

MALVINA COTTAGE

William Henry Moore, the newly appointed magistrate, arrived in Port Louis on 6 March 1845 with the makings of a timber house. By 8 April 1848 William Moore was recorded as living at Malvina Cottage, Ross Road, Stanley. Malvina Cottage was located on Town Lot 4 and on 9 May 1849 William Moore was granted Crown Grant 23 for £50, being Lot 4, section O half an acre with a frontage on Ross Road and running south to John Street. William Moore was suspended in April 1849 and returned to London. On 15 March 1850 William Moore conveyed Malvina Cottage and Lot 3 to Alexander Ross Lafone, merchant of Liverpool. The property passed to the Falkland Islands Company Ltd when they purchased the Lafone rights and interests in the Falkland Islands in 1851.

On 3 February 1859 James Lane, the new colonial manager for the Falkland Islands Company Ltd reported: *“Mr Havers quitted Malvina Cottage on 31 December & having held an auction of some of his furniture I bought several necessary articles & by obtaining others from the Store & Mr Dean have made a part of the House just habitable, but certainly not what it should be – it was so extraordinarily dirty & unwholesome as to be scarcely bearable at the sale. I have had only what was absolutely necessary done & have taken away the Veranda & a range of wooden outhouses reducing the Court Yard behind by one half thereby obtaining a large quantity of valuable Timber & Wood much wanted and increasing the ground behind for Vegetables.”* (this wood was later used towards building the new dairy buildings). He also had the peat dug out to the east and south of Malvina Cottage and the area made into gardens.

By the end of 1859 James Lane appeared to have got Malvina Cottage to a satisfactory standard as he reported 26 December 1859: *“I shall give up my Bedroom to Mr & Mrs Bull, & take them into Malvina Cottage until they get settled. I have allowed Mr Pyne the use for a time, of a spare room, to sleep in, with his own furniture, until some opportunity for his living with a family occurs, Mr Brooke has taken him to board with him. He was very poorly in October, never getting his meals regularly, living alone in Mr Faulkner’s late House without a Servant; but I invited him to stay with me, & after about 6 weeks, he has got quite sound & has now left.”*



Colonial Manager’s old house Malvina Cottage 1875 – FIC Collection

MALVINA COTTAGE
VERSION: 29 August 2017



Malvina Cottage from south 1875 – photograph Blake Album, JCNA



Colonial Manager's house stone addition with lean-to right – FIC Collection

Frederick Cobb, colonial manager from 1867, married in 1873 and later he complained to the Directors of the Falkland Islands Company in London that the house they had given him, Malvina Cottage, was too small and that the floors were rotten. They agreed to build him a new home and Malvina Cottage was eventually demolished to make way for the Stanley House grounds and gardens.