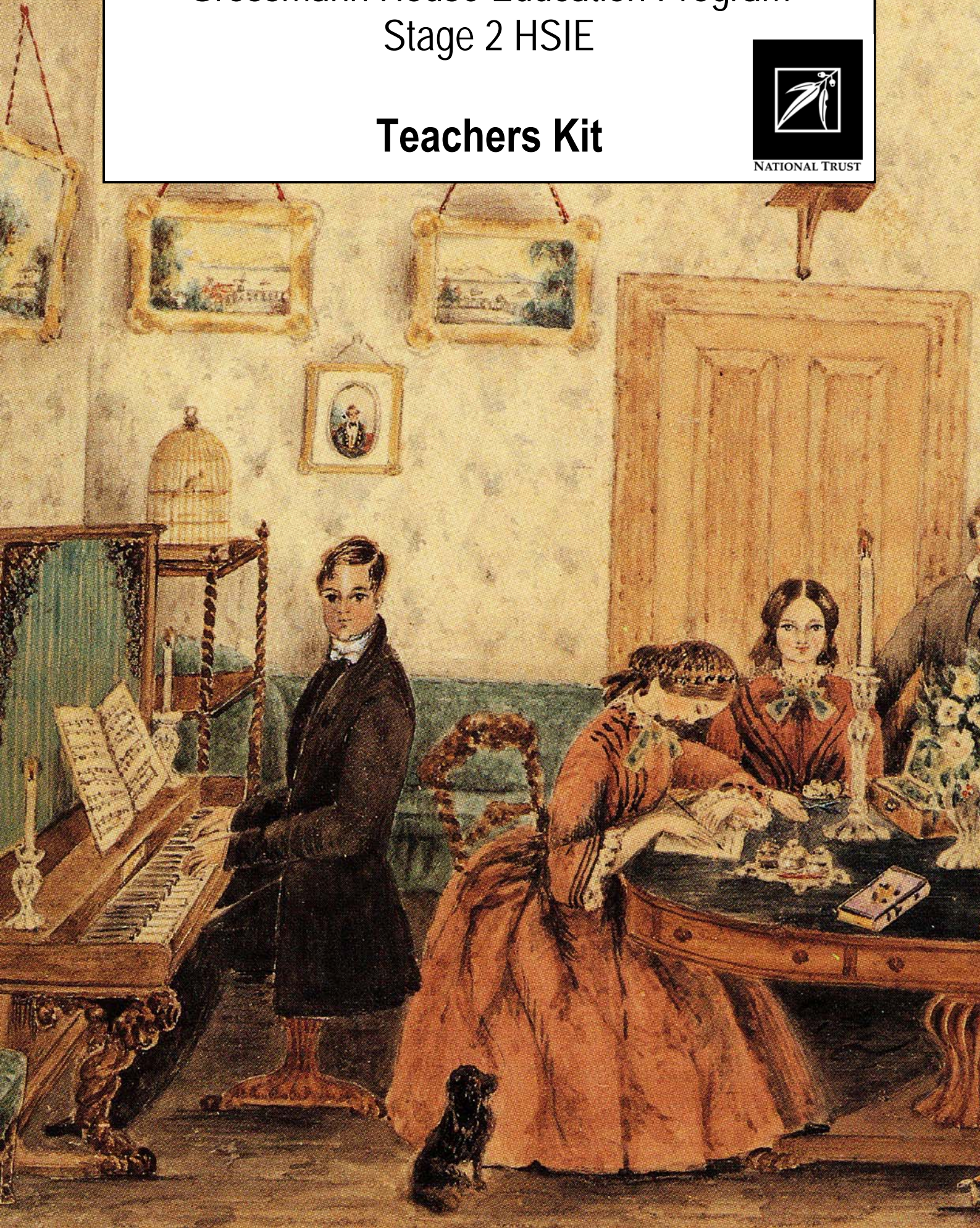


Butlers and Blackboards

Grossmann House Education Program
Stage 2 HSIE

Teachers Kit



BUTLERS AND BLACKBOARDS TEACHERS KIT

Section 1 Program Briefing

- Curriculum Links
- Program Aim
- Program Description
- Classroom preparation
- Other Activities in Maitland
- Getting There

Section 2 Historical Background

- Maitland and the Hunter area
- The Merchants of Maitland
- Maitland in Victorian Times
- The 1870's House
- Maitland Girls High School at Grossmann House

Section 3 Resources

- Maitland High St 1890
- Owen and Beckett Store 1878
- An interior of a general store c1880's
- Owen and Beckett Christmas goods advertisement 1884
- Isaac Beckett Obituary 1888
- Illustrations of Style of Dress 1870's – 1880's
- Bird's Eye View of Maitland 1878
- Grossmann House plans
- Girls from Maitland Girls High School 1897
- Time Line for Grossmann House and the Hunter Region
- References



Front cover: Detail from 'An Evening Gathering at Yarra Cottage, Port Stephens 1857' mixed media drawing by Maria Caroline Brownrigg.

(Image used by permission, through Hordern House Rare Books, Sydney.)

SECTION 1 PROGRAM BRIEFING

Curriculum Links

HSIE Stage 2

Change and Continuity

CCS2.2 Time and Change

Explains changes in the community and family life and evaluates the effects of these on different individuals, groups and environments.

Environments

Patterns of Place and Location

ENS2.5 Describes places in the local area and other parts of Australia and explains their significance.

Relationship with Places

ENS2.6 Describes people's interactions with environments and identifies responsible ways of interacting with environments.

Curriculum Support Link

Places: Then, Now and Tomorrow – evidence of Past Lives in Natural and Built Features

Program Aim

Grossmann House includes different histories that are closely linked to the development of the merchant class in regional NSW in the mid 1800's and the growth of public education for girls in the early 20th Century. With different stories to tell this program looks at changes in the community, education and family life and is discovery based and student focussed.

Students

- Analyse objects, images and documents to jointly construct the stories of the house.
- Make connections between the house and the history of Maitland
- Observe change over time in the historic streetscape during a heritage walk.
 - Role play a social visit to the house in order to understand life as it was lived in a middle class late Victorian home.

This program provides students with the opportunity for social learning through group work and role play and to use observation skills as well as visual and text literacy skills to make meaning from a variety of sources.

Program Description

Time: 90 minutes

Introduction: 7 min

The students are divided into three groups which rotate during the 90 minutes.

Neighbourhood Walk: 25 min

Grossmann House sits in the middle of historic Church Street which joins the railway station with the main High St. By using archival images of Church Street during the 19th and 20th Centuries, students observe change over time and the important relationships between the nature of the buildings and the people who lived in them.

The Social Visit to the house: 25 min

Through this role play, students experience the house from the perspective of those who worked, lived and visited there.

Students are taken back in time to the moment that the owner Mr Isaac Beckett welcomed visitors to his new house for the first time in 1871. Using nominal costume, students become part of Mr Beckett's life and explore the social and work areas of the house. Characters include Mrs Beckett, Becketts' friend Frederick Brown, Frederick Browns' wife Elizabeth, the Browns' children Oliver and Daisy, the butler Mr Jones and the cook Mrs Cooper.

Using artefacts and primary sources: 25 min

In three groups, students analyse and record information from examining and discussing the artefacts, images and documents found in three different suitcases. The cases relate to the history of Maitland, the Beckett's general store and to the house as Maitland Girls High School. They then present their findings to the rest of the group.



Classroom preparation

What can primary sources tell us about the past?

Butler's and Blackboards makes use of primary sources in a variety of forms in order to communicate concepts and ideas about changes in community life over time.

This program makes use of:

- map reading
- images of historic streetscapes and people from the 1800's
- clothing, objects, recipes and menus from the 1800's

In preparation, ask the students to think about what sort of information these things are able to tell us about the past. Choose historic objects, documents and images and prepare questions for a class exercise.

- To find out more about the builder owner of Grossman House – use Mr Isaac Beckett's obituary in Section 3 as a document.
- Use the images in Section 3 as a source for pictures
- Use a real object that students can handle for the object analysis (eg an old tool, tobacco tin etc)

Sources	Questions
Pictures (including maps, photos, drawings, picture advertisements)	What is in the picture? How are the things in this picture different to how they are today? (look at clothing, transport, buildings, advertising, technology, objects) Why was this image drawn/painted/printed? What does it tell you about the past?
Objects	What is the object made of? What is the object for – what does it do? How old do you think this object is)when was it made. Who would have used the object? – Who did it belong to? What does this object tell us about the past?
Documents (newspaper clipping, advertisements, reports, shop docket, obituaries, school report cards, menus etc)	What is the document about? What is the purpose of the document? – What is it for? Who would have owned/used this and why? What does this document tell us about the past

How historic buildings, streetscapes and neighbourhoods reveal aspects of the past.

Neighbourhoods and communities are made up of a variety of dwellings, parks, public and commercial buildings which individually and together can tell us about the past.

Research old photographs and maps of the area surrounding the school, and of the school itself, to examine change over time. Photocopy a relevant page from a street directory that you can use to compare with older maps to examine change over time.

Compare these photographs and maps with the students observations made on a neighbourhood walk.

Use these questions to help them look at the buildings around them and their relationship to the community.

What is this building for? (home, school, station, shop etc)

Describe the materials, size, ornament and decoration.

Who would have lived/worked/shopped/studied here?

Would they have had servants/employees – where did they live/work?

Where is the building situated in relation to the local community?

What sort of changes can you see (any additions, garages to replace carriage ways, shop fronts added, balconies gone?)

What is this building used for today?

What can this building tell us about the past?

Take photographs of the building/s as it is now to compare with historic images.

As a class or individually – draw a map of the neighbourhood.

Use the image of the 1878 Birds Eye View of Maitland in Section 3 to inspire the students to create a bird's eye view of their own local area. Compare how Aboriginal artists create their artworks that depict the landscape of their country from an aerial perspective.

Other Activities in Maitland

Walka Water Works

Located on the Hunter River floodplain at Oakhampton 2km from Maitland Courthouse. Built in 1887 as a domestic water supply to Newcastle and the Lower Hunter. The Walka Water Works offers the opportunity for environmental studies and historic structures connected with the history of engineering and technology. Phone 4932 0522 for more information.

Tocal Homestead, Paterson

Paterson is located close to Maitland and Tocal Homestead offers education programs for children K – 10.

In 1822, James Philips WEBBER arrived in NSW on board the "*Minstrel*" and took up a land grant at Paterson in the Hunter Valley. As a pioneering settler, and later Magistrate and JP, he soon began developing a farming enterprise at Tocal, growing wheat, corn, tobacco and running sheep and cattle. He further increased his land holding by purchase and also established a small orchard and vineyard on the property. In 1834, James WEBBER sold the estate to Caleb and Felix WILSON and it was Felix WILSON (Caleb's son) who oversaw the building of the Tocal homestead. In 1844 the entire estate was leased to Charles REYNOLDS, who set about developing a stud-farm for breeding thoroughbred horses and fine cattle.

Website:
<http://www.tocal.com/homestead/index.html>

Old Maitland Gaol

Located in Maitland, the gaol opened on 1st January 1849, following the closure of Newcastle Gaol on 31st December, 1848. The site was first built in 1844. It's designer was colonial architect Mortimer Lewis, designer of the first Customs House in Sydney.

The first 40 convicts arrived in 1848. Executions were carried out inside the gaol and women and children were also housed in the Prison. The Gaol was closed in January 1998. Daytime and ghost tours are available throughout the year.

Website:
www.castleofspirits.com/maitland.html

Morpeth

Morpeth is an historic inland river port on the banks of the Hunter River 168 km north of Sydney, 37 km north-west of Newcastle and just 5 km north-east of Maitland. With its beautiful riverside setting, the genuinely historic feel which emerges from the mellowed stonework of its many old buildings, the modest and eminently walkable size of the town and the willows which line the river bank.

Website:
www.walkabout.com.au/locations/NSWMorpeth.shtml

Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council Museum

Contains a comprehensive collection of wooden and stone artefacts and historical photographs that show the diversity of Aboriginal material culture within Australia
9 – 4 Mon – Fri
Lot 457 Chelmsford Drive Metford
Ph 4934 8511

Website:
<http://metford.huntertourism.com/HolidayProduct/hunter605596CT40648.htm>

Sense of Place Teachers Kit for Maitland

An extensive teachers' kit has been produced by Maitland Region Landcare with assistance from the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust. The kit is available via the web to 'assist schools and communities knowledge and understanding of local (Maitland area) natural and cultural heritage, environmental issues and their management and excursion opportunities.'

The kit contains information and worksheets relating to:

- Grossmann House and Church Street
- Walka Water Works
- Old Maitland Gaol
- Glebe Cemetery
- Oakhampton Cemetery
- Tocal Agricultural Centre
- Morpeth

The kit also contains many activities and suggestions for environmental studies of local Wetlands and Reserves.

For overview of site go to:

www.hcmt.org.au/sense_of_place.php3

For Excursions listed above go to:

www.hcmt.org.au/sense_of_place/Chapter7.pdf

Getting There

Location: Church St Maitland

Maitland

From the South:

Maitland is approx. two hours from Sydney City Centre, north on the F3 Freeway and New England Highway

From the West:

From Dubbo and other western areas travel along the Golden Highway (27) and then the New England Highway

From the North via Coast:

From Brisbane and other north coast areas, travel along the Pacific Highway to Hexham then the New England Highway

From the North via Inland:

From Brisbane and other inland north areas, travel along the New England Highway

Grossmann House is in Church St which is approached from Sydney and areas north, from the New England Highway. A roundabout and a bridge over the railway line, lead onto Church St which is one way running from the station to High St.

SECTION 2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Maitland and the Hunter Area

Pre-Colonisation

The Aboriginal people from the present day Maitland and Newcastle area are the Wanaruah and Awaba people. The Gringgai clan of the Wanaruah Aboriginal people occupied the Maitland area prior to white settlement, calling it Boe-oon after a species of waterfowl. The Wanaruah had trade and ceremonial links with the Kamilaroi people. They favoured goannas as a food source, covering larger animals in hot ashes and stuffing them with grass. They also adopted burning off practices as the new shoots which emerged after fire attracted kangaroos which they surrounded and killed with clubs and spears (du-rane) barbed with sharp stones. They also used stone axes (mogo) made of hard volcanic rock bound to a wooden handle. They used the Hunter River as an important source of food and for transport and trade. The colonization of the area by government and settlers caused great disruption and change to the Aboriginal economy and lifestyle.

Aboriginal experiences of colonisation

From the early 1800's Cedar-getters and later pastoralists moved into the areas occupied by the Wanaruah people. Small sawyer parties cutting iron bark and gum frequently clashed with local Aboriginal people. In the 1820's colonization increased as Crown Land Grants were given to nearly 1000 colonists. Conflicts erupted with Indigenous people who suffered loss of food sources as traditional lands were occupied for growing corn and other crops.

Growth and development of Maitland

Maitland was once the principal town of the Hunter Valley and consequently it has many historic buildings of considerable quality. Today, a local brickworks, light industry, tourism and an open-cut mine are the economic mainstays. Many residents now commute to the mines further north, up the Hunter Valley, and south to the Newcastle area.

From Cedar- getters to pastoralists

Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson of the NSW Corps explored the Hunter in 1801 and named the site of the future town Schanck's Forest Plains. Cedar-getters soon followed, calling it 'The Camp'. They cleared the plains of precious Cedar trees and used the Hunter River to transport the valuable timber to the growing population of Sydney. Farming opportunities soon followed when Governor Macquarie opened the Lower Hunter up in the years 1818 to 1821. Eleven emancipated convicts were granted small plots of land as a reward for good behaviour and free settlers began to move in to what was renamed 'Wallis Plains' after the commandant of Newcastle.

The locals called the settlement Morgan's Plains after one of the earliest and best known of the convict settlers - Molly Morgan. In 1814, she was sentenced to a further seven years for the theft of some government cows and was sent to the harsh penal settlement for re-offenders at Newcastle. However, then in her fifties, she became the mistress of an official. Around 1819 she received land at Wallis Plains which now constitutes the business district of Maitland. She opened Wallis Plains' first licensed establishment (a grog shanty) and extended her holdings.

A settlement becomes a town

Development was fostered by a bridge over Wallis Creek in 1827 and a road from Windsor in 1831. A government town had been planned by 1829 and substantial administrative buildings were erected. The government town was proclaimed as Maitland in 1833. When the other settlement became known as West Maitland in 1834 confusion arose. As a result the boundaries were clarified and the names East Maitland and West Maitland were adopted in 1835. The combined population the following year was 1163. The three neighbouring villages became an important focus of the river trade with a regular river steamer service operating along the Lower Hunter to Newcastle. Caroline Chisholm founded one of her Female Emigrants' Homes at East Maitland in 1842. The Maitland Mercury was established in 1843, making it one of the oldest surviving Australian newspapers.

Despite floods and a superior town plan West Maitland continued to outgrow the official settlement. Thus, in 1866, the West had 5694 people compared to about 2000 in the East. The former became the commercial centre and the latter the seat of administration. Maitland became the largest regional centre in the area – servicing the needs of traders and settlers up towards the Queensland border.

Coal mining, which commenced around West Maitland in the 1870s, became increasingly important to the local economy. At one time 10 000 men were employed in the Maitland coalfields with over 5 million tons being produced in 1925 alone. It is believed that the first speedway race in the world was held at the local agricultural show that same year.

Declared municipalities in 1862-63 East and West Maitland, along with the port town of Morpeth, were merged as the City of Maitland in 1944. The postwar years saw an influx of migrants, particularly Poles, bringing new traditions and skills to the local community.



High St in Flood, 1893.

(Courtesy of Mrs Peacock, East Maitland)

Maitland Floods

Maitland has had 15 major floods during the era of European settlement (the first being recorded in 1819). The last was in 1955 when 11 were killed, prompting the construction of levies, spillways and flood channels to mitigate the effects. So prominent have floods been to the city's history that there is a major artistic presentation in the grounds of the Maitland Visitors' Centre. Grossmann House is located in a small pocket of flood free ground.

The Merchants of Maitland – the builders of Grossmann and Brough Houses

Early Life of Isaac Beckett and Samuel Owen

Isaac Beckett and Samuel Owen were born in Sheffield, England in 1810 and 1811 respectively. In 1838 as young men in their twenties, they travelled together to Maitland to set up a trading partnership. From 1839 Owen and Company operated a general store in West Maitland selling everything that the growing and prosperous population might need. These included guns, frying pans, kettles, bags, sacking, bird cages, candle sticks, irons, dress materials, soap and poultry.

In 1840 Isaac Beckett returned to England to marry Caroline Cooper and in Maitland Samuel Owen married Margaret Eyre. While Beckett was away, the boom years of the 1830s ended when a serious drought brought on a depression in early 1840's. Shopkeepers, farmers and squatters suffered during this time and Owen and Company auctioned all of their stock.



NEW FRUITS CHRISTMAS. NEW FRUITS

OWEN & BECKETT

CHRISTMAS PROVISIONS

CHRISTMAS PROVISIONS

OWEN & BECKETT

NEW FRUITS.

FINEST ELEME, SULTANA, and MUSCATEL RAISINS, Finest Dates Currants, Turkey Figs, French Prunes, Preserved Ginger and Comquats, Fruits in Syrup, Tart Fruits, Desert Fruits, Marmalade, Strawberry and Raspberry Jam, Red and Black Currant Jelly, Calves' Foot Jelly, Candied Peel, Jordan and Soft Shell Almonds, Fancy Biscuits, Fancy Confectionery, &c., &c.

NEW PROVISIONS.

PRIME ENGLISH HAMS, English Breakfast Bacon, Marton's Cooked Ham, Spiced Beef and Mutton, Luncb Tongues, Ox Tongues, Sheep Tongues, American Brandy, Boneless Pig's Feet, Oxford, Cambridge, German, Luback, and Bologna Sausages; Yonischilum Curry, Fizzol and Without Chutney, Delhi and Mango Chutney, Aromatic Mustard, Olives, Pickles, Sauces, Flavoring Essences, Spices, &c., &c., and EVERY DELICACY requisite for the Christmas Season.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

MARTELL'S and HENNESSY'S BRANDY, in bulk and bottle; West India and Jamaica Rum, Geneva, Schnapps, Irish and Scotch Whisky, Port and Sherry Wines, South Australian and Hunter River Wines, great variety; Foester's, Hoar's Head, and Building Ale; Crown, Hoar's Head, and Pig Brand Stout; Assorted Cordials, Lime Juice Cordial, Lime Juice, Syrup of Lemons and Raspberries, Persian Sherbet, &c.

Always on Hand—BEST ADELAIDE FLOUR, Pollard, Bran, Best American Tobacco, Rock Salt, Wool Packs, and Station Supplies of every description.

Refer to our Catalogues Liberally Bound 1840.

AGENTS, IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE Co.—Property and Effects Insured at Lowest Rates.

OWEN & BECKETT,

WEST MAITLAND. 0717

When Beckett returned to Australia in 1843 he bought much of the stock and continued the business of Owen and Company. As times improved the two men were able to jointly own the business which began trading as Owen and Beckett. During the 1840s and 1850s domestic responsibilities also became paramount as Samuel and Margaret Owen's family grew to six children and Isaac and Caroline Beckett's grew to seven.

The Family Store

The Owen and Beckett store at 424 High St was one of the earliest commercial sites in Central Maitland and backed on to the Hunter River. The store featured the latest in shop windows and displays and they advertised their latest shipments such as clothes and materials from England in *The Maitland Mercury*.

Owens' son Samuel junior and Beckett's son Frederick began working in the store after they finished schooling and with Beckett's other son Alfred, ran the business after their fathers ceased working.

The Building of Entcliffe (Grossmann) and Brough Houses

As the township prospered so did its many merchants. In addition to their store in High St, Owen and Beckett owned and rented out numerous properties all over town.

In 1864, Owen and Beckett purchased adjoining lots of land in prestigious Church St which was an easy walk from their High St store. During this time Church St, named after the early Anglican Church of St Mary, began a process of transformation from a quiet and modest neighbourhood into a premier precinct.

Substantial mansions such as Sauchie and Dupplin House which became a high school for boys in the 1864, dominated the streetscape. St Mary's was rebuilt to house the growing congregation by renowned architect Edmund Blackett and the nearby railway station attracted a flow of people and traffic.

By 1870 the number of sizable homes in Church St had doubled. Two of these were the homes of Owen and Beckett which were completed in 1871.

In August 27 1870, under *Town Improvements*, the Maitland Mercury Reported:

In Church Street two very superior dwellings – two-storey with balconies – have just been completed for Mr Owen and Mr Beckett....and we may observe that their completion has added a great ornament to this part of the town. Mr W White was the architect of these homes.

Later that year, Owen and Beckett moved into their homes which they called *Brough House* and *Entcliffe* after places in their hometown of Sheffield in England. Architect William White who had contributed extensively to the architecture of Maitland, designed the houses in the Victorian Regency style as mirror images of each other. Together, they reflect the successful close personal and professional partnership of the two merchants.



Isaac Beckett



Caroline Beckett

When they moved in, both men were in their 60's and their children were young adults. Owen's four sons and Beckett's three sons were probably living with their parents in the early 1870's until they married.

The years following 1880 were eventful. Mary Owen was in poor health and in 1883 her husband Samuel became ill and died in December 1884. In the same month Caroline Beckett died. With the death of his best friend and business partner as well as his wife, Isaac Beckett was deeply distressed and withdrew from his work at the store and left the management to Owen's sons.

For the next four years Isaac continued to live at Entcliffe and Mary at Brough House. In an extraordinary co-incidence both died in November 1888 and the properties were left to their children.

The future of the merchants' houses

Two years after his fathers' death Isaac's son Samuel sold Entcliffe to J D Prentice and three years later in 1893, the property was taken over by the Education Department for Maitland Girls High School. Owen's son Samuel lived at Brough House until he died in 1904, it was then sold to John Rigney until his death in 1918 and then to the Education Department as the accommodation for the school boarders who attended the Girls High School next door.

In 1935 Entcliffe was renamed Grossmann House when a name plate was donated by the Sydney branch of the Old Girls Union. In 1963 the school moved to East Maitland where it survives as Maitland Grossmann High School. In 1964 Grossmann House was handed over to the Hunter Regional Trust for a peppercorn rent and furnished as a Victorian house museum.

In 2000 the National Trust received funding from the Federal Government to remove the walls and structures from the school period and to restore and reinterpret the house as the 1870s residence of Isaac Beckett.

Life in Maitland in Victorian times

The town

From it's early days as a timber source for the building works in Sydney and elsewhere, Maitland took off as a thriving commercial centre in the 1850's. Maitland was a stop off point and a supply source for the traders who brought goods from the north and north-west for the Steam ships to transport to Sydney.

In 1843 buildings for houses and shops were small and built of wood. Wharves at the river were temporary due to constant threat of floods. For the next twenty years up until the 1860's a local District Council provided opportunities for business to expand and the population increased. Rural land became sub-divided to form housing in low-lying Horseshoe Bend, the Devonshire Street precinct, Catherine Street and lower Bourke Street. Iron was introduced as a building material and stone quarrying and brick making in the district enabled the construction of large industrial and commercial premises as well as churches, schools, the hospital and many hotels.

Streets in the 1880's were lit at night by gaslight. The shop fronts became showpieces for the town's success with decorative cast iron railing with wide verandahs and colonnades over the footpaths. The dusty streets were improved and kerbed and gutters provided. People visited the shops on foot or by horse or horse and buggy and horse-drawn buses and coaches. In 1848, 12 horse buses were licensed to operate in High Street, one of them carrying up to 18 passengers.

High Street contained large general stores and hardware stores sold farm equipment, beds, marble wash stands, butter churns as well as nails and guns. In 1843 commercial activities included 20 hotels, 17 storekeepers, 13 boot or shoe makers, 10 blacksmiths, 10 butchers, 8 doctors, 7 solicitors, 5 bakers, 5 tailors, 4 saddlers, 4 cabinet makers, 3 chemists, 2 banks a brewery and a ginger beer brewery. By 1867 there were over 300 businesses in west Maitland alone.

The main market for vegetables and agricultural produce was opposite Maitland Railway Station where farmers would bring their goods to town on wagons.

Maitland is near extensive coalfields. In the 1830's and 40s small mines near Maitland brought coal into town in drays and carts to fuel early industries such as soap and candle making, brewing and metal foundries.



The 1870's house.

Entcliffe (Grossmann House) and Brough House were built in 1870. Below is a brief background on the different functions of the rooms in the house and life as it was lived day to day.

The building

With its two storey verandah, cast-iron lace and overall asymmetrical appearance Grossmann House is a Victorian style house. Beginning in the 1850's the Gold rushes brought, along with immigration, sudden wealth and an impetus to build and display prosperity and national pride.

Houses of wealthy owners such as Owen and Beckett were built of solid, high quality building materials with generously-sized rooms and large windows. The verandah was well-suited to the environment. It provided shady, outdoor living spaces, protected the rooms from the harsh sun and extreme heat and helped to protect soft bricks from heavy rain.



Entcliffe (Grossmann House) Church Street.

Life inside the house

During the late 19th century, work filled a large part of people's daily lives. Nevertheless, the Victorian Age offered many ways for people to enjoy themselves. In the home, families entertained themselves. Reading was a popular recreation and nights were spent writing letters, reading newspapers or in conversation. Wives and daughters of the middle class preserved flowers, sewed, embroidered or sketched. Rooms were divided into formal, private and public spaces.

The Drawing Room

This room in the large houses offered a pleasant atmosphere for activities as well as for games such as backgammon, chess, cribbage or cards. This room became the pride of every woman's home. Drawing rooms were designed to be a talking point for guests – and their decorative wallpaper, carpets and ornaments were displayed to be admired. The decoration, furnishings and small items were selected by the lady of the house who was informed by the latest fashions.

The Dining Room

This room was designed to display grandeur, power and style and was very much a masculine room. The chimney piece was designed to provide a central decorative focal point and was made of marble. The furniture such as the sideboard was usually made of cedar, richly carved and presented a solid powerful display of wealth. The dining room was designed for the man of the house to entertain his friends – it was meant to display the respectable values of the household. The walls were decorated by the best and largest pictures such as landscapes and portraits. Rich floral wallpaper provided impressive decoration at a reasonable price.

The Morning room

The morning room was a small daytime sitting room usually used by women. This was a place where the lady of the house could do her embroidery, read and sew.

The Butler's Pantry or China Pantry

A butler's pantry was the domain and responsibility of the butler. In this room the best ceramic dinner plates and tea service as well as the silver ware was kept. Lamps for the house were also stored here and the butler was responsible for the sharpening of serving knives and polishing of silver. The pantry was important for the service of dinner as it was a place to keep the cold dishes for second and third courses as well as the pastry, fruit and sweets.

The Bedroom

The bedroom was not a public room and was designed for the comfort of the females of the house, as they spent more time there as a private area in which to relax and rest. Colours were light in tone and furniture included a matching suite of wardrobe, dressing-table, chest of drawers and washstand. Beds in the main bedroom were usually brass four poster with a 'tester' railing on the top which supported hangings around the bed. An easy chair and couch were also considered essentials. For gentlemen there would be a swing shaving-glass mounted on a separate pedestal stand. Each bedroom was equipped with a washstand and a porcelain toilet set consisting of jug, bowl, chamber-pot and soap dishes. Waste was taken outdoor and emptied into outside receptacles, drains or cess-pits.

The Kitchen

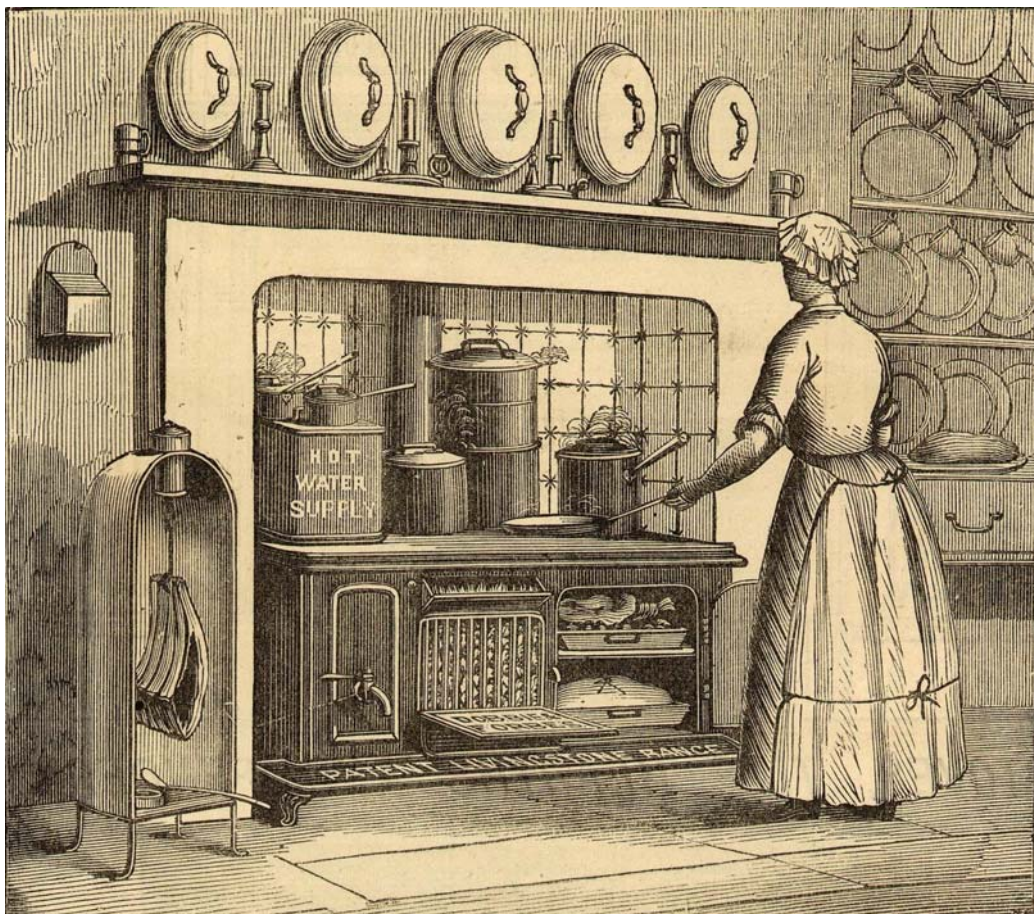
The kitchen in which the cook worked was not part of the social function of the house and was kept well away from the public area. Kitchens were plain and functional and designed to produce good quality meals. The stove was the dominant feature and was the heart and soul of the kitchen. By the 1870s cast-iron stoves replaced the suspended pots which hung above a grate over hot coals. The kitchen became the engine room of the house where water was heated and sophisticated and simple meals prepared. Mrs Beeton's *Book of Household Management* became a best seller and contained cleaning methods, recipes, menus and guidelines on how to work with servants.

Work was physically demanding such as lifting buckets of water, beating carpets, washing clothes over steaming cauldrons of water and preparing meals in hot kitchens. All very tiring and dirty work.

The Servants

During Victorian times most middle class households in NSW employed domestic staff. Two servants would have worked at Grossmann House. Servants worked 15 hours a day six or seven days a week.

Rooms, overflowing with ornaments and furniture, required constant dusting and cleaning. Carpets were cleaned without vacuum cleaners and heavy curtains and table covers all added to the effort of keeping rooms clean. The polishing of all of the brass, copper and silver would have occupied many hours.



*From The Illustrated Price List of King & Company Ltd of Hull, England
(Courtesy, Historic Houses Trust Library and Research Collection).*

Maitland Girls High School

Maitland became a centre for education for the surrounding district in the late nineteenth century. Government commitment to public schooling in the 1890's resulted in a number of bursaries and scholarships that increased the number of children attending High Schools – particularly girls.

A disastrous flood in 1893 swept through the Maitland Girls High School in Free Church Street and this led to the search for a new home. The Government was under pressure to keep the school in West Maitland and chose Entcliffe as the perfect flood free location that was also close to the railway station. The Department of Public Instruction (Education) decided to resume the property owned by Mr James Downs Prentice, although he objected he was compensated by 4,709 pounds. Maitland Girls High School was one of the first four State sponsored High schools in NSW.

From 1894 – 1963 the rooms of Grossmann House in Church St Maitland echoed with the footsteps of the students, teachers and boarders of Maitland Girls High School. In 1918 the Department of Education purchased neighbouring Brough House for the many country students to live in as a boarding house.



The rear of Brough House as a school boarding house 1919

Miss Grossmann and the naming of Grossmann House

In 1893 with a total of 50 pupils enrolled, headmistress Miss Jeanette Grossmann moved into some of the upstairs rooms of the new school house with her mother and sister. The downstairs rooms were used as classrooms and first term started in 1894. Miss Grossmann remained Headmistress until 1914 when she was transferred to North Sydney Girl's High School. Her time as headmistress became part of school legend with her strong personality and her ability to make the school one of the most respected institutions in the community.

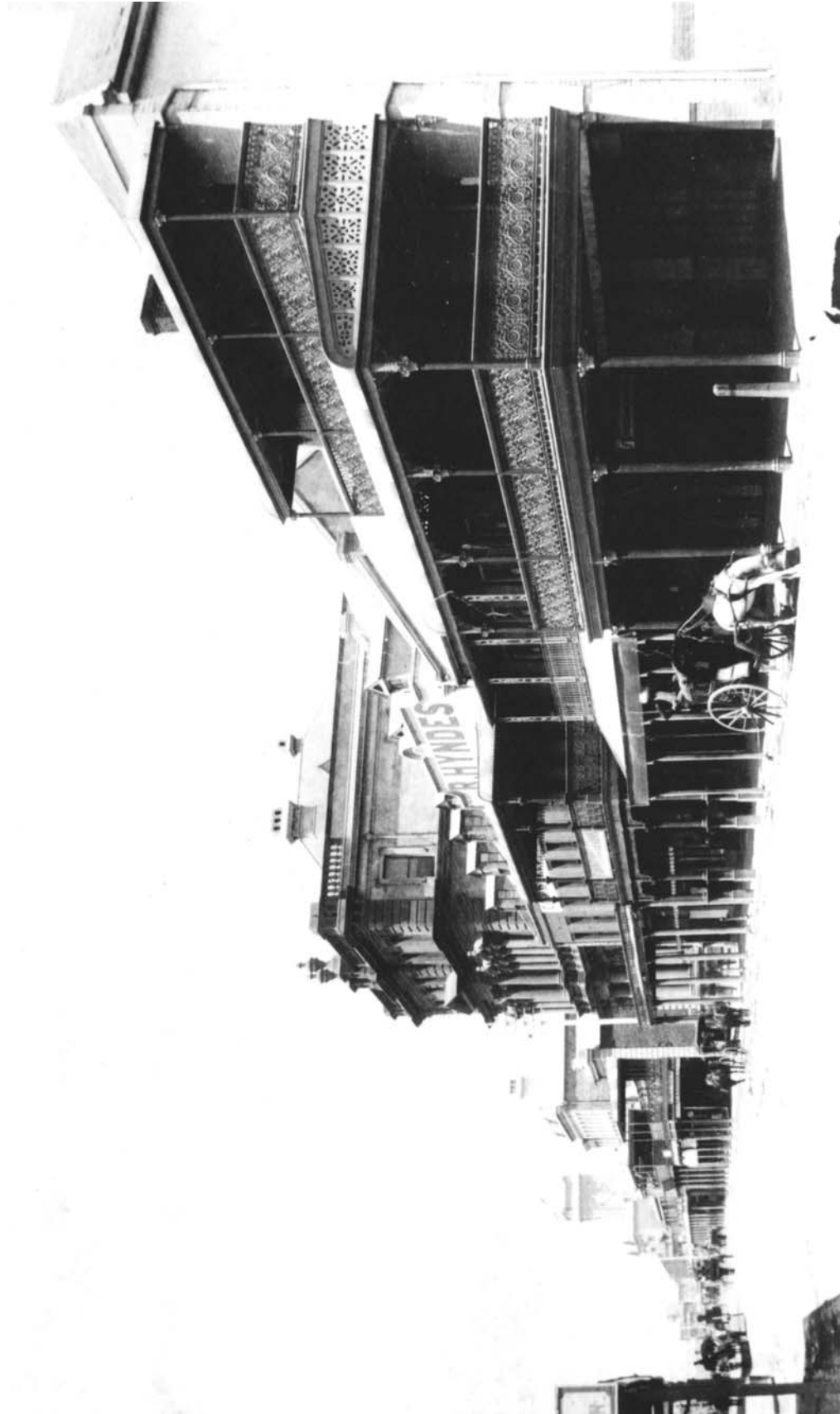
Entcliffe became known as 'Grossmann House' in 1935 when a name plate was donated to the School by the Sydney branch of the Old Girls Union. In 1963 Maitland Girls High moved to new larger premises in East Maitland. Today the school is called Maitland Grossmann High after it became co-educational in 1987.



Miss Grossmann, Principal of Maitland Girls High, 1890 – 1914

SECTION 3 RESOURCES

- **Maitland High St 1890**
- **Owen and Beckett Store 1878**
- **An interior of a general store c1880's**
- **Owen and Beckett Christmas goods advertisement 1884**
- **Isaac Beckett Obituary 1888**
- **Illustrations of Style of Dress 1870's – 1880's**
- **Bird's Eye View of Maitland 1878**
- **Grossmann House plans**
- **Girls from Maitland Girls High School 1897**
- **Time Line for Grossmann House and the Hunter Region**
- **References**



Maitland High Street c1890. Photographer HB Ballard (Courtesy of Frank Weber)

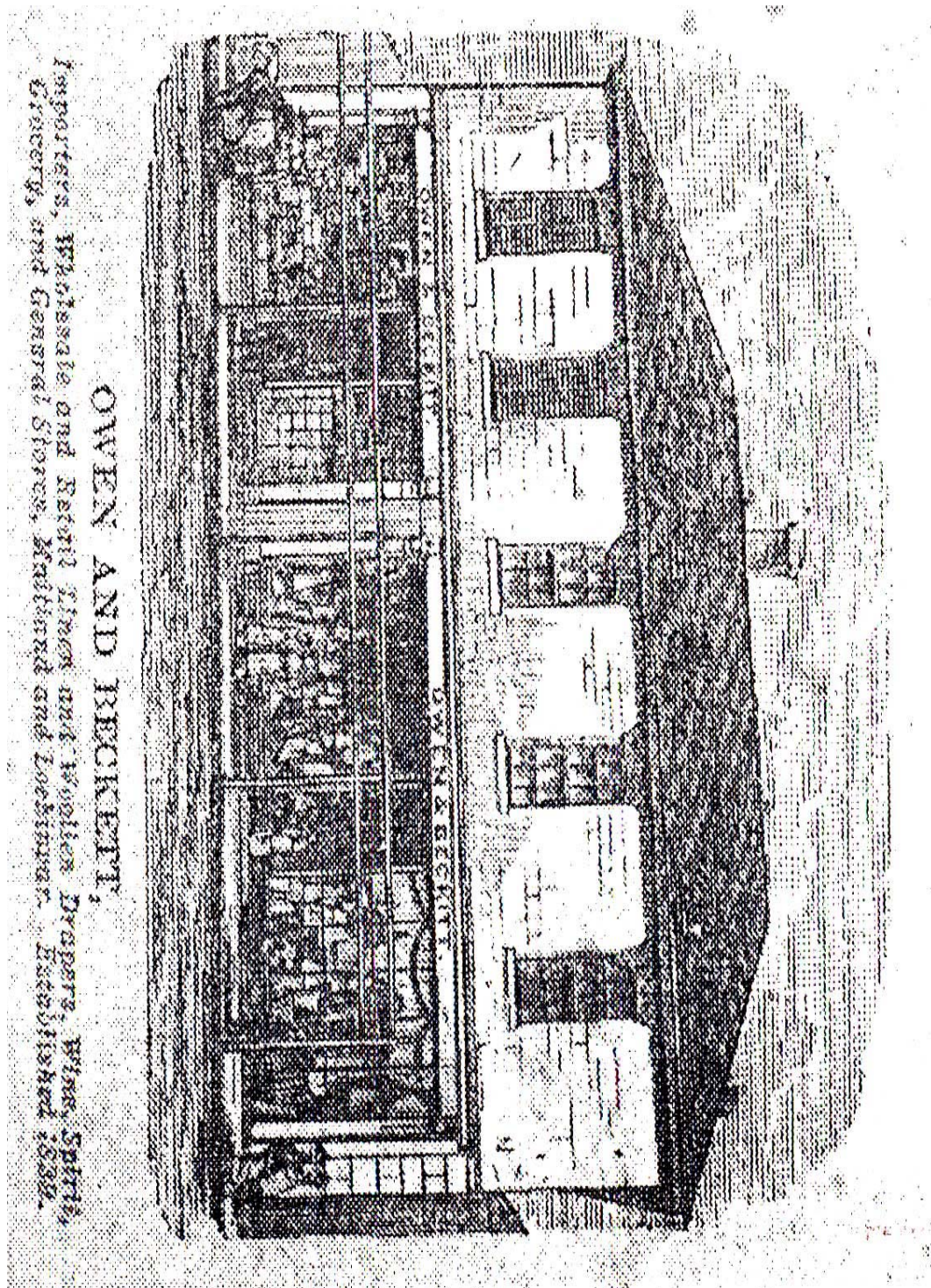


Image of Owen and Beckett's store from the 1878 Lithograph



Interior of Wolfe, Prentice and Co General Merchants, Importers and Manufacturers. High St Maitland 1895.

(From Beautiful Sydney (1895-96) Newcastle Coalopolis and Fertile Maitland)

<p>NEW FRUITS</p> <p>FOR CHRISTMAS</p> <p>JUST RECEIVED, SPECIALLY Selected for Use IN THE HOME MARKET.</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS.</p> <p>OWEN & BECKETT</p> <p>FOR CHRISTMAS PROVISIONS</p> <p>JUST RECEIVED, A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF CHRISTMAS PROVISIONS, IN SPLENDID CONDITION.</p>	<p>NEW FRUITS</p> <p>FOR CHRISTMAS</p> <p>NOW LANDING, SPECIALLY Selected for Use IN THE HOME MARKET.</p>
<p>OWEN & BECKETT</p> <p>BEG TO ANNOUNCE that they have JUST RECEIVED SPECIAL SHIPMENTS OF CHRISTMAS GOODS, amongst which will be found—</p> <p>NEW FRUITS.</p> <p>FINEST ELEME, SULTANA, and MUSCATEL RAISINS, Finest Patras Currants, Turkey Figs, French Prunes, Preserved Ginger and Comquats, Fruits in Syrup, Tart Fruits, Dessert Fruits, Marmalade, Strawberry and Raspberry Jam, Red and Black Currant Jelly, Calves' Foot Jelly, Candid Peel, Jordan and Soft Shell Almonds, Fancy Biscuits, Fancy Confectionery, &c., &c.</p> <p>NEW PROVISIONS.</p> <p>PRIME ENGLISH HAMS, English Breakfast Bacon, Morton's Cooked Hams, Spiced Beef and Mutton, Lunch Tongues, Ox Tongues, Sheep Tongues, American Brawn, Boneless Pigs' Feet; Oxford, Cambridge, German, Lubeck, and Bologna Sausages; Vencatatchellum Curry, Fizzool and Tirhoot Chutnee, Delhi and Mango Chutnee, Aromatic Mustard, Olives, Pickles, Sauces, Flavoring Essences, Spices, &c., &c., and EVERY DELICACY requisite for the Christmas Season.</p> <p>WINES AND SPIRITS.</p> <p>MARTELL'S and HENNESSY'S BRANDY, in bulk and bottle; West India and Jamaica Rum, Geneva, Schnapps, Irish and Scotch Whisky, Port and Sherry Wines, South Australian and Hunter River Wines, great variety; Forster's, Boar's Head, and Bulldog Ale; Crown, Boar's Head, and Pig Brand Stout; Assorted Cordials, Lime Juice Cordial, Lime Juice, Syrup of Lemons and Raspberries, Persian Sherbet, &c.</p> <p>Always on Hand—BEST ADELAIDE FLOUR, Pollard, Bran, Best American Tobaccos, Rock Salt, Wool Packs, and Station Supplies of every description. <i>Wholesale Customers Liberally Dealt With.</i></p> <p>AGENTS IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE Co.—Property and Effects Insured at Lowest Rates.</p>		
<p>OWEN & BECKETT, WEST MAITLAND. 0717</p>		

Isaac Beckett's Obituary from the Maitland Mercury 10th November 1888

The Late Mr Isaac Beckett - Another very old resident of Maitland, Mr Isaac Beckett, has gone to his rest. The deceased gentleman came to the colony from England as far back as 1838, and started business in partnership with the late Mr Samuel Owen shortly after his arrival here in premises in which Messrs. W.S. Harrison and Co. now carry on a mercantile trade. About two years later in 1840, Mr Beckett returned to England to be married, and came to Maitland again in the following year.

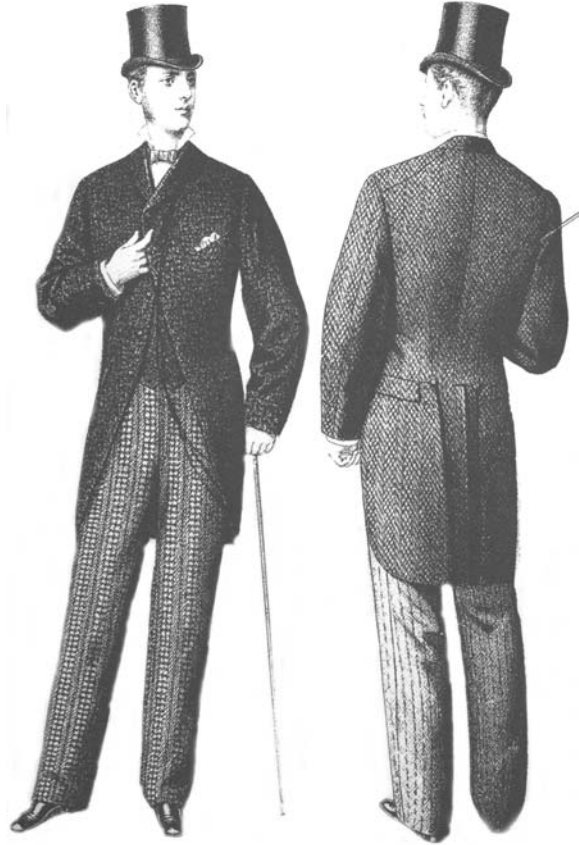
He was an active man of business, punctual and methodical in his habits, and up to the end in 1884, he devoted himself with much energy to widen the connection which he and his partner had established for themselves.

In the month of December of that year Mrs Beckett, died and some short time afterwards his partner was removed by death.

These sad circumstances preyed on Mr Beckett's mind and he was obliged to see the retirement of his home and relinquish business.

For some four years prior to his death he was very unwell and latterly had not been able to move about. He expired at an early hour on Wednesday morning, at his residence, Church Street, West Maitland. He was in his seventy - ninth year, and leaves three sons, all of whom reside in Maitland. The late Mr Beckett's remains were interred in the Wesleyan cemetery on Thursday forenoon.

Illustrations of Style of Dress from the 1870's – 1880's From 1800's clothing catalogues.



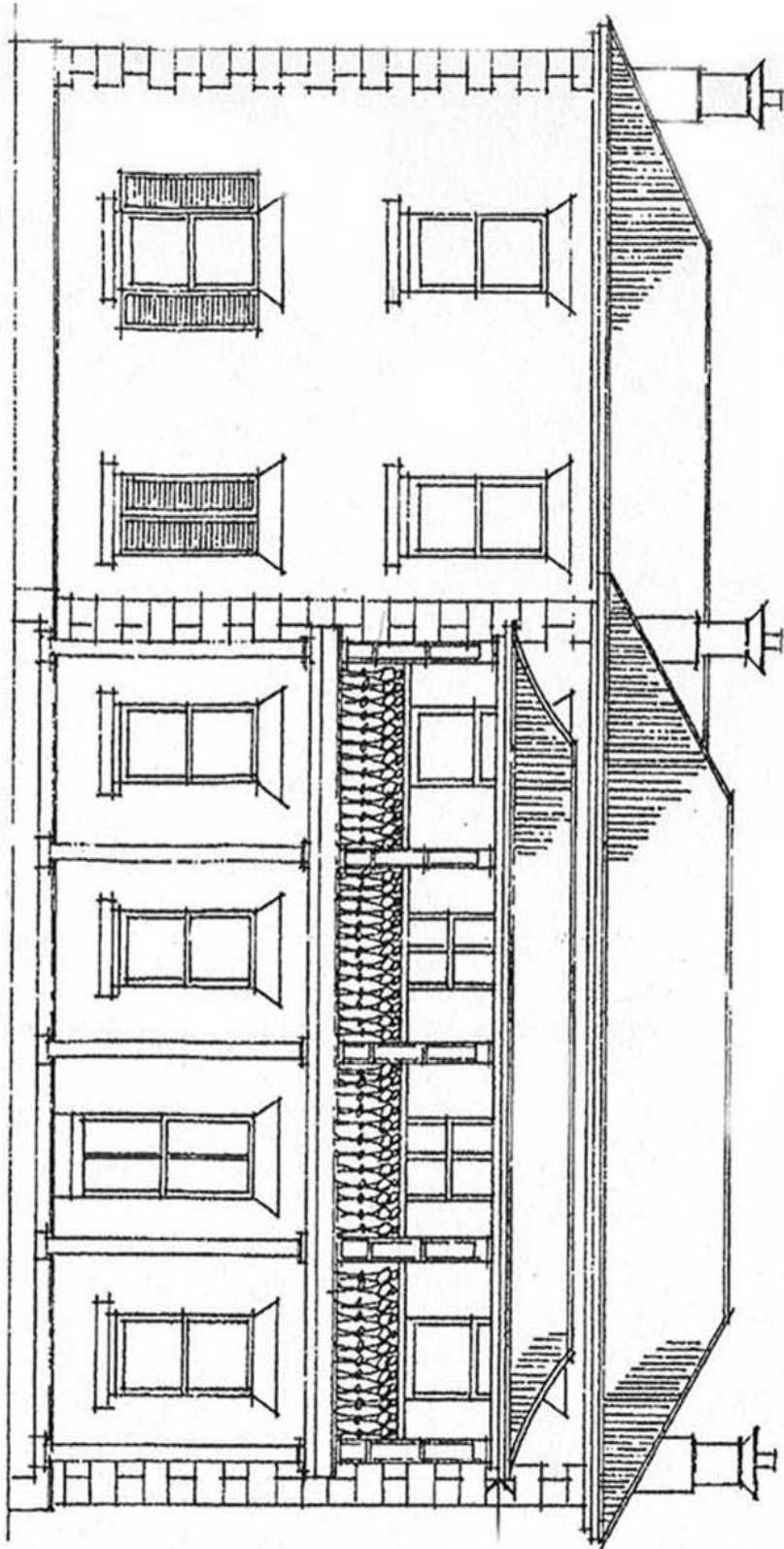
Boy in sailor jacket

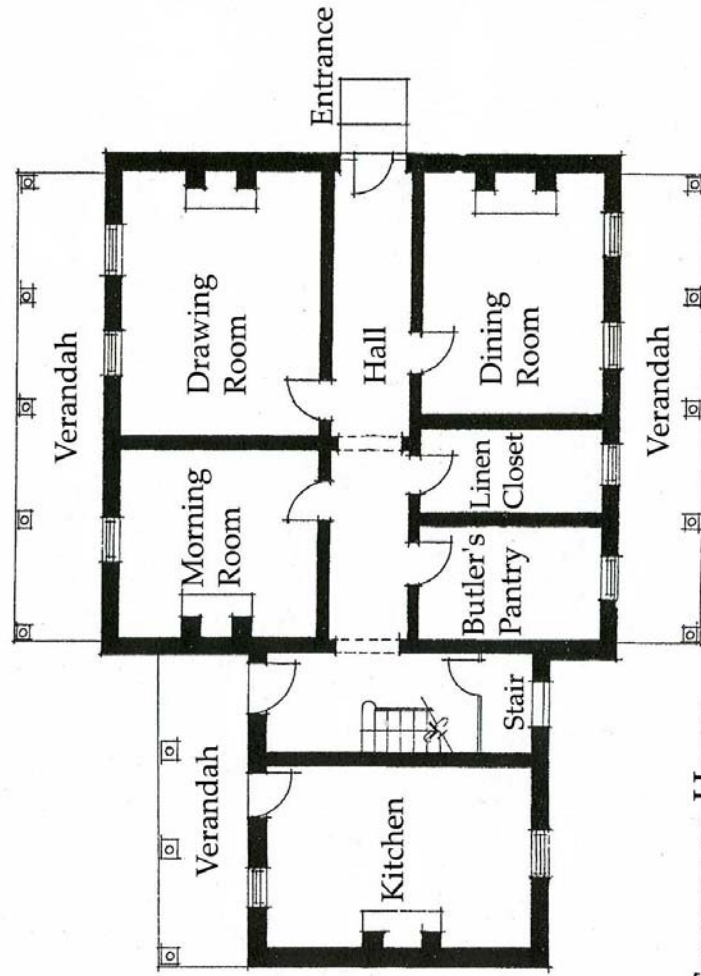




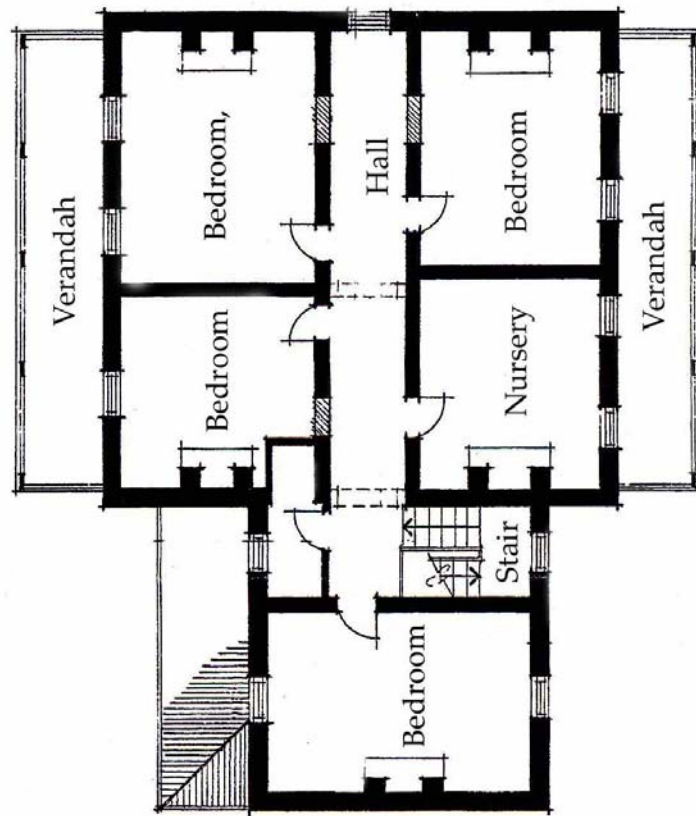
1878 lithograph of Maitland: 'Bird's Eye View'

Grossmann House

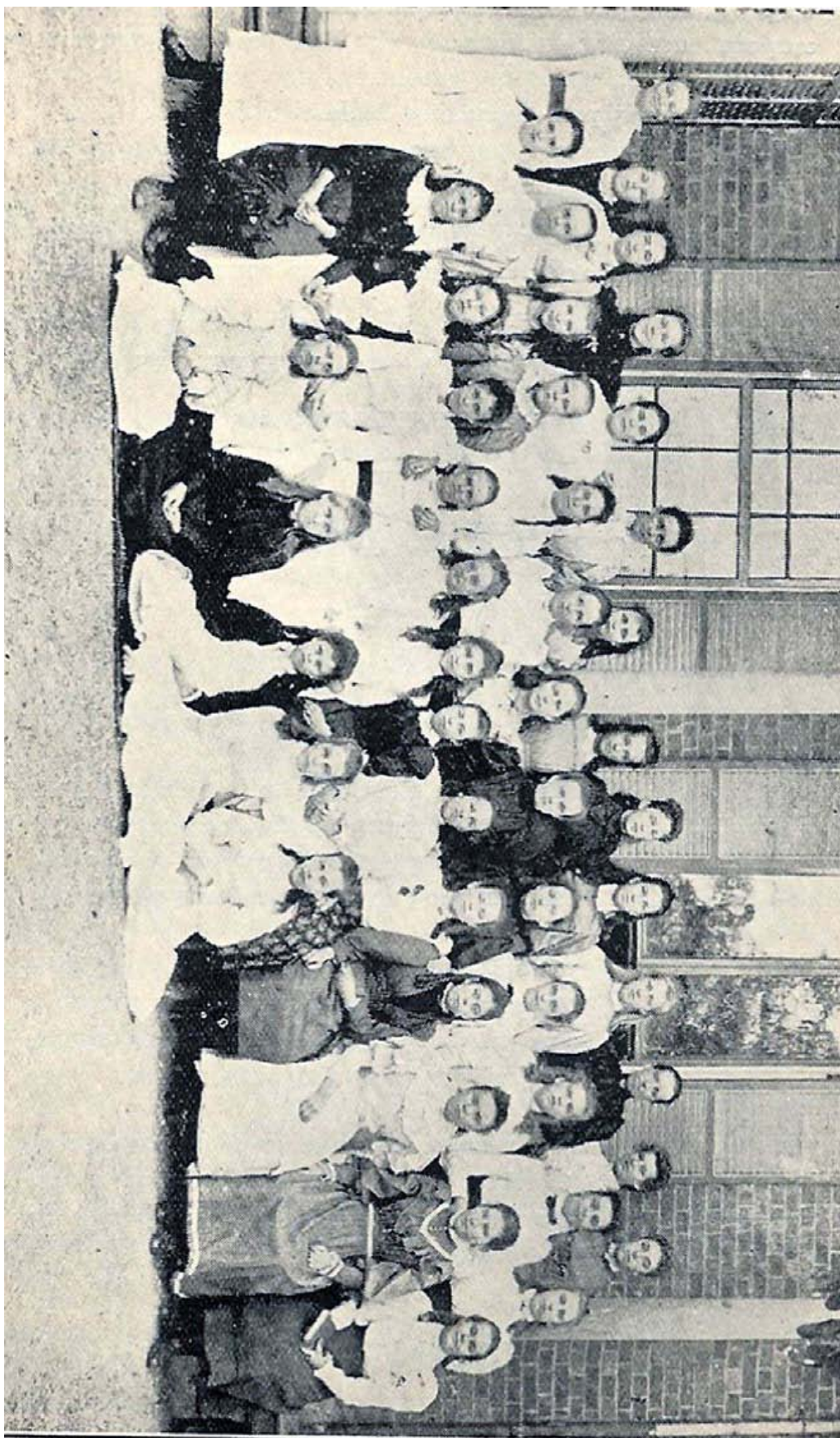




Grossmann House
Ground Floor



Grossmann House
First Floor



1897. Pupils enrolled at Matiland Girls High School. They are posed at the front of Entcliffe (Grossmann House) Miss Grossmann appears third from the right in the back row. (Photograph courtesy of Matiland Grossmann High School Archives)

Grossmann House and Hunter Region Timeline

DATE	EVENT
Pre 1797	Hunter Region inhabited by the Awakakal, Worimi, Wonnarua, Geawegal, Birrpai and Darkinung Aboriginal people.
1797	Lieutenant John Shortland discovers waterway he names Hunter River.
1799	First coal exported.
1801	First cedar cut for export.
1804	Penal settlement established at Newcastle.
1823	Inland road to Wallis Plains (Maitland) from Sydney.
1833	Proclamation of town of Maitland.
1838	Samuel Owen and Isaac Beckett arrive from Sheffield England.
1839	Store begins trading as Owen and Company – later to be renamed Owen and Beckett.
1839	Hunter River Steam Navigation Company formed.
1842	Caroline Chisholm begins settlement program for female immigrants at Maitland.
1843	Drought and Depression hits Maitland – many people bankrupt.
1858	Railway from Newcastle to West Maitland.
1864	Owen and Beckett purchase two lots of land in Church St.
1870-71	Brough House and Entcliffe are designed and built by architect William White.
1884	Death of Samuel Owen and Caroline Beckett.
1884	Maitland Girls High and Maitland Boys High opened.
1888	Death Isaac Beckett and Mary Owen.
1889	Rail bridge across Hawkesbury River opened, linking Sydney and Newcastle.
1893	Severe floods at Maitland. River changes course.
1893	Maitland Girls High moves from Free Church St to Entcliffe.
1918	Department of Education purchases Brough House as a boarding house for the school.
1935	Entcliffe renamed Grossmann House.
1945	City of Maitland proclaimed.
1955	Severe Maitland floods.
1963	Maitland Girls High moves to larger premises in East Maitland.
1964	Grossmann House is handed over by the Department of Education to the Hunter Regional Trust for a peppercorn rent. Grossmann House becomes furnished as a house museum.
2000-2001	The National Trust receives funding from the Federal Government to restore and reinterpret Grossmann House as the 1870's residence of Isaac Beckett.

References

- Eicholzer, M Our Girls – Maitland Girls high School 1884 - 1984
- Forge,S Victorian Splendour – Australian Interior Decoration
1837 - 1901
- Scandrett, E Breeches and Bustles – An Illustrated History of
Clothes Worn in Australia 1788 - 1914
- Walsh B, Archer, C Maitland on the Hunter
(CB Alexander Foundation, Tocal College)
- Webber K, Hoskins I What's in Store? History of Retailing in Australia
(Powerhouse Publishing, Sydney 2003)