

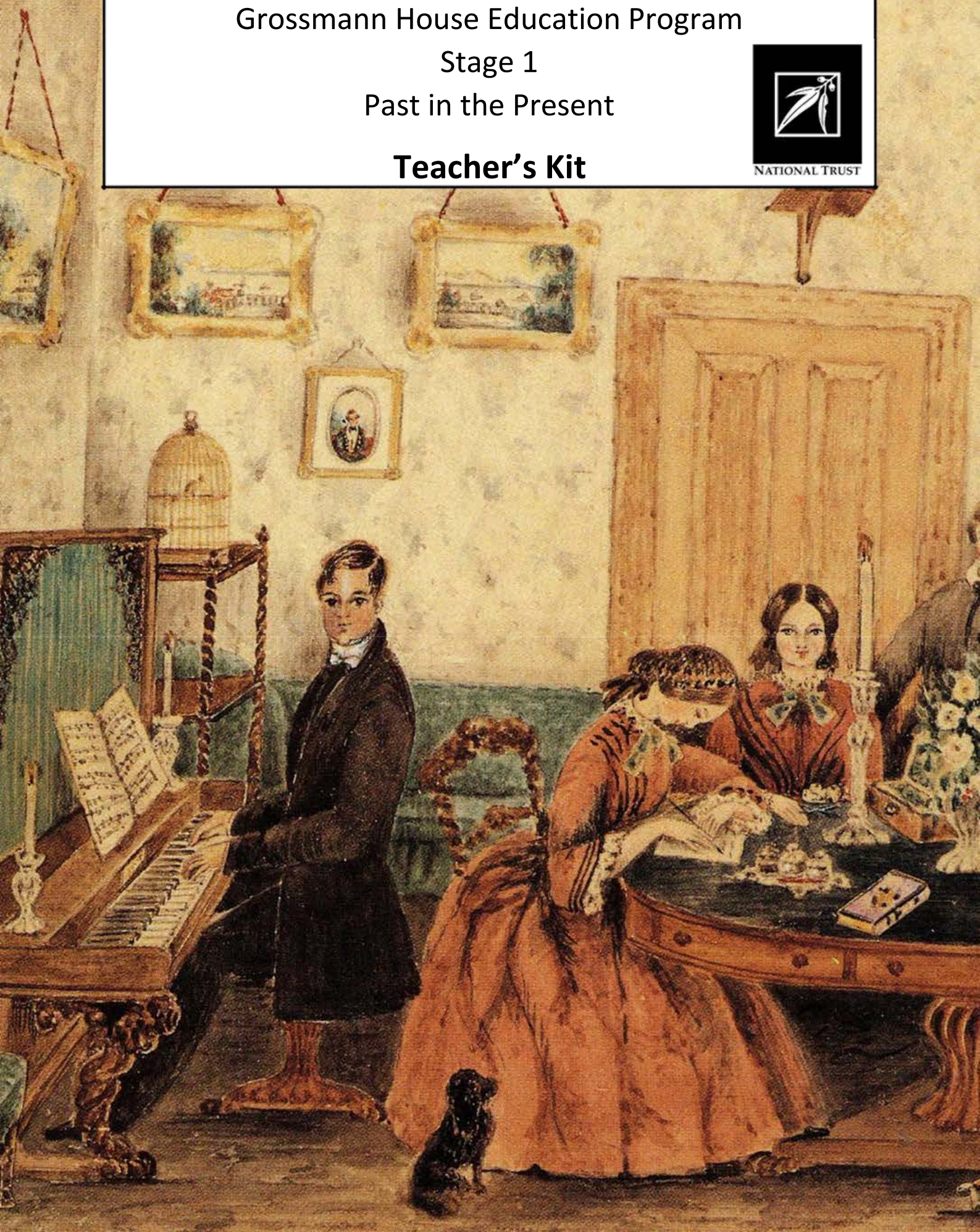
Butlers and Blackboards

Grossmann House Education Program

Stage 1

Past in the Present

Teacher's Kit



BUTLERS AND BLACKBOARDS TEACHER'S KIT

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

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SECTION 1

PROGRAM BRIEFING

STAGE 1 - PAST IN THE PRESENT

Syllabus:	History
Stage:	Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)
Topic:	Past in the Present
Unit Title:	Butlers and Blackboards

Objectives

Students:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the nature of history and key changes and developments from the past
- develop knowledge and understanding of key historical concepts and, develop the skills to undertake the process of historical inquiry

Outcomes:

Students:

- identify and describe significant people, events, places and sites in the local community over time (HT 1-2)
- describe the effects of changing technology on people's lives over time (HT 1-3)
- demonstrate skills of historical inquiry and communication (HT 1-4)

Themes:

- past and present
- change and continuity in family life
- the impact of changing technologies
- significance of local heritage sites

Concepts:

- continuity and change
- cause and effect
- perspectives
- empathetic understanding
- significance

Skills:

- discuss and recount stories of family and local history
- sequence familiar objects and events
- distinguish between past, present and future
- explore and use a range of sources from the past
- identify and compare objects from the past and present

- recognise that people in the past may have lived and behaved differently
- explore a point of view within an historical context
- pose questions about the past using the sources provided
- use a range of communication forms (oral, written, graphic, digital technologies)

Time: 1.5 hours (see “On the Day” for more detail)

Topic Summary:

This topic examines a significant building in the local community, what it reveals about the past and how things have changed or remained the same over time.

Experience:

Visit Grossman House, Maitland, a Victorian Regency styled double storey dwelling that was built in c1871 by Isaac Beckett. By visiting the rooms in this authentically furnished Victorian residence, students will be able to compare the features and family life of years past with that of the present.

Students will have the opportunity to interact with artefacts that were typically used by children and adults in Victorian times in the laundry and school room. They will learn how to identify and compare objects from the past to those of the present; discover that people may have lived differently in the early 20th Century; pose questions about that time by using the artefacts provided; and clearly distinguish between the past and present. They will be invited to answer the question – who would have liked to have lived in this house back in 1900s? Why?

Teacher Support:

- Pre Visit (optional)
- Program Overview
- Background Information
- Self-Guided Tour of Historic Maitland
- Risk Analysis

On The Day

Introduction: 7 min

The students are divided into three groups which rotate during the 90 minute visit. Students will be provided with a period style pinafore/vest for the duration of the visit.

The Social Visit to the house: 25 min

Students experience the house from the perspective of those who worked, lived and visited.

Using nominal costume, students are taken back in time to when the house keeper / butler welcomed visitors in 1871 to Grossmann House or Entcliffe as it was known then. Students explore the social and work areas of the house making connections between the past and present.

School Room Experience: 25 mins

Students experience the early 20th Century school room, exploring the changes in education over time, particularly in reference to the life Grossmann House as Maitland Maitland Girls' High School.

Using artefacts from the school room, today's students explore early 20th century experiences of school and are asked how this compares to their own experiences. This will assist them to understand how classroom practices and learning tools have evolved over time.

Laundry: 25 mins



Working in small groups students analyse the change in laundry technology and products. The students will experience the wet and dry laundry of the mid-1800s and gain an understanding of the hard work that was required to do what we now do so easily. This will help students to appreciate the important role of the laundry worker of the past and her place in a house such as Grossmann House.

Classroom preparation

What can primary sources tell us about the past?

Butlers 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:

- Real objects such as a fully furnished Victorian Townhouse;
- School items and Laundry items that can also be handled; and
- Photographs or images from the past and present.

In preparation:

- Ask the students to think about what sort of information primary sources are able to tell us about the past. Choose relevant historic objects, documents and images and prepare questions for a class exercise.
- Take students on a street walk around Maitland Public School and Grossmann House noting different styles of buildings and imagining the lives of the past residents (map and key questions provided).
- Choose an object from Section /appendix and ask students what they think it was for and identify on the visit.

Sources	Questions
Pictures including photographs, drawings and picture advertisements	What is in the picture? How are the things in this picture different to how they are today? (look at the clothing, transport, buildings, advertising, technology and objects) What does it tell you about the past?
Objects	What is the object made of? What does the object do? How do you think this object was made? Who would have used the object? What do you think this tells you 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 your 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 has changed? What continues to be the same?

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

Describe the materials, size, ornaments 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, shopfronts added and 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 Bird's 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 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.

Website : <http://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/Tourism/Walka>

Tocal Homestead, Paterson

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

Tocal has a long and proud history, during which it has become one of the foremost agricultural institutions in Australia. Tocal was on part of the land of the Gringai clan of the Wonnarua people. The name 'Tocal' is a Koori word meaning 'plenty'.

Its involvement with agriculture began in 1822 when James Webber took up the property as one of the first land grants in the Paterson Valley.

Website: <http://www.tocal.com/tocal-homestead>

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. Its 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: <http://www.maitlandgaol.com.au/>

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 makes a visit very worthwhile.

Website: <http://www.itmustbemorpeth.com.au/>

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. It is open 9 – 4 Mon – Fri and is located at Lot 457 Chelmsford Drive Metford Ph 4934 8511

Website: <http://www.aumuseums.com/nsw/mindaribba-local-aboriginal-land-council-museum>
<http://metford.huntertourism.com/HolidayProduct/hunter605596CT40648.htm>

Sense of Place Teacher's 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.'

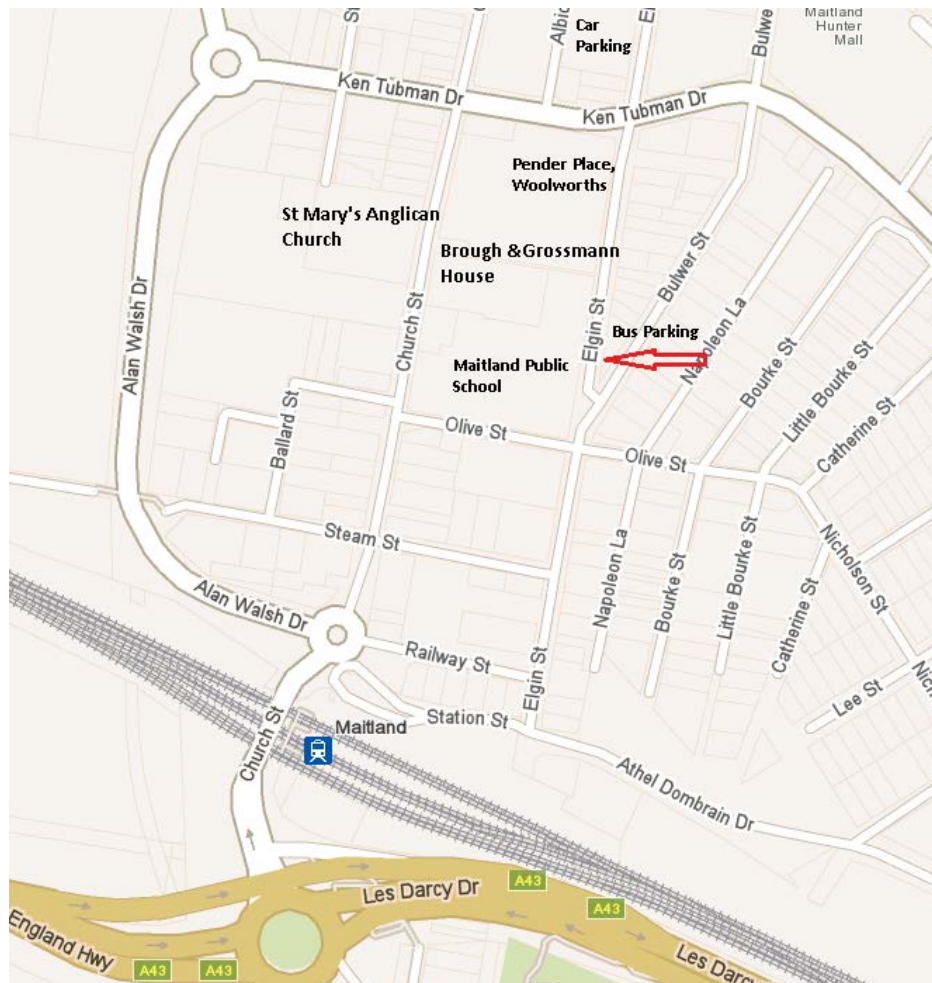
The kit also contains many activities and suggestions for environmental studies of local Wetlands and Reserves.

For overview of site go to:

<http://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/ourenvironment/educationprograms>

Getting There

Location: 73 – 75 Church St Maitland



By Train

The train is the easiest way to arrive at Grossmann House. Maitland train station is a short, flat 5 minute walk from Grossmann House. Trains arrive and depart about every half hour. More information

http://www.sydneytrains.info/timetables/timetables_by_line.htm#landingPoint

Arriving by Bus or Car

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

A public bus zone is located on Elgin Street. It is also a one way street turning off Ken Taubman Drive.

This bus zone is a short walk from Grossmann & Brough Houses.

Short term public car parking is located either in the Pender Place Shopping Centre car park (3hrs only) or the public car park between Albion and Elgin Streets.

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.
- 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.
- used stone axes (mogo) made of hard volcanic rock bound to a wooden handle.
- used the Hunter River as an important source of food and for transport and trade.

The colonisation 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 colonisation 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 post war years saw an influx of migrants, particularly Poles, bringing new traditions and skills to the local community.

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.



High St in Flood, 1893. (Courtesy of Mrs Peacock, East Maitland)

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.

<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>NEW LANDINGS, 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 Hrawn, Boneless Pigs' Feet; Oxford, Cambridge, German, Lubbeck, and Bologna Sausages; Venicatchellum 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 Tobacco, Rock Salt, Wool Packs, and Station Supplies of every description.</p> <p><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,</p> <p>WEST MAITLAND. 0717</p>		

Advertisement for Owen and Beckett from the Maitland Mercury Dec 1884

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.



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 Street 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 Street, 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 Street which was an easy walk from their High Street store. During this time Church Street, 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 Street had doubled. Two of these, the homes of Owen and Beckett, were completed in 1871.

On 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 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 and 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 probably lived with their parents in the early 1870s up 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 father Isaac's death Samuel sold *Entcliffe* to J D Prentice and three years later in 1893, the property was taken over by the Education Department for Maitland 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 its 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 1860s a local District Council provided opportunities for business to expand and the population increased. Rural land was 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 1880s 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, by horse or horse and buggy, 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 1830s 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 1850s 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

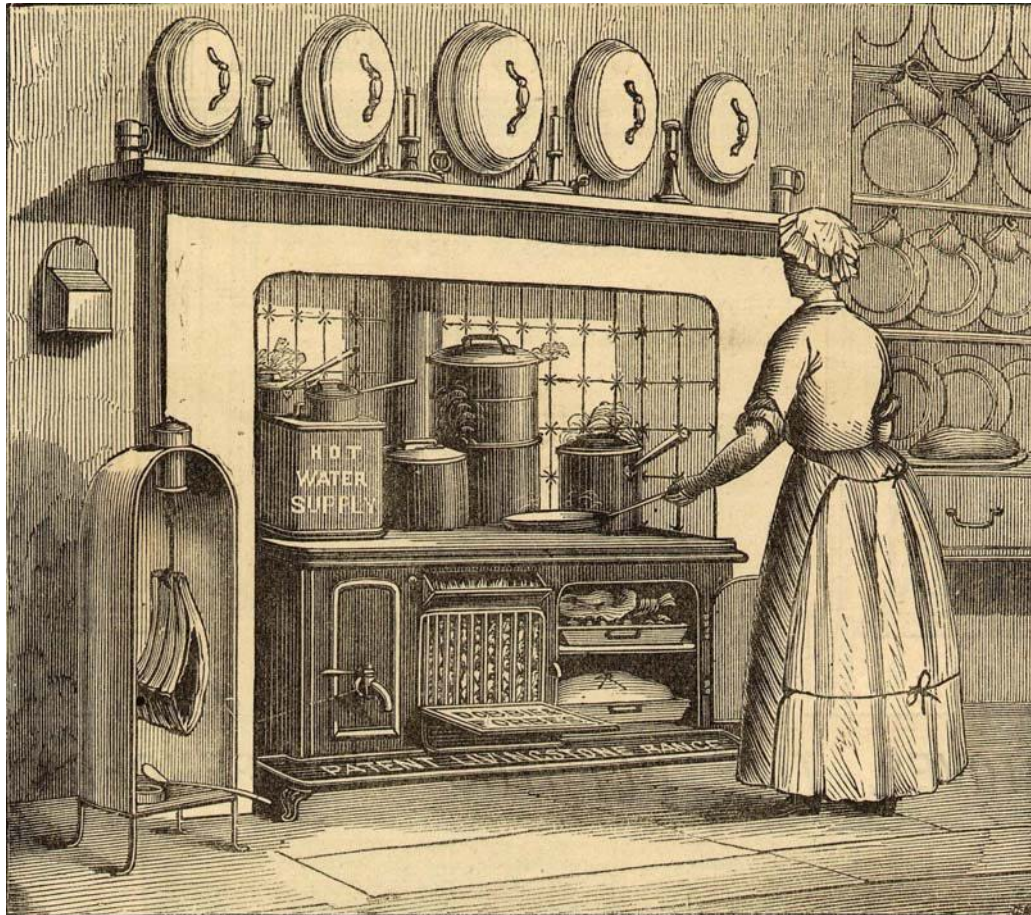
The kitchen in which the cook worked was not part of the social function of the house and was kept well away from the public area. Kitchens were plain and functional and designed to produce good quality meals. The stove was the dominant feature and was the heart and soul of the kitchen. By the 1870s 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 1890s 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 despite his objections. 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.

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.

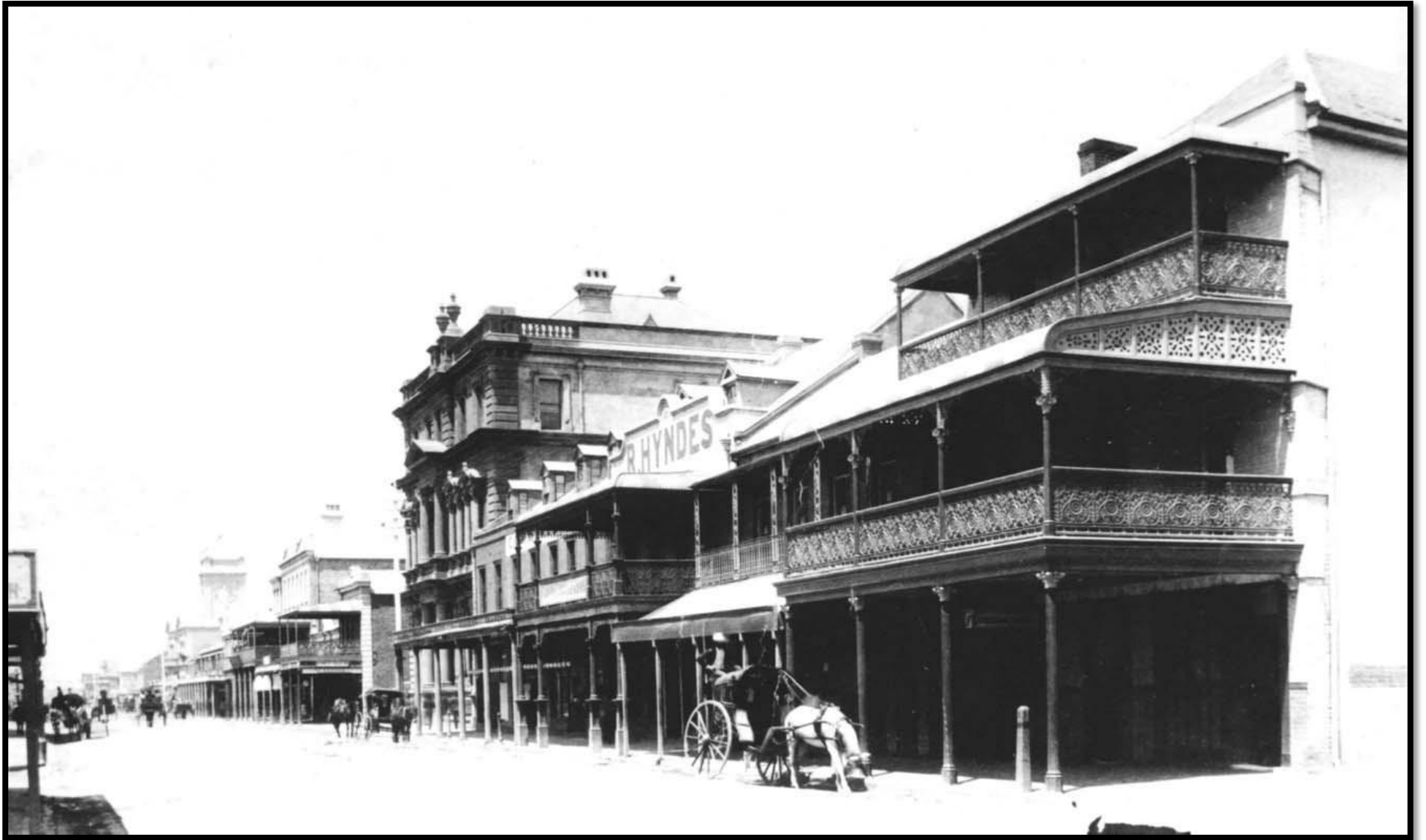


*The rear of Brough House as a school boarding house
1919*

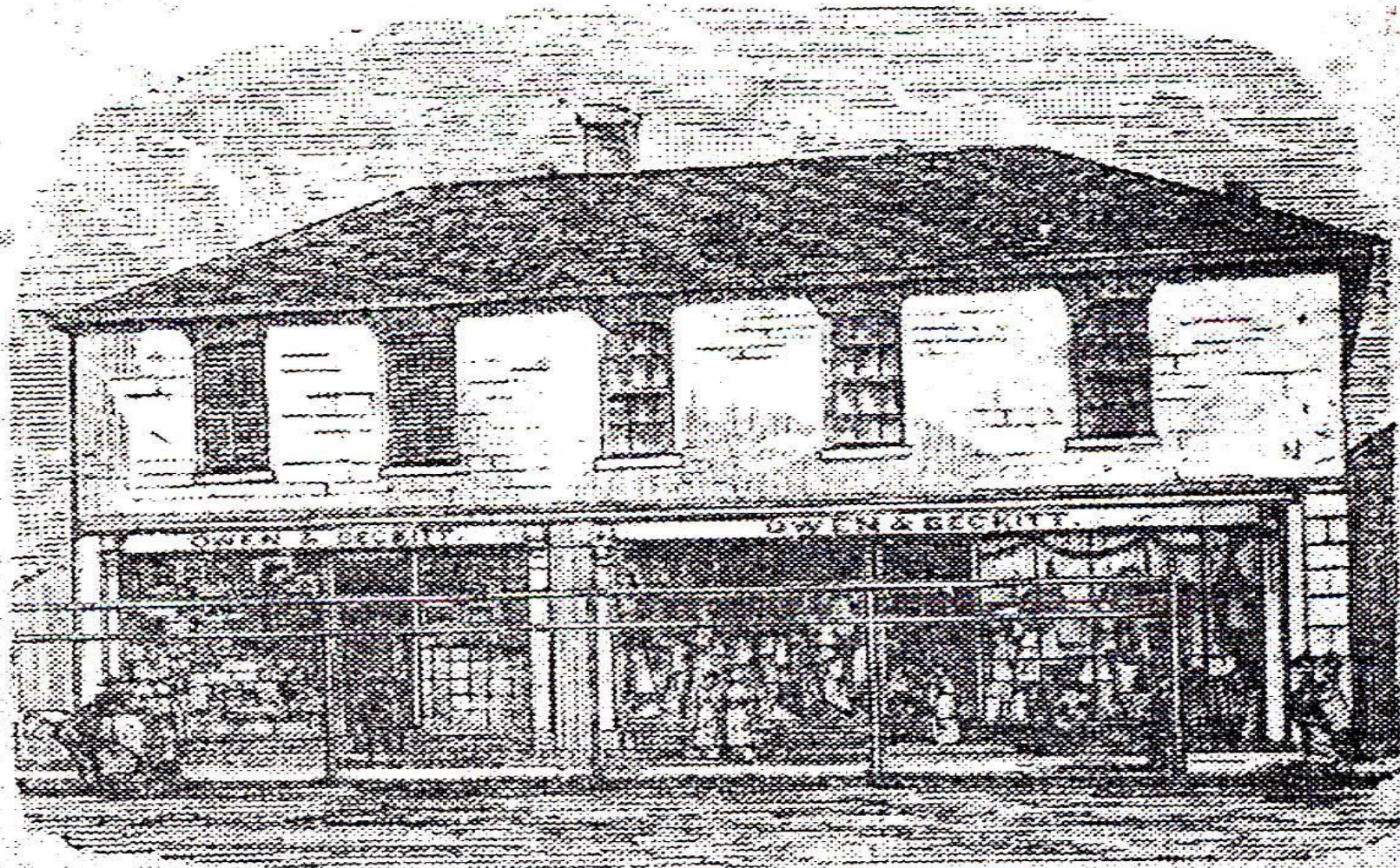
SECTION 3

RESOURCES

- **Maitland High Street 1890**
- **Owen and Beckett Store 1878**
- **An interior of a general store c1880s**
- **Owen and Beckett Christmas goods advertisement 1884**
- **Isaac Beckett Obituary 1888**
- **Illustrations of Style of Dress 1870s – 1880s**
- **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)



OWEN AND BECKETT,

*Importers, Wholesale and Retail Linen and Woolen Drapers, Wine, Spirit,
Grocery, and General Store, Malinda and Lockinur. Established 1839.*



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

<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>NEW LANDING, SPECIALLY Selected for Use IN THE HOME MARKET.</p>
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OWEN & BECKETT

BEG TO ANNOUNCE that they have JUST RECEIVED SPECIAL SHIPMENTS OF CHRISTMAS GOODS, amongst which will be found—

NEW FRUITS.

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.

NEW PROVISIONS.

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; Venecatallum 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.

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; 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.

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

Wholesale Customers Liberally Dealt With.

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

—:—

OWEN & BECKETT,

WEST MAITLAND. 0717

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 of 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 seek 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.

land. 7264

DEATHS.

Died, on the 13th September, 1888, at Westwood, Wrexham, Denbighshire, North Wales, England, Elizabeth Botterel, widow of the late George Townshend, late of Trevallyn, Gresford, Paterson River. 7120

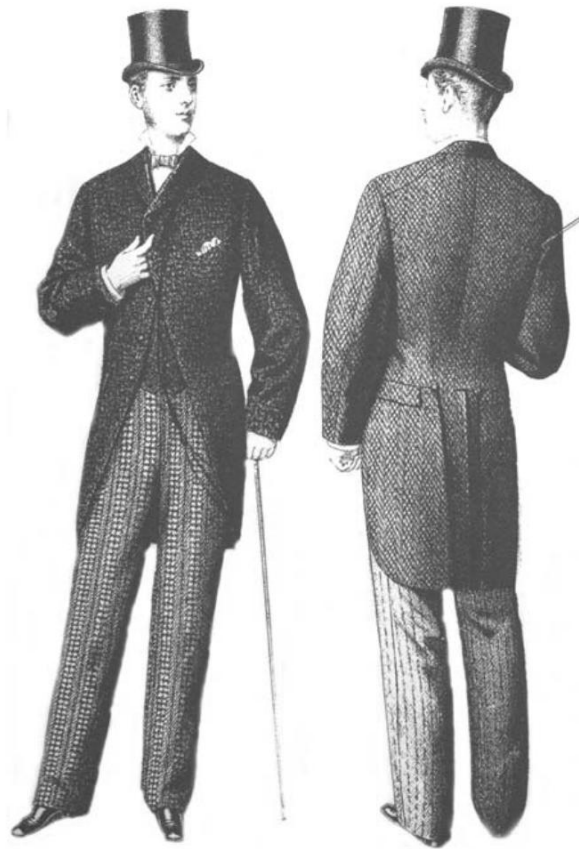
November 4th, at Porphyry, Seaham, from acute congestion of the brain, Henry David, elder son of Gavin T. Carmichael, aged 8 years and 7 months. 7371

Died, October 26th, 1888, of convulsions, at his residence, Public School, Camberwell, Claude Clement, dearly beloved son of John and Kate Shanahan, aged 3½ years. 7266

At his late residence, Entoliffe House, Church-street, West Maitland, Isaac Beckett, aged 78 years. 7275

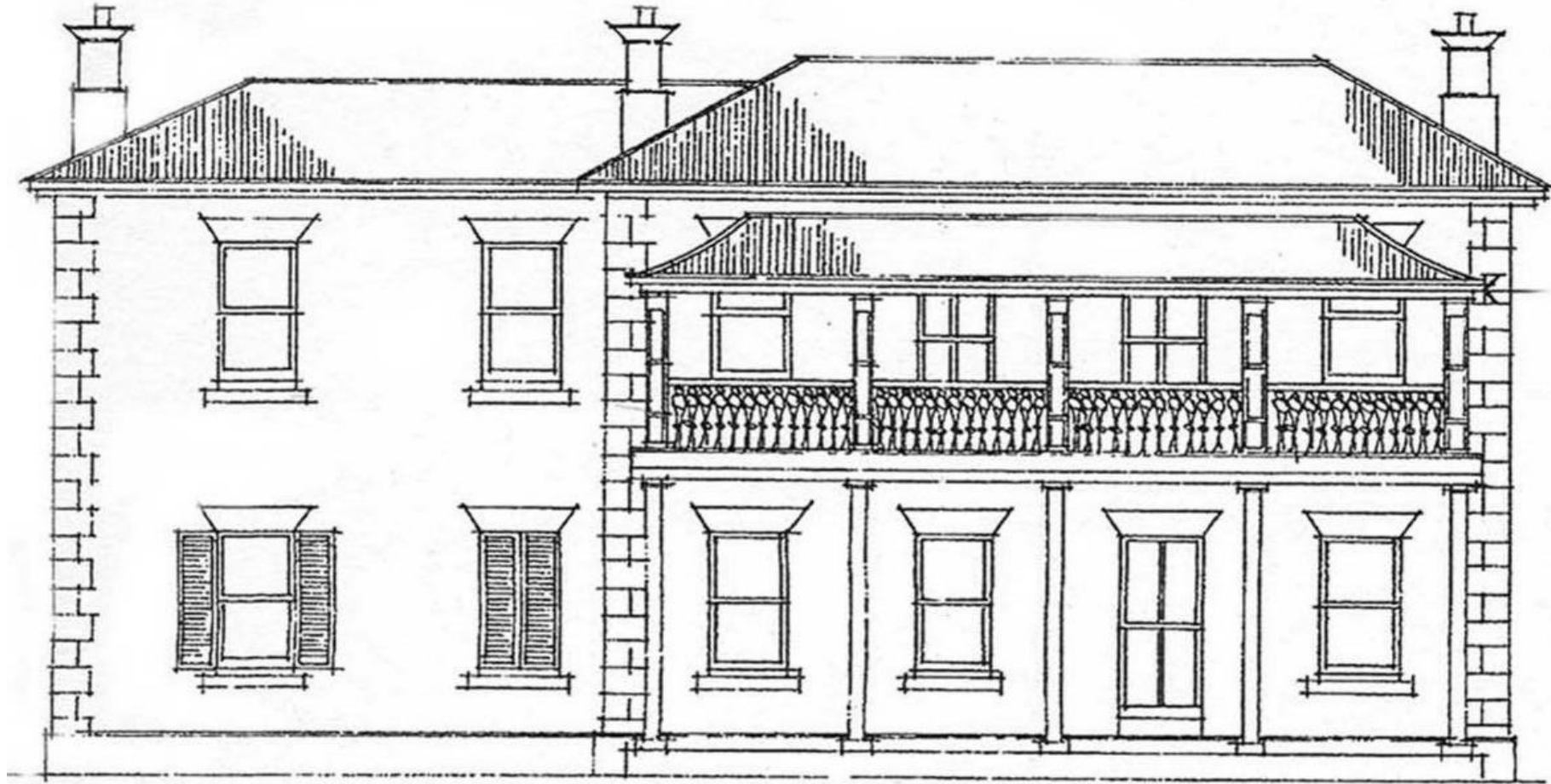
Illustrations of Style of Dress from the 1870's – 1880's

From 1800's clothing cata

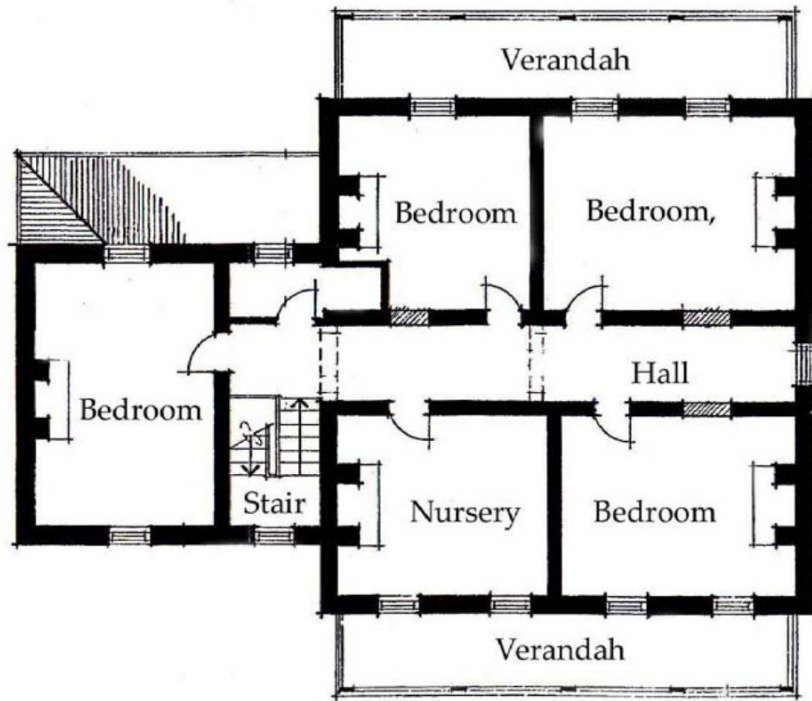




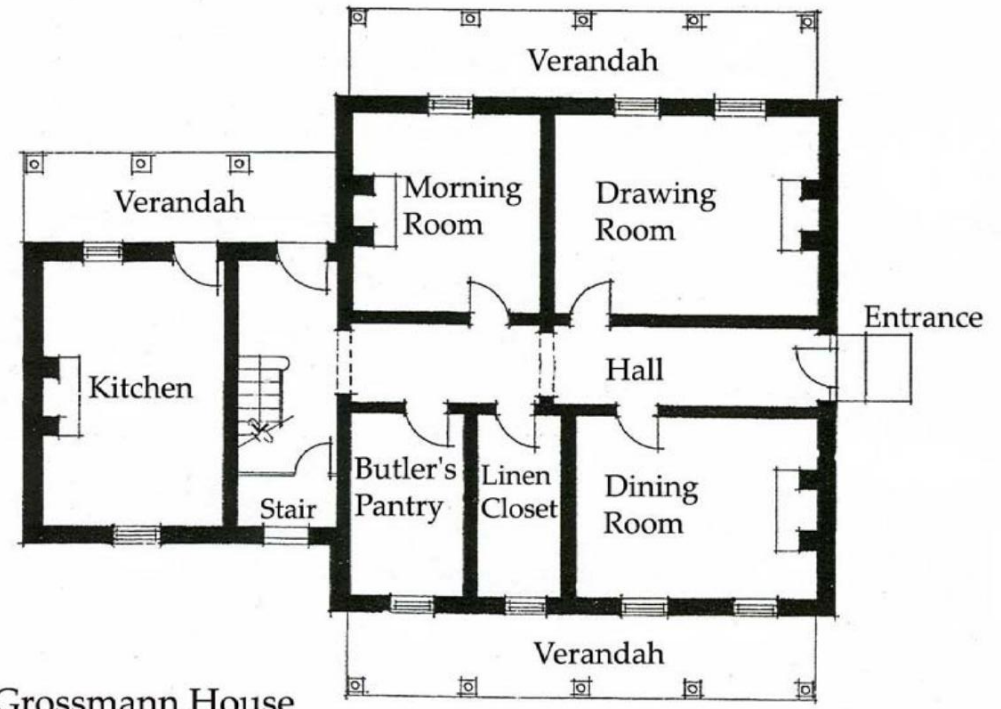
1878 lithograph of Maitland: 'Bird's Eye View'



Grossmann House



Grossmann House
First Floor



Grossmann House
Ground Floor



1897. Pupils enrolled at Maitland 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 Maitland 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 Street.
1870-71	<i>Brough House</i> and <i>Entcliffe</i> 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 Street to <i>Entcliffe</i> .
1918	Department of Education purchases <i>Brough House</i> as a boarding house for the school.
1935	<i>Entcliffe</i> 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 1870s residence of Isaac Beckett.

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