. See Section 3.2.1 for the detailed description of the remains of this house. This property is not part of the land owned by Elizabeth Boulton but as there is limited archaeological evidence from this site no further research was undertaken.

### 2.2.3 88 and 90 Princes Street

The well appears to have been within the backyard of 88 Princes Street. The houses at 88 to 90 Princes Street were owned by Elizabeth Boulton and she also probably built them quite early, prior to 1822, and they were extended during the subsequent years. These houses were pulled down by 1882 (Appendix 1 rates). John Boulton sold two of the four lots on both street frontages in 1883.

Harper's 1822 plan indicates that there is more housing on the western side of Cumberland Street than on the eastern side at this stage (Fig. 2.1). There were three houses along the Princes Street frontage and it is likely the well was used by all of the houses within the locality rather than just by one house. It is most likely that all the houses on the Boulton property used this well as their water supply.

The 1858 Trigonometrical survey was the precursor to the 1865 plan and there are similarities in these two sets of plans but the most useful component of this plan is that it has street numbers which allows us to equate the houses with the occupants listed in the Sands directories and Council Rate assessments of this period. The overlay of the study area indicates that the well was probably within the grounds of 88 Princes Street (Figs 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.8). A list of residents in this part of Princes Street is included in Appendix 1.

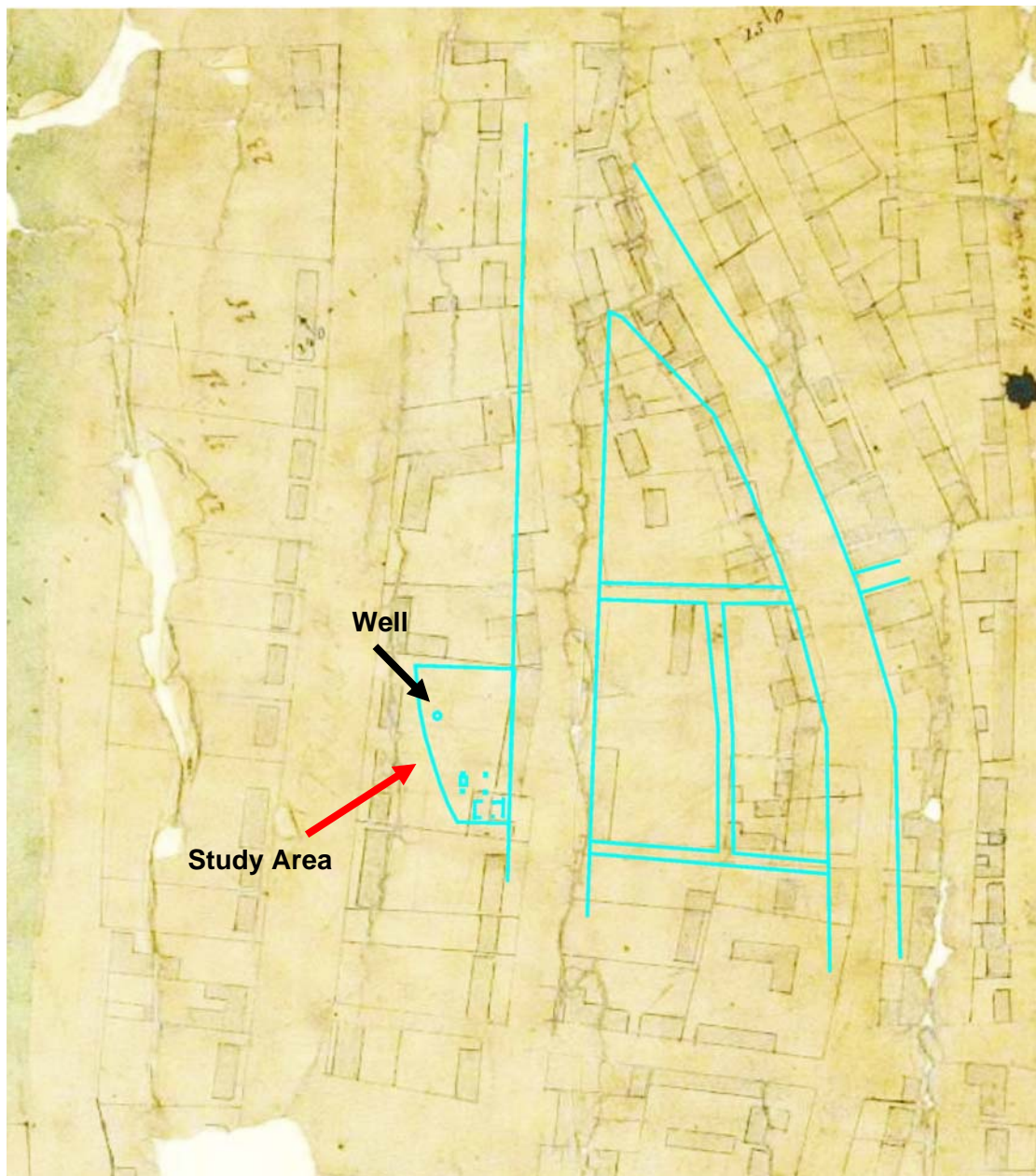
The Council rate assessments for 88 and 90 Princes Street clearly indicate that there were four smaller residences behind the street frontage at no. 88 which were entered via a small laneway to the south of no. 90 Princes Street. The rear properties were all single-storey with mostly 1 or 2 rooms. No. 90 was also owned by Elizabeth Boulton and later by her son John Boulton. The two houses on the Cumberland Street frontage do not appear to have been pulled down until after 1891 when they were still recorded as being single-storey houses. In 1902 they were two-storey houses.

The Council rates give a clear indication of shared nature of the rear yard facilities of the Princes Street and Cumberland Street houses. The Princes Street houses had no outhouses in 1845 and they possibly used the cesspit found at the rear of 137 (125) Cumberland Street. There were between four to six named tenants in these two properties between 1848 and 1882 when they were pulled down.

It is most likely that the well at 88 Princes Street was used by the six 'residences' at 88 and 90 and the houses at 135 to 139 (123 to 127) Cumberland Street. The most likely date for the well going out of use was when the Princes Street houses were demolished c.1882. The backfilling of the well may have taken place at this time when its use discontinued and reticulated water was available or it may have been backfilled earlier as there were street pumps available and the well water may have been contaminated from surrounding cesspits and such. There had always been problems with getting

<sup>9</sup> Court of Claims 388, SRO Reel 1213 39/8133 Case 388.

<sup>10</sup> *Sydney Gazette*



**Figure 2.1: Overlay of the study area and the main archaeological features found during monitoring. It is likely the well was carved into the rock prior to 1822 and was part of the early occupation of this area. Harpers' 1822 plan, State Records SZ434.**

water to the Boulton houses as the local pumps appear not to have worked well due to the height the water had to be taken up to.<sup>11</sup> The archaeological evidence indicates that well was backfilled sometime after 1862 but does not provide a clear end date.

One of the main elements of the well that indicates a communal backfilling is the presence of large quantities of shoe leather. Analysis of *Sands Directory* entries for bootmakers (Appendix 2) did not identify anyone living within the houses owned by the Boultons. It did identify Frank Mustow living at 129 Cumberland Street, the early street numbers, which was a few houses to the north of the Boulton's 135 to 139 Cumberland Street. Mustow lived at number 129 in 1858–59 to 1865 but the details are inconsistent between the two lists.

<sup>11</sup> Appendix 2, p. 2.

Also John Cooper who testified that Elizabeth Boulton had obtained the land from her mother, Ann Sandilands, was a shoemaker. The 1828 Census indicates that in 1828 he was living in Cumberland Street with his family and was a shoemaker and he was probably still there or nearby in 1839 when he gave his evidence to the Court of Claims but he is not recorded in either the rate assessments or *Sands Directories* (Appendix 1). He had arrived on the *Coromandal* in 1802 as a convict.

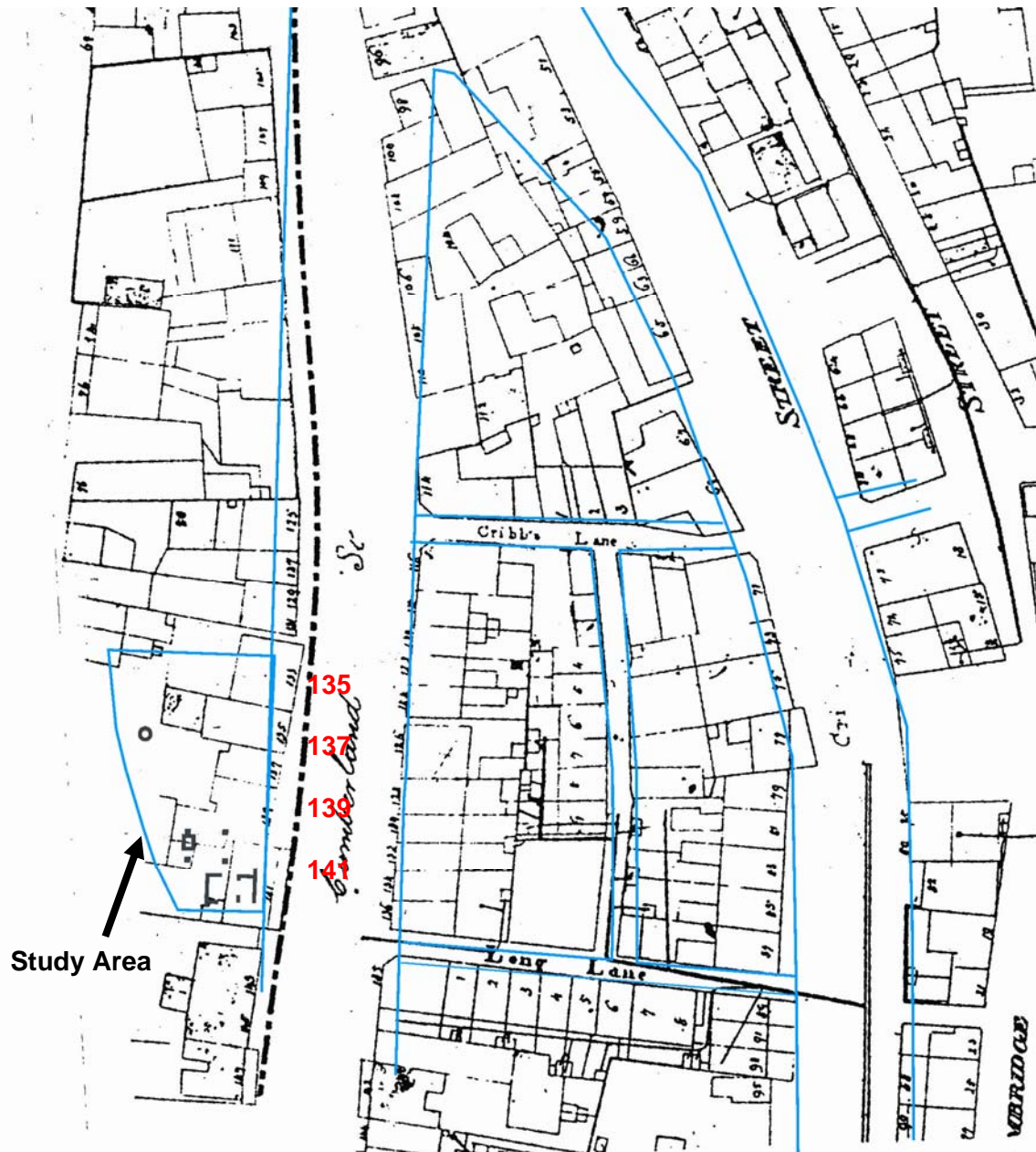


Figure 2.2: The study area indicated on the 1858 *Trigonometrical Survey of Sydney*, City of Sydney Archives. The street numbers on this plan for Cumberland Street are different to those on the 1880 and 1890 plans.



	<b>Princes Street Sands</b>							
<b>Year</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>1858</b>	U.O.	Jones, Mrs. Annie, dressmaker	Lombe, William Henry	O'Malley, Daniel		Ward, James, painter	Brennan, William	<u>Henery, John, bootmaker</u>
<b>1861</b>		Fawcett, Joseph, stevedore	Hinton, John, carpenter	Hickey, Michael, watchman	McAlister, William, master mariner	Barrack, Alexander, master mariner		
<b>1863</b>		Fawcett, Joseph, stevedore	Hinton, John, carpenter	Hickey, Michael, watchman	McAlister, William, master mariner	Barrack, Alexander, master mariner		
<b>1864</b>		Keefe, Thomas, tailor	Woodley, Frederick, carpenter	Harricks, Thomas A.			McIntyre, George	
<b>1865</b>	Hearle, Francis, gas fitter	Keefe, Thomas, tailor	Ross, Mrs. Elizabeth		Jones, John, mariner	Kilpatrick, Francis, storeman	McIntyre, James, cooper	
<b>1870</b>	Hearle, Francis A., plumber	Woodley, Charles, carpenter	Heath, Mrs.	Taylor, William	Jones, John	Thomas, Thomas, cooper	Andrews, William, ship owner	
<b>1875</b>	Hearle, Francis A., grocer	Theodore, Charles, boatbuilder	O'Brien, Michael	Donovan, Ellen, Mrs.	Jones, David	Dredge, William, Mariner	Ireland, Thomas	Pettit, Henry, master mariner
<b>1880</b>	Hearle, Francis Augustus, grocer	Beucher, Mrs. Dressmaker	Boulton, David, tobacconist	Haines, De lacey, master mariner	Magnus, Andrew	Henderson, Mrs. Lucy, tailoress; Chester, Edward; Laundry, William	Rach, Philip	Butement, Thomas
<b>1885</b>	Dick, Mrs. Margaret; ( 80 1/2) Hearle, Francis, dealer	O'Farrell, Patrick	Lansley, George, compositor	Parker, George	Shepherd, Alexander	Hinds, William	Rech, Philip	McGoldrick, Thomas
<b>1890</b>	Dick, Mrs. Margaret, boardinghouse	Hearle, Francis, dealer	Lawson, August	Joulet, Ferdinand, laundry		Whatton, Alfred	Spellane, Daniel	Hartran, William
<b>1895</b>	Dick, Mrs. Margaret, boardinghouse	(80 1/2 - 82) Hearle, Francis, storekeeper	Peterson, Peter	Gaffet, Mrs. Mary, laundry		McMahon, Miss Norah	Smith, Mrs. F., dressmaker	Reynolds, Miss Margaret
		Likely house and residents						
		Possible person of interest						

**Table 2.1: List of residents living in this part of Princes Street during the nineteenth century when the artefacts from the well were deposited (post-1862 to c.1890).**



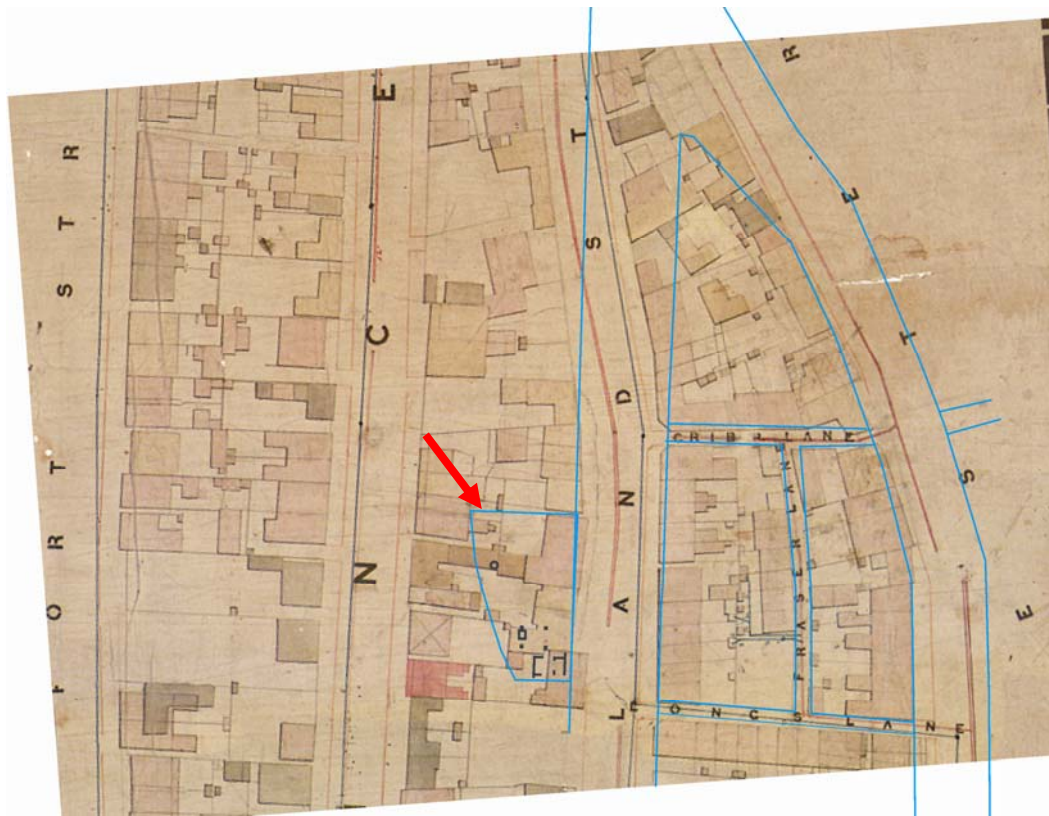


Figure 2.3: Detail from *Trigonometrical Survey of Sydney*, 1865 showing the location of the three main archaeological features found during monitoring at the site. State Records, City of Sydney Archives.

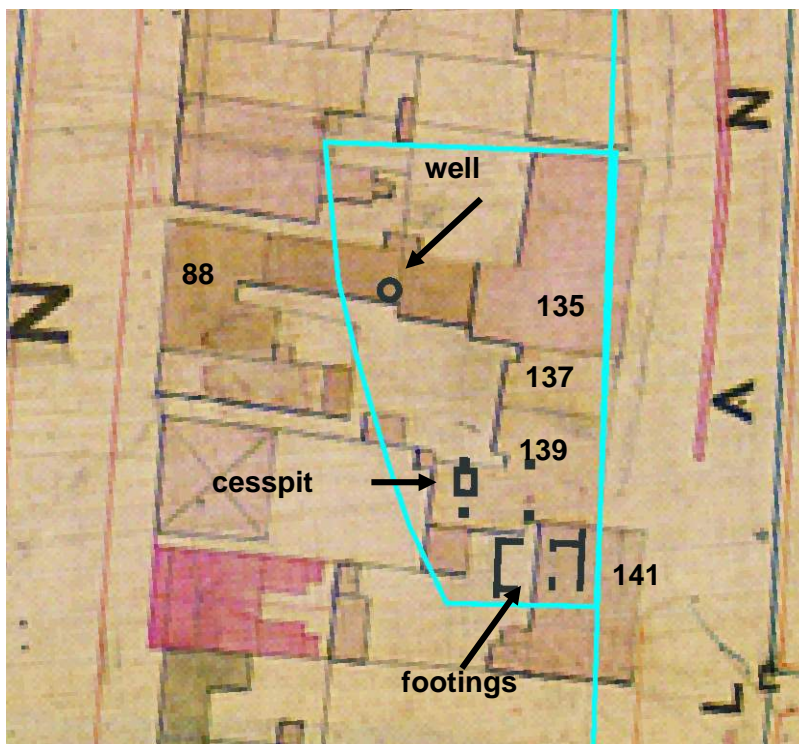


Figure 2.4: Detail showing the location of the well and two other structures within the study area. Cumberland Street is to the right and Princes Street to the left. The well appears to be located within the property at 88 Princes Street which had a timber building. *Trigonometrical Survey of Sydney*, 1865, State Records, City of Sydney Archives.



Figure 2.5: Dove's 1880 plan of Sydney, ML, SLNSW also a digital copy at the NLA website.



Figure 2.6: The study area fronts on to Cumberland Street but the well appears to be within the grounds of a house at 88 Princes Street. The base of the cesspit belonged to 125 Cumberland Street while the footings appear to be those of the small house at 127 Cumberland Street. The copy of the Dove plan used in this overlay was taken from the Godden Mackay report and their study area boundary obscured the street numbers which have been added onto the plan but are from the numbers on the original plan. Detail of Dove's 1880 plan of Sydney, ML, SLNSW.





Figure 2.7: The study area fronts on to Cumberland Street but the well appears to be within a yard of a house off Princes Street. Metropolitan Detail Series Plan, 1889, Mitchell Library, SLNSW.



Figure 2.8: The study area fronts on to Cumberland Street but the well appears to be within the grounds of a house at 88 Princes Street which has been demolished by this time as this property is shown as vacant. The base of the cesspit belonged to 125 Cumberland Street while the footings appear to be those of the small house at 127 Cumberland Street. Metropolitan Detail Series plan, 1889, Mitchell Library, SLNSW.

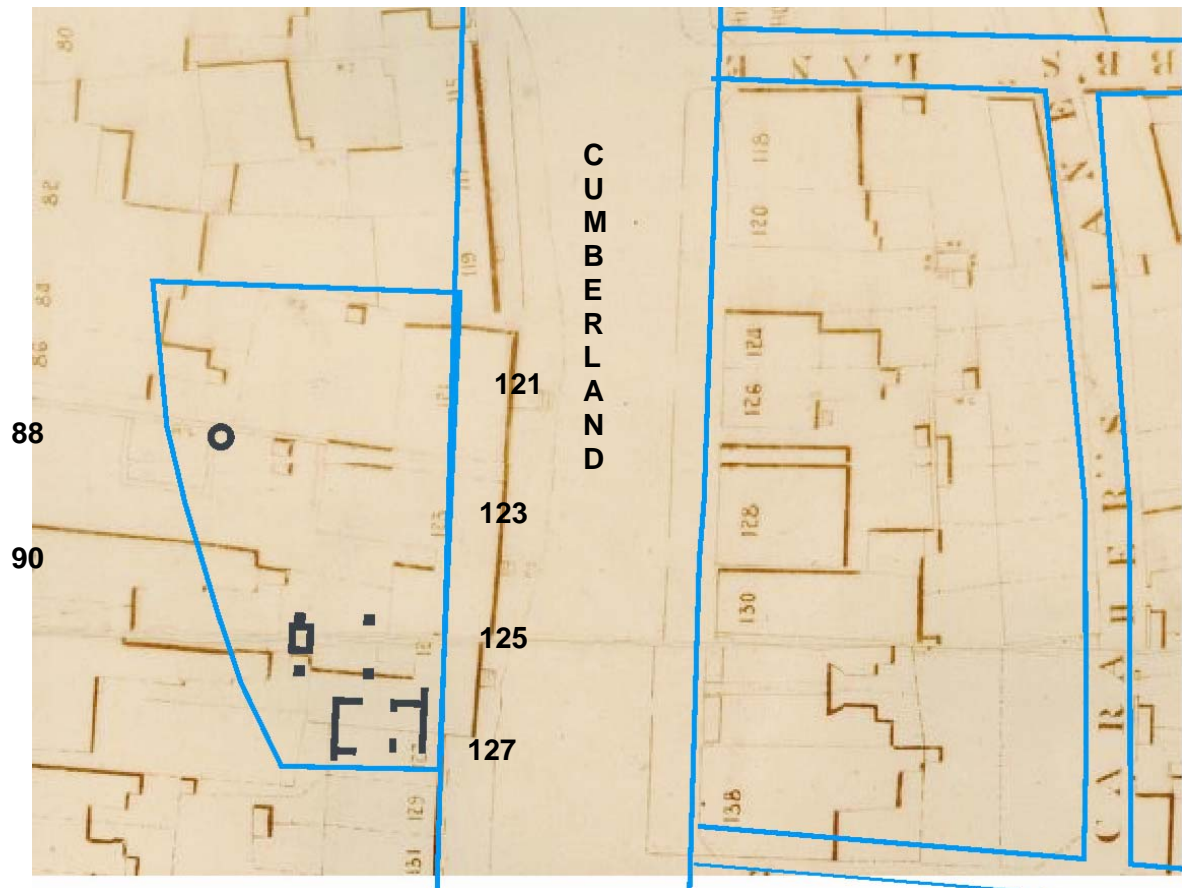


Figure 2.9: The houses and street numbers along Cumberland Street are the same as those on the 1880 Dove Plan (Figs 2.4, 2.5). The house at no 88 appears to have been rebuilt and is only indicated by pencil rather than ink suggesting the earlier house was demolished between 1880 and which are the same Metropolitan Detail Series 1890.



Figure 2.10: View from Observatory Hill of Lower Fort Street with Princes Street behind. No 88 Princes Street is arrowed. *Panorama in four parts taken from Observatory Hill, Sydney, Freeman Bros & Prout, 1864, SV/13-16, ML SLNSW.*



### 3.0 **Results of Fieldwork**

#### 3.1 **Overview and Methodology**

The machine removal of the vegetation and topsoil unearthed a large amount of brick rubble and what appeared to be a small segment of brick wall in the southern end of the site. A few metres to the northwest the rectangular sandstone footings of a possible cesspit were also uncovered. Further machine and hand clearing of the area on Friday 4 July 2003 revealed the footings of a rectangular structure of about 4m x 6.5m, cut in the south by the retaining wall for the steps to the Expressway. Another feature was discovered during machine excavation in the northwestern part of the site, a well or cistern, a circular cut in the bedrock of about 1.35m diameter. All the features were excavated and recorded by 10am on Wednesday 9 July 2003. The rest of the day was spent wet sieving samples of the well fill and cleaning the finds.

#### 3.2 **Archaeological Features**

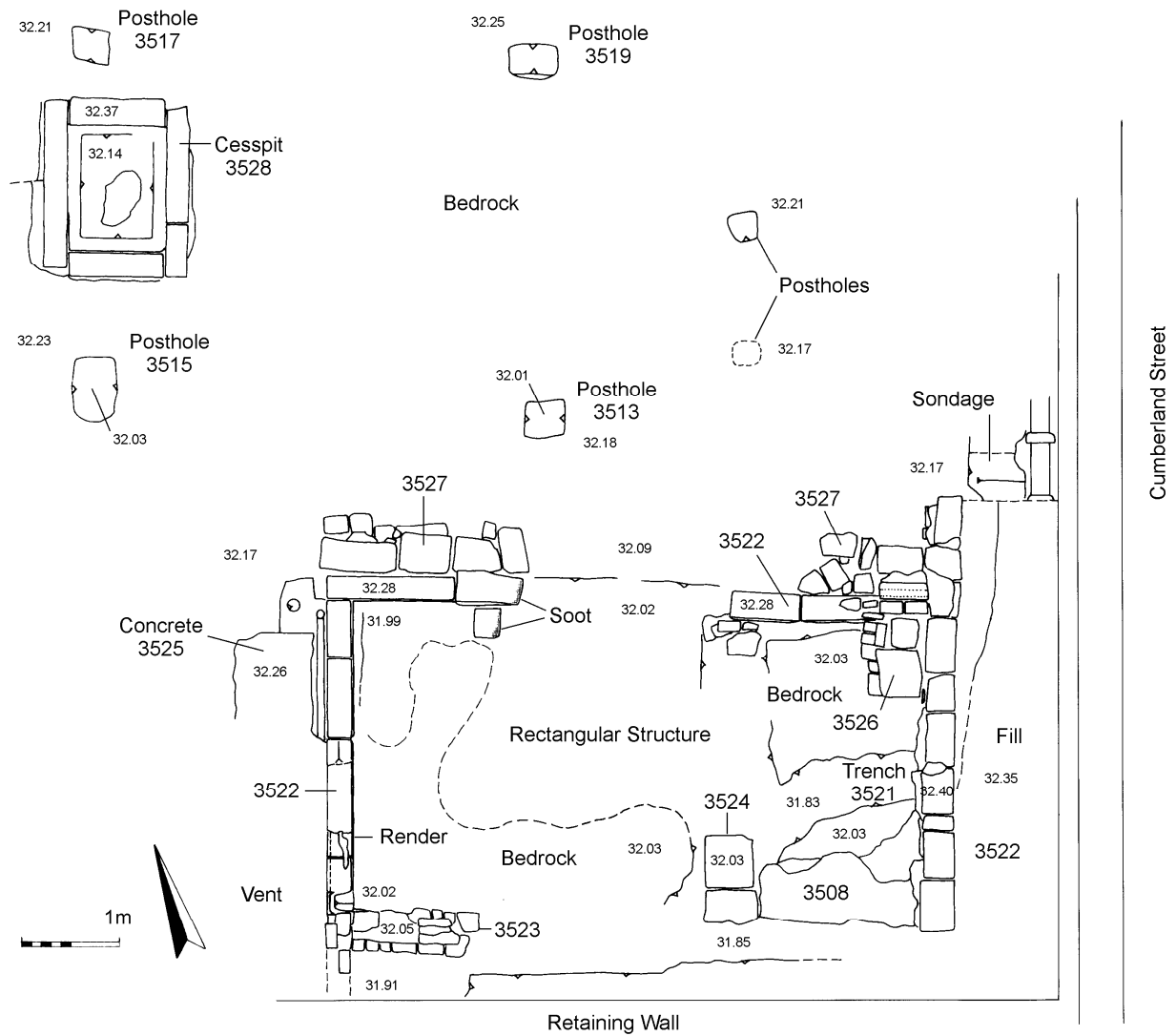
##### 3.2.1 **Rectangular structure – footings of house at 141 (127) Cumberland Street**

The structure consisted of a west, north and east wall (3522) and the remnants of two interior walls (3523 and 3524; Fig. 3.1). There was no south wall, as the building was cut by the construction of a retaining wall and steps up to the Cahill Expressway (Photos 3.1, 3.2). The approximate overall dimension is 6.5m by 4m.



**Photo 3.1: View of rectangular sandstone structure showing the north, west and east walls (3522) as well as remnant interior walls (3523, 3524). Southern end of structure was cut by the steps leading to the Cahill Expressway and a retaining wall, both seen at top of picture. Looking south, scale 1m.**





**Figure 3.1: Plan of structural remains in the southern part of the site. Franz Reidel**



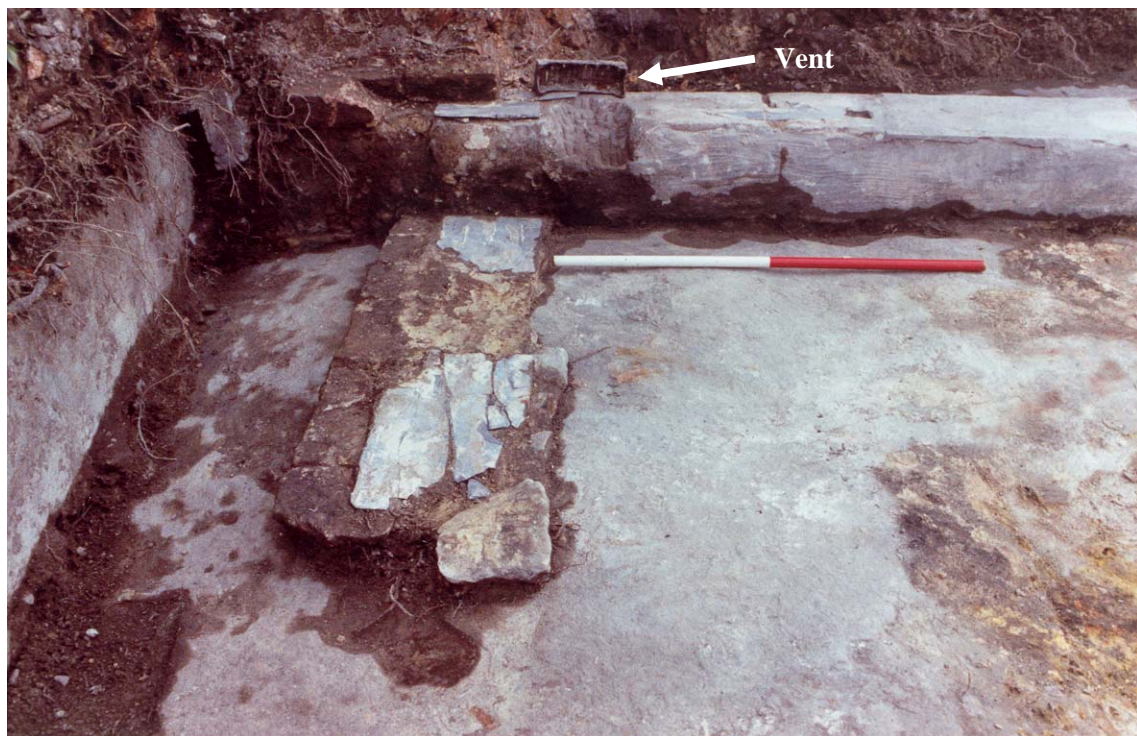
**Photo 3.2: View of rectangular sandstone structure showing the north, west and east walls (3522) as well as remnant interior walls (3523, 3524). Southern end of structure was cut by the steps leading to the Cahill Expressway and a retaining wall, both seen at right of picture. Cumberland Street is at top of picture. Looking east, scale 1m.**

Well-cut long rectangular blocks (25mm x 25mm x various lengths) were used in the north and west walls. There is some grey cement render in the corner of the north and west wall footings and all along the west wall footings as well as on top of parts of the west wall footings. Both footings are one block high (approx. 250mm) and set straight onto the bedrock where possible. At the north end of the west wall the bedrock was cut down slightly to accommodate the blocks. The blocks in the west wall footing are smooth on the outside and have a bevelled edge (Photo 3.3). Some sandstock bricks and a metal vent were found on the southern end of the west wall. Under the vent a rough cut in the sandstone was sloping down into the underfloor area to provide ventilation to the underfloor space (Photo 3.4). At the northern end of the west wall a section of the footing of about a metre was cut lower than the rest of the footing by about 80mm which could have been part of a threshold for a backdoor (Photo 3.3).





**Photo 3.3:** Corner of the north and west wall footings showing the long rectangular sandstone blocks with grey cement render on upper and side faces. Bedrock cut slightly in northwest corner to accommodate blocks. The threshold for a back door can be seen directly behind scale. Remnant cement flooring (3525) butts the exterior west wall. Looking west, scale 1m.



**Photo 3.4:** Southern end of the west wall with the metal vent and rough cut in the sandstone block sloping down into the underfloor area. Remnant east-west running interior wall (3523) has yellow cement mortar and slate damp coursing remaining. Looking west, scale 1m.



There was a gap of about 2.15m in the centre of the north wall where the footing is missing but a slight cut in the bedrock indicated where the missing blocks had sat. Some ashy residue (soot) was present on the stub of the wall on the western side of the gap as well as on a square block on the inside of that part of the wall, which was probably part of the footing for a fireplace (Photo 3.5).



**Photo 3.5: View of north wall showing gap where footing is missing and the associated cut in the bedrock where blocks would have originally been. Ashy residue on stub of wall to the right of the scale suggests the fireplace was originally here. Looking west, scale 1m.**

The east wall footing was made of rough blocks and extends beyond the north wall. The blocks were also about 250mm high but most of them were sitting on some padding of sandstone rubble and yellow cement mortar. All the above mentioned masonry was bonded with yellow cement mortar and there were remains of slate damp coursing (Photo 3.6). There was about 1.3m of an east-west running interior wall footing remaining (3523), butting the west wall 3.2m south of the north wall. It was 450mm wide and 60mm thick made of shallow sandstone blocks and yellow cement mortar covered with pieces of slate damp course and sat directly on the bedrock (Photo 3.4).



**Photo 3.6: East wall footing made of rough sandstone blocks and showing the yellow cement mortar. In the foreground is a sondage dug on the east side of the east wall which revealed a recent service trench (pipe) and no evidence of a footpath. Looking south, scale 1m.**

Remnants of another interior footing running north-south (3524) were located about 1.7m west of the east wall, the most substantial part being two sandstone blocks in the south about 120mm thick and 500mm wide bonded with yellow cement mortar. The bedrock was cut in some parts where the missing blocks were sitting (Fig 3.1, Photo 3.7).

A cement floor (3525) was butting the outside of the western wall footing (Fig 3.1, Photo 3.3). There were several sandstone slabs sitting on rubble stone packing, bonded with cement mortar (3526) inside the northeast corner, which could have been remnants of interior paving. A batch of rather irregular sandstone packing without mortar (3527) was sitting outside of the north wall on both sides of the remaining portions (Photo 3.5). The eastern side had a section of cement dish drain sitting on top running parallel to the north wall. Both sections of the packing were about 600mm wide and 200mm thick. In the centre of the eastern half of the building the bedrock was cut (3521) for a service trench, the fill of which contained some fragments of terracotta pipe (Fig 3.1). The east wall seemed to be built over this trench (Photo 3.8). A sondage on the east side of the east wall revealed no evidence of a footpath. There was only fill and a more recent service trench containing a terracotta pipe (Photo 3.6).





**Photo 3.7:** Immediately behind the scale is a remnant interior wall running north-south (3524), located to the west of the east wall (in background). The two sandstone blocks are bonded with yellow cement mortar and the bedrock had been cut in parts to accommodate now missing blocks. Looking east, scale 1m.



**Photo 3.8:** The sandstone slabs sitting on sandstone packing in the northeast corner possibly represent remnant interior flagging (3526). Rubble sandstone packing (3527) exists to the north exterior of the north wall, in the upper left corner of photo, with a section of a cement dish drain sitting on top. In the centre of the photo is a cut in the bedrock for a service trench (3521), over which the east wall appears to be built. Looking east, scale 1m.



The inside of the building and the immediate area to the north were covered with demolition material (3504) from the building itself, mainly sandstock bricks and rubble, sand (mortar) and slate fragments. The removal of the demolition fill revealed mostly bedrock, apart from a small area of about 1sqm in the south-east corner, covered by dark brown humic material (3508), which appeared to be underfloor (occupation) deposit, overlaying a layer of construction debris (3509) made up of brick and sandstone fragments and sand. This structure is considered to be the remains of a nineteenth-century house on Cumberland Street, number 141 (127).

### 3.2.2 Rectangular structure – base of cesspit at 137 (125) Cumberland Street

About 3m northwest of the house a smaller rectangular structure (3528) with an interior of 1m x 1.3m in was found (Fig 3.1, Photo 3.9). The remaining footings consisted of one course of long rectangular sandstone blocks, 250mm wide and 250mm high, sitting directly on bedrock, with an inside ‘ledge’ made of sandstock bricks also sitting on the bedrock. The bricks and the sandstone blocks were bonded with hard grey cement mortar and the inside and bottom of the structure were rendered with hard cement render and/or painted white (Photo 3.10). It is likely that this structure was the base of a cesspit cut down by previous works. However the structure was used, the very hard mortar and render would have made it quite waterproof. It contained a shallow deposit (3505), with only 7 fragments or 4 MIC artefacts (Table 4.2). This cesspit was within number 125 (139) Cumberland Street, a property owned by Elizabeth Boulton and her heirs.



Photo 3.9: View of the cesspit (3528) in relation to the sandstone footings of the larger rectangular structure. Looking southeast, scale 1m.



**Photo 3.10: Base of cesspit (3528). Rectangular sandstone blocks and sandstock bricks placed directly on bedrock, bonded with cement mortar and the interior and base is covered with cement render and/or painted white. Looking east, scale 1m.**

### **3.2.3 Postholes – 137 (125) Cumberland Street**

A group of four postholes (3513, 3515, 3517, 3519) identifying a rectangular layout of a possible post and beam building of about 4m x 5m were found around the cesspit set back about 5m from the street frontage of the earlier described building (Fig 3.1, Photo 3.11). The postholes were cut roughly into the bedrock to a depth of about 100mm to 200mm. No further postholes could be identified closer to the street frontage. The northwestern posthole appeared to contain a postpipe; all the others were filled with sandy clay and sandstone gravel. There is no archaeological evidence to determine if the postholes and the cesspit are contemporary or were built and used at different times. The mortar use does suggest this was a cesspit built quite late in the nineteenth-century and it is possible the postholes were associated with an earlier timber structure. The surviving depth of the cesspit indicates this area was cut down by at least 1m, probably in the late 1920s or early 1930s.





**Photo 3.11:** The four postholes (3513, 3515, 3517, 3519) identified around the cesspit (3528). The northeastern corner of the large rectangular structure is at top right of photo (3522). Looking east, scale 1m.

#### **3.2.4 Well – 88 Princes Street**

The well, a circular cut in the bedrock, had a diameter of 1.35m (3511) and was in the northeast corner of the site about 2.2m above the level of the Cumberland street footpath (Photo 3.12). The vertical sides showed pick or chisel marks of 50mm to 150mm in length with a change in direction roughly every 200mm (Photo 3.13). There are two possible footholes 600mm vertically apart from each other. All other deeper cuts seemed to be accidental.

The fill (3502, 3503, 3506, 3507, 3510), after the removal of about 200mm of mixed material (3501), was a dark brown/grey, almost black, soft and sandy material with a high content of wood fragments, like woodchips, as well as a lot of roots, especially around the sides (Fig 3.3). The fill was excavated in spits of 400mm after the first 1m to 1.2m (Photo 3.14). It contained high quantities of artefacts which were mainly collected by hand, apart from two buckets of fill per spit, which were wet sieved. The overall depth of the fill removed was about 2.7m, which is about 500mm below the current footpath level.





**Photo 3.12:** Location of well (3511) in northeast corner of the site. The well is cut directly into the bedrock. Looking north, scale 1m.



**Photo 3.13:** View of well post excavation showing pick/chisel marks on the interior face. Looking south, scale 1m.

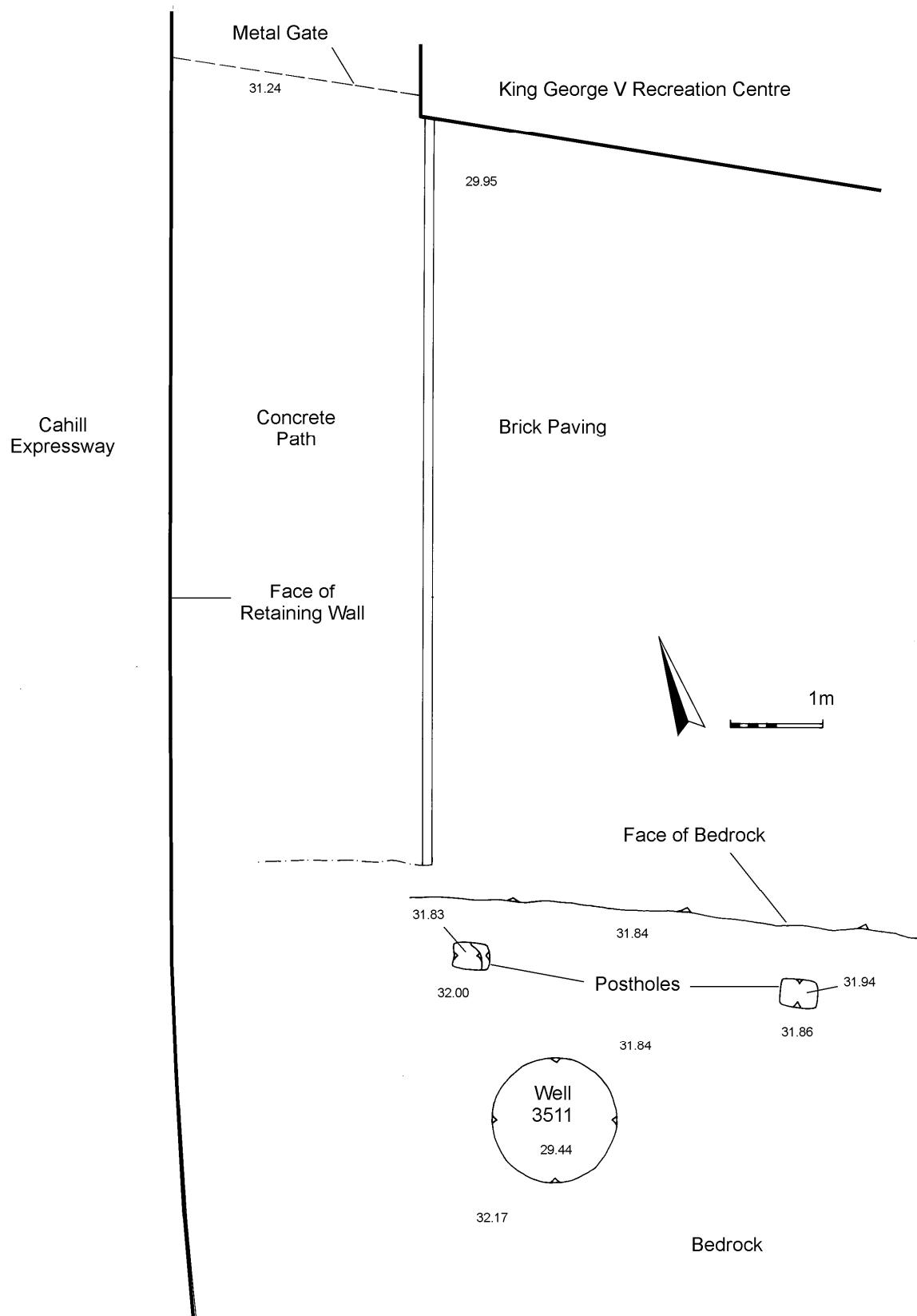


Figure 3.2: Plan showing the well and the northern area of the site. Franz Reidel



Two shallow posthole cuts, 3.6m apart, were present in the bedrock about 1m north of the well (Fig 3.2, Photo 3.15).

Overlays of the position of the well indicate that it was most likely within the rear yard of 88 Princes Street, a property owned by Elizabeth Boulton from c.1807 to 1862 with the house being demolished by 1882 by her son and heir John Boulton (Figs 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.8).



**Photo 3.14: Working shot of well excavation. Looking north.**



**Photo 3.15: The two shallow posthole cuts located to the north of the well can be seen in the foreground. Looking south, scale 1m.**



Context Number	Context	Description	Comments	Under Context	Above Context	Fill Of	Contains
3501	Fill – above well	Fill of well cut 3511. Brown sandy silt with assorted sandstone rubble.	Top fill of well. 100–200mm deep.		3502	3511	
3502	Fill well	Fill of well, dark brown-black wet sandy fill, artefacts, wood and roots. 1000–1200mm deep.	2 soil samples taken.	3501	3503	3511	
3503	Fill well	Dark grey soft sandy and woody with roots. 400mm deep spit. Lots of oyster shells in fill.	2 soil samples taken, 2 buckets sample sieved.	3502	3506	3511	
3504	Fill - demolition fill	Demo material, mainly ss bricks with sand and yellow cement mortar frags.	Dating to demolition of buildings, mostly removed by machine.		3508		
3505	Fill of cesspit	Shallow layer of humic material inside cesspit 3528. 50mm deep.	Exposed on arrival to site.		3528		
3506	Fill well	Fill of well, dark soft, sandy and woody. Roots especially around edge. 400mm deep spit.	2 soil samples taken, 2 buckets sample sieved. Contained oyster shells.	3503	3507	3511	
3507	Fill well	Fill of well, dark soft, sandy and woody. Roots especially around edge. 400mm deep spit.	2 soil samples taken, 2 buckets sample sieved. Contained oyster shells.	3506	3510	3511	
3508	Deposit - underfloor	Dark brown sandy loamy, se corner of building. 10–100mm deep.			3509		
3509	Deposit	Pink-reddish sandy material, slate and brick frags. SE corner of building. 10–120mm deep.	Construction phase of building.				
3510	Fill well 3507	Fill of well, same as 3507, unexcavated.	4 buckets taken for sample sieving.	3507		3511	
3511	Cut - well	Circular cut through bedrock, near vertical sides, base unknown. 1350mm diameter. Depth c.3600mm.	Chisel marks all around, possible foot holes down north side.	3510			3502, 3503, 3506 3507, 3510
3512	Fill - posthole 3513	Crushed sandstone, some brown sandy fill. 170mm deep.			3513	3513	
3513	Cut - posthole	Rough rectangular cut into bedrock, 420x350x170mm.	Rectangular post and beam part of structure 4x5m.	3512			3512
3514	Fill - posthole 3515	Crushed sandstone, some brown sandy fill. 100mm deep.		3504	3515	3515	
3515	Cut - posthole	Rough rectangular cut into bedrock, 650x450x100mm.	Rectangular post and beam part of structure 4x5m.	3514			3514
3516	Fill - posthole 3517	Black organic material, decayed wood in postpipe otherwise crushed sandstone and clayey sand. 140mm excavated.	Only postpipe excavated.		3517	3517	
3517	Cut - posthole	Rough not quite sq, cut into bedrock. 350x300mm.	Rectangular post and beam part of structure 4x5m.	3516			3516
3518	Fill - posthole 3519	Crushed sandstone, some brown sandy fill. Unexcavated.			3519	3519	

Context Number	Context	Description	Comments	Under Context	Above Context	Fill Of	Contains
3519	Cut - posthole	Rectangular cut, 50x30cm	Rectangular post and beam part of structure 4x5m.	3518			3518
3520	Fill - service trench	Crushed sandstone, brick frags, brown sandy fill, TC pipe frags. 200mm deep.	Fill of cut 3521.		3521	3521	
3521	Cut - service trench	Rough cut into bedrock, 550mm wide, 1750mm long and 200mm deep.		3504			3520
3522	Structure - footings	North, east and west walls, rec blocks some cement render set onto bedrock where possible, bonded with yellow cement mortar.		3504			
3523	Structure - footings	Part of footing of e-w interior wall, 450mm wide. Cement mortar. Butts 3522.	Footings are shallow sstone, sitting on bedrock with slate damp course.	3504			
3524	Structure - footings	Part of n-s interior wall, sandstone block 500mm wide, cement render sitting on bedrock. Butts 3522.	Bedrock cut in some places to lay sstone blocks.	3504			
3525	Structure - floor	Slab floor, grey cement covering galvanised iron pipe. 900mm wide.	Butts 3522				
3526	Structure - paving	2 flat sandstone slabs and bricks sitting on sandstone packing bonded with yellow cement mortar. 1200x800x270mm.	May be remains of interior paving or else part of a pier.	3504			
3527	Structure	Sandstone packing, no mortar unlikely to be paving. Eastern section has short section of dish drain.	Both sections of Packing are c 600mm wide and 20mm deep.	3504			
3528	Structure	Rec structure, one course of long rec sandstone blocks sitting on bedrock. Inside ledge of sandstock bricks with hard grey cement mortar.	Possibly base of a cesspit. Dense hard mortar would have made it waterproof.	3505			
3529	Fill of cut 3530	Brown sandy loamy fill with crushed sandstone.	Fill of construction cut for cesspit 3528.		3528		
3530	Cut	Cut for construction of cesspit, 3528.	Only traces of the cut survived the machine excavation.	3529			

**Table 3.1:** List of archaeological contexts recorded from the archaeological excavation. These are mentioned throughout the report. The location of many of these contexts is indicated on plans Fig 3.1, 3.2.

King George V  
Cumberland Street  
The Rocks  
4 July to 9 July 2003

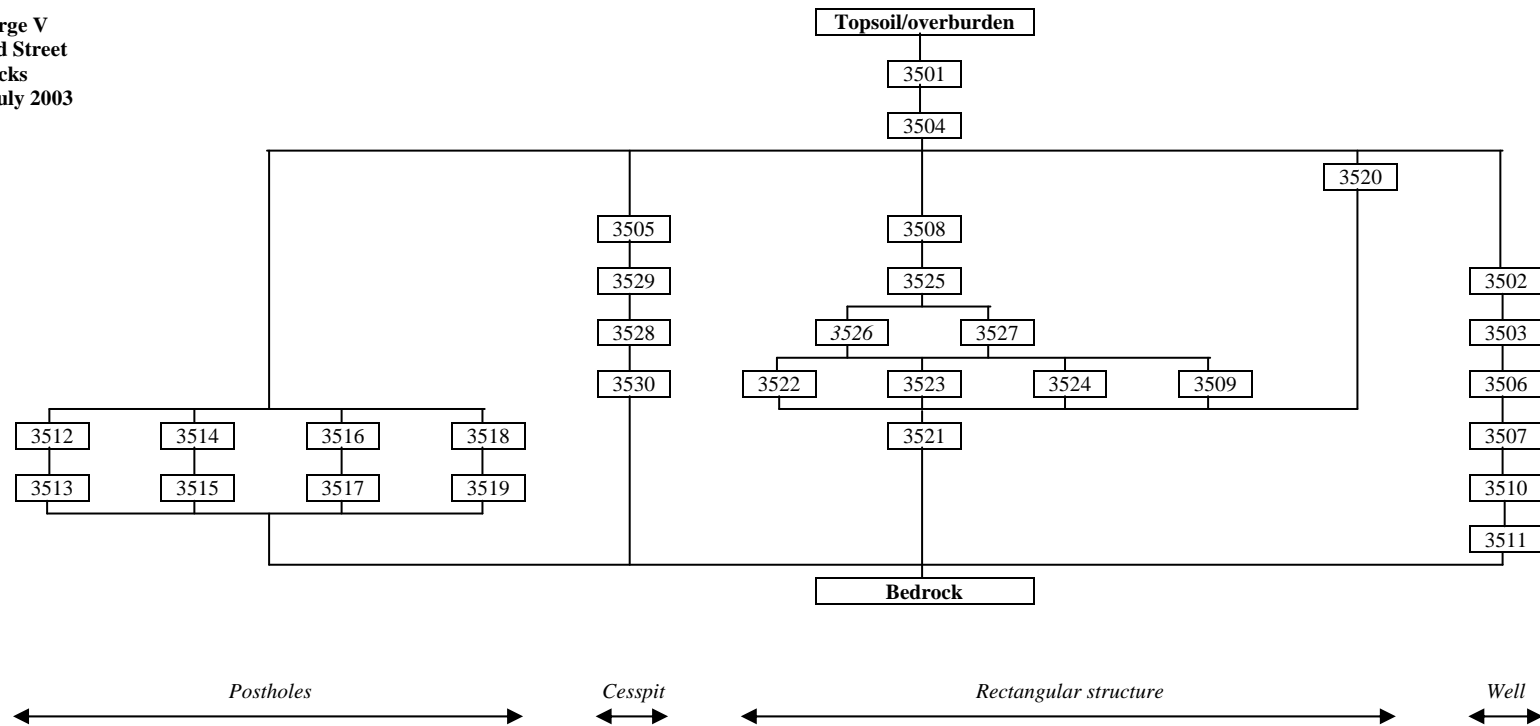


Figure 3.3: Matrix of archaeological contexts associated with the King George V Recreation Centre.

## 4.0 **Artefact Overview**

### 4.1 **Questions for Artefact Analysis**

Casey & Lowe were brought in to manage the monitoring of this study area after the well and footings were found. A S140 approval was issued by Wayne Johnson, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. No research design was written and because of the limited nature of the archaeological resource we have adopted general questions we use for most artefact overviews. Research questions from the 1994/1995 excavation and reporting undertaken for the CSR Site, now Jackson's Landing, Pyrmont, were the basis for the baseline research questions used at this site and a number of other mid-nineteenth to early twentieth-century sites excavated by Casey & Lowe. The most relevant questions for analysing the artefacts from the archaeological excavation are:

- What type and range of artefacts were found?
- What range of activities do the artefacts indicate were being undertaken at the site or nearby?
- What was the nature of the goods in terms of aspects of availability of consumer goods, and quality and variety of consumer goods and their evidence for interaction of the site with the world at large?

On top of this we note that the shoes have been used for a site study for a PhD on shoes at Latrobe University by Maya Stephanie Veres and that there has been a detailed report on the shoes for this report. Also the Moreton Plaque (cover) is an extremely significant artefact representing the high level of skill of the former convict potter, John Moreton. It is one of two marked objects known to have been produced by Moreton other than stoneware bottles.

### 4.2 **Artefacts Analysis**

The following artefacts analysis is designed to address the three baseline research questions raised above.

#### 4.2.1 **Cataloguing of Artefacts**

All artefacts were catalogued by a specialist team within the cataloguing system developed by Dr Mary Casey. The basis of this system has been published elsewhere and will not be repeated here.<sup>12</sup> The main elements of the cataloguing system are the use of minimum vessel or item counts (MIC) and attribution of functional categories to the artefacts during cataloguing. This assists in the understating of how the artefacts related to the life of the people residing on the various properties who used and disposed of the artefacts or perhaps made them, and assists with comparative analysis between other archaeological sites. Robyn Stocks, specialist cataloguer, developed a detailed type series for cataloguing the shoe leather because of the perceived significance of this collection of shoes (Appendix 3). In this report where full numbers are given they refer to MIC.

#### 4.2.2 **Overview of Contexts**

Out of the 30 contexts assigned during the excavation the majority, 22 in total, were identified with three main archaeological features: a well, a cesspit and a large rectangular structure which were probably the footings of a house. The remaining eight contexts were assigned to four posthole cuts and their associated fills.

#### **Well, 88 Princes Street**

The well (Photos 3.12–3.15) was identified in the northeast corner of the site and its associated contexts incorporated the circular cut through bedrock (3511), which featured near vertical sides, a diameter of 1350mm and an excavated depth to c2700mm. Its real depth is thought to have been c3600mm however the last part of the well fill was removed by machine in the archaeologist's absence and was then immediately backfilled before recording could be done. Five contexts were also assigned specifically to the fills contained within the well (3502, 3503, 3506, 3507, 3510) (Fig 3.3), with all five being very similar in composition and comprising of wet, dark brown/grey soft

<sup>12</sup> Mary Casey 2004 'Falling between the cracks: method and practice at the CSR Site, Pyrmont', *Australasian Historical Archaeology* 21:27-43.

sandy fill with a high content of wood fragments and lots of root activity around the sides. The fills were all hand excavated in spits of 400mm after the first 1m to 1.2m (3502). Large quantities of artefacts were recovered from the fills and will be discussed below (Section 4.2.4). An additional context number was assigned to the fill that was directly above the well (3501), however because of its very disturbed nature it has not been included in the overall analysis of the well contents.

### **Cesspit, 137 (125) Cumberland Street**

The remains of a cesspit was identified to the northwest of a large rectangular structure (Photos 3.9–3.11). The four contexts associated with the cesspit included traces of the cut for its construction (3530), the fill of the construction cut, comprising of crushed sandstone and a brown sandy loamy fill (3529), the remains of the cesspit structure itself (3528), represented by just its base as it had been cut down to this level during previous work, and featured one course of remnant long rectangular sandstone blocks with an interior ledge of sandstock bricks, featuring both cement mortar and cement render. Some remnant cesspit fill was identified within the structure (3505), being a very shallow deposit, measuring just 50mm in depth, that was already exposed prior to the archaeologists coming on site.

### **Rectangular Footings of House, 129 (141) Cumberland Street**

A total of 11 contexts were identified with the remains of a large rectangular structure situated at the southern end of the site. This structure was identified by its remnant sandstone footings (Photos 3.1–3.7), some flooring and paving (Photos 3.3, 3.7, 3.8), packing for a dish drain (Photo 3.8), a service trench (Photos 3.7, 3.8), and some construction, occupation and demolition deposits. Footings of the north, east and west walls (3522) comprised of rectangular sandstone blocks set into the bedrock. The building was cut by a retaining wall and the steps to the Cahill Expressway so no south wall was evident. Remnant interior wall footings were also identified, running east-west (3523) and north-south (3524). The remains of a cement flooring (3525), butting the exterior west side of the structure was found, and an area identified as possible paving (3526), comprising of flat sandstone slabs and sandstock bricks, was found on the inside northeast corner of the structure. It was also noted that this may instead be part of a pier. An area of irregular sandstone packing (3527), with a section of a concrete dish drain on top, ran parallel to the northern wall, while in the centre of the eastern half of the structure was a cut in the bedrock for a service trench (3521), whereby the east wall appeared to then be built over it. The fill of this service trench (3520) contained brick and terracotta pipe fragments, a brown sandy fill and crushed sandstone. A deposit identified as being related to the construction of the building was identified in the southeast corner of the structure (3509), consisting of slate and brick fragments and a sandy material, and was between 10–120mm in depth. Overlying this construction deposit was a brown sandy loamy deposit, between 10–100mm thick, and identified as an underfloor occupation deposit (3508). The interior of the structure and over the area immediately to its north was covered with material relating to the demolition of the building (3504), comprising of mostly sandstock bricks and rubble, sand and mortar fragments, and slate. This deposit was mostly removed by machine.

### **Postholes**

Aside from the above three main archaeological features, six postholes were also identified on the site, with four of them assigned context numbers for their cuts and fills. Four postholes were identified in a rectangular layout surrounding the cesspit and have been identified as possibly belonging to a post and beam building (see Photo 3.11). All four were cut into bedrock – 3513 (fill 3512), 3515 (fill 3514), 3517 (fill 3516), and 3519 (fill 3518). The remaining two postholes identified on site were not assigned context numbers and were cut into the bedrock about 1m north of the well (Photo 3.15, Fig 3.3).

### **Well Contents**

Because the overwhelming majority of the artefacts recovered from the site were recovered from the well fills it is this feature and its contents that will be the focus of this report. The total artefact MIC from all 12 artefact-bearing contexts across the site numbered 607, with 569 of these recovered from the well fills of 3502, 3503, 3506, 3507 and 3510, representing 93.7 per cent of the entire artefact assemblage (Table 4.2).

The deposition of the well fills appears to have occurred in a relatively short space of time and does not represent a well that was used to dump rubbish over a long period. The five fills are consistent in their composition, described as being of a quite wet dark brown/grey soft and sandy material with a high content of wood fragments and a lot of plant roots, especially around the sides of the well. Evidence of conjoins between artefacts found at different depths within the well supports the items being deposited within a short time frame, especially if there are a lot of joining fragments. Analysis of the identified conjoins found within the artefact category of ceramics confirms this (Table 4.1).

Context	Cat #	Shape	MIC Well Ceramics	#Frgs	Join
3502	15073	breakfast cup 1	0	1	15253, 15359
3506	15253		1	4	15073, 15359
3507	15359		0	1	15073, 15253
3502	15079	breakfast cup 2	1	4	15178
3503	15178		0	1	15079
3502	15126	bowl 1	1	7	15177
3503	15177		0	4	15126
3503	15143	bowl 2	0	1	15241
3506	15241		1	1	15143
3506	15245	bowl 3	0	1	15317
3507	15317		1	5	15245
3506	15250	bowl 4	1	5	15365, 15450
3507	15365		0	3	15250, 15450
3510	15450		0	2	15250, 15365
3507	15357	bowl 5	0	1	15441
3510	15441		1	1	15357
3503	15137	bowl/break cup 6	1	7	15236
3506	15236		0	1	15137
<b>3502</b>	<b>15125</b>	<b>jug 1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15235, 15358, 15442</b>
<b>3506</b>	<b>15235</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15125, 15358, 15442</b>
<b>3507</b>	<b>15358</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15125, 15235, 15442</b>
<b>3510</b>	<b>15442</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15125, 15235, 15358</b>
3502	15131	jug 2	1	2	15198
3503	15198		0	1	15131
<b>3503</b>	<b>15465</b>	<b>wall plaque 1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15466, 15467</b>
<b>3506</b>	<b>15466</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15465, 15467</b>
<b>3507</b>	<b>15467</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15465, 15466</b>
3502	15075	plate 1	1	7	15205
3503	15205		0	9	15075
3502	15109	plate 2	1	7	15,182
3503	15182		0	1	15109
3503	15176	poe 3	1	7	15248
3506	15248		0	15	15176
3501	15006	saucer 1	0	1	15105
3502	15105		1	7	15006
3502	15080	saucer 2	1	5	15179
3503	15179		0	2	15080
3501	15008	teapot 1	0	1	15098
3502	15098		1	3	15008
3502	15130	tureen 1	0	1	15389
3507	15389		1	2	15130
			<b>18</b>	<b>139</b>	

**Table 4.1: Ceramic conjoins within the well fills.**

A total of 18 individual ceramics were recovered within the well which had identified conjoining fragments across the fills. These 18 ceramics (139 fragments) indicate that individual items were



discarded into the well within a very short timeframe, with fragments from the same vessel occurring in more than just the one area of the well. If an item is broken it is generally thrown out in the one event, not over a period of time. The majority of the items featured conjoining fragments between two fills (14), with three items having conjoins in three of the fills, and one featuring conjoins in four fills. The item with conjoining fragments identified in four of the well fills was a mocha ware jug, dating between the 1840s and 1930s, and featured nine fragments in total. The unique early decorative wall plaque, dating between c. 1835 to 1837 and discussed in detail later (Section 4.2.4), had conjoining fragments in three fills, two of which were in the same fills as the later dating mocha jug.

#### 4.2.3 Dating of Contexts

As previously stated, it is the five fill contexts contained within the well (3511) that are to be the focus of this artefact overview (3502, 3503, 3506, 3507, 3510). The total artefact MIC from across the site numbered 607, represented by 2460 fragments, and were found in 12 of the 30 assigned contexts (Table 4.2).

Context	MIC	%	No. Frags	%
3501	6	1.0	22	0.9
<b>3502 (well)</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>33.2</b>
<b>3503 (well)</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>16.8</b>
3504	13	2.1	22	0.9
3505	4	0.7	7	0.3
<b>3506 (well)</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>18.0</b>
<b>3507 (well)</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>20.4</b>
3508	9	1.5	62	2.5
3509	2	0.3	5	0.2
<b>3510 (well)</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>6.3</b>
3520	3	0.5	13	0.5
3522	1	0.2	0	0.0
	<b>607</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2460</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 4.2: Total artefact MIC in all contexts.**

The majority of these artefacts were found within the well, with a total of 569 MIC recovered from the five fills (2329 fragments), representing 93.7 per cent of the total artefact assemblage. The remaining seven contexts featured very low frequencies of artefact numbers, totalling just 38 MIC.

The well fill contexts are fairly consistent in their overall composition and the number of conjoins identified within the ceramic assemblage contained within the well (Table 4.1) indicates that deposition occurred within a short time frame. The period when the well became a useful depository for rubbish can be interpreted from analysis of the date range of many of the artefacts recovered from the fills (Table 4.3).

From	To	MIC Well
		213
	1850	3
	<b>1860</b>	<b>17</b>
	1870	8
	1880	5
	1914	1
	1920	2
	1930	1
1720	1870	1
1780		1
1780	1850	1
1780	1860	2

1780	1870	3
1788		2
1788	1810	2
1788	1860	5
1788	1890	9
1790		5
1790	1820	9
1790	1875	1
1790	1880	1
1800		1
1800	1840	1
1800	1860	4
1800	1870	1
1810		10
1810	1860	7
1810	1870	2
1810	1880	5
1812		5
<b>1812</b>	<b>1860</b>	<b>12</b>
1815	1870	1
1819		6
1820		7
1820	1840	2
1820	1850	3
<b>1820</b>	<b>1860</b>	<b>23</b>
1820	1870	6
1820	1878	3
1820	1880	1
1822	1834	1
1822	1835	1
1823	1864	1
1823	1882	1
1828	1840	1
<b>1830</b>		<b>53</b>
1830	1859	1
1830	1860	3
1830	1861	1
1830	1864	1
1830	1870	2
1830	1920	1
1830	1930	13
1833	1847	1
1834	1848	3
1834	1854	2
1834	1859	3
1835		2
<b>1835</b>	<b>1837</b>	<b>1</b>
1835	1920	2
1836	1842	2
1838	1861	7
1839	1868	1
<b>1840</b>		<b>21</b>
1840	1870	3
1840	1880	5
1840	1914	5
1840	1930	2
1842	1914	1
1842	1928	1
1845		1

1847	1888	1
1850		6
1850	1920	3
1850	1930	2
1860		2
<b>1862</b>		<b>17</b>
1870		2
1900		1
		<b>569</b>

**Table 4.3: Date ranges of artefacts contained in the well.**

In general the majority of the artefacts represented in the well assemblage cover manufacturing technologies that occurred over long date ranges, with items continuing to be produced well into the mid to late nineteenth century, and for some on into the twentieth century. However, by focusing on items with more specific date ranges, rather than those associated with very general manufacturing periods, for example, by using individual manufacturer's marks and/or the invention of particular forms of technology, it is possible to refine the period of deposition.

The artefact group that specifically indicates that the well fills post-date 1862 are within the category of personal-clothing and comprise of 17 MIC leather footwear items that were manufactured and/or repaired using technologies first introduced in 1862.<sup>13</sup> Examples of footwear showing the use of these new technological developments were identified in all five well fills. The first of the new technologies involved the development of a nailing machine that cut and inserted the nails into the sole of the shoe, for example for the reinforcing of hobnailed boots, whereas up until this time it had been done by hand. The second new development was along similar lines, whereby continuous brass wire was cut and finished as a nail or a screw when it was inserted into the sole. The third new technology was the development of the McKay patent sewing machine where the entire sole could be sewn onto the upper with no hand sewn finishing being required.

Overall the dates represented in the well are generally suggestive of a deposit occurring sometime during the latter half of the nineteenth century. The periods when things are purchased and then later discarded may also vary considerably, depending on the function of the item and its frequency of use, so an item that may have been manufactured early in the nineteenth century, such as the fine earthenware decorative plaque manufactured by John Moreton between c.1835 to 1837 (discussed in detail below, see Section 4.2.4), and not used in everyday life, has a longer survival rate than most other items and its presence in a later dating deposit supports this view. The repair and then continued reuse of items originally manufactured early in the nineteenth century is also seen here, especially within the category of leather footwear, whereby shoes that were originally manufactured within the first half of the nineteenth century show evidence of repairs occurring post-1862, indicating that the material within the assemblage was deposited here after 1862.

The majority of the dateable items generally appear to have ceased being manufactured by the mid to late nineteenth century, with those specifically featuring twentieth-century end dates being relatively few in number and having long manufacturing periods, beginning in at least the second quarter of the nineteenth century (34). Those items with no end date given are for two reasons; they are still being manufactured up to the present day or it is not known when they ceased being made.

The single artefact identified as having a beginning date of manufacture of c.1900+ belongs to the body/base of a ferrous metal tin can (#25,027). Its presence here, within fill 3506, the context assigned to the material located around the middle of the well deposit, can be explained by the fact that overall the composition of the well fills were quite wet, and the soft sandy material and high wood fragment content would have made it easy for objects to move down through the deposit, and

<sup>13</sup> See leather report, Appendix 3

this item is likely contamination from the material that was directly above the well (3501), probably when all housing was demolished in this area for the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The dating of the artefacts recovered from the well, indicating the period when it was most probably backfilled, and given the overall similarity of the fills and the presence of conjoins; indicating that the backfilling occurred as either a single event or at the very least occurred over a relatively short timeframe; suggests deposition occurred sometime soon after c.1862, most likely in the 1870s. Given that overlays of historic plans indicate that the well is identified with the property of 88 Princes Street and that the house on it appears to have been demolished by 1882 (Fig. 2.8), it is probable that the backfilling of the well occurred prior to this, perhaps as a cleaning out event prior to the house been vacated and subsequently demolished. Therefore the dating of the well backfilling is between c.1866 and 1882 but with the artefacts being associated with the occupation of the area in the 1830s to 1860s and possibly earlier.

#### 4.2.4 Overview of Artefacts

A total of 607 artefacts (2460 fragments) were recovered during the archaeological excavation undertaken at the King George V Recreation Centre (see Table 4.2). The artefacts fall into six general categories, with the ceramic, miscellaneous and organic being the most commonly represented and in fairly similar numbers (Table 4.4).

Category	MIC	%	No. Frags	%
Architectural/ Building Materials	27	4.4	41	1.7
<b>Ceramic</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>1221</b>	<b>49.6</b>
Glass	56	9.2	223	9.1
Metal	68	11.2	70	2.8
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Organic (inc leather)</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>31.6</b>
	<b>607</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>2460</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 4.4: Overview of the categories of artefacts found during excavation. Bold highlights indicate the highest quantities.**

The three artefact categories of ceramic (164), miscellaneous (141), and organic (151) have a combined total of 456, representing 75.1 per cent of the total artefact range found on site. The artefacts were recovered in 12 of the 30 assigned contexts however it is the well that contained by far the highest concentration and which is the focus of this analysis (Table 4.5).

Category	MIC	%
Architectural/ Building Materials	22	3.9
<b>Ceramic</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>26.5</b>
Glass	51	9.0
Metal	63	11.1
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>23.2</b>
<b>Organic (inc leather)</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>26.4</b>
	<b>569</b>	<b>100.1</b>

**Table 4.5: Categories of artefacts found within the well.**

The artefacts contained within the well fills (3502, 3503, 3506, 3507, 3510) total 569, with the general artefact categories of ceramic (151), miscellaneous (132), and organic (150) featuring in similar numbers, totalling 433 and representing 76.1 per cent of the well assemblage.

These 569 artefacts were all ascribed general functions during the post-excavation cataloguing phase, with the exception of 44 which remained unidentified. Overall the artefacts within the well were assigned to 14 general functions (Table 4.6).



<b>General Function</b>	<b>MIC Well</b>	<b>%</b>
architectural	57	10.0
beverage	23	4.0
cleric	2	0.4
<b>food</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>31.1</b>
food/pharm	1	0.2
household	14	2.5
industrial	19	3.3
<b>personal</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>19.0</b>
pers/food	2	0.4
pharmaceutical	2	0.4
<b>recreation</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>19.5</b>
store	2	0.4
work	6	1.1
yard	1	0.2
unidentified	44	7.7
	<b>569</b>	<b>100.2</b>

**Table 4.6: Identified functions of artefacts found within the well.**

#### 4.2.5 Functional Analysis

The 14 identified general functions were ascribed to a total of 525 items, representing 92.3 per cent of the total well assemblage, with just the previously mentioned 44 items were unidentified and unable to have a function assigned (7.7%). The three most dominant functions are those items relating to the general roles of food (177), personal (108), and recreation (111), with these three together representing at total of 396 and 69.6 per cent of the assemblage.

The general function of food includes items for not only the storage, preparation, serving and consumption of food but also includes evidence of some of the remains of the food itself – in the form of nuts, fruit and vegetable seeds (22). The function of personal was mainly ascribed to items associated with clothing (98), and in particular footwear, with grooming (3) and hygiene (7) the remaining associated fields. The most dominant item associated with recreation were kaolin tobacco pipes, with smoking very much the main category (107), leaving just gaming (1) and toys (3) to round out the number.

Cataloguing of the artefacts also entailed using more detailed definitions of functionality, whereby the artefacts were also ascribed a specific function along with their identified shape (Table 4.7).

<b>General Function</b>	<b>Specific Function</b>	<b>Shape</b>	<b>MIC Well</b>
<b>architectural</b>	finish	render	1
		render & set	1
	non-structural	grate	1
		sheet	3
		tile	1
	roof	flashing	2
		slate	6
		tile	2
	structural	brad	1
		brick	9
		mortar	1
		nail	24
		render	1
		scupper	1
	stru/non-stru window	bolt	2
		flat	1
<b>beverage</b>	beer/wine	bottle	16
	champagne	stopper	1
	ginger beer	bottle	1
<b>beverage</b>	gin/schnapps	bottle	3
	tableware/serve	cup	2
<b>cleric</b>	writing	slate	2

<b>food</b>	condiment	pickle/chutney	1
	container	bottle	4
		cont	1
		jar/bottle	1
		tin can	1
	food	bottle	5
		jar	1
	preparation	crock/pot	1
		lid	1
	seed	almond	2
		apricot	2
		coconut	2
		hazelnut	3
		nectarine	5
		peach	5
		pumpkin	1
		walnut	1
		watermelon	1
	serve	bowl	2
		dish	3
		gravy boat	1
		jug	8
		plate	2
		platter	6
		salt cellar	1
		sauce tureen	1
		toast rack	1
		tureen	2
		tureen/vegetable dish	1
		vegetable dish	1
	<b>tableware</b>	bowl	7
		dish	1
		egg cup	1
		fingerbowl	1
		fork	1
		<b>plate</b>	<b>32</b>
		plate-small	10
		soup plate	1
		stemware	2
		tumbler	7
	tableware/serve	bowl	2
	tableware/tea	bowl	3
		bowl/break cup	1
		cup	1
	<b>tea</b>	breakfast cup	7
		coffee can	1
		cup	7
		jug	1
		<b>saucer</b>	<b>20</b>
		tea bowl	1
		teapot	3
<b>food/pharm</b>	condiment/medicine	bottle	1
<b>household</b>	furnish	curtain ring	1
		dowel	3
		leg	1
<b>household</b>	furnish	stretcher	1
		unid	1
		decor	1
	laundry maintenance ornamental	iron	1
		black bottle wall plaque	4 1
<b>industrial</b>	by-product machinery	offcut	17
		dial	1
		rod	1
<b>personal</b>	<b>clothing</b>	boot	1
		<b>boot, lace-up</b>	<b>10</b>
		buckle	1
		button	7

		eye	2
		<b>shoe</b>	<b>58</b>
		shoe buckle	1
		<b>shoe, latchet</b>	<b>5</b>
		<b>shoe, pump</b>	<b>9</b>
		shoe/boot	4
	<b>groom</b>	perfume bottle	1
		mirror	2
	<b>hygiene</b>	ewer	1
		poe	3
		sponge	1
		toothbrush	1
		wash basin	1
<b>personal/food</b>	hygiene/serve	ewer/jug	2
<b>pharmaceutical</b>	container	phial	1
	medicine	bottle	1
<b>recreation</b>	<b>game</b>	counter	1
	<b>smoking</b>	<b>pipe</b>	<b>107</b>
	<b>toy</b>	marble	2
		saucer	1
<b>store</b>	store	barrel hoop	2
<b>work</b>	sharpening tool	whetstone	1
		brush	1
		drill bit	1
		punch	1
		wedge	1
		unid	1
<b>yard</b>	garden	egg	1
<b>unidentified</b>	container	<b>bottle</b>	7
		<b>cork</b>	1
		<b>jar</b>	1
		<b>tin can</b>	1
	security	<b>chain</b>	1
	unid	<b>flint</b>	1
		<b>offcut</b>	12
		<b>plug</b>	1
		<b>rod</b>	1
		<b>rope</b>	1
		<b>stake</b>	1
		<b>strap</b>	8
		<b>trim</b>	2
		<b>wire</b>	3
		unid	3
			<b>569</b>

**Table 4.7: Functions and associated shapes of all the artefacts from the well.**

The assigning the various shapes to a range of specific functions, rather than just a general function, allows for more information to be more easily attained during analysis, with artefacts able to be grouped into meaningful functional definitions aside from just the generalised architectural, food, personal, recreation, etc. It also allows for the 44 items that were unable to be given a general function, and therefore the probability that they would be 'lost' within the analysis, the possibility of some form of identification, either in shape or specific function.

Forty-one out of the total 44 items catalogued with the initial general function as unidentified had specific shapes assigned to them, and ten of these have been grouped within the specific function of container, one item under the specific function of security. A further 30 items, although having no specific function assigned, had shapes identified. Only 3 items were completely unidentified.

### Food<sup>14</sup>

The general functions of food (177), personal (108), and recreation (111) were by far the most dominant categories within the well assemblage. The grouping similarly used items into specific

<sup>14</sup> Please note this section does not include a discussion of animal bone and shell consumed as food.

functional categories allows for a more meaningful analysis of the artefacts. The items identified with the general function of food included some remains of food, along with artefacts that were specifically manufactured for food preparation, storage, serving and consumption. The edible material were grouped together within the specific function of seeds (22), and included almonds, apricots, coconut, hazelnut, nectarine, peach, pumpkin, walnut and watermelon, indicating some of the types of nut, fruit and vegetable that were available.<sup>15</sup>

The remaining 155 food-related artefacts fall into the categories of: preparation (2), storage (14), serving (29), and consumption (110). Specific functions and shapes identified with consumption category were the most dominant, and included items associated with tableware (63), tableware/serving (2), tableware/teaware (5), and teaware (40). The 6 items in the specific function of food were included in the storage category, and were 5 bottles and 1 jar. A single pickle/chutney bottle was in the condiment category. The domination of items directly associated with the consumption of food is not surprising, given that these are objects that are used everyday, probably more than once, and hence are not only susceptible to higher risks of breakage but also were shapes purchased in greater numbers, to make up a set or to have more than enough for one meal (Fig. 4.1).

Among the tableware-related items ‘plate’ was the most common shape in the general food category, with 32 found (Fig. 4.2), followed by the teaware ‘saucer’, with 20. Items associated with the categories of food preparation, storage and serving are not normally purchased in large numbers, are often made of more durable fabric, such as metal, stoneware or semi-vitreous fine earthenware, and generally do not have to cope with the same everyday wear and tear usage that the consumption-related items do. Typically they break less and are therefore not disposed of as frequently as cups and saucers or plates.



**Figure 4.1:** Selection of shapes in the ‘Willow’ and ‘Two Temples II’ blue transfer-printed patterns indicating the use of distinct dinner service and teaware sets. Back row (l-r): ‘Willow’ pattern pickle/condiment dish (#15266/3506), ‘Willow’ pattern soup plate (#15108/3502), ‘Willow’ small plate (#15267/3506), ‘Two Temples II’ cup (#15102/3502) and saucer (#15271/3506), ‘Two Temples II’ saucer (#15103/3502), ‘Two Temples II’ slops bowl (#15270/3506). Front row (l-r): ‘Willow’ platter (#15181/3503), ‘Willow’ vegetable dish (#15107/3502) and lid (#15106/3502), ‘Willow’ platter (#15110/3502). 10cm scale

<sup>15</sup> Seeds would have been recorded in the sample sieving and need to be taken as representing what might be found in the well deposits





**Figure 4.2:** A selection of plates recovered from the well. Back row (l-r): green transfer-printed 'Oriental' pattern plate (#15205/3503, #15075/3502), blue shell-edged pearlware plate (#15247/3506), blue transfer-printed 'Willow' pattern soup plate (#15108/3502). Front row (l-r): blue transfer-printed 'Villa' pattern plate (#15404/3507), blue transfer-printed plate, pattern unknown (#15127/3502). 10cm scale

### Personal

The category of personal artefacts included 108 items and was dominated by the specific function of clothing (98), and in particular, items of footwear.<sup>16</sup> 'Shoes' were the most common shape (58), with particular styles of shoe, such as the latchet (5) and pump (9) increasing the number to 72 items of footwear. Lace-up boots (10) were also present in the assemblage.

Hygiene area also included within personal items and mostly related to toiletry items (7), including a ewer (1), three poes, a toothbrush and a wash basin (Table 4.7, Fig. 4.4). Associated with hygiene are grooming items, 3 items were found: 2 mirrors and 1 bottle, a possible perfume bottle (#16007/3502).

### Recreation

Recreation (111) items were dominated by clay tobacco pipes (107), with a gaming token or counter (1) and toys (3): two marbles and a saucer from a doll's tea set. The high incidence of tobacco pipes is unsurprising given the popularity of smoking in the nineteenth century, the cheapness of the pipes themselves, and the high level of breakages that would occur in everyday life.

<sup>16</sup> For detailed information on the leather footwear recovered see the leather report, Appendix 3

#### 4.2.6 Ceramics

As identified earlier, the category of ceramic is one of the three most commonly found artefact categories (Table 4.4). The 164 ceramics recovered from across the site are made up of items that are very much indicative of domestic household use and disposal (Table 4.8).

Shape	MIC
black bottle	4
bottle	6
<b>bowl</b>	<b>14</b>
bowl/break cup	1
breakfast cup	8
coffee can	1
cont	1
crook/pot	1
cup	8
dish	3
egg cup	1
ewer	1
ewer/jug	2
gravy boat	1
jar	2
jar/bot	1
jug	9
<b>plate</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>plate-small</b>	<b>12</b>
platter	7
poe	3
sauce tureen	1
<b>saucer</b>	<b>24</b>
saucer (toy)	1
soup plate	1
tea bowl	1
teapot	3
tureen	2
tureen/vegetable dish	1
vegetable dish	1
wall plaque	1
wash basin	1
unid	2
	<b>164</b>

**Table 4.8: Ceramic shapes recovered from the whole site.**

Shapes associated with food consumption are the most commonly found in the well within the general function of food, in particular tableware and teaware items (Fig. 4.3). This is also the case when looking at the category of ceramic alone, from across the whole site and not just the well. Plates (39) are by far the most prevalent followed by saucers (24). Bowls (14) and small plates (12) are the next most commonly shapes. The ceramic items unrelated to food are represented in very small numbers, with 4 blacking bottles referring to household maintenance, ewer (1), poe (3) and a washbasin (1) representing personal hygiene (Fig. 4.4), a toy saucer (1) recreation, and a wall plaque (1) representing household ornamentation/display. Out of the 164 ceramics recovered from the site just 2 were unable to be identified, either by function or shape.



**Figure 4.3: Selection of tableware and teaware-related items recovered in the well. Back row (l-r): mocha whiteware coffee can (#15200/3503), lead-glazed bowl (#15024/3502), blue transfer-printed 'Japan Flowers' pattern slops bowl (#15134/3502). Middle row (l-r): hand painted and gilded child's cup (#15314/3507), lead-glazed bowl (#15137/3503, #15236/3506), green transfer-printed 'Botanical' pattern bowl (#15126/3502, #15177/3503), blue transfer-printed 'Two Temples II' pattern slops bowl (#15270/3506). Front row (l-r): blue transfer-printed tea bowl, pattern unknown (#15209/3503), green transfer-printed breakfast cup, pattern unknown (#15073/3502, #15253/3506, #15359/3507), blue transfer-printed 'Two Temples II' pattern cup (#15102/3502) and saucer (#15103/3502), blue transfer-printed 'Two Temples II' pattern saucer (#15271/3506).**



**Figure 4.4:** The two items in the front are representative of the ceramic items identified with the role of personal hygiene. Front row (l-r): whiteware poe (#15057/3502), blue transfer-printed ‘Syrian Flowers’ pattern wash basin (#15403/3507). The small blue transfer-printed jug is not related to the category of personal hygiene because it is too small to be a washstand ewer (#15131/3502).

### Well Ceramics

The majority of the ceramics (151) found on the site were recovered from the well (Table 4.5). The functions and shapes identified with these 151 ceramics clearly reflect the dominant overall role of food, in its preparation, storage, serving and consumption (Table 4.9).

General Function	Specific Function	Shape	MIC
beverage	ginger beer	bottle	1
food	container	container	1
		jar/bottle	1
	food preparation	jar	1
		crock/pot	1
	serve	bowl	2
		dish	3
		gravy boat	1
		jug	8
		plate	2
		platter	6
		sauce tureen	1
		tureen	2
		tureen/vegetable dish	1
		vegetable dish	1
	tableware	bowl	7
		egg cup	1
		<b>plate</b>	<b>32</b>
		plate-small	10

<b>food</b>	<b>tableware</b>	soup plate	1
	tableware/serve	bowl	2
	tableware/tea	bowl	3
		bowl/break cup	1
		cup	1
		cup	1
	<b>tea</b>	breakfast cup	7
		coffee can	1
		cup	7
		jug	1
		<b>saucer</b>	<b>20</b>
		tea bowl	1
		teapot	3
<b>household</b>	maintenance	black bottle	4
	<b>ornament</b>	<b>wall plaque</b>	<b>1</b>
personal	hygiene	ewer	1
		poe	3
		wash basin	1
personal/food recreation unid	hygiene/serve	ewer/jug	2
	toy	saucer	1
	container	bottle	5
		jar	1
	unid	unid	2
			<b>151</b>

**Table 4.9: Ceramics recovered from the well.**

A 128 ceramics that are identified under the general function of food and its associated specific functions concerning preparation, storage, serving and consumption, represent 84.7 per cent of the ceramic assemblage found within the well. The specific functions of tableware (51) and teaware (40) dominate, with the most commonly identified shapes being plates (32) and saucers (20). The ceramic category that contains the most variety of shapes occurs within serving function, with the 27 items identified with this function represented by 10 individual shapes. The range of serving shapes: gravy boat (1), platter (6) sauce tureen (1), tureen (2), tureen/vegetable dish (1) suggest a practice of communal meals where people serve themselves from the table. It indicates a household that probably had a servant to cook and serve a more complex meal. As indicated by Figure 4.1 a number of these serving were matching 'Willow' patterned service which may have been the 'best' dinner service for more formal meals with family and possibly friends. Some of the plates also matched the serving vessels indicating an attempt at a coherent dinner service. In addition the 'pickle/chutney' plate included in the condiment category is also matches the 'Willow'.

### Ceramic fabric types

Fine earthenware was the most commonly represented fabric type within the ceramic assemblage recovered from the well, represented by 113 items and indicative of 74.8 per cent of the range of fabric types identified here (Table 4.10).

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>MIC Well</b>	<b>%</b>
bone china	3	2.0
coarse earthenware	1	0.7
<b>fine earthenware</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>74.8</b>
stoneware	12	7.9
<b>semi-vitreous fine earthenware</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13.2</b>
<b>Chinese porcelain</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.3</b>
	<b>151</b>	<b>99.9</b>

**Table 4.10: Ceramic fabric types in the well**



A total of six ceramic fabric types were identified in the well fills, with the presence of the semi-vitreous fine earthenware (20), dating from c.1840+, indicative of a deposit dating from at least the mid nineteenth-century onwards. The very small number of ceramics identified as being manufactured in China (2), can also perhaps be seen as being suggestive of a later nineteenth-century dating deposit, with ceramics, by the time of the wells backfilling, being predominately imported from the United Kingdom.

### Ceramic decoration

A total of 27 ceramic decorative types were identified within the well fills, with the range being generally representative of a deposit dating from at least the mid nineteenth century (Table 4.11).

Decoration	MIC Well Ceramics	%
blue handpainted	2	1.3
<b>black transfer print</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>blue transfer print</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>32.5</b>
<b>blue transfer printed pearlware</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>brown transfer print</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<b>clobbered</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.3</b>
colour glazed	1	0.7
edgeware pearlware	2	1.3
edgeware whiteware	3	2.0
glazed	1	0.7
<b>green transfer print</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7.9</b>
handpainted	5	3.3
handpainted pearlware	1	0.7
handpainted whiteware	2	1.3
lead glazed	5	3.3
lustre	1	0.7
mocha	2	1.3
mocha whiteware	2	1.3
moulded & handpainted	1	0.7
pearlware	2	1.3
<b>purple transfer print</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>red transfer print</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>salt glazed</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7.3</b>
selfslip & moulded	1	0.7
white glazed	4	2.6
<b>whiteware</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11.3</b>
whiteware moulded	4	2.6
	<b>151</b>	<b>100.1</b>

**Table 4.11: Ceramic decorative types identified in the well**

The decorative type most commonly represented here is that of blue transfer print (49), which is 32.5 per cent of the assemblage. Transfer printing as a whole, including in colours other than blue, is the most common decorative type identified, represented by a total of 84 items or 55.6 per cent of the total decorative range recovered in the well. The only other decorative types to feature here in notable numbers are salt-glazed stoneware (11) and whiteware (17), both identified as dating from the c.1830s+. The transfer-printed items, the salt-glazed stoneware and the whiteware together account for 112 items, representing 74.2 per cent of the total well ceramic assemblage.

### Transfer-printed patterns

A total of 25 individual transfer-printed patterns were identified within the entire ceramic assemblage, in black, blue, blue pearlware, brown and green transfer prints, with blue being by far the most prevalent colour. Within the well assemblage 21 individual patterns were identified (Figs 4.1-4.4), including 'Agricultural Vase' (blue), 'Botanical' (green), 'Canova' (blue and green), 'Castle' (blue and blue pearlware), 'Chinese Scenery' (blue), 'Forest' (green), 'India' (blue), 'Japan Flowers' (blue), 'Lange Lijzen' (blue pearlware), 'Oriental' (green), 'Palestine' (blue and green), 'Park Scenery' (blue and brown), 'Sea Leaf' (green), 'Spanish Convent' (black), 'Swiss Scenery' (blue), 'Syrian Flowers' (blue), 'Two Temples II' (blue and blue pearlware), 'Villa' (blue), 'Village Church' (blue pearlware), 'Wild Rose' (blue and blue pearlware) and 'Willow' (blue and blue pearlware) (Table 4.12). The majority of these patterns are commonly recognised within historical archaeological assemblages, particularly those relating to features and deposits associated with the mid to late nineteenth century. But what is also interesting about these is that many of the base marked patterns have end dates of manufacture in the 1840s, 1850s and 1860 (Table 4.12). This indicates that a number of them were purchased in the 1830s and 1840s, sometime before they were thrown into the well.

The majority of the identified transfer prints within the well are on items associated with the consumption of food, particularly tableware and teaware-related shapes (Figs 4.1-4.3). The presence of the same pattern on a variety of shapes is also indicative of sets, such as a dinner service of 'Willow' pattern and a tea set of 'Two Temples II' pattern (Fig. 4.1, 4.13, 4.14). Some patterns occur in more than one colour, such as 'Canova' in blue and green, 'Palestine' in blue and green, and 'Park Scenery' in blue and brown. The 'Palestine' pattern is interesting in that the items relating to a dinner service are all in blue transfer print (a gravy boat and plates), whereas those shapes identified as teaware are all in green transfer print (saucers, cups and teapot), indicating that different coloured sets were able to be purchased for different roles.

Pattern Number	MIC	From	To
Botanical	2	1840	
Canova	4	1830	
Forest	1	1830	1864
Japan Flowers	2	1836	1842
Oriental	2	1834	1854
Palestine	7	1838	1861
Park Scenery	3	1834	1848
Sea Leaf	2	1830	1859
Spanish Convent	1	1835	
Swiss Scenery	1	1842	1928
Syrian Flowers	1	1822	1834
Two Temples II	6	1819	
Two Temples II	2	1834	1859
Villa	1	1834	1854
Village Church	1	1820	1870
W3	9	1810	
W3	2	1810	1870
W3	5	1840	
Wild Rose	2	1830	1870

**Table 4.12: List of main ceramic patterns found in the well with date ranges, most of these dates are based on marks.**

Ceramic Pattern	Shape	MIC	No Frags
Willow 3	dish	1	9
	egg cup	0	1
	plate	8	34
	plate-small	2	23
	platter	2	26
	salt cellar	0	1
	saucer	1	7
	soup plate	1	16
	teapot	0	1
	tureen/vegetable dish	1	19
	unid	0	3
	vegetable dish	1	19
		<b>17</b>	<b>159</b>

**Table 4.13: Willow 3 patterned vessels found in variety of forms indicating the presence of a clear attempt to have a complete dinner set in this pattern.**

Ceramic Pattern	Shape	MIC	No Frags
Two Temples II	bowl	1	11
	breakfast cup	2	17
	cup	1	5
	saucer	3	22
	teapot	1	3
		<b>8</b>	<b>58</b>

**Table 4.14: 'Two Temples II' teaware vessels.**

Pattern Name	Site Name	MIC @ site	No of sites with pattern
Botanical	King George V, The Rocks	2	1
Canova	109 George Street, Parramatta	1	8
	19-41 Reservoir St	1	
	20 Poplar Street, Surry Hills	1	
	Conservatorium of Music	3	
	George & Charles Parramatta	7	
	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>4</b>	
	Parramatta Hospital	1	
	Silkknit House, Surry Hills	1	
Forest	109 George Street, Parramatta	6	10
	19-41 Reservoir St, Surry Hills	4	
	20 Poplar Street, Surry Hills	1	
	Conservatorium of Music	2	
	DMR, Haymarket	1	
	George & Charles Parramatta	2	
	GPO Tank Stream	1	
	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>1</b>	
	Parramatta Hospital	4	
	Silkknit House, Surry Hills	1	
Japan Flowers	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>2</b>	2
	Pitt and Campbell Sts, Haymarket	1	
Oriental	109 George Street, Parramatta	1	3
	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>2</b>	
	Parramatta Hospital	1	
Palestine	109 George Street, Parramatta	31	
	19-41 Reservoir St, Surry Hills	1	
	50-72 Union Street Pyrmont	1	
	Conservatorium of Music	1	
	George & Charles Parramatta	63	

	GPO	1	
	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>8</b>	
	Parramatta Children's Court	1	
	Parramatta Hospital	5	
	Silknit House, Surry Hills	9	
	St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta	2	
	Sydney Grammar School	1	12
Park Scenery	Conservatorium of Music	1	
	George & Charles Parramatta	6	
	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>3</b>	
	Parramatta Children's Court	4	
	Silknit House, Surry Hills	2	5
Sea Leaf	109 George Street, Parramatta	1	
	50-72 Union Street Pyrmont	1	
	DMR, Haymarket	1	
	George & Charles Parramatta	11	
	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>2</b>	
	Parramatta Hospital	2	
	Silknit House, Surry Hills	1	7
Spanish Convent	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>1</b>	1
Swiss Scenery	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>1</b>	1
Syrian Flowers	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>1</b>	1
Two Temples II	109 George Street, Parramatta	14	
	19-41 Reservoir St, Surry Hills	10	
	20 Albion Street, Surry Hills	1	
	20 Poplar Street, Surry Hills	4	
	295 Sussex St, Sydney	1	
	50-72 Union Street Pyrmont	1	
	Conservatorium of Music	2	
	DMR, Haymarket	9	
	Tempe House	1	
	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>9</b>	
	Parramatta Children's Court	4	
	Parramatta Hospital	17	
	St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta	2	13
Villa	19-41 Reservoir St, Surry Hills	1	
	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>1</b>	
	Parramatta Children's Court	3	3
Village Church	109 George Street, Parramatta	1	
	19-41 Reservoir St, Surry Hills	2	
	295 Sussex St, Sydney	1	
	DMR, Haymarket	2	
	George & Charles Parramatta	14	
	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>1</b>	
	Parramatta Hospital	8	7
Willow 3	1 Smith Street, Parramatta	1	
	109 George Street, Parramatta	101	
	19-41 Reservoir St, Surry Hills	301	
	20 Albion Street, Surry Hills	30	
	20 Poplar Street, Surry Hills	63	
	295 Sussex St, Sydney	3	
	50-72 Union Street Pyrmont	15	
	Conservatorium of Music	87	
	CSR Site Pyrmont	54	
	Deepdene, Kirribilli	1	
	DMR, Haymarket	84	
	George & Charles Parramatta	344	
	<b>King George V, The Rocks</b>	<b>19</b>	
	Observatory Hill	1	
	Parramatta Children's Court	64	
	Parramatta Hospital	1	
	Penrith Plaza & Red Cow Inn	1	
	Pitt and Campbell	12	
	RH/46, Rouse Hill	4	
	Silknit House, Surry Hills	34	
	St Patrick's Cathedral	37	21

**Table 4.15: Known ceramic patterns found at the King George V Recreation centre site. These patterns have also been found at a range of other sites.**

#### 4.2.7 Moreton Plaque

This is rare and extremely significant artefact, a self-slipped fine earthenware decorative wall plaque made in Sydney by the former convict potter John Moreton.

The remains of a unique very fine earthenware self-slipped decorative wall plaque recovered from the well (3503/#15465, 3506/#15466, 3507/#15467). The nine sherds recovered consisted of a very fine cream-coloured earthenware fabric and self slip (Munsell 2.5Y 8/2), with the round plaque measuring 177mm in diameter and between 7mm to 12mm in fabric thickness, with the thickest part being the outer edge of the plaque. The reverse of the plaque is flat whereas the obverse features the remains of a very fine relief moulding consisting of a woman seated in a high-backed chair, facing left and wearing Regency-style dress (high waisted with short puffed sleeves), looking down at a small child who looks up at her and is standing by her side. The child wears either a dress or smock with short draped sleeves. A spray of flowers remains at the feet of the small child and the edge of the plaque is framed with a row of small impressed ovals on a raised framed edge. The remains of a small pierced hole, for hanging the plaque, is located above the woman's head (Figs 4.5, 4.6).

Upon initial viewing it was assumed that the plaque was manufactured in the United Kingdom, given that up to the time of the archaeological excavation of this wells fill no comparable earthenware items of local manufacture as finely made as this had been found. However irrefutable evidence that this remarkably finely made item was manufactured locally is clearly seen on the reverse of the plaque, in the form of an inscribed basemark. The impressed potter's stamp of "I. MO(R)ETON" / "& SO(N)S" / "POTT(E)RS" remains, followed below with the incised handwritten script of "New South W(ales)" (Fig. 4.7).



**Figure 4.5: Self-slipped fine earthenware decorative wall plaque. Scale 10cm**

John Moreton was born in 1777 in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, England, and as a trained potter he worked with Josiah Wedgwood. In 1819 he was transported to Australia after being convicted of burglary, arriving on the same ship as another convicted potter, Jonathon Leak. Both Moreton and Leak worked at the government pottery, located in the Brickfields, upon arrival in



Sydney, with Moreton put in charge of it in 1820. By 1823, after his wife and family had joined him and he had received his ticket-of-leave, he was running his own pottery, however in 1826 he was again arrested for burglary and convicted to six years hard labour, leaving his wife and sons to continue running the pottery in his absence. In 1833, after serving his sentence, he returned to the pottery and worked alongside his sons. The impressed basemark on the plaque, “I. MO(R)ETON” / “& SO(N)S” / “POTT(E)RS”, is believed to date between the years of 1835 to 1837, with the initial “I” used instead of a “J” a commonly occurring mistake during this period.<sup>17</sup>

Hyacinthe de Bougainville visited in probably visited John Moreton’s pottery in 1825 when he recounted the following in one of his notebooks:

Upon leaving the Tread-Mill, we went to visit a new pottery; the whole workforce is made up of members of one family, the father and two or three of his children. The father had previously worked for a considerable amount of time in the workshop of one of the most famous artists in London and seemed most skilful and most experienced to me. In less than ten minutes, he had turned a very fine water jug to which he gave a handle and a spout and which he decorated etc. In brief, all that remained to do was to fire it. I was told that this area of his craft was the one in which he was least knowledgeable, and it was also the most difficult stage of the process. He employs two types of clay which are very fine and which are in his view most attractive, and I would tend to agree with him; one of them is grey and the other reddish and most common. The grey clay is dug out near his workshop.<sup>18</sup>

John Moreton was a trained potter who had worked with Josiah Wedgwood in Burslem prior to his conviction for burglary in 1819 and his subsequent transportation on the *Recovery* to Australia later the same year. Moreton’s three sons, Ralph, Henry, and Anson, also worked with their father when they and their mother, Mary, arrived in Australia in 1822.<sup>19</sup>

In Hyacinthe de Bougainville’s published account of his 1825 visit, in which his above notebook comment has been edited, he states that:

As we left the Tread-Mill, which we tried to put out of our minds, we went to visit a new pottery near Sydney set up by the former apprentice of a skilful London potter. In only a few minutes he had designed and turned several vases decorated with fine embossed figures and which were then fired.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Ford 2001:18

<sup>18</sup> Riviere 1999: 80

<sup>19</sup> Ford 2001:15

<sup>20</sup> Riviere 1999:180-181



Figure 4.6: Drawing of the self-slipped fine earthenware decorative wall plaque.<sup>21</sup> Scale 10cm

<sup>21</sup> Drawing done by Franz Reidel



**Figure 4.7: Impressed stamp on reverse of plaque of “I. MO(R)ETON & SO(N)S” / “POTT(E)RS” / “New South W(ales)”.**

The comment about decorating with fine embossed figures would also suggest that the potter being discussed is John Moreton, given his previous experience working with Wedgwood and his manufacture of this very fine decorative wall plaque. Another item, an earthenware wine cooler, bearing Moreton’s impressed mark and which features two applied and finely worked portrait medallions of Sir John Jervis and Lord Horatio Nelson, is again indicative of his skill.<sup>22</sup> Another item, a commemorative jug which also features very fine portrait medallions, was discovered during excavations in Parramatta in 2006 and is also considered most likely to be an example of John Moreton’s talent and expertise as a potter. This commemorative jug is discussed below.

### **Wellington Jug<sup>23</sup>**

During the historical archaeological excavation undertaken in 2006 at the Parramatta Justice Precinct site in Parramatta a comparable locally manufactured commemorative jug was recovered, the so-called ‘Wellington Jug’. The jug was identified in two contexts, with the 36 conjoining sherds recovered in pit fill 6529 (31 sherds) and a service trench 6551 (5 sherds). The service trench was one of two later trenches that seriously disturbed the pit fill and both trenches had been backfilled with disturbed pit fill material. The pit fill was believed to be related to the period of initial occupation of Brislington House, built, owned and occupied by John Hodges between c.1821 to 1849, and may well indicate the period soon after his death when any of his belongings remaining in the house were disposed of, including the ‘Wellington Jug’, c.1840 (Fig. 4.8).

The commemorative ‘Wellington Jug’ comprises 36 conjoining sherds of very fine earthenware rim, spout, neck, body, base and handle sherds (6529.1/#35700/ 6529.2/#35701/ 6551/#35702). The jug has a height of 138mm and a rim diameter of 95mm and features a pale yellow slip with three portrait medallions in relief on the exterior body. A dark reddish-brown lead glaze covers the exterior neck and pouring spout and it also features a rouletted band on the neck. A yellow lead-glaze covers the interior of the jug, and “New South W[ales]” in inscribed handwriting remains on the exterior base. The three portrait medallions, each encircled by a wreath and located on three faces of the jug, represent Britannia, the Marquis of Wellesley and the Duke of Wellington (Figs 4.9, 4.10, 4.11).

Portrait medals were cast to commemorate victories in battle, and the original date of the striking of the Marquis of Wellesley medal appears to be c.1820,<sup>24</sup> commemorating his victory in India at the

<sup>22</sup> Ford 2001:18B

<sup>23</sup> This section is based on earlier research by Mary Casey.

<sup>24</sup> Brown 1980:116, cat. 478; Eimer 1987:117, cat. 904.

Capture of Seringapatam in 1799. Although many medals were made to commemorate the Duke of Wellington's victories during the Peninsular Wars, the fact that only one was made for the Marquis of Wellesley's victory means that the pottery copy of it, and therefore the making of this jug, cannot date before c.1820.



**Figure 4.8: General view of the 'Wellington Jug'.**



**Figure 4.9: Detail of the portrait medallion of Britannia.**





**Figure 4.10: Detail of the portrait medallion of the Marquis of Wellesley.**



**Figure 4.11: Detail of the portrait medallion of the Duke of Wellington.**



The original medallion portrait medal of the Duke of Wellington was crafted by the sculptor Donadio who occasionally signed his name as ‘DONNADIO’, and this name is visible under the Duke’s portrait (Fig 4.11).<sup>25</sup> Donadio was known to have made two medals showing this particular bust of the Duke, depicted wearing the uniform of a field-marshal with the Garter sash on the left shoulder and the neck badge of the Golden Fleece, one being for the 1809 Battle of Talavera and the other for the 1813 Battle of Vittoria. It is thought that the medallion on the jug is from a cast taken of the Battle of Talavera medal, with the die from which this medal was struck having three flaw lines on the right side, and which are also very faintly visible on the jug copy. The Duke faces right, with “ARTHU(R DU)KE OF WELLINGTON” framing his profile. By contrast, the portrait medallion of the Marquis of Wellesley is very plain; he faces left and has “MARQ. WELLESLEY GOVERNOR AND ... GEN OF INDIA” framing his profile. The third portrait medallion, situated on the exterior body below the pouring spout, is the left facing profile of the goddess Britannia, wearing a Corinthian helmet. Britannia is the female personification of Britain and a symbol of British victory and empire. The three clay medallions are extremely well made and the jug is an exceptional example of locally manufactured pottery, considerably different to the locally manufactured ceramics recovered on previous historical excavations, with the sole exception of the Moreton plaque from the King George V Recreation Centre site.

As mentioned earlier, the jug features the remains of a basemark “New South W(ales)” inscribed in handwriting, indicating it is of local manufacture (Figs 4.12).



**Figure 4.12: Inscribed basemark of “New South W[ales]”**

The inscribed handwritten “New South W[ales]” is very similar to that remaining on the reverse of the Moreton plaque (Fig 4.7), and although no individual potters name is present here, its similarity to the plaque’s inscription infers that the jug was also probably made by the talented John Moreton, however Jonathan Leak cannot be discounted completely without further comparative research.<sup>26</sup> With the striking of the Marquis of Wellesley original medal occurring in c.1820 the pottery copy of it, and therefore the making of this commemorative jug, would have occurred post 1820, and its discovery in a pit fill associated with items belonging to John Hodges’ ownership and occupation of Brislington House between c.1821 to 1849, indicates the jug was probably manufactured sometime between c.1820 to c.1830s (Moreton died in 1847 and John Hodges died in 1849).

### **Ownership of the wall plaque**

Who was the likely original owner of this very fine decorative wall plaque recovered from the well? Thomas and Elizabeth Boulton, and their children, were living in Cumberland Street as early as 1828,

<sup>25</sup> Information about the medals comes from the research undertaken by Dr Mary Casey in Casey & Lowe 2006:58-61

<sup>26</sup> Recent work by AHMS and Graham Wilson on a property containing material associated with Jonathan Leak

and members of the Boulton family also variously owned numbers 88 and 90 Princes Street, with the well located in what was the rear yard of the house at 88 Princes Street (Section 2.2). With the plaque being manufactured by John Moreton between c.1835 to 1837 it is likely that Elizabeth and Thomas Boulton were the original purchasers and owners of the plaque. Thomas died in June 1837 and Elizabeth died in June 1866. With Elizabeth living for more many years after the death of Thomas, the plaque is most likely associated with her and her long connection with this area. Being a purely decorative item, hanging on a wall, it would have no doubt lasted for many years after its initial manufacture before it was eventually knocked, dropped, broken or simply discarded, hence its appearance in a deposit believed to have occurred in the c.1870s and prior to the house having been demolished c1882 (Fig. 2.6).

#### 4.2.8 Miscellaneous

The category of artefacts that was also significantly represented within the well fills, apart from the ceramic (151) and organic/leather (150) categories, were miscellaneous items (132). This category represented 23.2 per cent of the well assemblage, almost one quarter of the deposit (Table 4.5). Within this artefact category it was the role of smoking which was the dominant function, represented by 107 kaolin tobacco pipes (Table 4.12).

General Function	Specific Function	Shape	MIC
cleric	writing	slate	2
<b>food</b>	<b>serve</b>	<b>toast rack</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>tableware</b>	<b>fork</b>	<b>1</b>
household	furnish	decor	1
industrial	machinery	dial	1
<b>personal</b>	clothing	buckle	1
		<b>button</b>	<b>7</b>
		eye	2
		shoe buckle	1
	hygiene	toothbrush	1
<b>recreation</b>	game	counter	1
	<b>smoking</b>	<b>pipe</b>	<b>107</b>
	toy	marble	2
<b>work</b>	<b>sharpening</b>	<b>whetstone</b>	<b>1</b>
		unid	1
<b>yard</b>	<b>garden</b>	<b>egg</b>	<b>1</b>
unid	unid	flint	1
			<b>132</b>

**Table 4.16: Miscellaneous artefacts recovered from the well.**

Apart from the dominant artefact group of tobacco pipes, identified within the recreation category, the other artefacts within the miscellaneous grouping are few in number. Items associated with personal being the most common (12), in particular clothing-related items such as buttons (7).

The 2 food-related items were both made of metal, with the toast rack being silver plated (#25339/3507) and the probable fork handle a combination of ferrous metal and bone (#25331/3507). The whetstone, identified with the function of work-sharpening, was made of sandstone and had a cylindrical shape with linear sharpening grooves remaining on its face (#25294/3503). The egg, catalogued under the function of yard-garden, was used in chicken nests to encourage the birds to lay, and was made of grey marble and measured 50mm in length and 34-37mm in diameter (#25293/3502).

Within the miscellaneous category just 2 items are here identified as tools, the sandstone whetstone (#25294/3503) and an unidentified bone tool (#25323/3596). However Table 4.7 a total of 6 items are identified with the role of work. The 4 work related-items not included in the miscellaneous category and were instead in the metal and organic categories. The additional 4 tools included a part of a wooden brush (#25090/3502), a steel drill bit (#25015/3503), a ferrous metal punch (#25011/3503), and a 1 ferrous metal wedge (#25033/3507).

The general function of recreation is by far the most dominant field represented in the miscellaneous category (110), due to the large number of smoking pipes recovered in the well (107). The 3 items that were not pipes were gaming counter (1) and marbles (2). The counter is an example of ceramic reuse and reworking, most likely after the original item was broken (#25336/3507), where a fragment of a fine earthenware lead-glazed item was shaped into a round gaming token measuring between 34-37mm in diameter.

### **Kaolin tobacco pipes**

The 107 MIC kaolin tobacco pipes recovered from the well fills were, with the exception of 2 whole pipes, represented by fragments (Table 4.13).

<b>Shape</b>	<b>Portion</b>	<b>MIC Well Pipes</b>	<b>%</b>
pipe	bowl/stem	20	18.7
	whole	2	1.9
	<b>stem</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28.0</b>
	bowl	17	15.9
	<b>stem/mouth piece</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12.1</b>
	<b>mouth piece</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21.5</b>
	stem/spur	2	1.9
		<b>107</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 4.17: Portions of tobacco pipes recovered in well.**

The majority of the 107 pipes were represented by stems and their associated mouthpieces. These are the parts of the pipe commonly found in archaeological assemblages and in greater numbers than the pipe bowls because they are more susceptible to snapping. If the mouthpiece or upper part of the stem did break the pipe could still be used, it would just have a shorter stem. The pipes here represented by the stem (30), stem/mouthpiece (13), and mouthpiece (23) together represented 66 pipes, 61.6 per cent of the pipes found. Pipe bowl and bowl/stems fragments together totalled 37 (34.6%). Just two pipes were identified as whole (#25283, #25301/#25314), representing only 1.9 per cent of the pipe assemblage. One of these whole pipes was not however recovered complete, with one fragment in fill 3503 (#25301) found to join with three fragments in fill 3506 (#25314), making up to a whole pipe.

### **Tobacco pipe dating**

Of the 107 tobacco pipes recovered from the well 77 had no date range assigned during cataloguing (71.9%) whereas 30 were able to have date ranges identified (28%). The dates range from the c.1790s on through to the c.1880s, with years of manufacture represented here broadly ranging from 12 years and on up to about 90 years (Table 4.14).

Shape	Portion	Type	MIC Pipes	From	To
pipe	bowl		11		
	stem		26		
	mouth piece		22		
	stem/mouth piece		13		
	bowl/stem		3		
	stem/spur		2		
	bowl		1	1790	1820
	bowl/stem		7		
	<b>whole</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1790</b>	<b>1880</b>
	bowl		1	1800	1840
	bowl		1	1800	1860
	bowl/stem		2		1860
	mouth piece		1		1860
	bowl		1	1820	1860
	bowl/stem		3		1860
	<b>bowl</b>	<b>Masonic Effigial</b>	1	<b>1820</b>	<b>1880</b>
	<b>bowl/stem</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1822</b>	<b>1835</b>
	bowl/stem		1	<b>1823</b>	<b>1864</b>
	stem		1	<b>1823</b>	<b>1882</b>
	stem		1	<b>1828</b>	<b>1840</b>
	stem		1	<b>1830</b>	<b>1861</b>
	stem		1	<b>1839</b>	<b>1868</b>
	bowl/stem	Festoon and fluted	1	1840	1880
	bowl/stem		1		
	bowl/stem	Leaf	1		
	whole	Leaf	1		
	bowl	Wheat & Leaf	1		

**Table 4.18: Identified types and date ranges of tobacco pipes in well**

Out of the 30 pipes with assigned date ranges, ten had manufacturing periods that covered c.40 years, eight were made for c.30 years, five were made for c.60 years, and one was made for c.90 years. This last example was identified with the very broad manufacturing range of between c.1790s to c.1880s, and was assigned to the whole pipe found in the upper fill 3502 (#25283). This pipe showed signs of being very well used, with the stem either having been reworked or else worn very flat by teeth wear and the well-used bowl having a very black interior and rim.

### Decorative and marked tobacco pipe dates

Although the majority of the dated pipes had very general date ranges assigned, six had more specific dating periods. An effigial bowl/stem fragment featuring the remains of a low relief moulded male head on the bowl (#25315/3506), is thought to have been manufactured by Jonathan Leak of Sydney between c.1822 to c.1835. Another bowl/stem fragment, featuring relief moulded tendrils, wheat and leaf motifs (#25288/3502), is thought to have been manufactured in England between c.1832 to c.1864 (Williams London). A pipe stem embossed with “T. W. & Co” / “EDINr” (#25347/3507), was manufactured by Thomas White & Co, of Edinburgh, between 1823 to 1882. Another pipe stem fragment was embossed with “...(dot) MAKER..” / “[M]ARKET (dot) W[HARF]” (#25298/3503), identified as being manufactured by Joseph Elliot, Market Street Wharf, Sydney, between c.1828 to c.1840. A stem fragment featuring a very worn impressed mark in a raised rectangle reads “?” (possibly “MURRAY”) / “GLASGOW” (#25349/3507), and if it is from the Edinburgh manufacturer it dates between c.1830 to c.1861. The final pipe stem to feature a mark that allows for a more defined date range was manufactured in the United Kingdom for the Sydney tobacconist William Aldis (#25348/3507), and features the embossed mark “ALDIS”, dating between 1839 to 1868. These six pipes, with dating periods of a more defined nature than the majority of their counterparts, coupled with the pipes with a more general date range, suggest that the well was backfilled in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, probably in the 1870s.



One of the tobacco pipes recovered in the well is also interesting because it is a Masonic type (#25318/3506). The small egg-shaped bowl features relief moulding on the left-hand side comprising of three horizontal banners containing “FRIENDSHIP” / “LOVE &” / “TRUTH”, while on the right hand side is a radiating sun above a raised hand/palm on a disc within 2 olive branches tied by a rope. The pipe is similar to an example from the Cumberland Street, The Rocks, archaeological excavation (Type 122), manufactured by Thomas White of Edinburgh between 1823 and 1882. This pipe may possibly originally belonged to Thomas Boulton, or the trustee of the Thomas Boulton’s will, Joseph Pashley, also a Mason. Numbers 123 to 125 Cumberland Street and numbers 88 and 90 Princes Street were variously owned by members of the Boulton family over the years, and when Thomas Boulton died in 1837 it was noted that he was buried with full Masonic honours, indicating he had probably been a Mason for many years and a respected member of its organisation.<sup>27</sup>

#### 4.2.9 Glass

Overall the artefact category of glass did not feature in any significant numbers, either across the site as a whole (164) or in the well fills (51) (Tables 4.4, 4.5). The glass category represented only 9.2 per cent of the total artefact assemblage recovered from the site, and 9 per cent of the artefact assemblage contained in the well. None of the glass from the well was identified during cataloguing as being unusual or particularly early, with all 51 items identified as the usual type of refuse associated with general domestic household waste (Table 4.19).

General Function	Specific Function	Shape	MIC
architectural	window	flat	1
beverage	beer/wine	bottle	16
	champagne	stopper	1
	gin/schnapps	bottle	3
food	condiment	pickle/chutney	1
	container	bottle	4
	food	bottle	5
	serve	salt cellar	1
	tableware	dish	1
		fingerbowl	1
		stemware	2
		tumbler	7
food/pharm	condiment/medicine	bottle	1
personal	groom	bottle	1
		mirror	2
pharmaceutical	container	phial	1
	medicine	bottle	1
unid	container	bottle	2
			<b>51</b>

**Table 4.19: Glass recovered from the well.**

The most commonly identified shape within the well glass assemblage were the 16 beer/wine bottles. The general function of beverage was associated with 20 bottles in total, with the remaining four also being alcoholic in nature, in the form of one champagne bottle stopper (#16063/3507) and three gin/schnapps bottles (#16027/3503, #16043/3506, #16075/3510). No non-alcoholic beverages were identified, such as aerated water bottles. The champagne bottle stopper had no date however the three gin/schnapps bottles, found in three levels of fill (3503, 3506, 3510), all dated between 1850 to 1920.

<sup>27</sup> Sydney Gazette 29 June 1837:3, col 1

Twenty-two glass items were identified in the food category, and included bottles (9) and tumblers (7) being the two most common. Within this general function tableware were the largest category. Drinking vessels, in the form of stemware (2) and tumblers (7), are the most represented in this field, with a fingerbowl (#16024/3503) and a dish (#16062/3507) also identified in this tableware-related role.

The date range for the glass recovered from the well is generally indicative of at least a post-1850s deposit. Like the majority of all the artefacts recovered from the well, the glass also features a broad date range, however all five fills are very alike in their dates, indicative of them occurring within a short space of time, if not in the one episode. Three fragments from a bottle was dated 1845 and was recovered in one of the lower fills, 3507 (#16054), whereas all the other glass dates in all five fills for the most part went from the 1820s and on into the 1850s, 1870s, 1880s or 1920s.

#### 4.2.10 Organics

The artefact category of organics was the second most commonly represented category recovered in the well (Table 4.5). A total of 151 items were identified with the ceramics category, representing 26.5 per cent of the total artefact assemblage contained in the well, with the category of organics represented by 150 items, 26.4 per cent of the total well contents. Leather items, in particular footwear, were the most dominant organic materials recovered in the well (Section 4.2.3, Section 4.2.4, Table 4.7), and will not be discussed further here as the footwear is discussed in detail in the specialist leather report.<sup>28</sup> Leather off-cuts, identified with the function of industry by-product (17), were also identified within the well (Table 4.7), with the various grades and thicknesses of the off-cuts associated with leather working, and in particular shoe making. Examples of these off-cuts were found throughout the well fills, including #25190/3502, #25234/3506, #25255/3507 and #25260/3510. The presence of both the off-cuts and the large number of shoes and boots found in the well assemblage suggests that there was a bootmaker at work within the immediate vicinity.

Twenty-two seeds were included within the organics category (Table 4.7), indicating that at least nine different types of nut, fruit and vegetable were available, with some items perhaps being grown in the nearby vicinity. Items made of wood were also found in the well, including parts of household furniture (Table 4.7), and included the part of a turned and incised dowel, thought to belong to either a chair or part of a spinning wheel (#25093/3502), the probable base of a turned thick dowel leg from either a table or spinning wheel (#25092/35020), and a long rectangular fragment, square in section with broken ends, that was identified as being part of the stretcher that went between chair legs (#25095/3502). Another slightly tapering dowel, with a very smooth surface, has had its base sawn flat and the other end shaved into a point to be reused as a possible garden stake (#25101/3506), although in the catalogue it has been included within the general and specific unidentified categories (Table 4.7). Also within this unidentified category is part of a plaited sisal rope (#25106/3507). As mentioned earlier a wooden item was also identified within the category of work tool (Table 4.7), part of a brush or broom head featuring slightly irregular rows of drilled circular holes for the bristles (#25090/3502). The five well fills were all noted in their descriptions as containing a high content of wood fragments, like woodchips (Section 3.2.4), and a sample of these off-cuts was also included within the general and specific unidentified categories (Table 4.7). The off-cuts include various sawn fragments of various sizes and are thought to be from construction, furniture making and repair, or broken boards (#25098/3503, #25103/3506).

#### 4.2.11 Country of Manufacture

Out of the 569 artefacts recovered from the well the known country of manufacture could only be ascribed to 167 of these (29.3%), with 402 items originating from points uncertain/unknown (70.6%) (Table 4.20).

<sup>28</sup> Appendix 3

Country	MIC
Australia	6
China	2
England	2
Germany	1
Holland	3
Scotland	2
United Kingdom	135
United Kingdom/Australia	11
United Kingdom/USA/France	4
USA	1
Uncertain	402
	569

**Table 4.20: Known country of manufacture for well artefacts**

Imported items are by far the most prevalent, to be expected in an assemblage generally dating from at least the mid nineteenth-century, with the backfilling of the well itself likely occurring in the c.1870s, during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Items manufactured in the United Kingdom are the most common with the 135 artefacts for the most part dominated by the category of ceramics, reflecting the domination that the United Kingdom had on the world ceramic market by this time.

The group of 11 artefacts identified as manufacture in the United Kingdom/Australia were unmarked salt-glazed stoneware bottles. The six artefacts that are specifically identified as being of Australian manufacture include two marked kaolin tobacco pipes, one made by Joseph Elliot and dating between c.1828 to c.1840 (#25298/3503) and the other attributed to Jonathan Leak and dating between c.1822 to c.1835 (#25315/3506), the self-slipped and moulded fine earthenware decorative wall plaque made by John Moreton between c.1835 to 1837 (#15465/3503, #15466/3506, #15467/3507), discussed in detail earlier within this overview of the artefacts section (Section 4.7), a fine earthenware lead-glazed bowl, dating from c.1790+ (#15024/3502), and a fine earthenware lead-glazed crock, also dating from c.1790+ (#15464/3506).

The 2 artefacts identified specifically from Scotland and the 2 items specifically identified with England, and not the United Kingdom, are kaolin tobacco pipes. The items manufactured in Scotland are a pipe made by Thomas White of Edinburgh 1823 to 1882 (#25347/3507), and a pipe attributed to Murray of Glasgow dating between c.1830 to c.1861 (#25349/3507). The items identified with England are a pipe attributed to Williams of London, dating between c.1832 to 1864 (#25288/3502), and a pipe made by a John Ford of London between c.1840 to c.1880 (#25299/3503).

The single artefact identified as being specifically manufactured in the United States of America is a ferrous metal nail, dating between c.1840 to c.1914 (#25020/3506). The single item produced in Germany is a limestone marble, these were made up to c.1914 (#25328/3506).

### **Animal Bone and Shell**

A total of 537 pieces of animal bone were found, with most (97%) coming from the well. The animal species from the well were a mix of cattle (43%), sheep (38%), pig (4.8%) and fish (8.2%) (Table 4.21). Part of a whale's tooth was also found in the well but it is not included in this analysis. Four bones from a dog suggest it was either thrown down or fell into the well. Typically, archaeological contexts with animal bone are dominated by sheep (39.5%), followed by cattle (25.7%) as with the Sydney Conservatorium of Music site rubbish dumps.<sup>29</sup> A similar pattern was found at 109-113 George Street, Parramatta, in mainly second-half of the nineteenth-century

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.caseyandlowe.com.au/pdf/con/ch212animalbone.pdf> , Table 5, pp. 20, 22.

contexts, where the overall site ratio was sheep (50.9%) and cattle (33.1%) with very little pig (1.5%).<sup>30</sup>

The body parts of cattle are dominated by the trunk/rib cage while with sheep forelimbs are more common, with the head the second most common (Table 4.22). No cattle head fragments were found. At the Conservatorium the earlier contexts had quite a lot fragments of cattle heads, usually twice as many bones from the trunk (spine). Post-1860s contexts had few bones from the head and many more from the trunk.<sup>31</sup> A similar pattern was also found in the case of the Sheep bones. It is assumed that the majority of animal bone used for meals was purchased within several days of being thrown out rather than being curated and kept as is the case with some of the ceramics.

The shells found in the well were dominated by 260 rock oysters (90.6%) indicating that these shells were mostly the by-product of local food consumption. Again these shells were likely to have been consumed within a few weeks of the well being filled and represent a clear preference to the local rock oysters in shell food. This is quite an interesting contrast to the underfloor deposits at the CSR site where other types of shellfoods were being eaten as well as oysters.

In House 15, New Street, Pyrmont (CSR site) evidence for frequent visits to the waterfront are seen by the presence of triton or common whelk shells (13) (*Cabestana spengleri*) and periwinkles (46) (Family Littorinidae) or winkles, top shells (5) (Family Trochidae), as well as sand snails (5) (Family Naticidae) found in context #18. Context #17 also contained triton or common whelk shells (4) (*Cabestana spengleri*). In the King George V well only a few common whelk were found (4) as well as a top shell (1) and six cowrie but no periwinkle or snails. The periwinkles at the CSR site were considered to be for food consumption.<sup>32</sup>

Common Name	Scientific Name	Total Fragments	%
Cattle	Bos sp.	232	43.2
Chicken	Gallus sp.	7	1.3
Dog	Canis domesticus	4	0.7
Pig	Sus scrofa	26	4.8
Sheep	Ovis sp.	205	38.2
Sheep/Pig NFI		17	3.2
Snapper	Chrysophrys auratus	2	0.4
Unidentifiable Fish		43	8.0
Unidentified Fish		1	0.2
		<b>537</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.21: Bone species found at the site.

#### Bone from the well

Context	No Bone Fragments	%	Context	No. Bone Fragments	%
3501	1	0.2	3502	166	31.7
3502	166	30.9	3503	108	20.7
3503	108	20.1	3506	91	17.4
3505	9	1.7	3507	92	17.6
3506	91	16.9	3510	66	12.6
3507	92	17.1		<b>523</b>	<b>100</b>
3508	3	0.6			
3509	1	0.2			
3510	66	12.3			
	<b>537</b>	<b>100</b>			

Table 4.22: Number of bone fragments found at the site, the majority were found in the well (highlighted and right).

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.caseyandlowe.com.au/pdf/109/v1sections456.pdf>, Table 4.4, p. 107.

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.caseyandlowe.com.au/pdf/con/ch212animalbone.pdf>, pp. 23, 24.

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.caseyandlowe.com.au/pdf/csr/chap3pt1.pdf> pp. 82-83.



Common Name	Scientific Name	No Frags	%
Cattle	Bos sp.	226	43.2
Chicken	Gallus sp.	7	1.3
Dog	Canis domesticus	4	0.8
Pig	Sus scrofa	25	4.8
Sheep	Ovis sp.	201	38.4
Sheep/Pig NFI		17	3.3
Snapper	Chrysophrys auratus	2	0.4
Unidentifiable Fish		40	7.6
Unidentified Fish		1	0.2
		<b>523</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.23: Species of animal bone found in the well.

Common Name	Forelimb	Head	Hindlimb	Limb	Other	Trunk/Rib Cage	Total no of frags
Cattle	8	-	7	1	-	214	<b>214</b>
Sheep	55	22	19	1	1	75	<b>75</b>
Pig	6	11	4	-	4	-	<b>25</b>
	<b>69</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>314</b>

Table 4.24: Main animal body parts according to species and fragment counts.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Shell Locality	No of Frags	%
Banded Creeper	Phinoclavis Fasciata		1	0.3
Club Mud Whelk	Pyrazus ebeninus	Estuarine	4	1.4
Cowrie Sp			6	2.1
Eggshell			5	1.7
Large Common Turban Shell	Turbo torquatus	Rock Platform	1	0.3
Limpet	Cellana Sp		1	0.3
Mud Oyster	Ostrea angasi	Estuarine	3	1.0
Olive Shell	Oliviade Sp		1	0.3
Rock Oyster	Saccostrea cucullata	Varied	260	90.6
Stromb or Spider Shell	Family Strombidae	Sandy Shores	1	0.3
Sydney Cockle, Mud Ark	Anadara trapezia	Estuarine	3	1.0
Top Shell (Not Further Id.)	Family Trochidae	Rock Platform	1	0.3
			<b>287</b>	<b>99.6</b>

Table 4.25: Shells found in the well contexts.

## 5.0 **Overview of Results**

### 5.1 **Summary of Results**

The area investigated for this monitoring report was an area of vacant land situated between extant buildings of the King George V Recreation Centre to the north and steps leading to the Cahill Expressway in the south. The concrete wall of the Expressway ramp formed the western border and a concrete retaining wall, marking a drop of 3m down to the Cumberland Street footpath, formed the eastern boundary (Fig. 1.3). The whole area was to be lowered to the footpath level to accommodate a playground and basketball court.

Casey & Lowe were asked by City of Sydney to undertake this work following the discovery of remains after the commencement of site works. The machine removal of the vegetation and topsoil unearthed a large amount of brick rubble and what appeared to be a small segment of brick wall in the south end of the site. A few metres to the northwest the rectangular sandstone footings of a possible cesspit were also uncovered. Further machine and hand clearing of the area on Friday 4 July 2003 revealed the footings of a rectangular structure of about 4m x 6.5m, cut in the south by the retaining wall for the steps to the Expressway. A well was discovered during machine excavation in the northwestern part of the site, a circular cut in the bedrock of about 1.35m diameter. All the features were excavated and recorded by 10am on Wednesday 9 July 2003, with the rest of the day spent wet sieving samples of the well fill and cleaning the finds. The main focus of this monitoring project was to record all the remains and excavate the well deposit.

Overlays of the archaeological remains onto historic plans indicated that the remains found during the monitoring and recording were within three separate historic properties. These remains were the footings of a rectangular structure, the base of a cesspit and a well backfilled with artefacts. The well is believed to have been cut into the bedrock prior to 1822 (Harpers' 1822 plan, Fig. 2.1), with its backfilling occurring much later in the nineteenth century when it was no longer required as a source of water and instead made an ideal receptacle for refuse. Detail of Dove's 1880 plan of Sydney appears to locate the well within the grounds of a house at 88 Princes Street, with the cesspit belonging to 137 (125) Cumberland Street and the footings of the rectangular structure appearing to be those of a house at 141 (127) Cumberland Street (Fig. 2.6). Analysis of the Council rate assessments indicates 88 Princes Street was demolished c1882 and the *Metropolitan Detail Series* plan (Fig. 2.8) shows the property at 88 Princes Street as vacant. The demolition of the house c.1882 and the property still be vacant seven years later in 1889 indicates that the backfilling of the well probably occurred prior to this, perhaps as a cleaning out phase prior to the house been vacated and demolished. All these houses except 141 Cumberland Street were built on land owned by Elizabeth Boulton from c1807 to her death in 1866. Elizabeth lived for much of her life at 135 (123) Cumberland Street.

Out of the 30 contexts assigned during the excavation the majority, 22 in total, were identified with the three main archaeological features – a large rectangular structure part of a house, a cesspit and a well. The remaining eight contexts were assigned to four posthole cuts and their associated fills.

The remains of a large rectangular structure situated at the southern end of the site was identified by remnant sandstone footings (Photos 3.1-3.7), some flooring and paving (Photos 3.3, 3.7, 3.8), packing for a dish drain (Photo 3.8), a service trench (Photos 3.7, 3.8), and some construction, occupation and demolition deposits. Footings of the north, east and west walls comprised of rectangular sandstone blocks set into the bedrock. The building was cut by a retaining wall and the steps to the Cahill Expressway so no south wall was evident. Two remnant interior wall footings were also identified, running east-west and north-south. Remains of a cement flooring, butting the exterior west side of the structure was found, and an area identified as possible paving, comprising of flat sandstone slabs and sandstock bricks, was found on the inside northeast corner of the structure. It was also noted that this may instead be part of a pier. An area of irregular sandstone packing, with a section of a concrete dish drain on top, ran parallel to the northern wall, while in the centre of the eastern half of the structure was a cut in the bedrock for a service trench, over which the east wall

appeared be built. A deposit identified as being related to the construction of the building was identified in the southeast corner of the structure, and overlying this was a brown sandy loamy deposit identified as an underfloor occupation deposit. The interior of the structure and over the area immediately to its north was covered with material relating to the demolition of the building, comprising mainly of sandstock bricks and rubble, sand and mortar fragments, and slate, and this was mostly removed by machine. The footings of this rectangular structure are thought to be those of a house at 141 (127) Cumberland Street (Fig. 2.6).

The remains of a cesspit was identified to the northwest of the large rectangular structure (Photos 3.9-3.11). Remains associated with the cesspit included traces of the cut for its construction and the fill of the construction cut, comprising of crushed sandstone and a brown sandy loamy fill. Just the base of the cesspit structure itself remained, having been cut down to this level during previous work, and featured one course of remnant long rectangular sandstone blocks with an interior ledge of sandstock bricks, featuring both cement mortar and cement render. Some remnant cesspit fill was identified within the structure, measuring just 50mm in depth, which was already exposed prior to the excavation of the site commencing. The cesspit is believed to have belonged to 125 Cumberland Street (Fig. 2.6).

The well (Photos 3.12-3.15) was identified in the northeast corner of the site. The circular cut through bedrock featured near vertical sides, had a diameter of 1350mm and an excavated depth to c2700mm. Its real depth is thought to have been c3600mm however the last part of the well fill was removed by machine in the archaeologist's absence and was then immediately backfilled before recording could be done. The deposit contained in the well comprised of a wet, dark brown/grey soft sandy fill with a high content of wood fragments and lots of root activity around the sides. The backfill was hand excavated and large quantities of artefacts were recovered. The well appears to be within the grounds of a house at 88 Princes Street (Fig. 2.6).

Six postholes, all cut into the bedrock, were also identified on the site. Four postholes were identified in a rectangular layout surrounding the cesspit and have been identified as possibly belonging to a post and beam building (Photo 3.11). The remaining two postholes were located 1m north of the well (Photo 3.15).

## **5.2 Discussion of Artefacts from the Well**

The well at 88 Princes Street contained a large quantity of artefacts, a total of 569 items. Among which were: ceramics (151), building materials (22), glass (51), metal (63), miscellaneous (132) and organic/leather (150). The most significant artefact found was the Moreton Plaque, with the basemark of former convict potter John Moreton and his sons. The extensive collection of shoe and boot leather is important, as well as a range of ceramics which indicate the ownership of a 'Willow' patterned dinner set and Two Temples II tea and breakfast set. There was also quite a range of animal bone (537 fragments) but with an unusual domination of cattle (43.2%) over sheep (38.4%).

Who owned the artefacts thrown into the well c.1870? Elizabeth Boulton had owned the land containing the well and the cesspit from c.1807 to 1866 when she died. Her children continued to own the property until the 1880s. The leather artefacts from the well were associated with a shoemaker but no known shoemaker lived within the properties on the site. Shoemaker Frank Mustow lived nearby at 129 Cumberland Street between 1858–59 to 1865 which was a few houses to the north of where Elizabeth Boulton lived but apparently did not reside there when the well was backfilled in the c.1870s. It is possible a shoemaker resided in one of the rear residences behind 88 or 90 Princes Street but no record of their occupation survives in rates and Sands.

It is considered that the ceramics which are of good quality – a middle range – not of the finest quality except perhaps for the Moreton Plaque but certainly not the cheapest. The presence of a ‘Willow’ table setting and a ‘Two Temples II’ breakfast set indicates someone with an ability to purchase what they desired when it was available rather than accumulations of near sets (similar but not the same patterns) such as identified at Mrs Lewis’s nearby boarding house.<sup>33</sup> These piecemeal sets would have been purchased over time when the money was available rather than as a single purchase. The most likely candidate for the ownership of the plaque and the majority of the ceramics is Elizabeth Boulton who lived at 135 Cumberland Street. These items were probably left in her house after her death when it was rented out or stored at the back of Princes Street in one of the additional residences and were thrown out at some later point. They were presumably thrown out in a cleanup in the 1870s or as late as the 1882 demolition.

The allocation of the sets to her is based on the presumption that they represent goods owned by a single person and/or family and fall into the middle range of goods that were available rather than the cheapest. There is a unity to some of the material identified through the conjoins and the presence of sets. In addition, a number of the ceramic patterns are quite rare and have not been found at many other sites excavated by Casey & Lowe: Botanical, Japan Flowers, Oriental, Spanish Convent, Swiss Scenery, Syrian Flowers, and Villa (Table 4.15). Admittedly many others are commonly found on archaeological sites: Canova, Forest, Palestine, Sea Leaf, Two Temples II, Villa and Willow. The rarer types of patterns indicated that while there was a preference of sets for the more common patterns – perhaps a mark of status or of belonging to a specific group or perhaps the most fashionable as in the case of Willow it was available in at least 11 different shapes (Table 4.13) – there was also a desire to have items that not everyone else owned? This is most clearly represented by the Moreton Plaque which is a unique finely crafted object. While imitative of Wedgewood style products it does not present a classicising image but is rather of a Regency woman with a child. Perhaps an image of Elizabeth Boulton when she was younger and gave birth to one of her 12 children, only four of which appeared to have survived until her death in 1866.<sup>34</sup>

How can we be certain that the majority of the ceramics belonged to Elizabeth Boulton when there are leather shoes and offcuts from someone who is not known to have resided on the property? Admittedly it is not possible to be 100 per cent certain but she is considered to be the most likely individual. In the case of the leather while we cannot associate them with a specific shoemaker there was a lot of material within the well which suggests that they came from a single source. If it was all backfilled rather quickly from a few residences within close proximity of the well then the majority of the ceramics would have been also been from a single source, this is considered the most likely scenario.

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<sup>33</sup> Lydon 1993.

<sup>34</sup> Karskens 1995: Table 14, p. 220



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