

BUILDINGS OF
HERITAGE
IMPORTANCE
in
Hawkesbury Shire

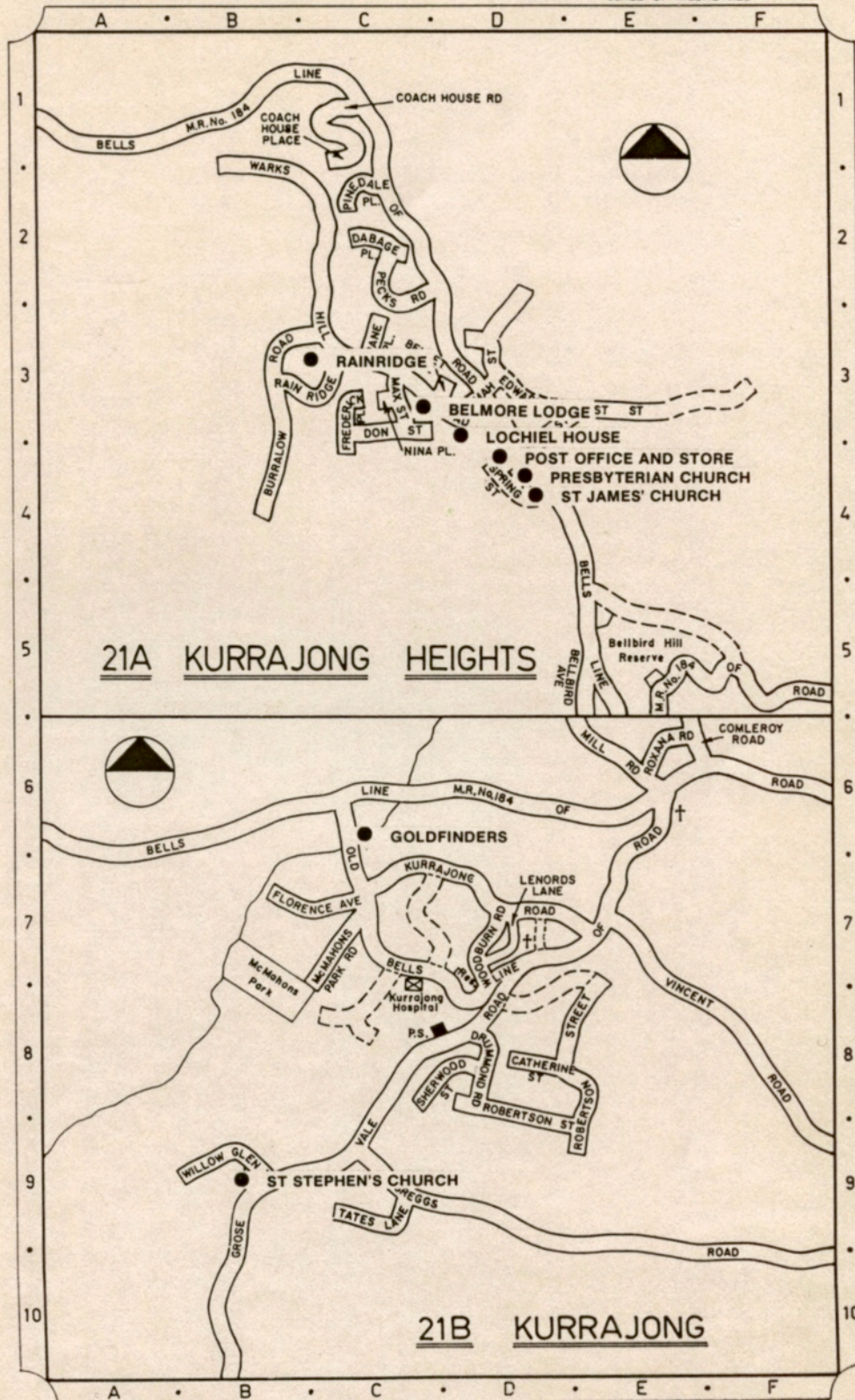
Prepared for Hawkesbury Shire Council as part of a study to identify and record heritage items in the Wilberforce, Ebenezer, Kurrajong, and MacDonald Valley areas as part of the shire's conservation policy. Appreciated assistance was received for the project from the Department of Planning and Environment under its National Estate Program.

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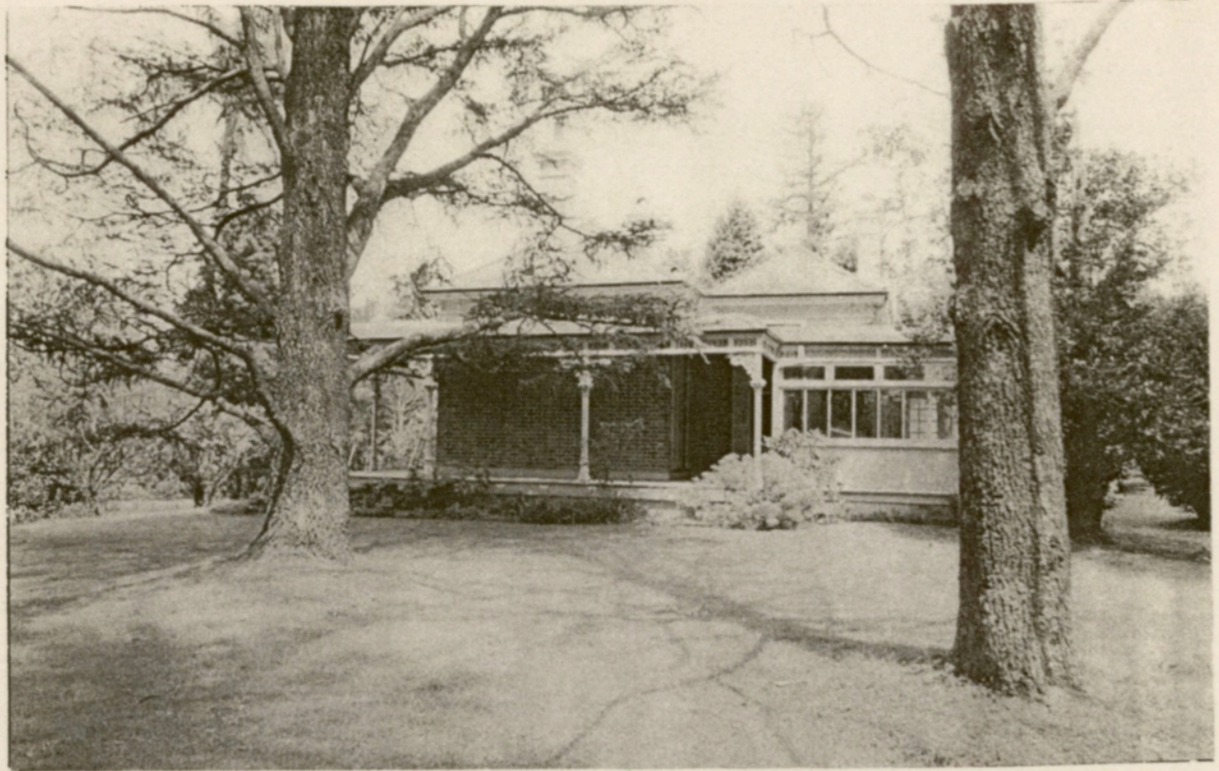
KURRAJONG HEIGHTS

MAPS 21A & 21B



RAINRIDGE (also known as The Ridge)

Rainridge Road, Kurrajong Heights



Site: The house is in extensive grounds with old established gardens and landscaping, the orientation being towards a panoramic view of Kurrajong and the Hawkesbury River.

Building: An early victorian single-storey house with brick walls and white pointed brickwork. Slate tiles to the roof. The building is asymmetrical in plan and is quite large in area. There is a broad verandah on three sides, with interesting cast iron decorative frieze work and columns having unusual dragon motif corner brackets.

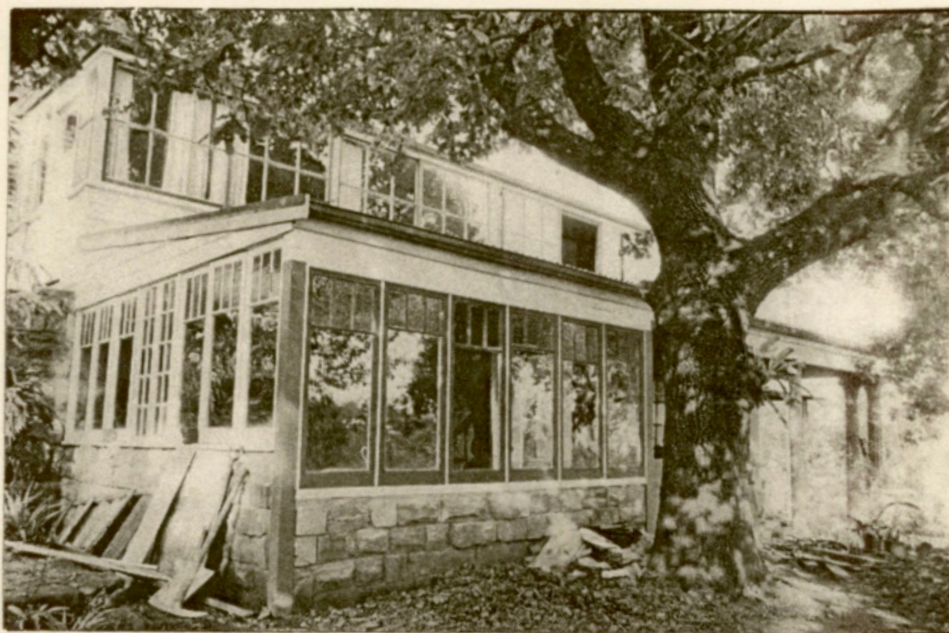
The building displays the victorian taste of decoration and ornamentation on such elements as the entry porch, eaves brackets, window shutters, ventilation covers and entry doorway.

New extensions have been carried out at the rear of the house. These have been well designed and detailed to be in keeping with the overall appearance of the building.



BELMORE LODGE (or SURINAM)

Warks Road, Kurrajong Heights



Building: Three-storey ashlar sandstone house with a broad verandah on three sides. Entry from the front is at the mid-level. The upper storey is in the roof space. Sandstone blocks are chisel finished and blocks at the front are margins.

Some of the blocks are very large, being up to three metres long. Other interesting features are the sliding timber double doors on the front verandah.

Site: Built about 1840 close to Warks Road. Kurrajong Heights, Belmore Lodge was originally a residence. During the 1930s it was extended and used as a guest house, but these extensions have been demolished and the building is now largely as it was originally.



LOCHIEL HOUSE (Ivy Lodge)

Bells Line Road, Kurrajong Heights



History: Built in 1825 by Joseph Douglass, one of the earliest settlers at Kurrajong Heights, Ivy Lodge was noted for the high standard of accommodation it provided for guests and travellers. The building continued in this role until it was bought by Dr James Cameron, when it was renamed Lochiel House. Later the building was used as a post office.

Site: In Bells Line Road, Kurrajong Heights, the building is now an arts and crafts centre.

Building: Single storey weatherboard building with verandah along front elevation. The building is presently divided into two separate dwellings and is low to the ground with the verandah being at ground level.

The interiors are all of timber lining boards with low ceilings. The existing use is a residence and art gallery. The rear section steps down. Originally, the roof was timber shingles but has been replaced with a corrugated iron roof.

POST OFFICE AND STORE

Bells Line Road,
Kurrajong Heights



History: An early type of prefabricated building which was shipped out from England.

Building: Prefabricated type with timber frame with timber infill panels of vertical timber boarding with rounded timber battens over joints.

Existing verandah roof is not original but the evidence of the original curved roof can still be seen on the right hand corner of the eastern elevation.

The existing main roof is corrugated iron with dormer windows in the upper story or attic rooms.

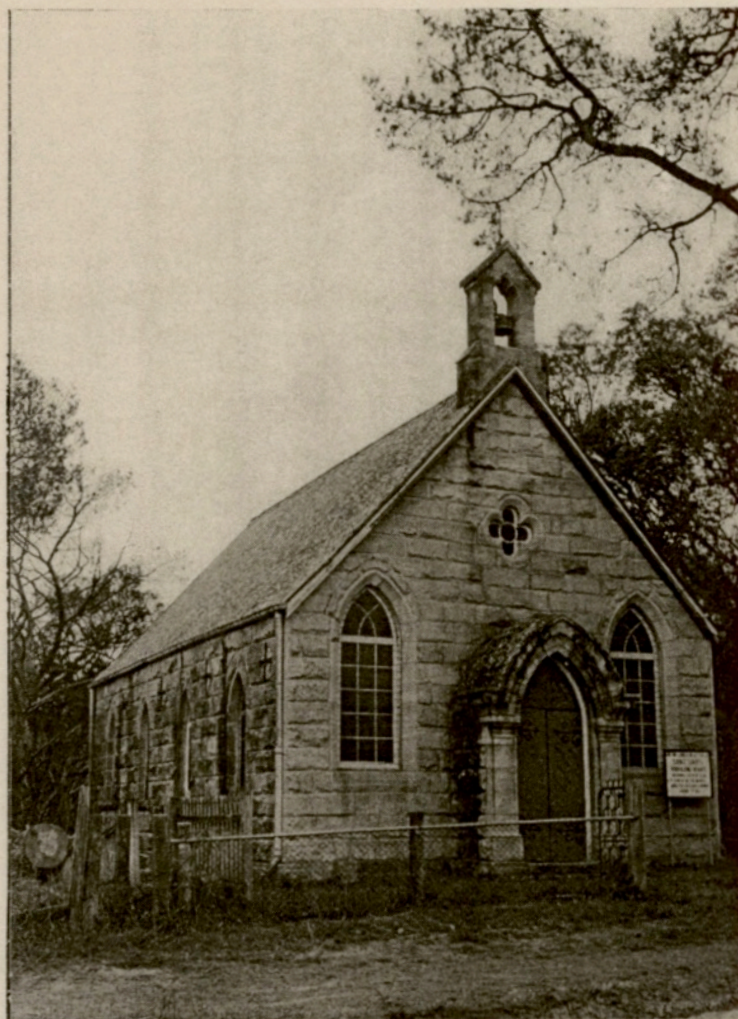
Verandah runs around three sides of the building. A sandstone chimney is located towards the eastern end of the building. Shutters are installed on windows and doors.

The standard of finish is high on all the original timber and joinery work due to being prefabricated under controlled conditions.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(Now St David's Uniting
Church in Australia)

Bells Line Road,
Kurrajong Heights



Site: Beside Bells Line Road at Kurrajong Heights is St David's Uniting Church in Australia, formerly the Presbyterian Church. Built in 1886 the building stands on a sloping site set off by large pine trees.

Building: The church has sandstone walls with rough faced coursed sandstone blockwork. Small pointed arched windows contain simple rectangular coloured glass panels and have carved stone lintels at the heads.

Steel tension bars cross the body of the church to brace the outward thrust of the steeply pitched roof, the roof being of asbestos tiles. Entry is through an all-stone porch unusual for its use of sandstone as a pointed arch roof.

The church is raised high off the ground at the rear and is built up on a sandstone plinth with a strong course of margined rough faced blocks running all the way around the floor of the church. A small timber room is annexed to the rear of the church with timber weatherboards and corrugated iron roof.

ST JAMES' CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights

Site: St James of England is in Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights. It was built on a corner site by Arthur Blacket in 1889.

Building: A small brick church built on the side of a small hill with entry via an open porch also of brick. The building has a corrugated iron roof and small pointed arch windows. A circular apse is at the end of the church. A small fibro and timber building is annexed to the western side of the building. The brickwork is painted overall.

The church rests on a rendered brick base course. Windows are very plain being semi-transparent glass without any framing or surround.

Within the grounds is the cemetery. The foundation stone is on the corner of the building facing the road, and can be seen as one comes through the entry gate. No information is visible on the stone.





GOLDFINDERS

Wheeny Creek, Kurrajong

History: It is believed that the two-storey stone building was built as an inn, called the Goldfinders Rest, about 1850. The original part of the cottage was almost certainly built before this time.

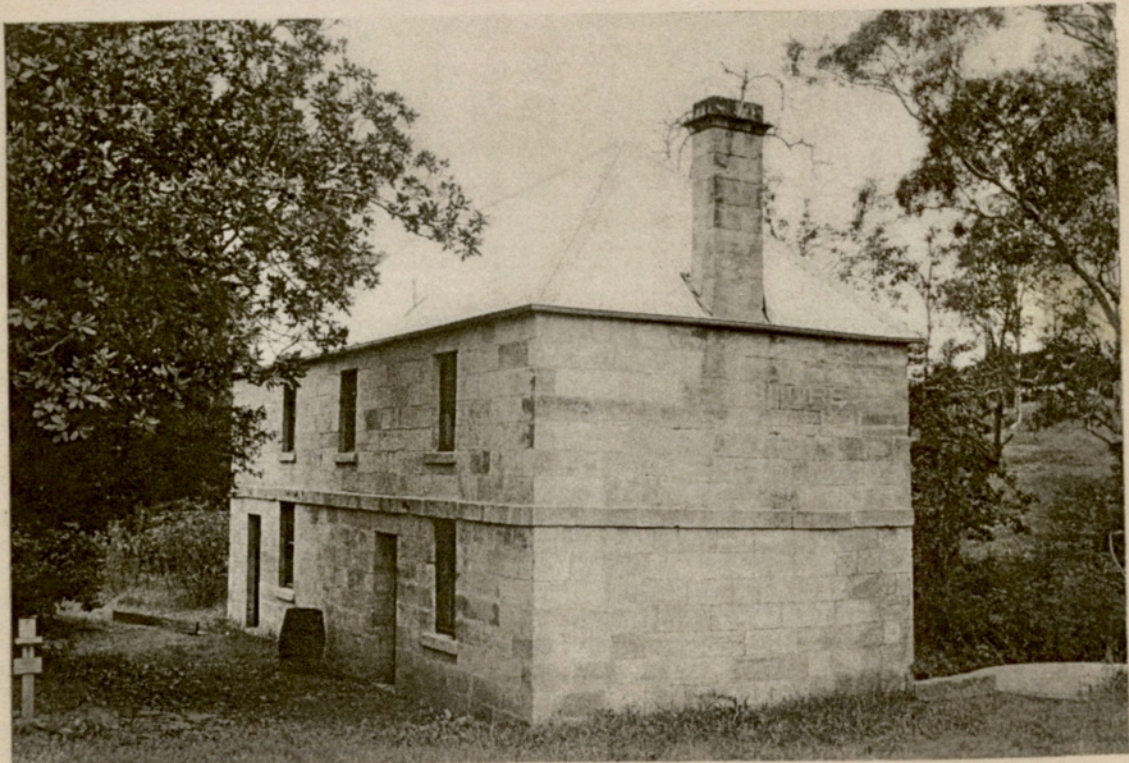
Site: The site on Wheeny Creek was part of a land grant made to Rowland Edwards in 1819.

Building: The walls are constructed of two layers of sandstone ashlar, with courses 300 mm. Stonework is of good standard with the blocks on the north and west elevations being smooth finished and on the south and east rough picked finished. The string course only protrudes on the north and west elevations. A false chimney has been added on

the east elevation to match the chimney on the west.

Floorboards on both floors are pit sawn and butt jointed, the internal walls being smooth finished ashlar. Some of the original shingles on the roof remain under the existing corrugated iron. What appears to have been a cellar is filled with rubbish and soil.

The building appears to be a purpose built inn with the older original building which stands adjacent being the cottage residence. A small barn in bad repair is at the rear. The group is alongside Wheeny Creek with large magnolia trees on the road frontage, framing the buildings in picturesque fashion.



ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Grose Vale Road, Kurrajong



History: The foundation stone of St Stephen's Church of England, Kurrajong, was laid in 1868, the church being dedicated in 1869. Rev George Middleton was the first rector when the church was separated from the Richmond parish in 1873.

Site: On the crest of a hill off Grose Vale Road, the site commands superb 270 degree views over the Kurrajong foothills.

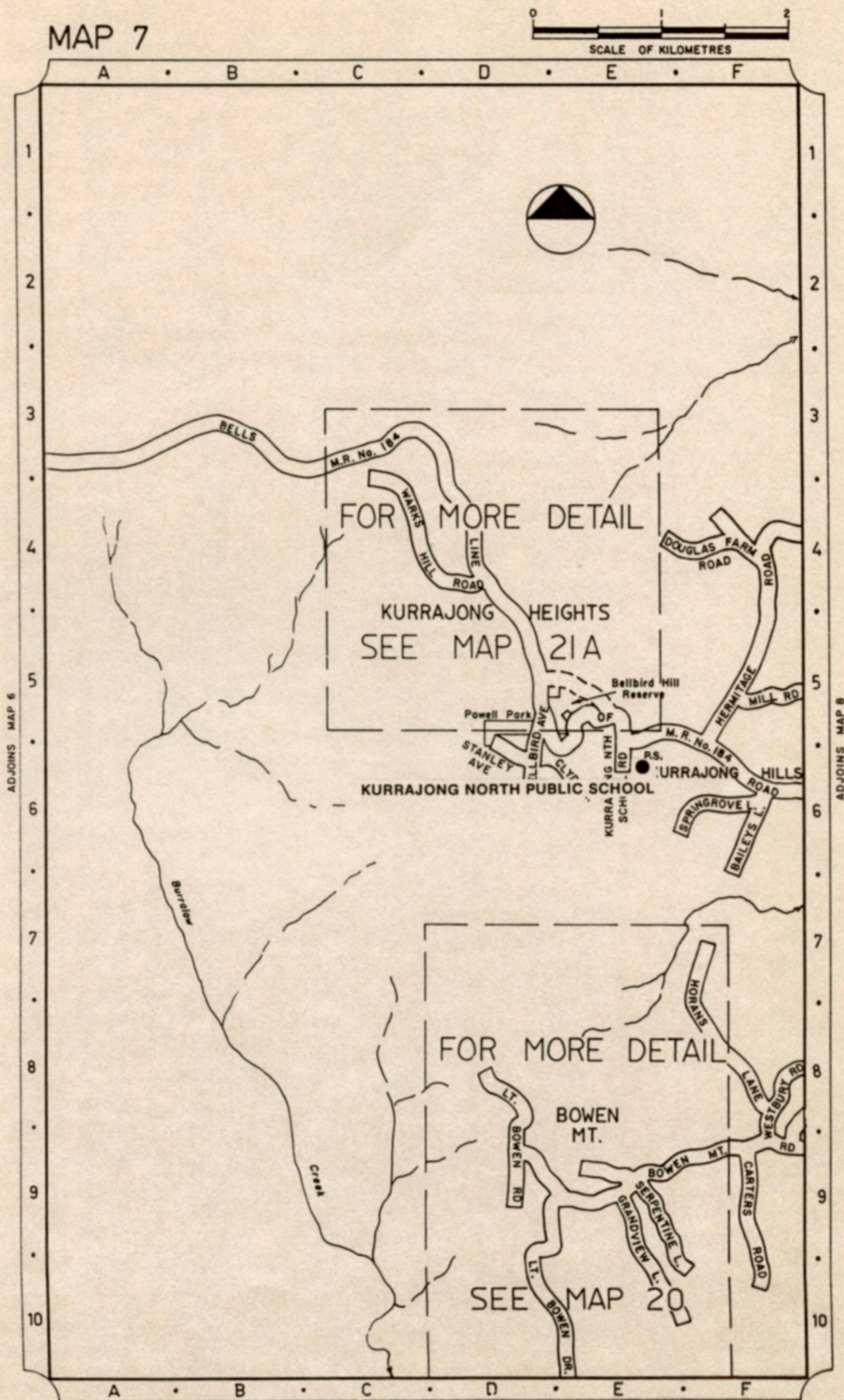
Building: Brick structure on a sandstone base course with rough cut sandstone cuttings. Sandstone buttress cappings and sandstone belltower. Entry to the church is through a small porch with a

side bell tower. Pointed arch lancet windows along both sides of the nave. Pointed arch soldier course bricks over windows.

Roof is asbestos shingles replacing original. Window glazing is simple leaded rectangular panels. Orientation is approximately east-west. Carved sandstone mouldings around entry door with sandstone parapet capping to entry porch.

On the north face of the building the brickwork has been painted with red oxide, a common practice of early days. Adjacent to the church is the rectory and cemetery.

KURRAJONG





KURRAJONG NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Bells Line Road, Kurrajong North

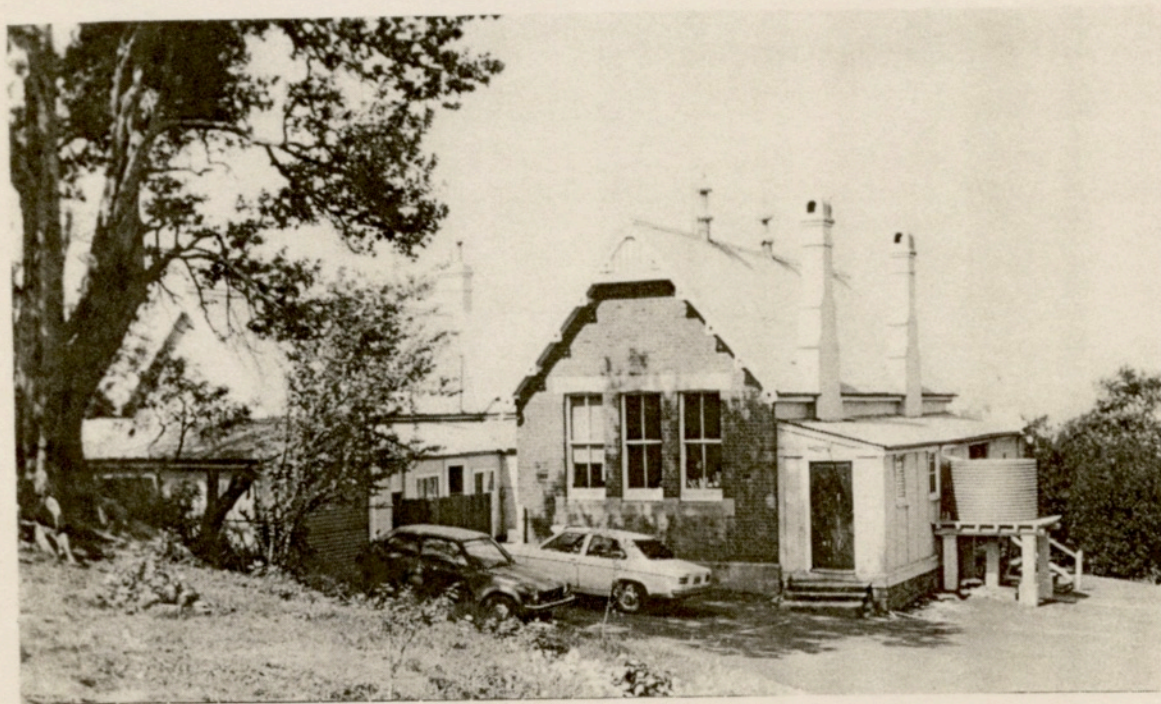
History: The Council of Education took over the Anglican Church School in 1878 as the Kurrajong North Public School. The present building was erected in 1881.

Site: The site off Bells Line Road has views unsurpassed in the district, falling away sharply at the front and overlooking the Hawkesbury Valley.

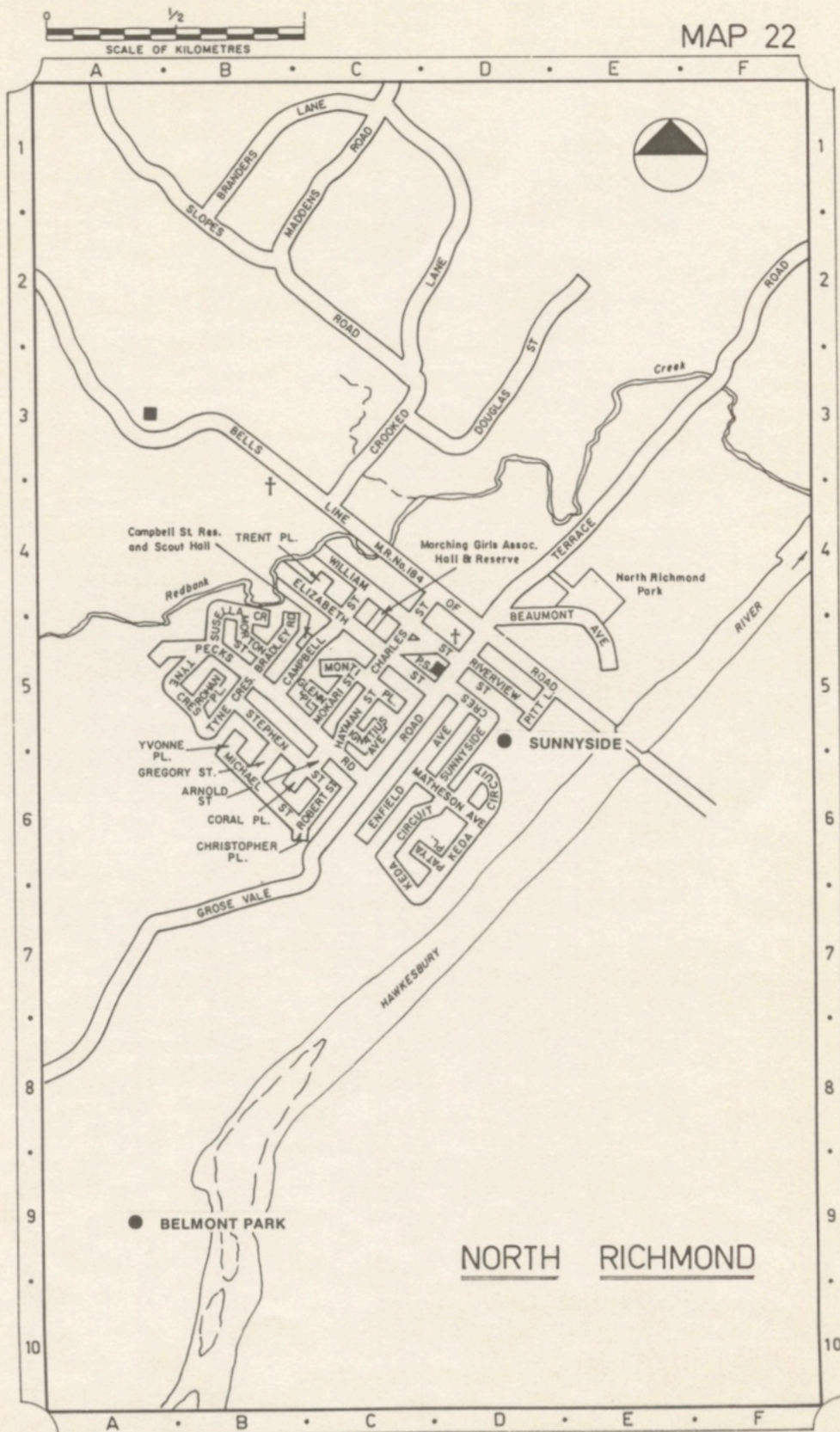
Building: The building is single-storey brick with corrugated iron steeply pitched roof. A small front verandah is flanked by steep protruding gable ends.

The windows are elongated with pointed arches.

The school is subtly victorian-gothic in style, this being shown by the steep pitch and shape of the roof and pointed windows and eaves details. The original building has additions at the side and rear in timber, and these are easily discerned from the main building. It is raised at the front of a base wall of sandstone, and is U-shaped in plan. The residence is located in the right hand wing and the school room on the left.



NORTH RICHMOND





SUNNYSIDE Bells Line Road, North Richmond

History: The original building on the site was erected by George Pitt, an architect and surveyor, whose family had extensive land holdings in the North Richmond and Kurrajong areas.

Site: The building is situated within extensive gardens and landscaping with a broad view towards the Hawkesbury River and surrounding farmlands. The house is approached by a long tree-lined driveway which curves around in front of the house.

Building: The building is an amalgamation of two separate buildings in an L-shaped plan. The two buildings are connected by a series of verandahs and covered ways. The main wing at the front is single storied brick with surrounding verandah.

The wrought iron lacework to this verandah is of a quite unusual grapevine motif. The verandah is a flared corrugated iron profile, and the main roof is slate tiles.

The side wing of the house is of two-storey brick with a simple gable roof and slate tiles.

The two-storey wing of the house is the earlier part. The house expanded from this section as the farm prospered and the original family grew in size. This adding on and extending, rebuilding and amalgamating is typical of farm homesteads in colonial Australia, and forms a built record of the family's rise in prosperity during early colonial days.





ST JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL

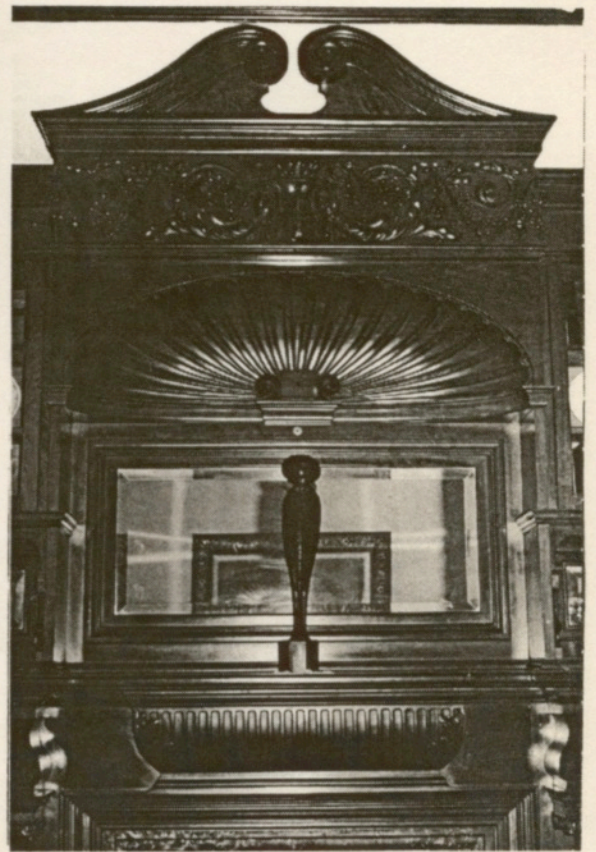
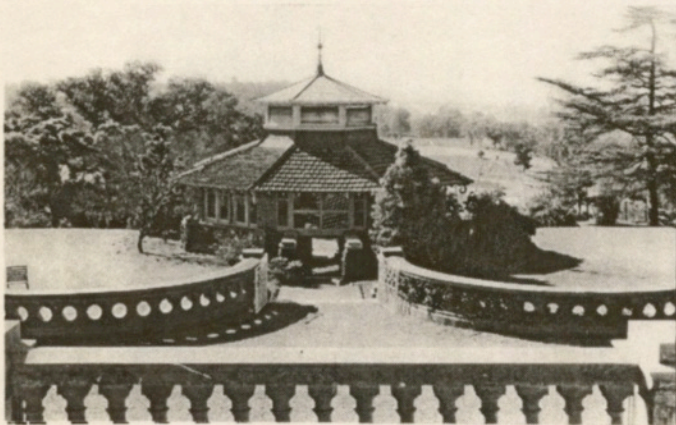
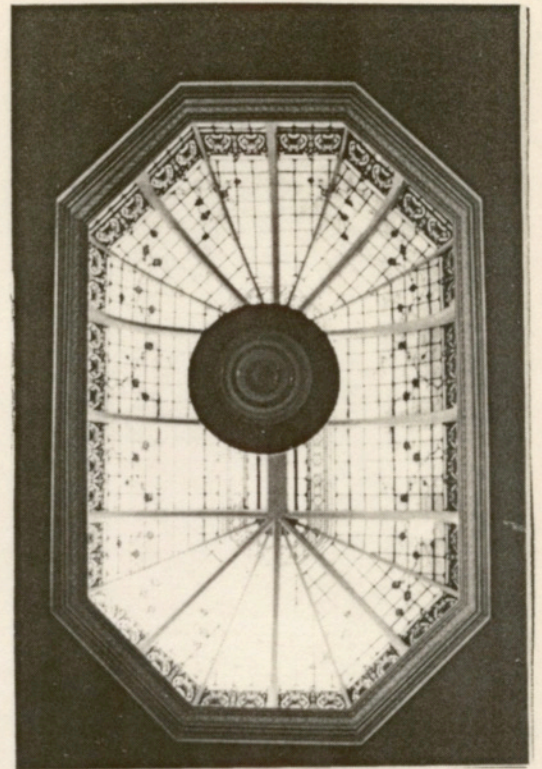
(former Belmont Park)

Grose Vale Road, North Richmond

History: The site of Belmont Park was a grant of 500 acres to Lieutenant Archibald Bell in 1808 on what was then known as Richmond Hill overlooking the Nepean River. The property, renamed "Belmont", was acquired by Phillip Charley in 1889. One of the "Syndicate of Seven" who established the Broken Hill Company, Phillip Charley became a wealthy man at the age of 22 years. In 1892 he completed the opulent neo-classic mansion, Belmont, at a reputed cost of 56,000 pounds.

Site: The mansion is reached by a fine avenue of canary island palms, stretching about a kilometre from the Grose Vale Road. At the entrance there is an elaborate sandstone gatehouse built about 1910. The site of the house is on the crest of a hill and commands magnificent views of undulating country running down to the Nepean River.







Building: The mansion has 15 main rooms and into its construction went elaborate architectural planning and the labour of imported artisans. It is dominated by a three-storey watchtower, flanked by two turrets, all carved in stone. Steps of italian marble lead up to the verandah and vestibule where the fine mosiac floor is crossed by the two broad passages that divide the house.

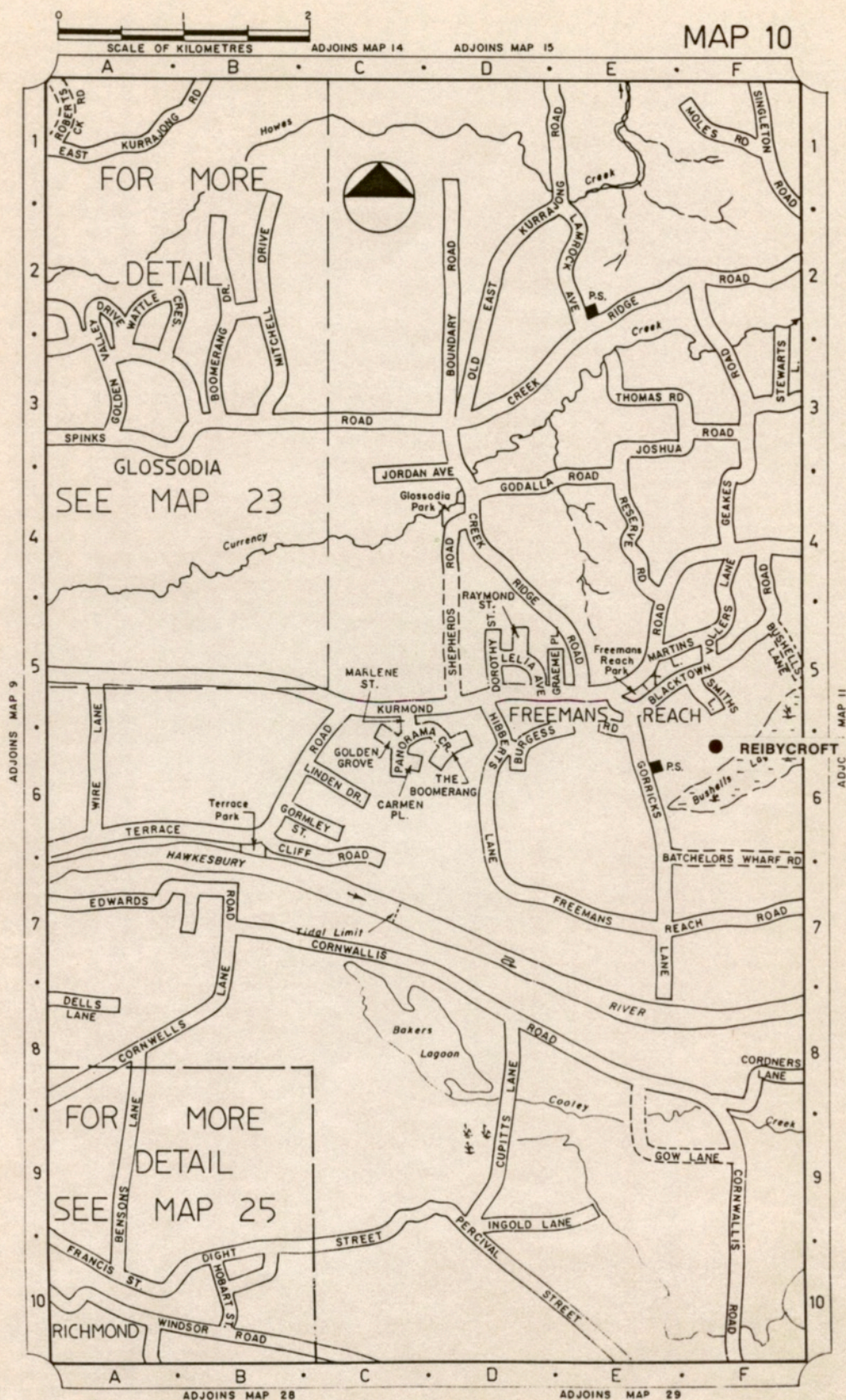
Apart from the usual formal rooms, Belmont has a courtyard where a stage was provided by lowering the large window across the proscenium into the cellars. Most of the rooms still retain their identity, including a billiard room, library and schoolroom. The interiors are richly decorated and include arched skylights, fine chimney pieces and elaborate inlaid patterns to the doors and dados.

After falling into disrepair during World War II, Belmont was acquired by the Hospitaller Brothers

of St John of God in 1952 and has since been developed as a psychiatric hospital. Extensive building has taken place since then, so that at the rear of the original home only the roof form is detectable. However, the front still retains the grandiose appearance of its former glory.

The photographs show to what extent Belmont displays the victorian taste for splendour and ornate detail. The main vestibule contains decorative plaster work, columns and compound cornices and mouldings. Stained glass sidelights and fanlights to the doors are also features. The front rooms have been well maintained and contain outstanding examples of georgian and victorian fine joinery such as the ornate chiffonier pictured. Also shown is the mosiac tiling in the entry porch and the colourful arched stained glass skylight over the entrance hall.

FREEMANS REACH





REIBYCROFT

Freemans Reach

History: Built about 1825, the delightful Georgian farmhouse, Reibycroft, will always be associated with Mary Reiby, who came to the colony as a 13-year-old convict, and later became one of Australia's most successful business woman.

Site: Overlooking Bushells Lagoon at Freemans Reach, the house was built on a 100 acre grant made to Thomas Reiby by Governor King in 1803.

Building: At one time the building was damaged by fire, but it has been restored, although the original foundations have been replaced. A two-storey rendered brick residence it has a broad bullnose style verandah. The second storey is in the roof and dormer windows protrude from the hipped, corrugated iron roof. The centre dormer window is over the hallways and stairs, and this gives a light, open feeling to the entry — an uncommon feature in early colonial homes of this style.

The front door has half sidelights either side and curved fanlight overhead. Window sills are sandstone.

The view from the house encompasses Bushell Lagoon, noted for its wide variety of water birds and on to the village of Wilberforce and surrounding farms.



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ADJOINS MAP 29

ADJOINS MAP 30



STANNIX PARK

Ebenezer

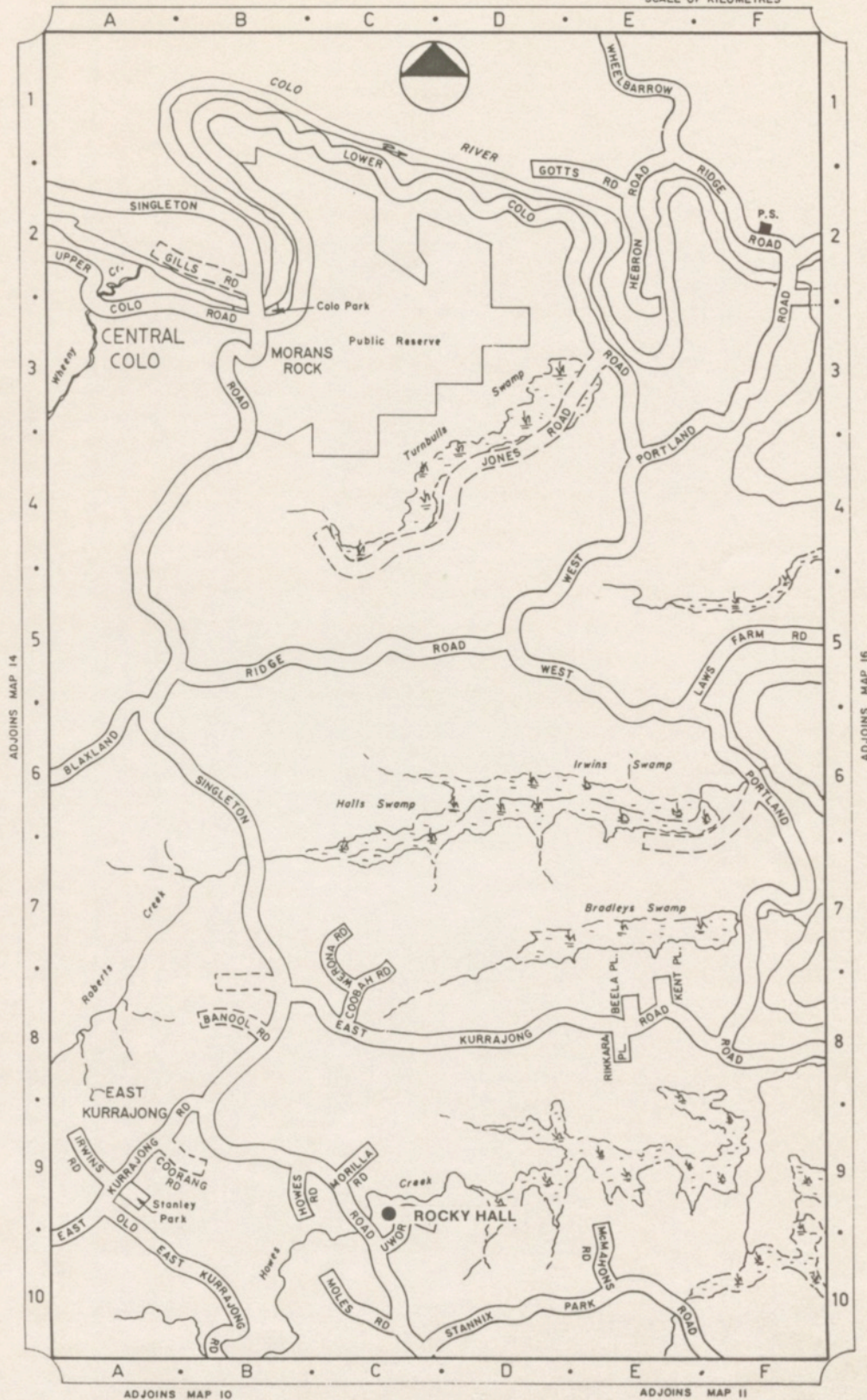
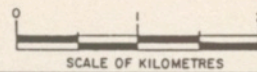
Site: Set on a slight hill with marshlands on three sides, the house is virtually on a peninsula. The site is some distance of Sargents Road, a dead-end road running off Stannix Park Road.

Building: The two-storey sandstone house is uninhabited at present with no floorboards on the ground floor and the upper floor appears unsafe. The sandstone blocks are laid in random courses.

The roof is new corrugated iron with truncated gable. The lower floor has a stable type door at the left and there is a verandah at the front of the building. Over the arched doorway there is a date, 1839.

The internal upper floor joists are pit sawn and there is a fireplace at the northern end. On the rear of the upper storey the stonework has been replaced by cavity brickwork.

MAP 15





ROCKY HALL

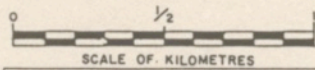
Wilberforce

Site: Rocky Hall was built about 1830 by George Buttsworth. It is off Uworra Road, which adjoins the Singleton Road. The building is sited on a small hill overlooking lower farmlands and Howes Creek, with the general orientation towards the north-east.

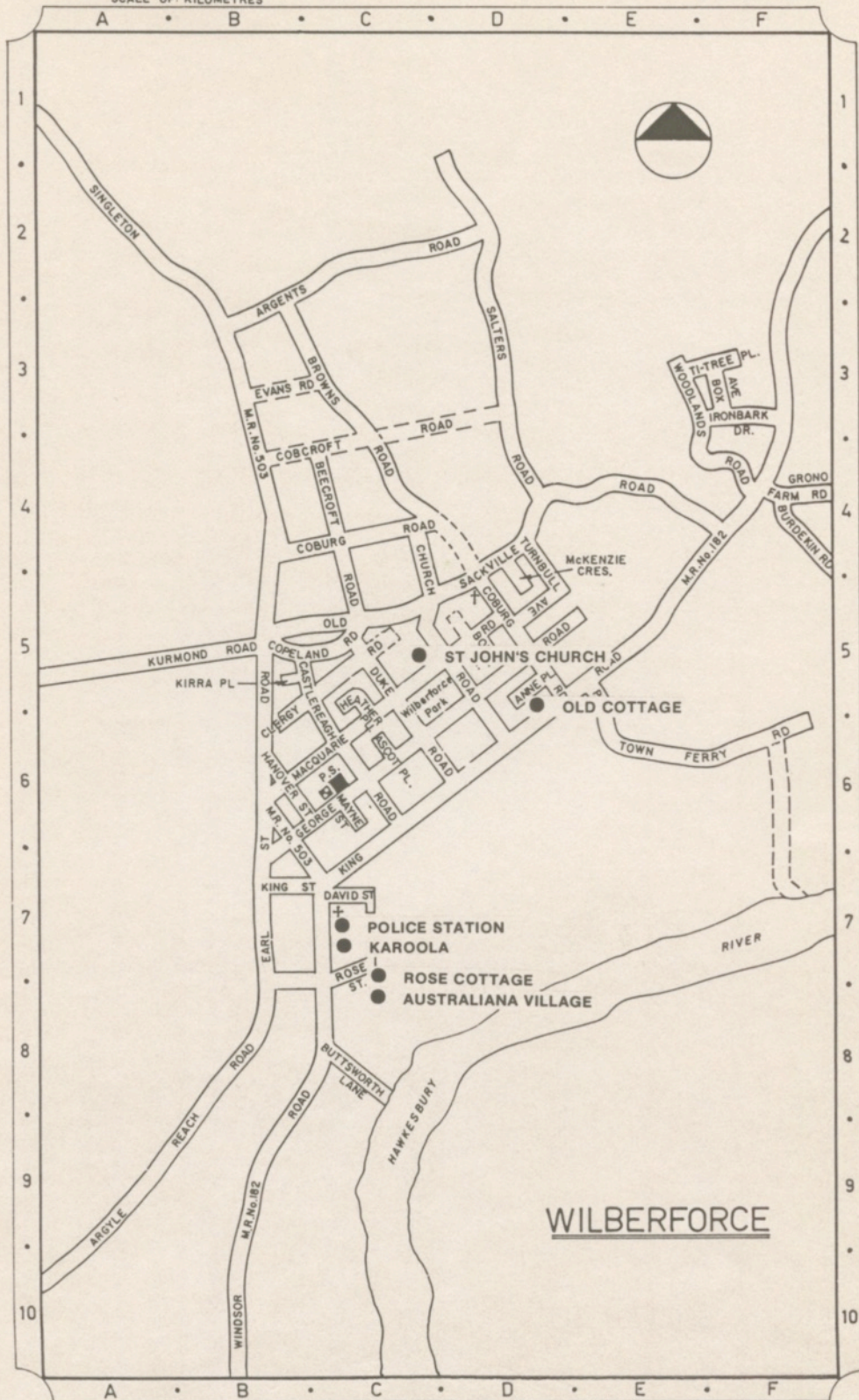
Building: Two-storey sandstone house with timber shingle roof of mansard type. Sandstone is coursed ashlar blocks with a projecting string course forming a sill to the upper floor windows. Sandstone paving to front verandah.

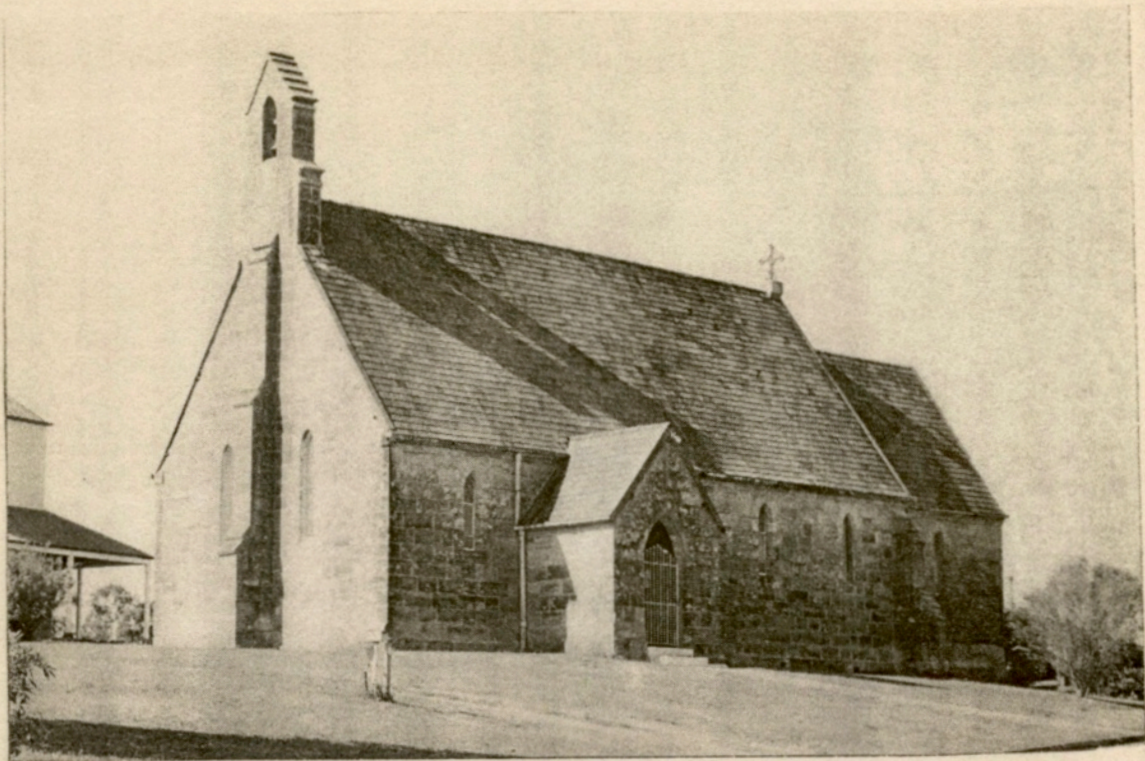
At the rear there is a skillion type roof also in timber shingles. Below the rear section of the house is a cellar. The stonework is presently painted white. Timber louvred shutters are fitted to the front windows on the ground floor.

Recent additions have been made to the rear of the building in faced timber weatherboards with corrugated iron roof. These single-storey additions are somewhat detached from the main building.



MAP 24





ST JOHN'S CHURCH & OLD SCHOOL HOUSE

Macquarie Road, Wilberforce

History: The Macquarie School House at Wilberforce is significant in that it is the only surviving building of four similar schools erected by Governor Macquarie. Captain John Brabyn was responsible for the construction of the building, which was completed in 1810 and served as a schoolroom and headmaster's residence, being also used for church services on Sunday.

In 1847 a plan was prepared for the proposed church by Edmund Blacket, but it was not until 1859 that the church was completed.

Site: On a central site overlooking a park, the township of Wilberforce, and the river flats, the church still dominates the area despite the encroachment of new housing.

Buildings.— The Schoolhouse: Two-storey rendered brick building with sandstone quoins to front elevation. Sandstone window sills and en-

try portal. Straight pitched iron verandah surrounds three sides of the building. The rear single-storey section of the building appears not to be original.

Typical georgian type front elevation with arched head above the door flanked by a pair of georgian type windows either side. Georgian type 12-pane windows on the upper floor but on the lower floor there are unequal sash 15-pane windows. Verandah is not original.

Church: Sandstone ashlar construction. The appearance is plain with little decoration, small lancet windows, and bell turret. Entry is from a small porch facing the street. On the north wall is a rare vertical sundial, which was carved in 1859 by John Wenban, schoolmaster of the adjoining schoolhouse.



OLD COTTAGE

King Road, Wilberforce



Site: Situated in King Road, Wilberforce, the construction date of this old cottage is unknown. Michael Nowland, a well known blacksmith and boat builder of the 1820's owned the property and is believed to have built the house where he lived for some time.

Building: The timber house comprises two distinct dwellings linked by a verandah, with the rear dwelling appearing to be the oldest. It is of vertical timber slab construction with a corrugated iron

roof and detached chimney on the eastern side. An attic space is evident by a small door in the gable end of the roof.

The building on the street frontage is of a somewhat later date and larger. It is also of timber construction with corrugated iron roof over timber shingles. It has extensions at the rear of an even later period. The two buildings as a group are typical of their type and noteworthy for their unusual arrangement.

FORMER POLICE STATION

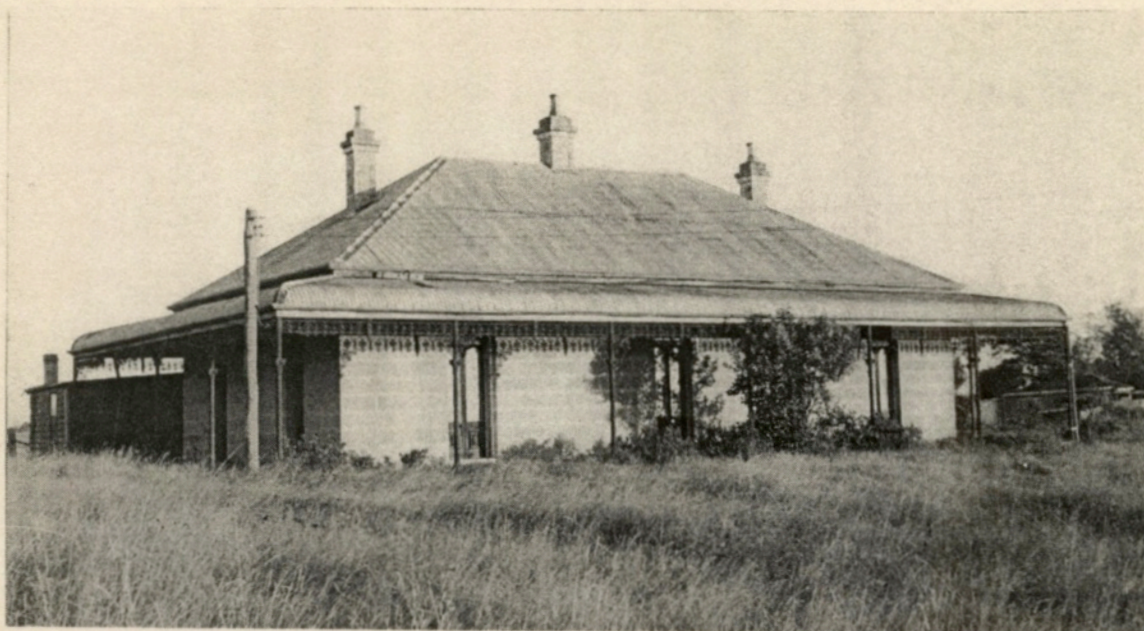
Windsor Road,
Wilberforce



History: The former Police station at Wilberforce was erected on the site in Windsor Road of what had earlier been a watch house. It was manned by a mounted policeman until its closure in 1930.

Building: A substantial brick building with an early victorian style front verandah with paired timber posts and decorative corner brackets. The style is maintained by paired corbel blocks to the underside of the eaves. The roof is corrugated iron and the flush pointed brickwork has sandstone sills and lintels.





KARoola

Windsor Road, Wilberforce

History: A prominent part of the townscape of the village of Wilberforce, Karoola was built in 1895 by Albert Arnold for Ralph Turnbull, and has remained in the Turnbull family ever since. The sandstone was quarried at Ebenezer.

Building: Well preserved sandstone walls, individual blocks are picked on face with plain margins and pointed mortar joints. Broad verandah on all four sides of the house with decorative victorian iron lacework, posts and trimmings. The verandah is bullnosed in profile.

Main roof is hipped and of corrugated iron. The rear building to the main house is of similar construction with additional timber boarding on some walls.

The front elevation is symmetrical and each elevation has several pairs of cedar french doors. The overall appearance of the building is broad and elegant.

Currently it is an uninhabited residence.

ROSE COTTAGE

Rose Street,
Wilberforce



History: Rose Cottage at Wilberforce has the distinction of being the oldest known timber building in Australia, being erected between 1811 and 1816 by a free settler, Thomas Rose, who arrived in the colony with his wife and four children on the Bellona in 1793.

Site: In Rose Street, Wilberforce, Rose Cottage is now part of the Australiana Village complex.

Building: External walls are faced with timber weatherboards at front obviously not original, although at the eastern side the original flat vertical slab timber walls with flat sheet strips covering the joints in the slabs can be seen. Eastern side of building is brick and has two chimney stacks, one to

kitchen and one to living room. Existing roof is corrugated iron over timber shingles (original). Internally the structure is rough cut timber frame with lathe and mud walls, exposed rough hewn beam to the front two rooms and round log rafters to the rear skillion roof and front verandah.

Of particular note is the attic space with a stair in the front bedroom and an attic door in the gable end on the eastern side. The roof is asymmetrical being hipped on the western side and gable-ended on the eastern side. Floor is timber boarding and timber lining boards to ceiling. The building has four rooms, the windows being unusual in that they have unequal sashes.

AUSTRALIANA VILLAGE Rose Street, Wilberforce



Site: Developed as a tourist attraction by the late Mr Bill McLachlan, Australiana Village adjoins the Tropicana Hotel and includes picnic and entertainment areas running down to the Hawkesbury River.

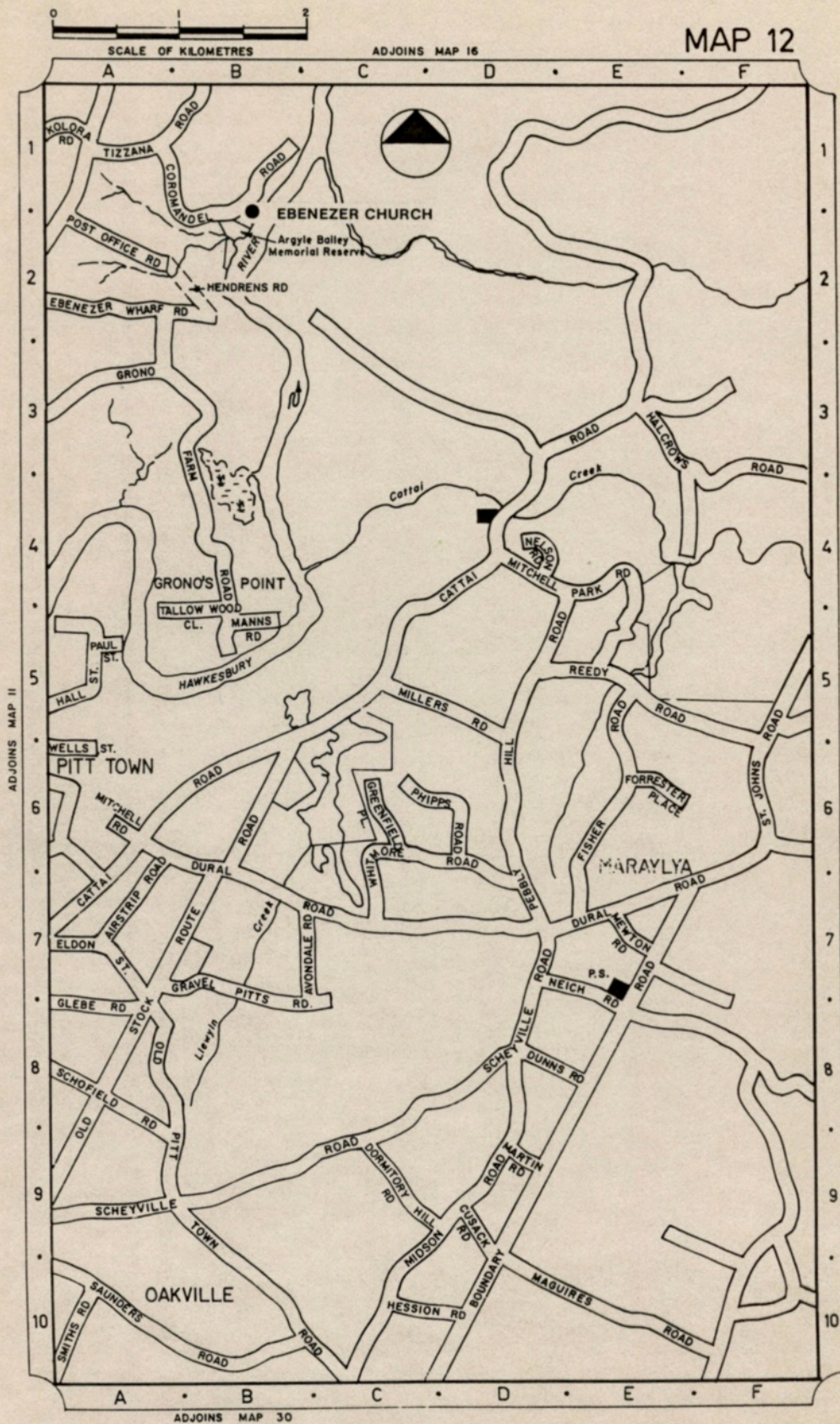
Buildings: The arrangement of the buildings is dubious, although the individual buildings them-

selves are of historical value and of individual architectural types. They cover a wide range of periods and vernacular construction.

Buildings include various cottages and huts, farm buildings, stables, post offices and stores. Taken as a whole, the individual buildings display the complete range of early construction and building types.

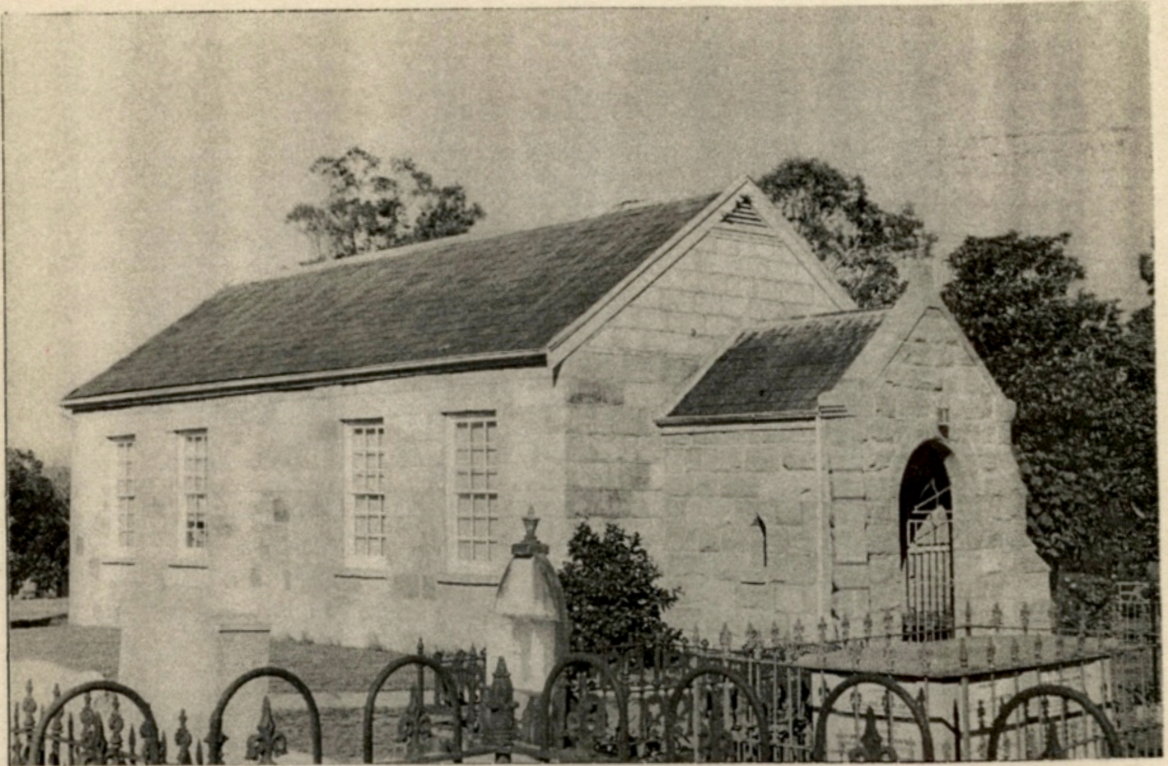


EBENEZER



EBENEZER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Portland Head, Hawkesbury River



History: The oldest church building in Australia, Ebenezer Church was built in 1809 by a group of free settlers, most of whom had arrived in the Coromandel in 1802.

Site: One of the pioneers, Owen Cavanough, gave the site, called Ebenezer Mount, for the church which was designed by another settler, Andrew Johnston. Built on a high rocky plateau, the church overlooks the Hawkesbury River, which was the only means of access for many of its early parishioners.

Buildings: Originally intended for use both as a church and school, the building was divided into two sections by a partition which has now been removed. The elevation of the exterior side walls show the earlier use as a school for the windows are obviously placed in relation to the two sections.

The church is of simple and basic construction with little ornamentation or decoration. Its plain and austere appearance has been likened to early Scottish kirks and considering its history this is not

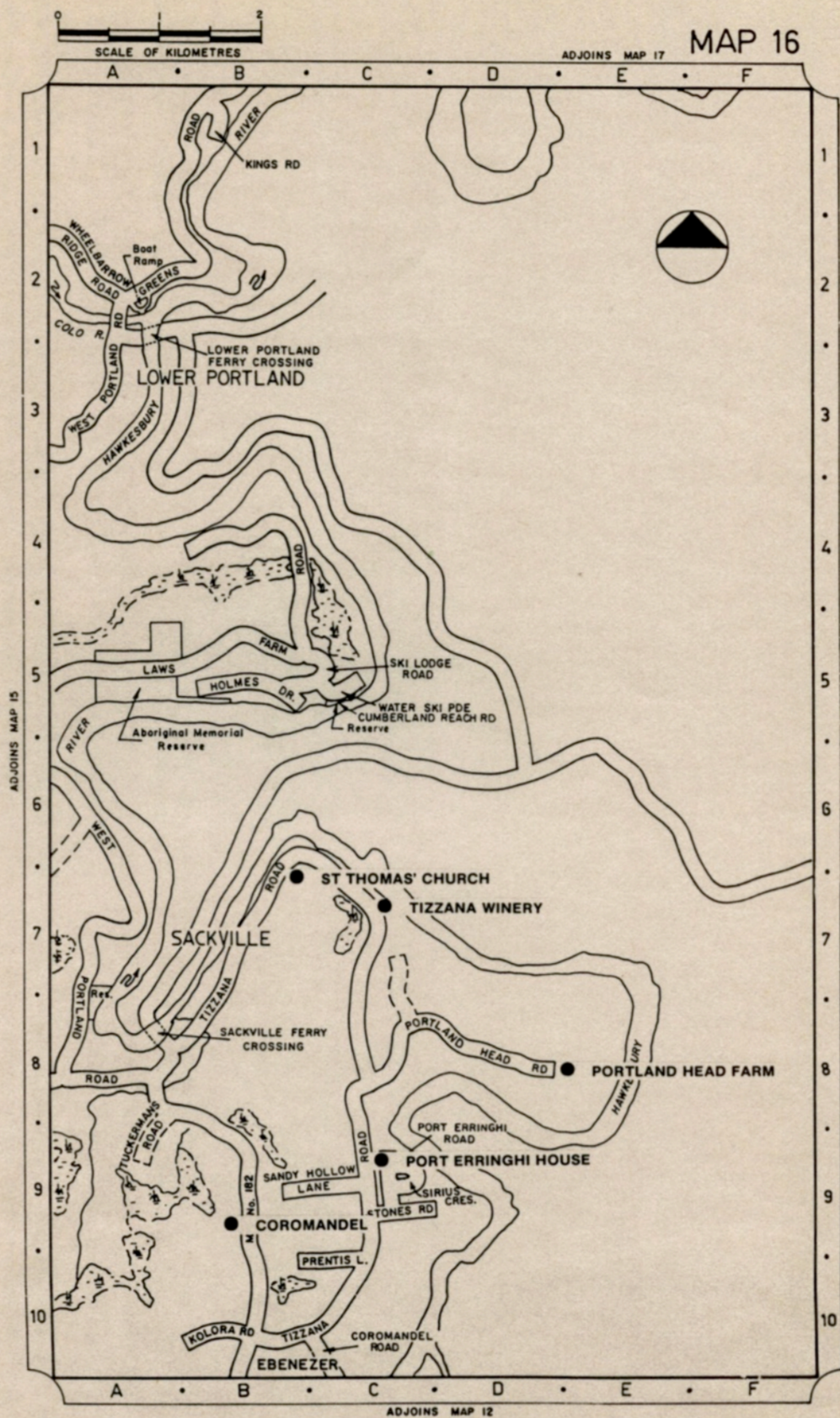
surprising for among the early settlers were some from Scotland. (Hist. of Ebenezer, Rev. George R. S. Reid), (Macquarie Country, D. G. Bowd).

The walls are of light coloured Hawkesbury sandstone, the blocks finished to a plain, rough surface. Stonework is in good condition, mortar lines being recently reset. Doorways in the face of each side of the building have been blocked in, a porch being added in 1929. Slates have replaced the original shingle roof.

Internally simple methods of construction have again been followed. The cement rendering of the walls is obviously not original. The ceiling comprises timber lining boards in panels. The floor is exposed boards, with some possibly being original. In other areas more modern T. & G. narrower boards are used.

There are two other buildings on the site, the rectory and the church hall, forming a group of three all built in similar fashion and with similar materials. In close proximity to the church is the cemetery, which includes a number of elaborate headstones and iron-fenced burial plots.

SACKVILLE



COROMANDEL

Sackville



Site: Off Main Road 182 near the Sackville Ferry. Coromandel is in a pleasant timbered setting with access by a wooden bridge over a creek.

Building: A large sandstone single-storeyed house, the irregular plan being centred on the main body of the building with wings to the right and left. A broad, bull-nosed verandah surrounds the house. The wing to the right is of a later date than the main part of the house.

The sandstone blocks are picked and fixed with flush white mortar. The roof is of corrugated iron. The verandah has timber posts with carved timber knee brackets.

A small sandstone two-storey building stands to the right of the main house and is attached by a timber pergola. It appears this was the original house on the property.



PORT ERRINGHI HOUSE

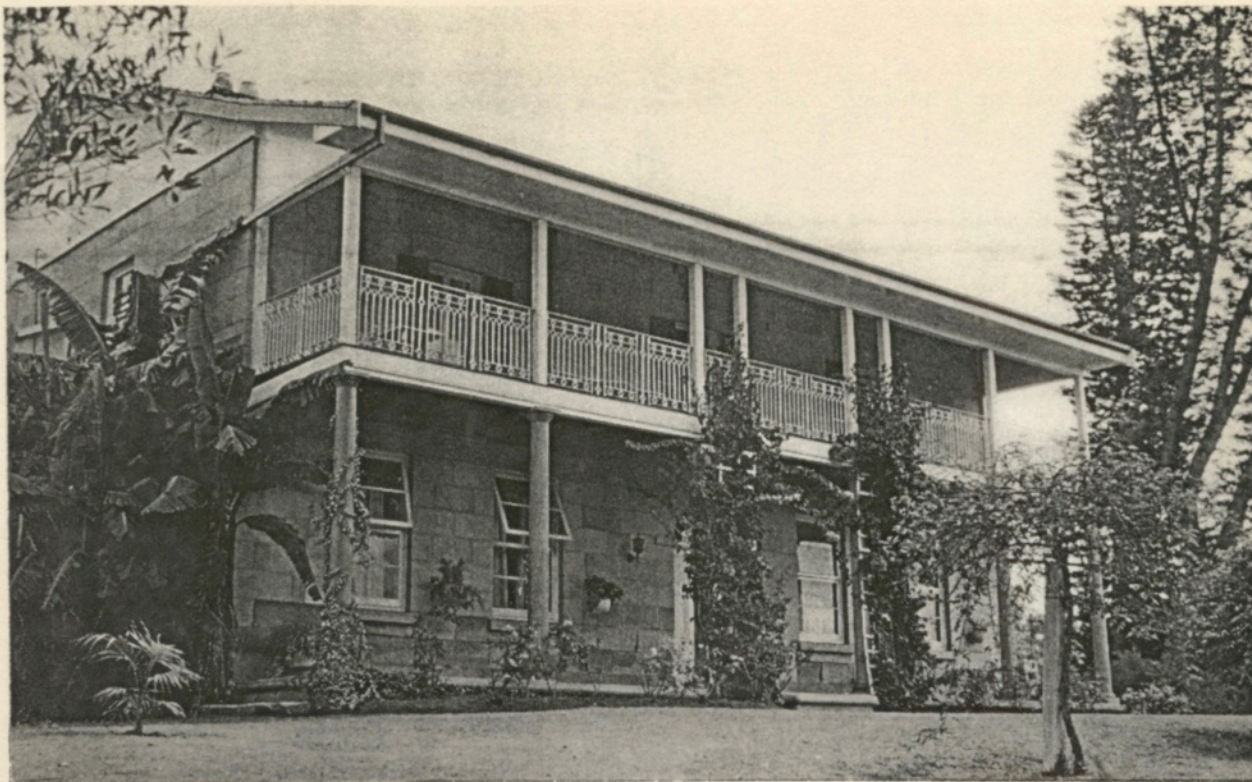
Port Erringhi Road, Ebenezer

Site: Port Erringhi Road, runs off Tizzana Road down to the Hawkesbury River, where the house is on a slight rise overlooking the river and the adjoining picnic ground and golf course.

Building: A two-storey sandstone house with an L-shaped plan. The back wing is of random coursed sandstone blocks and the front is of regular coursed stonework, this suggesting different times of construction. The upper storey projects into the roof space with dormer windows to the east.

A chimney is located at either end of the building. A change in the colour of the top stone walls suggests that they may have been added at a later date. The existing roof is of new corrugated iron. The verandah at the rear runs along two walls.





PORTLAND HEAD FARM

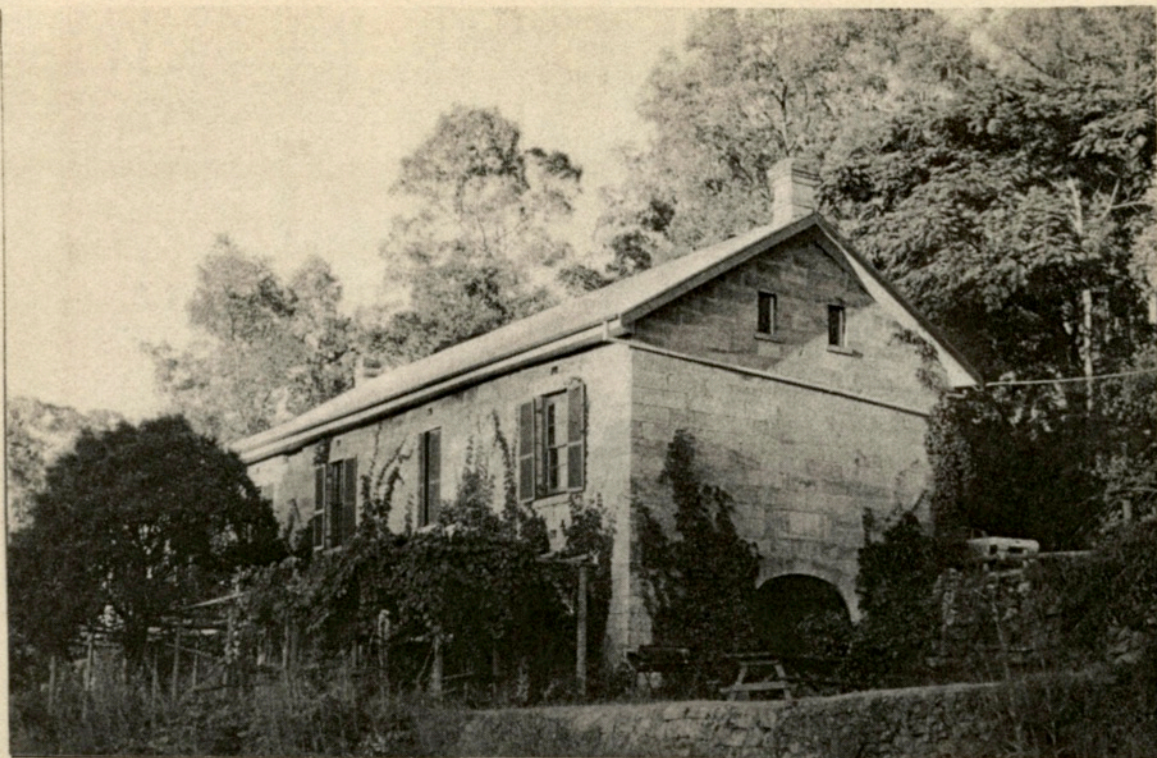
Portland Head Road,
Sackville Reach

Site: At the end of a private road running off Portland Head Road, the farmhouse is on a superb site overlooking a broad reach of the Hawkesbury River.

Building: Two-storey sandstone ashlar house with front balcony and verandah. The building faces north towards farmlands and the Hawkesbury River. There is a large glass conservatory at the rear of the building. The verandah at the front is not original nor the roof.

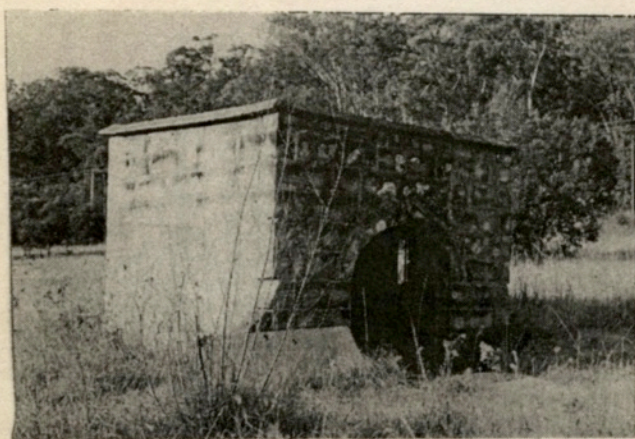
The original verandah would have been of a flared Georgian type as evidence suggests from flashing lines on the wall. Sandstone walls are picked finished with quoins and lintels smooth finished.





TIZZANA WINERY

Tizzana Road, Sackville Reach



History: Planted by Dr Thomas Fiaschi in 1881, the Tizzana Vineyard became known throughout the State, particularly for its red wines. Dr Fiaschi was a famous surgeon in whose memory the statue fountain of the wild boar was erected in front of Sydney Hospital.

Site: A two-storey stone building with wine cellars underneath was erected by Dr Fiaschi at the side of Tizzana Road in 1887. During a fierce bush-fire in 1953 the winery was reduced to a stone shell. The building has been restored by the present owners and apart from some internal alterations, remains very much as it was originally built.

Building: Originally a two-storey stone building, the top floor now comprises the residence and the lower floor a wine cellar. Building is rectangular in plan and built as coursed sandstone ashlar blocks.

Round arched doorways at both ends give access to the cellar. There is a new corrugated iron roof. The building is on the side of a hill facing lower farmlands and river, and what was previously the vineyards.

ST THOMAS' CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Sackville Reach



History: Opened in 1871, St Thomas Church of England, at Sackville, came close to being moved, stone by stone, to Cremorne in 1952 when attendances had dwindled and the church was closed. Local people petitioned the Archbishop of Sydney to allow them to restore the building and this they did, only to have it badly damaged by a fire in 1959 which left only the walls and spire standing. However, the parishioners again rallied round and the church was rebuilt, the work being completed in 1960.

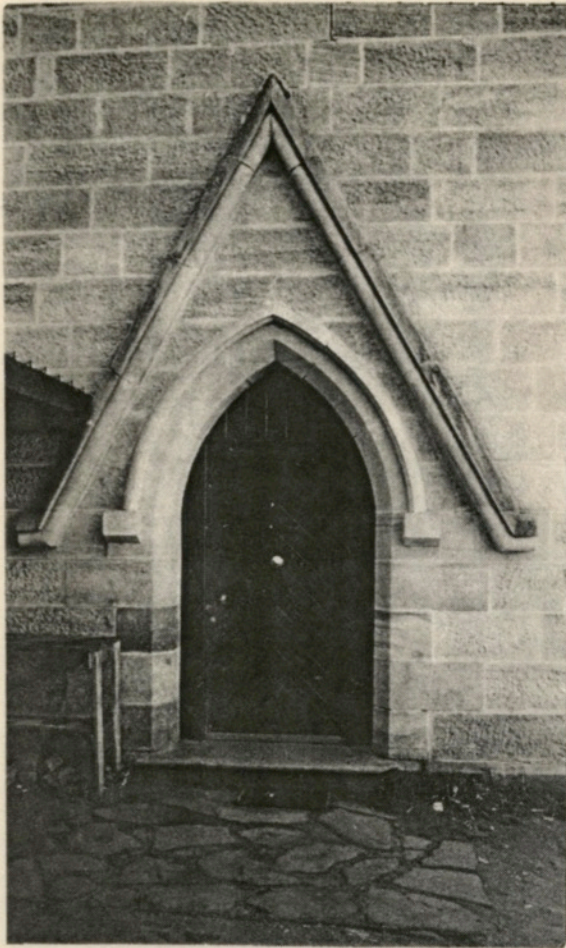
Site: On a relatively steep site overlooking the Hawkesbury River, which commands impressive views, the church stands alone, with no landscaping as such or even pathways leading to it.

Building: Walls of the church are of fine Hawkesbury sandstone, in fact, the sandstone is some of the best in the area with a wide variety of colour and graining. The existing roof is of corrugated iron, which replaced the shingle roof destroyed in the fire.

Flooring has also been replaced, but the cedar pews were saved. The interior is plain with the sandstone walls being smooth finished and not rendered. Three lancet windows on each of the side elevations feature stained glass panels.

The apse at the end of the church has a large pointed arch dividing it from the body of the building. Entry is through a simple portico with a pointed arch opening.





METHODIST CHURCH

Mud Island Road,
Sackville Reach

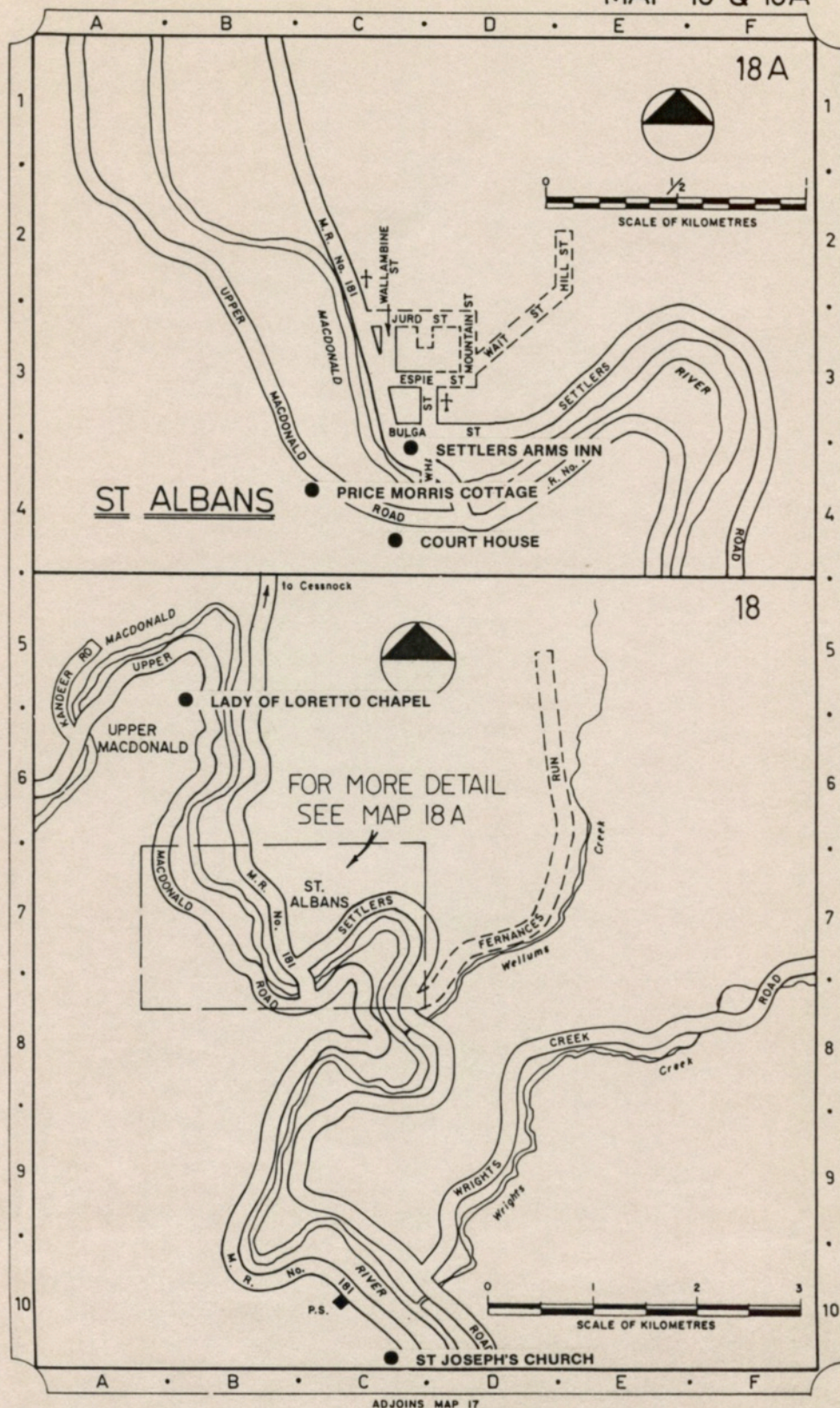
History: Commanding beautiful views over the Hawkesbury to Sackville Reach, the Methodist Church was built on high ground soon after the disastrous flood of 1867.

Building: A small sandstone building, the blocks being picked finish. The roof is new corrugated iron and the windows have plain timber sashes, with sandstone splayed reveals, sills and head lintels. The building is very plain with the only ornamentation the mouldings on the pointed arch doorway.



ST ALBANS

MAP 18 & 18A



ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH RUINS

St Albans



History: Thought to have been built between 1839 and 1841, the ruins of St Joseph's Catholic Church are on Main Road 181 near St Albans. The church was abandoned in the 1880's after being gutted by a bush fire.

Site: On a commanding position overlooking the MacDonald River.

Building: The ruins of what was a gothic style church are still impressive. Only the walls, with pointed arch doorways and lancet windows remain. However, the colour and texture of the stonework indicate that the church must have matched its beautiful setting.

FORMER COURT HOUSE AND POLICE STATION

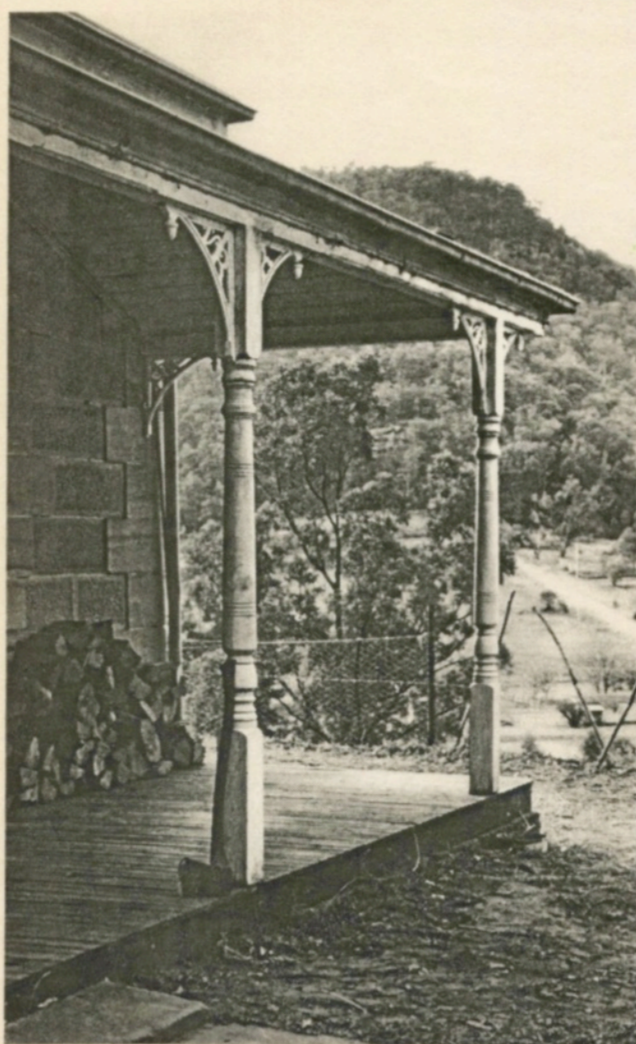


St Albans

History: Built about 1890 high on the steep slope on the western side of the MacDonald River, the former court house and police station replaced an earlier building which was damaged by floods. It remained in use as a police station until 1934 and is now a private residence.

Site: On a shelf cut out of the hillside well out of flood reach, the building commands spectacular views of the valley and the township below. Access is by a badly eroded track.

Building: The single storey sandstone building contains six rooms with a hallway running its full length and opening on to a small verandah at the front. The large court room has double windows to the front elevation. Walls are rough ashlar blocks with quoins at the corners and windows. At the back of the main building there are two lock-up cells of sandstone with heavy bolted doors and a grill-enclosed exercise yard.





PRICE MORRIS' COTTAGE

Upper MacDonald Road



History: Perhaps the only remaining slab house in the MacDonald Valley, the cottage is believed to have been built by Mr Price Morris between 1835 and 1840.

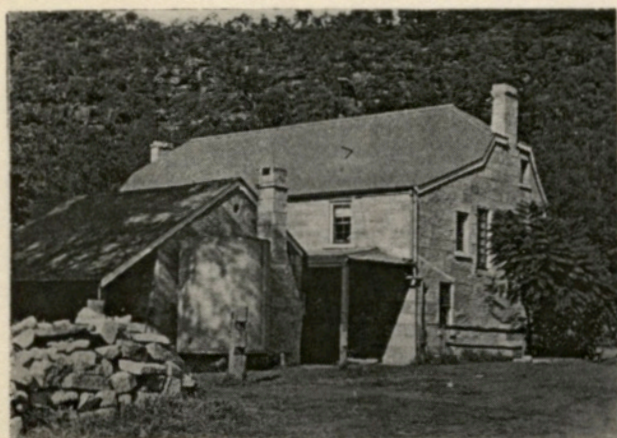
Site: The house is on the Upper MacDonald Road a short distance from the community hall and overlooks a lagoon and basin with a steep hillside in the background. It has been uninhabited for many years.

Building: An elongated rectangular building with a verandah on three sides. The walls are vertical slabs with lathe and mud infill. The roof is corrugated iron on top of timber shingles. The verandah is very low with rafters of rough cut logs and flooring of butt jointed boards. Some sections of wall have been faced with weatherboards.

The main roof structure is also rough cut logs. On the right hand side an additional room has been added. Ceilings are suspended canvas type, only two metres high. There are several outbuildings attached to the house, including probably what was a kitchen as well as small sheds and barns.

SETTLERS ARMS INN

St Albans



History: The date of the building of the Settlers Arms Inn at St Albans is not certain, but it is believed to have been built in 1892 and licensed from that date. Members of the Jurd family conducted the inn for many years. The inn flourished while the main route to the north was through the MacDonald Valley, but declined with the opening of the Pacific Highway and the licence was transferred in 1939.

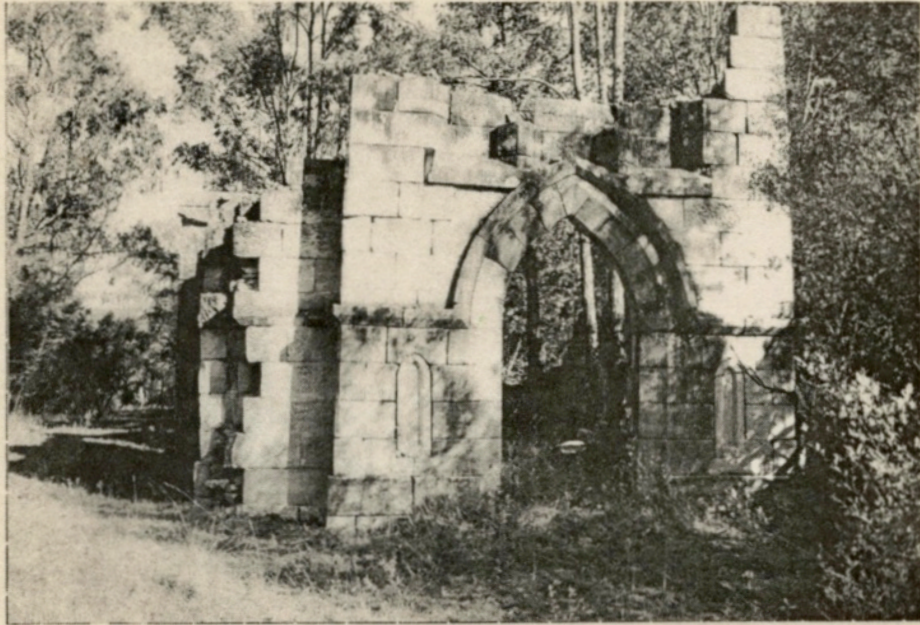
Site: The inn is on the banks of the MacDonald River where the road bridge crosses the river at the village of St Albans. It overlooks a pleasant riverside park.

Building: The inn is of two-storey sandstone construction with corrugated iron roof and flared corrugated iron verandah. The roof is steeply pitched with truncated hip ends. The interior joinery and doors are of cedar and overall the building is in a good state of preservation. It is a typical functional inn of the period and a good example of this type of building.



OUR LADY OF LORETTO CHAPEL RUINS

Upper MacDonald



History: The ruins of Our Lady of Loretto Chapel are on private property on the Upper MacDonald Road north of St Albans. It was the first Roman Catholic Church to be built in the MacDonald Valley and was completed in 1842.

Building: A quite small building, only able to hold some 40 people, it was about 12 metres long.

Only part of the walls remain, together with several arched windows and the arched entry portal. However, it can be seen that the quality of the stonework was relatively high.

Adjacent to the ruins is a cemetery with a number of headstone dated about 1830. Most of the cemetery is overgrown.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St Albans

History: This sandstone church is believed to be a rebuilt structure of a church which was damaged in the 1889 flood. It was rebuilt in 1901 on the steep hillside overlooking the village of St Albans and nowadays is occasionally used for services, both Anglican and Methodist.

Building: The church is plain and simple with very little ornamentation or decoration. The structure is rough picked coursed ashlar blocks with a roof of corrugated iron. The plan of the church is small and rectangular with a room at the rear on the left side. Windows and the small entry doorway have pointed arches over.

