

Landslip, proposed subdivision of Tamar Avenue,  
George Town.

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The area of the proposed subdivision is very similar geologically to that of an earlier investigation at Tamar Avenue (Stevenson, 1970). The geological succession is as follows:

<i>Probable thickness (ft)</i>	
1 - 3	Sand and silt.
1 - 5	Clayey silt with some gravels.
25 - 50	Weathered basalt and some unweathered basalt.
>50	Plastic clays.

The slope facing the Tamar River has extensive local talus cover and has a shape suggestive of past slip activity. Tertiary clay is exposed in several places on the shore and a small slip (10 ft square) occurred at sea level during the previous year.

Since the weathering of basalt may vary considerably over short distances, it is therefore not considered safe to build on the slope. It is recommended that houses should only be erected on the upper part of the proposed subdivision and not be sited closer than 100 ft from the top of the slope. An effective drainage system should be constructed in order to prevent concentrated drainage from penetrating the basalt, or entering the exposed clays toward the foot of the slope.

Drilling would be required in order to further investigate the possibility of extending the building blocks down the slope, the results of which might not enable building development to proceed.

REFERENCE

STEVENSON, P.C. 1972. Foundation conditions at Tamar Avenue, George Town.  
*Techn.Rep.Dep.Mines Tasm.* 15:64-66.

[25 May 1971]