



ARCHAEOLOGY
OF THE MODERN CITY 1788-1900

Assessment of Historical and Archaeological Resources of the First Government House site, Sydney

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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 artefact assemblage from the First Government House site was excavated in three major phases of work, in 1983–1984, 1987 and 1990–1991.

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 which 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 the First Government House site is among the suite of material selected for analysis in this project. Other collections include those from the Hyde Park Barracks, the Royal Mint, 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 records pertaining to the First Government House archaeological collection was undertaken in May, June, July and September 2001.

This report presents the recommendations arising from the review, including details of work required to utilise the historical and archaeological records of the First Government House site in the EAMC project, and other recommendations that the Historic Houses Trust (HHT) may wish to consider (Section 3.0).

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 the First Government House site, including an overview of works on the site, and levels of analysis and interpretation offered to date. Appendix Two provides a detailed review of the artefact database.

This report was prepared in November 2001 (and revised in May 2002) 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 were prepared by Penny Crook (Project Archaeologist). Appendix One was prepared by Laila Ellmoos (Project Historian) and Penny Crook. Appendix Two was prepared by Penny Crook. Tim Murray (Chief Investigator) reviewed this report.

The draft report was prepared in September 2001 and revised in May 2002.

1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Sue Hunt, Caroline Butler-Bowden, Inara Walden and Nigel Lincoln of the Museum of Sydney for providing access to the Museum's records and assisting our review of them in various ways. Thanks also to Megan Martin, HHT Librarian, for assistance with searching for records.

We are grateful to Anne Bickford for taking time to review this report and clarify some aspects of the history of the artefact catalogue.

1.3 LIMITATIONS

This report has been written for the purpose of assessing the status of historical and archaeological records and reports relating to the First Government House site. All sources discussed have been sighted and reviewed briefly but only some have been read thoroughly at this stage of the EAMC project. The Stratigraphic Analysis Report is one such document that has been reviewed briefly to establish the nature of its content, but has not been read closely. For this reason, the assessment of this report presented in the appendices, and subsequent discussion of the archaeological research potential of the First Government House site must be considered preliminary and subject to revision.

2.0 SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The review of historical and archaeological records pertaining to the First Government House site, held by the HHT was undertaken in May, June, July and September 2001 by the EAMC team. The team reviewed all historical and archaeological documents held by the Historic Houses Trust and undertook the analysis of a sampled portion of the artefact catalogue. Details of the review are included in Appendices One and Two. The major results and conclusions of the review are briefly outlined below.

Much has been written about First Government House, particularly with regard to the role of the Governors, and role of this official residence in wider settlement of Sydney. The primary focus of the research that has been undertaken on the historical records, structural remains and artefact collection has been the architectural history of the site, documenting the alterations made by successive Governors. Other avenues of inquiry of the site have followed the lives of the early Governors and their relationships with the others in the colony. Other avenues of historical research aiming to contextualise the archaeology and history of First Government House have been also explored.

While considerable work has been invested in the analysis of selected artefact groups and the stratigraphy of the site (see Anutech reports, 1987)—in advance of the publication of *Australia's First Government House* (Proudfoot et al 1991)—this work has been cited as preliminary by the authors themselves. Nonetheless, when linked with the original records stored at the Resource Centre of the Museum of Sydney, the results of their work will provide an excellent basis for the EAMC team to develop a more conclusive understanding of formation processes at the First Government House site. (See Appendix One.)

Regarding the combined catalogue of the First Government House site, while the majority of records in the database are satisfactory, there are a number of questionable or incomplete records. These occur in both components of the assemblage and the catalogued type series, particularly that for the 1983–1987 assemblage.

These errors or oversights affect the data in a way that can only be identified during a process of physical verification, involving a large quantity of artefacts. While collectively these inaccuracies obviously diminish some confidence in the database as a whole, individually they pinpoint particular fields for greatest concern (such as Type Series and Function) which can streamline the process of further verification and correction.

Owing to this, it is likely that the contexts selected for study in the Project will provide a manageable quantity of artefacts that could be expediently examined to verify questionable information contained in their records.

The EAMC team will undertake a more substantial review of the stratigraphic contexts from all phases of excavation of the First Government House site, utilising site records, reports and importantly, the newly available combined database version of the artefact catalogue. Once this has been conducted, the level of corrective or verificatory work required by the EAMC team will be reconsidered.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the EAMC team undertake a more-detailed review of the stratigraphic records and reports of the First Government House site to identify the most significant archaeological deposits or trenches. The database records for artefacts in these contexts will be corrected and completed by the EAMC team.

3.1 LIST OF SPECIFIC TASKS

Following is a list of tasks required to make catalogue records from selected, significant deposits of the First Government House site ready for comprehensive analysis. The EAMC team will undertake the tasks listed below within the scope of the project.

Also provided are recommendations for the provision of additional information required to complete the current database of First Government House artefacts, and other suggestions for improvements to the storage of the artefacts themselves. The latter are *suggestions only*, concerning issues that will not impact greatly upon the EAMC project.

3.1.1 TASKS UNDERTAKEN FOR THE EAMC RESEARCH PROGRAM

1. Incorporate stratigraphic information from Stock's Stratigraphic Analysis Report (1987) and original context sheets into database.
2. Review reliability of existing stratigraphic interpretation (Stock's Stratigraphic Analysis Report [1987] and original context sheets) in detail.
3. Establish list of significant deposits, worthy of detailed artefact analysis.
4. Review records of artefacts in contexts selected for analysis, in particular to verify type-series allocations, function attributions and accurate data transcription.
5. Sort and rebag 'bulk records' from the Young Street and Raphael Place excavation, for contexts selected for analysis, where necessary.
6. Locate and comprehensively catalogue 1992 Commemorative Area artefacts, where feasible.
7. Re-allocate alpha-numeric type numbers and provide list to MoS.

3.1.2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MUSEUM OF SYDNEY

8. Provide the EAMC team with an electronic copy of the box numbers for the 1983–1987 catalogue, to be imported into the database. (Database consultant Brian Robson currently holds a copy.)

3.1.3 IMPROVEMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE MUSEUM OF SYDNEY

9. If no longer required for other displays, return artefacts from the former Sites case and those from now-dismantled Collectors' Chest drawers to the boxes in the Resource Centre
10. Prepare Object Removal Cards for all other artefacts still used in displays throughout the MoS and note their current location in the Artefact Database.
11. Move artefact boxes containing organic material away from the rear skin of the north wall of the Resource Centre if the cafe exhaust problem cannot be resolved.
12. Prepare for rebagging the YRP collection in the long-term. This should include:
 - replacement of current, open-ended bags with seal-lock plastic bags;
 - replacement of tied, paper tags with hand-written tags written in pencil on acid free paper to be placed in the bag, and a computer-generated label on the exterior of the seal-lock bag;
 - re-ordering of artefacts by ID number within each box; and
 - proper conjoining of significant pieces, removal of tape and residue from other pieces.

4.0 APPENDICES

Appendix One: Assessment of Records Relating to the History and Archaeology of the First Government House Site

Appendix Two: Sampling the Accuracy and Utility of the Artefact Catalogue of the First Government House Site

Appendix One:

ASSESSMENT OF RECORDS RELATING TO THE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE SITE

1.0 BACKGROUND

Governor Arthur Phillip laid the engraved foundation plate for Australia's First Government House on the 15 May 1788, some three months after the First Fleet landed in Sydney Cove. Phillip's new house, which replaced the pre-fabricated canvas tent he had been living in previously, was planned as 'a small (three bedroom) cottage' in which Phillip intended to 'remain for the present' (Bridges 1995: 14-15). Taking just over a year to build, Phillip's small cottage soon expanded to become a double-storey house. The house was constructed by local labour, although in short supply at the time, using 5,000 bricks imported from England, as well as other bricks produced in the new colony from clay found at Brickfield Hill, and mortar made from imported lime, shellfish from nearby Darling Harbour, mud and clay. It is not known who prepared the Georgian design for the First Government House, although convicts Henry Brewer and James Bloodworth have been cited as the likely contenders (Proudfoot et al 1991: 40, 55-56, Bridges 1995: 14-15).

First Government House was an important site of contact between European settlers and the Aboriginal population of Sydney during Governor Phillip's period of governance. Arabanoo, an Aboriginal man captured by Phillip from Manly in late 1788, lived at First Government House for around five months. In May 1789, Arabanoo died from smallpox and was buried in the Government House gardens. Shortly after Arabanoo's death, two other Aboriginal men, Bennelong and Colbee, were captured under Phillip's orders, also from Manly. Bennelong and Colbee lived at First Government House until they escaped, Colbee after only 17 days and Bennelong after six months (Proudfoot et al 1991: 48, 70). Following Phillip's return to England in 1792, this type of forced contact with the local Aboriginal people was not actively pursued.

Nine successive Governors of the new colony lived at First Government House from 1788 to 1845. Four of the Governors substantially modified the building and surrounding structures while they lived there: Governor John Hunter in 1794, Governor Phillip Gidley King in 1801, Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1811 and again in 1818 under the direction of Francis Greenway and finally, Governor Ralph Darling in the period from 1827 to 1828. A second Government House built in c1799 at Parramatta, served as summer accommodation for the Governors¹, and was briefly considered the official Government House by Governor Brisbane during his term of office from 1821 to 1825 (Proudfoot et al 1991: 106). In addition to accommodating Governors of New South Wales and their families, it is presumed that a portion of the Southern Outbuilding located within the First Government House site was the home of the Government

¹ According to Broadbent and Hughes, Macquarie used the Parramatta residence during the winter months (Broadbent & Hughes 1992: 12).

Printing Press from 1795², and for the printing of Australia's first newspaper, *The Sydney Gazette* between 1803 and 1810 (Proudfoot et al 1991: 74–92).

In 1817, Governor Macquarie instructed Francis Greenway to prepare plans for three new public buildings: Fort Macquarie on Bennelong Point, a new Governor's residence to replace First Government House and stables for this new building. The latter two buildings were to be located within the Governor's Domain, which was proclaimed by Macquarie in 1812 (Proudfoot et al 1991: 102–105). However, by 1821, only the Fort and stables were constructed to Greenway's designs due to criticisms about Macquarie's extravagant program of public building works from the Home Office, and others who testified at the Commission of Inquiry into the Affairs of the Colony, including Henry Kitchen, Commissioner Bigge and Greenway (Broadbent & Hughes 1992: 160–161). At this time, the First Government House had fallen into disrepair, a situation first noted by the newly appointed Governor King in 1799, who stated that 'The Government House at Sydney...is not habitable until new roofed, and the rotten door and window frames replaced' (Proudfoot et al 1991: 84). Regardless, the First Government House continued to be used for another 45 years, and its dilapidated state remained unchanged, and indeed only worsened despite (or because of) repairs and additions. Similarly to King and Macquarie, several other Governors complained bitterly about the inadequacy of the First Government House, which was a consequence of the inferior materials used in its construction combined with rising damp, as well as the successive alterations made to the structure between 1788 and 1845.³

Following Governor Macquarie, successive Governors made plans to relocate and build a new Government House. In 1826, Lord Bathurst gave Governor Darling permission to undertake construction of a new Government House (Proudfoot et al 1991: 106, 123). In 1832, Governor Bourke decided to relocate the Government House further northeast within the Government Domain on the advice provided three years earlier by T. L. Mitchell, the Surveyor-General. Mitchell's proposal was a result of demands for greater wharfage for the burgeoning Sydney settlement, which required the land occupied by the government gardens in front of the Government House, which fronted Sydney Cove (Proudfoot et al 1989: 123, Proudfoot 1996: 29).⁴ Construction commenced on the new Government House in 1837, to a design by Edward Blore, and was completed in 1845.⁵

Australia's First Government House and its surrounding buildings were demolished in 1845 and 1846 and the bricks and other building materials comprising these structures were auctioned off. Prior to demolition, the First Government House was thoroughly documented by Colonial Architect Mortimer Lewis in plans and an inventory of contents. The First Government House site was left vacant from this time until the 1860s. Phillip Street was realigned and extended to the newly reclaimed Circular Quay, such that it ran across some of the First Government House foundations.⁶

² Later the Government Printing Office was operated in a 'small office' constructed under Governor King (Proudfoot et al 1991: 78). See also work undertaken by Sandy Blair on the printery (Blair 1985: 2–4).

³ Governors Darling and Bourke also made complaints about the building during their terms of government (Proudfoot et al 1991: 106–7, 123).

⁴ Proudfoot et al claim that Mitchell 'recommended the extension of Macquarie Street to allow the subdivision of waterfront land on the eastern side of Sydney Cove, but made no recommendation about the old Government House' (Proudfoot et al 1991: 123). Peter Proudfoot claimed that the new Government House was erected 'on the site suggested by Mitchell' (Proudfoot 1996: 29).

⁵ Although the new Government House was ready for occupation in 1845, it was finally completed in 1847.

⁶ See reference to street extensions in the *Weekly Register*, 11 January 1845.

The City of Sydney was incorporated in 1842, and a Council of the Municipality of Sydney was formed. Initially, the Council met at 'a shed at the market in George Street – where the Queen Victoria Building is now' and later at various hotels throughout Sydney (Fitzgerald 1992: 15, 88-89). In 1851, the NSW Government granted the Council a city block 'bounded by Bridge, Bent, Phillip and Elizabeth (later Young⁷) Streets', a portion of which had been occupied by the First Government House. However, the Council preferred a location closer to the business district of George Street in order to 'strengthen the municipal precinct and create a symbol of city government in the heartland of commercial Sydney' (Fitzgerald 1992: 88-89). In 1854, a year after the Council was sacked amid accusations of extravagant spending and city commissioners were appointed in its place, James Barnet drew up plans for a Town Hall on the block. Interest in constructing a Town Hall waned until 1857, during which time the grant lapsed and the First Government House site was instead used as a 'storage depot' (Fitzgerald 1992: 88-89). In 1857, when the Sydney Council was reinstated, it was again 'granted the block formed from the site where Government House had stood' to construct a Town Hall. This plan was 'considered at length' and enthusiastically announced in the press in June 1858 (Proudfoot et al 1991: 134). However, the Council continued to request other, more central sites to locate their Town Hall, such as the Old Burial Ground on George Street or the Wynyard Barracks. From 1862 onwards, the Council was able to sell or swap the proposed Town Hall site for a more convenient and central location under the *Town Hall Exchange Act 1862* (Fitzgerald 1992: 88-89). In 1868, the Council selected the Old Burial Ground on George Street as the site for the Town Hall, which was then completed in 1889.

The city block bounded by Bridge, Bent, Phillip and Elizabeth Streets was subdivided and gradually sold off from 1862. A row of five terraces was constructed on this site facing Phillip Street, between 1867 and 1868, which were primarily used as 'accommodation and professional rooms for members of the medical profession and for merchant and professional men... All the terraces were used for some time in the 19th century as government offices, and some became boarding houses'. During the 20th century, the Phillip Street terraces continued to be used as domestic accommodation and offices, and were later purchased by the State Government (Proudfoot et al 1991: 150).

In 1874, J. P. Walker, a builder, constructed a row of four terraces fronting Young Street (formerly Elizabeth Street). Three of these four terraces at 36-40 Young Street were leased by the Department of Mines, while the fourth terrace at 42 Young Street was leased by 'the Department of Land and used by the Chief Inspector of Stock' (Proudfoot et al 1991: 151). Two rooms at 38 Young Street were used to house a Mining and Geological Museum between 1876 and 1882, after which time the collection was relocated to the Garden Palace. The NSW Government resumed the four Young Street terraces in 1884, which were then used to house successive government departments until the Second World War, when they functioned as accommodation for nurses employed at Sydney Hospital until the early 1980s (Proudfoot et al 1991: 152).

Bernard McGlade occupied the open site of the former Government House, between the Young and Phillip Street terraces and facing Bridge Street, from the 1860s until the turn of the century. McGlade operated a carters' yard there due to its close proximity to the port at Circular Quay, and he also lived in a small cottage on site. During the time of McGlade's occupation, the carters' yard was characterised by a wall of advertising hoardings that ran around Bridge and Phillip Streets. Two shops, 'one a fruit shop and the other a confectioner's and tobacconist', were located on this corner from around 1885 until the early 20th century (Proudfoot et al 1991: 149).

⁷ This portion of Elizabeth Street was renamed Young Street in 1881.

Plans for the First Government House site in the 20th century included a stone-encased tower proposed in the mid-1930s (Hughes 1995: 3). Instead, the site was occupied by a temporary structure referred to as the 'tin shed', designed and later occupied by the Government Architect Department, and other Government Departments, between 1912 and 1968. In 1968, the site was levelled, and from this time until 1982, was used as a 'car park for the judiciary' (Hughes 1995: 4).

In 1982, the State Government announced their plans to develop the First Government House site, calling for tenders for a commercial tower block. Later that year, Helen Proudfoot was commissioned by the Department of Environment and Planning to prepare a history of the site, while Anne Bickford was commissioned to complete an archaeological excavation in light of this historical research.

The commencement of archaeological work in 1983 by Bickford provoked considerable public interest and concern, as evidenced by the formation of a group called the Friends of First Government House Site who campaigned to save the First Government House site from development (Hughes 1995: 9). In October 1983, Premier Neville Wran announced a national 'development design' competition for the conservation of the First Government House site (Proudfoot et al 1991: 9, 156; Hughes 1995: 12). In November that year, the Australian Archaeological Association (AAA) prepared a Statement of Cultural Significance for the site, intended as an 'aid to public discussion and appreciation of the significance of First Government House site and its appropriate conservation' (AAA 1993: 2). Two years later, the NSW Government affirmed their intention to conserve the First Government House archaeological remains, with the announcement that the site would be the subject of a Conservation Plan prior to any development. In 1988, the newly elected Deputy Premier of NSW, Wal Murray, announced an international architectural design competition for the site bounded by Bridge, Phillip, Bent and Young Streets, which would ensure the conservation and commemoration of the First Government House foundations dating from 1788 to 1845. This competition brief also included specifications for a facility for the commemoration and interpretation of the site of the First Government House (Proudfoot et al 1991: 162; see also Hughes 1995: 12-13). The architectural firm of Denton Corker and Marshall was selected in 1989, and construction was undertaken of the Governor Phillip and Macquarie towers and the smaller commemorative facility, between 1990 and 1994.

In 1988, the Historic Houses Trust (HHT) was selected to manage this commemorative facility and also to 'manage all artefacts and records of the First Government House Archaeological investigations... transferred to it', owing to their experience in displaying archaeological evidence amongst other criteria (Proudfoot et al 1991: 162). Following four years of planning, the Museum of Sydney on the Site of First Government House (MoS) was opened to the public in 1995.

2.0 HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION WORK UNDERTAKEN AT THE FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE SITE

The archaeological, historical and conservation work undertaken at the First Government House site from 1982 onwards, and the subsequent development of the site, has been well documented. A chronology of the archaeological excavations carried out at the First Government House site between 1983 and 1988 was provided in *Australia's First Government House*, published in 1991 (Proudfoot et al 1991: 9, 18). Joy Hughes later produced a chronological description of the correspondence in the Department of Planning files, documenting the conservation, archaeological and historical works undertaken at the First Government House site between 1982 and 1994. Similarly, a chronology of events leading to the development of a

museum on the site of the First Government House was provided in the Museum Plan for Museum of Sydney (HHT 1993: 8–9). A summary of these works is detailed in Table I.

2.1 CONSERVATION

Unlike other sites included in the EAMC project thus far, the site of First Government House has no extant buildings, as they were demolished in 1845, and later buildings in the early 20th century and the late 1960s. As a consequence, there are no conservation issues on how to deal with the physical fabric of remnant buildings directly related to the site, excepting for the heritage-listed terraces flanking the site on Young and Phillip Streets. Instead, conservation is centred on how to deal with the remaining foundations of the First Government House and its outbuildings. The HHT has direct responsibility for First Government House remains uncovered in these excavations, which lie under the paved forecourt in front of the MoS.

In 1983, the Australian Archaeological Association (AAA) prepared a Statement of Cultural Significance for the site in response to the proposed tower development (AAA 1993, Hughes 1995: 10; Proudfoot et al 1991: 9). In 1983, the 'site was placed on the Register of the National Estate by special gazettal' and received a heritage listing from the National Trust, and was later placed the State Heritage Register (Hughes 1995: 9).

In 1985, the NSW Department of Environment and Planning commissioned Conybeare Morrison to prepare a conservation plan, including a Statement of Significance and a conservation policy, for the First Government House site later managed by the HHT. The final draft of the report, comprising two volumes, was produced in 1986. The Conservation Plan, which primarily dealt with the First Government House site bounded by Bridge, Phillip and Young Streets, was intended to serve as a 'basis for future decisions about the site, its use for research and its conservation, interpretation, display, management and development' (Conybeare Morrison 1986: 1–2). Other remains of the First Government House foundations, presently covered by Bridge Street and the Colonial Secretary's Office, are represented by a Plan of Management for Archaeological Remains of First Government House prepared by Rust PKK and Godden Mackay Logan in 1995 (Rust PKK & GML 1995).

2.2 HISTORY

In late 1982, historian Helen Proudfoot and archaeologist Anne Bickford were appointed by the Department of Environment and Planning to carry out historical and archaeological work on the First Government House site. Proudfoot commenced historical research in November 1982, and handed in the Draft Final Historical Report for comments in early January the following year. The final report, preliminary to the archaeological work, was completed in March 1983. This report, one of the first synthetic accounts of the site, was largely an architectural history intended to guide future archaeological work. As outlined in the introduction, it was 'A Historical Study into the materials, form and nature of the building, its development over the period 1788–1845 and the subsequent history of the site 1846–1983' (Proudfoot 1983: 'Introduction'). The report was divided into nine chapters, with six of these chapters following the phases of occupation of the site. Proudfoot focussed on the occupation of the First Government House in Phases 1–5, while the period from 1846 to 1983 was covered in Phase 6. The other result of Proudfoot's historical research, according to Joy Hughes, was the discovery of the '1840s plans and an 1899 account of the discovery – by workers digging a tunnel under Bridge Street – of a copper foundation plate laid by Governor Phillip' which provided important information for locating the First Government House foundations (Hughes 1995: 6).

Proudfoot's historical report was used as the basis for the history that appeared in the Statement of Significance prepared by AAA in 1983. The Conservation Plan for the site, finalised in 1986, also drew on Proudfoot's historical interpretation. As noted in Section 5.1, interpretations of the First Government House site were published 1991, with *Australia's First Government House*, while Joy Hughes edited a history of the site in the 20th Century.

Since the planning for the MoS commenced in 1991, considerable primary research has been carried out on the site for purpose of exhibition, as noted in Section 5.0.

2.3 ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological investigations at the First Government House site first began in February 1983, in preparation for a multi-storey office tower that was proposed for the site in 1982. Following the discovery of remains of the First Government House in February 1983, the future of the site was fiercely contested. Further archaeological investigations were mounted in response to each proposed development: in preparation for the multi-storey tower in 1983; then, backfilling and drainage installation in 1984 and 1985 respectively after the decision to conserve the archaeological remains had been made; then further exploration and re-opening of trenches and additional artefact analysis, in the early 1990s in preparation for the Museum of Sydney. All this archaeological work had been directed by Anne Bickford. In 1996, when road works were undertaken on the corner of Bridge and Phillip Streets, Godden Mackay Logan monitored the excavations. Each of these stages of excavations is discussed in more detail below.

The first stage of archaeological investigation at the First Government House site in February 1983 comprised test-trenching and auger sampling in the area of the foundations of the house itself. The remains of Governor Phillip's 1788 wall were revealed during this initial testing phase, and the likelihood of recovering more remains was confirmed.

The second stage of investigation between June and December 1983 involved more intensive excavation in the areas along Bridge Street where the remains of the house lay and in the locality of the outbuildings, where the pylons of the proposed building were to be construction. This stage revealed more of the foundations of the house and various outbuildings including the 'Printing Press office', and privies and drains.

During the third stage of excavation between January and June 1984, archaeologists undertook further investigation of the house and outbuilding remains (including Governor Darling's extensions) and testing in the southern and eastern limits of site. Following the conclusion of excavations in 1984—after the decision to conserve the remains of First Government House in a new development—the site trenches were backfilled with sand and the site was sealed with a protective bitumen layer.

In 1987, after a conservation plan had been drafted for the site, additional test-trenching was undertaken in Young Street and Raphael Place and Anutech Pty Ltd began a comprehensive analysis project, reviewing the stratigraphy and assemblages of the First Government House site in preparation for Proudfoot et al's publication *Australia's First Government House* (see Anutech et al 1987 and 1988; and 3.2.2 below).

Other service trenches were monitored by Robin Stocks in April 1988.

Two years later, after Denton Corker Marshall Architects had won the design competition for the redevelopment of the block into an office tower and museum complex, Anne Bickford undertook further excavations in the areas around Young Street and Raphael Place that would be affected by the new

development (Bickford 1993: 3 volumes).⁸ These excavations are known as the Young Street and Raphael Place (YRP) excavations and continued into 1991. They recovered remains of the First Government House guardhouse and more drainage features southwest of the main house. Bickford also directed the cataloguing of artefacts recovered from these excavations and explicitly gave priority to the material phased to the 1788–1845 period (Bickford and Petrie 1993: 6; see 3.2.2 below).

Concurrent with Bickford's excavations, Wendy Thorp undertook a larger cataloguing project that examined artefacts from the pre-1990 First Government House excavations, the underground areas of the Hyde Park Barracks excavation and the Mint excavation (Thorp & Campbell Consulting 1990, 1994; see 3.2.2 below).

In 1992, as detailed plans for the incorporation of the First Government House remains into a museum were developed, some trenches from the 1983–1987 excavations were re-opened (Bickford pers comm, September 2001). While it was agreed to preserve most of the structural remains of the site for perpetuity, these re-excavations were required for two viewing windows over structural remains in the museum forecourt or 'Commemorative Area' and the museum foyer.

Archaeologists Peter Tonkin, Robert Varman and Jane Lydon were independently commissioned to review the archaeological resources of the First Government House site for their potential as interpretative devices in the new museum (Varman 1993, 1994, c1994; Lydon nd, 1995 and 1996). Tonkin was also responsible for the physical consolidation of the two artefact assemblages (that from the 1983–1987 excavations and that from 1990–1991 YRP excavations) into the new Resource Centre of the museum.

In 1996, when the RTA undertook roadworks on the corner of Bridge and Phillip Streets, Godden Mackay Logan was commissioned to monitor their excavations (GML 1996a, 1996b). The inspected deposits in the area of the saloon in the Main House comprised road surfaces, road base and disturbed fill. No remains of the First Government House were recovered, although the trenches were only 60–70 cm deep.

3.0 RECORDS AND REPORTS

3.1 HISTORICAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

Archaeological excavation of the First Government House site commenced in 1983. Since this time, over 100 reports about the site, including archaeological, museological and historical documents, have been written. Most of these reports are located at the Resource Centre at the MoS, the HHT Lyndhurst Library, the DUAP and DPWS libraries and the State Reference Library. All reports are included in the References section at the end of this report.

The MoS Resource Centre also contains a general library collection of Australian history publications as well as titles specifically relating to the HHT and the MoS. The Resource Centre also houses an audio-visual archive, comprising cassette and video-tapes, and a large collection of images, both used in past museum displays. As well, the audio-visual archive contains oral history interviews conducted by Joy Hughes with those involved with the development of the First Government House site from the early

⁸ Raphael Place was in fact entirely built over by the new office tower.

Table I Conservation, archival and archaeological projects undertaken on the First Government House site since 1982 (in part taken from Proudfoot et al 1991: 9).

Year	Details	Reports
1982	NSW Government propose 38-storey building on the vacant First Government House site	
Feb 1983	Stage I excavations by Anne Bickford commence <i>Locations</i> (Proudfoot et al: 18): North part of carpark cleared by bulldozer; south part auger sampled; test-trenches and selected squares excavated; rear wall of house, drains and pits of First Government House discovered.	Bickford 1983a
Mar 1983	Preliminary historical study of First Government House site is completed	Proudfoot 1983
Jun–Dec 1983	Stage II excavations by Anne Bickford <i>Locations</i> (Proudfoot et al: 18): Excavation in SE part of site (no pre-1969 remains); sites for pylon of proposed building—found First Government House house, north outbuilding, privies and drains; west part of site—found foundations of outbuildings, ‘Printing Press office’ and drain. Soil samples from Macquarie Place taken.	Bickford 1983b; Bickford 1983c
July 1983	First Government House site listed on Register of the National Estate	
Aug–Oct 1983	Public protest; Sydney City Council refuses development application; new design competition for a development that will conserve the 1788 remains is announced	
Jan–June 1984	Stage III excavations and backfill <i>Locations</i> (Proudfoot et al: 18): Continued investigation of house and outbuildings (including Darling’s extensions); testing in south and east limits of site; stable wall and bedrock cutting found to the north and rear of Phillip Street terraces; large drain below Bridge Street.	No reports specific to this stage known to EAMC team; see Stocks 1987 and Proudfoot et al 1991 for general discussion
May 1984	Seminar of First Government House site coordinated by Department of Environment and Planning	
Dec 1984–Jan 1985	Site is sealed with bitumen to protect remains	
Jan 1985	Premier Wran announces that a conservation plan will be prepared in advance of an architectural competition	
Aug 1985	Draft Conservation Plan prepared by Conybeare Morrison and Partners	Conybeare Morrison and Partners 1985
July 1986	Final draft of the Conservation Plan prepared by Conybeare Morrison and Partners	Conybeare Morrison and Partners 1986
Mar 1987	Stage IV excavations <i>Locations</i> (Proudfoot et al: 18): Test-trenching in Raphael Place—found First Government House south outbuilding wall, barrel drain and privy sump	Bickford 1987, Stocks 1987, Bickford 1989
Apr–July 1987	Preliminary analysis of stratigraphy and artefacts by Robyn Stocks and Anutech. (See also Proudfoot et al 1991.)	Stratigraphy: Stocks 1987; Ceramics: Thorp 1987; Clay Pipes: Wilson & Kelly 1987; Glass: Egloff & Smith 1987; Small Finds: Kelly 1987; Bldg Materials: Pearson 1987; Animal bones: Colley 1987;

PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT

	Year	Details	Reports
PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT CONT'D			Coins: Boland 1987; Conservation: Head 1987.
	Aug 1987	Drafting of First Government House site report commences.	
	Oct 1987	Stratigraphic analysis is completed and further artefacts are analysed.	Stocks 1987
	1987-1991	Preparation and publication of <i>Australia's First Government House</i>	Proudfoot et al 1991
	Apr 1988	Monitoring of service trenches <i>Locations</i> (Proudfoot et al: 18): Service trenches behind the Phillip Streets Terraces.	
	June 1988	Dep. Premier Wal Murray announces a new architectural design competition for commercial offices on the block bounded by Bridge, Phillip, Young and Bent Streets, and a structure to commemorate First Government House	
	1988	HHT selected to operate a museum or interpretation facility on the site of First Government House	
	Apr-Aug 1990	Excavations in Young Street and Raphael Place by Anne Bickford	Bickford 1993: 3 vols
	Jul-Aug 1991	Excavations of the Young Street west kerb by Anne Bickford	Bickford 1993: 3 vols
	1992-1995	Denton Corker Marshal begin construction of two tower buildings, to be named for Governors Phillip and Macquarie, on the block bounded by Bridge, Phillip, Young and Bent Streets in 1992. Completed in 1995.	
	1992-1993	Development of Museum Concept and Museum Plan by the HHT.	HHT 1992, HHT 1993a, HHT 1993b
HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST	1992	Excavations by Anne Bickford in the commemorative area to re-open trenches already excavated for the viewing windows in the plaza and museum foyer (Bickford pers comm, September 2001)	No report, photographs held with rest of First Government House material (Bickford pers comm, cf Bickford & Petrie 1993: 3-4)
	1992-1993	Physical consolidation of artefact assemblages and guidelines for collection-management, research and museum design by Peter Tonkin	Tonkin 1993
	1992-1993	Archaeological research and advice regarding museum interpretation by Robert Varman	Varman 1993
	1992-1993	Research into archaeological sites and assemblages throughout Sydney for the Sites case by Jane Lydon	Lydon 1995; Research Folder, Resource Centre, MoS
	1995	History of the First Government House site in 20th century	Hughes 1995
	1995	Plan of Management for Archaeological Remains of First Government House	Rust PPK & GML 1995
	1996	Archaeological monitoring of Sliplane on the corner of Bridge and Phillips Streets by Godden Mackay Logan	GML 1996
	1998	Advice on the operation of the Archaeological Resource Centre at MoS by Tracy Ireland	Ireland 1998

1980s onwards. For the purpose of the EAMC project, the Resource Centre contains a large collection of research folders, compiled by museum staff and volunteers for exhibitions curated at the MoS.

These research folders are catalogued and searchable on the HHT library catalogue, on the following topics:

- exhibitions held at the MoS;
- archaeological research of excavations and artefacts unearthed in Sydney and elsewhere, for the purposes of display (i.e. the Site Display case) and for its own archaeological collection;
- images;
- selection of bibliographies;
- historical research—both site specific and more general (eg Sydney, Aboriginal people, Women);
- newspapers and Sydney press; and
- articles.

The MoS Resource Centre collection is an extensive and extremely useful resource.

3.2 EXCAVATION AND ARTEFACT RECORDS AND REPORTS

The numerous excavations at First Government House have been well recorded and well reported. In addition to detailed reports on the stratigraphic and artefact analyses undertaken on the part of the collection excavated prior to 1987, a synthetic account of the excavation and artefact analyses was published in 1991 for the general public (Stocks 1987 and various artefact reports edited by Egloff 1987; Proudfoot et al 1991).

The records of all phases of excavation and the 1987 analysis project are available and well organised in the Resource Centre of the Museum.

Table 2 below provides a summary of which of these records and reports are available for each project, and is followed by a more-detailed discussion of these records in relation to stratigraphy and artefacts.

3.2.1 STRATIGRAPHIC RECORDING AND REPORTING

Main First Government House site excavations, 1983–1988

The stratigraphic sequencing of the 1983–1987 excavations was written up in 1988 by Robyn Stocks for Anutech Pty Ltd. The Stratigraphic Analysis Report is a clear and comprehensive document that provides a summary of the stratigraphy of each phase within four major areas: the Main House, the North Outbuilding, the South Outbuildings and the Stables area. There is also some discussion of the Tin Shed (1912–1969). The appendices include a listing of specific contexts, grouped by Area, Phase and type. This latter listing will be very useful when retyped into a database and thereby searchable by number (this work is already underway by the EAMC team).

Stocks' report is very comprehensive, but she cautioned that 'much needs to be done' to verify the chronological framework presented in the report—including the resolution of the difficulties correlating the stratigraphic units with historical phases (Stocks 1988a: 81). Robert Varman raised doubts about the phasing of some contexts when he worked on parts of the collection in 1993 in preparation for the Museum of Sydney (Varman 1993: 'State of the Collection'). Despite these concerns and the preliminary nature of all reports prepared by Anutech (Stocks 1988a: Preface), the Stratigraphic Analysis Report is a useful reference point for the EAMC project.

Table 2 Summary of excavation and artefact records and reports.

Project	Original records	Reports
Stage 1 excavations (Feb 1983)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Field notes (1 folder, includes colour prints) ▪ Photographs (1 folder for Stage 1, with field notes; 1 folder for Phases 1–2), notes and records (1 folder) ▪ Stratigraphic context notes (2 folders) ▪ Plans and sections (2 A3 folders for Phases 1–2) and catalogue (1 A4 folder for Phases 1–3) ▪ Special Finds sheets (1 folder), catalogue (1 folder) and index (1 folder for Phase 1–3) ▪ Conservation treatment forms (1 folder) 	Bickford 1983a
Stage 2 excavations (Jun–Dec 1983)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Misc Notes ▪ Stratigraphic record sheets (44 folders), notes (2 folders) and summaries (2 folders) ▪ Special Finds sheets (1 folder for Phases 2–3) ▪ Plans and sections (2 A3 folders for Phases 1–2), catalogue (1 A4 folder for Phases 1–3) and index (1 A4 folder) ▪ Mortar/soil sample sheets and notes (2 folders for Phases 2–3) ▪ Colour prints, negatives, colours slides, black-and-white negatives and proof sheets and site log sheets (4 folders for Phase 2; 1 for Phases 1–2; and 3 for Phases 2–3; 2 for ‘1983’; 1 for ‘1983–1984’; 1 for Phases 2–4) ▪ Special Finds sheets (1 folder for Phase 2–3), catalogue (1 folder) and index (1 folder for Phase 1–3) ▪ Conservation treatment forms (2 folders for Phase 2, 1 folder for Phases 2–3) 	Bickford 1983b; Bickford 1983c
Stage 3 excavations (Jan–June 1984)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stratigraphic records (7 folders), summaries (1 folder) and backfilling notes (3 folders) ▪ Special Finds sheets (1 folder for Phases 2–3, 2 folders for Phase 3), catalogue (1 folder) and index (1 folder for Phase 1–3) ▪ Field notebooks and index (1 index folder for Phases 2–3) ▪ Plans and sections (2 A3 folders), notes (1 A4 folder) and catalogue (1 A4 folder for Phases 1–3) ▪ Mortar/soil sample sheets and notes (2 folders for Phases 2–3) ▪ Colour prints, negatives, colours slides, black-and-white negatives and proof sheets and site log sheets (6 folders, marked Phase 3 and ‘1984’; 1 for Phases 2–4) ▪ Conservation treatment forms (3 folders for Phase 2, 1 folder for Phases 2–3) and notes (2 folders) 	[No reports known to the EAMC team at the time of writing]
Stage 4 excavations (Mar 1987)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stratigraphic records (1 folder) and backfill inspection (1 folder) ▪ Photographic images (1 folder for Phase 2–4, ‘site camera records’) 	Bickford 1987, Stocks 1987, Bickford 1989
Excavation records for which stages not specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black-and-white medium-format images of Special Finds with notes (2 folders) ▪ Stratigraphic notes: 3 volumes 	

Project	Original records	Reports
1987 Artefact and stratigraphic analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small Finds analysis (3 folders) and index (1 folder) ▪ Type Series individual sheets, (stratigraphic) layer sheets and notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ceramics (5 folders) – glass (3 folders) – building materials (1 folder) – clay tobacco pipes (1 folder) ▪ Stratigraphic analysis notes (1 folder) 	Stratigraphy: Stocks 1987; Ceramics: Thorp 1987; Clay Pipes: Wilson and Kelly 1987; Glass: Egloff and Smith 1987; Small Finds: Kelly 1987; Building Materials: Pearson 1987; Animal bones: Colley 1987; Coins: Boland 1987; Conservation: Head 1987. See also Proudfoot et al 1991.
Catalogue by Wendy Thorp, c1990-1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Artefact recording sheets stamped on paper bags ▪ Type series listing (location of list currently unknown) 	Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1990 and 1994
1990-1991 YRP excavation and artefact analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excavation photographs: Colour slides, black-and-white negatives and proof sheets (6 folders) ▪ Stratigraphic Context Sheets (13 folders) and report notes (1 folder) ▪ Field, level and photographic notebooks (two boxes) ▪ Site plans (5 folders, A3 format) ▪ Original data-entry records (A3 format) ▪ Database and cataloguing notes (1 folder) ▪ Type series sheets (6 folders): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – glass (2 folders) – ceramics (2 folders) – metal, buttons, clay pipes – organic, synthetic, lead type and stone/glass ▪ Type Series colour prints and negatives (5 folders) 	Bickford 1993: three volumes
Post-1991 monitoring and excavations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excavation colour prints and negatives (1 folder) 	No report (Bickford pers comm September 2001)

In addition to the stratigraphic review report, there are numerous records of the stratigraphy of the First Government House site. These include original site stratigraphic context sheets; (hand-written) summaries, presumably prepared at the conclusion of the excavation; and copious hand-written notes made during the course of the stratigraphic review.

This extensive archive of site records held in the Resource Centre of MoS also includes historical and archaeological notes and resources used on site, excavation-related receipts, a log of personnel and also notes on the Statement of Cultural Significance prepared by the Australian Archaeological Association and draft Conservation Guidelines.

1990–1991 Young Street and Raphael Place excavation

The 1990–1991 excavations in Young Street and Raphael Place (YRP) were written up in a comprehensive, three-volume report prepared by Anne Bickford and her team in 1993. The report outlines the progress and results of excavation, within each area or trench, and includes matrices of their phasing and inter-relationships.

The specific details of each context is provided in the Stratigraphic Recording Sheets, recorded on site, and now stored at the Resource Centre.

Together these provide an excellent resource for understanding and analysing the stratigraphy of the YRP excavation.

3.2.2 ARTEFACT RECORDING AND REPORTING

1987 Analysis

As was the case for the stratigraphic analysis undertaken in 1987 under the management of Anutech, the artefact analysis is well reported and recorded. Each cataloguer compiled a report of the selected artefact assemblage of their specialty—ie artefacts from deposits directly related to the construction, occupation and demolition of First Government House.

The reports are largely descriptive (for example, see Kelly's report on Small Finds) and well organised by area and phase. They also incorporate some interpretation of deposits. It is apparent that the reports were written with site chronology and stratigraphic sequencing in mind, although other issues of function and decoration are discussed. Importantly, they were prepared before Stock's Stratigraphic Analysis Report (see Preface to all reports) and thus, informed the stratigraphic analysis, but they were not informed by it. (See Section 4.0 below for a discussion of the level of artefact analysis contained in these reports.)

Also retained in the Resource Centre are ten folders of individual Type Series sheets, which provide detailed descriptions of ceramics, glass, building materials and clay tobacco pipes, and groupings of these by layer (stratigraphic unit).

1989–1994 Analysis

There are some original records for the most extensive stage of artefact identification for the First Government House site, which was undertaken by Wendy Thorp between 1989 and 1994 (in a project that also reviewed artefacts from the underground areas of the Hyde Park Barracks excavations and the Royal Mint). The artefact-data records are stamped on paper bags in which the artefacts are stored. This information was originally entered into the Minark database system and is now stored in a Microsoft Access database. (See Appendix Two of this report for a discussion of the accuracy and utility of the database.)

While no other records of the cataloguing process are currently known to the EAMC team, it is understood that a catalogue or listing of Type Series Names and Numbers was recorded (Wendy Thorp pers comm) but has not been located.⁹

⁹ The records are not held by the HHT (Megan Martin, HHT Librarian, pers comm, August 2001). They may have been submitted to the Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning, which is now Heritage Office, but no such records have been found.

A report for the aims and methods of the project as a whole was prepared by Thorp and Campbell Conservation in 1994. While this outlines the artefact database specifications and tabulates the presence and absence of different types of artefacts across all three sites, there is no substantive discussion of the nature and composition of each artefact group (ie glass, ceramic, bone) or the assemblage as a whole.

1991–1993 Analysis

Artefacts from the 1990–1991 excavations were catalogued in 1992 by a team assembled by Anne Bickford, independent of Thorp’s analysis of artefacts from earlier stages of excavation, discussed above.

The results of this cataloguing project were written up by the artefact specialists who each prepared a report on the artefact groups they had studied (Bickford 1993: Volume 3). The reports outline both the structure of the catalogue as it relates to each class, and procedures utilised during cataloguing, but were not intended to provide a substantive discussion of the assemblage (funding for the latter was not provided to the authors, see Bickford 1993: ‘Editor’s Comments’).

Data-entry records and type-series sheets have been retained and are available at the Resource Centre (see Table 2). They are in A3 format and contain numeric or text codes for variables in each field.

Other work

In 1993, as preparations for the museum were underway, Peter Tonkin prepared a detailed catalogue of selected artefacts from the First Government House assemblage. From a quick review, it is estimated that 300–400 artefacts were examined, recorded and sketched. These may be found in the ‘Archaeology/First Government House artefact research’ folders and are sorted by material class and artefact type.

3.2.3 OTHER NOTES

Appended to Robert Varman’s report on interpretive directions for MoS in 1993 are his working notes with detailed transcriptions of historical documents (chronologically organised) and descriptive notes on various artefacts in the collection examined at the Ultimo Store. While these are hand-written and occasionally inscrutable, they may provide a valuable resource of information about particular artefacts in the collection, should the time be available to search through all the notes.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

It is now 18 years since the first excavations at First Government House took place. Since that time, there have been several stages of test-trenching, excavation, monitoring of other forms of site disturbance and artefact and stratigraphic analysis.

The first and most extensive phase of interpretive analysis was that undertaken in 1987 under the management of Anutech Pty Ltd in preparation for the publication of *Australia’s First Government House* (discussed in Section 5.1). This project allowed for the detailed cataloguing of a selected component of the assemblage (that was associated with First Government House itself) and comprehensive reports on the cataloguing process and results. Some reports, such as those on coins (Boland 1987) and clay tobacco pipes (Wilson and Kelly 1987), contained a substantial background history of the selected artefact type and its usage in the colony, providing an excellent context for understanding the finds from First Government House.

The reports are analytical in the sense that they assemble and discuss a particular group of artefacts, in different contexts over different time periods. The statistical comparison of the elements within each group assemblage (where calculated) is presented in descriptive rather than tabular format. For example the analytical discussion of ceramics took the form of a description of the number, decorative types, wares, shapes, type series, identifying marks and cross matches of ceramics in each main area (eg the Main House or the South Outbuilding; see Thorp 1987). Following the description is a discussion of ceramics within each phase.

While the reports provide a solid description of the nature of each artefact type, in each area in each phase, there was no analysis of multiple classes of artefacts across time and space and the interpretation of how such patterns contribute to our understanding of site occupation was limited (see Section 5.0 below). The primary contribution of the discussions was the determination of the site chronology and function of particular areas or deposits. While it is clear that the exploration of patterns indicative of social behaviour was also an aim of the project, or at least the cataloguers, this goal was not realised across the board because the quantities were too small, or the dating too precarious, to draw valid conclusions (see for example, ceramics: Thorp 1987: 2).

Some cross-class analysis was achieved in the Stratigraphic Analysis Report (which was finalised after the submission of the artefact reports)—and to some extent in *Australia's First Government House*—but, as noted, has not been analysed systematically and purpose again was site chronology.

Despite these concerns, the reports comprise a valuable foundation for the understanding of the site stratigraphy, even if some of the artefact analysis and consequent interpretation will require revision. As Robert Varman has written, the 'artefact reports are of a high standard, under trying circumstances' (1993: 'State of the Collection').

In 1989, two years after the submission of these reports, artefacts examined in 1987 and the remainder of the assemblage from the 1983–1987 excavations, were the subject of another round of cataloguing. Wendy Thorp was commissioned to undertake a project that also incorporated the cataloguing of the Mint and underground assemblages of the Hyde Park Barracks excavations (Thorp and Campbell Conservation 1990, 1994). The brief included the development of a research design for the three collections. Thorp was critical of attempts to retro-fit a research design—which should have determined the course of excavation—on the artefact collections (Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1994: 54–56). Nonetheless, she discussed some potential avenues of research regarding the institutional use of the three sites, social status and economic power. Thorp also presented a series of tables indicating the presence and absence of artefacts of the same activity, function or ceramic decoration across the three sites.

While all three assemblages benefited from the inter-site comparison by drawing them into a shared historical context, the quantification of artefacts from all trenches of each site—intact or disturbed—did little to enhance the understanding of working and domestic life at First Government House. Thus, while this was a form of quantitative analysis, it was not a process that produced meaningful results—which, as Thorp notes, was probably a result of flaws in the project brief (Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1994: 55, 62, 67).

The third major stage of analysis of the archaeological collection was that which followed the excavation of trenches in Young Street and Raphael Place in 1991. Anne Bickford directed these excavations and also supervised the cataloguing of artefact classes. The opportunity for cataloguers to report on the results from the cataloguing process was limited to three days and as already noted, most reports merely presented the rationale and terminology of the catalogue for each artefact group (see reports by Rossi,

Carney, Smith, Colley and Mairs, Lindbergh, Lowe, Gorman, Watson and Dickens in Bickford [ed] 1993: Volume 3).

Some authors, however, clearly invested more time and provided useful discussion of the relevant artefact assemblage to draw meaningful conclusions. For example, Carney (glass bottles) provided some discussion of glass varieties recovered at the 1990–1991 Young Street and Raphael Place (YRP) excavations (making some comparisons with the main First Government House excavations) and their implications for dating, function and reuse (Carney 1993: 20–28). Similar discussions were offered by Lindberg (metal & buttons), Lowe (building material) and Mairs & Colley (1993: 9–13) with regard to the dog skeleton.

Overall, considerable headway has been made on the analysis of First Government House artefact collections. Much of the work to date has been centred on the determination of stratigraphic chronology and function and has been contained within artefact groups and within specific areas of the site—the greatest division being the separate cataloguing and consideration of the early excavations and those in Young Street and Raphael Place.

Despite the quantity of work undertaken, the EAMC team considers that the overall analysis of First Government House artefact assemblage remains preliminary, hereby concurring with the observations of other archaeologists who have studied the site and its collection (eg Stocks 1987: 81 and Varman 1993: ‘State of the Collection’). More rigorous analysis (across artefact classes) is required to maximise the contribution of the artefact assemblage to our understanding of the site, its occupants and the city of Sydney.

5.0 HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND MUSEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIONS OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE SITE

5.1 PUBLISHED INTERPRETATIONS

In 1991, the Department of Planning in conjunction with Allen & Unwin published *Australia’s First Government House*. Co-authored by Helen Proudfoot, Anne Bickford, Brian Egloff and Robyn Stocks, this book provides an historical overview of the site from 1788 until the late 1980s, with the greater focus on its use as Australia’s first Government House, from 1788 to 1845, and its subsequent demolition in 1845–1846. The archaeological component of the publication was derived from Brian Egloff’s Anutech project undertaken in 1987 (discussed above in Section 4.0).

The authors sought to integrate history and archaeology by providing a detailed account of the archaeological excavations carried out on the site from 1982 until 1989, as well as showing how artefacts reveal aspects of the history of the site in conjunction with written and other archival sources. In one sense they achieved this aim. However, the book was substantially criticised by some, including Judy Birmingham, for its failure to undertake the integration in a meaningful way. Birmingham found fault with its ‘show-and-tell presentation’ and historical narrative, tracing the phases of occupation of each Governor and rendering the physical remains as mere illustrations of textual or graphic sources (Birmingham 1990: 13–14). It is also noteworthy that Birmingham presented this criticism as an example of the endemic ‘uncertainties in methodology and direction characteristic of Australian historical archaeological urban projects in the 1980s’ (1990: 13)—rather than a specific inadequacy of the authors, excavators and artefact-cataloguers themselves.

As well as producing *Australia's First Government House*, the Department of Planning also published a selection of the specialist reports on artefacts uncovered at the First Government House site and later catalogued by the Anutech consultants, as well as a summary of the Conservation Plan by Conybeare Morrison (Conybeare Morrison 1988). In 1995, Joy Hughes edited an account of the First Government House site in the 20th century to coincide with the opening of the Museum of Sydney (MoS) on the site of First Government House (Hughes 1995). This publication traced the unrealised plans for the site from 1900 onwards.

Much has been written about the First Government House more generally, owing to the pivotal role it played in the development of the Sydney settlement from 1788 until 1846 and also because of the important place it holds in Australian architectural history. For example, Joy Hughes and James Broadbent mention First Government House in their writings on Macquarie and Greenway (Broadbent & Hughes 1992, 1997), as does Peter Bridges in his study of early buildings in Sydney from European settlement until 1820 (Bridges 1992). As well, the formation of the Friends of First Government House in 1983 in response to threats to the First Government House site resulted in annual Foundation Day lectures (some subsequently published) to commemorate the laying of the foundation plate by Governor Phillip.

5.2 MUSEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION

A proposal for a museum or interpretation facility on the First Government House site was first put forward in 1983, in Proudfoot's initial historical report on the site (Proudfoot 1983). The Conservation Plan for First Government House prepared by Conybeare Morrison in 1986 included a preliminary brief for an interpretation centre (Conybeare Morrison 1986: 136–140). Several options were presented in this report—the dominating theme being the history of the site.

The announcement of an architectural design competition in November 1988 for the development of the city block bounded by Bridge, Phillip, Bent and Young Streets, included provision for a commemorative and interpretive facility that would enable the preservation and presentation of the First Government House foundations and other archaeological artefacts excavated from the site. Two months prior, in September 1988, the HHT was selected from four other contenders to operate and manage this proposed commemorative and interpretive facility on the site of First Government House, owing to its previous experience in managing museums and representing archaeology (Hughes 1995: 14).

The Museum of Sydney on the site of First Government House (MoS) opened to the public in 1995. The development of the MoS was a long process, taking four years of planning from 1991. The HHT produced a document on the 'Policies, Themes and Issues' of the proposed First Government House Museum Project in late 1992 (HHT 1992). In 1993, the HHT produced a Museum Concept and later that year, a Museum Plan (HHT 1993a, 1993b).

During the planning stage, the intention was for the museum to focus on the 'physical site and the house, its occupants and activities 1788–1845', embracing its pre-1788 and post-1845 histories (HHT 1992: 12). This was in no way a narrow focus. The themes associated with the history and fabric of the site—'ideas & attitudes', 'personalities', 'voyaging', 'world context'—were broad-ranging and challenged the new museum to 'embrace the inter-connectedness' of the multi-layered history revealed at the site of First Government House (HHT 1992: 8–10). The museum was then to be called the First Government House Museum and had a broad range of aims and objectives, including:

- I. To explore ideas, issues, values and symbols relevant to the place and to Australians.

2. To conserve and interpret the in situ archaeological remains of the place and their historical context
3. To conserve, store, research, display and interpret the archaeological collection from the site.
4. To develop a variety of exhibitions, publications, activities and education programmes which will enrich an understanding of the significance of the site, its historical context and symbolic value for to Australians.
5. To become a ‘centre of excellence’ for the study of material culture of the early colonial period and its historical context.
6. To develop a small and specialised collection with emphasis of objects with a direct relevance to the site from the period 1788–1845.
7. To synthesise the often competing claims and needs of conservation (the primary role), interpretation and management to ensure fulfilment of intellectual, entertainment, commercial and education goals.
8. To promote a multi-disciplinary approach by embracing all relevant academic and cultural disciplines, methods of interpretation and presentation and close associations with academic and cultural institutions.

The team involved in the development of the First Government House Museum included archaeologists, historians, curators and artists. From 1993, Robert Varman and Jane Lydon were each independently contracted to provide input to the museum’s preliminary interpretive directions by exploring different aspects of the archaeology of the First Government House site.

Varman, working closely with then Assistant Curator Peter Tonkin, was instructed to draw on his ‘expertise in the study of building materials and [his] knowledge of the early settlement of Norfolk Island’ (Varman 1993: ‘Introduction’). In July 1993, he prepared a preliminary document with ideas for displays based on different aspects of the artefact collection. These included a proposal to reconstruct part of the facade of First Government House and displays about:

- the traditional land owners (traditional Aboriginal flint tools, ‘contact’ flaked-glass tools, midden shells etc);
- foreign trade and late-18th- and early-19th-century internationalism;
- ‘animal bone themes’ (including the articulated cattle-hock bones);
- comparison of the settlements of Norfolk Island and Sydney 1788–1805, including the *The Sirius*;
- bricks and tiles from First Government House; and
- a profile of a late 18th century Governor’s household from the c1790s privy deposit.

These ideas were further developed in collaboration with curators and presented in a report of February 1994, providing documentation for the display proposals for the archaeology collection and another report regarding the viewing window in the museum plaza (Varman 1994; Varman c1994).

Most of Varman’s suggestions can be seen in various elements of the displays in MoS today, for example the fragment of red ochre in a small case outside the reconstruction of First Government House’s facade, the replica facade itself, the viewing window in the plaza, and the small case of artefacts from the c1790s privy in the foyer of the Museum (described in more detail below).

Excepting the facade, the impetus for the various themes suggested by Varman is derived from a historical understanding of the site, and Sydney in general, rather than the unique nature of the artefact assemblage. Most of the proposed themes could have applied to any historical-archaeological site in Sydney. For

example, the focus on Aboriginal artefacts is based on the interaction between the Governors and Aboriginal people known through historical documentation, followed by the listing of the sparse, relevant evidence in the archaeology collection. The artefact listings of Chinese export porcelain, French wines and Dutch gins are discussed in the context of Sydney trade with non-British exporters, not specifically the Governors' trade with non-British exporters. Indeed this lack of specificity does not necessarily pose concerns for a Museum that is now recognised as a Museum of Sydney *on the Site of First Government House*, rather than a Museum about First Government House itself. Further, Varman may have had few other options for developing the themes. While substantial work had been invested into the analysis of the assemblage and site stratigraphy in 1987, the Anutech analysis was *preliminary*. Varman himself raised serious concerns about the validity of the allocation of stratigraphic units to particular phases, acknowledging that the excavations on the site of First Government House were focussed on the recovery of the foundations themselves (1993: 'State of the Collection'). (See Appendix Two, Section 4.5 for further discussion.)

Jane Lydon's work involved the research of other sites of archaeological investigation and excavation throughout Sydney. While there are volumes of her research in the Resource Centre, the primary product derived from her work was the Sites showcase (discussed in detail below). The emphasis of her research was upon 'social themes amenable to interpretation through site comparisons' (Lydon 1996: 142). The research questions driving this big-picture contextualisation of First Government House amid other archaeological sites, pursued the 'lived experiences of different men and women of 1820s Sydney' (Lydon 1996: 144), asking what can artefacts tell 'about people—their food, drink, clothing, work, recreation—and in turn about class, gender, age and race?' and 'What was it like to live in colonial Sydney? To walk through its streets, cross its waterways, work, eat, shop there?' (Lydon 1996: 142, 145).

5.2.1 THE MUSEUM TODAY

The MoS is an innovative, contemporary museum that utilises an array of interpretive aids, such as multi-media (including video and audio-visual), contemporary art installations and displays of objects excavated, donated or borrowed.

The forecourt of MoS, facing Phillip Bridge Street, traces the foundations of the First Government House complex in its paved stone and some of the foundations of Governor Phillip's first house can be viewed in an environmentally controlled showcase. While 'Australia's first bricks' and the 'first blocks hewn from age-old Sydney sandstone' can be glimpsed in the case, visitors and passers-by are reminded that the sprawling footings and drains of First Government House have been 'preserved for posterity' under the forecourt.

The imprint of the footings continues inside the foyer of the museum where there is a reconstruction of the facade of First Government House, embedded with a video of the 1983–1987 excavations. In the foyer floor, adjacent to this reconstructed wall, are more exposed footings of First Government House—a c1820 brick-barrel drain, the stone and brick paving of the Governor's bakery and a 'familiar household ceramic pipe' from the Public Works' 'Tin Sheds' era—flanked by small showcases of artefacts. Captions on glass overlying the foundations prompt the visitor to identify, note and think about the stratigraphy: *Charcoal: Charred remains of 1788 bush burn-off? Charcoal to filter drain? Or charcoal from Government House fireplaces?*

Similarly the captions of the artefacts encased in the floor pose speculative, open-ended questions. For the bones of the dog thought to have been buried on site between 1820 and 1840—'tenderly dug in ... by whom?', it is asked: 'what was his/her name and place here?' Of the hundred-odd sherds of Adam's tendril

pattern dinner plates made between 1809 and 1820 and found ‘smashed’ in a curious stack near guardhouse walls (1810–1847) it is asked: ‘How did they end up here? Stolen from governor’s table? Used by guards in a night of extravagance?’

Another small assemblage in the row of showcases presents a miscellany of artefacts from the site and the storyboard provides an introduction to the complexity of the archaeology and layered history of the First Government House site:

Relics across the First Government House site and across time, excavated by archaeologists 1983–1991. What do they tell us of the memories of this place? Building elements—brick, plaster, roof tile, window glass from the demolished governor’s house 1788–1846. Bones, bottles. Plate sherds, shells and domestic discards from the governor’s table or servants’ hall? Crucibles from assaying gold, rock specimens—remnants of a geological and mining museum 1870s. Glass, ceramics, coral, dog’s jaws—vestiges of a carters’ yard, cemetery, public works store, government offices. Now a museum of fragments to reflect on the past.

Once upstairs the specifics of the excavation of the site of the First Government House is opened up into the interpretation of different aspects of the Sydney’s past, presented in a variety of media including films, artefact displays, text boards, images and changing exhibitions.

One of the well known instalments in MoS are the collectors’ chests: three four-sided, stainless steel chests with 76 lighted, glass-topped drawers assembling objects, artefacts, historical documents and facsimiles and quotes extracted—snapshots of colonial life. In some cases, the connections are quite abstract, linking the limbs of ceramic doll parts from Lilyvale and First Government House with 19th-century newspaper accounts of the mystery disappearance of a Sydney resident, or linking sherds of ‘frog-spawn’ blue transfer-printed ceramics from Harrington Street well with Lesueur specimen drawings of frogs. Other connections are more straight-forward such as facsimiles of export returns placed with oil and salad bottles and burnt stemmed glasses from a brick pit at the First Government House site with a newspaper report of a fire in Sydney (not at the First Government House site) in 1840. While drawing on the research of historians and archaeologists, the chests were conceived in a collaborative process with the HHT curatorial staff and artist Narelle Jubelin.

The Visitors’ Centre also contains a database of artefacts called ‘Dig It’ which allows visitors to explore a selection of artefacts from the First Government House assemblage in far more detail than a display can allow. The program is accessed through a screen of thumbnail images of artefacts that can be clicked to access information about the object’s use, manufacture, where it was found and in what circumstances it was discarded. While such a user-friendly database is in danger of relying on assumed or roughly accurate descriptions, the archaeological information provided in Dig It is clear but not simplistic and does not attempt to pass off tentative archaeological conclusions as hard facts. For example, in response to the question of when a particular glass bottle, the viewer can read that: ‘the relationship between various soil and debris layers suggests that this bottle was discarded sometime between 1820 and 1840’. It is explained the rubbish was commonly buried in privy pits—a fact well known to archaeologists but not necessarily apparent to some museum-goers.

5.2.2 THE ROLE OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MOS

Interpretation of the archaeology of First Government House has evolved from the rescue-style search for the remains of the *House*¹⁰ to a museum designed to conserve, manage and interpret the remains of the site

¹⁰ The constraints of the original excavation have been noted by Varman [1993: ‘State of the Collection’] and Thorp

(see conservation reports and HHT 1992), to an interpretive centre which explores ‘the worlds of colonial and contemporary Sydney through objects, pictures, stories and digital-media technologies’ (MoS website).

Overall, the First Government House site—as an archaeological site integral to the Museum of Sydney—is more valuable for its structural remains rather than its artefact assemblage. This is notable throughout the various artefact reports, *Australia’s First Government House* and is perhaps the legacy of the excavations themselves, which were for the most part rescue operations: strategic sample trenches, dug in the early years of historical-archaeological excavation in Sydney. Despite the decision to seal rather than expose the network of foundations and site-service remains ‘for posterity’, it is the structural remains rather than the assemblage that dominate the archaeological interest at this site.

In 1995, Birmingham noted that: ‘It will be interesting in 2001—and better 2021—to review our museum initiatives of the 1980s and 90s’ (Birmingham 1996: 258). Years after the public protest and furore over the redevelopment of the site, it is clearer to see the nature of its value as the *place* of the first administrative centre of New South Wales—and it has the structural remains to prove it—which overshadows, rather than substitutes the research potential of its artefact assemblage. (See the detailed discussion of the research potential of the artefact assemblage in Appendix Two, Section 4.5.)

[1994: 30–31] and the authors of *Australia’s First Government House* themselves: Proudfoot et al 1991: 24.

Appendix Two:

SAMPLING THE ACCURACY AND UTILITY OF THE ARTEFACT CATALOGUE

1.0 HISTORY OF THE ARTEFACT ASSEMBLAGE AND CATALOGUES

The First Government House site artefact assemblage is the result of three major stages of test-trenching, excavation and monitoring in the northern part of the site in 1983–1984, 1987 and 1988 and underneath Young Street and the former Raphael Place to the south in 1990–1991 (see Appendix One for a more detailed account of the excavation history). Owing to two major stages of artefact processing, the assemblage of the site has been studied, reported and boxed in two parts: one comprising artefacts from the ‘1983–1987’ excavations in the main site (FGH)¹¹ and the other comprising artefacts from the 1990–1991 excavation in Young Street and Raphael Place (YRP).¹² Both parts are stored in the Resource Centre of the Museum of Sydney and are now searchable through the one database.

During the first four stages of excavation, from 1983 to 1987, diagnostic artefacts noticed during excavation were bagged, numbered and recorded as ‘Special Finds’ and ‘were three-dimensionally plotted on site’ (Stocks 1988a: 8). After each stage of excavation, all artefacts were preliminarily bagged by context and type, and stored in the Young Street terraces (Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1990: 10). Some were cleaned (Stocks 1988a: 8). Unfortunately, some coins were stolen from the assemblage (Boland 1987: 1).

In 1987, the Department of Environment and Planning commissioned Anutech Pty Ltd (then an archaeological consulting service at the Australian National University) to co-ordinate the analysis of selected artefacts and the stratigraphic sequence of the First Government House site. Robin Stocks undertook the complex task of reporting the site stratigraphy and Dr Brian Egloff and Anne Bickford oversaw the identification and cataloguing of artefacts by the following team of specialists (Proudfoot et al 1991: 24): Alexandra Kelly (small finds) assisted by Graham Wilson with clay pipes; Pat Boland (coins); Wendy Thorp, Leah McKenzie and Anne Bickford (ceramics); Sarah Colley (bones), Brian Egloff and Jean Smith (glass) and Sue Pearson (building materials).

This project undertook the detailed analysis of selected components of the First Government House site. These included all contexts determined to date prior to 1847, that is all deposits related to the occupation

¹¹ The artefact assemblage from the first stages of excavation has been commonly referred to as the ‘1983–1987’ assemblage, despite the fact that there was some monitoring work in 1988 (Stocks 1988b), which provided 30-odd ‘stray finds’ to the collection. Thus while the ‘1983–1988’ collection may be a more accurate term, the EAMC project will follow the current nomenclature, as used by the Museum of Sydney.

¹² Artefacts recovered from the Young Street and Raphael Place excavations have in the past been referred to as ‘FGH AB’, having been number in a database prepared by Anne Bickford, to distinguish them from artefacts in the database prepared by Wendy Thorp for the remainder of the FGH site. See 2.0 ‘Terminology’.

Table 3 Outline of projects and events involving the First Government House collection and its catalogue.

Year	Project
Feb 1993	Stage I test-trenching by Anne Bickford and team
Jun–Dec 1983	Stage II excavations by Anne Bickford and team
Jan–June 1984	Stage II excavations by Anne Bickford and team
Mar–July 1987	Stage IV test-excavation and monitoring by Anne Bickford
1988	Test-excavation and monitoring by Anne Bickford and Robyn Stocks
1987	Artefact and stratigraphic analysis by Anutech Pty Ltd and Robyn Stocks
1989–1994	Wendy Thorp Artefact Review and Management Recommendations for First Government House (1983–87 digs), Hyde Park Barracks (underground) and the Mint: completed First Government House catalogue
1990–1991	Excavations in Young Street and Raphael Place, and artefact analysis, by Anne Bickford and team
1992	Monitoring and re-opening of trenches in the Commemorative Area
1993	Physical consolidation of artefact assemblages and guidelines for collection-management, research and Museum design by Peter Tonkin
1993	Archaeological research and advice regarding museum interpretation by Robert Varman
1995	MoS opens: artefacts and records now stored in purpose-built Resource Centre, some on display
1998	Tracy Ireland reports on concepts for the Archaeological Resource Centre
2001	EAMC consolidation and reformatting of the two First Government House databases

and demolition of First Government House. In regard to ceramics, the sherds from these selected contexts were estimated to represent 50% of the collection as it then was (Thorp 1987: 2).

In October 1989, Wendy Thorp was commissioned to organise, catalogue, conserve and devise a research design for the comparative analysis of three collections in the HHT’s care: those from the Mint, the underground trenches of the Hyde Park Barracks and those excavated from First Government House up until that time. When Thorp commenced the project in 1990, the First Government House artefacts were still stored in the Young Street terraces. Thorp noted that some artefacts from the 1987 analysis had been ‘hastily boxed’, many had not been cleaned and both ‘animals and vandals had created further havoc in the material and records’ (Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1990: 13).

By August 1990, the catalogue for First Government House was completed and data-entry into a Minark database (which was a requirement of the brief) was underway (Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1990: 3, 13, 20–21). Artefact recording information was written directly on stamped paper bags in which the artefacts continue to be kept. Cataloguers on the project were: Leah McKenzie, Mafalda Rossi, Julie Byrnes, Wendy Thorp, Wayne Johnson, Brett Noble, Graham Wilson and Dominic Steele. Jocelyn Brown, John Macdonald and Wendy Thorp undertook data entry (Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1994: 24).

The project also involved the culling of large quantities of building materials (particularly bricks), coal and coke and miscellaneous metal artefacts. In these cases, all fragments were weighed and counted, one fragment was selected to be stored in the bag and the remainder were discarded.¹³

¹³ Note that this procedure was not 1994 report by Thorp and Campbell Conservation, although there is some discussion of what were considered excessive collection practices at the First Government House dig site, particularly with regard to building materials (Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1994: 22). The process of culling is, however, clearly evident

As the cataloguing of artefacts from the 1983–1987 excavations proceeded, Anne Bickford continued with a new phase of excavation in Young Street and Raphael Place. In 1991, the artefacts from this excavation were removed to a Public Works Department storehouse in Leichhardt (DOP Files: Archaeological Extracts) and were catalogued under the supervision of the excavator within the two years following the main excavation. The cataloguers were Mafalda Rossi (ceramics), Martin Carney (glass bottles), Jean Smith (glass tableware), Sarah Colley and Lachlan Mairs (bone), Sarah Colley (shell), Jennie Lindbergh (metal, clay tobacco pipes), Anthony Lowe (building materials), Pam Watson (miscellaneous artefacts, synthetics, lead, coal/coke etc), Alice Gorman (Aboriginal artefacts) and Jennifer Dickens (conservation). Pam Watson undertook the data-entry and management of the Minark database.

The final database (known as FGH-AB) for this project in Young Street and Raphael Place—which is also in Minark but slightly modified from the database Thorp used—includes (Bickford & Petrie 1993: 3, 26–30):

- all finds from the 1990–1991 Young Street and Raphael Place excavations;
- building materials from the 1983–1984 and the 1987 excavations in the Commemorative Area, not catalogued by Wendy Thorp; and
- artefacts excavated in 1990–1991 from the Commemorative Area (18RM1).

The database does not include artefacts recovered during the re-opening of trenches for viewing windows in the Commemorative Area (the Museum plaza) in 1992, which were recovered for the Public Works Department under a contract separate to that for the YRP excavations (Bickford & Petrie 1993: 3–4).¹⁴ All artefacts from the 1788–1845 period were catalogued in detail, but most material from the post-First Government House period were briefly recorded owing to time and funding constraints. Much of this latter material was bulk bagged in the final weeks of cataloguing although more significant items were comprehensively catalogued (Bickford & Petrie 1993: 6).

The catalogue was issued with reports from each specialist and the database was subject to a process of data verification before it was submitted (see Bickford & Petrie 1993). The ‘mandatory data’—excavation year, area, context, group and storage location—for 20% of the each artefact group (ceramics, glass etc; undertaken in blocks of 25) were checked for correspondence between the database and data entry form. The identified data-entry error rates varied from 3% for bone to 13% for ceramics. (Some corrections arising from this verification process were outstanding at the time of writing the report, see ‘FGH Guide to excavation records & uncompleted tasks’, folder, MoS Resource Centre.)

In 1992, in preparation for the opening of the Museum of Sydney, consultant archaeological and museum specialist Peter Tonkin was commissioned to survey and consolidate the archaeological collection and prepare policy guidelines for the direction of research on the collection (Tonkin 1993). Artefacts from both collections were removed from workspaces used by Thorp and Bickford and relocated to the HHT storehouse at Ultimo. A database of the storage location of artefacts was prepared at this time (note that Box Numbers were not included in the Thorp database), and other archaeologists were involved in preliminary research of the collection, with a view to public interpretation (Varman 1993 and Lydon 1996, see discussion in Appendix One, Section 5.0).

in the records made of culled artefacts which systematically record quantities and weights not represented by the single fragments left in the bag.

¹⁴ While a separate report for this work in the commemorative areas was planned (Bickford & Petrie 1993: 4) it was never completed and the records of the excavation, which comprise colour prints of the trenches, incorporated into the main collection (Anne Bickford, pers comm, September 2001). It is yet unknown how many artefacts were collected, but it is likely to be negligible.

Prior to the opening of the Museum the Sydney, the two collections that had been consolidated at the Ultimo Store were moved again, this time to their new, permanent home: the purpose-built Resource Centre in the Museum. The artefacts from both collections continue to be stored in durable plastic boxes, on clearly marked double-skin compactor shelves on the mezzanine level of the Resource Centre.

In 2001, the EAMC team were supplied copies of the databases prepared by Thorp's team ('FGH') and Bickford's team ('FGH-AB') by Brian Robson, a database-specialist consultant to the Museum of Sydney. It is understood that neither database had been accessed since their creation in the early 1990s, and researchers have relied on printed copies of the data (Varman 1993: 'State of the Collection'; Ireland 1998: 4). The 12,642 records of the two databases have now been consolidated and reformatted into the EAMC database, which will eventually contain the records of all collections to be utilised in the project. Thus, for the first time, both First Government House databases are presently available in Microsoft Access, in the one file. Robson is currently working on a separate project to reconfigure the two databases into an artefact database developed by the curators of the Hyde Park Barracks museum.

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.

The **collection** or **assemblage** is comprised of the artefacts excavated from the First Government House site, presently stored in their boxes. The **catalogue** is the paper and electronic record of what is in the boxes. The **database** is a tool for presenting, searching and electronically storing the catalogue. Each catalogued bag of artefacts has been allocated a unique **Artefact Identification Number** (eg FGH00110). Information pertaining to this bag is stored in a single **record** in the database (ie the record for FGH00110). 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 First Government House, there are two collections and two databases (which have both now been incorporated into the EAMC database). The assemblage excavated in multiple stages from 1983 to 1987 by Anne Bickford and catalogued by Wendy Thorp and colleagues in 1990 is referred to as the **1983–1987 assemblage**. The smaller collection of artefacts retrieved by Anne Bickford in 1990–1991 from Young Street and Raphael Place is referred to as the **YRP assemblage** (in previous documentation, the database has been referred to as 'FGH-AB', see Bickford 1993: Vols 1–2).

Owing to the fact that these two collections were catalogued independently and numbered from '1' onward, there are duplicated Artefact Identification Numbers for the First Government House site as a whole. To overcome this, Catalogue Numbers were created for all artefacts in both collections to incorporate the collection name and unique artefact identification number (as had been done at the Hyde Park Barracks when the underfloor and underground collections were integrated). Artefacts from the 1983–1987 assemblage are catalogued as **FGH00001**, for example, and those from the YRP assemblage as **YRP0001**. While this is not an ideal distinction given that the YRP excavation technically is part of the historic First Government House site, the reference retains a brief, three-character code and overcomes the difficulty of incorporating the multiple years of excavation therein.

Table 4 Fields used to compile the First Government House 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)

FGH 1983–1987 Catalogue	FGH YRP Catalogue	Current HHT database	EAMC database
Site	Year of excavation	Site Code	Site
Item ID	Item ID	Artefact ID	ID number
Context (Area)	(Context) Area	Item Context	(Included in Unit)
Unit	Context (Unit)	Unit Code	Unit
	Status of context		Unit Area (square)
			Phase A (Phase From)
			Phase B (Phase To)
		Catalogue Number	Catalogue Number
	Artefact group	Artefact Class Name	Artefact class
TS Type	TS Name	Type Series or Artefact Name	TS Name
TS No	TS No	Type number	TS No (for Type or Repeat)
Repeat Type	Repeat Type	Type Series Repeat	TS Details (whether T or R)
Activity	General Function	Activity	Activity
Function	Function (stored in various fields, based on Activity)	Object Name (Function)	Function
			Subfunction
Material	Material	Material Name	Material
			Mineral
Portion	Portion	Portion	Portion
(no equiv. field; glass form sometimes recorded in Notes)	Glass form		Form (applied to all vessels)
			Shape
	Method of Manufacture		Technique of Manufacture*
	Modifications and Usewear		Modifications
Ceramic body		Ceramic body	Material*
Ceramic decoration	Decoration* (applies to all materials)	Ceramic decoration	Decoration* (applies to all materials)
Ceramic pattern	Pattern	Ceramic pattern	Pattern* (applies to other materials)
Glass colour	Colour (applies to all materials)	Glass colour	Colour (applies to all materials)
Glass decoration	Decoration*	Glass decoration	Decoration*
Glass close	Glass finish		(no equiv field; information recorded in detailed TS list)
			Tile strike
Date	Date	Date Given	Date one
Date range			Date two
			Date notes
Quantity	Number of items	Quantity	Quantity

FGH 1983-1987 Catalogue	FGH YRP Catalogue	Current HHT database	EAMC database
	Percentage		Percentage
Integrity			Integrity
			Minimum Vessel ID Number
			MV Notes
			Conjoin ID Number
	Weight (kg)	Weight Grams	Weight (g)
	Length (cm)		Length in mm
	Width (cm)		Width in mm
	Thick (cm)		Thick in mm
	Height (cm)		
	Diam (cm)		
	Rim diam (cm)		
	Base diam (cm)		
	Height of glass finish (cm)		
Condition			
		ID marks	ID marks (type of transcript)
	Method of Marking		
(no equivalent field; info recorded in Notes)	Transcript	Inscription	Transcript
	Place		Provenance
Notes	Notes	Notes	Notes
	References		
—	—	Image File	Image File
—	—	Image Caption	Image Caption
		General Treatment	Conservation
(Recorded in a separate document)	Storage	Storage Location	Box Number
Display reason	Display	Display reason	
Date (the artefact was examined: often unrecorded)		Date Entered	Date entered
Spec[ialist's Initials] (on orig. form, not in database)		Entered By	Entered by
		Date Updated	Date updated
		Updated By	Updated by
			EAMC Notes
			EAMC Checked
<i>Bone/Animal</i>	<i>Animal bone species</i>	<i>Bone Type</i>	<i>Species name¹⁵</i>
	<i>Anatomy</i>		<i>Skeletal element</i>
	<i>Part of body (eg skull, limbs)</i>		
	<i>Handedness (left or right)</i>		

¹⁵ 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.

FGH 1983–1987 Catalogue	FGH YRP Catalogue	Current HHT database	EAMC database
	<i>No. articulated bones</i>		<i>No. complete bones</i>
			<i>No. bone fragments</i>
	<i>Aspect of bone</i>		<i>Portion of bone</i>
			<i>Percentage of bone portion</i>
			<i>Condition of bone</i>
			<i>Condition description</i>
			<i>Condition assessment</i>
			<i>Attribute type</i>
			<i>Attribute location</i>
			<i>Attribute assessment</i>
			<i>Ageing location</i>
	<i>Relative age</i>		<i>Ageing state</i>
			<i>Tooth name</i>
			<i>Tooth condition</i>
			<i>Butchery location</i>
			<i>Butchery type</i>
			<i>Butchery orientation</i>
			<i>Animal size</i>
			<i>Animal max size</i>
<i>Seed</i>	<i>Type of Seed</i>	<i>Seed Type</i>	<i>Seed</i>
			<i>Organic</i>
<i>Shell</i>	<i>Type of Shell</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>

3.0 SAMPLE SIZE AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

In total, 523 artefact records (ie one or more artefacts grouped in one bag) were examined in the sample. (See Table 5.) The sample represents 2.4% of the collection as a whole and 3.2% of the collection excluding bone, shell, soil and building materials.

The sample comprised artefacts from units in Grid References M4R16 and M4R16–M6R16 from the 1983–1987 excavation, and trench area YC from the Young Street and Raphael Place excavation in 1990–1991. They are not discreet contexts or context groups but grid locations throughout which distinguishable stratigraphic units were recovered. The M4R16 units were in the locale of the stables and YC covered an area of Young Street associated with FGH-phase levelling and later terrace drainage. These contexts were selected because they represent approximately 3% of the collection as a whole (based on record rather than fragment count), which is the target size of the sample.

The production of the record and fragments counts for the assemblage as a whole—and consequently the determination of the sample size—is derived from the existing databases, which falls short of some estimates that the assemblage contains about one-million artefacts (eg HHT 1992: 12 and Bickford & Petrie 1993: 25). The database contains 21,547 records comprising an estimated 144,119 sherds. Even allowing for some culling of the excessive quantity of building materials retrieved from the site (see Section 1.0 and Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1994: 22), and the unusual recording of the quantity field for some YRP artefacts (see 4.3.1) it is difficult to account for a figure of one million.

Nine bags from the sampled contexts (seven from YRP) could not be located in their boxes and were not inspected.

Only some bone, shell and building materials were inspected. Unmodified bone and shell artefacts and soil samples will not be analysed in the EAMC project and building materials will receive far less attention than other artefact classes, hence little time was invested in their review. Where appropriate, however, building materials, bone and shell were inspected.

During the course of the sampling process, 28 bags from other contexts were also examined and their records checked. This was to verify problems and, in the case of some pieces noticed to be diagnostic when looking through the box, to see whether appropriate information was recorded.

Table 5 Number of bags and estimated fragments sampled and in the collections.

	TOTAL ASSEMBLAGE		SAMPLE	
	Bags	Est. Frags ¹⁶	Bags	Est. Frags
1983–1987 assemblage	12,642	84,485	386 (3.1%)	2,260 (2.7%)
<i>excl bone, shell, soil & bldg materials</i>	8,073	46,212	254 (3.1%)	1,699 (3.7%)
1990–1991 assemblage	8,905	59,881	137 (1.5%)	472 (1.0%)
<i>excl bone, shell, soil & bldg materials</i>	2,945	9,773	96 (3.2 %)	328 (3.4%)
Total	32,565	144,366	523 (2.4%)	2,732 (1.9%)
<i>excl bone, shell, soil and building materials</i>	11,018	55,985	350 (3.2%)	2,027 (3.6%)

The artefacts were inspected box by box, and each artefact was examined for its appropriate correspondence with the records contained in the database. Data from the original First Government House Minark database exported by Brian Robson in June 2001 and incorporated into the EAMC database by the Project Archaeologist was used for this purpose. Where anomalies were discovered, they were noted in an additional database field entitled ‘EAMC Notes’. Where Inscriptions or Notes were omitted in

¹⁶ In the case of the 1983–1987 assemblage, this estimate is a total of all quantified artefacts, excepting brick and charcoal quantities, and the total of the maximum number of artefacts whose quantity was not definitive, eg those recorded as ‘50–100’ were estimated in this total to be 100. Brick and charcoal quantities were estimated as 1 per record, due to a culling procedure undertaken during cataloguing, in which the database includes the number of fragments discarded (eg ‘20–50’), but only one fragment has been retained in the collection.

the original data, this information was entered into the appropriate field, but few other changes have been made to the original fields at this stage.

The re-examination was undertaken over ten working days.

Data-entry problems were easily identified during the sample because the artefact cataloguing sheets were stamped and completed on paper bags in which the artefacts are stored.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

4.1 NEEDS OF THE EAMC PROJECT

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, 20 mouthpieces and 70 fragments of pipe bowls, there must have been *at least* 20 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 First Government House database does provide the above requirements for a sufficient quantity of records in the collection, although the reliability of the type series of the 1983-1987 is questionable and a

number of records in the YRP catalogue are incomplete. The limitations of the respective databases and other issues affecting the catalogues and collections are discussed below.

4.2 THE ARTEFACT CATALOGUE OF THE EXCAVATIONS OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE SITE, 1983–1987

As shown in Table 4, the information parameters of the First Government House 1983–1987 catalogue satisfactorily, although not precisely, correspond with the fields required for the EAMC project and do include a type series. The most notable absence is that of the Form, Shape, Colour and Technique of Manufacture fields, however, as discussed below, some cataloguers recorded this information elsewhere on the recording form.

Within the framework of 1983–1987 catalogue, the recording of information is considered satisfactory overall, although some errors and omissions—with minor and significant impact—were noted during the sample (see Table 6). Items considered to have ‘minor errors or omissions’ include records in which information from less-important fields was incorrect or overlooked, having little impact on the comprehension of the artefact(s), or the error could be easily detected from the database alone. Items considered to have ‘significant errors or omissions’ included those for which altered or incorrect information rendered the record misleading or substantially incomplete—such as the omission of detailed notes.

In addition to these individual errors, there were also some systematic errors or omissions that affect most records in the collection. These include the inconsistent approach to some Type Series subsets, the alpha-numerical type series numbers and the overall lack of description for scenic sherds and were not considered cause to render an individual record erroneous as specified in Table 6.

Unfortunately, important information has been lost from project to project; type series and artefact identifications appear to have been created from scratch and the final catalogue is the poorer for it (see Section 2.2.4).

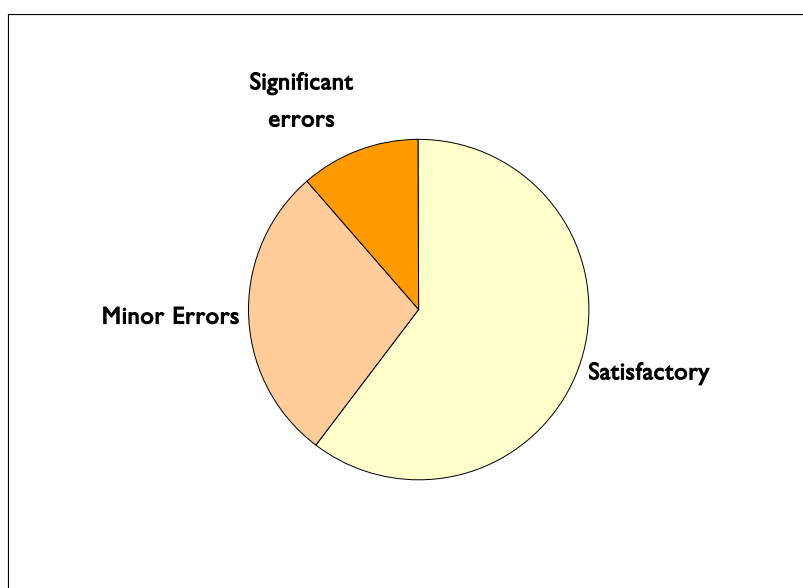
4.2.1 THE TYPE SERIES

The type series for First Government House’s 1983–1987 artefact assemblage was developed in concert with those of the Hyde Park Barracks underground collection and the Mint, but each site retained an independent Type Series (Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1994: 45–46). While the Type Series for First Government House is certainly an improvement on the cataloguing of other collections, it does contain some shortcomings. In summary, the issues are:

- some records have no Type Number;
- some Repeated types have no original Type;
- some glass Type Numbers are alpha-numerical;
- some Type Names cannot be readily defined;
- the typing of the fabric and decorative characteristics of some ceramic types is inconsistent;
- some diagnostic or distinct artefacts have been typed as ‘Repeats’ of more generic Types; and
- some very similar items have been allocated to separate Type Numbers (within the same type grouping).

Table 6 Accuracy of records in the sample of 1983–1987 First Government House catalogue and a projection of the number of records likely in the assemblage as a whole.¹⁷

Assess of Record	Nº Records	Projected Nº Records
Satisfactory	211 (60.3%)	7,514
Minor errors or omissions	99 (28.3%)	3,525
Significant errors or omissions	40 (11.4%)	1,424
Major problem	(0%)	0
Total	350	12,463



In the 1983–1987 database, 1,233 records (9.8%) have a Type Name but no Type Number—affecting three records in the sample (FGH08713, FGH08755 and FGH08771)—and 561 (4.4%) have no Type Name or Type Number. A much smaller number of records (28 in total) have repeated Type Numbers but no Type Name, which is likely to be the result of typographic errors or oversights during cataloguing.

As was the case for the Hyde Park Barracks underground collection and the Mint databases, several repeated Types have no corresponding artefact identified as the best representation of that ‘Type’. In the case of FGH 1983–1987, 1,802 bags of artefacts have been allocated to 123 repeated types that have no identified ‘Type’.

Some Type Series Numbers have been made alpha-numerical, eg ‘Alcohol Bottle 7a’. In the original Minark database (and the current EAMC database), the TS number field accepts numbers only, so artefacts in these

¹⁷ This assessment is based on whether the individual records are adequately representative of ‘what’s in the box’, within the parameters of the database’s information structure. It does not account for noted errors and inconsistencies in the Type Series, eg that several nail Types group ferrous and copper nails. These issues are discussed in Section 4.2.4.

types have been entered as Type 7, with a comment in the Notes field: ‘TS 7a’. Four-hundred-and-forty-three records have been affected. The alpha-numeric types will be allocated a new type-series number by the EAMC team and a full list of the new numbers provided to MoS.

Such errors have been identified by other researchers working on the collection. With regard to the whole First Government House assemblage (the 1983–1987 and YRP collections) Robert Varman noted that, ‘as with other collections...[the First Government House] type series do not necessarily reflect the “types” supposedly represented, especially with regard to material of an early date’ (Varman 1993: ‘State of the Collection’, np).

Questionable and inconsistent type names

As encountered in the Hyde Park Barracks underground and the Mint assemblages, there were a small number of Type Series names, particularly ceramic-decorative types, that were questionable and cannot be readily defined. These include ‘Potato Print’, ‘Peasant’ and ‘Marbletype’. All three are examples of hand-painted wares that do not resemble their respective type-series names and are comparable with sherds typed ‘Hand-painted’ in other comprehensively typed artefact-catalogues such as that of the Cumberland and Gloucester Streets site. One example of ‘Potato Print’ (FGH09437) had been previously typed as Hand-painted (No. 28) during the 1987 phase of artefact analysis (Thorp 1987: Plate 46).

There were also inconsistencies among the Type Names. Most ceramics made from oriental porcelain were typed as ‘Hand-painted Oriental Porcelain’ or ‘Oriental Undecorated’ but moulded oriental-porcelain wares were ‘Moulded’, for example FGH09567 (Moulded 1). The same was true of moulded creamwares, salt-glazed, porcelain and fine earthenwares—they were sometimes typed by their fabric, other times by their moulded form.

Other Type Names such as ‘Creamware’ are more common, but require more specific definition to indicate whether they are considered examples of Wedgwood’s 18th-century ‘Creamware’ or the earthenware bodies that followed Wedgwood’s innovation—or whether the Type grouping incorporates both categories. It is clear from inspection of four ‘Creamware’ sherds examined during the sample that they fall into the former category but this information is difficult to ascertain from the database alone. Wendy Thorp (pers comm July 2001) has confirmed that a catalogue or list of type series names and numbers was recorded as the cataloguing project proceeded. This list is most likely to clarify some of the noted distinctions but its present location is unknown¹⁸.

Further, while transfer-printed earthenware is typed as ‘Blue transfer-printed’, other types indicative of ceramic decoration do not incorporate the colour. As ceramic colour was not a field on the original recording forms, this information is not consistently available elsewhere in the database (it is occasionally recorded in the Notes field).

Mixed types

In addition to the range of types often grouped together in ‘mixed bags’ (see Section 4.2.6 below), the basis for separating several Type groups comprised of individual records was occasionally unclear. For example, items FGH09463 and FGH09465 were of a type very similar to, and possibly from the same vessel as, FGH09437 but each piece was typed Potato Print 27, Potato Print 29 and Potato Print 2, respectively. Also

¹⁸ The records are not held by the HHT (Megan Martin, HHT Librarian, pers comm, August 2001). They may have been submitted to the Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning, which is now Heritage Office.

sherds FGH09490–FGH09492, typed ‘Peasant’ 1, 2 and 3 respectively, while clearly not from the same vessel, may be more effectively typed under the one grouping.

It is unknown what distinguished the Typing of window glass as sherds of different colour and thickness were grouped under the same Type Number (eg TS Window 20) and distinctive, bubble-glass sherds (FGH04527) were recorded as repeats. The Type group ‘Salt-glazed 14’ contained salt-glazed wares of different fabric-colour and glaze (eg compare FGH11690 and FGH11683).

Diagnostic or distinct types

There were six diagnostic or distinct artefacts that were ‘Repeats’ of more generalised types and should have been allocated their own Type Number. These examples included salt-glaze sherd FGH11672, which was allocated to the type ‘Salt-glaze 13’ but had a different exterior glaze and interior finish to others (eg FGH11676) and, more importantly, also had an impressed stamp and (presumably) maker’s name. Similarly, type ‘Bristol 1’ included Bristol wares of varying degrees of diagnostic potential, including small unmarked sherds and the complete bottle FGH11761 with the maker’s mark (shallow on one side): ‘.../LAMBETH/LONDON’ which was recorded as a repeat type.

In other cases, items of distinct function were grouped with other objects because they shared the same decorative finish, for example pharmaceutical or toothpaste-jar lid FGH01114 (Special Find 752) being typed as ‘Single-glaze 22’.

It is worth noting that this approach to Type Series cannot be deemed ‘incorrect’, it is simply different to systems that will provide a more effective tool for the EAMC team’s research.

4.2.2 ERRONEOUS AND QUESTIONABLE RECORDS

During the sampling of the catalogue, a small number of significantly erroneous or questionable allocations of activity or function groupings were recognised.

In addition to these more significant issues, it was noted that there was an inconsistent approach to whether small ceramic sherds could be identified as particular functions or whether they should be recorded as ‘Function: Unidentified’. For example, the rim sherd of what is likely to be a plate with an estimated diameter of 20 cm (FGH09847) was recorded as having an ‘Unidentified’ Activity and Function. It did, however, have the same area of diagnostic features (such as rims, bases etc) as other similar sherds that were recorded as Plates, including FGH09848. The salt-glaze body sherd FGH11602, similarly displays as many characteristics of stoneware bottles as other sherds identified as such but was recorded as ‘Unidentified’. The same is true of the ‘Unidentified’ ceramic sherd FGH12121 with a footed-base, which is most likely to be a bowl.

Other similar cases include sherds, which should have been identified as part of a ceramic strainer (FGH09689) and toothpaste or jar lid (FGH09930), as was noted on Special Finds sheets for both these items. Other ‘Unidentified’ sherds could have been tentatively identified as plates (FGH10463, FGH12167, FGH12452), platters (FGH09688), bowls (FGH11867, FGH11888), cups (FGH12119, FGH10459) and saucers (FGH12123). Even if these tentative identifications were not entered into the field due to database constraints (ie it will not allow ‘Saucer?’), these could be made in the Notes field as was made by the cataloguer of glass sherds (eg FGH05704).

Several other sherds identified as particular functions are questionable. Several rim sherds identified as plates are more likely to be from vessels serving other functions including saucers (FGH09967, FGH10939,

FGH10460, FGH11850), tea cups or small bowls (FGH12120, FGH12122), platters (FGH09690, FGH10355) and a bowl or vase (FGH10343). Three other curved sherds (FGH09954, FGH12173, FGH12174) identified as plates are unlikely to be so not only owing to their form, but in the case of two Willow-ware sherds, the position of the well-known pattern on the well, shoulder and marly. In regard to two sherds identified as Bowls, one is a straight-sided body sherd (FGH09567; therefore more likely to be a mug, coffee can or jar) and the other (FGH09437) is curved but quite narrow and more likely to be a teacup (as was identified on the original SF sheet).

In addition, the portions of 11 sherds were mis-identified. Several sherds identified as Body sherds were either rims (FGH09460, FGH10353, FGH12437), bases (FGH10890) or a combination (FGH05250, FGH09690, FGH11860, FGH11162) and other body sherds were recorded as rims (FGH09954, FGH09688) and bases (FGH09930).

Naturally, these cases of questionable Activity and Function information when taken together might diminish confidence in the record of ceramics. In many cases this may be the result of database limitations: a function could only be a 'Plate' or a 'Saucer', not 'Plate/Saucer'. Had detailed notes or queries been made in the comments field eg, 'may be a saucer', as was done for Glass artefacts, clay pipes and some other records, this confidence would be more readily restored.

On a much more minor scale, there were a few queries or minor errors noted in regard to ceramic decoration and material. These included the description of some repetitious patterns and scenes as geometric designs (FGH11873, FGH12450, FGH12452, FGH09879); a scroll border as floral (FGH11869); cobalt-coloured transfer print as blue transfer print. A salt-glazed stoneware vessel was typed as Bristol ware (FGH11802). Also, traces of band and floral decoration on the rim sherd FGH10460 were described and recorded as Gilding, but may be the remains of non-gilt hand painting.

As discussed in relation to Type Series identification (Section 4.2.1), some sherds were identified as being of the Type 'Creamware' which is a fine, cream-coloured earthenware with a transparent lead glaze, developed by Josiah Wedgwood c1760 and renamed 'Queen's ware' in 1765 (Spencer 1991: 86). In two of these cases, the fabric type is in fact fine stoneware but was recorded as fine earthenware (FGH10353) and porcelain (FGH10355). The latter, and other examples of porcelain (eg FGH10460 and FGH10463), are certainly porcellaneous but may be more appropriately described as fine stoneware or bone china.

Other, more trivial cases of questionable records included sherds identified with round form which were actually flat (FGH04533), octagonal or panelled (FGH03989); the slate pencil (FGH08900) recorded with a square form, but actually has a hexagonal profile; the description of a club or clover on a glass bottle as a spade (FGH04198); and miscounting the number of sherds in five bags (FGH06772, FGH09053, FGH09954, FGH09108, FGH10117).

4.2.3 INSUFFICIENT OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

There were 49 records in the sample considered to have insufficient information and which would have been improved by detailed notes of description, form, or speculation about activities or functions.

In the case of 17 records of uncommon pieces, the omission of details is considered to be a significant hindrance to the understanding of the artefact from the database records alone—which is necessary for the EAMC research¹⁹. These include the omission of makers' marks such as '[B?]ARROW' on Bristolware bottle

¹⁹ FGH05551, FGH05552, FGH09578, FGH11796, FGH11848, FGH09752, FGH12436, FGH12444, FGH11162, FGH11573,

FGH11796 and pattern names such as 'DIA...' on purple transfer-printed sherd FGH09967; and the failure to describe or note unique features, such as the sherd FGH09578 which is in the shape of a wooden log. Also considered insufficient was the record of leather shoes FGH05551 and FGH05552, which while fragmented, contain substantial heels and soles with upward of 50 shoe tacks (possibly machine-made) and yet contained no more notes than: 'PART SOLE - TACKS INCLUDED' and 'PART INSTEP, HEEL AND UNID.'

Also of concern is the general lack of description for unidentified scenic or other transfer-printed patterns. While it seems it was not policy to describe scenery, some highly diagnostic patterns that happen not to have been identified during cataloguing could easily have been noted. For example, fragment FGH11848 depicted a miniature scene of classical male and female figures posing on an outdoor terrace with urns in the fore- and back-grounds, within an elaborate scroll border (see also FGH09752, FGH12436 and FGH12440). This pattern has been identified by Graham Wilson as 'Corsina' (Wilson 1999: 332). Even though the pattern name could not be identified at the time of cataloguing, other researchers may easily have recognised this pattern from perusal of the database alone, had a detail description been provided.

Other omissions of information that were of lesser concern included a failure to note a thin-blue line around the moulding of sherd FGH09608; the trace of gilt on the handle of FGH09692; the blue underglaze on Mulberry Transfer-printed ware FGH09868; and the black hand-painting on the Flow Blue sherd FGH10939.

In the case of some undiagnostic and unidentifiable artefacts, additional notes would allow future researchers to quickly assess whether the artefacts are worthy of physical re-examination. The completed database field and descriptions were far more useful than the catalogue of underfloor artefacts at the Hyde Park Barracks—in which a small fragment of paper (25mm x 20mm) with a fine scalloped border, probably from a book or card is catalogued as 'document, printed'. However, a handful of artefacts remained obscure from their database records, for example FGH07368 was recorded as 'Activity: Non-Structural Architecture'; 'Function: unidentified'; 'Material: Marble'. A brief description in the Notes field such as: 'small triangular section, broken off a 20mm-thick slab of marble, smooth on one side' would greatly improve the ready recognition of the artefact from its written record.

Conjoins

25 artefacts were identified as conjoins with artefacts in another context (12 glass, 12 ceramic, 1 metal), a further nine were considered possible conjoins with other artefacts and a further six as having features (such as inscriptions) that improve the likelihood of identifying conjoins. An additional four ceramic sherds from different contexts were identified as conjoined pieces during the sample and it was observed that there is the potential for several conjoins among the 'bulk bags' of round, olive alcohol-bottle sherds (eg FGH04536, FGH04553, FGH04557, FGH04561, FGH04562, FGH05227, FGH05228, FGH05689, FGH05690).

While there are likely to be more conjoins between contexts, the notation of these few examples is reassuring.

4.2.4 MIXED BAGS

As with other assemblages assessed by EAMC, the First Government House 1983–1987 catalogue contained bags with artefacts of different style, portion, function, material or form, which ideally should

FGH09930, FGH09607, FGH09967, FGH09668, FGH11865, FGH12121 and FGH12440.

have been bagged and recorded separately. Fifteen (4.3%) of the 350 bags sampled can be considered 'mixed bags'. Unlike other catalogues, for six of these records where bases, rims and body sherds were bagged together, the Portion field was recorded as 'Multiple', which allows other researchers to readily recognise that it is a 'mixed bag' from the database alone. There was only one case (FGH11162) where the portion was recorded as Body, but the bag contained artefacts of multiple portion.

The other cases of mixed bags included a range of nails (rosehead, wire and flat-head) bagged under Type 'Nail 7' (FGH09108); two sherds of Willow plate, clearly made by different manufacturers in the one bag, under the one Type 'Blue transfer-print 100' (FGH12167); 'bulk bags' or miscellaneous sherds containing plate, jar, tea-cup, tureen-lid and strainer fragments (FGH11123, FGH12160, FGH11162, FGH11142); and the grouping of round and flat sherds in the one bag (FGH04537, FGH04538, FGH04550, FGH04553, FGH04564, FGH05230, FGH10906). These are considered to have a minor impact on the EAMC's research and analysis.

4.2.5 DATA-ENTRY ERRORS

There were 49 records with database entry-errors. The most problematic of these was the omission of part or all Notes from 24 records. In some cases, these left a distorted representation of the artefact, for example the Note of the bag of glass sherds FGH05704 (Function: 'Unidentified') was originally '?tumbler/bottle' and is now '?bottle'. In others, more-detailed descriptions of the items were lost, for example, the inscriptions for items FGH11672 and FGH09929, the decoration of ceramic sherds FGH10535 and FGH09567, or details of glass-bottle manufacture such as the domed push-up or double-band finish for sherds FGH12565 and FGH12567 respectively.

In addition to these sampled records, it was discovered that the note 'Mortar' in the comments field had been omitted from eight bags of shell in the one box. This error was noted after the EAMC sample had been completed, when MoS staff requested a list of all shells with mortar adhesions found at First Government House. The initial search called up just three of 767 non-worked shells and when these were sought for examination, it was noted that another eight bags from the same box also had mortar adhesions, and had been catalogued as such but the note 'Mortar' was not typed into the database. Raising the count from three to 11 is substantial in itself and there are likely to be many more examples in the same box (it was not searched thoroughly) and others—rendering this recurrent oversight quite significant.

In the case of two glass sherds (FGH03737, FGH04555), fields that were not completed by cataloguers such as glass finish and decoration, were recorded in the database as 'Unidentified', when in fact they may well be identifiable, just happen not to be noted. In these cases, 'Not recorded' would have been more appropriate term.

For thirteen other glass sherds (FGH04567–FGH04570, FGH05235–FGH05243), the Activity field recorded by the cataloguer as 'Unidentified' was entered into the database as 'Food Preparation' and the function of Bristolware bottle FGH11761 was questionably recorded as 'Ink Bottle' but entered as 'Inkwell' which is certainly incorrect.

In the case of three moulded ceramic sherds (FGH09625–FGH09627) the more detailed pattern identification 'Daisy' was entered as floral, possibly due to database constraints, but no note to that effect was made in the database record.

Other data-entry errors, which were of lesser concern but still affected the records, included the omission of date ranges (FGH09929), material or ceramic body (FGH00138, FGH10354), and minor alterations such

as replacing 'Unadorned' with 'Unglazed' (FGH10756), or blank quantity fields with '1' when there were in fact 3 sherds (FGH04518).

4.3 THE ARTEFACT CATALOGUE OF THE EXCAVATIONS IN YOUNG STREET AND RAPHAEL PLACE, 1990–1991

As shown in Table 4, the Young Street and Raphael Place (YRP) catalogue corresponds well with the fields required for the EAMC project and in fact contains several other specialist fields, such as the diameter of rims and bases, the method of marking and some specialised faunal categories such as handedness. The most notable absences are the Form and Shape fields for artefacts other than glass, and the Integrity field, however, the Percentage and Method of Manufacture fields were completed for most records. Importantly, while the field names correspond, at least one field—that of Quantity of Items—carries a different meaning to the other databases in the EAMC project and this is discussed below (Section 4.3.1).

Within the framework of the YRP catalogue, the recording of information is considered to be satisfactory overall, although some errors and omissions—with minor and significant impact—were noted during the sample (see Table 7). A major factor affecting the YRP catalogue, which has not affected the FGH 1983–1987 catalogue, is the prevalence of incomplete records: thirty percent of records in the sample. Most are likely to have been intentionally 'bulk catalogued' but the means of determining this is from the database alone is presently unclear (see 4.3.2 below).

As for the FGH 1983–1987 database, items considered to have 'minor errors or omissions' include records in which information from less-important fields was incorrect or overlooked, effecting little impact on the comprehension of the artefact(s), or the error could be easily detected from the database alone. Items considered to have 'significant errors or omissions' included those for which altered or incorrect information rendered the record misleading or substantially incomplete—such as the omission of detailed notes.

These and other issues are discussed below.

4.3.1 NUMBER OF ITEMS

The 'Number of Items' or Quantity field in the YRP (FGH-AB) database is seemingly the same as quantity fields in other catalogues, but in fact contains different information. It is defined, literally, as the number of items, but in many cases records only one when there are multiple sherds in the bag. In these cases, it appears that this figure represents some kind of minimum-number-of-vessels for the bag, but this is not discussed in detail anywhere in the report. It is interesting to note that in the 'Technical Information' section of the Catalogue Report (Bickford & Petrie 1993: 25) the estimate of 500,000 to 1,000,000 fragments in the collection as a whole is based on the number of records rather than the quantity field.²⁰

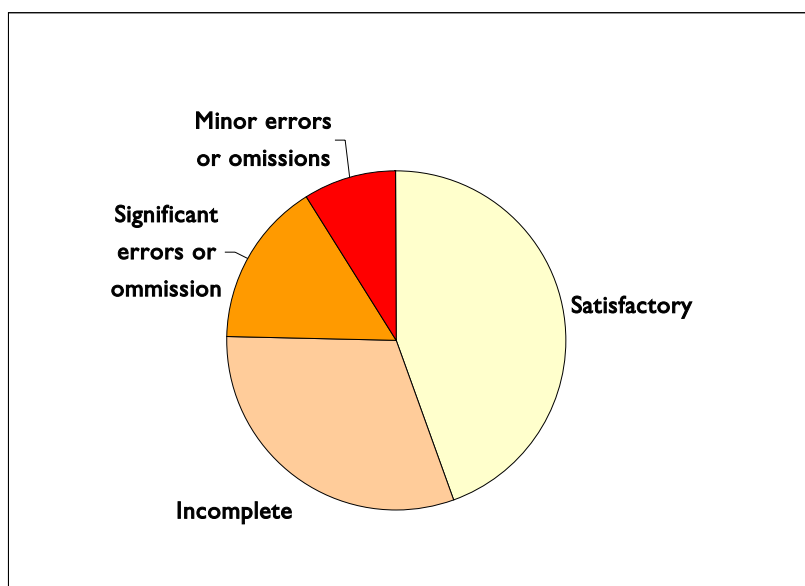
Fifteen bags in the sample containing multiple sherds (excluding the bulk bagged material) were recorded as having only one sherd. In some cases (eg YRP0401, YRP4241, YRP4887, YRP4888, YRP5665, YRP5569) the pieces were definitely conjoined, but in others, for example the nine plate sherds of YRP5671 not all fragments are conjoining and may be from more than one vessel. Multiple fragments of mortar (eg YRP3677) were also recorded as one.

²⁰ Note that this estimate is likely to be a gross over-estimation, see discussion in Section 3.0 above.

While this is a significant departure from standard recording (and is not clearly explained in the report), it is not likely to have a great impact on the EAMC's calculations. It does affect, however, the calculation of how many artefacts MoS currently stores.

Table 7 Accuracy of records in the sample of Young Street and Raphael Place catalogue and a projection of the number of records likely in the assemblage as a whole.²¹

Assess of Record	Nº Records	Projected Nº Records
Satisfactory	61 (44.5%)	3965
Minor errors	12 (8.8%)	780
Significant errors	22 (16.1%)	1430
Incomplete	42 (30.7%)	2730
Major problem	(0%)	0
Total	137	8,905



4.3.2 INCOMPLETE FIELDS AND BULK CATALOGUING

Several fields of many records in the YRP (FGH-AB) database—including crucial fields—have not been completed for some records.

²¹ This assessment is based on whether the individual records are adequately representative of 'what's in the box', within the parameters of the database's information structure. It does not account for noted errors and inconsistencies in the Type Series.

Volume 3 of the YRP reports notes that artefacts from post-First Government House periods were intentionally bulk-catalogued although no list was provided of these context numbers (1993: 6). A list of context numbers entitled 'FGH Bulk Cataloguing' was found in a folder entitled 'Minark Cataloguing Notes'. (Being hand-written and photocopied it is likely to be a working document, distributed to cataloguers.) There are 1,116 records of artefacts from these 'Bulk Cataloguing' contexts (comprising 12.5% of the assemblage). Many of these bags (647 bags, 58%) had been weighed.

In a few of these cases, some details about unique or diagnostic artefacts were recorded. For example, the inscription and pattern name of the green transfer-printed rim sherd (YRP5538) marked 'TIVOLI' was recorded.

An additional 1,635 records of artefacts not from these listed contexts, are largely incomplete and lack Activity and Function fields and either Material or Type or both. In addition to these, a total of 88 records in the whole assemblage were allocated Functions and Materials but no Activity nor Type Series. Across the whole database, 20 records had Type Names and no Type Numbers; 63 Numbers and no Names; and 3,009 had neither.

All of the 327 smoking pipes in the YRP collection (including those from 'bulk' contexts) were recorded with the Type Name and Number, often Artefact Class ('Clay Tobacco Pipe') and Portion, but no Activity, Function or Material. It is uncertain whether, because the Activity and Function of pipes are constant ('Recreation' and 'Smoking'), the data-entry person was required to complete these details but did not (the Clay Tobacco Pipe data-entry sheets could not be located during the sample). For this same reason, it will be quite simple to update the records in the database with Activity and Function information. It will be more difficult to update the Material field, however, even though the vast majority of pipes will be 'Kaolin', because some stems and bowls may be terracotta and some mouthpieces may be from synthetic material.

In total, 2,751 records may be considered to be incomplete.

Table 8 below provides a summary of the number of records for which various important fields were not completed. Note the figures do not indicate the number of records lacking more than one of the fields. That is, several of the 2,841 records without an Activity may also be without Function or Material but some will be otherwise complete.

Table 8 Number and percentage of records for which lacking important fields.

Field Name	Number of records lacking	% of total records
<i>Activity</i>	2,841	31.9%
<i>Function</i>	3,608	40.5%
<i>Material</i>	2,678	30.1%
<i>Percentage</i>	2,071	23.3%
<i>Quantity</i>	1,087	12.2%
<i>Form</i>	7,587	85.2%
<i>Portion</i>	5,802	65.2%
<i>Decoration</i>	7,339	82.4%
<i>TS Name</i>	3,078	34.6%
<i>TS Name & No</i>	3,015	33.9%
<i>Box No.</i>	2,967	33.3%

Of the 52 incomplete ‘bulk records’ in the sample, several were items of less diagnostic importance such as small olive-green glass body sherds (eg YRP4340–YRP4342, YRP4346, YRP4347).

Other mixed bags included glass sherds of various colour, form, portion and function (YRP4343–YRP4345, YRP4348) often mixed with other types of artefacts such as slate (YRP4343) and chert and coal (YRP4345), despite being catalogued as Artefact class: ‘Glass’; Activity: ‘Food’; and in all but one case, Function: ‘Beer/Wine’ (YRP4348 was Function: ‘Unid’).

There were also bags of mixed ceramic sherds including stoneware, fine earthenware, coarse earthenware and oriental porcelain of various styles, forms, portions and functions (YRP7348–YRP7352). In the latter cases, the records were largely blank excepting the Description field (stating either ‘Transfer printed’ or ‘Cream Plain’), and for YRP7352, the Material ‘Porcelain’ and Pattern ‘Willow’. In all these cases, the only information recorded described only *some* sherds in the bags and in the case of the ‘porcelain’ sherds applied only partially to a tiny fragment of oriental porcelain. In these cases, it would have been preferable to state ‘Various’ in each field, with a brief note describing, ‘some transfer-printed’ or ‘some Willow’.

Other incomplete records included two coins for which neither inscriptions nor dates were recorded, excepting queries in the Notes fields: ‘188?’ for 1883 coin YRP7174, and ‘197?’ for 1974 one-cent coin YRP7171.

4.3.3 TYPE SERIES

Unlike the 1983–1987 catalogue, the type-series recording sheets for the YRP catalogue survive (6 folders held in the MoS Resource Centre, see Appendix One, Section 3.2). These provide a tremendous assistance to clarifying the categories of the Type Series and resolving apparent category-conflicts contained within the catalogue and database.

Despite this resource, some question marks linger over specific elements of the series. For example, sherds YRP4886 and YRP4877, both from the same unit and trench (YC: 0966) were bagged separately and allocated to two different Types: Glasses 30 and Glasses 46, respectively. It was noted during the review of these sherds, however, that the pieces in the two sherds actually conjoin. The Type Series sheets were completed by J Smith within three days of each other, and, based on the description, there is little to distinguish the two pieces, except their portion. That is, they were both described as ‘flat, concave’ or ‘slightly concave’, with a ‘rough pontil scar’ and markings (wear and post-deposition) and the only distinction was that YRP4886 was identified as having spin marks.

Also, a very distinctive ceramic type known as ‘tendril’ emerged in a range of forms (plates, cups, soup bowls, tureens) across the YRP area of the First Government House site, which were allocated to different Types including Blue transfer-printed 1, 13, 14 and 31–39 and surprisingly Pearlware 16 (YRP5569). It is unknown why YRP5569 was typed under the Pearlware but it can be ascertained from the TS sheets that the various tendril blue transfer-printed types were distinguished by function.

Similarly, a range of quite dissimilar buttons or discs were typed under the one category, Button 1. These included a copper-alloy disc with an inscription ‘[L]ON[D]ON’ (YRP9557) and remains of adhesive on the obverse side, described as a ‘flattened dome’ but appeared to be simply flat, among other discs which *are* domes (flattened and otherwise), without inscriptions and no clear evidence of adhesion.

These may be the kind of errors Robert Varman referred to with regard to the First Government House assemblage as a whole, as noted above (Varman 1993: ‘State of the Collection’, np; see Section 4.2.1).

While these are serious concerns about the development of the type series—as the EAMC project team intend to use it to narrow the manufacture type of different artefacts into the smallest possible groupings—the problems can at least be identified with the aid of type-series recording forms. That is, it is possible to establish that the two sherds were typed three days apart, and both had similar characteristics. It is far easier to review and amend the type-series allocation in these cases, than it is if time is taken surmising what distinctions the original cataloguer may have seen that is not now readily apparent.

In addition to these widespread concerns, there were also some difficulties arising from the codes used for particular types within different artefact classes. For example, the code for TS Name ‘Spike’ was ‘S’ which was also the code for ‘Spirits’. When upgraded from Minark to Access, the spikes became ‘Spirits’, which fortunately is easy to detect from the database alone. Should other trivial confusions be identified they can be easily amended.

4.3.4 QUESTIONABLE

There were several more records containing questionable information, predominantly in relation to vessel function. The greatest concern is the level of inconsistency in ascribing functions to ceramic sherds, as was found in the catalogue of the 1983–1987 excavations (see 4.2.2 above). These records are in addition to the ‘mixed bags’ and ‘bulk’ records discussed in Section 4.3.2.

Some rim sherds with portions similar to other sherds identified as plates—and are highly likely to be plates—were recorded as being of ‘Unidentified’ Function (YRP5538, YRP5677, YRP6187). Other, small fragments that have been catalogued as plates such as YRP5655, YRP5670 and YRP5672 are most likely to be plates but could be sherds from bowls or other unidentifiable vessels. It is unclear why these similarly diagnostic—or undiagnostic—types were catalogued differently.

The functions of other fragments were also questionable: oriental-porcelain sherd YRP5668 looks more like a bowl than a plate as catalogued, the base sherd YRP5660 catalogued as a ‘mug’ may well be from a small jar or beaker (there are no handles to identify it as a mug).

It is also unclear why fine-stoneware base and body sherds YRP5661 was recorded as a blacking bottle, when they do not show any visible trace of black residues and no neck fragments survived (in this bag) to distinguish it from other brown ginger-beer bottles. Neither it is clear why most coarse earthenware sherds were identified as bowls (eg YRP5873 and YRP5678), when their common function and the form of many rim sherds suggested that they were jars or pots.

As encountered at other sites, some sherds catalogued as porcelain were not true porcelain. The artefact noted in this EAMC sample (YRP5649), however, could certainly be described as porcellaneous: it was glassy looking, but not transparent.

4.3.5 ERRONEOUS

A very small number of records in the YRP (FGH-AB) database contained erroneous information, mostly affecting portion, form and decoration. Three artefact-bags were described as having portions that were not correct: body sherds were recorded as bases (YRP5669) or rims (YRP5658, YRP5676). While the misrecording of portion has a significant impact on minimum vessel counts, the number of errors is very small and considered insubstantial.

Sherd YRP4031 is square, not round, as recorded. In base sherd YRP5660, the floral pattern 1.5cm above the base was noted to be a wavy line’. These errors also are not considered substantial.

4.3.6 CONJOINS

Fifty-seven (0.6%) of the 8,905 records in YRP catalogue were noted to be conjoins or 'cross joins'. Of the three of these reviewed in the sample (YRP0401, YRP4241, YRP5569) fragments from different contexts (and trench areas) were bagged together and given the one Artefact Identification number. This is not common practice and complicates the task of numerating artefacts in different contexts. Each artefact should be allocated a unique Artefact Identification number and recorded with a reference in the notes field: 'conjoins with #1465'.

In another case, conjoins between stemmed-glass sherds *within* the one context (YRP4866 and YRP4887) were bagged separately and their conjoin went unnoticed. (The fact that these two sherds were allocated to separate Types was discussed above.) If conjoins within the one context were overlooked, it is probable that more conjoins exist between contexts.

4.3.7 DATA-ENTRY ERRORS

A small number of records (six, 4.4% of the sample) were erroneous or incomplete due to data-entry errors or oversights. These included the incorrect or incomplete re-typing of artefact-inscriptions recorded by cataloguers (YRP4230, YRP4944) and the mistyping of the portion number 14, for 'BaseBody' as 33, the ID number for a very different portion: 'NeckShoulder' (YRP5661). In three other cases, Pattern and Provenance information that was not recorded on the form was entered into the database, suggesting that plain sherds were 'Floral' (YRP5650 and YRP5662) and that lead-glazed coarse earthenware sherds of unknown provenance (but likely to be local) were manufactured in Asia (YRP5653). Other unrecorded information such as the dates on tendril-pattern ceramics which was recorded on the Type Series form, but not the individual artefact-recording sheets, now appears in the database (eg, see Record YRP5671). This may have been added during or after the data-entry process.

It is a credit to the data verification process that there are so few data-entry errors, particularly given the complexity of numerical code recording.

4.3.8 MISSING ARTEFACTS

Only two of the 12 'Aboriginal Artefacts'—flaked or possibly flaked stone and glass artefacts—in Box 7.1 were present. These and other similar, flaked artefacts had been used in drawers within the Museum's collectors' chests displays. The drawers were decommissioned and the artefacts are currently stored elsewhere in the Museum, with other material from the chests (Inara Walden, pers comm, November 2001). While there is comprehensive documentation of the location of these artefacts, there is no ready means to identify this from the artefact boxes alone. MoS curatorial staff have been alerted to this problem and when the Sites case is dismantled in February and March 2002, MoS staff will return artefacts to their boxes and prepare object-removal cards for any object retained for display (Inara Walden, pers comm, November 2001).

4.4 INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN THE DATABASE AND OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

During the analysis of the sample, the current database records were compared with Special Finds sheets which were prepared on site when diagnostic artefacts were identified during excavation or sieving. Brief comparison was also made with *Australia's First Government House* and the Anutech reports that provided a basis for the publication.

There were 33 artefacts in the sample that had been identified on site as Special Finds. The identifications offered, and other information gathered during these two preliminary stages of artefact review, for several of these artefacts did not find their way into the current database. While in most cases the overlooked data was quite minor, in others, important information was omitted. For example, ceramic sherd FGH09689 had been recognised as a meat strainer on the Special Find sheet (no. 750), but was recorded in the database with an ‘Unidentified’ Function and Activity grouping. FGH09437, identified in the database as a ‘Potato Print’ food-serving bowl was identified as a cup on Special Find sheet 768 and as hand-painted earthenware by Wendy Thorp in her review of artefacts for Anutech (1987: Plate 46).

Arguably, such information should have been noted during the re-cataloguing process. Nonetheless, it is reasonable to expect that if the information was already gathered, it should have been included in the later project.

Not all Special Finds numbers have been transferred to the database, for example, SF 4 (now FGH09944) and SF 316 (now FGH09862). The Special Finds records contain important information such as the exhibition date of the Cherry toothpaste lid FGH09944, which narrows down the date range in the current database record from the ‘1870s–1890s’ to post-1879.

Also, there is no record of the type numbers used by Anutech in the current database. In order to follow up a reference to Type 067 in the clay tobacco pipe report (Wilson and Kelly 1987: 8), for example, you would have to review all clay tobacco pipes in Feature 15 of 40R10 and then match reported diagnostic features.

Finally, at least two unique and impressive artefacts from the bike-parking area, as catalogued on-site in 1987, seem not to be included in the 1983–1987 database. The unique marks inscriptions of SF 263 (Type 26), ‘RIDGWAYS/ ENGLAND/ ROYAL/ SEMI PORCELAIN’ in a quiver-and-bow motif, and brown transfer-printed base sherd SF 269 (Type 23) with an Anthony Hordern globe symbol and marked ‘BURGESS & LEIGH BURSLEM’ (dating to 1906–1912) could not be found in the current database. It is unlikely that such unique inscriptions were overlooked during cataloguing, so it can only be assumed that these items were not catalogued. Boxes marked ‘unstratified’ and containing artefacts from the bike-parking area were seen on a visit to the HHT’s Ultimo store in August 2001. It is possible that all deposits from this area are unilaterally considered ‘unstratified’ owing to the fact that the area was excavated by backhoe in order to reveal remains of the stables, for recording (Proudfoot et al 1991: 18). ‘Unstratified’ artefacts were not processed during Thorp’s 1989–1994 cataloguing project, however there is no discussion of the ‘unstratified’ material nor how it was determined as such, excepting the notation that there were no available records to clarify whether some First Government House artefacts were stratified or not (Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1990: 21, 7).

Further, a detailed catalogue of selected items was prepared by Peter Tonkin in 1993. Many of the selected items were Special Finds and the new form largely followed the structure of the Special Finds form. Similarly to the discrepancy between Special Finds forms and the main catalogues, information present in Tonkin’s catalogue does not appear in the database. For example, YRP4916 is described as a:

Burnt glass fragments form short stemmed glass with thin walled balloon shaped body—probably brandy balloons. Turn marks and fluting on base, stem and body pontil scar. Base diam 75mm, h c120mm.

The database record however, describes it as a clear, hand-made, round-sectioned, body-stem-and-base fragment of a stemmed glass, 10–50% complete. There is no mention of the dimensions, the likely function

of the stemmed glass (ie a brandy or other balloon) nor the fact that it is burnt. Such information would make a useful addition to the database, even though it may only apply to a small selection of artefacts.²²

4.5 ARTEFACT STORAGE

During the course of the sampling process, some general observations were made about the state of storage of the artefacts. While these do not directly impact on the research program undertaken by the EAMC team, it is considered worthwhile to note these issues relating to the collection's long-term management.

4.5.1 THE RESOURCE CENTRE

During the sampling of the 1983–1987 collection, it was noticed that boxes in the bays along the northernmost wall of the Resource Centre (ie near the desks on the Mezzanine level) were warm. While the room has a controlled temperature to keep the air cool, the exhaust from the cafe fridges below is warming the boxes stored immediately adjacent to the wall.

Several boxes felt warm on the outside but inside they were at room temperature or below. Two artefacts reviewed in the sample—ceramic drain-pipe sherd FGH00221 and slate fragment FGH04945—were warmer than room temperature.

These shelves lining the wall mostly contain glass and building materials, but there are some boxes of organic material, and other boxes of mixed material. The organic material is of greater concern.

This problem was investigated in late 2001 and exhaust fans that formerly were not working were made operational (Matt Holle, Museum of Sydney, pers comm, May 2002). While this has certainly reduced the temperature, in May 2002, the artefacts are still warmer than necessary.

The Resource Centre also has a known problem with moths, the carcasses of which were noted on floor of the compactor shelves along the north wall, behind boxes and one was found within Box 6.2 in July 2001. The Centre is inspected every two months by a qualified pest-controller and monitored by curatorial staff. The dozen-odd carcasses noted by the Project Archaeologist are considered very small in contrast to the piles of hundreds that have been found in the Museum in bad years. The carcasses themselves pose little threat to the artefacts, but the hyde beetles that feed on the carcasses do (Alex Roach, Pest Inspector, pers comm, July 2001). In addition to obstructing the access of moths to the MoS building, the best maintenance procedure is regular inspection and thorough cleaning. Materials at greatest risk of damage by the beetles (textiles, paper and other organic material) may require additional protection and certainly more frequent inspection.

4.5.2 BAGGING OF ITEMS

1983–1987 assemblage

The vast majority of the First Government House assemblage is stored in clearly labelled, durable plastic boxes on clearly marked shelves. As noted, the 1983–1987 artefacts are stored in their paper-bag-records and consistently ordered by ID number.

²² Care should be taken, however, not to categorically supersede the existing artefact data with Tonkin's records, as not all terms used in Tonkin's catalogue are suitable for standard archaeological record.

There were a handful of cases where the storage of artefacts was less than desirable. The most alarming of these cases concerns sherds from the green, Maltese-cross plate in records FGH09667 and FGH09668. The two conjoining sherds were recovered from different contexts (38R5-38R6: 5 & 11 and 38R6-38R9: 43), hence were bagged and recorded separately by the cataloguers but have since been placed in the one bag. Sherd FGH09667 and its bag were placed in the bag of sherds comprising FGH09668 with a brief note on the bag that '9667 is [the] smallest piece'. No label was inscribed on any loose sherds. It is not clear if this note means the absolute smallest sherd in the bag, which is now glued to others as part of the base mark; a sherd now sticky-taped to the base mark (most likely) or the smallest sherd that is loose in the bag (unlikely because it lacks crosses).

The use of sticky tape to conjoin sherds is not appropriate and the artefacts should not be stored this way. Other sherds in this collection, including black transfer-printed sherd FGH09927, were taped together with masking tape.

Other boxes, including 18.100, were crowded and require an additional tray. Two bone fragments were at the bottom of the tray in Box 16.4 and there is no ready way of identify from which bag they came because almost all bags in the box have miscellaneous bone from unidentified species.

One artefact reviewed in the sample had deteriorated since being catalogued in 1990. This was a shell button (FGH05558) that was catalogued as one complete button but has since flaked into two discs.

1990-1991 assemblage

Like the 1983-1987 assemblage, the artefacts from the 1990-1991 excavations are appropriately stored in clearly labelled, durable plastic boxes. The bagging of artefacts within these boxes however makes retrieval of specific artefacts from the collection difficult, despite the notation of box numbers in the database.

Artefacts are bagged in clear plastic bags, tied with a wire twist and a hand-written tag with the artefact number, trench and unit numbers, artefact class, a date (presumably the date of cataloguing) and occasionally notes. Several individual bags are then grouped into a larger bag by Type or in some cases trench number and in some cases both, which in turn is tied with a paper label (or sometimes stapled). In cases where several artefacts are from different units within the one trench, the labels for these bag-groups become quite cluttered and confusing.

The system of re-grouping individual sherds by context or type in some cases required foraging through 100-odd smaller bags with tags upon which the context number, ID number and type series name were written in different locations. Not only is this unnecessarily time consuming, it requires excessively handling of fragile sherds and complicates the task of identifying whether particular artefacts are missing or not.

While the assemblage is at present in relatively good order, seven of an anticipated 143 bags to be sampled in the YRP collection were missing compared with two of the estimated 388 artefacts from the 1983-1987 excavations. The fact that even more bags are not missing from the YRP assemblage is likely to be because few people have accessed and utilised this part of the collection since 1995. Should access to the collection increase, the artefacts are in danger of losing their unique identifying tags which could easily fall off. In the long-term, this system of open-ended plastic bags, tags and artefacts grouped by type or context is not appropriate.

It is recommended that MoS consider rebagging the YRP collection in the long-term, say within the next five years. This project should include replacing the open-ended bags with seal-lock plastic bags, and

replacing the tied, paper bags with a system of artefact identification labels that has recently been adopted by the curators of the Hyde Park Barracks Museum. This involves computer-generated sticky labels on the exterior of the seal-lock bag which ensures a consistent means to identify specific artefacts. The label should be stapled to the bag so that when the adhesive corrodes every ten years or so and the labels are close to falling off, the artefact is not dissociated from its ID number and stratigraphic context.

Like the 1983–1987 assemblage, some conjoined sherds had been sticky-taped together prior to being bagged (YRP0401, YRP6133 and YRP4887). In the case of YRP6133, the masking tape has now dried and fallen off, leaving a sticky residue on the transfer-printed sherd.

In addition, the condition of some metal from the YRP excavation appears to be deteriorating. An iron spike (YRP5116) was found in its bag in the rough form of a spike but is now substantially fragmented. While this box does not have metal stabilisers, others (particularly the type-series boxes, eg Box 4.8) do. Some of the type-series examples photographed at the time of the cataloguing do not appear to have deteriorated since that time (eg YRP1525). Notably, many individual metal fragments are stored in snaplock bags and re-grouped in larger bags with speared perforations, which perhaps does not allow sufficient air circulation.

The Commemorative Area Assemblage

One other concern with the bagging of items in the YRP assemblage is that an 1862 coin in Box 6.1 does not have proper tag. It is marked 'FGH/15/10/92 COMMEM/I [in a circle]/4[?]22' in black permanent marker on the exterior of the bag, which has now partially rubbed off. The inscription on the coin 'ADVANCE AUSTRALIA / 1862' was not found in any search of the FGH database.

The coin is assumed to be part of the 1992 excavations in Commemorative Area which was the subject of a separate project for a separate client (Bickford 1993, Vol 1: 2) and comprised the re-opening of trenches for viewing windows in the plaza and museum-foyer. No report was prepared for this area, and the records were returned to the First Government House main collection (Bickford pers comm).²³ Only 32 bags (126 fragments) of material from the trenches excavated in the commemorative area in 1991 formed part of the YRP catalogue (identified in the database by their context number: 18RM1). It is expected that even fewer artefacts were recovered from the re-opening of trenches in 1992. However, those that were, should to be located in the current collection and fully catalogued.

²³ The site records appear to comprise only of a set of photographs in a folder marked 'Post-1991'. No notebook identified as post-1991 or 'commemorative area' has yet been identified.

4.6 RESEARCH POTENTIAL OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE ARTEFACT ASSEMBLAGE

As with all sites in the EAMC project, the utility of the First Government House artefact assemblage within the project's research program rests not only in the accuracy of its database but also in the research potential of the collection. While there has been considerable discussion and inference of the significance of the archaeological resources of the First Government House site as a whole, less attention has been paid to the significance and research-potential of the artefact assemblage, given the constraints of the excavation and reporting processes. These and other issues are discussed in detail below.

The national significance of the archaeological site of the First Government House as a whole has been well established since the early years of the excavation when the Australian Archaeological Association wrote a Statement of Cultural Significance for the site in 1983 (AAA 1983, see also Conybeare Morrison 1986, HHT 1992, Rust PPK & GML 1995).

The structural remains of First Government House and its outbuildings provide inimitable physical evidence of the first permanent, brick dwelling built in the fledgling colony of New South Wales. Intrinsically, these remains reveal details about the solutions sought to overcome the difficulties faced by the colonists in the new and untested environment, and at a broader level have sparked inquiries into other aspects of life in the colony at the time—Aboriginal contact, social distinction and the nature of governance. While these and more levels of cultural significance are much agreed upon, the contribution of the artefact assemblages to an understanding of the site and colony is more difficult to ascertain.

In some cases, the archaeological collection and in situ remains are seen to be an integral whole. For example in the Historic Houses Trust's *Museum Project* publication, the collection and structural remains *together* were considered 'unique physical evidence of the earliest phases of British colonisation of Australia...[and] demonstrate aspects of early colonial architecture, building methods and materials and domestic arrangements' (HHT 1992: 6). It was later stated that the 'First Government House Archaeology Collection is extensive and significant' and two potential themes for artefact displays were noted: 'The house that Bloodworth built?: building materials, methods, trades and tools' and 'The Governor's Table: tableware' (HHT 1992: 20).

In a position paper outlining a design for the collection's management, research and museum display, Peter Tonkin provided a more detailed statement regarding the significance of the artefact assemblage:

The primary significance of the FGH archaeological assemblage lies in its ability to provide physical evidence of FGH structures and their evolution, its various occupants and visitors, uses and events in the period 1788–1845, the lifespan of the governors house [sic] and associated structures. In particular, the collection can shed light on types of domestic arrangements, food and drink consumption, building materials, methods, tools and trades, recreation practices, military, aboriginal [sic] and clerical activity.

The post 1845 story of the FGH site is of less significance to the museum narrative and so too is the post 1845 portion of the archaeological record. It does, however, provide some evidence of the occupants and uses of the site as the city of Sydney encroached upon it over the last 150 years. (Tonkin 1993: 10)

Tonkin's identification of research themes and areas was primarily based on the activity groupings of the artefact catalogue(s) and is broad and all-encompassing, rather than specific to the particular deposits and features of the site. For each theme such as 'Military' or 'Food and Drink', the research questions are to identify food or military artefacts used on site between 1788 and 1845 and/or within the reign of each Governor and then determine how and where the artefacts were manufactured (Tonkin 1993: 16–18).

‘Building materials, methods, tools and trades’ was the first theme on Tonkin’s list—the exploration of which has been the most explicit and productive use of artefacts in the collection to date. Inquiries into building techniques and arrangements drove the analysis of the Anutech project and consume a large part of the Proudfoot et al book *Australia’s First Government House*. The pursuit of other research themes, such as the tools and techniques of dining, taking-tea, smoking or washing, dressing and making appearances have been touched on but not researched as rigorously.

Three inter-related factors impacting the determination of the assemblage’s research potential are:

- the physical limitations of the site—for example that the majority of the main house lies under Bridge and Phillip Streets;
- the substantial level of disturbance of late-19th and 20th century development on previous deposits; and importantly,
- the research agenda of the original excavation which focussed on revealing areas where foundations (not necessarily artefactual remains) were likely to be found.

The level of site disturbance and the limited research agenda of the excavation dictated that the substantial work on stratigraphy and artefacts conducted by Anutech was preliminary rather than conclusive. Robyn Stocks noted that ‘considerable damage to the archaeological record has limited the information that can be gained from the site and the nature of the excavations has restricted the scope of the results even further’ (Stocks 1988a: 81). In her assessment of a range of ceramic styles typical to the early colonial period recovered from 1969 demolition levels, Thorp concluded that more recent development had ‘significantly disturbed the stratigraphy well into the lower levels’ (Thorp 1987: 4).

If these accounts are correct, the likelihood of identifying intact domestic or work-related deposits other than those already discussed in *Australia’s First Government House* is reduced. According to Robert Varman, these and other allocations of contexts to early phases are questionable (Varman 1993: ‘State of the Collection’). Given that only a small portion of the house was actually revealed during excavation, the limitations appear almost too great to answer anything other than questions about building techniques and structural foundations. (See also Appendix One, Section 5.2.2 for a discussion of the dominance of archaeological structural remains at the Museum of Sydney.)

While it must be acknowledged that factors of site disturbance and a restricted approach to excavation pose challenges to determining the research potential of the First Government House archaeological assemblage overall, given the exceptional cultural significance of the place, even small contributions to the understanding of the site must be considered important and certainly worthy of further investigation. It is also anticipated that when stratigraphic information prepared by Stocks can be incorporated into the database the EAMC team can develop a clearer picture of which stratigraphic deposits from all phases of excavation yield artefacts of high or exceptional research potential. Such deposits may comprise a small portion of the many construction and levelling deposits identified on the site, but they will make it possible to critically revise and build upon some of the analytical and interpretive work undertaken to date (eg in the 1987 analysis reports, Proudfoot et al 1991 and Varman 1993) and investigate other avenues previously unexplored.

At this time we conclude that the research potential of the First Government House archaeological assemblage remains high and poses significant challenges to archaeologists and curatorial staff.

5.0 ASSESSMENT OF THE CATALOGUE'S ACCURACY AND USEFULNESS

While the majority of records in the First Government House database are satisfactory, there are questionable or incomplete records in both components of the assemblage. In summary, the issues are:

1983–1987 catalogue:

- concerns regarding the reliability of the type series;
- concerns regarding the inconsistent attribution of Function categories;
- some significant data-entry errors, particularly the omission of several Note fields;
- insufficient descriptions for some diagnostic and other unidentified artefacts; and
- the loss of some information from project to project.

Young Street and Raphael Place catalogue:

- large number of incomplete or bulk records;
- concerns over the inconsistent attribution of Function categories;
- some concerns over type-series development, which will be aided type-series notes.

5.1 IMPLICATIONS

Most of the concerns raised above with regard to both sub-catalogues—the type-series, the questionable function attributions and omitted information—affect the data in a way that can only be identified during a process of physical verification. While together they diminish confidence in the database as a whole, individually they pinpoint particular data or groups of data that are of greatest concern, such as Type Series and Function, which can streamline the process of further verification and correction.

The unreliability of the catalogued Type Series, particularly in the 1983–1987 catalogue, is a significant problem. It makes it difficult to use of the typology in the process of minimum vessel counts. Physical re-examination of large quantities of artefacts will be required.

The questionable attribution of Function is an issue encountered at all sites reviewed by the EAMC to date and is likely to be the result of a wider problem in the cataloguing of historical-archaeological artefacts. This may require an inter-site strategy to further assess and overcome the problems raised by this situation.

Taking previous discussions of the research potential of the FGH artefact assemblage, it is likely that the contexts selected for study in the project will provide a manageable quantity of artefacts that could be expediently examined to verify questionable information contained in their records.

The EAMC team will undertake a more substantial review of the First Government House site stratigraphic contexts from all phases of excavation, utilising sites records, reports and importantly, the newly available database version of the artefact catalogue. Once this has been conducted, the level of corrective or verificatory work required by the EAMC team will be reconsidered.

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