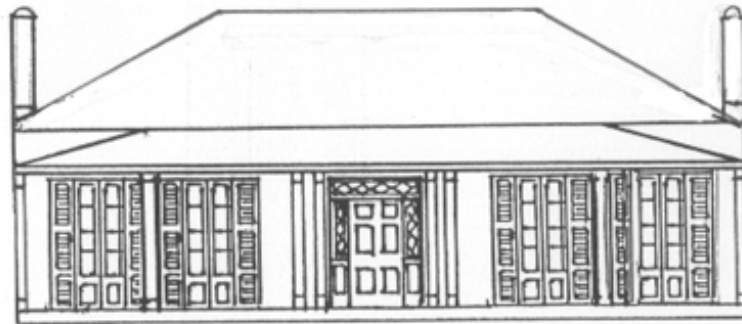


# DABEE, RYLSTONE

Dabee at Rylstone is one of the oldest pastoral properties west of the Blue Mountains. Taken up in the early 1820s by noted emancipist Richard Fitzgerald, a favourite of Governor Lachlan Macquarie, the property remained in the hands of his descendants until 1999. Robert Fitzgerald, who married Elizabeth Henrietta Rouse, youngest daughter of Richard Rouse of Rouse Hill House near Windsor and pioneer settler of Guntawang at Gulgong, built a sandstone homestead in colonial Georgian style on Dabee in the late 1840s. This house, with two attic rooms with dormers on the rear section of the roof, remains at the core of a house which was extended in the mid 1920s.

Dabee was acquired by Garry and Susan Rothwell of nearby Fernside in 1999. They have since extensively renovated the homestead and undertaken major garden works. The focus of living in the house is now orientated to the north, from where broad and breathtaking views of the amazing hill formations of the surrounding countryside never cease to amaze.



Dabee homestead at Rylstone. Conjectural drawing of the southern front as originally built (John Broadley)



Dabee homestead from the north-east, showing the original eastern front to the left (John Broadley)



Dabee homestead from the north, showing the service wing, (originally detached) on the right.

Note that the dormers on the main house were only seen from the rear (John Broadley)

The original section of Dabee homestead contains some fine cedar joinery: six panel doors, splayed panelled jambs with internal shutters on windows and French windows, classical chimneypieces, and a simple quarter turn colonial stair to the attic floor.

