Tranby House

Tranby House is one of the oldest surviving buildings from the early settlement of the Swan River Colony. Fortunately for Joseph Hardey he was able to persuade Governor Stirling to grant his family land along the banks of the Swan River, known as the Peninsula. Stirling had originally intended the land to become a racecourse but Joseph must have been very persuasive to convince him otherwise. Joseph was granted the land in 1830. The family camped on their new property, whilst the land was cleared and fenced, with the help of their Methodist friends.

Once the land was cleared, Joseph’s first priority was to build a house for his family. As building materials were scarce, Joseph used wattle and daub (a popular choice of the day for new settlers). The house didn’t last very long, during a heavy rainfall the river rose and washed it away. A second house was constructed soon after, only for the same thing to happen. Three times lucky and a little further away from the river, Tranby House was completed in 1839. The house was built from mud bricks, which were made on the property. The house was built in a typical English farmhouse style, described as "colonial domestic" and featured a loft and wide verandahs.

Ann was to bear Joseph 6 daughters and a long awaited son, Richard. Though life was tough for the family they managed to develop the Peninsula farm into a profitable venture, growing wheat, barley, oats and rye. Over the years the house was added to, expanded outwards and upwards. At the same time, the farm became smaller and smaller. Peninsula Farm remained in the Hardey family until 1913. Joseph Hardey, and his son Richard were highly influential in the religious, business and political activities of the colony.