

**FORMER BLOCK ONE, SECTION 128 STIRLING PARK
(block next to Flynn Drive – currently under development)**

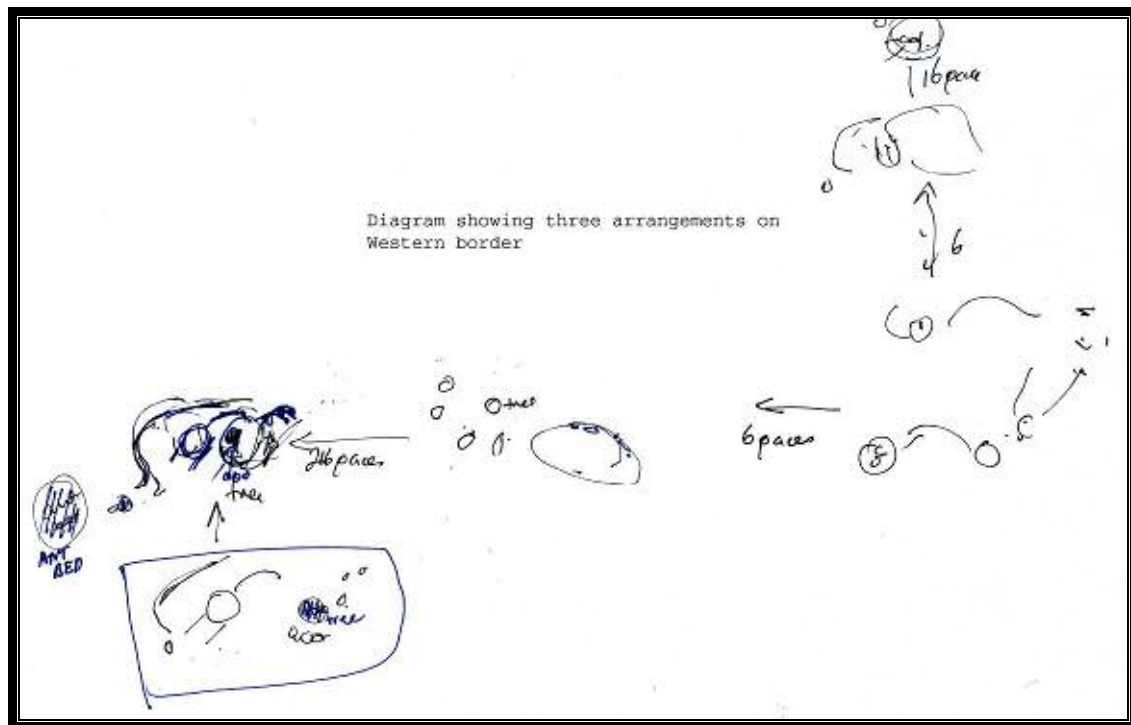
This area was formerly a peninsula of highland with the big creek on one side and the quagmire on the other. Around the late 1940s a number of tree plantings that included native and exotic trees were planted. Aerial photographs taken from the 1920s through to the 1950s show that contour ploughing had taken place. CW Moriarty in his 1912 notes on the area noted that contour ploughing was used in the area for drainage purposes. Around the 1960s Alexandrina Drive was constructed and work on the Lake began. The filling of the lake began in 1963 and it was formerly opened in 1964 by Robert Menzies.

A number of stone arrangements that extend back from the Alexandrina Drive end of the block and continue for around 150 metres have survived. Several old tracks that show up in the 1920s aerial photographs – some are marked on 1912 strip maps – cut across the block.

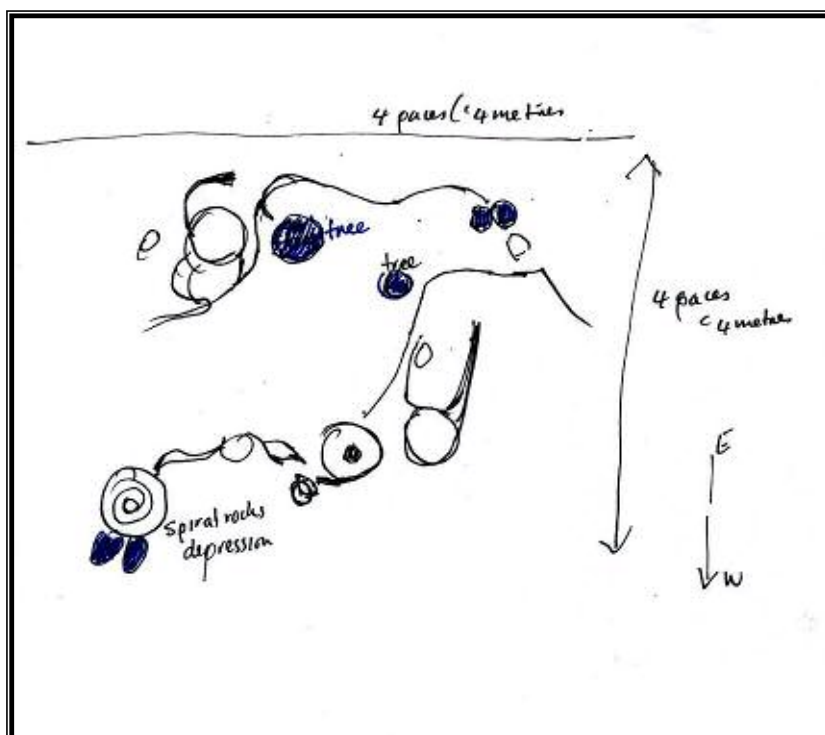
The western edge of the peninsula of high land is marked by one arrangement that is second in size only to the large *rectangular* arrangement. It has some similar characteristics to the large arrangement that includes one small rock lined circular depression and another that has a rock elevated above others. It also has the usual white quartz and black river rocks incorporated into the pattern.

Its length runs roughly north south and unlike the majority of arrangements on the peninsula it is on open land that is light red in colour. It sits above the old creek that has been landscaped in recent times and is mowed. The arrangements may have continued into this disturbed area. Nearby to the north on the same line are two or more patterns one of which consists of circles and undulating line. To the east of the large arrangement are two more arrangements. One is a circle around an old wattle – it is about one and half metres across and has an opening and pointer rock. To the south near the big blue rock that marks the southern boundary is another circle of rocks around a wattle tree. It has the addition of an undulating line.

Below is a diagram of the western edge of the peninsula of Camp Hill land drawn from the western side looking east. Not included in the diagram is the circle with undulating line off to the right (south).



The creek referred to earlier came from the area of Red Hill between Capital Hill and the hills of Stirling Park. It was joined by a small creek that runs between Capital and Camp Hills. The only part of the creek that is still above ground flows behind Scrivener's Plan Room off State Circle. This was the site of the 1909 and 1910 surveyors' camps.



Left is a diagram of the large arrangement drawn from the western side looking east. The pairs of larger rocks are shaded. One of the pairs can be seen in the photograph below to the left of the self sown wattle tree. The trees marked in the above diagram are old wattles cut off at ground level during a woody weed clearance. The trees shown in the December 2003 photograph below are self sown but are useful as reference points when viewing the details of the

arrangement shown in later photographs. John Bruggeman who has helped with the work of documenting the site stands on the southern end of the arrangement. John has photographed a number of the important sites on Black Mountain. One photograph taken from the mountain shows

two mountains in the distance that are reminiscent of one set of rocks. I think that a number of the arrangements in the park are maps. The pointer rocks used in many of the arrangements point to the gaps between hills. Meandering lines may be pathways and the river. This area of land was part of the Canberra Plain known as *Canberry* – Woman's Breasts. Below left view from Black Mountain.



Above right - John Bruggeman examining the rocks. The view was taken from the eastern side. At the time these photographs were taken the earth had been brushed back from it and after the rain when the earth was softened a few tufts of grass were carefully pulled out. There may be white shale in the arrangement but without an archaeological study this will not be known.



Above detail of rocks near the prunus tree. Note the two black river rocks. John is pointing to the one on the left. Below are details of the arrangement. Note the double line of rocks in the photograph on the left. Note also in the right hand photograph there is a depression of earth – it was soft in this area and brushed out easily. There may have been a tree growing here – or an unlined depression?



Note the two larger rocks used in the arrangement.¹ One on the right is slightly rounded. Nearby in the curved line is another black river rock.



Above left - Note that there is a space between the triangular rock and the first rock of the line. Below left is a detail of the two rocks.



The photograph above right is from the eastern end of the large *rectangular* arrangement. Note the treatment of the top corner where a curved stone has been added to *reinforce* the corner. A similar treatment is found in the big arrangement – see the corner stone near John’s hand in photograph

¹ In a recent conversation in March 2004 Mr Bell, Ngunawal elder, reminded me that Black Mountain and Mt Ainslie are referred to as women’s breasts. This view comes from the entrance from the Yass Road side of the mountains. One may wonder if these double rocks represent the two mountains?

below left. Note the wattle tree. It is far right in the left photograph and more towards the centre in the below right photograph. John's hand in this view is near a white quartz rock that is part of the arrangement.



Above is a view to the right (south) of the spiral rock depression seen below left photograph. Above it is a raised rock near the cut off tree trunk seen in the two earlier photographs. The bottom right photograph shows the spiral rock depression in the large *rectangular* arrangement. On the next page is another from the Tradesmen's Camp – thought to be a sump. However in view of finding the rock lined holes in the Camp Hill arrangements this initial assumption should be reconsidered.





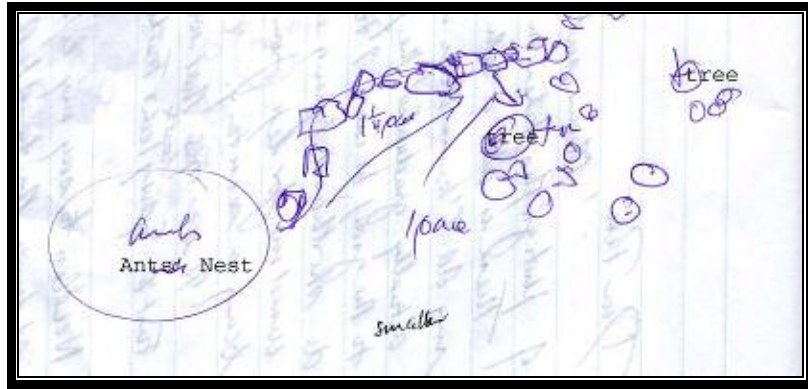
Another similarity between the two arrangements is an elevated rock. The photograph below left shows this rock that sits on a circle of rocks and below right with a shaded area to show the *tree trunk* is the elevated rock in the *rectangular* arrangement. Both are placed near trees.



Other Arrangements on the western side.



Above left is a view from the east looking west towards the big western arrangement and the creek. In the centre is view from the south looking north towards wattle trees where another arrangement is to be found. The photograph on the right shows John Bruggeman pointing to a part of the arrangement. Further north again is a semi-circular arrangement with an undulating line. Following is an early working drawing of that arrangement.



Below left is Calisto sitting near the arrangement drawn above. I have added the lines that should not have joined the circle on the left. On the right is John Bruggeman standing near the curved line of rocks. The photographs were taken at different times of the year.



Above three views of the same arrangement and cut off wattle tree. The central view shows an added *trunk*.

Arrangements to the East of Big Western Arrangement

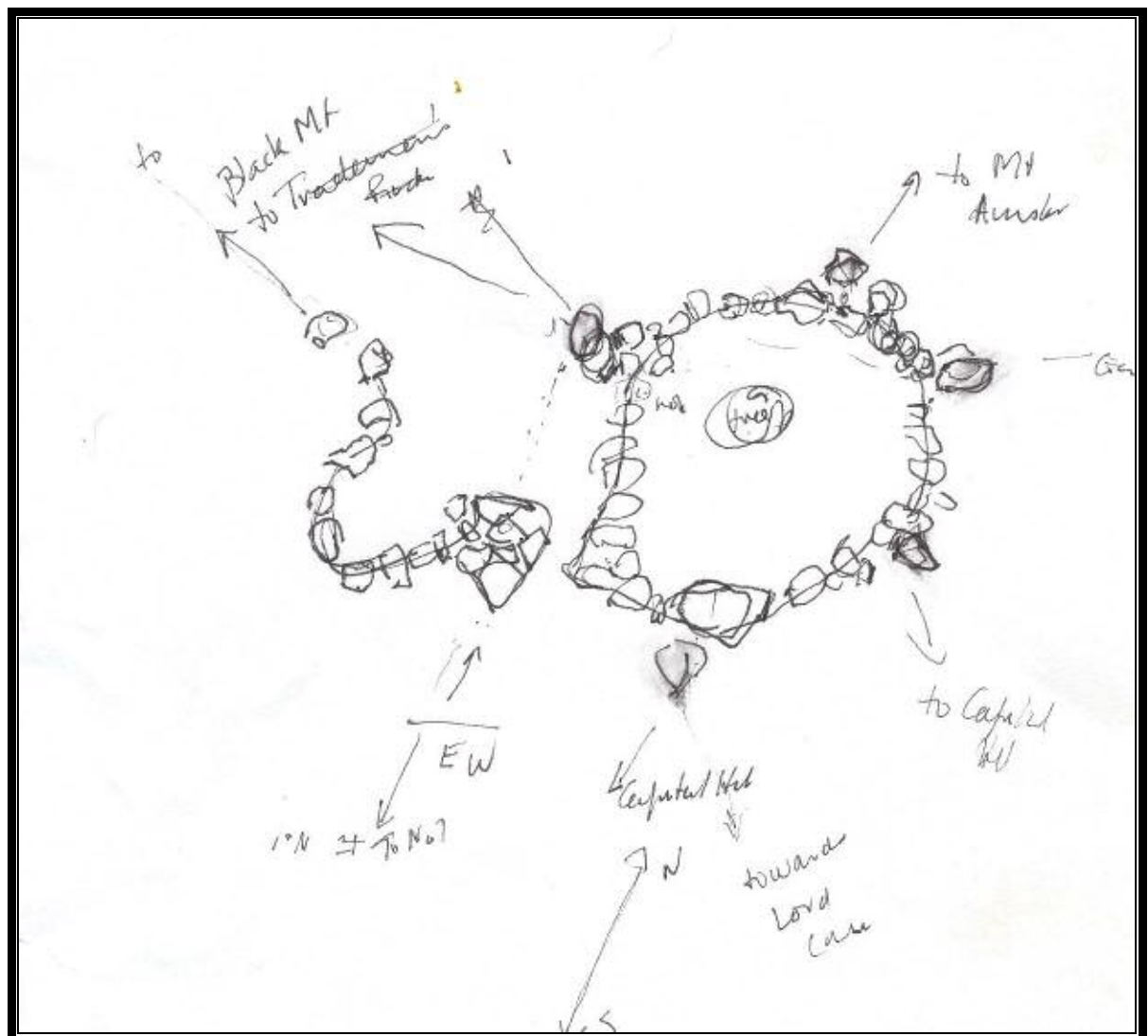


Between the big western arrangement and this circle is another rock arrangement not documented. The photograph on the right shows an added *tree trunk*. This arrangement of rocks is circular with a break in the circle – see above left photograph. Nearby to the circle is a pointer rock. Below left is John Bruggeman standing near the arrangement. On the right is the site of the second large circle near the southern border of the arrangements.



[NB I returned to this area 27th February 2004 – the area felt flat and the grass had died – the effects of hot weather and drought. The arrangement shown in the above right photograph was rephotographed and these photographs added in the appendix. The pointer rocks outside the main circle are clearly seen. With the exception of the orange coloured pointer rock that points to Black Mountain the other four have near them breaks in the circle. Mrs Ruth Bell, who viewed the area with me, noted that spaces in circles are to allow elders to enter.

Below is a working diagram of this arrangement. Note it has several pointer rocks and the usual wattle tree in the centre – cut off at ground level. The end of the peninsula of land near this arrangement joins an area of flat land used by the Westlake people as a cricket and football ground. Not far from this arrangement the remains of the concrete cricket pitch put down in the mid 1920s was found. It was used as the Westlake Cricket ground for several years until the team moved their home ground to Acton. The pointer rocks line up with a number of important features on the landscape. They are noted on the drawing. The undulating line ends near the circle with a small circle of stones around another in the centre. This pattern is used in a number of arrangements in other parts of the park. The measurement of the diameter (widest point) of the circle is in the old measurement 6 foot – that is around 2 metres and around 15 centimetres less on the shorter diameter.

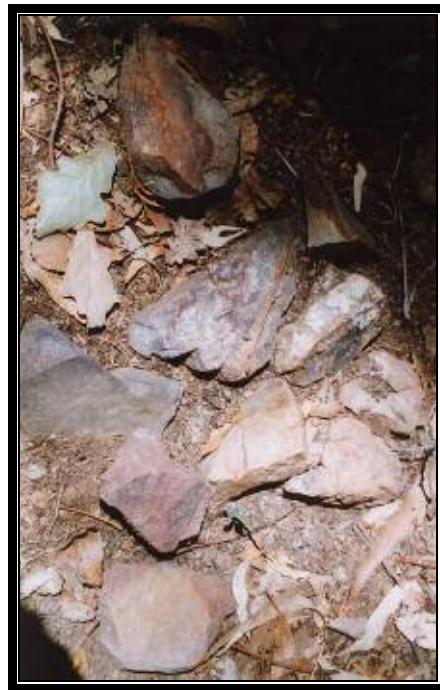


On the next page is an example of the opening in the circle in the circle of rocks on the western edge of the peninsula of land. Circles around stones are common in the patterns found throughout the park. On the next page below the first photograph

showing the opening are details from an arrangement near the quagmire in the area of the Tradesmen's Camp (1923-1927) that show the tight circles of rocks around a central rock. A black outline is added to the photo to mark the circles.



Below are photographs of the same arrangement taken in March 2004. The effects of the hot summer has allowed the stones to be more readily seen. Below is the main circle with the end of the undulating line on the lower left section of the photograph. The cut off trunk of the wattle tree is in the center. There are several openings in the circle and pointer rocks near each. One orange coloured pointer rock stands out. Mr Bell mentioned that pointer rocks were used by small groups of Ngunawal people to show the directions that they took in order to allow those following to use a different route – to prevent depletion of food sources.



Above left is a detail of the undulating line next to the circle and above right and below the ending of the line near the circle.



Above detail of the circle of rocks and below the meeting point of the circle and undulating line.



Above the end of the undulating line near the circle. Below is a detail of an opening in the circle.





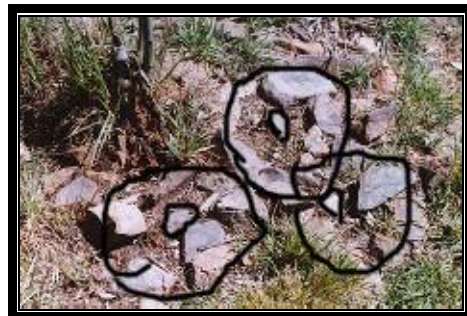
Above details of the circle and below the orange pointer rock. Note the white rock in the centre of circle of rocks on the left.







Below is a detail of the *tail* of the undulating line near the circle. Note that it is circular in shape with a stone in the centre. Below is a photograph of another series of circles – each circle has a stone in the centre. This arrangement is in the area of the Tradesmen’s ablution buildings near the quagmire.





Below are a number of photographs taken just after discovery of this arrangement. Because of the shadows on the day the details are hard to see. The photograph on the left shows the measuring and one of the pointer rocks. The other photographs are details of the rocks.



Note the different coloured rocks in the photograph below.



Nearby to this arrangement are a number of the smaller arrangements near cut off trunks of wattle trees. Below is an example. Amongst the stones in the arrangements are the usual white quartz and black river rocks.

