

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN ASPECTS
OF THE GARDEN OF MELROSE HOUSE, PRETORIA**

For the:

CITY COUNCIL OF PRETORIA

P O Box 3242

PRETORIA

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Investigation done and report prepared by the:

NATIONAL CULTURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

P O Box 28088

SUNNYSIDE

0132

Telephone - (012) 3411320

Telefax - (012) 3416146

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OPSOMMING

'n Argeologiese ondersoek van sekere aspekte van die tuin van Melrose-huis, Pretoria.

'n Onderzoek, deur middel van argeologiese metodes, is in die oostelike gedeelte van die tuin van Melrose Huis gedoen. Die vermoede het bestaan dat in die verlede in hierdie gedeelte 'n formele, gesonke Viktoriaanse roostuin was. Die doel met hierdie navorsing was om die bestaan van die roostuin te bevestig, met die oog op die uiteindelijke rekonstruksie daarvan.

Geen teken van die roostuin is egter gevind nie. In stede daarvan is drie konsentrasies kulturele materiaal in asgate gevind. In die verslag word hierdie materiaal beskryf en ontleed en gevolgtrekkings gemaak in verband met die lewenswyse van die voormalige inwoners van die huis.

SUMMARY

An archaeological investigation of certain aspects of the garden of Melrose House, Pretoria.

An investigation, by means of archaeological methods, was conducted in the eastern section of

the garden of Melrose House. It was thought that a formal, sunken Victorian rose garden existed in this area in the past. The objective of the investigation was to confirm the existence of the rose garden, with the possibility of its reconstruction in mind.

No conclusive evidence to prove that the rose garden did exist was found. Three refuse pits containing a large quantity of artifacts were, however, found. In this report, this material is described and analysed and conclusions are drawn, giving an insight into the lives of the former inhabitants of the house.

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE GARDEN OF MELROSE HOUSE, PRETORIA

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

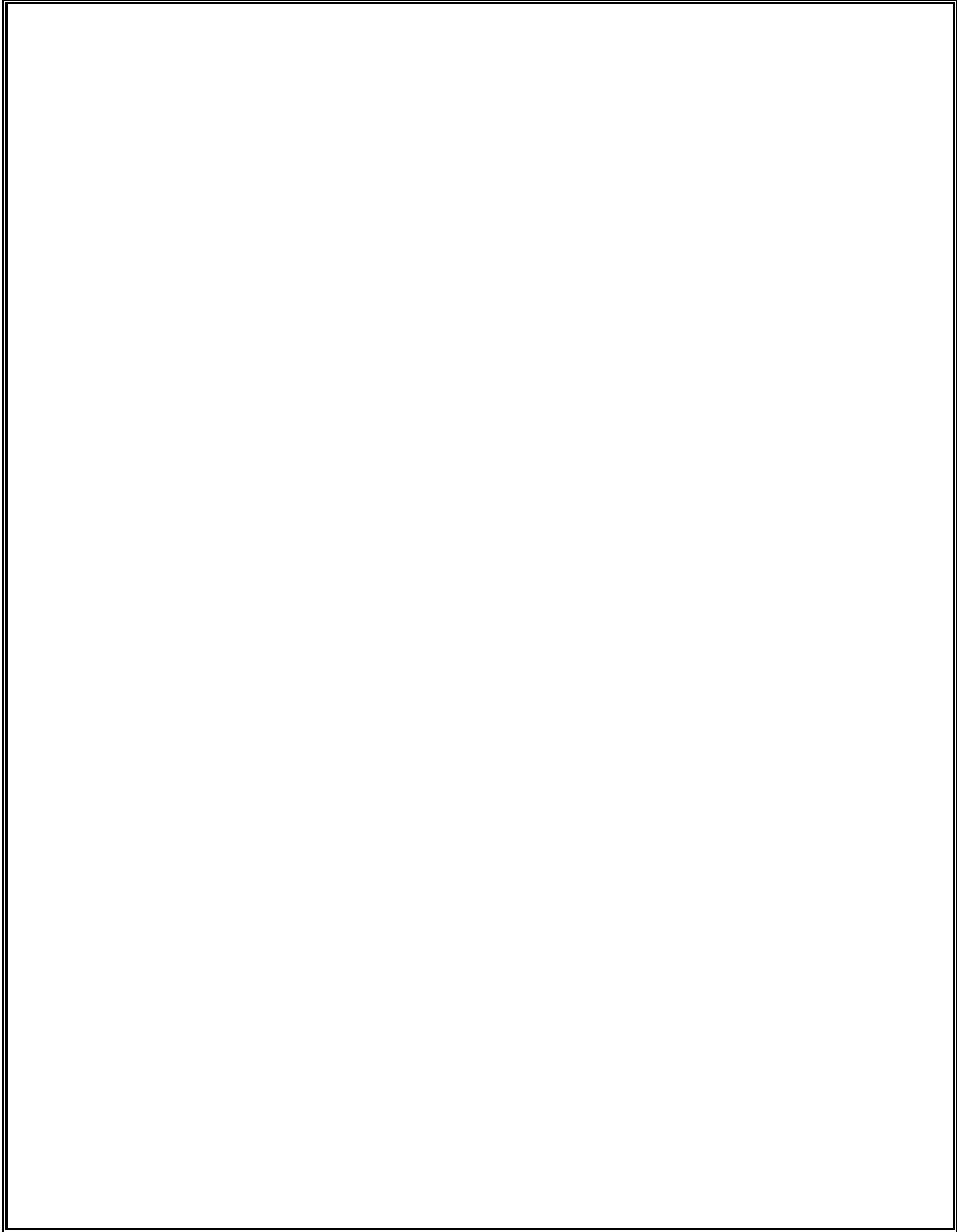
The Anthropological and Archaeological section of the National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria, was requested by the curator of Melrose House to establish, by means of archaeological methods, the possible existence, location and layout of a sunken Victorian rose garden which was presumed to have been part of the original garden arrangement. No contemporary documentary evidence could be found to substantiate the existence of such a garden, but it was thought to be located directly to the east of the house.

Originally it was presumed that the rose garden would have a formal design, similar to the one found at Sammy Marks' House. If this was the case, the evidence for the existence of such a garden would be in the form of small pathways, constructed of stones and gravel, bordered on each side with kerbstones of some kind. These paths would be laid out in a symmetrical pattern. Similar paths have already been found in other sections of the garden at Melrose House, mostly to the north of the house.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Melrose House is located in Jacob Mare Street, to the south of the central business district of Pretoria. The property originally belonged to a George Jesse Heys, who bought two erven on the southern side of the Botanical Garden (today Burgers Park) in 1855. He commissioned a London architect, W T Vale, to design a house for him here. Two more erven, behind the house, were bought in the period 1889-1890 and the stable complex was built on this site (Pretoria City Council 1971). The house is probably best known as the venue where the Peace Treaty of Vereeniging, which brought an end to the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, was signed in 1902.

The area where the excavation took place is located to the east of the house. Today it consists largely of lawns, and includes a number of smaller structures and trees (Figure 1).



THE EXCAVATION

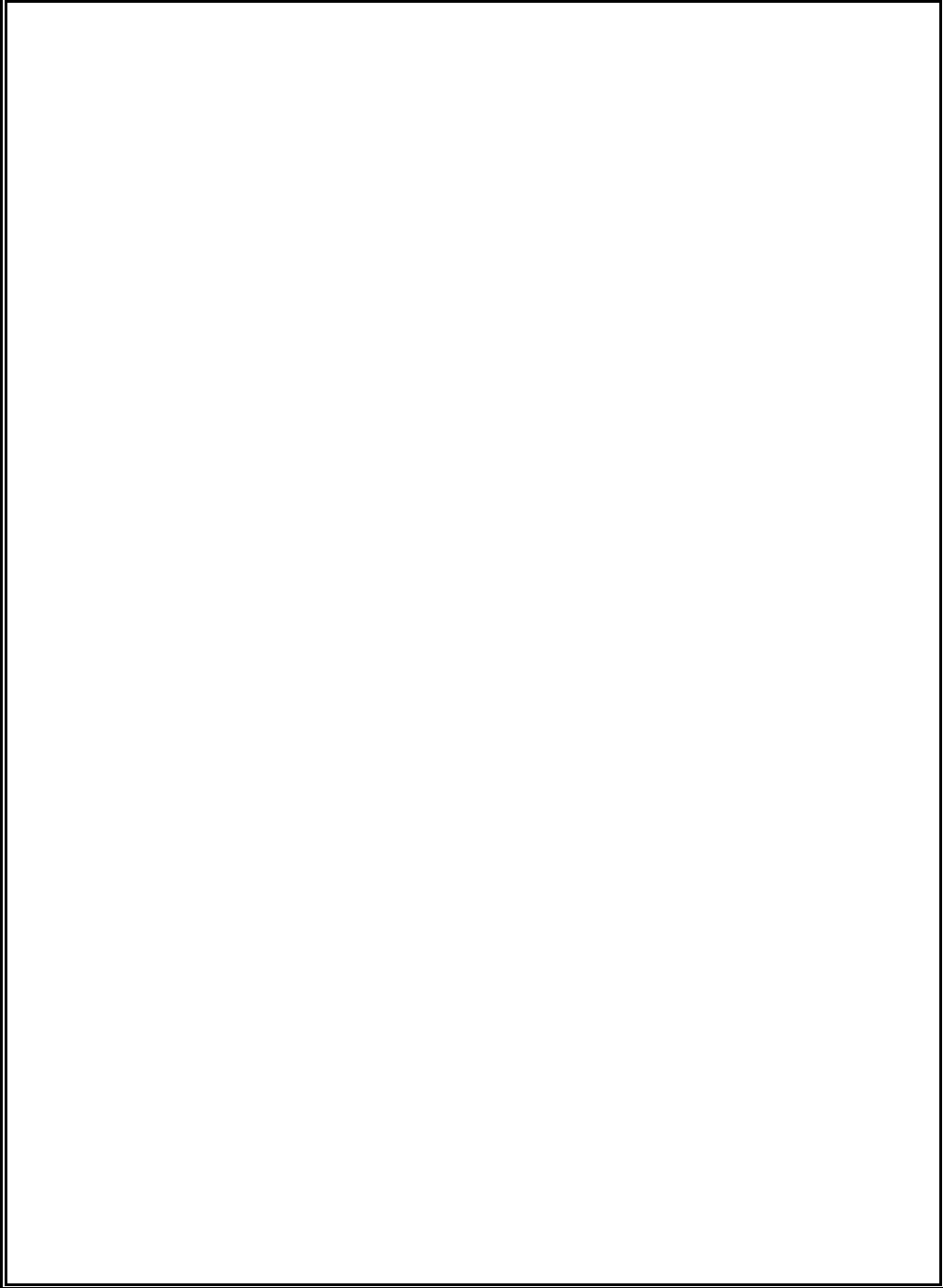
The excavation was aimed at testing the largest possible area of the eastern side of the garden. If any of the presumed paths were found in a test trench, it would then be easy to follow and establish the nature and extent of the rose garden. In order to do this, it was decided to excavate two test trenches.

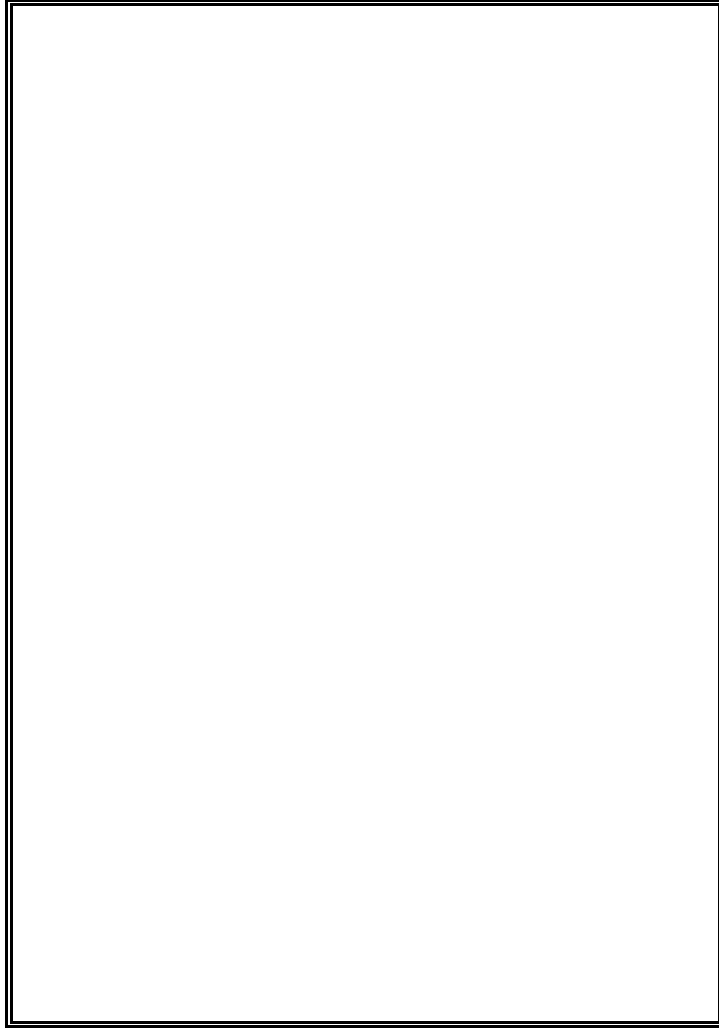
Excavation 1 (Figure 1) is a test trench 0,70 x 20 m long, running from south to north on the lawn on the eastern side of the house, just north of the building currently housing the old coach. The first layer is approximately 20 cm thick and consists mostly of topdressing used to cover the lawn. Below this, from a distance of 7,80 m of the baseline in the south, a gravelly, reddish layer extends over a distance of 7,20 m to the north (Figure 2). This forms an easily definable surface. It is thought that, at some stage, this formed part of a compacted surface, similar to the pathways still surrounding the house. To test the extent of this 'floor', the trench was extended to the west over a distance of 3,0 m. At this point, however, the floor ended. A number of small artifacts was recovered over the whole extent of the trench.

A concentration of artifacts, apparently in a refuse pit, was located 12,25 m from the southern baseline of the excavation, extending over 1,6 m northwards, and being 60 cm in depth. A large number of artifacts was recovered from this pit, and this material was treated as a separate unit. It was later also compared with the material found in excavation 3.

Excavation 2 (Figure 1) is a 0,70 x 16 m long trench, south of the building housing the coach, extending from southeast to northwest over the lawn. In contrast with excavation 1, very little stratigraphy could be deduced in this area. The top 20 cm is mostly topdressing for the lawn. A number of small lenses, approximately 5 cm to 10 cm thick, occurs in irregular fashion over the excavation. None of these lenses, however, have any significance, and it is presumed that they are the result of the way in which the lawn has filled up over the years. A small number of artifacts was retrieved from this trench.

Excavation 3 (Figure 1) consists of two refuse pits that were exposed at the eastern extreme of the trench forming excavation 2. Being a separate feature, it was decided to excavate this area as a different unit. A block, 1,70 x 1,70 m, was excavated. As it was opened up, it was realised that there were not one, but actually two, separate pits very close to each other. The reason for this is very simple. As rockbottom is reached at a depth of approximately 90 cm, the pit would have filled up quickly and a second hole was therefore needed in order to enlarge it. These pits were excavated according to natural stratigraphy and arbitrary layers, 20 cm thick. From the material recovered, it was deduced that the pits were used contemporaneously, as in a number of cases different pieces belonging to a single object were found in both pits. For the sake of analysis the material was treated as coming from two separate units. For the purpose of interpretation, however, it was combined.





THE ROSE GARDEN

Although a rose garden has in all probability existed in the past at Melrose House, its existence could not be confirmed by means of archaeological methods. As none of the attributes that could have been used in its identification could be found during the excavation, the logical deduction would be that it was not as formal as the one found at Sammy Marks house.

A map, dating to 1962, indicates the existence of a rose garden in the southeastern corner of the property. Its position and size on this map, are most probably based on hearsay. If this is the case, its reconstruction would not be much of a problem.

The investigation was, however, not without benefit, as can be seen from the three refuse pits that were excavated. Analysis of the material recovered from these pits gives a remarkable insight into the life of the former inhabitants of the house.

MATERIAL EXCAVATED

A large number of artifacts was recovered during excavation. Of these, very few are complete. Most are broken or corroded beyond easy recognition. An attempt was, however, made to identify each individual object. Unfortunately, only a few of the fragments bear a trade mark or other distinctive features. For this reason it is difficult to identify the place of manufacture or date with accuracy. Where possible, manufacturing techniques and stylistic features such as form and type of decoration were used as a means of identification. Diagnostic parts present, such as necks, bases, stems, rims, handles and finials were also used for identification, as well as to establish the minimum number of vessels present. As a large portion are unidentifiable, time and effort in describing them have been minimized. An effort was also made to correlate excavated material with that still in the house.

Most of the material was recovered from the three refuse pits, though some was recovered from the trenches. This latter material in all likelihood found its way into the soil in an accidental manner over a period of time. As a lot of filling of the lawn also took place, some of this material could have been transported from elsewhere, and might not necessarily relate directly to Melrose House.

For purposes of interpretation, the artifacts are classified into broad material and functional classes.

Metal

Many objects made of iron, copper, zinc, brass, bronze and other alloys were recovered during the excavation. Most are badly corroded and, as a result, are very fragile.

A. Hardware

A total of 319 iron nails, most of which are complete, was recovered from the three excavations.

The sizes of the complete examples range from 15 to 108 mm. Other related material includes 6 iron screws, 4 washers and 6 bolts.

Apart from the above material, many objects, ranging from portrait and clothes hooks to hinges, funnels and umbrella spike cones, were recovered. These are all examples of general objects used in and around a house and discarded when broken (Figure 4).

Pieces of galvanised sheet iron were found in all three excavations. These are, however, very fragile. It is therefore very difficult to establish their origin. It is possible that all the pieces were part of the same object, which was in all probability a piece of roof sheeting.

Iron and copper wire was also found. Some of it was used for electrical purposes. Another object is spiral in form and appears similar to that which is used for hanging curtains.

B. Personal objects

These range from safety pins to the lid used on a tobacco pipe (Figure 5). This latter object was clipped on to the top of the pipe and prevented the tobacco from spilling. It was lifted when lighting the pipe. Little holes in the form of stars served both as decoration and for allowing ventilation.

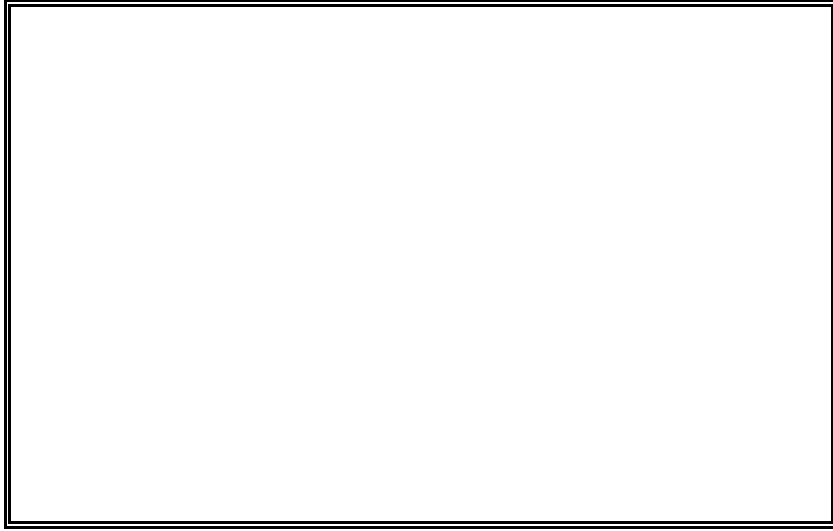
Six strips of metal, possibly from an accordion or mouth organ, were also found (Figure 9).

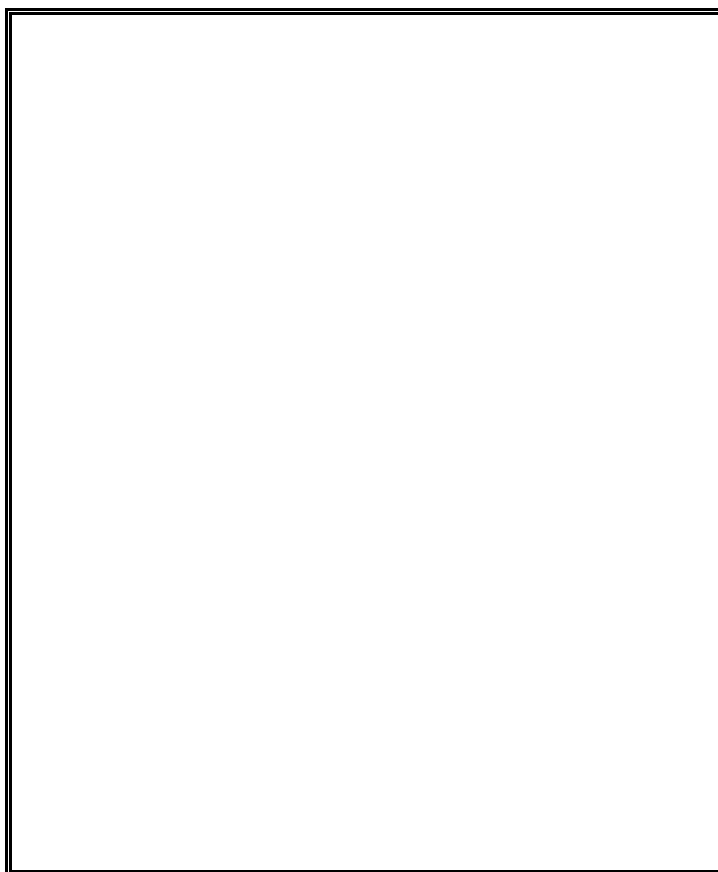
A number of pieces of an alarm-clock, such as cog-wheels, the frame for the mechanism and part of the outer casing of the clock was recovered from refuse pits 2 and 3 (Figure 5). On the inside of this last object the inscriptions: WIND and HANDS are still visible.

Seven metal buttons, mostly of brass, were recovered (Figure x). One has an intricate pattern of flowers on the upper side and, at the back, the patent name: THE PATENT SAFETY SOLITAIRE. A second one has the patent name: BEST SOLID EYELET, which is usually associated with British military uniforms. (Melrose House served as Lord Kitchener's headquarters during the 2nd Anglo-Boer War.)

Most of the few toys recovered during the excavation are of ceramic. Only one toy which had belonged to a boy was found. This is part of a chariot wheel, made from lead.

C. Household objects





A large number of tin fragments were found. Identifiable parts were used to determine the minimum possible number and variety. In refuse pit 2, 7 end parts, round in shape were found. Their diameters range from 48 to 82 mm. Two square shaped tins (95 x 117 mm) were recovered from refuse pit 2, as well as one tin lid, 175 mm in diameter. A further 73 smaller pieces, possibly belonging to these tins, were also recovered.

The iron head of a small salt cellar and a large bronze fork, for dishing up food, are two of the household utensils recovered. A handle for a bucket and a number of iron hoops were also retrieved.

D. Diverse material

Six pieces of brass, representing Martini Henry .45/577 soft cased shells were found. These were first used around 1870 by the British and during the First Anglo-Boer War (1880-81) by the British, as well as by the Boers. From about 1900 it was replaced with hard cased Martini Henry shells. It is a well-known fact that Mr Hays was a avid hunter (Joubert 1995 pers. comm.) and these cartridges might have found their way into the refuse pits as a result of this.

A buckle used on the harness of horse and part of a bridle were also recovered (Figure 4).

Ceramics

A very large number of ceramic objects was used during the Victorian era, especially in the homes of the wealthy.

The ceramic fragments that were retrieved at Melrose House include parts of dinner and tea services, kitchenware (bowls and storage jars), washing jugs, pots for pastes and ointments, ornaments, a plant pot, commemorative ware, tiles, toys and pipes. This falls into the following main categories:

- stoneware and ironstone
- earthenware
- biscuit and parian ware
- soft and hard paste porcelain
- jasper
- kaolin

All the porcelain fragments are soft paste, a type of porcelain made in England and not fired to as high a temperature as hard paste porcelain. Exceptions are a few cups and saucers of which the fractures appear glass-like and the colours do not merge with the glaze as they do on the granular body texture of soft porcelain. These pieces are probably Continental in origin (Godden 1968:739). It is noticeable that the transfer-printed decoration on the hard paste artifacts tend to have faded in the post-discard environment of the refuse pits.

Apart from the stoneware storage jars, which were hand thrown on a potter's



wheel, the ceramic pieces are machine made factory products, dating from between 1850 and 1920.

The decorated wares are mostly transfer-printed in monochrome underglaze purple, blue, green, brown, pink, red and black with gilt highlights on a white ground. Polychrome decoration occurs in black with green or blue on the early 20th century bowls, and in black and red on the commemorative ware.

The trade marks found on a few fragments are indistinct (especially the impressed marks), or are incomplete due to the breakage of the pieces. For this reason, it was necessary to use mainly the stylistic features as a means of identification.

An example of such a trade name is the mark of the 'Royal Arms' with the lettering 'LION; D W' (incomplete) printed on the back of two matching ironstone pieces, possibly part of a meat plate. Many 19th and 20th century British manufacturers used the Royal Arms as a trade mark, but normally added their initials or name. As the initials 'D W' are not located in the available sources, it is unlikely that they represent the manufacturer's name. Although the quartered shield of the Royal Arms is an example of the post-1837 design (Godden 1968:552), the form of the mark is only a guide to broad dating. To define the period of manufacture with more accuracy, the type of decoration on the front was used as a means of identification. This indicated that the piece was probably manufactured between 1850 and 1870.

A. Dinner services

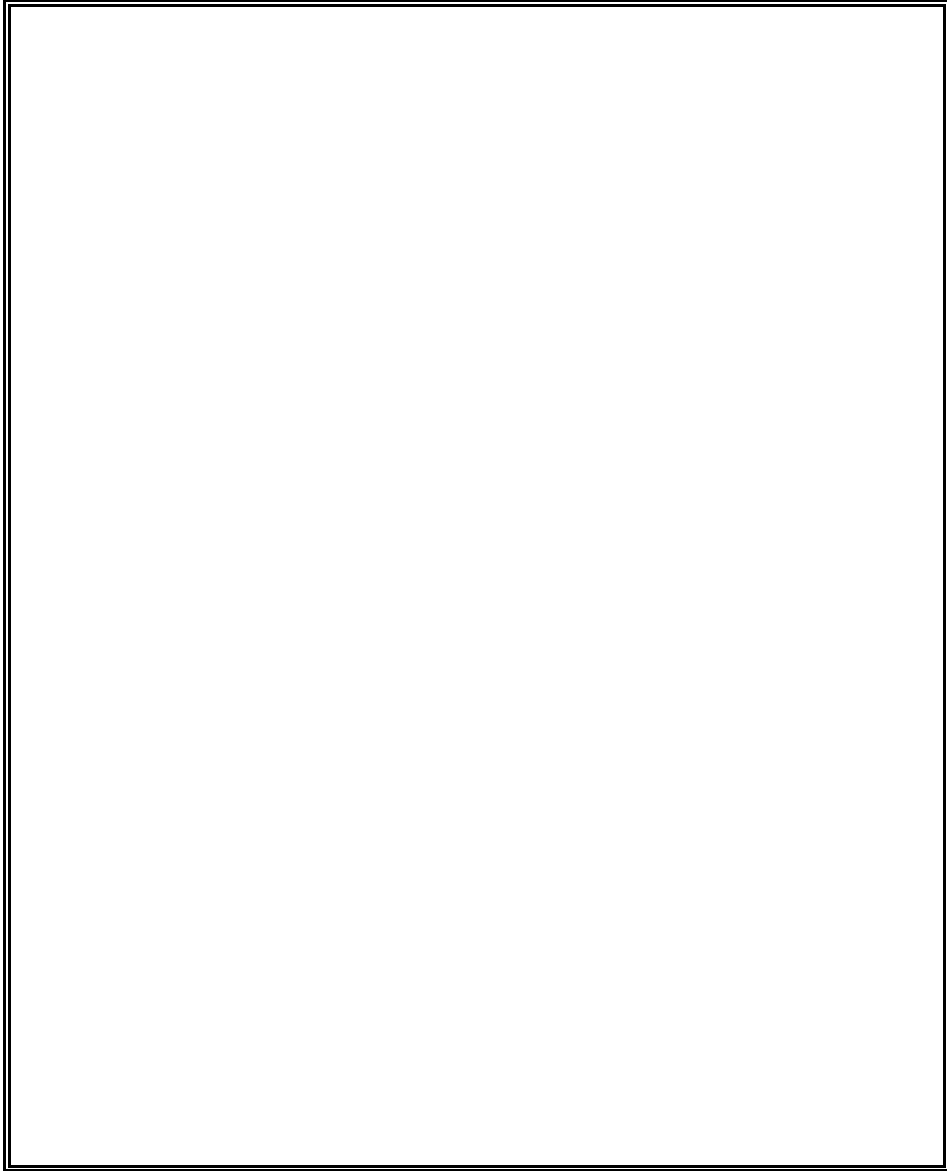
A typical wealthy colonial Victorian household possessed at least three to four ceramic table services sets in order to cope with the huge meals served both in the dining room and the servants' hall.

Sherds of tableware in porcelain and ironstone used for serving meals include rims and two almost complete dinner plates, rims and wells of meat plates, platters and plates for sauce boats, a soup or sauce ladle, and fragments that could have been part of tureens. Except for a few porcelain dinner plates, the examples found in the excavation are made of a hard and heavy earthenware body, namely ironstone. This durable ware is very suitable for articles which have to withstand heat and rough handling, and was made by most manufacturers of ceramics during the 19th century.

The fragments have different ornamentation, transfer-printed in monochrome underglaze colours. Six pieces are Victorian with natural leaf and flower foliation and date from 1860-1880. The other eleven fragments have neo-classical or formal border decoration, which is typical of the Edwardian period (turn of the century) or early 20th century.

The following pieces illustrate these stylistic features:

- A porcelain plate with flower and leaf patterns, printed in black underglaze, ca 1870-1890;



- A white porcelain plate, with a decorative border of scrolling leafs and flower heads, transfer-printed in dark olive green underglaze, late 19th century;
- An ironstone platter, transfer-printed with a decorative border of speckled scrolling foliage within formal borders in black underglaze, late 19th century;
- An ironstone platter with decorative borders of geometric designs, transfer-printed in brown on a white ground, late 19th century.
- A porcelain plate with two medium blue border lines, transfer-printed underglaze on a white ground, early 20th century.

Judging from the high quality of the pieces, they must have belonged to complete dinner services, which were of monumental size.

B. Tea services

Afternoon tea was a popular form of entertaining, very much enjoyed by rich Victorian ladies. Hence the enormously wide range of teacups and saucers that were unearthed.

Fragments, comprising one porcelain and two stoneware teapots as well as cups and saucers, dating between ca 1870-1910, were found. These include fine porcelain, as well as standard pieces of a lower quality which were probably for everyday use, or for the servants' use.

The following pieces are representative of the period styles and types of transfer-printed decoration in this assemblage:

- A hard paste porcelain teacup with overglaze gilt border stripes (faded) on a white ground, ca 1905-1910.
- Fragments of porcelain teacups with either red or blue stripes, transfer-printed on a white ground under the glaze, early 20th century.
- Piece of a hard paste porcelain saucer with a decorated border of formal flower and leaf ornament in overglaze red on a white ground within gilt border stripes, late 19th century.
- Fragment of a porcelain teacup, transfer-printed with Arabian ornament (interlacing of lines and formal scrolling patterns) in underglaze brown on a white ground, late 19th century.
- Handle and parts of a teacup with natural leaf and flower foliation transfer-printed in brown underglaze on a white ground, early 20th century.

C. Kitchenware

Fragments of the following pieces give an indication of bowls used for the preparation of meals and jars for the storage or preserving of food:

- Fragments of a porcelain "boerebont-kom" (bowl), handpainted with green leaves, early 20th century.
- A large number of bowl fragments, decorated with a border of either green or blue and black lines on a white ground, early 20th century.
- Body fragment of a stoneware mixing bowl, salt-glazed in an ochre colour, early 20th century.
- Fragments of stoneware storage pots and jars, salt-glazed in shades that range from cream, brown, orange/red to red/brown were unearthed from refuse pit 2. These jars are British in origin and were used for keeping jams, preserved fruits, salted foods, butter and liquids such as cider and vinegar. The traditional pot has a small lug on either side and a

- rim over which waxed cloth could be securely tied for preservation.
- Fragments of stoneware ginger jars, hand painted or with transfer-printed decoration, dating to the later part of the 19th century.

D. Washing sets

Although the well-to-do Melrose house boasted of a bathroom, the washstand occupied a prominent position in the bedrooms. Toilet accessories such as a large and a smaller basin and jug to match were necessities, besides a lidded sponge and soap bowl, shaving mug, slop pail and chamber-pot.

Under this category the following pieces were excavated:

- A washing jug base and body fragment. The latter piece has a band of a scrolling pattern with formal flowers transfer-printed in red under the glaze. Although the base is undecorated, the two fragments could have belonged to the same piece. The difference in texture of the glazes however, indicates the contrary. The pieces are dated to the late 19th century.
- A lid and finial fragments of a Victorian soap dish, transfer-printed in underglaze purple on a white ground. It has natural flower, leaf and bird ornamentation, ca 1850-1870 (Figure 8).
- A rim fragment, possibly part of a shaving mug, transfer-printed with an underglaze purple geometric border design and Greek key pattern on a white ground, ca 1890-1910.

E. Commemorative ware

A late 19th century porcelain plate and cup, transfer-printed with a historical church building in underglaze black on a white ground was found. The rim has either two or three red border lines (Figure 8).

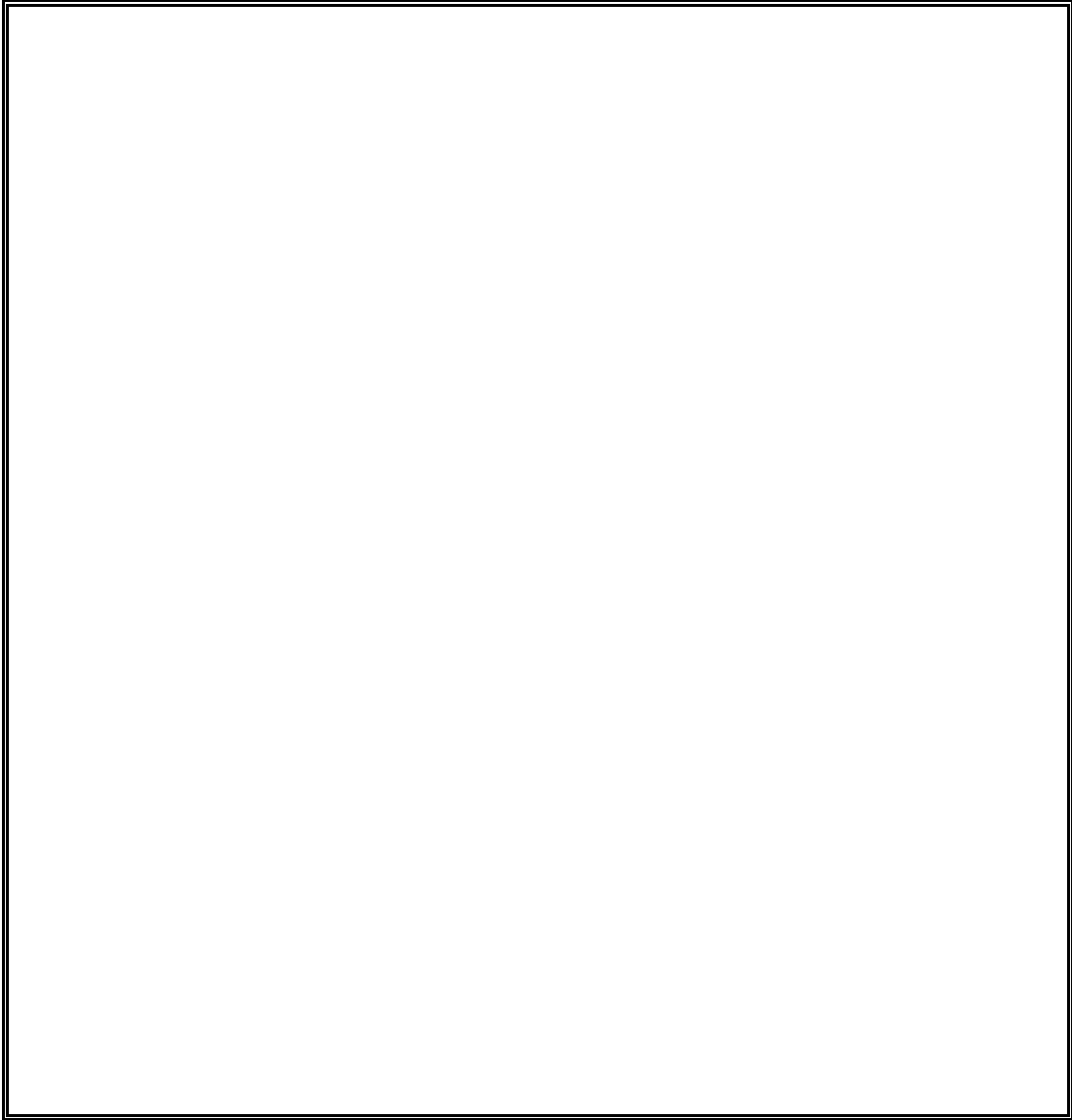
F. Pots for pastes and ointments

A neck of a pot which contained medicinal ointment used to treat ulcers, etc. and a pot lid for toothpaste are the only examples of such commercial ceramic containers in this collection. Both fragments have black underglaze transfer-printing on a white ground and are from the late 19th century.

G. Ornaments

A striking feature of the Victorian interior was the 'cluttered' look with ornaments and 'bric-a-brac' on display. It is surprising, however, that only a few ornamental pieces have been retrieved from these refuse pits:

- White 'jasper' ware with relief geometric designs. It probably formed part of a large bowl and date to the early 20th century.
- White, moulded porcelain fragment with faded overglaze flower motif



decoration that possibly was part of a flower pot. It is dated to the early 20th century

H. Plant pot

Only one piece of an unglazed earthenware plant pot, possibly used on the veranda, was found.

I. Toys

Among the more interesting items found in refuse pits 2 and 3 are eleven parts (some matching) of parian, bisque and glazed porcelain limbs, dating from 1870-1880 (Figure 8). The hair and sawdust filled cloth or leather bodies of these Victorian dolls are more prone to decomposition and have therefore not survived the post-discard environment.

Fragments of a porcelain doll's teacup and saucer, overall glazed in white with handpainted decoration were also found. These date back to the late 19th century.

J. Pipes

Unmatched nineteenth century pipe stems, produced by hand from kaolin (a fine white clay), were found in all three refuse pits. Unfortunately no bowl sections (possibly sculptured in Victorian style) were located.

K. Tiles

The following tiles have been recovered:

- Two fragments of ironstone floor tiles and one complete example. Although the latter is similar to the existing triangular white tiles of the verandah floor of Melrose House, the dimensions are not the same.
- One fragment of an unglazed stoneware floor tile.
- Fragment of a ceramic tile, white with a geometric flower or star pattern, transfer-printed in underglaze black, with blue paintwork and gilt highlights. It could have been a wall tile or part of a washing stand, dating back to the early 20th century.
- Fragment of a glazed ironstone tile, possibly used as decoration around a fireplace.

L. Ink bottles

A complete brown salt glazed ironstone ink bottle, late 19th century, often found in South African rubbish dumps. This shape was described as a 'dwarf ink' in an early Doulton & Watts, Lambeth Pottery catalogue (Lastovica 1982:56).

Glass

Except for a few complete examples, the glass objects recovered are broken. As a result of the post-discard environment, the fragments have been affected by patination. Internal fractures, often found in glass that has been exposed to heat, are, however, minimal.

A. Commercial containers

This category outnumbers all other types of glass objects excavated and is subdivided into 5 different classes.

Food bottles and other household containers:

The number of bottles and jars, sold prepackaged with food, sauces, spices, etc. seems far less

than the average numbers excavated from other similar residential sites. Most were broken, but it was possible to identify a number by means of shape and embossed markings.

Two complete and fragments of late 19th century LEA AND PERRINS WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE bottles were found. These have applied lips and were sealed with glass stoppers lined with cork. Although the 'club sauce' closures from the excavation are not embossed, this particular shape is often associated with this type of sauce bottle and could therefore be attributed to them.

Fragments of a ROSE'S LIME JUICE bottle, ca 1890, were retrieved from all three refuse pits.

Three late 19th century bottles, possibly used for mustard, sauce or pickles were also found. They are cylindrical in shape with wide mouths.

Nursing bottles:

In refuse pits 2 and 3 sherds of an ALEXANDRA FEEDING BOTTLE were discovered. It was manufactured by SMAW & SON & THOMPSON in 1900. This type of bottle does not turn up very often in excavations, probably due to the extreme thinness of the glass.

Medicine bottles and related containers:

Three complete bottles and a number of fragments that can be attributed to this category, were found. Two of the complete bottles are embossed with trade names. The first was marked as: E S T STANTIAL; PIETERMARITZBURG; and the second was used for a remedy: MRS WINSLOWS SOOTHING SYRUP, patented by CURTIS & PERKINS, PROPRIETORS. They are respectively manufactured in the early 20th and late 19th centuries. The third bottle in this category is a 19th century chemists' prescription bottle, which has no embossed marks.

Carbonated beverages and ginger beer:

An inventory of the contents of the refuse pits gives a good idea of the ratio of drinks that were in demand at Melrose House. Judging by the large assemblage of liquor bottle fragments, it may seem that wine and spirits were more popular than soda water or ginger beer. Although no identifiable fragments of soda water bottles were found, the Codd's ball stoppers (recorded under "stoppers") indicates that carbonated beverages must have been familiar in this household.

Liquor bottles:

A large number of fragments in various shades of green, dark olive green, dark brown or amber tinted glass was recovered from the three refuse pits. The only clear glass bottle under this category is a spirit flask (almost complete). It is embossed on the front: BURGOYNE BURBIDGES & CO LONDON, and has a trademark on the back. It was manufactured in the last quarter of the 19th century.

Although colour is only to a small extent related to the function of objects and therefore of little use as a means of classification, the size and shape of the bottle sherds could be associated with alcoholic beverages.

Common characteristic features of the fragments are the following:

Basal profile: mamelon; rounded cone; dome

Body: cylindrical
 Shoulder form: sloped down; champagne
 Neck shape: bulged; tapered
 String rim: flattened, V-shaped
 Lips: cracked off; flat; down tooled; flattened side.

Judging by these characteristic features and the mould marks, the bottles must have been manufactured in the last quarter of the 19th century into the early 20th century.

B. Tableware:

Just as the wealthy Victorians had a vast number of table dishes and plates, so did they have a very large number of wine glasses, goblets and decanters on the dinner table. Beside each place setting it was customary to have four to five wine glasses, for both red and white wines and, later in the century, liqueurs. Tumblers, however, were kept on the sideboard and only produced on request. Wine was offered from decanters. Besides a centre piece, which was a glowing mass of cut glass, the side dishes at dessert and finger-bowls of ruby Bohemian glass were also considered a necessity (Howe 1973:30).

Taking into account these facts, it is surprising that far less glassware associated with food and drinks than porcelain tableware was found.

A number of foot and bowl fragments of wine or sherry glasses, with etched geometrical circle decoration, were excavated. The engraving bear close resemblances to the Woodstock glass. It is, however, difficult to distinguish between the mass produced glasses of the different factories in England and the glasses manufactured at Woodstock in the late 19th century.

Some neck fragments of a late 19th century decanter with a rounded lip ring and cut panels were also found. Three fragments, press-moulded in respectively fan, scalloped and diamond shaped motifs are unidentifiable.

G. Stoppers:

The stoppers for containers that occurred on this site include different types of glass stoppers and Codd's ball stoppers (see also under the heading Diverse material A). The stoppers are either strictly functional, or a combination of beauty and utility.

Five complete and one fragment of 'club sauce' stoppers, with variation in size and shape, were found. Only one of the specimens is embossed with commercial markings: JK W. Three Codd's ball soda water stoppers were found. They were patented in England in 1870 and were in use into the 20th century (Lastovica 1982:26).

A stopper with screw threads, which twist into a hollowed cork was found. It was intended to fit into a correspondingly threaded bottle - not located in this assemblage - and date to the turn of the century. In addition, an oblong head stopper with a ground shank, used for druggists' glassware for dispensaries, medicine chest and druggist' bottles were also found.

The only tableware stopper found was for a dark coloured Victorian glass decanter or cruet. The

finial is decorated in a style that would have been complimentary to the item.

H. Lighting devices:

A fragment of sand blasted glass of a Victorian lamp shade, with a formal flower and scrolling leaf design, was retrieved from refuse pit 3.

I. Flat glass:

Remains of window panes in amber, colourless with internal fractures, and one fragment each in red, turquoise and olive green, the latter with relatively large bubbles, were recovered from refuse pits 1 and 3. The thickness and colours indicate that the panes could have been part of a leaded window or door glass panel, dating back to the later part of the 19th century.

J. Beads

Two light blue/green glass beads, 9 mm in diameter, were retrieved from refuse pit 3. They are now largely white in colour, possibly due to exposure to heat.

K. Buttons

Five early 20th century glass buttons, were recovered.

Fauna

The sample consist of 767 bone fragments, mostly from refuse pits 2 and 3 (Table I). 33% of the bones were identifiable to species or animal size class. The 17 species represented consist of ten mammals, six bird and one fish. Twelve of the species are domestic animals (Table 2). The nondomestic animals are the warthog, the duiker, the large bird and the fish. The rat is not classified as a

Skeletal part	Provenance	Provenance					TOTAL
		E1	E2	M1	M2	M3	
Identifiable	23	2	7	140	83	255	
Skull fragments	5	0	0	17	15	37	
Vertebra fragments	13	0	3	62	41	119	
Rib fragments	22	0	14	91	42	169	
Miscellaneous	2	0	4	69	32	107	
Bone flakes	12	0	18	37	13	80	
Total Unidentifiable	54	0	39	276	143	512	
TOTAL SAMPLE	77	2	46	416	226	767	
Mass g.	165	6	189	3682	1698	5740	

Table I. Melrose House Faunal Sample (E: Excavation, M: refuse pit)

domestic animal, although it always lives in close association with humans. The lagomorph

remains are probably those of the tame rabbit. It is not possible to determine whether the pigeon size bird was a wild or domesticated bird.

Refuse pit 2 contained an almost complete skeleton of a kitten, as well as a few remains of an adult cat. Fragments of another adult cat comes from refuse pit 3. The dog remains are all from adult animals. Skeletal parts representations for cattle and sheep are listed in Table 3 and 4. The samples are small, but it seems as if skull elements (including teeth) and extremities are relative poorly represented.

Most of the cattle and some of the sheep bones have butchering damage in the form of saw marks. Shallow cut marks and chop marks also occur on a few bones. Carnivore damage is visible on some of the fragments, and one also has rodent gnaw marks. Approximately 5% of the faunal remains are burnt or partially burnt.

Pathological lesions are present on a 1st phalanx of a cattle hind foot. It consists of gross enlargement of the proximal lateral articulation facet, with some exostosis below this facet. This pathology is probably stress related.

Only a few specimens could be sexed. Elements such as the pubis of pelvis were poorly represented. On the basis of the tarso-metatarsus it could be established that two of the domestic fowl were hens. A sheep ram is represented by a pubis fragment and a few very large cattle phalanges indicate that they are from oxen.

Species	Provenience					M3	
	E1	M1	E2	M2	M3		
<u>Canis familiaris</u> dog	1/1	2/1	1/1				
<u>Felis catus</u> cat			13/2	2/1			
<u>Equus caballus</u> horse			4/1	1/1			
cf. <u>Equus caballus</u>	1/1						
<u>Sus scrofa</u> pig		1/1	6/1	2/1			
<u>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</u> warthog		1/1					
<u>Bos taurus</u> cattle	2/2	1/1	44/9	18/5			
cf. <u>Bos taurus</u>		1/*					
<u>Ovis aries</u> sheep	9/2	2/1	47/7	36/5			
cf. <u>Ovis aries</u>		1/*					
<u>Sylvicapra grimmia</u> duiker				1/1			
Lagomorph, rabbit			3/1	2/1			
cf. <u>Rattus rattus</u> rat	1/1						
<u>Meleagris gallopavo</u> turkey	2/1						
<u>Gallus domesticus</u> chicken	5/1	3/1	17/5	15/2			
<u>Anas cf. boschas</u> domesticus duck			1/1				
Anatidae, duck	1/1						
<u>Anser domesticus</u> goose		2/1	2/1				
cf. <u>Anser domesticus</u>			1/*				
Bird large				1/1			
Bird pigeon size			1/1				
<u>Clarias gariepinus</u> barbel			1/1				

Table 2. Melrose House: Species Present, NI SP/MNI (E: Excavation, M: refuse pit)

Skeletal part	Provenance			
	E1	M1	M2	M3
Temporal bone		1/1		
Hyoid		1/1		
Vertebra	1/1			
Caudal vertebrae		9/1		
Scapula			3/2	1/1
Humerus shaft	1/1			
Radius shaft		1/1		
Ulna			1/1	
Pelvis			1/1	
Femur shaft			9/5	
Tibia distal end	1/1	1/1		
Tibia shaft		2/1		
Carpal		1/1		
Talus		8/7	2/1	
Os centroquartale	1/1			
Phalanx 1 manus		1/1		
Phalanx 1 pes		3/2		
Phalanx 1 proximal		1/1		
Phalanx 2 manus		1/1	4/4	
Phalanx 2 pes	1/1			

Table 3. Melrose House: Bostaurus skeletal parts representations, NISP/MNI (E: Excavation, M: refuse pit)

Skeletal part	Provenance			
	E1	M1	M2	M3
Mandible		1/1	1/1	
Teeth	2/1		1/1	
Atlas			1/1	
Scapula		11/4	4/2	
Humerus proximal		2/2		
Humerus distal			3/2	
Humerus shaft	1/1			
Radius proximal		1/1		
Radius distal		2/1		
Radius shaft		1/1		
Ulna		2/2	1/1	
Pelvis	1/1	3/3		
Femur proximal		5/4	3/2	
Femur distal		2/2	4/3	
Femur shaft		3/1	1/1	
Tibia proximal		1/1	1/1	
Tibia distal	1/1	5/3	1/1	
Tibia shaft		3/2	1/1	
Metacarpal shaft		1/1		
Metatarsal shaft	1/1			
Metapodial distal	2/1			
Calcaneum			1/1	2/1
Talus	1/1	2/2	9/5	
Os malleolare		1/1		
Phalanx 1			1/1	
Phalanx 2		1/1		
Phalanx 3		1/1	1/1	2/1

Table 4. Melrose House: Ovis aries skeletal parts representations, NISP/MNI (E: Excavation, M: refuse pit)

Most of the food animals were young, sub-adult and adult when slaughtered. Neonates are absent and aged animals are only represented by a few cattle phalanges.

Complete bones were measured and the results are presented in Table 5. The large variation in the breadth of the proximal articulations of cattle phalanges media can be attributed to the extended articulation surface of the ox phalanx.

The remains represent a household where the bulk of the meat was obtained from domestic animals. Beef, mutton, pork, rabbits, turkeys, chickens, ducks and geese were eaten. It is possible that the smaller animals such as the rabbits and some of the poultry, were kept on the property. The larger animals were probably obtained from a butcher, as many of the bones have been sawn through, often sections of marrow bones.

A horse rib has been sawn through, but whether this indicates that horse meat was also eaten is uncertain. The occupants had their own stables and dead horses

Bostaurus					
Talus					
	n	x	sd	min	max
GL	10	74,1	2,45	69,3	77,5
Glm	10	67,9	2,57	63,2	70,2
DI	10	41,5	1,08	39,5	42,8
Bd	10	50,1	2,70	44,3	54,4
Phalanx proximalis pes					
GLPe	3	66,5	6,56	62,0	74,0
GLAx	3	64,0	4,25	60,7	68,8
BP	3	37,1	5,47	31,9	42,8
Bd	3	33,1	2,72	30,0	35,2
Sd	3	31,5	2,57	28,6	33,5
Phalanx media manus					
GL	4	49,7	9,04	41,1	61,6
Bp	4	42,7	13,20	30,4	61,3
Dp	4	35,4	4,94	30,2	41,3
Bd	4	32,2	4,94	26,4	37,2
Sd	4	30,3	4,12	25,1	34,5
Phalanx media pes					
GL	3	47,2	0,80	46,4	48,0
Bp	3	32,8	0,72	32,3	33,6
Dp	3	34,4	0,43	34,1	34,9
Bd	3	28,7	1,00	27,6	29,6
Sd	3	27,8	0,83	26,9	28,5

Ovis aries					
Talus					
	n	x	sd	min	max
GL	9	31,0	1,75	27,7	34,0
Glm	8	29,1	1,03	27,4	30,1
Dl	9	18,3	3,22	16,1	26,7
Bd	9	21,0	1,08	19,4	22,6
Phalanx distalis					
GL	3	30,7	2,45	27,9	32,6
LP	3	27,0	4,66	23,2	25,6
H	3	16,2	1,30	14,9	17,5
Bfp	3	10,7	1,15	9,6	11,9

Table 5. Melrose House: Measurements of skeletal elements

could have been disposed of on the property. The warthog is only represented by a piece of tusk. Although warthogs were probably still present around Pretoria at the time, the tusk could have been an ornament and does not necessarily indicate hunting. Duikers are very common and still occur near Pretoria today. The animal could have been obtained through hunting or trapping. The family had pets and apparently buried some of their cats and dogs in the refuse pits.

The samples are too small to firmly determine patterns in skeletal parts distribution. However, there are trends that support selection of meat cuts. Cattle and sheep skeletal parts associated with the fore and hind quarters are better represented than those of the skull and lower extremities. This could be expected if animals were bought from a butcher. The femurs, tibiae, humeri and radii of cattle were often sawn into sections of a few centimetres thick and are similar in size to marrow bones bought at butchers today. Most of the meat was from young to adult animals and would have been relative tender.

Some of the cattle phalanges are very large and most of them appear to come from older animals, probably oxen. The presence of a phalanx with stress related pathology indicates that the animal was used as a draw animal, in which case it was also an ox. It is debatable whether the remains of these animals are part of the food debris, as the meat would have been very tough. However, they could have been used as food for the labourers. It is also possible that they were owned by the occupants as working animals and kept near the house.

Worked bone, ivory and shell

A small button made of bone was found in excavation 1. It is in a poor condition, possibly the result of a large piece of iron attached to the bone and the effect of the oxidation of the metal on the bone.

A knife haft, made of ivory and still in a very good condition, was found in refuse pit 2. Three thin discs, made of ivory and of unknown function were recovered. They have a hole

in the middle around which wear marks on both sides are of the disc are visible. They possibly served as a type of washer or spacers of sorts (Figure 9).

In refuse pit 3 part of a very small hairbrush or toothbrush, with the handle part broken off, was found. It had four rows of bristles (Figure 9). A bone object, possibly part of spatula or small letter opener, was also found. A number of other objects, too incomplete to identify, but also made from bone, were recovered. A few pieces of ostrich eggshell, mother of pearl and a large amount of chicken eggshell were also recovered. Some mother of pearl buttons were also found.

Diverse material



Only those objects that could be identified with some certainty are discussed here.

A. Synthetic material

One internal screw stopper with upright grip for the fingers was found in excavation 1. This stopper was patented in 1885 by Riley and known as the Riley chisel-head stopper. It is made of black ebonite and was used by the South-African Breweries Ltd. It has an inscription reading: S. AFRICAN BREWERIES LTD; RILEY'S PATENT (Figure 9).

Other objects include part of an emery-wheel and two pieces of a comb, olive-green in colour and made of bakelite. Part of a tradename is visible on one side: SUPERQUALIT(Y). In excavation 2, a cylindrical object with an internal screw-thread was recovered. It is cylindrical in shape and orange in colour. The one side is slightly damaged by fire. It has been identified as either the mouth piece of a cigarette holder or a pipe. A round, button-like shaped object, made of a woodpaste, was found. It is possibly part of the trimming applied to furniture. It is beige in colour and measure 11 mm across.

C. Slates and slate-pencils

Some fragments of slate with lines drawn on for writing by children and a number of slate pencils were recovered from refuse pits 1 and 2.

D. Leather

Remains of one or possibly two shoes, consisting of 37 small fragments, were recovered from refuse pit 2. These include pieces of the heel, nails with which the heel was attached to the rest of the shoe and the metal eyelets through which the shoelace was fed. The shoe was probably brown in colour. Some pieces seem to have been subjected to fire. The same type of remains were found in refuse pit 3. A large part of the sole found here possibly comes from the toe part of the shoe.

E. Building material

Fourteen pieces of white and red-brown plastered cement were found in refuse pit 3. There was also limestone present in this refuse pit.

F. Stone

One large piece of soapstone, grey-green in colour and roundish in shape was found. It is possibly part of a candle-stick holder or the lid of a small pot. A small river pebble was also found.

G. Wood, coal, charcoal and ash

Large quantities of coal, charcoal and ash were recovered. These possibly all relate either to the kitchen or the various fire places found throughout the house. A few pieces of wood were also found, but they are too small to determine the original purpose.

DISCUSSION

From the available sources of documentation, such as photographs and oral tradition, it is accepted that a rose garden did exist at Melrose House in the past. In an effort to obtain

more information on its exact location and nature, it was decided to investigate it by means of archaeological method. No evidence, however, was found to prove the existence of a typical formal, sunken Victorian rose garden in the area investigated during this project. It was therefore concluded that the rose garden was either very informal, or, for some reason unknown at present, it was completely destroyed.

The project did, however, produce an unexpected bonus in the form of the three refuse pits which were found. Analysis showed that the material recovered are mainly in the Victorian and Edwardian styles and, as such, are dated from the middle of the 19th century to the early 20th century, that is ca 1850 to the 1920's. The period conforms to the occupancy of the house by the Heys family. The material recovered provides an interesting glimpse, by way of the kitchen, into the life of the former inhabitants of the house.

The artifacts recovered do not include all material components. Organic materials such as textiles, paper and wood were found only in small quantities or not at all. One reason is that these materials are more prone to decomposition. Another reason for their absence is that objects made of these materials were not readily discarded, but were either put away or re-used. During Victorian times, apparently, many households were very involved with 'recycling'. This was not because of any great concern with the environment, but because many of these materials were a scarce resource, especially in places such as the Transvaal where they had to be imported at great cost.

The ceramics and glassware that are associated with food processing and food service form the majority of the assemblage. Although the place of manufacture could not be identified with accuracy, the stylistic features indicate that the ceramics are, for the greater part, British in origin. They are machine-made products, with transfer-printed decoration. Some of the pieces are probably Continental.

The lack of resemblance between the ceramics recovered and those currently in Melrose House is attributed to the fact that the Heys family removed many of the original objects when the house was converted into a museum. Of the current material, more than 80% of the kitchenware and as much as 50% of the ornaments were bought as period pieces, and did not necessarily belong to the family (Joubert pers. comm 1995; Meyer pers. comm. 1995).

A large number of examples of furnishings, personal artifacts, recreational artifacts, equipment for written communication and a few components related to the building itself, complete the assemblage. Broadly speaking this collection can be seen to reflect, through use, breakage and discard, the daily activities of a normal sub-urban household. Standard documentation and description of households such as these are usually concerned only with the material side of things. It became apparent, however, that entertaining must have played an important role in the lives of the inhabitants of Melrose House. In this case, the faunal material recovered provides an interesting glimpse into the menu. The wide variety of meat represented by the faunal assemblage conforms to the eating habits of a typical wealthy Victorian household. This is also indicated by the large number of wine bottles and wine glasses that were recovered.

The archaeological assemblage excavated at Melrose House, though not representative of all components of a wealthy Victorian household and therefore unable to reveal every aspect of the social life of the inhabitants, can be used in a meaningful manner in the interpretation of a certain way of life. The disposal patterns are the result of a practice to re-use materials, while the high quality of the ceramic pieces indicates that their owners were wealthy people, and obviously enjoyed socialising and entertaining.

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PROJECT TEAM

J. van Schalkwyk (Project leader) - archaeological excavation, material analysis

and report

C. Meyer - material analysis (ceramic and glass), report

S. Moifatswane - archaeological excavation

A. Mthombeni - archaeological excavation

W. Nothnagel - art work

A. Pelsler - archaeological excavation, material analysis

I. Plug (Dept Archaeozoology, Transvaal Museum) - faunal analysis

S. Smith - language editing

