ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
SERVANTS’ WING

ELIZABETH FARM

70 Alice Street, Rosehill. NSW 2142

BAKING OVEN IN LAUNDRY ROOM

A Report for the HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST OF NEW SOUTH WALES

By Dr Robert V J P Varman, Archaeologist

11 November 2003
INTRODUCTION

The remains of an oven were uncovered as an indirect result of the investigation of a number of stones which appeared at below floor level along the west wall between the fireplace and the north wall of the Laundry room in the Servants’ Wing. A study of Public Works Department photographs taken around 1982 indicated that there could be a feature behind the wall directly above the stones. The removal of the Public Works bricks led to the discovery of the oven remains.

The archaeological analysis and excavation took place between August 27, 2003 and September 17, 2003 under ideal circumstances. The analysis was directed by the extensive site documentation available in the Curator’s office. As much information was culled from the many detailed plans, elevations and photographs taken during the Public Works era before the examination and analysis of the physical remains took place. This was followed by an examination of the documentation specific to the Servant’s Wing. The physical remains were compared with key sites in and around Parramatta, such as Old Government House, Hambledon Cottage, Experiment Farm, and Sellar’s Cottage, Parramatta Park. The oven remains were compared with the several 1830s and 1840s examples as examined at Kingston on Norfolk Island.

No above-ground pre-Public Works fabric was removed or interfered with. A fill deposit in the north-west corner, next to the oven footings, was excavated so that the construction sequence of the oven, west and north walls could be determined.

The most significant outcome of the investigation was the discovery of the remains of an early baking oven. The oven appeared to be contemporary with the fireplace but not necessarily with the west wall of the room. The oven showed signs of wear indicating it was used for a considerable time before it was removed. The demolished oven was bricked up by the 1830s judging by the mortar used, possibly earlier. Dark hued, or ‘mud’ mortar was used in Parramatta into the 1830s. It could always be argued that tradesmen employed were using loan-rich sand for mortar at a later date but this is not the local trend for the 1840s (by which time builders were using clean river sand).

The sequential development of the features studied (from construction to demolition and bricking-up) could be fitted into the events which took place between the 1807 and 1826, depending on document interpretation. Work that took place around 1845 is considered too late for the oven remains discovered. The discovery of the oven lends important weight toward the identification of the room during an early phase of its use. The discovery suggests that another oven existed elsewhere at Elizabeth Farm but the obvious choice of the free-standing kitchen for this would require better evidence than presently available. The documentation on the outbuildings are not extensive and the building itself and other outbuildings have received little attention compared to the main house.

Gary Crockett made enquiries as to whether the oven had been recognized previously but none of the consultants or guides appeared to have any knowledge of the feature. I was involved in the Archaeology of Elizabeth Farm in December 1978 and do not recall any evidence of an oven. It is not known when or why a hole was made in the wall by 1982.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following is based on information found in two unpublished works kept at Elizabeth Farm: Joy Hughes’ notes from primary sources (Rooms folder). See Appendices 1 and 2. And R. V. J. Varman’s Historical Summary of December 1978 (in ‘Elizabeth Farm, Parramatta. Reports Prepared for the Steering Committee of the Heritage Council of New South Wales for the Restoration of Elizabeth Farm’, Archaeological Report, Part III. April 1979).

Introduction

We know for certain that the first Elizabeth Farm kitchen burned down in January 1805. It is likely that the cooking would then have been done in one of the larger fireplaces of the main house (as was common in most houses without a dedicated kitchen at the time). This would have cluttered up part of the house as servants attended to the cooking. With the permeating cooking smells and danger of fire, it would be expected that a replacement kitchen would have been a high priority. Perhaps Mrs Macarthur had a temporary kitchen built. When John Macarthur returned from England in June 1805 and learned of what had happened it is likely that he would have been looking into constructing a kitchen of materials not as liable to burn. The main house was fairly full
by 1806 because we know of at least seven people living there: three adults (if we include the governess Miss Lucas) and four children.

Significant kitchen construction activities had taken place by February 1807 when John Norris had built a kitchen cellar, almost certainly of stone. By December 1807 foundations had been dug for the “end walls” of the kitchen. Between March and June 1809 the kitchen received chimneys, a chimney piece, an oven and partition walls according to a plan. It could be concluded that the work had been finished then but Mrs Macarthur evidently made some “improvements” to complete the kitchen after John Macarthur had left for England (John Macarthur favourably responding on 3 August 1810 to a letter his wife wrote months earlier).

The minimal interpretation of the 1807-1810 documentation (see Appendix 1) would be that a kitchen was constructed with stone foundations, a stone cellar (practically always part of the foundation), fireplaces, chimneys and an oven of stone. For example, for that early period, it’s unlikely that a foundation trench would be dug for anything less than substantial stone or brick footings - and more likely for substantial stone or brick walls rather than timber walls. Stone buildings such as the Sydney Hospital (1812-1816) were built largely without below-ground footings at all. Some minor internal brick walls of the Macquarie period Old Government House, Parramatta, were built directly on the old ground surface. Salter’s Cottage (ca 1797) was built on little more than a cleared surface.

The letter, dated 3 August 1810, from John Macarthur to his wife shows that further work, had occurred in completing the kitchen, apparently inspired by Elizabeth Macarthur herself.

The Servants’ Wing: 1807-1810, or 1810s-1819?

It may be possible that the core of the Servants’ Wing dates, in part, from the 1807-1809 period. A verification might be if an infilled cellar was ever to be detected (likely sites are under the central hall or the north side where very substantial cracking had occurred by the late 1970s).

The apparent chronological sequence of the Laundry west wall, then north wall, then oven may be explained by a regime of stop and start work and Elizabeth Macarthur’s ‘improvements’ after her husband left for England. Substantial changes of plan (during construction) have been noted in the fabric of several early buildings that have been studied in detail, for example, Macquarie’s additions to Old Government House, Parramatta. The west wall of the Laundry room was found to have been built on a substantially excavated foundation, the adjoining north brick wall was built on levelled soil or subsoil. The oven was built against (butting) both walls. All of the stonework and brickwork displayed very early construction/fabric features.

The Joseph Lycett view published 1825 (based on a 1819-1822 work) is not entirely helpful because the outbuildings do not conform precisely to our understanding of the
existing documentation. The original view on which the published view was based has not been located so we can’t be sure how accurate the original was or if the original was faithfully copied. In any event, a very substantial structure of two levels can be seen on the south side of the main house but on a different orientation to the existing Servants' Wing. A small structure the approximate size of the present free-standing kitchen is also seen but in a slightly different position and orientation.

In 1833 as part of John Verge’s transformation of Elizabeth Farm, it is said, that he altered the north façade of the Servants' Quarters to match the ashlar stonework of the (Oak Court) courtyard wall. This seems to refer to the quoining of the two storey mid section of the north façade but there is no documentation to support this. If documentation were to be found that would mean that the upper floor had either existed previous to this work or, at least, that the upper floor had just been added at this time as part of the transformation.

So, in summary, the Servants' Wing may have begun as the kitchen structure built between 1807 and 1809/1810. The changes to the oven there are early enough in character, technologically speaking, to be explained by the events up to 1810 (Mrs Macquarie making some improvements, late 1809-early 1810).
A plausible interpretation might be that the Servants' Wing was constructed sometime between 1810 and before 1819, a period not particularly rich in documentation. The Norris work of 1819 involved the construction of an oven, two chimneys, fireplaces, sinks and paving may well describe the situation in the 'Laundry' room of the Servants Wing. The oven remains found there very evidently represent an afterthought and there is some indication that the fireplace and whatever the copper structure replaced are also afterthoughts.

There is a logical explanation why this oven was demolished. In 1824 John Macarthur was thinking about getting an oven range. In 1826 he actually purchased one. (See Appendix 2).

The 1826 Evans' Invoice of Ironmongery included what is obviously an iron kitchen range including an oven, "Best extra Improved patent Kitchen Range Oven & Bright Mountings Steam Boiler lock Etc". The kitchen range came with flues, gratings as would be expected to come with such an item. By description the range is too large (includes oven and boiler) to be the pastry oven but it would have been ideal for the kitchen in the Servants' Wing and could explain why the oven there was demolished. (The documentation should be examined closely to determine if the oven was intended for Elizabeth Farm or for Camden. The lack of a kitchen range in 1878 (Billyard letter) need not discount this range once having been at Elizabeth Farm, 52 years earlier).
The Free-standing Kitchen, 1807-1809/1810?

It should also be considered that the free-standing kitchen might have been the one constructed between 1807 and 1809. The 1825 published Lycett view, based on an unidentified circa 1819-1822 original, does show a rectangular building in the vicinity. The lay-out of the kitchen agrees with the documentation in as far as a cellar was excavated (by February 1807) and that further excavation was required for “end walls” (by December 1807). As was usually the case, the stone walls of the cellar formed the footings for the structure above, thus the “end walls” were required for the fireplace, (oven) and servants room. Between March and June 1809 chimneys, a chimney piece, an oven and partition walls were added. There are some documentary indications that the present kitchen once contained an oven but although it is evident that there were *four* fireplaces in the structure the archaeology for an oven is not at present convincing.

The stonework of the exterior appears quite sophisticated which has led people to assume that the structure is “late”. Guesses for the construction period are loosely based on sketches and work proposed for Elizabeth farm around 1826 and later (which do not refer to a kitchen). However, there are direct references to substantial kitchen related work from 1807 to 1819. All of this work was done via Norris, a stonemason and builder. This kitchen should undergo detailed archaeological analysis but a cursory inspection revealed that the mortar used in the cellar, fireplaces and flues are of a very primitive character.

South elevation of the free-standing Kitchen, September 17, 2003. View from the top of the external cellar stairs (north end). There is subtle evidence of two building phases closely related in time.
Two Kitchens by 1819

By 1819 Norris is again recorded as being involved in works relating to a kitchen or kitchens. The account for two chimneys and an oven, cutting and setting (three) fireplaces, cutting sink stones and paving specified for the verandah and kitchen suggest the construction of a kitchen or the upgrading of an existing one or both. The accounts between 1819 and 1821 seem to relate principally to the outbuildings. Extensive drainage work up to 1821, such as establishing barrel drains, may also in part be due to the kitchen work or at least be part of a general overhaul of service facilities at Elizabeth Farm. This was around the time of the composition of the original Lycett view (which formed the basis for the 1825 published view).

The main house had been neglected up to this time, Elizabeth Macarthur wrote, “…our poor Parramatta house is tumbling down, it is quite a ruin…” (4 September 1822).

Work shifted to the main house during 1826 - 1828 and 1830-1832 judging by the Macarthur correspondence and culminating in the Verge involvement by 1833.

From about the last reference to the builder Norris (June 1822) we must rely on indirect evidence to work out what was going on with the kitchens.

In summary, up to 1822 we know that:

1. The original kitchen had burned down, 1805.
2. A substantial kitchen with cellar and oven was built (by Norris) over the years, 1807-1809/1810.
3. Two chimneys and an oven, three fireplaces, kitchen flagging were constructed (by Norris) in 1819, suggesting the construction of a new kitchen or the modification of an existing arrangement. The chimney and fireplace references are not directly linked with a kitchen but do appear to be associated with the oven, sink stones, kitchen flagging at a time when the main house was in a state of deterioration (note Mrs Macarthur’s 1822 comment).

The Oven Mentioned in 1845

Despite the oven demolition (archaeological evidence) and possible replacement with an iron kitchen range in the kitchen of the Servants’ Wing by or soon after 1826, there was in fact a functioning traditional brick/stone oven in use at Elizabeth Farm right into the 1840s. It is also evident, on documentary and archaeological grounds, that the kitchen in the Servants’ Wing was not involved in these 1845 oven references:

October 5, 1845. “D/o take down Oven to Sill and rebuild. d/o putting in false back and hearth to Kitchen fireplace, with hearth in front, a pair New Iron Fire Dogs, altering and fixing….. as per Estimate.” [Five pounds, ten shillings].
9

“D/o 15 Square Strip and reshingle Kitchen @ 20/- [Fifteen pounds].

1845 (October 5 continued?) “…repair Shingling…….roof of old and New Kitchens…”.

Dec 10 (1845). “…painting Shelves in preserves Room and large plate rack in Kitchen…”

“…take down and repair plaster to ceiling and walls of back Verandah, repair ceiling and Walls of Stair landing, Make good the damaged plaster in Servants Bed Rooms, Servants Hall, Kitchen, Pastry room, Store room, and Store closet, Pantry, Staircase, Bake-house and Servants room adjoining, Servants room and Dairy, and White wash the whole of the same…” [This work cost ten pounds].

1846 “…Stopping a ……12 x 10 [square of glass] in Servants Hall, and a 10 x 8 in Bake house…”

A reasonable interpretation is that there were two kitchens, the one in the Servants’ Wing and the one in the free-standing kitchen building BUT only one of those kitchens was also known as ‘the bakehouse’. Otherwise, there were two kitchens plus a bakehouse.

The identification of the bakehouse is indicted in part of the longer quote (above) where two areas are distinguished, “…Servants Hall …….. Servants Room…” The “Bakehouse” is identified as the one with the ‘Servants room adjoining’, not the Servants Hall (just as the dairy appears to have a servant’s room attached). The free-standing kitchen building has a small room at the east end, that room was the servant’s room. All the detached kitchens at the back of officers’ houses along Quality Row at Kingston, Norfolk Island, have small rooms off the main kitchen described on contemporary plans as being for servants.

At present there are no obvious indications of an oven in the free-standing kitchen but there are anomalies in the plan indicating that there may once have been. A thorough archaeological assessment may lead to the evidence: for example, note the thickening in the south end of the dividing wall between the kitchen area and the servants’ room and the nearby blind window. There are remains of four fireplaces in the kitchen building!

The 1845 list of works records the demolition of the top half of an oven (to sill level). The sill was at the entrance of the oven mouth and was at the same level as the floor of the oven cavity. The re-building of the top of the oven was not an unusual occurrence because the bricks or stone frayed from the heat and the pummelling when the charcoal, ash and food were taken in and out of the oven over several years. The work would have involved the re-arching of the oven and replacing the bricks lining the inside of the oven. It appears that the fireplace received a new back and base at the same time.

The oven was rebuilt in 1845 and would have functioned as such for several years after. 1845 is far too late a period for the nature of the fabric of the oven remains and bricking-up as uncovered in the ‘Laundry’ room of the Servants’ Wing.
How early the free-standing kitchen/bakehouse is will require further investigation, a clue might be associated with the references to shingling repairs and re-shingling. Shingling repairs, "on the back of the Kitchen" in March 1823 suggests that the structure was free-standing rather than a skillion roofed part of the Servants' Wing. (27.3.1823. Patrik Hen...[?] account). It is highly improbable that the substantial kitchen completed 13 or 14 years earlier (1809/1810) had already disappeared (by March 1823). In fact the kitchen was repaired and whitewashed in April 1823 and the roof was re-shingled in 1845. In summary, "the kitchen", apparently free-standing, was old enough in 1823 to receive general and shingling repairs (aged a little over 13 years) and when it was around 35 years old it required to be re-shingled.

It would be nice to say that these references related to the existing free-standing kitchen as the one constructed by 1809/1810 but there is a lack of straightforward evidence. It is just as possible that there was a third structure which no longer exists.

East elevation of the free-standing kitchen. The window shown here and door to the right (in the north elevation) belong to the part of the building typically referred to as the "servant's room" - a usual arrangement for an early to mid nineteenth century free-standing kitchen. It is possible that this building was referred to as the kitchen since it's completion in 1809/1810 and both as the kitchen and bakehouse by the 1840s. The kitchen warrants a close archaeological analysis but the present lack of straightforward archaeological evidence for an oven may also suggest that there was yet another structure which housed kitchen or bakehouse facilities.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION - THE 'LAUNDRY' ROOM

Floor

The room was found to be floored with concrete dating to the Swann and Public Works periods as shown in the room plan prepared on August 27, 2003. (See page 11). The Swann period mortar was laid on a bed of crushed brick and stone rubble; the public works period concrete was laid on a bed of ultra fine blue mental.

Below the concrete bedding was a thick layer of clean sandstone fragments of various sizes overlaid by a salmon-brown mortar (as seen in the north-west corner of the room). The stone fill was dumped over garden subsoil. The soil, some of which originated from the excavation of the wall footings, was free of excessive charcoal and demolition material but did contain some mortar from the construction of the nearby walls.

Remnants of early flagging were found at the south-west corner indicating the level of the original floor or, at least, an early floor level. In the south-east corner a stone drainstone which probably originally had several holes in the base but was later widened for a small grill. Whether this was an early drain, a Swann or later drain was not determined but the documentation reveals that there was once a considerable network of drains at Elizabeth Farm.
Oven Remains

The remains of an oven were uncovered along the west wall between the fireplace and the north wall of the Laundry room on August 27, 2003. Clues that the arch remains were that of an oven include:

- The bricks of the arch were against the wall, unlike that of a fireplace which has a gap for the flue between the arch and the wall.
- The outline of the far end of the oven cavity was almost immediately obvious as the profile of a traditional arched oven (basically as a face-down ‘D’, as seen from surviving examples).
- The base of the arch feature (oven floor) was roughly at waist level.
- There was no hearth, fireplace opening or flue, as would have been expected for a fireplace. The flue for an oven is generally at the mouth, on the outside of the oven door.
- There was no firebox at the base. Glowing charcoal was generally scooped or shovelled in from the fireplace.
- Soot patterns were confined to the arch area (arch, oven floor and sides).
- The outline of the footing found below the wall typically matched the outline of an oven (as seen from surviving examples).
- The location of the feature at one side of a fireplace.

View from the top of the oven. The soot was deposited gradually over hundreds of baking sessions in the gaps between the bricks. Smoke during baking was minimised by using glowing charcoal prepared in the fireplace. The cavity below the oven cavity may have been to reduce heat radiation or it was a result of the demolition process. The wall brickwork (upper left) dates to when the wall was bricked-up.
WALL ELEVATION AFTER REMOVAL OF PUBLIC WORKS ERA BRICKS
OVEN REMAINS INDICATED BY BROKEN LINES
POSITION OF OVEN REMAINS IN RELATION TO THE FLOOR, FIREPLACE AND NORTH WALL
The dimensions and extent of the oven remains are as presented in the scale drawings in this report. The appearance of the west side of the Laundry room is fairly typical of large kitchens of the eighteenth and nineteenth century before the widespread adoption of iron kitchen ranges with built-in ovens and boilers. The sequence was usually; minor fireplace or simmering oven, main fireplace, and oven. It's likely that the simmering oven was turned into a copper at a very late stage, most likely the Swann era.

Ovens were very basic structures. Depending on the depth of the oven and the thickness of the wall, ovens commonly stood out further into the room than the main fireplace. This was the case with the ovens in the detached kitchens of the officers' houses along Quality Row, Kingston, Norfolk Island. The photograph (see below) of the one at No 10 Quality Row is probably similar to the former oven in the Laundry room. The footings show that it jutted out into the room a little further than the fireplace. The footings also indicate that there may have been a space between the oven and the north wall. A very narrow space is indicated between the oven and the fireplace but it is unlikely that this was expressed above floor level because the oven to fireplace flue was probably located here.

Above: North elevation of the No 10 Quality Row kitchen before conservation circa 1986. The timbers associated with the fireplace are original. The oven is to the right of the fireplace (metal oven door not shown). The upper door is a loft above the servants' room.

The oven arch sides and base were constructed of sandstock brick bedded in loamy sand shell-lime mortar, sometimes called ‘mud mortar’. It is usual that bricks are used around the actual oven space because brick is generally more heat resistant.

The oven below the oven floor is largely composed of stone but there is some brickwork (marked with a ‘+’ on the elevation); these bricks were cut off to conform to the new
surface, or line, of the wall after partial demolition. The oven stonework below floor level (footing) does not knit with the stone of the west wall but above floor level there is evidence that the stone did knit and was cut during demolition to conform to the surface of the wall.

Extent of the outline of the oven footing. The stones butt against the footings of the west wall (where it hadn’t been demolished to make way for the oven), so, logically, the stonework above the footing did knit with the stones but only those used to build the oven. This indicates that the oven was an afterthought and part of the original west wall had to be demolished to accommodate the construction of the oven. The most likely date for this was around 1819, depending on the interpretation of the documentary evidence.

It does appear that the oven was constructed as an afterthought, based on the butting stonework at the base (below floor level), the slight differences in the mix or the mortar and the use of some brick below the oven cavity. More convincingly, the oven base and fill which date to the same period are later than the brick north wall because the related fill was laid against the north wall; and the north wall is later than the west stone wall because the north wall butts the west wall. It must be understood though that ‘later’ could mean days or weeks rather than years but the fact that the two walls are built in radically different ways, several years might be closer to the reality of what occurred.

The oven was in use for at least a few years judging by the wear marks at the base of the bricks lining the oven. The marks are the result of the raking in and out of charcoal and pushing the charcoal to the sides to make room for whatever was being baked. The top
half of an oven commonly required rebuilding every few years because of the deterioration of the bricks lining the inside of the oven. Another oven at Elizabeth Farm was demolished to sill level and rebuilt in 1845.

The oven was demolished at a fairly early stage judging by the nature of the bricks and mortar used to brick-up the wall. The work may have taken place circa 1826 when a kitchen range was purchased. The removal of the oven would have added considerable space and/or convenience to the room.

North-west corner of the room below floor level showing the junction of the brick north wall (right) and the earlier stone west wall. In the lower left hand corner no continuous border is seen between the footing and the north side fill. In other words the work was done at one time. The fill continued against the two walls (before excavation), indicating that the oven is later than the two walls. However, it is thought that the oven and the brick wall are closely contemporary, that the brick wall had to be built before they could start work on the oven.
PLAN OF OVEN FOOTINGS AND FILL

The large stones represent the footings of the oven. The fill is seen at the right end. Both the footings and fill date to the same construction phase. The salmon-brown mortar covered all features shown here except for a small area at the extreme left end.
NORTH-WEST CORNER BEFORE AND AFTER EXCAVATION

Upper right: Plan of the north-west corner before the excavation of the fill deposit. The mortar used to cover the fill and the oven footings sealed pockets of air between the stones (indicated in black). The large stone represents the north end of the oven footings. The triangles represent the depth below floor level.

Lower right: Elevation of the north end of the west wall footing below floor level after the excavation of the fill deposit. The minimum depth of the west wall footing is indicated. The brick wall rests on leveled neutral soil.
Upper left: Shows how the fill deposit and oven footings are part of the same construction period. Note stone marked 200 which is in both the fill and footing areas. The triangle indicates depth below floor level.

Lower left: Elevation, west end of the north wall footing. The bricks butt the stone of the west wall. The lower depth of the west wall was probed to the depth shown but may be deeper.
The width of the oven is uncertain because the footing is wider on the south side of the oven cavity, in other words the oven is off-set to the north in relation to the footing. However the oven cavity is set squarely in the middle of the gap between the fireplace and the north wall. The anomaly might be explained in that extra width on the south side may have been necessary for the flue to run from the roof of the mouth of the oven to the back of the fireplace to unite with the main flue. The gap on the north side of the oven was probably used for shelving.
HARRIS MATRIX CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE

The north and west walls were examined in detail once the area was cleaned and clarified. A small excavation was made in the north-west corner to determine the chronological sequence and the depth of the walls.

Using the Harris Matrix system, from earliest to latest, the following sequence emerged:

1 Natural soil or subsoil.

2 Fairly neutral loose soil, over harder undisturbed soil (1), spread out during the excavation of the trench for the stone west wall. Slightly later mortar inclusions from the construction of the west wall (4).

3 Trench for the west wall (4).

4 West wall, the stone bound in loamy shell lime mortar in trench (3).

5 Levelled soil or subsoil (1) where the loose soil (2) from the west wall trench (3) was removed. At least one distinct spade mark seen in dense neutral soil (1).

6 Brick wall on levelled soil or subsoil. This wall was built butting up against the west wall (4). This wall was built over the flaring base of the west wall (4).

7 Mortar and plaster piled against the base of the brick wall (6) and spilled over levelled soil (5) as the mortar and plaster dropped during the wall construction.

8 Oven footing built against the west wall (4) as revealed by the different mortar used. The footings extend into the space of the room a little beyond the line of the fireplace on the south side. The relationship between the oven and the fireplace is unclear because the mortar associated with this footing and the fill (9) did not quite extend to the fireplace.

Note. The space between the fireplace and the oven is comparatively narrow and possibilities are (in order of probability) that: the connection (9) was destroyed at a later time; the fill and mortar (9) may never have extended to the fireplace; or, improbably, indicates that the fireplace was built after the oven footing (8) was completed.

9 Fill of sandstone using the same mortar as used for the oven footing (8) in a continuous sheet of mortar to seal up the holes between the stone fill (8), possibly an anti-rodent precaution. This fill and the oven footing (8) are part and parcel of the same construction - several of the stones were found to extend from the footing into the fill at the north end. The fill was laid against the west wall (4), the brick wall (6), the spilled mortar (7) as well as remnants of the levelled soil (5).

Note: (8) and (9) are part of the same construction relating to the base of the oven.
Before the oven could be constructed the south side stonework of the west wall (4) was removed sufficient for the construction of the oven. Some of the stone of the west wall (4) appears to have been modified by chisel or pick, possibly to serve as an air chamber to retard or contain heat radiation.

Oven construction of brick and stone over the footings (8) and, in part, the fill (9) within the hole made in the west wall (4 and 10).

Wear on the lower ends of the bricks lining the inside of the oven due to the insertion and removal of bread etc., and charcoal.

Trimmed bricks and stone, the result of the oven demolition which was made to conform to the surface of the wall as seen at present.

The bricking up of the wall using sandstock bricks and loam-rich shell lime mortar consistent with a date before the 1840s, possibly the 1820s.
HYPOTHETICAL OPTIONS

Option 1.

The west wall of the ‘Laundry’ room, Servants' Wing, was constructed some time before 1819 as part of the initial building phase. The oven and fireplace(s) were added in 1819 (see Appendix 2) accounting for the several phases noted in regard to the walls, oven (and possibly the fireplaces). At the time there was an existing oven built in 1809 somewhere at Elizabeth Farm, possibly the free-standing kitchen, otherwise a structure that no longer exists. Around 1826 a kitchen range was imported from England and installed in the fireplace. The oven was then demolished as unnecessary.

Option 2.

The Servants’ Wing was constructed as a kitchen with oven and cellar (later filled in) between 1807 and 1809. As the oven wasn’t constructed until 1809 it may have been placed where it is as an afterthought - hence physically phased later than the west wall etc. Alternatively, it might have been that Mrs Macquarie was unhappy with an unknown oven placement of 1809, had it demolished and had a new oven constructed and reported the ‘improvements’ to her husband by 1810. Around 1826 a kitchen range was imported from England and installed in the fireplace. The 1809/1810 oven was then demolished as unnecessary.

Assessment of Options 1 and 2

The documentary evidence for Option 1 rests easier with the 1819 documentation for the construction of fireplaces, chimneys and an oven because there is no mention at the time of the construction of a new kitchen - which after all had already been constructed about ten years earlier (with an oven). There is physical evidence that the oven was ‘an afterthought’ and there is some evidence that the fireplace or fireplaces were constructed later than the west wall too. Option 1 raises the question of when (before 1819) the Servants’ Wing was built.

Option 2 requires that the building known as the Servants’ Wing was built as the kitchen between 1807 and 1809/10 and that the oven was either a late (1809) afterthought or that it was rebuilt by Mrs Macquarie by 1810. The problem is that no cellar has been identified in the Servants’ Wing (but may well exist). The reference to the construction of the ‘end walls’ after the cellar in 1807 doesn’t make sense in regard to the Servants’ Wing but fits the existing free standing kitchen very nicely. It seems unlikely that such a large building as the Servants’ Wing would have been constructed solely as a kitchen.

The identification of the location of the ovens mentioned in the documentation brings us a step closer to the dating of the Servants’ Wing and the free-standing kitchen. The step is
a small one because theoretically there is room for a third structure that was built as a kitchen bakehouse.

OUTSTANDING FEATURES

Features of the West Wall between the Fireplace and the North Wall.

The following features were not closely examined.

There may be the remains of a section of the oven flue next to the fireplace, where it joined the main flue of the fireplace.

A vertical disturbance in the brickwork of the wall to the upper right of the oven remains may indicate an alternative oven flue or a flue for a later period usage. A section of brickwork laid on edge in the same area also indicates an unknown past activity or phase.

The Copper

This was most likely built as a simmering oven but, judging by the remnant flagging and the flue arching above, was flush with the line of the main fireplace (that is, the base didn’t project into the room). The configuration of the area of the copper was most likely a late feature, constructed during the Swann period. A close examination of the inside of the fire box and the footing below floor level revealed that the copper area had been entirely rebuilt during the Public Works phase.

Ceiling area above the chimney breast of the fireplace and the Copper

The west wall appears to have been raised possibly during a building phase to add the upper floor to the Servants’ Wing. This is entirely hypothetical because the physical evidence could not be evaluated during the present commission.
Appendix 1

Documentation 1805-1810

In Joy Hughes notes (Rooms folder).

A4175-2 Camden Park Account Book. Page p26 in the Account Book appears to cover the years 1807 and 1809 but not in strict chronological order.

P12.
1807, Feb 1. Norris. [Mr Macarthur’s hand].
Bill delivered for sinking & Building Privy... [9 pounds]... for 100 Stones for the Elizabeth [Farm house. 5 pounds].
D/o for sinking the Kitchen cellar [25 pounds, 4 shillings]
Deducted 77 yards dug [?] by Run [11 pounds, 11 shillings - total 13 pounds, 13 shillings].

P26 [?].
“...digging a Drain of 76 Square yds & 6 feet at 3/6 per yard
...992 [and a half] Feet of Flagging at 6d per Ft [24 pounds, 16 shillings and 3 pence].
...covering the Drain [15 pounds].
...repairing Flags in the Stable [one pound, 10 shillings].
...digging the Foundation for the end walls of the Kitchen [one pound].
...a New Sink stone” [ten shillings].

P26.
1809, June 17. John Norris  Bricklayer [Mrs MacArthur’s hand].
Paid Norris towards completing the Kitchen agreeable to Mr McArthur's agreeit with him. [10 shillings].

[John Macarthur’s hand].
“D/o completing the kitchen according to Plans with oven [?] Chimneys &c &c compl..... [150 pounds].
Brick N..... in the foundation [19 pound, 1 shilling, 3 pence and three-quarters].

And [March agreement].
“I have given Norris an engagement this day in the presence of Mr Redfern that when he finishes the Kitchen agreeable to the Plan wall [?] oven, Chimneys, Partitions Chimney piece Completed he is to Receive Seventy Pounds - which is to be all he is entitled to.
22 March 1809 (sgd) John McArthur”.
1809, Nov 10 George Howells
“... 10,000 Bricks...” [12 pounds].
“...600 [?] tiles...” [4 pounds, 6 shillings]

1810, Feb 18 “...3000 Common bricks...” [3 pounds, 15 shillings].

A2898 3 August 1810, London. John Macarthur

“I was exceedingly pleased to learn that you had nearly got the Kitchen finished and much gratified as you may suppose, at your details of your improvements...”

Appendix 2

Documentation 1819-1878

In Joy Hughes notes (Rooms folder).

A3001 John Macarthur - Receipted Bills 1816 - 1821.

30.9.1819. John Norris a/c
D/o Brick Noging, Lathing, Plastering and White Washing 465 yards at 1/6 per yd. [Five pound].
D/o Building two chimneys and Oven. [Five pounds].
D/o Quasing [quarrying?] and Paving the wet stores [stones]. [One pound].
D/o Paving Pherander and Kitchen. [One pound, ten shillings].
D/o Cutting and setting 3 fire Plases [Two pounds, ten shillings].
D/o 4 Sink Stones, 1 Grinding stone. [Two pound ten shillings, two of those for Mr Orley].
D/o 4 Sythe stones. [Three shillings].
D/o Whitewashing the Building outside. [One pound].
22 Rods of Drain [Stone?] Quarrying setting and covering [?] in at 6/- per Rod.

May 1820. John Norris for whitewashing parlour ceiling and staircase.
22.5.1820. Twelve pounds to Joseph Jones for 10,000 ‘Common Bricks’.
9.10.1820. Hugh Owen received fifteen pounds for 30,000 shingles
6.5.1821. John Norris account - stone and brickwork including barrel drains (33 yards)
1.9.1821. John Norris account - ‘Work done at the bath’? Removing plugs, paving, and probably repair work.
A3000 Macarthur Papers, Volume 104. Elizabeth Farm Day Book, 1821-1823.
Norris still appearing on the books by 22 June 1822

-------------------------------

A3002. John Macarthur Receipted Bills 1822-1828

2.10. 1823. Miss Lucas to Robert Batman - “2000 bricks…” [2 pound, 4 shillings].
6.10.1823. “2000 bricks”

27.3.1823. Patrik Hen…?[?]
“For repairing the Shingling on the back of the Kitchen & at the Cottage by the Garden
gate.” [1 pound].

25 April 1823. “Paid…. for Whitewashing & repairing the Kitch[en] and Men’s Room”

-------------------------------

A2899. John Macarthur - Letters to his Sons 1815-1832.
P104. 31 January 1824. To John Macarthur jnr.

‘I wish you to send me a Portable Iron Steam Kitchen - of a good size. Such a thing will
be a great relief to the poor back in weather like this………

……………….The Kitchen I mean contains [?] an apparatus for baking, boiling, s…ing,
roasting etc. and for heating water in an adjoining bath [?].”

-------------------------------

ML A3002-1 1826. Invoice of Ironmongery etc from J. Evans, No 1 Fish Street, Hill.
2 Dogs with brass Bars with Spikes Etc complete
……………….
Best extra Improved patent Kitchen Range Oven & Bright Mountings Steam Boiler lock
Etc complete” [16 pounds, 16 shillings. Also materials such as dampers, frames and
gratings for flues].
……………….
2 Pair Patent Water Closets complete with D traps Service Box & packed in two wood
Cisterns lined with Lead & covers complete at {14 pound, 18 shillings each].

-------------------------------

28(?) April 1838. Reference to the arrival of a German family. A2959 Lady & Sir H. W.
Parker Letters 1829-1889. (Emmeline to Edward Macarthur) “… a comfortable supper
having been provided for them in the servants’ hall…. ”

-------------------------------
A3004. J. & W. Macarthur Receipted Bills 1841-1881 Houison & Payton account - Elizabeth Cottage:

October 5, 1845 “D/o take down Oven to Sill and rebuild. d/o putting in false back and hearth to Kitchen fireplace, with hearth in front, a pair New Iron Fire Dogs, altering and fixing..... as per Estimate.” [Five pounds, ten shillings].

“D/o 15 Square Strip and reshingle Kitchen @ 20/- [Fifteen pounds].

1845 “...repair Shingling.......roof of old and New Kitchens...”. [Probably continued from October 5].

Dec 10 (1845) “...painting Shelves in preserves Room and large plate rack in Kitchen...”

“...take down and repair plaster to ceiling and walls of back Verandah, repair ceiling and Walls of Stair landing, Make good the damaged plaster in Servants Bed Rooms, Servants Hall, Kitchen, Pastry room, Store room, and Store closet, Pantry, Staircase, Bake-house and Servants room adjoining, Servants room and Dairy, and White wash the whole of the same...” [This work cost ten pounds].

1846 “...Stopping a .....12 x 10 [square of glass] in Servants Hall, and a 10 x 8 in Bake house...”

A2919 Item D
Catalogue of Furniture at Elizabeth Farm made May 1854 by H. C. Allport and left in his Care by Col. Macarthur.

Order of Catalogue

“Dining Room Library No 1

Drawing Room Library No 2
[books].............
Spare Room Library
[furnishings, library]

Servants Sitting Room
1 Cupboard
1 Table - broken
1 Couch
Oak Room
[Oak tree Room where there were brass beds for the boys when they came from Camden 'field beds'? according to Mrs Macarthur from Clovelly Cottage; 4 Jan 1849. A2907. Also a reference to a girl (Isabella, Mary's daughter from Camden) who had scarlet fever and had to be moved to "a distant apartment, in the offices designated the 'Oak tree room' - which was usually occupied by any of the Boys who came from Camden." according to Mrs Macarthur; 1 August 1849. A2907. Note: Distant room in relation to Mrs Macarthur's bedroom where the girl shared her bed before getting the fever. This occurred earlier judging by a letter in the Camden Park Collection by James Macarthur to Emily, dated 10 July 1849 and refers to the room as 'not so well ventilated.' Both mother and daughter and a couch moved there].

1 Brass Bedstead
1 Couch
2 Chairs
1 Couch & Matress removed to the Cottage by order of Col. Macarthur.

Back Hall
1 Cupboard
1 Table

Servants Hall
1 Table
1 Cupboard
6 Chairs - old - and shakey -

Pastry Room
1 Press
2 Sets Shelves
1 Table

Room at the Side of Dining Room
Entered by A. C. Allport
1 Table
2 Cupboards
1 Pewter dish.

B507 Diary of Mrs Allport

29 December 1863. "...J Macdonald came with his children - took up their quarters in the Bake House as last year."

A4244 Macarthur Papers - Other Estates. 20 December 1878. William W Billyard to Sir William Macarthur, pp235,236

"...and no kitchen range or any of the advantages of a Country residence..."
Appendix 3

Dear Robert

RE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF SERVANTS WING, ELIZABETH FARM

Elizabeth Farm is pleased to invite you to undertake a project aimed to forward understandings of the development and use of the Servants Wing, principally during the Macarthur period of ownership 1793-1881, although where applicable including later owners and phases.

The project will initially involve the analysis of a recently exposed section of flooring in the Laundry. Some additional excavation, including the removal of adjoining masonry (limited to reconstructed areas as per PWD photographs taken 1982) will be acceptable to gain more detail and assist interpretation. As with all investigative work of this nature, a dig report will need to be supplied to cover the Trust’s PCO obligations.

Following from, and ideally assisted by, this initial work will be a more general investigation into the history of construction, alteration and use of the Servants Wing, as indicated in surviving physical detail and, where appropriate, reference to archival material on hand and interactions with site personnel. You would liaise, at some point, with the property’s consultant Heritage Architect Graham Edds, who is highly skilled in this field and, equally, would value your thoughts and conclusions.

Please confirm by forwarding a brief letter of acceptance and including a schedule of fees and timing. This would distinguish the first phase of works (exposed floor and wall in Laundry) from the more general investigation and analysis of the Servants Wing.

Yours sincerely

Gary Crockett
Curator
Appendix 4

Site Journal

22 July 2003, Tuesday, 11.30-3.30.

Site visit with Curator Gary Crockett. Received an thorough site tour, overview of the documentation. Had a detailed look at the exposed features of the Laundry room in the Servants’ quarters, particularly the stone near the base of the fireplace and the features of the wall above. We checked the 1982 Public Works era photographs to work out exactly which parts of the wall had been broken open then.

27 August 2003, Wednesday, 10.30-4.00.

Gary brought out all the plans, drawings and photographs relating to the Laundry area for me to examine. I then began on the Laundry by drawing up a ground plan and keying in the main features of the room. Then worked out the precise extent of where the wall had been broken by 1982 (later bricked up). I carefully removed the post-1982 bricks using small chisels and spikes, completing the rough work by 3.30. The mortar used by Public Works had been coloured to make it appear superficially like early dark-hued shell lime mortar but was nevertheless distinct in character when compared with the original mortar. I left traces of the Public Works mortar to illustrate the extent of the ‘new work’. I told the guides that I’d discovered the end section of a baking oven. Gary had left at 2.30 for a meeting.

As an aside, checked the ‘pastry oven’ where the guides’ reception desk is and found that the two ‘fire boxes’ were actually flues, or air vents, for what used to be an iron oven which was set above (note two sets of marks where the oven was secured into the masonry). There was no soot in the ‘fire boxes’ but plainly in evidence in the flue above.

28 August 2003, Thursday, 10.20-4.00.

Continued at Elizabeth Farm. Removed some more of the Public Works brickwork and neatly finished off the opening and the sacrificial plaster surrounding the opening. I was careful not to damage any of the pre Public Works fabric. Drew up some of the wall.

My understanding so far is that an oven was built at the time the fireplace and simmering oven? (converted to a ‘copper’ at a late stage). At an early stage the oven was demolished to a line well within the exterior surface of the west wall. The wall was bricked up. As a general rule for Parramatta dark hued, shell lime, mortars had been superceded by light hued mortars by the 1830s. The use of clean river sand resulted in lighter hued mortars. It is concluded that the bricking up took place by the 1830s at the latest.

At about 2.30 I began on the excavation of the area below the oven. Only Public Works and loose material were removed at this stage.