

### 38 DAVIS STREET - THE RANGE DWELLING LOT 5 SECTION 3 – CROWN GRANT 387 AND 412

This corrugated iron building, which was demolished at some point during the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century, had an interesting history. It was originally built circa 1900 as a Range Hut at the Naval Rifle Range to the north of Fairy Cove.

In September 1905, due to an outbreak of smallpox at Punta Arenas, it was suggested that the cottage situated on the Naval Rifle Range at Fairy Cove be acquired for providing quarantine accommodation. At the time the land was leased by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd. A fence was to be erected around the cottage to exclude it from the surrounding land. By May 1906 it was agreed that any cases could be landed at the Admiralty Rifle Range Jetty; the FIC granted them right of way between the jetty and the Quarantine Station. [F32; 44, 54, 244]

In 1907 the Admiralty agreed to lease the cottage at the rear of the Naval Depot at the Camber to the Falkland Islands Government for use of a Quarantine Station in lieu of the cottage on the Naval Rifle Range, the Rifle Range Cottage to be disinfected. [F32; 416]

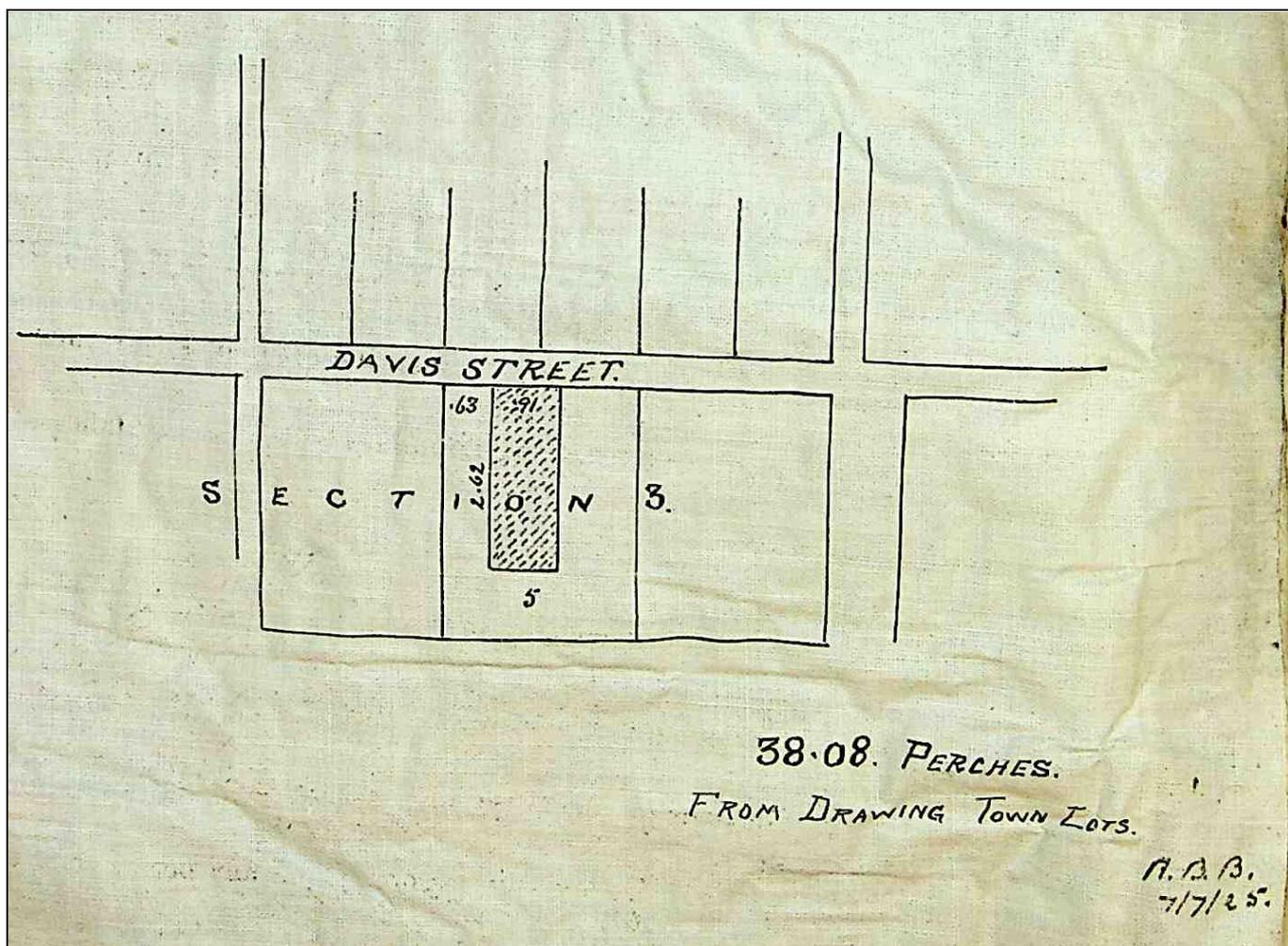
The Rifle Range Cottage was later moved to the Camber and converted to living quarters for the caretakers of the Admiralty Coaling Station. During the 1920s there was a housing shortage in Stanley and the hut was moved to Stanley and converted into a house.

On 21 July 1924 **A A P NEAVE**, Officer in Charge of Works, offered the corrugated iron building formerly the Range Hut at Fairy Cove and now used as living quarters at Navy Point to the Falkland Islands Government for £50. Included were two cooking ranges and two earth closets. This was accepted and the Range Hut was disassembled, transported and re-erected outside the common fence to the south of Davis Street and west of Pill House on  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an acre at a total cost, including purchase of £137-16-0. The building was erected in the first case on piles, the plinth to be built at a later date. The cost did not include the building of a brick chimney, a fence, concreting of the back yard and drainage.

**Albert Henry HILLS**, who had occupied part of the building when it was at the Camber rented the whole four room house for 10/- a week. [DEF/NCA/1#10]

On 12 January 1925 **R B BASELEY**, the Colonial Engineer, advised that he had seen **Albert Henry HILLS** in respect of the purchase of the house that he was occupying and that he was anxious to purchase the house and to give up the idea of building a new one if the price was not too high. Mr Hills was willing to exchange his  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre on the Common for the  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre where the house had been erected. The house had cost £140-6-4 as it stood and the Colonial Engineer suggested that the house be offered to Mr Hills for £150 provided that he undertook to fence in the land and to comply with the Board of Health regulations as to drainage and back yard, etc within nine months of the date of the agreement. The Colonial Engineer also noted that there would be considerable outlay before the premises could be considered suitable as a dwelling.

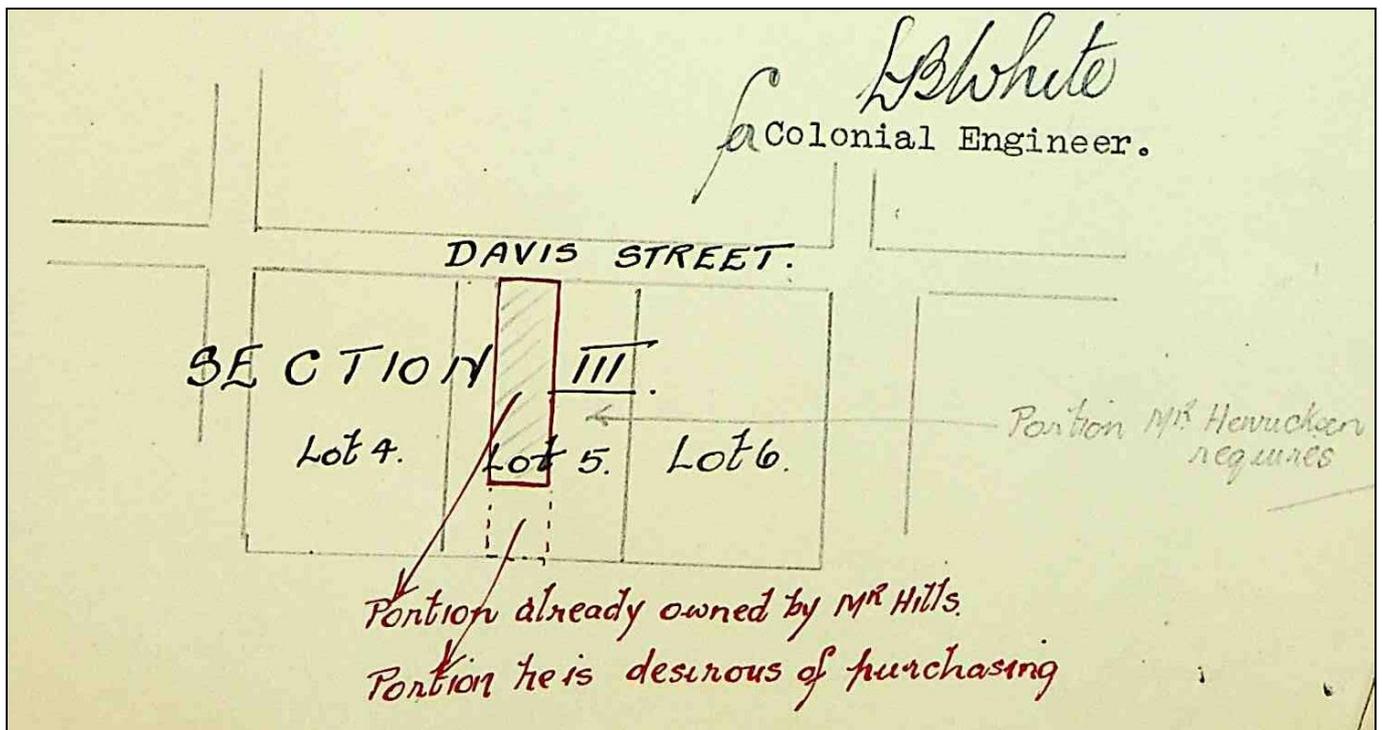
On 19 January 1925 **Albert Henry HILLS** wrote to the Colonial Engineer advising that he was willing to accept the terms. The terms of the purchase were £20 down with the balance of £130 a 3% interest to be paid by seven yearly instalments of £20-17-4. The property was described as the "*building with privy and small outbuilding situated on the south of Davis Street and to the east of Pill House in the Town of Stanley and known as the Range Dwelling*". Mr Hills also exchanged his land being part of Pensioner's Special Allotment No 7 for the land the house was on. [BUS/DAV/1#2]



On 31 July 1925 Crown Grant 387 being part of Lot 5 in Section 3 containing 38.08 perches more or less was issued to **Albert Henry HILLS** for one shilling being bounded on the north by Davis Street 91 links, on the east by Crown Land 262 links, on the south by Crown Land 91 links and on the west by Crown Land 262 links. [CG 387]



1927 - Back L-R: 37 Davis Street, 38 Davis Street and 36 Davis Street (Pill House)  
- FIC Collection, JCNA



On 7 May 1928 **Albert Henry HILLS** applied to purchase the piece of land to the south of his boundary. This was approved 13 June 1928 for the purchase price of £9-7-6. [BUS/DAV/1#2]

On 19 January 1929 Crown Grant 412 was issued to **Albert Henry HILLS** £9-7-6 being 14.87 square rods bounded on the north by CG 387, on the south by Crown Land 91 links, on the east and west by 102 links. [CG 412]

On 9 June 1990 an application by **D B KING** to build a two storey house on the plot was approved.



View from Davis Street December 2020 - JCNA