

ARCH GREEN – HERKES' HOUSE AND BIGGS' HOUSE/WHALEBONE ARCH

Whalebone Arch is a popular tourist attraction and features in many photographs of Stanley. What is lesser known is that in the 19th Century two houses were on the site.

On 3 October 1844 Thomas HEARNDEN was issued Crown Grant 11 being Town Lot 10 in Section O consisting of half an acre with a front to Ross Road and rear to John Street for £50. [CG11]

On 11 May 1846 Thomas HEARNDEN of Stanley sold a portion of Town Lot 10 to James BIGGS of Stanley, for £28 containing *in front to the Ross Road Thirty Three feet in the rere to the holding of Alexander McIntosh the like Number of Thirty Three feet and in Depth from front to rere on the East and West Sides respectively One Hundred and Sixty Five feet Bounded on the North by the Ross Road on the South by the holding of Alexander McIntosh on the East by the holding of John Herkes and on the West by Town Lot Number Nine.* [BUG/REG/1, pg 45] James BIGGS built a house on the lot which was later found to stand partly on the land belonging to HERKES. [FIC/D4; pg 173, par 4].

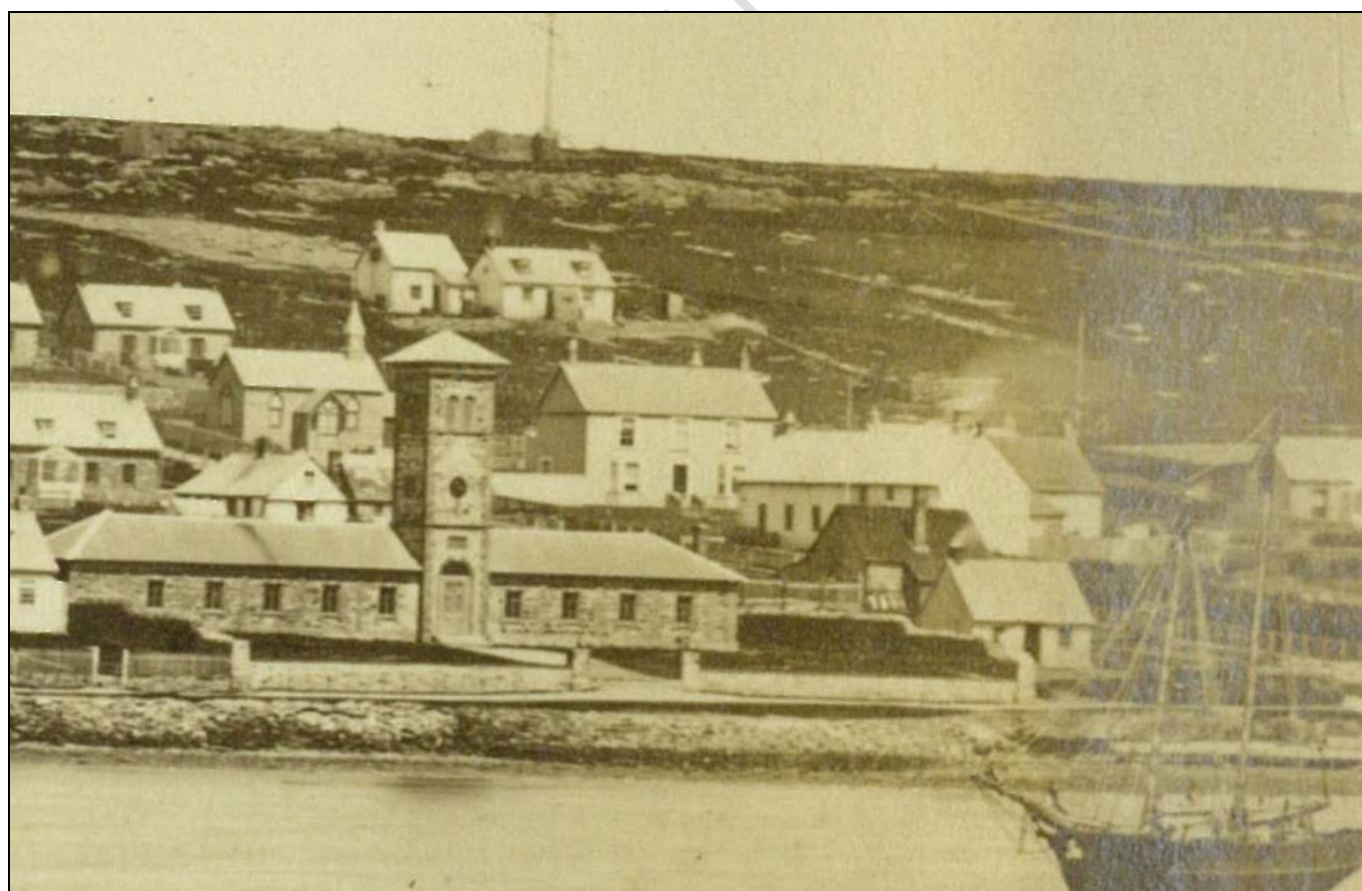


L-R: To right of Exchange Building's wall; Herkes' House Biggs' house; to south west partially obscured McIntosh's house – 1863

On 11 April 1848 Thomas HEARNDEN of Stanley sold a portion of Town Lot 10 to John HERKES of Stanley, for £36 containing *in front to the Ross Road Thirty Three feet in the rere to the holding of Christopher Murry The like Number of Thirty Three feet and in Depth from Front to rere in the East and West Sides respectively One Hundred and Sixty five Feet Bounded on the North by the Ross Road on the South by the holding of Christopher Murry on the East by Town Lot Number Eleven and on the West by the holding of James Biggs.* [BUG/REG/1, pg 47]

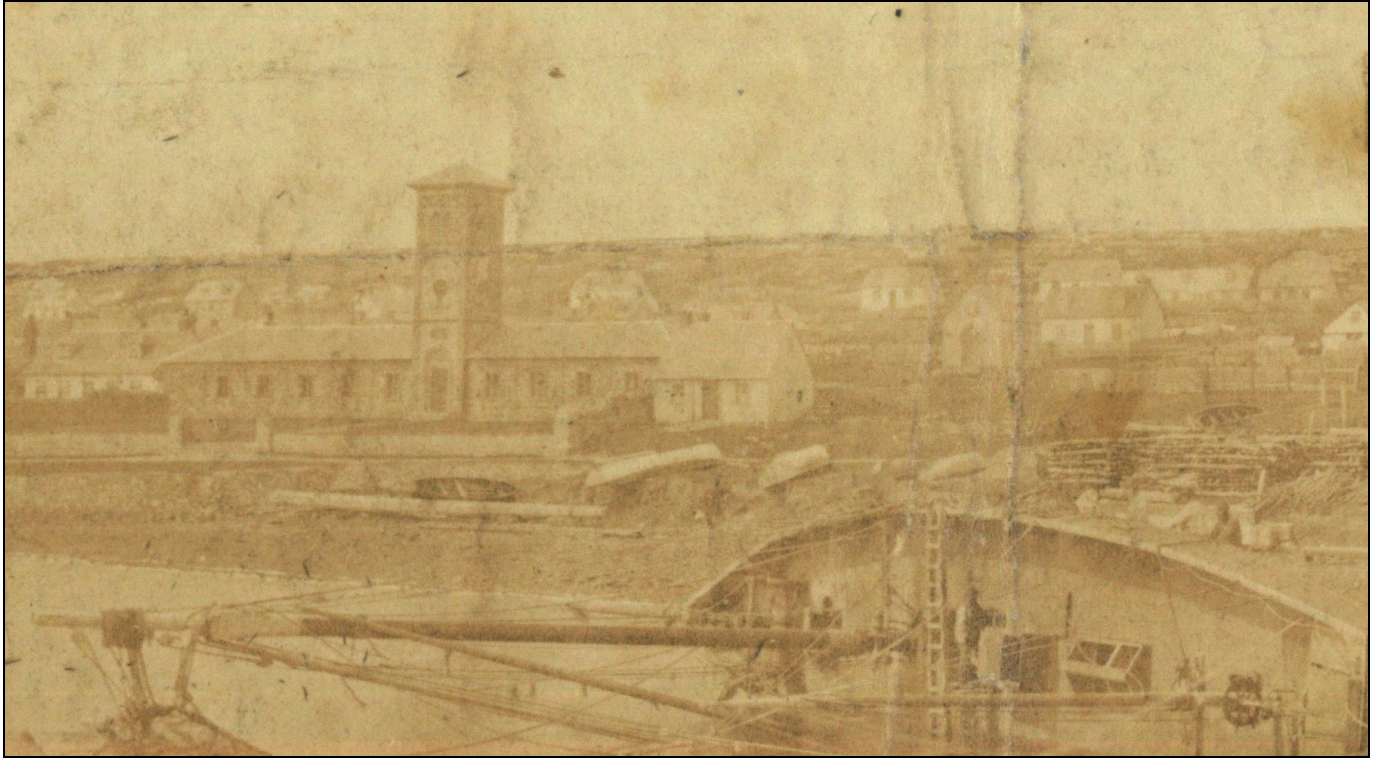
[Sth] John Street	
	Alexander McIntosh
Christopher Murry	
John Herkes	James Biggs
[Nth] Ross Road	

On 14 October 1853 James BIGGS mortgaged his property to John M DEAN as security for an advance of £84-8-0 plus interest. James, age 46 and a Pensioner Royal Sappers & Miners, died 26 February 1853 from being accidentally shot. None of the debt was repaid so John M DEAN entered into possession of the land. [FIC/C6/desp 1094; par 10] John DEAN took possession of the land and house under a mortgage for a period of eight years after which the house was to be removed. After eight years the house was pulled down and taken to Pebble Island. [FIC/D4; pg 173, par 4]



Crown Grant 11 – Herkes' House to right of Exchange Building's wall; Biggs' house now removed to Pebble Island; 1870s –Blake Album, JCNA

On 12 March 1880 William HERKES, herdsman of St Salvador, sold a portion of allotment 10 to JM Dean & Sons for £130 being bounded on the North by the Ross Road thirty three feet, on the East by allotment number Eleven one hundred and sixty five feet on the South by a portion of allotment No 10 thirty three feet, on the West by another portion of the said allotment one hundred and sixty five feet, together with the dwelling house and premises erected thereon. [BUG/REG/3, pg 137]

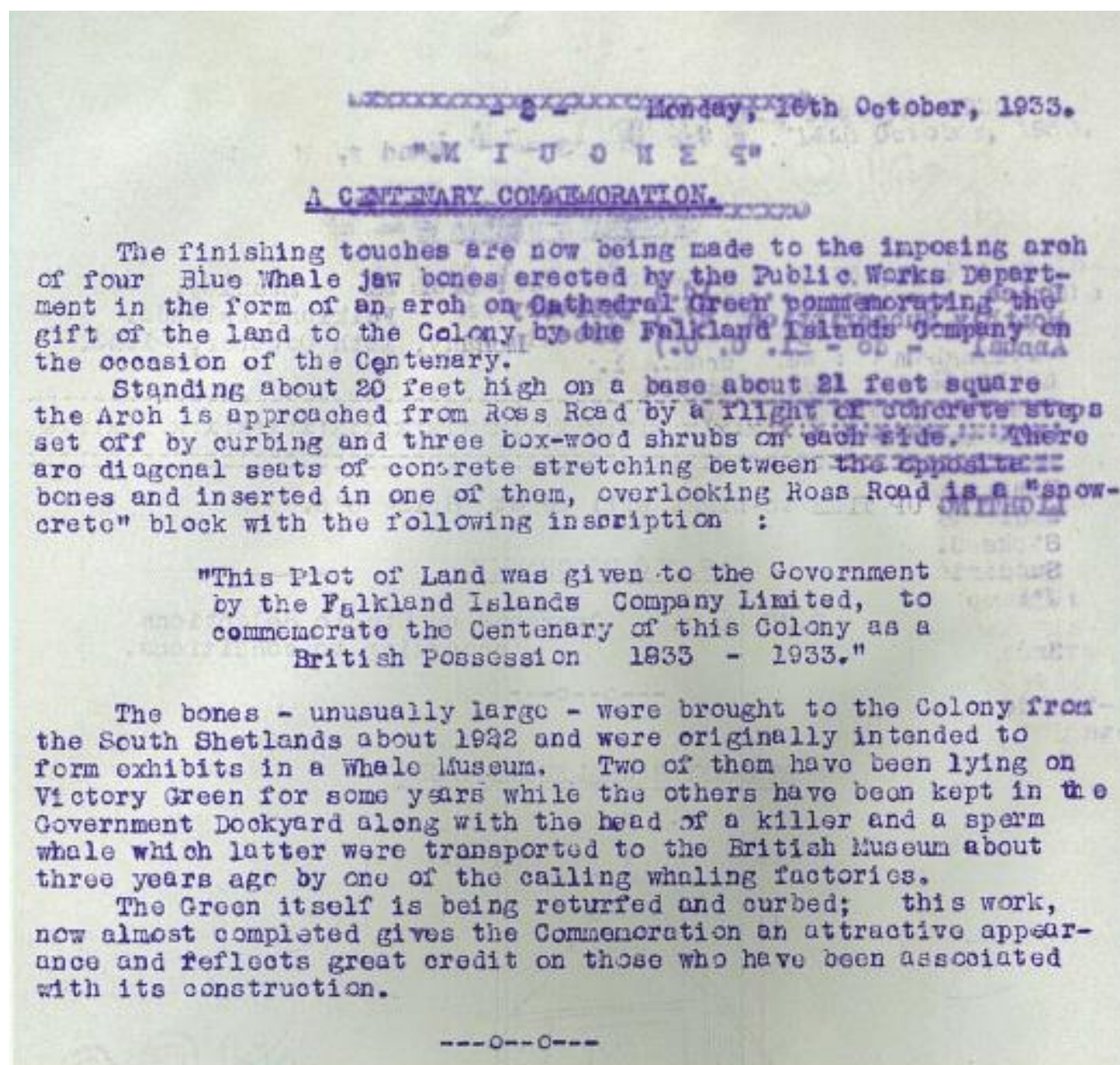


Herkes' House to right of Exchange Building's wall; 1880s –Biggs Collection, JCNA

On 17 May 1889 the portion of allotment 10 was transferred to the Falkland Islands Company Ltd as part of the purchase of the business and holdings of J M Dean & Sons being *All that piece of land situate in the Town of Stanley aforesaid containing 20 perches more or less being a portion of allotment No 10 bounded on the North by the Ross road 33 feet on the East by allotment No 11, 165 feet on the South by a portion of allotment No 10, 33 feet on the West by another portion of the said allotment 165 feet. Together with the Dwelling house and premises erected thereon and the appurtenances.* [BUG/REG/4, pg 117]

On 19 October 1932 the Falkland Islands Company Ltd gifted **All** that parcel of land comprising part of the land in Section O, Lot 10 in the town of Stanley, included in Crown Grant No 11, and part of the land in Section O, Lot 9, included in Crown Grant No 26, bounded on the North by Ross Road, 150 links, on the South by land held by the Trustees of Christ Church Cathedral, Lot 10 Section O, 50 links, by land in the possession of Henry Roberts, Lot 10 Section O, 50 links, by land in the possession of The Falkland Islands Company Limited, 50 links, Lot 9 Section O, in the east by the West boundary of the land included under Crown Grant No 303 as the site of Christ Church Cathedral, 250 links, and on the west by Dean Street 250 links, the whole comprising .375 acres, more or less, subject to the Covenant endorsed hereon. The Covenant read *The plot of land covered by this Conveyance is presented to the Colony of the Falkland Islands by The Falkland Islands Company Limited to commemorate the Centenary of the Colony in 1933 on the condition that the land is retained as a permanent open space and is kept in good order at the Public expense.* [BUG/REG/10, pg 273]

Plans for the whalebone arch were drawn up by G Roberts in November 1923.





Nissen Huts on Arch Green 1942.

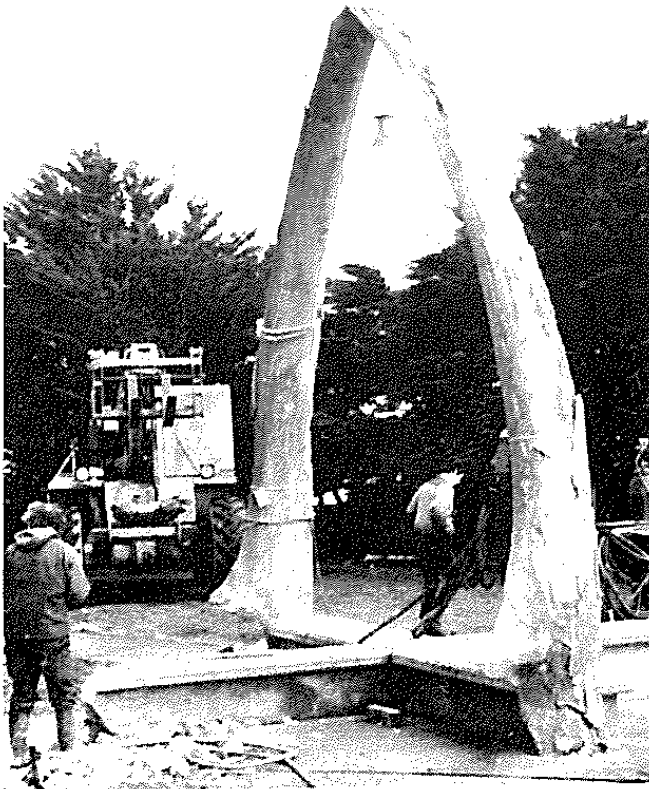
During World War II Nissen huts were erected on many of the green spaces in Stanley such as Victory Green, Arch Green, St Mary's Paddock and the Falkland Islands Company Ltd's paddock in Crozier Place.



In 1968 more than 900 people assembled on Arch Green for their photograph to be taken for the Daily Express and to vote No to a proposal that the Falkland Islands should be handed over to Argentina.

Penguin News, August 9, 1991

Whalebones off for repairs



STANLEY'S world-famous and unique whalebone arch has vanished.

It has been moved away from its site outside the cathedral, where it has stood almost 70 years, on the first stage of its restoration and should be back again in time for Heritage Year.

In charge of the job is Tim Carr and his wife Pauline who live aboard the yacht *Curlew* in Stanley harbour.

Tim has been working with epoxy resin - the material he will use for the job - for the last 15 years, restoring old vessels and building new ones and estimates that once his materials arrive from UK the work should take about 10 weeks.

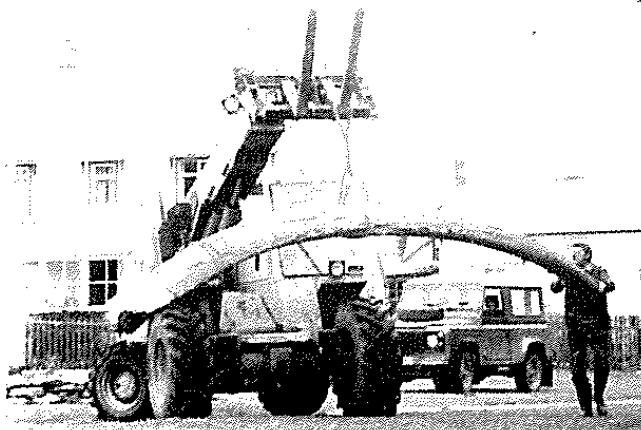
In the meantime the bones will be cleaned of salt and lichens with high pressure hoses.

The bones come from the jaw of a blue whale, the world's largest animal and now almost extinct. It is believed to be the only one of its kind. Whitby, in Yorkshire, has a similar arch but it is made of only two bones. This arch was recently restored using epoxy.

Stanley's bones were set in concrete and had to be jack-hammered out. As a result, two were broken at the roots. But this does not worry Tim. "Not serious," he says and proposes to knit them together again using stainless steel or oak rods.

Epoxy has been successfully used for 20 years. It has one disadvantage: it can be affected by ultra violet rays.

To overcome this, the whale bones will be specially coated. But they may need to be re-coated every four years or so.



On 11 March 2013 hundreds gathered on Arch Green to learn the result of the referendum with a 92% turnout and 99.8% declaring Yes to the question of "Do you wish to remain a British Overseas Territory?"