

BRICKS & TILES FOUND IN STIRLING PARK – FORMER WESTLAKE

The Federal Territory Brickyards were established in 1913 in the area of Frederick Campbell's ram paddock. This site was chosen because of the good quality of the shale. The brickyards were built in 1913 and produced bricks that year.

World War 1 commenced in 1914 and by 1916 the brickworks were closed.

The area was named Westridge in 1917 by Walter Burley Griffin when a post office was set up in the area.

Following the end of World War 1 a decision was made to continue with the construction of Canberra – provide the basics (including a provisional parliament house etc) to move the parliament from Melbourne to Canberra. The brickworks opens for business around 1920 and began the work of producing bricks for the city building programme.

A rail line from the brickyards to major work sites set up – to Hotel Kurrajong, Parliament House – and Civic area. Remains of the site can be seen off the old Uriarra Road near the brickyards. Moya Campbell (nee Oldfield), whose father and grandfather were both Works Managers at the Brickworks, has a house in Rodway Street in Yarralumla – during the process of working on the front garden they came across part of the old rail line. The line went roughly parallel with modern Alexandrina Drive and around the area of State Circle (cutting put in for the rail line I have been told) and thence to the Parliament House area. I am not sure of the route that the rail line took on its way to the other sites. There is a well known story about the removal of the line to Civic – they forgot the engine at Civic and the line had to be put down again.

Bricks were also transported by trucks – Bill Boyd, Moya Campbell's uncle, was one of the men who used his own truck to transport bricks.

In addition to bricks, the works also produced roof tiles, pavers, clay animals etc.

Examples of the Frog markings on the bricks used in the construction of Prime Minister's Lodge, Parliament House, Hotel Canberra, Administrative buildings (East & West Block), Civic Centre, Eastlake (Kingston) Shops, Forestry School (Westridge) etc can be found in Stirling Park – particularly in the area of Howie's cottages and No 1 Labourers Camp.

The lettering used on the bricks in the period 1920s – *C'WEALTH CANBERRA* or *CANBERRA C'WEALTH*. Many of the bricks had no lettering – had rectangular indent on one or both sides. One brick had a curved slope on one end of the indent and another had an indent with a rectangular shaped end (see diagram).

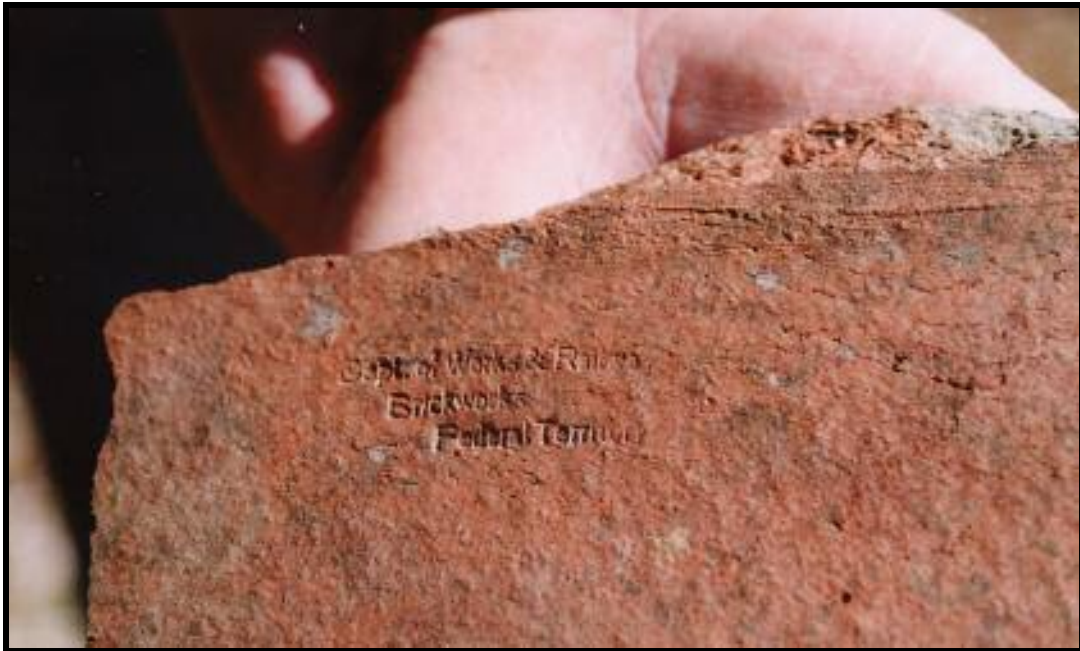
By the mid 1930s the frog lettering changed to *CANBERRA* and following World War 2 the frog letters changed to *CB*.

The majority of bricks are red, but white shale from the Quarry (Attunga Point) was used to make the Canberra Cream. Bill Haines of Westlake was the powder monkey

at this site. I have also been told that white shale of good quality was obtained from the Red Hill quarry (near the telephone exchange in Kent Street Deakin). This quarry was used as a dump and was filled in.

Following are examples of bricks and tiles found in Stirling Park.

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.*





Several of these flat tiles have been used to line dug drainage lines leading from the building sites to the quagmire. Below is part of a Canberra Tile found in a burn up dump in an old creek near the surface of the ground on Block 2, Section 128 (Stirling Park).



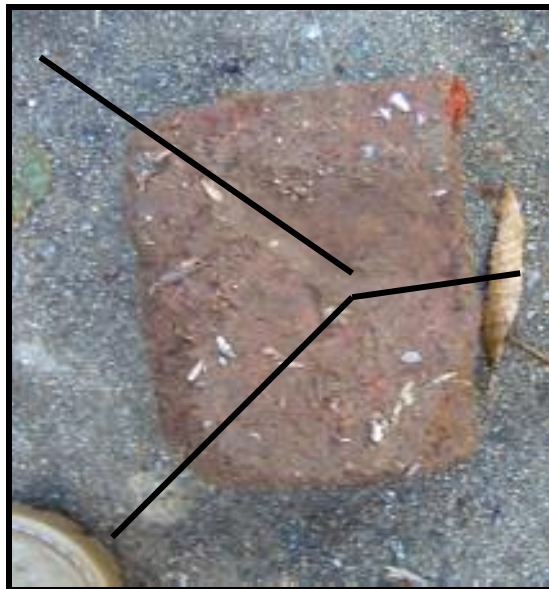


Above is a special purpose brick given to me by Reg Newcombe whose father worked at the Brickyards. A similar one was found near George Sykes' house – 29 Westlake – in the creek. Below is another view of the brick. The other side of the brick is solid.





Above is a brick with *CANBERRA* on the frog and in front of it are two pavers that have been broken in half. There are a number of these found throughout the park. Below is a brick with the 'triangle' shape





Both sides of a 1920s brick of the type used in the provisional parliament house etc.





Above and below – 1930s brick with *CANBERRA* frog.





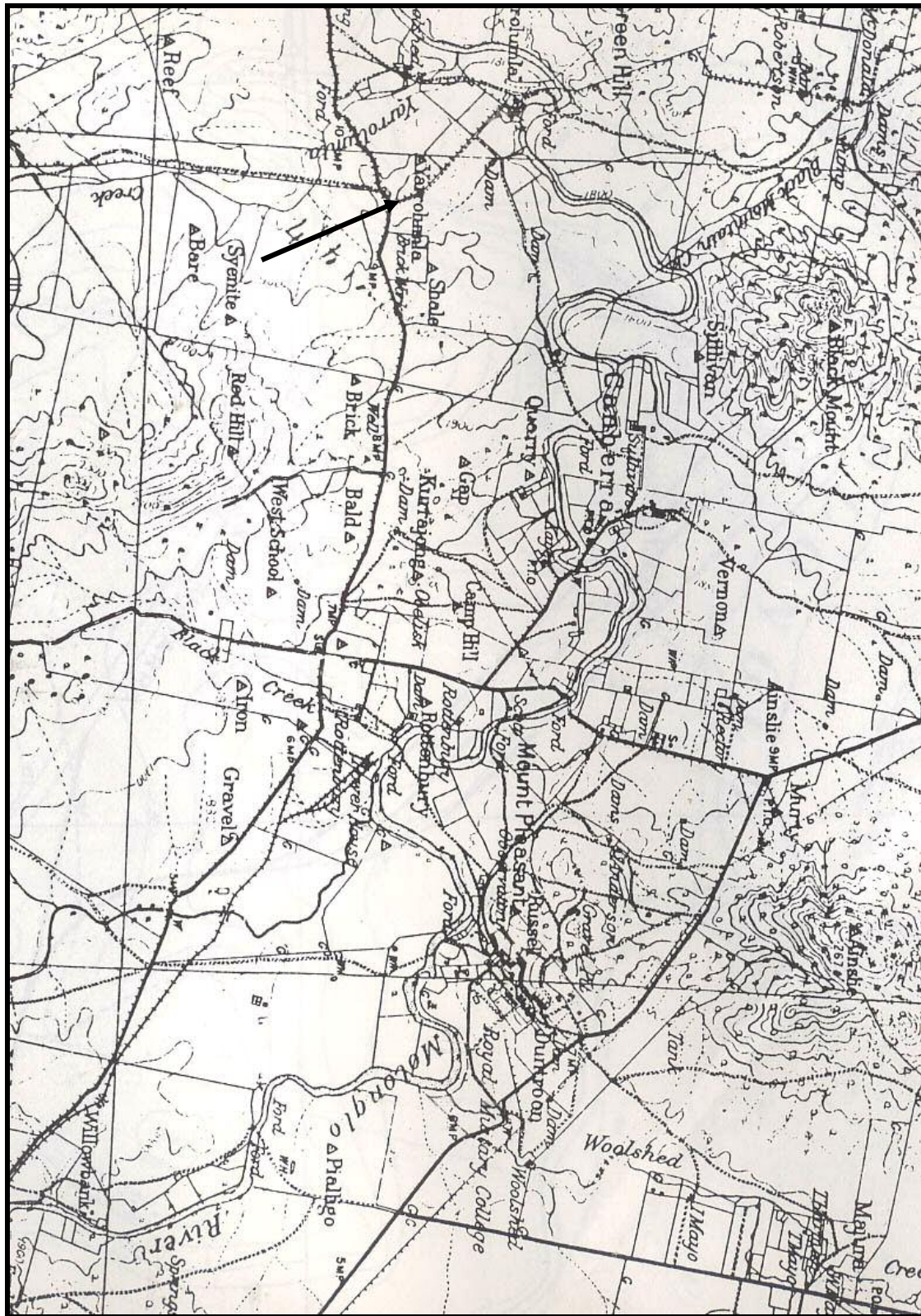
Above post World War 2 brick with *CB* frog marking. Below and on the next page are examples of some of the bricks on the Tradesmen's Ablution Block site.



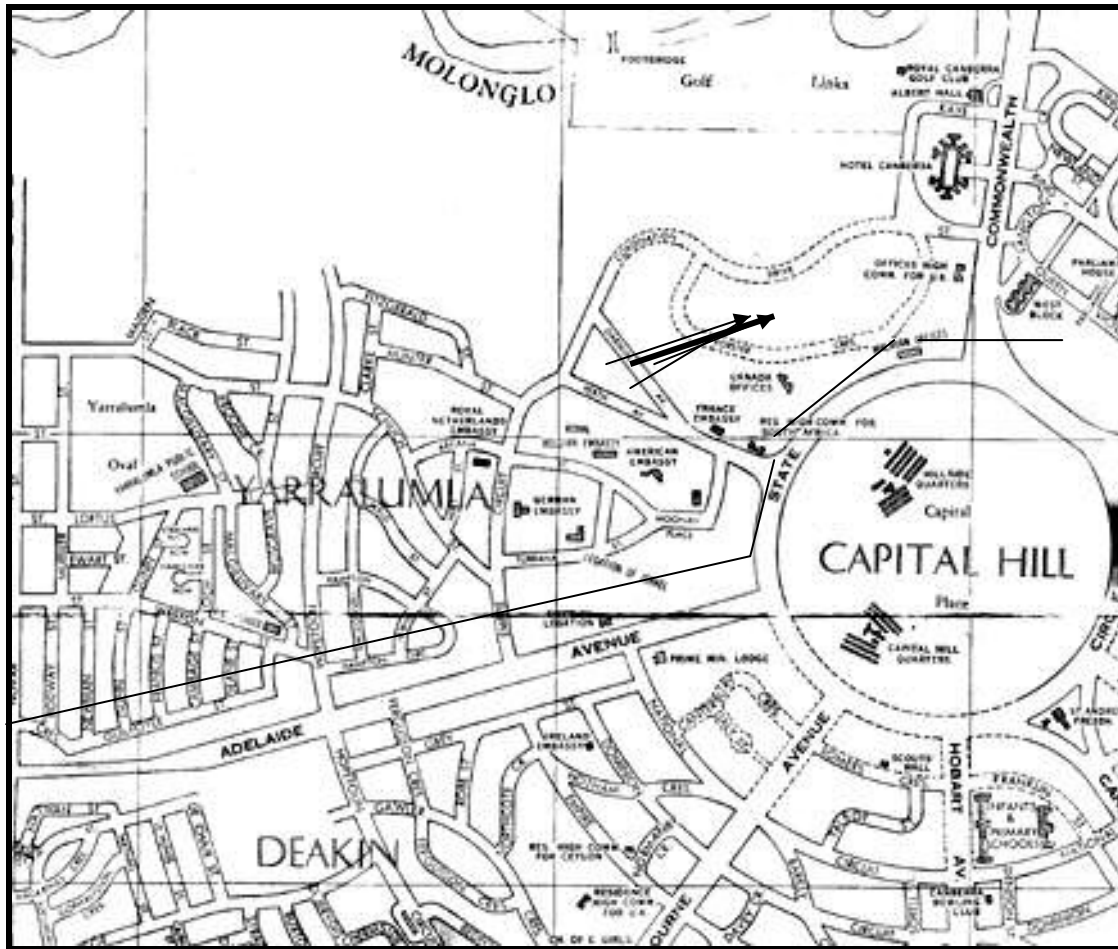


Above are three photographs of a 1920s brick that has a curved edged frog marking. This brick is similar to ones seen in Stirling Park but it is different to the ones that I have seen in that it also has the lettering added - *C'WEALTH CANBERRA*.

This brick was found on the 1920s Mt Pleasant camp site.



The arrow points to the area of Uriarra Road that is still in situ. There is a culvert in situ. Nearby to this is the cutting where the old rail line from the brick yards can still be seen. The above map is a 1913 one.



The arrows point to the area of the Tradesmen's Camp where the bricks left behind in 1927 still sit. A line showing roughly the old rail line has been superimposed – it runs roughly parallel with Adelaide Avenue.

A FEW MORE PHOTOGRAPHS

Attunga Point 1990s. The Quarry Dump is below the edge of the land in the photograph. The briar roses are on the site of 42 Westlake and were part of the front hedge.





Above is a bucket found in Haines Creek that flows through *The Gap* in Stirling Park. It was probably used by the sewer men during the construction of the main intercepting sewer. Below is a gully trap of No 62 Westlake left behind when the cottages were removed.

