

HISTORY OF HOUSE STYLES

summary of key features

VERNACULAR

1788 - 1809



1793-4: Elizabeth Farm

Weatherboards made from she oak

Wattle and daub - mud walls and thatched roofs

Plenty of good quality timber

Use of woodworking tools adzing and pit sawing

First bricks made in 1788 but poor quality- lack of lime

First private house built with stone 1803

Near end of period fully glazed houses with shingles.



BUILDING A SQUATTER'S HOUSE 1840



This Gulgong shack built during the gold rush was the early ancestor of today's coffee shops. Hot pies and coffee (all home made country-style) were eagerly sought after, and the outdoor washing facilities probably made sure of clean cups—and hands!

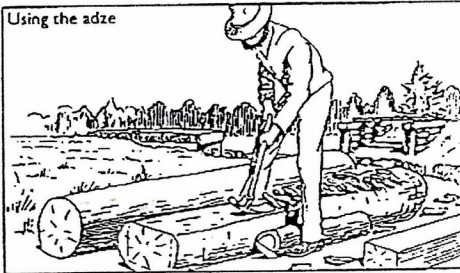
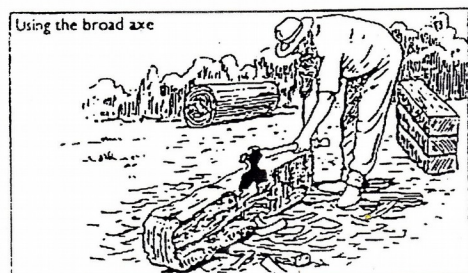
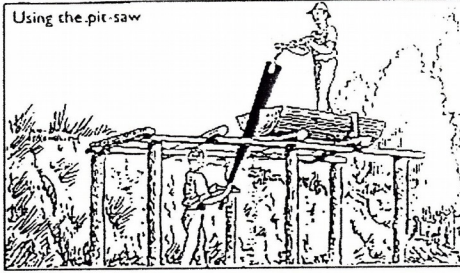
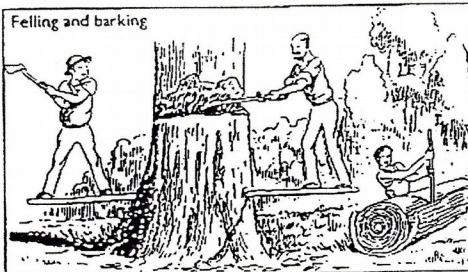
(Holtermann Collection, State Library of N.S.W.)



Settlers house - early 1800s
Wooden shingles have replaced bark roof



Early settlers house - early 1800s
The timber structure on the bark roof
is to stop the bark curling up



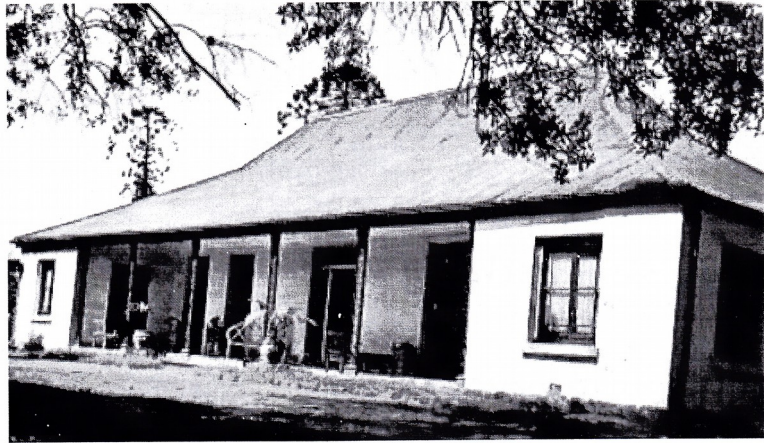
Early bush tools used to build a settlers' houses

MACQUARIE

1810 - 1821



Favored those with knowledge of town planning and architecture
Required houses with brick chimneys, shingle roofs- 2.75m ceiling height
Georgian style: symmetrical and simple
Greenway cleaned up the building industry
Rouse Hill and Windsor 1818-22
Lime supply improved - from Tasmania and seashells
Lime used to outline arches
Standard street width set at 30.5m
Settlers found it harder in the country because of more extreme temperatures
Verandahs came from India via Devon and Cornwall and used as means of access -
not shade.
Elizabeth Farm 1793
Quality of mortar still a problem.

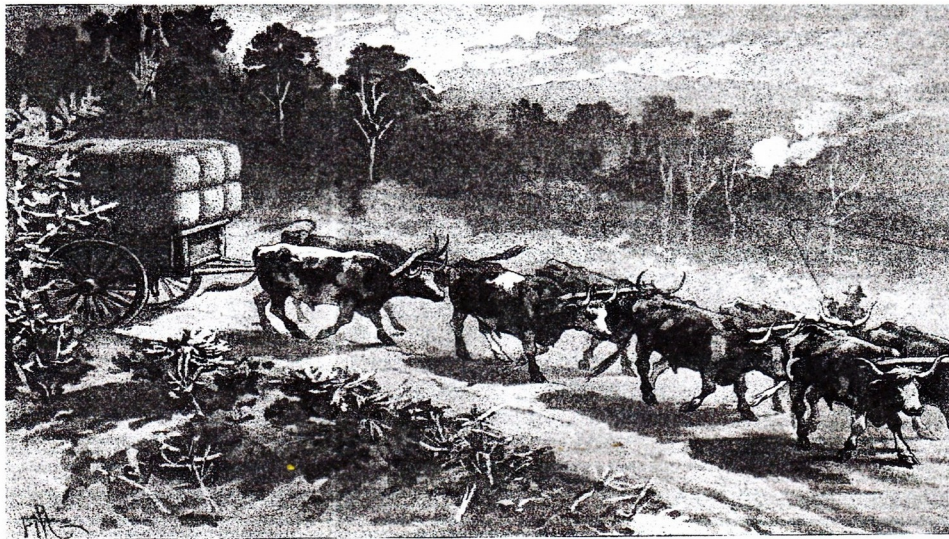


ELIZABETH FARM PARRAMATTA 1793-94



Terrace Houses Windsor 1830

COLONIAL 1822 – 1850



© A. Wool Dregy

Regency period Prince of Wales 1795-1830

1825-27 years of drought

After 1840 the gable became the standard roof

1829 Darling's regulations. Towns to have 20.1m x 100.5m blocks

Drains to public sewers

Setbacks of 4.27m from footpath

Door threshold of least .305m above crown of road

Crown tenures were changed from 75 years to perpetuity

From 1830 a rich time in colonial architecture including private buildings

First building regulations in 1833. Concerned with safety (no pigs) and the necessity of gutters.

Georgian style - simple but elegant. Workmanship was good

Verandahs vernacular - ceiled and flagged-

Shuttered windows on lower floor for security

Front doors were heavy, solid with 6 panels and skylights

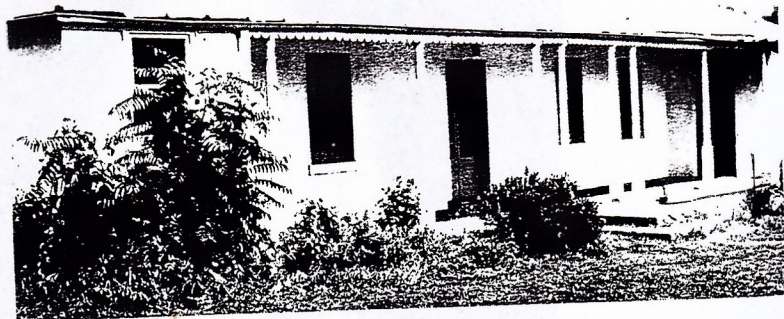
The best period of architecture in NSW?

Water closets arrived in 1830.



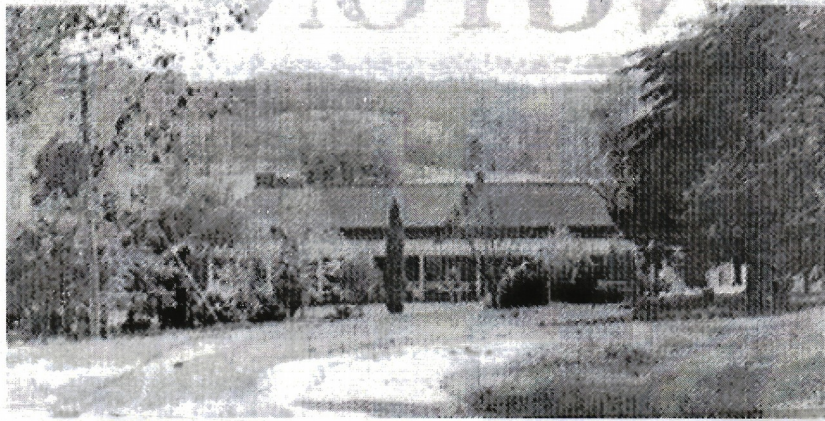
Claremont Cottage Windsor c 1822

The Retreat Badger's Ck c 1820

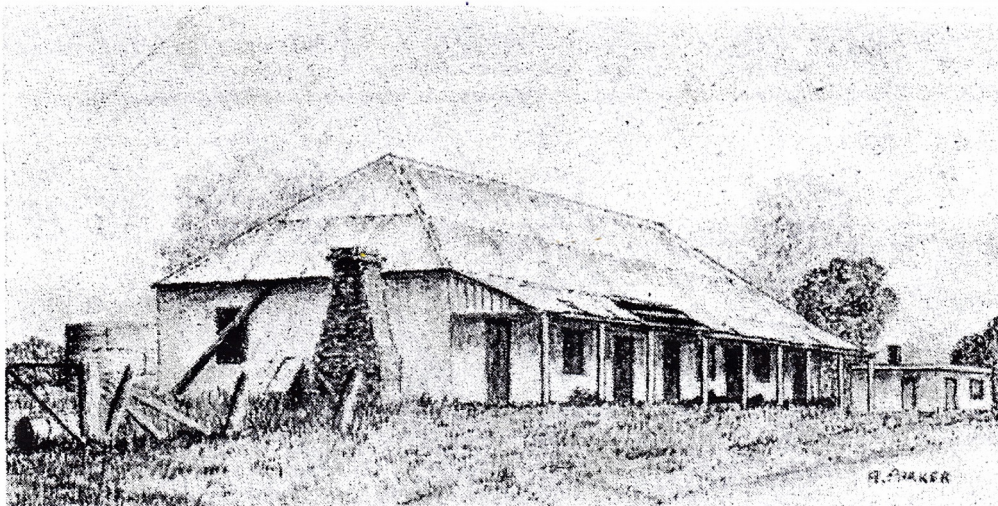


Experimental farm
Parramatta 1821





Gobolion 1850



- An artist's impression of the Lion of Waterloo in better days . . . the historic building is now becoming dangerous as it continues to deteriorate.

Lion of Waterloo 1841
Tavern



CAMELFORD PARK 1850s



TERRA BELLA C1860



Slab pioneer house
Wellington museum
c1840s

4. LATE COLONIAL 1838-1850

1838 comprehensive set of building regs with 6 ratable classes and aimed at fire control.

The external and party walls were to extend 0.46m above roof line.

Roofs to be glass, copper, lead, tin zinc, slab or tile.

All timber to be more than 10.2cm from face of building

No bow windows past street line

Banned most projections

Dampness in walls a continual problem with the poor quality wood fired bricks (sandstocks).

Best damp courses were lead

1850: first brick veneer at Swan Hill by Californian miners.

Gothic became popular in domestic buildings eg Richmond Villa

Kitchen came into the main part of the house with the reduction of fire risk

However out of sight at the rear with the servants

Regulations amended in October 1850: Verandahs and balconies of hardwood allowed but $\geq 0.61\text{m}$ from corner of building.

22.9cm party walls.

Parapets required for appearance

1832: cleanup of titles lead to a titling issue blockage until 1837

Work slow by titling clerks because they didn't like Torrens Title

Regulations and high land cost encourag3d terraces. An efficient se of land typically a verandah at street frontage only.

Kitchen/washroom attached as a wing at the rear with outside access only

1840s: Rows of 2 storey terraces were finally recognised as good housing

Facade architecture good at front but poor at sides and rear

Dressed stone veneer at front

Larger plates of glass became available

Transportation ceased in the 1840 so cheap labour no longer available

Terraces constructed with speed not quality

Cast iron: Came from England in the 1840s but locally made in 1845 at Mittagong

Initially followed the delicate English models of classical design

Corrugated iron: Also was imported in the 1840s but did nor replace shingles.

VICTORIAN 1851 – 1900



EARLY VICTORIAN 1851 - 1860

Gold officially discovered May/August 1851 at Bendigo
Building stopped while population trebled to 1.2m
New bourgeoisie class became wealthy and demanded houses suitable to their new wealth.

Prefabricated timber houses from Singapore and USA
"Iron pots" from England
"Iron House Mob": the most infamous push in the Loo
Corio Villa 1856

The standard house became timber framed with gi roof
The balloon frame idea came from the US and developed in Australia into brick veneer.

One reason for the popularity of timber was the easily worked softwoods from the USA and the invention of machine produced nails.
These changes did not require the same carpentry skills as before
Steam powered saw mills. Wood and nails were cheap
Rot resisting hardwoods for house stumps such as red gum painted with creosote

1837: Galvanizing of corrugated iron (steel).

Iron sheeting became popular as a roof covering but often over shingles or straw trying to reduce the heat.

Queenslanders in the 1950s. Designed to overcome white ant problems but ant capping elsewhere.

Steep roofs with a ventilator was common method to reduce heat but the main problem was lack of radiation from the roof surface.
Weatherboards became the standard wall covering as machine moulding was very accurate creating a tight fit.

Two hard working men could build a house within a week.

1860: kitchen attached to the house at rear - often a skillion.
Domestics started to live in their own homes.

Bust hits Melbourne hard

1877: Bust and boom times over.

Early Victorian: Better bricks were being produced.
Typically outer walls were 35.6cm and inner walls 22.9cm thick
By 1850s both 22.9cm thick.
External covered walls with thick stucco lined to imitate stone and covered poor quality brickwork was common.

1880s: good quality machine made bricks led to the cavity wall helped overcome rising damp problem.

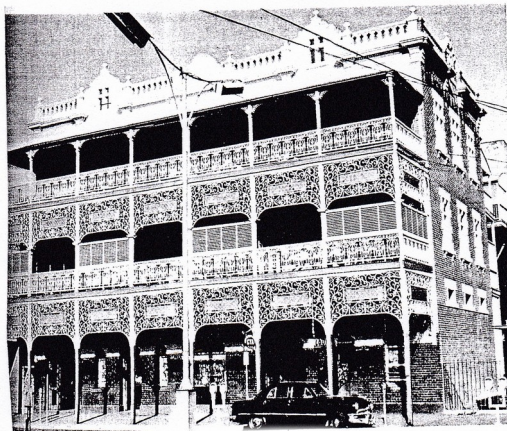
1856: first cast iron made in Sydney

1858: Cast iron used in domestic architecture. Cast iron verandahs became mandatory from the 1860s.

Age of cast iron



Iron lace in Kings Cross - 1895



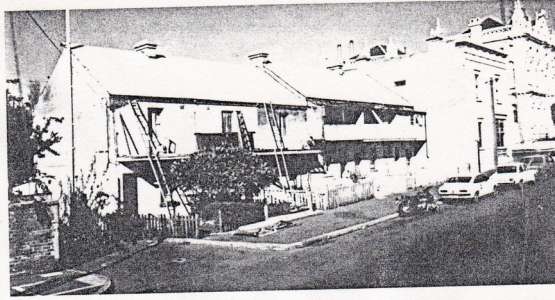
Exquisite iron lace - Perth 1906



Two storey Victorian homestead



Typical Victorian interior - cluttered



The 'matchbox' terrace at various stages of rehabilitation.



The 'matchbox' terrace at 146-156 St Johns Road, after rehabilitation. This terrace was built in the post-Regency style in the 1840s and is the oldest terrace housing on the Estate.

Mixed Victorian 2 storey houses in Glebe

MID VICTORIAN 1861 - 1878

Bricks:

1790: soft bricks were 23.5x10.8x7cm
1800: bricks were 22.4x10.2x6cm
1815: English brick same as in 1790
1820s: Greenway used bricks 22.1x10.8x6.2cm
Victorian: 23.5x10.5x6.8cm

Until the 1900s depending on the brick making equipment all sizes were possible
From 1900 adoption of the German Hoffman process with bricks of 22.8x11.4x7.6cm.

1860s: Italian influence and the use of elaborate plasterwork
Italianate style: square blocklike style - good use of bricks as they became cheaper.
Plaster of paris imported from the US allowed wet plastering (plaster and lathe) and plaster mouldings.
Pastel colours replace white and cream - colour became more important because of gas lighting.

1870s: The use of cast iron increased but protected by copyright

Verandahs covered with iron lace. Bull nose (bell cast) shapes were popular.

From 1860s suburbs with good communications (railways, ferries and buses) rapidly expanded. Subdivisions were still the mindless rectangular pattern with no parkland and open space (Roman influence)

Typical 4 bedroom wb/gi house cost \$250
Detached houses with 2m clearance covered with cast iron and trinkets.

HIGH VICTORIAN OR BOOM TIME 1879-1892

1870 More native born citizens than immigrants. By 1880 2/3 of the population were Australia born.

1880: first passenger lift at Tooheys and in 1881 first Otis lift
1885: Prells Building, Queen st Melbourne was 10 storeys but by 1892 10/12 storeys were common.
Problem with fire so height restriction on commercial buildings
1888: Artificial land boom with railways, ferries and cable cars

Meanwhile in the country lack of materials and skills restricted extravagance eg simpler plasterwork.

Use of verandahs and hoods over windows to keep the heat out

Stamped metalwork: In 1885 Wunderlich imported stamped ornaments and features and in 1888 imported from England sheets for the Town Hall ceiling.
1890: Wunderlich pressed their own sheets using mild steel instead of zinc.

Age of mass production

Joinery items such as balustrades
Semi circular arch above doorway
Cast iron reached extreme use with ornamentation such as urns, shells and fruit
Boom style terraces in Melbourne

Large single sheets of glass now available because of the use of mechanical cylinder blowing method.

Verandahs became cast iron arcades

The popularity of individual houses on their own block of land allowed side windows.

1885: True cavity brick walls overcame dampness problems

Horbury Hunt returns to brickwork instead of stucco

Finally the Kitchen comes inside. The use of electricity and gas meant a great reduction in fire risk

Fussy interiors lit by electric bulbs

Late 1880s: New range of colored bricks using steam bathing and heavy pressing.

This overcame the long drying time which cause a crumbly centre

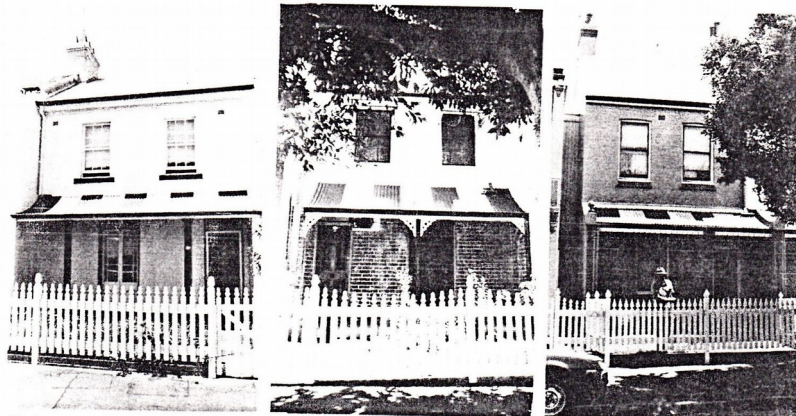
1878: First steam process in Sydney

Arts and crafts

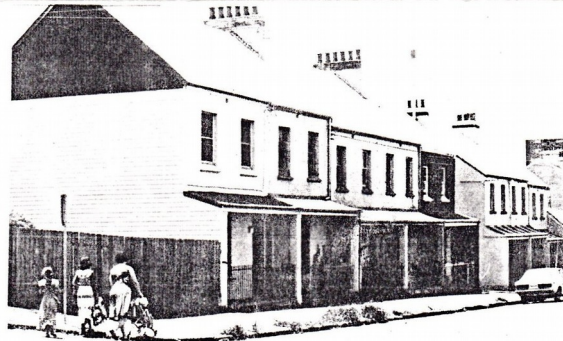
Romanticism and craftsmanship in Europe.

Wunderlich imports terracotta Marseilles tiles. Becomes the new roofing standard.

1890s: Depression



Early two-storeyed terraces in Bishopthorpe: L to R numbers 33, 44, 94 Derwent Street. These houses have verandahs, but not balconies, which became a standard feature as the terrace form developed.

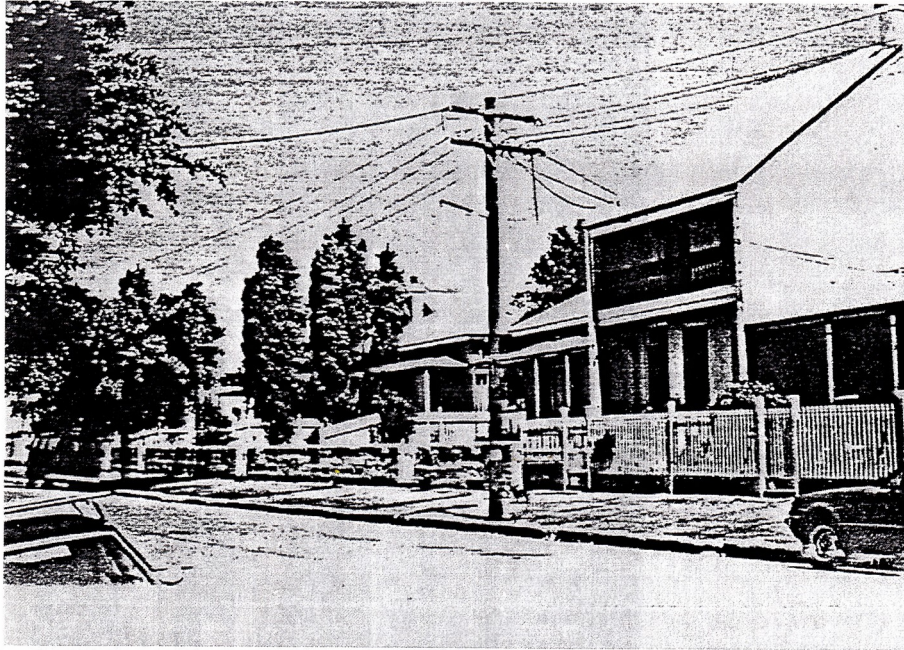


Lorne Terrace, 81-95 Mitchell Street (1875). Post-Regency in the Georgian mode.



Louisa Terrace, 124-134 Mitchell Street (1875). Post-Regency, but with features of the Picturesque style: carved bargeboards and 'dove-cote' recesses in the gables. Park Terrace, across the street at 101-111 Mitchell Street, is virtually identical.

**Mixed 2 story terraces - Glebe
Georgian and Regency at bottom**



A number of single storey terraces - Glebe

There were 3 outbreaks of the plague in the Rocks area of Sydney
The embryo health department did a good job in controlling the
plague by an intensive campaign of rat catching and eradication



PROCLAMATION PLAGUE

By His Excellency Sir HARRY HOLDSWORTH RAWSON, Admiral in the Royal Navy, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor of the State of New South Wales and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS the finding of dead rats in unusual numbers on premises is indicative of the presence of the disease commonly known as The Plague; And whereas it is expedient in the interests of the health of His Majesty's subjects that the most effectual steps should be taken to prevent the introduction and spread of the said disease in the said State of New South Wales: Now, therefore, I, Sir Harry Holdsworth Rawson, the Governor of the State of New South Wales as aforesaid, do, with the advice of the Executive Council, by this my notification, call upon all and singular who shall find dead rats in unusual numbers in premises in the said State, or who shall know of dead rats having been so found, to immediately report the fact to the nearest Officer of Police.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal, at Sydney, this nineteenth day of July, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and four, and in the fourth year of His Majesty's Reign.

(L.S.) HARRY H. RAWSON.

By His Excellency's Command, KENNETH MACKAY.

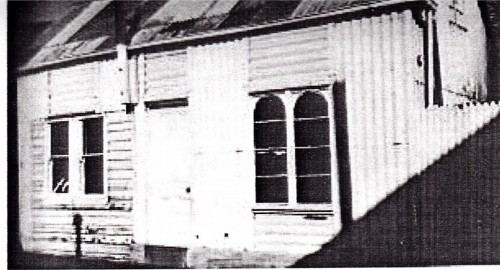
GOD SAVE THE KING!

Persons neglecting to comply with this Proclamation are liable to be prosecuted for a Common Law misdemeanour.

Department of Public Health, New South Wales,
Sydney, February 1st, 1905.

G. H. KING, Secretary.

**The advent of cast iron engendered
buildings sold in kit form**



PREFABRICATED IRON COTTAGE 1853



PREFABRICATED CORIO VILLA 1856

The outbreaks of plaggue alerted e government to the unhealthy living conditions in The Rocks - Sydney. This photo shows the crowded nature of the Georgian terraces' backyards.



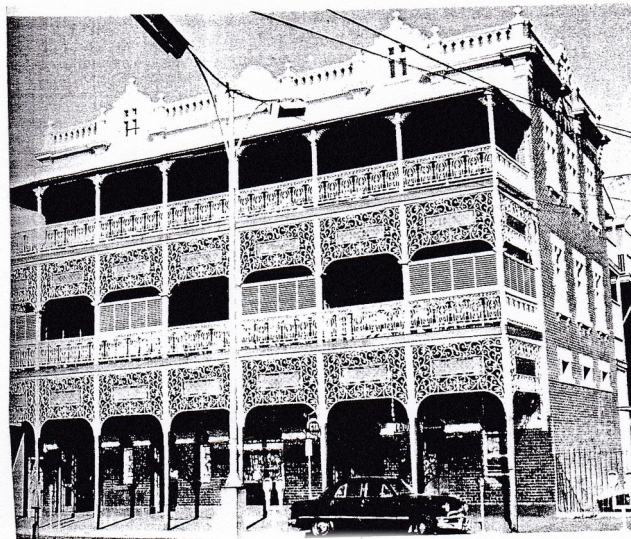
Good examples of Georgian terraces in the Rocks



Age of cast iron



Iron lace in Kings Cross - 1895



Exquisite iron lace - Perth 1906

LATE VICTORIAN 1893-1900

After the 1890s depression houses become more modest and subdued. Exacerbated by lack of skilled tradesmen.

1910: Locally produced Marseilles tiles are as good as the imports

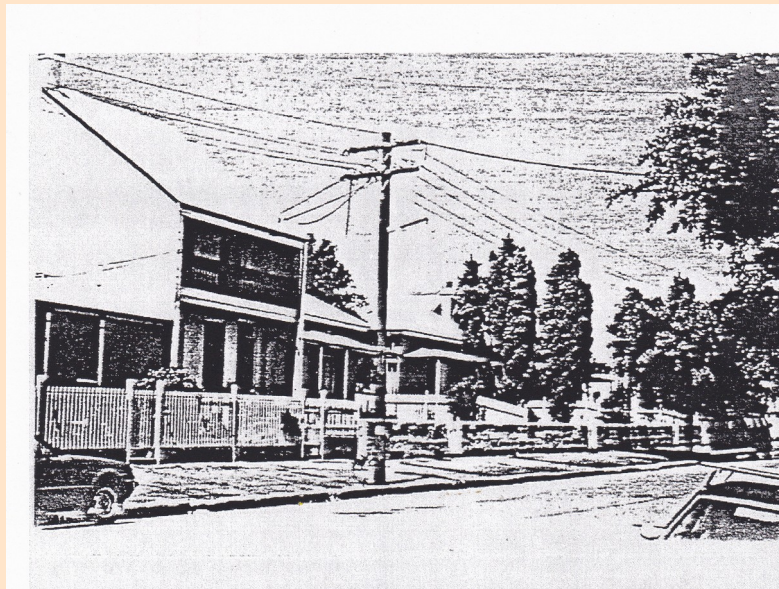
Queen Anne:

Irregular and broken gable roofs. Exposed trusses, latticed strutting, polygonal bay windows, turned timber verandah posts, cowled chimneys.
Use of red bricks. Emphasis on the roof shape and the use of painted timber instead of cast iron.

Tuck pointing: Hid inferior bricks.

Meanwhile back in the country moulded woodwork from scarce materials and innovations such as the Queenslander .

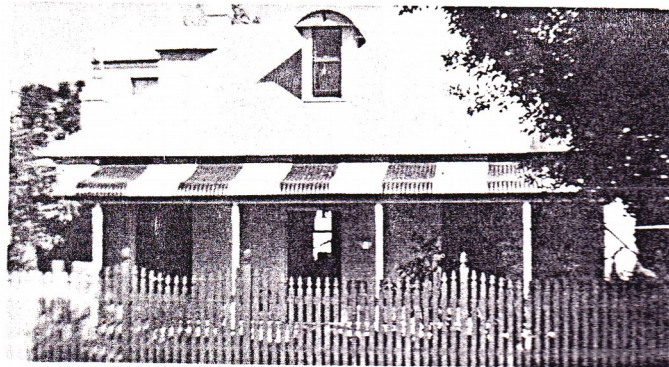
Also in Queensland - Weatherboards on the inside of the frame.
Verandahs became more and more a living area.



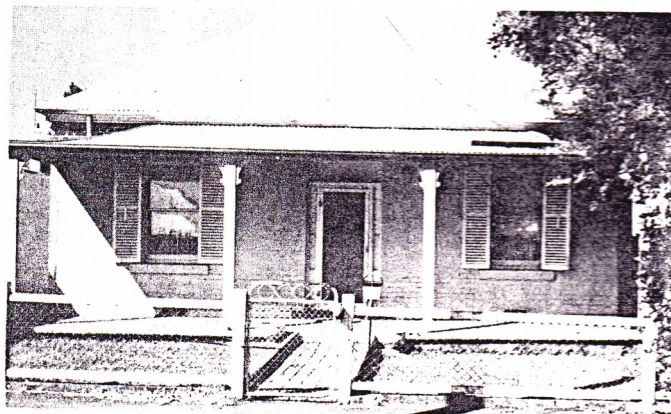
Mixed terraces - Glebe



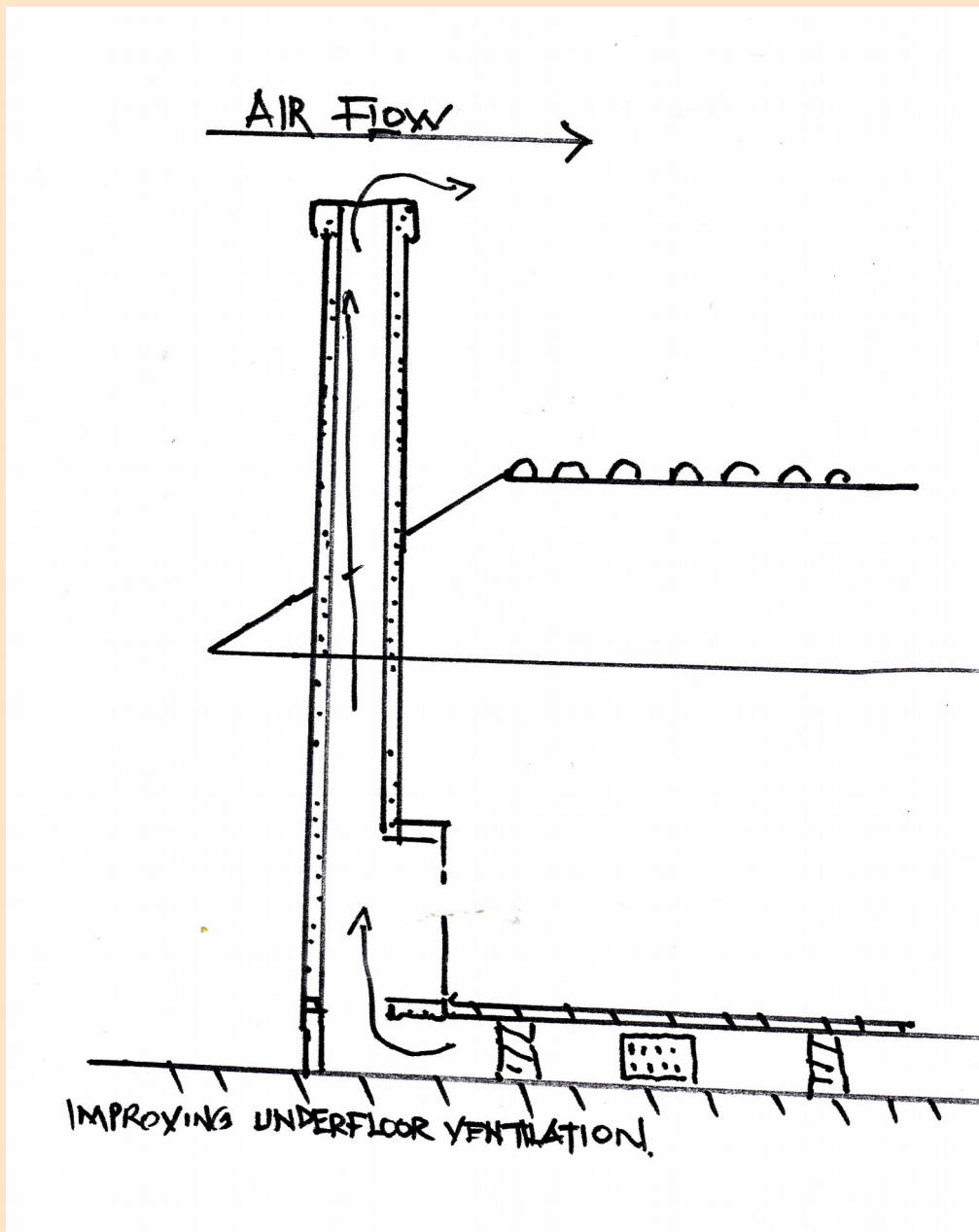
Calmar, 128 Glebe Point Road, Designed by colonial architect Edmund Blacket (1863). Post-Regency.



Thorpe House, 108 Derwent Street (1867). Post-Regency.



Typical post-Regency cottage.



Innovation at Glebe. Underfloor ventilation is improved by blocking off a disused fireplace and creating an opening to the underfloor area.

EDWARDIAN 1901 – 1916



EDWARDIAN 1900-1916

Still Queen Anne and again cast iron in all forms.

1902: First brewery built hotel in Sydney but more common in Melbourne

1905: Art Nouveau arrives and sponsored decoration of writhing sinuous tendrils, gracious curve and simplified limpid shapes abstracted from nature. No straight lines.

1905: Concrete used as a structural component eg the floor of Central Railway in 1903.

1906: Anselm built with green instead of red. Australiana with clusters of native flora and fauna.

1910: Chicago style - semi circular arch - Romanesque.

1910: Art Nouveau had died out except for some verandah decoration

1910-ww1: Verandah posts became thicker and square. Balustrades solid fences

1912: First steel framed building on corner of Castlereagh and King streets

1916: Large factory cast sheets of gypsum plaster reinforced with fibre. Thicker sheets in 1930 used for walls.

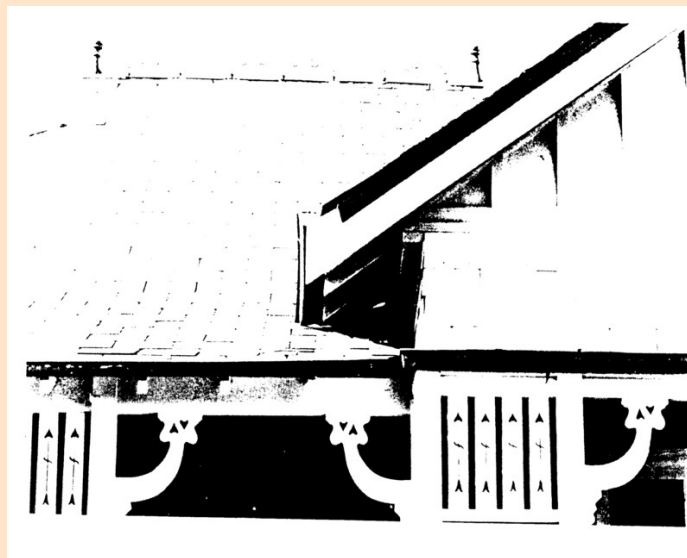
Growth of suburbs: Workers Gardens at Daceyville as opposed to the terrace slums

(as seen in those days) eg Balmain, Glebe and the Loo.

1910: First self supporting full steel framed building - Nelson House in Clarence St.



Art Nouveau fireplace



Federation fretwork

Belgian; Designer unknown, 1897
Room 'in the English taste', with chairbacks similar to those produced by
Gustav Serrurier-Bovy two years later. (see page 81)



Arts and crafts



Modern Arts and Crafts



Edwardian garden



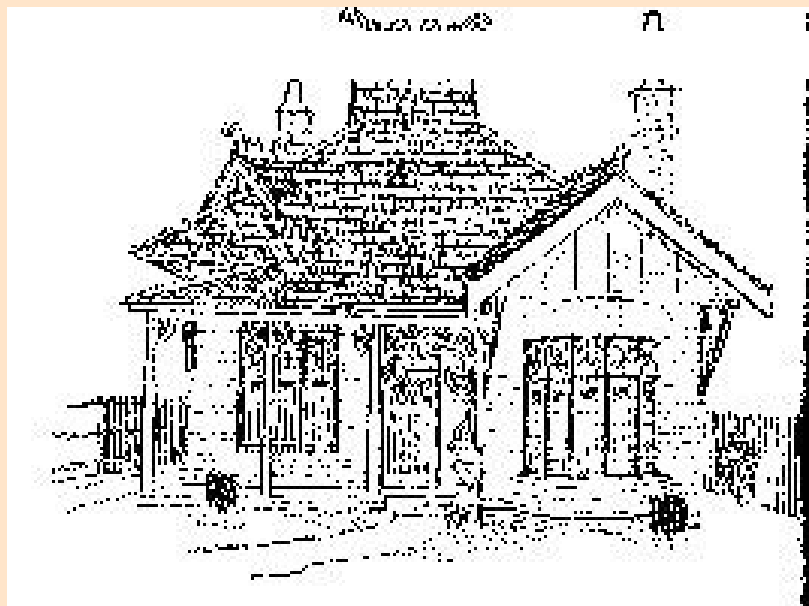
Edwardian Appian Way 1913 Burwood



Federation Haberfield



Federation houses Haberfield



Queen Anne Federation



Federation interior



Modest Federation

TRANSITION 1917 – 1929



TRANSITION 1917 - 1929

Suburbs expanded.

Californian Bungalow (CB)

"Pasadema" Redwood 1916 imported by Richard Stanton.

Large spanning, low pitched gable, wood shingles, 1m projecting eaves purlins, low spreading verandah with sturdy pylons and dark/oil stained weatherboards with white painted casement windows.

Built across the block so a 15m block required but better with an 18m frontage.

Also featured a wide open fireplace in native stone with chimney. Small windows to keep out heat- an introverted house.

Square entrance hall (instead of hallways) with double panelled glass doors to living areas. Inside lined with timber panelling for about 2m then white.

The original was weatherboard but in Sydney dark brick became the norm

Garages become common but still at the rear where the stables used to be.

1920s: CBs became less introverted and heavy pylons replace by slender timber posts ie Federation features were incorporated.
1930s: The CB had square verandah stumps only.



**First Californian in Australia
Rosewood Rosewood 1916**



Quality bungalow - Toorak

Spanish Mission (SM)

The influence of Hollywood.

1920: SM built by architect Wilinsoa at Vaucluse

1920s: Three popular styles; Californian Bungalow, Picturesque and Spanish Mission.

First open plan: Pioneered Functionalist Annear. Simple houses with bookcases defining liviag areas.

1924: Burley Griffin: At Castlecrag built small houses with natural materials. Small kitchen.

1915: BHP opened steelworks at Newcastle. Stamped Lysaght steel. Can be used to ate buildings.

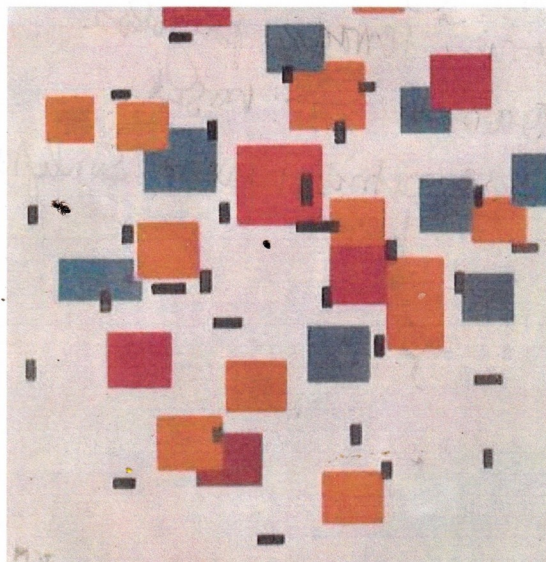


Spanish Mission Cactus Cafe Wellington



Spanish Mission Adelaide

EARLY MODERN 1930 – 1944



EARLY MODERN 1930-1944

Light coloured bricks. Bauhaus emphasizing horizontal lines and glazing. Problems with flat roofs and the popularity of terra cotta tiles. With the advent of multi colour cement tiles: Hipped roofed houses with boxed eaves and mottled coloured roofs.

"L" shaped houses become popular with steel windows pastel colours but the kitchen was always cream and green.

Modern Jazz style

Inspired by Hollywood - art deco interiors

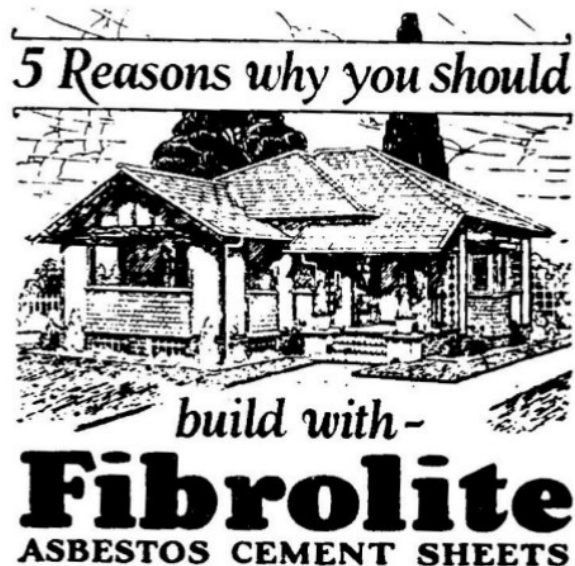
Use of balconies, terraces and pergolas. Attempt to bring the outside to the inside - Reaction to the Bungalow but not the best in a hot climate.

Decoration was sunlight and shadow.



1940s modern

AUSTERITY 1945 – 1954



AUSTERITY 1945-54

Workers gradually became wealthier. 48 hour work week. Effect of migration and a greater American influence.

Shortage of framing timber, weatherboards, bricks, tiles, glass, fibrous plaster, piping, roof guttering and fittings. All that was available was poor quality.

Green timber was used more and the cost of housing increased. This encouraged a boom in DIY.

Half houses and garage accommodation

Composite building boards already painted became available. These were cheap and easy to install. Paint and putty was in great demand

cement tiles

1940-1960s: By the 50s the colouring of cement tiles became fadeproof. Popular because of constant size (a benefit of a cold process), cheapness and being more weatherproof they could be used on a low pitched roof.

Silicon cement bricks:

Accurate dimensions and low cost. Not liked by bricklayers.

DIY glazing

Louvred windows were cheap and readily available. Allowed the handyman to fully enclose a verandah with a screwdriver.

Rise of coop building societies. Councils were against innovation with negative controls such as Ord71. The minimum size for a kitchen was 3mx2.4m.

Regulations were bypassed by stealth. For example the approved bedroom would meet the required size and built in cupboards were added later.

Austerity encouraged good and efficient designs. For the first time houses were planned taking ergonomics into account particularly, the kitchen. Building fashion promoted by magazines.

The Kitchen was now central to the house with benchtops of lino or the new trendy laminex.

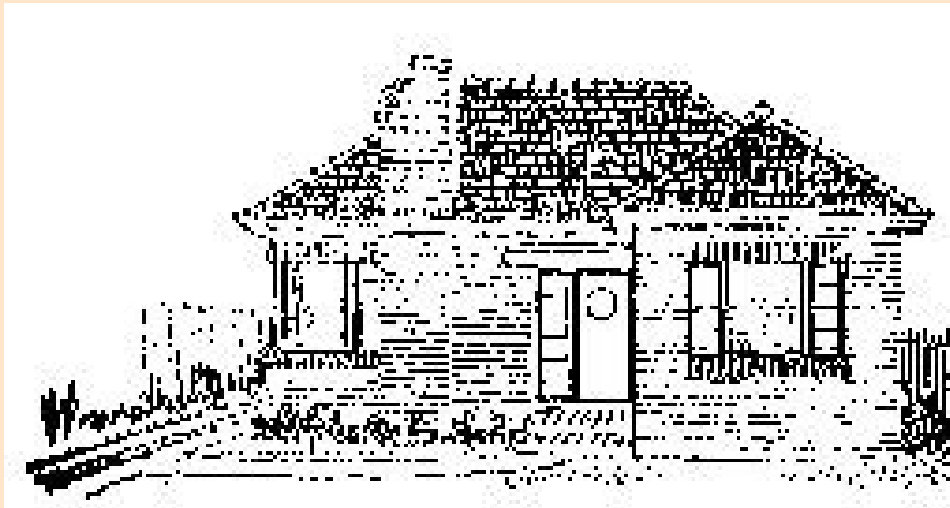
Plumbing costs were minimized by clustering the kitchen bathroom and laundry. Color of the kitchen was now daffodil and pale grey. A servery was added serving the dining room. The kitchen was still a separate room from the rest of the house.

Allowable ceiling height was reduced from 2.7m to 2.4m and has stayed at that height since.

Roofs became hipped with coloured cement tile often with spotted or diagonal patterns.

Dining room combined with the living room

1951: Harry Seidler built the first cubic house at Turrumurra for his mother. It was the new international style with a flat roof concrete slab floor, walls of vertical timber and painted in primary colours with black highlights. Open plan.

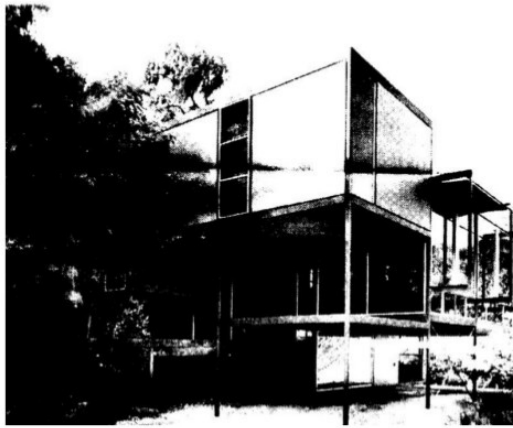


Austerity house with pothole window and cement tiles



Austerity fibro house
Note the small windows as glass was still scarce

CONTEMPORARY 1970+



CONTEMPORARY 1970+

Australian architects ransacked foreign houses for inspiration. Gardens were simplified flower beds and lawns.

At last the garage was attached to the house with internal access eg Ranch style.

1966-71: Ranch style. Featured long rectangular building across the block. Red bricks and full length "picture" aluminium framed windows. Open concrete patio at the front with a simple steel balustrade.

Main disadvantage is they required a 20m+ blockage

1980s: Carports tended to replace garages and an emphasis on outdoor living with BBQ areas and pergolas. They were allowed to be built on a side boundary.

Textured red brick were replaced by light coloured bricks sometimes with "clinker" bricks as a feature.

Neo colonial and homestead styles popular in the rural areas.

1970-1980s: Japanese or lowline houses pioneered by Pettit and Sevitt. Most innovative residential architecture of modern times.

Featured long narrow stained wood framed windows to ground level. Decor was generally white inside and outside but highlighted by very attractive tilework in the kitchen and bathroom. Exposed stained wood members. Doors were full length to the ceiling.

Outside there is a carport with a raked roof complementing the rake of the main roof.

Need to adapt to marginal sloping blocks around Sydney - some very steep

Starting with the "green bans" preservation movement in Hunters Hill there is now statutory recognition and protection of heritage houses. For example the heritage listed Federation area of Haberfield.





Modern style Gold Coast



Early modern style



McMansions 1990s+

Arguably, the worst house style in Australia's history.

Small blocks (400-500sm) forced the construction of 2 storey houses crammed together. Inexplicably Australians rejected color and built dreary houses with black roofs (in a hot climate) and grey walls. All white interiors added to the blandness.



Suburban McMansions Sydney