

The
“Goldfinders Inn Group”

Kurrajong, New South Wales



CONSERVATION HISTORY – VOLUME 2

CHRISTOPHER AND DEBORAH HALLAM

***THE “GOLDFINDERS INN GROUP”
KURRAJONG, NEW SOUTH WALES***

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JULY 2022

CHRISTOPHER AND DEBORAH HALLAM

This book is dedicated to future owners of the property, to guide them in its on-going conservation and to provide information on the property as it appeared in 1975 when the authors purchased it. All photographs were taken by Christopher Hallam unless otherwise stated. Quality varies, but their inclusion assumes that a bad photograph is better than no photograph when researching the original fabric of the buildings.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The “Goldfinders Inn Group” at Kurrajong, New South Wales, is built on land granted to Rowland Edwards in 1809. Edwards arrived in the colony as a convict on the *Admiral Barrington* in 1791. By 1809 he was married with two children. On 14 December 1809 Colonel Patterson granted him 80 acres in an area subsequently called Kurrajong. It appears that he was living on this same land prior to the formal land grant. This grant was subsequently confirmed by the newly arrived Governor Macquarie, on 1st January 1810.

In 2014 we published the book *The 1809 Land Grant of Rowland Edwards and The “Goldfinders Home Inn”, Kurrajong New South Wales – A Social and Conservation History*.¹ This book is the primary reference on the social history of the site, tracing the owners and their histories. This book also details the conservation undertaken in the period 1975 to 2010, with extensive photographs detailing the works in progress. In this Conservation History Volume 2, the original book is referred to as the 2014 Report.

In reviewing the 2014 Report, we decided that further documentation on the exact state of the property when we purchased it in 1975 was desirable for future research, so that in 50 or 100 year’s time, researchers could better understand the property at this specific point in time. With the changes made in the programme of conservation over the period 1975-2010, small details can be forgotten. This Conservation History Volume 2, details, where plans and photographs are available, *the way we were* when first moving into *Goldfinders* plus more details of the changes made.

The 2014 Report was part of our submission to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (Heritage NSW), requesting listing on the State Heritage Register. As set out in the following Section, the property was placed on the State Heritage Register in 2016.

1.2 State Heritage Register

The *Goldfinders Inn Group* was placed on the State Heritage Register in 2016, being gazetted on 21st October 2016, Listing Number 01978.² To obtain State Listing, a property has to meet certain State Heritage Register (SHR) criteria. There are seven criteria, A to G. A property does not need to meet all criteria of significance. This property meets four of these criteria, as set out below, as reproduced from the Heritage NSW listing:

SHR Criteria A: Historical significance

Goldfinders Inn Group is of state heritage significance as the cottage is evidence of an early vernacular dwelling of the Hawkesbury settlement that predates the c1850 inn building and may date from as early as 1809.

The property has functioned as a continually inhabited place of residence from 1806 to the present day, serving one of the oldest established settlements of NSW.

The cottage, inn and barn together provide physical evidence of successive occupancies and uses of the site, initially for farming, through mid-nineteenth century more intense settlement and cultivation, commercial use as an inn and licensed premises, later as a post office and general store and as private residence. The development of the site is integrally related to the development of Bells Line of Road. The siting of the buildings at the crossing of the road and creek took advantage of passing traffic for business and, in turn, served the development of the road by offering refreshment and rest on a long journey as a wayside inn. In its operation as a licensed inn, with associated general store and Post Office, the Goldfinders Inn Group has been the centre of Kurrajong community activities, prior to a formal village being constructed.

The garden plantings of camellias and magnolias are of historic interest in their own right, with the main camellia described by Professor EG Waterhouse as the oldest in Australia.

SHR Criteria E: Research potential

The Goldfinders Inn Group is of state significance because the cottage on the site is an early dwelling which has the potential to yield further information on the construction of early vernacular buildings, particularly in relation to the unusual stone nog infill between wall studs. There is also some potential for the site to reveal evidence of former buildings associated with documented uses of the place.

SHR Criteria F: Rarity

The cottage of the Goldfinders Inn Group is of state significance as a rare pre-1840s cottage with a range of construction systems from its various stages of development, including the use of stone nog infill. The site is also rare for its early domestic plantings and as a dwelling and inn group.

SHR Criteria G: Representativeness

In its evolution from farm to roadside inn, to community hub with associated functions of general store and Post Office, the Goldfinders Inn Group is of state

significance as a representative of the pattern of historic development of key locations in small settlements throughout New South Wales.

The form and fabric of the cottage, with its slab construction and portions of stone nog infill, is representative of vernacular building methods of the Old Colonial Period (1788-1840) using locally sourced materials in remote locations.

Integrity/Intactness

While the buildings have undergone conservation and adaptation works, including removal of later additions, construction of a new addition and the replacement of some fabric, they retain a high level of intactness. The form of the structures, the significant internal configurations and the patina of original fabric are readily discernible.

With the *Goldfinders Inn Group* on the State Heritage Register (SHR), there is a question as to its relative merit and importance compared with other buildings on the SHR and elsewhere. As indicated by the State Heritage Register details, the original cottage is particularly important because of its very early date. While the inn presents as everyone's idea of a nice historic building, its importance relates more to its place in the social development of the area plus its role in catering to passing trade on the Bells Line route across the Blue Mountains. The cottage, constructed of vertical timber slabs and weatherboard, with some stone noggings, is one of the earliest timber dwellings still standing in Australia. As outlined in the following Section, it is the second-oldest currently known timber dwelling in Australia and the oldest timber dwelling still being permanently used as a house.³

1.3 State Significance

To put the original *Goldfinders* cottage into perspective, how does it compare with other early timber houses in Australia? This Section 1.3 provides an overview perspective.

Compared with brick and stone buildings, timber buildings are more at risk with fire and possibly not valued as much. Their chances of surviving 200 years of occupation are less. A typical pattern of settlement was for the settler to first build a slab hut to provide a dwelling quickly, but when time and money permitted, to build a larger structure for more space and to reflect the social status of the settler. The original hut sometimes acted as the kitchen for the new dwelling or simply as one of the rural outbuildings.

Settlement started in the late 18th century in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley, where the priority was to provide food for the expanding colony. As such, many slab and timber dwellings were constructed in this valley. In recent times many buildings have been lost through demolition and neglect. Figure 1 shows a slab cottage that used to stand on Springwood Road, Agnes Banks, New South Wales, on the 1804 land grant to Adjutant William Minchin. This photograph was taken in 1994.⁴ There were two other timber buildings nearby, a house and a barn. Today the fireplaces are all that is left. Figure 1 presents a typical starting point for many early settlers. This example also presents an object lesson in the dating of buildings. While family history suggests that it was built by Charles Palmer in c1803, historical research shows that the Palmer land grant was on the other side of Yarramundi Lagoon and this hut was built after 1821 by Robert Aull, who leased the Minchin land ⁴ and built this dwelling for his assigned convict blacksmith.



Figure 1 Early slab cottage ⁴

In the quest to determine Australia’s earliest timber houses, a very useful starting point is the inventory compiled and regularly updated by Stuart Read.⁵ All properties listed for the period 1788 to 1820 have been reviewed. In addition, a number of other publications have also been reviewed, to search for relevant slab or timber dwellings not covered in the above inventory. Only buildings specifically built as dwellings have been considered. Also, a building is classified as “timber” if it has external walls of timber such as slabs and weatherboards. This includes buildings with timber-frame, brick-nog construction, as long as the external coverings are timber. The timber dwellings identified in the period 1788 to 1820 are set out below.

1. *Castlereagh, Castlereagh Road, "Hadley Park", original house (now kitchen block), c1806 horizontal slab cottage...1812 brick-nog two storey jerkin-head house. The original house appears to be Australia's oldest surviving timber cottage.*
2. *Kurrajong, "Goldfinders Inn", (three buildings: a slab cottage c1809, slab barn c1809, two storey sandstone inn added 1851.*
3. *Mulgoa, St Thomas's Road, "The/ Cox's Cottage", 1810-11, weatherboard-clad bungalow.*
4. *Newnham, Tasmania (north of Launceston), "Mount Stuart", 1813, brick-nog weatherboard cottage with later extensions*
5. *Richmond, "Bowman House", a timber-framed cottage with brick-nogging and weatherboard cladding, 1817-1820*
6. *Cobbitty, The Northern Road, "Denbigh", the farm's original brick-nog weatherboard homestead, 1818 .*
7. *Longford, Tasmania " Woolmers Estate", 1819-1821, brick-nog weatherboard homestead, with later additions.*
8. *Wilberforce, Rose St, "Rose Cottage", c1820, 2-roomed house, lath and mud-plaster walls, white-washed with pipe clay, shingle roof, hessian (later calico) ceiling.*
9. *Appin, "North Farm", c1820, slab homestead*

As a first observation, only five of these timber buildings are still being used as dwellings, the cottage at *Goldfinders, The Cottage/Cox's Cottage, Mount Stuart, Woolmers* and *Denbigh*. Looking further into the dates indicated in the above inventory, the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR)² provides more details with a data base for each property. There is equivalent information for the two Tasmanian properties.⁶ However, the historical details that underpin the dating of each property are not necessarily all to the same standard. For example, there is minimal reference to *Rose Cottage* before 1854, while there is extensive reference to the premises of Rowland Edwards – *Goldfinders*.

Hadley Park, Castlereagh, NSW (1806)

The *Hadley Park* complex is a very significant grouping of buildings located on a land grant made in June 1803 adjoining the Nepean River, with the main two-storey house constructed prior to 1810, which was preceded by a two-room timber cottage, with a construction date of 1806.⁷ This cottage has a timber frame with horizontal pit-sawn hardwood weatherboards. Many of the joints in the ceiling are held by timber pegs. The hinges on the window shutters and doors are gudgeon hinge type. This cottage and the adjacent two-

storey house are under restoration/conservation by the NSW State Government. It has been well researched.⁷



Figure 2 Eastern elevation of cottage ⁷



Figure 3 Inside cottage ⁷

Goldfinders cottage, NSW (1809)

As set out in our 2014 Report ¹, Rowland Edwards was farming 80 acres of land at Richmond Hill in 1806 (1806 Muster), with 50 of these acres under cultivation or pasture. This means that Edwards had cleared 50 acres of bush, a major commitment, signifying a firm intention to stay on that land. He logically would have built some dwelling on that land while clearing and cultivating it. The reference in *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* of 3rd September 1809 mentions “the Premises of Rowland Edwards, on the High Lands at Richmond Hill”, the description used at the time for Kurrajong. Even though the formal land grant was not made until 14th December 1809 ⁸, it is clear that Rowland Edwards and his family were living there, with the dwelling location on some flat land on a permanent water source being logical. It is likely that the core of the current cottage dates from 1806, when Edwards was farming this land. To be conservative, a date of 1809 has been used. The cottage construction includes a lot of early design techniques such as slabs, stone-infill between the studs, as seen below in Figure 5 and gudgeon hinges.



Figure 4 Rear of cottage prior to extensions



Figure 5 Inside during restoration

Cox's Cottage, Mulgoa, NSW (1810-1811)

Cox's Cottage was constructed in 1810 or 1811 by William Cox.² The Cox family were very well known in the Mulgoa Valley. The building reached its present form by 1820 with the extension of the original house by another room and the extension of the roof to form a double-pitched hip encompassing the verandahs, thus evolving to the now well known early homestead shape. The walls are brick nogged and covered with weatherboard, with the roof's original shingles replaced by early zinc-coated roofing tiles in c1850, with these tiles still present. There was a detached rear kitchen, which was later replaced. It remains a relatively unrestored and unaltered vernacular timber cottage.



Figure 6 Front of *Cox's Cottage*



Figure 7 Front verandah

Rose Cottage, Wilberforce, NSW (c1820)

While *Rose Cottage* has been promoted as the oldest extant slab dwelling in Australia, it is not, on the evidence. *Hadley Park* has the oldest timber dwelling, with weatherboard construction and *Goldfinders* has the oldest timber slab dwelling. The State Heritage Register entry for *Rose Cottage*² notes the complete lack of documentary evidence for the construction date and even questions whether the patriarch, Thomas Rose, lived there. The earliest record of the building is in the will of Thomas Rose II, in 1854. The land was bought in 1809 by Thomas's son, Joshua. A map of Wilberforce drawn by Surveyor Mathews in 1833⁹ does not show any building on the current site of *Rose Cottage*, but does show a town grant to Thomas Rose Snr with dwelling house and outbuildings. The SHR listing further comments: *Apart from the lack of documentary evidence confirming the date of construction of Rose Cottage, the physical evidence suggests an early construction for the cottage, possibly in the 1810s or 1820s.* The style of gudgeon hinges used are similar to those found at *Hadley Park* and *Goldfinders*. The general slab and weatherboard construction could, in theory, be anytime between 1810 and 1850, or later. As a house museum it provides a valuable presentation of traditional building methods in the first half of the 19th century. Its date of construction is suggested to be c1820.



Figure 8 North side of *Rose Cottage*



Figure 9 Eastern side, with slabs

Mount Stuart, Newnham, Tasmania (1813)

Mount Stuart is an historic agricultural property in northern Tasmania. The main residence sits at the top of gently sloping paddocks with a westerly aspect, overlooking the Tamar River. This main residence is now a single linear building with the original c1813 weatherboard residence at one end, a c1824 brick extension to the north and a further brick addition constructed in 1979 further to the north, mirroring the scale and roofline of the original c1813 residence.⁶ The original c1813 building is a hip-roofed weatherboard cottage with central east-west and north-south corridors and low pine ceilings and doorways. The timber-framed walls are brick-nogged. This original building is said to have been constructed on three large squared logs, which sit above a gravel pit. The southern portion of this building was formerly a verandah, later enclosed. *Mount Stuart* was once a large property with labour provided by assigned convicts. The main residence appears to be the only extant early 19th century building from what was once a large complex of buildings that also included convict barracks and farm outbuildings.⁶



Figure 10 Original Mount Stuart homestead to the right of central 1824 section

Bowman House, Richmond, NSW (1817-1820)

Construction of Bowman House was commenced in 1817 by James Blackman, the local constable and later gravedigger and sexton. He erected the frame of a brick-nog cottage. However, after losing his job as constable, he was forced to sell the property, to George Bowman, in 1818. Bowman completed the cottage by 1820 and by 1824 it had attained its present appearance, with its weatherboard-clad brick-nogged walls. The projecting rooms at each end of the verandah have been cement rendered at a later stage. The overhanging slate roof has three gable windows lighting the attic rooms. The colonial Georgian style of Bowman Cottage is representative of the typical Australian farmhouse of its time.²

A brick stable block stood at right angles to the rear of the house and parallel to this was a timber barn with a cobbled courtyard between. Both buildings have long disappeared except for a small section of the stables which still exist.

Bowman lived in this house until his death in 1878 and it remained in the ownership of the Bowman family until the 1920s. It is currently used as offices by the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service.



Figure 11 Front of Bowman House



Figure 12 Front verandah of Bowman House

Denbigh, Narellan, NSW (1818)

Denbigh was constructed by Charles Hook on his 1100 acre grant. Construction of the original house was started in 1818 and was completed in c1822. This house was constructed with timber framing, filled with brick or rubble nogging and externally covered in weatherboards. The hipped roof extends over the house and the brick paved verandah is supported on square timber posts with chamfered edges. Following the death of Charles Hook, the property was purchased by the parson Thomas Hassall in 1827, who began extensive extensions including a two-storey wing on the eastern side. The style of the original cottage is very similar to *Cox's Cottage*. It is an intact example of a continuously functioning early farm complex on its original 1812 land grant.¹⁰



Figure 13 *Denbigh* elevations with two-storey extension ¹⁰



Figure 14 Front verandah ¹⁰

Woolmers, Longford, Tasmania (1819-1821)

The original *Woolmers* homestead was constructed for Thomas Archer, a prominent grazier, by convicts in c1819-1821, with brick-nog walls covered in weatherboard. It is a typical Colonial Georgian residence with a medium pitched hipped roof clad in corrugated iron, flagged verandahs with slender timber posts and corbelled chimneys. Beneath the house are four cellar rooms, three with bricklined wells and one with a large trapdoor providing access into the drawing room. Six attic bedrooms are accessed by narrow staircases at the northern and southern ends. These bedrooms contain the original timber ceilings and lining boards papered with c1850s wall papers and iron bars are present on some of the attic windows. The interior of the building retains a high level of integrity, including original lath and plaster ceilings and lining boards, and original timber floors.

An extension, designed by William Archer and built 1842-1843, is Italianate in style with drawing and dining rooms either side of a large front hall and a small tower with a bedroom above. This section has a second storey tower, blind window and portico. A second manor house, called *Woolmers Cottage*, was built in 1839. It is a large brick Regency villa building with cedar joinery and marble fireplaces. The Woolshed (c1819) is of particular note. It is believed to be Australia's oldest woolshed still in use. It is a vernacular two-storey building, constructed from split weatherboards of local hardwood on a rubble foundation.⁶



Figure 15 Front of 1819 Woolmers homestead



Figure 16 Front verandah

North Farm, Appin, NSW (c1820)

The *North Farm* homestead is located on a 94 acre land grant made to the brothers Moses (44 acres) and Michael Brennan (50 acres) in October 1816. The homestead is of timber slab construction, with internal and external slab walls, plus weatherboard and tin sheeting. The gabled roof remains and has been over-sheeted with corrugated iron over timber shingles. Only the brick chimneys of the rear kitchen and laundry remain.

The granary building to the north of the homestead is random-coursed, split faced ashlar sandstone construction with dressed quoins and sills. Walls comprise of an inner and outer skin, with rubble infill and some through stones to bind both skins. The western wall has an unusual V-shaped slit half way up the wall. There is speculation that this a loophole for firearms.

Alternative names are *Brennans Farm*,² *Vine Tree Farm* and *Bronville*.¹¹ The date of construction of the original two-room slab structure is unclear, with 1820s-1840s also suggested.¹² A notice in the *Sydney Gazette* 18 January 1822 lists Michael and Moses Brennan of Appin among a number of farmers requested to supply wheat for the Government stores.¹² It would be logical to surmise that the brothers had by that time constructed basic lodgings. Moses Brennan was District Constable and Keeper of the Pound in Appin in 1818.¹³

North Farm is part of the State Heritage listed *Windmill Hill Group*. The buildings are vacant and partially derelict, being within the Sydney Water Catchment Area.²



Figure 17 Front of North Farm



Figure 18 Interior of original slab section

While future research might result in the discovery of other timber dwellings of a similar era, at this stage these nine dwellings are the oldest known. In summary:

<u>Property</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Construction</u>	<u>Use</u>
<i>Hadley Park</i>	1806	Basic weatherboard	Under restoration
<i>Goldfinders</i>	1809	Slab plus weatherboard	Occupied
<i>Cox's Cottage</i>	1810-1811	Weatherboard	Occupied
<i>Mount Stuart</i>	1813	Weatherboard	Occupied
<i>Bowman House</i>	1817-1820	Weatherboard plus brick	Offices
<i>Denbigh</i>	1818	Weatherboard	Occupied
<i>Woolmers</i>	1819-1821	Weatherboard	Occupied
<i>Rose Cottage</i>	c1820	Slab plus weatherboard	Museum
<i>North Farm</i>	c1820	Slab plus weatherboard	Derelict

All of these buildings are important and State significant and on the relevant State Heritage lists. *Hadley Park* is arguably the most important, with its pre-1810 associated main house, its early date and its location on the Nepean River. Its current form and presentation is the least impressive, almost certainly because it was never extended into becoming the main house, with the two-storey house constructed soon after. *Cox's Cottage* and *Denbigh* each present very well as the traditional colonial homestead, with *Cox's Cottage* remaining in substantially unaltered condition. *Rose Cottage* is an important house museum, exhibiting the construction and living style of the early 19th century. *Mount Stuart* and *Woolmers* illustrate how more humble original dwellings can expand to meet the needs and

aspirations of the owners. *Bowman House* presents well as public offices. *North Farm* unfortunately is away from public view and subject to further deterioration.

Goldfinders has been adapted for ongoing use as a family house, with its connection to the adjoining 1851 inn, but at the same time has had many later extensions demolished so that the form of the original 1809 timber cottage is correctly presented. It remains the oldest occupied timber house in Australia and the oldest slab dwelling. It is not the oldest occupied dwelling, with *Durham Bowes (Mountain View)* at Richmond probably having that title, with its c1804 original two room brick cottage.² *Goldfinders* remains one of the many "things we want to keep".

1.4 The Site

The *Goldfinders Inn Group* is on Lot 123, DP 1063011, County of Cook, Parish of Kurrajong, located at 164 Old Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong. Figure 19 shows an aerial view of the site and its surrounds, with Figure 20 showing a close-up of the site and Figure 21 showing the site as surveyed. The State Heritage listing covers this whole site.



Figure 19 – Site Context in 1975 with red-roof on cottage



Figure 20 – Site in 1975 with outbuildings evident

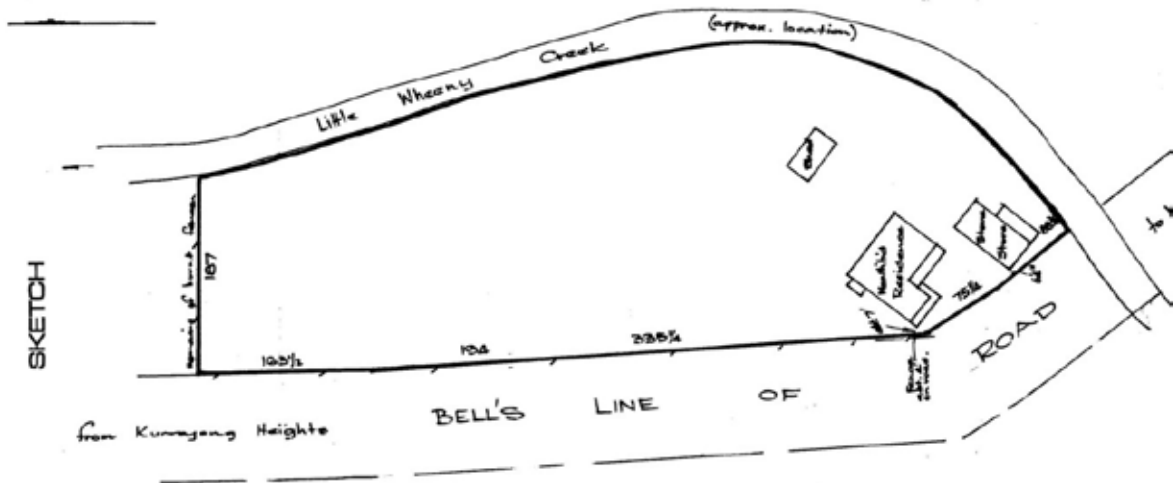


Figure 21 – Site Survey (distances in links)

The site survey shown in Figure 21 shows the site and its boundaries in 1975. The location of the inn, cottage and barn clearly show in the aerial photographs. The rear roof extension on the cottage is also clear. Other structures also evident in these photographs are a shed below the barn, an animal enclosure close to the road and a water tank. Remnants of the latter two remain but the other shed was demolished. This shed was of rough timber construction and was a single room inside. Its construction design and materials suggested that it was built in the 20th century.

East of the site there is a vacant paddock, behind which is *Kurrajong Lodge*, containing the original *Woodburn* dwelling built by John Lamrock,¹ who built and operated the inn. To the south of Kurrajong Road the land is sparsely developed.

Figures 22 and 23 show the site in 1976-77, as taken from Kurrajong Road, with Figure 22 showing Little Wheeny Creek in flood.



Figure 22 – View of Site from Kurrajong Road with Little Wheeny Creek in flood

Behind the barn is a telegraph/power pole, covered in vine. There was another pole in front of the inn, near the road.



Figure 23 – View of Site from Kurrajong Road

2.0 COTTAGE

2.1 Illustrations

In 1977 Christopher Hallam studied Australian colonial architecture and historical research in architecture at the Faculty of Architecture, University of New South Wales. Detailed drawings were prepared as part of these studies plus a thesis titled *Inns of the Hawkesbury – A Historical Research Report, 1977*.¹⁴ The drawings of the four elevations of the cottage plus the floor plan are shown in the following Figures 24-28. The numbers of rooms and features assist reference to the discussion on building conservation.

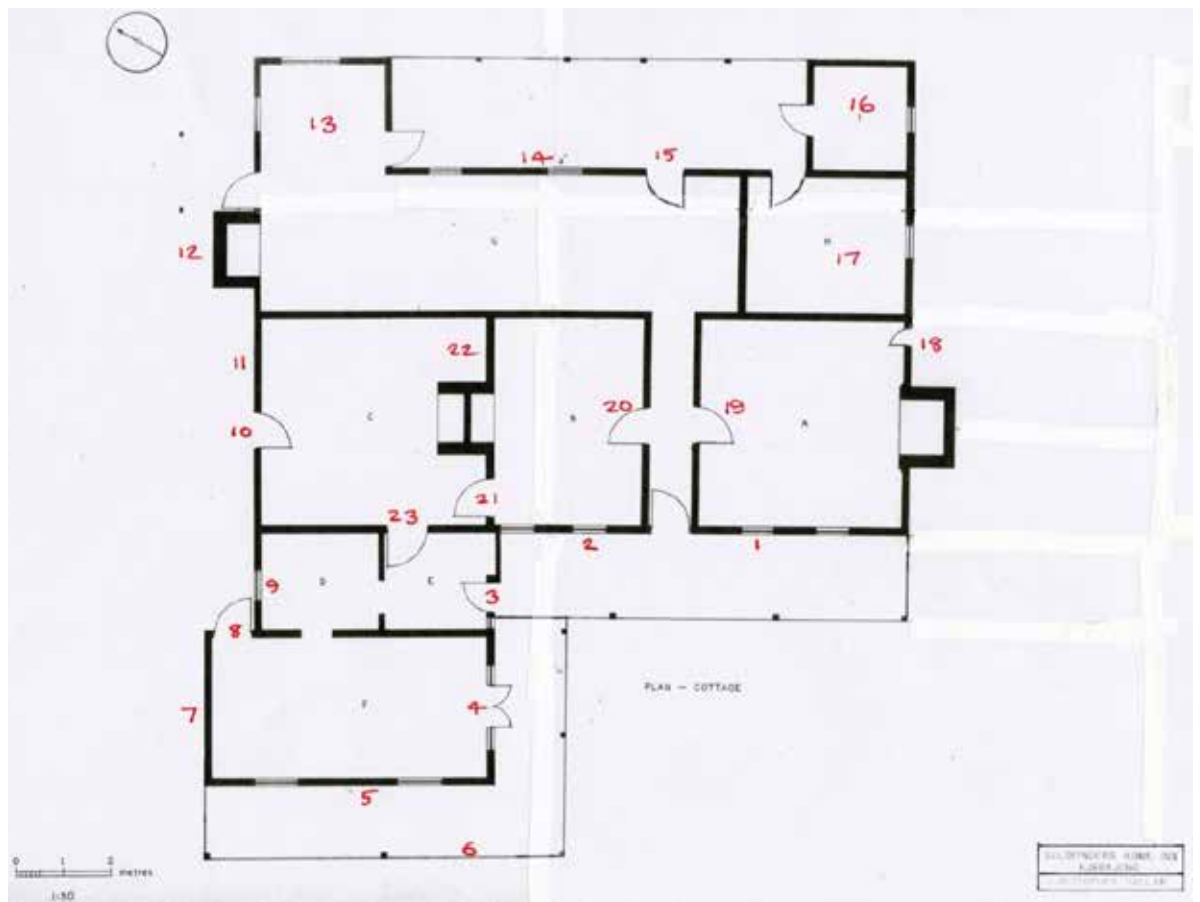


Figure 24 – Cottage Floor Plan in 1977



Figure 25 – West Elevation



Figure 26 – South Elevation



Figure 27 – East Elevation

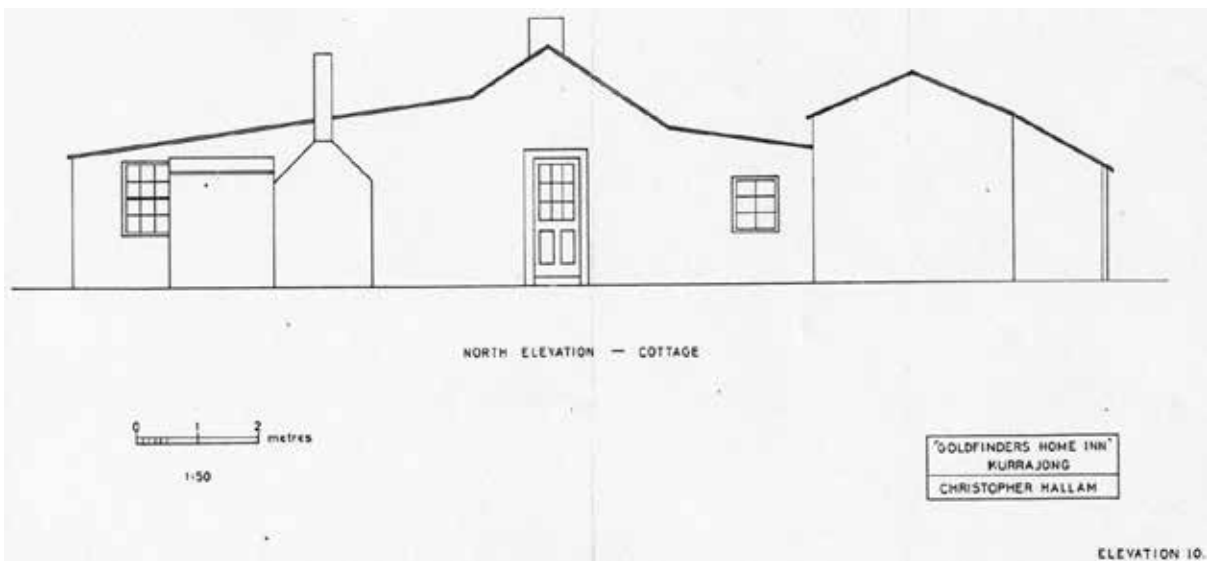


Figure 28 – North Elevation



Figure 29 – Front - 1975



Figure 30 – Front - 1975



Figure 31 – Doors 4 to Room F



Figure 32 – Early Door 18 to Room A



Figure 33 – Rear – 1975/76



Figure 34 – Rear in 1984



Figure 35 – Rear verandah, looking to bathroom



Figure 36 – Rear yard - 1975

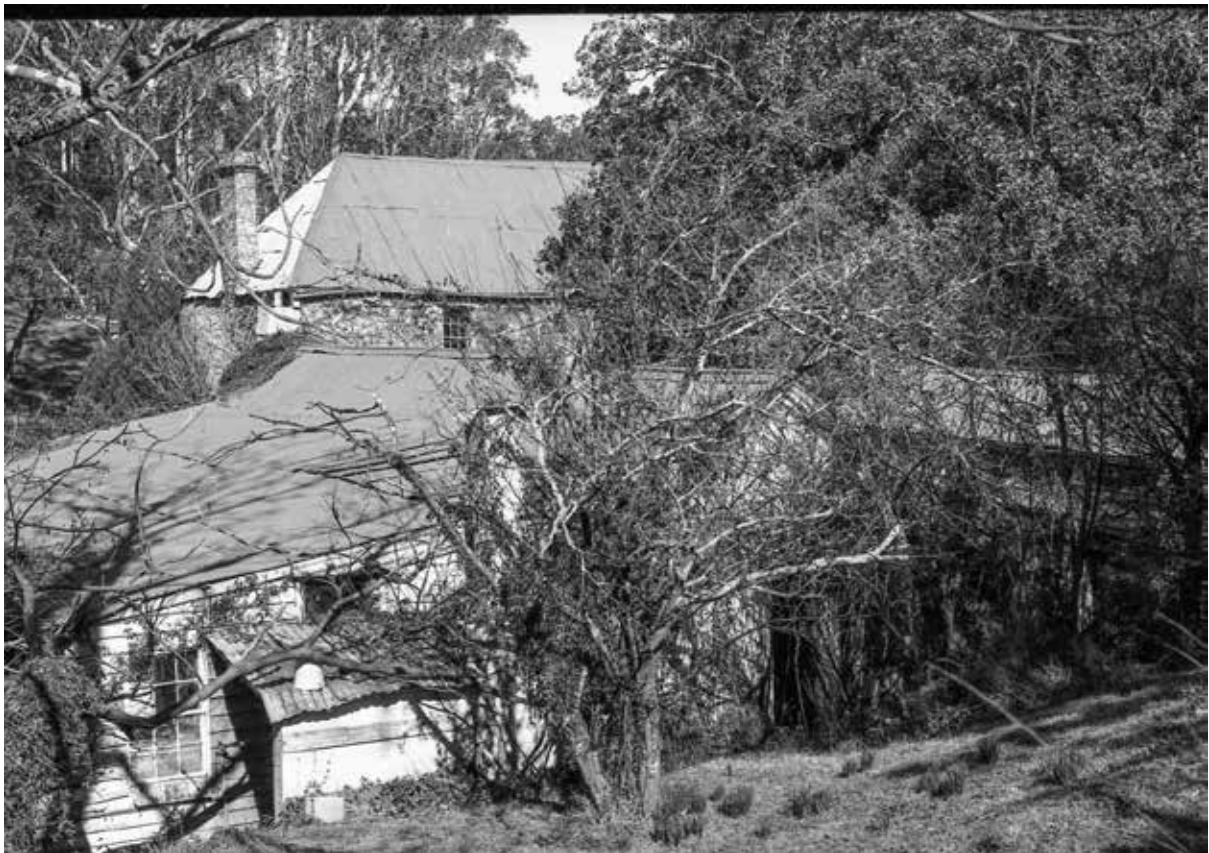


Figure 37 – Looking down from the North – 1975/76



Figure 38 – Looking down from North – c1940



Figure 39 – Inside Room A - 1977



Figure 40 – Inside original kitchen - 13 - 1975



Figure 41 – Inside original kitchen - 13 – with new bench and sink



Figure 42 – Dining Room G, with mural on left and hanging table on right



Figure 43 – Another view of original kitchen, including new bench and sink



Figure 44 – Hallway looking to rear



Figure 45 – Hallway looking to front

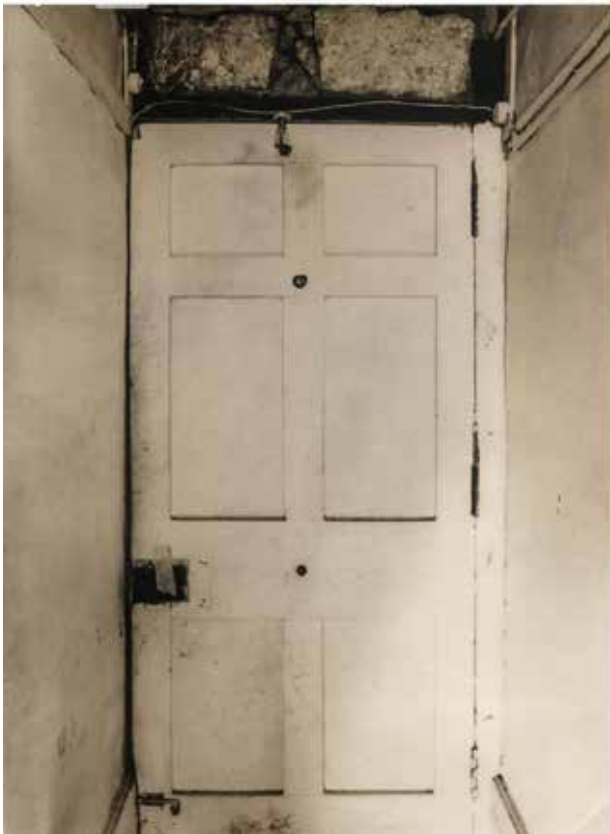


Figure 46 – Front door from hallway, stone above door



Figure 47 – Original bathroom



Figure 48 – Fireplace in Room C



Figure 49 – Original Door 22 in Room C



Figure 50 – Rear of cottage in early 2010, prior to connection to inn



Figure 51 – Rear of buildings in early 2010, prior to construction of connecting room

2.2 Conservation

The conservation works programme of the cottage was based on the *Report on “Goldfinders”, Old Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong*, prepared by Graham Edds & Associates, May/June 1987.¹⁵ They established a *Sequence of Construction* plus *Wall Construction Details* that are set out in our 2014 Report. Working drawings were prepared, to guide the builders working on the project, as reproduced in Figure 52.

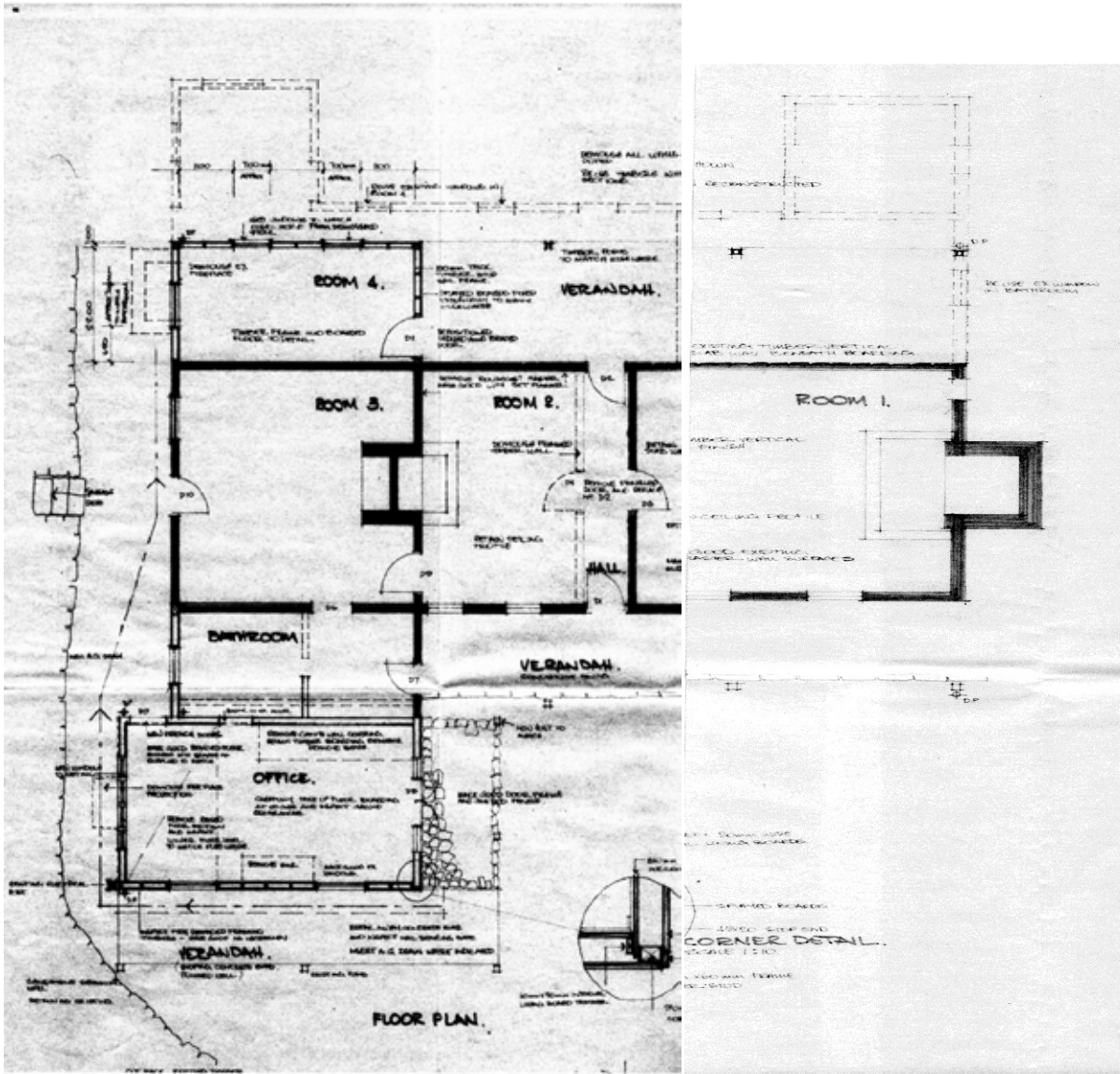


Figure 52 – Conservation Work Plan

As indicated in the plan in Figure 52 above, the key decision in the conservation work was to demolish the later additions on the eastern side, reducing the main building to a depth of one room. From a practical point of view, the plan took into account the work that had already been undertaken in the conservation and rebuilding of the inn, with this work including the construction of a new kitchen. Thus there was no longer a need to maintain a kitchen in the cottage, and in fact in local government building regulation terms, it would not have been legal to have a kitchen in the cottage as well as in the inn because this would have resulted in two free-standing dwellings on the property. In theory, Room 4 in the plan above could have been a kitchen, but one requiring meals to be carried into Room 2. The major work in Room 2 was the removal of the internal wall on the northern side of the corridor, a wall that was clearly a later addition.

Looking back to Figure 24, the 1977 floor plan of the cottage, the changes made can be reviewed through the numbers on this plan. The front windows (1) were not changed. The front door, not labelled but shown on the inside in Figure 46, remains unaltered, with internal paint removed and a replacement Carpenter lock of the correct period and size fitted. The front door knob remains as existing in 1975. The second set of front windows (2) have been altered. In 1975, as shown in Figure 29, the more northern window was a plate glass window, installed during the Adolphus period of ownership, to let more light into what is shown on Figure 24 as Room B. This was removed and a replacement window to match the other windows on this façade installed. This replacement window was from demolished works (14).

The door to the laundry (3) is unchanged, as is the window (9). However, there were other changes in this room. In 1976 the property was leased, while the owners were travelling overseas. Unapproved works were undertaken by the lessees, with doorway 23 cut through the previously continuous wall, and the central partition between Rooms D and E added. The works undertaken in 1987 removed the partition between Rooms D and E but retained Door 23. Also removed was the very small window on the western side of Door 3, a window appearing very unoriginal. It can be clearly seen in Figure 29.

Looking at the West Elevation shown on Figure 25, there was a gable above the front door. This gable, also shown in Figures 29 and 30, was removed. Note that Figure 25 also shows matching front windows on the façade to the left (north) of the front door. As discussed above, as shown in Figure 29, one window was a large plate glass window, subsequently replaced by the matching 12-pane window shown in Figure 25. Figure 25 also shows a verandah roof around Room F, with this roof also seen in the South Elevation shown in Figure 26. This verandah roof was removed and a small portico-style roof installed above Door 4. Door 4 remains, but with the infill panels removed. Windows (5) on the western side of Room F remain unaltered. The works undertaken in 1987 did not allow under-floor ventilation of Room F, resulting in rot in some floor joists. In 2021 these were repaired/replaced and a path of ventilation opened up. In addition, the verandah roof on the western side was replaced and a portico-roof added to the northern side, matching the portico-roof on the southern side.

The reconstruction of Room F is covered in detail through the photographs in *The 1809 Land Grant of Rowland Edwards and the "Goldfinders Home Inn"* (2014) – the 2014 Report. As shown on the Figure 24 floorplan, there were no windows in the northern end of Room F in 1977, but there was a door (8). The 1940 photograph of this northern façade shown in Figure 38 clearly shows the end wall as blank, but with a corrugated iron chimney. This chimney was removed and a set of opening French windows installed, with the design matching that of Door 4. Door 8 was replaced to match the same style and material (Australian cedar) of window construction. There was a slightly raised "stage" at the northern end of Room F, possibly built to facilitate the recorded uses of this room for public

meetings and for use by the Kurrajong Progress Association and Debating Society. Many of the floorboards in this room exhibit marks indicating that they were pit-sawn.

Looking at the North façade shown in Figure 28, the central cottage section shows a window (9) and a door (10). The 1940 view in Figure 38 shows window (9) but indicates that Door (10) was previously a window. The Figure 24 floorplan shows another window in Room C, labelled (11). This window was added during the 1987 conservation works. A window removed from one of the demolished sections was utilised.

Figure 24 shows the later extended kitchen section, with details also shown in the Figure 28 North elevation. There is a fireplace, a doorway and a window. Some of this is shown in the 1940 photograph (Figure 38) and in the 1975 photograph (Figure 37). These later additions were demolished in 1987. Note that this kitchen area (Room 13) previously extended further to the East, as indicated by stone footings in the ground and as suggested in the mural painted in the 1940s, reproduced as Figure 19 in the 2014 Report.

The East elevation as shown in Figure 27 has been totally altered, with the removal of the eastern extension of the cottage. The kitchen (Room 13) had a plate glass window. The windows (14) were re-used in the works. Doorway (15) was a later Victorian door that was not re-used. It can be seen in the 1984 photograph shown in Figure 34. Room 16 was the bathroom, with Figure 35 showing the view along the verandah to this room. The toilet was an external pan-collect type, located near the barn. The interior of this bathroom is shown in Figure 49. The adjacent Room 17 (H) was demolished, but its ledge and brace door was re-used. The photograph shown in Figure 36 shows the rear yard in 1975, complete with grape vines and an old inn lantern. Figure 33 shows the East elevation in 1975/76 after some clearing of vegetation was undertaken. This shows a circular iron water tank on the left, outside the bathroom, Room (16). This water tank can also be seen in Figure 35. Figure 34 shows the elevation in 1984, after the restoration works on the inn were completed but before the works on the cottage were commenced.

The South elevation shown in Figure 26 shows the slatted glass bathroom window (Room 16), the window in Room 17 and the narrow door (18) to Room A. This door (18) is seen in the photograph in Figure 32. While of similar style to the doors (4) to Room F, with Room A appearing to be the earliest room in the cottage, this door (18) was clearly a later addition and one inconsistent with the layout of Room A. It can be seen from the inside of Room A in Figure 39.

Figure 40 shows a view of the kitchen in 1975, with plate glass window, sink on right and stand for a tabletop stove on the left, providing a very basic kitchen. Figure 41 shows the “upgrading” kitchen works, with a stainless-steel bench and relocated sink. Figure 43 provides another view of the kitchen. Figure 42 is a photograph that looks along Room G towards the kitchen and the fireplace. This shows the refurbishment works undertaken in

the 1940s, in the Adolphus period of ownership, with the timber cupboards, hanging table and bench seats, plus the mural painted in situ here.

The original hallway through the centre of the cottage can be seen in Figures 44 and 45. Both side walls were covered in tin sheet. The wall to Room B, on the left in Figure 44, had a simple timber frame inside the cladding. The wall to Room A shown on the right, and also in Figure 45, had the tin sheets nailed over the original slab wall. Both doors 19 and 20 have been retained, with door 20 relocated to door 3, providing a matching pair of cedar panelled doors.

As evident from the photographs shown in the 2014 Report,¹ Room C was a later addition to Rooms A and B, with the fireplace in Room C originally the outer face of the Room B chimney. In 1975 the Room C fireplace was as seen in Figure 48. There has been a suggestion that a previous owner, probably Terry Paul, installed this ornate fireplace and chimney piece, taken from an early Windsor building. The chimney piece has been relocated in the fireplace inside the inn. The iron fireplace has not been used. Room C had an earlier doorway (Door 22), shown in Figure 49. This has now been covered. It appears likely that door 22 was in place before door 21. A simpler chimney piece has been installed in this room.

On the subject of fireplaces, the unusual fireplace surround in room B was added in the Adolphus period, in the 1940s. This has been left as found.

The addition of building services to an historic building can be a challenge. Wiring for lighting was installed in the ceiling, with pull-switches mounted on the ceiling. With power points (general purpose outlets), these were installed on new skirting boards, made from Australian cedar, with a simple top bead. This was for rooms A and B with plastered walls. With timber walls, skirting boards were not added. The architraves around doors and windows were left very simple, as per what was found in 1975. The exception is in room F, where the later increase in ceiling height changed the period and character of this room. Here the architraves were cut with the same period-correct profile as those used in the earlier reconstruction of the inn.

Figures 50 and 51 show the rear of the cottage in early 2010, before the connecting room was constructed.

3.0 INN

3.1 Illustrations

The plans and elevations of the inn are taken from *Inns of the Hawkesbury – A Historical Research Report*, (1977).¹⁴ The numbers on the floor plans - Figures 53 and 54 – are referred to in the discussion of the conservation work.

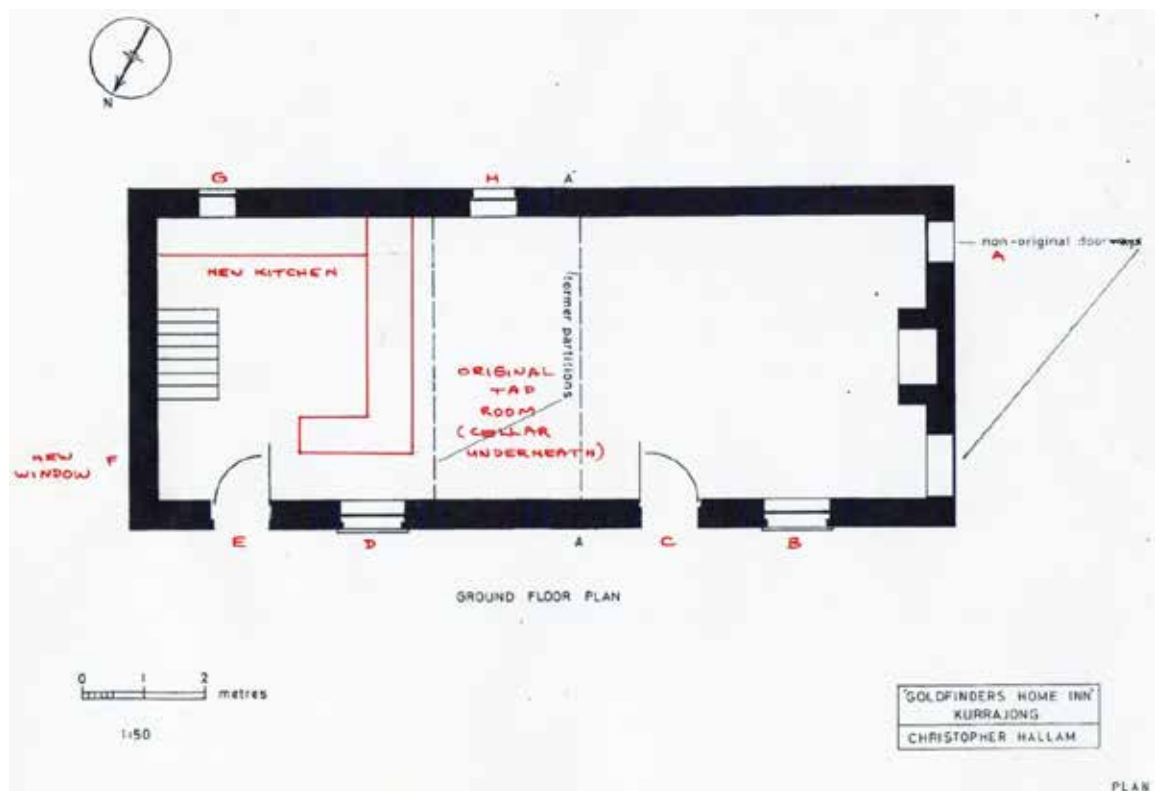
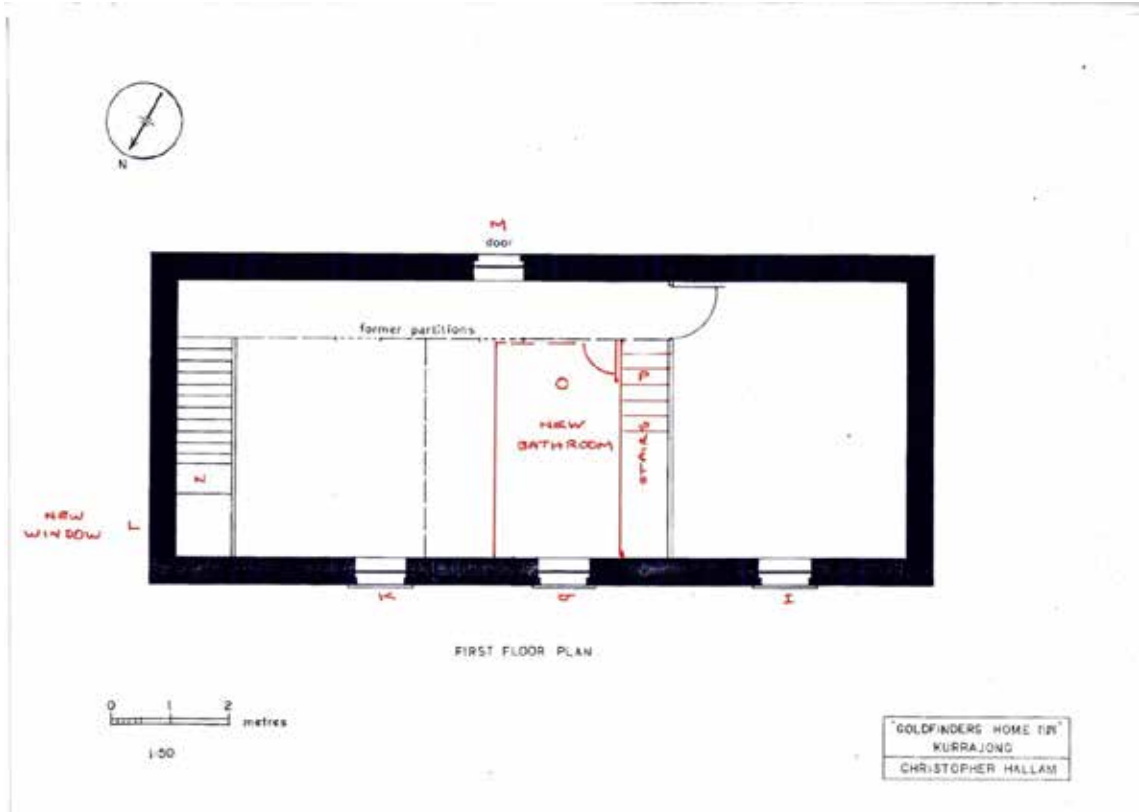


Figure 53 – Ground Floor Plan



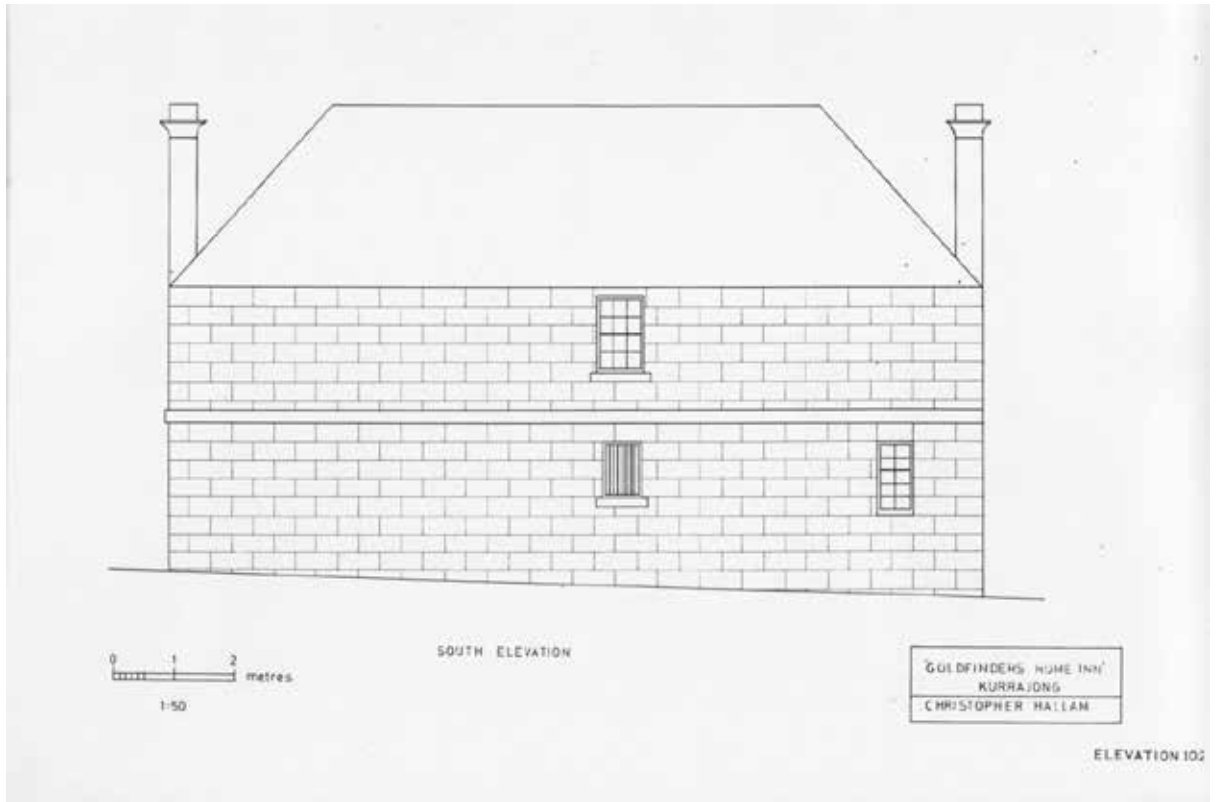


Figure 56 – South Elevation



Figure 57 – West and East Elevations



Figure 58 - North Elevation – 1975



Figure 59 – South Elevation - 1975



Figure 60 – Front of site c1930s



Figure 61 – West elevation

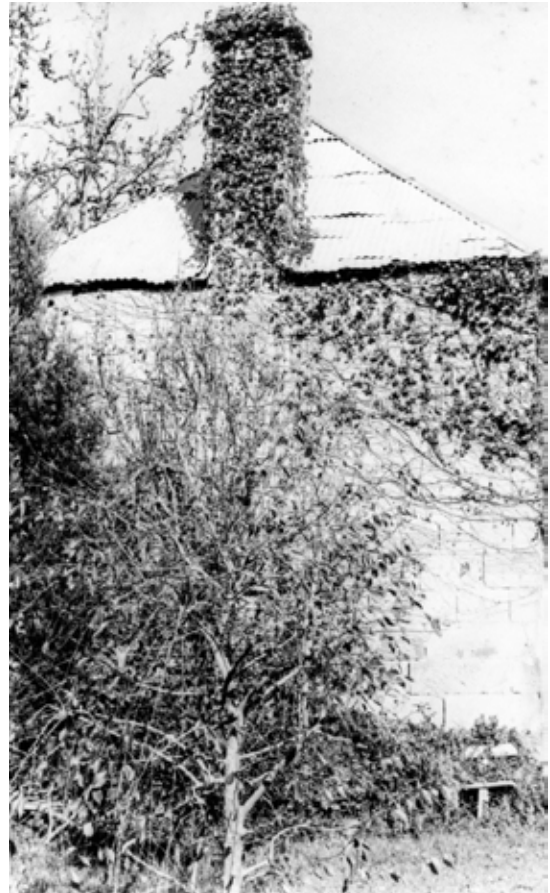


Figure 62 – East elevation

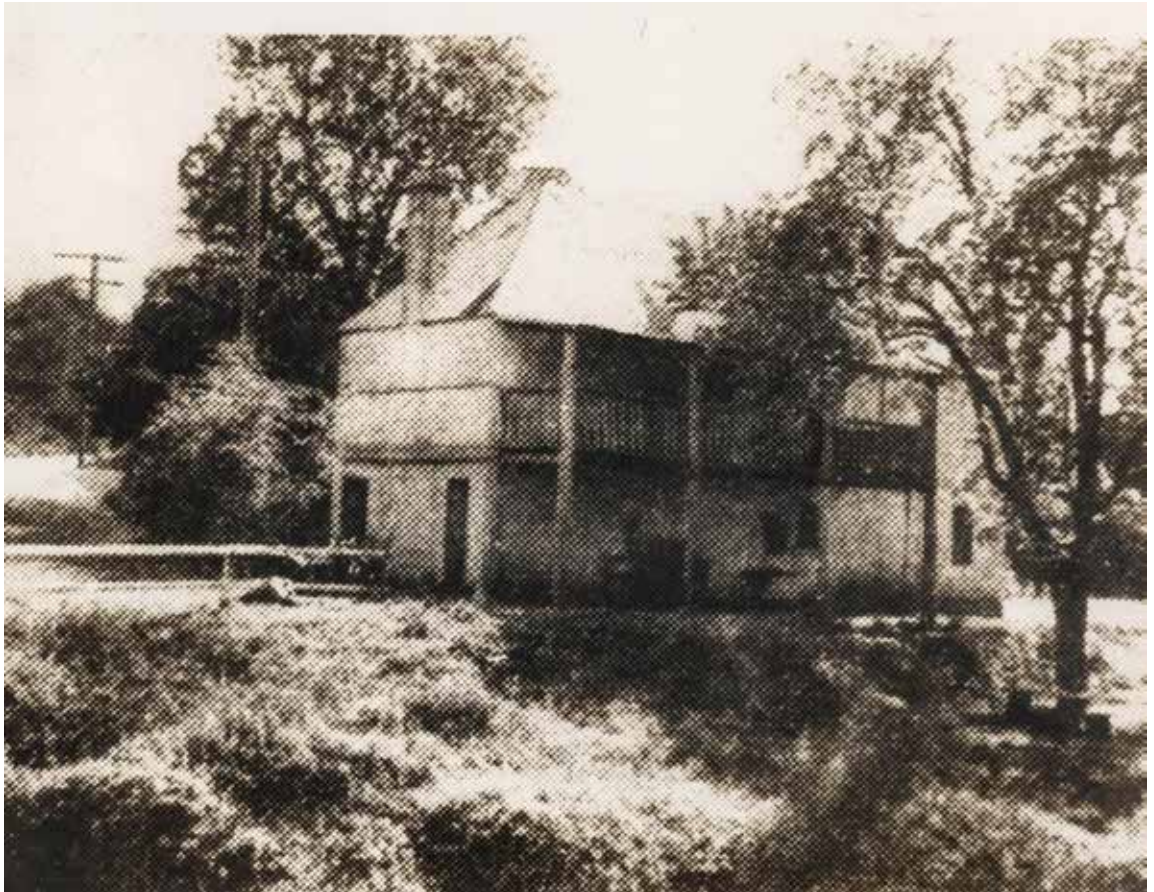


Figure 63 - Inn c1956



Figure 64 Inside ground floor, looking to stairs - 1975



Figure 65 – First floor, with door to verandah on left and internal wall to eastern room on right



Figure 66 – First floor, with north-facing windows on right and internal wall on left



Figure 67 – Front of inn in early 2010 prior to new fence and connection to cottage



Figure 68 – South side of inn in early 2010 prior to new fence and connection to cottage

3.2 Conservation

A major reconstruction of the inn was undertaken in 1979, with the northern wall and half of the western wall dismantled and rebuilt, as detailed in the 2014 Report. Externally, the changes were not as substantial as those to the cottage. Looking at Figure 53, the Ground Floor Plan, on the western side the two non-original doorways, opened to provide internal access to the shopfront that was constructed, were filled in. On the north side the windows B and D were beyond repair and were replaced with new windows to match the originals. However, the glazing bars are thicker than the originals. The front doors C and E were originally ledge and brace panel doors. These doors have been relocated to the barn, on the upstairs gable and at the top of the internal stairs. Replacement doors for the inn ground floor were sourced, to match the front door of the cottage, being six-panel doors with flush panels on the front. These replacement doors are Australian cedar and of a similar period. Door E was sourced as a correct flush-panel door, but door C had recessed panels on both sides. On the front, thin marine plywood panels have been set inside the recesses so that this door presents as a correct flush-panel door. The brass hardware on both doors were as found on the site. The Carpenter door locks were sourced to match the doors.

At the first floor level, windows I, J and K are original.

On the eastern wall, new windows have been added, window F at the ground floor level and window L at the first floor level.

On the southern wall, the ground floor kitchen window G has been enlarged, with a new window installed. As shown on Figure 56, the original window was narrower. This window is also seen in Figure 63. Also, on this wall there is the central barred window. In 1975 this solely consisted of the bars, without any glass panels. A new single window panel was installed, hinging in.

On the southern side first floor level, the verandah was removed. This verandah was not part of the original construction. It can be seen in Figures 59 and 63. In 1975/76 it was a bit unstable and being south-facing, was less usable. Figure 56 shows a window on the first floor on this wall, which is how it would have been built. Figure 54 correctly labels this “window” as a door, which would have been installed at the time the verandah was constructed at the first-floor level. Door M now in place was made from a standard cedar panelled door but with glazing bars replacing the top panels.

Along the front (western) side facing Old Bells Line of Road, at 1975 there was minimal fencing. However as seen on earlier photographs such as on the front cover of the 2014 Report,¹ there has been a timber picket fence. Figure 60 shows a photograph taken in the c1930s, showing this picket fence. As the sign indicates, the site operated as “Kurrajong Guest House” at this time. From left to right, the people in this photograph are: Dorothy

Weicks, Henry Troy Weicks, Aubrey John Weicks and Jim Pye, the owner of the property at the time.

Figure 64 shows the inside ground floor in 1975, looking from the front towards the stairs. (There is another photograph in Figure 29 of the 2014 Report.¹) These photographs show a relatively rough floor, with six inch wide butt-jointed boards. The stone walls are painted. The ceiling consists of butt-jointed flat boards, with thin timber strips overlaid on the joints. Figure 64 shows the 45-degree angle of the original staircase. With the angle and width of this original staircase, in the 1979 works it was replaced with a staircase wider and not as steep. The original staircase treads were relocated for the new stairway into the attic.

Figure 53 shows the ground floor plan. There are marks on the wall indicating the position of former partitions on either side of the barred window, which has been assumed to be the position of the original tap room. This Figure also provides an indication of the new kitchen benchtop layout.

The first-floor plan is shown on Figure 54, with the locations of former partitions marked. These partitions were beside the staircase, just west of window K and between windows I and J. A partition along the hallway provided for three separate dormitory rooms. The position of the partition between windows I and J still exists. Figures 65 and 66 show photographs taken in about 1977. They show the more western partition between windows I and J, with a doorway on the southern side. Figure 65 shows the doorway (M) to the verandah, as a ledged door with a glass panel inserted into the top.

The ceiling used timber strips, with side-wall timber extensions. The ceiling joists were of relatively modest dimensions, as seen in Figure 27 of the 2014 Report.¹ The 1979 reconstruction saw the ceiling joists increased in size to 8 inch x 3 inch cross section, with the first floor ceiling laid on top of these joists. This ceiling was designed to be used as the floor of the new attic. Compared with the ceiling height shown in Figures 65 and 66, the new ceiling height is lower, to provide more vertical space in the new attic. Note that these new large ceiling joists were hand-adzed in 1979 to appear original, but they are not. The same technique was applied for the ground floor joists where the cellar has been re-created, with the joists hand-adzed.

The main addition to the first floor was the construction of a bathroom. In addition, a new stairway was added to provide access to the new attic. This new stairway utilised the stair treads from the original stairway between the ground and first floors. The attic is all new construction, including the addition of Velux flush windows on the southern (creek) side, for light and ventilation. These new windows cannot easily be seen, which was a factor in their installation.

With the reconstruction of the inn, new wiring, lighting and plumbing was provided. With the exception of the attic, light switches were of the pull-cord type, with the switches mounted on the ceiling. With the wiring for the two main lights in the ground floor, the wiring was made obvious, as though the lamps were retrofitted with electricity. For power points (general purpose outlets), skirting boards were added on both floors. As at 1975 there were no skirting boards. The new boards were kept relatively simple, with a simple top bead, made from Australian cedar. Wherever possible, all internal timber work used Australian cedar, with the kitchen cupboards and two-inch thick benchtops being the obvious example. Door and window architraves were made with a standard profile. These were added to all windows and doors. There were no such architraves in 1975. For existing windows, timber ledges were added at the base. Where new windows were installed (windows F and L plus enlarged window G) full timber casements were added on the inside. The doors on the first floor leading into the bathroom and the bedroom at the western end were newly made from cedar in a ledge and brace style, using old nails found on the site and with correct Carpenter locks fitted. A similar style was followed for the two doors in the attic. Where hardware such as Carpenter locks and hinges was not found on the site, it was sourced externally.

Finally, Figures 51, 67 and 68 illustrate the inn prior to the addition of the cottage link room in 2010 and the construction of the new stone front fence. The front picket fence shown in Figure 67 is arguably more historically correct than the stone fence that replaced it, but the picket fence did not provide the desired level of security, privacy and noise protection, issues that were of less concern when the property was an inn, a general store, Post Office and a guesthouse.

4.0 OUTBUILDINGS AND YARD

4.1 Illustrations

Based on the early descriptions of the property and the services provided, substantial outbuildings would have been present, including blacksmith facilities. The horseshoes regularly unearthed suggest that a blacksmith had an on-going service for passing travellers. In 1975, the main outbuilding was a slab barn, in bad repair. There was also a small timber hut near the barn with a flat roof, where the construction style and materials suggested a 20th century construction. This has been demolished.



Figure 69 – Barn 1975



Figure 70 – Barn 1977



Figure 71 – West side of barn in 1975



Figure 72 – Barn in 1983



Figure 73 – Barn reconstruction in 1987

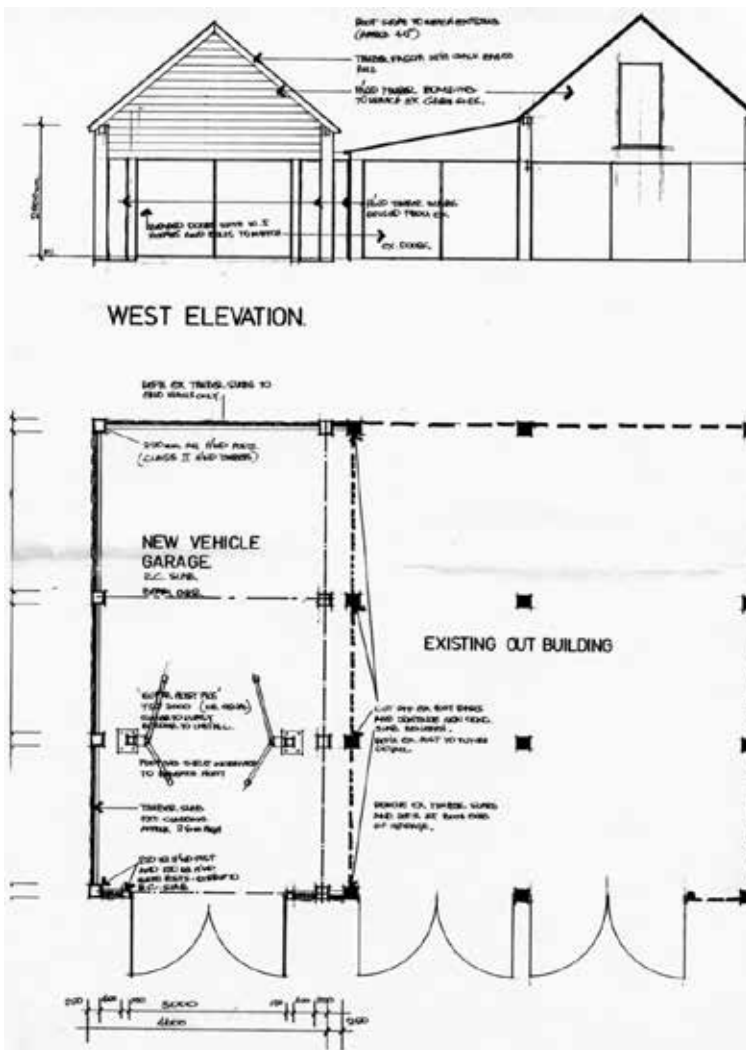


Figure 74 – Plan of 2010 barn

4.2 Conservation

Figures 19, 20, 22 and 23 literally provide an overview of the outbuildings. Figure 69 shows the northern face of the barn as found in 1975, complete with overgrowth and an old telegraph pole behind. By 1977 (Figure 70) some clearing had been undertaken, but not much. Figure 71 provides a good view of the western side, facing the cottage, with some timber doors remaining. Even by 1983 (Figure 72) the barn was still characterised by heavy overgrowth, although at least the inside was clear enough to be used as a garage.

The reconstruction of the barn was undertaken in 1987. Timber posts were pulled straight with a tractor and new posts inserted as required. This can be seen in Figure 73. The original roof and gable end sections remained in place while work proceeded beneath them. The original shingle roofing is still in place under the iron on the main roof section. These works provided a reconstructed main bay plus skillion bay. As well as the original shingle roof, some of the early hardware such as door hinges remain in the structure. The design of these hinges, the forged iron bolts and the timber-peg construction confirm the very early dating of this barn. Figures 75-84 show these details.



Figure 75 Timber peg joint



Figure 76 Timber peg joint

These timber pegs were used to join large timber beams, on the southern side of the barn.



Figure 77 Base of post hinge for door



Figure 78 Screw on other end of hinge bar

Figures 77 and 78 show a gudgeon post hinge for large barn doors. In Figure 77 the post is missing. It was contained by a wrap of the metal bar. Figure 78 shows the other end of the hinge bar, with a screw thread and nut fixing the bar. Structural support has been provided by tin strips, while additional tin strips have been nailed over the joints in the vertical timber slabs, to improve the weather protection, a technique traditionally used.



Figure 79 Bolt with broken head



Figure 80 Gudgeon hinge post

Figure 79 shows an example of one of the bolts used in constructing this barn, with a square section iron bar, with a screw thread turned on one end. The bolt head is missing. Figure 80 shows another door post hinge. What is interesting is that this is a different type of construction to that shown in Figure 77, with a round section bar hammered into the post of the barn, without a screw at the other end.



Figure 81 Head of bolt



Figure 82 View of bolt, broken at screw thread

Figure 81 shows the head of a bolt on the outside of the barn, forged onto a square section bar. Figure 82 shows another bolt in situ, but with the screw thread on the end broken, and nut missing.



Figure 83 Head of nail or spike



Figure 84 Underside of shingle roof

Figure 83 shows the head of a long nail/spike hammered in to join the post with a horizontal beam. From looking at the joint, this nail was between 180 mm and 220 mm in length. A similar nail can be seen in the next post, again less than 220 mm in length. Similar nails/spikes are seen in Figure 114.

Figure 84 shows the underside of the shingle roof, with pit-sawn batons and shingles nailed on. The ends of many wrought nails poke through, with wrought nail heads showing on some joints. These generally have a square cross-section with straight points, rather than chisel points. No Ewbank nails have been seen in this roof structure.

As part of the 2010 works, a new bay was added. Figure 74 shows the plan and elevation.

Subsequently, an open skillion was added to the eastern side, repeating the outline of the 1987 reconstruction.

5.0 ARTEFACTS

5.1 Artefacts Found

As quoted in Section 1.2, State Heritage Register Criteria E: *Research potential*, primarily refers to the current and possible former buildings. Research is also relevant for artefacts found, where they provide further information on the use of the buildings. These artefacts have been grouped into the categories: household, outbuildings and yard. These categories mainly follow where they were found, although broken crockery and porcelain have been found in many locations on the site.

Household

During the building conservation works, many artefacts and “bits and pieces” were found, with one of the prize finds being a clay pipe embedded in a wall of the cottage. The timing of the works was a bit late for finding artefacts in some areas. As set out in the 2014 Report, a worker on the site in 1945 commented in a letter:

“When the floor boards were taken up there was 100 yrs of dirt and dust under them, especially in the front main bedroom, where the “vault” was kept in the original days. Not only did I find money, but “tokens” for different trading companies...”

Items found since 1975 still include many interesting pieces. Figure 85 shows the coins found while Figure 86 shows the clay pipe.



Figure 85 Coins: 1865, 1873, 1874, 1880, 1901 **Figure 86 Clay pipe**

Four of the coins were pennies, with the small one from 1873 being a farthing. Queen Victoria presents as the young queen in the first four but changes to a more mature figure in the 1901 coin. The obverse side, with the queen ruling the oceans, is also slightly different in the 1901 coin. The clay pipe is very typical of pipes in use in the early Colonial period.

The following six figures show various household items found.



Figure 87 Military button and medal



Figure 88 Iron ring, buckle, window catches



Figure 89 Fragments of china



Figure 90 Fragments of china



Figure 91 Fragments of china



Figure 92 Girls toy and ink pots

The details of the military button and medal in Figure 87 are not known. The button is silver plated with a heraldic figure of a horse or boar head below a crown. The medal, with bar, is solid silver. Apart from the crown on the bar, details are illegible, having been in a fire.

In Figure 88 the iron ring, found in the ground, was probably part of a chain. The buckle appears to be a belt buckle. The two window catches are designed to hold simple sash windows up, prior to the introduction of counterweights. Both are iron, with the one on the left very basic.

Figures 89 and 90 show fragments of china, with the blue Willow pattern being very common in the fragments found on the site. The main fragments in Figure 91 were from a single plate, with cornflower embossed decoration. As with the Willow pattern, cornflower decoration is still in use today. The fragment on the bottom left corner appears to be part of the lid of an ointment jar, with the name Henry's clear. Above this piece is a fragment containing what could be a crest, starting "Bel.", with a crown above. Figure 92 shows a simple toy figure, cut out by fretsaw or similar. Standard inkpots were also found.

Outbuildings

Figures 93-97 show items found in, or in close proximity to, the existing barn.



Figure 93 Top of stove or forge



Figure 94 Various iron objects

The round metal object in Figure 93 is half-inch thick iron plate. It was found buried on the eastern side of the barn. It could be either the top of a large stove or part of a forge. It is 540 mm in diameter. Figure 94 shows various iron found objects, with the first probably being part of the harness for a work horse. The fourth item is probably a simple tap. These were found in the barn.



Figure 95 Hinges and other iron objects



Figure 96 Sulky step and augur

Figure 95 shows a pair of simple hinges, plus various metal objects, all found in the barn. These hinges are simpler in style to those shown in Figure 96. Other items found in the barn are the two objects shown in Figure 96, with an augur on the right and what appears to be the step from a sulky or carriage on the left. The following Figure shows horseshoes found.



Figure 97 Horseshoes

Two more relatively recent items on the property relate to the ownership by Henry Pitt between 1899 and 1921. A piece of timber was found in the barn with the name *Russell Pitt* carved in. This is shown on Figure 98. Russell was the youngest of Henry and Elizabeth Pitt's six children and was born in 1893. He lived at the property, probably until he enlisted in the AIF in the First World War. He returned to Kurrajong after the end of the war. His photograph, in uniform, is shown in Figure 11 in the 2014 Report.¹



Figure 98 Barn timber carved by Russell Pitt

The second item was a piano that was a wedding present to Gertrude Alice Douglass from George Allan Pitt, who she married on 14th August 1915 at St David's, Kurrajong Heights. Gertrude Alice was a talented piano player. She played the organ at St David's regularly. George Allan Pitt was the third born of Henry and Elizabeth Pitt, being born near Nyngan in 1887. At the time, George lived at Kyogle, while Gertrude lived at Kurrajong with her parents. Figure 12 of the 2014 Report shows George and Gertrude in a formal portrait taken in 2013.¹ Figure 99 shows the front panels of this piano, displayed in the barn. This piano passed into the ownership of Harold Noel Pitt, and then to Deborah Hallam (Pitt).



Figure 99 Front panels of piano, a wedding present to Gertrude Alice Pitt (Douglass)

Yard

Various objects have been found on the surface or partly buried in the yard. The stove doors shown in Figure 100 were found in the general vicinity of where the cottage kitchen wing used to extend. The “steering wheel” was found on the site about 200 metres north of the cottage. The diameter would have been 380 mm. Its purpose and origin are not known.



Figure 100 Stove doors



Figure 101 Part of steering wheel

Many artefacts have been unearthed on the edge of the creek. One area behind the barn on the curve in the creek was clearly used as a rubbish tip, with broken glass, pottery and some jars in evidence. This area also still contains what appears to be a laundry copper.

Following the flooding of the creek in May 2021, a number of metal artefacts were unearthed in the creek bank between the inn and the barn. They are shown on Figures 102 and 103.



Figure 102 Wheel



Figure 103 Rims or wheel sections

The wheel in Figure 102 is of a form typically used in minor industrial applications, particularly belt drive systems. The rims shown in Figure 103 do not necessarily form a full circle. They are curved on one side and flat on the other. The thinner piece appears to be a wheel rim of some sort. These artefacts could have come from the blacksmith operations on the site.

An unusual hollowing of a natural rock formation has been found at the northern end of the site, on the edge of a relatively flat section of the land adjacent to Little Wheeny Creek. The natural or altered hollow in the rock has been built up with stones around the outside to form a fireplace. It is possible that hollowing out was undertaken by the original inhabitants as an area to grind food. Axe grinding grooves are not present on this rock. It could simply be a fireplace established by European settlers on the site or drovers moving cattle to the West. Alternatively, it could be a 20th Century construction. While its origin is not known, it is nevertheless of interest. It is shown in Figures 104 and 105, with an iron pot included for scale.



Figure 104 Hollowed rock formation



Figure 105 View to low point on top right

5.2 Building Hardware

During the conservation works on both the inn and the cottage, building materials such as nails and screws were often found. If no longer required as part of the structure, they were kept as part of the record of construction. Some hinges were also found. These are discussed under the categories, hinges and nails.

Hinges

The hinge in Figure 106 was attached to a large door in the cottage. It was replaced by a matching set of new hinges. The legend reads *Fariff No 200, 5 in.* As indicated, it is 5 inches long.

Figure 107 shows one of the hinges on door 19 in the cottage. There are a matching pair of hinges on this door. There are the same hinge types on door 21. These hinges go with the matching cedar panelled doors that in 1975 were facing each other in the hallway. They are 5 inches long and are labelled *T & C Clark & Co.* The opposite side reads *Patent.*



Figure 106 Fariff No 200



Figure 107 T & C Clark & Co

The majority of the doors in the buildings are simple ledge & brace construction, with tee hinges. While the butt hinges shown above require a medium level of manufacturing ability, tee hinges can be more simply made by a blacksmith, either as forged brackets and post pins or cut from sheet metal. Figure 108 shows a pair of forged hinges that were found in the barn, presumably made on the site when there were blacksmithing facilities and used at some stage on the barn or on the cottage. They are typically referred to as gudgeon hinges.



Figure 108 Forged hinges previously used on site

The ends have been fashioned to give some degree of decoration, compared with the simpler hinges shown in Figure 95 which were also found in the barn. The iron posts for holding these hinges are made to be hammered into thick timber beams, complete with small barbs to make it harder to come out, in the manner of a barbed spear.

Figures 109-112 show tee hinges. They have been formed from flat metal sheet.



Figure 109 Original door from inn, now on barn Figure 110 Internal door in cottage



Figure 111 Tee hinge on new ledged door Figure 112 Tee hinge on old ledged door

Figure 109 shows the door that was the original front door of the inn – Door C on Figure 53. The substantial tee hinges were on the inside. The door in Figure 110 is on the back side of the cottage. This original door is particularly attractive, as are its fine hinges. On the horizontal brace sections of this door, the nails are single clenched, with points hammered back flat with the surface.

Nails

Photographs of the screws and nails found are set out in Figures 113-119. They were mainly found during the conservation works on the cottage. As discussed in the 2014 Report,¹ with the construction of the cottage proceeding in stages, building materials found do not necessarily reflect the earliest date of the building. The basic roof over the possible original single room cottage (room A in Figure 24) would have been extended to cover the second room (room B) and extended again to cover the third room (room C). If the roof was re-shingled at the same time to cover all three of these rooms, nails found when removing this shingle roof would be from the more recent period, unless they were re-used from the earlier construction. Figures 60-62 in the 2014 Report¹ suggest that Rooms 1 and 2 were shingled/re-shingled at the same time. These rooms could have had a simple bark roof, as was common at the time. Looking at the layouts of similar slab cottages, such as *Hadley Park*, the most likely original construction was for rooms A and B (Rooms 1 and 2 in the 2014 Report) to have been the original structure.

The descriptions and comments on the screws and nails have been directly provided by Christopher How, or indicated through a reading of reports and presentations he has written.¹⁶ He was originally asked in 2015 by the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage to provide advice on the age of nails found in the buildings on the site. He has been providing further advice for the preparation of this second Goldfinders Report.



Figure 113 Screws

The first three screws are Nettlefold “twirl” point screws. The fourth screw is possibly a late girdled screw, with a coarser thread and with machine chuck marks on the shank. The depth of the thread depends on the number of times the cutters were passed over the screw. Screw girdling machines started in about 1730. The last three shorter screws are probably Nettlefold blunt ended screws which preceded the “twirl” point.



Figure 114 Various nails



Figure 115 Spur headed wrought floor brads

The top two nails in Figure 114 are spikes or long nails, traditionally associated with fixing knee brackets, first appearing in Britain around 1750. These are 260 mm and 230 mm long respectively. They are seen in the barn construction, as shown on Figure 83. The nails in the barn are less than 220 mm long, and are used to join large size timbers, joining joists with posts. The shorter spike on the left below the longer spikes is not a conventional building nail but its use suggests recourse to very hard dense timbers. It is known as a

“scupper nail”. In the centre are two T-head nails. The hook on the right is a rounded sign-plate attachment nail.

Figure 115 shows spur headed wrought floor brads, almost certainly British in origin. By the mid-1840s similar nails were made locally with a chisel point. The use of these nails is likely to be pre-1850. The small brad was found in a piece of furniture. A number of similar brads have been found in the construction of the cottage.



Figure 116 Wrought chisel point nails



Figure 117 Ewbank nails

The wrought chisel point nails shown in Figure 116 are not as common as the Ewbank nails shown in Figure 117. Ewbank nails were probably introduced into the Colony in about 1838. They are a mechanised nail, produced by James Cordes and Henry Ewbank at Dos Works in Newport, South Wales, with the factory opening in 1834. They are made from a heated steel rod, to replicate the resilience of forging, “rolled, squeezed and headed”, with a pimple head.



Figure 118 Wrought fine point rosehead nails



Figure 119 Wrought rosehead nails

Figures 118 and 119 show wrought rosehead nails, with those in Figure 118 shorter. This style of nail is typical of those still existing in the roof of the barn.

As with all of the artefacts found on the site, the nails and screw fixings help to illustrate the history of the Goldfinders Inn Group. No doubt further artefacts will be uncovered in the future to further explain life in this important group of buildings.

5.3 Aboriginal Heritage

One artefact found on the site appears to be an aboriginal axe head, shown on Figures 120 and 121.



Figure 120 Flaked side of axe head



Figure 121 Smooth side of axe head

It is possible that this is simply a broken stone. However, it is not a type of stone found in the immediate vicinity. It appears to be a river-cobbled stone, with its source possibly the Nepean River, with the area around Blacks Falls and the Castlereagh Neck a possible location: ¹⁷

*“...the Nepean River – from Emu Plains to Castlereagh and Yarramundi – was very likely a major source of axes for the entire Sydney region. The earliest white explorers particularly noted the Hawkesbury around Yarramundi as the place that “the natives get the stones whereof they make their hatchets”¹⁸. Certainly, the Nepean area was the source of the largest proportion of edge-ground axes from the Sydney region in the Australian Museum’s collection, and archaeologist Tessa Corkhill estimated that 90 per cent of all the axes in the collection were made from water-rolled cobbles from the Hawkesbury-Nepean River”.*¹⁹

As Rowland Edwards found when he settled on the site in 1806-1809, the flat land adjacent to Little Wheeny Creek provided a convenient place to camp, with a ready water supply.

The original Darug inhabitants possibly thought the same. The presence of an Aboriginal family band in the Kurrajong (Curryjong) was recorded in the official 1830s “Returns of Aboriginal Natives”, where names, estimated ages, family details and locations were recorded annually by local police officers or ministers for the annual distribution of blankets¹⁷. By the 1830s, the number of Aboriginal people living in the Curryjong were likely to have substantially reduced compared with pre-1788. Hostilities between the new settlers and the original inhabitants had come to a head in 1816 when, following the killings of some of the settlers in the area between Yarramundi and Kurrajong, Windsor Magistrate William Cox despatched punitive parties to seek out the Aboriginal men believed to be involved in these killings. Macquarie’s official proclamation of 20 July 1816 supported these actions. The total number of Aboriginal deaths is not known, apart from four who were caught and hung in July 1816¹⁷, with one (known as Cocky) reportedly hung in Kurrajong near the current junction of Bells Line of Road and Comleroy Road.²⁰

The Goldfinders Inn site is not the only location on Little Wheeny Creek where there might have been Aboriginal settlement. About 700 metres upstream adjacent to a flat area now known as McMahon’s Park there are axe grinding grooves in the flat sandstone platform adjoining the creek, suggesting a long occupation of this area for Aboriginal settlement, with a large relatively flat area adjacent to a permanent water supply. Figures 122 and 123 show these grinding grooves on Little Wheeny Creek.



Figure 122 Axe grinding grooves



Figure 123 Location of grooves in creek

There are a number of locations with axe grinding grooves, with their visibility depending on the level of the creek. Grooves photographed in 1997 could not be relocated. Figure 123 shows one or two grooves in the foreground. The grooves shown in Figure 122 are in the upper middle while there are additional grooves near the top of the photograph.

5.4 Future Research

State Heritage Register Criteria e) states:

The Goldfinders Inn Group is of state significance because the cottage on the site is an early dwelling which has the potential to yield further information on the construction of early vernacular buildings, particularly in relation to the unusual stone nog infill between wall studs. There is also some potential for the site to reveal evidence of former buildings associated with documented uses of the place.

The construction technique and materials, including the nails, screws and hinges, provides an understanding of very early building construction in Australia. The artefacts that have been unearthed, some literally, provide flesh to the building fabric, for a better understanding of how life was lived on the site. With careful searching there remains potential to find artefacts that will further document the use of the site.

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