

CHAPTER FOUR

BRICKYARDS, NURSERY, ABORETUM, FORESTRY SCHOOL, CAMPS, COTTAGES, YARRALUMLA HOUSE

AT

BRICKYARDS, WESTRIDGE, YARRALUMLA 1910-

As early as 1910 King O'Malley, the Federal Minister for Home Affairs laid out his plans for the establishment of a Brickworks in the area of the proposed Federal Capital City. [*Queanbeyan Age* 23.10.1910]. Early the following year brickmaking experiments were carried out on shipments of shale taken from the Yass-Canberra district. They proved satisfactory. [*Queanbeyan Age* 14.4.1911] The site chosen for the brickworks was at *Yarralumla*, the property of Frederick Campbell. It was part of his ram paddock.

On 8 July 1912 Frederick Campbell wrote to the Director of Works giving permission for about 38 acres of his property to be used for brickmaking. The area was gazetted 27 July 1912 and construction of the brickyards was carried out shortly after by men housed in a camp somewhere near the railway station [information from Robyn Donnelly whose father and grandfather, Frederick & George Taylor, worked on the construction of the yards.] The first camp for workmen at the brickyards was laid out on 13 June 1913.

The choice of the brickwork's site marked this area, later known as Westridge, as one of the five major early Canberra settlements. The area was originally known as the Brickworks or Brickyards until 1917 when a post office was established in the area and Walter Burley Griffin renamed the area Westridge.¹ In 1927 when a number of Canberra suburbs were renamed, *Westridge* was changed to *Yarralumla*. However the area continued to be known as Westridge to the locals well into the 1950s when rapid expansion of the suburb began.

Problems relating to the choice of the site of Canberra's brickworks and other early buildings that were part of the Departmental Plan and not that of the Griffin's are noted in an article in *The Sydney Morning Herald* 19 May 1916 with a heading *WASTE AT CANBERRA*. It reports an outburst in the Federal Parliament by the Minister for the Post Master General's Department in which he stated:...*The sewerage system is dangerous, the water scheme all wrong, the roads poor, the power-house is in the wrong place, and the brickworks are in the residential area...*and continued, *That there were no structures other than temporary buildings of weatherboard and galvanised iron ...a massively built railway had been erected through one of the lake sites ...the brickworks were in the midst of what is one of the fashionable residential areas and were three miles from the railway line...*

Westridge Settlement, like that of Acton, contained a mixture of temporary and permanent dwellings. It was also, like Acton, a settlement with a mixture of classes. The dwellings consisted of:

- **Temporary:** used by brickwork's employees and sewer miners and others working on the construction of the main intercepting sewer.
 - Tents (single men), humpies (married quarters).
 - ex-Molonglo buildings - both single and married areas (along area of Banks Street).
- **Permanent:**
 - few brick cottages (1921-22) in section 64 for brickyard's men and Jeremiah Dillon, foreman of the sewer works and a few weatherboards (1927) for men working in the area.
 - 1927 Forestry School buildings & accommodation for students: brick school erected in Banks St and a two storey brick house for the Acting Principle [128]; cubicles for students & (3 brick shells of cottages used as Mess, Recreation and ablution blocks.

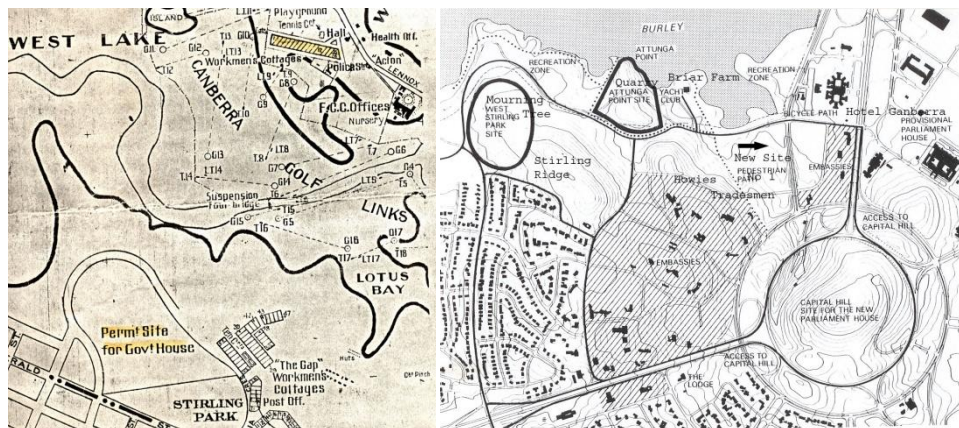
¹ The new name was to avoid confusion with the property of Yarralumla and is probably named Westridge because it was west of Stirling Ridge. On the early maps it is also marked as Westlake.

- Yarralumla Property
 - Frederick Campbell's two storey homestead
 - Two storey dairy house built by Young was renamed Riverview in 1913 by Corkhill family.
 - Few small farm cottages and huts.
- Westridge was also the area where the Night Soil was emptied. The dumping area was in the vicinity of the overpass of Adelaide Avenue where Kent Street Deakin joins Novar St [original name - Mountain Way]. This area that covered around ten acres was surrounded by a circle of hedges and comments were made that the clay soil created a problem.

BACKGROUND - FEDERAL PERIOD

In 1913 Yarralumla property was taken over by the Commonwealth, Frederick Campbell's former home - known as Yarralumla House - remained empty of permanent occupants with the exception of caretakers and Miss Isabella Southwell, housekeeper. She looked after visiting dignitaries, such as Walter Burley Griffin and politicians until alternative accommodation was made available at the Hotel Canberra. It opened in December 1924.

During 1926 Yarralumla House and the Prime Minister's Lodge were decorated by Mrs Ruth Lane Poole in readiness in May 1927 for the arrival of the Royal visitors and Prime Minister. Both dwellings were intended to be temporary. Instead Yarralumla House remained as a residence for the Governor General and the Prime Minister's Lodge is still in use. The original site for the Governor General's Residence is in the area of Stirling Ridge, Section 22, Stirling Park, Yarralumla. This area has now been set aside as one of two possible sites for a new lodge - the other is Attunga Point.² At the time this area was chosen there were no provisions put in place to save heritage areas. [see footnote and chapter on Westlake]



² The area of Stirling Park - in particular the area now known as Stirling Ridge - Block 22 Stirling Park Yarralumla - now set aside for possible construction of a new prime minister's lodge and originally marked as the area for the permanent governor general's residence - is a major site of the endangered wild flower, button wrinklewort and the legless lizard. It is also an area of grassy woodland with trees that date well before European occupation. It is an area that has several heritage listings- sewer vent, wildflower as well as being a significant area of land that has the arrival of Europeans. The area of the park is a huge archaeological site that bears the marks of human occupation that includes Ngunawal - early European and Construction period when it was known as Westlake and home to 700 men and families working on the construction of the provisional parliament house etc.

Above left: 1927 map of Westlake area and right 1978 maps showing the proposed sites for Prime Minister's Lodge. Added to this map are the areas of Ngunawal mourning tree, Briar Farm, Howies' Settlement & Tradesmen's Camp.

A number of tenant farms on the former Yarralumla and Klensendorff grant continued to be leased to tenant farmers - on an annual basis. The Kaye family whose farm house was behind the Hotel Canberra remained until 1924 when their land was required for a golf course. The Kinlyside family of Briar Farm decided to leave in 1913, leaving the house available for Commonwealth employees. In 1913 the former Yarralumla dairy was leased to Robert Corkhill who had to move from his tenant farm on land where the Provisional Parliament House was later built. The two storey dwelling that came with the lease was renamed - *Riverview*.

In 1914 the permanent nursery under the supervision of Mr TCG Weston, was set up in Sheedy's Paddock, later known as Westbourne. Men working at the newly formed nursery lived in old cottages in the grounds of Yarralumla House. A new cottage was constructed for the foreman.

The Arboretum planted under the direction of Weston was the reason why Westridge was chosen in 1925 as the site for the national Forestry School that opened in 1927 in Banks Street. In 1928 a new two storey Tudor style dwelling built for the acting principal, Mr Charles Lane-Poole and family was ready for occupation.

In the teen years of the last century Westridge was still sufficiently distanced from the central area of Canberra to be a favoured training site for the cadets of the Royal Military College. Mrs Ethel Quigg, nee Sharp whose parents lived in one of the cottages in the grounds of Yarralumla House recalled these camps and of finds of many a spoon and fork following the closure of camps which then went into family use.



Above: Frank Boland photograph showing one of the annual RMC Camps at Yarralumla. Yarralumla house is in the background right. NLA pic-an23764166-v



Above left Eric Milton Nicholls collection - nla pic-vn3603884-s-18-v Construction of the Brickworks. Above right - construction of the brickworks in 1913 - courtesy Robyn Donnelly whose father and grandfather - Frederick Walter Taylor and George Taylor worked on the building.



Above: Harry Connell's photograph of the Brickyards NLA pic-vn3299806-v

THE BRICKWORKS

The following newspaper articles are from Lyall Gillespie's Card Collection. They detail some of the contemporary information about the beginnings of the Brickworks. Lyall collected information from the various Queanbeyan papers, which predate *The Canberra Times* that commenced printing in late 1926. Additional information is now available on the National Library of Australia web site that has electronically scanned newspaper articles from the 19th century to 1954 (excluding Queanbeyan papers). However for those who wish to find out further information about the early years of Westridge - words such as WESTRIDGE, BRICKWORKS, FORESTRY SCHOOL and LANE-POOLE used in the search section will prove fruitful to the researcher.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES - LYALL GILLESPIE'S CARDS:

Queanbeyan Age 24.1.1913: *The bricks to be used in the public buildings are to be made by the Home Affairs Department in the Territory. Plans are now being prepared for this phase of the work, but the preliminary will be confined only to the making of bricks which will be used for construction the permanent kilns at which the material to be used in the public buildings will be made.*

Queanbeyan Observer 11.2.1913: *Brickworks at the Federal Capitol - Considerable interest attaches to the brickmaking work that is being commenced by the Government on the Federal Capitol site; from the fact that the entrance (establishment?) and costly nature of the plant to be put into operation there indicates that the Government intends to supply from its own works a very substantial portion of the bricks that will be required in the building of the new city. The brickworks which are the first to be established by the Federal Government are situated about two miles from the boundary of the Federal Capital territory and already a staff of workmen are on the spot. Exhaustive tests as to the suitability of the slate for brickworks for brickmaking purposes and as to the quality of deposits have resulted in satisfactorily. The total output of the works will be 15,000,000 bricks per annum. The cost of the initial temporary plant at the brickworks will be only a few hundred pounds but it is estimated that the ultimate cost of the complete machinery will run into 25,000 pounds.*

Queanbeyan Observer 18.2.1913: *The Minister for Home Affairs has approved of the purchase from a firm in Sydney of an Australian brick-making machine and it will be delivered on the site of the brickworks of the Federal Capitol within three weeks. There will be no delay in the manufacture of the first bricks and it is anticipated that bricks for the making of the three open kilns will be turned out within a month from date. These kilns in turn will be used for the making of large quantities of bricks required in the construction of the new city.*

Queanbeyan Age 21.3.1913: *Col David Miller, Administrator of the Federal Territory is quite pleased with the Brickworks started within two miles of the proposed city. Suitable materials have been tested with excellent results. The intention is to turn out 15 million bricks a year for the next seven years. These bricks will be required for public purposes only.*

Queanbeyan Observer 17.6.1913: *On the Yarralumla Estate recently required (?) extensive preparations are being made on the brickmaking industry which will be all machine work, the machines to be driven by powerful steam engines.*

Queanbeyan Observer 23.9.1913: *Federal Capitol - the brickmaking plant is in full swing not far from Yarralumla homestead and immense kilns are being erected from the present output for the millions of bricks required in the near future.*

Queanbeyan Observer 25.11.1913: *The Government Brickworks have turned out 85,000 bricks. Half a million will be used for the walls of the Power House and others in construction of the main sewer. The bricks are said to be almost as good in quality as those from the Staffordshire kilns, though they have not such an attractive face appearance. This is considered immaterial however since the bricks are to be used below the ground.*

Queanbeyan Age 21.4.1914: *Report of a visit of the Federal Treasurer Senator John Forrest to Canberra. Among the things he said. "...There is a brickmaking factory there burning excellent bricks. I was informed from 25/- to 30/- per 1000...."*

Queanbeyan Age 16.6.1914: *At the open brick kilns (Canberra) 1,163,820 bricks have been made and it is proposed to erect continuous kilns.*

Queanbeyan Age 18.12.1914: In the Senate last Friday Senator Grant advised the Minister of Home Affairs upon notice:

1. How many bricks had been manufactured at the Capitol site?
2. When is it intended to commence construction of continuous kilns for the manufacture of bricks?
3. How many kilns are to be constructed?
4. What is the estimated cost of constructing each kiln?
5. What is the estimated output per kiln per annum?...

Senator Russell:

1. The answers are about 1,000,000.
2. Construction of the first kiln is in active progress and the second one is proposed to be commenced shortly.
3. Three
4. The estimated cost of the three with necessary brick machines, crushers and plant is 35,000 pounds.
5. Five millions

Queanbeyan Age 16.6.1914 At the open brick kilns (Canberra) 1,163,820 bricks have been made and it is proposed to erect continuous kilns.

Queanbeyan Age 5.3.1915: It was announced in Melbourne on Monday by the Minister for Home Affairs Mr Archibald that tenders have been accepted for the kiln making plant to be erected at the Federal Capitol site. Messrs Jacques (?) Bros of Richmond were the successful tenders for the three notary rock crushers at a cost of 502 pounds. Messrs Timmings and Gardiner of Sydney have been given an order for two grinding mills to cost of 834 pounds. The tender of Mr George Foster for ironwork for the Staffordshire kiln was accepted, the price being 842 pounds. Mr Archibald explained that the three kilns will be capable of turning out 5,000,000 bricks a year and that it will take 6 years or more to make the bricks which it is estimated will be required for Government buildings.

Queanbeyan Age 14.9.1915: The Staffordshire kiln brickmakers are approaching completion.

Queanbeyan Age 17.4.1917: Two reports by Mr Blackett KC, the Royal Commissioner appointed by the Federal Government to inquire into the management of the Federal Capital affairs were made available for publication yesterday by Mr Watt Minister for Works and Railways. As to the brickworks, Mr Blackett said that their cost was excessive and they should never have been erected at Yarralumla and 'never would have been of Col Owen had observed his duty in informing the Minister of the postscripts of Mr Griffin Taylor's report', Mr Blackett added that in spite of these things the brickworks would prove worthy of all the money that had been spent on them.

WORLD WAR ONE - 1914-1918 - Brickworks cease production 1917-1921

Queanbeyan Age 20.9.1921: We have been shown a sample of the bricks made at the Federal Capitol Brickyards. We have seen and visited some of the best works of the kind in the state and venture to say that nowhere in Australia is a more perfect article made.

Queanbeyan Age 11.3.1921: 'I understand that the Brickworks at Canberra are now in full operation' said Mr Austin Chapman MHR. Mr Chapman has just arrived in the city for the Capitol site and is pleased with the activity going on there. 'The bricks already made are being carried to the places where they are wanted,' he went on, 'They are proceeding at once with the erection of 10 workmen's cottages in the Civic Centre and with three more cottages near the Power House. Everything is being got ready for the erection of the hostel [Hotel Canberra] and of the Administration Block in the Government Centre and bricks are to be brought to the site of these buildings.'

Queanbeyan Age 16.6.1922: Mr T Bates, late foreman at the Canberra Brickworks, has taken up duty this week as manager of the Queanbeyan Brick and Tile Co.

Queanbeyan Age (West Ridge correspondent) 11.8.1922: *The tile plant is being installed at the Brickworks and should be started warming up before long.*

Queanbeyan Age 1.9.1922: *The Minister for Works and Railways is getting worried are the huge stocks of six million bricks heaped around the Federal Brickworks. He says if they don't move into buildings soon he'll have to shut down the works and make this only with the plant now being installed.*

Queanbeyan Age 5.3.1925: *It was announced in Melbourne on Monday by the Minister for Home Affairs Mr Archibald that tenders have been accepted for the kiln making plant to be erected at the Federal Capitol site. Messrs Jacques (?) Bros of Richmond were the successful tenders for the three rotary rock crushers at a cost of 502 pounds. Messrs Timmings and Gardiner of Sydney have been given an order for two grinding mills to cost of 834 pounds. The tender of Mr George Foster for ironwork for the Staffordshire kiln was accepted, the price being 842 pounds. Mr Archibald explained that the three kilns will be capable of turning out 5,000,000 bricks a year and that it will take 6 years or more to make the bricks which it is estimated will be required for Government buildings.*

Queanbeyan Age 16.7.1925: *In the House of Representatives recently Mr Lazzarine member for Werriwa asked for the names of the experts who enquired into the Tile and Brickworks at Canberra. Mr Marr submitted the following information which was received from the Federal Capitol Commission. The expert who reported on the Brickworks was Mr David Rogers of the Austral Brick Company of Sydney. The expert who reported on the tile works was Dr Wunderlich of the Wunderlich Tile Co of Sydney...*

Tabled Statement

Brickworks. The Canberra Brickworks has been turning out a brick of remarkably fine quality in fact a quality unnecessary for ordinary construction work...

Canberra Times 3.9.1926: *A new plant which will double the output of the Federal Capitol Commission's Brickworks is expected to be producing in October. Large purchases aggregating 5,000,000 bricks have been necessary meanwhile from other sources. The Commonwealth upon completion of its present plant will supply 6,000,000 bricks a year.*



Above: Harry Trevillian at the Brickyards early 1920s. Courtesy of Harry Trevilian.

Canberra Times 3.9.1926: *Report of a further closing down at the Brickworks. One unit only is to be kept working because of the reduced work programme.*

Canberra Times 26.12.1927: *The new plant recently installed at the Federal Capital Commission's Brickworks at Westridge is expected to be in full production within a few days and the works will then have an annual production of more than 15,000,000 bricks besides a large quantity of tiles and other building materials. The Staffordshire kilns which have been operation for some years have a total capacity of 5,400,000 bricks a year from the livery chambers installed. These are supplemented by 18 chambers of 4,000,000 capacity whose annual production is stated at six million bricks. In addition to these there are five new Era Whittaker brick machines which have a daily output of 11,000 bricks. The total production of bricks will therefore be in excess of fifteen million bricks with the plant in full operation.*

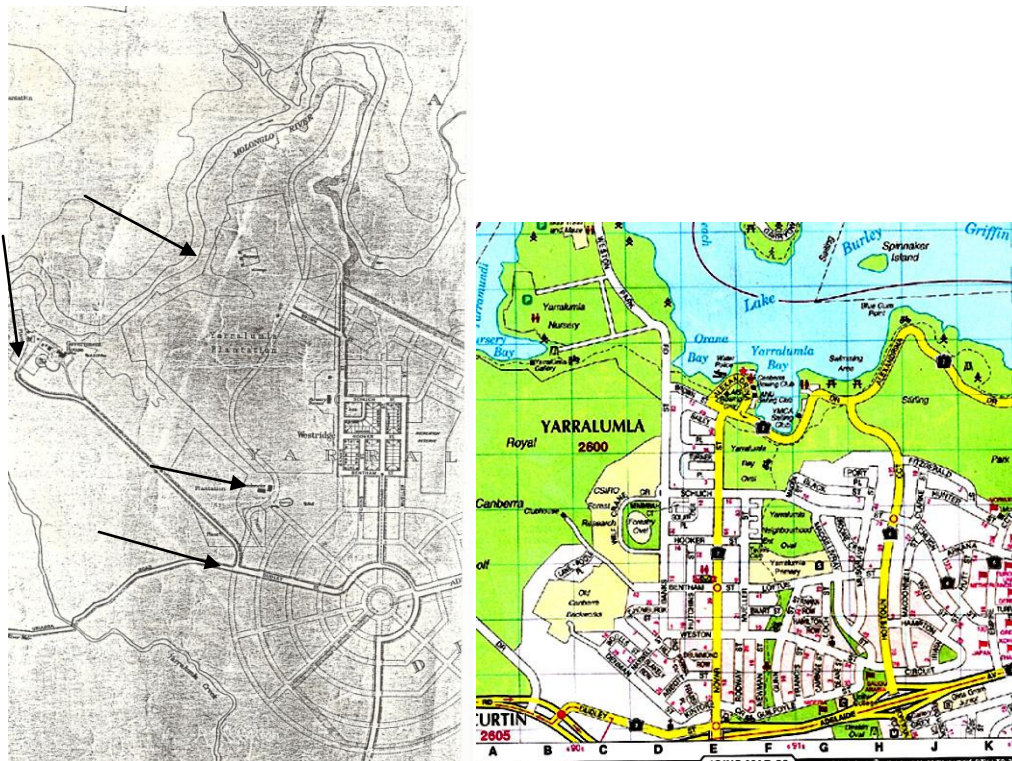
Canberra Times 20.3.1928: The brickworks of the Federal Capital Commission are to be closed down at the end of the present month. About 60 men are to be affected. Meanwhile about 3,000,000 bricks are in stock and will meet demands until such time as the re-opening of the works will be possible under conditions which will avoid ...(?) losses which now threaten.

Queanbeyan Age 27.9.1928: The Federal Capitol Commission recently suspended the manager of the Brickworks at Canberra following allegations of irregularities and malpractice. The whole of the charges have been thoroughly investigated and convinced that they were without foundation the Commission has reinstated the manager.

1927 - OPENING OF FEDERAL PARLIAMENT, ARRIVAL OF THE PUBLIC SERVANTS

1927 was the year when the city was made ready to move into its Federal role. This was the year that a number of permanent suburbs were renamed and amongst them was Westridge that was formerly renamed, Yarralumla.

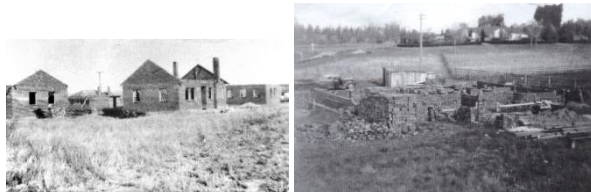
However, *Yarralumla* continued to be known to the locals as Westridge until the 1950s when rapid development of the suburb commenced. The following map is dated 1949 and shows the nucleus of the suburb that changed little in size from 1927. On the right is a map of the area 2003.



Above left: Arrows - top left Government House (former Yarralumla House); Top right - nursery; Next down - Brickyards surrounded by plantation and bottom - Uriarra Road - the arrow points to the section that is still in situ along with the old entrance road into Yarralumla House. The small line marked from the brickworks between the two arrows is the cutting where the rail line from the brickworks still marks the landscape. The circle that is off the right is roughly the area of the nightsoil deposit. The road leading into Westridge is Novar Street (former Mountain Way) and the road off to the left is Adelaide Avenue.

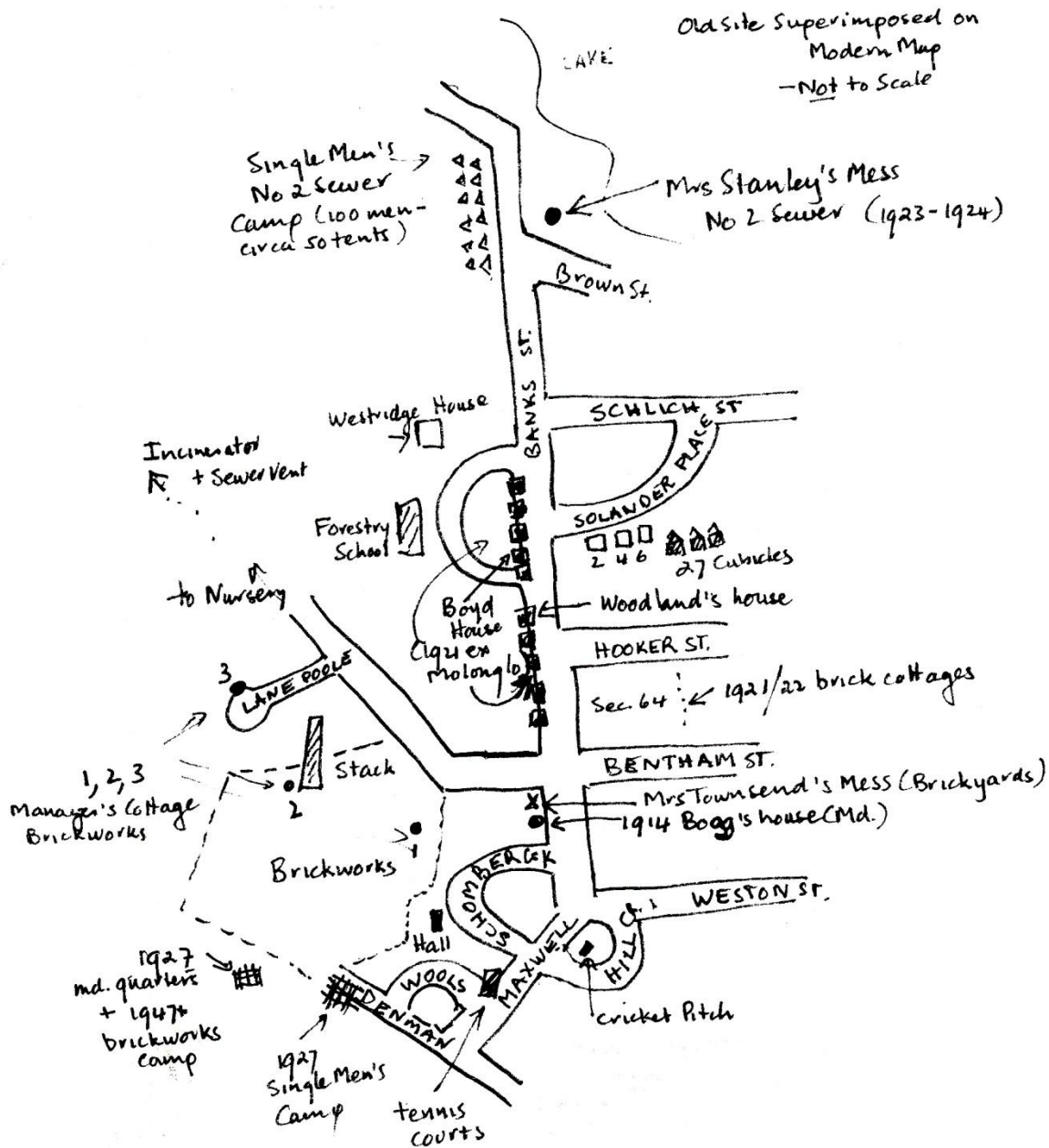


Above NAA photograph showing the rail line from the brickworks to the Hotel Canberra.



Above: new houses at Westridge 1920s or a little later. Photograph loaned by Mrs Jean Oldfield. On the right is a photograph owned by Jean's daughter, Mrs Moya Campbell showing the commencement of building work at Yarralumla 1950s.

Mud Map of Westridge (Yarralumla) 1920s



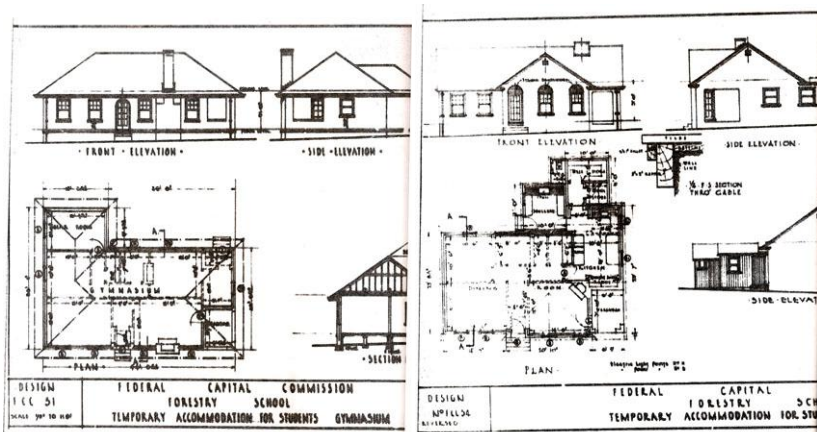
WESTRIDGE - THE SUBURB

Although Westridge was officially recognised as a suburb in 1927, it continued to be treated in a similar manner to the temporary suburbs of Westlake, Causeway, Molonglo, Riverbourne, Russell Hill and Oaks Estate (formerly a suburb of Queanbeyan]. Numerous articles in NAA, *Canberra Community News* and local papers voice the concerns of the locals which included the neglect of the area - an out of sight out of mind mentality of officialdom? High on the list of concerns was the ongoing need for basic facilities such as street lighting, kerbing and guttering, a bus service and accommodation for the men who worked in the brickyards and nursery.

In 1935, for example, the locals complained to the authorities that they wanted equality with other residents of the territory. One result was that the remaining blocks in the sections of 58, 63 and 64 were put up for private lease. This sale in effect, recognised Westridge as a suburb of Canberra, but did little to provide the required services and improvements.

Like Acton, Westridge had a mixture of accommodation that included temporary and permanent.

- 1913 - c 1921 Camps - Single men's tents, and married men's humpies [included as well as brickyard camps at least one Sewer Camp - reference made to sewer men camping in Yarralumla woolshed]
- 1921-1922 - small brick cottages (Section 64); ex-Molonglo cottages for married men and single men; No 2 Sewer Camp - tents.
- 1927- new brickyards' single men's & married (timber) camps ; weatherboard cottages.
- Forestry School students - three shells brick cottages in Solander Place used as Mess, Recreation Room and Ablution blocks for forestry school students. The forestry students were provided with lined cubicles erected behind the cottages; timber barracks known as Waldorf for forestry school students; Westridge House constructed for head of forestry school.



Above; Details from two FCC plans for the cottages in Solander Place erected for Mess, Ablution and Recreation blocks for the Forestry School students. Below the cubicles and bottom left one of the cottages in Solander Place and right - Westridge House, home of the Lane Poole family.



THE BRICKYARDS - PRODUCTION 1913-1927

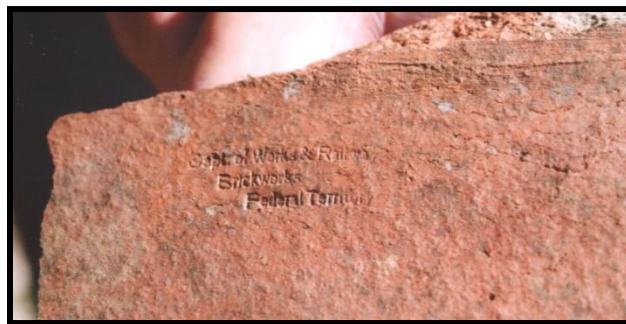
By 1 July 1913 the machinery portion of the brickworks was fully operational. In the week ending 21 June 1913, 44,000 green (unfired) bricks were produced and it was expected to eventually produce 50,000 bricks per week. The first bricks were fired in temporary kilns later replaced by permanent that included for example in 1916 the Staffordshire Kiln. However, the promise of continued production was interrupted by World War One that shut down the works in 1916. They did not reopen until in 1921 when brickmaking recommenced. The following year tile making plant installed.



Above: Dump in area of Block 2, Section 128 Stirling Park Yarralumla (former Westlake) that shows broken bricks and part of a tile. The frog markings used in the twenties had *C'wealth Canberra* or *Canberra C'wealth*. A number did not have frog markings. Examples of these bricks can be found in the web, <http://hiddencanberra.webs.com/historyofcanberra.htm> that also show examples of the 1930s bricks which have the frog marking *CANBERRA*. Examples of these bricks can still be seen in Stirling Park Yarralumla and include the post World War Two bricks with the frog *CB* (Canberra Bricks). Below left brick line in the area of the Tradesmen's Ablution buildings on Block 3, Section 128 Stirling Park, Yarralumla. Below right: 1920s brick on the same site. In the park are also pavers of the type used in the grounds of the Hotel Canberra and probably the Provisional Parliament House.³



Several flat tiles - one shown below and a rubbing from the other - were found on the Tradesmen's Camp Ablution Block area. *Dept of Works & R'way Brickworks Federal Territory*.



³ I came across one article in *The Canberra Times* about visitors pinching bricks with the frog mark of *CANBERRA* as souvenirs. This frog was used in the 1930s. The bricks used for the construction of the Provisional Parliament House either no lettering or *C'WEALTH CANBERRA* or *CANBERRA C'WEALTH*.



Above is a special purpose brick given to me by Reg Newcombe whose father worked at the Brickyards. A similar one was found near George Sykes' house – 29 Westlake – in the creek. Below is another view of the brick. The other side of the brick is solid.



Below – 1930s brick with *CANBERRA* frog.



BRICK AND TILE MAKING PROJECT CANBERRA - TABULATED STATEMENT

To accompany Report of Director-General of Works, dated the 3rd October 1913.

	Year	Buildings & Accessories	Kilns	Machinery for Manufacture of Bricks Tiles etc. Dry Stiff Plastics
A	1912-13	Machine House, Engines, Shafting, Water Supply and Plant	5 Open kilns	1v machine... temporary structure
B	1913-14	Tile Machine House for B & E Motors		1 machine (stiff plastic) 1 machine fore tile making.
C	1913-14	Fanhouse & Fan, Chimneys & Flues; Motors	1 Staffordshire Kiln	
D	1913-14 (late)	Machine House for D & E permanent machinery; motors cottage		
E	1914-15 (early)	Ropeway, motors and truckways (workmen's cubicles)	1 Staffordshire Kiln	
F	1914-15 (late)	Completion of brick house	1 Staffordshire Kiln	

GRAND TOTALS for brick and tile making: With Stiff Plastic machines
With Semi-Dry Machines

£41,850
£47,450

Summary: Expenditure to 31 December 1924

Works & Railways		s	d			s	d
1912-13	£3,327	7	1	Erection of Plant & Buildings	£45,649	15	10
1913-14	£7,950	4	10	Clay Products - Mason Works	£1	19	5
1914-15	£9,863	1	3	Conveyors	£1,389	10	9
1915-16	£10,669	9	8	Sub soil drainage	£204	17	1
1916-17	£5,340	10	2	Pony & Sulky		3	9
1917-18	Cr £326	12	5	Fire Service	£50	-	-
1918-19	Cr £5	6	6	Overhaul Machinery & Plant	£812	5	2
1919-20	Cr £2	1	7	Erection of Office	£298	3	-
1920-21	£901	4	9				
1921-22	£428	5	9				
1922-23	£1,219	12	2				
Total	£48,406	15	-	Total	£48,406	15	-

Tile Making Plant		s	d			s	d
1920-21	£2	5	-	Purchase & Erection of Tile Making Plant	£966	10	2
1921-22	£2,388	7	8	Installation	£3,922	-	-
1922-23	£2,513	19	8	Tilemaking & Manufacture of 20,000 pallettes	£1,388	5	2
1923-24	£1,272	1	-				
to 31-Dec-1924		2	-				
Total	£8,176	15	4	Total	£8,176	15	4

Construction of the Federal City was not continuous. It was interrupted by World War One, The Great Depression and World War Two. During these periods the yards were closed. The years in between the yards worked at full production to provide the bricks necessary to get the city ready for the move of the federal parliament from Melbourne to Canberra. The highest level of production of bricks occurred during the years of the Federal Capital Commission (1925 - 1927).

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF PRODUCTION - THE EARLY YEARS

Brick construction continued for a period after the outbreak of war in August 1914 but by 1916 as men and moneys was diverted to the war effort the production of bricks was either very slow or non-existent. At this time the single men's camp was virtually empty and the majority of people still living at the yards were no longer employed at the brickyards. A report dated 29 August 1917 noted the buildings on site:

- Brickfield transformer
- Brick kiln,
- Machine shops
- Grinding House
- Fan house and
- Small offices.
- Iron cottage owned by FCD late brickwork's manager's quarters
- Workmen's Mess owned by FCD
- Bathroom
- 29 Camp site buildings one owned by the Commonwealth and looked after by White
- Yarralumla - official resident FCD - also
- Coachman's quarters vacant, 10/- per week
- Temporary workman's cottage owned by CS Afforestation employee 3/- per week
- Old cottage owned by FCD Works, bullock driver 5/- per week
- Old cottage owned by CSR Nursery foreman 6/- per week
- Dairy, old cottage owned by CSR. Corkhill rent included in lease of block
- Dairy,
- Old cottage owned by FCD, works road maintenance man
- Dairy, brick and stone cottage W Avery, rent included in lease of block.

During the period of the war regular checks of the buildings and machines were made. In one report dated 27 May 1919 the Electrical Engineer expressed concern about the condition of the unused brickworks:

I should like to point out the necessity of keeping the motors at the brickworks in good order. These have been standing idle for a considerable time, possibly for two years, and so as I am aware have not been run during that period...Particular attention should be made to the two fan motors as they are in a damp situation.

Following the recommencement of production in 1921 the number of men employed at the brickyards increased. The following year around 31 men worked at the yards and by 6 June 1923 the population the brickyards area was 170. However in 1924 work stopped and only 6 men are recorded working at the yards. Demand for bricks picked up by June 1927 when another brick kiln and additional plant was installed to increase production. At this time bricks had to be imported from Sydney and Melbourne to satisfy building needs. When building again slowed following the opening of the federal parliament in May 1927 the works were again affected and 18 April 1928 action was taken to close the brickworks. Accordingly the staff was reduced from 78 to 33 as from 25 March 1928.



Above: National Library of Australia nla.pic-an11030057-389-v (I got the original from NAA). This photograph was taken from Stirling Ridge in Stirling Park Yarralumla (Section22) around 1922. The row of cottages mid right are ex-Molonglo houses erected in 1921 in the vicinity of modern Banks Street. The line of power poles and piles of earth mark the entrances to the main intercepting sewer tunnel. The deepest shaft down to the tunnel is on Stirling

Ridge. This paddock, unlike the Ridge and the area of the Gap on the other side is almost denuded of timber. Frederick Campbell had much of this area clear felled in the 1890s.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMMODATION - CAMPS & PERMANENT RESIDENCES.

- 1914 Galvanised iron cottage built for the manager of the brickworks
- 1913-1922 two camps - single men - tents and married quarters - humpies. The site of the camps probably near Banks Street. The single men's mess was vacant by the end of 1917. Old photographs of the humpie married quarters show a hill behind the cottages. I have been told that this hill no longer exists because it was quarried for shale used in brick production.
- 1921 - When the brickyards re-opened in 1921 additional accommodation was required. During 1922-1923 around 10 Molonglo cottages moved to Westridge and placed in the area of modern Banks Street. The married dwellings were near the Forestry School and the Single Men's quarters further down Banks Street (not then built) towards the Adelaide Avenue end. The cost of moving these buildings was 707 pounds. These new buildings that were referred to as *hutments*, co-existed with the older camp buildings for about a year. Men building the small brick cottages in Section 64 may have lived in these hutments.
- Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Federal Capital Advisory Committee recommended that 4,500 pounds to be spent for the erection of moveable tenements [ex-Molonglo cottages referred to as hutments - see above point] for workmen at the Brickworks, Civic Centre and the Power House. Timber from some Molonglo buildings could be used for the first cottages. The expenditure for 1923 at the Brickworks included:
 - Removal of tenements 702 pounds
 - Recreation grounds 95 pounds
 - Erection of tennis courts 48 pounds
 - Recreation Hall 250 pounds.
- Caretaker Bland of Molonglo Camp visited the Brickyard's Camp and made the following report dated 6 January 1922: *Today I visited the Brickworks. The Mess Room is according to Inventory. Some iron is missing off the Baker's Oven which also wants repairing inside. Cook reports Stove not a good cooker but from appearance it looks OK. Detached Single Men's Quarters (near Cottages) according to Inventory.*
- 1921-1922 - 7 Lithgow style brick cottages built for workmen. They were occupied from late 1921 and early 1922. These cottages are opposite the Yarralumla Shops in Section 64.
- 1922-1923 the Brickwork's recreation ground and tennis court received attention. The recreation hall cost 250 pounds. 13 Schomburgk Street is near the site of the original hall and may partly cover the site. The old pine trees that stood near to the hall can be seen at the rear of the property. Offices were also built during the same financial year and the brick cottages built by Works & Railways Department in Section 64 were connected to the sewer (septic tank near Mueller Street).
- June 1923 During this financial year a cottage for the Foreman of the nursery was built. The building was a simple wooden structure with verandah on the front of the house. This cottage replaced the galvanised iron one built in 1914.
- 1925 - The site for the National Forestry School was selected.
- February 1927 Construction of a new mess and cubicles began. A 1927 map shows the site of the camp which today would cover the end of Denman Road at the entrance to the Brickyards. The married quarters were on the left of the single men's camp. The site of the new mess would likely be the one referred to by Mr Terry Horan, the last brickwork's manager. This camp in the 1950s. The new site for the Mess was required in 1927 because work was about to commence on the weatherboards. The sewerage was connected to the new mess in 1927.
- 1944 - a report in National Australian Archives (A880/YL67) refers to the state of the 1927 quarters which were then in poor condition. The report lists the buildings still on the site and their use:
 - Three blocks of cubicles each of which had originally contained four cubicles without stoves. These were altered for married couples by taking out one partition which left a large living area, kitchen and two smaller rooms.
 - Each living room had a stove built in.

- The other block had four separate cubicles without heating or cooking facilities. One tenant, Fisher, had built a brick kitchenette.
- There was also a weatherboard Mess House 60ft x 20ft with kitchen, but no range, which has been removed to Fairbairn.
- A large bath, lavatory block and
- Combined meat house and store was on site.

The dwellings were painted green.



Above: Terry Horan's photographs of the last camp taken in the 1940s or 1950s.

- 1927 - Weatherboard cottages with brick chimneys built for workmen. Tenders for the erection of twenty cottages were put out on 7 July 1927. Many of these cottages still stand in Hutchins, Mueller, Banks and Novar Streets. At the same time similar cottages were erected in Ainslie for construction workers in the area of Corroboree Crescent. They were referred to as *the weatherboard cottages*.
- 1927 - Forestry School built & Westridge House (Tudor style home for head of Forestry School) - completed in January 1928.
- 1927, November 16 - Accommodation for Forestry Students and Staff at the Mess approved by Cabinet. Work commenced for quarters for students at the forestry school. The plan was to build three shells of houses for Recreation, Lavatories & Baths, Dining and to erect 27 lined cubicles for students and staff. The cottages were to be built on Blocks 13 and 15 Section 63. The shells of cottages were eventually built on Section 58 in the area of Solander Place.
- NIGHTSOIL DEPOT - The 27 July 1927 Sanitation Report states the following:
Location - Westridge. Being and enclosed circle of ground of about 10 acres bordered with trees and about a mile from the nearest settlement. Trenches 20ft x 2ft 6in x 2ft ironstone clay 12 in below surface and therefore unsuitable for nightsoil disposal. Times of removal unrestricted - day or night. Russell Hill and Howie's Cottages removal once weekly - others tri-weekly. Plant - Motor lorry uncovered used for removal of pans, a new 2 tier closed in lorry just purchased and being used to-morrow, 28th inst. Pans with tight fitting spring and rubberoid lids - duplicate pan system - pans coated with bitureine about 3 times yearly, washed after each emptying by means of a long 3in garden hose at trench site, water standpipe practically in the centre of circle. Galvanised iron shed - new - used for stacking pans. No steaming or cleaning plants installed - pans and lids in good order - no leaky pans noticed on inspection. Trenches used 12 months ago state unfit for use again and from appearance of earth excavated this seems very probably...

WESTRIDGE RESIDENTS.

The Census 31 December, 1913 that lists the name of head of household and numbers of male and females in each dwelling notes the following living in the Yarralumla Area.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	M	F	Total
Adams, JW	2	2	4
Armfield, M	1	0	1
Corkhill, R	9	4	13
Donnelly, M	0	2	2
Fox, David	1	0	1

Fox, Owen	1	0	1
Goodsell, WH	1	2	3
Harriott, Wm	1	4	5
Hobday, John	1	0	1
Horan, M	7	3	10
Hughes, John	3	1	4
Logan, J	2	0	2
Magill, R	1	0	1
Spencer, R	1	0	1
Swyer, FJ	1	4	5
Vest, Richard	3	2	5
Vest, WH	1	1	2
Wilson, Jas	1	0	1
Total	37	25	62

In 1916 and 1917 the people of the FCT received their first vote - for or against conscription. The 1916 roll notes the following people living in the district: They had to be 21 or over and of British or Australian citizenship.

1916 ELECTORAL ROLL

BACHELOR, Maggie, Maggie, William & William Arthur	home duties, home duties, labourer & nurseryman
BEVERIDGE, Emily & Isaac	home duties & labourer
BOAG, Eleanor, Edith, Robert & Thomas	home duties, home duties, labourer & labourer
BOCK, Louisa, Henry & Percy	home duties, labourer & labourer
BOURKE, Dominick	nurseryman
BOWER, Rebecca & Alfred	home duties & labourer
CORKHILL, Catherine & Robert	home duties & dairy farmer
COTTERILL, Charlotte & John	home duties & labourer
CREGAN, Arthur	labourer
CULLEY, Kathleen & Thomas	home duties & clerk
CURTIN, Prudence & Mitchell	home duties & labourer
DAVIS, Thomas	fitter
EGGLESTON, Catherine & Everett	home duties & bricklayer
ENEVER, Jean & Thomas	home duties & labourer
FAULKNER, Mary & John	home duties & labourer
GODWARD, Beatrice & William	home duties & clerk
HADAWAY, Catherine & John	home duties & labourer
HANDCOCK, Meary	home duties
HARRIOTT, Emily & William	home duties & labourer
HOBDAY, Elsie & John	home duties and nurseryman
HORAN, Daisy & Michael	home duties & labourer
HORAN, Marguerite & Michael	home duties & boundary rider (lived near the woolshed & other sites in the area)
INGRAM, Emily & Arthur	home duties & labourer
JACOBS, Elizabeth, Harold & William	home duties, labourer & labourer
KILBY, William	nurseryman
LAWSON, Agnes & Tompson	home duties & nurseryman
LAWTON, Bridget & Arthur	home duties & labourer
LEA, Agnes & Joseph	home duties and engine driver
McDERMOTT, Agnes & William	home duties & labourer
MEWBURN, George	caretaker
MOLONEY, Orlando	labourer
MOORE, Reuben	labourer
MURPHY, Thomas	labourer

NIGHTINGALE, Jenny & Peter	home duties & carpenter
PARTINGTON, Thomas	carpenter
PAUL, Margaret & Robert	home duties & labourer
PEARCE, Elizabeth	home duties
POLA, Lewis	labourer
POWELL, Edward	caretaker
PROSSER, Ettie, Myrtle, Albert & John	home duties, home duties, labourer & labourer
PYLE, Emily, Florence & Francis	home duties, home duties & labourer
QUIGG, Emily & Edward	home duties & labourer
SHARP, Jean & Joseph	home duties & labourer
SHARPE, Edith & Thomas	home duties and nurseryman
SKERRY, Ellen, Margaret, Edward Snr & James	home duties, home duties, labourer & labourer
SOUTHWELL, Isabella	home duties (housekeeper Yarralumla House)
STEPHENSON, Annie & Percy	home duties & labourer
STUTCHBURY, Beatrice & Jess	home duties & labourer
THOMAS, John	labourer
TOWNSHEND, Alice & Harry	home duties & labourer
VEST, Christian & Richard	home duties & labourer
WALLACE, William	engine driver
WARE, Lily & Michael	home duties & labourer
WITHERS, Florence & Peter	home duties & labourer
1917 ELECTORAL ROLL	
BATCHELOR, Maggie & William	home duties & labourer
BOAG, Edith, Eleanor, Robert & Thomas	home duties, home duties, labourer & labourer
BOURKE, Dominick	nurseryman
BOWER, Rebecca & Alfred	home duties & labourer
EGGLESTON, Catherine & Everett	home duties & bricklayer
FAULKNER, Mary & John	home duties & labourer
HARRIOTT, Emily & William	home duties & labourer
HEPBURN, William	labourer
HOBDAY, Elsie & John	home duties & nurseryman
HORAN, Daisy	home duties
HORAN, Agnes, Marguerite & Michael	home duties, home duties & boundary rider (lived in farm cottage)
JACOBS, Elizabeth & Harold	home duties & labourer
KILBY, Sidney	nurseryman
LAWSON, Agnes & Tompson	home duties & nurseryman
LEA, Agnes & Joseph	home duties & engine driver
LEECH, Edward	labourer
McDERMOTT, Alice & William	home duties & labourer
MOORE, Catherine	home duties
MURPHY, Thomas	labourer
NIGHTINGALE, Jennie & Peter	home duties & painter
POWELL, Edward	caretaker
QUIGG, Emily & Edward	home duties & labourer
SHARP, Jean & Joseph	home duties & labourer
SHARPE, Edith & Thomas	home duties & nurseryman
SKERRY, Ellen, Margaret, Edward Jnr, Edward Snr & James	home duties, home duties, labourer, labourer & labourer
SOUTHWELL, Isabella	home duties (housekeeper Yarralumla House)
STUTCHBURY, Beatrice & Jess	home duties & labourer
TOWNSHEND, Alice & Harry	home duties & labourer
VEST, Christian, Arthur & Richard	home duties, engine driver & caretaker.



Above: Married quarters brickworks c1914

MEN WHO LIVED AT THE BRICKWORKS BETWEEN 14 FEBRUARY 1917 - 1921-22

The following list refers to those living in the camp sites each of which was 666square yards with a rental of 2/- per month. The cottages were humpies.

1. R Boag, foreman of brickworks - unemployed at 21.4.1920 and re-employed by 6.3.1922. Works & Railways cottage previously owned by E Moore. Boag left temporary accommodation at Brickworks 1.3.1922.
2. T Boag, Labourer employed at brickworks. Unemployed by 21.4.1920(?). Left temporary accommodation at brickworks 1.3.1922. During period of unemployment he was absent but a family lived in his cottage (Humpie).
3. G Murrin. Name not mentioned in available lists following 14.2.1917
4. P Nightingale. Still working in March 1918
5. P Ware. Labourer employed by W&R - unemployed 21.4.1920 -re-employed 6.3.1922. Left temporary accommodation at the brickworks 1.3.1922.
6. JC Cotterill, labourer W&R. Was casually employed by the Commonwealth 21.4.1920. Cottage previously owned by P Denley. Left temporary accommodation the brickworks 1.3.1922.
7. W McDermott live in Yarralumla woolshed. Left by 17.1.1918.
8. J Hadaway. 30.11.1917 the cottage was empty. The cottage had been built by S Keir.
9. L Pola. Labourer employed by W&R. He was casually employed by the Commonwealth at 21.4.1920 and reemployed. Left temporary accommodation at brickworks 1.3.1922
10. Vacant - no rental
11. Vacant - no rental
12. C Leach, March 1918 the cottage was empty. It belonged to Holyoake of Queanbeyan
13. E Skerry. Cottage built by S Kerry and was removed 30.11.1917.
14. Vacant - no rental
15. J Skerry - still in occupancy March 1918.
16. Vacant - no rental
17. J Lea labourer with W&R 23.10.1917. By 16.3.1922 he was clerk and left temporary accommodation at brickworks 1.3.1922.
18. EP Eggleston. Bricklayer W&R 23.10.1917. By 16.3.1922 he was a clerk and left temporary accommodation at the brickworks 1.3.1922
19. M Handcock. Not mentioned following 14.2.1917.
20. Vacant - no rental
21. S Oldfield, labourer W&R . By 21.4.1921 he had lost his job but later re-employed. His house was bought from J Stutchbury and it was iron skillion.
22. S Pyle. Name not mentioned following 14.2.1917. House pulled down by 1.10.1917
23. H Bock. Still working March 1918.
24. M Curtin. Not mentioned in lists following 14.2.1917.
25. E Quigg, labourer W&R. Was employed by the Commonwealth 21.4.1920. He was working at Nimmitabel.
26. A Bower. This may be Mrs Bower who sold to T Lea by 30.11.1917. A Bower is not mentioned after the 14.2.1917 report.
27. P withers. Not mentioned following 14.2.1917 report. 17.11.1917 the house was bought by N Tinker who was still there 27.2.1918.
28. W Batchelor. Labourer Afforestation. He was still working 21.4.1920 for Mr Weston - and continued working at 16.3.1922.
29. J Faulkner - also spelt Falconer, Falkiner. Labourer W& R - unemployed 21.4.1920 but later re-employed.

30. H Townsend. Mrs Townsend was the Mess Caterer. Building part galvanised iron. She was still engaged as at 16.3.1922. In January 1926 she had 30 men in the Mess. The Industrial Officer stated: *This mess has really developed into a restaurant and is patronised by about twenty men from the Brickyards. No alterations or extensions to this Mess need to be considered until the question of the establishment of a Permanent Mess at the Brickyards has been decided. Details in connection with the establishment of a permanent barracks at the Brickyards will be submitted in the near future...*
31. J Sharp. Lived in an iron building and worked for Mr Weston. He was still employed on 16 March 1922. In 1920 he worked at the Power House.
32. Vacant - no rental
33. Vacant - no rental
34. J Prosser. He was mentioned in a report 17.11.1917 but by 30.11.1917 the house was sold to A Leach. A note was made that the cottage had been built by Wes J Prosser.
35. A Prosser. He was listed as living on this site 14.2.1917. He had left along with his house by 17.11.1917.
36. P Stephenson. Not mentioned 14.2.1917. This house was pulled down by 1.10.1917.
37. J Beveridge. Not mentioned 14.2.1917 but was listed as working at the Brickyards in 1921.
38. AH Lawton. Not mentioned after 14.2.1917.
39. Vacant - no rental
40. T Culley. Labourer afforestation. He did not lose his job but was still employed as at 16 March 1922. He left temporary accommodation at the brickworks 1.3.1922 and moved into one of the brick cottages in section 64.
41. J Jacobs. During the period of unemployment during World War One Jacobs was in Melbourne. His house was vacated 30.11.1917.

Others mentioned in reports with no site numbers recorded are:

- J Pearce. First mentioned 23.10.1917. Labourer with W&R - became unemployed 21.4.1920 and was re-employed 1.3.1922.
- E Cregan. By 17.11.1917 had been gone for some time.
- R White. Mentioned 17.11.1917. He applied for a Power House Cottage in 1921 or 1922. He was unsuccessful and stayed at Brickyards accommodation until 16.6.1918. The Commonwealth cottage that he rented for 5/- per week was constructed from galvanised iron. He worked as a caretaker.
- S Keir. 21.4.1920 he owned his own house. He was not employed by the Commonwealth.
- J Hays. 20.4.1920 he was in a Commonwealth cottage constructed from galvanised iron constructed originally for the manager of the brickworks. This may be the same cottage that White rented. The rent was 5/- per week. Hays was an electrician with W&R.

Below: Frank McKay outside the single quarters (ex-Molonglo building) at Westridge c1921



EX-MOLONGLO DWELLINGS [The site of these dwellings were in Banks Street.]

Single quarters 12 December 1921

Rooms 1,2, & 3 - W Hart & S Brown. 2 Dover stoves w/piping, 1 table 8'x3'. 1 form 8, 2 stretchers.

Rooms 4,5, & 6 - lawless bros (2) - 3 stretchers, 1 Dover stove w/piping, 2 short forms 4ft, 1 bath galvanised iron.

Rooms 7, 8 & 9 A Butler, C Gallaini & F McKay - 3 stretchers, 1 Dover stove w/piping, 2 short forms 4 ft, 1 bath galvanised iron

Rooms 10, 11 & 12 J Newcombe, W Biddle, J Apps, Reg Newcombe & J Newcombe Jr - 6 stretchers, 1 table 8ft x 1ft, 1 form 8ft , 1 Dover stove w/piping.

Rooms 13, 14 & 15 J Fisher, J & V Tratten - 5 stretchers, 1 Dover stove w/piping, 1 form 8ft.

Rooms 16, 17 & 18 H Weir and one other (one fire extinguisher outside), 3 stretchers.

Rooms 19,20 & 21 - Jordan T & 2 others - (fire extinguisher outside), 1 table 8ft x 3ft, 1 form 8ft, 1 Dover stove w/piping, 3 stretchers.

Outside - 2/600 gallon galvanised iron tanks.

Wash House - 2 sets, 4 compartment galvanised iron tubs with fittings; 1 bath, galvanised iron w/shower and fittings; 4 sanitary pans.

BRICKWORKS TENEMENTS - (EX MOLONGLO - ALSO REFERRED TO AS HUTMENTS)

Detached

Single Men's Quarters 12 December 1921

Rooms 70, 71 & 72 - J Langan, J Cavanagh, Glenning, Ball, J Gibson & 1 other - 6 stretchers, 1 Dover stove w/piping.

Rooms 64, 65 & 66 Herbert & Swain - (1 fire extinguisher outside), 6 stretchers, 1 Dover stove w/piping

Married Quarters 12 October 1921

C O'Neill 6 rooms - 2 Dover stoves w/piping, 2 stretchers, 2 Stretches, 1 form, 1/600 gallon tank.

H Noble 3 rooms - 3 stretchers, 1 Dover stove w/piping

GS Halliday - 3 rooms, 2 stretchers, 1 Dover stove w/piping

R Hutchinson - 6 rooms, 2 stoves 'Dover' w/piping, 1/600 gallon tank.

Wash House - 2 sets, 4 compartments galvanised iron tubs w/fittings, 1 portable copper and stand.

Bathroom - 2 galvanised iron baths, 2 galvanised iron showers.

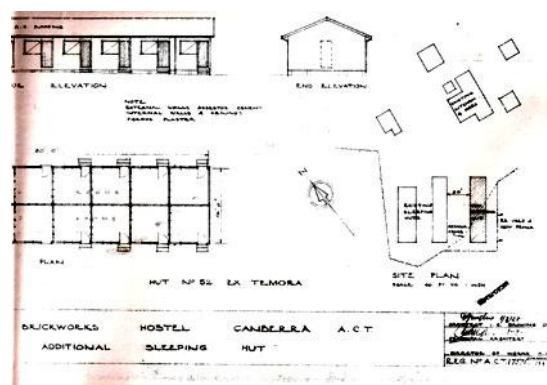
Outside - 2 wooden WCs

The Mess Room the following:

4 tables 8ft x 3ft, 8 forms 8ft, 1 fire extinguisher, 1 Heating stove, 1 range 'Sam Weller', 1 meat safe (large), 1 copper and stand with piping. {NB this mess rooms was later to become quarters for the nurses at Acton.}

As at 20 May 1924 men who owed money for rent of the Tenements were: A Bugden, W Lawless, J McCarthy, S Spaul, D Wiseheart.

The Boyd family also rented one of the married quarter's tenements.



1927 - NEW MESS & CUBICLES AT BRICKWORKS

Financial Report 1926-1927 noted that the above commenced in February 1927 and were completed except for sewerage. The 27 July 1927 Sanitation Report:

Westridge Brickworks: *New huts, sewered, 8 weatherboard and lined huts, each divided into cubicles 10ft x 12ft. Natural lighting and ventilation satisfactory. Mess Room, kitchen and sanitary blocks provided. Quarters not yet occupied. Old camp not inspected as same will shortly be demolished...*

Westridge Tenements: Occupants to be removed to weatherboard cottages under construction. 5 weatherboard tenements 5 to 6 rooms each - natural lighting satisfactory. No external ventilation. Structures shortly to be removed.

Recommendations.

1. *Rake under huts to remove lumber.*
2. *Provide ventilation louvers if reconditioned also portable box covers for earth closets if further used.*

According to *The Canberra Times* 31 July 1927 there were 43 people at the Brickworks.

A list of men working at the Brickworks noting the amount of backpay owed for the period between 27 March and 19 April 1922 gives some indication of increased numbers and work in the yards.

• 253 Moulder	Apps Tr	1 pound 5/9
• 33 Foreman	Boag R	1 pound 10/4
• 195 Jumperman	Beveridge I	1 pounds 7/10
• 36 Yardman	Beveridge A	1 pound 2/2
• 34 Mixer	Charlton HA	1 pound 7/-
• 30 Timekeeper	Culley T	1 pound 9/-
• 394 Youth	Colquhoun JD	13/9
• 50 Dragger	Fisher J	1 pound 7/3
• 24 Yard Clean	Faulkner J	1 pound 5/3
• 28 Pitman	Hannaford A	1 pound 6/8
• 265 Yardman	Hutchinson R	1 pound 6/8
• 266 Setter	Herring W	1 pound 8/9
• 43 Yardman	Lawless W	1 pounds 2/8
• 44 Wheeler	Marsh V	1 pound 5/7
• 62 Dragger	McKay f	1 pound 4/2
• 251 Setter	Noble HL	1 pound 7/3
• 37 Setter	Newcombe RA	1 pound 7/3
• 466 Youth	Oldfield, C	9/1
• 155 Pitman	Pola L	1 pound 6/8
• 21 Jumperman	Quigg E	1 pounds 7/10
• 46 Youth	Quigg R	14/10
• 472 Youth	Quigg M	5/-
• 91 Dragger	Stratton J	1 pound 7/3
• 25 Mixer	Turner F	1 pound 5/7
• 467 Wheeler	Turner W	1 pound 5/7
• 204 Pitman	Vest D	1 pound 6/8
• 55 M&PF man	Ware KJ	1 pound 6/11
• 151 Pitman	Ware P	1 pound 5/2
• 215 Yardman	Wilson A	1 pound 6/1
• 268 Yardman	Wilson N	1 pound 4/2
• Youth	Brown John	10d

List of New Starters at the Brickworks 1923:

- 3 January - Newbold WJ Moulder; Riddle JY yardman
- 4 January - Wiseheard D yardman
- 14 March - O'Connor F dragger
- 14 March - Worrall D labourer
- 18 June- Townsend A Youth, Oldfield RA youth
- 8 August - Shumack J Dragger

PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION FOR WORKMEN - THE BRICK & WEATHERBOARD COTTAGES

BRICK COTTAGES SECTION 64

Minutes of the Fourth meeting of the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC - 1920-1924) held in Custom's House 17 January 1921 stated that the cost for the erection of 3 Brick cottages at the Power House, 10 at Civic Centre and 7 at the Brickworks would be 3,000 pounds. Section 64 was chosen for the brickwork's cottages.

First tenants Brickwork's brick cottages

B5, B7, C2, C8 etc refer to house plans. B was one of the smallest and E the largest. The E plan was used in Blandfordia. At Westridge a creek ran through Section 64 and is one of the reasons why the whole block was not filled within the early years. This block also is a different shape to the later blocks which have each corner left as a small triangular reserve.

11 January 1922 - Section 64

- 3 S Oldfield - not yet in (C8) occupied 13.3.1921 - left 21.6.1922 replaced by CJ Taylor
- 4 H Newbold - (B5) occupied 8.12.1921 and on 7.11.1925 the late H Newbold was replaced by RC Turbitt (sic Turbit) at rental of 22/- per week.
- 8 E Quigg (B7) occupied 6.3.1922
- 11 MJ Ware (B5) occupied 6.3.1922
- 12 T Culley (B5) crossed out and replaced by Jeremiah Dillon on 13.3.1922. Jeremiah Dillon, foreman of the sewer works left in 1929 and died in Sydney.
- 16 R Boag (C8) occupied 6.3.1922
- 15 (C2) occupied 28.11.1921 - K Newbold - Manager of Brickworks. He left the district in July 1926.

Robert Boag moved to Kingston by 1928 where he died shortly afterwards. He had worked as a miner before coming to Canberra and had a lung condition. *The Canberra Community News* detailed the farewell of the Newbold family. The event was held in the Westridge Hall where Harry Woodlands presided. A number of Westlake people spoke about their good friend and his departure. Robert Boag made a presentation of a silver tea and coffee service to the Newbold family and this was followed by dancing. At 11pm *Auld Lang Sine* was sung by the assembled group.

1925 - 6 brick cottages are referred to in one document with a population of 25. The tenements had 19 residents.

1927 - Section 64

- Block 5 - Mr Turbitt
- 14 (corner block) Hammond. Mr Austin Chapman MP spoke on Hammond's behalf to help him move from a weatherboard cottage into the brick one. The reason for the request was that Hammond's wife's health was affected by living in the wooden cottage. There were waiting lists for the cottages and they were supposed to be allocated according to position on the list, however, favours were granted from time to time that resulted in people waiting perhaps longer than they should have.

1927 Weatherboard Cottages

The Canberra Times July 1927 has an article on the cottages part of which reads: *The present building programme comprises 30 timber cottages which are to be built to the latest designs of the Federal Capital Commission with tile roofs and fibro plaster lining and finished in the same style as the timber residences at North Ainslie. Tenders for this work have closed and it is expected that a contract will be let and the erection will have been commenced before the end of July. A departure from the method of construction at North Ainslie will be the use of bricks for the foundations instead of concrete. This being more economical owing to the proximity of Westridge to the brickworks. The new cottages will be for use of married employees of brickworks and some will also be available for use in connection with the School of Forestry. (30 cottages were not completed because of cutbacks at the brickworks.)*

The layout of the area will be built upon will be ideal. The provision of services such as sewerage, water and electricity is proceeding and roads will be built concurrently with building operations. A feature of the scheme at Westridge will be a reserve in front of the School of Forestry which will enhance the setting of that building.

24 January 1924 the subdivision of 58 and 63 were surveyed. 10 November 1926 the decision was made to continue with the planned construction of timber cottages for workmen at the Brickworks. The cost was to be 3,700 pounds. By 11 October 1927 the cottages on Sections 58, 63 and 64 (additional cottages 64) were complete and allocated as follows:

Section 58

1. L Foster
2. J Ratcliffe
- 3
- 4 F Lawrenson
- 6 L Bethell
- 7 Westbrooke, Forestry School
- 8 W Cotterill
- 9 S Turbitt (sic Turbit)
- 10 M Cotterill
- 11 K Shepherd
- 12 E Turner
- 14 M Johnson
- 15 Wilks, Forestry School - caretaker of the Forestry School
- 16 (?) F Blumenthal Pound Keeper

Section 63

- 6 JB Weir
- 8 HL Noble
- 10 HL Reidy
- 17 J Oldfield
- 18 L Green
- 22 FJ Milne
- 23 S McDonald
- 24 S James
- 25 S Jobson

At this time 19 brickwork's small families were allocated houses. Men with large families were not accommodated at this time because it would cost more to build larger houses necessary to accommodate them.

By 15 February 1928, 23 of the promised 30 weatherboard cottages had been erected. But because of the reduction in the staff at the brickworks it was not considered necessary to complete the remaining seven cottages. Earlier on 25 October 1927 the Superintendent of the Parks and Gardens had requested a further six cottages be built of men employed by his department. At this time he was told that the cottages were erected for brickworks' employees, however, the officials claimed that as the staff of the brickyards had been reduced there should be sufficient housing available for the Nursery men who had served from one to fourteen years.

The men were:

- T Cooper, married, two children 14 years of service
- C Marshall, married, two children, 3 years of service
- S Margules, married, three children, 3 years of service
- K Warren, married three children, 1 year of service
- S Griffiths, single, no children, 7 years of service.

Some of the cottages were built by Bruce Eden & Griffiths and required repairs. One mention in NAA documents was Bl 2, Section 64 occupied by Corkhill. Another builder was Mason of Queanbeyan. Reference is made to one of

his cottages near the Yarralumla boundary in which the Horan family lived. Later the Llewellyn family moved into this cottage.

BRICKWORK MANAGERS' COTTAGES

The Manager of the Brickworks was supplied with a cottage. The first galvanised cottage was built in 1914 and was followed by a brick cottage in Section 64. In 1924 the manager of the brickworks was WK Newbold who also lived in a brick cottage in Section 64. By the time the new Manager, Mr J Cooper was appointed 01 November 1926 (with an annual pay of 655 pounds) it is probable that he had moved into one of the cottages within the brickworks. His house was sitting on valuable shale required for brickmaking and the decision was made that a new house would be required. On 27 June 1927 Col PT Owen when asked about a cottage for the manager stated *a wooden building would suffice*. On 2 September 1927 the decision was made that this cottage had to go. Continued discussion about the new building continued and by 6 September 1927 the decision was made that it would be a T14 type plan with the exception of the WC which was deleted. An earth closet with a concrete floor was substituted. This cottage was probably the one that Jean Oldfield (nee Boyd) and her husband, Claude Oldfield shared with her father-in-law, Sid Oldfield Manager of Brickworks. The site today is near the end of Lane Poole Place to the bottom right of the road.

On 8 November 1927 the erection of the cottage had been completed. It was a timber cottage located to the north-east of the Brickworks. Electric light and power were, at that time, to be connected in three weeks.

The names of some of the men working at the brickyards in the twenties before the 1928 electoral roll of voters was published can be found in some of the Archival documents referring for example:

- In 1925 Piece Work was introduced. The men who won contracts on 11 January, 1926 were GH Gallini, R Quigg, HB Charlton, M Ware, N Lawless, V Marsh, CW Riddle, Cliff Gallini.
- When work started on 17 March, 1926 and HA Charlton of Rutledge St Queanbeyan operated a machine at 17/5d per 1,000 bricks.
- Wheeling and Setting were by W Lawless & V Marsh for 4/6d per 1,000 common bricks and 6/- per 1000 face bricks.
- Drawing - J Radcliffe was paid 4/6d per 1000 common and 5/- per 1000 face bricks.
- By 24.3.1926 new rates had to be set. HA Charlton 5/6d per 1000 common, W Lawless & V marsh 5/3d per 1000 common, 6/- per 1000 face bricks. J Radcliffe 5/3d per 1000 common and 5/9d per 1000 face bricks.
- The men worked a 44 hour week with 15 minute break for smoko. Bricks were delivered by light rail to the stacks at Ainslie (Civic), Railway (June 1926). Bricks were delivered to major sites such as Parliament House. Following the completion of Parliament House and other buildings necessary to operate the business of parliament building works slowed. By 23 March, 1928 the staff was reduced from 73 to (at 1.5.1928) 3 setters, 3 draggers, 3 burners, 4 pitmen, 4 wheelers, 2 mixermen, 2 panmen, 2 machinemen, 5 machineboys, 1 die maker, 1 presser, 1 fitter, 1 fitter's help, 1 horse & dray driver. The cost clerk was John Bryan and J Cooper was Manager of the Brickworks. The one brick machine made 50,000 bricks per week.

WESTBOURNE, WESTRIDGE - YARRALUMLA

The first official name for the area was *WESTBOURNE*. In 1917 when a post office was established in the area Walter Burley Griffin changed the name to *Westridge*. Today the suburb is called, Yarralumla. The brickyards were built in 1913 and were operational from that time. The following year the main nursery was established at Yarralumla in Sheedy's Paddock (now Weston Park and the Royal Canberra Golf Club). The Forestry School was established at Westridge in 1926/27 and Yarralumla House refurbished for the Duke & Duchess of York in 1927 became the permanent residence of the Governor Generals.

Nearby to the brickyards and nursery, stood Yarralumla House and grounds. This house was the home of the last owners, the family of Frederick Campbell and today it is the home of the Governor General. The house stood empty for many years. The lands which included the area of the brickworks, also has a woolshed that was used by the men of the sewer camp in 1916. It has survived to the present day.

APPS, Thomas brickmaker

BETHELL, Alma & Leslie home duties & fitter

BOYD, Doris & William home duties & carrier

The Canberra Times 23 May, 1929 Westridge Social - Valedictory to Mrs Boy. The hall at Westridge was crowded Saturday night, May 18, the occasion being a social and presentation of Westridge and Westlake to Mrs Rob Boyd, who was leaving Westridge shortly to take up her residence at Captain' Flat. Mr ...Hammond occupied the chair.

Referring(?) the time Mrs Boyd resided at Westridge she was always a prominent worker in the social life of the community, and her cheerful andnature won for her a wideof friends. She will be greatly missed(?) at Westridge and Captain's Flat will be the gainer of a very fine ...of citizen. The presentation was made by Mr J Dillon who also acted as MC. The present was a sylonite toilet set.

BOYD, Mabel & Robert home duties & labourer
(See William Boyd section for details of burial)



CARTER, Terence labourer

26

home duties & brickwork's manager

home duties & labourer

Edward Patrick Corey was buried on 23rd October 1950 in the Ex-Servicemen's Section of Woden Cemetery. His grave was paid by Kathleen Mabel Corey of Captains Flat. He died on 20th October 1950 aged 50 years. Kathleen Corey was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery on 8th July, 1953. She died on 8th July 1953 aged 65 and her grave was paid by Bert John Corey of Wollongong. Kathleen was nee Boyd and the sister of Don, Robert, William and Jean. Ted and Kathleen had four children, Margaret, Gordon (deceased aged 12 years), Ray and John. *The Canberra Times* 29.8.1938 contained a brief reference to the death of Gordon. The pall bearers were his uncles, Len, Joe & Ern Corey and W Boyd.

home duties & nurseryman

Teresa Corkhill was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery on 10th May, 1962. Phillip Lawrence Corkhill was buried in the next grave on 15th July 1965.

home duties & clerk

home duties & foreman (Jeremiah Dillon was foreman of the Sewer Works. He died in 1929.)



Above: Photograph part of Mildenhall collection in National Australian Archives. It shows work in the sewer tunnel. The man second from the right and the only dry person in the photograph is Jeremiah Dillon.

brickmaker

labourer

horsesdriver

saleswoman

home duties & labourer

William Patrick Hammond was buried in the Ex-Servicemen's Section of Woden Cemetery on 18th May, 1963. Mary Ellen Hammond died on 27th April 1978 and is buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery.

home duties & labourer

Catherine Hammond was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery on 4th May 1948. She died on 3rd May 1948 aged 77. Her address was Doonkuna Street Reid. Her grave was paid by William Patrick Hammond of 59 Leichhardt Street Kingston. William Pitt Hammond was buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery on 8th February 1947. He died on 7th February 1947 aged 76. His address then was 36 Doonkuna Street Reid. His grave was paid by William Patrick Hammond of 59 Leichhardt Street Kingston.

home duties & bricksetter

home duties & civil servant (Nursery)

John Peace Hobday died on 4th July, 1945 aged 65 and Elsie Jane on 20th July 1964 aged 71. Both are buried at Woden Cemetery in the Presbyterian Section in graves next to each other. Alan Richard John Hobday born 15.10.1916 Canberra joined Air Force 18.7.1940 and was discharged 21.3.1946. He gave his next of as John Hobday. Milton Robert Hobday born 20.6.1918 Canberra joined AIF 9.8.1940 and was discharged 14.6.1946. As

next of kin he nominated Elsie Hobday. *The Canberra Times* 5 February 1938 under the heading of *READER'S VIEWS, HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE* congratulations to Mr Hobday who was appointed Superintendent of Parks and Gardens Canberra on January 28. The article also mentioned that Mr Hobday was the man who planted the first tree on Mount Stromlo.

HOWES, William

brickmaker (Brickyards)

JOHNSON, May & Michael

home duties & brickyard's employee

The Canberra Times 16 September 1939 has an article that notes the death in Yass Hospital of Edward Johnston (sic) aged 19 only son of Mr and Mrs Johnson of Westridge. *Johnston (sic) was critically injured at Yass on Sunday when the motor cycle on which he was riding pillion collided with a motor car, his mate, Alan Hobday also of Westridge, was injured. The two young men had made the trip to Yass with a number of their members of the Queanbeyan Motor Cycle Club.* The service at St John's Church in Reid was attended by a number of his workmates from the departmental workshops and representatives of other branches of the Public Service. He died 19 September 1939 and is buried in Woden Cemetery. A Michael Johnson was buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery on 28th July, 1962.

JONES, Albert

labourer

Albert Ernest Jones was buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery on 19th September, 1950.

KILBY, Elsie & Sidney

home duties & gardener

The Canberra Times 4 February 1952 has an obituary of Sidney Kilby which in part reads: *The death occurred at Canberra Community Hospital late last night, after a brief illness of Mr Sidney William Kilby of Westridge at the age of 84 years. The late Mr Kilby was the last to pass of his generation of the Kilby family of Hall district. He was predeceased by his brother, James K Kilby in July 1950, by his sister, Mrs Evan Cameron in April last, and his eldest sister Mrs H Vest in May last...The late Mr Kilby married Elsie Mildred granddaughter of Thomas Southwell. He leaves a widow, a daughter, Margaret (Mrs William Gill) and two grandchildren. His remains will rest in the Weetangera Cemetery...* The same paper 27 May 1952 documented a memorial service to Sidney Kilby held in the small slab Methodist Church situated on Ewan Cameron's property and moved to its present site 72 years earlier...*Seventy years ago a man in his teens began to attend the service. More than 50 years ago he was appointed church steward. The man was the late Sidney William Kilby who served actively in the office of steward until his death early this year at the age of 84 years...* His daughter and son-in-law also attended the service. They came from Tumut. The couple were married in February 1947 - the event also documented in *The Canberra Times* 20 February 1947. The article in part reads: *Wesley Church Forrest was specially decorated on Saturday for the marriage of Margaret Bernice daughter of Mr and Mrs SW Kibly of Westridge and William Edward, son of Mrs E Gill and the late Mr J Gill of Sydney. The bride wore an off-white figured satin gown with full skirt featuring a train, a tulle and lace veil mounted on a coronet of orange blossoms. She carried a bouquet of red roses, gladioli and frangipani. Little Nanette Dixon, cousin of the bride was her only attendant...The ceremony was performed by Rev E Stanley assisted by the bride's uncle Mr N Southwell. Mr Albert Clark presided at the organ and Mr E Gumley sang. The reception was held at the YWCA rooms.*

LANE-POOLE, Ruth & Charles

home duties & civil servant Principal of Forestry School.

His wife, Ruth was the person in charge of refurbishing work carried out on Yarralumla House in preparation for the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of York in May 1927. She lived in Melbourne and travelled to Canberra regularly to oversee the work. *The Foresters* by Athol Meyers has a chapter devoted to Charles Edward Lane-Poole.

Curriculum Vitae

LANE POOLE Charles Edward, Born Sussex England August 16, 1885, Educated at St Columbia's College, Dublin; Ecole Nationale des Eaux et Forests, Nancy, France; 1906-07 - South African Forest School; 1908-10 - District Forest Officer, Transvaal; 1911 - Married Ruth Pollexfen; 1911-16 - Conservator of Forests, Sierra Leone, member of Legislative Council; 1916-21 - Conservator of Forests, Western Australia; 1922-24 - Compiled report for Commonwealth Government on forest resources of Papua and New Guinea; 1925-27 - Forest advisor to Commonwealth Government, resulting in the establishment of Australian Forestry School; 1927-44 - Acting Principal of Australian Forestry School; 45 - Inspector-General of Forests, Commonwealth Forestry Bureau; Died Sydney November 22, 1970.

LIPSETT, Hamilton

brickmaker

McKAY, Elsie & Francis

home duties & labourer

Elsie Lillian McKay died 30th March, 1980 and is buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery. In the next grave is Francis John McKay who was buried on 27th February, 1958. He died on 26th February and his grave was paid by Mrs Elsie Lilian McKay of 49 Mueller Street Westridge. Reg Newcombe in his story *True Tales From Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge and Acton* said that the McKay family consisted of five girls - Helen, Frances, Patsy, Judith and Dorothy. All girls attended St Christopher's Convent School in Forrest.

NEWCOMBE, James

brickburner

Reg Newcombe wrote his family's story in *True Tales From Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge and Acton*. Part of the story is as follows: *Reginald Newcombe's parents were Edith Dorothy (nee Owers) and Reginald Alfred Newcombe. They married in Sydney on 27th October, 1928. At the time Reginald was already living in Canberra. He and his father and brother (Jim) moved to Canberra in 1921 to work at the newly reopened brickyards...Reginald Arthur was born in 51 Mueller Street Yarralumla on 6th June, 1929. The witnesses to the birth were Doctor Robert Alcorn and Nurse Dunn...A second child Harold Snowden Newcombe, was born two years later. Harold (Toby) married Marg Solway on 20th December 1952 at St John the Baptist Church. They have three children, Sue Reggie and Harold...Reginald (born 1929) married Kath Devlin. Her parents were Joseph and Bessie (nee Martin). They had two children, Kathleen born 1935 and Robert born in 1937. Kath and Reg were married in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 1956 and have two children, Mark and Garry. Robert Devlin married Lorraine Hawkins and has two children - Deborah and Amanda.*



Reg Newcombe Collection: one of the small pieces made by men at the Brickworks during their spare time and fired at the works.

NOBLE, Jessie & Henry

home duties & labourer

Jessie Abbott Noble was buried in the Methodist Section of Woden Cemetery on 5th April 1947. She died on 3rd April 1947 aged 55. Her grave was paid by Henry Leslie Noble of 11 Hooker Street Westridge.

OLDFIELD, Catherine & Sydney

home duties & brickmaker

Catherine Margaret Oldfield was buried in Woden Cemetery in the Anglican Section on 29th August 1945. She died on 27th August aged 59 years. Her grave was paid by Sidney Joseph Oldfield of the Brickworks. In the next grave is Sidney Joseph Oldfield who was buried on 22nd February 1958. He died on 20th February aged 71 years. His address then was 70 Novar Street. Their son Claude Alexander is buried in another section of the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery. He was buried on 17th September, 1968. His wife Jean (nee Boyd) died in the late 1990s. Jean's nickname was *Bubba*. Moya Oldfield, eldest daughter of Jean and Claude Oldfield wrote her story in *True Tales From Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge and Acton*. She mentions that her mother was a Boyd and father an Oldfield. Her grandparents on her father's side were Sydney Oldfield and Margaret nee McDonald. On her mother's side they were Robert and Mabel Boyd. Claude Oldfield and Jean Boyd married in 1928 and their first child, Moya was born on 5th December 1928. Her sister Audrey was born on 19th September 1933. Moya married Neil Campbell and has two sons, Neil and Paul. Audrey married Rob Thew and has two sons, Peter and Kevin (deceased - died aged 15 years).

O'CONNOR, Frank

labourer

QUIGG, Roy

labourer

The Quigg family is one of the old families in the Westridge District. Roy Walter Quigg married Ethel Sharp and both are buried in Woden Cemetery in the Anglican Section in graves next to each other. Roy died on 24th August 1976 and Ethel Hazel died on 6th April 1996. Ethel and Jean Oldfield were friends from childhood. Other Quiggs buried in Woden Cemetery are Morris Edward Quigg buried on 16th May, 1960 and in the next grave Mary Marjorie buried on 5th December 1995 - RC Section. Kenneth Quigg was buried on 25th January 1962 in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery.

RADCLIFFE, Jessie & John home duties & brick

Jessie Louisa Radcliffe died on 2nd December 1971 and is buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery. John Radcliffe was buried in the Ex-Servicemen's Section of Woden on 25th January, 1963. John Radcliffe was born in Queanbeyan 20.1.1903 and joined the AIF 23.10.1943 and was discharged 10.11.1941. His next of Kin was Jessie Radcliffe.

REIDY, Maude & Harold home duties & labourer

Harold Leslie Reidy died on 5th November 1974 in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery. In the next grave is Maude Ella Reidy who was buried on 10th April 1986. Reg Newcombe in his story in *True Tales From Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge and Acton* mentioned that the Reidy Family who lived next door to his family in Mueller Street, had four daughters - Jean, Joyce, Gloria and Leila.

REYNOLDS, Kathleen & Reuben home duties & caretaker

RETTTER, Beatrice home duties

RIDDLE, Louisa, Albert, Joseph & Joseph home duties, labourer, --& brickburner

Joseph William Riddle was buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery on 4th June, 1948. He died on 3rd June 1948 aged 73. His grave was paid by Joseph Henry Riddle of 5 Hooker Street Westridge. In the next grave is Louisa Riddle who was buried on 13th August, 1996. Another Riddle buried at Woden in the Ex-Servicemen's Section on 28th June, 1996 is Sydney George Riddle. Albert William Riddle joined the AIF 2.6.1942 and was demobbed 6.11.1946. He was born 19.9.1906 Edmonston England and came to Canberra in 1924. He named his wife, Leila, as his next of kin and lived at Westridge at the time he joined the AIF. Joseph Henry Riddle born 17.12.1903 Middlesex England enlisted AIF 24.2.1942 and was discharged 14.5.1945. He gave Dora Riddle as his next of kin and home address Yarralumla.

SHARP, Edith, Vera, Joseph & Thomas home duties, hd, nurseryman & labourer

The Canberra Times 25 April 1939 has an article about the accidental death of Trevor Harold Sharp, aged 12 who sustained injuries from which he died at the Canberra Hospital yesterday morning. Deceased was a passenger in a car driven by his brother-in-law Mr Roy Quigg. Near the Canberra saleyards an earth wire from the battery became detached and showers of electric sparks alarmed the occupants. Trevor jumped out before the driver had pulled up. He fell heavily, striking his head on the roadway...His parents were Mr & Mrs Thomas Sharp of Westridge. Edith Sharp mother of Trevor was a daughter of the late Thomas and Mary Ann Southwell (nee Cooper) and was born at Willow Lodge on the Sutton Road in 1890. She married Thomas Samuel Sharp in 1914 and the couple had eight children. The couple lived at Acton before moving to 18 Hooker St Yarralumla. Trevor's sister, Viola Freda died 4 June 1931 aged two and half years. She died during a diphtheria epidemic. The children and their mother are buried in St John the Baptist Church Cemetery. Information from Jean Salisbury's book, *St John's Churchyard*.

SHEPHERD, Minnie & Robert home duties & fitter & turner

SMITH, Daniel labourer

TAYLOR, Mary, Elizabeth, Norman & Charles home duties, home duties, blacksmith & foreman

Charles John Taylor was buried in Woden Cemetery on 30th June, 1939. he died on 29th June 1939 aged 67 years and his grave was paid by Charles T Taylor of Bankstown Sydney. Elizabeth Taylor was buried in the same grave on 21st July, 1959. She died on 20th July 1959 aged 93 and her grave was paid by NC Taylor of 33 Lockyer Street Griffith. Mary Taylor was buried in the Presbyterian Section of Woden Cemetery on 2nd December 1964 and Norman Frederick Taylor was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery. He died on 13th February 1979.

TOWNSEND, Alice home duties

(Mess Caterer at Brickyards and earlier at the Cotter Camps. She died 21st September 1935 aged 50 years and is buried at St John the Baptist Church Cemetery, Reid. Ref Jean Salisbury *St John's Churchyard*. Her husband's name was Harry.)

TONKIN, Mena & Francis home duties & plumber

Francis William Tonkin was buried in the Methodist Section of Woden Cemetery on 18th May, 1961.

TURBIT, Ellen, Florence, Richard & Sidney home duties, postmistress, brickmaker & brickmaker Esma Shirley
Turbit died on 22nd March, 1928 aged two days. She is buried in St John the Baptist Church Cemetery. Ref Jean Salisbury *St John's Churchyard*.

WARE, Lilian, Ivy, John & Michael home duties, home duties, labourer & labourer
Lilian Julia Ware was buried in the Anglican Section of the Woden Cemetery on 15th June, 1976.

WRIGHT, Charles labourer

BANKS STREET, WESTRIDGE

BATCHELOR, Margaret & William home duties & nurseryman
Margaret Anne Batchelor was buried in the RC Section of the Woden Cemetery on 7th March 1980. William Arthur Batchelor was buried in the next grave. He died on 9th August 1970.

COTTER ROAD, WESTRIDGE

HORAN, Marguerite & Michael home duties & ranger
Marguerite Winnifred Mary Horan was buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery on 10th September 1955. She died on 9th September aged 64. Her grave was paid by Michael J Horan of Hooker Street. Buried in the same grave on 19th September, 1942 is Michael Horan. He died on 18th September aged 60 and his grave was also paid by Michael J Horan of Westridge. Michael Horan (senior) married in Camberwell England to Marguerite Gammon. On 17th March 1910 Michael left England for Australia. His wife followed later. The Horan children are, Michael 1905, John 1909, Dora Constance 1911 - she married Joe Riddle, Leslie Darcy 1916, Eileen Maud 1920 - she married a Lee, Terry 1928 and David 1932. Dora and Joe Riddle lived for awhile at 17 Westlake before moving back to Westridge. Dora was Mess Caterer for the Forestry School Students.

HUTCHINS STREET, WESTRIDGE

QUIGG, Emily & Edward home duties & pit labourer
Edward James Quigg, son of Neil Walter and Fanny Quigg was born in 1876. He married Emily Sims and the couple were in Bombala when their son Roy was born in 1907. By 1922 they were at Westridge in Hutchins Street. Edward died 23rd April, 1935 aged 58. His widow later moved to Queensland where she remarried. Ref Jean Salisbury *St John's Churchyard*.

NOVAR STREET, originally called Mountain Way

COTTERILL, Annie, Maurice & William home duties, labourer & labourer

7 LAWRENCE, Gwendoline & Arthur home duties & overseer

STREATFIELD, Ethel & Herbert home duties & brick worker

WILKES, Mary & David home duties & caretaker Forestry School

FORESTRY SCHOOL

The students lived in lined cubicles in the area of Solander Place (constructed later). Three shells of cottages served as Recreation Room, Ablutions Block and Mess Room.

BEALE, Lance	student
BENELLACK, Andrew	student
BYLES, Baldur	student
CAMERON, Tweedie & McRae	home duties & student
GREGSON, Frederick	student
HASSEY, Robert	student
JACOBS, Maxwell	forester
LINDSAY, Alexander	forest assistant
MENADUE, Samuel	forest officer
MITCHELL, James	student
MUIR, William	student
PIGOTT, Hugh	forester
ROGERS, Lewis	student
STEWART, Donald	student
TORBET, Cecilia & Reginald	home duties & student
WALLACE, William	student
WEBBER, Howard	student

RIVERVIEW



Above: Riverview built in the 1882 by Young and tenanted from 1913 by Catherine and Robert Corkhill until the early 1960s. Painting courtesy of Mrs Ross. Above right: Demolition of Riverview. Photograph by Richard Clough
NLA pic-an14324452-313-v

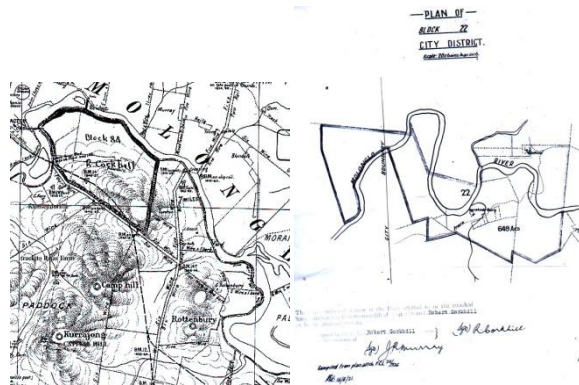
CORKHILL, Catherine, Catherine, Eileen, John, Thomas & Robert home duties, home duties, home duties, farmer, farmer & farmer

Margaret Sullivan a Corkhill descendent wrote a story published in *True Tales From Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge and Acton*. Part of this story is as follows: Robert Corkhill was born 31 May, 1863 at the family home of Ballemough in the parish of Lonan, Island of Man. When he came to Australia as a young man of eighteen years in 1881 he was employed as a groom for the Campbell Estate of Duntroon where he remained for many years. Robert was offered a small parcel of land near the National Library of Australia that was called Canberry. At that time Robert was still employed at Duntroon...On 6th February 1893 Robert married Catherine Rolfe daughter of Edmund and Margaret Rolfe (nee Logue). Catherine's mother died when she was a few weeks old and she was reared by her maternal grandmother, Granny Crinigan nee Logue. The Corkhills remained at Canberry for many years where their family of ten children were all born. In 1913 the family leased Riverview from Frederick Campbell...[The family remained in the two storey brick cottage built by Fred Young for Campbell in the early 1890s until the land was required by the Commonwealth and the lake began to fill - in 1962.] Catherine Corkhill died in 1952 and her obituary in the "Cathedral Chimes" dated October 19 1952 in part reads, "She was a distinct feature of Catholic life in Canberra, as she was born a few hundred yards from where Parliament House now stands...Her husband survives her and he is now in his 90th year. Also surviving are her six sons: John Thomas, Phillip and Patrick all of Canberra and Edward (Goulburn) and Brendan (Boorowa), Mrs J Maloney of Queanbeyan is a daughter. Three daughters predeceased her: Margaret, Eileen (Mrs E Morrison) and Phyllis (Mrs M McKee). There are 24 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren left to mourn the great old

lady..." Catherine's grandparents on her mother's side were Bryan and Margaret Logue who arrived in Sydney on 28th March, 1841 from County Tyrone, Ireland...



Above: Kathleen Corkhill who was crowned Queen of Canberra at a ceremony at the Albert Hall on 6 December 1928.



Above left detail of 1913 Federal Map showing Corkhill's tenant farm prior to their move to Yarralumla, Riverview. The hill, bottom right above Camp Hill was known as Corkhill. This hill was levelled to allow for the grand-vista across from Provisional Parliament House to the War Memorial. On the right is a 1921 map (part of renewal of lease document) showing Corkhill's lease from 1921.

OAKLEY HILL WESTRIDGE

MAGUIRE, Jack
EGAN, Bessie & Thomas

grazier
home duties & groom

YARRALUMLA HOUSE (Government House)

The newer house built on the site of Murray's old cottage was constructed in the 1890s for Frederick Campbell the last owner of the property. Section was built by a local man named Young. Below photograph given to me by Jean Boyd showing Yarralumla House.



GRANGES, James

gardener

SCOTT, Violet & Alexander home duties & gardener
 Alexander Campbell Scott was buried in Woden Cemetery on 2nd June, 1949. Buried in the next grave in the Presbyterian Section is Violet Mary Scott who was buried on 23rd June 1955.

STEPHENS, Flora & Thomas housekeeper & caretaker
 Thomas Stephens was buried in Woden Cemetery in the Anglican Section on 23rd August 1941. He died on 22nd August 1941 aged 55. His grave was paid by Mrs Flora Stephens of Government House. She was buried in the same grave on 16th April, 1964.

1929 Electoral Roll for election of Third Commissioner - only head of household allowed to vote - had to own or rent a commonwealth cottage.

WESTRIDGE, 1929

2 BARBER, Thomas	gardener, house
BATCHELOR, William	nurseryman, house
BETHEL, Leslie	fitter, house
BLUMENTHAL, Stanley	ranger, house
CAMERON, McRae	student, house
CONNELLY, William	labourer, house
COOPER, John	manager, house
COREY, Edward	labourer, house
CORKHILL, Phillip	nurseryman, house
COTTERILL, Maurice	labourer, house
DILLON, Jeremiah	foreman, house
GRAY, Michael ps,	house, Forrest
HAMMOND, William	labourer, house
HERRING, William	bricksetter, house
HOBDAY, John	nurseryman, house
KILBY, Sydney	gardener, house
JOHNSON, Michael	burner, house
LEE, John	timberman, house
McKAY, Francis	labourer, house
NOBLE, Henry	brickmaker, house
OLDFIELD, Sydney	foreman, house
QUIGG, Edward	labourer, house
RADCLIFFE, John	brickmaker, house
REIDY, Harold	labourer, house
REYNOLDS, Reuben	caretaker, house
RIDDLE, Joseph	burner, house
SHARP, Joseph	nurseryman, house
SHARPE, Thomas	nurseryman, house
SULLIVAN, Leo	labourer, house
TAYLOR, Charles	foreman, house
TAYLOR, Norman	blacksmith, house
TONKIN, Francis	blacksmith, house
TULLY, David	grazier, land
WARE, Michael	labourer, house
WILKES, David	caretaker, house

BANKS STREET, WESTRIDGE 1929

CULLEY, Thomas	clerk, house
HAMMOND, William	labourer, house

COTTER ROAD, YARRALUMLA 1929

HORAN, Michael	ranger, house
----------------	---------------

NOVAR STREET, WESTRIDGE 1929

COTTERILL, Maurice	labourer, house
7 LAWRENCE, Arthur	labourer, house

brickmaker, house

SCOTT, Alexander
STEPHENS, Thomas

head gardener, house
caretaker, house_

CORKHILL, Robert
dairyman, house



DOCUMENTS NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES, *CANBERRA COMMUNITY NEW*, *ANGELUS*, *CANBERRA TIMES*, *QUEANBEYAN AGE*

It is suggested that a Brick Quarters be built at the Brickworks, to be on modern lines with all modern conveniences. Hot and cold water bath rooms, Water Closets to be connected on the sewerage system which could also be utilised for the brickworks sanitary day service which is also suggested should have its modern system of sewerage.

The Quarters to be securely fenced in and the enclosure to be properly laid out on modern lines with flowers, ornamental shrubs etc.

Free supply of firewood for Single Men: it is suggested that the married employees receive the same treatment in this connection and be given a free supply of firewood.

35

Existing Brick Cottages at Westridge: It is suggested that the Westridge suburb received the same treatment as other centres in the matter of preparation of the frontages to the houses by flower beds, guttering and kerbing, a proper system of street lighting, one light in particular to be installed at the Uriarra end of the new road leading to the present cottages, the lighting system to continue along in front of the Temporary Married Quarters, the turning on and off to be undertaken by a responsible person. It is pointed [out] but the suggested improvements to the Westridge suburb would be no greater than already expended on other centres.

Sports ground, Westridge: It is suggested that the present sport's ground be transformed into a park that swings etc, and seating accommodation be proved. Trees and ornamental shrubbery be planted the whole ground to be improved on the same lines as other places.

New Sport's Ground, Westridge: It is suggested that a new Sport's Ground be provided large enough to play football, cricket etc.

Married Quarters Westridge (Temporary): It is suggested that the Communal system wash house etc be discontinued and that each occupier be provided with a separate wash house and bath-room combined with a modern system of water closets and that the sewerage be connected to the present use in connection with the brick cottages, garbage tins to be supplied as at other places.

A brick fire place to be built to each house, parts of stoves to be renewed etc. It is suggested that where a tenant required an additional room added to his existing cottage that it be provided the tenants agreeing to pay the extra rent. Motor Omnibus Service to various centres. It is suggested that a Motor Bus Service be started to connect with other centres about two days per week additional to the Saturday service, the whole to fit in as one complete system for the Territory, fares to be at reasonable rates.

Summonses for Stock on Agistment in Paddocks: it is suggested that the Summonses recently issued to various persons be withdrawn and that they be not proceeded with. Owing to the unsatisfactory position existing the owners having no hope of preventing their stock from straying, the bad fences and closing gates are contributing causes. It is suggested that some that some method be adopted to prevent any further repetition.

Swimming baths and dressing sheds: It is suggested that the Swimming Baths and dressing sheds be constructed close to the present school to teach children how to swim in safety.

Existing Recreation Hall Westridge: It is suggested that additional Rooms be added on the existing Hall in order to provide a Smoking Room, Reading Room, Billiard Room and Library.

Canberra Community News 14 October 1925

The [Progress] Association was established at the meeting held in Mr Townsend's mess-room in June 1922. Mr Roberts presided, Mr W Newbold sen, was elected president, Mr J Cotterill vice president, Mr S Newbold secretary and Mr R Newcombe treasurer. Messrs M Ware, Newbury, Cotterill and Townsend were elected as an auxiliary committee.

During its existence the Association has arranged with the Administration for the provision of a pavilion at the local tennis courts and for the improvement of surface drainage. (The court itself and the fencing were erected by voluntary effort, financial and otherwise, by the residents.) A school picnic was organised in December 1922. The tennis court was officially opened to the accompaniment of a sports' programme, and a Christmas tree for the children was in the same month, quickly subscribed for. In the following season regular dances were instituted with conspicuous success. The piano was installed in a hall, which was removed from Molonglo for the recreation of residents at Westridge, due to provision being made for responsibility for the instrument.

In 1923 the hall was lined and renovated generally and a ladies' dressing room and reading room was added. The Association has been somewhat inactive of late, but it is hoped that the introduction of Welfare Committees in the community will have the effect of reviving local interest in various movements and will result in material benefits so far as Westridge is concerned.

Queanbeyan Age Friday 6 March 1925

GUOOF Westridge Branch. In order to mark the opening of the above Lodge it has been decided to hold a dance at the Westridge Recreation Hall on 20th March. As the occasion warrants something out of the ordinary the committee of the management have arranged to introduce one or two novelties in order to call attention to the fact that the Oddfellows in their midst. This then will be 'A Patches Dance' and three prizes will be offered - for the most original costume made of any old patches of material, old or new, lady or gent; for the most comical costume and for the best dressed couple. In awarding the prizes the cheapness of material will be the chief consideration It may be mentioned that the object in promoting the dance is not to make money but to provide an enjoyable evening for those who care to participate.

Letter from Harry Woodlands, Chairman of the Westridge Progress Association to the Commissioner, dated 2 May 1925. (In 1923 Harry Woodlands was the Honorary Secretary to the Molonglo Progress Association.)

At a date recently, a circular letter was received by Mr Noble also a similar one by Mr T Apps. Both were submitted to the employees and a meeting was then called for the 23rd April. It was continued on the 27th and the enclosed was a copy of the minutes of that meeting. I had the honour of occupying the chair, As a body the residents of Westridge regret it is necessary to send in a list of complaints but desire me to emphasise the facts that there are real needs. Since the meeting it has been decided to reconstruct the Westridge Progress Association and I have been elected Secretary to that Association. The Residents desire me to say that in what way they can...they will do so if the necessary instructions can be given and all they ask is to be treated as well as others in the other parts of the Federal Territory. There is one part of the typewritten copy of the minutes that I would like to emphasise. The typist did not place this case strong enough. Most of the men here own a horse which is a agistment, the charge being deducted from his earnings. When his horse is not in use it is placed in the agistment paddock safely. There are, I believe in all 10 different (or indifferent) gates and dilapidated fences. The owners of the horses has work, perhaps for a week before he again requires his horse and then he often cannot find it. It has however been found for him perhaps at the Hostel [Hotel Canberra] or somewhere else and the Policeman arrived with a summons charging the man with allowing his horse to stray. It is an injustice to charge a man with what he cannot possibly help and we respectfully ask you to look seriously at what is to us a serious matter. Trusting that I have not caused you too much delay or trouble.

Canberra Community news 11 November 1926

Things have been rather quiet at Westridge lately; the latest craze is wireless. Mr E Eastwood being a recent resident to install a set. Cricket is in full swing. Our B Grade team have so far done well: the A team, however, have not been so successful and they failed to field a team on a recent Saturday. It is absurd to have the A Grade team languishing for want of good men when we have such a good B team. Why not fulfil the proper functions of grade cricket by giving our best juniors in A Grade. Perhaps the committee will realise its duty ere long.

Stray dogs have been causing some trouble around Westridge lately. Today I saw one run from under a culvert and a passing horse took fright and capsized the sulky. It is up to the people who own these dogs to keep them chained up.

The residents of this centre are wondering why the authorities don' close the school when scarlet fever is prevalent, as several cases have gone to hospital with it.

The brickworks have been working an extra shift - not very pleasant hour to knock off at two in the morning.

It is time some more houses were built at Westridge. I know some who have been working her for nearly four years who have not yet been accommodated, whilst others who have just started already have houses to live in. The tennis players at Westridge ought to liven up a bit; it only wants local residents to pull together as they should do for all our social activities to be placed on a sound basis.

Canberra Community News 11 February 1927.

There have been no events of startling importance in our suburb to disturb the residents of Westridge from the even tenor of their ways. A and B cricket teams are doing much better now than earlier in the season. The Club

has arranged a dance social for the 11th and it is some considerable time since a social was held at Westridge, this function should meet with some considerable success.

One wonders what has become of our tennis enthusiasts. At the present time the courts are in a very bad state of repair, and it is regrettable to think there are no sufficient enthusiasts in our midst to keep the courts in proper order.

Westridge is the latest centre to link up with the Women's and Infants' Health Society. Mrs Turbit has been elected as Hon Secretary of our branch and from whom all information on the question of joining up may be obtained.

Mr R Newcombe has made some excellent hauls of fish from the Murrumbidgee. He secured about 100 lbs of fish on one occasion followed by a further haul of 60lbs. It is a pity that there is no measured road leading to the river. On several occasions parties of fishermen have been refused permission through certain lands. At one homestead a party was told to get off the place of the 'boss' would be called out to put the threat into execution.

Canberra Community News 11 April 1927

Nothing very startling has happened in the Western Suburbs. Most of our residents must be busy getting ready for the visit of their 'Royal Highnesses' next month.

Some quarters are being erected for the single men at the brickworks, and they look something out of the ordinary, the way they are planned out. If there were only a few cottages available for married men who are working there also, and who have to travel long distances, everything would be OK. However, they say that all good things come to those who wait. The people who work here do not take the same interest in the place unless they are also residents.

We are all very pleased that Westridge B Grade cricket team have worked their way into the semi-finals of the association competitions. We were the only team to down the League leaders.

Local supporters of the grand old game were very annoyed with the allegations of unsportmanship which were levelled against our B graders. After investigation by the association, the charges were proved to be absolutely without foundation. We consider that the persons who make such charges should be more careful about facts before rushing to the authorities with the complaints.

Football fans will soon be on the move, but unless a suitable ground can be procured locally football will not progress in this district as it should do. Travelling round to watch our team play is an expensive item, and sometimes causes sore heads the next morning.

Canberra Community News 11 June 1927

A splendidly attended meeting of residents of Westridge was held at the local hall on Monday 30th May for the purpose of discussing various matters affecting the welfare of the community. At the request of the residents the Social Service Officer was present at the meeting. Mr Woodlands was unanimously elected to the chair. In his opening remarks, Mr Honeysett explained the aims and objects of the Canberra Social Service Association and stressed the importance of a strong local branch functioning in each welfare district, of which Westridge was one. He realised that it was not always convenient for the Westridge delegate to attend meetings of the Council of the Association owing to the transport difficulties, but the retention of a strong branch committee at Westridge would undoubtedly prove of great benefit in the social well-being of the residents.

When once the meeting had warmed up, Mr Honeysett was subjected to a veritable bombardment of complaints, of which he took careful note, and promised to see what could be done in the matter.

The present dilapidated condition of the tennis court was brought under notice, and it was decided to again request that the necessary material be made available to recondition the court. Other matters strongly stressed

were the necessity for the provision of street lighting on Mountain Way [Novar Street] and the provision of storm water drainage. On the motion of Mr Taylor, seconded by Mr Shepherd, it was unanimously resolved that the old Progress Association should be superseded by the new body to be known as the Westridge Branch of the Social Service Association.

Canberra Community News 18 July 1927

The annual meeting of the Westridge Branch of the Canberra Social Service Association was held at Westridge Hall on June 22. Mr H Woodlands occupied the chair, and among those present were Mesdames Turbitt [sic Turbit], Riddle, Messrs J Dillon, E Quigg, J Radcliffe, R Shepherd, Corey, P Hammond, A Turner, S Kilby and T Sharp. On the motion of Mr P Hammond, officers elected at the first meeting of the Association which was held in May were re-elected en bloc:- Chairman, Mr Woodlands; Secretary & Treasurer, Mr EP Corey; Branch Committee, Mesdames Turbitt, Boag and J Ware, Messrs J Dillon, M Ware and J Riddle; Delegate to Council, Mr H Woodlands; Trustee of Westridge Hall, Mr J Dillon. In compliance with the Social Service constitution further office bearers elected were:- Vice-Chairman, Mr Pat Hammond; auditors, Messrs W Hammond Senr and Shepherd.

The secretary asked that a representative of Westridge be appointed to the Community Library. He explained that he had acted in the capacity for Westridge for some time, but wished to be relieved of the duty. Mr Ratcliffe was appointed to the position. The chairman explained matters which had been considered at the meeting of the Social Service Association to empower it to deal with municipal matters. Mr J Dillon said the matter was a very difficult one to deal with. Each department of the Commission had its responsible officer and his experience was that these officers performed their duties properly and whenever he had brought matters before them they had received attention. Mr P Hammond said that Australia was a very democratic country and people liked to have a voice in municipal matters. He thought that the Commission would be assisted by a representative body which touched on these matters.

The secretary pointed out that if municipal matters from Westridge were brought to the Commission through the Association they would receive better attention than if brought up individually. A motion supporting the movement for the treatment of municipal matters by the Social Service Association was carried unanimously.

On 15 December 1927 the General Secretary wrote to Mr EP Corey, Hon Secretary, Westridge Branch:
With reference to your letter of 2nd inst regarding a complaint received that school children were throwing stones out of the bus at passing cars, I have made enquiries in regard to this matter and the Transport Officer now advises that the driver has been instructed to exercise vigilance to prevent reoccurrence.

16 January 1929 EP Corey Hon Secretary of the Westridge Branch of the Social Service Association wrote to the Secretary of the Social Service Association setting out the concerns of the residents:

I wish to draw your attention to several matters concerning the residential area of Westridge and would be pleased to have your assistance thereto...Some of the things that we would draw your attention to are:-

- 1. **Street lights** -There are only two street lights here and they are situated in the back street adjacent to the old cottages. Notwithstanding the absence of lights and lighting rate of 2d in the pound has been included in the rate notices for the year 1929.*
- 2. In the rate notice there also appears an item of 4d in the pound for General Rates. We do not understand what this covers, but if it is meant to include rates for kerbing, guttering and footpaths, then here again we are being charged for something we have not got.*

22 January, 1929 the General Secretary wrote to the Secretary of the FCC:

Some of the residents of Westridge yesterday interviewed me with regard to their facilities where they milk their cows. The bail is about a quarter of a mile from the settlement.

Petition from the people of Westridge in the vicinity of the Brickworks for a Receiving Office for Mail. Mrs Mary Handcock offered to do the job.

JEREMIAH DILLON

Jeremiah Dillon was one of the characters of Westridge. He was foreman of the sewer works that began in 1915. It is said that he could not read or write, but was a very intelligent and astute man. One story told after his death was that some authorities were looking for one of the sewer tunnels. The information had been kept in Jerry's head. The result was that they used a long metal probe to search for the tunnel. Jerry's obituary was written in *The Angelus* dated 3 November 1929.

REQUIESCAT. Six years ago, a month or two after my arrival, I went for the first time to Mass at Westridge, then the centre of Catholic Canberra, for it was adjacent to the camp of the miners and labourers engaged on the sewer construction, the chief engineering activity of the times. I was still new to the primitive conditions under which by force of circumstances the Holy Sacrifice was offered then in the incipient Capital, but I was new too to such evidence of the tenacity toward the Faith, as was exhibited in spite of all the difficulties of a construction camp. Great Catholics they were, but those early Catholics of Canberra, scattered since across the continent, perhaps across the world, but undoubtedly even the most imaginative of them, treasuring the memories of their association with what is now a National Capital. And when they do look back on the years, one figure will stand out in their recollections, one whose personality dominated not only their work, of which he was the foreman, not alone within the district in which they lived, but Catholic Canberra itself. Now too he is gone to have God's hand in His Goodness, resting but lightly on his soul. It was at that Mass six years ago that I first saw Jerry Dillon - taking up the collection in his hat. The service and method of its performance were typical of him as I learnt to know him later, finesse was no complimentary to his way of doing things. The collection was there to be taken and the hat was at hand for its reception.

Through some misfortune he had little if any schooling, but what he lacked in acquired learning he accounted for in the exercise of intellectual capabilities and an innate shrewdness which combined with a most scrupulous honesty to win the respect and admiration of many a man who could claim the educational advantages which had been denied to him. To those who knew him well and were associated with him in any of his activities, his life was an open book; he was absolutely incapable of consciously doing a mean or underhand act. He was intolerant of intrigue, or even of apparent intrigue, and those who sought to achieve their ends however praiseworthy, by means which he suspected found in him an uncompromising foe, who was not slow to express his opinions of them. But it was duplicity or sham which alone aroused his ire. Blunt as he could be when the occasion demanded, he was for the most part, a kindly gentleman with a gift of humour and a ready wit that left no wound. He it was who gave the Prime Minister's Lodge the title of 'Scullin's Corner'. He it was who, when he disagreed with one of their proposals told some of the 'new hands' in the Canberra Football League of which he was the first President, and in the development of which he played perhaps the greater part, that 'he came to Canberra to learn the game.'

He was a born organiser. So far as his work was concerned, it was to his leadership of the gangs, as much as to his achievements of the administrators, that the huge task of sewerage the city was carried through expeditiously and without a hitch. But he led and organised too, outside his working hours. Collections and dances provided the principle outlets for his abundant energy and there was not a deserving cause in Canberra during his residence in the district that did not owe some measure of financial success to his organising efforts... Perhaps his biggest achievement was away back in 1923 when the Catholic Canberra Club was formed. He became its first Vice-president and brought all his enthusiasm to bear in this development. 'So far the success of the Club has been nothing short of marvellous,' said the Angelus soon after its establishment. 'In a few weeks, the scattered Catholics of the Federal City have completed a magnificent organisation.' The compliment was attributed to Jerry Dillon, for he literally searched the district discovering eligibles.

The Hallowed High Adventure by Alexander J McGillivray is part of the story of the Catholic Church in Canberra. Father McGillivray wrote the following about Westridge: *They held a dance at Westridge in 1923 when that locality was an outpost of Queanbeyan parish and destined in a few years to be an important centre in Canberra's first parish. A scribe has written of the function with tremendous enthusiasm: and it should be of interest to learn how Catholics in Canberra's other days enjoyed themselves as they helped augment the Building Fund.*

"...the dance proved to be an overwhelming success...and it easily constituted a record for the Federal Territory, and nothing like it has ever been put on in Queanbeyan..." It appears that two young ladies, Miss K Corkhill and Miss M Colquhoun were responsible for organizing the event, and as a result of their "indefatigable labours" the Bazaar Fund benefitted by more than 50 pounds...

The Westridge Hall on a hillock near the camps and cottages of construction workers was no mean structure. It had been built as a village hall in the neighbourhood. It had four walls, a stout floor of broad timbers, a roof, and not much else. It was a place to foregather and make merriment...It was small by any standards, and one wonders how it accommodated all the patrons on the night in question. The organizing committee on its own must have half-filled the building. The chief executive was Mr Jerry Dillon, and his recorded lieutenants were Messrs Gerald Hogan, Peter Murphy, Dan Gleeson, Tom Corkhill, George Grey, Hart, Newbold, Bert Stanley, Aub Anderson, D Lamond, C Holmes, C Smith, Ted Corey and FH Boland. The latter gentleman donated the decorations that splashed gaiety throughout the old structure, and Margaret (Maggie) Colquhoun assisted him in their arrangements. A two-piece orchestra kept the dancers on their rhythmic move as they waltzed and barn-danced and two-stepped and one-stepped a natural, easy grace possessed them...Miss Mollie Cullen and Mr A Edmunds comprised the orchestra...and Miss Cullen ...would not accept remuneration, and it was only after much persuasion that Mr Edmund was prevailed upon to accept a nominal fee.

The Canberra Times 8 July 1927

WESTRIDGE GROWS

New Building Progress

THIRTY COTTAGES THIS MONTH

The suburb of Westridge has assumed increased importance of late as a result of the establishment of the Australian School of Forestry and the suburb is to be expanded by a building programme which is to be expected to commence probably by the end of the current month.

AS cottage construction programme of 30 cottages is contemplated which will involve the laying out of the suburb in keeping with the latest ideas of garden city planning.

For the future there is no present indication of a big expansion beyond that present contemplated. It is unlikely for that for many years to come Westridge will become a public residential area, and there is no provision for any shopping centre nearer than Manuka.

The suburb of Westridge dates back to the establishment of the brick works and the commencement of the development of the Federal Capital Commission. It consists today of about ten cottages of brick and timber, some of which were constructed by the Department of Works and Railways. Some portable cottages [ex-Molonglo] were erected later on land in front of the site of the school of Forestry, but these have been removed.

The present building programme comprises 30 timber cottages which are to be built to the latest designs of the Federal Capital Commission, with tile roofs and fibro plaster lining and finished in the same style as timber residences at North Ainslie [Corroboree Park, Ainslie]. Tenders for this work have closed, and it is expected that a contract will be let and the erection will have been commenced before the end of July. A departure from the method of construction at North Ainslie will be the use of bricks for the foundations instead of concrete, this being more economical owing to the proximity of Westridge to the brickworks. The new cottages will be for the use of married employees of brick works and some will also be available for use in connection with the School of Forestry.

The Canberra Times 20 March 1928

BRICK WORKS - TO CLOSE DOWN -3,000,000 ON HAND -60 MEN AFFECTED

The brick works of the Federal Capital Commission are to be closed down at the end of the present month. About 60 men will be affected. Meanwhile about 3,000,000 bricks are in stock and will meet demands until such time as the re-opening of the works will be possible under conditions which will avoid heavy losses which now threaten.

Further retrenchment has been decided upon by the Federal Capital Commission. Within the next fortnight approximately 60 men will be discharged from the Commission brickworks at Westridge, owing to the temporary curtailment of building activities at Canberra and the large stock of bricks at present on hand which amount to about 3,000,000.

The men engaged in tile making will not be affected and no dismissals are contemplated. In making this announcement yesterday, Col Thomas (Assistant Commissioner) stated that if possible the men would be engaged in other departments.

The Canberra Times 27 March 1928

CONTINUED RETRENCHMENT- FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION -THE LATEST FIGURES

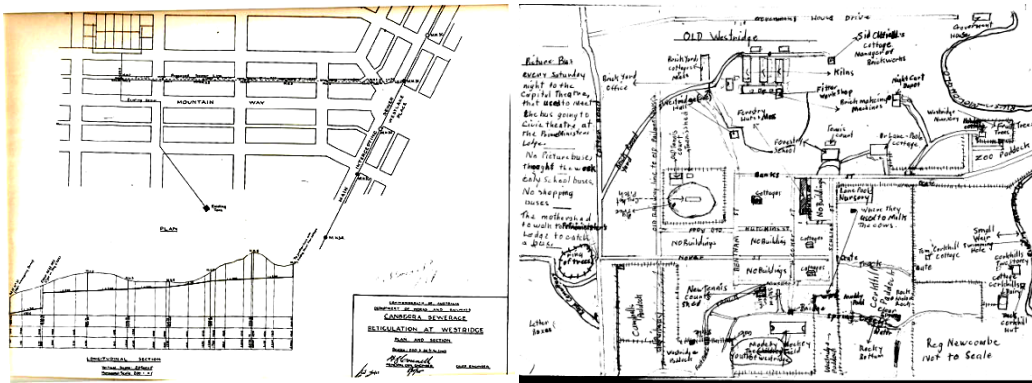
Further retrenchment is being carried out by the Federal Capital Commission, and including the 42 men from Westridge brickworks, the number of reduction of the staff of the Commission during the present month now total 21.

These reductions bring the present strength of the staff down to 1,470 which is the zero figure. These employees are distributed as follows:

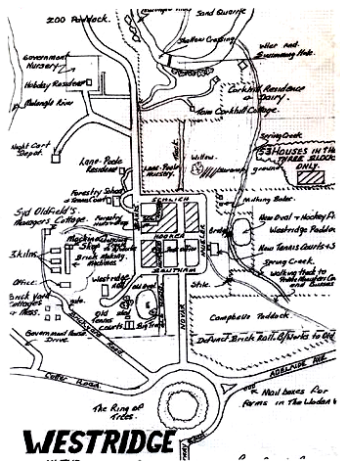
- *Engineers Department, 165*
- *Lands Department 42*
- *Stores Department 19*
- *Hotels Department 242.*

The reduced Commission vote is obviously for retrenchment. There remains to be done a tremendous amount of work, but this, of course, will have to wait until sufficient funds can be allocated for its completion. The following table shows the number of men employed by the Commission in its various staffs since October 1926. It will be seen that the present total, 1,470 (or 1476) is less than 50 per cent of the number employed in January last year.

• <i>October 1926</i>	<i>2,876</i>
• <i>November 1926</i>	<i>2,972</i>
• <i>December 1926</i>	<i>2,811</i>
• <i>January 1927</i>	<i>3,086</i>
• <i>March 1927</i>	<i>2,868</i>
• <i>April 1927</i>	<i>2,813</i>
• <i>May 1927</i>	<i>2,438</i>
• <i>June 1927</i>	<i>2,215</i>
• <i>July 1927</i>	<i>2,115</i>
• <i>August 1927</i>	<i>2,176</i>
• <i>September 1927</i>	<i>2,294</i>
• <i>October 1927,</i>	<i>425</i>
• <i>November 1927</i>	<i>2,466</i>
• <i>December 1927</i>	<i>1,920</i>
• <i>January 1928</i>	<i>1,644</i>
• <i>February 1928</i>	<i>1,591</i>
• <i>March 1928</i>	<i>1,470</i>



Above: Sewer Line, Westridge. Right: Reg Newcombe's mud map of early Westridge



Above: Bernie Rees Mud Map Westridge (later period than Reg Newcombe's)