CARRINGTON,
PORT STEPHENS

REPORT TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL OF N.S.W.
1980–81
INTRODUCTION.

Carrington, Port Stephens, was the original headquarters of the Australian Agricultural Company. The settlement was begun in 1826 but by 1850 the Company's activities were centred elsewhere and the township was virtually abandoned. In the brief period of its existence, this was a complete and self-sufficient company town, with brickyards and a lime kiln, lumber yards, stockyards, farms and gardens, a watch-house, a military guard-house, a blacksmith's shop, carpenter's shop, a flour mill, boat-yards, wharves, stores and dwellings for free mechanics, overseers and convicts. The Company's agent lived at Tahlee House, still standing, on the other side of the creek.

Maps exist which show the location of many of these structures. The remains of some of them were known. Other areas remained to be explored. The following report springs from the activities of students of the Workers' Educational Association over a weekend in October, 1980, when the area from the Tahlee Gardens site in the west to the North Arm in the east and from the shore to the brickyards site was reconnoitred and a number of sites within that area recorded in detail.

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CONTENTS.

Introduction 1
Contents 3
Abbreviations 4
List of Maps 5
List of Plates 7

1. The Australian Agricultural Company at Port Stephens 10
   2. Carrington, 1980 26
      2.1 Site Survey 26
      2.2 Tahlee House 29
      2.3 Wharves & Boat Harbours 42
      2.4 Brickyards & Lime Kiln 48
      2.5 Tanning Pits 54
      2.6 Lumber Yard Area 58
      2.7 Area of Adam's-Armstrong's Houses 64
      2.8 Stacey's-Barton's Houses 69
      2.9 Church of Holy Trinity 74
      2.10 Cemetery 80

2. Location & Owners 88

Bibliography 92

VOLUME II: Plates.
ABBREVIATIONS.

A.A.Company (Co.)  Australian Agricultural Company.
A.N.U.               The Australian National University.
Committee           The Colonial Committee of the Australian Agricultural Company.
Court               The Governor and Court of Directors of the Australian Agricultural Company.
N.M.H.               Newcastle Morning Herald.
LIST OF MAPS AND PLANS.

MAPS

1.1 Bird's Eye View of Port Stephens, 4 February, 1826, from A.A. Company Records, B/83 and Dawson’s Letters.

1.2 Port Stephens, undated but probably drawn by Armstrong in 1826, private collection.

1.3 Tahlee, 1826, from 'Plan of domain from Karabeen Creek to Yalinbah Point,' Archives of Business & Labour, The Research School of Social Sciences, A.N.U., No.A95.

1.4 Carrington, Town and Environs, 1830, from A.A. Company settlement at Carrington, A.N.U. Archives, No.A97.

1.5 Carrington, 1830, detail of above.

PLANS

2.1 Plan of Tahlee House showing intended improvements, 1830, A.N.U. Archives, No.P11.

2.2 Elevation of Tahlee House, 1830, detail of above.


2.4 Tahlee, 1840, from King, loc.cit., p.77.

2.5 Tahlee, 1980.

2.6 Tahlee House, 1980, Cellar.

3.1 Tahlee Boat Harbour, 1980.

3.2 Tahlee Boat Harbour, Sketch of Construction.

3.3 Boat Harbour and Lime Kiln, KokrenoYa Point, 1980.

4.1 Lime Kiln, 1980.

4.2 Elevation of Lime Kiln and Boat Harbour.

4.3 Brick Yard, 1980.

4.4 Elevation of Brick Kilns.

5.1 Tanning Pits, 1980.

5.2 Elevation of Triple Tanning Pit.
6.3 Lumber Yard area, Feature D, 1980.
6.4 Lumber Yard area, Feature D, detail of northern stonework.
7.1 Plan and elevation of cottage; Dawson, 30 April, 1827.
7.3 Area of Adam's-Armstrong's houses, hearth.
8.1 Area of Stacey's and Barton's houses, Feature A.
8.2 Area of Stacey's and Barton's houses, Feature B.
9.1 Church of Holy Trinity, north-west elevation.
9.2 Church of Holy Trinity, plan.
9.3 Church of Holy Trinity, elevations A and B.
9.4 Church of Holy Trinity, elevation C.
9.5 Church of Holy Trinity, elevation D.
10.1 Cemetery.

MAP
3.1 Carrington, 1980.
LIST OF PLATES.

1. Dam in Tahlee Garden.
2. Bricks in situ on road near site of guard-house.
3. Site in which bricks were found.
5. Quarry, Balberook Cove.
6. Quarry, detail of face.
7. Tahlee House, 1880s.
9. Tahlee House, servants' quarters from north-west.
10. Tahlee House, servants' quarters from north-east.
11. Tahlee boat harbour from south-east.
12. Tahlee boat harbour from north-east.
14. Lime kiln from south-east.
15. Lime kiln from south-west.
16. Brick kiln, No.1 on plan, from west.
17. Tanning pit, No.1 on plan, from north.
18. Tanning pit, No.2 on plan, from north-east.
19. Tanning pit, No.3 on plan, from north.
20. Double tanning pit from north.
21. Lumber yard area, Feature A from south-east.
22. Lumber yard area, corner Feature A from east.
23. Lumber yard area, Feature B from north-west.
24. Lumber yard area, Feature D and concrete wall from north-west.
25. Lumber yard area, Feature D and concrete wall, detail.
26. Lumber yard area, Feature D, timber behind above.
27. Lumber yard area, Feature D, northern stonework, western wall, from east.
28. Lumber yard area, Feature D, northern stonework, detail.
29. Lumber yard area, Feature D, northern stonework, detail.
30. Lumber yard area, Feature D, northern stonework, detail.
31. Lumber yard area, Feature D, northern stonework, eastern wall, from west.
32. Lumber yard area, Feature D, northern stonework, eastern wall, detail.
33. Lumber yard area, Feature D, northern stonework, eastern wall, detail.
34. Lumber yard area, Feature D, northern stonework, eastern wall, detail.
35. Lumber yard area, Feature D, northern stonework, eastern wall, detail.
36. Lumber yard area, Feature D, northern stonework, eastern wall, from south.
37. Area of Adam's-Armstrong's houses, hearth.
38. Stacey's-Barton's houses, Feature A, detail.
40. Stacey's-Barton's houses, Feature A, detail.
41. Stacey's-Barton's houses, Feature A, brick and stone rubble.
42. Stacey's-Barton's houses, Feature B, east wall.
43. Stacey's-Barton's houses, Feature B, east wall.
44. Stacey's-Barton's houses, Feature B, west wall.
45. Stacey's-Barton's houses, Feature B, north wall.
46. Stacey's-Barton's houses, Feature B, south wall.
47. Church of Holy Trinity from south.
48. Church of Holy Trinity from north.
49. A.A.Company's bell outside above.
50. A.A.Company's bell outside above.
51. Cromarty's grave.
52. Cromarty's grave, detail.
53. Cast iron tombstone and railing, No. 3 on plan.

54. Cast iron tombstone, detail.
THE AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY AT PORT STEPHENS
Australia began as a penal colony but could not remain one. Sons of convicts were born free. Convicts themselves gained their freedom. Their military guards, seeing an opportunity in the land, became settlers. A few, like the Blaxland brothers, came as free colonists, though this was not encouraged. By 1817, however, the growing cost of the prisoners, the growing demands of free settlers, led to a commission of enquiry in the form of William Thomas Bigge.

Bigge, influenced by such as Macarthur, Bowman, the Blaxlands, saw the future of the colony in a capitalist, pastoralist economy. The British textile industry, recovering after the Napoleonic Wars, demanded wool. The seemingly limitless land of New South Wales could accommodate flocks of fine-wooled sheep and wool was one of the few commodities that could be transported across the world. Pastoralists would need labour to clear land and shepherd flocks. Convicts could supply that labour and at the same time lessen the Government burden of housing, feeding and clothing them. Grazing, however, needed capital. Only those with money to develop the land and to stock it need apply.

The Bigge Reports were published in 1822 and 1823. It was in this atmosphere that the Australian Agricultural Company was born.1

Incorporated in 1824, the A.A. Company had a nominal capital of £1,000,000 by reason of which it was to obtain a grant of 1,000,000 acres. Though its stated object was “Cultivating Waste Lands” in New South Wales, the Company’s prime purpose was the production of fine wool. Robert Dawson, a man

* * *

experienced in managing English estates, was appointed agent in the colony and dispatched to buy French and Saxon merinos, Durham cattle and thoroughbred horses. Shepherds and mechanics were recruited to accompany him to New South Wales.

The A.A. Company was London based. With the exception of John Macarthur, Jnr., none of the directors had any experience in Australia. There were, however, a number of colonial shareholders from whom a local committee was appointed to advise the Court of Directors on the land to be selected, on the progress of the Company's affairs and to whom the Company's agent in the first instance would be answerable. Five men were chosen: Archdeacon Scott who had been Bigge's private secretary but who declined to act; Captain Philip Parker King, R.N., son of Philip Gidley King a former Governor of New South Wales, who had earlier explored part of the coast but who didn't return to the colony; James Macarthur, son of Captain John Macarthur; Hannibal Macarthur, James' cousin, and James Bowman, James' brother-in-law. The lack of interest shown by Scott and King left "the family committee" in effective control.

Having been requested to advise as to the location of the Company's grant, the Colonial Committee consulted Surveyor-General Oxley who probably had more knowledge of the interior than any other man. He suggested Liverpool Plains or the head of the Hastings River but both were rejected because of their distance from the coast and consequent transport costs. Oxley then suggested Port Stephens.


Port Stephens had been discovered by Cook in 1770 and named by him after a Secretary to the Admiralty. Charles Grimes had made a survey of the harbour in 1795. Lieutenant Shortland reached Port Stephens in 1797 in his search for the Cumberland. In 1811-12 it was visited by Macquarie who named Nelson Bay after his brig, the Lady Nelson. Oxley's expedition of 1818 had ended at Port Stephens. The harbour, therefore, was well known and Oxley seemed equipped to advise the Committee as to the land's potential. None of the Committee actually inspected the area and Oxley wasn't a sheep farmer.5

In June, 1825, the ships York and Brothers sailed from Cowes with Dawson, his nephew and 25 men, 14 women and 40 children, 690 ewes, 30 rams, 12 head of cattle, 5 mares and 2 stallions. Both ships arrived late in December. Personnel and stock were sent to Retreat Farm while Dawson, after consultation with the Committee, went to Port Stephens.6

Having been told that there was no suitable agricultural land on the harbour, Dawson first explored the Karuah River. On his return he was "much struck with the beauty of the scenery on the north side" and "became convinced" that this was the site for settlement. He "fixed upon a spot by the side of a small creek, where there was sufficient depth of water to admit the open craft that had been purchased in Sydney." This was to become Carrington. For himself, Dawson pitched his "tent on an elevated spot... in a situation which commanded a view of the harbour and some of the surrounding country..." This was Tahlee Hill. In February, 1826, the nucleus of the settlement was formed.7


Temporary housing in the form of bark huts largely built by aboriginals was run up for the families. A store of split ironbark slabs, thatched with dried grass as no one could cut shingles, was built for the supplies. Later in the year, Dawson marked out a square on the western side of the creek where he proposed to build, amongst other workshops, a carpenter's house and shop and sawpits. Convict huts were constructed north of this. A military guard was placed on Kokrenoyo Point. Dawson remained under canvas until Mandorbah Cottage was built. These sites are marked on a map drawn by Armstrong in July, 1826 (Map 1.3).8

The immediate needs of the settlement having been supplied, Dawson determined to construct all future buildings in brick, though he had difficulty in obtaining a bricklayer which delayed the realization of his plans. The bark huts seem to have been replaced by ones of slab and possibly adobe. Meanwhile more Saxon merinos were shipped out and Dawson was buying large numbers of colonial sheep.9

From its inception the Company faced local opposition. It was feared that it would cause an over-supply of wool and force down wool prices. It was alleged also, possibly with justification, that the Company's purchases of local stock had forced these prices up. This no doubt delighted those with established flocks but not the new settlers of the 1820s who sought to buy. The drought of 1827 exacerbated the situation and caused stock losses at Port Stephens. Rumours began to circulate that the settlement lacked discipline and of Dawson's mismanagement. The Australian D which had always opposed the Company, waxed strong on the subject. James Macarthur was delegated by the Colonial

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8. A.A.Co., loc.cit., 10; Dawson to Committee, 24 April, 1826, 1 August, 1826, A.A.Co.: RECORDS; Dawson, 1830, op.cit., 18, 27-8, 37-8.

9. Dawson to Committee, 1 August, 1826, 30 April, 1827, 7 December, 1827, Dawson to Brickwood, 4 August, 1827, A.A.Co., loc.cit; Dawson, 1829, op.cit., 30-33, 46, 50.
Committee to visit Port Stephens and report back. 10

Macarthur arrived at Carrington in December, 1827, and returned to Sydney in January, 1828. His report to the local shareholders was unfavourable. A sub-committee was then sent to Port Stephens. Its report was equally adverse. The sheep had not fared well on the coarse coastal pastures but it is to be remembered that many of these sheep had been sold to the Company by members of the Colonial Committee at prices apparently dictated by them. It seems likely that it was to save their own reputations that the Committee suspended Dawson in April, 1828, and, while detaining him in Sydney, dispatched James Macarthur to London with a series of charges against him. James Bowman, who had no complaints when he was at Carrington in October, 1827, now reported:

"...I examined the whole of the Establishment at Carribeen and was surprised to find so little work had been performed since I was there in October last. Several Houses then commenced for the Officers of the Establishment and Free Servants...might have been completed in a few weeks, had proper attention been paid...but it appears the Workmen had been removed to other occupations, thus leaving those works which were on hand and of the utmost importance unfinished..."

John Macarthur alleged:

"The Buildings are ill situated, ill contrived, badly built, and yet expense appears never to have been an object of consideration...
"In the Workshops, waste, disorder and mismanagement prevailed wherever the eye was turned...
"The Wharfs constructed under the direction of Mr. Dawson, are not at all calculated for the use of the Company.— not one place has been finished, where a Boat can anchor close to the Shore at low water.— the Wharf, where all the stores are landed, is situated in the most

inconvenient spot, that could have been selected..."

On the other hand, Henry Dangar, who had assisted in the survey of the Company's land and who had visited Carrington at least twice, recorded that when he was there in May, 1827, he

"was surprised to observe with what amazing rapidity improvements had gone forward. Here in the short space of seventeen months spacious stores and workshops were built. Mr. Dawson himself, and the whole of his officers, were comfortably housed; extensive brick-making was in activity for various projected buildings; large tracts had been cleared and fenced, and ploughs were already diligently at work; large kitchen and experimental gardens were also in a high state of culture. The Company's flocks and herds then grazed over upwards of three hundred square miles of country...

a description quoted by Dawson in his Statement of Services.

Peter Cunningham also wrote of Port Stephens in glowing terms:

"The Australian Agricultural Company has fixed its establishment at Port Stephens...one of the finest harbours for merchant ships in the world. It is extraordinary that, before the arrival of Mr. Dawson...it was believed not a single acre of land in its vicinity was worth acceptance; yet a million acres of good arable pasture land have been with all imaginable ease culled out here, superiorly watered to almost any other district in the colony; abounding in coal; and exhibiting such specimens of lime as afford the strongest hopes that this valuable mineral will hereafter be found in ample quantities, while the immense beds of shell on the harbour beach will supply all ordinary wants for many years to come...

"A great portion of the grant...consists of grassy, thinly-timbered ranges, admirably adapted for sheep-husbandry; but there are in
abundance also of alluvial flats, of sufficient extent and richness for all agricultural purposes. Out of 300,000 acres, in fact, inspected by Mr. Dawson, only 100 acres were calculated to be absolutely worthless; 500 more were bad, but still productive; leaving 299,400 acres of land, either excellent, or at least of very tolerable quality..." 11

While Dawson was held inactive in Sydney, John Macarthur went to Port Stephens where he promptly discharged some of the free servants who had been brought from England, returned a number of convicts to the Government and placed the establishment in the hands of Mr. H. Ebsworth, the Company’s accountant, with strict instructions to economise. 12

In the two years between Dawson’s suspension and the arrival of Sir Edward Parry, his successor, very little improvements were made. Indeed it is likely that the settlement was allowed to fall into disrepair. Nevertheless, Parry, on his first inspection of Carrington, was able to record:

"The stores appeared to be well arranged... Visited every house, rich and poor, at the settlement. The row of cottages...and the barracks, also the watch-house or jail, are neatly and regularly built. That lately occupied by Mr. Slade, with a store adjoining, is the neatest looking. At a considerable distance farther on are the cottages of Messrs. Barton and Stacey, very handsome, with gardens in front, very neat and nice... Visited the brickfield in the wood and the tan-yard, both... very useful establishments..." 11


The plan of Carrington prepared that year by Armstrong on Parry’s orders (Maps 1.4 & 5) shows a fairly substantial settlement. As there is no record of any expansion of the village during that year, the establishment recorded by Parry and Armstrong must have been the achievement of Robert Dawson.13

Whilst Dawson may have been made the scapegoat, the grant had been badly selected and accepted, it seems, without any attempt to explore the eastern half. The first detailed examination of this area was made by Parry in company with Ebsworth and Charles Hall, the Company’s stock superintendant, both by this time with four years experience in the colony. It now became abundantly clear that the greater part of the Port Stephens grant was unsuitable for sheep. The site of Carrington was equally ill-chosen. Macarthur’s criticism as quoted by Parry that Dawson had “placed the establishment in a swamp and opposite a mud flat in the sea” may be exaggerated but the main advantage of Port Stephens was its harbour and this Dawson failed to utilize. There was insufficient depth of water at Carrington for ocean-going ships. James Corlette alleged:

“The present Store House at Carabeen is situated in a very awkward place for Maritime purposes, being impracticable for a Vessel of 100 Tons Burthen to anchor within a mile of it, or of Boats of five tons burthen to unload from the Vessel twice in a tide, the depth of water in the channel seldom exceeds two and a half feet at high water.

“...The Wharfs already constructed are of no use in embarking produce, or landing imports, one being at Tahlee, a Mile above the Storehouse, the other at Cokrenoyo a mile below and cannot but with difficulty be approached with Boats at low water.”

Parry, a naval officer, was more scathing:

"...In a nautical point of view, the planning of the chief settlement here is a blunder, for during more than one-third of the 24 hours, there is no landing anywhere dry even with an unloaded boat of any size..."

"...I rode down to Carrington in order to see the state of the ground after the rain, and certainly it did not change my opinion of the folly of placing the principal settlement where it is. Indeed I do not know which is most to be reprobated - the land or the nautical blunder. A great part of the flat is a complete swamp..."

The fate of Carrington was already sealed. 14

In 1833 the Company was able to exchange the eastern half of the Port Stephens grant for lands at Warrah and on the Peel River. Carrington was no longer central. Little if anything more was done to develop it. Backhouse, who visited in July, 1836, described it as a "little village...composed of a few weather-board cottages..." Demarr, who was there in 1842, recorded that:

"...Carrington, I found, contained several large buildings, stores, and warehouses, a hospital, and a chapel. The dwelling-places for the men being neat brick-built cottages (sic.) There was also a strongly-built lock-up or jail, and a resident constable, an indispensable accompaniment...to all the large farms in this neighbourhood and on the river Hunter..." 15

There is not the slightest evidence to suggest that the men's cottages were rebuilt in brick between these dates. Indeed, the settlement was being denuded. The "neat brick-built cottages" seen by Demarr must have been there in 1836 but it


is likely, in view of the earlier description, that a number of the old timber cottages, no longer of service, had been demolished since Backhouse's visit.

Attempts were made to establish a port on the North Arm, east of Carrington (see Map 1.1) but these were unsuccessful. Tahlee House remained the official residence of the Commissioner under Colonel Dumaresq, Parry's successor, and Philip Parker King who followed him but the real administrative centre was Stroud. King was dismissed in 1849, by which time the Company had acquired the right to alienate its land. Various schemes were set up to attract settlers to the Port Stephens Estate. The Company's Deputy Governor, Archibald William Blane, was sent out to supervise the sales. He chose Stroud as his official headquarters. Tahlee House, no longer of use to the Company, was sold in 1853. By the time of Arthur Hodgson's appointment as general superintendent in 1856, Carrington was:

"...a heap of ruins save the church, built of rough stone and in good repair; there is a storekeeper here...and three men who may be called his staff - this establishment...will cease to exist at the end of the year..." 16

The A.A. Company failed at Port Stephens. Its importance in Australian history, however, is not limited to that site. Its was the first major flow of capital into the colony. It introduced cattle, sheep and horses of breeds superior to any in New South Wales which, though ill adapted as pure-breds to Australian conditions, provided breeding stock for private settlers. The Company's coal mining activities in Newcastle and the Hunter, its sheep breeding at Warrah, its present ventures in Queensland, lie beyond the scope of this report.

Carrington failed but that very fact has enabled the survival of tangible remains of the first company town in Australia. 17

17. Atchison, op. cit., 38-41; Dangar, op. cit., 111.
SITE SURVEY
Reference has been made to a group of maps prepared by Armstrong, the Company's surveyor, in 1830 (See Maps 1.4 & 5). These show a number of sites some of which are mentioned in the historic record. As a preliminary to any recording of individual sites, the areas where buildings or activities have been recorded were traversed to ascertain what, if anything, was still discernible.

Armstrong shows an "excavation originally for Mill Pond." Dawson, in 1826, planned to build a tide mill for grinding flour on Carabeen Creek. This could account for the excavation. By October of that year, however:

"A flour mill of four-horse power had been daily at work for some time, and the machinery for the erection of an extensive tide-mill had been ordered from England..."

It doesn't appear that the tide mill was ever built. Of the other mill, Parry declared:

"The mill, turned by four horses, is a miserable affair, and being frequently out of repair, does not grind half what is required, so that flour must be bought, even with abundance of grain..."

The site of that mill lies under an oyster yard. Excavations for a tide mill should leave some evidence and accordingly the general area of the tide mill and lumber yard was explored. The results yielded sufficient remains to warrant detailed recording (See Part 2.6). Nothing was found immediately north of this.

North-east of the mill excavation, Armstrong's map shows a number of houses. This area was reconnoitred. Nothing was visible on the slope of the hill but there were a number of brick scatters and apparent foundations on the flat south of the hill. These, too, became the subject of a detailed survey (See Part 2.7).

Dawson makes reference to the garden, apparently meaning that marked by Armstrong as "Tahlee Garden." This seems to have been where a number of experimental crops were grown. This
area revealed the remains of two trenches forming a right angle in the approximate location of the western corner of the garden, trenches which didn't appear to have any drainage function and which may have marked the boundary. Further south were the remains of a dry-stone dam wall (Plate 1).

In 1827 the corporal's guard was moved from Soldier's Point to the north side of the harbour. The military guard-house was located on Kokrenoya Point (Maps 1.1 & 2). A traverse of this area revealed a brick scatter near or at the site of the guard-house (Plates 2 & 3). Without excavation it was impossible to tell whether these bricks evidenced foundations.

The only suggestion of boat-building on Armstrong's map is the "boatshed" on the west side of Carabeen Creek. Whether this was used for building or repairing boats is not known. That such activities took place is clear from the historic record but they seem to have centred upon Balberook Cove, otherwise known as the North Arm. Dawson, in August, 1826, recorded:

"The Cove called Balberook, adjoining Kokrenoya, offers facilities for the building of small craft for the Company's use, or for Sale..."

Barton lists a boatbuilder amongst the tradesmen employed in January, 1828, and Dawson took credit for building and equipping the Company's schooner, Lambton. In 1830 Lambton was repaired on a slipway in the North Arm and the following year the steamboat, Karuah, was built, probably on that slipway.

Shipbuilders on the Williams and Paterson rivers at this time and later utilized the mouths of creeks to construct docks. Two small creeks discharge into the west side of Balberook Cove but no evidence of any shipyard remains was discovered. The excursion into this area did reveal what could be the remains of a stone pier (Plate 4) and near to it a quarry whence, it would seem, the stones came (Plates 5 & 6). This could well be the "fine quarry of stone...discovered on the
water's edge, not far from the settlement" mentioned by Dawson.4

The results of these excursions are not to be considered exhaustive. For instance, one of the early cottages, which reputedly formed part of the military barracks as shown in Armstrong's 1830 map, still stands. This is recorded by the National Trust as dating from 1824 which it could not. No inspection was made. The teams involved were small and since two days only were available the bulk of the time was spent recording sites which had been located previously and which could be endangered.

1. Dawson to Committee, 1 August, 1826, A.A.C., RECORDS; Dawson, 1830, op.cit., 98; Parry, loc.cit., 9 January, 1830.

2. Dawson, 1830, op.cit., 98.

3. Barton to Committee, 14 January, 1828, Dawson to Committee, 1 August, 1826, A.A.C., RECORDS; Dawson, 1829, op.cit., 127; Parry, loc.cit., 20 September, 1830, 21 September, 1830, 2 November, 1830, 13 July, 1831, 18 November, 1831, 30 November, 1831.

TAHLEE HOUSE
A number of misleading statements have been made by modern writers concerning Tahlee House mainly because they assumed that Tahlee was the house Dawson planned to build as one appropriate to the Company's agent in New South Wales. When writing to the Committee in August, 1826, Dawson stated:

"With regard to a place for my own residence, I have fixed upon a spot where my tent now stands..."

In the same letter he wrote:

"Finding considerable inconvenience in being constantly under Tent here...I ordered a cottage on the point, designated on the plan, Mandorbah Point, to be erected, some months since, with the mud and stone found on the spot. The body of the house is to contain two rooms in front, twelve by fourteen feet, surrounded by a verandah, in which is a separate room for every Gentleman. In the centre of the Verandah, behind, is a room where I propose that those Gentlemen who are employed at this Establishment should all mess together till other accommodations are provided."

The 1826 map (Map 1.3) shows Dawson's tent and the "proposed site for homestead" on the heights of Tahlee Hill and Mandorbah cottage well down the hill but seemingly on the site of present Tahlee House.

James Macarthur, who visited the settlement in May, 1827, recorded:

"We slept...in two verandah rooms. The cottage is commodious. It is built of stone and has an air of snugness and comfort quite English. There are sleeping apartments and a general mess room attached to it, for all the Gentlemen of the Establishment."

The description accords with Dawson's reference to Mandorbah Cottage.

Meanwhile Dawson continued to write of his proposed house:
"The Cottage in which I now reside...has been erected for my own immediate accommodations until my family arrives, and also for that of the other Gentlemen at the Establishment here... "I forward...a plan and estimate for a house for the residence of the Principal Agent. It is calculated in my ideas for the accommodation of a family..." 3

This house was certainly begun. James Macarthur, in 1828, reported:

"...no sooner was the Lambton out of sight, at the time of my return by her to Sydney, than a Residence for the Agent, upon an extensive scale, was commenced upon..."

In evidence before the Committee enquiring into Dawson's conduct, Mr Ralph stated:

"...upon the 9th of January immediately after the departure of the Lambton Mr Dawson had commenced the building of a large house, which...had been in progress for the space of five weeks, and at which work from 30 to 40 men were constantly employed... The said building being raised five feet from the surface of the earth, and upon Mr. Dawson then discovering some omission with respect to cellars, the structure was by his orders, taken down..."

This was confirmed by one, Robinson, who added that when he returned to Port Stephens on 21st February he "observed that the building had again been demolished on account...of the insufficiency of the foundations."

Mr Hale gave evidence that the new house was "a large building with cellars" but that "the whole of the wall had...been taken down for the purpose of being rebuilt with additional openings for windows and doors..."

James Bowman, in his report of 17th May, 1828, stated that: "the only part of the building then remaining
was the foundation of the front of the House, 
the rest of the stonework having been taken 
up to alter the original plan..."  

In his report to the Directors the same month, John Macarthur, 
contradicting his son's earlier report, alleged: 
"On entering the House at Tahlee, I found it 
inconvenient, mean and ill built...
"...nothing can be more ill constructed and 
incommodious, in fact, it is so to an extent, 
which makes it next to impossible to maintain 
...even the appearance of common decency, 
combined with any moderate degree of comfort..."  

This seems to be the first reference to a "House at Tahlee." 
The question is whether there were one or two houses. 
Atchison suggests that Tahlee House was started in 1827-8 
which is the date of Dawson's proposed house. There is no 
evidence that this house proceeded further than the founda-
tions. On the other hand, the present house at Tahlee is 
somewhat grander than Mandorbah Cottage seems to have been. 

Shortly after Parry's arrival in the colony, he met John 
Macarthur who informed him that: 
"The cottage he [Dawson] built upon a rock, 
which required more expense of labour and 
powder to blast for a foundation than the 
whole cottage was worth..."  

The reference to the foundations suggests Dawson's proposed 
house but only one cottage is referred to and only one is 
certain, namely, Mandorbah Cottage. 

Dawson made clear that he intended to build higher up the 
hill. This area was searched for evidence of any foundations 
or cuttings for a cellar but without success. A number of 
estones litter the area. Some could be weathered cut stones 
but this is unlikely. Tahlee House was extended by Parry. 
It is likely that any cut stone lying loose would have been 
used for this purpose. The survey team then concentrated
on Tahlee House.

There is extant an 1830 plan of Tahlee House (Plan 2.1; see also elevation, Plan 2.2). This shows "some Intended Improvements" and is endorsed "The South Wing...is completed." John Macarthur proposed certain alterations in 1828 but there is no evidence that these involved any extensions. On 2nd April, 1831, Parry recorded that:

"The South-West wing of Tahlee House was completed this day, after being about thirteen months in hand..."

It would seem, therefore, that the south wing on the plan was Parry's extension and that the endorsement was made at a later date.

Dumaresq apparently "added three rooms somewhere." This statement was made by Lady Franklin, wife of Sir John Franklin, Governor of Tasmania, who stayed at Tahlee in 1839 when King was in residence. It is not at all certain which rooms these were but a plan, allegedly dating from 1840 (Plan 2.3) published by G.B.Gidley King in 1969 shows two additional rooms in the south wing. Lady Franklin described the house as:

"...built on a steep precipitous bank...with three front windows under verandah, a chimney at each end on a frame, with painted front built by Parry, with two rooms, in one I slept, one window in front, one side..."

The first part seems to refer to the original cottage with a central door and two flanking windows opening onto the verandah; the second part apparently relates to the Parry extension, Lady Franklin having slept in the south-west room.

King published also a second plan (Plan 2.4) of the same date which shows the house and garden.

Tahlee House was sold in 1853 for £2,500. Its history between that date and 1880 is uncertain. In 1880 it was bought by a Sydney stockbroker, R.H.D.White, and restored.
and extended into his country estate. He added the timber dining room on the east side and built the timber annex which contained a ballroom and billiard room. The garden was landscaped. It may well be that Parry's south-west wing was demolished at that time. The present contours of the garden leave no room for it. White reputedly had twelve gardeners at one time. Though Lady Parry is said to have laid out Tahlee garden, much of what remains must date to White. A framed watercolour sketch of the Tahlee complex apparently painted in the 1880s hangs in Tahlee House (Plate 7). Plate 8 shows the house as it is now. The White dining room is in the foreground. 10

In 1949 the Gospel Fisherman's Mission (now Gospel Service Mission) leased part of the guest rooms and the White annex though not the main house. In 1959, however, the Mission was able to buy Tahlee and the Tahlee Bible College was established there. 11

Since Tahlee House is under no threat, the recording of it did not gain precedence. Plans were made of the major structure including the White extension (Plan 2.5) and the only known cellar (Plan 2.6). The cellar bears little relationship to the descriptions of Dawson's massive excavations. Tahlee House, both from the historic record and from comparison of known plans would seem to be identical with Mandorbah Cottage. Plan 2.5 shows the major living quarters of Tahlee House as they appeared in 1980. Servants' quarters at the rear were omitted from the plan though recorded on film (Plates 9 & 10).

A few words of caution should be said in relation to the plan. It was prepared without assistance and the measurements are the best which could be achieved without the removal of heavy furniture. The thickness of the walls was also difficult to determine. Some appeared to be two bricks thick, some more and it was impossible to tell if any were cavity walls.
On inspection the house appeared to be a mixture of early and late Nineteenth Century features with some unfortunate Twentieth Century additions. To trace the exact growth would necessitate a longer and more detailed examination. The plans that survive bear little relation to the present structure. The apparent chronology is that the four front rooms and hall came first, a detached kitchen and other rooms were added behind, then came the White dining room and the kitchen was enclosed in a large, roofed structure. More work should be done on this building.

The cellar (Plan 2.6) lies under the south-east corner. The present entrance is by a trapdoor in the verandah and narrow wooden steps but originally access was gained through a double door beneath the verandah from which wide, stone steps led to the cellar. The outer cellar wall, the outside foundation wall of the house, is massive. Those north-west and south-east are much thinner. The main features are three stone vaults which cover a third of the floor area. No formal correlation was made between the cellar and the room above but the central arch appears to form the foundation of the fireplace above.

* * * *

FOOTNOTES

1. Dawson to Committee, 1 August, 1826,"A.A.C., RECORDS,

2. James Macarthur to Committee, 27 June, 1827, A.A.C., loc.cit.

3. Dawson to Committee, 30 April, 1827, A.A.C., loc.cit.

4. James Macarthur to Committee, 13 March, 1828, Barton to Committee, 17 May, 1828, A.A.C., loc.cit.; Minutes of evidence respecting part of the conduct of Mr. Dawson, A.A.C., loc.cit., B706, 708, 709.

5. John Macarthur to Court, 26 May, 1828, A.A.C., loc.cit.


PLAN 2.4

Taehle, 1840

Brush

Chapel

Wharf

north beach

beach

Carp Road to Carmel

Marina Road to Carmel

Flagstaff
WHARVES & BOAT HARBOUR
Mention has already been made of the unsuitability of the early wharves for the requirements of the settlement. Parry referred to the wharf at Tahlee as "an useless and most expensive erection" and from Bowman's report of May, 1828, it could have cost £900.1

Though it has grown from the original wharf, the present boat harbour at Tahlee bears the marks of much later restoration. White carried out extensive repairs. He used it for the small steamer in which he reputedly brought his Sydney house-guests to Tahlee. Here they disembarked, the gentlemen walking, the crinolined ladies being provided with a horse-drawn tram to protect their hems and shield them from the exertion of the climb to the house. The tramway can be seen in the 1880s watercolour.

This century, conversions have been made to provide for fishing boats and more recently timber props have been inserted to tie-in the more exposed stone faces to the bank. To ascertain what is original and what not, comparison must be made between the boat harbour at Tahlee as it presently stands (Plates 11 & 12; Plan 3.1) and that at Kokrenoyo Point which bears no hallmarks of later renovations (Plate 13; Plan 3.3).

In each instance the basic construction is of local stone laid so that the two sides of the harbour are parallel. One side of the harbour is tied to the natural shoreline, the other is built out to form a freestanding breakwater. The similarity is too great to assume other than that these parts of each structure are contemporary or close thereto.

The harbour at Kokrenoyo Point was abandoned. That at Tahlee continued to be used and alterations were made. There is an angled entrance to protect the harbour from southerlies. This may have been original. Certainly the stone appears the same though this proves nothing since it is all local stone. The harbour at Kokrenoyo Point opens to the south-west and doesn't appear to have needed the same protection. At Tahlee, however, the stones of the
main harbour are faced and the shore end is built square with the sides. Again this may be original. Tahlee was a prestige site, Kokrenoyo was not, and Bowman gives the cost of the second wharf as only £300. Alternatively, this could be the result of White's rebuilding. The steps leading to the water on both sides of Tahlee harbour seem almost certainly to have been White's. There is nothing similar at Kokrenoyo Point.

On the southern side of Tahlee harbour several courses of mortared bricks have been laid above the stone and there are periodic risers of a single course for embellishment. Earth has been packed behind to make a level landing (Plan 3.2; cf. elevation 4.2). This, surely, was White. On the north side the bank has been cut into two levels. This could be original. The wharf and the natural slope of the land are much higher above water level at Tahlee than at Kokrenoyo Point. It seems more likely, however, that the Tahlee structure was raised by White who was berthing a small ocean-going steamer and not lighters from anchored ships.

The floating wooden jetty is of recent origin as are the timber poles at the east end of the dock and the timber props that help tie the outer walls to the bank. Indeed props are still being laid for this purpose. It is impossible to tell the age of the boatshed. It is certainly much later than the A.A. Company but is now derelict. The structure seems too simple for White and isn't big enough for other than small craft. The 1880s painting, however, does show a small building at the head of the wharf and there is no evidence of any other.

Both harbours have silted up. At Tahlee there is at high tide 1.3 metres of water above the silt bottom. It was not possible to plumb the depth of silt with the equipment available. At Kokrenoyo Point there is now only some 40 cm. of water at high tide, none at low. The silt extends at least 80 cm. and a depth of 1.2 metres would be ample for lighters and barges.
Parry, on 25th February, 1830, recorded in his diary:
"...I went in a boat with Mr. Corlette to sound about 'Cokrenoyo' (a point so called) and I think we found a place where at low water spring tides we should have 6 feet water, by constructing a wharf from 50 to 60 yards long from low-water mark, at about the same expense as one of the present miserable wharves cost..." 2

It is clear, however, that a wharf had been built at Kokrenoyo Point before Parry's arrival. Furthermore, there is no mention in Parry's Journal that he ever built a second wharf in this location. For these reasons it would seem that the present wharf dates back to Dawson.

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FOOTNOTES.

1. Bowman to Court, 17 May, 1828, A.A.Co., RECORDS; Parry, loc.cit., 13 January, 1830.

SKETCH OF CONSTRUCTION

SEVERAL COURSES OF BRICKS & MORTAR

EARTH FILL < 15CM THICK

PACKED STONES

SOLID ROCK

SECTION A--A
BRICKYARDS & LIME KILN
Once he had satisfied the immediate needs of his charges, Dawson turned his attention to building in permanent materials. In August, 1826 he reported:

"Materials for the erection of buildings are in the greatest abundance here. Stone - Shells for Lime - good earth for the making of Bricks, and of course a never failing supply of timber.

"I have recently had nearly twenty thousand bricks made in Balbeck Valley - the clay is good, and makes Bricks of excellent quality."

"As soon as I can procure a Stock of Bricks, I propose to build entirely with them, as being cheaper, as well as more durable and respectable than anything else..."

By December, 1827, "about half a Million of Bricks" were "in progress."

Dawson's reports also make repeated reference to the burning of lime for mortar. An abundance of shell was then to be found on the shores of Port Stephens. In one instance, shell was said to cover over an acre to a depth of several feet. The obvious means of transporting shell-for lime, therefore, was by water and it is not surprising that the lime kiln is associated with a boat harbour, that at Kokrenoyo Point (Plans 3.3, 4.2). Indeed a barge in the boat harbour would have been within ten metres of the kiln.

The lime kiln (Plates 14 & 15; Plan 4.1) is an impressive structure of stone, unmortared and laid in two rows with an occasional single stone tying the two together. There is a definite opening on the south side, towards the harbour. Another possible opening is indicated to the north-west but this may have been caused by a fall. Though of the circular beehive form common for the period, it is not certain that the kiln was loaded from the top though this is more than probable. The sides as they stand now are vertical. There is no curve towards the centre though such must have been the case. Sufficient stones surround the kiln to account..."
for much of the rest of the wall and there are indications of stones inside the kiln, though here they are well covered with earth and vegetation. The kiln is free-standing, that is, there is no bank of earth to facilitate top-loading but this could have been overcome by the use of ladders. Labour, convict, was little problem and the necessity to transport shell and lime would have dictated the selection of the site ahead of any other consideration. The burnt lime would have been raked out from the southern aperture and taken back to the harbour.

The site of the brickyard was dictated by the supply of clay. Armstrong's map of 1830 shows the yard north of the creek. Only one kiln has been found in this location (Plan 4.3). The remainder and most of the clay pits are to the south. The creek could have been diverted away from the clay pits or alternatively cut a new channel but the natural slope of the land precludes any creek south of the entire complex. It is likely, therefore, that the yard was expanded after 1830. The area now covered by the remains of this activity is considerable.

Although identified as kilns, the brick mounds (Plate 16) are equally commensurate with clamp burning. The elevations (Plan 4.4) show little above the ground and in the absence of excavation it was impossible to tell whether this was the result of brick-robbing or the simple removal of bricks from a clamp. The uneven shape of the mounds, though partly the result of disturbance by trees which have grown in the mounds, suggest clamps rather than kilns. On the other hand, the number of bricks mentioned by Dawson and the fact that a kiln was carefully built for lime, which can also be clamp burnt, indicates something more permanent.

**FOOTNOTES.**


PLAN 4.1
LIME KILN

SECTION

GROUND LEVEL

FALLEN ROCK & EARTH

PLAN

OPENING OR ROCK FALL

OPENING

0 1 2 METRES

E OPENINGS 40 CM WIDE

DETAIL S.W. FACE

FALLEN ROCK & EARTH

OUTER ROW OF STONES FALLEN AWAY
PLAN 4.3

No. 4

BRINGTON:
AA. CP BRICK YARD

Examined 18th & 19th October 1980

24-11-80

KILN 5

KILN 1
In April, 1827, Dawson recorded:

"Having applied for and obtained from Government, a Tanner & Currier, it is my intention to turn the Hides from the Slaughter House into leather as soon as possible for our own consumption. Tan pits are already constructed, and with the facilities I possess for procuring Mimosa Bark in abundance, I do not doubt of success."

By December sufficient leather was being produced to supply the settlement.

Barton lists a tanner and a shoemaker among the tradesmen employed in 1828. Parry considered the tan-yard a useful establishment and his Journal entries refer to it from time to time. How long they continued is unknown. The Company's annual reports and balance sheets refer to the export of hides to England but neither do they mention whether the hides were tanned or not nor do they distinguish between the produce of Warrah and the Port Stephens Estate. The simple nature of the tan-pits suggest that they were used only for the production of leather required by the settlement and therefore that they ceased to be used when that settlement became depleted.

Although the only substance recorded as being used for tanning at Carrington is wattle bark, other chemicals are required. To make leather, the hides were first soaked in milk of lime to loosen the epidermis so that the hairs and excess fat could be removed more easily. They were then placed in a weak solution of sulphuric acid to swell them so that the tanning liquid would be absorbed. After that they were taken to a third pit containing a weak bark solution. Later they were transferred to a stronger bark mixture and finally laid out with layers of bark between and covered with a solution of bark. The first three processes were quite short. The last two immersions took much longer. It is interesting to note that there are five distinct steps and there are five tanning pits (Plan 5.1;
Plates 17-20). Without soil tests it is impossible to say whether individual pits were used exclusively for certain processes but this would seem likely and it is suggested that the first three, the quicker of the operations, took place in the triple pit which is nearest the creek, the slower work being done in the double pit. The group of three pits, it will be seen, are set well apart and this is commensurate with such distinct chemicals as lime, acid and bark. The double pit, though clearly divided, is separated by only about 30cm. of earth.

Though the survey plan shows the pits of different shapes, this is not so apparent to the eye and is largely the result of the sides having collapsed unevenly. This could have been caused by brick-robbing. A probe indicated the pits were once lined with bricks, which is more than likely. As they would have to be made watertight, the bricks were probably backed with clay. The tan-pits are only about five hundred metres from the brickyard and clay pits. Over the years the pits have become filled with earth and leaves so that, whilst distinct, they are now shallow.

Since tanning requires considerable water, the location of the pits near a creek is not surprising. Wattle bark was no doubt common throughout the estate. Other chemicals would have to be carried in but they are not required in great quantities. The main reason the pits were built where they are was probably the smell. They are so sheltered by the surrounding hills as to get almost no wind that could have blown the stench towards the settlement.

* * *

FOOTNOTES.

1. Dawson to Committee, 30 April, 1827, 7 December, 1827, A.A.Co., RECORDS.

SECTION A-A
LUMBER YARD AREA
As has been stated, the area around the estuary of Carabeen Creek from the site of the lumber yard across to the suggested site of the proposed tide mill as shown on the 1830 map warranted detailed recording. Four distinct structural remains were located here. To identify with certainty any of these with sites named by Armstrong is impossible without a full and accurate survey and even then would depend on the accuracy of Armstrong's survey which was drawn up on a small scale. Although a tentative identification has been made in two instances, the four structures are referred to in this report merely as features.

**FEATURE A.**

Plan 6.1; Plates 21 & 22

Location: West of the modern bridge, 10 metres north of the waterfront road and east of the cemetery road.

Description: Feature A consists of the remains of two walls placed at right angles to each other. The north-south wall is approximately 6.5 metres long, the east-west wall approximately 3 metres long. These appear to form the north and east walls of a building.

The average height of the walls above the level of the surrounding estuary channels is 0.18 metres. They were constructed in mortared sandstone cobbles. Decayed brick and plaster are also present on the site. The ruin may be in the position of the structure marked "Bent" and "Pickering" on the western side of the lumber yard as shown on the 1830 map.

**FEATURE B.**

Plan 6.2; Plate 23.

Location: Approximately 30 metres north of Feature A.

Description: This feature consists of a pile of sandstone rubble and decayed brick approximately 7 metres by 4 metres in area and
devoid of stones. No structural arrangement of the stones or bricks could be discerned.

FEATURE C.
Location: Along the northern edge of the southernmost estuary.
Description: Feature C consists of an alignment of unmortared sandstone cobbles approximately 35 metres long. The structure may be related to Feature D on the other side of the estuary.

FEATURE D.
Plans 6.3 & 6.4; Plates 24-36.
Location: North of the church approximately 50 metres north of the road.
Description: Feature D comprises two areas of stonework built in conjunction with an arcuate earth mound which separates the two large estuaries. The southern area of stonework appears to be a masonry lined channel excavated to water level with the eastern half being infilled and cemented over to raise it approximately 3 metres above water level. A thin concrete wall has been built across the channel. The structure appears to be a spillway built in conjunction with the earth dam wall. The use of concrete may indicate that it was reused at a later date.
The northern stonework consists of two well-built sandstone rubble walls which extend from the dam wall into the southern estuary. This structure may be part of the preliminary work for the proposed tide mill.
PLAN 6.2

FEATURE B.

Scale 1:50
The Company's officers were first housed in Mandorbah Cottage but by April, 1827,
"One house [had] been erected for the Company's Surveyor, Mr. Armstrong, in consequence of his recent marriage..."

This house was substantial. The following year it was declared to be the only
"habitation upon the Estate that can be styled a suitable abode for an officer of the Company"
apart from Tahlee House. Parry described it as it stood in January, 1830:
"Mr. Armstrong's house is a neat brick building, the only one of two stories, and quite apart from the rest..."

The site of Armstrong's house is shown on his map of 1830 which shows also a group of cottages to the west. The cottages appear to be of different sizes but may have adhered in a general way to Dawson's plan for cottages "for the better class of free Mechanics, Overseers &c." (Plan 7.1). Parry has provided details of Dawson's methods of construction. Referring to the hospital he recorded:
"...at the back of it is a collection of green stagnant pools occasioned by the manner in which all the houses built here on the sides of hills have been put into a hole. Instead of raising the front, Mr. Dawson always let down the back by digging and blasting at an enormous expense..."

It was thought, in view of this description and Dawson's plan, that some evidence of the cottages on the slope would be found but nothing was apparent. The area is, however, much overgrown. Immediately south of the slope where the ground flattens out, a number of brick scatters and some apparent foundations were located. These were surveyed (Plan 7.2) and one such site recorded in detail.

Tentatively called a "hearth," this foundation (Plan 7.3; Plate 37) was composed of yellow brick with blackened edges
and corners. The rectangular arrangement and charred edges suggested a fireplace but there was no surface trace of any building. If the bricks represent part of a kitchen, the cottage must have been of timber. The bricks were of two distinct sizes. One was the standard 23 by 10cm. (9 by 4 inch) brick. The other measured 15 by 10-11cm. (6 by 4in.) and therefore was probably baked locally. The two sizes may mean that the bricks were robbed from other structures. A number of bricks of both sizes scatter the area (Plan 7.2).

It should be stressed that none of the scatters or foundations were disturbed. Only surface remains were recorded and, while it can be said that many of the bricks were old and appeared to be of the same vintage as those found at the brick kilns, it is quite likely that they had been plundered and reused.

**FOOTNOTES.**

1. Dawson to Committee, 30 April, 1827, Barton to Brickwood, 27 September, 1828, A.A. Co., RECORDS; Parry, loc.cit., 9 January, 1830.

2. Parry, ibid.
Plan 7.1

Ground Plan for a Cottage proposed to be erected at Port Stephens for the latter days of free mechanics Overseers

Elevation of Cottage approved to be erected at Port Stephens
STACEY’S & BARTON’S HOUSES
On 9th January, 1830, Parry recorded:

"At a considerable distance farther on [from the settlement] are the cottages of Messrs. Barton and Stacey, very handsome, with gardens in front, very neat and nice - Mr. Barton's especially being large and full of vegetables."

Barton, though his complaint was not recorded until after his dismissal by the Company, found it uninhabitable. He described it as:

"A cottage, consisting of two rooms, with an enclosed verandah and a wash-house...
"...one of the two habitable rooms, and two in the verandah, is set apart by me for the Company's business, and occupied by the accountant, the gentlemen acting under him as clerks, and a convict; adjacent is a nursery for the children..."

He took credit himself for:

"...the clearance of timber; the formation, stocking, and cultivation of an excellent garden; fences, drainings, &c..."

Dr. Stacey arrived at Carrington in 1828 so presumably his house was built either in time for his arrival or very shortly thereafter. The site of both cottages is shown on Armstrong's map of 1830.

In this area two distinct but possibly related features were located. Again, since identification is conjectural, they are here referred to simply as features.

Feature A is a lime-mortared, cut-stone retaining wall (Plan 8.1; Plates 38-40) at 183 degrees from a newly cut surveyor's shield tree. This is an impressive structure standing just over a metre in height and 60-70cm. thick. On one side the earth is level with the top, on the other there is a ditch four metres across with an earth mound on the far side. No excavation was attempted. It is likely that both wall and mound are higher than the
dimensions given.

The team recording this site faced enormous difficulties. The whole area is densely overgrown with blackberries and lantana and every step had to be hacked out. The wall stops abruptly at the north end. It was possible to trace it eighteen metres from this point. It was also possible to follow the earth embankment as it curved south from near the north end of the wall. The team then cut a second approach through from the east and again met the ditch, here three metres wide, and the embankment. A scatter of bricks similar to those found on other sites with some stone rubble was found on the embankment (Plate 41). The ditch continues south of this point but without defined banks. The dense undergrowth prevented crossing the embankment but it was clear that the land slopes away behind it and then levels out.

Feature B (Plan B.2; Plates 42-46), located at 345 degrees from the modern stockyard, comprised the remains of what were apparently foundation walls. Mounds ran parallel and at right angles. The surface was scraped away at the corners and wall junctions. Unmortared but laid stone was found at these points with some Carrington-type brick in the northern corner. The division wall seemed to be incomplete, suggesting a possible doorway between two adjoining rooms. Two bottle fragments (a case gin base fragment 7cm. across, thick dark olive metal with a pontil mark, and a black bottle base fragment 7.5cm. diameter also with a pontil mark) were found outside the east wall close to the internal division wall, suggesting a possible doorway near this point. A base and rim fragment of lemon glazed Irrawang type pie-dish was found near the east corner. This material suggests domestic occupation.

On scale the modern road cuts across the north-west corner of Dr-Stacey's boundary. Feature B is south of the road and Feature A south of Feature B. On the 1830 map roads and excavations are indicated by dotted lines. The dotted
lines in "Dr Stacey's Garden" could well represent drainage ditches. Similar lines appear in Mr Barton's garden and Barton claimed to have incurred expense for "drainings." Feature A, therefore, could be a retaining wall and drainage ditch west of the site of Barton's house as shown in that map.

Barton complained that his house had only two main rooms. Both Barton and Stacey were officers of the Company and are likely to have had similar houses. If Feature A is part of Barton's complex, which seems likely, then Feature B could be part of Stacey's house.

One problem in this interpretation is that the ditch does not now appear to function as a drain. However, it was seen in drought conditions.

**FOOTNOTES.**

FEATURE A

SECTION

PLAN

TO ROAD

EARTH  EMBANKMENT

30% BKS & STONE

CHANNEL CONTINUES WITHOUT BANKS

0  5  10
METRES
CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY
The Church of Holy Trinity (Plan 9.1; Plates 47 & 48) was started in 1846-7 but not consecrated until 1851 when Bishop Tyrrell performed the ceremony. It was built by the A.A.Company although the Company, by that time, had removed the centre of its activities to Stroud. The church was closed in 1862 but restored by White in 1888 when it was rededicated as the Church of Saint Andrew. This restoration possibly included the buttresses to the north and east corners. The stonework of the buttresses doesn't tie in with the main walls (Plan 9.2). Whilst it is not certain, the simplicity of the interior woodwork (Plans 9.4 & 9.5) suggest this is original rather than White. The side windows are unusual in that they are hinged from the top (Plan 9.3, Elevation A) rather than pivotted from the centre. This, however, may be recent. A considerable overlay of paint makes it impossible to estimate when the hinges were fixed. In 1949 the church was again closed and leased to the Youth Hostels Association which has partially restored it and made some minor changes to the interior to permit its use as a youth hostel.

East of the entrance a bell inscribed "Australian Agricultural Company 1829" (Plates 49 & 50) stands on a short pedestal. This reputedly was originally a warning bell for escaped convicts. Having been given to the church, it was installed in a timber bellfry which, unfortunately, was allowed to rot. The bell fell and was cracked.

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FOOTNOTES.


CEMETERY
Armstrong's 1830 map shows a "Small burying Ground" between the tanpits and the brickyard. This has not been located though it must have been in use. Parry records several deaths at the settlement and the burial of at least one person there. The cemetery at Carrington which has been classified by the National Trust, therefore, was not the first.

To identify the graves, a plan of the cemetery was made (Plan 10.1) and the graves numbered consecutively. The earliest is No.10, that of Captain William Terry who died in 1837. The most recent is No.1, dated to 1949, one of only two from this century, the other being 1909 (No.6).

The grave numbered 11 (Plates 51 & 52), that of Captain William Cromarty and his son, is possibly of most interest. Cromarty, a former Royal Navy captain, had been given land on the Karuah River but when this was included in the A.A.Company's grant he transferred to Salamander Bay. Parry's Journal entries from time to time mention a man named Cromarty, always in connection with ships, usually assisting in their loading or unloading. Presumably this is the same man who, therefore, was employed by the A.A.Company though possibly on a casual basis. There is no mention of his living at Carrington. The story of his death has variations. One is that he went out to pick up the ship's boat after a whaler had sunk. The other is that it wasn't a whaler but the steamer, King William. He, his son and his crew, an assigned convict and an aboriginal, were drowned. Cromarty's ship, Fame, has given her name to Fame Cove, the bay east of the North Arm.

The grave numbered 3 (Plates 53 & 54) has a cast iron headstone and railing, not atypical of its period, 1866.
CARRINGTON CEMETERY:  Record of Graves.

1. In loving Memory of our dear father
   Samuel Smith
   Died 4th Dec., 1949
   Aged 69 Years

   Iron fence:

   Inscription:  In Memory of
   EDWARD JONES AGNEW SMITH
   DIED JUNE 28th 1886.
   AGED 86 YEARS.
   AND
   ELLEN
   HIS BELOVED WIFE
   DIED MAY 6th 1878.

3. Headstone: cast iron.  J.B. BUBB
   VICTORIA FOUNDRY
   SYDNEY.
   Iron fence:
Inscription: IN MEMORIAM OF
JOHN SCOTT
DIED
14th JUNE, 1866
AGED 62
ALSO
ESTHER, WIDOW
OF
JOHN SCOTT
DIED
30th MARCH, 1872
AGED 57

Inscription:
In Memory of
JOHN MAILER
BORN EDINBURGH 8th SEPTEMBER 1825
DIED CARRINGTON 12th FEBRUARY 1892
O the pain the bliss of dying
THIS STONE IS ERECTED BY FRIENDS
AND RESIDENTS OF TAHLEE & CARRINGTON
WHO RESPECTED THE ABOVE.

5. No headstone.
Iron fence:

Grave partitioned into three.
IN

LOVING MEMORY OF

HENRIETTA HARRINGTON

beloved wife of

CHAS H. HARRINGTON

MISSIONARY, SAWYERS POINT
WHO Fell ASLEEP IN JESUS
SEPT 21ST 1906.

AGED 37 YEARS.

Absence from the body —

Present with the Lord
with Christ which is far better

Stone broken from base.
185(6), the six has been superimposed on another number.
8. Marble slab on stone lying on ground.

9. Marble slab on stone lying on ground.
Sacred
to the Memory of
Captain William Terry
formerly Master
of the Whaling brig Tigress
who departed
This life 4th November 1837
Aged 36 years
By thy wife's hands thy humble grave adorned
By Strangers Carried and by Strangers mourned
In hopes of bliss he left this World of Care
With Christ above Eternal life to Share.

J. Popplewell
Sculptor, Pitt St
Sydney

With footstone:
C W T 1837

Here lie buried
such remains as were found
of the bodies of
Capt. William Cromarty aged 50 years
and
William his son, aged 16 years
Who having left their homes on the morning of September the 1st 1838, accompanied by an assigned manservant, and an aboriginal native for the purpose of recovering a boat which had been cast ashore at the heads were no more seen, having perished, it is supposed, in launching it through the surf.

Reader! let this admonish thee of the uncertainty of the present life, and may God's Holy Spirit Teach thee so to live that death may never find Thee unprepared!

C LEWETT Pitt St.
Sydney

With footstone:
C-PT. W.C. 1848
LOCATION AND OWNERS
In locating the A.A. Company's sites at Carrington, considerable use was made of Armstrong's map of 1830. Indeed, the tanpits and brickyard, which are deep in the bush, were found only with the aid of that map and a compass, bearings being taken from the hills on either side. To identify who now owns these sites proves difficult.

Map 3.1, Carrington 1980, was drawn to the same scale as a copy of the 1830 map and superimposed on it with a view to pinpointing the remains recorded in this report. The 1980 map was adapted from an aerial photograph and therefore should be accurate. The shoreline fits almost exactly, as does the creek up to the site marked by Armstrong "Edwards" and "Tulk." Beyond that point the creek as recorded by Armstrong and that shown in the aerial photograph differ in location, the "modern" creek being north of Armstrong's creek. Despite this, the tanpits were found in the area marked by Armstrong, that is, north of the creek. When superimposing the two maps, that site should be south of the present creek. The brickyard, on the other hand, spans the present creek though there is little to suggest that the creek could have cut a new bed so far north of Armstrong's creek as the modern creek seems to be.

Recourse was then had to a modern contour map. The contours tally with the aerial photograph but not with Armstrong's contours. Some contour lines have been drawn onto the 1980 map. These show the hills on either side of the tanpits site in a different position from the hills on Armstrong's map. The northern hill on the modern map is further north, that to the south now extends further east.

The Great Lakes Shire Council holds maps indicating present ownership. A major boundary line is—the creek but it is not at all clear whether the creek so mapped is the creek as it runs today. Subdivision and sale at
Carrington began in 1851.

The whole of the land north and west of the Council's creek, portions 33 and 206, is owned by J. & H. Spence of 41 Moola Parade, Chatswood. This land certainly includes the cemetery and such sites as the lumber yard and the structures marked "Bent" and "Pickering" in Armstrong's map. Inland the boundary of this land is not at all clear. It is natural bush and unfenced.

What happens east and south of the creek at this point is also unclear. The Council provided two maps, one of the town area, the other allegedly of the surrounding rural holdings but there seemed to be a gap between. The only owner recorded for this area is Port Stephens Realty of G.P.O. Box 2678, Sydney, but that company denied owning land at Carrington and it may be that their land is further north.

The "industrial area" east of the creek as mapped by Armstrong, the area which included the blacksmith's shop, horse-mill and stores, is owned by various members of the Lyall family whose address is Figtrees, Karuah. This is now overlaid by sheds for packing oysters and associated activities.

It should be added that the Council enquiry was made well in advance of the weekend survey. Reference was then made to Armstrong's map but that stops some distance short of Balberook Cove. It was not anticipated at that time that the area to be covered would extend so far east. Search could be made at the Land Titles Office but this has not been done.

So far as possible, the sites here recorded have been plotted on the 1980 map (Map 3.1) and are as follows:

1. Tahlee House
2. Tahlee boat harbour
3. Lumber yard area, Feature A
4. Lumber yard area, Feature B.
5. Lumber yard area, Feature C.
6. Lumber yard area, Feature D.
7. Tanning pits.
10. Stacey's/Barton's houses.
11. Church of Holy Trinity.
12. Cemetery.
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