Report Register
The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled 55 Pitt Street, Sydney—Heritage Impact Statement for Planning Proposal, undertaken by GML Heritage Pty Ltd in accordance with its quality management system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job No.</th>
<th>Issue No.</th>
<th>Notes/Description</th>
<th>Issue Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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Quality Assurance
GML Heritage Pty Ltd operates under a quality management system which has been certified as complying with the Australian/New Zealand Standard for quality management systems AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008.

The report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with the GML quality assurance policy and procedures.

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## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.0 Introduction</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Background</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Site Location</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Heritage Context</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Methodology and Terminology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Limitations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 Author Identification</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.0 Brief Historical Background</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Introduction</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Aboriginal Occupation</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Early Land Grants and Development: 1788–1820s</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Reclamation and Subdivision: 1820s–1850s</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Commercial Development: 1860s–1920s</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 Commercial Development: 1920s–Present</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7 Endnotes</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.0 Site Analysis</strong></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Description and Context of the Subject Site</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1 APDG Block Redevelopment</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Prominent Views</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Heritage Items in the Vicinity</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.1 Tank Stream</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.2 Bulletin Place</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.3 Former Coal Exchange Chamber Facade</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.4 Former Warehouse Gerling House</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.5 4 Bridge Street—The Cliveden</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.6 6 Bridge Street—Former Northumberland Insurance Building</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Endnotes</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4.0 Preliminary Archaeological Analysis</strong></td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Introduction</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Previous Impacts</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Aboriginal Archaeology</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Preliminary Overview of Historical Archaeological Potential</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.1 General Overview of Historic Land Use</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.2 Overview of Archaeological Potential</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 Endnotes</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.0 Significance Assessment</strong></td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1 NSW Heritage Criteria for Assessing Significance</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.1 Criterion A: Historical Significance</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.2 Criterion B: Historical Associations</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.3 Criterion C: Aesthetic Significance</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.4 Criterion D: Social Significance</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) has been engaged by Mirvac Projects Pty Ltd to prepare a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) to accompany a Planning Proposal being prepared by Mirvac for 55 Pitt Street, Sydney (the subject site). The Planning Proposal requests amendments to the Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) in relation to building height and floor space for the subject site.

Mirvac intends to amalgamate several sites, demolish three existing buildings and construct a commercial property on the subject site. This is referred to as the ‘Planning Proposal Envelope’.

This HIS identifies the heritage values within, and in the vicinity of, the subject site. The report also assesses the potential impacts associated with the amendments requested in the Planning Proposal on the identified heritage values of the subject site, and on the heritage items in the vicinity. It also proposes measures to avoid or mitigate these potential impacts.

This HIS provides a preliminary archaeological analysis of the subject site and indicates the potential impacts on this resource. It proposes further actions to be undertaken in relation to Aboriginal and historical archaeology.

1.2 Site Location

The subject site includes the following properties:

- 6–8 Underwood Street;
- 37–49 Pitt Street;
- 51–57 Pitt Street;
- 6 Dalley Street;
- 8–14 Dalley Street.

The properties at Underwood Street and Pitt Street were acquired by Mirvac Capital Pty Ltd in 2013; 6 Dalley Street is currently owned by Telstra; 8–14 Dalley Street is currently owned by Ausgrid; and Queens Court is owned by the City of Sydney Council. The subject site is in Sydney’s CBD, to the southwest of Circular Quay. It is bounded by Pitt Street to the east, Underwood Street to the north and west, and Dalley Street to the south. The extent and location of existing buildings is detailed in the maps and aerial photograph (Figures 1.1 to 1.3).

1.3 Heritage Context

The buildings on the subject site are not identified as heritage items on the LEP, nor are they located in a Heritage Conservation Area (HCA). The subject site is, however, in the vicinity of several local and state significant heritage items and archaeological sites.

A section of the Tank Stream stormwater drain runs below Pitt Street, adjacent to the subject site boundary. The Tank Stream is on the State Heritage Register (SHR) and Sydney Water’s S170 Register. The listing for the Tank Stream includes a 3m curtilage (protection zone) from all surfaces.
The City of Sydney Archaeological Zoning Plan (AZP) identifies two areas within the subject site as being an ‘Area of Archaeological Potential’ (AAP):

- 42–44 Pitt Street is listed as an AAP, meaning that it has been identified as an area of high archaeological potential due to limited physical disturbance; and
- 8–14 Dalley Street (Ausgrid site) is listed as an AAP—Partially Disturbed (PD), meaning that the site has some archaeological potential although remains may be partially disturbed or destroyed by recent building developments.

Although other sections of the site are not listed in this plan, from experience with other developments in the vicinity (including nearby 200 George Street), they may still have some potential to contain an archaeological resource.

1.4 Methodology and Terminology

This report has been prepared in accordance with the principles outlined in the NSW Heritage Manual guidelines for the preparation of Statements of Heritage Impact (NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and the Heritage Council of NSW, first edition, 1996) and assessment of significance for historical archaeological sites and relics.

It is also consistent with the relevant principles and guidelines of Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013 (the Burra Charter).

The terminology used in this report is consistent with the NSW Heritage Manual and the definitions provided in Article 1 of the Burra Charter for the words: place, cultural significance, fabric, conservation, maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation and compatible use.

This HIS identifies and evaluates the heritage impacts of the proposed development on the heritage items in the vicinity. It also provides an overview of the site’s potential archaeological resource. The HIS has been prepared with regard to the relevant heritage planning controls and documentation, including:

- Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP);
- Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 (DCP);
- the Central Sydney Archaeological Zoning Plan (AZP) 1992;
- Tank Stream Conservation Management Plan 2005;
- NSW State Heritage Register (SHR);
- Sydney Water S170 Heritage Register; and

1.5 Limitations

Due to the preliminary nature of the Planning Proposal, detailed assessment of all heritage aspects of any potential development resulting from the proposed amendments has not yet been undertaken. This HIS considers the potential heritage impacts of the Planning Proposal Envelope as stipulated by the Planning Proposal.
This report focuses on the built heritage aspects of the Planning Proposal and includes preliminary archaeological advice only. Detailed archaeological assessments would need to be undertaken prior to the lodgement of any detailed development application.

This report relies on historical information gleaned from readily available resources. Further detailed historical research will be undertaken prior to the lodgement of any detailed development application.

The assessment contained within this report is based on preliminary design documentation for the Planning Proposal Envelope provided by Mirvac.

Physical archaeological investigation of the site has not been undertaken as part of this study.

Social significance consultation has not been undertaken as part of this study.

This report does not consider Aboriginal cultural heritage or archaeological values. No consultation with Aboriginal persons or groups has been undertaken as part of this study.

GML has not undertaken any consultation with the City of Sydney Council, the Heritage Division of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, or other stakeholders in relation to this project.

**1.6 Author Identification**

This report has been prepared by Julian Siu, Associate; Abi Cryerhall, Principal; with updates prepared by Sophie Jennings, Senior Heritage Consultant. Sharon Veale, Chief Executive Officer of GML, has provided specialist input and reviewed this report.
Figure 1.1 Location plan of the subject site (circled in red and indicated by the arrow). (Source: Google Maps with GML overlay 2016)
Figure 1.2 Aerial photograph showing the subject site (outlined in red). The dashed line demarcates the building envelope (eastern half), comprising 37–57 Pitt Street and 6–8 Underwood Street. (Source: Google Maps, March 2019)
Figure 1.3 Location plan showing individual lots comprising the subject site (outlined in red). The dashed line differentiates between the footprint of the proposed commercial tower (right half) and the buildings to be retained (left half). (Source: Mirvac Projects, March 2014 with GML overlay 2019)
2.0 Brief Historical Background

2.1 Introduction

This section provides a preliminary overview of the historic land use and development of the site. It has been based on the review of a selection of historic plans and secondary sources.

2.2 Aboriginal Occupation

Prior to the arrival of European settlers in 1788, the Sydney Basin had been home to the Eora people for thousands of years. Their land stretched north from the Hawkesbury, south to the Shoalhaven and west to the Nepean.

The Eora people consisted of three main tribes based on linguistic groups: the Guringai, north of Sydney Harbour; the Dharug, around the harbour and to the west; and the Tharawal to the south of Botany Bay.

Central Sydney was often referred to as ‘Eora Country’; within the City of Sydney Local Government Area, the traditional owners are the Cadigal and Wangal bands of the Eora. European settlers referred to the Cadigal as the Botany Bay tribe.\(^1\)

Governor Arthur Phillip, in 1790, wrote:

> From the entrance of the harbour, along the south shore, to the cove adjoining this settlement the district is called Cadi, and the tribe Cadigal; the women, Cadigalleon. The south side of the harbour from the above-mentioned cove to Rose Hill, which the natives call Parramatta, the district is called Wann, and the tribe Wanngal.\(^2\)

With European occupation of the Sydney region from 1788, the traditional cultural practices of the Cadigal and Wangal people were irrevocably altered. Aboriginal people actively resisted occupation and developed viable communities which now actively contribute to life and culture in Sydney today. The study area has been occupied by Europeans since the very early days of the colony and any evidence of traditional occupation of the area is unlikely to have survived.

2.3 Early Land Grants and Development: 1788–1820s

The First Fleet landed at Sydney Cove in 1788 and the surrounding land was the focus for the initial settlement. Flowing into the cove was a freshwater stream (Tank Stream). Early artistic depictions and surveys record the head of the bay as containing expansive intertidal sand or mudflats. To the east and west of the cove, the rocky shoreline provided better access to deeper harbour waters and wharves were constructed. While the land on the eastern side of the cove was reserved for government use, private residents (including emancipated convicts) and merchants began to develop the land around the mouth of the Tank Stream and on the western side of the cove.

Two early land leases are associated with the site. To the southwest, just over two acres of land was leased in October 1799 to Lieutenant William Kent. This land fronted George Street on the west, Bridge Street to the south and the bank of the Tank Stream to the east. This later became Section 47, Lot 1. Grimes’ Plan of Sydney dated 1800 shows Kent’s land at No. 27 (Figure 2.1). Kent constructed a two-storey house with gardens on the land. The location of this house is thought to be near the current intersection of George and Dalley Streets. In 1800 Governor King acquired this land parcel for an orphanage and the Female Orphan School opened in 1801. This building was located to the southwest of the site (Figure 2.2).
In 1802 land within and to the east of the site was leased, and formally granted in 1810, to James Underwood. This later became Section 47, Lot 2. Underwood arrived as a convict in October 1791. By 1800 he had established himself as a shipwright on this site where he built and repaired vessels involved in whaling, sealing and coal imports. Underwood had built a house and warehouses on the site. A description of the site in 1811 mentions:

*The house a little to the right of the orphan house, and appearing to have a wing, is the dwelling, and attached to it, are the warehouses of Mr James Underwood; they are built of brick and are extremely commodious and comfortable.*

He continued to be associated with the site until his death in 1844, though it is unclear if his shipwright business continued beyond the 1820s.
Figure 2.2 Location of the subject site on the 1807 plans of the Town of Sydney by James Meehan. The northern part of the site is within land that was leased to James Underwood (13). The southern part of the site is within the Tank Stream foreshore adjacent to the Female Orphan School. The Tank Stream is to the east of the site boundary below the modern day Pitt Street. (Source: NLA with GML additions 2014)

Underwood appears to have reclaimed land from the Tank Stream catchment by 1807 (Figure 2.2). By the early 1820s, further reclamation in the surrounding area had been undertaken, including at the Female Orphan School site (Figure 2.3). Several structures are depicted within Underwood’s property on Harper’s 1823 plan. Most of these are located on the George Street frontage and one is located on the northern boundary. No structures are depicted on the eastern side of either property adjacent to the Tank Stream on the plan.
2.4 Reclamation and Subdivision: 1820s–1850s

Reclamation and development of the Tank Stream catchment area continued throughout the early decades of the nineteenth century. Initially an important source of fresh water, the Tank Stream became increasingly contaminated and polluted as the surrounding area urbanised. Stormwater and sewerage channels were directed into the stream; by the late 1850s it had formally become a sewer. The construction of Semi Circular Quay between 1837 and 1844 provided a large area of reclaimed land, approximately 4.05ha, behind the new waterfront facility. The area became a focus for commercial activity and merchants linked with maritime trade.

Analyses of historic plans demonstrate a complex sequence of subdivisions and development of Underwood’s land (Lot 2) and the original Orphan School property (Lot 1) throughout the nineteenth century. The first subdivisions were recorded in 1827 when the land occupied by the Orphan School was portioned into six lots and Queens Place (now Dalley Street) was laid out. The three lots on the...
north of Queens Place were conveyed to William Underwood in December 1827. It later became the property of James Underwood.

Underwood Street was created in the 1840s. The section of Pitt Street between Hunter Street and Circular Quay was constructed in the early 1850s. This involved further reclamation and the formal channelisation of the Tank Stream as a sewer. The surviving section of the Tank Stream sewer in Pitt Street (adjacent to the site) was constructed c1878 and consists of a brick built oviform drain.

An 1854 plan depicts the degree of development in the area around the site, in particular the George Street frontage (Figure 2.5). Many buildings of various sizes, and presumably functions, had been constructed along Queens Place (Dalley Street). The Pitt Street frontage had yet to be developed. Several structures had been constructed primarily within the southern half of the subject site by this time.
2.5 Commercial Development: 1860s–1920s

During the latter half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the site continued to be associated with commerce and trade. By the production of the Trigonometric Survey in 1865, most of the structures illustrated on the 1854 plan in the southern part of the site remained extant (Figure 2.6). A set of new buildings was constructed in the northern half of the site; several buildings fronted onto Pitt Street and two fronted onto Underwood. By contrast, the southeast part of the site was recorded as vacant. By 1880 this vacant area had been developed and the Pitt Street frontage contained 13 buildings, numbered 39 to 63 (Figure 2.7). These were both brick and sandstone, and to the rear were yards containing sheds and workshops. The buildings were commercial in nature and the Doves Plan (Figure 2.7) also records them as offering a variety of services and products, such as a locksmith, a general store, fruit shops, a farrier, a bookshop and a wood dealer. Several blocks along the northern side of Underwood Street were recorded as vacant at this time.

The small holdings recorded in the 1860s had been amalgamated into larger properties by the end of the nineteenth century (Figure 2.8). The Fire Underwriter’s Plan, dating from c1917–1939, provides details of the buildings within the site (Figure 2.9). The City Mart building occupied 6–8 Underwood Street. At 4 Underwood Street (now part of 37–49 Pitt Street) was Lindsay Cormack Importers. Located at 37–43 Pitt Street was the Austral Chambers, containing Gibbs Bright & Co shipping agents. At 51–57 Pitt Street was the Standard Building. Between the two Pitt Street buildings was a narrow laneway and two small buildings that survive from the 1860s. At 6 Underwood Street was the Wentworth Building, containing offices and workrooms; and Nock and Kirby Ltd to the north, operating
a hardware and tinsmiths workroom, and an adjacent packing room. At 8 Dalley Street Substation No. 263 was constructed in 1929 by the Municipal Council of Sydney consisting of a steel-framed four storey building. A laneway (Queens Court) situated between 51–57 Pitt Street and the Ausgrid substation survives from the 1850s.

Figure 2.6 Location of the subject site on the 1865 Trigonometric Survey. This plan indicates that the site was redeveloped between the 1850s and 1860s. (Source: City of Sydney Archives with GML additions 2014)
2.6 Commercial Development: 1920s–Present

The early twentieth-century property divisions and buildings, as recorded on the Fire Underwriter’s Plan, remain relatively unchanged until redevelopment in the 1980s when the current buildings—6–8 Underwood Street, 37–49 Pitt Street and 51–57 Pitt Street—were constructed. The existing Telstra Exchange building was constructed in 1971, and the current Ausgrid building was constructed in the 1960s replacing the earlier 1929 building.¹⁰
2.7 Endnotes


Figure 2.8 Location of the subject site on the c1917 Fire Underwriter’s Plan that provides details of the late nineteenth-century buildings that fronted Pitt and Underwood Streets prior to demolition in the late twentieth century. (Source: City of Sydney Archives with GML additions 2014)
3.0 Site Analysis

3.1 Description and Context of the Subject Site

The subject site is located at the western end of Circular Quay within the context of the multi-storey commercial buildings that line the northern end of Pitt Street, including the Lendlease Circular Quay Tower development discussed below. It is bounded by Underwood Street to the north and west, Dalley Street to the south, and Pitt Street to the east.

The subject site consists of the amalgamation of three multi-storey commercial buildings:

- 37 Pitt Street—an 11-storey, C-grade office building. Brick and concrete construction with retail on the ground floor and office space above. The main entry is off Pitt Street with a vehicle entry on Underwood Street. Differentiated ‘podium’ level consisting of the ground and first floors, clad in metal sheets. This building has two levels of basement carparking.

- 51–57 Pitt Street—a nine-storey, C-grade office building. A brick and glass curtain wall construction. Marble veneer on the ground floor which is raised. This building has one level of basement carparking.

- 6–8 Underwood Street—a 10-storey, C-grade office building, constructed in 1985. Concrete construction. Access is gained from Underwood Street. This building has no basement carparking.

Mirvac is also proposing to undertake works within the adjacent blocks comprising:

- 6 Dalley Street—an eight-storey building constructed in 1971 and currently owned by Telstra. It is understood that this building has no basement levels.

- 8–14 Dalley Street—a six-storey electricity substation constructed in the 1960s and currently owned by Ausgrid. This building is also understood to not have basement levels.

- Queens Court—a narrow laneway extending northwards off Dalley Street and situated between 8–14 Dalley Street and 51–57 Pitt Street.

The subject site is in the CBD of Sydney. The area is characterised by multi-storey commercial buildings. The area has been a commercial and retail precinct since the mid-nineteenth century.

3.1.1 LLCQ Redevelopment

The site is located at 174–186 George Street and 33–35 Pitt Street within the block bounded by Alfred, Pitt, Dalley and George Streets. This site is referred to as the Lend Lease Circular Quay Tower (LLCQ) and is located to the immediate north of the subject site. The development application was approved by City of Sydney on 3 October 2018 and includes approval for the following activities:

- demolition of existing commercial buildings at 174–176A and 178–186 George Street and 33–35 Pitt Street;

- the construction of a commercial office tower up to 250.8m in height with approximately three basement levels;
• construction of a new public plaza on George Street and new interconnecting laneway extensions between Underwood Street and Rugby Place; and

• construction of a pedestrian bridge from the George Street plaza to the office tower.

A built heritage assessment was prepared for the Lend Lease Circular Quay (LLCQ) Planning Proposal by Orwell & Peter Phillips in November 2017. The assessment concluded that the proposed redevelopment of the LLCQ site will not adversely impact any listed heritage items within that site or in the vicinity of the site. The report established that there are no listed heritage items within the boundary of the site (apart from the Tank Stream curtilage which may possibly be located in the subterranean areas). The buildings proposed for demolition are of relatively recent construction and have been assessed as not meeting the NSW heritage assessment criteria threshold for heritage listing at local level.

The redevelopment of the LLCQ site to the immediate north does not change the recommendations of the built heritage impact assessment detailed in Section 7.

3.2 Prominent Views

The subject site is located along one of the most trafficked roads and areas within the City of Sydney. However, due to the prevalence of numerous high-rise buildings, views of the existing buildings are constrained.

The existing Pitt Street buildings are clearly visible in views on the eastern side of Pitt Street, from the south at the intersection of Pitt and Bridge Streets (Figure 3.11, 3.12), and opposite from the intersection of Pitt Street and Bulletin Place. The buildings are currently visible from the intersection of Alfred and Pitt Streets (Figure 3.7), and Pitt and Reiby Streets, owing to the demolition of the buildings as part of the LLCQ site redevelopment. However, the new development will partially or completely block views from these locations once the buildings are completed. The existing buildings are not clearly visible in views on the western side of Pitt Street (Figure 3.10), owing to the prevalence of high-rise buildings built to the property boundary obstructing views to the subject site.

The existing Underwood Street building is only visible when on Underwood Street. It is glimpsed from the intersection of Pitt and Underwood Streets. This narrow street constrains views to the subject building.

Overall, the views of subject buildings are against and in a context of surrounding multi-storey commercial buildings and the Marriott Hotel.

3.3 Heritage Items in the Vicinity

A review of the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI) and the LEP confirms that the existing buildings which make up the subject site are not listed as heritage items, nor are they located in a Heritage Conservation Area (HCA). However, there are numerous heritage items of both local and state significance in the vicinity of the subject site, as identified in the LEP and in the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority’s Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register.

Many of the heritage items in the vicinity are located a fair distance from the subject site and/or are not visible in conjunction with the subject site due to the presence of intermediary buildings.
Heritage items west along Essex Street within The Rocks do not currently and will not have a visual connection with the subject site owing to the 200 George Street development obstructing the views between these heritage items and the subject site.

There are several built heritage items that are, however, located in close vicinity to the subject site. The heritage items in bold in the following table, and identified in Figure 3.1, are visible in conjunction with the subject site and/or could be affected by the Planning Proposal Envelope (physically or visually).

**Table 3.1 Heritage Items in the Vicinity of the Subject Site.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Significance</th>
<th>SHR</th>
<th>LEP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tank Stream including tanks and tunnels</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>00636</td>
<td>I1656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin Place</td>
<td>Bulletin Place</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>I1687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former warehouse including interiors</td>
<td>6–8 Bulletin Place</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>00651</td>
<td>I1688</td>
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<tr>
<td>Former warehouse including interiors</td>
<td>10–14 Bulletin Place</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>00652</td>
<td>I1689</td>
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<tr>
<td>Former warehouse including interiors</td>
<td>16–18 Bulletin Place</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>00653</td>
<td>I1690</td>
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<td>Former Customs House Hotel facade (17–21 Macquarie Place)</td>
<td>30 Pitt Street</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>I1911</td>
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<tr>
<td>Former Sirius House (23–25 Macquarie Place)</td>
<td>30 Pitt Street</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>I1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Coal Exchange Chamber facade (38–40 Pitt Street)</td>
<td>30 Pitt Street</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>I1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former warehouse Gerling House including interiors, cartway and gates</td>
<td>42–44 Pitt Street</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>I1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle House including interiors</td>
<td>27–31 Macquarie Place</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>00654</td>
<td>I1859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macquarie Place Precinct</td>
<td>Macquarie Place</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>01759</td>
<td>I1856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cliveden commercial building including interiors</td>
<td>4 Bridge Street</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>I1678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Northumberland Insurance Building including interiors</td>
<td>6 Bridge Street</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>I1680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circular Quay Railway Station including interior</td>
<td>2 Alfred Street</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>01112</td>
<td>I1660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Department of Lands building including interior</td>
<td>23–33 Bridge Street</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>I1683</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 3.1. Heritage map showing the subject site (shaded in red) and heritage items in the vicinity. (Source: City of Sydney LEP 2012, Heritage Map 14 with GML overlay 2019)
3.3.1 Tank Stream

This state heritage item, the Tank Stream, is identified as No. 00636 on the State Heritage Register (SHR); No. 4573709 on the Sydney Water Section 170—Heritage and Conservation Register; and I1656 on the LEP. While the specific location and alignment is not exactly known, it is generally known to run along Pitt Street within the vicinity of the subject site (Figure 3.16). It is not visible in conjunction with the subject site as it is below the road.

The SHI listing sheet for this property contains the following description for this heritage item:

Designer/Maker: various
Builder/Maker: various

The surviving fabric of the Tank Stream is extant from King Street in the south at a point between Pitt and George Streets to Circular Quay in the north.

The Stream has been blocked at a point just south of King Street and for 13 metres north of this point represents the 1866 open sewer, which was covered in 1876. The dimensions are 810mm broad by 1220mm high. Between King Street and Martin Place (163 metres) there are three phases of construction, beginning with a modern concrete pipe (750mm diameter), the section approaching the GPO is part of the historic oviform sewer (810 by 1220mm) and lastly a stainless steel box-profile pipe (1070 by 750mm). The section between Martin and Angel Places returns to the 1866 brick open drains enclosed in 1876. This form continues between Angel Place and Hunter Street for 95 metres before being interrupted by a 36 metre section of modern cement lined pipe laid in 1962 and a steel section laid in 1958 and 1978 (both are 1350mm).

From Hunter to Bond Street the Stream is a semi-circular stone arch with a shallow V shaped floor for 35 metres (1500 by 3000mm). The 1790 cut tanks were originally located in this area, but are not thought to have survived. For the following 86 metres, below Australia Square, the original sewer has been replaced with concrete box-profile pipe (1220 by 1830mm), inserted during the construction of the Square in 1962. The Australia Square Tower basement houses the access to Tank Stream for public tours and as an inspection point for Sydney Water.

The boxed concrete section (1220 by 1830mm) continues from Bond Street to Abercrombie Lane, a distance of 60 metres. Tank Stream between Abercrombie Lane and Bridge Street, a length of 40 metres, is of c1860 semi-circular stone arch (1500 by 3000mm). From Bridge Street Tank Stream diverts to run under Pitt Street to Circular Quay, a length of 185 metres. Beginning with a stone oviform sewer of 810mm by 1220mm, constructed in c1878, the shape changes to a semi-elliptic stone arch of 3000mm and varying between 1100 and 1400mm.

The SHI listing sheet for this property contains the following Statement of Significance for this heritage item:

The Tank Stream is significant because it was the reason the First Fleet settlement was established in Sydney Cove, and therefore influenced the future shape of Sydney over two centuries. It is linked in the public mind with the period of first European settlement and retains value as an iconic representation of that period and is interpreted as a metaphor of the period of contact and early urban settlement in Australia.

The Tank Stream itself has retained an identity through the functional changes from being a fresh water supply, through subsequent use as combined sewer and stormwater drain to its current function as a stormwater drain. It is an important survivor of the first period of organised and integrated water management in an Australian city. The stone-cut water tanks, which may survive archaeologically, are important symbols of the reliance upon water in the colony, both in absolute terms and as an indication of the fragility of the European presence in Australia.

The surviving fabric documents mid-nineteenth century sanitation design and construction, and subsequent changes in methods and also the theory of urban wastewater management. This evidence is preserved in the drain enclosing the
Tank Stream, in physical evidence of change, and may also be present archaeologically in buried parts of the Tank Stream line.

The archaeological evidence of the Tank Stream has the potential to contain deposits that can contain information about pre-human and pre-urban environments in Sydney, Aboriginal occupation and early non-indigenous occupation of Sydney. The fabric enclosing the watercourse demonstrates one of the most comprehensive collections of hydrological technology in Australia.

The sections of the former Tank Stream south of King Street which survive have potential for retaining evidence of the earliest periods of its human use, although this is likely to have been severely compromised by development. The swampy source of the stream may provide evidence of past environmental conditions. [Tank Stream Conservation Management Plan, Sydney Water, June 2003]

### 3.3.2 Bulletin Place

This local heritage item, Bulletin Place, is identified as No. I1687 on the LEP. It is located to the northeast of the subject site and can be seen in conjunction with the subject site (Figures 3.2 and 3.3).

The SHI listing sheet for this property contains the following description for this heritage item:

> The topography is generally sloping with a gentle gradient. The streetscape follows the topography and is terminated by Pitt Street. The roadway is narrow. The surface is bitumen and paved. Vehicle movement is two way. Traffic is light. Footpaths are narrow. Kerbing is predominantly sandstone and concrete. Public domain features include bollards. Detracting features include signage and garage doors. The following Heritage Items contribute to the streetscape: the subdivision pattern along the streetscape is regular to one side resulting in a dense urban form. The predominant built form is Victorian. Buildings are built to the street alignment. The buildings typically have no setbacks. Predominant building materials are rendered masonry and face brick. The streetscape has a high integrity to one side. The northern edge of the lane is substantially defined by a group of buildings at 16–18 Bulletin Place.

The SHI listing sheet for this property contains the following Statement of Significance for this heritage item:

> Bulletin Place has historic and aesthetic significance:

> For its ability to evidence the development of Circular Quay and Sydney’s customs network.

> For its ability to evidence the development of Victorian Sydney lane networks.

### 3.3.3 Former Coal Exchange Chamber Facade

This local heritage item, the former Coal Exchange Chamber facade, is identified as No. I1913 on the LEP. It is located opposite the subject site, to the east, and can be seen in conjunction with the subject site (Figures 3.4 and 3.6).

The SHI listing sheet for this property contains the following description for this heritage item:

> Designer/Maker: Unknown

> Builder/Maker: Unknown

> Construction year: 1895

> The facade to the former Pitt Building comprises a well-balanced four storey stone structure (now incorporating 5 levels). The elevation is in three bays incorporating round headed windows with key stoning and string mouldings, a range of architectural motifs around windows, a pedimented top, string courses, a combination of recessed and smooth jointing, rusticated and plain stonework, pilasters, arced windows to the top floor and overall a well-balanced facade.
that has been attached to the new hotel building behind. A small amount of side wall of stone and brick is visible on the
north end raking away from the street at a sharp angle. None of the interior or ground floor elements of the building
survive and the ground floor has been reconstructed. The facade is one of a pair of warehouse buildings surviving in
the street.

The SHI listing sheet for this property contains the following Statement of Significance for this heritage
item:

The surviving facade of 38–40 Pitt Street is of high significance for its street architecture value and for the finely
wrought sandstone treatment and design. The facade is an excellent example of stone facade composition from the
Victorian period and demonstrates the scale of the city at that time, the quality of workmanship and the use of materials.
The facade retains historic significance through its relation to the coal industry, the major occupant of the building, an
industry pivotal to the development of the state.

3.3.4 Former Warehouse Gerling House

This local heritage item, the former warehouse Gerling House, is identified as No. 11914 on the LEP. It
is located opposite the subject site, to the east, and can be seen in conjunction with the subject site
(Figures 3.5 and 3.6).

The SHI listing sheet for this property contains the following description for this heritage item:

Designer/Maker: Unknown
Builder/Maker: Unknown
Construction year: 1895

Gerling House is an 8 storey building, the top three storeys of which are modern additions to a typical late Victorian
warehouse. It has a painted face brick facade with stucco detailing and a timber structure from basement to the 4th
floor, with a reinforced concrete structure above. The central former cartway has fine wrought iron gates which appear
original or early. Other external elements are modern, and include timber framed shopfronts, aluminium framed
windows, and fabric awnings. Internally the building has been greatly altered, with little of the original material visible
apart from timber beams and posts in the basement.

The SHI listing sheet for this property contains the following Statement of Significance for this heritage
item:

Gerling House has high historic significance as one of the few former warehouses in the Circular Quay area which
survive from the Victorian era. Although considerably altered, notably by the addition of three floors in 1990, its original
form and structure can still be appreciated. It has scientific significance deriving from the survival of the central cartway
and wrought iron gates, one of only eight examples of this of which the best is the former Foley Bros warehouse (230–
232 Sussex Street). The other surviving elements of the facade and structure, from the basement to the 4th floor, are
good examples of late Victorian warehouse design and construction.

3.3.5 4 Bridge Street—The Cliveden

This local heritage item, the Cliveden, is identified as No. I1678 on the LEP. It is located a
considerable distance from the subject site and cannot be seen in conjunction with the subject site
(Figure 3.8).

The SHI listing sheet for this property contains the following description for this heritage item:

Designer/Maker: Edward John Kerr
Builder/Maker: John Howie & Sons
Construction year: 1913

Cliveden (formally Birt's Building) forms part of the historic Bridge Street maritime precinct. The building is Federation Free Classical in style. The facade is vertically divided into three sections. The base supports a lower cornice on four garlanded pilasters framing three arched windows divided by trachyte columns. The middle eleven floors feature a central five storey oriel window capped by a dentilated cornice on mannerist brackets. The site represents an earlier Victorian allotment with a narrow 10m frontage. The plan is 31m in length with a rectangular lightwell to the north. The interior stair retains its terrazzo and metal railing but all other original finishes to the upper floors have been removed. All original finishes to the ground floor foyer have been removed with the exception of the entry doors and light fittings.

The SHI listing sheet for this property contains the following Statement of Significance for this heritage item:

Cliveden, formerly Birts Building, a twelve storey reinforced concrete commercial building constructed in the Federation Free Classical style has a prominent Bridge Street address. The building has high historic significance as a major twentieth century contribution to the consolidation of Bridge Street as a centre of Sydney's shipping, insurance and trading precinct and was a dominant feature on the city skyline from Circular Quay. The building has moderate social significance for its reflection of the phenomenon of Melbourne architects working in Sydney. The building has aesthetic significance as a representative example of the style and includes many of the identifying elements such as the use of garlanded pilasters and classical decoration on the facade. The building has moderate aesthetic significance for its extent of intact interiors.

3.3.6 6 Bridge Street—Former Northumberland Insurance Building

This local heritage item, the former Northumberland Insurance Building, is identified as No. 11680 on the LEP. It is located a considerable distance from the subject site and cannot be seen in conjunction with the subject site (Figure 3.8).

The SHI listing sheet for this property contains the following description for this heritage item:

Designer/Maker: Unknown

Construction years: 1855

The original 4 storey stone building (with basement) located at 6 Bridge Street is a self-confident expression of the Free Classical style exhibiting bold relief in sandstone carving. It has a symmetrical composition, articulated vertically by attached pilasters with various capital details derived from the classical Corinthian order; and horizontally into base, mid and top sections by deep cornices. The base is heavily rusticated with protruding banding and detailed voissiours. The mid-section has a combination of round and shallow arched windows with a central triangular pediment over. The top section has an elaborate central bay with deeply carved head detailing and a curved pediment above. A two storey addition constructed in 1975 rises above the original building, and is composed of glass, aluminium and rendered masonry. The interiors have been substantially altered over the years with floor space being added to the rear of the site as well as the upper two levels. The interiors have been fitted out with plasterboard studwalls and ceilings throughout.

The SHI listing sheet for this property contains the following Statement of Significance for this heritage item:

The Northumberland Insurance building is a record of the processes of centralised commercial development in the city centre. In particular it documents the importance of Sydney as a regional centre for agencies such as newspaper & insurance agents. It reflects an association of the northern sector of the city with these functions from the late 19th Century onwards.

The architectural expression of the Northumberland Insurance building is rare for its flamboyant Free Classical Style of High Victorian taste, incorporating details derived from the Corinthian order. It reflects the tradition of High Victorian architectural styles expressive of corporate prestige. The building is part of the significant historic streetscape of Bridge Street.
Figure 3.2 View southeast of Bulletin Place and the former warehouses. (Source: GML Heritage, August 2019)

Figure 3.3 View southwest from Bulletin Place to the subject site. (Source: GML Heritage, August 2019)

Figure 3.4 View of the former Coal Exchange Chamber facade. (Source: GML Heritage, August 2019)

Figure 3.5 View of the former warehouse Gerling House. (Source: GML Heritage, August 2019)
Figure 3.6 View looking south from the corner of Pitt and Underwood Streets. The heritage items are shown opposite (on the left), as is the visual relationship with the subject building (on the right). (Source: GML Heritage, August 2019)

Figure 3.7 View south from Alfred Street towards the subject site. The subject site is currently visible from this location following demolition of the buildings on the LLCQ site immediately north of the site. (Source: GML Heritage, August 2019)

Figure 3.8 View north of the Cliveden building (left) and the Northumberland Insurance Building (right) from Bridge Street. The curved glazing of the upper levels of EY Centre at 200 George Street can be seen in the background in the airspace above the Northumberland Insurance Building and there is potential that the proposed tower may also be visible. (Source: GML 2019)

Figure 3.9 View northwest of the heritage items in Macquarie Place, against a backdrop of the Marriott Hotel. The subject site is not visible from this location. Therefore, the proposed development would not affect the heritage significance of these heritage items. (Source: GML Heritage, March 2019)
Figure 3.10  View north from the eastern side of the intersection of Bridge and Pitt Streets. This view of the site from 2014 shows the former tower at 33–35 Pitt Street visible behind the subject site. (Source: GML Heritage, March 2014)

Figure 3.11  View north from the intersection of Bridge and Pitt Streets (in front of 46–50 Pitt Street). The Lend Lease Circular Quarry Tower (LLCQ) (under construction) would occupy the same footprint as the former tower at 33-35 Pitt Street (see Figure 3.11) and be visible at this location. The proposed tower on the subject site would be visible against the background of the LLCQ tower. (Source: GML Heritage, August 2019)

Figure 3.12  View north from the western side of the intersection of Bridge and Pitt Streets. The subject site is not visible from this location. (Source: GML Heritage, August 2019)
Figure 3.13 The Dial Before You Dig map indicating the location and alignment of the Tank Stream beneath Pitt Street (green line) and its associated 3m buffer zone (shaded in green). (Source: Dial Before You Dig, 2011)

3.4 Endnotes

4.0 Preliminary Archaeological Analysis

4.1 Introduction

This section is a preliminary appraisal of the archaeological potential of the subject site. It is based on the results of desktop database searches, analysis of historic plans and land use, and comparative archaeological projects in the vicinity, such as the archaeological excavation at the Mirvac development at 200 George Street, Sydney. Known previous impacts, such as basement levels in the existing buildings, have also been considered.

4.2 Previous Impacts

The proposed development site currently contains five buildings. There are two levels of basement carparking at 37–49 Pitt Street. The site survey records the lower basement floor level between Reduced Level (RL) –3.7m and –4.3m. Therefore, there is no archaeological potential within the footprint of this building.

One level of basement carparking exists below 51–57 Pitt Street and the site survey records the floor level at around RL 1.2m. Archaeological deposits and features may still be present below this basement level.

There are no basement levels below 6–8 Underwood Street, the Telstra Exchange Building and the Ausgrid substation. The footings for these buildings are likely to have been excavated to bedrock. However, archaeological deposits and features may survive between these previously excavated areas within the building footprint.

There are two known electricity easements that extend from the Ausgrid substation at 8–14 Dalley Street: a 132kV transmission cable runs north–south through 6–8 Underwood Street and an 11kV transmission cable runs east–west through 37–49 Pitt Street. It is understood that these cables are contained with c3m wide concrete chambers, although the exact dimensions and depths of these is not currently known. Excavation for the services beneath 6–8 Underwood Street will have impacted on the survival of the potential archaeological resource; as the archaeological potential of 37–49 Pitt Street is considered to be nil, the excavation for services is unlikely to have resulted in any further impacts.

Excavation works to install other various services during the twentieth century may also have impacted on the survival of the potential archaeological resource.

4.3 Aboriginal Archaeology

An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database administered by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) was undertaken on 13 November 2018 (Appendix A).

Forty-one registered sites are located within approximately 3km of the subject site. At many of these sites more than one site feature is registered. Table 4.1 provides an overview of the different site features identified within the bounds of the AHIMS search, and their frequency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Type or Feature</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artefact (isolated or scatter)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No Aboriginal archaeological sites are registered within the subject site.

The AHIMS results suggest that artefacts (isolated or scatters), potential archaeological deposits and shells/middens are the most commonly recorded Aboriginal archaeological sites in the vicinity of the subject site.

The general patterning of the results indicates a variety of site types, and reflects the diversity of ways past Aboriginal people used and lived in the local landscape. Some of the sites recorded were identified in similar foreshore environments to that of the subject site. For example, archaeological investigations at the nearby KENS site were undertaken on a foreshore environment and recovered a large assemblage of stone artefacts from truncated and disturbed soil profiles. Recent archaeological excavations at 200 George Street identified natural soil profiles on the foreshore; however, no Aboriginal archaeological material was identified.

The pattern revealed by the AHIMS search is likely to have been heavily skewed by the nature of urban development in Sydney’s inner city. While it indicates the wide range of Aboriginal archaeological sites found close to Sydney’s CBD and provides scientific evidence that Aboriginal people used this landscape in a range of ways, it is not necessarily closely demonstrative of specific patterns of Aboriginal landscape use. Rather than reflecting patterns of Aboriginal landscape use, the distribution of AHIMS sites is likely to have been skewed by the high level of ground disturbance caused by urban development that would have destroyed and/or damaged significant amounts of Aboriginal archaeological evidence, combined with the limited locations of Aboriginal archaeological investigations in the local area.

Additional analysis of environmental context, archaeological context, and the level of ground disturbance experienced within the subject site is required to determine the likelihood that Aboriginal archaeological evidence is present at the site.

4.4 Preliminary Overview of Historical Archaeological Potential

4.4.1 General Overview of Historic Land Use

The subject site is located within the initial colonial settlement following the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788. The site is partly within the former catchment area of the Tank Stream (Figure 4.1). The Tank Stream was an important source of fresh water for the fledgling colony. The surrounding land was initially cleared, cultivated and leased to emancipated convicts, private shipbuilders, merchants and government institutions. Reclamation of the Tank Stream catchment area began in the early 1800s.

The construction of Semi Circular Quay and extensive reclamation in the area during the 1830s and 1840s allowed for increased development and urbanisation of the area. However, the subject site
remained relatively undeveloped until the 1850s, when structures were built on the site and the northern extent of Pitt Street (between Bridge Street and the Quay) was formalised. The land within the subject site was subdivided and appears to have been redeveloped a couple of times during the latter half of the nineteenth century. The site is associated with retail and commercial premises, craft workshops, and later auctioneers and importers. The buildings of the final phase of nineteenth-century development remained on site until the current buildings were constructed in the late twentieth century.

4.4.2 Overview of Archaeological Potential

During the first half of the nineteenth century, the land within the site was reclaimed from the low-lying Tank Stream catchment area. Archaeological evidence of earlier phases of occupation and activity can survive at reclaimed sites in the urban environment despite multiple phases of redevelopment into the twentieth century, as remains can be located deep below the modern ground level, sealed below and between successive phases and layers of bulk fill.

The historic land use and development of the site can be used to phase and predict the potential archaeological resource of the subject site.

**Phase 1: Natural Environment 1788–c1800**

- archaeobotanic remains associated with the natural environment prior to the arrival of the First Fleet and evidence associated with initial farming attempts;
- natural and cultural deposits containing evidence of drastic environmental change during the early years of the colony, including land clearance, sedimentation and pollution; and
- remains of rubbish dumps, drains, channels, fences and other structures associated with informal use and occupation of the Tank Stream catchment area.

**Phase 2: Early Land Grants 1800s–1820s**

- structural remains associated with James Underwood’s shipyard, such as remains of timber or stone boat ramps, fences, drains, cesspits and wells;
- rubbish pits, well and cesspit backfills, yard surfaces and other fills or deposits containing artefacts associated with Underwood’s shipyard;
- evidence of early reclamations including stone/timber revetments, fills containing artefacts; and
- remains such as drains, fences, cesspits, wells and rubbish dumps that contain artefacts associated with the Female Orphan School.

**Phase 3: Subdivision and Development 1820s–1850s**

- evidence for several phases of reclamations including stone or timber revetments, and fills containing artefacts;
- footings, yard surfaces, wells, cesspits and drains associated with urban development; and
- occupation deposits, yard deposits, rubbish dumps and backfills within cesspits, and wells containing artefacts associated with commercial and residential occupation of the site.
Phase 4: Commercial Development 1860s–1920s

- footings, yard surfaces, wells, cesspits and drains associated with two phases of urban redevelopment; and
- occupation deposits, yard deposits, rubbish dumps and backfills within cesspits, and wells containing artefacts associated with commercial/retail premises and the development of Pitt Street.

Based on this preliminary desktop analysis, parts of the site have the potential to contain archaeological remains of former occupation and activity dating from 1788 to the twentieth century. The areas are illustrated in Figure 4.2. Further detailed archaeological assessment will be necessary to refine this preliminary potential archaeological assessment and determine its heritage significance for Stage 2 DA of the proposed development. A more detailed analysis and review of geotechnical information, previous impacts from late twentieth-century development and comparative site analysis can be used to determine the level of archaeological survival at the proposed development site.
Figure 4.1 The Tank Stream's original and modern catchment area. The location of the subject site is indicated by the red circle. (Source: Sydney Water® with GML additions 2019)
4.5 Endnotes

5.0 Significance Assessment

5.1 NSW Heritage Criteria for Assessing Significance

The NSW Heritage Manual guidelines, prepared by the NSW Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (as amended July 2002), provide the framework for the following assessment of the existing buildings on the subject site. These guidelines incorporate the aspects of cultural heritage value identified in the Burra Charter which are accepted as the required format by heritage authorities in New South Wales.

The following is an assessment of the built heritage values of the subject site and buildings against the assessment framework and criteria. An assessment of potential archaeological significance has not been undertaken as part of this HIS, as it would be undertaken as part of any subsequent development applications. A preliminary overview of the archaeological significance has been provided.

5.1.1 Criterion A: Historical Significance

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

- The site has historical significance as it is associated with several important phases in the evolution and development of Sydney, from the earliest period of non-Aboriginal occupation through to consolidated commercial development of the site by the early twentieth century.

- The existing buildings (c1980s) within the subject site, do not meet the threshold for heritage significance or for listing under this criterion.

5.1.2 Criterion B: Historical Associations

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

- The subject buildings are not considered to meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.

- Part of the subject site is within the former grounds of the Female Orphan School established by Governor King in August 1801. This was the first Female Orphan School in Sydney and the precursor to the Sydney Orphan School that was established in Parramatta from 1818. King set up the School in response to the growing number of orphaned and destitute young girls with no means of support. The site has a strong association with the establishment of colonial government institutions which is important in the history of NSW.

5.1.3 Criterion C: Aesthetic Significance

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

- The existing buildings are modern, concrete and brick, commercial buildings. The buildings do not demonstrate significant aesthetic characteristics or creative achievement. The subject buildings are not considered to meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.

- The potential archaeological resource of the subject site may include significant relics or moveable items (artefacts) that may have aesthetic value. Such relics or items may be able to
contribute in a meaningful way to the interpretation (artwork, visual media or displays) of the site if required. This will be assessed when the detailed archaeological assessment is completed.

5.1.4 Criterion D: Social Significance

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

- No specific community consultation or social significance assessment has been undertaken for this project.

- While it is not possible to categorically determine that the building has no social value, there is no documentary evidence to suggest that it does. The subject buildings are not considered to meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.

5.1.5 Criterion E: Technical/Research Potential

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

- The existing buildings do not demonstrate any particularly significant technical or research potential or significance at the local level. The subject buildings are not considered to meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.

- The site has the potential to contain archaeological remains associated with the earliest phase of non-Aboriginal occupation of Sydney. The research potential of the potential archaeological resource will be assessed when the detailed archaeological assessment is completed. Given the history of the site there is research and technical potential.

5.1.6 Criterion F: Rarity

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

- The existing buildings are common office buildings, typical of office buildings built in the 1980s.

- The buildings do not possess uncommon or rare aspects to be considered significant at the local level. Therefore, the existing buildings are not considered to meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.

5.1.7 Criterion G: Representativeness

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments

- There are numerous examples of similar commercial buildings in the LGA.

- The existing buildings are not considered important or representative at a local level. The subject buildings are not considered to meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.

5.2 Summary Statement of Built Heritage Significance

The existing buildings are typical twentieth-century commercial buildings. These buildings evidence a period (from 1917) of site amalgamation and (from 1980s) commercial development on Pitt Street.
They are common examples of concrete, brick and glass curtain wall construction. They contribute little to the streetscape of Pitt Street.

None of the extant buildings meet the threshold for listing under the heritage assessment criteria, and are therefore assessed as not having heritage significance at a local level.

5.3 Preliminary Significance of Potential Archaeology

A significance assessment of the potential archaeological resource of the subject site is beyond the scope of this HIS. However, it is likely that the potential archaeological resource would satisfy the threshold for local heritage significance. Some parts of the site may contain archaeology that has the potential to be of state significance. This is due to the site’s association with the original Tank Stream catchment area, Sydney’s first Female Orphan School and early occupation by James Underwood, an emancipated convict involved in shipbuilding. The extent, level of survival and significance of the potential archaeological resource will be clarified with the completion of a detailed historical archaeological impact assessment in accordance with NSW Heritage Division guidelines in the next stage of the development approval process.
6.0 Planning Proposal

6.1 Development Proposal Description

The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing buildings at 37 Pitt Street, 49–57 Pitt Street and 6–8 Underwood Street, and construction of a new commercial tower on the site. Mirvac has provided the following summary of the proposal:¹

55 Pitt Street is situated in the Northern Core of the Sydney CBD bound by Underwood Street to the North, Pitt Street to the East, Dalley Street to the South, the Telstra Exchange (6-8 Underwood Street) and Ausgrid Substation (8–12 Dalley Street) to the West. The development will be achieved by the amalgamation of the 3 Mirvac Sites at 6–8 Underwood Street, 37 Pitt Street, 57 Pitt Street together with the transfer of GFA from the neighbouring Telstra Exchange and Ausgrid substation and strategic floor space. A Premium Grade commercial development is being considered subject to tenant demand. The commercial tower will be circa 50 levels. There will be ground plane retail activation and below ground car parking levels.

The existing Telstra Exchange and Ausgrid substation buildings would be retained. Hard and soft landscaping, façade and roof upgrades, and minor internal works are proposed for both buildings as part of the 55 Pitt Street development. A summary of the proposed works at each property is presented below in Table 6.1.²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Proposed Works</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mirvac</td>
<td>37 Pitt Street</td>
<td>Major demolition and rebuild of 55 Pitt St commercial tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>49–57 Pitt Street</td>
<td>Major demolition and rebuild of 55 Pitt St commercial tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6–8 Underwood Street</td>
<td>Major demolition and rebuild of 55 Pitt St commercial tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telstra</td>
<td>Telstra Exchange Site—6 Dalley Street</td>
<td>Cosmetic works—hard and soft landscaping, façade upgrades, roof upgrades, minor internal works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ausgrid</td>
<td>Ausgrid Substation Site—8–14 Dalley Street</td>
<td>Cosmetic works—hard and soft landscaping, façade upgrades, roof upgrades</td>
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6.2 Endnotes


7.0 Heritage Impact Assessment

7.1 Built Heritage Impact Assessment

7.1.1 Impacts on the Subject Site

The proposal involves the demolition of three existing buildings on the subject site. The existing buildings are not heritage items on the LEP or non-statutory heritage registers. As identified in the previous sections, the existing buildings are twentieth-century commercial buildings and do not demonstrate heritage values that would warrant consideration for listing as heritage items.

The existing buildings within the subject site do not contribute to the visual setting of the adjacent heritage items to the east. Therefore, a well-designed and detailed contemporary building could also provide an acceptable setting. Overall, this section of the Pitt Street streetscape includes buildings of various heights, scales and materiality. There is not a cohesive character demonstrated by built form or architectural style. The demolition of the subject buildings and replacement with the proposed commercial tower would not adversely affect the streetscape character. It demonstrates a continuity of use within this historically commercial precinct of Sydney.

The heritage impact of the demolition of the existing buildings would be negligible in terms of its impact on nearby heritage items, provided the final design details do not detract from the appreciation of existing heritage items.

Demolition and construction of any new building would potentially remove archaeological remains associated with earlier phases of significant occupation. This matter is addressed below.

7.1.2 Impacts on Heritage Items in the Vicinity

The Tank Stream is a heritage item located in the vicinity of the subject site. The Tank Stream is located to the east of the subject site, under Pitt Street. The proposed one level of basement carparking and one level of service yard could potentially impact upon the Tank Stream itself or its associated 10m buffer zone, if the location of the Tank Stream is closer to the subject site than currently envisaged. However, current surveys show that the site boundary is located to the west of and outside the Tank Stream and its 3m curtilage. Material impacts on this state significant heritage item must be avoided. Consultation with Sydney Water and the NSW Heritage Division may be required to ensure that any potential impacts within the 10m buffer zone will be acceptable.

The heritage items in the visual catchment of the subject site are located to the east of the subject site (former Coal Exchange Chamber facade, former warehouse Gerling House and Bulletin Place). In most views, these heritage items (and all others) are currently read against a backdrop of the city skyline with multi-storey buildings (notably, the Marriott Hotel). In these views, the visual setting would be little changed by the proposed Planning Proposal Envelope.

The proposed Planning Proposal Envelope includes a podium level which is not significantly different in size or scale to the existing buildings on the subject site. The difference is the additional tower above the podium and plant level. While the tower portion of the proposed Planning Proposal Envelope is substantially different from what is currently on the subject site, it is not dissimilar to the many other existing multi-storey buildings in the locale, either existing or proposed.

The former Coal Exchange Chamber facade and the former warehouse, Gerling House, are located opposite the subject site, across Pitt Street. They are currently flanked by and read against taller
buildings, in particular the Marriott Hotel and the commercial building at 46–50 Pitt Street (at the intersection with Bridge Street). While the proposed Planning Proposal Envelope would be substantially taller than the existing building on the subject site, the impact of the increased height on the heritage items opposite would not be substantial because the proposed podium level of the proposed Planning Proposal Envelope would be similar in height and width, and would therefore maintain the current visual relationship (Figure 7.1).

Other heritage items to the east of the subject site (Kyle House, Macquarie Place, former Customs House Hotel facade, and former Sirius House) are currently flanked by and read against taller buildings, in particular the Marriott Hotel and 7 Macquarie Place. These heritage items are not visible in conjunction with the subject site; however, the upper section of the Planning Proposal Envelope would be visible in northwesterly views to these heritage items from Macquarie Place. Owing to the distance from the subject site and the angle of view, this additional height would be similar to the backdrop currently provided by the Marriott Hotel and therefore would give rise to a negligible impact on the heritage significance of the items.

The heritage items in Bulletin Place (former warehouses at 6–8, 10–14 and 16–18 Bulletin Place) are not visible in conjunction with the subject site and are read against taller buildings (in particular 7 Macquarie Place); therefore, there would be no impact on their heritage significance.

For the closest heritage items on Bridge Street (Cliveden and the Northumberland Insurance Building), while the tower portion of the proposed Planning Proposal Envelope would be visible in views looking northeast from Bridge Street (towards the intersection with George Street), it is comparable to the current backdrop of taller buildings to the north and northeast of these heritage items. Also, due to the limited angle of views available when viewing these items from their main vantage point on Bridge Street, it would be difficult to distinguish the proposed tower in the same view. However, three-dimensional modelling and photomontages could be used to determine the visibility of any proposed development behind these heritage items.

In regard to the heritage items to the north of the subject site (Tank Stream Fountain at Herald Square and the former Ship Inn facade), given their physical separation, the scale of these items, the limited opportunities to view these heritage items with the subject site in the background, and the prevalence of multi-storey buildings already in the area, there would be negligible heritage impact on the visual setting of these items.

With regard to heritage items to the south of the subject site, given their physical separation, the scale of these items, the limited opportunities to view these heritage items with the subject site, and the prevalence of multi-storey buildings already in the area, there would be negligible heritage impact on the visual setting of these items.

In regard to heritage items to the west of the subject site (Brooklyn Hotel, the Johnson’s Corner buildings and further along Essex Street) and on George Street in The Rocks area, their distance from the subject site, the curvature of George Street, the presence of the Cahill Expressway, and the multi-storey buildings in between (current and being constructed) mean that the backdrop would be little changed and potential impacts would be negligible.

7.2 Preliminary Historical Archaeology Impact Advice

Historical archaeological remains may survive below 51–57 Pitt Street, 6–8 Underwood Street, 6 and 8–14 Dalley Street and Queens Court laneway. Detailed archaeological analysis and significance assessment of these remains has not been undertaken for this HIS. However, preliminary indications
are that the potential archaeological resource is at least of local heritage significance and in some areas may be of state significance.

The proposed development at 51–57 Pitt Street and 6–8 Underwood Street includes excavation to/into bedrock for basement levels, lift shafts, footings, piling and the installation of new services. This will likely impact and remove any potential archaeological remains within the proposed development site not already removed by previous developments.

The proposed works along Queens Court and around 6 and 8–14 Dalley Street includes removal of the existing hardstand, laying of new paving, and may also include installation of new services, to create a pedestrian link from Dalley Street connecting through to Underwood Street. Depending on the depth of excavation required, there is potential that these works will result in the disturbance or removal of any archaeological remains within the development footprint. However, it is considered likely that much of this work will not extend below modern deposits (ie laying of new paving) and there is potential for the archaeological deposits and features to survive intact below these impacts.

Figure 7.1 View looking south from the corner of Pitt and Underwood Streets. This visual relationship with the heritage items opposite the subject site would not be substantially different from the podium level of the proposed Planning Proposal Envelope. (Source: GML Heritage, August 2019)
Figure 7.2 View looking west from Macquarie Place towards Kyle House, the former Customs House Hotel façade and the former Sirius House. These heritage items are not currently visible in connection with the subject site; however, the upper sections of the proposed Planning Proposal Envelope would be visible behind these heritage items. Nevertheless, their visual setting would not be substantially different as they are currently viewed against a backdrop of taller buildings including the Marriott Hotel and the Gateway Building. Therefore, there would be a negligible heritage impact. (Source: GML Heritage, August 2019)
Figure 7.3 View looking southeast of Bulletin Place and the former warehouses. These heritage items are currently viewed against a backdrop of 7 Macquarie Place. They are also not visible in connection with the subject site. Therefore, their visual setting would not be adversely affected by the proposed Planning Proposal Envelope. (Source: GML Heritage, August 2019)
Figure 7.4 View looking north at the heritage items on Bridge Street. The proposed development may be visible in the airspace above the former Northumberland Insurance Building (right). However, it would not be substantially different from their current visual setting; therefore, it would not be adversely affected by the proposed development. (Source: GML Heritage, August 2019)
8.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 Conclusions

8.1.1 Built Heritage

- The subject site at 55 Pitt Street, Sydney, is in the vicinity of several heritage items. There are no physical impacts proposed to any built heritage items. The potential impacts of the Planning Proposal Envelope on the visual setting of these items have been assessed as minor or, in most cases, negligible to none, and can be managed through detailed design phases of development.

- Many of the heritage items are located a considerable distance from the subject site and, with the exception of those opposite the subject site on Pitt Street, it is not possible to view the entire proposed envelope together with the heritage items. The upper sections of the Planning Proposal Envelope may be seen as a backdrop to heritage items in Macquarie Place and on Bridge Street; however, it would not be substantially dissimilar to their current visual setting.

- From a built heritage viewpoint, there would be no impacts on the existing buildings of the subject site or substantial adverse impact on the visual setting of heritage items in the vicinity, subject to compliance with the small number of recommendations below.

- The proposed redevelopment will be a continuation of the history of commercial development in this part of the CBD.

- The existing buildings that comprise the subject site are not assessed as having significant heritage values and do not meet the threshold for listing as heritage items. A Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) or Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is not required. Should additional information become available that changes the assessment of heritage significance, then the requirement for CMS or a CMP would be re-considered.

8.1.2 Tank Stream

- The Tank Stream is located to the east of the subject site below Pitt Street. There is an SHR listed 3m curtilage (protection zone) from all surfaces of the Tank Stream structure where new development is generally prohibited. The Tank Stream CMP (2005) indicates that a 10m buffer zone from all sides of the conduit should be considered structurally highly sensitive and works within this zone should be approved by a structural engineer.

- From available surveys the Tank Stream appears to be located on the western side of Pitt Street and therefore close to the subject site. However, it does appear that the site boundary is to the west of and outside the 3m curtilage.

- The proposed development could potentially impact upon this state significant heritage item or its associated 10m buffer zone. Impacting on the Tank Stream would be a material impact and must be avoided.

8.1.3 Aboriginal Archaeology

- No Aboriginal archaeological sites registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database are located within the 55 Pitt Street study area.
Aboriginal archaeological sites have been identified on natural foreshore environments such as 55 Pitt Street within the Sydney CBD.

8.1.4 Historical Archaeology

- Parts of the subject site have the potential to contain archaeological remains associated with several phases of occupation and development from 1788 to the twentieth century. Archaeological features and deposits may survive below 51–57 Pitt Street, 6–8 Underwood Street, 6 and 8–14 Dalley Street and Queens Court laneway. It is considered that 37–49 Pitt Street has no archaeological potential due to the presence of a deep basement.

- Part of the site is within the original alignment of the Tank Stream watercourse and therefore the site may contain archaeological and environmental evidence of the earliest phase of historic settlement in Sydney. The site may also contain archaeological evidence of James Underwood’s shipwright’s yard. Underwood was a successful emancipated convict and his shipwright’s yard was one of the earliest in the colony.

- Detailed archaeological analysis and significance assessment in accordance with the NSW Heritage Division guidelines has not been undertaken as part of this Stage 1 HIS. Preliminary indications are that the site contains archaeology that is of local, and potentially state, significance.

- The proposed development includes excavation to bedrock for basement levels and footings. This would remove the potential archaeological remains that may exist below current buildings at 6–8 Underwood Street and 51–57 Pitt Street. The landscaping of the public domain space along Queens Court is likely to entail minimal excavation that may not extend below modern deposits. Areas of deeper excavation may remove the potential archaeological remains, although for the most part it is expected that any archaeological remains would survive intact.

8.2 Recommendations

8.2.1 Built Heritage

The proposed Planning Proposal Envelope will not have a built heritage impact on the existing buildings within the subject site, and would have a negligible impact on the visual setting of heritage items in the vicinity.

The following recommendations are made for subsequent stages of design development:

- Careful consideration should be given to the appearance of any podium (scale, form and materiality) as this will be visible in relation to the heritage items opposite on Pitt Street. Resolution of the design of the podium levels of the east elevation should be undertaken to ensure it complements the former Coal Exchange Chamber facade and the former warehouse, Gerling House, which are located opposite.

- Three-dimensional modelling and photomontages should be used to consider the visibility of any proposed tower form in northeast views of the heritage items on Bridge Street (Cliveden and the Northumberland Insurance Building). Consideration should be given to the impact that the proposed Planning Proposal Envelope would have on the visual setting of these heritage items.
This HIS should be updated to reflect the detailed design impacts at Stage 2 of the development application process.

The following recommendations are made regarding the future interpretation of the history of the site:

- An Interpretation Strategy should be prepared for the site to identify key themes and stories about the history and development of the site, and implemented in a way that conveys these to future audiences. Interpretation planning for the subject site should augment and enrich the pre-existing interpretation and adjacent sites.

8.2.2 Tank Stream

- Impact on the Tank Stream or within its 3m curtilage (protection zone) must be avoided.
- Development work within a 10m buffer zone should be approved by a suitably qualified structural engineer in accordance with the Tank Stream CMP (2005).
- Consultation with Sydney Water will be required for the Stage 2 DA and for any investigative works that may impact on the Tank Stream.

8.2.3 Aboriginal Archaeology

- A Due Diligence assessment in accordance with the Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales should be prepared to determine the likelihood that Aboriginal objects are present, and to assess the likelihood that they would be impacted by the proposed redevelopment.
- If the Due Diligence assessment determines that there is likelihood that Aboriginal objects would be disturbed or discovered during the development, then it may be necessary to prepare an application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Section 90 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW). If required, this AHIP would need to be approved by the Office of Environment prior to the commencement of ground disturbance works.

8.2.4 Historical Archaeology

This preliminary analysis has concluded that there is potential for historical archaeological remains within the subject site. For the Stage 2 DA, the following is recommended:

- Preparation of a detailed historical archaeological impact assessment in accordance with NSW Heritage Division guidelines. This report would include:
  - detailed site specific historical analysis to aid significance assessment;
  - detailed site specific archaeological potential including a review of survey and geotechnical data currently not available;
  - heritage significance assessment and a Statement of Significance in relation to the historical archaeology;
  - impact assessment based on detailed construction drawings; and
  - recommendations to mitigate impacts and manage the archaeological resource.
• Consultation with NSW Heritage Division to agree on recommended mitigation and management strategies.

It is likely that some historical archaeological remains of local, and potentially state, significance are present within the subject site and will be impacted by the proposed development. To mitigate this impact, it is anticipated the following will be required:

• Approval from the NSW Heritage Division for an excavation permit under S139/140 of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 to excavate and remove the archaeological resource of the subject site.

• An Archaeological Research Design (ARD) outlining the proposed excavation methodology and approach for recording the historical archaeological resource for a S140 application. The ARD also requires the nomination of an Excavation Director who will have responsibility for the archaeological program.

• Consultation with the NSW Heritage Division and Sydney Water to ensure agreement on the proposed archaeological methodology and approach prior to lodging the S140 permit application.

• The S140 may also need owner’s consent from City of Sydney and Sydney Water.

• A detailed report outlining the results of the archaeological program will need to be prepared. This report will need to comply with the conditions of the S140 permit.

• An Interpretation Plan is likely to be required if significant archaeological remains are found at the subject site.

• No excavation or ground disturbance at the subject site that may impact on the archaeological resource may be undertaken prior to the issue of a S140 approval from the NSW Heritage Division.
9.0 Appendices

Appendix A

AHIMS Search Results
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Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 13/11/2018 for Sophie Jennings for the following area at Lat, Long From: -33.8672, 151.1995 - Lat, Long To: -33.8558, 151.2176 with a Buffer of 1000 meters. Additional Info: ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 41.

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW) and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.
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