

Tasmanian Rural Cultural Landscapes

A Study



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TASMANIAN RURAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPES: A STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

A major research emphasis of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery has been the history of industrial processes, the people involved and the material culture of industry in Tasmania. To this end the institution's staff have undertaken numerous studies of industry in Tasmania, for example, Launceston's Industrial Heritage (Morris-Nunn and Tassell, 1982), Tasmania's Chinese Heritage (Vivian, 1985), Port Arthur Pottery (Hamilton, 1982) and Tasmanian Inventions and Innovations (Cassidy and Wishart, 1987). These studies have been wide ranging and have sought to document industrial processes both historical and contemporary and their contribution to Tasmania's cultural heritage.

It was in this context that a proposal to assess the Tasmanian rural cultural landscape was developed. For this landscape is a direct consequence of the agricultural industry practices over a period of nearly two hundred years. The landscape is in fact the principal material cultural remains of this industry. That it is comprised of a number of different components which reflect the evolution of the industry is little different to many other industries.

Significantly the agricultural industry in Tasmania is still a vital one to the state's economic well being. Thus the landscape cannot be expected to be a fixed never changing entity. Rather it will continue to change largely as a consequence of the market forces that shape the industry, albeit with some constraints imposed upon it by its own history.

Importantly the rural cultural landscape is no longer just the consequence of past and present agricultural activities. It is also as important for others in the community aesthetically, culturally and economically. In this context tourism is a major beneficiary of the rural landscape as it is today and has a vested interest in the retention of elements of this landscape.

This study is concerned with analysing:-

- . The characteristics of the Tasmanian rural cultural landscape particularly in relation to claims of similarity to that of Britain.
- . Identification of the cultural components of the rural landscape.
- . Identification of potential threats to these components and possible ways of overcoming these threats. All this within the context that the agricultural industry is a vital continuing industry in Tasmania.

However, it is not a detailed assessment of the Tasmanian rural cultural landscape, which would be a project well beyond the resources available for this project.

TASMANIAN RURAL LANDSCAPES

"The scenery is reminiscent of England, with neat fields, hawthorn and box hedges, winding country lanes and oak, poplar and elm trees"

(Department of the Premier and Cabinet, 1985)

.1 INTRODUCTION

The English character of much of rural Tasmania is a significant element of the public's perception of Tasmania. Many observers have commented upon this "English" quality of the state's rural landscape. Such observations being made relatively early in the state's history such as those of Meredith in 1841 and Stoney (1856).

More recent authors have noted a variety of landscape elements that contribute to the "English" Character. These elements include:-

- . The patchwork of fields - Pringle-Jones (1983); Schmalzer and Donovan (1983)

- . The rolling hills - Smith and Johnson (1983); Department of Premier and Cabinet (1985)

- . The hawthorn and box hedges - Department of Premier and Cabinet (1985)

- . The green pastures - Department of Premier and Cabinet (1985)

- . The introduced trees - their spring blossoms and autumn colours Smith and Johnson (1977); Pringle-Jones (1983); Schmalzer and Donovan (1983)

- . Architectural elements such as oast houses, churches, bridges and villages - Smith and Flower (1983); Smith and Johnson (1977); Schmalzer and Donovan (1983)

- . Distinctive crops such as apples and hops - Smith and Flower (1983); Smith and Johnson (1977); Schmalzer and Donovan (1983)

As might be expected these elements of the Tasmanian rural landscape that are perceived as being English are in fact a melange of characters to be found in a variety of English rural landscapes rather than being derived from a single archetype landscape.

Significantly almost all these characters are a consequence of human activity rather than being just elements of the land itself. Thus assessment of Tasmania's rural "English" landscape has in some ways much in common with the procedures

developed for assessing the built environment than those for non-urban landscapes (Melnick, 1983; and Appendix 1).

The necessity for an assessment of Tasmania's rural landscapes stems from a number of concerns as does that for the urban areas. (Considerable additional impetus for such an assessment arises from the emphasis placed upon the English quality of the state's landscape in the promotion of the island as a tourist destination and the growing importance of this industry to the state's economy - see Appendix 2.) However, such an assessment is complicated beyond that of urban areas in that these rural areas are an important continuing industrial undertaking in their own right.

.2 THE ENGLISH LANDSCAPE

The English rural landscape has evolved as a result of changing agricultural practices over a period of two thousand years or more (Hoskins, 1955, 1973; Rackham, 1986). It is a highly variable landscape that incorporated the influences of a variety of agricultural practices. Never-the-less the landscape that is commonly perceived as being English is that of a countryside "like a multicoloured chequerboard. Its chief characteristic is the attractive patchwork appearance, with an infinite variety of small odd shaped fields of brown ploughland or green pasture, bounded by twisting hedges narrow winding lanes, small woodlands and copses and isolated trees and hedgerow timber" (Young, 1943).

Such an idealized landscape is in fact an amalgum of elements from a variety of agricultural regions but does draws heavily upon the impact of the Parliamentary Enclosures of land that took place largely between 1750 and 1800.

These later planned enclosures of agricultural land saw the creation of

- . small hedged fields of between five and ten acres
- . a tendency for fields to be square or rectangular in shape.
- . straight hedges almost entirely of a single species - Hawthorn (except in upland areas where stone walling took their place)
- . extensive willow plantings along the banks of streams
- . new straight roads often with wide grass verges
- . isolated farmsteads in the middle of individual farms rather than the maintenance of farmhouses in villages.

A summary of the differences between the earlier ancient countryside and the enclosed planned countryside is given in Table 1.

In essence the idealized English landscape is not a universal one to be found throughout the lowlands of Britain but a synthesis of elements from a variety of real landscapes in which the composition of landscape elements varies considerably.

TABLE 1

Differences between Ancient Countryside and Planned Countryside (modified after Rackham, 1986)

Ancient Countryside	Planned Countryside
Hamlets and small towns	Big villages
Ancient isolated farms	Eighteenth-Nineteenth Century isolated farms-common
Hedges mainly mixed not straight	Hedges mainly hawthorn, straight
Roads many, not straight often sunken	Roads few, straight on the surface
Many public footpaths	Few footpaths
Woods many often small Pollard trees, if present, away from habitation	Pollard trees (except riverside willows) absent or only in villages
Many ponds	Few ponds
Variable field size and shape	Regular field size and shape

.3 THE ENGLISH CHARACTER OF RURAL TASMANIA

As the idealized English landscape is itself an amalgam of elements produced by a variety of agricultural practices and historic processes, it is not surprising that the Tasmanian rural landscape cannot be characterized as being the same as either the idealized English landscape or in fact any specific real landscape. Rather the Tasmanian rural landscape has developed in a way that might best be described as an evocative English landscape. A landscape in which numerous elements typical of the English landscape are combined into a generalized rather than specific fashion.

The principal factors in achieving this have been the agricultural practices adopted in the state together with implicit constraints of climate, soil and topography and the cultural elements introduced into the landscape.

Given the time of European settlement in Tasmania, the island's climate and fertility, it is not surprising that contemporary English farming practices, notably those associated with enclosure, were adopted in many areas of the state.

In addition to the characteristic landscape elements arising from these agricultural practices there are a number of other cultural elements which have added to the "English" quality of the Tasmania landscape when it is compared to the other rural landscapes of south-eastern Australia. These cultural elements include:-

- . The relatively closely spaced nature of rural villages.

- . The relatively common use of building materials such as bricks or stone that were also widely used in England rather than such convenient materials as wood or corrugated iron.

- . The frequency of agricultural buildings constructed in Georgian or Victorian style rather than the vernacular "pioneer" style.

- . The presence of distinctive buildings or structures of style, function or appearance either unusual elsewhere in Australia e.g. oast houses or common in England e.g. sandstone church and bridges

- . The presence of distinctive agricultural activities such as hop growing, orcharding.

.4 THE ENGLISH ELEMENTS OF THE TASMANIAN RURAL LANDSCAPE

As has been indicated the Tasmanian rural landscape is not simply a transplant of a specific English landscape but a melange of various elements. Separately these elements can be found elsewhere in Australia and by themselves do not create an English landscape. It is a combination of these elements that creates Tasmania's distinctive rural landscape. The principal elements of this landscape are:

A Fields

"The patchwork of fields of the Midlands"
(Schmaler and Donovan, 1983)

"The chequered fields of Table Cape"
(Dept. of Premier and Cabinet, 1985)

A vital element of the idealized English landscape and the cause of much of the ready identification of the Tasmanian landscape with that of lowland English is the field.

Fields have a number of components which together establish their character.

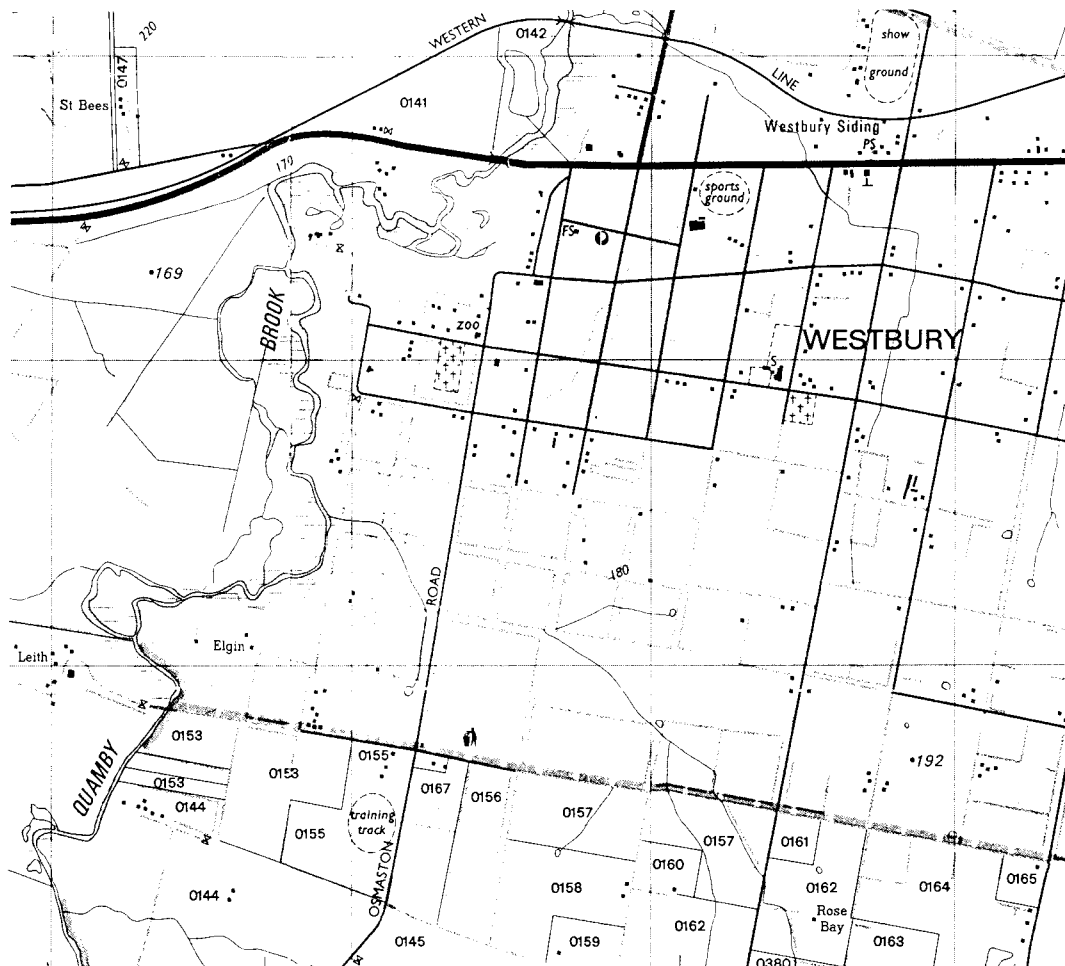
(I) Field size

Although the enclosed fields in England may have originated from two quite different processes, the results in terms of field size were similar.

Typically the parliamentary enclosures resulted in a series of fields of between five and ten acres (Hoskins, 1955). Clearly there was variation with some fields being up to fifty or sixty acres but gone were the large open agricultural area of hundreds of acres.

As might be expected field size in the ancient landscapes exhibited greater variability in size up to about ten acres.

In Tasmania there are a number of areas in which fields of this scale are to be found such as Westbury, Circular Head.



Detail for Westbury Sheet (4840) 1:25 000 showing small fields, many with boundaries of hawthorn or gorse.



Field boundaries of hawthorn hedges with occasional broad leaf deciduous trees indicate the shape and size of fields near Longford.



Field borders of hawthorn hedges both cut and uncut indicate the shape and size of fields near Hagley.

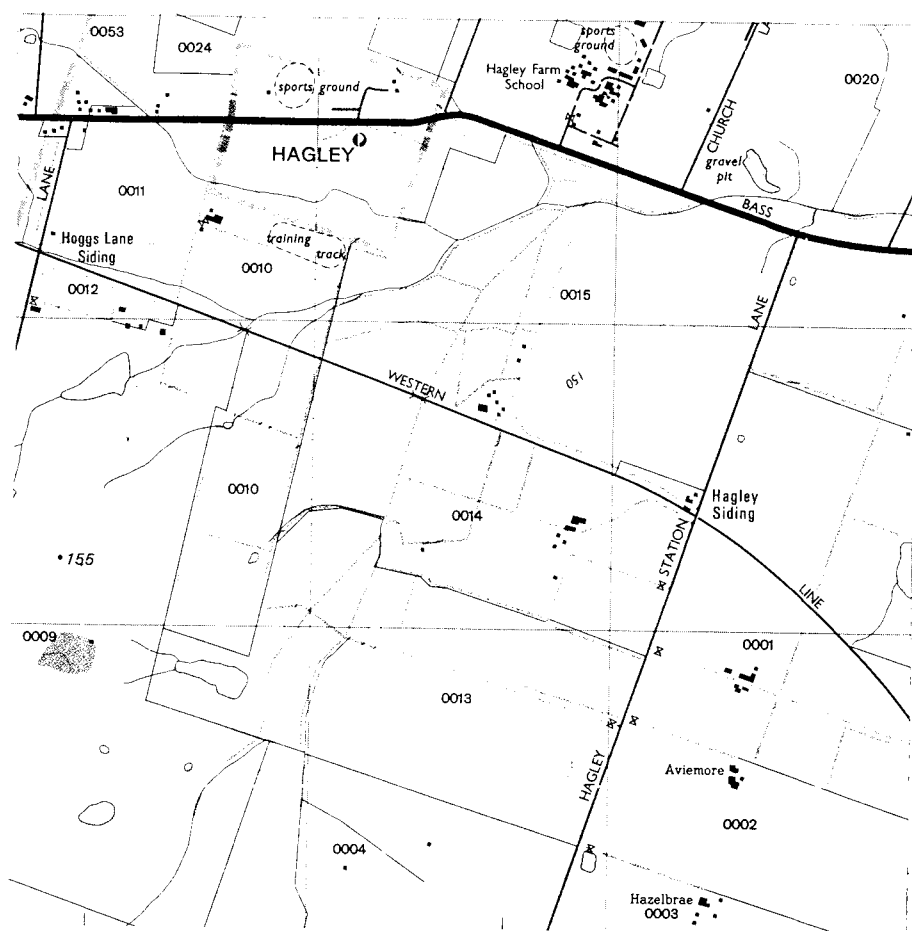
(II) Field shape

The parliamentary enclosure of land in Britain was a massive planning exercise which resulted in a "chequer-board pattern of small squarish fields enclosed by hedgerows of Hawthorn" (Hoskins, 1955). These regular shaped fields with their straight boundaries were in marked contrast to the more irregular and variably shaped enclosed fields of the ancient landscapes.

In Tasmania with fewer constraints from previous ownership or agricultural practice the land was surveyed and divided using relatively straight boundaries reflecting contemporary English practice. Clearly variations to this pattern occurred when convenient natural boundaries such as watercourses were available. The overall result though was of a landscape with straight property boundaries.

Just as the property boundaries were straight so too were the internal property boundaries. The results of this are seen in the landscape of squarish or rectangular fields such as those near Westbury.

On occasion there were exceptions where the field boundaries were irregular, such as near Hagley.



Detail for Westbury Sheet (4840) 1:25 000 showing variation to field shape in the Hagley area. Fields of both regular and irregular shape bounded by hawthorn or gorse are both developed.



Irregular field shape Coswell: semi-circular field fenced with a stone wall and hawthorn hedges. Note presence of poplars and deterioration in condition of stone wall.



Fields near Elliott bounded by conifer and hawthorn hedges.

B Field Boundaries

"the thickening green pastures of the farmlands and the blooming of hawthorn hedgerows...." (Department of Premier and Cabinet, 1985).

Fields are known largely from their boundaries, which in lowland England have a long and complicated history (Rackham, 1986). The boundaries of parliamentary enclosure fields were typically hawthorn hedgerows or dry stone walling depending upon area. Their principal purpose being to contain stock. Both provided a major visual contribution to the rural landscape. Indeed in Britain it has been argued that these boundaries, particularly the hedgerows, are the key component of the rural landscape (Green, 1981). Such a case can also be made in Tasmania for it is difficult to imagine the same claims for similarity with the English landscape being made in the absence of hedgerows.

(I) Hedgerows

The new fields created by the parliamentary enclosure in England were typically fenced with the hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) noted for its rapid growing ability. Other plants such as blackthorn (Prunus spinosa) on crab-apple (Malus sylvestris) were also used.

The plants to be used for the hedgerows were typically planted in double rows, although by late Victorian times they had often been reduced to one row. After about twenty years in the case of hawthorn they were ready to be cut and laid. This management technique involved cutting and layering of the individual plant items to produce an effective windbreaks and stockproof boundary (Readers Digest, 1982)

The enclosure hedgerows were also interspersed with other trees particularly ash (Fraxinus sp.) and elm (Ulmus sp) although there was some regional variation in the types of trees used for this purpose (Hoskins, 1973). These were managed so that they reinforced the hedgerow but as mature trees grew sufficiently tall so as to not interfere with the hedge growing beneath them.

The hedgerows that enclosed the fields in the ancient landscapes while dominated by hawthorn possesses a complexity of plant types that contrasts enormously with the simple parliamentary enclosure hedgerows (Rackham, 1986)

The importance of the hedgerow to the English rural landscape is hard to overstate. Their visual contribution as structural features in the landscape is considerable; indeed many would argue they are the principal component in it (Green, 1981).

In Tasmania hedgerows are widespread and in their typically linear nature form a major element of the island's rural

landscape. Hawthorn, both the white and pink varieties, are the dominant plants of the island's hedgerows. Areas in which hedgerows are to be found as particularly dominant elements of the landscape include much of the northern Midland, parts of the East Coast, Derwent Valley and areas in the south-east.

Evidence for their relatively early introduction and use of hawthorn for hedgerows in Tasmania can be found in the observation of visitors to Tasmania during the mid-nineteenth century. Louisa Anne Meredith observed in 1840. "But the most English and therefore most beautiful things I saw, were the hawthorn hedges" (Ellis, 1979) While Atkinson (1975) notes that William Field (?-1881) on his property at Westfield near Westbury "had noticed the similarity of the countryside there abouts to some parts of rural England and he sought to mould it nearest to his English memories. So he enclosed his fields with hawthorn hedges, white and pink, and planted English trees". Other observers included Mundy (1852) Stoney (1856) (see Appendix 3)



Hawthorn hedgerows near Chudleigh.



Hawthorn hedgerows, Derwent Valley. Note straight field boundaries.



Hawthorn hedgerows Glen Gala. Note the straight field boundaries and the isolated graveyard.



Hawthorn hedgerows, Mayfield near Westbury. Note the broad leaf deciduous trees, conifers and brick farm buildings.

(II) Stone walls

In the exposed upland areas of England stone walls were used instead of hedgerows as field boundaries. Elsewhere in areas where there was an abundance of stone, stone walls may have supplemented or even replaced hedgerows as the principal boundary structures.

These dry stone walls (i.e. built entirely or largely without the use of mortar) had the advantage of using stone removed from the fields, occupying less space and requiring less annual maintenance than hedgerows. Their chief disadvantage was the considerable amount of skilled labour required in their construction.

The methods of construction of stone walls in Britain varied considerably depending in large part upon the characteristics of the local stone (Garner, 1984).

In Tasmania stone walls particularly along roads were an early if not widespread feature of the landscape. Such a wall figures prominently in the 1837 view of Table Mountain on the main road between Hobart and Launceston, north of Jericho (Stancombe 1974).



Dry stone wall, Coswell Beach near Swansea.



Dry stone wall, Piermont near Swansea. Note hawthorn hedgerows in middle distance.

C Roads

"In parts the scenery is reminiscent of England with ..., winding country lanes ..." (Department of Premier and Cabinet, 1985)

The history of roads in England is a long and complex one extending back to the Neolithic (Rackham, 1986). The result of this history is a network of roads with a variety of differing characteristics. The "English" character of roads in Tasmania arises not from the transposition of a particular type of English road system to the state. Rather it is a composite of elements from a number of different road types which together contrast markedly with typical rural roads of much of mainland Australia.

(I) Winding Country Lanes

The archetype "winding country land" is much more a feature of the ancient landscape of lowland England that was created in an ad-hoc small scale manner than the parliamentary enclosed landscape. It was the irregular fields bordered by hedgerows and walls aided by the nature of the roads itself that determined the character. The result were roads "usually having a course which on the small scale consists of a series of wobbles" (Rackham, 1986). Typically these roads were quite narrow and bordered by hedgerows or walls.

Comparable roads are to be found in Tasmania in a few places, but more often than not the cause of these winding roads is the local relief of the landscape.



Winding rural road, Table Cape. Note also the conifer, broad leaf deciduous trees.

(II) Roads of Enclosure

Parliamentary enclosure saw the establishment of many new roads that were notable for their straight routes marked by right angle bends. Unlike the roads of the ancient landscape they ran direct from settlement to settlement.

Typically these roads had a minimum width of 40' enabling detours to be made around impassable stretches for the roads were initially unsurfaced. Once paved the roads had verges of perhaps fourteen feet on each side between the hedgerows or stone walls. Such roads were in direct contrast to the roads of the ancient landscape. The only common elements being the boundaries formed by hedgerows or stone walls.

In Tasmania numerous roads in this style are to be found such as Woolmers Lane near Longford or near Chudleigh.

Although these roads are not the winding lanes of England they are evocative of England because:

- . the length of individual straight sections of roads can be quite short, particularly when compared with mainland roads
- . the length of individual straight sections is broken by changing relief
- . the wide verges are generally covered in grassy vegetation which is frequently green
- . they are bounded by hedgerows



Road near Chudleigh. The road is bounded by hawthorn hedgerows and has the distinctive wide grass verges typical of enclosure roads.

(III) Holloways

A feature of roads in various parts of England are the holloways where the road, through a variety of causes, has sunk below the general ground surface. Typically they are lined or even overhung by trees. Such holloways may be formed by a variety of causes including:

- . the road following an existing natural depression
- . cuttings deliberately excavated to reduce gradients
- . the erosion of unpaved roads by traffic over an extended period.

In England this latter reason is the most frequent cause of these features (Rackham, 1986).

In Tasmania the excavation of cuttings to improve road gradients and alignments is the most frequent cause of these features. With time they can become lined with exotic trees.



Holloway near Sheffield bounded by hawthorn and blackberries.



Holloway, Table Cape.

(IV) Bridges

In England a variety of materials have been used in the construction of bridges but the overall impression is of an agricultural landscape with bridges constructed of stone and to a lesser extent brick. Timber was used relatively rarely as a construction material.

In Tasmania the early road building undertaken in large part under the supervision of the Royal Engineers was notable for the extensive use of stone or brick in bridge construction. These bridges are a significant feature of the areas settled before the 1850s. The major roads such as the

- . Hobart-Launceston highway
- . Hobart-East Coast road

incorporate numerous stone or brick bridges (Table 2).

The general impression in these areas is that stone or brick are, as in rural England, the dominant bridge construction materials. Louisa Anne Meredith observed in 1844 "We entered the flourishing town of Perth... over a handsome stone bridge of eight arches, with bold stone parapets, and quite an imposing aspect, more like a good old English bridge than the usually flimsy colonial construction..." (Ellis, 1979).

This general impression is in marked contrast to most of south-eastern Australia where timber predominated as the construction material for bridges. Similarly timber was used in the more recently settled parts of Tasmania, such as the north-west and north-east when the cheap labour of the convict system was no longer available.

Table 2

Stone and Brick Bridges in Tasmania

Hobart-Launceston

Roseneath (stone)
Glenstone (stone)
Pontville (stone)
"Oakmore" (stone)
Kempton (stone)
Melton Mowbray
Lovely Banks (stone)
Jericho (stone)
Tunbridge (stone)
Ross (stone)
Tackey Creek (stone)
Campbell Town (brick)
Kerry Lodge (stone)

Elsewhere

Spikey Bridge (East
Coast) (stone)
Richmond (stone)
Risdon (stone)
Pateena Road (brick)



Brick and stone bridge over the Elizabeth River at Campbell Town built between 1835 and 1840 and still in use on the state's principal highway.



Tacky Creek Bridge near Ross built of sandstone in the 1830s.



This brick and masonry bridge over Jordans Creek on the Pateena Road near Longford was built in the 1840s.



Kerry Lodge Bridge constructed of freestone in 1835 and now bypassed by main Launceston-Hobart road. Note conifers and hawthorn hedge along the old main road boundary.

(V) Minor Road Construction Elements

Just as stone and brick were the commonly used materials for bridge construction in lowland England so too were they used widely for minor elements of road construction such as culverts and drains.

Similarly in Tasmania, particularly in those early settled areas where stone and brick bridges predominate, many of the minor features such as culverts and drains were also built of these materials. Again numerous examples are to be found on many of the early major roads just as is the case for bridges.



Stone culvert on Hobart-Launceston road near Jericho.



Stone culvert on Hobart-Swansea road near Mayfield Beach.

D Exotic Plants

"Autumn is regarded by many people as the most beautiful of the Tasmanian seasons. The early British settlers planted a variety of deciduous trees to remind them of their homeland and the changing green leaves to gold creates a haunting mellow atmosphere unequalled in the other Australian states" (Dept. of Premier and Cabinet, 1985).

The parliamentary enclosures resulted in a significant change in the distribution of trees in rural lowland England (Rackham, 1986). However, the nett result was the maintenance of an agricultural landscape in which trees continued to play an important visual and economic role. They were an integral part of the structure of hedgerows, used to provide protection for farm buildings and other facilities such as ponds and were a source of wood. In addition the eighteenth and nineteenth century saw the development of large country parks and estates in which great numbers of trees were planted to enhance the parks appearance.

The English character of the Tasmanian landscape arises from the widespread use of exotic trees, particularly deciduous trees and conifers. However, the exotic trees used in this state were not just those of the English landscape such as ash (Fraxinus sp.) and elm (Ulmus sp.). Rather they included a greater range of types such as the Lombardy Poplar (Populus nigra var. italica). Thus again the Tasmanian landscape is a composite of a variety of English and non-Australian elements which together contrast markedly with the rural landscape of south-east Australia.

(I) Plants of the Hedgerows

The hedgerows of both the parliamentary enclosure and ancient landscapes were not composed only of hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) or comparable hedge plants. A major feature of the hedgerows from both landscapes was the large number of trees interspersed in them. In the parliamentary enclosure hedgerows the principal trees planted were ash (Fraxinus sp.), elm (Ulmus sp.) and oak (Quercus sp.). The proportions of each varying in no systematic way. The nineteenth century saw the introduction of more exotic trees such as sycamore (Acer sp.) and walnut (Juglans sp.).

With time these trees have been supplemented naturally by self-sown species so increasing the diversity of the hedgerow, the characteristic of the ancient landscape hedgerows.

In Tasmania hawthorns were introduced early on for use in hedgerows. So much so that they were well established by the 1840s and continued to be planted. For example in 1847 Andrew Reid, owner of Ratho near Bothwell is reported as purchasing more than 500 hawthorn cuttings raised on the

nearby property Thorpe (Simons, 1987). Hawthorn hedges are now widespread throughout the state and are a major feature of the agricultural areas of the Midlands, Norfolk Plains, Derwent Valley, Deloraine, Mole Creek area, and the east coast.

The contribution of the hawthorn to the rural landscape is enhanced by its prolific flowering ability and its markedly seasonal appearance. In spring it is covered in white or pink blossom, summer it is green, autumn the leaves are red-brown while in winter it is bare, being deciduous but with bright red fruits.

Other plants were also used for hedgerows including: the European Box (Buxus sempervirens), specimens of which are recorded as being sent to R.C. Gunn in Launceston in 1845 and the African box thorn which finally became a noxious weed because of the difficulties of controlling it (Simons, 1987). Just as the hedgerows of England became sites for self-sown plants so too have Tasmania's hedgerows. A variety of exotic plants can be found such as blackberry (Rubus fruticosus) and briar (Rosa rubiginosa) which contributed to the English character of the hedgerow. Such a combination was so evocative of England that the botanical artist Marianne North in 1881 noted about the landscape between Launceston and Deloraine that it "was not in the least attractive to me; it was far too English with hedges of sweet brier, hawthorn and blackberry, nettles, docks, thistles and dandelions" (Royal Botanic Gardens, 1980).



Hawthorn hedgerow near Chudleigh (detail).



Hawthorn hedgerows Quamby. Note conifers and other deciduous trees.



Hawthorn and Boxthorn hedgerow, Belmont near Swansea.



Topiary, St Peters Pass with hawthorn hedgerows, broad leaf deciduous trees and conifers.

(II) Broad Leaf Deciduous Trees

Large broad leaf deciduous trees such as elms, ash and oak were an integral part of the English hedgerow. In addition a variety of trees were grown on farms independently of hedgerows. These included elms, oaks and ash again as well as the black poplar (Populus nigra), white poplar (P. alba) and from the mid eighteenth century Lombardy poplar (P. nigra var. italica) and willow (Salix sp.). Such trees were used principally for shelter and as a source of wood.

The development of formal country estates and parks saw the introduction of a wide variety of trees such as the horse-chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum), limes (Tilia sp.) and oaks (Quercus sp.), (Rackham, 1986). Moreover these trees were used in entirely different ways such as specimen trees, landscape focal points, grand avenues in entrance driveways.

In Tasmania the use of broad leaf deciduous trees in hedgerows was not widespread, although the practice can be seen at Clairville, Western Junction. Rather these trees tended to be planted as

(a) wind breaks - for example the Lombardy poplars about the hopfields of the Derwent Valley e.g. Bushy Park.

(b) boundary markers - for example the elm marked boundary of Bowthorpe or the chestnut and elm boundary at St Peters Pass House.

(c) specimen trees - for example the birch (Betula sp.) and conifers planted by William Gibson on Eskleigh late last century (Simons, 1987).

(d) formal parklands - such as those at Panshanger and Malahide.

(e) ground avenues and entrance driveways such as those at Westfield (poplar and elm), Panshanger (oak and elm), Eskleigh (hawthorn and elm), Redlands (poplar and elm) and Lovely Bank (oak).

(f) in the case of willows along watercourses.

A wide variety of broad leaf deciduous trees were used in Tasmania. The result is an amalgam of elements from the English enclosed agricultural landscape and the formal parkland landscapes.

The introduction of broad leaf deciduous trees again took place early in the history of the island's settlement. In the 1830s the prominent Launceston merchant Lawrence was obtaining a variety of plants from London included willows. Other plantings of broad leaf deciduous trees included plantings of elms at Thorpe near Bothwell in 1832, willows at Redlands near New Norfolk by 1845, oaks at Panshanger by 1842. By the middle of the last century there is little

doubt that broad leaf deciduous trees had become a major element of the state's agricultural landscape.

The broad leaf deciduous trees are a strong element of the English quality of the Tasmanian landscape. They introduce shapes, colours and seasonal changes of appearance that are in marked contrast to the indigenous species. In 1844 Louisa Anne Meredith noted that "sketching gum trees... is quite a different affair from a round compact oak or elm, decently appavelled in a proper quantity of foliage" (Ellis, 1979).

While more recently the visual impact of the seasonal change in the appearance of these trees is a recurring theme for example "Others would argue that autumn is the real Tasmanian season; the time that gives the island its special charm - when the European trees that are so abundantly planted in the island are richly clad in russet gold" (Smith and Johnson, 1977).

Early on it was noted how well many of these trees grew in Tasmania compared to England. More recently the serious outbreak of Dutch Elm disease has killed many elms in England, particularly in the south. No longer does the elm dominate the English enclosed landscape as they once did and still do in areas of Tasmania.



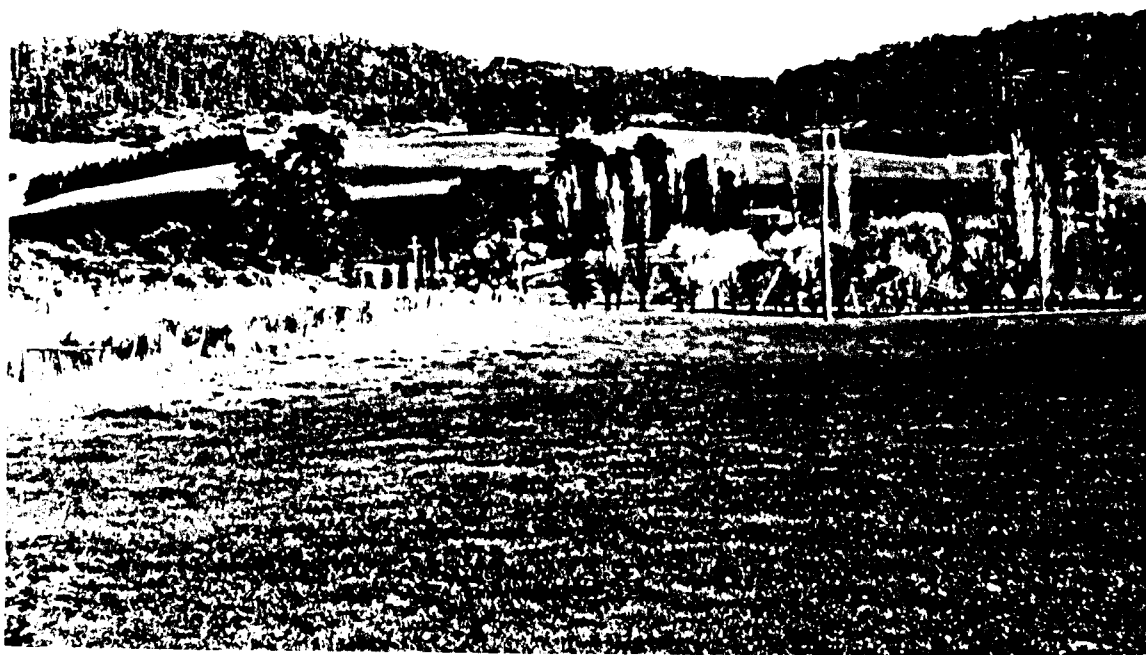
Broad leaf deciduous trees - lombardy poplars near Jericho.
Note hawthorn field boundary and widespread gorse.



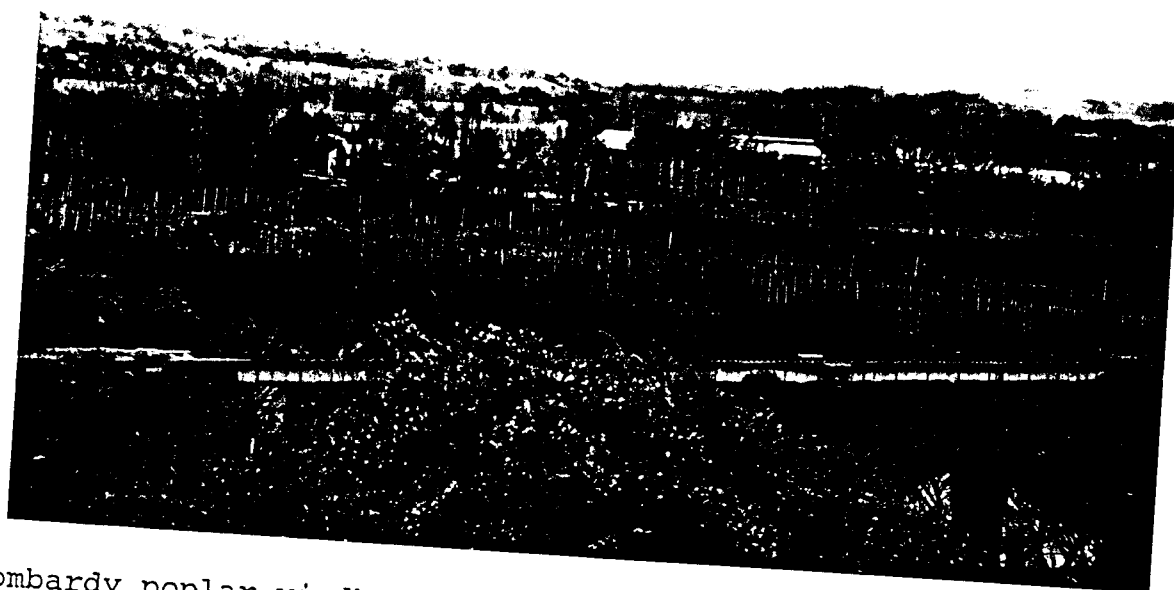
Broad leaf deciduous trees near Melton Mowbray.



Broad leaf deciduous trees, near Little Swanport River. Note bypassed section of the main east coast road.



Broad leaf deciduous trees, Coombend, along entrance drive. Note conifer windbreaks.



Lombardy poplar windbreaks, Bushy Park. Note hopfields
conifer windbreaks, other deciduous exotic trees.



Lombardy poplar windbreaks, Bushy Park. Note hopfield,
briars in foreground.



Entally House, Hadspen with a variety of specimen trees including both broad leaf deciduous trees and conifers. Note hawthorn hedge in middle distance, lombardy poplar along road boundary.



Broad leaf deciduous trees including elms and plane trees forming road boundary, Riversdale near Swansea. The remains of the brick river mill which has now been partly demolished are also visible.



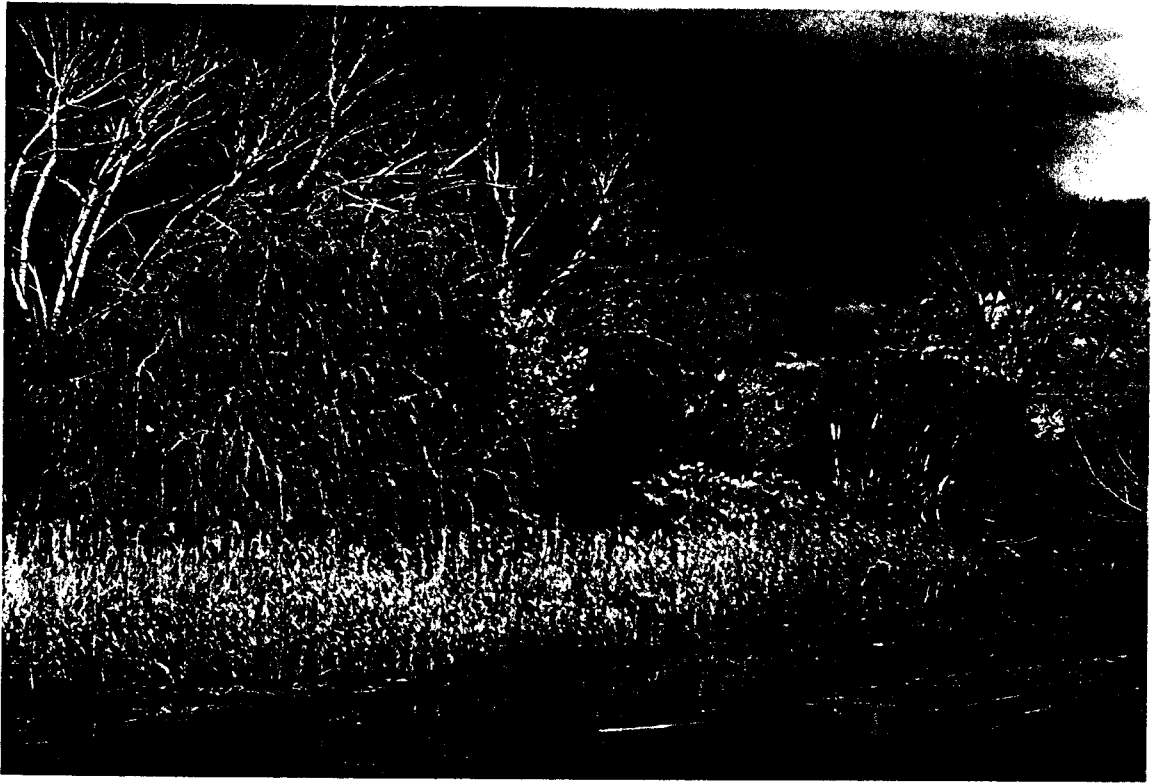
Broad leaf deciduous trees near Tunnel.



Broad leaf deciduous trees, hawthorn hedges, and blackberry field boundaries near Tunnel.



Willows along watercourse at Lauriston near Kempton. Note hawthorn hedgerow boundary.



Willows along Coal River near Richmond. Note broad leaf deciduous trees, some in blossom.



Willows on river flats near Latrobe.

(III) Conifers

The use of conifers in hedgerows and elsewhere on farms in lowland England was not widespread. Only in Norfolk and Suffolk where enclosure was undertaken early in the nineteenth century, a time when exotic conifers were fashionable, are they to be found in any quantity. Here they were used initially for hedgerows but the effort required to retain them as hedges has meant many have grown into trees (Rackham, 1986). Otherwise their use has been in the formal parklands of the past or modern plantations for timber production.

In Tasmania their use has been much more widespread and is in fact comparable with the broad leaf deciduous trees. Conifers have been used for

(a) windbreaks, examples of which are widespread in the Midlands, east coast and in particular in the north-west of the state.

(b) boundary markers, examples of which are widespread, in particular in the north west of the state

(c) specimen trees such as those of Belmont and Eskleigh and particularly Entally where a great many varieties of pines were planted (Hollingsworth, 1988)

(d) formal parklands such as those at Beaufront

(e) ground avenues and entrance drives such as those at Glen Derwent near New Norfolk, Douglas Park near Campbell Town, Somercotes near Ross and Clairville, Western Junction.

A wide variety of conifers from throughout the world were used in these plantings including native Australian pines. Amongst the most popular conifers for use as windbreaks and boundary markers of Pinus radiata although other conifers have also been used for this purpose.

Although the Rev. Robert Knopwood makes reference to receiving pine trees in 1807 (Nicholls, 1977) there is little mention of conifers until the middle of the century unlike the broad leaf deciduous trees. In 1845 R. Gunn in Launceston received a number of conifers including Auracaria, Abies and Lebanon Cedar (Cedrus libani). However, by 1852 the Launceston Horticultural Society was reporting that it was raising and exporting large numbers of Norfolk Island pines to New South Wales (Simons, 1987).

The conifers, like the broad leaf deciduous trees, are also an important element in the Tasmanian landscape. Again they introduce a colour, shape and form that is in distinct contrast to the indigenous flora.



Conifers as boundary markers, specimen trees and windbreaks near Elliott.



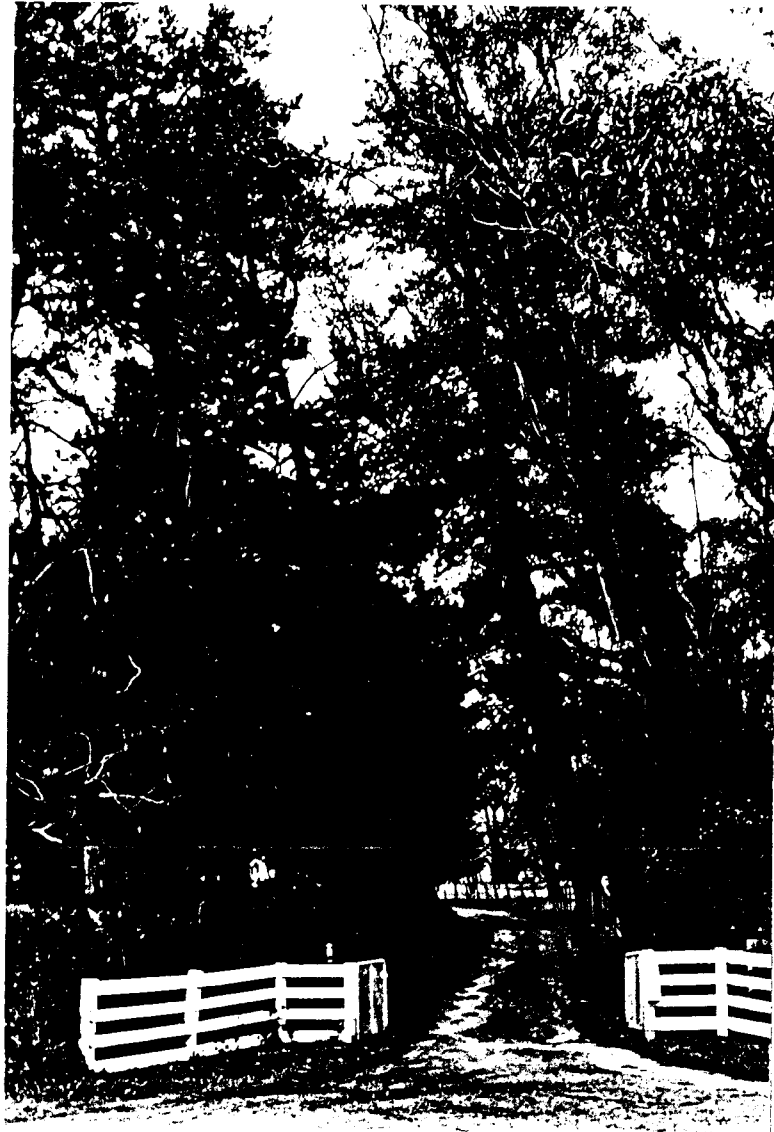
Conifers and hawthorn hedges near Elliott.



Conifers - specimen trees, surrounded Tedworth Hall formerly the London Inn which was built of sandstone in 1831. The guard or watch house in the foreground was built by convict labour a little later in 1840.



Conifers forming windbreaks and boundary markers at Table Cape.



Conifers along entrance drive to Clairville, the boundaries are also marked by hawthorn hedges.

(IV) Gorse

In England, gorse or furze (Ulex europaeus) is a characteristic plant of the heathlands. Originally such areas were used for common grazing of livestock while gorse itself was an important widely used fuel (Rackham, 1986).

In Tasmania gorse was introduced quite early, the Rev. Knopwood makes reference to purchasing "some English furz bushes" at New Town in 1815 (Nicholls, 1977). Its principal use was as a hedge plant because of its rapid growing ability and impenetrable nature. Louisa Anne Meredith noted the widespread use of gorse for hedges on the east coast by 1841. Some years later in 1854 her friend William Howitt observed "Splendid hedges of English furze enclosed the approach to Mr Charles Meredith's house, in blossom even at this winter season and diffusing in the sun its familiar odour" (Ellis, 1979). The use of gorse was not confined to the east coast it being used widely in the Midlands as well.

The very qualities of gorse that initially encouraged its use as a hedgerow plant were also those that in the longer term made it such a problem. Louisa Anne Meredith observing critically later that her father-in-law had "cleared the land of trees and planted miles and miles of gorse hedges, which became a very costly curse and ruined much good land" (Ellis, 1979).

Today gorse is still widespread throughout the Midlands and east coast region of Tasmania.



Gorse along boundary fence and in paddocks near Jericho.
Note lombardy poplars.



Gorse along watercourse with willows at Quamby.

(V) Bulbs)

A distinctive element of some English landscapes in spring is the daffodil (Narcissus sp.). The poet William Wordsworth's description of the Lake District in spring is well known - "When all at once I saw a crowd, A host of golden daffodils".

These bulbs are also a prominent element of many of the formal parklands throughout in England.

In Tasmania their presence is limited, being found in the immediate area of houses or the sites of former houses. However, in some areas of the state they have managed to colonize beyond what may be termed the garden with some success such as those near Elizabeth Town. Although short-lived the daffodil's contribution to the English character of Tasmania stems perhaps as much from its symbolic value as a harbinger of spring and the change of seasons as it does from its colour.



Bulbs, broad leaf deciduous trees, some in blossom, conifers and hawthorn hedges are all present in the ground of Bowthorpe near Longford.



Bulbs and conifers near Tunnel in north-eastern Tasmania

(VI) Pseudo-exotic trees

Early in the settlement of Tasmania it was recognized that the structure and appearance of the dominant indigenous trees, particularly the eucalyptus were quite different to that of the broad leaf deciduous trees of England. Louisa Anne Meredith observed that "sketching gum trees, which I found demanded far greater care in their delineation, even in my slight pencil sketches than I had at first been disposed to accord them: a giant struggling tree that will persist in showing all its twisted elbows, and have briarean arms, with only tufts of leaves at the fingers ends, is quite a different affair from a round compact oak or elm, decently apparelled in a proper quantity of foliage" (Ellis, 1979).

However there are some indigenous trees that do have a shape and appearance matching those of the European trees. In particular in the north-west and some parts of the north-east of the state the Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) assumes an important visual role in the landscape.



Blackwoods, broad leaf deciduous trees and conifers near Elliott.

E Distinctive Crops

"I went up the Derwent in the steamer to New Norfolk. It (the river) ran through a rich bit of country full of hops, and orchards loaded with fruit. Hedges of hawthorn loaded with red berries, sweet brier, and blackberries, - all was too English - it might have been a bit of Somersetshire" (Marianne North, 1881 in Royal Botanic Gardens, 1980).

The temperate climate of Tasmania and the availability of both water and fertile land allowed the ready application of contemporary English farming practices in Tasmania. Initially the production of grain and wool underpinned the state's economy. However, with the growth of the colony and improvement in transportation the opportunities for other agricultural activities appeared. Some of these were quite commonplace in England while others were associated with particular areas such as hop growing and had their own cultural associations.

Even though these same agricultural activities may have been undertaken to varying degrees on the mainland of Australia, their presence in Tasmania has contributed to the English character of the state's rural landscape.

(I) Hops

The nineteenth century has been regarded as the golden age of the hop industry in Britain. In 1800 there were 14 000 hectares (35 000 acres) given over to this crop (Filmer, 1982). Kent was the principal area of cultivation but hops were widely grown throughout England and in Scotland and Wales as well. One of the more intensive agricultural activities it required the provision of an elaborate system of support for the shoots to climb upon if production was to be maximized. Although the methods of support varied with time, the general appearance of the hop garden was a network of wires, strings and poles.

The first record of hops being grown in Tasmania is that of William Patterson, Lieutenant-Governor, Port Dalrymple in 1804 but it was not until the 1850s that they became well established as an agricultural crop in the Derwent Valley about New Norfolk (Pearce, 1976). By the turn of the century more than 1 000 acres were given over to hops. Protection from the wind generally coming from the closely planted rows of poplars. This practice having been started at least by the 1870s when a hop grower Mr Trollope is reported as planting these trees for protection (Pearce, 1976).

It was observed that "If the trip is taken when the (hop) lines are in full flower, the Englishman may easily fancy that he is in Kent" (Government of Tasmania, 1914). Similar views are still being expressed more than fifty years later. "Mellow old buildings set amongst English trees and hop fields dotted with oasthouses give this classified historic town (New Norfolk) a decidedly English look. The beautiful

surrounding countryside has often been compared to that of Kent" (Schmaler and Donovan, 1983).



Hop fields Bushy Park. Note oast houses, conifers, broad leaf deciduous trees, hawthorn windbreak.

(II) Orchards

The growing of fruit trees in orchards has a long tradition in England, with a wide variety of fruit including apples, pears and plums being grown in this manner by the early middle ages. The eighteenth century saw commercial apple orchards for both cidermaking and dessert fruit widespread particularly in Kent, Essex and the West Country. While the early nineteenth century saw a tremendous upsurge in the varieties of apples available, perhaps over 600 (Harris, 1979).

These deciduous fruit trees introduced a major visual element to the landscape with their continuation of distinct seasonal changes -

- spring - an abundance of white and pink blossom
- summer - the development of fruit and the green leaves
- autumn - the ripening fruit and change of colour of the leaves
- winter - the bare trees

In addition, the physical structure of the orchards with their rows of trees, pruned in a variety of fashions provided a further cultural element to the landscape.

Fruit trees were brought to Tasmania by the early navigators and settlers. Lieutenant-Governor Patterson recorded planting apple trees at his settlement at West Arm on the Tamar River in 1804 (Simons, 1987). While by 1815 the Rev. R. Knopwod records growing a variety of fruit including apples, plums, peaches and stone fruit (Nicholls, 1977). By the middle of the nineteenth century farm orchards principally serving the farm and perhaps other local needs were widespread in the settled areas of the state. In the late 1840s the first tentative efforts at the export of apples, particularly from the Huon were made. However, it was not until the 1880s that the export of apples and other fruit on a large scale commenced and saw the establishment of commercial orchards in the Huon, Derwent Valley, East Coast and Tamar Valley. The extent of these orchards was such that the Huon was being called "apple land" (Maitland and Krone, 1892) while Franklin was being described as the "metropolis of Appleland" (Government of Tasmania, 1914).

Although the extent of the commercial orchards in Tasmania is now less than at the turn of the century similar views are still being expressed about the impact of the orchards on the landscape. "In spring the apple blossom makes a scenic wonderland of the Huon Valley regions, the Tamar Valley and the other orchard areas of the apple isle" (Smith and Johnson, 1977).

"The Huon River Valley and the Huon Peninsula, just south of Hobart is the most famous apple growing district in Australia and is a scenic delight as the thousands of hectares of apple orchards burst with blooms (Smith and Johnson, 1977).

"Here again the scenery in part is similar to England, particularly in the Tamar Valley when apple orchards are in bloom in spring (Dept. of Premier and Cabinet, 1985).



Apple orchard near Spreyton.



Orchard near Richmond.

F Built Elements

"Mellow old buildings set amongst English trees and hop fields dotted with oasthouses give this classified historic town a decidedly English look" (Schmaler and Donovan, 1983).

Although the English countryside is often thought of as village England it is vastly more complicated than this. There are wide areas where the village is a rarity on the ground, where the parish church stands alone, with perhaps an inn or a school beside it, to mark some sort of centre; but the parish itself shows a scattering of farmsteads standing alone on their hillsides or in their combs, and here and there farmhouses in pairs, or in a small group of three or four clustered together to form a hamlet.

"However we still make the generalisation that the village is more characteristic of the drier arable lowland east of England and the hamlet and single farmhouse more common in the wetter, hillier and pastoral western side. But there is nucleation and dispersion to some degree in all parts of England" (Hoskins, 1973).

In Australia the dispersion of built elements is the rule, with farm buildings scattered through the needs of agricultural practices and the capacity of the transport system to serve them. Small relatively closely spaced villages in any quantity are a rarity. However in Tasmania the presence of numerous villages, often built of materials suggestive of permanence are quite common and contribute towards the perception of the state's English character.

(C) Rural Villages

The processes involved in the location of villages in England are complex and have been in play in many cases for more than a thousand years. The results of these processes are a wide variety of villages with considerable differences in their structure, appearance and location.

In Tasmania the major influences on the location of villages has been the agricultural potential of an area and the development of transport routes. In particular in those areas first settled between Hobart and Launceston and westward to Mole Creek the effect of these influences can be clearly seen. In these areas villages are located along main roads at a frequency which is suggestive of that to be found in areas of England rather than that of mainland Australia.

The structure of these villages with their Georgian buildings of stone or brick further contributed to the general English quality of the landscape. The specific features of the individual villages are more appropriately dealt with in the specific reports that have been prepared on many of them (Tassell and Morris-Nunn, 1985).



Outskirts of Kempton

(II) Dispersed Farms

Although not as evocative of England as villages, dispersed farms are quite a common element in the English landscape particularly in the north and west in general terms (Hoskins, 1955). In Australia dispersed farms are the rule and this is true in much of Tasmania. However, in some areas of this state the dispersed farms are also able to contribute to the non-Australian quality of the island's landscape.

Their contribution arises from:

(a) building materials - the widespread use of brick and stone for both farmhouses and outbuildings while reminiscent of much of England is in sharp contrast to mainland Australia where other less labour intensive materials were widely use.

(b) vernacular building - in many of the earlier settled areas simple Georgian style buildings are to be found rather than the typical pioneer vernacular buildings of the more recently settled areas of the state such as the north-east or on the mainland. These simple Georgian buildings often lacking verandahs and other elements are visually distinctive.

(c) major buildings - Georgian England saw the widespread development of large country estates with large country houses and assorted parklands. The fertility of much of Tasmania enabled substantial country houses to be built early in the island's history such as Clarendon, Panshanger, and Woolmers. The number and style of these buildings further strengthen the non-Australian character of the island's landscape.



Brick and stone farm buildings, Apslawn. The stone building was formerly Apslawn House and built in the 1840s for John Lyne while the brick building was constructed as a barn. The function of the Apslawn House has now changed, it is now also a barn with the unsympathetic addition. Note also broad leaf deciduous trees, hawthorn hedgerows and gorse.



Gatehouse Clairville built in the 1830s.



Stone vernacular building Cranbrook Estate. Note stone fence, broad leaf deciduous trees and grape vine plantings.



Stone vernacular building Apslawn House, now used as a barn. Note hawthorn field boundary and gorse.

(III) Distinctive Buildings

A number of different types of building in the Tasmanian rural landscape further contributed to its English character including:

(a) Churches

"What is often regarded as a typical English scene: church spires rising from clumps of trees or piercing the Fenland skies"

Again in Tasmania it is the transposition of traditional and contemporary English building styles and the use of building material such as stone and brick that enable churches to make such a major contribution to the English quality of the Tasmanian landscape. For example, St Mary's, Hagley some distance from the village on a hill surrounded by deciduous trees in a landscape of small fields bordered by hawthorn fences recreated the idealized English landscape.

(b) Oast Houses

"the picturesque oast houses - hop drying kilns - with their high conical roofs and chimneys, create an overhanging and mellow landscape" (Smith and Johnson, 1977).

Just as hops are a distinctive crop in parts of Britain so too are the hop kilns or oast houses an important element of the landscape. The appearance of these buildings in England evolved with the industry but by the end of the eighteenth century the wooden cowls which pivoted to turn in the wind and so aid the ventilation and drying of the hops had been developed (Filmer, 1982). The contribution of the oast houses varied with time and from area to area. Brick, wood and stone were all commonly used while kilns were either circular or square. The size of the cowl itself varied considerably. In spite of this considerable variation the building still retained a distinctive appearance.

Similarly in Tasmania a variety of construction materials for the oast house are to be found particularly in the Derwent Valley with wooden examples and brick examples are to be found. Similarly both square and circular buildings are known e.g. Turrill Lodge; and Valleyfield respectively.



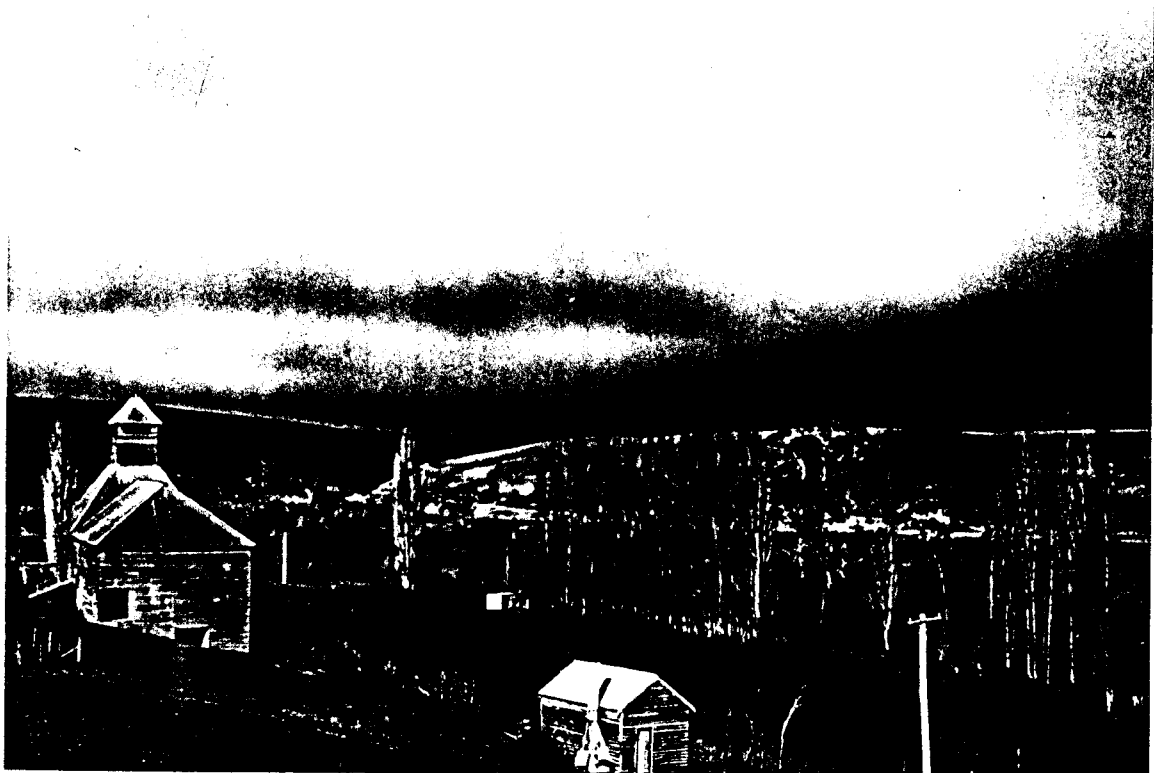
St John the Baptist, Buckland built 1846. Note the stone wall surrounding graveyard and the conifers.



St Mary's, Hagley built in 1861. Note the broad leaf deciduous trees, hawthorn hedges and conifers.



Brick and wood oast houses near Hayes, Derwent Valley. Note lombardy poplar windbreaks, orchards and hawthorn field boundaries.



Wooden oast house Derwent View, Derwent Valley. Note lombardy poplar windbreaks and willows along river.



Brick and wood oast house Tynwald, New Norfolk.

G Physical Elements

The physical characteristics of Tasmania are important in sustaining to varying degrees the perceptions of the "English" or non-Australian character of the island. In particular the relief of the island's topography contributes greatly to the contrast with the Australian mainland. While the latter is generally perceived as being relatively flat with low distant horizons Tasmania is marked by relief of great variability over relatively short distances. It includes the gently rolling hills of the north-west coast region, the flatter plains of the northern Midlands, the narrow coastal plains of the east coast or enclosed river valleys such as those of the Derwent or Huon. Importantly all these agricultural areas are bounded by high country. Tasmania is not an island of low distant horizons.

As well as the fundamental element of relief, there are a number of other elements which contribute to the island's character. Often these are more apparent because of the island's variable relief. These elements include

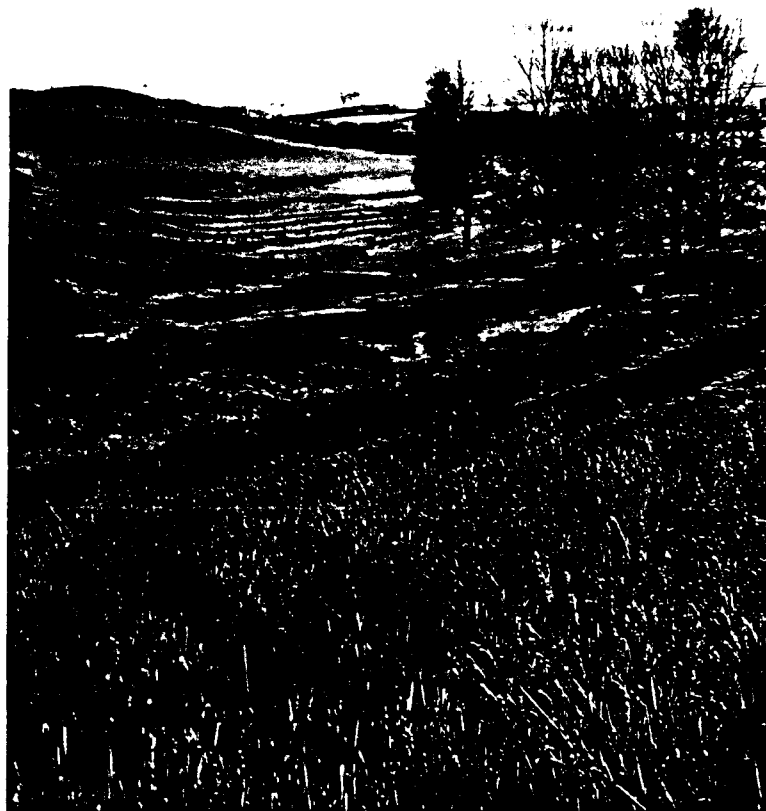
- . colour and contrast e.g. the generally green character of the landscape upon which is imposed the changes in colour of the seasons, blossom in spring, ripening grain in summer, leaves in autumn, different crops etc.

- . texture - "the visual effect of the components of a landscape as they would relate to the imagined feel of a three dimensional model of the scene (Wright, 1973) e.g. differences between cropped and grazing land use; the frequency of watercourses and associated vegetation

- . scale e.g. the confinement of agricultural activities or vistas by high country whether this be the Norfolk Plains bounded by the Western Tiers or the Derwent Valley by the Wellington Range

- . pattern - "the location in space of objects so as to produce some arrangement or configuration, regular or disordered, recognisable by the observer e.g. orchard" (Wright, 1973)

The combined effect of these physical elements is one that allows the introduction of even a few cultural elements into the landscape to have a dramatic effect in reinforcing the perception of Tasmania as being a non-Australian landscape - character.



The physical elements of the Tasmanian cultural landscape of relief and scale are clearly seen in this view near Jericho.



The physical elements of relief and scale of the Tasmanian cultural landscape are evident in the view at Piermont, as well the cultural elements of the brick and stone farm buildings, hawthorn hedgerows, broad leaf deciduous trees and conifers reinforce the "English' appearance.



The physical elements of relief, scale and colour of the Tasmanian landscape are evident in this view of Westfield as well as the cultural element of the Georgian style house, broad leaf deciduous trees, gorse, conifers and hawthorn hedges.



The physical elements of relief, scale, texture and colour are evident in this view of Table Cape.



The physical elements of relief, scale and texture as well as a number of cultural elements are evident in this view near Elliott.

The Future of Tasmanian Rural Landscapes

.1 Introduction

The English landscape has changed greatly during the past two thousand years or more as agricultural practices have changed (Hoskins, 1973; Rackham, 1986). None-the-less agricultural practices of the past few decades in Britain have resulted in changes in the appearance and structure of lowland rural England as dramatic as any in history. These changes have generated considerable debate within the British agricultural and conservation communities (Blunden and Curry, 1985).

The concerns arising from these recent changes have centered on:

- . the loss of wildlife habitats
- . the loss of historic landscapes
- . the loss of scenic and visual amenity
- . the loss of public access

The Tasmanian rural cultural landscape is largely the product of agricultural practices during the past 180 years or so in a physical landscape that is distinctly different from that of mainland Australia. The scale, topography and fertility of the landscape and the climate prevailing over the landscape allowed the application of agricultural processes similar to those of lowland England.

In practice the Tasmanian rural landscape can be viewed as being the product of three major components

- . the physical landscape - the relief, and scale that contrasts with the mainland of Australia
- . the agricultural practices adopted and undertaken in the landscape
- . the cultural elements added to the landscape

In this context it is the physical landscape that has made possible the creation of a distinctive cultural landscape in Tasmania; which has been compared to that of England. Never-the-less the components of the physical landscape have themselves remained relatively constant in time.

It is the agricultural practices that have the greatest potential to alter the character of the rural landscape for they created it. In Tasmania the consequence of changing agricultural practices upon cultural elements that contribute to the distinctive character of the rural landscape are not yet as extensive as those in Britain. Supplementing the impact of the agricultural processes in creating a distinctive landscape are a number of other cultural activities. These in turn are also subject to change that can alter the contribution they make to the character of the rural landscape.

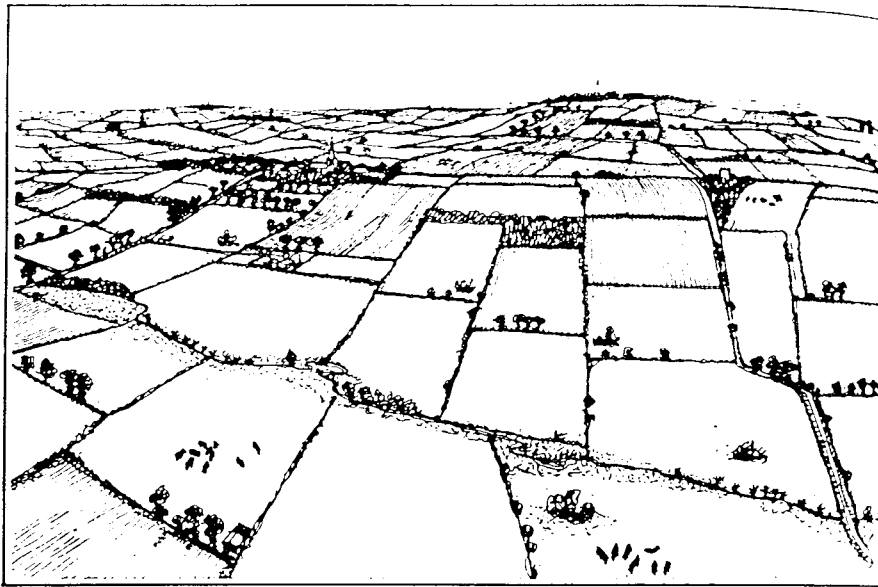
.2 Agriculture

Agriculture is amongst the largest and most important industries in Tasmania.

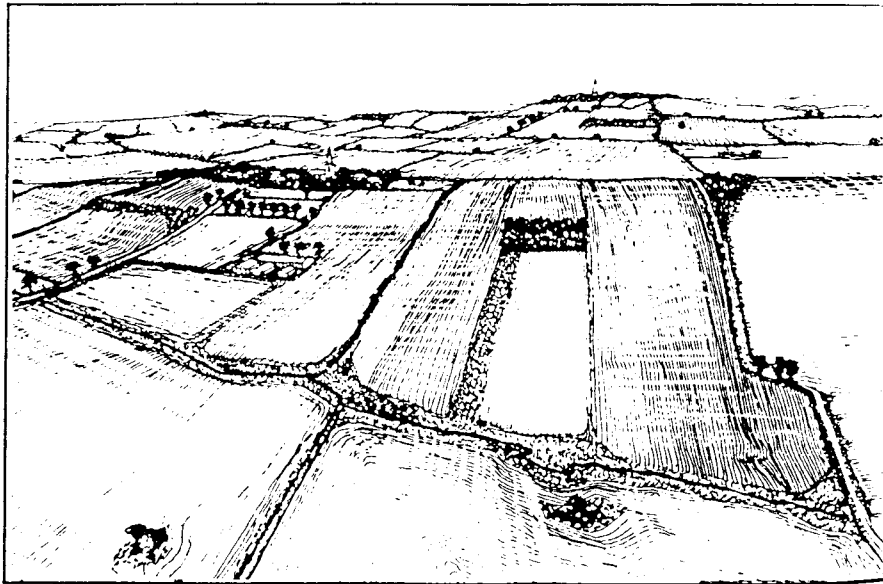
Any consideration of the contribution of agricultural processes to the rural cultural landscape and the maintenance of this landscape must recognize that agriculture is a significant industrial undertaking "The present pattern of farming land use is thus a reflection of the former's response to past economic conditions, and changes in the appearance of the countryside largely can be explained in terms of rational business behaviour as the economic, technical and policy environment of farming alter" (Blunden and Curry, 1985).

In Britain the high returns being achieved from cropping and advantages of using larger machinery has resulted in a dramatic change in the appearance of much of the rural lowlands. In terms of the visual appearance of the landscape this has seen the amalgamation of fields with a consequent loss of colour and texture (i.e. the patchwork effect) and most significantly the removal of field boundaries in particular hedgerows and their associated trees (See Fig. 1).

Currently in Tasmania the economic environment is not such as to warrant the wholesale change in agricultural practices as is occurring in England. However, historically there certainly has been periods when there have been comparable dramatic changes in the state. Perhaps the most recent being the removal of the apple orchards in the late sixties and early seventies.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 1 The changing lowland countryside. Two examples show the same area first mainly under grass (a), and the concomitant loss of hedges and hedgerow trees in the change to arable farming (b).
(From "The Changing Countryside" Blunden and Curry, 1985.)

A Fields

A vital element of the idealized English landscape. The change in field appearance in England has become a major issue. As has been indicated the major threat there has been the aggregation of fields into larger units to enable more effective use of larger agricultural machinery. As a consequence of this field shapes here tended to be regularized as well.

In Tasmania random sampling of field shape and size on the Norfolk Plains from aerial photographs taken over a thirty year period (1949-1984) indicate that there has been in fact little change in either character. Never-the-less it has to be recognized that field size has become a more flexible element in farm planning and operations with a consequent threat to field boundaries (Davidson and Wibberley, 1977).

B Field Boundaries

(I) Hedgerows

In England hedgerows are of significance as wildlife habitats, as historic elements in their own right and as a fundamental visual structure element of the English rural landscape. Originally planted to control stock their removal has occurred on a massive scale with the change in emphasis in agricultural activity. Some countries have seen as much as 90% of hedgerows removed during the past forty years.

The debate on the benefits and liabilities of hedgerow maintenance has been summarized by Green (1981). In essence the argument for their removal centres on -

- . the lack of need for stock control barriers as farms give over to cropping
- . the additional land released e.g. for a 2ha field about 2-6% of the land is under hedgerow if the hedges are 2m wide
- . the savings in machinery operation is in larger field
- . maintenance costs of hedgerows

The hedgerows that are retained tend not to be managed in the traditional way by hand but with machines which produce a hedge of quite different appearance. Machine cut hedges tend to be more uniform, often lower, with only rare saplings being able to grow into mature trees.

Similar observations can be made about the hedgerows in Tasmania. Although to date there has not been the orgy of hedgerow destruction encouraged by government grants that has occurred in Britain. In fact random sampling of hedgerows on the Norfolk Plains over a thirty year period suggest that the reduction of hedgerows has not been significant.

Never-the-less the economic rationale that supports hedgerow removal in Britain is applicable here. While those hedgerows that are maintained in the state are generally managed with mechanical equipment if they are managed at all.

Probably of all the cultural elements of the Tasmanian rural landscape, the hawthorn hedgerows are the most important. They are a major visual element of the landscape and are the most widespread and extensive of the elements. Yet the case for their retention rests principally on their scenic and visual value not their agricultural value. Moreover it is the agricultural community that has to bear the costs of their maintenance.

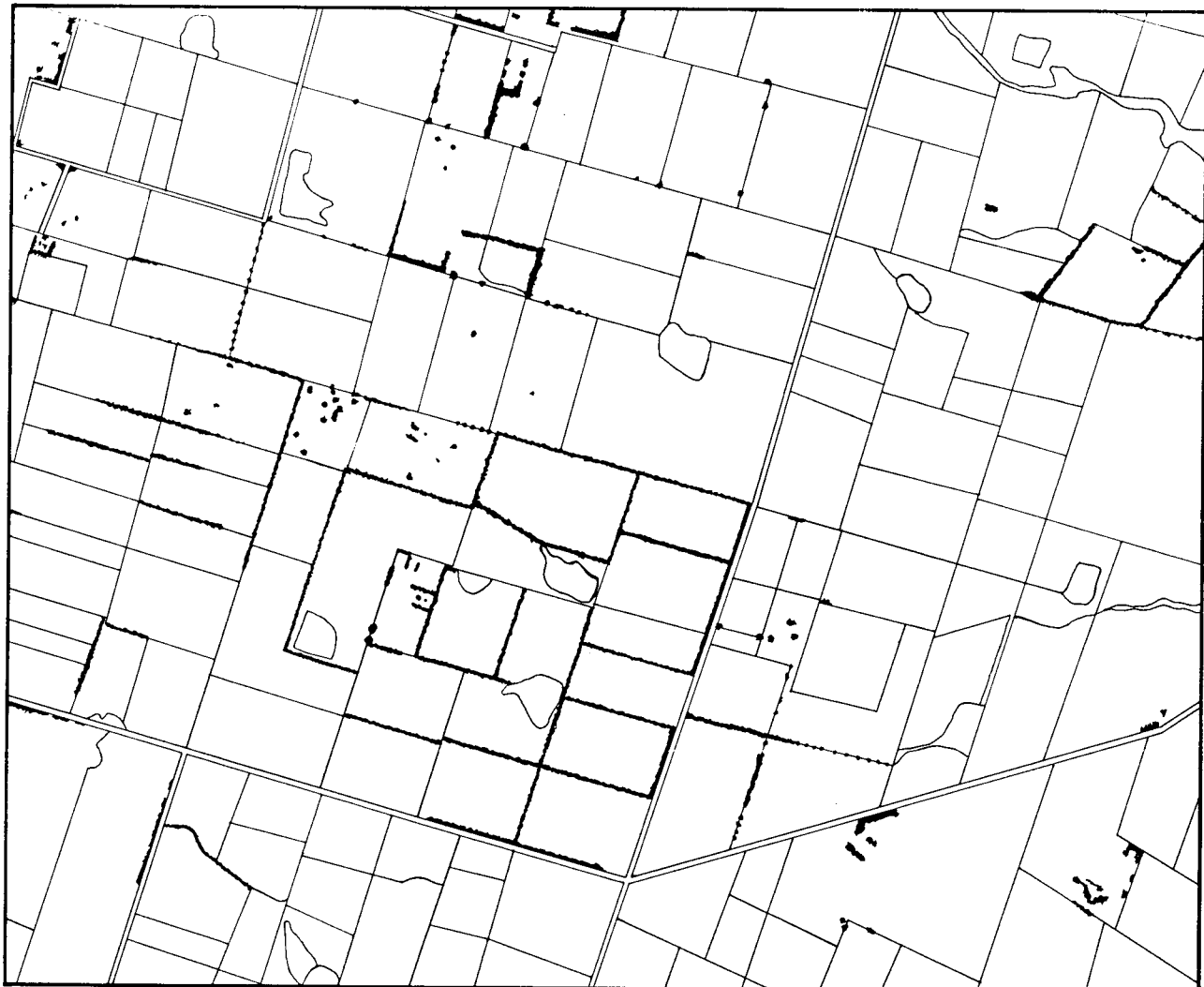


Fig. 2 Distribution of hawthorn and gorse hedgerows (and significant trees) in the Westbury area 1984.

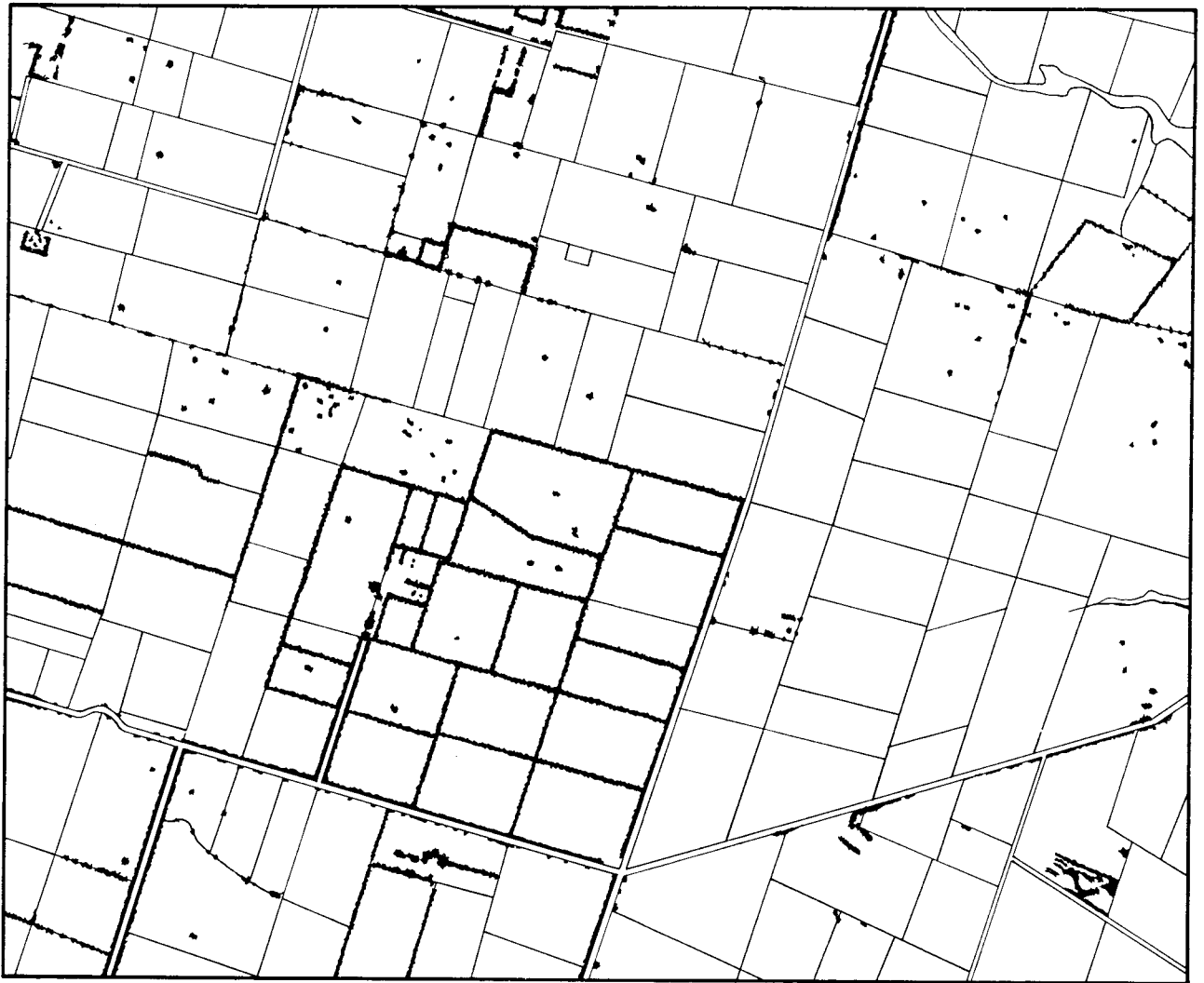
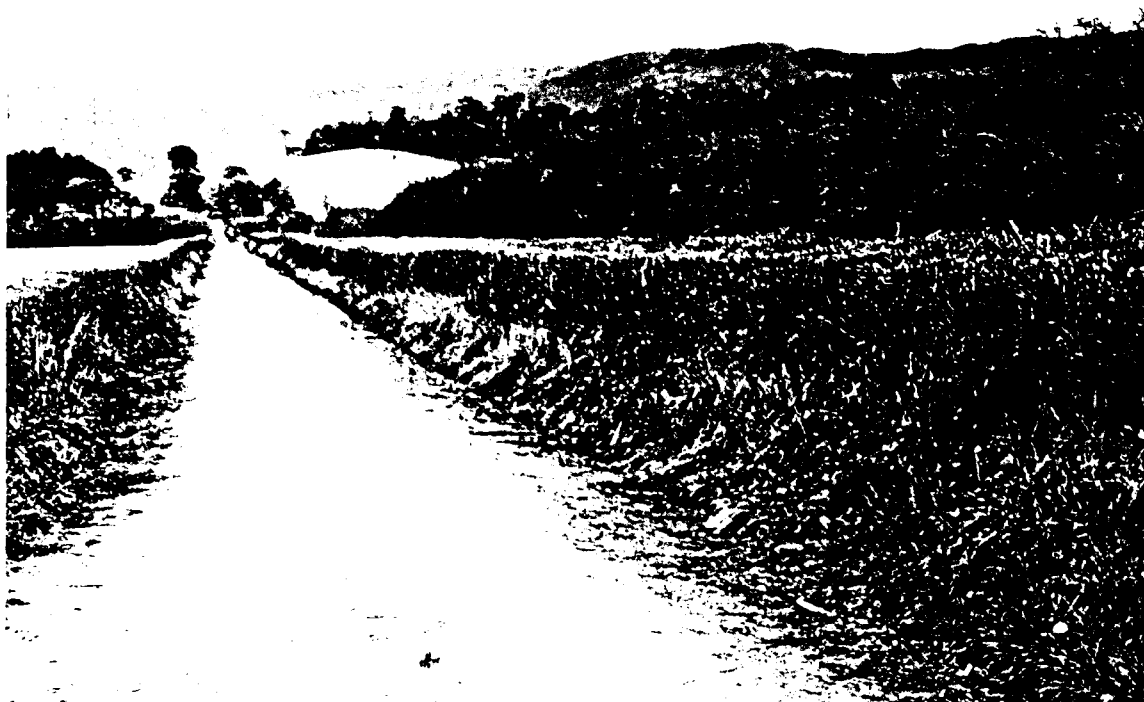


Fig. 3 Distribution of hawthorn and gorse hedgerows (and significant trees) in the Westbury area 1948.



Hawthorn hedgerow near Chudleigh pruned with mechanical cutter.



Hawthorn hedgerows, "Bentley" near Chudleigh. Contrast the mechanically cut plants with those that have been let grow untended.

(II) Stone walls

Widespread in the English uplands, stone walls fulfilled similar functions to the hedgerows of lowland Britain. Like the hedgerows they constitute a fundamental visual element of the landscape as well as being historical elements in their own right in many instances.

The economic pressures upon agricultural activity in the uplands differs from that in the more arable lowlands. As a consequence there has not been the deliberate extensive destruction of stone walls in the same way as there has been for hedgerows. Rather the stone walls have been threatened by gradual decay and destruction arising from lack of maintenance. This in turn is a function of the high costs of labour involved in the construction or maintenance of stone walls (Garner, 1984).

Although by no means as extensive as hedgerows in Tasmania, stone walls do in certain areas constitute important elements of the landscape. In this area the gradual deterioration of the walls is clearly visible. As is in Britain such destruction is largely the consequence of the high costs of labour involved in stone wall repair aggravated by the lack of necessary skilled labour.



Decaying dry stone wall near Coswell Beach which has had lengths of timber and wire added to it to enable it to continue to function as a boundary fence.



Decaying dry stone wall near Sheffield.

C Exotic Plants

The contribution of exotic plants to the character of the Tasmanian rural landscape varies considerably from the transitory bulbs through to the seasonally changing broad leaf deciduous trees to the constantly coloured conifers. It is the hawthorn hedges and broad leaf deciduous trees that are the crucial elements of the Tasmanian rural landscape. They provide significant variations in colour and appearance that is in marked contrast to the indigenous flora.

While hawthorn can under reasonable circumstances manage to sustain themselves, this is rarely the case for the broad leaf deciduous trees particularly those planted along roadsides or boundary. The principal exception to this being the willow along watercourses and the poplar. Although in the case of the willow, the success has created further problems, notably the obstructing of the watercourses. This has resulted in some areas in their removal on a substantial scale as part of flood mitigation work. The consequences of this are a significant reduction in the visual amenity of the landscape. Sutherland (1987) discusses how coordinated approaches by river management authorities in New Zealand overcame the problem by the replacement of willows with other traditional broad leaf deciduous trees such as birch or poplar.

For many years the use of broad leaf deciduous trees in ornamental plantings along roads was common practice, for example, the Pioneer Avenue plantings along the Midland Highway between Hobart and Launceston. However, in recent years there is a growing tendency to use more indigenous species for such purposes in part because they are better adapted to the environment.

Clearly such an approach will with time have a significant impact on the appearance of the rural landscape and its English character. The importance of continuing to plant exotic trees was recognized by the Committee established in 1978 to review landscaping of the Midlands Highway Corridor between Launceston and Oatlands (Goodman, 1979).

While such plantings of broad leaf deciduous trees may be of some value to farmers as stock shelter and erosion control there is not necessarily a great deal of incentive to plant broad leaf deciduous trees specifically, even though they form a significant element of the rural landscape. Again it may well be appropriate that specific incentives are available to encourage such plantings. A number of these incentives were listed in Goodman (1979), see Appendix 4.

D Distinctive Crops

The production of crops with a distinctive appearance and association with England such as hops or apples contributed significantly to the perception of the English character of

the Tasmanian landscape. As with any other agricultural activity such crops are subject to the vagaries of market forces. Nowhere has this been more true than in the Tasmanian apple industry which collapsed during the past two-three decades. The consequence of this collapse was the massive destruction of the orchards of an industry that had made the island internationally known. The destruction of these orchards, largely with government incentives, dramatically altered the appearance of the Huon and Derwent Valleys. It also reduced the extent of the English character of these areas.

The same period of time has also seen the remarkable growth of other distinctive crops such as grapes and poppies. Although not normally associated with the idealized English landscape, both bring further texture and colour to the landscape.

Perhaps the most salutary aspect of these changes is that it emphasises that agriculture is an active industry subject to external forces and capable of fairly rapid change.

.3 Built Elements

While the general English character of the Tasmanian rural landscape is determined by the physical characteristics of the landscape and the agricultural practices, the cultural elements have the capacity to substantially enrich and highlight this character. The cultural elements can be broadly considered as being of one of three major types -

- . rural buildings
- . rural settlements
- . roads and associated structures

Each of these groupings is faced with a combination of changes that has the capacity to significantly reduce their contribution to the character of the rural landscape. However, the more clearly apparent historical and aesthetic value of these elements has meant that they have received more attention in terms of their maintenance and protection through the activities of such organizations as the National Trust, Institute of Engineers and Town and Country Planning Commission.

A Rural Buildings

The aesthetic and historic value of agricultural buildings has been recognized in Tasmania for some time. The 1985 study of heritage assessment procedures in this state identified many buildings with a primarily agricultural purpose had been identified in a variety of heritage studies (Tassell and Morris-Nunn, 1985).

While there may be general agreement about the significance and contribution such buildings make to the state's cultural heritage many are still facing the threat of deterioration

and eventual destruction. Largely this stems from the changes in agricultural practices. For example

- . the reduction in labour requirements has meant that many farm workers cottages are no longer required. Although in this instance the growth in tourism and specifically the demands of colonial cottage and farm cottage accommodation has seen a new use established for some of these buildings.

- . changes in agricultural technology has resulted in some purpose built buildings becoming redundant, for example, stables. Use may be made of such buildings for storage, even though they are relatively unsuitable for such purposes

- . changes in processing technology has also resulted in some purpose built buildings becoming redundant, for example mills, oast houses or apple packing sheds

Compounding this problem is the fact that those buildings still in use are a part of an active industry. Thus although maintenance of historic or aesthetically pleasing buildings may be desirable the cost of such maintenance has to be measured against the economic return on such investment or the alternatives that exist. Again the cost of maintenance of these buildings in private ownership has to be born by the landowner, even though they have a significance to the community beyond that of the agricultural industry.

Currently there is no support available from such heritage funding programs as those of the Heritage Commission for buildings in private ownership. Nor are there any taxation concessions available to benefit those who undertake the maintenance or renovation of historic buildings on a private basis. This is an issue that the National Trust of Australia is currently pursuing and which they have advocated for some time (see Appendix 5).

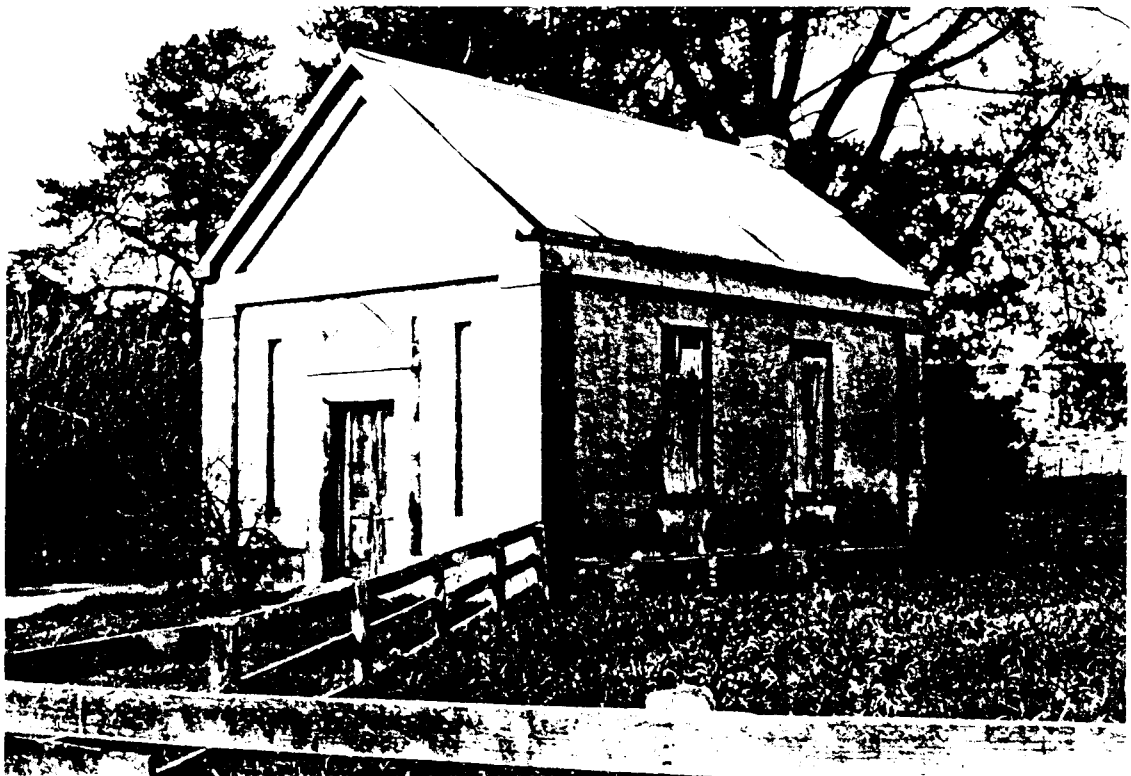
In contrast to the maintenance of buildings of undoubted heritage value which contribute to the character of the landscape, is the impact of many new agricultural structures that clearly detract from this character. At present planning controls on the construction of such building or plant are essentially non-existent. Planning requirements allow rural landowners to construct buildings and structures for agricultural purposes almost anywhere as an of right use associated with agriculture. The principal constraints being those associated with the building code requirements. There is a clear need for the agricultural industry to function as efficiently as possible and particularly be able to respond quickly to changes including climate. There is also a need to encourage selection of unobtrusive location for such structures that degrade the landscape character or at least a request to screen visually such structures (Goodman, 1979).

Besides the specifically agricultural buildings, there are a number of others which occur in isolation in the rural landscape and are of significance to its character. The most important of these are churches. Like farm cottages the

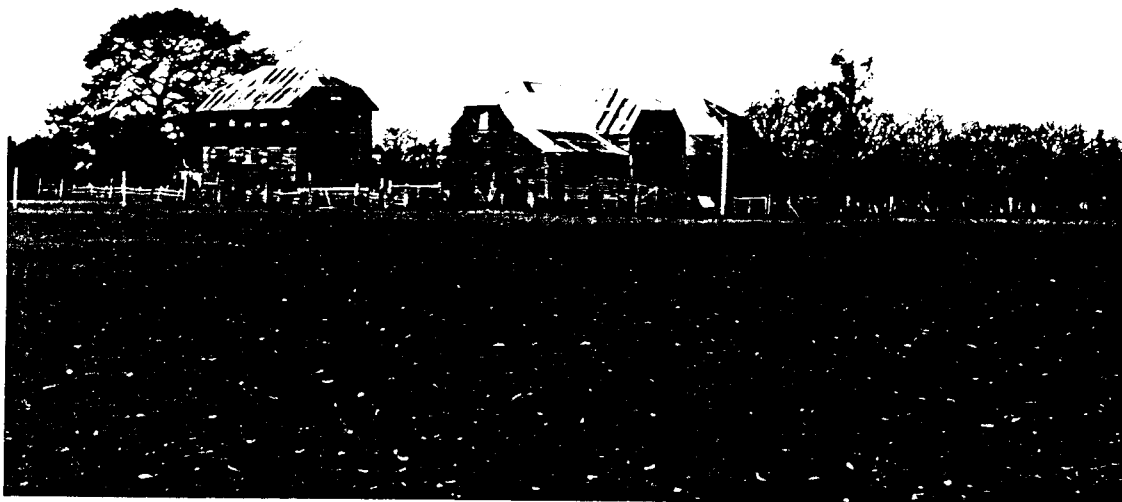
continuing need for these buildings has declined with the fall in the rural population and the increased mobility of those remaining. Fortunately in the case of churches, they are eligible for support from funding programs such as those of the Heritage Commission, while donations to approved restoration funds are also tax deductible.



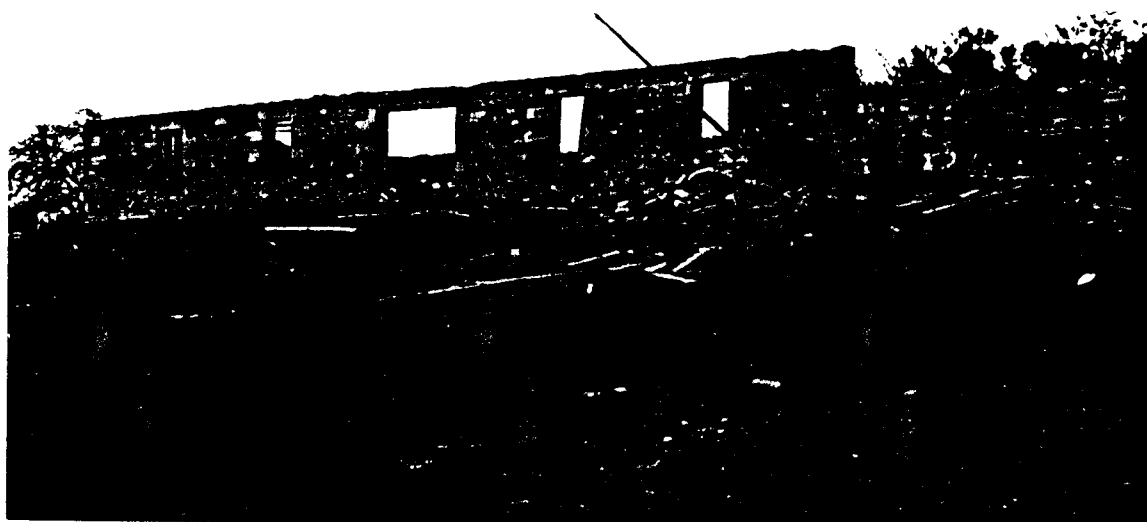
Rose Cottage, Lisdillon formerly a post office and now used for colonial cottage accommodation.



Former school house and chapel built in 1840 on Pateena Road north of Longford it is now derelict.



Barn at Brickendon, near Longford falling into disrepair.
Note hawthorn hedgerow and conifers.



Barn at Antill Ponds now derelict.



Modern agricultural industrial structures can become major elements in the rural landscape detracting from its visual appeal.



The insensitive construction of non-agricultural structures can also significantly degrade the aesthetic value of the rural cultural landscape.

B Rural Settlements

The appearance of the rural villages in Tasmania unquestionably contribute to the character of the Tasmanian rural landscape. Of all the elements in the landscape this has received the greatest attention. There have been numerous studies of most of the significant villages in Tasmania.

The National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) has devoted considerable effort to the maintenance of the character of these villages. Their success in this has varied and in part has been dependent upon the understanding of individual communities and municipalities. The outstanding success of the Ross Municipality in maintaining the character of Ross, unfortunately contrasts with that of other municipalities where frequent appeals to the Town and Country Planning Commission occur.

As the issues involved in the maintenance of the character of these villages are those of the built environment in general and these have been widely documented it is not proposed to deal with this issue in more detail.

However, there is one area of considerable concern arising from modern rural settlement as opposed to variation in the character of rural villages and that is ad hoc subdivision of agricultural land.

C Roads

As has been indicated the contributions of the roads to the non-Australian character of the Tasmanian landscape stems in large part from marked contrast with typical rural roads in mainland Australia. Features of the winding country lanes and enclosure roads with their wide verges and hedgerow borders contribute significantly to the character of the island's rural area. Importantly they allow the observer to become involved in and with the landscape by allowing access to it at an intimate level.

In contrast to this the requirements of improved traffic flow and safety have required roads of a quite different nature. These new roads are characterized by their straightness and the reduction in curves and relief. The resulting roads do not contrast with the new roads of mainland Australia or England for that matter. No longer does the observer enjoy such an intimate association with the countryside.

Just as the impact of greater road usage resulted in changes to the structure, appearance and character of Tasmanian roads, so too has there been an impact upon the bridges and other road constructional elements.

The impact of these changes can be seen in a number of ways

(a) the destruction of road constructional features and their replacement with structures that contribute less to the landscape character e.g. the freestone culvert near Hawkridge on the Midland Highway in 1966 (Stancombe, 1974).

(b) the continued use of a structure with consequent alterations. In this context it is of great credit to the builders that bridges such as those at Richmond (built 1824) and Kerry Lodge near Launceston (built 1835) have been able to be used by traffic of a weight and frequency unimaginable at the time of their construction. However, in some instances the efforts to retain such structures in continuing functional use have resulted in their unsympathetic renovation or alteration. Examples of this include the bridge over the Jordan at Jericho and nearby culverts. Significantly the continued use of such structures increase the possibility of accidental damage to the structure such as occurred on the Richmond Bridge in 1988

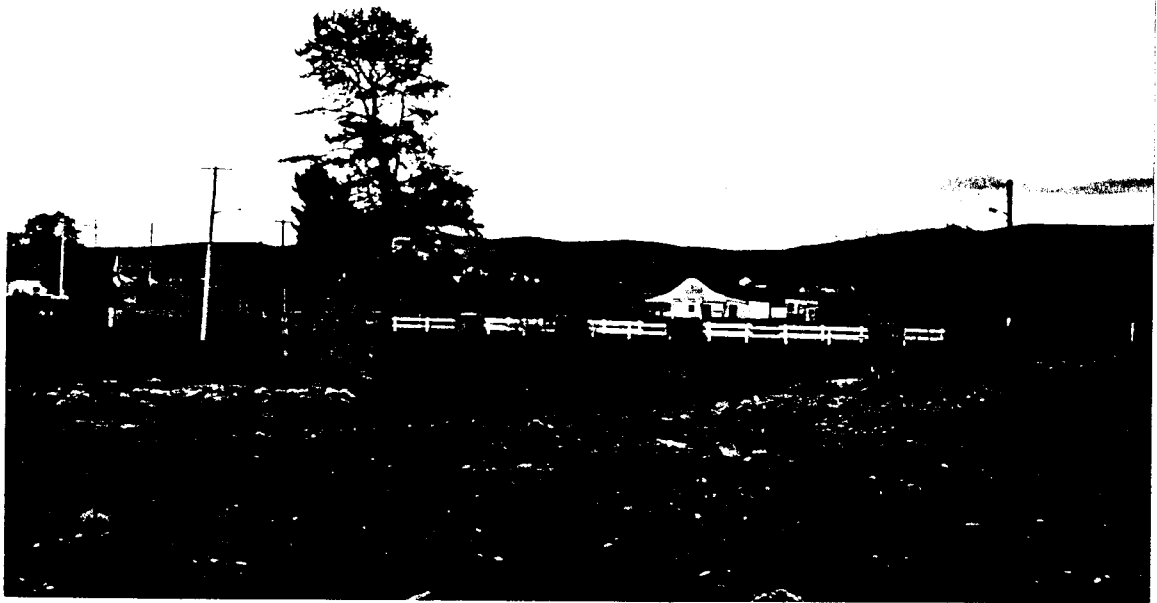
(c) the isolation of structures through their being bypassed, for example, Spikey Bridge (built 1843) or the small bridge at Lovely Banks on the Midlands Highway (built 1840). In some instances such bypassing can increase the structure's aesthetic contribution to the landscape such as the Kerry Lodge bridge which, while still functional, can now be clearly seen from the new bypass.



Remains of bridge at Stoney Creek south of Swansea on the main east coast road. The treatment of the structure has not been as sympathetic as that for the nearby Spikey Bridge.



Spikey Bridge constructed of freestone between 1840 and 1843. This bridge is now bypassed by the main road but this has been done in such a way as to allow the bridge to continue to contribute to the cultural landscape effectively.



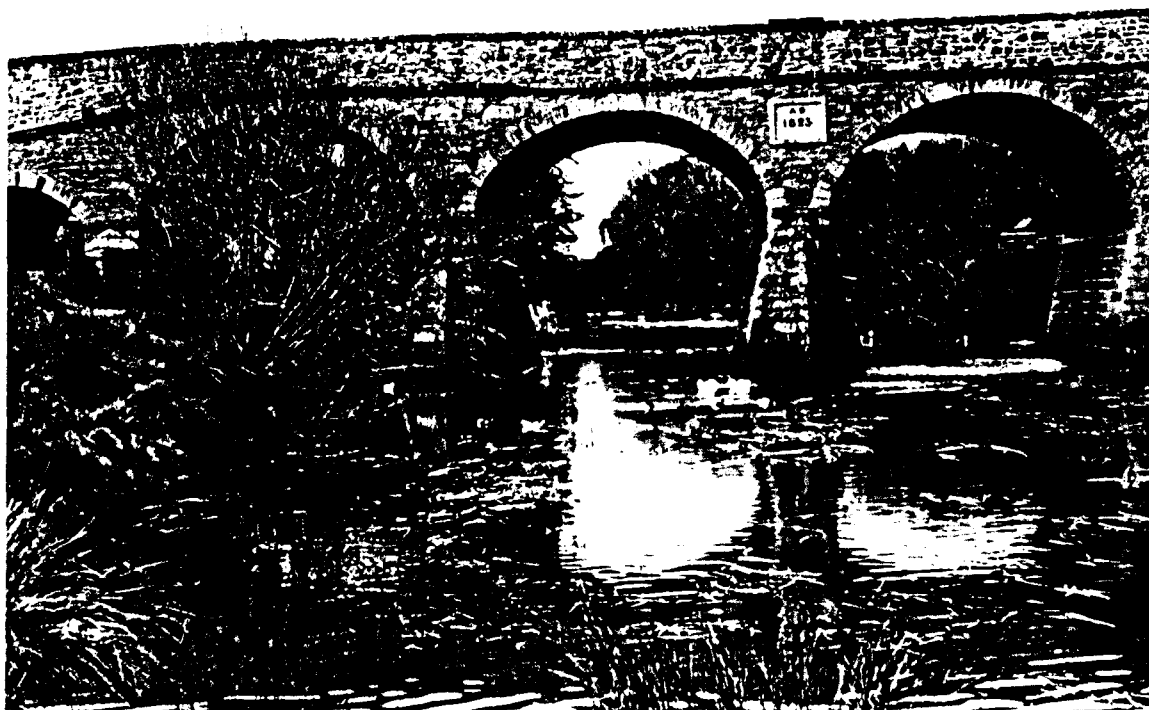
Stone and wooden bridge across Blackman River, Tunbridge built in the late 1840s.



Bridge at Jericho over the Jordan River. Although originally constructed in the same way as that at Tunbridge it has been subsequently substantially altered, in a manner that detracts from the aesthetic value of the bridge and its contribution to the cultural landscape.



Sandstone bridge at Lovely Banks built 1840 and now bypassed by Midland Highway.



Sandstone bridge at Richmond, over the Coal River built in 1825.

Summary

The rural cultural landscape in Tasmania is a consequence of a variety of human activities within a distinctive physical landscape over nearly two hundred years of settlement. In particular it is a consequence of the practices adopted by the agricultural industry in this time. The result is a rural cultural landscape with two major elements, the built elements and the agricultural elements.

The contribution of the built elements to this landscape is threatened by a number of factors, principal of which are

(a) the cost of maintenance of historic buildings, aggravated in many cases by their redundancy through changes in agricultural and processing technology

(b) the realignment and reconstruction of roads

(c) unsympathetic building particularly at the periphery of rural villages

At present the threat posed by (b) and (c) are able to be controlled to a varying extent by sympathetic planning or control by government agencies such as the Department of Main Roads, Town and Country Planning Commission. In the case of threat (a) the issue has been clearly identified by the National Trust of Australia who have made major efforts to try and achieve tax concessions for expenditure on the maintenance and restoration of historic buildings in private ownership.

The contribution of the agricultural industry to the rural cultural landscape while vital is the one that is subject most directly to the impact of market forces and technology that can be well beyond the capacity of traditional planning methods to control. In Tasmania to date these forces have not resulted in the massive changes in appearance of the landscape as has occurred in Britain and parts of Europe.

The threats to agriculture's contribution to the rural landscape can be seen to be of two types, the short term dramatic change which is a direct consequence of changing market forces or technology and the long term changes that see gradual deterioration of elements of the landscape that may be redundant to contemporary agricultural practices. Examples of the former such as the collapse of the apple industry in recent times are beyond the ability of the state's planning procedures to reverse. However, because of the dynamic nature of the agricultural industry today, such rapid changes in land use may also be of a character that contributes to the visual amenity of the cultural landscape, for example, poppies and vineyards.

The more insidious and presently destructive impact upon the cultural landscape arises from the gradual degradation of many elements over an extended period of time. The principal elements effected by these processes are

(a) the broad leaf deciduous and to a lesser extent conifers and pseudo-exotic trees

(b) the hedgerows, particularly those of hawthorn which are such a major visual element of the landscape

In Tasmania these agricultural elements in particular play a major role in creating a rural landscape that is widely recognized as being distinctly different from that of mainland Australia. It is this landscape that is of particular value to the state economy as it is an important element in the state's attractiveness as a tourist destination. Unlike the cultural landscape the mechanisms for the protection of these elements is not as developed or in some instances the need for protection is not ever recognized.

Thus the recommendations contained within Goodman's (1979) report rely largely upon the goodwill of individual landowners. It would seem that the opportunity to maintain these elements could be provided within a variety of other government programs such as

. landscaping plans developed in association with new roadworks in rural areas, e.g. planting of hawthorn hedges along road borders

In this way it may be possible to maintain these landscape elements without resorting to the need for specific subsidies such as now occur in Britain where grants for planting hawthorn hedges are now available.

The rural cultural landscape in Tasmania is a significant element of the state's heritage. However, it is not static but rather a most dynamic one. If it is to continue to contribute to the state's cultural wealth it needs to be maintained and managed. This can be done either formally within the framework of national parks with its attendant difficulties (Webb, 1987) or informally through a variety of existing programs within a framework of government recognition of the value of this cultural landscape. Within Tasmania for many of the elements of the landscape there are in fact mechanisms already in place which will allow this to happen there are some elements that are still extremely vulnerable.

Appendix 1

Landscape Assessment

The issue of landscape assessment in Tasmania has been reviewed by Hepper (1984). His study briefly summarizes the few earlier attempts at landscape assessment in the state. The objectives of these assessments were varied and a number were not concerned with areas of rural cultural landscape at all such as Russell's (1978) study of the south-west of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Forestry Commission (1983), Visual Management System. Others, while including areas in which rural cultural landscapes occur were more concerned with broader elements of landscape assessment e.g. the Tamar Estuary River Management Plan (1976).

Hepper also reviewed the current mechanisms for landscape assessment and protection in Tasmania, their inadequacies and possible means by which these difficulties might be overcome. This survey and the recommendations arising from it were principally from a planning point of view.

In a second part of the study he reviewed landscape assessment techniques, both in general historical and philosophical terms and in the application of techniques in Australia in particular the work carried out after the Fabos and McGregor (1979) study. He concluded that "It is not possible to develop a landscape assessment technique to suit the needs of all users for all purposes in all situations. The proliferation of different methods for assessing landscape indicate this. It is important that Agencies search for the best possible fit between the purpose at hand and the range of methods available. Whatever method is used it is essential that:

- . the objectives are made clear
- . the method is systematic
- . the criteria are stated
- . the value judgements are made explicit
- . and evaluations take place throughout the process"

Assessment of cultural landscapes present specific difficulties that assessment of other landscapes do not. Cultural landscapes "are made up of material components, although these components inevitably reflect non-material aspects of the cultural groups involved" (Melnick, 1983). These landscapes are also influenced by natural features such as topography or soil with the result being a complex mixture of human and natural components. It is these components both individually and together that establish the character of a particular cultural landscape.

Because of this complexity and interrelationship of components both natural and human it has been strongly argued that "evaluation of a cultural landscape is similar to the evaluation of a historic structure" (Melnick, 1983). In this process the landscape is evaluated in terms of its components which themselves are assessed according to appropriate criteria. Such a process is in contrast to the traditional landscape assessment procedures such as landscape perception studies, resource inventories, economic analysis or visual quality assessment.

Appendix 2

Tourism

"The Centre for Regional Economic Analysis (CREA) at the University of Tasmania estimates the value of tourism to the Tasmanian economy as follows:

- . travel expenditure within the State in 1983/84 made a contribution of some \$310 million to the estimated Gross State Product of \$4.1 billion, and generated employment of some 15 200 persons, or 8.9 per cent of the workforce;

- . estimates indicated that tourism's contribution represented 74 per cent of GSP for 1983/84, exceeding that of individual industries comprising the primary sector of the economy and major industries in the manufacturing sector" (IBIS Deloitte, 1987).

The characteristics of Tasmania's tourist industry and the profile of the tourists visiting the state have been monitored by Tourism Tasmania for many years. These surveys indicate the significance of sightseeing and historic sites in attracting visitors to the island. For example the 1978 and 1981 surveys indicate that sightseeing and visiting historic sites were by far the most important activities for Tasmania (see Appendix 2). While the 1982 survey indicates little change. The consequences of this were to be clearly seen in tourism promotional material where images of the rural cultural landscape figured prominently.

More recent studies, notably the Market Segmentation Study by IBIS Deloitte Pty. Ltd. (1987), while revealing a change in the character and composition of tourists visiting Tasmania and other potential markets none-the-less continued to emphasize the importance of scenic beauty including that of the rural cultural landscape to the future of this industry.

As a consequence of these changes "the mass marketing approach used in selling Tasmania in the 1970s is no longer relevant" (Tourism Update vol. I no. 1, 1987). However the first of the new promotional brochures produced by Tourism Tasmania in 1988 following the major reassessment of the tourism industry continues to place stress on the rural cultural landscape. For example:

"Tasmania is an enchanting island of contrasts, a land of lush green countryside, rustic colonial villages..."

Similarly a significant number of the illustrations used in the publication also features the rural cultural landscape e.g. photographs with the following captions

p.2 "the rolling hills of the North-West Coast"
p.3 "the Derwent Valley in Autumn"
p.10 "The Cascades, Koonya"
p.11 "Seasons Host Farm, Lebrina"
p.19 "Clarendon House, Nile, near Evandale"
p.54 "Apple Blossom, Springtime, Huon Valley"

Visitor Activities/Reasons for Visiting 1978-1986
(Source - Tasmanian Department of Tourism)

PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES 1978

	TOTAL %	1st time Holiday %	Exp. Hol. %	1st time Guest %	Exp. Guest %	Convention %	Business %
Sightseeing, Touring	70	93	80	85	68	62	24
Visit historic sites	63	91	73	81	53	55	22
Bushwalking, Climbing	28	39	27	43	18	18	8
Fishing	10	6	7	16	20	4	4

PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES 1981

	TOTAL %	1st time Holiday %	Exp. Hol. %	1st time Guest %	Exp. Guest %	Convention %	Business %
Sightseeing, Touring	66	91	80	88	60	56	24
Visit historic sites	57	87	70	78	44	50	18
Bushwalking, Climbing	22	30	24	42	22	11	5
Fishing	8	7	7	15	15	1	3

VISITORS MOST IMPORTANT REASONS FOR COMING TO TASMANIA 1982

REASON	First time Holidayer %	Exp. Holidayer %	First time Guest %	Exp. Guest %	Promotional Index** %
Beautiful Scenery	62	59	48	47	30.1
Visit Historical Sites	41	37	29	24	17.9
Know Someone in Tasmania	8	18	54	49	17.3
Wanted to Visit Tasmania at Least Once	47	-	27	-	8.9
To Visit Casino	24	23	19	14	10.8
Different to Other Places	20	18	13	17	9.8
For a Relaxing Holiday	12	22	16	25	11.0

PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES 1986

	% Share by Total Visitors	% Share of Activity
Visiting Casino (Hobart/Launceston)	53.4	20.4
Day/half cruise	34.1	13.0
Bushwalking/climbing	31.2	11.9
Organised sport	4.8	1.9
Visiting historic sites	58.9	22.5
Sea fishing	4.8	1.9
Trout angling	3.6	1.4
Sightseeing/touring	61.1	23.4
Snow skiing	0.6	0.2
Canoeing/boating	5.1	1.9
Scenic flights	3.8	1.5
Total visitors	<u>288 360</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Appendix 3

Tasmanian Rural Landscapes - Historical References

"the road to which passes first through the highly cultivated tracks of country belonging to the Meredith family, to Amoss, and others; and which, from its minute subdivisions, separated by beautiful quickset hedges, reminds one more forcibly of an English country landscape than any other part of the island" (Stoney, 1856, p.182).

"Norfolk Plains is with justice named the 'garden of Tasmania', and nothing reminds the stranger more forcibly of its own dear native land than the beautiful hedgerows of the blooming thorn; particularly on the farm of Messrs Archer and Wellmore" (Stoney, 1856, p.230).

"To Corra Linn, over six miles of country road lined with such sweetbriar hedges as are never seen on the dry thirsty mainland" (p.xi)

"As in England, farms with their enclosures, cottages with their gardens..." (p.9)

"Sometimes it is a lodge-gate almost hidden in ivy and sometimes a hedge-row, where the blackberry, sweetbriar, and wild geranium are matted and tangld together, that makes you exclaim, 'How English this is!'" (Thomas, 1886, p.51)

"west from Launceston to Longford races - unlike every other new colony, cleared land quite unblemished by stumps, convict labour, unlike enclosures elsewhere in Australia as often marked by hedges as by rail fences and here and there a single large tree or groups of trees are left to adorn a field" (Mundy, 1852)

Appendix 4

Midlands Highway Corridor Landscape Report: Funding and Implementation

Costs might also need to be allowed for compensation (or Incentive Payment) to provide landowners for loss of land, or lease fee, and/or a payment for maintenance to plantation strips on rural properties during the establishment period. This payment may be first available to the property owner or if he/she did not wish to organise the work, then this could be arranged by contract.

A 'natural' subdivision of almost immediate responsibility would be as follows

Within town environs the Municipal Councils would be best equipped to implement the plans, and the local work force and ratepayers would stand to benefit most from work and results. This relates especially to the back-yard views being revealed from bypasses, and also to some of the rest and 'snack' areas.

Land within the road reserves, including some picnic places and potential view points is already the responsibility of the Department of Main Roads, with the special interest of Department of Tourism, re signs, etc.

Planting and other works on private property alongside the highway will require a special type of assistance if it is to succeed. The Private Forestry Division of the Forestry Commission (Tas.) has schemes for encouragement of commercial forestry on private land. Similar forms of assistance would be appropriate to this project.

Funding may be sought in toto for the project, then apportioned to the appropriate authorities. Note that the present Minister for Forests is also the Minister for Planning and Development and the State Treasurer, and he might be prepared to consider whether the Private Forestry Division should have a role in assisting in the last category.

Several narrow strips or crescents of land between road and rail appear to have limited value to their owners, yet considerable value to the aesthetics of the highway. These might be available for purchase and incorporation into the scheme by the most appropriate of the above organisations, once the scheme has gathered momentum.

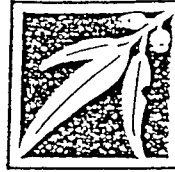
At a later stage, approaches may be made to the Australian National Railways, the Hydro-Electric Committee and possibly other public bodies to share responsibility by becoming involved in their respective areas of influence.

Appendix 5

Taxation Incentives for Conservation

Australian Council
of National Trusts

Patron
HE the Rt Hon
Sir Ninian Stephen AK GCMG GCVO KBE
Governor-General of Australia
Chairman
Rodney Davidson OBE LLB
General Secretary
Helen Halliday



NATIONAL TRUST

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MEDIA RELEASE

TAXATION INCENTIVES FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION

The National Trust, Australia's largest voluntary conservation organisation, today called on the Hawke Government to introduce taxation incentives for heritage conservation before the end of 1988.

A seminar held today in Canberra to discuss the proposal for taxation incentives for conservation was attended by a wide range of interests, including representatives from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Building Owners and Managers Association, Australian Heritage Commission, Local Government and Capital City Lord Mayors Conference.

Since 1974 the Commonwealth Government has established a commendable record of support for the conservation of the National Estate.

There has however been no significant initiative to encourage private owners to invest in the conservation of the National Estate.

The Government needed to recognise that the National Trust was not looking to add to the direct outlays of Government at a time when funds were limited - rather the Trust sought to restructure the way the cost of carrying out work which had a wider community benefit was borne.

This is no different from the support which is given by the Government to encourage private investment in manufacturing, research and development and the acquisition of works of art.

The building and construction industry is an essential component of the national economy.

Rodney Davidson, the Chairman of the Australian Council of National Trusts, said "As long ago as 1984 the Labor Party included the introduction of taxation incentives for conservation in their platform. This commitment was reiterated in 1986 and again in 1988".

"In 1987 the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation recommended that 'the Commonwealth Government develop a tax rebate provision for expenditure on certified conservation works on properties listed on the Register of the National Estate'". he said.

Mr. Davidson said "the introduction of a taxation incentives scheme has widespread community support including support from the Australian Local Government Association. The Australian Heritage Commission, the Commonwealth Government's own policy advisor on heritage matters supports a tax incentives scheme".

CANBERRA, 15 June, 1988.

For further information -

Rodney Davidson	(03) 654 3455 (work)
	(03) 266 4092 (home)
Helen Halliday	(062) 47 6766 (work)

Tax plan to save national estate

BY JONATHAN GREEN

The Australian Council of National Trusts will urge the Federal Government this week to introduce a scheme of tax concessions to benefit the owners of properties registered by the Trust that require maintenance or restoration.

"There are hundreds of properties that would benefit," the Trust's chairman, Mr Rodney Davidson, said yesterday.

The Trust has convened a seminar to be held in Canberra from tomorrow to address the issue. It will be attended by representatives of the ministry of Arts, Sport and Environment, the Taxation Department, National Trust and Heritage Commission.

Mr Davidson said that the question of tax incentives had been raised with federal governments "on innumerable occasions over the past 15 years, but there has always been a negative response".

"There are many important historic buildings in private ownership that are in desperate need of restoration.

"The resources just aren't there, but tax incentives would make

the task so much easier," he said.

"Perhaps as much as \$100 million would need to be spent to get the national estate in good shape."

The "vast majority" of the Trust's 4000 buildings were privately owned, and their owners were faced with the restraints on renovation that bound all owners of registered properties, but no incentives to perform needed restoration work, Mr Davidson said.

The Trust seminar is expected to recommend a 20 cent in the dollar income tax rebate for private expenditure on approved maintenance on non-income producing private properties on the register of the national estate and a 15 cent in the dollar rebate for income producing properties.

The Minister for Arts, Sport and Environment, Senator Richardson, said in a speech made in Adelaide in January this year that he supported the introduction of incentives and hoped a scheme would be implemented by the end of this year.

The ALP supported the proposal at national conferences in 1964, 1966 and this year. Last year's meeting of state planning ministers also gave support. Tax incentives are a policy of the Australian Local Government

Association and were supported by the House of Representatives standing committee on environment and conservation in 1966.

Mr Davidson suggested that opposition to the proposal came almost exclusively from the Federal Treasury.

"I would have thought the Hawke Government would have grasped the nettle and introduced it. Treasury seems to be opposed to it, but I can't understand why. I remain stunned that bureaucrats can procrastinate to this extent," he said.

A spokesman for the Treasurer, Mr Keating, said yesterday that the Federal Government "has spent the past five years cutting tax incentives across the board".

To introduce any new incentives would lessen the chances of personal tax cuts, he said.

The maintenance of National Estate properties should be a matter for direct funding under the Arts, Sport and Environment portfolio. "A good example of where we've turned a tax concession into a direct budget outlay has been the film industry, and that is the path I would see this question taking."

As yet cabinet had no proposal before it either dealing with a tax concession or a direct outlay.

Tax perks urged for historic sites

CANBERRA: The National Trust has urged the Federal Government to introduce tax incentives for those who invest in the conservation of Australia's historic buildings.

Such a move would be no different from the support the Government gave to encourage private investment in manufacturing, research and development and the acquisition of art works, the trust said.

Yesterday the trust met the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the Building Owners and Managers' Association, the Australian Heritage Commission and the Local Government and

From SUZANNE PEKOL

Capital City Lord Mayors' Conference to discuss moves towards tax relief for conservation work.

Chairman Rodney Davidson said although the Commonwealth Government had a commendable record of support for heritage conservation there had been no significant initiatives to encourage private owners to invest in conservation of the national estate.

He said the Government should introduce tax incentives by the end of the year.

According to Mr Davidson, the National Trust was not asking the Government to commit funds, especially at a time of limited resources.

Instead, the trust wanted to restructure the costing of conservation work which benefited the wider community.

"As long ago as 1984 the Labor Party included the introduction of taxation incentives for conservation in their platform," Mr Davidson said.

"The introduction of a taxation incentives scheme has widespread community support."

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June 17, 1988
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Trust wants tax relief for conservation

CANBERRA — The National Trust has urged the Federal Government to introduce tax incentives for investors in the conservation of historic buildings.

The move would be no different from the support the Government gave to encourage private investment in manufacturing, research

and development and the acquisition of art works, the Trust said.

Yesterday the Trust met the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the Building Owners and Managers' Association, the Australian Heritage Commission and the Local Government and Capital City Lord Mayors Conference to thrash out moves towards tax relief for conservation work.

Its chairman, Mr Rodney David-

son, said the Commonwealth Government had a commendable record of support for heritage conservation but there had been no significant initiatives to encourage private owners to invest in conservation.

The Trust was not looking to add to Government spending. Instead it wanted to restructure the costing of conservation work which benefited the wider community.

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