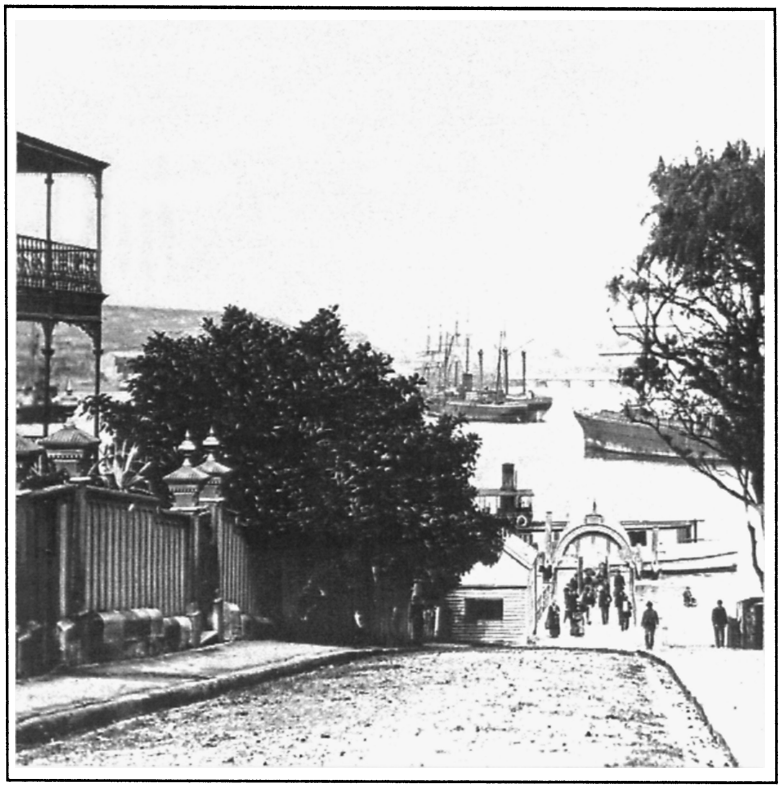
Leichhardt Historical Journal 3

Reprinted 1992

Balmain: The First Watch House
Glebe: Ferdinand Hamilton Reuss Senior
Leichhardt: The Balmain Cemetery
Lilyfield: Callan Park Hospital

Annandale Balmain Glebe Leichhardt Lilyfield Rozelle



Ferry Wharf, Stephen Street, Balmain
Glen Alva, 38 Stephen Street, now demolished, is at left

Editor's Note

The *Leichhardt Historical Journal* was founded in 1971 to encourage the reading, writing and researching of the history of the Municipality. The demand for out-of-print issues prompted the reprinting of No 3, December 1972, in a new format.

The cover has been redesigned in this reprinting and the page format enlarged to correspond with later issues. The layout has been re-designed and illustrations have been added to the cover, and to pages 2, 4, 5, 7, 12 and 14. The purchase price of books reviewed may differ from the 1972 rates.

Peter Reynolds, December 1992.

A Note on Contributors

Max Solling is a solicitor and wrote a MA thesis on Glebe. Don McDonald is an historian. Kevin Fahy is an authority on nineteenth-century furniture. Neil Patrick and Bill Pearson are undergraduate students in the School of Architecture, University of New South Wales where Peter Reynolds lectures. Max Kelly lectures there in history. Ross Wilson is a student. Margaret Quinn is an old resident of Annandale.

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An index to *Leichhardt Historical Journal* Nos 1 to 10 appears on page 27 of *Leichhardt Historical Journal* No 11 1982.

Acknowledgements

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Cover

The Watch House, 179 Darling Street, Balmain.

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Editors

Peter Reynolds, Alan Roberts & Max Solling

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THE BALMAIN CEMETERY LEICHHARDT

MAX SOLLING

In the mid 1860s very little burial ground remained near the City of Sydney. In 1861 the population of Sydney had grown to 56,840 while the aggregate population of Newtown, Redfern, Glebe, Balmain and Paddington, the five largest residential districts ringing the City, was 18,096.[1]

As immigrants from the British Isles rapidly increased the number of urban dwellers, James Combes, Alexander Brown, and Francis, William and Barbara Patten, quick to realise the profits that could be made selling off small portions of land to those wishing to bury their dead, formed the Balmain Cemetery Company.[2]

The Company purchased an area of almost 11 acres in Leichhardt, today bounded by William Street to the north, Derbyshire Road to the east, Norton Street to the west and Allen Street to the south and on 26 January 1868 the first burial in Balmain Cemetery took place.

When some 44 years later in May 1912 the cemetery was closed to further burials, 10,608 persons were buried in the cemetery.

In February 1886 the Balmain Cemetery Company transferred the cemetery grounds to Leichhardt Municipal Council and the cemetery remained the Council's responsibility until 1941.

In 1941 the *Old Balmain (Leichhardt) Cemetery Act* dedicated Balmain Cemetery as a public park.[3] The Council of the Municipality of Leichhardt was appointed trustees of the park and was required under the *Act* to maintain it as a rest park and garden area. It is now known as Pioneers Memorial Park, Leichhardt.

Before any headstones, grave enclosures or other surface structures could be removed, Council had to advertise their intention to remove these objects in local newspapers, which, in effect, gave a relative or friend of any person buried in the cemetery sufficient time to remove the headstone or grave enclosure at their own expense, and with the permission of the Department of Public Health, they could also remove the remains of that person and have them reinterred in a cemetery they desired. In fact on the demolition of Balmain Cemetery only 16 tombstones were removed to other cemeteries.[4]

As far as genealogists were concerned the *Act* had serious limitations in that it only required Council to compile an index and plan and register of names of persons buried in the cemetery.

Since Balmain Cemetery was the major burial ground established within what is now Leichhardt Municipality, from the point of view of the historian interested in individuals who lived and died in this district prior to the First World War, the destruction of all the genealogical and historical information, which the inscriptions on the tombstones and monuments revealed is a tragedy.[5]

However one can ascertain from the Burial Register kept at Leichhardt Town Hall, the name of any person buried in Balmain Cemetery, their denomination, age, last residence and, in a number of instances, their occupation.

For the past two years the History Sub-Committee of the Glebe Society has built up an extensive biographical register of individuals who made some contribution to the development of Glebe and its neighbouring suburbs during the Victorian and Edwardian periods. An important part of this project was to have the Burial Register, the only documentary evidence of those buried in Balmain Cemetery, photocopied. When an index of the register is completed in 1973 this will be presented to the Society of Australian Genealogists.

Perusal of the register reveals a strikingly high infant mortality rate, particularly between 1870 and 1890 and although it was a general cemetery, most of the people buried there were Anglican.

The tombstone of famous architect Edmund Blacket[6] and his wife Sarah together with fourteen other monuments were moved to Camperdown Cemetery in 1941 by genealogist Percy Gledhill.[7] The remains of Blacket and his wife were removed and cremated and the ashes buried in St Andrews Cathedral, Sydney. The tombstone of merchant and politician Robert Towns, after whom Townsville was named, was removed to Townsville at the request of Townsville City Council. All the remaining tombstones were "disposed of at the discretion of the Council".[8]

Apart from Blacket and Towns the bodies of a number of notable people during Sydney's Victorian era are buried in Pioneers Memorial Park. Professor Morris Birkbeck Pell, professor of mathematics and natural philosophy at the University of Sydney from 1852 to 1877[9], surveyor and architect Ferdinand Hamilton Reuss junior[10], who planned the layout of Annandale, Glebe Alderman and founder of the Fitzroy Iron Works, Thomas Tipple Smith[11], merchant and master mariner William Salmon Deloitte[12], Captain Thomas Stephenson Rowntree of

Northumberland House, Balmain, Colonel Bruce of Stanmore and Reverend John Pendrill[13], principal of the Glebe Grammar School "regarded as a favourite for gentlemen's sons". Others buried in the cemetery are the controversial Canon Thomas Smith, minister at St Barnabas's, Broadway[14] and Stephen Campbell Brown, MLA for Newtown from 1864 to 1881.[15]

Biographical research currently being undertaken on a large number of individuals reveals that prior to 1890 many of the residents who once lived within what is now Leichhardt Municipality were buried at Devonshire Street Cemetery, closed in 1901 to make way for Central Railway Station, Camperdown Church of England Cemetery, closed in 1950 and St Thomas Catholic Cemetery Lewisham, closed in 1884 although burials in this cemetery continued until 1925.[16]

After 1890 it would appear that the two main burial grounds for the district's inhabitants were Rookwood General Cemetery opened in 1868 and Waverley General Cemetery opened in 1877, both of which are still in use.

Balmain Cemetery from the Air in 1921
The tombstones can be seen in the cemetery bounded by Norton Street, William Street, Derbyshire Road. At right in Elswick Street is the R C Cemetery and St Columba's Church. Burials in the R C cemetery date from 1869.

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5 An excellent article on the recording of tombstone inscriptions is contained in EJ Lea-Scarlett, "Conducting Personal Interviews and Recording Tombstone Inscriptions", *Proceedings of conference of Affiliated societies of RAHS*, 1970 pp26-38.
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12 L Blacklock, "Captain William Salmon Deloitte (1797-1870)", in *Descent*, vol 5, part 4, 1972, pp142-153.
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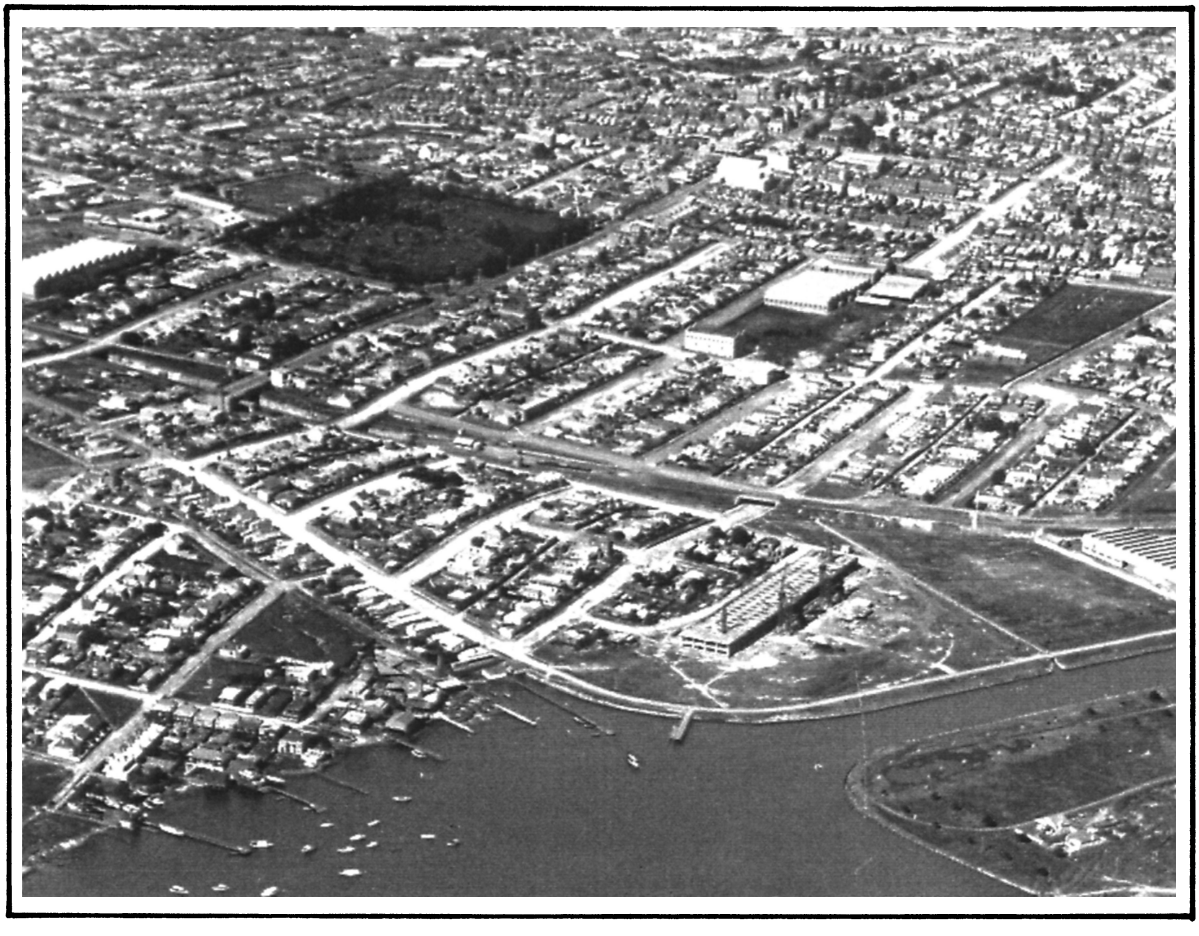
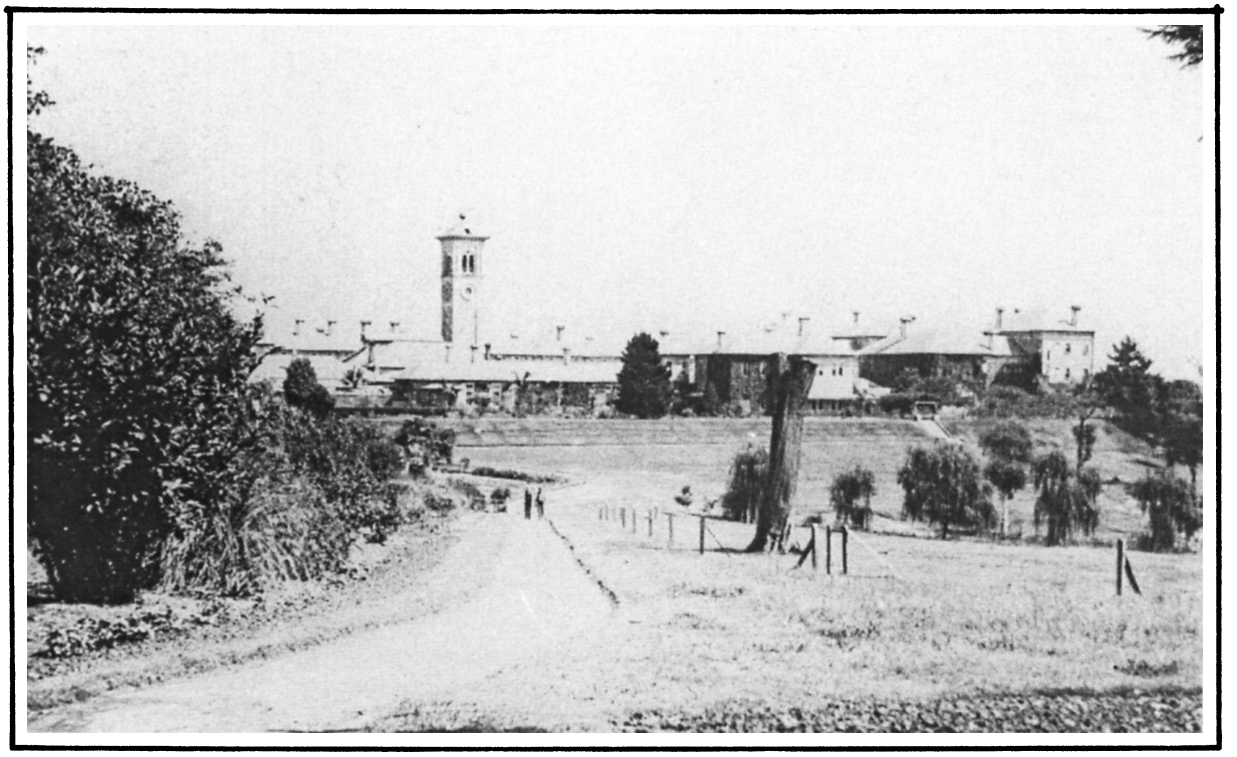
15 *Australian Men of Mark*, 1, pp373-375.
16 A valuable list of Sydney Metropolitan cemeteries together with the names and locations of the cemeteries, the earliest burials and other useful data relating to the number of burials, dates of closure etc, can be found in KA Johnson, "Guide to Sydney Metropolitan Cemeteries", in *Descent*, vol 5, part 4, 1972, p154.

EDITOR'S NOTE
See A Cusick, "Leichhardt West", in *Leichhardt Hist J* 16.





Callan Park Hospital, J Barnet, 1880-1884
Based on Chartham Mental Hospital, Kent, the new buildings were designed in a picturesque setting like a grand English country house.

CALLAN PARK HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE LILYFIELD

DON McDONALD

In reading the official reports of the medical superintendent of Gladesville Hospital for the Insane during the nineteenth century, one notes a recurring theme of urgent requests for additional accommodation to meet the need to relieve overcrowding among patients, inadequate facilities for occupational therapy and recreation, squalid staff quarters.[1] It was only when these problems could no longer be ignored that Parliament voted funds to extend existing hospitals or acquire new properties and erect new hospitals. Thus, the Callan Park Hospital might be said to have been the unwanted child of necessity rather than the result of careful forward planning to meet ever-growing demands for hospital accommodation.

In 1873 the Parkes government, acting on considerable pressure exerted by Dr Frederic Norton Manning, medical superintendent at Gladesville, purchased the Callan Park estate which overlooked the Iron Cove and lay close to the growing suburb of Balmain. This decision was opposed by local residents who feared that the presence of an asylum for the insane would prove "a great worry, injury and annoyance"; their peace of mind and lives endangered and they "would be subject to constant annoyance and horror". Because the suburb of Balmain was rapidly growing towards Callan Park, it was claimed that within a few years the proposed asylum would be crowded out by a large number of houses.[2] That petition, in Manning's opinion, was evidence of the "absurd horror and dread of the insane which is very common among those but little acquainted with them"; the fears of danger to nearby residents "totally unfounded". Nor was there any truth in the statement that the site was unsuitable: it was handy to Sydney, readily accessible by land or water, facilities for water supply and drainage good, the estate commanded fine river views.[3]

Having purchased the estate, the government showed no great hurry to erect the necessary buildings. Although funds were voted in the 1873 Estimates of Expenditure, Manning noted in his report for the following year that "no decided steps have yet been taken to provide the much needed institution".[4] This story of inactivity persisted for a number of years while the medical superintendent continued to express grave concern about overcrowded conditions at Gladesville. By 1877 there were nearly 600 patients undergoing treatment at that hospital "crammed in a space only fit to contain 450", a condition which was "both distressing and dangerous, the overcrowding having reached a point at which management is a matter of the greatest difficulty".[5]

During 1875 while on leave in England, Manning had visited the site of a new asylum being erected at Chartham and had been able to persuade the architects, Giles and Gough, to present him with a set of the plans and specifications.[6] It was their design, slightly altered, which was adopted when work finally commenced on new buildings at Callan Park. During 1876 some structural alterations had been made to the old mansion and a branch hospital established with 44 patients in residence but two years later Manning was to complain that it would be necessary to incur expenditure in providing temporary accommodation at Gladesville since work had not yet commenced on the project.[7]

This was a large task since it was intended that the hospital should be large enough to meet ever increasing demands upon its facilities and there were, at the time, no plans in hand to increase accommodation at other institutions. Indeed the government was anxious that patients receiving treatment at Tucker's licensed asylum located at Cook's River should be moved to a government asylum while the temporary accommodation provided in the Cooma gaol was scarcely suited to the purposes of an asylum.

In modifying the original plans of Giles and Gough, internal arrangements had been altered and a "large verandah space ... added to meet the requirements of the climate of New South Wales". Accommodation for patients was provided in pavilions separated by the administrative offices. Each section consisted of three parts - sick or recent and acute patients would be accommodated in a large block near the medical officer's quarters; three pavilions connected to the main buildings by verandahs or corridors "for the violent and noisy, the convalescent and working patients, and patients of an intermediate class"; with three detached cottages for the "quiet and convalescent, and for patients who have been in a better position in life".

A small number of convalescent patients would be "comfortably lodged" in spare rooms in the lodges and cottages. 162 single rooms would be provided of which twelve would be panelled and eight padded "for acute patients and others requiring special treatment". Isolation wards for patients suffering from infectious diseases were planned.

The building would be of two storeys with a third floor at the far end of each pavilion. All day and living rooms were located on the ground floor with the upper floors being used for dormitories. Toilet facilities were provided on each floor, with a ward kitchen and scullery on the ground floor together with store rooms and attendants' rooms from whence all patients in the building could be held under observation.[8]

Work commenced towards the close of 1878 but progress was slow. On 17 February 1879 Manning wrote to the Principal Under Secretary:

> so far as I am aware *this matter is now altogether at a standstill and that nothing is being done in any direction towards carrying out the plans which have been ready for a very long period.* I have indeed not only done everything in my power to assist in the preparation of the plans but have had frequent interviews with each successive minister at the Head of my department on the subject, and my letters and reports addressed to the Colonial Secretary showing the necessity for accommodation for insane patients and urging that the new asylum would be proceeded with, would, if collected, form a bulky volume. The delay has involved me in untold troubles and difficulties in the management of my department - in the past, present and future but is beyond any control or action of mine. I am quite unable to influence the action of the Colonial Architect; and successive ministers, either owing to short tenure of office or from not appreciating the importance of the subject do not appear to have impressed upon him the necessity for speedy action ... for accommodation for insane patients is now extremely pressing and the expense which has already been incurred and which must still be incurred for temporary buildings is very great.[9]

That criticism of the Colonial Architect, James Barnet, was unwarranted. Shortly after taking up office, Barnet had visited Gladesville and years later was to refer to the lasting impression which that visit had made upon his mind; "he had seen such sights as he hoped never to see again, and they affected him so much that he was unable to sleep for three nights afterwards ... He resolved, if ever he got a chance, he would do what he could to make better provision for the poor people, and build a new lunatic asylum".[10] But there were many other demands upon the services of his office and the government seemed reluctant to invest money in asylums when other, and in its opinion more important, public works were demanding attention – the General Post Office, government offices, the Garden Palace. His office was understaffed and continuous pressure was being exerted upon him to reduce expenditure while, at the same time, meeting demands of politicians who sought new and often excessively ornate public buildings in country centres.[11] It was only in 1884 that he was able to report that work at Callan Park had been completed and he now felt that "he had fulfilled the vow he had made to improve the lunatic asylums of the country".[12]

Although the grounds enclosed by the boundary walls were something in excess of 11 acres, when completed much of that area would be taken up

with 33 separate buildings including a chapel and in all some 544 rooms. The total length of verandahs was a mile and a quarter on which 240 tons of asphalt had been used for flooring. There were 20 staircases, 1,895 windows, 672 doors and about 2,850 ventilators. Much of the stone used in the buildings had been quarried on the site and, as a result, it had been possible to construct two underground water tanks each with a capacity of one million gallons. The contract, in excess of £250,000, had been awarded to Messrs Low and Kerr and was, at the time, one of the largest ever entered into by the Colonial Architect's Office.[13]

Shortly after work was completed Manning began to move patients into the new hospital so that at December 1884 there were 273 patients receiving treatment. In the following year, he introduced a policy of admitting to the hospital patients resident in Sydney and suburbs. Even so, there were by 1888 some 908 patients in the hospital or 35 in excess of available accommodation and two years later the number had risen to 1,078. Although that number fell to 812 by 1892, Callan Park had already assumed an importance as the principal hospital in the colony caring for the mentally ill for whom some hope of recovery could be held.

No attempt has been made to follow up the history of Callan Park; a history which, one suspects, was in many respects a repetition of the earlier history of mental hospitals in which complacency and neglect on the part of governments merely mirrored the indifference of the community at large.

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2 Petition of John Keep *et al* to his Excellency, the Governor and Executive Council 2 January 1874; Colonial Secretary's Records: Lunatic Asylums: Callan Park (NSW State Archives 4/810.3)
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8 Report of the Inspector of the Insane 1879, Ibid, 1878/79 (3).
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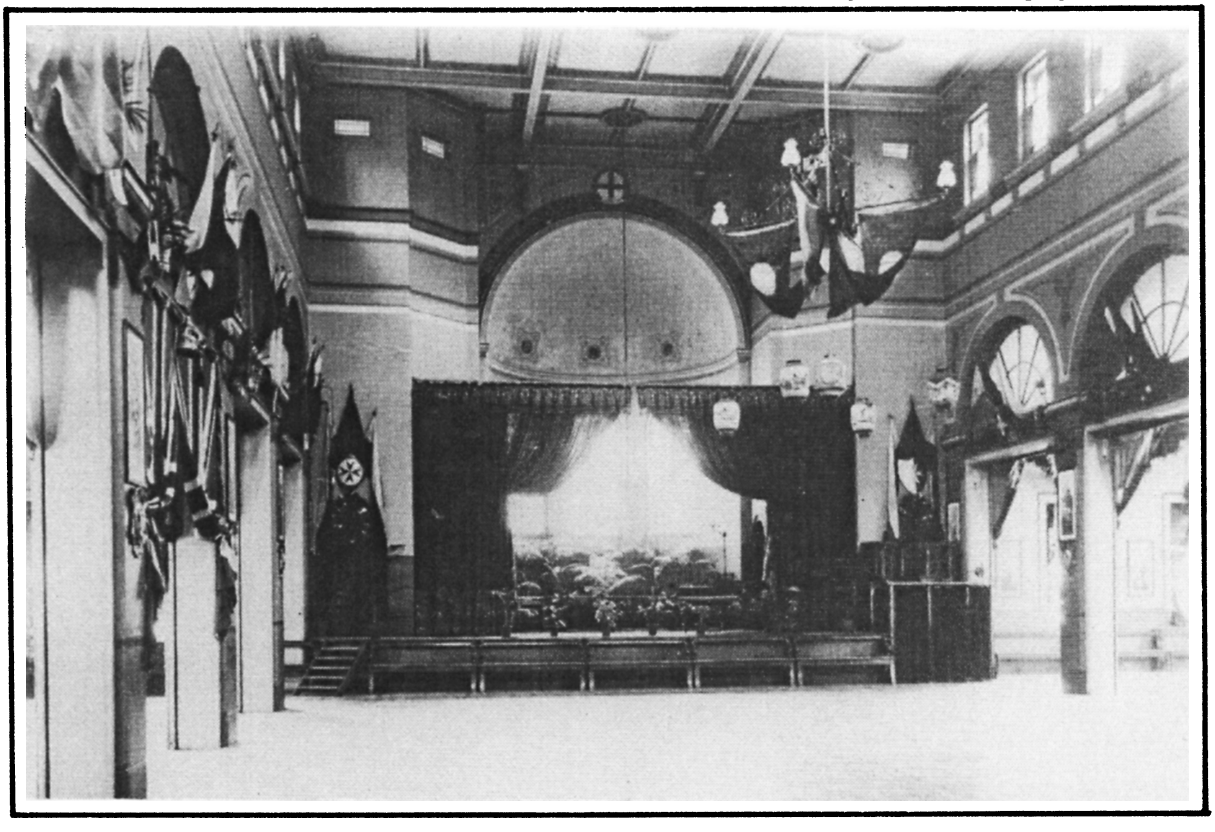
Editor's Note
See K Leong, "Garry Owen and Callan Park", in *Leichhardt Hist J* 14 1985.

Callan Park Hospital: Chapel/Recreation Room
Based upon the amenities building at Whittingham Asylum, Lancashire, this room is flanked by male and female dining rooms which could be opened into one large space.



THE FIRST BALMAIN WATCH HOUSE

BILL PEARSON AND PETER REYNOLDS

For many years the conundrum of the apparent two-stage construction of the Balmain Watch House has puzzled many people. From the distinct change in colour and type of stonework of the western wall it has always been obvious that the ground floor portion was erected long before the upper storey and the rear cells.

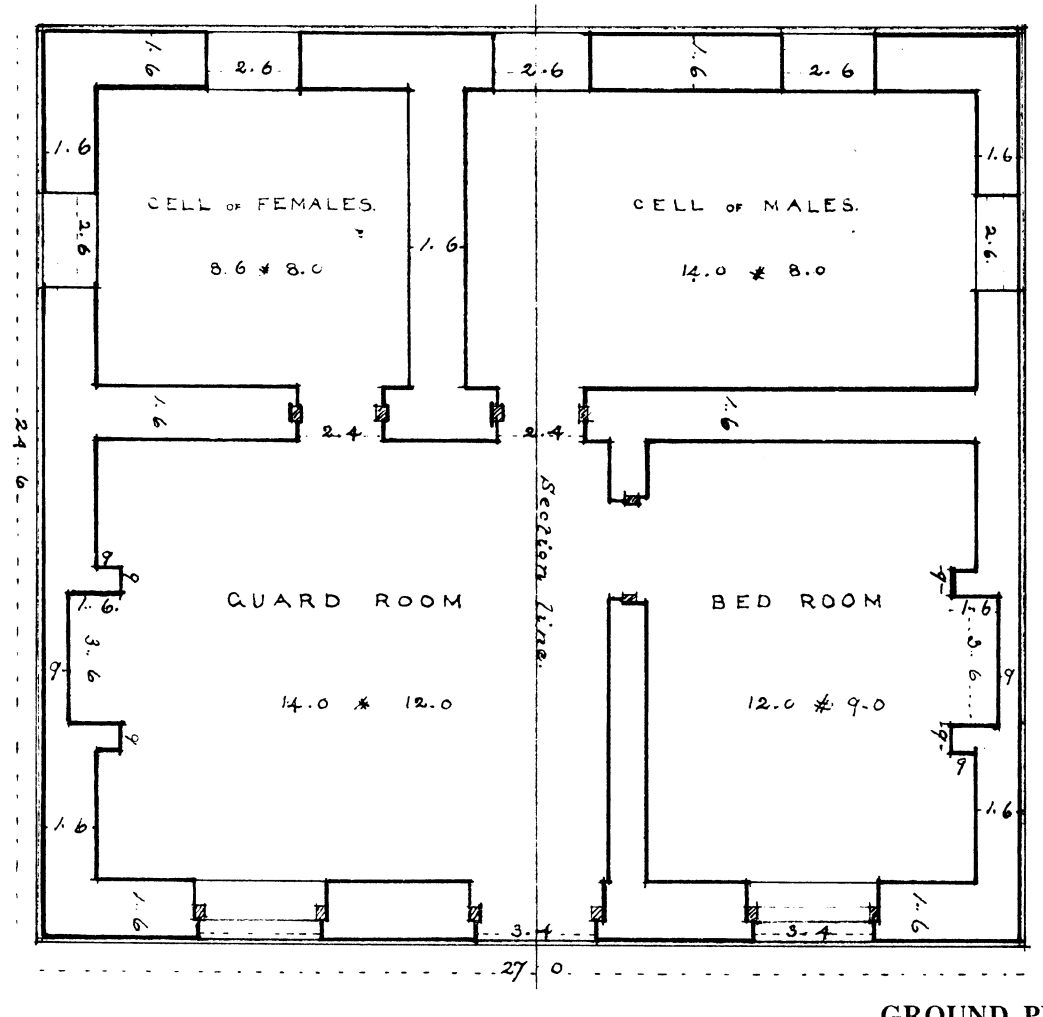
During restoration of the building by the Balmain Association, this difference was made all the more striking when the stonework was steam-cleaned. However, in the absence of drawings, the time that had elapsed between the two stages and the original form of the building could only be conjecture.

Quite by chance and as a result of the reciprocity that informally exists between readers, the 1854 drawings together with the contract documents and specifications were unearthed by a researcher into an allied subject in the Archives Office in the early part of 1971. These drawings reveal that the Watch House was certainly built as a single-storey building of the simplest form. Following this discovery, it was determined to add to the history of the Watch House in *Balmain in Time*.

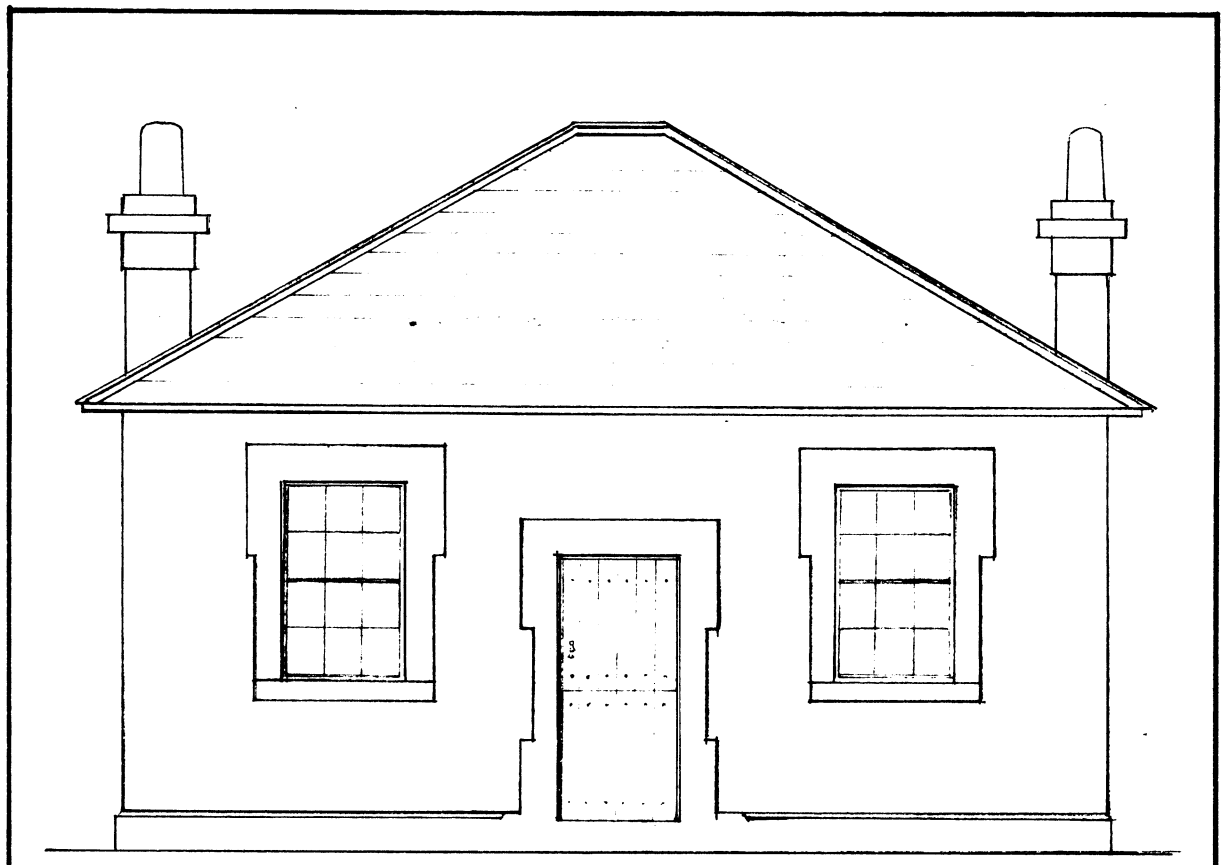
The Site

In revising this history it is necessary to begin with Governor Fitzroy's message to the Legislative Council on 28 September 1852 which introduced a Bill for the erection of Lock-ups (Watch Houses) for short prison terms because of the great distances between ordinary gaols.[1]

Although the Bill was not enacted until the first day of the following December, the Colonial Secretary, in anticipation, directed Colonial Architect Edmund Blacket on 5 November 1852 to confer with the Inspector General of Police as £450 had been voted for "a Stone Lockup etc, at Balmain" and to select a site.[2] Blacket delegated the latter task to his Clerk of Works, James Charles White, who recommended the purchase of land



GROUND PLAN



ELEVATION TO DARLING STREET

owned by Robert Blake at the corner of Darling and Adolphus Streets, Balmain (now part of Balmain Bowling Club). In his report of 11 June 1853 White nominated the site dimensions as being 50 feet to Darling Street and 75 feet to Adolphus Street and the purchase price as £300.[3] The exact reason for the failure of the government to accept this recommendation is not known but, on the 2 February of the following year, a site almost opposite was acquired for the present Watch House. This allotment, lot 47 of the Waterview Estate, was the property of Edward Hunt of Hampton Villa who sold it to the Crown for £60 less than Blake's land and, as it was slightly larger, the reduced price was of some benefit to the government.[4] It has been previously stated that a Mr Ronald of Balmain was the owner of lot 47 and indeed the survey copy among the Colonial Architect's papers is inscribed "Land purchased from Mr Ronald".[5] At that time, this gentleman was a magistrate in the district and probably arranged the sale on Hunt's behalf as he wished to expedite the coming of law and order to the area.[6]

The Design

As directed by the Colonial Secretary, Blacket completed an unsigned and undated drawing for the erection of the Watch House.[7] However, it is probably more accurate to assign the authorship to White, for this was an important part of his duties. In either case, the design appears to be a repeat of the standard plan for, at that time, there were numerous Watch Houses under construction. For example, the Balmain Watch House documents are identical to those of the North Shore Watch House which was designed and built at the same time and by the same builders.

The standard plan consists of four rectangular rooms grouped together so that the larger gave access to the other three. This main room, entitled the Guard Room, measured 14 feet by 12 and was equipped with a fireplace, was entered directly from the outside through a stable-type door for obvious functional reasons. It accommodated the main business of the building and the Constable-in-charge lived in the room opening from it on the east side. His bedroom with fireplace was 12 feet by 9 and was situated where the staircase to the upper storey now exists. Opening directly from the Guard Room were the only two Cells in the building. The southern and smaller of the two, some 8 feet 6 inches by 8 feet, accommodated female prisoners and the doorway opening from the Guard Room is still visible, though long since blocked up. The northern Cell, 14 feet by 9, held males and extended over what is now the corridor leading to the exercise areas, which did not then exist. Both Cells had four narrow ventilation openings set high up in the walls but one in the Female Cell has been filled in. The harsh cement used can still be seen on the western wall.

The Construction

In three dimensions, the building as designed was a rectangular stone box capped with a 30-degree pitched timber-shingle roof. The symmetrical front elevation was broken up into the usual two-eyes-and-a-nose of traditional early buildings and these windows and door openings were embellished by the addition of a tooled stone margin of steeped width. This margin projected about one and a half inches and was thus in the same plane as the splayed off base course.

The symmetry of the building was further emphasised by the situation of the two chimney stacks of the Guard Room and Bedroom on either side. The stacks were capped with simple tapered round chimney pots. These stacks rise through the simple roof which was constructed differently from present day simple roofs. Instead of the rafters being pitched from the normal wall plate, the ceiling joists, which were laid first, were allowed to project beyond the outside walls to form overhanging eaves. The rafters were then pitched against a kick plate let into these joists. The underside of the overhanging ceiling joists, was lined with timber boarding and the eaves completed with a simple fascia board. Another important difference in the roof construction is the lack of purlins and inclined struts. In place of these very necessary members, the span of the rafters and joists was reduced by bolting vertical hangers to coupled rafters at 4 feet 6 inches in from the outer walls.

All these elevational and construction details are shown on the drawings in the bare minimum of detail. However, an attempt has been made to delineate the different parts of the structure by varying the weight of the ink line.

The Specification

Attached to the working drawing of the Watch House was the specification which outlines the order of the work and the materials and finishes to be used.[8] This document was hand copied as all small specifications were at that time and divides the work into the trades of Labourer, Mason ("Cut Work" being specified separately), Carpenter, Painter and finally General Conditions. Above floor level the axed and draft stone was to be carried up in 12-inch courses with chiselled beds and squared heading joists. On the interior walls which were devoid of plaster, the specification stated that they be cleaned, painted and "twice whited with lime".

In Carpenter, the specification wisely stipulated that the flooring and ceiling boards "be laid on the premises before the work is begun for the purpose of seasoning". All boards were to be "shot, faced, thicknessed and well nailed down and cleaned off". In regard to this boarding, no mention is made of tongueing or grooving although it is specified that all boards were "to be in one length across the rooms so as to avoid heading Joints". The simple timber-framed roof of the building was specified to be battened and "covered with the best oak shingles" with hips and ridge "covered with Galvanized Iron pieces". Around the eaves of the building, the roof water was received by galvanized gutter and conducted into downpipes of 3-inch diameter lead pipe.

At the entrance to the Guard Room, the main door, specified to be hung in two leaves framed separately in 1.5-inch timber, was to be "covered with 1-inch deal, ploughed and tounged". The lower half was to be secured with two heavy 12-inch barrel bolts and the upper leaf with a "wrought Thumb-latch, and 10-inch patent stock lock". This assembly was hung on a frame of hardwood timber 5 inches by 4 "wrought, rabeted [rebated] and beaded". In place of the steel plate Cell doors of the present day, the specification directed the Carpenter to fabricate doors 6 feet by 2 feet 6 inches, of two thicknesses of 1-inch timber set cross-banded on bolted strap hinges hung on "5/8 iron pins screwed quite thro' 5 x 4 hardwood frame".

Following Carpenter came the shortest part of the specification. The section devoted to Painter was disposed of in four lines and after stipulating that the woodwork be given four coats of oil paint, concluded with the direction to "Glaze all sashes with seconds Newcastle glass".

The Tender Documents

As well as these documents, the discovery brought to light the original tender notice which was inserted in the Colonial Press on 1 April 1854.[9] The text of this notice stated that tenders for the erection of the Balmain Watch House would close on 24 April at twelve noon and that the working drawings, specifications and tender form were available at the Colonial Architect's Office. In answer to this call, four tenders were received, but as two of them were for portions of the work only, they were immediately disqualified.

Of the two tenders submitted to complete the building, the tender of McCullough & Joice was the higher at £1,312 and that of Holmes and Coney at £950.[10] Consequently, the contract was awarded to the latter tenderers who were building contractors of Chippendale, Sydney. As the terms of the contract required that two independent sureties be put forward to enter into a bond with the Government, the builders nominated Henry Reid, a sculptor and engraver of Parramatta Street, Sydney, and William Stapleton who was the licensee of the California Inn at the corner of Parramatta and Kensington Streets, Sydney. Accordingly, the bond was executed and the contract effected on 8 May 1854.[11]

The Privy

Despite the diligence of the Colonial Architect, no provision was made in the contract for the erection of a privy for the Watch House. By the time this defect had been reported, Blacket had been succeeded by William Weaver and the construction of this necessary edifice was made his responsibility. As William Kemp, architect, had recently been appointed to the vacant post of second Foreman of Works under Weaver, the project was delegated to his care.

On 6 December 1854 Kemp prepared the drawing and specification for a privy and urinal and was directed to supervise the work.[12] This association between Weaver and Kemp later culminated in partnership in architectural practice in which they executed such works as the rebuilding of St Mary's Anglican Church, Balmain.

On completion of the privy, the Watch House was ready for occupation. However, the exact opening date is unknown as is the name of the first constable but was almost certainly during the first few months of 1855. As well as these two important items nothing more is known of the history of the building until 1864.

Alterations and Additions

On 19 May 1864 Inspector George Read of the New South Wales Police advised the Acting Colonial Architect, then James Barnet, of the need for urgent repairs to the roofing and floors of the building.[13] Barnet instructed his Foreman of Works to make an immediate inspection of the building and report upon his findings.

On receipt of this report, Barnet replied to the Police Department that "the flooring of the Cells and Charge Room is nearly destroyed by the white ant, I would recommend that they be replaced with bricks cemented". In addition to these repairs, Barnet recommended that the roof repairs be carried out as soon as possible to prevent further damage to the building.[14]

Following the completion of these repairs no further work of any magnitude appears to have been carried out at the Watch House for the ensuing fifteen years. At the end of that period, the great expansion of the population on the peninsula was approaching its height and a move was set on foot to increase the police accommodation. This increase in the business of the Watch House had been great enough in 1878 to increase the original force of a single custodian of the building to a strength of six.[15]

Following recognition of the crowded conditions, the Colonial Architect was authorised to increase the Watch House accommodation for the constabulary and the prisoners alike. The exact dates of these events are still to be searched out but it is known that, in September 1881, additions were under construction to the value of £780.[16]

In the absence of supporting drawings, it is assumed that, at this time, these additions comprised the erection of the upper storey, the kitchen wing at the side, the front verandah, the staircase and the cells, privies, and exercise areas at the rear. If this were the case, then the constables' bedrooms were increased to three in the new upper storey with the provision of a parlour with fireplace.

Also, at this time, the door between the Female Cell and the Guard Room was blocked up and a corridor created across the larger Male Cell to provide access to the rear exercise areas and the two new Cells. To do this a dividing wall with new doorway was erected which reduced the Male Cell to an area slightly larger than the Female Cell. To give access to the Female Cell, a new doorway was cut in the wall between that Cell and the new corridor.

In addition to the new alterations, it is a distinct possibility that the old timber Cell doors were replaced with steel plate doors, one of which probably was the remaining door found in position when the Watch House became the charge of the Balmain Association.

Unanswered Questions

Despite the value of the discovery of the original Watch House drawings and the apparent date of the major additions which gave the building its present form, there is much information still to be extant.

For example, the exact time when the Watch House ceased to be a lock-up and became solely used as a police residence is still unknown. Present indications are that the building continued to be used as a place of detention long after the new court house further along Darling Street was completed in 1887.

Furthermore, it appears most likely that it became a police residence in the early 1930s when the new Police Station was added the Court House building.

The final item in the history of the Watch House still to be recorded is the date when it was last used by the New South Wales Police Department. Between that date and the beginning of the Balmain Association's restoration programme, the Watch House became derelict and subject to the depredations of vandals and vagrants.

* * * * *

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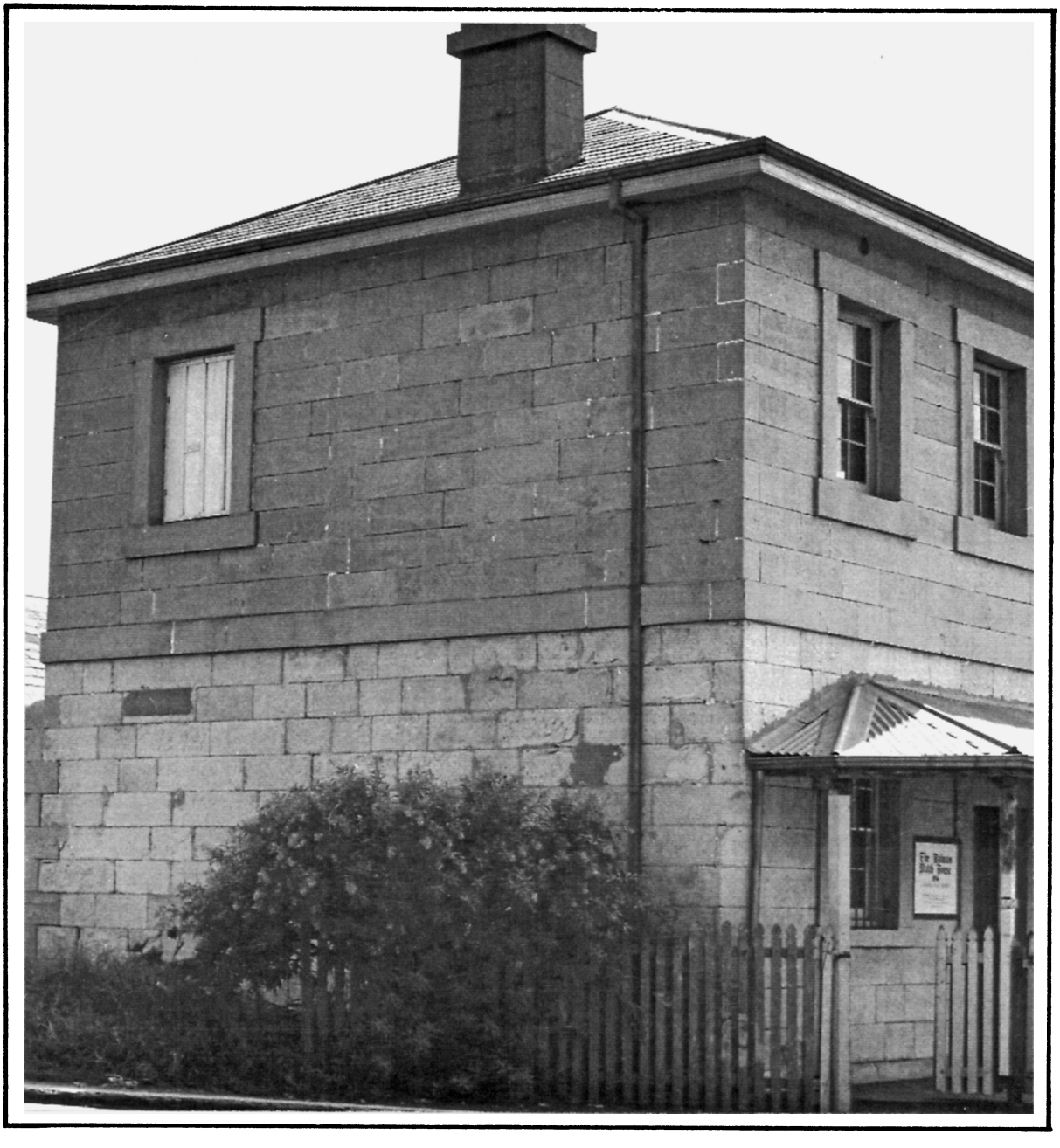
EDITOR'S NOTES

See P Reynolds, "From Cameron's Cove to Adolphus Street", in *Leichhardt Hist J* 15. Rowand Ronald married Edward Hunt's daughter Henrietta Elizabeth.

The North Sydney Watch House was not extant when the article was written in 1972.

The Watch House continued to be a police lock up until the 1920s when the whole building, downstairs as well as up, became a police residence. The Charge Room became the living room and the cells bedrooms. At one stage a police sergeant and his wife and twelve children lived, so every cell had become a bedroom. In about 1960, the police ceased to use the building altogether and it was abandoned and marked for demolition.

The Watch House, 179 Darling Street, Balmain
Edmund Blacket, 1854 (first portion)
William Kemp, 1855 (privy at rear)
James Barnet, 1881? (upper storey, rear cells)
Clearly evident and of inferior quality , the original stone-work of the lower storey contrasts with the quality stone used in the upper storey and rear cells.



EDWARD HUNT CABINETMAKER (1792-1866)

KEVIN FAHY

The location of a piece of early colonial furniture bearing a trade label "Hunt & Son" throws further light on the career of Edward Hunt, an early resident of Balmain, to whom reference is made in the first issue of the *Leichhardt Historical Journal*.[1] While better known as the former owner of the land on which the Balmain Watch House was built, and for the part he played in the political life of early Sydney, his career as one of Sydney's leading cabinetmakers during the early nineteenth century is outlined in the recent *Early Colonial Furniture in New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land* by Clifford Craig and Kevin Fahy.

Edward Hunt was born in London in 1792 the son of Charles North Hunt, a barrister at law, and Mary Place.[2] He arrived in Sydney a free settler by the *Broxbornebury* on 28 January 1814.[3] In June 1821 he was married at St John's Church, Parramatta, to Hannah Padget Mason (1804-1899).[4] Her father, Martin Mason, had arrived at Sydney in 1798 as a surgeon on the *Britannia*. In 1804 he began medical practice at Green Hills, probably the first private medical practice in Australia. Mason was an opponent of the Rum Corps and returned to England after the Rum Rebellion to give evidence for Governor Bligh on behalf of the Hawkesbury settlers. An account of his life can be found in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

At the beginning of 1819 an advertisement in the *Sydney Gazette* announced that Edward Hunt had commenced business in George Street as a cabinetmaker and undertaker, a not uncommon combination among early Sydney cabinetmakers.[5] He was soon to experience difficulty in obtaining good cedar in Sydney at a reasonable price and in 1821 sought permission from Governor Macquarie to obtain quantities of that timber from Newcastle.[6] Although his request was refused he was given permission to obtain it from further north.[7]

Hunt's workshop must have been of some size. In the 1828 Census he was described as an upholsterer employing the following assigned convicts: John Carr, an upholsterer; James Const, a turner; and Charles Simms, a cabinetmaker. In his memorial to Governor Brisbane during 1822 he mentioned that he had taken several apprentices "which he is endeavouring to lead in the way of Truth".[8] The Muster for that year listed his apprentices as Daniel Chalker, William Dalton and Edward Parsonage. From a contemporary newspaper report it would appear that they showed a marked reluctance to follow such a path.[9] After repeated complaints about Hunt to the Superintendent of Police they "embraced a favourable opportunity to rebel". For this breach of their apprenticeship they were sentenced to a month's imprisonment. They next sought to have their articles of indenture declared illegal, but with very little success as the court ordered them to return to their master.

It would appear that Edward Hunt conducted his business as a partnership with Frederick Hunt who had also arrived in Sydney on the *Broxbornebury* in 1814.[10] It is probable that they were brothers. In 1828 the partnership was dissolved[11] and Edward moved to new premises in George Street[12] and in 1833 to "Cabinet, Ware & Shew Rooms" in Jamison Street.[13] The new offices which included a residence were designed by the architect John Verge and are illustrated in Jospeh Fowles' Sydney in 1848, captioned "C N Hunt Cabinet Factory".[14]

While some of his furniture no doubt survives, little can be positively identified. An advertisement for his "Cabinet Furniture of superior workmanship and made from the best materials" appeared in 1824 and included "Claw dining tables, cellaret sideboards, chests of drawers, tent and portable bedsteads, wash hand stands, tables, etc".[15] One of his billheads dated 1834 is preserved in the Mitchell Library (A1 60). It is an account to Mr Lambye for "a Couch bedstead, Seat, Squab, frame well chintz Cover lined and 2 Bolster Cases – £8". The billhead is decorated with engraved illustrations of a horse-drawn hearse and several pieces of furniture. It is similar to the billhead later used by the cabinetmaker John Hill junior. A comment on the work is found in the *Australian* during 1829:

> Amongst the furniture at Mr Hunt's shop in George Street visitors are struck with a splendid Colonial cedar cabinet, elegantly veneered and finished with other woods, all the growth of the Colony. The cabinet is worth seeing. The price asked is fifty guineas.[16]

Hunt was a member of the Municipal Council of Sydney and later in March 1858 was nominated to the Legislative Council.[17] In May 1861 he retired to his residence Hampton Villa which still stands in Grafton Street, Balmain. In October 1861 he conducted a successful libel action arising from certain allegations printed in the Empire in January of that year.[18] The evidence of several witnesses throws further light on Hunt's career particularly in regard to his business and

connection with the Presbyterian church in Balmain. One witness was Charles Hunt described as his nephew. Family papers show he was also Edward Hunt's son-in-law. Charles North Hunt was listed in Sydney directories as a cabinetmaker at Jamison Street between 1847 and 1863. In one directory both Charles and Edward were listed together.[19] The evidence suggests that the business was a partnership or was now in the charge of Charles. A further witness was another son-in-law, Thomas Gordon, who was described as a minister of a small Presbyterian church at Balmain and "quondam Congregationalist". This is a further connection between Edward Hunt and the Presbyterian church which was built on his land at the corner of Darling Street and Colgate Avenue, Balmain, in 1857 following the rift between the members of the local united Presbyterian and Congregational Church.

Edward Hunt died at Balmain on 20 December 1866 and was buried at St John's Church, Ashfield. he had seven daughters, two of whom predeceased him, and one son.[20] His son, Edward Mason Hunt (d 1899), later lived at The Hermitage, Rose Bay, a property he acquired in 1868 but a suggestion that he was the brother of the architect John Horbury Hunt is without foundation.[21]

Hampton Villa was later leased to Sir Henry Parkes. As to be expected a letter from Edward Mason Hunt to Sir Henry on 1 August 1892, answering his complaints of a leaking roof and local larrikins, ended with a reminder to Sir Henry that his rent was over six months in arrears.[22]

A descendant of Edward Hunt is the distinguished Australian poet R D FitzGerald.

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7 Ibid, box 25 p5342.
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18 Empire, 9 Sep 1861.
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21 *Some People and Houses in New South Wales*, G Nesta Griffiths, p17.
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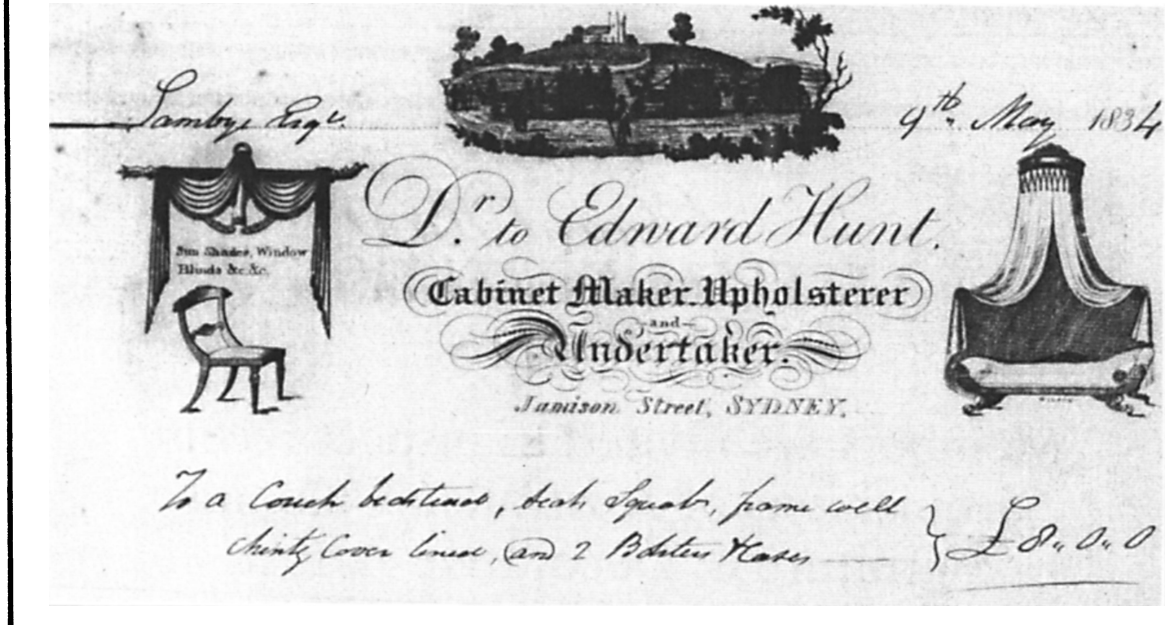
EDITOR'S NOTE
See P Reynolds, "Remains of the Second Presbyterian Church, Balmain", in *Leichhardt Hist J* 4.
See P Reynolds, "From Cameron's Cove to Adolphus Street", in *Leichhardt Hist J* 15.

Billhead of Edward Hunt, 1834
(Mitchell Library)



FERDINAND HAMILTON REUSS SENIOR (1821-1896)

ROSS WILSON AND NEIL PATRICK

Ferdinand Hamilton Reuss (pron Royce) was born in London in 1821. His father was the Royal Prussian Consul, Wilhelm Frederick Reuss, and his mother, Jane Sophia Hamilton. The Reuss family is traced back to the sixteenth century in Prussia where the name was spelt with one "s" as in the family motto: "Fidei Reus – bound by his word".[1]

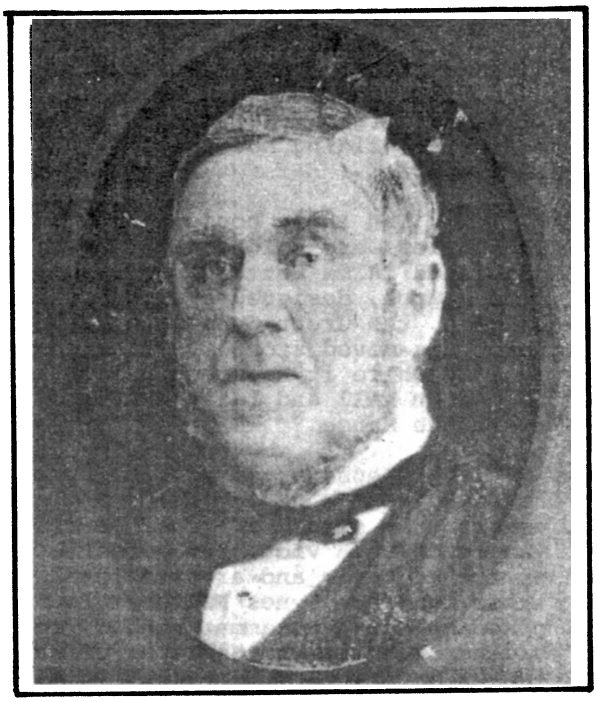
Ferdinand was trained as a civil engineer and worked for Robert Stevenson, the great lighthouse engineer and grandfather of Robert Louis Stevenson.[2] He married twice, the first time to Seliva Burgess by whom he had a son, Ferdinand Hamilton junior, in 1845 and a daughter Adeline. His second marriage was to Augusta Clara Edith Wickett, née Cohan, of Sydney, in 1875, His second son Arthur Herbert I was born in 1879.

Both Ferdinand senior and junior were noted architects and surveyors. Ferdinand senior confined most of his work to the Sydney-Parramatta area whilst Ferdinand junior carried out work in the Bowral-Mittagong-Moss Vale area as well. At Mount Wilson he built E C Merewether's impressive residence Dennarque.[3] The Reuss's gave their names to streets in Adamstown, Birchgrove, Glebe and Leichhardt.

Ferdinand worked in the United States as resident engineer for the New York-Erie Railway Co for some time before sailing to Melbourne in 1851. He soon moved to Sydney, however, and set up practice as an architect and surveyor at 134 Pitt Street.[4] Survey Board records show that he registered as a surveyor in 1856 and soon afterwards formed a partnership with James Browne. At this time he resided at Randall's Terraces, Newtown.

By 1863 he was again in sole practice as an architect and surveyor and was living at Hereford Cottage, Glebe. From 1881 to 1888 he was in partnership with Edward Roland Halloran, architect, surveyor and valuer.[5] Halloran designed the Record Reign Hall in St John's Road, Glebe, in 1897. He married Reuss's daughter Adeline in 1868. From 1870 to 1884 Ferdinand senior completed almost 200 jobs.

In 1864 he bought two parcels of land fronting both sides of Bridge Road at Glebe. On the southern side he had a frontage of 250 feet and a depth



Ferdinand Hamilton Reuss Senior
(Courtesy of Arthur Herbert Reuss II)

of 185 feet adjoining the boundary of Hereford House which stood at the corner of Bridge Road and Glebe Point Road and occupied at the time by Judge Wilkinson. His frontage on the northern side was of 132 feet with a depth of 190 feet to Woolley Street.[6] The land was originally part of St Phillip's glebe and was set aside for the support of the church in 1790. The trustees sold large portions of the glebe at auction in 1828. Reuss's land, which was a part of lot 9, was purchased by George Williams. Subsequent owners included John Tawell, Ambrose Foss, Thomas Woolley and Judge Kinchela.

Reuss built at least six houses on these blocks. He lived at The Hermitage, (72 Bridge Road, now No 154) – a fine Italianate residence – from 1866 until his death in 1896 when ownership passed to Ferdinand junior who administered the estate until his death in 1925.[7] The buildings then passed to Arthur Herbert Reuss I who with his wife Lilian lived there from 1925 until he died in 1957. It is pleasing to note that this building has recently been partially restored to its original condition.

The three houses known as Hamilton, Alma Cottage and Reussdale were sold to the Presbyterian church in 1927. The church demolished Alma Cottage and used the site to re-erect the present Gothic style church, designed by the prominent architect Thomas Rowe who also designed the Great Synagogue, and part of Sydney Hospital and Newington College. The church was moved stone-by-stone from the corner of Glebe Point and Parramatta Roads where it had been

built in 1879. Hamilton was incorporated into the church hall and later converted into a pre-school whilst Reussdale became the Manse.[8]

Reussdale (160 Bridge Road) stands beside the church. It is a delightful example of domestic Gothic architecture and has been kept in almost original condition. It appears to be the earliest example of High Victorian domestic design in Glebe and should be preserved for its historic and architectural value.[9]

Edward Halloran, whose grandfather Laurence Hynes Halloran founded the Sydney College in 1822, later to become Sydney Grammar School, resided there in 1871. Reverend Andrew Gardiner, MA, first minister of the Glebe Presbyterian Church, lived there from 1879 to 1882. Henry Levein, MLA, lived there in 1884 and Adam McKinlay, solicitor, in 1896. The building served as the Manse continuously from 1927 to 1969. Of the houses built by Ferdinand senior on the opposite side of Bridge Road, only Nos 175 and 177 remain, No 173 having been demolished recently for home units. No 175 has been occupied by its present owner Mrs Travers since 1933.

Unfortunately the church, church hall and Reussdale lie idle and are suffering from "demolition by neglect" which could ultimately lead to demolition.

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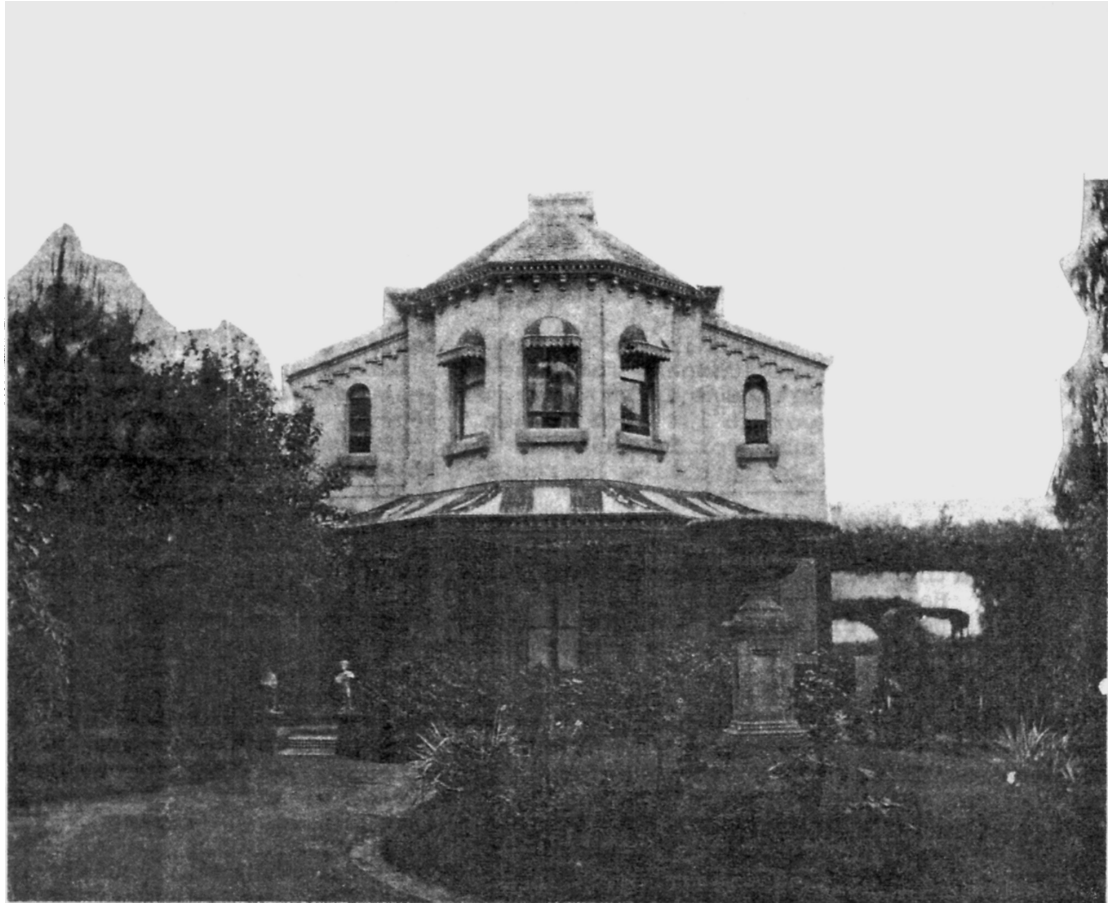
CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

The Hermitage, 154 Bridge Road, Glebe
Ferdinand Hamilton Reuss senior: c1866
Ferdinand senior lived in this symmetrical version of the Victorian Italianate from 1866 until his death in 1896.



HAROLD PARK RACE TRACK

MARGARET QUINN

At the turn of the twentieth century a reclamation was undertaken of mangrove swamps which bordered Johnston's & Orphan School Creeks, Glebe. Part of this reclaimed land, together with part of the original orchard of George Allen's Toxteth estate, form Harold Park Race Track.

Originally named Lilybridge Racecourse, it was available for lease from the Metropolitan Rugby Union. The first trotting organisation, the NSW Trotting club formed in 1902, held its first meeting the same year at the Lilybridge Racecourse and after two more meetings subsequently transferred to Kensington Racecourse. In June, 1904 the Club was back at Lilybridge Racecourse which had its name changed to Epping Racecourse.

In 1911 the NSW Trotting Club purchased the Epping Racecourse for its own use. The name was changed again in 1929 to Harold Park Race Track because members of the public confused the Epping Racecourse with the suburb of Epping. The track was named Harold Park after Childe Harold (imp.) a famous American stallion and sire, who set many trotting records in NSW.

As a pupil attending primary school, my earliest recollection of Epping Racecourse was 1919. The NSW Trotting Club held weekly meetings on Monday afternoons and half-a-dozen 12 year old lads regularly wagged school to attend these meetings – their juvenile interest was regarded as a normal way of life in a horse-racing environment. The headmaster must have been aware of his pupils' whereabouts as he reprimanded them wisely on the following day - he taught them arithmetic by means of punishment sums (long multiplications, the answers of which had to be proved). Perhaps he recognised the truants as potentials trotting drivers, trainers, owners or punters, and ensured their proficiency in mathematical calculations

Money was a scarce commodity in those days so school truants and citizens congregated on the "outer", an area graciously provided by nature with a high wall of accessible rocky cliffs which overlooked the race track near the Leger. "Giggleville" was the local nickname for the Leger, bestowed and defined by punters on the premise that a man had to giggle, otherwise he cried.

The "outer" resembled a country fair pervaded with the gambling atmosphere of an open air casino. It provided free rental space for unregistered bookmakers who accepted a three-penny bet and upwards on a race. If a "long-shot" won and an illegal bookmaker was unable to meet commitments, he used discretion and fled closely pursued by angry clients who shouted "welsher". The unfortunate punters never captured the treacherous quarry and would loudly bemoan their financial loss.

Unrented space on the "outer" grandstand was also used by promoters of such games of chance as Crown and Anchor; Two Up; Thimble and Pea (conducted by the man with the umbrella and his stooge); Unders and Overs (played by one throw of two dice) and introduced with a ditty:

U for Under, O for Over, 3 to 1 the 7,
Evens Under, Evens Over, 3 to 1 the 7.

The NSW Trotting Club continued to conduct weekly meetings during the depression and the colourful "outer" provided a boost to the morale of out-of-workers.

Jim Brownlee and Bill (Doughy) Loosemore, two old-time drivers and owners, always held a stop watch in a leather case when driving and checked their own times on each lap of the race. Driver-owner Charlie O'Brien, whose stables were at Piper Street, Leichhardt, later became starter when night trotting was introduced in 1949.

FERDINAND HAMILTON REUSS SENIOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

EDITOR'S NOTES

For R Stevenson, engineer, see *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, vol 22, p545.

See "F H Reuss senior", in H J Gibbney & A G Smith, *A Biographical register, 1788-1939, Notes from the name index of the Australian Dictionary of Biography* (*ADB*, Canberra, 1987), vol 2, p209.

The surname "Coham" was given in Wilson & Patrick's article as published in 1972. The correct spelling "Cohan" can be found in the NSW Births, Deaths & Marriages Index.

For classification of Reussdale as Victorian Italianate, and not "High Victorian domestic" nor "Picturesque Gothic" as given by B & K Smith, see Apperly, Irving & Reynolds, *Identifying Australian Architecture, a Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present* (Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1989).

For an excellent photograph of Reussdale, see B & K Smith, *The Architectural Character of Glebe, Sydney*, University Co-op Bookshop (1973), p55.

BOOK REVIEWS

BURRAWONG AND JOHN YOUNG

By Alan Roberts
P R Reynolds & the Annandale Association, 1972, $0.65

Reviewed by Max Kelly

Burrawong and John Young is a fine monograph. In a few thousand words Alan Roberts has introduced his reader to a further and hitherto little known aspect of the life of John Young. Young was an extraordinary man. English, non-conformist, ambitious and exceptionally competent, Young became an archetypal Victorian Sydney patriarch. Via prodigious effort as an urban contractor and planner-developer he accumulated a minor fortune. *Burrawong* is the story of the spending of some of it.

John Young was 60 when he decided to go "into land". It is the age when members of the wealthy urban middle class often feel inclined so to do. Burrawong, 40 miles north-west of Orange, and belonging originally to Simeon Lord, one of Sydney's more dramatic merchant princes, was Young's final choice. Six years after his 1887 freehold purchase of 3,583 acres for £5,000, the total area owned, leased and under licence was 15,500 acres. And it is here that the story becomes interesting. Young himself never lived there. His two sons and one daughter did. First came Harry to manage Burrawong. In 1890 Harry left to take over Southernwood, formerly portion of Burrawong, and Young's other son, Fred, took over the managership. Neither, it appears, cared for city life or were welcome in Young's urban activities. Fred led the way as an orchardist of some renown and developed a fruit and jam factory acquiring, in the process, a distinct dislike for the life of the grazier *per se*. As a result a third family member, a son-in-law, also arrived to become manager. John Young, ever a builder, proceeded to build two mansions and one less grand villa to house his children. Fred and Beatrice lived in the Gothic-Tudor-Italianate The Manor of 40 rooms. Annie, Young's daughter, and her husband Sylvanus Reynolds (*Rey* not Ray as the text has it, twice) had the impressive, twelve-roomed Burrawong and Harry lived in the rather more modest Southernwood with his wife Annie. Roberts details the strengths, complexities and idiosyncrasies of these buildings extremely well, using photographs and maps, although one illustration, presumed to be Southernwood remains untitled.

Throughout this history – throughout the droughts and economic depressions, the rise and fall of the Burrawong Fruit Company, the varying fortunes of the Burrawong Grazing Company, the isolation of the rural life for wives used to city streets – runs the strong hand of John Young. Young dispatching his children, Young arriving from Sydney for company meetings, Young opening the local Agricultural Show, Young building massive-pile houses. Alan Roberts claims that "John Young bought his pastoral station at Burrawong purely as an economic venture".

Did he? The evidence for the claim is slight. A more satisfactory hypothesis, from the evidence cited could well be that Young, getting older, sought the traditional route of the successful middle classes. Upward social mobility meant land – consolidated estates, the big house, the country seat, a prestige rarely available to the exclusively urban. Yet this introduces a sociological bias rather peripheral to the specific tasks of this monograph. For the broader view, we need to wait for Roberts' Young biography. At that stage the mosaic of Young's life should make fascinating reading.