

ROSS ROAD – THE OFFICES/THE QUARTERS

Erected in 1844 and originally the first Government House in Stanley; a single storey wooden building to the north-west of the current house. It served as a combined office and dwelling house until 1847 when it was used for residential purposes only. After 1859 when Governor Moore moved to the present Government House the original building was used as offices and later taken over by the Colonial Secretary and known as The Quarters.



Looking north from Magazine Valley: The Offices to the west and Government House to the east probably painted circa 1845 – FIC Archives, JCNA

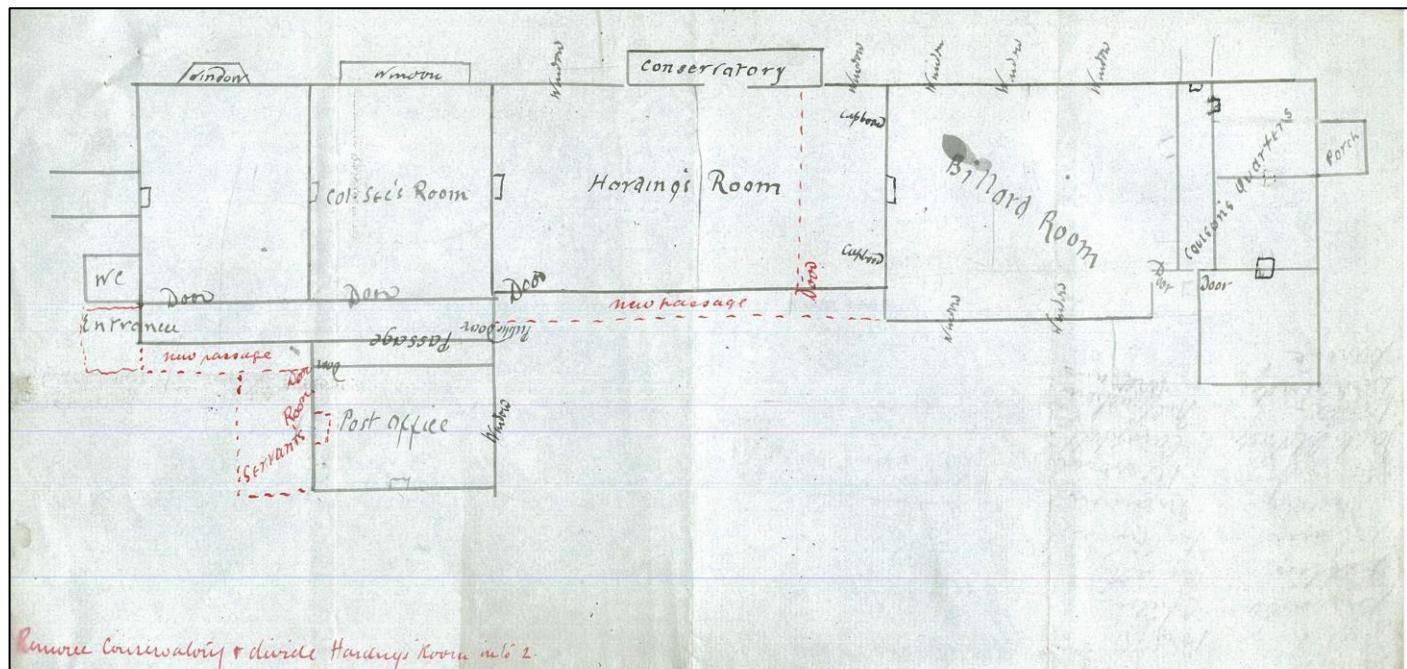
On 12 August 1859 James Lane, the FIC Colonial Manager, reported to his directors that "*It is universally condemned (by Government Officers particularly) that the Govt Workmen are chiefly occupied on the new Govt House & will be for the next 2 years, if it is to be finished... The present Governmt House is an excellent one, but it is to be turned into Offices & a large Wing added & the former offices to be the Governor's House, because he does not like to live in the former.*" By September 1859 James Lane reported that Governor Moore was "*living in the old part, formerly the Govt Offices*". He was still complaining about the expense in December when he wrote "*It wd enlighten the Colonial Office if they wd apply for a statement of the outlay on the new Government House & the pulling to pieces the old one.*"

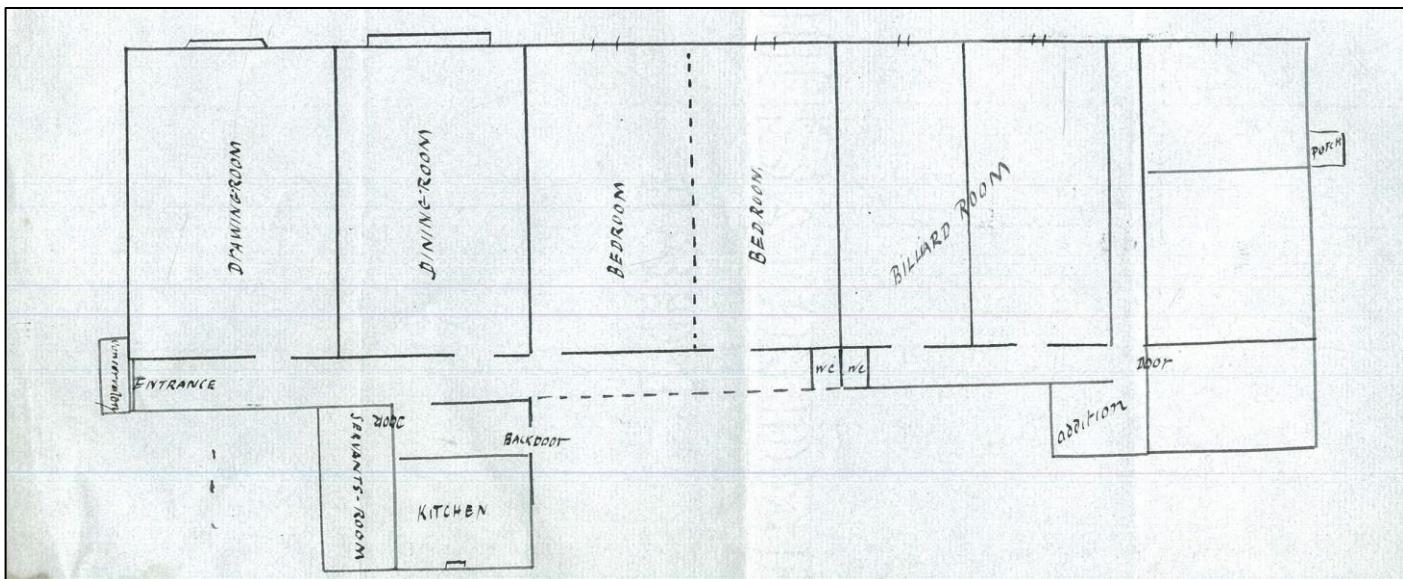
According to the Colonial Annual Report of 1886 "*Rooms were fitted up in the Government offices for a post office and a printing office.*"



In August 1891 the east end was William Coulson's quarters, next the billiard room, the centre room was a general office, then the Council Chamber, Governor's and Colonial Secretary & Treasurer's office.

In Despatch 174 dated 4 December 1891 Governor Goldsworthy advised that he was moving the offices to a more central spot by utilising the block of buildings formerly used as quarters by the Colonial Secretary and the portion set apart as the Courthouse for new offices, saving a distance of 1/3 of a mile. That the old Government offices, formerly Government House, with some slight additions, would make good quarters for the Colonial Secretary & Treasurer. [B23; 42]





The Colonial Annual Report of 1891 stated that “The transference of the Government Offices from the extreme west of the settlement, to what used formerly to be the courthouse buildings and Colonial Secretary’s quarters, brought about what is acknowledged by all to be an immense improvement. In one building are now to be found the Courthouse, the Judge’s Chambers, the Colonial Secretary’s Office, the Colonial Treasurer and Postmaster’s Offices, and the residential quarters of the Treasury Clerk.

It is contemplated to convert the old offices which lie about one mile from the centre of the town of Stanley into residential quarters for the Colonial Secretary and Colonial Treasurer.

In 1892 Lord Knutsford approved of the old offices being fitted up as quarters. Governor Goldsworthy allows the Colonial Secretary to use the west and the east end of the Quarters as he has a wife and three children. The Government House billiard room was retained in the Quarters and separated the two sections.

In Despatch 122 dated 14 December 1895 Governor Goldsworthy advised that the Colonial Secretary occupied rent free the two quarters separated by the Governor’s billiard room. [B24; 211]

In July 1916 The Quarters normally occupied by the Colonial Secretary consisted of 8 rooms and were occupied by H W Townson, the Stock Inspector, at an annual rental of £40. On 1 January 1917 The Quarters were insured for £600.



The Quarters 1926 – FIC Archives, JCNA



The Quarters 1927 – FIC Archives, JCNA

In 1929 The Quarters were sold by public auction, pulled down and partly re-erected at 5 Brandon Road. [GOV/GHO/2#9]

During 201/15 the house at 5 Brandon Road was demolished after a modern house was built behind it.