A Building Most Urgently Needed

1862

Henry Trigg, 3rd from left, Frederick Barlee, left, 1863
Courtesy State Library of Western Australia, The Battye Library BA1392

Henry Trigg is my name

I designed this school and church.
I was a builder and head of public works in the Swan River Colony.
In 1851 I resigned to be a lay preacher for the Congregational Church.
I often visited convicts at the Freshwater Bay depot –
now the site of Claremont Police Station.

Anglican Bishop Hale, Frederick Barlee and I
worked together to oversee construction of this building.
We conducted many of the early church services here too.

Convicts cut the timber,
quarried the stone at Point Resolution,
and burnt the lime used as mortar in this building.

The Colonial Public Works Department undertook the work for £104.10.6.
The British government paid £25 from Convict funds to finish it off.

British families at Freshwater Bay

This area was occupied from 1850
by pensioner guards and their families.
The men, mostly in their mid forties,
had been pensioned out of the military
after many years service.

They guarded convicts on board ship
and undertook military and policing work in the colony.
In return they received a grant of land –
½ acre house block on Freshwater Bay
and 9½ acre farming block at Lake Claremont.

The Mansions at 16 Victoria Avenue
are built on the Herbert family block.

Above: Local residents Samuel Sutton, Ann Sutton and Anne Atkinson, about 1870. Their children went to Freshwater Bay School.
Courtesy State Library of Western Australia, The Battye Library 1869P, 1870P; Anne Kidd

Right: Convicts breaking stone for road building. Cartoon by William Stone, 1867.
Courtesy State Library of Western Australia, The Battye Library 26641P

These shingles were removed from the museum roof during renovations in 1983.
They are part of the original roof that was later covered with corrugated iron.

Henry Trigg's story based on Colonial Secretary's Office records, 'Henry Trigg' in Australian Dictionary of Biography *and Bolton and Gregory,* Claremont: A History