

Elizabeth Farm - 70 Alice Street, Rosehill (Parramatta) NSW 2150

www.watermetermuseum.org

Elizabeth Farm is one of Australia's most significant historic homes and is often described as the birthplace of the Australian wool industry. Located at 70 Alice Street, Rosehill (Parramatta), it was established in 1793 by John and Elizabeth Macarthur, making it one of the oldest surviving European residences in Australia. The property began as a small cottage granted to John Macarthur, an officer in the New South Wales Corps.

Over several decades it expanded into a substantial homestead, reflecting the growing wealth and influence of the Macarthur family.

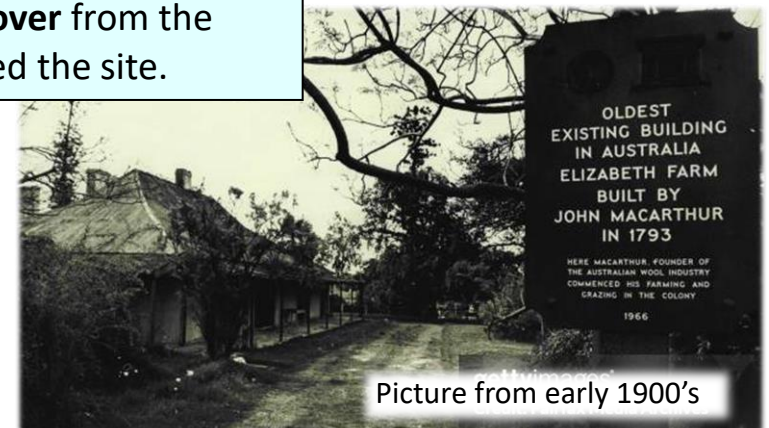
Elizabeth Farm became the centre of the Macarthurs' agricultural and pastoral operations, particularly the development of fine merino wool, which later became a cornerstone of Australia's economy.

Elizabeth Macarthur played a crucial role in managing the estate during her husband's frequent absences, demonstrating remarkable leadership and business acumen. The now operates as a living history museum managed by the Sydney Living Museums organisation.

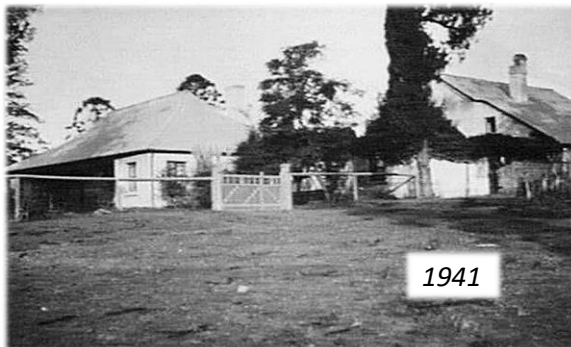
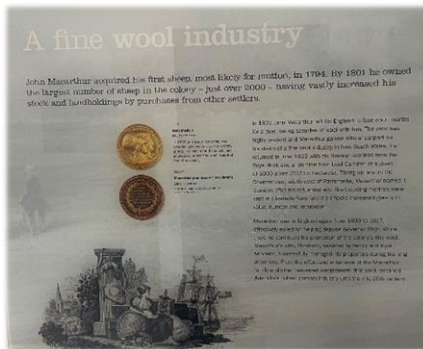
Alex from the HWMM visited the site in late Dec.2026 and located the water meter with the kind assistance of staff members.



The water meter is a **Davies-Shephard (Elster) 20mm PD rotary piston type**. Notice the old **original cast-iron water meter cover** from the 1940's, imagine a much older water meter once graced the site.

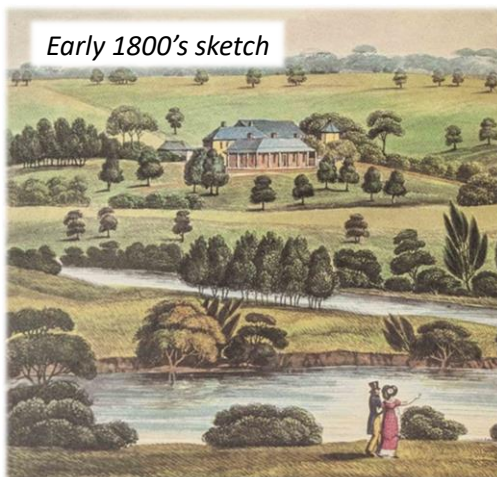


Picture from early 1900's



B&W pics and sketches
courtesy from various
sources obtained online.
Colour Pics by A.Manu.

Historical evidence from Elizabeth Farm also **shows the use of water filtration**. A surviving limestone dripstone filter at the property was used to purify creek, rain, pond, or stored water for household consumption.



Elizabeth Farm, Experiment Cottage Farm and Hambeldon Cottage are all within proximity and can all be visited in the one day.

