ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

Elizabeth Farm, Parramatta. N.S.W.

Part II. EXCAVATION PROGRAMME


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Excavation in the earliest parts of Elizabeth Farm

In Fig. 1 can be seen the trenches excavated in December 1978 in rooms 4 - 10 (red), those dug by the earlier Frankel expedition (1972) being marked in green.

As outlined in II.1 above, the excavation policy formulated in December 1978 was circumscribed by specific self-imposed limitations as were deemed appropriate in relation to a historic structure of this significance i.e. that excavation should only be carried out where
a) future restoration work was planned which would perforce disturb the existing fabric and structure to a greater or lesser degree
b) new excavation was in fact a continuation of work already started by the Frankel expedition which added to and amplified the results of that work.

As a result, while the main emphasis of the December 1978 season was on the early part of the Farm, i.e. Block A, and its immediate surrounds, investigation was limited within the above terms. As little as possible of the early floorboards, rendered surfaces and pavings were disturbed, and then only after careful recording. The long east-west underfloor cross-section, from A6A to the courtyard west of A4A is necessarily incomplete, although giving a fair idea of the development of the main core of the house.

Two separate areas also towards the back of the house (the cellar entry in A 10, and A7-8) are tied into this section, although it has not yet proved possible to connect them to each other.

Dig reports on the following areas are given below, by members of the team as named:

A4 and A4A
D. Bairstow
W. Thorp

A5 (Cellar)
W. Thorp
M. Davies

A6, and A6A
G. Wilson
J. Duncan

Long section and plan
G. Wilson
J. Duncan
A 10 (Cellar entry)  
A. Wilson  
F. Sapsford

A7, A8  
R. Galloway  
R. Young

Unless otherwise indicated, plans and photographs of each trench are by the relevant supervisors, with finished draughtsmanship by Wendy Thorp.
A4 and A4A

The junction of A4 and A4A at the south base of the arch was the starting point for the whole A block investigation, since it was beneath the floor here that the remains of a rotted beam could be seen aligned N-S as if on the line of an earlier western terminal wall.

Both the presence of extensive termite activity and rot, and the architects' view that underfloor ventilation for the whole of A4A was a preservation requirement ensured that systematic archaeological investigation was an essential preliminary to what was likely to prove a much greater disturbance. A minimum number of the thick early 6" x 1" floorboards were therefore carefully marked and raised along the southern side of 4 and 4A (excluding those running under the arch joinery). This revealed the series of joists (N-S) below, numbered JO - VII from west to east as shown fig. No joists were disturbed, and excavation was carried out either through them from above, or severely constrained by them from below. (The main distinction between these two methods was that, for the excavators, the former tended to produce headaches, the latter severe spinal distortion.)

To give spatial control in this digging area, the joists were used as vertical markers, and the areas between each pair of joists designated as bays (e.g. Bay JV-VI is that between joists V and VI, cf. fig.). The vertical datum used was the upper surface of the floorboards.

Bays J 0/1 - J IV/V.

There were three main layers distinguishable below the floor joists of A4A. At the extreme west end along the apsidal footings of wall 5, i.e. between JO/I and I/II was a continuous deposit (layer 1A) above the stone footings containing heavy plaster chunks near the surface with finer plaster debris below. Further east, from JII to JV the surface layer I consisted of grey-brown loam with small gravel and some building material
which in general overlay a hard-packed brick-red layer below it. The exception to this was along the stone footings to the south between joists I to III where it continued down in the form of a foundation trench of limited extent (cf. fig. ). To the east, in JIII/IV this foundation trench narrowed and ended in packed brick rubble; to the west it turned sharply north, thus running parallel to the joists.

The hard-packed layer 2 was very distinctive, although varying in both colour and thickness. Mainly very thin, c.005m it became thicker (0.02) at the edge of the foundation trench. Its brick-red colour paled towards JIII/IV.

**Bay J V/VI**

Here layer 1 consisted of building debris, rubble, mortar wood etc, apparently the rubbish from the Phase III renovations. Below this, layer 2 consisted of loose sand with brick rubble throughout. Layer 3, below again, consisted entirely of loose sand, above layer 4 which showed a distinctive change. It consisted of bricks, wood and nails above a layer of what appeared to be decomposed mortar (layer 5) of different colour and texture to the very red mortar surviving on the stone footing in this trench.

Below this probable floor was the densely-packed clay of Layer 6, the B horizon of the natural soil profile. The stone footing rested on this.

**Bay J IX/VII ( Beam below A4/A4A arch)**

Removal of surface debris and loose soil in Room 4, JVIII area (layer 1) was followed by careful cleaning in and around the rotted beam which lay north-south in Bay VII/VIII. (Layer 1B).

This beam formed part of the timber-framed archway between Rooms 4 and 4A, the uprights of which were morticed into one beam above, and another one below the floor. This latter beam was badly eaten by termites especially at the south mortice. It was burnt along the lower edge, and laid on packed clay daub above the brick foundation wall.
On its west face the foundation wall under the beam was revealed as of three courses deep, the bricks packed with mud, with a fourth course inset above. The lowest course was of headers, the second of stretchers, the third of headers, and the inset course above also of headers.

Excavation on the west side of the wall under and to the west of JVII gave the following sequence:

a top layer 1 of loose soil and building debris comparable to JV/VI layer 1. Layer 2 of looser soil and brick rubble above a packed earth floor 0.02 deep which form layer 3. Below this was loamy soil above densely-packed black clay and mud (layer 4), with some brick rubble in foundation trenches beside the brick N-S foundation wall and the stone E-W footings.

The area was excavated down to layer 4, and the beam and foundation brick wall investigated again this time from the west face. Debris in and around beam was removed as layer 1B. Again there was packed clay daub between the beam and the upper inset course of brick, which was alternatively headers and stretchers set in mud but with what appeared to be lime mortar on the west face to a depth of 0.06m. There were four courses of brickwork below this, the top and third courses being all stretchers, the second and bottom being all headers.

Wall construction: uppermost course of brick beam foundation wall inset 0.03 on west face, 0.11 on east face. All bricks are 0.205 (8") in length. Width of inset course is c. 0.43 m (1' 5"), i.e. two brick lengths plus packing; width of foundation courses is c. 0.53 m (1' 10") i.e. two and a half brick lengths (bricks 0.205 x 0.10 x 0.65 or 8" x 4" x 2½"

Excavation at the south end of the beam wall showed that stone footings had been inserted at the end of the Phase I wall, and lay beneath the Phase III south
extension to the arch. The brick rubble and packed clay daub above the stone footings of the south wall of Room A4A were cleared, revealing stone footings similar on the face to the south face of the north wall of room A7.

Beneath the door A4A/A7 (D) the heavy stone footings continued, of stone and brick rubble packed with clay daub in the gaps between. Probing to a depth of 0.50m below the top of the stone footings, i.e. 0.10 below the level of the top course of the Phase I brick foundation course revealed no evidence of any survival of an earlier wall along the alignment of this south wall.
A5 Cellar

The cellar under the entrance hall had already been partly excavated by the Frankel team in 1972, and the present enquiry was supplementary to that investigation only.

Access to the cellar was gained in 1972 by removing floorboards from two areas of the existing floor, i.e. a rectangle in the NW corner of A5, and another in the SE corner of the same room. These cuts were required for access since it became apparent that this cellar was both filled and sealed either at or by the time of the Phase III building alterations, with no access since that time. There was a gap of about 1.00m between the Phase III floorboards above and the top of the rubble fill in the cellar. The Elizabeth Farm Trustees appeared to have erected a brick pier on top of the rubble fill to support the floor, c. 1970-1.

Interest in the cellar centred upon two lines of enquiry; first, excavation, sieving and analysis of the cellar fill down to the occupation layer on the cellar floor, and second, the architectural analysis of the building stages within the cellar.

1. Excavation

Dr. Frankel had excavated a small sounding in the south east corner, and this was expanded in December 1978 as shown in plan fig. The extremely loose nature of the fill produced constant slipping of the deposit, although this could be controlled until excavation recording was completed.

The rubble fill (layer 1) was on an average about 1.00m deep and consisted of broken brick bits of wood, plaster, crushed mortar, and soil from the A2 horizon. It contained no discernible bone or other organic material and extremely few finds: only two or three silver plated pins emerged from the sieves. Analysis of the brick fragments and other building material in this fill is
One other small group of finds emerged about half way down the filling near the west wall, viz. some bottle glass, some window glass and a piece of transfer printed ware apparently of early date.

Analysis of the bricks and other building material in this fill is in progress, but there seems little doubt that it must represent the debris from the Phase III building operation.

At the very bottom of the fill occurred a thin layer in which were two sherds of Chinese porcelain (layer 2) lying on the flagstones of the layer 3 floor.

2. Architectural analysis

The cellar is a text-book example of successive building stages, which can be seen readily by means of variant bricks and mortars, and doubtless confirmed by more subtle methods now in progress.

Its floor of sandstone blocks laid upon the shale C horizon appears to be of Phase I, since it continues under the east and west infill walls of Phase III, as well as under the pier supporting the entry blocking in the south wall. Presumably it abuts the original east and west walls of Room 5 (detectable by their Phase I construction i.e. brick type and mortar type) which still stand, the eastern to full height and the western one to floor board height, outside the added Phase III infill walls (cf. fig.).

At this time in Phase I the entry to the cellar was from the adjacent room to the south, A 10, where the entry suspected by Dr. Frankel was subsequently excavated (cf. p. and fig.).

Subsequently the entry into the A 10 opening was blocked (cellar south wall blocking), as was the A 10' opening itself when it was filled and flagged over. Finally a buttress or pier was built against this south wall blocking presumably, as will the east west cellar in-fill walls, to prevent lateral movement exacerbated by the swelling clay subsoil.

Visual examination of building materials and techniques suggests that the south wall blocking together with the filling and sealing of the A 10 entry are all of Phase II,
the period when the south west part of the main block A was extensively modified. If so, the cellar at this period was either entered from Room A5 in a manner unknown, through a floor preceding the Phase III floor now still existing, or it was already sealed (although almost certainly not yet filled). Its function being fulfilled by a new cellar elsewhere.

The structural activities of Phase III all appear to be aimed at structural stability in the cellar now disused—a policy very much in character with the other major manifestation of Phase III i.e. the massive stone footings and floor supports added everywhere. The infill walls and the added pier to buttress the cellar entry blocking are very much in keeping with the apparent over-engineering elsewhere. At the same time, such obvious over-engineering following closely upon the frail quality of the Phase I structures is itself very revealing of a growing awareness of local conditions.
From
Summary of Excavations, 1972
David Frankel (La Trobe University)

AREA H UNDER THE ENTRANCE HALL

Description and Intentions

Following the lack of success with the excavations in Area C, the alternative hypothesis that the cellar was to be found below the central hall was investigated. This necessitated the cutting and removal of sections of the floorboards so as to allow access to the area beneath.

Unlike other areas in the house, there is a considerable space between the floor and the ground-surface below, and this gave a good indication that the cellar was to be found there.

The area below the floor was filled, to between 0.50 m and 1 m of the floor with brick rubble. Against the south wall a brick buttress, which had supported a bearer for the floorboards, was destroyed at the top, a central beam now being supported by a pillar in the centre of the area. All the sides of the area are lined with brick; there is a change in brick construction in the central area of the southern wall behind the buttress - this indicating the possibility that the entrance to the cellar was from the south.

Two squares were excavated in this area. A check of brick sizes shows there is no common or standard size brick.

Square H1

H1 was the area in the south-east corner of the area, situated so as to investigate the relationship of the southern buttress and central section of the wall to the other walls.

Upper deposits show the destruction of the top of the buttress when the central beam was set in place, occurred during the last period of building activity.

Below these recent deposits, the brick rubble continued down to a depth of about 1.40 m below the level of the floorboards, where a well laid floor of flat irregular stone slabs was located. This stone floor was laid on top of the basal shale which had been excavated and levelled off. The eastern wall and the easternmost part of the south wall were built before the floor was laid: the filling section and buttress stand on the floor.
Summary of Excavations, 1972
David Frankel (La Trobe University)

A coin of George III (1816) was found in the uppermost levels of the rubble fill.

Square H9

H9 is an area on the western wall of the cellar area, including a corner of the central pillar. This showed that the central pillar was built on top of the rubble fill.

The stone flag floor was located at a similar depth to H1.

Interpretation

The original cellar is located underneath the central hall of the primary rectangular building. It is brick lined, well built, and has a stone flag floor. Its probable original height was about 1.40m. The entrance to the cellar was by way of an outer cutting at the southern end.

When the cellar was no longer used, the entrance was bricked up and the buttress designed to carry a bearer for the floorboards built against this construction. This occurred at a time when the floorboards were removed from the hall, as after the bricking-up of the entrance and the subsequent erection of the buttress, the cellar was used as a dump for brick rubble. This series of events must date to a period of considerable building activity (and may be related to the period of major alterations in the front garden). The 1816 coin found at the top of the rubble fill is unlikely to have fallen through the floorboards, or to have been in circulation at the time of construction of the central pillar and may therefore indicate that the filling of the cellar should date to some time soon after 1816 and perhaps to the period of building activity in the 1820's.

In this case, it may be suggested that for some 20 years after the construction of the present kitchen and cellar in 1805, both cellars were in use, and that there was therefore no back door to the central hall until the rebuildings of the 1820's.

At some more recent time the central beam was placed in position when the central pillar was built on the rubble fill.
Rooms A6-A6A

In rooms A6 - 6A permission was given for limited access to foundations through the recently replaced floorboards so that it was possible to check whether a similar beam on brick foundation existed at the east end of the core block to that in A4 - A4A. Excavation was also carried out in the SW corner of A6 to investigate the south wall at this point, and also to confirm the under-floor construction of the N-S wall originally forming the east wall of the cellar.

SE Trench Bays 1 and 2

Bay 2 overlay the junction of A6 and A6A below the arch, with Bay 1 also excavated immediately to the east of it.

Layer 1 consisted of brick rubble, wood and brick dust from the 1968 renovations (during which several joists and some plates had been renewed as well as the floorboards), to a depth of c. 0.22 m. Layer 1 extended from the north edge of the excavation to the edge of a sandstone block (replaced upside down during the renovations). The sandstone block extended 0.12m from the S wall of the trench.

Beneath layer 1 was a brick course and the decayed remains of a timber beam. These were found in loose brick rubble mortar and wood fragments, derived apparently from the decay of the beam together with the disturbance of layer 1. This was layer 2, and it too had been slightly disturbed since the northern part of the beam had been removed. East of the beam was a small area of red-brown mortar containing a high proportion of rubble and lime. East of this again was a course of bricks set in dark brown mud. The eastern extremity of the trench consisted of a black loam containing roots. This may represent the old external soil.

On removing the beam and rubble of layer 2 it was found that brick courses extended over the whole of the trench and beneath the sandstone-rubble wall which forms the western boundary of the trench as well as the joist.
support. Examination revealed that the aforementioned beam was set in a trough formed by brickwork and laid on mud clay mortar. The brickwork appears to be four headers wide, with the sandstone rubble wall resting on the fourth header width to the west. This abuts against dressed sandstone blocks as shown (fig).

The brickwork appears to be that of Phase I modified in Phase II or III to take the beam to support the timber arch (by analogy with Room 4 - 4A). Either at the same time or shortly afterwards the sandstone rubble wall and dressed blocks were added to strengthen the foundations and carry the floor joists.

Excavation to the east of Bay 2, in Bay 1, revealed a series of five layers before excavation became impossible through lack of space. The bottom one of these, layer 5, was the dark clay - loam layer with roots, some indurated shale, a few finds and small fragments of brick and mortar which should represent the Phase I external ground surface. Above this was a 0.06 m deep layer of grey lime mortar with shell in it, together with indurated shale, broken brick, brick dust and soil, with small amounts of light red mortar (layer 4). There were a few artefact finds in this layer.

Above this again was layer 3, c. 0.18m deep, of hard-packed red clay and lime mortar forming a surface with broken brick, grey clay, burnt wood and indurated shale throughout, which prima facie appears to be the surface corresponding to the Phase III building operation. Layer 2, overlying this, was a fine layer of thick dust with small patches of decomposed plaster and charcoal, and some indurated shale. There were some small finds in this layer, which was c. 0.001m thick.

Over all was layer 1, rubble and thick dust with mortar and wood in it, its top .005 below the bottom of the joist. It was in this layer that the remains of the old plate for the joists lay, together with the replaced new one. A number of small finds occurred, confirming the disturbed nature of the deposit.
Opportunity for excavation in A 10 was afforded by the decision that three of the flagstones there were so sunk as to require inevitably lifting and repositioning in the long term. Dr. Frankel had already surmised that the cellar entry lay behind the south blocking wall of the cellar under A5; it was thus possible to investigate this problem further.

A necessary preliminary was the full recording of the flagged floor, which was planned, photographed, and had its stones numbered and oriented before removal. Only stones certain to be repositioned later were lifted, and this necessarily limited the extent of the area excavated.

Three stones (nos. 35, 32 and 29) were lifted and placed in the hall A5. A layer of dust and disturbed bedding material (mortar) was revealed below which was numbered layer 1. This loose deposit covered the whole area of the trench and extended beyond it but was concentrated below the joints of the flagstones. It was brushed off and sieved separately from the undisturbed solid material below it (layer 2) even though the latter was essentially of the same composition in order to avoid contamination of the clearly undisturbed layer 2. The presence of minute light bulb glass fragments in layer 1 confirmed the necessity of this precaution.

Layer 2 consisted of solid red sandy mortar bedding material, a base for the flagstones. It appeared to represent a number of separate batches of mortar of similar but not identical composition. Sieving reduced it to powder, but it was evidently poured into the trench originally to solidify in situ. It was removed in blocks so as to avoid disturbance to layer 3 below. Samples were taken from two of the batches which were distinguishable by their cleavage characteristics and variation in hardness; there were no visible criteria for distinction between batches.
Layer 3 represented the interface between layers 2 and 4. It consisted of dry powdery soil containing glass charcoal, brick fragments, a clay pipe stem, small pieces of sandstone, metal, wood, and red mortar from layer 2. It proved very difficult to remove the solid layer 2 without disturbing this soft layer of dry soil immediately underneath. Inevitably some of the two layers were mixed during the removal of layer 2, and this disturbed part of the dry soil layer was called layer 3.

Layer 4 below it was a deposit of dry soil and brick fragments containing pottery, metal, bone, shell, wood, charcoal, clay pipe fragments, stones and clay roofing tile fragments. It extended over the whole area of the trench (and beyond) but was partly confined within the area of the four cellar entry walls. It filled the upper quarter of the cellar entry. A fine dry soil fill with no cohesion or evidence of compacting, it brought up the level of the fill of the cellar entry to about 0.10 above the level of the walls.

At this point the trench was extended by the removal of further flagstones (nos. since in the course of excavating layer 3 part of the eastern section of the trench collapsed at the NE corner. This collapse revealed for the first time the brick walls (with brown earth mortar) of the cellar entry all of which lay beyond the limits of the existing trench.

Layer 5 consisted of broken, and towards the bottom of the trench complete, hand-made bricks, many with a yellow ochre and lime coating. Some pieces of sandstone and wooden beams were also found within the loose fill, and there was some red soil present. The bricks had originally been deposited in the trench in a disorderly heap and were extremely loose, with large gaps and much air space between them. It would appear that most of the bricks were broken before they were put into the cellar entry.
This loose pile of bricks comprising layer 5 provided the major part of the fill of the trench. After excavating in the original trench through about half the depth of layer 5 the sides collapsed (i.e. layers 3 and 4 above, back to the walls on each side) exposing brick all round. Thereafter the trench was defined by these brick walls, the cross sections being recorded during excavating because of the impossibility of retaining the deposit physically.

Towards the bottom of the trench, still in layer 5, two wooden beams were found among the fill at the northern end of the trench (cf. plates) together with a number of smaller more fragmentary pieces of wood.

Layer 6, below layer 5 in the NW corner of the trench, was a layer of dark brown moist soil containing plaster pieces, a pair of mason's compasses and other metal, wood, shell, charcoal and glass. The layer was identical to layer 7 below it except that layer 5 was piled into the NW corner of the trench. From its size and location layer 6 could very well represent a barrow load of soil dumped into the NW corner of the trench. Alternatively it may be the sweepings of the area around the cellar entry, and this could explain the presence of the compasses.

Layer 7 was a layer of compacted dark moist soil and plaster fragments. Presumably it covers the entire area of the cellar entry floor, but only the northernmost 0.50 m of the cellar entry area was excavated. It contained metal, wood, glass, and pottery. It represented the deposit immediately above the cellar entry floor; consequently the distribution of artefacts was plotted together with the position of the various soil samples taken. The layer seemed rather compacted, which may have been due to its moistness, or it may have been trampled during the filling operation. Alternatively, the fine particles of layer 4 may have filtered through layer 5 and been deposited on the floor, solidifying because of the fineness of the particles and the chemical action of the lime from the plaster.
Room 11.8 was investigated in detail by Dr. Frankel's team, and work in December 1978 was restricted to planning the revealed features and excavating specific features, such as the foundation trenches in the NW corner.

The main interest of this room is the series of building stages it exhibits. In its final form, with high level wooden floor carried on massive stone footings packed with red clay and lime mortar on which the imprint of the wooden bearers can still be seen, the room is essentially of Phase III construction or reconstruction. This can be seen in the floor footings along the south wall, the short N-S footings abutting on the fireplace and in the footings of the brick nog east wall of the room, the wall itself being infilled after the bearers along the south wall were in position. Mortar type, footing construction and floor level are all consistent with the Phase III work in the A4A-6A core of the house.

However, the remains of earlier building stages can be clearly seen related to the lower floor level of Phase I-II. Most obvious is the line of post-holes revealed in the 1972 excavations implying a verandah against the earlier south wall of the A4 - A6 house which was narrower in its NS dimension than the existing room 8 i.e. 1.73m as against 2.64m, i.e. 5' 8'' as against 8' 8''. These post-holes were excavated in 1972 by Dr. Frankel. In 1978 the westernmost one was re-excavated, and its brick rubble packing confirmed. No attempt was made to remove the central floor footing to establish whether a fifth posthole existed between those numbered 2 and 3 on the plan (pl. ) but further west investigation in Room 7 (q.v.) established that no more existed there.

* Dr. Frankel mentions five post-holes established, the sixth one in doubt. In 1978 only four could be found with certainty.
Final interpretation of the form of such a verandah must obviously await further information which may emerge during restoration work in A9 (the servery) and further east below the library, as well as the completion of work on Dr. Frankel's artefacts. One point which already emerges however concerns the low brick footing excavated by him at the west end of Room 8. While related to a floor level similar to that in use when the posts were constructed, it projects significantly beyond the presumed width of the verandah. The nature of its relationship to the existing south wall of A8, as Dr. Frankel comments, is uncertain, although it clearly pre-dates the visible stone footings along that wall. The simplest explanation therefore of the existing early constructions in this room is that this brick footing (Wall on plan) relates to a stage later than the verandah stage, but still preceding the reorganisation associated with the raised floor height. It does not appear substantial enough to be the footing of a structural wall, and has the character of a foundation for a floor plate, the floorboards themselves extending to both east and west. Such a floor would thus have been minimally about 0.23m (9") above the existing brick height.

The two (at least) further stages which can be seen in this room both relate to the time when the floor height was raised by the introduction of massive stone footings as mentioned above. In the first of these reconstructions the short NS footing adjacent to the fireplace, as suggested by Dr. Frankel, must have carried a partition wall before the existing east wall of A8 was put up. The alternative possibility is that it was constructed not to carry a wall but the floor, and was in use contemporaneously with the existing east wall. If so, however, it would be expected to run EW, in order to carry an additional plate to support the joists. Moreover the timber impressions in the red mortar on top of it indicate a structure at right angles to those on the S wall.
In the next stage the upper part of this wall, if such it was, was removed and the existing brick-nog partition wall in-filled further east, as suggested by Dr. Frankel. Both these stages are related to the later height of the floor, now only 0.07m higher than the level of the flagstones in A10. The clay soil level with the base of the stone footings of the south wall in A8 is 0.58m below the later floor height, its wooden floor boards presumably 8" or 9" above this to allow for the height of the bearers (i.e. 0.20 to 0.23m).

If so, this means that the earlier lower floor in A8 was very close in absolute height to the top of the brick walls of the cellar entry in A10.

Four provisional stages of room A8 can thus be set out as follows, more as a basis for further enquiry than as established fact:

Stage 1

A verandah only, approximately 5' 8" wide fronted by five (?) posts to the south, its western limit unclear.

Stage 2

Verandah widened by nearly a metre (i.e. 3'), south wall of A8 presumably built to enclose it (evidence not yet available), floor remaining at about the same height supported on bearers related to the low brick foundation to the west. Western boundary either a partition wall on the brick foundation or the west wall of A7.

Stage 3

Major change in floor level involving the appearance of heavy stone footings packed with red lime and clay mortar. Transverse footing (wall) adjacent to fireplace possibly marked new division between A7 and A8.

Existing east wall of A8 not yet built.

Stage 4

Present arrangement of walls, the brick nog wall at east end of A8 being built and previous wall if any taken down. The fireplace, which from its level must belong to either Stage 3 or Stage 4, fits better into this stage.
It is clear that stages 3 and 4 may have been separated in time by some years, or have been virtually part of a single operation. On the evidence of brick types, mortar types and general construction characteristics stages 1 and 2 can be ascribed to Phases I - II, stages 3 and 4 to Phase III.
Room A7

Excavation in Room A7 was limited to the south end of the room, where much of the recent rotten flooring could be removed. Layer 1, the surface rubbish below the floorboards contained a number of mixed finds including a 1923 newspaper and a 1967 20 cent piece together with building debris.

Below this were a series of sandy loam layers of varying hardness. Layer 2a extended over the whole of this south part of A7, overlying the top of the foundation trench (layer 2c) against the low brick foundation to the east, and cut through by the west foundation trench (layer 2b) cut against the west wall of A7. Layer 2a contained a little small brick rubble, charcoal, lime mortar and some pins, which continued more sparsely into the top of the very similar layer 3 below it. Below this again in the central area of A7 was an extremely hard-packed layer of brick rubble, clay and stone, forming a marked strip about 0.45m (18") wide running NS through A7 at a distance of c. 1.22 (48") west of the low brick foundation. This strip was called layer 4.

The west foundation trench (layer 2b) was of loosely packed sandy loam with little rubble, whereas the east foundation trench (layer 2c) contained much more. A large quantity of indurated shale pebbles was also found in it. Quantities of indurated shale pebbles also characterised layer 3, level with layer 4 but east of it, and it generally appeared that the natural profile here consisted partly of sandly loam with massed indurated shale, and partly of sandly clay without it.

The main point of interest in A7 perhaps lay in the two foundation trenches. The western one, extending along the full extent of the west wall of A7 as excavated was evidently cut from a higher level than the eastern. At its south end it is overlain by the stone footings which carried the floor joists which implies their addition at a time later than its construction (without however implying
how much later). Further investigation of the west wall from the courtyard CY, if appropriate, would relate interior evidence to that from outside levels (as seen in the CY NE corner trench).
From
Summary of Excavations, 1972
David Franke (La Trobe University)

AREA D

Description and Intentions

Area D is a small room behind the original rectangular block.

The floorboards of this room had been removed prior to restoration and the area was therefore accessible at the time of the excavations.

The line of the north wall of this room is that of the south wall of the original 1793 house. The western wall is a light partition wall placed on the floorboards. The Southern wall is the present brick wall between the room and the inner courtyard (Area C), and the eastern wall is a light brick & wood wall dividing off this room from the "butler's pantry". This wall is built on a rough stone foundation. A fireplace is built against the northern wall, backing on to the fireplace in the western room of the main block.

Stone foundations for the wooden beams to take the bearers for the floorboards line the northern and southern walls, while across the centre of the room, from the fireplace to the southern wall is a line of stones similar to those beneath the present western wall and which serve no function in the recent flooring.

The possibility of a great many small finds fallen through the floorboards, as well as the interest in identifying changes in the use of the area made this a promising area for excavation.

Because of the possibility of different distribution of finds in different areas having some value, the room was divided into 50 cm squares to give a close control. As the soil was such that no good stratigraphic deposits were located, a vertical control was kept by taking absolute levels.

Area D Excavations

The surface of the room as exposed was considerably disturbed by the work involving the removal of the floorboards as well as other activities. Preliminary cleaning of this disturbed deposit, which included much building material (plaster, fibre, cement, wood, wallpaper etc.) as well as many small finds, removed most of the recent deposit. The layer below was, however, not really distinct, and consisted of a loose soil layer including some wood and stone fragments as well as a
great many small finds - no simple pattern of distribution of the finds could be seen. A lower layer was somewhat harder in places, but was again not really distinct from the soft upper deposits and again contained many small finds.

A well laid "wall" of bricks running N-S across the west side of the room was revealed by the removal of this deposit, which also filled in foundation trenches dug for the sandstone blocks lining the north and south walls. Several piles of rubble showed up through this deposit. The removal of the lowest deposit revealed the dark natural soil, with the one brick high "wall" resting on it. The foundation trenches for the bearer blocks were cut into the natural soil and the rough stone wall built on it. The rubble heaps were seen to be rubble-filled holes cut into the natural soil, which formed, together with other holes not lined with the brick rubble, a row of 5 post-holes, running parallel to the north wall and about 1.50m from it. The post-holes are between 15 and 20 cm square and are irregularly placed about 20 cm apart. It is likely that another post-hole is located beneath the rough wall across the centre of the room.

Removal of sections of the bearers blocks showed that the brick "wall" in the west of the room ran below them and was destroyed at the south end by the construction of the south wall. The relationship of the brick "wall" to the north wall could not be determined.
Area D Interpretation

Several phases of use of the area may be suggested.

When the original rectangular block was built in 1793, it is likely that there was a light verandah or shed at the back. The line of post-holes gives some indication of such a structure and the brick "wall" at the west end of the room may be seen to be related to this primary construction, possibly serving as the base for wooden floorboards.

At a later date, this structure was removed and the present south wall built. The sandstone blocks were set in position to carry the bearers for floorboards in what was then included within the main body of the house. The stone foundations across the centre of the room probably carried a partition wall similar to the present east wall, which then did not exist. This would mean that the eastern half of the room formed a larger unit together with the present "Butlers Pantry" while the western half extended westward to the present outer wall of the house, assuming that the present light west wall was also not yet built.

A later development gave the room its present form, with the removal of the one partition wall and the erection of the present east wall (as well as, possibly, the present west wall).

No immediately apparent significance is seen in the distribution of the finds, although it is possible that detailed analysis will show differences related to the changes in the architecture.
Covered passage between A and B blocks (C Trenches)

In this area one trench (C1) had been opened by the Frankel team in 1972 to investigate any extension of the early part of the house in this direction, especially with reference to the location of the early kitchen burned down in 1805. A part of the brick paving between the two flagged areas respectively surrounding the NE corner of B block and the SW corner of A block was removed, and the trench when excavated revealed two salt-glazed drainage pipes clearly running from the main courtyard to the inner service courtyard drainage system. Little else of interest emerged except for a heavy patch of burning in the SE corner of the trench which Dr. Frankel interpreted, probably correctly, as a tree root burnt in situ.

The team also excavated another smaller trench C2 in the inner service courtyard SC, which revealed one of the pipe lines to have turned sharply south towards the SC sump.

Both these trenches were cleaned and re-excavated to natural soil. In addition, Trench C1 was extended slightly to the north by the removal of the narrow strip of bricks still in situ (C1A), and by the removal to the east of the remaining paving bricks (C3). Finally one flagstone was carefully marked and lifted at the NE corner of the B block flagged verandah (the easternmost kerbstone on the north face), and this area was excavated as C4.
Trench C1

This trench 1.00 x 1.50m was laid out by Dr. Frankel in the brick-paved area between the two courtyards. He commented that the bricks mostly had heart-shaped frogs, were of standard measurement (0.23 x 0.11 x 0.75m or 9" x 4.5" x 4.5") and were fitted very tightly together without mortar. They were bedded on a levelling course of river-gravel which contained numerous shells of common estuarine shell-fish. Below this were several layers of mixed fill, packed around the two salt-glazed stoneware drainage pipes manifestly carrying water from the outer courtyard CY to the inner, and there turning sharply south, as visible in Trench C2.

In the re-excavation of Trench C1, after removal of back-fill and cleaning, a series of layers and features could be re-identified. In section it appeared that a general rubble layer 1a underlay the bricks with mixed sandy content, which extended down and around the pipes in the centre of the trench. Along both the north and south sides of the trench were traces of a decayed brick layer below this (layer 1b), which could be re-detected once they had been excavated in Trench C3. This layer 1b appeared to have extended once right across the trench, but was cut through across the centre by the trench containing the drainage pipes, filled with layer 1a.

Below the loose fill of layer 1a in the bedding trench for the pipes was a layer similar in composition—gritty brown clay with small fragments of brick and charcoal but much more compacted. This was layer 2. This trench was cut into the light red clay of the natural profile, which was uneven in level especially in the SE corner. Here it dipped sharply, and was overlaid by various manifestations of burning, i.e. a layer 1c of oxidised earth immediately above a layer of charcoal c.0.03 - 0.06m thick which formed layer 3. Layer 3 overlay layer 4 directly, and the sharp edge of the bedding trench could be clearly seen cutting into both.
This patch of burning, clearly sealed by the brick rubble layer contemporary with the Phase III stone verandah of building B, excited some interest, although there were no artefacts associated with it. However, the irregularity of the burnt section and the form of the charcoal within it argued away from the possibility of a wooden post and towards the interpretation of a tree stump burnt in situ either when the first house was built or when the present area was levelled for the flagged verandah.

_Trench C3, C4._

Several of the obscurities in Trench C1 were clarified when the area adjacent to the east was opened this season so that the full section could be excavated and interpreted at one time. The remaining bricked area east of C1 was planned and removed, so that the three trenches C1, C3 and C2 formed a continuous excavation. In due course two kerb-stones and one flagstone to the south of C3 were recorded and lifted carefully, and the area below them called Trench 4.

Below this brick paving (layer 1) was a deposit about 0.10m deep covering the whole of C3, which over the western third of the trench was of clean sand with estuarine shell content (obviously continuing Dr. Frankel's layer in Trench C1) and in the eastern two-thirds of C3 was a mixture of dark sand and silt, with quantities of coal admixed in it as well as the same high shell content (layer 3). A more compacted

After removal of these brick-bedding layers, the line of the bedding trench for the pipes was clearly revealed in plan obliquely along the length of the trenches. Its dark fill (layer 5) cut down through a series of layers on its south side. Level with its top was layer 6, the red compacted decayed brick layer. Below this was layer 7, of dark brown silt with very occasional brick rubble, and below this again layer 8, consisting of lenses and patches of oxidised earth and charcoal, with some large pieces of brick. This layer continued under the pipe trench.
Excavation to the north of the pipe bedding trench showed its edge equally cut down from a compact hard surface comparable to layer 5 but not composed of decayed bricks.

To elucidate further the origins of layer 6 stones were removed from the verandah flagging at the south side of the trench as noted above, revealing that the flagging were laid on a thick bed of clean sand (without visible shells) (Trench 4, layer 2) which in turn overlay more sand and brick rubble (layer 3) which clearly formed a lower bedding layer. Below this again was layer 4 which was a fill of big brick fragments.

Removal of the kerbstone at this point showed that immediately below it, and forming the northern limit of the brick fill of layer 4 was a single course line of bricks along the same alignment, laid as headers. The same foundation can be seen along the west face of Trench C2, below the flagstones. Evidently the compacted surface of layer 6 in Trench C3 is a continuation of this level northwards, which was then cut through when the drainage pipes were laid.

There appear therefore to be evidences of three phases at least in this area. The burnt tree stump, and the loose bricks associated with it in layer 8, must predate the brick layer 6 which appears incontrovertibly linked to the heavy foundation considered necessary for the Building B verandah at this point, i.e. Phase III. It is then cut through by the trench for the drainage pipes, which in turn is sealed by the surface paving bricks and their sand bedding. No artefacts of consequence were found, but there is every reason to associate the glazed water pipes and their related gutters and drain covers with Phase IV (cf. p. ) presumed to be of the late sixties.
General description and intentions

This is the area behind the original house-block and between it and the servants-quarters and kitchen. A stone-paved verandah surrounds a cement covered courtyard on three sides. Immediately between the outbuildings and the main house the paving follows around three sides of an extra small area paved with brick. It was suggested that this feature might indicate the location of the original cellar.

An initial square Cl was opened up in this area, later followed by another small trench C3 at the edge of the main courtyard.

Square Cl

In the brick-paved area next to the inner courtyard.

Most of the bricks have heart-shaped frogs and all measure 23 x 11 x 7.5 cm (9" x 4, 5" x 3"). The plain bricks formed a double row across the centre of the area, but this does not appear to have any special significance.

These bricks were laid without mortar, but fitted extremely tightly together. They rested on a levelling course of river-gravel which contained numerous shells of common esturine shellfish.

Below this deposit were several other deposits of various kinds, mostly to be seen as more or less contemporary filling material levelling up a very uneven surface - a deeper pit in the southern part of the square was probably no more than a tree-stump. Few finds were made in this area.

The filling deposits packed around 2 rows of stoneware drainpipes set in shallow trenches in dark natural soil. These are intended to carry stormwater from the guttering and the outer courtyard. The pipes are all of different types and sizes and appear to be second-hand and reused here. Their primary interest is that they must have been laid before (probably immediately before) the stone verandah and brick surfacing in the area - c. 1830 (?)
From
Summary of Excavations, 1972
David Frankel (La Trobe University)

Square C3

In this trench the removal of the cement covering revealed brick surfacing similar to that in the Cl area, although at a slightly lower level. Whereas in Cl the bricks are at the same level as the stone verandah, the paving in the main part of the courtyard is somewhat lower.

Below the bricks was a similar situation to that in Cl, with the drainpipes set in their shallow trenches cut into the natural soil. The pipes are again badly laid and of poor quality and mixed type.

Area C Interpretation

The cellar was clearly not to be found in this area and no new interpretation of the layout in the area could be offered other than that the paving is probably of the same date as the verandah. Similarly the drain pipes are of this period, probably related to the construction of the servants quarters. A full study of the pipes should be of considerable value. No evidence of earlier use of the area was found.
In December 1978 a one-metre square trench was excavated in the north east corner of the main courtyard CY by Martin Davies. Set out primarily to give continuity with the main east-west section below rooms 6A, 6, 5, 4 and 4A within the house, the trench in the event could not do so because of the massive nature of the A4A wall footings. It did however yield interesting information on both the courtyard make-up and the relationship between and nature of the north and east walls enclosing it.

Sequence of deposits In this comparatively undisturbed corner of the courtyard a thin layer of cement render, thinner and more brittle than that on wall AE 13 adjacent, overlay a continuous layer of paving bricks in the eastern part of the square only. Both layers were removed after being recorded, designated respectively as layers 1 and 2. Layer 1 in fact covered the eastern two-thirds of the trench, and varied in thickness from 0.005 m at the west to 0.05 at the east where it lapped over the offset foundation of wall AE 13. (cf. Cement Samples)

The brick pavement terminated against the dressed stone face of this foundation, confirming that it was originally exposed as along the south courtyard wall CY 4. The bricks of layer 2 were brittle, dense and dark in colour, mostly clinker bricks; a few had heart-shaped frogs on the underside (cf. Brick Sample). No mortar was used to bind the bricks, the joints containing dark brown soil with abundant roots and organisms. However mortar was attached to one brick (Mortar Sample).

Layer 3, below the bricks, consisted of loose dark soil and sand, 0.03 - 0.06 m deep, over the entire trench. It was exceptional in containing large amounts of estuarine shells, together with small pieces of charcoal, building materials such as coarse white mortar, red brick and light brown render with white plaster (Mortar Sample, P and S Sample). Small finds included an iron nail, piece of window glass, and three pieces of green bottle glass.
There were abundant roots throughout the loose layer 3 deposit. Its two components, the yellow sand and dark brown soil, occurred interchangeably throughout, i.e. either superimposed above the other. Samples of each were taken and a further sample put through the flotation unit to extract seeds and light bones.

Below layer 3 was a brown layer of hard-packed clayey loam which became layer 4. It was compressed, as seen by the shear marks left in it by the trowel. It was also distinctive in that it did not cover the whole trench. To the north it abutted a strip of orange and pinkish mortar c. 0.10 wide, easily identifiable as the foundation trench for the north wall of the courtyard. To the east likewise a strip c. 0.15 wide of loosely-packed brown soil, similar to layer 4 but not so compressed, was equally identifiable as the top of a foundation trench for the east wall i.e. wall AE 13, the external wall of Room A7.

The three layers thus revealed were excavated in turn, in that it proved impossible to complete the clearing of the narrow foundation trenches without removing some if layer 4. The sequence of events was therefore as follows: first the top 0.18 m of the loosely filled East Foundation Trench, then the top 0.10 of the North Foundation Trench, then the top 0.15 m of layer 4 (called the top one-third). This was followed by further removal of layer 4 (the mid-one-third, another 0.15 m approximately) during which the depth limit in the north foundation trench was reached and passed; then by the excavation of the bottom one-third of layer 4, thus revealing the unexcavated section of the east foundation trench. At this point a layer of indurated shale appeared over the whole trench as visible, designated layer 5, which was left undisturbed while the remainder of the two foundation trenches was removed - first the south half of the Eastern Foundation Trench (which revealed that layer 5 was continuous below it and abutted the wall foundation) then the west half of the North Foundation trench (which showed on the contrary that this continued down through the indurated shale of layer 5) then the remainder of each.
In the upper part of the East Foundation Trench Deposit were found fragments of building materials (mortar and brick), with iron nails to the north end of the trench. A large root was found in the trench which continued into layer 4 adjacent and on into the North Foundation Trench. A sample was taken (Botanic Sample ); roots and organic materials were abundant. The lower part of the foundation trench was then removed, in which the width had decreased from 0.15 to 0.10 m. Below this appeared the indurated shale layer 5, continuous across the main trench from the west boundary east to the wall footing, and thus marking the bottom of the foundation trench.

In the upper part of the North Foundation Trench Deposit were large clumps of orange and pinkish mortar, together with white mortar lumps, pieces of sandstone, light brown render and plaster, window glass, and one piece each of green bottle glass and blue transfer printed china (from the lower part of the Trench). The matrix was brown loose soil, and small c. .003m lumps of red and grey clay were intermingled throughout. All material was sieved and floated.

Layer 4, from the top of which the two foundation trenches were cut, had an uneven surface, with a pronounced hump to the east of centre. Its upper levels were abundant in small finds and building materials; these were designated upper one-third. They comprised animal remains (teeth and bone), glass, nails, pottery (orange transfer printed ware) and a variety of objects associated with sewing e.g. bone bobbin, cloth and mother of pearl buttons, metal stud, copper hooks and a number of pins (either silver or silver-coated). Building materials comprised coarse white mortar, red brick, red mortar, light brown render and light brown coarse mortar. Samples were taken and listed as below. Within this upper part of Layer 4 occurred two patches of decomposed

Such roots are significant as a potential source of stratigraphic contamination.
shale, one in the SW corner, the other in the NE.

Excavation proceeded into the next 0.15m of layer 4, designated as mid one-third. At about this point in depth pieces of white mortar became very rare, and small finds ceased. However, red mortar and white plaster were found, together with the root mentioned earlier. All material was sieved and floated.

In the lowest layer of layer 4 (low one-third) there were no small finds and only a few pieces of building materials - red brick and mortar. A layer of indurated shale was reached (layer 5), which as mentioned above underlay the east foundation trench but was cut-through by the northern.

Layer 5 was then removed using the mattock. Small pieces of red, decomposed brick were found throughout the deposit, as were pieces of charcoal, and the only small find was a silver pin. One piece of white mortar was found in the layer. Within this layer towards the south west of the trench, occurred a patch of a grey granular soil similar to that found at ground level in the NW corner of the courtyard (Soil Sample ). Layer 5 itself consisted of indurated shale with a small amount of manganite, charcoal, roots and organisms. A number of samples were taken. It continued under the east wall of A4A, dipping down toward these footings.

In order to determine the depth of the north courtyard wall foundations excavation was continued there. Removal of the shale layer 5 revealed a heavy red clay, the B2 horizon, thereupon designated layer 6; this deposit contained small amounts of indurated shale in its upper levels. A small pit was continued down in the northern extremity of layer 6, 0.30 E-W by 0.20 N-S. It continued down to a depth of 0.25 to the base of the dressed sandstone foundations. These were found to be laid without foundation trench: the red clay of layer 6 extended right to their southern face. Excavation was then deemed completed.
In December 1978 the baulk left unexcavated by Dr. Frankel was dug by Graham Wilson as CY NW Trench 1. Its dimensions were 1.00 m N-S by 0.50 E-W. The southern limit was formed by the existing edge of the brick paving. The main purpose of this trench was to enable Dr. Frankel's results to be integrated into the current programme.

Sequence of deposits

The top layer 1, 0.01 deep was a black spongy organic top-soil which decreased considerably in volume on drying. It appeared to have been derived from the decomposition of ferns since they grew on this layer and many tubers and fern stems were contained within it. Other finds comprised olive and aqua bottle glass, and a sherd of terracotta garden pot.

Layer 2 was a sandy clay loam similar to 1 but with a higher clay and a lower organic content. Nails, shells, sherds from terracotta garden pots and glass were found in it. Shale, sandstone and coal fragments were also present forming a gravel amounting to c.10% of the whole.

Similarly layer 3 was a brown-black sandy clay-loam, but with gravel content increased to 15-20% of the whole. The gravel consisted of indurated shale, coal brick fragments and a small amount of charcoal; finds included terracotta garden pot fragments, broken glass, and an increased amount of domestic pottery.

Layer 4 was a grey brown clay loam containing large amounts of free clay. Stratigraphic indicators were the moderate amounts of charcoal, broken brick, brown mortar and larger decayed tree roots. Gravel, mainly indurated shale, comprised c. 40% of the whole. Objects found included thick clear glass fragments, olive-green glass and one piece of pottery with green glaze on both sides.
Layer 4A was virtually the same as layer 4 and the boundary between the two was indistinct. Gravel constituted c. 65% of the whole at the base of layer 4A. The gravel was patchy by nature and appeared to have been compressed into the layer below.

Layer 5 was a red brown clay and apparently formed the B horizon of the natural soil profile. Indurated shale fragments were relatively rare in this layer.
AREA F OUTER COURTYARD

Description and interpretations

The north-western area of the courtyard was thought by Mr. Swann to have been the site of a "smoking-room" (according to Mr. Swann, a room for pipe-smoking, not for curing meats). The Swanns had removed a light wooden structure early in the century and had replaced it with a lattice pergola serving as a fernery. The area is still covered with ferns although this structure has disappeared.

The brick paving covering most of the courtyard was absent in the north-west corner, and this could be related to either of the two constructions.

Two 2m squares were opened up in the area to investigate the possible nature of the earlier construction, and also in the hope that if it were indeed a "smoking-room" a large quantity of clay tobacco pipes would be forthcoming.

Area F excavations

No clear stratigraphy was noted in these squares. The soil was generally a dark brown to black organic deposit. Several pits and dumps of refuse were found, but these cannot be confidently related to the laying of the paving.

Evidence of wooden posts and stone post-bases (?) was found, but with insufficient relationship to one another or to the deposits to allow reconstruction of any structure related to them.

As only 1 fragment of a clay pipe was found, there is no good reason to identify this area as having been the site of a smoking-room.
List of Plates

Plate 1. South end of Joists III-IV. Stone footings, from N. Room A4A. (Neg. 7813/30)

Plate 2. South end of Joists II-III. Stone footings, from N. Room A4A. (Neg. 7813/31)


Plate 4. Centre of Joists V - VI brick rubble, from N. Room A4A. (Neg. 7813/33)

Plate 5. Beam below arch, on N-S foundation wall Room A4/A4A (Neg. 7818/11)

Plate 6. N-S foundation wall below beam, from SW Room A4A (Neg. 7818/13)

Plate 7. N-S foundation wall, from north. Room A4. East face (Neg. 7818/21)

Plate 8. As above. East face, from east. (Neg. 7818/19)

Plate 9. General view of Room 4A, SE corner showing south footings (stone and rubble) on right, with N-S beam and foundation wall (brick) upper left. From W. Room A4A (Neg. 7818/23)

Plate 10. South footings, stone and rubble (detail). From N.

Plate 11. South footings (detail) from west. Room A4A. (Neg. 7818/15)

Plate 12. South footings (detail) from south. Room A4A. (Neg. 7818/14)

Plate 13.) Oriental porcelain from below rubble fill in cellar. On floor, NE corner. Cellar below A5. (Neg. 7913/ )

Plate 14.) Dressed stone fragment, perhaps part of step or chimney piece. In rubble fill. Cellar below A5. (Neg. 7913/ )

Plate 15.) Brick course below layer 2, from north. Room A6 - 6A, SE Trench, Bay 2. (Neg. 7818/32)

Plate 16.) West face of trench, after removal of layer 2. Room A6 - 6A, SE Trench, Bay 2 (Neg. 7818/33 From east.

Plate 17. Rotted beam in layer 2, overlying brick course (detail) from east. Room A6 - 6A, SE Trench, Bay 2 (Neg. 7818/25)
Plate 20. Room A6A, SE Trench, Bay 1. From N (Neg. 7818/27)


Plate 22. Stone flagging, detail, from above, north. A10 (Neg.7812/10)

Plate 23.) Stone flagging, detail, from above, south. 24.) These together with the previous plate (which should be placed above, with an overlap of half a course) A10 (Negs.7812/11 & 12)

Plate 25. Top of layer 2 from west. A10 (Neg.7810/8)

Plate 26. Top of layer 5 from west. A10 (Neg.7810/17)

Plate 27. Headstone fragment in situ, from west. A10 (Neg.7810/18)

Plate 28. Loose section in SE corner, from NW. A10 (Neg.7810/25)

Plate 29. Lower fill, from west. A10 (Neg. 7818/6)

Plate 30. Lower fill, from east. A10 (Neg.7818/7)

Plate 31. Lower fill, from north. A10 (Neg.7818/8)

Plate 32. Lower fill, from south. A10 (Neg.7818/9)

Plate 33. East wall, from NW. A10 (Neg.7818/5)

Plate 34. West wall, from NE. A10 (Neg.7818/3)

Plate 35.) South wall and lower fill. A10 (Neg.7810/35)

36.)

Plate 37.) North wall and top of layer 6. From SE and 38.) SW respectively. A10 (Neg.7810/33 and 34)


Plate 40. Beams in situ, from south east. Layer 6 visible in corner. A10 (Neg.7818/30)

Plate 41.) Beam after removal. Adzed end down (above) 42.) and up (below) (Neg.7818/35 and 36)

43.) Small finds from rubble fill (layer 5) in cellar entry. Transfer-printed pottery, two clay pipe fragments, upholstery pin and bronze strip. Room A10 (cellar entry). (Neg.7913/ )
Plate 45. Nails from rubble fill (layer 5) in cellar entry.

Plate 46. Room A10 (cellar entry) (Neg.7913/ )

Plate 47. Three pins

Plate 48. Fragment of clay roof tile from rubble fill in cellar entry (layer 5) Room A10 (cellar entry) (Neg.7913/ )

Plate 49. Fragment of clay roof tile from rubble fill in cellar entry (layer 5) Room A10 (cellar entry) (Neg.7913/ )

Plate 50. Fragment of clay roof tile from rubble fill in cellar entry (layer 5) Room A10 (cellar entry) (Neg.7913/ )

Plate 51. Part of inscribed headstone from rubble fill in cellar entry (layer 5) Room A10 (cellar entry) (Neg.7913/ )

Plate 52. Part of small handled glass cup from rubble fill in cellar entry (Layer 7) Room A10 (cellar entry) (Neg.7913/ )

Plate 53. Pair of iron compasses (1 point broken) Layer 6, lower fill in cellar entry. Room A10 (cellar entry). (Neg.7913/ ).

Plate 54. View of trench in covered courtyard from Trench C1 - C4. (Neg.78 / )

Plate 55. View of trench in covered courtyard from Trench C1 - C4 (Neg.78 / )

Plate 56. Cement render (layer 1) overlying bricks. CY NE corner trench. (Neg.7813/22)

Plate 57. Brick paving (layer 2) from north, above. CY NE corner trench. (Neg.7813).

Plate 58. A brick from layer 2 paving with shells and sand of layer 3 adhering. CY NE corner trench. (Neg.7813/26)

Plate 59. Top of layer 3 with shells. From north. CY NE corner trench. (Neg.7813/27)

Plate 60. Foundation trench on east side of trench from W. Rubble and red clay along north wall. Layer 4 to west and south. CY NE corner trench. (Neg.7810/2).

Plate 61. Top of pinkish mortar in north foundation trench, from S. CY NE corner trench. (Neg.7810/5).

Plate 62. North foundation trench showing mortar and stone, from south, layer 4 in foreground. CY NE corner trench. (Neg.7810/22)
Plate 63. Layer 5, detail. Indurated shale, from south west. CY NE corner trench (Neg.7810/23)

Plate 64. Fragments of pottery and clay pipe, Layer 4. Trench CY NE corner trench. (Neg.7810/23).

Plate 65. South side of trench, from north. CY NW Trench 1. (Neg.7810/7)

Plate 66. West side of trench, from east. Layers 1 - 5. CY NW Trench 1. (Neg.7810/6).

Plate 67. Top of layer 5, from above west. CY NW Trench 1. (Neg.7810/10)

Plate 68. Trench showing east section, from west. CY Trench Bl. (Neg.7812/23)

Plate 69. Trench after initial cleaning, from above N CY Trench Bl. (Neg.7812/1)

Plate 70. Trench showing wall foundations CY Trench Bl. (Neg.7813/21)
All plans and sections are drawn at a scale of 1:10 unless otherwise stated. Conventions as used in the drawn sections are set out on Fig. 39. Arabic numerals within circles are layer numbers (cf. relevant sections of text).

Fig. 1. Site Plan with 1972 and 1978 excavation trenches marked.

Fig. 2. Plan of part of early house (building A) showing trenches related to under-floor cross-section.

Fig. 3. Section through early house (rooms A6A to A4A), below existing floor height.

Fig. 4. Rooms A4, A4A, A7, plan of junction.

Fig. 5. Rooms A4 and A4A, section through brick foundation wall and beam.

Fig. 6. Room A4A, Bay JII-III, plan at datum -0.18 to -0.20m. (Datum = surface of existing floorboards).

Fig. 7. Room A4A, Bay JII-III, plan at datum -0.20 to -0.50m.

Fig. 8. Room A4A, west section, J0-I

Fig. 9. Room A4A, west section, JI-II

Fig. 10. Room A4A, west section, JII-III

Fig. 11. Room A4A, west section, JIII-JIV

Fig. 12. Room A4A, west section, JIV-JV

Fig. 13. Room A4A, west section, JV-VI.

Fig. 14. Rooms A4A and A7, Plan at junction.

Fig. 15. Cellar below A5. Plan.

Fig. 16. Room A6, SE trench, Bay 1. Ground plan.

Fig. 17. Room A6, SE trench, bay 1. Sections on all sides.

Fig. 18. Room A6, SE trench bay 2. Sections on all sides.

Fig. 19. Room A6, SW trench. Grand plan.

Fig. 20. Room A6, SW trench. Sections on all sides.

Fig. 21. Cellar entry, room A10. Diagrammatic section.

Fig. 22. Room A8. Ground plan.

Fig. 23. Room 7. Ground plan.

Fig. 24. Room 7. Section from west wall to Posthole 4 in A8.
Fig. 25. Covered courtyard area. Plan of trenches with drain-pipes.

Fig. 26. Covered courtyard area. Trench C1 East section.

Fig. 27. Covered courtyard area. Trench C1 South section.

Fig. 28. Covered courtyard area. Trench C2 West section.

Fig. 29. Covered courtyard area. Trench C3 South section.

Fig. 30. Courtyard C7. NE corner trench. Plan, layer 2.

Fig. 31. Courtyard C7. NE corner trench. Plan, layer 4.

Fig. 32. Courtyard C7. NE corner trench. East section.

Fig. 33. Courtyard C7. NE corner trench. North section.

Fig. 34. Courtyard C7. NE corner trench. West section.

Fig. 35. Courtyard C7. NE corner trench. South section.

Fig. 36. Courtyard C7. NW trench 1. Sections on all sides.

Fig. 37. Courtyard C7. Trench B1, Plan.

Fig. 38. Courtyard C7. Trench B1 South section.

Fig. 39. Conventions in drawn sections.