



# Hunter's Hill Trust Journal

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HENRY E. BUDDEN

and

## FEDERATION ARCHITECTURE IN HUNTER'S HILL

A major change in the revised edition of *Old Buildings of Hunter's Hill* -- soon to be published by the Trust under the new name of *Heritage of Hunter's Hill* -- is the addition of Federation houses. This term applies to houses built around the time of Australia's Federation (1901) and up to about 1914. It was a period of great inventiveness in domestic architecture; many influences were abroad -- Queen Anne, Art Nouveau, Edwardian, Shingle style, Arts and Crafts -- and these combined with a genuine attempt to find a style suited to Australian conditions. Some of the best examples of Federation architecture in Hunter's Hill are houses designed by Henry E. Budden, a gifted and radical young architect who lived in Hunter's Hill from 1892 to 1910 and was known locally as Harry Budden.

He was born in 1871 at Rockley, near Bathurst, and educated at the Bathurst Superior Public School and Newington College, Sydney. In 1892 he came to Hunter's Hill when his father, Arthur Budden, bought Moocooboolah (65 Alexandra Street) from Sydney S. Thomas. Mr. Thomas had built a new house next door, Orroroo (59 Alexandra Street), and he and his family moved into Orroroo when the Buddens took over Moocooboolah. At that time, there was only a grass tennis court between the two houses, which no doubt both families used. Miss Ada Budden used the billiard room of Orroroo as an extra classroom for her School; Henry Budden was later to marry Miss Ella Thomas.

In 1894, while he was articled to Harry Kent of Sydney, Henry Budden won a Travelling Scholarship from the Sydney Architectural Association, his prize drawings being of the University of Sydney and All Saints' Church, Hunter's Hill. The drawings were reproduced in *The Australasian Builder & Contractors' News* (ABCN), March 3, 1894, 107, and he was described as "a conscientious and painstaking student". He went to London, studied at the Royal Academy, and travelled on the continent. He regularly sent back progress reports to Australia with accompanying drawings which were published. These were considered "extremely clever, and the large number sent testify to the industry of Mr. Budden, which should ensure him a prosperous career as an architect, whether

he decides to practice in England or the colonies" (ABCN, Dec. 29, 1894, 267). He did return to "the colonies". In 1899 he came back to Moocooboolah, Alexandra Street, and also became a partner in the firm of Kent & Budden. It was from this time that he began to design houses in Hunter's Hill.

Around 1901, the year of Federation, he designed six houses in the Prince Edward Parade area -- 41 and 43 Woolwich Road and 1, 2, 3, and 4 Prince Edward Parade. The two most original today are 43 Woolwich Road and 4 Prince Edward Parade. These are in the Queen Anne style, a red brick style, quaint and picturesque, which was adapted to Australian conditions during the Federation period. Here we see the red brick, terracotta Marseilles tiles and frilled ridges, painted woodwork offset by the brick, and verandahs decorated with carved wood.

On January 18, 1902, Henry Budden married the girl next door, Ella Thomas of Orroroo, Alexandra Street; she was also one of the early women to receive a B.A. from the University of Sydney. Their marriage was reported in the press and it was announced that the couple would settle in the "beautiful modern villa residence" specially designed by the groom. This was Morillah (54 Woolwich Road). Here we see the beginnings of the Budden style -- a two-storey house with angles designed to take advantage of the northerly aspect and the Lane Cove River views; the shape is best seen from the Lane Cove River side, not Woolwich Road.

About 1903 Budden designed Kurrowah, the residence of Stephen H. Weedon, 74 Alexandra Street. Here his enthusiasm for asymmetry is pronounced, in the broken roof lines and multitude of angles; this is connected with his imaginative use of site. The house was reported and illustrated in the journal of the New South Wales Institute of Architects: "Mr. Weedon's house shows clever treatment of a rather difficult problem in planning, the building being so arranged that the best rooms command the best views" (*Art and Architecture*, 2 [1905], 192-94). Today we can see Budden's radical style if we compare Kurrowah with the Victorian houses opposite, 55 and 57 Alexandra Street, which seem quite conservative by comparison.

In 1906 Budden designed Mornington (16 Vernon Street) for Arthur and Ada Muddle (the house derives its name from Mrs. Muddle's fondness for the music of Lord Mornington). This is perhaps Budden's finest house in Hunter's Hill. It shows the tendency of Federation architecture to use a mixture of materials -- brick, timber, shingles, rough-cast, slate, terracotta ridging, and sandstone as a rugged base. It also shows Budden's predilection for angular geometric shapes, with many bays and verandahs; the present owners rightly observe that, from above, it resembles a bird with outstretched wings. The house is designed to take fullest advantage of the Lane Cove River views and of the movement of the sun around the house through the day. The two unusual little windows at the top were known locally as "*the eyes of the river*" and were clearly visible from the ferry as it rounded the peninsula towards Mornington Wharf (named after the house, as was Mornington Reserve). The interior of the house is well planned but unusual and asymmetrical. Characteristic of the period is the Art Nouveau stained glass throughout and the plaster ceiling of the lounge room with its pattern of waratahs and flannel flowers.

In 1910 Budden moved with his family to Killara. With the outbreak of World War I he began work with the War Chest Commission; he went to Gallipoli and Egypt and became

Chief War Chest Commissioner for England and France; he was also awarded the C.B.E. In 1917 he returned to Australia and resumed his profession of architecture. His firm operated under the names of Budden & Greenwell (1919-22), Henry E. Budden (1922-31), Budden & Mackey (1931-39), Henry E. Budden (1939-41), and Budden & Nangle (1940-44). The firm of Budden, Nangle, Michael & Hudson is still in business in Sydney and retains the name of Budden for prestige. In 1931 Budden was elected President of the New South Wales Institute of Architects; this was reported, together with some biographical details, in *The Architectural and Building Journal of Queensland*, Apr. 10, 1931, 21-23. He was also a Fellow of the Royal British Institute of Architects. He died on December 25th, 1944 -- "*one memorable Christmas day*" in the words of his son Philip, one of his seven children.

**NOTE:** I would like to acknowledge the helpful information offered to me by Mr. Philip Budden of Killara, also by the owners of several Budden houses in Hunter's Hill. I would be grateful for any further information -- does anyone know of other Budden houses?

Beverley Sherry.



## HERITAGE OF HUNTER'S HILL

The 1982 edition of *Old Buildings of Hunter's Hill*, to be renamed **HERITAGE OF HUNTER'S HILL**, will be ready for Christmas giving. The expanded book includes social history and area descriptions, as well as nearly four hundred building and landscape entries, photographs, and a new index to notable past residents. Some historic and colour illustrations augment the 1982 photographs of Hunter's Hill. Federation houses have been added to the previous listing of Colonial and Victorian buildings, and more comprehensive information is contained in the house entries.

# Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on May 25th. Guest Speaker was Maisy Stapleton, Curator of Elizabeth Bay House, who entertained her audience with slides of Victorian decoration and furnishings. Mrs. Stapleton traced the elaboration of decoration and pattern through to the dizzying heights of the late Victorian period, and she described the connection between life-style, family patterns of room use, and fashion in interior decorating.

The forthcoming book on the heritage of Hunter's Hill was discussed. The members strongly urged that the Hunter's Hill Trust be the book's publisher. Donations were called for, and a pre-publication order system was one of several suggestions.

The President's Report summarised the year's events, and excerpts are printed here:

*"This has been a year of real achievement in spite of the same old problems.*

*Firstly, our appeal in late 1980 resulted in the gazettal of about 350 old buildings in July 1981 by the Heritage Council. This means that, in the absence of a town plan, there are at last controls on demolition and unsympathetic alterations. The plans of many houses have been improved by the Heritage Council, as often by discussion with the owners as by imposition of a protective order.*

*Secondly, Hunter's Hill Council and staff are now recognising the positive help which can be given by the Heritage Council. The Trust wrote requesting a policy of active co-operation between the Municipal Council and the Heritage Council, because misunderstandings and lack of communication were resulting in developments which pleased neither body, and this month they adopted a system of mutual notification of plans under consideration.*

*These achievements are the more valuable when one notes that we still do not have a town plan (I suggest we adopt mathematical terms and speak of town plans in terms of minuses instead of plusses until we have them), Local Environment Plan Minus One.*

*The "preparation" of planning for Hunter's Hill -- and I do not mean just this first Minus, but also the special set of heritage provisions which are to be drafted and adopted as Local Environment Plan Minus Two -- this speed of preparation again raises serious questions as to the efficacy and intent of our governments. I feel that nothing but long, steady opposition and/or bureaucratic inanity can explain the failure of two tiers of government to produce local planning protection deemed necessary in 1969.*

*This Trust focussed its concern on the provisions needed at the public meeting in October 1981. Hunter's Hill Council has now accepted a matching grant from the Heritage Council for a Heritage Study to be made and a Local Environment Plan to be developed to protect the heritage elements.*

*However, the Deputy Chairman of the Townscape Advisory Committee, Ald. Kerry Wherry, was not appointed to the Study group; Ald. Gambotto was instead. Ken Latona's offer made in October to meet with aldermen and explain how Council could attain protective powers has never been taken up or even acknowledged. With this sort of approach by Council, will we do any better with Local Environment Plan Minus Two? Will we have anything as Hunter's Hill before we are amalgamated?*

*Our new edition of Old Buildings of Hunter's Hill will provide much of the information sought for the Heritage Study.*

*This has been an active and productive year for the Trust, not least in the fund raising of the House Inspection in April and sales of publications. Another Walk Guide was released in March for Heritage Week.*

*As retiring President, I would like to praise this Committee and people on sub-committees for their combination of dedication and great good humour. For special billing: Jo Rees produces the Walk Guides as well as keeping the Treasury in excellent order; Anne McNally is our valuable contact with the outside world via telephone, and she co-ordinated what she didn't cook for tonight's dinner; Douglass Baglin has King Midas's touch in photographing; Mary Hinde emanates calm while running a perfect House Inspection; Diana Drake, Beverley Sherry, Roslyn Maguire and Sybil Blanton have worked tirelessly researching the history of building in Hunter's Hill. A vote of thanks also goes to retiring Committee member, Secretary David Bryant, for his encouragement; he will be sorely missed."*

Alice Oppen, who was not seeking re-election to the Committee, was thanked as retiring President, and presented with a copy of **Early Colonial Houses of New South Wales**, by Rachel Roxburgh and Douglass Baglin. In thanking the Trust, Mrs. Oppen said that she felt she had received more than she had given, in learning and involvement, and recommended working for the Trust as a tremendous experience.





# HELP!

The Hunter's Hill Trust has lost its President, Alice Oppen, who did the work of about six people. So now we are in need of new helpers. We have to sink or swim and we'd rather swim, because we care about Hunter's Hill. We'd like to keep this Journal going, continue with our guided walks and house inspections, keep publishing books, organize social functions, stalls etc., and in general promote an interest in Hunter's Hill. Within the bounds of this suburb we have a very special part of Australia's heritage and if we -- the people of Hunter's Hill -- don't look after it, no one else will. The Trust is one group dedicated to this. So please contact us if you would like to help in any of the following areas:

Writing; research; typing; reporting; photography; social organizing; architectural advice; gardens and landscape; legal advice; marketing and public relations; accounts; sealing envelopes and delivering Journals; general administration.

If you're not yet a Member of the Trust, that would be a help in itself! Working for the Trust brings its own rewards -- the satisfaction of doing something creative, the stimulation of meeting interesting people from all walks of life, the value of learning about the heritage of Australia.

RING: Jo Rees (Evening: 816-2746)  
Anne McNally (Day: 89-2035)

## THE NEW TRUST COMMITTEE

The following Committee was declared elected at the A.G.M. and office-bearers were elected at the first meeting of the Committee.

President:	Dr. Malcolm Lane-Brown	816-2553
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Michael Lehany	816-1526
	Mr. Tony Simmons	896-1912
Secretary:	Mrs. Jo Rees	816-2746
Treasurer:	Mr. Sam Sheffer	89-1712
Membership		
Secretary:	Mrs. Anne McNally	89-2035
	Mr. Douglass Baglin	89-1534
	Ms. Caroline Burke	816-1526
	Mrs. Bev Sherry	816-2107

Advisory and working sub-committees are being formed. Any Trust members who wish to be involved are urged to contact a member of the Committee.

The Committee wishes to thank the retiring Committee members, Alice Oppen (President) and David Bryant (Secretary) for their fine work.

# PAST ACTIVITIES

## HERITAGE WALK

Walks were conducted on the Saturday of Heritage Week in March. A bus load from Bankstown Historical Society helped to swell the numbers. The Trust's thanks go to all those who participated as guides and particularly to Jo Rees for the preparation of the Walk booklet, *A Glimpse of Hunter's Hill: A Short Walk -- Some of the Grand Homes*. The walk this year covered part of Alexandra Street, Ambrose Street, Passy Avenue, Passy Walk to Woolwich Road, across to Jeanneret Avenue, Wybalena Road, Yerton Avenue and Ferry Street.

On Sunday, March 28, at the Heritage Week Fair in Parramatta Park, the Trust set up a stall and sold its publications.

## HOUSE INSPECTION

The Annual House Inspection was held on April 25. The Trust's very grateful thanks go to the owners of Daybreak and Saintonge, the Brothers of St. Joseph's College, as well as to the organizers, Mary Hinde and her helpers.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

A Photographic Exhibition of early Hunter's Hill was mounted in the Town Hall for a meeting of the Local Government Women's Association, at the request of the Mayor.

## REVIEWS OF NEW PUBLICATIONS

Robert Irving, John Kinstler, and Max Dupain, *Fine Houses of Sydney*. Sydney: Methuen, 1982. This book, with a stunning photograph of Figtree House on the cover, is an architectural and social-historical study. It deals with twenty-one houses in Sydney, built during the period 1823-1980, and includes chapter-length studies of two Hunter's Hill houses, Figtree House (Reibey Road) and The Chalet (Yerton Avenue). A well-researched text complemented by excellent photographs.

*Sydney's Colonial Craftsmen*. Sydney: The Australiana Society, 1982. Published in connection with an Exhibition at Elizabeth Bay House, Sydney, March-May 1982. Furniture is represented by the work of Andrew Lenahan (1815-1886), who lived in Hunter's Hill.

*Schools of Hunter's Hill 1857-1981*. Compiled by Eric E. Moroney. Hunter's Hill: Hunter's Hill Historical Society, 1981. An annotated list of schools in Hunter's Hill, forty-seven in all, from the earliest days to the present. The research was done by the late Eric E. Moroney, Archivist of the Hunter's Hill Historical Society for many years. This is a valuable addition to our knowledge of the social and cultural history of Hunter's Hill.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name ..... Telephone .....  
Address ..... Postcode .....  
Willing to help with .....

Type of Membership:	1981-82	Due March 1
Single	\$ 5.00	
Family	\$ 10.00	
Pensioner	\$ 1.00	
Student	\$ 1.00	
Life Member	\$ 75.00	

*The Hunter's Hill Trust,  
Box 85, Hunter's Hill, 2110.*