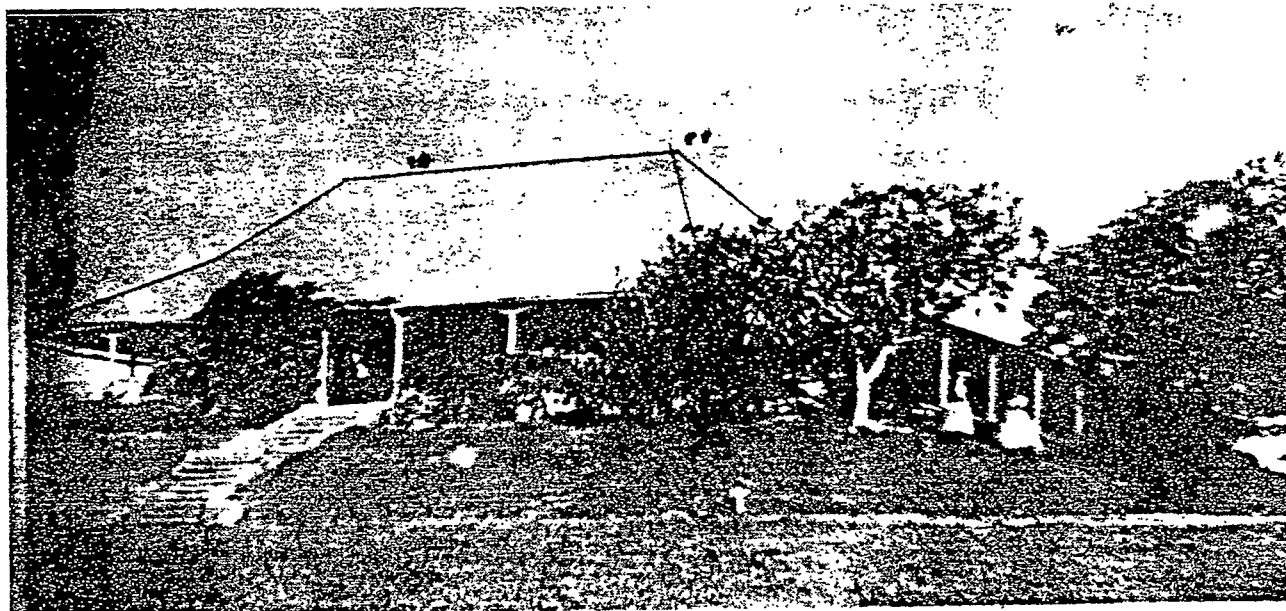


JOHN WALSH ARCHITECT

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



The inscription under this photograph reads: Old Government House, residence of Major Crummer. Here will be seen Major Sinclair standing on the verandah and Major Crummer's daughters, Miss E. Crummer and Mrs. A. du Faur, in crinolines in the terrace.

2 CLARENCE STREET,  
PORT MACQUARIE, NSW

Anne Bickford MAACAI  
Heritage Consultants  
135 Catherine St Leichhardt NSW 2040  
Phone 02 - 95699672 Fax 02 - 95500261  
Email abickford@peg.apc.org

July 1997

1997 - Bickford -  
Pt Mac - Assess

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

The client for this study is John Walsh Architect, 14 Vendul Crescent, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444. This report was commissioned on 7 July, 1997.

An archaeological assessment report is required by Hastings City Council prior to giving consent to the proposed redevelopment of the site.

The study area is listed in the Archaeological Management Plan, Port Macquarie as Inventory Number 182 (Appendix 1). The site is identified as an area of archaeological significance. Disturbance is considered to be partial.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.2 The study area

The study area, No. 2 Clarence Street (corner of Clarence and School Street), is located on the block bounded by School Street to the east, New Street to the south and Munster Street to the west (Figure 1.1).

### 1.3 The brief

The purpose of this report is to identify and assess the historical and archaeological significance of the study area and to make recommendations for the conservation and management of any archaeological remains, if found.

### 1.4 Authorship

This report was researched and compiled by Kylie Seretis<sup>2</sup> and edited by Anne Bickford<sup>3</sup>.

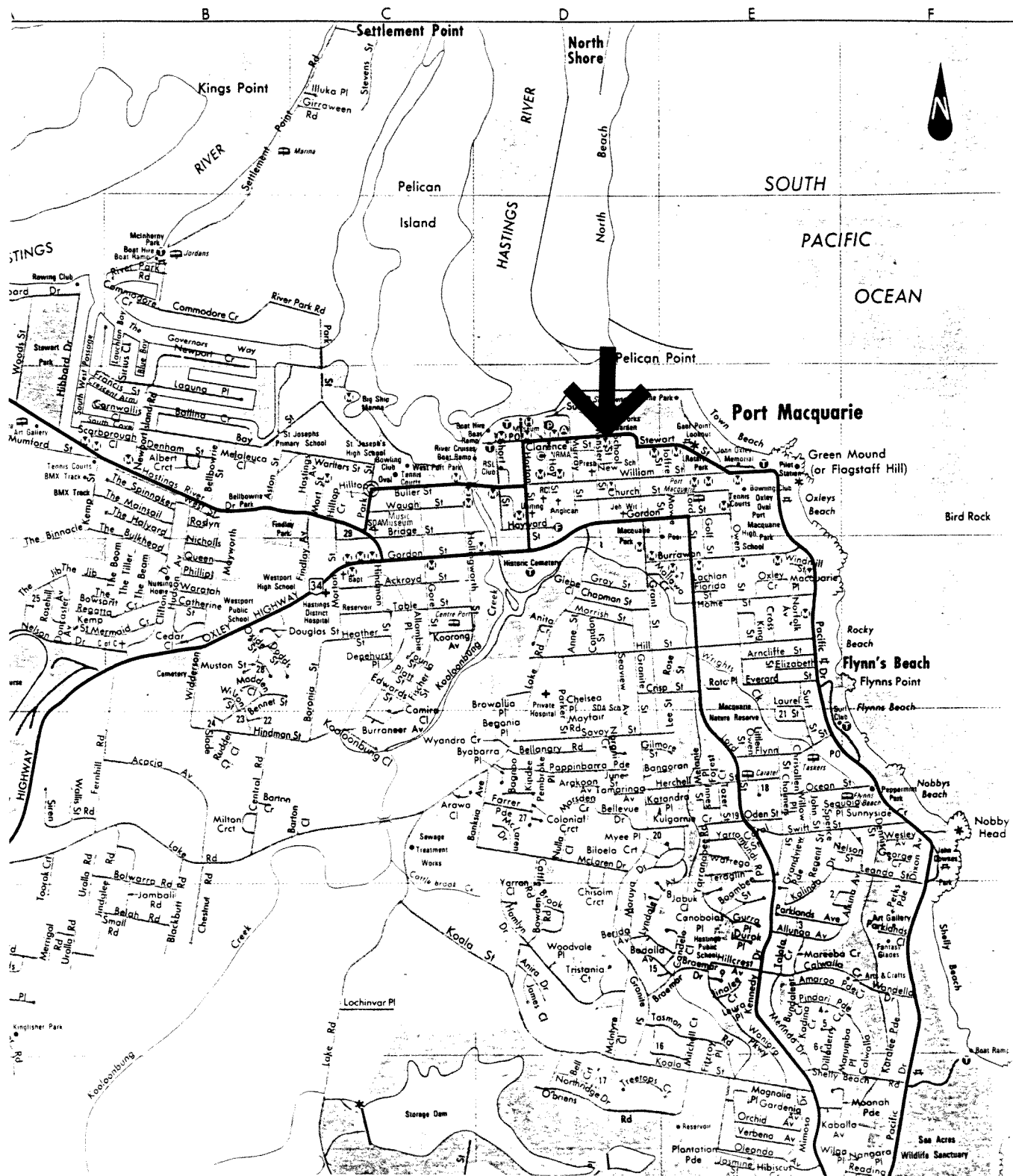
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<sup>1</sup> Edward Higginbotham & Associates, 1995 *Archaeological Management Plan Port Macquarie*. Hastings City Council.

<sup>2</sup> Kylie Seretis, PO Box 534, Alexandria 2015, N.S.W. Ph: (02) 9319 6546

<sup>3</sup> Anne Bickford Heritage Consultants, 135 Catherine Street, Leichhardt 2040, N.S.W. Ph: (02) 9569 9672 Fax: (02) 9550 0261.

Figure 1.1 Location Map. Port Macquarie





## 2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Historical development of Port Macquarie

The town of Port Macquarie was named on October 11, 1818.<sup>4</sup> The town of Port Macquarie was established in 1821 by Governor Lachlan Macquarie as a place of secondary punishment for the most serious offenders amongst the convicts. The settlement was originally laid out by surveyor James Meehan in 1821.<sup>5</sup>

In August 1830 the settlement was opened up to free settlement. In 1831 Governor Darling announced that the streets should be laid out on a regular alignment, with all the streets at rectangles. This realignment and the resultant street pattern was to see the demolition of many of the buildings of the former Penal Colony.<sup>6</sup>

By the 1870s the major industries of the Port Macquarie area were sugar cane farming and grape cultivation. By the 1880s the exploitation of the region's timber resources had begun, and this provided the impetus for further expansion, and resulted in the creation of jobs.<sup>7</sup>

### 2.2 Development of the subject site

The study area is located in the vicinity of the original penal settlement of Port Macquarie and is the site of the original Government House.

Government House was constructed by October 1821.<sup>8</sup> Along with many of the buildings of this period it was considered to be in such bad repair by 1825, that the then Commandant, Captain Francis

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<sup>4</sup> Port Macquarie Historical Society, 1995 *Pictures from the Past, Recollections of Early Life in Hastings*. Port Macquarie News: Port Macquarie. p. 6.

<sup>5</sup> Sheather, N. 1982 'Penal Settlement - The Beginning', in Frank Rogers (ed) *Port Macquarie: A history to 1850*. Hastings district Historical Society: Port Macquarie. p 19-39. Symonds, I.W. 1991 *Port Macquarie Profiles*. Hastings District Historical Society: Port Macquarie. p. 4.

<sup>6</sup> Sheather, N. 1982 'Free Settlement', in Frank Rogers (ed) *Port Macquarie: A history to 1850*. Hastings district Historical Society: Port Macquarie. p 80 ff. Port Macquarie Historical Society, 1995 *Pictures from the Past, Recollections of Early Life in Hastings*. Port Macquarie News: Port Macquarie. p. 7.

<sup>7</sup> Symonds, I.W. 1991 *Port Macquarie Profiles*. Hastings District Historical Society: Port Macquarie. p. 4.

<sup>8</sup> McLachlan, I. 1988 *Place of Banishment Port Macquarie 1818 - 1832*. Hale & Iremonger: Sydney.

Allman, had the house rebuilt. It is not clear whether the entire house was rebuilt or just a portion of the existing building.<sup>9</sup>

Historical Maps show that the site is occupied by Government House (sometime shown on the maps as the Resident Magistrate's House) up to the 1840s.<sup>10</sup> By 1879 the block of land where Government House stood is empty with no buildings shown on the study area.<sup>11</sup>

By 1904 the land has been subdivided into 6 allotments with a lane cutting through. In 1904, allotments 4 and 5, Section 60a (the study area) formerly Crown land, is sold at auction to John Young Butler of Port Macquarie for the sum of forty-three pounds and ten shillings.<sup>12</sup>

During the 1970s this site was occupied by the Panorama Guest House. Within this building, in the 'Colonial Room' the remains of a convict brick drain were located, preserved, and incorporated into the layout.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Sheather, N. 1982 'Penal Settlement - the main period', in Frank Rogers (ed) *Port Macquarie: A history to 1850*. Hastings district Historical Society: Port Macquarie. p. 52.

<sup>10</sup> Plan of the Township of Port Macquarie. c.1840. A.O. Map 3673. Plan of Allotments at Port Macquarie for sale. W.H. Chapman. 1840. M.L. ZM3 811.221/1840/1.

<sup>11</sup> Plan of the Towns and Environs of Port Macquarie East and West. 1879 - 1894. A.O. Map 1063.

<sup>12</sup> Vol. 1809, Fol. 72. 1907. L.T.O.

<sup>13</sup> Hastings District Historical Society 1973 (revised edition) *The History of Port Macquarie*. Hastings District Historical Society : Port Macquarie.

### 3. SITE SURVEY

#### 3.1 Sites identified by historical research

Historical research and historical maps have identified this site as the site of the Government House and an associated convict built drain.

#### 3.2 Description of the Site

Presently the site is occupied by the <sup>Central Views</sup> Port Aloha Motel (Figures 3.1 - 3.8). In the 1820s the site was the location of Government House (Crown land).

There is one historic photograph and two sketches of Government House (Figures 3.9 - 3.11). The photograph shows Government House to be a large single storey building, with a bungalow-style large roof, a verandah, and a long series of steps leading up to the entrance.

Figure 3.21 overlays the historic maps on the plan of the current site to obtain a general location for the Government house building.<sup>14</sup>

#### 3.3 Condition of the Site

The site consists of a natural sloping block with some disturbance caused by footings, service trenches, and a swimming pool. The Archaeological Management Plan for Port Macquarie states that the lower floor of the present building on the site is cut into the slope on Clarence Street.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Note these are not precise measured drawings. This is simply to indicate the *possible* location of archaeological remains.

<sup>15</sup> Edward Higginbotham & Associates, 1995 *Archaeological Management Plan Port Macquarie*. Hastings City Council.



### **3.4 Photographs**

**Figure 3.1 View of the eastern corner of the block (corner of Clarence and School Street), looking south .**

**Figure 3.2 View of the northern frontage of the block (Clarence Street) looking south-west .**

**Figure 3.3 View of the northern frontage of the block (Clarence Street) looking south-west (detail).**

**Figure 3.4 View of the northern frontage of the block (Clarence Street) looking south (detail).**

**Figure 3.5 View of the western side of the block looking south.**

**Figure 3.6 View of the south-western side of the block (looking east).**

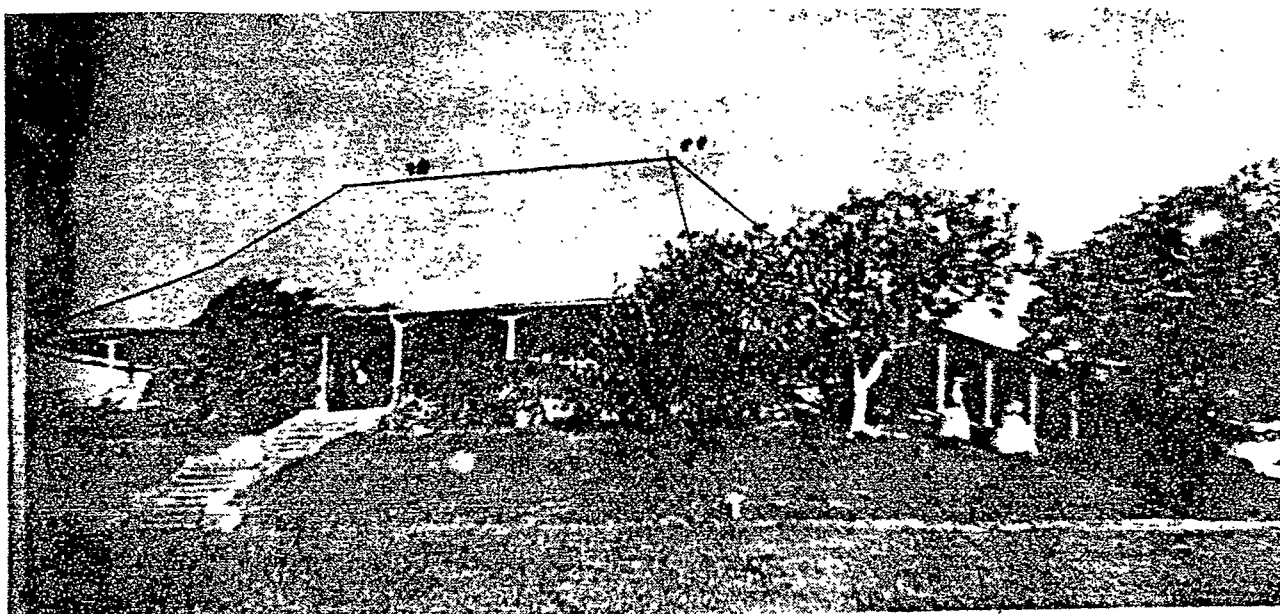
**Figure 3.7 View of the south-western side of the block (looking south-east)**

**Figure 3.8 View of the eastern side of the block (looking south-west).**

### 3.5 Historic Photographs, Drawings and Maps

#### Figure 3.9 Photograph of Government House Port Macquarie N.D.

From: Hastings District Historical Society 1973 (revised edition) *The History of Port Macquarie*. Hastings District Historical Society : Port Macquarie. p. 10.



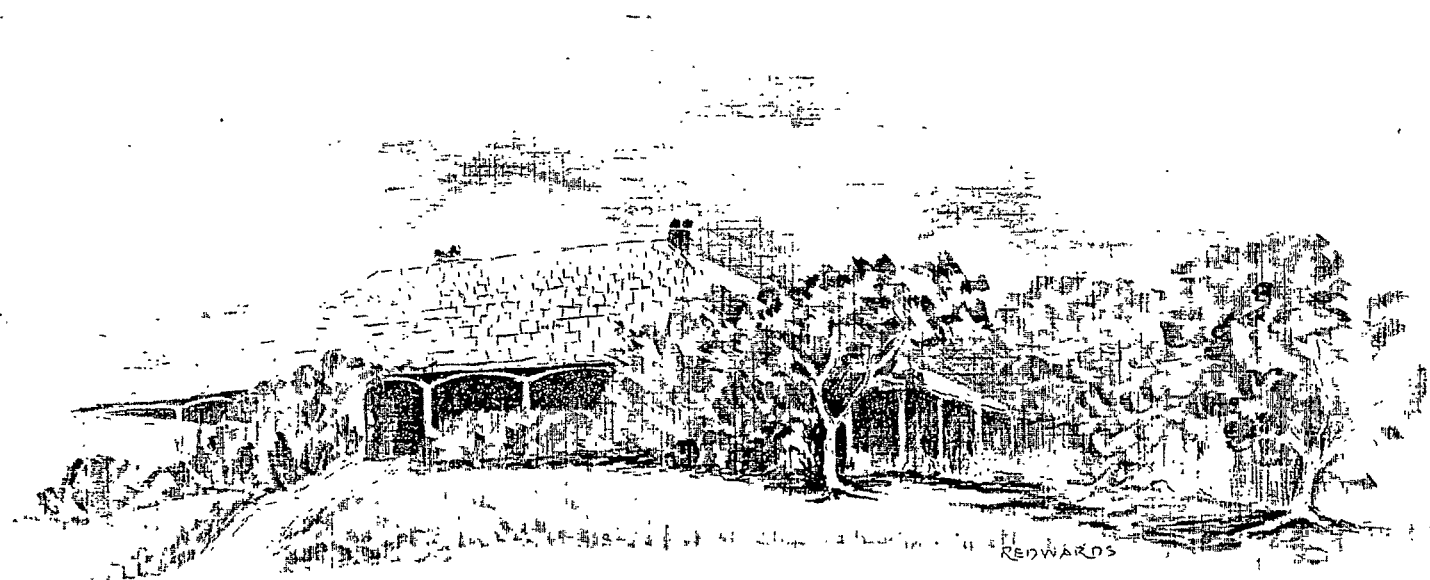
The inscription under this photograph reads: Old Government House, residence of Major Crummer. Here will be seen Major Sinclair standing on the verandah and Major Crummer's daughters, Miss E. Crummer and Mrs. A. du Faur, in crinolines in the terrace.

Built in 1825 and occupied by the then Commandant Captain Gillman, the dwelling was known as Government House.

Now the location of the Panorama Guest House where here skilfully and ingeniously preserved, is a once common convict-built drain of that building. The drain has become a functional part of an attractive grotto, incorporated in the decor of its Colonial Room.

**Figure 3.10 Sketch of Government House Port Macquarie N.D.**

From: Frank Rogers (ed) *Port Macquarie: A history to 1850*. Hastings district  
Historical Society: Port Macquarie. p 132.



*Government House*

**Figure 3.11 1839 Port Macquarie from the Hill near the Church.**

By: H.C. Allport. Added note: Government House - the Barracks The Factory - the Bar looking north east. M.L. Small Pictures File. Port Macquarie, N.S.W. 1839.

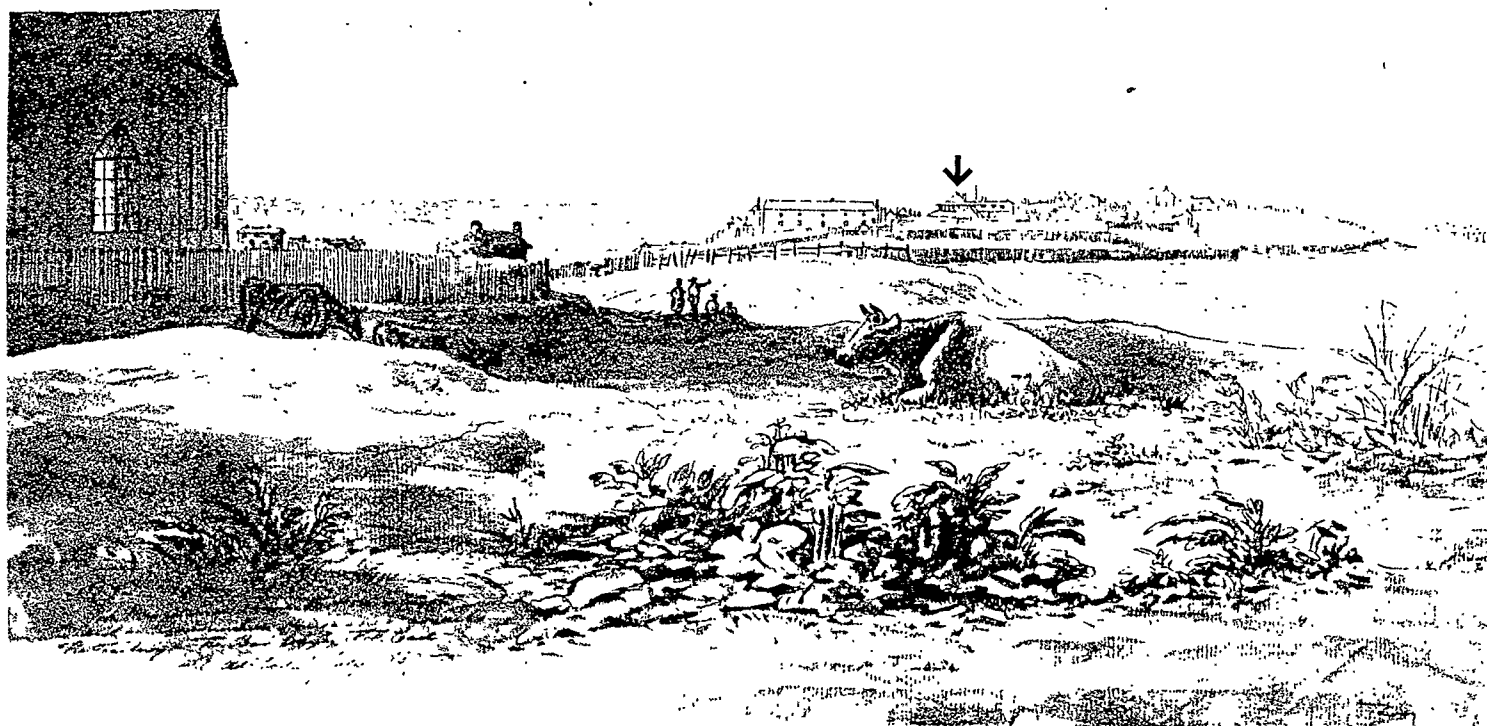






Figure 3.13 1826 Plan of Port Macquarie. March 8, 1826.  
A.O. Map 3821.

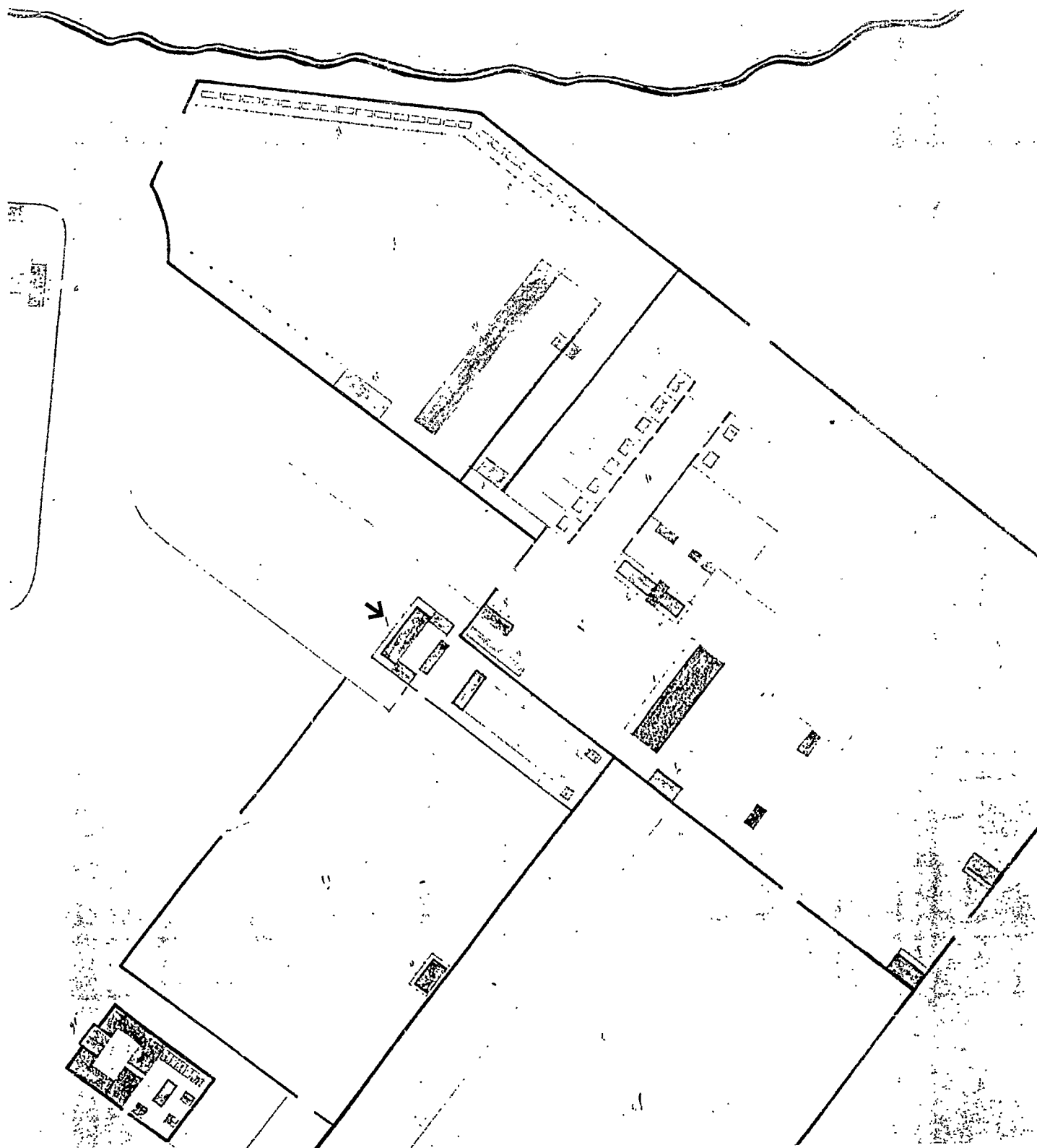


Figure 3.14 1831 Plan of Port Macquarie. Showing a new arrangement of streets. Darcy, April 1831.

A.O. Map 3672.

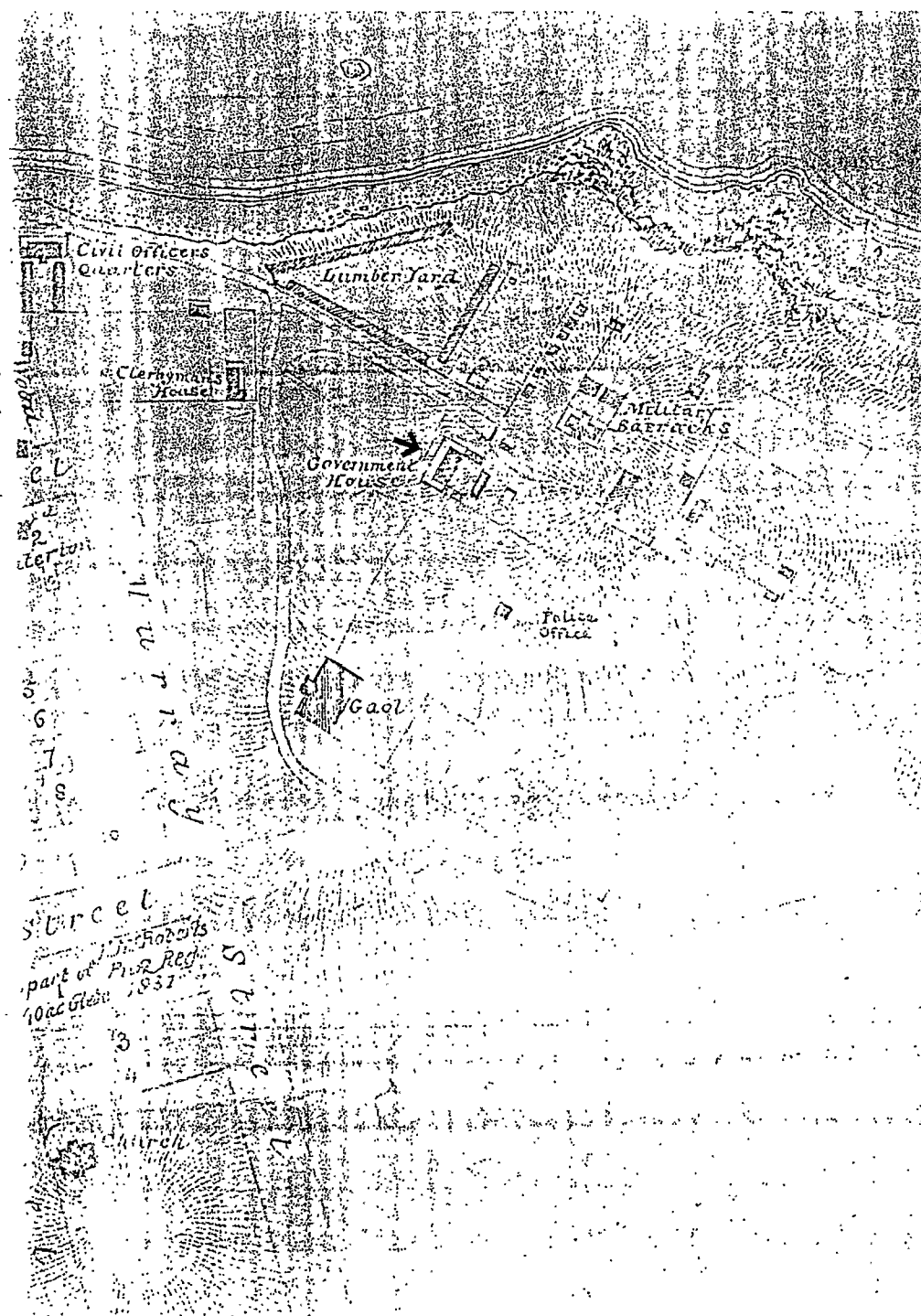


Figure 3.15 1832 Plan of the Town of Port Macquarie.  
A.O. Map 3676.

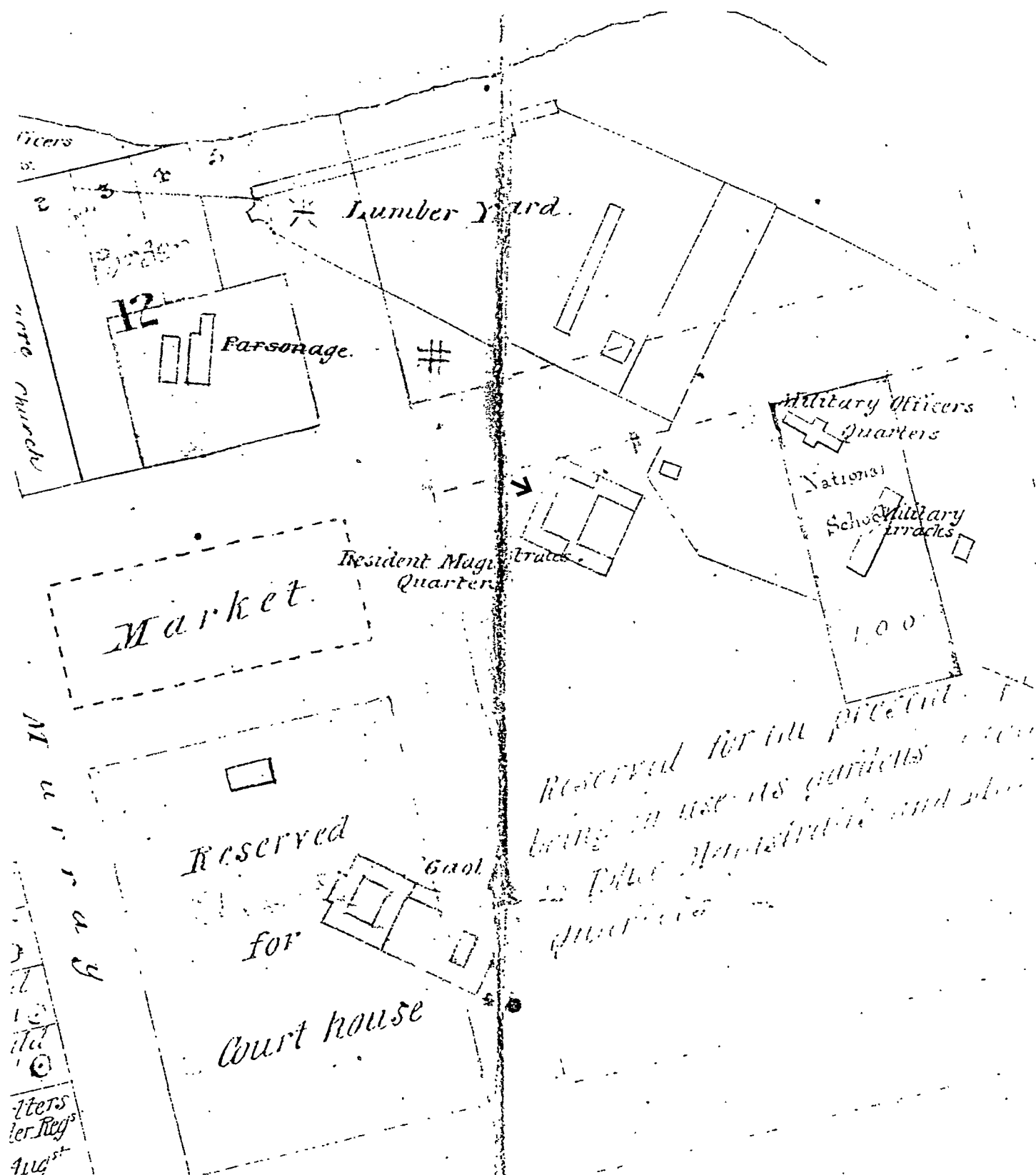


Figure 3.16 c. 1840 Plan of the Township of Port Macquarie.  
A.O. Map 3673.

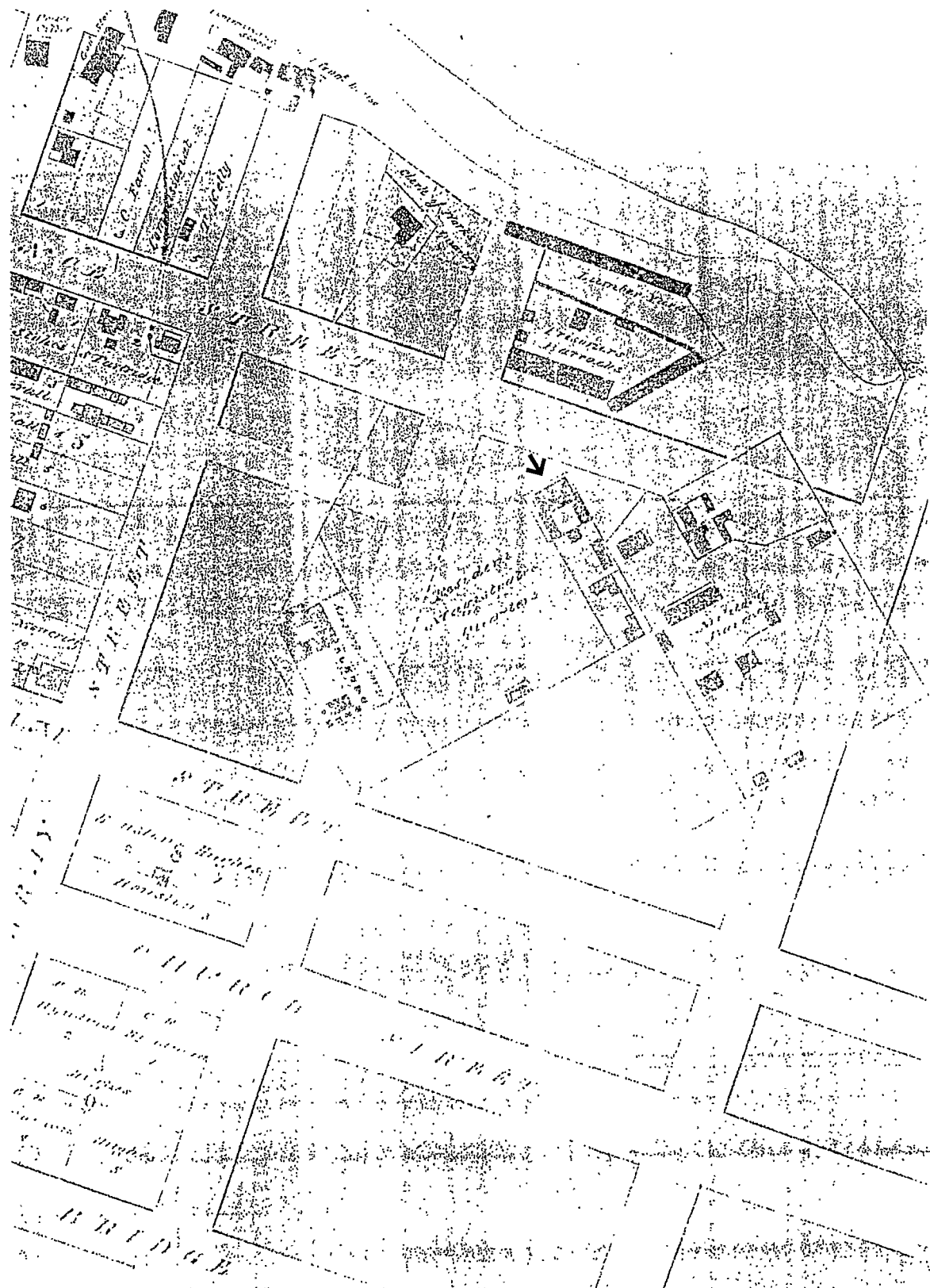




Figure 3.18 1879-1894 Plan of the Towns and Environs of Port Macquarie East and West.

A.O. Map 1063.

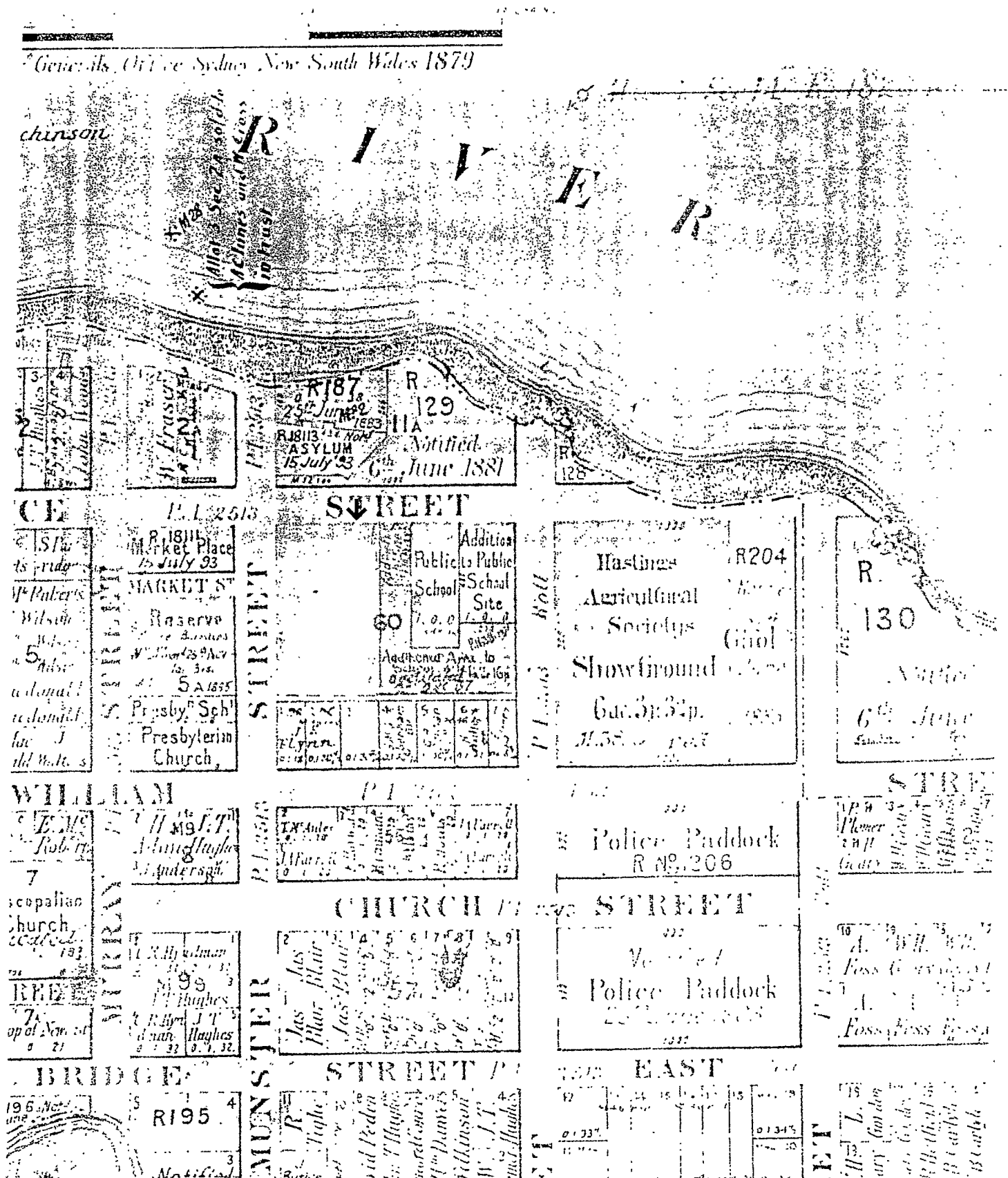
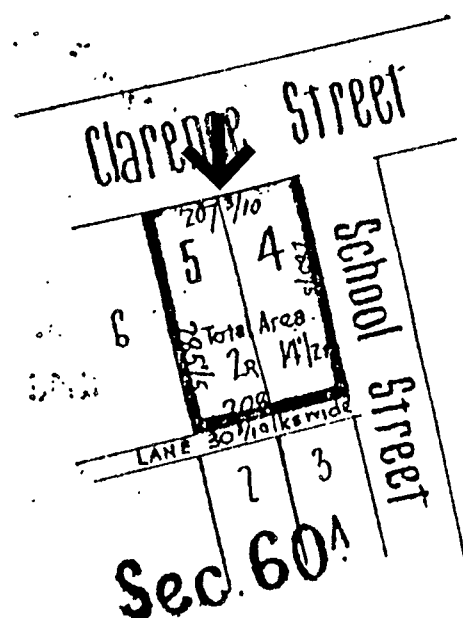


Figure 3.19 1907 Plan included in land grant of area of former Crown land.

L.T.O. Vol. 1809, Fol. 72.

respective Provisoes, Reservations,  
Admeasurement Two roods for  
County of Macquarie



Scale 4 chains to one inch

Figure 3.20 1911-1921 Map of the Town of Port Macquarie East and West and Suburban Lands.

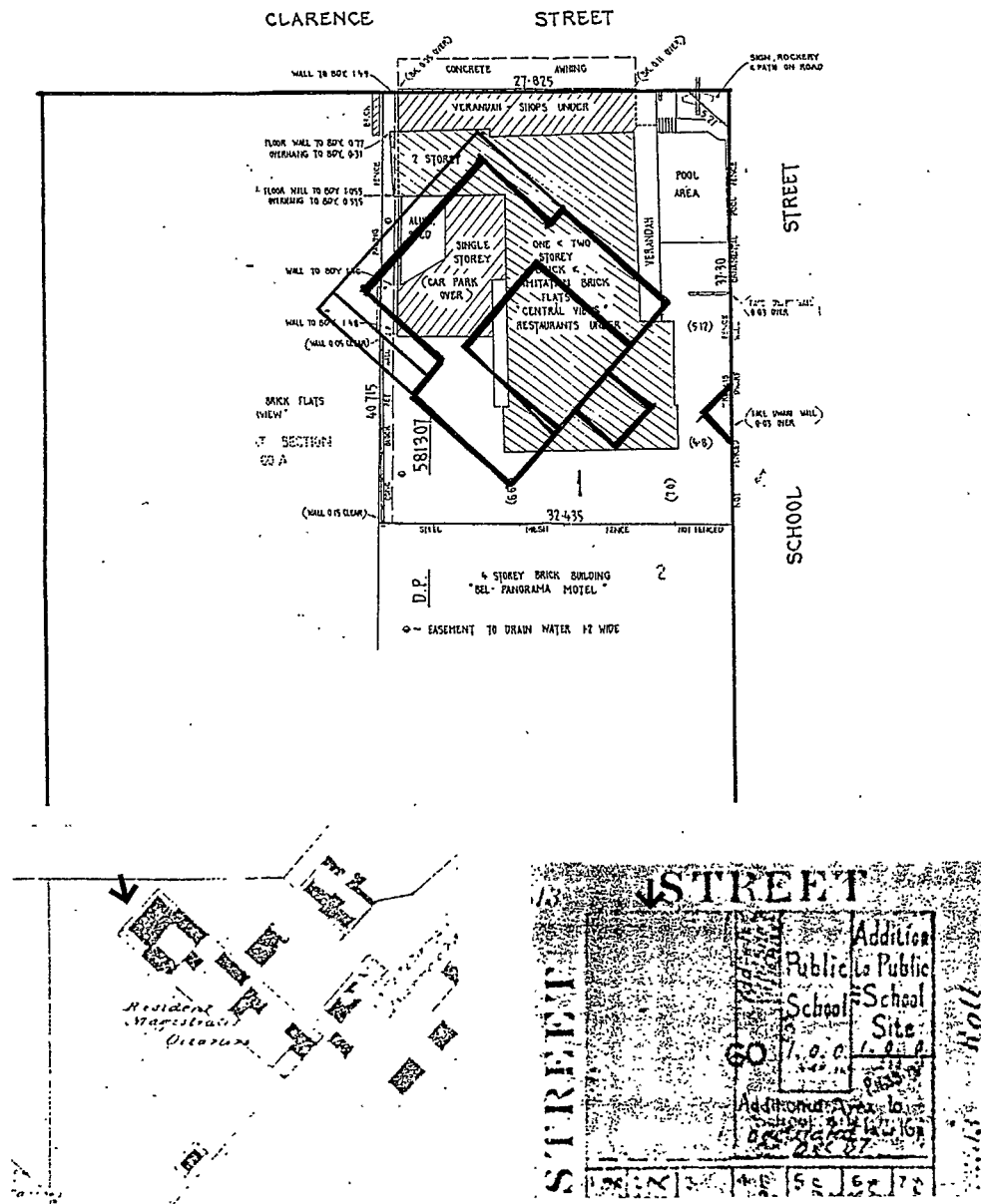
A.O. Map 1064.





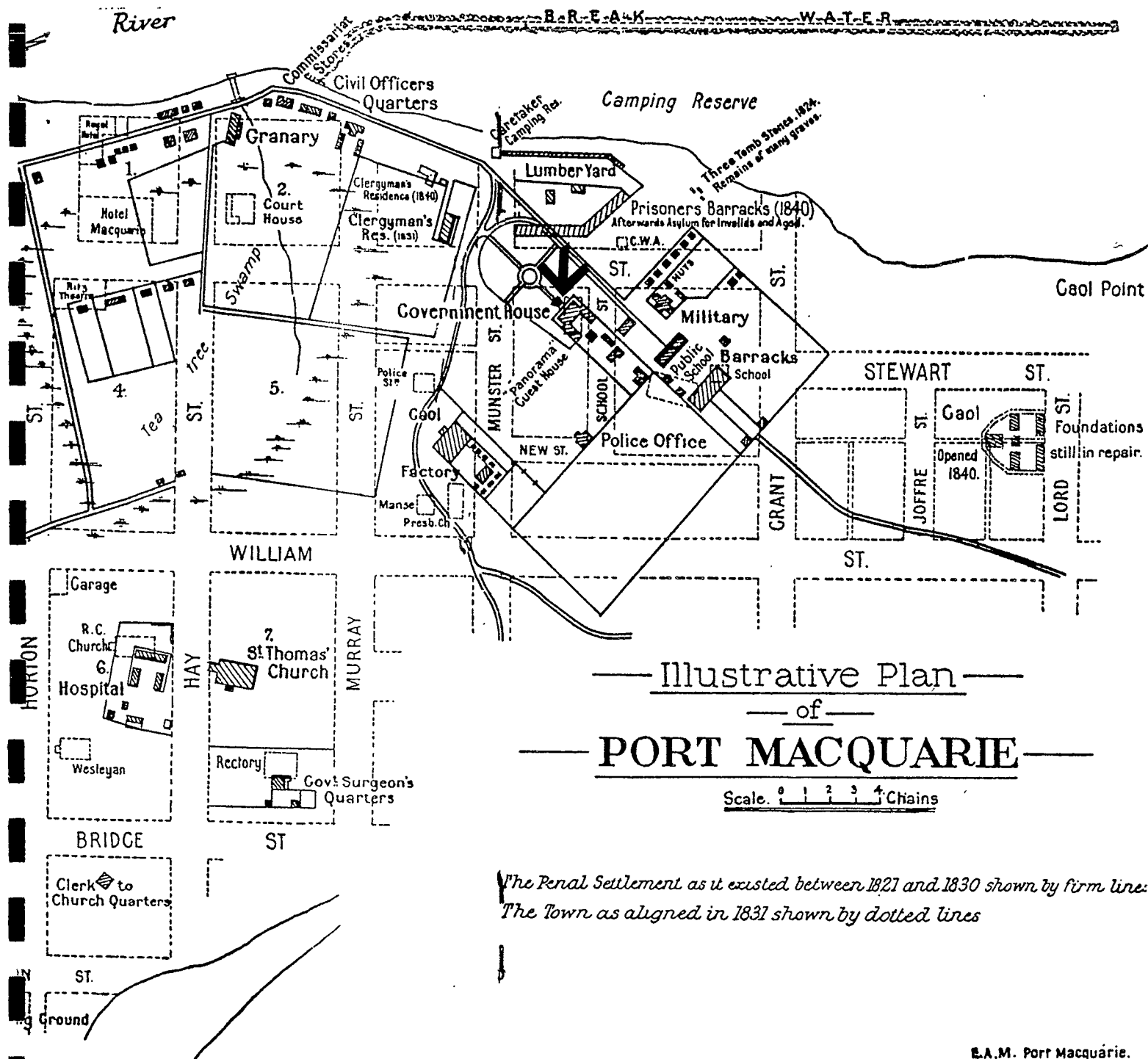
Figure 3.21 Overlay of historic maps and present day plan of the site all at the same scale, showing the general location of Government House on the site.

Figure 3.22 Detail of historic maps used in the overlay - 1840 and 1879-1894.



**Figure 3.23 Plan of Port Macquarie Showing the Penal Settlement in relation to the Town as Aligned in 1831.**

From: *The History of Port Macquarie*, Hastings District Historical Society, 1973.



## 4.0 ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

### 4.1 The Concept of Cultural Significance

In Australia the process of finding out whether an item is important or not is called assessing significance. The importance of the archaeological resources of the study area will be evaluated by following the established heritage procedures. The criteria for assessment have been standardised in NSW by the Heritage Office and published in the NSW Heritage Manual. This procedure makes it possible to compare the significance of like items between local government areas, within regions, or between states.<sup>16</sup>

### 4.2 General Assessment Processes and Criteria

In NSW the heritage system requires three steps:

- 1) investigate significance
- 2) assess significance
- 3) manage significance.

For assessing heritage significance there are two types of criteria, those which deal with the **nature** of significance (a range of values) and those which deal with the **degree** of significance (comparative values). These are outlined in the Heritage Assessments section of the NSW Heritage Manual.

The criteria are:

#### 4.2.1 Nature of significance criteria

##### **Criterion 1 - historical significance (evolution and association).**

An item having this value is significant because of the importance of its association with, or position in the evolving pattern of the cultural history of NSW.

##### **Criterion 2 - aesthetic significance (scenic/architectural qualities, creative accomplishment).**

An item having this value is significant because it demonstrates positive visual or sensory appeal, landmark qualities and/or creative or technical excellence.

##### **Criterion 3 - technical/research significance (archaeological, industrial, educational, research potential and scientific significance values).**

Items having this value are significant because of their contribution, or potential contribution to an understanding of our cultural history or

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<sup>16</sup> NSW Heritage Manual "Heritage Assessments" p. 5.

environment. As this criterion includes archaeological research potential and scientific significance values it is of major importance in the assessment of archaeological remains.

**Criterion 4 - social significance (contemporary community esteem).**

Items having this value are significant through their social, spiritual or cultural association with a recognisable community.

#### **4.2.2 Degree of Significance Criteria**

Under each nature of significance criterion it must be considered whether the item meets either or both of the comparative significance criteria - representativeness and rarity.

**Representativeness**

Items having this value are significant because they are fine representative examples of an important class of significant items or environments.

**Rarity**

An item having this value is significant because it represents a rare, endangered, or unusual aspect of our history or cultural environment.

#### **4.2.3 Levels of Significance**

**Local, regional, or state**

These terms relate to the geographical and social context of an item's significance -

**Local heritage**

Comprises items significant in a local historical or geographical context or to an identifiable contemporary local community.

**Regional heritage**

Comprises items significant in a regional historical or geographical context or to an important and identifiable contemporary regional community.

**State heritage**

Comprises items significant in a state-wide historical or geographical context or to an important and identifiable contemporary state-wide community.

## 5.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY AREA

This report will not describe all aspects of significance but will concentrate on the technical/research significance, the archaeological significance of the site.

As the site of Government House this site possesses technical/research significance (archaeological) relating to the early administration and historical development of Port Macquarie, from the establishment of the penal colony to the early 20th century.

The Archaeological Management Plan for Port Macquarie has suggested the following research themes and significance:

1. The Penal Settlement (Rare, State/ National)
2. The early 19th century development of the town (Rare, Regional).
- 3a. The late 19th or 20th century development of the town (Representative, Regional).
- 3b. The late 19th or 20th century development of the town (Representative, local).
4. The nature of convict labour or public works undertaken by convict labour (Rare, State).

## 6.0 CONSERVATION POLICY GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 Heritage

#### 6.1.1 The NSW Heritage Act 1977<sup>17</sup>

The Heritage Act 1977 was enacted to ensure that the environmental heritage of NSW would be adequately identified and conserved. The Act established the Heritage Council of NSW, an independent advisory body which makes recommendations to the Minister for Planning on matters affecting the environmental heritage and on the implementation of the Heritage Act.

The Heritage Act is concerned with all aspects of conservation ranging from basic protection against indiscriminate demolition or damage, to restoration and education. The provisions of the heritage Act with particular reference to the management and conservation of archaeological sites in NSW are those which relate to "relics".

##### 6.1.1.1 The "relics" provisions

The term "relic" is defined in the Heritage Act 1977, (as amended 1987), as:

- any deposit, object, or material evidence -
  - a) which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises NSW, not being Aboriginal settlement; and
  - b) which is 50 or more years old.

The Heritage Act provides automatic statutory protection for relics in sections 139-145 which prevent the excavation or disturbance of land for the purposes of discovering, exposing, or moving a relic not subject to a conservation instrument, except in accordance with an excavation permit.

Section 139 of the heritage Act, 1977, states that:

- A person shall not disturb or excavate any land for the purpose of discovering, exposing, or moving a relic, not being a relic subject to a conservation instrument, except in accordance with an excavation permit.

Thus, the disturbance or excavation of land containing or likely to contain relics may only take place after an excavation permit has been granted by the Heritage Council or its delegate.

---

<sup>17</sup> The Archaeological Zoning Plan for Central Sydney by Lavelle and Mider pp. 13-14.

### **6.1.2 Condition of the archaeological remains**

The condition of the archaeological remains in the study area are summarised in Chapter 3 of this report.

### **6.1.3 The Development proposal**

The proposed redevelopment of this site involves the construction of a six level motel (Appendix 2). The plan indicates a two level below-ground carpark. This disturbance will remove any archaeological remains on the development area of the site.

### **6.1.4 Obligations arising from the site's significance - Conservation requirements**

The significance of the archaeological site and the extent of disturbance proposed by the development require that the site is excavated archaeologically, ie. by a qualified archaeologist supervising a team. Where possible the archaeological resources of this site should be conserved, and interpretation of the site for the public should be provided.

## **6.2 Recommendations**

### **6.2.1 Excavation Permit**

Prior to the commencement of work on the site, an archaeological excavation permit, required under the Heritage Act of N.S.W., should be applied for. This permit should be obtained by a qualified archaeologist on behalf of the client. A permit can take 3-4 weeks to be obtained from the Heritage Council of N.S.W.

### **6.2.2. Test trenching**

Archaeological test trenching should be undertaken across the site by a qualified archaeologist to determine the extent of disturbance on the site.

### **6.2.3 Conservation management plan**

If archaeological remains are shown to exist, a conservation management plan should be prepared for the site. This should include considerations for *in situ* conservation of remains and the interpretation of the site for the public.

#### 6.2.4 Archaeological excavation

Sufficient time and resources should be made available for the archaeological excavation and recording of features uncovered during the excavation. The archaeological investigation should include:

- a) detailed recording (plans, photographs and written records) of all features and structures uncovered.
- b) a catalogue of all artefacts, including provenance, description and interpretation.
- c) the stabilisation, cleaning and archival packing of all artefacts, and the placement of this material in a permanent repository. Place and date of deposition should be reported to the Heritage Office.
- d) backfilling and conservation, where appropriate.
- e) preparation of a final report, including detailed historical research, description and interpretation of the excavation (including excavation methodology), the contribution to research themes and any additional research themes, and a copy of the artefact catalogue.



## Inventory page 20

Edward Higginbotham, Terry Kass & Vince Murphy, 1994.

# Port Macquarie Archaeological Management Plan.

Inventory page 1

|                                    |                                 |                                 |                   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Inventory No.                      | 182                             | Location & description details. |                   |
| Street no                          | 2                               | Land category                   | Allotment of land |
| Street                             | Clarence Street & School Street |                                 |                   |
| Section                            | 60a                             | Allotment                       | Parts 4 & 5       |
| Grantee                            | Butler, John                    |                                 |                   |
| Present name                       |                                 |                                 |                   |
| Description of existing structures | 1-2 storey brick                |                                 |                   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Description of visible archaeological remains. |  |
| Description of archaeological remains          | There are no visible archaeological remains on this site |
| Type of site                                   |  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Condition of below ground archaeological remains. |   |
| Nature of disturbance                             | Swimming pool on street corner. Lower floor cut into slope on Clarence Street |
| Assessment of condition                           | Partly disturbed.   |

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Previous investigations.     |  |
| Type of investigation        |  |
| References                   |  |
| Heritage Study Inventory No. |  |

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Historic sequence of development. |  |
| Panel settlement                  | Government House.  |
| Town development                  | Resident Magistrates Quarters (1832, c 1840)   |
| Lead use, 1968                    |  |
| References                        | Maps, 1826 (AO Map 3821) & 1831 (AO Map 3832).<br>Maps, 1832 (AO Map 3676) & c.1840 (AO Map 3673). |

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Statement of significance   | Statement of significance. |
| This site possesses historical or archaeological significance, because it may reveal evidence relating to |                            |
| 1 The penal settlement (Rare, State/National)   |                            |
| 2 The early 19th century development of the town (Rare Regional)  |                            |

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Recommendations  | Management plan. |
| Prior to disturbance, an excavation permit, under the Heritage Act 1977 as amended, should be obtained |                  |

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Caption   | Photograph. |
| Government House (Hastings and District Historical Society) |             |