GOLD GOLD MINING

HOMES:

SCHOFIELDS

The SLAB TIMBER WALLS are corked with bark or other similar material.

The roof was constructed of bark, cut from large grey box trees, Eucalyptus microcarpa, this was readily available although a large task to remove and prepare. Notice the roofing structure which supported the bark and the fact that complete rounds were used. This was both inside and outside the layers of bark.

This building is like an enlarged tent. If you look at it from the inside or the outside it follows the form of the traditional white tent that was slung between poles and can be seen in many photographs. The miner probably lived here longer and moved from tent to this structure as time progressed and it was turned into a bark and slab building as you see it.

The fireplace is quite large in proportion to the size of the building, which is an enlarged tent.

It was quite a common sight that on the gold fields they would arrive with a tent and then if they struck gold and made a living, no matter how meagre it was, they opened up one end of the tent or the side of the tent and built a permanent fireplace. These fireplaces were made of mud or logs, but in this case out of stone that was broken. It was probably just lying on the surface and easily worked and built up into a big fireplace.

All the furniture is made out of the round timber with a minimum of saw cuts. We have the fortunate use of several types of saws today powered by electricity and petrol motors, but in those days they had either the adze or the wedge to split or the saw and the pit.

The table outside is traditionally a fork rail and adzed deck to the top or table top. It was used as a washstand. The table was probably used for all types of things, the actual washing of themselves and the washing of clothes and the placing of articles, probably the placing of items to dry out, food and so on. This shows very clearly that at this point the tent had not developed into a verandah type dwelling.