

on Australia. Yet this book itself illustrates very clearly the existence of nineteenth century links in at least the English-speaking Pacific basin. To an Australian, many New Zealand houses look very American in their styling and details. The timber enrichment has the flavour of American vernacular about it; the Carpenter Gothic of New Zealand is from American rather than English pattern books; the Stick Style is a faithful copy of an American fad which never reached Australia; and the up-and-down houses of Wellington are surely direct imports from San Francisco! While Australian architectural historians are happy to acknowledge American influences in Australia in the twentieth century, this close look at New Zealand houses may cause some to seek further back, and to look at what the builders, as well as the architects, were doing.

Why should an archaeologist read this book? Because it is a useful reference tool for people who deal with buildings and historic sites. It thinks of houses not as plans on an architect's drawing board, but as artefacts of the building industry, and as habitations. It describes changes over time, the technological evolution, spatial diffusion, as well as

how all the bits of a house fitted together, and what they did while they were there. If you are dealing with the site of a demolished house, this book will help you estimate how many bricks were on the site, where the kitchen stove stood, whether the drains were likely to have been of earthenware, how they built the fireplaces, and what gasfittings the house had. That is if you are in New Zealand. If you are in Australia, it will not be quite as helpful, but it is well worth knowing about. Australia needs a book like this, too.

Personally, I gained a useful (and delightful) expression from the book. Just finding out that the stuff for which none in Australia has thought up a more convenient name than 'finely fluted corrugated iron' is known in New Zealand as 'sparrow iron' made reading it worthwhile.

Peter Bell
State Heritage Branch
Department of Environment and Planning
South Australia

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY INC

The Australian Society for Historical Archaeology was founded in 1970 to promote the study of historical archaeology in Australia. The Society encourages archaeological research on historical sites, buildings, artefacts and relics by appropriate means including historical research, survey, recording, excavation and analysis and the publication of the results of such research. The Society supports the conservation of sites and relics which are part of the Australian heritage.

The interests of the society include historical sites, buildings and relics reflecting all aspects of life in Australia from European contact until the present.

The Society aims to promote the exchange of information, research and reference material relating to historical archaeology, within Australia and overseas. The wide range of historical archaeology in Australia is reflected in ASHA's publications: *Studies in Historical Archaeology*, a series of *Occasional Papers*, volumes based on the papers from the Annual Conference, the *Research Bulletin*, the quarterly *Newsletter* and the annual *Australian Journal of Historical Archaeology*.

The Society's activities include public lectures and an annual conference which provides a forum for speakers from throughout Australia and overseas. Members of the Society receive the quarterly *Newsletter*, the *Research Bulletin* and the *Australian Journal of Historical Archaeology* as part of their subscription.

Membership is open to all those interested in historical archaeology at both amateur and professional levels.

Subscriptions to the Society are as follows:

Individual membership (per annum) \$25.00
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Communications should be addressed to:

The Australian Society for Historical Archaeology
Box 220
Holme Building
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
NSW 2006 AUSTRALIA

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Australian Heritage Commission
Casey House
Rhodes Place
Yarralumla 2600

QLD: Mr Ian Sanker
Queensland Museum
PO Box 300
South Brisbane 4101

SA: Mr Justin McCarthy
Heritage & Conservation Branch
Dept Environment & Planning
GPO Box 667
Adelaide 5001

TAS: Mrs Angela McGowan
'Twilight Tarn'
7 Cosgrove Avenue
South Hobart 7000

VIC: Ms Kristal Buckley
Victoria Archaeological Survey
29-31 Victoria Avenue
Albert Park 3206

WA: Ms Myra Stanbury
Dept of Marine Archaeology
Western Australian Maritime Museum
Cliff Street
Fremantle 6160