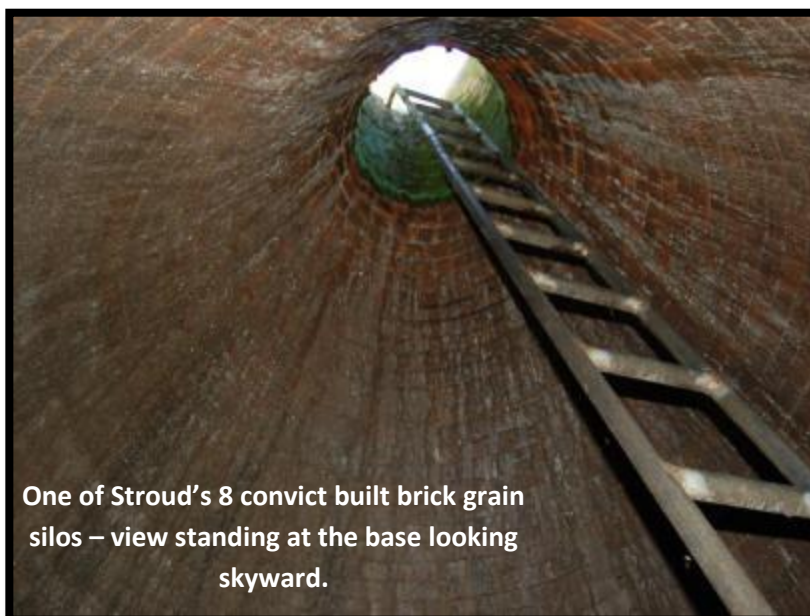




RURAL & RESIDENTIAL  
PROPERTY  
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## “The Pioneer”

*Denise Haynes - 'R & R' Rural and Residential Property*



One of Stroud's 8 convict built brick grain silos – view standing at the base looking skyward.

The Stroud District – established in 1826, owes its origins to the Australian Agricultural Company which was a private commercial enterprise, set up in London in December 1824. The Company was granted 1 million acres in central NSW and subsequently set up its first Headquarters in Carrington on the Northern Shores of Port Stephens in January 1826. All told the Port Stephens Estate covered almost 500,000 acres and extended as far as the Manning River (Taree).

Originally it was intended to breed sheep for wool. In turn sheep, wheat, maize, barley, tobacco and silk were all tried with limited commercial success in the Company's early years. Generally the countryside coupled with high rainfall proved unsuitable for the intended purpose and eventually further Estates were taken up at Warrah (Liverpool Plains) and the Peel River (Tamworth) which proved much more suited for wool growing.

One of the stark reminders of these times of agriculture in Stroud is the prominent feature known as Silo Hill. The summit is not only a fantastic picnic spot with views over the village and surrounding mountains, but somewhat surprisingly, it holds 8 underground grain silos in its belly.

In 1841 the Australian Agricultural Company had their convicts build the 8 bottle shaped structures with locally made bricks to store the grain from their wheat harvest. Each silo is approx 6m deep and 4.8m wide. Collectively the silos were capable of holding 10,000 bushels of grain and apparently the structures proved most effective in keeping out pests such as weevil and fly moth which often destroyed the wheat grain.

Seven of the eight silos are now capped but it is worth taking the time to peek down into the last viewable one. Step back in time and marvel at the ingenuity of our hard working pioneers.

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