

1. Did your firm pull down the house?
2. What was the circumstances of you "finding" the 1915 sketch?

Harrison Court
Buxton Street
North Adelaide
S.A. 5006
31st July 1977

Mr. J.F. Scammell,
F.H. Faulding & Co. Ltd.,
Beans Road, THEBARTON.

Dear Mr. Scammell,

I have worked very hard on your watercolour drawing and interviewed lots of people, and though the answer is rather negative I think I ought to let you have the result of my findings!

All we have to go upon is –

1. Your own understanding that this was Capt. Hindmarsh's home – presumably from your first hearing this back in 1941, on your discovery of the 1915 sketch.
2. Notes by R.G. Lewis as duplicated for local distribution when he was Town clerk at Thebarton. He wrote: "Governor Hindmarsh lived in Reid Street, Thebarton and the Town of Hindmarsh was named after him."
3. Local hearsay – the only person I interviewed who had a definite recollection was Mr. C.T.G. Shearing of 108 George Street, Thebarton, who was born in 1907 and has lived all his life in George Street. He passed the house in Reid Street on his way to School in Hindmarsh and he and his parents always spoke of the house as Hindmarsh's house; but this seems to be more traditional than factual.
4. In my earlier peregrinations, three years ago, I did speak with Mrs. Helen Stroud, life-time Thebarton resident, who remembered "Capt. Hindmarsh's house", but she was then 88 and died last year while I was in England, so that recollection, if recollection it was, cannot be followed up.

Because Mr. Ronald Parsons was employed by the Hindmarsh Council to write the Centenary Book of 1974 and eventually compiled a detailed survey, I thought he might be the one to make some observation, but first probed the matter so as to be able to write him comprehensively. On 11th July I wrote to him:

"Last year I visited the little village of Thebarton in Suffolk after which our Thebarton was named, and I have delved fairly deeply into Colonel Light's connection with it; but I was greatly astonished to learn that Capt. Hindmarsh also had a home in Thebarton – and only a few hundred yards from Thebarton Cottage! Mr. R.G. Lewis, now Town Clerk at Glenelg but formerly at Thebarton, said it was probably because Capt. Hindmarsh had an interest in a woolscouring business on the Torrens, and having sold his plot 353 which became Hindmarsh, he settled on the other side of the river just outside Col. Light's No.1 Plot. I first heard of the Governor's private

home only three years ago when I talked with an old lady who lived in Beans Road, Thebarton, then 88, who died while I was in England last year. I have been trying to find others equally old who could tell me about the house at the corner of Reid Street and Beans Road, Thebarton, which became the property of Reids, the tanners, who developed their business there and after whom the street was named. Fauldings, the Manufacturing Chemists, acquired the property in 1923 but no house was then standing, but it definitely stood in 1915 because a water-colour sketch of it is in Fauldings' possession. I have seen no printed reference to the house and of course the Governor could have lived there only a year or so at the most, having regard to his recall to England in 1838, but his wife and family remained in Adelaide for some time because from letters in the Archives it is shown that they were the guests at Government House of Mrs. Gawler, the wife of the second Governor. As you do not mention the house in your book I wonder if you have any knowledge of it, or perhaps since 1974 have heard something about it and could give me any lead or references. Mr. Lewis referred to it in some notes compiled during his time at Thebarton and believed he had the information from a Miss McGregor whose very aged mother died a few years ago; but correspondence has drawn a blank. Thebarton rate books (from 1883 when the Municipality was formed) show Reid's occupancy, and my 91-year-old friend, Mrs. E.F. Wilson at North Adelaide's Helping Hand Centre, knew the Reid family there; but so far I have only had hearsay. The water-colour picture that Fauldings have was painted in 1915 but doesn't name the house and one wonders just why it was painted; the firm would much like to have some confirmation of its authenticity as the home of the Governor – at present they, too, have only hearsay."

Mr. Parsons replied (17.7.77): "I am interested to learn about Thebarton. For many years, in fact until quite recently, the Adelaide suburb was always written as two words THE BARTON. I think you will discover that officially it was considered two words. I know that the telegraphic station always sent the name as two words. Just how that came about I do not know, but in view of your interest in the area I offer it for what it may be worth.

The property that Fauldings acquired, on the river bank, was the site of cottage usually referred to as 'Colonel Light's cottage' and many events were given a location by simply stating they were near the cottage, or opposite, across the river etc. The river in front of the cottage was used for baptisms by the Robert St. church, among other things, and they were always said to have been conducted 'in front of Col. Light's cottage'.

If you could obtain from Fauldings the title references for the portion of the property upon which it is believed Gov. Hindmarsh had a house it would be quite simple to check with the Lands Title Office, Victoria Sq., and see if any of the Hindmarsh family were listed as owners at any time.

I was of the opinion that Col. Light and Capt. Hindmarsh were in opposite 'camps' and under those circumstances it would seem strange that Col. Light would sell Capt. Hindmarsh a portion of his land in Thebarton when it seems

fairly clear that by selling 'Hindmarsh' the governor foiled an attempt by Light and Finniss to sub-divide all the good land along the river.

I think that your research that shows Mrs. Hindmarsh residing at Government House should be a fair indication that the family did not own any property at Thebarton. I wonder if the story could be traced back to Light, in an effort to regain the Governor's favour, allowing him to use 'Thebarton Cottage' at some time?

Frankly, I see no need for Hindmarsh to have any sort of residence at Thebarton, which is only a step and a jump from Government House of which he had free use until his recall. Hindmarsh was always crying poor and the purchase of land and the cost of construction of a house would have loomed large in his affairs and therefore would, surely, have called for comment in his letters. I recall no mention of any such transaction in the correspondence held at the Archives.

An alternative suggestion, which you may care to consider, is that the Governor's son, when he returned to settle and farm on the family's large properties at Encounter Bay, MAY have felt the need for a 'town house' near the centre of woolscouring and tanning operations, and therefore acquired the property. This would explain away one or two matters (a) I cannot believe that Governor Hindmarsh was in any way connected with a woolscouring business. By the time of his recall sheep production was only starting to produce results and early shipments of fleece from South Australia went away unscoured – if they went at all. The woolscouring trade only began to be of any consequence in the 1840's: (b) the story of a house connected with Gov. Hindmarsh in an area originally controlled by Col. Light, but by the time of the son probably resold a number of times and certainly no longer controlled by Light.

I will keep my ears and eyes open further and would be delighted to help; but at present I have nothing concrete to offer. The suggestions I put forward above may, I trust, prove of some assistance and I would be pleased to learn of any success."

Some of what Mr. Parsons says warrants comment:

The origin of "Thebarton" has long been settled. "The Baron" is quite out. The site and story of Col. Light's cottage has been much written up and nothing remains in question about it. The Reid Street house was placed not on Col. Light's No.1 plot but on No.46 plot, adjoining. Col. Light's No.1 plot of 134 acres was mostly unsold by his death in 1839 and I have seen the original plan of first sales of acres on the Port Road at the boundary nearest the city. Mr. Parsons has misunderstood my reference to Mrs. Hindmarsh. She and her daughters were guests at Government House merely at a party held by Mrs Gawler, and my reference to this fact we merely to suggest that the Governor's wife and family remained in Adelaide after the Capt. Returned to England, an they must have lived somewhere – did they live in the Thebarton house? Certainly I had questioned the need of a house for the Governor, unless the need arose because of the smallness of the official

residence and his need to get away from “officialdom”. I recognise the point about the woolscouring. And as to John Hindmarsh (Capt. Hindmarsh’s son) I have considered this possibility, but directories and letters in the Archives yield nothing to suggest he had or wrote from a Thebarton address at any time. There remains the possibility of some help from the Lands Titles Office, to which I now refer.

I had studied the Trigonometrical Survey of Col. Light of 1839, which shows three relevant Section numbers – No. 1, Col. Lights, No. 353 Governor Hindmarsh’s, and No. 6 G. Barnes which covers the area at Reid St/Winwood St/ Beans Road junction. With this information in hand I called at the Lands Titles Office and the Registrar produced two volumes – No, 27 where the reference No. 133 referred to only a small part of Section 46 joining the South Road which was not relevant to my enquiry; but Certificate No. 163 in volume 61 really did interest me? On 20th January 1865 William Henry Bean, George Thomas Bean and Arthur Bean, of Torrenside, Tanners, were granted Title to 15 acres, part of Section 46 originally granted by James Hurtle Fisher, Resident Commissioner, to George Barnes on 23rd December 1837. The Plan on the certificate clearly shows 15 acres embracing the whole of the area now covered by Fauldings’ premises in Reid Street, bounded on the north by the Torrens, east by an unnamed road, west by ‘Private Road’ thus named, and south by an unnamed road. Additions to the Title showed that the property was transferred to Robert Dalgliesh of Torrenside, Farmer, for the sum of \$200, on 10th February 1865. It therefore appears that the Bean family was granted title for the purpose of selling their 15 acres originally acquired from George Barnes who had the first title in 1837. How long the property was in the Bean possession is not stated on this Title, but the inference is that they were the first owners after George Barnes as he is specifically mentioned. The 1865 Title is the first in the L.T.O. records since the 1858 Torrens system began, since when the production of original deeds and documents was unnecessary and only a Certificate required.

I have consulted a great many books in the Library, studied the News cuttings Books and referred to all the “Hindmarsh” references in the Archives, without result. The Archives recommended me to enquire from a noted local historian, Mr K T Borrow of 5 Lockwood Road, Erindale. I phoned him and had a long conversation but the result in the present enquiry was nil. Mr Borrow had never heard it suggested that Capt. Hindmarsh had a house in Thebarton.

I have seen references to the Governor having had a house in Chapel Street but this suggestion had been quite “debunked”. Some of the old people have said that the Governor had a house on the banks of the Torrens, but that house was almost certainly to have been the original Government House so placed. Mr Parsons’ suggestion the Col. Light may have lent Thebarton Cottage to his ex-enemy Hindmarsh can hardly be credited; but that suggestion leads on to the more likely possibility of Thebarton cottage being confused in the minds of local people, as the years passed, with a home for the Governor instead of the Surveyor-General.

There remains unexplained a reason for a well-produced water-colour sketch having been executed in the year 1915. The artist's name is not given, but the drawing is well done and by the fact of "Reid Street" being named, the horse paddock to one side and the lucerne paddock to the other, so named, and a Tannery in the background, Bunyips' soap works, etc. being marked, seems to show that the plan was produced for the purpose of possible sale and not merely for a picture to be framed and kept as a family record. I rather feel that if the house had really been originally Governor Hindmarsh' the drawing would have given the house his name. Dalgleish who acquired the property (the 15 acres embracing Reid Street site) in 1865 has given his name to a Thebarton Street. Reid's occupancy came some time later. Mrs Wilson of North Adelaide went to tea with Zoe Reid, six year old daughter of Mr and Mrs Reid, when she herself was 8 years old, and as she was 91 in January 1977, the year would have been 1894.

By favour of Mr M J Baker, Town Clerk of Thebarton, I studied many of the Rate Books since 1883 when the Municipality of Thebarton was formed. Previously (back to 1853) Thebarton belonged to the West Torrens Council. In 1898 the short length of Reid Street (which joins Beans Road at the eastern end and Queen Street at the western end), then called Stirling Street, had four assessment numbers, two to the north and two to the south. The two to the north were Nos. 18 and 19, in the occupation of John Thomas Reid, Tanner, with a residence, factory and land. The owner was David Reid. The annual value of the whole property was assessed at £150, and the Town Rate @1/- in the £ was £7.10.0, plus Health Rate 18/9d and Police Rate 6/3d. The two on the south side of Reid Street were building lots – No. 17 J Darling and Sons, No. 20 Ice Works (Mr Weber, Manager) David and John Reid each had a building lot (No.s 28 and 29) in Queen Street, valued @ £2 each. The Assessment Books for 1911, 1912, 1913 and 1916 show plots 18 and 19 rented by the Adelaide Crystal Ice Co. in the name of John Darling, Merchant, and Thos. Pope, from the Estate of the late David Reid; and the Rates were for the account of David Reid, Merchant, Hindmarsh.

Yours sincerely

Footnote

Mr J F Scammell has researched many documents dating back to his firm's original acquisition of the property and antecedent thereto. It may be that he can provide the names of owners earlier than those given in this summary of my findings to date.

A W Tiffin, 103/54 Buxton Street
North Adelaide 5006

21st July 1977

From information supplied by the West Torrens Historical Society

