

ADMIRALTY COTTAGE

During 1897, Lieutenant Colonel LEWIS, RE, assisted by an Admiralty draughtsman, visited the Falkland Islands to survey Stanley with a view to determining its adaptability as a site for a coaling station and naval depot. [FIM Mar 1897, Oct 1897]

George Patrick HAYES, civil engineer for the Naval Depot, and Major R E CURTIS, arrived 11 March 1899 from London on board the *Itauri*. Major Curtis marked out the Naval Depot on the north side of Stanley Harbour near to the west of The Narrows. By April 1899 a house, framed in England, was being erected for Mr Hayes in the Government Paddock, opposite the late residence of Mr Lasar. [FIM Apr 1899]



An early photograph of Admiralty Cottage

On 13 September 1902 W Hart Bennett, Administrator, reported that Mr HAYES, the Officer in Charge of Naval Works in Stanley, had reported to him that he had received instructions from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to remove the house occupied by him from Stanley to the other side of the harbour when the present naval works were completed. As the removal was going to be expensive W Hart Bennett suggested that the Admiralty sell the property to the Falkland Islands Government. The house was described as *“of wood and iron, though one-storeyed and small, is well-built and comfortable and is, I believe, thoroughly sanitary. It was erected some years ago by permission of the Colonial government on a corner of the paddock adjoining Government House and no rent has been charged to the Admiralty in respect of the Crown Land on which it stands.”* If this was not approved then the Administrator suggested that the Admiralty rented the house to the Government. [B25; 331]

On 23 December 1902 the Admiralty advised that they did not propose to sell the building but were prepared to let the property on an annual tenancy subject to six months' notice on either

side, for a rent of £30 per annum and the tenants to keep the premises in repair. The property was still occupied by the officer in charge of the Naval Works on 1 January 1903. [F29; 432]

On 3 March 1903 Governor Grey Wilson advised that the Government was not prepared to undertake to let the house on those conditions but that Mr William Austin THOMPSON, Colonial Treasurer, was desirous of renting the house directly from the Admiralty on the terms proposed. [B25; 362]

George HAYES departed 2 June 1903 on board the *Liguria* bound for Liverpool.

In Despatch 40 dated 9 May 1905 Governor Allardyce informed the Secretary of State that Mr Thompson wished to terminate his lease as he considered the rent more than he felt justified in paying for the limited accommodation that the house possessed and therefore gave the required six months' notice; he would be however willing to continue his tenancy if he could pay £20 per annum without keeping the premises in repair during his tenancy. [B26; 222]

On 24 August 1905 the Admiralty advised that they would prefer to sell rather than let the building and asked whether the Government was interested in purchasing the premises. [F32; 30]

On 4 October 1905 it was recorded that the house "*situated as it is in at the northeast corner of the Government House paddock, and only about 250 yards from Government House...it is very desirable that the would-be-purchaser, or his tenant, should be a respectable person.*" Although Governor Allardyce pointed out that the Falkland Islands Government had no present need for the building he offered to purchase it as it stood for £325. [G6; 24]

On 7 February 1906 the sum of £325 being the purchase money of the house at Stanley hitherto let by the Admiralty was placed to the credit of the Paymaster General at the Bank of England. [F32; 166]

Admiralty Cottage was originally insured for £300; this was increased to £500 in 1922 and £750 in 1927.

In December 1919, John K PEARCE, the principal lighthouse keeper, who was renting Admiralty Cottage from the Falkland Islands Government, applied to be provided with a wash house. A lean-to was built against an existing shed and finished by early February 1920 at a cost of £7-5-6. [BUS/RRW/1#1]

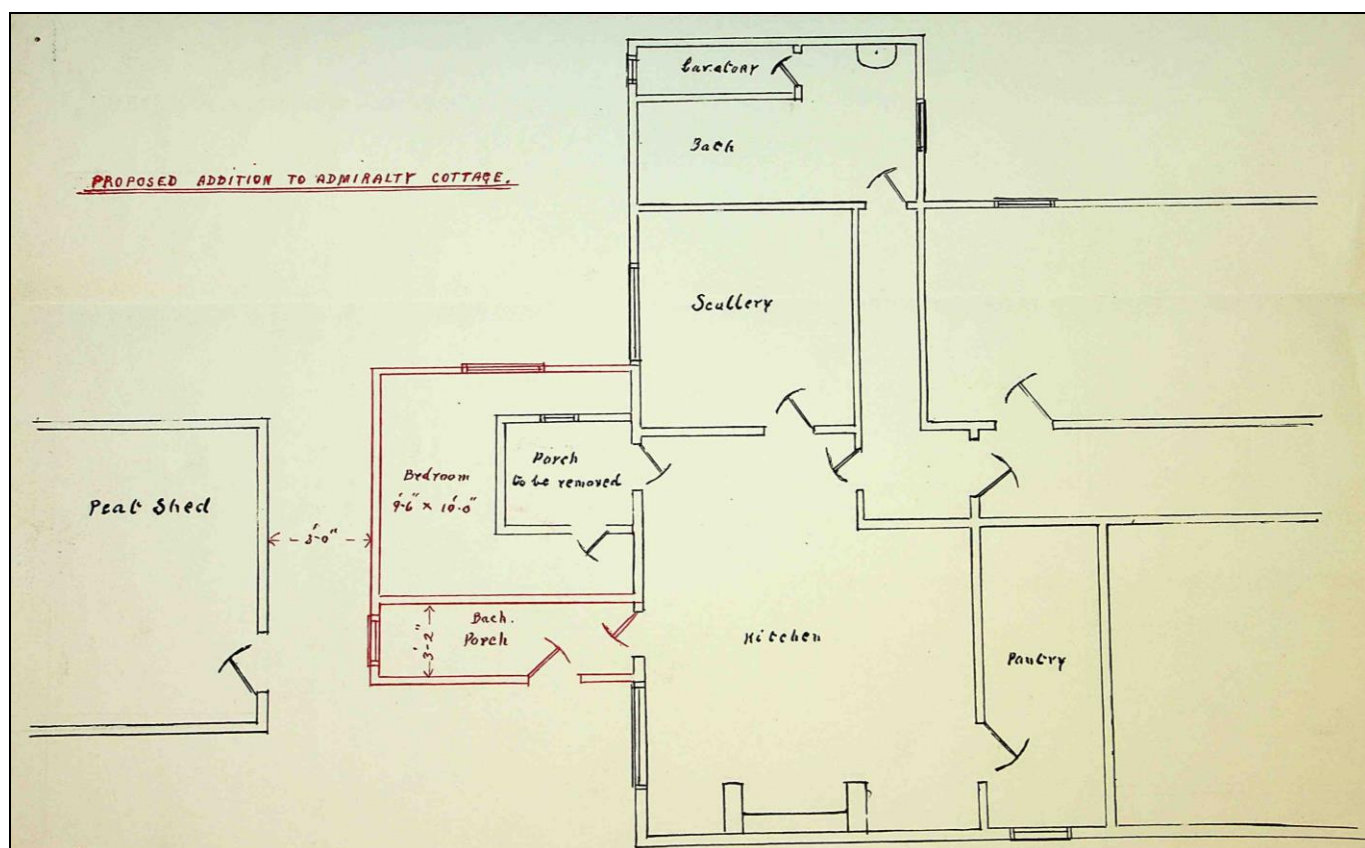
On 6 September 1924 Ines Gray PEARCE, who was born in Stanley 13 December 1903, died from tuberculosis and was buried two days later in Stanley Cemetery. On the 24 September 1924 John PEARCE wrote to advise that owing to the death of his daughter he felt that he must leave Admiralty Cottage. He advised that he spent eight months of the year at Cape Pembroke Lighthouse and that he did not think it wise for him to leave his wife alone in Admiralty Cottage for such a long time with her memories and that she would go and live with his married daughter, Edith HARDY, in Stanley. He handed over the keys 2 October 1924. [BUS/RRW/1#9]

Frank HOWATT, master of the patrol boat HMCS *Afterglow*, took over the tenancy of Admiralty Cottage on 6 October 1924. This was rent free so long as he was in the service of the Falkland Islands Government. This employment terminated 30 June 1928 but he was allowed to stay in the house at a monthly rent of £2. His tenancy was terminated at the end of December 1928 due to the quarters being required for a government official. [BUS/RRW/1#9]



Admiralty Cottage, possibly circa 1930 - FIC Collection, JCNA

By January 1931 the tenant was Lieutenant William Moir ALLAN of the Falkland Islands Defence Force and he wrote requesting reconditioning of Admiralty Cottage. His son's bedroom was repapered and the big spare room on the east side of the house was returned to two rooms by the erection of a partition. [BUS/RRW/1#14] After 7 ½ years in the Falkland Islands Captain and Mrs ALLAN departed 26 September 1936.



The new tenant was Major Malcolm John STEWART, Colonial Treasurer, and on 3 April 1937 he requested that the kitchen garden was dug and put in order by the Agricultural Department. He also requested the addition of an extra bedroom which was made by removing the existing porch on the south end and adding a small lean-to bedroom and a new back porch. [BUS/RRW/2#6]

Captain Stewart, wife and daughter, arrived in the Falkland Islands 26 October 1935 and he took up his duties as treasurer, collector of customs, manager of the savings bank, harbour master, registrar of shipping and receiver of wrecks. He was also appointed a major in the Falkland Islands Defence Force on 1 November 1935. His wife and daughter returned to England in 1936 so that his daughter could continue her education.

Major STEWART officially ended his employment 15 November 1938 as he was transferred to Sierra Leone as Deputy Treasurer.

In 1942 Admiralty Cottage consisted of a kitchen, bathroom, dining room, hall, sitting room, office and three bedrooms and was tenanted by the Legal Adviser and Magistrate, B Austin CATHIE. [BUS/RRW/2#6]

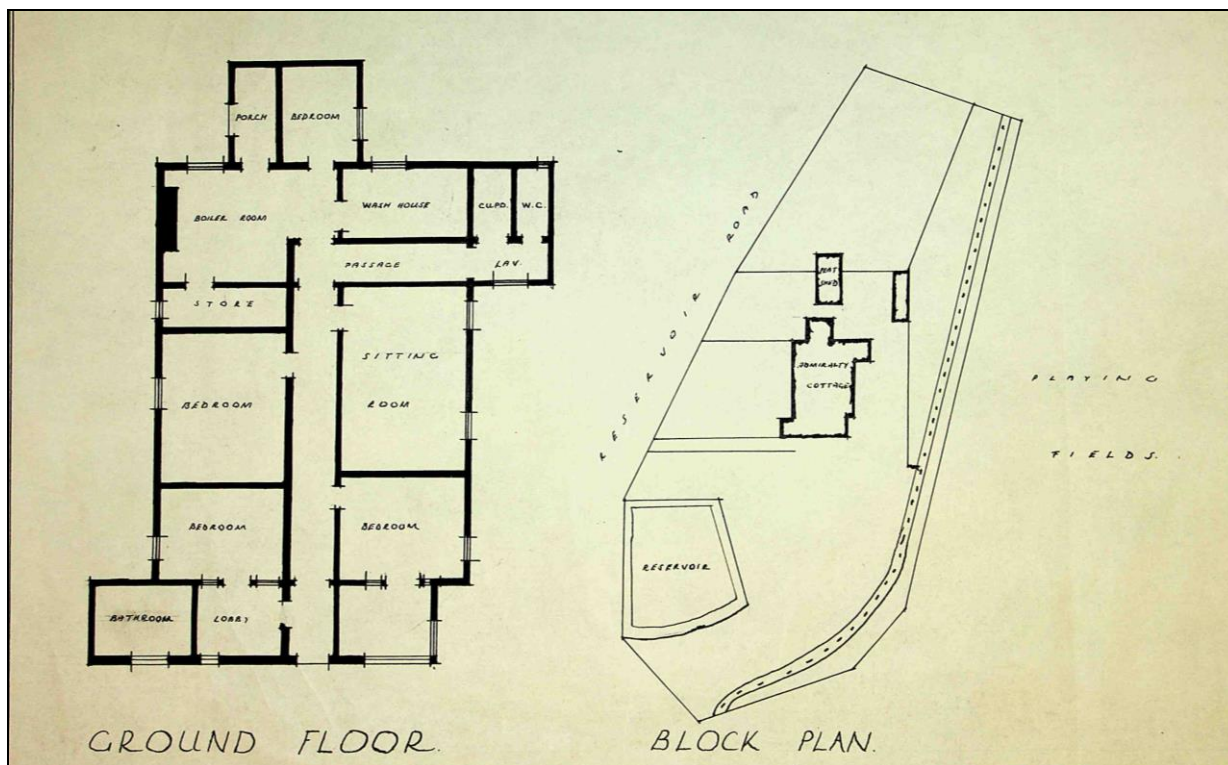


Admiralty Cottage from the north west 1940s

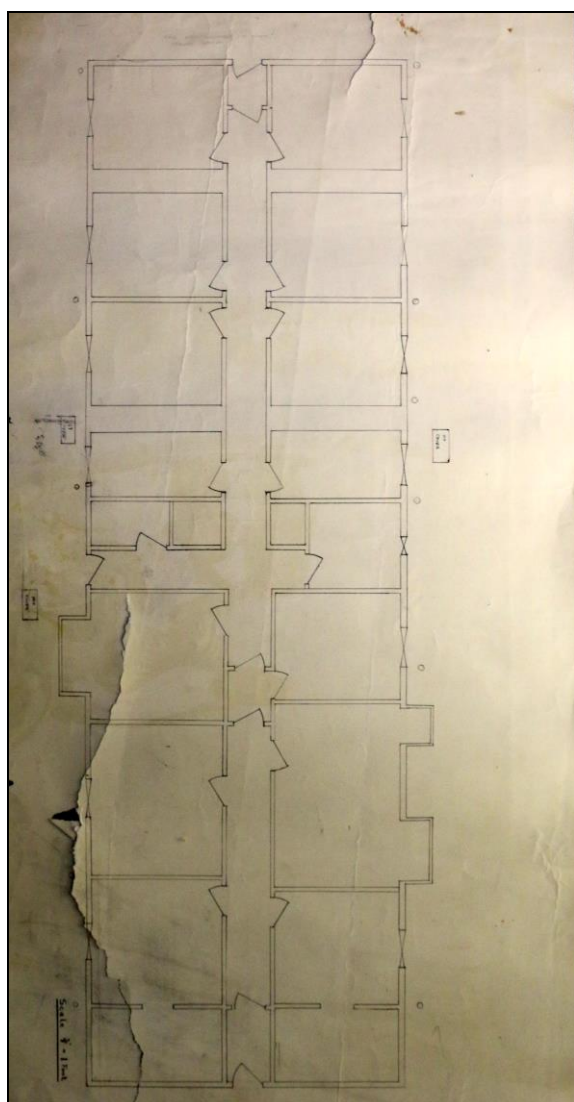
On the departure of B Austin CATHIE in October 1944 Admiralty Cottage was taken over by the hospital as a hostel for the nursing sister and junior nurses.



Admiralty Cottage from the south west Nov/Dec 1944 - FIC Collection, JCNA



Admiralty Cottage as existing February 1949



**Admiralty Cottage
after conversion**

On Sunday 13 August 1961 nurse Sandra SHORT, a resident of the nurses' home, Admiralty Cottage, discovered a fire in the lounge. Dr SLESSOR and Sister FLEURET tackled the fire with foam extinguishers. On further examination by the firemen it was found that the joists and floor boards were smouldering and it was necessary to remove an area of about 30 square feet of boards and six feet of joists. The cause of the fire was peat falling from the fire and igniting due to the lack of a fireguard. [0648/A]



Admiralty Cottage 1982



The Falkland Islands Fire and Rescue Service received a call at 8.53 pm on 26 December 1988 stating that there was a fire at Admiralty Cottage. On arrival at the scene smoke was seen billowing from the south end of the building. The fire was extinguished by 9.51 pm. The fire was first noticed in the flat occupied by Miss Sue HOWE and investigations indicated that the breakdown of the thermostat control unit in the fridge was the most likely cause of the fire. At this time the building consisted of four self-contained flats with a common loft space. The two flats at the south end of the building suffered extensive fire damage while the other two were relatively undamaged. [FIRE/31/4]



- photos Joan Spruce



In 1990 with work to commence on constructing the new senior school and leisure centre the ground that the house was on was to be cleared. Admiralty Cottage was offered for sale by tender and was bought by Terry PECK, the only person to tender.

On 28 February 1991 Mr T J PECK was granted a building permit to re-site Admiralty Cottage as two flats on a plot of land to the south of the proposed Public House development of Mr S B Wallace. The building was to be clad in timber shiplap and the roof re-clad in Decra tiles on felt. A new wall to separate the two flats was to be completed through the depth of the floor and to rise to the underside of the roof and be fire stopped at that junction. [17/91PB] Terry was hoping to sell the building within three months. [Penguin News 25 Jan 1991]

The house was divided into four sections and moved to 2 John Biscoe Road where it was sited west to east rather than north to south.



Above: after removal of first section. Below: turning on to Jeremy Moore Avenue



On 9 July 2000 planning permission was approved for Pat DAVY to extend the building.
[119/00P]

On 12 September 2002 planning permission was approved for SFS Limited applied to form a
first floor office accommodation. [106/02PB]



Above: from south west. Below: from north east - 2020

