

TR12-72-74

**17. EXAMINATION OF LAND FOR
J. McCORMACK, BURNIE**

by W. L. Matthews

Mr J. McCormack has made an application to the Burnie Council to build on an area of land which has been zoned as a landslip area. He requested, through R. M. Foster and Associates, Consulting Engineers of Devonport if on re-examination, it could be excluded from the landslip zone.

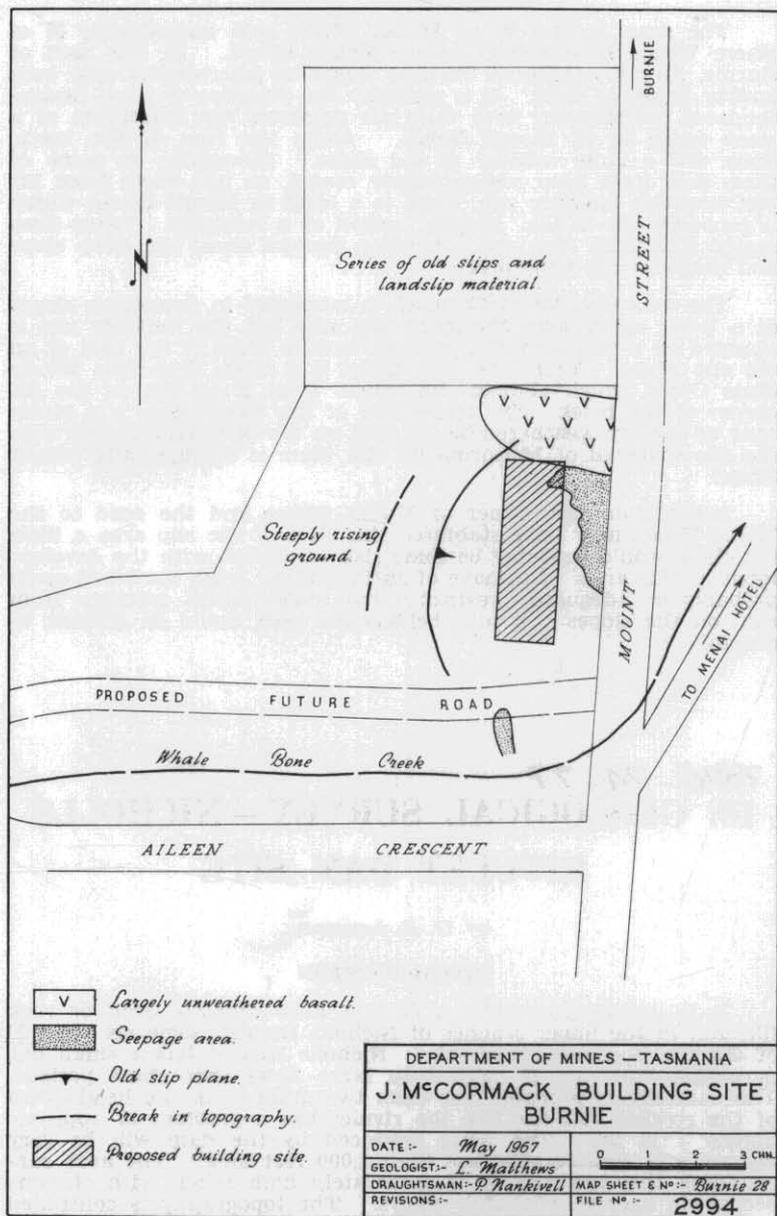
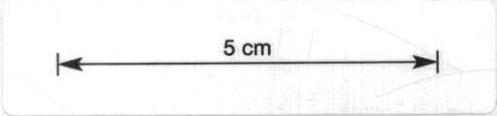


FIGURE 19



The area is just W of Mount Street and immediately N of where Whale Bone Creek crosses Mount Street. In this part of Burnie, deeply weathered Tertiary basalt is interbedded with beds and/or lenses of sand. It is probably the presence of these unconsolidated sedimentary beds that has promoted the formation of a steep scarp W of Mount Street. Along the face of the scarp, there are a large number of old slides. Movement on some of them may have been comparatively recent, as just down from Mr McCormack's building site, there is a bend in Mount Street which is probably due to the 'bowing' action of a landslide. Large deep seated rotational slips are a common feature along the steep slope and seepage are widespread.

The area that Mr McCormack is interested in developing slopes at a lower angle than the main slip area but the building site is situated on a relatively flat piece of land in front of the heel of an old slip plane. From the flat, there is a steep drop into Whale Bone Creek which changes its course from E to NE on the SE corner of the block. On the N side of the block there is a stable zone of slightly weathered basalt, and on the boundary of this with the slip material of McCormack's site there is seepage onto Mount Street.

Infilling on the corner of Mount Street and the road to the Menai Hotel, may have stabilised this part of the slip area a little but there would probably be some risk associated with the development of this area. Drainage of surface water from the block could probably be adequately restricted but underground drainage from rain on the slopes and hills behind the area would be difficult to control.