

A GLIMPSE OF HUNTER'S HILL

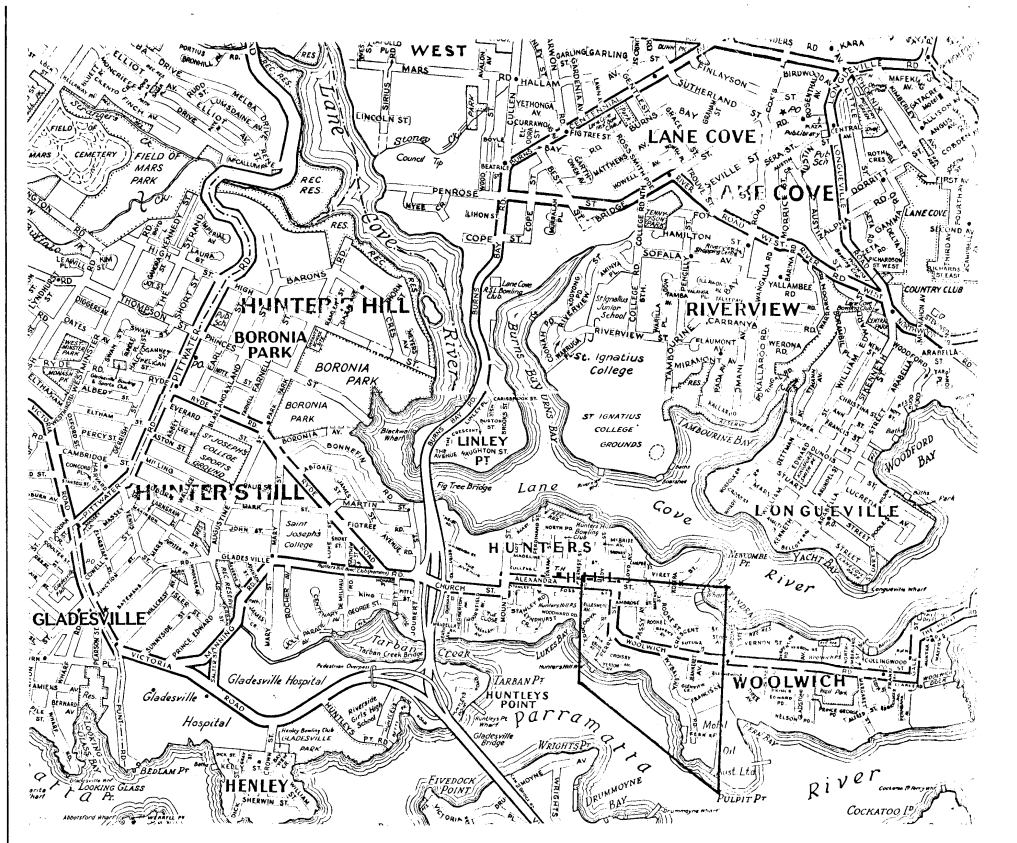
**— A SHORT WALK —
SOME OF THE GRAND HOMES**



Photo by
Douglass Baglin

"Wybalena"

THE HUNTER'S HILL TRUST



30. "CAREY COTTAGE — 18 Ferry Street

This land was also part of the original land grant of 1834 to William Morgan. It was sold in 1860 to Edye Manning, owner of nearby "Merimbah" (21 Alexandra Street) who probably used it as a gardener's cottage. The two front rooms were probably erected by Mr. Foss, the owner of the property between 1834 and 1860.

20 Ferry Street

This building was once used as the school of the Congregational Church and prior to the erection of the stone Church in Alexandra Street, services were held here. In later years it was purchased by Mr. Parcel whose daughters ran it as a cake shop for many years. It is now part of Carey Cottage.

31. 30 FERRY STREET

In 1880 Sophia and Charles Manner Michelmore were living in this quaint stone cottage.

32. "ALL SAINTS' CHURCH" — Ferry Street

In the 1870's there was a strong desire amongst some of the residents of the district to build a new parish church. It was not until 1884 that the present site of this Church was purchased for eleven hundred pounds. Mr. Horbury Hunt was appointed architect to plan a church building.

The foundation stone was laid by the Rt. Reverend A. Barry, Bishop of Sydney, on 30th May, 1885 and all masonry work was completed by June 1886.

The original design of the Church proved to be too ambitious and when it was dedicated by the Primate of Australia on 2nd April, 1888, a 'temporary' western end existed. Nearly fifty years later further building commenced and in 1938 an amended plan was approved and the present western end added.

The windows of this Church are amongst some of the finest stained glass in Australia. The east window, the Te Deum, is the work of Andrew Wells. This window was removed during World War II and buried in the cellars of "St. Ives" (15 Crescent Street). On the south nave there are two sets of windows designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones and manufactured by Wm. Morris & Co. These are the Manning Memorial (St. Patrick, St. George and St. Andrew) and the Simpson Memorial (The Transfiguration). They are the only Burne-Jones windows in Sydney.

The Church also has one of the finest organs in Sydney built by Bevington and Son of England.

Since 1858 eight clergy have been licensed as Curates in Charge, the first being the Reverend A. J. Burke, B.A., from 1858-9. The Reverend P. R. Spry-Bailey was the first Rector appointed in 1882 and served until 1900.

Duration of Walk — Approximately 1½ hours.

March, 1982.

The Hunter's Hill Trust thanks Jo Rees for the preparation of this pamphlet.



NOTES

18. 11 WYBALENA ROAD

This is a new house built from some of the materials of buildings demolished in the early 1960's to make way for the Expressway at Figtree Bridge. The unusual leaf-shaped roof tiles on this house are of an interesting design and originally came from Figtree Chapel, which was dismantled stone by stone and rebuilt at its present site in Figtree Road when the Expressway was being built.

19. 9 WYBALENA ROAD

This house is on the site of a large grant purchased in 1836 by John Terry Hughes, a large landholder and property speculator. The house was originally a two-roomed whaler's cottage and was built mainly in the 1850's. In 1882 it was called "Sabrena". When Henry G. Kilby (who during 1890 built his house "Bentham" [Map Ref. No. 17] next door) was living here between 1888 and 1890 and again in 1918, the house was called "Labrena".

20. "ST. CLAIRE" – 2 Wybalena Road

This house, together with its annexed neighbour, "Waiwera" (Map Ref. No. 13) is of both architectural and historical interest, being one of a pair of houses built by Charles Jeanneret in 1878-9.

21. "WINDRADINE" – 7 Wybalena Road

In 1881, Stanley Jeanneret (son of Charles Jeanneret) owned this land, part of the subdivision of the Wybalena Estate. This house was built for Horace Suttor, stock and station agent and he was living here in 1900. By 1914, with a new owner, its name "Windradine" had been acquired. This house has been extensively altered in recent times.

22. "MORNINGSEA" – 1 Wybalena Road

This Edwardian style house was built c.1898 and was owned by the Kopsch family from 1899 to 1942. Mr. C. Kopsch was a scientific instrument maker and the house originally included an observatory.

[Note: Among the curiosities of Hunter's Hill, were four wooden houses imported from the Paris Exhibition of 1854 by Leonard Etienne Bordier, an early French settler who came from Switzerland on the ship "Phoenician" in 1849 (the same journey as Count Gabriel de Milhau). He had the houses shipped out in sections and imported German builders, under contract, to reassemble the four houses at four points in Ferry Street. Of these wooden houses only one remains – "The Chalet" (Map Ref. No. 25). The other three were "Croissy" (formerly "Adraville") originally located on the corner of Ferry Street and Croissy Avenue, one located at 14 Ferry Street and "The Hut" (formerly "Summerville") at 1 Woolwich Road.]

23. "THE HUT" – 1 Woolwich Road

Only part of the original wooden home remains, the original main part of the house having been demolished due to white ant destruction. The original house was bought by Charles Jeanneret from Didier Joubert in 1862. It was Charles Jeanneret's family home until 1874 when the family moved to "Wybalena" (Map Ref. No. 15). In 1872 R. D. FitzGerald, Deputy Surveyor-General, lived in "Adraville" (later called "Croissy") while Captain Goodridge lived in "The Hut". Nina Goodridge married E. D. FitzGerald and five generations of their family have lived in "The Hut".

24. "OATLANDS" – 10 Ferry Street

This beautiful stone home stands on part of John Tawell's original grant. It was probably built by Didier Joubert, who was a creditor of Leonard Etienne Bordier who got into financial difficulty and transferred the property to Didier Numa Joubert on 9th April, 1856. In 1880, a new owner, Mr. Low, sold the property to Mr. Sidney Oatley, warehouseman, whose family owned "Oatlands" until 1935.

[Note: Of interest in Ferry Street are the rubble-fill type stone garden walls.]

25. "THE CHALET" – 2 Yerton Avenue

This house is one of the four pre-fabricated wooden houses brought out to Australia from the Paris Exhibition of 1854 by Leonard Etienne Bordier. It is the only one of those wooden houses that remains today.

[Note: A panoramic view of the City of Sydney, the suburb of Drummoyne, Huntley's Point and the Gladesville Bridge, can be seen by walking to the south end of Ferry Street. It was here in about 1862 that one of the earlier wharves on the Parramatta River was built to serve the residents of the district. (This wharf was generally referred to as "Ferry Street Wharf".)]

26. "MUIRBANK" – 1 Muirbank Avenue

This imposing brick house, at the western end of Muirbank Avenue, belonged to William Henderson in 1897.

[Note: A very large old Moreton Bay Fig tree dominates Muirbank Avenue.

The Walk continues along Muirbank Avenue, into Muirbank Lane, then left into Toocooya Lane, to the 'front' of "Muirbank". Walk back up Toocooya Lane to "Jalna".]

**27. "JALNA" – 2 Toocooya Road
and**

24 FERRY STREET

"Jalna" and 24 Ferry Street form one building now divided into two separate dwellings.

"Jalna", with its most unusual facade, was probably built as a later addition. A date, 1907, was found in the plasterwork during restoration.

It is thought that 24 Ferry Street may have been the house of Fred Thurston and, if so, dates from the 1860's. Arthur Yates, the seed merchant, lived in this Georgian style home in 1889.

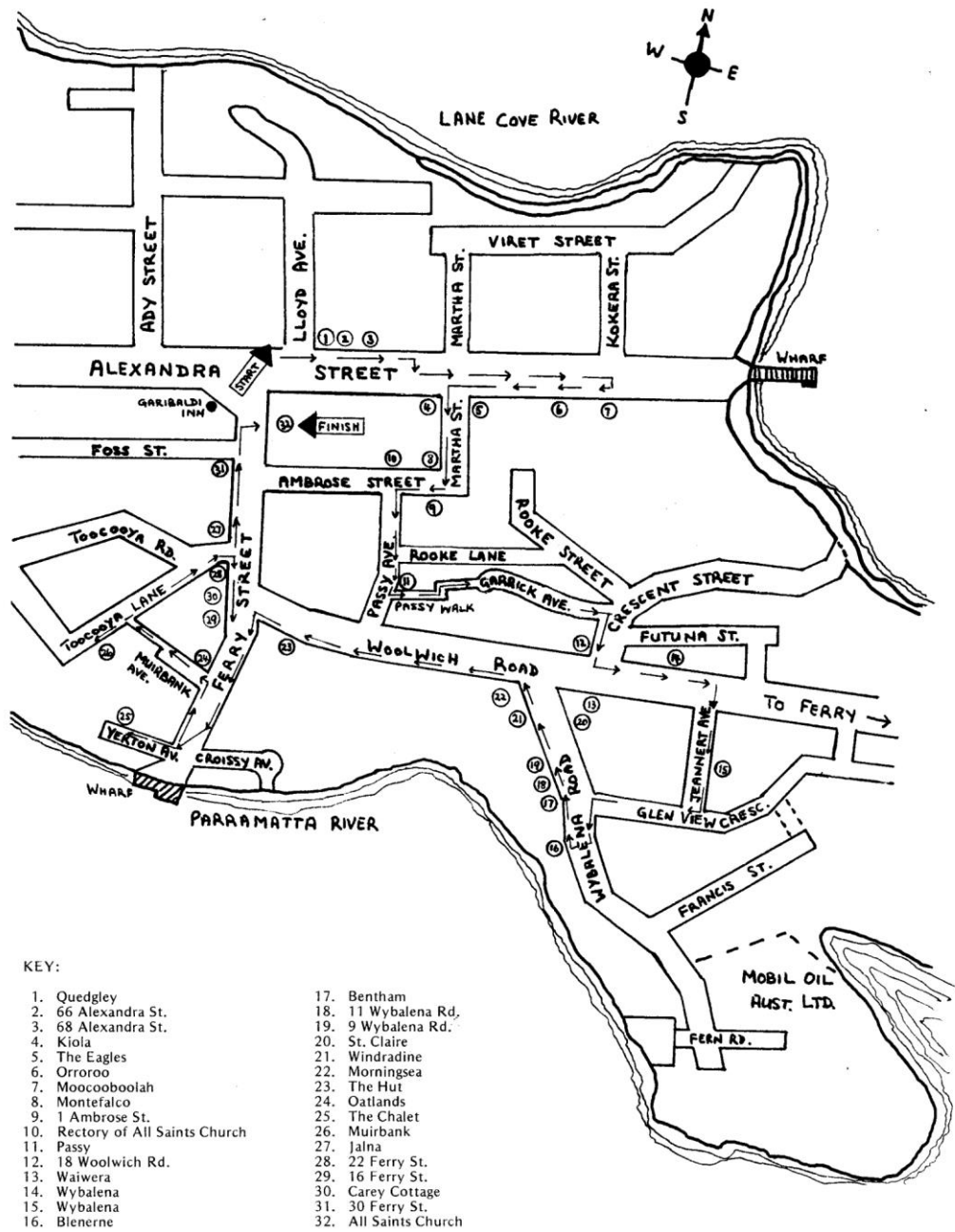
28. 22 FERRY STREET

William Rennell lived here in 1889. By 1924 this house belonged to Mary Wilson and was called "Mia Mia".

29. 16 FERRY STREET

This site was part of a land grant to William Morgan in 1834. The cottage and shop (S/E corner) were first occupied by James Stephen Stanner, wharfinger and later blacksmith, in 1867. James Stanner was the 'unofficial' postmaster of Hunter's Hill in 1858 and this cottage was used by him as the post office. In 1867 the building was extended to include a telegraph room (the present real estate office) but soon afterwards the post office was moved to 23 Alexandra Street.

1. **"QUEDGLEY" – 64 Alexandra Street**
Records show that on a sub-division plan of 1862, no house existed on this site. It was first occupied in 1875 and in 1884 T. Cuneo owned it.
2. **66 ALEXANDRA STREET**
From 1877 to 1906 Mrs. Elizabeth Potts owned and occupied this stone house.
3. **68 ALEXANDRA STREET**
In 1879, George Arthur was a tenant of Mrs. Elizabeth Potts in this stone house.
4. **"KIOLA" – 55 Alexandra Street**
During 1890, Conrad Natty, a gardener who emigrated from Germany in the 1850's, owned this house. The house was later sold to P. G. Brunton.
5. **"THE EAGLES" – 57 Alexandra Street**
This house is reputed to have been built by an island trader from Fiji who had Pacific Island house boys living in the grounds. Records for 1890 list Reverend J. Jones as living here. A Miss H. L. Jones is also listed as having a school here from 1894-1898. The Reverend John Jones was Pastor of the Congregational Church (Alexandra and Ferdinand Streets) for seven years from 1890. He died in 1909 and the London Missionary Society erected a stained glass window in the Church in memory of him.
6. **"ORROROO" – 59 Alexandra Street**
Records show that this brick home was built c.1892. The daughter of the owner, Mr. Thomas, married Henry Budden and he inherited the house on the death of his father-in-law. Not wishing to live in it, he let the house until 1920 when it was purchased by William C. Wise, Town Clerk of Hunter's Hill for 46 years. He and his family lived in this house for many years.
"ORROROO" displays architectural innovation for the time that it was built, as in the use of shingles and the combining of polychrome brick work with a rusticated sandstone base.
7. **"MOOCOBOOLAH" – 65 Alexandra Street**
Built c.1862-4, this stone house was built by Jules Joubert and was the last home he built and lived in. An interesting detail of this lovely stone home is that the whole of the glass used in its construction was brought to Australia by Jules Joubert from the Paris Exhibition of 1854.
(Note: "Moocooolah" is an aboriginal name meaning "meeting of waters" and is carried on the Hunter's Hill Municipal coat-of-arms.)
8. **"MONTEFALCO" – 4 Ambrose Street**
This house was built in 1890, of timber, and is one of the rare surviving examples of early two-storey timber houses in Hunter's Hill.
9. **1 AMBROSE STREET**
Reputed to have been the Porter's lodge of 'Milthorpe' (12 Crescent Street), a cottage stood here in 1870. The gardener, Conrad Natty, lived here from approximately 1877 until 1890.
10. **RECTORY OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH – 2 Ambrose Street**
When completed in 1890, the Reverend P. R. Spry-Bailey moved here from 25 Ernest Street, which had been used as a Rectory for some years.
11. **"PASSY" – 1 Passy Avenue**
This stone house was built by Jules Joubert before 1858 for Monsieur Louis Francois Sentis, Consul of France and the Sicilies and first French Consul in Sydney. The grounds in those days adjoined "Moocooolah" and it had frontages to Woolwich Road and Ferry Street. In recent times the facade of this sandstone house has been extensively altered.
[Note: The Walk continues along Passy Walk, into Garrick Avenue, to Crescent Street and Woolwich Road.]
12. **18 WOOLWICH ROAD**
This house was built in 1906 and designed by George W. Durrell, a member of the Institute of Architects. It is an impressive example of the Federation style, on a sandstone base and using brick, stucco, shingles, slate, carved woodwork and stained glass.
13. **"WAIWERA" – 9 Woolwich Road**
Charles Jeanneret built this house, which is attached to "St. Claire" (Map Ref. No. 20), in about 1878. "Waiwera" was occupied from 1879 by Dr. Frederick Norton Manning, Superintendent of the Insane at Gladesville Hospital (now Gladesville Mental Hospital) from 1868-1884.
14. **"WYBALENA" – 22 Woolwich Road**
Built in 1895, this stone house was Charles Jeanneret's last home. It was occupied in 1900 by S. Jeanneret and in 1914 by Mrs. J. A. Jeanneret. Mrs. C. E. Jeanneret lived here until her death in 1919. The aboriginal name, "Wybalena" meaning 'resting place' was taken to this house from Charles Jeanneret's previous home, also named "Wybalena" (Map Ref. No. 15) in about 1899.
15. **"WYBALENA" – 3 Jeanneret Street**
(Cover photograph)
Charles Jeanneret built this house for his family during 1874. In 1878, it was described as nine rooms and in the following year, as fourteen rooms. Its original balcony fencings were made of wood. By 1884 it was a sixteen room home with two pavilions, a summer house and land of twenty-five acres. During Charles Jeanneret's occupation of "Wybalena", an orchard made up part of its extensive grounds.
Charles Jeanneret had eleven children, the youngest two, Edwin and Florence, being born at "Wybalena". A major subdivision of the grounds was made in 1918 by its new owner, Thomas Buckland, Chairman of the Bank of New South Wales, by which subdivision Jeanneret Avenue and Glen View Crescent came into being.
Except for a short period during the Depression years (1930-1932), "Wybalena" was left empty for some time and gradually fell into disrepair. In 1940 it was restored by new owners and in 1967 it was purchased by the Sydney University for the home of the Vice-Chancellor of the University.
16. **"BLENERNE" – 23 Wybalena Road**
In 1890 the land where this house now stands was vacant and belonged to William Cope. By 1900 Henry Deane was occupying this house. In 1918 Dr. H. W. Armit was living here.
17. **"BENTHAM" – 13 Wybalena Road**
This house was built for Henry G. Kilby during 1890. It is now units.



BRIEF HISTORY OF HUNTER'S HILL

Located on a peninsula between the Parramatta River to the south and the Lane Cove River to the north, Hunter's Hill is a tranquil suburb of leafy streets, gracious old homes, simple stone cottages, stone garden walls, natural sandstone outcrops, walking paths and public bushland reserves.

Although there is debate over the origin of the name, "Hunter's Hill", it is generally accepted that the name was given to the area in honour of Lieutenant John Hunter (*later Governor Hunter of New South Wales*).

During the 1830's, Hunter's Hill was defined as a Parish. Most of the land on the peninsula was either granted or sold between 1839 and 1844. Some of the early landholders were: William Morgan, John Glade, Samuel Onions, John Tawell, John Clarke and Mary Reibey.

In 1846-7 Didier Numa Joubert, a Frenchman, came to the area and purchased land at Figtree from Mary Reibey. In 1855 his younger brother, Jules Francois Joubert, acquired land adjoining Didier's. By the mid 1850's these two enterprising brothers, using their own resources and those of two other Frenchmen, Viel d'Aram and Count Gabriel de Milhau, set about the business of building the many large and small stone homes which are a unique feature of Hunter's Hill today.

The excellence of many of these stone homes and the stone garden walls is a testament to the skill of the many stonemasons and labourers brought out from France and Italy to build them. Many descendants of those workmen live in the suburb today.

An outstanding builder in Hunter's Hill at about the same time as the Joubert brothers was Charles Edward Jeanneret. He was born in Sydney, the son of an English doctor, Henry Jeanneret.

Charles Jeanneret began investing in land in the area in 1857 and continued to increase his land holding, particularly in the area bounded by Wybalena Road and Woolwich Road.

Whilst living at "Wybalena" (*cover photograph*), which he built for his family, Charles Jeanneret supervised the building in 1878-9 of "Waiwera" (*Map Ref. No. 13*) and "St. Claire" (*Map Ref. No. 20*), two beautiful conjoined stone homes similar in style to "Wybalena". He also built, in 1895, as his last home, a smaller stone home also called "Wybalena" (*Map Ref. No. 14*).

Compared to the unusual flair of Jules Joubert and the more conservative style of Didier Joubert, Charles Jeanneret demonstrated flamboyance in the homes that he built.

Didier Joubert, Jules Joubert, Count de Milhau and Charles Jeanneret all held the office of Chairman/Mayor of Hunter's Hill at various times between the years 1861 to 1890. Jules Joubert has the honoured distinction of being the first Chairman (Mayor) when Hunter's Hill was proclaimed a Municipality on 5th January, 1861. Charles Edward Jeanneret later became an alderman on the Sydney City Council and in 1887 was elected to the Legislative Assembly.

This Walk commences on the north east corner of Alexandra and Ferry Streets, diagonally opposite "Garibaldi", the first inn of the district built by John Cuneo in 1861.

On this Walk you will see just a small area of the village of Hunter's Hill. It is hoped that by strolling through the narrow tree-lined streets you will discover many more of the unique features of the suburb.

For those who would like to explore the suburb further, a publication "A Glimpse of Hunter's Hill — A Short Walk Through History" (*also published by the Hunter's Hill Trust*) covers other historic buildings and quaint stone cottages in the area bounded by Mount, Madeline and Ady Streets.
