

DOCKYARD, ROSS ROAD

- STOREMAN'S HOUSE; DOCKYARD COTTAGE; SENIOR SCHOOL; VICTORIA COTTAGE HOME; FIDF HQ; HARBOUR MASTER'S QUARTERS; GILBERT HOUSE

The Dockyard Cottage, or Gilbert House as it was later known, was constructed sometime after 1843 and was originally a single large room that was used as temporary housing by early immigrants. It was then converted into the storeman's house and by September 1848 was the home of the Government Pilot. In a letter dated 15 September 1848 it was described as "a small wooden cottage with 3 windows and a door 12' x 12' with a porch on the East side. It has a chimney, a grate, and a plain stone mantelpiece – but no other fixtures."

In 1890 Governor Kerr wrote in Despatch 102:

"All the Government buildings are constructed of wood, with the exception of a part of the Government House, and a row of stone cottages chiefly occupied by the Police officers... Three of these buildings, of a very substantive nature, with massive hardwood beams, were erected in the Dockyard, one of them – that now used as a schoolroom – was, about twenty years ago, by permission of Governor Robinson, turned into a theatre by an amateur dramatic association who floored and filled up the building for that purpose, at considerable expense.

When I arrived here the theatre was seldom used, as most of the gentleman connected with it had left the Colony and, after the former schoolroom was destroyed by the peat slip of 1886, I converted the theatre into the present schoolroom... I found the flooring of the theatre quite sound, and had it carefully re-laid but as the boards were rather thin I intended to place a stronger floor over it when necessary. The massive hardwood beams were removed and iron tie rods substituted. The whole building was lined and sided with new matched boarding, five additional windows were put in, and the ventilators from the former school were fitted. The cubic space – 10,657 feet – was greater than that of the old schoolroom – which only contained 8,016 cubic feet..." [B22; 284]



Taken from Malvina House balcony circa 1900, house to left of photo – Felton Collection

In 1907 the old Senior School was converted into a cottage home for the aged and infirm poor and called the Victoria Cottage Home in memory of Queen Victoria. In a despatch dated 25 November 1907 Governor Allardyce stated "*The accommodation for the patients consists of six small cubicles and a large bedroom capable of containing three adults. This latter will probably be set aside as a women's ward. There is also a good-sized living room which will be used as a sitting room and dining room, with bow window looking out on to the harbour, also a modern bath room, a luxury to which the majority of the inmates have not hitherto been accustomed.*

In addition to kitchen and scullery, wash-house, ironing room, and peat shed, there are two small single bedrooms upstairs, also a Matron's sitting room opening as required either into the patient's living room of the kitchen."

The Victoria Cottage Home was officially opened 11 May 1908.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Victoria Cottage Home.

Rules relating to the Inmates.

1. Inmates of the Victoria Cottage Home who misconduct themselves are liable to be instantly discharged; and any inmate may be required to withdraw from the Cottage Home at any time, on grounds which appear to the Governor to be good and sufficient.
2. In order to obtain uniformity throughout the Cottage Home, inmates will rise at 7.30 a.m. in winter and at 7 a.m. in summer. The Nurse-Matron will see that inmates are in bed and lights out at 9 p.m.
3. The inmates will assist the Nurse-Matron in the performance of household duties if considered fit by the Colonial Surgeon to perform such duties
4. Wednesdays and Saturdays are the usual days for inmates to bathe, between the hours of 7.30 and 9 p.m.
5. A limited number of friends or relatives of the inmates may visit the Cottage Home twice a week, namely, on Wednesdays and Sundays between the hours of 2 and 3 p.m., and are expected to sign the Visitors' Book.
6. Inmates, subject to good conduct, are allowed out 3 afternoons in the week, namely, on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday, from 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in winter, and from 1.30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in summer, unless otherwise instructed by the Colonial Surgeon.
7. Inmates may attend Divine Service on obtaining permission.
8. The introduction of alcoholic liquor into the Cottage Home is strictly prohibited.
9. An inspection of the Cottage Home by the Governor will be made on the first Sunday in every Quarter, at 10.15 a.m.

By Order,
E. T. BORN,
Colonial Surgeon.

23rd May, 1908.
M P. 167/1908.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Victoria Cottage Home.

Rules relating to the Nurse-Matron.

1. Admittances to the Victoria Cottage Home will be on the recommendation of the Colonial Surgeon with the approval of the Governor.

2. The Nurse-Matron is the head of the subordinate establishment, and is responsible under the Colonial Surgeon for the observance of all orders, instructions, and regulations, and for the good order, regularity, and discipline of the Cottage Home.

3. The Nurse-Matron is responsible under the Colonial Surgeon for the nursing, care, and comfort of the inmates in every particular, and she is personally responsible for ordering and supervising the general cleanliness of the wards, articles of furniture, and building generally.

4. The Nurse-Matron is also responsible for the catering, and will keep a book (A) as a record of all stores and provisions ordered. The economical ordering of food is impressed upon the Nurse.

5. The District Nurse will, when present in the Cottage Home, and in the absence of the Nurse-Matron, be as helpful as she can in maintaining discipline, giving advice, if needful, and seeing that the rules are maintained.

6. All extras ordered by the Colonial Surgeon shall be entered in a separate book (B) and shall be initialled by him.

7. A separate book (C) to be signed by visitors shall be kept.

8. After breakfast the Nurse-Matron will see that the windows are opened, beds made up, and slops emptied. She will, moreover, visit the Common Room at meal times and see that the meals are properly cooked and served.

The hours for meals will be as follow:—

Breakfast	...	...	...	8 a.m.
Dinner	...	...	...	12 p.m.
Tea	...	...	...	5 p.m.
Cup of Cocoa	...	...	...	8 p.m.

9. The weekly changing of linen and underclothing will be on Saturday night. Soiled articles can be exchanged when necessary.

10. Soap and towels for the personal use of inmates will, as a rule, be issued on Saturdays. Wards will be washed, as a rule, twice weekly, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and swept on all other days.

11. Mondays and Tuesdays will be the usual washing and ironing days.

12. The Nurse-Matron will take a yearly inventory of the equipment. Whenever any articles of equipment, glass, or fixtures, are damaged or broken by accident or otherwise, the circumstances shall be reported by the Nurse-Matron to the Colonial Surgeon at his next visit.

13. Any unusual occurrence, or misconduct on the part of any of the inmates, should be reported without delay to the Colonial Surgeon.

14. On the 1st day of every month the Nurse-Matron will send the Registers A & B to the Surgery of the Colonial Surgeon for his inspection.

15. In the event of temporary absence from the Cottage Home, the Nurse-Matron will put a notice on a slate stating where she can be found.

16. An inspection of the Cottage Home by the Governor will be made on the first Sunday in every Quarter, at 10.15 a.m.

By Order,

E. T. BORN,

Colonial Surgeon.

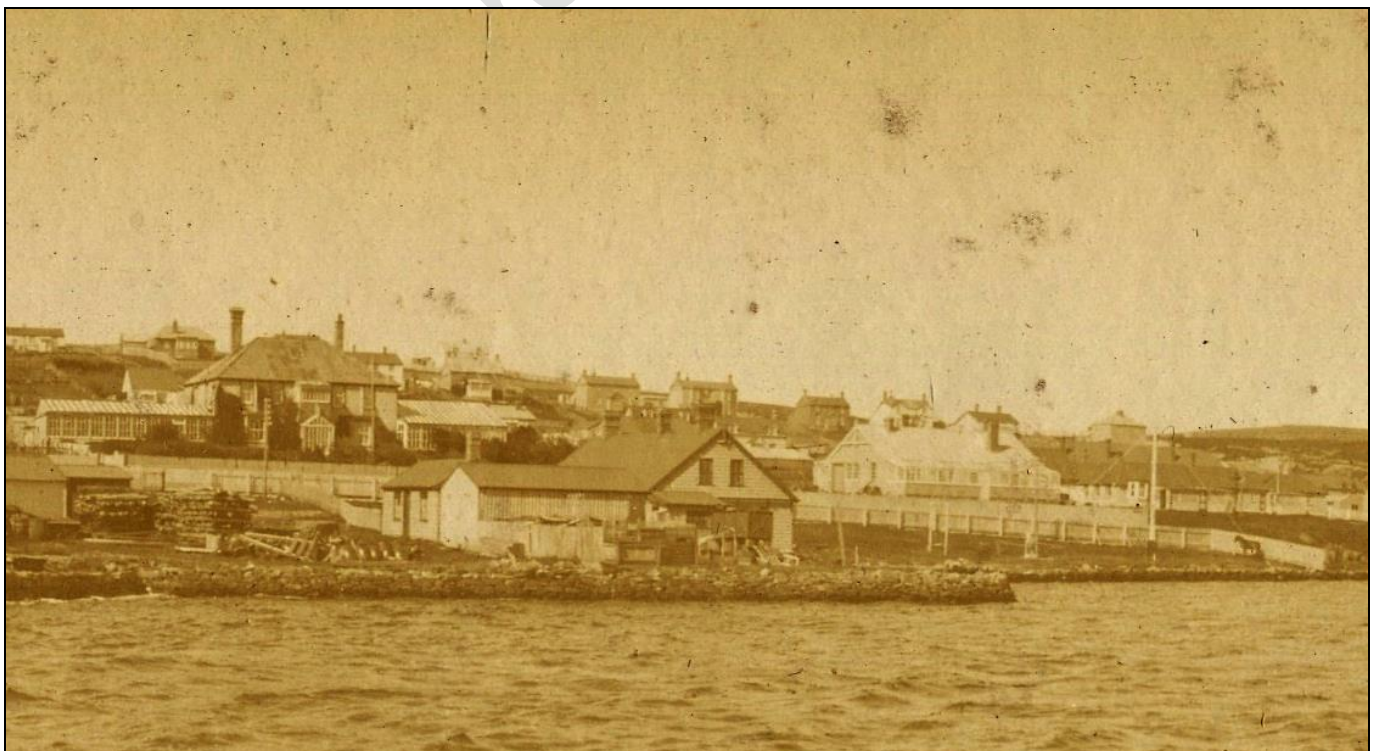
23rd May, 1908.

M.P. 167/1908.

With the opening of King Edward Memorial Hospital as a civil hospital in May 1915 the Victoria Cottage Home was no longer needed and during World War I it became the headquarters of the local Falkland Islands Volunteer Force.



Falkland Islands Volunteer Force

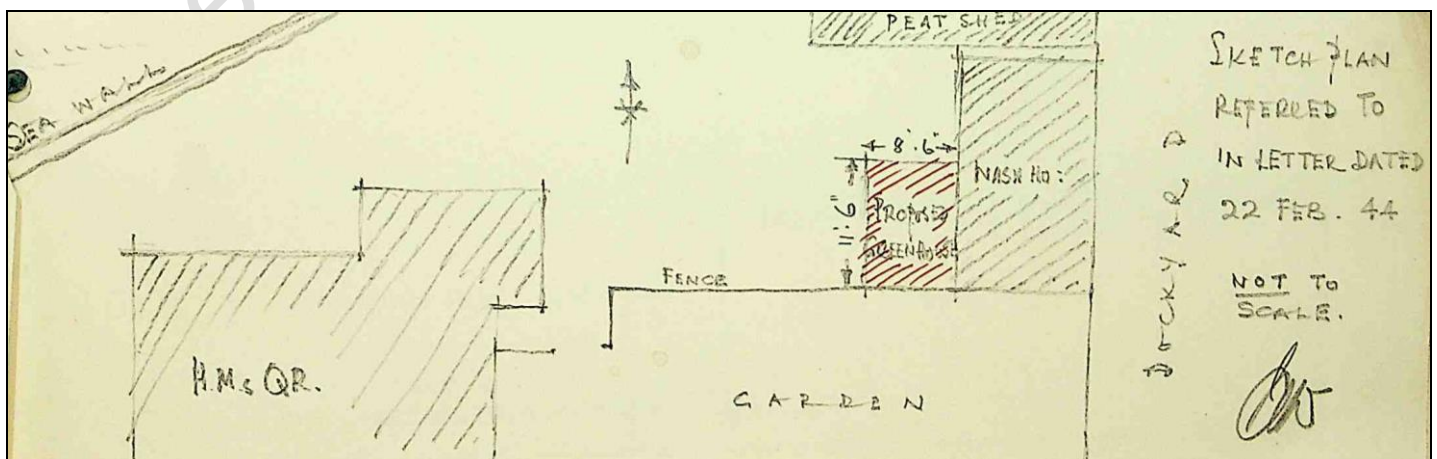


North aspect, post 1915 – FIC Collection



West aspect, 1938 – Carr Collection

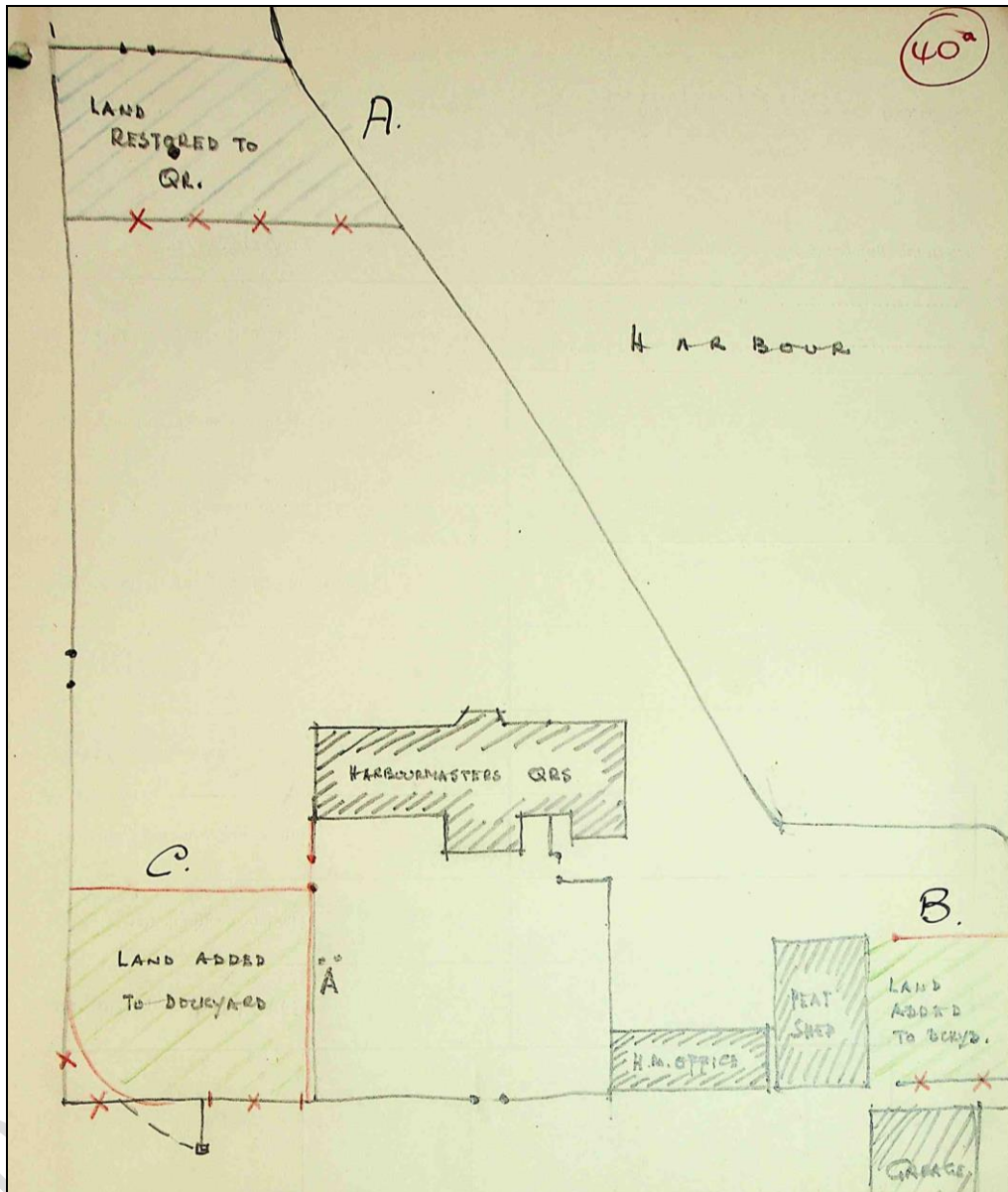
In 1930 the Harbour Master's Quarters, had weather-boarded external walls and match-boarded, papered and painted internal walls and measured 52' x 25' x 9' to eaves plus 8' to the ridge. There was a lean-to measuring 10'6" x 8' x 8'6" and a glass porch with the lower part boarded and the top glazed, measuring 7' x 12' 8" x 7'9". The building contained a dining room, drawing room, 4 bedrooms, kitchen and scullery, passages and stairs and a bathroom. Outbuildings consisted of a peat shed, earth closet, wash-house and office. The Dockyard Cottage was timber framed with boarded walls and a corrugated iron roof. Timber lines, papered and painted it measured 57'6" x 22' x 9' to eaves plus 10' to ridge. The rooms consisted of a dining room, sitting room, 4 bedrooms, kitchen, scullery, passage, staircase and glass porch. Outbuildings were a peat shed and earth closet. It was rented to M MERCER for £2-10-0 a month and this was raised to £3 a month on 3 June. [BUS/GEN/2#12; 2#13]



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VERSION: 22 November 2021

The building later reverted to a house for Government employees and at the time of World War II became the home of Austen Woodgate, the Colonial Engineer. He was a keen Gilbert and Sullivan fan and as there was already a building in Stanley called Sullivan House he christened the Dockyard Cottage Gilbert House, a name it retains to this day. In 1944 Austen Woodgate built a small lean-to greenhouse from old windows to the west of his wash house. In 1945 he adjusted the boundaries of Gilbert House removing the fence to the east of the old anemometer mast and taking back the land (A coloured blue) as it was no longer required for that purpose and adding land (B coloured green) to the Dockyard for storage space. [BUS/RRE/2#2]



By 1947 Gilbert House was still known as the normal place of residence of the Executive Engineer. E F Bunting allowed Frederick Jones to be the tenant from 6 November 1947 to 17 December 1947. Dockyard Cottage was tenanted by Mr G Kelway. [BUS/GEN/3#1]

By 1952 Gilbert House was occupied by Mr A E Livermore, Superintendent of Works and Dockyard Cottage was occupied by the Red Cross but earmarked for a machine shop. A E Livermore was still resident in Gilbert House in April 1958. [BUS/GEN/3#1].
Since the early 1990s it has served as the office of the elected Councillors.

In 1999 the north and the south chimneys were pulled down.



April 2000

