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13. SITE OF PROPOSED GOVERNMENT BUILDING, MURRAY STREET, HOBART

by M. J. Longman

The site of the proposed building is located facing Murray Street, adjacent to the Department of Agriculture and to the rear of Parliament House.

Drilling of the foundation site has been undertaken on three occasions: originally in 1962 by the Hydro-Electric Commission; in April, 1965; and again in October, 1965, by the Mines Department. Altogether just over 822 feet of drilling was completed, 25 feet by percussion and 797 feet by rotary diamond drills with the holes ranging in depth from 22 feet 6 inches to 47 feet 4 inches.

Covering the whole area is fill, composed of bricks, dolerite, sandstone, basalt and clay up to 10 feet thick which overlies probable Tertiary sediments up to 14 feet thick. These sediments are composed of clay, sand, quartz gravel and tuff (?) with interbedded basalt flows in BH(HEC) 8 and 10. Basalt also occurs in BH (HEC) 6, 7,, 9 and MD (Oct. 65) 2, 3, 5, but its exact relationship is unknown.

The junction between the Tertiary beds and the underlying Triassic rocks is difficult to determine as the weathered Triassic rock is similar in appearance to the normal Tertiary sediment but the uppermost Triassic rock appears to be a white sandstone with clean angular quartz in a clayey matrix. The sandstone is extensively weathered in drill holes in the NW corner of the site forming a water-bearing white unconsolidated sand yielding up to 200 gal/hour on test.

Underlying this sandstone are interbedded shale (usually well jointed and brecciated) and sandstone (less jointed and brecciated). These beds, difficult to correlate in drill holes as rock types vary rapidly laterally, appear to dip towards the NW at approximately 5°.

Jurassic dolerite with an underlying contact zone occurs in BH 1 (MD Apr. 65) but appears to be restricted to that area. No major faulting could be found in the area investigated.

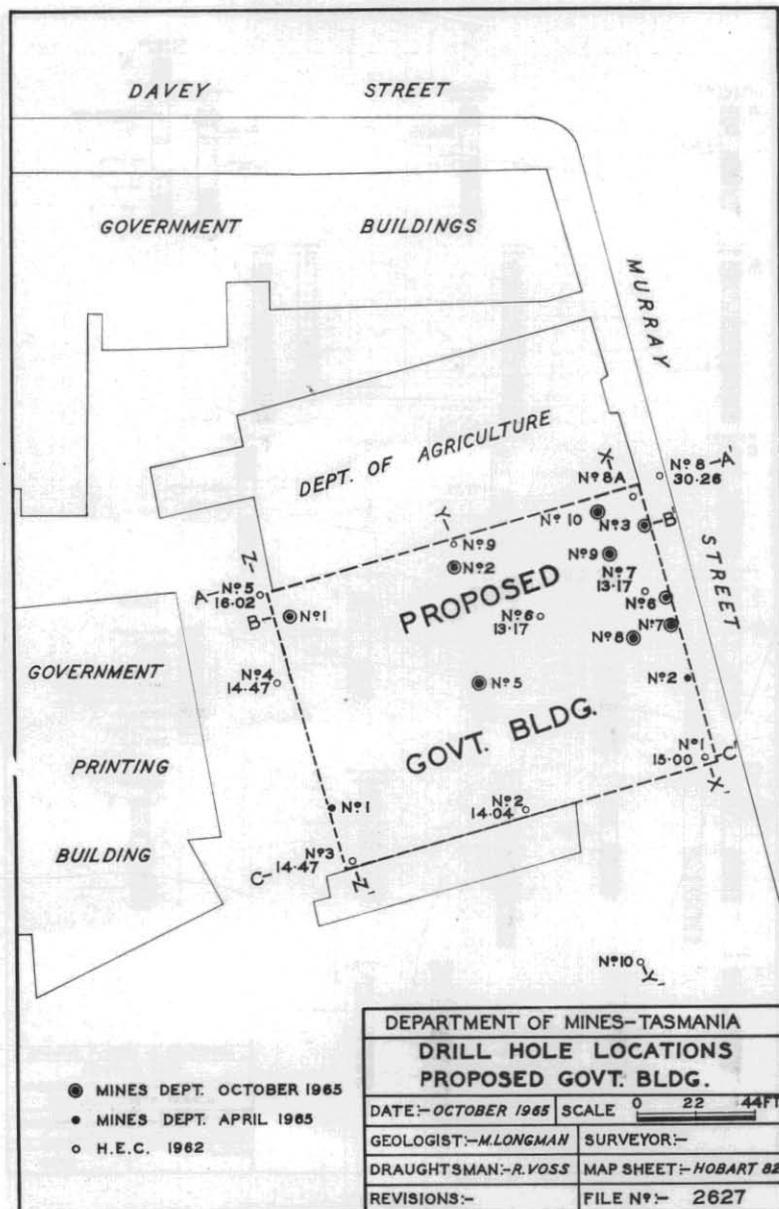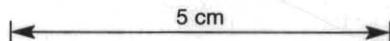The positions of bores are given in Figure 20 and their sections in Figure 21.
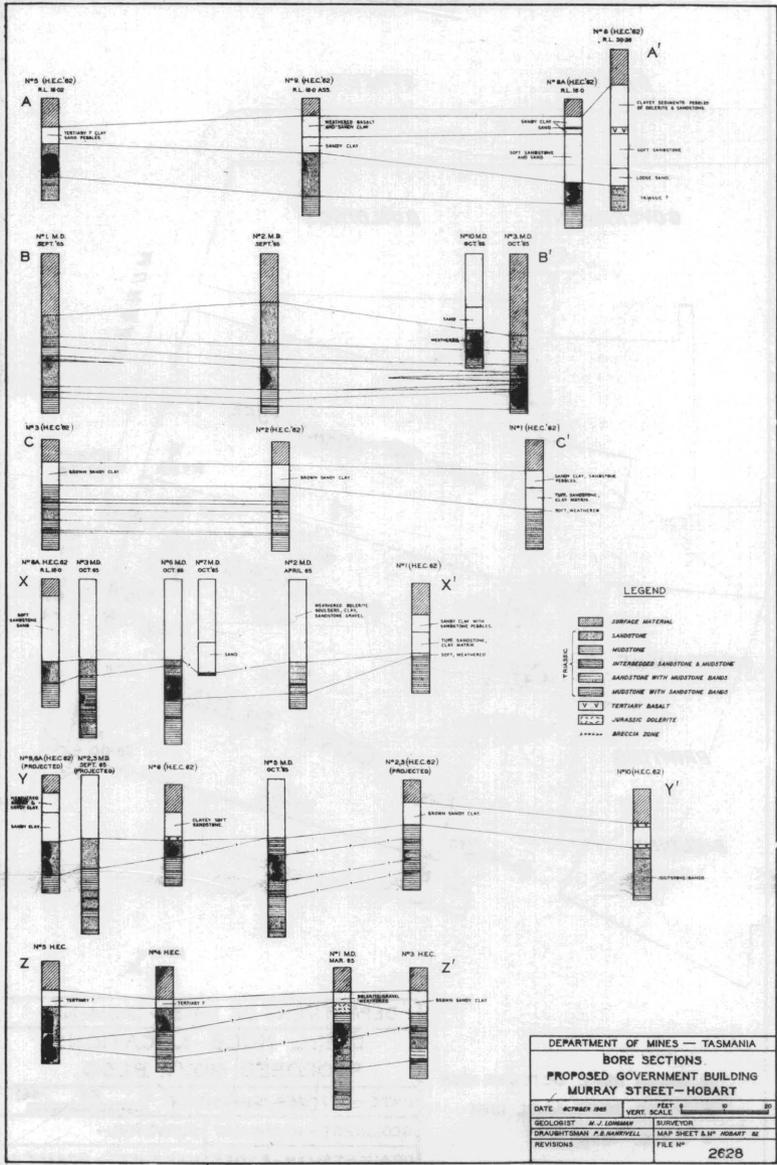
FIGURE 20.

FIGURE 21.