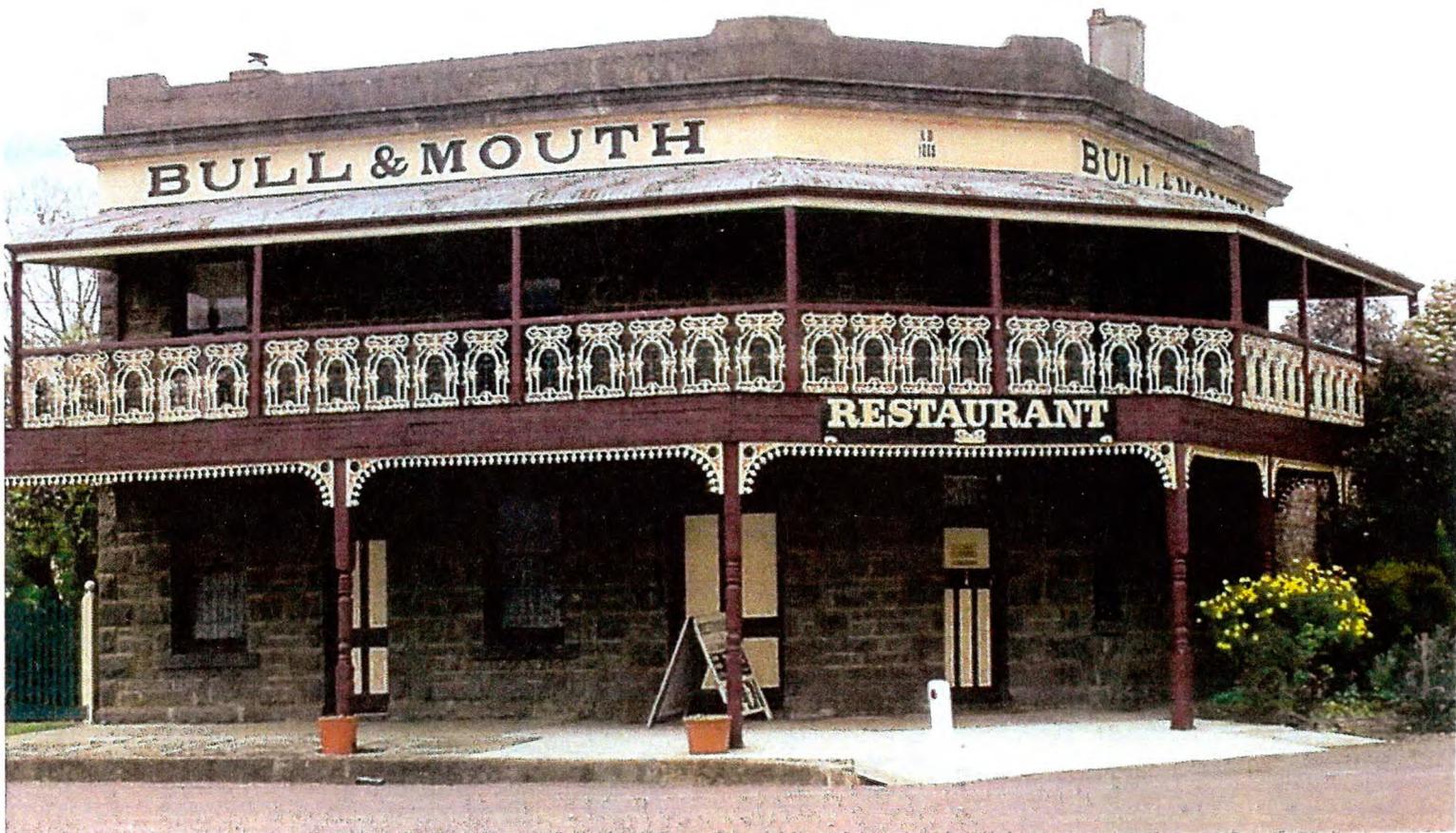


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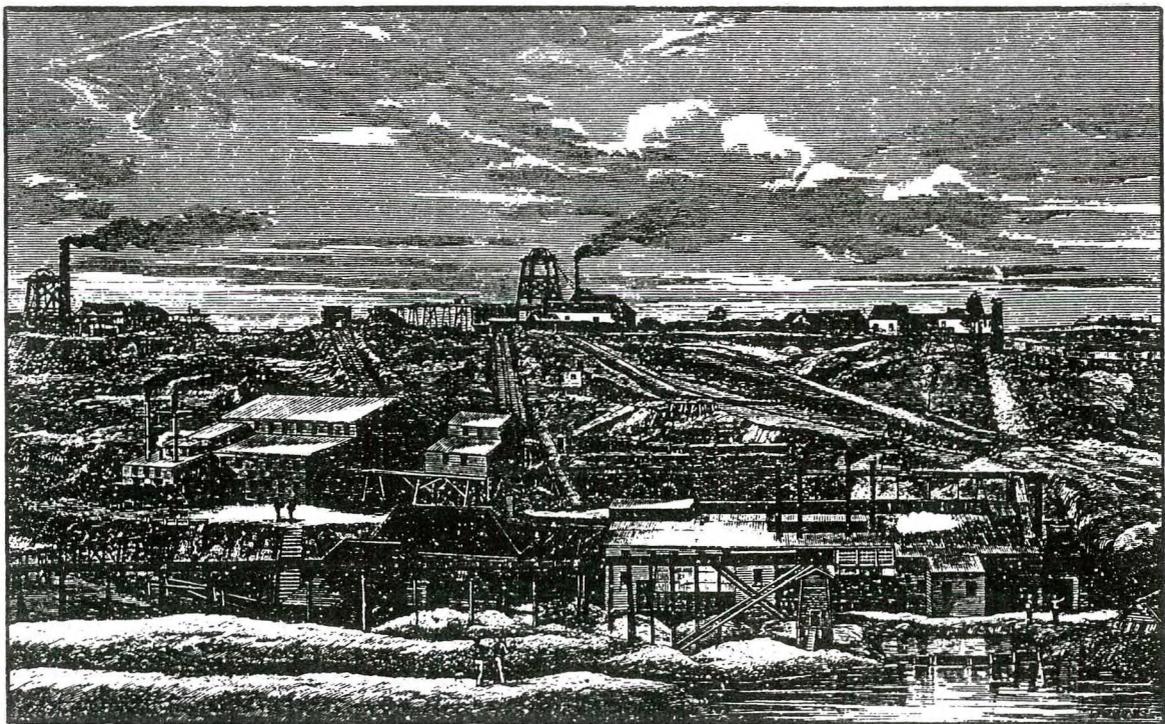
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TALBOT AND CLUNES CONSERVATION STUDY

PART B - BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Richard Aitken
1988

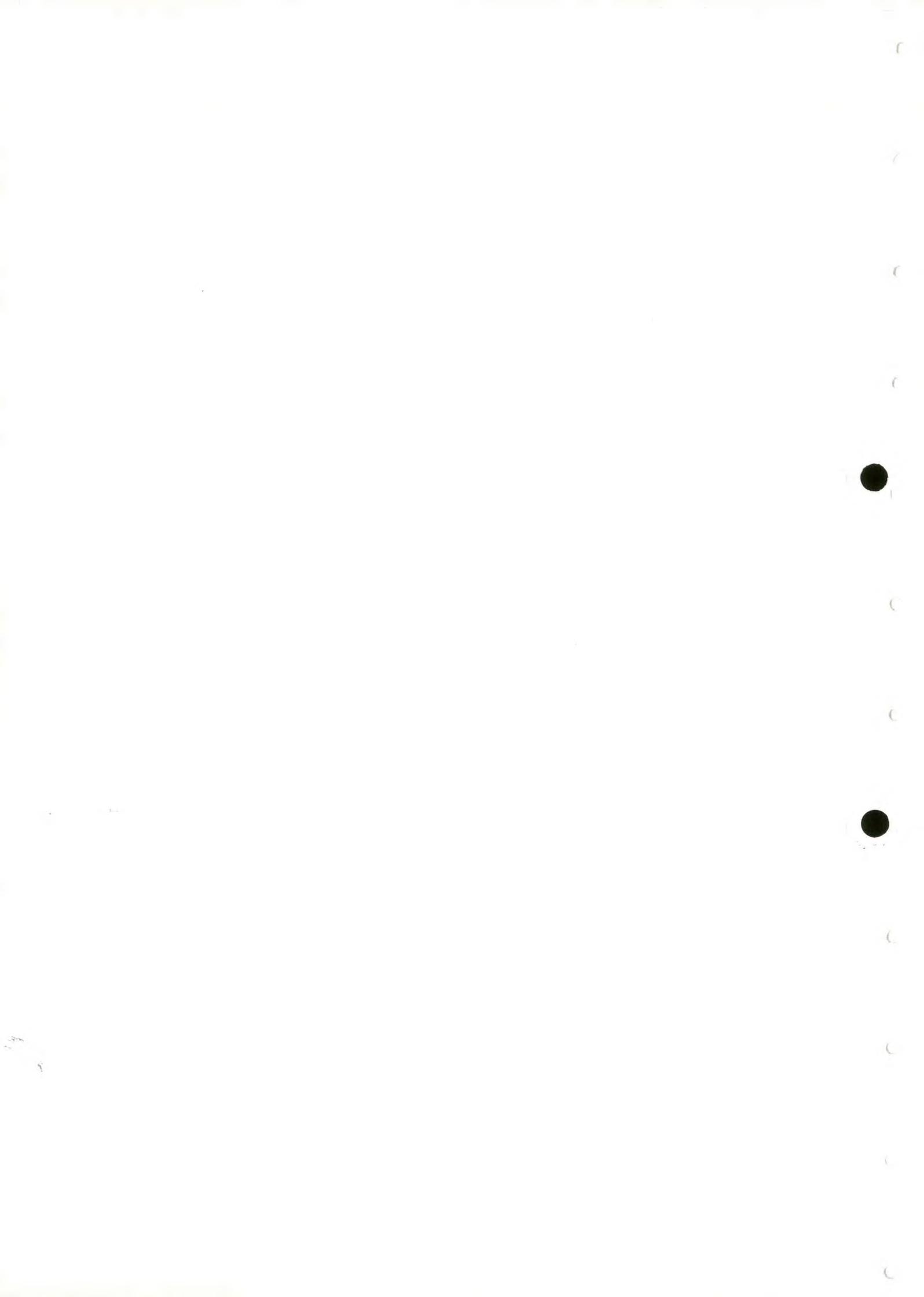


L.F. Thomas

TALBOT AND CLUNES CONSERVATION STUDY
PART B - BACKGROUND INFORMATION
January 1988

for the
Shire of Talbot and Clunes
Ministry for Planning and Environment

Richard Aitken
Architect and Conservation Consultant
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P A R T C - P H O T O G R A P H S

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Steering Committee

Ron Pryor, Cr Bob Gordon, Cr Wally Cook, Cr Frank Arundall, Cr Harry Toole, Greg Williams, Les Mason, Geoff Lawler, Boyce Pizzey

1.0 BACKGROUND HISTORY

CHAPTER ONE

THE LAND POSSESSED

I enjoyed such a charming view eastward from the summit, as can but seldom fall to the lot of the explorers of new countries. The surface presented the forms of virgin beauty, clothed in the hues of spring; and the shining verdure of 'earth's heaving bosom', was relieved by the darker hues of the wood with which they were interlaced; which exhibited every variety of tint, from a dark brown in the foreground, to a light blue in extreme distance. The hills consisted entirely of lava, and I named them from their peculiar shape, the Mammeloid hills, and the station on which I stood, Mount Greenock. In travelling through this Eden, no road was necessary, nor any ingenuity in conducting wheel-carriages, wherever we chose.

The first inhabitants of the area were the 'Jaara' or 'Jajowurrong' tribe of the Kulin aboriginal people who occupied a large tract of land stretching from present day Castlemaine, north west to Boort and St Arnaud, and along the Great Dividing Range to the eastern headwaters of the Wimmera River. Their occupation had lasted tens of thousands of years, although only twenty years after Mitchell so glowingly described their land, the Jara were decimated in number, poisoned by the white man's disease and greed. Edward Parker, Assistant Protector of Aborigines presided over the demise of the local aboriginal population and observed the avarice with which the early pastoral squatters extended their runs into land they considered unoccupied. 'The very spots most valuable to the Aborigines for their productiveness - the creeks, watercourses and rivers - are the first to be occupied' he observed sadly.

If the period of early pastoral settlement did not entirely eradicate the local aboriginal population then the post gold rush period, with its intensive land selection and newly populated townships, created an even harsher climate for continued aboriginal occupation of the land.

Squatter, miner and selector all misunderstood the aboriginal need for land as a source of food and spiritual nourishment. The government adopted often excessively paternalistic solutions without comprehension of the needs of the aborigines. The Talbot Leader editorial writer summarised local feeling about the remnant tribes in 1863.

The white population of the goldfields know only the worst part of the aboriginal character, and judging the whole by what they have seen of the disposition and immoral habits of a few, have come to regard all as incapable of civilisation. But this is far from being the case, as those who understand the aboriginal

character can amply testify to. In some, habits of self-control, independence, and sobriety are strikingly apparent; but this class is seldom found on the goldfields, because they keep aloof from the temptations into which the disreputable willingly plunge. It is as manifestly unfair to judge the whole black population by the few drunkards and vicious among them, as it would be a mistake to estimate the character of the white population by those who figure in our penal settlements.

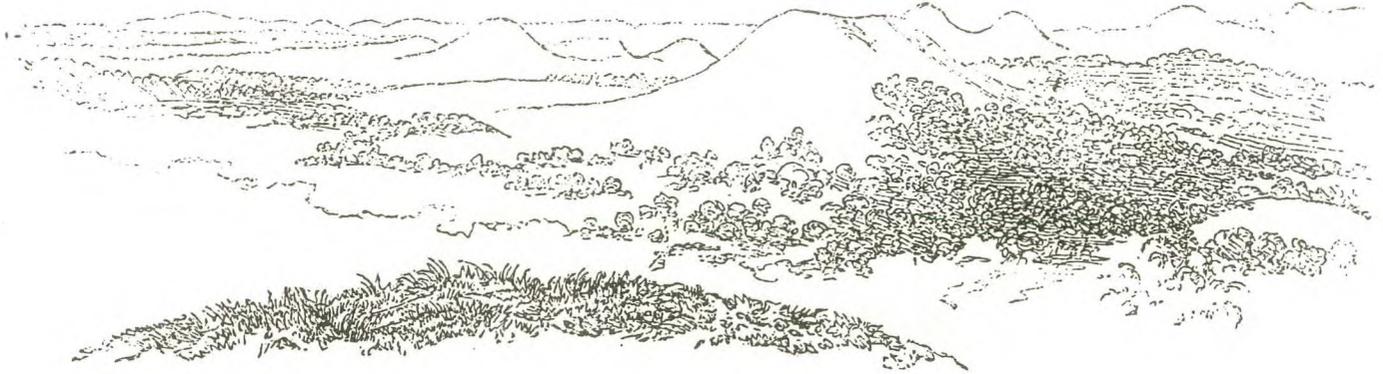
Major Thomas Mitchell was probably the first European to intrude on the territory of local aboriginal tribes. He and his party returned to Sydney in 1836 from a rewarding expedition of discovery into Western New South Wales and the Port Phillip district (now Victoria) of the colony. Mitchell, a Scot, had arrived in New South Wales in 1827 and a year later was appointed Surveyor General, a position he held until his death in 1855. The 'Australia Felix' expedition of 1836 was the third of four major explorations by Mitchell.

Aged 44, Mitchell had set off in March 1836 to lead an expedition to the rivers Darling and Murray. An air of confidence had marked the preparations and many of the chosen party had accompanied Mitchell on previous expeditions. He met up with his party at the Canobolas (near the present New South Wales country town of Orange) and on 17 March the expedition commenced in earnest. Progress was slow, but not unduly so given that Mitchell was accompanied by six bullock drivers, two blacksmiths, two horse carters, two carpenters, two sailors and an overseer/storekeeper, medical attendant, collector of birds, collector of plants, shepherd, groom (who doubled as a trumpetter), shoemaker and cook. Numerous drays were taken and the sailors had charge of two boats and a boat carriage. Barely a month had elapsed when the party was joined by Granville William Chetwynd Stapylton as second-in-command. Stapylton aged 40 was an assistant surveyor with the New South Wales Surveyor General's Department. He replaced William Wedge Darke, Mitchell 'finding him a fool'.

A circuitous route took the expedition west from Bathurst along the Lachlan River to its confluence with the Murray, thence to the junction of the Darling, the northern reaches of which Mitchell had explored a year earlier. Returning south east along the Murray, Mitchell then led the expedition into territory relevant to the present study. Proceeding in a giant 'U' shape from Mount Hope to Mount Arapiles and Portland, the party returned across 'Australia Felix' (as Mitchell named the rich country) in a line bearing east north east.

Portland was reached on 29 August and after a camp of several days the party set off on the return to Sydney. Mitchell named Mount Cole (near Beaufort) on 23 September 1836 and from here charted an approximate path through the Great Dividing Range. The country reminded Mitchell of the lower Pyrenees in Spain and he referred to this area as the 'Australian Pyrenees'. A day later

Mt. Byng Pass.



Mitchell's sketch looking north east from Mount Greenock published in his account of the trip. This probably constitutes the first sketch or published view of local land.

in contrast to the swamp and forests which had preceded, charmed Mitchell. He remarked on a fine rivulet between steep grassy banks (Stony Creek) and two smaller streams (McCallum's Creek and One Mile Creek). But it was the bald volcanic cones that captivated Mitchell. The largest of these 'Mammeloid Hills' he named Mount Glasgow by Mitchell, From Mount Greenock, to the south he also saw and named Mount Beckwith commemorating Thomas Sidney Beckwith, a founder of the English Rifles Brigade (later corrupted to Mount Beckworth).

The way home was now clear to Mitchell and he expressed joy at the sight of easy terrain of for his entourage. Stapylton recorded 'delightful progress over these Downs' with the bullocks maintaining a steady rate of three miles per hour. The party, now with Mitchell in advance and Stapylton following slightly behind, skirted the present Mount Cameron (from whence useful survey work was conducted) and reached the Loddon River near present Newstead. Still enchanted with 'Australia Felix' Mitchell likened the locality to a landscaped English Park.

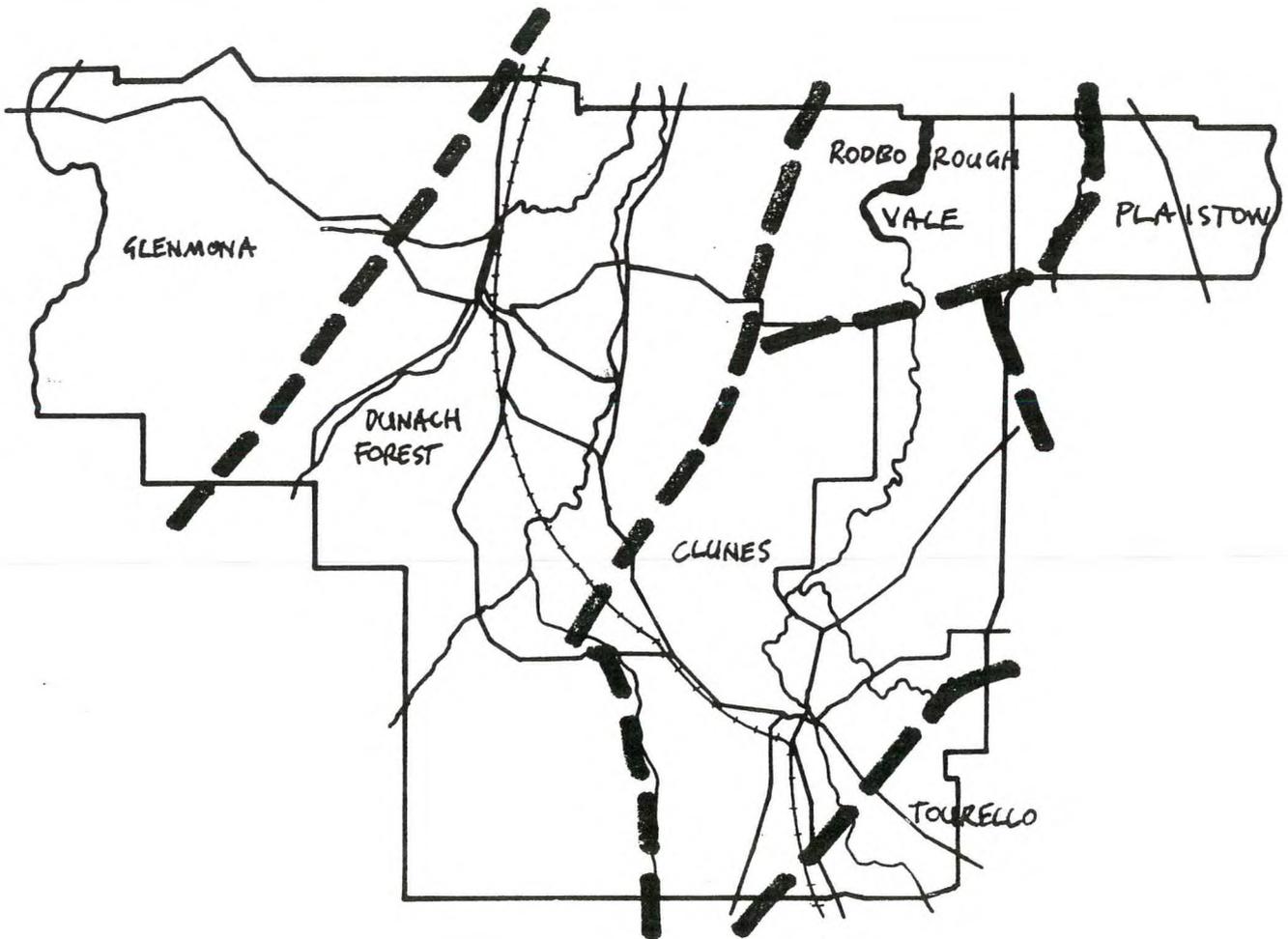
As a surveyor, rather than a mere adventurer (or 'amateur traveller' as he caustically referred to earlier explorers), Mitchell recognised the advantages of carrying out exploratory surveys along a chain of hills rather than over low plains or along rivers. Hills afforded the surveyor with distant views and the means to plot angular measurements, considerably enhancing the maps compiled by such expeditions. With the aid of accurate instruments, Mitchell was able to exploit the advantages of the hilly country around Mount Greenock to accurately map and describe the area and so lead the way for future pastoral occupation.

Word of 'Australia Felix' reached prospective pastoralists even before Mitchell's homecoming. The 'Major's Line', dug by

Mitchell's drays and bullocks into the rich damp soil, provided an accurate route to the southern Eden and had to double as a boundary between pastoral runs. Mitchell probably encouraged his fellow Scottish clansmen to seek these pastures. A number of them - Cameron, MacCallum and McNeill - took up runs which formed the bulk of the present Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

The preponderance of Scots holding pastoral runs in the Port Phillip District had its origins in Scottish history. Following the Battle of Culloden, the hereditary jurisdiction of Lairds was largely abolished, highlanders were prohibited to wear kilts or arms and those chiefs who supported Prince Charles had their estates sequestrated and cattle either driven off or slaughtered. Thousands of small land holders (known as 'Crofters') were turned off their leased lands by Scottish and English landowners. Many emigrated and their skill in animal husbandry and sheep breeding fortuitously coincided with a period of immense pastoral expansion in Australia.

Approximate boundaries of local pastoral runs





Remains of an early shepherd's hut close to Clunes, part of the local legacy from the pastoral period

One such Scot was Donald Cameron. Born in 1818 he sailed in May 1838 from Cromarty in the 'William Metcalfe'. Cameron arrived in Sydney with capital of a few hundred pounds and, following acquisition of sheep and a stay on the Goulburn River for lambing, he followed Mitchell's route southwards. On the recommendation of Captain Hepburn of Smeaton, he took up adjacent land vacated by a short-lived squatter named Irvine. Cameron settled in the vicinity of Clunes in mid-1839 and a year later he was able to write to his brother that he had a comfortable house and hurdles for his sheep. This house was possibly to the east of Mount Glasgow (approximately eight kilometres north of the later and more widely known homestead on Station Flat).

Cameron's run of 12,800 ha was named 'Clunes' after his home in Scotland. By the late 1840s it supported fifty head of cattle and over 15,000 sheep and, until the mid 1850s, was joined to Tourello (2000 ha). In 1850 Cameron applied for a homestead block under his right of pre-emption. He was permitted by an 1847 New South Wales order-in-council to purchase up to 640 acres (256 ha) being one square mile around his home station. By the early 1850s his homestead was located on the west bank of Creswick's Creek (near the end of the present Station Flat Road) and in 1854 described as '8 room stone and brick built cottage, with out offices, gardens, etc., etc. complete'.

Alexander MacCallum, another pastoralist of Scottish descent held the neighbouring Dunach Forest run. This run, taken up in 1841 and sometimes referred to as 'Mount Greenock', was almost twice

the size of the Clunes run and extended from Mount Beckworth to Carisbrook. MacCallum held the run until 1850 with Andrew Aldcorn and James Forsyth although following a short break in 1850-54 he regained the run until 1862. During this period he witnessed a profound change following the gold discoveries in the Amherst and Back Creek area. MacCallum applied for his homestead block under right of pre-emption in August 1854 (and this was granted in June 1855) but unlike Cameron of Clunes, mining did not directly interfere with his homestead. The homestead site is today marked by stone footings. MacCallum's name was taken by several local geographical features and generally shortened to McCallum.

Adjoining the Dunach Forest run were Glenmona (to the north west) and Rodborough Vale (to the north east). This latter run, principally associated with the Bucknall family was closer to Carisbrook than Talbot but Glenmona, situated astride the Bet Bet Creek, took in all that land covered by later gold diggings around Amherst and Talbot. Glenmona was created in 1845 by the combination of the Scarborough and Far Creek (or 14 Mile Creek) runs. Edmund McNeill (of Scarborough) and Charles Hall (of Far Creek) joined in partnership at Glenmona (1845-52) and later transferred their interest to Charles and Joseph Bradshaw. In the absence of any passable roads or tracks, surveyor W.L. Urquhart remembered swimming across the flooded Tullaroop Creek in 1851 to deliver mail to Hall, returning officer for Loddon district at the first Legislative Council election. The present stone residence at Glenmona was the second homestead on this run, typically replacing an earlier slab structure.

Apart from the fluctuating fortunes of the Clunes run, initially encumbered with gold diggers after twelve years of isolation and then, once sold to Lane, Whyte and MacDonald, a source of undreamt wealth in the form of royalties, the discovery of gold usually had a minor benefit for the pastoral tenants. The loss of land caused by mining and land sale was generally offset by the ready local market for meat and, in general, most squatters had already made their fortunes by the mid 1850s when gold seekers began to seriously disrupt the pastoral solitude.

Notes on sources

Aboriginal occupation

Documents relating to the work of E.S. Parker are reproduced in Cannon (ed), 'Aborigines and Protectors', Historical Records of Victoria, Foundation Series, volume 2B, 1983, chapter 24. Useful observations by Resident Warden William Templeton are in 'Report from the Select Committee upon Protection to the Aborigines'; D8, Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Council, 1858-59. Useful secondary sources include P.J.F. Coutts, Readings in Victorian Prehistory, volume 2, The Victorian Aborigines 1800 to 1860, May 1981; and general accounts are in Denis Strongman, 'The Rush to Landsborough', unpublished typescript, Canberra, 1986; Cusack, Bendigo; pp.4-6; Osborn and Du Borg, Maryborough, pp.12-17. The Talbot Leader editorial was published on 17 February 1863.

Mitchell

The primary source for Mitchell's travels is his Three expeditions into the interior of Eastern Australia with descriptions of the recently explored region of Australia Felix and of the present colony of New South Wales first published in 1838. The second edition of 1839 was 'carefully revised' by the author and many small editorial corrections appear even in the section of major interest to the present study area (volume 2; pp. 273-276 in the 1838 edition and pp. 274-277 in the 1839 edition). The quotation at the start of this chapter is a composite of the two editions. The major biography of Mitchell is William C. Foster's Sir Thomas Livingston Mitchell and his world 1792-1855, Institution of Surveyors, New South Wales, Sydney, 1985. This contains a painstaking reconstruction of the 'Australian Felix' expedition and is complemented by maps in Alan Andrews (ed), Stapylton with Major Mitchell's Australia Felix Expedition, 1836 largely from the journal of Granville William Chetwynd Stapylton, Blubber Head Press, Hobart, 1986 which has both Mitchell's maps and present day reconstructions of the route. Stapylton's journal is not particularly useful for topographic observations in this study area although his direct style of writing conveys much flavour compared with Mitchell's more erudite account.

Pastoral occupation

The account of the squatters leases comes from the preface to R.V. Billis and A.S. Kenyon, Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., Melbourne, 1932 and this work was checked for summaries of the local runs. Run files (on microfiche) for Clunes, Dunach Forest and Glenmona were also consulted and plans associated with these runs have formed the backbone of knowledge about the district in the pre-gold rush period. Additional information on the Clunes run and the Scottish background has come from Frank and Muriel Cameron and R.A. Bradfield, Camerons of Clunes, printed by Castlemaine Mail, 1985. Urquhart's reminiscences about Charles Hall of Glenmona are in Victorian Public Record Series (VPRS) 44, unit 489, F62/11,082.

CHAPTER TWO

DISCOVERY OF GOLD

The land under study at one time formed the floor of a sea and through a tremendous disturbance was elevated above sea level. This was accompanied by crumpling and distortion so that rocks once horizontal now appear to have vertical stratification. Sedimentary rocks (clays, slate and sandstone) were laid down on the floor of an ancient ocean while the igneous rocks (mainly granite) were forced up from the interior of the earth. It was these intrusions from hundreds and perhaps thousands of metres below the surface, which formed Mount Beckworth and introduced gold in its matrix of stone. During a long period of quiescence, thousands of metres of this plateau washed down the creeks and rivers to help form the rich agricultural plains to the north.

Much later came the series of volcanic eruptions that produced our basaltic mountains and lava flows. These covered the ancient creeks and rivers. The rivers dammed back and soon silted up forming such flats as Kangaroo Flat and Amherst Flat. The weathering of the rocks through the ages sluiced the gold into the ancient creeks. The lava flows and to a lesser extent, the alluvial flats then eroded to form rich agricultural lands. The volcanic lava flows produced bare plains and hills but the sedimentary and silted areas were covered with the forest that Mitchell observed - 'iron-bark eucalypti and box' - while along rivers and streams red gums thrived.

It was known that gold existed in these rocks prior to the official date of discovery in Victoria in 1851. Shepherds and others on pastoral runs had collected specimens from the 1840s but pressure from fearful squatters kept such isolated discoveries from general knowledge. In 1848, however, a well publicised find at Daisy Hill (on Hall and McNeill's Glenmona run) attracted much attention in Melbourne. The surveyor Robert Russell, fresh from plotting the boundaries of Glenmona, wrote that Thomas Chapman (one of Hall and McNeill's shepherds) had found gold and sold a quantity to a Collins Street jeweller. In February 1849 the Argus reported fifty men had rushed to the vicinity, but the difficult bush and the swift presence of Captain Dana and his native police soon aborted the 'rush'.

As Flett has observed the determined efforts to conceal the find gave the whole episode the air of a hoax. E.C. Booth, writing many years later in Another England, also gave this impression with his fanciful description of those at the Daisy Hill rush.

'All sorts and conditions' of men started off for the diggings. It is doubtful whether the first expedition was looked upon in a serious light, for the most unlikely persons possible joined in it. Dog-carts, buggies, outside cars and inside cars, any and everything on wheels, or circular contrivances that

looked like wheels, were laid under contribution ... The equipment of the men seemed more like the belongings of a monster pic-nic than of a gold rush, and the tools taken were of the queerest possible kind. One merchant paid the expenses of the trip by selling, at high prices, a case of bowie-knives, originally intended for the Chinese, that served the purpose of shovel and pick to the amateur gold diggers ... Arrived on the ground, the 'diggers' commenced turning over the surface of the soil; those of them who were fortunate with their bowie-knives, and the other with pieces of stick or their fingers.

The 1849 rush to the more celebrated gold diggings of California drew potential diggers away from Victoria, and possibly accounted for the lack of any serious exploration of the Daisy Hill area. But California stimulated prospecting in Victoria, although the American experience dictated looking along creeks. Reef mining was undertaken in California, but few diggers were so experienced and the territory around Clunes was hardly promising. C.F. Nicholls, writing as special correspondent for the Ballarat Star in 1858 summarised the situation at Clunes during this early period.

Were there nothing about it to attract attention but the natural features of the country, the most experienced and most observant of gold miners - are who had practical acquaintance with every auriferous district in the colony, from Steiglitz to Korong, and from Ararat to the Ovens, - might pass within a few hundred yards of Clunes ... and yet find nothing to arrest his attention.

Yet attention was attracted to Clunes. Prior to 1851 the outcropping quartz reefs, covered with grey lichen and spilling down the hillside to Creswick's Creek had been fingered by shepherds and squatters alike. Set in the midst of vast basalt plains relieved by the granitic Mount Beckwith and bold volcanic hills, the 'Mammeloid Hills' of Mitchell's Eden, the creek had scored a deep valley as it twisted from its waterbed in the ranges east of Creswick weathering the quartz dyke and depositing its upper veins in an alluvium close to the surface.

In January 1851 the German physicist Dr George Herman Bruhn had set off from Melbourne to explore the mineral resources of the colony. Squatter William Campbell (of Strathloddon run) had remarked in 1849 on the probability of gold being found in the quartz reefs on Cameron's Clunes station and even recommended that quartz be crushed for garden paths at Cameron's new residences on Creswick's Creek in order to test the claims. This trial was not undertaken until March 1850 when gold was found embedded in quartz just as Campbell had predicted. The discovery was concealed. Cameron feared a rush to his homstead block. In December that year he applied to have 480 acres of his station measured for sale under right of pre-emption. In April 1851 Bruhn found gold at Parker's station and had been shown gold obtained at Clunes by Cameron. Dr Bruhn spread the news widely and an

eager listener to the news was James Esmond. Esmond had been at the 1848 rush to Daisy Hill then spent two years in California. He returned in the same ship as Edward Hammond Hargraves. Both men were keen to use their knowledge of Californian techniques to discover gold in the colonies. Armed with Bruhn's detailed information Esmond found gold at Clunes on 29 June 1851.

Rather than the first discoverer of gold, Esmond was a good and informed publicist. Despite earlier documented discoveries at Clunes and Amherst by others, James Esmond is credited with the 'discovery' of payable gold in Victoria. Travelling from Clunes with several samples, his arrival in Geelong on Saturday 5 July 1851 was greeted with great enthusiasm. On the following Monday the Geelong Advertiser reported the discovery and the following day its was reproduced in the Melbourne Daily News. 'The long-sought treasure is at last found. Victoria is a gold country' it was claimed by the News.

The slender evidential basis of Esmond's claim was testified to by another account of payable gold at Warrandyte in the next issue of the Melbourne Daily News. However, the discovery of gold of Clunes had been made public, and the close proximity of the reefs to Cameron's homestead confirmed the worst fears held by the squatters that their peaceful pastoral occupation was to be severely disrupted by gold mining.

A trickle of gold seekers arrived following Esmond's disclosure and by the end of July 1851 as many as 50-100 men were at Clunes. The majority stayed only briefly, deterred by the hard labour and wet winter conditions. Various names were given to the field, with some parties using 'The Clunes', some 'Craig Orr' (from William Campbell) and others referring to the 'Pyrenees diggings'. The Melbourne Daily News, whose correspondent W.S. Gibbons was despatched to the new field at the start of August 1851, preferred classical allusions. 'Why not call the diggings "Tmolus" and the Deep Creek "Pactolus"?' The name Clunes stuck however and more important matters were examined. How should the gold be mined? Picks and hammers were early favourites to prise gold from the quartz. Decomposed reefs also enabled cradles and dishes to be used, Esmond and his mate Pugh leading the way with the first cradle.

Provisions were scarce with Burnbank [Lexton] the nearest settlement with a store. Cameron sold mutton to the diggers at three pence per pound, 'a very moderate price when we consider the inconvenience to which this gentleman has lately been exposed' observed the Argus. By early August a store tent had been established by Clapperton and Co of Burnbank and the Argus correspondent (writing from Carpenter's Inn in the Jim Crow Ranges) reported dwellings comprising 'sod huts, gunyahs, tents, tilted carts and mia-mias'.

The pioneer journalist of the goldfields, W.S. Gibbons of the Melbourne Daily News provided the most accurate observation of the settlement. His special report from Clunes, written on 9 August 1851 conveys the spirit of the early days of mining.

The present population at the diggings is estimated to be about 60 men, exclusive of a few women and children ... Only a few parties have been really successful, and these will have to get a great deal more before they realise much profit on their outfit and their labour. They work early and late, and say, (which is true) that without really hard labour and perseverance, nothing can be done. The place presents a singular aspect, a small settlement being formed of tilted carts, tents, mud huts, etc., all more or less comfortable. A store tent from Burnbank has been established on the ground, and a hawker made a stay of several days. The prices of some articles in large demand are quoted as follows: Flour - 5d per lb., Meat - 3d per lb., Tobacco - 8/- per lb., Mercury - 4/- per ounce in good demand ... Rains have been very heavy here, roads very heavy, and the creeks much swollen. Five miles per hour is a very good average for riding. The level ground is only varied by change from swamp to bog, and the hillsides are so slippery as to be difficult of navigation, the journey being performed almost entirely by water. The miles, too, seem to be considerably longer here, than anywhere else.

The mercury was a necessary final part of separating gold from the gravel although the gold recovery process was not without its theatrical side, as Gibbons recounted.

The leader of the mob having finished the operation, displayed a quantity far exceeding any previous gains, when one of the men interested, who had for a moment, put some small lumps in his mouth for safety, in a convulsion of joy, swallowed his 'quid', nuggets and all. An emetic was proposed but strongly objected to by the patient, who preferred submitting to the loss to suffering so unpleasant a process of recovery.

William Henry Wright, Commissioner of Crown Lands (and later Chief Commissioner of the Goldfields) visited Clunes at the start of September 1851 finding about 100 diggers. Despite the Government order for miners to take out licences (at 30 shillings per month) Wright assumed he had been sent to Clunes merely to ascertain whether men there could afford to purchase licences rather than actually issue them. He favoured the licence system and was sure most at Clunes could afford one, although this was far from certain. The population of about 100 men sustained until for several weeks until the greater attractions of Buninyong, Mount Alexander [Castlemaine], Ballarat, Daylesford and Bendigo in the following weeks overshadowed the initial disclosures at Clunes. The easily accessible gold along Creswick's Creek was soon exhausted and miners lacked the technology to extract gold from the quartz reefs. Within a short period Clunes was practically deserted leaving no permanent development. It was possibly this lack of development that caused the government to grant Cameron his 480 acres under right of pre-emption in June 1852, knowing that part of the land was auriferous.

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PLAN OF TWO PREEMPTIVE RIGHTS
Containing respectively 320 & 160 Acres
at
"CLUNES"

DONALD CAMERON ESQ

Magnetic North

Sect. 2.
160 ac.

Portion 1.
Sect. 2.
320 ac.

NO ADDITIONS TO
TO BE
COPY 395-42

Descriptions Formulated Oct 25 1854

By J. Burr
Surveyor

From Burn Bank (Lexton)

To Ballarat

Primary Stratifed Rocks. Clay Slate. Covered
superficially, except where colored yellow,
with Volcanic: the part marked xxxxxx is
Dyke of Auriferous Quartz.

Surveyed by J. Burr
P.A. 23, 24 & 25 August 1854.
Weather, Rainy and Windy 2:30 - 4:00 days.

Thomas Burr

Surveyor

23 Sept 54

C

31

SCALE
1" = 2000'

1/4 MILE 1 MILE

Descriptions Formulated to
22 Dec 1854

P.R. C
31

7905

Surveyor Thomas Burr's plan of the Clunes pre-emptive right, 1854
[Central Plan Office]

Meanwhile, in March 1852, attention was attracted back to the Daisy Hill area. The track from Carisbrook through Glenmona run formed part of the route of the gold escort to South Australia. The escort chief, Tolmer, advised some hopefuls to try digging near Daisy Hill and gold was soon discovered. One of the diggers, Cowley, became a well known figure at Amherst but new and larger gold discoveries in the vicinity soon captured public attention. For the rest of the decade the Daisy Hill area was to be invaded and settled by thousands of diggers, with development finally consolidating at Back Creek in 1859 on the site of the present Talbot township.

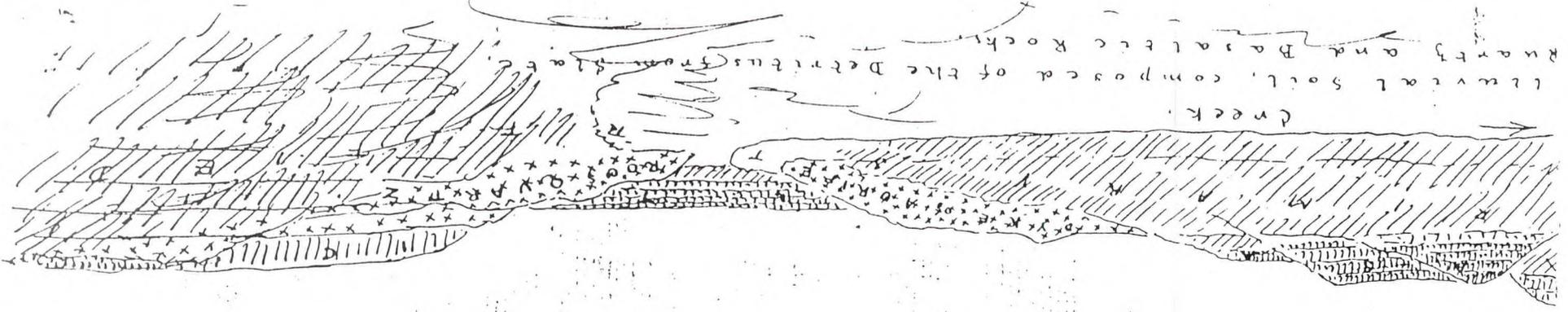
After the initial rush to Clunes little further development occurred until the mid 1850s. Surveyor Thomas Burr undertook the survey of the Clunes pre-emptive right during late August 1854 and the topography and geology so excited him that he appended two sketches in the margin of his letter conveying the plan to the Surveyor General. 'The Dyke of Quartz' he remarked

contains grains of gold which are visible to the naked eye: some which I saw of the size of small shot: and if this quartz was crushed and the gold amalgamated with mercury the vein would in all probability, yield a sufficient quantity of gold to remunerate the operators.

In the face of such observations and the general progress of quartz mining of Bendigo, and Tarrangower [Maldon] it was inevitable that operations would recommence at Clunes. Yet, as Gibbons had observed in 1851 the reefs could not be fully exploited until the advent of 'a properly organised company, with machinery for crushing the quartz rock, in addition to working the auriferous deposit'. That company was to be the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company and, much more than Esmond's disclosure, its operations provided the greatest contribution to mining in Clunes, and in turn Clunes' great contribution to the history of Victoria. Prior to their commencement in 1857, only small scale reef mining had occurred at Clunes, or on any local gold field for that matter. The Port Phillip Company and its energetic manager Rivett Henry Bland so transformed Victorian mining that Robert Brough Smythe declared with authority in 1869 that the works were the finest in the Southern Hemisphere.

Burr's sketch of Clunes, executed in the margin of a letter he wrote in 1854 whilst surveying the Clunes pre-emptive right

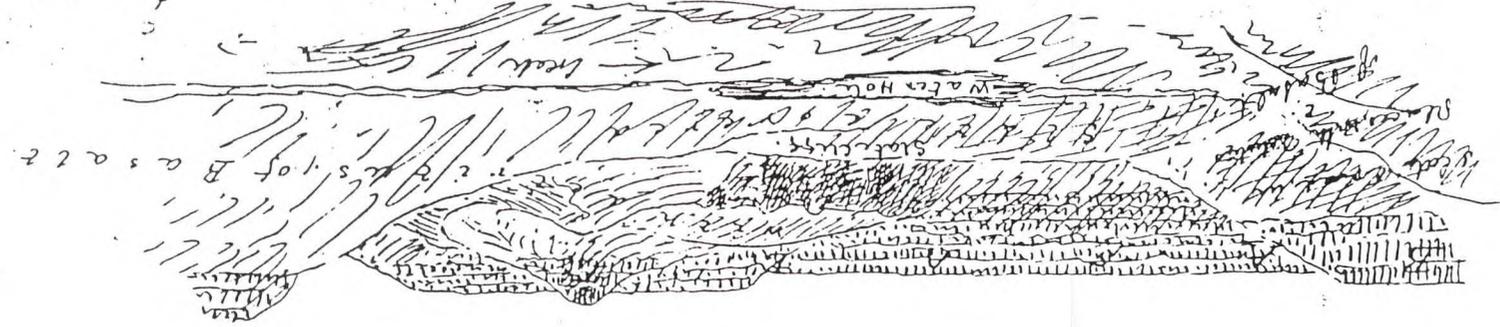
Sketch showing the manner in which the Primary Stratified Rocks, with their characteristic Auriferous Quartz Dykes is overlain by Basaltic Rock at "Clunes".



25 Aug: 1852
 J. Brown



Sketch showing the Relative position of the Primary Stratified and Basaltic Rocks at "Clunes"



"Clunes"

No 3

No 2

Notes on sources

The description of local geological history is taken from A Pictorial History of Talbot - A Gold Town, 1982. James Flett's books, Maryborough, 1975, pp.11-13, 55-56 and The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1970, p.254 (Daisy Hill), pp.418-437 (Clunes) are both based on detailed research and have been used freely. Booth's quote regarding the 1848 rush to Daisy Hill is from Another England, pp.45-46. Thomas Burr's quotation regarding gold at Clunes is from a letter in VPRS 44, unit 3, 55/61 and his plan is on microfiche at the Central Plan Office with the Clunes run. Research in Melbourne Daily News and the Argus was undertaken by Con Weickhardt and is taken from his manuscript notes (held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes). General use has been made of Robert Brough Smyth, The Gold Fields and Mineral Districts of Victoria, 1869 and Geoffrey Serle, The Golden Age, A history of the Colony of Victoria 1851-1861, Melbourne University Press, 1963.

CHAPTER THREE

AMHERST AND THE EARLY RUSHES

Following the first rushes to Daisy Hill in 1852, Charles Hall (who had recently sold his share in Glenmona to the Bradshaws) was appointed Assistant Gold Commissioner for the area. The first camp was established at Daisy Hill in October 1852, a timely government decision given the influx in December to 'Cowley's Rush' at Blacksmith's Gully (east of the later site of Amherst township). Subsequent discoveries were at Kangaroo Gully (March 1853), Grecian Gully (May 1853), Oppossum Gully (October 1854) and Daisy Hill Flat (1855). These were all in the vicinity of the later site of Amherst township and competed with similar discoveries long the Back Creek.

Assistant surveyor Hugh Fraser surveyed Amherst in early 1855 and marked out town, providing suburban and country allotments under instructions from district surveyor W.S. Urquhart. As surveyed, Amherst township comprised four sections of land located north of the Daisy Hill Creek consisting of 74 quarter acre allotments. These township blocks were located on the road from Adelaide to Maryborough at its junction with the road to Carisbrook.

The township of Amherst was centred within a square having one mile sides marked out as roads, although at this date these were purely notional. The axis and size of the township was used to generate a series of four further squares spreading east along Daisy Hill Creek and this was followed by a further four squares, including an abortive township survey on Back Creek. The eastern squares contained a large water hole which according to Fraser was 'full in all seasons [and] the only supply to be depended on by the residents of "Amherst" and the "Back Creek"'. Fraser also marked out a cemetery reserve and 100 acre government camp on high ground north of the Back Creek.

The whole plan impressed a grand geometric vision on the undulating, scrubby pock marked hills. The grid epitomised the surveyor's idealistic vision tempered by the processes of a bureaucracy at work, responding, under pressure, to urgent local needs. Despite the incongruity of imposing a grid on land whose development was dictated by the organic meanderings of auriferous leads and creeks, the township at Amherst formed a particularly fine example of the grid pattern layout commonly utilised for goldfield towns. At Amherst (and later on Back Creek Flat) relief from a strict grid was provided by minor deviations to take account of the topography. These included an outcropping quartz knoll at Amherst, water courses and existing tracks.

The new camp surveyed by Fraser was set up in March 1855 and superceded the old camp at Daisy Hill. The buildings however were far from adequate. The gold office constructed of bark was in an appalling state with a door incapable of being fastened. The subsequent disappearance of a bag of gold led to construction

of a new office made of iron in August 1855; the contract sum of £150 indicated its superior nature. Such iron buildings were a boon to the government eager for quick solutions to a gold fields building programme that was inevitably behind schedule.

Within the township the first land sale was conducted in May 1855 with major buyers including the publicans Albion and J.F. Cowley. These sales of Sections 1 and 2 were supplemented by a handful of quarter acre allotments in Section 4 sold in November 1855. The allotments, and others sold in July 1856 were all concentrated along the main road (High Street) while sales in 1857 filled in some of the back blocks.

Little interest was shown in the allotments by miners. Their pressing needs, such as a mail service, were still not being met. However, tenders for a regular mail service between Amherst and Maryborough were called in October 1855, and by February the following year mail was delivered and collected daily.

A new government camp at Amherst was set up in 1856 on high ground north of the township allotments. Other institutional reserves were also allocated and the Church of England occupied a hill of quartz with a semi-circular track - whimsically entitled 'The Circus' - forming the southern boundary. The first Church of England school, a slab building was moved to the new reserve in mid-1856 whilst an answer from the Denominational School Board regarding additional funding was awaited. The slab and canvas residence (and temporary school) of Richard Stephens, the school master and his wife, was in an appalling state twelve months later when the £200 capital grant was received for a new brick building. The partial rebuilding of this new building four years later was an indication of poorly made bricks and shoddy workmanship.

Notwithstanding the presence of larger buildings such as hotels and shops (especially after the 1855 land sales), Amherst in this period consisted of a fluctuating number of shops and residences of canvas or calico, at best erected for a duration of months rather than years. The commercial premises and some more permanent residences were generally weatherboard or slab while the earliest brick buildings appear to have been erected in the late 1850s for institutional purposes.

The tenure of commercial premises prior to land sales was similar to a government lease, with provisions of the miners' right permitting a business license to be obtained. The holder was entitled to occupy an area not exceeding 11 x 33 feet for a quarterly fee of £2 10s with the smaller dimension representing a frontage, although the ad hoc nature of development on the new diggings did not always permit such idealised niceties.

Township plan of Amherst published in 1859. The earliest surveyed blocks were around the intersection of High Street and Princes Street.

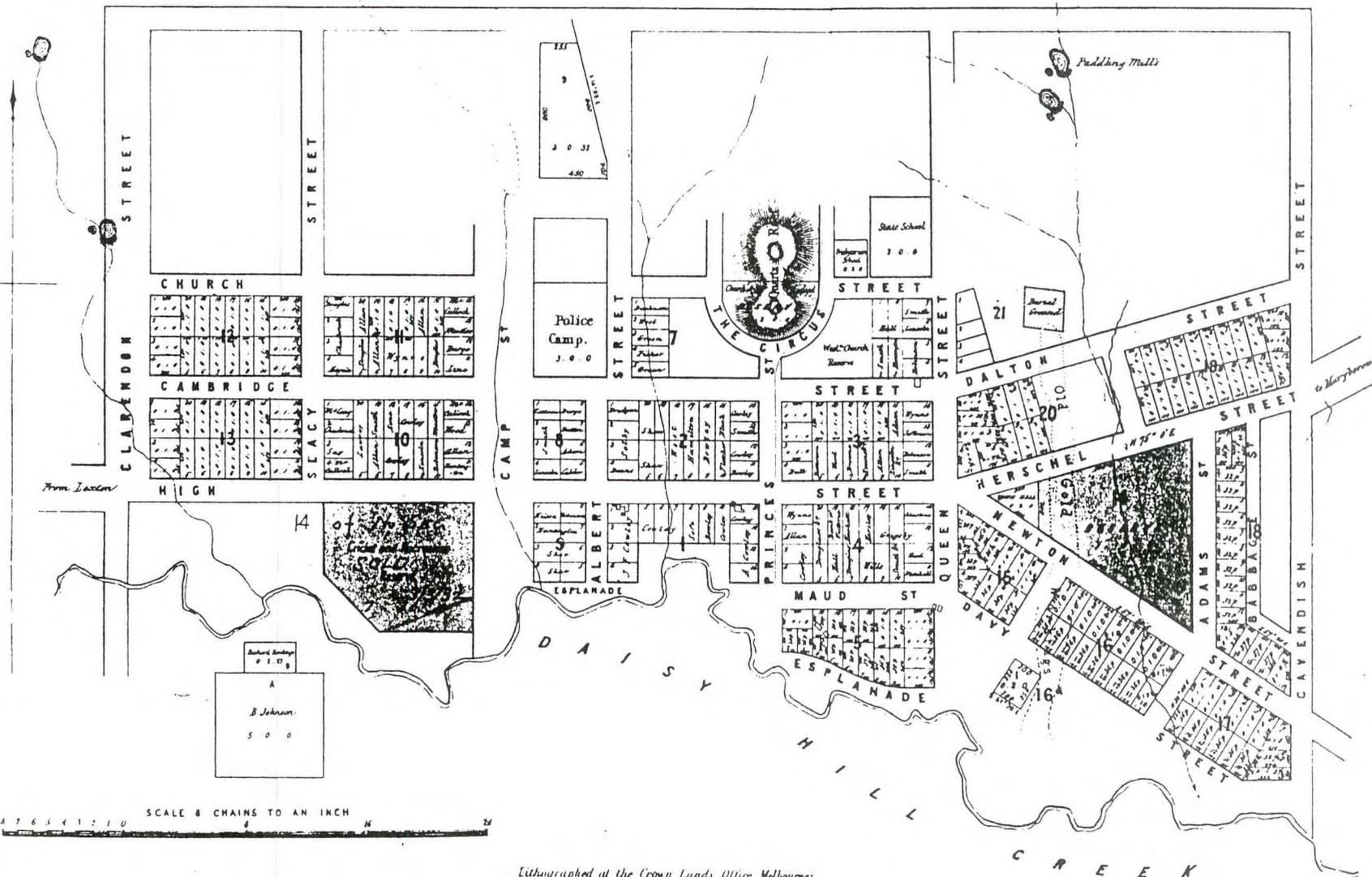
[Central Plan Office]

59/120

1/245

The Township of AMHERST COUNTY OF TALBOT

19



Lithographed at the Crown Lands Office, Melbourne.
(August 1856 16R4)

Development on the Back Creek

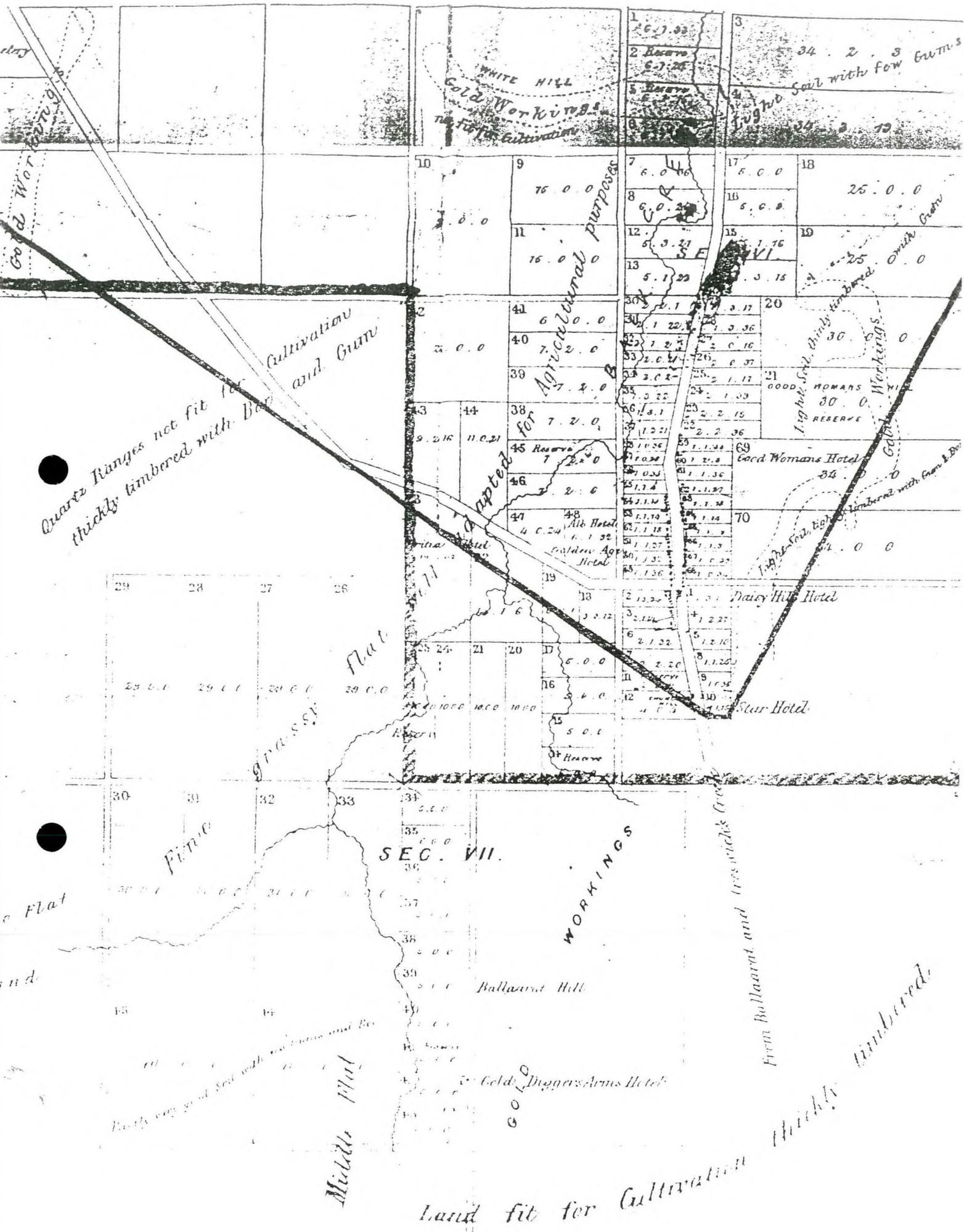
While Amherst was consolidating as a settlement, Back Creek was also attracting great attention. Discovery of gold along the creek had initiated the opening of Kangaroo Flat early in 1854 and, later that year, Ballarat Hill. In March 1855 a large rush to Goodwoman's Hill took place with nearby Nuggetty Gully also attracting many diggers. Felix Ray, an early arrival on the Back Creek, described the growth of the area.

It was just about the time we first puddled our wash that newcomers were arriving at the rate of about a thousand a day. Every morning I could notice that a few more acres of the landscape were covered by tents of various sizes, and this encampment extended its bounds daily, until we were surrounded by a camp that would have lodged a vast army. Between one day and the next a dozen framed calico erections opened as stores, each flying a gaudy flag, and scores of carts and waggons, loaded with tools, clothing, provisions and cases of bottled ale and spirits, and their several ways among the tents. Peripatetic hawkers, mostly having two covered carts filled with articles suited to the requirements of diggers, came along in numbers and disposed of their stocks rapidly. Caterers for the amusement of the diggers were soon in evidence, and billiard rooms, dancing saloons and barbers shops quickly had one side of the first-formed street in possession. Hotels, stores, restaurants, skittle alleys, and cigar shops, where a shilling was paid to a gaily-dressed female for a box of matches, and a nip of brandy was presented gratuitously to the customer, sprung up on the opposite side, and, lo, the genesis of a town, where money was abundant among the working population, and business brisk in consequence.

These buildings were probably the ones shown on the road from Ballarat and Creswick to Carisbrook plotted by Fraser in July 1855. Flett quotes a population of tens of thousands on the Back Creek in this period including a large encampment of Chinese. Hotels in the vicinity of the settlement included the 'Star', 'Daisy Hill', 'Albion', 'Golden Age' and 'Goodwoman's', named after publican Dale Goodwoman. A police office was also in operation by this date. Peel Street was the main thoroughfare between Amherst and Back Creek. It was not until after the rush to the Scandinavian Lead that the present direct route was established.

Part of the 1855 township planned for Back Creek. Although later cancelled, the cluster of buildings forming the settlement can easily be discerned.

[Central Plan Office]



Quartz Ranges not fit for
thickly timbered with B...

WHITE HILL
Gold Workings
The fit for Cultivation

34 . 2 . 3
Soil with few gums

Agricultural purposes

25 . 0 . 0

Light Soil, thinly timbered
Omit Cane

GOOD WOMANS
30 . 0
RESERVE

Good Women's Hotel

34 . 0 . 0

Light Soil, thinly timbered
Omit Cane

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

34 . 0 . 0

SEC. VII.

WORKINGS

Ballard Hill

Gold Diggers Arms Hotel

Land fit for Cultivation

From Ballard and Treweek's Creek

thickly timbered

Other settlements

Shallow alluvial mining along the Mount Greenock or McCallum's Creek commenced in January 1855 at Garden Flat, near the present northern Shire boundary and four months later miners struck alluvial gold on the northern slope of Mount Greenock. These early finds were supplemented by a later rush to McCallum's Creek (1858) and also Mount Glasgow (1859).

Other settlements dotted the landscape including Bung Bong on Bet Bet Creek and Emu on the Craigie - Amherst Road. Gold had been discovered at Avoca in early 1853, several months after Daisy Hill, and the rich shallow alluvial leads of Avoca caused a dramatic rise in population there within a year. Much to the joy of Avoca, and chagrin of the rapidly growing settlement at Maryborough (and to a lesser extent Amherst), the Local Court District was centred on Avoca with the Resident Commissioner taking up office in 1855. Development at Avoca meant increased use of tracks from Carisbrook (via Amherst) and Maryborough. The two tracks converged a short distance east of the Bet Bet Creek and were soon joined by a third (from Bet Bet), which ran along the fertile river valley. 'Carrol's Hotel', sited beside the Creek, was strategically located near several ford crossings although in 1855 its reputation was not high.

There is a small hut dignified with the name of a hotel - the Half-Way House - on the Creek, almost nine miles from Maryborough; but it is wretchedly kept, and unless very much exhausted, we advise the traveller to take a drink of the pure element at the creek and hasten on.

Such were the beginnings of Bung Bong.

A settlement sprang up near the Emu Inn on the Carisbrook-Amherst Road with the discovery of a rich alluvial lead in May 1857. Gold in white pipeclay only 2 metres below the surface attracted many thousands of diggers. Its reputation, however, was blemished.

It was a really bad place, a collection of the worst people in the Colony. The reputation of the place was bad; scenes disgraced its history. There rival belles from opposition brothels fought all-in battles in the streets, which were roped off for the encounters. They fought stripped to the waist. Emu was a place of low shanties and hocussed drink. The drinking and gambling dens never closed at night; the roll of the balls, the rattle of dice, the oaths of the card players, vice and cruelty, the sound of blows and the shrieks of abandoned women - infamy, shame and death! The doings at Emu brought an unaccustomed blush to the faces of those long hoary in iniquity. No enquiry was ever instituted over the dead; strong men fell and blooming maidens met a fate worse than death. A few weeks dimmed the glory of Emu, but no one ever forgot it.

With further gold discoveries east of Avoca, the volume of traffic through Amherst compelled the government to upgrade the muddy track to a more passable state. In 1857 contractor Archibald Oughton erected a bridge over the Bet Bet Creek and also undertook improvements to maintain portions of road between Carisbrook and Avoca. This expenditure of almost £3000 was consolidated by additional sums in succeeding years for clearing, forming, paving and ditching the road. A fine remainder of this dramatic upgrading is provided by the basalt bridge in Amherst which still serves traffic almost 130 years on.

A town reserve at Bung Bong was surveyed in 1857 with country lots, typically 20 - 60 acres, for cultivation on the river flats and 75 - 250 acres for pasture on the crab holey basaltic plains to the west of the Bet Bet Creek. Population in the district was sufficient to sustain a Church of England School from January 1862 (located on the banks of the Bet Bet Creek north of the bridge). Town lots in the 'village' were surveyed in 1863. Although the electric telegraph followed the Avoca Road, facilities were not provided at Bung Bong and the settlement was always overshadowed by Amherst, Avoca and the gold rush settlements at Landsborough and Homebush. Floods in 1870 caused extensive damage along the Bet Bet Creek and Archibald Oughton's 1857 bridge was swept away. As the creek formed the boundary between the Shires of Avoca and Talbot replacement was not speedy. In November 1871, well over twelve months since the flood, 'the handsomest structure of its kind out of Melbourne' was opened and it is this bridge which still forms the western entrance to the Shire of Talbot and Clunes (although badly damaged by the 1985 bushfires).

Chinese miners

Chinese miners were strongly represented around Amherst during the 1850s. Resident Warden William Templeton estimated the local Chinese population at 720 in October 1855. They were housed in five encampments and comprised roughly 15% of the total population in the Amherst/Kangaroo Flat/Adelaide Lead area. As with the European population, the numbers of Chinese miners fluctuated wildly. From an estimate of 300 Chinese in 1856 the Chinese soared to 1800 in August 1857, (or almost 70% of the total population). This was inflated by an influx of miners from Guichen Bay in South Australia. During the first half of 1857 more than 14,000 Chinese had landed at Guichen Bay and the total population in Victoria numbered almost 26,000, possibly an under estimate.

In June 1855 the Government limited the number of Chinese passengers on any one vessel, imposed a £10 tax on arrival and stipulated segregated camps. The camps were tended by a European 'Protector' and Bernhard Smith was appointed to oversee the Amherst encampments. To facilitate his work James Acoy was appointed as interpreter. The 1855 measure fuelled anti-Chinese fires and intra-racial tensions compounded the situation.

Cartoons, nicknames, innuendo, fear and hatred all directed towards the 'celestial visitors'. 'The Law Abiding Chinaman', a poem set to a popular tune and published in the Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, demonstrated contemporary fears.

[v.5] Your British maiden he'll wed;
What a subject for Lavater, -
 The fruit of that obscene bed -
An almond-eyed Anglo-Tartar!
 Your girls of tenderest youth
Are not safe from his lustful fires;
 The barbarian knows no ruth
To restrain from vile desires.

A Chinese camp existed at Back Creek by late 1856 and the regulations issued for the guidance of Chinese Protectors (1859) laid down strict guidelines for such camps.

To ensure attention to cleanliness in Chinese camps on the goldfields, the inhabitants of each tent or dwelling place shall keep free from rubbish of any sort, and properly drain the half of any space which may intervene between their tent or dwelling-place and that next adjoining in every direction, upon the removal of any tent or dwelling place from a camp, the owners of the same shall remove all rubbish, etc. from the site thus becoming vacant. The owners of pigs or goats shall keep the same folded without the limits of the camp.

The Chinese Protector was also able to give seven days notice to inhabitants if he deemed it desirable to remove a camp.

The Chinese camp recorded by Flett at Long Gully was doubtless prompted by intense local mining activity in the late 1850s. Whereas the rushes to Kangaroo Flat, Ballarat Hill and Goodwoman's Hill of the 1854-55 period had been shallow alluvial diggings, in 1858 a deeper lead was uncovered in Nuggetty Gully. This joined with other deep sinkings on Ballarat Hill in July 1858 and steadily the lead was traced through Goodwoman's Hill towards the present site of Talbot. This deeper sinking gave slightly more stability to the vicinity and commercial businesses remaining from the rushes of the mid 1850s prospered again. In 1858 a National School was opened to cater for a population attracted by the slightly more stable environment of deep sinking. With the tracing of the new leads northwards the way was thus opened for the discovery of the Scandinavian Lead and consolidation of local residential, commercial and institutional development at Talbot.

Municipal development

Meanwhile, at Amherst, agitation for municipal status was growing, with consolidation of commercial and residential development and a desire for future progress being the officially

stated reasons. The prospect of liberal grants from the colonial government probably influenced the move for proclamation of Amherst as a municipality. The fear of domination by the growing population along Back Creek appears to have been an unstated motive. The Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, was petitioned on the issue by local householders and land owners in 1858 and, with revisions to proposed boundaries by Robert Brough Smyth, the Borough of Amherst was given official sanction. A local meeting on 17 November 1858 decided to hold elections and the next day the first seven councillors were duly elected. The inaugural meeting was held at Albion Cowley's Amherst Hotel a day later, Cowley being one of twenty five unsuccessful candidates. The Governor-in-Council approved a rate of one shilling in the pound in January 1859 and in August that year a bye law sanctioned £1000 expenditure on public works, including a proposal for a splendid splendid Town Hall in the centre of Amherst township.

Notes on sources

General

General background is taken from Flett's, History of Gold Discovery, 1970, pp.254-55 and Maryborough, 1975, chapter seven. This latter work has also been used for quotes regarding Emu and Back Creek. The quote by Felix Ray appears to refer to Back Creek in 1855 rather than Scandinavian Lead in 1859 (according to Flett) and is here used in reference to the early settlement on Back Creek Flat. Flett's work has been supplemented for details (such as land sales) by reference to Victoria Government Gazette (VGG) and Colonial (and after 1855) Chief Secretary's inwards correspondence (VPRS 1189).

Bung Bong

Parish of Glenmona, geological plan, n.d.; Country Lots, Parish of Bung Bong, No. 786, survey 57/379; Village of Bung Bong, Parishes of Bung Bong and Glenmona, L 1578, survey 62/405, lithographed 6 February 1863. The disparaging quote came from Guide to the Gold-Fields of Victoria, with a Map and the New Regulations for the Gold-Fields and Local Courts, Slater, Williams and Hodgson, Melbourne, 1855. Details of roads and bridges came from VGG, Victorian Parliamentary Papers (VPP) and the Public Works Department Roads and Bridges Contract Book (VPRS 1108). The glowing quote regarding the 1870 bridge came from the Avoca Mail.

Chinese

Kathryn Cronin, Colonial Casualties, Chinese in Early Victoria, MUP, 1982. 'Regulations for the Guidance of Chinese Protectors' were published in Victoria Government Gazette, 4 March 1859 and reference to the local Guichen Bay influx and Chinese populations come from the fortnightly reports of the Resident Wardens in VPRS 1189. These same records also contain diaries of the Chinese Protectors. The anti-Chinese poem was published in Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 18 May 1860, p.4.

CHAPTER FOUR

DEVELOPING THE CLUNES QUARTZ REEFS

The initial 'discovery' of gold in July 1851 resulted in little permanent impact on the environment at Clunes, except for the debris created by the early diggers. It is unlikely that any permanent buildings were erected as part of the rush in 1851. Calico and canvass were the most common materials of the itinerant digger. The earliest building on the present site of Clunes township was possibly a shepherd's hut on part of Donald Cameron's Clunes run. As plotted on Burr's 1854 plan, the small building was located on the site of the present caravan park.

One of the earliest references to the creek which ran past the hut, was contained in a letter from government surveyor Thomas Burr to the Surveyor General in 1854. Describing Donald Cameron's pre-emptive right, Burr referred to 'Creswick's Creek' which was a natural boundary for part of his survey of Cameron's block. Creswick's Creek was also called Deep Creek and Tullaroop Creek in the 1850s. This was the beginning of a vexed question of nomenclature, one that is still a puzzle to many residents. Two islands, one adjacent to the north end of Camp Street and the other on the present site of Victoria Park were shown on the plan.

Despite rainy and windy weather Burr took the trouble to sketch the creek valley and showed the waterhole where the creek turns to the north east, away from the present line of Station Flat Road. This sketch is the earliest known illustration of Clunes and was reworked by Robert Brough Smyth into a pen and ink sketch a year later. Although a more accomplished work, the Smyth sketch lacks the immediacy of Burr's original.

The earliest track to pass through Clunes led from Lexton to Mount Franklin where it joined a track from Newstead. Mount Franklin was significant as the site of the Loddon Protectorate, established by Edward Stone Parker in 1841 as a reserve for aboriginal tribes displaced by rapid pastoral expansion in the Port Phillip District. By 1854 Clunes was also a junction for the Lexton Road with tracks to Ballarat and 'The Avoca'.

Following the shortlived settlement at Clunes in 1851 little activity (possibly no activity at all) took place until 1855. In September of that year a rush of some 400 or 500 miners focussed attention back onto the quartz reefs in Clunes. However with the outcropping and easily accessible sections largely located on private property attention was directed at adjacent land (see chapter five). Several machines were erected to crush the quartz, and puddling machines supplemented hand workings on several alluvial deposits. Of all local mining ventures, the joint operations of the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company and the Clunes Quartz Mining Company were to have the greatest impact on Clunes.

The Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company was formed in London in January 1852 by promoters of the English and Australian Copper Company and several other South American mining ventures. Capital was to be raised by an issue of 150,000 £1 shares (of which 10,000 were reserved for appropriation in Australia). The mining interests in South America included the famed San Juan del Rey gold mine in Brazil and Evan Hopkins, fresh from mining experience in Spanish America was despatched to Victoria early in 1852 to commence the operations of the company. Hopkins was to take charge of mining operations, including choice of location, while William Henry Ritchie, (appointed superintendent of the Port Phillip Company on 21 February 1852 with remuneration of £500 per annum and a 2% share of profits) was to manage financial matters. A 'Mr Thompson' also sailed for Melbourne departing from Liverpool on 4 May 1852 with a party from Westmoreland. Thompson was probably Henry Alderson Thompson, previously engaged with mining in Cumberland, now appointed as the Port Phillip Company's mining agent and later manager of the company's Clunes works. 'A gentleman of large experience in English mining' (according to C.F. Nicholls in the Ballarat Star) and later noted as author of several technical booklets on mining subjects.

Accompanying the officials (Hopkins, Ritchie and Thompson) were a party of approximately 100 miners, specifically chosen from Cornwall and the north of England; the former being experienced in tin or copper mining and the latter with coal. It was the intention of the company to test the experience of both localities and select future miners from those best fitted for the colonial situation.

The major aim of the Port Phillip Company was to mine gold and minerals in the colony, although purchase of gold dust and assaying were other sidelines. Mining in quartz was anticipated and the Port Phillip Company secured exclusive rights to use Longmaid's patent for the reduction of ores. With this in mind, a lease of land at Fryers Creek was sought initially to enable operations to commence.

Meetings and correspondence in London with Sir Charles Hotham (prior to his own voyage to Victoria) and Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies, indicated the resolve of the London capitalists in seeking a secure lease. They were rebuffed by Lord Grey saying that leases in the Colony were a matter for the colonial government and Hotham, although he listened attentively to their requests, could promise nothing more. Once in Victoria there could be little priority for such requests on Hotham's part, and the tensions of a period culminating in incidents such as those at Eureka left little popular sympathy for large mining companies.

Ritchie's performance in Victoria as superintendent of the Port Phillip Company did not satisfy the London directors. By July 1852 he had been dismissed, only six months after his appointment, and replaced as superintendent by Rivett Henry Bland who was given the euphemistic title of 'Resident Director'. The dismissal, apparently as a result of unauthorised and undisclosed speculation

- 'circumstances of a painful nature' - was successfully contested in court by Ritchie but Bland, having recently been elected a member of the Port Phillip Company board, sailed for Melbourne almost immediately and took control of the Company's colonial interests.

The Fryer's Creek lease was finally granted on October 1853 although hopes of an early start to mining were dashed when local storekeepers and others fearing competition objected to the intrusion by a large company. The local gold commissioner overturned the lease and Bland reluctantly sent Thompson to the Ovens to investigate mining of tin ore containing gold. This latter venture, at Reid's Creek, was also unprofitable due to the small area of ground able to be obtained. Thompson wrote to Bland in July 1855 suggesting prospects on 'the watersheds on each side of the dividing range, extending from Kilmore to Mount Cole, as well deserving examination, either for quartz or alluvial mining'.

At this time, quartz mining in Victoria was progressing rapidly and Bland was quick to realise the benefits of a large scale operation of the type his Company could finance. Quartz had of course been considered in 1852 but Longmaid's patent was abandoned due to its high capital cost. The new regulations of 1855 had allowed claims 220 yards along quartz reefs and Bland addressed the directors on the subject of quartz mining in September 1855.

the regulations by the local courts do not allow a sufficient extent of claim to warrant the cost of a regular mining establishment. They are well suited to small associated bodies of working miners. The feeling in favour of encouraging Companies to work at this branch of mining is decidedly on the increase, owing mainly to the fact that it requires some capital to commence with, even in a small way, and but few have the means of erecting machinery suited to the purpose ... Should the Company decide upon persevering here with their mining operations, it would be well for the Board to consider the subject of sending out proper machinery for this purpose; that which is at present in use here seems to fall principally in the process of amalgamation.

A month later Bland advised

I am decidedly of the opinion that there is a good opening for the Company to prosecute the business of quartz crushing in some favourable situation where mining may be carried on, and the quartz raised by others either purchased or crushed and amalgamated, at either a rate per ton or a share of the profits.

For reduction of the quartz Bland favoured the Chilean Mill, or rather a series of mills of diminishing size with the final amalgamation taking place in a 'Dolly Tub'. He cited the advantages

of using mercury in connection with the Chilean Mill for his preference over the Cornish style stamping mill. Lack of reliable rivers in Victoria to power a crushing or stamping mill also led Bland to reluctantly advise motive power of steam and he even recommended demountable components to facilitate transport over difficult terrain.

The London directors concurred with Bland's view on quartz and also the desirability of undertaking only reduction and amalgamation, rather than mining for the ore, instancing success in Mexico with this mode of operation.

Quartz reefs at Mount Blackwood and Steiglitz were examined although lacking the requisite equipment no progress was made. In 1856 work was undertaken at Black Hill, Ballarat although expenditure of £3800 at the Oven's and over £20,000 on the abortive Fryers Creek venture had left the Company with seriously depleted finances. In fact, Benjamin Wilkins, secretary of the Port Phillip Company estimated the Company's assets in 1856 as only £30,000. (Profit from the gold purchasing and assaying branch of the Company had yielded a profit of only £6000 in the first two years of operation, and a marked downturn in business was felt after the government imposed an export duty on gold in 1855 and thus encouraged direct selling to the government prior to transport by escort from the various goldfields.)

The quartz reefs at Clunes had, at this date, already attracted much attention; apart from Esmond's well publicised 1851 discovery, a rush to the Clunes pre-emptive right had taken place in 1855. Early in 1856, George Milner Stephen representing the Port Phillip Company visited the locality and commenced negotiations with Robert MacDonald, local representative of Lane, Whyte and MacDonald, owners of the land upon which the auriferous reefs were primarily situated. Stephen had been appointed by the Port Phillip Company late in 1854 following his offer of service. He had previously resided in Australia and was on his own admission knowledgeable about the gold mining districts in Victoria. A barrister by profession, he also professed to a keen interest in mineralogy and he offered to 'manage a mineral station' in Victoria with remuneration solely derived from any profits. His visit to Clunes had been a result of local mining speculation in Ballarat companies and a visit to test his political aspirations for the Legislative Assembly seat of North Grant. According to C.F. Nicholls in the Ballarat Star the negotiations 'did not assume a practical shape' although he did consult Charles Kinnear, who was in the process of forming the White Flat Company. Kinnear's pioneering venture was soon to mine alluvial gold in Ballarat under one of the earliest leases issued by the Local Court.

During the period of negotiation about the Clunes reefs, conflict marred the progress of the growing township and Stephen was apparently relieved of his position by the Port Phillip Company. Negotiations recommenced late in 1856 between Bland, Kinnear and MacDonald leading to an agreement dated 7 March 1857 which was the turning point in exploration of the Clunes reefs and a

decisive moment in the history of large scale company mining in the Colony.

The lease agreement, for a period of 21 years retrospectively dating from 1 January 1857, permitted the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company to mine the quartz reefs on a 160 acre section of the Clunes pre-emptive right and to 'crush, pound and pulverise the said quartz, gold ore and every other matrix or substance from which gold may be extracted'. In return, the owners, William Lane, James Whyte and Robert MacDonald, were to receive ten percent of the gross yield of all the gold and any other precious metals. The lease was conditional upon the Port Phillip Company erecting machinery within a specified period, capable of crushing at least 50 tons of quartz a day and that all quartz yielding at least one ounce of gold to the ton should be raised and crushed. As the company was to later discover the agreement was unwittingly weighted heavily in favour of the pastoral owners.

The key to the lease offered by Lane, Whyte and MacDonald was the ability of Charles Kinnear to form a co-operative party of one hundred men to work the mine, while the Port Phillip Company pursued its stated wish to merely crush the quartz and extract gold. With news of the agreement, strife between the 'insiders' (men of the Port Phillip and Clunes companies) and 'outsiders' (those miners denied access to the private land) was at its height, with tensions exacerbated by the perceived injustice of the agreement to mine on private land (see chapter five).

On 5 February 1857, following publication of the terms of the lease, but prior to its signing, Kinnear issued a prospectus for the proposed co-operative mining company known as the Clunes Quartz Mining Company. One hundred 15 shares were to be issued and ten free shares for the general management of the company 'to provide the services of a consulting engineer or practical foreman of the works, and all clerical assistance needed' as well as remuneration for Kinnear. The share issue was announced as fully subscribed in early April and on the 27th of that month the men were summoned to the ground. After discussion about the role of Kinnear and his agreement to waive certain clauses in the deed of settlement, the document was signed and so the condition of the lease between MacDonald and the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company was fulfilled.

Although the agreement between Bland, Kinnear and McDonald heralded a new era in colonial mining, the infant mine was almost stillborn. Kinnear, although skilled in financial management, neglected technical matters and operations proceeded without order or plan. Mining commenced on 4 May 1857, although according to the Dicker's Mining Record correspondent 'the shareholders did not appear to have distressed themselves much with mining operations during the first week'. Instead of sinking one or two shafts, the miners seemed content to plunder the rich quartz near the surface.

Almost fifty percent of the co-operative miners had only taken half shares and with only scanty accommodation, relations soured when plans for dwellings to house Kinnear and his deputy became known. The miners could not have even survived, observed the Ballarat Star 'had it not been for the credit given to them by the Clunes storekeepers and the great kindness shown to some of them by the proprietors of the Kent Hotel and others'. Early dividends were only modest although within a year the original £15 shares were changing hands for ten times that sum. Much of this success was due to Charles J. Harvey, who was appointed to supersede the suspended foreman, 'obnoxious and inefficient' and an appointee of Kinnear.

Harvey was a practical, resourceful man and gradually restored both order and confidence to the company. His sound management led to the practice of leaving large areas marked out ready for stopeing thus allowing a continuity of work. Many of the problems arose from the practice of shareholders substituting the lowest priced labor they could find. As a result men ill fitted for the operations dragged the company down. Arising from this discontent a climax was reached in early 1858 when by resolution it was decided to pay every hired man £3 per week to prevent the previous malpractices. In fact on 16 July 1858 the co-operative system was entirely abandoned in favour of a contract system.

A year later Kinnear sold his interest in the Clunes Quartz mining Company to Edward Bradley, Henry Thompson and Thomas Hood for £3750 with the latter gentlemen trustees of the company. At this date (5 August 1859) Harvey was appointed manager, consolidating his influences on the operations, and the dividends for the company continued rising, reaching a peak in succeeding years and in general scarcely approached in latter years.

The combined works of the Port Phillip and Clunes Companies was by far the most prominent in the Clunes mining landscape. The first battery of the Port Phillip Company, erected in May 1857, was housed in a large timber building, by far the largest structure in the growing township. Twenty square headed stumps based on Cornish precedent crushed the quartz supplied by the Clunes Company with steam power provided by a portable Clayton and Shuttleworth engine. A year later this crushing capacity was doubled with a further twelve heads in course of erection. The remarkable model by Carl Nordstrom depicted the workings at this period and Professor McCoy's description of the works formed a useful adjunct to the model (see chapter five).

The enterprise and success of the Port Phillip promoters gave tremendous impetus to other mining ventures. The South Clunes area, for instance, had initially been worked in 1856-57 without conspicuous success, where lack of efficient crushing facilities stalled further sinking. In 1858, with crushing technology growing by the moment, the White Flat Quartz Mining Association commenced operations on a lease 880 yards by 300 yards in the block roughly bounded by Fraser, Camp, Bailey and Templeton Streets. Stone from near the surface had been crushed with good

results at Robinson's battery on the north side of Fraser Street, the first crushing mill on the Clunes goldfield, which encouraged the Association to erect a battery of its own. However, the thoughtful experiments of the Port Phillip Company were not emulated and badly constructed crushing stamps caused the White Flat Association to stop work.

The South Clunes Quartz Mining Company had commenced operating in 1858 on a lease 900 by 300 yards, south of the White Flat works. The leasees, well known local identities Pattinson Mark and Frederick Hickox, called tenders on behalf of the 20 shareholders for a shaft to be sunk and thus began the operations of one of the most sustained mining outfits to operate in Clunes. By August 1859 the 21 year lease of the disgruntled White Flat members had been transferred to the South Clunes Company, with a further part being taken up by the Clunes Alliance Quartz Mining Company.

With an increase in mining operations came the trappings of a township. Unlike the overnight cities of alluvial gold rush centres (such as the Scandinavian rush at Back Creek), the quartz mining at Clunes meant a lengthy period of development, yet one easily capable of consolidation.

The population of several hundred a year earlier dwindled to 40 or 50 in September 1856 (according to the Star) and 'Public Houses have all disappeared having been removed to some more thriving locality, their places however are well supplied by private establishments'. Small cottages of the miners were dotted about the hill to the south of the Creswick's Creek, with the town a confusing juxtaposition of tramways, small mullock heaps, portable steam engines, kilns and mills.

The commercial area of Clunes initially developed on the flat land adjacent to the creek and east of the quartz reefs. Fraser Street (as yet un-named) formed the main thoroughfare and commercial premises were gradually erected from approximately 1856. Here weatherboard and iron buildings soon replaced flimsy canvas and calico structures and hoardings advertising the 'Nag's Head Hotel', 'Lyceum Theatre' and the 'Live and Let Live Restaurant' soon shouted their messages.

Far from the centre of activity the police set up their camp on a large site bounded by the Creek and Creswick Road. By 1857 the force was still 'completely inadequate' according to Sub-Inspector Sharmen of Creswick and their tent (8' x 9' with 1 1/2 foot wall) still a disgrace.

I would suggest that one of more ample room and better material be provided as soon as possible as the late storms have rendered the present one unfit for further use. The constables have been obliged to repair it for the present with blankets to prevent the frequent beating rains from penetrating.

By 1858 the question of mining on the pre-emptive right had provoked numerous disturbances and the Police Paddock, situated to the south-east of the town, was too distant for any effective surveillance of the diggings. However, a lock-up situated on the escarpment strategically overlooking the line of reefs was erected during 1858 at a cost of £376. Despite objections in the local press, this was supplemented by police buildings (£880 10s) and Court of Petty Sessions (£450) during 1859 with a cookhouse for the police (£100) a year later.

Camp Parade ran in line with the government buildings and this alignment was later followed by the boundary of the Criterion Quartz Mining Company claim. This company had been established in April 1858 on an L-shaped claim held on miner's rights when extended (by 1862) the newly established western boundary coincided in part with the alignment of Camp Street. The government camp was fenced in 1860-62 and this consolidated the line of Camp Parade.

When the geologist Richard Daintree photographed Camp Hill the hillside was dotted with small timber houses. No systematic layout of roads existed but instead a network of tracks threaded between the mine workings, houses and general debris. The miner's right, an outcome of the 1855 Goldfields Commission set up following the Eureka uprising, was in effect a right of occupation of crown land and the holder was entitled to erect a residence on the land. As all land on Camp Hill was still held by the Crown in the 1850s and early 1860s, residences were all erected under this provision.

By mid 1858 the progress of Clunes had been slow and unspectacular. The Ballarat Star referred to 'scattered buildings' although in November that year the paper reported the number quadrupled and a far more lively scene was to be observed.

There are six or seven public houses, all open and doing fair trade. There is, also, a large number of restaurants and boarding houses. There are 3 doctors, an apothecary's shop, that would do credit to Ballarat, stores of all kinds, two or three of no mean pretensions, builders, timber yards, grocers, dairymen and laundresses. There are also two places of public worship, and a third is about to be erected; the Church of England being represented by a school, and the Wesleyans, and Roman Catholics by their Chapels. The Union Bank has a bank and a gold buying establishment in the Main Street in the 'flat' and was the first substantial building to be erected.

Population was now estimated (probably overestimated) at 3 or 4,000 and the correspondent noted that the Main Street [Fraser Street] commenced at Creswick's Creek and ran east to the gate of the Port Phillip works with 'almost every available space occupied by dwellings or places of business'.

The proximity of large scale mining works to the shops in Fraser Street caused many problems for both parties. For instance, the Clunes Alliance Quartz Mining Company had no access to the creek for deposition of tailings and tail water (although it was served by a water race and tunnel from the United Company's dam) and the shopkeepers were understandably reluctant to give over precious space in the flourishing commercial precinct.

North Clunes was also progressing. Burr's 1854 plan had showed the outcropping quartz reefs stopping uses short of the northern boundary of the Clunes pre-emptive right but two years later, when surveyor John Taylor was mapping a possible extension to the pre-emptive right, he showed the 'probable course' of the quartz reefs extending well into North Clunes. An 1857 plan by miners petitioning for permission to mine on the purchased land showed the reef and several shafts in the North Clunes area, including one on a 'double claim for finding gold' in the vicinity. The North Clunes Company, forerunner of the New North Clunes Company, commenced prospecting in 1859 and other early mining companies on the reefs included the Victoria, Yankee and Great Western. Early alluvial mines included the North Clunes Alluvial, Friends of Justice, Perseverance, Home-ward Bound, All Nations, Golden Horn, North Clunes Eureka and several other parties including one of 14 Chinese.

North Clunes was, in 1858, a 'serried line [of] tents, whims, shaft-houses and pudding machines all mixed up' and extending for approximately 500m along the northern boundary of the pre-emptive right. North Clunes was connected with the main township by a 'suffrance road' across the private property; the proprietors Lane, Whyte and MacDonald were, no doubt, anxious to placate aggrieved miners with this practical demonstration of goodwill.

The North Clunes area was roughly bordered by the Clunes pre-emptive right on the south, Creswick's Creek on the west and Bullarook or Birch's Creek on the east. The road through 'MacDonald's Paddock' connecting North and South Clunes was not properly constructed until 1864, and it was not until much later that Angus Street was extended in the direction of Glengower.

By 1859 the small settlement had consolidated in the vicinity of the mines and Anthony Dockery, 'wholesale and retail family grocer, Italian warehouseman, etc. etc.' was amongst businesses advertising at North Clunes. The deep river valleys of North Clunes, when not filled with sludge from the mines, were picturesque and a popular recreation destination. 'A grand PIC-NIC PARTY' was advertised in October 1859 'near the junction of the Tullaroop and Bullarook Creeks' and a cricket ground on the east bank of Creswick's Creek south east of the Clunes station woolshed was also formally gazetted in 1864. But the North Clunes area was dominated by mining activities. Apart from the Port Phillip and Clunes Companies, several other early mining ventures north of the pre-emptive right developed into stable companies which provided the backbone of the Clunes economy until the 1880s and 90s.

The Victoria Quartz Mining Company was formed in April 1858, and by mid 1859 had a claim of 390 feet along the quartz reefs situated between the New North Clunes Company and the Yankee Company in North Clunes. By November 1862, the company held two blocks; one of 378 feet along the reef (just over 5 acres in extent) held under lease from the Crown and the other, to the east 700 feet from north to south held under miner's rights. The claim was initially worked under the co-operative system with the company formed under a deed of settlement, subscribed to by each of twenty four shareholders.

The early history of the mine was not promising; the first quartz was not crushed until May 1860, and in the absence of any battery of their own this had to be undertaken by the Port Phillip Company. Crushing was also undertaken on behalf of the Victoria Company by the Clunes Alliance Company, and favourable results led the owners to erect a 12 head battery of their own. The works were situated just below the level of the surrounding plains and the gentle natural incline was used to advantage in the construction of tramways from the shaft to the mill. By August 1859 a 30 horse power steam engine had been erected for winding, its 14 foot diameter flywheel being the largest in Clunes at that date.

The Yankee Quartz Mining Company commenced alluvial operations as the Sons of Freedom Company around 1857 although by August 1859 the name Yankee Company had been adopted to coincide with a change in operations to quartz mining. During this early period the area was the site of bitter confrontation between miners of the Clunes Company and 'outsiders' who were agrieved at government attitudes to mining on private land. The Yankee Company claim was only small, 100 feet along the reefs and 600 feet wide, and situated between the Clunes Company and Victoria Company ground in North Clunes. Work was initially concentrated on the Eastern Reef although later working exploited the Old Man and Western Reefs. A battery of eight stamps powered by a 16 horse power steam engine was in operation by August 1859 and water was obtained from the creek by a tunnel then pumped to a dam on an upper level. At this date however, the shaft was only served by a whim, which was insufficient to pump a shaft of great depth.

Water was vital to the quartz mining which predominated at Clunes, with crushing batteries requiring huge quantities on a continuous basis. Droughts and dry summers were therefore disastrous for the Clunes economy and led the mining companies to consider erection of dams and seek water from farther afield. A weir erected by 'Admiral' Blake (adjacent to the present Bowling Club site) was used to regulate water for the Port Phillip Company battery which commenced crushing in May 1857. The remnants of this weir were still in evidence a decade later when Charles Nettleton photographed the creek. The earliest substantial dam, the so called 'Big Dam' was constructed in 1859 upstream from the township at a large bend in the creek. With heavy rains in mid-May the dam wall settled, causing some alarm, but a local correspondent remarked that 'the dam may now said to have been tested and proved strong ... water banked up over a

mile ... [however] the dam is to be six feet higher when finished'. Contractor R. Muir undertook this extra work in 1860 and in addition to its increased height the embankment was strengthened by two stone walls with the bye-wash widened 'so that the narrowest part will be over twenty feet wide'. Rain came in April 1860 to fill the newly enlarged dam and the local newspaper correspondent anticipated recreational use with 'plenty of room for boating'.

Much later, long time Clunes resident 'Fidelis' reminisced about the period prior to large scale mining of the late 1850s when the creek was 'a crystal stream, abounding in good fish - blackfish, catfish and cod. I remember seeing a 7 or 8 lb. cod caught'. Boating and fishing may well have been possible upstream from the mines, but downstream was quite another matter. The crushed quartz tailings were washed away and silted the bed of the creek. In wet weather the pressure was sufficient to wash the debris away but with the advent of dry weather the problem was acute. 'The bed of the creek will soon be as high as the road, and when the flood comes that will clear it away there will be some startling and striking incidents' prophesied the Creswick and Clunes Advertiser correspondent towards the end of summer in 1860. Floods were a hazard for early mines located on the flat ground near the creek and the low lying slopes in Fraser Street.

The earliest bridges over Creswick's Creek were erected by mining companies and 'Fell's Crossing' (near the site of Queens Park) was the only public crossing. Fell charged a toll and 'Fidelis' recalled the bridge as 'merely stones and logs loosely thrown into the bed of the creek, and secured on the down side by stakes'. £5,000 was granted by the government in 1861 for a permanent bridge and this structure of laminated timber with basalt abutments was erected between Bailey Street and Smeaton Road. This was augmented by a substantial bridge at the north end of Service Street in connection with the road to North Clunes and two footbridges constructed by the Clunes Borough Council; one between Templeton Street and Camp Street and the other off upper Fraser Street.

Richard Daintree's photographs of Clunes (c.1859) depicted a busy scene with many substantial buildings almost completely replacing earlier makeshift structures. The road, however, was anything but substantial. 'The most striking fact at Clunes is the black mud, the street in the Flat being almost impassable to the fair sex', and again in the middle of winter 'Adventurous husbands, returning to their beloved spouses, make mud-larks of themselves ... a gentleman who went out in drab, returned in black'.

Despite the technical advances of the mining companies, co-ordinated development of the township was hampered in the absence of any form of local government. Individual government initiatives were beginning to give the town respectability. These included regular mail services, a police station and court house and even the appearance of assistant government surveyor, John Templeton. But the twin woes of mud in winter and lack of water in summer caused Clunes residents to suffer periodic and needless discomfort.

The earliest local institution left Clunes severely disenfranchised. The Creswick Roads Board, proclaimed on 11 January 1859, was centred at Kingston. It was largely the preserve of Captain Hepburn of Smeaton and his rural cronies. Jobbery and dishonesty at the first election were evident. Requests for work on local streets were politely ignored and at a meeting on 10 June 1859 in the Washington Hotel at Clunes a large and influential body of residents met to discuss their grievances, particularly the 'road question'. Metalling of the main street (Fraser Street) and formation of a proper road through 'MacDonald's Paddock' were the two burning issues; the first within the powers of the Creswick Roads Board, but the second, a more vexed problem for the colonial government. Local subscriptions for the metalling of Fraser Street were taken but the decision by the 'Smeaton push' to assess and collect rates rubbed salt into the collective wounds of potential urban Clunes ratepayers. There were fighting words from a local correspondent to the Creswick Advertiser.

We are getting public spirited and locally patriotic: North Clunes and South Clunes, the Hillmen and the Flatmen, are united as one man to throw off the yoke of Smeaton, Spring Hill and Bullarook. Do what you like with us, but do not tax us, or rebellion and separation are the result. Touch our pockets, and you reach our conscience, and as a matter of principle, we refuse to pay a shilling or yield allegiance.

While a petition seeking the formation of a separate Clunes Roads Board (to take in Eglinton and Beckworth) was promptly despatched to the Governor, the government, through the Commissioner of Roads and Bridges, delivered another blow. Templeton's survey had not made Fraser Street the main road but wisely had surveyed Bailey Street, on higher ground as the main through road to avoid the floods which periodically played havoc with the main commercial centre. It was all too much. About 500 people met at the Lyceum Theatre in early September and 'open war was declared'. 35% of the assessed rates were to be collected locally as a 'defence fund' with the proviso that three quarters of the defence fund was to be subscribed within a week or the organisers would not have a mandate to continue moves for separation from the despised Creswick Roads Board.

Yet the long dry summer of 1859-60 meant a depressed economy due to lack of water for the miners and many were yet to return from the Back Creek rush. The drought also brought the fear of a large flood in the coming wet season. Tailings from the mines clogged the bed of Creswick's Creek causing the bed of the creek to approach the level of Fraser Street. The promise of limited funding for road works from the Creswick Roads Board appeared to appease the Clunes dissidents although a group of influential businessmen stayed together as the 'Clunes Commercial Club'. However by March 1860, the road contractors authorised from Kingston had still not commenced and the Roads Board had almost halved the £900 available for Clunes 'because it was wanted elsewhere'.

A further petition for local government was forwarded to the Governor in September 1860 arguing for separate local government for Clunes. It spoke of extensive mining operations 'of a permanent character ... [including] several quartz crushing works of which the most efficient in the Colony', a population 'in occupation of dwellings of a substantial character' and 'a large breadth of the land under cultivation in the immediate neighbourhood'. The petition also lamented the lack of made roads and its consequent cost to local tradesmen and miners.

Sir Henry Barkly indicated his consent and the municipality, three miles square in extent, held its first meeting of councillors on 14 November 1860. The population of Clunes rejoiced at this symbolic act of independence. In a period of less than ten years, the trappings of democratic local government had been bestowed upon a group people and a geographic locality brought together by the lure of wealth from gold.

Notes on sources

Port Phillip and Clunes companies

The location of the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company papers has not been established although the manuscript section within the State Library of Victoria's La Trobe Collection holds a small quantity of significant material (MS 12057, boxes 2560/2, 3). This contains the original prospectus; lease between Lane, Whyte and MacDonald and the Port Phillip Company (7 March 1857), subsequent indenture amending the agreement (11 October 1864) and ratification of lease following MacDonald's death (8 January 1868); indenture upon Charles Kinnear's sale of his interest in the Clunes Quartz Mining Company (11 August 1859); and copies of several letters and agreements (1852-56). The provenance appears to have been from Bland, as they contain his instructions from the Port Phillip Company (24 July 1852) and copies of letters forwarded for Bland's personal inspection. A small quantity of Bland's personal papers are held by the National Library of Australia (MS 4187, NK 10,402).

The main published sources are Christopher Richardson, Mr John Diston Powles: or The antecedents, as a promotor and director of Foreign mining companies of an administrative reformer, printed for the author, London, 1855; Report of the directors of The Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company, presented at the general meeting of the proprietors, held at the London Tavern, on Monday, February 25th 1856, R. Clay, printer, London, 1856; and R.H. Bland, History of the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company; in connection with the Clunes Mine, F.W. Niven & Co., Ballarat, 1888 and 1890. The 1856 report is particularly useful as it contains lengthy quotes from correspondence between Bland and the London directors.

Major newspaper articles include a series of three articles in the Ballarat Star, 7, 8, 9 April 1858 (of which the first two were republished as a pamphlet in London, 1858) and a lengthy six part report by C.F. Nicholls (under the psuedenom 'Our Special Reporter') entitled 'The Rise and Progress of Quartz Mining at Clunes' in the Ballarat Star, 13, 16, 24 July 1869, 9, 13, 14, 17 August. This was also republished as a pamphlet and included an appendix listing registered mining companies at Clunes as at August 1869.

General

The Argus has been thoroughly checked by Con Weickhardt and he located no reference between the early rush in 1851 and 25 September 1855. References from 1856+ have generally come from the Ballarat Star as transcribed by Con Weickhardt. References to Clunes in 1856 are from Ballarat Star, 30 September 1856; Clunes in 1858 from a special report in the Ballarat Star, 22 November 1858. The disturbing report of the police tent is in a letter from Sub-Inspector Sharman, Creswick to Superintendent of Police, Ballarat, 1 January 1857 (VPRS 1189, unit 469). General references (including the Creswick Roads Board and the local road committee) have come from the Clunes correspondent of the Creswick Advertiser, 1859-60 and his stirring words were published on 22 July 1859, p.4. References to mines are detailed in the Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study but main sources are Mining Surveyors Reports; Dicker's Mining Record; Rise and Progress of Clunes, 1869; Ballarat Star, 13-14 August 1869; and C and CA 30 March 1860. The corrupt first election of the Creswick Roads Board is detailed in an unidentified newspaper cutting dated 3 June 1913 held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes, being reminiscences of Hon. R. Richardson of Kingston. The September 1860 petition for local government and related correspondence regarding the first election is housed in VPRS 1189, unit 613, P60/7629. The petition for a Clunes Roads Board is in VGG, 9 August 1859, p.1662.

CHAPTER FIVE

LOCAL MINING IN THE COLONIAL CONTEXT

Despite the rapid progress of mining in the colony, conflicts and problems inevitably caused delays and setbacks. As well, the imprecise nature of knowledge regarding mining technology, geology and metallurgy. provided a further barrier to progress. These factors were evident across Victoria, but local incidents and innovations at Amherst and Clunes demonstrate perhaps better than any other goldfield, the nature and partial solution of such impediments.

The first issue concerns the question of mining on alienated land and the second, the gradual scientific and technical recognition of the Clunes mining operations, and especially the work undertaken by Rivett Henry Bland and the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company.

Mining on freehold land

With the discovery of gold and subsequent progress of land survey to meet demand for town and country allotments came a stumbling block. How should gold on private or sold land be regarded? Who was its rightful owner? These questions engaged miners, land owners, squatters and the government during the period 1855-60, and for a considerable time thereafter.

Two local incidents illuminate different aspects of the conflict. At Amherst, a problem occurred when alienated land was proved after sale to be auriferous and the incidents which followed may be regarded as typical of perhaps a half dozen of similar cases in the colony. At Clunes, discontent occurred when land was alienated well after the discovery of gold within its boundaries. This case is probably without parallel in the colony as it concerned quartz reefs rather than an alluvial lead, and it touched many facets of colonial politics, policies, law and social behaviour.

Following publication of Esmond's gold find at Clunes on 7 July 1851, and subsequent discoveries at Warrandyte, Buninyong and Ballarat the Victorian executive introduced a licence system to protect the basic legal right of the Crown to all mineral deposits. The licence applied to all Crown land. Mining on private property posed little problem as known gold deposits were located largely in areas still belonging to the Crown.

Still no provision was made for mining on private property. Reflecting on the quandary of gold ownership, the Argus editorial writer of 28 July 1851 posed the question 'Does gold belong to the first discoverer, or to the owner of the land?' In siding with the owner, the Argus suggested a system of rewards for discoveries, subdivision and sale of 'Gold Land' and, above all, protection for the purchaser. However, this gratuitous advice

was not heeded and the government allowed miners a claim of 8 feet square and legal entitlement remained that of a lease, not freehold.

In the wake of the Eureka uprising at Ballarat, a Government Commission recommended new laws to provide for a 'miner's right' allowing the holder to mine for gold for twelve months and occupy a claim for residence. Gold mining leases could also be granted but the question of mining on private land was not addressed due mainly to lack of any perceived problem. However, 1855, the year of the first post Eureka goldfields acts gave the government ample evidence of the severity of the problem.

The strife at Amherst had its origin in Hugh Fraser's survey of the Township and surrounding suburban and country allotments. Fraser was in the field by February 1855 and work was sufficiently advanced for the auction of lots to be advertised in April. Only a week after the land sale (on 30, 31 May and 1 June 1855) Resident Commissioner Alexander Smith reported a rush in the neighbourhood of the purchased land with miners already digging on two of the allotments. The alluvial lead from the 'Hard Hill sinkings' was thought by miners to lead across the sold land towards Amherst and 'in consequence a considerable rush took place and much ground was marked for sinking'. Bernhard Smith, Assistant Gold Commissioner at Amherst, reported grievances from two land owners and bemoaned the difficulty of restraining miners with the pitifully small local police force.

W.H. Wright, Chief Commissioner of Goldfields, was sympathetic towards the plight of landowners and in mid-June approached the Colonial Secretary with regard to the Amherst incident (and another at Castlemaine) suggesting compensation for the damaged property. Attorney General William Stawell and Solicitor General Robert Molesworth were not swayed. In their legal opinion of 26 June 1855 they urged that 'these encroachments should be stopped at any expense. Entertaining the question of compensation is in our opinion due admission that the government are unable to protect from outrage, persons in the possession of property'.

This may have been the correct legal position but it was scarcely of use to a government faced with an inadequate police strength on the rapidly expanding goldfields. Nor was it of use to irate miners who had initially been pacified after Eureka and yet were now feeling betrayed over the general principle of freedom to search for gold.

Meanwhile, with continuing pressure from the goldfields the Colonial Secretary sought a second opinion from Stawell and Molesworth. They still held the line that offenders should be prosecuted, and if a large group of miners were involved the situation should be treated as a riot or unlawful assembly.

At the Amherst land sale allotments in Section 2 were offered for sale and in October 1855 Samuel Dunne subsequently selected 37 acres to the north of the newly surveyed Amherst Cemetery after

no bids were received at auction for the land. It was this purchase in particular that was to later ignite tempers amongst local diggers.

Mining had taken place to the south and east of the cemetery and the alluvial lead ran directly through Dunne's land (allotments 23, 24, 36 and 37 in Section 2). Dunne was a storekeeper at Amherst, having been on the field in 1852 or early 1853. Part of that time had been spent mining and whether he intended the newly purchased land for agricultural or speculative purposes is unclear. Certainly the land was not fenced (although materials for that purpose had been purchased) when at 11 o'clock on the morning of 4 December 1855 miners entered his land and began digging. Dunne had marked the boundary with about twenty notices posted on trees several days earlier when miners first began to dig in the vicinity. Within days, Dunne estimated 5000 miners were mining his land and the damage was considerable. Matters came to a head on 10 December when one miner was arrested and taken by police towards the Union Hotel, north of Dunne's and approximately one mile south east of Amherst township. A large crowd congregated and warden Crespigny addressed the diggers, pleading with them to compromise and compensate Dunne for the privilege of mining on his land. Calm eventually prevailed but the situation remained unresolved.

'Insiders' versus 'outsiders' at Clunes

At Clunes the problem of mining on private land was also beginning to surface. In December 1850, Donald Cameron had applied to purchase 480 acres of his Clunes land under right of pre-emption. This was approved in June 1852 by the Land Board, comprising William Lonsdale (Colonial Secretary), Alastair MacKenzie (Colonial Treasurer) and Robert Hoddle (Surveyor General), although a plan of the land was not prepared until September 1854.

In mid-September 1855 a rush took place to the reefs on the Clunes pre-emptive right and soon 400-500 miners were working on the spot. Cameron had recently sold the land and agents for the new owners (Lane, Whyte and Macdonald) warned the men off for trespassing; police assistance was not available locally and a large contingent of horse and foot police eventually arrived from Melbourne to impose order. By 25 September only 150 men remained and after a month this number dwindled to half. In general the miners were orderly and after discussion with warden Gilbert Amos of Creswick, agreed to respect the boundaries of the sold land. The Argus praised the moderation of the miners, although their discontent was generally evident.

Although the miners had trespassed in the act of mining, still the owner had no legal right to the gold. Why indeed was the land sold to Cameron when it was fully a year after the first rush to Clunes, and it was well known that auriferous quartz reefs ran through the proposed pre-emptive right? This fact was

admitted with hindsight in October 1855 by Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands, Frederick Powlett, although he added 'that a search for gold had been made there, but, at that time without success'.

His admission had followed a hasty letter from the Colonial Secretary several days after the rush to Clunes. This incident (along with others at Castlemaine, Ballarat and Epsom near Bendigo) prompted the Legislative Council to appoint a Select Committee 'to enquire into existing laws relative to Mining on Private Property, and to investigate the present position of the question on the Goldfields of Victoria, and for the purpose of devising and recommending ... such remedial measures as may appear best calculated to promote the prosperity of the mining districts'.

The report of the committee began by reiterating 'the prerogative right of the Crown to the precious metals being established by the general laws of the realm' and the need for landowners to obtain the sanction of the Legislature prior to the commencement of any gold mining operations on purchased lands. In fact the Goldfields Act 1853 had specifically mentioned this last point, since the Colonial Legislature had been given powers by the Imperial Government to make laws regarding gold (although this was of doubtful validity according to barrister John Atkins, a specialist in mining law). The select committee acknowledged the concerns of both miners and landowners but concluded that it was desirable for mining to take place, under suitable regulations, on all auriferous land. Exceptions were recommended for towns and town reserves, suburban or small allotments, cultivated land and gardens, homesteads and public buildings, the property of the Government, churches and schools. The local court should have the power, on application of ten or more miners, to arbitrate in the case of private land thought to be auriferous. In such cases the select committee recommended a payment to the land owner of 10% of the value of gold found as compensation, although the committee did not rule out the possibility of a land owner forming an alternative arrangement.

With regard to the survey of land on the goldfields, the committee concluded that if sufficient notice of forthcoming land sales was given, miners would have ample opportunity to test the nature of the land, and if proven auriferous, such lots could be withdrawn from sale. However, the committee also recognised the need for the Government Surveyor to take the utmost care to ascertain the nature of land being surveyed and 'subject to such precautions, the right to any gold subsequently discovered might be sold with all lands which at the time of sale are believed to be non-auriferous'.

This last finding led to great dissention among the committee and was only endorsed by half the members. The final report was ordered to be printed on 14 February 1856 by the Legislative Council, yet the Act amending the laws relating to the goldfields passed in the following year paid little heed to the document and still contained no reference to mining on private land.

The Legislative Council Select Committee was not the only source of advice and recommendations regarding the vexed question of mining on private land. On 7 March 1856 in the wake of the Amherst disturbance at Dunne's, Joseph Taaffe was moved to write to the Chief Secretary with his own remedy for the situation. Taaffe saw the need for permanent settlement on the goldfields by increasing the size of claims to a quarter acre for each man in parties of up to ten and then small increments for additional shareholders. (At this date the size of claims under the Goldfields Act of 1855 were generally 12' x 14' for two men, increasing to 24' x 24' for four men.) He cited his Californian experience, 'where claims were small, great was the amount of crime'. Larger claims would lead to more effective co-operation, not only in mining but in the process of building a settled community 'respect to law and order, religion, education and the prosperity of the colony would follow'.

There were two major confrontations at Clunes following the initial skirmish in 1855; the first, in late 1856 and early 1857, and the second, a more serious affray, following commencement of mining on the Clunes pre-emptive right in May 1857 by the Port Phillip and Clunes companies.

Following the restoration of peace in late 1855, Lane, Whyte and Macdonald tempted fate by applying for an additional 160 acres to be purchased under their right of pre-emption. However, surveyor John Hamblin Taylor thought the land, north of the existing block, would prove auriferous and a more cautious Government refused to alienate land in this particular location. However, a large section of auriferous material was still locked up in what the Ballarat Star fiercely referred to as the 'consecrated squatters reefs'.

The miners of both Clunes and Creswick were again agitated. A petition was sent by the 'Peoples League' on 17 November 1856 and several days later MacDonald's paddock was rushed. The two police at Clunes were unequal to the task of removing the trespassers and diggers adopted an organised system of sentries to check movement of the constables from their isolated tent on Creswick Road. When the police did get close the deliberately blackened faces of the men evaded recognition. Arsonists lit a grass fire on the Clunes run and finally, after MacDonald had requested protection, 15 men were arrested on the evening of 8 January 1857. Resident warden James Daly, writing from remote Ballarat applauded the 'prompt and decisive measures' which had finally captured the men and advised the Chief Secretary that 'I am of the opinion that at least for the present all further trespass on the part of the miners of Clunes will cease'.

However, the Chief Secretary was still uneasy about the situation, and on 20 January 1857 belatedly received the Peoples League petition. 'Where has this been since the 17th November?' he thundered, 'It is too late to acknowledge it now'. (A more timid marginal note on his file advises 'Mr Leake is certain that it did not reach the registry room till after the 17 January'!)

While the miners languished in Ballarat and Geelong gaols (and their petition for clemency was refused) a small population, estimated at 150, remained at Clunes during February - April 1857. Men were leaving for other fields, but Charles Kinnear was also recruiting members of the Clunes Co-operative Gold Mining Company.

John Basson Humffray, affronted by the government's handling of the Eureka uprising, had successfully stood for the Legislative Assembly seat at North Grant and was now embroiled in the controversy over mining on alienated land. His question in the House on 27 February 1857 regarding company mining prompted yet more correspondence from the Clunes miners. As their emissary, Humffray felt compelled to give the Chief Secretary his opinion. A 'gross deception' had been practiced on the miners and he claimed the original sale had been 'a job'. Yet the government, still claiming they had no power to act, refused to rectify the error of alienating such rich auriferous land.

The arrival of Kinnear's party on the ground in early May 1857 further outraged the diggers. From outside, the pre-emptive right boundaries, the 'outsiders' sank shafts and tunnelled beneath the Clunes Company ground, stealing quartz and undermining equipment. Kinnear's men responded by sinking shafts to meet the marauding diggers and fierce hand fighting alarmed the government. Detailed and urgent reports by warden Gilbert Amos had kept the government fully informed almost hour by hour as the situation worsened.

The diggers assaulted one of Kinnear's men by throwing a heavy slab of timber at him, knocking him insensible. The same miners were also armed with a primitive pike made of a piece of quartering with a metal spike fixed to its head. Only after the miners had barricaded themselves underground and police reinforcements arrived were the culprits arrested. By 11 May 1857 nine men had been detained. Two days later, the Clunes Company men struck their first gold, thereby commencing an operation that would result in one of the most sustained gold recovery operations ever undertaken in Australia.

Bland asked for a legal injunction to halt the nefarious activities, but the Government was still in a quandary. Lower house members like Humffray would have gladly supported any bill to clarify the situation yet the conservative upper house blocked all efforts at reform. Bland was insensed by the Chief Secretary's reply to his request and erroneously inferred the plea to cease operations until the matter was resolved, as a challenge to the Royal Charter of the company.

W.G. Morgan (a ringleader of the 'outsiders') and others petitioned constantly regarding the injustice still perceived at Clunes, yet, apart from minor disturbances in the ensuing two years, the matter quietened and activity was concentrated on 'legitimate' mining. The Port Phillip Company had been instrumental in demonstrating the richness of the reefs both north and south of its lease, and even Morgan eventually found more profitable activity with the rich Criterion Gold Mining Company.

Scientific and technological progress at Clunes

Despite the frantic efforts of the 'outsiders' to gain access to the reefs they knew existed on the private land at Clunes, the early miners had little to guide them in their quest for further auriferous reefs. Like pieces in a complex jigsaw, the outcropping sections of quartz provided the corners and edges but only the merest guide to the remaining picture. After all, the jigsaw was three dimensional, and building up a picture of the underground reefs was to engage miners, managers, speculators and geologists alike as each grappled for years with disparate pieces. Miners unearthed the factual clues, managers (within defined boundaries) oversaw this process of finding clues, speculators funded the game, and geologists pontificated and interpreted. Unlike the shallow alluvial leads of the early 1850s, the course of which was usually traced in a matter of weeks, or even days, the quartz reefs were much deeper, fewer miners worked on the field at any one time (therefore trends were much slower to develop and more difficult to chart or predict), and the imprecise state of knowledge regarding reef mining and amalgamation meant the parameters were constantly changing.

The Clunes goldfield was however, instrumental in challenging the established views espoused by eminent English geologist, Sir Roderick Murchison. In his major work Siluria (1854), Murchison stated that auriferous quartz reefs decreased in value with depth. University of Melbourne Professor Frederick McCoy accepted these views as gospel yet Alfred Selwyn, a practical geologist, was troubled. McCoy was a theoretician, a 'naturalist who stayed indoors' while under Selwyn's leadership the Victorian Geological Survey worked in the field and achieved pre-eminence amongst kindred institutions.

The controversy regarding quartz reefs surfaced at the highest political level when Victorian Governor Sir Henry Barkly included comments on the subject in his despatch of October 1857 to Lord Stanley. The comments were apparently based on information from Bland and Selwyn. When the matter was referred to Murchison he immediately took offence at the challenge to his views from distant colonials. Reef mining in Victoria was 'improvident' he said, and harked back to the uncivilised age of several centuries previous in the South Americas. Naturally the matter could not rest there. Barkly reiterated Selwyn's view and stated in part:

The important bearing of this opinion may be judged from the fact that 'the Port Phillip Gold Mining Company' of which Mr Bland, the originator of the correspondence, is the manager, has within the last few months, crushed at Clunes near Ballarat, quartz yielding 15,483 oz gold at a handsome profit to all concerned; and as the reefs in that place are some of the poorest in the colony, averaging but 1 1/2 oz of gold to the ton, the general impression is that the profitable nature of quartz mining has thereby been satisfactorily established.

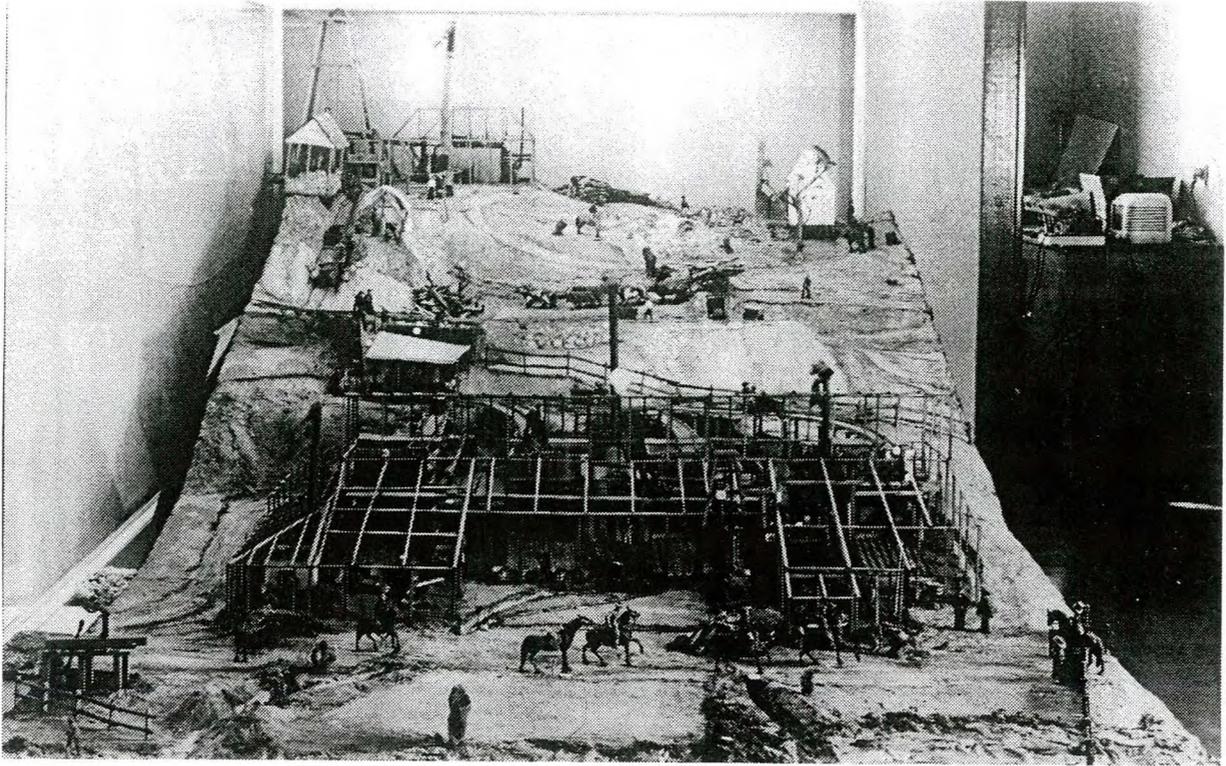
Innovations in organisation and technical matters at Clunes, chiefly through the efforts of R.H. Bland and the Port Phillip Company, made the locality important in scientific circles far beyond the relative size of operations there or the economic importance of Clunes mining to the colony. With the appointment by the colonial government of Frederick McCoy, Joseph Anderson Panton and Alfred Richard Cecil Selwyn to form a Mining Commission in May 1856 a framework was established to harness the empirical trials at Clunes for public benefit. The commission was asked to report on the modes of mining in the colony. To this end McCoy commissioned many models of mining processes and techniques, including a large and splendid representation of the Port Phillip and Clunes Companies works.

Credit is due to mining engineer Henry Smith for introducing model maker Carl Nordstrom to McCoy. Writing from Bath's Hotel, Ballarat in July 1857 Smith indicated the willingness of Nordstrom to make a model of a 'shaft with drives, windlass and figures in wax, correctly coloured' based on the Ballarat diggings as previously discussed with McCoy. Smith considered Nordstrom 'very clever; his works convey an exact idea of the reality. He is a Swede [and] has been digging for 5 years; this occupation he still follows [with] the models being executed on wet days and odd hours'.

Although Smith was dissatisfied with the representation of the different strata in this first model, McCoy was sufficiently impressed to commission further work. In January 1858, with Nordstrom contemplating an end to his life on the diggings, McCoy asked Smith 'if Nordstrom could make a model of the earth works etc. of the whole Clunes Mines'. Bland indicated his approval of the venture (doubtless it would have appealed to the publicist in him) and Nordstrom estimated the cost of such a model at £100.

McCoy also requested models from Nordstrom of 'alluvial work, shewing a stream with all kinds of washing, cradling and prospecting going on and dams and other contrivances for directing and using water and shewing the methods of placing the puddling machines in relation to the other portion of the ground'. McCoy envisaged three models based on workings in the Ballarat district, although when modelled (c.1857-58) Nordstrom chose the Daisy Hill/Amherst area for his inspiration, and thus produced the earliest known representation of diggings in that area.

McCoy accepted Nordstrom's quote of £100 for the Clunes model on 23 August 1858 although a day later the capricious modeller raised his price by £50. McCoy was having trouble finding the required finances although he requested the model proceed on the understanding that the Museum may not ultimately purchase. With reports from Bland in October of good progress McCoy found the extra cash by including the model under a parliamentary vote for 'Relief Physical Map of the Goldmining Districts'. McCoy was understandably incensed when Nordstrom requested yet a further £50, thereby doubling the original quotation, especially in light



Model of the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company and Clunes Quartz Mining Company works, made at Clunes in 1858 by Carl Nordstrom
[Museum of Victoria]

of the generous assistance offered by Bland in its execution. However with laudatory comments from Bland, McCoy wrote to the Chief Secretary requesting the extra money and despite internal financial bungling the model apparently reached the newly established museum at the University early in 1859.

Otto Bobart was appointed model maker to the Public Museum in 1859 following execution of several successful models during 1857-58 and he was responsible for a number of other models of mining inventions and innovations first trialled at Clunes. Meanwhile Nordstrom had returned to England with instructions for models of European and English works, thus ending his fruitful association with the Victorian goldfields.

The Nordstrom model of the Port Phillip and Clunes Companies works was perhaps the first vision of Clunes through the eyes of an historian. Although primarily designed as a didactic tool, the motives of the government surely extended to a commemoration of the mine as an integral part of Victoria's mining history, even at this early date, perceived to be a remarkable vehicle for improvement and progress to the colony.

In the same year as mining history was being commemorated by the remarkable Nordstrom model, the first history of Clunes was

published in London. Comprising extracts from the Ballarat Star of 7 and 8 April 1858, the pamphlet contained a glowing account of mining in Clunes. It was probably sponsored by supporters of the Port Phillip Company. As the original newspapers from which the extracts were published had taken a little over two months to reach London (a period representing only one eighth of the time elapsed since the initial lease between Bland and the holders of the Clunes pre-emptive right), it was no surprise than that such a pamphlet should look to the pastoral period for an introductory history to 'fill up a gap in a not unimportant part of our short but eventful colonial history'.

The anniversary of public disclosures of gold by Esmond was also celebrated locally. On 11 July 1859, a large crowd of Clunes residents braved damp weather and the choking mud which formed local roads to attend the newly opened Port Phillip Hotel. The occasion ('Tickets to admit a lady and gentleman, 10s 6d, dancing to commence at 9 o'clock') was to celebrate the 'anniversary of the opening of the Clunes Mines'. That a community barely 8 years old (in fact considerably less considering that sustained development at Clunes had only commenced in 1855) should commemorate such a recent event was indicative of the confidence which gold discovery had given the new colony.

At a government level, considerable effort was being expended to find the original discoverer of gold. By the time of the celebratory dinner, the entrepreneurial James Esmond had already received one thousand pounds for the first discovery of payable gold, after convincing the first Legislative Council Select Committee to report on gold discovery of his claim. In fact within seven years of that memorable dinner at the Port Phillip Hotel, no fewer than five select committee and Boards of Enquiry had been appointed to investigate claims for discovery of gold in Victoria.

Historian Ann Moyall has pointed out the contradiction of a government which handsomely rewarded 'prospectors who stumbled on their gold' while trimming budgets for more scientific geological surveys. In 1863 Jacob Brache estimated that it would cost 45 to survey the Clunes gold field, £240 for Talbot/Back Creek and £390 for the 26 square miles around Amherst. Yet this was not done in the nineteenth century. Even the boundaries of Selwyn's ambitious 'quarter-sheet' survey of Victoria (in which sheets of 54 square miles were progressively published from 1856) passed to the east of Clunes. The skill of his talented survey was thus denied to Clunes and it was left to the Port Phillip Company and the other private companies to prepare their own plans.

Meanwhile the mining commission proceeded with its other tasks. Jacob Brache was appointed secretary and draftsman which gave the Prussian born engineer an opportunity to quantify his thoughts on mining, thoughts based on practical experience at Forest Creek and Ballarat. He had pioneered attempts at quartz reef mining and although abortive, the venture no doubt imbued Brache with a paternal interest in the exploitation of the quartz reefs at Clunes. An ardent supporter of innovative mining techniques he

disagreed with McCoy over the potential of quartz mining leading to his disassociation from the commission. In 1857 Brache formed the 'Mining Institute of Victoria' under vice-regal patronage and listing the most eminent scientists, geologists and mining chiefs amongst its membership.

Bland, although not a founding member, was elected with Charles Kinnear at the third meeting. At the following meeting, in October 1858, Messrs Davies, Dumaresque, Harvey, Robson and Thompson were all elected, all associated with either the Port Phillip or Clunes Companies. In fact of the country districts, Clunes ranked with Bendigo and Castlemaine in representation, with only Ballarat (having five members) enjoying greater representation. By contrast Ararat, Anderson's Creek [Warrandyte], Dunolly, McIvor [Heathcote], the Ovens [Beechworth] and Tarrangower [Maldon] each only had a single representative. The strength of Clunes in scientific and technical matters was further acknowledged when H.A. Thompson had his paper 'The Clunes Goldfield' read in the presence of the Governor at the inaugural business meeting of the institute in 1858.

This early and prominent role taken by the mining industry in Clunes continued with strong representation by men of Clunes in technical books, exhibitions and inventions. Brough Smyth drew strongly on the mines of Clunes (especially the Port Phillip Company works) in his Goldfields and Mineral Districts of Victoria (1869); eminent English geologist Robert Hunt in his edition of Ure's Dictionary of Arts, Manufactures and Mines (1875) used an illustration of Clunes to convey to an international audience a typical deposition of gold in Australia. An accurate scale model of the Port Phillip Company's battery constructed on the site was sent by Bland for inclusion in the International Exhibition at London (1862), and patent and scientific journals consistently reported inventions whose genesis had been at Clunes (such as Mundy's pyrites buddle of 1864 which did so much to improve the yields of the Port Phillip Company). Rarely did an exhibition of any importance pass without a model or display of quartz from the Clunes mine. Even the Port Phillip Company shareholders benefitted from Bland's penchant for promotion through lengthy printed annual reports and even printed copies of the agreements between the Port Phillip Company and pastoralists Lane, Whyte and MacDonald, all printed by R. Clay in London.

Something of both the experimental scientist and publicist was demonstrated by Bland's involvement with Wilkinson's patent calcining kiln. A prototype of the kiln had been set up at Anderson's Creek in 1861 and Bland was chairman of a government appointed committee to enquire into the merits of the invention. The board's report of April 1861 was satisfied with some aspects of the trial, but recommended erection of a larger furnace capable of calcining five tons of quartz. The matter lapsed until May the following year when Bland wrote to Government Geologist Selwyn if he might trial Wilkinson's process at the Port Phillip Company works at Clunes. His motivation was complex, driven by a zeal for scientific and technical curiosity,

publicity and potential financial savings of the process. Admittedly he was urged by his colleagues and the final inducement was knowledge of a £250 parliamentary note for 'expenses of testing and reporting on new inventions and discoveries relating to mining'. His request to Selwyn was met with a speedy recommendation for £100 and free rail carriage for 3000 fire bricks and 1 ton of fire clay on the newly opened railway to Ballarat. The trial was a subsequent failure and left Wilkinson testy over alleged irregularities in the trial procedures. However, Bland's curiosity had been satisfied and after all he ended up with a large quantity of fire bricks courtesy of the government. Horatio Appleton's quartz crushing machine was also trialled at Clunes following a similar grant of £50.

The Port Phillip and Clunes Companies works were equivalent, in present day standards, to a research institute or university department of world standing. The commencement of the exploitation of quartz reefs at Clunes coincided with the foundation of the university, museum and public library in Melbourne, all remarkably advanced cultural institutions for such a young colony. Inventions and innovations from Clunes were shared, by provision of models in the museum and the access to the Clunes works, freely given on application, by Bland. How different was the secretive Bendigo magnate George Lansell. The Port Phillip works were no closed shop, where greedy entrepreneurs attempted a monopoly on quartz mining. Gold was plentiful, the company had an excellent, if not strictly legal lease over a large area of auriferous reefs and the shared intelligence could only aid further refinements to the process of gold extraction benefiting the entire mining community and therefore the colony.

Notes on sources

Mining on alienated land

General information regarding the legal position of mining on private land is contained in Serle, The Golden Age, 1963 and Brough Smyth, The Gold Fields and Mineral Districts of Victoria, 1869. The chapter written by John Atkins, on mining law in Smyth's work was especially useful as well as remarks on pp. 181-183. The incidents at Amherst during June 1855 are documented in weekly reports of the Resident Commission (VPRS 1189, unit 102, Maryborough bundle), and following the proclamation of the 1855 Goldfields Act, the Resident Warden (VPRS 1189, unit 99). The rush to Dunne's land is documented in the weekly wardens reports (VPRS 1189, unit 451) and this includes the written statements by both Dunne and Taaffe (the spelling comes from signature of Taaffe). Primary sources for the Clunes rush of September 1855 are from the Argus 25-27 September 1855, and 16 October 1855. Government material is housed in a report 'Disposal of Auriferous Land at Clunes' (VPRS 2599, unit 523) which includes the printed report of the 'Legislative Council Select Committee on Gold Mining on Private Land'. Key documents regarding later disturbances at Clunes are in VPRS 44, unit 13, 56/2605, VPRS 1189, unit 482, L57/1069; unit 483, B57/4083, B57/3403 and Z57/513; unit 468-473 (Warden's reports).

Nordstrom

The major documents for Nordstrom are his actual models. These are held by the Museum of Victoria and those relating to the study area are a model of alluvial workings at Daisy Hill (c.1857-58) no. 11399 in the 1869 catalogue and no. 11072 in the current catalogue and the model of the Port Phillip and Clunes companies works (1858) no. 11401 in the 1869 catalogue. Correspondence from McCoy to Nordstrom (via Henry Smith of Ballarat) is contained in the outwards letter book of the Mining Commission and Museum, May 1856 to October 1857 and National Museum Outwards Letter Book, vol. 1 (1857-61) Other useful material relating to R. H. Bland and models of items of the Port Phillip Company's works are in vol. 2 (1861-65).

Mining

The mining commission was announced in Victoria Government Gazette, 6 May 1856, p.783 and the Museum of Victoria holds two boxes of correspondence and documents relating to that commission in addition to the letter book previously mentioned. Other models of Clunes are held by the Museum of Victoria and they are listed in McCoy's Descriptive Catalogue of the Mining, Metallurgical, Geological and Agricultural Models in the National Museum Melbourne, Government Printer, (1869). Only the first volume (Part 1, A - Exploration of the Soil) was ever published although the museum holds the second volume in manuscript form. This contains descriptions (and in some cases illustrations) of the

models and these are complemented by a further box of documents entitled 'Mining Catalogue 1856' and material in the Mining Commission miscellaneous papers. For the Mining Institute of Victoria see J. Brache (ed), Transactions of the Mining Institute of Victoria, vol.1, 1857-59, Melbourne 1859, and the Argus, 3 December 1858. The Transactions of the Royal Society of Victoria (and its predecessors) were also checked for the period 1855-1896. Specific parliamentary papers include 'Geological Survey. A copy of the deposition to Lord Stanley of the 12th July 1858 together with the Report of the Geological Surveyor, Mr. Selwyn of 13 July 1858' (1859-60, I), A.R.C. Selwyn, 'Reports and progress relative to the Mining and Geological Survey of Victoria, 1865 (1862-63, I, ordered to be printed 24 June 1863) and 'Mr Wilkinson's Report. Reply to question put by Mr J.S. Johnston 16 May 1861 for a copy of the Report of the Board appointed to enquire into Mr Wilkinson's patent for the extraction of gold from quartz' (1860-61, I, ordered to be printed 25 June 1861). The quotation regarding geological surveys came from Ann Mozley Moyal (ed), Scientists in Nineteenth Century Australia; a Documentary History, Cassell Australia, Melbourne, 1976, p.141.

CHAPTER SIX

SCANDINAVIAN LEAD AND TALBOT

Attention was turned from the Back Creek to the present site of Talbot with the discovery of the Scandinavian Lead some time around New Years Day, 1859. As news of the discovery, by prospectors Adolph and Carl Olsen, Carl W. Hallen and Joseph Bell, leaked to surrounding fields, eager diggers flocked to register claims. The Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser estimated 1000 claims had been marked by mid January and on 21 January that newspaper devoted its first classified listing for merchants at the rush, although at this date all were at the old township on Back Creek Flat. Hawkers with their carts, no doubt, plied their trade on the actual lead while the Advertiser boasted 'the crowd swells daily with wonderful rapidity'. The shaft of the original prospectors was rushed one evening in late January by a party of four. Their two illicit buckets were 'alive with gold' and fresh impetus was given to diggers tiring of the laborious sinking. Unlike many rushes, this new lead was accessible only after blasting through 30 feet of basalt, the ancient lava flow of Mount Greenock. Confusion about nomenclature reigned: the area was referred to as Good Man's Hill or Back Creek New Rush. The Advertiser suggested naming the rush after the original prospector and on 22 February reported the request 'to call the main lead the "Scandinavian" as appropriate to the native country of 3 out of 4 of the prospectors'.

By mid-February a population of 800-1500 was estimated by the Advertiser and this doubled and trebled in a matter of days. On 15 February the Advertiser correspondent claimed that 'the permanent character of the place is now established beyond a doubt, and an immense number of stores and tents have been removed to it' and while a week later the editor reported formation of a main street.

The rush to the Back Creek has assumed gigantic proportions; several thousand are already congregated on the spot, and every hour of the day fresh bodies of miners are pouring in. Stores and other places of business, as well as grog shanties, are being erected by scores, and in short all the signs are there which denote a monster rush.

By the start of March the new main street had been christened Scandinavian Crescent and despite the high prices demanded for prime positions, the number of businesses had increased from 20 to 100 in only a week. Many were substantial timber or iron structures, although most were little more than canvas tents with pretentious facades. The 'extravagant prices' for sites were merely private deals, as most storekeepers were illegally occupying the land. Official sanction in the form of a business licence was available, but until the appearance of the Crown Lands Bailiff in mid April little heed was paid to the regulations.

AMHERST AND BACK CREEK ADVERTISER.

To be published every Saturday and Wednesday.

THE FIRST NUMBER WILL BE ISSUED

ON SATURDAY NEXT, MARCH 5, 1859,

AND WILL CONTAIN LETTER LISTS, IMPOUNDINGS, AND OTHER USEFUL
INFORMATION; AND WILL BE EXTENSIVELY

DISTRIBUTED GRATUITOUSLY
THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Received at the Office, opposite Robinson's Iron Store, Scandinavian Crescent, Main-street,
Back Creek; and by Messrs. WOOD & KNIGHT, High-street, Amherst.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF

GENERAL PRINTING

EXECUTED WITH NEATNESS AND DISPATCH.

Early advertising in the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser,
4 March 1859.

The rush to Scandinavian Lead was being compared favourably with 'those glorious epochs', the rushes to Maryborough (1854), Dunolly (1856) and Ararat (1857), and in early March the cry 'it will be as good as Fiery Creek' was perhaps the ultimate accolade. Coaches rushed diggers from distant parts, hotels dispensed liquor at a frantic pace, theatres opened and Back Creek became a regular venue for the many touring ensembles and circuses who patronised the goldfields.

The initial number of the bi-weekly Amherst and Back Creek Advertiser appeared on 5 March 1859 although regrettably no issues are known to survive. However, it found company amongst other newspaper scribes. Foremost among these was the correspondent of the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser, whose lucid and careful reports form the basis of our present knowledge of the rush to the Scandinavian Lead. The Argus was content to report snippets of other provincial newspaper accounts of Back Creek and generally downplayed the significance of the rush. However, a leading article on 22 March in the Argus (ascribed by the Advertiser to Butler Cole Aspinall, barrister, wit and goldfields Member of the Legislative Assembly) painted a more favourable picture, although deploring the lack of police or resident warden.

A more orderly and industrious population never congregated together than this at the new rush. At night they amuse themselves and by day they work. They are not 'dull boys' and they are not idle ones.

By the time of Aspinall's visit (15 March) eight streets had formed, some like Scandinavian Crescent and Oxford Street were being metalled, and the population had swelled to 20,000.

Early in March 1859, merchant Robert Whittle met hundreds of diggers on the road to Back Creek. The Scandinavian lead was 'a very lively place' according to Whittle. His own business was located on the Back Creek Flat near the treasury, but the commercial centre which followed the configuration of the lead

was the dirtiest [sic] place I ever saw ... business people shifted into line along the streets, and we found we by that time had two large theatres - four sets of negro minstrels - two very big casinos - and no end of smaller dance houses, and concert rooms. If at any time business kept me out after dark, I was obliged to avoid the streets; as they would be by then so crowded, as to make it impossible to get a horse through them ... Every billiard room full to overflowing, with diggers in moleskins and crimean shirts, covered with pipe clay; playing at pin-pool for heaps of money - and I have here, often seen 5 - 6 horsemen, ride into a bar-room and take their drinks in the saddle, at the bar.

Institutional and commercial development

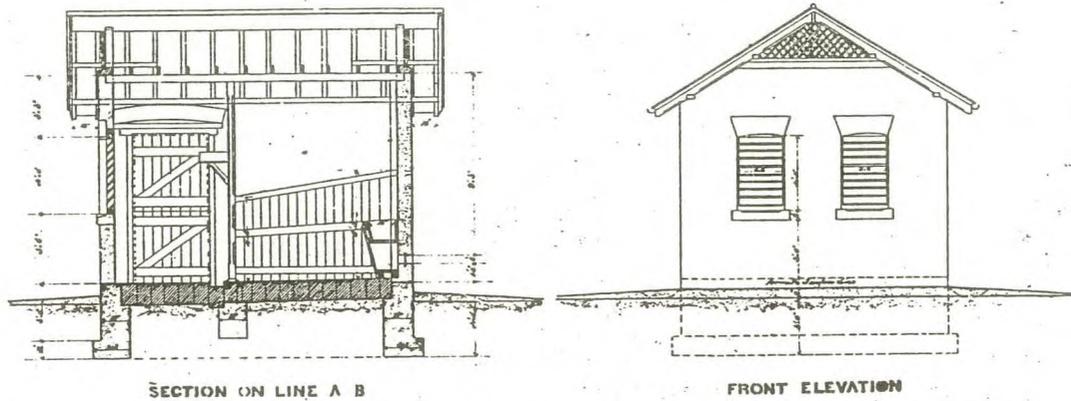
Apart from commercial enterprises, schools and churches were some of the earliest institutions to respond to the rush. Generally lacking the heavy yoke of government bureaucracy, many denominations, but especially the non-conformists, were able to cater for the itinerent population. The Primitive Methodists and Wesleyans had been 'zealously in the field since the beginning of the rush'. With typical enterprise, the latter denomination erected a portable iron chapel in Oxford Street, in close proximity to the diggings. Father Fennelly preached in mid-April, at the Rock of Cashel Hotel (what would the Wesleyans have thought?), and a Roman Catholic church was soon erected in Scandanavian Crescent (opposite the present bowling green). Later, Presbyterians met at Staveley's store while 'The English Chapel' was constructed on the old main road (Argyle Street).

A temporary post office was opened in the premises of Robinson and Co. with future Amherst Borough secretary Isiah Andrews as postmaster. On 24 March the Church of England School advertised for its first pupils. However, the fee of 1s 6d per week was a likely deterrent and a ball was organised at Sault's Daisy Hill Hotel a month later in aid of much needed additions to the existing National School on Back Creek Flat.

Although the new rush was relatively peaceful and the diggers acted with 'zeal and industry', the pitifully small police detachment was far less than required. The site for a police camp was not selected until the first week in March and already the shocking case of a wife whose estranged husband cut her

POLICE STATION TALBOT

TWO STALL STABLE



Public Works Department drawing for the stable at Talbot Police Station
[Public Record Office]

throat had, according to the Advertiser, encouraged 'crimes so abhorrent [sic] that civilised man cannot speak of them; murder, manslaughter, highway robbery under arms and otherwise. Guilt of every shade and hue is rife'.

The government set apart a 'Police Camp' reserve of approximately three acres much later in 1859 although the inertia caused by recent erection of public buildings on the Back Creek Flat impeded the provision of new buildings to service the diggings. Accommodation for the police and wardens was grudgingly provided, although it was not until September 1860 that a contract for a new court house was signed. A portable iron lock-up was supplied by Enoch Chambers of Melbourne in mid 1859 although this was not replaced by the present basalt building until 1863.

Population peaked at an estimated 30,000 toward the end of March 1859 and this was sustained until the end of April. March also saw the erection of five banking agencies and substantial upgrading of commercial premises. Robinson and Co. added an elaborate facade to their prefabricated iron store and Wrigley's Commercial Hotel was enlarged several times in a space of weeks to cater for the increasing population. 'Mr Wrigley can scarcely extend his premises sufficiently fast to meet the requirements of his customers.' The Advertiser described the wonderful news for relatives at home in a summary penned in mid-March.

Our English readers will scarcely credit that the finding a new gold-field would have the effect of depopulating long-established districts, and of drawing together within a few weeks a population estimated at

30,000. Let them fancy this number of persons located in an area of about nine square miles of rocky sterile-looking country. Let them fancy this space covered with an endless number of small tents, with heaps of earth and stone, varying in size from small piles to large mounds, and with long irregular streets closely packed with canvas, wooden and iron buildings of every conceivable size and shape, and they will have some idea of the new gold field at Back Creek ... The Back Creek rush then is fully as large as the largest yet known in the colony, and, considering the short time it has been opened, far larger.

Although acknowledging that most of the diggers came from Maryborough, Dunolly and other nearby fields, the Advertiser saw no cause for alarm. On the contrary, it was believed when the new rush subsided, diggers would return to the nearer fields, and besides most businesses at Back Creek were branches of larger stores in Dunolly and Maryborough. However, several genuinely new enterprises had their grounding on Scandinavian Lead. Thomas Dale Wrigley of Lancashire appeared in Scandinavian Crescent early in March after an unspectacular career in baking at Maryborough, and soon made a fortune at the new rush. His Commercial Hotel was well sited and the present building of 1861 is remarkable evidence of that early prosperity. (When Majorca was rushed in 1863, it was the businesses of Talbot which were well placed to open new branches. Publican George Meriton, photographer and tobacconist W. Hardegan - today remembered for his remarkable suite of photographs depicting Majorca in 1866 - and timber merchant William Phelan were all among Talbot businessmen to establish at Majorca.)

Formation of streets

The streets at Talbot initially formed separate communities. Scandinavian Crescent was the first to be formed (22 February) while Star Street (now Chapman Street - 8 March), Oxford Street, Russell Street and several others (possibly Bond Street and Seafield Street - 15 March), and Ballaarat Street (22 March) followed rapidly. Two streets, one of which was probably Camp Street, were marked off on 28 March to connect Scandinavian Crescent with Argyle Street (at that date the main Ballarat - Maryborough Road). Indeed in mid April the Advertiser correspondent sanguinely predicted the continuation of Oxford Street to the old township on Back Creek Flat 'would very much improve the locality, and lay the foundations of a fine town, which would in time connect with Amherst'.

Scandinavian Crescent was the prime location for merchants and institutions such as the bank agencies, and the post office also chose this locality. The Commercial Hotel and United States Hotel were foremost among the public houses and the shrewd Wrigley gained patronage and prestige from Cobb and Company's desire to use his hotel as their depot for Back Creek.

Restaurants as well as hotels proliferated along Scandinavian Crescent while timber yards and carpenters responsible for the buildings congregated on Back Creek Flat or along the Back Creek in Seafield Street.

On 20 April Wrigley, with winter approaching, hosted a meeting of merchants and storekeepers to discuss improvements to the physical condition of the Crescent. Alexander Fyfe chaired the gathering, which was given added urgency by an abortive rush of hundreds of miners the previous week which had left the newly metalled surface of Scandinavian Crescent in ruin. Fyfe estimated that 20-30,000 had been spent on buildings and the formation of a 'Street Improvement Committee' was unanimously sanctioned in light of the news that similar committees had already formed in Ballaarat, Oxford and Bond Streets. On the same afternoon a meeting of 300 persons in Ballaarat Street agreed to contribute a shilling per foot of property frontage. While applauding the efforts of the street committees, the local Advertiser correspondent hoped for their amalgamation to ensure more economical and satisfactory works.

Where was the local council at this time of need? In Amherst, it seems, it was quietly ignoring the rush and was intent only on improving its own partially deserted township. The rush had come at an inconvenient time of year. Rate notices had been served on 11 February 1859, by which date the new rush was only in its infancy. 750 was sought in April 1859 for erection of a town hall at Amherst as well as 100 for making footpaths in its High Street, while the needs of the new rush were virtually ignored. It was not until September 1860 that funding was sought for works in Scandinavian Crescent and Ballaarat Street, although this only comprised clearing mud from drains and filling holes with gravel, or metal in the case of Ballaarat Street.

Municipal developments

The Borough Council of Amherst watched the new settlement at Back Creek with mounting anxiety as councillors sensed their power base being eroded. With the development of Scandinavian Crescent, the riding councillors decided (having the casting vote of the chairman) to seize the initiative and meet separately in a local hotel. J.P. Smith, Mustow and Evans, the three aggrieved Amherst councillors, continued to meet at the new Town Hall at Amherst. Premises were leased at Back Creek and the rapid decline of Amherst coupled with the spectacular rise of Back Creek to ensure that ascendancy never returned to Amherst. The council was reunited in 1861 (the Town Clerk had never left Amherst!) and with the visit of the Governor, Sir Henry Barkly on 19 October 1861 the name Talbot was adopted locally, although the government refused to rename the municipality. This was not rectified until 1876 when the area was renamed the Borough of Talbot (despite the Amherst and Clunes Roads Board having been renamed Shire of Talbot in 1865).

The municipal boundaries as drafted in 1858 also did nothing to advance the cause of Back Creek. The boundary ran in a straight line approximately in line with the present alignment of Barkly Street, and formed a most inappropriate line of demarkation. Disenfranchised householders and landowners petitioned the governor in 1861 and the borough boundary was shifted east to accommodate their properties, and also the growing suburb of Rocky Flat. Disenfranchisement in municipal matters was however not the most pressing matter in the minds of diggers in early 1859. The second Legislative Assembly elections had generated enormous interest, but due to a technical error in the drafting of the Registration Act diggers were enrolled wherever they happened to be in late 1858. Thus the large numbers gathered at Back Creek would be unable to exercise their right to vote. Large public meetings at Back Creek elected delegates to lobby the colonial government to rectify this anomaly. Serle acknowledges the decisive efforts by the radical Back Creek diggers and their 'able and active' delegates in assisting with postponment of the election to enable new and more equitable enrolment procedures to be devised.

The German influence

The Germans made an early and lasting impression on Talbot. Large numbers flocked to the Scandinavian Rush and within three months had established a Deutscher Verin, or German Association. Popular meeting places were the Teutonic (in Oxford Street) and Hamburg Coffee House (in Star Street). Charles Shultz, wheelwright, carpenter, turner and signwriter had premises on the Flat, opposite Daisy Hill Hotel and his advertisement of 11 February 1859 in the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser was the first for a builder at the Scandinavian rush. Could he have been Carl Justus Schultz, co-lessee of the Union Gold Mining Company lease at Mount Greenoch in 1864? Germans were particularly active at the Mount Greenoch Lead; Frederick George Klein was manager of the Union Mine (1864-78), and Adolph Heinrich Frederich von Pein, Franz Albrecht and David F.H. Schultz were all associated with its operation. In May 1859 Malesky, 'this enterprising German', established one of the early quartz mining batteries on Back Creek and halved the previous cost (£2 per ton) for crushing, helping revive interest in local reef mining. Of the merchants, butcher Anton Bach was a prominent local identity. A German Association had been formed at Maryborough in 1857 and in 1864 the Verins at Talbot, McCallum's Creek, Majorca and Maryborough combined and by 1869 had 200 financial members (6d per week).

Mining progress

The depth of sinking on the Scandinavian Lead was generally 15-20 metres, but progress was slowed by a layer of basalt, often 5m thick or more. Although often decomposed into boulders, blasting with powder was necessary and sometimes tragic in its consequences for the operator. 'The Ballarat miners who throng the lead are too accustomed to difficulties to fear anything' quipped the

Advertiser correspondent in mid-April as the lead became increasingly rocky at the North end. (appropriately named Ballaarat Street). The use of blasting powder had been pioneered in Ballarat in the mid 1850s as the leads were traced under the volcanic escarpment of West Ballaarat, and the congregation of such experienced miners of Back Creek was fortuitous for the exploitation of the lead. The lead was also wet and extensive use of timber slabbing further slowed the work. The small claims were worked by hand windlasses and the basalt rocks, piled with mullock beside the claims, gave a distinctive visual quality to the new mining landscape. Lack of water (the rush peaked in the dry months of March and April) led to stockpiling of dirt until more water was available in the wetter months. Warden Crespigny refused applications for puddling machines until the rush had consolidated, to avoid the consequent sludge nuisance. In April diggers were summoned for polluting the Big Water Hole (the only reliable supply for domestic purposes) with their auriferous paydirt. The shafts also yielded a hard conglomerate 'cement', 2m in thickness, which yielded up to 7oz of gold per ton and sometimes much higher.

The Scandinavian Lead was traced in a semi-circular configuration with the northern end eventually ending at a mullock bank near Hard Hill, while the southern end crossed Scandinavian Crescent above Oxford Street and joined the previously worked lead on Goodwoman's Hill. A wide branch forked off south of Oxford Street and headed for Mount Greenock but was soon exhausted. The most promising extension was Rocky Lead which ran east across the plains towards McCallum's Creek.

Township survey

Surveyor General C.W. Ligar and District Surveyor W.S Urquhart visited Back Creek in early May and instructions were issued for an early survey of the new streets, not apparently for purposes of immediate sale but to protect the rights of business licence holders. This survey did not occur until late in 1859 when the new settlement had sufficiently consolidated to warrant land sales. The ad hoc development was surveyed by John Templeton yet these allotments were not sold until 25 and 26 May 1860. Almost all buildings impinged on the surveyed allotments and new owners were given twelve months to rebuild to conform to the surveyed boundaries. None of this redevelopment could mask the origins of the street pattern as an immediate response to the Scandinavian Rush and the position of the lead. Indeed, when Templeton was surveying, digging was still going on in Ballaarat Street close to the back of the buildings and the northern end of that street (as well as the eastern end of Oxford Street) were considered of insufficient permanence to warrant survey.

Plan of Town Lots at Back Creek surveyed by John Templeton in 1859 showing the early pattern of development
[Central Plan Office]

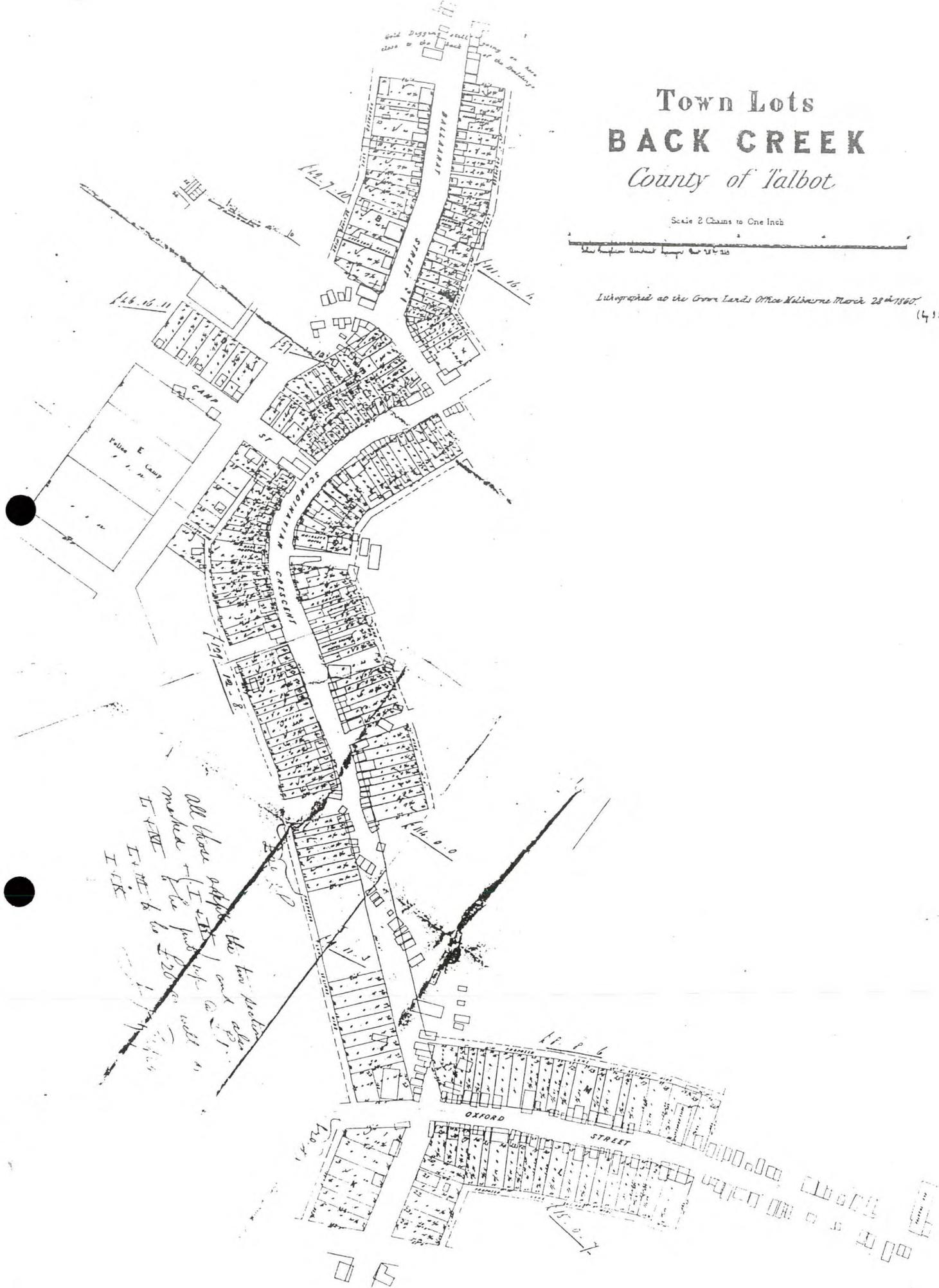
Town Lots BACK CREEK County of Talbot

Scale 2 Chains to One Inch



Engraved at the Great Land's Office Melbourne March 28th 1860.

(4132)



Handwritten notes:
 All these apply to the low water
 mark of the creek
 I will
 I will
 I will

This early street pattern (especially Ballaarat Street, Scandinavian Crescent and Oxford Street) was a direct response by miners and businesses to the position of Scandinavian Lead. The volcanic flow had confined the lead to a narrow horseshoe and early exploitation of the lead directly influenced the locality of those first commercial streets. As more areas were worked out, so more streets and allotments were surveyed and thus development of the township was further influenced by geology and mining.

Shortly after the rush to Scandinavian Lead, the government surveyor surveyed the Back Creek Flat area. This took the form of a regular grid layout with streets named after English statesmen (Peel, Lyndhurst, Carlyle, Gladstone, etc). Provision was made for a court house, police buildings, gold office, warden's office, telegraph office and post office although only the gold office was ever erected at the site. Sale of the allotments was halted by the survey of the Scandinavian Lead and there was little ensuing development.

The typical grid surveys were adopted by the Department of Crown Lands and Survey to cope with the pressure for land sale caused by the gold rushes. So great was the need for quick surveys that in 1861 district surveyor Wilmott (working in Ararat) prepared two standard subdivision plans for 'Goldfields Townships'. He intended mining surveyors would be able to use these for laying out new towns at new rushes and although the two plans were lithographed there are no known documented instances of their use.

Back Creek Flat

Development on Back Creek Flat was initially aided by the Scandinavian rush, as the area was within sufficient proximity to benefit commercially from the increase in population. The Flat and Goodwoman's Hill provided much needed space for tents, as did the locality around Hard Hill to the north west of the lead. Storekeeper Robert Whittle marvelled at the scene early in 1859. 'It was a fine sight to take a walk on Sunday to the hills in the vicinity of the rush; from which one could look down upon an encampment of 40,000 people, all under canvas.' Diggers unlucky to miss out on a claim on the Scandinavian lead reworked old ground in the neighbourhood and the several new leads that forked off the main Scandiavian Lead.

However, Back Creek Flat soon languished. In 1860 the rate book listed 48 buildings including quartz mills, brick yards, dairies, stores, restaurants, a school, cordial manufactory, bakery, butcher's shop, shoe maker's shop, slaughter yard and only 18 dwellings. In March 1859 the Wesleyans had opened a chapel at Back Creek although their energies were now concentrated on the population closer to the diggings. The tents quickly disappeared and by 1862 only 40 ratepayers were listed. A small cluster of buildings was located near the Amherst Road which superseded Peel Street in the 1870s as the main thoroughfare to Amherst following construction of a reliable crossing over Back Creek at the foot of Camp Street.

The earlier settlement at Kangaroo Flat on Back Creek experienced its own periodic rushes. The area now formed a suburb of Talbot. A portable iron lock up was erected in 1859, and in the same year moves were made to set aside worked out auriferous ground on the Flat as a racecourse. A cricket ground for Talbot had been requested in 1861 on land adjacent to Back Creek, between Brougham and Macaulay Streets and a seven acre site was temporarily reserved in April 1862. Mining enroached onto the ground shortly after. The present site was gazetted in December 1862 following urging from the council that 'the cricket season is fast approaching'.

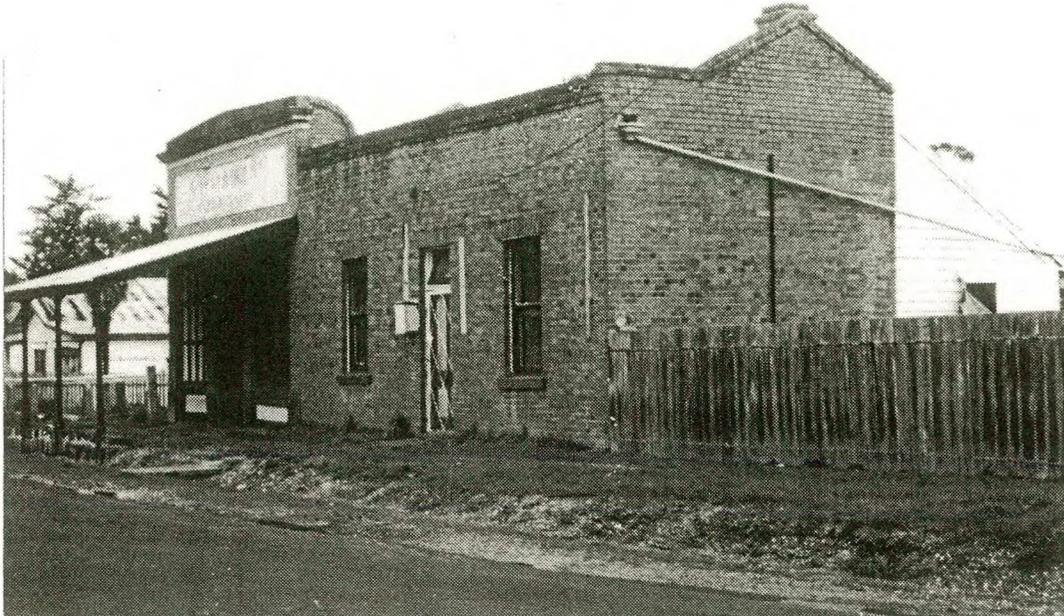
Consolidation at Talbot

Development in the principal streets consolidated, especially after Templeton's survey. Early slab and canvas buildings were replaced by more substantial timber and brick structures, especially for commercial premises. Some areas of Talbot, such as the periphery of Oxford Street declined while other areas developed. No major rushes occurred in this locality after the Scandinavian rush and thus the movement of the institutional, commercial and residential centre from Amherst and Back Creek Flat ceased. This ensured that Talbot became the major town between Clunes, Maryborough, Carisbrook, Avoca and Lexton. Only the rush to Majorca in 1863 provided any other large settlement in the general area, although this development was not sustained.

The buildings which remain in Talbot are characteristic of two critical periods of development. The first was the rebuilding in the years immediately after the Scandinavian Rush and is represented by many substantial buildings, generally of brick. Among the commercial buildings are the Ramsey shop and residence, Ballaarat Street (c.1860); former Commercial Hotel (1861); Culley shop and residence (corner Scandinavian Crescent and Camp Street - 1862) and Elder's Hotel (corner Camp Street and Heales Street - 1862). The two major institutional buildings are the Post Office (central section - 1860) and the Court House (now library - 1860/61).

Of the residential buildings, only one has been accurately dated to this early period, that of Horatio Huntly Hoskins. Here the early timber cottage of 1860 (at the corner of Camp and Heales Street) remains behind the more substantial brick section of 1869. Many cottages in Ballaarat Street probably date from this early period.

This rebuilding in Talbot is reflected in the annual valuations for the Borough of Amherst. Rate revenue had trebled between 1859 and 1860 reflecting the many new buildings still remaining from the Scandinavian Rush, although a slight decrease in 1861 was followed by a modest rise the following year. This confirms evidence of the extensive rebuilding process underway in the newly surveyed township.



The shop and residence of tinsmith S.W. Ramsay still stands in Ballarat Street, a fine reminder of the period of consolidation at Talbot in the early 1860s

Lack of a reliable public water supply was a major problem for mining and domestic consumption in the early days of Amherst and Back Creek. Flett records that the main water scheme at Back Creek was a reservoir, built in 1858 by Stewart and Farnsworth on Stony Creek with a head race from McCallums Creek. The cost was apparently £10,000 and began by serving sluicing parties on Ballarat Hill and Hard Hill. Its usage grew, and a charge for water of 9 per day was made. (The proprietor James Syme Stewart was later owner of Hoskins diminutive residence in Camp Street, and during his membership of the Legislative Assembly added the larger brick section.) In February 1860, with a view to rectifying the poor provision of water for domestic usage, the Borough of Amherst offered a £40 price for the best essay and scheme for a district water supply with little result. During 1860 £1600 was expended by the Victorian Government at Amherst for the purpose of 'constructing dams and reservoirs'. Some of this sum was probably directed towards the construction of Amherst Reservoir. The reservoir was certainly under construction by mid 1861 when a rush to the site followed discovery of a 'lost' alluvial lead.

'Lost' leads of another kind caused flared temperson Rocky Flat on the evening of 16 October 1860. Earlier that day Judge Clarke, presiding in the Court of Mines at Back Creek, had ruled

the frontage rules of the Maryborough Mining District illegal. The rules were based on a system devised at Ballarat in 1856 to overcome difficulty encountered in deep sinking under the basalt cap. The usual indications of shallow alluvial leads were disguised once under a lava flow. The frontage system allotted an unlimited frontage across the lead with places allotted in order of registration until its exact course could be accurately determined, at which time a conventional block claim could be marked out. At Ballarat initial opposition to the new rules was quickly overcome, and the frontage system ushered the way for small capitalists with steam powered machinery, whilst still encouraging democratic control of the defined leads. The rules were soon adopted in other districts, including the Avoca local court district (which included Back Creek) in June 1857.

As far as local miners were concerned, the frontage system lay dormant on the statute books until after the Scandinavian Lead travelled under the basalt across Rocky Flat. By the time of Judge Clark's ruling, 33 frontage claims had been registered and three engines were already in operation. The declaration of illegality prompted miners to make out conventional block claims on the Rocky Lead against which disgruntled frontage men only had legal recourse, as efforts to shift the block claim men were futile. The block claim men had powerful support from local publican and businessmen, who even staged an amateur performance at Back Creek's Theatre Royal (entitled 'Are the Maryborough Frontage Rules Legal?') in support of a fund to defend the Supreme Court appeal.

No wonder the Rocky Lead was rushed. Under the frontage rules, each party of 6 was allowed 120' along the lead while a block claim in wet alluvial sinkings (and the Rocky Lead was very wet) 70 feet square was allowed for each four miners. Assuming a width of 20 ft., the new party could gain access to almost 250 feet along the lead, already well defined by the laborious sinking of the frontage claims. Parliament quickly legislated to legalise the frontage rules of the Maryborough Mining Board and the continued exploitation of the deep leads under the basalt of Rocky Flat contributed to a limited measure of stability in Talbot during the early 1860s.

Consolidation at Talbot 1865-75

The period 1865-75 saw consolidation of most institutional buildings and these buildings dominate the town in which most accompanying commercial and residential development has disappeared. Along with those buildings of the early 1860s these institutional buildings form a critical component of Talbot's built heritage.

As mining and reworking exhausted auriferous areas in the township, allotments were surveyed and roads formed. Thus Prince Alfred Street and Barkly Street were set out in the late 1860s, and Railway Street and the east end of Ballarat Street in the

early 1870s. Institutional buildings of this period included the police quarters (1865 and lockup - 1863), sub-treasury (1867), Oddfellows Hall (behind Town Hall - 1866), Presbyterian church (1864-65) Court House (now Masonic Lodge - 1866), telegraph office (1866), common school (1869), Primitive Methodist church (1870), Roman Catholic church (1871), Church of England (1871), fire engine house (1873), railway station (1874) and Prince Alfred school (1875). Most of the new churches clustered in the vicinity of Camp Street and the government block consolidated to its present state. This group of buildings now forms one of the most significant precincts of any modestly-sized Australian gold town remaining from the 1860s.

The major commercial buildings to survive from this period are the Bull and Mouth Hotel (1866), London Chartered Bank (1866), Court House Hotel (1867), flour mill (1869), Bank of Australasia (1869), Phoenix Hotel (1864) and Anton Bach's butchers shop (Scandinavian Crescent - 1869). These last three were all rebuilt after a disastrous fire in Scandinavian Crescent. Several brick residences, for example those of Syme (1869), Burdess (Barkly Street - 1869), Willox (Bond Street - 1869?) and Dowling (Camp Street - 1875) survive, although most of the remaining residences from this period in Talbot are constructed of timber.

In June 1869 the Amherst Reservoir was leased to the Borough of Amherst for 99 years at £1 per annum. The lease was apparently forfeited in October 1874 and the reservoir was described as 'useless'. It was at this stage that the council sought to purchase the Talbot Reservoir at Evansford which it did in July 1875 for £3500. In December 1876 the council decided to call tenders for raising the reservoir wall and Isaac Meadows' quotation of £3550 was finally recommended to the Government for acceptance. This work was completed by October 1877 and a contract was let with Blyth and Co. for water pipes to reticulate Talbot in June 1877. Stand pipes in Arygle Street and Oxford Street (which still survive) were erected by contractor Hawkins in October 1878 and reticulation of Talbot was extended gradually as the need arose. Both the railways and gardeners were large consumers. The railway used 12,000 gallons a day (charge 1/6 per locomotive) and irrigation for gardens consumed 15,000 gallons during the day and 50,000 gallons at night. Difficulty with the supply was caused by the offtake at McCallum's Creek, which had become defective since the original construction by Stewart and Farnsworth. Repairs were undertaken in 1882 although much heartache was caused by rival Lexton Shire Council's decision to rate the land on which the offtake weir was situated. (Maryborough also obtained water from McCallum's Creek and constructed their reservoir at Evansford in 1881).

The 5 acre cricket and recreation ground at Talbot had only been a temporary reservation and in the 1870s council sought to have the site enlarged. An extra 4 acres were granted in 1874 and a year later the total site was 'proclaimed as a public park', apparently in order to qualify for the vote for 'improvement of



Talbot Church of England (1871). The building was clearly designed to be enlarged yet decline in the local economy caused the temporary timber vestry to survive long after its intended lifespan.

Public Parks and Gardens'. Local parliamentarian James Syme Stewart lobbied strenuously on behalf of the council, and £520 was spent on a perimeter fence. By 1880 the Public Park had a 'dancing pavilion' and extensive buildings to shelter large picnic parties, so popular in the nineteenth century. Recreational boating and fishing at the Talbot Reservoir was also a boon to the mining settlement and in 1883 the Victorian Humane Society provided a life buoy in case of boating accidents. Another favourite watering place was the Dulapwhang waterhole, probably well known since Aboriginal occupation of the land. This was situated on the Bet Bet Creek on the old road between Amherst and Pleasant Creek (now Stawell). The road, apparently used as a stock route, forded the creek at the waterhole, immediately south of Bradshaw's Glenmona station and Dulapwhang was formally reserved by the government for public recreation.

The rise of Dunach

Renewed interest in deep lead mining at Dunach and Mount Greenock in the 1870s and 80s gave a boost at a time of declining reef and other alluvial mining although there was little new development in Talbot. Fires were the major impetus to new building in this period and this has left very few early timber buildings in the town.

The rise of Dunach was largely due to the discovery of the deep alluvial Mount Greenock Lead running roughly north-south under Mount Greenock. The lava from Mount Greenock's eruption had covered ancient streams and solidified to form a thick layer of basalt while the early alluvial rushes had come from much more shallow leads along the Back Creek and the eroded bed of McCallum's Creek. At the edge of the lava flow the shallow leads around Talbot, Back Creek and Amherst converged and continued in a north easterly direction, becoming deeper and covered by an increasingly thick layer of basalt. Rocky Lead (to the east of Talbot township) was one of the first to be followed under the basalt and by 1862 the lead had been traced towards McCallum's Creek. The Sadowa Company commenced operations in August 1862 on the lead and, although unsuccessful at first, were fortuitously located at the junction of the Rocky and Mount Greenock Leads. However, the All Nations Company had been one of the first to strike the Mount Greenock Lead. They bottomed their shaft at 204 feet in 1863 and the pipe clay they recovered yielded a paying prospect.

Yet it was the rich ground of the Sadowa mine that proved most productive. By 1867, following several company failures and at a time when the mine was being worked by tributers, rich pickings were obtained. The mine proved to be exceedingly rich and during its existence over 1500 kg of gold was extracted, making it one of the top fifty Victorian deep lead mines in terms of gold production. Puddling machines and sluices were used to separate the gold from the wash dirt. The deep lead mines were also very wet, and at Sadowa, with sixty men at work in 1869, almost a half a million gallons of water were being pumped a day.

On the southern side of Mount Greenock at the township of Dunach, the Union Gold Mining Company was one of the first mines. They acted as catalyst for tracing the southern progress of the Mount Greenock lead and therefore continued mining development in the area. The lessees, Carl Justus Schulz and Adolph Heinrich Friedrich von Pein, had pegged out the twelve acre Union claim in October 1863, and a lease was granted in the following January. The Mining Surveyor at Amherst estimated that upwards of 300 feet of sinking through basalt and water would be necessary. A second and subsequent lease was granted to Frederick George Klein and others on behalf of the Union Company although by June 1867 the initial £3000 capital had been spent and calls for fresh capital were made. The mine bottomed on gold at 150 feet in March 1869 and for the next ten years yielded an annual average of 1400 oz of gold with a peak of 2916 oz in 1879. By contrast, the last four years of working (1881-84) yielded an annual average of only 511 ounces.

The Mount Greenock area had originally been surveyed in November 1857 with large blocks (generally 50-120 acres) marked out around the mount. At this early date the main road from Ballarat to Carisbrook ran along McCallum's Creek to the south and east of the mount while another road forked off, crossed Stony Creek and ran across the plains to Back Creek and Maryborough. When the telegraph

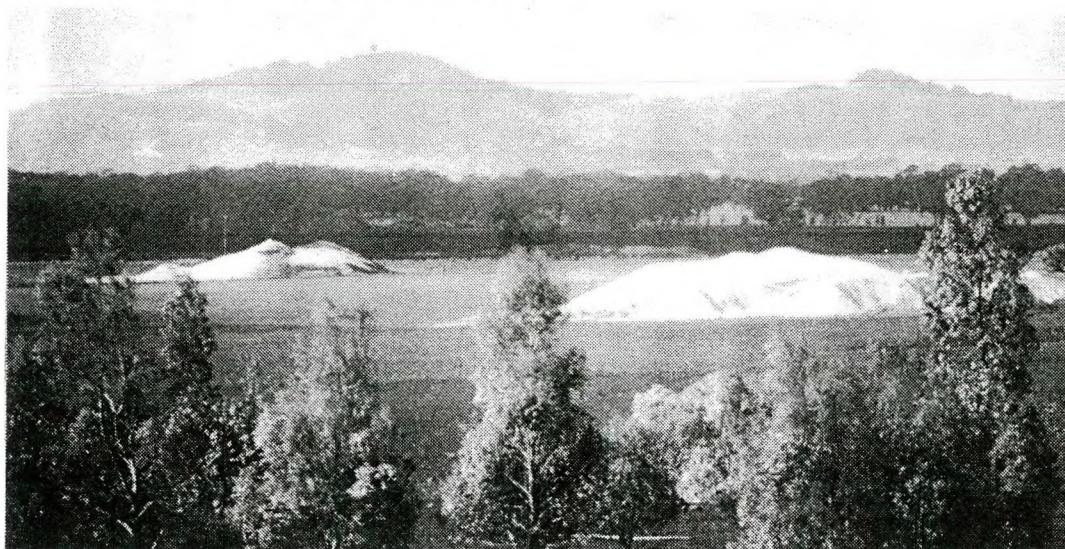
line from Maryborough to Creswick was installed in 1860, surveyor Henry Morres chose an alignment south of Mount Greenock slightly different from the earlier road. This short section of road, which swept south of Mount Greenock and crossed McCallum's Creek, deviated to follow the telegraph and it is this formation that is still visible south of the present road. This marked the centre of the township of Dunach.

The locality received a boost in 1872 when the Shire of Talbot (reconstituted from the Amherst and Clunes Roads Board in 1865) decided to erect its Shire Offices at Dunach. Ballarat architect John Doane provided the design and contractor Isaac Meadows of Talbot used basalt from a small quarry at the rear of the building for its construction. A school opened near the Union Mine in May 1874 following closure of smaller schools at Mount Greenock (on the north of the nount) and Mount Glasgow. This development south of Mount Greenock was consolidated in 1873-75 by survey and construction of the railway although it was not until seven years later that a siding was provided to serve Dunach.

Nichol's Freehold Gold Mining Company drew heavily on the success of the Union Mine ('7000 oz of gold obtained in less that 14 months') and the rich Hoffnung mine, adjoining on the north ('12,000 oz from their easterly workings, but even this was not from the deepest ground'). Marklin and party had recently proved the lead was further west than supposed, and it was that party which had floated the company on the public market.

With the peak production of the Union Mine in 1879 a 'wave of mining speculation rolled over Talbot', according to the Leader. Companies such as Nichols Freehold were floated and earlier mines, the Rip Van Winkle, for instance, were refitted. The economy at Talbot was poised for a rebirth but the boom was to prove shortlived. (see chapter twelve).

Mullock heaps of the Mount Greenock Lead form a conspicuous feature in the landscape at Dunach



Notes on sources

Scandinavian Lead rush

All issues of the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser for the period 4 January - 6 May 1859 have been read and this section is substantially derived from editorials and regular reports from the unnamed Back Creek correspondent. Regretably no issues of the Back Creek and Amherst Advertiser are known to survive, and the first known issues of the North Western Chronicle date from October 1860. Talbot Leader, 16 May 1940 reprints extracts from Ballarat Miner, 19 August - 15 October 1859. Other specific references are from Borough of Amherst ratebooks (1858-63), Mining Surveyors Reports, I, May 1859, p.9, Maryborough Advertiser, 20 September 1869; Talbot Leader, 2 April 1880, Robert Whittle's diary (held by the State Library of Victoria, MS 11829, box 2163/7). Several references come from Osborne and Du Borg, Maryborough, Flett, Maryborough, 1975 and Souvenir Booklet of Talbot's centenary, 1952. W. Hardegan, photos of Majorca, c.1866, are held by the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria, (H1693, LTA 678). The main plans are Town Lots Back Creek, John Templeton, Assistant Surveyor, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860, L.490 (Scandinavian Lead), Township of Talbot on the Back Creek, William S. Mackintosh, Assistant Surveyor, December 1861, lithographed 17 March 1864, L1189, 2009, (Talbot), Town Lots Back Creek, lithographed 12 April 1860 (Back Creek Flat). Surveyor Willmot's plans and related correspondence are in VPRS 44, unit 407, D62/2683. Bernard Barrett's, Civic Frontier, contains background to the system of local government in Victoria as well as a useful discussion of the Amherst-Back Creek municipal crisis.

Later mining

Smyth, Gold Fields and Mineral Districts of Victoria, 1869, pp.175-180, North Western Chronicle, in particular 23 October 1860 and 6 December 1860, Local Court Regulations and Mining District byelaws in VGG. General background is from Weston Bate, Lucky City, 1978, pp.80-82, Flett, Maryborough, 1975, chapter 7.

Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, reserve files have been used extensively including Rs 5153 (Talbot park) which includes a plan dated 5 September 1874 which shows a dam, puddling machines and mine shaft at North West corner of the reserve, Rs 463 (Talbot Race Course), Rs 917 (Dulapwhang waterhole) and Rs 1632 (Amherst reservoir). Dulapwhang waterhole is shown on Plan of country allotments in the Parishes of Yalong and Lilicur, counties of Talbot and unnamed, L 63, Crown Lands Office, 2 March 1859. Information on Talbot reservoir is from Flett, Maryborough, 1975, p.68, Borough of Amherst minutes 1875-85 (as summarised by Ron Pryor), Talbot Leader, 11 March, 29 March 1881. For Amherst reservoir see Borough of Amherst minutes, 8 February 1860, VPRS 957, unit 2, p.251, Flett, Maryborough, 1975, p.74, Borough of Amherst minutes, 21 October 1874.

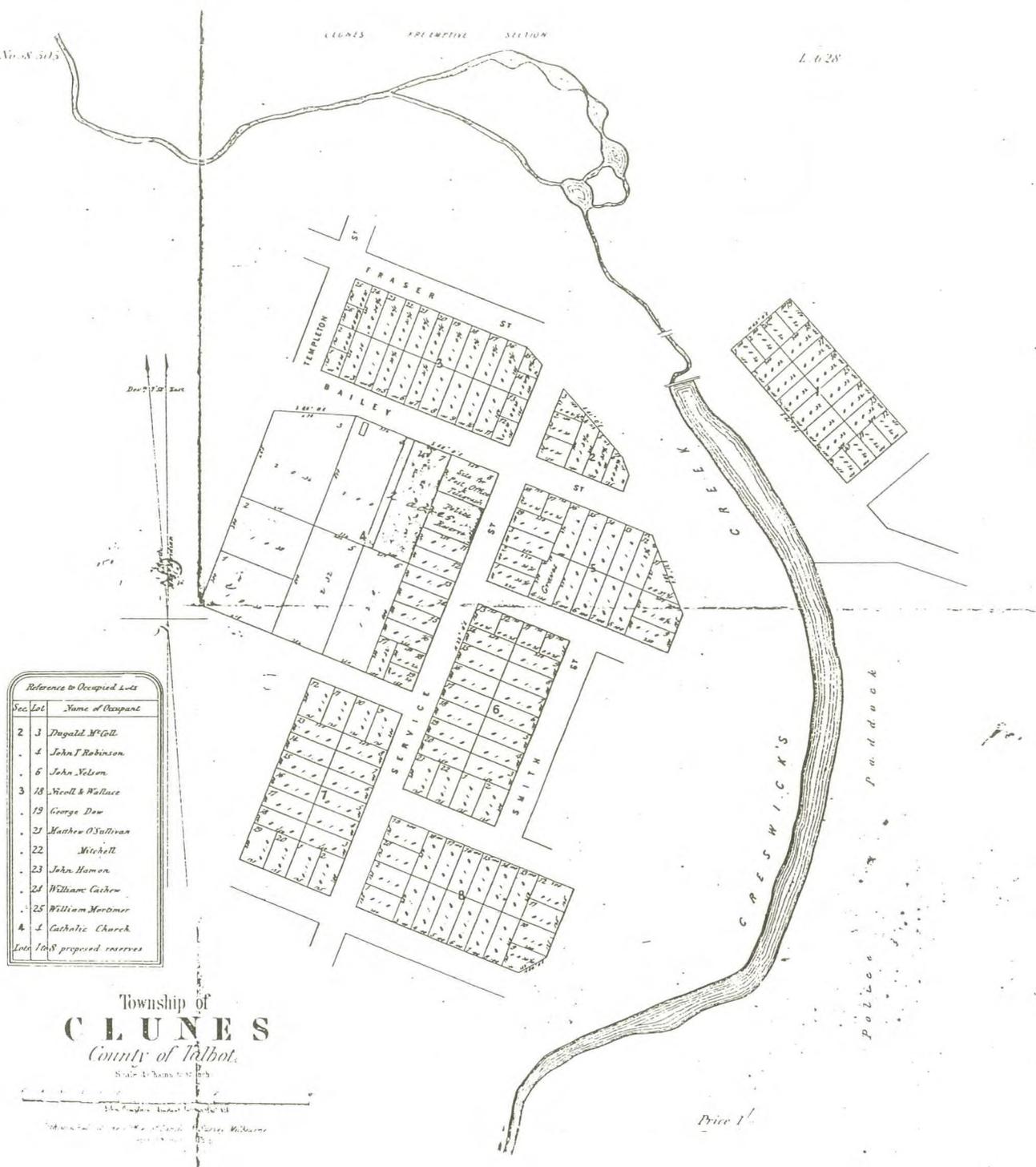
Dunach and Mount Greenock

The major sources for the Mount Greenock lead are Brough Smyth's, Goldfields and Mineral Districts of Victoria, 1869, pp.214-217; Reginald A.F. Murray, Geological Survey: Clunes and adjacent Goldfields, 17 July 1883 (which is also complemented by a geological plan Clunes, Mt. Greenock - Talbot Gold Fields surveyed by Norman Taylor and R.A.F. Murray, 1883); Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1970; Fahey, The Berry Deep Leads, An Historical Assessment, Historic Plans Branch, Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, 1986; Bowen, 'An analysis of gold production data for Victorian Reef and Deep Lead Mines', papers presented at conference on gold deposits in Victoria, Mines Department, 1974; Joseph Smith, 'Plan of the Young Sadowa Gold Mining Co.', F.W. Niven, Ballarat, 1869. Surviving issues of the Talbot Leader were read for the period 1880-81, 1885 and in addition to 'mining intelligence' contained several detailed articles on individual companies. Rita and Dick Hull (descendants of early land selector George Hull) have done extensive research into the Dunach area and were particularly generous with their information and ideas, as well as performing the role of guide on my fieldwork.

No. 5013

CLUNES PRELIMINARY SECTION

L. 6. 28

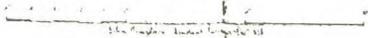


Reference to Occupied Lots

Sec.	Lot	Name of Occupant
2	3	Dougal McGill
.	4	John Robinson
.	6	John Nelson
3	18	Nicol & Wallace
.	19	George Dow
.	21	Matthew O'Sullivan
.	22	Mitchell
.	23	John Hamon
.	24	William Cathew
.	25	William Meddimer
4	1	Catholic Church
Lots 10 & 8 proposed reserves		

Township of
CLUNES
 County of Talbot.

Scale 1/4 inch = 100 feet



Surveyed by John Templeton in 1858 and sold in 1860-62.

Price 1/6

Township of Clunes, surveyed by John Templeton in 1858 and sold in 1860-62. Existing development close to the mines was not surveyed due to the low-lying nature of the ground [Central Plan Office]

CHAPTER SEVEN

CONSOLIDATION AT CLUNES

Clunes had achieved considerable growth before the government surveyed allotments in December 1858 although it was not until 1860, that the first land sales took place. During the intervening period, the Clunes Commercial Club had successfully lobbied for the creation of a local government for Clunes and agitation for land sales increased. Without such sales it was argued, little permanent investment in buildings and commercial development could be expected.

Reasons for the delay in land sales are unclear but the sale of the first eight sections finally took place late in 1860. Section 7 was withdrawn prior to sale by the District Surveyor W.S. Urquhart 'as a portion of it is leased to a mining company'. Plans of allotments in sections 9 - 18 (on the west side of the creek) and 19 - 24 (on the east side) were published in 1862 and sale of this land was augmented by allotments south of Victoria Street in 1864. The area west of Dickson Street and south of Victoria Street was largely taken up by mining operations of the South Clunes Company and other smaller operations at this time.

John Templeton's survey had deliberately avoided the commercial area of Lower Fraser Street, in the hope that the ad hoc development of this low lying area would relocate to the surveyed lots on higher ground. Following the sales in 1860 and 1862 this movement of more substantial businesses and institutions to the newly surveyed section of Fraser Street took place with the National Hotel being the earliest such building surviving from this relocation. J.N. Hassell, superintending inspector for the Central Board of Health, made a preliminary inspection of the town on 23 November 1860 (only days after the first municipal elections) and likened the lower end of the main street to a 'minature East Ballarat'. He urged the government to refrain from any survey in the vicinity, and applauded the decision to refuse renewal of business licences. However the compromise of issuing special leases would invariably lead to pressure for sale from merchants eager to upgrade their premises. Hassell's reports in succeeding years were to dwell on this problem.

Quartz Reef mines

The sanitary problems caused by concentrated activity in such a low lying area were exacerbated by the close proximity of several large mines which spewed their tailings directly into Creswick's Creek. The major mines in the vicinity of this commercial precinct were the Criterion Amalgamated workings and the Clunes United Company.

The Criterion Quartz Gold Mining Company was formed in April 1858 with twelve shareholders, although three were subsequently purchased by the company. In 1865 the nine shareholders included

William G. Morgan (hero of the 'outsiders') and merchant Pattinson Mark. Cornishman Thomas Angove was the manager with Thomas Wakefield as secretary. The lease initially consisted of an irregular L-shaped area between the Clunes pre-emptive right and Fraser Street commercial area. By 1862 this was extended to the west with the boundary along Camp Parade and the entire area was held as miner's rights.

The works were compact. Much of their claim was covered by the Camp Hill residential area and a small commercial area north of the river in the vicinity of the Port Phillip Hotel. A 12 head battery was erected by August 1859, although this was replaced in mid 1862 by a new 20 head set of square stamps with water supplied from the creek via a tunnel and pump. The octagonal chimney shaft was erected at this time at a cost of over £2,000 and the works, 'for solidity and finish [seem] scarcely possible to be surpassed'. Following completion of the new works, a lithograph by H. Deutsch was produced, along similar lines to many such posters executed for Ballarat mines.

The mine was very successful considering its comparatively small area and about 1869 the company amalgamated with the neighbouring Clunes United Company and was renamed the Criterion Amalgamated Company.

The Clunes United Company began to erect its machinery in December 1858 and quartz crushing was first undertaken in April 1859. The first battery had 12 stamps and a 25 horse power engine fitted with winding gear operated on the Eastern Reef. In 1862 a new iron framed 12 stamp battery was installed and a new stamp house erected and in 1869 it was the only cast iron battery in Clunes. Early gold yields were low but mining engineer John Usher described the mine as 'a practical good example of what real legitimate persevering mining is capable of effecting'. The mine yielded over 450 kg gold between 1859 and c.1869, when it was amalgamated with the Criterion Company.

Allotments in Camp Parade and Camp Street were surveyed and sold in 1864. The 1862 directory listed the new camp with Charles Cholmeley Dowling, Warden & Police Magistrate and Moses Bolger, Sergeant of Police & Clerk of Courts. Of the twenty five entries for 'Camp Hill Street', 10 were given as miners and 6 other occupations connected with mining, 5 carpenters and wheelwrights, 3 retailers and mounted constable Corneilius Durack. The Masonic Lodge at the intersection had been erected in 1864 as had plasterer John Barwell's residence on the corner of Talbot Road. All other lots surveyed in Camp Street were already occupied at the time of sale and residences such as that on allotment 4 owned by miner Peter Pearce had stood there since at least 1860. However, most of the land on the escarpment of Camp Hill was not sold until the early 1870s. A plan of 1872 shows the allotments surveyed to accommodate existing residences and early layout of access paths. This layout, a consequence of early mining techniques and ad hoc residential development is still reflected in present land titles cadastral plans.



Former Masonic Lodge, erected in Camp Street in 1864, now used as a private residence

Institutional development

Section 4 housed most of the institutional buildings and witnessed great activity during the early 1860s. The block comprised an area of approximately twelve acres bounded by Bailey Street on the north, Service Street on the east, Templeton Street on the west and a yet unnamed street on the remaining side. The allotments along Service Street were all of a quarter of an acre with the exception of half acre reserves for the Post and Telegraph Office and Police Reserve. The remaining lots, all one to two acres were 'proposed reserves' and presumably open for selection by the appropriate institutions.

The contract for the Post and Telegraph Office was signed in July 1860 by contractors Pleydel and Clark of Ballarat. The design adopted was identical to the new office at Back Creek and in fact the same sheet of drawings were utilised for both jobs. The post office reserve was fenced a year later and telegraph was connected early in 1861, making this the first public facility in this precinct.

The newly proclaimed Borough of Clunes inaugurated the selection of reserves in December 1861 with their application for a market place and site for future council chambers. The council requested allotment 7, part of allotment 4 and the proposed Police Reserve, assuming that this was now rendered surplus by erection of government buildings in Camp Parade. The Chief Commissioner of Police raised no objection and the two and a half acre site was temporarily reserved by the Governor in Council.

An open sided market building was erected in Service Street on the reserve originally intended for police use.

The Roman Catholic Vicar General was next to act. His letter to the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey of January 1861 requested a reply about the proposed two acre site in Bailey Street which had 'been for some time past occupied by a Roman Catholic Chapel School'. However, the government surveyor only marked out a site of a little over an acre, although it did contain the existing chapel school. This plan of June 1861 also showed another innovation in the form of a one chain street running behind the Roman Catholic reserve. This street, named Hannah Street by 1862, was possibly provided to service the Roman Catholic presbytery proposed for the southern portion of the Roman Catholic reserve.

The introduction of Hannah Street also saw the subdivision of those allotments in Section 4 west of the municipal reserve. This may have been a response to demand for residential allotments or perhaps a measure to enforce some regularity or existing residential development in this area. The Roman Catholic reserve was finally approved by Governor in Council in July 1861 and a year later the Vicar General informed the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey that a chapel built of wood had been erected at a cost of £300. This was apparently in response to a condition of the temporary reservation and permanent status was thus given to the Roman Catholic reserve in January 1863.

The Presbyterian Church was the next denomination to take up land in Section 4. The foundation stone of the present church was laid in December 1861 following proposals of a meeting held in May that year. Previous temporary accommodation had been utilised in McCallum and Company's store. The Presbyterian reserve took an awkward L-shape with the main block (the original allotment 6) facing Alliance Street and allotment 14 providing access to Service Street. The church was set back on the larger of the two allotments and a manse in Alliance Street was erected shortly after the opening of the church. With the gazettal of the Presbyterian Reserve in 1861, an opportunity was taken to narrow the original allotment and create a right of way to join Hannah Street with Alliance Street.

The Wesleyans originally worshiped in a small chapel in Fraser Street, west of the later Club Hotel. The move to Service Street reflected the growth of population in that area and a reduction of the need to be in close proximity to the early diggings. The foundation stone of the present church was laid on New Years Day 1864 and the former Fraser Street building was moved to an adjacent site in Service Street, presumably for use as a Sunday school. A small parsonage completed the ensemble and also the early development of Section 4 in the township of Clunes.

Residential development occupied the remaining allotments in Section 4. Of note was the residence of Ralph Longstaff on the corner of Bailey Street and Templeton Street (now demolished) where painter Sir John Longstaff spent his childhood.

Service Street was a busy thoroughfare and also saw some notable residential development such as the Church of England manse (42 Service Street - 1863), Scott residence (35 Service Street, corner Bath Street - 1863) and Shrigley residence (31 Service Street - 1870). Less pretentious cottages covered the remaining allotments. Between visits in 1862 and 1863 J.N. Hassell noticed that approximately 100 new cottages had been erected, principally in south and east Clunes. Almost all were small timber houses and most were extended as individual prosperity improved, especially in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

By this date most miners were employed in the large quartz mines although one small but enterprising private company operated a 20 foot diameter overshot water wheel to treat tailings from the Victoria Company. The quartz tailings flowed directly from the company battery and powered the waterwheel. After discharge they flowed over a series of long wide tyes and at intervals these tyes were emptied and the tailings treated in a concave buddle (Mundy's patent), inclined roasting furnace and Chilean mill. Deposited tailings were also treated in this way. This mode of obtaining gold without the need for expensive shafts and machinery was matched by other miners, although none with such ingenuity.

The area east of Creswick's Creek and south of the Clunes pre-emptive right was included in the 1858 survey although only Section 1 between Smeaton Road and Bland Street was sold at the initial land sale in 1860. This eastern portion of Clunes was connected with the commercial centre as early as 1857 by a bridge, possibly 'Fell's Crossing', although it was not until 1862 that the Government Bridge gave direct access to Creswick and Smeaton Roads. In that year the English writer J. A. Patterson described the descent into the township.

But, if the road to Creswick [from Ballarat] was bad, that to Clunes was almost inconceivably worse. Just as we approached its most troublesome part, the rain came down more thickly, the mist crept closer to the ground, and the lamps became useless for any other purpose than to make the fog visible. Down came the off wheeler and the rear wheels simultaneously in a deep ditch, cut by the roadmen to 'improve' the track, and out stepped a fellow passenger and myself into the soft mud, to assist the coach to the perpendicular again, and restore Her Majesty's Mail to a condition to travel. It was only the third time that a similar mischance had occurred, almost in the same spot of the same ditch, within ten days, in spite of the vigilance and knowledge of the driver!

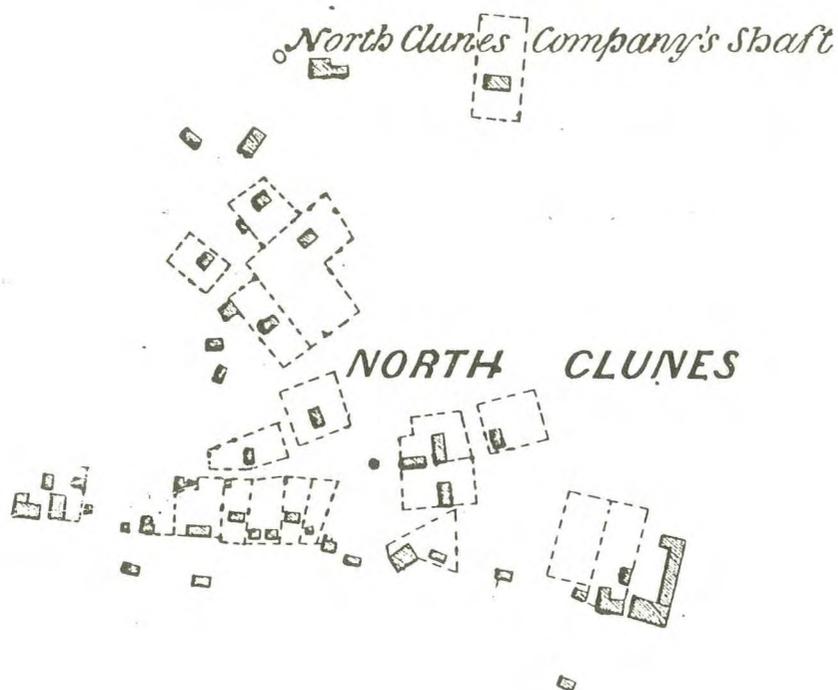
With the move of the police to Camp Hill in 1859, the old Police Paddock was available for sale. This area was surveyed in 1863 and the thirty acre 'botanical gardens' were reserved in that year. Approximately twenty houses were located in the area west of MacDonald Street (mainly along the creek) and subdivision of the former Police Paddock was carefully arranged to enable existing buildings to remain on individual surveyed allotments.

The northbound streets were named after pastoral occupants Whyte and MacDonald, while east-west streets were titled Lugg, Coundon, Hickox and Lathlain after prominent local residents.

North Clunes

An 1863 survey of the North Clunes area showed a cluster of almost thirty buildings near the present corner of Albert Street and Pearce's Road and the number of commercial buildings rated doubled between 1862 and 1864. By 1870 this number had reached over twenty. 'Fidelis' recalled this as the peak of North Clunes as a residential centre. This was undoubtedly given a boost by the success of the New North Clunes Company which crushed its first quartz in October 1867 and declared a dividend within one year. Suburban lands (allotments of approximately half an acre) were surveyed in Albert Street, Downes Street, Cricket Street and Fraser Street North, although the New North Clunes Company objected to the gazettal of Albert Street as it ran through their claim.

The North Clunes Quartz Mining Company had commenced working by August 1859, although the company was wound up in September 1860 after expending over £3000 in an unsuccessful quest for payable quartz. The second company, as unsuccessful as the first, wound



Cluster of buildings at North Clunes, 1863, demonstrating the organic nature of development away from the surveyed sections of the township

[Central Plan Office]

up in December 1862 following expenditure of almost £12,000. James Esmond, initial discoverer of payable gold of Clunes, was involved with the New North Clunes Company, and one writer suggested the lease was recommended by the Local Court partly out of consideration to Esmond for his part in Victoria's gold discovery. He was aided by S. Irvin, of the earlier North Clunes Company, in obtaining an extended area for the lease.

The New North Clunes Company was formed in March 1863 to work a claim of 170 acres. The success of this third venture firmed the commitment of the proprietors and views of the works show the massive size of the pit gear and battery house, all carefully arranged on the sloping site to obviate the need for tramways. The original No. 1 shaft of the earlier company was also deepened. By the late 1860s it struck payable quartz, retrospectively endorsing the original decision to test the area; a move prematurely halted by the Ballarat directors of the original company. The great success of the New North Clunes Company, proving the reefs north of the Victoria Company, caused a rush to the area as far north as Mount Cameron.

Other major quartz reef mines at North Clunes consolidated their early progress during the 1860s and 70s. In the case of companies that were floated on the public market, perseverance was necessary in the face of indifference by speculators. In the case of the Victoria Quartz Mining Company, an initially favourable market reception in 1859 was dampened by failure to secure immediate success while unsound management practices caused many investors to look elsewhere. However, with good returns in 1862, once the erection of a new 24 head battery had been undertaken, confidence was restored and shares reached a value of over £2000. A second shaft (on the Welcome Reef) was sunk late in 1862 and soon served by substantial plant. The main shaft (on the Eastern Reef) was served by two boilers and separate winding and pumping engines, while a portable 12 horse power Clayton and Shuttleworth steam engine was used on the Welcome Shaft initially. An assay house was erected in 1863 and at a meeting of shareholders in January that year each share was divided into four, giving a total of 96 shares.

By 1869, the eastern portion of the Victoria Company's ground was being worked by a separate company to try the deep alluvial ground. With a depth of about 800 feet, the mine was the deepest in Clunes at this time. Later work by the Victoria Company concentrated on Robinson's Reef. During its existence the mine yielded almost 2000 kg of gold, making it the fourth richest mine in Clunes and the 128th richest quartz mine in Victoria.

The Yankee Company was also a comparatively rich mine, especially given the small area of working, and its total yield amounted to approximately 1275 kg of gold. By the early 1860s the inefficient whim had been replaced by a more sophisticated pithead operation and the Nettleton view (c.1865) shows the shaft with a substantial boiler house (partially constructed of dressed basalt) and square brick chimney. Four years later, when mining surveyor John Usher

visited the works, a 20 head battery was in operation and the eight shareholders were said to be erecting a Chilean mill for treating pyritous sand. However Usher doubted the eventual success of this mill without more sophistication in its operation and also observed that the Yankee Company 'perseveringly desists ... from sinking their shaft to below, or even the same depth as their neighbours, to save the expense of just work'.

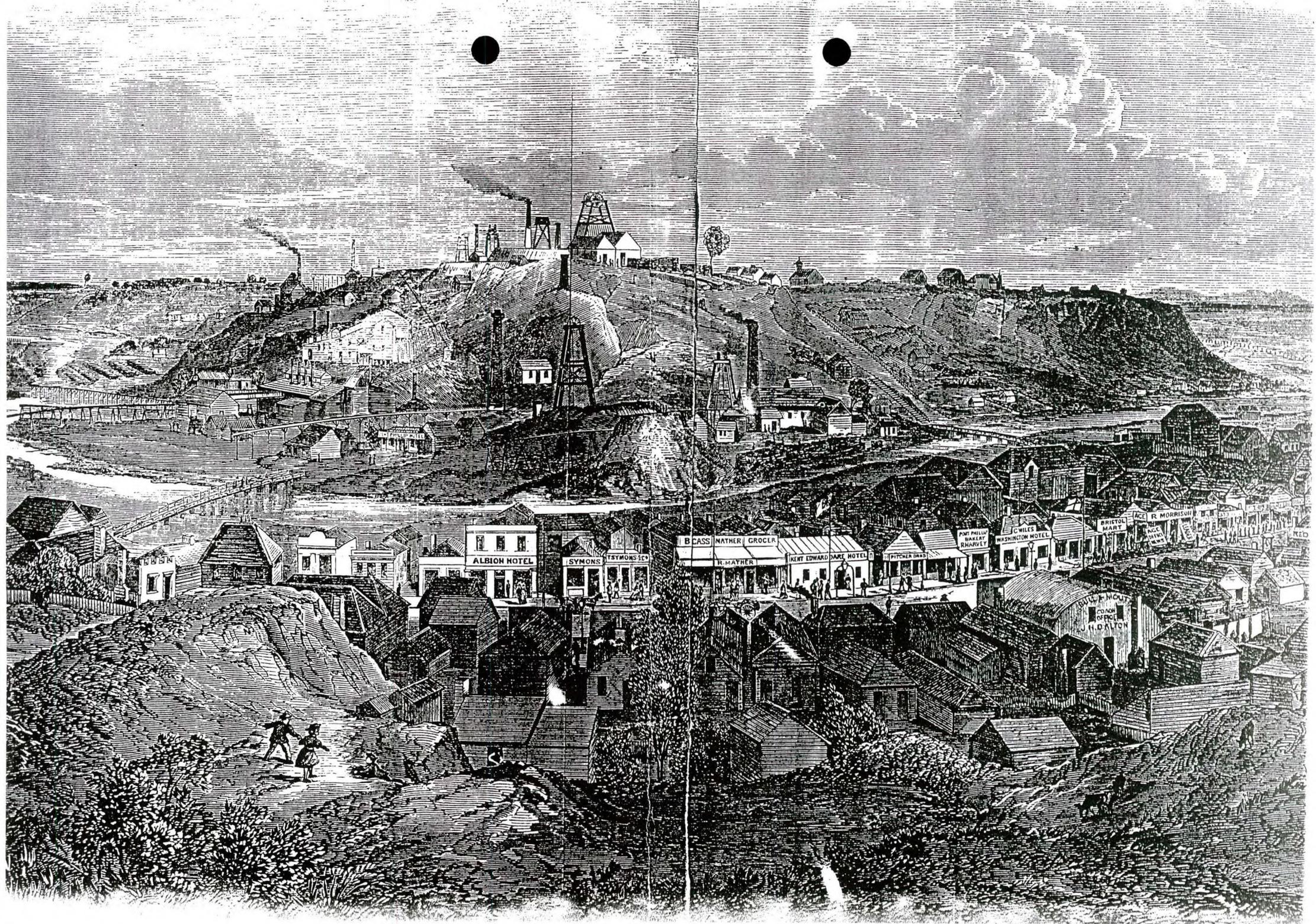
The Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company continued to be the leading mining establishment at Clunes. A new bed of 24 stamps had supplemented the 56 already in operation in 1864 and buddles for the treatment of pyrites were also installed in that year. The buddles, perfected by one of the Port Phillip engineers, were an outstanding success and obtained approximately 830 kg of gold (at a profit of over £90,000) during their operation. By 1872, both sets of stamps had been combined and rehoused in an enlarged battery building. Gold production peaked in 1867-68 although this was offset by a decline during 1870-76. However, production soon reached its former magnitude, and in the late 1870s the works were still providing fine dividends, especially for the owners of the land who had received almost £140,000 in the period to 1880. Technical advances during the 1860s and 70s were constantly being tested in an endeavour to cut costs. The introduction of Root's Blower (claimed by Bland to be the first installation in the colony) did much to improve the health of miners. Even this innovation, which increased ventilation, achieved considerable reduction in the cost of mining by lessening the need for large numbers of winzes (vertical shafts between different levels).

The Cornish at Clunes

'Clunes from the 'sixties onwards was a hotbed of Cornishmen' quipped 'Fidelis' in his reminiscences. Trenerry, Treglowen, Treloar, Tresize, Tremewan, Tregonning, Penalaud, Penburthy, Polglase, Polmear and others were all names encountered at Clunes, and the influence of Cornish miners in Clunes was indeed pervasive. The initial migrants may well have been amongst those who sailed with the Port Phillip Company contingent in 1852. By the late 1850s, when mining in Clunes was beginning to expand, it is likely that most Cornish miners on the field had come from other Victorian diggings, the copper mines of Kapunda, Wallaroo, Burra or Moota in South Australia, or even from the Californian gold rush. The Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company had, in fact, been sponsored by the promoters of the English and Australian Copper Company, who had extensive interests in South Australia, the home of many Cornish migrants.

Engraving of Clunes during the peak of mining in 1869. The shops in Lower Fraser Street are clearly visible although by this date the more fashionable end of Fraser Street was to the east of Templeton Street

[Illustrated Australian News, 19 June 1869]

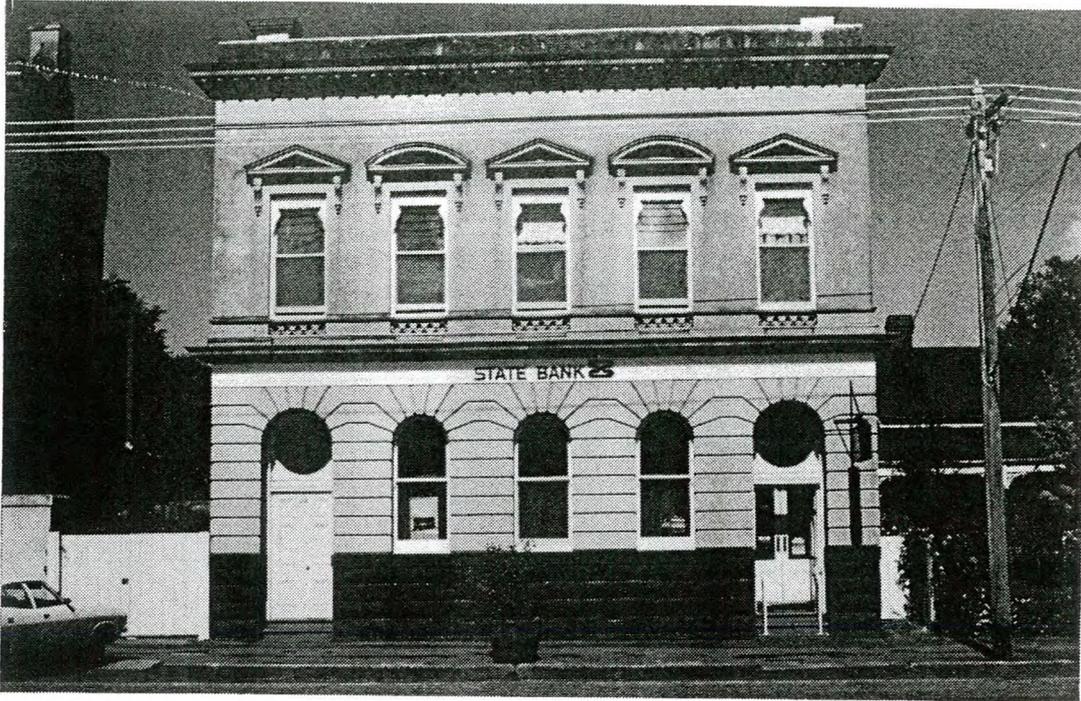


The Cornish in nineteenth century Australia were virtually regarded as a separate ethnic grouping. Cornwall, a small county at the western tip of England, was largely bounded by the Atlantic coastline. Small settlements, rather than large urban towns, characterised its population in the mid-nineteenth century. Their Celtic ancestry accounted for an extreme provincialism although the distance across Cornwall from Lands End to the Tamar River was less than the distance from Melbourne to Clunes. The Cornish miners were used to a rigid hierarchy from women and boys, through to the tutmen (who worked on excavation), tributers (who mined the ore for a percentage of the ore mined) to the mine captain who negotiated with the tributers. Management, who ran the mine, were usually a group of capitalists who took charge of securing rights over the land on which mining took place. With this in mind, the agreement between the Port Phillip Company, private land owners and Clunes Company miners can be viewed as conventional by Cornish standards, although novel in the Victorian context.

The influence of Cornish mining practices was especially strong in Victoria, and the Clunes mines reinforce the claim. The use of stamping mills rather than Chilean or rolling mills to crush the ore, steam powered beam pumping engines with neatly crafted brick chimneys, expertly timbered shafts, but especially the deep lead mining plant on the Madam Berry Lead, east of Clunes all point to Cornish precedents. Even the names of some mines betray their Cornish origins (for example the Great Wheal company). The Clunes Accident Relief Fund started by Charles Harvey was also based on Cornish precedents. The Cornish were strong adherents of Methodism and the success of the Bible Christians, Primitive Methodists and especially the Wesleyans can, in part, be traced to Cornish religious fervour. Characteristic sports, such as wrestling, were popular amongst the Cornish, and were a special feature of many organised picnics.

Rebuilding in Fraser Street

The decay of earlier structures, fires (some perhaps intentional) and a feverish period of speculative mining activity (fuelled by particularly encouraging dividends and new prospects) all contributed to a remarkable rebuilding of Fraser Street in 1869-70. The borough ratebooks give telling evidence of this transformation. Just as the period 1856-58 had seen canvas, calico and slab disappear in favour of weatherboard and corrugated iron, so the late 1860s saw timber relinquish its virtual monopoly in favour of the locally made red/brown bricks in the commercial area. In 1868 Fraser Street was graced by only a handful of such brick buildings yet in the next two years, many new brick shops were erected. Businesses moved premises frequently as their proprietors used the mobility to upgrade the standard of accommodation. The period also saw the waning of influences for that section of Fraser Street north of Templeton Street, the so-called 'lower' end. Allotments in Lower Fraser Street were either leased or held on business licenses and the



Former National Bank (now State Bank), erected in Clunes during 1871. It stands as a fine example of the rebuilding undertaken by banking and other institutions

chaotic layout although surveyed in 1866 was not sold until 1874. Floods and fires had also created havoc with earlier building stock. The fine new banks; Union (1865), National (1871) and London Chartered (1871) lent prestige to the middle section of Fraser Street, consolidating its role as the main business centre. The current buildings in Fraser Street then represent this third layer or rebuilding of Fraser Street, which represents Clunes at the peak of its prosperity. Few timber shops survive and this material is now almost exclusively represented in the residential building stock.

Institutional consolidation

The second major phase of institutional development took place in the 1870s in the wake of a local mining and commercial boom. The foundation stone of the imposing Town Hall was laid in April 1872, and the building opened almost a year later. When finally gazetted as a permanent reservation in May 1865 the municipal reserve still embraced the original half acre police reserve but with the disbanding of the market the allotment became available for its intended use. The police building was relocated in 1872-73, and the market shed occupying the site was itself relocated to a site in Templeton Street adjacent to the future Free Library and used as a Fire Station.

The present Church of England was erected on its elevated site in 1870 with the earlier timber church relocated as a Sunday School. The Mechanics' Institute removed to new premises in Templeton Street in 1874 (and changed its name to Free Library). A new Post and Telegraph Office was erected in 1879 to replace the earlier building. Other institutional buildings to choose sites in the vicinity of Service Street included the Rechabite Hall (now Fire Station, Hill Street - 1868) and Primitive Methodist Church (now remodelled as Masonic Lodge - 1868).

Public works of this period included the massive Clunes Water Supply scheme, government powder magazine (constructed on a site overlooking Birch's Creek in 1867) and manure depot in 1872. The Clunes Water Supply was in fact one of the major engineering undertakings in the colony during the 1870s. Funding for the works (excluding reticulation) had been supplied by the New North Clunes Gold Mining Company, then at the peak of its prosperity, to ensure a regular supply of water for its thirsty stamps. Peter Lalor, Eureka hero, Member of Parliament and director of the New North Clunes Company was chairman of the undertaking, and engineer Octavius Langtree was commissioned to design the works. The main works comprised a storage reservoir and weir on Bullarook Creek, an aqueduct 108 chains long leading to a pipe head reservoir, 15 inch mains for 6 1/8 miles and finally the reticulated supply to consumers in Clunes. With the exception of reticulation, works were completed in early 1873. A private reservoir had also been constructed at Smeaton to supply Hepburn's Mill. Storage works cost over £8000 and by 1875, when the reticulation had been almost completed an extra £15,000 had been expended.

Just as the connection of gas in 1862 had provided major benefits now reticulation brought civilisation closer to Clunes. Fire plugs were provided to reinforce the primitive fire fighting services, water mains piped limitless quantities of water to houses and commercial businesses while the mines benefitted enormously. The Port Phillip Company, acknowledged leader amongst local mines, had pre-empted the official supply by erecting a pumping plant on Birch's Creek in 1867. All told, the new pipes serviced 170 head of stamps at four quartz establishments and 14 puddling machines at eight alluvial mines. This consumed over sixty million litres of water per week and provided a vast advance on the intermittent supply from Creswick's Creek. In 1874 the Clunes Borough Council purchased the works with the aid of a loan and were charged with the responsibility of completing the reticulation. This water supply is still administered by the council.

The press welcomed the scheme warmly, yet the waterworks were fatally flawed. Farms and piggeries located in catchment areas polluted the open aqueduct. Fords were provided over the creeks in the catchment area and one, at Newlyn, was provided especially for watering teams of bullocks. The foul Hepburn's Lagoon formed part of the water supply and 'it is said to emit at a certain season a peculiar and powerful stench, observed

even where it reaches Clunes'. After over 120 years the problem has been addressed by construction of a new holding and aeration reservoir.

The area east of Leslie Street, on the plateau beyond the escarpment, was only partially developed in the early 1870s although the erection of a large State School (opened 1875) and introduction of reticulated water in the 1870s helped consolidate development. Smeaton Road played a major part in the Clunes water scheme as the location of the main pipe to the township. Health services were immeasurably aided by the opening of the hospital in 1871 on its site east of Creswick Road and recreation was also aided by gazettal of a twenty acre reserve at the south end of MacDonald Street in that year. Little mining activity took place in East Clunes, although in the early 1870s the Great Eastern Gold Mining Company had a large lease in this area. However, the area was so far from the line of reefs, that the company achieved little known success.

Commemoration of Clunes

The Great Exhibitions, so popular in the last half of the nineteenth century, produced a steady flow of colonial exhibits, and people of Clunes (and Talbot) were not slow to appreciate the prestige attached to such events. The mining companies in particular took the opportunity to commemorate the progress of the town starting with L'Exposition Universelle, Paris (1867) to the Vienna Exhibition (1873), Philadelphia International Exhibition (1876), Universal Exhibition, Paris (1878), Calcutta International Exhibition (1883-84) and the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, London (1886) as well as the more well known local exhibitions. Samples of gold and quartz were often sent, particularly by the Port Phillip Company, but historical samples also attracted attention. For instance in 1886 the 'first speck of gold discovered in Victoria by W. Campbell's party in 1849, on the site of the Port Phillip Gold Mine at Clunes' was exhibited at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

Coinciding with this display of pride in the history of the young goldfield were works such as C.F. Nicholls Rise and Progress of Quartz Mining at Clunes, published by the Ballarat Star in 1869. The theme of unbounded prosperity was well in evidence. The catalogue to the Philadelphia International Exhibition pointed out that Clunes was for a time in the 1860s and 70s, the sixth most populous town in the Colony. Pride did not only manifest itself in geological exhibits. A farmer from Coghill's Creek (south of Clunes) sent cheese samples to Vienna in 1873 and Alfred Turner of Clunes won praise for his sauces and chutney at the Calcutta International Exhibition of 1885.

Detailed accounts of mining and mining history at Clunes by James Stevenson (1859), C.F. Nicholls (1869) and John Usher (1869-74), whilst undoubtedly intended to attract interest to the locality, also included considerable historical material. This forms the corner-stone much of our knowledge of early mining in the town.

Whilst sentimentality always attached to the anniversary of the discovery of gold, other aspects of Clunes and its history attracted similar attention. One of the earliest sentimental outbursts accompanied the demolition of the original Clunes homestead when the Clunes Guardian and Gazette reported:

In connection with the past, an interesting event occurred last Thursday, when the old Home Station was 'knocked down' to Messrs. Nichol and Wallace, to be carted away by the end of the year, so that shortly all there was of Clunes before the discovery of gold, will be obliterated. Perhaps some who read these lines may think with regret, not unmixed with pleasure, of many a pleasant gathering under that hospitable roof with genial companions, several of whom, including the kind-hearted host himself, have gone to join that assemblage

'Where the peasant and the King
Side by side lay mouldering.'

What a sad, sad spectacle the old place presented. Heaps of sand and drift now cover the spot where once flourished the only garden of which Clunes could boast, and which, for years after the settlement of the place, contributed the greater portion of the flowers and evergreens so abundantly displayed at the numerous tea-fights, for which Mud Creek early became famous.

Later histories which often took the form of reminiscences. Clunes was favoured with such publications in 1920, 1927, 1939, 1951 and even the most recent work (1984) contained more than the occasional lapse. Perhaps as a foretaste, the local newspaper at the turn of the century recalled 'the days of old, the days of gold'. The report continued:

the records of those stirring times are convincing that the pioneers of Clunes compared most favorably with those in any other part of the State for pluck and enterprise. The town as it stands today, with its fine thoroughfare and many splendid buildings, speaks loudly of the ambitious scheme of those early settlers for its importance and welfare.

The theme of sentimentality was not only demonstrated in literary works. Sir John Longstaff painted his well known 'Breaking the News' in 1887 and a large chromolithograph reproduction was included in the Australasian Sketcher. The painting depicted an old miner comforting a young wife, as several men stood in the doorway with a rough stretcher. The poppet legs and chimney in the background placed the scene in a mining town and the title alerted the viewer to the tragic tale unfolding. Less well known is the fact that Longstaff was born in Clunes in 1862, son of a local timber merchant. As young Longstaff left the district in 1873, the picture was not a direct 'impression' but rather a sentimental evocation of his childhood memories of the mining scene. The painting was given added poignancy by a tragic mine disaster at Creswick five years earlier when many lives were

lost. Longstaff commented much later 'my picture ... was not connected with any mining disaster but depicted one of many happenings seen by me as a small boy at Clunes - in the days before hospitals or mortuaries - so it is to Clunes alone that I am indebted for the idea'.

Such sentimentality was the product of a very young town. Since the first settlement in the mid-1850s the population had risen slowly and in 1873 peaked at just over 6000. The period 1855-60 had marked the origins of an energetic and sustained township, yet the period after 1860 had also seen some remarkable advances. The consolidation of the township gave every reason to predict a bright future. Mines such as the Port Phillip, Clunes, New North Clunes, Victoria, Yankee, South Clunes and Criterion Amalgamated, although relatively small in number, were successful and sustained in their operation. It was these mines that formed the basis of the Clunes economy in the second half of the nineteenth century and the 1860s and 70s had witnessed their greatest success. If their buildings and machinery can no longer be seen, the mine sites are clearly indicated by mullock and groundworks, and the remarkable rebuilding of the town's commercial centre is the clearest indication of their success.

Notes on sources

The research notes of Con Weickhardt were indispensable in compiling this chapter as were photographs and illustrations in Shire of Talbot and Clunes collection. Borough of Clunes ratebooks, 1868-72, were used in analysis and many references are given in detail in the Conservation Study. The most significant references regarding mining are James Stevenson, 'Creswick Division', Mining Surveyors' Reports, IV, August 1859, pp.10-15; [C.F. Nicholls], The rise and progress of quartz mining at Clunes, Ballarat Star, 1869; John Usher, Report on the Clunes gold mines reduction works, and water supply, Frederick White, Sydney, 1874 and A.J. Giddings, The Clunes Mines, Clunes, 1902 and Bowen, 1974, p.16.

For the Cornish see Jim Faull, The Cornish in Australia, Australasian Educa Press, Melbourne, 1983 (this is a general overview aimed at senior secondary students and provides a most illuminating overview) and Phillip J. Payton, The Cornish Miner in Australia. Cousin Jack Down Under, Dyllansow Truran, Cornwall, 1984. The Clunes water supply is beautifully illustrated in 'Drawings and Description of the Works of the Clunes Water Supply', a compilation of photographs and biographical drawings presented by Octavius Langtree to the Surveyor General of New South Wales. The album assembled for exhibition at the 1876 Philadelphia Exhibition at the request of the Victorian Government and now held by Mitchell Library (MLXX49). Critical comments come from the Annual Report of the Central Board of Health. The 'Report by Dr. Gresswell on the Sanitary Condition and Sanitary Administration of the Borough of Clunes', VPP, 1891. References to Exhibitions and sentimentality at Clunes come from Clunes Guardian and Gazette, 7 November 1872, p.3, undated cutting, Weickhardt notes, held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes, Jane Clark and Bridget Whitelaw, Golden Summers: Heidelberg and Beyond, International Cultural Corporation of Australia, 1985, pp.20, 46-47; painting in collection of Art Gallery of Western Australia, John Longstaff to Mr Whitelaw, n.d., letter held by William Barkell Memorial Arts and Historical Centre, Clunes, all exhibition catalogues are held by the State Library of Victoria.

CHAPTER EIGHT

GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND BOUNDARIES

One of the most obscure problems of social science that await solution, is why can private individuals and public companies always enter into, and carry out, an undertaking in a quarter, nay, a tenth part of the time, that it takes to overcome the inertia of the ruling powers. The short space of two months has afforded the merchants, traders, and miners of the colony sufficient time to change the solitary bush of Back Creek into an extensive city ... Streets formed and macadamised; substantial buildings devoted to extensive businesses; handsome shops, and tenements of every description put to every conceivable purpose; places of amusement as numerous and as varied as in Melbourne; and last, but not least, a busy and bustling population thronging the thoroughfares from morning to night, all attest the presence and the power of the stream of humanity seething and foaming in a newly found channel of industry.

But there is one feature wanting in the scene. Every interest in the colony is represented save that of the Government.

While the editor of the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser seethed with righteous indignation in 1859 about the inability of the government to respond to the gold rushes, the departmental heads in Melbourne and district officials were quietly continuing the process of imposing a burgeoning bureaucratic imprint across the countryside. This process, especially the imposition of boundaries and division of local land into discrete areas had in fact commenced with the separation of Victoria from the Colony of New South Wales.

Prior to separation in 1851, local pastoral runs had been located within the Port Phillip district of New South Wales, with a small government presence at Melbourne supplementing the main bureaucracy in Sydney. Apart from the settled areas of Melbourne, Geelong and other provincial centres, no land had been sold in country Victoria and its subsequent alienation was to provide a revenue base for the colony for a considerable period. Administration of land was the paramount concern within the pastoral area of Port Phillip both before and after separation, and the runs of Clunes, Dunach Forest and Glenmona were administered by a Crown Land Commission. For this purpose the colony was divided into districts, and, locally, the pastoral runs fell within the Western Port district.

With separation came the need to impose boundaries to facilitate the administration of government. Land, already the major priority, was soon joined by matters of electoral and legal concern. The coincidence of gold discovery with colonial separation exacerbated such administrative tasks.

The early gold discoveries had created many problems for the Commissioner of Crown Lands. The miners were trespassing on Crown Land, and hence fell within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner. Yet police were required to enforce the early goldfield regulations and matters such as sly grog. Tensions arose because the miner's thirty shilling monthly licence fee was a ludicrously large sum given the expected rewards. Presumably, it was intended to serve as a deterrent rather than as a licence fee having a realistic basis. Squatters were able to obtain a yearly lease over thousands of acres for a comparable sum. At Clunes, the difficulty of extracting gold from the quartz reefs combined with news of the fabulous alluvial gold discoveries at Ballarat, and elsewhere, to draw miners away before discontent and conflict arose.

The creation of a quasi-military Goldfields Commission in response to the gold discoveries created a situation of virtual martial law on the early goldfields. This was exacerbated by the fierce independence of the police force. On smaller fields one officer occasionally fulfilled a combination of roles - Goldfields Commissioner, Magistrate and Police Inspector - providing a confusing mix of legal, judicial and supervisory powers which added to tension between government and miners.

Police districts

Police arrived at Clunes in 1851 to check early activity on the reefs, and slightly later more police were despatched to control the increasing numbers arriving at Daisy Hill and Amherst. By this date the local Police District was centered at Carisbrook, and ran almost as far south as Clunes. Carisbrook was a small township strategically situated at the junction of Deep Creek and McCallum's Creek and had initially catered to the pastoral community. With the discovery of gold in the district the township grew, but as the goldfields of Maryborough, Avoca, Amherst, Talbot, Dunolly and Maldon consolidated, the importance of Carisbrook declined. Although the Carisbrook Police District, as finally defined in 1857 largely used watercourses for boundaries, the southern side (a straight line of 70 km extending west from 'Mount Franklyn' to the Avoca River) arbitrarily passed to the north of Clunes. This contributed little to the effective administration of the law, and added greatly to bureaucratic letter writing and disputed responsibility in that town.

Political boundaries

Political representation was a vexed issue on the goldfields and the first parliaments were notoriously biased against the interests of miners. Initially, for electoral purposes the colony was divided into several counties. The County of Talbot was defined by an act of parliament published in 1851. The Great Dividing Range formed the southern boundary with all other boundaries following rivers and creeks. Whilst watercourses were

comparatively easy to define, especially in wet seasons, the line of the Great Dividing Range was quite flat in the vicinity of Glendaruel and Ascot, defying accurate survey for many years.

Victoria's first legislature contained only a single house (the Legislative Council), and at the first election in 1851 John Pascoe Fawcner was returned as member representing the Counties of Talbot, Dalhousie and Anglesey: a large tract of land extending from Mount Cole to Goulburn River. Not that this size mattered greatly, as only a few were franchised to vote including those gentlemen over 21 who possessed freehold property worth £100, leasehold estate valued at £10 or a depasture license).

With the introduction in 1856 of a bicameral or two house system of government, the Legislative Council was supplemented by the Legislative Assembly. This was introduced as a result of popular agitation for a fairer system of parliamentary representation, in particular the call for members to represent the growing and numerically significant goldfields towns. The Legislative Council province of North Western took in the counties of Talbot, Dalhousie and Pastoral Districts of Loddon and Wimmera, while the new Legislative Assembly electoral district was smaller in size and comprised only the County of Talbot (with the exclusion of the Castlemaine Borough). Polling for the Legislative Council within the Daisy Hill division was at Avoca while for the lower house (Legislative Assembly) polling places were Amherst and Lexton. In both instances, Clunes voters were required to poll at Creswick.

Survey districts

Survey districts also separated Clunes and Amherst, with Ballarat controlling survey activity at Clunes, and the office at Taradale (and later Sandhurst) overseeing Amherst and Back Creek. The Bet Creek formed a western boundary for the Taradale district with Bung Bong (which straddled the creek) included with the more highly populated eastern townships rather than the newer township of Avoca.

Local Courts

In 1854, when boundaries for courts were being drawn up, Carisbrook was again chosen as the major centre for the district. The new jurisdictions (county court and general sessions) in the Carisbrook district used the Great Dividing Range as the southern boundary, although with little thought to any subsequent development at Clunes, another boundary ran along the 'Deep Creek' or Creswick's Creek bisecting the future township site. By 1856 when a third jurisdiction (the circuit court) was introduced, the boundaries ran along McCallum's (or Mount Greenock) Creek and the range between Joyce's Creek and Bullarook Creek. Clunes was thereby included in the Ballarat circuit court district and Amherst within the Castlemaine circuit court district.

All boundaries discussed thus far were ones imposed by a central government, for official purposes and taking little account of local conditions, apart from some rudimentary topographical features. With the introduction of electoral districts and divisions for the Legislative Assembly in 1855, came an acknowledgment that local communities needed convenient boundaries in order to fulfil basic functions such as their right of franchise in elections. More important than the electoral districts for most people in Amherst and Clunes was the introduction in mid-1855 of the Local Court system. Above all, it was these Local Court boundaries that needed to suit the mining population if implementation of the system was to be effective.

The Local Court system was enshrined in the Goldfields Amending Act (proclaimed in June 1855) which introduced a system of five Local Court districts for the colony. These were soon subdivided to take account of new gold discoveries and local agitation for autonomy. Amherst was included within the Avoca local court district and resident warden William Templeton arrived in July to take control from Alexander Smith, the former resident gold commissioner. At that date Maryborough had only been mined for a little over a year and the dominance of Avoca (and later Dunolly) was a cause of much local political brawling, reaching a climax with the question of a site for the gaol in 1858. Amherst (in 1855 a thriving locality with a population of approximately 4500) had a sub warden to serve local diggings extending as far afield as Adelaide Lead, Kangaroo Flat, Cockatoo Gully and Back Creek.

By contrast, Clunes in 1855 was a tiny settlement, especially when compared with the bustling alluvial field of Creswick. This minor role in government affairs was to haunt the town for many years. Clunes was initially within the Ballaarat Local Court District, although the Creswick locality (including Clunes) was given autonomy in February 1856.

Rationalisation of the Local Court system occurred in January 1858 with proclamation of a further Goldfields Amending Act. Responding to dissatisfaction with the existing system, the new Act created six Mining Districts. Each district was split into divisions to reflect geographical distribution of the local mining centres and a mining board of 10 members was elected locally. Thus Amherst was included in the Maryborough Mining District and Clunes in the Ballaarat Mining District. The Amherst division was represented by a member of its own, while Clunes was only part of the Creswick Division, and without individual representation. Although Clunes was rapidly achieving fame as a quartz mining field, its population was small, and only steadily growing unlike the large alluvial gold mining towns. Hence, its comparative significance was realised not by government representation, or recognition, but by the individual efforts of local mining entrepreneurs. With the rise of Maryborough and the comparative decline of Amherst around 1858, much to the consternation of the Amherst mining populace, both areas were amalgamated. However with the spectacular growth in

population occasioned by discovery of the Scandinavian Lead, the Amherst board member was later reinstated.

The diggers along the McCallum's Creek were the real losers in the imposition of government boundaries. East of McCallum's (or Mount Greenock) Creek was the Castlemaine (and slightly later, Hepburn) local court district. Theoretically, a miner on one side of the creek had to observe rules imposed by a court at Castlemaine, and on the other side, at Avoca. The confusion was such that during a rush to McCallum's Creek in November 1857 the resident warden of the Ballarat District included the area in his report! The awkward framing of the boundaries in this vicinity was amended with the introduction of mining districts at the start of 1858, when the area was included in the Amherst division of the Maryborough Mining District.

Local government boundaries

Such official boundaries, imposed by the central government, were increasingly supplemented from the mid-1850s by official boundaries created by a local process. From the acknowledgement of local factors in local court districts came the much more explicit local boundaries created by municipal development.

The earliest local government boundary to influence Clunes was the Ballarat Road District. As defined in October 1856 the Ballarat Road District took in most of the land as far north as Spring Hill. Its northern boundary defined a line still in use today as the southern boundary of the Shire of Talbot and Clunes. The Creswick Road District took in land north of the Ballarat Road District, although the general development of this local government area, touching as it does on the history of Clunes, is included in chapter four.

Urban municipal areas were organised into Boroughs and both Maryborough and Carisbrook were granted municipal status in 1857. These were followed by Creswick, Amherst and Dunolly (1858), Avoca (1859) and Clunes (1860). Such local government areas could only be created in response to local pressure. Accordingly they more accurately reflected geographical distribution of local communities and their spheres of interest than the imposed boundaries of central government for matters of general colonial concern.

The urban areas of Clunes and Amherst/Talbot were quite separate in such municipal matters until as late as 1965. The rural areas were united as the Amherst and Clunes Road Board in 1860 and renamed the Shire of Talbot five years later. This took in all the local rural land and roughly corresponded with the boundaries of the present Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

But this rural shire was the exception. Clunes was strongly allied to Creswick in both municipal development and as part of the Creswick Local Court District; two matters which affected the

livelihood of the majority of residents in Clunes. Amherst on the other hand was closer to Maryborough, and to a lesser extent Avoca and Carisbrook. In mining matters it was a separate subdivision well before Clunes received such acknowledgment. The administration headquarters of Avoca, and after 1858, Maryborough ensured conduct of official business in the opposite direction to Clunes. The presence of a heavily forested area between Clunes and Amherst had meant that the main Ballarat road ran directly across the plains to Amherst via Ascot. It was not until after the Back Creek rush that a more direct route was properly surveyed and formed.

The impact of natural features, government boundaries and local communities on the spatial division of land was complemented by many unofficial boundaries. These included areas covered by local newspapers, clubs and societies and the linear boundaries formed by roads, telegraph and railways.

Newspapers

CLUNES GUARDIAN

AND MINING AND AGRICULTURAL REPORTER.

VOL. 1—No. 26.

CLUNES, THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1860.

PRICE:—ONE PENNY.

Newspapers most accurately reflected local concentrations of population and more general factors such as transport routes and natural features. The earliest local newspaper, apart from those at Ballarat, was the Maryborough Advertiser. Its full title Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser and Carisbrook, Majorca, Amherst, Avoca and General Register indicated its geographical coverage although this was reduced in 1859 by the initiation of the Amherst and Back Creek Advertiser and North Western Chronicle and Back Creek, Lamplough and Amherst Advertiser (later to become the Talbot Leader). The Standard of Freedom also had a short lived existence in Talbot during elections in August 1859. These papers gave little coverage to mines in Clunes, although from 1858 its residents could purchase the Creswick Advertiser, which included the subtitle County of Talbot Agricultural Journal to indicate its superior coverage of rural matters. These concentrated heavily on the Smeaton and Bullarook district rather than parts further north. Little coverage was given by the newspapers to Talbot or Amherst and when editorial comment was forthcoming it was generally negative in tone. Although the Creswick paper had an active Clunes correspondent (and in the early 1860s was called the Creswick and Clunes Advertiser) Clunes did not have a paper of its own until 1863 with the commencement of the Clunes Gazette.

Notes on sources

The major source for government boundaries comes from gazettal notices in Victoria Government Gazette. All issues in the period 1855-60 have been examined and this also yielded much information on the Local Court System (1855-58) and Court of Mines (1858+). The qualifications for voting were detailed in An Act for better government of Her Majesty's Australian Colonies, published in VGG, 1, 9 July 1851. The County of Talbot was defined by 14 Victoria 47 (assented 2 May 1851), An Act to provide for the division of the Colony of Victoria into electoral districts... in VGG 1, 9 July 1851. Weston Bate's Lucky City (1978) and Geoffrey Serle's The Golden Age (1963) contain useful discussions of all aspects of government infrastructure and the consequent upheaval caused by the gold rushes. Bate's discussion of the early antagonism between the Crown Land Commission and Police is particularly illuminating. Information on newspaper titles has come from the National Library of Australia's Union List, supplemented by reading of copies at the State Library of Victoria, Shire of Talbot and Clunes and the William Barkell Memorial Arts and Historical Society at Clunes. The elusive Standard of Freedom is mentioned by the reporter of the equally elusive Ballarat Miner, himself quoted in Talbot Leader, 13 May 1940.

CHAPTER NINE

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Institutional buildings, in particular churches, currently form primary visual elements in both Clunes and Talbot. Despite their strong presence, it is the unfinished nature of many of the buildings, particularly at Clunes, that speaks powerfully of the confidence of the first generation of miners and residents. In such transient townships the growth of permanent buildings, especially churches, however small and unpretentious, was hailed again and again in the colonial press as a sign of increasing prosperity, permanence, social order and the imposition of man's will upon the environment. Phrases like 'permanent structure', 'ornament to the town' and 'imposing appearance' (even for the sparest of brick and stuccoed churches) registered an emotional impact as well as referring to physical structures.

To understand the place of major buildings in the complex overlay of local history it is necessary to know both the chronological facts regarding construction and also the motives and philosophies represented by the different organisations and religious denominations responsible for their construction. This chapter examines churches, schools, mechanics' institutes (and their later manifestation, the free library), and finally institutions associated with health and welfare.

Religious denominations and their background

Religion, as already suggested, had a special role to play, particularly in an urban working-class community such as this was. Furthermore, that religious perspective was more reflective of imported nonconformist traditions than the more established denominations. The great age of growth in religious Nonconformity was the last part of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century. Toward the end of the eighteenth century, the Established church in England had become totally irrelevant to the new artisan classes sustained by the Industrial Revolution. It was aristocratic in sympathy and was dogged by absenteeism. The census of 1851 disclosed that more Nonconformists were attending church regularly in England than Anglicans. It was also found that the only group which was successful with the working classes was the Methodists. This census also marked the full realisation by the Anglican church that something must be done to win back the faithful. A reform movement was initiated within the church. This led to a growth of Anglicanism and almost to the eclipse of Nonconformity in the early twentieth century. However, decline in Nonconformity was due not only to the reform of Anglicanism.

By 1851 the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational denominations in England had virtually become establishments in their own right. Until the mid-nineteenth century they had been

This section on churches and religion was written by Chris Wood

content to worship in small barn-like buildings of the same, or even less, pretension than the Protestant churches of Clunes, Talbot and Amherst. Their growth in power, and the fact that their congregations were predominantly middle class, led to the desire for a more permanent 'churchy' form of architecture. It was at that point when Nonconformity realised its apogee in Britain and her colonies. Large churches like the Clunes Wesleyan Church were being built. The next century was to see the decline of Nonconformity and the emptying of many of these churches.

The decline of Evangelicalism came in part from the questioning of its roots, Biblical truth. The theories of Darwin and other natural scientists led to scepticism about the absolute and literal truth of the Bible. It also came from the demands placed upon fellowships by the Protestant code. The core of people worshipping in a Nonconformist church was made up of a fellowship of believers not of those witnessing the miracle of the Eucharist. Whereas in the Roman Catholic and Anglican denominations, church life could perpetuate itself through the weekly performance of the Eucharist, Nonconformity demanded an extraordinarily strong commitment to Church meetings, class meetings (amongst the Methodists), bible study classes, and prayer meetings. Functions in aid of 'the building fund' were also a large consumer of time and energy. With the onset of the late nineteenth and the twentieth centuries, this intense church life suffered through competition from the demands of work, and especially the pleasures of recreation. For example, the growth of the weekend as a time of recreation, along with the development of cheaper travel, enabled people to remove geographically themselves from proximity to their church life on Sundays.

Scepticism about biblical truth and competition from alternative forms of activity led men, in particular, to reject that vital, engrossing connection required of fellowship. It was easier to go to an Anglican church once a week to receive salvation through the Sacraments than it was to commit hours each week to meetings and classes.

The Anglican and Roman Catholic denominations gained continuity and perseverance from their central hierarchies and administrations. There was a pool of men and money in a central organisation which could perpetuate parishes irrespective of rises and falls in the local populations. Indeed, R.H. Bland was instructed to assist the Church of England cause, even to the extent of providing financial assistance from the Port Phillip Company coffers. Nonconformists relied on a central bureaucracy to a far lesser extent. In the worst position of all were small denominations like the Baptists who excluded those who did not believe in adult baptism, and the Congregationalists whose policy allowed associations between churches but no central hierarchy.

Protestant churches were founded locally by Evangelicals coming together to create a more permanent community. Such churches were unable to be initiated by a central, wealthy hierarchy and it can be imagined therefore that in towns like Amherst and Talbot,

which owed their existence in the 1850s to the vagaries of the gold rushes, it was extremely difficult to establish fellowships and permanent churches.

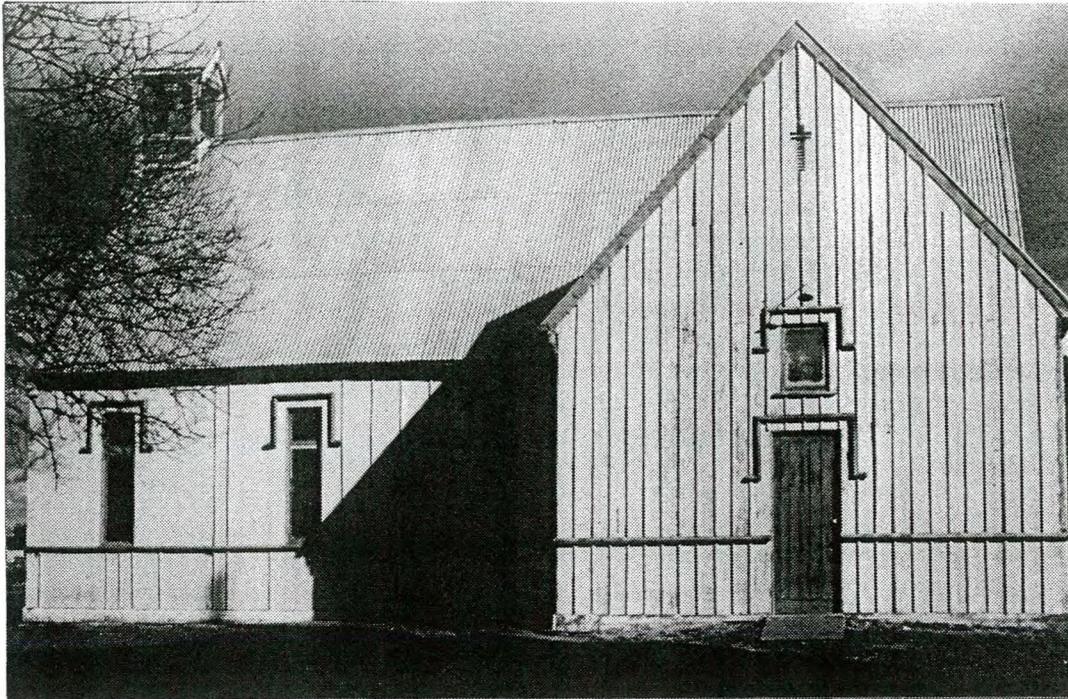
By far the most successful denomination locally were the Methodists. They had a large population base to work from including many Cornish miners (especially at Clunes). They were also less intellectual in their attitude to preaching than Presbyterians and Congregationalists. Wesleyan Methodists used lay preachers to develop communities which would then support a minister. Because Evangelicals did not differ markedly in their basic creed, Methodists attracted Presbyterians and Congregationalists who might otherwise found and support their own churches. The Presbyterians were, on the other hand, dogged by schisms within the denomination whilst the Congregationalists had too small a population base, and not enough preachers to develop any fellowships locally. These factors, above all, accounted for the great size of the Wesleyan church in Clunes compared to those of the other Nonconformists. This church was extended when even the Anglicans and Roman Catholics were bricking up the openings which led to unbuilt chancels and transepts.

Little is known of local Chinese religious activities. Weickhardt records the existence of a Joss House on Station Flat at Clunes. The Talbot Wesleyan Church held a Chinese Baptismal Service for several converts in 1881. As well, little that is permanent has survived from the influx of Jewish immigrants who were most prominent as storekeepers at Talbot.

Church buildings

The chronological sequence of the building of the various churches is discussed elsewhere in this history under chapters dealing with growth of towns and settlements. But the progression of church buildings must be fused with knowledge of the denominations to analyse the different categories of local church buildings. These ranged from simple barn-like structures to much more sophisticated designs incorporating 'ecclesiological' detailing drawn from medieval English parish churches.

Simple wooden barn-like structures could be identified as churches by the addition of Gothic or 'ecclesiastical' detailing. These were typically constructed of timber, canvas or iron, and transcended denominational boundaries. The best remaining example of this class is St Paul's Church of England (erected in Fraser Street, 1859-60 and relocated to Templeton Street in 1869). Other examples (now demolished) included the first churches at Clunes of the Wesleyans, Roman Catholics and Church of England, and the prefabricated iron chapels of the Wesleyans at Back Creek (1859). These buildings typified the first generation of churches in a mining town. Cheap and easy to erect, they were soon rebuilt, or given the subordinate role of Sunday School when more permanent structures were erected.



This former Church of England building at Clunes (erected in Fraser Street in 1859-60 and relocated in 1869) is one of the finest examples in Victoria of an early timber church

Also simple and barn-like were the permanent, second generation churches of the Nonconformists. They were not grand churches. Their unimposing appearance spoke of the unsuccessful attempts, particularly of the Presbyterians, to build larger, more permanent communities in mining towns. Such buildings were distinguished from the first category of church building by slightly more elaborate, but nonetheless still spare, ecclesiastical features (such as the use of ogival windows and details such as pinnacles and crockets attached to facades). This also distinguished them from similar shaped secular structures such as barns and halls. These churches had their genesis in the Commissioners Churches of England and paralleled many of the Nonconformist churches in Cornwall and elsewhere in provincial England. Local examples which remain include St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Clunes (c.1862), Primitive Methodist Church, Clunes (c.1868, converted to Masonic Lodge, 1908), Wesleyan (c.1862) and Presbyterian churches, Talbot (c.1864). Two buildings at Amherst now demolished, the Wesleyan Church and the Presbyterian Common School also exemplified this class of church.

The Talbot Primitive Methodist Church (c.1870) now forms the most distinctive local church of this kind. Although similar in its barn-like qualities to the earlier churches, this building incorporated 'classical' references in that its facade was designed around a great Serlian arch motif. The use of classical embellishment would not, in itself, suggest that the building be accorded special mention were it not for the motives behind the

choice of the style. The Primitive Methodist Church commenced in 1811 when the followers of Hugh Bourne and Lorenzo Dow were expelled from the Wesleyan Church for holding camp meetings. Its members eschewed any form of 'popery' implicit in the use of the Gothic style, often criticising the Wesleyans for building Gothic churches.

The Nonconformist churches of Clunes, Talbot and Amherst, were typical in their interior arrangements. Erected without chancels they had only a simple table used as an altar for the celebration of the 'Lord's Supper'. This was not considered a Sacrament but rather a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice. Preaching took precedence in such churches, with preaching platforms often substituting for pulpits and raked floors generally incorporated to enable the preacher to be more clearly viewed.

Although generally unimposing, as a group these churches made an important contribution to the urban environment. After the Act of Uniformity (1662) Nonconformist chapels had usually been extremely small, deliberately inconspicuous affairs in the back streets of English towns. With the Act of Toleration (1689), and subsequent rise of Nonconformism in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, came a pride in placing a chapel in a more prominent position. This was also promoted by the Evangelicalism (or desire to convert) of the Nonconformists. Hence Nonconformist chapels participated visually in invaluable ways to the streetscapes of townships. This was particularly true in the siting of the Talbot Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist churches. The Primitive Methodist Church at Talbot, in fact, is much more like a commercial building, with its imposing basalt facade contrasting with inconspicuous rendered side walls. So strong was the local following of Primitive Methodism that the history of its denominational progress in Victoria and Tasmania was published in the 1870s at Talbot.

Another category of church building may be labelled 'Associative Protestant Architecture'. The Clunes Wesleyan Church with its nave (1864), gallery (1866 now demolished) and 1870 additions of tower and galleried transepts, is a striking example of the success of the Methodists in Clunes in the 1860s. Whilst other denominations were building simple or incomplete structures, the Wesleyans were outgrowing their church. The style of this Wesleyan church, with its strange Gothic tower and clumsy perpendicular tracery, could be labelled 'Associative Gothic'. Although it had transepts added (which to an ecclesiologist symbolised the arms of the Cross of Christ), these did not perform a symbolic function but rather opened up the east end of the church to allow more sittings and two galleries. Like the Gothic detailing, the plan of this church may seem strangely devoid of archaeological correctness or symbolic meaning. It was Gothic used in the service of functionalism.

Galleries were used in Nonconformist churches to allow large congregations to sit within hearing of the preacher. However they caused problems for architects. If placed in traditional

Gothic design they crossed windows in aesthetically crass, visually uncomfortable ways and cut down lighting. The Wesleyan church at Clunes, which has no clerestory in its nave, solved the problem of added galleries by its clever addition of transepts to either side of the preaching platform, bringing a much greater number of people closer to the preacher. This would have been far preferable to extending the nave in length, as this would place those at the west end a great distance from the preacher. The transepts with their small oriel windows, could hold galleries which did not interrupt the flow of light from the side windows or large west window.

The Wesleyan church, with its associative 'churchy' Gothic could be criticised for the clumsiness of its historicism. However, it was extremely significant for its spatial organisation and for the pride with which it announced the success of the Methodists in Clunes. This pride would have been felt not only by the Methodists but, in the sense that it spoke of permanence, by other Evangelicals in the town.

St Paul's Church of England, Clunes (1870) and St Michael's Church of England, Talbot (1871) were of the same associative Gothic as the Clunes Wesleyan church. Whilst they were not ecclesiological (they do not have clerestories and the Clunes church had a thoroughly 'Evangelical' raked floor), they were more controlled in design than the latter and their detailing was integrated in an overall conception which gave them a monumentality paralleling Wardell's churches. They were a far cry from the Nonconformist barns. Like the Wesleyan church at Clunes, they stood half-way between the symbolic Gothic of the Roman Catholics and the utilitarianism of the Presbyterians. The Churches of England at both Talbot and Clunes are unfinished, the victims of a collapse in the local economy due to cessation of mining. Their precincts, both on hills with churchyards full of English trees, evoke feelings of a wistful return to rural England more than Evangelical pride.

Prior to a discussion of the two Roman Catholic churches it is useful to reflect on the influence of doctrine upon architecture. In eighteenth century England the most common new type of church was the Establishment preaching church, the Church of England at this time having a strong evangelical wing. With the passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act (1829) and the growth of Roman Catholic buildings through the country, architect Augustus Welby Pugin (1812-1852) advocated the revival of archaeologically exact, liturgically correct revival of the 'middle-pointed style' of the Middle Ages as the architectural setting for revived traditional ritual of the Eucharistic service. The Cambridge Camden Society and Oxford Movement in the Anglican Church, composed of High Anglicans who feared that the Anglican church would lose many of its followers to the Roman Catholics on one hand and the Nonconformists on the other, also revived the ritualistic architecture of the Middle Ages. An overriding objective was to provide a correct copy of those churches in which ritual had developed.

Architecturally the most accomplished of the local churches were the Roman Catholic Churches of Talbot (1872) and Clunes (1874). They were ecclesiological, archaeologically consistent, revivals of a Medieval style. Their use of local stone (a characteristic of Medieval churches promoted by Pugin), clerestories, subsidiary masses (such as porches), middle pointed tracery, crisp detailing and tight profiles all mark them as fine examples of the ecclesiological Gothic Revival. The use of triple lancets at Talbot (symbolic of the Trinity) and of double lancets (alluding to SS Peter and Paul) on the aisle facade at Clunes all participated in the creation of a symbolic setting for ritual. Their aisled interiors created an appropriate setting for ritual as did the clearly delineated chancel of the Talbot church. Such interiors would clearly be inappropriate to a denomination which emphasised preaching.

Education and schools

In the period when gold discoveries were providing tremendous impetus to township development in the colony of Victoria, education was still in its infancy. It was also marked by denominational differences as well as the controversy between secular and religious educational instruction. A complex organisational framework meant that two competing systems vied for government funding and the strains imposed by a transitory population on the diggings almost caused the colony's school building programme to be stillborn.

Following separation from New South Wales in 1851, Lieutenant Governor La Trobe set up the Denominational Schools Board, a decision likely influenced by the large number of church schools already in existence, and also their established bureaucratic hierarchy. However, the Victorian National Board of Education was created in December 1851 to continue the work of the Sydney-based National Board which had previously administered education in the Port Phillip District. Tents were initially provided for goldfields schools but their usefulness was limited, especially in the harsh winters. Iron buildings were trialled by both Boards but this met with only limited success. Local architects and builders also contributed strongly to the building program as design of schools almost invariably devolved upon the local community.

The first school erected locally was that of the Church of England at Amherst. The earliest reference comes in a letter of June 1856 from the Bishop of Melbourne to the Denominational School Board applying for a grant of £150 to meet a similar amount subscribed locally for the erection of 'a school house at Daisy Hill' although this request was later increased to £200. The school opened early in July 1856 and later that month a list of 45 scholars was forwarded as part of the grant application. Of the children named, twenty six were listed as Church of England adherents, six Presbyterian, and the remaining two, Christian and George Davis, 'Romanist'. The £200 promised

locally was finally matched by £200 from the government and a substantial brick building with shingled roof was erected.

The first Church of England school at Amherst and also that at Back Creek were typical of the more rudimentary and old fashioned Denominational Schools in Victoria. The weatherboard construction at Back Creek (1859) was at least an improvement over the slab and canvas of Amherst (1856) and Clunes (1857). However, Back Creek had the unwieldy and outmoded system of double writing desks in the centre of the room with seats along two sides of the building.

The second Amherst Church of England School (1856) and adjacent Presbyterian School (1859) both used brick construction and with their lancet windows, buttresses and steeply pitched roofs could easily have been mistaken for churches. Indeed they probably were used as churches and thus in contravention of the guidelines for government grants. The abuse of such funds in the 1850s and early 1860s was well known yet the burgeoning school building programme, conducted at arm's length from the government (in the case of the Denominational School Board) and lack of supervision made such practices difficult to eradicate. Although more sophisticated in construction, these brick schools still contained only one large room with only of the Church of England school having an external porch (the Presbyterian porch was an afterthought of several years later).

In contrast to the religious denominations, eager to establish themselves in the new gold fields, the National School Board lagged. Apart from its paltry funding, much energy (and money) went to build expensive 'Model Schools' in Melbourne. The only local National School opened at Back Creek in December 1858, in response to the growing number of miners deep sinking at Goodwoman's Hill. The school was located in Hume Street on the Back Creek Flat and on his first inspection Henry Venables described it as:

Slab, shingle roof - in good repair; one room 40 x 20 x 7 feet; accommodation: 45 at desks, 45 in class = 90; light and ventilation: good, privies: two - good; playground - open bush; is it fenced in? - no; general fitness of premises: suitable.

With the boom in population during 1859, due to the Scandinavian Rush, the number of children on the rolls leapt to 237. The premises were enlarged by provision of a new building of 'wood, lined with canvass; shingle roof, 20 x 14 x 9 feet' yet this accommodation was still felt by the inspector to be deficient for the population.

Denominational and private schools catered for education at Clunes and with proclamation of the Common Schools Act 1862 came the end of the competing Denominational and National Schools Boards, thus denying Clunes the chance to gain school controlled by the National School Board.

Over seven hundred schools were vested in the Common Board of Education of which 193 were National and 513 denominational. Under the new Board, existing denominational schools were referred to as 'non-vested'. Many of the local 'non-vested' denominational schools combined and aid was granted to many new schools including Mile Creek or Beckworth's Creek (Wesleyan, 5 km north of Clunes); Maiden Hills (Primitive Methodist); Clunes (Wesleyan); Bung Bong (Church of England); McCallum's Creek (Church of England). Some, such as the Mount Beckworth Free Church of Scotland School (1860) became fully vested Common Schools and new schools erected after 1862 were generally fully vested in the new Common School Board. Local schools in this last category included Mount Greenock (1864), Red Lion (1865), Evansford (1867), Glengower (1867), Kangaroo Flat or Caralulup (1868), Lilicur (1868), Big Swamp (5 km north of Clunes - 1869), Clunes South (1869), Talbot (1869), Mount Glasgow (1870), Mount Cameron (1871) and Emu (1873). In many cases the schools had been opened for several years before government assistance was finally approved.

The common school buildings at Talbot and Evansford survive and usefully illustrate typical school architecture of the common school period (1862-72). The basalt construction of Evansford was relatively uncommon although like many small schools the windows punctuated one long wall behind forms or desks arranged in tiers (so that light would fall from behind the children) and a fire place located on the opposite wall. Plans took two years to be approved after much correspondence between increasingly frustrated locals and the Board of Education.

Talbot served a much larger population and the common school was built of brick with three rooms. The smaller rooms (19' x 18') were expressed as flanking pedimented pavilions around a central room 60' long. As with Evansford, the windows were arranged along the long facade (these were replaced with the present hopper-style windows in 1908) with fireplaces on the opposite wall. The common school building of 1869 still survives behind the current school (erected 1875).

The third major administrative change to state education in Victoria came with the Education Act 1872 which created the Education Department of Victoria. With regard to the design and construction of new schools, from 1 January 1873 the government assumed full responsibility and the role of local architects and designers was limited to the few new private schools. Roman Catholics decided to continue their denominational education separately and many of the protestant schools (even at this early date in often poor condition) were retained as halls or meeting rooms. Therefore an immense building programme was implemented by the Education Department, under its chief architect Henry Robert Bastow.

The local legacy of Bastow includes the present schools of Talbot (1875), North Clunes (1875), South Clunes (1882) and the former school at Amherst (1874). All were of brick and represented a substantial improvement over the earlier smaller schools, especially with regard to construction.



The former South Clunes State School is not only architecturally significant but its reuse as a knitting mill tells of the structural change attempted in the local economy following cessation of mining

Higher and technical education was largely the preserve of mechanics' institutes and self improvement societies in the nineteenth century and it was not until c.1911-12 that a basic six years of primary education could be extended by an additional two years at Clunes Higher Elementary School. The North Clunes School was remodelled to accommodate classes in sloyd and other technical and domestic subjects in this period. Clunes was the third higher elementary school to open in Victoria (after Allendale and Dean) and these three were all in the state electorate of Sir Alexander Peacock. However, a much more significant development in education was the advent of the mechanics' institute. To understand their impact in nineteenth century colonial society it is first necessary to examine their background in Britain.

Mechanics' Institutes and Free Libraries

A variety of trends and impulses contributed to the establishment of the British mechanic's institutes, their rapid multiplication from the mid-1820s to the 1840s and subsequent transplantation to the Australian colonies. By this period there was already a strong tradition of self-help and mutual education among artisans. Much of the power behind this derived from strong Calvinist and Wesleyan beliefs in individual self-development through the reading of the Bible and other devotional literature.

This section on Mechanics' Institutes was written by Marc Askew

Many skilled workingmen in the latter years of the eighteenth century had formed small informal groups aimed at providing instruction in basic reading and writing skills. In addition, the Sunday schools of Robert Raikes laid some basis for the development of popular literacy for the next century.

Political motives were also prominent among working-class self improvers. To G.J. Holyoake, Owenite Socialist and later Chartist, 'Intellectual bondage is worse than physical, because the physical chain is rivetted by others; the mental by ourselves. The ignorant man is at the mercy of educated opinion. To be free, we should be in a position to dare the judgement of the wise.' Working-class proponents of 'self' and 'mutual' improvement or education aimed to produce intelligence, moral rectitude, sobriety and political awareness among their compatriots.

By the latter decades of the eighteenth century many scientific, philosophical and literary societies had been established in the cities and provincial towns of England and Scotland to cater for a growing interest in new technological and scientific developments. These groups were formed and patronised by the professional and other educated sectors of the British middle class. Experimentation, discussion, lecturing and publication were common activities of these groups. In most cases, such institutions did not aim to spread scientific knowledge beyond the ranks of their middle-class members.

The prominent politician and amateur scientist Lord Henry Brougham maintained that Britain's prosperity depended more than ever on industrial production and the development of an intelligent and scientifically informed artisan workforce. To Brougham and his upper class supporters, the 'diffusion of useful knowledge' would be the great means by which Britain's industrial prosperity and intelligence would advance side-by-side. Brougham's advocacy of education for artisans (or 'mechanics') was taken up by a number of working class leaders in London and by 1823 an alliance between middle-class reformers and working-class radicals gave rise to the formation of the London Mechanics' Institution. (It is of interest that the 1859 government subdivision in Talbot took Brougham's name for one of its streets.)

The rapid growth of settlements in Victoria's interior as a result of gold discoveries and the expansion of suburbs around Melbourne was closely accompanied by the re-creation of familiar cultural institutions. Mechanics' institutes were regarded as an important component in the process of creating and sustaining a cultural environment. The goal of self-improvement characterized many of the gold-rush immigrants as it had done their predecessors who founded the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute. Large numbers of artisans and professionals were among the gold seekers who poured into Victoria from Britain, neighbouring colonies and elsewhere. While not all immigrants embraced the ideology of mental culture, those who did so were of a sufficient number to ensure the mushroom-like expansion of mechanics' institutes throughout Victoria from 1854 onwards.

General support for mechanics' institutes and libraries was so widespread that from 1860 the Victorian government made funds available, in the form of annual grants-in-aid, for aiding institutes and libraries in purchasing books. The maximum grant for any individual institution was not to exceed £200 and at first, no distinctions were drawn between the institutes and 'public libraries'. However, from the mid to late sixties mechanics' institutes were subject to increasing criticism in Victoria. In particular they were seen to have failed in attracting the bulk of the working classes; the subscription fee was seen to be the greatest barrier to working class involvement.

These reservations were reflected in the changing character of qualifications for the government book grant. By the early seventies only those institutions allowing free public access to libraries could qualify for substantial government aid: mechanics' institute committees were realizing that they had to justify their institutions' existence on utilitarian grounds. Government grants to mechanics' institutes (in contrast to free public libraries) ceased entirely in 1887. Hence during the decade of the seventies many small mechanics' institutes, including those at Clunes and Talbot - hitherto virtually private subscription and circulating libraries - opened their doors to non-members in order to receive aid. The Clunes Mechanics' Institute 'has in the last month been altered in its character to that of a Free Library' wrote the secretary in 1873 and 'this step has been taken with a view to popularize the educational effort and thereby secure the sympathy and support of the whole of the public of Clunes'. The initiative at Clunes was not stimulated exclusively by altruism; in fact, it was at least partly the result of an enquiry made of the secretary of the Sebastopol Mechanics' Institute and Free Library, who had strongly suggested to his counterpart in Clunes that substantially more money was available from the government, both for the library and building, if the institution was dubbed a 'free library'.

The Clunes and Talbot free libraries were not unique in maintaining a distinction between subscribers - who were granted the right to take books home to read - and the general public - who could consult books and journals in the reading room but not borrow. At the Clunes free library only subscribers were allowed the use of the class room. In addition to the colonial government and private subscribers, these institutions benefitted from the support of municipal councils, either through the provision of rooms or buildings for the libraries (such as the use of the upper floor at the Talbot Borough Hall), occasional grants of money, and/or remission of rates.

Notwithstanding distinctions between 'subscribers' and 'the public', 'members' and 'non-members', it is clear that these institutions played an important part in the social and recreational life of Victorian communities, particularly in the nineteenth century. The buildings were utilised by a range of groups in these communities, from the young mens' mutual improvement societies (primarily debating and elocution groups) to dramatic societies, sports clubs and fund raising groups.

Hospitals

Many other institutional buildings were erected during the nineteenth century although due mainly to their relatively small size, Talbot and Clunes were never the site of such facilities as gaols, large railway yards or lunatic asylums. However, health facilities were provided, and, in the case of Amherst hospital, provided the community with buildings far in excess of the comensurate colonial significance of its community.

Public health in the Colony of Victoria was given increased recognition by the government in 1854 with the passing of An Act for promoting the Public Health in populous Places in the Colony of Victoria. This created a Central Board of Health and, as the act was extended to different towns, various local Boards of Health. However, it was not until 1860 that the Act was extended to the municipalities of Amherst and Clunes.

With few local doctors, most residents and miners relied on chemists and druggists in the case of accident or illness. Twelve local doctors formed the Back Creek Medical Society in April 1859 to guard against imposters but with such a large population prompt medical treatment was rarely possible. Diseases of the chest and lungs were prevalent during the early days of the Scandinavian rush, no doubt due in part to the damp and dust encountered in the shafts.

In the makeshift world of Back Creek in 1860 Ready and Searle advertised 'leeches, trusses, patent and other proprietary medicines'. For women on the goldfields health and welfare posed special problems. Here Holloway's Pills were advertised as the answer. In a remarkable blend of friendly advice and pure mumbo-jumbo the makers addressed 'A Word to Females' in the North Western Chronicle.

The local debility and irregularities which are the special annoyance of the weaker sex, and which when neglected always shortens life, are relieved for the time being and prevented for the time to come by a course of this mild but thorough alternative.

Apart from this reassurance to the women of Back Creek, Holloway's Pills were also recommended generally for 'ill health at the diggings, bilious and liver complaints, dropsical swellings and turns of life, stomach and liver complaints, dysentery and bowel complaints'. When such proprietary measures failed the hapless digger could then resort to a local doctor, or possibly a hospital bed. However with the nearest institutions at Ballarat, Maryborough and Creswick the need for local hospitals was acute.

The first meeting of the Amherst Hospital Committee took place in July 1859. A nine member committee of management comprising prominent Amherst citizens was appointed with Police Magistrate Phillip Crespigny as President. Money was sought from the colonial government for a building and meanwhile the hospital

opened in a most unsuitable temporary timber structure on New Years Day 1860. Facilities included a 'cook house', erected by Isaac Meadows late in 1859 for £40 and the timber 'sick ward'.

The push for a hospital at Amherst however appears to have been motivated by a desire for civic progress rather than an altruistic concern for the welfare of local residents and miners. With ascendancy shifting so dramatically from Amherst to Back Creek in 1859-60, Amherstians sought capital works and civic improvements to halt the decay and prolong the town's existence. Back Creek had not been surveyed in 1859 and the actions of Amherst residents in securing a hospital and official grant of land (formerly set aside in September 1860) ensured a similar institution at Back Creek would be unlikely to attract government support. In a deft piece of local politicking, half the Amherst committee stood down in October 1859 in order to obtain representation from the large Back Creek populace and thereby secure allegiance.

Following opening of the hospital, a 'dead house' 12 feet by 11 feet was erected and its need was evident from the inaugural report of the House Surgeon. Of the twelve patients admitted in that first month of January 1860 there were 9 patients still in hospital, 6 out patients, 1 discharged (cured) and 2 dead. In September 1860, the visiting committee reported 'that a cesspool was necessary to be at once made' leaving previous sanitary arrangements open to speculation. A grant-in-aid of £500 was made in 1860 by the government for erection of a more permanent hospital building and Maryborough architect Charles Toutcher was appointed by the hospital committee to prepare plans.

Three tenders were considered at a special meeting in September 1860 and the lowest, that of Isaac Meadows (£369 5s) was accepted. No doubt with the substantial monetary grant in mind, the committee authorised Meadows to substitute stone sills and window heads in place of the original brick for an extra £7 10s. However, this building only comprised the northern wing of Toutcher's design and still provided no accommodation for a resident surgeon. The building was completed in November 1860 and housed sixteen beds with additional ten beds still in the old ward. A water tank of 8500 gallons was also erected during the year to provide a much needed supply of clean water. Further government assistance was received during 1861-62 and the committee proceeded with Toutcher's masterplan for the hospital. He envisaged a double storey central block with southern wing to match the 1860 northern wing. Isaac Meadows (elected a member of the hospital committee in May 1862) was again the successful tender for the central block erected in 1862 (£1146) and the third wing was erected shortly after.

In an unusual reversal of roles, the generally progressive Clunes community lagged far behind Amherst in the provision of hospital accommodation. The Clunes Accident Relief Fund was inaugurated in the early 1860s with the stated aims of 'helping the widow and fatherless, and helping one another in case of accident at their daily work'. Stretchers, pillows and blankets were also provided

at the major mines and for serious accidents a horse drawn ambulance was available to carry patients to Creswick. The idea was proposed by C.J. Harvey, manager of the Clunes Quartz Company and demonstrated the general concern for welfare of that establishment, and especially the influence of Harvey. Prominent resident Henry Lugg was instrumental in proposals for a hospital at Clunes and after years of fund raising the foundation stone was laid in January 1871. The hospital was considerably extended in 1873. Sanitary science in the nineteenth century was in its infancy by present standards and as late as 1891, the hospital was still burying refuse from its pan service close to the hospital, a practice noticed by Dr. Gresswell in his report to parliament and drawn out for special attention.

The importance of a hospital to the local community was seen in the high regard and support for hospital fete day. This annual event was a feature of both Clunes and Amherst/Talbot with the parade and stalls usually raising significant sums for the hospital fund. While hospitals gave hope to many on the goldfields, death was a customary fact of life and generally provision for a cemetery predated a hospital by several years.

Cemeteries

The earliest cemetery to cater for Daisy Hill, Amherst and Back Creek was located north of the main road from Adelaide to Maryborough. This was shown by Fraser as a 'Grave Yard' on his 1855 plan of Amherst township consisting of a square roughly one acre in area although his plan also included a new reserve of approximately 7 acres on the Amherst-Back Creek Road as a cemetery. This reserve, on the Mia Mia Lead, was located to the east of the known gold workings, although the vicinity was the scene of notorious riots in December 1855 as miners rushed purchased land of Samuel Dunne adjacent to the northern boundary of the cemetery.

Six cemetery trustees were appointed in June 1858 and these gentlemen formed a virtual roll call of the town's most respected citizens. The Borough of Amherst obtained £55 13s in 1859 for 'Fencing in and providing gates for the new cemetery'. The specifications for this work ('erecting a two rail fence 144 rods in length or thereby, providing 3 gates with hinges, locks and bolts complete') were approved by Charles Pasley, Inspector General of Public Works and Buildings, in November 1859. Local bluegum was specified for posts with 'sawn colonial timber Red or Blue Gum' for rails. The timber was left untreated, although all gates were to receive three coats of paint.

The plan of the cemetery took the form of a Celtic cross and a garden bed was included in the centre of the path system. This was a common plan for cemeteries and even domestic gardens. Clunes adopted a variant of the cross plan and Majorca by 1866 had also opened a cemetery with this configuration. The sexton at Amherst was still residing in a tent in 1862 (erected at his own

expense near the entrance) although a small but elegant lodge was erected in succeeding years and the cemetery was also extended by incorporation of two ten acre allotments to the west.

In Clunes the earliest graveyard had been situated in Hill Street although this site was later purchased for erection of the first Primitive Methodist Church. J.N. Hassall, superintending inspector of the Central Board of Health, estimated that there had been 20 burials but by mid 1859 the present cemetery had been set aside on a site overlooking a small tributary of the Kilkenny Creek. Access was gained by a track along the east bank of the creek from the point of confluence near the Talbot Road. Government grants for fencing were made in the mid-1860s and a small timber shelter was erected early in 1863 for use by the sexton and grave digger.

The planning of the cemeteries at Amherst, Clunes and Majorca was reminiscent of ideas contained in John Claudius Loudon's On the laying out, planting and managing of cemeteries. This influential book, published in London in 1843, generally preferred a chapel to be located in the central area and although seldom found in small Victorian cemeteries the weatherboard lodge at Clunes provided a modest antipodean equivalent. The use of bulbs, as found in the central bed at Amherst, is now an unusual remnant although the species Lilium and Narcissus (still flowering after a century and a quarter) were recommended by Loudon.

Notes on sources

General background to churches is included in Christopher Wood, A history of the Independent Church, Collins Street, (in press, 1987).

General background to schools comes from Lawrence Burchell, Victorian Schools. A Study in Colonial Government Architecture 1837-1900, MUP in association with The Victorian Education Department, 1980, while details of individual schools are from Les Blake (ed), Vision and Realisation, Education Department of Victoria, 1973. The index of inwards correspondence for the Denominational Schools Board (VPRS 4826, unit 1-4) was examined for the period June 1857-December 1859. This gave access to the actual Denominational Schools Board Inwards Correspondence Register, (VPRS 60, unit 2) 1855-57 (VPRS 889, units 1,2) 1857-59. From these sources, some of the more relevant letters were examined (VPRS 61), especially a report by Inspector Parker, 1858 (VPRS 61, unit 24, 59/218), plan of Amherst Church of England School (VPRS 61, unit 44, bundle 61/2891). The major documents about the early Amherst Church of England School are at VPRS 61, unit 8, 56/824. Grants for building, Denominational Schools Board, 1854-62 (VPRS 886, unit 1) were also examined. The plans for the Amherst Presbyterian School by Charles Toutcher is filed with the Public Works Department plans, presumably separated from relevant documents in VPRS 61, unit 31, 59/3062. Many other plans of reference are in the Public Works Department collection. The plan of Back Creek Church of England School in VPRS 61, unit ? (not recorded), 59(?) /895 with comparisons in unit 24, 59/320. Early photographs of schools are held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes and also in an album 'Photographs of State School Buildings in Victoria', VPRS 1396, unit 4.

General background to Mechanics' Institutes is contained in Marc Askew's M.A thesis, 'The diffusion of useful knowledge, Mechanics' Institutes in nineteenth century Victoria', Monash University, 1982.

The Annual reports of the Central Board of Health contain some material regarding hospitals although by far the most useful material regarding Amherst Hospital has come from the Minute Book of the Committee of Management (examined for the period 1859-62). This has been complemented by the many photographs held in the Shire of Talbot and Clunes collection and plans in the Public Works Department collection of the Public Record Office. Most records of the Clunes Hospital were destroyed in the 1944 bushfire (which burnt out the building) and of the secondary sources, Fidelis and the booklet The Clunes District Hospital, 1871-1971 A Brief History have been of most use. Photographs in the Shire collection have again been valuable pictorial sources. The Annual Report of the Clunes District Hospital for 1871 is held by the State Library of Victoria but was missing at the 1986 stocktake. The quotations from the North Western Chronicle regarding leeches and female complaints were printed on 18 October 1860.

CHAPTER TEN

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Apart from the residences erected in the 1840s by local squatters, the earliest local buildings were very rudimentary indeed. Shepherds often lived in quite small huts although several structures of basalt are still to be seen locally, most notably beside McCallum's Creek on the Talbot - Mount Greenock Road. However shelter for the first miners at Clunes in 1851 was makeshift.

The Argus correspondent slept in Archie McDonald's 'habitation' composed of sod walls and a canvas roof. 'There were 7 of us in a bed on this occasion. Among the number, was a Mr G. of Melbourne, who complained sadly of the hardness of the feathers, (gum leaves).' W.S. Gibbons of the Melbourne Daily News provided a light hearted glimpse of those early shelters.

I camped one night at the mines beneath the shelter of a hospitable tent, and was much amused with the appearance of the place at night. There was a large fire at the doors of each house (as they facetiously term their gunyahs) and if you enquire for Mr So and So, you will be told that he is not at 'home', or that he lives 'next door', or 'over the way', etc. and the chances are, that you will be asked to 'walk in and take a chair', the said chair, meaning the turf, or, in luxurious establishments, an empty box.

Building regulations

From the commencement of more sustained local development in the mid 1850s, the design of buildings was increasingly regulated by authorities at both a local and state level. Building regulations had been in force in Melbourne since 1849/50 and several acts of parliament prescribed standards and regulations, but none of these measures applied to the new goldfields towns, nor would their enforcement have even been possible in that turbulent early period.

With the formation of a municipal councils at Amherst (1858) and Clunes (1860) came the introduction of local byelaws. Such byelaws needed sanction from the colonial government for mainly legal and technical reasons and publication of byelaws in Victoria Government Gazette ensured a certain uniformity across municipal boundaries. The first byelaw to affect local buildings was sent by the Town Clerk at Amherst to the Chief Secretary in October 1860 for official sanction. When gazetted a month later it stipulated:

That no person shall erect any tent, store or dwelling of calico, canvas or other flexible fabric or renew with the like material any roof or any other exterior part of

any tent, store or building now existing in any of the proclaimed streets ... [except] at a distance of thirty clear feet from any other building.

Storage of hay, corn or straw in canvas buildings was also prohibited with penalties up to £20 provided.

Materials

Such canvas and calico buildings had been the norm in Clunes and especially Amherst and Back Creek for residential dwellings and even commercial premises in the 1850s. Tentmaking was a thriving business, but desire for increased standards of accommodation, backed by such municipal byelaws, ensured a dwindling number of such structures.

With the gradual decline of canvas and calico as a cladding material in the late 1850s and 1860s came the use of timber slabs, iron and brick. Masonry construction (whether brick or stone) was rarely used for smaller residential buildings but was almost exclusively used in commercial and institutional construction, especially after the late 1860s. Evidence from ratebooks and photographs shows that the early timber residences were often extended, generally by the addition of rear hipped or gabled rooms or, commonly in Clunes, by a projecting side wing with gable facing the street frontage.

Typical residence at Clunes which, based on a typological analysis, appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80. Analyses of different buildings types are contained in Section 2.1 of this volume



Sanitation

The improvement of sanitation in local dwellings and premises was a story of slow acceptance of scientific principles compounded by ignorance, problems of a transitory population and even wilful indifference. From 1859 the superintending inspector of the Central Board of Health, J. N. Hassall, made yearly visits to all municipalities and his reports, published annually in the Victorian Parliamentary Papers make chilling reading.

Hassall commented in 1860 that in Back Creek 'many premises were without privy accommodation beyond such as is ordinarily available where mining operations are going on adjacent to population, i.e., old holes, not far distant from respective premises'. At Clunes he bemoaned the low lying nature of much of the township and found deplorable sanitary conditions equal to Back Creek and Amherst. At the rear of a drapery in Fraser Street he noted 'a convenient substitute ... in lieu of a cesspool, the privy being immediately over the creek at rear of premises'. And yet even the cesspool was an object of great objection. A year later Hassall noted cesspools at Clunes being 'usually a mere hole dug in the ground' with no impevious lining and certainly no means of regular emptying. Such cesspools were all the more objectionable when they overflowed (often across public footpaths) and where wells for domestic water supply were sunk in adjoining ground. Although construction of cesspools gradually improved, aided by local byelaws at Clunes (1861), Amherst (1863) and generally by Central Board of Health byelaws (1869), their abolition did not occur in Clunes until 1881-82 when a single pan or box system was introduced. However, this advance was largely ineffective as it was unaccompanied by any regular or properly managed night-soil removal service. Even when convicted were recorded, penalties were absurdly low. For instance in 1864 this licensed nightman in Talbot was only fined one shilling for emptying night soil into Back Creek!

Apart from sanitary measures, the Public Health Act 1854 included regulations relating to ventilation and building materials. As the Act was extended to include the municipalities of Amherst and Clunes in 1860, theoretically, so did its provisions. However local enforcement was often lax and superintending inspector Hassall often complained bitterly of such disregard. In lodging houses, stipulated minimum capacity for each person to prevent overcrowding and inadequate ventilation was provided but rarely enforced, with accommodation often double that permitted.

Maintaining clear access along public footpaths, roads and water courses was a local responsibility and the Borough of Clunes introduced their byelaw 7 in 1861 to control incursions. At Back Creek, the problem had been largely overcome by the Government Surveyor who drew survey boundaries through the frontages of offending premises and ordering rebuilding to conform to the new, and more orderly frontage line.

Although a properly constructed sewerage system was regarded as desirable as early as the 1850s and 60s by the Central Board of Health this system was never introduced locally. It would have been a costly exercise and comparable in magnitude to the Clunes water supply system of the 1870s. Alternative arrangements less objectionable than cesspools and far less expensive than sewerage were promoted by the Central Board of Health. In their annual report for 1870, the Board urged county municipalities to use either an earth closet system or a double pan system. The earth closet, if intelligently managed was a relatively hygienic system, was cheap (especially in comparison with sewerage) and its contents could eventually be used as manure for domestic gardens or agricultural purposes.

In Clunes however, the objectionable privy cesspools and later single pan system continued until 1899 when the double pan system was introduced. This was one of the main recommendations of a special report conducted by Dr Gresswell in 1891 to enquire into the sanitary condition and sanitary administration of the Borough of Clunes. D. Astley Gresswell (1853-1904) was a tireless reformer and the Clunes report, published in Victorian Parliamentary Papers was highly critical of sanitary conditions there. He echoed the sentiments recorded by J.N. Hassell in the 1850s and 60s that Clunes was poorly situated from a sanitary point of view, with Creswick's Creek being an offensive open drain carrying most of the liquid refuse of the town as well as sludge from the mines.

He was particularly damning with regard to ventilation and confirmed the view that ventilation principles and even legislative provisions were either not well understood or ignored. Gresswell singled out 'defects ... which give rise to dampness of floors and of walls, to mould growth and to ill ventilation' as the most objectionable feature of most local houses.

It appears to be altogether exceptional to find any attempt made at rendering the sites of dwellings impervious, though the cost of making them so is in most instances very small; if, for instance, tar-paving be employed for the purpose. It is rare, too, to find the space under the floor properly ventilated, though a few holes through the sides of that space will suffice. It is not uncommon to find roof gutters defective; and permanent provision for entrance of fresh air seems to be very generally ignored.

Gresswell urged the introduction of adequate building regulations but in the meantime recommended a device (the bead sash) to allow the bottom sash of double hung windows to remain open and allow ventilation to occur through the interval left between the sashes. For dampness he recommended the introduction of dampcourses in brick construction and more adequate drainage and paving.

Infectious diseases were rife in Clunes (and Talbot) prior to the introduction of the double pan system as recommended by Gresswell.

The fact that by 1901 there were no such diseases reported in Clunes resoundingly supports the wisdom of D. Astley Gresswell and his campaign for reforms.

Regarding drinking water, Grenwell detailed extraordinary deficiencies in the catchment area for the Clunes scheme but acknowledged the difficulty of rectifying these matters. To overcome polluted supplies, Gresswell recommended the use of individual rain water tanks, but even this could give rise to problems. Roofs of slate or earthenware tiles formed excellent collection surfaces, but galvanised iron was far from safe. It was possible for the sulphurous fumes given off from pyrites burning in local mines to react with the zinc galvanising to pollute the water. Grenwell recommended coating of galvanised iron with bitumen but the danger subsided when mining operations ceased, soon after the production of his report.

Architects and Builders

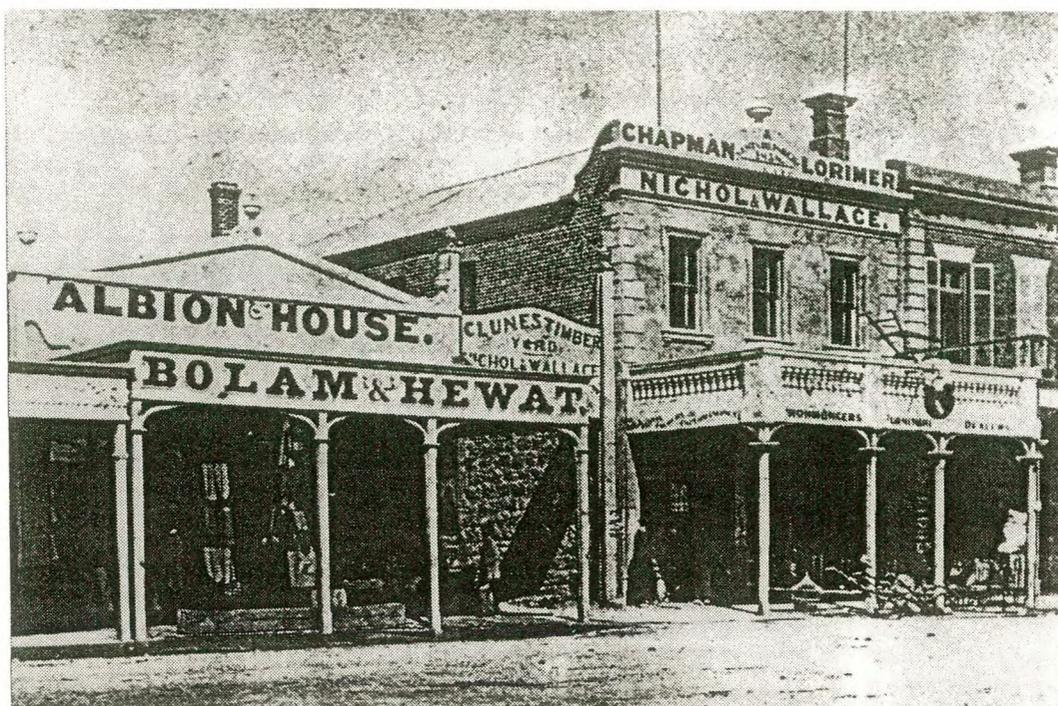
Such recommendations were fine, but they came too late for Clunes. By 1891 almost all residential development had ceased, apart from rebuilding on the site of the occasional burnt out building (perhaps arson to claim insurance during the recession of the 1890s?). Thus the existing nineteenth century buildings stock was largely the product of local builders and contractors. As well, the distinction between builder and architect was often merely semantic.

William F. Sheridan, of Clunes was an archetype of the local builder/architect. Although his trade was given in the 1864 ratebooks as 'labour[er]' in newspapers Sheridan advertised as 'architect, surveyor and valuator'. By the late 1870s he was acting as architect for the Free Library Committee. Other builders in Clunes who are known to have designed local buildings included Nicholl and Wallace, Dow, Barwell, Wallace and Longstaff.

George Washington Dow was variously listed as builder, bricklayer and mason in the ratebooks between 1864-68 and his house (at 9 Hill Street) was an early brick and stone residence in a town predominantly composed of timber dwellings. Prior to this, Dow had been a bricklayer using sludge from the alluvial mines to make distinctive orange/brown local bricks and his shop in Fraser Street (immediately west of Templeton Street) was rented to the newly constituted Borough of Clunes as a meeting place.

Carpenter Peter Wallace had erected a residence for himself in Bailey Street by 1860. In ensuing years the building was enlarged (including his workshop erected 1869-71) but this house (68 Fraser Street) now remains behind mature gardens as one of the earliest surviving residential buildings in the Shire.

Henry Wallace was another of the major builders in Clunes. The son of a carpenter, Wallace was born in Scotland in 1836 and after arrival in Melbourne in 1854 and reached Clunes about 1857. Within a year he had established his business with Alexander



The premises of Nichol and Wallace in Fraser Street, Clunes, during the 1870s. The building is now used by the Clunes Museum.

Nichol and the pair traded as ironmongers, furniture dealers, timber merchants, and builders. The Nichol and Wallace warehouse (now used as premises of the Clunes Museum) was originally single storey and greatly enlarged during the local boom of the late 1860s. Henry Wallace, Nichol, Preston and Chapman were all committee members of the 'Clunes District Permanent Investment and Benefit Building Society' established in 1873 and Wallace was one of three trustees.

Plasterer John Barwell erected his own residence (25 Camp Street) in 1864-67. Barwell undertook the external rendering of the Clunes Free Library and no doubt many other stucco facades in Fraser Street. His house was distinctive for its rendered walls, a fine advertisement for its owner.

Ralph Longstaff was in business in Templeton Street, Clunes as Timber Merchant and Ironmonger by 1864. He advertised as:

Timber Merchant and Ironmonger, R.L. has on sale a good stock of hardwood all sizes for mining and building purposes, American tongued and grooved lumber, Scotch flooring, shelving, red and white deals, cut deals, skirting, architraves, mouldings, doors and sashes, American laths, Mantle pieces, Meat safes and tables always on hand and to order, a good selection of carpenters tools, Sorby's and Mathieson's brands, corrugated iron for roofing, spouting, ridges, colonial ovens, nail, locks, hinges, American axes, iron bedsteads, zinc, door scrapers, air bricks, etc.

Longstaff had considerable property interests in Clunes and his son John was later a celebrated artist.

Duncan and Johnston, contractors, builders, house carpenters and cabinet makers commenced business in 1864. 'Plans and specifications drawn up' formed part of their services although only examples of their building work are known.

Irish born Charles Toutcher (1826-78) was the major local architect operating in Amherst and Talbot. He arrived in Victoria in 1854 and worked in Bendigo prior to setting up practice in Maryborough. His arrival coincided with a period of expansion and rebuilding in the fledgling gold towns and many commercial premises erected in Maryborough during the late 1850s and 1860s are his designs. One of Toutcher earliest local works was the Amherst Town Hall for the newly constituted Borough of Amherst in 1858. His design, submitted under the nom de plume 'Palladio', was one of several similar designs - a central hall with a classically derived portico and flanking office - with others being at Carisbrook (1859), Avoca, and Dunolly. Toutcher designed the Presbyterian School in Amherst in 1859 and in the same year was appointed Surveyor and Architect to the Municipality of Maryborough. Several years later he was appointed Town Clerk and held the position until 1875. He died of whooping cough in 1878 following a short stint as Town Clerk and Borough Surveyor of Amherst.

In Talbot, Isaac Meadows and William Phelan were the two largest contractors. Meadows commenced working at Amherst in the late 1850s with Thomas Fisher and Co., where he managed the building and contracting branch of that firm. Successful contracts for Meadows included the Amherst Hospital, Wesleyan, Presbyterian and Anglican Churches and the court house of Amherst. Following dissolution of the partnership, Meadows came to Talbot and was responsible for many local buildings including a substantial number of government contracts of which the Court of Petty Sessions in Camp Street (now library - 1860) stands an example of his workmanship. Government contracts across Victoria and into New South Wales accounted for an increasing portion of his business and at the time of his death in May 1880 the firm, with its modest beginnings at Amherst, was one of the major contracting companies in the colony.

William Phelan commenced business in Talbot around 1860 and soon had the leading timber yard, ironmongery and furnishing establishment in the district. He undertook many local building projects and in 1881-82 established a large branch in Maryborough and soon completed several large contracts in that town. His 1880 press advertisement advised 'Plans and specifications prepared and estimates given', although like most local builders/architects his works are still largely unattributed.

One local carpenter whose architectural skills can be attributed is A. Hallen, designer of the Primitive Methodist Church (1870) in Camp Street, Talbot. Hallen also undertook the carpentry work as well as contributing liberally to the building fund.

With the exception of local architects such as Sheridan and Toutcher, most major buildings in Talbot and Clunes were designed by architects in Ballarat and Melbourne. Ballarat architects were particularly dominant in Clunes and institutional architects from Melbourne offices of the Public Works Department, Victorian Railways and Education Department left a distinctive legacy of buildings in both towns.

Leonard Terry (1825-84) was architect for many of the banks in Talbot and Clunes including the London Chartered Banks in Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot (1866 - later ANZ) and Fraser Street, Clunes (1871 - now RSL), and probably the Union Bank, corner Fraser Street and Templeton Street, Clunes (1865 - now ANZ). Banks formed a major part of his architectural practice as did commissions for the Church of England and the manse in Service Street, Clunes (1863) can almost certainly be attributed to Terry. Terry practised in Ballarat and undertook many major commissions, including that remarkable row of six banks in Lydiard Street.

It was to Ballarat that most clients looked when contemplating buildings in Clunes and other major architects to work there were Joseph Doane, Percy Oakden, Henry Caselli and Edward James.

Joseph A. Doane designed the first section of the Clunes Wesleyan Church (1863) and later the Talbot Shire Offices at Dunach (1872 - burnt in 1985 bushfires). Doane was a natural choice of architect for the local Wesleyan Church as his office almost had a monopoly on local nonconformist Church designs. In the 1860s he designed nine of eleven new Wesleyan churches in Ballarat, two of the four Primitive Methodist churches and chapels for each of the Disciples of Christ, Congregational and Baptist congregations in Ballarat.

Percy Oakden (1845-1917) arrived in Victoria from Van Dieman's Land in 1868 and practiced in Ballarat for the next six years. He was joined by J.H. Fox during 1869-72 and during this period was placed second in the competition for Ballarat Town Hall, although following local jockeying he was appointed Borough Architect, with full responsibility for modifying the favoured external design of J.T. Lorenz with the interior features of Henry Caselli's proposal. This redesign was undertaken in 1870 and, possibly influenced by the process, the Borough of Clunes sought designs for new offices to incorporate a hall and court house. Oakden's scheme for Clunes was approved in December 1871 and today his distinctive design makes the Clunes Town Hall and Court House one of the most notable nineteenth century municipal complexes.

Henry Caselli was another architect with an extensive practice in Ballarat. He undertook a wide range of commercial, institutional, industrial and residential work and executed a number of local churches to the design of English Gothic Revivalist Charles Hansom. St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church of Clunes (1872) by Caselli, although not one of the five specific designs provided for Bishop James Alipius Goold by Hansom, took elements from one of the designs and inspiration from St. Patrick's,

Ballarat (1857-70). William Brittain Tappin was architect to Caselli during the period of St. Thomas Aquinas, Clunes and Tappin went on to join the premier Melbourne firm of architects, Reed and Barnes. The design of Caselli and Tappin for Clunes was also used at St. Alipius, East Ballarat, and this provides a useful complement St. Thomas Aquinas as it shows the completed tower and chancel never erected at Clunes.

Edward James was architect for the large extension to Clunes Hospital (1873) and may well have been responsible for the original section (1871). James, although not a leading Ballarat architect had a busy practice and undertook the Freemason's Hall in Camp Street, Ballarat during this period.

Freemasonry was a common meeting ground for many local builders, architects and artisans. In Talbot, Isaac Meadows was a well known member of the masonic fraternity, and historically Lodges seem to have formed with the objective of mutual development and protection by builders and artisans. The concept of mutual development was much needed in the frontier environment although by the time of development of gold fields in the 1850s and 60s the link between freemasonry and practical building was only coincidental. In this harsh society, without a centrally controlled health and welfare system, freemasonry filled the breach for many. 'It is not the practice of Masons to advertise their intents, and in no direction is the "Silent Tongue" more incumbent. The widow and the fatherless have been cheered; the cries of the distressed have been listened to with attention; and accordingly as "necessity requires and our ability affords", relief has been given.'

Notes on sources

Sanitation and improved building practices

The annual reports of the Central Board of Health (after 1890 the Board of Public Health) were examined for the period 1855-1907 and form essential reading for the local historian. During 1859-64, 1884-90, 1892-1907 individual reports are given for all municipalities and these give very detailed information. The 'Report by Dr. Grenwell on the Sanitary Condition and Sanitary Administration of the Borough of Clunes' is published in Victorian Parliamentary Papers, 1891 and its 16 pages contain both detailed and more general observations; this is complemented by the examination of contemporary Borough of Clunes reports by Con Weickhardt in his unpublished paper 'Clunes Borough Council 1860 to 1965', January 1975, held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes. Gresswell's biography is in the relevant 1891-1939 volume of ADB. Municipal byelaws are published in Victoria Government Gazette and related correspondence in the Chief Secretary's papers of the Public Record Office (VPRS 1189, units 600-620) has also been examined.

Architects and builders

Biographical material regarding architects and builders has generally been gleaned from ratebooks, directories and miscellaneous material in the Con Weickhardt collection, held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes. Relevant entries in ADB were consulted and histories such as Withers', History of Ballarat, 1887 and Osborne & Du Borg, Maryborough, 1985 provided specific references. The quotation regarding freemasonry was from The All Nations Lodge, Clunes, Centenary Celebrations, 1958.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE ARRIVAL OF THE SMALL FARMER

At the beginning of the 1860s local farming was underdeveloped. During the 1850s most land had been locked up in the hands of pastoral licensees, or squatters. All alienated land had been sold by auction and this favoured those with some financial resources. In March 1860 in the parishes of Amherst, Beckworth and Clunes, Rodborough, Bung Bong, Glengower and Eglinton there were fewer than 100 farmers, who had cultivated a mere 2500 acres in the previous season. This area had produced 15,000 bushels of wheat and 22,000 bushels of oats. In this year the first of a series of land acts was passed. These acts were eventually to change the face of the district.

Early land selection

As gold yields declined in the late 1860s the gold seekers looked enviously at the public lands of Victoria held under licence by squatters. The land convention formed in Melbourne in 1858 pressed the Government to 'unlock the land'. In that year a bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly with the aim of creating a class of small landholders, who would cultivate and not simply graze sheep. However, the Legislative Council was dominated by squatters, and the bill passed back and forth between the two houses. A riot outside Parliament House in August 1860 frightened both moderates and conservatives alike and broke the deadlock; the first Land Act was passed during the following month.

The 1860, or Nicholson Land Act was so riddled with loopholes, created by the squatters themselves, that large tracts of crown land quickly passed into the hands of those who were supposed to be outside the terms of the act. Most of the area surveyed and open for selection was in the Western District - the stronghold of squatterdom. Of the 900,000 acres sold in the next two years, five sixths went to squatters. At the end of 1861 a second attempt was made by the Minister for Lands, Charles Gavan Duffy. Duffy intended to open ten thousand acres and then, by swamping the squatters, make land holding almost universal. Duffy's act was poorly drafted, and within nine days, half a million acres had been selected, mainly by squatters. During the next two years one hundred men were able to buy about two-thirds of a million acres.

Provision of commons

Most local land was excluded from selection under these acts as it was considered auriferous. Nonetheless, the early land acts permitted miners, carters, tradesmen and residents to use crown land designated as 'commons'. In 1860 the Maryborough District

Mining Board sought approval for a common to take in the land surrounding Back Creek/Talbot which included Mount Greenock and the land to the south east. Known as the Back Creek Gold Fields Common, its main purpose was to provide grazing land. The boundaries of the common were gazetted in November 1860 and to truly serve the local miners no part was further than one mile distant from any 'important diggings'. 1200 acres were set aside at North Clunes in 1881 as a common and the area today is still largely crown land.

'Section 42' selections

A third Land Act was introduced by the Minister for Lands, James Grant, in 1865. This act designated agricultural areas where selection could take place, but once again the act was generally a failure and pastoral runs were turned into freehold estates. However, this act was saved by one clause, the 42nd, which Grant introduced to assist selectors in gold mining areas. The 42nd section allowed annual occupation licences (with a limits of 20 acres) within ten miles of a goldfield. Unlike other sections of the act it did not permit alienation of these areas. Furthermore to 'protect the public and local interests' commissions of enquiry were appointed to consider all applications. These boards met locally and their numbers included the district land surveyors and mining surveyors, together with the chairman and members of the mining boards and local councils. From time to time they included the Surveyor General, the Assistant Commissioner for Lands and Survey and the Secretary for Mines.

James Grant gave his first assessment of the operation of the 42nd section in his annual report, tabled at the end of January 1867. He proudly announced that those who benefitted from this section were tenant farmers, married farm labourers ('who prior to the facilities afforded for occupying small farms ... were unable to profitably make use of their savings in settling on the public lands'), miners who were able to supplement their earnings by the sale of produce (and were therefore less detrimentally influenced by the periodical occurrences of diminished local yields of gold issuing from the deficiency of water) and storekeepers or others engaged in trade and business adjacent to the various goldfields. Grant recorded that during the period May 1865 to December 1866, over 4000 men supporting a population of 14,570 had occupied 890,000 acres, and this land had been improved to the extent of £629,975.

In an appendix to his report, Grant set out the impact of section 42 on a regional basis. In the Amherst district 276 farms had been inspected (total of 10,300 acres). On these holdings 89 licences were resident and they supported a total population of 437. The local Crown Lands Bailiff wrote that improvements were all of a 'valuable and satisfactory character', and family settlement was general. Of the 10,300 acres, 530 were ploughed and the resulting crops were 'all that

could be desired'. In January 1866 a considerable quantity of land had been ploughed for fallow, which the bailiff believed would be cropped during the coming season.

In the districts of Clunes, Dean, Spring Hill, Ascot, Glendaruel, Tourello and Creswick, 307 sites under the 42 section had been inspected, with 107 resident licencees and a total population of 345. In these parishes the bailiff reported that crops of wheat and oats had been gathered from many allotments, and on many others potatoes were grown. The non-resident licencees, he noted, nearly all resided in the neighbourhood of their holdings, and improvements were of an 'unusually valuable character'.

In February 1866 cheered by this success, the maximum area open to licence was increased from 20 to 80 acres. In August of the following year the operation of the section was extended to a distance of 30 miles from a goldfield, and the area available for licence was doubled to 160 acres. By the end of the 1860s, Grant claimed that the section had settled 13,000 applicants on 786,000 acres. The first extant rate book of the Shire of Talbot reveals that this colony-wide success was mirrored locally.

Large holdings

Under the pre-1860 regulations sale by auction had permitted a handful of land holders to tie up a substantial proportion of the pastoral and agricultural land in the shire. By February 1870 the most extensive local property was a 6018 acre freehold estate in the parish of Glengower, held in partnership by Robert Bland, Lewis Grant, Malcolm Morrison, William McDonald and Alexander McFarlane. In the parish of Rodborough, land was also concentrated, and here Edward Bucknall (of Rodborough Vale) owned 3,073 acres and Duncan Sinclair a further 4,800 acres. These men made little effort to cultivate and all their land was rated as being pastoral in February 1870. In the parish of Beckworth Robert and James Nichol had engrossed 2,500 acres, while in Bung Bong, John Quarterman held 2,700 acres of crown land and 300 acres of freehold pastoral land. In the parish of Lilicur the largest land holding was 1,500 acres of pastoral land held by George H. Chomley.

In February 1870 these half dozen landholders had been able to acquire some forty percent of the pastoral and agricultural land in the Shire. They had not, however, been able to lock out the small land holder, and the 42nd section had permitted 470 men and women to occupy land that had formerly been excluded for farming as it was considered auriferous. The most intense concentration of selectors was in the parish of Eglinton, where 108 residents were rated on lands of greater than one acre. Outside the township of Clunes, a further 82 were on the land, and in Amherst there was a further 48 farmers. In the parish of Beckworth 46 farmers were rated in 1870, while in both Smeaton and Tourello there were about 30 farmers. However, these last two parishes extended into the Shire of Creswick where they supported a large number of land holders.

Small farms

As they were selected under the 42nd section, the farms in the Shire of Talbot were typically very small. In February 1870 over half the farms were less than 40 acres in extent. About one fifth of landholders had managed to extend their holdings to 80 or more acres, but only a handful (4%) held 200 acres or more.

Soon after taking up their holdings, these small holders were faced with a considerable amount of labour. The first task was to clear the land. In the early 1860s the Creswick and Clunes Advertiser frequently described the wholesale clearing of native timber and deplored the simple destruction of this resource by fire. Nonetheless, not all native timber was destroyed, and in the early years of selection a good deal of was used to build residences, barns, dairies and other farm buildings. Native timber was also essential for building the post and rail fences that enclosed most properties.

Within the first years of settlement the area under cultivation rose dramatically. By 1867, 18,051 acres were cultivated in the parishes of Amherst, Beckworth, Bung Bong, Clunes, Eglinton, Lilicur, Rodborough and Tourello. This was a sevenfold increase over 1860. In 1870 Robert Hancock cultivated 180 of his 240 acres in the parish of Smeaton. However, as would be expected from the size of farms, most selectors cropped much less than this. More typical was Robert Elder of Clunes, who cultivated only 20 of his 75 acres, or George Leitch who cropped two acres on his 20 acre block. In 1870 the average area cultivated was only 22 acres, and almost one third of cultivators cropped less than 10 acres. Although these were small areas, almost all small landholders cropped a part of their holdings. In the 1871-72 season the Shire of Talbot produced 131,000 bushels of wheat and 94,000 bushels of wheat, and the township of Amherst supported two flour mills. In the neighbouring Shire of Creswick there were a further two mills.

Occasionally the aims of settling the landless under section 42 went astray, and established landholders used dummies, or agents, to select on their behalf. In October 1869 John Clancy applied for the holding formerly held by Henry Morley, in the parish of Tourello. Clancy claimed that Morley, during his occupancy had not bothered to improve the land: his block had been fenced together with four other blocks and used by a large land holder. He argued in a letter to the Minister for Lands:

I have four sons and neither of us have got a foot of the land in the colony. If you grant me that piece of the late Henry Morley I will reside on and cultivate it as soon as possible. It is very hard to see others monolelize [sic for monopolise] thousands of acres of land and the poor man without any.

However, such cases were atypical, and application forms for section 42 blocks clearly record that in the Shire of Talbot



Local basalt was often used in farm buildings and gives such structures a distinctive appearance. This characteristic is shared with other volcanic areas such as the Western District.

licencees came from the groups Grant identified in his annual report of January 1867. Typical of the landless workingmen who took up section 42 blocks were John Beacher, a miner of Clunes who selected 80 acres in July 1866 and Robert Barry, a labourer from Middle Swamp, who selected 35 acres in July 1867. Edward Carter, a tenant farmer, of Mount Beckworth used the 42nd section to obtain a small block of his own. Widows and single women were also allowed to take up licences. For example, Mary Moss, a widow with eight dependent children, took up 19 acres at Talbot in June 1867 which she used to carry on a dairy business.

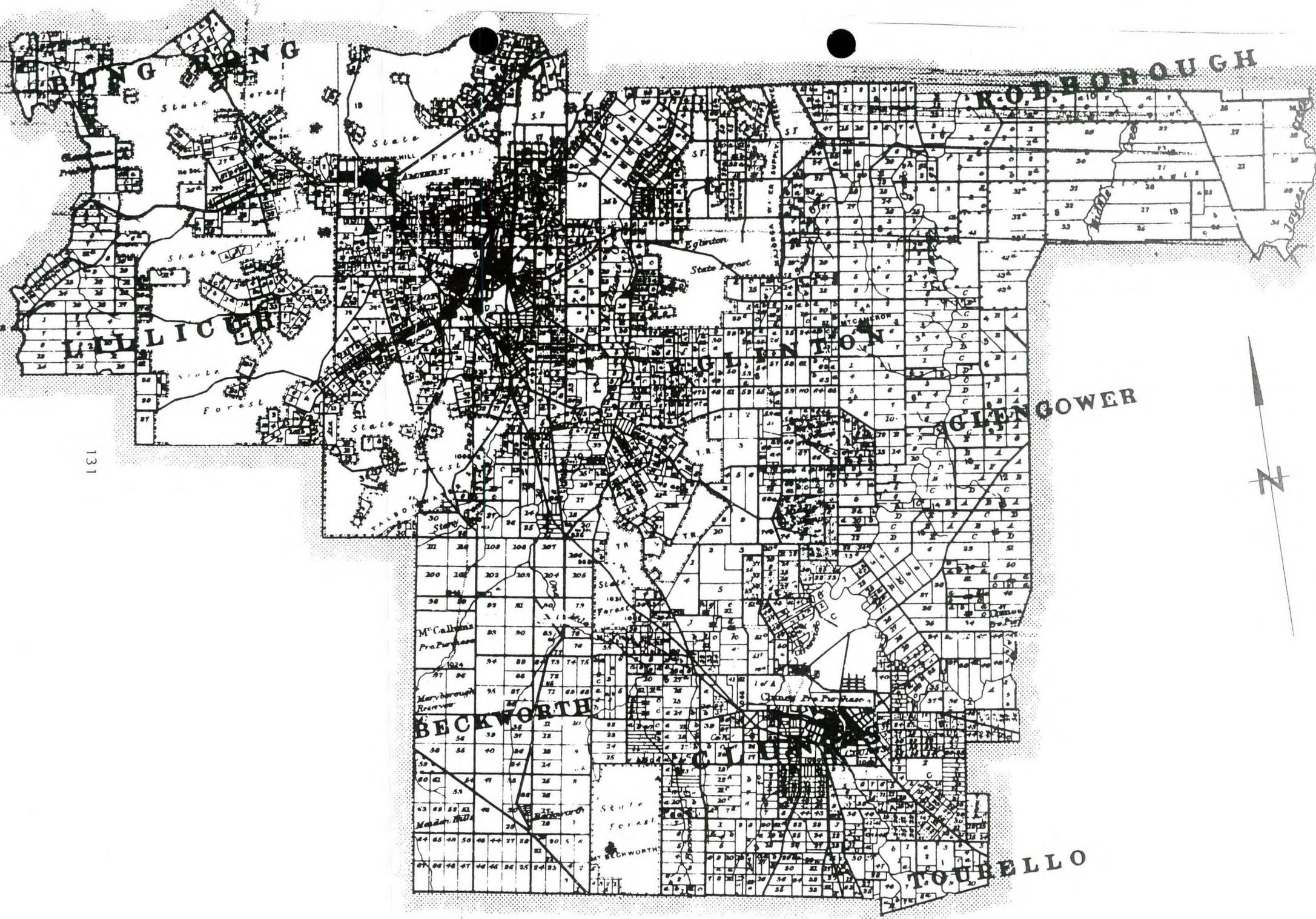
In 1869 James Grant introduced his famous second land act, which for the first time threw the whole colony open to selection before survey. This act also adopted many of the regulations successfully trialled under the 1865 42nd section. For example, all land was to be initially held under licence and all selectors had to appear before a local land board before they were allowed to occupy the land. Although this act opened up little land in the Shire of Talbot, it had a dramatic impact. Firstly, under section 31 of the 1869 Land Act, licencees who resided on their selections, improved the land and paid their annual rents were enabled to alienate their blocks. By this clause the majority of the local holdings passed from the Crown to freeholders. Thus John Beacher, who had paid annual rents of £11 10s for his 80 acre block at Clunes since 1867, was able to obtain freehold possession by the payment of a further £5 12s for survey fees.

More importantly the 1869 Land Act opened up the Wimmera and the northern plains to selectors and shifted the wheat belt from southern Victoria and the Central Highlands to the north. In the wetter or more elevated shires (such as Talbot) wheat growers in the late 1860s frequently saw their crops attacked by diseases such as rust. As the northern wheat belt opened so southern selectors abandoned wheat farming. In 1871 470 local farmers cultivated 18,000 acres of wheat and 9,149 acres of oats; by 1892 the number of cultivated holdings had declined to only 184. On these farms a mere 181 acres were laid down in wheat and 526 in oats. Most of the cultivated land was sown with grasses and cut for hay. One of the results of this change in land use was the closure of two local flour mills.

In the two decades after the introduction of the 1869 Land Act, there was a substantial turnover of holdings in the Shire of Talbot. Of the ratepayers listed in 1870, less than half were still in the shire in 1891. Many of those who left sold out to take advantage of the 1869 Land Act and select larger holdings further north. In 1874 Robert Barry, for example, transferred his licence (over 35 acres at Eglinton) explaining to the officials of the Lands Department that he had selected in the Wimmera County of Kara Kara. The improvements on his Talbot selection were valued at £210, which provided him with the capital to clear and improve his new selection.

Although the turnover of landholders was high between 1870 and 1891, the movement did not immediately result in the amalgamation of small farms. In 1891 the number of farms listed in the Shire of Talbot ratebook had not declined since 1870, and the pattern of combining farming with other occupations such as mining or carting continued. This pattern of part-time farming continued while there were opportunities for small block holders to either supply local mining communities, or work at mining themselves. As gold mining declined in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century the position of small block holders deteriorated. In 1870 half the Shire of Talbot farmers held less than 50 acres; by 1912 the proportion had dropped to about one quarter. On the other hand the proportion of farmers holding farms in excess of 150 acres rose from six to forty percent. The age of the part-time farmer was therefore drawing to a close and the current land usage pattern was established.

Current map of the Shire of Talbot and Clunes showing cadastral boundaries which reflect extensive land selection during the 1860s and 70s
[Central Plan Office]



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Hobby farms

By way of postscript, the subdivision of large pastoral holdings for hobby farms in the Shire of Talbot and Clunes has recently refocused attention onto the hinterlands surrounding Clunes (and to a lesser extent, Talbot). In December 1978 a planning application was lodged for the hobby farm development known as Scale Park. The council refused this application yet the Planning Appeals Board directed the council to issue 55 permits to construct dwellings. No conditions were imposed and in fact some of the permits were for 'land locked' allotments. Although roads were partly constructed the proposed water supply was not installed.

Other developments of this period included the Birdfarm Estate (parish of Eglinton - approximately 111 lots), Beckworth Court Estate (approximately 12 lots), Edloso Estate (McLennans Road - approximately 14 lots) and an area north of Wanlace Road (parish of Craigie - approximately 20 lots). Two similar developments but with sealed roads, electricity and reticulated water, were the adjoining estates of Fairview Park Estate and Blackmore Park Estate (total of 230 lots) north of Clunes.

After much debate an Interim Development Order was gazetted in October 1984 to regulate future hobby farm developments (amongst other items). However the boom in the late 1970s saw the number of houses constructed in the shire reach levels not seen since the nineteenth century and a steady demand continues.

Notes on sources

The best book on land settlement is J.M. Powell, The Public Lands of Australia Felix, Melbourne, 1970. The settlement of the Shire of Talbot and Clunes can be followed by examining section 42 files at the Public Record Office or through the Shire of Talbot ratebooks. The Victorian Statistical Register and its predecessor, the Agricultural Statistics, give the area cropped and these are published in Victorian parliamentary Papers.

CHAPTER TWELVE

DECLINE AND END OF MINING

The Creswick - Maryborough railway, constructed in the early 1870s, arrived too late to greatly benefit Talbot or Clunes. Ten or even five years earlier the arrival of the first train would have attracted a large crowd, a ball or at least a souvenir programme of the days events. Yet the platform at Clunes was almost empty on that auspicious day. Although the railway was of use to local farmers, the anticlimax was symbolic. Mining at Clunes and Talbot had peaked and yields were decreasing.

At Talbot little sustained mining activity had taken place since the 1870s and despite the optimism shown by the Talbot Leader, the southerly mines on the Mount Greenock Lead were never rich. In fact, geological surveyor Reginald A.F. Murray pointed to the success of the Union Company where deep alluvial finds were supplemented by obtaining half an ounce of gold per ton of ore in quartz reefs struck in the bed rock. Murray cited the application of Ballarat experience for the relative lack of success with the deep leads of Mount Greenock.

Those accustomed to find the best of the gold concentrated in the deeper portions of the Ballarat gutters were discouraged on finding the deep ground of the Mount Greenock Lead to be poor, and giving up hope, they did not properly test the reef-washes on the slopes above the gutter level.

The famous Madame Berry deep leads at Creswick were also generally developed after the spate of deep leads mines at Dunach were active in the late 1870s. Thus any chance of shared knowledge was unavailable or too late to economise local deep lead workings.

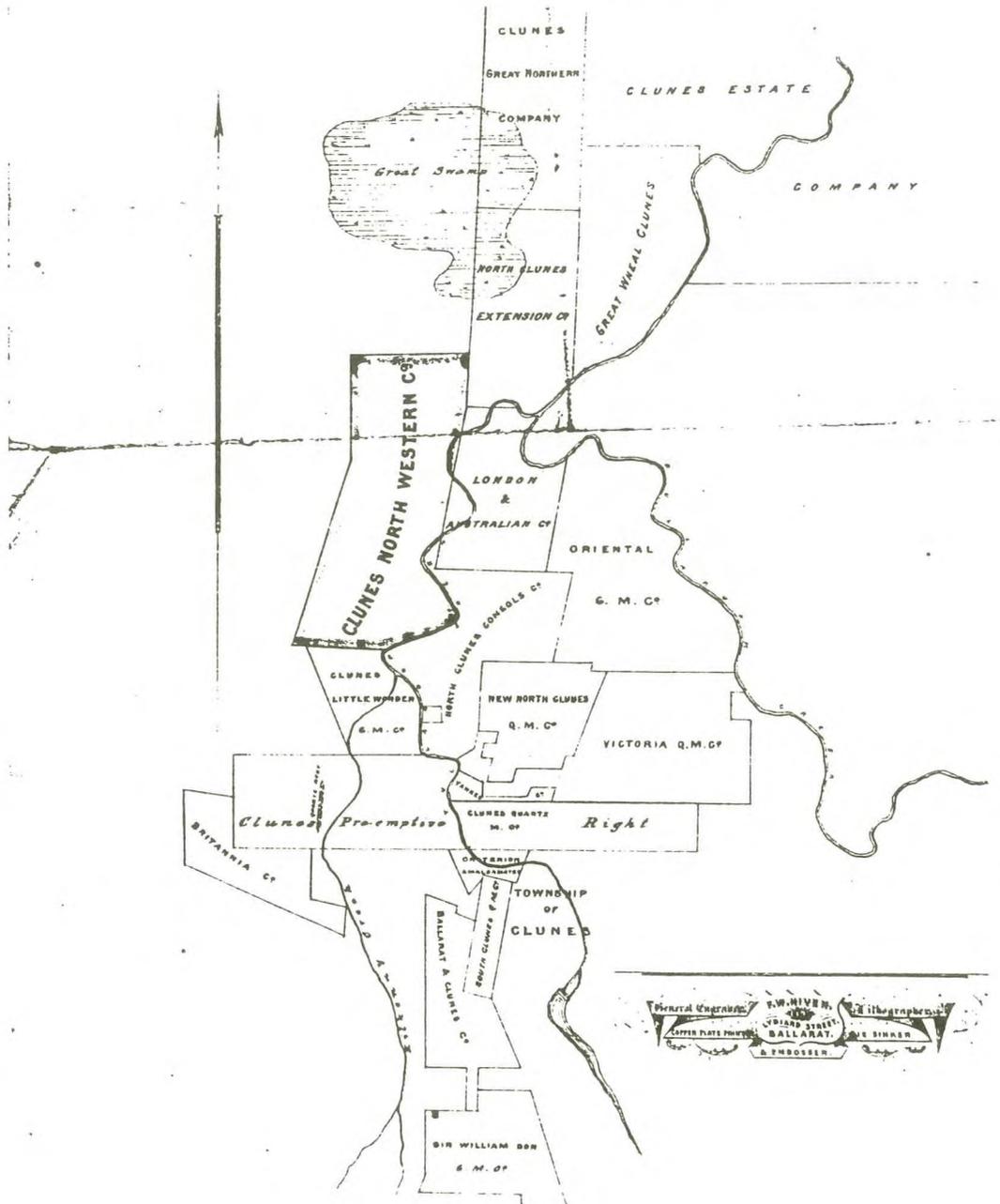
By the 1870s and 80s the day of the small scale mining operation was almost over. Apart from the odd fossicker working tailings along the creek and some minor alluvial workings on reef drifts, very few small parties remained.

The Perseverance Company, true to its name, was significant as the longest surviving small co-operative company in Clunes. The company had been operating on a small scale since at least 1859 and its lease, to the east of the Clunes United Company, had supported a small party who operated the shaft with a whim and 12 head battery. Without an engine, sinking could not proceed beyond the 240 foot level and the co-operative party sold out to the Central Clunes Company, a Melbourne syndicate who erected the necessary machinery for deeper sinking. A portion of the Central Clunes Company lease was obtained but despite new poppet heads, engine house and machinery, tenders were soon called to work the mine on tribute and all work ceased about 1890. The mine yielded approximately 140 kg of gold.

**PLAN OF THE
CLUNES NORTH WESTERN Q.M.C.^o
& Adjacent Claims
CLUNES**

Scale of 40 Chains to an Inch

JAMES STEPHENSON
District Mining Surveyor



Despite the late arrival of the railway to Clunes, it did give some minor impetus to the development of Service Street, especially the southern end. This is best exemplified by the Railway Hotel, which was erected to cater for railway construction workers, and, after 1875, also rail passengers. Such development was reinforced by the extensive works of the South Clunes Company, whose battery was located on the creek at the end of William Street, and serviced by an extensive network of tramways. The works of Bute and Downes and the Lothair Company were located in South Clunes. In April 1885 the South Clunes Company was amalgamated with the New Lothair Company to form the South Clunes United Company, No Liability.

The 'Chinese riot'

It was a strike at the Lothair and South Clunes mines which caused the most lawless strife since the heady days of the 'insiders' and 'outsiders' of the mid 1850s. A Clunes Miners Association had been formed in September 1873. At that first meeting on 23 September 300 miners joined while the number had swelled to 650 by mid November. The strikes were over hours and wages and proved a decisive period for the miners association. The biggest victory was the prevention of Chinese labour to reopen the mines. On 8 December 1873 Chinese aboard coaches from Creswick and Ballarat were reported heading for Clunes. Expecting an entry on the Creswick Road, massive parties of local miners and residents gathered to repel the coaches. However, the coaches had unexpectedly taken the back road to Ascot and thus came up the Tourello Road. The ruse almost caught the welcoming party unaware but a scramble across town saw the coaches met on the morning of 9 December by almost 1000 angry Clunes faces. The angry group milled south of the new railway station site and a barrage of insults and missiles greeted the Chinese. Withing a short time the coaches turned and retreated. Local feeling was strongly behind the action but many in the rest of the colony were shocked by the lawless action. 'The successful attempt to resist the law, and to prohibit by force of arms the exercise on the part of the employers of their unquestionable right to get labour where they pleased' offended the Australasian Sketcher which felt that a dangerous precedent had been set.

Yet militancy quietened at Clunes, perhaps as miners sensed the gradual decline in mining that had within the previous few years began to affect the town. By 1877 (the last entry in the Clunes Miners Association members ledger) only 51 members were fully paid up and the dire consequences predicted by some observers of the Chinese riot were not fulfilled until later years, in distant towns, and often within industries unconnected with mining.

The Port Phillip Company continued its successful operations until the 1890s, although the yield of gold dropped below the 10,000 oz per year mark in 1880-81, and production never regained former magnitude. Significantly less quartz was crushed after 1885-86 and a loss was incurred by the company from 1880-81

onwards. The company expanded its area significantly in the 1880s by amalgamation of leases belonging to smaller companies unable to continue profitable operation. The Criterion Amalgamated Company, itself the result of a merger of the Criterion and Clunes United Companies in the 1860s, was taken over by the Port Phillip Mining Company by 1888 and renamed Port Phillip Criterion. The Criterion mine was the sixth highest yielding mine in Clunes and the combined ground (Criterion, United and Central) was the fourth most productive area on the Clunes goldfield.

In 1884 the New Yankee Company reached agreement with the Port Phillip Company to use that latter company's drives to obtain gold near the boundary of the claim although this was soon abandoned and the company was amalgamated with the Port Phillip Company. The Yankee Quartz Mining Company had been significant as the seventh richest mine in Clunes and one of a small number of successful sustained gold mines upon which the economy of Clunes was based in the second half of the nineteenth century.

On 1 September 1889 the company changed name to the Port Phillip Gold Company Limited. In total, the Port Phillip Company had produced 16,013 kg of gold, making it the third most productive reef mine and fourth most productive gold mine in Victoria.

Mining histories

Following the period of successful mining operations, histories based on direct experience were able to be published. The Port Phillip Mine had the distinction of being commemorated at the start and end of its operations. The Nordstrom model of 1858 had presaged a great mine and R.H. Bland's History of the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Co. in connection with the Clunes Mine, provided a fitting conclusion; the mine closed in 1893 and Bland died a year later. Published in two editions (1888 and 1890) by F.W. Niven of Ballarat, the 24 page pamphlet provided a relatively thorough account of the history of the mine, although such a contemporary account lacked any substantial reference to the place of the Port Phillip Mine in relation to reef mining, company mining and to Victoria's mining history in general. Bland's work incidently ranked as one of the very early company histories, a discipline not fully developed until after the Second World War. It also coincided with a number of pioneering nineteenth century Victorian provincial histories such as Withers' History of Ballarat (1870, 2nd edition 1887), Osborne's, Warrnambool (1887), Mackay's, Bendigo (1891) Earle's, Port Fairy (1896) and Franks' Geelong Past and Present (1891).

The New North Clunes Mine had achieved favorable yields until the mid 1860s and the North Clunes area rose in importance as a residential area during this period. Despite the shaky start in the 1850s the mine had been a spectacular success. In total, the New North Clunes mine yielded over 7800 kg of gold which placed the mine as the second highest yielding mine in Clunes and 20th richest quartz mine in Victoria. The company paid £750,000 in

dividends which ranked the company as the most successful mine in Clunes in terms of dividends.

The end of mining at Clunes

In 1888 however, the New North Clunes Company suspended work with all capital exhausted. During the first half of 1889 a new syndicate took up the lease, with slightly altered boundaries to take in part of the former Victoria Company's lease. This company was known as Dixon's New North Clunes. The end of the mine and indeed the virtual end of mining in Clunes came in 1892. A decade later journalist A.J. Giddings described the events leading to this situation:

The New North Clunes Company, having followed one of its rich shoots of gold at a deep level for a considerable distance to within a few feet of the boundary, ceased pumping operations while it turned its attention to ground in higher parts, which were kept clear of water by the pumps of the Clunes Quartz Mining Co. This latter company promptly resented the action of its neighbour, and although it had reached a most interesting and promising stage in its career - one shaft being the deepest on the line - decided, rather than go on for its own benefit, that - as officially stated - 'It would not continue to contribute towards the cost of pumping water from other people's properties'. This decision ultimately caused the flooding of the mines to the south, and matters were rapidly becoming ripe for a general discontinuance of work.

To overcome these problems and ensure economical working of the mines, an amalgamation of all mines was proposed. In 1894 Thomas Cornish, Chairman of the Port Phillip Company, secured consent from adjacent mines to form such a company to work the entire Clunes goldfield. However, efforts to raise the necessary £20,000 on the London market failed and the mines gradually filled with water.

Giddings was far from pleased at the cessation of work, especially when the required pumping equipment was easily available and examples were at that time working on some of the larger deep lead mines in the vicinity.

Some of the companies, which, under the singular connected nature of their workings, should have worked hand in hand for mutual self preservation, seemed to have been blinded to their own interests by selfishness and not to realise to the full extent the serious nature of the situation.

Reworking of the mines

Reworking of the mines at Clunes occurred sporadically during the 1890s generally carried on in a desultory fashion by tribute parties. Tailings in heaps and even along the creek were treated

with cyanide. The wealthy lawyer and pastoralist Agar Wynne amassed a small fortune by sponsoring such works at Clunes.

At Amherst cyanide was also used for treating abandoned tailings. The quartz reef mines here were often distant from creeks and therefore tailings had not been washed away as in Clunes. Amherst and Talbot District - Their Mineral Resources and Development was written by G.D. Reid and published in 1902. Reid was a metallurgical chemist and engineer for the Bresis Cyanide Works at Amherst and Opossum Gully Cyanide Works. Both these works exemplified the resurgence of mining the author sought. Yet the treatment of tailings was unable to sustain any major or lasting development and Reid's plea went largely unheeded.

Just as the first phase of histories seeking publicity for the local goldfields coincided with the early exploitation of reef mining so the second phase coincided with the cessation of mining around the turn of the century and especially the desire by government to reopen the mines at Clunes. Reid's publication about cyaniding at Amherst was joined in the same year by The Clunes Mines. This booklet was written by local newspaper proprietor and editor A.J. Giddings and published by the Clunes Borough Council. It was distributed 'with a view of bringing under notice of mining investors and capitalists generally the great undeveloped resources of the Clunes Quartz Goldfield'. Whilst much of the work was devoted to 'Future Prospects' and 'Stoppage of Work: The Causes', much historical information was given regarding individual mines and the history of Clunes as a town was accorded quite detailed examination.

Apart from the bold but unsuccessful rhetoric of such local publications, the Department of Mines produced a similar document, although the pleading stance was replaced by a more detached, yet equally sincere tone. Geologist William Bradford visited Clunes in 1902 and his report was published the following year as Bulletin No. 6 of the Geological Survey of Victoria. The combined effect of all these publications was slight and it was not until the early 1930s that serious new work was undertaken.

Notes on sources

The railway is fully described in the Australian Railway Historical Bulletin, 448, February 1975, p.49. R.A.F. Murray's quotation comes from his Geological Survey: Clunes and adjacent goldfields, 1883. Details references for individual mines are included with the citations in Section 2.2 of this volume.

CHAPTER 13

PERCEPTIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Although this history has thus far concentrated on the manner in which the geological and topographical environment has shaped the Shire's history, many other aspects influenced the local way of life. Perceptions of the environment through photographs and illustrations are also important because they reveal to our modern eyes what locals considered were significant aspects in their environment.

Private gardens

The earliest gardens in the shire were probably those attached to the squatting huts or homesteads on squatters pastoral runs. The earliest huts on such runs were of necessity erected near the best available supply of fresh water. Initial plantings may have included fruit trees (such as mulberry, fig, almond, apple and loquat) and other economic or culinary plants (such as parsley, rosemary, sage, mint and even the bay laurel tree). It is likely that following consolidation of the pastoral run, and perhaps coinciding with the transition from early slab hut to a more sophisticated residence, that a flower or pleasure garden may have been formed.

As many immigrants from the United Kingdom were leaving home, a garden revolution was sweeping areas of England and Scotland. The English landscape style of gardening with its sweeping lawns, picturesque clumps of trees and eye-catching vistas was giving way to a more precise, plant-based style; the gardenesque. Fussy geometric beds made a reappearance after languishing for a century or more, emphasis was placed on individual specimen trees and in the wake of the great botanical travellers of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, exotic plants were collected with fervour, especially by gentlemen with scientific leanings. This garden revolution was significant for it enabled the small holder to enjoy in his tiny allotment, a microcosm of the larger gardens without the need for a massive estate to gain the necessary vistas or landscape effects.

The gradual introduction of the 'gardenesque' style coincided neatly with the discovery of gold in Australia. Following early discoveries in the mid-1850s, the rise of more permanent dwellings than mere canvas or calico presented the opportunity for gardening.

In 1861, after only three years residence, Talbot storekeeper Robert Whittle had a small cottage with 'a very nice garden filled with choice plants in front of it, of which I used to be very proud, and I used to find great pleasure in cultivation and tending this, whenever I could find any spare time to do so'.

Seeds and plants

As early as 1861, Wilkinson's Dispensary in Talbot acted as agent for John Smith's 'Victorian Seed Store' in Ballarat and Wilkinson advertised 'Agricultural Seeds, Fruit Trees, Shrubs, Cuttings and every requisite for Gardening and Agricultural purposes'. Two years later Wilkinson advertised continuous receipt of 'Fresh seeds from the celebrated firm of Smith and Adamson', Melbourne nurserymen and forerunners of the present Brunnings horticultural business. Wilkinson was a keen natural historian and exhibited fossils at the 1862 exhibition. Catalogues of nurserymen and seedsmen were often reviewed in the pages of the local press and the wide variety of species generally attracted favourable attention.

The wide variety of imported seeds and plants combined with several local materials to give the typical goldfields garden a distinctive character. The rocky plains around Talbot and Clunes, and the local availability of quartz (both crushed and as rocks) made formation of paths and garden beds a relatively simple task. Contrary to accepted views, indigenous Australian trees were commonly used in early local gardens. Quick growing wattles and eucalypts gave shade and protection for more tender plants and could easily be removed as more expensive exotics gained maturity. Many native plants were enjoyed for their subtle flowers and species such as pittosporum undulatum, Acacia armata and Myoporum insulare ('Boobyalla') formed dense hedges. However exotic species such as hawthorn, gorze, boxthorn, briar rose and box were more widely used for hedges and have often become noxious weeds. Later, the native Bunya Bunya pine (Araucaria bidwillii), Moreton Bay Fig (Ficus macrophylla) and Queensland kauri (Agathis robusta) were used alongside favoured exotic imports for specimen trees. The native plants were also more suited to the harsher climate, with its irregular water supply and high summer temperatures.

Pleasure gardens

Pleasure however, was a major theme in local gardens, especially those attached to hotels, nurseries and orchards. In the early 1860s the Greenock Park Hotel at McCallum's Creek [Red Lion] boasted of 'pleasure gardens unsurpassed in Victoria' and 'Attwood's Pleasure Gardens' which consisted of vine, tree, nursery, fruit and flower gardens provided a complete contrast from the diggings. The gardens were situated on the Deep Creek near the cattle pound at Carisbrook and the 1s admission entitled each person to either refreshment, fruit or flowers. Later examples included Cox's garden in Amherst Road and Tarrant's Rosedale Orchard at Clunes. Features of such pleasure gardens generally included shaded walks, floral displays, ornamental garden buildings and structures with perhaps even a lake such as that at the Belmont homestead near Beaufort where Japanese bridges lent an oriental theme.

The popularity of gardening on the goldfields was demonstrated by formation of a horticultural society in Clunes by 1881. J.B. Edwards, formerly a watchmaker at Talbot, played a leading role along with Messrs. W. Appleby, E. Eberhard, J.L. Collier and Bolton. In 1882 the society conducted a competition for the 'Best Kept Cottage Garden' with premiums of £3 3s and £2 2s.

Such popularity reflected many factors. Nostalgia for English plants provided a strong impetus and often use of indigenous plants was merely the framework for an English influenced garden. More likely however, was the desire to impose some order, however small, on the unwieldy and sometimes oppressive landscape. Cultivation pushed back the boundaries and gave the gardener a feeling of influence as well as creativity and pleasure. Gardening was the great (and often unrecognised) civilising pastime on the goldfields.

Photographers and photographs

The complex influences and perceptions demonstrated in local gardens were also expressed in the work of the many photographers who captured views of the new mining townships. Photographer's working locally fell into four main groups. The first comprised professionals with studios in Melbourne or larger towns such as Ballarat who made occasional forays into the district, generally on commission. The second group, strongly represented in surviving photographs, were local professional photographers and account for most surviving local photographs. The numerous amateur photographers formed a distinct third group. Whether hobbyists or semi-professional they formed an important adjunct to the second category of local professionals and often combined their photography with another calling such as pharmacy. The last, a shadowy group, were itinerant photographers often pausing in the district for only a few weeks or even days.

Of the first category, the views of Daintree and Nettleton remain outstanding for their technical excellence and value as pictorial records of Clunes. Richard Daintree (1832-1878) was a geologist and served with the Geological Survey of Victoria until 1856 when he returned to England to study assaying and metalurgy. When he rejoined the Geological Society in January 1859 he pioneered the use of photography in geological field work. His four known views of Clunes, are models of clarity and scientific precision; two views look north from Camp Hill to the Port Phillip and Clunes Companies works to form a panorama and two look south to the first vantage point. In this way objects in the foreground of one pair became views in the distance of the other pair and vice versa. Looking to Camp Hill, the new court house and police quarters could be seen on the horizon indicating a date of c.1859. The view was carefully composed with the horizon at eyelevel heightening the perception of Clunes as a valley of industry. The panoramic view to the north also emphasised the powerful mining scene; the scarred landscape being an object of pride to the geologist's lens.

Charles Nettleton (1826-1902) was a prominent Melbourne photographer who specialised in views, often sold in albums. His major work comprised a series of eighteen photographs of Clunes taken in 1865-66 which formed part of the Clunes Borough Council exhibit at the Intercolonial Exhibition of Australia, held in Melbourne during 1866-1867. Like Daintree, Nettleton included many panoramic views, although when framed for the exhibition the photographs appeared as individual specimens mounted in two giant frames. The views were certainly taken with an eye for the enormous municipal and technical progress achieved in the previous two decades and depicted both mining and township scenes.

The idea of inviting local government to contribute photographs to the Intercolonial Exhibition appears to have been the brainchild of architect John George Knight, Secretary to the Exhibition Commissioners and views were requested in March 1866. Whether the Nettleton views of Clunes were a speculative venture on his part in 1865 or actually commenced by the council in 1866 is unclear; the special Clunes Exhibition Committee expended £22 14s on the exhibit and the Nettleton photograph no doubt accounted for the bulk of this sum.

The exhibition, held in a temporary annexe at the rear of the Melbourne Public Library, featured exhibits from all the Australian colonies and, apart from the Nettleton photographs, the contribution from Clunes Borough Council included a printed panel of municipal statistics, the borough banner and samples of quartz from local gold mines. Nettleton regarded the views highly enough to write to the council complaining about their mode of display in the exhibition and following correspondence with Knight the matter was rectified to assuage local pride. Following the Intercolonial Exhibition the views returned to Clunes and for many years they hung in their two large exhibition frames at the rear of the Clunes Town Hall. The panel of statistics, now on display in the Clunes museum, still retains the original exhibition frame.

The technical excellence shown by Daintree and Nettleton was due mainly to the use of large glass negatives and the wet collodion process; a cumbersome process whereby the plate was coated with emulsion immediately prior to exposure and developed immediately. Contact prints were taken and the clarity was awesome. Other major photographers leaving views of Talbot and Clunes include Solomon and Baldwin of Ballarat and James Lind of Melbourne.

The second category of photographers, the local professionals, left a lasting record of people, events, buildings and views. The most prolific were J.R. Tanner, John Bawden and H. Moser, all of Clunes. Of the Talbot photographers, easily the most celebrated was Nicholas Caire, who had a studio in Scandinavian Crescent during 1870-72. This was an early phase in Caire's distinguished career although few of his local photographs survive and his fame was yet to come. Other Talbot photographers included W. Hardegan and W.E. James (whose 'photographic rooms' in Scandinavian Crescent were first rated in 1860).

Local amateur photographers were less active in the nineteenth than the twentieth century. Until the advent of roll film in the 1890s photography was an expensive business with its mysteries being mastered by only a few. Amateurs who showed distinct aptitude, were often the local pharmacist or watchmaker and thus filled a semi-professional role. Of the twentieth century amateurs, the views of most lasting value were those by the energetic Weickhardt family of Clunes. Their views, often of family business activities, provided a personal glimpse largely forgotten since the carte de visit photograph of the 1860s and 70s which commonly depicted business men outside their premises and families outside their homes.

The fourth group, itinerant photographers, have left almost no surviving photographs, although contemporary newspapers flesh out the story. Professor Golightly (electrician and photographer) was one of the first such artists to visit Clunes. Conducting business in August 1859 from the Kingston Hotel at Kingston, the Professor advertised his intentions to photograph 'likenesses and views, portraits, family groups, views of buildings, machinery, etc'. His main purpose, however, was to lecture on galvanism and he advertised galvanised batteries ('made to order') for blasting. Lucky residents of Amherst and Mosquito Flat were visited by Messrs Plymouthz and Co. in 1862. 'Correct likeness or no change' was their boast although their stay at the White Horse Hotel in Amherst proved to be short as this travelling show was soon advertising in the New South Wales gold towns of Adelong and Tumberumba. Others with grand names followed but vanished just as quickly. Where are the lasting views by the Victoria Portrait and View Gallery (Talbot, 1880) or Free and Son, portrait and landscape photographs (Clunes, 1882)?

In Clunes, Camp Hill was a popular spot for photographers and many panoramic views were taken from the edge of the escarpment. These included distinguished photographers such as Richard Daintree (c.1859) and Charles Nettleton (1865-66) as well as many local operators. Using Camp Hill as his vantage point in 1862 the Dicker's Mining Record correspondent observed the mining operations of Criterion, Clunes United, Port Phillip, Yankee and Victoria companies with satisfaction:

they form by far the liveliest and most encouraging mining scene that can be witnessed in the whole colony - more especially enhanced as that scene is by the sound of the busy hum of the mills that are for ever at work, and the significant and labored shouts of the winding engines, so suggestive of the fitful occupation they are engaged in.

Talbot and Amherst both lacked any obvious vantage points for panoramic work and in those towns, photographs of the 1860s and 70s were invariably of individual buildings, often with proud owners posed at the door. A large suite of photographs, by an unknown hand, showing the hotels, shops and residences of Talbot in 1875 is outstanding.

By the 1880s in Clunes, Camp Hill was no longer the mandatory spot for a panorama but had been replaced by 'the Rocks'. The newly planted trees which blocked the view from Camp Hill could be captured at a distance from 'the Rocks'. Whereas earlier views had captured an awkward foreshortened view of Fraser Street and highlighted the mines of North Clunes this was now replaced by a side-on view of the rebuilt middle section of Fraser Street with its impressive banks and new commercial premises. Indeed, if the lens was pointed sufficiently far to the left, it was possible to even avoid any mines at all, but still capture those symbols of progress from the 1870s, the Free Library and enlarged Church of England.

In the 1870s and 80s photographs tended to emphasise individual buildings and although panoramas continued to be taken at Clunes, quick growing trees now clouded the views. The buildings were a product of the spectacular growth of both Talbot and Clunes in the period 1860-70. In Clunes Beauchamp took monumental shots of the Hospital (erected 1871-73) and Town Hall (1872-73) and the new straggly eucalypts of the hospital garden contrasted with the order and impressive architectural qualities of the new building.

Public gardens and landscaping

Blue gums were also used for street tree planting and long avenues were planted in Clunes. Public parks and gardens were also popular after the 1870s when a reaction against the debris of local mining (especially in Clunes) provoked action from local councils.

In the early 1870s mullock from the mines had blocked the second branch of Creswick's Creek and council grasped upon the opportunity of improving the area along the creek. Creswick's creek was used far less for mining purposes following erection of the Port Phillip Company's pumping plant on Birch's Creek (1867) and commissioning of the Clunes water supply (1869-74). The council could at last contemplate reclamation of the creek and its environs, which were by that period in a deplorable state. A grant from the government in 1872 enabled the council to excavate the creek to a depth of twelve feet and a uniform width of fifty feet. This work extended from upstream of the government bridge to a point downstream from Camp Street and was progressively augmented by the plantations of silver poplars and elms along the banks.

In 1878 a deputation was received by the Borough of Clunes when permission was sought to occupy a portion of the Creek Reserve as a bowling green. The bowling club (as yet in an embryonic form) undertook to plant the ground if the council would fence the area. In June the council adopted a proposal by its public works committee and the town clerk was instructed to prepare a lease for the ground. As the Borough was not gazetted as a Committee of Management for the entire reserve until just over ten years later the exact nature of the agreement is uncertain. However 'Fidelis' recalled the green was laid out by Arthur Batson, the town clerk, and an early photograph shows a small timber clubhouse on this site.



Queens Park was at its maturity by the turn of the century and today retains many of the early plantings and garden elements

Progress with planting and landscaping at Queens park was slow. 'The land is fenced' wrote the town clerk in 1886 'and partially planted [although] the council propose to make more improvements'. After considerable negotiations Ligar Street was reduced in width to 1 chain and, following the creation of a sludge channel along the line of the creek, an area of slightly over two acres was available for a public garden.

The fountain in Queens Park was constructed in 1887 as one of countless memorials across the colonies to commemorate the jubilee of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne in 1837 and the park was also officially opened at this time. Forty years later, a former resident recalled the erection of the fountain and the former bridge in Service Street.

How we used to worry Mr Fry (the caretaker) while the fountain was being built. We were inquisitive little children, and watched with wonder the modelling being done. I think it was at the celebration of the Queen's jubilee these were completed, as I remember walking in the procession to the park, walking hand in hand with the teacher, holding a flag in the other hand. The mayor and some of the leading councillors spoke, the older scholars sang patriotic songs, and the mayor turned on the tap of the wonderful fountain. But what interested us most was that we smaller folk each received a paper bag containing a bun, lollies and nuts.

By the turn of the century, Queens Park was reaching maturity. The trees, mainly evergreen conifers, contrasted strongly with the deciduous poplars (planted along the creek in the 1880s) and detailed planting was evident. Neatly clipped box hedges lined a serpentine path of crushed quartz and a large cordyline was planted adjacent to the fountain. At this date many of the early plantings had been thinned and augmented with other exotic plantings, especially at the north end where a 'pinetum' was cultivated. Plantings of conifers, especially the Pinus species, had been popularised by the writings of John Cladius Loudon and the 'pinetum' became a feature in many of Victoria's public and larger private gardens. This planting was also strongly influenced by Ferdinand von Mueller, the Government Botanist, who liberally distributed seeds and plants.

Queens Park was only one of a network of botanic gardens in provincial Victoria. Some, like Malmsbury, Castlemaine, Buninyong, Hamilton and Camperdown were larger and possibly closer to the ideals of a botanic garden but Queens Park formed a significant link in this network of gardens. It was not merely a municipal park catering for the recreation of residents but contained a significant emphasis on planting, the results of which are clearly evident today. It is also a significant reminder of contemporary local reaction against mining debris and representative of an early reclamation project, the genesis of many of our outstanding gardens.

Not only was Queens Park reaching maturity but private tree planting across the township was transforming Clunes into a scene unrecognisable to those who had been mining there in the 1850s or 60s. However, just as the planting was starting to camouflage the scars of mining, an exodus was taking place, leaving closed mines and often lonely families.

Life after mining

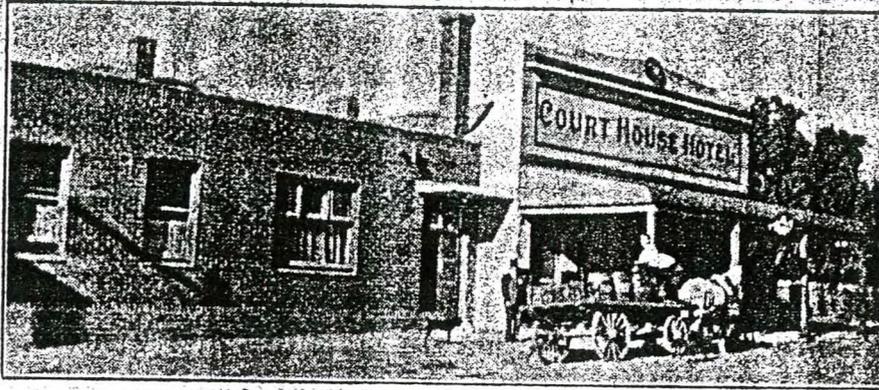
The comparatively sudden cessation of work in the mines of Clunes in the 1890s due to underground flooding sent hundreds of men and often families to seek employment elsewhere. Many came to Melbourne and a significant percentage sought work on the newly opened goldfields of Western Australia. A 'Clunes in Melbourne Club' was formed and reunions became a common feature of life in Talbot and Clunes; a tradition which still continues. Histories of this period dwelt on personal anecdotes and notable or memorable incidents. The severe decline of the town was given little emphasis and in Clunes stress was placed on the picturesque character which large scale tree planting had given the town. With a rise in 'motor touring' in the interwar period this picturesque ethos was much in vogue with tourist publicity and even Talbot hotels claimed a share of this patronage.

One of the earliest local reunions was held in November 1906 when 'old residents of Talbot and Amherst' celebrated their 'home-coming'. The phenoma of such reunions and 'back-to' celebrations was a significant manifestation of the dual blows caused by the depression of the 1890s and the coincident cessation of local mining.

COURT HOUSE HOTEL

Camp Street, TALBOT (opposite P.O.).

R. A. C. V. Registered Hotel



Recently Rebuilt. Electric Light. Hot Water Service.
Sewered. Four Lock-up Garages.

TARIFF: 10/- per Day. Holiday Tariff: 12/- per Day;
£2/2/- per Week. Holidays: £2/10/- per Week.

Phone: Talbot 3. A. M. SUTHERLAND, Licensee.

Many local hotels were advertised in motoring booklets as improved roads and more reliable cars made travel less arduous

War memorials

After the cessation of hostilities in the First World War, the idea of converting the old Talbot market reserve into a memorial park with an avenue of honour was raised. A local committee was formed and at a public meeting in May 1919, the idea was adopted.

It is expected that the cost of the planting of each tree will be about 10s 6d, and if you are desirous of donating a tree in memory of a soldier, or of joining with others in doing so, donations will be thankfully received by any of the officers. As time is limited for planting, we would be obliged by a reply for our next meeting on 4th June.

The memorial was opened shortly after and by 1923 the market reservation had been revoked and the site re-reserved as a 'public park'. Regulations prohibited (amongst other things) unauthorised musical performances, public betting, sport, lighting fires and spitting. Despite the unfulfilled local suggestion that a small kiosk or summer house might be

constructed, the Talbot soldiers memorial park mirrored countless other First War Memorial across Australia, many of which had used trees as a symbol of new life and growth.

Knitting mills

Without mining industry was at a virtual standstill in Talbot and Clunes after the turn of the century. A butter factory had been opened at Clunes in the 1890s and knitting mills at both Talbot and Clunes provided a little assistance with the lopsided economies of the former mining towns. Significantly, both mills chose to reuse nineteenth century buildings which had been products of the large local populations in the 1870s; Talbot Primitive Methodist church and the South Clunes school, both barely used since the 1890s.

New mining ventures

Mining had continued on a small scale locally with the activity of cyaniders and small prospectors. Isolated attempts at more intensive activity were pursued (such as the Loddon Deep Leads Ltd., floated in London in July 1904 who sunk a shaft to 232 feet at Clunes and expanded £20,000 without payable results). However, both Talbot and Clunes received serious attention in the 1930s with hopes of a giant mining boom.

Three companies - Talbot Alluvials Ltd., Madam Hopkins Gold Mining Company Ltd., and Homebush Gold Mining Company Ltd. - sought to rework Deep Leads in the Avoca and Talbot district in the early 1930s and obtained massive leases for this purposes. Using British finance, a site at Caralulup was developed as a prototype for the venture and equipped with the most sophisticated equipment then available. Using an existing shaft pumping at a rate of 30,000 gallons per hour was continued for seven months and this was continued using bore hole drainage, an important advance in mining technology trialled on this project. At Caralulup two puddling machines were installed, little different in principle to those of the mid 1850s but gaining in efficiency from their welded steel construction and motors, driven from below, rather than above the machine. Despite many thousands of pounds expended the results were disappointing and by the Second World War the mine had closed.

At Clunes, two companies (Clunes Limited and subsequently Clunes Goldfields (1931) Limited) held leases covering the whole of the field. The latter company had a shaft east of the main reefs (near 'The Rocks' lookout) exploring an anticline in the hope that the eastern reef would reappear close to the surface. This shaft had been commenced in 1913 by a small London company acting on a report by E.J. Dunn but reached only 200 feet when the First World War intervened. By 1935 the shaft had been rendered useless by rising water.

The plant however was incapable of sustaining dewatering to greater than 500 feet and the directors decided to suspend all suspend all sinking pending additional capital to allow 800 feet to be reached. Dunn had suggested that, like Bendigo, the reefs at Clunes may well continue well beyond the main anticline and reappear, perhaps many times on the east and west of the centre line of the original reefs. He also drew attention to the reefs outside the northern and southern extremities of earlier mining and to the quartz at depths beyond previous shafts.

The companies were apparently run on behalf of London investors, of whom L. Charles Trist was the Victorian representative and company secretary. The major sources of information to the companies was Bland's 1890 history of the Port Phillip Mine although in mid-1934 Robert J. O'Brien uncovered plans and sections of the Clunes mines at the Town Hall. Having obtained permission from a council still feeling the effects of the depression and eager to encourage new mining development O'Brien took the plans to the ground. Here he was able to compute the extent of reefs left intact above existing levels in the mines and the figures gave hope of a new mining recovery. In total (on the six reefs) an average of almost 200m depth of quartz remained along the length of the reefs with the Western Reef (over 300m depth) giving the most promise in this respect.

In a similar manner to O'Brien's discovery at the Clunes Town Hall, Dr M. Feldman chanced upon a speech delivered by Thomas Cornish to a meeting of the Port Phillip Gold Mining Company (Limited) in 1894. This speech, reprinted in the English Mining Journal, put forward the massive and ultimately unsuccessful amalgamation proposal which virtually marked the end of mining in Clunes. To Feldman, however, Cornish's comments about quantities of ore yet to be extracted and possible yields were 'of great interest'. He commissioned the London firm of John Taylor and Sons to report on the proposals of reopening Clunes goldfields for purpose of floatation on the London Market. This major commission was entrusted to Charles Heathcote, mining engineer of Melbourne, with experience in Ballarat in the 1890s and India. Heathcote visited the mines on 25 January 1935 but found all the shafts, with the exception of the Port Phillip North and South shafts, fallen in. After detailed examination he concluded that mining would only be marginally profitable and John Taylor and Sons final report estimate working capital of £144,000 would be needed for the first state with a further £136,000 to follow at a later date. These vast sums were a considerable deterrant and it is only in recent years, with advances in gold recovery processes, that such sums have again been contemplated.

Conservation

However, it is conservation of the environment rather than its exploitation which has aroused interest in Talbot and Clunes in the intervening period. With the formation of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) in 1955, the advent of heritage

conservation had tentatively arrived in Victoria. The fledgling organisation combined the efforts of scattered individuals although early debate predominantly centred around the grand buildings of the metropolis and monuments of the wealthy classes.

It has been very interesting to find the wide diverging estimates of how many buildings in Victoria might be worth preserving. Some say there is only a handful, others say there are hundreds.

So pondered the Hon. E. Lloyd Sommerlad, M.L.C. in Walkabout magazine in 1958.

The earliest contact between Clunes and the National Trust was in 1959 only a short time after the Trust's initial survey work had commenced. Of the buildings classified, three were banks, and others included the post office, a hotel, and the former free library. The remarkable intactness of Fraser Street, with its long runs of verandahed shops, little changed from the 1870s and 80s was ignored and reflecting contemporary opinions, attention focussed on the more substantial monuments of the town. Daryl Lindsay, then President of the Trust, wrote to the owner of the former bank advising of classification. The tone of the letter gives an insight into the philosophy of the Trust in their early days.

On behalf of the Council of the National Trust, I have pleasure in informing you that the former E.S. & A. Bank, Main Street, Clunes, has been selected as one of Victoria's outstanding old buildings. It has been examined from the viewpoints of historical interest and architectural merit and classified Class 'B' in the National Trust's survey of buildings in Victoria. This class is confined to a comparatively few buildings and refers to those, the preservation of which is desirable.

The Trust were not the only party interested in Clunes in the early 1960s. Shire secretary Ron Pryor and local historian Conrad Weickhardt had also been gathering historical material and around 1964 great excitement was occasioned by an agreement between the council and Australian Broadcasting Commission to produce a television documentary on 'historic' Clunes. Councillors and residents alike eagerly anticipated the positive benefits which they foresaw as a logical outcome. The warm glow was shattered when the programme was screened: Clunes was portrayed as a completely derelict, unkempt ghost town. Protests ensued and a later programme presented the town in a much more favorable light thus redressing the balance. In 1965 a similar feature appeared under the heading 'Geese, goats and girls in old Clunes' in the Age as part of their 'Ghost towns of Australia' series.

Ironically it has been the ghost town attitude which has been of great benefit to conservation in Talbot and Clunes. Apart from maintenance problems caused by years of neglect since the collapse of local mining in the 1880s and 90s, the lack of

commercial and residential pressure aided the survival of a large percentage of nineteenth century building stock during a period when 'restoration' often did more damage than good.

Interest in the town's history was aided by the publication of Clunes 1839-1972: Its history and its organisations by local historian F.C. Weickhardt. This was the first document of any real scholarship to assess the town's history and importantly it also identified many of the extant buildings as an integral part of the town's heritage. This booklet was followed by several theses and essays as well as the detailed work by James Flett on the history of gold mining in Victoria.

The focus which Weickhardt provided for documentary research was matched by interest in the physical environment as a tourist attraction. The shire and the state government's Tourist Development Authority considered the issue in 1970 and even at that date the concept of 'special interest' tourism was seen as appropriate for the locality. 'Clunes is on the up' commented the Shire President.

However, the idea of people coming to Clunes to look at buildings and derelict sites was still only partially grasped by the newly formed Clunes Tourist and Development Authority. Funds were directed at infrastructure projects such as a caravan park and scenic road although this latter project was constructed over several of the most significant mining sites in the town. Thoughts of conservation were directed towards ideas such as painting the facades of shops in the main street or recreating poppet legs. At the same time, architects John and Graham Reid were producing Clunes a townscape study of a Victorian country town. Although thin on historical background the study drew strongly on the English townscape tradition. The comments regarding tourism were particularly pointed.

The pressure of tourism is growing and brings with it the good, the bad and the ugly ... Only meagre commercial returns can be expected from through trade. Attempts to make it a fashionable art/craft centre will not only have difficulty competing with other established tourist centres, but also introduce the usual amateurish and generally rather cheap art adornments which will destroy the authenticity of the town.

With the increasing interest in conservation in the early 1980s several significant initiatives were commenced within Clunes. The first was appointment of a heritage advisor for the Shire of Talbot and Clunes. Funded by the Ministry for Planning and Environment the service provides free advice to the council and local building owners and occupants. This service was reinforced by changes to the Interim Development Order based on work of Meldrum Burrows and Partners and the Ministry for Planning to introduce controls on demolition and unsympathetic development. \$300,000 was allocated by the Australian Bicentennial Authority



The former Wesleyan Sunday School (later Scout Hall), demolished in 1986 with little comprehension of its architectural and historical significance

to the Ministry for Planning and Environment for conservation work in the towns of Talbot and Clunes and a conservation study of the shire was commissioned. This was funded sufficiently to enable a comprehensive history to be produced to underpin the framework of the shire's conservation strategy.

It is ironic that as these conservation initiatives are being undertaken several unsympathetic developments have occurred. For instance, despite the existence of adequate planning controls, the local council recently sanctioned the demolition of one of the town's most significant timber church buildings. Erected in 1875 this vast hall originally housed 900 Wesleyan Sunday school scholars during the peak of mining in Clunes. A potent reminder of the days when Clunes was the sixth largest town in the colony, a significant part of the urban fabric of the town and a key physical reminder of the success of non-conformists in Victoria's mining towns.

The Victorian Tourist Commission in its recent report Goldfields Development Program has strongly recommended a unified approach to the network of goldfields towns and sites in Victoria's central highlands. With the possibility of genuine special interest tourism in the goldfields region cases such as the Clunes Sunday School symbolise the delicate balance between parochial ambitions and centralist strategies.

2.0 INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS
AND SITES

Notes on sources

Photography

The two major works on the history of Australian photography are Cato, The story of the camera in Australia and Davies & Stanbury, The Mechanical Eye in Australia, 1985. These works have been supplemented by newspaper advertisements, information from ratebooks and biographies of Caire, Daintree and Nettleton in Australian Dictionary of Biography.

Gardens

General background to gardening in Australia is found in Tanner and Begg, Great Gardens of Australia, 1976; Tanner, Converting the Wilderness, Gardening in Colonial Australia, 1980 and Watts and Barrett, Historic Gardens in Victoria, A reconnaissance, 1983. Rosemary Polya's Nineteenth Century Plant Catalogues of South-East Australia: A Bibliography (1981) also provided useful references. Specific references to local gardens includes North West Chronicle, 19 October 1861; Talbot Leader, 22 October 1861, 10 December 1861, 27 December 1861, 17 February 1863, 1 February 1881, 5 April 1881; Clunes Guardian and Gazette, 4 March 1872, 30 August 1882. Robert Whittle's diary is at La Trobe Library (MS 11829 box 2163/7). The extensive photograph collection held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes provided a rich visual source for early gardens in the region.

Sources for Queens Park included Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands file Rs 1754, 'Fidelis', 1920, p.8. and early photographs held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes and Jane Lennon collection. For Talbot soldiers memorial park see Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, file Rs 2722, Borough of Amherst minutes, as summarised by Ron Pryor, 30 November 1866, 21 June 1868, 26 March 1873, 12 August 1874, 2 February 1881, Pamphlet held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes dated 24 May 1919.

Mining

The revival of mining is well documented in Deep Leads of Victoria, Mines Department, Victoria, 1937, pp.17, 26-29, 33 for Talbot Alluvials Ltd. This account is based on a brochure by G.B. O'Malley, lecturer in mining and metallurgy at the University of Melbourne, March 1936. For Clunes the most useful references are in the Heathcote papers and John Taylor and Sons Report on the Clunes Goldfield, State of Victoria, Australia, 30th March 1935, London, 1935.

Conservation

Conservation in the 1950s and 60s is drawn from Australian Geographical Walkabout Magazine, XXIV, 9, 1 October 1958, p.22, David Saunders (ed), Historic Buildings of Victoria, Jacaranda Press in association with the National Trust of Australia

(Victoria), Melbourne, 1966, introduction, pp.9-13; National Trust research notes, Marysborough Advertiser, 3 April 1970, John and Graham Reid, Clunes a townscape study of a Victorian country town, Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Melbourne, 1977.

2.0 INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS AND SITES

2.1 BUILDING AND SITE ANALYSES

This section has been included to deal with the most common building types found in Talbot and Clunes. Whereas buildings of more unusual types or high individual significance have been accorded individual analysis, this section should assist in drawing distinctions or points of commonality and save repetition when discussing such points as the early use of masonry construction. The following buildings, sites and materials have been analysed.

- 1 Early brick or stone buildings
- 2 Early timber buildings
- 3 Early public works
- 4 Timber residences
- 5 Brick or stone residences
- 6 Commercial buildings

The analyses have been based on extant examples although judgements such as 'common', 'general' or 'rare' may also be based on information gleaned from early photographs or other documentary sources. In general the term 'early' has been used to describe buildings erected locally in the period to c.1864. 'Local' is taken to mean the area now covered by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

Analysis has been undertaken after external survey fieldwork, photography and preparation of small sketch elevations (to a consistent scale) for almost all local buildings.

2.1.1 Early brick or stone buildings

The following is a list of the earliest extant buildings constructed of brick and stone. Masonry construction was far outweighed by timber and even as late as the 1880s the inspector from the Central Board of Health observed a ratio of over 8 timber : 1 brick or stone buildings in Clunes. Stone was rarely used locally and, when it was used, almost without exception basalt was the obvious choice in such volcanic country.

The local brickmaking industry was well in evidence by 1860 with several manufacturers advertising or being rated for their premises. In Clunes, documentary evidence suggests the local alluvial clays were used by George Dow, a prominent local brickmaker and this choice of material accounts for the rich red/orange colouration of the finished bricks. Polychrome brickwork was rarely encountered with such uniformity of local clays. Where coloured bricks were used to form patterns in later buildings (such as at the Church of England, Talbot, 1870-71) this probably indicated the hand of a more sophisticated metropolitan architect. This was certainly the case with the highly ornate brickwork of the railway stations at Clunes and Talbot erected in the mid 1870s.

Some masonry buildings were rendered although this was more common with commercial premises than residences. Of the residences where render was used, the most conspicuous was that of plasterer John Barwell at the corner of Camp Street and Bailey Street, Clunes (1864).

- 1858 Kiln remains, Port Phillip Company works, Clunes
- c.1859-60s Gas holder, Whittakers Lane, Talbot
- late 1860s Former Dow Shop, Fraser Street, Clunes
- 1860 Former Wallace residence, 68 Fraser Street, Clunes
- 1860 Ramsay Shop & residence, Ballaarat Street, Talbot
- 1860 Post Office (central section), Camp Street, Talbot
- 1860 Court House (now Free Library), Camp Street Talbot
- by 1861 Former Camp Hotel, Camp Street, corner Heales Street, Talbot
- 1861 Rear offices, Court House (now Free Library), Camp Street, Talbot
- 1861 Former Commercial Hotel, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot
- 1861 National Hotel, 35 Fraser Street, Clunes
- 1861-62 Presbyterian Church, Service Street, Clunes
- c.1861 Shop and residence, Camp Street, corner Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot
- c.1862-65 Former Presbyterian Manse, Alliance Street, Clunes
- 1862-63 Wesleyan Church, Camp Street, Talbot
- by 1863 Former Nicholl and Wallace warehouse (lower section), 36 Fraser Street, Clunes
- 1863 Scott residence, 35 Service Street, Clunes
- 1863 Former Church of England residence, 42 Service Street Clunes
- 1863 Former Telegraph Hotel, Bailey Street, Clunes
- 1863 Lock-up, Heales Street, Talbot
- 1864 Barwell residence, Camp Street. Clunes
- 1864 Former Wesleyan Church, (front section), Service Street, Clunes
- 1864 Former Masonic Lodge, Camp Street, Clunes
- 1864 Coundon residence, Leslie Street, Clunes
- 1864-65 Former Presbyterian Church, Heales Street, Talbot
- early 1860s Church of England vicarage, Talbot
- 1860s? Glenmona

2.1.2 Early timber buildings

The following is a list of the earliest documented timber buildings still surviving in the Shire of Talbot and Clunes. These are only buildings which have been dated using the ratebooks or other documentary sources. Others of an equally early date but less integrity (and therefore excluded from more detailed research) would almost certainly be uncovered by further research.

- by 1859 Residence on Clunes pre-emptive right
- c.1859-60 Former Hoskins residence, Camp Street, corner Heales Street, Talbot
 - 1860 Former Pearce residence, Camp Street, Clunes
 - 1860 Former Matthews residence, 26 Fraser Street, Clunes
 - 1860 Former Wiles residence, 70 Fraser Street, Clunes
 - 1860 Former St Pauls Church of England, Templeton Street (formerly Fraser Street), Clunes
- c.1861 Former Growcott residence, 4 Hill Street, Clunes
- by 1862 Residence, 41 Angus Street, Clunes
 - 1862 Former Grenfell residence, Service Street, Clunes
 - 1863 Residence, 21 Service Street, Clunes
 - 1863 Former Payne residence, 43 East Parade, Clunes
- c.1863 Residence, 25 East Parade, Clunes

The less durable nature of timber and prevalence of fires (both bushfires and 'urban' fires) have generally accounted for the relatively small number of extent examples of very early timber buildings compared with those of masonry construction.

2.1.3 Early public works

Public works, whether roads, bridges or buildings, were amongst the most permanent early works in the wake of local gold discoveries (especially at Amherst and Talbot). They were generally of superior construction to the majority of privately owned buildings and therefore have survived where more flimsy or shoddy structures have disappeared. The following is a list of the early public works carried out locally where a substantial part of the building or site remains from an early date. Archaeological investigation may reveal remnants of earlier buildings.

- 1855 Early road layout at Amherst
- 1858 Talbot Reservoir
- c.1858-60s Remnants of residence, Back Creek National School, Peel Street, Talbot
 - 1859 Streets layout at Talbot (Scandinavian Crescent, Ballarat Street, Oxford Street, etc.)
 - 1859 Amherst Cemetery
- c.1859 Culverts, Amherst
 - 1859-60 'Big Dam', Creswick's Creek, adjacent to Thornton Street, Clunes
 - 1860 Street pattern, Back Creek (Talbot) Flat
 - 1860 'Bolties Bridge', Peel Street, Talbot
 - 1860 Layout of early roads at Clunes (Fraser Street, Bailey Street, Alliance Street, Hill Street, Templeton Street, Service Street, etc.)
 - 1860 Post Office (Central Section), Camp Street, Talbot
 - 1860 Court House (now Free Library), Camp Street, Talbot
- c.1860 Clunes cemetery
 - 1860-61 Amherst Reservoir, Bung Bong - Amherst Road, Amherst

- 1860-61 Court House (now Free Library), Camp Street, Talbot
- 1862 Basalt abutments, 'Government Bridge', Bailey Street,
Creswick Road and Smeaton Road
- 1862 Bridge at Dunach
- 1863 Lock-up, Heales Street, Talbot
- 1863 Dam on Coghill's Creek
- 1860s? Old Ballarat Road

2.1.4 Timber residences

1850s

Early makeshift shelters have been discussed in chapter 10 of the background history of this study and only more permanent timber residences, which are represented by several extant structures, will be examined in this section. For instance, parts of the following residences are likely to have been erected by or during 1860: Hoskins residence, corner Camp Street and Heales Street, Talbot; Pearce residence, Camp Street, Clunes; Matthews residence, 26 Fraser Street, Clunes; Wiles residence, 70 Fraser Street, Clunes and possibly the cottage on Clunes pre-emptive right off Station Flat Road.

The hipped roof form was most common and Miles Lewis has discussed the evolution from tents and framed canvas structures to timber buildings in The Essential Maldon. The earliest extant cottage in the Shire of Talbot and Clunes appears to be the Hoskins residence, corner of Camp Street and Heales Street, Talbot. This has vertical timber slabs with timber cover straps and relies on horizontal internal living for structural rigidity as wall studs are only provided next to the full height windows. Other vertical timber structures are seen in the c.1859 Daintree views of Clunes and this technique may have indicated prefabrication and importation of the components.

Chimneys were nearly always on the outside walls of residences in this early period, perhaps as a carryover from the tents which preceded timber structures, but more likely to reduce the risk of fire (figure 6.1). Early chimneys were often of rubble stonework although brick became almost universal for this component by about 1860. Roofing was commonly of timber shingles or palings although the inferior protection offered by canvas was often still used.

1860s

This was a period of great building activity in both Talbot and Clunes. Many residents upgraded canvas or calico structures to timber (especially at Talbot in the wake of the rush to the Scandinavian Lead) and the general increase in population meant a steady increase in the number of new houses erected. Timber far outweighed brick or stone as a building material for residential

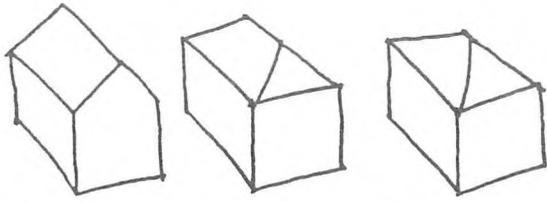


fig 1.1 1.2 1.3

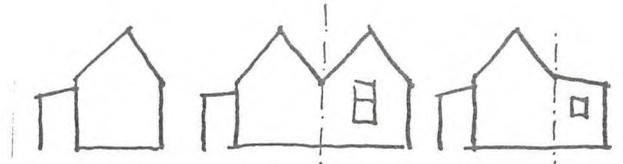


fig 2.1 2.2 2.3



fig 3.1 3.2 3.3



fig 4.1 4.2 4.3



fig 5.1 5.2 5.3

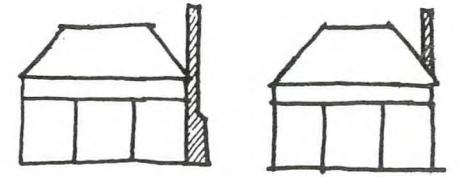


fig 6.1 6.2

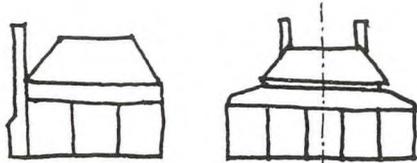


fig 7.1 7.2

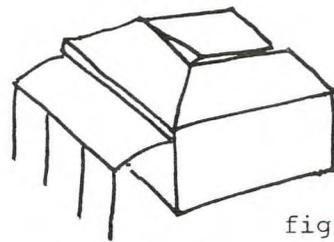
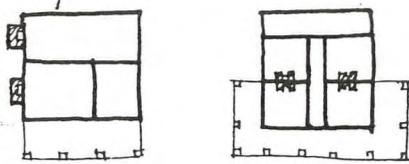


fig 8

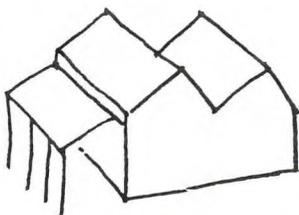


fig 9

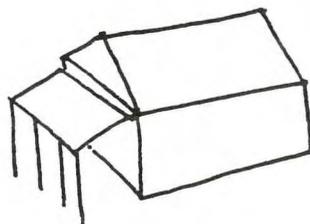


fig 10

purposes and three roof forms predominated: hips, gables and pyramidal (figures 1.1, 1.2, 1.3). From surviving examples and evidence from early photographs (especially the Nettleton views of Clunes c.1865-66) hipped and gabled roofs appeared equally popular with a much smaller number having pyramidal roofs. Many residences were erected without verandahs and the typical front facade was a symmetrical composition of two windows and a central door. The buildings often consisted of only two rooms within the one building form although a second hipped or skillion roofed gabled block often gave added accommodation for kitchen or other rooms (figures 2.1, 2.2, 2.3). In the 1860s chimneys were still generally constructed on external walls and their brick construction is often one of the main distinguishing features of surviving early residences.

When verandahs were added, both straight and hipped roof forms appear to have been used with almost equal frequency irrespective of whether the main roof of the house was hipped or gabled (figures 4.1, 4.2). Straight profiles were the most common in this period although gently curved forms (either concave or convex) were also used but are not common amongst surviving residences (figures 3.1, 3.2, 3.3). In some isolated instances the verandahs returned along one or both sides of a residence (see figure 4.3) as found in a cottage in Maryborough Road, Talbot for instance. This was not common however until the 1880s and 1890s. Verandahs were commonly decorated with timber embellishment such as brackets at the head of columns or a frieze along the bressumer. Local examples rarely departed from simple fretwork (e.g. 52 Alliance Street, Clunes or 43 East Parade, Clunes) and this material was often utilised on barge boards or gable ends.

Windows were invariably double hung sashes generally without counter weighted sash balances found in the 1870s and later. The resulting narrow architrave is a distinctive element in such early residences. The sashes were most often broken into small panes with the most common divisions being two or six. However more quirky individual examples still exist, such as the twelve pane sashes at 52 Talbot Road, Clunes (which appear to be original).

Roofing material was still commonly timber shingles although in this decade came the universal acceptance of corrugated iron. Isolated examples in the 1850s and 60s had used patent metal roof tiles (such as Morewood and Rogers zinc sheet tiles) but corrugated iron was relatively cheap, light and easy to work.

1870s

In the late 1860s and 1870s many houses were extended. New houses continued to be erected, but in basic form these differed little from the preceding decade. When houses were extended the traditional solution of adding a rear extension (figures 2.2, 2.3) was still common, and in one instance (Ballaarat Street, Talbot) up

place of a series of smaller roof forms. Doubtless it solved the problems sometimes associated with valley gutters but at the expense of the visual appearance of the residence (figures 9 and 10).

Many verandahs were renewed in the period c.1900-15 and these are generally distinguished by turned timber columns and a return to timber fretwork (e.g. 64 Fraser Street, Clunes). Bullnose profile corrugated iron often superseded the straight or gently curved iron of the nineteenth century in such instances.

Residential buildings were moved in and out of towns, especially at Clunes. In the absence of documentary evidence such examples are now difficult to distinguish from other houses erected in a similar period.

2.1.5 Brick or stone residences

Surviving brick or stone residences fall into two roughly equal categories: small cottages and larger villas.

The small cottages were almost identical in form to contemporary timber cottages and often like the larger brick villas the choice of material reflected an occupant or owner connected with the building trades (e.g. Peter Wallace, John Barwell, George Dow, Ralph Coundon, William Phelan). The most representative surviving examples of this category are 74 and 94 Bailey Street, 25 Camp Street, 14 Tourello Street and a residence in Maryborough Road, Talbot.

Of the larger brick villas, basalt, face brick and render were all popular and are represented by surviving examples. These were often distinguished from the smaller cottages by large gardens and grounds, rather than a much larger bulk of building. Of the brick residences, possibly the finest are the Coundon residence and former Church of England vicarage, Clunes. In both instances the brickwork is exceedingly simple and architectural effect is gained by use of refined verandah detailing (the Church of England vicarage is almost a lone local example of a verandah being incorporated into the main roofline) and use of slate for roofing. The vicarage is also one of few local buildings to incorporate bay windows and this feature is also found in one of the basalt residences (31 Service Street, Clunes).

The three major basalt residences are at 31 and 35 Service Street and the former Presbyterian Manse at 49 Alliance Street, all in Clunes. The simple verandah on 35 Service Street appears to be original although the verandahs on the other two are later additions, not wholly in keeping with the original designs.

Where masonry buildings were extended, timber was often used. Examples are located at 94 Bailey Street, 68 Fraser Street and 14 Tourello Street).

to four hipped sections were used, the greatest number of any surviving local residence. The next most common extension was to add a projecting room with gabled roof at right angles to the main roof line (figures 5.1, 5.2). This is represented by many surviving examples (e.g. 4 Hill Street, Clunes and Bond Street, Talbot) and had the benefit of increasing the bulk of the facade, perhaps a desirable feature amongst those residents of the 1860s and 70s who wished to display some of their new wealth. Another form of extension was to add an additional room to one side, but to retain the same basic roof line (figure 5.3). Verandahs were also commonly added to existing residences during this decade.

1880s and 1890s

In the 1880s, population was declining steadily at Clunes and rapidly at Talbot. Few new houses were erected and those that were often replaced earlier houses destroyed by fire. The ratebooks record many such instances, especially in the depression of the 1890s following almost total cessation of mining at Clunes. For instance, 25 and 40 Service Street, Clunes were both rebuilt following fires in 1893.

Houses in this period tended to be larger and following conventional suburban practices incorporated a central passage. Fireplaces were now commonly located on internal walls rather than side walls (figures 6.1, 6.2) with the resulting symmetry of elevations (figures 7.1, 7.2). To cope with the larger roofs, the 'M' shaped hip roof (figure 8) was generally utilised, a form used in isolated instances in earlier decades (e.g. former Burdess residence, Barkly Street, Talbot).

In this period, cast iron decoration and even columns became much more widespread. Whereas in the 1870s only a small number of cottages were adorned with iron decoration, now timber was almost totally eschewed and intricately detailed balustrades and friezes became the norm. Cast iron brackets and even friezes were often added to earlier verandahs or in some instances may have even inspired a verandahless owner to add an entirely new verandah replete with mass produced decorative items.

Post 1900

Until the 1960s, little new residential development occurred locally. Those houses that were erected generally followed prevailing metropolitan trends such as the introduction of the Californian Bungalow. This is best exemplified by houses of the period c.1910-30 such as 5 Hill Street, Clunes; 96 Bailey Street, Clunes and Scandinavian Crescent (adjacent to the end of Camp Street) Talbot.

The original character of many hipped and gabled roof cottages at Talbot was downgraded (probably in the 1940s and 50s) by the substitution of a large gable roof with the gable to the street in

2.1.6 Commercial buildings

Following the earliest tents and canvas structures used for commercial premises, many were rebuilt in a more substantial form (see chapters 4 and 6 of the background history). Timber was the most common material, but from approximately 1860 brick was increasingly used. By the late 1860s rendered brick was the most common external material as well as a small number of basalt buildings. Of the latter, the former Bull and Mouth Hotel, Talbot and shop at 27 Fraser Street are perhaps the two most notable surviving examples.

Of the hundreds of commercial premises which once existed locally, approximately 60 now survive in a recognisable form. These comprise 40 shops, 15 hotels and 5 banks.

The hotel buildings which survive include:

- by 1861 Former Camp Hotel, Camp Street, corner Heales Street, Talbot
- 1861 National Hotel, 35 Fraser Street, Clunes
- 1861 Former Commercial Hotel, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot
- by 1862 Former Greenock Park Hotel, McCallum's Creek Road, Red Lion
- 1863 Former Telegraph Hotel, Bailey Street, corner Fraser Street, Clunes
- 1866 Former Bull and Mouth Hotel, Ballaarat Street, Talbot
- 1867 Court House Hotel, Ballaarat Street, Talbot
- 1869 Former Duke of Edinburgh Hotel, 19 Fraser Street, Clunes
- 1870-73 Former Fire Brigade Hotel, 43 Fraser Street, Clunes
- 1870 Former Town Hall Hotel, 65 Fraser Street, Clunes
- 1870 Club Hotel, 34 Fraser Street, Clunes
- 1873 Former Railway Hotel, 55 Service Street, corner William Street, Clunes

The Banks which survive are:

- 1865 Former Union Bank, (now A.N.Z.) corner Fraser Street and Templeton Street, Clunes
- 1866 Former London Chartered Bank, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot
- 1869 Former Bank of Australasia, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot
- 1871 Former National Bank, (now State Bank Victoria), 28 Fraser Street, Clunes
- 1871 Former London Chartered Bank, (now R.S.L.), 30 Fraser Street, Clunes

The commercial premises varied in basic building form but the individual single or double storied buildings were by far the most common (figures 1.1, 1.2) with attached single and even double storied shops (4 Service Street) being found at Clunes (figures 2.1, 2.2). The prominence of such attached premises at Clunes was largely a product of the progressive rebuilding of Fraser Street in the prosperous years 1869-70.

The building form of the various premises varied with type of business. Most shops had a glazed shopfront to the street (as a principal facade) with residential quarters at the rear or in an upper storey. Rarely, such as the Ramsay Shop, Ballarat Street, Talbot or shop at 62 Talbot Road, Clunes, residential accommodation was provided to one side of the main shop front. Hotels had far less window space to the street, although generously sized windows were still employed. Banks on the other hand had no shopfronts and relied on simple fenestration.

Many banks, hotels and larger shops were located on favoured corner sites. To give increased prominence to both streets a splayed corner was generally used. Such corner sites were especially favoured by banks and hotels, with surviving examples including the former Telegraph Hotel, corner Bailey Street and Fraser Street, Clunes; former Union Bank, corner Fraser Street and Templeton Street, Clunes; and former Bull and Mouth Hotel, Talbot.

Post supported verandahs were an almost universal feature of local commercial premises. Exceptions were some banks and hotels where architectural treatment of the facade precluded such appendages. The verandahs were generally of timber construction although some notable examples were in locally cast iron (e.g. Former Railway Hotel, 55 Service Street, Clunes and Former Town Hall Hotel, 65 Fraser Street). Like domestic verandahs they commonly incorporated decorative timber or cast iron brackets and fixtures. As well, they provided a suitable location for advertising, which in the nineteenth century was generally confined to a plain business sign. Other elements of the building facade were designed to receive either fixed or painted advertisements and although often bold in lettering or size, such signs generally respected the architectural feature of the building. Several early examples of painted advertising signs remain especially in Fraser Street and these form a rich element of the streetscape.

Many post supported verandahs remain and several have been reconstructed recently. Collectively they form one of the most dominant elements of the local commercial precincts especially at Clunes. Retention of such verandahs in Victoria was severely threatened in the 1960s and 70s when councils progressively introduced by laws demanding their replacement. Fortunately the Shire of Talbot and Clunes did not embrace this rash direction and both towns now have far more post supported verandahs than most country towns. Of those local buildings designed to receive verandahs, 32 out of 55 (60%) now retain early verandah structures.

Architectural treatment for commercial facades varied. The more sophisticated architecture of the banks drew on classical references and, in a diluted form, some classical elements were still found on even the most humble shop. These included pilasters flanking doors and shop fronts, moulded architraves, balustraded parapets, quoining to define the sides of buildings

and strong cornices to define the parapet. Materials varied and pilasters, for instance, were commonly constructed of face brick in Talbot in the 1860s, of timber in Clunes shopfronts of the late 1860s and 70s and even with rusticated effects at 45-49 Fraser Street (1870) in the manner of Gibbs.

The shopfronts were generally composed of a stallboard and glazed window, broken into smaller panels by mullions. The entry was generally recessed in a 'splayed' form and the space behind the stallboard was used for window display (figures 3.1, 3.2). At the opposing end of the scale, banks and hotels employed conventional fenestration with doorways and double hung windows (figure 3.3). Isolated examples (such as the Butchers Shop in Scandinavian Crescent) stood midway between these extremes and had large windows of glass set within masonry columns, which gave a more sophisticated touch to the facade.

The use of large areas of glass was influenced by the early use of gas for lighting (1859 in Talbot; 1862 in Clunes). a contemporary newspaper at Clunes spoke of a 'revolution in the appearance of our shopfronts' with the introduction of this new sophisticated form of lighting.

Approximately 48 out of 60 (80%) of surviving local commercial premises still retain original or early shopfronts fenestration.

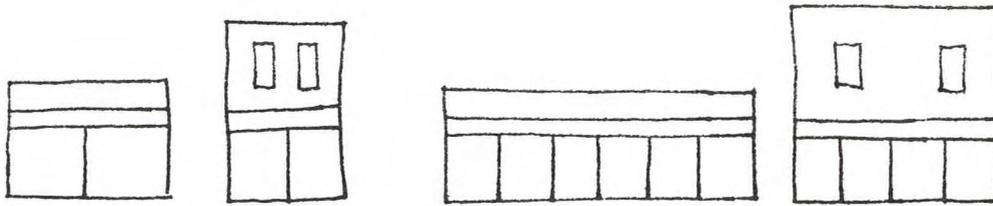


fig 1.1

1.2

fig 2.1

2.2

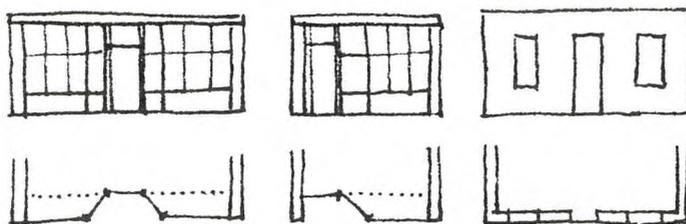


fig 3.1

3.2

3.3

2.2 INDIVIDUAL SITE AND BUILDING CITATIONS

The citations in this section have been prepared following an external field survey and external photography. Photographs were generally taken during July 1986 and the majority of citations have been prepared without further fieldwork. Internal inspections were undertaken where possible but this was only done in a minority of cases. Therefore significant interior features have only been mentioned where these were drawn to my attention or were well known.

Individual citations are divided into a number of sections arranged as follows.

BUILDING TITLE, Address

Cadastral information (i.e. section, allotment and Parish. This has often been difficult to determine and in some instances has been omitted)

Australian Map Grid Reference (for rural sites)

HISTORY (based on documentary sources)

INTEGRITY (an assessment of the intactness of the building, paying special attention to later alterations and additions. This should not be confused with 'condition' or 'structural adequacy' or 'maintenance required'. These considerations are not part of the brief of this study and rarely affect the architectural or historical integrity of a building.)

ANALYSIS (This is included for buildings with high individual significance or unusual characteristics. For the majority of buildings, reference is made to Section 2.1 which is a general analysis for several common building types or styles. Reference is also made to the Background History where necessary.)

SIGNIFICANCE (This is a succinct statement which provides a summary of the foregoing items. It can be used as an objective basis on which to base future decisions regarding alterations to buildings and sites.)

REFERENCES

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FORMER STATE SCHOOL No. 1459, Queen Street, Amherst

Township of Amherst

7623-4-2 YD368858

History

This school was established in October 1874 and the present buildings date from this time. (1) Alterations were carried out in 1901 by Arthur Edwards for £177 15s. (2) The school was closed on 10 March 1946 (3) and the buildings burnt out on 14 January 1985. (4)

Integrity

The bluestone and brick walls of this school remained intact after the 1985 bushfire and in September 1987 the building was reroofed and a new floor installed.

Analysis

Refer to Chapter 9 of the background history. This is the only substantial early building now remaining in Amherst although the school dates from a period after the peak of prosperity in Amherst.

Significance

As the only substantial remaining nineteenth century building in Amherst this former school is now a critical reminder of a once flourishing community. It is a typical example of a school erected by the newly formed Education Department for a small rural settlement.

- 1 Blake (ed), Vision and Realisation, vol.?, p.769.
- 2 Contract drawing held by Public Record Office, Laverton (PRO/SSO 1549).
- 3 Blake, op.cit., p.770.
- 4 Higgins, Hobbs and Ward, The Maryborough Region Bush Fire, 1985, p.24.

BASALT CULVERTS, Talbot - Avoca Road, Amherst
Township and Parish of Amherst

7623-4-2 YD386865; 7623-4-2 YD363856; 7623-4-2 YD365855

History

The volume of traffic through Amherst increased with gold discoveries east of Avoca and the government was compelled to upgrade to muddy track which formed the main road. In 1857 a bridge was erected over the Bet Bet Creek and expenditure of almost £3000 was made to maintain and upgrade portions of the road between Carisbrook and Avoca. This was consolidated in succeeding years by additional sums for clearing, forming, paving and ditching the road. (1) Tenders for 'works required on the Amherst and Avoca Road' were sought by 11 March 1859 by the Roads and Bridges Office of the Public Works Department. (2) Contractor J.H. Lawlor, the only tenderer, was awarded the contract for 'clearing, constructing culverts and other improvements' at a price of £4341 10s. (3) It is likely that this included the three large basalt culverts west of Amherst.

Integrity

The three culverts are still substantially intact and in use as part of the current Pyrenees Highway. Bushfires have destroyed the early timber posts.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'early public works'. These culverts were constructed during a period when Amherst and Avoca were both major towns on the Victoria goldfields. They are now the earliest remaining structures in the Amherst/Talbot area. Two sizes of structure are represented and other examples are located on the same road but within the Shire of Avoca. Their construction characterizes the solid nature of much public work of this mid nineteenth century.

Significance

These culverts are significant as some of the earliest surviving public works in the Shire. They possess considerable aesthetic and technical appeal as a result of their curved configuration and the skill demonstrated in the masonry work. The significance is enhanced by their continued use.

- 1 VPP, 1860-61, II, order 10 January 1861; VPRS 1108, unit 7, 1857; unit 8, 1858-59.
- 2 VGG, 4 March 1859, p.415.
- 3 ibid., 1 April 1859, p.634.

RESIDENCE, Ballarat - Maryborough Road, Talbot

Section , allotment , Parish of Amherst

7623-4-2 YD397832

History

This area was mined as part of the rush to Scandinavian Lead in 1859 and the general alignment of Ballarat Street was formed at this time. This area was primarily a commercial precinct although in the years following the rush, residential buildings began to predominate. This allotment was included in the 1861 survey (1) and based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the basalt walls have been painted.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'.

Significance

A characteristic residence erected in the period following intensive mining at Talbot and distinguished by its basalt construction, rare amongst small cottages in this region. The building is a crucial part of the main northern entry to Talbot.

1 Township of Talbot on the Back Creek, L.1189, 2009, December 1861, lithographed 17 March 1864.

MOUNT GREENOCK, off Ballarat-Maryborough Road, Dunach

Parish of Amherst

7623-4-2 YD419789 (cairn on summit)

History

Mount Greenock was climbed and named by Major Thomas Mitchell on 26 September 1836. He chose the name from a burgh on the Forth of Clyde. The vantage point resulted in much useful survey work by Mitchell and led him to refer to the bare surrounding volcanic cones as the 'Mammeloid Hills'. (1) The Mount formed part of Alexander MacCallum's Dunach Forest pastoral run from 1841 and this was sometimes referred to as the 'Mount Greenock' run. Mining along the Mount Greenock Creek (or McCallum's Creek as it was later known) commenced in the mid 1850s and the area saw a mining boom in the 1870s and 80 when the deep alluvial lead running under the Mount was exploited. Several mines had their workings on the slopes of Mount Greenock. The town of Dunach was largely a product of this mining boom and was also sustained by extensive farming in the vicinity.

Integrity

Mount Greenock is still largely as Mitchell found it (judging from his sketch from the summit). Some mine workings are located on the lower slopes, several roads now skirt the base and a commemorative cairn has been erected on the summit.

Significance

This is one of many sites named and used for survey work by Major Mitchell but due to surrounding development has become the most prominent of local sites. Its bare volcanic cone forms a graceful feature in the landscape and contrasts strongly with the surrounding forest. The surrounding area, including mines, roads, bridges and several early buildings combine to form an historical landscape of considerable significance.

1 See background history, chapter one for a full list of references.

FORMER MORTUARY, Amherst District Hospital site, Cavendish Street, Amherst

Section , allotment , Parish of Amherst

History

The hospital at Amhurst was founded in 1859 and the majority of its buildings were erected by the mid 1860s. (1) The site later became a sanatorium and the mortuary dated from 1911. The drawings were signed by Public Works Department architect S.C. Brittingham on 14 January 1911 and a contract with William John Dingle was signed on 11 February 1911. (2) The buildings of the hospital were all sold in the 1930s although being constructed of reinforced concrete, the mortuary was left standing. (3)

Integrity

The mortuary now retains only its reinforced concrete shell, the roof and all other fittings having been either removed or burnt. The building is now the only remaining building in the former hospital complex.

Analysis

Refer to chapter 9 of the background history for a more detailed history of the hospital. As seen in the architects working drawings, the mortuary was a simple box-like structure with a typical Edwardian roof form and simple fittings. The use of reinforced concrete for walls and a raft floor slab almost certainly makes this the earliest local example of this material.

Significance

A small mortuary building which marks the site of the Amherst Hospital. The use of reinforced concrete for walls and a raft floor slab almost certainly makes this the earliest local example of this material. The building is one of few early structures remaining at Amherst and now forms a vital interpretative component of the town.

- 1 The history of the hospital included in the background history is largely derived for an examination of the Amherst Hospital minute books, 1859-62, held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 2 Drawing held at Public Record Office, Laverton (PRO/HA1.2).
- 3 *ibid.*, (PRO/HA1.5).

'BIG WATER HOLE' and BASALT CELLAR, off Champions Road, Talbot
Section , allotment , Parish of Amherst
7623-4-2 YD418847 (cellar)

History

The 'Large Water Hole' or 'Big Water Hole' as it was more commonly known, was surveyed by Hugh Fraser in 1855 as part of his survey of Daisy Hill. This was the earliest survey of allotments in the area and the water hole, on the Back Creek, was noted as 'full in all seasons and the only supply to be depended upon by the residents of "Amherst" and the "Back Creek"'. (1) The supply was very necessary during the rush to Scandinavian Lead in 1859 and miners were rebuked by the Warden for washing their auriferous paydirt in the water hole. (2) The water hole was the scene of a large party on New Years Day 1861 when 800-900 people assembled for sports including an aquatic tub race. 'What with greasy pigs, jumping in sacks and other time honoured amusements, the vast assemblage managed to spend a very pleasant time of it' quipped the local reporter. (3) Use of the water hole as a supply of water presumably waned with the advent of reservoirs at Amherst and on the Stoney Creek. Nothing is presently known about the history of the basalt cellar adjacent to the water hole although it may relate to a brewing or other secondary industry where a supply of water was vital. Based on a typological analysis the building appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

The cellar building is substantially intact and retains shelving internally.

Analysis

This cellar is constructed of basalt almost certainly quarried locally. The building is located near the basalt quarry in Champions Road.

Significance

A site associated with the earliest days of the Daisy Hill area and as the only major supply of fresh water, critical to its early survival. The significance of the site is enhanced by the survival of an early basalt cellar, possibly located near the water hole for functional reasons.

- 1 Amherst Township and suburban and country lands at Daisy Hill, surveyed by Hugh Fraser, 1855.
- 2 MADA, 1 April 1859.
- 3 North Western Chronicle, 4 January 1861.

BRIDGE, McCallum's Creek, former Clunes-Talbot Road, Dunach

Parishes of Amherst and Eglinton

7623-4-2 YD420778

History

Dempsey and Burns were awarded the original contract to erect this bridge and work was supposed to be completed by October 1861. The contractors had apparently underestimated the heavy work in the cutting (part of the contract) and work came to a standstill. (1) In April 1862, the local correspondent in the Creswick and Clunes Advertiser warned that a flood could damage the partially completed work and in May was still urging completion of the crossing. (2) It is presumed that the bridge was completed shortly after this time.

Integrity

This bridge was washed out and the alignment of road now passes to the west on a new bridge. Only the abutments are extant and these are being slowly depleted through theft.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'early public works'. These abutments are similar in date and design to others elsewhere in the district.

Significance

These abutments are the earliest surviving works at Dunach and form part of a network of similar basalt bridges of similar date and design within the district. They are a highly visible component of the former township of Dunach and are complemented by the early road cutting to the west of the present road alignment.

- 1 Research by Rita Hull in VPRS 1126, 61/2772.
- 2 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 April 1862, p.2; 6 May 1862, p.2.

PRINCE OF WALES REEF AND GULLY, Daisy Hill Track, Daisy Hill

State Forest, Parish of Amherst

7623-4-1 YD

History

This reef was apparently first worked in the 1860s although it was the scene of more intensive mining in the 1870s. In 1873 a party of twelve well known local mining operators and businessmen (including F.G. Klein, F. Shultz and I. Meadows) took out a lease of 1200 by 600 feet on behalf of the Lady Bowen Quartz Mining Company. (1) Results of this operation are not known but the Prince of Wales Company had moderate success in the 1870s. Smaller parties (Busch, Fental and Lubie) also worked the reef and in 1876 the Perseverance United Company obtained a ten acre lease. This company closed in 1880 and was taken over by the Talbot Quartz Mining Company. They worked with little success and in 1883 the company was floated under the name Mount Emu Gold Mining Company. The last work on the reef was apparently undertaken in 1881. The Prince of Wales reef was close to a smaller reef named the Emu although this did not apparently see such large mining ventures as the Prince of Wales. A rich alluvial gully also intersected the reef and this was worked with success. (2)

Integrity

The plans included in Howitt's 'record' are particularly valuable in interpreting this site. They record position of shafts, buildings and other features. Currently the attributes of the site include several open deep shafts, mullock dumps, a battery site (with broken bricks and dressed basalt), outcropping quartz of the reef and a large dam (wall breached). From the alluvial gully a puddling circle is also located adjacent to the dam with a very clear overflow channel. Vegetation is growing very rapidly after the 1985 bushfires and this tends to obscure some of the relics in the vicinity of the dam and puddler. Reworking of the area is also in progress and has already downgraded the significance of this site.

Analysis

This is one of the best documented small reefs in the Shire and many of the nineteenth century features identified in Howitt's 1909 'record' are still clearly visible. The combination of technology from reef and alluvial mining also greatly enhances the interest of the site.

Significance

This gold mining site is significant for the intactness of its physical remains, the extent of documentation and the ease of interpretation it offers the visitor, demonstrating both shallow alluvial and quartz reef mining techniques.

- 1 Register of claims, Amherst division of the Maryborough Mining District, VPRS 1649, unit 1, 1869-80, f.55, 57.
- 2 A.W. Howitt, 'The Prince of Wales Mine, Amherst, near Talbot', Records of the Geological Survey of Victoria, III, part 2, 20 November 1909, pp.155-158 and plates XX11 and XXIII.

TUNNEL HILL REEF, off Lexton-Talbot Road, Talbot

Parish of Amherst

7623-4-2 YD380822

History

This reef was apparently discovered in 1861 when a tunnel reached a seam of quartz 45 feet thick. Other shafts were sunk on the reef and the area was just payable. A rich alluvial gully was also located to the east of the tunnel and this was reworked with cyanide after the turn of the century. (1)

Integrity

The tunnel at this site is still open and is currently being reworked by a small operator. Other evidence of former gold mining operations is also located in the immediate area.

Analysis

This is one of few former mining sites within the shire where a tunnel of such an early date is still open. The current reworking is of such a small scale that it does not jeopardise the integrity of this site, although more intensive working could easily destroy attributes of this site.

Significance

This gold mining site is significant for the intactness of its physical remains, being one of very few early reef mines in the shire where a tunnel is still intact.

- 1 H.S. Whitelaw, 'Auriferous Areas near Talbot', [Geological survey report], c.1912.

FORMER PHELAN RESIDENCE, Majorca Road, Talbot

Section , allotment , Parish of Amherst

7623-4-2 YD413821

History

This residence was erected for local builder William Phelan by c.1875 (when it was photographed). (1) Phelan commenced business in Talbot around 1860 and soon had the leading timber yard, ironmongery and furnishing establishment in the district. He undertook many local building projects and in 1881-82 established a large branch in Maryborough, soon completing several large building projects in that town. Phelan's 1880 press advertisement advised 'Plans and specifications prepared' and it is possible this residence is his own design. (2)

Integrity

This residence was gutted by the 1985 bushfires although the external and internal walls still stand.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'. This residence is one of the most sophisticated residential designs in the district. The building was an unusually refined two storey structure with cement rendered walls and moulded architraves. The tall building form, comparatively low verandah, elevated site and slight remoteness from the town all contributed to the grand aspirations of this successful merchant's residence. In its current fire damaged state reconstruction would not be impossible (as recent work at the fire damaged former Amherst State School has demonstrated), and even in its damaged state the residence still retains significance for its siting, building form and remnant garden.

Significance

This residence was one of the grandest houses in the Shire and fully demonstrates the aspiration of a successful merchant who prospered on the goldfields. Even in its gutted state the residence is still distinguished by its siting, building form and remnant garden.

- 1 The original photograph, an excellent shot of the front facade and circular garden layout, is held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 2 See background history, chapter 10.

FORMER SAMUELS HOMESTEAD, Mount Greenock Road, Talbot

Section B, allotments 5-10, Parish of Amherst

7623-4-2 YD

History

Mordech Jaker Samuels was first included in the Talbot voters roll in 1867 when he was listed with 'Farm, Talbot' and entitled to one vote. In the period to 1870 his vote increased to 8 with the rolls listing two holdings, one at Amherst and one at Eglinton. (1) In that year the rate book description was 519 acres pasture land and 60 acres cultivation. A house was listed as another improvement and it is presumed the present residence dates from this period. The net annual value in 1871 (£1800) made the property, called 'Lone Pine' in the 1901 rate book, amongst the largest fourteen properties in the shire. (2) Samuels was president of the Shire of Talbot in 1876-78. (3)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and is greatly enhanced by the row of mature trees which form the main entrance drive. These include Cypress, Pines, Cedars and a pair of Aracaurica bidwillii (Bunya Bunya pines) flanking the homestead.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'. This property retains one of the finest driveway avenues in the Shire. The homestead is sited on the side of a hill which affords the only elevated view of the generally flat terrain on which Talbot township is located.

Significance

A characteristic brick homestead located on a successful pastoral holding of the mid to late nineteenth century. The significance is enhanced by the avenue of mature trees, one of the finest examples in the shire.

- 1 Shire of Talbot, voters roll, 1867, no.106; 1868, no.137; 1869, no.137; 1870, no.191.
- 2 Shire of Talbot, rate book, 1870, no.641; 1871, no.247; 1901, nos.142, 538.
- 3 Honour board in Shire of Talbot and Clunes office.

AMHERST CEMETERY, Talbot-Avooca Road, Amherst

Cemetery reserve, Section II, allotments 38 and 41,
Parish of Amherst

7623-4-2 YD375835

History

The earliest cemetery at Amherst appears to have been located north of the main road from Adelaide to Maryborough. It is shown by assistant surveyor Hugh Fraser as a 'Grave Yard' on his 1855 plan of Amherst Township comprising a square of roughly one acre. Its date of commencement is not known. His plan, surveyed in April 1855 and lithographed on 9 May 1855 also included a reserve of 7 acres 0 roods 19 perches on the Amherst-Back Creek Road as a Cemetery. This reserve, on the Mia Mia Lead, was located to the east of the known gold workings, although this vicinity was the scene of notorious riots in December 1855 as miners rushed purchased land of Samuel Dunne discovered to be auriferous (allotments 23, 24, 36, 37 of Section 2, located adjacent to the northern boundary of the cemetery). (1) Six trustees were appointed in June 1858 and rules and regulations for the new cemetery were gazetted on 9 September 1859. (2) As part of the byelaw 6 of the Borough of Amherst, £55 13s was appropriated for 'Fencing in and providing gates for the new cemetery'. This byelaw was approved by the Governor-in-Council on 28 December 1859 and the specification approved by Charles Pasley, Inspector General of Public Works and Buildings on 10 November 1859, cited that 'The works consist of erecting a two rail fence 144 rods in length or thereby, providing 3 gates with hinges, locks and bolts complete'. Local bluegum was specified for posts with 'sawn colonial timber Red or Blue Gum' for rails. The timber was left untreated, although all gates were to receive three coats of paint. (3) The earliest burials apparently took place in the early 1860s. The sexton was still residing in a tent in 1862 (erected near the entrance at his own expense) small but elegant lodge was erected in succeeding years and the cemetery was extended by incorporation of two ten acre allotments to the west. (4) In 1880 the cemetery trustees called for a plan of plots to be prepared and surveyor Clarence Smith's plan was dated 4 December 1880. (5) The plan included a drive and paths in the form of a Celtic cross and a garden bed was included at the crossing. Extensive planting was carried out in mid-1881 (including 20 young pinus insignis and halepensis) although hot weather in 1887 killed many of the new plantings. (6) The 'Old Burial Ground' at Amherst is still shown on current cadastral plans and was gazetted as such in 1867. (7)

Integrity

The cemetery was burnt in the recent bushfires and many mature trees were destroyed. The sexton's lodge was apparently destroyed by fire c.1964. The early timber fencing has been replaced by a

newer woven wire fence. Many plants both exotic and native flourish in the cemetery. The central bulb bed still has Agapanthus, Jonquils, Daffodils, Oxalis brownii, as well as some early shrubs. (8) A basalt culvert spans a small gully and the cemetery retains a fine collection of monuments and cemeterialia.

Analysis

The layout at Amherst was certainly in place by 1880 when Smith drew his plan but it would be logical for the basic plan of plots to have existed prior to this date (possibly even from 1859). The plan of Amherst cemetery is similar to many other contemporary Victorian cemeteries and even domestic gardens. Clunes adopted a variant of the cross plan and Majorca by 1866 had also opened a cemetery of this configuration. The planning of the cemeteries at Amherst, Clunes and Majorca was reminiscent of ideas contained in Loudon's On the laying out, planting and managing of cemeteries. This influential book was published by John Claudius Loudon (well known as an architect, garden designer and writer) in London in 1843. He recommended the central area of a cemetery as a suitable site for a chapel (as at Clunes) and was a proponent of the use of bulbs in cemeteries, as well as evergreen trees.

Significance

A representative mid-nineteenth century cemetery with a fine collection of monuments and grave markers. The layout is distinguished by the central bulb bed, a rare feature among Victorian cemeteries. Many other exotic and native plants flourish in the cemetery. The site is historically significant for the notorious riots in 1855 when miners rushed the purchased sections of land in this vicinity in their quest for gold.

- 1 VPRS 1189, unit 451, K/55/16319.
- 2 Victoria Government Gazette, 9 September 1859, pp.1904-1905.
- 3 VPRS 1189, unit 607, L59/11248, M59/11301.
- 4 Annual Report of the Central Board of Health; a photograph of the sexton's lodge is held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 5 Talbot Leader, 4 May 1880; copy held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 6 Talbot Leader, 5 July 1881, 1 December 1885, 8 February 1887.
- 7 Victoria Government Gazette, 1867, p.1036 or 3752 ?? check.
- 8 Identification by John Hawker, Royal Botanic Gardens.

BECKWORTH COURT, Old Ballarat Road

Section 84, Parish of Beckworth

7623-3-1 YD390717 (Residence)

History.

In 1860 Beckworth Court was purchased by Robert Nichol and his son James for £3200. This consisted of 500 acres with 1800 sheep and in 1863 they purchased the remaining 1000 areas (carrying 5000 sheep) from J.H McVean for £6000. Nichol was born near the Scottish border in 1834 and had landed in Melbourne in 1854. In 1859, following a period of fluctuating family prosperity, Robert Nichol became manager of Mount Greenock station and his son James worked as a share farmer in the Clunes district. (1) Beckworth Court was first listed in Shire of Talbot voters roll in 1864 when 'John Nichol Snr.' and 'John Nichol Jnr.' were allocated 2 votes each for 'Farm and Sheep run, Beckworth and Eglington'. (2) By 1867 Robert and James Nichol were listed in the roll (3) and the Shire of Talbot ratebook (1869) listed 3600 acres of pasture land and a house of net annual value of £281 and it is presumed that the present residence dates from this period. (4) In February 1881 builder Peter Wallace of Clunes called tenders for 'repairs and additions to Beckworth Court'. (5) Robert Nichol died in 1900 and his eldest son James in 1902 with the property passing to surviving sons Thomas Ainslie Nichol and Robert Willian Nichol. The property and biographies of sons Thomas and Robert were included in the Cyclopaedia of Victoria (1904) when Beckworth Court was described as 'one of the principal pastoral stations in Victoria and now comprises about 10,000 acres, on which are run about 12,000 sheep, 80 head of horned cattle, and 30 horses'. (6)

Integrity

In recent years part of the original holding has been subdivided into hobby farm allotments and the development has taken the name 'Beckworth Court'. The residence is substantially intact, presumably from the 1881 additions. Many early outbuildings also remain.

Analysis

See chapter 11 of the background history for a discussion of land selection.

Significance

Beckworth Court is one of the most complete remaining large nineteenth century pastoral properties in the district. The residence is a characteristic rural homestead set in an evocative setting of remnant red gum trees. The property is

enhanced by the local historical significance of the Nichol family who were prominent in the local community and government.

- 1 Alexander Sutherland (ed), Victoria and its Metropolis, Melbourne, 1888, vol.2, p.251.
- 2 1864 voters roll; nos. 97, 98.
- 3 1867 voters roll, nos. 88, 89.
- 4 Shire of Talbot ratebook, 1869, no. 225.
- 5 Talbot Leader, 18 February 1881.
- 6 James Smith (ed), Cyclopaedia of Victoria, Melbourne, 1904, vol.2, p.297.

BRIDGES, Old Ballarat Road

Parish of Beckworth

7623-3-1 YD405635 (north of Glendaruel)

7623-3-1 YD379674 (Beckworth)

History

A contract for work on the 'Ballarat and Amherst Road' (as the Old Ballarat Road was then known) was accepted in June 1859. The work involved 'clearing 4 miles and 40 chains, building two bridges and other improvements' and contractors Brown and Co submitted a price of £4083 16s. (1) A total of three bridges and one ford had been erected on the road by the end of 1860. One of these was probably the bridge at Beckworth township over a small tributary of the One Mile Creek. The third bridge may have been that over Beckworth Creek. A stone and timber bridge (15 foot span and 22 foot roadway) was certainly in process of erection over that creek in 1860 at a cost of £610. (2)

Integrity

These bridges are still substantially intact and in use.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'early public works'. These bridges are some of the earliest structures in the Shire and mark the line of the Old Ballarat Road. They are similar in construction to the basalt culverts at Amherst (q.v.) and other bridges at Dunach (q.v.) and Back Creek Flat ('Bolties Bridge' - q.v.).

Significance

These bridges are significant as some of the earliest surviving public works in the Shire. They possess considerable aesthetic and technical appeal as a result of their design and basalt construction. They form an integral part of the early road between Ballarat and Amherst and date from the period prior to the well defined road through Clunes. Their significance is enhanced by their continued use.

1 VGG, 3 June 1859, p.1180.

2 VPP, 1860-61, II, ordered to be printed 10 January 1861.

RUINS OF MacCALLUM'S PRE-EMPTIVE RIGHT HOMESTEAD, off Old Ballarat Road

MacCallum's Pre-emptive Right, Parish of Beckworth

7623-3-1 YD374725

History

Alexander McCallum took up the 'Dunach Forest' or 'Mount Greenock' run in 1841. The large run extended from Mount Beckwith to Carisbrook. MacCallum held the run until 1850 with Andrew Aldcorn and James Forsyth although following a short break in 1850-54 he regained the run until 1862. MacCallum applied for his homestead block under right of pre-emption in August 1854 and this was granted in June 1855. (1) The stone footings of a residence are still extant and this is presumed to date from the period prior to 1862. The 'Homestead' was shown on the 1883 geological map of Clunes, Mt. Greenock [and] Talbot Goldfields.

Integrity

This site has not been visited but only stone footings now remain. (2)

Analysis

MacCallum's pre-emptive right was one of three such areas of land within the shire alienated from larger squatting runs. The others were 'Clunes' and 'Glenmona' and reference should be made to chapter one of the background history for details of this pastoral period.

Significance

Ruins from one of the earliest pastoral runs in the shire and a tangible marker of the former pre-emptive right section of Alexander MacCallum's pastoral squatting run.

- 1 Refer to Chapter One of the background history for details of sources.
- 2 Information from Rita Hull.

CLUNES WATER SUPPLY WORKS

Storage reservoir, Birch's Creek (Parish of Bullarook or Dean?)
Storage weir (Hepburn Lagoon), Birch's Creek (Parish of Bullarook)
Aqueduct and pipehead reservoir (Parish of Smeaton and Spring Hill)
Mains and reticulation, Clunes (Parish of Tourello and Clunes)

7623- - BU

7623- - YD650595 (Hepburn Lagoon)

History

The Clunes Water Supply was one of the major engineering undertakings in the colony during the 1870s. Funding for the works (excluding reticulation) was provided by the New North Clunes Gold Mining Company. The mine was then at the peak of its prosperity and needed a regular supply of water for its stamping battery. Peter Lalor, Eureka hero, Member of Parliament and director of the New North Clunes Company was chairman of the undertaking and Octavius Langtree was commissioned to design the works. The main works comprised a storage reservoir and weir on Bullarook Creek (now called Birch's Creek), an aqueduct 108 chains long leading to a pipehead reservoir, 15 inch mains for the last 6 1/8 miles and finally the reticulated supply to consumers in Clunes. With the exception of reticulation, works were completed in early 1873. A private reservoir had also been constructed at Smeaton to supply Hepburn's Mill. Storage works cost over £8000 and by 1875, when the reticulation had been almost completed an extra £15,000 had been expended. The new service greatly benefitted the mines and serviced 170 head of stamps at four quartz mines and 14 puddling machines at eight alluvial mines. This consumed over sixty million litres of water per week. In 1874 the Clunes Borough Council purchased the works with the aid of a loan and were charged with the responsibility of completing the reticulation. (1) Despite the great advance, the works were far from perfect and as early as 1883 the Board of Health were questioning aspects of their design. (2)

Integrity

These works have not been inspected but they are understood to be substantially intact. The reservoir at Bullarook is still in use and water then flows down Birch's Creek to the original pipehead Reservoir. Hepburn's Lagoon is still extant and occasionally augments the main supply. The pipehead reservoir is no longer in use although water flows through it before entering a new reservoir immediately below. The original cast iron main pipe is still in use although almost all the cast iron reticulation pipes in Clunes have been replaced with more modern materials. An early residence is still located next to the pipehead reservoir at Ullina and is rented by the Shire. (3)

Analysis

This is one of several undertakings designed to bring water to Clunes. Creswick's Creek was used in early attempts and in 1859 the 'Big Dam' (q.v.) was constructed, superseded by an ill-fated dam on Coghill's Creek (q.v.) and many schemes to tap Birch's Creek.

Significance

This is one of the major engineering works constructed in the colony during the 1870s. It demonstrates the need for water on the goldfields for both domestic and mining use. In this case considerable historical significance is attached to the fact that the scheme was initially funded by a private mining company rather than the government. The significance is enhanced by its continued use of the original system.

- 1 Octavius Langtree, 'Drawings and description of the Clunes Water Supply', portfolio of plans and photographs prepared for the Philadelphia Exhibition, 1876 held by the Mitchell Library, Sydney; Illustrated Sydney News, 5 June 1873, p.8 illustration of 'The reservoir and dam of the Clunes water supply', original water colour in Langtree album.
- 2 Central Board of Health, Annual Report, 1 June 1885, p.44.
- 3 Information from Len Thomas, Talbot, 14 January 1988.

GLENMONA HOMESTEAD, Glenmona Road

Glenmona Pre-emptive Right, Parish of Bung Bong

7623-4-4 YD285871

History

The Glenmona run was created in 1845 by the combination of the Scarborough and Far Creek (or 14 Mile Creek) runs. Edmund McNeill (of Scarborough) and Charles Hall (of Far Creek) joined in partnership at Glenmona (1845-52) and later transferred their interest to Charles and Joseph Bradshaw. (1) It was on part of this Glenmona run that an early gold discovery was made in 1848, one of the earliest publicised gold discoveries in the colony. (2) Osborn and Du Borg record that there was originally a slab hut at Glenmona and the present stone homestead was in existence by 1875. (3) However, it is possible that it was constructed considerably earlier than this date. Glenmona possessed a fine garden and as early as 1859 W.H. Bradshaw advertised for a gardener to work on the station. (4)

Integrity

This site has not been inspected but it is understood to comprise the early stone residence (substantially intact) and several outbuildings. The property is located on the Bet Bet Creek.

Analysis

This is the most intact of the residences erected on pre-emptive rights within the Shire. The Clunes homestead is now marked only by some trees, the Dunach Forest homestead has some stone footings and the pre-emptive right blocks of Rodborough Vale, Plaistow and Tourello lie outside the Shire boundaries (even though part of the runs once cover land within the Shire). The residence is arranged around a central courtyard and is of considerable architectural significance.

Significance

An early residence located on a pre-emptive right block, now the only example in the Shire of an early homestead with this characteristic. The residence is complemented by early outbuildings and is enhanced by its setting on Bet Bet Creek. Historical significance is attached to the early gold discovery made in 1848 on the Glenmona run, one of the earliest publicised gold discoveries in the colony and the early role of Charles Hall as Gold Commissioner for Amherst from 1852.

1 See background history, chapter one for details of sources.

2 *ibid.*, chapter two.

3 Osborn and Du Borg, Maryborough, 1985, pp.11-13.

4 MADA, 11 April 1859, p.2.

RICHMOND HOUSE, Glenmona Road, Glenmona

Section , allotment , Parish of Bung Bong

7623-4-4 YD

History

This land was part of the 'Glenmona' pastoral run. 21 acres was selected by brothers Fred and Edward Miller where they established a garden and orchard on the rich volcanic soil along Bet Bet Creek. Edward died a batchelor but Fred had nine children, of which the youngest boy George took over the property. Again the youngest son Fred, took over the property in 1950 when the homestead section totalled almost 700 acres. The present house was apparently erected in 1875. (1)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although outbuildings were extensively damaged in the 1985 bushfires. Based on a stylistic analysis the present verandah appears to date from the period c.1900-15.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'.

Significance

A typical brick homestead located on a successful selectors holding of the mid to late nineteenth century. This significance is enhanced by long ownership of the one family.

1 All information taken from H.W. Lempriere, 'Richmond House', Ballarat Courier, 8 October 1969.

AMHERST RESERVOIR, Talbot-Avoca Road, Amherst
Parish of Bung Bung

7623-4-2 YD337864 (reservoir wall)

History

Lack of water was a major problem for mining and domestic consumption in the early days of Amherst and Back Creek. In February 1860, with a view to rectifying the situation, the Borough of Amherst offered a 40 prize for the best essay and scheme for water supply in the district although little productive gain ensued. (1) During 1860 £1599 14s 5d was expended by the Victorian Government at Amherst for the purpose of 'constructing dams and reservoirs'. (2) It is probable that some of this sum was directed towards the construction of Amherst Reservoir. The reservoir was certainly under construction by mid 1861 when a rush to the site followed discovery of a 'lost' alluvial lead. (3) On 14 June 1869 the Amherst Reservoir was leased to the 'Mayor, Councillors and Burgesses of the Borough of Amherst' for 99 years at £1 per annum. The lease was apparently forfeited in October 1874 and the reservoir was described as 'useless' in council minutes. It was at this stage that the council sought to purchase the Talbot Reservoir at Evansford. (4) In 1885 the Manager of the Talbot and Amherst Gold fields' Common applied for a permanent reservation of the dam as a site for water supply purposes and temporary reservation was granted on 11 May 1886. However in 1918 the purpose of 'water supply' was augmented by inclusion of 'recreation purposes' in the temporary reservation. (5)

Integrity

This reservoir is still full but not used for domestic supply. The reservoir is located in a forest setting and remnants of shallow alluvial diggings are located in the reserve.

Analysis

This is one of three major reservoirs which served the shire (the others being at Evansford and Bullarook). All these sites are complemented by a linear network of water races.

Significance

The Amherst reservoir is a vital and early reminder of the importance of water to the central goldfields area, both for domestic supply and mining. The site is enhanced by the proximity of early shallow alluvial gold workings.

- 1 Borough of Amherst minutes, as summarised by Ron Pryor, 8 February 1860.
- 2 VPRS 957, unit 2, p.251.
- 3 Flett, Maryborough, 1975, p.74.
- 4 Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, file Rs 1632; Borough of Amherst minutes, 21 October 1874.
- 5 Rs 1632.

STONE BARN, west of Amherst Reservoir, off Talbot-Avoca Road,
Amherst

Section , allotment , Parish of Bung Bong

History

Based on a stylistic analysis this building appears to have been constructed during the period c.1855-70.

Integrity

This northern wall of this building has suffered damage due to partial collapse and other walls are in need of maintenance to prevent further deterioration. The timber shingles have also decayed and are covered with metal sheeting (of an early date). Internally there evidence of use as a shearing shed and for shelter for horses. Nearby are relics of other buildings and some early plantings.

Analysis

This is a fine example of a simple farm outbuilding. Due to widespread damage to the Shire by fire, very few such outbuildings survive from the nineteenth century. This building has been modified during its life by the covering of the timber shingles by Morewood and Rogers patent roof tiles (introduced to the colony in the 1850s) and later corrugated iron. The roof also appears to have been raised by introduction of several brick courses (or this may have been an original feature designed to give a regular surface on which the top plate could sit). The walls are constructed of coursed rubble. The use of such an early sheet material over the shingles could date the building to the 1850s or early 1860s.

Significance

A typical nineteenth century barn, one of few survivors in the local area. The building is distinguished by its timber shingles, later Morewood and Rogers roof tiles and unusual (in the local context) stone walls.

GLENMONA BRIDGE, Bet Bet Creek, Bung Bong

Parish of Bung Bong

7623-4-4 YD

History

Heavy rain during 6-8 September 1870 washed away an earlier bridge at this site (probably that erected by Archibald Oughton in 1857). (1) Following a joint meeting on 16 September 1870 of representatives of Talbot and Avoca Shire Councils it was agreed to:

- 1 Create a temporary ford,
- 2 Call tenders for the sale of iron and wood from the debris of the ruined bridge,
- 3 Engineer of Talbot Shire to prepare plan of laminated arch bridge. (1)

The tender of Milne and Gartley of £10 0s 15d was accepted for purchase of the bridge remains and on 3 November 1870 engineer Woods' design of a replacement bridge was tabled at Avoca Shire Council meeting and approved. Much discussion ensued with regard to funding and on 20 January 1871 shire representatives were informed that the government District Engineer had suggested an iron girder bridge instead of the proposed laminated timber design. Woods tabled an unfinished design of an iron bridge and following a resolution that 'a permanent structure be erected on the old site at Glenmona Bridge' he completed the design. The bridge, 'the handsomest structure of its kind out of Melbourne' (according to the Avoca Mail) was opened in November 1871. The contractors were Fishburn and Lain of Ballarat and the cost £3600. Iron lattice girders were supplied by John Price of Ballarat and timber from Mount Cole was used for the decking. (2)

Integrity

This bridge has been superseded by a modern structure on a more northern alignment to enable the earlier bridge to remain. The bridge was damaged in the 1985 bushfires when the decking was badly damaged.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'early public works'. The iron lattice girders are unusual in the local context as all other early bridges were constructed of stone arches or stone abutments spanned with timber. This bridge is one of the few surviving structures to mark the township of Bung Bong.

Significance

A sophisticated early bridge which stands on one of the earliest bridge sites in the shire. Despite fire damage the bridge still has considerable aesthetic appeal and now remains as one of the few early structures at Bung Bong.

- 1 VPRS 1108, unit 7, 1857.
- 2 All history derived from typescript notes compiled from Avoca council minute books and the Avoca Mail, compiler and date unknown, copy held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

TALBOT RESERVOIR, WATER RACE AND STANDPIPES, Stony Creek, Evansford

Reservoir: formerly allotment 35, Parish of Caralulup
Intake on McCallums Creek: Adjacent Waubra - Talbot Road
Standpipes: Argyle Street and Oxford Street, Talbot

7623-3-1 YD342739 (north east corner of reservoir)

7623-3-1 YD347677 (intake weir)

History

The Talbot Reservoir was originally constructed by James Syme Stewart and Flett details the early history of the works.

The main water scheme at Back Creek was a reservoir, built by Stewart and Farnsworth on Stony Creek with a head race from McCallum's Creek. It cost £10,000 and began by serving sluicing parties on Ballaarat Hill and Hard (White) Hill, but served a number of localities soon after. The charge for water was £9 per day, but despite this the diggers made £20 per week. The scheme began in June 1858. (1)

Dissatisfaction with the Amherst Reservoir led to the purchase of Talbot Reservoir by the Borough of Amherst in July 1875 for £3500. (2) On 13 December 1876 the council decided to call tenders for raising the reservoir wall and after several problems with tenders and contracts, the price of Isaac Meadows of £3551 2s 11d was recommended to the Government for acceptance. This work was completed by October 1877 and a contract had been let with Blyth and Co. for water pipes to reticulate Talbot in June 1877. Further tenders in connection with the scheme were let; settling ponds on the land of a Mr Jackson (W. Phelan, £1350 14s 11d); repairs to water race from Stony Creek to settling ponds site (Peter MacLeod); and standpipes in Argyle and Oxford Streets were erected by a Mr Hawkins in October 1878. Reticulation of Talbot was extended gradually as the need arose, and both the railways and gardeners were large consumers. The railway used 12,000 gallons a day (charge 1/6 per locomotive) and irrigation for gardens consumed 15,000 gallons during the day and 50,000 gallons at night. (3) Difficulty with the supply was caused by the offtake at McCallum's Creek, which had become defective since the original construction by Stewart and Farnsworth. (4) The council accepted the tender of Jones and Crabb (£196 16s 6d) on 17 April 1882 although much heartache was caused by rival Lexton Shire Council's decision to rate the land on which the offtake weir was situated. (5) [Maryborough also obtained water from McCallum's Creek and constructed their reservoir at Evansford in 1881. (6)] The Talbot reservoir was surveyed in August 1884 by Batson prior to fencing and this was undertaken by a Mr Douglas in September 1885. Boating and fishing at the reservoir was subject to much discussion and in 1883 the Victorian Humane Society had provided a life buoy in case of boating accidents. (7)

Integrity

This reservoir is still in use as part of the main domestic supply to Talbot. It has been progressively modified although the essential features of the original site are presumably still those on site. The offtake on McCallum's Creek is still intact.

Analysis

This is one of three major reservoirs which served the shire (the others being at Bullarook and Amherst). All these sites are complemented by a linear network of water races and this reservoir is of especially due to its intact offtake on McCallum's Creek and the early standpipes in Talbot.

Significance

The Talbot reservoir is a vital and early reminder of the importance of water to the central goldfields area, both for domestic supply and mining. This site is complemented by the intact offtake on McCallum's Creek and the standpipes in their original locations at Talbot.

- 1 Flett, Maryborough, 1975, p.68.
- 2 Borough of Amherst minutes, as summarised by Ron Pryor, 14 July 1875.
- 3 *ibid.*, 13 December 1876; 7 March 1876; 13 June 1877; 5 September 1877; 17 October 1877; 28 November 1877; 2 October 1878; 21 January 1880.
- 4 Talbot Leader, 11 March 1881.
- 5 Borough of Amherst minutes, 17 April 1882.
- 6 Talbot Leader, 29 March 1881.
- 7 Borough of Amherst minutes, 27 August 1884; 28 March 1883; 23 September 1885.

RESIDENCE, 47 Alliance Street, Clunes
Section 4, Allotment 5B, Township of Clunes

History

Although this section was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858, this allotment was not subdivided until the formation of Hannah Street in 1861. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact with the exception of additions to the side wall.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes.

1 See Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, file Rs 759.

RESIDENCE, 48 Alliance Street, Clunes
Section 7, Allotment 12, Township of Clunes

History

Although this section was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858, this allotment was not subdivided until the formation of Hannah Street in 1861. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact. Stylistically, the front verandah appears to date from the period c.1900-20.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. The large number of different chimneys indicates that this residence may have been erected in several stages.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes.

1 See Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, file Rs 759.

RESIDENCE, 52 Alliance Street, Clunes

Section 7, Allotment 10, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was purchased from the Crown by Antonio Guiachino on 8 July 1861. (1) The site was rated as land in 1873, owned by the executors of the late A. Guiachino. (2) By December 1873, Constable Cornelius Durack had erected a house with net annual value of £13. (3) By 1879 the property was owned by Margaret Bryens (?) and tenants included miners David Williams and Thomas Higgs. (4) In 1887 the house was described as 'weatherboard, 5 rooms'. (5)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This example is not early by Clunes standards but visually it exemplifies characteristics of a very early cottage type due to its steeply pitched roof and decorative timber work.

Significance

A characteristic timber cottage erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. Visually its pyramidal roof form is more reminiscent of an earlier period but in the absence of many local examples this cottage assumes increased significance as an exemplar of this form.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 15 January 1873, no.1043.
- 3 ibid., 31 December 1873, no.1050.
- 4 ibid., 23 January 1879, no.906.
- 5 ibid., 12 January 1887, no.786.

RESIDENCE, 24 Angus Street, Clunes

Section , Allotment , Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis, this residence appears to have been constructed in the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

The windows have been altered by substitution of large new openings.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. Based on a visual examination it appears that this house may well have been extended at the right hand end. The verandah appears to date from the Edwardian period.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes.

RESIDENCE, 41 Angus Street, corner Bland Street, Clunes

Section 22, Allotment 8, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was purchased from the Crown by W.W. Ewart on 10 June 1862. (1) William Ewart was listed in the 1862 ratepayers roll in Section 22 with a property of assessed annual value (?) of £12. He was also listed as 'engineer, North Clunes' in the 1862 directory, most likely confirmation of this Angus Street address. (2) In 1863 he was listed in Ligar Street and this is not inconsistent with the siting of the present residence. (3) In the 1864 ratebook Ewart was listed with 'tenement and land' in Angus Street, having a net annual value of £16. (4) An increase in net annual value from £12 to £15 occurred in 1870-71 and by this date the property was owned and occupied by Benjamin Williamson, variously described as bricklayer, carpenter and miner. (5) The residence was shown as a simple four roomed cottage in a c.1880-81 photograph taken from the escarpment. (6)

Integrity

The original verandah posts have been replaced by metal pipes.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of timber residences and early timber buildings. The front section of this cottage was probably erected by 1862 although the 1870-71 rise in value may indicate rebuilding. This building is distinguished by its early date of construction, false timber ashlar quoining and elegant concave verandah.

Significance

A characteristic early timber residence erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes. It is distinguished by the use of false timber ashlar quoins on the facade, a feature rare in the local context. The siting of the residence at the corner of three streets gives added visual prominence, especially the view from Queens Park.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratepayers roll, 16 January 1862, no.434; 1862 directory.
- 3 Borough of Clunes ratepayers roll, no.139.
- 4 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 9 March 1864, no.298.
- 5 *ibid.*, 2 March 1870, no.689; 4 January 1871, no.729.
- 6 Photograph by Beauchamp held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

RESIDENCE, 71 Bailey Street, Clunes

Section D, Allotment 7, Township of Clunes

History

This land was part of the area mined by various companies, with the South Clunes Quartz Mining Company having the most successful operations. A residence was shown in this location on an 1868 plan of Clunes and in a c.1870 photograph of the area. (1)

Integrity

This residence has been extended by a timber gabled addition at the eastern side (c.1920-40) and a brick porch/verandah (c.1930-50). The residence retains a picket fence, albeit probably lower in height than the original.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'.

Significance

A characteristic residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. Although now altered, this residence is a vital part of the Talbot Road streetscape, the main western entry to Clunes.

1 Clunes, L.3887, lithographed 28 March 1868; Langtree album, Mitchell Library.

RESIDENCE, 75 Bailey Street, Clunes

Section D, Allotment 8D?, Township of Clunes

History

This land was part of the area mined by various companies, with the South Clunes Quartz Mining Company having the most successful operations. This residence was not shown on an 1868 plan of Clunes nor in a c.1870 photograph of the area. (1) Based on a typological analysis, the residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and retains a picket fence, albeit probably lower in height than the original.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. This residence is a vital part of the Talbot Road streetscape, the main western entry to Clunes.

1 Clunes, L.3887, lithographed 28 March 1868; Langtree album, Mitchell Library.

RESIDENCE, 77 Bailey Street, Clunes

Section D, Allotment , Township of Clunes

History

This land was part of the area mined by various companies, with the South Clunes Quartz Mining Company having the most successful operations. This residence was not shown on an 1868 plan of Clunes nor in a c.1870 photograph of the area. (1) Based on a typological analysis, the residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1880-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the verandah appears to have been altered or rebuilt.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by large building form with elaborate door surround and tripartite windows, details uncommon elsewhere in Clunes but typical of suburban Melbourne.

Significance

A timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. This residence is a vital part of the Talbot Road streetscape, the main western entry to Clunes.

1 Clunes, L.3887, lithographed 28 March 1868; Langtree album, Mitchell Library.

RESIDENCE, 79 Bailey Street, Clunes

Section D, Allotment , Township of Clunes

History

This land was part of the area mined by various companies with the South Clunes Quartz Mining Company having the most successful operations. The residence was not shown on an 1868 plan of Clunes nor in a c.1870 photograph of the area. (1) Based on a typological analysis, the residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is wonderfully intact although now suffering from inherent structural deficiencies. An early picket fence is retained along Bailey Street and the side lane.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of timber residences.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. Its unchanged appearance gives the building special appeal on this highly visible part of Talbot Road, the main western entry to Clunes.

1 Clunes L.3887, lithographed 28 March 1868; Langtree album, Mitchell Library.

FORMER STATE SCHOOL No.136, Bailey Street, Clunes

Section 31, Allotment 5, Township of Clunes

History

This building were erected in 1881 following overcrowding of previous school buildings in South Clunes. Agitation for the new school had commenced in 1878 when the average attendance of the earlier school approached 500. The contract for erection of a new school was signed with Cocks and Brown on 17 November 1881 for £3393 14s. The building was designed by Education Department architect Henry Bastow and the new school was opened on 1 January 1882. (1) This school (No.136) was amalgamated with Clunes School (No.1552) on 18 September 1892 following the collapse of mining in Clunes. The building was used as an infant school (grades 1, 2 and 3) causing bitter protests from local parents. The infant school continued until 1922.

Allotment 5 was purchased from the Crown by Clunes Knitting and Manufacturing Company Limited on 6 March 1923 and adjacent allotment 4 (corner Suburban Street and Alliance Street) was purchased from the Crown on 5 August 1924. The school building extended and converted to a knitting mill. A block of land slightly larger than one acre was purchased by Interknit Hosiery Co Ltd on 23 March 1949 in nearby Camp Street (section G, allotment 11), presumably in connection with this mill. (2)

Integrity

The original building has had numerous additions which relate to its use as a mill. Much of the original slate roof has been replaced by corrugated iron and, presumably in the process, many roof detail (such as vents) have been removed. The original finials are now missing and part of the fleche has been infilled. The picket fence has been removed but many of the pine trees on the boundary still remain, presumably from the school period. (3)

Analysis

Refer to chapter nine of the background history for a discussion of education in the region. Burchell lists 25 schools erected in the period 1876-1901 which had similar elevation to Clunes South. (4) The earliest example, Horsham (No. 298). Burchell regards this design as revolutionary for the manner in which it adopts, for the first time, the verandah as a conscious design element in Victorian school buildings. Moreover, the manner in which the verandahs are integral with the main roof gives the Horsham group a very distinctive appearance. One drawback of such a large verandah was the loss of natural light, although Clunes South overcomes this difficulty by adopting a courtyard plan to allow alternative sources of light. The use of timber for part of the Clunes South building was due, Burchell suggests, to a conscious recognition that the school would soon have a falling enrollment

as mining faded. This was proved when we consider that such a large building only fully functioned for 10 years. Burchell regards the best remaining examples of the Horsham type schools on a statewide basis as those at California Gully, Bendigo (No.123 - 1883) and Toorong Road, Malvern (No.2586 - 1887). Clunes South fits into a category of many of the other similar buildings which although they have been slightly altered, still retain most of their architectural integrity.

The manner in which this building has been converted to a mill demonstrates an early twentieth century reaction to the cessation of local mining. Many out buildings and additions remain to recall the use as a mill. This reuse also helped the school escape the rather brutal enlargement of windows which occurred to most older school buildings in the 1940s.

Significance

Architecturally this is the most sophisticated of the schools erected locally and despite its conversion to a knitting mill these qualities have been retained. The manner in which the building has been altered for use as a mill provides a reminder of the social and economic history of Clunes in the period following cessation of mining. The school is a relatively early example (although one of a number throughout Victoria) which demonstrates the incorporation of verandahs into state school design. The building is also a key element in Talbot Road, the main entry to Clunes from the north.

- 1 Contract drawings held by Public Record Office, Laverton (PRO/SSO 136.1 to 136.3; Blake (ed), Vision and Realisation, vol.2, pp.627-628.
- 2 Cadastral plan.
- 3 Several early photographs are held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes and these have been used for determining the integrity of the building.
- 4 Lawrence Burchell, Victorian Schools, MUP in association with the Victorian Education Department, 1980, pp.164-168, 175.

RESIDENCE, 74 Bailey Street

Section 31, Allotment , Township of Clunes

History

Based on typological analysis the central section of the residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1865-70. The building is shown in a c.1870 photograph but not in the Nettleton views of c.1865-66. (1)

Integrity

Front facade has been rendered although this is now spalling off. The building has possibly had a verandah although this is now missing. The rear outbuilding needs urgent repairs to one corner to regain structural stability.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of timber residences. This building is distinguished by its siting on the street frontage and for retention of early outbuildings.

Significance

A characteristic early brick cottage distinguished by its siting on the street frontage, the only remaining local example with this feature. The residence forms important visual link between the institutional precinct in Bailey Street and the residential area in Talbot Road.

1 Nettleton views held by shire of Talbot and Clunes; c.1870 view in Mitchel Library.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH and PRESBYTERY, Bailey
Street, Clunes

Section 4, Allotment 4, Township of Clunes

History

This land was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858. The present site of the Roman Catholic Church in Clunes was formerly set aside in July 1861 following a request from the Vicar General. The church had originally applied for two acres, with half an acre each for Presbytery and School although surveyor Thomas Adair finally marked out a site of slightly over one acre. The site was already occupied by a 'chapel-school' and by September 1862 a wooden chapel costing £300 had been erected. Following the erection of this building, apparently a condition of the reservation, the site was permanently reserved by the Governor in Council on 19 January 1863. (1) The contract for the present church was signed in November 1872 and architect Henry Caselli called tenders for the stonework to be returned by 7 November 1872. An earlier church was apparently relocated to the rear of the site and later used as a school. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Goold on 9 March 1873 when a marquee was erected over the half built walls and mass was celebrated. The church was blessed and opened on 7 June 1873 by Rev. Dr. Fitzpatrick following an outlay of £3,250. (2) Ballarat was created a Diocese in 1874 and Bishop O'Connor visited Clunes on the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas (7 March 1875) and again blessed the church. In April 1903 the wooden Presbytery in Talbot Road was destroyed by fire and Father Patrick Kenelly had the present brick presbytery erected shortly after. A brick garage and other outbuildings were erected at the rear of the presbytery in 1927.

Integrity

This church is intact although only the nave and aisles were ever erected and the early timber chancel is still in use. The tower was never erected and toothed stonework marks the position of this intended feature as also the unfinished chancel. The present fence appears to date from c.1920-40 and replaced an earlier timber picket fence.

Analysis

This is a fine example of Gothic Revival church where architectural elements have been used in an ecclesiological, archaeologically consistent revival of a Medieval style. The use of local stone (a characteristic promoted by Pugin), clerestories, subsidiary masses (such as porches), middle pointed tracery and elements such as the double lancet windows on the aisles (alluding to SS Peter and Paul) all assist in the creation of a symbolic setting for ritual. The design for St Thomas Aquinas, Clunes was similar to designs provided for Bishop Goold

by eminent English Gothic Revival architect Charles Hansom. Although not one of the five specific designs furnished for colonial use by Hanson, Caselli and assistant William Brittain Tappin drew on elements of St Patrick's, Ballarat (1857-70) in their inspiration for Clunes. This design was also used at St Alipius, East Ballarat, where the tower was erected to a different design in the 1920s. (3) However it is the unfinished nature of the churches at Clunes (and Talbot) which gives the visitor clues to the fortunes of this former mining town. This church combines with the Town Hall, Court House and Post Office to form a fine streetscape of nineteenth century institutional buildings.

Significance

A fine Gothic Revival church which is distinguished by its form and detail, both derived from Medieval precedents in a manner consistent with the ritual of the church. The unfinished nature of the building informs the viewer about the fluctuating fortunes of the mining town and the fine Edwardian presbytery is the most stylish local building of this period. The buildings form an integral part of a institutional precinct of high significance.

- 1 Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands reserve file, Rs 759.
- 2 Clunes Guardian and Gazette, 1 November 1972; O'Bryan, 'History of St Thomas Aquinas Church, Clunes', 1972, handwritten copy by F.C. Weickhardt, 1972, held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes. All subsequent references are from O'Bryan.
- 3 Brian Andrews, 'The English Benedictine Connection - The works of Charles Hansom in Australia', paper delivered to the Society of Architectural Historians (A & NZ) conference, 1986, pp.12-13.

FORMER NELSON RESIDENCE, 94 Bailey Street, Clunes

Section 4, Allotment 31, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of 1858 as part of the section intended to accommodate public buildings and reserves. It was purchased from the Crown by Adolph Nelson on 7 June 1864. (1) During 1860-62 Nelson was listed in the 'Clunes Company Paddock' although by 1864 he was listed in Bailey Street with property rated at £26. (2) The house is shown in the c.1865 Nettleton view of 'Clunes United Quartz Mining Company Registered, Clunes'. Net annual value jumped in 1868-69 (£22 to £30) and 1869-70 (£30 - £40). (3) Nelson's occupation was listed as miner until 1875 when he was listed as publican of a neighbouring hotel to the east. Clergyman Robert Scanlon was listed as tenant a year later and this coincided with a rise in nett annual value of £23 to £30. (4) Nelson sold the property in the early 1880s and in 1887 the residence was described as 'brick and weatherboard, 8 rooms'. (5)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact. The front verandah was possibly added or rebuilt during the period c.1880-1900.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick residences'. This example is a rare combination of building forms in both brick (front) and timber (rear).

Significance

A characteristic early cottage combining brick and timber (which was quite uncommon in the local context). The prominent siting in the significant institutional precinct enhances its significance.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratepayers roll, 1860, no.274; 1862, no. 487; ratebook, 9 March 1864, no.75.
- 3 *ibid.*, 18 March, 1868, no.82; 3 March 1869, no.468; 2 March 1870, no.976.
- 4 *ibid.*, 24 February 1875, no.983; 9 February, 1876, no.958.
- 5 *ibid.*, 23 January, 1879, no.838; 12 January 1887, no.729.

RESIDENCE, 96 Bailey Street, Clunes

Section 4, Allotment 32, Township of Clunes

History

This residence was apparently erected for Richard Ford, well known in Clunes as a artist and painter. (1) His work includes the backdrop of the Clunes Town Hall stage as well as many views in the town in the period 1930-50. Based on typological analysis the residence appears to have been erected c.1920-30. The site was occupied in the mid 1870s by a hotel and its publican Adolph Nelson lived in the existing house at 94 Bailey Street. (2)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This is one of few local residences to show the influence of the Californian Bungalow. It is similar to 15 Ligar Street, Clunes and may have been constructed by the same builder.

Significance

A characteristic residence of the period c.1920-30 demonstrating a style of architectural rare in the local context.

- 1 Cr Wally Cook, personal communication, 8 October 1987.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 24 February 1875, no. 983.

CLUNES TOWN HALL AND COURT HOUSE, Bailey Street, Clunes

Section 4, Allotment 7, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858. A two acre site for Borough Chambers was temporarily reserved by order of the Governor-in-Council of 28 January 1861. This included allotments 9 and 10 (which were earmarked for the police), allotment 7 and part of allotment 4. On 8 May 1865, allotments 7,9 and 10 in section 4 were permanently reserved by the Governor-in-Council and on 26 January 1866 the grant was formalised to 'The Mayor, Councillor and Burgesses for Town Hall, Court House, Borough Chambers and Market.' (1) Plans for a proposed Town Hall and Court House were drawn up in 1870. The Government indicated that some funding would be made available, especially towards the cost of the Court House and in July 1871 the council raised a debenture loan, partially to fund the erection of the new Town Hall. On 13 December 1871, at a special meeting of Clunes Borough Council, architect Percy Oakden was instructed to produce a final design for a Town Hall and Court House not to exceed the cost of £3,000. (2) William Cowland's tender of £327 for laying foundations was accepted on 17 January 1872 and the foundation stone was laid by the Chief Secretary, Charles Gavan Duffy on 4 April 1872. (3) Since February 1872 Percy Oakden had joined Fox in partnership and this firm was invited to call tenders for the remainder of the building. William Cowland's tender of £3458 was accepted on 4 April 1872 and on 11 September council raised the contract sum by £69 to provide slate instead of galvanised iron. (4) The building was opened on 30 May 1873 by the Governor, Sir George Bowen. Final cost of the building was calculated at £5314 1s 7d. (5) The supper room is thought to be the former Bible Christian Church, erected in upper Fraser Street in 1867 (architect Lugg) and relocated at an unknown date. (6)

Integrity

This building is remarkably intact and retains many significant external and internal features. These include highly modelled external render work, early joinery, wall paper, painted finishes, painted backdrop, wings, proscenium arch, painted war memorial, fireplaces, furniture (especially the original court house furniture and fittings) and much historical material relating to the Borough of Clunes. The original council table is located in the William Barkell Centre in Fraser Street. The painted ceiling in the hall has been repainted c.1975-80 apparently to the original scheme. The exterior render basalt base has been painted although all face brickwork remains unpainted. The building is presently (1987-88) the subject of extensive external conservation works.

Analysis

This is amongst the most significant Town Halls in Victoria. It is unusual for its combined Town Hall and Court House facilities and architecturally is very distinctive. Despite the architectural treatment of the facade it follows a reasonably conventional symmetrical massing with a large central hall and subsidiary flanking offices and the court house. The interior finishes are particularly important as is the original court furniture. The backdrop, wings and proscenium arch in the main hall are most unusual and their survival is very fortunate.

Significance

A most significant building on account of the eclectic design of the facade, the strongly modelled render, the massing of central hall and flanking subsidiary elements and high level of intactness. There are many internal features of significance, particularly intact early finishes, painted backdrop to the stage and proscenium arch. The combination of Town Hall and Court House is highly unusual and reflects the confidence of Clunes at the peak of its prosperity. The relocation of the former Bible Christian Church highlights a later phase in the history of Clunes when the peak of prosperity had passed. The building forms one of the key elements in a block of institutional buildings of outstanding significance.

- 1 Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands reserve file, Rs 6781.
- 2 R.J. Pryor (compiler), 'A brief history of the Clunes Town Hall', May 1978.
- 3 Ballarat Courier, 5 April 1872, p.2.
- 4 ibid., 31 May 1873, p.2; Illustrated Australian News, 25 March 1874, p.42.
- 5 Pryor, op. cit.
- 6 The Bible Christian Victorian Record, 1 January 1868, p.43; April 1868, p.53. A larger brick Bible Christian Church was erected in 1869-70 (Record, April 1870, p.239) and a photograph in Langtree (Mitchell Library) c.1870 shows the two buildings in Fraser Street.

H.B.R. 601

POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE, corner Bailey Street and Service Street, Clunes

Section 4, Allotment 8, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of 1858 (1) and drawings for the first Telegraph and Post Office on the site were signed by Public Works Department draughtsman Charles Vickers on 10 May 1860. (2) A contract with Pleydell and Clark of Ballarat for £1,390 was signed on 26 July 1860. (3) The same drawings were intended for the Post and Telegraph Office at Back Creek (Talbot) and this building, erected in 1860, still stands with later additions. It is not known which building was completed first, but the original architects drawing have the word 'Back Creek' crossed out and 'Clunes' written along side, perhaps indicating that the urgent needs of the settlement at Back Creek in the turbulent period following the Scandinavian Lead rush had inspired the design.

Replacement of the Clunes office was contemplated in 1877 when a Public Works Department drawing of 'Public Offices' was prepared. This was to include a Treasury in addition to the Post and Telegraph Office. The design was never executed, although drawings prepared a year later for the present building bore a resemblance to the 1877 scheme. (4) The 1877 scheme was designed by Alfred Snow and following his sacking, the design of the present building is likely to have been executed by George Watson. (5)

On 14 August 1878 a contract was signed for the present building with Lewis and Roberts for £4,099. (6) A contract for further works was signed on 24 July 1879 for £199 8s 11d (7) and it is probable that this covered the erection of the timber kitchen, which was not shown on the 1878 ink drawing although it was pencilled in. A contract with Morgan and Co. for £278 17s 6d was let on 18 September 1879 and this included a shed and fence. (8) The architects drawing shows the kitchen and it is possible the one drawing may have served the two contracts. Since that date, painting and small repairs have been the only works of any consequence. (9)

Integrity

This building remains in a remarkably intact state. Externally the cement render is unpainted apart from a small section in the arcade. The weatherboard kitchen section was repainted (c.1980-81) in an appropriate nineteenth century scheme and the postal hall has been repainted internally (1985) in the original scheme of light blue with a brown dado. The telegraph room has been repainted internally in a scheme typical of the period of construction. The 1879 shed is still intact as are possibly some sections of the corrugated iron fence of the same date.

Analysis

This building was designed at a time of great upheaval in the Public Works Department. The design was commenced before the sacking of Wardell and other staff on 'Black Wednesday' (9 January 1878) and completed in the revamped office. The design in the Italianate Palazzo idiom is similar to several other Victorian post offices, with Stawell (1874) being the most comparable prototype. Port Fairy and Warrnambool (both 1880) demonstrate similar window treatment and the simplicity of floor elevations at Clunes reflects Wardell's edicts.

The plan of Clunes with small separate public spaces for Post and Telegraph functions was used at Kyneton (1870) and later at Warrnambool, Port Fairy and Benalla. The planning of the residential section is typical of contemporary medium sized post offices although the apparent omission of the kitchen in the original drawings is puzzling.

Significance

The Clunes Post and Telegraph Office is one of the grandest and most sophisticated public buildings in Clunes. The comparatively late date of its rebuilding demonstrates the optimism generated by local mining at a time when the peak of prosperity in Clunes had passed.

The Clunes post office is one of the most intact Italianate post office buildings in the state and an excellent example of the Italianate Palazzo style of public buildings.

The building is a crucial part of the institutional block of buildings in Clunes and the prominent corner location means the building is a highly visible part of the streetscape. The height and bulk of the building also gives it special prominence in distant vistas within the Clunes valley.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Drawing held by Public Record Office, Laverton, all drawings are reproduced in Power & Coleman, 'Clunes Post Office, Report for charge of annuity', Department of Housing and Construction, 1981.
- 3 VPRS 979, unit 2, p.47.
- 4 Drawing held by PRO, (PBC 3).
- 5 Power & Coleman, op.cit., 1981, p.53.
- 6 *ibid.*, p.31.
- 7 *ibid.*, p.34.
- 8 Drawing held by PRO.
- 9 A detailed list of contracts included in Power & Coleman, 1981, p.35.
- 10 See Power & Coleman, 1981, pp. 34, 45-55.
- 11 *ibid.*, pp. 45-55; for a discussion of the kitchen see p.51.

RESIDENCE, 106 Bailey Street, Clunes

Section 5, Allotment , Township of Clunes

History

Based on typological analysis the central section of the residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1880-1900. The projecting right hand appears to have been erected c.1900-20.

Integrity

The integrity of this house has been considerably downgraded by use of later brick cladding and substitution of a corner window in the projecting right hand room in place of a centrally placed window.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. The construction and subsequent enlargement of this building has occurred in a manner typical of the 1870s and 80s although in this instance the period of construction has been much later than was common locally.

Significance

A characteristic cottage demonstrating growth in a period not associated with great local prosperity. The mature palm tree (Phoenix canariensis) is typical of this period and considerably enhances this site and the immediate locality.

FORMER TELEGRAPH HOTEL, 114 Bailey Street, corner Fraser Street,
Clunes

Section 12, Allotment 1, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was put up for auction on 5 March 1862 with valuation including improvements of £1500 and purchased by F. Hamilton. (1) Frederick Hamilton was listed on this site in 1862 with a net annual value of 60 and in the 1862 directory Hamilton was listed as 'Hotel Keeper' in Bailey Street. (2) This was an earlier hotel building on the site which was destroyed by fire on ... The hotel was rebuilt and the local correspondent of the Creswick and Clunes Advertiser favourably on the 'Telegraph Hotel' in July 1863 (3). The Clunes All Nations Masonic Lodge met in the Telegraph Hotel for the first time on 25 August 1863. (4) Publican William Gubbins was first listed in the 1864 ratebook as owner and occupier of 'land and tenement' at 'Sect 12, Bailey Street' with a net annual value of £140. (5) The present building is shown c.1865 in Nettleton's views of 'Fraser Street', 'View in Township' and 'Government Bridge'. (4)

Integrity

The external brickwork of this building is painted white, a doorway on the main facade to Fraser Street has been blocked and a new skillion had been added to the rear of the building. Internally some alteration have been made to walls although the upper floor 'lodge room' remains intact with dado panelling, timber ceiling and early wallpaper.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of commercial buildings and early brick or stone buildings. This building is typical of metropolitan and major provincial hotels with its splayed corner two storey form. The upper lodge room is now extremely rare with no other known examples known elsewhere in the state (however further research is likely to reveal other instances).

Significance

This former hotel is a characteristic early commercial building and one of the earliest surviving hotels in the Shire. The upper storey lodge room is of special significance on account of its intactness and comparative rarity. The building forms a prominent part of the streetscape in Clunes, ends the vista along Fraser Street and Bailey Street and is the first major building encountered upon entry from Creswick or Smeaton.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3.
- 2 Borough of Clunes, 1862 voters roll, no.332; 1862 directory.
- 3 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 8 July 1863, p.3.
- 4 All Nations Lodge, Clunes. Centenary Celebrations, 1958, quoting minute books.
- 5 Borough of Clunes, ratebook, 1864, no.188.
- 6 Photographs held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

'GOVERNMENT BRIDGE', Creswick's Creek, Bailey Street, Creswick
Road and Smeaton Road, Clunes

Township of Clunes

History

The road between Creswick and Clunes was directed to be laid out in December 1858 by C.W. Ligar, Surveyor General and was finally gazetted in November 1859. (1) In 1860 \$5800 was estimated as the amount required for the Creswick to Clunes Road 'to clear about 2 miles and to erect a bridge over the Tullaroop Creek at Clunes with approaches'. (2) Material was on site by January 1862 and contractor Barker was making 'very rapid improvement ... with the new bridge' in April 1862. Completion in May 1862 was estimated by the local correspondent of the Creswick and Clunes Advertiser. (3)

Integrity

This bridge originally had a laminated timber arch to carry traffic. However in 1896 this was replaced by a steel lattice girder supporting the decking whilst retaining the basalt abutments of 1862. A new foundation stone was dedicated by the Mayoress on 12 December 1896. (4) The abutments are marred visually by white painted lines at road level on the stone surface. The bridge is still in use.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'early public works'. The precise location of this bridge was determined by the boundaries of the original police paddock of the 1850s and its siting therefore recalls a period prior even to its construction.

Significance

This bridge is one of the earliest remaining public works at Clunes and was the earliest substantial link between north and south Clunes. The location is a vital reminder of the location of the original police paddock used for surveillance during the turbulent 'insiders versus outsiders' conflict of the 1850s. The axis of the bridge, at 90 degrees to the line of Creswick's Creek, provides a dramatic entry to Clunes when approaching from Creswick and Smeaton.

- 1 VPRS 242, unit 13, 59A/4814.
- 2 1861 Estimates, p.41 in VPP, 1860-61, II.
- 3 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 3 January 1862, p.3; 28 April 1862, p.3.
- 4 Commemorative stone on south western abutment.

RESIDENCE, 6 Bath Street, Clunes

Section 8, allotment 17?, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This example is distinguished by its bay window, an unusual element to incorporate under a straight verandah.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It is distinguished by its bay window, an unusual element for such a modest residence.

1 Cadastral plan.

RESIDENCE, 15 Bath Street, Clunes

Section 11, Allotment 11, Township of Clunes

History

This section was surveyed and put up for auction in March 1862, although allotments 11, 12 and 13 were excluded. (1) This residence may however have been erected using residential provisions of a miner's right and based on a typological analysis it appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and there is no physical evidence that it ever possessed a verandah. The frontage to Bath Street still retains a section of early picket fence.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building is distinguished by its lack of verandah and dramatic siting on the escarpment overlooking Creswick's Creek.

Significance

A characteristic early timber cottage erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes. It is distinguished by its lack of verandah and dramatic siting overlooking the Creswick's Creek valley, of which it forms a significant component.

1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862.

RESIDENCE, 16 Bath Street, Clunes

Section 10, Allotment 4, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was put up for public auction on 5 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £30). (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80 and probably incorporates the residence included in the 1862 valuation.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This example is distinguished by its unusual curved verandah and the dramatic siting on the escarpment overlooking Creswick's Creek.

Significance

A characteristic early timber residence erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes. It is distinguished by the unusual curved verandah and dramatic siting overlooking the Creswick's Creek valley, of which it forms a significant component.

1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862.

RESIDENCE, 20 Bath Street, Clunes

Section 10, Allotment 1A, Township of Clunes

History

This section was surveyed and put up for auction in March 1862 although allotments 1, 1A, 6 and 6A were excluded. (1) This residence may however have been erected using residential provisions of a miner's right and based on a typological analysis it appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-70.

Integrity

This residence has had the verandah partially infilled and its window openings altered. Later surrounding outbuildings make this residence difficult to view from Bath Street.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of timber residences. This example is distinguished by its steeply pitched roof and encircling verandah. Although the address is now Bath Street, this allotment was originally intended as an extension of Upper Fraser Street (or perhaps even 'Lower' Victoria Street). The residence is now best appreciated from Creek Parade.

Significance

A characteristic early timber residence erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes. It is distinguished by its steeply pitched roof and encircling verandah. The siting assists with an understanding of the early road layout of Clunes and the residence forms an important component of the Creswick's Creek valley.

1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862.

RESIDENCE, 21 Beckwith Street, Clunes

Section 26, allotment 17?, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in the 1864 Township plan of Clunes.
(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1865-80 and extended during the same period.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the present verandah may date from a period considerably later than the main date of construction for the residence.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This example is distinguished by its building form with two gables sections and a rear gabled section oriented at right angles to the main residence.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It is distinguished by its simple building form and siting, overlooking the significant South Clunes mining area.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 23 Beckwith Street, Clunes

Section 26, allotment 16?, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in the 1864 Township plan of Clunes.
(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1865-80.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the present weatherboards appear to be new. A small verandah has been added to the northern elevation. The property retains an early timber picket fence and hedge of Artemesia arborescens (Wormwood).

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This example is distinguished by its simple building form and lack of verandah.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It is distinguished by its simple, verandahless building form and siting, overlooking the significant South Clunes mining area.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

BUTE AND DOWNES MINE, Boundary Street, Clunes

Section 30, south of allotment 9 (mullock heap)

History

There was apparently no claim over this area during the peak of mining in 1869-70. (1) By 1872 the Clunes Quartz and Alluvial Company has a lozenge shaped claim centred on the 'Big Dam' with its western boundary running approximately along Service Street. (2) Nothing is known of this company except to say that it was outside the line of quartz reefs. In 1882 the Bute and Downes Amalgamated Company were prospecting the area, seeking the lead worked in the adjacent Lothair Company's claim. Mining Registrar C.A.C Cresswell commented in March 1883 about the prospects of the mine.

Great interest continues to be centred in the two alluvial prospecting mines at clunes, the Bute and Downes Amalgamated Company and the Clyde, and each day news is eagerly sought respecting the operations, and as to whether they have resulted in the discovery of payable wash dirt, as it is felt by everyone here that the stability of Clunes as one of the principal goldfields in the colony depends very much upon the discovery of a payable lead in one or other of these prospecting mines.

Puddling machines were testing a 'reef-wash' in February 1883 and by the middle of the year results led to sanguine predictions. A sudden influx of water in the third quarter of 1883 dampened prospects although to the end of November 1883 R.H. Bland (of the Port Phillip Company) estimated that the Bute and Downes Company had won 1,778 oz gold at a value of £7,345. The company started 1884 badly having to put off 80 men after abandoning its upper workings. Despite energetic prospecting in ensuing years the company does not seem to have met with conspicuous success. The Mining Registrar last mentioned the mine in his report of 31 March 1887 (3) although the Company's claim was still shown on a plan of 1891. (4) T.Hewitson, manager of the South Clunes Company, estimated that to the end of 1887 the Bute and Downes Company had won 14,378 oz gold worth £59,462 and this figure was repeated by Giddings in 1902. (5)

Integrity

This mine retains a large mullock heap, rendered conspicuous by its location close to the Ballarat-Clunes Road near the railway station. This mullock is located close to the shaft marked on the 1891 plan if the claim.

Analysis

This was one of the main deep lead mines in Clunes. Others were the South Clunes Company, Lothair Company, Ballarat and Clunes Company as well as smaller earlier alluvial claims.

Significance

One of the most productive deep lead mines in Clunes and a mine which contributed to the local economy in a period of decline for quartz reef mines. The site is now particularly conspicuous due to its large mullock dump located at the main southern entry to Clunes.

- 1 James Stevenson, 'Plan of the Clunes North Western Q.M.Co. and adjacent claims', F.W. Niven, Ballarat, [c.1869].
- 2 Jesse Hoare Smith, 'Plan of the Lothair Extended Gold Mining Co. Clunes, 10 May 1872.
- 3 Information on Bute and Downes from Quarterly Reports of the Mining Registrars, 30 September 1882, 31 March 1883, 30 June 1883, 30 September 1883, 31 December 1883, 31 March 1884, 31 March 1886.
- 4 Reports and statistics of the Mining Department, quarter ended 30 September 1891, p.18.
- 5 Reports and statistics of the South Clunes United Company's Mine, 1888, p.3; Giddings, The Clunes Mines, 1902, p.12.

RESIDENCE, 1 Cameron Street, Clunes

Section 23, Allotment 1, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was surveyed between 1862 and 1864. On the 1862 Township Plan the allotment was in the middle of an area tentatively titled 'East Parade'. However, the 1864 township plan included a new street titled Angus Street which included nine pre-existing buildings. (1) However, none was indicated on allotment 1 and based on a typological analysis this residence appears to date from the period c.1880-1900. However, a c.1910 postcard view of Clunes does not show a residence on this allotment and this may indicate that an existing residence was probably relocated on this site. (2)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. Removal and relocation of timber residences and buildings was common in mining towns where comparatively sudden shifts in economic activity could displace or augment the population. It was however more common for houses to be moved out of towns and this is now a rare documented instance (determined from photographs and typological evidence) of a relocated residence in Clunes.

Significance

This is characteristic nineteenth century timber residence, apparently moved to this location following a cessation of mining; a depressed period in the Clunes economy.

- 1 Township of Clunes, L.628 & 1138, lithographed 13 February 1862; Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.
- 2 Postcard [view south west from Cameron Street]; Don Mackinnon Collection, Geelong

RESIDENCE, 11 Camp Street, Clunes

Section D, Allotment 8C, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was not included on the 1864 Township Plan but a residence was shown on this allotment in Nettleton's photograph of c.1865 and a plan of 1868. However this residence does not appear to correspond with any of the structures shown in the Nettleton view and may date from a slightly later date.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the timber fretwork brackets appear to be a later addition. The site retains remnants of an early garden layout. A picket fence, lower in height than the original, runs across the Camp Street frontage although an intrusive horizontal corrugated iron fence is used on the north-eastern boundary.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This is a fine example of the traditional use of quartz pebbles to edge paths and garden beds, common in many Victorian mining towns.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The early garden layout, distinguished by the long central path bordered with quartz pebbles, enhances the significance of the residence. This residence is a crucial part of the Camp Hill area, an early residential area serving nearby mines.

- 1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864; Nettleton, 'Criterion Quartz Mining Company, Registered, Clunes' and 'View in township, Clunes, South East' c.1865; Clunes, L.3887, lithographed 28 March 1868.

RESIDENCE, 13 Camp Street

Section D, Allotment 6A, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was not included on the 1864 Township Plan but a residence was shown on this allotment in a Nettleton's photograph of c.1865 and a plan of 1868. However the residence may have been erected earlier than 1864 and held under residential provisions of a miner's right.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the wire mesh balustrade is presumably a recent addition.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. The residence in the Nettleton photograph (thought to correspond to this present building) has a hipped roof but it is possible that the current building is the same structure in an extended form and with a rebuilt gable roof and new verandah. The existing chimney is in the same location as the Nettleton view. This residence is distinguished by its dramatic siting on the edge of the encampment, made more dramatic in this location by the deep cutting for Camp Street and the elevated footpath.

Significance

A characteristic early timber residence erected during the rise in prosperity in Clunes and extended during the peak of prosperity. It is distinguished by its dramatic siting and is a crucial part of the Camp Hill area, an early residential area serving nearby mines.

- 1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864; Nettleton, 'Criterion Quartz Mining Company, Registered, Clunes', c.1865; Clunes, L.3887, lithographed 28 March 1868.

FORMER MASONIC LODGE, 18 Camp Street, Clunes

Section B, Allotment 5, Township of Clunes

History

The inaugural meeting of the All Nations Lodge (No. 425 of the Irish Constitution) took place in the Criterion Hotel, Clunes on 30 November 1858. A new hall was erected on the west side of Service Street between Bailey Street and Fraser Street in March/April 1860. This building was purchased by the Mechanics Institute and in August 1863 the Lodge met in the newly erected Telegraph Hotel. On 24 November 1863 a committee was appointed 'to procure a suitable site for a Masonic Hall' and on 5 April 1864 the foundation stone of the present building in Camp Street was laid. The contract price for the hall was £500. The first meeting was held in July 1864 and the lodge met regularly in these premises until its transfer in 1909 to the former Primitive Methodist Church in Service Street. The lodge building is clearly depicted in the background of a Nettleton photograph taken c.1865-66. (5) The site in Camp Street was purchased from the Crown on 28 August 1871 by J. Dickson and Co, presumably on behalf of the lodge. (6)

Integrity

This building is now used as a private residence (and presumably has been since 1909). The original building form is substantially intact although it has been extended at the northern end. All but one of the original windows have been blocked (the remaining window retains the original or early joinery) and the main door and entablature at the south end have been removed. Evidence of the original or early painted ceiling decoration is retained above a new false ceiling. The picket fence is a recent addition.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'early brick or stone buildings'. This building has rendered walls with basalt quoining to define the corners, an unusual combination in the local context. The building incorporates design elements typically associated with masonic lodges, such as small high windows and the entablature over the front door (now removed). It is one of many surviving nineteenth century masonic lodges, albeit of a relatively early date. It forms part of a network of buildings in Clunes that are associated with the masonic lodge. The others are the former Telegraph Hotel, Clunes (which currently retains its upstairs lodge room) and former Primitive Methodist Church, Clunes (used as lodge since 1909).

Significance

A distinctive early institutional building which forms part of a group of local buildings associated with the masonic lodge. It is one of many surviving lodge buildings in Victoria although it is now amongst the earliest examples. The building is a major surviving nineteenth century element on Camp Hill, one of the earliest developed areas in Clunes and is enhanced by its elevated site.

- 1 The All Nations Lodge, Clunes...Centenary Celebrations, 1958, p.2.
- 2 Extracts from minute books quoted in centenary brochure, op.cit., pp.2-3.
- 3 ibid., p.3; Clunes Gazette, 5 August 1864, p.3.
- 4 The All Nations Lodge..., op.cit., pp.3-4; Borough of Clunes ratebook, 8 March 1865, no.898.
- 5 'Camp Parade, Clunes, South West', held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 6 Cadastral plan.

FORMER PEARCE RESIDENCE, 19 Camp Street, Clunes

Section D, Allotment 4, Township of Clunes

History

A residence owned by miner Peter Pearce was first listed in the ratepayers roll of 1860, when it was rated at £15. (1) and a residence similar to the existing dwelling is visible in Nettleton's c.1865 view of 'Criterion Q.M.C.'. (2) The allotment was purchased by Pearce on 7 June 1864 and the valuation jumped from £14 to £18 in 1870-71. (3) Pearce sold the house to James Pickford in 1885 and it was rented to various miners. In 1890, the dwelling was listed as '5 room weatherboard'. (4)

Integrity

This house is substantially intact although the verandah appears to date from the period c.1890-1910. The garden paths and edges have now been concreted although they presumably follow an early geometrical layout.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'timber residences' and 'early timber buildings'. The 1870-71 rise may indicate an extension, or merely a different method of rate assessment. The garden layout appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century.

Significance

A characteristic early timber residence erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes. It is possibly one of only a handful of local 1850s cottages still surviving in a recognisable form. The house is a crucial part of the Camp Hill area, an early residential area serving nearby mines. The garden layout is a significant survivor from the nineteenth century and one of few local examples of a detailed geometric cottage garden.

- 1 Borough of Clunes, ratepayers roll, 1860, no.291.
- 2 Photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 3 Borough of Clunes, ratebook, 1870, no.1119; 1871, no.1183.
- 4 *ibid.*, 1885, no.909; 1890, no.913.

FORMER BARWELL RESIDENCE, 25 Camp Street, Clunes

Section D, Allotment 1, Township of Clunes

History

A residence owned and occupied by plasterer John Barwell, was first listed on this allotment in the 1864 ratebook, with a net annual value of £10. (1) This jumped from £9 to £16 in 1866-67 (2) and the site was owned by Bardwell until at least 1894. The block was purchased from the Crown by Barwell on 27 January 1873. (3) The house was variously described in ratebooks as being 5 to 7 rooms, constructed of brick.

Integrity

This building is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences' and 'early brick or stone buildings'. The 1866-67 rise in value probably indicates the rear extension of the residence. the unusual angle between the front and rear building forms possibly indicates construction of Bailey Street/Talbot Road in the period since original erection c.1864 and the corresponding alignment of the side wall parallel to the roadway.

Significance

A characteristic early brick residence distinguished by its rendered walls, which recall the trade of the owner and occupant. The house is a crucial part of the Camp Hill area, an early residential area serving nearby mines.

- 1 Borough of Clunes, ratebook, 1864, no.361.
- 2 ibid., 1866, no.591; 1867, no.640. Ratebook only checked until 1894.
- 3 Cadastral plan.

RESIDENCE, 9 Canterbury Street, Clunes

Section 58, Allotment 3, Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis, this residence appears to have been constructed during the period c.1860-80. A residence of this configuration was clearly indicated on the 1906-08 plan of this vicinity. (1)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. Judging from the many different roof forms, this building appears to have been erected in stages.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in this area of East Clunes, once a large residential area serving the nearby mining operations.

1 Allotments in the Township of Clunes, lithographed 1906 or 08 (copy print unclear).

RESIDENCE, 10 Canterbury Street, Clunes

Section 57, Allotment 21, Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis, this residence appears to have been constructed during the period c.1860-1900. A residence of this configuration was clearly indicated on the 1906-08 plan of this vicinity. (1)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact except for the false brick cladding.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. The use of patterned brickwork (on the chimney) is unusual in the local context.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes distinguished by its use of patterned brickwork in the chimneys. The building is one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in this area of East Clunes, once a large residential area serving the nearby mining operations.

1 Allotments in the Township of Clunes, lithographed 1906 or 08 (copy print unclear).

RESIDENCE, 26 Canterbury Street, Clunes

Section 56, Allotment 8, Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis, this residence appears to have been constructed during the period c.1860-80. A residence of this configuration was clearly indicated on the 1906-08 plan of this vicinity. (1)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact with the exception of a new cream brick chimney and flat sheeting on the side wall.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in this area of East Clunes, once a large residential area serving the nearby mining operations.

1 Allotments in the Township of Clunes, lithographed 1906 or 08 (copy print unclear).

RESIDENCE, 27 Canterbury Street, Clunes

Section 53, Allotment , Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis, this residence appears to have been constructed during the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the front verandah has been infilled and side walls covered with flat sheeting.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in this area of East Clunes, once a large residential area serving the nearby mining operations.

1 Allotments in the Township of Clunes, lithographed 1906 or 08 (copy print unclear).

RESIDENCE, 12 Creswick Road, Clunes

Section 27, Allotment 27, Township of Clunes

History

This section was surveyed between 1862 and 1864 and a house was shown on this allotment on the 1864 township plan. (1) A house is also shown (albeit indistinctly) in a c.1870 photograph. (2)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. The early section of this residence is clearly distinguished from the gabled addition at the left hand end, which presumably dates from c.1920-40. The siting of this residence is also a reminder of the boundary of the police paddock of the 1850s which was subdivided in 1864.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. Its siting assists in visualising the boundary of the original police paddock and the 1864 subdivision following removal of the police to Camp Hill. This is also a very prominent location on one of the main entry roads to Clunes.

- 1 Township of Clunes, lithographed 13 February 1862; Township of Clunes, lithographed 4 May 1864.
- 2 Langtree album, Mitchell Library, c.1870.

RESIDENCE, 15 Creswick Road, corner of George Street and Moatt Street, Clunes

Section 35, Allotment 10, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was purchased from the Crown by G.R. Kinaman on 20 December 1865(?) (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been constructed during the period c.1860-90.

Integrity

This house has quite a low integrity due to cladding with simulated brick sheet, insertion of new large aluminium windows and replacement of the verandah. However an early picket fence is still retained along the Creswick Road frontage.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building, despite its low integrity, is a vital part of the main entry to Clunes (from Creswick) in a precinct now devoid of many of its former buildings. Its siting at the corner of George Street and Moatt Street (both of which are now closed to through traffic) also assists in an understanding of the early town plan of Clunes.

Significance

A characteristic nineteenth century timber residence, distinguished by its dramatic siting. Its location in an area developed with consolidation of prosperity in Clunes also assists in an understanding of the early road layout in Clunes. This is also a very prominent location on one of the main entry roads to Clunes.

1 Cadastral plan, the date is unclear on the copy.

RESIDENCE, 29 Creswick Road, corner Hotham Street, Clunes

Section 35, Allotment 1A, Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected in the period c.1870-90. The residence was shown in a c.1910 postcard view. (1)

Integrity

The basic form of this residence is intact, although windows have now been altered and the front verandah (not shown in the c.1910 view) enclosed. The picket fence shown in the postcard view has also been dismantled.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building is a vital part of the main entry to Clunes (from Creswick) in a precinct now devoid of many of its former buildings.

Significance

A characteristic nineteenth century timber residence is a locality developed with consolidation of prosperity in Clunes. This is also a very prominent location on one of the main entry roads to Clunes.

- 1 Postcard 'Creswick Road, Clunes', Don Mackinnon collection, Geelong.

RESIDENCE, 25 East Parade, corner Coundon Street, Clunes

Section 27, Allotment 57, Township of Clunes

History

This section was surveyed between 1862 and 1864 and a house was shown on this allotment on the 1864 township plan. (1) The allotment was purchased from the Crown by R. Longstaff. A residence was rated in 1864 with a net annual value of £12. The owner was timber merchant Ralph Longstaff and occupant Joel Deeble (who does not appear in the 1863 ratepayers roll). Longstaff was listed as owner until 1871 and occupants included a number of miners. The value rose from £7 to £9 in 1875-76 during the ownership and occupancy of Constable James Murray. The residence was described as 6 rooms weatherboard in 1889. (2)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences' and 'early timber buildings'. This building is distinguished by its combination of gable roof and return verandahs, its siting close to the main frontage and the manner in which it closes the vista south along East Parade.

Significance

A characteristic early timber residence, erected by a well known merchant as a speculative venture during the rise to prosperity in Clunes. It is distinguished by its building form which combines a gable roof with return verandah (now uncommon in Clunes) and its siting on the street frontage. It is now a rare survivor in this early residential locality.

1 Township of Clunes, lithographed 13 February 1861; Township of Clunes, lithographed 4 May 1864.

2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 1864, no. 403; 1871, no. 287; 1875, no. 278; 1876, no. 281; 1889, no. 223.

FORMER PAYNE RESIDENCE, 43 East Parade, Clunes

Section 27, Allotment 78, Township of Clunes

History

This section was surveyed between 1862 and 1864 and a house was shown on this allotment on the 1864 township plan. (1) The allotment was purchased from the Crown by T. Payne on 5 December 1879. Thomas Payne, variously described as miner, fireman and labourer in the ratebooks, was listed as owner and occupant of this residence from 1863 to at least 1899. It is of interest that in the first listing the address was given as 'near dam', a reference to the early dam on Creswick's Creek. The net annual value rose from £9 to £15 in 1869-70 and the value fluctuated gradually over the rest of the century. In 1889 the residence was described as 6 room weatherboard. (2)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences' and 'early timber buildings'. The rear section of this residence is presumed to date from 1863 and the front section from the 1869-70 rise in net annual value. The building is distinguished by the form of the front section, with its unusual roof and L-shaped verandah. The building is also distinguished by its siting in the bend of Creswick's Creek and the visual prominence it achieves by this siting.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the rise to prosperity in Clunes and extended during its peak of prosperity. It is distinguished by its uncommon building and roof form and its siting in the creek valley of which it forms a prominent element. It is now a rare survivor in this early residential locality.

- 1 Township of Clunes, lithographed 13 February 1861; Township of Clunes, lithographed 4 May 1864.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratepayers roll, 1863; Borough of Clunes ratebook, 1864, no. 417; 3 March 1869. no.1097; 2 March 1870, no.287; 1887, no.211; 1889, no.209.

RESIDENCE, 9 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section D, allotment , Township of Clunes

History

This building is situated in 'Lower' Fraser Street, the earliest commercial area in Clunes. Development occurred from the mid 1850s but the area was not surveyed until 1866 and put up for auction in 1874. Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been constructed during the period 1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the weatherboard side walls have been covered with flat sheeting.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building is a rare surviving nineteenth century building in this former commercial area. It is also uncommon to find such an early detached residence in an area formerly dominated by commercial activity suggesting that the building may have possibly been relocated onto this site.

Significance

This is a characteristic timber residence erected during the period following consolidation of company mining activity and relocation of commercial business further east in Fraser Street. This building is a rare surviving nineteenth century building in this former commercial area.

FORMER DUKE OF EDINBURGH HOTEL, 19 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section D, Allotment 38, Township of Clunes

History

This building is situated in 'Lower' Fraser Street, the earliest commercial area in Clunes. Development occurred from the mid 1850s but the area was not surveyed until 1866. The allotment was auctioned and purchased from the Crown by F. Robinson on 24 July 1874(?). (1) Prior to 1869 the allotment was occupied by the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel run by a Mr Williams. This building and several neighbouring properties were destroyed by fire on 15 October 1869. The building was insured with the Imperial Insurance Company for £100 and it is presumed that the present building was rebuilt on the site after the fire. (2) 'Early Bird', recalling the Hotels in Clunes in 1870, still included the Duke of Edinburgh and listed Williams as proprietor so it is assumed the rebuilt hotel retained the earlier name. (3) In 1873 Mr A. Williams was rated for Hotel and Land on this allotment with a net annual value of £45 housing 10 occupants. The hotel was apparently delicensed in 1919. (4)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact and retains a post supported verandah, early window and door joinery. However, face brickwork on the side walls has been painted white and the parapet may have been altered.

Analysis

See analysis of 'commercial buildings' as well as background to Fraser Street in chapter 4 and 7 of the background history. This building is characteristic of the rebuilding that occurred in Fraser Street in the years 1869-70.

Significance

A characteristic single storey hotel erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes, now a rare surviving local example of this building type and form. The building is distinguished by its post supported verandah and early joinery. The building is a vital reminder of the former commercial dominance of 'Lower' Fraser Street.

- 1 Part of Section D, Township of Clunes, L. 4675, lithographed 28 March 1874; copy of plan and related correspondence in Rs 1754.
- 2 Clunes Guardian, 18 October 1869.
- 3 Clunes Guardian and Gazette, 19 April 1930.
- 4 Ros O'Brien, Clunes, personal communication, 1986.

FORMER DOW SHOP, 23 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section D, allotment 35B, Township of Clunes

History

This building is situated in 'Lower' Fraser Street, the earliest commercial area in Clunes. Development occurred from the mid 1850s but the area was not surveyed until 1866 and put up for auction in 1874. However, this allotment was not surveyed as it was located on the surveyed line of Templeton Street. Weickhardt records that the shop was erected in the late 1850s for George Washington Dow, pioneer local brickmaker and builder. It was apparently also used as a temporary council chamber by the newly constituted Borough of Clunes. (1)

Integrity

The building form of this former shop is substantially intact although the external appearance is altered by shingles on the verandah, new windows in the front and side walls and false brick cladding on the rear timber section. The shop retains an early post supported verandah.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'early brick or stone buildings' and 'commercial buildings'. This is almost certainly the earliest surviving commercial building in the Shire and amongst the earliest local buildings of any kind. The survival of this very early building is largely due to its masonry construction (which recalls the occupation of its owner/builder). The building is distinguished by its small frontage and pyramidal roof form, a prominent focus when looking north down Templeton Street. Dow's own residence survives at 9 Hill Street (q.v.)

Significance

This is a characteristic early shop erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes. It is probably the earliest surviving commercial building in the Shire and amongst the earliest local building of any kind. It forms a critical reminder of the early commercial prominence of 'Lower' Fraser Street and forms an important termination of the vista north down Templeton Street.

1 Weickhardt, Clunes 1839-1972, 1972, p.11.

FORMER 'NOAH'S ARK', 27 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotment 3, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was put up for public auction by the Crown on 6 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £80). However it was not purchased from the Crown until 25 August 1863 when it was acquired by B. Bunt. (1) The site was rated as land owned by miner Benjamin Bunt in September 1871 although by 31 January 1872 was described as 'shop and land' with a net annual value of £47. The shop was initially occupied by bookseller Thomas Ashburner. (2) In a local newspaper of 1872 he advertised his new premises 'Noah's Ark' as opposite the Union Bank (corner Fraser Street and Templeton Street) and selling books, stationery, periodicals, newspapers, music, engravings as well as cigars, tobacco, fishing tackle, dolls and pamphlets on 'spiritism'. (3) Later occupants included Bernardo Crameri (storekeeper), William Richards (storekeeper) and John Lemmon (saddler).

Integrity

This shop is substantially intact and in particular it retains its early shopfront, early painted signs and post supported verandah. The parapet has possibly been altered from the original configuration.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This shop is distinguished by its use of basalt for side walls and for the manner in which it typified the rebuilding of Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Significance

A characteristic single storey shop erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is distinguished by its intact shop front, basalt side walls, post supported verandah and early painted signs. The shop is a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and it forms an integral part of that significant precinct.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3; cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 6 September 1871, no.834; 31 January 1872, no.840 and subsequent entries to 1889.
- 3 Cutting in Weickhardt collection, Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

SHOP, 29 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotment 4, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was put up for public auction by the Crown on 6 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £250). However it was not purchased from the Crown until 25 August 1863 when it was acquired by E. Jones. (1) The site was rated as land owned by Constable Lawrence Morton in January 1872. It was rated as 'shop and land' on 15 January 1873 with a net annual value of £30. Leather cutter Eliza Farrant was the first owner and occupied the premises until at least 1889. (2)

Integrity

This shop is substantially intact and in particular it retains its early shopfront, early painted signs and post supported verandah. The parapet has been altered from the original configuration.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This shop typifies the rebuilding of Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Significance

A characteristic single storey shop erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is distinguished by its intact shop front and post supported verandah. The shop is a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and it forms an integral part of that significant precinct.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3; cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 21 January 1872, no.841; 15 January 1873; no.842 and subsequent entries to 1889.

SHOPS, 31-33 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotments 5 and part 6, Township of Clunes

History

These allotments was put up for public auction by the Crown on 6 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £600) and purchased on that date by J. Bole. (1) A 'shop and land' owned by John Bole was rated on the right hand portion of this allotment (i.e. site of 33 Fraser Street) in March 1869. By March the following year former tenant John Finn was also owner and the new description of 'shop, dwelling and land' corresponded to an increase in net annual value from £55 to £84. (2) Finn also advertised in 3 June 1869 'Hall of Commerce, J. Finn [has] ... opened the above premises (formerly occupied by the late C.I. Donaldson) as a General Drapery Establishment. The stock is entirely new and fresh ... The Millinery Department is under the management of a competent lady'. (3)

The left hand portion of this allotment (i.e. site of 31 Fraser Street) was rated as land in September 1871 and 'shop and land' by 31 January 1872. The new net annual value was £36 and this shop was also owned by Finn. (4) By September 1872 or slightly later the premises were occupied by bookseller Thomas Ashburner, after an apparently brief stay of several months in an adjacent building (27 Fraser Street). Finn also owned and possibly erected the shop at 35 Fraser Street at about this time although this was demolished c.1970-80 for the new dining room of the National Hotel.

Integrity

These shops are substantially intact and both retain early shopfronts, post supported verandahs and timber parapets. 33 Fraser Street still retains early timber shelving in the shop space. The timber parapet of 31 Fraser street has some of its timber mouldings missing. As indicated in the history above, a shop formerly existed to the right hand side of this pair and its architectural detailing matched the shop at 31 Fraser Street.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. These shops are distinguished by their timber parapets and for the manner in which they typify the rebuilding of Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s. The early shelving is now a rare internal feature in the local context. The shops were a rare local example of three conjoined shops (especially those having timber parapets) and even with the loss of the third shop the remaining pair are still highly unusual in the local context.

Significance

A characteristic pair of single storey shop erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. This pair is now the last surviving local example of conjoined shops with timber parapets. The shops are distinguished by their intact shop fronts, post supported verandahs and the early internal shop joinery of No. 33. They are a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and they form an integral part of that significant precinct.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3; cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 3 March 1869, no.19; 2 March 1870, no.785.
- 3 Clunes Guardian, 3 June 1869.
- 4 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 6 September 1871, no.836; 31 January 1872, no.842.

NATIONAL HOTEL, 35 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotment 7, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was put up for public auction by the Crown on 6 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £1500) and purchased by Niels Nicholson. (1) Under the heading 'Town Improvements' the local newspapers correspondent recorded the 'alterations and rebuilding of the Scandinavian Hotel' in October 1861. On 23 October 1861:

one half of the hotel was removed to the rear of the premises (for the frontage building to be commenced) and the other half will this day [23 October], weather permitting, be effected. The front premises will be of brick, consisting of a spacious bar, taproom, parlour, and the present structure will form a large room 40' x 18'. The estimated cost of which will be 1000. No doubt the attractiveness of such a building and a large increase of accommodation will amply repay for the outlay. (2)

The Scandinavian Hotel (presumably so named due to Nicholson's nationality) had been erected by at least December 1859. (3) Nicholson was listed in the 1862 directory as owner of 'Nicholson's Hotel' although the sale of Nicholson's Hotel by private treaty was advertised in April 1862. (4) The local newspaper praised the architecture of the 'Robert Burns Hotel' in July 1863 remarking that it was amongst the most prominent buildings in Clunes. (5) The building was rated in March 1864 with a net annual value of £120 and the licensee was Thomas Hood. (6) The hotel was listed under the name 'Robert Burns' in directories of 1865-66 and 1866-67 although a map of c.1870 indicated the name 'Globe Hotel'. (7) This possibly coincides with the division in the rate book of March 1870 when the premises were listed separately as 'Hotel land and tenement' (NAV £73) and 'Livery Stables' (NAV £19). The following year Robert McKenzie Elder was listed as occupier and his occupation 'livery stable keeper'. It is of interest that the ratebook of 1871 describes the premises as 'Bank, residence, stable and land', possibly temporary premises of the London Chartered Bank rebuilt in 1871. (8) The function reverted to a hotel by March 1872 when it was described in an advertisement as 'Elder's National Hotel'. (9) The net annual value steadily declined during the late nineteenth century indicating lack of any substantial alterations to the building.

Integrity

This building form and fenestration of this hotel is substantially intact although the brickwork has been painted. The verandah possibly dates from c.1910-20. (10) In the 1970s a

timber shop at 35 Fraser Street was demolished and the present hotel dining room erected.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'early brick or stone buildings' and 'commercial buildings'.

Significance

A characteristic early hotel building erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes. It is one of the earliest surviving buildings in Clunes. With the former Dow shop (23 Fraser Street) it is the earliest brick commercial building in Clunes and is a critical reminder of the rebuilding in this part of Fraser Street following the government survey. The building forms a critical part of the Fraser Street commercial area, a precinct of outstanding historical and architectural significance.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, cadastral plan.
- 2 *ibid.*, 25 October 1861, p.3.
- 3 *ibid.*, 16 December 1859, p.6.
- 4 *ibid.*, 8 April 1862; Clunes directory, 1862, p.91.
- 5 *ibid.*, 8 July 1863, p.3.
- 6 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 9 March 1864, no.220.
- 7 Hickox plan, c.1870.
- 8 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 2 March 1870, nos.787, 788; 4 January 1871, no.839.
- 9 undated newspaper cutting in Weickhardt collection advertising horse races at Lord Clyde Hotel, Smeaton Plains.
- 10 The present verandah was not shown in a c.1905-10 postcard in the Jane Lennon collection, Melbourne although it was shown (with raised advertising hoarding) in the folding card series entitled 'Join us in a trip around Clunes', c.1945.

FORMER SHOP, 41 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotment 10, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was put up for public auction by the Crown on 6 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £350). (1) The shop was shown with a verandah in a c.1905 postcard (2) and based on a typological analysis appears to have been constructed in the period c.1865-80.

Integrity

The building form of this former shop is substantially intact although the shopfront has been infilled (presumably c.1930-50) and the verandah removed. However, the splayed entry plan of the shopfront is still retained as is early door joinery.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'.

Significance

A characteristic shop erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. Although of low integrity in comparison to the remainder of buildings in Fraser Street, the building still forms a critical early element in this outstanding precinct.

1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3.

2 Jane Lennon collection, Melbourne.

FORMER FIRE BRIGADE HOTEL, 43 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotment 11, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was put up for public auction by the Crown on 6 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £250) and purchased on that date by E. Grimwood. (1) In 1870 the site was rated as 'stable, bedrooms and land' with a net annual value of 20 although by 4 January 1871 the description had altered to 'hotel and land' and the net annual value jumped to £80. (2) A comparison between the Hickox plan (c.1870) and a list of Clunes hotels in 1870 recalled by 'Early Bird' suggests the building was known as the Fire Brigade Hotel. (3) Benjamin Tarrant was the owner/publican and the change in rate book description coincided with a change in Tarrant's occupation from fruiterer to publican. 'Fidelis' recalled in 1920 that 'in about 72 [i.e. 1872] the National, and later the London, Banks were built, and at about the same time the Fire Brigade Hotel was built, later to be bought by the late T. Cooper (ex M.L.A.) and converted into a drapery emporium - now occupied by Mr. Champion'. (4) Between 15 January 1873 and 31 December 1873 the net annual value jumped considerably (from £75 to £140) and description altered from 'Hotel, building and land' to 'shop, buildings and land'. (5) A change in ownership to draper Thomas Cooper was also recorded. This change saw a long period of use as a drapery shop with later owners including George Tuff, James Liston and W.J. Champion.

Integrity

This shop is substantially intact and in particular it retains its early shopfront and post supported verandah, both of which appear to date from 1873 (see analysis below). Urns shown on the parapet in early photographs (6) are now missing as is the deep hoarding around the top of the verandah. The early painted business sign of G. Tuff remains on the parapet.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This building appears to have had its upper storey added to an existing single storey building. This can be deduced from internal detailing (with metal columns and beams) and the manner in which the upper storey facade is supported. From evidence in the rate books the ground floor appears to have been constructed in 1870 and the upper floor in 1873. This shop is distinguished by its unusual first floor fenestration with a central arched doorway which opened onto the verandah. The use of decorative moulded cement render incorporating pilasters on the upper floor and quoining at ground floor level is also more elaborate than was usual locally. The building demonstrates the addition of a upper floor to an existing building (in a similar manner to the former Nichol and Wallace warehouse at 36 Fraser Street) and typifies the rebuilding of Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Significance

A double storey shop erected in stages during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is a rare local example of a single storey building with a later upper floor and is now one of comparatively few double storey shops in Clunes. The building is distinguished by its intact shop front, post supported verandah and elaborate cement render detailing. The shop is a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and it forms an integral part of that significant precinct.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3; cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 2 March 1870, no.792; 1871, no.848.
- 3 Hickox plan, c.1870; 'Early Bird', 'Hotels of Early Clunes. A lengthy list', Clunes Guardian and Gazette, 19 April 1930.
- 4 'Fidelis', 'Early Clunes' in Back to Clunes Celebrations, 1920, p.6.
- 5 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 15 January 1873, no.849; 31 December 1873, no.889.
- 6 Two postcards c.1910 in Jane Lennon collection, Melbourne.

SHOPS, 45-49 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotments 12, 13, Township of Clunes

History

These allotments were put up for public auction by the Crown on 6 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £100 for lot 12 and £250 for lot 13) and purchased on that date; lot 12 to T. Jones and lot 13 to T. Walton. (1) Three shops were subsequently erected on these allotments and all were burnt down in 1870. (2) Allotment 13 was purchased by Thomas Jones and he erected 3 new brick shops on his consolidated land holding. By 4 January 1871 all had an individual net annual value of £36 and were described individually as 'shops and rooms'. 45 Fraser Street was initially occupied by Joseph Oldham, hairdresser; 47 by William Blanchard, fruiterer and 49 by John Lemmon, saddler. (3) For much of the 1870s and 80s Thomas Jones conducted a store at 45 Fraser Street. (4)

Integrity

These shops are substantially intact and in particular all retain early shopfronts, early painted signs and post supported verandahs. Urns shown in early photographs are now missing from the parapet. (5)

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This group is distinguished by its use of elaborate engaged columns (constructed of cement render) framing the shopfronts. This group were a rare local example of three conjoined shops and with the building at 4 Service Street are now the only two remaining examples of this type. These shops also typify the rebuilding of Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Significance

A group of three single storey shops erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. This configuration was unusual in the local context and this group now forms one of the last remaining local examples of this type. The buildings are distinguished by their intact shop fronts, elaborate render columns, post supported verandahs and early painted signs. The shops are a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and they form an integral part of that significant precinct.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3; cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 2 March 1870, nos.793-795 all have a note in red ink 'burnt down'.
- 3 *ibid.*, 4 January 1871, nos.844-846.
- 4 *ibid.*, at least 1875-89 (all checked).
- 5 Two postcards c.1910 in Jane Lennon collection, Melbourne.

SHOP, 51 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotment 13a, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was put up for public auction by the Crown on 6 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £115) and purchased on that date by J. Griffis. (1) The description of 'shop and land' changed to 'shop and dwelling' between 1869 and 1870 with a corresponding rise in net annual value from £35 to £50. (2) The owner and occupier was James Farrant who the ratebook variously described as leather cutter (1869), ironmonger (1870) and merchant (1871). In 1869 Farrant advertised as 'Iron Merchant and General Manager' with merchandise ranging from tools and builders ironmongery to leathersgoods and agricultural implements. In connection with this latter item, Farrant was 'District Agent for Buncle's celebrated chaff cutter'. (3)

Integrity

This shop is substantially intact and in particular it retains its early shopfront, post supported verandah and rear residence. The verandah hoarding has been altered from an earlier configuration shown in a c.1910 view of Fraser Street. (4)

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This shop is distinguished by a detached rear residence which runs along one side of the narrow allotment. From evidence in the ratebooks this appears to date from c.1869 while the shop may date from earlier in the 1860s. The addition of the residence typifies the rebuilding and general upgrading of Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Significance

A characteristic single storey shop erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes. The building is distinguished by its early shopfront, post supported verandah and timber parapet, now one of few local shops to retain this latter feature. The provision of new residential accommodation is a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding and upgrading which occurred in Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and it forms an integral part of that significant precinct.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3; cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 3 March 1869, no.29; 2 March 1870, no.796.
- 3 Clunes Guardian, 3 June 1869.
- 4 Two postcards c.1910 in Jane Lennon collection, Melbourne.

FORMER HOTCHIN SHOP, 53 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotment 14, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was put up for public auction by the Crown on 6 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £250) although it was not purchased from the Crown by J. Sloan on 25 August 1863. (1) The net annual value jumped from £75 to £110 between 1869 and 1870 with a corresponding change in description from 'shop and land' to 'shop, dwelling and tenements'. (2) The owner and occupant was draper Edwin Kent Hotchin who conducted his business at this address until at least 1889 and this usage continued until well into this century. (3)

Integrity

This shop is substantially intact and in particular it retains its early shopfront and post supported verandah. Timber brackets shown on the verandah in a c.1910 view are now missing. (4) Part of the rear of this building was demolished in 1984-85 during refurbishment for the Clunes Library.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This shop is distinguished by the cement render decoration on the facade and parapet, comparatively elaborate by local standards. This shop typifies the rebuilding of Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Significance

A characteristic single storey shop erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is distinguished by its intact shop front post supported verandah and elaborate cement render work. The shop is a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and it forms an integral part of that significant precinct.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3; cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 3 March 1869, no.30; 2 March 1870, no.797.
- 3 *ibid.*, only checked to 1889.
- 4 Postcard c.1910 in Jane Lennon collection, Melbourne.

FORMER MORITZ SHOPS, 55-57 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotment 15, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was put up for public auction by the Crown on 6 March 1862 and purchased on that day by R. Mason. (1) The net annual value jumped from £45 to £75 between 1871 and 1873 although the description 'shop, premises and land' remained constant. The owners were cabinet makers Andrew Glass and Charles Moritz. (2) Moritz owned both shops until 1888 and was listed as occupant of one (probably 55 Fraser Street) until that date. Six years earlier he had advertised as 'Furniture dealer and Undertaker' with a wide range of stock. (3)

Integrity

These shops are substantially intact and both retain early shopfronts. 55 Fraser Street retains its post supported verandah although this is now missing from 57 Fraser Street. This latter shop has also had much of the roof structure and rear walls removed recently. The verandah shown in a c.1910 photograph extended across both shops in a uniform manner with a deep hoarding. (4)

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. These buildings were erected as a matching pair of shops, a relatively uncommon type in Clunes. Although analysis of the ratebook entries is difficult the date of construction of both appears to be c.1871-73. The pair typify the rebuilding of Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Significance

A characteristic pair of single storey shops erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The shops are distinguished by their intact shop fronts and the post supported verandah of 55 Fraser Street. The shops are a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and they form an integral part of that significant precinct.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3; cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 6 September 1871, no.854; 31 December 1873, no.867.
- 3 Clunes Guardian and Gazette, 30 August 1882.
- 4 Postcard c.1910 in Jane Lennon collection, Melbourne.

SHOP, 59 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotment 16, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was put up for public auction by the Crown on 6 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £160) although it was not purchased from the Crown by W. Pollard until 25 August 1863. (1) The net annual value jumped from £65 to £92 between 1869 and 1870 with a corresponding change in description from 'shop and land' to 'shop and dwelling'. The owner and occupant was druggist Evan Thomas. (2) Chemist William Henry Cozens occupied the premises after 1882 and continued business until at least 1889. (3)

Integrity

This shop is substantially intact and in particular it retains its early shopfront (now without its original splayed entry), early painted signs and post supported verandah. The parapet was apparently rebuilt after c.1910 although in a similar configuration to the original brick parapet. (4)

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This shop is distinguished by its post supported verandah which retains early timber brackets and returns down the lane to the east of this allotment. the shop typifies the rebuilding of Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Significance

A characteristic single storey shop erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is distinguished by its early shop front, post supported verandah and early painted signs. The shop is a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and it forms an integral part of that significant precinct.

1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3.

2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 3 March 1869, no.33; 2 March 1870, no.800.

3 *ibid.*, checked to 1889.

4 Postcard c.1910 in Jane Lennon collection, Melbourne shows the earlier brick parapet partly demolished at the eastern corner.

FORMER EDWARDS SHOP, 63 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotment 18, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was purchased from the Crown by Jesse Hoare Smith on 25 August 1863. The land was owned by Nichol and Wallace in 1868 and by 1869 the site was rated as 'shop and land' with net annual value jumping from £4 to £50 between those years. (2) The new owner was confectioner Thomas Lowe and in 1870 the net annual value again increased from £50 to £78 and description changed from 'shop and land' to 'shop and dwelling'. (3) 'Fidelis' recalled in 1920 that 'in 70 or 71 [i.e. 1870-71] the neighbouring building [to the Town Hall Hotel] - long known as Jim Edwards - was opened by a baker and confectioner in great style'. (4) The property was later owned by auctioneer James Edwards and he also operated a sale yard in Purcell Street at the rear of his Fraser Street property. (5)

Integrity

This shop is substantially intact and in particular it retains its early shopfront and post supported verandah. The face brickwork on the facade has now been painted.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This shop is distinguished by its use of brickwork on the facade, uncommon in the local context (the Club Hotel is another example). The shop typifies the rebuilding of Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Significance

A characteristic double storey shop erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is distinguished by its intact shop front, brick facade and post supported verandah. The shop is a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and it forms an integral part of that significant precinct.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 18 March 1868, no.240; 3 March 1869, no.36.
- 3 *ibid.*, 2 March 1870, no.803.
- 4 *Fidelis*, p.6.
- 5 *ibid.*, 25 January, 1883, saleroom first listed, section 15, allotment 1.

FORMER TOWN HALL HOTEL, 65 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 14, allotment 19, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was put up for public auction by the Crown on 6 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £220) and purchased on that day by Jesse Hoare Smith. Hoare Smith was the first Town Clerk and Surveyor for Borough of Clunes and the allotment was conveyed to S. and J. Warnock in 1867. (1) The ratebook description altered from 'shop and land' to 'shop and dwelling' in 1869-70 and this coincided with a rise in net annual value from £61 to £94. (2) The shop was still owned by the Warnock brothers (presumably James and Stephen Warnock of Maldon) and used as a drapery. (3) In 1871 the occupant was Richard Stephens, a 'restaurant keeper' - perhaps a euphemism for publican - as several years later the property was known as the Town Hall Hotel. (4) 'Fidelis' recalled in 1920 that 'in about 70 or 71 [i.e. 1870-71] the Town Hall Hotel was built, but I think it was opened as a ladies drapery establishment'. (5) Eliza Molony advertised in the local newspaper (date unknown) 'Town Hall Hotel, corner of Fraser and Service Streets' and mentioned her experience at Wiles' Club Hotel (Clunes) and the George Hotel (Ballarat). The net annual value rises in 1879-80 (£58 to £65) and 1883-84 (£65 to £75) and an 1880 photograph shows the hotel without its current verandah or side entry. During the early part of the twentieth century the building was extended for use as a bakery and a large wood fired oven was constructed. (7)

Integrity

This shop is substantially intact and in particular it retains an early cast iron post supported verandah (cast locally) and part of its early shopfront (the eastern window appears to be a much later addition). The cement render facade was damaged by sand blasting in 1987.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. The side entry and verandah possibly dates from the 1883-84 rise in value. This shop is distinguished by its cast iron verandah, one of only few used locally and only one of two known to be cast locally (the other is the former Railway Hotel, 55 Service Street). The survival of a substantial part of the shopfront is a rare local example of a small hotel-type shopfront. The typifies the rebuilding of Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Significance

A characteristic double storey shop erected and extended during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is distinguished by its early shop front, post supported verandah and elaborate cement render mouldings. The shop is a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and it forms an integral part of that significant precinct.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3; cadastral plan; title documents in possession of owners.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 3 March 1869, no.37; 2 March 1870, no.804.
- 3 See Jacobs Lewis Vines, Maldon Conservation Study, 1977, pp.12-15 for details of the Warnock's Maldon activities.
- 4 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 4 January 1871, no.855; 'Town Hall Hotel' is listed by 'Early Bird' in an 1870 list of hotels (Clunes Guardian and Gazette, 19 April 1930) and an 1880 photograph by Beauchamp (Shire of Talbot and Clunes collection) shows the name painted on the side wall.
- 5 'Fidelis', p.6.
- 6 Borough of Clunes ratebooks, 23 January 1879, no.720; 22 January 1880, no.742; 25 January 1883, no.699; 30 January 1884, no. 683.
- 7 Early photograph in Shire of Talbot and Clunes collection.

RESIDENCE, 85? Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 13, allotment , Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 Township plan of Clunes and the area formed an extension of the commercial area. (1) However this section of Fraser Street was never solely a commercial precinct and this residence may have been erected in conjunction with an adjacent shop or been relocated to this allotment. Several residences are shown in this vicinity in Nettleton's c.1865-66 view 'Ballarat Road' and one may be this building. Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the exterior walls have been clad with a false 'half timber' treatment. The verandah bracket and low timber balustrade probably date from the date of these alterations.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in Fraser Street.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It is sited in 'Upper' Fraser Street, a prominent part of the main eastern entry to the Clunes commercial area.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 4? Fraser Street

Section C, allotment 24, Township of Clunes

History

This residence is located on the area known as 'Camp Hill', scene of the earliest residential development in Clunes. A residence of this configuration was shown in a c.1865 photograph and also in a c.1870 view. (1) During the elapsed time the front section had been rebuilt with hipped roof replacing the earlier gabled residence whilst a verandah had been added to the rear section. The residence was also clearly shown on a 1872 plan of Camp Hill. (2)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact. The garden retains several early plantings as well as a simple early picket fence.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'early timber buildings' and 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by the relationship between the two building forms, their perpendicular alignment being an extremely uncommon feature and even rarer to have survived. This residence is now one of few nineteenth century buildings to survive on Camp Hill.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes and extended during the peak of prosperity. The juxtaposition of the two main building forms at right angles is an extremely rare example of this configuration. The building is one of few intact nineteenth century residences on Camp Hill and is almost certainly the earliest surviving residence in this important precinct.

- 1 Charles Nettleton; 'View in Township, Clunes, South East', c.1865, held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes; Langtree album, c.1870, Mitchell Library.
- 2 Allotments Clunes, L.4462, lithographed 6 September 1872.

FORMER UNION BANK, corner Fraser Street and Templeton Street, Clunes
Section 3, allotment 25, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858. It was purchased from the Crown on 8 July 1861 by W. Mortimer. (1) This building was erected as a branch of the Union Bank of Australia in 1865. The contract sum was £1500 and the architect was thought to have been Leonard Terry. (2) The net annual value rose from £175 to £220 in 1869-70 and description altered to include 'dwelling' (presumably the southern portion of the present building). (3) The Union Bank of Australia merged with the Bank of Australasia in October 1951 to form the A.N.Z. Bank and this building still functions as a branch of the A.N.Z Bank.

Integrity

This building is substantially intact although the render and basalt base have been painted.

Analysis

Trethowan included this bank in his 'conservative classicism' architectural category and ranked the building as worthy of the 'supplementary list' of recommendations. The building was one of the first of the extant institutional and commercial buildings to be erected in that section of Fraser Street between Templeton and Service Streets. In this, it paved the way for the neighbouring branches of the National and London Chartered banks to rebuild.

Significance

A bank of considerable architectural significance located on a key corner in Clunes. It is one of the earliest extant buildings in Fraser Street and was the forerunner of many new and rebuilt premises during the late 1860s and early 1870s as mining led Clunes to its peak of prosperity. This bank forms an integral part of the Fraser Street precinct, an area of outstanding architectural and historical significance.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Trethowan, Bank Study for the Historic Buildings Council, 1976; quoting Troppe II, p.108; Clunes Gazette, 7 November 1865 (extract in National Trust file) mentions the 'New Union Bank, corner Fraser and Templeton Streets'; Union Bank of Australia, Signature Books (1865-c.1947), ledger for individual accounts (December 1863 - December 1876) held by William Barkell Memorial Historical and Arts Centre.
- 3 Borough of Clunes, ratebooks, 3 March 1869, no.441; 2 March 1870, no.961.

FORMER MATTHEWS RESIDENCE, 26 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 3, Allotment 23, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of 1858 and purchased from the Crown by Frederick John Matthews on 8 July 1861. (1) Matthews was listed in Fraser Street in the ratepayers roll of 26 December 1860 with a property valued at £22. Matthews advertised his business and property for sale in July 1863

For sale, by private contract until 11 July, the business belonging to F J Matthews, as carrier between Clunes and Ballarat ... The property occupied by F J Matthews will also be put up for public competition the same day [18 July]. (2)

However, from evidence in ratebooks and directories it is clear that he occupied this allotment in Fraser Street until at least the late nineteenth century except for 1864 when Charles Lock was listed as occupier in the ratebook. (3) Matthews' occupation was variously listed as 'carrier', 'coach agent' and 'agent' and 'Fidelis' recalls his links with Cobb and Company's coaches.

The Bull and Mouth [Hotel] was on the south side of [Fraser Street] ... It had a domed roof, was built in England in sections, shipped to Geelong and brought to Clunes. It was the changing house for Cobb and Co's coaches, for which company Mr F.J. Matthews was then agent. How long Mr Matthews has been a resident I do not know, but I can't think of the time when any one else was in charge of the office. May he be a resident for many years to come. (4)

The ratebook description 'house and land' changed to 'land, dwelling, stables, office' in 1869-70 and coincided with a rise in net annual value of £30 to £44. (5)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and the adjacent vacant land formerly housed the shop of John Phillip, saddler.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'early timber buildings' and 'timber residences'. Part of this residence was clearly shown in the background of an 1860s photograph of the adjacent shop of John Phillip. (6) The residence in that view had a shingle roof and verandah and judging from the setback from Fraser Street the building probably now forms one of the middle sections of the present residence. A house was shown on the present allotment in

a c.1863 photograph of Clunes (7) and was probably the same building as in the previous photograph. The house in its present configuration was shown in several later panoramic photographs of the town.

This building is a rare surviving detached residence in the Clunes commercial precinct. Such instances were more common in the 1850s and 60s, although following the virtual rebuilding of Fraser Street c.1869-70 this residence was left as a rare survivor. This was possibly due to the long occupancy by Matthews and the nature of his business. Following major rebuilding of Fraser Street this residence formed one of only two residences in the section between Templeton Street and Service Street (the other was Niels Nicholson's residence to the left of the Union Bank).

Significance

This is a characteristic early timber residence erected during the rise in prosperity of Clunes and extended during its peak of prosperity. It is a rare local example of a residence in an area largely occupied by commercial premises. This residence forms an integral part of the significant Fraser Street precinct.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 6 July 1863, p.3.
- 3 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 9 March 1864, no.45.
- 4 'Fidelis', p.4.
- 5 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 3 March 1869, no.438; 2 March 1870 no.958.
- 6 Small picture file, La Trobe collection, State Library of Victoria.
- 7 'Clunes in the early sixties', photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

FORMER NATIONAL BANK, 28 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 3, allotment 22, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and purchased from the Crown by R. Mitchell on 5 October 1860. (1) The National Bank opened an agency at Clunes on 4 December 1862 and a substantial building was indicated by the net annual value of £120 in the 1864 ratebook. (2) This first bank was of single storey and had a recessed central loggia. (3) In 1870 the ratebook described 'bank, dwelling and tenements' (£150), 1871 'stables and land' (£26) and 1872 'Bank, stable and land' (£200) giving an 1871 date of erection for the present building. (4) The bank apparently closed in 1893 with the cessation of most mining in Clunes. (5) It reopened, as a State Savings Bank of Victoria in 1912 when it was purchased for £750. Ballarat architects Clegg and Millar undertook alterations valued at £362 in that year and the building still functions as a branch of the State Bank. (6)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact although the basalt base have been painted.

Analysis

Trethowan included this bank in his 'conservative classicism' architectural category and ranked the building as worthy of the 'supplementary list' of recommendations.

Significance

A bank of considerable architectural significance located on a key site in Clunes. The building is a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and forms an integral part of the Fraser Street precinct, an area of outstanding architectural and historical significance.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 14 April 1863, p.3.; Borough of Clunes ratebook, 9 March 1864, no.44.
- 3 Photograph c.1863 'Clunes in the early sixties' held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 4 Borough of Clunes ratebooks, 2 March 1870, no.957; 4 January 1871, no.990; 31 January 1872, no.983.
- 5 Weickhardt scrapbook (red cover) held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 6 Trethowan, Bank Study for the Historic Buildings Council, 1976.

FORMER LONDON CHARTERED BANK, 30 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 3, allotment 21, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and purchased from the Crown by H.A. Thompson on 5 October 1860. (1) The land was used by the Church of England and the former St Pauls Church of England building (which now stands to the rear of the present bluestone church - q.v.) was erected on this site in 1859-60. The land was sold in 1869, following removal of the timber church to Templeton Street. Tenders were called by architect Leonard Terry for the present bank on 9 October 1871. (2) The bank became a branch of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank 1921 and is currently used by the R.S.L. for clubrooms.

Integrity

This building is substantially intact although a small balustraded balcony which formerly sat atop the porch has been dismantled and is now in storage at the rear of the building. (3) The cement render is also spalling badly.

Analysis

Trethowan included this bank in his 'conservative classicism' architectural category and ranked the building as worthy of the 'designated list' of recommendations.

Significance

A bank of considerable architectural significance located on a key site in Clunes. The building is a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser street in the late 1860s and early 1870s and forms an integral part of the Fraser Street precinct, an area of outstanding architectural and historical significance. As original site of the former St Pauls Church of England this site is essential in understanding the significance of the timber church now relocated to Templeton Street.

1 Cadastral plan.

2 Trethowan, Bank Study for H.B.C., 1976; quoting Troppe II, pp.47-48.

3 Saunders (ed), Historic Buildings of Victoria, 1966, contains a photograph prior to demolition of balcony balustrading.

CLUB HOTEL, 34 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 3, allotment 19, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of 1858 and purchased from the Crown by James Ethersay on 5 October 1860. (1) Ethersay ran a private school on the site and by 1870 Griffin Fletcher Wiles was rated as owner and occupier of a dwelling on this lot. (2) The Club Hotel was first rated in 1871 with a net annual value of £175 and the ratebook description was 'Hotel, buildings, stable and shop'. (3) This sum included the adjacent shop of stationer Thomas Ashburner. Wiles was listed as a miner at the Victoria mine in 1863 and had also been the publican of the Washington Hotel in Lower Fraser Street. (4) It is presumed the present stable dates from c.1870 with the construction of the hotel and this is consistent with a stylistic analysis.

Integrity

Externally this building is substantially intact with the exception of the painted brickwork. The large internally illuminated advertising sign is a recent addition.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This building is notable for its cast iron post supported verandah. The configuration of this verandah with a trafficable surface and cast iron balustrading is unique in the local context and rare elsewhere. The incorporation of the carriage drive on the western side and retention of early stables is also notable. This is the largest commercial building in the main section of Fraser Street and its central position forms a focus for the streetscape. The Club Hotel typifies the rebuilding of Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Significance

A large double storey hotel erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It is distinguished by its unusual verandah, side carriageway and early stables. The building is a key element of the significant Fraser Street commercial area and is a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Fidelis, p.6; Borough of Clunes ratebook, 2 March 1870, no.1.
- 3 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 4 January 1871, no.1.
- 4 Fidelis, pp.14-15.

FORMER NICHOL AND WALLACE WAREHOUSE, 36 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 3, allotment 18, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of 1858 and purchased from the Crown by Alexander Nichol and Henry Wallace on 5 October 1860. (1) Wallace was a carpenter and the pair had established their business locally in 1858. (2) They were included in the 1862 ratepayers roll with a property on this allotment rated at £105. (3) Nichol and Wallace advertised that they were 'about to make large improvements in building new premises' in July 1863. (4) Nichol and Wallace were rated in 1868 for 'stores and office (£145), in 1869 'new shop and land' (£70) and 1870 'shop, workshop, timber yard and land' (£210). (4) On 3 June 1869, the Clunes Guardian announced that 'Nichol and Wallace have now opened their extensive new premises'. The building was subsequently occupied by merchant George Chapman and later Joseph Preston.

Integrity

Externally this building is substantially intact with the exception of a new infilled masonry wall and double doors (of unknown date) towards the rear of the east elevation. The original shop has now been subdivided into two occupancies although this has caused no damage to the shopfront. The original timber balusters on the verandah have been removed and replaced with flat sheeting. Cast iron brackets have been fitted recently although the superstructure of the verandah is early if not original. The east wall has always been exposed due to a walkway but it is now very prominent due to the vacant site of demolished shops to the east.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'commercial buildings' and 'early brick or stone buildings'. This building is significant for its combination of basalt and brickwork; the lower basalt section possibly dating from c.1858-63 and the brick section substantially from 1869. It is likely that the shopfront dates from the 1869 rebuilding although an earlier date is possible.

Significance

A characteristic double storey shop erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes and extended during the peak of prosperity. The building is a rare local example of a single storey building with a letter upper floor and is now one of comparatively few double storey shops in Clunes. The building is distinguished by its intact shopfront, post supported verandah and basalt ground floor construction. The shop is a vital reminder of the process of rebuilding which occurred in Fraser street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Jack Wallace, notes on Henry Wallace, typescript, 3 January 1978, copy held by William Barkell Centre, Clunes; Clunes Gazette, 3 June 1869, p.1 refers to the business 'established eleven years'.
- 3 Borough of Clunes ratepayers roll, 16 January 1862, no.57.
- 4 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 6 July 1863, p.3.
- 5 Borough of Clunes ratebooks, 1868, no.42; 3 March 1869, no.870; 2 March 1870, no.3.

SHOPS, 46 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 3, allotment 17?, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of 1858. (1) Based on a typological analysis this building appears to have been erected during the period c.1880-1900.

Integrity

This shop is substantially intact although the flat sheeting on the left hand portion of the shopfront may be of recent origin. The building retains a post supported verandah, early shopfront and timber parapet.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This shop is quite diminutive in comparison with other commercial buildings in Fraser Street and is now very prominent due to the vacant site of demolished shops to the west.

Significance

A characteristic single storey shop erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. It is distinguished by post supported verandah, early shopfront and timber parapet and now forms an integral part of the significant Fraser Street commercial precinct.

1 Cadastral plan.

SHOPS, 48 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 3, allotment 16?, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of 1858 and purchased from the Crown by J. Black on 5 October 1860. (1) He owned the Royal Hotel on this site, part of which was apparently demolished in 1869 for erection of Prisk's Drapery Mart (now 50 Fraser Street). (2) Portion of the hotel remained until 1876 when it was described as 'hotel, building and land' with a net annual value of £55. (3) The following year two shops were listed on this site both owned by Joseph Preston. He occupied one (NAV £38) and 'boot factor' John Sloan conducted his business from the other (NAV £30). (4) The present buildings are clearly shown in the Beauchamp photograph of c.1881-82. (5)

Integrity

These shops are substantially intact with the exception of the infilling of the left hand shopfront. The right hand shopfront is intact and the building retains a post supported verandah.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This pair of shops are distinguished by their rendered parapets, the design of which is very similar to shops elsewhere in Fraser Street (in particular 45-49 Fraser Street) and is probably the work of a local plasterer (maybe John Barwell?).

Significance

A characteristic single storey pair of shops erected during the prosperous mining in Clunes. It is distinguished by a post supported verandah and early shopfront. The building is a reminder of the rebuilding which occurred in Fraser Street during the late 1860s and 1870s and this pair forms an integral part of that significant precinct.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 See 50 Fraser Street for details.
- 3 Royal Hotel shown on Hickox plan, c.1870; Borough of Clunes ratebook, 9 February 1876, no.10.
- 4 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 8 February 1877, nos.10, 11.
- 5 Photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

FORMER PRISK'S DRAPERY MART, 50-54 Fraser Street, Clunes
Section 3, allotment 15, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of 1858 and purchased from the Crown by J. Black and W Rose on 5 October 1860. (1) Black's Royal Hotel occupied parts of lots 15 and 16 until 1869. By that year the hotel had a net annual value of £65 and Black also had land on the corner of Service Street and Fraser Street with a net annual value of £8. (2) By 1870 the whole site was apparently owned by Lisle (or Lyell) S. Christie and a 'shop and land' with a net annual value of £230 erected. (3) The Clunes Guardian announced the opening of S. Prisk's 'New Drapery Mart' in June 1869 at the corner of Service Street and Fraser Street. (4) The Hickox plan (c.1870) shows the drapery confined to the two storey section (now 50 Fraser Street) and a Boot Store (now 52 Fraser Street). The boot store was run for many years by Robert Ross and the drapery by James Malony. (5)

Integrity

The double storey portion of this building (no 50 Fraser Street) is substantially intact although the single storey section at the corner of Service Street (54 Fraser Street) has had its facade altered. A post supported verandah runs along the frontage of both portions although the columns are new metal pipes. 54 Fraser Street retains an intact shopfront although this feature has been obscured and largely removed from 54 Fraser Street.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This building is distinguished by its combination of single and double storey sections, and the important intact side wall to Service Street which forms a crucial link between the Fraser Street shops and those in Service Street.

Significance

A characteristic commercial building erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It is unusual for its combination of double and single storey and retains many early features such as a large timber shopfront and the early building form along Service Street, a crucial corner at the eastern end of the Fraser Street commercial precinct. The building is a reminder of the rebuilding which occurred in Fraser Street during the late 1860s and 1870s.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 3 March 1869, nos.362-363.
- 3 *ibid.*, 2 March 1870, no.11.
- 4 Clunes Guardian, 3 June 1869, p.2; an encumbrance mentioned on the title is a party wall and a related agreement is dated 19 August 1869 between Christie, John and Mary Black and James Oddie (book no. 198, no. 961).
- 5 See later ratebook entries.

RESIDENCE, 64 Fraser Street, corner Bailey Street, Clunes

Section 2, allotment 6, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of 1858 and purchased from the Crown by F. Hamilton on 5 October 1860 and the neighbouring allotment 5 was purchased by J. George. (1) There is apparently no mention of any residence on this corner in the 1870 ratebook but by 4 January 1871 reporter John Moore Davis is listed with a 'dwelling house, stable and land' owned by Thomas D. Walliss with a net annual value of £28. (2) Carrier John Walker was listed as occupier by 1879 when the house was rated on both allotments 5 and 6. (3) The tip of land at the corner was made a reserve for public purposes in 1877. (4)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact. Based on a stylistic analysis the present verandah appears to have been erected in the period 1890-1910. Several mature trees are located on the public reserve and road verge.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is a critical part of the eastern entry to Clunes and stands on one of the most prominent corners in Clunes.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It forms a key element in the eastern entry to the town and is enhanced by mature landscaping on the adjacent public reserve.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 4 January 1871, no.44.
- 3 *ibid.*, 23 January 1879, no.39.
- 4 See cadastral plans; VGG, 1877, p.740.

FORMER WALLACE RESIDENCE, 68 Fraser Street, Clunes

Section 5, allotment 12, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of 1858 and purchased from the Crown by Peter Wallace on 6 October 1860. (1) Wallace, a carpenter by trade, was listed in the 1860 ratepayers roll with a residence of assessed annual value of £20. This value jumped to £36 in 1863-64, although this may only indicate a different method of rating. (2) The front masonry section of the residence was shown in the c.1865 Nettleton photograph and a c.1870 photograph shows a similar scene. In 1869-70 the description changed from 'house and land' to 'dwelling house and part of workshop and gardens' with a corresponding jump in net annual value from £24 to £30. (4) From that date the value decreased steadily and in 1887 the house is described as 'brick and weatherboard, 5 rooms'. (5)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and retains a mature garden.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'early brick or stone buildings' and 'brick or stone residences'. The front masonry section of this building is clearly shown in the c.1865 view prior to construction of the rear timber section (which probably dates from 1870).

Significance

This is a characteristic early residence erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes and enlarged during the peak of prosperity by one of the town's most prominent builders. It is one of the earliest brick or stone residences in Clunes and its significance is enhanced by the mature landscaping. The building is located on the main entry to Clunes from the south east.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratepayers roll, 26 December 1860, no.403; 1863, no.544; 9 March 1864, no.87.
- 3 'Ballarat Road, Clunes South West', photograph by Nettleton held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes c.1870 in Langtree album.
- 4 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 3 March 1869, no.888; 2 March 1870, no.52.
- 5 *ibid.*, 12 January 1887, no.53.

FORMER BIBLE CHRISTIAN MINISTER'S RESIDENCE, 70 Fraser Street, Clunes
Section 5, allotment 10, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of 1858 and purchased from the Crown by Griffin F. Wiles on 5 October 1860. (1) 'Griffin Wyles' was listed in the 1860 ratepayers roll located on the 'west side of the creek'. This may refer to the present allotment as the initial valuation of £10 was confirmed at £20, possibly indicating the change from a tent or hut to a small cottage. (2) Wiles was listed in the 1862 ratebook on this allotment and a c.1863 photograph shows a cottage as this lot. (3) The valuation in 1866 was again £30 and the house showed in Nettleton's c.1865-66 view as a simple hip roofed cottage. (5) A note in the 1868 ratebook indicated the residence had been purchased by the Bible Christians (whose church was on the adjacent allotment to the north west) and occupied by Minister James Sweetland. The rates were remitted and the property was apparently not rated the following year. (6) However, the net annual value rose to £20 in 1871 and a c.1871 photograph shows the addition of the projecting gable wing onto the original cottage. (7) During the incumbency of Reverend William Blainey (1875-76) the net annual value again rose (£18 to £22) although this may have included rating of the adjacent church. (8) A c.1905 photograph shows that the residence had reached its present configuration by that date. (9)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact in its extended form.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'early timber buildings' and 'timber residences'. This is the best documented example of the growth of a timber residence by successive additions as photographs of virtually every stage are known.

Significance

A characteristic early timber residence erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes and extended many times during the prosperous mining boom of the next decades. The residence forms part of a significant precinct centered on the adjacent former Telegraph Hotel.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratepayers roll, 26 December 1860, no.432.
- 3 ibid., 1863, no. 545; 'Clunes in the early sixties'.

- 4 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 9 March 1864, no.85; 8 March 1865, no.80.
- 5 *ibid.*, 9 April 1866, no.86; Nettleton photo held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 6 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 18 March 1868, no.96.
- 7 *ibid.*, 4 January 1871, no.57; Langtree photo, Mitchell Library.
- 8 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 24 February, 1875, no.55; 9 February, 1876, no.56.
- 9 Don Mackinnon collection, Geelong.

RESIDENCE, 9 George Street, Clunes

Section 21, allotment 18, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 Township plan of Clunes (1) and Charles Nettleton's panoramic photographs from Camp Hill (c.1865-66) shown a number of small timber cottages in this locality. (2) One of these may have been on this allotment and further research may confirm if the present residence incorporated part of a very early structure. Based on a stylistic analysis the present building exterior appears to date from the period c.1900-1915.

Integrity

This residence may incorporate additions from many different dates but remains substantially intact from the period c.1900-15. The only major downgrading of this integrity is the small flat sheeted addition on the front elevation. An early picket fence is still retained.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This example is most unusual in the local context and gains prominence from its elevated position on the edge of the escarpment. Features of note include the unusual square bay window, projecting gable roof forms and assymetrical building form which imbues the residence with an exotic and picturesque air.

Significance

A highly unusual residence incorporating many elements more commonly associated with larger Edwardian residences. The residence occupies a prominent and elevated position overlooking Queens Park and introduces a picturesque note into an area largely comprised of smaller nineteenth century cottages.

- 1 Township of Clunes, L.1635, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.
- 2 'Fraser Street, Clunes', photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

RESIDENCE, 29? George Street, Clunes

Section 20, allotment 12, Township of Clunes

History

The allotment was auctioned by the Crown and purchased by J Wakefield on 10 June 1862 (part of four allotments purchased by Wakefield in this Section). (1) A substantial brick residence was erected on an adjacent allotment in the early 1860s by Wakefield (now 32 Leslie Street, q.v.) and this residence and two smaller adjacent cottages are clearly visible in the background of the Nettleton photograph 'Fraser Street, Clunes' (c.1865-66). (2) One of these is apparently this residence at 29 George Street and this also shows in a c.1870 photograph (3) although neither view shows the small projecting side wing. This is shown in a c.1905 postcard. (4) The verandah was not shown in c.1905 view and stylistically appears to date from the period c.1905-15.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although large concrete bases have been added the verandah columns.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its unusual combination of building forms, its prominent siting and relationship to the adjacent Coundon residence.

Significance

An early timber residence erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes and extended during the peak of prosperity. It is distinguished by its unusual combination of building forms, its prominent siting and relationship to the adjacent Coundon residence, a building of high individual significance.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 3 Langtree album, c.1870, Mitchell Library.
- 4 Postcard in Don Mackinnon collection, Geelong.

FORMER RECHABITE HALL, 2 Hill Street, Clunes
Section 6, allotment 12, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and purchased from the Crown by C. Danber on 6 October 1860. (1) This building was erected in 1868 for the Trustees of the Order of Rechabites. (2) In 1870-71 the building became known as Apollo Hall and was then owned by Joseph Tarrant, a local journalist. (3) The building again changed hands in 1877 when the trustees of the Primitive Methodist Church, located nearby in Service Street, purchased the building for a school room for £400. (4) The present use by the Fire Brigade commenced in 1904 when the hall was purchased for £110. (5). A building was erected to the east at an unknown date although based on the use of pressed metal for the facade the date may have been c.1910-30.

Integrity

The building is currently used as a fire station. The building is substantially intact and internally some early painted decoration has been retained. However, the face brickwork of the facade has now been painted.

Analysis

This building is one of a small number of former lodge, friendly society and temperance halls remaining in Victoria. Based on research by Kellaway (6) it is likely that this is the earliest remaining hall of the Independent Order of Rechabites in Victoria (the next chronologically being Prahran of 1888-89). It is probably one of only six nineteenth century temperance halls remaining in Victoria, with the other examples being Prahran, Bendigo, Ceres, Hexham and Stanley.

Significance

This is probably the oldest surviving hall of the Independent Order of Rechabites in Victoria and one of only few surviving nineteenth century temperance halls in Victoria. It is a significant physical reminder of social and institutional activities in Clunes since the peak of the town's prosperity and the very varied changes of use emphasise the volatility of society and the frequent reuse of buildings on the goldfields. The building is a key part of the important southern entry/exit to Clunes.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 18 March 1868, no. 118 and 3 March 1869, no. 905.
- 3 *ibid.*, 2 March 1870, no. 87 and 1871, no. 92.
- 4 *ibid.*, 8 February 1877, no. 86 and 24 January 1878, no. 84; Clarke, History of the Primitive Methodist Church in Victoria and Tasmania, Talbot, c.1887.
- 5 Weickhardt, Clunes 1839-1972, 1972, p.27.
- 6 Carlotta Kellaway, 'Research into former Rechabite Hall, 10 Clarence Street, Prahran', National Trust of Australia, 1983.

FORMER GROWCOTT RESIDENCE, 4 Hill Street, Clunes
Section 6, allotment 11, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and purchased from the Crown by J. Growcott on 8 July 1861. (1) In the Borough of Clunes ratepayers roll compiled 16 January 1862, miner John Growcott was listed in Hill Street on this allotment and his residence had a net annual value of £18. (2) In March 1864, the valuation was £23 although this may only indicate a different method of rating rather than an increase in size of the house. (3) Two photographs of the mid 1860s show a simple residence on this site. (4) The house was sold by Growcott to journalist Joseph Tarrant c.1866-67 and he rented the property to many varied tenants. These include Reverend William Baxter, draper William Bolam and Constable Charles Delany. (5) Between 1869 and 1870 the valuation jumped from £20 to £40 indicating substantial improvements. (6) The value gradually fell to £12 in 1890 when the residence was first described as 7 room weatherboard. (7)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and was thoroughly renovated in 1985-86. The orchard and garden layout still remains substantially intact although during renovations the front garden was covered with topsoil (disguising the original layout) and remnants of the early picket fence were removed. The two large trees in the front garden are of particular note.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'early timber buildings' and 'timber residences'. The central section of this building probably dates from c.1861 or earlier (shown in the two early photographs) with the eastern side wing accounting for some of the 1869-70 jump in valuation. The garden is typical of the period 1860-80.

Significance

A characteristic early timber residence erected during the rise of prosperity of Clunes and enlarged during the peak of prosperity. The surviving nineteenth century garden elements enhance the significance of this property.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratepayers roll to end 13 November 1862, compiled to January 1862, no. 249.
- 3 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 9 March 1864, no. 170.
- 4 'Clunes in the early sixties', c.1863 and Nettleton, 'Ballarat Road, Clunes', c.1865-66; both photographs held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 5 *ibid.*, 1867-1879.
- 6 *ibid.*, 3 March 1869, no. 907 and 1870, no. 85.
- 7 *ibid.*, 1890, no. 69.

RESIDENCE, 5 Hill Street, Clunes

Section 5, allotment 5, Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1915-30.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This is one of few local buildings to show the influence of architectural styles common during the Edwardian and first world war period. Such details include the half timbered gable ends, decorative flat timber brackets, projecting rafter ends and overhanging gable ends.

Significance

A characteristic residence of the period c.1915-30 demonstrating a style of architecture rare in the local context.

FORMER DOW RESIDENCE, 9 Hill Street, Clunes

Section 5, allotment 7, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and purchased from the Crown by George Washington Dow on 6 October 1860. (1) Dow was rated for land in Hill Street in 1864 but by March 1865 the rating was for 'house and land' with a net annual value of £18. (2) The value again jumped in 1866-67 (£18 to £23) and in 1868-69 (£23 to £26). (3) This latter rise coincided with change of occupant to carpenter John Martin. A rise in the following year 1869-70 (£26 to £32) coincided with change of description from 'house and land' to 'house, land and stable'. The tenant at this date was William Henry Bowden, a produce merchant. (4) In a c.1870 photograph the house was shown as two storied with a transverse gable roof but no rear verandah although by c.1905-10, a photograph showed the rear verandah. (5) Dow again occupied the house in 1871-72 and in 1875, Reverend Thomas Adamson, (possibly minister of the nearby Primitive Methodist Church) was tenant. Other changes in ownership and occupancy ensued and another rise in nett annual value occurred in 1880-81 (£19 to £21). (5) In January 1885 the net annual value rose to £24, and October 1885 to £29. (7) In 1887 the property was described as 'brick and weatherboard, 9 rooms, 1/2 acre'. (8)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact to c.1910, the date of the last major alterations.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'. This building incorporates evidence of many building campaigns and is distinguished by its dramatic siting on the edge of the escarpment. Dow's early shop still survives 23 Fraser Street, Clunes (q.v.).

Significance

A distinctive residence erected and extended many times during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. The building is distinguished by its dramatic siting and its siting on the Hill Street frontage heightens this feature.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 9 March 1864, no.81; 8 March 1865, no.93
- 3 *ibid.*, 22 August 1866, no.96; 3 April 1867, no.87; 18 March 1868, no.93; 3 March 1869, no.885.

- 4 *ibid.*, 2 March 1870, no.55.
- 5 Langtree, photo Mitchell Library; postcard in Don Mackinnon collection.
- 6 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 22 January 1880, no.54; 20 January 1881, no.54.
- 7 *ibid.*, 28 January 1885, no.57; 1 October 1885, no.56.
- 8 *ibid.*, 12 January 1887, no.56.

RESIDENCE, 8? Hill Street, Clunes

Section 9, allotment 10, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes although there was apparently no residence on the site in 1870.
(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected in the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and retains many mature trees in the garden.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. It is distinguished by its mature landscaping and dramatic siting.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864; Langtree albumn, c.1870, Mitchell Library.

FORMER CLUNES HOSPITAL, Hospital Street, Clunes

Section 44, Township of Clunes

History

The Clunes Hospital building was commenced in 1871 following a decade of discussion and the need for a more sophisticated facility than that provided by the 'Clunes Accident Relief Fund'. (1) The foundation stone of the first wing was laid on 2 January 1871 and the hospital was officially opened in August that year. This was presumably the southern wing as early photographs show a northern wing with the date 1873 on the facade. (2) The hospital possessed an extensive formal garden and was enclosed with a picket fence. The hospital was threatened with closure in the 1920s but this was averted with an extensive remodelling in 1935-36. Architects Yuncken, Freeman and Freeman of Melbourne prepared plans which saw the demolition of the second storey with its decorative gables and extensive internal remodelling. This remodelled building was opened on 1 April 1936. Disaster struck on 8 January 1944 when bushfires devastated the northern side of Clunes and the hospital was almost completely gutted. (3) Only a small brick wing escaped damage. The damage necessitated rebuilding on a new site and the foundation stone of the new Hospital in Service Street was laid on 21 June 1946. The 5 acre site in Hospital Street was sold on 11 August 1948 to O. Nichol and the buildings are now used as a private residence. (4)

Integrity

Only the small brick building which escaped the 1944 bushfire remains extant. However the bluestone footings of the early building still remain as does much of the early garden layout.

Analysis

The small building which remains on this site was apparently the nurses home and laundry. Although only a minor part of the overall former hospital complex it marks the site in a very visible manner and provides a useful interpretative function (in a similar manner to the facade of the ruined hospital at Beechworth. Several early nineteenth century country hospital buildings remain in other towns (e.g. Maldon, Kilmore and Maryborough) and this building at Clunes is of significance to the local community.

Significance

This nurses home and laundry building combines with footings and garden elements to mark the site of the former Clunes hospital. Together they form a key part in the interpretation of Clunes from the peak of prosperity of the town in the 1870s onwards and illuminate other themes such as the depression in the local

economy after cessation of mining and the 1944 bushfires. The site and building are prominent visual elements at the south eastern entry to Clunes.

- 1 The Clunes District Hospital A Brief History 1871-1971; all further references are from this source unless otherwise noted. Background to the Clunes Accident Relief Fund is contained in Chapter 9 of the background history.
- 2 Several early photographs are held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 3 Photographs of the gutted building prior to demolition are held in the PWD photograph collection, VPRS 10516.
- 4 Cadastral plan.

RESIDENCE, Lathlain Street, Clunes

Section 27, allotment , Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes and had originally formed part of the earliest police paddock on the field. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact with parts of the verandah infilled, presumably at an early date.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building is distinguished by its mature landscaping and remote setting in a part of Clunes now devoid of most of its nineteenth century building stock.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. It is enhanced by its mature landscaping and is now one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in this locality, once an important residential area serving nearby mining operations.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 1 Leslie Street, Clunes

Section 57, allotment 6, Township of Clunes

History

This residence has at least three distinct stages of construction. (1) Based on a typological and stylistic analysis the rear section appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-70, the front section (with verandah) during the period c.1870-90 and the southern gabled wing during the period c.1900-20.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact from the date of the last major extensions (c.1900-20). Internally several ceilings are pressed metal (with parts retaining early paint finishes) presumably dating from the c.1900-20 extensions.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building is distinguished by its clearly defined sequence of construction which exhibits characteristic details from a range of different architectural styles.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected and extended during the prosperous mining period in Clunes and as well as extensions dating from the period following cessation of local mining. The building is one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in this area of East Clunes, once a large residential area serving nearby mining operations.

1 Determined from a physical examination of the exterior and interior, March 1986.

RESIDENCE, Leslie Street, corner Smeaton Road, Clunes

Section 57, allotment 14, Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected in at least two stages during the period c.1860-90.

Integrity

The form of this residence is substantially intact although the exterior has been clad with false brick sheeting, the verandah columns altered and the original timber joinery replaced with aluminium framed windows.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building is distinguished by its prominent siting on the escarpment in a part of Clunes now devoid of most of its nineteenth century building stock.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. It is a highly visible part of the streetscape on the main eastern entry to Clunes and is dramatically sited on the escarpment of the Clunes valley. It is now one of few nineteenth century residences in this area of East Clunes, once a large residential area serving nearby mining operations.

COUNDON RESIDENCE, 32 Leslie Street, Clunes

Section 20, allotments 3, 11 and 12, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes and J. Wakefield purchased 1 acre (lots 11-14) on 10 June 1862 and F.A. Coundon purchased 1 area (lot 3) on [check date?]. (1) John Wakefield was first listed in this vicinity ('Section 20, Tenement and land, George Street') in the 1864 valuers roll with property valued at £38. (2) This was the highest valuation on Section 20 and probably accounted for the present residence. Wakefield, who was listed as owner and occupier of the residence, was variously listed as mining shareholder, miner and carpenter in succeeding ratebooks while the value of the residence remained relatively constant. On 24 June 1868 Wakefield's name as occupant was crossed and replaced by Town Clerk, Louis Le'Goold. (3) By 3 March 1869 Ralph Coundon (described as a 'gentleman') was listed as both owner and occupier. (4) The value rose in 1869-70 (from £30 to £43) although this included 8 quarter acre allotments in Section 20 which possibly accounted for the rise. The description for Coundon's property was 'dwelling house, outbuildings, garden and paddock'. (5) However in the following years the valuation was again 35 and thus the rise of the previous year was possibly an aberration.

Integrity

This residence is completely intact and still occupied by Coundon's descendants. It retains a large mature garden, rear yard and outbuildings.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'early brick or stone buildings' and 'brick or stone residences'. This is one of the most stylish residences in Clunes and ranks with the former Scott residence (35 Service Street) and former Church of England vicarage (42 Service Street) in terms of sophistication of architecture. The elegant timber and iron verandah (with flat timber columns and double curved roof profile) contrasts with the dark slate roof and rich orange bricks although the symmetrical form unifies the building to produce a most satisfying ensemble. The location of the residence on the edge of the escarpment formerly gave the residence great prominence although the mature landscaping and the siting in the centre of the block now imparts a remote and mystical air to the property.

Significance

A sophisticated brick residence erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes. The residence is characterised by fine detailing and a high degree of intactness. The property is

associated with two of the pioneering families of Clunes (both connected with mining and building trades) and this has contributed to the remarkably high integrity of the whole property. The mature garden and landscaping is a significant part of the ensemble and gives an appropriate setting for the residence.

- 1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864; cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes valuers roll, Wakefield was listed in the 1863 ratepayers roll 'near Criterion works'.
- 3 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 18 March 1868, no.291.
- 4 *ibid.*, 3 March 1869, no.1014.
- 5 *ibid.*, 2 March 1870, no.363.

RESIDENCE, 40 Leslie Street, Clunes

Section 20, allotment 1, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although a large flat roofed addition has been added on the south wall.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This example is distinguished by its diminutive scale.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. It is now one of few nineteenth century residences in this area of East Clunes, once a large residential area serving nearby mining operations.

- 1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 1 Ligar Street, Clunes

Section 22, allotment 3, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1862 township plan of Clunes although by 1864 allotment 2 in this section had been abolished and replaced by the southern continuation of Cameron Street. Allotment 3 was purchased from the Crown by A. Nicholls on 10 June 1862. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1880-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This example is distinguished by its cast iron verandah and prominent siting on the main northern exit to Clunes.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. It is prominently sited on a main thoroughfare in Clunes and forms a critical part of the vista from Queens Park.

1 Township of Clunes, L.628 & 1138, lithographed 13 February 1862; Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864; cadastral plan.

RESIDENCE, 3 Ligar Street, Clunes

Section 22, allotment 4, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1862 township plan of Clunes although by 1864 allotment 2 in this section had been abolished and replaced by the southern continuation of Cameron Street. Allotment 4 was purchased from the Crown by J. Phillips on 10 June 1862. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1880-90 and extended by the addition of a gabled bay during the period c.1890-1920.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although a flat verandah with concrete columns has been added during the period c.1920-40.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This example is prominently sited opposite Queens Park.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. It forms a critical part of the vista from Queens Park.

1 Township of Clunes, L.628 & 1138, lithographed 13 February 1862; Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864; cadastral plan.

RESIDENCE, 15 Ligar Street, Clunes

Section 1, allotment 6, Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been constructed during the period c.1920-30.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the original verandah columns may have been replaced.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This is one of few local residences to show the influence of the Californial Bungalow. It is similar to 96 Bailey Street (q.v.) and may have been constructed by the same builder.

Significance

A characteristic residence of the period c.1920-30 demonstrating a style of architecture rare in the local context.

RESIDENCE, 19 Ligar Street, Clunes

Section 1, allotments 7 and 14, Township of Clunes

History

These allotments were included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and purchased from the Crown by F. Hamilton (lot 7) and J. George (lot 14) on 5 October 1860. (1) A residence (part of which is probably incorporated into the present building) was clearly shown in the foreground of Nettleton's c.1865-66 view of 'Government Bridge'. (2) This early residence was also shown in a c.1870 view from a similar vantage point. (3)

Integrity

This residence has seen a number of changes including installation of aluminium windows in some openings, alteration to the front windows and verandah (possibly c.1920-40) and painting of the brick chimneys. The garden layout as shown in the c.1865 photograph with its central path is still retained and the garden is graced by a magnificent pair of trees, the central one a large bunya bunya pine (Araucaria Bidwillii).

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This property is distinguished by its mature trees and deep setback of the residence (taking full advantage of the narrow double block).

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. It is distinguished by the large setback of the residence and the pair of mature trees in the front garden. The property forms a critical part of the vista from Queens Park.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 3 Langtree album, Mitchell Library.

RESIDENCE, 21 Ligar Street, Clunes

Section 1, allotment 8, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and purchased from the Crown by S. Merrifield on 5 October 1860. (1) The site was still vacant in 1870 (2) although based on a typological analysis the residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although some window openings have been enlarged. A hedged side garden gives an appropriate setting to this residence.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This property is distinguished by its unusual building form of three hipped roof forms.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. The property forms a critical part of the vista from Queens Park.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Langtree album, c.1870, Mitchell Library.

QUEENS PARK, Ligar Street, corner Cameron Street and Smeaton
Road, Clunes

Crown Reserve (Rs 1754), Township of Clunes

History

A 30 acre reserve for a botanic garden was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes although the land was not developed. An early reference to planting on the site of Queens Park was contained in a letter written by the Borough of Clunes to the Secretary for Lands in 1886. 'The land is fenced' said the town clerk 'and partially planted ... the council propose to make more improvements'. Ligar Street was reduced to 1 chain and following the creation of a sludge channel along the line of the creek, an area of slightly over two acres was available for a public garden. (1) A decade earlier Council had resolved 'to plant 30 or 40 trees' on the east side of Ligar Street and a number on the west side of the creek opposite the site of Queens Park, but the details of implementation of this proposal are unclear. In the same year (1872) mullock from a mining company had blocked the second branch of Creswick's Creek and council grasped upon the opportunity of improving the area. (2) The fountain was constructed in 1887 to commemorate the jubilee of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne in 1837 and the park was also officially opened at this time. In 1878 a deputation was received by the Borough of Clunes when permission was sought to occupy a portion of the Creek Reserve as a bowling green. The bowling club (as yet in an embryonic form) undertook to plant the ground if the council would fence the area. On 3 June 1878 the council adopted a proposal by its public works committee and the town clerk was instructed to prepare a lease for the ground. (4) As the Borough was not gazetted as a Committee of Management for the entire reserve until just over ten years later the exact nature of the agreement is uncertain. (5) However 'Fidelis' recalled the green was laid out by Arthur Batson, the town clerk, and an early photograph showed a small timber clubhouse on this site.

By the turn of the century, Queens Park was reaching maturity. The trees, mainly evergreen conifers, contrasted strongly with the deciduous poplars (planted along the creek in the 1880s) and detailed planting was evident. Neatly clipped box hedges lined a serpentine path of crushed quartz and a large cordyline was planted adjacent to the fountain. At this date many of the early plantings had been thinned and augmented with other exotic plantings, especially at the north end where a 'pinetum' was cultivated. (7)

Integrity

This garden contains many remnant nineteenth and early twentieth century plantings. The bowling club is an early intrusion in the area although the car park to the north is on part of the garden

reserve. The fountain and a small gabled shed are now the only early remaining garden structures. The original path has been covered and no small scale 'detailed' planting has survived, with the exception of a box hedge.

Analysis

Queens Park is only one of a network of botanic gardens created in nineteenth century provincial Victoria. The planting of these gardens was aided immeasurably by Ferdinand von Mueller who as Government Botanist and, for a period, director of Melbourne's botanic gardens liberally distributed seeds and plants to all parts of the state. Some provincial gardens, like Malmsbury, Castlemaine, Buninyong, Hamilton and Camperdown are larger and possibly closer to the ideals of a botanic garden but Queens Park forms a significant link in this network of gardens. It was not merely a municipal park catering for the recreation of residents but contained a significant emphasis on planting, the results of which are clearly evident today. Plantings of conifers, especially the pinus species, had been popularised by the writings of John Cladius Loudon and the 'pinetum' became a feature in many of Victoria's public and larger private gardens. Queens Park is also a significant reminder of contemporary local reaction against mining debris and representative of an early reclamation project, the genesis of many of Victoria's outstanding gardens.

Significance

Queens Park is one of a number of small provincial botanic gardens, a garden form popular in nineteenth century Victoria. The garden contains many remnant nineteenth and early twentieth century plantings and has considerable potential for reconstruction of missing elements using the wealth of documentary evidence available. The garden remains as a significant reminder of contemporary reaction against mining debris and representative of an early reclamation project.

- 1 Rs 1754, letter dated 10 April 1886.
- 2 Borough of Clunes, minutes, 5 June 1872; 9 October 1872.
- 3 Undated cutting from the Age, c.1927 in Weickhardt papers, Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 4 Borough of Clunes, minutes; 2 May 1878; 30 May 1878; 3 June 1878.
- 5 Rs 1754, 18 June 1888.
- 6 'Fidelis', 1920, p.8.
- 7 Early photographs held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes; Jane Lennon collection, Melbourne

RESIDENCE, 4 Macdonald Street, Clunes

Section 27, allotment 12, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 Township plan of Clunes.
(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected in the period c.1870-1890.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although is apparently unoccupied at present.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building forms an important visual element on the south eastern approach to Clunes.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. The residence forms a significant visual element at the head of the valley on a main entry point to Clunes and is now one of few surviving nineteenth century residences on this entry.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 8 Macdonald Street, Clunes

Section 27, allotment 11, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 Township plan of Clunes. (1) A 'tenement and land' owned and occupied by miner Richard Trounce was first rated in March 1864. (2) Trounce remained owner and occupant until Thomas Beckerly purchased the residence in 1868-69 although it was still subsequently occupied by miners. (3) The net annual value of £16 stayed relatively constant until 1870 although it dropped to £11 in 1871. Although this rose to £12 in 1873 such small rises make attribution of particular parts of the residence difficult. (4)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and has recently had an appropriate picket fence erected across the frontage (which also takes in the site of Thomas Woolf's residence on allotment 11A, demolished in 1985).

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. It is likely that the front section of this residence dates from 1864 with rear sections accounting for later rises in value. The verandah, with its simple timber fretwork frieze, is one of the best local examples of this detail and is assumed to be early (if not original). This building forms an important visual element on the south eastern approach to Clunes.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes and extended during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The residence is distinguished by its combination of building forms and the simply detailed verandah. The residence forms a significant visual element at the head of the valley on a main entry point to Clunes and is now one of few surviving nineteenth century residences on this entry.

- 1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 9 March 1864, no. 391.
- 3 *ibid.*, 18 March 1868, no.449; 3 March 1869, no.1075.
- 4 *ibid.*, 1870, no.313; 4 January 1871, no.307; 1873, no.304.

RESIDENCE, Purcell Street, Clunes

Section 15, allotment 13?, Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-90. A residence was shown in a c.1870 photograph and also an 1882 engraving and this may now be incorporated in the present building. (1) The two rear wings were clearly shown on a c.1905-10 postcard view. (2)

Integrity

This residence has been extended and altered but early building forms and details are still readily apparent.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is located in an area which formerly acted as 'overflow' from Fraser Street. The land between Purcell Street and the creek comprised a mixture of residential and commercial buildings although this residence is now the lone survivor.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence is a critical reminder of the extensive former development which once existed between Fraser Street and the creek.

- 1 Langtree album, Mitchell Library; Illustrated Australian News, 1 November 1882.
- 2 'Clunes. 5', postcard in Jane Lennon collection, Melbourne.

FORMER SCHOOL OF MINES, Service Street, Clunes

Crown Land, alignment of West Parade, Township of Clunes

History

This building was apparently erected as a School of Mines and subsequently used as a hall by the Australian Natives Association. The building was purchased by the Borough of Clunes in 1956 and now serves as Infant Welfare Centre. (1)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact although the front porch has been added at a later date than the remainder of the building. The retort furnace used by the School of Mines is still retained in the rear room.

Analysis

Schools of Mines were an important facility in mining towns and large institutions were established in towns such as Ballarat and Bendigo. However, this is a rare example of a small School of Mines and drew on a long tradition of empirical research into mining technology fostered in Clunes since the late 1850s. (2)

Significance

A characteristic small country hall having special historical associations with the local School of Mines and Australian Natives Association. The rear room (with furnace) is a significant physical feature of the former School of Mines. This building is the only known School of Mines building outside larger Victorian towns such as Ballarat and Bendigo.

- 1 Legal agreement regarding purchase held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 2 See background history, Chapter 5.

FORMER 'JOBSONS CORNER', 1 Service Street, corner Fraser Street,
Clunes

Section 2, allotment 3, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and purchased from the Crown by D. McColl on 5 October 1860. (1) This shop was first rated in January 1871 as 'store and land' (net annual value £84) and this is supported by the date 1870 on the parapet. The owners and occupants were Christopher Jobson and William Cocking and the building presumably replaced an earlier building. (2) Jobson ceased trading in 1882 when Joseph Edwin Meyers took over the business. By this date, the owner was John S. Blyth. (3) In 1887 the premises were described as 'brick, 2 rooms'. (4)

Integrity

This shop is substantially intact with an extension and carriage entrance added in Service Street. Much of the early shopfront joinery is retained as is the early post supported verandah. Face brick wall have been painted and a large internally illuminated sign erected over the corner.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This shop is now significant as the eastern boundary of the Fraser Street commercial area and provides a significant contribution to this important intersection.

Significance

A characteristic corner shop erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is distinguished by its early shopfront, post supported verandah and side walls (one of which incorporates an early carriageway. The building now defines the eastern boundary of the significant Fraser Street commercial precinct and is a vital reminder of the rebuilding in Fraser Street in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 4 January 1871, no.43.
- 3 ibid., 19 January, no.39.
- 4 ibid., 12 January, 1887, no.42.

SHOP, 5? Service Street, corner Bailey Street, Clunes

Section 2, allotment 1, Township of Clunes

History

This land was purchased by corn dealer Thomas Turnbull from publican Thomas Coad in May 1885. At this date the land was rated at £6. (1) However by the following valuation (later in 1885) this rose to £33 and the description altered to 'shop and land, section 2, lots 1, 2 and 4' (2) indicating erection of a substantial building. A c.1905 view showed a two storey building on the corner with a flanking single storey section to the north. (3)

Integrity

This building may be the 1885 structure with the top storey removed (some time after c.1905) or may be a new structure erected after c.1905. The present building retains an early post supported verandah and shopfront.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This building retains enough details from the Victorian period to suggest 1885 as a plausible date although a construction date to c.1920 may not be inconsistent with the present building. The building is located on a major intersection in Clunes.

Significance

A characteristic nineteenth century era commercial building which forms a critical part of the streetscape, both as a continuation of the Service Street commercial area and as an appropriate complement to the major institutional buildings to the south.

- 1 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 28 January 1885, no.42.
- 2 *ibid.*, 6 October 1885, no.42.
- 3 Postcards in Don Mackinnon collection, Geelong and Jane Lennon collection, Melbourne.

RESIDENCE, 7 Service Street, Clunes

Section 5, allotment 18, Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1880-90 and the verandah possibly added (or altered) c.1900-15.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact. The picket fence was erected in 1985.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building is distinguished by its chimney which exhibits patterned brickwork in creams and orange, an uncommon feature in the local context.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. The residence is located on the main intersection in Clunes and directly opposite the Post Office, a building of high individual significance. It forms part of an appropriate setting for this important institutional precinct.

RESIDENCE AND FORMER SURGERY, 21 Service Street, Clunes

Section 6, allotment 14, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and purchased from the Crown by H. Detert on 8 July 1861. (1) Joseph Stubbs, draper, was first listed as owner and occupier of a residence on this site in the 1863 voters roll. (1) Stubbs was not listed in the 1862 roll but the residence may have been listed under another name; given the paucity of information on the rolls this is hard to ascertain. Stubbs sold the house to miner Henry Mundy in 1868-69 and Joseph Tarrant was listed as owner in 1870. (2) In the period 1869-70 the net annual value jumped from £15 to £30 indicating either a new residence or, more probably, substantial additions to the existing building. The earlier building is shown in two c.1865 photographs in the form of a single gable roofed cottage with verandah. (3) Tarrant sold the house to medical practitioner John Andrew in 1880 and in 1886-87 the value jumped from £26 to £35 (4) perhaps indicating the construction of the northern wing. This section is shown with a large verandah in a postcard view c.1905-10. (5) From 1887 to 1895 the house was described in rate books variously as having 8 to 12 rooms.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact from the date of the last major additions, possibly in 1887.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'early timber buildings' and 'timber residences'. This building is distinguished by its clearly defined stages of construction and resulting juxtaposition of building forms.

Significance

A characteristic early timber residence erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes and extended many times during the peak of prosperity to produce a distinctive juxtaposition of building forms. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

- 1 Borough of Clunes, ratepayers roll, 1863, no.464.
- 2 Borough of Clunes, ratebook, 1868, no.116; 1869. no.903; 1870, no.68.
- 3 Postcard 'Clunes in The Early Sixties' and Nettleton photograph 'Ballarat Road', c.1865; both held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 4 Borough of Clunes, ratebook, 1880, no.64; 1886, no.64; 1887, no.64.
- 5 Postcard, Don Mackinnon collection, Geelong.

MASONIC LODGE (FORMER PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH), 23 Service Street, Clunes

Section 6, allotment 15, Township of Clunes

History

This building was erected in 1868 as a Primitive Methodist church at a cost of £903. (1) This replaced an earlier chapel of c.1859-60 located in Hill Street. The church united with the Wesleyans in 1899 and this group later joined the Methodist Union with the Bible Christians. (2) The church was sold to the local masonic body in 1908 for use as a lodge. The new lodge building opened on 30 July 1909 following the move from former premises in Camp Street. (3) The masonic brethren blocked most of the windows and refaced the facade to Service Street. (4) The small front porch was possibly added by the lodge although it may have been modified from an earlier structure. The building is still used as a Masonic Lodge.

Integrity

This building is completely intact from the 1909 conversion to a lodge. A small brick toilet wing forms an intrusive element and, to a lesser extent, so does the long single storey building in front of the lodge.

Analysis

The church building is one of relatively few surviving Primitive Methodist church buildings in Victoria although its significance is limited to the local context in this respect. However, this building is of interest for its dual role as a Primitive Methodist Church (1868-99) and a masonic lodge (1909-present). The building fabric clearly reflects the two uses and underlines the dramatic change of fortunes in Clunes following cessation of mining. The survival of the former lodge building (18 Camp Street) enhances the significance of the present lodge building for the manner in which it demonstrates the upgrading of lodge facilities in a period when many large buildings in Clunes were made redundant. Architecturally, skilful use of the former gothic building in its conversion into a classically derived temple, with pedimented heads applied to window openings and the parapet built up to form a large pediment.

Significance

A large former Primitive Methodist church which assists in an understanding of the dominance of nonconformist religious beliefs in Clunes, primarily brought about by the large local Cornish population. The conversion of the building to a masonic lodge has been handled in a skilful manner to create a distinctive building architecturally. The property demonstrates the reuse of buildings following large population movement and economic decline. This building forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

- 1 Clarke, The History of Primitive Methodism in Victoria and Tasmania, [c.1887], p.39.
- 2 The Spectator, 7 August 1908.
- 3 The All Nations Lodge, Clunes Centenary Celebrations, 1958.
- 4 Langtee album, c.1870, Mitchell Library, photograph shows the facade in the distance although the gable was much steeper than at present and followed the roof line.

RESIDENCE, 25 Service Street, Clunes

Section 6, allotment 16

History

A 9 roomed weatherboard residence owned and occupied by labourer Robert Morrison was rated on this site in 1892. The residence burnt down on 26 January 1893 and the land left vacant until 1900-01. By September 1901 a weatherboard residence with net annual value of £23 was rated, owned by Elizabeth Gordon (who had purchased the block in 1900) and occupied by draper's assistant William Turner. (1)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and retains an early picket fence and hedge.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during a depressed period in the local economy as the result of a fire. This residence is distinguished by its encircling verandah and is an archetypal example of a late Victorian timber villa residence. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

- 1 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 1892, no.59 (note 'house burnt down 26 January 1893'); 1893, no.58; 19 September 1900, no.56; 4 September 1901, no.56.

FORMER SHRIGLEY RESIDENCE, 31 Service Street, Clunes

Section 6, allotment 19, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and sold by the Crown to J.A. Shrigley on 6 October 1860. (1) The present house was erected in 1870, when the ratebook of that year described it as 'unfinished'. (2) The net annual valuation decreased slowly and in 1890 the building was described as 'stone, 7 roomed'. (3) The owner and occupier was John A. Shrigley a chemist and druggist who had established his business in Fraser Street by 1859. (4)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact with the exception of the front verandah which appears to have been altered c.1920-40.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'. This residence is distinguished by its bay windows and is also one of very few local residences constructed of basalt.

Significance

A characteristic villa residence, distinguished by its basalt construction and architecturally more sophisticated than most local residences of this date. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 3 March 1869, no. 899 and 2 March 1870, no. 72.
- 3 *ibid.*, 1890, no. 63.
- 4 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 9 September 1859, p.1.

FORMER SCOTT RESIDENCE, 35 Service Street, corner Bath Street, Clunes
Section 6, allotments 21, 22, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and sold by the Crown to C. McClennan on 6 October 1860. (1) A residence was first listed for miner William Grigor Scott on this site in 1863 (2) and in the following year the house and land had a net annual value of £74. (3) In July 1863 the local correspondent of the Creswick and Clunes Advertiser described Scott as a 'lucky shareholder in the Yankee [Mining] Company' and praised his 'well designed villa residence and grounds'. (4) The value was reduced by consent of the council in 1866 (5) and the value jumped from £50 to £75 between 1869-70. (6) This may indicate erection of the present residence or an extension. In 1869, Scott was listed as 'miner' but this was crossed out with the word 'Gentleman' pencilled in. (7) Next year he was described as 'Landowner', and the increase in net annual value may also be accounted by his ownership of an extra four allotments in Section 4.

Integrity

This residence is totally intact and retains a mature if slightly overgrown garden.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'. This is a particularly early and elegant local example of a residential building constructed. The early garden layout is also of significance.

Significance

A characteristic villa residence, distinguished by its basalt construction and architecturally more sophisticated than most local residences of this date. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes, ratepayers roll, 1863, no.466. Scott is not listed in the 1862 roll.
- 3 *ibid.*, ratebook, 9 March 1864, no.99.
- 4 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 8 July 1863, p.3.
- 5 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 9 April 1866, no. 97.
- 6 *ibid.*, 1869, no. 898; 1870, no.73.
- 7 *ibid.*, loc.cit.

RESIDENCE, 39 Service Street, Clunes

Section 8, part allotment 2, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1862 township plan of Clunes.
(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-70 and extended by the addition of a gabled wing c.1870-80.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and retains an early timber hood over the front window.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its building form which has resulted from at least two stages of construction.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected and extended during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.628 & 1138, lithographed 13 February 1862.

RESIDENCE, 41 Service Street, Clunes

Section 8, part allotment 2, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1862 township plan of Clunes.
(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.628 & 1138, lithographed 13 February 1862.

RESIDENCE, 43 Service Street, Clunes

Section 8, allotment 1, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1862 township plan of Clunes.
(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1880-1900.

Integrity

This residence is intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its cast iron verandah decoration, the general form of the verandah (especially the return section and projecting gablet over the entry). It is a form of building rare in Clunes but very common in suburban Melbourne and larger provincial cities such as Ballarat.

Significance

A timber villa residence which is an outstanding example of a building form rare in the local context but common in suburban Melbourne and larger provincial cities. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.628 & 1138, lithographed 13 February 1862.

SHOWGROUNDS, Service Street, Clunes

Section 25, allotments 6-14; section 8, allotments 3-14;
alignment of Victoria Street east of Service Street; Township
of Clunes

History

Part of this land was set aside in 1863 for use of the Glendaruel Agricultural Society. Prior to this a 2 acre site at Beckworth had been temporarily reserved as 'show yards' for the society's use. This earlier reserve was revoked on 18 March 1863 when 3 areas (comprising allotments 1-9 and 15-18 of section 25) was temporarily reserved in Service Street, Clunes. (1) Weickhardt records that the Glendaruel Agricultural Society decided in 1864 to enlarge its geographical scope and was renamed the Glendaruel, Coghill's Creek, Beckworth, Clunes and Eglinton Agricultural Society. (2) The reservation of the showground site in Service Street was revoked by the Victorian government in 1875 and in August 1876 a large parcel of land was purchased by G. Chapman and J. Drife (allotments 6-18 of section 25), presumably on behalf of the society. (3) The current grounds also encroach on land in section 8, although details of tenure are unknown. Photographs of the Clunes show in 1913 show many temporary buildings and tents and details of construction for the present sheds and booths are not known. (4)

Integrity

These showgrounds have been in continuous use since 1863 and an annual show is still held each year. Several buildings, sheds and booths are located on the southern and eastern section of the grounds and these date from approximately c.1900 to the present. Many mature pine trees mark the perimeter of the site.

Significance

This is a typical rural showground and is the home of one of the oldest surviving agricultural societies in Victoria. It is distinguished by buildings which demonstrate a continuity of traditional agricultural shows. The site is enhanced by many mature trees.

- 1 Victoria Government Gazette, 11 February 1861, p.287; 27 March 1863, p.677.
- 2 Weickhardt, Clunes, 1972, pp.32-33.
- 3 VGG, 5 November 1875, p.2104; 17 December 1875, p.2334; details from annotations on plan in VPRS 6420, unit 1, p.45.
- 4 Photographs held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes and William Barkell Memorial Historical and Arts Centre.

RESIDENCE, 51 Service Street, Clunes

Section 25, allotment 4, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes.

(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80 and extended by the addition of a gabled wing c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its building form which has resulted from at least two stages of construction.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected and extended during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 53 Service Street, Clunes

Section 25, allotment 5, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-70 and extended by the addition of a gabled wing c.1870-80.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the front verandah have now been infilled with glazed panels in front of the decorative cast iron verandah trim. The front fence of besser blocks is probably also contemporary to the verandah infilling.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its building form which has resulted from at least two stages of construction.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected and extended during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

FORMER RAILWAY HOTEL, 55 Service Street corner William Street, Clunes
Section 25A, allotment 1, Township of Clunes

History

This hotel was erected in 1873 by publican Thomas Hall. (1) Hall purchased the land on 2 September 1879. (2) The strategic location in the southern section of Service Street was no doubt prompted by the construction of the Ballarat and Maryborough Railway. The contract for the section Creswick to Clunes was signed in July 1873 and the Clunes Railway Station was the northern terminus until the section to Maryborough opened in 1875. As well as the Railway, the hotel was also strategically located for traffic from Ballarat.

Integrity

This building is substantially intact although has seen several changes since its original construction. The side wall to William Street was originally timber and this was replaced at an unknown date by concrete blocks with second hand windows of the Edwardian period.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This former hotel is distinguished by its early timber shopfronts, cast iron verandah (cast in Clunes) and the unusual verandah configuration to suit the corner location.

Significance

A former hotel demonstrating a design unusual in the local context. The building is distinguished by its cast iron verandah and prominent corner location. The relationship to the nearby railway station provides a demonstration of economic links within Clunes, with local business responding to changing modes of transport. This building forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

- 1 Borough of Clunes ratebooks, 15 January 1873, no. 190 and 31 December 1873, no. 194.
- 2 Cadastral plan.

RESIDENCE, 57 Service Street, Clunes

Section 25A, allotment 1A, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90 with the verandah possibly added separately c.1880-1900.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its cast iron verandah decoration, which is unusually elaborate for such a modest cottage.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 65 Service Street, Clunes

Section 28, allotment 6, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes although the subdivision was not mapped until 1872. (1) This residence was not in existence at the date of survey and based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1872-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864;
Allotments, Clunes, L.4462, C/242R, lithographed 6 September 1872.

RESIDENCE, 75 Service Street, Clunes

Section 29, allotment , Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes.

(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90 and possibly extended by the addition of a gabled wing c.1880-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence may have been constructed in the present form or the gabled wing added at a later date. The residence is distinguished by its cast iron verandah and bay window.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 83 Service Street, Clunes
Section 30, allotment 8, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes.
(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected in stages during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the verandah has now been infilled.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 93 Service Street, Clunes
Section 30, allotment 8, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes.
(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected in stages during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

WAR MEMORIAL, Service Street, corner Fraser Street, Clunes

Crown Land, on alignment of Service Street

History

Of the 300 men and women from Clunes and district who served in the First World War (1914-18) forty five were killed. (1) A memorial was erected in Service Street and opened on 19 November 1921. (2) It took the form of a soldier sculpted of marble, mounted on a granite plinth; the names of fallen inscribed on the plinth. The memorial was surrounded by a decorative cyclone metal fence with four timber posts.

Integrity

This memorial is still totally intact. It still stands in the middle of the carriageway and this contributes to its significance.

Analysis

War memorials are located in almost all Australian towns and this example at Clunes is a fine example of a simple sculpted monument. It is enhanced by its original fence.

Significance

A simple war memorial commemorating local participation in the First World War. Its significance as a monument is enhanced by the original decorative enclosure. The manner in which it sits in the roadway recalls an era prior to widespread use of the motor car. The siting is also a vital part of the Fraser Street and Service streetscape as it provides a focus for this important intersection.

1 Weickhardt, Clunes 1839-1972, 1972, p.19.

2 Clunes Guardian and Gazette, 25 November 1921, quoted in Butler, 'Clunes and district: Victoria. The impact of the Great War 1914-19', B.A. (Hons) Thesis, Duntroon, 1980, p.109; early photograph in Giddings (compiler), Centenary of Clunes 1839-1939 Historical Souvenir, 1939, p.24; early postcard (of the opening?) held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

SHOPS, 2 Service Street, Clunes
Section 3, allotment 14, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and purchased from the Crown by R. Cochrane on 8 July 1861. (1) Two shops were listed on the site in the 1869 ratebook and both had a rise in net annual value in 1870. A change of description also accompanied the rise in net annual value; from 'shop and land (£26) to 'shop and dwelling (£40) in the case of the southern section; and 'shop and land' (£32) to 'dwelling, shop, out buildings and land' (£60) in the case of the northern section. (2) The Hickox plan (c.1870) shows both shops as 'Smith and Sons' although the northern portion was also annotated 'wood'. The 1870 ratebook lists 'John Smith and Son, Painters and Builders' as occupants of the northern portion and 'Henry Mohr, Hairdresser' as owner and occupant of the southern portion. The Mechanics' Institute was also rated in the 1870 ratebook and this was shown in the c.1870 Hickox plan between the northern portion and the shop on the corner of Fraser Street (it may well have been located on part of the present site of the single storey shop). (3) The shop on the southern portion rose in net annual value in 1882-83 (£14 to £19) although this may only coincide with internal alterations for the change of occupancy from John Smith, painter to John R. Tippet, draper. (4)

Integrity

These shops are substantially intact. Both retain a common early post supported verandah although both shopfronts have been altered. The face brickwork of the southern shop has been coated with a cement slurry.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. These shops are distinguished by the manner in which the toothed brickwork of the southern anticipated an upper storey on the northern shop.

Significance

A characteristic pair of shops erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is a reminder of the manner in which the Clunes commercial centre was rebuilt during the late 1860s and early 1870s. Further interest attaches to the toothed brickwork indicating unfinished expansion on the site. The shops form a critical part of the Clunes commercial precinct, an area of outstanding historical and architectural significance.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 3 March 1869, nos.860, 861; 2 March 1870, nos.13, 14.
- 3 *ibid.*, 2 March 1870, no.12.
- 4 *ibid.*, 1882, no.15; 1883, no.15.

FORMER SHOPS, 4 Service Street, Clunes

Section 3, Allotment 14, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and purchased from the Crown by J. Dunn on 5 October 1860. (1) The site was subsequently purchased by mining manager William Angove from James Tregonning c.1869-70 and the rise in net annual value of the buildings and increase of tenancies from two to three indicated construction of the present row of three double storey brick shops. This was confirmed by the Hickox plan of c.1870 which simply lists them as '3 brick shops'. The first occupants were (from north to south) Mrs. Julia Lisle, teacher (net annual value £32); Francis Holly, grocer (£49) and John Phillip, saddler (£26). (2)

Integrity

These shops are substantially intact and retain a post supported verandah (albeit with new tubular metal columns) and timber shopfronts. The parapet has been slightly altered by removal of a central semi-circular pediment and some internal walls have been removed to allow a single occupancy.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'.

Significance

A row of three shops erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is now the only local example of an attached row of double storey shops, a form which was rare in Clunes. This row of shops is one of very few physical reminders of the formerly large Cornish population in Clunes. The building is a reminder of the manner in which the Clunes commercial centre was rebuilt during the late 1860s and early 1870s. The shops form a critical part of the Clunes commercial precinct, an area of outstanding historical and architectural significance.

1 Cadastral plan

2 Borough of Clunes ratebooks, 3 March 1869, nos.858-859; 2 March 1870, nos.15, 16; 4 January 1871, nos.14-16; see chapter 7 of the background history for details of the Cornish at Clunes.

POLICE RESIDENCE, LOCK-UP AND STABLES, 10 Service Street, Clunes
Section 4, allotments 9 and 10, Township of Clunes

History

These allotments were surveyed in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858. At this date the Police Paddock was located on land between Creswick Road and the creek. In 1859 the police relocate to a site strategically overlooking the town known as 'Camp Hill' and on the intended police reserve (allotments 9 and 10) an open sided market shed was erected by the council. (1) In 1872 the police relocated to the reserve in Service Street and the market shed was shifted to a site in Templeton Street (north of the Free Library) for use as a Fire Engine House. (2) 'Re-moval and re-erection of Police Buildings' was undertaken by E. Wallis for £461 although the number and nature of the buildings was not specified. (3) General repairs were undertaken during 1902 when the courtyard of the police residence and office was enclosed and new chimneys were erected. At this date the site plan showed a residence/office, detached kitchen, detached bedroom, stable, washhouse, two portable lock-ups, double outhouse, manure pit and single outhouse. A contract for the work was signed with James Williamson on 10 October 1902 for £196 10s. (4) The present police residence appears to have been erected on the site of the former residence/office c.1915-30. The present portable office was installed in 1985.

Integrity

The c.1915-30 residence is substantially intact and many of the buildings shown on the 1902 site plan are also intact. These include a portable lock-up and stables.

Analysis

Whilst the residence is a modest and characteristic design from the period c.1915-30 it is the early outbuildings which are of most interest on this site. The portable lock-up is the only known surviving example of this type (although others may still lurk in rear yards of other police stations) and the survival of stables provides an insight to the nineteenth and early twentieth century mode of law enforcement. The three relocations of the police reserve provide clues to the history of the town and its centre of activity during different periods.

Significance

A typical police reserve which contains outbuildings relating to the earlier 'Camp Hill' reserve. The portable lock-up is the only known surviving example of this style of lock-up. The residence is a characteristic building of the period c.1915-30, a period not represented by many buildings in Clunes.

1 Refer to chapter 7 of the background history.

2 Clunes Guardian and Gazette, 1 November 1872.

3 VPRS 977, unit 1, 1872-73/332.

4 P.W.D. drawing collection, PRO, drawing initialled 18 Sept 1902.

FORMER WESLEYAN CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, Service Street, Clunes
Section 4, Allotment 11, Township of Clunes

History

The first permanent chapel for local Wesleyans was apparently located in Fraser Street, west of the later Club Hotel. The present site in Service Street was acquired in two parcels during 1861. Allotments 12 and 13 were temporarily reserved by the Victorian government on 7 January 1861 for a purposes of a 'Wesleyan Church and minister's dwelling'. (1) Allotment 11 was purchased by Richard Cochrane on 8 July 1861 and was conveyed to the 'Trustees of Wesleyan Chapel, Clunes' on 15 January 1864 for £175. The land was promptly mortgaged to carpenter Robert Allen for £300 plus interest (10 March 1864) and a second mortgage for a similar sum to miner Adolph Nelson (29 April 1864). Allen's mortgage was discharged in August 1869 and Nelson's in June 1890. (2) A 'neat cottage' and stable was erected for Reverend W. Woodall in October 1861 (presumably on the new site in Service Street) and by June 1862 funds were being collected for 'erecting a substantial stone or brick church'. (3) The funds (including the £600 from the mortgages no doubt) were sufficient to commence building and the front section of the present church erected in 1864. The foundation stone was laid by Rev. J.S. Waugh of Ballarat on 1 January 1864 and the architect was J. A. Doane of Ballarat. Ralph Longstaff gave his services as Clerk of Works and the first sermons were preached on 12 June 1864. The church was provided with pews and lit by two gas 'sunlights'. Mention was also made of an entrance porch and a belfry. (4) Proposals for a new church were mooted in the late 1860s although in June 1870 it was decided to enlarge the existing building by the addition of a transept. Henry Bell's tender of £2320 was accepted and the foundation stone laid on 10 October 1870. The enlarged church was opened in March 1871 and the seating was said to accommodate 900. (5) A large Sunday School was erected adjacent to the church in 1875 at a cost of £1,000. By late 1878 there were 968 scholars and 93 teachers in the Clunes circuit and the church membership of 365 represented the zenith of Wesleyan Methodism in Clunes. (6) A pipe organ was purchased for the church after negotiations with a Mr. Anderson and the instrument was first used on 26 April 1882. The iron fence in front of the church was erected in February 1888 at a cost of £148. In April 1889 the organ was moved from the eastern gallery apparently to its present position. A choir gallery was also erected at a cost of £50. In 1898 the parsonage (a second building of unknown date having a brick facade) was substantially rebuilt and a new timber ceiling provided in the church. Evidence of an earlier lath and plaster ceiling is still visible behind the diagonal timber boarding. The Wesleyans at Clunes amalgamated with the Primitive Methodists in 1899, prior to the more widespread Methodist Union of 1902 when the Bible Christians also joined.

Integrity

This building is still remarkably intact although several small alterations have occurred. The eastern gallery has been removed (date unknown) and the 1864 and 1870 sections of the building are now divided from each other internally by a lightweight partition

(date unknown). Internally the church, which is still used on a regular but infrequent basis, has many features including the organ, cast iron balconies in the rear transepts and carved timber bosses on the roof trusses. Evidence of the early preaching platform can still be discerned on the floor. The structure has moved gradually and many measures have been taken since the late nineteenth century to arrest this. A separate engineer's report has been prepared on this matter. The roof slates were stripped and renailed during 1987. The Sunday school hall was demolished in 1986.

Analysis

Refer to chapter nine of the background history for a detailed discussion of non-conformist church architecture. This church is a remarkable demonstration of the success of the Wesleyans in Clunes. It holds the largest congregation by far of any local church and was formerly complemented by a vast Sunday school hall. The building was greatly extended at a time when other denominations were either contemplating upgrading of an early building or worshipping in substantial buildings destined to remain incomplete. The building used Gothic features in an 'associative' manner in contrast to the archaeological correctness of the Roman Catholic church nearby in Bailey Street. The pointed windows of the Wesleyan church announced the building was a place of worship and the addition of transepts in 1870 was not intended to imitate a medieval parish church but rather to add vast new cast iron galleries for crowds more akin to a theatre than a church.

Significance

A large Wesleyan church built in two major campaigns and a powerful symbol of the success of the non-conformists in Clunes, a mining town with a large Cornish population. The building is significant architecturally for the manner in which it uses Gothic elements in its plan as an aid to the mode of preaching rather than for the sake of an accurate revival of Gothic architecture. The building is a prominent landmark in Service Street and forms an integral part of a precinct of institutional buildings of high significance. The site is enhanced by the survival of an early parsonage which stands on the site of previous minister's residences.

- 1 Victoria Government Gazette, 1861, p.286.
- 2 Copies of title and mortgage kindly provided by Rev Stuart Paddle.
- 3 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 18 Oct 1861, p.2; 17 June 1862, p.3.
- 4 Wesleyan Chronicle, 16 January 1864, p.12.
- 5 All further reference from The Spectator, 7 August 1908, pp.1373-1378.
- 6 National Trust of Australia (Victoria), 'Submission concerning the scout hall (former Wesleyan Sabbath School), Service Street, Clunes', 22 November 1983.

FORMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SUNDAY SCHOOL Service Street, and
MANSE, 49 Alliance Street, Clunes

Section 4, allotments 6 and 14, Township of Clunes

History

This site was temporarily reserved for 'Presbyterian Church purposes' in 1861. (1) During 1861 funds towards building were raised Clunes and by September the committee could report that they were 'preparing the necessary plans and specifications preparatory to calling tenders, so that the building, if possible, may be roofed in before the end of the year'. Drawings of a brick structure 40 by 20 feet with porch, were exhibited estimated to cost £500. (2) Tenders were invited to be returned by 29 November 1861 with plans held by J.H. Smith at the Council Chambers. (3) On 17 December 1861 the foundation stone was laid by C.T. Sutherland, Past Master of the Clunes All Nations Lodge. The design was provided gratuitously by local builder P. Wallace, the builder was Samuel Fraser and the total cost £650. (4) The opening service was preached by Rev. J. Downes of Learmonth on 13 April 1862. (5) A vestry was erected at the rear of the church in 1907 and a new pulpit was provided by the Ladies' Guild in this year. The church was refurbished internally in 1912. The adjacent Sunday School was erected in 1912 to the design of Ballarat architect P.S. Richards. The builders were Geddes and Bryant of Ballarat and the cost was £400. The hall was opened during the jubilee celebrations of the church on 27 October 1912. The kindergarten room was added in 1914. The manse was erected c.1862-65 and the encircling verandah was added c.1907-12. (6) In 1872 Reverend A. Morrison departed from Clunes and the sale notice details the contents of the manse at that date.

SALE OF VERY SUPERIOR
Household Furniture and Effects
Monday, November 4th, 1872

Pianoforte by Cadby, elegant book case, cheffionere, round tables, dining, do., cedar chairs, cane seat chairs, cornice poles and rings, bedsteads, bells, bedding, wash-stands and ware, looking glasses, carpets, fenders and fireirons, ornaments, engravings, lamps-ladies work table, whatnot, sofas, table-cloths, china tea service, glass crockery, electroplated goods, the ordinary kitchen utensils, water tank, fowls, wheel-barrow, and an immense quantity of sundries. (7)

Integrity

This church is substantially intact from the additions of 1914. The brick walls have been painted (date unknown) although this is due to be removed in early 1988. The manse is substantially intact from the c.1907-12 and many early plantings are retained on the site.

Analysis

This church is typical of the simple early churches, particularly those erected by the non-conformists. It is distinguished by its small scale (particularly when compared with the adjacent Wesleyan Church), face brick construction (the only remaining ecclesiastical example of this material in the shire) and simple detailing. Internally the church retains an early 'box' pew to the right of the preacher. The halls are typical Edwardian structures in a town not noted for a large amount of building activity in the years after the turn of the century. For the manse, refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'. This building is distinguished by its basalt construction and combination of brick quoining around window openings, a feature not found on other local basalt buildings.

Significance

A simple Presbyterian church and manse erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes. The church is the only local example of a church to use face brickwork and this informs the viewer of the early date of the building and, in a town of large, often incomplete churches, of the failure of the congregation to rebuild in more prosperous times. The siting of the church and manse on an irregular T-shaped allotment provides a richness to the urban pattern in this significant institutional precinct.

- 1 Victoria Government Gazette, 1861, p.1264.
- 2 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 10 May 1861, p.2;
27 September 1861, p.3.
- 3 *ibid.*, 22 November 1861, p.3.
- 4 *ibid.*, 20 December 1861, p.3.
- 5 *ibid.*, 15 April 1861.
- 6 St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Clunes, Centenary Celebrations 1862-1962; the manse is shown without verandah in the Nettleton view of 'Ballarat Road', c.1865-66.
- 7 Clunes Guardian and Gazette, 1 November 1872.

FORMER GRENFELL RESIDENCE, 28 Service Street, Clunes

Section 7, Allotment 9, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's original survey of 1858. It was put up for public auction on 5 March 1862 (with a valuation including improvements of £70) and purchased on that date by A Grenfell. (1) Miner Abel Grenfell was first rated on this allotment in 1862 with a property valued at £6. (2) He was also rated in Bailey Street in Section 4 in 1860-62. (3) In 1864 the Service Street residence had a net annual value of £14 and this rose to £15 in 1869 and £20 in 1870. (4) The building was shown as a very simple cottage in the c.1865-66 view of 'Ballarat Road'. In 1887 the residence was described as 'weatherboard, 7 rooms' by which date Grenfell's occupation was given as 'herbalist'. (5)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact. The basalt retaining wall appears to date from an early period of building activity on this site.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. Either of the main hipped sections of the residence probably date from 1862 with the other accounting for the 1864 rise in value or a rebuilding on the same site (see Nettleton photograph). The left hand wing possibly accounts for the rise in 1869-70 (or even later - beyond the scope of ratebook research done for this study).

Significance

A characteristic early timber residence erected during the rise of prosperity in Clunes and extended during the peak of the town's prosperity. The elevated corner location considerably enhances this site and the immediate locality. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 4 March 1862, p.3; cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratepayers roll, 16 January 1862, no. 269a.
- 3 *ibid.*, 1860, no. 129; 1862, no. 190.
- 4 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 9 March 1864, no. 115; 18 March 1868, no. 130; 3 March 1869, no. 472; 2 March 1870, no. 1000.
- 5 *ibid.*, 12 January 1887, no. 785.

RESIDENCE, 36 Service Street, Clunes

Section 7, Allotment 6, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's original survey of 1858. It was purchased from the Crown by J C Weickhardt on 8 July 1861. (1) Mining manager, Thomas Bruce, purchased the allotment in June 1868 from publican John Conrad Weickhardt and erected a residence; by 3 March 1869 the net annual value was 25 and descriptions had altered from 'land' to 'house and land'. (2) Two further rises in net annual value in 1869-70 (~~£~~25 to ~~£~~30) and 1872-73 (~~£~~22 and ~~£~~23) possibly indicated small additions. (3) Bruce occupied the residence in 1869-70 and later occupants included architect Joseph Darcey (1872) and James Smith (1873), Nicholas Avent (1875) and Thomas Walter (1878) all surgeons.

Integrity

Apart from the brick stub columns on the verandah this residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. The main section of the residence probably dates from 1868-69 with the left hand extension possibly accounting for either the 1869-70 or 1872-73 rise in value.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected and extended during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 18 March 1868, no. 135; 3 March 1869, no. 477.
- 3 *ibid.*, 2 March 1870, no. 1004; 31 January 1872, no. 1036; 15 January 1873, no. 1032.

RESIDENCE, 38 Service Street, Clunes

Section 7, Allotment 5, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's original survey of 1858. It was purchased from the Crown by T Bath on 8 July 1861. (1) The site was first listed in the 1871 ratebook, and described as 'house and land, Service and Beckwith Street' indicating the site took in both allotments 5 and 16. The owner and occupier was Isabella McColl, a widow and listed as laundress. The initial net annual value was £22 and this decreased steadily during the last decade of the nineteenth century. (2) Painter John F. Paterson was listed as tenant in 1884. (3)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact. The palm trees, although probably planted during the early twentieth century, form an appropriate garden setting for this residence.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. The house appears to have been the result of a single building campaign although the verandah may have been a later addition or replacement.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The mature palm trees (Phoenix canariensis) considerably enhance this site. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 2 March 1870, not listed apparently, 4 January 1871, no. 1044; 1872, no. 1038.
- 3 *ibid.*, 1884, no. 842.

RESIDENCE, 40 Service Street, Clunes

Section 7, Allotment 4, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's original survey of 1858. It was purchased from the Crown by R Cochrane on 8 July 1861. (1) The site was rated as land in 1873 although on January 1875 a 'house and land' with net annual value of £18 was rated. (2) In January 1891 the residence had a net annual value of £12 although by October that year the site was described as 'land' with a value of £2 perhaps indicating a fire or removal of the residence. (3) A note on the 1892 ratebook entry reveals 'new house built 1/2/93' indicating construction of the present residence. The house was owned by Niels Nicholson and occupied by Joseph Geo. Pitcher. (4)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected at the time of great local depression due to the cessation of mining in Clunes. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 31 December 1873, no. 1041; 24 January 1875, no. 1016.
- 3 *ibid.*, 7 January 1891, no. 709; 28 October 1891, no. 676.
- 4 *ibid.*, 1892, no. 668.

RESIDENCE, 52 Service Street, Clunes

Section 26, allotment 4, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes.

(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80 and extended by the addition of a gabled wing c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact. The picket fence has recently been erected.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its building form which has resulted from at least two stages of construction.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected and extended during the prosperous mining period at clunes. This residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 60 Service Street, Clunes

Section 26, allotment 8, Township of Clunes

History

This residence is believed to have been relocated on this site during the first half of the twentieth century from its original location at Mount Beckwith. (1) Based on a typological analysis the residence appears to originally date from the period c.1880-1900.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. Relocation of residences on the goldfields was a common occurrence and this is only one of several examples in Clunes. The building is distinguished by its encircling verandah.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence constructed during the nineteenth century and subsequently relocated onto this site. Visually this residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Syd Duncan, present owner, personal communication, 8 May 1986.

RESIDENCE, 64 Service Street, Clunes

Section 26, allotment , Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes.
(1) Based on a typological analysis the residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence retains its basic building form although the verandah and front windows have been altered.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. Although of relatively low integrity, this residence is located on a very conspicuous bend in Service Street. It forms a major focus when approaching Clunes from the south and its significance is thus upgraded.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence constructed during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. Its location on a corner in the main southern approach to Clunes means that visually this residence forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

CLUNES RAILWAY STATION, Service Street, Clunes
Railway reserve, Township of Clunes

History

The contract for this station (No.624) was dated 25 September 1874 and the contractor was J. Short. The cast iron verandah was supplied by Robinson Brothers. (1) A contract for the goods shed (£1365 19s 2d) was accepted in June 1874. (2) Clunes was the temporary terminus of the line from Ballarat to Maryborough from October 1874 to February 1875 and has been in continuous use since that date. Shortly after the completion of the contract for the original station the ladies waiting room was converted into a general waiting room and a new waiting room and toilet added at the south end of the building. A small signal box was added when the track layout was 'interlocked' in 1893 and several railway houses were added in the mid-twentieth century. (3)

Integrity

The railway station building at Clunes is substantially intact with the major exception of its painted polychrome brickwork. The precinct is defined by many mature pine trees, especially on the west. The water tower, crane and van goods shed had been demolished by 1980 and the lamp room and men's toilet at the north end of the station was demolished in 1980. The goods shed was demolished in 1987. Early fencing has also been removed.

Analysis

Ward has grouped this station in the 'Creswick sub-group'. This group was used extensively on certain lines, rather than being scattered around the state, and this has created a significant network of buildings on this line. Those stations on the Ballarat to Maryborough line to adopt this style were Creswick, Clunes and Talbot. For a more detailed discussion, Ward's study should be consulted (vol. 2, pp.69-85). The station and railway precinct form a fine entry to Clunes on the main road from Ballarat.

Significance

A typical railway station building of the 1870s with surviving components which combine to form a distinct precinct. The building's significance is principally derived from its fine polychrome brickwork (despite the paint on the walls), platform verandah and general high level of intactness. The railway station and precinct defined by mature trees is a major feature on the main southern approach to Clunes. The station also forms a critical part of the Service Street streetscape, one of the most intact areas of nineteenth century buildings in Clunes.

- 1 Ward, A., 'Victorian Railway Stations', 1982, II, pp.75-76; ARHS Bulletin, 448, February 1975, p.49.
- 2 Maryborough Advertiser, 29 June 1874.
- 3 Ward. loc.cit.; ARHS Bulletin, loc.cit.

RESIDENCE, 5 Short Street, Clunes

Section 28, allotment 2, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 township plan of Clunes and a building was shown on this allotment in the same siting as the present residence. (1) This early structure may be incorporate within the present residence although based on a typological analysis the front section of the present residence appears to date from the period c.1880-1890.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the exterior has been clad in false brick sheeting.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its decorative cast iron verandah decoration and may incorporate one of the earliest surviving residences in South Clunes within the present building.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. The present residence may also incorporate one of the earliest surviving buildings in South Clunes.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 8 Smeaton Road, Clunes

Section 20, allotment 7, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1862 township plan of Clunes.
(1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80 with the rear section added as a second stage within the same period.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its simple building form and prominent siting on the side of the escarpment.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It is a notable element on the main eastern entry to Clunes and forms part of a important ensemble with the highly significant Coundon residence which stand adjacent.

1 Township of Clunes, L.626 & 1138, lithographed 13 February 1862.

RESIDENCE, 47 Smeaton Road, Clunes

Section 50, allotment 2?, Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-90.

Integrity

This building form and early brick chimneys of this residence are substantially intact although the walls have been sheeted with large profile cladding and the front verandah infilled.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its simple building form and prominent siting on the main eastern approach to Clunes.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. It is a notable element on the main eastern entry to Clunes.

RESIDENCE, Smith Street, Clunes

Section 6, allotment 6, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858. This allotment was rated as unoccupied land in 1870 although the net annual value rose from £2 to £6 in 1870-71 although no description accompanied the rise. The value again rose in 1877-78 (£5 to £11) possibly indicating construction of the present residence or, more likely, the rear additions. (1)

Integrity

This building form of this residence is intact although the building is unoccupied and windows are boarded up.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its simple building form (without verandah) and is one of few surviving residences sited on blocks away from main roads in the South Clunes area.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes.

1 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 20 March 1870, no.76; 31 January 1871, no.80; 1877, no.77; 1878, no.75.

RESIDENCE, 11 Suburban Street, Clunes

Section 36, allotment 3?, Township of Clunes

History

This residence is located close to the northern edge of the alluvial lead followed in the 1870s and 80 by the South Clunes Company and the Ballarat and Clunes Company. The No. 2 shaft of the Ballarat and Clunes Company was located in the same section as this residence. Due to this nearby mining activity this residence may have been erected on this site or relocated after cessation of mining. Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to date from the period c.1870-1890.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the verandah columns have been replaced with wrought iron and the brick chimneys have been painted. The picket fence appears to date from the period c.1915-30.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes.

RESIDENCE, 59 Talbot Road, Clunes
Section G, allotment , Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence is a critical part of the Talbot Road streetscape, the main western entry to Clunes.

RESIDENCE, 52 Talbot Road, Clunes
Section 32, allotment 8?, Township of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-70 and extended during the nineteenth century.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the verandah columns have been replaced with wrought iron members, possibly in the 1960s. The front windows are also most unusual, having 12 panes instead of the more common 6 panes. These are possibly original but may also have been inserted at a later date.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its diminutive scale.

Significance

A characteristic residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. Visually this residence appears to be much earlier than other residences in Talbot Road and its building form recalls the very early mining period at Clunes. This residence is a vital part of the Talbot Road streetscape, the main western entry to Clunes.

SHOP AND RESIDENCE, 62 Talbot Road, Clunes

Section 32, Allotment , Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was purchased on 7 June 1864 by E.L. Thomas (if lot 12) or F. Barwell (if lot 13). (1) John Edwards was first rated in this location in 1869 with 'house and land', net annual value £30. By 1870 the net annual value had risen to £32 and description altered to 'store and dwelling' perhaps indicating a date for the present shop. (2) The net annual value again rose in 1872-73 (£25 to £28) and again in 1883-84 (£20 to £24) (3) The business was run by Simon Hawkey and later John Knight Hawkey (1883-1890s). In 1887 the property was described as weatherboard 9 rooms. (4) Richard Lean ran the business from the late 1890s and continued until well into the twentieth century. (5)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact. The post supported shop verandah was demolished in a car accident in 1984 or 85 and reconstructed in 1986-87. The decorative aluminium brackets and frieze (added in August 1987) has no apparent historical basis. The current 'craft shop' sign was painted during 1987.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This example is unique in the local context for its combination of shop and residence, where the residential entrance is from the main frontage. However it is an appropriate relationship in this predominantly residential area.

Significance

This is a characteristic shop and attached dwelling erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes and distinguished by its intact shopfront. The configuration is unique in the local context, and uncommon elsewhere. The building is a significant and now rare reminder of the 'suburban' nature of the outskirts of Clunes where small commercial precincts served local needs.

- 1 Cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Clunes ratebook, 3 March 1869, no. 665; 2 March 1870, no. 318.
- 3 *ibid.*, 31 January 1872, no. 1392; 15 January 1873, no. 1397; 25 January 1883, no. 1133; 28 January 1884, no. 1069.
- 4 *ibid.*, 12 January 1887, no. 1011.
- 5 *ibid.*, 1899, no. 836; 1933, no. 559.

RESIDENCE, 5 Templeton Street, Clunes

Section 3, allotment 1, Township of Clunes

History

This residence was apparently moved to this site from Tourello in the period c.1940-50. (1) Based on a typological analysis the original residence appears to have been constructed during the period c.1870-90 and extended by the addition of a projecting gabled wing.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and, as indicated in the history, was moved to this site.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in this district during the prosperous mining period and later relocated to this site. The building provides is appropriate element in this important precinct which contains significant buildings such as the former Free Library, Roman Catholic church and Anglican Church.

1 Cr Wally Cook, personal communication, 8 October 1987.

RESIDENCE, 9 Templeton Street, Clunes
Section 4, allotment 25, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in John Templeton's initial township survey in 1858 although this allotment was not shown until the 1862 township plan. Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been constructed during the period c.1870-90 and extended by the addition of a projecting gabled wing.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected and extended during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. The building provides is appropriate element in this important precinct which contains significant buildings such as the former Free Library, Roman Catholic church and Anglican Church.

RESIDENCE, 20 Templeton Street, Clunes
Section 16, allotment 2, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 township survey of Clunes. Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been constructed during the period c.1880-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes.

FORMER FREE LIBRARY, Templeton Street, Clunes

Section D, Allotment 34A, Township of Clunes

History

A suggestion for the formation of a 'Mechanics' Library Institution' was made in June 1859 and was apparently established in 1862. (1) By August 1864 the Mechanics' Institute Committee had negotiated a loan with the Union Bank to pay the Masonic Lodge money owing to them on the purchase of their old hall in Service Street. (2) Following a letter of reply from the Sebastopol Mechanics' Institute, the Clunes Mechanics' Institute decided to change names to become Clunes Free Library in the belief that this would result in a larger government grant than previously. Following a poorly attended public meeting, a second meeting on 20 February 1874 of 100 people decided to alter the constitution of the present Institute and form a Free Library. This was formalised by a written agreement between the two committees on 1 April 1874. (3) The letter from Sebastopol refers to a 'heavy debt of £300 on your building' and this may refer to the erection of part of the present building by the date of the letter - 4 March 1873. The printed return by the Registrar-General of Public Libraries, Mechanics Institutes, etc for 1872 indicates £569 6s 10d had been spent on the erection of the 'Clunes Mechanics' Institute'. By the end of 1873 this sum had risen to £584 11s 11d. On 4 November 1874 a letter was received from the Board of Land and Works stating that the site of the Free Library was required to be put up for sale and on 22 December 1875 it was decided by the committee to purchase the land at the upset price. This was done by R.H. Bland, George Chapman and William Bolam on behalf of the Committee. On 7 April 1876 a Mr Appleby's tender of £2 5s was accepted for a 'sunlight' in the reading room and on 14 September 1877 the tender of a Mr. Bruce of £1 5s was accepted for a porch at the rear of the building. £75 was placed in a building fund on 7 February 1879 for the purpose of enlarging the reading room and a week later at a special meeting a sub-committee was formed to engage an architect. Architect Sheridan was engaged and by 1881 tenders were called for the work. On 29 September 1881 the joint tender of Stone and Barwell of £360 14s 6d was accepted and by early 1882 the work was approaching completion.

Integrity

This building is substantially intact and has recently been the subject of conservation works funded by the Talbot and Clunes Bicentennial Heritage Project. Many early features are retained internally including a plaque related to R.H. Bland's connection with the institution, some early wallpaper and early joinery. One of the early exhibits is stored in the rear of the Talbot Free Library and several of the books are held by the William Barkell Memorial Historical and Arts Society.

Analysis

This is a very distinctive building architecturally with the double gabled facade being unusual. The date of construction is uncertain but the building appears to have reached its present configuration by the 1881-82 works. The nature of the building in 1874 (the date on the parapet) is unknown. The 'heavy debt' of 1873 may well have been on a previous building.

Significance

A nineteenth century free library building of considerable architectural significance on account of its double gable facade and superb render work. The building is also of interest for its part in the intellectual life in Clunes in the period at the peak of prosperity. The building is an integral part of a group of institutional buildings of outstanding significance. It also forms a very prominent vista along Bailey Street, the main thoroughfare through Clunes.

- 1 Creswick Advertiser, 24 June 1859, p.3; Clunes Free Library minute books 1873 held by William Barkell Centre.
- 2 Clunes Gazette, 5 August 1864, p.3.
- 3 All subsequent reference from Clunes Free Library Minute books.

FORMER ST PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND, Templeton Street
ST PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND, Templeton Street corner Bailey Street
FORMER VICARAGE, 42 Service Street, Clunes

Section 16, allotments 6, 7, 7a, 8, 9, 10 (two church buildings)
Section 7, allotment 1 (former vicarage)

History

Subscribers of £1 and upwards met at Clunes on 14 July 1859 to discuss the erection of a Church of England. (1) Opposing views were later expressed about the siting of the church on the 'Flat' in Fraser Street with some subscribers wishing a higher site on the hill. (2) Erection of the new church in Fraser Street (section 3, allotment 21) was progressing rapidly in March 1860 and St Pauls Church of England was opened on 29 April 1860 by the Bishop of Melbourne. (3) Expenditure to 29 October 1861 had been £595 15s 6d while receipts totalled £584 9s 1d. (4) The church was extended by the addition of two side wings between c.1863 (when it was pictured in 'Clunes in the early sixties') and 1869 (view in Illustrated Australian News). (5) A new site in Templeton Street was reserved in 1869 and the Fraser Street church was relocated. (6) The foundation stone of the present bluestone Church of England was laid on 13 December 1870 by Rivett Henry Bland and following completion of the new church the 1859-60 building served as a Sunday school hall. (7) The architect was apparently C.D. Cuthbert of Ballarat and the contractor William Cowland. The new church was opened on 13 August 1871. (8) The present organ was installed in 1888 and internal alterations apparently took place at this time. The church was also extended by one bay and a bricked opening installed for a chancel (never built). (9) The organ was built c.1860 by Hamlin & Son, of London and was originally installed in Daylesford Methodist Church in 1881. (10) Land for a vicarage was temporarily reserved in Service Street in 1861 and in October 1862 a design was sought. 'A very neat plan for the same has been drawn by Mr Terry of Ballarat and Melbourne [presumably architect Leonard Terry]. It is to be of brick and the estimated cost will be between £500 and £600.' The 'parsonage' was noticed as 'newly finished' by the local newspaper correspondent in July 1863. (11)

Integrity

The two churches and vicarage are substantially intact. The timber church is now in need of maintenance and work due to commence in 1988 has been funded by the Talbot and Clunes Bicentennial Heritage Project. Internally the hall retains an early decorative scheme with stencilled dado frieze. The basalt church is intact from the date of last alterations (c.1888) and stands in an early landscaped setting. The fence possibly dates from c.1900-20 and many early plantings remain. The brickwork of the vicarage has been painted although the slate roof is intact. A early picket fence contains a garden with plantings and semblance of an early layout.

Analysis

The early timber church is possibly the most significant building in Clunes. In its relocated position next to the basalt church of 1870-71 the ensemble tell much about the aspirations of the Anglican congregation (promoted by R.H. Bland and his English capital), the history of development of the Fraser Street commercial area and building technology. In his reminiscences, George Nelson recounted to Con Weickhardt that the building was prefabricated although no further evidence of this fact has come to light. (12) The basalt structure is a simple building with its design aligned to the evangelical wing of the Church of England. It uses Gothic elements in a free manner and has a thoroughly 'evangelical' raked floor. Only in its setting on the hilltop surrounded by mature English trees does it resemble a medieval English parish church. The design of the vicarage is very accomplished and reference should be made to analysis of 'brick or stone residences' and chapter 9 of the background history.

Significance

A group of three buildings of outstanding significance. They demonstrate diverse architectural approaches from early timber (possibly prefabricated construction) to a sophisticated villa style vicarage and a solid, well sited basalt church. In its relocated position the ensemble of timber church (1860) and incomplete basalt church (1870-71) tell much about the aspirations of the Anglican congregation (promoted by R.H. Bland and his English capital), the history of development of the Fraser Street commercial area, building technology and the fluctuating prosperity of a mining town. The vicarage forms part of the significant Service Street precinct and the basalt church looms above Bailey Street, the main thoroughfare through Clunes.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 24 June 1859, p.2
- 2 ibid., 14 October 1859, p.3.
- 3 ibid., 30 March 1860, p.2; 27 April 1860, p.3; 4 May 1860, p.2.
- 4 ibid., 1 November 1861, p.2.
- 5 Photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes; IAN, 19 June 1869.
- 6 VGG, 1869, p.615 (Rs 5719).
- 7 Church of England Messenger, 30 December 1870, p.9
- 8 Weickhardt, Clunes 1839-1972, 1972, pp.13, 24; research by Mrs H.J. Toole, Clunes, information on architect possibly from Creswick Advertiser, 16 December 1870 or Ballarat Courier, 17 December 1871.
- 9 Copy of photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes showing the church prior to extensions (c.1880 according to the caption).
- 10 Research notes by National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
- 11 VGG, 9 August 1861, p.1513; Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 7 October 1862, p.2; 8 July 1863, p.3; an early photograph of the vicarage, c.1905-10 is held by Don Mackinnon, Geelong.
- 12 Handwritten notes in the Weickhardt collection, Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

RESIDENCE, 45 Thornton Street, Clunes

Section 26, allotment 10, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in the 1864 Township plan of Clunes. Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been constructed in stages during the period c.1865-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This example is distinguished by its combination of low gabled sections at the rear and a hipped building form with cast iron trim at the front (possibly c.1880 or 90s).

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in stages during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. The building is distinguished by its combination of differing building forms.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 47 Thornton Street, Clunes

Section 25A, allotment 1B, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in the 1864 Township plan of Clunes although at that date it was not subdivided. The tramway to the South Clunes Company battery ran to the north of this site. Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1865-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. The building forms a conspicuous element in the vista from the head of Service Street at the point where it turns for the descent into the Fraser Street commercial area.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

'BIG DAM', Creswick's Creek, adjacent to Thornton Street, Clunes
Streamside reserve, Township of Clunes

History

The earliest substantial dam in Clunes, the so called 'Big Dam' was constructed in 1859 upstream from the township at a large bend in the creek. Weickhardt records that the dam was funded by local mining companies. (1) With heavy rains in mid May the dam wall settled, causing some alarm, but a local correspondent remarked that 'the dam may now said to have been tested and proved strong, water banked up over a mile [however] the dam is to be six feet higher when finished'. (2) Contractor R. Muir undertook this extra work in 1860 and in addition to increased height the embankment was strengthened by two stone walls with the bye-wash widened 'so that the narrowest part will be over twenty feet wide'. (3) Rain came in April 1860 to fill the newly enlarged dam and the local newspaper correspondent anticipated recreational use with 'plenty of room for boating'. (4) A plan of the dam was included on the 1864 township plan of Clunes. (5) Weickhardt records that the dam dried up during the summer of 1862-63 and the silt was used for making bricks. (6)

Integrity

The plan of the dam, dam wall and byewash are all still clearly evident at the site.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'early public works'. The site comprises an embankment and bye wash as well as the actual dam site through which the Creswick's Creek flows. The site is also adjacent to the site of the South Clunes company battery.

Significance

This dam is a major historical site in the Creswick's Creek valley and is now the earliest surviving public work in Clunes. The site is a vital part of the early mining history of Clunes and also demonstrates the provision made for water supply on the goldfields. The dam forms part of a linear network of historic sites, all connected by watercourses.

- 1 Weickhardt, Clunes, 1972, p.14.
- 2 Creswick Advertiser, 20 May 1859, p.3.
- 3 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 23 March 1860, p.2.
- 4 ibid., 6 April 1860, p.2; 20 April 1860, p.2.
- 5 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.
- 6 Weickhardt, loc.cit.

SOUTH CLUNES AND LOTHAIR MINES, off Thornton Street, Clunes

Part sections 16, 18, 37, 39, 40, 41 and 60, Township of Clunes

History

The early history of mines which later formed part of the South Clunes group of mines is detailed in Section 3.3.8 of this volume.

The South Clunes Company commenced operating in 1859 with a lease 900 by 300 yards, south of the White Flat Quartz Mining Association. The leasees, Pattinson Mark and Frederick Hickox called tenders on behalf of the 20 shareholders for a shaft to be sunk and the White Flat claim was also taken up by the South Clunes Company. (1) By the time Charles Nettleton photographed the mine (c.1865) a substantial winding and battery engine had been installed close to Bailey Street. In 1869 (by which stage the company had 3000 shares) it was reported that the company was 'partly an English and partly a Colonial company'. (2) A battery was erected on the Creswick's Creek and a tramway led from the claim down William Street where the steep valley afforded easy gravitational feeding of quartz to the stampers. (3) Although the South Clunes Company commenced as a reef mining outfit a large alluvial drift was found to run through their claim. This was successfully mined and the Comet Company was an early company to try this lead. The Ballarat and Clunes Company was first mentioned by the Mining Registrar in his report of 30 September 1866 and by c.1869 the company had a large claim to the south and west of the South Clunes Company. (4) No doubt the company was eager to find the quartz reefs payable in the extreme south of the field but it was the alluvial drift which provided their only source of gold. The company was sold in 1870 and possibly taken over by the Lothair company. (5) Mining registrar James Stevenson first mentioned the Lothair company in his report of 31 December 1870 working the alluvial lead and by March 1875 the company was known as the New Lothair Company. (6) In 1873 the Lothair mine was the scene of the famous "Chinese Riot" when strike-breaking labour from Ballarat was repelled by a large and animated crowd (more details in background history, chapter twelve). In April 1885 the South Clunes Company was amalgamated with the New Lothair Company to form the South Clunes United Company, No Liability. (7)

Integrity

The Ballarat and Clunes Company shafts (as plotted on the map in South Clunes United booklet of 1888) are all still visible although of generally low integrity. The South Clunes shafts are marked by larger mullock heaps and these form a prominent feature in the area. The Lothair mine has the largest and most intact remains. Here the 'fingers' of mullock are strongly defined and other attributes include tramway formations, dam, shaft site, brick and stone footings and an early boiler.

Analysis

The South Clunes mine group yielded 5980 kg gold making it the third highest yielding mine in Clunes. It is also notable for the combination of alluvial and reef mining techniques.

Significance

This site has some of the most intact relics from the mining era at Clunes and is of interest for its combination of alluvial and reef mining. The Lothair mine is also of historical interest as the scene of a notorious 'Chingese Riot' in the early 1870s. The large mullock heaps, particularly that of the Lothair Company, form dramatic features in the landscape. The open area around the mines strongly contrasts with the generally tight urban development in South Clunes and this pattern of development is a strong reminder of the combination of mining and residential development which characterised mining towns in Victoria. The mine was amongst a small group of mines which sustained the local economy in the nineteenth century.

- 1 MSR, August 1859, pp.12-13
- 2 Ballarat Star, 14 August 1869.
- 3 Early photograph held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 4 Plan of Clunes North Western G.M.C, [c.1869], Mitchell Library.
- 5 MSR, 30 June 1870, p.26.
- 6 MSR, 31 March 1875, p.26.
- 7 Reports and statistics of the South Clunes United Company's Mine, Clunes Victoria, 1888, p.4.

RESIDENCE, 14 Tourello Street, Clunes

Section 9, allotment 2, Township of Clunes

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's initial township survey of Clunes in 1858 and appeared on the 1862 Township plan.

(1) The residence can be traced back in the ratebooks until 1866 and possibly as early as 1864. John Tippet was listed with a 'house and land' in Tourello Street in 1866 and the value increased from £14 to £16 (1869) and £17 (1870) Miner George Roberts occupied the residence at this period although he was not listed as owner until 1871. The value decreased steadily until the late nineteenth century. In 1887 the residence was described as 'brick and wood, 5 rooms'. (3)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although large profile imitation weatherboard cladding has been used at the rear.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'. This example is distinguished by its combination of an early masonry wing with a projecting gabled section in timber.

Significance

A characteristic brick and timber residence erected in stages during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. The building is distinguished by its combination of differing building forms and materials.

- 1 Township of Clunes, L.628 & 1138, lithographed 13 February 1862.
- 2 Borough of Clunes, ratebooks, 9 April 1866, no.157; 18 March 1868, no.167; 3 March 1869, no.954; 2 March 1870, no.114; 4 January 1871, no.113; 12 January 1887, no.89.

RESIDENCE, 5 Whyte Street, Clunes

Section 27, allotment 11B, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in the 1864 Township plan of Clunes although this allotment was part of lot 11A. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the verandah may have been added c.1890-1910.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. It is now one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in this area of East Clunes, once an important residential area for nearby mines.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 10 Whyte Street, Clunes

Section 27, allotment 50, Township of Clunes

History

This section was included in the 1864 Township plan of Clunes although this allotment did not conform to the original subdivision. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1865-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the windows have been enlarged and framed with aluminium.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building is distinguished by the simple timber fretwork frieze on the verandah.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. It is now one of few remaining nineteenth century residences in this area of East clunes, once an important residential area for nearby mines.

1 Township of Clunes, L.1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.

RESIDENCE, 2 Albert Street, Clunes

Section VIII, Allotment 44?, Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis, this residence appears to have been constructed in the period c.1860-80. A residence of this size in this location was shown in the 1904 subdivision plan of Clunes Common and possibly on the 1867 plan. (1)

Integrity

Substantially intact although the front verandah has been partially infilled with weatherboard. Remnants of an early picket fence survive.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building is one of the smallest residences in Clunes, having only one main hip-roofed building form and rear skillion.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It is one of the smallest timber residences in Clunes and now one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in North Clunes, once a large residential area serving this important mining locality.

1 Plan of Subdivision of part of Clunes Common, 1904; Suburban Lands, Parish of Clunes, L.3844, lithographed 9 December 1867.

RESIDENCE, 25 Albert Street, North Clunes

Section VIII, Allotment 3?, Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis, this residence appears to have been constructed in the period c.1870-80. A residence of this size in this location was shown in the 1904 subdivision plan of Clunes Common but not on the 1867 plan. (1)

Integrity

The house is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building is a fine example of a hip-roofed cottage. The visual appeal is heightened by the small mullock heap in the backyard and the manner in which the western boundary fence runs up and over the mound. Both the side paling fence and front picket fence contribute to the character of the property.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It is distinguished distinguished by its fencing and simple building form. The residence is one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in North Clunes, once a large residential area serving this important mining locality.

1 Plan of Subdivision of part of Clunes Common, 1904; Suburban Lands, Parish of Clunes, L.3844, lithographed 9 December 1867.

RESIDENCE, 30 Albert Street, North Clunes

Section , Allotment , Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis, this residence appears to have been constructed during the period c.1860-80. A residence of this size in this location was shown in the 1904 subdivision plan of Clunes Common. (1)

Integrity

The residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This building is distinguished by its lack of verandah, pyramidal roof form and siting on the street frontage.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It is distinguished by its pyramidal roof form, lack of verandah and siting on the street frontage, all rare attributes among surviving local residences. The house is one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in North Clunes, once a large residential area serving this important mining locality.

1 Plan of Subdivision of part of Clunes Common, 1904.

RESIDENCE, 9 Angus Street, North Clunes

Section , Allotment , Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typographical analysis, this residence appears to have been constructed during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although weatherboards have been replaced by flat sheeting on the upper section of the external walls and the verandah columns replaced by metal pipe.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It is now one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in North Clunes, once a large residential area serving this important mining locality.

RESIDENCE, 10 Angus Street, North Clunes

Section , Allotment , Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typographical analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1910-30.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This example is distinguished by its use of weatherboard combined with flat sheeting and groups of awning windows, both characteristic details of domestic architecture of the period c.1910-30.

Significance

A characteristic residence of the period c.1910-30 demonstrating a style of architecture rare in the local context.

RESIDENCE, Angus Street, corner Flood Street, North Clunes

Section , Allotment 2?, Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis, this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80. The residence was not apparently in existence in 1867 when the area was mapped. (1)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. It is now one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in North Clunes, once a large residential area serving this important mining locality.

1 Suburban Lands, Parish of Clunes, L.3844, lithographed 9 December 1867.

CLUNES CEMETERY, off Ballarat-Maryborough Road, Clunes

Cemetery reserve, Section 6, allotment 39A, Parish of Clunes

7623-2-4 YD443688

History

The earliest cemetery in Clunes was apparently located south of Hill Street, on a site later occupied by the Primitive Methodist Church. A township plan of Clunes by John Templeton surveyed in 1858 and lithographed in 1860 shows this allotment (Section 5, Allotment 4) with the annotation 'Graves'. (1) By mid 1859 however, the present cemetery had been set aside on a site overlooking a small tributary of the Kilkenny Creek and access was gained by a track along the east bank of the creek from the point of confluence near the Talbot Road. (2) A £50 government grant for fencing was made in 1863 and this was followed by £20 in 1865-66. (3) The Public Works Department requested a rough plan or tracing of the external boundaries showing the extent of facing prior to this latter grant. (4) A small timber shelter was erected in 1863 for use by the sexton and grave digger. (5) The 31 acre site was formally gazetted in 1872. (6)

Integrity

The cemetery is still in use and retains its original layout. The lodge, presumed to date from 1863 (7), is still located in the centre of the plan and brick spoon drains define the major paths. Many typical nineteenth century cemetery plantings survive. Most of the headstones are in good condition and one Chinese grave marker survives at the rear of the cemetery.

Analysis

The plan of Clunes cemetery is similar to many other contemporary Victorian cemeteries and even domestic gardens. Amherst adopted the cross plan and Majorca by 1866 had also opened a cemetery of this configuration. The planning of the cemeteries at Clunes, Amherst, and Majorca was reminiscent of ideas contained in John Claudius Loudon's On the laying out, planting and managing of cemeteries. This influential book was published by Loudon (well known as an architect, garden designer and writer) in London in 1843. He recommended the central area of a cemetery as a suitable site for a chapel (in this case the sexton's lodge) and was a proponent of the use of evergreen trees in cemeteries. At Clunes those trees still to be found include Pinus radiata, Quercus robur (Oak), Cedrus deodara and atlantica f. glauca (cedars), Cupressus sempervirens (Cypress), Callitris sp and a rare example of Noltea africana. (8)

Significance

A representative mid-nineteenth century cemetery with a fine collection of monuments and grave markers. The layout is well

defined by early spoon drains and the sextons lodge is amongst the earliest surviving examples of this building type in Victoria. Many exotic and native plants flourish in the cemetery and these contribute greatly to the significance. The Chinese grave marker is now the last remaining physical sign of the once large Chinese population in the shire.

- 1 Township of Clunes, lithographed 13 September 1860.
- 2 Mining District of Ballarat, plan compiled 25 June 1859; Special Lands, Parish of Clunes, L 3487, lithographed 29 October 1866.
- 3 VPRS 957, unit 3, p.838; VPRS 987, p.50.
- 4 VPRS 987, p.40.
- 5 Annual Report of the Central Board of Health.
- 6 Cadastral plan.
- 7 The construction appears to be very early, although the front porch has been added at a later date.
- 8 Plant identification by John Hawker, Royal Botanic Gardens.

FORMER BLAND RESIDENCE, 1 Camp Parade, Clunes

Clunes pre-emptive right, Parish of Clunes

History

The land on which this residence stands is part of the Clunes pre-emptive right. The land was originally settled by Donald Cameron and the pre-emptive right was purchased by the squatting firm of Lane, Whyte and Macdonald in 1855. (1) Macdonald resided in Cameron's old homestead until his departure for England in March 1866. (2) The pre-emptive right was purchased from Macdonald in January 1866 by Rivett Henry Bland, manager of the successful Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company. (3) Bland had of course leased the land since 1857 for his mining operations (see background history). Bland erected the present house for his own use c.1867-68. (4)

Integrity

Part of this residence has apparently been demolished (5) although a close examination has not been undertaken. The early garden layout is still intact and retains many mature trees.

Analysis

Details regarding R.H. Bland and the Port Phillip works are discussed in chapters 4 and 5 of the background history. This residence is distinguished by its mature garden setting, its siting on the Clunes pre-emptive right and the relationship between this siting and the nearby works of the Port Phillip and Clunes companies.

Significance

This residence, of a characteristic villa design, is a tangible reminder of the Port Phillip and Colonial Mining Company and its manager Rivett Henry Bland. Its siting overlooking the works tells of the close relationship between the mining manager and his mine while its proximity to small miners cottages on Camp Hill emphasises the differences in lifestyle between the local artisan and a manager with vast assets and backing of capital from England. The date of construction of the residence recalls the rise and subsequent peak of prosperity in Clunes in the late 1860s and early 1870s. This residence retains the best private collection of mature tree in Clunes and the early garden layout is also a significant component of the property.

- 1 See references in background history.
- 2 Obituary for Robert Macdonald, [?Clunes Gazette], 17 August 1866, typescript copy by F. C. Weickhardt held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 3 Billis and Kenyon, p.191.
- 4 Borough of Clunes ratebooks, 1867, no. 848 and 1868, no. 1081.
- 5 Information tendered in discussion at meeting of Clunes Historical and Arts Society, 1986.

CLUNES STATE SCHOOL No.1552 and former TOURELLO STATE SCHOOL,
Canterbury Street, Clunes

Reserve formerly part of Clunes pre-emptive right, Parish of
Clunes

History

The need for a school to serve this vicinity of Clunes was apparent in the early 1870s and in 1873 District Inspector Bolan recommended that:

- 1 The Bible Christian School (Upper Fraser Street), James Scholl's Private School (corner George Street and Creswick Road) and Wesleyan School No.157 (May Street) be leased.
- 2 That a new brick school for 750 be erected.
- 3 That the Wesleyan School be closed following erection of a new school and all staff transferred to the State School; James Scholl and his assistant Miss Richard to receive temporary employment. (1)

R.H. Bland of the Port Phillip Company apparently donated land in Paddock Street (part of the Clunes pre-emptive right) and the new school was erected by Spence, Purcie and Co. for £4755. The school was opened on 1 July 1875. A verandah was erected along the north side of the school in 1888. (2) The school was used as a training school and in 1911-12 the school also became a Higher Elementary School; the third such school in Victoria. Alterations were carried out between 1912-14 for this purpose. The Higher Elementary School continued until 1955.(3) A small site for 'state school plantation purposes' was reserved at the corner of Cameron, Leslie and Paddock Streets. (4) A school building (apparently from Tourello judging by the painted sign on the front gable) was moved to this site at an unknown date. (5)

Integrity

This school building is substantially intact although the bell tower was demolished in late 1960s and slate roof relaid. (6)

Analysis

Refer to chapter 9 in the background history for a discussion of local education and school buildings. This is a typical example of a large brick school erected for a country town in the years immediately following the creation of the education department. The design, by architect H.R Bastow, is almost identical to Williamstown North No.1409 (erected 1874) and Burchell cites these two, as well as similar schools at Ararat, Sebastopol Maldon, Creswick and Golden Square, as typical Education Department designs for schools to accommodate between 500 and 1000 scholars. (7) Of historical interest is the action of R.H. Bland in donating the land. This is a typical example of his

unobtrusive involvement in a local institution aimed at improvement of the standard of life in the town which had proved so rich for his company.

Significance

One of the major nineteenth century institutional buildings in Clunes and now the only school to remain in operation from the scores of educational establishments opened during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. The building is a typical example of a large country school erected in the years following the formation of the Education Department of Victoria. Of historical interest is the association with R.H. Bland, donor of the land, and the progress with higher elementary education in Victoria.

- 1 O'Brien, Centenary Clunes Primary School No.1552, 1875-1975, 1975, pp.2-3.
- 2 Blake (ed), Vision and Realisation, vol.2, p.775; O'Brien, op.cit., pp.3-4.
- 3 Drawings held by Public Record Office, Laverton (PRO/SSO 1552.1, 1552.4-5); O'Brien, op.cit. p.3.
- 4 Cadastral plan.
- 5 Blake, op.cit., vol.2, p.681 makes no mention of this building being moved to this site so the relocation presumably occurred later than 1973.
- 6 Blake, op.cit., p.776; O'Brien, op.cit., p.4; see also postcard, c.1905-10 in Jane Lennon collection
- 7 Burchell, Victorian Schools, 1980, pp.104, 106.

NEW NORTH CLUNES QUARTZ MINE SITE, Downes Street, North Clunes

Parish of Clunes

7623-2-4 YD468698

History

Following a preliminary meeting in December 1862, the New North Clunes Company was formed in March 1863 to work a claim of 170 acres. (1) This followed a number of unsuccessful efforts to work the ground. The North Clunes Quartz Mining Company was working the area by August 1859 (2) although the company was wound up on 29 September 1860 after expending over 3000 in an unsuccessful quest for payable quartz. The second company, as unsuccessful as the first, wound up in December 1862 following expenditure of £11,692 6s 3d. (3) James Esmond, initial discoverer of payable gold of Clunes, was involved with the New North Clunes Company and one writer suggested the lease was recommended by the Local Court partly out of consideration to Esmond for his part in Victoria's gold discovery. He was aided by S. Irvin, of the earlier North Clunes Company, in obtaining an extended area for the lease. (4) A battery was erected in 1866 with its first crushing in October 1867 and an initial dividend was declared in August 1868. Several views of the works show the massive size of the pit gear and battery house, (5) all carefully arranged on the sloping site to obviate the need for tramways. (6) The original No. 1 shaft of the earlier company was deepened and by the late 1860s struck payable quartz, retrospectively endorsing the original decision to test the area; a move prematurely halted by the Ballarat directors of the original North Clunes Company. The great success of the New North Clunes Company, proving the reefs north of the Victoria Company, caused a rush to the area as far north as Mount Cameron. (7) The New North Clunes Mine achieved favorable yields until the mid 1860s (8) and the North Clunes area rose in importance as a residential area during this period. (9) The company suspended work in 1888 with all capital exhausted. During the first half of 1889 a new syndicate took up the lease, with slightly altered boundaries taking in part of the former Victoria Company's lease. This company was known as Dixon's New North Clunes. (10) The end of the mine came in 1892. Giddings described the events leading to this situation:

The New North Clunes Company, having followed one of its rich shoots of gold at a deep level for a considerable distance to within a few feet of the boundary, ceased pumping operations while it turned its attention to ground in higher parts, which were kept clear of water by the pumps of the Clunes Quartz Mining Co. This latter company promptly resented the action of its neighbour, and although it had reached a most interesting and promising stage in its career - one shaft being the deepest on the line - decided, rather than go on for its own benefit, that - as officially

LEONARD'S BRIDGE, Creswick's Creek, Clunes-Mount Cameron Road

Parish of Clunes

7623-2-4 YD468722

History

The tender of £1125 was approved by the government in 1873 for a bridge 'over Bullarook Creek at Fletchers Crossing'. (1) It is presumed this tender refers to a bridge at this site (possibly even the present structure). A photograph of Leonard's bridge was taken c.1890-1900 by Chuck of Ballarat and this shows the present structure (possibly soon after erection). (2) The name of this bridge is derived from the selection of W. Leonard south of the creek in this vicinity.

Integrity

This bridge is still in use.

Analysis

This is a characteristic early timber bridge. It is now a relatively rare survivor as most comparable bridges have been upgraded.

Significance

A typical small nineteenth century timber bridge which is now a relatively rare survivor. The bridge is greatly enhanced by its setting in the deep Creswick's Creek valley.

- 1 Victoria Government Gazette, 10 March 1873, researched by Rita Hull.
- 2 Photograph held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

stated - 'It would not continue to contribute towards the cost of pumping water from other people's properties'. This decision ultimately caused the flooding of the mines to the south, and matters were rapidly becoming ripe for a general discontinuance of work. To obviate such a disaster, in 1892 came proposals for the amalgamation into one big company of the whole of the mines, so as to secure unanimity, overcome the pumping difficulties, and ensure economical working. In the meantime, pumping having been suspended by the companies referred to, the water soon began to find its way into and seriously hamper the adjoining mines, whose shafts were not so deep.

Some of the companies, which, under the singular connected nature of their workings, should have worked hand in hand for mutual self preservation, seemed to have been blinded to their own interests by selfishness and not to realise to the full extent the serious nature of the situation. (11)

Work was carried on in a desultory fashion by tribute parties (12) until about 1897 when all work ceased. (13)

Integrity

This mine was centred on the area now used as the Clunes tip. Based on early photographs and the Tibbits watercolour the site of the main works can still be discerned with large mullock heaps spilling down the hillside. A large mullock heap is located on the plateau in North Clunes and several brick footings still remain on the site.

Analysis

This is one of the most significant mines in Clunes in terms of both total production and richness. In total, the New North Clunes mine yielded 7808 kg gold which placed the mine as the 20th richest quartz mine in Victoria. (14) The company paid £750,000 in dividends.

Significance

The site of the New North Clunes Quartz Mining Company is significant as one of a small number of successful sustained gold mines upon which the economy of Clunes was based in the second half of the nineteenth century. It was the second highest yielding mine in Clunes and the twentieth highest of all quartz mines in Victoria. The New North Clunes Company was the most successful mine in Clunes in terms of dividends. The mullock heaps and other remains now form a major element in the landscape of North Clunes and the Creswick's Creek Valley.

- 1 Ballarat Star, 13 August 1869, p.2; 17 August 1869, p.2.
- 2 MSR, August 1859, p.12.
- 3 BS, loc.cit.
- 4 ibid., loc.cit.; Rise and progress of Clunes, 1869, p.50.
- 5 Watercolour by William Tibbits held by William Barkell Memorial Arts and Historical Society; photographs by John Tanner held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 6 BS, loc.cit.
- 7 ibid., 9 August 1869, supplement.
- 8 Heathcote papers, on loan to William Barkell Society.
- 9 'Fidelis', 'Early Clunes', 1920, p.15.
- 10 Quarterly report to 31 March and 30 June 1889.
- 11 Giddings, 1902, p.24.
- 12 ibid, p.25-26.
- 13 Heathcote papers.
- 14 Bowen, 1974, p.16.

POWDER MAGAZINE, off Glengower Road, North Clunes

Section 9, allotment 1, Parish of Clunes

7623-2-4 YD484702

History

This building was designed by the Victorian Public Works Department and erected in 1869 at a cost of £899 11s. The contractor was Thomas Watts. In 1872-73 a tramway was installed by J. Foot at a cost of £53 10s although details of its operation are not known. (1) The site was conveyed to the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 September 1901 with the advent of Federation. (2)

Integrity

The building is currently in a poor state of repair. The gable roof is now missing, the timber floor rotted out and entry porch unroofed and partially demolished.

Analysis

This magazine consists of two rectangular chambers with barred vaulted brick ceilings. They are approached by a side porch. A gable roof of slate or corrugated iron formerly covered the two chambers and the porch. This is one of a network of surviving powder magazines in Victoria originally intended for use in conjunction with mining. Other magazines are known to survive at Castlemaine (1856), Beechworth (1859), Avoca (1860), Heathcote (1863) and Daylesford (1864). (3)

Significance

This powder magazine is one of only relatively few such purpose built structures to survive on Victoria's goldfields. It is the most substantial built structure illustrative of the extractive gold mining industry now surviving in Clunes. Its remote location in North Clunes assists an understanding of the nature of explosives in the days prior to dynamite and the hazards of underground mining.

- 1 VPRS 972, vol.1, p.32.
- 2 Cadastral plan.
- 3 Trethowan, 1975, II, pp.119-123.

SHEPHERD'S HUT, off Glengower Road

Section , allotment , Parish of Clunes

7623-2-4 YD484714

History

Nothing is known about the history of this building although it appears to date from the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

This building retains basalt walls and a brick chimney. The roof has collapsed although the timber members are still resting on the top of the walls.

Analysis

This is one of several small shepherd's huts located throughout the shire. All are distinguished by basalt construction, small openings and a modest one roomed plan.

Significance

A typical nineteenth century farm outbuilding, one of few surviving in the local area. The building is distinguished by its simple building form and diminutive scale.

RESIDENCE, north end of Lothair Street, Clunes

Clunes pre-emptive right, Parish of Clunes

History

The land on which this residence stands is part of the Clunes pre-emptive right. The land was originally settled by Donald Cameron and the pre-emptive right was purchased by the squatting firm of Lane, Whyte and Macdonald in 1855. (1) Macdonald resided in Cameron's old homestead until his departure from England in March 1866. (2) The pre-emptive right was purchased from Macdonald in January 1866 by Rivett Henry Bland, manager of the successful Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company. (3) Bland had of course leased the land since 1857 for his company's mining operations (4) and this residence may have been erected as part of continued pastoral activity on the land. Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected in the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence appears to be substantially intact although it has not been inspected closely.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period in Clunes. The siting on the Clunes pre-emptive right is of interest historically as it may have been associated with pastoral activities on that land. The building forms an important landmark in the Clunes valley and assists in an understanding of the physical boundaries of the pre-emptive right, an area significant in the early mining history of Clunes.

- 1 See references in the background history, Chapter 4.
- 2 Obituary for Robert Macdonald, [Clunes Gazette], 17 August 1866, typescript copy by F.C. Weickhardt held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 3 Billis and Kenyon, p.191.
- 4 See background history, Chapter 4.

RESIDENCE, 7 Pearces Road, North Clunes

Section 8, allotment 12, Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-90. A plan of 1867 (1) showed many buildings clustered in this vicinity although it is not certain if this residence corresponds to any of those marked. The building was apparently shown on a plan of 1904. (2)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although some weatherboards have been replaced by flat sheeting.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is one of very few early residences in North Clunes.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. It is one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in North Clunes, once a large residential area serving this important mining locality.

1 Suburban Lands Parish of Clunes, L.3844, lithographed 9 December 1867.

2 Plan of subdivision of Clunes Common, 1904.

RESIDENCE, 8 Pearces Road, North Clunes

Section 8, allotment 14, Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-90. A plan of 1867 (1) showed many buildings clustered in this vicinity although it is not certain if this residence corresponds to any of those marked. The building was apparently shown on a plan of 1904. (2)

Integrity

This residence has been considerably altered and extended although the original section is clearly visible.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is one of very few early residences in North Clunes.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. It is one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in North Clunes, once a large residential area serving this important mining locality.

- 1 Suburban Lands Parish of Clunes, L.3844, lithographed 9 December 1867.
- 2 Plan of subdivision of Clunes Common, 1904.

RESIDENCE, Roses Lane, Clunes

Section 1, allotment 16?, Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'. This residence is distinguished by its encircling verandah and intact building form and chimneys, all visible from the main road.

Significance

A characteristic masonry residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. It is one of few surviving nineteenth century residences in the hinterland surrounding Clunes.

RESIDENCE, Station Flat Road, Clunes

Clunes pre-emptive right, Parish of Clunes

History

The land on which this residence stands is part of the Clunes pre-emptive right. The land was originally settled by Donald Cameron and the pre-emptive right was purchased by the squatting firm of Lane, Whyte and Macdonald in 1855. (1) Macdonald resided in Cameron's old homestead until his departure from England in March 1866. (2) The pre-emptive right was purchased from Macdonald in January 1866 by Rivett Henry Bland, manager of the successful Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company. (3) Bland had of course leased the land since 1857 for his company's mining operations (4). A residence is shown on the site of the present building in the c.1859 Daintree photograph of the Port Phillip works and again in views of c.1865-66 and c.1870. (5) This early residence is probably incorporated within the structure of the present residence.

Integrity

This residence appears to be substantially intact although it has not been inspected closely. It is not currently occupied.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence may well incorporate the earliest surviving residence in Clunes. The present residence is distinguished by its combination of building forms and its location on the Clunes pre-emptive right, adjacent to the works of the Port Phillip and Clunes companies works.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence possibly incorporating part of the earliest surviving residence in Clunes. The siting on the Clunes pre-emptive right is of interest historically as the residence doubtless related to the adjacent Port Phillip and Clunes companies works. The building forms an important landmark in the Clunes valley assists in an understanding of the physical boundaries of the pre-emptive right, an area significant in the early mining history of Clunes.

- 1 See references in the background history, Chapter 4.
- 2 Obituary for Robert Macdonald, [Clunes Gazette], 17 August 1866, typescript copy by F.C. Weickhardt held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 3 Billis and Kenyon, p.191.
- 4 See background history, Chapter 4.
- 5 Daintree negatives held by the La Trobe picture collection, State Library of Victoria, contact prints held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes; Nettleton, 'Yankee Quartz Mining Company, Registered, Clunes', c.1865-66, held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes; Langtree album, c.1870, Mitchell Library.

PORT PHILLIP AND COLONIAL GOLD MINING COMPANY and CLUNES
CO-OPERATIVE QUARTZ MINING COMPANY SITE, off Station Flat Road

Clunes Pre-emptive Right, Parish of Clunes

7623-2-4 YD467693

History

The key to exploiting the auriferous quartz reefs at Clunes came in late 1856 when Rivett Henry Bland of the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company arrived at Clunes. (1) Following an inspection of the reefs he negotiated a lease with the proprietors of Clunes pre-emptive right and, obtaining the assistance of Charles Kinnear, sought the formation of a large co-operative party to assist in mining operations. Kinnear gathered together 100 men and Bland formalised an agreement with Lane, Whyte and MacDonald in April 1857. The Clunes Co-operative Quartz Mining Company would mine the quartz and Bland's Port Phillip Company would crush the stone and extract the gold. The lease conditions saw the proprietors of the land gaining 10 per cent of the gross yield although this varied greatly over the ensuing years. That the Port Phillip and Clunes Co-operative companies commenced working did not mean a peaceful solution to the vexed question of mining on private land. Since late 1856 incursions by indignant miners had irked MacDonald and his partners although the small contingent of police were powerless to intervene. Many arrests occurred in the next few years and the feuding between the 'outsiders' and 'insiders' (as contemporary reports titled the two factions) gave a violent start to a goldfield which subsequently saw generally orderly progress. The Port Phillip Company commenced erection of machinery in April 1857 and crushed its first quartz in July that year. Additional stampers were added to battery and by January 1860 56 heads were in operation and in February 1864 an additional 24 heads were added in a separate building on a slightly higher level. Finally both batteries were combined and the calcining process employed at the earlier battery was discontinued in favour of mechanised rock-breaking around 1865. The Port Phillip Company continued its successful operations until the 1890s although the yield of gold dropped below the 10,000 oz per year mark in 1880-81 and production never regained former magnitude. Significantly less quartz was crushed after 1885-86 and a loss was incurred by the company from 1880-81 onwards. On 1 September 1880 the company changed name to the Port Phillip Gold Company Limited and in 1893 mining came to an almost complete halt due to water problems along the line of reefs.

Integrity

This site still retains many attributes from the mining period. The most visible are the gashes in the landscape where the outcropping reefs were quarried. Many large 'fingers' of mullock also mark the site and earthworks associated with the battery and

other buildings are clearly visible. Some stone work of the calcining kiln still remains in situ although the structure is now in a ruinous state. However, the arches can still be discerned and the ground formation of the former battery and line of divisions between the Clunes Company and Port Phillip Company can be easily interpreted. In the early twentieth century an old iron chimney was erected on a cairn of quartz as a memorial to the discovery of gold in Clunes. A more thorough comparison of the many plans, photographs and sketches of this site would reveal other attributes.

Analysis

This mine and works have been discussed in great detail in the background history and reference should be made to Chapters 5 and 7. The calcining kiln ruins are rare survivors of the early experimental days of the history of quartz mining in this country. Survival of the kiln was only possible due to changing technological processes which saw the calcining kiln superseded in the 1860s and a new larger battery erected on another site, thereby permitting the survival of this feature which probably would otherwise have been demolished. The Port Phillip Company produced a total of 16,013 kg of gold making it the third most productive reef mine and fourth most productive gold mine in Victoria. It was of course the most productive mine in Clunes.

Significance

The Port Phillip mine is amongst the most significant gold mines in Victoria and Australia. It was foremost in technical innovation and pioneered or trialled many new innovations in quartz reef mining. Some of the remains (especially the kiln arches) are amongst the earliest man made structures surviving at Clunes. The site is a powerful interpretative relic of Clunes during its rise and peak of prosperity and also of its subsequent decline. The Port Phillip and Clunes Companies site is of national significance to the history of mining.

1 All references are detailed in the background history.

YANKEE QUARTZ MINING COMPANY SITE, off Station Flat Road, Clunes

Parish of Clunes

7623-2-4 YD 466696

History

This company apparently commenced alluvial operations as the Sons of Freedom Company in 1857 although by August 1859 the name Yankee Company had been adopted to coincide with a change in operations to quartz mining. (1) During this early period the area was the site of bitter confrontation between miners of the Clunes Company and 'outsiders' who were agrieved at government attitudes to mining on private land. The Yankee Company claim was only small, 100 feet along the reefs and 600 feet wide, and situated between the Clunes Company and Victoria Company ground in North Clunes. (2) Work was initially concentrated on the Eastern Reef although later working exploited the Old Man and Western Reefs. A battery of eight stamps powered by a 16 horse power steam engine was in operation by August 1859 and water was obtained from the creek by a tunnel then pumped to a dam on an upper level. At this date however, the shaft was only served by a whim, which was insufficient to pump a shaft of great depth. (3) By c.1865, when Charles Nettleton photographed the shaft, a substantial boiler house (partially constructed of dressed basalt) and square brick chimney indicated a more sophisticated pithead operation. (4) By 1869, when mining surveyor John Usher visited the works, a 20 head battery was in operation and the eight shareholders were said to be erecting a Chilean mill for treating pyritous sand. Usher however doubted the eventual success of this mill without more sophistication in its operation. (5) He also observed that the Yankee Company 'perseveringly desists ... from sinking their shaft to below, or even the same depth as their neighbours, to save the expense of just work'. (6) In 1884 the New Yankee Company reached agreement with the Port Phillip Company to use that latter company's drives to obtain gold near the boundary of the claim (7) although this was soon abandoned and the company was amalgamated with the Port Phillip Company. (8)

Integrity

This site contains much evidence past workings, mainly through the earthworks from buildings now demolished. A tunnel enters the escarpment on this site although it is not known whether this related to the nineteenth century operation of the mine or is a more recent prospecting attempt (possibly from the depression of the 1930s). Other features would be revealed by a thorough comparison between early photographs and plans and the site.

Analysis

The mine was a comparatively rich one, given the small area of working. The total yield amounted to approximately 45,000 oz. gold and this made it the seventh most productive mine in Clunes.

Significance

The site of the Yankee Quartz Mining Company is significant as one of a small number of successful sustained gold mines upon which the economy of Clunes was based in the second half of the nineteenth century. It was the seventh most productive mine in Clunes. The site is a major historical component of the Creswick's Creek valley.

- 1 Ballarat Star, 13 August 1869, p.2.
- 2 MSR, August 1859, p.12.
- 3 ibid., loc.cit.
- 4 Shire of Talbot and Clunes collection.
- 5 Usher, 1874, p.16.
- 6 ibid., p.9.
- 7 Quarterly report to 30 December 1884.
- 8 ibid., 1891.
- 9 Giddings, 1902, p.12.

VICTORIA QUARTZ MINING COMPANY SITE, off Station Flat Road, Clunes

Parish of Clunes

7623-2-4 YD465697

History

This company was formed on 22 April 1858 (1) and in mid 1859 had a claim of 390 feet along the quartz reefs situated between the New North Clunes Company and the Yankee Company in North Clunes. (2) By November 1862, the company held two blocks; one one of 378 feet along the reef (5a 1r 13p in extent) held under lease from the Crown and the other, to the east 700 feet from north to south held under miner's rights. (3) The claim was initially worked under the co-operative system with the company being formed under a deed of settlement, subscribed to by each of twenty four shareholders. (4) The early history of the mine was not promising; the first quartz was not crushed until 7 May 1860 and in the absence of any battery of their own this had to be undertaken by the Port Phillip Company. (5) A second crushing was undertaken on behalf of the Victoria Company by the Clunes Alliance Company and favourable results led the owners to erect a 12 head battery of their own. (6) As a public company, perseverance was necessary in the face of indifference by speculators. Following a favourable market reception in 1859 failure to secure immediate success and unsound management practices caused many investors to look elsewhere. However, with good returns in 1862 once the erection of a new 24 head battery had been undertaken, (7) confidence was restored and shares reached a value of over £2000. (8) On 13 January 1863, at a shareholders meeting each share was divided into four giving a total of 96 shares and by 1869 this had been increased to 900 shares (of which none were paid up). (9) The works were situated just below the level of the surrounding plains and the gentle natural incline was used to advantage in the construction of tramways from the shaft to the mill. By August 1859 a 30 horse power steam engine had been erected for winding, its 14 foot diameter flywheel being the largest in Clunes at that date. (10) This replaced a whim and by November 1862, when a second shaft (on the Welcome Reef) was newly sunk, substantial plant had been installed. The main shaft (on the Eastern Reef) was served by two boilers and separate winding and pumping engines, while a portable 12 horse power Clayton and Shuttleworth steam engine was used on the Welcome Shaft initially. (11) An assay house was erected in 1863. (12) The large building housing the battery was erected in 1862 when the new 24 head battery was installed and sufficient space was left for the earlier 12 head of stamps. A circular chimney shaft for the adjoining boiler house was erected at a cost of £374 10s 0d which included bricking in the two boilers used in connection with the stamps engine. (13) It was this building photographed by Charles Nettleton in his series of views of Clunes mines taken c.1865-66. (14) This Nettleton view also showed a 20 foot diameter overshot water wheel operated by a private company to treat tailings from the Victoria Company. The quartz tailings

flowed directly from the company battery and powered the waterwheel. After discharge they flowed over a series of long wide tyes and at intervals these tyes were emptied and the tailings treated in a concave buddle (Mundy's patent), inclined roasting furnace and Chilean mill. Deposited tailings were also treated in this way. (15) By 1869, the eastern portion of the Victoria Company's ground was being worked by a separate company to try the deep alluvial ground. (15) With a depth of about 800 feet, the mine was the deepest in Clunes at this time. Later work by the Victoria Company concentrated on Robinson's Reef. The Victoria Company was apparently amalgamated with the New North Clunes Company by the early 1890s and mining ceased in 1892. (16)

Integrity

This site is now marked by a deep excavation where the battery was located. Other features would be revealed by a thorough comparison between early photographs and the site.

Analysis

This was one of the most significant reef mines in Clunes. During its existence this mine yielded over 70,000 oz. (1376 kg) gold making it the fourth richest mine in Clunes and the 128th richest quartz mine in Victoria. (17)

Significance

The site of the Victoria Quartz Mining Company is significant as one of a small number of successful sustained gold mines upon which the economy of Clunes was based in the second half of the nineteenth century. It was the fourth richest mine in Clunes and amongst those mines in Victoria which yielded over 1000 kg gold. The site of the former battery is a major historical component of the Creswick's Creek valley.

- 1 Dicker's Mining Record, November 1862, pp.3-4.
- 2 MSR, August 1859, p.12.
- 3 DMR, November 1862, p.3.
- 4 ibid., loc.cit.
- 5 ibid., loc.cit.
- 6 ibid., loc.cit.
- 7 ibid., May 1862, p.5.
- 8 ibid., November 1862, p.4
- 9 ibid., January 1863, p.48; Rise and Progress of Clunes, 1869, p.50.
- 10 MSR, loc.cit.
- 11 DMR, November 1862, p.3.
- 12 ibid., January 1863, p.51.
- 13 ibid., November 1862, pp.3-4.
- 14 Shire of Talbot and Clunes collection.
- 15 Usher, 1874 pp.16-17.
- 15 BS, 13 August 1869, p.2.
- 16 Quarterly report, 1891; Giddings, p.24
- 17 Giddings, 1902, p.12; Bowen, 1974, p.16.

RESIDENCE, 19 Talbot Road, Clunes

Section H, allotment 14?, Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence is a critical part of the Talbot Road streetscape, the main western entry to Clunes.

RESIDENCE, 21 Talbot Road, Clunes

Section H, allotment 17?, Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although it has been extended at the rear.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence is a critical part of the Talbot Road streetscape, the main western entry to Clunes.

RESIDENCE, 37 Talbot Road, Clunes
Section H, allotment 6, Parish of Clunes

History

A building was shown on this site in 1872 and this is probably the front section of the present residence. (1) Based on a typological analysis the rear section appears to have been erected during the period c.1872-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected and extended during the peak of prosperity in Clunes. This residence is a critical part of the Talbot Road streetscape, the main western entry to Clunes.

1 Allotment Clunes, L.4462, C/242R, lithographed 6 Sept 1872.

RESIDENCE, 14 Talbot Road, Clunes
Section 1, allotment 6C, Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

The building form of this residence is substantially intact although the front verandah has been infilled.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick residences'.

Significance

A characteristic residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. As the first nineteenth century residence encountered at the western entry to Clunes, this residence a critical part of the entry from Talbot.

RESIDENCE, 18 Talbot Road, Clunes

Section 1, allotment 9A, Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1880-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence is a vital part of the Talbot Road streetscape, the main western entry to Clunes.

RESIDENCE, 32 Talbot Road, Clunes

Section 1, allotment 7A, Parish of Clunes

History

Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Clunes. This residence is a vital part of the Talbot Road streetscape, the main western entry to Clunes.

MOUNT BECKWORTH

State Forest, Parish of Clunes

7623-3-1 YD401662 (summit)

History

Mount Beckworth was named by Major Thomas Mitchell on 26 September 1836 after Thomas Sidney Beckwith, a founder of the English Rifles Brigade. (1) The spelling 'Beckwith' had altered to Beckworth by the late 1850s and this latter spelling is now accepted. Mount Beckworth is composed largely of granitic rock which had intruded through the surrounding basaltic plains. It stands in contrast to the surrounding volcanic mounds and has a dense tree cover. This prominence may account for its early popularity as a recreational venue. A 'considerable proportion of our population' attended a picnic on Boxing Day 1859 according to the Clunes correspondent of the Creswick and Clunes Advertiser. (2) Surviving photographs also show nineteenth century picnic parties on the distinctive granitic formations. (3) The government proclaimed the area around Mount Beckworth as a State Forest in 1866. Two areas (1060 acres and a northern block of 225 acres) were included and under Section 62 of the Land Act 1862 no person (even if licensed) was permitted to 'cut or remove live or dead timber or bark or gravel'. (4) The desirability of protecting the forest may have been prompted by local action, especially given its early recreational significance and the threat from local mines desperate for timber. The lone pine atop Mount Beckworth was apparently planted in July or August 1918 by Ranger John Scarfe as one of several trees planted on that day. The others were cut down in 1945 but one was spared with only a severe pruning to lower branches. (5)

Integrity

Mount Beckworth is still reserved as State Forest. Areas at the south east and south west were planted with pines from 1916. (6)

Analysis

Although this site is more well known for natural attributes (outside the scope of this study to assess) its has considerable significance as a cultural site, due to its early recreational use.

Significance

A site of considerable scenic and natural history interest (beyond the scope of this study to assess) this site also has cultural significance as an early recreational site for the nearby mining of Clunes. It is also an early local example of an area set aside as State Forest, possibly a reaction to the despoilation of the environment caused by mining.

- 1 Refer to Chapter one of the Background history.
- 2 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 30 December 1859, p.3.
- 3 Photographs held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes and William Barkell Memorial Arts and Historical Society, Clunes.
- 4 Plan C241, Central Plan Office, shows details of the proclamation.
- 5 Rosamund O'Brien, 'The story of the lone pine', Ballarat Courier, 8 February 1875, p.18 (quoting Cr Colin Drife who witnessed the original planting.
- 6 *ibid.*, loc cit.

WOOROOKOOBANYA HOMESTEAD, Buicks Road, Majorca

Section , allotment , Parish of Craigie

7623-1-3 YD523850

[National Estate citation T/05/01 prepared by Allan Willingham]

[History]

'Woorookoobanya', Majorca, is a large bluestone house erected largely between 1876-84 for pastoralist Albert Bucknall, to the designs probably of architect James K. Greber. Asymmetrically composed, the single storied structure has a large projecting bay windowed wing and widow's walk with tower beside it, originally with a tapered slate roof and widow's walk. Verandahs and decorated gables are other features.

[Integrity]

'Woorookoobanya', Majorca, has been variously altered in recent years, the removal of the roof to the tower being the most extreme. The verandah columns appear also to have been replaced. Intactness is still reasonable.

[Significance]

'Woorookoobanya', Majorca, is a house designed in the Picturesque Gothic Revival style. Until recent unsympathetic alterations, the homestead was an important, late example of the quite rare style. The homestead is still of note architecturally, particularly for composition of the section about the tower and also for the detailing of the chimneys and central hipped roof. The property also has historical associations.

Principal source of information

1 National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 2171.

SADOWA MINE and CYANIDE WORKS, off Champions Road, Rocky Flat
Section 3, allotments 28 and 33, Parish of Craigie
7623-4-2 YD426838 (centre of mullock heaps)

History

The Sadowa mine was one of the early mines on Rocky Flat and was instrumental in proving both the Rocky Lead and Mount Greenock Lead. The Sadowa company, who commenced operations in August 1862, were fortuitously located on the junction of the two leads and the mine proved very rich. By 1867, following several company failures, the mine was being worked on tribute. An indication of the importance may be gained from Robert Brough Smyth's choice of the mine to illustrate his monumental Gold Fields and Mineral Districts of Victoria (1869). (1) After the depression of 1893 Melbourne businessman Thomas William Clark took over the lease of the mine for the purposes of treating the slimes with cyanide. According to his biography in the Cyclopaedia of Victoria, Clark had been at Back Creek on the Scandinavian Lead in 1859 and spent fourteen years at Talbot 'engaged extensively in prospecting and mining developments'. His mining lease application, of 30 acres, was received by the Warden on 23 September 1899. Plans were received in January 1900 and a report followed a month later. Under general remarks it was noted that the applicant would 'have to contend with heavy water'. (2) Clark engaged engineer and chemist S.M. Hawkins to assist with erection of the plant at Sadowa and this was described in 1904 to consist of

thirteen vats, the four principal being agitating ones, 100 tons each capacity; the solutions are decanted, no filter presses being used; one patent Seitz centrifugal pump, which does perfect work; one 6 h.p. oil engine by Tange, which works well; and the necessary furnaces, etc. The precipitation is effected by charcoal, the method employed being altogether different from the usual big tub arrangement, and entirely satisfactory, the value of the gold produced being £4 3s 5d per oz. (3)

In the 1905 directory Clark was listed as manager of the 'Rocky Flat Cyanide Works'. (4) A later lease application by Clark, received on 9 July 1902, applied for 15 acres in Section 11, allotment 11, Parish of Amherst. Although submitted as part of Clark's activities at the Sadowa Cyanide Works this lease was for quartz mining and was soon abandoned. (5)

Integrity

This site still retains large mullock heaps, gravel heaps and evidence of slimes, although early cyanide treatment has now severely depleted this last element. The site comprises at least three main sites, which correspond with the sites of early shafts. Two of the mullock heaps are thought to relate to shafts 3 and 4 as shown on a plan of 1869. (6) The site on allotment 33

has not been examined and may contain evidence of the cyanide works.

Analysis

Refer to chapter 6 for a discussion of the mining history of this area. This mine was one of the richest mines in the district and Bowen records that the Sadowa won 1559 kg of gold during its operation. This makes its comparable to the mines at Clunes in terms of gold production and also slightly greater than the Hoffnung mine at Dunach. On a state wide basis the Sadowa was among the top fifty deep lead mines in terms of gold production. (7)

Significance

A significant deep lead mine opened during the early period of deep mining at Talbot and culminating in one of the largest cyanide works in the district. In terms of gold production at a statewide level the mine ranks among the top fifty deep lead mines. The physical remains of mullock dumps and gravel heaps are some of the largest and most visible in the district and form part of a network of sites on the Rocky and Mount Greenock Leads.

- 1 James Stirling, Notes on the Sadowa (Scandinavian) Lead, Talbot, Department of Mines, Melbourne, 1898, quoting mining surveyor J. Smith in Smyth, Gold Fields and Mineral Districts of Victoria, 1869, p.214. The illustration faces p.216.
- 2 VPRS 1624, unit 1, no.523.
- 3 James Smith (ed), Cyclopeadia of Victoria, Melbourne, 1904, vol.2, pp.310-311.
- 4 Victorian Post Office Directory, 1905, pp.924-925; Several early photographs of the works are held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 5 VPRS 1624, unit 1, no.544; VGG, 1902, p.3643.
- 6 James Smith, Plan of the Young Sadowa Gold Mining Co., Maiden Hill, Majorca, 22 June 1869, held by MitchellLibrary.
- 7 K.G. Bowen, 'An analysis of gold production data for Victorian reef and deep lead mines', Papers presented at conference on gold Deposits in Victoria, Mines Department Victoria, 1974.

FORMER GREENOCK PARK HOTEL, McCallum's Creek Road, Red Lion
Section , allotment , Parish of Craigie

7623-4-2 YD438835

History .

The Greenock Park Hotel was opened by December 1862 when the proprietor, R. Sanders, advertised Christmas Sports.

Races! Races! and other Christmas Sports at the Greenock Park Hotel, McCallum's Creek, on Boxing Day, 26th instant ... [three races], quoit match ... Also a scratch match at Football, and various other good old English sports. The Pleasure Gardens, which are unsurpassed in Victoria, will be opened to the public on this occasion free. (1)

Integrity

This building was burnt out in the 1985 bushfires although the building had been derelict prior to that event. The basalt walls remain standing and patches of cement render remain attached to the basalt. Prior to the fires the painted name of the hotel could be discerned on the facade.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. The building is presumed to date from the early 1860s as other tender notices for basalt brewery buildings were called in this area in 1860 (2) and this was the peak of the early period of local mining. The area also recieved a boost by later deep lead mining.

Significance

An early basalt hotel building which marks the early settlement associated with mining on McCallum's Creek. Although only the walls remain standing the building stands as a potent reminder of the devastation caused by bushfires in the district.

- 1 Talbot Leader, 27 December 1862; an early photo is held by the Shire.
- 2 North western chronicle, 13 December 1860.

BASALT BARN, Cobar Park, Mount Cameron Road, Mount Cameron

Section , allotment , Parish of Eglinton

7623-1-3 YD504770

History

Based on a stylistic analysis this barn appears to have been constructed during the period c.1860-1900.

Integrity

This building is substantially intact although the roof of the rear skillion has been raised (date unknown).

Analysis

This is a fine example of a simple farm outbuilding. Due to widespread damage to the Shire by fire, very few such outbuildings survive from the nineteenth century. The single opening in the front wall (with massive lintel) and simple ashlar stonework of local basalt give the building a monumental quality. The building is a very conspicuous landmark on the Mount Cameron Road. It is very similar to many examples in other basaltic areas such as the Western District.

Significance

A typical nineteenth century basalt barn, one of few such surviving structures in the local area. It is distinguished by its simple building form and basalt stonework.

BASALT BARN, Mount Cameron Road, Mount Cameron

Section , allotment , Parish of Eglinton

7623-1-3 YD481803

History

Based on a stylistic analysis this building appears to have been constructed during the period c.1860-1900.

Integrity

This building is no longer roofed and the floor has been removed (or has totally decayed). The northern wall is on the verge of failure unless urgent action is taken to augment the current props.

Analysis

This is a fine example of a simple farm outbuilding. Due to widespread damage to the Shire by fire, very few such outbuildings survive from the nineteenth century. The walls have buttresses and simple fenestration. Some brickwork has been introduced in newer openings. The walls also have strategically placed slit windows to enable enfilade defence. The building is a very conspicuous landmark on the Mount Cameron Road. It is very similar to many examples in other basaltic areas such as the Western District.

Significance

The remaining wall structure of a typical nineteenth century basalt barn, one of few such surviving structures in the local area. It is distinguished by its fine basalt construction including buttresses and slit windows.

SHEPHERD'S HUT and FORMER BARN, Mount Greenock Road,
Mount Greenock

Section , allotment , Parish of Eglinton

7623-4-2 YD428795

History

Based on a stylistic analysis these two buildings appear to have been constructed during the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

The brick barn was gutted during the 1985 bushfires although the walls and gable ends are still standing. The hut escaped major damage and had deteriorated due to natural decay of mortar. Much of the render has become detached from the walls.

Analysis

These are two fine example of a simple farm outbuildings. Due to widespread damage to the Shire by fire, very few such outbuildings survive from the nineteenth century and even at this site the barn was extensively damaged in 1985 due to fire. The walls of the barn have buttresses and simple circular openings in the gable ends. The brickwork is very similar to buildings erected in Talbot during the period c.1860-80. The shepher's hut is one of a small number located in the Shire and is possibly the most intact. The walls also have strategically placed slit windows to enable enfilade defence. Both buildings are conspicuous landmarks on the slopes leading up to Mount Greenock.

Significance

The two buildings are typical nineteenth century outbuildings, amongst few local surviving examples. The barn is distinguished by its brick construction with buttressed walls and the hut is distinguished by its simple form, diminutive scale and slit windows.

CLUNES ESTATE HOMESTEAD AND OUTBUILDINGS, Glengower Road

Parish of Glengower

7623-1-3 YD518739 (homestead)

History

This land formed part of Donald Cameron's 'Clunes' run although such large squatting runs were generally broken up in the 1860s by the sale of land. Land which now forms this property was purchased by Lane, Whyte and Macdonald, owners of the purchased section of the original Clunes run. (1) The land passed into the ownership of the Fraser family and by the turn of the century the 'Clunes Estate' was run by George Fraser, who had succeeded to the property from his deceased father Peter. Peter Fraser had emigrated from Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1852 and it is presumed the buildings on the property date from his ownership. At the turn of the century the property comprised 5000-6000 acres carrying about one sheep per acre. (2)

Integrity

This property has not been inspected but is understood to comprise a large stone residence and shearing shed set on Yellow Creek, a tributary of Tullaroop Creek.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences' and chapters 1 and 11 of the background history.

Significance

A typical large nineteenth century pastoral property which retains a range of outbuildings. The owners have been involved in the local community and government over an extended period.

1 Cadastral plan.

2 Smith (ed), Cyclopaedia of Victoria, II, 1904, p.298.

DULAPWHANG WATERHOLE, Bet Bet Creek, former Amherst - Pleasant
Creek Road, Glenmona

Crown reserve (Rs 917), Parishes of Lillicur and Yalong

7623-4-4 YD

History

This waterhole is located on the old road between Amherst and Pleasant Creek (now Stawell). (1) The road was apparently used as a stock route and this site contained an early ford over the Bet Bet Creek immediately south of Bradshaw's Glenmona pre-emptive right. (2) 15 acres were temporarily reserved in 1881 as 'a site for affording access to water' (3) and in 1914 the Talbot District Progressive Association urged the Secretary for Lands to grant permanent status to the reserve. 'The reserve in question is much used by the people of all the surrounding districts as a pleasure resort at holiday times ... [by] picnic and fishing parties.' On 30 November 1915 the 33 acre site was permanently reserved as a 'site for public recreation' and on 11 December 1935 the Shire of Talbot was gazetted as committee of management. (4)

Integrity

This site has not been inspected.

Significance

This site is a significant early recreation reserve on the goldfields, part of an early transport route and may have significance to local aboriginal people (the assessment of which is beyond the scope of this study).

- 1 Plan of country allotments in the Parishes of Yalong and Lillicur, Counties of Talbot and unnamed, L63, Crown Lands Office, 2 March 1859.
- 2 Report by P. Campbell, 26 October 1915 in Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands file Rs 917.
- 3 Victoria Government Gazette, 11 February 1881, p.482.
- 4 Rs 917.

STONY CREEK SCHOOL SITE, (formerly KANGAROO GULLY), extension of Nuggetty Gully Track

State Forest (Talbot Block), Parish of Lillicur

7623-4-2 YD365765

History

A school was erected on this site in 1865 by local residents. Government support was not forthcoming until July 1867, when Head Teacher James Knight was granted a salary. The site was officially gazetted in 1868 and a year later a new brick common school was erected at a cost of £243. The old school was re-used as a teachers residence. The site was fenced in 1876 following new impetus given to the vicinity by a nearby gold discovery. By 1902 the net enrolment was only ten and the District Inspector recommended that the school be worked part time with Red Lion School although this apparently did not occur until 1916. (1)

By 1905 Miss Elizabeth James was Head Teacher and she initiated (or possibly continued) the policy of improving the grounds and general welfare of the students. (2) On 26 July 1907 Inspector Dean commented on the grounds in his report which he found 'in excellent order'.

The boys have cleared the grounds of some old stumps; they have also carried a good deal of soil and gravel to the garden. On Arbor Day 15 trees were planted; many, many of the parents attending. A convenient seat has been recently erected under a good shade tree near the door. There is every evidence that Miss James has succeeded in securing a good deal of local interest in the school.

Inspector Saxon was similarly impressed in 1909 when he commented

Hidden away in the heart of a forest, used only for mining timber purposes, this nice bush school presents, by reason of its tastefully improved grounds, quite a pleasing spectacle. A three-railed fence, wire netted to the top, surrounds the grounds. They have been absolutely cleared while garden plots in excellent order, the property of individual children, all enclosed by a high wire netting fence, give an atmosphere of home to the place. Neat rockeries with climbing plants, an excellent summer house, with pot plants, a wire netting approach to the porch, hung with creepers and assisted by a fine array of plants in pots assist in increasing the excellent effect. In this respect it is the best school I have met.

Miss James remained at the school until September 1912 when she went to live and teach in Clunes. Several years later Inspector

Lowry still found the grounds 'very good'. 'The missing rails in the fence have not yet been replaced. The reserve is well planted and the garden rockeries and greenhouse are carefully tended.' In 1916, following a short period when the school was worked part time with Red Lion the school closed.

Integrity

There are no buildings left on this site. However, the map of Australia and other garden beds formed of quartz are still extant and some early remnant plants still grow on the site. A post and rail fence was erected around part of the original 2 acre school site by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands and Talbot Tourism Committee in August-September 1987.

Analysis

Refer to chapter 9 of the background history for a discussion of education and schools buildings. Although there are many rural school sites in country Victoria few are such evocative reminders of the isolated and self contained community on this site.

Significance

This site is a vital reminder of the nature of rural education in a transient goldfields setting. The rockwork is an unusual reminder of the nationalistic pride displayed at the turn of the century coinciding with the federation of six colonies to form the Commonwealth of Australia. Its significance is considerably enhanced by contemporary photographs (3) and documentary accounts of the garden in its mature state prior to closure of the school.

- 1 Blake (ed), Vision and Realisation, p.704; cadastral plan.
- 2 Ros O'Brien, 'A Monument in the Bush Survives Fires', Ballarat News, 6 February 1985, pp.5, 14. All further information and quotations are from this very well researched article.
- 3 Held in the Shire of Talbot and Clunes collection.

BIG REEF, Quarry Track

Parish of Lillicur

7623-4-2 YD335844

History.

The 'Big Reef' is a massive quartz outcrop although it has never been a rich source of gold. In 1872 John Berry of the Suffolk Gold Mining Company registered a claim of 200 feet by 200 feet to mine for alluvial gold half a mile to the west of the outcrop although surviving records do not indicate any early or profitable reef mining ventures. (1) Reid in his Amherst and Talbot District - their mineral resources and development (1902) stated that only 1.5 to 2.5 dwts per ton of gold was obtained from ore at the north end although he recorded yields of 2 oz per ton at the south end. A syndicate of local residents was formed c.1908-10 to further prove the Big Reef but were unsuccessful. (2)

Integrity

The quartz is formed in large boulders and stands approximately 6 m above the peak of the hill. The site is surrounded by bush and from the top of the rocks an extensive view is obtained.

Analysis

The survival of the Big Reef is due to its comparative lack of gold when compared with other local reefs and consequent lack of depredation by miners. Although not especially significant as a mining site this reef is a fine visual record of a large outcropping quartz reef (perhaps similar to others in the district) as it would have appeared prior to mining. The site is also of geological significance in its own right (but outside the scope of this study to assess).

Significance

A massive outcropping quartz reef, now culturally significant as a reminder of the nature of local reefs prior to mining in the mid to late nineteenth century. The site is also of special geological significance.

- 1 'Register of Claims, Amherst division of the Maryborough Mining District', 1869-80, VPRS 1649, unit 1, entry for 6 July 1872.
- 2 References from 'The big quartz reef near Amherst', appendix three of a typescript document [possibly a submission by the Maryborough Field Naturalists' Club to the Land Conservation Council] held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

GRANITE QUARRY, off Quarry Track

Section , allotment , Parish of Lillicur

7623-4-2 YD360784

History

Reginald Murray, a geological surveyor, discussing outcrops of igneous rocks stated in his notes to the Geological Map of Clunes Mount Greenock and Talbot, dated 17 July 1884:

The most conspicuous of these masses occurs on a hill known as the Granite Hill or Green's Hill, between the western head of Nuggety Gully and the fall towards Kangaroo Flat ... The entire length exposed at Granite Hill is about half-a-mile, and the width about the central and southern portion from 200 to 300 feet ... About the central portion, on the summit of the hill, the rock is a pink syenite granite, fine to medium grained, composed of flesh-coloured orthoclase, and some plagioclase feldspar, greenish-black hornblende, and a very little quartz, with some scattered chlorite. (1)

Murray concluded by observing that the rock in the central portion would prove

a very valuable ornamental building stone, as it appears to be of a very durable character, good colour and susceptible of a high polish. Were a quarry opened, a large quantity would be available, and in blocks fully 6 feet, if not more, each way. (2)

Some quarrying evidently took place as by 1912 geologist H.S. Whitelaw commented that he had seen a piece of polished stone at the Talbot Leader office and the stone in his opinion would make a 'handsome and durable monumental stone'. Whitelaw was also informed that

about 25 years ago [i.e. c.1887] a cube of about 4 cwt. was obtained from below the surface of the central portion of the hill and sent to a London Exhibition, and later it was exhibited in Melbourne and attracted attention'. (3)

Integrity

The quarry still retains a derrick crane with timber posts and metal winding gear. A small shed stands next to the quarry and a large amount of stone is still visible. The site is set in cleared land in the middle of forest and a number of stone buildings (although not necessarily of granite) survive in the area. Several early plantings such as fruit trees survive on the site.

Analysis

The Talbot district has a number of quarries whose extractive products include basalt, diatomaceous earth and granite. Quartz was of course mined in the quest for gold and was often used for edgings in local gardens. Elsewhere in Victoria a diverse array of stone was quarried and this area is not as well known for its granite as other sites such as Harcourt.

Significance

A typical small quarry, worked in the nineteenth century and now distinguished by its surviving quarrying machinery. The area is enhanced by the survival of several small stone buildings and combine with fruit trees and the cleared nature of the land in defining this site.

- 1 Reginald A.F. Murray, Geological Survey: Clunes and adjacent Goldfields (notes to accompany plan Clunes, Mt. Greenock - Talbot Gold Fields, 1883), p.33.
- 2 *ibid.*, loc.cit.
- 3 H.S. Whitelaw, [Geological report on] 'Auriferous areas near Talbot', [source unknown], c.1912, copy held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

FORMER LEISHMAN HOMESTEAD AND OUTBUILDINGS, Smeaton Road
Section , allotment 35, Parish of Smeaton
7623-2-4 YD504699

History

This land formed part of the Donald Cameron's 'Clunes' run and for a time was joined to the nearby 'Tourello' run. (1) These large squatting properties were generally diminished by sale of land and the land on which this homestead stands was sold on 24 September 1863 to G. Stack. (2) The present homestead was erected c.1905 (possibly to the design of Ballarat architects Clegg and Millar) by the Leishman family and the rear walled courtyard formed in the 1940s. (3) The Leishman family took up land in this district in the early 1860s and were successful farmers. John Leishman was agricultural correspondent for the Creswick Advertiser and from descriptions of his own farming activities he was something of an 'agricultural improver'. The Leishman family invested heavily in deep lead mines on the nearby Berry Lead and the generous size of the present homestead may be a reflection of both successful farming and mining speculation. (4)

Integrity

This homestead and outbuildings are still used for farming purposes. The outbuildings include a detached kitchen, sheds and a shearing shed. Internally the residence retains many original features including pressed metal ceilings. The early garden layout is still apparent and the garden enhanced by several mature trees (including a massive Oak). Screen planting has closed the vista to Mount Beckwith framed by mature pine trees in the front paddock.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'. This residence is constructed of red brick with slate roof and encircling cast iron verandah. Stylistically the design falls midway between the Victorian and Edwardian periods and thus the slate roof is ridged with terra cotta and the pressed red bricks and roughcast render contrast with cast iron decoration of a very late pattern.

Significance

These buildings form one of the most complete farm properties in the district to date from the turn of the century. This is due to the variety of outbuildings in the homestead group and the survival of the early garden layout and some planting. Architecturally the residence represents stylistic trends not apparent in other residential buildings in Clunes.

- 1 Refer to background history, chapter one for sources.
- 2 Cadastral plan.
- 3 Ian Cox, present owner, personal communication, 24 September 1987.
- 4 John A. Graham, Early Creswick, 1942 (1987); Charles Fahey, historian, personal communication, 29 December 1987.

BASALT BARN OR OUTBUILDING, Argyle Street, Talbot

Section 25A, allotment 3 [or 4?], Township of Talbot

History

This area was developed in 1859 during the rush to Scandinavian Lead and this allotment was surveyed in 1861. (1) Based on a typological analysis this buildings appears to have been erected during the period c.1865-90.

Integrity

This building may have been connected with other buildings, now demolished. Parts of the basalt walls are infilled with early brickwork and the front door has also been infilled. The rear brickwork appears to indicate the position of an early chimney. The building is abutted by a corrugated iron shed of unknown age.

Analysis

Although this building probably dates from c.1865-90 it is a critical reminder of the original alignment of Argyle Street. The street was included in the abandoned 1855 survey of Back Creek and followed the main Ballarat - Creswick - Maryborough Road. The alignment was again mapped with the 1860 plan of Back Creek and had been extensively developed during the Scandinavian Lead rush. With the dramatic rise in development along Scandinavian Crescent, Argyle Street languished as a thoroughfare and today has few surviving buildings. (2) Architecturally this building is typical of nineteenth century outbuildings and farm buildings, with a hipped roof, no overhang on the eaves and a simple building form. This area may have been a popular with produce merchants, as Pearson and Dermody ran a wholesale and retail 'Hay and Corn Exchange' on the opposite corner of Camp Street and Argyle Street during the early 1860s. (3)

Significance

A characteristic nineteenth century barn or outbuilding, now a rare survivor in the local context. The building is now one of very few surviving nineteenth century buildings on Talbot Flat and its use of basalt is also one of few local examples. Its location helps define one of the earliest roads through Talbot and since the construction of the Talbot by-pass road the building has become a very prominent landmark at the western entrance of the town.

1 Township of Talbot on the Back Creek, L.1189, 2009, December 1861, lithographed 17 March 1864.

2 Refer to background history, chapters 4 and 6.

3 Talbot Leader, 9 September 1862, p.1.

RESIDENCE, Argyle Street, Talbot

Section 25A, allotment 4 [or5?], Township of Talbot

History

This area was developed in 1859 during the rush to Scandinavian Lead and this allotment was surveyed in 1861. (1) Based on a typological analysis this buildings appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-75.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although changes have occurred to the windows and possibly the verandah. The brick chimney has been painted.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. Although this building probably dates from c.1860-75 it is a critical reminder of the original alignment of Argyle Street. The street was included in the abandoned 1855 survey of Back Creek and followed the main Ballarat - Creswick - Maryborough Road. The alignment was again mapped with the 1860 plan of Back Creek and had been extensively developed during the Scandinavian Lead rush. With the dramatic rise in development along Scandinavian Crescent, Argyle Street languished as a thoroughfare and today has few surviving buildings. (2)

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the prosperous mining period at Talbot and now one of very few surviving nineteenth century buildings on Talbot Flat. Its location helps define one of the earliest roads through Talbot and since the construction of the Talbot by-pass road the building has become a prominent element at the western entrance of the town.

1 Township of Talbot on the Back Creek, L.1189, 2009, December 1861, lithographed 17 March 1864.

2 Refer to background history, chapters 4 and 6.

RESIDENCE, Ballaarat Street East, Talbot

Section , allotment 10?, Township of Talbot

History

This area was part of the land mined as part of the Scandinavian Lead from 1859 and was not surveyed until 1873. (1) Based on a typological analysis this building appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-80.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although changes have occurred to the windows. A newer skillion addition has been added to the western side.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its diminutive scale and elegant timber verandah decoration.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the period following intensive mining at Talbot. It is one of relatively few early cottages remaining in Talbot and demonstrates the nature of the shallow alluvial diggings where land was reclaimed soon after being worked-out. The residence forms an important link between the Ballaarat Street/Scandinavian Crescent precinct and the railway station, constructed in the same period as this residence.

1 Special allotments Township of Talbot, L.4678, 1873.

FORMER TALBOT BOROUGH HALL, Ballaarat Street, Talbot

Section C, Allotment 8, Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was surveyed by John Templeton in December 1859 following the rush to Scandinavian Lead. (1) The site was occupied by a large structure, possibly a hall of some kind. The foundation stone of a hall, erected for the Oddfellows, was laid on 1 December 1862. (2) About this time the Borough of Amherst was considering designs for a Borough Hall; the existing town hall at Amherst being superseded as a meeting place by the settlement at Back Creek (Talbot). A design for a building in Scandinavian Crescent was debated but after much discussion (and a later redesign) the matter was still not resolved. On 25 November 1864 the council decided to call tenders for accommodation and John Medley offered his Oddfellows Hall for £750. Vigorous discussion and a reduction of £150 in the price enabled the hall to be purchased in May 1865. The tender of a Mr Boyd for office furniture (£48 14s) was accepted on 21 June 1865 although the tender of Nicholson and Brown for additions was recinded after an earlier acceptance. A later tender of Fisher and Co. was also stopped after a petition from local residents. Finally on 21 June 1871 the tender of Nathaniel Crampton of £563 for a two storey addition to the front of the hall was accepted and this improvement was followed in February 1873 by erection of a stage and seating in the hall. It is presumed that the internal stairs date from the 1871 additions.

Integrity

This hall is substantially intact dating from the 1871 double storey additions to the front of the earlier hall. The main hall is now joined to the adjacent A.N.A. Hall (q.v.). The octagonal turret which formerly projected above the main facade was removed c.1940-50 and the clock mechanism was presumably removed at this stage. The face basalt of the ground floor pilasters has been painted.

Analysis

This building shows evidence of two distinct phases in the history of Talbot. The main hall which is presumed to be the Oddfellows Hall of 1862 was extended (or perhaps originally incorporated) to include a rear suite of three rooms approached by the two present rear doors and a third (now blocked) behind the stage. (3) This hall relates to the period c.1860-62 following discovery of gold on Scandinavian Lead when many temporary buildings were demolished and rebuilt to conform the the boundaries of Templeton's survey. The double storey addition relates to a slightly later period in the history of Talbot when local government was settled and Talbot was experiencing a period of consolidation following the boom of the late 1850s and early

1860s. The hall was erected for the Borough of Amherst (constituted in 1858 and renamed Borough of Talbot in 1876). It remained in use by the council until 1962? when the present premises in Scandinavian Crescent were purchased. The rural Shire of Talbot had also met in the building until 1872 when its own hall was erected at Dunach. The upper room was used as Free Library in the years to 1881 when the library was relocated in the former court house in Camp Street. Architecturally the facade was well suited to the library use with the large tripartite windows allowing ample light to enter.

Significance

A highly unusual hall with its juxtaposition of building forms highlighting evidence of two major periods in the history of Talbot. The building has strong historical links with major institutions in Talbot and still serves one of its major original functions as the main town hall. Visually the building is the most prominent feature in a relatively flat town (especially from the main northern entry) and forms a crucial part of the significant Ballaarat Street precinct.

- 1 Town lots Back Creek, L.490, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.
- 2 Borough of Amherst minute books, as summarised by Ron Pryor. Unless otherwise indicated all other references for this building are from this source.
- 3 Evidence uncovered during works, September 1987.

A.N.A. HALL, Ballaarat Street, corner Heales Street, Talbot
Section C, allotments 6 and 7, Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was surveyed by John Templeton in December 1859 following the rush to Scandinavian Lead. (1) The site was occupied by an assortment of structures although by the turn of the century the site was vacant. (2) Based on a typological analysis the present hall appears to have been constructed in the period c.1870-1910 and may have been relocated onto this site.

Integrity

This building is substantially intact although it has been extended with a skillion roofed kitchen at the rear. It is connected to the adjacent former Talbot borough hall (q.v.) by an early skillion addition. The lattice door of this skillion was replaced by a roll-a-door in 1984. Internally the A.N.A Hall retains its pressed metal sheeting and the walls are lined with early honour boards, many from other buildings in the shire. These details were also shown in a 1938 view of the interior. (3)

Analysis

This is a typical small timber hall, architecturally similar to many surviving examples.

Significance

This building is unexceptional architecturally and now forms a complementary relationship to the far more significant former Borough hall to the east. The building closes a prominent vista along the significant Ballaarat Street precinct, the main northern entry to Talbot. The interior of the A.N.A. Hall is notable for its intact pressed metal lining and collection of honour boards which recall the important role of friendly societies on the goldfields.

- 1 Town lots Back Creek, L.490, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.
- 2 Addresses to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York ..., Municipal Association of Victoria, 1901.
- 3 Photograph in Shire of Talbot and Clunes collection.

RAMSAY SHOP AND RESIDENCE, Ballarat Street North, Talbot

Section B, Allotments 5, 6, Township of Talbot

History

These allotments were marked out in Templeton's 1859 survey and by 1860 George Durbridge had a tinsmith's shop with a net annual value of £18, apparently on lot 6. (1) In October 1860 Durbridge advertised as 'Wholesale and Retail Tinsmith, Ballarat Street, Back Creek, Zinc spouting and ridging ... galvanised iron baths ... made to order'. (2) In November 1860 Durbridge advertised a building to let, possibly the present building. 'To let. A building with shop window, containing two sitting rooms, bedroom and kitchen having a frontage of 20 feet to Ballarat Street'. (3) A year later Durbridge and J. (?) Ramsay were listed as occupiers of both lots and in 1862 S.W. (or J.W.?) Ramsay was listed as Tinsmith on both allotments with premises having a net annual value of £35. (4) The value jumped from £30 to £40 in 1873 (5) and the present configuration was photographed c.1875. (6).

Integrity

This building is substantially intact and still retains its post supported verandah, shopfront and evidence of the c.1875 lettering on the parapet.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'early brick or stone buildings' and 'commercial buildings'. This shop is probably the original building of 1860 (as described in the early 'To let' advertisement) and if the adjacent residence does not date from that early period then it was certainly erected by the 1873 rise in value. This building is distinguished by its combination of shop and residence with both having facades to the main frontage.

Significance

An unusual attached shop and residence erected during the early development in Talbot following the Scandinavian Lead rush and extended during the subsequent period of consolidation in the 1870s. This building is distinguished by its post supported verandah, early shopfront and juxtaposition of building forms. The building is a crucial part of the significant Ballarat Street precinct, the main northern entry to Talbot.

- 1 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1860, no. 286.
- 2 North Western Chronicle, 25 October 1860.
- 3 *ibid.*, 15 November 1860.
- 4 *ibid.*, 1861, nos. 380, 381; 1862, no. 206.
- 5 *ibid.*, 1873, no. 401.
- 6 Photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

RESIDENCE, Ballaarat Street North, Talbot

Section , allotment , Township of Talbot

History

This area was mined as part of the rush to Scandinavian Lead in 1859 and the general alignment of Ballaarat Street was formed at this time. This area was primarily a commercial precinct although in the years following the rush, residential buildings began to predominate. This allotment was surveyed in 1861 although based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1880-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the verandah columns have been replaced with this tubular metal and flat wrought iron.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in the period following intensive mining at Talbot. This residence is part of the significant Ballaarat Street precinct.

1 Township of Talbot on the Back Creek, L.1189, 2009, December 1861, lithographed 17 March 1864.

FORMER BULL AND MOUTH HOTEL, Ballaarat Street, Talbot

Section A, allotments 6, 7, Township of Talbot

History

These allotments were surveyed by John Templeton in December 1859 following the rush to Scandinavian lead. (1) Both allotments were purchased from the Crown by Samuel Marks; allotment 6 on 7 August 1860 and allotment 7 on 26 November 1860. The Hope and Anchor Hotel was situated on the site and its sale was advertised in December 1860. (2)

For Sale

The Hope and Anchor Hotel
Ballaarat Street, Back Creek

Licensed, and on Freehold Ground, with a frontage on the best corner in the Township, of 90 feet. There is a comfortable Concert Room, furnished with seats, tables &c.; also a NEW PIANO. The Freehold Hotel, with bar fixtures, Furniture &c., will be sold in one lot, if required; or Hotel, Land, and Licence separate; the terms for which will be - one third cash; balance by monthly installments. Apply to Samuel Marks.

The site was conveyed to Henry O. Pirani on 1 February 1861 and thence to William Owen on 22 April 1865. (4) Owen gave his occupation as 'slaughterman' in the 1864 rate book and thus the clientele of the hotel remains something of a mystery. (5) The building had a net annual value of £60 in 1865 and was mortgaged to Crook and Sweet on 22 April 1865 by Owen. (6) Broton Henry Crook of Ballarat and George Sweet of Carisbrook carried on business as cattle dealers and the rate book of 4 April 1866 indicates a 'Stone Building, Ballarat Street' with net annual value of £152, a considerable rise over the previous year and almost certainly indicating construction of the present building. (7) Publicans included Edward Parry (1867), Caroline Davies (1868-70), Edward D'Arcy (1870-72), Mary Jane Stevens (1873) and Michael Tolson (1874-81). (8) The name changed to Town Hall Hotel around the turn of the century, possibly coinciding with the erection of the verandah. It was during Tolson's era that the well known photograph of the building was taken prior to erection of the verandah.

Integrity

This former hotel is substantially intact although minor alterations have occurred to the verandah. A new kitchen and outbuildings were added at the rear of the building during 1986.

RESIDENCE, Ballaarat Street North, Talbot

Section A, allotment , Township of Talbot

History

This area was mined as part of the rush to Scandinavian Lead in 1859 and this allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of that year. (1) This area was primarily a commercial precinct although in the years following the rush, residential buildings began to predominate. Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1865-80.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and an early picket fence is retained.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in the period following intensive mining at Talbot. This residence is part of the significant Ballaarat Street precinct.

1 Town Lots, Back Creek, County of Talbot, L490 John Templeton, Assistant Surveyor, December 20th 1859, lithographed of the Crown Lands Office Melbourne, 28 March 1860.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This is an uncommonly imposing hotel building in Talbot due to its construction of basalt (rare in the local context) and the generous verandah. The building was initially constructed without verandah and the present structure was added around the turn of the century. The building is situated on a very prominent corner and serves to link the nineteenth century residences in Ballaarat Street with the early commercial and institutional buildings in Ballaarat Street East and Scandinavian Crescent.

Significance

An archetypal nineteenth century hotel distinguished by its basalt walls and large verandah which spreads around the corner site. This building is one of the most significant early buildings in Talbot and illustrates the consolidation which occurred locally as earlier commercial buildings were rebuilt during the late 1860s and early 1870s. The building forms a pivotal role in linking the existing commercial centre of Talbot with the town's most intact area of nineteenth century residential building stock.

- 1 Town Lots, Back Creek, County of Talbot, L490 John Templeton, Assistant Surveyor, December 20th 1859, lithographed of the Crown Lands Office Melbourne, 28 March 1860.
- 2 Mortgage document William Owens to Crook and Sweet, 22 April 1865, held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 3 North West Chronicle, 13 December 1860, p.3.
- 4 Mortgage document, op.cit.
- 5 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1864, no. 144; this occupation is also given on the mortgage document.
- 6 *ibid.*, 1865, no.232; mortgage document.
- 7 *ibid.*, 4 April 1866, no.114; mortgage document.
- 8 Borough of Amherst ratebooks, various dates.
- 9 Photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

RESIDENCE, Ballaarat Street North, Talbot

Section A, allotment , Township of Talbot

History

This area was mined as part of the rush to Scandinavian Lead in 1859 and this allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of that year. (1) This area was primarily a commercial precinct although in the years following the rush, residential buildings began to predominate. Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1865-80 and extended at the front c.1910-30.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the original building form is now slightly masked by the c.1910-30 addition and flat sheeting has been applied to the exterior.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in the period following intensive mining at Talbot. This residence is part of the significant Ballaarat Street precinct.

1 Town Lots, Back Creek, County of Talbot, L490 John Templeton, Assistant Surveyor, December 20th 1859, lithographed of the Crown Lands Office Melbourne, 28 March 1860.

FORMER FLOUR MILL, Ballaarat Street, Talbot

Section A, Allotment , Township of Talbot

History

This flour mill was first listed in the 1869 ratebook with a net annual value of £250. It was occupied by Stewart Wilson, a storekeeper who also lived and traded from Ballaarat Street. (1) The 'Talbot Flour Mill' applied to the Amherst Borough Council in October 1868 to construct a drain near their premises at their own expense and this may coincide with a date of erection of this building (or may refer to another mill elsewhere in Talbot). (2) The mill dam was located at the eastern end of Crespigny Street, adjacent to the line of the railway. (3) The water race ran diagonally through the Prince Alfred School reserve and its periodic flooding of the playing fields created many problems. The race was apparently filled in 1878. (4)

Integrity

This mill now has a new low pitched roof and may also have been reduced in height (possibly by one storey?). All ancillary buildings have now been demolished and the former mill is used as a private residence. Additions to the north and south were added during 1987-88. The wall to Ballaarat Street retains many painted signs from the period c.1920-60 and these provide a graphic interpretation of the building and its recent history.

Analysis

This building with its simple building form is typical of mill architecture although without machinery and ancillary outbuildings it is now primarily of significance at the local level.

Significance

A typical nineteenth century flour mill building, a once common building type now uncommon in small country towns. The building provides evidence of the consolidation of Talbot in the late 1860s following a period of intensive mining. This building is an integral part of the significant Ballaarat Street precinct.

- 1 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1869, no. 564.
- 2 Borough of Amherst minutes, 7 October 1868, as summarised by Ron Pryor.
- 3 Special allotments Township of Talbot, L.4678, 1873, reproduced in McRobinson (compiler), A Pictorial History of Talbot, 1982, p.23.
- 4 See notes on Prince Alfred School in National Trust of Australia (Victoria) file, source unknown.

RESIDENCE, Ballaarat Street North, Talbot

Section 29B, allotment , Township of Talbot

History

This area was mined as part of the rush to Scandinavian Lead in 1859 and the general alignment of Ballaarat Street was formed at this time. This area was primarily a commercial precinct although in the years following the rush, residential buildings began to predominate. This allotment was included in the 1861 survey (1) and based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected in stages during the period c.1860-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact dating from the most recent addition, presumably the front gabled wing.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'brick or stone residences' and 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its combination of separate building forms constructed of contrasting materials. The brick section may well be a kitchen wing added to the front timber residence.

Significance

A characteristic residence erected in stages and contrasting materials during the period following intensive mining at Talbot. This residence is part of the significant Ballaarat Street precinct and the view of its south elevation forms a critical part of the appreciation of this building.

1 Township of Talbot on the Back Creek, L.1189, 2009, December 1861, lithographed 17 March 1864.

RESIDENCE, Ballaarat Street North, Talbot

Section , allotment , Township of Talbot

History

This area was mined as part of the rush to Scandinavian Lead in 1859 and the general alignment of Ballaarat Street was formed at this time. This area was primarily a commercial precinct although in the years following the rush, residential buildings began to predominate. This allotment was included in the 1861 survey (1) and based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected in stages during the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although part of the decorative timber verandah decoration is missing.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its unusual asymmetrical configuration of windows and door on the front facade, possibly the result of early alterations. The simple timber verandah decoration is also notable.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in the period following intensive mining at Talbot. This residence is part of the significant Ballaarat Street precinct.

1 Township of Talbot on the Back Creek, L.1189, 2009, December 1861, lithographed 17 March 1864.

RESIDENCE, Ballaarat Street North, Talbot

Section , allotment , Township of Talbot

History

This area was mined as part of the rush to Scandinavian Lead in 1859 and the general alignment of Ballaarat Street was formed at this time. This area was primarily a commercial precinct although in the years following the rush, residential buildings began to predominate. This allotment was included in the 1861 survey (1) and based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected in stages during the period c.1860-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although alterations have occurred to the windows.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by unusually large number of identical gable roof forms (four in total).

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in the period following intensive mining at Talbot and distinguished by its large number of identical gable roof forms. This residence is part of the significant Ballaarat Street precinct.

1 Township of Talbot on the Back Creek, L.1189, 2009, December 1861, lithographed 17 March 1864.

FORMER BURDESS RESIDENCE, Barkly Street, Talbot

Section 1B, allotment 1, Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was formerly located on the Scandinavian Lead and therefore the alignment of Barkly Street was not surveyed until 1861. (1) Joseph Burdess, a bootmaker had premises at the corner of Scandinavian Crescent and Ballaarat Street as well as a cottage in Chapman Street. In 1869 this residence was first rated (net annual value £60) and the address given as 'near Chapman Street'. (2) In 1874 the address was first listed as Barkly Street and during the 1870s Burdess purchased a considerable portion of land in this vicinity. (3)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although some of the cement render has been stripped from external walls. The early form of the garden survives as do several outbuildings.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of brick or stone residences. This is an unusual design with the large roof form being an unusually early example of this form in the local context.

Significance

An unusual residence which demonstrates architectural forms more commonly found locally in buildings of the period after the 1890s. The siting of this residence on the alluvial lead provides a vital reminder of the manner in which old auriferous ground was reclaimed once mining had ceased. The retentions of early garden elements is now rare in the local context. The relationship of the residence with the former shop of Joseph Burdess (at the corner of Scandinavian Crescent and Ballaarat Street) enhances the significance of both buildings.

1 Township of Talbot on the Back Creek, County of Talbot, L1186, 2009, William S. Mackintosh, Assistant Surveyor, December 1861, lithographed at The Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 17 March 1864.

2 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 31 March 1869, no. 53.

3 *ibid.*, 1874, no.59; see current cadastral plan.

RESIDENCE, Bond Street, corner Regent Street, Talbot

Section L, allotment 24?, Township of Talbot

History

This area was settled as part of the rush to Scandinavian Lead in 1859 and this allotment was included in John Templeton's initial survey of that year. (1) This allotment was purchased from the Crown by publican T.D. Wrigley. (2) This area was primarily a commercial precinct although in the years following the rush, residential buildings began to predominate. Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-90 and extended by the addition of a gabled front wing during the same period. Boundaries of the allotment were probably altered to take account of the reserve for the railway (which opened in 1875).

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the weatherboards were covered with vinyl sheeting during 1985. The original window joinery has also been replaced.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in the period following intensive mining at Talbot. This residence is part of a small cluster of nineteenth century buildings south of the railway line in Talbot.

- 1 Town Lots, Back Creek, County of Talbot, L490 John Templeton, Assistant Surveyor, December 20th 1859, lithographed at the Crown Lands Office Melbourne, 28 March 1860.
- 2 Cadastral plan.

RESIDENCE, Barkly Street, Talbot

Section G, allotment 42, Township of Talbot

History

This area was on the periphery of the Scandinavian Lead from 1859 and was not used for permanent buildings until the early 1860s. Based on a typological analysis this building appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This residence is distinguished by its elegant curved verandah, unusual amongst local residences.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the period following intensive mining at Talbot. It is one of relatively few early cottages remaining in Talbot and demonstrates the nature of the shallow alluvial diggings where land was reclaimed soon after being worked-out.

FORMER FLYNN RESIDENCE, Bond Street, corner Regent Street, Talbot
Section L2, allotment 4, Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was just outside the southern extremity of John Templeton's 1859 survey of Back Creek and although a building was shown on the site it did not conform to the configuration of the present residence. (1) The allotment was purchased by Ann Flynn on 28 January 1871. (2) Flynn was a school mistress and had been first rated in this location in 1867 for a 'cottage and school' (net annual value £19) (3) The 'school' was variously described as a 'school house' and 'school room' in later rate books although it is presumed that this did not form part of the present residence. Based on a typological analysis, this residence was probably extended by the addition of a front gabled wing during the period c.1870-1920.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the original window joinery in the front wing appears to be relatively modern. A large mature Cedar (Cedrus deodara) tree is located in the front garden.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in the period following intensive mining at Talbot. Of historical interest is the link between this residence and the private school which was operated on this site. This residence is part of a small cluster of nineteenth century buildings south of the railway line in Talbot.

- 1 Town Lots, Back Creek, County of Talbot, L490 John Templeton, Assistant Surveyor, December 20th 1859, lithographed at the Crown Lands Office Melbourne, 28 March 1860.
- 2 See current cadastral plan.
- 3 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1866, no.182 (Ann Flynn rated in Canning Street); 1867, no.173. It is possible the residence may have been erected earlier than 1867 although the alphabetical listing of the ratebook entries makes this almost impossible to determine.

FORMER WILLOX RESIDENCE, Bond Street, corner Mount Greenock Road,
Talbot

Section L2, Allotment 5, Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was purchased from the Crown by J. McKinley and Co. on 28 February 1871. (1) James Leonard Willox was first listed in Bond Street in 1872 with a cottage valued at £35 10s. Prior to this he had occupied a cottage on Talbot Flat (1870) and in Chapman Street (1871). (2) A stable was also rated in 1874 and in 1877 the net annual value rose from £36 to £57 possibly indicating construction of the present house or enlargement of the existing cottage. The value decreased gradually and Willox was last listed as occupier in 1883. (3) Debate in council was caused by the decision to remove the gas lamp at 'Mr Willox's corner' to a position outside the newly opened library in Camp Street. (4) Willox had been head teacher at the National School on Talbot Flat (see Peel Street) from 1866 to 1871 when he transferred to the new Prince Alfred Common School in Rowe Street. (5)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and the garden layout also retains part of its early structure, including some large mature trees and an early picket fence.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'.

Significance

A characteristic brick villa erected in the period following intensive mining at Talbot. The building is distinguished by its cast iron verandah and finely detailed brick and render walls. It provides an intact example of a building style common in Melbourne and larger provincial towns but now rare in the local context. This residence is part of a small cluster of nineteenth century buildings south of the railway line in Talbot.

- 1 See current cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Amherst ratebooks, 1872, no.562; 1870, no.563; 1871, no.560.
- 3 *ibid.*, 1874, no. 517; 1876, no.527; 1877, no.521.
- 4 Talbot Leader, 8 July 1881.
- 5 Blake (ed), Vision and Realisation, 1973, vol.2, p.714.

RESIDENCE, Bond Street, corner Mount Greenock Road, Talbot

Section K2, allotment 6, Township of Talbot

History

The allotment was purchased from the Crown by A.E. Roffey on 3 June 1897. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1890-1910.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the original front door joinery has been replaced and the verandah columns replaced with wrought iron.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in the period following cessation of most mining at Talbot. This residence is part of a small cluster of nineteenth century buildings south of the railway line in Talbot.

1 Cadastral plan.

RESIDENCE, Bond Street, Talbot

Section K2, allotment 7, Township of Talbot

History

The allotment was purchased from the Crown by M.C. Wallis on 18 October 1932. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-1910.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact and retains some early garden elements including a large palm tree (Phoenix canarensis).

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in the period following cessation of most mining at Talbot. This residence is part of a small cluster of nineteenth century buildings south of the railway line in Talbot.

1 Cadastral plan.

RESIDENCE, Bulwer Street, Talbot

Section 25, allotment 13 [or 14?], Township of Talbot

History

This residence is sited on the 1860 survey of Back Creek Flat.
(1) Based on a typological analysis the residence located on the north of the site appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-1880 and the southern residence erected during the period c.1920-30 (possibly on another site and relocated).

Integrity

The building form of the earlier of these building is substantially intact although the waetherboards have been covered with flat sheeting. The later building forms a complementary relationship with the early cottage.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in the period following intensive mining at Talbot. It is distinguished by its siting along the allotment boundary and is one of very few nineteenth century buildings remaining on the Talbot Flat.

1 Town Lots, Back Creek, lithographed 12 April 1860.

TALBOT PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION RESERVE, Bulwer Street, Talbot
Crown reserve (Rs 5153), Township of Talbot

History

A cricket ground for Talbot was sought in 1861 on land adjacent to Back Creek, between Brougham and Maculay Streets and a seven acre site was temporarily reserved in April 1862. However mining encroached onto the ground shortly after and the present site was gazetted in December 1862 following urging from the council that 'the cricket season is fast approaching'. (1) In 1855 the land had been described as 'Fine grassy flat well adapted for agricultural purposes'. (2) This site was close to the old workings of White or Hard Hill and small scale mining took place on the perimeter of the new park in the years following its reservation. (3) The 5 acre site was gazetted only as a 'temporary reservation for cricket and other purposes of recreation' and in the 1870s council sought to have the site enlarged. The new larger site was bisected by parts of Junction Road and Elgin Street and these were eventually closed to enable the full 9 acre 2 rood 27 perches site to be reserved. By this date, Junction Street had been superseded by Bulwer Street as the main thoroughfare to Amherst. The new reservation was for 'recreation purposes' (the reference to cricket was dropped at this date) but a year later, 8 February 1875, the area was 'proclaimed as a public park'. This was apparently in order to qualify for the vote for 'improvement of Public Parks and Gardens' and local parliamentarian James Syme Stewart lobbied strenuously on behalf of the council. £520 was spent on a perimeter fence and in 1891 £9 16s 2d was spent on new gate posts. A committee of management was appointed on 2 April 1885 and the Borough of Talbot took over this function in 1905. (4) Newspaper reports of 1880 referred to the 'Public Park' having 'extensive buildings providing shelter [and a] ... dancing pavilion. (5)

Integrity

This site is still used for its original purpose although no early buildings or major works survive.

Analysis

This reserve dates from a period of sustained development in Talbot. Whilst the vast population at the Scandinavian Lead rush in 1859 had largely departed by the early 1860s, the town was experiencing rebuilding of property and provision of facilities such as this reserve. It can be compared with the showgrounds at Clunes as a typical early recreational feature.

Significance

A sporting reserve in continuous use since the early 1860s, a period of sustained development at Talbot following intensive small scale mining. The reserve demonstrates the early need for recreation on the goldfields and its boundaries provide a reminder of the original boundaries of surveyed township allotments on Talbot Flat.

- 1 Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, File Rs 5153.
- 2 Suburban and Country Lands at Daisy Hill in the County of Talbot, Plan No. 201, Surveyor-General Office, Melbourne, 6 October 1855.
- 3 See plan dated 5 September 1874 in Rs 5153 which shows a dam, puddling machines and mine shaft at north west corner of the reserve.
- 4 All further references in file Rs 5153.
- 5 Talbot Leader, 2 April 1880.

FORMER HOSKINS RESIDENCE, Camp Street, corner Heales Street,
Talbot

Section F, allotment 36, Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton initial survey of allotments following the Scandinavian Lead rush in 1859. (1) The allotment was purchased from the Crown by Thomas Dale Wrigley (publican of the Commercial Hotel) on 4 September 1860 and conveyed to solicitor Horatio Huntly Hoskins on 5 December 1864. (2) A building was shown on this allotment by Templeton although its outline does not conform with any part of the existing structure. By 1860 Hoskins was listed as a ratepayer with 'Residence &c' having a net annual value of £30 located in Camp Street. (3) The net annual value of the property judged from £60 to £75 in 1868 and to £100 in 1869. (4) The property was purchased by James Syme Stewart in May 1874 and photographed shortly after. (5)

Integrity

Currently both the timber and brick sections of this residence are intact, as are several outbuildings. The face brick work of the main house has been painted white and the unusual ornamental cresting shown in the early photograph is missing from the verandah. The timber cottage retains the only known local example of half round guttering, a once common profile.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'timber buildings' and 'brick or stone buildings'. Judging from physical evidence, it is probable that the existing vertical planked cottage dates from the 1860 valuation and the brick section accounts for the rise in NAV between 1868 and 1869. The toothed brickwork and the plan of the later brick residence indicate that the earlier timber cottage was eventually destined for rebuilding. It is probable that fluctuating fortunes of the owner or a general downturn in Talbot's economy causes this residence to remain unfinished. The vertical planking of the timber cottage and its unusual construction (only having studs at corners and beside window openings) may indicate the structure was prefabricated and transported to the site for erection. Apart from the vertical planks (approximately 30mm thick) and few wall studs, structural rigidity is assisted from the internal horizontal lining of timber, possibly from packing cases. The windows sills of the timber section are at ground level and this is a most uncommon feature.

Significance

A highly unusual residence comprising two distinct sections, an earlier one of timber, possibly prefabricated, and a later one of brick. Their combination provides a clear physical manifestation of three consecutive periods in local history; the timber section being the earliest surviving building at Talbot, the brick section giving evidence of consolidation of the township and its lack of completion testifying to the downturn at Talbot following cessation of intensive mining. The unusual juxtaposition of forms gives this building considerable visual appeal and this property forms a crucial part of the significant Camp Street precinct.

- 1 Town Lots, Back Creek, L490, signed John Templeton, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.
- 2 Land grant and subsequent conveyance documents held by current owner.
- 3 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1860, no. 381.
- 4 *ibid.*, 1868, no. 229; 1869, no. 233.
- 5 Photograph held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes; conveyance held by current owner.

POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE, Camp Street, corner Heales Street, Talbot
Section E, allotment 13, Township of Talbot

History

This block was marked out in Templeton's first survey of 1859 and the first section of the building erected in 1860. This comprised separate post and telegraph offices, a battery room and living quarters for the postmaster. The Public Works Department drawing was initialled by Charles Vickers on 20 May 1860. The contract with Griffith & Co. was signed on 11 August 1860 and their price was £1,330. (1) Samuel W. McGowan, General Superintendent of Electric Telegraph, notified that 'telegraphic communication had been established with Back Creek' on 1 January 1861. (2) The site was fenced during 1861 for £79 and fittings and furniture were also installed in 1861 at a cost of £20 10s. Small sums were expended as fittings and furniture in 1862 and 1865 while 'repairs and alterations' (of a nature unknown) cost £64 10s in 1863. (3) A 'telegraph office' was erected in 1866 for £362 10s (4) and this is presumably the eastern section of the building, now used as the postal chamber. Contractor J. Meadows undertook 'alterations and additions' in 1876-77 at a cost of £469 5s (5) and this probably included the western residential wing, fronted by a large bay window. Ownership of the building passed from Victoria to the Commonwealth on 1 March 1901 with payment of £1,855 compensation although the title was not officially registered until 20 October 1931. The building was sold by the Commonwealth in 1968 and is currently operated as a postal agency. (6)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact. The curtilage retains two distinctive monuments, one commemorating the Boer War (1899-1902) and the other a water trough donated in the 1940s as part of a world wide programme by animal welfare campaigner George Bills.

Analysis

building is typical of the standards of design and construction promoted by the Public Works Department during the nineteenth century. The building was constructed with a higher degree of skill and detail than most local commercial buildings of the 1860s. The staged building programme from 1860-77 is betrayed by the diverse architectural forms on the facade but this complexity coincides with many local periods of growth. The building's retention is probably due to decline in the local economy, unlike Clunes where an identical building was demolished in the 1870s and the present large structure erected for the needs of that large company mining town.

Significance

The present Post Office contains one of the earliest surviving buildings in Talbot and, with the former court house, is the earliest government building in Talbot. The staged building campaign coincides with many local periods of growth and consolidation. The property forms a key element in a block of government buildings which is amongst the most intact of such collections in Australia.

- 1 VPRS 979, unit 2, p.47; 1 sheet of drawings held by Public Record Office, Laverton.
- 2 North Western Chronicle, 31 January 1861.
- 3 VPRS 972, vol. 1, p.17; VPRS 957, unit 3, pp. 55, 254.
- 4 VPRS 957, unit 3, p.254.
- 5 VPRS 972, vol. 1, p.24.
- 6 Title held by current owners.

FORMER COURT HOUSE, Camp Street, Talbot

Section E, allotment 13A, Township of Talbot

History

This court house was erected in 1866 to replace the smaller court house of 1860-61 located adjacent (to the west). The new building cost £2,149 and contractors were Fisher and Co. (1). A screen was erected by J. Meadows in 1870 for £15 and repairs were carried out in 1871 (£67 15s), 1875-76 (£83) and 1883-84 (£49 3s). These last works, undertaken by J. Russell, also included painting. (2) The Talbot Court of Petty Sessions was abolished on 1 October 1934. (3) The court house was sold for use as a Masonic Lodge and the Crown Grant made to G.C. Mills and others on 20 January 1939. (4)

Integrity

This buildings is substantially intact and has been slightly modified internally for its present use as a masonic lodge. A small brick addition was erected c.1955.

Analysis

This building is pre-eminent amongst small rural courthouses in Victoria. It incorporates features common to most such buildings and these include the large central court room, front porch, and rear and flanking side offices. Such buildings commonly featured local materials and this building has a subtle combination of orange bricks for walls, cream bricks for mouldings and basalt sills and base. The arcaded entry at Talbot, with its openings infilled to provide an enclosed porch, is a superb example of arched brickwork and detailing elsewhere on the building is complementary.

Significance

A superb example of a small rural court house, amongst the best in the state. It is distinguished by crisp brick detailing and subtle use of local materials. With the adjacent former court house it illuminates two distinct periods in the growth of Talbot and its reuse as a lodge, apart from giving a redundant building regular use, highlights the tradition of reuse of buildings on the goldfields. The property forms a key element in a block of government buildings which is amongst the most intact of such collections in Australia.

1 VPRS 972, vol. 1, p.9.

2 *ibid.*

3 Talbot Leader, 15 September 1934, research by Rita Hull.

4 Cadastral plan.

FREE LIBRARY (FORMER COURT OF PETTY SESSIONS), Camp Street, Talbot
Section E, allotment 5a, Township of Talbot

History

This court house was erected in 1860 at a cost of £800 on the reserve created by Templeton's 1859 survey. The contractor was local builder Isaac Meadows although he gave his address as Collingwood. (1) The building was opened on 28 January 1861 by Police Magistrate Crespigny and the local newspaper commented

For architectural design the New Court House will not immortalize its architect, yet is in its interior so well arranged so as to render it well adapted for the purpose to which it is applied. The acoustic properties of the building are good and its ventilation is unexceptionable. (2)

Rear additions to the building were erected during 1861. The contractor was G.O. Langridge & Co. and the 'offices' cost £310. (3) The large brick court adjacent to the 1860-61 Court of Petty Sessions was erected at Talbot in 1866 (q.v.) and this earlier building was either vacated or used as a second court or offices. In 1870 a deputation from Talbot to the Commissioner of Public Works sought to use the building and furniture for the purpose of a Mechanics Institute. (4) In November 1880 after a visit from government officials a promise was made to the local Free Library committee that it could have use of the former court house and in February 1881 formal handing over of the keys was undertaken. (5) A grant of £50 was made by the government for improvements and tenders were called on 8 April 1881 for 'repair and alterations'. William Phelan completed the work for £42 19s 6d and also constructed internal fittings for £25. This work was superintended by Henry Thompson in an honorary capacity. The Talbot Leader was a strong supporter of the library and published a long article on its opening in the new premises on 30 June 1881.

The building comprises three spacious compartments, the largest being nicely fitted up as a library and reading room. Handsomely furnished bookcases contain a well assorted stock of books, etc. There are also reading tables and paper stands, on the latter being arranged the leading daily and weekly newspapers and illustrated papers published in the colony, which are supplemented by many of those from the other Australian colonies and London. Of the other compartments, one will be used as a committee room, and the other it is intended to devote to those subscribers desirous of improving themselves in such scientific games as chess, draughts, etc. The building throughout is thoroughly well ventilated, and what is, considering the use to which it is put, nearly of as much importance, the lighting arrangements are perfect.

Prior to the relocation the Free Library had operated in the upper room of the Borough Hall in Ballarat Street. The council also supported the Free Library by the erection of a gas lamp in front of the building.

Integrity

This building is still substantially intact and used as a library with the rear rooms providing storage for the local historical society. The library shelving is still intact and presumed to date from 1881. The building was repainted in 1987 in a scheme typical of the 1880s, the period when the building was refurbished as a library.

Analysis

This is the earliest remaining court house in Talbot although not the first court at Back Creek. During August to November 1859 a court of Petty Sessions had been erected in Amherst simultaneously with a Warden's Office at Back Creek. (6) A 'wooden court house' was removed from Talbot to Majorca in 1863 and it is possible this was one of 'two portable houses' transported from (or to?) Amherst by Latham & Co. in 1859. (7) The last office would have dealt with mining matters although this building was located on the Back Creek 'flat'; an inconvenient location since the rush to the Scandinavian Lead and development of the present site of Talbot. The 1860 Petty Session court demonstrated the growth of the new rush and the erection of a Court of Petty Sessions at Amherst less than a year earlier represented a dying gasp of the Amherst lobby before power shifted to Talbot. The growth of Back Creek/Talbot was further demonstrated by the erection of substantial additions to the Talbot court in 1861.

Significance

A typical small rural court house which is now one of the earliest surviving buildings in Talbot. Its continuing use as a library enhances its significance and this use is demonstrated by superb timber shelving and other internal features which have been in use for over a century. With the adjacent former court house it illuminates two distinct periods in the growth of Talbot and its reuse as a library highlights the tradition of reuse of buildings on the goldfields. The building forms a key element in a block of government buildings which is amongst the most intact of such collections in Australia.

1 VPRS 979, unit 2, p.81; VPRS 957; unit 3, p.53.

2 North Western Chronicle, 31 January 1861.

3 VPRS 979, unit 3, p.22.

4 VPRS 986, unit 1, p.190.

5 References come from Talbot Leader, 22 February, 25 February, 25 March, 5 April, 8 April, 21 June, 24 June and 1 July 1881.

6 VPRS 979, unit 1, p.8; unit 1, pp. 14, 41.

7 VPRS 979, unit 4, p.128; VPRS 977, unit 1.

FORMER DOWLING RESIDENCE, Camp Street, Talbot
Section E, allotment 5, Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was surveyed in 1861 and purchased from the Crown by Thomas Dale Wrigley and James Jones on 25 June 1862. Wrigley was owner of the Commercial Hotel in Scandinavian Crescent and Jones was publican of the Liverpool Arms in Maryborough Road. Jones and Wrigley also purchased lot 6 which was a continuation of the Camp Street allotment back to Burke Street. The site was conveyed to surgeon Francis Joseph Dowling on 27 September 1870. (1) Dowling was rated for a cottage in Ballarat Street and land in Camp Street in 1873 although the following year the house in Camp Street was rated (net annual value £55) with a note 'house not completed when valuation made'. In 1875 the net annual value had risen to £65, presumably for the house in its completed form. (2) Dowling had been appointed as the first Medical Officer to the Borough of Amherst on 14 February 1868 and this Camp Street residence was occupied by medical practitioners until at least 1930. These included Dr Leonard Robinson, Dr Peter Hannall Cunningham and Dr Charles Cunningham. (3)

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'brick or stone residences'. This residence is distinguished by its cast iron verandah and finely detailed brick and render walls. The plan is unusual for such a large residence on a comparatively narrow site as the front door faces the side boundary. Acquisition of contiguous land to the west may have been originally contemplated for a front garden commensurate with the size of the residence and location of the entry.

Significance

A characteristic brick villa erected in the period following intensive mining at Talbot. The residence is distinguished by its cast iron verandah and finely detailed brick and render walls. It provides an intact example of a building style more common in Melbourne and larger provincial towns but now rare in the local context. The residence forms part of the Camp Street area, a precinct of great historical and architectural significance.

- 1 Township of Talbot on the Back Creek, L.1189, 2009, William S. Mackintosh, Assistant Surveyor, December 1861, lithographed 17 March 1864; title documents in possession of the current owner.
- 2 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 26 March 1873, no.115; 11 February 1874, no.117; 2 March 1875, no.121.
- 3 Borough of Amherst minute book as summarised by Ron Pryor; title documents.

FORMER PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH, Camp Street, Talbot

Section E, allotment 2, Township of Talbot

History

The first Primitive Methodist Church on this site was a weatherboard chapel moved there from the 'centre of the diggings' at Back Creek. This occurred during the ministry of (Samuel?) Bracewell from October 1860 to April 1862. (1) The next incumbent, William Adams, was responsible for securing a temporary government reservation of the land selected by Bracewell and this received approval of the Governor in Council on 10 August 1863. (2) The foundation stone of the present building was laid on 5 December 1869 and the church opened on 30 October 1870. Local timber merchant William Phelan and flour miller W. Cadwallader were particularly liberal in their financial assistance and Phelan allowed the committee a large quantity of materials at cost price. The masonry work was undertaken by a Mr Clough, plastering by a Mr Dennithorne and carpentry by A. Hallen. In addition Hallen also 'gave his professional services as architect and inspector'. Leaded glass windows were supplied by Ferguson of Melbourne and the total cost of the building was £731. (3) The Talbot Leader gave a lengthy description of the new church, praising it as 'an ornament to the town'.

The style of architecture is Romanesque. The general appearance of the building is certainly neat, and there is a substantial look about it that seems to indicate that the money expended on the structure has been laid out to good advantage ... The entrance is approached by a flight of four bluestone steps ... A small lobby is entered from the open doorway, and two side doors open into the body of the church ... The floor has an incline of 2 feet from the front to the back of the building, so as to bring the preacher within full view of the congregation and vice versa ... A platform for the preacher stands midway against the back wall, 10 feet long by 5 feet wide and is elevated about 2 feet from the floor. A cedar railing runs round the platform and behind are damask hangings. The ceiling is of grooved and tongued boards painted drab, the moulded divisions in blue. Three sun lights are fixed in the ceiling, which give ample light, and also act as ventilators. The supply of oxygen necessary for the comfort of the congregation is further provided by ventilators below the floor, in the fascia boards beneath the eaves, and by hopper ventilators in the six windows. A door is placed in the end wall to the west of the platform, to afford communication with the school room in the rear and the ministers residence at the side. East of the platform is a second door, uniform with the other, and opening into a closet. The seating is very comfortable

and neat, the material used in construction being N.Z. pine, varnished. The land is fenced in with neat wooden fence, the posts of which are adorned with acorns. (4)

The earlier church was located at the rear of the new building for use as a Sunday school, and a residence for the minister, erected c.1860-62 at a cost of £66, stood on the adjacent allotment (to the east presumably). (5) The church building was sold to Maryborough Knitting Mills in 1947 and was used for a time as a mill. (6)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact externally although several alterations have occurred internally. During use as a mill the front door was widened and rebricked, the inclined floor was replaced and banks of fluorescent lights were installed. Recent works (1986-87) have seen the enlarged opening reduced to the original width and the missing basalt stonework reconstructed, new front doors installed and repainting internally and on external render and timber surfaces. Both internal and external painting followed the earliest schemes able to be determined from physical evidence. The fence was reconstructed along the frontage based on the earliest known photograph (c.1875) and the same view provided the basis for reconstruction of the front door. The door is approximately 600mm taller than the original due to the replacement of the inclined floor and removal of front steps.

Analysis

Refer to chapter 9 of the background history for a detailed discussion of non-conformist church architecture. Other Primitive Methodist church buildings survive in Victoria including Kilmore, Chewton (1861) and Clunes (1868). Churches of any denomination adopting this particular form of facade (based on a Serlian arch) are rare and the only other known example is the former Wesleyan Church at Portland (1865). The form, of a central arched opening flanked by two smaller openings, was first illustrated in architect Sebastian Serlio's L'Architettura published in 1537, a seminal work which classified the orders of classical architecture. (7)

Significance

A highly distinctive church, now one of few remaining buildings erected in Victoria for the Primitive Methodist Church. Architecturally this building formed a sophisticated solution to the desire of Primitive Methodist congregations to express their distance from the high church denominations. This is exemplified by the adoption of a classically derived motif for the facade, a device handled with great competence by the local designers and tradesmen. This building is a landmark in Talbot and forms a key element in the significant Camp Street precinct.

- 1 Rev M. Clarke, The History of Primitive Methodism in Victoria and Tasmania, n.d. [c.1887], pp. 28-30.
- 2 Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, reserve file Rs 915.
- 3 Primitive Methodist Miscellany, 4, April 1871, pp. 136-138.
- 4 Talbot Leader, 1 November 1870, quoted in Primitive Methodist Miscellany, loc.cit.
- 5 Clarke, loc.cit.; photograph of both buildings held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 6 Rs 915; several photographs of the building is use as a mill are held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 7 Fleming, Honour and Pevsner, The Penguin Dictionary of architecture, 1966, p.204.

FORMER DUNACH STATE SCHOOL No. 1412, Camp Street, Talbot

Section E, allotment 1, Township of Talbot

History

This school was opened on 17 May 1874 at Dunach. The school was originally located on part of allotment 3 in section 11 of the Parish of Amherst. Early photographs indicate this building was the original 1874 structure although by the turn of the century an additional room with a transverse gable roof had been added. The school originally housed 135 children and closed in 1945. (1) The school building was moved to this site in Talbot in July 1974 for use by the Courtauld-Hilton Company, who also occupied the adjacent former Primitive Methodist Church. (2)

Integrity

This building was relocated to this site and some repairs undertaken. The large front window is not original but was present when relocation took place in 1974.

Analysis

Refer to chapter 9 of the background history for a discussion of education and school architecture. This building is typical of small timber schools erected in the period following the creation of the Education Department of Victoria although the current location neither adds or detracts from its significance in this respect. However, relocation on the original site at Dunach would enhance the significance of the building and provide a tangible marker of the once flourishing township of Dunach.

Significance

A typical timber rural school building which provides evidence of early education in the shire.

1 Blake (ed), Vision and Realisation, 1973, vol. 2, p.766; 2 photographs held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes (c.1875 and c.1900-02).

2 Maryborough Advertiser (?), 19 July 1974.

SHOPS AND RESIDENCE, Camp Street, corner Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot
Section C, allotments 22, 23 and 24, Township of Talbot

History

These blocks were marked out in John Templeton's survey of Back Creek in 1859. (1) Premises at the corner of Scandinavian Crescent and Camp Street (allotment 23) were occupied by J.G. Sutherland in 1861 (net annual value £40) but the value rose dramatically to £200 by 1862 and the occupier was listed as draper Benjamin Culley. (2) A residence was also rated on allotment 24 (in Camp Street) although this may have been located in the garden of the present residence. Culley was listed as owner of both shop and residence in 1863 and the valuations remained relatively constant until 1866 when a combined value of £218 10s was listed for 'Store &c'. (3) In the following year this was again split although the combined value was relatively consistent with the previous year. (4) The shop was first occupied by J.H. Weilandt in June 1919 as grocer, ironmonger and newsagent and his early advertising hoardings survived on the parapet until 1987. (5) Allotment 22 (in Scandinavian Crescent) was purchased by Weilandt in November 1923 and the present shop was erected soon after. The letters 'A.T.T.' on the parapet are thought to stand for the initials of the original builder. (6)

Integrity

This property is substantially intact although the verandah surrounding the residence has several missing components and the posts of the whole verandah have been replaced with thin tubular metal columns. The early shopfront is still retained and the shop on allotment 22 retains its early post supported verandah and pressed metal cladding. An early picket fence is retained along the Camp Street frontage.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'commercial buildings' and 'brick or stone residences'. This is a most unusual building on account of its plan, building form and architectural detailing. The building probably dates from one building campaign of c.1861-62 and the combination of a two storey residence and single storey shop is very rare, especially where the residence has a separate entry to the side street (in this case Camp Street). The building is distinguished by the quality of its render work (which remains largely unpainted) and chaste detailing. The irregular shape of the allotment (a reflection of the original development and subsequent survey in 1859) has given the building a quiriness which can best be appreciated from the upper storey of the residence. The c.1924-25 shop is a fine example of pressed metal sheet used for an external wall cladding especially as two pattens are used ('brick' on the body of the wall and 'stone quoins' to form an edge). Such a use of pressed metal is also found in Avoca on several buildings.

Significance

A highly unusual combined shop and residence, erected in the early period of development at Talbot in the years following intensive mining. The building is distinguished by its finely unusual juxtaposition of single and double storey building forms, finely detailed render work, post supported verandah and early shopfront. The later adjacent shop is a fine example of pressed metal sheeting used as a wall cladding. The property is located on a corner traditionally considered the prime location in Talbot and this building forms a very effective link between Camp Street and Scandinavian Crescent, two precincts of great architectural and historical significance.

- 1 Town Lots, Back Creek, L490, signed John Templeton, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.
- 2 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1861, nos.295, 485; 1862, no. 244.
- 3 *ibid.*, 1863, no. 202; 1865, no. 270; 1866, no. 116.
- 4 *ibid.*, 1867, no. 105.
- 5 Talbot Leader, 31 May 1919, researched by R.J. Pryor.
- 6 Summary of title documents held by the current owner; information from Betty Fleming, 17 September 1987.

FORMER ELDER RESIDENCE, Camp Street, Talbot

Section C, part allotment 25, Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was marked out in John Templeton's 1859 survey and was purchased from the Crown on 14 September 1860 by William Harris Nutt. (1) Nutt had erected the Camp Hotel (q.v.) on the corner of Camp Street and Heales Street by April 1861 and sold this 16 foot strip of land on the east of lot 25 to sadler William McKenzie Elder between 1860-62. (2) In February 1862 the Talbot Leader announced the removal of William K. Elder, Saddler and Harness Maker, (presumably) to Camp Street where he was first rated in 1862, for premises with NAV of £30. (3) In 1864 the premises were described as 'saddlers shop and dwelling' and on 3 September 1869 the property was sold to Joseph Curtis at a mortgagees sale. The property was leased to Robert Crooks (proprietor of the adjacent shop) in 1872 and purchased four years later, thus reuniting the two properties, a consolidation which is still maintained. (4)

Integrity

This dwelling is set back from the frontage and retains an early garden layout. The saddlers shop was possibly located on this front garden or may have formed part of the present structure. Remnants of an early picket fence remain.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This is an early single fronted dwelling with a gable front, the only remaining example of this type locally. the early garden layout is of interest and is one of few to have survived in Talbot.

Significance

An early timber residence erected in the early period of development at Talbot in the years following intensive mining. It is the only remaining local example of a single fronted timber cottage and is enhanced by its early garden layout. This residence forms part of the significant Camp Street precinct.

- 1 Town Lots, Back Creek, L490, signed John Templeton, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860; cadastral plan.
- 2 Summary of title and mortgage documents prepared by Neil Currey.
- 3 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1862, no. 246; 1863, no. 260; Talbot Leader, 28 February 1862, p.1.
- 4 All references from the summary of titles and mortgages.

FORMER CAMP HOTEL, Camp Street, corner Heales Street, Talbot
Section C, allotments 1, 26 and part 25, Township of Talbot

History

These allotments were marked out in Templeton's 1859 survey and allotment 1 was purchased from the Crown on 9 August 1860 by James Jones and allotments 25 and 26 by William Harris Nutt on 14 September 1860. (1) Nutt erected the Camp Hotel on lots 25 and part 26 by April 1861 and in that year the premises had a net annual value of £34. (2) Nutt purchased lot 1 on 10 February 1862 and erected stables and the property then went through a complex series of mortgages. In the 1862 ratebook Robert M. Elder was listed with a hotel on these lots (NAV £100) and stables on allotment 1 (NAV £20). (3) In February 1862 Elder advertised as proprietor of the 'Camp Family and Commercial Hotel', Camp Street, Talbot.

R.M. Elder, having taken the above establishment,
trusts ... to merit the support [etc.] ... comfortable
bedrooms, commodious stables ... R.M.Elder also begs to
inform the public that his 4-horse American waggon will
leave Talbot weekly for Clunes, Creswick, Ballarat,
Geelong and Melbourne ... Office, Camp Hotel. (4)

Edward D'Arcy was listed as occupier of the Camp Hotel, Camp Street in the 1863 ratebook and in directories of 1866 and 67 the premises were listed as the Camp Hotel. Robert Crooks leased the premises in 1872 and purchased in 1876. (5) His 'store and stable' had a NAV of £86 in 1873 and this rose to £106 in 1874. The description altered to 'Store, Residence and Stable' in 1875 and the net annual value jumped to £120. (6) It was during this period that the well known photograph of the building with its post supported verandah was taken. (7)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact including an early shopfront although the post supported verandah has been removed. The urns on the parapet are not original and were installed in the 1970s. Several outbuildings are still extant.

Analysis

Refer to analyses of 'commercial buildings' and 'brick or stone residences'. The front two sections probably date from 1861 and the third residential section probably accounts for the 1874-75 rise in NAV and change of description. It is also possible that the front section on Camp Street was rebuilt in 1873-74 when Crooks took over the hotel and converted the premises to a general store.

Significance

An unusual commercial building erected in stages during two distinct periods in the development and consolidation of Talbot. The building is distinguished by its clearly defined staged construction, simply detailed elevations and early shopfront. The building forms a key corner element in the significant Camp Street precinct.

- 1 Town Lots, Back Creek, L490, signed John Templeton, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860; cadastral plan.
- 2 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1861, no. 486; summary of title and mortgage documents prepared by Neil Currey.
- 3 *ibid.*, 1862, no.223.
- 4 Talbot Leader, 28 February 1862, p.1.
- 5 Summary of titles and mortgages.
- 6 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1873, no.92; 1874, no.95; 1875, no.98.
- 7 Several photographs are held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

RESIDENCE, Camp Street, corner Heales Street, Talbot

Section D, allotment 7 [and part 6?], Township of Talbot

History

These allotments were marked out in John Templeton's 1859 survey and the corner site was subsequently occupied by a shop and to the west stood the Golden Age Hotel. (1) The present building abutting Heales Street is possibly the residence which stood at the rear of the now demolished corner shop and other parts of the existing building may well relate to the outbuildings of the Golden Age Hotel. If this is not the case then then the buildings may have been relocated on this site.

Integrity

These buildings still retain many early features such as brick chimneys, shingled roofs (under later iron), early joinery and building forms (now somewhat disguised by later additions).

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A collection of nineteenth century structures, now combined into one residence and occupying a prominent corner site in Talbot. These buildings may have a residential function related to earlier commercial buildings on the Camp Street frontage (and now demolished) and so form an integral part of the Camp Street precinct.

1 Town Lots, Back Creek, L490, signed John Templeton, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860; photograph in Shire of Talbot and Clunes collection.

COURT HOUSE HOTEL, Camp Street, Talbot
Section D, allotment , Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was marked out in John Templeton's 1859 survey and a reference in the council minutes indicated a Mr Parry was apparently owner of the Court House Hotel in March 1866. (1) James William Jolly was first listed as occupier of a hotel in Camp Street in 1867 and the name 'Jolley' appears in the window of an early photograph of this hotel. (2) Jolly, a wheelwright and blacksmith, had previously been rated for premises in Camp Street and a cottage in Landsdowne Street. The hotel was first listed in ratebooks in 1867 with a net annual value of £100. (3) The Court House Hotel was not listed in the 1867 directory which provides further evidence for a date of erection around this date. (4) The earliest known photograph of this Hotel shows the eastern section used as a solicitors office. (5) The hotel was 'rebuilt' c.1939 when the western red brick wing was presumably added. (6)

Integrity

This building has been altered in ways similar to many hotels with the addition of glazed tiles on the facade (date unknown but possibly c.1910-30), cement render over brickwork, demolition of part of the parapet and much internal remodelling. The building has also been extended by addition of wings to the east (c.1970s) and west (c.1939). However, the building form, roof, chimneys and fenestration remain intact and the post supported verandah has recently been reconstructed from evidence of early photographs. The rear gable ends are the only major area of original unpainted brickwork.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. A court house had been opposite this site since 1860 but a date of c.1866-67 would coincide with erection of the new court house in 1866.

Significance

A typical small hotel building erected in the years when consolidation of the Talbot economy was occurring. The building has recently been enhanced by reconstruction of a post supported verandah and the building forms a key part of the Camp Street precinct.

- 1 Town Lots, Back Creek, L490, signed John Templeton, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860; Borough of Amherst minutes, 28 March 1866, as summarised by R.J. Pryor.
- 2 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1867, no. 259; photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 3 ibid., 1866, no. 275; 1867, no. 259.
- 4 Stevens and Bartholemew's Sandhurst ... Directory, 1867, p.81.
- 5 Photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 6 Photograph and advertisement in Broadbent's official road guide of Victoria - Western section, c.1939, p.100.

FORMER WESLEYAN CHURCH, Camp Street, corner Landsdowne Street,
Talbot

Section D, allotments 11, 12, Township of Talbot

History

The foundation stone for this church was laid on 22 December 1862 and the church was built by Thomas Taggart for £525. (1) This followed the erection of numerous temporary and less substantial Wesleyan chapels closer to the diggings. The church was opened in April 1863 and by the first anniversary the debt had been reduced from £415 to £250. At this date the committee arranged to have the church fitted with pews as it was anticipated that this could be done without increasing the debt. (2) Land for a parsonage was reserved in Barkly Street (section 1b, allotment 4) in September 1870. (3) The block was located to the east of the Prince Alfred Common School and a substantial residence was erected. It was photographed c.1875 but is now demolished. (4)

Integrity

This church is substantially intact although damage has occurred to the leaded glass windows and doors. Some of the early fittings and pieces of furniture still remain in the building. (5) The church has not been used for many years and is now privately owned.

Analysis

Refer to chapter 9 of the background history for a detailed discussion of non-conformist church architecture. Although this was a Wesleyan Methodist church and close in doctrine to the Primitive Methodist church, these two churches opposite each other in Camp Street demonstrate two widely differing approaches to non-conformist church architecture. This example draws on Gothic elements in contrast to the classically derived Primitive Methodist church at Talbot.

Significance

A characteristic small Wesleyan church, now the earliest surviving church in Talbot. In its vigorous and free use of Gothic elements and internal arrangement this building typifies many nineteenth century non-conformist churches and this example forms a telling counterpart to the classically inspired Primitive Methodist church located opposite. The church forms a key part of the Camp Street precinct, an area of great architectural and historical significance.

- 1 Bryant, Souvenir Booklet of Talbot's Centenary, 1952.
- 2 Wesleyan Chronicle, 4, 28 April 1864, p.79.
- 3 Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, reserve file, Rs 920.
- 4 Photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 5 Two early internal photographs are held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

RESIDENCE, Chapman Street, Talbot

Section A, allotment , Township of Talbot

History

This area was part of the land mined as part of the Scandinavian Lead from 1859 and was not settled until the late 1860s and early (1) Based on a typological analysis this building appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of timber buildings. This residence is distinguished by its decorative timber barge boards, finials and cast iron verandah decoration (perhaps added c.1880-90).

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the period following intensive mining at Talbot. It is one of relatively few early cottages remaining in Talbot and demonstrates the nature of the shallow alluvial diggings where land was reclaimed soon after being worked-out.

1 Cadastral plan.

SOLDIERS MEMORIAL PARK, Heales Street, corner O'Hara Street and
Lansdowne Street, Talbot

Crown reserve (Rs 2722), Section P, Township of Talbot

History

This park was originally set aside as a market reserve. Thomas Couchman, the acting District Surveyor favoured a six and half acre site south of the present Presbyterian Church for the market but the council still pressed for the preferred site in Heales Street. This finally received support from Clement Hodgkinson, Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Survey who recommended the reservation of 2 acres 3 roods 16 perches on 29 April 1862. (1) On 30 November 1866 the council moved that suitable buildings and yards be erected on the market reserve as soon as possible to enable the conduct of a weekly market of animals and produce, although these plans were shelved in June 1868. Construction of the Fire Brigade Engine House (q.v.) in 1873 encroached on the site and a year later the council gave A. Campbell permission to erect a blacksmith's shop on the market reserve. In 1881 the council decided to install a pitched drain through the reserve along the watercourse which led from Ballaarat Street to Back Creek. (2)

After the cessation of hostilities in the First World War, the idea of converting the old market reserve into a memorial park with an avenue of honour was raised. A local committee was formed and at a public meeting on 7 May 1919, the idea was adopted.

It is expected that the cost of the planting of each tree will be about 10s 6d, and if you are desirous of donating a tree in memory of a soldier, or of joining with others in doing so, donations will be thankfully received by any of the officers. As time is limited for planting, we would be obliged by a reply for our next meeting on 4th June. (3)

A.R. Outtrim M.P. officiated at the opening in mid 1919 and by April 1920 the Crown Lands and Survey Officer commented '[the site] has recently been enclosed with a substantial fence and avenues of trees planted ... with ornamental trees at a cost of £130 as a memorial to soldiers of the district'. The market reservation was revoked by the state government on 13 July 1920 and the site re-reserved as a 'public park' in 1923. Regulations were gazetted in May 1924 which prohibited unauthorised musical performances, public betting, sport, lighting fires and spitting amongst other strictures. At this time the secretary of the committee of management wrote to the Secretary for Lands. 'There are no buildings at present on the reserve but it has been suggested that a small kiosk or summer house might be constructed some day when funds are available.' However, this wish did not apparently come to fruition. (4)

Integrity

This park comprises two distinct sections. The first, a small enclosure on Heales Street, is used as a picnic area and has concrete seats and tables. The second and far larger component comprises gently sloping ground with paved watercourse (presumably the one installed in 1881) and a fine collection of trees.

Analysis

This park is one manifestation of the numerous forms of soldiers' memorials which appeared in Australia following participation in the Boer War (1899-1902), First World War (1914-18) and Second World War (1939-45). Avenues of honour or memorials were the main responses and the idea of a park as a memorial was not commonly adopted. However, in common with avenues of honour the park uses trees as a symbol of new life and growth. The park also forms an appropriately landscaped buffer between Camp Street/Heales Street and more recent development in Landsdowne Street.

Significance

A landscaped park which in its choice of species, mature growth and location complements the nineteenth century character of the Talbot main historic precincts. The park is a significant example of a war memorial, one of relatively few in Victoria to adopt the idea of a commemorative park.

- 1 Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, file Rs 2722.
- 2 Borough of Amherst minutes, as summarised by Ron Pryor, 30 November 1866, 21 June 1868, 26 March 1873, 12 August 1874, 2 February 1881.
- 3 Pamphlet held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes dated 24 May 1919.
- 4 All further references from Rs 2722.

FIRE BRIGADE ENGINE HOUSE, Heales Street, Talbot

Section D, Allotment , Township of Talbot

History

In May 1861 a public meeting was called in Talbot for the purpose of forming a fire brigade. This was to be the start of many years of instability in local fire protection. Several temporary buildings were used for an engine house although it was not until 1873 that the present permanent building was erected. On 22 January 1873 tenders for the engine house were referred to a committee by the Borough of Amherst. James Woolcock's tender of £98 10s was accepted and by 26 March 1873 the Borough Surveyor could report that the buildings had been completed. (1)

Integrity

The present building is substantially intact although the original double doors have been replaced by a large single door, the brick pediment and central pier demolished and face brickwork on the facade painted. The building is still used for its original purpose.

Analysis

This building may have been modelled on the station at Maryborough (erected 1861). (2) That building had a double gable roof and paired doors with each gable end pierced by a circular vent or window. The Talbot building is a single gable version of the Maryborough building although since the installation of a new door, the circular vent at Talbot is now only visible in early photographs. (3)

Significance

An early fire brigade engine house erected during a period of consolidation in the economy at Talbot. The building provides a tangible reminder of the ravages of fire in Talbot both in urban areas and more recently through bushfires. The building's significance is enhanced by the continuity of its original function. The building forms a vital link between Camp Street and Ballarat Street, both areas of high architectural and historical significance.

- 1 Borough of Amherst minutes, as summarised by Ron Pryor. There are approximately forty references to the fire brigade in the period 1861-73 and those of reference to the present building are 13 March 1872, 12 January 1873, 22 January 1873 and 26 March 1873.
- 2 Osborn and Du Borg, Maryborough, 1985, pp.108-110, includes an illustration of the Maryborough station and gives the date as 1861.
- 3 Early photograph held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

FORMER POLICE QUARTERS, LOCK-UP AND STABLES, Heales Street, Talbot

Section E, Township of Talbot

History

The site for a police camp at the rush to Scandinavian Lead was surveyed in 1859 and the first permanent police station on the site was erected for £712 17s. (1) This building is no longer extant although the present bluestone lock-up was erected by Melbourne contractor G. D. Langridge & Co. during 1863, their tender of £748 9s having been accepted on 25 February. (2) The newspaper was 'happy to inform our readers' of the lock-up in February and described the plans for the building as having 'neat and solid appearance'. (3) The present brick building was erected during 1865 as 'Police Quarters'. The contractor was R. Linay and the building cost £666 10s. (4) The site was fenced in 1867 as part of the erection of the adjacent Sub Treasury (q.v.) at a cost of £36. (5) The existing two stall brick stable was erected in 1872 although as built the door faced east (rather than west as shown on the Public Works Department working drawings). The stable was erected by local contractor W. Phelan for £151. (6) Extensive timber additions for the police quarters were designed in December 1891 and this included kitchen, store, bathroom and office. The inclusion of an office may indicate that the building erected in 1859 was only demolished at this late date. The additions were erected by Fred Wrigley (?) and the contract was signed on 4 February 1892. (7)

Integrity

This building contains the lock-up (1863), quarters (1865, 1892) and stables (1872). All buildings are remarkably intact although the fencing of 1867 (shown in an early photograph) has been replaced. (8) The police quarters were recently (1986) repainted in the earliest colour scheme able to be determined from physical evidence.

Analysis

These police buildings are typical of the standards of design and construction promoted by the Public Works Department during the nineteenth century. The buildings were constructed with a higher degree of skill and detail than most local commercial buildings of the 1860s. The contrast between materials, brick for the quarters and stables and basalt for the lock-up, provides a complementary display of nineteenth century building techniques. The basalt of the lock-up may have been used as much for the perceived 'solidity' of the resulting building as for its inherent structural capacity.

Significance

A complementary range of police buildings which span the period in Talbot after intensive mining to a consolidation of the town's economy in the early 1870s. All buildings are extremely intact examples of their kind with the stables representing one of relatively few such surviving examples. This complex forms a key element in a block of government buildings which is amongst the most intact of such collections in Australia.

- 1 Town lots, Back Creek, L.490, surveyed by John Templeton, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860; VPRS 957, unit 3, p.51.
- 2 VPRS 979, unit 6, p.11.
- 3 North Western Chronicle, 17 February 1863.
- 4 VPRS 972, unit 3, p.433.
- 5 VPRS 957, unit 3, p.651; PWD drawing PRO/PBT 1.2, 1.3.
- 6 *ibid.*, loc.cit; PWD drawing PRO/PST 1.2
- 7 PWD drawing PRO/PST 1.1
- 8 Photograph held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

FORMER SUB-TREASURY, Heales Street, Talbot
Section E, allotment 12B, Township of Talbot

History

This building was sited on the 'Police Camp' marked out by surveyor John Templeton in 1859. The sub-treasury was erected in 1866 by contractor Halprin at a cost of £995 15s. A year later the site was fenced and a tank erected at the rear of the site by the same contractor for £177 10s. (1) The sub-treasury function transferred to the nearby Post Office with the decline of Talbot as a mining centre and the building was suggested as a teachers residence for the Education Department. (2) It is unknown whether this use eventuated but the premises were vacated in May 1910 following a period of rental of 4/- per week. (3) The site was excised from the government reserve and the sub-treasury building sold on 20 December 1910 for use as a Masonic Lodge. The site was valued at £20 with improvements of £100 and the Masonic Lodge purchased for the upset price. (4) The Masonic Lodge moved to the former Court House of 1866 (q.v.) about c.1938 and today the former sub-treasury is used as a private residence.

Integrity

This building is remarkably intact and even retains early cast iron guttering and downpipes. The building has a raised glazed turret (of unknown date) over one room and it is not known what function this performed, although it was possibly a skylight for the masonic use of the building.

Analysis

This buildings is typical of the standards of design and construction promoted by the Public Works Department during the nineteenth century. The building was constructed with a higher degree of skill and detail than most local commercial buildings of the 1860s and this is particularly evident in the detailing over the original door to the office and the sophisticated patterned brickwork (a rare feature amongst local buildings).

Significance

A large sub-treasury building erected during a period of consolidation in Talbot. It is one of few treasury buildings remaining in Victoria and is distinguished by its intactness and fine detailed brickwork. This building forms a key element in a block of government buildings which is amongst the most intact of such collections in Australia.

- 1 Town lots, Back Creek, L.490, surveyed by John Templeton, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860; VPRS 972, vol. 1, p.44; 2 sheets of drawings held by PRO, (PRO/PBT 1.2 and 1.3)
- 2 This transfer of the sub-treasury function certainly occurred by c.1902 - see early view of Post Office with Boer War memorial.
- 3 VPRS 967, unit 43.
- 4 Sale notice contained in VPRS 967, unit 43.

FORMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Heales Street, corner Burke Street,
Talbot and FORMER PRESBYTERIAN MANSE, Bond Street, Talbot

Section E, Township of Talbot (church); Section K, Allotment 6,
Township of Talbot (manse)

History

The previous Presbyterian church in Talbot (on another site) was apparently pulled down in early December 1862 to assist in containing a large fire. A deputation from the church pressed the council for compensation of £100 but failed, even after taking the matter to the County Court. However the Amherst Borough council donated £50 in February 1864 to assist with rebuilding and the church opened for worship in May 1865. (1) The new site in Heales Street had been gazetted on 2 September 1864 in lieu of the 1862 site. The manse was erected c.1864-68 in Bond Street although the construction of the railway in the 1870s curtailed the size of the allotment and also disguised the closelink between church and manse. (2) The interior of the church was redecorated by Wallis, decorator of Maryborough in January 1928 at a cost of £40. This included a simple three part scheme for the walls and a scroll with the words 'Praise waits for thee O God in Zion' over the pulpit. (2) A picket fence formerly enclosed the church site. (3)

Integrity

Both church and manse are substantially intact although the interior of the church is now divided by a modern screen and the verandah of the manse has been modernised (c.1920-40).

Analysis

Refer to chapter 9 of the background history for a detailed discussion of church architecture. This is a simple design which uses Gothic elements in free manner rather than an archaeologically correct revival of a medieval church.

Significance

A simple Presbyterian church and manse erected during a period of consolidation in Talbot. Both buildings draw freely Gothic elements in a manner which aids an understanding of beliefs of the original congregation. The manse is a fine example of a picturesque residence, one of free such essays locally. Both buildings are located within clusters of nineteenth century buildings and contribute greatly to those respective areas. The church is also a landmark from the bypass road and one of few elements to distinguish Talbot as a fine early gold town to the passing motorist.

- 1 Borough of Amherst minutes, 3 December, 10 December, 17 December 1862; 14 January, 11 March, 18 March 1863; 21 February 1864; as summarised by R.J. Pryor; Christian Review and Messenger of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, II, 18 June 1866, p.13: details of first anniversary held 20 May 1866.
- 2 Christian Review and Messenger of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, IV, 42, June 1868, p.9: 'During the last four years the congregation has erected both a church and a manse ...' ; an early photograph of the manse is held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 3 Information and photographs from Miss E. Wallis, Talbot.
- 4 Two early photographs held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND, Landsdowne Street, corner O'Hara Street, Talbot and FORMER CHURCH OF ENGLAND VICARAGE, Brougham Street, corner Russell Street, Talbot

Section B, allotments 35, 36, Township of Talbot (church)
Section 26, allotments 1, 2, Township of Talbot (vicarage)

History

Fundraising for a Church of England at Talbot was commenced in September 1860 with formation of a committee and plans for a bazaar. (1) Meanwhile the congregation worshiped in Staveley's store. (2) A site for the Church of England was reserved in Argyle Street (the old main road through Talbot) in 1863 (section 24A, allotment 6) and a chapel was presumably erected on that site. (3) The vicarage on Talbot Flat was erected in the early 1860s and almost certainly by 1866. (4) The residence was first listed in the 1875 ratebook with a net annual value of £50 described as 'Parsonage, Amherst Road' and occupied by the Rev Louis Alexander Baker. (5) It was not rated earlier as council did not rate church property before this date. The foundation stone for the present St Michael's church was laid in September 1870 and the church opened for divine service on Trinity Sunday in June 1871. On both occasions the Archdeacon of Castlemaine and Sandhurst officiated. (6)

Integrity

This church is still regularly used and remains in good repair. The nave of the church was the only section completed and a small timber vestry was attached to the rear wall, where a chancel was to be erected. A steeple was likewise intended at the front of the church. The early weatherboard profile of the vestry indicates that this necessary adjunct was probably built with or shortly after the main building. Internally, the pews are still intact, including a rare example of 'free' pews in the form of a sloped set of stages. An adjacent Sunday school hall has been demolished. The vicarage is now a private residence but remains substantially intact. A new enclosed verandah has been erected along the west elevation and several minor alterations have been made to doorways internally. The picket fence shown in an early photograph has since been removed. (7)

Analysis

Refer to chapter 9 of the background history for a detailed discussion of church architecture. This is a simple building with its design aligned to the evangelical wing of the Church of England. It uses Gothic elements in a free manner rather than in an attempt to emulate a correct revival of a medieval style. Only in its setting on the hilltop surrounded by mature English trees does it resemble a medieval English parish church.

Significance

A simple Church of England and vicarage erected during a period of consolidation in Talbot. Both buildings perform a vital role in the town; due to its elevated site the church provides an evocative lure to the motorist on the Talbot bypass and the vicarage is now amongst the most conspicuous buildings on Talbot Flat. In its incomplete state the church also informs the viewer of the grand aspirations of Talbot prior to cessation of mining.

- 1 North western chronicle, 15 November 1860)
- 2 Bryant (ed), Souvenir booklet of Talbot's centenary, 1952.
- 3 Cadastral plan; VGG, 1863, p.1648.
- 4 Church of England Messenger, 8 September 1870, p.9, 'a substantial parsonage' having been erected 'in the last ten years'; Borough of Amherst minutes of 22 August 1866 refer to a petition seeking a passable road from Pasonage to 'Crespigny's Paddock' and this presumably refers to this building.
- 5 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1875, no.29.
- 6 Church of England Messenger, 8 September 1870, p.9; 16 June 1871, p.8; early photograph held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 7 Photograph held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

RESIDENCE, Oxford Street, Talbot

Section M, allotment , Township of Talbot

History

The allotment was surveyed as part of John Templeton's initial township survey of Back Creek in 1859. (1) This area was primarily a commercial precinct although in the years following the rush, residential buildings began to predominate. (1) Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-1910.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although it has been extended at the side and rear in recent years.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in the period following cessation of intensive mining at Talbot. This residence is part of a small cluster of nineteenth century buildings south of the railway line in Talbot. It now forms a crucial reminder of the alignment of Oxford Street, one of the earliest and most prominent commercial areas of the 1859 Scandinavian rush.

1 Town Lots, Back Creek, L.490, John Templeton, Assistant Surveyor, December 20th 1859, lithographed at the Crown Lands Office, Melbourne, 28 March 1860.

BACK CREEK NATIONAL SCHOOL SITE, Peel Street, Talbot

Section 7, Allotment 10, Township of Talbot

History

This school was located on land originally included in Hugh Fraser's 1855 survey of Back Creek and on a plan of that date the Golden Age Hotel is shown in this vicinity. (1) Head teacher Charles P. Lawson was appointed on 15 November 1858 and the first report by Inspector Henry Venables of 26 February 1859 referred to a slab building with shingle roof, 40 x 20 feet and accommodating 90 scholars. (2) A second room 20 x 14 had been added by August 1859 to cope with the increase due to the Scandinavian Rush. (3) However, with the construction of a new school (Prince Alfred State School) and a decreasing population the school closed on 12 August 1871. (4)

Intactness

Only the remnants of a fireplace are left on this site, although archaeological investigation may reveal other relics. The stone chimney is believed to be the remnant of the head teachers residence. (5)

Analysis

This site is located on part of 1855 survey and was included as part of the government block in the 1860 survey of Back Creek Flat. Although this chimney is only remaining physical evidence above ground, careful archaeological investigation may reveal further evidence.

Significance

This is probably the earliest surviving built structure in Talbot. It provides physical evidence of the early government survey prior to the rush to Scandinavian Lead and therefore critical to the understanding of movement of population and facilities on the goldfield.

- 1 Suburban and country lands at Daisy Hill, 6 October 1855.
- 2 VPRS 881, unit 2; VPRS 1406, unit 4, roll no. 76.
- 3 VPRS 1406, unit 4, roll no. 268; a copy of an early photograph of the school is held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 4 Blake (ed.), Vision and Realisation, vol. 2, 1973, p.666.
- 5 R.J. Pryor, 'Brief Notes on Historic and Principal Sites, Talbot', site no. 40.

CHANGED TO

LOT 1 / TP383312 .

8 PRINCE ALFRED ST
TALBOT .

'BOLTIES BRIDGE', Peel Street, Talbot

Township of Talbot

History

The alignment of Peel Street forms one of the earliest roads in Talbot. It was surveyed as part of the 1855 survey of the Daisy Hill area and although the township portion of this survey was later cancelled the road was well formed and included in the 1860 survey of Back Creek Flat. (1) The road formed a direct link between Ballarat and Amherst and it was only later in the nineteenth century, after the consolidation of settlement on the present site of Talbot, that this was superseded as the main thoroughfare. A bridge on the 'Ballarat and Amherst Road' was in process of erection at the end of 1860 when parliamentary papers recorded that £525 5s 6d had been allocated for a stone and timber bridge over Back Creek with a 24 foot span and 22 foot roadway.

Integrity

This bridge was damaged in the 1985 bushfires and now only the basalt abutments remain.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'early public works'. These abutments are presumed to relate to the 1860 reference as they are very similar in design to contemporary bridge works elsewhere in the district.

Significance

These abutments are some of the earliest public works in Talbot and now form a critical early component of Talbot Flat. They assist in visualising the main transport route from Ballarat in the period prior to settlement on the present site of Talbot.

- 1 Suburban and country lands at Daisy Hill, 6 October 1855; Town lots, Back Creek, 12 April 1860.
- 2 VPP, 1860-61, II, paper ordered to be printed 10 January 1861.

FORMER EDWARDS' SHOP AND RESIDENCE, Prince Alfred Street, Talbot
Section 1A, Allotment 2?, Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was located on the Scandinavian Lead and therefore not surveyed until 1861 when mining in this locality was exhausted. (1) In 1864 James Benjamin Edwards was rated for a shop in Amherst as well as a shop at allotment 3, section 15A in Talbot, although this locality cannot be located on cadastral plans (perhaps an error by the rate collector?). In 1865 Edwards was rated for a cottage (net annual value 12) on allotment 2, section 11A (perhaps an error for 1A). By the following year, the description changed to 'shop, Chapman Street' and this shop is probably part of the present building. (2) The net annual value rose in 1869-70 from £10 to £25 and this may indicate construction of a section of the present building. (3) The net annual value again rose in 1871-72 from £26 to £30. (4) Edwards claimed to have established his business in the district in November 1858 and to have been the 'First and only watchmaker on Forest Creek in 1852'. He later advertised as 'watch, clock and chronometer maker, optician, goldsmith, jeweller, etc'. (5) By 1880 he was conducting business from Fraser Street, Clunes and Miss E.L. Edwards had commenced business in Chapman Street, presumably from these premises. Miss Edwards advertised 'All kinds of hats and bonnets cleaned, dyed and altered'. (6)

Integrity

The building form of this building is substantially conforms to its appearance c.1870 (when Prince Alfred Street was photographed). (6) However, joinery has been altered, parapet hoardings removed and the shop enlarged slightly.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This is a rare surviving example in the local context of a small shop attached to a larger residence in the tradition of bootmakers, watchmakers and other craft based vocations. A slightly larger stylistic example would be the shop and residence at 62 Talbot Road, Clunes.

Significance

A small shop and residence, now the only local example of a small former shop of a craft based artisan attached to a larger residence. It assists in an understanding of the nature of shallow alluvial diggings where land was reclaimed soon after being worked-out. The residence forms part of a critical vista from the Ballaarat Street/Scandinavian Crescent precinct.

- 1 Township of Talbot on the Back Creek, December 1861, lithographed 17 March 1864.
- 2 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1864, no.17; 1865, no.16; 1866, no.156.
- 3 *ibid.*, 1869, no.152; 1870, no.139
- 4 *ibid.*, 1871, no.138; 1872, no.140.
- 5 Advertising leaflet, undated (after 1881), held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 6 Talbot Leader, 30 April 1880, 23 March 1880.
- 7 Photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

RESIDENCE, Prince Alfred Street, Talbot

Section 1A, allotment , Township of Talbot

History

This area was part of the land mined as part of the Scandinavian Lead from 1859 and was not settled until the late 1860s and early 1870s. (1) Based on a typological analysis this building appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the original windows have been replaced with new horizontal openings and the verandah posts have been replaced by thin tubular metal columns.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of timber buildings.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the period following intensive mining at Talbot. It is one of relatively few early cottages remaining in Talbot and demonstrates the nature of the shallow alluvial diggings where land was reclaimed soon after being worked-out. The residence forms part of a critical vista from the Ballarat Street/Scandinavian Crescent precinct.

- 1 Cadastral plan.

RESIDENCE, Prince Alfred Street, Talbot

Section 1A, allotment 16, Township of Talbot

History

This area was part of the land mined as part of the Scandinavian Lead from 1859 and was not settled until the late 1860s and early 1870s. This allotment was purchased from the Crown on 14 April 1871 by W. Phelan. (1) Phelan was a well known local builder and timber merchant and purchased much land in this vicinity. Based on a typological analysis this building appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90 and extended by the addition of a gabled wing in the same period.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although a new brick chimney has been erected on the north wall.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of timber buildings.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the period following intensive mining at Talbot. It is one of relatively few early cottages remaining in Talbot and demonstrates the nature of the shallow alluvial diggings where land was reclaimed soon after being worked-out. The residence forms part of a critical vista from the Ballarat Street/Scandinavian Crescent precinct.

1 Cadastral plan.

TALBOT RAILWAY STATION and RAILWAY RESIDENCES, Railway Street, Talbot
Township of Talbot

History

The contract for this station (No.647) was dated 27 November 1874 and the builder was local contractor Isaac Meadows. (1) The section of line between Clunes and Maryborough was opened for traffic in 1875 and the station has been in continuous use since then. A goods shed was also provided and a report in 1881 referred to 'the new crane', possibly the existing crane. (2) The early goods shed was a large structure similar to that at Clunes (demolished 1987) and permitted railway waggons to be loaded and unloaded under cover. However, at some stage after 1929 this was replaced by a smaller shed. (3) Two railway residences were also constructed in Railway Street, south of the station, and based on a typological and stylistic analysis these appear to have been erected during the period c.1910-30.

Integrity

This station is substantially intact although the original entry verandah has been replaced, a new booking window installed, picket fencing removed and the station residence partially converted into a waiting room. However the lamp room, goods shed crane and railway residences remain intact.

Analysis

Ward has grouped this station in the 'Creswick sub-group'. This group was used extensively on certain lines, rather than being scattered around the state, and this has created a significant network of buildings on this line. Those stations on the Ballarat to Maryborough line to adopt this style were Creswick, Clunes and Talbot. For a more detailed discussion, Ward's study should be consulted (vol. 2, pp.69-85). The detached residences form a complement to the station and help define the railway precinct.

Significance

A typical railway station building of the 1870s with many surviving components which combine to form a distinct precinct. The building's significance is principally derived from its fine polychrome brickwork and general high level of intactness. The building and its related facilities form a critical component in Talbot by defining the eastern edge of the built-up area and thus form a highly visible element when viewing Talbot from the east.

- 1 Ward, A., 'Victorian Railway Stations', 1982, II, p.84.
- 2 Talbot Leader, 26 August 1881 reporting a tour by the Minister of Railways.
- 3 Photograph dated 1929 in ARHS Bulletin, 448, February 1975, p.49.

ORNAMENTAL PLANTATION RESERVE, Railway street corner Grey Street,
Talbot

Crown reserve Rs 4085, Township of Talbot

History

The Borough of Talbot wrote to the Minister of Lands and Survey in May 1883 seeking a grant of land for a reserve claiming to be 'desirous of fencing it in and planting it'. (1) The report of the Department was compiled by the local policeman and described the said land as an 'eyesore' and recommending the council's application. Thus the site of almost an acre was temporarily reserved as a 'site for ornamental plantation' in November 1883. For plants to survive in the hot Talbot summer frequent maintenance was vital and from the tone of the departmental file one suspects that the necessary work was not undertaken. In 1931 (the next note on the file) the Shire of Talbot informed the department that

within then last 12 months the council has cleared the block of all trees and eradicated noxious weeds. It is hoped in the near future to plant trees on the land and beautify that corner of the township.

The Shire was then gazetted as a committee of management in May 1931 and the reserve slightly enlarged by a reduction in width of Railway Street in 1935.

Integrity

This land was burnt in the 1985 bushfire and has been fenced. Few trees remain on the site.

Analysis

Most towns on the goldfields had public gardens which were an object of pride for the community. Often these gardens were only fully developed after mining has quietened yet at Talbot no such garden seems to have been maintained. This may have been due to the proximity of surrounding bush, the presence of private nurseries and orchards which contained 'pleasure gardens' or simply a lack of will on the part of the council.

Significance

An under-utilised ornamental plantation reserve which assists in an understanding of the aspirations of nineteenth century residents in Talbot for planting in a generally bare town.

1 All references from Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands reserve file Rs 4085.

FORMER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Regent Street, Talbot

Section L2, allotment 1A, Township of Talbot

History

The Roman Catholic Vicar General applied for a grant of land at Talbot in May 1864 and the present 1 acre site was temporarily reserved in September 1864. (1) The secretary of the local church wrote in September 1865 requesting possession of the land 'until the end of the present year by which time we hope to commence the erection of a new church building upon the reserve'. Permission was granted and in 1869, when applying for permanent status for the reservation, the Vicar General wrote that the site was occupied by a timber chapel which cost £560. The foundation stone of the present church was laid by Bishop Goold on 26 September 1869 as he recorded in his diary

Administered confirmation at Talbot. Mass in tent. About 500 persons present. After Mass blessed the corner stone and blessed the foundations of the new church. Father I. Moore, S.J. preached. Collection amounted to £100. (2)

Half an acre was also reserved west of the chapel for a minister's dwelling in October 1869. The present church was apparently opened in June 1874 (3) and the site was enclosed with a picket fence in 1885 (by W. Phelan, cost £28 12s). (4) The church and land was disposed in 1914 and proceeds were given to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ballarat for use elsewhere in the diocese. (5)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact externally although in conversion to a residence (c.1976-84) dormer windows were placed in the slate roof and a new single storey building erected adjacent to the rear of the church. The interior has been altered for residential purposes.

Analysis

Refer to chapter 9 of the background history for a detailed discussion of Gothic revival church architecture. This is an accomplished design which unlike the non-conformist churches in Talbot has been based on an ecclesiological and archaeologically consistent revival of medieval precedents. This is particularly demonstrated by the use of subsidiary masses (such as porches, the clearly delineated chancel and the unfinished tower), the use of local stone (a characteristic of medieval churches promoted by Pugin) and the use of triple lancet windows (symbolic of the Trinity).

Significance

A superbly detailed Roman Catholic church erected during a period of consolidation at Talbot. In its adoption of ecclesiological Gothic Revival it provides a contrast to the remaining churches in Talbot in a manner consistent with the different doctrines of the various denominations. The unfinished nature of the tower also informs the viewer of the collapse of the local economy due to cessation of intensive mining.

- 1 Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands reserve file Rs 230. All further references are from this source unless indicated otherwise.
- 2 W. Ebsworth, Pioneer Catholic Victoria, Melbourne, 1973, quoted in Osborn and Du Borg, Maryborough, p.144
- 3 Bryant (ed), Souvenir booklet of Talbot's centenary, 1952.
- 4 Talbot Leader, 30 October, 10 November 1885.
- 5 Rs 230.

PRINCE ALFRED STATE SCHOOL No.954 and FORMER COMMON SCHOOL,
Rowe Street, Talbot

Section 2b, Allotment 12, Township of Talbot

History

The former Common School which stands at the rear of the present school was opened on 1 June 1869. (1) This school was operated under the Common Schools Act 1862 which replaced the old dual system of National and Denominational Schools. Increasing enrolments at Talbot necessitated a larger school and in 1875 the building facing Prince Alfred Street was erected. This building was designed by Henry Robert Bastow, who had been appointed as architect to the Education Department in the shakeup following the implementation of the Education Act 1872. Contractors were Llewellyn and Edwards and the total cost was £1,858. (2) The old Common School building was modified in 1908 when amongst other alterations the original windows were replaced by the present hopper style fenestration. (3) Early photographs of the school show the site surrounded with a timber picket fence. (4)

Integrity

Both school buildings are substantially intact although the former common school has had its windows altered and some openings blocked. The timber picket fence has also been replaced.

Analysis

Refer to chapter 9 of the background history for a detailed discussion of education and school building.

Significance

Two early school buildings, both erected during a period of consolidation at Talbot. The combination demonstrates two different periods of educational administration and the former common school is now one of few surviving school buildings from this period. The school forms a major contribution to the urban form of Talbot and closes a particularly significant vista from Scandinavian Crescent/Ballaarat Street.

- 1 R. McRobinson (compiler), A pictorial history of Talbot, 1982, p.20; Blake (ed), Vision and Realisation, vol. 2, p.714.
- 2 McRobinson, loc. cit.; Burchell, Victorian Schools, 1980, p.92; early photograph located in VPRS 1396, unit 4.
- 3 McRobinson, loc. cit.

FORMER TALBOT LEADER OFFICE, Scandinavian Crescent. Talbot Section G, allotment 12 [or 13?], Township of Talbot

History

The North Western Chronicle and Back Creek, Lamplough and Amherst Advertiser commenced publication in September 1860 by printers Nutall and Gearing. (1) The newspaper changed its name to the Talbot Leader after the visit of the Governor, Sir Henry Barkly on 19 October 1861 and the change commemorated the fact that the inferior sounding 'Back Creek' was no longer the favoured name for Talbot. By December 1860 the newspaper was published by Bateman, Clark and Co from an office in Scandinavian Crescent located on allotment 12. This allotment had been surveyed as part of John Templeton's survey in 1859 following the rush to Scandinavian Lead. (2) This building varied in net annual value and it is difficult to determine when the present building was erected. (3) It was pictured in its present form around the turn of the century and based on a typological analysis appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-75. The building was apparently badly damaged by fire at an early date. (4)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact and retains an early shopfront, brick pilasters and building and roof form. However the brick facade has been painted and the parapet removed. The post supported verandah shown in early photographs has also been removed. The brickwork on the side walls shows two distinct styles and probably indicates that part of the building burnt out and rebuilt.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This building is distinguished by its early shopfront and distinctive brick pilasters which modulate the facade.

Significance

A characteristic small commercial building erected during a period of consolidation in the Talbot. The building is distinguished by its early shopfront and distinctive brick pilasters. The building forms a tangible physical reminder of the town's newspaper, a journal which has been instrumental in aiding our present knowledge of Talbot's history. The building is a critical component of the significant Scandinavian Crescent precinct.

- 1 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 14 September 1860, p.3.
- 2 Town lots Back Creek, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.
- 3 Borough of Amherst ratebooks, various dates.
- 4 An early photograph in McRobinson (comp), A pictorial history of Talbot, 1982, p.15 shows the Talbot Leader building with a different facade and this section may have been replaced by the present facade with the rear section remaining the same. H.S. Whitelaw, in a geological memoir, lamented the loss of early newspapers due to a fire.

RESIDENCE, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot

Section G, allotment 14?, Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's survey in 1859 following the rush to Scandinavian Lead and was developed for a variety of commercial uses. (1) Based on a typological analysis the present residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1915-30.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the verandah columns may have been replaced. In particular the brick and cement render wall remains in its original unpainted state.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'. This is one of few local residences to show the influence of the Californian Bungalow.

Significance

A characteristic residence of the period c.1915-30 demonstrating a style of architecture rare in the local context. The building closes a critical vista up Camp Street and is located in a precinct of great architectural and historical significance. In its siting on the street frontage the residence continues a pattern established in the period when the site was part of a bustling commercial area.

1 Town lots Back Creek, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.

FORMER 'LONDON HOUSE', Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot

Section G, allotment 16 [or 17?], Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's survey in 1859 following the rush to Scandinavian Lead. (1) By 1860 well known merchants Harbottle, Porch and Pudney had opened their 'London House' consisting of a general drapery, ready-made clothing, Manchester and Scotch departments with a large millinery show room. At this date branch establishments were located at Inglewood, Sandy Creek, Lamplough, Smythe's Creek and Kingower. (2) The premises were subsequently purchased by George Noblet and offered for sale by Mrs Noblet in June 1881. (3) Prior to this William Henry Henderson had run the premises and it was during this period that the well known view of 'London House' was taken. (4) The original shop was burnt on 17 January 1883 and William Phelan erected new premises for Henderson shortly after. (5) These premises still retained the 'London House' title. The rate book entry for 1883 has a note 'building not finished' confirming the rebuilding. (6) The present configuration was shown in a c.1903 photograph. (7)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact although the verandah was removed in 1985. The shop still retains an early shopfront and timber parapet. The timber hoarding from the verandah is in storage adjacent to the Talbot museum.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This building is distinguished by its early shopfront, timber parapet and building and roof form.

Significance

A characteristic single storey shop rebuilt after fire damage to an earlier building. The building is distinguished by its early shopfront, timber parapet and general building form. The building is a critical component of the significant Scandinavian Crescent precinct.

- 1 Town lots Back Creek, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.
- 2 North western chronicle, 13 December 1860, p.3.
- 3 Talbot Leader, 10 June 1881.
- 4 Photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 5 Borough of Talbot minutes, 31 January 1883, as summarised by R.J. Pryor.
- 6 Borough of Talbot ratebook, 1883, no.168a.
- 7 Photograph held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

FORMER COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot

Section G, Allotment 18, Township of Talbot

History

'Wrigley's Hotel' was shown on this allotment on Templeton's 1859 survey of Back Creek and in 1860 the Commercial Hotel had a net annual value of £180. (1) An advertisement in the North Western Chronicle of October 1861 announced the rebuilding of the hotel and a ball to mark the reopening of the new building was held on 12 December 1861. (2) The upgrading is demonstrated by the ratebooks as the net annual value jumped from £150 to £350 in 1861-62. (3) Thomas Dale Wrigley was listed as owner and publican in ratebooks until 1871 when Patrick Lyons took over the license. (4) The well known c.1875 photograph showed the building, substantially as erected in 1861. (5) When the premises were sold in 1887 they were described as 'old established and extensive ... [comprising] 26 rooms with extensive stabling, buggy houses ... etc'. The stables (now demolished) were located on allotment 47 and 48 in Fyfe Street at the rear of the hotel. (6)

Integrity

This building complex retains many intact components although the verandah has been demolished and several fires have lowered the general integrity of the front section. The central portion has been demolished although the side wall survives and the early roofline can clearly be seen on the rear wall of the front building.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This building is distinguished by its general building form and massive bulk which makes this former hotel such a landmark in Talbot. The building form is highly unusual for a hotel with the front double storey section matched at the rear by a large section previously forming hotel accommodation.

Significance

A characteristic double storey hotel erected in the period immediately following intensive mining on the Scandinavian Lead. It is one of the earliest surviving commercial buildings in Talbot. Due to its size the building is a conspicuous landmark in the town and it forms a critical component of the significant Scandinavian Crescent precinct.

- 1 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1860, no.243.
- 2 North Western Chronicle, 19 October 1861, p.1; 10 December 1861.
- 3 *ibid.*, 1861, no.341; 1862, no.254.
- 4 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1871, no.575.
- 5 Photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 6 Title documents held by owners.

RESIDENCE, Scandinavian Crescent, corner Star Street, Talbot
Section G, allotment 33 [or 34?], Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's survey in 1859 following the rush to Scandinavian Lead. (1) The area was primarily a commercial precinct although in the years following the rush, residential buildings began to become more common. Based on a typological analysis this residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1870-90.

Integrity

This residence is substantially intact although the front windows and door have been replaced and the verandah partially infilled.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected in the period following intensive mining at Talbot. It is one of relatively few early cottages remaining in Talbot and is one of few surviving nineteenth century buildings in this section of Scandinavian Crescent.

1 Town lots Back Creek, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.

FORMER BURDESS SHOP, Scandinavian Crescent, corner Ballaarat Street, Talbot

Section C, allotments 11 and 11A, Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's survey in 1859 following the rush to Scandinavian Lead. (1) Allotment 11 was purchased from the Crown by Joseph Burdess. (2) In 1861 shops were located on each of these allotments but by 1862 Burdess was rated for a shop on the corner of Scandinavian Crescent and Ballaarat Street. The premises had a net annual value of £70 and this decreased slowly over the next ten years. (3) A very early photograph of the shop shows a shop of the same configuration as the present building with a hoarding above the verandah with 'J. Burdess Bootmaker'. This same configuration was also shown in photographs as late as c.1922. (4)

Integrity

The building and roof form of this shop is substantially intact although the windows have been replaced and new weatherboards now slightly disguise the demarcation between shop and residence, as does the removal of the original timber hoarding. The building has also been extended at the sides and rear. A post supported verandah has recently been reconstructed (1987) based on the early detail although it extends the full length of the residence (rather than just over the central shop section as originally).

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This building is distinguished by its early building and roof form. The reconstruction of the verandah has considerably enhanced the significance of this building.

Significance

A characteristic early single storey shop erected immediately after a period of intensive mining at Talbot. The building is a prominent corner element and serves to link the significant Scandinavian Crescent and Ballaarat Street precincts. The significance is enhanced by the survival of the Burdess residence in Barkly Street.

- 1 Town lots Back Creek, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.
- 2 Cadastral plan.
- 3 Borough of Amherst ratebooks, 1861, nos 366, 367; 1862, no.232; 1863, no.247.
- 4 Photographs held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes, c.1922 photograph reproduced in McRobinson (comp), A pictorial history of Talbot, 1982, p.15.

SHOP, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot

Section F, allotment 34, Township of Talbot

History

This allotment was included in John Templeton's survey in 1859 following the rush to Scandinavian Lead. (1) Based on a typological analysis the present shop appears to have been constructed during the period c.1860-90. The present configuration was shown in a c.1900 photograph. (2)

Integrity

The building form and verandah configuration is substantially intact although later alterations to cladding materials, window joinery and verandah columns have downgraded the integrity of this shop.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. The age of this building can be ascertained from the early half round profile guttering that formerly ran along the north wall (removed in 1985).

Significance

A characteristic single storey shop erected in the years after intensive mining at Talbot. Despite its current low integrity the building is an integral component of the significant Scandinavian Crescent precinct.

- 1 Town lots Back Creek, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.
- 2 Photograph reproduced in McRobinson (comp), A pictorial history of Talbot, 1982, p.11.

FORMER LONDON CHARTERED BANK, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot
FORMER COACH HOUSE AND STABLES, Heales Street, Talbot

Section F, allotment , Township of Talbot (bank)
Section F, allotment 38? Township of Talbot (coach house and stables)

History

This allotment was surveyed by John Templeton in December 1859. Tenders for this bank were called in June and August 1866 and by April 1867 the building was rated with a net annual value of £247 10s. The building was designed by fashionable Melbourne architect, Leonard Terry. The bank became a branch of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank in 1927. (1) A coach house and stables for the manager was located in Heales Street at the rear of the bank. A report of the [Maryborough?] Advertiser in the late 1870s described the premises in lots 36-39 of Section E. First were the premises of H.H. Hoskins, 'now tenanted by Mr J.S. Stewart' on the corner of Camp Street and Heales Street. 'On the next allotment were the coach house, stables, etc. of the London Chartered Bank, adjoining which was Mr Wilkinson's Depot, a building known as Camp Cottage ... [and] Mr Henry Widop's private residence'. (2) It is possible that the present building is the manager's coach house and stables.

Integrity

This former bank is now used as a private residence. The bluestone and cement rendered surfaces have been painted white but the building is substantially intact, including rear outbuildings. The coach house and stable is substantially intact.

Analysis

This is a particularly fine ensemble of buildings. Trethowan included this bank in his 'conservative classicism' architectural category and ranked the building as worthy of the 'supplementary list' of recommendations. As one of only two bank buildings remaining Talbot the building is now crucial to the understanding of commercial life in the town during the peak of prosperity in Talbot. The building is also enhanced by the survival of outbuildings.

Significance

A bank of considerable architectural significance and possessing a high degree of intactness. The building is complemented by the survival of outbuildings including coach house and stable. As one of only two bank buildings remaining in Talbot the building is now crucial to the understanding of commercial life in the town during the peak of prosperity in Talbot. The building is a critical component of the significant Scandinavian Crescent precinct.

- 1 Trethowan, 'Study of Banks', card index, 1976; quoting Troppe thesis, photograph in ANZ archives and Argus tender notices.
- 2 [Maryborough?] Advertiser, 7 January 1966 reporting an account published 'during the latter part of the seventies'.

FORMER BANK OF AUSTRALASIA, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot

Section F, Allotment 27, Township of Talbot

History

An agency of the Bank of Australasia was established at Talbot in March 1859 connected with the Castlemaine branch. It was located on the present site and was shown in Templeton's 1859 survey. Architect Charles Toutcher called tenders for a 'brick building with out-offices' in February 1861 although on 27 January 1869 the premises were destroyed by fire. The present building, erected for £800, was opened on 22 June 1869. The agency achieved the status of a full branch of the bank in 1877 and was finally closed on 23 March 1914. (1) The building is currently used as part of the Phoenix Special Accommodation Residence.

Integrity

The building was built with face brickwork on the facade relieved by rendered mouldings. At some stage the brickwork has been rendered, and the rusticated quoins rendered smooth. The central door was converted into a window as part of the current use.

Analysis

The architectural firm of Reed and Barnes had responsibility for many buildings for the Bank of Australasia although this branch may have predated this connection. The building is a simple design with a symmetrical facade with classically derived detailing.

Significance

A simple nineteenth century bank erected following destruction of earlier premises by fire. The building is one of only two bank buildings surviving in Talbot and is crucial to an understanding of commercial life in Talbot during its peak of prosperity. The building is a critical component of the significant Scandinavian Crescent precinct.

1 Chequerboard [ANZ Bank house journal], April 1958; North Western Chronicle, 31 January 1861.

FORMER PHOENIX HOTEL, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot

Section F, Allotments 25, 26, Township of Talbot

History

These allotments were marked out in Templeton's 1859 survey and by 1861 bootmaker J.R. Wilde had a shop on allotment 26 and William Goodman had a Billiard Saloon on lot 25. (1) The premises were presumably burnt down on 27 January 1869 by the same fire which destroyed the adjacent Bank of Australasia. (2) Goodman's occupation was given as 'Beer Shop Keeper' in the 1869 ratebook and his 'hotel' was rated at £52. In 1870 he was described as 'publican' and the hotel had a net annual value of £120 which presumably indicated construction of the present building. (3) Reference was made in the council minutes to a verandah on this building in May 1875 and the building was pictured c.1875 in its present configuration with a painted sign 'Goodman's Phoenix' on the parapet. (4)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact although one door on the facade has been blocked and the verandah has now lost much of its original timber detailing. The building is currently used as part of the Phoenix Special Accommodation Residence and this has resulted in some internal modifications.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This buildings is distinguished by its intact fenestration, post supported verandah and render facade, modelled to imitate ashlar stonework.

Significance

A typical small nineteenth century hotel building erected after earlier premises were burnt. The building is distinguished by its intact fenestration, post supported verandah and render facade, modelled to imitate ashlar stonework. This building is a critical component of the significant Scandinavian Crescent precinct.

- 1 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1861, nos. 282, 283.
- 2 Chequerboard [ANZ Bank house journal], April 1958.
- 3 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1869, no. 196; 1870, no. 184.
- 4 Borough of Amherst minutes, 5 May 1875, summary by Ron pryor; photograph held by the Shire of Talbot and Clunes.

FORMER BACH BUTCHERS SHOP, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot

Section F, Allotment 23, Township of Talbot

History

This block was marked out in Templeton's 1859 survey and by 1861 A. and J. Bach had erected new premises. (1) Anton Bach conducted a butchers shop and this was presumably burnt out on 27 January 1869 when the adjacent premises of William Goodman and the Bank of Australasia were destroyed. (2) In the ratebook of 1869 Bach was listed with a 'temporary shop' (NAV £20) and in 1870 his shop was valued at £55. This presumably indicated the construction of the present building. (3)

Integrity

This building is substantially intact although a two storey section at the rear although has been demolished. The shop is currently vacant.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This buildings is distinguished by post supported verandah rendered parapet and and shopfront, modelled in cement render in the form of engaged columns and semi-circular headed fenestration to imitate an arcade.

Significance

A characteristic small nineteenth century shop erected after earlier premises were burnt. The building is distinguished by its post supported verandah, elaborate parapet and highly modelled shopfront, unusual in the local contaxt. This building is a critical component of the significant Scandinavian Crescent precinct.

- 1 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1861, no. 280.
- 2 Chequerboard [ANZ Bank house journal], April 1958.
- 3 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1869, no. 23; 1870, no.23.

FORMER SHOP, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot

Section F, Allotment 22?, Township of Talbot

History

This block was marked out in John Templeton's survey in 1859 following the rush to Scandinavian Lead. (1) Adjacent shops were burnt out on 27 January 1869 and it is possible that an earlier building on this site was also destroyed. (2) Based on a typological analysis this building appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

This building is substantially intact although the post supported verandah has been removed and the original window joinery replaced.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This buildings is distinguished by its early shopfront, parapet and building form.

Significance

A characteristic small nineteenth century shop erected in the period after intensive mining at Talbot. The building is distinguished by its early shopfront, parapet and building form. This building is a critical component of the significant Scandinavian Crescent precinct.

- 1 Town lots Back Creek, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.
- 2 Chequerboard [ANZ Bank house journal], April 1958.

FORMER SHOPS, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot

Section F, Allotment 8?, Township of Talbot

History

This block was marked out in John Templeton's survey in 1859 following the rush to Scandinavian Lead. (1) The Theatre Royal was located on allotment 8 although this was replaced by later buildings. Based on a typological analysis the present shops appear to have been erected during the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

This building retains early brick walls and some early window and door joinery. The post supported verandah is early although the posts have been replaced with thin tubular metal columns. The parapet has been removed and replaced by a strapped gable and some openings have been bricked-up. The building has been extended for use as a bowling clubhouse and its overall integrity is low.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'commercial buildings'. This building is distinguished by its post supported verandah, building form and remnants of early joinery and shopfront details.

Significance

A characteristic small nineteenth century shop erected in the period after intensive mining at Talbot. Although its integrity is now low the building is vital nineteenth century component in a part of the significant Scandinavian Crescent precinct now devoid of early buildings.

1 Town lots Back Creek, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.

RESIDENCE, Scandinavian Crescent, Talbot

Section J, Allotment 2 [or 3?], Township of Talbot

History

This block was marked out in John Templeton's survey in 1859 following the rush to Scandinavian Lead. (1) This area was primarily a commercial precinct although in the years following the rush, residential buildings began to predominate. Based on a typological analysis the present residence appears to have been erected during the period c.1860-80.

Integrity

This residence retains is substantially intact and retains its building and roof form and early fenestration. However, the weatherboards have been replaced by flat sheeting and shutters added to the front windows and doors.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'timber residences'.

Significance

A characteristic timber residence erected during the period following intensive mining at Talbot. This residence is vital nineteenth century component in a part of the significant Scandinavian Crescent precinct now devoid of early buildings.

1 Town lots Back Creek, 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.

FORMER TALBOT GAS WORKS, Whittakers Lane, Talbot

Section F, Allotment 46, Township of Talbot

History

This gas works, erected by a private company, commenced operations in December 1859. Proudley records that a private company raised £1500 to construct the works (1) and by early December 1859 the project was well advanced. The Amherst and Back Creek Advertiser reported on the preparations 'the Back Creek Gas Works ... have been erected ... at a cost of about £1,500 and are capable of supplying 800 or 1,000 burners. Main-pipes, made from cast iron, with 3 1/2 inch bore, have been laid down through Scandinavian Crescent. The gas will be made from water, on the hydro-carbon principle, and will be supplied to consumers at 40s per 1000 cubic feet, or 2d per hour for each burner.' (2) By mid December the gasholder bell was secure in its tank, the external gylinders were being installed and furnaces being finished. (3) Late in December locals were 'astonished' to see a brilliant star composed of 40 gas jets in front of the United States Hotel as an early demonstration of the potential of gas. (4) The manager until 1864 was engineer Henry Curtis and he had a cottage on the site. (5) William Mackintosh's survey of December 1861 shows an outline of the buildings on the site (6). The works were purchased by Amherst Borough Council in 1886 for £150 and remained in use until the 1930s when electricity was supplied to Talbot. (7)

Integrity

The gas works site is now largely covered by tennis courts although the brick base of the gas holder remains with some associated metalwork. Archeological investigation may reveal other remains, especially pipes and footings of buildings. The site is currently being stabilised by a small grant from the Talbot and Clunes Bicentennial Heritage Project.

Analysis

It is possible the remaining structure dates from 1859 although more likely that it belongs to the early 1860s. The bricks are very similar to other local brick buildings of the early 1860s. Proudley records that Talbot is one of only five gas works erected in Victoria during the 1850s. The others were West Melbourne (1856), Kyneton (1858), Ballarat (1858) and Castlemaine (1859). Significantly, Talbot was provided with gas earlier than many larger centres including Geelong (1860), Clunes (1862), Daylesford (1864), Williamstown (1866), South Melbourne (1873), Stawell (1873), Beechworth (1881), Maryborough (1882) and Creswick (1885) to name only a few. (8) Proudley also comments that the hydrocarbon process, of the type used at Back Creek, gained great popularity during the period 1850-60 but waned due to its inherently uneconomic process. (9)

3.0 AREAS

Significance

The Talbot gas works site is a vital physical reminder of the rush to Scandinavian Lead in 1859. The new settlement was amongst only a handful of localities to be serviced by reticulated gas in the 1850s and such sophistication of the informs the visitor of the nature of the instant settlement. The gas holder remains are among the earliest (if not the earliest) surviving physical relics of the gas industry in Victoria.

- 1 Ray Proudley, Circle of Influence: A history of the gas industry in Victoria, Hargreen Publishing Company in association with the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria, Melbourne, 1987, p.300.
- 2 Quoted in the Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 2 December 1859, p.2
- 3 Miner and Weekly Star, 23 December 1859, quoted in Proudley, loc.cit.
- 4 CCA, 30 December 1859, s.p.9.
- 5 Borough of Amherst ratebook, 1861, no. 512; 1862, no. 299; 1863, no. 320; 1864, no. 209.
- 6 Township of Talbot on the Back Creek, William S. Mackintosh, December 1861, L.1186.
- 7 Borough of Amherst, minutes, 13 January 1886, researched by Ron Pryor; Proudley, op.cit., p.301.
- 8 Proudley, op.cit, pp.293, 373.
- 9 *ibid*, op.cit., p.399.

DAM, Coghill's Creek, off Ballarat-Maryborough Road

Streamside reserve, Parish of Tourello

7623-2-4 YD478636

History

The 'Big Dam' at Clunes, constructed in 1859 dried out in the summer of 1862-63 largely from sludge emanating from mines at Creswick. In August £2000 was placed on estimates by the Victorian government for a new water supply and the decision was taken to construct the new dam on Coghill's Creek. The dam was to have a capacity of 186 million gallons although progress was hampered by shoddy workmanship. In May 1863 engineer Bagge condemned the work and payments were held up. Water, already accumulating rapidly, leaked through the incomplete outlet pipe and on 6 June 1863 heavy rain causes failure of the wall. The 'Big Dam' further downstream was breached and a severe flood unleashed on lowlying parts of Clunes. (1) A total of £2057 had been spent by the government in 1862 and a further £20 5s was expended in 1863 on futile maintenance and repairs. (2)

Integrity

The breached dam wall is still clearly visible in the narrow winding valley of Coghill's Creek.

Analysis

Refer to analysis of 'early public works'.

Significance

This dam is a major early public work in the history of Clunes and illustrates the great need to bring a reliable supply of water to the goldfields. It forms part of a linear network of historic sites on the local creeks and its early failure tells of the fallibility of governments when dealing with proliferation of towns created by the gold rushes.

- 1 Weickhardt, Clunes, 1972, pp.14-15, research apparently based on reading of the Creswick and Clunes Advertiser.
- 2 VPRS 957, unit 3, p.951.

3.0 AREAS

This section of the study with Task B of the study brief, and specifically section B.4 (c). This task relates to the identification and analysis of areas of significance. In this study the areas have been treated according to the following headings.

History

The individual histories are intended as summaries only and more information is generally provided in the background history.

Integrity

This section provides a brief assessment on the quantity and quality of early buildings works, and sites within the area. It relates only to an assessment of historical significance and not to any broader issues such as residential amenity.

Analysis

This section places the area in context with similar areas throughout Victoria. It comments on unusual or rare features as well as those which are typical or well represented by the particular area. For Clunes, a collective analysis is included under Section 3.3.1 'Clunes Township' rather than fragmented statements in the other sub-sections.

Significance

The statement of significance gives a succinct summary of each area taking into account relevant historical, physical, architectural and comparative factors as they affect the significance. The nature of any future conservation action should flow logically from an understanding of the significance of that place. For Clunes, an overall statement of significance is included under Section 3.3.1 'Clunes Township' rather than fragmented statements in the other sub-sections.

References

A list of references cited in the history.

3.1 AMHERST TOWNSHIP

History

The site of Amherst township was formerly on the boundary of the Glenmona and Dunach Forest pastoral runs. (1) In 1848 gold was discovered on Hall and McNeill's Glenmona run by a shepherd, Thomas Chapman. The location of the find was close to the present site of Amherst cemetery and the discovery, and especially display of the nuggets in the window of a Collins Street jeweller, caused an anxious government to send Captain Dana and a detachment of native police to maintain order. (2) Calm prevailed until 1851 when Esmond publicised payable gold at Clunes.

A proliferation of discoveries throughout Victoria and New South Wales ensured close attention to the Amherst area and in May 1852 gold was again discovered near the cemetery. 'Cowley's Rush' to Blacksmith's Gully, east of the site of Amherst township, prompted the creation of a local gold commissioner's camp in October 1852 and this was headed by Charles Hall, formerly of Glenmona station. (3) Subsequent discoveries at Kangaroo Gully (March 1853), Grecian Gully (May 1853), Oppossum Gully (October 1854) and Daisy Hill Flat (1855) all in the vicinity of the later site of Amherst township competed with similar discoveries on the Back Creek near the present site of Talbot. In 1855 township surveys were undertaken at both centres although the rush to Fiery Creek [Beaufort] led to the cancellation of the Back Creek Survey. (4)

Hugh Fraser's survey of Amherst included four sections with quarter acre allotments located north of the Daisy Hill Creek. These township blocks were located on the road from Adelaide to Maryborough at its junction with the road to Carisbrook. The four township sections were centred within a square having one mile sides marked out as roads, although at this date they were purely notional. The axis and size of the township was used to generate a series of four further squares east along the Daisy Hill Creek and this was followed by a further four square miles, including the abandoned Back Creek town survey (corner Argyle Street and Lansdowne Street). The eastern most of the squares contained a large water hole which according to Surveyor Fraser was 'full in all seasons and ... the only supply to be depended on by the residents of "Amherst" and the "Back Creek"'. A cemetery reserve was included in Section 2 and a government camp in Section 3. (5)

Within the township the first land sale was conducted on 29 May 1855 with the major buyers being publicans Albion and J.F. Cowley. (6) These sales of Sections 1 and 2 were supplemented by a handful of quarter acre allotments in Section 4 sold in November 1855. These allotments, and others sold on 21 July 1856 were concentrated along the main road, named High Street with other land sales in 1857 filling in some of the back blocks.

A new government camp was set up in 1856 on high ground north of the sold land and other reserves were also allocated. (7) The Church of England occupied a hill of quartz with a semi-circular road - whimsically entitled 'The Circus' - forming the southern boundary. A school was erected here in 1856 although its partial rebuilding five years later indicated of poorly made bricks and shoddy workmanship. (8) A Wesleyan chapel was erected a year later on a reserve east of the Church of England followed by a Presbyterian school in 1859 and the opening of the Mysterious Lead near the cemetery gave fresh impetus to development in the town. (9)

Consolidation of commercial and residential development, desire for future progress and liberal grants from the colonial government led to the move for proclamation of Amherst as a municipality. The governor, His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly was petitioned on the issue by local householders and land owners in 1858 and, with revisions to proposed boundaries by Robert Brough Smythe, the Borough of Amherst was given official sanction. A local meeting on 17 November 1858 decided to hold elections and the next day the first seven councillors were duly elected. The inaugural meeting was held at Albion Cowley's Amherst Hotel a day later, Cowley being one of twenty five unsuccessful candidates. The Governor-in-Council approved a rate of one shilling in the pound in January 1859 and in August that year byelaw 5 sanctioned £1000 expenditure on public works. (10)

The Township of Amherst, 1859, showing the allotments, various reserves and street names (many commemorating famous scientists).
[Central Plan Office]

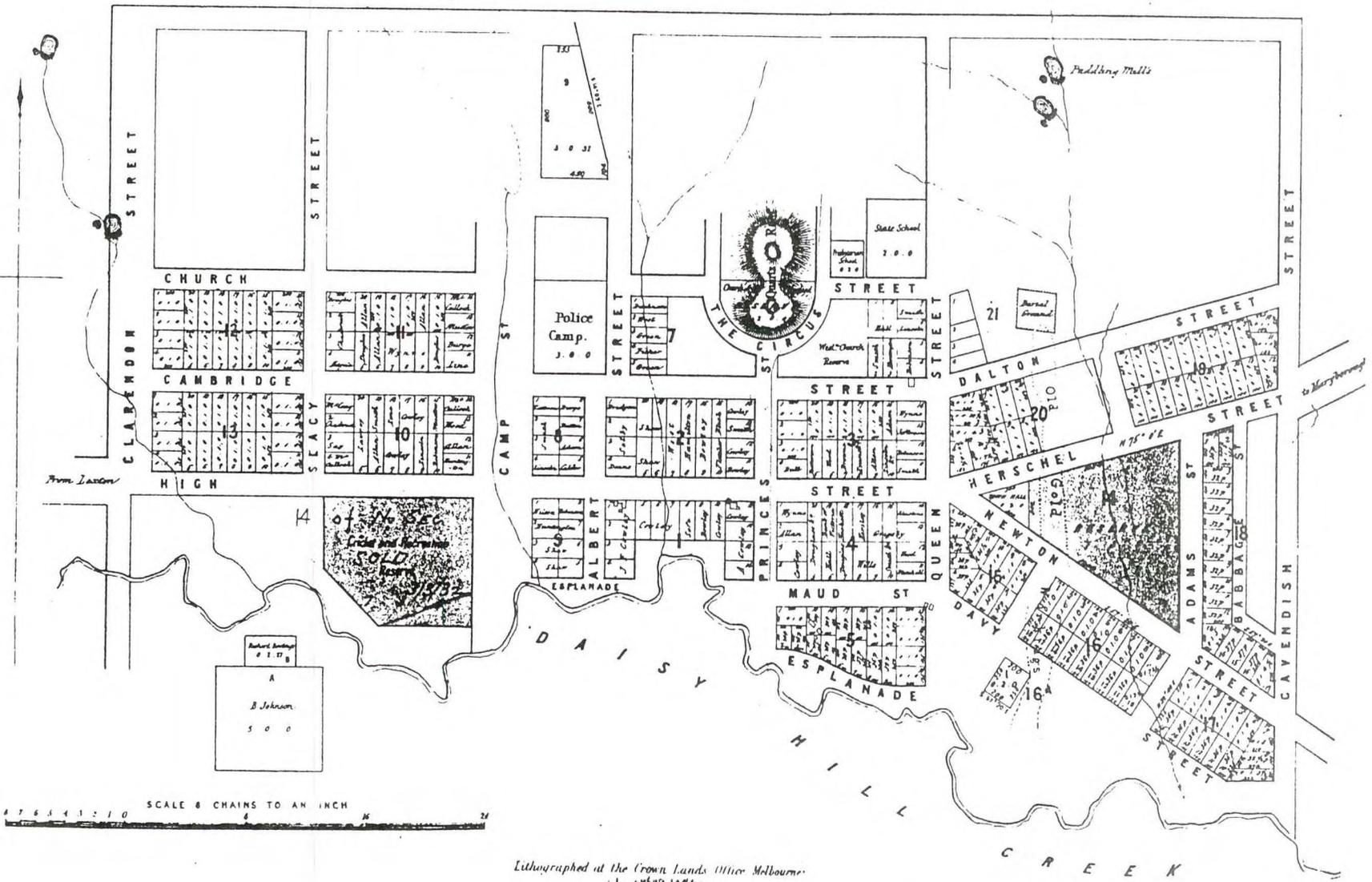
Amherst State School, burnt in the 1985 bushfires but now reconstructed following the original design.



The Township of
AMHERST
 COUNTY OF TALBOT

59/120

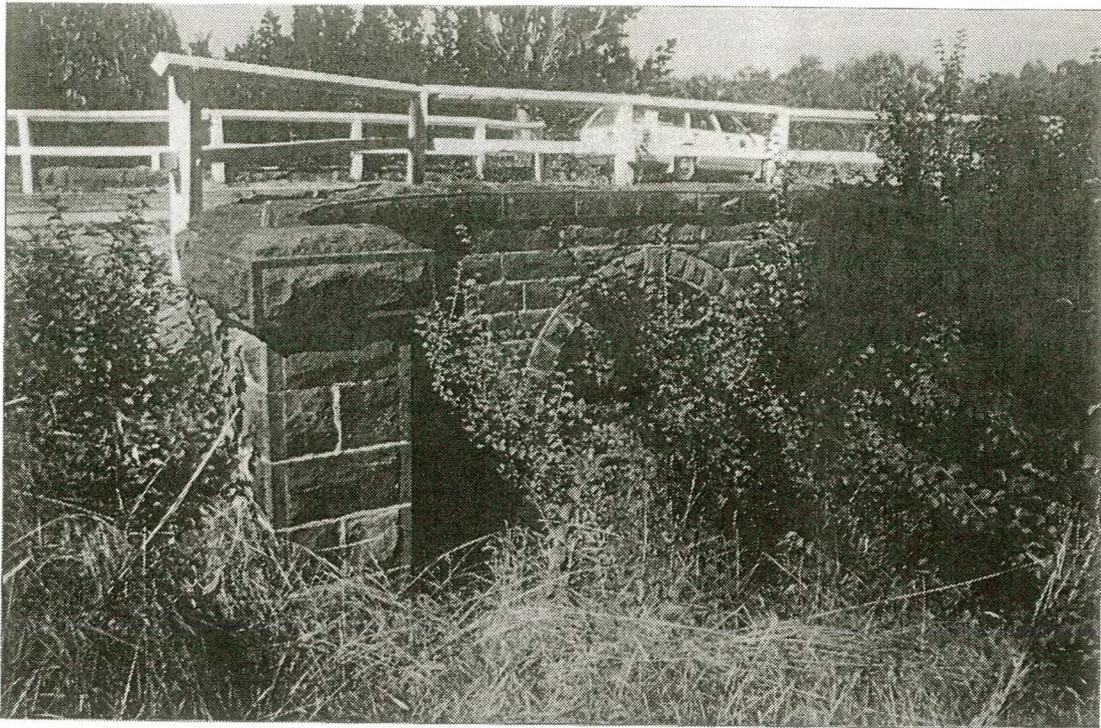
245



Lithographed at the Crown Lands Office Melbourne.
 1. August 1851

Price 1/6

497



Basalt culverts, constructed at Amherst in the late 1850s, are now some of the earliest public works surviving in the Shire.

After the rush to Scandinavian Lead in 1859 political ascendancy quickly passed to Back Creek (Talbot). This was despite the erection of a town Hall in Amherst to the design of Maryborough architect Charles Toutcher. Amherst retained a population sufficient to sustain the settlement until the twentieth century although the contrast with Talbot's fortunes was dramatic. Mining continued in the locality although generally on a small scale and at the turn of the century cyaniding was used to extract gold from reworked areas.

Integrity

The township was destroyed by fire in January 1985 and almost all of the few remaining buildings were burnt. A few buildings and building ruins remain along with roadworks (e.g. basalt culverts) although the street layout is now the major feature of the town.

The following is a list of significant buildings and sites within Amherst township and the immediate neighbourhood.

- Former Mortuary, Amherst District Hospital site, Cavendish Street
- Former State School No. 1459, Queen Street
- Amherst Cemetery, Talbot-Avoca Road
- Basalt culverts, Talbot-Avoca Road
- Amherst Reservoir, off Talbot-Avoca Road

Other sites contribute to the significance of this area but not it has not been possible to detail all these within this present study. Many sites within the Amherst township could be located by suitable archaeological techniques and with more detailed research it would be possible to identify individual mining sites in the surrounding area. Many of these sites, such as Grecian Gully, Amherst Flat, Mia Mia Lead, Blacksmith's Gully, Kangaroo Gully, Oppossum Gully and Mysterious Lead were early alluvial gold workings and form a major component of the significance of this area. There are also many small quartz reef in the area which were worked from the late 1850s and then the tailings reworked at the turn of the century at the local cyanide works.

Analysis

Amherst township is a particularly fine example of a grid pattern layout of a goldfield town and in this respect forms a useful complement to the layout of Back Creek - Talbot Flat. The survey of Amherst incorporated a number of departures from a strict grid to take account of the junction between roads to Back Creek and Carisbrook, an outcropping quartz knoll (ringed by 'The Circus') and the Daisy Hill Creek, paralleled by 'The Esplanade'.

Significance

Amherst is a fine example of a deserted nineteenth century goldfields township. It is now best able to be interpreted through documentary evidence, historical archaeological investigations and surviving road layouts. The area is crucial to

Models such as this representation of Daisy Hill, built in the late 1850s and held by the Museum of Victoria, are now a key to understanding the nature of the early gold workings around Amherst



the interpretation of the history of the entire Talbot area, particularly with regard to shifting population, mining techniques, local government and town planning. The setting of Amherst township is enhanced by the proximity of surrounding mining areas which have played a significant part in the history of the township. Amherst is of historical significance as one of a small number of deserted Victorian gold towns formerly having municipal status.

References

- 1 Plan of pastoral runs, reproduced in Billis and Kenyon, etc.
- 2 Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1970, p.254 quoting the Argus and Port Phillip Gazette. The exact location comes from Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser, 10 August and 15 October 1858.
- 3 Flett, loc. cit., quoting M and D A, loc. cit. and Gold Commissioners Report, 28 September 1852.
- 4 Flett, op.cit., pp.254-255.
- 5 Amherst Township and Suburban Lands at Daisy Hill in the Country of Talbot, Hugh Fraser, Assistant Surveyor, 14? April 1855, lithographed 9 May 1855.
- 6 Victorian Government Gazette, 27 April 1855, pp. 1055-1056; see cadastral plan for first purchasers.
- 7 Flett, Maryborough Goldfields History, 1975, p.67.
- 8 VPRS 886, unit 1.
- 9 Wesleyan Chronicle, 26 October 1857, p.81.
- 10 VPRS 1189, unit 601, bundle H 9356; unit 602, G58/9632, G58/9634, G58/10313; unit 605, K59/3376, M59/7833.

3.2 TALBOT

3.2.1 Back Creek Flat

History

Discovery of gold on Back Creek came with the opening of Kangaroo Flat early in 1854 and later that year Ballaarat Hill. (1) In March 1855 a large rush to Goodwoman's Hill took place with Nuggetty Gully and Kangaroo Flat also attracting many diggers. (2) Felix Ray, an early arrival on the Back Creek described the growth of the area.

It was just about the time we first puddled our wash that newcomers were arriving at the rate of about a thousand a day. Every morning I could notice that a few more acres of the landscape were covered by tents of various sizes, and this encampment extended its bounds daily, until we were surrounded by a camp that would have lodged a vast army. Between one day and the next a dozen framed calico erections opened as stores, each flying a gaudy flag, and scores of carts and waggons, loaded with tools, clothing, provisions and cases of bottled ale and spirits, and their several ways among the tents. Peripatetic hawkers, mostly having two covered carts filled with articles suited to the requirements of diggers, came along in numbers and disposed of their stocks rapidly. Caterers for the amusement of the diggers were soon in evidence, and billiard rooms, dancing saloons and barbers shops quickly had one side of the first-formed street in possession. Hotels, stores, restaurants, skittle alleys, and cigar shops, where a shilling was paid to a gaily-dressed female for a box of matches, and a nip of brandy was presented gratuitously to the customer, sprung up on the opposite side, and, lo, the genesis of a town, where money was abundant among the working population, and business brisk in consequence. (3)

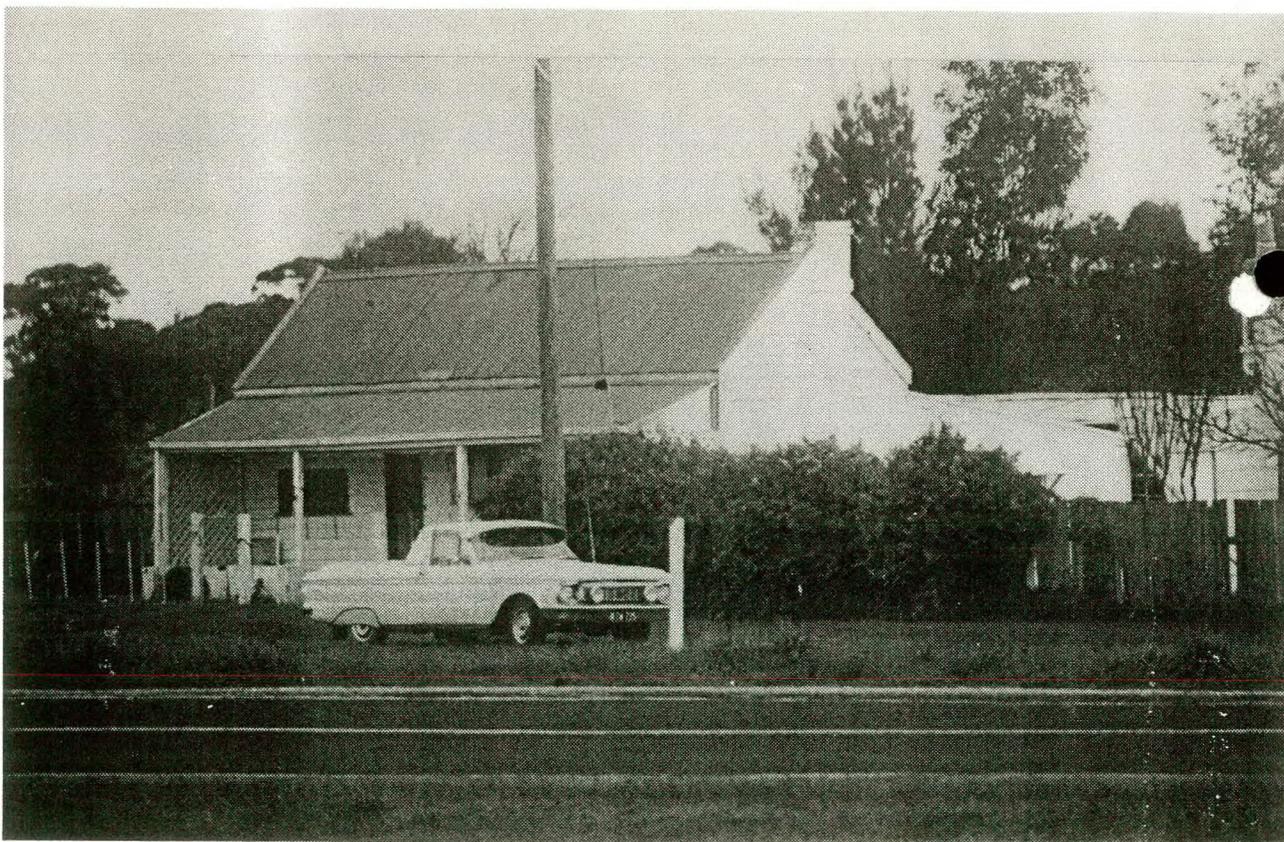
This cluster of buildings were probably the ones shown on the road from Ballarat and Creswick to Carisbrook mapped by assistant surveyor Hugh Fraser in July 1855. Hotels in the vicinity of the settlement included the Star, Daisy Hill, Albion, Golden Age and Goodwoman's, named after publican Dale Goodwoman. (4) At this date Peel Street was the main thoroughfare between Amherst and Back Creek and it was not for some years that the direct route past the present football ground was opened. Flett quotes a population of tens of thousands on the Back Creek in this period including a large encampment of Chinese. (5)

A police office was in operation by 1855 (6) and in 1858 a school was opened. Of slab construction with a shingle roof this National School contained one room 40 x 20 x 7 feet which could accommodate 90 scholars. Two 'privies' were provided and open bush formed the playground. (7)

Smaller rushes occurred throughout the district and old ground was reworked. However, with the discovery of the Scandinavian Lead (the present site of Talbot township) on 18 January 1859 the area experienced its greatest upheaval. About the time of this movement north east, the government had ordered a survey of the Back Creek Flat area. This took the form of a regular grid layout with streets named after English statesmen (Peel, Lyndhurst, Carlyle, Gladstone, etc). Provision was made for a Court House, Police Buildings, Gold Office, Warden's Office, Telegraph Office and Post Office. (8) It is reasonably certain that a Gold Office was erected on the government block, a contract for £590 9s 6d having been signed with contractor Isaac Meadows on 13 June 1859. (9) A basalt bridge was also erected over Back Creek as part of the main road between Ballarat and Amherst (of which the abutments still exist - 'Bolties Bridge').

Development in Talbot Flat was initially aided by the Scandinavian rush, as the area was within sufficient proximity to benefit commercially from the massive population. The Flat also provided much needed space for tents. Storekeeper Robert Whittle marvelled at the scene early in 1859. 'It was a fine sight to take a walk on Sunday to the hills in the vicinity of the rush; from which one could look down upon an encampment of 40,000 people, all under canvas.' (10) Diggers unlucky to miss out on

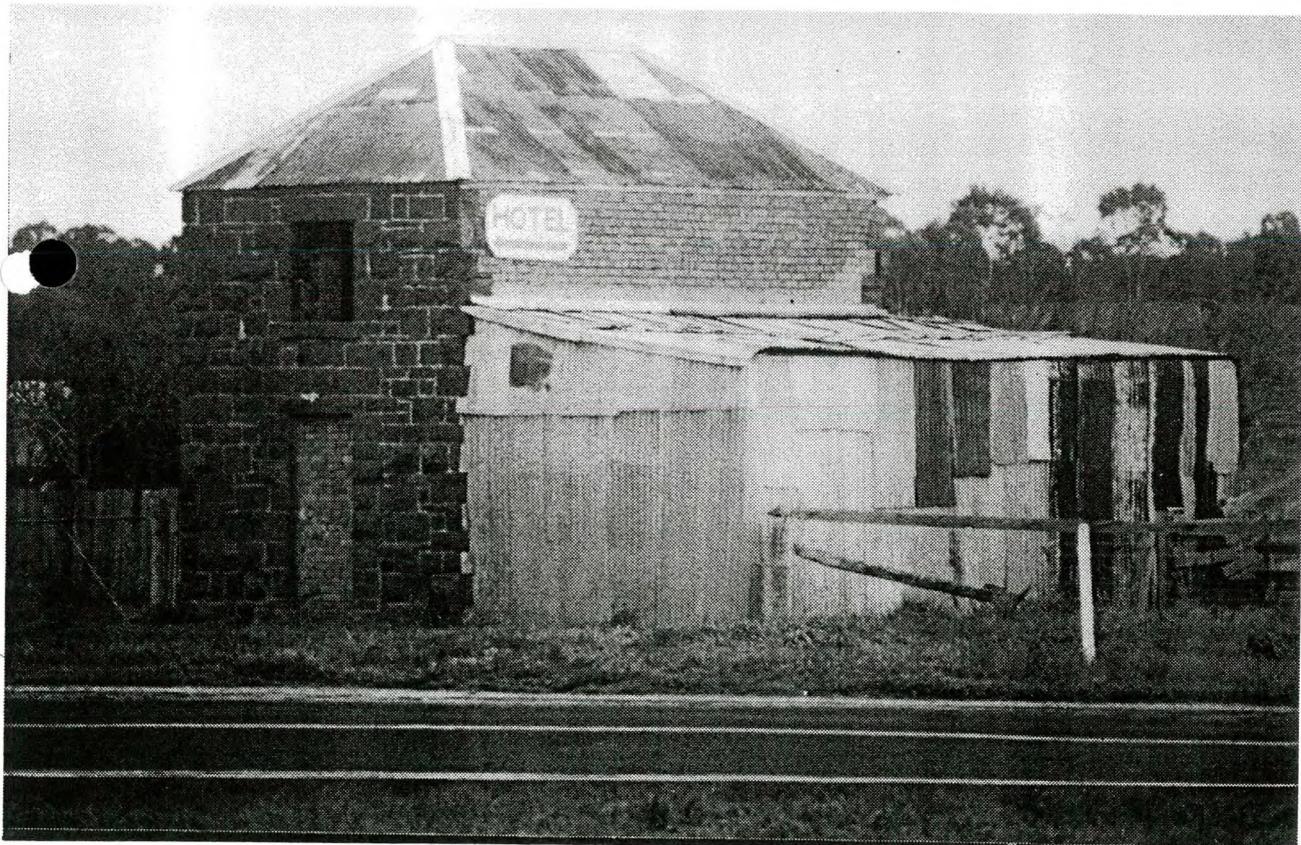
The edge of Back Creek or Talbot Flat is now marked by these two buildings, but an extensive grid of roads still divides the area.



a claim on the Scandinavian lead reworked old ground in the neighbourhood although within a short time ascendancy passed from the Flat to the newly erected business centre along Scandanavian Crescent, Ballaarat Street and Oxford Street. This latter area was surveyed in December 1859 and allotments sold in 1860. (11)

Back Creek Flat languished. In 1860 the rate book listed 48 buildings including quartz mills, brick yards, dairies, stores, restaurants, a school, cordial manufactory, bakery, butcher's shop, shoe maker's shop, slaughter yard and only 18 dwellings. In March 1859 the Wesleyans opened a chapel at Back Creek although their energies were now concentrated on the population closer to the diggings. (12) The tents quickly disappeared and by 1862 only 40 ratepayers were listed. (13) A small cluster of buildings was located near the Amherst Road which superseded Peel Street in the 1870s as the main thoroughfare to Amherst following construction of a reliable crossing over Back Creek at the foot of Camp Street.

A cricket ground for Talbot had been requested in 1861 on land adjacent to Back Creek, between Brougham and Macaulay Streets and a seven acre site was temporarily reserved in April 1862. However mining enroached onto the ground shortly after and the present site was gazetted in December 1862 following urging from the council that 'the cricket season is fast approaching'. (14)



Integrity

This area now contains only a very small number of buildings and of these only about half date from the nineteenth century. The mining sites are now of very low integrity; a CEP tree planting programme has recently disturbed sites adjacent to the Maryborough - Ballarat Road and the early alluvial mines of Goodwoman's Hill and Bakery Hill now form gravel depots. Most of the mines have been reworked, in some instances several times, in the period since the 1850s and 60s. Fire (most recently in January 1985) has destroyed a number of early buildings and many more have been relocated or demolished since the main period of development on the Flat. The Maryborough - Ballarat Road which now bypasses Talbot has destroyed some of the early street layout although it has also provided a far higher visual prominence to the Back Creek - Talbot Flat area for the passing motorist than the former route via Scandinavian Crescent.

The following is a list of significant buildings and sites on the Back Creek Flat.

- Basalt barn or outbuilding, Argyle Street
- Residence, Argyle Street
- Stand pipe, Argyle Street
- Former Church of England vicarage, Brougham Street, corner Russell Street
- Residence, Bulwer Street
- Public Park and Recreation Reserve, Bulwer Street
- Tunnel Hill, off Lexton-Talbot Road
- Back Creek National School site, Peel Street
- 'Bolties Bridge', Peel Street

Other sites contribute to the significance of this area but it has not been possible to detail all of these within the present study. Surrounding mining areas such as Kangaroo Flat, Goodwoman's Hill, Bakery Hill, White (Hard) Hill, Nuggetty Gully and Mysterious Lead form a major component of the significance of this area. There are also several early cottages located in the area, which although not treated as individual sites, nevertheless form an integral part of the significance of this area.

Analysis

This survey, undertaken in 1859, is a typical example of the grid survey adopted by the Department of Crown Lands and Survey to cope with the pressure for land sale caused by the gold rushes. So great was the need for quick surveys that in 1861 district surveyor Wilmott (working in Ararat) prepared two standard subdivision plans for 'Goldfields Townships' which he intended mining surveyors would be able to use for laying out new towns at new rushes. The two plans were lithographed although documented instances of their significance are not known. (14) The Back Creek - Talbot Flat survey departed from a regular grid and exhibited subtle shifts of axis and allotment size to cope with

No 53 59 59
33 34 140

Town Lots BACK CREEK County of Talbot.

SCALE 8 CHAINS TO AN INCH
8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

Lithographed at the Office of Lands & Survey



Town Lots on Back Creek, authorised prior to the growth of the present site of Talbot, surveyed in 1859 and lithographed in 1860. The government reserved are indicated in the centre of the plan.

[Central Plan Office]

the topography as well as several pre-existing buildings. Significant features of Fraser's 1855 survey (Such as Peel Street and Argyle Street) are still retained and these form perhaps the earliest man made features in Back Creek - Talbot Flat as well as Talbot Township.

Significance

The Back Creek - Talbot Flat area is crucial to the interpretation of the history of Talbot area, particularly with regard to land survey, demographic trends, mining techniques, residential and commercial development. The area contains a number of buildings which assist in the understanding of the early development on the Flat. The alignment of Argyle Street and Peel street is now of particular significance as the earliest man made features to survive in Talbot. The area contains numerous early alluvial gold mining sites which contribute to the significance of the area as well as providing a crucial buffer to the more significant Talbot township area.

References

- 1 Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1970, p.255 quoting Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser, 10 August and 15 October 1858; Mount Alexander Mail, 15 September 1854.
- 2 Flett, Maryborough, 1975, p.57-61; Flett, Gold Discovery, loc.cit.
- 3 Reminiscences of Felix Ray, quoted in Flett, Maryborough, pp.58-59.
- 4 Suburban and Country Lands at Daisy Hill, lithographed, 6 October 1855.
- 5 Flett, Maryborough, op.cit., p.62-63.
- 6 Victorian Police Gazette, 27 April 1855, p.93.
- 7 VPRS 1406, unit 4, Roll no. 76.
- 8 Town Lots, Back Creek, lithographed 12 April 1860.
- 9 VPRS 979, unit 1, p.7.
- 10 Diary of Robert Whittle, SLV MS 11829, box 2163/7.
- 11 See details in section on Talbot township.
- 12 Wesleyan Chronicle, 1 October 1859, p.238.
- 13 Borough of Amherst, ratebook; 1860, 1862.
- 14 VPRS 44, unit 407, D62/2683.

3.2.2 Talbot township

History

Attention was turned from the Back Creek to the present site of Talbot with the discovery of the Scandinavian Lead in January 1859. This discovery, by Adolph and Carl Olsen, Carl W. Hallem and Joseph Bell was augmented by the opening of Rocky Flat, Union Lead and Long Gully later in the year. (1) Early in March 1859, merchant Robert Whittle met hundreds of diggers on the road to Back Creek (as the area was still known) and following his own move to the area later that year he estimated the population at 40,000. (2) Estimates varied greatly, but the one common theme was the rapid development of the commercial centre along Ballarat Street, Scandinavian Crescent and Oxford Street.

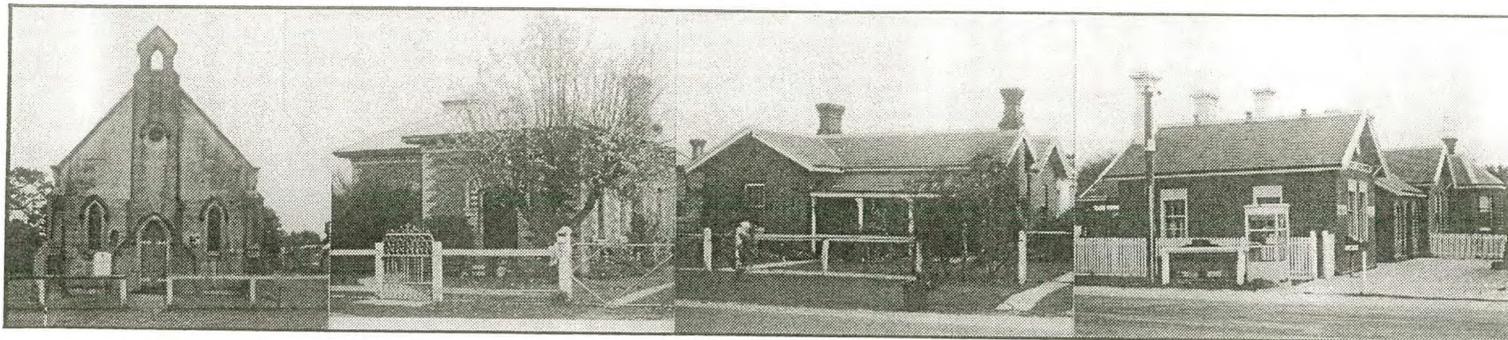
The Scandinavian lead was 'a very lively place' according to Whittle. His own business was located on the Back Creek Flat near the treasury, but the commercial centre which followed the configuration of the lead

was the dirtiest (sic) place I ever saw ... business people shifted into line along the streets, and we found we by that time had two large theatres - four sets of negro minstrels - two very big casinos - and no end of smaller dance houses, and concert rooms. If at any time business kept me out after dark, I was obliged to avoid the streets; as they would be by then so crowded, as to make it impossible to get a horse through them ... Every billiard room full to overflowing, with diggers in moleskins and crimean shirts, covered with pipe clay; playing at pin-pool for heaps of money - and I have here, often seen 5 - 6 horsemen, ride into a bar-room and take their drinks in the saddle, at the bar. (3)

Apart from commercial enterprises, schools and churches were one of the earliest institutions to respond to the rush. Generally lacking the heavy yoke of government bureaucracy, many denominations, but especially the non-conformists, were able to cater for the itinerent population.

A Roman Catholic church was opened in Scandanavian Crescent (opposite the present bowling green) and with typical enterprise the Wesleyans erected a portable iron chapel in Oxford Street, in close proximity to the diggings. Presbyterians met at Staveley's store while 'The English Chapel' was located in Argyle Street, formerly the main thoroughfare to Ballarat but by mid 1859 superseded by Scandanavian Crescent. (4)

The government set apart a 'Police Camp' reserve of approximately three acres although the inertia caused by recent erection of public buildings at Amherst and on Back Creek Flat impeded the provision of new buildings to service the diggings. Accommodation for the police and wardens was grudgingly provided although it



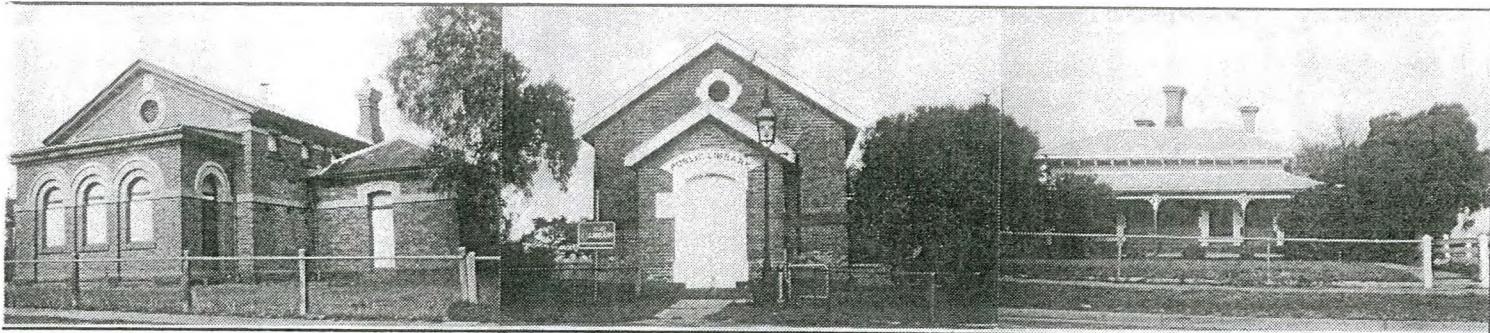
The buildings in the 'Police Camp' form one of the most significant groups of modest-sized governments buildings anywhere in Victoria

was not until September 1860 that a contract for a new court house was signed. A portable iron lock-up was supplied by Enoch Chambers of Melbourne in mid 1859 although this was not replaced by the present basalt building until 1863. (5)

The ad hoc development at Back Creek was surveyed by John Templeton late in 1859 and these allotments were sold on 25 and 26 May 1860. Almost all buildings impinged on the surveyed allotments and when rebuilt, as many were in the next few years, they conformed to the surveyed boundaries. However, none of this redevelopment could mask the origins of the street pattern as an immediate response to the Scandinavian Rush and the position of the lead. Indeed, when Templeton was surveying digging was 'still going on here [Ballaarat Street] close to the back of the buildings'. (6)

The Borough of Amherst watched the new settlement with mounting anxiety as it sensed its power base being eroded. As proclaimed in 1858, the municipal boundary now ran in a straight line approximately in line with the present alignment of Barkly Street, and formed a most inappropriate line of demarkation. Disenfranchised householders and landowners petitioned the governor in 1861 and the borough boundary was shifted east to accommodate their properties. (7)

Residents were not the only party affected by municipal progress. With the development of Scandanavian Crescent, the riding councillors decided (having the casting vote of the chairman) to sieze the initiative and meet separately in a local hotel. J.P. Smith, Mustow and Evans, the three agrieved Amherst councillors, continued to meet at the new Town Hall at Amherst. Premises were leased at Back Creek and the rapid decline of Amherst coupled with the spectacular rise of Back Creek to ensure that ascendancy never returned to Amherst. (8) The council was reunited in 1861 (the Town Clerk had never left Amherst!) and with the visit of the Governor, Sir Henry Barkly on 19 October 1861 the name Talbot was adopted locally although the government refused to rename the municipality. This was not rectified until the area was renamed the Borough of Talbot in 1876 despite the Amherst and Clunes Roads Board having been renamed Shire of Talbot in 1865. (9)



Development in the principal streets consolidated; early slab and canvas buildings were replaced by more substantial timber and brick structures, especially for commercial premises. Some areas, such as the periphery of Oxford Street declined while other areas developed. Churches clustered in the vicinity of Camp Street (including Wesleyan 1862-63, Presbyterian 1864, Primitive Methodist 1869-70 and Church of England 1871) and the government block developed during the period 1860-67 with the erection of substantial masonry buildings.

As mining and reworking exhausted areas in the township, allotments were surveyed and roads formed. Thus Prince Alfred Street and Barkly Street were set out in the late 1860s and Railway Street and the east end of Ballarat Street in the early 1870s. (10) Renewed interest in deep lead mining at Dunach and Mount Greenock in the 1870s and 80s gave a boost at a time of declining reef and other alluvial mining although there was little new development in Talbot. The major impetus to new building was through fires and consequent rebuilding; this factor has left very few early timber buildings in the town.

Integrity

The construction of the Ballarat - Maryborough railway in the 1870s cut the line of Scandinavian Crescent and thus provided an early alteration to the original line of business streets of 1859. The recent bypass road has also dramatically altered the perception of the town by diverting traffic away from Scandinavian Crescent although this has reduced pressure to upgrade the Crescent. In particular, lack of major regrading of many streets has retained early street profiles and stone kerbs and channels. The street profile, with its characteristic deep gutter, is generally a direct result of the early timber and plank gutters now replaced in concrete.

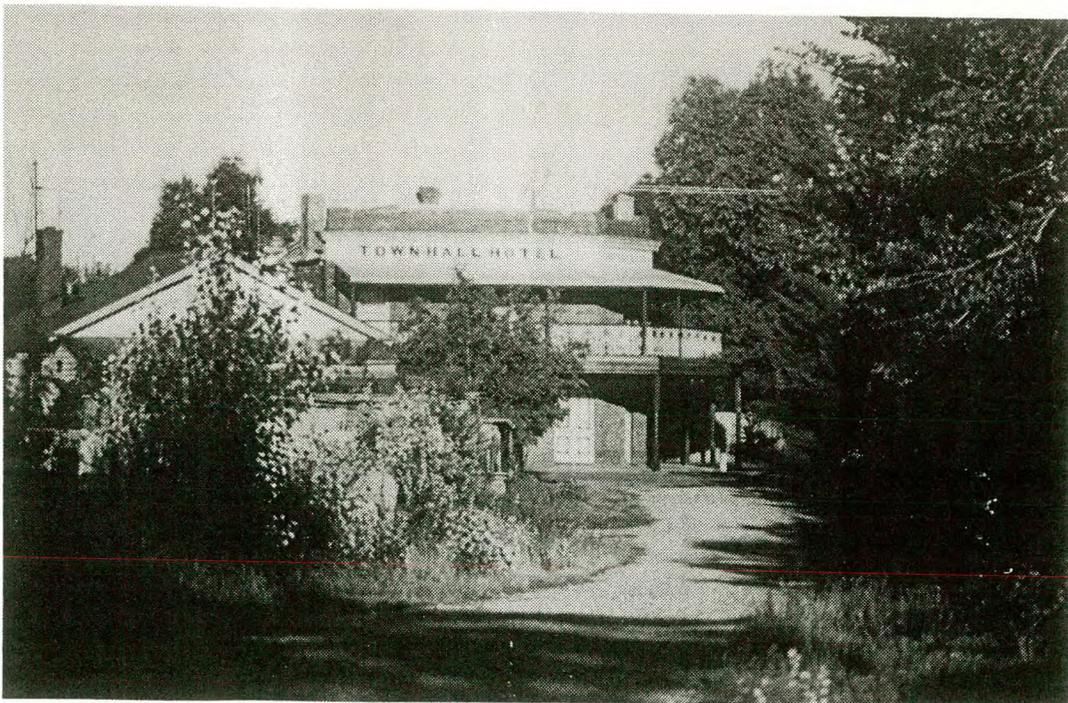
Fire has destroyed many buildings in the township and the most recent fire (January 1985) burnt the highly significant former shop on the corner of Scandinavian Crescent and Fraser Street.

There is also an imbalance between public and private buildings, with almost all government buildings remaining intact and a large number of private residences or commercial premises either demolished, removed or sites redeveloped. A general lack of maintenance following the decline of the town in the 1880s has also contributed to defects in buildings.

There are however many significant buildings and sites remaining in Talbot as detailed below.

Residence, Ballaarat Street East
Former Talbot Borough Hall, Ballaarat Street
A.N.A. Hall, Ballaarat Street, corner Heales Street
Ramsay shop and residence, Ballaarat Street North
Residence, Ballaarat Street North
Former Bull and Mouth Hotel, Ballaarat Street
Residence, Ballaarat Street North
Residence, Ballaarat Street North
Former Flour Mill, Ballaarat Street North
Residence, Ballaarat Street North
Residence, Ballaarat Street North
Residence, Ballaarat Street North, corner Crespigny Street
Former Burdess Residence, Barkly Street
Residence, Barkly Street
Former Presbyterian Manse, Bond Street
Residence, Bond Street, corner Regent Street
Former Flynn Residence, Bond Street, corner regent Street
Former Willox Residence, Bond Street, corner Mount Greenock Road

Although Talbot is relatively flat, significant vistas can still be gained across properties and along streets or lanes



Residence, Bond Street, corner Mount Greenock Road
Residence, Bond Street
Former Hoskins Residence, Camp Street, corner Heales Street
Post and Telegraph Office, Camp Street, corner Heales Street
Former Court House, Camp Street
Free Library (Former Court of Petty Sessions), Camp Street
Former Dowling Residence, Camp Street
Former Primitive Methodist Church, Camp Street
Former Dunach State School No.1412, Camp Street, corner
Lansdowne Street
Shops and residence, Camp Street, corner Scandinavian Crescent
Former Elder residence, Camp Street
Former Camp Hotel, Camp Street, corner Heales Street
Residence, Camp Street, corner Heales Street
Court House Hotel, Camp Street
Former Wesleyan Church, Camp Street
Residence, Chapman Street
Soldiers Memorial Park, Heales Street, corner O'Hara Street and
Lansdowne Street
Fire Brigade Engine House, Heales Street
Former Police quarters, lock-up and stables, Heales Street
Former Sub-Treasury, Heales Street
Former Presbyterian Church, Heales Street
Former London Chartered Bank Coach House and Stables, Heales Street
St Michael's Church of England, Lansdowne Street, corner O'Hara
Street
Residence, Oxford Street
Standpipe, Oxford Street



Former Edwards Shop and Residence, Prince Alfred Street
 Residence, Prince Alfred Street
 Residence, Prince Alfred Street
 Talbot Railway Station and railway residences, Railway
 Street
 Ornamental Plantation Reserve, Railway Street, corner Grey
 Street
 Former Roman Catholic Church, Regent Street
 Prince Alfred State School No.954 and former Common School,
 Rowe Street
 Former Talbot Leader Office, Scandinavian Crescent
 Residence, Scandinavian Crescent
 Former 'London House', Scandinavian Crescent
 Former Commercial Hotel, Scandinavian Crescent and Fyfe
 Street
 Residence, Scandinavian Crescent, corner Star Street
 Former Burdess Shop, Scandinavian Crescent, corner Ballarat
 Street
 Shop, Scandinavian Crescent
 Shop, Scandinavian Crescent
 Former London Chartered Bank, Scandinavian Crescent
 Former Bank of Australasia, Scandinavian Crescent
 Former Phoenix Hotel, Scandinavian Crescent
 Former Bach Butchers Shop, Scandinavian Crescent
 Former Shop, Scandinavian Crescent
 Former Shops, Scandinavian Crescent
 Residence, Scandinavian Crescent, corner Fraser Street
 Former Talbot Gas Works, Whittakers Lane

Contributory buildings, sites and works

There are several other buildings in Talbot which contribute to the character of the town. These include several residences in Ballarat Street North, Talbot-Maryborough Road and Mount Greenock Road. Due to alterations or other factors they are not as significant as those listed above, nevertheless they make a contribution to Talbot. The same remark applies to the former shop currently used as Shire Offices. It retains early brickwork on the side walls but the remodelling of the early 1960s is now perceived as an anachronism amidst the rich stock of nineteenth century buildings in Talbot. However with suitable reconstruction the significance of this building could be enhanced and this remark applies to those other buildings that have been altered.

Other works contribute to Talbot's character. The street layout, stone lined gutters, vistas across town to prominent buildings, outbuildings attached to shops and residences, trees and early garden plantings, early fences and other early items of streetworks are all part of the built environment which complement individually significant buildings or sites. Together they combine to form an environment of special historical and architectural significance.

Analysis

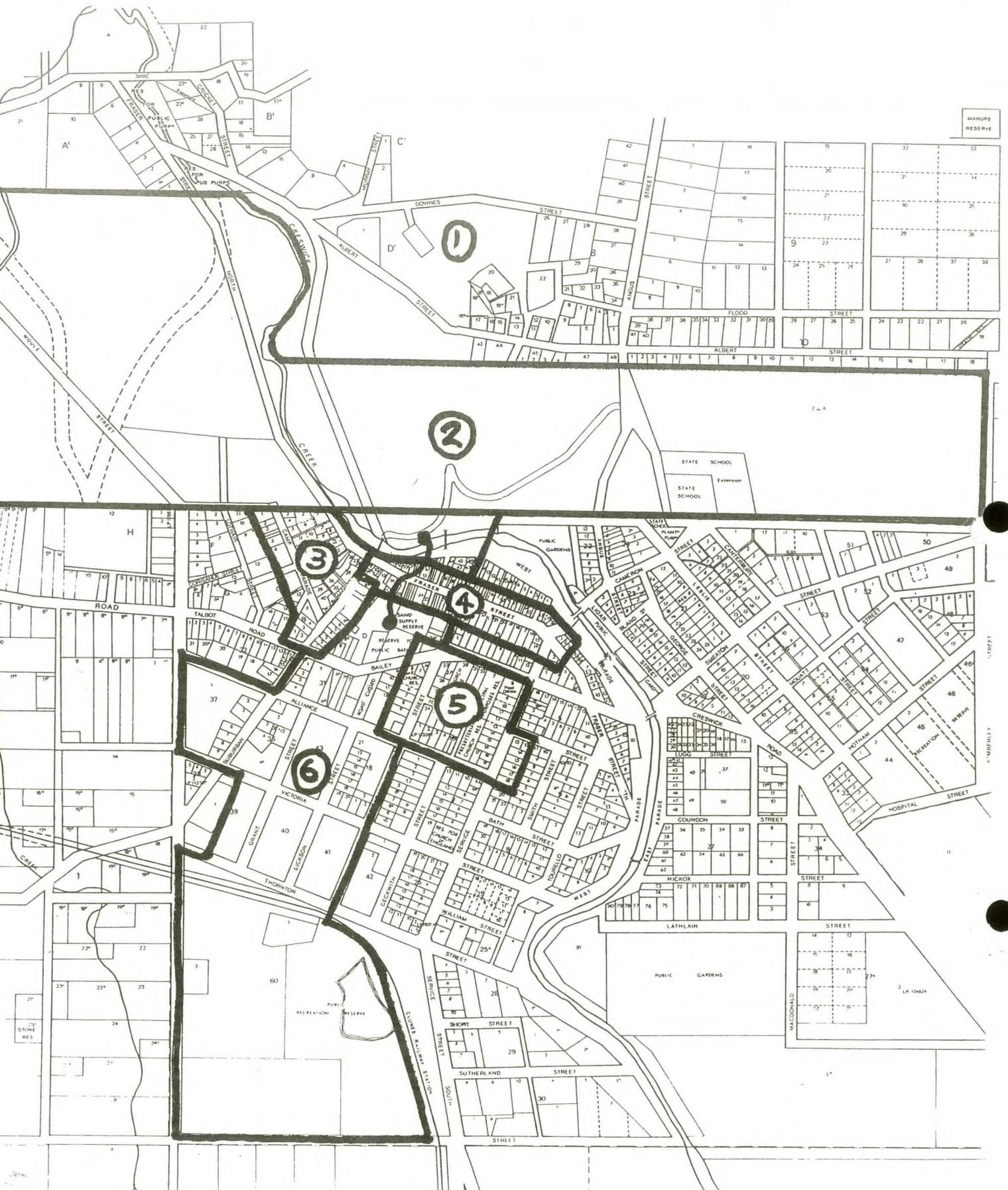
The Talbot area and especially the early streets (Ballaarat Street, Scandinavian Crescent and Oxford Street) are a direct response by miners and businesses to the position of Scandinavian Lead. The volcanic flow confined the shallow lead to a narrow horseshoe and early exploitation of the lead directly influenced the locality of those first commercial streets. As more areas were worked out, streets and allotments were surveyed and thus development of Talbot was further influenced by geology and mining. As no major rushes occurred in this locality after Scandinavian Lead and thus the movement of the institutional, commercial and residential centre from Amherst and Back Creek Flat ceased. This ensured that Talbot became the major town between Clunes, Maryborough, Carisbrook, Avoca and Lexton. Only Majorca provided any other large settlement in the general area although this development was not sustained. The government buildings in Talbot deserve special mention. Based on comparison with other small Victorian goldfield towns they form the most complete and intact collection of such buildings. Their central location also ensures that they are the key items of the most significant precinct in Talbot.

Significance

Talbot is significant as one of the most intact small goldmining towns in Victoria and Australia. The town contains a significant number of buildings, sites and works relating to the period c.1860-1930 which form the major attributes of the area. The significance of the area is especially enhanced by the relatively high number of buildings from the period c.1860-75. The government block contains the most complete collection of buildings of any small gold rush town in Victoria and one of the best precincts of modest government buildings in Australia. Talbot is significant for the manner in which geological factors influencing mining are reflected in the street pattern, still used as the major streets in the town. The setting of the town is enhanced by the proximity of mining areas on Back Creek, Rocky Flat, Mount Greenock and the Amherst area. All these areas have a significant part in the development of different phases of the town's history.

References

- 1 Flett, Gold Discovery, 1975, p.256 quoting M and D A.
- 2 Whittle diary, SLV MS 11829, box 2163/7. 3 *ibid.*
- 4 Wesleyan Chronicle, II, 10, 1 October 1859, p.238; Bryant, Talbot, 1952; Town Lots, Back Creek, L490, surveyed 20 Dec 1859; Township of Talbot, L1186, 2009, surveyed Dec 1861.
- 5 VPRS 978, unit 1, f.21; VPRS 979, unit 1, p.13; VPRS 957, unit 3, p.51.
- 6 Town Lots Back Creek, L490, John Templeton, assistant surveyor 20 December 1859, lithographed 28 March 1860.
- 7 VPRS 1189, unit 601, bundle H9356; unit 619.
- 8 VPRS 1189, unit 614; Barrett, The Civic Frontier, 1979, pp.244-246.
- 9 Amherst Borough Council minutes, 19 April 1876.
- 10 Special allotments Township of Talbot, L 4678, surveyed by Joseph Smith, 11 October 1873.



- 1 NORTH CLUNES MINING AREA
- 2 CLUNES. PRE-EMPTIVE RIGHT
- 3 CAMP HILL
- 4 FRASER STREET
- 5 INSTITUTIONAL PRECINCT
- 6 SOUTH CLUNES MINING SITES

3.3 CLUNES

3.3.1 Clunes township

History

The initial discovery of gold in July 1851 caused little permanent impact on the environment at Clunes, except for the debris caused by the early diggers. It is unlikely that any permanent buildings were erected as part of the rush in 1851, with calico and canvass being the most common materials of the itinerant digger. However the earliest building on the present site of Clunes township was possibly a [shepherd's?] hut, part of Donald Cameron's Clunes run. As plotted on Burr's 1854 plan, the small building was located on the site of the present caravan park. The earliest track to pass through Clunes led from Lexton to Mount Franklin where it joined a track from Newstead. By 1854 Clunes was a junction for the Lexton Road with tracks to Ballarat and 'The Avoca'. (1)

Early development in Clunes took place at the Camp Hill area (q.v.) and in the commercial area of Fraser Street (q.v.), especially the western or lower section near the quartz reefs. The town had achieved considerable growth before the government surveyed allotments in December 1858 and it was not until 1860, that the first land sales took place. In the intervening period, a 'commercial club' composed mainly of local business interests had lobbied for the creation of a local government for Clunes, dissatisfied with the raw deal provided the Creswick District Roads Board especially in the unsatisfactory provision of new roads. (2) The Borough of Clunes was proclaimed in 1860 and allotments in surveyed sections 1 - 6 and 8 were sold in 1860, Section 7 being withdrawn by the District Surveyor W.S. Urquhart 'as a portion of it is leased to a mining company'. (3) Plans of allotments in sections 9 - 18 (on the west side of the creek) and 19 - 24 (on the east side) were published in 1862 and sold soon after. This sale was augmented by allotments south of Victoria Street in 1864. The area west of Dickson Street and south of Victoria Street was largely taken up by mining operations of the South Clunes Company and other smaller operations. (4)

The eastern portion of Clunes was connected with the commercial centre as early as 1857 by a bridge (5), possibly 'Fell's Crossing' although it was not until 1861 that the Government Bridge gave direct access to Creswick and Smeaton Roads. In 1862 J. A. Patterson, an English writer described the descent into the township.

But, if the road to Creswick (from Ballarat) was bad, that to Clunes was almost inconceivably worse. Just as we approached its most troublesome part, the rain came down more thickly, the mist crept closer to the ground, and the lamps became useless for any other purpose than to make the fog visible. Down came the off wheeler and the rear wheels simultaneously in a deep ditch, cut by the roadmen to 'improve' the track, and out stepped a fellow passenger and myself into the

soft mud, to assist the coach to the perpendicular again, and restore Her Majesty's Mail to a condition to travel. It was only the third time that a similar mischance had occurred, almost in the same spot of the same ditch, within ten days, in spite of the vigilance and knowledge of the driver! (6)

With the move of the police to Camp Hill, the old Police Paddock was available for sale. This was surveyed in 1863 and the 30 acre 'botanical gardens' were reserved in that year. Approximately twenty houses were located in the area and west of MacDonald Street mainly along the creek and subdivision was carefully arranged to enable existing buildings to remain on individual surveyed allotments. The northbound streets were named after pastoral occupants Whyte and MacDonald, while east-west streets were titled Lugg, Coundon, Hickox and Lathlain after prominent local residents. (7)

The area east of Leslie Street, on the plateau beyond the escarpment, was only partially developed in the early 1870s although the erection of the State School (opened 1875) and reticulated water in the 1870s stimulated further development. Indeed Smeaton Road played a major part in the Clunes Water Scheme as the location of the main pipe to the township. Health services were immeasurably aided by the opening of the hospital in 1871 and recreation was also aided by gazettal of a twenty acre reserve at the south end of MacDonald Street in that year. (8) Little mining activity took place in East Clunes, although in the early 1870s the Great Eastern Gold Mining Company had a large lease in this area. (9) However, the area was so far from the line of reefs, that the company achieved little known success.

Service Street was a busy thoroughfare as it soon provided a direct link with Ballarat. Some notable residential development such as the Church of England manse (1863), Scott residence (corner Bath Street - 1863) and Shrigley residence (1870) also chose the high ground the street afforded. Less pretentious cottages covered the remaining allotments and most were small timber houses often extended as individual prosperity improved.

The railway was constructed in the early 1870s and this gave some impetus to the development of Service Street, especially the southern end. This was reinforced by the extensive works of the South Clunes Company, whose battery was located on the creek at the end of William Street and serviced by an extensive network of tramways. The works of Bute and Downes and the Lothair Company were also located in this part of South Clunes. (10)

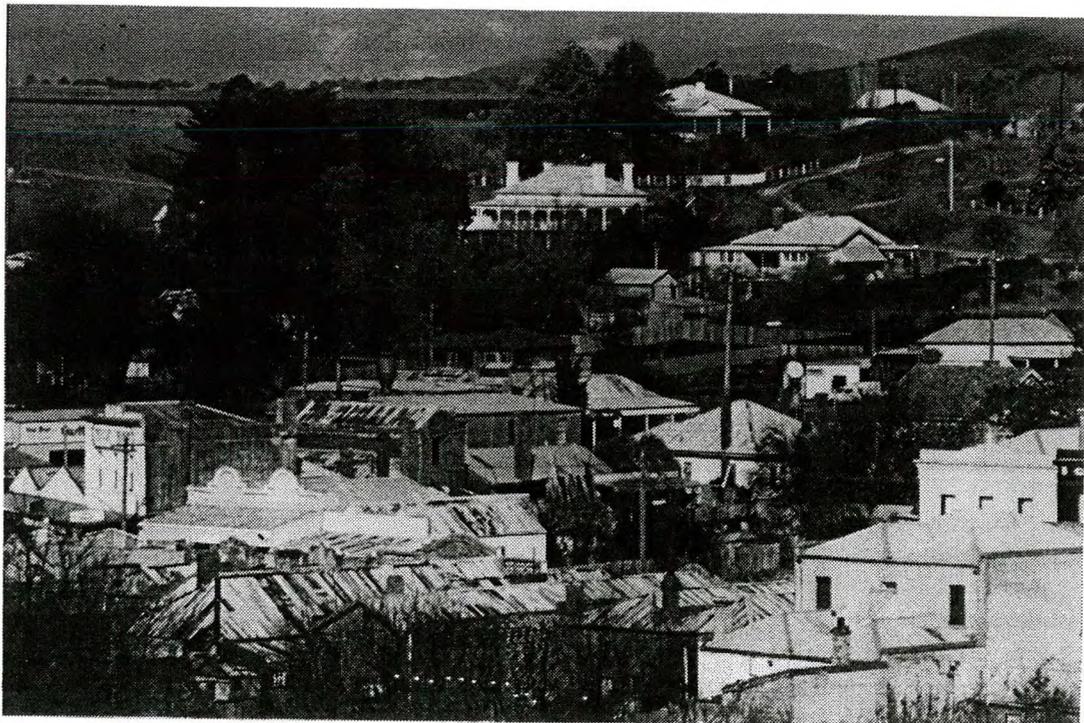
Fire swept through north and east Clunes in 1944, destroying the hospital and a number of residences. The destruction of the hospital was a critical blow to Clunes particularly as a 1936 remodelling had averted threatened closure. However, a new hospital was built on the current site in Service Street in 1946. (11)

Integrity

As a township Clunes retains a very high degree of integrity, derived from the quantity and quality of nineteenth and early twentieth buildings, the retention of early streetworks and landscaping, and the remarkable natural setting in Creswick's Creek valley. Bushfire destroyed some buildings in 1944 and others were destroyed throughout the history of the town by smaller fires. Although the town does not have the low number of modern buildings of towns such as Port Fairy, Chiltern, Beechworth or Maldon, the size of the township is sufficient for the early buildings to give the predominant character. In this respect it is similar to towns such as Queenscliff, Castlemaine and Creswick. It is also distinguished from towns such as Tarnagulla or Smythesdale by its range of building types, which almost fully represent a nineteenth century goldfields township.

The street layout is almost wholly intact (except for sections of North Clunes) and this gives the primary stamp of the development pattern. On a more detailed level, cadastral property boundaries have been retained from their inception and give the town much of its character. Early residential areas (such as Camp Hill and North Clunes) retain irregular boundaries relating to tenure by miner's rights whilst the southern and eastern parts of the town strongly reflect the hand of government surveyor John Templeton. Such property boundaries have a strong influence over the mode of development and give distinct character to different parts of the town.

View to Hill Street from 'The Rocks' showing the importance of vistas in a town located within a river valley



Apart from the significant buildings and mining sites listed below, other features such as mature landscaping and gardens, early streetworks (such as stone lines gutters) and early fencing contribute to the high integrity of the town.

[Note: Other sites within Clunes have been grouped according to the area in which they fall - see other descriptions in Section 3.3. More detailed statements of integrity are also given in the respective sections for other areas and precincts.]

Residence, 48 Alliance Street
Residence, 52 Alliance Street
Residence, 24 Angus Street
Residence, 41 Angus Street, corner Bland Street
Residence, 106 Bailey Street
Former Telegraph Hotel, 114 Bailey Street, corner Fraser Street
Residence, 6 Bath Street
Residence, 15 Bath Street
Residence, 16 Bath Street
Residence, 20 Bath Street
Residence, 21 Beckwith Street
Residence, 23 Beckwith Street
Residence, 1 Cameron Street
Residence, 9 Canterbury Street
Residence, 10 Canterbury Street
Residence, 26 Canterbury Street
Residence, 27 Canterbury Street
Residence, 12 Creswick Road
Residence, 15 Creswick Road, corner George Street and Moatt Street
Residence, 29 Creswick Road, corner Hotham Street
Residence, 25 East Parade, corner Coundon Street
Former Payne Residence, 43 East Parade
Residence, 85 Fraser Street
Residence, 64 Fraser Street, corner Bailey Street
Former Wallace Residence, 68 Fraser Street
Former Bible Christian minister's residence, 70 Fraser Street
Residence, 9 George Street
Residence, 29 George Street
Former Growcott Residence, 4 Hill Street,
Residence, 5 Hill Street
Former Dow Residence, 9 Hill Street
Residence, 8 Hill Street
Former Clunes Hospital, Hospital Street
Residence, Lathlain Street
Residence, 1 Leslie Street
Residence, Leslie Street, corner Smeaton Road
Coundon Residence, 32 Leslie Street
Residence, 40 Leslie Street
Residence, 1 Ligar Street
Residence, 3 Ligar Street
Residence, 15 Ligar Street
Residence, 19 Ligar Street
Residence, 21 Ligar Street
Residence, 4 Macdonald Street
Residence, 8 Macdonald Street

Residence, Purcell Street, corner Templeton Street
 Residence, 7 Service Street Residence, 25 Service Street
 Former Shrigley Residence, 31 Service Street
 Former Scott Residence, 35 Service Street, corner Bath Street
 Residence, 39 Service Street Residence, 41 Service Street
 Residence, 43 Service Street Showgrounds, Service Street
 Residence, 51 Service Street Residence, 53 Service Street
 Former Railway Hotel, 55 Service Street, corner William Street
 Residence, 57 Service Street Residence, 65 Service Street
 Residence, 75 Service Street Residence, 83 Service Street
 Residence, 93 Service Street
 Former Grenfell Residence, 28 Service Street
 Residence, 36 Service Street Residence, 38 Service Street
 Residence, 40 Service Street
 Former Church of England Vicarage, 42 Service Street
 Residence, 52 Service Street Residence, 60 Service Street
 Residence, 64 Service Street
 Clunes Railway Station, Service Street
 Residence, 5 Short Street Residence, 8 Smeaton Road
 Residence, 47 Smeaton Road Residence, Smith Street
 Residence, 11 Suburban Street Residence, 19 Talbot Road
 Residence, 21 Talbot Road Residence, 37 Talbot Road
 Residence, 59 Talbot Road Residence, 14 Talbot Road
 Residence, 18 Talbot Road Residence, 32 Talbot Road
 Residence, 52 Talbot Road
 Shop and Residence, 62 Talbot Road
 Residence, 5 Templeton Street, corner Bailey Street
 Residence, 45 Thornton Street Residence, 47 Thornton Street
 Residence, 14 Tourello Street Residence, 5 Whyte Street
 Residence, 10 Whyte Street

A number of other buildings contribute to the significance of Clunes but due to alterations or other factors they are not listed as significant sites. These include many early cottages, which through alteration have not been included in the main schedule of buildings. Other attributes include many early streetworks (such as stone gutters) and mature landscaping.

Analysis

Clunes has buildings and sites which demonstrate an almost continuous line of development from the 1850s to present. The most significant buildings however are principally those from the mid to late nineteenth century character. The institutional buildings are an outstanding feature of the town and their concentrated location in one precinct enhances their impact. The pattern of street development and allotments displays both irregular characteristics derived from the period c.1855-60 and also a more orderly grid survey from 1858-c.1865. Dominating the layout and central to the township's history is the pre-emptive right which cut across the town from east to west, creating the distance suburb of North Clunes. There are few other Victorian goldfield towns where such an early survey has had such a major impact on later development.

Significance

Clunes township is significant as one of the most intact goldfield townships in Victoria and Australia. The town contains a large collection of buildings, sites and works relating to the period c.1860-1930 which form the major attributes of the area. The significance is enhanced by the high concentration of buildings from the period c.1865-90. Both the institutional precinct and commercial area are amongst the most representative such examples in the state. The institutional precinct in particular, is enhanced by a number of buildings of outstanding architectural and historical significance.

Clunes is significant for the manner in which the steep valley of Creswick's Creek and the early survey of the pre-emptive right have constrained development in the town. These factors are enhanced by the juxtaposition of tight urban development with the open spaces of the mining sites. All of these factors are still represented by tangible factors such as fence lines, road alignments and buildings. Mature landscaping, both public and private has given the town a starkly different appearance from its peak of prosperity in the late 1860s and informs the visitor of contemporary reaction to the despoilation caused by mining.

The Clunes goldfield was considered a model reef mining area and is historically significant as the first publically discovered goldfield in Victoria. The combined works of the Port Phillip and Clunes Companies were at the forefront of scientific and technical progress with reef mining and made the town prominent beyond its actual significance as a gold producer.

The town is enhanced by the wealth of documentation still available to interpret historic sites, both extant and demolished.

References

- 1 'Plan of Clunes pre-emptive right', Thomas Burr, Surveyor, 23 September 1854, held by Central Plan Office.
- 2 Base plan of Victoria, 18 Dec 1855 in VPRS 1189, unit 469, Y 57/55.
- 3 Township of Clunes, L 628 and 1138, John Templeton, Assistant Surveyor, December 1858, lithographed 13 February 1862. Numerous reports in Creswick and Clunes Advertiser regarding progress of Clunes, the Commercial Club and moves for incorporation as a Borough.
- 4 VPRS 44, unit 437, B60/514
- 5 VPRS 1189, unit 483, B57/4083.
- 6 J.A. Patterson, The Gold Fields of Victoria in 1862, Wilson and Mackinnon, Melbourne, December 1862.
- 7 Township of Clunes, L 1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.
- 8 See photographs held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes, in particular the contrast between c.1865 Nettleton views and later postcard views around the turn of the century.
- 9 'Plan of Lothair Extended Gold Mining Co. Clunes', 10 May 1872, Weickhardt papers, Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 10 South Clunes, 1888
- 11 The Clunes District Hospital 1871-1971 A Brief History, 1971.

3.3.2 Clunes pre-emptive right

History

Donald Cameron settled in this area in 1839 and a year later he was able to write to his brother that he had a comfortable house and hurdles for his sheep. (1) This house was approximately five miles north of the site of the later homestead, possibly to the east of Mount Glasgow. (2) Cameron's run of 32,000 acres was named 'Clunes' and in the late 1840s could support fifty head of cattle and over 15,000 sheep. (3) In 1850 he applied for a homestead block under his right of pre-emption. (4) He was permitted by an 1847 New South Wales order-in-council to purchase up to 640 acres or one square mile around his home station. By the early 1850s his homestead was located on the west bank of Creswick's Creek (near the end of the present Station Flat Road) and in 1854 described as '8 room stone and brick built cottage, with out offices, gardens, etc., etc. complete'. (5)

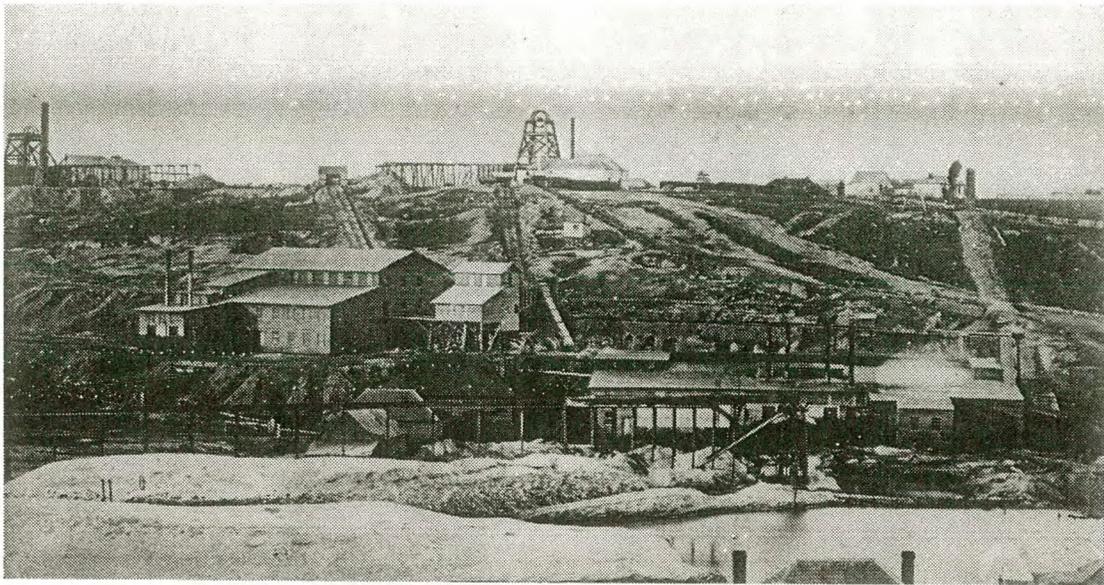
In March 1850, shortly prior to Cameron's application to purchase his station block, William Campbell of Strathloddon discovered several pieces of gold in the outcropping quartz reefs on the Clunes run. The discovery was concealed although in July 1851 James Esmond publicly announced the goldfield in the Geelong Advertiser. (6)

Thus the discovery of gold of Clunes was made public, although the close proximity to Cameron's homestead appears to have confirmed the worst fears held by the squatters that their peaceful pastoral occupation was to be severely disrupted by gold mining. However, the alluvial gold along Creswick's Creek was soon exhausted and miners lacked the machinery and technology necessary to economically extract gold from the quartz reefs. It was probably this lack of technological sophistication that caused the government to grant Cameron 480 acres under right of pre-emption on 21 June 1852, knowing that part of the land was auriferous. (7)

Surveyor Thomas Burr undertook the survey of the Clunes pre-emptive right during 22-25 August 1854 and the topography and geology so excited him that he appended two sketches in the margin of his letter conveying the plan to the Surveyor General. 'The Dyke of Quartz' he remarked

contains grains of gold which are visible to the naked eye: some which I saw of the size of small shot: and if this quartz was crushed and the gold amalgamated with mercury the vein would in all probability, yield a sufficient quantity of gold to remunerate the operators. (8)

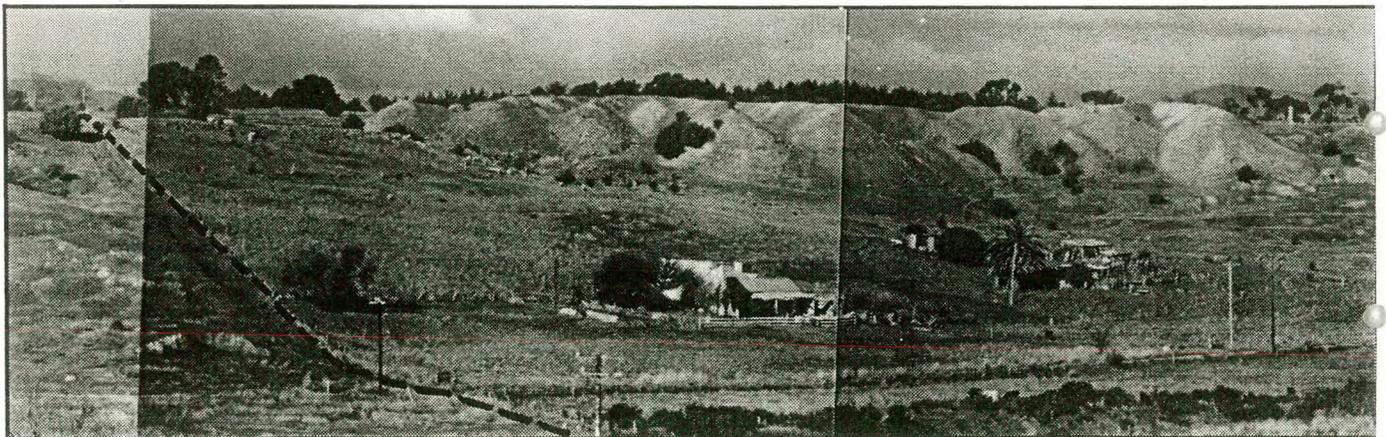
In the face of such enthusiastic observations and the general progress with quartz mining of Bendigo, and Tarrangower [Maldon] it was inevitable that operations would recommence at Clunes.



Port Phillip Company works and poppet heads of the Clunes Company pictured in 1866 at the height of their prosperity

In December 1855 a party from Ballarat erected a Chilean mill and early in 1856 another party erected a Berdan mill. A rush later in the year turned attention to the reefs on the pre-emptive right, sold by Cameron to Lane, Whyte and MacDonald in January 1855. (9) The owners of the Clunes station resisted attempts to mine on the private land; although mining was permitted on Crown Land and no law prevented mining on freehold land (provided permission was granted by the owner), freehold holders had no absolute right to retain the gold on their purchased land. This posed a quandry for miners, land owners and especially the government and its officers.

Panoramic view of the Clunes pre-emptive right showing the remaining mullock heaps of the Clunes Company. The pre-emptive right boundary is dotted.



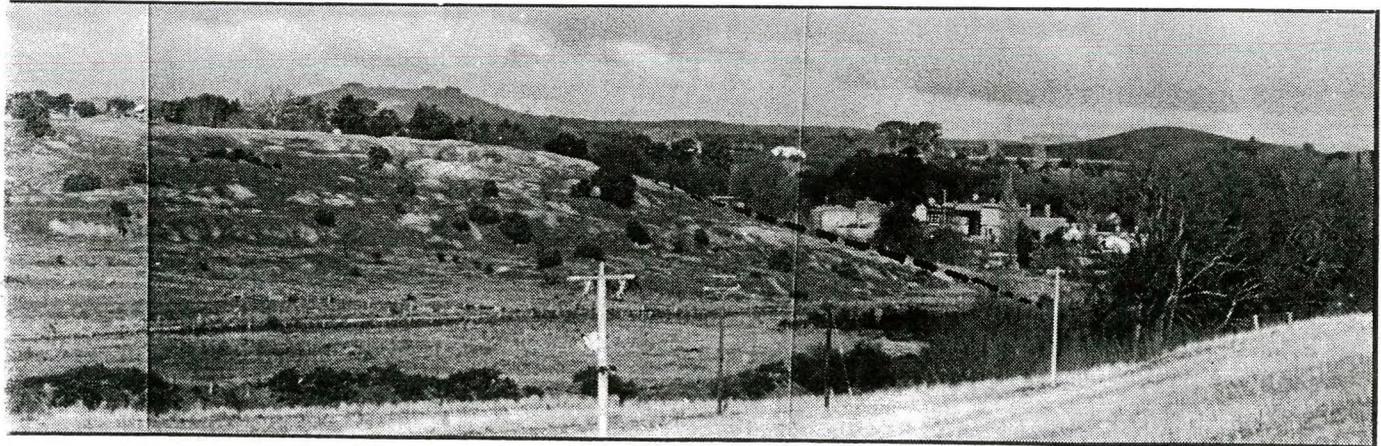
Company mining on a large scale was almost unknown in the mid 1850s as the shallow alluvial workings on most of Victoria's gold fields had encouraged a fierce independence. (10) Any agreement between Lane, Whyte and MacDonald and even a small co-operative party of diggers seemed out of the question. However, the key to exploiting the auriferous quartz reefs came in late 1856 when Rivett Henry Bland of the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company arrived at Clunes. Funded by capital from London his company had searched for gold in Victoria since the early 1850s with little success. Following an inspection of the reefs he negotiated a lease with the proprietors of Clunes pre-emptive right and, obtaining the assistance of Charles Kinnear, sought the formation of a large co-operative party to assist in mining operations. The Clunes Co-operative Quartz Mining Company would mine the quartz and Bland's Port Phillip Company would crush the stone and extract the gold.

That the Port Phillip and Clunes Co-operative companies commenced working did not mean a peaceful solution to the vexed question of mining on private land. Since 1855 incursions by indignant miners had irked MacDonald and his partners although the small contingent of police were powerless to intervene. Many arrests occurred in the next few years and the feuding between the 'outsiders' and 'insiders' (as contemporary reports titled the two factions) gave a violent start to a goldfield which subsequently saw generally orderly progress. (11)

The history of the Port Phillip Company is detailed in the background history and reference should be made to chapters 4 and 7.

Integrity

This area still forms an effective barrier to northern development of Clunes township. This is an integral part of the historical significance of the boundary of the pre-emptive right and today fence lines mark the division as they have since the 1850s. Many sites relating to mining and the Port Phillip Company are still to be found in this area and these sites include the following.



Former Bland Residence, 1 Camp Parade
Clunes State School No.1552 and former Tourello State School,
Canterbury Street
Residence, north end of Lothair Street
Gold discovery monuments, Scenic Road
'The Steps' and 'The Rocks', Scenic Road
Residence, Station Flat Road
Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company and Clunes
Co-operative Quartz Mining Company site, off Station
Flat Road

References

- 1 Cited in Weickhardt, Clunes 1839-1972, p.4.
- 2 Extracts from the "Star" newspaper published in Melbourne 7th and 8th April 1858, London, 1858, p.4.
- 3 Letter from Surveyor General to F.C. Weickhardt, 4 June 1970, Weickhardt papers, Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 4 VPRS 2599, unit 523.
- 5 *ibid.*
- 6 Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1970, pp.418-437.
- 7 VPRS 2599, unit 523.
- 8 VPRS 44, unit 3, 55/61.
- 9 Extracts from the "Star", *op.cit.*, p.8; Surveyor General to F.C. Weickhardt, *op.cit.*
- 10 For instance see Weston Bate, Lucky City, 1978, chapter 5.
- 11 Extracts from the "Star", *op.cit.*, p.10; R.H. Bland, History of the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company, in connection with the Clunes mine, 1890, p.1; see details in Chief Secretary's inwards correspondence, VPRS 1189; Farwell, Ghost Towns of Australia.

3.3.3 Camp Hill

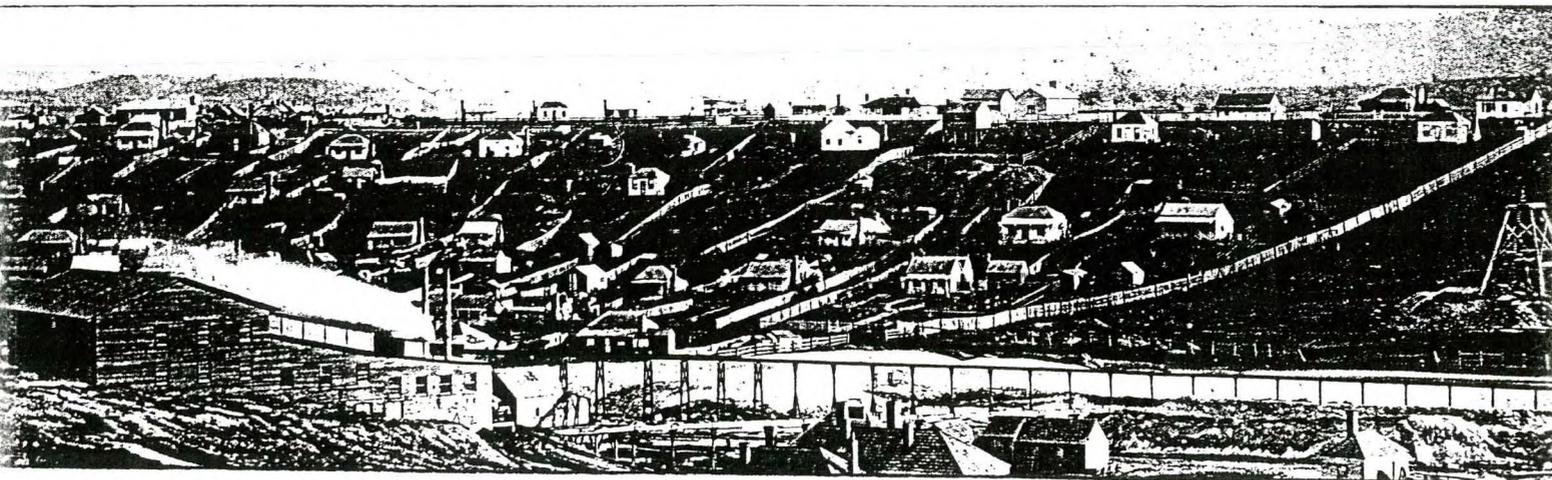
History

The northern boundary of this area was fixed in 1854 when the Clunes pre-emptive right of Donald Cameron was marked out by surveyor Thomas Burr. (1) At that date little mining activity had taken place at Clunes and it was not until the period 1855-57 that systemation exploitation of the quartz reefs occurred. By 1858 the question of mining on the pre-emptive right had provoked numerous disturbances and the Police Paddock, situated to the south-east of the town, was too distant for any effective surveillance of the diggings. However, a lock-up situated on the escarpment strategically overlooking the line of reefs was erected during 1858 at a cost of £376. (2) Despite local objections, this was supplemented by police buildings (880 10s) and Court of Petty Sessions (£450) during 1859 with a cookhouse for the police (£100) a year later. (3)

Camp Parade ran in line with the government camp buildings and this alignment was followed by the boundary of the Criterion Quartz Mining Company claim. This company had been established in April 1858 on an L-shaped claim held on miner's rights although when extended (by 1862) and the newly established south western boundary coincided with the alignment of Camp Parade, while Camp Street coincided with part of the former western boundary. (4) The government camp was fenced in 1860-62 and this consolidated the line of Camp Parade. (5)

When geologist Richard Daintree photographed Camp Hill in 1859 (6) the hillside was dotted with small timber houses. No systematic layout of roads existed but instead a network of tracks threaded between the mine workings, houses and general debris. The miner's right, an outcome of the 1855 Goldfield's

Camp Hill photographed by Charles Nettleton c.1865-66 clearly shows the disorganised pattern of development





1872 plan of survey which enshrines the early pattern of development and plots individual cottages

Commission set up in the wake of the Eureka uprising, was in effect a lease of Crown land and the holder was entitled to a permit which allowed erection of a residence on the land. As all land on Camp Hill was still held by the Crown in the 1850s and early 1860s residences were presumably all erected under this provision.

The 1862 directory listed the Camp separately and described the buildings and occupants as 'Police Court; Warden's Court: Charles Cholmeley Dowling, Warden and P.M. [Police Magistrate]; Clunes Police Station, Gold Office; Moses Bolger, Sergeant of Police and Clerk of Courts'. Of the twenty five entries for 'Camp Hill Street', 10 were given as miners and 6 other occupations connected with mining, 5 carpenters and wheelwrights, 3 commercial retail occupations and mounted constable Corneilius Durack. (7)

Allotments in Camp Parade and Camp Street were surveyed and sold in 1864. (8) The Masonic Lodge at the intersection was erected in this year as was plasterer John Barwell's residence on the corner of Talbot Road. All other lots surveyed in Camp Street were already occupied at the time of sale and residences such as that on allotment 4 owned by miner Peter Pearce had stood there since at least 1860.

The land in the area bounded by the Clunes pre-emptive right, Camp Parade, Camp Street and Creswick's Creek was not sold until the 1870s and later. A plan of 1872 showed the allotments surveyed to accommodate existing residences and early layout of access paths. (9) This layout, a consequence of early mining techniques and ad hoc residential development is still reflected in present cadastral plans.

Camp Hill was a popular spot for photographers and many panoramic views were taken from the edge of the escarpment. These included distinguished photographers such as Richard Daintree (1859) and Charles Nettleton (c.1865-66) as well as many local operators. Using Camp Hill as his vantage point in 1862 the Dicker's Mining Record correspondent observed the mining operations of Criterion, Clunes United, Port Phillip, Yankee and Victoria companies with satisfaction:

they form by far the liveliest and most encouraging mining scene that can be witnessed in the whole colony - more especially enhanced as that scene is by the sound of the busy hum of the mills that are for ever at work, and the significant and labored shouts of the winding engines, so suggestive of the fitful occupation they are engaged in. (10)

The new Town Hall and Court House in Bailey Street opened in 1873 and the first court sittings in the new premises were held soon after. The former Court House on Camp Hill was converted into a four roomed caretaker's cottage for the South Clunes State School (No.136) in 1883 and this building was apparently sold and removed in 1898. (11)

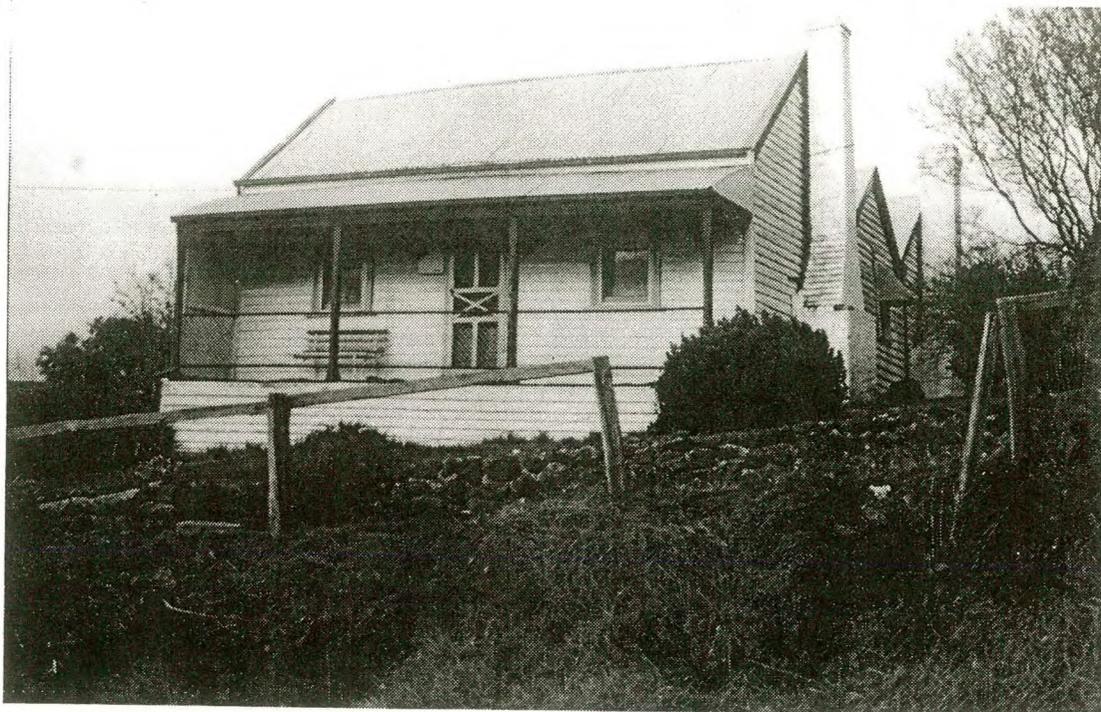
Integrity

The Camp Hill area retain several early buildings and those listed below are particularly significant.

Residence, 71 Bailey Street
Residence, 75 Bailey Street
Residence, 77 Bailey Street
Residence, 79 Bailey Street
Former State School No.136, Bailey Street
Residence, 74 Bailey Street
Residence, 11 Camp Street
Residence, 13 Camp Street
Former Masonic Lodge, 18 Camp Street, corner Camp Parade
Former Pearce Residence, 19 Camp Street
Former Barwell Residence, 25 Camp Street, corner Talbot Road
Residence, 4 Fraser Street

Although these buildings make a major contribution to Camp Hill its significance as an area is derived mainly from its pattern of settlement. This is still demonstrated by the cadastral allotments which reflect the early history of the area and strongly contrast with the government surveyed blocks elsewhere in Clunes. The difference is very similar to the ad hoc mode of development in Lower Fraser Street compared to the orderly surveyed shops presently situated east of Templeton Street.

The early streetworks, particularly in Camp Street, are still largely intact. These include items such as stone lined gutters, timber handrail and early footpath alignment. The area overlooks Creswick's Creek and the Port Phillip Company site making views across the valley of particular importance.



Typical early timber residence in Camp Street set behind an early section of handrail on the elevated footpath

References

- 1 Plan held by Central Plan Office, microfiche, dated 23 September 1854.
- 2 VPRS 957, unit 2, p.585.
- 3 VPRS 979, unit 1, pp.9, 21, 51; Creswick Advertiser, 24 June 1859, p.3; 14 October 1859, p.3
- 4 Dicker's Mining Record, December 1862, pp.22-23; plan C/242B, signed Thomas Adair, 4 January 1862; plan C/242, signed John Templeton, 1858 (?), held at Central Plan Office, microfiche.
- 5 VPRS 957, unit 2, p.585; VPRS 979, unit 4, p.52.
- 6 La Trobe collection, State Library of Victoria.
- 7 John Butler, (compiler), Birchnell's Ballarat ... directory for 1862, pp.90-91.
- 8 Township of Clunes, L 1653, 2026, lithographed 4 May 1864.
- 9 Allotments, Clunes, L 4464, lithographed 6 September 1872.
- 10 Dicker's Mining Record, December 1862, p.24.
- 11 Blake (ed), Vision and Realisation, vol.2, p.628..pa

3.3.4 Fraser Street

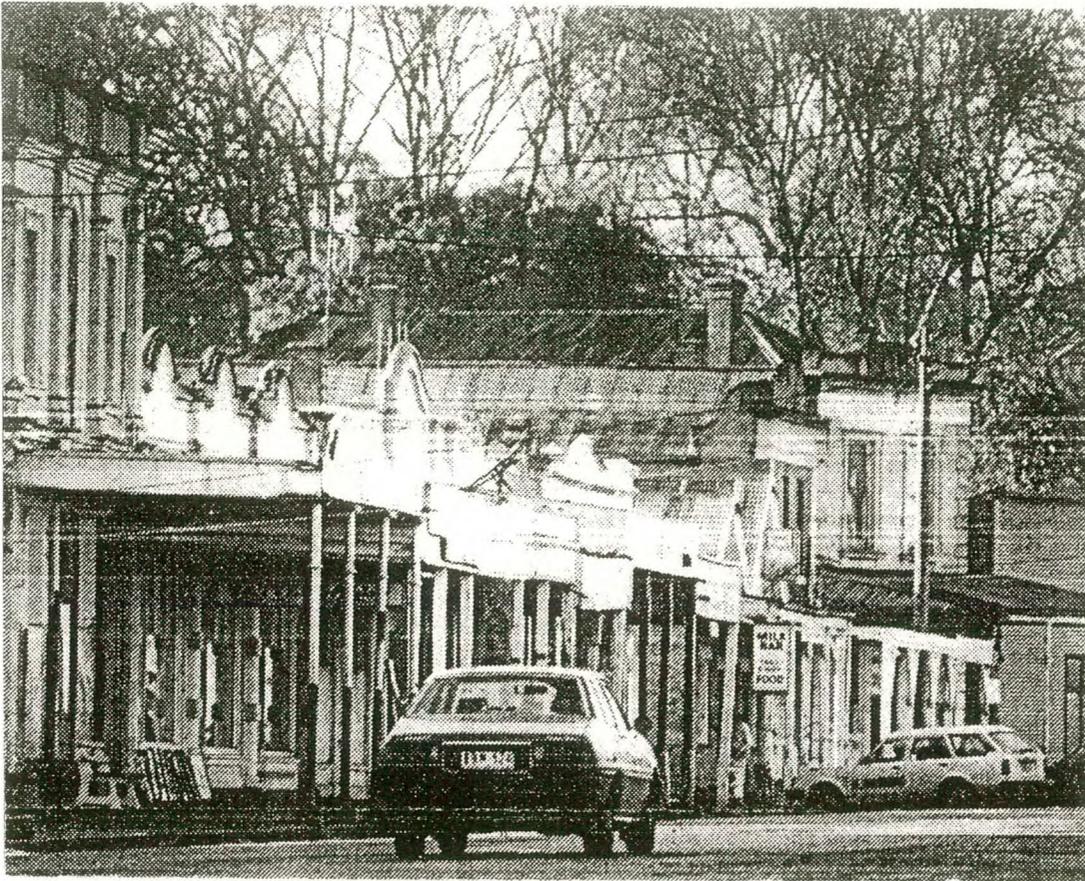
History

The commercial area of Clunes initially developed on the flat land adjacent to the creek and east of the quartz reefs. Fraser Street (as yet un-named) formed the main thoroughfare and commercial premises were gradually erected from approximately 1856. Richard Daintree's 1859 view shows a busy scene with many substantial buildings replacing earlier makeshift structures. (1) The road, however, was anything but substantial. 'The most striking fact at Clunes is the black mud, the street in the Flat being almost impassable to the fair sex ...' (2) and again in the middle of winter 'Adventurous husbands, returning to their beloved spouses, make mud-larks of themselves ... A gentleman who went out in drab, returned in black ...'. (3)

An ad hoc local road committee was appointed in 1859 with a view to metalling the main street and frustration was increasingly felt at the lack of attention by the government sponsored Creswick Roads Board. Mixed feelings also greeted the governments' decision to make Bailey Street the main road rather than the existing Main Street (i.e. Fraser Street). (4) John Templeton had surveyed the town late in 1858 although his plan was not lithographed until 13 September 1860. This named Fraser Street and included allotments on the south side between Templeton and Service Streets. The remaining area was presumably held on miner's rights and business licenses so that the chaotic layout of the remainder of 'lower' Fraser Street was not surveyed until 1874.

The section of Fraser Street sold in 1860 (i.e. between Templeton and Service Streets) tended to house banks and other institutional buildings such as schools and churches. By the mid 1860s rebuilding of earlier premises had commenced and by 1869-70 the process of upgrading was in full flight. Hardly an allotment was left untouched as bricks and render replaced iron and timber. Attached rows of shops with consistent architectural facades were erected as speculative ventures and upperstoreys were occasionally added to earlier structures. With the introduction of gas in the early 1860s shopfronts became larger to enable goods to be better displayed and lit at night; plate glass windows were a prestige feature. Post supported verandahs were added or rebuilt during the late 1860s and early 1870s and these gave a uniformity and coherence to the strip commercial development, especially on the northern side (the banks on the southern side were generally conceived as freestanding architectural showpieces). (5)

The eastern or 'upper' end of Fraser Street (towards the Telegraph Hotel in Bailey Street) was also a busy part of the commercial area although this section, and the 'lower' section (west of Templeton Street), declined in the late nineteenth century and today are almost bereft of any remnants of their former function.



The long run of post supported verandahs and fine collection of early shopfronts distinguish the shops in Fraser Street

Integrity

Fraser Street is the most intact part of Clunes. It retains a high concentration of buildings from the nineteenth century and early twentieth century as well as early streetworks. There are few gaps in the streetscape, and those few spaces are of very recent origin. Lower Fraser Street however stands in stark contrast to the central section as it has almost no early buildings and even very few buildings of more recent date.

As a group, the Fraser Street shops are particularly intact with most retaining early shopfront joinery and post supported verandahs. Many even retain early painted signs which contribute to the street's character in a manner which new reproduction signs cannot. Such early signs are the very essence of historical change, not a spurious attempt to recreate history. The following are the most significant buildings and sites in the Fraser Street precinct.

Residence, 9 Fraser Street

Former Duke of Edinburgh Hotel, 19 Fraser Street

Former Dow shop, 23 Fraser Street, corner Templeton Street

Former 'Noah's Ark', 27 Fraser Street

Shop, 29 Fraser Street
Shops, 31-33 Fraser Street
National Hotel, 35 Fraser Street
Former shop, 41 Fraser Street
Former Fire Brigade Hotel, 43 Fraser Street
Shops, 45-49 Fraser Street
Shop, 51 Fraser Street
Former Hotchin Shop, 53 Fraser Street
Former Moritz Shops, 55-57 Fraser Street
Shop, 59 Fraser Street
Former Edwards Shop, 63 Fraser Street
Former Town Hall Hotel, 65 Fraser Street
Former Union Bank, Fraser Street, corner Templeton Street
Former Matthews Residence, 26 Fraser Street
Former National Bank, 28 Fraser Street
Former London Chartered Bank, 30 Fraser Street
Club Hotel, 34 Fraser Street
Former Nichol and Wallace Warehouse, 36 Fraser Street
Shops, 46 Fraser Street
Shops, 48 Fraser Street
Former Prisk's Drapery Mart, 50-54 Fraser Street
Former School of Mines, Service Street
'Jobson's Corner', 1 Service Street
Shop, 5? Service Street, corner Bailey Street
War Memorial, Service Street, corner Fraser Street
Shops, 2 Service Street
Shops, 4 Service Street

The former Fire Brigade Hotel at 43 Fraser Street typifies the process of rebuilding which occurred in the central section of Fraser Street during the late 1860s and early 1870s



References

- 1 La Trobe picture collection; State Library of Victoria.
- 2 Creswick Advertiser, 3 June 1859, p.4.
- 3 ibid., 15 July 1859, p.4
- 4 ibid., 12 August, 1859, p.4.
- 5 See background history, chapter 7 for more details.

3.3.5 Institutional precinct

History

The first eight sections of allotments in Clunes were surveyed by John Templeton in December 1858 but the plans were not lithographed until 13 September 1860. Section 4 comprised an area of approximately twelve acres bounded by Bailey Street on the north, Service Street on the east, Templeton Street on the west and a yet unnamed street on the remaining side. The allotments along Service Street were all of a quarter of an acre with the exception of half acre reserves for the Post and Telegraph Office and Police Reserve. The remaining lots, all one to two acres were 'proposed reserves' and presumably open for selection by the appropriate bodies. (1)

The contrast for the Post and Telegraph office was signed on 26 July 1860 by Pleydel and Clark of Ballarat. The Post Office reserve was fenced a year later (2) making this the first public facility in this precinct.

The newly proclaimed Borough of Clunes inaugurated the selection of reserves on 20 December 1861 with their application for a market place and site for future council chambers. The council requested allotment 7, part of allotment 4 and the proposed Police Reserve, assuming that this was now rendered surplus by erection of government buildings in Camp Parade. The Chief Commissioner of Police raised no objection and the two and a half acre site was temporarily reserved by the Governor in Council on 28 January 1861. (3) An open sided market building was erected in the early 1860s on the reserve intended for police use.

The Roman Catholic Vicar General was next to act. His letter to the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey of 24 January 1861 requested a reply about the proposed two acre site in Bailey Street which had 'been for some time past occupied by a Roman Catholic Chapel School'. However, the governor surveyor only marked out a site of 1a 0r 28p, although it did contain the existing chapel school. This plan, dated 26 June 1861 also shows another innovation in the form of a one chain street running behind the Roman Catholic reserve. This street, named Hannah Street by 1862, was possibly provided to service the Roman Catholic presbytery proposed for the southern portion of the Roman Catholic reserve.

The introduction of Hannah Street also saw the subdivision of those allotments in Section 4 west of the municipal reserve. This may have been a response to demand for residential allotments or perhaps a measure to enforce some regularity or existing residential development in this area. The Roman Catholic reserve was finally approved by Governor in Council on 15 July 1861 and a year later the Vicar General informed the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey that a chapel built of wood had been erected at a cost of £300. This was apparently in

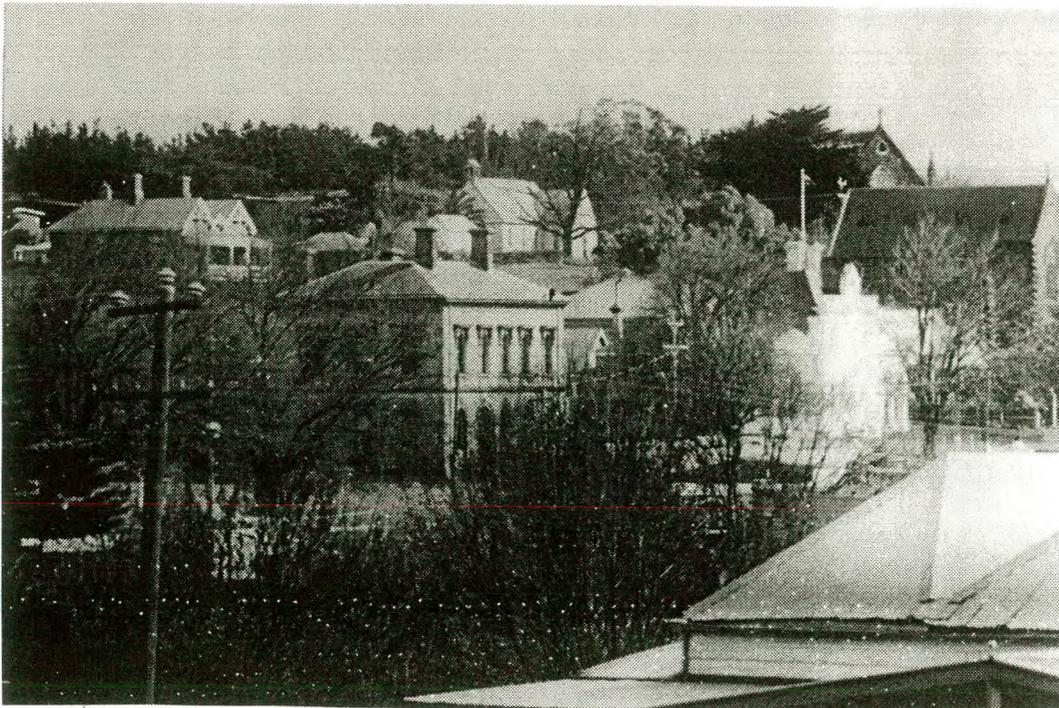
response to a condition of the temporary reservation and permanent status was thus given to the Roman Catholic reserve on 19 January 1863. (4)

The Presbyterian Church was the next denomination to take up land in Section 4. The foundation stone of the present church was laid in December 1861 following proposals of a meeting held in May that year. Previously temporary accommodation had been utilised in McCallum and Co's Store. (5) The Presbyterian reserve took an awkward L-shape with the main block (the original allotment 6) with allotment 14 provided access to Service Street. The church was set back on the larger of the two allotments and a manse in Alliance Street was erected shortly after the opening of the church. With the gazettal of the Presbyterian Reserve in 1861, an opportunity was taken to narrow the original allotment and create a right of way to join Hannah Street with Alliance Street. (6)

The Wesleyans moved to Service Street following services in a small chapel in Fraser Street. The foundation stone of the present church was laid on New Years Day 1864 and the former Fraser Street building was moved to an adjacent site in Service Street, presumably for use as a Sunday school. A small parsonage completed the ensemble and also the early development of Section 4. (7)

The second phase of development in this block took place in 1870s. The foundation stone of the imposing Town Hall and Court

View from Smeaton Road across the institutional precinct showing Post Office, Town Hall, Roman Catholic church and manse, Church of England and Sunday school hall



House was laid on 4 April 1872 and the building opened almost a year later. When finally gazetted as a permanent reservation on 8 May 1865 the municipal reserve still embraced the original half acre police reserve (8) although in 1872 the police moved to Service Street from Camp Hill and the market was re-erected in Templeton Street as a fire engine house. (9)

The Mechanics' Institute moved to Templeton Street in 1874 (becoming the Free Library) and the new Church of England was erected on its elevated site in 1870 with the earlier church relocated as a Sunday School. Finally a new Post and Telegraph Office was erected in 1879 to replace the earlier building. Other institutional buildings chose sites in this vicinity included the Masonic Lodge, (Street - 1860 and later used as Mechanic's Institute), Rechabite Hall (Hill Street - 1868 now Fire Station), Primitive Methodist Church (Service Street - 1868 - now remodelled as Masonic Lodge).

Residential development occupied the remaining allotments in Section 4. Of note was the residence of Ralph Longstaff on the corner of Bailey Street and Templeton Street (now demolished) where painter John Longstaff spent his childhood. (11)

Integrity

This block is remarkably intact. With the exception of the former Wesleyan Sunday School Hall (demolished 1986) there have been few alterations to this block since the late nineteenth century. Many of the buildings are set in mature landscaped surrounds and a number (especially the former Wesleyan Church) retain early fences. The buildings are almost all still used for their original functions and are generally well maintained. Conservation work on several buildings in this precinct has recently been funded by the Talbot and Clunes Bicentennial Heritage Project.

The following are the most significant buildings in the institutional precinct.

Residence, 47 Alliance Street
Former Presbyterian Manse, 49 Alliance Street
St Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church and presbytery, Bailey Street
Former Nelson Residence, 94 Bailey Street
Residence, 96 Bailey Street
Clunes Town Hall and Court House, Bailey Street
Post and Telegraph Office, Bailey Street, corner Service Street
Former Rechabite Hall, 2 Hill Street
Residence and former surgery, 21 Service Street
Masonic Lodge (former Primitive Methodist Church), 23 Service Street
Police residence, lock-up and stables, 10 Service Street
Former Wesleyan Church and Parsonage, Service Street
Former Presbyterian Church and Sunday School, Service Street

Residence, 9 Templeton Street
Former Free Library, Templeton Street
St Paul's Church of England, former St Paul's Church of
England, Templeton Street
Residence, 20 Templeton Street

References

- 1 Township of Clunes, 58/505, lithographed 13 September 1860.
- 2 VPRS 979, unit 2, p.47; unit 3, p.11.
- 3 Rs 6781.
- 4 Rs 759.
- 5 Weickhardt, p.22; C and C A, 30 March 1860, p.2.
- 6 Victorian Government Gazette, 1861, p.1264; plan C/242B, signed Thomas Adair, 4 January 1862.
- 7 Wesleyan Chronicle, 16 January 1864, p.12; Nettleton photograph c.1865 held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 8 Rs 6781.
- 9 VPRS 977, unit 1.
- 10 Weickhardt notes, Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 11 Ballarat Gazette, 24 January 1973.

3.3.6 Creswick's Creek

History

One of the earliest references to the creek which runs through Clunes was contained in a letter from government surveyor Thomas Burr to the Surveyor General dated 23 September 1854. (1) Describing Donald Cameron's pre-emptive right, Burr referred to the creek as 'Creswick's Creek' and it was used as a natural boundary for part of the survey of Cameron's block. The survey was conducted during the period 22-25 August 1854 and despite the 'rainy and windy weather' Burr took the trouble to sketch the creek valley and showed the waterhole where the creek turns to the north east, away from the present line of Station Flat Road. Two islands, one adjacent to the north end of Camp Street and the other on the present site of Victoria Park were also shown. Another plan, by acting surveyor John Hamblin Taylor, dated 1856 (2) shows the creek named 'Creswicks Creek' (no apostrophe) and yet another dated 1856 Taylor referred to the creek as 'Deep Creek'. (3)

In 1920, long time Clunes resident 'Fidelis' reminisced about the period prior to large scale mining of the late 1850s when the creek was 'a crystal stream, abounding in good fish - blackfish, catfish and cod. I remember being a 7 or 8 lb. cod caught ...'. (4)

The water was vital to quartz mining which predominated at Clunes, with crushing batteries requiring huge quantities on a continuous basis. Droughts and dry summers were therefore disastrous for the Clunes economy and led the mining companies to consider erection of dams and seek water from farther afield. A weir erected by 'Admiral' Blake (adjacent to the present Bowling Club site) was used to regulate water for the Port Phillip Company battery which commenced crushing in May 1857. The remnants of this weir were still in evidence when Charles Nettleton photographed 'Ballarat Road, Clunes, South West' c.1865-66. (5) The earliest substantial dam, the so called 'Big Dam' was constructed in 1859 upstream from the township at a large bend in the creek. With heavy rains in mid May the dam wall settled, causing some alarm, but a local correspondent remarked that 'the dam may now said to have been tested and proved strong ... water banked up over a mile ... [however] the dam is to be six feet higher when finished'. (5) Contractor R. Muir undertook this extra work in 1860 and in addition to increased height the embankment was strengthened by two stone walls with the bye-wash widened 'so that the narrowest part will be over twenty feet wide'. (6) Rain came in April 1860 to fill the newly enlarged dam and the local newspaper correspondent anticipated recreational use with 'plenty of room for boating'. (7) The dam soon silted and dried up and an ill-fated reservoir was constructed on Coghill's Creek, south of Clunes.

Boating may well have been possible upstream from the mines, but downstream was quite another matter. The crushed quartz tailings

were washed away and silted the bed of the creek. In wet weather the pressure was sufficient to wash the debris away but with the advent of dry weather the problem was acute. 'The bed of the creek will soon be as high as the road, and when the flood comes that will clear it away there will be some startling and striking incidents' prophesied the Creswick and Clunes Advertiser correspondent towards the end of summer in 1860. (8) Floods were also a hazard for early mines located on the flat ground near the creek and the low lying slopes in Fraser Street.

The earliest bridges over Creswick's Creek were erected by the mining companies and 'Fell's Crossing' was the only public crossing. Fell charged a toll and 'Fidelis' recalled the bridge as 'merely stones and logs loosely thrown into the bed of the creek, and secured on the down side by stakes'. (9) £5,000 was granted by the government in 1861 for a permanent bridge and this structure of laminated timber with basalt abutments, was erected between Bailey Street and Smeaton Road. (10) This was augmented by a substantial bridge at the north end of Service Street in connection with the road to North Clunes (11) (c.1864) and two footbridges constructed by the Clunes Borough Council; one between Templeton Street and Camp Street and the other off upper Fraser Street. (12)

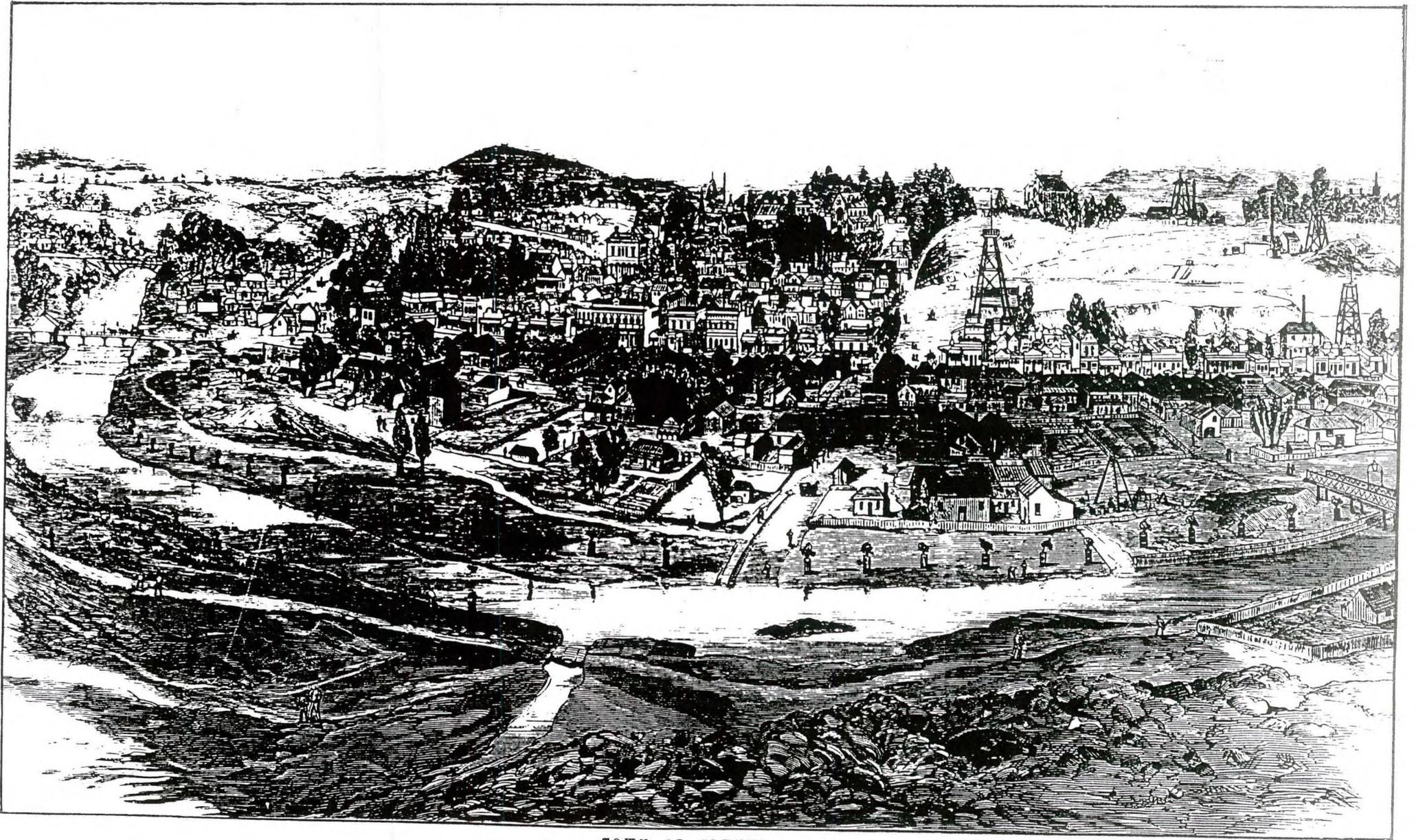
The Port Phillip Company erected a pumping plant on Birch's Creek in 1867 (13) and with the advent of the Clunes water supply (14) (1869-74) the creek was used far less for mining purposes and the council could at last contemplate reclamation of the creek and its environs which were by that date in a deplorable state. A grant from the government in 1872 enabled the council to excavate the creek to a depth of twelve feet and a uniform width of fifty feet. (15) This work extended from upstream of the government bridge to a point downstream from Camp Street and was progressively augmented by the plantations of silver poplars and elms along the banks. (16)

First definite steps towards official recognition of the gardens alongside Creswick's Creek came with a letter from the council to the Secretary of Lands of 10 April 1886. The Borough had 'formed and partially planted' the future site of Queens Park (q.v.) and proposed to make further improvements particularly in filling up the blind creek or chain of water holes to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water. (17)

Victoria Park was gazetted as a public park in 1888. The area of slightly over 3 acres included the old island and north eastern branch of Creswick's Creek. (18) 'Fidelis' recalled that mullock of the Clunes Alluvial Company dammed the second branch of the creek and Weickhardt (19) claimed that spoil from the widening of the creek was used to fill the Victoria Park site.

View of Clunes in 1882 showing tree planting along the banks of Creswick's Creek

[Illustrated Australian News, 1 November 1882]



TOWN OF CLUNES.

The width of Ligar Street (gazetted in 1861) prolonged official recognition of the park as all owners had to give permission for its reduction to one chain in width. Likewise East Parade was reduced in width and in 1918 eventually added to the Victoria Park reservation. A 2 acre section of Paddock Street (now the site of the fire brigade track) augmented the Victoria Park as late as 1946. (20)

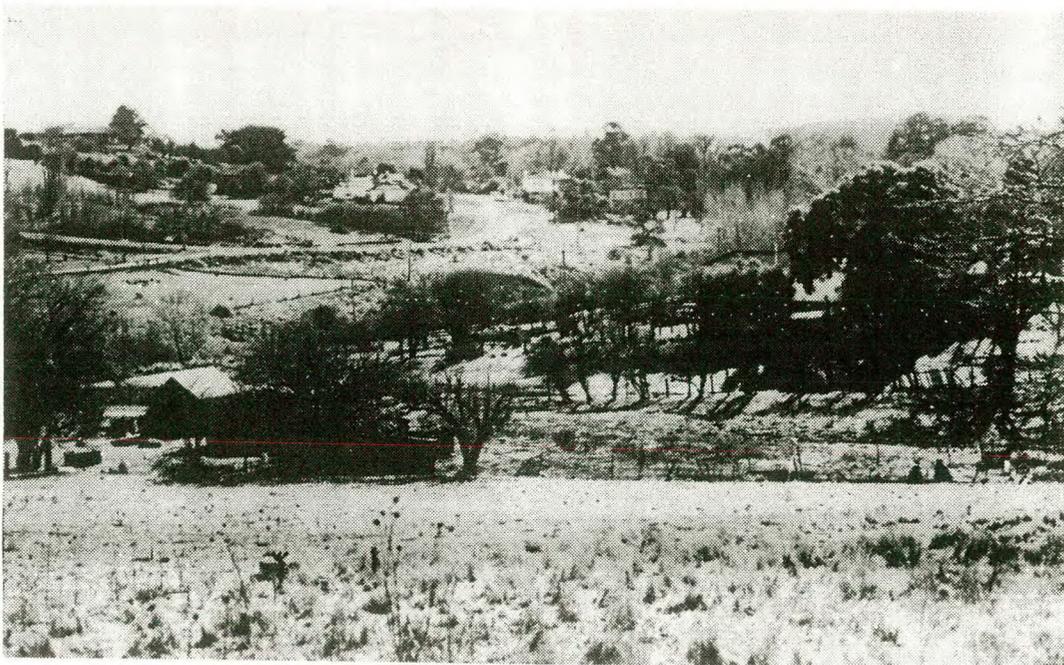
Integrity

The creek valley is largely unchanged since the late nineteenth century. At that date the trees were approaching maturity and most of the lining of the creek bed had been completed. Sucker regrowth has been a problem along the creek (as in other parts of Clunes) although clearing of a walking track has opened long sections of the banks for public access. The modern bridge at Service Street is the most dramatic departure from the early appearance of the creek.

The following significant buildings and sites are located along Creswick's Creek.

'Government Bridge', Bailey Street, Creswick Road and Smeaton Road
Queens Park, Ligar Street corner Cameron Street and Smeaton Road
'Big Dam', adjacent to Thornton Street
Leonards Bridge, Creswick's Creek, Clunes-Mount Cameron Road

The Creswick's Creek valley is one of the major attributes of Clunes. With extensive planting of the late nineteenth century the valley now presents a dramatically changed appearance to the heyday of mining in the 1870s.



References

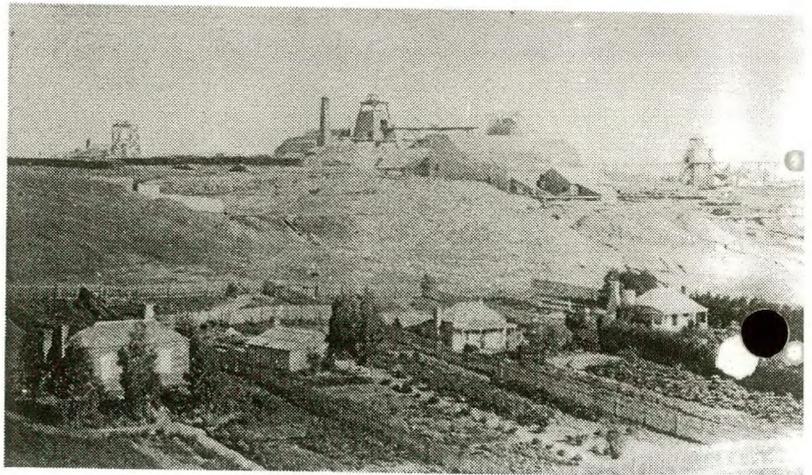
- 1 VPRS 44, unit 3, 55/61; plan held by Central Plan Office, microfiche copy.
- 2 Plan of Local Court District of Creswick, VPRS 44, unit 13, 56/4379.
- 3 VPRS 44, unit 13, 56/2605.
- 4 'Fidelis', 'Early Clunes' original published in Clunes Guardian, 1920 and reprinted in connection with The Back to Clunes Celebrations, 13-22 November 1920, commemorative booklet, p.1.
- 5 'Fidelis', loc.cit., p.1, photograph held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 6 Creswick Advertiser, 20 May 1859, p.3.
- 7 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 23 March 1860, p.2.
- 7 C and CA, 6 April 1860, p.2; 20 April 1860, p.2.
- 8 C and CA, 24 February 1860, p.3.
- 9 'Fidelis', op.cit., p.1.
- 10 Weickhardt, p.12.
- 11 Clunes Gazette, 5 August 1864, p.3.
- 12 *ibid.*, p.13.
- 13 Bland, op.cit.
- 14 Weickhardt, op.cit., p.15.
- 15 *ibid.*, p.13.
- 16 *ibid.*, p.16.
- 17 Rs 1754.
- 18 'Fidelis', 1920, p.4.
- 19 Weickhardt, op.cit., p.13.
- 20 Rs 1754.

3.3.7 North Clunes mining area

History

The North Clunes area was created by the sale of the Clunes pre-emptive right in 1852 and especially the accompanying survey by Thomas Burr in August 1854. (1) The stream and gully (beside the present Clunes tip) was indicated but Burr's plan showed the outcropping quartz reefs stopping uses short of the northern boundary of the Clunes pre-emptive right. Two years later, when surveyor John Taylor was mapping a possible extension to the pre-emptive right, he showed the 'probable course' of the quartz reefs extending well into North Clunes. (2) A 1857 plan by miners petitioning for permission to mine on the purchased land showed the reef and several shafts in the North Clunes area, including one on a 'double claim for finding gold' in the vicinity. (3) The North Clunes Company, forerunner of the New North Clunes Company, commenced prospecting in 1859 and other early mining companies on the reefs included the Victoria, Yankee

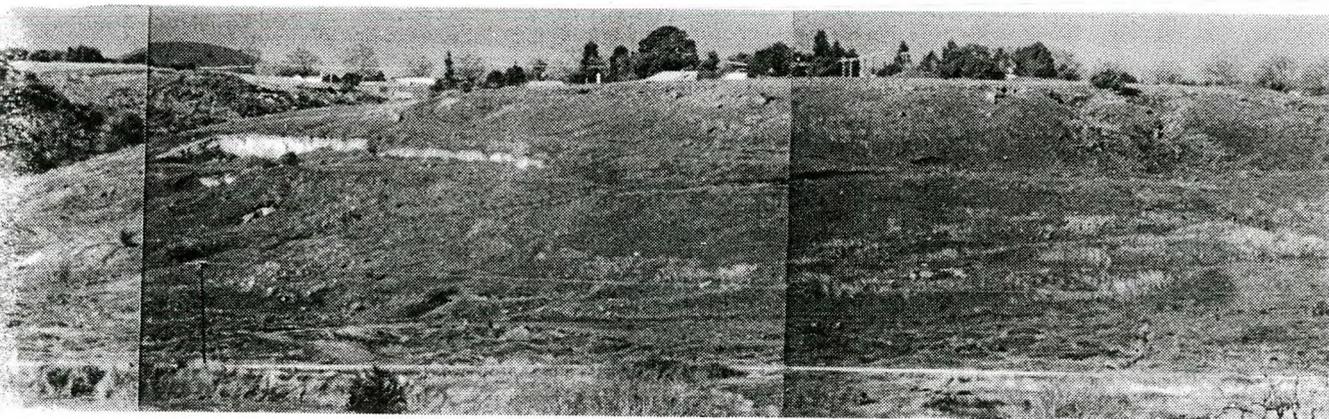
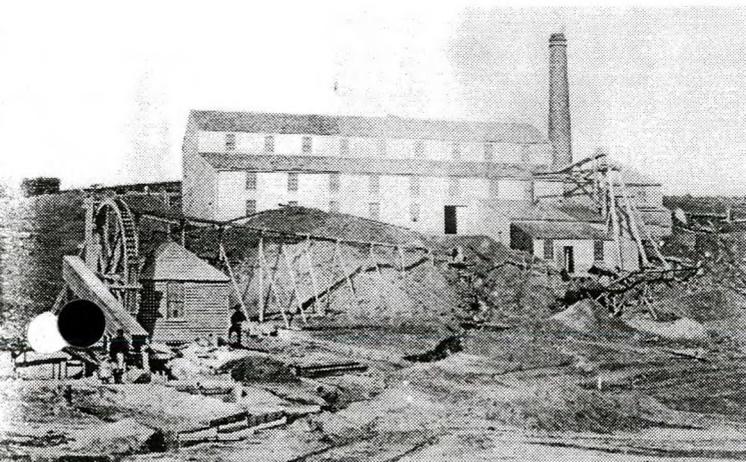
Panorama of North Clunes from Station Flat (1987) with small early photographs showing the New North Clunes Mine (this page) and Victoria Mine (opposite page) at roughly the same scale and position as the panoramamic view



and Great Western. Early alluvial mines included the North Clunes Alluvial, Friends of Justice, Perseverance, Home-ward Bound, All Nations, Golden Horn, North Clunes Eureka and several other parties including one of 14 Chinese. (4)

At this date (1859) a small settlement had developed in the vicinity of the mines and Anthony Dockery, 'wholesale and retail family grocer, Italian warehouseman, etc. etc.' was advertising his business at North Clunes. (5)

The North Clunes area was roughly bordered by the Clunes pre-emptive right on the south, Creswick's Creek on the west and Bullarook or Birch's Creek on the east. The road through 'MacDonald's Paddock' connecting North and South Clunes was not constructed until 1864 (6) and it was not until much later that Angus Street was extended in the direction of Glengower. The deep river valleys, where not filled with sludge from the mines, were picturesque and a popular recreation destination. 'A grand PIC-NIC PARTY' was advertised in October 1859 'near the junction of the Tullarook and Bullarook Creeks ... A brass band will



accompany the party [and] Dancing, Football, Quoits and other English and Scottish games and amusements will be provided.' (7) A cricket ground on the east bank of Creswick's Creek south east of the Clunes station woolshed was also gazetted in 1864. (8)

An 1863 survey of the area showed a cluster of almost 30 buildings near the present corner of Albert Street and Pearce's Road (9) and the number of commercial buildings rated increased from 3 to 6 between 1862 and 1864. (10) By 1870 this had increased to over 20 and 'Fidelis' recalled this as the peak of North Clunes as a residential centre. (11) This was undoubtedly given a boost by the success of the New North Clunes Company which crushed its first quartz in October 1867 and declared a dividend within one year. (12) Suburban lands (allotments of approximately half an acre) were surveyed in Albert Street, Downes Street, Cricket Street and Fraser Street North although the New North Clunes Company objected to the gazettal of Albert Street as it ran through their claim. (13)

Public works dominated the history of the area with the massive Clunes Water Supply scheme in the late 1860s running one of its main pipes along Albert Street to supply the main reef mines. (14) A powder magazine was constructed on a site overlooking Birch's Creek in 1867 and manure depot in 1872. (15) 1200 acres were set aside at North Clunes in 1881 as a common and the area today is still largely Crown land. (16)

The New North Clunes Company ceased pumping water from its mine in 1892 and mining all but ceased. Portion of the Clunes Common was subdivided into 1 to 3 acre allotments in 1904 and half and quarter acre allotments were also surveyed around existing residences in Albert Street. (17)

Integrity

Outwardly this area does not resemble its former appearance to the same extent as, say, Fraser Street or the institutional precinct. However, with documents and careful observation the North Clunes mining area reveals much about the nineteenth century and mining at Clunes. In many cases mine sites are now only marked by excavations, mullock heaps, brick footings and other subtle evidence as most of the valuable equipment or buildings was sold or relocated after cessation of mining. However the technical interest of these sites is such that there are sufficient remains able to be interpreted with early photographs and plans to give an insight into quartz reef mining at Clunes.

The pattern of residential development at North Clunes is similar to Camp Hill with irregular allotments and small timber residences. Although many of the residences have been altered there are still enough to give a tangible nineteenth century character to the area. The most significant buildings and sites are as follows.

Residence, 2 Albert Street
Residence, 25 Albert Street
Residence, 30 Albert Street
Residence, 9 Angus Street
Residence, 10 Angus Street
Residence, Angus Street, corner Flood Street
Powder Magazine, off Glengower Road
Residence, 7 Pearces Road
Residence, 8 Pearces Road
New North Clunes Quartz Mining Company site
Victoria Quartz Mining Company site
Yankee Quartz Mining Company site

References

- 1 VPRS 2599, unit 523.
- 2 VPRS 44, unit 13, 56/2605.
- 3 VPRS 1189, unit 483, B57/4083.
- 4 Mining Surveyor's Reports, IV, August 1859, pp.12-13.
- 5 Creswick Advertiser, 6 May 1859, p.3.
- 6 Clunes Gazette, 5 August 1864, p.3.
- 7 Creswick and Clunes Advertiser, 21 October 1859, p.5.
- 8 VGG, 1864.
- 9 Clunes, County of Talbot, surveyed by Hugh Fraser, 63/107, C/240D.
- 10 Borough of Clunes, ratebook; 1862, 1864.
- 11 *ibid.*, 1870; 'Fidelis', 'Early Clunes', 1920, p.15.
- 12 Ballarat Star, 17 August 1869, p.2.
- 13 Suburban Lands, Parish of Clunes, L.3844, lithographed 9 December 1867; VPRS 1189, 1868/S3976.
- 14 Langtree, *passim*.
- 15 VPRS 972, vol.1, p.32; Victorian Government Gazette, 1872.
- 16 Victorian Government Gazette, 1881, p.305.
- 17 Plan of Subdivision of part of Clunes Common, L 6744, March 1904.

3.3.8 South Clunes mining sites

History

The South Clunes mining area is composed of workings belonging to many different companies and chronological periods. The following section traces the history of some of the larger or more successful works and supplements material on the Lothain and South Clunes companies in Section 2.2 . The first three companies formed the Criterion Amalgamated workings and were roughly located in the area between the creek and the present Scenic Road.

Criterion Quartz Mining Company

The Criterion Quartz Gold Mining Company was formed on 27 April 1858 with twelve shareholders although three were subsequently purchased by the Company. In 1865 the nine shareholders were, William G. Morgan, John Wakefield, John G. Reed, Thomas Stanton, Robert Murray, Pattinson Mark, David R. Milne, John Whittleston and Henry Angus. Thomas Angove was the Manager with Thomas Wakefield as Secretary. (1) The lease initially consisted of an irregular L-shaped area immediately south of the Clunes pre-emptive right (and the Clunes Company's works) and west of the Clunes United Company. (2) By 1862 this was extended to the west with the boundary along Camp Parade and the entire area was held as miner's rights. (3) The works were compact as much of their claim was covered by the Camp Hill residential area and the small commercial area north of the river in the vicinity of the Port Phillip Hotel. A 12 head battery was erected by August 1859 although this was replaced in mid 1862 by a new 20 head set of square stamps. The octagonal chimney shaft was erected at this time and the works, 'for solidity and finish ... scarcely possible to be surpassed' (4) cost £2663. (5) Water was supplied from the creek via a tunnel and pump. (6) Following completion of the new works, a lithograph by H. Deutsch was produced, along similar lines to many such posters executed for Ballarat mines. The first shaft worked Robinson's Reef although the Western Reef was also within the company's claim. (7) The mine was very successful considering its comparatively small area and about 1869 (8) the company amalgamated with the neighbouring Clunes United Company and was renamed the Criterion Amalgamated Company. This Company was taken over by the Port Phillip Company, and renamed Port Phillip Criterion by 1888 and all work ceased in the 1890s. (9)

Clunes United Quartz Mining Company

The Clunes United Company commenced to erect machinery in December 1858 and quartz crushing was first undertaken in April 1859. The first battery had 12 stamps and a 25 horse power engine fitted with winding gear operated on the Eastern Reef. (10) In 1862 a new iron framed 12 stamp battery was installed and a new stamp house erected (11) and in 1869 it was the only cast iron battery in Clunes. Early

N. W. CLUNES Co

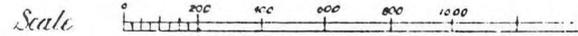
PORT PHILLIP
COMPANY

PORT PHILLIP
CRITERION
Central Clunes
Company

Township of
Clunes

SOUTH CLUNES UNITED

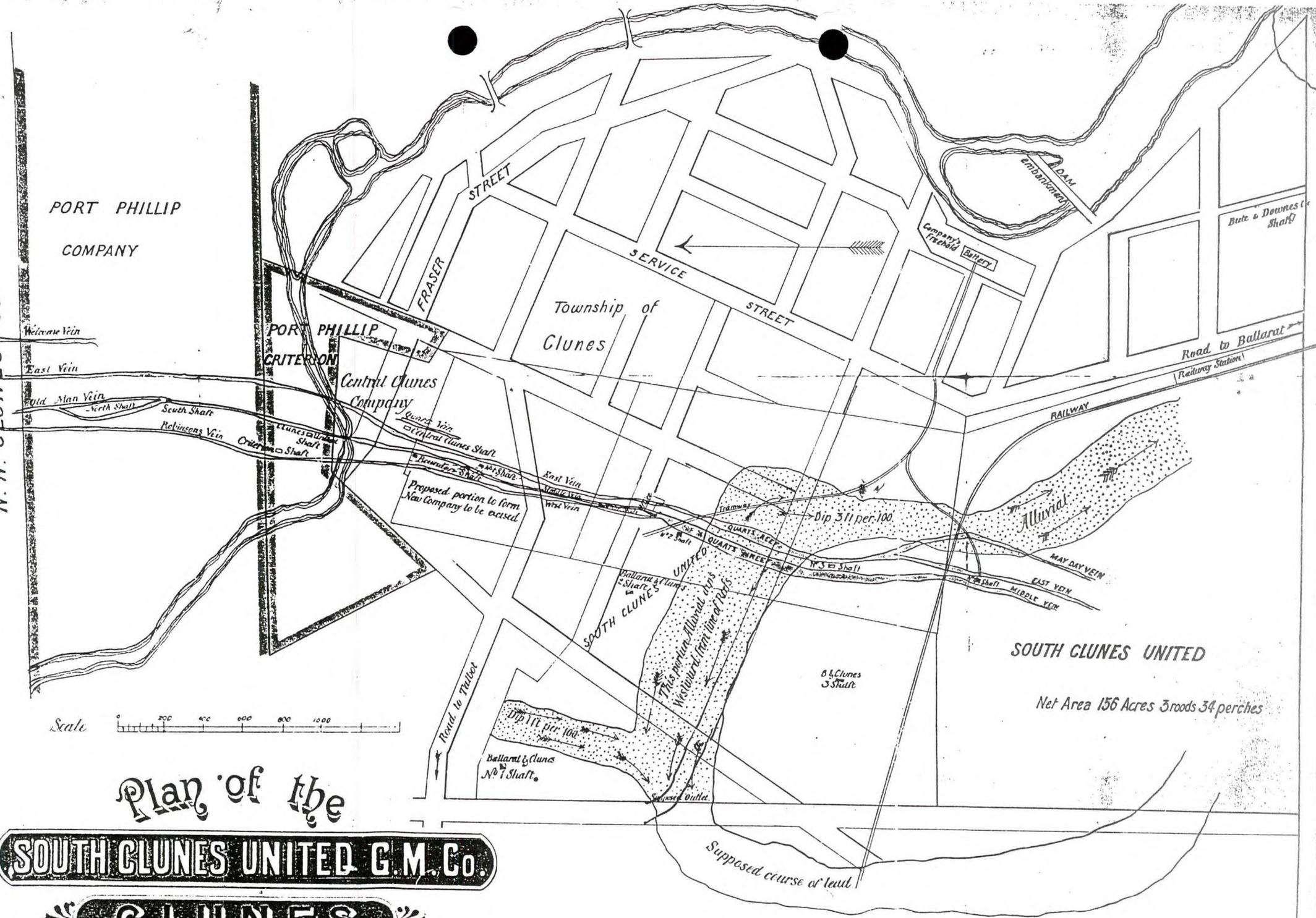
Net Area 156 Acres 3roods 34 perches



Plan of the

SOUTH CLUNES UNITED G.M. Co.

CLUNES.



gold yields were low but Usher (12) described the mine as 'a practical good example of what real legitimate persevering mining is capable of effecting'. The mine yielded 16,270 oz. gold between 1859 (13) and c.1869 when it was amalgamated with the Criterion Company to form the Criterion Amalgamated Company. (14)

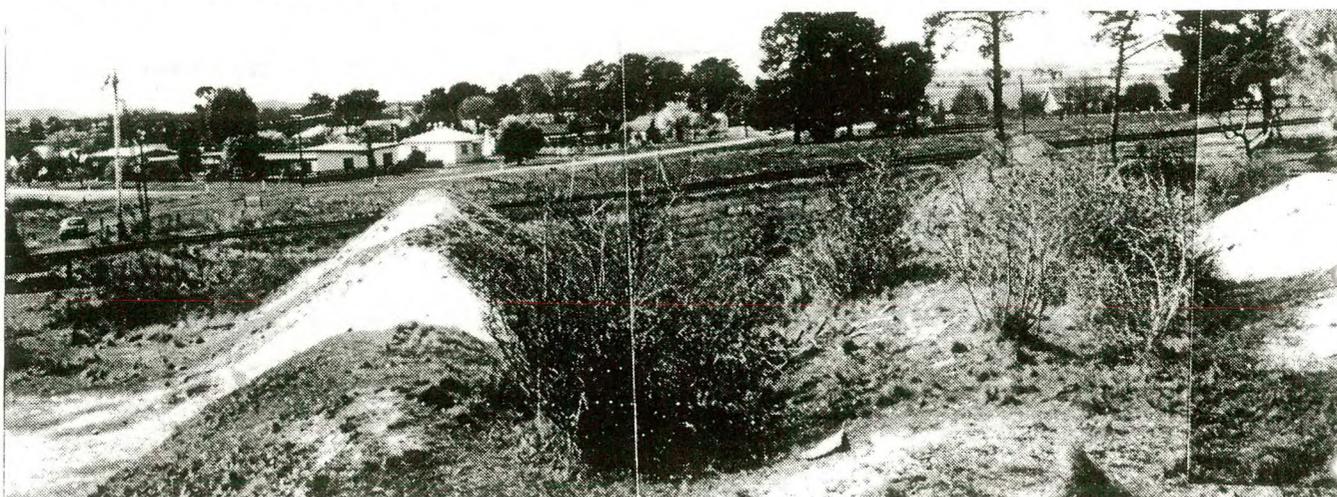
Criterion Amalgamated Company

This company, formed by the merger of the previous two companies, commenced operation by 1869. Boundary changes occurred at the time of the amalgamation (?) (15) with the South Clunes Company taking that part of the old claim south of Fraser Street. The new company had 100 shares of which half were paid up. Thomas Wakefield, formerly secretary of the Criterion Company stayed as legal manager and G. Black was appointed mining manager. (16) This company was taken over by the Port Phillip Mining Company by 1888 (17) and a portion of its lease was obtained by the Central Clunes Company by 1884.

Central Clunes Company

The Central Clunes Company was formed during 1884 by a takeover of the Perseverance Company. (18) This latter company had been operating on a small scale since at least 1859. (19) Its lease, to the east of the Clunes United Company had supported a small party who operated the shaft with a whim and 12 head battery. Without an engine, sinking could not proceed beyond the 240 foot level and the co-operative party sold out to a Melbourne syndicate who erected the necessary machinery for deeper sinking. Poppet heads, engine house and machinery was erected by late 1885 although tenders were soon called to work the mine on tribute and all work ceased about 1890. (20) The mine yielded approximately 5,000 oz. gold.

Panorama looking north east from the mullock heaps of the Lothair mine showing their characteristic radial configuration (so derived from old elevated tramways)



White Flat Quartz Mining Association

This area was initially worked in 1856-57 (21) but lack of efficient crushing facilities stalled further sinking. The White Flat Quartz Mining Association commenced operations in 1858 (22) on a lease 880 yards by 300 yards (23) in the block roughly bounded by Fraser, Camp, Bailey and Templeton Streets. However, badly constructed crushing stamps caused the company to stop work. (24) Stone from near the surface had been crushed with good results at Robinson's battery on the north side of Fraser Street, the first crushing mill on the Clunes goldfield. (25) By August 1859 the 21 year lease had been transferred to the South Clunes Company, with part of the lease being taken up by the Clunes Alliance Quartz Mining Company.

Clunes Alliance Quartz Mining Company

The proximity of the company's works to the shops in Fraser Street caused many problems for both parties. The company had no access to the creek for deposition of tailings and tail water (although it was served by a water race and tunnel from the United Companies dam) and the shopkeepers were understandably reluctant to give over precious space in the flourishing commercial precinct, at this date, concentrated between Templeton and Camp Streets. (26) In 1862, Dicker's Mining Record reported that 'the Clunes Alliance Company, a party of ten men, have started to work on tribute'. (27) By 1869 the Clunes Alliance company's lease had been taken over by the South Clunes Company. This latter company is more fully described in the Section 2.2 citations for individual sites.

Integrity

The general topography of this area is still relatively intact although the surface has been severely disturbed. There are no known buildings or relics relating to the mining occupation intact although a small pile of mullock still stands near the



bank of the creek. The area is now bisected by the new road which leads to 'the Rocks' lookout. Several important photographs and early illustrations survive and the mines are well documented in contemporary published sources.

The workings south of Alliance Street are more intact with many mullock heaps and other relics remaining. These are more fully detailed in the citation on the Lothair and South Clunes site in Section 2.2.

References

- 1 DMR, December 1862, pp.22, 24; Lithograph by H. Deutsch held by Shire of Talbot and Clunes.
- 2 MSR, August 1859, p.11.
- 3 DMR, January 1862, pp.22-23.
- 4 ibid., July 1862, p.13.
- 5 ibid., December 1862, p.23; May 1862, p.5.
- 6 MSR, May 1859.
- 7 ibid., August 1859; Giddings, 1902.
- 8 Rise and Progress of Clunes, Appendix B; Usher, 1874, p.8.
- 9 South Clunes, 1888
- 10 MSR, 1859, p.12.
- 11 DMR, May 1862, p.5; July 1862, p.14.
- 12 Usher, p.8.
- 13 Giddings, 1902, p.12.
- 14 BS, 14 August 1869, p.2.
- 15 Mitchell Library plan, n.d.
- 16 Rise and Progress, loc.cit.
- 17 South Clunes, 1888.
- 18 Quarterly report, 1884.
- 19 MSR, August 1859, p.11.
- 20 Quarterly reports, 1885, 1890.
- 21 Mining Surveyors Reports, August 1859, p.13.
- 22 ibid., p.12.
- 23 ibid., loc.cit.
- 24 ibid., May 1859, p.6; August 1859, p.12.
- 25 Ballarat Star, 14 August 1869.
- 26 C and CA 30 Mar. 60, p.2.
- 27 DMR, July 1862, p.14.

3.4 NETWORKS

3.4.1 Roads

Roads are the primary means of connecting historic sites in the Shire and in themselves the routes and road formations form a historic linear network. Whether sites are in urban or rural areas very few are more than a short walk away from a road or track.

The earliest tracks in the Shire were for pastoral use and followed shortly after Mitchell's exploration of the district in 1836. Some of these pastoral tracks were upgraded at the time of gold discovery but more direct routes between new gold discoveries were often formed. Upgrading work by the colonial government often followed years after heavy use of tracks and even if funding was obtained, rarely was a long continuous stretch of road the subject of one contract. This piecemeal approach bedevilled the user for a considerable period and was not only confined to rural roads. Private initiatives often preceded work on roads such as Fraser Street and Scandinavian Crescent. These works also coincided with the formation of local governments (i.e. Borough of Amherst, Borough of Clunes and the Amherst and Clunes Roads Board). Rural shires were set up initially as 'roads boards' and making roads was a primary function of their existence.

Rural roads play an important part in linking historic sites. Even buildings of only minor architectural or historical significance (such as this deserted farm cottage north of Talbot) can play a vital role in providing a sense of 'continuity' between more important towns such as Talbot or Clunes.



Many of the early roads in the Shire were later superseded by yet more direct links although with few exceptions the old formations can still be used. What generally distinguishes these old roads (sometimes called 'coach roads' after their use as routes for passenger coaches) is their lack of modern development which tends to cluster along newer roads.

The 'Old Ballarat Road' is a fine case study. After entering the Shire at Mount Beckworth the traveller passes through the deserted township of Beckworth. Several ruins mark the corner and stone brodges dating to the late 1850s and early 1860s still span watercourses. More bridges are crossed as the traveller passes north through magnificent stands of Red Gums and rolling hills before arrival at the Beckworth Court property. After passing the site of the McCallum's early 'Dunach Forest' property the forest of Nuggetty Gully is crossed. The contrast between the volcanic plains and gravelly alluvial areas is immediately apparent. This distinction is crucial to an understanding of the different modes of gold mining in the Shire: the gravelly forest yielding shallow deposits whilst the basaltic plains held their leads of gold under a thickness of solidified lava.

Within towns such as Amherst and on Back Creek Flat, the road pattern is often one of the major remaining historic attributes. With the aid of a plan of the township the visitor is enabled to walk down streets long since deserted and at Amherst in particular reflect upon the vision of the surveyor in laying out streets such as 'The Esplanade' and 'The Circus'.

The major threat to such exploration is alienation of old roads. Like old railway formations, once this land is sold there is no guarantee of continued public access. Old roads are critical to an appreciation and interpretation of townships and rural areas. Policies addressing this aspect are included in Section 4.2.

3.4.2 Railways

Although rail connection with Talbot and Clunes had been a local issue since the late 1850s and early 1860s the present railway was not surveyed until 1869. This was done as part of the survey of a line from Castlemaine to Dunolly and early surveys avoided Creswick altogether and ran through Amherst rather than Talbot. The railhead reached Maryborough from Castlemaine on 7 July 1874 and it was not for several months that the route from Ballarat via Clunes and Talbot was opened. (1)

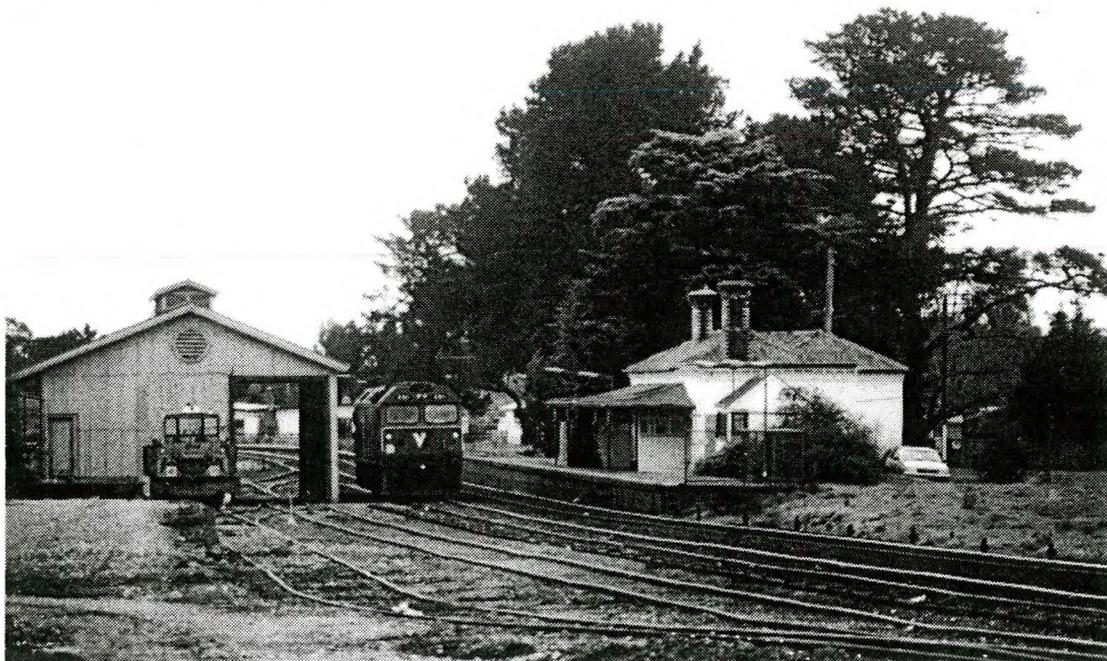
1 Most information is derived from Keith Turton, 'The centenary of the opening of the railways from Castlemaine to Dunolly and Ballarat to Maryborough', Australian Railway Historical Society Bulletin, XXVI, 448, February 1975; and Andrew Ward, 'Victoria's Railway Stations', 1982.

The contract for the Creswick to Clunes section was signed with contractor John Thomas on 4 July 1873 (£42,732) and the section was opened to traffic on 16 November 1874. Following a resurvey of the Clunes to Maryborough section a contract was signed with George Fishburn, Matthew Morton and John Adam on 7 January 1874 (£59,751). This latter section included a large bridge over McCallums Creek (which was the scene of a spectacular accident following a flood in 1909). The Ballarat line reached Maryborough and was opened for traffic on 2 February 1975.

At the time of opening the Clunes station was not completed and a temporary building served the town for some months. The three major stations on the Ballarat to Maryborough line (Creswick, Clunes and Talbot) all adopted a similar architectural style. They combined a residence for the station master, office facilities and passenger waiting rooms and toilets. The exteriors were distinguished by strong polychrome brickwork and elegant cast iron verandahs.

Today the stations are severely downgraded compared with their intended function. Clunes is due to be closed and its goods shed was demolished in 1987. However, the railway stations and railway line makes a strong contribution to the historical significance of the Shire. The line parallels the Clunes-Talbot road for some distance and is marked by many early brick culverts. The rail forms part of a network of railway lines in the region which make a strong contribution to the history of the area and assist in a understanding of early patterns of travel (of both passengers and goods) on the goldfields and especially their hinterlands.

Clunes railway station, apart from its individual historical significance, forms a distinct precinct which assists in defining the entry to the town.



The railway station precincts at both Clunes and Talbot make an invaluable contribution to the urban development of both towns. Clunes station stands on the southern edge of the town and provides an impressive entry marker and a sharp reminder of the former size of the town. Talbot stands on the eastern edge of the township area and likewise gives the visitor clues to the former size of the town. This station is particularly intact and is complemented by early buildings and equipment. The building also forms an impressive vantage point when contemplating the former gold leads which formed the basis of Talbot's existence.

Both stations have been identified a significant buildings in this study but the line of railway is also part of the network on which they are located and the buildings cannot be divorced from this context.

3.4.3 Watercourses

Creeks and streams have played a major part in the history of the Shire. They provided water for early pastoral occupation, were essential to gold mining (for either washing alluvial deposits or running in vast quantities through quartz stampers), formed a basic resource for agricultural exploitation of the land, powered mills and provided water for domestic consumption.

Many sites identified by this study are located on watercourses and this location is generally an intrinsic part of their significance. The sites are also often linked by a network of water as part of the several creek systems that flow through the Shire. Water courses have almost always remained vested in the Crown although for the land on either side this has often not been the case.

After 1856 the Crown retained frontages to all major streams. This provided access for stock and domestic use. For smaller watercourses, in the absence of a definite policy, the amount of land along creeks depended on the individual surveyor. In the early 1880s however, the government gazetted a large number of watercourses that had not previously been the subject of any definite policy and within this shire this included the Bet Bet Creek, Birches Creek and Creswick's Creek. The Water Act 1905 further tightened provisions when it retrospectively proclaimed the bed and banks of all creeks to be permanently reserved despite any prior alienation. The boundary of allotments from that date was taken to be alienated to the bank only. (1)

1 Information from Peter Cabena, Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

This has left the shire with a patchwork of public access to water courses. A canoeist may legitimately be able to travel over all the watercourses (subject to the amount of water!) but a hiker would be confronted with a confusing mixture of public and private land. The public land may also suddenly cross from one side of the stream to another depending on the date of land selection or sale. With recreational interest in bushwalking at a high level the many historic attributes along water courses may be effectively denied to the walker. A policy in Section 4.2 addresses this matter.

The following is a list of significant historic sites along water courses that have been identified in this study (and there are many more sites of minor significance that have not been individually scheduled).

Bet Bet Creek

Glenmona homestead, Glenmona Road
Glenmona Bridge, Bet Bet Creek, Talbot-Avoca Road
Dulapwhang Waterhole, Bet Bet Creek, former Amherst-Pleasant Creek Road
Bung Bong township site

Tullaroop Creek (including tributaries Creswick's Creek, Birches Creek, Coghills Creek and Splitters Creek)

'Government Bridge', Bailey Street, Creswick Road and Smeaton Road
Queens Park, Ligar Street corner Cameron Street and Smeaton Road
'The Steps' and 'The Rocks', Scenic Road (see Parish of Clunes)
'Big Dam', adjacent to Thornton Street
Leonards Bridge, Creswick's Creek, Clunes-Mount Cameron Road
Basalt barn, Mount Cameron Road
Dam, Coghills Creek, off Ballarat-Maryborough Road
Clunes water supply works

The valley formed by Creswick's Creek is also a major part of the topography of Clunes and is a significant attribute of the town.

Back Creek (including tributaries Daisy Hill Creek, Nuggetty Gully Creek)

Basalt culverts, Talbot - Avoca Road
'Big Water Hole' and basalt cellar, off Champions Road
Amherst Reservoir, off Talbot-Avoca Road
Stone barn, west of Amherst reservoir, off Talbot-Avoca Road
Soldiers Memorial Park, Heales Street, corner O'Hara Street and Lansdowne Street
'Bolties Bridge', Peel Street
Old township on Back Creek Flat
Alluvial gold workings around Amherst, Nuggetty Gully, Back Creek Flat, Kangaroo Flat and Talbot

McCallum's Creek (including tributaries One Mile Creek, Beckworth Creek and Stoney Creek)

Bridge, McCallum's Creek, former Clunes-Talbot Road

Mount Beckworth

Talbot Reservoir and water race, Evansford and standpipes,
Talbot

Shepherd's hut and former barn, Mount Greenock Road

Stony Creek State School site, extension of Nuggetty Gully Track

Beckworth Court, Old Ballarat Road

Bridges along Old Ballarat Road

Mount Greenoch and Dunach, including gold workings along the
McCallums Creek

Middle Creek (including tributary Yellow Creek)

Clunes Estate homestead and outbuildings, Glengower Road