

The Old Court House, Wollongong

A History in Five Parts

Prepared for the Old Court House, Wollongong
Open Day 13 April 2014
as part of Heritage Week

Wollongong – Aboriginal background

The Wodi Wodi are the Aboriginal custodians of the Illawarra who spoke a variant of the Dharawal language. Dharawal speakers lived and live in the country from Botany Bay and Campbelltown in the north through the Nepean, Wollondilly, Georges, and Cataract water catchments, west to Moss Vale (Illillawatta) and south to the Shoalhaven River and Jervis Bay.

Source:

Murni Dhungang Jirrar - Living in the Illawarra
Compiled and written by Sue Wesson.



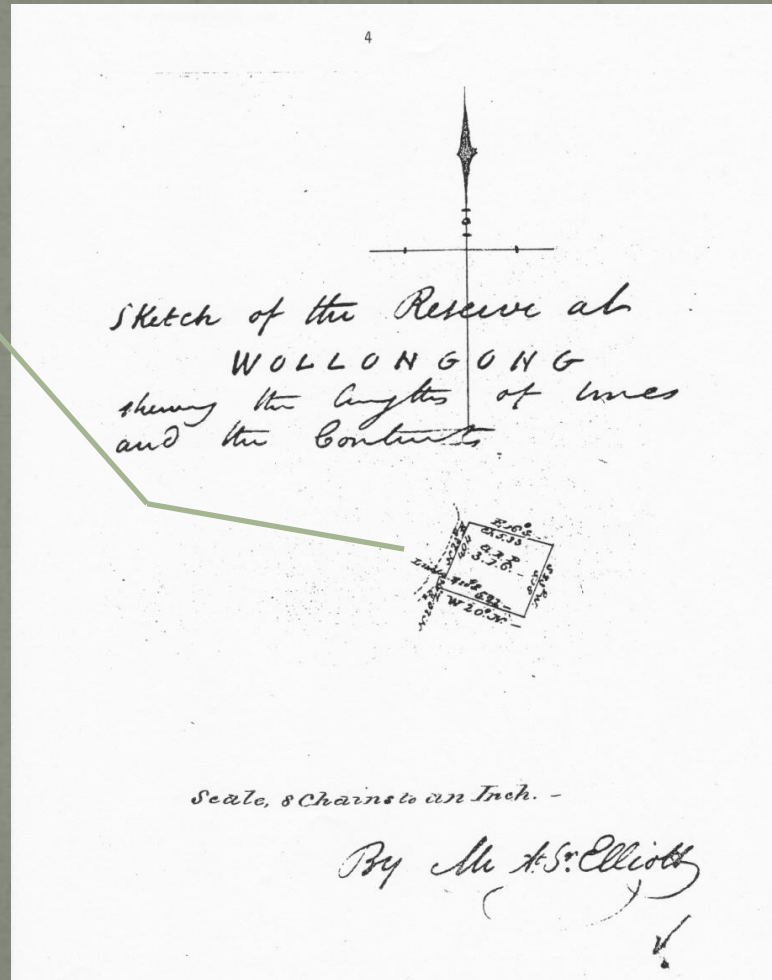
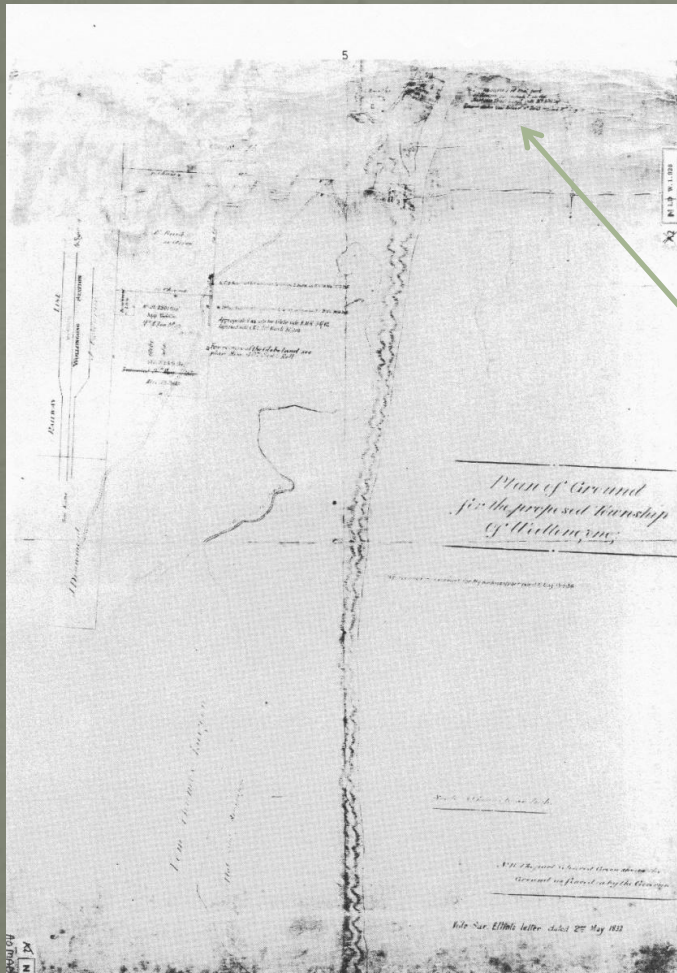
Figure 1: Dharawal and their neighbours

Wollongong – European background

- 8 April 1770 - Captain James Cook's Endeavour noted the Illawarra shores - 'Red Point' (Port Kembla)
- 26 March 1796 - George Bass and Matthew Flinders come to the Illawarra in their boat the Tom Thumb near Red Point.
- early 1800's - Unofficial visits to Wollongong area.
- About 1807 - Bushman Joe Wild assisted bird collectors to enter the area.
- 1812 - First load of cedar shipped from Illawarra.
- 1815 - Dr Charles Throsby entered the area guided by Aboriginals using Aboriginal trail down Bulli mountain.
- 1 November 1816 - Macquarie those who were promised land grants to meet at Throsby's stockman's hut, followed by Surveyor-General John Oxley and surveyor James Meehan measuring land grants near Lake Illawarra.
- 1819 - Charles Throsby Smith arrived in the colony at the request of his uncle, Dr Charles Throsby.
- 1822 - Charles Throsby Smith obtained a grant of 300 acres in Illawarra. Much of Wollongong is built on that grant.
- 2 May 1833 - Surveyor Elliott draws plan of the Private Town of Wollongong .
- 1841 - Census showed there were 637 males and 294 females in Wollongong.

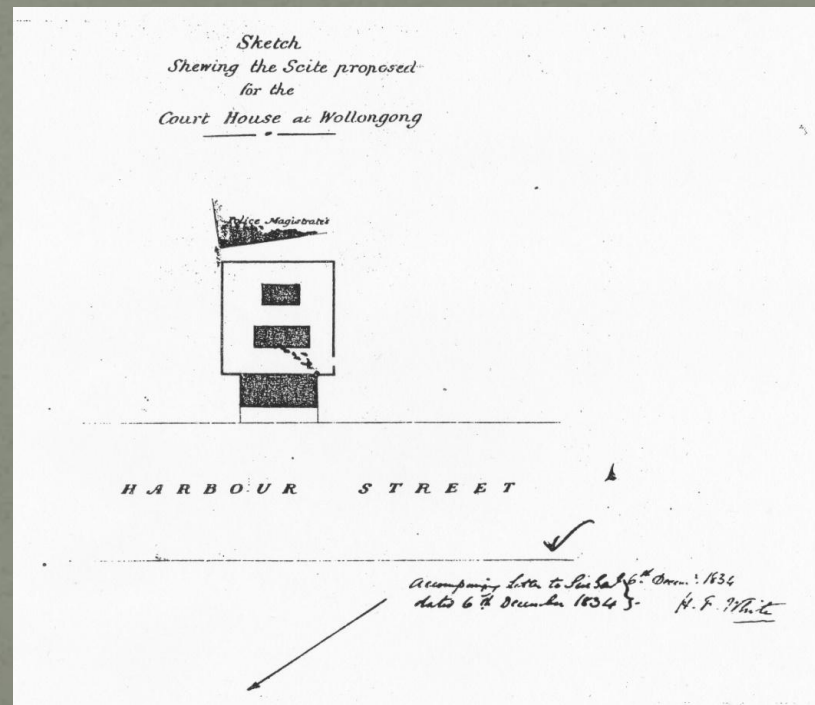
Wollongong - Government Reserve – 1833

Elliott's Survey and Drawings



The First Court House

- 11 November 1834 - Governor Gipps approved sites for public buildings - “Government Reserve”
- 1834 - Contract for a courthouse approved (facing Harbour Street) to be constructed of stone and brick.

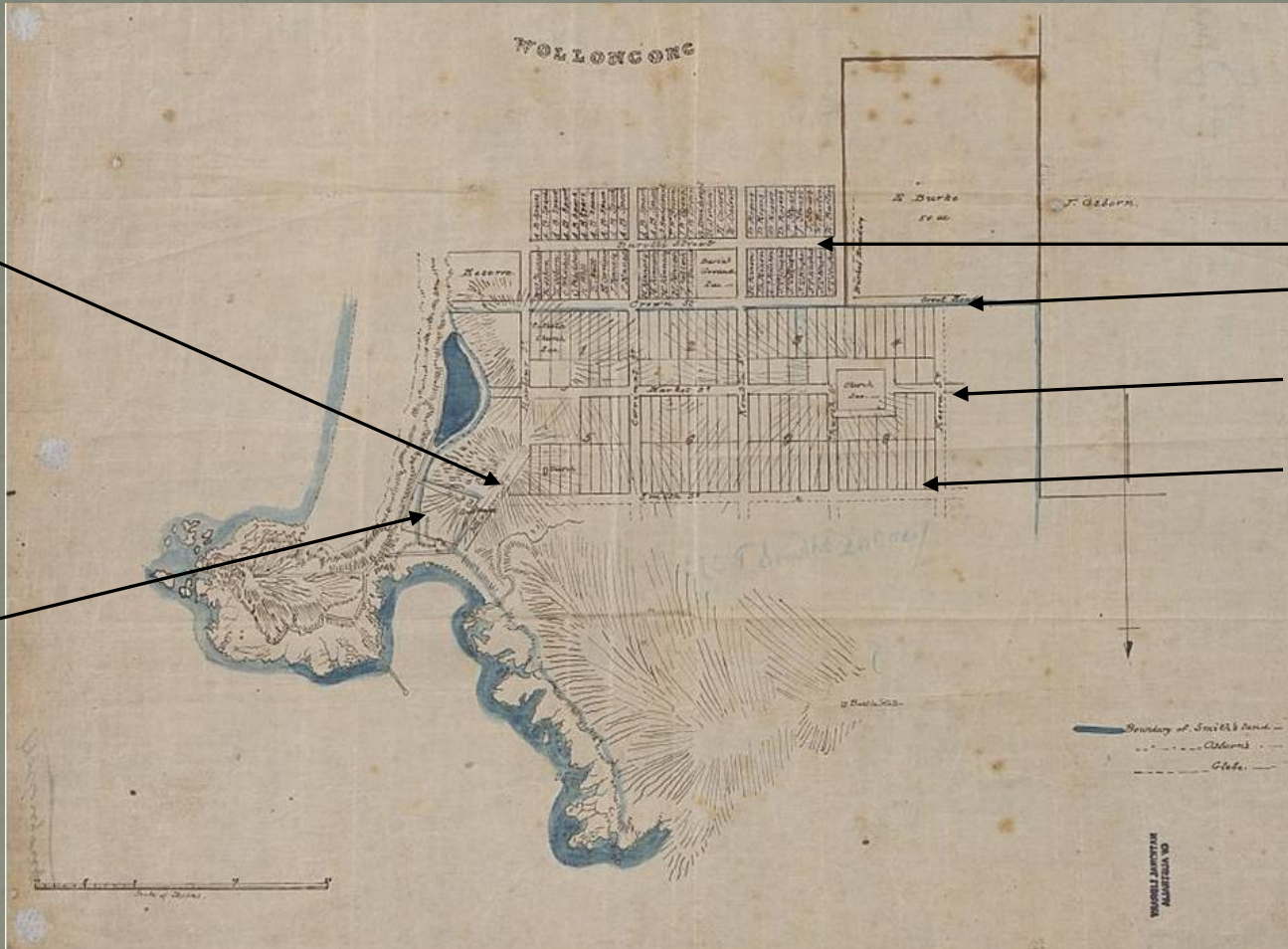


Source:
National Library of Australia

Wollongong 1838

Harbour Street

Government Reserve



Burelli Street
Crown Street

Market Street

Smith Street

Source: National Library of Australia

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016

First Court House

Problems with the Clerks of the Court

- James O'Brien Croker
- Appointed Deputy Postmaster in Wollongong October 1835, and Clerk of the Court shortly after this date.

Thursday, May 24, 1838

THE SYDNEY HERALD.

"In moderation placing all my glory,
While Tories call me Whig—and Whigs a Tory."—FORB.

Page 2

- *"On Tuesday, Mr. Croker, late Clerk of the Bench, at Wollongong, was publicly examined, and committed for trial for forgery."*

Tuesday, August 21, 1838



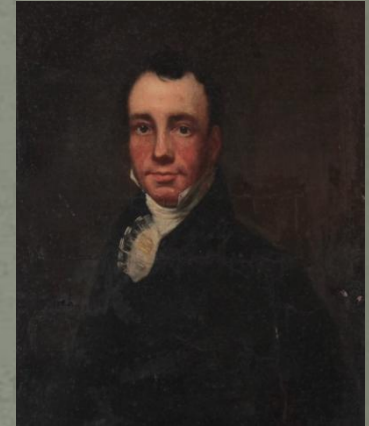
Page 2

- *"He was sentenced to be imprisoned two years in Newcastle gaol, but at the request of the prisoner it was altered to Sydney gaol."*
- He died in 1863.

First Court House

Problems with the Clerks of the Court

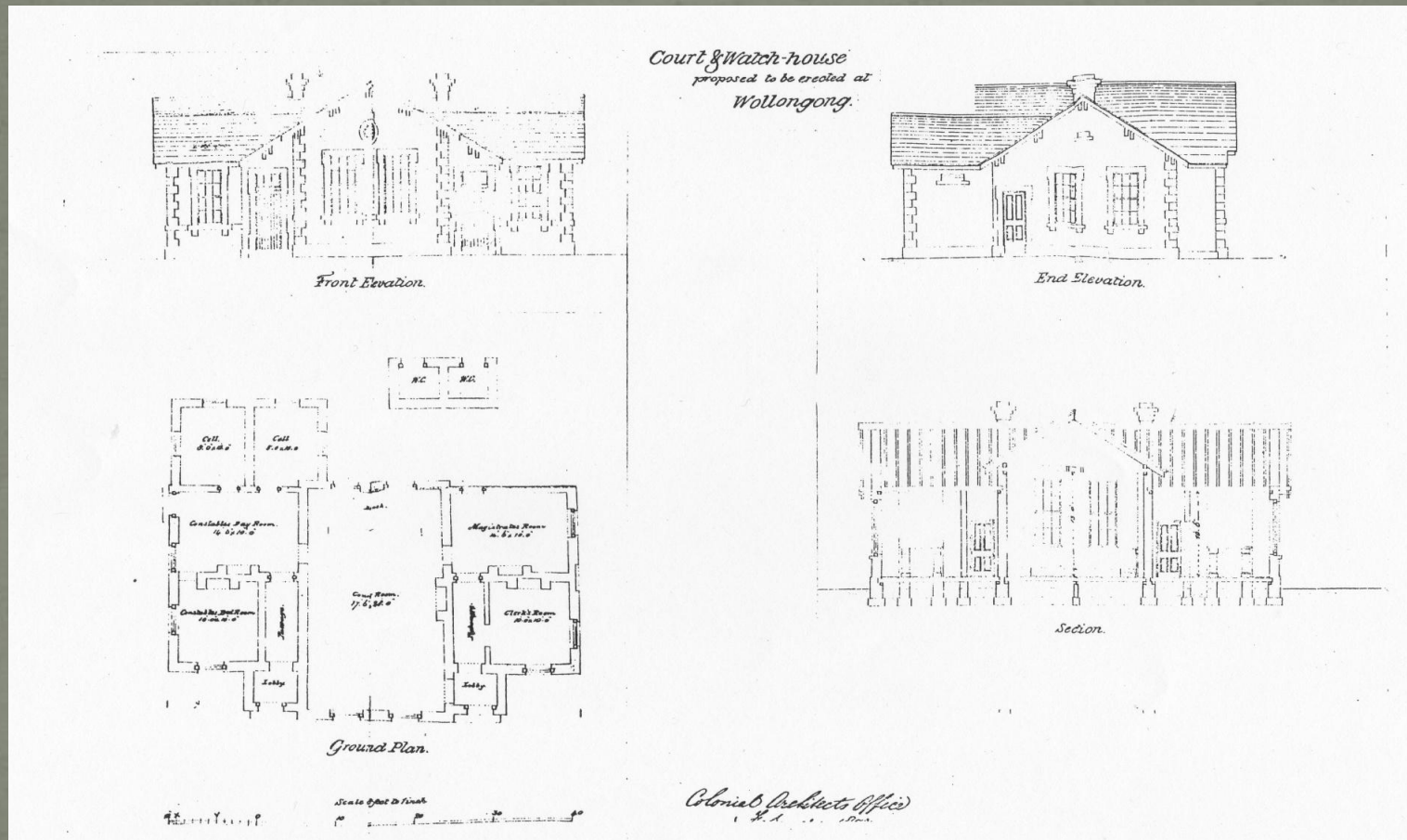
- Peter Jackson:
 - Appointed 14 May 1838 after dismissal of James O'Brien Croker for forgery.
 - Died 13 June 1839, aged 52
- Stability finally established with the appointment of Alfred Allaston Turner
 - Appointed Clerk of the Court in June 1838
 - Appointed Clerk of Petty Sessions in January 1853
 - Saw the transition to the New Court House



Peter Jackson Esq.

Part 1 – New Court House (design issues)

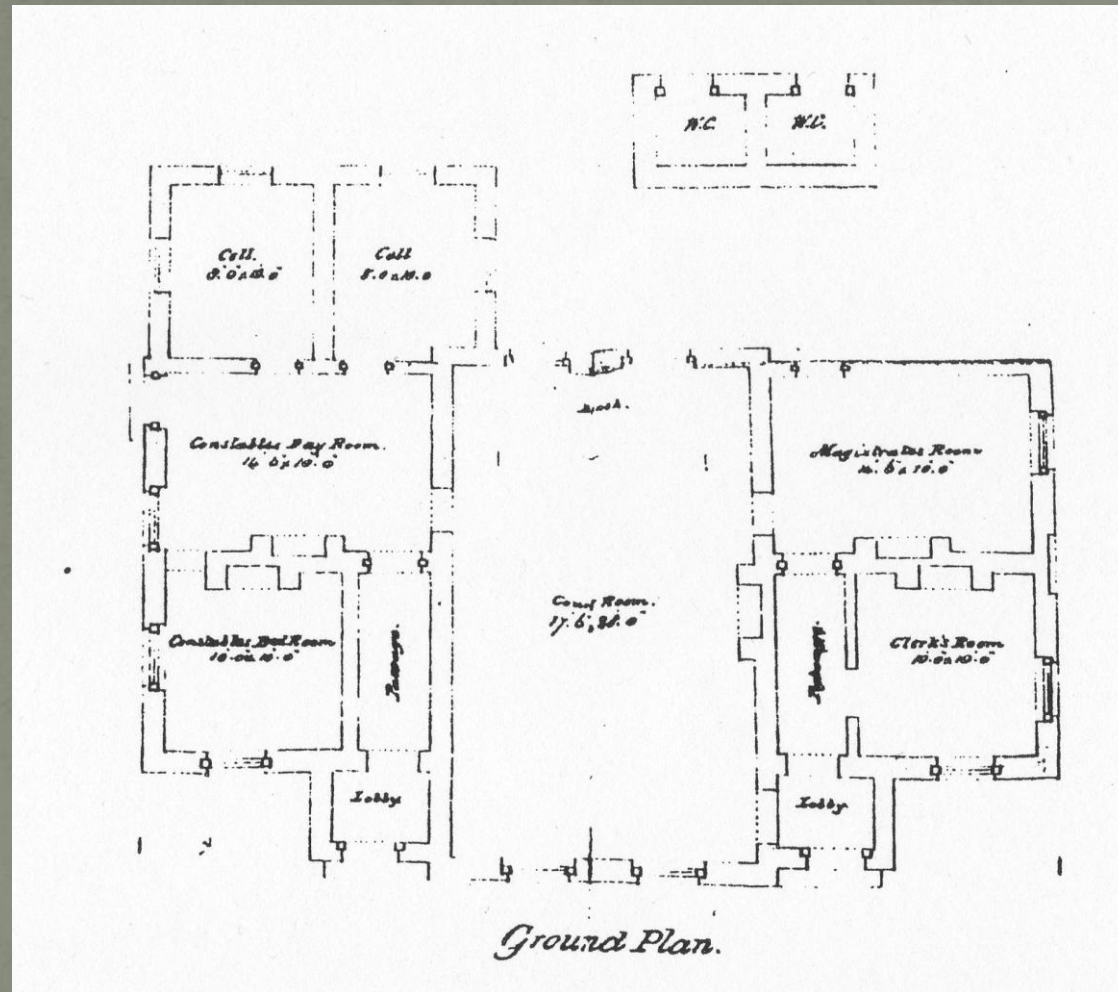
New Court-house February 1857 design



Source: National Library of Australia

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016

New Court-House, Wollongong February 1857 design – plan enlarged

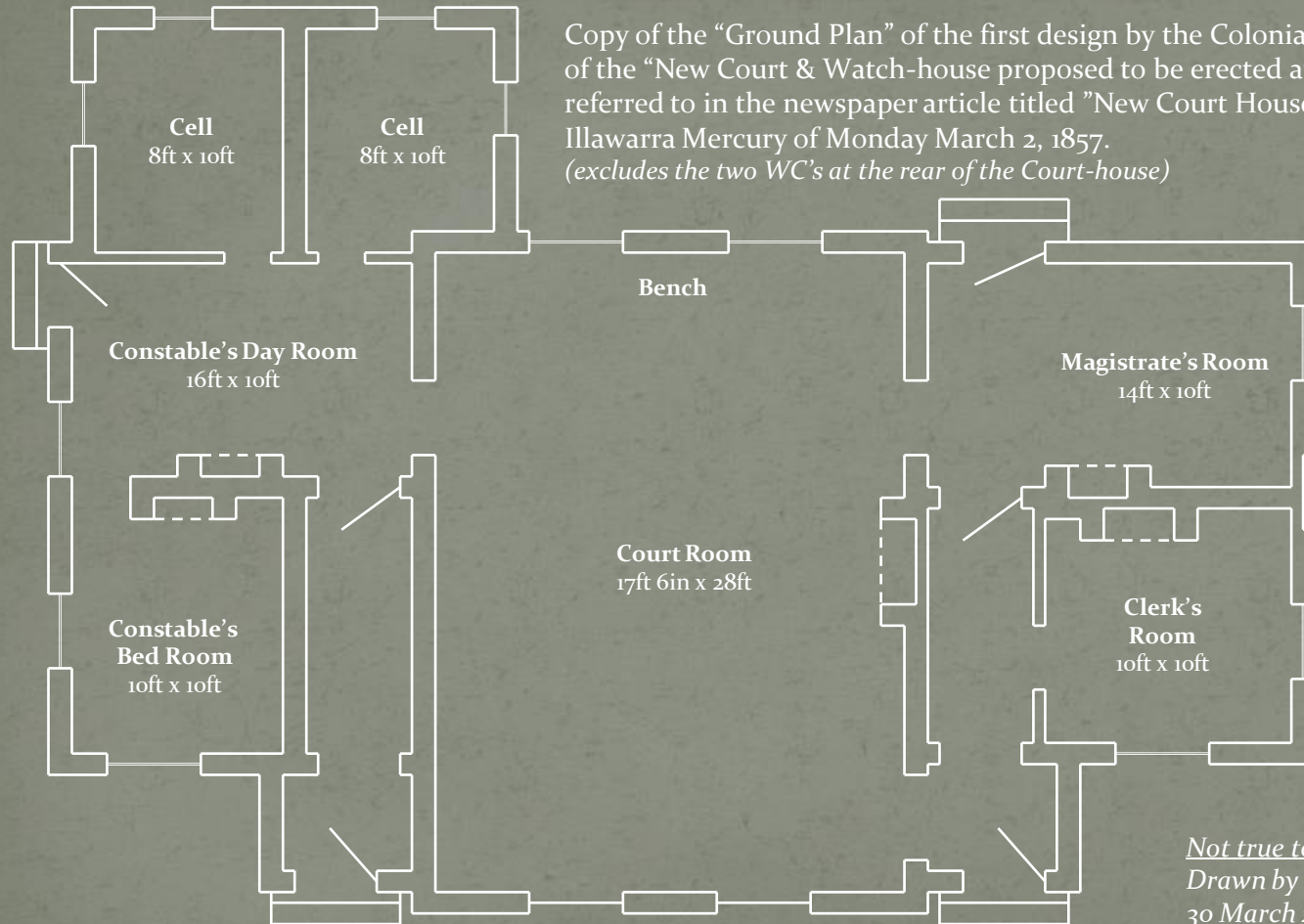


Source:
National Library of Australia

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016

New Court-House

February 1857 design



Copy of the "Ground Plan" of the first design by the Colonial Architect's Office of the "New Court & Watch-house proposed to be erected at Wollongong" also referred to in the newspaper article titled "New Court House" on page 2 of the Illawarra Mercury of Monday March 2, 1857.
(excludes the two WC's at the rear of the Court-house)

Not true to scale
Drawn by Harry Anneveld
30 March 2014

Ground Plan

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016

New Court-house February 1857 design

Criticism of the Design

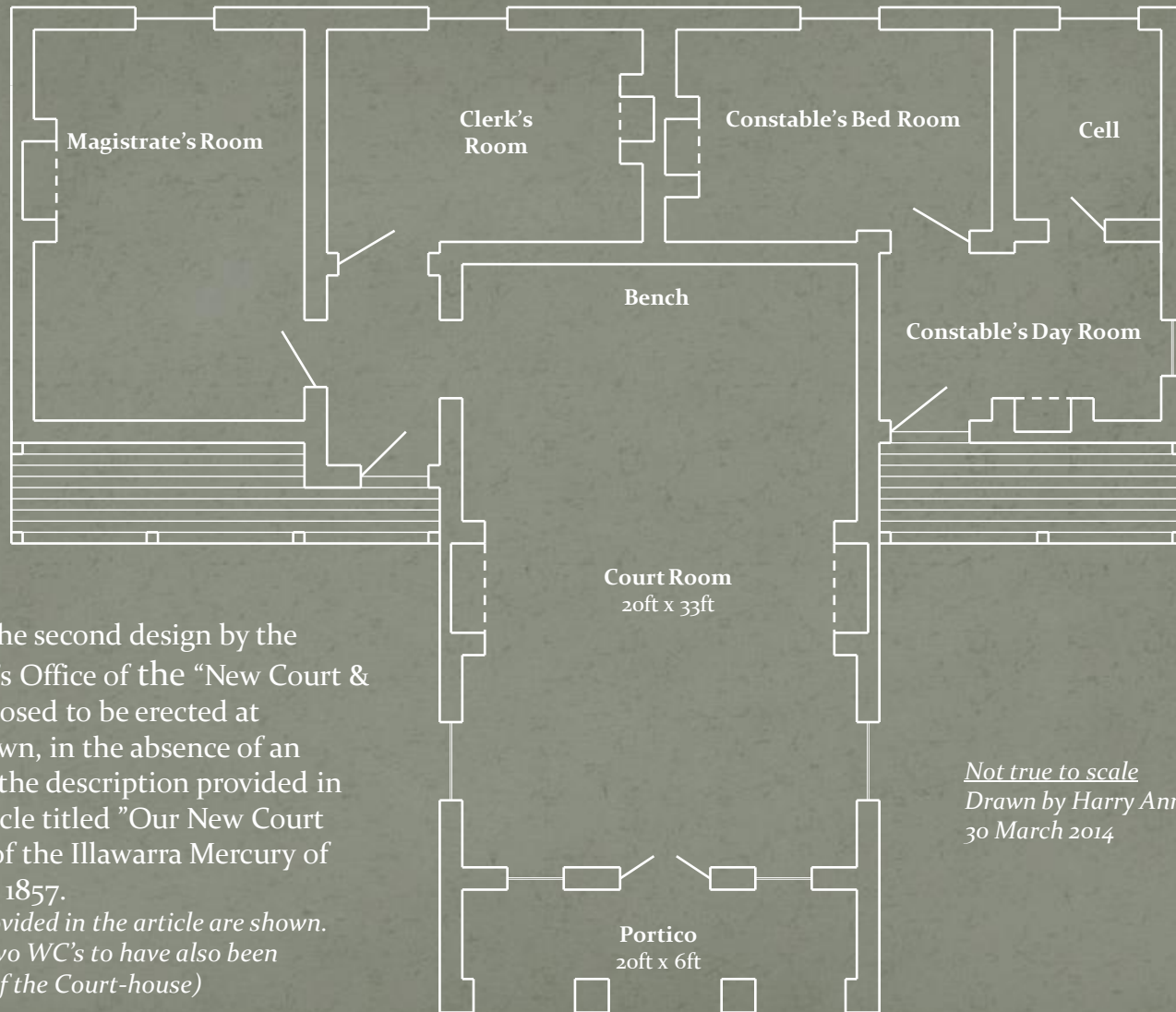
Monday, March 2, 1857

The Mawarra Mercury

page 2

“NEW COURT HOUSE. – We have inspected the plan for the new court-house for this town. We do not question the professional ability of the Colonial Architect, but we think that which we complain of is arisen from a misconception of our wants. We hope that some steps will be taken to prevent the perpetuation of so great a blunder.”

New Court House – revised design



“Ground Plan” of the second design by the Colonial Architect’s Office of the “New Court & Watch-house proposed to be erected at Wollongong.” Drawn, in the absence of an official plan, from the description provided in the newspaper article titled “Our New Court House” on page 2 of the Illawarra Mercury of Monday March 23, 1857.
 (Only dimensions provided in the article are shown. It also excludes the two WC’s to have also been assumed at the rear of the Court-house)

*Not true to scale
 Drawn by Harry Anneveld
 30 March 2014*

*Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
 12 January 2016*

New Court House - revised design

New design applauded, however.....

Monday, March 23, 1857

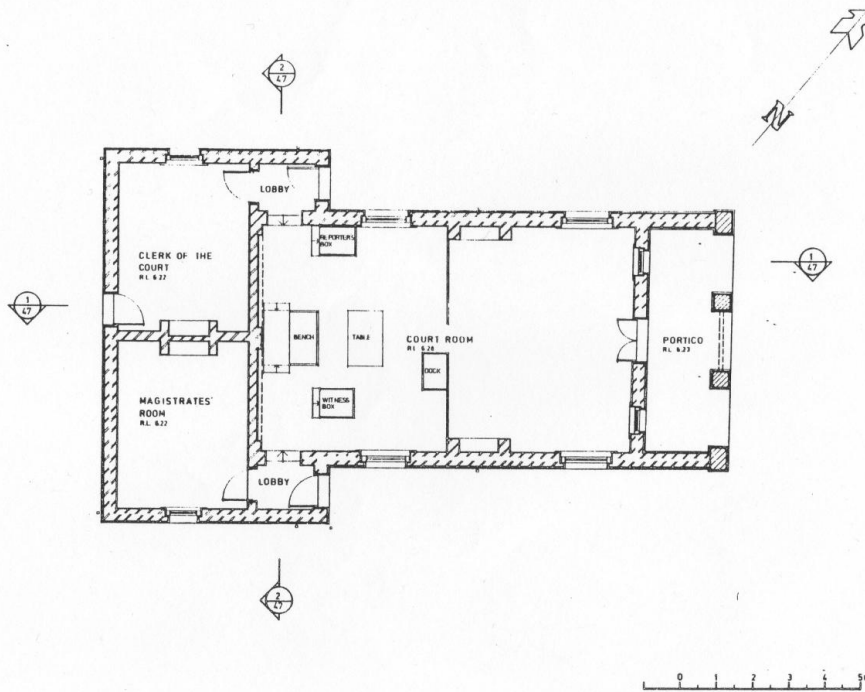
The Illawarra Mercury

Page 2

“OUR NEW COURTHOUSE.—A few weeks ago we made some strictures on the plan of a new Courthouse for this town. we are happy to say this it is not only much improved in its internal accommodations, but greatly superior in external appearance, in fact it will be quite an ornament to the town.... There is one improvement, however, to erect the building at the corner of the paddock, so that the front should face the harbor.... produce a favourable impression upon the minds of visitors arriving by steamers.”

New Court House - final design

Final design excludes a Watch House, part of the original criticism in the Illawarra Mercury article of 2 March 1857 appears to have been finally taken into account.



Source:
*Conservation Plan for
T.S. Albatross*
by M.E. & C.M Jones Pty Ltd,
May 1987

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016

New Court House – The Opening

The Illawarra Mercury

[VOL. III. NO. XXIII.]

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY, 4, 1858

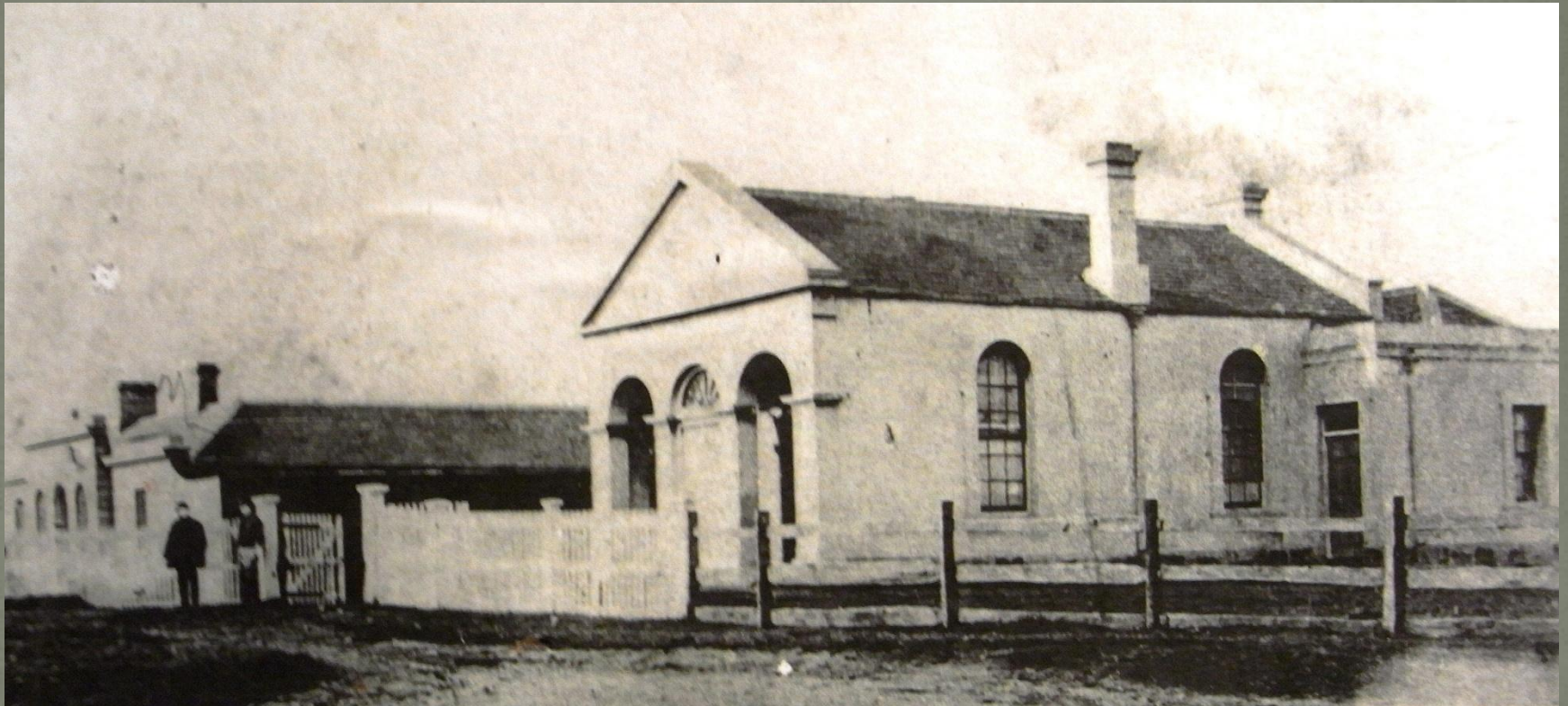
[PRICE SIXPENCE]

OPENING OF THE NEW COURT-HOUSE, WOLLONGONG

“The Bench of Magistrates sat in the new Court-House, Wollongong, for the despatch of business on Monday last. No ceremony marked the occasion from the ordinary sittings.... Altogether, we think we are correct in saying that this structure will be found equal to the wants of the district for some time to come.... the greatest care has been bestowed on the erection of the building by and under the direction of Mr Stoddart, the contractor, Mr Dawson, the Colonial Architect, has frequently inspected the work during its progress with the utmost attention, with the desire to make the building creditable in appearance as well as adapted to the purpose for which it was intended.”

New Court House

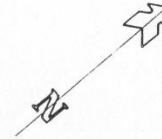
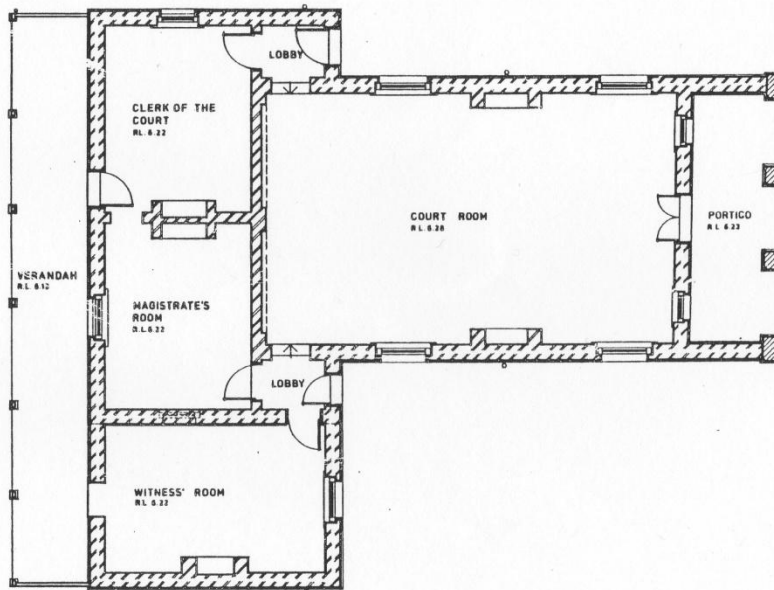
New Court House and Gaol – earliest photograph dated at 1860-65



Source:
Wollongong City Council (Illawarra Images)
Original held at Mitchell Library

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016

New Court House – First additions

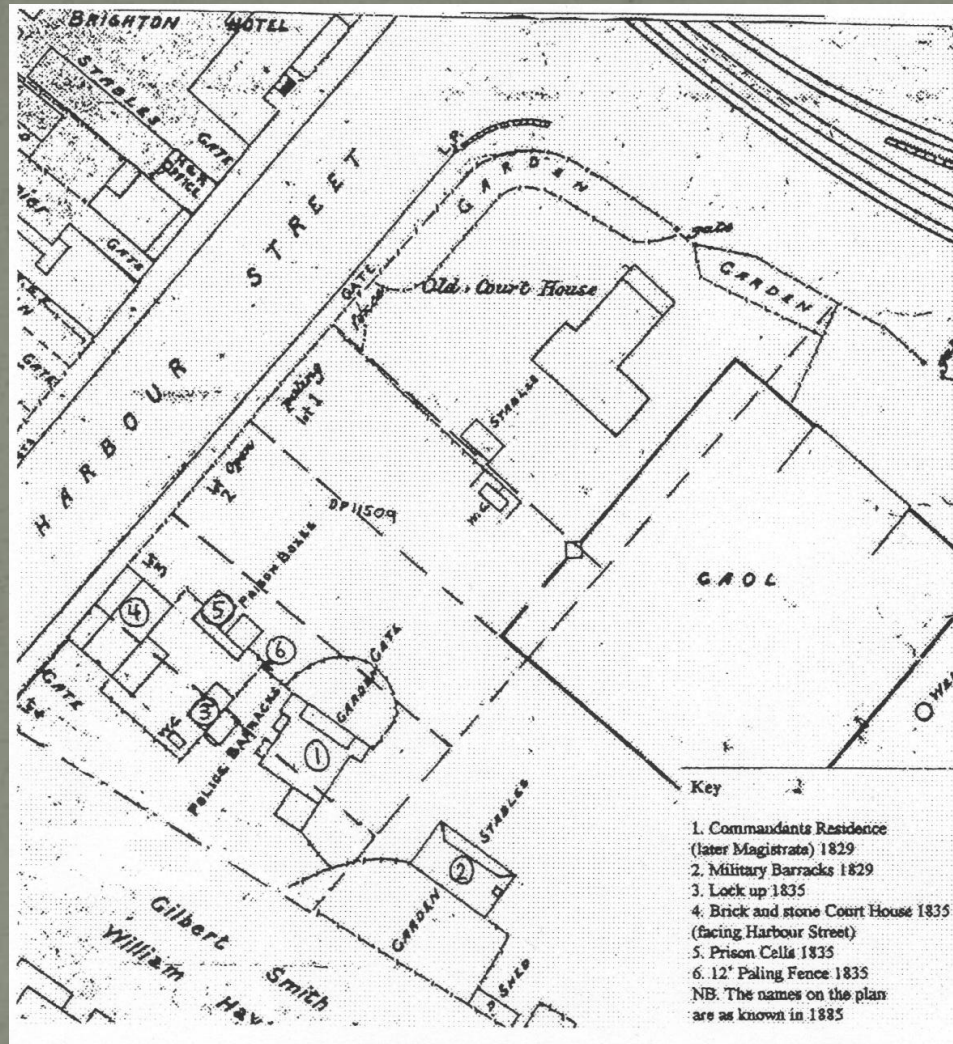


Source:
Conservation Plan
for T.S. Albatross
by M.E. & C.M Jones Pty Ltd,
May 1987

New Court House – First additions

- The lack of weatherproof witness accommodation was raised soon after the opening by the Magistrates.
- This issue was raised in the Illawarra Mercury articles of the 2nd and 23rd March 1857 but not commented on in the article on “The Opening of the New Court House”.
- It was added in 1866.
- The verandah shown at the rear did not appear on the outline plan of 1864. It does appear on an 1890 plan.
- In the absence of documentary proof, it is assumed that it was added in the late 1880’s

Old Court House and the Government Reserve



Government Reserves and Public Buildings as known in 1885

Gaol demolished In 1915

Other buildings in the southern section demolished in 1919

Old Police section and Gaol sites subdivided for housing in 1925

Old Court House site on the corner is all that remains

Source:
Archaeological Zoning Plan
By M. Hutton, February 2002
An overlay of the Wollongong
Harbour Survey Plan of 1885

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016

New Court House – Clerks of the Court

- Alfred Allaston Turner:

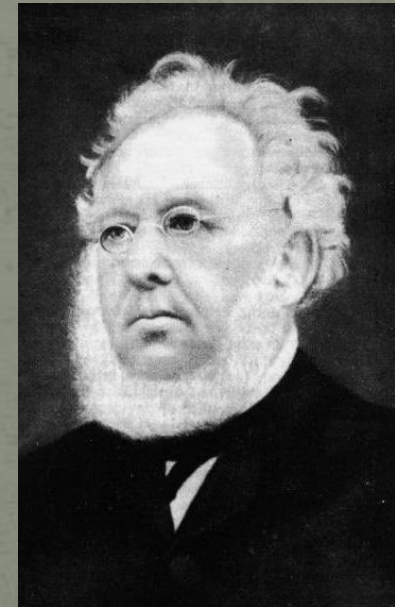
- Worked as Clerk of the Court and Clerk of Petty Sessions in the new Court House from its opening on 1 February 1858 to 20 May 1869.
- Sworn in as magistrate on 21 May 1869 before Mr Justice Hargrave.
- Died of Cancer on 3 August 1895, aged 68

- Mr. (James) Frazer:

- No record found of his appointment (assumed to be upon the appointment of A.A. Turner as magistrate)
- Recorded in the Illawarra Mercury of 30 November 1869 “*Mr. Frazer acted as Clerk of the Court*”.
- References continue in Illawarra Mercury articles until the closure of the “New Court House” in 1885.

New Court House - 1858 to 1885

- Functions of the Court House period:
 - Court sessions included – Petty Sessions, Requests (minor disputes) and Quarter Sessions
 - It also dealt with insolvencies, registrations and licensing.
 - Various official functions and community events requiring a hall
- Magistrates and Justices of the Peace:
 - Judges:
 - Messrs. McFarland, Carey, Dowling,
 - Justices of the Peace:
 - Messrs. McCabe, Waring, Gordon, Fairs, Thompson, Ellis, Davison, Marshall, Wilshire, Irving, Jenkins, Hopkins, Wright, C.T. Smith, A.A. Turner, W. Osborne, E.F. Smith, etc



Charles Throsby Smith Esq.

Court House – Judicial use

The Sydney Morning Herald.

Monday, September, 23, 1872

Page 3

“CAPTURE OF TWO YOUNG DESPERADOS

From the Illawarra Mercury

At the Wollongong Police Court on Monday, 16th instant, before Messrs Smith and Turner. Patrick McDonnell and Sydney Albert Downie, two young men of between 20 and 25 years of age, appeared in custody to answer a charge of having unlawfully assaulted one Phillip McMahon while driving her Majesty's mail between Campbelltown and Wollongong..... Downie said “Don't let him drive or I will give you an ounce of lead in your -----;” Other charges were heard against the prisoners on Tuesday, and both were committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions”

Court House – Judicial use

Tuesday, May 23, 1865

The Illawarra Mercury

page 2

LOCAL NEWS.

Court of Petty Sessions.

Monday, 22nd May,

(Before the Mayor and C. T. Smith, Esq., J.P.)

Percy Owen, Esq, was charged with allowing two Horses, his property to stray in the public street in Wollongong.

For the defence Mr. R. Owen called James Kiernan, who deposed that he takes in horses and cattle to graze, and had the horses mentioned in his charge; they got out on the 16th instant, through Mr. Biggar knocking the fence down.

There being no negligence on the part of the defendant proved, and other animals shown to have strayed out at the same time, the complaint was dismissed.

(Mr. Waring took his seat on the Bench)

Benjamin Fawcett was charged with a similar offence. The defence set up was, that the slip-rails of the paddock in which the horses were, must have been pulled down by some person.

A witness, William Chapman, swore that they could not have fallen down; he put them up securely.

Complaint dismissed.

Court House – Judicial use

Thursday, May 6, 1858

The Mwanra Mercury

Page 2

John Crisp v. Thomas and Maria Dawson, for £10 for damages sustained by slander. It appeared from the evidence of plaintiff and a Mrs Dunn, that tho defendant had said that Crisp's wife should say as how Crisp had stolen some property belonging to Mrs Dunn. Crisp had quarrelled with his wife, and she, tho defendant, affirmed, had told her what she had told Crisp.

In answer to questions from the Bench, Crisp said he had hitherto bore a good character and he thought the charge of stealing would be likely to injure him.

The Bench dismissed the ease.

New Court House – non-judicial use

Tuesday, April 6, 1858

The



Empire.

Page 2

“(From the Illawarra Mercury of Yesterday.)”

***BLACK’S BLANKET DAY.** – On Thursday, 1st April, we witnessed the distribution of blankets to the blacks at Wollongong..... Dr. Ellis – a most polite and loyal darkey – induced the rest to “bail up” together, and then called upon them for three cheers for the Queen, which was given with a hearty vociferousness which could only be excelled by their conquerors, and was followed by three more for the Magistrates, and another three for Wollongong. The blacks then dispersed.”*

New Court House – non-judicial use

Wednesday, March 2, 1858

The Sydney Morning Herald.

Page 4

“WOLLONGONG MUNICIPALITY. -- By a proclamation in Tuesday’s Government Gazette it is declared that the municipality of Wollongong shall consist of a Mayor and Aldermen, under the provisions of the Municipalities Act of 1858; and Charles Throsby Smith, Esq., is nominated the first returning officer of the above municipality. The first meeting of electors to be held at the Court-house, Wollongong, on Tuesday, 22nd March.”

New Court House – non-judicial use

Thursday, April 29, 1858

The Mamarra Mercury

Page 3

Indian Relief Fund.

P U B L I C M E E T I N G .

To WILLIAM WARREN JENKINS, Esq., J.P., }
Warden of the District.

SIR,—We, the undersigned inhabitants of the District of Wollongong, beg to request that you will be pleased to call a Public Meeting, for the purpose of expressing sympathy with the sufferers by the Indian mutiny, and to collect subscriptions in aid of the Indian Relief Fund, at an early date.

Rob. Davison
T. O. Ewing
G. Charter
John Biggar
Geo. Hewlett
Thos. Garrett
George P. Lambert.

I hereby call a Meeting, in accordance with the above Requisition, to be held in the Court-House, Wollongong, on Thursday Next, the sixth of May, at noon.

WILLIAM WARREN JENKINS,
Warden.

Berkeley, 27th April, 1858.

New Court House – non-judicial use

Thursday, June 30, 1859

The Mawarra Mercury

Page 3

THE BUCKINGHAM FAMILY will give their Farewell Entertainment THIS EVENING, in the COURT HOUSE (by permission of the Magistrate), which will be under Especial Patronage, when one of the greatest novelties in Australia will be presented to their patrons, concluding with "The Troubles of Matrimony or the Musical Family."

G. H. B. will be happy during their stay in this district to attend private parties, balls, routes, and other musical assemblies.

N. B.—Musical instruments repaired.

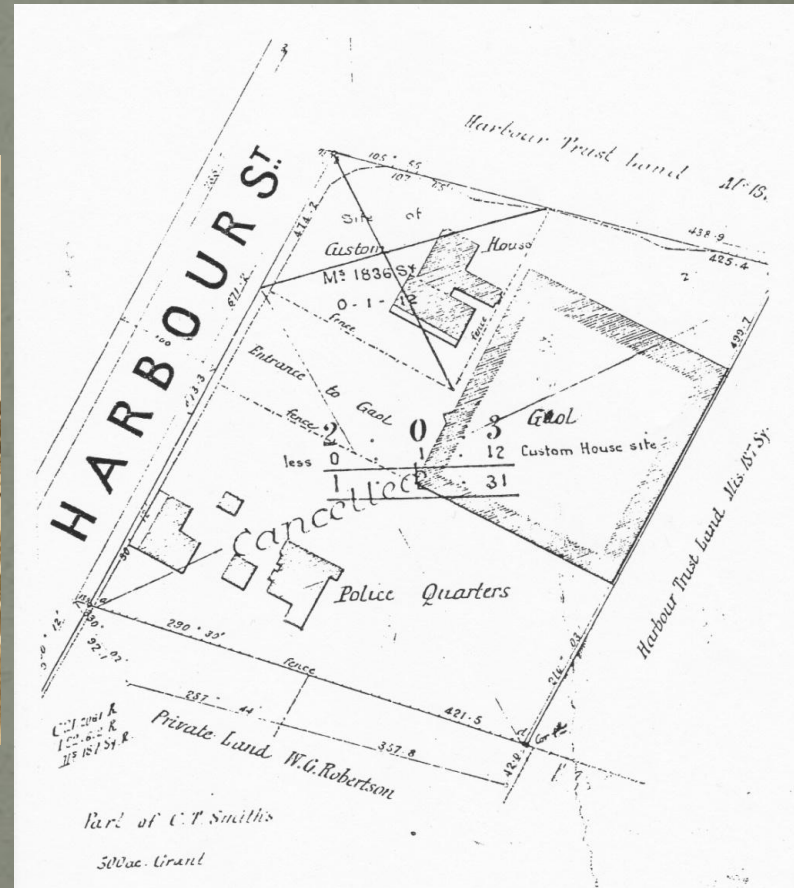
Part 2 - Customs House

Government Reserve showing Custom House

H.M. Custom House late 1880's



Courtesy of Mr. T Lee
Original damaged photograph 'cleaned' by James Anneveld

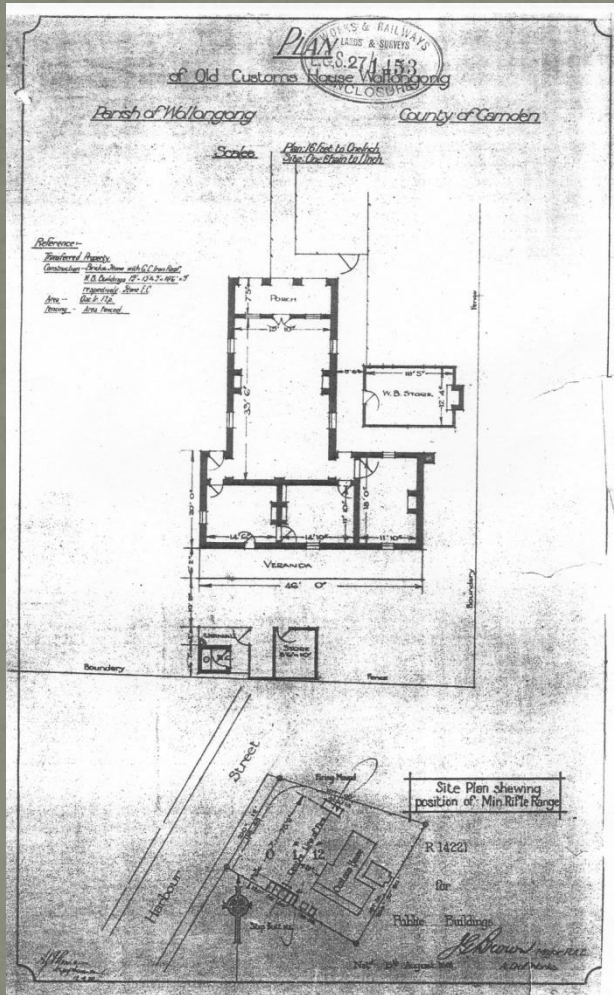


Source:
New South Wales State Archives

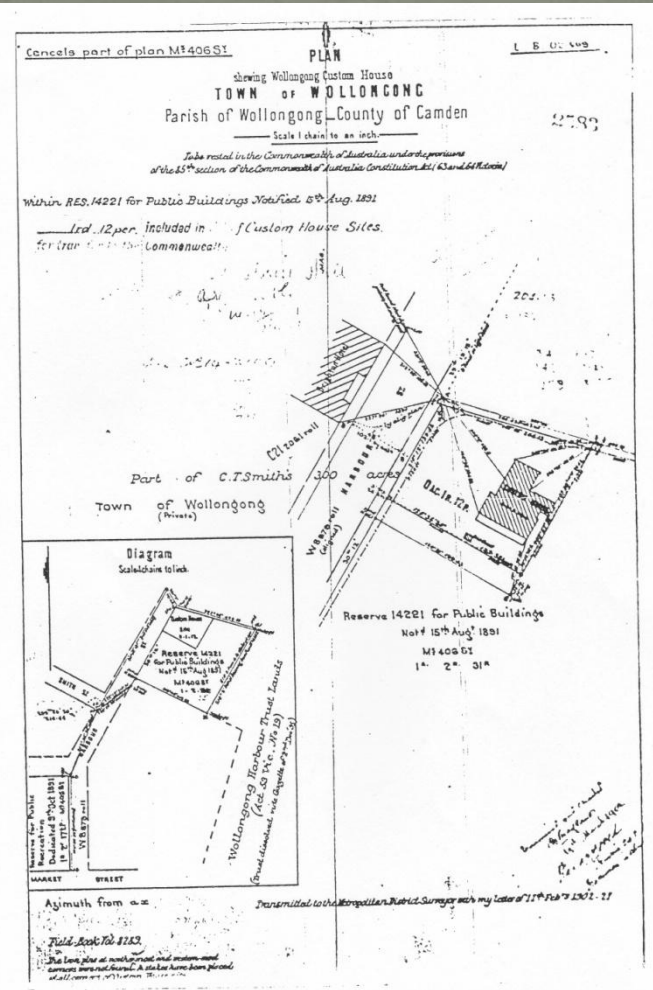
Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016

Custom House

Custom House
As part of the
Government
Reserve
1890



Source:
New South Wales
State Archives



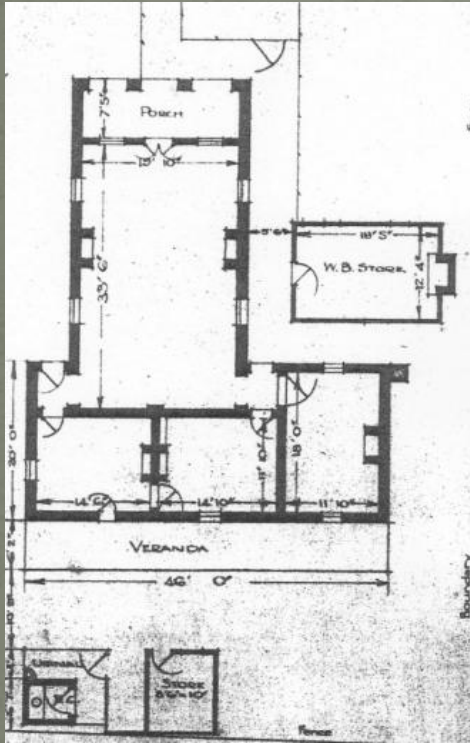
Custom House
and
Government
Reserve
1902

Source:
New South Wales
State Archives

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016

Custom House - alterations

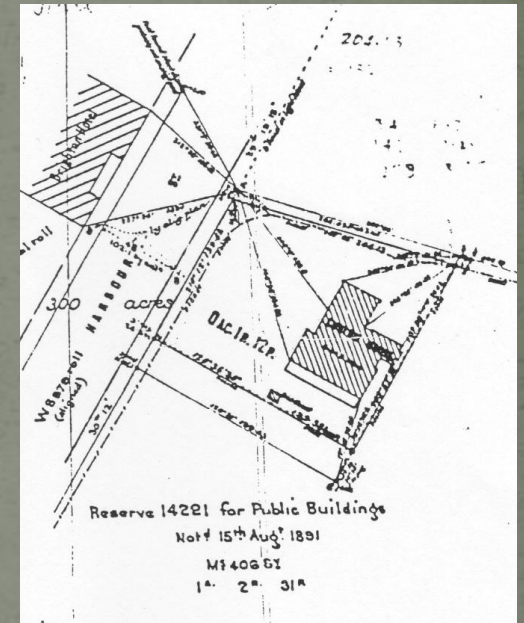
Extract from 1890 Plan



Source:
New South Wales
State Archives

- Compare the detail in the two extracted plans and specifically the right hand one.
- The area between the 'new Custom House' and the 'old weatherboard custom house' was covered in .
- From the dates of these plans, the alterations were made between 1890 and 1902 .
- From plans ,with known dates, at some time between 1885 and 1890 the stables were removed and replaced with the WC and Store shown in the left hand plan
- Little is known of the inside layout of the 'new Custom House', however a check of the left hand plan shows the door between the two small offices at the bottom was retained.
- This doorway was bricked in at some time during the Drill Hall era.

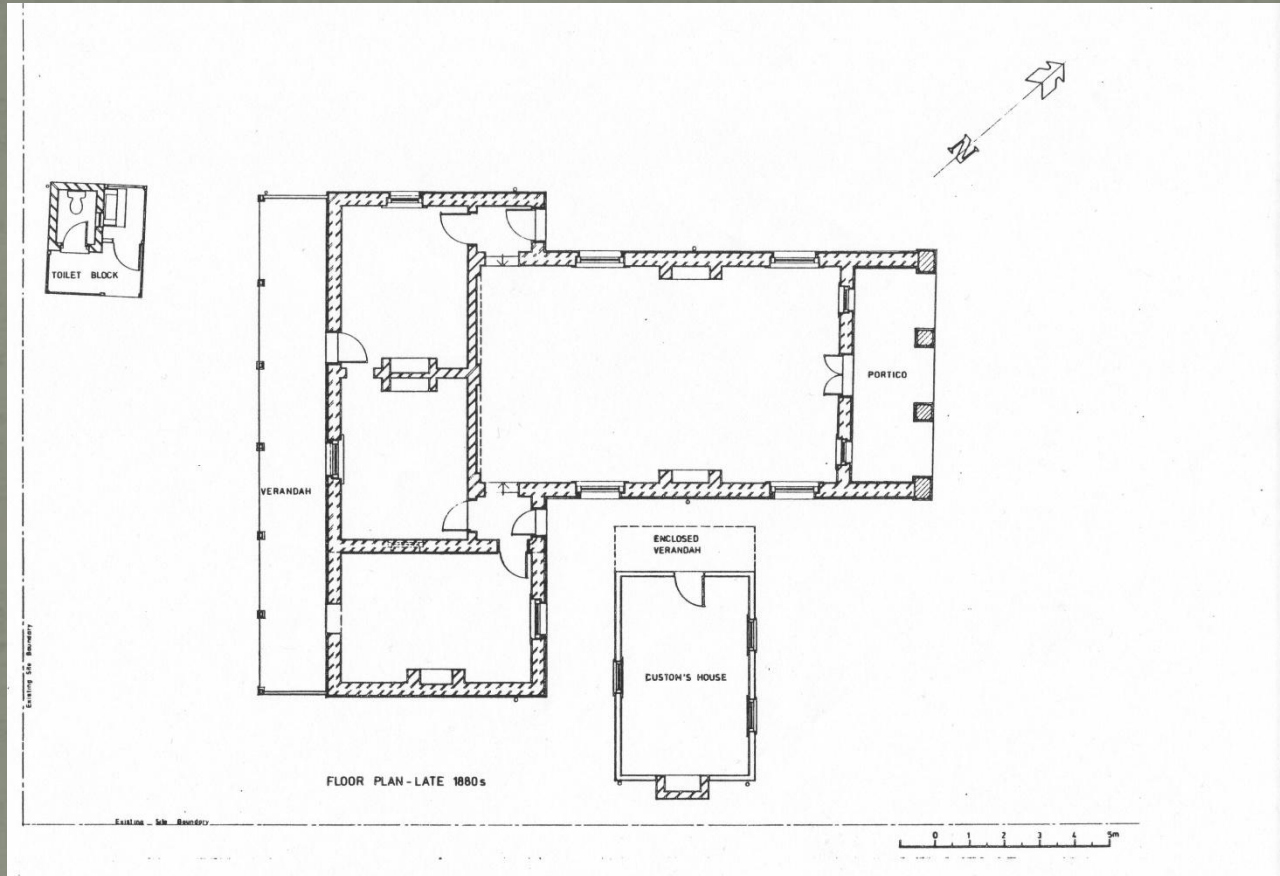
Extract from 1902 Plan



Source:
New South Wales
State Archives

Custom House

Note the enclosed verandah on the old weatherboard Custom House which was not included in the 1890 plan on the previous slide



Source:
Conservation Plan for T.S. Albatross
by M.E. & C.M Jones Pty Ltd, May 1987

*Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016*

Custom House – Weatherboard Building

Friday, August 12, 1870

The Illawarra Mercury

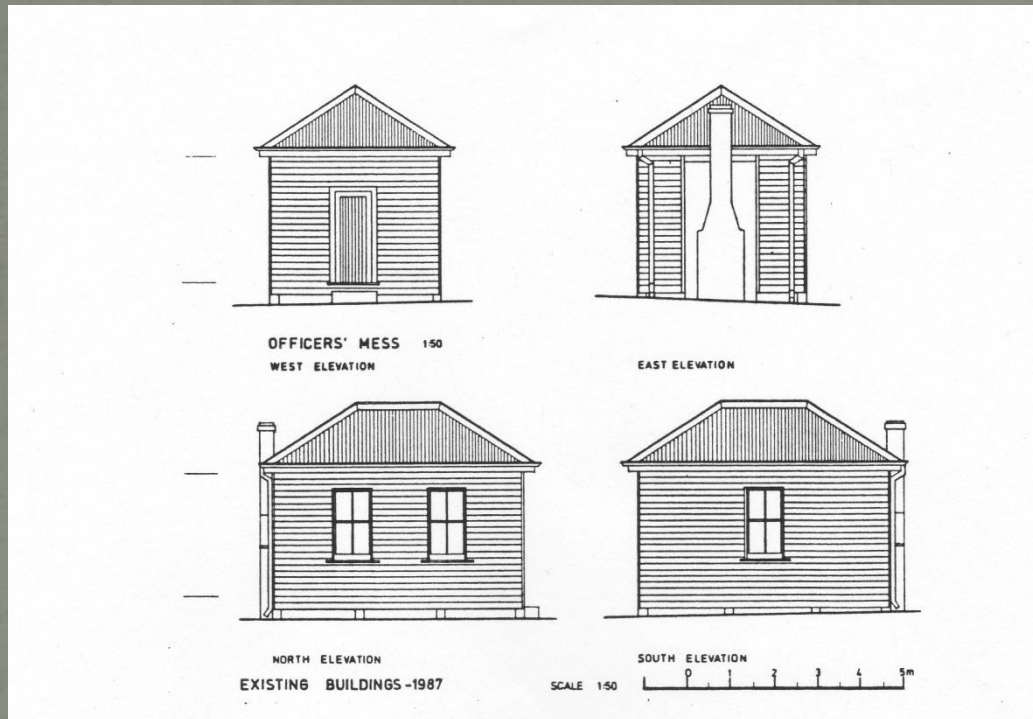
Page 2

“The L.S.N. Company’s arrangements at the wharf at Wollongong are a source of great inconvenience, and a just cause of complaint to passengers either shipping or landing at this port, A considerable portion of the angle of space between the south side of the jetty and the stone wall of the pier at the rear of the store, and at present partly occupied by the custom house and the receptacles of pollution. By that means a spacious and commodious platform would be provided there for the convenience of passengers and the general public. A hand rail for public safety”

- From the description, above, the “custom house” was situated adjacent to where passengers, arriving by steamer at Wollongong Harbour, disembarked.
- The ‘custom house’, the weatherboard building now located behind the old court house, was also believed to have been located on Brighton Lawn. If the ‘platform’ was built (‘for the convenience of passengers’) this may well have been the reason it was moved there.

Custom House – Weatherboard Building

- Despite having been moved several times and the chimney (it is assumed) rebuilt each time the building is essentially the Custom House that was located on Brighton Beach and adjacent to the passenger wharf of Wollongong Harbour.
- During its time adjacent to the ‘new custom house’ it was used as store.
- *It was not until the Drill Hall era that it was made into an Officers’ Mess and a small partition enclosing a kitchenette to the right of the entry door was added.*



Source:
Conservation Plan
for T.S. Albatross
by M.E. & C.M Jones Pty Ltd,
May 1987

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016

Custom House – Threat from Gaol

Thursday, March 10, 1887

The Illawarra Mercury

Page 2

“There is a movement going on just now between the gaol authorities and the Customs Department, with a view of having a considerable portion of the site of the Wollongong Custom House (the old Court House) fenced off and added, as may be said, to the adjoining gaol entrance. The matter is one that should not receive sanction for a moment. Certainly a new roadway to and from the gaol should be made, but such should be in the most direct line ... It would be a pretty state of affairs to have the Custom House rights of the third most important sea-port of the colony over-ridden by a tenth-rate gaol.”

Needless to say the plan did not eventuate, the direct route won the day.

It may be observed that the Illawarra Mercury has not lost its touch of ‘fearless’ reporting of a local cause.

Custom House – Customs use

Tuesday January 7, 1879

The Illawarra Mercury

page 2

Customs Duty:— The fact that the first money for duty in connection with the port of Wollongong was paid during the past week is not unworthy of public notice. On a case of biscuits from Melbourne being landed from the Albert the Good for Mr. John Biggar, of this town, a few days ago it was found that a penny per pound duty had to be paid on them to the Customs officer of the port (Mr. F. R. Cole). The duty, amounting to a few shillings, was paid, constituting as it did the first such sum realized in connection with an Institution which is certain to extend in after years to immense proportions. And who can tell that in the far future some historian like Mr. Lindsay, whose record of shipping has made his name famous, may not then ransack the papers of the Wollongong Custom House, and relate to posterity the fact that we here announce to our readers.

Note this predates the move of Customs to the Old Court House in 1885, but is worthy of showing the function of Customs as well as recording the first customs duty paid on imported goods in Wollongong.

Custom House - Repairs

The Illawarra Mercury

Tuesday, May 10, 1896

Page 3

Department of Public Works
Sydney, 6th May, 1898.

ATTENTION is directed to GAZETTE
Notice inviting TENDERS for
REPAIRS, Etc., Custom House, Wollongong.
Tenders will be received up to the 16th May,
1898
6d-87. J. H. YOUNG.

Part 3 – Drill Hall

Friday, June 24, 1904

The Sydney Morning Herald.

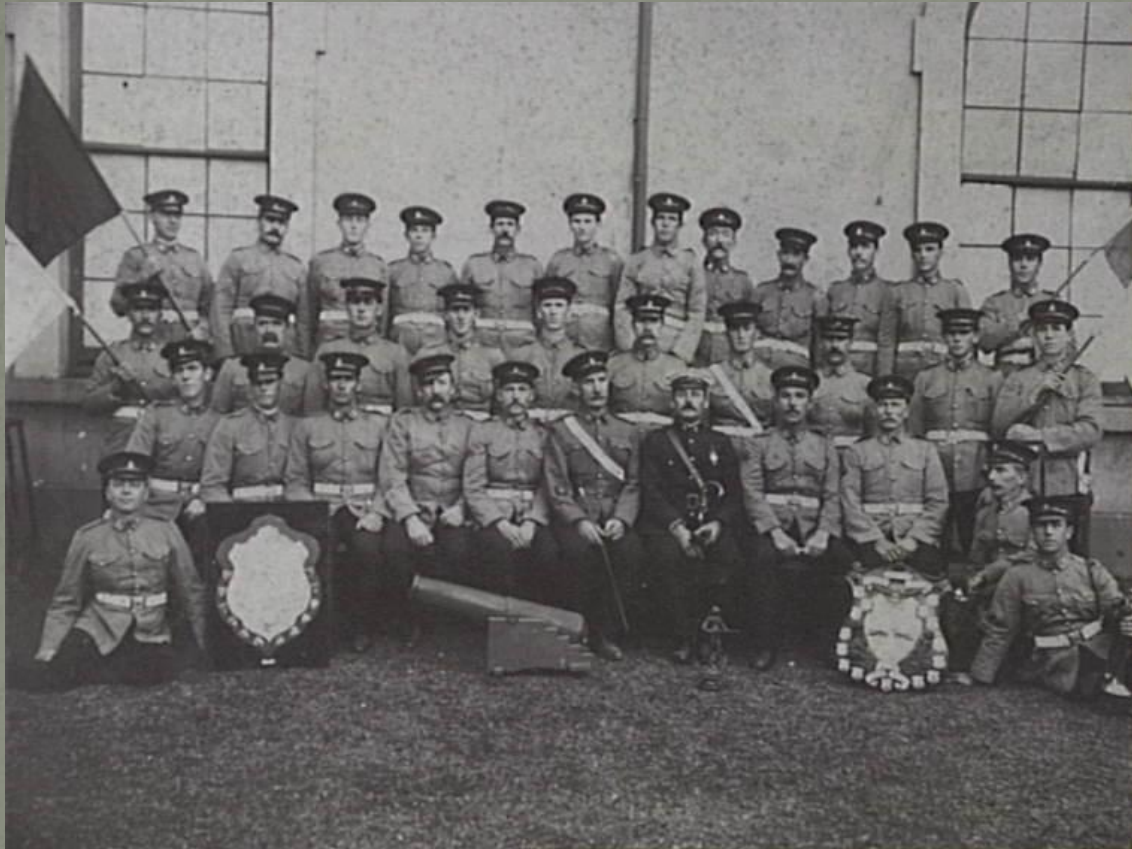
Page 6

“WOLLONGONG CUSTOMS-HOUSE.

When federation was accomplished the Customs building at Wollongong was taken over by the Commonwealth. It is not now to required for Customs purposes, and the question of revesting in the State of New South Wales has arisen. The Minister for Defence has, however, decided to recommend the Government to transfer it to the Military Department for a drill hall, as it will save the rent of the building now used for that purpose.”

Drill Hall

No.4 Garrison Artillery



*Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016*

Drill Hall – No.4 Garrison Artillery

Thursday, May 2, 1912

The Sydney Morning Herald.

Page 7

BIG GUN PRACTICE SUCCESS OF WOLLONGONG

WOLLONGONG, Wednesday.

“Members of the local garrison artillery again distinguished themselves in the big gun shooting at Sydney during the late Easter encampment, The following prizes were won by the Wollongong Company:- First in regimental shield, cross guns and swords (1st class company), gold cup and medals for fastest and best gun detachment in the regiment. Corporal E. Oberg secured the first prize for best gun-layer in the Australian Garrison Artillery.”

Postscript:

Lord Kitchener was apparently the guest of honour at the competition and presented the awards to No.4 Company, upsetting the ‘more favoured’ Company’s from Sydney.

Drill Hall – Dissent in the Ranks

Friday, August 30, 1912

The Sydney Morning Herald.

Page 9

GUNNERS RESIGN

ARTILLERY CRISIS

WOLLONGONG, Thursday.

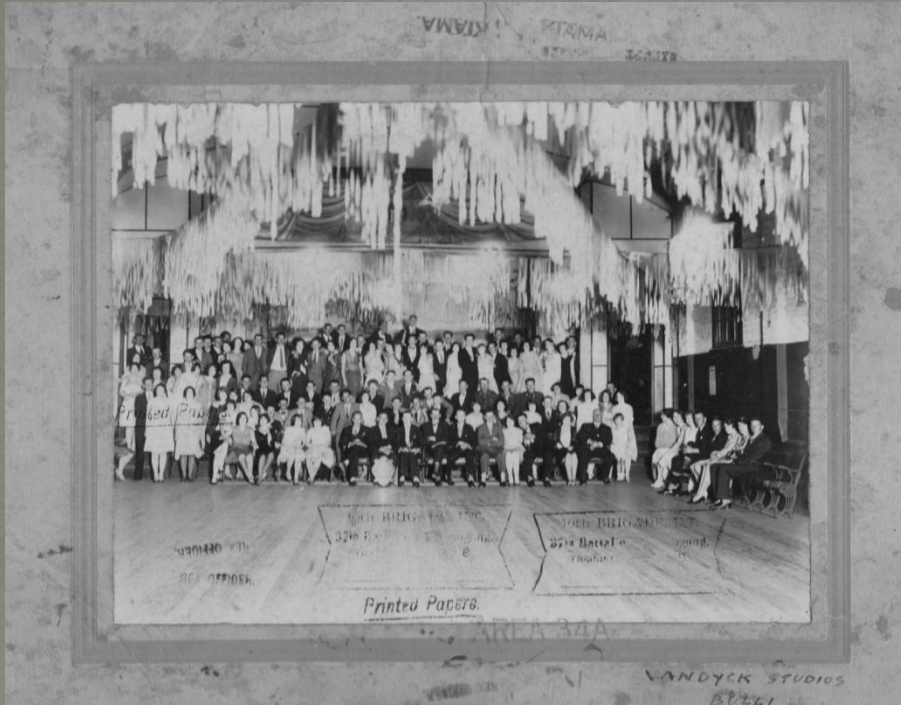
The discontent which has been prevalent amongst the ranks of the militia companies of late owing the Government failing to make provision for the upkeep of the regimental staff, has now reached Wollongong. For weeks past matters in connection with the local garrison artillery have not at all been too satisfactory, and quite a number of its members have expressed themselves very forcibly.

Matters reached a climax to-day, when the whole of the No.4 Company A.G.A., numbering over 60 members, resigned. They state their reason for doing so is owing to the fact that the regimental staff has been abolished.

The loss to the Commonwealth of a company such as the No.4, A.G.A., will be keenly felt, for they have proved themselves on quite a number of occasions to be the best shots in the Commonwealth with the big guns. Their shooting in the last two encampments at Middle Head proved them to be superior to any other company.

*Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016*

Drill Hall – 37th Infantry Regiment



Source:
Terry Bugg, Illawarra Family History Society



A soldier of the
37th Infantry
Regiment

Source:
Wollongong City Council
Illawarra Images

Little is known of the era of the 37th at the Drill Hall, Wollongong

Drill Hall – 37th Regiment

Tuesday, September 2, 1913

The Illawarra Mercury

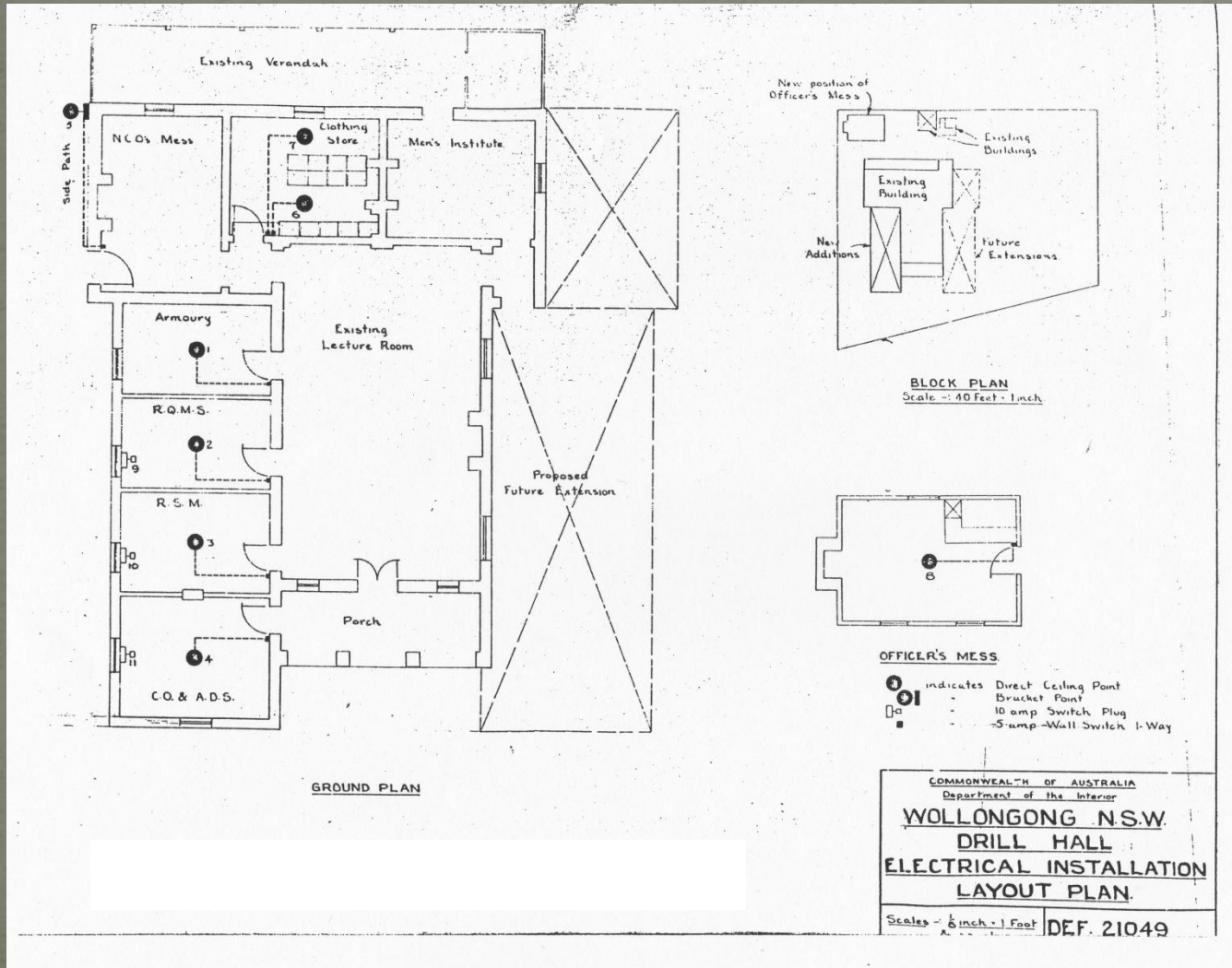
Page 1

SOUTH COAST

Lieutenant W. D. Boles, has been appointed, temporarily, as adjutant of the 37th Regiment.

No other articles have been found to date in the newspapers, however, research continues....

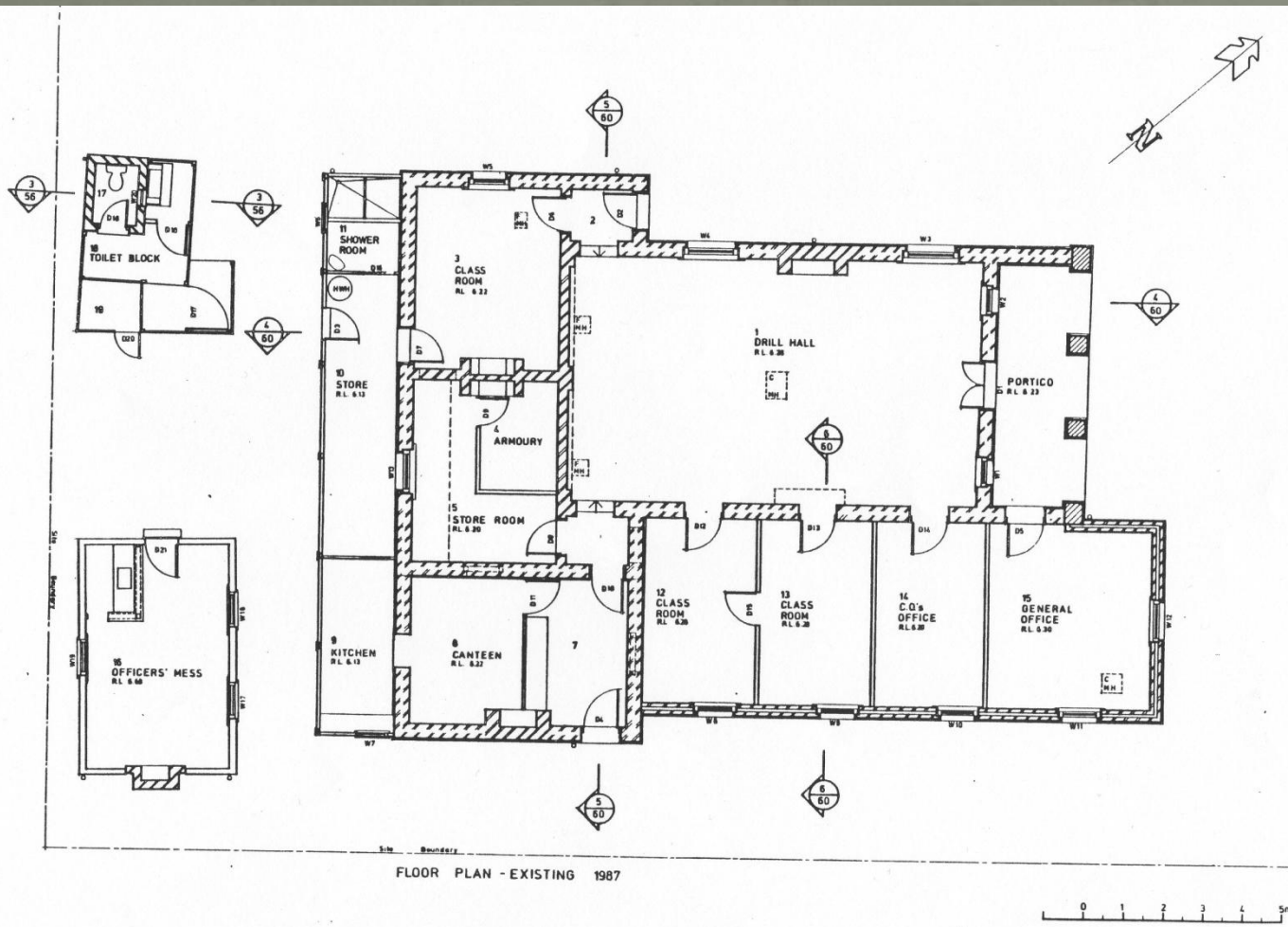
Drill Hall – 1938 alterations



Source:
Contract and specifications
documents
NSW State Records

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016

Drill Hall – 1938 alterations



Source:
 Conservation Plan
 for T.S. Albatross
 by M.E. & C.M Jones Pty Ltd,
 May 1987

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
 12 January 2016

Drill Hall - 3rd Infantry Battalion (Werriwa Regiment)

The C.M.F. is the training school
for ...

*Future Officers
and N.C.O.'s*

With vast C.M.F. expansion now in progress, there are great opportunities for men of initiative to gain the experience which would make them "key men" in any future war. C.M.F. units will remain intact if war comes; personnel will retain their rank—and stay with their mates.

Training: 12 days' home training, mostly at night, and 14 days' annual camp (most employers allow this in addition to annual holidays). New increased pay rates apply.



JOIN THIS DISTRICT'S
UNIT OF THE

**THE WERRIWA REGIMENT
3RD Infantry Battalion**

HARBOUR ST., WOLLONGONG

Phone: Well. 46

Motto: "Veteri Frondescit Honore"
The Third Battalion is affiliated with The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), whose Motto it carries.

The Motto was in use in 1751, and expresses the idea that each new generation lives up to the honours won by the Regiment in the past.

D COY. THIRD INFANTRY BATTALION now requires more men to fill its ranks and here is **YOUR OPPORTUNITY** to join this Unit.

Parades are conducted each **MONDAY** Night from 7.30 to 9.30 at:—

Drill Hall, WOLLONGONG

Showground. NOWRA.

**WHY NOT COME ALONG YOURSELF
AND SEE WHAT THE C.M.F. HAS TO
OFFER.**

**Train now
in the C.M.F.**
CITIZEN MILITARY FORCES



C.C.M.F. 122. 81

Advertisement in the Illawarra Daily Mercury Monday, July 30, 1951 on page 6

Other than advertisements of this nature, few newspaper reports have been found of the 3rd Battalion days.

Drill Hall

34th Infantry Battalion (Illawarra Regiment)

Former Court House
& Customs House
Now Drill Hall
For the 34th
Infantry Battalion
Illawarra Regiment
Photo dated 'circa 1960'



Source:
Wollongong City Council
Illawarra Images

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016

Drill Hall – 34th Battalion

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

34 Bn. Drill Hall,
WOLLONGONG.
2 Sep. 1939.

MEMBERS 34 Bn.

COMPULSORY SPECIAL CAMP OF CONTINUOUS TRAINING.

A Special Camp of Continuous Training will be commenced at PORT KEMBL on 4th. Sept. 1939, which will continue for sixteen days.

You are ordered to attend.

You will report to the Drill Hall, WOLLONGONG, on 4th. Sept. 1939 at 9 a.m.

Dress - Marching Order. You will bring the following articles and necessaries:-

Cleaning gear, shaving gear, change of underclothing, two pairs socks, toilet requisites, soap, towels, two plates (tin) knife, fork, spoon, tin mug.

Sgt. T. ROLHAM, Lieut. A.I.C.
Adjutant 34 Bn.

Source:
<http://www.auspostalhistory.com>
(original source unknown)

34th BATTALION LADIES' AUXILIARY

The weekly roll-up at the Drill Hall, Wollongong, was well attended. The auxiliary's hearty thanks go out to the principal and pupils of the William's Business College for their handsome donation and to Mrs. R. Kimber. There will be great activity in the despatch department very shortly. Ladies interested are cordially invited to our meetings at 2.30 p.m. each Friday.

Source:
National Library of Australia TROVE website
Illawarra Mercury, Friday 16 August 1940, page 6

34th Battalion, Wollongong.

XMAS TREE

The first Xmas Tree gathering promoted by the 34th Battalion (The Illawarra Regiment) was held at the Drill Hall, Wollongong on Saturday last and was voted by those attending as an unqualified success.

Source:
National Library of Australia TROVE website
Illawarra Mercury, Friday 21 December 1934, page 5

Drill Hall

Naval Cadets – Training Ship Beatty

Thursday, November 24, 1949

The Illawarra Mercury page 5

SEA CADET CORPS SCHEDULE

Instruction for the cadets of training: ship 'Beatty' this Thursday will be 'boatwork.'

The cadets will visit training ship 'Warrego' for the weekend where they will receive instruction in boat drill, rowing and sailing. The cadets will join the 6.56 p.m. train from Wollongong at their most convenient station and assemble on Central Station. No. 1 blue uniform is to be worn.

All senior cadets are reminded their identification cards are due to be stamped for this training camp.

The corps appeals for voluntary helpers to assist on Dec 16, when the Sea Cadet Corps will be conducting State-wide sale of buttons. Any person who can spare a few hours on that day is asked to contact the Commanding Officer at the Drill Hall, Wollongong.

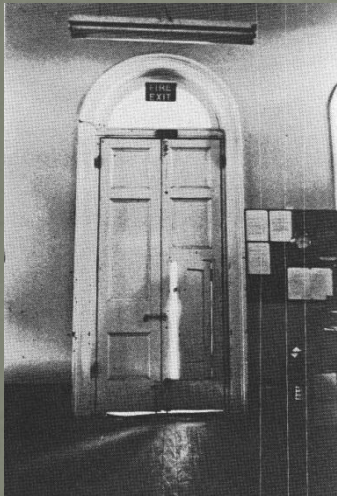
*Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016*

Drill Hall

Naval Cadets – Training Ship Beatty



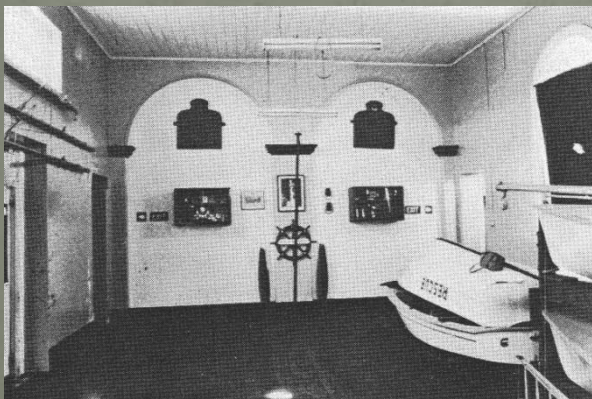
Naval Cadets – The inside story



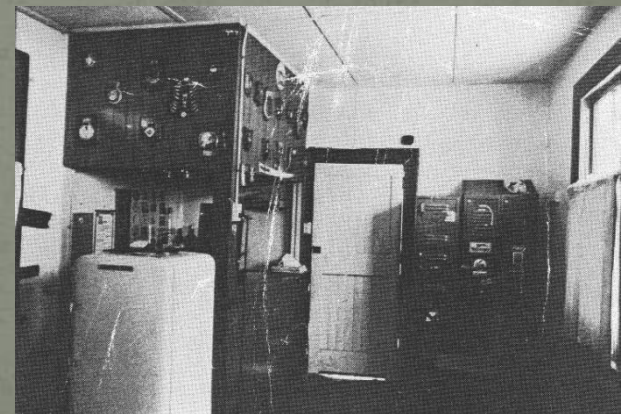
Naval Cadets
Drill Hall
northern &
southern views



Naval Cadets
Officers' Mess
eastern &
western views
*Former weatherboard
Custom House*



*Source:
Conservation Plan
for T.S. Albatross
by M.E. & C.M Jones Pty Ltd,
May 1987*



*Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016*

Drill Hall – Army & Navy

Historical Inconsistencies

- The armed services involvement in the Drill Hall, Wollongong from 1904 is clear from supporting documents
- The use of the Drill Hall by the following is established:
 - No.4 Garrison Artillery
 - 37th Infantry Regiment
 - 3rd Battalion
 - 34th Battalion
 - Naval Cadets
- There appears, however, to be substantial overlaps between some of the groups as to when each used the Drill Hall.
- By way of example:
 - It is believed that the 3rd Battalion was involved in the 1938 extensions to the Drill Hall and handed over to the 34th Battalion in 1950 who in turn handed over to the Naval Cadets in 1974; YET
 - The 3rd Battalion was recruiting, with reference to the Drill Hall in the Illawarra Mercury in 1952, AND
 - Newspaper reports and other documents show that the 34th Battalion was using it in 1939, 1940 and as far back as 1934; AND
 - Newspaper reports show that the Naval Cadets were using it in the late 1940s

**RESEARCH CONTINUES
IF YOU CAN HELP
IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED**

The Transition to Part 5 Reconstruction & Restoration



Repairing
under floor
problems



Many hands
make painting
'light work'



The "Welcome" on completion

The Transition to Part 5 Reconstruction & Restoration



Verandah
Before repairs
and closing-in



Old
Weatherboard
Custom House
Stages of
restoration



The Transition to Part 5

Reconstruction & Restoration

- MAJOR BENEFACTORS:
 - NSW Heritage Office - \$115,000
 - Wollongong City Council - \$9500
 - Wollongong City Council \$15,000 (in kind work on grounds)
 - National Trust (Illawarra Shoalhaven Branch) - \$17,500
 - Friends of the Old Court House - \$7000 (plus much more)
 - Rotary Club of Wollongong – restoration of “Customs Shed”
 - Rotary Club of Nth W’gong/Fairy Meadow - \$500 + window restoration
 - Mrs. Margaret Kennedy - \$2000
 - Great Weston Carpets (Barry Weston) - \$1700
 - Sydney Water - \$1500
 - Naval Reserve Cadets - \$1000 (items in kind)
 - Downtown Motel - \$1000
 - South Coast Conservation Society - \$500
 - AND, above all, the members of the working bees - \$ immeasurable

Part 5 – Community & Heritage Centre

Current Regular Users:

National Trust (Illawarra Shoalhaven Branch)
Illawarra Quilters
Court House Embroiderers
Porcelain Art Society
Australasian Native Orchid Society
Illawarra Family History Group
Keira Toastmasters
Life Eternal Trust (meditation)
Traditional Art Society
Wollongong Garden Club
No Lights No Lycra (night dancing)
Bev & Phil Ring (ballroom dancing)
Liz White Yoga
Porcelain Art Classes
Registry Weddings (Dept Justice & Att. Gen.)

Artist in Residence:

Linda Fuller
Old Customs Shed Studio

Current Casual Users:

Art Exhibitions by:
WEA Garden Sculpture & Mosaics
Jack Draper
Geoff Poll
Elspeth McCombe
Linda Fuller
Illawarra Craft & Art Network
Faith Cunningham
Lou Dargham
Licorice Allsorts
Seven Artists
Life on Flinders
Purple Ribbon
Thursday Painters
Illawarra Art Society
Thursday Painters
Corrimal Creative Arts
Shellharbour City Arts Society
Rose Milton
Keith Moore

Current Casual Users:

Photography Exhibitions by:
Wollongong Camera Club
Pictorial Mafia
Barry Whitelaw
Private weddings
Private functions
Leisure Coast Orchid Society
NSW Police
Wollongong City Council
Illawarra Medievalists
Conservation Volunteers
Charmain Gibbs Dance
Illawarra Youth Housing
Community Cancer Link
Wollongong Game Fishing Club
And many, more

Former users

*The numerous users since
2001 that are not listed
are not forgotten*

Old Court House Users – some examples

Linda Fuller - Old Customs Shed Studio



Court House Embroiders

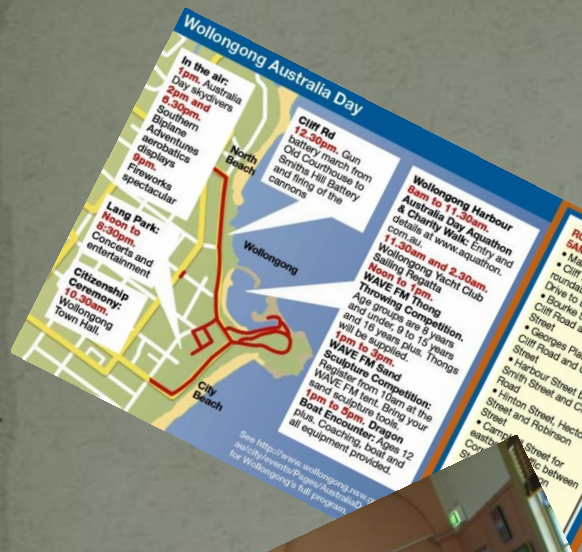


Porcelain Art Society

*Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised
12 January 2016*

Old Court House Events

Some examples



Mermaid's Garden

Exhibition & Sale ~ 3rd, 4th & 5th January, 2014



FEMME FATALE EXHIBITION

20-30 MARCH

MARY WINGRAVE ANN CLARKE APRIL QUINN SHEREE TROY

BETTINA PURDIE MARISSA PITT-KELLY SANDRA ROSIAK NINA YOUNG

OPENING NIGHT: FRIDAY 22 MARCH 6.30-8.30PM

Compiled by Harry Anneveld - 8 April 2014 / Revised 12 January 2016

Heritage Listings

- National Trust of Australia (New South Wales)
- Wollongong City Council Heritage Register
- New South Wales Heritage Register
- National Estate Register

Contact Details

- Telephone – 0429 268 781 (0429 court 1)
- Email – oldcourthousewollongong@gmail.com
- Website - <http://oldcourthouse.wixsite.com/och-wollongong>