



# HUNTER'S HILL

HUNTER'S HILL HERITAGE STUDY: SUB-CONSULTANTS' REPORTS

## LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Evelyn Hickey & Graham Quint - The National  
Trust of Australia (NSW)

## WATERFRONT WHARF STRUCTURES

Colin Crisp, McBean & Crisp Pty. Ltd.

## ABORIGINAL PREHISTORIC SITES

Val Attenbrow

MEREDITH WALKER & ASSOCIATES.

November, 1983.

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The Reports were part of Hunter's Hill Heritage Study undertaken for the N.S.W. Department of Environment and Planning and the Hunter's Hill Municipal Council, in 1983. The recommendations and part of the texts are also included in the principal reports of the Study - the Heritage and Character Report, and the Conservation Implementation Report. The full text of the sub-consultants' reports are reproduced here for reference purposes.

MEREDITH WALKER & ASSOCIATES.

November, 1983.



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HUNTERS HILL

HERITAGE STUDY

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

PREPARED BY

E. HICKEY AND G. QUINT

JULY 1983

1. The Physical Character of Hunters Hill before European Settlement

Hunters Hill forms part of the southern boundary of the northern portion of the "Coastal Plateau". The abrupt end of the plateau has left a cliff fringed foreshore with tiny narrow beaches. The topography of Hunters Hill was typically rugged with the peninsula bounded to the north by the Lane Cove River and to the south by the Parramatta River.

The soils are derived from Wianamatta shale overlying Hawkesbury sandstone. Approximately one third of the central western portion of the municipality is a clay loam of the Cumberland series derived from Wianamatta shale. The rest of the peninsula is of the Hammondville association which belongs specifically to the zone of parent material transitional between Wianamatta shale and Hawkesbury sandstone.

The Hammondville Soil Association would have supported a tall open forest (20 - 30m) dominated by Turpentine, Grey Ironbark, Grey Gum, Sydney Red Gum, White Stringybark and Bloodwood with an understorey of wattles (Sunshine, Flax-leaved, Sweet-scented), Hop Bush, Native Parsley, Fine-leaved Geebung, Slender Rice Flower and a diversity of native grasses.

At the edges of the peninsula, amongst the sandstone outcrops, there would have been a community of Coast Banksia, Sydney Peppermint and Sydney Red Gum with a strip of Swamp Oak at the water's edge.

To the west of the peninsula on the Cumberland Soil Association would have grown a Forest Red Gum woodland (12 - 20m) with Grey Ironbark, Rough-barked Apple and Native Cherry. The shrub layer would have been sparse and consisted of Blackthorn, Green Wattle, Parramatta Wattle, Helichrysum diosmifolium, Hop Bush and Prickly Daviesia. There would have been a diverse understorey of native grasses.

Moist gullies would have supported a closed forest of Lilly Pilly, Blueberry Ash, Black Wattle, Coachwood and Sydney Blue Gum with a protective outer zone of Grey Myrtle and Sweet Pittosporum.

The climate is temperate. The highest average daily maximum temperature is 26.7° in February and the lowest average daily minimum is 5.7° in July. The mild climate is due to the effects of the modifying influences of the nearby Pacific Ocean and the inland waterways. The average annual rainfall is 1132mm with the maximum falls occurring in Autumn. Due to the nature of the soils, direct run-off of rainwater would not be great, as the water seeps through the soil and is directed through fractures and finally diverted into the open at lower levels by rock platforms which are typical of sandstone formation.

## 2. Changes to Physical Character Since European Settlement

Hunters Hill is a peninsula protruding into Sydney Harbour, bounded to the north by the Lane Cove River and to the south by the Parramatta River. It has an area of 573 ha.

The physical character of Hunters Hill has been changed significantly since the commencement of European settlement. The rugged nature of the peninsula, the pleasant scenic and climatic quality and the small area of arable land, made the peninsula more suited to residential rather than agricultural or industrial development. However, the ample supplies of readily accessible sandstone were quarried, for construction purposes on the peninsula and for removal via water transport.

The foreshore is 16.25km in length, only one third of this being open space. The foreshore has seen dramatic change. While there are still some natural rock overhangs, shelves and outcrops approximately one third of the foreshore has sandstone seawalls constructed to hold fill for reclamation purposes. The western section generally has considerably more natural foreshore than the eastern section. The major portions being that below Gladesville Park, Betts Park and Boronia Park walk in the western portion and Kelly's Bush in the eastern portion. Extensive reclaimed areas and seawalls exist at Clarkes Point, Pulpit Point, Tarban Creek and the High School. Much private development, e.g. walls, gardens, boat sheds etc extend onto the foreshores. A number of sandstone quarry sites dating back to the 19th Century are still discernable.

During early settlement, transport was by water. Water transport is still used today, however, road transport predominates. The increased use of the private motor car placed great pressure on the peninsula's road system resulting in the construction of the new Gladesville, Tarban Creek and Figtree bridges and the upgrading of the connecting roadway. This necessitated substantial earthworks and virtually cut the peninsula into two portions.

The eastern portion of the peninsula has been modified considerably and has little open space or foreshore access. Rock shelters, overhangs, and remnant native vegetation still exist in some foreshore areas and in Kelly's Bush. The western portion has greater potential for an increase in open space area. This is due to the State Government's policy on hospital closures. There are extensive areas of open space within the hospital grounds and some of this may become available for public use.

The most common trees on the peninsula are Jacaranda, Plane Trees and Brush Box. There are few original native trees of any size left, probably due to the strong European influences from the early nineteenth century, when native vegetation was held in low esteem. The mauve of the Jacaranda in the spring is in harmony with the beautiful old sandstone homes and walls. Where the Plane Trees are used as street trees and the canopies are allowed to meet, they provide cool leafy tunnels very suitable for the Australian climate and add significantly to the pleasant atmosphere of the streets. Many streets are lined with Brush Box. These were very disappointing. Inappropriate pruning gives them the appearance of a row of mushrooms. This species is capable of growing into a very beautiful tree, but this is not the case at Hunters Hill. Where electric power poles line the streets, trees which can be pruned "around" the wires should be planted.

The skyline lacks any distinctive character, being a mixture of tree canopy, large shrubs and roof tops.

Generally the landscaping of home gardens is of a high standard but not in the ubiquitous "neat and trim" category. Trees and shrubs are allowed to reach their natural heights, climbers scramble up trees, and over fences and roofs. The gardens are generally packed with trees, shrubs, ferns and climbers, so there is a feeling of luxuriant but leisurely life.

Sandstone is by far the outstanding feature of the peninsular. The beautiful dimension-sandstone buildings contrast with the outstanding natural rock overhangs, shelves and outcrops. Natural rock formations now exist only along the foreshore. Approximately one third of the foreshore has sandstone sea walls constructed to hold fill for reclamation purposes.

The dominant characteristics of the peninsula are firstly, sandstone in all its forms - homes, churches, public buildings, fences, sea walls, natural rock overhangs, shelves and outcrops and secondly, luxuriant vegetation in private gardens which often extends onto road verges.

### 3. IDENTIFICATION OF PLACES AND FEATURES OF ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

#### (1) Boronia Park Walk

This walkway is of regional significance, exposing the walker to a rare environmental richness. It extends from Boronia Park along the foreshore bushland adjacent to the Lane Cove River to the Buffalo Creek Reserve. The pathway for three-quarters of its length is a cleared bush track. Some sections have logs placed in position to prevent erosion and there are some cut stone steps. The highlight of the pathway is about one quarter of its length, being that section which goes through the reed (Phragmites australis)/ Melaleuca styphelioides swamp, and the mangroves. This section of the pathway is raised over some sections with blue metal supported by pine logs and the section through the mangroves is a boardwalk.

This linear foreshore reserve consists of typical Hawkesbury sandstone flora featuring striking rock ledges. The intertidal sandstone platforms behind the mangrove belts add significantly to the scenic quality of the river scheme, the main stream contrasting with the large bird population feeding on the mud flats at low tide in the quieter waters.

The walk takes you through light and shady environments, areas which are warm and cool places, high places which give views of the river and low places behind mangroves to provide an intimate atmosphere with nature.

#### Characteristics identified

- . The mud flats at low tide provide feeding grounds for large numbers of birds.
- . The dominant tree species is the Sydney Peppermint (E. piperita).
- . The rock platforms in the intertidal zone are a very attractive scenic component.
- . The mangroves had a pleasant saltwater marine odour.
- . Two quarry sites were identified.
- . One earthen and rubble jetty, (with wooden sleepers still present) still exists at one of the quarry sites.
- . The remnants of a sandstone jetty are adjacent to the other quarry site.
- . Markings noted on rock platforms may be Aboriginal carvings.

### Maintenance

- . Maintenance of the weedy banks adjacent to the boardwalk.
- . The entrance to the walk from Boronia Park must be kept clear of weeds, particularly Blackberry.
- . A portion of the track has been buried by a rockfall at an old quarry site.

### Areas of Local Environmental Significance

#### (2) Northern End of Mount Street

The scale of the vegetation at the end of this street is particularly impressive. The houses nestling amongst the tall shrub understorey are dominated by large trees.

There are remnant Port Jackson Figs and Sydney Peppermints. Morton Bay Figs have been planted and reinforce this scale. The large rock overhang which adjoins Sea Street (near Mount Street) is spectacular. This grandeur of scale is no doubt due to the fact that the trees have been allowed to achieve their natural height without constant lopping.

#### (3) Ferdinand Street Reserve

This Reserve can be divided into three approximately equal portions.

The western section is highly modified, the vegetation being poor and dominated by weeds, e.g. Large-leaved Privet. However, the rock face is visually significant. Beneath the overhang, there is an old well, a midden and Aboriginal ochre rock paintings. There are also rock retaining walls, a made pathway (roadway?) and the remains of a stone wharf.

The central portion has the potential to become a delightful forest of Forest Red Gums with a Kangaroo Grass understorey. Swamp Oaks and Port Jackson Figs are also present.

The eastern portion is a mown area with some trees and is best left and maintained as such.

(4) Mornington Reserve

Mornington Reserve was probably cleared a long time ago, as the vegetation community is highly modified. The little remaining native vegetation consists of Swamp Oaks, Port Jackson Figs and Red Bloodwood which are generally in poor condition. The outstanding feature of this Reserve is the extensive rock ledges. There is quite a large midden about 50 yards east of the boatsheds. The Water Board has laid a drainage pipe through the midden below the overhang.

(5) Valentia Street Reserve

Valentia Street Reserve is a mown area with specimens of Swamp Oak, Port Jackson Fig, Banksia and Cabbage Tree Palms. The tall Cabbage Tree Palms are the most outstanding feature, however the Banksias (Coast Banksia and Heath-leaved Banksia) are very good specimens.

(6) Clarkes Point

This is a landscaped reserve which takes advantage of the features of the area. The main features are the stone seawall, and the rock outcrop topped with remnant native vegetation. The group plantings highlight the basic characteristics. On the flat rock on the crest of the hill there is evidence of a former structure and carvings with words and dates relating to maritime activity. An extensive area of the foreshore has been reclaimed and two large launching ramps exist at the water's edge. One ramp is constructed of timber logs and the other of stone. The old quarry was probably worked to provide stone for the seawall.

Prince Edward Road and George Parade contain two very pleasant urban reserves. They have an intimate local atmosphere which could be repeated elsewhere.

(7) Kellys Bush

This is the only area left on the eastern portion of the peninsula which could be called "Bush". It is a good example of the original native flora, extending from the southern edge of Weil Park to the foreshore. There are numerous paths through the area, providing clear evidence of high usage. Few weeds were observed except in the area near residential development. Two small quarry sites were identified in the bush area.

(8) Tarban Creek Reserve

This Reserve is generally one of mown grass and trees. The two outstanding characteristics of this Reserve are the rock shelf and the stand of mature Blackbutt. The bridge over the stormwater channel is of solid construction and the design is in keeping with the character of the area. It is recommended that future plantings should reinforce the dominant character of the stand of Blackbutt. Blackbutt flourish in this Reserve. The use of a mixture of tree species detracts from the existing distinctive Blackbutt stand. Further mixed plantings should be avoided. Blackbutt obviously do well in this Reserve. The rock shelf and the dimension stone wall should be exposed. This is a matter of clearing plant growth from the rock shelf, walls and along the base.

(9) The Hospital Grounds south of Tarban Creek

The area is very disturbed, having been cleared, filled, and levelled. Buildings and playing fields are scattered throughout.

It is recommended that the seawall along Tarban Creek be retained and maintained and Mangroves left undisturbed. The tree canopy of Sydney Peppermints, Port Jackson and Morton Bay Figs, Swamp Oaks and Smooth-barked Apple should be protected as they provide pleasing relief in a large grassed area. They grow generally on the steep slopes assisting with soil stabilisation as well as providing visual interest. Viewed from Tarban Creek, tree canopy dominates the skyline. The area should be maintained as both active and passive open space. Management should include some weed control and reinforcement plantings.

(10) Heydon Park is a small, pleasant, sheltered park.

(11) Betts Park

This Park is located between the Gladesville Bridge and Gladesville Wharf and is a pleasant open space area. The lower portion, adjacent to the waters edge is in good condition, except for a small section near the Gladesville Wharf. The higher portion has been modified by mowing and additional plantings. The Banksias and Red Bloodwoods are a feature of this reserve. There is a good cover of Kangaroo Grass, and mature tree and shrub seedlings present. Those areas not mown would regenerate readily under the application of the correct techniques.

(12) The Mudflats in the Lane Cove River just upstream from Figtree Bridge

These provide a feeding habitat for waterfowl. Apart from their conservation value, they provide an element of peace and tranquillity in a generally bustling urban environment.

(13) Gladesville Park

The slope adjoining the foreshore is Kunzea heathland and apart from the central section which has been disturbed and is now weedy, the heathland is in reasonable condition. The upper portion adjoining Victoria Road is generally a mown grass area.

(14) Harding Memorial Park

This Park requires imaginative landscaping.

HUNTER'S HILL HERITAGE STUDY : SUB-CONSULTANTS' REPORT.  
WATERFRONT WHARF STRUCTURES : McBean & Crisp Pty Ltd.

**McBEAN & CRISP PTY. LIMITED**

CONSULTING CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

12th Floor  
140 Arthur Street  
North Sydney 2060  
Telephone (02) 929 0255

August 1, 1983

Meredith Walker,  
Planner,  
228 Young Street,  
ANNANDALE.

Dear Meredith,

Re: HUNTERS HILL REGIONAL STUDY

We are pleased to forward herewith our report of the structural summary of the sample of waterfront structures at Hunters Hill.

Yours sincerely,  
McBEAN & CRISP PTY. LIMITED

per:



Handwritten signature of Colin F. C. Crisp, with the initials 'm.c.p.' written below it.

Encl.

DIRECTORS

James D. McBean, A.S.T.C. Civ. Eng., F.I.E. Aust., Colin F. C. Crisp, B.E., F.S.A.S.M., F.I.E. Aust.



On 21/7/83 an inspection was made of a selected sample of waterfront structures in the Municipality of Hunters Hill. The sample was typical of old timber and stone structures dating from the late 19th century and reflect the profuse use of the waterways in that period as a means of public and private transport. Trains were in their infancy at the time and the road system and road vehicles were comparatively primitive making sea transport a very attractive means of transport.

The purpose of this report is to comment on the structural significance of the sample of waterfront structures observed.

#### SAMPLE STRUCTURE

The Alexandra Street Wharf is a timber structure still in serviceable operating condition. Its substructure, consisting of timber pile "bents" with two raking piles and headstock, is obviously old and exhibits in some cases excessive damage at the wind/water line. The superstructure is more recent and occupies only half the available width of the head stocks. The stone structure is a low stone sea wall retaining the end of Alexandra St. against a sandy beach. The wall is old and probably dates back to the time of the original wharf construction.

Timbers in wharf construction, especially the substructure has a limited life and during the serviceable life of the structure must be continually replaced. The usual life of turpentine piles is between 15 and 30 years, although some timbers are known to have lasted well in excess of 50 years. It is not unusual to try to extend the life of piles by wrapping them in copper or muntz metal sheathing (early technique) or encasing them in concrete (later technique). Some of the piles on the Alexandra St. Wharf have been treated with copper sheathing, some with concrete casing, and others remain untreated. There is serious decay in some piles.

At the extension of Mount Street on the south side of Hunters Hill there are the remains of stone steps down to the stone land structure of an early wharf. Only one piece of the original timber wharf structure remains. The stone structure

on the other hand is still well defined although portions of the masonry have fallen into the water and the backfill material has been eroded away. The stone masonry is typical of coursed rubble walling of the period utilising large blocks dry laid. The stairs from the end of Mount St. are constructed either by cutting out of natural rock or from large cut and dressed stone. The laid steps are in disarray having been disturbed by water erosion of the base under the stones.

West of Mount Street is Herberton Street, the south end of which extends to the waterfront via a well defined set of steps. No timber or stone structure remains in sufficient quantity to define the original wharf. There are signs of pocketing in rock for piles and anchor points for cables, otherwise no part of the original structure remains. Stairs from Herberton Street down to the waterfront are still negotiable and in reasonable condition.

At the end of William St., Henley, there remains an extension of the street in the form of a ramp retained with dry laid coursed rubble masonry walls giving access to the remains of a wharf structure. The masonry base to the structure is set on a natural rock shelf providing deep water access for craft. The remaining stone walls outline the hammerhead shape of a superstructure which originally must have been constructed in timber but of which nothing now remains except recesses in the masonry and bedrock where timber posts once fitted. The masonry style and construction of the structure is typical of late 19th century work.

Just West of William St. is the Dick St. waterfront structure on the North shore of Parramatta River in Henley. The structure is in the form of a ramp of larger proportions than the William St. structure. The stone work is not laid coursed work but is rough dumped with no semblance of intended coursing except in some lower courses on the waterfront side and the Western side. The remains of a bituminous flexible pavement exists. On the Eastern side an anchor rod was found bedded in the natural rock. Also on the Eastern side were old wire rope cables, suggesting that the structure may have been the shore structure for a cable guided punt.

Punt Road Gladesville is the alignment (approx.) of one of the early crossings of Parramatta River. On the waterfront in the area of Punt Rd. is evidence of many structures and considerable waterfront activity which has probably involved wharfs to service the adjacent hospital as well as vehicles and other commerce.

### FURTHER INVESTIGATION

In order to establish a reliable historical record of each of the structures further research and investigations should be made. These should take the form of searches through Government records in various departments; Maritime Services Board and its predecessors, Public Works Dept. of N.S.W.; Water Board, Department of Main Roads, Lands Department, Local Council and Libraries. In conjunction with these an archaeological investigation, guided by civil engineering advice, should be conducted. We suggest that in the cases where little remains of the original structure the archaeologist should play the dominant role.

This is particularly so in the case of Punt Rd. and Dick St.

### CONSERVATION WORK

#### (a) Alexandra St. Wharf

The shore portion of this wharf forms the retaining structure to Council's roadway. It is in reasonable condition and it should be confidently anticipated that Council would carry out normal maintenance within its annual budget for roads and drainage.

The timber structure is currently in service although only superficial maintenance has been applied to it in recent years. Much of the sub-structure needs attention including some piles which need replacement. Unless there is a special agreement between Council and the M.S.B. vesting interest in the wharf to Council it would be the Board's responsibility to maintain the wharf. We would expect an annual budget of up to \$5000 would be required to ensure the continued existence of the wharf.

#### (b) Mount Street (South)

Construction if this waterfront structure would comprise retrieving lost stone blocks from the water, supplying new stone as necessary, relaying the stone up to the existing wall height and backfilling, levelling and surfacing the stone structure. This is entirely feasibility and is the only effective way of conserving the remains that currently exist.

The access stairs from the end of Mount Street require cleaning of overgrown scrub and reconstruction in whole or part of the damaged stairs. This will include the remaking of the foundation and base of the stairs. To leave the stone treads in the condition in which they now exist would invite further erosion and eventual destruction of all of the masonry construction.

Our "first order" assessment of cost is not based on any documentation or formal estimate of quantities and should be used only as a broad guide. We consider that the figure for the waterfront structure would be in the order of \$20,000 and the stair repair could range from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

(c) Herberton Street

As stated the stair access is in reasonable condition and at this stage little needs to be done to laid stone flights near the bottom. There are portions of the track in the upper levels where erosion has obscured the original profile and where the scrub growth has encroached. Work should be done in this area to remove scrub, protect the path from stormwater and to re-define the steps to make them safe. Our "cost assessment" made in the same manner as Mount Street is in the order of \$15,000 to cover construction work. We would expect the scrub cleaning and priming to be included in Council's annual parks and gardens allocation.

(d) William Street, Henley

Construction of this structure should be restricted to repair only of the stone masonry that still exists.

The side walls to the ramp have been severely damaged by salt damp attack and up to 30% of the face stones have been lost. These stones should be replaced in order to properly conserve the existing stones.

Stone masonry in the hammer beam substructure should be secured, if necessary by placing another course of stone over it. No timber superstructure should be contemplated.

Our "cost assessment" for this work is \$15,000.

(e) Dick Street, Henley

The only conservation work contemplated for this structure is the filling to level and sealing of the road surface. Attempts should be made to ensure that the bolt anchor in the rock is not lost.

(f) Punt Road

This is obviously an important site, linked as it is with an early crossing of Parramatta River, a trunk route to the North, delivery of cargo and coal for commercial use and the adjacent home of Banjo Patterson. Further investigation is needed before any recommendations on conservation can be given.

(g) General

When conservation work is undertaken it should be planned, documented and overseen by a specialist conservator engineer or architect experienced in masonry construction and engineering waterfront structures. It should be guided by a conservation master plan prepared by a specialist planner in conjunction with Council.

None of the sites, with the possible exception of the Alexandra St. wharf, is so urgently in need of attention, that it cannot await both a full historical (and archaeological) research programme and the subsequent preparation of a conservation plan.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF STRUCTURES

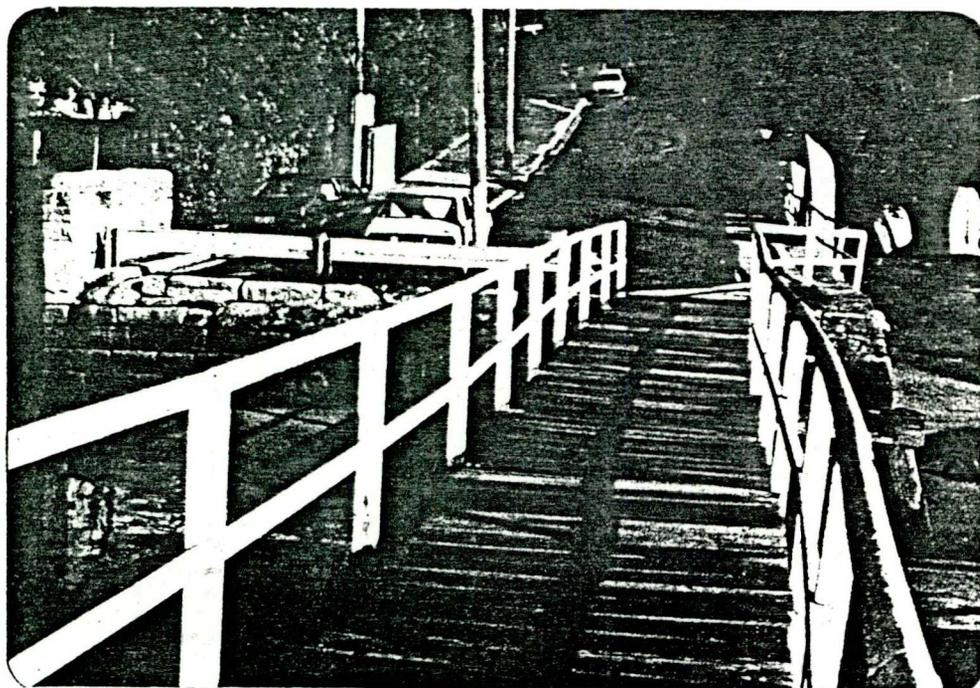
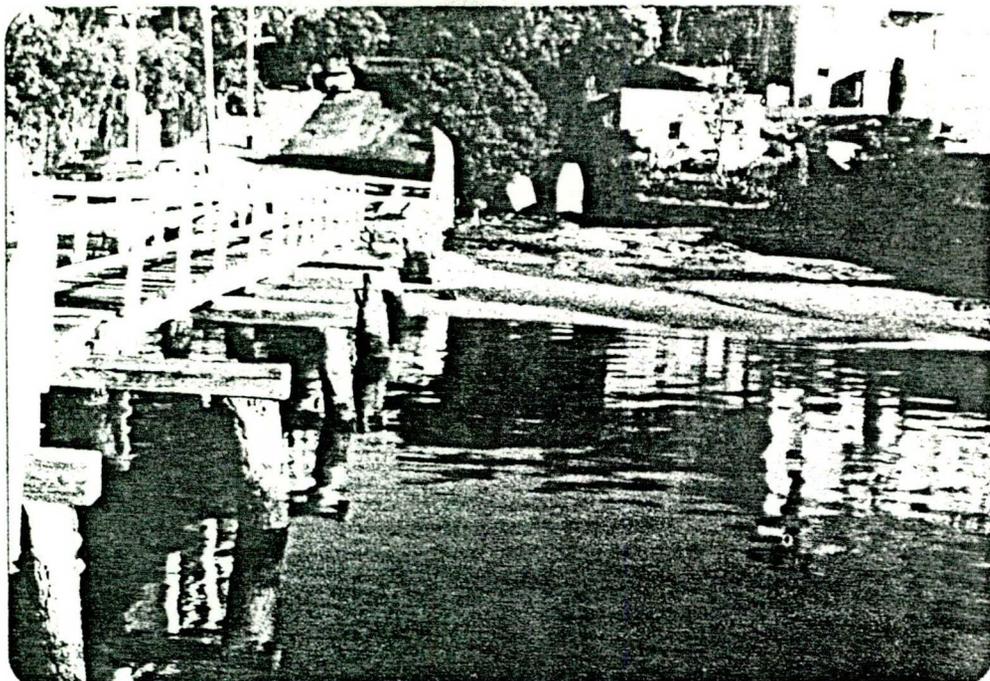
The sample of structures which are the subject of this report are stated by Meredith Walker, Planner, to be typical of many others in the Hunters Hill Municipality. The Municipality began urban development in the mid 19th Century when the best form of transport was by water. Bearing in mind that the Municipality was on the north side of Parramatta River and that most of the development and commerce was on the South side commuting and transport of commercial wares would have preferred water transport. The availability of deep water frontages would have encouraged development of this mode of transport and it is not surprising that there was a profusion of wharf structures.

The same can be said for other north shore districts, particularly North Sydney. However dormitory suburbs such as Mosman, Cremorne, Lane Cove, Wollstonecraft, etc. did not begin until much later in the century.

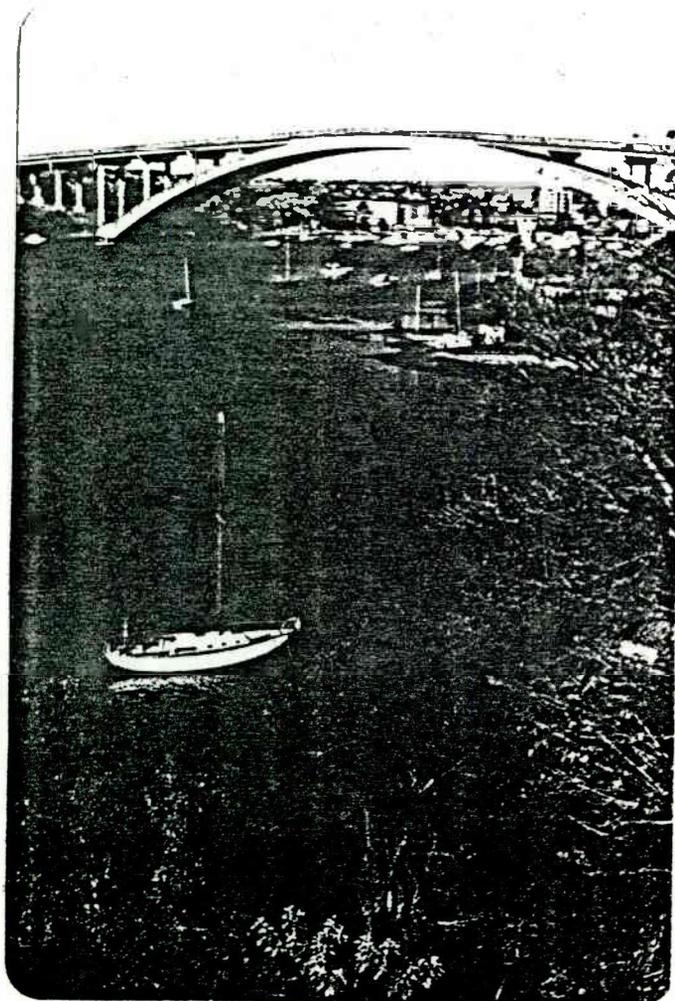
In this regard, Hunters Hill could be unique in the development of masonry and timber waterfront structures in the 1860's to 1880's. Structures of that vintage and earlier must be seen as important in reflecting the social and historical development of the municipality.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ian F. Crisp', written in a cursive style.

McBean & Crisp Pty. Limited

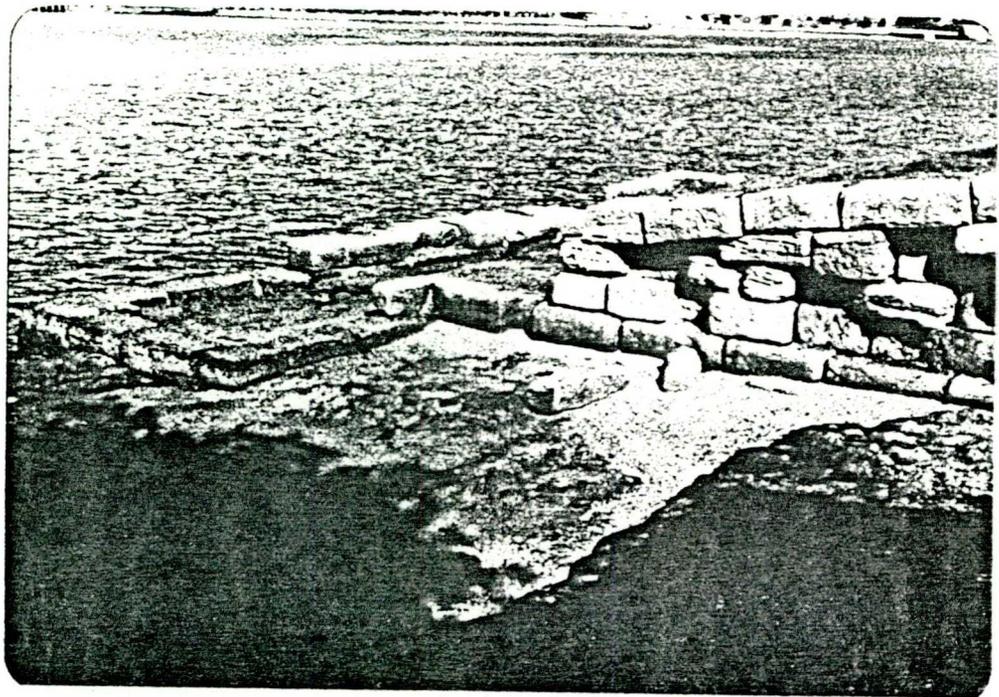
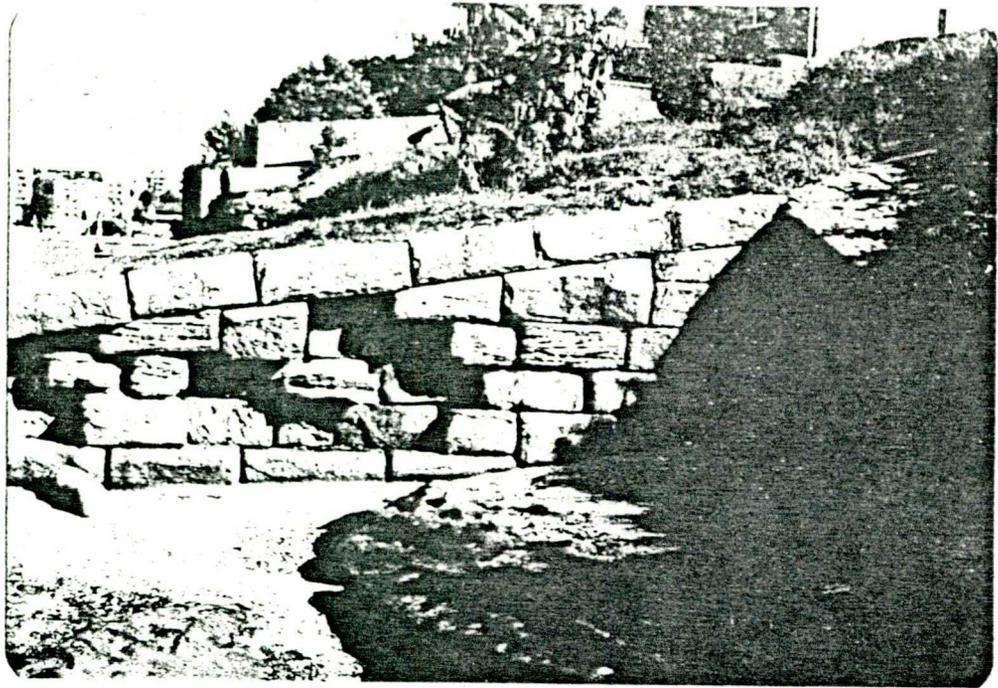


ALEXANDRA STREET WHARF



MOUNT ST. (SOUTH) STEPS & SITE

HUNTERS HILL REGIONAL STUDY 21/7/83



WILLIAM STREET, HENLEY



HERBERTON STREET

HUNTER'S HILL HERITAGE STUDY : SUB-CONSULTANTS' REPORT  
ABORIGINAL PREHISTORIC SITES : VAL ATTENBROW

1. Search of NPWS Site records to obtain information already lodged about sites in Hunters Hill (sites 1 to 20 in inventory)
2. Study of M. Hawthorne, 1982, to gain extra information about sites in Hunters Hill (sites 21 to 27 in inventory)
3. Visit to Hunters Hill, in company with Shirley Hilman and Jenny Murray, to:
  - (a) locate more accurately the sites in Kelly's Bush
  - (b) determine whether axe grinding groove site in Kelly's Bush was in fact an axe grinding groove site
  - (c) locate sites which had been reported to M. Walker in Mornington Reserve and Ferdinand Street Reserve.

Time was not available to relocate and record site in Betts Reserve which had been noted by Hawthorne.

4. NPWS site cards completed for newly located sites and also for three of the sites located by Hawthorne.

References:

- Hawthorne, M. 1982 A Locational Analysis of Aboriginal Sites in the Port Jackson Area. BA(Hons) thesis, Anthropology Department, University of Sydney
- Attenbrow, V. 1983 North Head Quarantine Station: Archaeological Survey for Aboriginal Sites. A report to NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service.

HUNTERS HILL MUNICIPALITY: ABORIGINAL PREHISTORIC SITES

Notes and comments:

1. 35 sites (including some probable/possible sites) have been located within Hunters Hill Municipality.

The locations of these sites have been marked on the maps; some of the sites are located more accurately than others.

2. The following types of sites have been recorded:

Shelters with archaeological deposit/shell midden	9	(25.7%)
Shelters with art	3	( 8.6%)
Shelters with archaeological deposit/shell midden and art	4	(11.4%)
Shelter with archaeological deposit/shell midden and art, with associated axe grinding grooves	1	( 2.9%)
Shelter - contents unrecorded	1	( 2.9%)
Shelter with archaeological deposit/midden and burial	2	( 5.7%)
Midden (open)	10	(28.6%)
Open scatter of artefacts	1	( 2.9%)
Engravings	2	( 5.7%)
Axe grinding grooves	2	( 5.7%)
	<hr/>	
	35	

3. At both axe grinding groove sites, the grooves were around rock holes (i.e. they were not in creek beds)
4. The above types of sites are typical of the range of site types found in the Sydney area where sandstone is present\*. At other sites in the Sydney area, different associations of archaeological evidence occurs, e.g. engravings and axe grinding grooves at the same site, but the only site type/type of archaeological evidence recorded elsewhere in the Sydney area and not in Hunters Hill is a scarred tree. Only one of these have been recorded in the Sydney area.

\* the statements made in this paragraph are based on the numbers, percentage and type of sites which occur in the area east of Chiswick, north of Redfern/Bondi, and south of Pymble-Dee Why; a total of 295 sites.

Hunters Hill has a greater percentage of shelter sites (57%) than the comparative area (43.4%)

Hunters Hill has a higher percentage of open middens (28.6%) than the comparative study area (15.0%); no doubt a reflection of the greater percentage of foreshore area in Hunters Hill.

Hunters Hill has a higher percentage of occupation sites (i.e. shelters with midden/arch. deposit and open middens) 80%, than the comparative area (45%) - a function of the higher percentage of engraving sites which the comparative area has (37% compared to 6% in Hunters Hill).

However, it must be remembered that in both area, i.e. Hunters Hill municipality and the comparative area, that the sites recorded do not comprise the total number of sites that existed/ presently exist.

Differential preservation and differential recording of sites will have affected the figures at hand.

5. Condition/State of Preservation of Sites:

Most of the sites visited were to a lesser or greater extent affected by recent activities, some witting some unwitting: graffiti; treadage of deposit in shelters; marking of rocks with metal implements; sewerage lines by Water Board; as well as natural deterioration.

wittingly & unwittingly  
X

Whilst some may have been damaged to the extent they are of no value for scientific, educational or tourist purposes, others do have value for these purposes.

Those sites that do have value for these purposes should be identified and measures taken to ensure that they do not become vandalised (wittingly or unwittingly) or endangered by development.

The number of sites remaining in the Sydney Harbour area, whatever their condition, is only a small proportion of what was originally here and we should try to protect and preserve those that are worthy of protection.

Some may not be worthy of protection, in the sense that they have been disturbed/damaged to an extent where they no longer have future scientific use for excavation purposes, or are no longer suitable for educational or tourist purposes. However, from an academic/research point it is still worthwhile recording their location and type site and probable contents as this basic information could be useful in archaeological investigations.

6. Possibility of further unrecorded sites existing in Hunters Hill

see top  
page 3,  
point B

On the basis of the <sup>above information and</sup> <sup>by myself</sup> one day visit to inspect and/or re-locate known sites, which resulted in the recording of a further 4 sites not in the NPWS Site Register, it is considered that there is a strong possibility that other sites exist; they may be in the foreshore reserves or in residents gardens. Some may well be known to local residents.

7. Quality of data recorded for sites which are in NPWS Register

The quality of the data on site cards with NPWS varies greatly (see inventory of sites). In terms of size of site and contents, many are lacking in quantifiable data which is necessary for archaeological research. In terms of the significance or value of the sites for research, educational or tourist purposes, insufficient information is known so that management decisions as to protection measures necessary can be made.

8. The sites so far recorded in Hunters Hill have been located by several people for varying reasons; mainly personal interest, but in two instances they have been reported as support against development (i.e. Kelly's Bush and the Lane Cove Valley Expressway).

No systematic/intensive survey work has been carried out within Hunters Hill, though that done by R.Taplin was reasonably extensive.

Hawthorne visited most/all sites/in Hunters Hill recorded in the NPWS Site Register during her investigations; during the course of relocating these sites she located and recorded a further seven sites.

HUNTERS HILL MUNICIPALITY: INVENTORY OF ABORIGINAL PREHISTORIC SITES

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- A. Sites in NPWS Site Register at 22 July 1983
- B. Sites recorded by Melanie Hawthorne, 1982
- C. Sites recorded by Val Attenbrow, 7 August 1983
- D. Further sites / possible sites which need investigating/recording.

ABORIGINAL PREHISTORIC SITES IN MUNICIPALITY OF HUNTERS HILL

KEY TO MAP

- Midden (open)
- Shelter with midden or archaeological deposit
- △ Shelter with art
- △ Engraving
- Scatter of artefacts (open)
- Axe grinding grooves
- Shelter - contents unrecorded
  
- Symbol filled in      Accurate location of site (say, ± 20/30 metres)
- Symbol outline only      Site is in that general locality

ABORIGINAL PREHISTORIC SITES IN HUNTERS HILL MUNICIPALITY

A. Information in NPWS Site Register as at 22 July 1983 with additional comments from Hawthorne 1982, and additional information recorded during field inspection on 7 August 1983.

(1:25,000 grid references are from Hawthorne's Parramatta River Topographic map)

1. NPWS Site No 45-6-1418                      Open site (now destroyed)  
Boronia Park Public School                      1:25,000  
Sydney 1:250,000 4139:8214                      Sydney 1:63,360 138:215

Artefacts located during excavations for Boronia Park Public School 80-90 years ago by great-grandfather of a NPWS employee (Sue Grassi). Other artefacts were sighted but no details recorded; only one edge ground axe was kept and is now housed at 5/164 Hampden Road, Abbotsford.

Edge ground axe is ground on one end and has pitting on both faces and along the edges. Its dimensions are 9.5 x 7 x 1.4 cms.

(site not listed by Hawthorne 1982, as accessioned by NPWS after Hawthorne's investigations).

2. NPWS Site No 45-6-982                      Midden in Shelter  
Gladesville / Green Grass and Daisies Cave                      1:25,000 2799:5532  
Sydney 1:250,000 4147:8210                      Sydney 1:63,360 144:206

Details recorded by Taplin:  
Length: 20 ft; depth 5-10 ft; height: 1-3 ft; faces north  
Disturbed shell, no art.

Details recorded by Hawthorne:  
Dimensions: 6 M x 3 M x 1 M (of shelter)  
5 metres from littoral; 3 metres in elevation above littoral;  
5 metres to fresh water

3. NPWS Site No 45-6-974                      Midden in Shelter  
Tarban Creek                                      1:25,000 2795:5411  
Sydney 1:250,000 4147:8193                      Sydney 1:63,360 144:194

Details recorded by R. Taplin:  
Midden in shelter.

Details recorded by Hawthorne:  
Dimensions of shelter: 10 M x 4 M x 3 M  
6 metres from littoral; 2 metres in elevation above littoral  
300 metres to fresh water



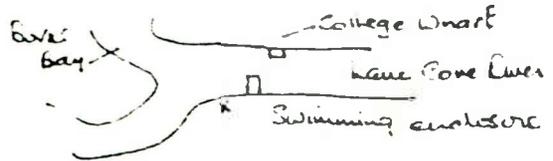




15. NPWS Site No 45-6-619 Shelter with archaeological deposit and  
Gladesville 1:25.000 2909:5481 paintings  
Sydney 1:250,000 416:820 Sydney 1:63,360 156:202  
On freehold land.

Shelter in overhang, right on the water. The floor is 8 to 10 ft  
above high water mark. The site is almost opposite Riverview College  
Wharf. It contains hand stencils.

Reported August 1976.



Details recorded by Hawthorne:  
Shelter dimensions: 11 M x 5M x 2M  
6 metres distance to littoral  
3 metres elevation above littoral  
450 metres to water

For details recorded by Attenbrow on 7/8/1983 see separate sheet.

Additional information recorded by Val Attenbrow 7/8/1983.

NPWS Site No 45-6-619

Shelter with archaeological deposit and paintings

Sydney 1:250,000 416:820

Sydney 1:63,360 156:202

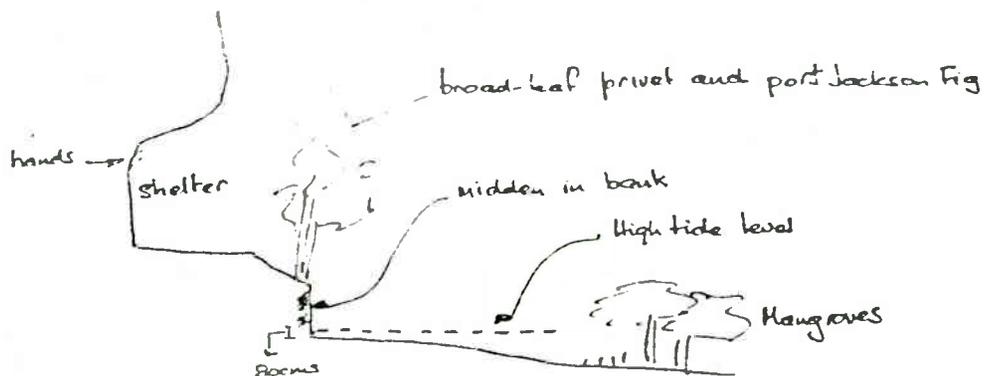
Parramatta River 1:25,000 2909:5481\*

Location: in Ferdinand Street Reserve  
(early site details record it as being on freehold land - I would query this)

Access: Drive down to end of Ferdinand Street, then follow pathway down to waterfront. At bottom follow round to east (right). Once past the boatshed and across the grassed area, continue below bank (this would be covered at high tide; there may be a high level track, but we did not follow it).

@shelter

Site<sup>Ⓢ</sup> is located in cliff at point where mangroves are growing (about 120 metres from boat-shed); shelter is obscured to a certain amount by vegetation and is about 2.5 metres above ground covered by high tide. From bottom of bank the first indication we saw of the site was an exposed section of deep midden in the bank about 80 cms above the ground covered by high tide.



Schematic cross-section  
not to scale

\* grid reference and dot-on-map of Hawthorne = 2893:5484.  
I disagree with her location on the map and have relocated grid reference.

Description of Shelter

Dimensions: 15 metres long x 3 metres deep x 3.5 metres high at front  
(approx.) and 2.5 metres at back

Aspect: North

Deposit/Floor:

The shelter floor consists of dark brown silty sand, dampish over most of area, although drier towards eastern end. Shell, visually, is a minor component

The surface of the floor is exceedingly uneven; the eastern half of the shelter is some 80-100 cms lower than the western half. There are several shallower small hollows and humps which must be due to recent disturbance (animals or humans). The floor under the dripline is higher (at the western end) than inside the shelter, but this may be due to a large boulder over which deposit occurs (boulder is visible in bank), rather than to the deposit in the shelter having been dug out.

Whether the lower level of the shelter floor at the eastern end is due to recent disturbance or is the original (pre-European) floor level was not obviously discernible in the short time we were at the site, but I would say the latter.

The deposit would appear to have some depth, at least 50 cms and probably more. Although the upper 20 cms of deposit has obviously been disturbed to a certain extent, there may be insitu deposit at a lower level, particularly if there is a reasonable depth of deposit in the shelter.

Scattered shell was visible over floor and occurred in small concentrations where exposed in dripline and outside on 'talus'/path leading up to the shelter. Most of shell was highly fragmented, due most likely to treadage by recent visitors to the shelter. Shell species noticed were Anadara trapezia (Sydney cockle), Pyrazus ebenius (Hercules whelk) and Saccostrea commercialis (rock oyster). No stone artefacts or bone were noticed.

Archaeological deposit/shell midden also extends beyond the shelter and is exposed in the sections of bank all the way around directly in front of the shelter. The most prominent exposure (that first visible when coming from Ferdinand Street pathway) is supported/enmeshed in the roots of a large broad-leaf privet and a Port Jackson fig. The midden deposit is about 100 cms deep and its base is about 80 cms above the ground (covered at high tide). Shells visible in this section were Sydney cockle and oyster, with some whelk; there appeared to be more oyster at the top.

'Art':

The 'art' present in the shelter consists of hand stencils executed in creamy coloured medium.

- 3 distinct hand stencils - all left hands
- 4 less distinct hand stencils - not possible to determine which hand.
- 1 less distinct smaller hand stencil (possibly child-size).

The hand stencils are located on a vertical section of the back wall at the eastern end of the 'higher' western end of the shelter. They are about 2 metres above the ground and within an area 2 metres across x 0.75 down (vertical distance).

The rest of the shelter wall is covered in graffiti - red, black and white; names, dates, initials, etc. There may have been other Aboriginal drawings underneath these but they were not immediately obvious in the short time we were in the shelter and with the lighting conditions (i.e. c. 4PM winter).

General comments:

Shelter receives a reasonable amount of visitation - evidenced by graffiti on back wall and highly fragmented nature of shell. Whether this visitation is purposeful or opportunistic is not known.

Although the back wall is covered with graffiti, the hand stencils have remained unvandalised (or at least those visible now, are unvandalised).

From surface observation, the deposit may have some depth to it. It has been disturbed, but if there is a reasonable depth of deposit, insitu material may be present at depth. Test excavation would determine both depth of deposit and degree of disturbance. It would seem, however, that if someone was researching Sydney Harbour prehistory, this shelter is worth investigating further.

Val Attenbrow

7 August 1983

16. NPWS Site No 45-6-620 Shelter with midden (and burial?)  
Gladesville 1:25,000 2946:5394

9 Wybalena Road, Hunters Hill (owner Professor H Ward)

Sydney 1:250,000 c.4158:8194 Sydney 1:63,360 c.160:193

Rock shelter facing west on north shore of river, 100 ft above high water mark. Floor of ashy soil and shells (cockle, oyster, barnacles etc.). Excavated by Australian Museum.

Information for site card taken from Australian Museum Index.

Details recorded by Hawthorne:

Shelter dimensions: 6.4 metres x 1.3 metres x 3 metres

100 metres distance to littoral

20 metres elevation above littoral

500 metres to fresh water

Hawthorne (1982, 42) makes the following comments, which probably also refer to this site:

' ... at Wybalena Avenue, Hunters Hill, yielded stone flakes, and a skull and an edge ground axe (from a previous dig).'  
excavation was by F.D. McCarthy in 1951.

17. NPWS Site No 45-6-622 Rock engravings

Drummoyne/ rear of Weil Park (Kellys Bush)

1:25,000 3033: 5375

Sydney 1:250,000 c.4171:8191 Sydney 1:63,360 c.170:190

Two circles about 4ft 6 inches apart.

On small rock outcrop about 20ft square with a number of paths leading over it. Site faces south-east.

Recorded by Sharon Sullivan.

Details recorded by Hawthorne:

200 metres to littoral

35 metres elevation above littoral

?1350 metres to fresh water.

18. NPWS Site No 45-6-1347                      Axe grinding grooves and rock holes  
Kelly's Brush/Moocaboola/Pulpit Point      1:25,000      3028:5363  
Sydney 1:250,000      c.4170:8190      Sydney 1:63,360      c.168:190  
in parish of Hunters Hill, County of Cumberland, on reserve.

Site relocation: along the southside of Hunters Hill peninsula, behind Weil Park. Access to rock hole/grooves is from bush entrance in Nelson Parade. From road walk approximately 170 paces; the first 42 paces are in a south-east direction and then the path turns sharply south; (ignore a couple of subsidiary tracks leading to left/east).

Two rock holes filled with debris and rocks; the hatchet marks are visible (as I am not an expert I could not be sure of the authentic number of markings).

Rock holes are on a large area of rock shelf surrounded predominantly by Kunzea bush. Looking south there is an acacia tree and to the right Banksia integrifolia and pittosporum grow.

I feel the water comes into these holes through seepage because the holes occur some distance from the top of sloping sandstone region.

(50 paces further southward is site 45-6-621 shelter with midden)

Condition: the surrounding area is intact, the holes appear to be full of rubbish possibly from human disturbance.

Constant visitation

Recommendations: use the sites to educate.

Environment: situated on the southern side of the Hunters Hill peninsula facing the Parramatta River. The area was originally covered with a dry sclerophyll forest, with tall eucalypts dominating; now many exotics have penetrated the area. The soil in many areas is shallow and drains quickly and it covers a sandstone strata common in the Sydney Basin. The rock holes are located on a large exposed area of sandstone, they are empty of water probably due to the drought; the surrounding bush comprises mainly tea trees.

Source of above information: The Battler's for Kelly's Basin.  
Recorded by Barbara Farrel in 1980.

Hawthorne visited the rock holes during her investigation. She did not see any grooves there, only the cut marks made by metal implement on the rock to the west of the rock holes. She therefore did not record any information on these or include the site on her map, etc. (personal communication to V. Attenbrow)

For further information recorded <sup>in</sup> Attenbrow on 7/8/1983 see attached sheet.

NPWS Site No 45-6-1347

Sydney 1:63,360 c.168:190

Further information recorded by Val Attenbrow during visit on 7th August 1983, during investigation of Aboriginal prehistoric sites in Hunters Hill for Meredith Walker.

Investigation at the rock holes showed

- 1 definite groove
- 1 most-probable groove

the two grooves were side by side at the lower end (exit) to the pool.

At the time of this visit the pools were both full of water.

'tea-tree' bush noted by previous recorder was identified by Jenny Murray as Kunzea.

19. NPWS Site No 45-6-621 Shelter with midden  
Kelly's Bush, Moccaboola/Pulpit Point 1:25,000 3026:5363  
Parish of Hunter's Hill, County of Cumberland, Reserve (or may be in residential area (AV Jennings ?)  
Sydney 1:250,000 4170:8190 Sydney 1:63,360 c.168:189

Site relocation:

Along the south side of Hunter's Hill peninsula behind Weil Park. Access to shelter is from bush entrance in Nelson Parade. Approximately 320 short paces (170 long paces) from entrance (first 42 paces the path takes a south-east direction, and then moves generally south). On reaching the rock holes, go 40-50 paces due south. Entry is gained from the east side by climbing down a rock face. From the centre of the midden, Drummoyne is viewed across the Parramatta River, with Birkenhead on the left and the Mobil Wharf on the right.

Site description:

Shell midden 12 metres long under main overhang; 4 metres wide at widest point. Shells (various rock, mainly oyster, found some beach shells) spread 8 metres long. Approximately 3 metres of shells width were visible but there appeared to be more under the bush leaves. Nearest source of shell food would be Parramatta River about 100 metres below. Nearest fresh water some 40 paces above (rock holes) and at the back of the midden. (Marks are visible on one of two large stones in shelter).

Condition:

mostly in fair condition but some rocks knocked about and carved out. The potential for vandalism is ever present.

Visitation:

much from children and a certain amount from adults.

Recommendations:

make local children and adults understand how fortunate they are to have such an object nearby and how important it is to look after it and to encourage everyone to become a ranger.

Environment:

Situated on southern side of the Hunters Hill peninsula facing the Parramatta River, originally covered with a dry sclerophyll forest with tall eucalypts domination but many exotics now penetrated the bush. The soil in many areas is shallow but that drains quickly and it covers a sandstone strata common in the Sydney Basin. Mangroves that live on the water edge would provide shelter for young sea life in the salt water river. The fresh water holes are dry at present probably due to the drought; twelve months ago these holes contained water which possibly seeped down through the rock strata above after rainfall; the holes at the moment are filled with rubbish and rocks.

Information from The Battlers' for Kelly's Bush.

Recorded by Barbara Farrell 29/8/1980.

On occasional visits Farrell had seen motor bikes, nurses and people in the area. Also erosion appears to be eating tracks (walking) away, so that the tracks are becoming deep and uneven. Regardless of whether you go weekdays or weekends you always meet someone in the bush. The actual site (the midden) would not have as many visitors because it is deeper in the bush and one has to scramble down rocks and the track is not very visible.

19. NPWS Site No 45-6-621 continued.

Site first recorded by Sharon Sullivan as follows:

midden in rock shelter on steep slope running down to Parramatta River. Midden well consolidated, oyster, mussel, whelk, etc. Shelter is 30 ft long x 6 ft wide (deep).

No bone, stone or shell implements or flakes are evident on the surface or talus slope.

Danger from high density recreation and trial excavation planned.

Information recorded by Hawthorne 1983.

Shelter dimensions: 40M x 12M x 4M

100 M to littoral

20 M elevation above littoral

1300 M to fresh water (excluding rock holes above)

(comment on Hawthorne's data by Attenbrow -

40M length may include a shelter to the west which is in same band of rocks and could be considered a continuation ; however, width (depth) of 12M may be a typing error, i.e. the 'l' being inserted by mistake.

For information recorded by Attenbrow on 7/8/1983 see attached sheet.

NPWS Site No 45-6-621: Details recorded by Val Attenbrow 7/8/1983

Description of shelter:

Approx. dimensions: 11 metres long x 2 metres deep x 3 metres high at front  
(paced) (1.5 metres at back)

The eastern three metres of the shelter length has a natural 'drainage' channel coming through from above the shelter, and large boulders, thus making this area 'uninhabitable'. The western two metres narrows, making it less habitable/uninhabitable in terms of shelter from weather.

Slightly further to west is another shallow/narrow overhang - no obvious signs of Aboriginal occupation, although there is a recent fire-place.

Deposit/floor:

Floor consists of damp silty sandy matrix with shell forming a visually minor component. Shell has been greatly degraded/fragmented, though some whole shells are present. Fragmentation/degradation probably due to both dampness of floor and treadage from visitors.

Shell species recorded: oyster (Saccostrea commercialis) predominant  
Sydney cockle (Anadara trapezia)  
Hercules whelk (Pyrazus ebenius)  
Mussel (Trichomya hirsutus)

Shell occurs as scatter as well as several small concentrations within an area 6 metres along the length of the shelter x 2.5 metres wide, i.e. it extends outside the front of the shelter for a short distance. It may well extend further outside the shelter, but thick vegetation on sloping ground greatly hinders ground visibility.

Depth of deposit difficult to ascertain, but greater than 20 cms and it would appear from the configuration of the shelter and surrounding visible ground to have potential for a reasonable depth, i.e. c. 1 metre.

The deposit has been disturbed, at least to a depth of 15-20 cms, i.e. dips and hollows in the surface are 10-15 cms deep.

No stone artefacts or bone was observed in the shelter.

The marks recorded on the boulders in the shelter (by Farrell, 29/8/1980) are sharp angled, most probably made by a steel implement and unlikely to be Aboriginal.

General comments:

Although Farrell noted that the shelter would not have many visitors and the track is not very visible, the track is now reasonable clear, and it is obvious that the shelter is visited, i.e. fragmentation of the shell, the presence of several bits of broken glass (green and clear), and the fireplace in the western shelter. No graffiti, however, was noticed on the shelter walls.

NPWS Site No 45-6-621 continued.

From surface observation, the deposit in the shelter may have some depth to it. It has been disturbed, but if there is a reasonable depth of deposit, insitu material may be present at depth. Test excavation would determine both depth of deposit and degree of disturbance. It would seem, however, that if someone was researching Sydney Harbour prehistory, this shelter is worth investigating further.

Val Attenbrow

7th August 1983

20.NPWS Site No 45-6-900

Midden in shelter

Boronia Park

1:25,000 2815:5551

Sydney 1:250,000 4148:8210

Sydney 1:63,360 1465:2090

Site Relocation:

Follow Princes Street into Boronia Park. Follow this street for approximately one half mile. On the left is a small road that leads into a picnic area. A small stream flows through the picnic area in a southeast direction. Cross the stream to the northern bank and follow this stream along the bank for approximately 125 yards. The rock shelter will then be visible on your left. The shelter is very close to the bank of the small stream.

Site description:

Site consists of a series of two rock shelters separated by a 3 ft break in the overhang. I would classify it as one rock shelter with the length being 42 ft and an average depth of 12 ft. Height varies from 4 ft at the dripline on the north west to 6 ft at the centre of the shelter.

The midden extends outwards from the dripline for approximately 9 ft and past the NW and SE ends of the overhang. The total midden area being 50 ft x 24 ft. I estimate the depth of the midden to be 2 to 3 ft.

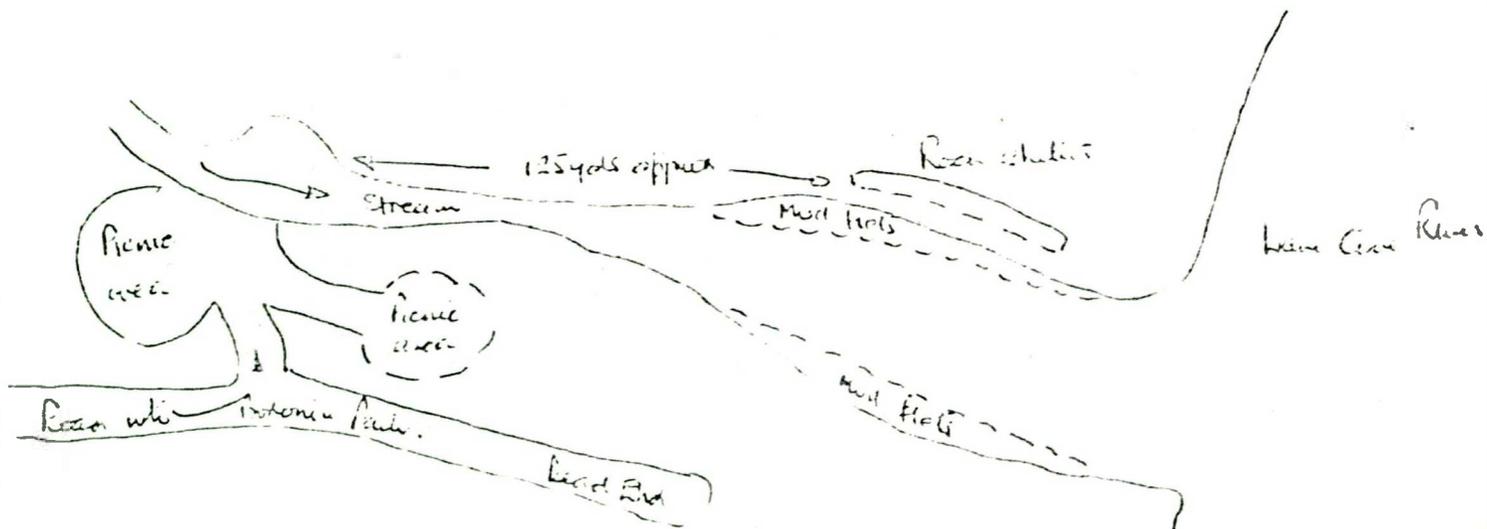
Condition: poor, site has been continually disturbed. Visitation by fishermen.

Environmental description:

The surrounding rock is Hawkesbury sandstone. The rock overhang is oriented in a northwest-southeast direction. The midden is approximately 4 ft above the mud flats that lie alongside the small creek that feeds into the Lane Cove River. Major species of vegetation sighted in the area are: Pittosporum undulatum (mock orange), Avicennia maritima (grey mangrove) and asparagus fern. A small freshwater stream runs very close to the site in a southeasterly direction. The shelter would be damp most of the year; the rainfall averaging 30-35 inches annually. Temps range from 5-30 degrees (winter-summer). In summer high humidity would prevail.

The site is close to water and would be the major food source.

Recorded by Don Beasley, Ranger, Sydney Harbour National Park, 6/6/78.



Information recorded by Hawthorne:

Shelter dimensions 14M x 4M x 2M  
5 metres from littoral  
1.3 metres elevation above littoral  
50 metres to fresh water.

B. Sites recorded by Melanie Hawthorne 1982 - continued.

be at this location. However:

1. NPWS have a site recorded by Taplin (45-6-1110) just to the north-east of Gladesville Bridge (Site Number 8 on HH map).
2. Hawthorne does not have this site plotted on her 1:25,000 map, and in conversation with me she indicated that the site no longer existed and that is why she did not plot it on her map.
3. Hawthorne has 45-6-1110 included in her lists and has additional locational information recorded for it - was she confusing sites when she made the statement under 2 to me, or is the additional information 'guesstimates'.
4. Hawthorne has a 1:25,000 grid reference for 45-6-1110 which puts it up near Buffalo Creek, i.e. it has no bearing to either sites 45-6-1110 or site F.
5. is the additional locational information recorded for 45-6-1110 actually information belonging to site F ?

B. Sites recorded by Melanie Hawthorne, 1982

During the course of investigations for her BA(Hons) thesis Hawthorne visited most of the sites in Hunters Hill listed in the NPWS Site Register.

She also located several sites which were not in the NPWS Register.

For three of these, information was provided in her thesis (1:25,000 grid reference, shelter dimensions, distance to littoral, elevation above littoral and distance to water); the sites were plotted onto a 1:25,000 map attached to her thesis.

Site cards for submission to NPWS have been made out for these sites:

- 21 midden at 2800:5627 (near entrance to Buffalo Creek)
- 22 shelter at 2811:5620 (behind Baron's Crescent)
- 23 shelter at 2815:5613 (behind Baron's Crescent)

(the above grid references are taken from the dot plotted on Hawthorne's 1:25,000 map; the grid references listed in her thesis for sites 21, 22, 23 are 280:567, 282:562, and 283:561 respectively; I have assumed that the dot on the map would be a more accurate location for the site than the listed grid reference.)

Hawthorne, however, also has another three sites plotted on her 1:25,000 map, but for these she has no information listed in her thesis. (the grid references provided below are taken from the dot on the map)

- 24 large midden at 2835:5604 (behind Baron's Crescent)
- 25 midden at 2817:5542 (Boronia Park)
- 26 midden at 2809:5378 (near Riverside GHS)
- 27 shelter at 2824:5545 (Boronia Park) (contents unknown)

A brief search at 2835:5604 for the large midden on 7th August 1983 found no sign of a large midden in this location.

Site cards were not completed for sites 24,25,26,27 as it was considered that these should not be filled in and submitted to NPWS until fuller details in respect to location and description were known.

The location of these last four sites as marked by Hawthorne have been marked on the Hunters Hill map in order that their probable existence is not lost and so that they can be investigated further for managements purposes at a later stage.

One further comment, however, on the site F. Given the location of the dot on the map it is highly probable that a midden could

1. Map Name .....  
 2. Scale ..... 1:250,000 ..... 1:63,360 ..... 1:25,000 .....  
 3. Grid ref ..... 4146:8218 ..... 146:218 ..... 2800:5627\* .....  
 4. Site name(s) ..... BUFFALO CREEK .....  
 5. Air photo ref .....  
 6. Site type ..... MIDDEN .....  
 7. Classification .....  
 8. Cadastral .. County of Cumberland; Municipality of Hunters Hill; Parish of Hunters Hill  
 9. Land Status Reserve ..... 11. ....

2. Directions for site relocation

Near the entrance to Buffalo Creek into Lane Cove River

Note re grid reference: grid ref. listed by Hawthorne (1982) is 280:567; dot on her 1:25,000 map is at 2800:5627. I have assumed dot is correct and reading of grid ref. from map incorrect

3. Owner ..... 14. Tenant/Manager .....  
 Address ..... Address .....  
 .....  
 Attitude ..... Attitude .....

5. Site Description

The following information was extracted from M Hawthorne's BA(Hons) thesis, 1982; the site was not visited by myself.

Midden  
 horizontal distance to littoral ..... 4 metres  
 elevation above littoral ..... 1 metre  
 distance from fresh water ..... 10 metres

6. Reasons for investigation ..... Heritage study for Hunters Hill Cncl by Meredith Walker.  
 7. Condition .....  
 8. Interpretation .....  
 9. Visitation .....  
 10. Recommendations ..... FURTHER RECORDING OF THE MIDDEN TO DETERMINE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

21. Environmental description of site locality

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2. Relation to other sites in locality

nearest site in NPWS Site Register is 45-6-988

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3. Details of artifact collections

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1. Is plan or diagram of site attached? Yes/No

2. Are annotated photographs attached? Yes/No How many?

3. Other additions

---

4. Importance of site to Aborigines

5. Source of this information

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6. Oral sources of information

7. Written references Hawthorne, Melanie: A Locational Analysis of Aboriginal Sites in the Port Jackson Area, 1982  
BA(Hons) Thesis, Anthropology Department, University of Sydney.

---

8. Recorded by Melanie Hawthorne Filed by

site card completed by Val Attenbrow  
19 Calder Road  
CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008

Address

Date August 1983 Date

Map Name .....  
 2. Scale ..... 1:250,000 ..... 1:63360 ..... 1:25,000 ..... 6. Site type .....  
 . Grid ref ..... 4146:8217 ..... 146:217 ..... 2811:5620 \* ..... SHELTER WITH MIDDEN .....  
 1. Site name(s) ..... BARONS CRESCENT ..... 7. Classification .....  
 . Air photo ref .....  
 3. Cadastral County of Cumberland, Parish of Hunters Hill, Municipality of Hunters Hill...  
 0. Land Status Reserve ..... 11. ....

12. Directions for site relocation

note re grid reference: grid.ref. listed by Hawthorne 1982 is 282:562; the dot on her 1:25,000 map is at 2811:5620. I have assumed dot is in correct location and reading of grid.ref. from map was incorrect.

3. Owner ..... 14. Tenant/Manager .....  
 Address ..... Address .....  
 .....  
 Attitude ..... Attitude .....

5. Site Description

The following information was extracted from M Hawthorne's BA(Hons) thesis; the site was not visited by myself.

- Length - 2 metres
- Depth - 2 metres
- Height - 1 metre
- Horizontal distance to littoral - 10 metres
- Elevation above littoral - 2 metres
- Distance from water (fresh) - 200 metres

6. Reasons for investigation Heritage study for Hunters Hill. Cncl by Meredith Walker.  
 . Condition .....  
 . Interpretation .....  
 9. Visitation .....  
 . Recommendations FURTHER RECORDING TO DETERMINE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.....

1. Environmental description of site locality

---

2. Relation to other sites in locality

---

3. Details of artifact collections

---

4. Is plan or diagram of site attached? Yes/No

5. Are annotated photographs attached? Yes/No How many?

6. Other additions

---

7. Importance of site to Aborigines

8. Source of this information

---

9. Oral sources of information

10. Written references      Melanie Hawthorne: A Locational Analysis of Aboriginal Sites  
in the Port Jacksons Area, 1982; BA(Hons) thesis, Anthropology  
Department, University of Sydney

---

11. Recorded by      Melanie Hawthorne      Filed by

Address      site card completed  
by Val Attenbrow  
19 Calder Road  
Chippendale      NSW 2008

Date      August 1983      Date

1. Map Name ..... 5. Site No. ... 42=9=

2. Scale ..... 1:250,000 ..... 1:63,360 ..... 1:25,000 ..... 6. Site type ..... SHELTER WITH MIDDEN

3. Grid ref ..... 4147:8216 ..... 147:216 ..... 2815:5613 \* ..... BARONS CRESCENT

4. Site name(s) ..... 7. Classification .....

---

8. Air photo ref .....

9. Cadastral County of Cumberland, Municipality of Hunters Hill, Parish of Hunters Hill

10. Land Status Reserve ..... 11. ....

2. Directions for site relocation

Note re grid.ref: grid.ref listed by Hawthorne (1982) is 283:561; the dot on her 1:25,000 map is at 2815:5613. I have assumed dot is in correct location and reading of grid ref. from map was incorrect

3. Owner ..... 14. Tenant/Manager .....

Address ..... Address .....

.....

Attitude ..... Attitude .....

5. Site Description

The following information was extracted from H Hawthorne's BA (Hons) thesis; the site was not visited by myself.

- Length - 5.00 metres
- Depth - 2.00 metres
- Height - 1.00 metre
- Horizontal distance to littoral -15.00 metres
- Elevation above littoral - 2.00 metres
- Distance from fresh water -200.00 metres

---

Reasons for investigation Heritage study for Hunters Hill Council by Meredith Walker

Condition .....

.....

Interpretation .....

Visitation .....

Recommendations ..... Further recording to determine management requirements...

1. Environmental description of site locality

---

2. Relation to other sites in locality

---

3. Details of artifact collections

---

4. Is plan or diagram of site attached? Yes/No

5. Are annotated photographs attached? Yes/No How many?

6. Other additions

---

7. Importance of site to Aborigines

8. Source of this information

---

9. Oral sources of information

10. Written references Melanie Hawthorne, 1982;  
A Locational Analysis of Aboriginal Sites in the Port Jackson Area.  
BA(Hons) thesis, Anthropology Department, University of Sydney.

---

11. Recorded by Melanie Hawthorne  
site card completed by Val Attenbrow  
19 Calder Road  
Chippendale NSW 2008  
Address

Filed by

Date August 1983

Date

C. Sites recorded by Val Attenbrow, 7 August 1983.

Four further sites were recorded. Details are provided on the site cards for NPWS which are attached.

Details of one of these (the shelter with archaeological deposit and art in Ferdinand Street Reserve) had been given to Meredith Walker.

The small midden in Morningson Reserve and the rock shelter with archaeological deposit, were located whilst trying to find a 'large midden 50 yards east of the boat shed in Morningson Reserve'; details of the latter site had been given to Meredith Walker. A midden fitting this description, however, was not found in Morningson Reserve.

The small midden behind the boatshed in Ferdinand Street Reserve was found whilst re-locating NPWS Site No 45-6-619.

Sites recorded:-		Parramatta River 1:25,000 grid ref.
28.	Shelter with archaeological deposit and art	Ferdinand Street Reserve 2893:5480
29.	Shelter with midden and ?art?	Morningson Street Reserve 2990:5412
30.	Midden (open)	Morningson Street Reserve 3007:5413
31.	Midden (open)	Ferdinand Street Reserve 2899:5484
32.	Shelter with archaeological deposit	Ferdinand Street Reserve 2893:5480

SHELTER WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSIT AND ART

Art in shelter:

Art consists of white and red lines covering a total area of some 3 x 2 metres on the back wall of the shelter (in the eastern half).

The roots of several vines are growing over the back wall and over the drawings.

No identifiable subjects were recognized.

White lines: fish-like (head) 50 cm x 30 cm  
series of curvilinear lines 80 x 100 cms (c.25 cms west of 'fish')

Red lines: underneath fish-like white lines covering area 50 x 60 cms  
underneath curvilinear lines and extending across and underneath 'fish head' 100 x 100 cms

1 metres to east of white curvilinear lines are several small red patches

The white lines look recent and may be non-Aboriginal; red is more difficult to tell. It seems to underlie the white, but in one area the white and red have intermingled to create a pink area, which tends to suggest the red may also be recent.

A closer and more detailed study of the markings may discern subjects/shapes which may provide evidence of their origin.

The roots over the drawings are relatively small and need not indicate any great age.

General comments:

Shelter receives some visitation by general public; whether this is purposeful (i.e. they come to visit shelter) or opportunistic (i.e. they pass through on the way elsewhere, as a track seems to continue onwards) is not known.

From the surface observation, the deposit may have some depth to it and appears reasonably undisturbed. Test excavation would determine both depth of deposit and degree of disturbance. It would seem that if someone was researching Sydney Harbour prehistory, this shelter is worth investigating further.

Val Attenbrow

7th August 1983

1. Map Name .....  
 2. Scale ..... 1:250,000 1:63,360 1:25,000 ..... 6. Site type SHELTER WITH  
 3. Grid ref ..... 4155:8201 .. 155:201 ..... 2893:5480 ..... ARCH DEPOSIT AND ART  
 4. Site name(s) ..... FERDINAND ST RESERVE 7. Classification .....

---

3. Air photo ref .....  
 9. Cadastral ... Co. of Cumberland; parish of Hunters Hill; Municipality of Hunters Hill...  
 10. Land Status Reserve ..... 11. ....

12. Directions for site relocation

On northern side of Hunters Hill peninsula.  
 Drive down to end of Ferdinand Street, then follow pathway down to the waterfront, but do not go right the way down. At the bottom of the last house, at the base of the cliff, a small foot-track leads to the west (left), i.e. also at the bottom of some steps. Immediately off the track is a large shelter which has a few shells on the floor; go through this shelter and about 5 metres further on is another large shelter - the second shelter is this site.

13. Owner ..... 14. Tenant/Manager .....  
 Address ..... Address .....  
 Attitude ..... Attitude .....

15. Site Description

A large shelter formed in the base of a cliff. (cliff is about 16-20 metres high).  
Shelter dimensions: 14 metres long x 2 metres deep; 4 - 4.5 metres high at the front sloping back to 2 M at back. (approx./paced)  
 The depth of 2 metres was the maximum depth about the centre of the shelter length; both the eastern and western ends decrease in depth to 0; the eastern 5 metres of the shelter is now full of vines. Aspect of shelter is 320°.  
Shelter floor/archaeological deposit:  
 Reasonably flat floor; deposit dry at time of recording (minor seepage at back wall), but evidence of driplines extending into shelter. Shelter is described as having archaeological deposit rather than midden, as shell is not the major component of the deposit (from surface visual evidence anyway).  
 Main concentration of shell is visible in centre of shelter over an area of 3 x 1 metres where it has been exposed through inner-dripline action; sparsely scattered shell is visible over a wider area within the shelter, and also occurs for some 10 metres beyond the shelter on a small track leading down towards the water.  
 No stone artefacts or bone were seen.  
 Some disturbance, but minimal compared to other shelters seen (e.g. 45-6-619 and 45-6-621).  
 Depth of deposit not easily definable, but would be at least 20 cms and would seem to have potential for a reasonable depth of deposit (say, at least 1 metre).  
 (see page 2 for additional comments)

6. Reasons for investigation Heritage study for Hunters Hill. Cncl. by Meredith Walker.  
 7. Condition Some disturbance of deposit and graffiti on wall, but good considering ..... location in inner city suburb and the amount of visitation it probably gets.....  
 8. Interpretation .....  
 9. Visitation Reasonable.....  
 10. Recommendations Worth ensuring that deposit in shelter is not disturbed through... vandalism or development.....

1. Environmental description of site locality

Cliffline in remnant bushland reserve in inner city harbour suburb;  
Site is 8 to 10 metres above the shoreline and about 25 metres away from it.  
the shoreline is fringed with mangroves and rock is exposed with oysters growing.

Vegetation was closed canopy forest but heavily invaded and dominated by exotics  
e.g. broad-leaf privet, cactus, vines and other plants which have escaped from  
gardens above the cliff-face. Native species which were noted were Port Jackson  
Fig and pittosporum.

---

2. Relation to other sites in locality  
site

Nearest shelter/ in NPWS Register is 45-6-619 (shelter with archaeological deposit  
and paintings).

Some 25 sites are now recorded within the Hunters Hill Municipality.

---

3. Details of artifact collections

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1. Is plan or diagram of site attached? Yes/No

2. Are annotated photographs attached? Yes/No How many?

3. Other additions

---

4. Importance of site to Aborigines

5. Source of this information

---

6. Oral sources of information: I was advised of existence of shelter by Meredith Walker

7. Written references

---

Recorded by Val Attenbrow Filed by  
19 Calder Road  
CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008

Address

Date August 1983

Date

NPWS Site No 45-6-

SYDNEY 1:63,360 164:1935

SHELTER WITH MIDDEN AND (ART ?)

Shelter (b)

Shelter deposit has been severely disturbed; MWSDB manhole is in centre of shelter floor. Floor very damp, rubbly and uneven (steep slope from bank to front) and in present condition would be almost uninhabitable; It is not possible to determine what it would have been like prior to MWSDB activities. Seepage from back walls.

Not a very pleasant shelter; westernmost shelter more pleasant.

Several oyster shells seen and 1 piece of Sydney cockle; neither insitu.

Art ? white markings in niche at eastern end (about head height when standing at low level outside shelter); area covered is 15 cms wide x 25 cms long (high). subject indeterminate; may not be Aboriginal.

Location of site:

Shelter are in a small band of sandstone (cliff) immediately above the foreshore about 1.5 to 2 metres above high tide water level and some 2 metres distance from the foreshore.

General comments:

The deposit in these two shelters is so heavily disturbed and there would appear to be no chance of insitu deposit remaining, even at depth. The shelters therefore have no scientific significance from an excavation point of view. Closer examination of the white markings may determine whether they are Aboriginal in origin and what their subject-matter is; however, the chance of such examination providing positive answers is not high and the 'art' is thus not considered of great scientific value.

(no)

I believe the shelter has very little educational or tourist value.

2. Scale 1:25,000 1:63,360 1:25,000 6. Site type SHELTER WITH  
 3. Grid ref 4164:8193 164:1935 2990:5412 MIDDEN AND (ART ?)  
 4. Site name(s) MORNINGTON RESERVE 7. Classification  
 8. Air photo ref  
 9. Cadastral Co. of Cumberland, Parish of Hunters Hill, Municipality of Hunters Hill.  
 10. Land Status Reserve 11.

12. Directions for site relocation

Site is on northern side of Hunters Hill peninsula; at western end of Mornington Reserve. Drive to bottom of Brook Street; take path down to Reserve/waters edge and walk east to the eastern-most boat shed (3 boat sheds are in a row); (or from end of Brook Street) walk east for approx 40 metres to the top of steps which lead down to the boat sheds. From the eastern side of the eastern-most boat shed, walk east for approximately 20 metres. At this point there is a line of sandstone rocks which have been laid leading from the bank of the water's edge. Shelter is just the other side of this line of rock and immediately above the bank; a small patch of midden is exposed in the

13. Owner 14. Tenant/Manager  
 Address Address  
 Attitude Attitude

5. Site Description

Two almost adjoining shelters, both formed by blackfall and some cavernous weathering.  
 (a) - westernmost shelter 7 metres long x 2 metres deep x 2.5 metres high  
 2 metres to east is  
 (b) - easternmost shelter 10 metres long x 2 metres deep x 3 metres high.  
 (a) shelter floor/deposit:  
 severely disturbed and uneven; partially rock at the back. a MWSDB main (visible in shelter (b) probably also runs through this shelter and has caused most of disturbance. 'children' have made rock walls/enclosure at one end (western) of the shelter.  
 A concentration of ~~shell~~ shell, predominantly oyster, some Sydney cockle occurs within the enclosure at the western end - heavily disturbed; some look recent.  
 In niche/alcove at high level above the enclosure are several white markings - subject indeterminate; could be non-Aboriginal; closer inspection needed to determine origin; access slightly awkward.  
 In bank directly below shelter (a) is a small patch of midden, about 50 cms depth x 1 metre across; supported by and entwined amongst roots of large trees and rocks. shell species noted - Sydney cockle (Anadara trapezia), Hercules whelk (Pyrazus ebenius) and oyster (Saccostrea commercialis). Edge of bank is approx 2 metres from extent of shelter overhang. There is a possibility midden in bank is overburden from MWSDB activities; cleaning back bank was not undertaken to determine this.  
 (for further details of shelter (b) see attached sheet).

5. Reasons for investigation Heritage study for Hunters Hill. Concl. by Meredith Walker.  
 7. Condition Heavily disturbed. No excavation potential at all.  
 8. Interpretation  
 9. Visitation By persons who have built stone enclosure  
 10. Recommendations Site is not worth protecting in terms of deposit which is heavily disturbed; further examination of the white markings may determine whether they are Aboriginal in origin

Remnant of foreshore bushland in inner suburban harbour situation.

Vegetation is heavily infested with exotic species, e.g. broad-leaf privet, bamboo etc.

Foreshore is lined with mangroves, and high tide water level reaches bank immediately below shelter.

---

22. Relation to other sites in locality

Some 25 sites are known within Hunters Hill municipality; they include shelters with archaeological deposit and/or art; axe grinding grooves and an engraving.

---

3. Details of artifact collections

---

1. Is plan or diagram of site attached? Yes/No

25. Are annotated photographs attached? Yes/No How many?

3. Other additions

---

4. Importance of site to Aborigines

1. Source of this information

---

9. Oral sources of information

0. Written references

---

Recorded by Val Attenbrow  
19 Calder Road  
CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008

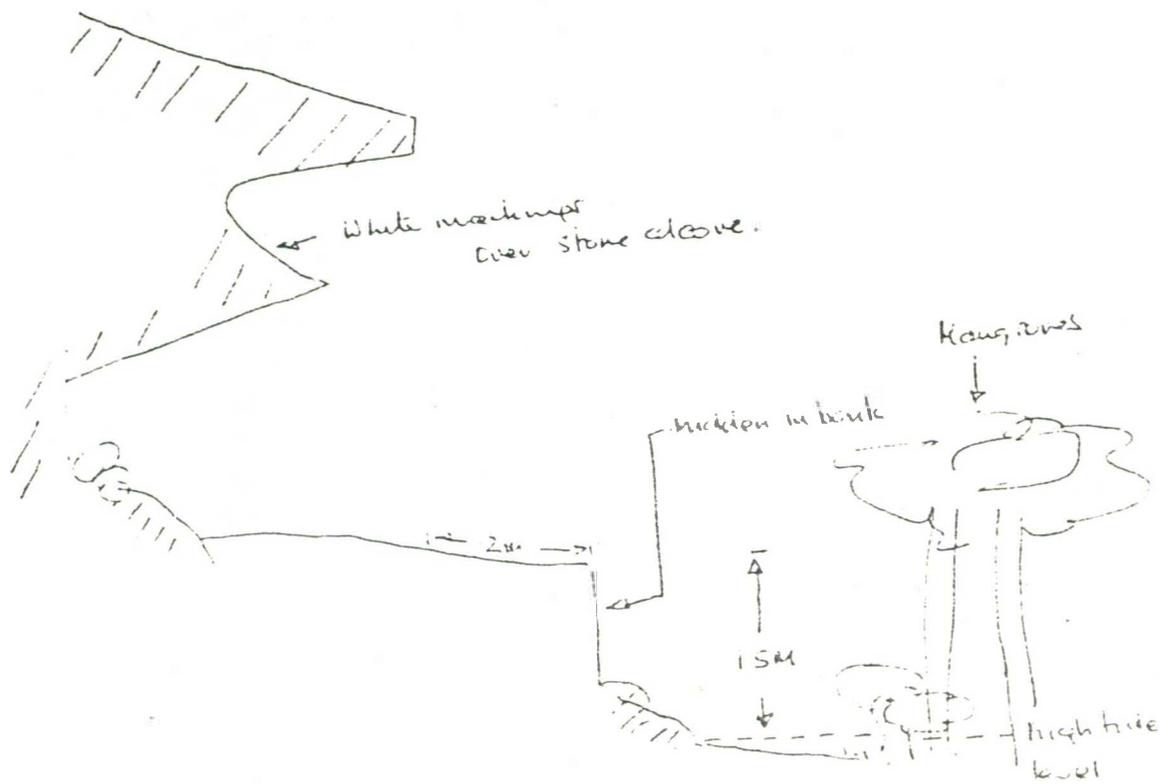
Filed by

Address 7 August 1983

Date

Date

SHELTER WITH MIDDEN AND (ART ?)



Schematic cross-section.  
Not to scale.

1. Map Name ..... 5. Site No. 428  
 2. Scale ... 1:250,000 1:63,360 1:25,000 ..... 6. Site type MIDDEN (OPEN)  
 3. Grid ref 4167:8194 167:194 3007:5413  
 4. Site name(s) ..... MORNINGTON RESERVE 7. Classification .....  
 8. Air photo ref .....  
 9. Cadastral Co of Cumberland; Parish of Hunters Hill; Municipality of Hunters Hill  
 10. Land Status Reserve 11. ....

12. Directions for site relocation

Site is on northern side of Hunters Hill peninsula; eastern end of Mornington Reserve. Drive to where Vernon Street narrows (i.e. gateway to 'Mornington' house); leave car and walk down pathway to Reserve. Just before drop to water level pathway splits in two (right arm goes straight ahead and is fainter than left). Take left-hand track which veers NW, for c.9 metres. Midden is exposed in track to boatshed (before it goes over bank) and to west of track immediately above boatshed.

13. Owner ..... 14. Tenant/Manager .....  
 Address ..... Address .....  
 Attitude ..... Attitude .....

15. Site Description

Midden consists of scatter of shell; main concentration of shell is exposed in bare area of ground approximately 3 metres x 3 metres in area. However, full extent of visible shell is 10 metres across the slope and 5 metres upslope. No stone artefacts or bone seen.

Area of shell has, overall, a gentle slope also includes flattish ground also.

From surface evidence, it does not look as if there is any depth to the midden. However, area has been cleared of native vegetation is now grassed and has coral trees growing around; a bitumen path is nearby also. The midden has thus been quite heavily disturbed in the past.

Given the location of the shell, it is considered it would be a 'disturbed shell midden' and not imported shell, i.e. brought in from elsewhere during landscaping of reserve.

Shell species noted: oyster (Saccostrea commercialis) - predominant species  
 Sydney cockle (Anadara trapezia) - several  
 small whelk (Velacumantis sp.) - one only

Aspect of slope - towards water, north-north-west.

6. Reasons for investigation ... Heritage study of Hunters Hill for Meredith Walker...  
 7. Condition ..... Disturbed .....  
 8. Interpretation .....  
 9. Visitation ... The reserve is probably much visited .....  
 10. Recommendations .....

1. Environmental description of site locality

Midden is on bank immediately (say 2 metres) above high water level.

Immediate area of reserve has been markedly altered and landscaped; foreshore has some mangrove further to west and exposed rocks where oysters grow.

2. Relation to other sites in locality

Some 25 sites are known withinin Hunters Hill municipality; they include shelters with archaeological deposit and/or art; axe grinding grooves and engravings.

3. Details of artifact collections

1. Is plan or diagram of site attached? Yes/No

2. Are annotated photographs attached? Yes/No How many?

3. Other additions

4. Importance of site to Aborigines

5. Source of this information

6. Oral sources of information

7. Written references

8. Recorded by Val Attenbrow  
19 Calder Road  
CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008

Filed by

Address

Date 7 August 1983

Date

1. Map Name ..... 5. Site No. ....  
 2. Scale ... 1:250,000 ... 1:63,360 ... 1:25,000 ..... 6. Site type .....  
 3. Grid ref 4155:8201 ... 1555:2015 ... FERDINAND ST RESERVE ... MIDDEN (OPEN)  
 4. Site name(s) ..... 2899:5484 ..... 7. Classification .....  
 3. Air photo ref .....  
 9. Cadastral Co. of Cumberland; Parish of Hunters Hill; Municipality of Hunters Hill ...  
 10. Land Status ... Reserve ..... 11. ....

12. Directions for site relocation

On northern side of Hunters Hill peninsula; on point in centre of Ferdinand St Reserve. Drive down to end of Ferdinand, then follow pathway down to the waterfront. Walk around to the east until the last boathouse. Shell is immediately behind and to east of boathouse.

13. Owner ..... 14. Tenant/Manager .....  
 Address ..... Address .....  
 .....  
 Attitude ..... Attitude .....

15. Site Description

Small shallow midden on foreshore to harbour. Exposed where grass has worn away and in bank at waters edge.  
 Probably disturbed to some extent.

6. Reasons for investigation ... Heritage study for Hunters Hill Cncl by Meredith Walk  
 17. Condition ... May be disturbed to some extent.  
 18. Interpretation .....  
 19. Visitation .....  
 20. Recommendations ... Further recording to determine management requirements.

1. Environmental description of site locality

Midden is immediately adjacent to foreshore of harbour; c.50 cm - 1 metres above high water level.

Immediate area is now cleared and grassed; small beach (sandy) immediately in front; further to west and east are mangroves around the foreshore, and rocks with oysters growing.

---

2. Relation to other sites in locality

---

3. Details of artifact collections

---

4. Is plan or diagram of site attached? Yes/No

5. Are annotated photographs attached? Yes/No How many?

5. Other additions

---

7. Importance of site to Aborigines

8. Source of this information

---

9. Oral sources of information

10. Written references

---

11. Recorded by Val Attenbrow  
19 Calder Road  
Chippendale NSW 2008

Filed by

Address

Date

7th August 1983

Date

1. Map Name	.....	5. Site No.	.....
2. Scale	1:250,000    1:63,360    1:25,000	6. Site type	.....
3. Grid ref	4155:8201    155:201    2893:5480		SHELTER WITH ARCH DEPOSIT
4. Site name(s)	..... FERDINAND ST RESERVE	7. Classification	.....
<hr/>			
8. Air photo ref	.....		
9. Cadastral	Co of Cumberland; parish of Hunters Hill; Municipality of Hunters Hill		
10. Land Status	Reserve	11.	.....

2. Directions for site relocation

On northern side of Hunters Hill peninsula; western end of Ferdinand Street Reserve. Drive down to end of Ferdinand Street, then follow pathway down to the waterfront, but do not go right the way down. At the bottom of the house house/bottom of steps (at the base of the cliff), go over small rubble wall and there is a large shelter; this shelter is the site (there is a foot-track going through the shelter along the base of the cliffline).

3. Owner	.....	14. Tenant/Manager	.....
Address	.....	Address	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
Attitude	.....	Attitude	.....

5. Site Description

Large shelter at the base of a cliffline. Dimensions not recorded during this visit, but relative to the shelter immediately to the west, whose dimensions were recorded, it has a smaller floor area although it is probably at high.

Deposit in shelter looks disturbed (perhaps during construction of pathway to waterfront?) and a large tree is growing at the eastern end adjacent to the pathway.

A few shells were seen in amongst disturbed deposit near the tree; no other archaeological evidence of Aboriginal occupation seen in shelter. However, very little time was spent in this shelter, as the time was concentrated on recording the adjacent site.

6. Reasons for investigation	Heritage study for Hunters Hill Cncl by Meredith Walker.
7. Condition	Some disturbance to deposit.
8. Interpretation	.....
9. Visitation	.....
10. Recommendations	Further recording of shelter description and contents.

21. Environmental description of site locality

Shelter is in cliffline; suburban gardens above cliffline and remnant 'bushland' reserve in front. Vegetation in 'bushland' was closed canopy forest but heavily invaded and dominated by exotics, e.g. broad-leaf privet, cactus, vines (balloon vine) and other plants which have escaped from the gardens above. Native species which were noted were Port Jackson Fig and Pittosporum undulatum.

The shelter is 8 to 10 metres above the shoreline and about 25 metres away from it. The shoreline is fringed with mangroves and rock is exposed with oysters growing on it.

---

22. Relation to other sites in locality

Nearest shelter sites in NPWS Register is 45-6-619, a shelter with archaeological deposit and hand stencils; Immediately adjacent is another shelter with archaeological deposit and doubtful Aboriginal drawings.

Some 25 other sites are recorded within the Hunters Hill Municipality.

---

23. Details of artifact collections

---

24. Is plan or diagram of site attached? Yes/No

25. Are annotated photographs attached? Yes/No How many?

26. Other additions

---

27. Importance of site to Aborigines

28. Source of this information

---

29. Oral sources of information

30. Written references

---

31. Recorded by Val Attenbrow Filed by  
19 Calder Road  
CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008

Address

Date

7/8/1983

Date

D. Further sites / possible sites which need investigating/recording

33. Shelter with hand stencils in property belong<sup>ing</sup> to Douglas Baglin.  
(details from Meredith Walker).
34. Shelter with red drawings at eastern end of Ferdinand Street Reserve.  
Large shelter, seen from a distance, by Val Attenbrow; no time was available to investigate to determine if drawings were Aboriginal in origin. No subjects were discernible from the distant view I had of the shelter. Since the drawings may not even be Aboriginal, it was considered a site card should not be completed at this stage.
35. Rock shelter near Woolwich Dock, Hunters Hill.  
Excavated in 1925 by W W Thorpe of the Australian Museum. The skeleton of a woman, shell fish hook and stone flakes were recovered.  
(Hawthorne, 1982, 42).
- (is this likely to be shelter in Kelly's Bush (45-6-621), and thus deposit in that shelter is more disturbed than surface evidence indicates ?  
In the 'early days' of recording site locations and giving descriptions of sites, Kelly's Bush could well have been considered to be 'near Woolwich Dock'. Australian Museum may have further details or Fred McCarthy may know.

HUNTER'S HILL HERITAGE STUDY : SUB-CONSULTANTS' REPORT  
ABORIGINAL PREHISTORIC SITES : VAL ATTENBROW

1. Search of NPWS Site records to obtain information already lodged about sites in Hunters Hill (sites 1 to 20 in inventory)
2. Study of M. Hawthorne, 1982, to gain extra information about sites in Hunters Hill (sites 21 to 27 in inventory)
3. Visit to Hunters Hill, in company with Shirley Hilman and Jenny Murray, to:
  - (a) locate more accurately the sites in Kelly's Bush
  - (b) determine whether axe grinding groove site in Kelly's Bush was in fact an axe grinding groove site
  - (c) locate sites which had been reported to M. Walker in Mornington Reserve and Ferdinand Street Reserve.

Time was not available to relocate and record site in Betts Reserve which had been noted by Hawthorne.
4. NPWS site cards completed for newly located sites and also for three of the sites located by Hawthorne.

References:

- Hawthorne, M. 1982 A Locational Analysis of Aboriginal Sites in the Port Jackson Area. BA(Hons) thesis, Anthropology Department, University of Sydney
- Attenbrow, V. 1983 North Head Quarantine Station: Archaeological Survey for Aboriginal Sites. A report to NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service.