ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE OUT-BUILDINGS AT VAUCLUSE HOUSE, VAUCLUSE, N.S.W.

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Malcolm Drummond, of Keown and Drummond, Surveyors, Sydney, provided a draft of the 1884 survey from the original field notebooks. Clive Lucas, Ian Stapleton and Partners provided a copy of the conservation plan prepared in 1986.
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SUMMARY

Archaeological excavation and site survey in 1989 at Vaucluse House, Vaucluse, Sydney, N.S.W., revealed substantial additional evidence, which will assist in the current conservation program of the Historic Houses Trust for the house and grounds. The 1989 season has seen the culmination of one of the main research themes, commenced in 1982, namely the location and description of Nineteenth Century roadways and access routes to the house and out-buildings. A new approach was adopted: whereas excavation had been previously used, an auger survey on a regular grid allowed a greater area to be recorded successfully.

The Historic Houses Trust conservation program has now moved from the house itself, and is now able to concentrate on the interpretation and display of the out-buildings and grounds. This change in emphasis required the excavation of the site of one of the out-buildings, enabling its interpretation as an open sided shelter for stock. The investigation necessitated the review of the historical and archaeological evidence for the early occupation of the site prior to 1829, as well as the available documentation for the sequence and use of the out-buildings. The location of the improvements, made by Sir Henry Browne Hayes between 1803 to 1812, have been placed in doubt, a finding that may substantially change the interpretation of that part of the house believed to pre-date the Wentworth occupation.
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1.1. INTRODUCTION.

The 1989 archaeological excavations and site survey at Vaucluse House form part of an ongoing program of conservation, initiated in 1980 by the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales. The historic residence is located on the southern shore of Port Jackson in the Sydney suburb of Vaucluse (Figure 1.1.).

The Conservation Plan for Vaucluse House was formulated by the Historic Houses Trust in 1982 on the basis of the then available documentation. Its objectives were as follows:

'to prepare a long-term development plan for the Vaucluse House garden and park based on a study of its history;
(a) endeavour to restore something of the nineteenth century flavour and detail of the garden to provide a more appropriate setting for the house and to give the garden its own intrinsic merit;
(b) endeavour to rationalise the relationship between the various buildings which have been lost over time;

to rationalise visitor reception and circulation at the property;

to provide adequate external security for house and garden.'

A number of aspects of the conservation policy are relevant to the archaeological investigations which have been carried out intermittently since 1982. Extracts are given below:

'The domestic character of the pleasure garden (i.e. fountain lawn and shrubbery) should be emphasised and should contrast with the surrounding park.

The construction of paths and features of the garden (such as the original driveway, estate fencing area west of the stables and orchard) which help to clarify the original form of the garden in a

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1 The excavations were commissioned on 7 March 1989. An excavation permit, under the Heritage Act of New South Wales, 1977, was approved on 29 June 1989.
2 Extracts from the Conservation Plan were published in Mather, 1982.
3 Mather, 1982: 10.
significant way, without altering the existing amenity of the area, is permitted. The pleasure garden should be recreated as a composite of the various changes which occurred throughout the nineteenth century but in general conforming to the period of the mid-century where this information is available.\textsuperscript{4}

Thus between 1982 and 1984 the archaeological excavations were concentrated on a number of areas where they might contribute substantially to the information available for the conservation program.\textsuperscript{5} These included:

1. the construction and course of the approach road and carriage loop (Trenches 1, 5, 22 to 24),
2. access to the cellars, kitchen, stores and stables (Trench 8, 13, 18, 19, 21),
3. the construction and layout of pathways within the pleasure garden (to the north of the house) (Trenches 6, 10 to 12, 14 to 17),
4. original soil levels around the verandah (Trenches 2, 3, 4),
5. original drainage systems (Trenches 3, 7, 9, 20),
6. recording of archaeological evidence uncovered during conservation of the house and gardens (Trenches 2, 2a, 3) (Figures 1.2, and 1.3.).\textsuperscript{6}

\textbf{Figure 1.1, opposite. Site plan 1. Location of William Charles Wentworth's estate at Vaucluse in relation to Sydney, and plan of estate. Main features are as follows:}

\begin{itemize}
\item[a] New South Head Road.
\item[b] Old South Head Road.
\item[c] Vaucluse Road.
\item[d] Road constructed by Sir Henry Browne Hayes by 1812.
\item[e] Road from the lighthouse to Thomas Laycock's grant.
\item[f] Fences.
\item[g] Greycliffe.
\item[h] Vaucluse House.
\item[k] Bridle road.
\item[m] Milk Beach.
\item[p] Parsley Bay.
\item[v] Vault.
\end{itemize}

\textit{The evidence is compiled from various historical sources (Higginbotham, 1983:4, and note 12). (Edward Higginbotham).}

\textsuperscript{4} op. cit.: 10-11.
\textsuperscript{5} Higginbotham, 1983; Higginbotham, 1984; Higginbotham, 1985.
\textsuperscript{6} Trenches 1 to 12 were completed in 1982, and Trenches 13 to 23 in 1983. Another single trench, Trench 24, was excavated in 1984.
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In 1987 the site of one of the estate cottages was recorded after it had been cleared of vegetation under the bush regeneration scheme, as also were unidentified footings exposed during works associated with public access.\(^7\)

The most recent archaeological excavations were undertaken in 1989 to resolve the remaining problems associated with the historic access to the kitchens, cellars and stables. As a consequence of this, it became necessary to determine the sequence and function of the out-buildings in this area. Without this evaluation, the interpretation of the courtyard and outbuildings would be flawed.

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\(^7\) Higginbotham, 1987a; Higginbotham, 1987b.
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Chapter 1

VAUCLUSE HOUSE
site plan 2

0 200m

0 50m
Figure 1.3. Site plan 3. Vaucluse House, showing the location of Archaeological Trenches 13 to 24, excavated in 1983 and 1984. (Edward Higginbotham).
2.1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

The historical documentation discussed in this report is based wholly on material researched previously for the Historic Houses Trust, and in principal on primary sources researched by Joy Hughes in 1982. In some instances the interpretation of the documentation remains uncertain, and where this occurs, a re-examination of the documentation is suggested.

The documentation for the early period of occupation, and the difficulties with its interpretation, will be discussed in detail below, because there is now sufficient archaeological evidence to suggest that there were structures in the vicinity of the present Vaucluse House that may predate Wentworth’s purchases of 1827 to 1829.

2.2. Ownership prior to William Charles Wentworth.

The Vaucluse Estate comprised four grants in the Parish of Alexandria, County of Cumberland, namely Thomas Laycock’s 80 acres, Robert Cardell’s 25 acres, Francis MacGlynn’s 40 acres, and William Charles Wentworth’s 370 acres (Figure 1.1.).

Thomas Laycock was granted 80 acres, naming it ‘Woodmancote’, on 25 February 1793, while Robert Cardell was granted 25 acres on 5 September 1795. Cardell sold his land to J. and J. Llewellyn on 26 November 1795, the latter selling to T. Whittle on 11 January 1797. Thomas Dennett bought both grants on 6 July 1797. 2

Thomas Dennett died in England in 1798, but his will was not lodged in the Supreme Court until 1812. Acting on instructions from the executors, the two grants were sold to Sir Henry Browne Hayes for £100 on 22 August 1803. 3 While it appears that this transfer was later found to be invalid, it was Hayes who made the first substantial improvements to the estate, which he renamed Vaucluse. 4

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1 Funding for additional or supplementary historical research has not been approved to date. This report therefore relies on the following sources, some of which contain material that is not referenced to primary sources: Department of Public Works, 1981; Hughes, 1982; Mather, 1982.
2 Primary Application 10187. L.T.O.
3 S. Breakwell Papers: 5.
4 op. cit.: 10-10a.
Between 1803 and 1812 Hayes estimated that he had spent £2,174 on the property, as described below:

'Masons Work and Materials for 2 Houses
one (27 foot by 20) another (24 foot by 10) 300.0.0

Plasterers Work Lime &c 60.0.0

2000 Shingles bought of Mr Lord 21.0.0

Joice Rafters Battens & Bullock Carriage 40.0.0

Cedar & Norfolk pine Boards about 1600 foot 63.0.0

Nails & Iron Work 20.0.0

Carpenters Work Roofing the House making
Sashes Doors Shutters &c Wages 15s pr day 180.0.0

Glaizers Work Glass &c 20.0.0

Masons Carpenters & Labourers Wages with
Materials in Building a Kitchen and out
House (24 foot square) 150.0.0

Building Sheep Shed enclosing a Large
stock yard with paling Posts Rails
nails and Labour of men & cattle 100.0.0

---

carried over 954.0.0

brot over 954.0.0

Purchased, a number of trees and Asparagus
Beds for the Garden from Mrs Bloodsworth 150.0.0

Clearing 50 Acres of Land @ £5 pr Acre from
a Woody State &c for Agricultural and other
purposes viz. Falling heavy Trees, removing
the roots. Making Ditches Hedges and
other Enclosures 300.0.0

Planting several Thousands Fruit Trees,
Trenching the Garden ground of (2 Acres)
3 feet deep all over, and Enclosing the same
with a Ditch & Bank 6 foot deep & 5 foot
wide, 300.0.0

Expense of a Land Steward on the Estate
9 Years, (1803 to 1812) at £50 pr Annm. 450.0.0
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Making a Road in 1812 from the Highway

to the House 1/2 a mile

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{20.0.0} \\
\text{\£2,174.0.0^2}
\end{align*}
\]

On 31 December 1804 Hayes leased Vaucluse to Samuel Breakwell for a period of seven years at £27 a year. This lease was renewed on 1 January 1812 for 100 years for a peppercorn rental a year.\(^6\) In turn, Breakwell leased the property on 10 November 1812 to Maurice O'Connell for four years at £25 a year. O'Connell held the lease until at least 1820, even though he had left the Colony in 1814. He had given instructions to his agent to lease the estate, but it was left vacant except for one year's rental to Captain John Piper in 1814.\(^7\) At the end of Piper's tenure the property was unsuccessfully advertised for lease:

'To be Let, for such a Term as may be agreed upon, the beautiful Villa and Demesne of Vaucluse (lately Colonel o'Connell's Country Residence); the House is very roomy, and finished in the highest style, with extensive attached and detached Offices, Stables, Coach-house, Dairy, &c. the Garden extensive, in excellent order, and well cropped with choice Fruit and ornamental Trees; and the Farm well known as best calculated of any in the Environs of Sydney for a Dairy; to be entered on the 5th of July..."\(^8\)

O'Connell had incurred the expense of keeping a man on the property when it was untenanted, and had expended nearly £1,000 on unspecified items by 1820.\(^9\)

In 1821 Thomas Dennett, a benefactor of the will of the late Thomas Dennett, the former owner of the land, claimed Vaucluse as he was in legal possession of the title deeds. Sir Henry Browne Hayes appears never to have received the original deeds when he purchased the property in 1803.\(^10\)

\(^{5}\) op. cit.: 3-3a.
\(^{6}\) op. cit.: 12.
\(^{7}\) op. cit.: 14, 15, 31, 31a; Sydney Gazette, 7 April 1814.
\(^{8}\) Sydney Gazette, 10 June 1815.
\(^{9}\) S. Breakwell Papers: 15.
\(^{10}\) Hughes, 1982: 97.
Figure 2.1. Captain James Wallis, 1820, 'Vaucluse Bay, Port Jackson, New South Wales', in his An Historical Account of the Colony of New South Wales. London, 1821. Plate 11. This illustration shows buildings, assumed to be on the present site of Vaucluse House. (Mitchell Library, ML F981/W).
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In 1821 Thomas Dennett sold the two grants, then comprising the property called Vaucluse, to Robert Lethbridge for £400. On 14 February 1822, the latter conveyed the estate to Captain John Piper for £425.¹¹

On 8 March 1826 John Piper conveyed his house at Point Piper and various other properties, including Vaucluse, to Cooper and Levey for 100,000 Dollars at 5 shillings each. The transfer contained a provision for Piper to buy back Vaucluse for £600 in Dollars at 5 shillings each.¹² No such transaction is registered, but it is clear that Piper repurchased the estate, or he would not have been able to sell it on 27 August 1827 to William Charles Wentworth for £1,500.¹³ Prior to this sale, Piper had advertised the property thus:

'VAUCLUSE, a most desirable Property, situate near the South head, consisting of 100 Acres of Land, with a genteel Dwelling-House, containing 8 Rooms, Stables, and Out-buildings, consisting of a detached Kitchen, a Dairy, two large Gardens (situatet near the House) well stocked with Fruit Trees, and containing a choice Collection of Plants....'¹⁴

In 1827 Wentworth also obtained from John Piper the 370 acres, which was eventually granted to Wentworth on 5 July 1838. Piper had bought up the promises made by the Governor to several individuals, and had consolidated the land into one parcel of 370 acres. Wentworth exchanged this land with Piper by giving him 500 acres at Bathurst.¹⁵

The only remaining parcel of land, which formed the Vaucluse Estate under Wentworth's ownership, was the 40 acres granted to Francis McGlynn on 8 March 1831. However McGlynn had already sold the promise for the land to Wentworth on 7 March 1929 for £150.¹⁶

¹¹ Wentworth Family Legal Documents, Box 1.
¹² W. C. Wentworth, Miscellaneous Papers: 49.
¹³ Book B, No.437, L.T.O.
¹⁴ Sydney Gazette, 11 June 1827.
¹⁶ op. cit.: 98.
Figure 2.2. John Oxley, 1824. 'Vaucluse', from a sketch in his field notebook. This illustration shows buildings, assumed to be on the present site of Vaucluse House. (Hoddle, R. Survey of Moreton Bay, September to October 1824. AONSW. SZ87: 92).
2.3. The location of improvements on the Vaucluse Estate prior to 1829.

It has long been assumed that Vaucluse House, as it exists today, is located on the site of the house built by Sir Henry Browne Hayes between 1803 and 1812. There are some major difficulties with this interpretation. The present house is situated on the 40 acres granted to Francis MacGlynn, which was purchased by Wentworth in 1829. This land was never in the possession of Sir Henry Browne Hayes, and was Crown land until 1818.\textsuperscript{17} This long standing assumption therefore forces one to accept that Hayes carried out substantial improvements upon Crown land, an unusual and unwise decision. However in some cases the boundaries of a grant may have been unclear due to delays in survey. It is surprising that neither Hayes, nor any other owner or occupier of Vaucluse ever mentioned that the house had been mistakenly built on Crown land.

Until 1827, the Vaucluse Estate only comprised 105 acres, being Cardell's 25 acres and Laycock's 80 acres. Sir Henry Browne Hayes occupied this land between 1803 and 1812, and it is therefore the most obvious choice for the location of his substantial improvements.

Furthermore, the route of title and the purchase prices of the various parcels of land suggest the improvements were actually located on Laycock’s 80 acres. Wentworth bought Cardell's 25 acres and Laycock's 80 acres from Piper in 1827 for £1,500, a price consistent with improvements. He then purchased McGlynn's 40 acres in 1829 for £150, a price which is not consistent with major improvements. If the house was on McGlynn's 40 acres, then surely Wentworth would not have expended £1,500 in 1827, without first securing the house, seemingly only acquired in 1829 for £150.

There are however several ambiguities. First, the early illustrations of Vaucluse, by Captain Wallis in 1820, and by John Oxley in 1824, may both be interpreted as showing buildings on the present site of Vaucluse House (Figures 2.1 and 2.2.).

Second, Francis MacGlynn sent a memorial to the Governor in 1828, requesting that the 40 acres promised to him be measured. He also enumerated that he had built

\textsuperscript{17} An order for 40 acres was given to Francis MacGlynn on 10 September 1818. Hughes, 1982:98.
a house, cleared 30 acres, and planted an orchard of 3 acres. On 3 January 1829, the Surveyor General confirmed that an order for 40 acres was made on 10 September 1818. Hughes quotes the following remarks from this report:

'The land described by McGlynn includes Breakwell’s allotment upon which the buildings he speaks of in his Memorial are erected. This allotment has been measured upon that part which the Applicant prefers, and which is the most valuable.'

From this Joy Hughes concluded that:

'It would appear that Francis McGlynn had erected his house on Samuel Breakwell’s grant....adjacent to the Vaucluse estate. Vaucluse House was standing beyond Thomas Laycock’s 80 acres grant on Crown land which Francis McGlynn selected.'

These comments are questioned: first, if McGlynn had erected his house on Breakwell’s allotment, that is Laycock’s 80 acres, then in fact it was on the Vaucluse estate and not adjacent to it. Second, the latter statement regarding the location of Vaucluse House does not logically arise out of the Surveyor General’s remarks.

There is a possible scenario for McGlynn’s actions in 1828 which would allow the improvements undertaken by Hayes to be on McGlynn’s 40 acres. He would have had everything to gain from following up the order for his land, especially after Wentworth had made his purchase from Piper in 1827. It is surprising then that he should have sold out so cheaply, even given the fact he would have had no right of way over Wentworth’s land.

In addition to the above unresolved issue, it is asserted that the drawing room in the single storey northern portion of the house belongs to the pre 1827 period. It is difficult to equate this room, which has brick walls, with the house erected by Sir Henry Brown Hayes, since it was specifically stated that only masons, and not bricklayers of brickmakers, were paid for improvements carried out by him.

18 op. cit.:88.
19 op. cit.:88.
20 S. Breakwell Papers:3-3a.
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inconsistency casts further doubt on the location of the historically documented improvements.

There is now sufficient archaeological evidence to suggest occupation on the present house site prior to 1829. However, in view of the above discussion, it is unclear who was responsible for these improvements. A re-examination of the historical documentation, in conjunction with the archaeological evidence, may clarify the situation.

2.4. William Charles Wentworth.

William Charles Wentworth (1790-1872) bought the Vaucluse estate between 1827 and 1829. With his wife, Sarah, whom he married in 1829, he resided there until 1853, then returning to England.

William Charles Wentworth was born in 1790, the son of D'Arcy Wentworth and a convict, Catherine Crowley. In 1803 he was sent to school in England, returning in 1810. In 1811 he was appointed as acting Provost Marshall. In 1813 he accompanied Gregory Blaxland and William Lawson in the discovery of an important route across the Blue Mountains, which allowed for the subsequent expansion of the pastoral industry into the interior.

Wentworth returned to England to obtain qualifications in the legal profession, entering the Middle Temple in London in 1817. During his studies, Wentworth wrote *A Statistical Historical and Political Description of New South Wales*, which was published in 1819. He was admitted to the Bar in 1822, but went on to Cambridge to further his education.

Wentworth returned to New South Wales in 1824, and was admitted to the legal profession. He went on to champion the causes of the emancipist and smaller free settlers. With Robert Wardell, he published the *Australian* newspaper from 14 October 1824 onwards. He was instrumental in obtaining trial by jury in 1830. In the 1840s he played an active role in improvements in education, and helped establish Sydney University.
Wentworth's greatest achievement was the winning of responsible government for New South Wales in 1855. He remained in England after this, except for a brief return to Sydney in 1861-2. He died at his home, Merly House, near Wimbourne, Dorset on 20 March 1872, and was interred in the Vault at Vaucluse, after a state funeral on 3 May 1873.

Wentworth left a widow and nine of their ten children. He had married Sarah Cox in 1829, around the time he purchased Vaucluse.21

2.5. Improvements at Vaucluse during the ownership of the Wentworth Family.

On 30 May 1828, in a letter to John Piper, William Charles Wentworth stated:

'I have as yet made no improvements at Vaucluse - but I am about to begin a range of offices which you are aware will add greatly to the convenience of the place. In fact it is at present a very uncomfortable residence.'22

On 11 June 1828, in a letter to the Principal Superintendent of Convicts, Wentworth revealed that he had commenced some work at Vaucluse. In reference to the convict, Bryant Payne, he stated:

'He has been employed at Vaucluse for about a Fortnight, during which time he has been exclusively engaged in Painting and has nearly completed my Drawing Room which by his sudden apprehension remains of course in an unfinished state; and so that no other Painter probably could complete it according to the original design.'23

In reference to the above discussion of the location of improvements at Vaucluse, there must be some ambiguity as to which buildings were being painted during

22 Piper Papers: 73.
23 Despatches, 1828:1065-1074.
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Figure 2.3. Conrad Martens, 1840, 'Vaucluse from the Road, Oct 30/40'. This sketch clearly shows evidence of cultivated fields to the west of the house and creek. (Dixson Library, DG*D19/19).
1828. It is likely this work represents maintenance of existing buildings only, because of its short duration.

William Charles Wentworth bought the Vaucluse Estate on 27 August 1827, but significantly did not purchase the land comprising the present site of Vaucluse House until 7 March 1829. It was only after this date that news was published of Wentworth's intention to erect extensions to the cottage built by Sir Henry Brown Hayes, or a totally new mansion, together with a series of outbuildings. The architect, George Cookney, is mentioned in association with the latter.24

Dating of the construction of the various parts of the house is based largely on pictorial evidence. The 1837 sketch by E Boulton shows the stables, but not the second storey of the house. The latter becomes visible in the 1840 pencil sketches by Conrad Martens, indicating that the house was substantially completed by this time (Figure 2.3).25 The so-called 'convict barracks' first appear in later illustrations, but may also have been erected in the 1830s.

From 1827 to 1853 Vaucluse was the residence of the Wentworth family, until official business caused their removal to England: William Charles Wentworth had been appointed chairman of a select committee to form the constitution for responsible self government, and accompanied the Colonial Secretary to London.26

On 24 December 1853 the house, including 163 acres within the fences, was leased to John Hosking for a period of three years from 1 January 1854 for £400 a year.27 It was not until April 1861 that the family returned, but only for a short stay, departing on 22 October 1862.28

Between 1861 and 1862 various improvements were carried out. There is a reference to Mr. Hilly as the architect, and a requirement for masons, carpenters, and ironfounders.29 Correspondence from Sarah Wentworth reveals that a new or extended verandah formed part of the work.30 It is also likely that the first floor

24 Australian, 17 March 1829; Sydney Monitor, 30 March 1929.
25 Department of Public Works, 1981.
27 Bk. 30, No. 389, L.T.O.
28 Hughes, 1982:108.
29 SMH., 18 May 1861.
30 Wentworth Family Letters and Business Papers:123.

Chapter 2
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

dressing room, bathroom, and water closet, attached to the rear of the bedroom wing were constructed. They were not mentioned in the 1853 lease to Hosking, while references to the upstairs water supply from 1868 to 1875 are best interpreted assuming they had been constructed in the intervening period.

The last major alterations to Vaucluse undertaken by the Wentworth family were carried out by Sarah Wentworth, when in residence at Vaucluse between 1873 and 1875. The work comprised erecting a reservoir and piping to the top rooms in the house, and could also be used for estate irrigation.\textsuperscript{31}

From the departure of Sarah Wentworth in 1877 or early 1878 until 1910, Vaucluse House was occupied by various members of the family, relatives, or caretakers.\textsuperscript{32}

2.6. Vaucluse in government ownership.

The property was acquired by the Government in 1910, and was managed by the Nielsen-Vaucluse Park Trust until 1968, when it was declared an historic site under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, N.S.W., 1967. The Trustees however maintained their position until 1980, when Vaucluse House became the responsibility of the Historic Houses Trust under the Historic Houses Act, N.S.W., 1980.\textsuperscript{33}

2.7. Estate management.

In addition to his achievements in public life, William Charles Wentworth, at the height of his pastoral and agricultural interests, owned a large number of properties, farms and stations, both in New South Wales and in New Zealand. The records of the 1828 Census give an indication of his holdings at the time he acquired Vaucluse (Table 1).\textsuperscript{34}

\textsuperscript{31} op.cit.:29, 137, 139.
\textsuperscript{32} Hughes, 1982:110-112.
\textsuperscript{33} Historic Houses Trust, 1982:4.
\textsuperscript{34} Sainty and Johnson, 1980: W998, and cross-references.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County of Cumberland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish of Bathurst</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hutkeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concord</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Servant (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homebush</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td></td>
<td>Housekeeper (f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toongabbie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overseer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 servants (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settled Districts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argyle</td>
<td>7000</td>
<td>80 horses</td>
<td>Stockkeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>700 cattle</td>
<td>1 other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathurst</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stockman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(This may refer to the Parish of Bathurst, in the County of Cumberland)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullabini, Argyle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overseer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9 labourers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Woolsorter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Blacksmith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 grooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shoemaker</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Coachman</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1 other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illawarra</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>6 horses</td>
<td>Overseer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,600 cattle</td>
<td>2 stockmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County, St. Vincents</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hutkeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stockkeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond the Limits of Location</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaro</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 horses</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>436 cattle</td>
<td>Herdsman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 hutkeepers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1. List of land, stock held by William Charles Wentworth, and staff working for him, as identified in the Census of November 1828.*
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Even without undertaking extensive research into his other holdings to place Vaucluse House in its context, it is clear that the property was his Sydney residence. Wentworth can be expected to have resided at his other properties on various occasions, depending on his duties. For example, while he served as magistrate in Maitland, he may have resided with his family at Windermere in the Hunter Valley. Because of its status among his many properties, Wentworth is likely to have expended the most capital on his Sydney residence. Proof of this can be seen from the numerous improvements undertaken from 1829 onwards.

The historical evidence also reveals that the Vaucluse Estate was self-sufficient in most of its basic needs. Unfortunately the majority of the historical evidence dates to the period after 1853, at which time Wentworth left Vaucluse in the hands of his agent, John Alexander. For the earlier period the evidence is far less detailed.

The 1841 Census reveals the inhabitants of Vaucluse, including the Wentworth family (tables 2 and 3). In entry no. 389, both parents are listed as well as their two sons and four of their five daughters. There were eight domestic servants, male or female, and nineteen persons whose occupation is not specified. It is possible an error has been made, and that some of the latter should have been entered in the 'gardeners, stockmen, and persons employed in agriculture' category. This ambiguity detracts from the usefulness of this evidence to indicate staff on the estate. Vaucluse House is described as finished, but the three mechanics or artificers employed indicates works of some kind. In entry no.388, it is probable that William P---y is a tenant on the estate or an employee of the category including overseer or superintendent (Table 3).

Other records of convicts and free immigrants are available, but it is difficult to identify whether they were placed at Vaucluse, or on another of Wentworth's properties.

A pencil sketch of Vaucluse in 1840, by Conrad Martens, clearly indicates cultivated land in the area to the north of the house, and on the western side of the creek, with

---

35 Hughes, 1982:106.
37 Of the 26 persons listed in the 'all other persons' category, 7 should be subtracted for the Wentworth family, leaving 19 others.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 1 Age</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - 6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - 20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 - 44</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>45 - 59</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREE - Born in the Colony</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREE - Arrived free</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREE - Other free person</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOND - Ticket of leave</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOND - Gov. employment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOND - Private employment</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church of England</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church of Scotland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesleyan Methodists</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Protestant dissenters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholics</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jews</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohamedans and Pagans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landed proprietors, Merchants, Bankers and professional persons</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopkeepers and other retail dealers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanics and artificers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherds, and others in the care of sheep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardeners, stockmen, and persons employed in agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic servants</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other persons not included in the foregoing classes</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 2. Entry no. 389, for William Charles Wentworth, Vaucluse, in the Census of 1841.*
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 1 Age</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - 6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - 20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 - 44</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 - 59</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREE - Born in the Colony</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREE - Arrived free</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREE - Other free person</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOND - Ticket of leave</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOND - Gov. employment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOND - Private employment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Church of England                   | 4    |
Church of Scotland                  |      |
Wesleyan Methodists                 |      |
Other Protestant dissenters         |      |
Roman Catholics                     |      |
Jews                                |      |
Mohamedans and Pagans               |      |
Landed proprietors, Merchants, Bankers and professional persons | |
Shopkeepers and other retail dealers |      |
Mechanics and artificers            |      |
Shepherds, and others in the care of sheep | 1 |
Gardeners, stockmen, and persons employed in agriculture | 1 |
Domestic servants                   | 3    |
All other persons not included in the foregoing classes | 3 |

*Table 3. Entry no. 388, for William P----y, Vaucluse, in the Census of 1841.*
pasture and woodland beyond (Figure 2.3.). This cultivation is confirmed by crop marks visible on recent aerial photographs (Figure 1.2.).

By far the most revealing evidence for the early period is the lease of the house to John Hosking on 24 December 1853. This document gives an overall framework of the estate, which must reflect the culmination of management during the period of occupation by William Charles Wentworth. The lease stipulated that the park, gardens, orangeries, vineyard and the buildings, fencing, hedges, ditches, gates, bridges, stiles, rails, poles, posts and drains be kept in good order, and that the gardens, orangery, vineyards, orchards, and greenhouses be kept well stocked. Trees were not to be cut down within the fences, but Hosking could cut firewood beyond the fences. The lease also gave an inventory of the contents of the house, and some of the outbuildings, including the kitchen wing, laundry, and store. Specifically excluded from the lease were the hut and land occupied by Major Lee, roads within the estate, and the loft over the store near the kitchen.

John Hosking leased Vaucluse from 1854 to January 1858, the correspondence of John Alexander to William Charles Wentworth repeatedly complaining of the poor condition of the property. From 1858 onwards the house remained in the hands of the family or close relatives. While improvements to the house were undertaken when the Wentworth family were in residence between 1861 and 1862, and later from 1873 to 1875, correspondence reveals that Thomas and Thomasine Fisher returned the estate to its former well managed condition between 1867 and 1873.

The Wentworths recommended to the Fishers to restrict the produce of the estate to their own needs. This would have included fruit and vegetables, eggs, poultry, dairy products, and possible other meat. There was sufficient pasture for both the horses and cattle. Wood could be cut from the bushland beyond the fences. It is likely that this was the nature of usage of the estate from 1853 onwards, and probably represents a curtailment of the level of production from the previous period.

39 Bk. 371, No.37, LTO.
40 John Alexander Letterbook, passim.
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Figure 2.4. This illustration, from the Illustrated Sydney News of 22 November 1869, is the earliest pictorial evidence for 'estate fencing' at Vaucluse House. (Mitchell Library).
As a result of the bushfire which burnt to within a short distance from the house on 17 October 1867, inquiries were made to replace the post and rail fences, which had been destroyed, with fencing in fire-proof materials. Both wire fencing and a '3 rail iron fence with iron standards' were mentioned in correspondence between 1868 and 1870. In the end it was decided to renew the post and rail fence from the 'back garden' to Parsley Bay in similar materials, because of the expense of iron fencing. However nearer to the house and its formal gardens, 'estate fencing' of prefabricated sections of iron rails and standards was preferred, so as not to spoil the outlook and ornament of the house. This iron fencing is clearly shown on an illustration of Vaucluse House in 1869, bordering the approach road in front of the house (Figure 2.4.).

The above mentioned fencing to Parsley Bay is part of the fence line which separated the pasture and agricultural land from the surrounding bushland on the estate. It ran from Parsley Bay to the rear of the 'back garden', thence along the south boundary of Francis McGlynn's 40 acre grant, and finally down to Milk Beach (Figure 1.1.). The outer limits of the estate were never fenced. The Wentworths used the terms, 'within the fences' or 'outside the fences' to indicate the status of the two parts of the estate. They regarded the surrounding bushland as a protection and means of preserving the rural setting of their Sydney residence.

45 Wentworth Family Legal documents, Box 4 , 1 August 1868.
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

3.1. OUT-BUILDINGS ON THE VAUCLUSE ESTATE.

By far the most important historical evidence for the layout and extent of out-buildings at Vaucluse are a series of maps, based on surveyor's field books of 1884 held by the Water Board. The Higinbotham and Robinson *Map of the Municipality of Woollahra* is based on these field notes for its Vaucluse section, while the Lands Department also hold a map incorporating the same detail (Figure 3.1.). The field notes have been redrawn and form the basis of the archaeological survey plan (Figure 3.2.), while the detail of the Higinbotham and Robinson map has been amalgamated with the evidence provided by aerial photographs in site plan 2 (Figure 1.2.).

The survey notes and plans delineate fences, buildings and other structures extant in 1884. Several out-buildings are still present, and their function can be easily identified, whereas others are only known from historic photographs (Table 4.). Brief descriptions or comments are appropriate for some of these out-buildings:

**Dairy.** The dairy incorporates a mechanism for maintaining a cool temperature, by having direct access to the under floor space of the adjacent room in the kitchen wing. The walls of this space have been rendered and whitewashed for some purpose.

**Store.** This building is identified as a store in the 1853 lease, and is described as having a loft. This latter feature survives, and the stairway access to it is shown in a rare photograph of the rear of the house, as well as on the 1884 survey (Figures 3.2 and 3.3.). The typical cottage configuration of this building suggests an original residential function. Archaeological investigation in 1982 revealed the presence of substantial stone footings attached to its north wall, in the approximate position shown in the 1884 survey (Figures 3.2 and 3.4.). This was tentatively interpreted as a bread oven of similar feature.

---

1 M.W.S.D.B. 1884.
2 Higinbotham and Robinson, 1889; MS. 1797. Sy. R., Lands Department, N.S.W.
3 The reconstructed survey plan was provided by Malcolm Drummond, of Keown and Drummond, Surveyors, Sydney.
4 Higinbotham, 1983:12-13.b
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name, function</th>
<th>Location, comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standing buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen Wing</td>
<td>Attached to House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larder</td>
<td>Attached to Kitchen Wing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>Attached to Kitchen Wing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store</td>
<td>Immediately south of the Kitchen Wing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood and Coal Stores</td>
<td>North west corner of walled courtyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Guard House'</td>
<td>North west corner of walled courtyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
<td>Immediately west of house and creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservoir and pump</td>
<td>Western side of walled courtyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stables</td>
<td>South east of House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sites of out-buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbour</td>
<td>North of House, west side of creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectangular building</td>
<td>West of Laundry in small enclosure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone cottage</td>
<td>West side of 'back garden'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old shed</td>
<td>Western side of walled courtyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two old wooden sheds</td>
<td>West of Stables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Square building</td>
<td>South of Stables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Convict Barracks'</td>
<td>East of Stables</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. List of out-buildings and other structures at Vaucluse.

'Guard House'. The function of the 'guard house' is unknown, but the presence of a fireplace indicates a residential function. The group of rooms, including the 'guard house' and stores, are attached to and therefore post-date the courtyard wall.

Laundry. The appearance of the laundry has changed since the 1884 survey. Two skillions were present, one on the north and the other on the south side. A verandah was placed over the front of the laundry excepting the large bath setting. The footings of the northern skillion are extant, but the southern skillion is not visible, except for part of a stone drain. The laundry is visible in a number of historic photographs (Figures 3.5 to 3.7.). Sandstone wall footings were exposed behind the laundry during the renovations of the Kiosk, and were on the line of the
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Figure 3.1. Higinbotham and Robinson, 1889, 'Map of the Municipality of Woollahra', showing buildings, fences and other structures on the Vaucluse Estate, probably surveyed in 1884. (Mitchell Library).
Figure 3.2. Archaeological survey plan of Vaucluse House for the archaeological investigation and auger survey in 1989. The base map is derived from a reconstruction of the survey in 1884, drawn up by Malcolm Drummond, of Keown and Drummond, Surveyors, Sydney. The plan shows the extent of road metalling as defined by the auger survey, as well as the location of Archaeological Trenches 25 to 27. (Georgia Rennie).
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Figure 3.3. A rare photograph of the rear of Vaucluse House, dating to the late Nineteenth Century. It shows previously unavailable detail of the additions to the back of the bedroom wing, including the dressing room, bathroom and water closet. It also shows the access to the loft of the store, and various features in the rear courtyard. The presence of a cow indicates that stock were kept in the area of the 'old shed', interpreted to be a shelter for stock. (Mrs. Mary Cleary. Private Collection).
Figure 3.4. Plan of Trench 8, excavated in 1982. The three successive plans, 1 to 3, show the archaeological features in chronological and stratigraphic sequence, from the earliest to the most recent. Early sandstone footings (114) were located under the metalling of the roadway (81), the latter believed to be contemporary with Wentworth's building program of 1829 onwards. (Edward Higginbotham).
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Figure 3.5. The old laundry, 1916, showing the various additions and other features then still standing. (Vaucluse House Collection).
Figure 3.6. The old laundry, 1916, showing the various additions and other features then still standing. (Vaucluse House Collection).
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Figure 3.7. The old laundry, c.1920, showing the additions and other features then still standing. (Vaucluse House Collection).
boundary shown on the Higinbotham and Robinson map (Figure 3.1.).

**Reservoir and pump.** The reservoir and pump setting has the same configuration as on the 1884 survey (Figure 3.2.). It was associated with the water supply to the 1861 to 1862 first floor bathroom, dressing room and water closet, attached to the rear of the bedroom wing. The water supply was improved in 1873 to 1875. The 1915 M.W.S.D.B. plan of Vaucluse shows a well immediately to the side of the pump.5

**Stables.** The stables accommodated a number of functions. On the eastern side there is a possible coach house, two rooms serving a residential function, the stables themselves, the tack room, and another room, possibly a store or stable.6 On the western side there are a series of three rooms at the northern end, one of which had a fireplace and may have been residential. The other two rooms may have been stores, one providing access to the loft. These three rooms are followed by a large open area with arched entrance, and finally another room, with a passageway providing through access to the stable. The arched area may have been used as a barn or wagon and cart shed. Likewise the southern room may have been used as a barn, feed store, or shelter for stock. It was identified as a fodder room in 1910.7

**Arbour.** The arbour is evident in a number of historic photographs, perhaps having a paling fence on its northern side. Its purpose is unknown, further research being required.

**Rectangular building.** This building, or the stone cottage described below, may be the 'garden house', mentioned in Wentworth correspondence: the ceiling was to be replastered in 1869.8 An alternative interpretation as the greenhouse, mentioned in the 1853 lease, is possible on the basis that the structure is associated with a small enclosure and a grid of pathways, reflecting intensive use (Figure 1.2.).9

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8 Wentworth Family Letters and Business Papers:37.
9 Bk.30, No.389, LTO.
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Figure 3.8. Sandstone cottage at Vaucluse House, c.1906. (Vaucluse House Collection).
Stone cottage. The stone cottage is illustrated in a historic photograph, and was the subject of site survey in 1987 (Figure 3.8.). This may be the 'garden house', mentioned in Wentworth correspondence.

Old Shed. The old shed to the south of the reservoir, and attached to the courtyard wall, was the subject of archaeological excavation, described below. The archaeological evidence points to an open sided shed, supported on wooden posts. Its probable use was as a shelter for stock.

Two old wooden sheds. The two wooden sheds near the stable may be the fruit store, mentioned in Wentworth correspondence: the store was to be floored with re-used floorboards in 1867. The greenhouse, which now stands on the site, is not visible in early Twentieth Century photographs, and therefore must date to the period of public ownership (Figure 3.9.). This is consistent with the dating of the materials used in its construction.

Square building. This square building is marked on the 1915 M.W.S.D.B. plan of Vaucluse as a water closet, constructed in sandstone. This may represent the re-use of a building by the Trust, although a garden closet is mentioned in Wentworth correspondence in 1875.

'Convict barracks'. The so-called 'convict barracks' is first illustrated in 1851 to 1852, but may be somewhat earlier. The structure is also the subject of a number of historic photographs (Figures 3.10 to 3.12). Its function is unclear, but it certainly was not for the accommodation of convicts: a barrack building or huts were much more appropriate. Its high walls indicate that the contents of the enclosure were valuable and needed to be secured. The lean-to structures at either end show that extensive accommodation was not required. Further research is necessary.

The 1884 survey and related maps also indicate a number of paddocks and enclosures in the vicinity of the house (Figures 1.2 and 3.1.). The formal garden is situated immediately to the north of the house, while the paddocks to the west of the creek are those that were cultivated in the 1840 sketch by Conrad Martens (Figure

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10 Higginbotham, 1987a.
13 Wentworth Family Letters and Business Papers: 139.
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Figure 3.9. An early Twentieth Century view of the stables, showing the bitumen pathway then occupying the cutting of the earlier roadway to the western side of the building. The greenhouse, now to the right of the pathway was not present at this time. (Vaucluse House Collection).
Figure 3.10. Ruins of the former 'convict barracks', c. 1909, showing the gate, perimeter walls, and remains of skillions at either end. (Vaucluse House Collection).
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Figure 3.11. Ruins of the former 'convict barracks', c. 1909. (Vaucluse House Collection).
Figure 3.12. Ruins of the former 'convict barracks', showing the gate, perimeter walls, and remains of skillions at either end. (C.H. Bertie. Vaucluse House, a collection, volume 1. Mitchell Library, ML B1365).
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Figure 3.13. The main entrance, carriage loop and stables, 1909. (Government Printer, and also Vaucluse House Collection).
Figure 3.14. The main entrance and carriage loop, 1909. (Government Printer and also Vaucluse House Collection).
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

2.3.). The small enclosure west of the laundry is associated with crop marks and archaeological features which may be interpreted as a grid of pathways. Unfortunately this area was seriously eroded when it was used as the visitor car park. More recently it has been used as a soil dump and has been cut through by an open drain. The south paddock, or 'back garden', as the Wentworths termed it, was sown with lucerne in 1862, but may have been more intensively cultivated previously. Crop marks also reveal two parallel pathways running its length (Figure 1.2.).

The pattern of husbandry fits well with other properties and farms. It was usual for the more valuable or the labour intensive crops or activities to be located near the house to aid in security and to minimise on travelling time. On this basis it is expected that the orangery, orchard and vineyard, mentioned in the 1853 lease, should be located somewhere between the back garden and the western paddocks.

Major Lee's hut or cottage, as well as Gilberthorpe's, are mentioned in the Wentworth correspondence. Careful analysis reveals that Major Lee resided on land near Parsley Bay, while Gilberthorpe had his garden, and presumably his hut, near the present site of 'Greycliffe' (Figure 1.1.). Major Lee's land is also excluded from the 1853 lease. Together with the second entry in the 1841 Census (Table 3), this evidence is consistent with other estates where senior employees or tenants are leased parcels of land at an appropriate distance from the house, usually on the fringes of an establishment. The identification of the huts of Major Lee and Gilberthorpe is important because it removes any confusion as to the use of the other out-buildings on the estate.

14 op. cit.
15 Bk.30, No.389, LTO.
17 Bk.30, No.389, LTO.

The purpose of the archaeological excavations and site survey, undertaken in June 1989, was to resolve the remaining problems associated with the historic access to the kitchens, cellars and stables. The sequence and function of the out-buildings in this area became an integral issue, without which the interpretation of the area would be incomplete.

4.2. Access to the kitchens, cellars and stables.

4.2.1. Techniques of investigation.

Up to 1989 test-trenches and area excavation was the approach adopted to determine the extent and description of the approach road to the house, the layout of the carriage loop and access to the cellars. This approach had several advantages and disadvantages. On the positive side, it made possible the location of all associated features, for example, stone drains, gutters, paving, post-holes for post and rail fencing, and the rusted iron standards of estate fencing. On the negative side, it was considered by some that area excavation was not an efficient use of the archaeological resource. In fact, no more than topsoil was removed in all but the smaller test-trenches, so that it can be claimed that the archaeological resource was not disturbed. Exposed surfaces did however suffer from erosion, if left open for long periods.

It was therefore decided to adopt a new approach in order to complete the investigation of the areas of metalling. A measured grid was established by standard means over the area required, the initial intention being to use a 5 centimetre diameter post-hole auger to obtain a soil profile at regular intervals (Figure 3.2.). However after initial trial, the auger proved ineffective because of the waterlogged soil conditions prevailing after a long period of unseasonal wet weather. The damp soil was progressively carried down the core, prohibiting the recognition of soil changes. As an alternative it was decided to cut holes, approximately 20 centimetres square, using a spade. The depth of each core was strictly controlled so that only the surface of the first archaeological deposit was reached. Only in one or two instances was it necessary to proceed further.
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Figure 4.1. A view of the reservoir from the courtyard. It is constructed of cement rendered brick, with sandstone capping and buttresses. (Edward Higginbotham).
4.2.2. Results of auger survey.

The results of the auger survey are shown in figure 3.2. The total extent of the clay and gravel metalling was established accurately, except where it became thin or patchy. The precise definition of areas of sandstone flagstones, of bitumen or other features was impossible, but are an indication of where selective excavation would be useful. For example, flagstones were encountered outside the west doorway of the store in the courtyard, while sandstone footings were located between the reservoir and 'guard house' in the crescent shaped unmetalled area.

The results confirm that cart access was possible right up to the cellar steps and kitchen, and to the gates either side of the 'guard house'. A roadway is also shown from the courtyard providing access to the opposite bank of the creek. The old shed at the southern end of the courtyard wall had metalling up to it and also for its flooring, while there is a hint of a pathway to the other wooden sheds near the stable.

The evidence for roadways in the courtyard cannot be fully interpreted without understanding the sequence of development. For example, the 1884 survey shows a fenceline across the courtyard from the store. No gateway is indicated, as in other fences, and it must be assumed that access by the earlier roadway was restricted by 1884. Similarly, the courtyard wall has been altered in the early Twentieth Century to provide security for public visitation to the house. The gateway through the wall is no longer visible, while the wall to the south of the reservoir has been demolished. The stone has been reused in walls to enclose the courtyard, first between the dairy and store, and then from the store to the reservoir. Originally therefore the wall was not to form a courtyard, but was more likely to restrict the course of the creek and to retain the bank.

The road metalling varies in depth below the turf, from 10 centimetres near the store to over 50 centimetres in places near the creek. Elsewhere it averages approximately 20 centimetres. The courtyard has been substantially infilled, possibly by flooding, to give it a level surface today. This explains why the stores at the north west corner of the courtyard appear to be so low and cramped. Their original floor surfaces may now be buried as much as 50 centimetres, as is the case for the open shed in trench 25, described below.
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Figure 4.2. The pump beside the reservoir, used to pump water from the adjacent well into the reservoir and the house. (Edward Higginbotham).
Access to the stables could be obtained from either side. Historic photographs clearly indicate a roadway to its eastern side, while the original topography on its western side was confirmed by the auger survey (Figure 3.13.). Cart access was only possible to the arched openings at an oblique angle, as indicated by the existing change of slope. Turning space was provided at the south west corner of the stables. It is assumed that the roadway continued around the southern end of the stables, because of the situation of the loft, access to which is shown on the 1884 survey (Figure 3.2.). A single survey line of auger holes confirmed the presence of a roadway under the present concrete pathway on the western side. This had been previously predicted on the basis of a historic photograph, showing a broad linear depression, only partially covered by a bitumen pathway (Figure 3.9.).

A single auger survey line was run on a north-south axis across the carriage loop on the east side of the house in an unsuccessful attempt to find the roadway between the stables and the main entrance (Figure 1.2.). The presence of this feature was interpreted from two historic photographs, but it is now apparent that it is the lid of a sandstone box drain from the stables, recently exposed in a service trench to the house (Figures 3.13 and 3.14.).\(^1\) This drain is also mentioned in Wentworth correspondence, dated to 1868.\(^2\)

This sandstone drain, and another along the east wall of the kitchen wing, may form part of the drainage system through the house. The drain enters through the main entrance gate, crosses the courtyard, and runs under the main hallway to the water closet under the stairs. From here it empties directly into the creek. By this means the water closet was regularly flushed during wet weather, but could also be flushed by pouring water into the pan itself. The water closet, together with its flushing mechanism, are an important example of early sanitation.

### 4.3. Sequence and function of out-buildings

The full interpretation of the courtyard area behind Vaucluse House required an understanding of the sequence and function of the out-buildings. The Historic Houses Trust intend to investigate the majority of the sites of these structures, but funding was only available for a limited analysis at this stage.

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1 pers. comm: Mr. Ivor Powell, former Head Gardener.
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Figure 4.3. Plan of Trenches 25 and 26, periods 1 and 2, showing the courtyard wall and the remains of the open sided shed. (Georgia Rennie).

Chapter 4
Figure 4.4. Sections of Trenches 25 and 26, showing the sequence of archaeological features. (Georgia Rennie).
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Before the commencement of the excavation in June, the reconstructed plan, based on the 1884 survey, was unavailable. The excavation was planned using the Higinbotham and Robinson map, which shows much less detail (Figure 3.1.). It was decided to investigate the two buildings beside the creek, since they would be most affected by the conservation of roadway metalling, and also because the sites were relatively accessible and free of vegetation cover. Once the 1884 survey was obtained, it was obvious that the northern one of the pair was in fact the reservoir, and not an earlier structure. This feature, originally believed to be more recent, could then be associated with the water supply to the upper rooms of the house, dated 1861 to 1862, with improvements in 1873 to 1875 (Figures 4.1 and 4.2.).

As a result the excavation was able to concentrate on the 'old shed' identified in the 1884 survey, and also to extend the scope of the auger survey.

4.3.1. Trench 25.

Trench 25 was positioned on the northern end of the 'old shed', identified in the 1884 survey. At first only a rectangular area was opened up, measuring 4 by 3.40 metres, but this was later extended by a trench measuring 1.5 by 2 metres, to define the front wall of the shed (Figures 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5.). Waterlogging and poor drainage of the trench, due to the unseasonal wet weather, impeded progress, eventually necessitating the cutting of a drain to the nearby creek.

The removal of the turf revealed a trench recently excavated for electrical cables (646), cutting through the topsoil (645) and the fill of a robber trench (671, 672). The latter related to the demolition of the courtyard wall (683) in the Twentieth Century. The robber trench was cut into an earlier topsoil horizon (663), which in turn had accumulated over clay and gravel metalling (682, 687, and 688), representing the surrounding yard surface, as well as the floor of the shed (688). This metalling was equivalent to that recorded during the auger survey.

The electrical cable trench was located exactly on the side wall of the shed, as indicated by the 1884 survey, but it was still possible to recognise the front wall line from a change in the flooring (688) as well as the presence of a sandstone post-pad (681). The archaeological remains of the front wall suggest an open sided shed, the roof of which was supported on the courtyard wall and elsewhere on timber posts.
Figure 4.5. Trench 25, from the north, illustrating the disturbance caused by the electrical cable trench, and the footings of the courtyard wall on the right. Scale of 1 metre, with 50 centimetre divisions. (Edward Higginbotham).
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Its floor was on average 50 centimetres below the present surface, indicating the extent of soil build up since its construction. On this basis the shed may have functioned as a shelter for stock or equipment. Since it was at the base of the slope, and near to the creek, it was probably always damp and poorly drained, and would not have been suitable for the storage of materials of any value.

Due to the waterlogged condition of the trench, it was decided not to proceed to test the total depth of archaeological deposits. While this conserved the clay floor of the shed, it prohibited the recovery of any artifacts which would pre-date the structure.

4.3.2. Trench 26.

Trench 26 was opened up at an early stage in the excavation of Trench 25, to check that the courtyard wall did continue beyond the reservoir, as it had not then been located in Trench 25. The trench measured 4.6 metres long and up to 2.6 metres wide (Figures 4.1, 4.2, and 4.6.).

The most recent features in this trench included the topsoil and pathway metalling (651, 652, 654, 658), a garden bed and edging in sandstone (655, 656), the sewer vent (662), and sewer pipe (668, 673, 684). Sandstone rubble (669) on the line of the courtyard wall (660) was interpreted as the fill of the robber trench, first exposed in Trench 25. The layer of soil and sandstone rubble (659), exposed in the base of the trench near the reservoir, was interpreted as the equivalent of the metalling found during the auger survey.

The excavation confirmed the line of the courtyard wall (660) and its continuation to the south of the reservoir. Further excavation was therefore considered unnecessary, leaving earlier stratification intact.

A range of artifacts were recovered from Trenches 25 and 26, but were all from unsealed deposits, and represented a mixture of discarded Nineteenth and Twentieth Century material. The artifacts have been sorted according to categories of material. They were then bagged and boxed in standard archive boxes, and placed in storage with the previous material at Vaucluse House.
Figure 4.6. Trench 26, showing the continuation of the courtyard wall to the south of the reservoir, together with the disturbance caused by the sewer pipe and sewer vent. Scale of 1 metre, with 50 centimetre divisions. (Edward Higginbotham).
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Figure 4.7. Plan of Trench 27, showing the extent of the sandstone gutter beside the roadway. (Georgia Rennie).
4.3.3. Trench 27

Trench 27, measuring 8.5 by 1.4 metres, was excavated to find the total extent of the sandstone guttering, previously exposed in Trenches 13 and 21 (Figure 1.3.). It required only the removal of recent metalling, already recorded in the previous trenches.

The guttering (689), dished in section and composed of three rows of sandstone slabs, extended to the corner of the stables, its purpose being to carry stormwater across the line of the roadway to the stable (Figures 4.7 and 4.8.). The gutter was flanked by clay and gravel metalling (690).

4.4. Archaeological evidence for early occupation.

Since the commencement of the archaeological investigations in 1982, evidence has been recovered of early occupation on the site of Vaucluse House. This includes both standing structures and sub-surface remains. For example parts of the house are believed to be early, though it would be necessary to confirm this through archaeological investigation and recording.

The walls of the drawing room are claimed to be pre 1827. The false door opens onto a sandstone wall, bonded with mortar containing shell lime, and it is known that at least the north wall is constructed in flat sandstock brick, without a frog. This brick type tends to be early and is usually assigned a pre 1830 date. The drawing room is usually associated with Sir Henry Browne Hayes, but the difficulties with this interpretation have been discussed above.

The 'guard house' and related stores are also built with flat sandstock brick. Recent restoration was undertaken without archaeological investigation or recording, and it is now difficult to ascertain the context of their use, either original or re-use. Assuming the former, the courtyard wall would also be early, since the brick walls butt-joint onto it. The straight joint of the courtyard wall and the bedroom wing gives no visible indication of chronological precedence to either structure.

3 Historic Houses Trust, 1982, plan opposite page 24.
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

Figure 4.8. Trench 27, showing the extent of the sandstone gutter beside the roadway. Scale of 1 metre, with 50 centimetre divisions. (Edward Higginbotham).
Figure 4.9. Plan of Trench 24, excavated in 1984, in a series of overlays, from 1 to 8. The earliest evidence is shown in plan 8. The small pit (627) in plan 7 was interpreted as indicating the presence of early occupation at Vauclose. (Edward Higginbotham).
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

If the courtyard wall, 'guard house' and stores are early, then a framework is beginning to emerge for the house and out-buildings pre-dating Wentworth's additions of 1829 onwards. This picture is extended by evidence derived from archaeological excavation. Trench 8, excavated in 1982, exposed the corner of a masonry structure (114) in the courtyard, possibly representing a building to the west of the kitchen wing (Figure 3.4.). These footings pre-dated the roadway metalling, believed to have been laid down contemporary with Wentworth's building program, 1829 onwards. During the 1989 auger survey other masonry footings were located adjacent to the courtyard wall between the 'guard house' and the reservoir (Figure 3.2.). None of these structures in present on the 1884 survey.

Other evidence of early occupation was recovered from Trench 24, excavated in 1984, and located to the east of the kitchen wing. A small rectangular pit (627) was excavated, containing broken flat sandstock brick, and other artifacts of a pre 1850 date (Figure 4.9.). While its stratigraphic relationship with the original clay metalling could not be established with certainty, it was nonetheless at the base of the archaeological profile. The feature was interpreted as evidence for early occupation, possibly representing a structure in the vicinity.

This physical and archaeological evidence points to the area of early occupation being centred on the present house, from the drawing room to the courtyard wall, to Trenches 8 and 24 (Figures 1.1 and 1.3). Because of the contradictory nature of the historical evidence, it is at present difficult to interpret the archaeological and historical data with any certainty, other than to conclude that there is a strong suggestion of occupation prior to Wentworth's building program of 1829 onwards.
5.1. CONCLUSIONS.

The excavations of Trenches 25 to 27 and the auger survey, completed in 1989, have made a major contribution to the evidence available for the conservation and management of Vaucluse House. As a result the courtyard and neighbouring out-buildings may be appropriately interpreted and placed upon display to the general public. In this process, the archaeological remains should not be further disturbed.

Until recently the Historic Houses Trust has placed an emphasis on the house and formal gardens. The completion of the conservation of these areas has allowed the emphasis to move to the interpretation of the out-buildings and service areas. This will make a valuable contribution to the understanding of the day to day running of the estate, and thereby place the house in its historic context. The range, function and sequence of out-buildings on the estate has been reviewed in this report, indicating where archaeology and historical research may further assist the conservation program.

Since the archaeological investigation began in 1982, physical evidence has been accruing for the early occupation of the historic site. The inconsistencies of the historical evidence for the period to 1829 have been discussed, indicating that a re-evaluation is warranted. The location of the improvements made by Sir Henry Browne Hayes have been placed in doubt, a finding that may substantially change the interpretation of that part of the house believed to pre-date the Wentworth occupation.

5.2. Recommendations.

5.2.1. Roadways in the courtyard and stables area.

The Historic Houses Trust has progressively reconstructed the Nineteenth Century layout of the carriageways and roadways at Vaucluse House. In order to continue this policy, it is recommended that:

1. the roadways, as defined by the auger survey, should be reconstructed without further disturbance of the archaeological remains.
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

2. only 10 to 20 centimetres of turf and topsoil should be removed to allow for the laying of road metalling, without raising the overall ground level.

3. special care should be taken not to disturb the sandstone surface outside the west door of the store, which was revealed by the auger survey to be covered by a thin layer of turf.

4. the road metalling should be similar to that used elsewhere at Vaucluse for the same purpose.

5. consideration should be given to the removal of the Twentieth Century portions of the sandstone courtyard wall which prevent the reconstruction of the roadway layout.

6. the early material from the Twentieth Century portions of the courtyard wall should be stored for re-use. The tooled surface of the capping stones and other blocks indicate that they were probably obtained from the former alteration and demolition of the southern portion of the original courtyard wall. In any case, the recent preparation of some of the stones may be easily differentiated from the original dressing.

7. consideration should be given to opening the gateway through the courtyard wall, as shown on the 1884 survey (Figure 3.2.).

8. any dismantling of the courtyard wall to re-open the historic gateway should be accompanied by an archaeological analysis of the materials used, in order to ensure that original portions of the courtyard wall are not disturbed.

5.2.2. Interpretation and display of the site of the 'old shed'.

The site of the 'old shed', shown on the 1884 survey was investigated in Trenches 25 and 26 (Figure 3.2.). It was interpreted as an open sided structure, supported on the courtyard wall, and may have been a shelter for stock. As part of this investigation the footings of the courtyard wall to the south of the reservoir were recorded. The archaeological remains impose certain restrictions on the interpretation and display of these structures. It is recommended that:
1. the archaeological remains should not be further disturbed by works associated with interpretation and display

2. consideration should be given to reconstructing the line of the southern end of the courtyard wall using sandstone from the dismantled Twentieth Century portions of the courtyard wall.

3. consideration should be given to marking the site of the 'old shed', using modern materials. For example the clay and gravel floor of the structure could be represented using the same metalling as used on the roadways, while the posts supporting the lean-to roof could be represented by sandstone slabs, representing the 'post-pads', one of which was found in the excavation. The interval between 'post-pads' may have varied, but was at least 1.8 metres (6 feet) or more in the part excavated.

5.2.3. Interpretation and display of existing out-buildings and the sites of other out-buildings.

It is hoped that the Historic Houses Trust will decide to proceed with the interpretation and display of the existing out-buildings and the sites of other out-buildings. In most cases archaeological investigation will substantially contribute to the information available for this purpose. It is recommended that:

1. archaeological investigation should precede the interpretation and display of all out-buildings.

2. the archaeological remains should not be further disturbed by works associated with their interpretation and display.

3. consideration should be given to marking the sites of out-buildings with modern materials, where extant remains are absent.

5.2.4. Display and weathering of archaeological features.

The Historic Houses Trust have already reconstructed several of the roadways in the main entrance or carriage loop to the east of the house. This has involved leaving
sections of original metalling and sandstone guttering exposed to erosion and weathering. It is considered that the loss of archaeological evidence by this means is minimal, but the procedure will eventually require the replacement of original materials. This is in accordance with conservation practice, except that the erosion and weathering is caused by the re-exposure of these features during the conservation program, when otherwise they would have remained in a stable condition. It is recommended that:

1. a policy or guidelines should be formulated for the display of archaeological features liable to weathering and erosion, and an objective decision made in each case. Factors to be taken into account should include the following:

1. Will the display of the archaeological remains and their weathering or erosion cause archaeological evidence to be lost?

2. Will the eventual replacement of these materials cause archaeological evidence to be lost?

3. Will the display of the archaeological remains add substantially to the understanding of the place?

4. Are the materials relatively stable or liable to rapid weathering or erosion?

5. Are there any other over-riding factors which affect the decision to display the archaeological remains, for example, public amenity and safety?

5.2.5. Display of the sandstone guttering.

On the basis of the guidelines described above, the sandstone guttering, exposed in Trench 27, may be evaluated (Figure 3.2.). Its display will not cause substantial loss of archaeological evidence. The sandstone is relatively stable, but will be subject to increased abrasion from the gravel metalling: the original road metalling is liable to rapid erosion. The display of the guttering adds substantially to the appreciation of the appearance and nature of the historic improvements to Vaucluse.
House. Erosion will continue to be a problem because of the slope in the road surface, and stormwater will require diversion to minimise this process. The sandstone gutter thus fulfills a practical purpose.

It is therefore recommended that:

1. the sandstone gutter should be placed on display, but that the adjacent original metalling should be concealed where possible.

2. the roadway from this gutter along the west side of the stable should incorporate larger sandstone pebbles and blocks to mitigate the extent of erosion down this slope.

5.2.6. Conservation of the archaeological potential of Vaucluse House and grounds.

Archaeological potential is described as the potential of an archaeological site to contribute evidence, unavailable from other sources, to current research themes in historical archaeology and related disciplines. This report has reviewed the evidence for all the known out-buildings, as well as the evidence for the early occupation of the site, prior to 1829. In many instances the extant fabric is of archaeological potential, and should be recorded in greater detail before conservation proceeds.

Areas of high archaeological potential. The location of the out-buildings is shown in figures 1.2, 3.1 and 3.2. Evidence for early occupation includes the drawing room, the rear courtyard, and Trenches 8 and 24 (Figures 1.1 and 1.3.). It is likely that other similar evidence may be found in the vicinity of the house, courtyard and main entrance area to the east of the house.

It is recommended that:

1. archaeological remains associated with the out-buildings and other features should not be unnecessarily disturbed.

2. disturbance of the ground within the area of early occupation should be subject to prior archaeological investigation.
Archaeological investigation of the out-buildings at Vaucluse House.

3. opportunity should be given to the archaeologist to record the fabric of standing structures prior to conservation, to avoid the loss of archaeological evidence.

4. if archaeological remains are inadvertently exposed, they should be recorded before further work proceeds.

5.2.7. Further research.

This report has reviewed the historical and archaeological evidence available for the conservation of Vaucluse House and grounds. Areas requiring further research have been identified. It is recommended that:

1. the evidence for the early occupation of Vaucluse to 1829 should be re-evaluated with special reference to determining the actual location of the early improvements as well as those responsible for them.

2. a comparative study of farm buildings should be considered in order to assist in the interpretation of out-buildings at Vaucluse, for example, the so-called 'convict barracks'.

3. a study of the pastoral and agricultural interests of W. C. Wentworth should be considered, not only to place Vaucluse in its context, but also to rectify the bias of previous historical research towards his professional and political life.
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Abbreviations.

ADB. Australian Dictionary of Biography.
AONSW. Archives Office of New South Wales.
L.T.O. Land Titles Office, N.S.W.
ML. Mitchell Library of New South Wales.
M.W.S.D.B. The Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board, N.S.W., now known as the Water Board.
SMH. Sydney Morning Herald.

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APPENDIX 1. SITE RECORDS.

Site records consist of the following documents:

1. Context catalogue and context record for contexts 635 to 690, inclusive.
2. Context artifact record.
3. Survey for carriageways and road metalling.
4. Site plans.
5. Monochrome photographs.

The above records are held by the author.

Artifacts recovered from the excavation are stored at Vaucluse House in 34 archive boxes.
APPENDIX 2. CONVENTIONS USED IN PLANS AND SECTIONS.

The following conventions and symbols have been used in the archaeological plans and sections reproduced in this report.

![CONVENTIONS]

- soil, loam
- friable — compacted
- clay
- sand
- brick
- mortar, plaster
- charcoal
- ash
- asphalt
- blue metal, coal
- piping
- disturbance
- 569 569 overlies
- 597 597
- slope, slight—steep—overhang