

**31 ROSS ROAD
CHURCH HOUSE, MARINE SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE AND HAMBLEDON
HOUSE
CROWN GRANT 1, LOT 13, SECTION O**

On 17 May 1844 Crown Grant 1 being lot 13 in Section O was issued to **Christopher Thomas ANDERSON** being half an acre (*two roods*) with a front to Ross Road and rear to John Street for £50. Christopher was the captain of the *Hebe* which first came to the Falkland Islands 15 January 1842 with Lieutenant, later Governor, MOODY and a detachment of sappers and miners. Captain ANDERSON was last recorded arriving with the *Hebe* 29 December 1845 and by October 1853 was recorded as living in London.

At some point **Christopher ANDERSON** conveyed his right to **Charles TROSS** but this was not registered in Stanley.

On 7 October 1859 **Frederick Henry Owen TROSS**, son and heir of the late **Charles TROSS** and living in Rio de Janeiro, conveyed his rights to Crown Grant 1 to **Thomas BOWDEN** of Oporto, merchant. [BUG-REG-1; 209]

They must have had a previous understanding as on 28 September 1859 **James LANE**, Colonial Manager of the Falkland Islands Company Ltd wrote '*Par 19. Mr Bowden's price is far too high in the present state of his property. His House detached room & Garden might be bought well for £150 – I cd let it at £25 per an: - the fence is down round the garden & repairs to the Buildgs are required but they wd not cost the Company much. The Boats are not wanted – I send form of Conveyce if required – the Crown Grant & any subrigt Deeds must be handed over.*'

On 21 October 1859 James LANE wrote to his directors that '*Bowden's House is spoken of as the only one the new Chaplain cd occupy – it is next to the Church & I hope you have been able to secure it... Bowden's wd let for more than I named £30 or £35 per an*'

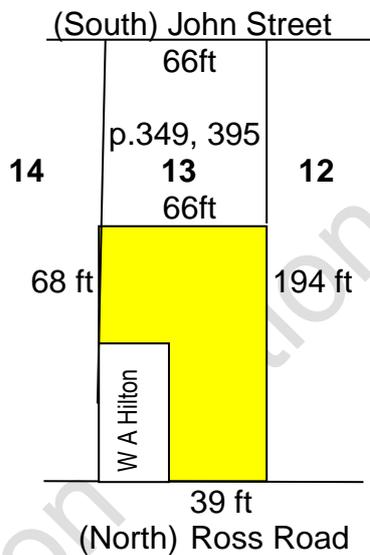
On 26 December 1859 James LANE wrote '*By the "Termagant" a Power of Atty came to Dean from Bowden to sell his property & it was offered in Lots on the 23rd inst – I bought the House & Land, & a separate one-room American House suitable for the Camp, for £259. I can let the House & Land for £35 or £40 per an: for a good boarding House which is much wanted & will be advantageous to the Company. Dean wanted to buy it & bid up to £245. Mr Havers also it is reported, for a store.*'

On 29 December 1859 **Thomas BOWDEN**, of the City of Oporto Merchant, and **Joaquina Charlota**, his wife, granted to the **Falkland Islands Company Ltd** '*All that lot or parcel of Land in the Falkland Islands situate in the Town of Stanley containing half an acre and numbered thirteen and more particularly described as to metes and bounds in the official plan or survey made by Murrell Robinson Robinson Surveyor in the month of May 1844 of record in the office of the Surveyor together with the Dwelling houses thereon erected fronting on Ross Road and situate between the "Queens Arms" and the Church and all other erections thereon and the rights privileges and advantages thereto belonging*' for £250. [BUG-REG-1; 210]

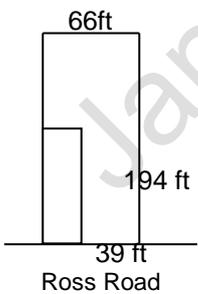
On 19 January 1866 the **Falkland Islands Company Ltd** granted to the **Reverend Charles BULL** '*All that parcel of Land in the Falkland Islands situate in Ross Road Stanley part of Town Lot No 13 purchased by the said Company of Thomas Bowden extending in depth from North to South One hundred and ninety four feet and in width from East to West sixty six feet together with the Two Dwelling Houses thereon erected*' for £250. [BUG-REG-1; 295]

On 1 April 1867 the Reverend **Charles BULL** granted to **William Alexander HILTON**, carpenter of Stanley, 'All that parcel of land in the Falkland Islands situate in Ross Road Stanley part of Town lot No 13 extending in depth 126 feet from North to South, from East to West 27 feet together with the Dwelling house erected thereon and known as Church Cottage. The said land being bordered on the East by the Queens Arms Hotel, and on the West by the land attached to Church House' for £65. [BUG-REG-1; 301] - 32 Ross Road.

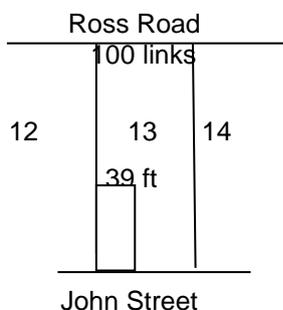
On 29 June 1867 the Reverend **Charles BULL** granted to **Jacob Napoleon GOSS**, merchant of Stanley, 'All that parcel of land in the Falkland Islands situate in the Town of Stanley and part of Lot No 13 extending from North to South 194 feet, on the South by a portion of Lot No 13. 66 feet on the East by Lot No 14 68 feet on the North by another portion of Lot No 13 in the holding of William Alexander Hilton 27 feet and on the East by the same portion of Lot 13 126 feet, and on the North by Ross Road 39 feet as shewn by the annexed diagram' for £187 [BUG-REG-1; 303]



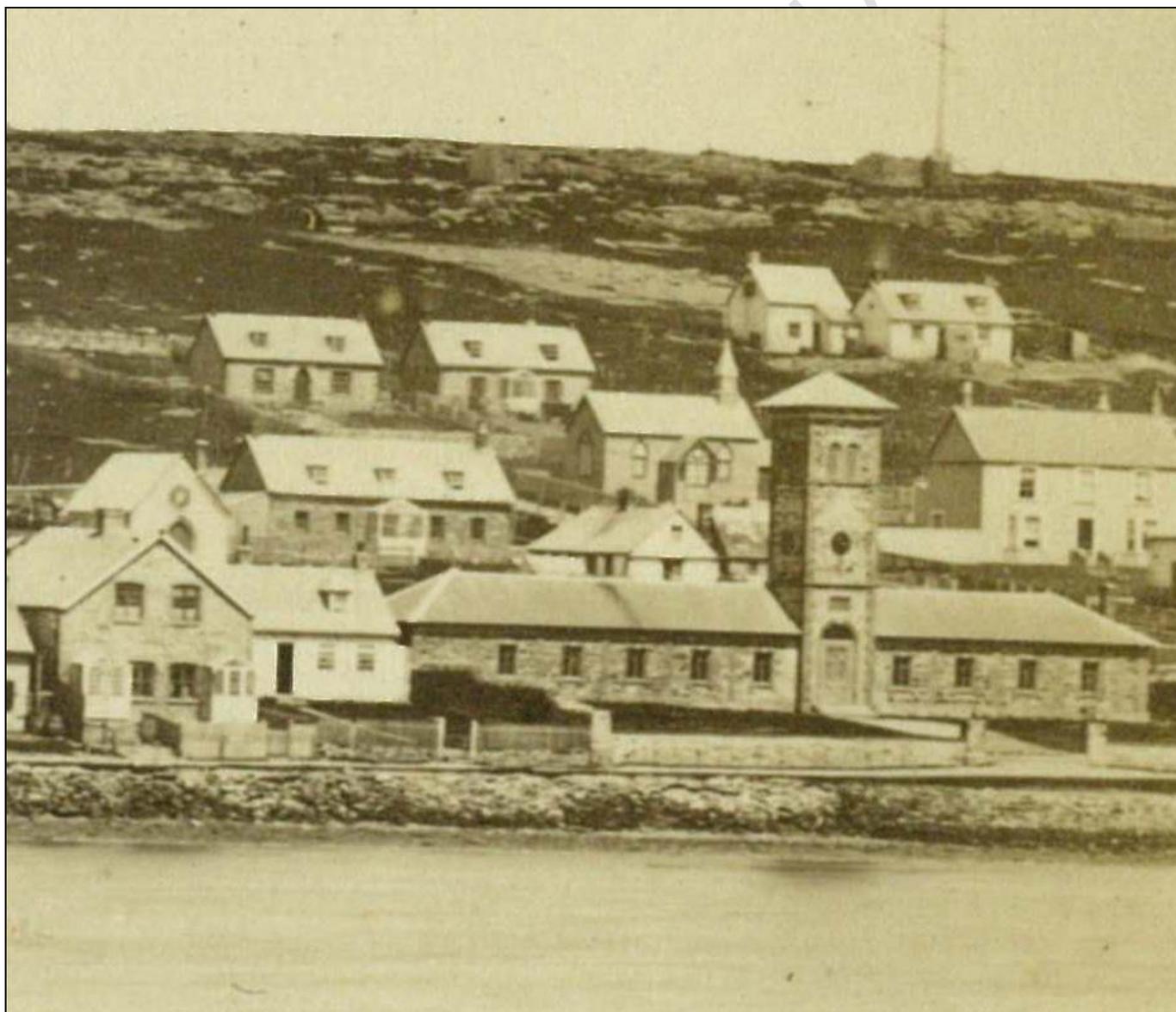
On 13 October 1874 the **Estate Jacob Napoleon GOSS**, spirit dealer of Stanley, granted to **Alexander LAWS**, shipwright of Stanley, 'All that parcel of Land in the Falkland Islands situate in the Town of Stanley and part of Lot No 13 extending on the west from North to South 194 feet on the South by a portion of the same allotment 66 feet on the East by Lot No 14 68 feet on the North and East by another portion of Lot 13 27 feet and 127 feet respectively and on the North by Ross Road 39 feet as shewn by the annexed diagram together with the messuage and buildings thereon' for £240. [BUG-REG-1; 389]



On 27 March 1875 **James TURNER**, merchant of Stanley, granted to **Alexander LAWS**, shipwright and master mariner of Stanley, 'All that parcel of Land in the Falkland Islands situate in the Town of Stanley being a southern portion of allotment no thirteen (13), bounded on the north by another portion of the same allotment 39 feet, on the east also by allotment number thirteen (13) 136 feet, on the South by John Street 39 feet, and on the west by allotment number twelve (12), 136 feet containing nineteen perches more or less' for five shillings. [BUG-REG-1; 398

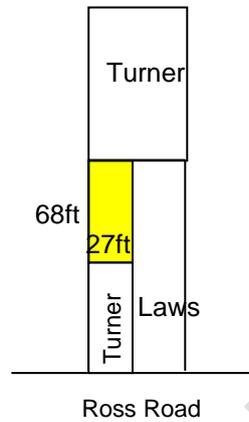


Archives



L-R Orchid Store, Church House partially obscured, Exchange Building 1870s – photo Blake Album

On 27 March 1875 **Alexander LAWS**, shipwright and master mariner of Stanley, granted to **James TURNER**, merchant of Stanley, 'All that parcel of Land in the Falkland Islands situate in the Town of Stanley being a portion of allotment no thirteen (13), bounded on the north by another portion of the same allotment 27 feet, on the east by allotment 14, 68 feet, on the South and West by other portions of the same Allotment 27 and 68 feet respectively, containing six perches more or less' for five shillings. [BUG-REG-1; 399]



On 19 April 1876 **Alexander LAWS**, shipwright at present residing in Stanley, granted to the **Falkland Islands Company Ltd**, 'All that parcel of Land in the Falkland Islands situate in the Town of Stanley being a portion of allotment number thirteen (13) containing one rood seven perches, having a frontage to Ross Road of thirty nine feet on the east by same allotment (13) three hundred and thirty feet, on the south by John Street thirty nine feet, and on the west by the Church allotment three hundred and thirty feet. Together with the Dwelling house erected thereon and all other erections thereon, and the rights privileges and advantages thereto belonging' for £490. [BUG-REG-3; 50]



June 1886 after the peat slip

On 13 December 1924 H H GRESHAM wrote to London Office *'I have conveyed to Captain Roberts the Board's approval of his taking leave next year, and he will proceed home after the "Falkland" has been laid up.*

We had already gone into the question of providing better accommodation for him and his family, and it was first proposed that the roof would be heightened in order to allow of the upstairs rooms (if they can be called rooms), being used. The whole building, however, is very old, extremely damp, and, in fact, in such a condition that I do not consider that the expense of making it habitable is justified. The back premises, peat shed, chicken houses and various shanties erected by Captain Thomas out of old packing cases are all in a tumble-down condition. I think that Mr W M Dean will agree that the whole block of land should be cleared of everything and a new house and peat shed erected. The Board will realise that this is the only suitable site for the Marine Superintendent's house, as it commands a view of the lighter anchorages.' [FIC/D14; desp 633, 6]

On 3 January 1925 H H GRESHAM wrote to London Office *'Mr W M Dean has thoroughly inspected the Marine Superintendent's house and has, as I anticipated, condemned it with all outbuildings. I enclose a plan of the land on which a new house must be erected, and Mr Dean recommends that the building should be sent out as soon as possible. What is required is the following:- Dining room and Drawing room in front, with kitchen, scullery and bathroom on the ground floor, with four bedrooms upstairs.'* [FIC/D14; desp 634, 2]

On 6 February 1925 London Office wrote to H H GRESHAM *'It is clear from your description that the old house used by the Marine Superintendent is no longer fit for occupation, and the cable since received from Mr W M Dean confirms that there is no alternative to condemnation. On receipt of Mr Dean's recommendations, and the plans which you are forwarding, the Board will decide what shall be done in the matter.'* [FIC/C8; desp 1254; 5]

On 20 March 1925 London Office wrote to H H GRESHAM *'The plan of the new house for the Marine Superintendent is to hand, and quotations for same have been called for. The Board is at a loss to understand why, if the condition of the old building is as bad as Mr Dean appears to have found it, the matter has not been previously reported.'* [FIC/C8; desp 1255; 2]

On 21 March 1925 H H GRESHAM wrote to London Office *'Captain Robert's house, which has been condemned, is now being dismantled, and the ground should be cleared of all structures and materials by the middle of April. It was thought at first that we should pull the house down ourselves, but it was decided to put it up for auction with the result that we have obtained over £170 for it and have not had to employ our own carpenters on the work of dismantling.*

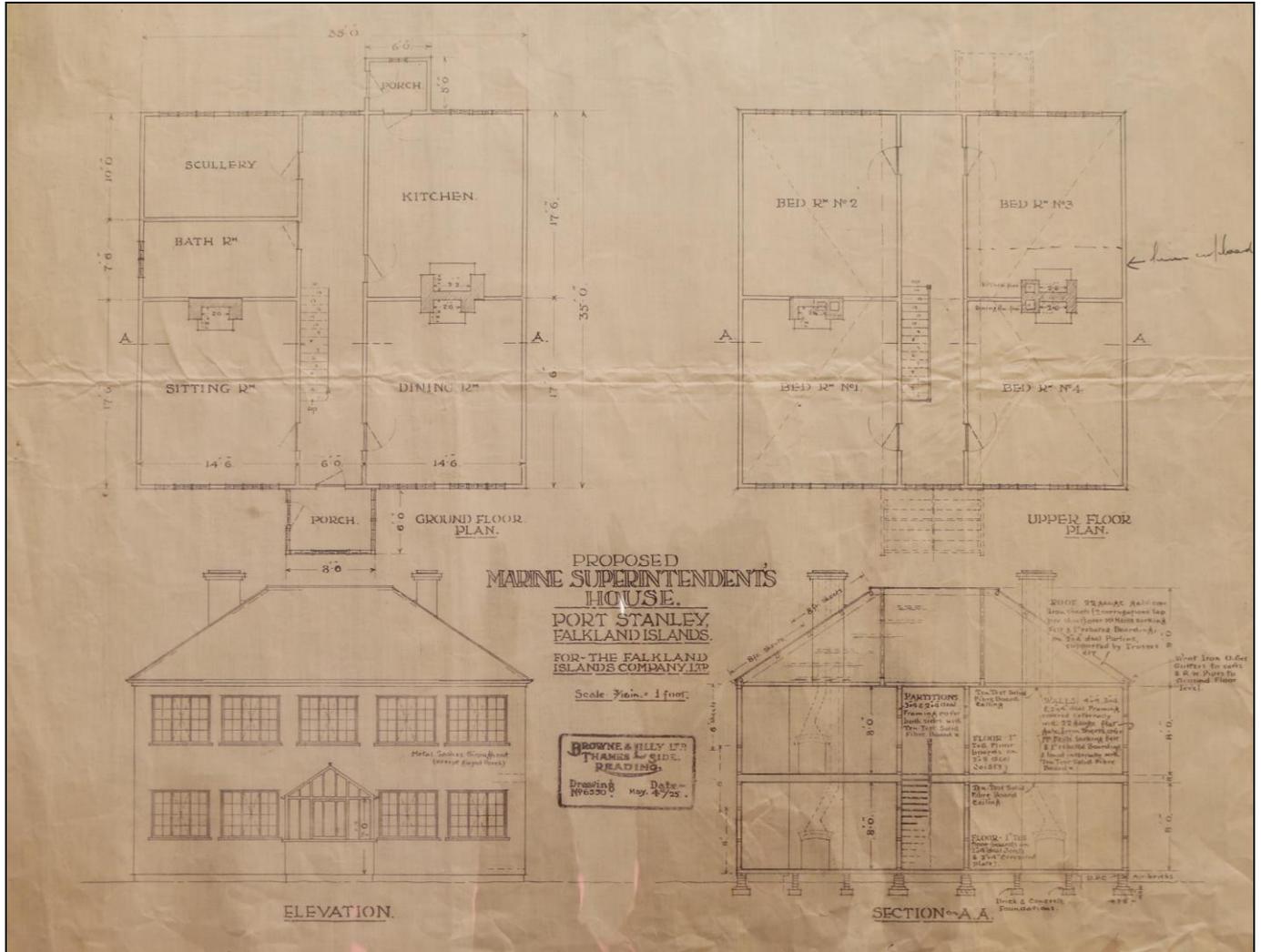
We should like the new foundation plans out as soon as possible as I think that I can get a good mason, who is in Government employment, to do this work in his spare time for quite a reasonable figure.' [FIC/D14; desp 638, 8]

William 'Bill' HUTCHINSON purchased Church House at auction on 7 March 1925 on condition that he dismantled and removed it within a month. He applied to the Falkland Islands Government to purchase a piece of land outside the Common fence to erect it on. The sale of quarter of an acre to him was sanctioned on 25 March 1925 subject to the plans of the building being approved by the Board of Health. This was and the house was erected at 17 Brandon Road on Crown Grant 386. [BUS/ALL/1#12] He sold the house and land on 21 January 1926 for £650. [BUG-REG-9; 274]

On 28 May 1925 London Office wrote to H H GRESHAM *'The arrangement in connection with the sale of the Marine Superintendent's house, whereby you have obtained £170 and avoided the labour of demolition, are excellent.*

The new house in replacement, made by Messrs Browne & Lily Ltd of Reading, is completed and will be shipped by this opportunity. It was thoroughly inspected a few days ago by Mr W M Dean who was accompanied by Craig, the carpenter from North Arm. The latter reported that Browne and Lilly's work is considerably better than that of Messrs Harbrow, the suppliers of the North Arm house recently sent out.

Foundation plans for Marine Superintendent's house are enclosed, and also drawings giving information in respect of the windows.' [FIC/C8; desp 1257; 4]



On 3 September 1925 H H GRESHAM wrote to London Office 'The Marine Superintendent's new house arrived on the "Duendes" and in view of your instructions to hasten the repairs of the "Gwendolin", referred to below, I have been obliged to arrange for the erection by contract, as otherwise there would have been no possibility of starting on the vessel. There has been some delay in commencing the building owing to the services of a mason not being available.' [FIC/D14; desp 643, 2]

On 8 October 1925 H H GRESHAM wrote to London Office 'Rapid progress has been made with the erection of the Marine Superintendent's house since the mason finished laying the foundations. Five of the metal sashes were in need of slight repairs, one or two latches having been broken off, and some of the framework having been bent, but the necessary repairs were executed without loss of time. I anticipate that a portion will be ready for habitation when Captain Roberts returns.' [FIC/D14; desp 644, 6]

On 30 November 1925 London Office wrote to H H GRESHAM *'The progress made with the erection of the Marine Superintendent's house is noted with satisfaction. By this opportunity a bath and heating copper for same is being shipped. Until the Stanley water supply scheme is an accomplished fact, it is useless installing a circulating and heating outfit.'* [FIC/C9; desp 1262; 2]



Hambledon House – FIC Collection, JCNA

Jane Cameron