ARCHAEOLOGY
OF THE MODERN CITY 1788–1900

Assessment of Historical and Archaeological Resources of the Hyde Park Barracks, 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 bulk of the Hyde Park Barracks' artefact collection was excavated between 1980 and 1981 when the site was developed for a museum. The remainder was recovered during monitoring works in the Museum grounds from 1982 to 1997. More than half the collection was retrieved from underfloor spaces of the main building and comprises a significant resource, regarded as being one of the most important collections in Australian historical archaeology.

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

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

A review of records pertaining to the Hyde Park Barracks archaeological collection was undertaken in February and March 2001 and is the first review undertaken by the EAMC team.

This report presents the recommendations arising from this review (Section 2.0), including details of work required to utilise the wealth of the Hyde Park Barracks' historical and archaeological research potential in the EAMC project, and other recommendations that the HHT may wish to consider.

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

This report was prepared in July 2001 for the Industry Partners of the AMC Project: the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd, the NSW Heritage Office, Heritage Victoria and the Sydney City Council. It was revised in May 2003.

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.

A draft of this report was circulated to Industry Partners in April 2001 and this report was finalised in July 2001.

1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Samantha Fabry (Assistant Curator) and Michael Bogle (Curator) of the Hyde Park Barracks Museum for providing access to the Museum's records and assisting our review of them. Thanks also to Brian Robson, computer consultant to the HHT, for providing early copies of the Museum's database, and general discussions about the current database's structure.

We are grateful, also, to Dana Mider who provided copies of the Minark underfloor database and general information the Hyde Park Barracks' archaeological collection. Dana also took the time to review this report and provide us with comments.

Joy Hughes reviewed this report and we are thankful for her comments and clarification of aspects of the documentary research undertaken at the Hyde Park Barracks.

2.0 SUMMARISED ASSESSMENT OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The review of historical and archaeological records held by the Hyde Park Barracks was undertaken in March and April 2001 by the EAMC team. The team reviewed all historical and archaeological documents held on site and undertook a sample of three-percent of the archaeological catalogue. Details of the review are included in Appendices One and Two. The major results and conclusions of the review are briefly outlined below.

Overall, research that has been undertaken on the artefact collection, the buildings or historical records of the Hyde Park Barracks to date has been focussed on building conservation or the needs of individual exhibitions held on site.

The Barracks' relatively recent history of redevelopment into a museum has focussed our understanding of its history on the restoration of its physical fabric and its rarest but shortest phase of occupation: the convict era. There is no comprehensive history for the site as a whole, and comparatively little organised research or easily retrievable documentation of the women's phases of occupation, to which a large proportion of the underfloor collection dates. The EAMC Historian will focus on gathering and extending research on this phase of the site's occupation.

There is no comprehensive, interpretive report on the site's stratigraphy or its artefacts. Despite some attempts, promises and expressions of concern no extensive analytical and interpretive program of research has been applied to the collection.

While there is no synthetic account of the site's stratigraphy and some site records are diminished in number or quality, the excavation and artefact-cataloguing records of the Hyde Park Barracks are considered to be adequate for the EAMC project.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the artefact catalogue. The current database of information relating to the Hyde Park Barracks artefact collection as a whole is not accurate enough to allow detailed analysis of the assemblage. This inadequacy is the result of translating data from its original database software to another; reorganising data in the new database design; and the fact that several aspects of

information about artefacts that are mandatory for the EAMC's analysis were not recorded by the original cataloguers. (See Appendix Two.)

Some of the errors and oversights are readily identifiable (such as the underground bricks mis-catalogued as shingles); others were discovered when several artefacts were closely examined (such as the inscription details missing from underground clay pipes).

While most of the errors are specifically identifiable, they are not all easily remedied. Some will require a return to the original database program (Minark), some to the original information sheets completed for each artefact, and most will require complete re-examination and recording of the artefact itself.

The task of repairing the catalogue cannot be undertaken within the scope of the EAMC project. However, from the initial sampling of the collection, the EAMC project team are certain of its exceptional research potential and wish still to utilise the collection in the project's research program.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the HHT seeks other funding to extend the EAMC project to allow full-scale reanalysis and re-cataloguing of selected components of the Hyde Park Barracks underfloor collection and that additional analysis of the underground material be undertaken. (See Section 3.1 below.)

If funding cannot be obtained, it is recommended that the Hyde Park Barracks be excluded from the EAMC study.

It is recommended also that the Hyde Park Barracks Museum correct errors and re-import information lost during the database development process and consider some other corrections to the database to improve its accuracy in the short term.

3.1 THE SUBSIDIARY PROJECT

Should additional funding be obtained, new staff would be brought on board to allow the current EAMC project team to move onto other collections. The EAMC project team will manage and supervise this process, and treat is as a subsidiary to the Archaeology of the Modern City project as a whole.

The components of the collection recommended for full-scale reanalysis are all artefacts in the underfloor collection, excluding bone and shell (which are not included in the EAMC project) and building materials (which are sufficiently catalogued). Note that this includes the textiles collection, which requires substantial work. Once data transfer errors have been amended, it is considered that the underground catalogue is a sufficient basis for analysis, however, the type series will have to be reviewed and corrected.

When re-cataloguing has been completed, the main EAMC team can return to the collection, to undertake higher-level analysis and number crunching of its components.

3.1.1 THE RECOMMENDED TEAM

The Hyde Park Barracks assemblage is one of NSW's, and indeed Australia's, most significant archaeological collections. Given its importance, the EAMC team recommend that the HHT seriously consider making funds available to employ expert artefact specialists such as the team that worked on the Cumberland and Gloucester Streets project. This project and team set a benchmark for artefact identification and recording from which the Hyde Park Barracks collection would certainly benefit.

If funds for such a team are not possible, it is recommended that the specialists from the Cumberland and Gloucester Streets site, and/or other Sydney-based experts be contracted as an 'advisory panel' to ensure the highest possible quality of artefact identification and recording for this collection.

3.2 List of Specific Tasks

Following is a list of tasks required to make the Hyde Park Barracks catalogue ready for comprehensive analysis. The list is separated into work proposed under the subsidiary EAMC project and that which the EAMC team will undertake within the current scope of the project. Some of these tasks proposed for the current research program are dependent on work proposed for the subsidiary project. It is envisaged that some of these tasks would be completed in concert if funding for the subsidiary project were made available. Note that if funding is not available, the EAMC will not be able to utilise the Hyde Park Barracks in the proposed city-wide analysis and interpretation.

Also provided are recommended corrections to the database for the Hyde Park Barracks Museum to undertake, and other suggestions for the Museum to improve their current database and storage facilities. The latter are *suggestions only*, concerning issues that will not greatly impact upon the EAMC project.

3.2.1 TASKS PROPOSED TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN A SUBSIDIARY EAMC PROJECT

1. Re-examine all artefacts (excepting bone, shell and building materials) in the underfloor collection to:
   – check for errors;
   – complete additional fields; and
   – provide additional information about diagnostic or unusual items.
2. Review and revise the allocated activity and function of individual artefacts or artefact types, particularly the allocation of most glass bottles to food preparation and those items ambiguously described.
3. Develop a type series for the underfloor collection, in concert with underground type series and other sites, eg the Cumberland and Gloucester Streets site.
4. Review any item identified as having an inscription, and complete the details.
5. Review all items likely to have inscriptions (especially pen nibs, metal buttons and clay pipes) to identify those that have been overlooked.
6. Sort, separate and catalogue items from mixed bags.
7. Review the textiles (including those currently bulk-bagged) and develop a type series.
8. Find the missing items.
9. Review reports and other documents and incorporate already known information about artefacts into the database.

3.2.2 TASKS UNDERTAKEN FOR THE CURRENT EAMC RESEARCH PROGRAM

10. Review and revise the comparability of activity and function categories.
11. Prepare minimum vessel counts for artefact types in each context.
12. Review ceramic sherds to identify more patterns.

13. Research the manufacturers and dates of diagnostic items.

14. Photograph as many diagnostic artefacts as possible.

15. Identify and assess conjoined artefacts distributed across contexts.

16. Gather additional material and extend research into the women's phase of occupation.

3.2.3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DATABASE CORRECTION TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE HYDE PARK BARRACKS

17. Investigate the source of the missing information from the underground collection (the inscriptions, Notes, Integrity, Specialists Initials and Date of Entry).
If this is a Minark export problem, re-export the information and incorporate into current database.
If not a Minark export problem, consider data entry from original paper records.

18. Re-export the glass, ceramic and textile decoration information from the Minark-export files to the current database.

19. Correct the leather records currently shown as lead.

20. Check all materials against the original Minark export files to pick up errors similar to the lead–leather switch.

21. Correct other errors identified in Section 4.2.6 of Appendix Two.

3.2.4 IMPROVEMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE HYDE PARK BARRACKS

22. Decide on bag-labelling strategy for the artefacts, organise labour to carry it out, and/or brief the EAMC subsidiary team (should funding be made available) to undertake this work during the additional catalogue review. New labels should replace the artefact names that have been written on bags or boxes. Where they differ, the artefacts should be re-examined and the database updated with the correct identification.

23. Consider improving the Artefact Removal Card system. If the decision is made to utilise the database, input the data from the card box into the database.

24. Correct and/or reconsider the use of the Artefact Name field. It is suggested that:
(i) it be deleted altogether (only after the original type series information for underground material is returned to the Type Name field); or
(ii) that each record be thoroughly reviewed to identify whether the term selected (the TS Name for underground, either the function or material name for underfloor artefacts) is appropriate; or
(iii) make all 'Artefact Names' a consistent field, eg Function (again, info should only be altered after the original Type Series information for underground material is returned to the Type Name field).

25. Add the definitions of activities and functions to the database list of them, so that public users can readily understand what the activity 'Social' or 'Other, Cultural' actually means.

26. Prepare indices of records in the historical research folders. Preferably, these should be prepared in Word, Excel or Access, so that they are readily searchable.

4.0 APPENDICES

Appendix One: Assessment of Records Relating to the Site's History and Archaeology

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

Appendix One:

ASSESSMENT OF RECORDS RELATING TO THE SITE'S HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Hyde Park Barracks was constructed by skilled convict labour between 1817 and 1819 to a design specified by convict architect, Francis Greenway. In Greenway's original Georgian design, the Hyde Park Barracks was comprised of a central dormitory building 'set in a compound', enclosed by perimeter walls with corner pavilions, 'two detailed as cells, and with guard houses either side of wooden gates' (SHI 1997: 2). Buildings also lined the northern and southern perimeter walls, which provided housing for the Deputy Superintendent and his family as well as amenities such as a kitchen and mess. The purpose of the Hyde Park Barracks, built under instruction from Governor Lachlan Macquarie, was to provide accommodation for male government-assigned convicts.

The Hyde Park Barracks accommodated a diverse, often overlapping, array of occupants from 1848 onwards. Convict transportation to Australia was being phased out by the 1840s, which meant that the original function of the Barracks, to house convict labourers, was now redundant. In 1848, convicts still living at the Hyde Park Barracks were removed to Cockatoo Island, and the central dormitory building was modified to house its new tenants: the Female Immigration Depot and the Agent for Immigration. Offices and hiring rooms were located on the ground floor of the central dormitory building, whilst accommodation was provided for the new arrivals on the second and third floors. In 1862, the top floor of the central dormitory building was converted for the use of the Government Asylum for Infirm and Destitute Women, which contained just over three hundred inmates at its peak.[1] Matron Lucy Applewaite Hicks, along with her family, also lived at the Hyde Park Barracks whilst she was employed first as the head matron, then as Superintendent overseeing both groups of women from 1862.

From 1848 onwards, a number of additional buildings were constructed within the Barracks complex whilst the extant buildings lining the southern and northern perimeter walls were adapted for reuse. These buildings housed a wide range of governmental and judicial occupants including the Government Printing Office (1848–1856), the Vaccine Institute (1857–1886), the District Court for Sydney (1858–1976) and the Court of Requests (1856–1859).

In 1886, the third major phase of the Hyde Park Barracks' history, the judicial phase, began in earnest with the removal of the Asylum inmates to Newington and the relocation of the Immigration Depot. At this time, buildings within the Hyde Park Barracks complex were extensively remodelled for use by the Department of Attorney General and Justice (Collins & Emmett 1994: 7; SHI 1997: 2–3). The Hyde Park Barracks was used primarily for judicial purposes until 1979, despite some calls for its demolition in the early-20th century.

[1] According to the annual reports, the daily average peaked at 310 inmates (Joy Hughes, pers. comm., April 2003).

In 1975, the NSW Public Works Department (PWD) commenced the restoration of the Hyde Park Barracks buildings. The Barracks was placed on the Register of the National Estate in 1978, and three years later was granted one of Australia's first Permanent Conservation Orders (PCO) under the 1977 Heritage Act.

In 1980 it was officially announced that the Hyde Park Barracks would be converted to a museum of Sydney's history and that the physical fabric of the building complex would be restored to its original convict phase. When restoration work began, artefacts were revealed in the underfloor spaces of the central dormitory building as well as in service trenches within the grounds of the compound. Following test trenching, the PWD embarked on Sydney's first large-scale public excavation, which attracted media attention and was assisted by the work of many volunteers.

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS) opened the Hyde Park Barracks to the public in 1984, as the first museum of its kind that focused on the history of Sydney. In 1990, the Barracks was transferred to the Historic Houses Trust (HHT), and after refurbishment, was reopened as a 'museum of itself' with permanent displays on the second and third floors and temporary exhibitions in the Greenway Gallery on the first floor. The Trust's Hyde Park Barracks Museum continues to operate successfully today as a museum depicting its own history, especially its convict phase.

2.0 Historical, Archaeological and Conservation Work undertaken at the Hyde Park Barracks

There were two distinct phases of restoration work carried out on the Hyde Park Barracks. The first phase occurred between 1975 and 1979, whilst the Barracks was still occupied by the Department of Attorney General and Justice, plus ancillary police departments. This initial stage saw the restoration of the external brick and stonework of the central dormitory building. Sandstone in 'string courses, cills (sic) and chimney bases' was replaced, whilst unpainted bricks comprising the external walls were 'dismantled, turned and re-built'. Windows were removed and replaced externally, and the roof reinstated with she-oak shingles (Potter ed c1981: 121–122).

The second phase of the restoration of the Hyde Park Barracks occurred between 1979 and 1984, as former occupants gradually moved out and the complex was redeveloped for use as a history museum, as announced in 1980. This phase allowed for the 'demolition of sub-standard additions and the full investigation and restoration of the remainder' (Potter ed c1981: 121–122). This meant that the only buildings preserved were those that appeared in Greenway's original 1817 design for the Barracks.

As restoration and construction work was underway, Carol Powell was employed by the Department of Public Works to compile archival research on the Mint and Hyde Park Barracks buildings, and record important artefacts exposed during the conservations works (Potter ed c1981: 1). It was soon realised that the quantity of archaeological material at both complexes was extensive and Sydney-based historical archaeologist Wendy Thorp was commissioned in September 1980 to undertake a test-trenching program to better identify the nature of the archaeological resource. At Thorp's recommendation, an additional and larger-scale excavation program was proposed and Patricia Burritt was commissioned to undertake the work in 1981. Both programs revealed archaeological material in trenches dug across the buildings and courtyards of the Hyde Park Barracks complex.

The MAAS operated the Hyde Park Barracks Museum from 1984 to 1989. In 1990, the Hyde Park Barracks was handed to the HHT to manage and conserve. After refurbishment of the building complex between 1990 and 1991, the Hyde Park Barracks Museum was reopened

In the past ten years, the HHT has undertaken ongoing maintenance of the buildings and structures within the Hyde Park Barracks complex, including the central dormitory building and perimeter buildings in the eastern and northern range. In the mid 1990s, G & L Popian carried out monitoring and repair work of the stonework in the perimeter walls, and at present, the roof of the central dormitory building is being re-shingled. Maintenance or new works that have disturbed the ground surface in the ground of the complex since 1982, such as the installation of pipes or the Australian Monument to the Great Irish Famine, have been supervised by an archaeologist.

Table 1 provides a detailed list of the projects that have been undertaken on the Hyde Park Barracks since 1979.

3.0 Records and Reports

3.1 Historical Records and Reports

Since the late 1970s, when restoration work commenced on the exterior of the central dormitory building, over 150 publications have been produced about the Hyde Park Barracks and its perimeter buildings. Following is a list of the types of publications produced about the Hyde Park Barrack in this 20-year period:

- Archaeological reports
- Conservation reports
- Museum plans
- Educational programs
- Exhibition catalogues
- Annotated bibliographies
- Historical reports
- Archival reports
- Unpublished university theses
- Architectural histories
- Maintenance reports

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

From 1980 to the present, staff and volunteers for MAAS & HHT have collected considerable primary research material about the Hyde Park Barracks, largely for the purposes of exhibition. Owing to the HHT policy for each property to maintain its own site-specific records, the results of this research have been gathered together and are presently located in the Curator's Office and the Mint Project Room at the Hyde Park Barracks (both rooms located in the former Judges Rooms, Eastern Range). Reproductions and transcriptions of original primary sources, including documents, maps and photographs, are located in lever arch folders, filing cabinets and cardboard legal files in these rooms. Secondary sources such as reference books and reports about the Hyde Park Barracks are also located there.

Table 1 Conservation, archival and archaeological projects undertaken on the Hyde Park Barracks since 1979.

	Year	Details	Locations	Reports
PUBLIC WORKS	1979–1984	Conservation and adaptive reuse as museum, by Department of Public Works	The Hyde Park Barracks complex	Varman 1981, Ken Green 1981–1983, PCO c1981, DPWS 1980a and 1980b, DPWS 1981, Gale 1984, Betteridge 1981
	1980	Archival research and artefact recording by Carol Powell	Underfloor of all 3 levels of the main building	Powell 1981
	1980	Test-trench excavation by Wendy Thorp et al	Trenches throughout the Hyde Park Barracks complex, including: in the Main Building, eastern courtyard (area of the Equity Court), the north-west cell block and Deputy Superintendent's Residence	Thorp 1980, Thorp 1981, various trench reports (Archaeology Store Room)
	1981	Excavation by Patricia Burritt et al	Excavation throughout the Hyde Park Barracks complex, including: in the Main Building, eastern courtyard (area of the Equity Court), the north-west cell block, store, bake house and Deputy Superintendent's Residence	Burritt et al c1981, Potter (ed) c1981, see also various site records
MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS & SCIENCES	1981–1983	Salvage excavation by Elizabeth Pinder	Drainage in the Hyde Park Barracks perimeter; trenches east, south-east and south-west corner of main building; interior porch in the western entrance of the main building and doorway in the far north-east of the top floor	Pinder 1983 and site photographs (Archaeology Store Room)
	1981–1984	Salvage work by Graham Wilson	Excavation of the Bakehouse, Southern Gatehouse, Northern Gatehouse of the Hyde Park Barracks	G Wilson c1983
	1982	Artefact conservation by Glenda Marsh	Artefact collections from throughout the excavated material	Marsh 1983
	1985–1991	Underfloor Artefact Analysis Project by Andrew Wilson for MAAS	Artefacts from Levels 2 and 3 of the Main Building	Wilson 1985 and 1989. (See also Mider 1996)
	1987	Excavation in Macquarie Street	Excavation of 2 trenches in the Hyde Park Barracks and along the western edge of Macquarie street; details of excavation of a wooden tunnel built in 1970s	Thorp 1987
HHT	1990–1991	Refurbishment of the Hyde Park Barracks by Historic Houses Trust	The Hyde Park Barracks complex	Davies 1990, Penlington Painting Services 1990, Moore & Walker 1990a and 1990b, Winkworth 1990, Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners 1990 and 1991, Riley 1991, Varman 1991, HHT 1990

	Year	Details	Locations	Reports
HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST (CONT'D)	1993	Stratigraphic Review and Site Phasing by Robert Varman	Stratigraphic charts cover underground trench locations; phasing covers site as a whole	Varman 1993a and 1993b
	1993–1994	Monitoring of the north-eastern courtyard by Rachelle Graves	Grease trap outside the café and other subterranean works outside the café (the north-eastern courtyard)	Graves 1994 and 1995
	c1990–1994	Underground Catalogue Inventory by Wendy Thorp	Artefacts from the underground contexts of the Hyde Park Barracks excavation, including the Main Building, north range and courtyards	Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1990 and 1994
	1990–1996	Underfloor Catalogue presentation and preliminary analysis by Dana Mider	Artefacts from Levels 2 and 3 of the Main Building	Mider 1996
	1994–1996	Brickwork and sandstone conservation reports by G & L Popian	S. W. Pavilion, North Guard House, Central Dormitory Platform, Central Dormitory Plinth, Eastern Court Stonework, Isolation Cell Plinth, NW Pavilion, Isolation Cell Brickwork, New Wall Archaeological Digging, North Guard House Brickwork, North Pedestrian Way and Gate Post, Northern Square Plinth, South Guard House, South Guardhouse Brickwork, South Pedestrian Way and Gate Post, Original Wall Section, Northern Range Deputy's Superintendence Room, North Pavilion	G & L Popian Pty Ltd 1994–1997
	1996	Unstratified artefact report by Wendy Thorp	Review of unstratified artefacts from underground and underfloor collections	Thorp 1996
	1996	Perimeter Structures Conservation Plan by Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners *(incl. Archaeological Assessment by Wendy Thorp)*	Perimeter Structures of the Hyde Park Barracks	Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners 1996
	1997	Peter Tonkin artefact review of the Hyde Park Barracks Collection	The Hyde Park Barracks Archaeology	Tonkin 1997
	1997	Excavation of south wall by Peter Tonkin	Excavation of the foundations of the north and south walls of the 1817 mess room: damaged by water pipe but probably remains intact elsewhere. Water pipe which possibly serviced the 1817 mess	Tonkin 1999

3.1.1 MINT PROJECT OFFICE

In the Mint Project Office, folders are arranged on shelves around the room, in chronological order of the use of the Barracks in five of its main uses: as a convict barracks, a female immigration depot, an asylum for infirm and destitute women, government offices and law courts. At the time of writing, this original research has been insufficiently catalogued with folders containing indices of sources, at the very least. As there has been no systematic way of cataloguing primary research already done (i.e. using a database), there is much repetition in resource material collected. In some cases, multiple copies of each item have been gathered. It should be noted, however, that this repetition in source material is also due to a previous curatorial policy of maintaining duplicate and working files.

Many of the official reports relating to the Hyde Park Barracks, including conservation reports, specifications, archaeological reports, and historical analyses of the site are also located in the Mint Project Office. These reports have all been catalogued on an access database, and provided with annotations by the EAMC team. A bibliography of reports on the Mint, compiled and annotated by Fiona Starr, has also been included in this access database.

3.1.2 CURATORS' ROOM

In the Curators' Room, folders are arranged along one wall of the room. Documentation found in these folders is focused on exhibitions that have been prepared by the curators of the Hyde Park Barracks (although most research relating to these exhibitions is located in the Mint Project Office). This bookshelf also contains reproduced archival images of the Barracks as well as photographs documenting the archaeological excavations of the site in the 1980s and its refurbishment in 1990–1991. Below the bookshelf are located five filing cabinets, two of which contain a collection of 35mm slides documenting events and maintenance works at the Barracks. Administrative documentation is located in the other three filing cabinets.

The three filing cabinets located in the ancillary room (former Judges Robing Room) contain general information about the Hyde Park Barracks organised alphabetically. Documentation in these filing cabinets includes general research material, correspondence, notes, invoices, memos, occupants' files, and information on previous exhibitions.

3.2 EXCAVATION AND ARTEFACT RECORDS AND REPORTS

Given the multi-owner and multi-project nature of the archaeological investigations of the Hyde Park Barracks, the records of the many excavations and artefact-analyses are quite well conserved and retrievable. However, the disparate approach to the work has had an impact on the quality and comprehensiveness of excavation recording and reporting. The following discussion is based on resources retained at the Hyde Park Barracks.

To date, there is no comprehensive, coalescing report on the Hyde Park Barracks archaeological remains and relics. (See Thorp 1996: 11 for recommendations to prepare such a report.)

The main report of the excavation undertaken by Patricia Burritt remains in draft form, without plates or plans. Its content outlines which phases of the excavation occurred when, draws on preliminary artefact analyses and reinforced the potential of the collection's research base rather than exploring it. The section titled 'Interpretation of Data from the Stage II Excavations' contains little more than a description of what

was found where, and in some cases, only why particular trenches were dug and when excavation ceased (Potter ed c1981: 34, 40–50).

Twelve years after the completion of the excavation, Robert Varman collated a list of the stratigraphic contexts of the underground trenches, and provided a detailed historical phasing for the stratigraphic sequence. This was the first meaningful attempt to unravel the complex stratigraphy of the underground excavation, but unfortunately, lacks a synthetic account of which deposits or areas are most intact or have the most research potential.

This information can be teased out of the trench reports, site books, plans, photographs, artefact reports and original artefact data-recording sheets, which survive for the major excavation and artefact-analysis projects with some omissions. The documents and reports are currently stored in various locations at the Hyde Park Barracks including:

- Shelves in the Archaeology Room, containing boxed site books, photographs, plans and drawings and some reports and loose reports and folders, including the database printouts (c1990, 1996, 1997).
- Filing Cabinet in the Archaeology Room, containing most records and finds and trench reports from the Stage 2 (1981) excavation, in addition to administrative files relating to the establishment of the Archaeology Room and other work in the early 1990s. The map drawer contains inked drawings and plans.
- Shelves in the Curators' Room, containing archaeological reports and photographs.
- Filing Cabinets in the Curators' Room, containing MAAS artefact recording forms.
- Shelves in the Mint Project Office containing reports relating to the archaeological investigations at the Hyde Park Barracks and the Mint.

Table 2 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

Trench reports were prepared for most areas of Thorp's 1980 test trenching (Trenches 1–6, 8–10a) and Burritt's 1981 excavation (A1–A4, C2–C4, C6), and a notebook survives for the underfloor excavation. (The report for C4 is presently missing, but is likely to be recovered elsewhere.) Stratigraphic recording sheets survive for only some of these areas (A1–A2, A4, C3–C4). The reports are mostly handwritten, are not illustrated and follow the basic structure of aims, methods and results.

Most of the underground artefacts in the database can be attributed to trenches in these areas, or the test trenches undertaken by Wendy Thorp. However, there are about 500 artefact bags in the current HHT database (of 6,862) which cannot be attributed to these areas. It is likely that this is the result of typographic errors or an inconsistent reference system (ie those records labelled '9C' should have been labelled 'Tr 9C', like the others). It is expected that most of these contexts can be attributed to recorded excavation contexts, with a little more research and cross-referencing.

Site books also survive for most areas of the 1981 excavation (A, C, C4, Levels 2 and 3 of the main building, across seven books) and contain indices of stratigraphic units, plans and samples with some commentary on the developments of the excavations. A small level book also survives. Robert Varman organised these lists of stratigraphic contexts into one document in 1993. This work has been transcribed,

Table 2 Summary of excavation and artefact records and reports.

Project	Original records	Reports
Archival research and artefact recording by Carol Powell, 1980	▪ None identified	▪ Report on selection of artefacts recorded (Powell 1981)
Test-trench excavation by Wendy Thorp et al, 1980	▪ None identified	▪ Trench Reports (1–6, 8, 9, 10a) ▪ Progress Report (Thorp 1980) ▪ Final Recommendations (Thorp 1981)
Excavation by Patricia Burritt et al, 1981	▪ Site note books (6 volumes) ▪ Stratigraphic recording sheets (for Areas A1, A2, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B6, C3 and C4) ▪ Level books ▪ Finds sheets ▪ Original hand-drawn plans and sections (in box) and some inked plans (in drawer) ▪ Photographs (B&W and slide, with index)	▪ Trench reports (for most areas, some hand-written) ▪ Final Report (Burritt 1981) discussing basic stratigraphy and preliminary assessment of finds (see Potter c1981 produced another draft of this report)
Artefact conservation by Glenda Marsh, 1982–83	▪ Conservation treatment reports for various artefact classes. (File cabinet, Arch Room)	▪ Marsh 1982
Salvage excavation by Elizabeth Pinder, 1982–83	▪ Original field records are with the Pinder (Wilson 1985: 14) ▪ Slides of the excavation are held at the Hyde Park Barracks	▪ Final report (Pinder c1983)
Salvage work by Graham Wilson, 1981–1984	▪ Original field records are with Wilson (Wilson 1985: 14)	▪ Final report (G Wilson c1983)
Underfloor Artefact Analysis Project by Andrew Wilson for MAAS, 1985–1991	[See Mider, 1990–1996]	▪ Preliminary reports on the Minark system and trial use, 1985 and 1989. (NB see Mider 1996 for final report.)
Refurbishment of the Hyde Park Barracks by Historic Houses Trust, 1990–1991	▪ The location of records of artefacts recovered during this phase of refurbishment is presently not known.[2]	▪ No report on the artefacts recovered during this phase is known.

[2] Mider 1996: 2 notes that objects recovered from the building between 1990 and 1995 were separately inventoried by the HHT. HPB Assistant Curator Samantha Fabry is currently investigating their likely whereabouts.

Project	Original records	Reports
Stratigraphic Review and Site Phasing by Robert Varman, 1993	—	▪ Final reports (Varman 1993a and 1993b)
Monitoring of the north-eastern courtyard by Rachelle Graves, 1993–1994	▪ Original artefact inventory included as appendix in Graves 1994 ▪ Original stratigraphic recording sheets in Graves 1995	▪ Final reports (Graves 1994, Graves 1995)
Underground Catalogue Inventory by Wendy Thorp, c1990–1994	▪ Artefact recording sheets stamped on paper bags.	▪ Preliminary Report (Thorp and Campbell Conservation 1990) ▪ Final Report (Thorp and Campbell Conservation 1994)
Underfloor Catalogue presentation and preliminary analysis by Dana Mider, 1990–1996	▪ Original artefact recording sheets and audits (Volume 4).	▪ Final Report (Mider 1996), including database printout.
Unstratified Artefact Review by Wendy Thorp, 1996	—	▪ Final Report (Thorp 1996)
Archaeological Assessment by Wendy Thorp, 1996	—	▪ Appendix to Clive Lucas Stapleton and Partners Conservation Plan
Peter Tonkin review of the Hyde Park Barracks Collection, 1997	▪ Artefact Data sheets for newly catalogued items (in Archaeology Store)	▪ Final Report (Tonkin 1997), including database printout.
Excavation of south wall by Peter Tonkin, 1997	▪ Plans and sections, photographs.	▪ Final Report (Tonkin 1997)

and will become part of the EAMC database to assist ready identification of which kinds of deposits individual artefacts were retrieved from.

An extensive photographic record of the Stage 1 and 2 excavations, and some monitoring work also survives. The Archaeology Store room contains boxes of colour slides and black-and-white prints taken during the 1981 excavation, along with an index of which trench each view depicts. In the curators' room are more slides and prints of the 1980 and 1981 excavations, collated by Wendy Thorp. Sheets of slides from Elizabeth Pinder's monitoring works are stored in the Archaeology Room.

Several hand-drawn and inked plans and sections are also retained in the Archaeology Room. Indices of plans and drawings are recorded in the site books.

Overall, most of the site records and reports relating to stratigraphy are present and no gaps in the lists of contexts and units have been identified. The trench notebooks for the underfloor 'excavation' will be sufficient for the EAMC's research purposes, and it is hoped the underground notebooks will be as well, although a brief review has revealed a variety in the level of detailed description of the excavation of

particular stratigraphic layers. Nonetheless, such variety is (unfortunately) not uncommon and it is likely that when work assigning catalogued artefacts into their archaeological context begins, the records will be satisfactory.

3.2.2 ARTEFACT RECORDING

As seen in Table 2 above, the Hyde Park Barracks retains original records of artefact analysis for all stages of artefact identification, including: the underfloor material (see Mider 1996: Vols 5 & 6), the underground material (see original stamped paper bags which artefacts are stored in, or with); and additional cataloguing coordinated by Peter Tonkin in 1997 (see files in the Archaeology Room).

In addition, there are records of cataloguing undertaken by MAAS conservators (see Filing Cabinet, Archaeology Room), MAAS cataloguers (see folders, Archaeology Room) and some descriptive artefact lists can be found in the original artefact reports.

The information from the three major phases of artefact analysis was originally entered into the Minark database system and is now stored in an Access database. (See Appendix Two of this report for a discussion of the accuracy and utility of the database.) Two large-format computer printouts of the database are held in the Archaeology Room. Both were printed in 1991 and generated from separate Minark databases created for each part of the collection: the underground and underfloor assemblages. At the time of printing in 1991, the underfloor catalogue was preliminary and incomplete (D. Mider, pers. comm., May 2003).

The underfloor catalogue was completed and corrected by Dana Mider and Claire Everett in 1995–1996. It was printed in a more-manageable, A4 format organised by ID Number (Volume 2), location (Volume 3) and function (Volume 4). Both the underground and underfloor catalogues were re-printed by Peter Tonkin in 1997 following his 'stock-take' of artefacts, again by catalogue number (Volumes 2 and 5), function and activity (Volumes 3 and 6), and location (Volumes 4 and 7).

While these printouts have been superseded by the development by the Hyde Park Barracks of a searchable, and user-friendly database, they provide a useful reference point for cross-checking changes in the artefact catalogue.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

It is now 20 years since the archaeological potential of the artefacts and structural remains of the Hyde Park Barracks were 'discovered'. This discovery has been presented and promoted in the two museums that have occupied the Hyde Park Barracks since 1984. For this reason, it is surprising that the archaeological collection has never been comprehensively analysed. This is an unfortunate result of the fact that a stratigraphic report moving beyond mere description has not yet been prepared (despite some successful attempts to make this information more accessible, eg Varman 1993a and 1993b) and that the process of artefact identification was distributed between two teams using two different databases and allowed some fifteen years to pass before the artefact catalogue for the entire site was completed.

Instead of large-scale analysis, there have been regular assertions of the significance of the collection by several researchers and curators, followed by calls for additional work (Thorp 1981: 3, Potter ed c1981: 118, Wilson 1985: 24, Thorp and Campbell 1994: Section 5.0, Riley 1992, Mider 1996, Vol 1: 6). (In the case of the MAAS project, this additional work was actually planned but never completed.) The

artefact reports prepared after the 1981 excavation merely outlined the research potential of the collection and, rather than undertaking broad-scale analysis of the assemblage, offered preliminary and questionable 'interpretations' based on cursory identification of the artefacts and yet-to-be considered stratigraphic sequences. For example, the primary conclusion drawn from the ceramics assemblage in 1981 was that no chronology could be established because the site had been subjected to too much disturbance (Potter ed c1981: 61). Given the nature of the excavation project and the pressure of the museum development, the preliminary nature of these conclusions is understandable. Time constraints are noted in almost all of the trench and finds reports for the 1981 excavation (for example, Potter ed c1981: 57).

Comprehensive analysis could not even be considered until the collection had been comprehensively catalogued and in 1985, a project established by MAAS aimed to do just that. The project was funded by a National Estate Grant, and stage 1 was carried out by Andrew Wilson and others from MAAS. The key tool was the Minark database system, which was 'to catalogue, sort, quantify, date and analyse the artefacts as well as print out their labels and storage box contents lists' (Wilson 1985: 18). Unfortunately, the project set out to review only one part of the site's collection (the underfloor material) and when the catalogue was finally completed in 1996, there was limited scope to undertake broad-scale artefact analysis.

This work was actually completed by Dana Mider who prepared the first concise, pertinent and utilisable account of the excavation of the Hyde Park Barracks' underfloor deposits.[3] Her report included an exceedingly useful stratigraphic tool for understanding the underfloor collection: diagrams showing the discreet areas where original lath-and-plaster ceilings survived (Mider 1996, Vol 1: 9–10, based on diagrams and analyses by Higginbotham 1981 [levels 2 & 3 note book], Varman 1981 [structural report] and Davies 1990). These indicate the areas where material deposited in the convict era had the potential to survive. Their spatial depiction provides an easy indicator of just how little of the assemblage has the potential to be related to the convict phase. The vast majority of Levels 2 and 3 date from the women's era onward. Mider also produced other diagrams showing the distribution of all dated objects (only 72 were identified) and clay-pipe fragments, as a sample of the kinds of analyses that may be performed on the collection.

The underground collection was studied by Wendy Thorp in a project that also included material from the Royal Mint and First Government House (Thorp and Campbell Conservation 1990, 1994). The brief also 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 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, constituting the first ball-park, but unfortunately not comprehensive, analysis of at least part of the Hyde Park Barracks.

In a sense, the Hyde Park Barracks did benefit from the inter-site comparison with First Government House and the Mint, by drawing it into a shared historical context. However, the commission of an artefact analysis project of one (small) part of the site's collection, independent of a holistic stratigraphic study and a clear statement of the intended use of information derived from the collection, soon became a

[3] Note that Mider was not contracted to analyse the assemblage or provide a research design. Her brief was to complete the inventory and print-out the catalogue in a variety of forms. This expanded to include a comprehensive audit of the collection, and providing advice on the overall research potential of the assemblage and day-to-day management of the collection. (Mider 1996, Vol 1: 1, D. Mider, pers. Comm., May 03)

redundant exercise that did not enhance the understanding of life at the Hyde Park Barracks (Thorp 1994: 55, 62, 67).

Independent of these larger projects and at a smaller scale, there have been some detailed analyses of particular artefact groups or types in the collection. For example, Christine Williamson of La Trobe University undertook a small but very detailed study of the gunflints and other pieces of flint in the collection in 1994. Some work has also been undertaken on the textiles collection including a pictorial catalogue of selected textile fragments (each piece was literally photocopied and some notes made, Varman 1993c) and a BA honours thesis on fabric remains (Sciusco 1994).

In 1992, Margot Riley the curator of the Hyde Park Barracks' archaeological collection observed that 'true significance' of the collection could not be assessed until post-excavation analysis had been completed (Riley 1992: 3). Unfortunately, while large projects have undertaken the post-excavation identification of the artefacts, none has seriously attempted to undertake the analysis. And so, in 2001 it is still appropriate to state as Riley had in 1992, that in regard to the researching and analysing this important collection 'there is still much to be done'.

5.0 Historical, Archaeological and Museological Interpretations of the Hyde Park Barracks

Although a history of the Hyde Park Barracks was written in 1965, no overarching interpretation of the site, that takes into account its rich archaeological collection, has been prepared since this time. Helen Proudfoot noted this lack of interpretation of the Barracks in 1989, commenting that 'there has been a major omission in the consideration of the Mint and the Hyde Park Barracks sites, in that, at no stage during the investigation was a historical analysis carried out.' At the time, Proudfoot attributed this omission to the 'regrettable trend in conservation studies' wherein the 'archaeological investigation is allowed to subsume the historical analysis' (Proudfoot 1989: 1–2).

Proudfoot's observation, however, is questionable. Evidently a holistic, integrated historical analysis of the site has not been difficult to prepare because, as Proudfoot suggests, the archaeological finds have been a driving force in its interpretation. Indeed, as discussed in Section 4.0, the archaeology of the Barracks has been insufficiently analysed to date. The two main reasons for this 'major omission' have been the restoration work on the Hyde Park Barracks in the decade from 1975, and its ensuing use as a museum (until the present).

The Hyde Park Barracks Museum managed by the MAAS between 1984 and 1989 was the first of its kind, intended to 'critically assess and celebrate the two centuries of Sydney's existence'. The history of Sydney was displayed in exhibits on the first and second floors of the central dormitory building, which included 'Trade Union Banners', the 'Changing Face of Sydney', and the 'Country Comes to Town'. The third level of the main building contained a historical overview of the Barracks named 'Piecing Together the Past' (exploring: 'Why was the Hyde Park Barracks built? How was it used? Why did it survive?'), although the emphasis was on its convict history with a reconstruction of one room as sleeping quarters and exhibits on 'Macquarie's Sydney' and 'Convict and Free' (MAAS 1984).

Between 1990 and 1991, the HHT refurbished the Barracks and reopened it as 'a museum of itself, directly related to its historical uses'. It was intended that the Hyde Park Barracks become:

> …an ideal model to explore and explain the very processes of history, not by the props and paraphernalia of a designer's dream, but through the evocative display of the sources themselves: the building, the archaeological dig, under floor deposits, pictures, documents, the goods and chattels of ordinary men and women who used the place (HHT 1990: 41).

The Hyde Park Barracks Museum's overall interpretive structure has remained largely the same since its refurbishment, with permanent displays about its history located on the second and third floors of the central dormitory building. On Level 2, 'the evidence of the complex layers of the history of the building are laid bare', while the third level contains a 'theatrical reconstruction of (its) convict past' (Collins & Emmett 1994: 12–13). On the ground floor, 'much disturbed over time', the Greenway Gallery continues to accommodate temporary exhibitions including those on 'Francis Greenway', 'Convict Love Tokens' and at present, 'Convicts'.

On the whole, the emphasis of the Barracks museum continues to be its convict past. As outlined in 1990 in the Museum Plan for the Hyde Park Barracks:

> There were 50 users of the HPB. Every story bears telling. But the evidence points to a primary focus on the convict period as the most unique story to be told by the existing fabric. The story of the other 49 users is best told by other means without denying the significance of some remnants of the fabric as support for this (HHT 1990: 40).

Although preference was given to the convict phase as the means for interpreting the Hyde Park Barracks in 'changing exhibitions, displays, publications and forums', the Museum Plan did make reference to Wendy Thorp's final recommendations in 1981 that 'a building as it stands at the time of its final vacation by occupants is an integral whole (and) it is therefore a corollary that no one part of the building should have undue emphasis at the exclusion of others'. It was made clear, however, that this ideal was expressed only in terms of conservation practice, not museum practice, with the implication that changes to the interior of the main building as recently as 1953 were not 'indicative of a long period of growth' (HHT 1990: 20, 33).

Similarly, the focus of the restoration work from 1975 to 1984 was on the remnants of physical fabric, with the primary aim at that time to restore the site to its earliest phase: the Convict Barracks. Accretions, considered in the early 1980s as 'messy' and unsympathetic additions to the integral whole, were demolished. With hindsight, it is clear to see that the decision to strip the central dormitory building of its accretions was made with little regard for the complex history of the site, and had a major impact upon how the Barracks has been interpreted and managed since. The evidence of previous phases has been 'laid bare' in the layers of paint scrapes, former signs and exposed foundations and features on Levels 1 and 2 of the central building, and in the archaeological foundations and bare walls of the Deputy Superintendent's Office and the Gate House.

Until recently, museological and conservation work has tended to be centred upon the central dormitory building with lesser attention paid to the perimeter structures, due to the fact that Parole Courts continued to occupy the northeastern sections of the perimeter structures after the Hyde Park Barracks Museum was established, and the last court facility did not come under the HHT's management and care until early 2001. Statements of Cultural Significance were prepared for the central dormitory building in 1991, as part of the Museum Plan, and for the perimeter structures in 1996 (Historic Houses Trust 1991: 8; Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners 1996: 73–74). To date, a Statement of Cultural Significance for the entire site has not been prepared. However, the Conservation Plan for the Perimeter Structures, and recent re-interpretation of perimeter buildings, such as Court 24, the Guardhouse and the Deputy Superintendent's Room, have been recent measures to remedy this approach of viewing the central dormitory building and

perimeter structures as separate entities.

With this emphasis of the 'physical remnants' of the central dormitory building and the convict phase of the Barracks in both conservation and museological practice, the site's archaeological collection has been largely valued for its ability to 'plug the gaps' of architectural history and illustrate known historical details about daily life at the Barracks between 1817 and 1981 (with some exceptions), rather than be used to uncover other aspects of the lives of its occupants. (See Potter ed c1981: 34 and Riley 1992: 2, and criticisms from Thorp 1994: 23, regarding the 'salvage' nature of the Hyde Park Barracks excavation.)

The Archaeology Room on Level 2 contains the largest display of artefacts in the museum and also provides an introduction to the archaeological processes undertaken at the Hyde Park Barracks. The room is shut-out from natural light, and artefact displays, grouped by 'Location', 'Type' and 'Use', are spot-lit with artificial lights. Like the artefact collection itself, the room is divided in two halves with a reconstruction of underground trenches on one side, and a reconstruction of rats' nests in the joist spaces, under the floorboards, on the other.

The 'Type' artefact display cases present a range of artefacts mostly retrieved from the underground excavations across the site (some with records of their provenance to an archaeological context, others without). These are presented as the 'Type Series', which is described as an 'index to the collection' which 'make all things equal', prepared by selecting one specimen or example of each artefact type from the collection. The text accompanying individual groups of artefacts provides general information about pipes, buttons and metal, glass and ceramic artefacts typical to a historical archaeological dig site (for example, that clay pipes were used throughout the 19th century, were first made in Australia in 1804 and several thousand were recovered from the Hyde Park Barracks). Other items, such as a waist-coat button marked 'Advance Australia', a torpedo bottle and a knife and spoon recovered from an area thought to have been a dining hall, are individually noted and their location shown on a small diagram of the site. With these few exceptions, this sample of the Barracks' artefact collection is presented to the visitor more as an introduction to a typical historical archaeological site in Australia, rather than an important assemblage from a site as unique as the Hyde Park Barracks.

Fronting the rows of artefact-storage boxes in the glassed Archaeology Store and Study Room, the smaller, 'Use' display attempts to link the artefacts to the occupants of the Hyde Park Barracks. With a collection of items associated with hygiene, leisure and diet, the display is headed by the following:

> Who, what, where, when, why were these things used by people at the Hyde Park Barracks before they went underground or under floor boards? Once they have been recovered, cleaned, sorted, stored and studied we can begin to ask and answer these questions about the life and lifestyle of past owners and users. When things are seen in context of social use, they become part of the human experience: food and fancies, games and gadgets, work and worship.

This is the closest the displays come to the stated achievement of the Room in contributing 'to our reconstruction of past lives' (Collins & Emmett 1994: 28). The text board was established several years prior to the delivery of the artefact catalogue. It is clearly an admirable attempt to stimulate visitors' thoughts about the kinds of questions archaeology may answer, and so carries a tone of weightless intangibility. However, from an archaeological perspective, this implication that the answers remain out of reach is ill-fitting because in 2001 the artefacts stored in boxes which line the walls behind this display *have been* 'recovered, cleaned, sorted, stored and studied'—with varying degrees of success (see Appendix Two), but there are no clear answers for the researcher or the passing visitor to what 'these questions' may be, or further, what relevance and meanings those answers may carry.

These observations about the interpretation of the Hyde Park Barracks' archaeology collection should not be read as an overt criticism of the curatorial practice at the Museum over the past ten years. When the HHT took over in 1990, curators did not have many tools with which to understand the site's assemblage. There was no access to an artefact catalogue, nor an overarching document that accounted for, analysed and interpreted the site's rich historical or archaeological evidence. Further, no archaeologist was involved in the establishment of the first displays (Margot Riley, pers comm May 2001).

It was the explicit intention of the Hyde Park Barracks Museum to present the processes and the layered evidence of history, 'laid bare' in the exposed foundations of the building and row on row of the artefact type series (HHT 1990: 41, HHT 1994: 14). This is a valid, innovative and stimulating approach to the interpretation of the building fabric at the site that unfortunately, has not produced the best result for the artefact collection. With the focus on presenting the evidence and explaining the 'process', the value, meaning and relevance of the outcomes of the process—the stories which rigorous, integrative historical and archaeological research can tell—are elusive and largely unresolved.

That is, visitors may get a sense of the how artefacts were recovered and be provided with a definition of stratigraphy, but not how artefacts may be used to understand past life (at the Barracks, or even generally), or what role stratigraphy has in this. A good way of explaining this, for example, would be to tell the 'story' of the ceilings of the main building which were installed in 1819, then replaced in 1848 and c1880. From these pieces of historical evidence, archaeologists can date the vast majority of the underfloor collection from the women's phase onward. Being able to refine the date-range of much of the underfloor collection, and knowing that aged and destitute women occupied Level 3 and immigrant women on Level 2, archaeologists can begin to compare the daily lives of these two groups of women living within the bounds of the same institution.[4]

In a sense, museum display has become a substitute for detailed analysis and interpretation of the history of the Hyde Park Barracks. Nevertheless, a number of attempts to understand the Barracks complex, in the context of written reports, have been undertaken since the mid 1970s. To date, DPWS, MAAS and HHT have commissioned most of these reports, which include conservation reports, archival reports and archaeological reports. Other publications produced about the Hyde Park Barracks in this time have included unpublished university theses, annotated bibliographies, educational programs and exhibition catalogues. As these publications have specific purposes, such as conservation management or archaeological monitoring, they are lacking in detailed analysis of the site. For example, conservation and archaeological reports produced about the Hyde Park Barracks tend only to include a brief chronological history of the site, which covers the patterns of occupation and the architectural features in its three main (pre-Museum) phases. The most comprehensive of these overviews of the site remains the first volume of Wendy Thorp's Archival Report, produced in 1980. Since that time, many have used Thorp's Archival Report as their basis for their research or for gaining a cursory understanding of the site.

As already noted in Section 3.1 of this report, numerous primary sources such as written records, maps and photographs have been collated since the early 1980s, for the purposes of the restoration work as well as for exhibitions relating to aspects of the site's history. An overview of the historical research about the Hyde Park Barracks, undertaken in 1990, determined that the source material, which had been 'selected,

[4] Women admitted to the Female Immigration Deposit tended to stay at the HPB for short periods of time, usually one or two nights. Accommodation for the Government Asylum for Infirm and Destitute Women, while initially confined to the top floor of the main barracks building, gradually took over most of the second floor (according to evidence given at the Inquiry into Public Charities, 1873 (Joy Hughes, pers. comm., April 2003).

collected and interpreted' to date, was 'critical to interpreting patterns of use but is more selective regarding building fabric' (HHT 1990: 17). Although the authors of the Museum Plan clearly understood the ramifications of social history in museological interpretation, it was recommended that further research be undertaken on the 'details of fabric and use inside the buildings' with a 'more critical and detailed analysis and interpretation of plans and specifications in conjunction with investigation of the existing fabric and archaeological deposits' (HHT 1990: 20). Primary document research consequently undertaken since 1990 appears to have been for the purposes of museum display—with an emphasis on the occupants of the Hyde Park Barracks. Relatively scant information has been obtained about the occupants' spatial location within the building complex, how they used these spaces and more general information about their purpose within a broader, social context.

Regrettably, in 2001 it must be observed that while the knowledge about the 'who, what, where, when and why' of structural remains and displays relating to the Hyde Park Barracks is scattered throughout various reports and museum displays, a comprehensive analytical and interpretive document about what this information may mean and which would provide a better context for museum display, is yet to come.

5.1 Interpretation of Phases

By the early 1990s, research had determined that over 50 different kinds of occupants had resided at the Hyde Park Barracks (including central dormitory building and perimeter structures) since its construction. However, as these occupants often overlapped, four main phases of the building's history have been determined as:

- Convict (Convict barracks 1817–1848);
- Women (Immigration Depot 1848–1886, Government Asylum for Infirm & Destitute Women 1862–1886);
- Judicial (Court of General Sessions, Industrial Arbitration Court, Legal Aid Office etc 1886–1979); and
- Museum (MAAS 1984–1990, HHT 1991–present).

5.1.1 Convict phase

The convict phase of the Hyde Park Barracks is the most researched and represented aspect of its history. Information about the building and its occupants in this phase has been obtained from plans of the site, personal accounts of its construction and subsequent use (such as the Bigge Report), the remnants of its physical fabric and structural remains recovered during archaeological excavation. For example, Varman's Stratigraphy of the Hyde Park Barracks provides written descriptions and floor plans of the central dormitory building from pre-European settlement until the time the convicts were removed to Cockatoo Island in 1848.

For the purpose of the displays and the Convicts Database (established in the early 1990s), primary documents relating to personal lives of the convicts who lived or passed through the Barracks have been gathered, primarily from State Records. This personal information appears to have been incorporated into the Convicts Database, and is also included in the research files compiled by HHT historians Joy Hughes and Beverley Earnshaw in 1992. Information obtained from the public about their convict relatives continues to be collected, and this detail is put on file (although not updated to the Convicts Database).

In terms of museological interpretation, the third level of the Hyde Park Barracks is devoted to the convict phase. One room on this level has been reconstructed to this phase, with the inclusion of rails and

hammocks similar to those thought to have been used by convicts, as evidenced by remnants of 'hammock holes' in the floorboards on Levels 1 and 2 (Varman 1981: 13–17). Another room contains soundscapes, the Convict Database and a single display case containing reproductions of convict clothing, with names of convicts from 1828 census printed onto it. A third room is empty of typical museological interpretation props, instead containing silhouetted artist's representations of convicts.

5.1.2 Women's Phase

The next main phase of the Hyde Park Barracks' history was its dual function as a Female Immigrant Depot and as a Government Asylum for Destitute and Infirm Women. Relative to the convict phase, the women's phase has received little attention in terms of how the site has been interpreted within the museum, even though the vast majority of the Hyde Park Barracks artefact assemblage (more than 88% of the underfloor collection) dates from this period and beyond. For example, the *People* exhibit on Level 2 focuses on the women who lived at the Hyde Park Barracks, although the emphasis is on the female immigrants who passed through the Immigration Depot between 1848 and 1886. A display case is located in the centre of the room, which on one side includes reproduced images of poor houses and immigrant depots in Australia and England, as well as some of Anne Ferran's photographs from a previous exhibit titled 'Shadows of the Past', and two rosaries. The other side of the display case contains focus displays about five women who passed through the Immigration Depot as well as four pieces of jewellery from the archaeological collection and a faceless female figure clothed in fabric found in the underfloor spaces. There is no interpretation of the other function of the central dormitory building in this phase as an Asylum for Destitute and Infirm Women from 1863 to 1886.[5]

A considerable resource of primary documents has been collected for the purposes of three main exhibitions displayed at the Hyde Park Barracks in the past ten years: 'Women at the Hyde Park Barracks', 'A Body of Troublesome Girls and 'Secure the Shadow', as well as for the *Place*s exhibit. However, in these exhibitions, the women's phase is treated as an obscure, unknowable time in the history of the museum, despite the fact that the Barracks remained institutional in both the convict and women's phases. As both phases were institutional and therefore bureaucratic in structure, it is probable that the available information about the occupants is of a similar level. For example, the catalogue preface to 'Secure the Shadow' comments that primary documentation and archaeological artefacts 'this evidence—bureaucratic, photographic, historic, scant—of immigrant and indigent women's lives, does little more than cast a series of shadows from frozen gestures' (HHT 1995: 6). Similarly, a quilt hanging in one of the hallways of the museum has a caption claiming that the Barracks women, 'like the thousands of fragments buried in the building, had all but slipped through the cracks in history'.

Quotes like these demonstrate a poor understanding of the magnitude of the underfloor collection at the Barracks, the particular nature of the ceiling stratigraphy which dates the collection from the women's phase onward, and the very essence of archaeology itself: that when physical fragments do slip through the floorboards, detailed research can reconstruct a clear understanding of the lives of those who lost them.

As Varman observed in the Stratigraphy of the Hyde Park Barracks, more research does need to be done on how the Barracks was used from 1848 onwards (Varman 1992). This research is especially important to get a better understanding of room use in the women's phase (who lived where, which rooms, likely

[5] This display, which was current when this report was drafted, was replaced in June 2001 with a new exhibit focussing of the lives of female servants. More artefacts from the collection, relating to women's activities and personal belongings, are now on display.

duration etc.) in order to make sense of the considerable archaeological material found in the underfloor spaces which directly relates to this, and later, occupation. There is little available information about the internal fit-out of the central dormitory building during the women's phase, with maps dating from this time showing only the ground floor, and building specifications are vague. This lack of available information about the use and occupancy of the Barracks from 1848 until the close of the 19th century was earlier outlined in Wendy Thorp's Archival Report, which she attributed to 'a severe shortage of documentary evidence' (Thorp 1980: 49). As part of the EAMC project, it will be necessary to revisit the primary documents that were uncovered during a program of research on the Women's phases of the Hyde Park Barracks undertaken by Joy Hughes and other HHT historians between the late 1980s and the late 1990s.[6]

5.1.3 Judicial & Government phase

Some fragmentary research material has been gathered on tenants at the Hyde Park Barracks in its judicial and government phase, such as information about the location of the various courts that occupied the site and their function within the broader community. There is, however, minimal analysis of the judicial and governmental phase as being important in the history of the building complex, despite it being the longest in the Hyde Park Barracks' history. Perhaps this lack of attention to the Department of Attorney General and Justice as well as the various government offices can be accounted for in part due to their fragmentary patterns of occupation during this phase, and also because their occupation was so recent. The only interpretation of the judicial phase of the site is available in the *Stories* exhibit on Level 2 which depicts the history of the Hyde Park Barracks' own history over the past 170 years, and in Court 24.

The use of the Barracks by the government is partly documented in the current *Places* exhibit, which contains an interpretation of Master in Lunacy, whose offices were located at the Hyde Park Barracks from the late-19th century until 1951. The entrance to this display includes a floor plan of Level 3 in 1959 (where the offices were located), fragmentary transcripts of oral history, some archaeological artefacts and broad description about the function of Master of Lunacy. The rest of the display contains more general information about mental health and its treatment in the 19th and 20th centuries in Australia and overseas.

5.1.3 Museum Phase

As outlined in the Museum Plan, 'The restoration/reconstruction/adaptation of HPB in 1975–90 are part of the story of changes to the fabric but not part of its lived history' (HHT 1990: 34). The museum phase of the Hyde Park Barracks, from the time the restoration work and archaeological excavations commenced to the present, is well covered by photographic recording, written reports including Margaret Betteridge's The Royal Mint Building and the Hyde Park Barracks Museum Project, museum plans and exhibition catalogues. With the exposed air-conditioning vents in the introductory room on the ground floor, this phase has also been incorporated into the museum's overall presentation of the Barracks' history.

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[6] Joy Hughes and Beverley Earnshaw undertook extensive searches in the late 1980s without success for Immigration Depot hiring books, entry and discharge records and the Government Asylum matron's extensive records (described in the 1873 Inquiry). The search was repeated in the late 1990s. None of these records has been located in the State Records Authority of New South Wales or other public collections. (Joy Hughes, pers. comm., April 2003)

Appendix Two:

SAMPLING THE ACCURACY AND UTILITY OF THE ARTEFACT CATALOGUE

1.0 HISTORY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION AND CATALOGUE

The archaeological collection at the Hyde Park Barracks (hereafter referred to as the 'collection') is the result of archaeological excavation of the main building and grounds in 1980–1981. The record of this collection, the catalogue, has been effectively in the making from its excavation in 1981 to 1998 when the curators of the Hyde Park Barracks developed a database of the entire collection. Until 1998, the collection was divided into the 'underfloor' and 'underground' collections, and each component had been organised, analysed, recorded and assessed by several project teams.

The underground collection comprises artefacts retrieved from soil-based contexts on the grounds of the Hyde Park Barracks (which are typically encountered in archaeological excavations), distinct from the material retrieved from the underfloor spaces of the main building. The latter survives in superior condition to the former, and with a greater range of materials, hence the division of the catalogue. The underground material is composed of artefacts retrieved during test-trenching by Wendy Thorp, excavation by Patricia Burritt in the Main Building and elsewhere, and salvage work undertaken by Graham Wilson at the Northern Gatehouse.[7] Artefacts retrieved from other monitoring work (eg Pinder 1983, Greaves 1993 and 1994, and Tonkin 1997) do not appear in the database. Artefacts from Tonkin's (1997) monitoring work await cataloguing and entry into the database.

On completion of the excavation in 1980–1981, the artefact assemblage was cleaned, sorted, inventoried and rebagged. The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), who became managers of the Hyde Park Barracks Museum and its collection at the same time, undertook conservation work on several items (see MAAS artefact files, held at the Hyde Park Barracks Museum). The collection was stored on site for some time, then moved to the MAAS store at Redfern. At the MAAS store, it was affected physically by flood waters and its archaeological integrity diminished. Some objects, including items selected for display, were separated from their context numbers. Parts of the Mint and the Hyde Park Barracks collections were also mixed together (Wilson 1985: 20; Thorp 1994: 6).

In 1985, a major review, re-catalogue and reassessment of the underfloor collection was begun by Andrew Wilson (then of the MAAS) funded by a National Estate Grant. The collection was moved to the University of Sydney for that purpose (Thorp 1994: 6). The project involved the preparation of a 'research design' for the analysis, specifying elements of the catalogue and fields required, and tested the use of the proposed database system, Minark, on a bibliographic inventory of reports and references (Wilson 1985, 1989). Artefact recording was undertaken at the Centre for Historical Archaeology, Sydney University, by Dana

[7] It is not yet clear whether artefacts retrieved from the Bakehouse and Southern Gatehouse where Graham Wilson also undertook salvage work have been included in the database.

Mider, Andrew Wilson, Julie Dinsmoor and Tony English[8] between 1990 and 1996 (see Mider 1996, Vol 1: 1). No analytical or interpretive work was undertaken in the capacity of this project and no final report was produced.

In 1990, management of the Hyde Park Barracks and its collection was transferred to the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales (HHT) (Riley 1992: 2). When the Hyde Park Barracks Museum opened in 1991, the majority of the collection was moved to its new home in the Archaeology Store and Study Room on Level 2 of the central dormitory building. In 2001, the artefacts continue to be stored and maintained there, well protected in clearly labelled, durable plastic boxes. The Room was the first such archaeological research facility of its kind in Australia (Riley 1992: 2) and its system for accessing artefacts in the boxes was established by consultant curator Margot Riley. At the time of its opening, the two Minark databases (underground and underfloor) would have been accessible in the study room, and print-outs were available, although the two databases would have only contained preliminary information gathered at the end of the excavation.

Table 3 Outline of projects affecting the Hyde Park Barracks collection and its catalogue.

Year/s	Project
1980	Excavation and analysis by Carol Powell
1980	Test-trenching by Wendy Thorp and team in the main building, north range and yard
1981	Excavation by Patricia Burritt and team of underfloor and underground deposits
1981–83	Salvage excavation by Elizabeth Pinder
1981–84	Salvage work by Graham Wilson at Bakehouse, Southern Gatehouse, Northern Gatehouse
1982	Artefact conservation by Glennda Marsh
1985–c1994	Sydney University research design and preparation for catalogue of underfloor artefacts
1991	Museum opened with display of artefacts
1994	Wendy Thorp Artefact Review and Management Recommendations: completed underground catalogue
1995	Finalisation and reporting of the catalogue of underfloor artefacts, by Dana Mider
1996	Wendy Thorp unstratified artefacts report
1997	Peter Tonkin artefact 'stock-take' of underfloor and underground collections
1998–2001	The Hyde Park Barracks database
2001	Exploring the archaeology of the modern city project

In the late 1980s, the Department of Planning commissioned Wendy Thorp and Campbell Conservation Pty Ltd to review the Hyde Park Barracks, Royal Mint and First Government House archaeological collections and provide recommendations for their management (Thorp & Campbell Conservation 1990, 1994). The project, completed in 1994, required the 'sorting and consolidation' of the Hyde Park Barracks assemblage and was the first project to provide a comprehensive catalogue of the material, albeit only of the

[8] Tony English catalogued the bone and shell; Julie Dinsmoor catalogued some metal and glass; Dana Mider catalogued the remainder of the collection and undertook all data entry (between 1991 and 1995). All work was voluntary and unpaid. (Mider 1996: 1 and pers. comm. May 2003)

underground component. Artefacts were re-examined and rebagged.[9] Artefact recording information was written directly on stamped paper bags in which the artefacts are kept.

In 1996, Dana Mider completed the catalogue of the underfloor collection for the HHT (Mider 1996: 6 volumes). Her report, commissioned by the HHT in 1995, was the culmination of the work originally proposed under the National Estate Grant in 1985 and 1989. Mider, assisted by Claire Everett, also undertook an audit of the artefacts and their records, rematching several objects dissociated from their provenance with their original identification number. Although they remained in separate and somewhat incompatible databases, the artefact catalogue for both parts of the Hyde Park Barracks collection was now complete.

In 1997, Peter Tonkin was commissioned by the HHT to 'stocktake' the collection held on site and at the HHT's Ultimo store. Tonkin identified several groups of provenanced artefacts that previously had not been gathered for cataloguing. These were catalogued by a small team of specialists[10] and entered into the database.

In 1998, the Hyde Park Barracks began developing a database for public viewing of the archaeological collection. The two databases of underfloor and underground material were exported from Minark, into Access, and re-organised into a new database structure, that facilitated simple searching mechanisms for broad categories of artefacts. This work was undertaken by subconsultant Brian Robson, in consultation with assistant curators Gary Crocket and Samantha Fabry. In April 2001, the database is largely complete and a few minor adjustments will be made in the near future. (The same database structure has been used for the Mint archaeological collection, and the collection from Susannah Place.)

In 2001, the EAMC team will utilise the data in this new Hyde Park Barracks database, and export it to a database designed to meet the project's analytical requirements.

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 below.

The **collection** is made up of the artefacts excavated from the Hyde Park Barracks, 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 UF302). Information pertaining to this bag is stored in a single **record** in the database (ie the record for UF302). 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.

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[9] Cataloguers 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.

[10] Kevin Barnes, Nadia Iacono and Dominic Steele undertook the cataloguing. Judith Fethney undertook the data entry.

Table 4 Fields used to compile the underfloor and underground catalogues and the current HHT artefact database and those required for the EAMC database. (* = field name repeated; **bold** = crucial or important to EAMC analysis)

Underfloor Catalogue	Underground Catalogue	Current HHT database	EAMC database
	Site	Site Code	Site
Item ID	Item ID	Artefact ID	ID number
Room (Level & Area)	Context (Area)	Item Context	(Included in Unit)
JG (Joist Group)	Unit	Unit Code	Unit
JS (Joist Space)			Unit Area (square)
			Phase A (Phase From)
			Phase B (Phase To)
		Catalogue Number	
		Artefact Class Name	Artefact class
	TS Type	Type Series or Artefact Name	**TS Name**
	TS No	Type number	**TS No (for Type or Repeat)**
	Repeat Type	Type Series Repeat	**TS Details (whether T or R)**
Function (equiv. to activity)	Activity	Activity	Activity
'F-vessel' (Function)[11]	Function	Object Name (Function)	Function
			Subfunction
Material	Material	Material Name	Material
			Mineral
(no equivalent field, information sometimes recorded in Object Name or Function)	Portion	Portion	**Portion**
	(No field for form or shape, but often written on page, although not consistently)		**Form**
			Shape
(no equivalent field, information sometimes recorded in Object Name or Function)	(no equivalent field, information sometimes recorded in Type or notes)	(no equivalent field, information sometimes recorded in Object Name or Function)	**Technique of Manufacture***
			Modifications
	Ceramic body	Ceramic body	Material*
Ceramic decoration	Ceramic decoration	Ceramic decoration	Decoration* (applies to other materials)
	Ceramic pattern	Ceramic pattern	Pattern* (applies to other materials)
Glass colour	Glass colour	Glass colour	Colour (applies to all materials)

[11] In the original Minark database, the item's function was actually stored in a number of 'function' fields, specific to the item's Activity. F-vessel is the generic 'function' field; others are allocated under F-archit, F-person, F-house, F-craft, F-ocult and F-cleric.

Underfloor Catalogue	Underground Catalogue	Current HHT database	EAMC database
	Glass decoration	Glass decoration	Decoration*
	Glass close		**Technique of Manufacture***
Textiles Decoration			
			Tile strike
Artefact Earliest Date	Date	Date Given	Date one
Artefact Latest Date	Date range		Date two
			Date notes
Items	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity
			Percentage
	Integrity (recorded on orig. form, but not in database)		**Integrity**
			Minimum Vessel ID Number
			MNV Notes
			Conjoin ID Number
Artefact Weight		Weight Grams	Weight (grms)
			Length in mm
			Width in mm
			Thick in mm
Condition (field present but not completed)	Condition		
			ID marks (type of transcript)
Inscription	(No equivalent field. Info was orig. recorded in Notes field, but this is not in the database.)	Inscription	Transcript
			Provenance
Note	Note	Notes	Notes
Artefact Search (info source)			(No equivalent: will be contained in notes)
—	—	Image File	Image File
—	—	Image Caption	Image Caption
—	General Treatment	General Treatment	Conservation
Store Location	Storage Location	Storage Location	Box Number
	Display reason	Display reason	
	Date (the artefact was examined: not always recorded and not incl. in database)	Date Entered	Date entered (Added 2001)
Login (for data entry)	Specialist's Initials	Entered By	Entered by (Added 2001)
		Date Updated	Date updated (Added 2001)
		Updated By	Updated by (Added 2001)
			EAMC Notes (Added 2001)

Underfloor Catalogue	Underground Catalogue	Current HHT database	EAMC database
			EAMC Checked (Added 2001)
Bone: Animal	*Bone/Animal*	*Bone Type*	*Species name*[12]
Bone: Type (eg vertebra)			*Skeletal element*
			Bone no. complete
			Bone no. fragments
			Bone portion name
			Bone portion percentage
			Bone condition name
Bone: Modifications			*Bone condition description*
			Bone condition assessment
			Bone attribute type
			Bone attribute location
			Bone attribute assessment
			Bone ageing location
			Bone ageing stage
			Teeth: tooth
			Teeth condition
			Butchery location
			Butchery type
			Butchery orientation
			Animal size
			Animal max size
Seed: Type	*Seed*	*Seed Type*	*Seed*
			Organic
	Shell	*Shell Type*	*Shell scientific name*
			Shell common name
			Shell no. complete
			Shell no. fragments
			Shell no. lids
			Shell no. bases
			Shell condition
Shell: modifications			

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

3.0 SAMPLE SIZE AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

In total, 524 artefact records (ie one or more artefacts grouped in one bag) were examined in the sample. (See Table 5.) This represents 2.6% of the collection as a whole, and 3.2% of the collection excluding bone and shell artefacts (see Table 6). Bone and shell artefact were not examined in the sample and are not intended to be included in the EAMC project.

The bulk of the sample comprised artefacts from an underfloor context area, Joist Group 1 from Level 3 of the Main Building, and an underground unit, No. 2557, from the ground level of the Main Building. These two contexts were selected because they each comprise about 3% of their respective part-collections, which was the target percentage of the sample.

The following items from Joist Group 1 and Unit 2557 were not examined:

- bone, shell, seed and other unmodified organic artefacts; and
- 56 items from Joist Group 1 and Unit 2557 which were not in their boxes (11 were known to be on display, four were noted to be 'missing' in the database, and the remainder were simply not in their boxes).

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

Item	Bags	Fragments	Bags Sampled	Est. Fragments Sampled
Underfloor	13,250	55,453[13]	357 (2.7%)	1,225 (2.2%)
Underground	6,862	37,910[14]	171 (2.5%)	796 (2.1%)
Total	*20,112*	*93,363*	*524 (2.6%)*	*2,144 (2.3%)*

Table 6 Number of bags and estimated fragments sampled and in the collections, excluding bone and shell which was not examined in the sample.

Item	Bags	Fragments	Bags Sampled	Est. Fragments Sampled
Underfloor	10,303	43,404	357 (3.5%)	1,225 (2.8%)
Underground	5,877	23,366[16]	171 (2.9%)	796 (3.4%)
Total	*16,180*	*66,770*	*524 (3.2%)*	*2,144 (3.2%)*

[13] Note that Mider has stated that the underfloor collection comprises 40,035 items in 11,254 bags. While it is known that Peter Tonkin discovered additional artefacts for cataloguing, which may account for some difference, it is unclear why there is such a large discrepancy between the quantities calculated when the catalogue was completed in 1996 and those contained in the present HPB database.

[14] This is an estimate fragment count. It comprises a total of all quantified artefacts and the total of the minimum number of artefacts whose quantity was estimated, eg those recorded as '50–100' were estimated in this total to be 50.

During the course of the sampling process, 65 underfloor and underground items from other contexts were also examined and their records checked. This was to verify common problems (like the failure to record inscriptions on pen nibs) and, in the case of some pieces noticed to be diagnostic when looking through the box, to see whether appropriate information was recorded.

The artefacts were inspected box by box, and each artefact was examined for its appropriate correspondence with the records contained in the database. The current Hyde Park Barracks database was used for this purpose. Where anomalies were discovered, they were noted in a special project notes field added to the EAMC copy of the database. Where inscriptions were noted these were entered into EAMC copy of the Hyde Park Barracks database, but few other changes were made to the original records.

The re-examination took approximately three weeks.

When it became apparent that some of the errors noted were probably the result of database manipulation rather than cataloguing errors, Brian Robson, consultant to the Hyde Park Barracks Museum, provided a back-up copy of the underfloor and underground Hyde Park Barracks databases as they were in 1998 (prior to their combination into one database). This contained the original data, as exported from Minark and was used to ascertain whether some errors had occurred during re-configuration of the data into the Hyde Park Barracks database.

The underground artefacts are stored in, or with, paper bags on which artefact data sheets were stamped and completed. This made it easy to identify data transfer problems like the missing pipe inscription details (see Section 4.3.1) which were lost prior to the database's 1998 re-configuration.

The underfloor material is not stored with its original catalogue sheet and unfortunately, the original data sheets were not discovered until after the sample was complete. Some, but not all artefacts were re-checked against their original data entry sheets.

4.0 Discussion of Issues

4.1 Needs of EAMC

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

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

The basis of meaningful artefact analysis and interpretation is the development of minimum vessel counts. A minimum vessel count is the minimum number of pipes, teacups or glass bottles in an archaeological context or entire collection. They are calculated by selecting the highest number of diagnostic portion-

parts in one artefact type. For example, if there are several hundred plain pipe stems, 24 mouthpieces and 30 pipe bowls, there must have been *at least* 30 whole pipes.

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

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.

Unfortunately, the Hyde Park Barracks database does not provide the above requirements for all records in the collection. The limitations and some of the reasons for how they came to be are outlined in the discussion below. The underfloor and underground components of the catalogue are dealt with separately because they were catalogued independently. Other issues affecting the catalogue and collection are also discussed.

4.2 THE UNDERFLOOR COMPONENT OF THE CATALOGUE

It is clear from Table 4 above that the variables recorded in the underfloor catalogue fall some short of the requirements for the EAMC project. The absence of systematic recording of Portion[15], Integrity, Form, Shape, Technique of Manufacture, conjoin information, basic measurements such as length and width, and particularly the absence of a catalogued type series, allows little more than ball park functional analysis of fragment counts. The lack of further descriptive notes for many unusual or diagnostic items (especially for paper and textiles) ensures that researchers are rarely pointed in the direction of individual artefacts worthy of examination.

In addition to a limited catalogue, the sample of the underfloor collection revealed many errors in the information current available in the Hyde Park Barracks database. In summary, these are:

- anomalous activity and function allocation;
- some records without activity or function;
- misleading descriptions and a lack of additional description;
- inscriptions not recorded or lost;
- several bags with artefacts of different class, type or style;
- incorrectly recorded weights and quantities;
- ambiguous terms;

[15] For some artefacts within some artefact types, eg pipes and glass bottles, the portion is often incorporated into the function field, eg 'Pipe, bowl', 'Pipe, stem', 'Bottle, lip' or 'Bottle, base'.

- some minor errors and mis-identifications;
- incorrect material classification (eg 'lead' instead of leather); and
- no detailed analysis of conjoining sherds.

These issues are discussed in detail below.

4.2.1 Anomalous activity and function allocation

The Activity and Subfunction allocations in the underfloor catalogue contain some unusual determinations, some of which were probably specific mis-allocations, but others are more broad-scale and systematic. For example, all artefacts relating to smoking (clay pipes, matches, match boxes, cigarettes, cigarette packets, cigars), some stone tools and cores, some gun flints, cartridge cases and gun shot, coins, tokens, heater elements and umbrella parts are all attributed to the activity 'Social', along with several other artefact types (which also appear under other activity classes, in addition to 'Social').

When catalogued, this activity was named 'Other, cultural' which was defined as 'a largely default category encompassing artefacts that are difficult to place in one specific function grouping or which may possess several functions' (Mider 1996, Vol 1: 27). It was changed to 'Social', presumably in an attempt to be compatible with the underground material, but with little success.

The kinds of artefacts attributed to Social in the underfloor collection are allocated to more appropriate fields in the underground catalogue (as in many other catalogues), such as Recreation for smoking relating artefacts and Economy for coins and tokens. Further, in the underground catalogue, the activity 'Social' means: 'evidence of community involvement/concern in issues such as war, environment, labour, emancipation' (Thorp 1990: 'Function: Main Functional Categories').

Glass bottles are another artefact type that seems to be suffering poor activity and function allocation. Eighty-four percent of bottle sherds in the underfloor collection were allocated to Food Preparation, 9% Pharmacy and 6% House Management. Unlike the underground collection, the 'food preparation' bottles were not identified further as alcohol bottles, pickle/chutney bottles or oil/vinegar bottles, for example. Rather, the underfloor functions were 'Bottle, mold mark' [sic], 'Bottle, rim' or 'Bottle, base'. In some cases, eg UF7027, a specific function ('gin bottle') was typed in the Notes field, but the Function field remained generic ('Bottle, lip').

In other cases, the bottles allocated to Food Preparation are of the same type as those unequivocally attributed to Pharmacy. For example, a round olive bottle UF6624 with the remains of a hand-written the Hyde Park Barracks Asylum label with dispensing instructions for the lotion to T Cunningham, admitted 21 May, is correctly catalogued under the activity 'Pharmacy'. Similar round, olive body sherds (UF8351) which also bear the remains of a similar paper label, although not enough to reveal any inscriptions, were catalogued as 'food preparation' along with all the other olive bottles. Given the known use of the site as accommodation for a women's asylum, the likelihood of so many unidentified items being from food-preparation, rather than pharmaceutical, toilet or personal wares, is questionable and requires further consideration.

Further, activities have not been identified for 35 of the 357 underfloor artefact bags in the sample, and 1,229 of all 13,253 underfloor bags. These entries are mostly 'mixed' bags of textiles, paper and other materials, discussed below.

4.2.2 MISLEADING DESCRIPTIONS

In addition to the limitations of the structure of fields, there were limits within the fields themselves, which presented a distorted description of items of more complex composition. For example, when a pipe fragment was both part-stem and part-bowl, it was recorded as 'pipe, bowl' or 'pipe, stem', because 'pipe, bowl and stem' was not an option. Fifteen of the 53 artefacts attributed the function 'reel' are in fact reel labels, some of which were probably once attached to the 38 actual cotton reels in the collection. These errors were easy to identify when examining the artefacts. However, they would not be detected by users of the database alone, and would certainly impact upon minimum vessel counts.

In other cases, diagnostic features for which there was no appropriate database field were overlooked or simply not recorded. The labels on the Asylum-phase pharmacy bottles (UF6624 and UF8351), described above for example, were not noted in the catalogue. The record for UF6624 did provide the inscription (although it was incomplete) but did not note that the inscription was taken from a mostly intact paper label.

In the case of UF8489, the fact that the reel retains it original brown cotton and label was not noted, making it impossible to distinguish this cotton reel from all the others from the database alone. Similarly, there is no distinction between the different decorations on metal buttons.

Other less-diagnostic items are virtually inscrutable from the database. For example, UF4343 a small fragment of paper (25mm x 20mm) with a fine scalloped border, probably from a book or card, is catalogued as 'document, printed'. A modified stick (UF2629) with evidence of paring and at least five cuts (although it does not form a sharp point) is catalogued as 'wood', activity: 'unidentified' with no stated function.

In both these cases, the cataloguing system did not require additional information but a brief note in the Notes field, or the allocation 'modified stick' or 'paper fragment' in the Function field would allow these items to be identified more easily. Were additional fields like Decoration ('scalloped border') or Technique of Manufacture (eg 'pared and cut') completed, the person using the database may have a better idea of the type of artefact it is, even if the specific function remains unknown. This would allow the EAMC team to make a faster assessment as to whether that artefact may or may not be important to a given area of research.

4.2.3 INSCRIPTIONS NOT RECORDED OR LOST

There were some cases where inscriptions marked on items were not recorded in the database, were wrongly recorded, or noted to bear inscriptions which could not be identified on the artefacts themselves.

Sixteen inscribed buttons, nibs, thimbles, reels, pipes and newspaper fragments were not recorded as having inscriptions in the database (UF11274, UF11371, UF3165, UF3523, UF3529, UF7691, UF8087, UF8919, UF8928, UF9087, UF9974, UF1492, UF3202, UF4344, UF4363, UF4364). Five of these were actually marked as having no inscription in the Inscription field. Two buttons (UF8064, UF5209) and one pen nib (UF8088) were marked as having inscriptions ('Y' in the inscription field), but the inscription itself was not provided. Two corked bottle lips (UF 3005, UF 3006) and one glass sherd (UF3044) were marked as having inscriptions that could not be identified on the artefacts themselves.

There were also two cases where inscriptions were provided but they were incomplete: the Asylum-phase lotion bottle UF6624 (the lotion details were omitted), and a hair-tonic bottle marked '[T]RICOPHEROUS

[FOR THE HAIR AND SKIN]' ('NEW YORK' was omitted). These may have been an error with the Minark export. (See Section 4.5.)

4.2.4 MIXED BAGS

At least 26 of the bags examined, and 15% of bags sampled from Joist Group 1, contained artefacts of different style, source, portion, shape, colour, material or diagnostic features such as inscriptions. This 'bulk bagging' occurred across artefact classes, mostly affecting glass bottle sherds, nails and clerical items.

For example, the 'olive glass bottle' UF3018 contained a mixture of light green and black body sherds. The 'olive bottle' UF4612 contained non-conjoining body, shoulder and neck sherds of light green and olive glass. The olive glass bottle UF3028 contained a mixture of rounded and flat olive green glass body sherds with, remarkably, a long tubular black glass bead thrown in.

The bag for bead UF9263, catalogued as one hexagonal bead, actually contains two beads: the green, hexagonal bead described in the record and a smaller, blue bead. Ten of the 17 bags of the underfloor nails viewed in the sample contained a mixture of hand- and machine-made nails, screws and other fasteners such as tacks. Three of the 8 bags of pen nibs and 2 of the 8 bags of cotton reels, contained nibs or reels of different style, source and often inscription or label (UF7691, UF9974, UF11274, UF4344, UF4363).

For other artefact classes such as matches and pins, for which distinctions between each artefact are smaller than those for nails or glass bottles, all items from each context were, more appropriately bagged together. However, it is considered that the matches and pins in the underfloor collection could be further researched and grouped into different pin and match types, with the hope of ascertaining more-specific manufacture dates.

Textiles and other 'mixed bags'

While the mixed bags described above are probably the result of the catalogue structure which allowed for artefacts with minor distinctions to be grouped together, other groups of artefacts such as textiles and paper were systematically bagged together and labelled, for example, 'Mixed Textile' and 'Mixed Paper'. This was a strategy agreed by Dana Mider and the Historic Houses Trust in 1996 (D. Mider, pers. Comm. May 2003).

There are 1,245 'mixed bags' of textile, paper, wood, leather and other materials in the underfloor catalogue (see Table 7). The quantity of individual items this represents is unknown.

Table 7 'Mixed bags' in the underfloor collection.

Artefact Name	No. of Bags
Textile, mixed	768
Paper, mixed	353
Other, mixed	108
Wood, mixed	10
Leather, mixed	6
Total	*1245*

The textiles and paper 'bundles' are effectively the product of rats' nests that have not yet been disentangled, cleaned, identified and catalogued. All such bags are catalogued as quantity '1'.

Twenty-seven bags were examined for this sample and were found to contain miscellaneous scraps with other fragments displaying more diagnostic features. For example, UF5169 contained several rat-gathered scraps of fabric, among which there was one fragment that seems to be the corner of a hand-stitched cushion (perhaps only a pin cushion?) and another hardened strip that may be a furnishing strap.

This is a problem for the analysis and consequently interpretation of textiles, but also for other items that remain in these 'mixed textiles' bags. UF4806 for example, had a ball of mauve cotton, several pieces of string (of different type), a piece of tortoise-shell, a piece of paper (no text), two paper roll fragments which may be cigarettes, a slate pencil, a leather off-cut and a strip of polished cane. The same may be said for the 'mixed leather' bag UF 2598 which contains three leather off-cuts, a stick, a small broken seed and a small unidentifiable metal object.

4.2.5 AMBIGUOUS AND GENERIC TERMS

There are some anomalous descriptions and unhelpfully generic terms for items, such as 'Hollow Ware', which is a term used to refer to vessels that have volume (such as bowls, cups or vases) and are not flat (like plates and cutlery). The term has been used to describe the function of 150 glass and ceramic sherds attributed to household, tableware, kitchenware and other unidentified activities, including, a fine-stoneware jar or container (UF6622) marked '…ESTALLS/ MOR:/…ABLESALT' and a small glass tube, attributed to 'House Management' that may be some kind of eye or perfume dropper. While this term is technically correct for all these items, knowing that they are not flat does not assist analysis as much as recording their *likely* function of jar or dropper. In many cases sherds were identifiable as teacups or bowls, and there was at least one item (UF1131), which was actually flat, making the use of this term quite redundant.

In other, more specific cases, ambiguous terms are used to describe a number of different artefact types. For example, five quantities of clerical fasteners have been catalogued as either 'file clips' or 'paper clips'. Four of these, catalogued as 'file clips' and 'paper clips' in turn, were 2-piece paper fasteners, not 'paper clips' as we know them today. The more modern 'paper clips' were catalogued as 'file clips'.

Several specific material determinations were allocated to broad classes. For example, a piece of cork (UF2622) was labelled 'wood' in both the Artefact Class and Material fields. While it may be appropriate to class cork as wood, 'Cork' should still be placed in the Material field.

While these may seem to be minor points, together they demonstrate that the approach to cataloguing and distinguishing types was broad and preliminary, and similar problems may be encountered in other artefact types.

4.2.6 ADDITIONAL ERRORS AND MIS-IDENTIFICATIONS

In addition to the limitations of the cataloguing system, and some of its fields, several errors or mis-identifications were also encountered in the function, material, quantity and weight fields. Some of the more systematic mis-identifications (such as almost all glass bottles being attributed to food preparation) have been discussed above and not repeated in the list of 'one-off' errors presented below.

The following quantities and weights were mis-recorded:

Item no.	*Name*	*Record says*	*Actually*
UF10096	'Fe' [nails]	Qty 1	Qty: 5
UF9974	Nib	Qty 7	Qty: 8
UF8920	Pin	Qty 21	Qty: 19
UF8927	Nail, Handmade	Qty: 1	Qty: 2
UF12413	Nail	Qty: 50	Qty: 66
UF1153	Large Bowl [rim sherd]	Wgt: 4.00g	Wgt: 23.3g, probably the weight for UF1154
UF1154	'Hollow ware' [rim sherd]	Wgt: 9.09g	Wgt: 3.4g, probably the weight for UF1155
UF1155	'Hollow ware' [rim sherds]	Wgt: 0.15g	Wgt: 9.4g, probably the weight for UF1156
UF1156	'Hollow ware' [rim sherds]	Wgt: 24.07g	Wgt: 0.4g, probably the weight for UF1153

The following pipe quantities and weights were mis-recorded:

Item no.	*Name*	*Record says*	*Actually*
UF3523	'Pipe, bowl'	1 bowl	3 stems
UF3400	'Pipe, bowl'	2 stems	Several stem and bowl fragments

The functions of the following artefact were mis-identified:

Item no.	*Name*	*Record says*	*Actually*
UF11616	Bead, other	Bead	Jewellery element or paste
UF2829	'One-hole button'	Button	Bead
UF11373	'Eyelet'	'Eyelet'	Snap fastener
UF1131	'Hollow Ware'	'Hollow ware'	Flat vessel, probably a plate
UF9016	'Window'	'Window'	Small fragment of moulded synthetic material, coated with paint that does not have any apparent association with a window or its parts.

The material classifications of the following artefact are incorrect:

Item no.	*Name*	*Record says*	*Actually*
UF9017	'Window glass Crown'	Material: glass	Some kind of mortar or putty infill.
UF8494	'Shoelace'	Material: lead	Leather, not lead.
UF8507	'Lead'	Material: lead	Leather off-cuts, not lead.
UF8508	Shoe, other	Material: lead	Leather, not lead.
UF8217	'Lead'	Material: lead	Leather, not lead.
UF8220	'Lead'	Material: lead	Leather, not lead.
UF4379	'Lead'	Material: lead	Leather, not lead.
UF4342	'Lead'	Material: lead	Leather, not lead.
UF2628	'Lead'	Material: lead	Leather, not lead.
UF9454	'Shoe, other'	Material: lead	Leather, not lead.

Throughout the database, all leather artefacts in the underfloor collection are now identified as 'Lead', Artefact Class: 'Metal'. This error occurred while reconfiguring the catalogue into its present database (see Section 4.5).

4.2.7 Conjoins

Only five sherds in the underfloor collection were identified as potentially conjoining with items in other bags. Three cases of items from different bags conjoining were noted during the course of the sample and is expected that many more conjoined pieces are present in the collection but have not been recorded as such.

4.3 The Underground Component of the Catalogue

The sampled underground artefacts in the collection were generally found to have more detailed records than the underfloor component, despite some major data transfer errors. As shown in Table 4, the underground cataloguing fields were more detailed than the underfloor and do include a type series. While some fields like Form and Technique of Manufacture were not included, these were sporadically noted elsewhere on the form, and the Notes field has been used extensively for further descriptive information. Corrections and markings on the paper-bag artefact data sheets indicate that volunteers' work was reviewed by qualified specialists, and promotes greater confidence in the accuracy of the records.

The major problem currently affecting the catalogue of the underground material is that some fields were truncated when exporting from Minark to Access, and others seem not to have been imported.

4.3.1 Data Transfer Errors

The following fields on the original recording form do not appear in the Hyde Park Barracks database: Integrity, Specialist's Initials and Date of Entry. In the case of Integrity, the field is actually present in the early version of the Minark export but all records are set to '0'.

The Notes field of the original recording form has been truncated. Notes from the original forms of 12 clay pipes and one small metal knob (UG1375) in the sample were missing or truncated in the database Notes field. Several other Notes fields (ie in records not included in the sample) appear to end midway and there are 245 clay pipes noted as having script on the stem and none of these have inscriptions in the notes or inscription field of the database. It is likely that inscriptions were also recorded for these in the Notes field, and this information has been lost when data was exported from Minark.

As no fields have been truncated mid-word, and most of the 12 examined records were truncated at the end of the first line as it appeared on the form, it is possible that some kind of line break was entered into these fields and data following the break was discarded by the export program when transferred from Minark to Access.

4.3.2 Data Entry

While the above errors are likely to be the result of transferring the data from Minark to Access, other missing data seem to have been omitted, changed or mixed-up during data entry. For example, nine bricks (UG6913–UG6921) were catalogued as 'shingles' in the Minark-export database and the current Hyde Park Barracks database.

Some records in the database are different to the original artefact records presented on the stamped paper bags. Several type names and numbers have been omitted. The bottle sherds UG458 were originally catalogued as a repeat of Alcohol Bottle 8a, with function of 'unidentified ale' and an additional note that the form was round. The early version of Minark shows it to be an 'unidentified bottle', with no type number details, function: 'unidentified bottle' and no note about the round form. The equivalent of UG458's Type Name is now 'Bottle'. The type series repeat numbers were omitted for four other alcohol bottles (UG740, UG741, UG777, UG778) and three window-glass sherds (UG474, UG1315, UG474).

The omission of noted form details was found on four other records. It is likely that this information, if entered, would have been placed in the Notes fields, so it is also possible that this information was deleted during the Minark export.

In other cases, there is information in the catalogue that was not on the original form. For example, when the portion of some items was omitted on the original record, it was entered as 'unidentified' in the catalogue, rather than 'not stated' (eg UG908, UG5529). The type name 'Wire' for artefact UG2785 was not on the original form, nor was the thickness measurement of 1.2–1.8mm for window glass sherd UG474.

Other terms were probably abbreviated, as had been done for the underfloor catalogue. For example, clay pipe fragments UG3174, UG3222 and UG3213 originally recorded with the portion 'pipe bowl and pipe stem', were entered with portions: 'pipe bowl'.

In at least two cases, alterations to the original record appear to be corrections. A flat glass sherd (UG476) was originally recorded as 'window glass' but is too thick to be so, and was entered into the database as function: 'unidentified', with a comment in the Notes field: ?MIRROR. 6.0 MM THICK. A ceramic sherd (UG5282) was originally recorded as 'Tin Glaze', and replaced with 'Lead Glaze'.

4.3.3 INCONSISTENT RECORDING

During the course of the sample, some minor inconsistencies in the recording of similar artefacts were noted. These are not of major concern, but should be mentioned.

There were eight 'Unidentified' metal objects that were noted in seven records to be 'flared waisted rings'. The eighth record was noted 'Eyelet for rope?' and given the activity 'Trade'. Some ceramic sherds that seemed diagnostic of function were recorded as 'unidentified', but others were attributed a specific function, such as UG902, which was identified as a plate. Bottles UG740 and UG741, both of the same colour and possibly from the same vessel, were identified as 'Dull Green' and 'Olive', respectively.

4.3.4 INCOMPLETE FIELDS

Excepting the fields in which data is likely to have been lost, some fields appear not to have been completed for all items. The Condition statement was also not completed for all items, nor was the Specialists' Initials and Date Field. Altogether, 3,188 records in the database do not have portion details; 446 of these are ceramic items that should record portion details.

4.3.5 THE TYPE SERIES

While in comparison with the underfloor catalogue the existence of a type series for the underground catalogue is of greater benefit to the EAMC's research, there are some problems with the underground Type Series, or rather its recording.

Ninety-eight artefact records in the underground sample, and 2,465 of the 6,862 records in the collection as a whole, were not allocated a type number. As discussed above, in some cases these were recorded on the stamped paper bag, but either were not entered in the original data entry or were since lost in data transfer.

Further, there is no independent list of type-series descriptions to quickly ascertain what Nail 9, for example, actually is. Of course, this can be generated from the records themselves, but for 91 type numbers that have been 'repeated', the database presently holds no record for the artefact which was identified as the 'Type'.

4.3.6 MIXED BAGS

Like the underfloor collection, although to a lesser degree, there were twenty bags (12%) that contain artefacts of different type, portion or pattern. Unlike the underfloor catalogue, there were no mix-ups of highly diagnostic items.

Fifteen bags of nails contained various lengths and thickness of similar nails, brads or screws. (There were no cases where hand-made and machine-made nails were mixed up as had occurred in the underfloor catalogue.) Only one bag of mixed clay tobacco pipes was noted, which contained 198 stems fragments, 4 with spurs, 1 with an unglazed mouthpiece and another stem which appears to have been ground to form a mouthpiece. One glass bottle bag (UG491) contained neck and rim portions of at least two types (not just rim portions as recorded), and another (UG456) contained neck and body parts.

One bag of white-glazed ceramic sherds (UG5170) contained two bases, three rims, one moulded part-handle, seven body sherds and one other body or base sherd; and a bag of blue, floral transfer-printed sherds contained one flat rim and two rounded body fragments decorated on both sides.

4.3.7 QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES

There were some questionable activity allocations in the underground database.

Twelve of the 13 flint pieces in the underground collection were catalogued under Activity: 'Military', Function: 'Gun'. However, the six viewed as part of this sample (one of which was allocated to the 'unidentified' activity group) were not complete gunflints and only two appeared to be preparation for, or a broken part of, a gunflint. In 1994 Christine Williamson of the La Trobe University Archaeology Department undertook a very detailed study of all 22 pieces of flint in the whole collection and found only 8 were European-made flints, five others may have been flints but not were not European-made and the remainder where 'clearly not gunflints' (Williamson 1994: 1). The allocation of these items as military guns needs to be reviewed, and Williamson's findings incorporated into the current database of information.

4.3.8 CONSERVATION

There were a handful of cases where items in the underground collection had been reconstructed, but this was not noted in the treatment section of the record. (See for example, Clay Tobacco Pipe UG4012.)

4.3.9 MINOR ERRORS AND QUESTIONABLE RECORDS

A few records did contain some questionable identifications, including the 'bead' UG1101 that seems too heavy for a bead, the window glass sherd UG1315 that is listed as pale green in colour rather than pale green tint and clay tobacco pipe stem UG3190 that was originally recorded as a bowl.

Despite these few records, the information provided in the underground collection overall is considered more reliable and more useable than the underfloor. Unfortunately, however, much of this information is missing due to data transfer errors.

4.4 Inconsistent Data

One of the problematic areas of inconsistency within the catalogue at present is the discrepancy between activity categories allocated in the underfloor and underground catalogues. For example, the 'Social' clay pipes in the underfloor collection and the 'Recreation' pipes in the underground, as discussed above. Also, pins in the underfloor collection have been catalogued under 'House Management' and as 'Sewing' in the underground. Such inconsistencies are to be expected when two catalogues are combined (see Mider 1996, Vol 1: 21). Some of these differences were reconciled when the two databases were integrated but there is further work to be done.

There are other levels where information about one artefact contained in specialist reports or recorded in earlier artefact cataloguing projects, is inconsistent with information stored in the central database.

In the preliminary stage of artefact registration, MAAS recorded the details of several hundred objects on Acquisition Forms. There are detailed descriptions, dimensions, dates, places of manufacture, sketches, sometimes photographs and in some cases, reference material appended to the form. These contain valuable information that appears not to have been recorded in the current database. Data for underfloor artefacts was apparently entered (D. Mider, pers. comm., May 03). However, all of 34 records in the database that contain MAAS accession numbers relate to underground artefacts, and of the handful of sample MAAS records that were reviewed none of the specific details of the MAAS record (e.g. measurement, fabric type or vessel form) were entered in the corresponding database record (when this record could be found; see for example UF4321).

In addition, the findings of some smaller research projects undertaken prior to or after the major cataloguing projects, such as Williamson's specialist report on flints (discussed above), have not been incorporated into the database.

4.5 Database Manipulation and Data Movement

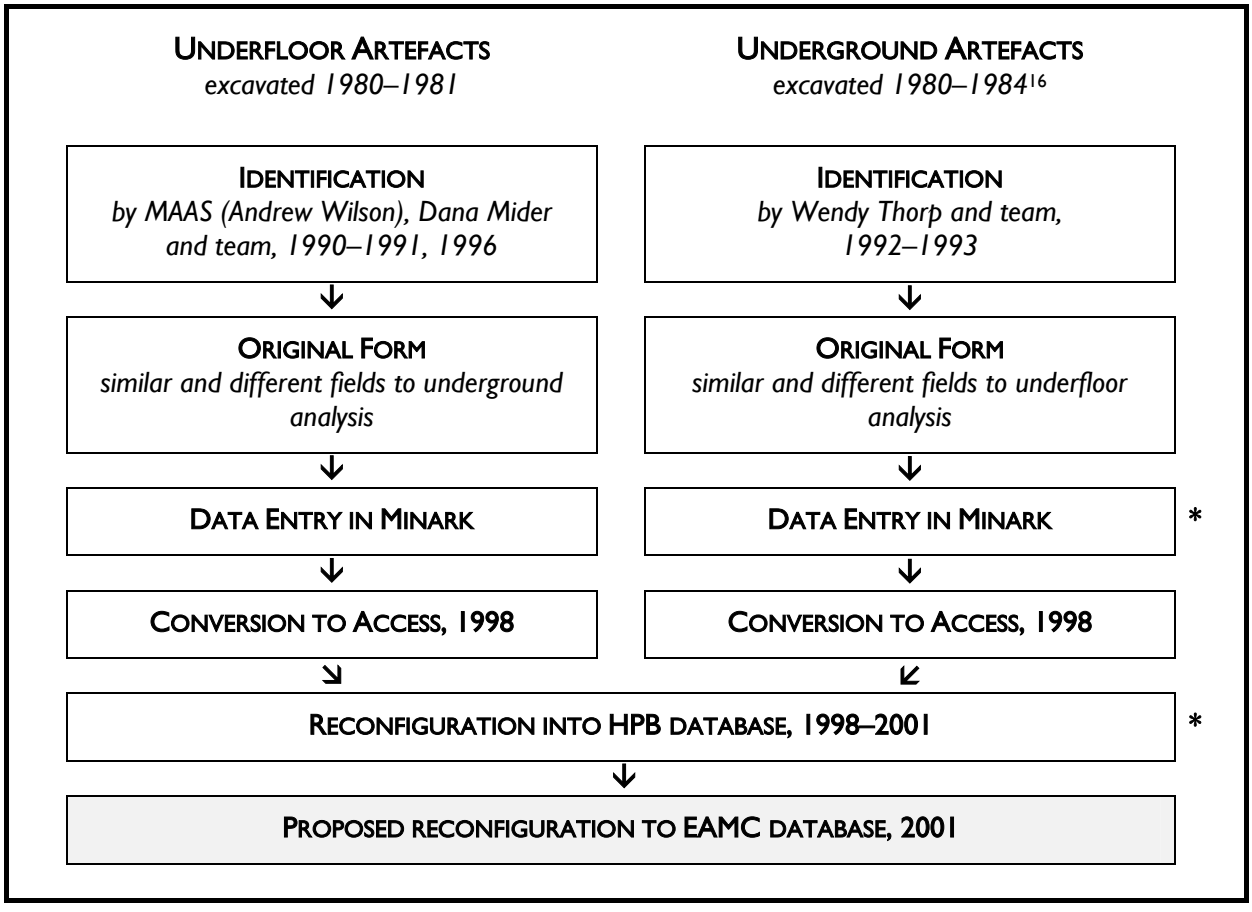
Since the completion of the catalogue for each component of the collection, the database storing the gathered information has gone through several transformations—from the original paper records to the Minark catalogue to the current, relational and highly developed Hyde Park Barracks database. At each stage in this process (see Table 8), there was the potential for records, fields or parts of fields to be accidentally deleted, or for information to be altered or created to suit a new database design, or a new use.

As foreshadowed in the above discussion of the recording of both collections, it seems that some data has been lost and other data altered significantly. In summary, the major problems created by the transfer of information are listed below.

- Inscriptions and notes on the original paper records for the underground catalogue are missing; they were probably truncated when exported from Minark.
- Data from the integrity fields on the original paper records for the underground catalogue are missing; they were probably not exported from Minark.

- All leather artefacts from the underfloor collection have been catalogued as material 'Lead', artefact class 'Metal'.
- The textiles, glass and ceramic decoration fields are not in the current database; these were omitted when transferred from the Minark export files into the current database.
- Clay pipe bowls in the underfloor collection have been labelled pipe stems in the current database, and stems are now bowls.
- The creation of Artefact Classes for the Hyde Park Barracks database, which are incorrect in several cases (for example, the slate pencils in the underground collection have been allocated to 'Building Materials' and pocket knife UF169 has been listed under the artefact class 'Seed').
- The creation of Artefact Names for the Hyde Park Barracks database which in some cases are misleading, for example Item UF10096 is a mixture of 5 nails and nail shafts but the record is labelled 'Fe'.

Table 8 Stages in the development of the present database of the Hyde Park Barracks archaeological collection.



* Potential for users to accidentally alter records when searching for information.

[16] As noted above, other underground artefacts have been recovered through monitoring projects but only those undertaken prior to 1984 seem to be included in the database.

4.6 Artefact Storage and Labelling

During the course of the sampling process, some general observations were made about the state of storage and labelling of 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.

4.6.1 Disordered Boxes

While the artefacts bags in some boxes are well organised, several boxes are in a state of disorder. Despite lists of artefacts on each box and the grouping of ten or more individual bags in larger bags, bags were found in either tray, and many individual bags were tossed straight in the tray, rather than their bag group, or in one case in the wrong bag group. Textile record UF5713 actually had two bags stored in each tray of the box—one with a few items and a note listing items sent for conservation in 1993, the other with the conserved items. While these seem minor points, finding one item in a box that contains up to 584 artefact bags can become unnecessarily time-consuming.

Some boxes were reorganised while undertaking the sample, in order to find particular artefacts, and due to the time involved, others were marked for reorganisation by museum staff. While reorganising box 2/9/4, three bags listed in the database as belonging in boxes 7/5/4 and 8/5/4 were discovered.

In one case, the wooden peg UF37 was left out of its bag. Fortunately, it was the only peg in the box and could be returned to its bag with confidence. If this were to occur to, say a sherd of willow ware in a ceramic box, it would be much more difficult to ensure that it was returned to its correct bag.

4.6.2 Labels

It has now been over eight years since the majority of artefacts were bagged and boxed, and the self-adhesive labels stuck on plastic bags are beginning to fall off.[17] In box 9/6/2, about 6 labels fell off as the box was searched for artefacts in the sample and about 5 bags had detached stickers placed inside the bag. In box 9/6/4, there is a bag of pipe stem and bowl fragments with no identification on or inside the bag.

This problem was discussed with curator Michael Bogle and it was first agreed to restick the labels with durable sticky tape, a task that was undertaken for all labels noted to have fallen off in boxes examined for the sample. Shortly after the last items of the sample were examined, Bogle and Assistant Curator Samantha Fabry established a new procedure that when stickers are noted to have fallen off, artefact identification numbers be written in pencil, on acid free cards, and placed inside the bag. As pencil does not fade, and acid-free paper does not affect the longevity of the artefacts, these cards will provide long-term identifiers for the artefacts when the present and future labels fall off.

However, one other problem with the labelling at present is the inconsistent presentation of artefact identification numbers. The labels are hand-written and do not all identify site name, number and context. Some labels show the artefact identification number in large font, some in small. While again this seems a minor point, it does prolong the searching process.

To solve this problem, the Hyde Park Barracks are considering the application of stickers generated from the artefact database, in addition to the longer-term solution of pencil and paper identification cards. The

[17] Note that underfloor collection was bagged in plastic bags from the beginning. Some underground material has been rebagged in plastic bags, like the underfloor, and stored with their original papers bags in the same box.

computer labels may be designed to include not only the Artefact Identification Number, Context Area (ie level or building) and Unit, but Activity, Function, Type, Pattern and any other fields considered necessary to provide basic information for curators when searching the boxes.

4.6.3 Missing Items

Fifty-six underground and underfloor artefacts were not in their boxes, could not be found in their boxes or were listed as 'missing' in the database. Artefact Removal Cards had been completed for 11 of these items, which had been removed between 1996 and August 2000 for several on-site exhibitions, a display at Vaucluse House, and for conservation treatment. Ten of these cards were found in the boxes where the artefacts should be located (in one case there were two cards for the one item), and one in a box of such cards.

This box contains approximately 500 cards, mostly clipped or bundled together by the display for which the cards were used. This makes it very difficult to quickly ascertain the status of a particular artefact without searching all 500 cards.

This is a cumbersome system, and it is recommended that the database be utilised to track the movement of individual artefacts, by typing a note in the Notes field when an artefact is removed. If it is considered necessary, the fields that are on the artefact cards (Date Of Removal; Reason For Removal; Authorising Officer; Date Of Return) could be added to the database. In the latter case, curatorial staff may be able to gather a history of particular artefacts used in displays and quickly find 'the cotton reel used in the women's exhibition', for example.

Alternatively, a log of artefact removals could be completed in a book and artefact cards kept in the box where the artefact belongs.

4.6.4 Inconsistent artefact names on bag labels

Several items in the artefact boxes have been marked with additional names or identifiers, such as 'Rosary', presumably to facilitate faster retrieval of items. In some cases, however, the identifications bear no relationship with the database record. For example, item UF2623 is labelled 'Wood, unidentified' in the database, but its box is marked 'back of brush head'. While the latter determination is questionable, if the function of an item has been more appropriately identified after the main phase of cataloguing, the database should be updated.

5.0 Assessment of the Catalogue's Accuracy and Useability

Currently, the Hyde Park Barracks catalogue is not ready to provide the basis for comprehensive artefact analysis, due to:

- its limited catalogue fields;
- the inadequate recording and bagging of individual items within this limited system; and
- errors generated by data transfer and manipulation.

Specifically:

- several diagnostic artefacts are not recognisable from the database alone, because features additional to the catalogue system (eg the cotton on the cotton reel) were rarely recorded and several inscriptions have not been recorded or were wrongly recorded;
- other unidentifiable artefacts are minimally described, so cannot be easily excluded from main stream analysis by review of the database alone;
- items of different type have been bagged and recorded together;
- no type series was developed for the underfloor catalogue and not all artefacts in the underground type series were allocated a type number;
- the Activity categories need major review;
- the Function field of the underfloor catalogue needs substantial revision and clarification (best achieved by the inclusion of subfunction); and
- some artefacts appear in the database with the wrong material (lead instead of leather) and artefact class (the 'seed' pocket knife).

These errors and issues have had greater impact on the underfloor collection, which has suffered a range of complications from a limited catalogue to several database mix-ups. The underground collection is generally more accurate (even though some fields were not completed), but not all information has come from the original paper artefact sheets to the database.

5.1 IMPLICATIONS

While some of these specific errors can be rectified, overall there is a lack of information and a lack of confidence in the data at hand. This limited system for cataloguing, particularly the absence of a reliable, catalogued type series, is one of the key problems with the catalogue at present, rendering it of little use in the process of minimum vessel counts. Consequently, the establishment of these counts will require physical re-examination and effectively re-cataloguing of broad classes and large quantities of artefacts.

The erroneous and questionable activity and function allocations within the catalogue, some the result of inadvertent changes to the database, render analysis of these variables futile. While some of these areas are easily identified when viewing the record itself (eg the silcrete core catalogued as 'Social'), once analysis begins, the number crunching will occur across fields, rather than records. Thus this core would be unintentionally counted among the building materials and items evident of community concerns.

With the 'invisibility' of several diagnostic items in the database, any further research into the manufacture and dating of such items in the collection, as proposed by the EAMC team, would be incomplete.

These errors render the database redundant for comprehensive analysis by the EAMC team. While we are fully prepared to undertake some tasks on the database, such as the establishment of consistent activity groupings and the minimum vessel counts, the project does not have the time or resources to invest in the scale of correction required for the Hyde Park Barracks, just one of the sites in its study.

It is both unfortunate and disappointing for the EAMC team to reach this conclusion, given the resources the HHT has invested in this collection over the past two decades. However, the fact that the database is not presently ready for comprehensive analysis cannot be overlooked, and options to 'correct' one of Sydney's, and NSW's, most important collections must be explored, so that it may form a valuable part of the city-wide EAMC project.

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