



ARCHAEOLOGY
OF THE MODERN CITY 1788-1900

Assessment of Historical and Archaeological Resources of Susannah Place, The Rocks, Sydney

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Volume 2
of the Archaeology of the Modern City Series
A HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST OF NEW SOUTH WALES PUBLICATION

Published by the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales
61 Darghan Street, Glebe NSW 2037 Australia
www.hht.net.au

Published in Sydney 2003

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Second edition, revised

ISBN 1 876991 05 4

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The Archaeology of the Modern City project incorporates two research ventures: 'Exploring the Archaeology of the Modern City: Sydney 1788–1900' and 'Managing the Archaeology of Central Sydney and Melbourne 1788–1900'. Both projects are funded by the Australian Research Council Linkage Scheme and conducted by Project Partners: La Trobe University, the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd, the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, the NSW Heritage Office, Heritage Victoria and the Sydney City Council.



Introduction to the Historical and Archaeological Resources Assessment Reports

This is one of seven reports concerning the assessment of historical and archaeological resources at sites selected for the Exploring the Archaeology of the Modern City (EAMC). The series as a whole requires some introduction.

The assessment reports were written for each archaeological site by the EAMC team following the assessment of the status of resources available to the project. While they provide some background to the excavations and historical research undertaken at each site, the reports were not intended as a comprehensive history of such work. Rather, they are an assessment of whether the surviving *products* of that work were sufficient to justify further research within the scope of the EAMC project.

These reports were originally intended for review by Industry Partners only and have not been written for a general audience. It was decided many months after their preparation, that the contents were significant enough to warrant distribution to interested parties, despite containing some sensitive discussion of the work of peers.

All primary consultants discussed in the reports were provided the opportunity to comment on the presentation of their work prior to publication.

Any errors discovered in the assessment process are presented as matters of fact, and the EAMC assessment should not be read as a judgement upon the professionalism of the consultants and researchers discussed in the report.

Further, it is worth noting that the primary purpose of the EAMC reports should not be confused with a generalised evaluation of past work: resources considered to be inappropriate for EAMC work are not necessarily ruled out for use in other research contexts.

The systematic assessment of artefact catalogues in Australian historical archaeology is uncharted territory and the EAMC team had to develop their own methods to undertake this task. Any feedback on our approach and procedures is most welcomed.

We hope that the circulation of these reports will spark serious consideration of the many important issues raised by the need to systematically record data in heritage archaeology contexts.

Professor Tim Murray
Chief Investigator

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The bulk of the Susannah Place Museum artefact collection is derived from test-trenches excavated by Jane Lydon in April–June 1992 and artefacts removed during an intensive cleaning program undertaken when the Historic Houses Trust moved into the terraces between March and June 1992. The remainder of the artefacts have been discovered by HHT curatorial staff during a six-week intensive-cleaning program and other maintenance work since 1989.

The Exploring the Archaeology of the Modern City project (EAMC) has been established by the Archaeology Program of La Trobe University, and Industry Partners, to comprehensively analyse and interpret the large assemblages excavated from historical archaeological sites that are held in storehouses across Sydney. The aim is to develop a clearer and more precise understanding of Sydney's past material, personal and working worlds from its archaeological remains, than has been previously attempted in Sydney.

The archaeological collection from Susannah Place is among the suite of material selected for analysis in this project. Other collections include those from the Hyde Park Barracks, the Mint, First Government House, Susannah Place, the Cumberland and Gloucester Streets site, the Paddy's Market site and possibly Lilyvale. Artefacts from each collection will be comprehensively analysed within their specific archaeological and broader historical contexts. Once each site has been successfully analysed and interpreted on its own merits, a program of inter-site research, analysis and interpretation will be undertaken to reach a new perspective on Sydney's past.

Prior to undertaking intra-site research, the records of each collection (excavation records and reports, the artefact database and related historical material) will be reviewed for their accuracy and their utility within the research program.

A review of the Susannah Place archaeological collection and its records was undertaken in June and July 2001.

This report presents the recommendations arising from the artefact and record review (Section 2.0), including tasks required to utilise Susannah Place's historical and archaeological records in the EAMC project, and other recommendations that the Historic Houses Trust (HHT) may wish to consider.

The details of the review itself are included as appendices. Appendix One provides an assessment of the documents and reports relating to the history and archaeology of Susannah Place, including an overview of works on the site, and levels of analysis and interpretation offered to date. Appendix Two provides a detailed review of one component of the site's archaeological record: the artefact database and catalogue.

This report was prepared in August 2001 for the Industry Partners of the AMC Project: the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd, the NSW Heritage Office, Heritage Victoria and the Sydney City Council.

1.1 AUTHORSHIP

Sections 1.0–3.0 and Appendix Two were prepared by Penny Crook (Project Archaeologist). Appendix One was prepared by Laila Ellmoos (Project Historian) and Penny Crook. Tim Murray (Chief Investigator) reviewed this report.

1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Samantha Fabry, Curator of Susannah Place, for providing access to the Museum's records and assisting our review of them. Thanks also to Wayne Johnson from the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, Dr Jane Lydon (now at La Trobe University), former curators of Susannah Place Gary Crockett and Sally Webster and Jenny Olman from the HHT collection management unit, for their assistance with locating the excavated-artefact collection.

1.3 LIMITATIONS

The review of the artefact assemblage was hampered by the fact that the location of part of the Susannah Place collection was unknown for several weeks of the review process. When the current HHT database was compared with Jane Lydon's report, it was clear that the artefacts from Lydon's excavation were not part of the main Susannah Place collection. On Friday 15 June, the small assemblage was located at Susannah Place and it was inspected by the Project Archaeologist on Wednesday 20 June.

The review was also limited by the inaccessibility of an electronic version of the database of excavated artefacts. Assessment of these records was based on the printed copy of this database presented in the excavation report (Lydon 1992).

1.4 TERMINOLOGY

The Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority (SCRA) was established under the *Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority Act 1968*, and commenced operations in 1970. In 1988, the Authority changed its name to the Sydney Cove Authority (SCA), dropping 'redevelopment' from its title. In 1999, the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) took over the functions of the SCA, as well as the City West Development Corporation and the Darling Harbour Authority.

2.0 SUMMARISED ASSESSMENT OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The review of historical and archaeological records pertaining to Susannah Place, held by the HHT (at Susannah Place and Lyndhurst) and the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority was undertaken in June and July 2001 by the EAMC team. The team reviewed historical and archaeological documents held at these respective institutions and undertook the analysis of a sampled portion of the archaeological catalogue. Details of the review are included in Appendices One and Two. The major results and conclusions of the review are briefly outlined below.

Overall, research undertaken on Susannah Place to date has focussed on the architectural history of the terrace and those who lived there since its construction in 1844, for the purposes of conservation and its interpretation as a house museum depicting working-class history. Curators and employees at Susannah Place have collected an excellent archive of oral histories since the early 1990s, which provide rich description about life at Susannah Place, and The Rocks more generally, in the 20th century.

The Susannah Place Museum currently holds a collection of about 2,000 'artefacts'. An estimated 400 items were excavated from eight test-trenches by Jane Lydon in 1992 and the remainder were gathered during

intensive cleaning programs or other maintenance work by the HHT and recorded with a generalised context (ie Room number only). A detailed report for the test-excavation was prepared by Lydon and includes a detailed account of trenches excavated. The report also provides a discussion of the artefact catalogue and some exploratory analysis of it, along with a response to the site's research design (Lydon 1992). Fewer precise details are known of the artefact-collection strategy undertaken by the HHT (see Emmett 1989, Wright 1992, Crockett 1992, Waghorn and Crocket 1992).

Overall, while the catalogues of these two assemblages are considered satisfactory, despite lacking some crucial fields, the absence of a disk copy of the excavated-artefact catalogue is a considerable hindrance.

Given the modest size of the excavated assemblage, and the fact that the remaining assemblage is from generalised rather than specific contexts, the collection is too limited in its research potential to justify comprehensive artefact analysis on a site-wide basis.

Rather than undertake such analysis, the EAMC team propose to use the Susannah Place artefact collection as support data for the comprehensive analysis of other, larger collections, particularly the Cumberland and Gloucester Streets site across the road. It is proposed that the building fabric, oral history and historical research to date of Susannah Place also be utilised in this way in the EAMC project.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the EAMC team use the artefact collection, extensive historical and oral archive and building fabric of Susannah Place as support data for the comprehensive analysis of other, larger collections in the project, where appropriate.

To facilitate this use, it is recommended that:

1. the excavated-artefact catalogue is retyped into the current HHT database of Susannah Place artefacts.

It also recommended that:

2. the Curator of Susannah Place undertake conservation of the recently rediscovered excavated-artefact assemblage.

4.0 APPENDICES

Appendix One: Assessment of Records Relating to the History and Archaeology of Susannah Place

Appendix Two: Sampling the Accuracy and Utility of the Artefact Catalogue

Appendix One:

ASSESSMENT OF RECORDS RELATING TO THE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF SUSANNAH PLACE

1.0 BACKGROUND

Susannah Place, located on Gloucester Street in The Rocks, is a row of four terrace houses constructed of 'Colonial Bond brickwork on a rock-faced sandstone base' (Moore 1989: 16). Three of these terraces, numbering 58 to 62 Gloucester Street, were designed and used as three-storey residences from the time of their construction until the 1970s, with the exception of No. 62, which was vacated in 1990 and re-occupied by the HHT caretakers from 1992 until the present. The end terrace at No. 64 Gloucester Street was used as a corner general grocer's store from around 1845 until the 1930s, and subsequently used as residential accommodation until 1976.

Historical research undertaken to date indicates that the land on which Susannah Place now stands was first granted to licensed victualler, James Byrne, in 1836. From this time until his death in 1838, Byrne paid a yearly rental on the land, 'on the condition that he erect a permanent dwelling house, store or other suitable building' there (Moore 1989: 12, Lydon 1992). It appears that this condition was never undertaken in the two years he owned this land. When he died, in 1838, he left all his 'property to his wife for her lifetime', although no mention was specifically made to his Gloucester Street property. Earlier, Byrne's land had formed part of the Hospital gardens, and there is speculation that other, earlier structures were located on this site. Properties or allotments are outlined on the 1823 Harper Plan (pers comm, Wayne Johnson June 2001) as well as the Robert Russell plan (Moore 1989: 12), which may also account for the kinked shape of the terrace and the original alignment of Gloucester Street.

According to the Sydney Council Rate Assessment Book for 1845, it is assumed that newly arrived immigrants to Australia, Edward and Mary Riley constructed the Susannah Place terrace in 1844 (Proudfoot 1986). This construction date is also borne out by the stone plaque at the front of the terrace, inscribed 'Susannah Place Anno Domino 1844'. The Riley's had arrived in Sydney from the southern coast of Ireland in 1838 aboard the ship the *Amelia Thompson* as assisted immigrants. They were accompanied on their journey by their niece Susannah Sterne, a Millner, who is presumably the namesake for Susannah Place.

The Riley's moved into their newly constructed abode at 62 Gloucester Street in 1846 and lived there together for eight years. In 1853, when Edward Riley died, his widow Mary took over ownership of the four terraces comprising Susannah Place. Unlike many other landlords in The Rocks, she continued to occupy the house at 62 Gloucester Street and leased out the remaining terraces to various people, many of whom worked on the wharves or industry nearby. When she died in 1874, Mary Riley left two of the terraces at 62-64 Gloucester Street to her grandniece and Susannah Sterne's daughter, Mary Ann Finnigan (nee Hensley), while the other two terraces at 58-60 Gloucester Street were bequeathed to the Church of England. Finnigan and her husband John ran the corner shop for two years, between 1876 and 1877, and later moved to Granville. From 1874 until 1901, all the Susannah Place terraces, with the Finningan's and

the Church of England as landlords, continued to be tenanted by a wide variety of people including 'artisans, self-employed tradesmen, members of the maritime work force and skilled labourers' and their families (Toy 1993: 76).

The NSW Government, in a variety of guises, was the landlord for residents at Susannah Place from Federation until the 1970s (and in the case of No. 62 Gloucester Street, until 1990). In 1901, the State Government, under the auspices of the Sydney Harbour Trust, resumed Susannah Place and surrounding shops, houses and factories in The Rocks under the *Darling Harbour Wharves Resumption Act 1900*. In 1936, the Sydney Harbour Trust was taken over by the Maritime Services Board (MSB), who managed Susannah Place until 1970. When the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority (SCRA) was created under the *Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority Act 1968* and commenced operations two years later, it became the landlord for Susannah Place as well as many of the state-owned houses, shops, pubs and factories within 53 acres of land it inherited from the MSB within The Rocks.

With the exception of the Marshalls, 'the unofficial caretakers' who lived at 62 Gloucester Street until 1990, Susannah Place was vacant by the late 1970s. The SCRA deemed Susannah Place 'BER' (beyond economic repair) in structural reports prepared in 1974 and 1977, and recommendations were put forward to demolish the terrace in 1978 (SCRA 1977, Moore 1989: 14). Susannah Place was spared from demolition and redevelopment at this time, and by the early 1980s, there were plans afoot to renovate the buildings. Proposals for a house museum at Susannah Place were initially discussed from 1986 (Proudfoot 1986) but did not come to fruition until 1993, due to deliberations and debates about the possible interpretations and conservation methods for the buildings.

In 1988, the SCA (formerly SCRA, now SHFA) approached the HHT to manage and operate Susannah Place as a museum. In 1989, this proposal was agreed to and following conservation works and archaeological excavations Susannah Place was opened to the public in 1993 as a 'Museum in the Making'.

2.0 HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION WORK UNDERTAKEN AT SUSANNAH PLACE

The Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority (SCRA) became the landlord for Susannah Place in 1970. As the 'redevelopment' in its title suggests, one of the SCRA's primary objectives was to redevelop The Rocks. According to the SCRA records, the Susannah Place terrace was beyond economic repair in 1974, in part because 'the four buildings comprising the terrace have sub-standard bathrooms, toilets and laundries'. A structural report prepared by the SCRA in 1977 indicated that little had changed, as 'No.s 56 and 60 Gloucester Street have no kitchen facilities'. The SCRA's 1977 report concluded that 'it would not be an exaggeration to say that if the terrace were to be restored, it would be more of a rebuilding project rather than a restoration', and that as such, 'even if the terrace were rebuilt', it would not comply with Ordinance 70 under the *Local Government Act 1919* (SCRA 1977). In 1978, the Susannah Place terrace was declared economically unviable because it had 'reached the end of its economic lives [sic] and standing on sites required for development' (Moore 1989: 14).

By the early 1980s, the SCRA had had a change of heart with regards to the demolition of Susannah Place. A Building Data Sheet prepared for the property in 1982 stated that 'the buildings are attractive in appearance, are in reasonably good condition and would be easily restored' (SCRA BDS CS/19). Two years later, a report on the adjacent Georgian-style cottages at 44-56 Gloucester Street indicated that Susannah

Place was due to be restored (Cox 1984). Perhaps this was a consequence of Susannah Place being placed on the Register of the National Estate in 1980, and receiving a National Trust listing in 1978 as part of the Gloucester Street Precinct and an individual listing in 1983.¹

In 1986, the NSW Premier, Neville Wran, called for the Historic Houses Trust (HHT) to acquire the Susannah Place terrace 'as a matter of critical significance to the State's heritage' following interest in the site from the HHT Chairman, L. J. Ferguson (Moore 1989: 14). In this same year, Helen Proudfoot was commissioned by the HHT to carry out historical research and to prepare a report on Susannah Place 'to provide information sufficient for the Trust to make a decision about the acquisition of Susannah Terrace' (Proudfoot 1986). A year later, Proudfoot prepared a preliminary report for a Conservation Plan for the site, which included a Statement of Cultural Significance.

Susannah Place suffered considerable neglect and physical decay from the 1970s until the late 1980s due to water penetration and termites. Three of the residences within Susannah Place were vacated by the mid 1970s, with the exception of No. 62 Gloucester, which was occupied by Elaine and Dennis Marshall from 1962 until 1990. The Marshalls carried out intermittent repairs on their own residence, as well as the other buildings within the terrace during this time. Whilst these were not part of an official program of repairs following a conservation plan, these repairs are part of the conservation history of the buildings and are also part of the reason that Susannah Place is still standing today. Despite the repairs undertaken by the Marshalls, it was clear by the late 1980s that urgent repair works were necessary for Susannah Place, particularly as the rooves and guttering were leaking badly causing extensive water damage (a situation that drove Ron Smith out of the corner terrace in 1976), the exterior stone work was deteriorating and the internal woodwork was being eaten by white ants and termites

Following recommendations from Robert A. Moore on the 'roof structures and structural fabric', the SCRA contracted Noel T. Leach Builders to carry out repairs to the terrace from June to December 1987. A conservation plan was not in place at this time, so 'only simple repair work was undertaken and no attempt was made to renew finishes, internally or externally' (Moore 1989: 18). Repairs included the replacement of the rooves and external drainage (such as downpipes, gutters and flashings), making windows watertight, repairing external stonework, replacement of floor-boards at No. 64 and stabilisation of the plaster and lathe ceilings with an epoxy based glue (Emmett 1989: 1.3x, Moore 1989: 18).²

In 1989, the Sydney Cove Authority (SCA) commissioned Robert A. Moore in association with the HHT to prepare a Conservation Analysis and Guidelines for Susannah Place, which incorporated an updated Statement of Cultural Significance and a strategy for a more extensive program of conservation work to be undertaken. Under the direction of the SCA and following Robert A. Moore's recommendations, further conservation works were carried out in the early 1990s to stabilise the terrace and reveal its layered history, rather than renovating it or restoring it back to its 'original' state, in marked difference to earlier approaches to building conservation (demonstrated at the Hyde Park Barracks or Baker's Terrace and View Terrace in The Rocks). This conservation methodology was carried out in order to keep the patina of the building, to maintain and reveal the external brickwork and the successive layers of paint applied to it, as well as the layering of interior finishes, such as wallpaper and paint. Although both Campbell Conservation and Hartman Art Conservation prepared proposals for conservation of the interior finishes and possible

¹ Susannah Place was listed on the State Heritage Inventory in 1999.

² According to correspondence between Robert A. Moore and SCA, it seems that additional conservation works were carried out in four stages from 1988 to 1990.

museological interpretations for the HHT, it is unclear who carried out the conservation work on Susannah Place (or when), although it was presumably paid for by the SCA as the buildings' owner (Hartman 1990, Campbell Conservation n.d.).

In 1987, Helen Proudfoot and Annie Bickford undertook a photographic survey of No. 58, as well as recording the 'furniture, artefacts and objects stored in the basement' and made notes about the interior 'finishes' (Proudfoot 1987: 8). In 1988, when plans for the Museum were in development and the first surveys of the terraces were conducted by the HHT, Peter Emmett sorted through 'accumulated rubbish' in the basements, fireplaces and roof cavities. He gathered a small collection of approximately 100 items, dating from the mid- to late-20th century (Emmett 1989: 1.6x). These items included 'furniture, domestic goods such as tools and appliances, and a collection of diverse personal ephemera such as photographs, birthday cards, rent receipts and licences' and were considered to 'reveal much about the lives of the occupants of Susannah Place in the past 50 years' (Moore 1989: 21). This documentation and later, collection of objects left behind, is distinct from the program of conservation cleaning or the archaeological investigation carried out on the property in 1992.

Prior to the HHT's occupation in 1992, the SCA (now SHFA) undertook test-excavations of areas likely to be disturbed by the Museum's conservation works. Jane Lydon undertook this work, and opened eight small trenches on the ground and basement levels of No. 60 (000-004), and on the ground floor of No. 58 (007), the yards of No. 58 and No. 60 (006) and the pathway on Gloucester Street outside No. 60 and No. 62 (005). The artefacts recovered from these trenches were promptly catalogued and a detailed report of the excavation submitted (Lydon 1992).³

Once the HHT had moved into the terraces, conservator Elizabeth Wright and a team of graduates and trainees (Peter Tonkin, Gary Crockett and Anita Waghorn) undertook a six-week intensive cleaning program across all four terraces in March and April 1992 (Wright 1992, see also Crockett 1992). Tonkin undertook to record artefacts recovered during the cleaning process (Wright 1992: App B, p 10). Sixty bags of material were collected (Gary Crockett and Samantha Fabry pers comm, June 2001) and recorded by room number, and in some cases, area of the room (eg hearth, wall cavity etc). Photographs of the general areas cleaned during the program, and therefore the approximate location of the artefacts, were taken by Peter Tonkin (see albums held by Susannah Place Museum).

According to HHT administrative documentation, a detailed catalogue of this material was prepared as late as 1998, but Lydon (pers comm, June 2001) recalls that a catalogue of some of this material (probably the 60 bags from the six-week clean) was supplied to her at the time that she was cataloguing the excavated artefacts. Regardless, additional artefacts recovered during the Museum's occupation have now been catalogued with this material in an archaeological database developed by the curators of the Hyde Park Barracks Museum (see Appendix Two for a more detailed discussion of this catalogue).

Table I provides a detailed list of the projects that have been undertaken at Susannah Place since 1974.

³ The report also presents the results of the test trenching in Gloucester and Cumberland Streets in 1991.

Table I Conservation, archival and archaeological projects undertaken at Susannah Place since 1974.

Year	Details	Reports
1974–1977	Susannah Place declared Beyond Economic Repair (BER) and economically unviable in structural reports	SCRA 1974, 1977
1986	Preparation of a report, including a site history, Statement of Significance and details of historical and architectural research	Proudfoot 1986
1987	Preparation of a preliminary report for the Conservation Plan, including additional historical and architectural research, a site history, photographic recording and a proposal for house museum	Proudfoot 1987
1987	Repairs to the roof, stone work, windows and internal ceilings by Noel T. Leach, under guidance from Robert A. Moore	Moore 1987
1989	Discussion/Position Paper prepared to outline display methods, as well the preparation of the Conservation Analysis and Guidelines	Emmett 1989, Moore 1989
1990	Interpretation options for a museum at Susannah Place	Toy 1990, Winkworth 1990
1992	Test-excavation by Jane Lydon	Lydon 1992
1992	Six-week conservation cleaning program	Wright 1992
1992	Roof cleaning	Waghorn & Crockett 1992
1998–2000	Database catalogue of collected artefacts prepared and inputted into Archaeology Database	NA

3.0 RECORDS AND REPORTS

3.1 HISTORICAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

Since 1986, when discussions about the future of Susannah Place began, some 20 publications on the property have been produced. Following is a list of the types of publications produced about Susannah Place in this time.

- Archaeological reports
- Conservation reports
- Museum plans
- Educational programs
- Exhibition catalogues and Museum brochures
- Annotated bibliographies
- Historical reports
- Architectural histories
- Maintenance and structural reports
- Market research

Full bibliographic references for these publications, which were prepared by, or on behalf of the SHFA and the HHT are included at the end of this report.

From 1989 to the present, the SHFA and the HHT employees and volunteers have collated primary research material about Susannah Place and more generally on The Rocks, as well as collecting oral histories from former residents at Susannah Place in the 20th century, largely for the purposes of conservation works and exhibition interpretation. However, it is unclear where the primary research material sourced by Helen Proudfoot and Joy Hughes (outlined in Proudfoot's 1987 report) such as birth and death certificates, title searches on the property and the shipping list for the *Amelia Thompson* is located (Proudfoot 1987: 1-7).

3.1.1 SYDNEY HARBOUR FORESHORE AUTHORITY

The SHFA holds considerable information about Susannah Place, particularly relating to its ownership of the building from 1970 onwards. This material includes historical, conservation and archaeology reports, correspondence, planning and heritage documentation, newsletters, annual reports, leases and official files. Although not within the scope of the EAMC project, this material has considerable research potential and needs further analysis as it illustrates evolving approaches to heritage conservation practice in The Rocks in the late-20th century.

The SHFA's Built Environment Library also holds a detailed record of residents at Susannah Place, with the tenant cards maintained by the MSB (Maritime Services Board, the landlord for Susannah Place prior to the SCRA). These cards are especially important as they provide details about the residents at Susannah Place on a yearly basis from 1932 until the 1970s, and also outline the maintenance works requested and (sometimes) carried out on the properties in this time.

3.1.2 HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST

The HHT holds many of the historical, archaeological and conservation reports produced about Susannah Place, which were commissioned both internally and by the SCA (now the SHFA). These reports are located on-site at Susannah Place and at the Lyndhurst Library. The HHT also holds a considerable collection of oral histories from former occupants of Susannah Place. Most of these oral histories were undertaken before the Museum opened in 1993, although the HHT curatorial staff have continued to collect interviews with former tenants until the present. These oral histories have been recorded on cassette tapes, and in some cases form part of the sound-scapes for the Museum, and have also been transcribed for the purposes of research.

3.2 EXCAVATION AND ARTEFACT RECORDS AND REPORTS

3.2.1 THE EXCAVATED-ARTEFACT ASSEMBLAGE

The results of excavation by Jane Lydon in 1992 were reported upon in a clear and concise document prepared by the excavator in 1992. The report provides a brief history of the terraces' occupation; a research design; a detailed account of trenches excavated; the artefact catalogue and some exploratory analysis of it; a listing of stratigraphic units; photographs of the excavation and historic plans.

The location of original hand-written records of cataloguing undertaken for the project is currently not known. If located, these are likely to provide useful information such as drawings of particular artefacts, noted in the printed catalogue.

This report is considered a sufficient record of the excavation for the purposes of the EAMC project.

3.2.2 THE HHT'S COLLECTED ARTEFACT ASSEMBLAGE

Two reports have been written on intensive cleaning programs undertaken by the HHT: one by Elizabeth Wright reporting on the March–April 1992 cleaning, and another by Anita Waghorn and Gary Crockett reporting on the cleaning of the roof space in June 1992.

Wright's report presents a very detailed account of the cleaning of interior fabric and fixtures, but there is little discussion of the strategy for the collection artefacts. There are a few references to the 'rare opportunity' that arose when strategic floorboards were removed to investigate suspect joists: the underlying dust in the exposed floor cavities was sieved for artefacts (Wright 1992: 8, see also Crockett 1992). In the appended Progress Report for Week 5, it was noted that Peter Tonkin 'reassured' the SCA Archaeologist, then Nadia Iacono, that their 'system of collecting and documenting artefacts' was compatible with SCA's archaeological recording procedures. A series of photographs (held at Susannah Place Museum) were taken during the cleaning program, however there are no other original records known to the EAMC team that record artefact documentation undertaken for the project.

Unfortunately, the report does not describe the strategy for artefact collection nor the results or plans for the artefacts' quantity, storage and cataloguing, however, others have reported that the only artefacts collected were those that could be seen when the floorboards along the skirtings were lifted (Peter Tonkin, pers comm, July 2001).

The much briefer report on a specific aspect of cleaning—that of the ceiling spaces of No. 58 (undertaken on 6–8 June 1992—by Anita Waghorn and Gary Crockett does make note that artefacts were extracted from the vacuumed dust and fill gathered from the spaces, and were then labelled and bagged. The report also makes note of some artefacts, which were adhered to the plaster and were left in situ because they could not have been removed without damaging the ceiling (Waghorn and Crockett 1992: 4). Photographs of the cleaning process are retained at Susannah Place.

It is currently recalled that about 60 bags of material were collected (Gary Crockett and Samantha Fabry pers comm, June 2001) and that some kind of catalogue existed in 1992 when Lydon's excavation report was written but this is not noted in Wright's report.

There is also documentation of the renumbering project in 1996–1997. While there was no report on the project, the proposals for the work were outlined in a number of memoranda (see Susannah Place artefact catalogue files) and there are original hand-written data-sheets of the re-cataloguing project. These are held at Susannah Place Museum in an orange envelope on the report shelves.

Props

While props are not considered part of the artefact collection of Susannah Place, they are worth noting as a resource of information about particular artefact types or groups. Artefacts from other large excavations in The Rocks have been used as props and there has been some research into the acquisition of other antique or collectible items used for display. Information about these items (including their provenance, where known) is recorded on acquisition forms and stored in folders at Susannah Place.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

In her report on the excavation, Lydon undertook some 'exploratory analysis' of the assembled artefact catalogue to answer the research question: 'To what uses has the excavation area been put during its European occupation?' (See Lydon 1992: 6.1.) The analysis incorporated artefacts recovered during excavation and others that had been gathered by the HHT at that time.⁴ This method comprised graphic comparison of function and form against context; principal components analysis (based on covariation) of context, function, material and shape/form; and statistical seriation.

The primary conclusions were: that all trenches contained a common core typical of domestic assemblages (bone, building materials, ceramics, glass and clay-pipe fragments); that the garden bed (dating from c. 1912) was used for household and light-industrial refuse; the basement contained a small assemblage of domestic items (including heating by-products), probably deposited in situ; and the assemblage from the construction rubble to the west of the façade (dating to the 1844) was possibly discard from passers-by.

These statistical and graphic comparisons are attempts to reduce a body of quantifiable data into digestible results. However the size and sampled nature of the assemblage limited the analytical methods to the confirmation of the function and date of particular trenches, rather than be put to substantial use interpreting the domestic lives of the site's occupants. Nevertheless, it is to the excavator's credit that the analysis was undertaken on this site, given that no similar attempt has been made on the other collections reviewed by the EAMC team.

5.0 HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND MUSEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIONS OF SUSANNAH PLACE

The strength of the Susannah Place Museum is its representation of the terrace's social history, particularly the lives of the working-class people who lived there from 1845 until the 1990s, and the changes they made to the physical fabric of the terraces in this time, such as interior paint and wallpaper finishes, adaptations and repairs.

Since discussions about installing a museum at Susannah Place were initiated in 1986, considerable attention has been directed toward the possible museological interpretations of the site and its working-class history, as well as how to treat the physical fabric. A number of reports discuss whether to restore, recreate, conserve or stabilise the buildings. In these discussions, museological interpretation and conservation philosophy of Susannah Place have been integrally tied and indeed my often be considered as one and the same.

⁴ Lydon recalls that this information was provided in electronic format, ie she did not physically handle or catalogue the collected material as part of the excavation project.

5.1 MUSEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION

The Conservation Analysis and Guidelines prepared by Robert A. Moore in 1989 presented a number of options for the interpretation of Susannah Place (Moore 1989: 38–39), which were foreshadowed in Proudfoot's reports on the terrace (Proudfoot 1986, 1987) and elaborated upon in later reports (Emmett 1989, Toy 1990, Winkworth 1990). These interpretation options were:

- No work
- Peel back the Layers
- Reconstruct the Building and the Decoration to a Period or Periods
- Reconstruct and Furnish to a Specific Resident
- Reconstruct and Furnish to a Period Character

Peter Emmett prepared a 'Discussion/Position Paper' on Susannah Place in 1989, which aimed to 'take stock of where we are at in assessment of the conservation and interpretation of Susannah Place' (Emmett 1989). As part of his report, Emmett prepared a framework for the interpretation of Susannah Place in which 'social' and 'architecture' were the main criteria for interpreting each selected 'context'.

Ann Toy and Kylie Winkworth prepared reports in 1990 (August and September respectively), which also outlined interpretation and display options for a museum at Susannah Place.

Susannah Place was officially opened to the public as a 'Museum in the Making' in February 1993. At this time, the curatorial policy was to open the terraces to the public while conservation work was underway and during the planning and development of 'a more traditional house museum' on the site.

Susannah Place Museum presents a social history of place through the buildings themselves and props (including collectables, antiques, photographs, archaeological artefacts and period furnishings) and the recollections of former tenants, who were predominantly working class. As such, it is distinct from the intention of other house museums in NSW and Australia such as Meroogal, Vaucluse House and Strickland House, which show middle or upper-class histories and lives. Instead, Susannah Place Museum, which has had continuous working-class occupation since it was constructed in 1844 until the 1990s, bears similarities to New York's Tenement House and Edinburgh's The People's History, which also aim to display working class histories. Yet one of the major stumbling blocks to getting the museum up and running appears to be the quandary of how to represent working-class history at Susannah Place (Emmett 1989, Toy 1990, 1993, Winkworth 1990).

Recreation of all the buildings within the Susannah Place terrace to a particular era was not the aim of the conservation work or museological interpretation. Museological interpretation has focused instead on layering the histories and stories of former occupants as well as the physical fabric of the buildings. Selected rooms within the terrace were recreated to particular eras, such as the parlour and front bedroom at No. 60, which simulated the 1840s with furnishings and props from that era. Other rooms in No. 62 were recreated to the early-20th century, such as the corner shop and upstairs back bedroom, with the help of oral history.

Since it opened in 1993, the interpretation of Susannah Place has changed minimally. Table 2 shows the interpretation of the rooms and spaces within the Susannah Place terrace in July 2001.

Table 2 Interpretation of Susannah Place Museum, Gloucester Street, The Rocks, in July 2001⁵

Susannah Place	No. 58	No. 60	No. 64
Backyard	Backyard open to public	Backyard open to public	
Basement	Basement open to public (partially reinstated to c1970s, when Anderson's lived there).		
Ground Floor Front Room	Introduction to the Susannah Place Museum, with seating for visitors to view the introductory video showing the history of the site.	Museum interpretation based on the recreation of typical 1840s living room (the era that Susannah Place was constructed and occupied). This room contains furnishings such as pictures, archaeological artefacts from other sites in the rocks and props sourced by curatorial staff.	Museum interpretation: Corner shop recreation to c1910s, based on oral history testimony from Jim 'Dutchy' Young.
Ground Floor Back Room	Museum interpretation based on the changes to physical fabric with the aim to show conservation practice carried out on the building. Paint scrapes show the layers paint finishes and wallpapers used by tenants since the 1840s, and is protected by a wire mesh enclosure.	Museum interpretation: parlour c1840s	Museum interpretation: the built-on verandah in the kitchen has been left as is, inclusive of the additions & repairs undertaken by Ron Smith in the 1970s. The front portion of this room, which would have functioned as a parlour or dining room when the shop was operating, has been recreated to c1910s, with furnishings such as chairs, a dining table, dresser, as well as props and photographic panels depicting former tenants
First Floor Front Room	Store room for archaeology and artefact collection	Museum interpretation: reconstruction of a bedroom to c1840s	Offices for Susannah Place curatorial staff
First Floor Back Room	Store room for archaeology and artefacts collection	Museum interpretation: This room is set aside for changing exhibitions, specifically related to the history of the site or adjacent sites (using Archaeology as prop)	Museum interpretation: recreation of the bedroom used by James 'Dutch' Young, based on his oral history testimony.

⁵ No. 62 Gloucester Street is excluded because it is the residence of the HHT caretakers and not open to the public.

5.2 HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

Helen Proudfoot's first report on Susannah Place, prepared for the HHT in 1986, established the basic framework for the historical interpretation of Susannah Place, which has been followed ever since in conservation and archaeological reports (Proudfoot 1987, Moore 1989, Lydon 1992), museological interpretation (Emmett 1989, Toy 1990, Winkworth 1990, Christie 1993) and associated publications such as brochures and museum guides. Essentially, Proudfoot's narrative begins with European occupation of the site from 1836, when the land was first granted to James Byrne, and follows the construction of the Susannah Place terrace in 1844, the successive alterations to the buildings until the 1970s, the provision of amenities such as gas, water and sewage in the mid-1850s, and the changing cast of occupants in the 19th and 20th centuries. Although Proudfoot emphasised the social importance of Susannah Place, her narrative was more an architectural than a social history, with details of building methods, materials used in construction, subsequent additions to the building fabric and occupants (owners and tenants).

In Proudfoot's two reports, historical interpretation and related research focussed on the earliest stage of life of Susannah Place, namely its construction and the background of its owners, Edward and Mary Riley. In her reports, Proudfoot has detailed the processes of the research carried out to date in 1987, and suggested further avenues of research, especially on the early stages of the building's history. In 1989, Emmett used Proudfoot's reports as the basis for his historical overview of the terrace (Emmett 1989: 2.1x). In the same year, 'some limited further research was undertaken by Ms Joy Hughes on behalf of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales', and Jacqui Goddard and Ann Toy (the authors of the Conservation Analysis and Guidelines). This new research was also largely based on the Proudfoot reports. Goddard and Toy recognised that historical research was incomplete at the time of writing the conservation report, 'which is not considered a hindrance to the planning of its conservation' and recommended that further research needed to be carried out on Susannah Place for the purpose of museological interpretation (Moore 1989: 1). Apart from the program of collecting oral histories from former residents by the HHT curatorial staff, it appears that no additional historical research has been carried out on Susannah Place since this time. As well, limited archival research has been carried out on the site prior to the construction of the Susannah Place terrace, such as Aboriginal occupation in the first years of European settlement or its location as part of the Hospital Gardens.

Reports commissioned and written by the HHT and the SCA concur that the relatively early provision of amenities to Susannah Place demonstrates that those who tenanted it were different to people living in the rest of The Rocks, which was depicted as an 'infested hovel'. For example, Proudfoot claimed that Susannah Place was not 'plagued and pestilential' (Proudfoot 1986: 9), while Lydon asserted that the 'terraces survival was due to the relatively high standard of living by its construction and services provided' (Lydon 1992). As such, there seems to be some confusion about whether the inhabitants at Susannah Place were actually working-class, or more to the point, whether working-class culture or identity in the Rocks might be measured by something other than domestic amenities. This notion has been perpetuated in publications, tours and reports produced about the site, and has been derived from a singular source: Max Kelly's book on Sydney in the 19th century, which indicates that water derived from the mains was a costly service. According to Kelly:

By the 1860s three groups were benefiting from most from mains supply: the *wealthy inner-city residents*, manufacturers and commercial enterprises, and—to a lesser extent—the ‘lumpenproletariat’ who lived in areas supplied by fountains. (Kelly 1978: 61, emphasis added)⁶

Problematically, the connection of services to Susannah Place and the assumed higher standard of tenants there are also given as the reason for the buildings surviving the 1900s demolitions of The Rocks and surviving the 20th century. It is now known through intensive research at the Cumberland Street Site that houses there were connected to water in the mid-19th century, but unlike Susannah Place, were demolished in plague clearances. This assumption is also despite the fact that many of the buildings demolished near to Susannah Place were not just a direct result of the plague but were later demolished to make way for the southern approach of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in the 1920s and the Cahill Expressway in the 1950s. Nevertheless, many buildings making up the Gloucester Street precinct, listed by the National Trust in the 1970s and including Bakers Terrace, View Terrace and the Jobbins Buildings are extant at time of writing, albeit with much ‘restoration’ carried out on them from the 1980s onwards.

5.3 ORAL HISTORY

For Ann Toy, curator at Susannah Place before the museum opened in 1993, oral history had the potential to counterpoint written evidence about the past (Toy 1993: 77). More specifically for Toy, however, oral history could reveal details about the working-class tenants who lived at Susannah Place which were absent from the written record, in much the same way that archaeology has the potential to uncover hidden aspects working class lives (Toy 1993: 77).⁷ As such, the HHT curatorial team undertook a concerted program of collecting oral-history testimony prior to the opening of the Museum, actively seeking former occupants of Susannah Place. As Toy noted, ‘Priority was given to locating and interviewing the most recent tenants, many of whom were now resident at Sirius’ (the Department of Housing block, which housed displaced Rocks residents). According to Toy:

These interviews were the most effective ways of tracing earlier tenants and other relevant people, as social contact had often been maintained on the basis of personal friendship, work association or other local ties, such as frequenting the local pub. ...The pool of potential informants grew as people spoke of or recommended other family members, neighbours, close friends and workmates who might be contacted. (Toy 1993: 77)

Subsequent oral histories have been collected during the operation of the museum from 1993 to the present (pers comm, Samantha Fabry July 2001).

Oral history has played a strong role in interpretation and display within the Susannah Place Museum, as well as having an impact on adaptations to the physical fabric, also for the purposes of display. For example, the recollections of Jim ‘Dutchy’ Young were integral to the recreation of the corner shop and upstairs bedroom at No. 64 to c1920s. Young lived there with his family (the Youngins) who ran the corner store until the mid 1930s. This strong reliance on oral history testimony for the purpose of interpretation means

⁶ In these reports, it is unclear whether other buildings in The Rocks had sewerage or water connected. As Grace Karskens (1997: 9) has noted, these amenities were not connected in other parts of Sydney until the 1970s.

⁷ Toy’s discussion about the role of oral history at Susannah Place and its potential to uncover the details of working class lives follows on from Grace Karskens and Wendy Thorp’s observations about archaeological evidence at selected sites in The Rocks (Karskens & Thorp 1992).

that a largely 20th-century history of working class life is represented at Susannah Place (with exception of the rooms reconstructed the 1840s era).

In addition to oral history testimony about residents in the 20th century, information about former Susannah Place tenants in the 19th century has been drawn from Rate Books, Sands and other post office directories. With this information, occupancy lists have been compiled, which have been replicated in many of the reports and publications produced about the site. Oral histories and research into occupancy patterns demonstrate that there was continuous family occupation of the buildings on the site, for example the Andersens who lived there since the early-20th century. As well, this research shows that occupants tended to stay for long periods of time, even over generations, in the 20th century, compared to the high turnover of tenants in the 19th century.

5.4 USE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL IN THE MUSEUM'S INTERPRETATION

Being a small collection that has only recently been in the hands of the HHT, the archaeologically recovered collection from Susannah Place has played no known role in the interpretation of the museum. Other artefacts and 'accumulated rubbish' found at the site—which may be considered 'archaeological' but were not recovered from distinguished stratigraphic units—may have played some role in the selection of props and have been on display in small exhibitions, but this is currently not known to the EAMC team.

Other items of material culture not found at or in association with the site, such as researched and purchased antiques, collectibles and artefacts excavated from other archaeological sites in The Rocks, are used as props in the museum display to recreate elements of a domestic interior likely to have existed at Susannah Place. For example, the sitting room at No. 60 contains a table setting with plates and knives excavated from the Harrington Street Well.

Appendix Two:

SAMPLING THE ACCURACY AND UTILITY OF THE ARTEFACT CATALOGUE

I.0 HISTORY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION AND CATALOGUE

The archaeological collection at Susannah Place is the result of test-excavation by the SCA (now SHFA) in 1992 and collection of artefacts by the Historic Houses Trust (HHT), which has operated the Susannah Place Museum since 1993.

The two collection strategies effectively have led to two assemblages. One collection (1,385 fragments) contains artefacts found on site by the HHT from 1989 onward, including artefacts recovered during a six-week cleaning program of the terraces and later of the ceiling space in No. 58 in 1992 (the 'HHT collected assemblage'). In 2000, the record of this collection, the catalogue, and was entered into a new database developed by the curators of the Hyde Park Barracks Museum. The other assemblage (estimated to be approximately 400 items) contains artefacts from several test-trenches excavated by Jane Lydon in 1992 immediately prior to the HHT establishing the Museum (the 'excavated assemblage'). (See Section 2.0 for further discussion of terminology.)

The distinction between these two collections has at times been blurred. For example in a memorandum from Crockett in 1996 regarding the proposed renumbering project (discussed below), 'site archaeology (Jane Lydon dig 1991-92)' was listed as part of the collection, but the Lydon-excavated artefacts were not incorporated into the main collection when the renumbering project was carried out between 1998 and 2000. In June 2001, they were discovered stored in four poorly labelled cardboard boxes with their own numbering system, distinct from the more recently renumbered, relabelled and rebagged artefacts from the 'collected assemblage', stored on shelves in plastic tubs.

To further complicate the issue of distinguishing the two assemblages, some of the items collected from interior spaces and recorded in the HHT's database were included in Lydon's 1992 database. Lydon recalls that this information was provided to her in the form of a catalogue which she then retyped into the database—that is, she did not catalogue or physically handle the objects found from interior spaces (Lydon pers comm June 2001).

Setting aside the confusion, the history of the collected-artefact assemblage, after its retrieval, can be roughly sketched. The HHT's Susannah Place 'artefact' collection was gathered from 1989 onward, but is mostly derived from cleaning episodes in 1992. After the museum opened, the 'artefact' collection, excluding items used for display, was moved to Elizabeth Bay House and then Vaucluse House.

Each artefact had been numbered using various systems, some by house, room, year or a combination of these. In 1996, then-Curator Gary Crockett began a project of renumbering the collected artefact

Table 3 Outline of projects and events involving the Susannah Place collection and its catalogue.

Year	Project
1989	Preliminary cleaning and inspection and replacement of termite-ridden floorboards
1991	Monitoring of Gloucester and Cambridge Streets by Jane Lydon
1992	HHT move into the terraces to establish the Susannah Place Museum
Mar–Apr 1992	Six-week intensive cleaning program by Elizabeth Wright
Apr–Jun 1992	Test-trenching of Susannah Place and artefact catalogue by Jane Lydon
Jun 1992	Cleaning of ceiling space of No. 58 by Waghorn and Crockett
c1996	HHT's artefacts moved to Elizabeth Bay House, later Vaucluse House
1996–	Renumbering program of all artefacts held by Susannah Place Museum begun by Gary Crockett
1998	Detailed catalogue of all artefacts held by Susannah Place Museum begun by Samantha Moody at Vaucluse House
1999	HHT's excavated artefacts returned to Susannah Place, resorted and finally renumbered by museum-guide Elissa Blair (Sally Webster pers comm June 2001)
2000–2001	Re-entry of artefact data into new HPB database
2001	Exploring the archaeology of the modern city project

collection, and the prop collection.⁸ The project was assisted by Wayne Johnson (Archaeologist, SHFA) and sought to renumber, recatalogue (using an archaeological system) and retag all artefacts in the collection. All former numbers (eg SP92/22 and SCA58/12) were replaced with a new system beginning with SCA 1 (Crockett 1996, 1997).

In 1998, Curator Sally Webster began preparations for the collection to be returned to Susannah Place. At this time, the recataloguing project begun by Crockett was completed, with the assistance of archaeology-graduate Sam Moody. All records were entered into an artefact database developed by the curators of the Hyde Park Barracks Museum, between March 2000 and January 2001.

The collection is presently stored upstairs in No. 58 in large plastic trays placed on shelves and on the floor. Artefacts are stored in clear plastic bags, with their accession number (eg SCA 370, as renumbered between 1996 and 1998) written on a white paper tag attached to string also in the bag.

The history of the excavated-artefact collection is less clear. When the EAMC review of the database and collection began, it was soon realised that artefacts listed in Lydon's excavation report were not recorded in the HHT's current database of their collection held at Susannah Place. It was surmised that the SHFA had retained the small collection since 1992 and the Authority's main store house—the Howard O'Farrell building on Cumberland Street—was inspected by the Project Archaeologist and Project Historian but the missing collection was not found.

⁸ Most of the objects on display in the museum are period antiques or collectibles purchased by the SHFA or the Museum. These are known as 'props' to distinguish them from items found on site (Note that these have not been included in the HHT's artefact database).

SHFA Archaeologist Wayne Johnson, Dr Jane Lydon and Jenny Olman from the HHT's collection management unit and present and past curators of Susannah Place—Samantha Fabry, Sally Webster and Gary Crocket—were each contacted about the likely whereabouts of the collection but none were sure whether the collection had been handed over to the HHT. The location of the assemblage remained in doubt until Samantha Fabry undertook a more thorough search of the Susannah Place artefact storage area and discovered four poorly labelled boxes that contained the artefacts.

It is not known when the collection was handed over to the HHT, but is likely to be in 1996 when Wayne Johnson was involved in the renumbering project.

The small assemblage was inspected by the Project Archaeologist and it was discovered that some artefacts had been damaged or had deteriorated appreciably. Two of four plates recorded in the Lydon's database as being complete and in one piece, had been broken. Some metal artefacts were noted to be in an advanced state of corrosion.

Table 4 Fields used to compile the Susannah Place catalogue, those available in the current HHT artefact database and those required for the EAMC database. (* = field name repeated; **bold** = crucial or important to EAMC analysis)

SP collected-artefact catalogue	Current HHT database	Lydon's excavated-artefact database	EAMC database
	Site Code	Site	Site
ID number	Artefact ID	Main database no.	ID number
Context (Terrace Number)	Item Context	Area	(Included in Unit)
Unit (Room Number)	Unit Code	Context	Unit
			Unit Area (square)
			Phase A (Phase From)
			Phase B (Phase To)
HHT Number	Catalogue Number	Cat. No	
Artefact Class	Artefact Class Name		Artefact class
		TS [field present but not completed]	TS Name
	Type number (field present but not completed)	Rt [field present but not completed]	TS No (for Type or Repeat)
	Type Series Repeat (field present but not completed)		TS Details (whether Type or Repeat)
Activity	Activity	General Function	Activity
Function	Object Name (Function)	Specific Function	Function
Subfunction		Shape/form	Subfunction
(no field in data sheet but info appears in database)	Material Name	Material	Material
			Mineral
	Portion (field rarely completed)		Portion
			Form
			Shape
			Technique of Manufacture*

SP collected-artefact catalogue	Current HHT database	Lydon's excavated-artefact database	EAMC database
			Modifications
	Ceramic body	Fabric/specific	Material*
	Ceramic decoration	Decoration/Colour*	Decoration* (applies to other materials)
	Ceramic pattern (field rarely completed)		Pattern* (applies to other materials)
	Glass colour	Decoration/Colour*	Colour (applies to all materials)
	Glass decoration		Decoration*
			Technique of Manufacture*
			Tile strike
Date from	Date Given	From	Date one
Date to		To	Date two
			Date notes
No. Items	Quantity	No.	Quantity
			Percentage
	Integrity (field rarely completed)		Integrity
			Minimum Vessel ID Number
			MV Notes
			Conjoin ID Number
	Weight Grams	Wt	Weight (g)
		Length MM	Length in mm
			Width in mm
			Thick in mm
Condition			
			ID marks (type of transcript)
	Inscription		Transcript
		Country	Provenance
Note	Notes	Comment	Notes
	Image File		Image File
	Image Caption		Image Caption
	General Treatment		Conservation
Box Number	Storage Location	Store	Box Number
	Display reason		
	Date Entered		Date entered
	Entered By		Entered by
	Date Updated		Date updated
	Updated By		Updated by
			EAMC Notes

SP collected-artefact catalogue	Current HHT database	Lydon's excavated-artefact database	EAMC database
			EAMC Checked
<i>[Artefact Type]</i>	<i>Bone Type</i>		<i>Species name⁹</i>
			<i>Skeletal element</i>
			<i>Bone no. complete</i>
			<i>Bone no. fragments</i>
			<i>Bone portion name</i>
			<i>Bone portion percentage</i>
			<i>Bone condition name</i>
		<i>Chewing; Burning</i>	<i>Bone condition description</i>
			<i>Bone condition assessment</i>
			<i>Bone attribute type</i>
			<i>Bone attribute location</i>
			<i>Bone attribute assessment</i>
			<i>Bone ageing location</i>
			<i>Bone ageing stage</i>
			<i>Teeth: tooth</i>
			<i>Teeth condition</i>
			<i>Butchery location</i>
		<i>Butcher</i>	<i>Butchery type</i>
			<i>Butchery orientation</i>
			<i>Animal size</i>
			<i>Animal max size</i>
<i>[Artefact Type]</i>	<i>Seed Type</i>		<i>Seed</i>
			<i>Organic</i>
<i>[Artefact Type]</i>	<i>Shell Type</i>		<i>Shell scientific name</i>
			<i>Shell common name</i>
			<i>Shell no. complete</i>
			<i>Shell no. fragments</i>
			<i>Shell no. lids</i>
			<i>Shell no. bases</i>
			<i>Shell condition</i>

2.0 TERMINOLOGY

The following discussion includes the use of some database terminology. For this reason, the following distinctions between the collection, catalogue and database and some additional definitions have been provided.

⁹ The italicised fields are those required for detailed analysis of bone and shell artefacts. While these will not be assessed as part of the EAMC project, the fields will remain in the EAMC database for future research.

The **collection** is comprised of the artefacts excavated and found at Susannah Place. The **catalogue** is the paper and electronic record of these artefacts. The **database** is a tool for presenting, searching and electronically storing the catalogue. (Note that there are two assemblages and databases.) Each catalogued bag of artefacts has been allocated a unique **Artefact Identification Number** (eg 15943 or SCA256). Information pertaining to this bag is stored in a single **record** in the database. Each record is composed of a number of **fields**, which comprise the catalogue entry for that item, for example, 'Function', 'Type Name' and 'Quantity'. When referring specifically to a field name or its contents, the name is shown as a proper noun.

In the case of Susannah Place, there are two collections and databases. The assemblage excavated by Jane Lydon in 1992, and its database record, will be referred to as the **excavated assemblage** and **excavated database**, respectively. The collection and database of artefacts collected by HHT curators and staff since 1992 is referred to as the **collected assemblage** and the **HHT database**.

3.0 SAMPLE SIZE AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

In total, 46 artefact records (ie one or more artefacts grouped in one bag) were examined in the sample. This represents approximately 4.1% of the collection as a whole, which is estimated to contain approximately 2,000 records.

Table 5 Number of bags and estimated fragments sampled and in the collections. (*estimate¹⁰)

Item	Bags	Fragments	Bags Sampled	Fragments Sampled
HHT collected artefacts	699	1,351	31 (4.4%)	94 (7.0%)
Lydon's excavated artefacts	225	660*	15 (6.7%)	44 (6.7%*)
<i>Total</i>	924	2,011*	46 (5.0%)	138 (6.9%)

The sampled artefacts were selected randomly by box and tray, because the current HHT database does not contain detailed context information and the excavated-artefact catalogue is not accessible in database form. (The random selection of one stratigraphic unit has been the successful sampling strategy at other EAMC project sites.)

The artefacts were inspected box by box, and each artefact was examined for its appropriate correspondence with the records contained in the HHT database or printed Lydon catalogue.

With regard to the HHT collected artefacts, the current HHT Susannah Place artefact database was used as a basis for comparison with the artefacts themselves. Where anomalies were discovered, they were noted in a special project notes field added to the EAMC copy of the database. Where inscriptions were noted these were entered into the EAMC copy of the Susannah Place database, but few other changes were made to the original records.

¹⁰ Owing to the unavailability of a disk copy of a database for the excavated assemblage, the total quantity of fragments for the 225 records was estimated rather than manually counted. The estimate is based on a ratio of 2.9 artefacts per bag, which was the average quantity of fragments counted in each bag of the sample.

The original, handwritten data-entry records for the HHT collected artefacts were not consulted during the sample as no obvious data-entry errors were encountered. The location of the original data-entry records for the excavated assemblage is currently not known.

The re-examination of the HHT collected-artefact sample was undertaken in one morning, the sample of the excavated artefacts within an hour.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

4.1 NEEDS OF EAMC

The Exploring the Archaeology of the Modern City Project (EAMC) has been established to comprehensively analyse and interpret Sydney's major historical-archaeological collections. The project team will analyse all archaeological sites managed by the HHT within the Sydney CBD and two or three of the major sites managed by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. Altogether, the artefacts from these sites are estimated to comprise over one million in number.

Given the scale of the project, the analysis process needs to be as efficient as possible. This is why the bulk of the analytical work on the artefacts will be undertaken on a computer database. The accuracy and fullness of the information about function, colour, portion, form, quantity and diagnostic features in the database is critical to the database's effective utility in the analytical process.

The basis of meaningful artefact analysis and interpretation is the development of minimum vessel counts. A minimum vessel count is the minimum number of pipes, teacups or glass bottles, for example, in an archaeological context or entire collection, rather than the number of ceramic or glass fragments into which the objects shattered. Minimum vessel counts are calculated by selecting the highest number of diagnostic portion-parts in one artefact type. For example, if there are several hundred plain pipe stems, 24 mouthpieces and 30 pipe bowls, there must have been *at least* 30 whole pipes.

Unfortunately, the calculation of minimum numbers of vessels is not standard practice in Australian historical archaeology, and has not been undertaken for the sites under study. The project team will undertake such counts, but can only do so with confidence if the database is comprehensive and accurate.

Another excellent tool for efficient artefact analysis is a fully catalogued Type Series. This provides an easy mechanism for searching and grouping all bottles, tablewares and pen nibs, for example, of the same specific style or product and quickly sorts the diagnostic artefacts from non-diagnostic ones, to produce a meaningful result. Pen nib Type 10, for example, may include all nibs stamped 'ECKERSTEIN'S BANK PEN', distinguishable from 'ECKERSTEIN'S CLERK PEN', or other bank pens.

In summary, the key needs of the EAMC team in regard to artefact databases provided to the project are:

- comprehensive records that provide information relevant to minimum vessels counts: quantity, portion and integrity;
- accurate and reliable records; and
- a well developed type series that is recorded in the database.

The Susannah Place catalogues do not provide a type series nor all the data required for minimum vessels counts. However, given the modest size of this collection and the generality of much of the collection's

context, the fields that have been completed are considered sufficient for the Susannah Place artefact assemblage to be utilised in a support role in the EAMC project. The issues affecting the catalogue and collection are discussed in detail below.

4.2 THE SUSANNAH PLACE ARTEFACT CATALOGUE(S)

In regard to the current HHT database, while far fewer fields were completed in the original cataloguing than are required in the EAMC database (see Table 4), others were completed upon entry into the database designed by the curators of the Hyde Park Barracks. While this additional information was not systematically entered into the appropriate field, it was often provided in descriptive notes that were recorded for most artefacts. One notable omission in the HHT's database structure is that of a Type Series, which is required for the efficient development of minimum vessel counts. However, given the size of the small size of the assemblage, and random nature of its collection, the vast majority of pieces would probably form their own 'Type', rendering the establishment of a type series quite redundant.

While the database of excavated-artefacts prepared by Jane Lydon was not available at the time of writing, a printed copy, as produced in the 1992 report, was available. The database structure is more detailed than the collected-artefact database and more similar to the EAMC database (see Table 4). The Type Series fields were present but not completed, and again, given the size of the collection may not have been appropriate.

4.2.1 THE RECORDS OF THE HHT COLLECTED ARTEFACT DATABASE

The majority of records in the sample of the HHT-collected assemblage (25 of 31) were well catalogued, providing appropriate information in fields and brief but informative comments in the notes.

Two bags contained a mix of items: beads in the case of SCA 542 and pencils in the case of SCA 554. In both these cases, the fact that these bags contain a variety of items is noted.

In three other cases, the material identifications are questionable. These include the bone button SCA 370 noted to be plastic; two stone marbles catalogued as coarse earthenware (SCA 536) and seed SCA 530 identified as watermelon, but too large to be so.

The only erroneous activity classification was that of curved glass sherds as window glass (SCA 552), which may be part of a lamp or glass bowl, but are not window-glass fragments. While this is a quite significant error, the notes field contains the description 'shards of curved window glass' which draws attention to the error and could easily be double checked.

Four bone and shell bags reviewed in the sample were classed as 'Unidentified' but could be identified by a bone specialist (SCA 538, 539, 556 and 557).

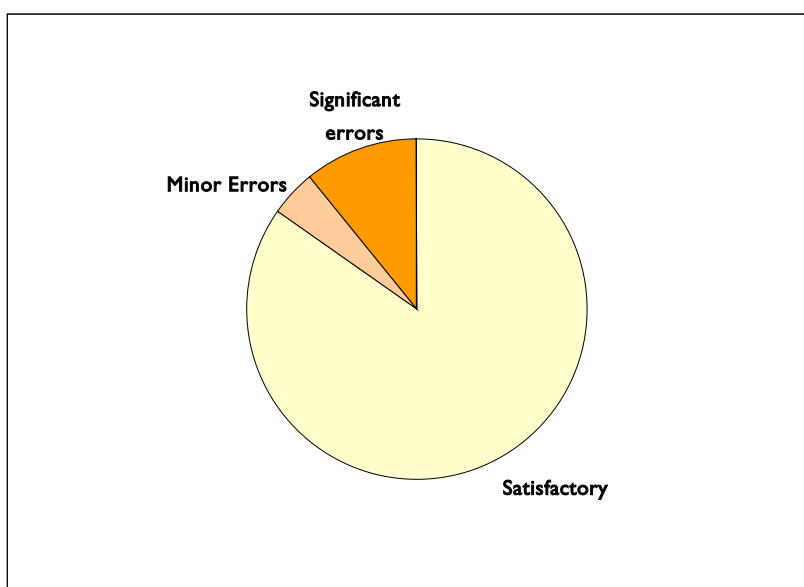
4.2.2 THE EXCAVATED-ARTEFACT CATALOGUE

Of the 15 sampled records of the excavated assemblage, only one record contained questionable information. This was artefact 053 in Content 6.001 which was described as a leather heel, but is a heel made from synthetic material impressed with brand names on the underside of the heel. The inscriptions —'DUNL...' and 'Krumny[o?]'—were not noted in the catalogue.

The remaining fourteen records were considered satisfactory.

Table 6 Assessment of records in the sample of the Susannah Place collected-artefact database and a projection of the number of records likely in the assemblage as a whole.

Assess of Record	Nº Records	Projected Nº Records
Satisfactory	39 (84.8%)	848
Minor errors	2 (4.3%)	43
Significant errors	5 (10.9%)	109
Major problem	0	0
Total	46	1000



4.3 RESEARCH POTENTIAL OF THE SUSANNAH PLACE ARTEFACT ASSEMBLAGES

The utility of the Susannah Place artefact assemblage in the EAMC project rests not only in the accuracy of its database but also in the archaeological research potential of the collection, which is discussed in detail below.

Based on past usage alone, the historical and archaeological evidence of Susannah Place has the potential to contribute to our understanding of domestic occupation in a working-class neighbourhood under the scrutiny of journalists, city councillors and parliamentarians in the 19th century and threatened by increasing commercial development in the 20th century.

Archaeological research potential, however, is not limited to a site's chronological occupation and is affected by the integrity of the context from which an archaeological collection was retrieved. The excavation at Susannah Place was small, and followed a sampling strategy typical to test excavation. Unlike the Cumberland and Gloucester Streets site across the road, the yards and underfloor spaces of the

terraces were not subject to comparable, open-area excavation. The locations of the eight excavated trenches are outlined in Table 7 below.

Table 7 Location of trenches at Susannah Place.

Tr #	Terrace	Level	Area	Reason for archaeological excavation
000	60	Basement	Courtyard	Area to be affected by the excavation and repair of drain.
001	60	Basement	SW cnr, Room B3	To investigate cause of damp.
002	60	Basement	Middle of Room B3	To investigate floor coverings.
003	60	Basement	N wall, Room B3	To investigate floor coverings.
004	60	Basement	E wall Room B3	To investigate floor coverings.
005	60-62	Footpath	Between front doors	To investigate cause of damp.
006	58-60	Yard	Garden bed	Area to be affected by reinstallation of garden fence.
007	58	Basement	SE cnr, Room B1	To investigate cause of damp.

The assemblage as a whole provides a small sample of a typical domestic site, with small personal and household items in the basement and underfloor areas, and construction rubble and accumulated refuse in the garden bed of No. 58 and No. 60.

During the sampling process, it was noted that the garden-bed deposit provided some interesting artefacts. It contained three complete scallop-moulded, white-glazed fine earthenware vessels of very similar style, but produced by three different manufacturers (Swinnerton's, Meakin and Johnson Bros). This is an intriguing collection of what may have been used as a matching set, but clearly purchased independently (see Lydon 1995 for discussion of complementary sets at the Jobbin's Building site, across the road on Gloucester Street).

Importantly, the garden bed dates from c1912, so the use of these matching sets would be a 20th-century example and, given the integrity of the vessels, may be a very recent (ie late-20th-century) discard. The other deposits cover the range of the building's occupation, with discreetly sealed construction deposits and rubble fill containing a small collection of domestic artefacts that found their way into the deposits during construction. While these are earliest in date, the provenance of usage can only be guessed at: were they used on site before the building's construction, were they mixed up in fill brought from neighbouring or distant sites or were they used by the labourers during construction and lost or discarded on site?

As is the nature of underfloor deposits, those at Susannah Place are likely to have accumulated over the years of occupation from 1844 to the late-20th century.¹¹ While these provide more-direct information about the terraces' occupation, the quantity of artefacts recovered during the sampling process was indeed small (30 records, 52 fragments).

The difficulty of the many other artefacts recovered from beneath the floorboards by the HHT since their establishment of the Museum is that these artefacts' provenance is the room only. In regard to Lydon's test-trenches, it is possible to calculate the size of the sample using the area of floor space. Given the

¹¹ The EAMC team has not undertaken any research into known or likely dates of floor removal or renovation.

random nature of the HHT's collection, it is impossible to know what percentage of the room's deposit the collection is likely to represent. It is therefore invalid to compare quantities between rooms, for it may be that Room G7 has 60 artefacts and G8 has only 10 because Curators have spent more time in G7 to notice and collect artefacts. While it is more valid to compare the assemblages from Lydon's test-trenching, these are still very small assemblages and the undertaking of systematic artefact-class, function and material comparative analysis is unlikely to be worthwhile.

Importantly, unlike many (but certainly not all) archaeological sites, the buildings of Susannah Place survive and provide a vast source for understanding the minutiae of domestic life in the terraces. These (and arguably the oral history evidence) are the keystone of the Museum's interpretation and provide a valuable information source and context for the study of domestic sites in the EAMC project.

Overall, the research potential of the Susannah Place artefact assemblage lies in the comparability of specific artefacts or artefact types with other collections, rather than as an independent body of analytical data.

5.0 ASSESSMENT OF THE CATALOGUE'S ACCURACY AND USEABILITY

Given that the catalogue of excavated artefacts is no longer retrievable in electronic form, and that the catalogue of non-excavated material is limited in scope (despite the often detailed notes), it must be acknowledged that the Susannah Place artefact catalogue is not ready for comprehensive artefact analysis. However, given the modest size of the excavated assemblage, and the fact that the remaining assemblage is from generalised rather than specific contexts, the collection is too limited in research potential to justify comprehensive artefact analysis on a site-wide basis.

Rather than undertake such analysis, the EAMC team propose to use the Susannah Place artefact collection as support data for the comprehensive analysis of other, larger collections, particularly the Cumberland and Gloucester Streets site across the road. It is proposed that the building fabric, oral history and the historical research undertaken to date of Susannah Place also be utilised in this way in the EAMC project. Of course, the comparative value of Susannah Place will be limited by chronological phasing, given that much of the artefact collection, building fabric and furnishings and particularly the oral history, date to 20th-century occupation and most buildings on the Cumberland and Gloucester Streets site were demolished by 1915.

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Oral History Recordings

The following sound recordings were all made for the Historic Houses Trust of NSW. They are listed in order of interviewee.

- Ernie Andersen, 17 June 1990, interview conducted by Ann Toy.
- Jack and Shirley Anderson, 20 October 1992, interview conducted by Joy Hughes.
- Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Gallagher, 1 October 1993, interview conducted by Joy Hughes.
- Bertha Grayson, Fred Hughes, Cleo Baker, 7 March 1994, interview conducted by Ann Toy.
- Fred Hughes, 28 October 1993, interview conducted by Joy Hughes.
- Kay Kallas, 17 January 1995, interview conducted by Robert Griffin.
- Kay Kallas and George Adaley, 14 April 1993, interview conducted by Annie Evers.
- Ellen Marshall, 13 November 1992, interview conducted by Joy Hughes.
- Cyril Poynter, 14 December 1992, interview conducted by Joy Hughes.
- Lesley Poynter, 23 March 1990, interview conducted by Annie Evers.
- Ron Smith, 23 March 1990 and 6 April 1993, interviews conducted by Ann Toy and Robert Griffin, respectively.
- Patricia Thomas, 9 March 1993, interview conducted by Annie Evers.
- James Young, 14, 19 and 29 March 1990, interviews conducted by Ann Toy.
- Olive Young, 29 March 1990, interview conducted by Ann Toy.