

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
CONSERVATION PLAN

SCANNED
21 AUG 2000

for

CATHERINE HILL BAY



prepared for

LAKE MACQUARIE COUNCIL

by

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS PTY LTD

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. BACKGROUND

Architectural Projects Pty Limited - Heritage Architects, Megan Martin - Historian and Ian Kirk - Building Consultant were commissioned by Lake Macquarie Council to prepare a precinct study in October 1996. The work relies on the development of a detailed history and chronological mapping which recognise patterns and determines their significance. Preferred policies are proposed which either protect the existing patterns of the area or provide guidelines for new patterns which do not detract from the main character of the area.

1.2. HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA

Catherine Hill Bay is a small coastal town 26 kilometres south of Newcastle and 100 kilometres north of Sydney, Located on a peninsula bordered by Lake Macquarie to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the East. The township consists mostly of modest workers' cottages lining both sides of the road through the town. The buildings are clustered in two settlements, Catherine Hill Bay proper at the southern end of the town and Middle Camp, a little further north. Both settlements are nestled in undulating hills covered in dense coastal heath and have been identified by the National Trust as forming an Urban Conservation area.

The main sign-posted access road--off the Pacific Highway into the town is from the north, a few kilometres below Swansea. There is another unsigned road leading into Catherine Bay from the south. This road is used by the local company which owns most of the land at Catherine Hill Bay and between Catherine Hill Bay and Lake Macquarie and hauls hundreds of truckloads of coal along this southern road every day to its coal preparation plant and coal loading jetty at Catherine hill Bay. The road is black with coal dust.

This constant traffic is in marked contrast to activity in the rest of the town which has no commercial centre and almost no public amenities. There is a hotel, a police station, a surf club, a Uniting Church, a bowling club and a single mixed business shop. Residents at Catherine Hill Bay are reliant on tank water for water supply and use a septic system for waste disposal.

Catherine Hill Bay was once much more than this. In its heyday as a mining community it had a school, a post office, court house, three churches, butchers and bakers, a doctor and midwife, several stores, and a meeting hall. There was once a third settlement called Mine Camp. There was also a pit-head near Middle Camp with a large plant. A private railway ran from the mine to the jetty. There were once miners lodges, women's auxiliaries, friendly societies, a parents and citizens' associations, brass bands, sporting clubs, even a male voice choir. Today there is only a progress association, struggling to come to grips with the development and planning issues which confront an historical community in decline.

Catherine Hill Bay is a called catho• by many of its residents and former residents. It is a fond, indulgent name, most often used by one Cath-its in conversation with another. And, in the same way that nick-names used between friends and within families serve to invoke emotional ties and shared experience, so too the use of the name "Catha", expresses a close personal relationship between the namer and its place. For many former residents there is an added poignancy in the name since •catho•, as they remember it, is a lost place. Much has been closed, much has been pulled down. Many of the old residents, who might once have told stories of Catherine Hill Bay stretching over three or four generations, have also gone.

And yet, for all that has been lost, enough remains at Catherine Hill Bay for a powerful story of place to be told. This is the story which is explored in the following chapters. It is not an account of the personal meanings which the lost "Catha" had for its present and former residents, but an articulation of a

Architectural Projects Pty Limited/ Megan Martini Ian Kirk

broad meaning which the present place might have today for resident and non-resident alike. It is an examination of the ways in which the landscape and built environment of Catherine Hill Bay can be read as a reflection of the political and economic history of Catherine Hill Bay as a mining company town.

It is not a company history. The questions which are pursued in the following pages are those which relate to the shaping of place. How did its status as a company town shape Catherine Hill Bay? What were the limits of the company's power to determine the shaping? How complete is the picture of Catherine Hill Bay as a company town that today's landscape tells?

Chapter one opens with a brief outline of events leading up to the initial European settlement of Catherine Hill Bay in 1873 by the New Wallsend Coal Mining Company. It goes on to recount the short history of this company, including a description of the township created by the company and concluding with a review of the surviving physical evidence of the township and of the New Wallsend company's coal mining venture.

Chapter two describes the re-settlement of Catherine Hill Bay in the late 1880's by the Wallarah Coal Company, a company formed in England by gentlemen with strong personal roots in New South Wales. The Wallarah Coal Company were concerned to exercise the strongest possible control over their property and chapter three outlines that this control imposed on the provision of public services in Catherine Hill Bay.

Chapter four describes the development of Middle Camp in response to the opening of a new pit by the company in the first decade of the twentieth century and chapter five reviews aspects of the political history of the town in the interwar years. Both chapters also chart the emergence in these early decades of the century of two separate but related ideas about Catherine Hill Bay as a company town. According to one view company towns were an undesirable urban form. A second view, less strongly articulated at the time, saw the company town as an object for the tourist gaze precisely because of its perceived aberrant nature.

Chapter six traces the attempts made by the Joint Coal Board in the late 1940's and early 1950's to improve community amenities at Catherine Hill Bay and to breach the Wallarah Coal Company's total control of housing in the town. Chapter seven gives an account of the changes in company ownership of Catherine Hill Bay since the 1950's, the closure of the old pit, the dramatic loss of employment in the town and the gradual decline of public services. The story concludes with an assessment of the historical significance of the town as it remains today.

1.3. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

PATTERNS OF THE LANDSCAPE AND BUILT FORM SUMMARY

The first recorded descriptions of Catherine Hill Bay describe in detail its distinctive topography and site. As the area was developed the unsuitability of large areas of land for settlement and the potential usage of the ground for mining has resulted in the retention of large sections of this landscape. The result has been a dominant landscape setting for the town of Catherine Hill Bay which continues today.

Since the 1980s increased development has alerted Macquarie City Council to the need to protect this unique area.

The first and most familiar impression of Catherine Hill Bay is gained from the south at the corner of Clarke Street and Montefiore Street where the dramatic landforms of the headland and beach dominate the rows of small houses stepping down the hill.

The second and most familiar impression of Catherine Hill Bay is gained from the north along Flowers Drive where the jetty and headlands are sighted. Prior to the rows of small houses in Flowers Drive.

Another key view of Catherine Hill Bay is visible from Flowers Drive looking south to the original Cowper Town Plan defined by Clarke and Lindsley Street which provides an image of the developed character of Catherine Hill Bay. This group of buildings dating back to 1888 link the various stages of the subdivision and development of Catherine Hill Bay which expanded to Middle Camp and Mine Camp

The intersection of Clarke Street and Lindsley Street marks the beginning of Cowper Town which follows the boundaries of the original Plan of Cowper town of 1870 and 1888. Only two of the proposed eight streets have been developed but the street alignment remain as paddocks which act as a constant reminder of development proposed but never realized. While the landscape features provide a strong backdrop, the quality of the streets is derived from the low scale built form and highly consistent pattern of predominantly one storey weatherboard cottages. This reflects their historical association with the company.

The appreciation of the natural topography occurs at three levels. Firstly as the dramatic vista appreciated on arrival to the Catherine Hill Bay Area. Secondly as a general landscape backdrop to development which has occurred predominantly in the lower more sheltered areas. Thirdly as a varied and dramatic juxtaposition of landscapes which range from exposed ridges and cliff forms to sheltered sloping land.

The appreciation of the built environment occurs at four levels. Firstly as part of the dramatic vista where the scale of the town is easily dominated by the topography. Secondly as a collective group of repetitive houses stepping up and down the hills. Thirdly the size and siting of major buildings such as the jetty hotel and service administration facilities is clearly distinguished against the pattern of repetitive houses and the landform. Fourthly the detail and finishes of the individual houses.

Pattern of Sub-division

The 1875 Plan of Cowper was laid out a rectangular grid which while little developed formed the street pattern for later development. The street plan, hotel, Manager's Residence, Jetty and mines remain from this period.

In 1875 the New Wallsend Coal Mining Company finally discontinued when many of the structures were relocated to Lake Macquarie.

The development along the former Pacific Highway now Flowers Drive reflects the re-establishment and the expansion of The Wallarah Coal Mining Company. In 1888 the new Company re-established in Cowper and built a railway to link to a new mine 2 1/2 miles north along which lineal settlement developed. By 1891/3 repetitive workers lines of cottages existed in three separate locations Catherine Hill (Cowper) Middle Camp and Mine Camp. Remnants of the camps, the houses in Cowper and the cemetery remain from this period.

By 1908 the increase of the population at Middle Camp resulted in new uniform cottages erected along the road closer to E pit on Colliery Road. A new purpose built school was located here. The school and houses in Flowers Drive and Colliery Road remain from this period.

While attempts by the Joint Coal Board and Wallarah Coal Mining Company to develop the area for sub-division occurred in 1945 this was not realized. In 1956 The J & A Brown and Abermain Seaham Collieries took over and modernized the operation resulting in reduced staff, the closure of the Colliery Railway in 1962 and the sale of many company houses. Since that date the public facilities of

the town have declined and the buildings which housed those services became privatised as residences. The former public facilities such as churches and post office remain although their use has changed. The 1962 privatization of the land has resulted in redistribution of lots, the loss of earlier houses and the erection of new houses of a larger scale and different materials.

Aesthetic Development

The key factor in the appearance of the miners cottages was utility rather than aesthetics. While they possess a strong group aesthetic such as is evident in Victorian terrace development or Federation housing. The individual houses do not have an aesthetic elaboration typical of such styles or development. The houses are small, simple and unpretentious. Because they are so simple the impact of minor changes can be dramatic. Individual properties such as the hotel, police station and individually owned homes were more elaborate than the miners' cottages.

Catherine Hill Bay, Cowper Town, Clarke Street, developed in the 1890's with later gabled type development in Lindsay Street in the 1920's.
Catherine Hill Bay Middle Camp developed in the 1910-1930's along Flowers Drive, many houses dating from the 1920's have gable end.
Cemetery Road, Cemetery 'Squatters' settlement comprises houses of one storey set at right angles to each other.

Colliery Road comprises a series of 1910-1920's, one storey houses close to street.

Evidence of dwellings at Catherine Hill Bay Mine Camp has not been established.

Individual Housing Types

The houses are located on blocks which average fifteen with a three metre set back on one side to provide garage access and a two metre set back on the other. The house average ten metres wide with five metre landscape strips between . Which allows views of the landscape.

The houses are predominantly one storey. Only two, 2 storey developments exist which are detracting.

The houses are simple rectangular shapes, comprising a simple folded plane roof of approximately 30deg which reflects the internal roof side.
Some houses have gables which face the street, some have verandahs which face the street.

Houses on the low side fall away enabling extensions within the existing roof plane. Roofs are predominantly metal although some have been replaced with tiles. The wall finishes are predominantly timber boarding and fibro.

1.4. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

As noted above Catherine Hill Bay is significant for four key themes:
A Mining Company Town, Strikebreaking, A Lost Town, A Historic Town

These themes are the results of different degrees of historic, social and aesthetic significance. Aesthetic significance is further divided into the Built Form and landscape significance.

Catherine Hill Bay because of its location and geological character is significant for the key role played by the nineteenth century company towns in the development of Australian resources.

It is significant for the continuing association to the area with coal mining in the form of the Coal and Allied establishment today. This development is

clearly evidenced by remnants of railways, the structures and the extent of untouched landscape typical of mining occupation of the foreshores. Catherine Hill Bay association with tourism and recreation dates back to reports from the early 1930's. The extensive and varied landscapes are a key factor of the tourist quality of Catherine Hill Bay.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

- Significant for the key role played by the jetty as a form of transportation and site of union disputes.
- Significant for the ability of structures like the jetty and Catherine Hill Bay Hotel to reflect the long term importance of Catherine Hill Bay as a company town.
- Significant for its strong sense of history as evidenced by remnants and structures which commemorate the working activity of the town to the present day.

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

- Significant for its ability to reflect a strong sense of place and history through a number of monuments and memorials and significant also for its association with the development of company towns.

AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE- BUILT FORM

- Catherine Hill Bay Village is significant as a highly intact late nineteenth century company town characterised by a varied range of finishes and scale typified by simple forms of predominantly one storey height.
- Clarke and Lindsley Streets are significant as the site of the earlier unsuccessful subdivision of Cowper Town.

AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE- LANDSCAPE

- The landform of South Head peninsula is significant both for protecting from the Pacific Ocean and for affording access to a wide spectrum of diverse views of the highest scenic qualities in Australia.

1.5. STATEMENT OF CONSERVATION POLICY

ISSUES AND IMPLICATION

We have the ability to direct the future appearance of Catherine Hill Bay

The best method to retain an existing appearance is to retain the restrictions that produced the appearance.

The following summary of issues was presented to the community at the public meetings for discussion

Issue Implication

Retain the existing character

- This does not prohibit development but controls its location and appearance.

Retain key elements which comprise the town

- Understand the role of key elements in history of Catherine Hill Bay
- Observe the changes to the building over time
- Record the changes
- Do as much as is necessary and as little as possible

Restrict development within 1km

- The existing dominance of the landscape will remain

Allow further subdivision

- Increase the number of houses and need for extended services

Limit Set-backs

- Restrict the location of development to maintain existing views between houses
- Consider the nature of development in the set-back, zone e.g. tanks
- Maintain a consistent street

Determine/Nature of Additions and new development/Scale and Form

- Maintain a consistent scale of new development
- Limit the size of development, for example, number of storey, size of plan, height of ridge

Determine Nature of Additions and new development Detail, Material, Colour

- Maintain a consistent appearance to all sites
- Restrict finishes which detract

Maintain and reinforce the Coastal Heathland and Existing exotic landscape

- Actively protect existing vegetation
- Provide a buffer between development and the heath land
- Replant landscape to appropriate to built development
- Encourage landscape related to built development

Retain elements which contribute to an interpretation of the history

- Indicate the original contribute to an interpretation 1875 sub-division of the history
- Indicate the original naming Cowper, Old Pacific Highway
- Indicate the site of the railway and camp sites

Determine the type of development

- Tourist development may be restricted
- Residential development may be encouraged

SUGGESTED POLICIES

As a result of the recent study of Catherine Hill Bay a number of general preferred principles have been identified which will allow controlled development in the area. These are:

- * No development can occur in undeveloped coastline (NSW Coastal Policy)
- * Restricting development to no higher than the existing ridge line.
- * First floor additions or development can occur where impact on the ridge line is minimised.
- * Scale of new development should be compatible with the existing scale (NSW Coastal Policy)
- * Door and Window openings where possible should be retained. Where usage of the building requires new openings these should be of a scale similar to the existing openings.
- * The original detailing and finishes are more consistent with the quality of the area. Where original finishes cannot be kept new finishes which are compatible with existing finishes are more suitable for retaining the character of the area.

While the natural assets of the area are recognised, an appreciation of their quality and extent could be further enhanced by:

1. Reinterpretation of the asset as predominantly natural or cultural landscapes.
2. Better siting of amenities which detract from key views and vistas.
3. Careful location of signage to provide interpretation without impacting on vistas.
4. Consideration of better interpretation of the varied landscapes in terms of form and formation at close and distant views.
5. Consideration of better interpretation of the variety of landscape forms through developing educational walking trails through specific elements.
6. Retention of the dominance of the natural landscapes over built landscape by ensuring that buildings occur below the crest of significant landforms.
7. Retention of the remaining natural edges which are intact and demonstrate the landscape's pre-settlement qualities and reinstatement of modified edges to their original form and quality.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. BACKGROUND

Architectural Projects Pty Limited - Heritage Architects, Megan Martin - Historian and Ian Kirk - Building Consultant were commissioned by Lake Macquarie Council to prepare a precinct study in October 1996. The work relies on the development of a detailed history and chronological mapping which recognise patterns and determines their significance. Preferred policies are proposed which either protect the existing patterns of the area or provide guidelines for new patterns which do not detract from the main character of the area.

2.2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Assessment relates to a study area defined by the one kilometre distance from the coastline and generally known as Catherine Hill Bay Urban Conservation Area defined by the street boundaries of Montefiore, Clarke, Lundsley and Flowers Drive.

2.3. AUTHORSHIP

The report has been prepared by a team consisting of the following key members:
Jennifer Hill Architectural Projects Pty Ltd - Heritage Architect
Annalisa Carpurro Architectural Projects Pty Ltd - Architectural Assistance
Megan Martin - Historian
Ian Kirk- Building Consultant
Irene Tapu Architectural Projects Pty Ltd - Clerical Staff
Daniella Ortega Architectural Projects Pty Ltd - Clerical Staff

2.4. LIMITATIONS

Access was given to the site and Council records held by the applicant and Council. No physical intervention was undertaken to prepare this report. No historical archaeological work other than the site surveys provided herein was commissioned for the report.

2.5. METHODOLOGY

The Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the methodology outlined in J. S. Kerr uThe Conservation Plan-, (The National Trust of Australia, (NSW). Third Edition 1990). The report complies with the principles of the Australian ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter) and its guidelines. The analysis of significance used the State Heritage Inventory Program criteria for assessing significance and the NSW Heritage Manual prepared by the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and the Heritage Council of NSW. Access was limited to the exterior of all the sites. Access was given to Council records held by Lake Macquarie Council. No physical intervention was undertaken to prepare this report. No historical archaeological work other than the site surveys provided herein was commissioned for the report. The stages are broadly grouped as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| STAGE 1 | Thematic History |
| STAGE 2 | Analysis of existing data |
| STAGE 3 | Field Survey Work
General survey of Area
Mapping information in graphic form
Detailed streetscape assessment, photographic record and database |

Elevation mapping
Detailed landscape assessment

- STAGE 4 Determination of significance of the conservation area generally and specific character areas.
- STAGE 5 Establishment of description patterns and preferred policy.

STAGE 1 - Thematic History

A thematic history was provided as a draft, and was greatly expanded as a result of discussion with local residents and further research to provide the present document. The draft thematic history has been prepared to provide a background for the planning process. As such it needs to identify driving forces in the settlement of the area and patterns of historical development, especially patterns and forces which are specific to the area and which have shaped the built character of Catherine Hill Bay over time. It identifies surviving individual structures and land uses which have an ability to reflect the specific historical character of Catherine Hill. It is not a history of every structure, or every event which impacts on the past and present visual form or determined the shape of Catherine Hill Bay today. The thematic history has helped to clarify the causes for the appearance of Catherine Hill Bay today and establish the historical and social significance of the area . As with all histories the facts as interpreted from documents, title searches and memoirs often differ from individual recollections of the events.

Three key themes have been identified as specific to Catherine Hill Bay. Not every chronological pattern of development is a theme as every location has similar parallels of stylistic development. The three themes identified reflect the major factors which have formed the character of Catherine Hill Bay.

A time line of key events has been prepared which forms Part of Chapter 3. As part of the research a survey of a number of primary documents has been undertaken and are summarized in the Appendix to Chapter 3.

STAGE 2 - Analysis of existing data

An extensive survey of documents relating to specific sites or the Catherine Hill Bay area generally were summarized and informed this document in addition to the primary documents noted above.

STAGE 3 - Field Survey Work

An assessment of the thematic history and the field survey work determined the level of intactness of the area and its ability to contribute to an understanding of the key periods of development of Catherine Hill Bay. A house by house assessment of each street in the study area was undertaken. A summary of these assessments formed the basis of a landscape and built form assessment of each street.

STAGE 4

The significance of the conservation area was determined generally, for each of the specific character areas and for each of the street types.

STAGE 5

Establishment of description patterns and preferred policy for the retention or enhancement of these patterns was undertaken.
A recommended policy was determined generally for the Catherine Hill Bay Study Area and for each of the specific character areas.

2.6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Lake Macquarie City Council - Heritage Advisors- Katrina Kerr
National Trust of Australia (NSW) Stewart Watters
Australian Heritage Commission Mick Climpson
Mitchell Library- Walcha Coal Company Archives
State Library of New South Wales (ML)
Coal and Allied Industries Limited Archives
Archives Office of New South Wales
Australian Archives
Australian Railway Historical Society Archives
Department of Land and Water Conservation
Matt Diver, Caves Beach
Ann Hampson, Records Manager, Coal and Allied Industries Ltd
Mrs Wilma Hill , Lake Macquarie City Council
Noelene & Barry King, Evandale, Tasmania (former CHB postmaster)
Lake Macquarie City Library
New South Wales Land Titles Office
Ken Shilling, Merewether Heights
Jennifer Slogett, Local Studies Librarian , Newcastle Region Public Library
Jack & Phyllis Thornton, Lake Munmorah {former CHB jettymaster)

3. HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA

Preparation of the report has involved a review of all published histories of Lake Macquarie and Catherine Hill Bay and an examination of a wide range of other documentary sources not utilised in earlier studies. These include records of the Walcha Coal Company deposited in the Mitchell Library, the archives of Coal & Allied Industries Limited.
An extensive search of contemporary newspapers.

3.1. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS OF CATHERINE HILL BAY

1867	<p>NAMING</p> <p>Catherine Hill Bay takes its European name from a shipwreck. A schooner called the Catherine Hill, Bound from the Richmond River</p>
1870'5	<p>COAL MINING</p> <p>New Wallsend Coal Mining Company</p> <p>In April 1865 Sydney merchants Jacob Levi Montefiore & Thomas Hale took out a mining lease on 265 acres bordering the southern part of Catherine Hill Bay.</p>
1873	<p>CH14</p> <p>In July the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> announced that some "splendid samples of coal" were found in Catherine Hill Bay where Hale was building a pile jetty. By December a manager's residence and a number of good weatherboard shingled cottages for the workmen" had been built and others were in course of erection.</p>
1874	<p>In May Thomas Hale wrote to the Postmaster General asking that a post office be established at the settlement to serve 100 people in the township.</p> <p>In June an inquest, held following a fatal pit accident at the New Wallsend mine resulted in a visit to the area by a government Inspector of Collieries. An account of the visit notes "a degree of uniformity not frequently followed in new settlements"</p>

1875	<p>New Wallsend Coal Mining Company had laid out the "Township of Cowper".</p> <p>Sub Inspector Thorpe in March recommended a mounted constable and quarters for the township.</p> <p>Sixty seven large building allotments of the rising and progressive township of Cowper were announced but only a handful of allotments were sold.</p> <p>A journalist noted the existence of the post office, a couple of stores, the butcher, a baker and one public house.</p> <p>In July the Sydney Mail noted the presence of a doctor as well as the storekeeper, baker and butcher and "Mr Talbot's neat- looking hotel".</p> <p>A formal application for a school was submitted in August.</p> <p>In September the miners stopped work.</p> <p>Miners Advocate noted that "Mr Talbot is adding a billiard room to this hotel which when completed, will doubtless prove a source of great attraction to many who now have no means whatever of enjoying themselves.</p>
1876	<p>In February a reporter noted the two hotels kept by Messrs Talbot and Trevellion but no reading room or other places of amusement so presumed that the public houses were well patronised.</p>
1877	<p>In April that much of the settlement had already been abandoned.</p>
1879	<p>Talbot reported that the last family had left the Bay.</p>
1870's	<p>SURVIVING PHYSICAL EVIDENCE Of the 1870's Township of Cowper & the New Wallsend Mining Company</p>
1877	<p>In September Council of Education District Inspector marked out two suitable sites and the location of existing buildings on a copy of the 1875 plan of the Township of Cowper. No miners' cottages are shown in Clarke Street</p>
1888-1889	<p>RE-SETTLEMENT OF CATHERINE HILL BAY Walcha Coal Mining Company</p>
1888	<p>In May Walcha Coal Mining Company was set up by Hon Samuel A Joseph, John De Villiers Lamb and Robert Saddington.</p>

1889	<p>Thomas Parton reported the township had "grown into respectable proportions" with fourteen cottages occupied and others in progress". As well as the Church of England then being built and the planned Methodist Church, Robert Talbot had built " a large store and a large hotel". Parton felt able to conclude that "altogether we are developing from bush life to a more civilised one.</p> <p>Neat brick and weatherboard cottages erected for the comfort of his men. Improved roads, telegraphic communication, a money-order office, and a Government Savings Bank.</p> <p>In December laying of the foundation stone of the United Free Methodist Church</p>
1890	<p>In February Newcastle Morning Herald reported Catherine Hill Bay might be said to be booming. As well as the hotel, two stores, the churches, the school and the post office, the community at the Bay expected that "telephonic communication with Wyee" would be established within a few weeks.</p>
1891	<p>In April a map was drawn up by the Newcastle Inspector showing the site selected for a new school.</p> <p>In January the school moved into the United Free Methodist Church and the teacher rented a house.</p>
1892	<p>In September the site for the new school was finally conveyed. Thomas Boyd offered the use of his hall for a school. His hall was 36 x 24 x 12 feet in dimensions and had "till lately" been used for "dancing and holding meetings and entertainments.</p>
1894	<p>The Newcastle Morning Herald noted thirty wooden four roomed cottages in the township leased to the employees, each having a plot of ground attached. A Lands Department survey December 1892 shows that twenty of these cottages were in Clarke Street.</p> <p>Also reported the township was " beautifully situated on the northern slope of a hill overlooking the bow-shaped bay".</p> <p>The Herald enumerated the town's facilities the hotel, four stores, two butchers and a bakery as well as the post and telegraph office. 440 people nearly 100 were school students.</p> <p>Since 1891 negotiations led to a proposed cemetery at Catherine Hill Bay.</p>
1895	<p>The new school building was completed for the start of the 1895 school year.</p>
1897	<p>In February a journalist noted that "each house being exactly like its neighbour". "Models of cleanliness and neatness".</p> <p>Town & Country Journalist noted the " rugged nature of the country", " luxuriant vegetation with which it is clothed", "eminently picturesque.</p>
1900-1910	<p>A CONTINUING STRUGGLE FOR THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES</p>

1900	In August Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association had begun. Catherine Hill Bay proper comprises about sixty households.
1901	In October the campaign escalated when the residents of Mine Camp petitioned the Postmaster General's department for a daily delivery of letters or the establishment
1904	The Wallarah Coal Company offered to provide the Postmaster General's department with a piece of land 40 by 100 feet.
1906	The Council of Lake Macquarie as defined by its present boundary was formed. Catherine Hill Bay as a private town was not serviced from the Council.
1908	The Wallarah Progress Association anticipating the imminent relocation of the school asked for the old buildings for use as a School of Arts.
1912	Middle Camp - included a fitting shop, blacksmith's shop, carpenter's shop and waggon repairing shed was developed
1915	The erection of the new school building
1916	January - The establishment of a police station
1917	August - Railway strike began in New South Wales. The Government rushed through Parliament an 'Act to Amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act' to allow inexperienced men to work at the coal face. August - Forty extra police had been drafted to Catherine Hill Bay. The railway strike ended officially on 19th September.
1920	March - Royal Commission was held into the coal mining industry. Medical Office of Health was critical of the living conditions in some mining towns, particularly Minmi and Catherine Hill Bay
1924	Annual Report named Catherine Hill Bay having some of the worst examples of bad housing on the coalfields.
1929	February Coalminers across New South Wales were on strike and once again strike-breakers were imported to work the Wallarah colliery
1947-1950	THE JOINT COAL BOARD YEARS During 1945 the Commonwealth Government drew up plans for the post-war organisation of the Australian coal industry called the Joint Coal Board. Catherine Hill Bay was one of the mining communities targeted for improvement. The idea of building a new township at Catherine Hill Bay was considered. Instead consideration was being given to the subdivision of usable land at South Swansea.

1957-1997	<p>J & A BROWN ABERMAIN SEAHAM COLLIERIES/COAL & ALLIED INDUSTRIES LTD</p> <p>Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association drew up various plans for subdivision for home sites, none of which met with the Wallarah Coal Company's approval.</p> <p>1956 J & A Brown and Abermain Seaham Collieries Ltd took over the Wallarah Coal Company and began an extensive reorganisation and mechanisation program which brought retrenchments. In March Wallarah miners staged a sit in strike to protest at the recent dismissal of 200 men from the Colliery</p>
1963	Walarah colliery railway E pit was closed at the end of 1963.
1964	In the same year Coal & Allied decided to sell cottages to their occupiers around 100 cottages in Clarke and Lindsay Streets.
1985	Dwindling enrolments forced the close of the school
1993	The post office closed
1 970 '5	HISTORY OF REGULATORY CONTROL
1977	The Shire was transformed to a Municipality
1983	The National Trust included Catherine Hill Bay as a Conservation Area
1983	Lake Macquarie Council recognized the heritage value of Catherine Hill Bay
1984	Lake Macquarie became a city and issued LEP 1984 Catherine Hill Bay is listed predominantly under a scenic protection area
1985	Hunter REP Schedule 5 Conservation Area includes Catherine Hill Bay Cowper Town
1987	The Heritage Council was unsuccessful in listing Catherine Hill Bay
1990	NSW Government released the NSW Coast Policy SEPP which required a 1 km non development landward strip from low water tide
1992	The City of Lake Macquarie undertook a Heritage Study
1994	A formal response to the Heritage was prepared by the Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association.
1995	The Wallarah Peninsula South Study was undertaken which included Catherine Hill Bay within its Study Area
1996	LEP 1984 was upgraded

INTRODUCTION

Catherine Hill Bay is a small coastal town 26 kilometres south of Newcastle and 100 kilometres north of Sydney, located on a peninsula bordered by Lake Macquarie to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east. The township consists mostly of modest workers' cottages lining both sides of the road through the town. The buildings are clustered in two settlements, Catherine Hill Bay proper at the southern end of the town and Middle Camp, a little further north. Both settlements are nestled in undulating hills covered in dense coastal heath and have been identified by the National Trust as forming an Urban Conservation Area.

The main, sign-posted, access road off the Pacific Highway into the town is from the north, a few kilometres below Swansea. There is another unsigned road leading into Catherine Hill Bay from the south. This road is used by the coal company which owns most of the land at Catherine Hill Bay and between Catherine Hill Bay and Lake Macquarie. The company operates a colliery at Crangan Bay on Lake Macquarie and hauls hundreds of truckloads of coal along this southern road every day to its coal preparation plant and coal loading jetty at Catherine Hill Bay. The road is black with coal dust.

This constant traffic is in marked contrast to activity in the rest of the town which has no commercial centre and almost no public amenities. There is a hotel, a police station, a surf club, a Uniting Church, a bowling club and a single mixed-business shop. Residents at Catherine Hill Bay are reliant on tank water for water supply and use a septic system for waste disposal.

Catherine Hill Bay was once much more than this. In its hey-day as a mining community it had a school, a post office, court house, three churches, butchers and bakers, a doctor and midwife, several stores, and a meeting hall. There was once a third settlement called Mine Camp. There was also a pit-head near Middle Camp with a large plant. A private railway ran from the mine to the jetty. There were onCC miners' lodges, womens' auxiliaries, friendly societies, a parents and citizens' association, brass bands, sporting clubs, even a male voice choir. Today there is only a progress association, struggling to come to grips with the development and planning issues which confront an historical community in decline.

GJ Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company 10''''''



Section of a topographic map of Catherine Hill Bay. Scale 1:25 000. (Central Mapping Authority of New South Wales 9231-4-S Second Edition 1985)

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company to M.n

Catherine Hill Bay is called "Catho" by many of its residents and former residents. It is a fond, indulgent name, most often used by one Catho-ite in conversation with another. And, in the same way that nick-names used between friends and within families serve to invoke emotional ties and shared experience, so too the use of the name „Catho,, expresses a close personal relationship between the namer and the place. For many former residents there is an added poignancy in the name since „Catho,, as they remember it, is a lost place. Much has been closed, much has been pulled down. Many of the old residents, who might once have told stories of Catherine Hill Bay stretching over three or four generations, have also gone.

And yet, for all that has been lost, enough remains at Catherine Hill Bay for a powerful story of place to be told. This is the story which is explored in the following chapters. It is not an account of the personal meanings which the lost „Catho,, had for its present and former residents, but an articulation of a broader meaning which the present place might have today for resident and non-resident alike. It is an examination of the ways in which the landscape and built environment of Catherine Hill Bay can be read as a reflection of the political and economic history of „Catho,, as a mining company town.

It is not a company history. The questions which are pursued in the following pages are those which relate to the shaping of place. How did its status as a company town shape Catherine Hill Bay? What were the limits of the company's power to determine the shaping? How complete is the picture of Catherine Hill Bay as a company town that today's landscape tells?

Chapter one opens with a brief outline of events leading up to the initial European settlement of Catherine Hill Bay in 1873 by the New Wallsend Coal Mining Company. It goes on to recount the short history of this company, including a description of the township created by the company and concluding with a review of the surviving physical evidence of the township and of the New Wallsend company's coal mining venture.

Chapter two describes the re-settlement of Catherine Hill Bay in the late 1880s by the Wallarah Coal Company, an company formed in England by gentlemen with strong personal roots in New South Wales. The Wallarah Coal Company were concerned to exercise the strongest possible control over their property and chapter three outlines the constraints that this control imposed on the

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

provision of public services in Catherine Hill Bay.

Chapter four describes the development of Middle Camp in response to the opening of a new pit by the company in the first decade of the twentieth century and chapter five reviews aspects of the political history of the town in the inter-war years. Both chapters also chart the emergence in these early decades of the century of two separate but related ideas about Catherine Hill Bay as a company town. **According to one view company towns were an undesirable urban form. A second view, Jess strongly articulated at the time, saw the company town as an object for the tourist gaze precisely because of its perceived aberrant nature.**

Chapter six traces the attempts made by the Joint Coal Board in the late 1940s and early 1950s to improve community amenities at Catherine Hill Bay and to breach the Wallarah Coal Company's total control of housing in the town.

Chapter seven gives an account of the changes in company ownership of Catherine Hill Bay since the 1950s, the closure of the old pit, the dramatic loss of employment in the town and the gradual decline of public services. **The story concludes with an assessment of the historical significance of the town as it remains today.**

3.2.

**THE NEW WALLSEND COAL
MINING COMPANY**

PRELIMINARIES

Catherine Hill Bay takes its European name from a shipwreck. A schooner called the *Catherine Hill*, bound from the Richmond River to Sydney with a cargo of cedar and pine, ran aground at the bay during a heavy gale in June 1867. The ship's mate and the cook were lost overboard during the wreck. The rest of the crew spent a cold, wet and hungry day huddled on the beach until a settler named Taaffe from Lake Macquarie came to their rescue.¹

There was no European settlement at the bay at that time and it seems that there was also no longer any Aboriginal occupation, although an Aboriginal name for the locality, *Toolouweraraba*, had been recorded by surveyor Felton Mathew in 1830.² **The nearest settlement in 1867 was at Lake Macquarie Heads, today's Swansea, where there was a small Aboriginal community. An** inlet at the entrance to the lake is called Black Ned's Bay after a member of **this community who earned a living by assisting fishing and shooting parties** on Lake Macquarie. His wife Margaret worked as a dress-maker and cabbage-tree hat maker.³

A group of Chinese fishermen had also been resident in the area near the lake entrance since the early 1850s. Some were still active in 1870 when the *Town and Country Journal* published a description of their community. They had an **extensive fishing operation using nets and long-boats and a sophisticated system for curing their catch prior to shipment to Sydney. Melbourne and China. They were also involved in the manufacture of cabbage-tree hats.**⁴

On other parts of Lake Macquarie small settlements developed around the

Sydney Morning Herald 26.6.1867 p.4; 27.6.1867 p.4: 28.6.1867 p.4

AONSW 2/4956: Surveyor's Field Book no.327

Newcastle Chronicle 2.9.1871 p.4 & 9.9.1871 p.5; John Turner & Greg Blytoo *The Aboriginals of Lake Macquarie* Lake Macquarie City Council 1996 p.45-48

Town and Country Journal 9.7.1870 p.10

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

timber industry. In 1865 most of the estimated population of 150 in the township of Cooranbong, for example, were timber workers, mostly sawyers and shingle splitters who shipped their cargoes to Sydney in small craft.'

The Roberts0n Land Acts of 1861 heralded a change to this pattern of economic activity at the lake. The 'Crown Lands Alienation Act' permitted the selection of up to 320 acres of coal land for £2 per acre with provision for freehold title after £2 per acre had been spent on improvements. The companion 'Crown Lands Occupation Act' granted pre-emptive leasing rights **to freeholders over adjacent lands.**⁶ **Government surveyors arrived in the area** early in 1861, marking out large country lots for free selection. The land around the lake was not particularly suited to small scale farming but the district was well known to be rich in coal deposits. During 1862 a number of **companies secured mining leases at the lake and began preparations to mine** coal. One was the Cardiff Coal Company which leased land on the eastern side of the lake at the head of Belmont Bay, now known as Cardiff Point. Another enterprise was the Hartley Coal Company which leased land on the lakeshore about a mile to the north of the Cardiff works. There were other mining **ventures and some speculators too, including the brothers James and Alexander Brown**, prominent figures in the New South Wales coal industry. In 1863 they each acquired 320 acres of land at Lake Macquarie by Conditional Purchase. In 1864 government surveyors surveyed the land around Catherine Hill Bay **and marked it out in four portions, together comprising 900 acres, numbered 17 to 20 of the Parish of Wallarah, County of Northumberland.'**

The lack of transport infrastructure linking Lake Macquarie to Newcastle limited the economic prospects of these early mining ventures. The Sydney to **Newcastle railway was not built until the 1880s and in the meantime those entrepreneurs who began mining were obliged to build or buy steamers and schooners to transport their coal to market. They soon found that the risks involved in getting their cargoes across the shallow entrance bar at Lake Macquarie Heads made the exercise of taking coal to Sydney too expensive.** In

Newcastle Chronicle 12.8.1865 p.3

J W Turner *Coal mining in Newcastle 1801-1900* (Newcastle History Monographs no.9) Newcastle Region Public Library 1982 p.73

NSW Lands Department: *N5JL1501 Plan of four portions of land situate at Lake Macquarie Parish of Wallarah County of Northumberland*

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company 10\1.11

June 1864 a delegation from Lake Macquarie mining interests met with the Minister for Works in Sydney, urging the government to take immediate steps to improve navigation at the entrance to the lake. The request was met with indifference and most of the mining companies at the lake were forced to abandon their workings. When portions 17 to 20 of the Parish of Wallarah, the Catherine Hill Bay portions, were put up for sale by the Crown at Gosford on 1st April 1865 they received no bids.'

In 1873, with a growing demand for coal and rising prices, there was a revival of interest in coal mining at Lake Macquarie. The *Newcastle Chronicle* reported in July that more than 27,000 acres of Crown land had been leased for mining in the preceding few months.¹⁰ Sydney merchants Thomas Hale, Joseph Kohn and Frederic Kellermann, and Shanghai-based merchant John Lindsley, took out a mining lease on 265 acres bordering the southern part of Catherine Hill Bay, portion 20 of the Parish of Wallarah.¹¹ Hale had a well-established reputation as a coal broker and mining entrepreneur, having opened his first mine at Bellambi in the Illawarra district in 1859. Kellermann and Kohn were in partnership as importers.¹²

1873: FORMATION OF THE NEW WALLSEND COMPANY

In July 1873 the *Sydney Morning Herald* first alerted its readers to the establishment of a "new coal port" in New South Wales with a report that some "splendid samples of coal" were on view at Thomas Hale's office in the Sydney Exchange. The *Herald* explained that the samples had been brought from "a place called Catherine Hill Bay" where the newly-formed New Wallsend company was opening a mine. Hale was manager of the company. He was building a pile jetty at the southern end of the bay where a 14 foot

Keith H Clouten *Reid's mistake: the story of Lake Macquarie from its discovery until 1890* Lake Macquarie Shire Council 1967 pp.180-185

annotated in on NSW Lands Department plan N531.1501

¹⁰ *Newcastle Chronicle* 10.7.1873 p.3

¹¹ AONSW Lands Department Alienation Branch correspondence: bundle no.75/2686

¹² *Sydney Morning Herald* 17.7.1873 p.4; *Sydney Mail* 11.7.1875 p.73; *Sands' Sydney and Suburban Directory for 1875*; *NSW Government Gazette* 3.2.1874 p.355

thick coal seam had been proven and was being worked so close to the water's edge that the jetty could run right into the face of the workings. The jetty *was* critical to the prospects of the New Wallsend Company's enterprise, marking the essential difference between this and earlier mining ventures on Lake Macquarie. Hale and his partners had no need to worry about the difficulty of transporting cargoes of coal through the channel at Lake Macquarie Heads. With a frontage to the sea, and a jetty, they could ship coal directly to Sydney.

By December 1873 the jetty *was* completed, anchors, chains and buoys had been brought from Sydney to make moorings, and the first shipment of coal from the new mine had been made.¹³ A manager's residence and "a number of good weatherboard shingled cottages for the workmen" had been built. Others were in course of erection.¹⁴

Within weeks of the first shipment of coal from Catherine Hill Bay Thomas Hale made an application to register the New Wallsend Company, disclosing that it had a nominal capital of £50,000, in 10,000 shares of £5 each. of which £40,000 was already paid up." The mining lease which Hale and his partners had taken out was convened into a Mining Conditional Purchase in the names of Hale and Jacob Levi Montefiore. Montefiore was a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council and a merchant and financier with extensive mining and pastoral interests.¹⁶ He became Chairman of the Board of Directors of the new company and Hale became Managing Director. The principal shareholders were Hale, Montefiore, Lindsley, Kellermann and Kohn as well as Samuel Aaron Joseph, John Frazer and John Meyerfeld. Frazer, like Montefiore, was a Sydney merchant and member of the Legislative Council. Joseph was chairman of the City Bank of Sydney, director of various companies and partner with Montefiore in the firm of Montefiore, Joseph & Company.¹⁷

¹³ *Miners' Advocate* 27.12.1873 p.2

" *Miners' Advocate*! 20.12.1873 p.3

¹⁵ *NSW Government Gazette* 3.2.1874 p.355

¹⁶ entry for Jacob Levi Montefiore pp.270-271 *ADS 1851-1890*

¹⁷ *NSW Government Gazette* 3.2.1874 p.355; entry for John Frazer pp.218-219 *ADB 1851-1890*; entry for Samuel Aaron Joseph p.482 **ADB** 1851-1890; *Sands' Sydney and Suburban Directory for 1875* p.539

Over the following months the fledgling settlement at Catherine Hill Bay grew rapidly. In May 1874 Hale wrote to the Postmaster-General asking that a post office be established there. Hale stated that over 100 people were engaged in mining or other work in the township. He recommended Charles Boulton for the office of postmaster explaining that Boulton was "an educated married man" and **keeper of the store at the settlement.** ¹⁸

In June 1874 an inquest held following a fatal pit accident at the New Wallsend mine resulted in a visit to the area by a government Inspector of Collieries. He was accompanied by a freelance journalist who published an account of the settlement, which he styled "New Wallsend, Catherine Hill Bay", in the major Newcastle newspaper, the *Miners' Advocate*. The visitors spent a night at the residence of mine manager Andreas De Flon. De Flon's **house was situated on a hill. commanding an excellent view of the ocean, the pit works, and the surrounding hills.** The journalist went on to report that the **township was a little further in from the mine workings and consisted of** "about twenty houses and several tents, with a butcher's shop and store" but as yet no public house. The houses were "all small, but substantially built, and erected with a degree of uniformity not frequently followed in new settlements." ¹⁹

The company had one regular steam collier, and postal communication was shortly to be opened with Newcastle, but in the meantime the settlement was **isolated. The nearest medical help was more than twelve hours away. a** distance that could mean the difference between life and death, especially in a mining community with the likelihood of a high rate of industrial accidents. A meeting of miners and others working at the colliery was held in June to **discuss the practicalities of engaging a doctor to live in the settlement. The** meeting resolved to collect two shillings per man per fortnight to pay for the **doctor's services.**

The establishment of such a system of medical service was characteristic of the Newcastle mining district from the early 1870s. As well as receiving a regular

¹⁸ Australian Archives (NSW) Series 32: Swansea Post Office files

¹⁹ *Miners' Advocate* 10.6.1874 p.2

²⁰ *Miners' Advocate* 4.7.1874 p.2

NEW WALLSEND
COAL COMPANY
[LIMITED.]

BEAUFORT & SONS
**EXCHANGE, PITT STREET,
SYDNEY.**

Directors.

THE HON. JACOB L. MONTEFIORE, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.
THE HON. J. FRAZER, M.L.C. J. MEYERFELD.
O. L. MONTEHORE. F. KELLERMAN.

Managing Director-THOMAS HALE.

Secretary-T. H. HALE.



THIS Colliery being now in full work, and having the facilities for delivering their Coals in Sydney with their own **Steam Colliers**, are prepared to contract to deliver their best Coal in any quantity.

For *HOUSEHOLD USE* this Coal is now much esteemed, and can be obtained at very low rates from D. WILSON, WENTWORTH WHARF, DRUITT STREET, who retails it.

For *CARGOES* or *CONTRACTS* the Company is prepared to make the most liberal terms.

For all information, apply at the Head Office.

THOMAS HALE, Managing Director,

..

Advertisement for the New Wallsend Coal Company
from *Sands' Sydney and Suburban Directory for 1875* Section 2 p.40

income from the miners, the doctor usually had the promise of an independent private practice in the town *as well*.²¹ These extra services had to be paid for individually and thus the New Wallsend meeting in July 1874 resolved that the doctor's fee in "accouchement cases" should be £1.11.6.

The settlement was further consolidated in October 1874 when the post office was opened and Catherine Hill Bay formally named as a postal town." At the same time the miners at New Wallsend received their first taste of one of the realities of power in the town. On October 3rd they went on strike in a dispute about the loading of coal skips. A week later they were given notice to quit their houses. The *Miners' Advocate* explained that all the men working at New Wallsend lived in huts belonging to the Company, with "upwards of half a dozen men" residing in some huts. each paying a shilling a week for the privilege." In the 1860s miners at J & A Brown's Minmi colliery had been similarly evicted from company-owned houses during a strike." The threat of eviction was ever present in company towns like Minmi and New Wallsend.

In February 1875 Montefiore and Hale secured title to their conditional purchase and immediately proceeded to mark out a small private town which they named "Cowper", probably in honour of Sir Charles Cowper, former Premier of New South Wales. The plan was registered and the streets created in the subdivision were named Morrice, Frazer, Clarke, Hale. Keene, Lindsley, Usher and Montefiore." Frazer, Hale, Montefiore and Lindsley Streets were clearly named for directors or shareholders of the company. Usher was probably named for mining engineer John Usher, and Morrice was named for pastoralist and former MLA John Morrice who died in February 1875. Clarke Street was named for the Reverend William Branwhite Clarke, Anglican clergyman and geologist, credited with first measuring the Catherine

¹¹ Ellen M McEwen *The Newcastle coalmining district of NSW, 1860-1900* PhD thesis. University of Sydney 1979 pp.171-172

n Australian Archiyes (NSW) Series 32: Swansea Post Office files

n *Miners'Advocate* 17.10.1874p.4

²⁴ J W Turner *James and Alexander Brown 1843-1877* (Newcastle History Monographs no.4) Newcastle Public Library 1968 p.21

zs NSW Land Titles Office: Certificate of Title vol.202 fol.122; Deposited Plan no.163: Town of Cowper Catherine Hill Bay County of Northumberland 1875

Hill Bay coal seam around 1845, and Keene Street was named in honour of another geologist and former coalfields examiner, William Keene.²⁶

While the process of registering the subdivision was under way in February 1875, the Chairman of the company, Jacob Montefiore, wrote to the Chief Secretary of the colony asking for immediate police protection at Catherine Hill Bay. Montefiore claimed that the township contained a large hotel and that **"scarcely a day passes without some violation of the laws against person or property."** Sub-Inspector Thorpe from Newcastle police station visited Catherine Hill Bay in March in response to Montefiore's request. He spoke to De Flon, manager of the mine, and to the publican, both of whom gave him "alarming" reports about the conduct of the miners. They told him of "continuous gambling and consequently brutal fights" and reported that the publican had been kept up two or three nights in a row by miners refusing to leave the pub. He was obliged to attend to the miners at all hours: "if he refuses or hesitates they break his windows or destroy his door."

Thorpe concluded that if even half of what he heard was true, then it would take "a steady determined man" to deal with the miners at New Wallsend. He recommended a mounted constable, noting that quarters, a cell, and stables, would need to be erected. There was no grass in the township, so forage for the horse would have to be shipped in. Since it was a private township there **was no Government Reserve which might provide a site for the police station.** Mr Hale offered, on behalf of the Company, to provide temporary accommodation.²⁷

There is some evidence that the New Wallsend Coal Company did not intend to maintain its private town as an exclusively company town, In June 1875 the Newcastle Chronicle and the Miners' Advocate announced a forthcoming sale of "67 large building allotments of land, with large frontages to the main streets" in "that rising and progressive township of Cowper"s²

²⁶ entries for John Morrice and John Usher in *A Biographical Register 1788-1939* Vol.II pp.239 and 314; entry for William Branwhite Clarke pp.420-422 in *ADB 1851-1890*-, entry for William Keene p.5 in *ADB 1851-1890*; *Sydney Mail* 17.7.1875 p.73

n AONSW Col.Sec. Io-Lett=: 1/2329 oo.76/3033

²⁸ *Newcastle Chronicle* 19.6.1875 p.5; *Miners' Advocaie* 30.6.1875 p.3

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Advertisement in the *Miners' Advocate* 30 June 1875 calling the attention of
"the working classes" and "inhabitants of the mining townships" to the
forthcoming auction sale of 67 large blocks of land at Catherine Hill Bay.

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The Directors of the company had placed the sale in the hands of auctioneer J C Bonarius. His advertisement was addressed to 'the miners of the district, speculators, and others' but he particularly sought the 'attention of the working class'. Bonarius declared that prices would be within the reach of every working man. The sale was scheduled for July 6 and the *Miners' Advocate* reported that on that day a large crowd gathered at Newcastle wharf in readiness to travel to Catherine Hill Bay on the company's steamer, the *Susannah Cuthbert*. The *Advocate* suggested that some of the intending **passengers were not so much interested in speculating in land as looking forward to a cheap day's outing. They were disappointed when it transpired that the vessel was not licenced to carry passengers.**²⁹

The sale was postponed. But in the early hours of the following morning the *Susannah Cuthbert* ran aground en route to Sydney, carrying a full cargo of coal.³⁰ When the auction at Catherine Hill Bay finally took place in August only a handful of allotments were sold and the purchasers were speculators **rather than miners.**³¹

This disappointing response probably reflected more about the financial resources of the working class than it did about the perceived prospects of the town. In mid 1875 both the Newcastle and Sydney press carried positive reports on the settlement at Catherine Hill Bay. A journalist from the *Miners' Advocate* visited the town in June 1875 and found that in the six months since he had last been there the township had increased in population and importance and had now about thirty or forty houses within the boundary of the town, and some 100 inhabitants. About 60 or 70 men were employed by the coal **company. The journalist noted the existence of the post office, a couple of**

²⁹ *Miners' Advocate* 1.7.1875 p.3

Miners' Advocate 10.7.1875 p.7

" Two of these speculative buyers were John Taaffe jnr, a Lake Macquarie farmer, and his uncle Thomas Boyd, also of Lake Macquarie. Their purchases were registered in November 1875. (NSW Land Titles Office: Certificates of Title vol.240 fol.94 & vol.240 fol.95) There were others whose purchases were unregistered at the time. References to some of these sales can be found in the Wallarah Coal Company's minutes for 1.5.1889, 2.4.1890, 16.7.1890, 23.7.1890 and 27.5.1891 (ML.MSS 3876/12). Other references can be found in an account book kept by mine manager De Flon, a copy of which is included in Matt Diver's monumental scrapbook of Catherine Hill Bay in words and pictures.

stores, the butcher and a baker. On a more critical note, he observed that there was only one public house. It was called the *New Wal/send Hotel* and was kept by a Mr Talbot. He suggested that Talbot needed to increase his **accommodation or face competition.** ³²

In July 1875 the *Sydney Mail* carried an article on the settlement. The *Mail's* **reporter found the township to "possess indications of advancing civilisation"** with "comfortable residences" being erected for family men "as distinguished from the smaller conages appropriated to the unmarried miners". He noted the presence of a doctor as well as the storekeeper, baker and butcher and "Mr Talbot's neat-looking hotel". A few weeks later a local correspondent reported in the *Miners' Advocate* that several small dwellings had recently been erected and that a large building was then in course of construction. He complained, though, that the price of groceries and produce generally was very high while their quality was poor. He suggested that a good general store was badly wanted in the township.³⁴ The large building under construction became a hotel run by Thomas Trevellion and the local correspondent was soon encouraged to hear that the hotel's enterprising proprietor intended to connect a store and boarding house to the hotel."

In April 1875 a local committee had been formed to petition the government for the establishment of a public school. Postmaster Boulton was secretary of the committee, mine manager De Flon was chairman and the coal company offered to make available two lots of land fronting Keene Street for a school building. A formal application for a school was submitted in August.³⁶ But within weeks the company's financial affairs took a downturn, not helped by the earlier wreck of the *Susannah Cuthben*.³¹

n *Miners' Advocate* 12.6.1875 p.5

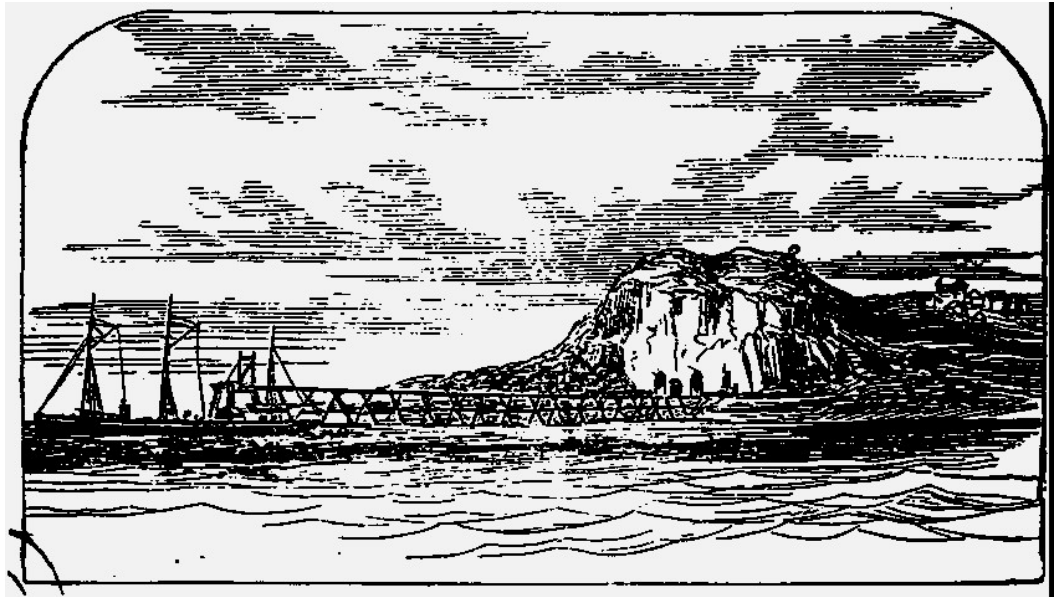
" *Sydney Mail* 17.7.1875 p.73

:w *Miners' Advocate* 18.8.1875 p.3

3 *Miners' Advocate* 11.9.1875

36 AONSW 5115340: Catherine Hill Bay school files; *Sydney Morning Herald* 25.1.1876 p.7

37 *Miners' Advocate* 11.9.1875p.2



..

An illustration of the New Wallsend Coal Company's mine at Catherine Hill Bay published in the *Sydney Mail* on 17 July 1875 p.73, showing the jetty **running straight into the workings above the beach at the southern end of the** bay. The *Mail* explained that there were two tunnels into the face of the cliff, one of which contained two 20 horse power engines and Cornish flue boilers, one for draining the mine and one for haulage purposes.

In September the company reduced its price for hewing coal and the miners stopped work in protest." One newspaper observed that the storekeepers and hotelkeepers in the township would feel this "unpleasant crisis" more than any other class and predicted that there would be a general clear out of all business people.³⁹ **In these circumstances no immediate move was made by the Council of Education to establish a school.**

Despite the dispute, some members of the community at Catherine Hill Bay **were optimistic about the future. The same issue of the *Miners' Advocate*** which reported the strike also noted that Talbot was adding a billiard room to his hotel which, when completed, would "doubtless prove a source of great **attraction to many who now have no means whatever of enjoying themselves.**"⁴⁰

Although local observers were confident that the known reserves of coal in the **district would ensure the continued existence of the township. their hopes** proved false. Developments at the New Wallsend mine had an immediate impact on the township. Charles Boulton had resigned from the position of postmaster in September 1875 and was replaced in October by Elizabeth Simpson, wife of the mine's underground manager. She had been postmistress **for less than a month when she advised the Postmaster-General's Department that her husband was leaving the district owing to immediate changes taking place with the New Wallsend mine.**" She was replaced in November by storekeeper Thomas Caldwell.

Caldwell also became Secretary of the local school committee. He wrote to the Council of Education in November 1875, urging progress on the application **for a school. He also wrote to Thomas Hale seeking his intervention on the committee's behalf with the Council of Education.**⁴² A public meeting was held in the township in January 1876 to push forward the campaign for a

³⁸ *Miners' Advocate* 18.9.1875 p.2

" *Sydney Morning Herald* 30.9.1875 p.5

Miners' Advocate 22.9.1875 p.2

" Australian Archives (NSW) Series 32: Swansea Post Office files

AONSW 5/15340: Catherine Hill Bay school files

school. It was a "respectable and unanimous meeting of between seventy and eighty of the inhabitants assembled in the large room of Mr Knowles' store and bakery".⁴³

Following the meeting a new application was submitted in February 1876 by a local committee comprising De Flon the mine manager, Talbot and Trevellion the innkeepers, Malarkey the Senior Constable, Caldwell the storekeeper, Knowles the baker, Robbins the mine's underground manager and a miner named Falvey. The District Inspector of Schools supported the application, noting that the nearest existing school was Galgabba Provisional, about 6 miles away. He suggested that the proposed site for the school was too small and recommended that the company should be asked to add two further allotments to the site." A local correspondent for the *Miners' Advocate* reported at this time that the mine was working "fairly" and that matters generally were looking a little better in the town.⁴⁵ But once again, within weeks of the application for a school being made, there were new rumours that the mine was going to close.⁴⁶

Late in February another travelling reporter from the *Miners' Advocate* made a tour from Wallsend to Catherine Hill Bay. He found Catherine Hill Bay to be a "scattered settlement, containing 30 or 40 habitations amongst which were the two hotels, the store and post office, and the baker's establishment. He noted that there was no reading room or other place of amusement so presumed that the public houses were well patronised. He concluded with the observation that the mine had been idle for some months, rendering the place almost too poor for any man to live."⁴⁷

The uncertainty surrounding the settlement was finally resolved in March 1876 when the *Miners' Advocate* reported that the New Wallsend Coal Company was undercapitalised, that operations had been suspended and that a notice had

⁴³ Sydney Morning Herald 25.1.1876 p.7; *Miners' Advocate* 29.1.1876 p.2

AONSW 5/15340: Catherine Hill Bay school files

" *Miners' Advocate* 29.1.1876 p.2

⁴⁶ *Miners' Advocate* 19.2.1876 p.3

⁴⁷ *Miners' Advocate* 26.2.1876 p.6

been posted of the dissolution of the company." Thomas Hale carried the brunt of the company's failure. He was declared insolvent in February 1876. Amongst his personal property sequestered by the Supreme Court were 1395 paid up shares in the company and several cargoes of coal shipped to Shanghai, Auckland, Singapore and other destinations. Amongst his creditors were 40 miners at Catherine Hill Bay who were owed wages. Nearly 30 men **working in associated mining trades, including coal wheelers, water hailers, drivers and prop setters, were also owed wages. Hale told the examiner of insolvent estates that he attributed his insolvency to losses on coal shipments and to his connection with the New Wallsend Coal Mining Company, being liable as a director for a cash credit of nearly £12000 advanced to the company by the City Bank of Sydney.**⁴⁸

In early April 1876 the District Inspector for Schools recommended that since **the coal company's operations had been discontinued, it was not advisable to** proceed with the erection of a public school.⁴⁹ In late April Sub-Inspector Thorpe from the Newcastle police station told his superiors that there was very little necessity to keep the police station at Catherine Hill Bay. Indeed, despite **the earlier stories of a lawless community, Thorpe reported that since the** constable had been stationed there he had had nothing to do. Senior Constable Malarkey was transferred to Wallsend.⁵¹

In February 1877 the town's storekeeper, Thomas Caldwell, closed his **business and tendered his resignation as postmaster. He nominated Charles De Flon,** son of the mine manager, as his successor. Hotelkeeper Robert Talbot also applied for the position. Talbot explained to the Postmaster-General that he was the owner of the principal store, hotel and other property and that he **had a room for the post office attached to his store.**⁵²

Talbot was appointed postmaster in March 1877 at the same time that the New

⁴⁸ *Miners' Advocate* 4.3.1876 p.3

⁴⁹ AONSW 2/9600 no.12776: Insolvent estate of Thomas Hale

AONSW 5/15340: Catherine Hill Bay school files

⁵¹ AONSW Col.Sec. In-Letters: 1/2329 no. 76/3033

⁵² Australian Archives (NSW) Series 32: Swansea Post Office files

Wallsend Company's coal workings were finally closed. The *Newcastle Morning Herald* reported in April 1877 that much of the settlement had already been abandoned and that the few people remaining, including Mr De Flon, were about to depart to Little Bulli colliery on the South Coast. Only a handful of men were still in the district, working on the Lake Macquarie Coal Company's bore, south of the New Wallsend Company's land."

Robert Talbot kept up his business establishment for 2½ years after the closure of the mine. Finally, in October 1879 he moved his family to a new residence at Lake Macquarie Heads, telling the postal department that a large population was settling at the heads where Messrs Lamb, Knox and Parbury were opening a colliery and large saw mills. This new settlement was called Pelican Flat and is today Swansea. Talbot said that only one family remained at the Bay. He asked permission to remove the post office to a room in their house adjoining his own since contractors were about to take his house down and re-erect it elsewhere. Then, in November 1879, Talbot reported that the last family had left the Bay and that" he had removed all Post Office property to his new residence at Pelican Flat.⁵⁴

The *Newcastle Directory & Almanoc for the year 1881*, published in late 1880, summed up the preceding seven years of settlement at Catherine Hill Bay in a few plain words, "the place has completely collapsed". The *Directory* reported that Messrs Lamb, Knox and Parbury had purchased the plant, stock and houses of the former settlement and had re-erected most of the houses on their estate at Lake Macquarie entrance. The "business people, houses, and all have disappeared to pastures new."⁵⁵

" *Newcastle Morning Herald* 6.4.1877 p.3

⁵⁴ Australian Archives (NSW) Series 32: Swansea Post Office files

⁵⁵ H W Shaw *The Newcastle Directory 188011881* (facsimile edition) North Sydney Library of Australian History 1978 p.58

SURVIVING PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE 1870s
TOWNSHIP OF COWPER & THE NEW WALLSEND COAL
MINING COMPANY

In September 1877 the Council of Education shelved consideration of any plans to establish a public school at Catherine Hill Bay. But they didn't simply close the file. While it seemed probable that the mine would be closed for some years, nevertheless there was an abundance of coal in the locality and the company was still holding out some hope that the working of the mine would be resumed by the end of the year. Just in case the mine did reopen and a school was to be established, the District Inspector marked out two suitable sites on a copy of the 1875 plan of the 'Township of Cowper'. He also indicated the location of existing buildings, noting that the site originally selected for a school was not very suitable, being "on a sandy hill immediately in the vicinity of the miners' huts."⁵⁶

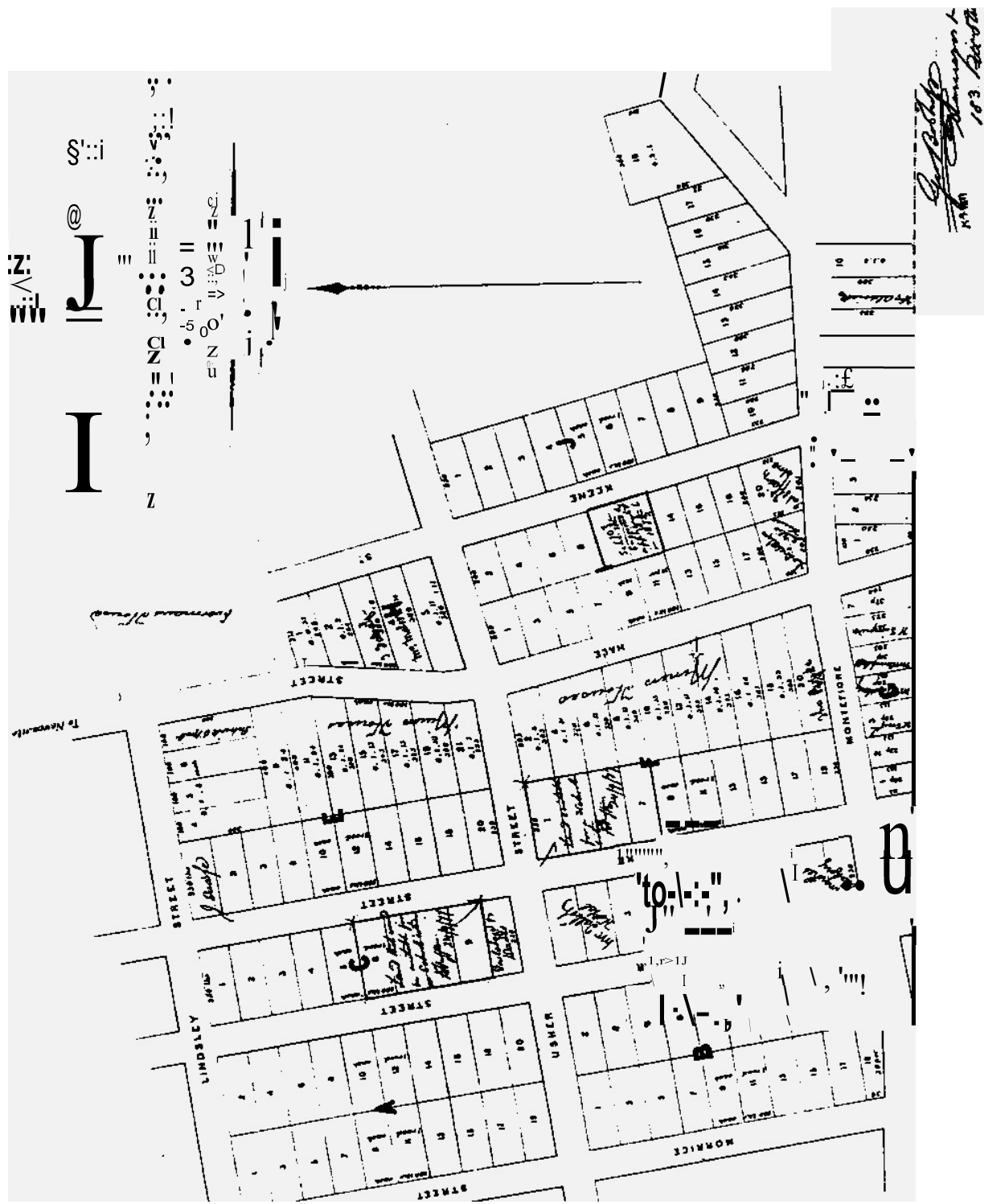
This annotated map shows the location of Talbot and Trevellion's hotels, the baker, the first post office, the constable, a row of miners' houses, and a handful of other occupied lots. Talbot's hotel was on the same site as the present *Wallarrah Hotel* in Clarke Street, with the constable stationed next to the hotel. Trevellion's hotel, the post office and store and the bakery are shown in Montefiore Street.

A row of miners' houses is shown fronting Hale Street. Some individual miners, like Thomas Falvey from the local school committee, are shown to be occupying blocks elsewhere in the township but no miners' cottages are shown in Clarke Street, the street which today boasts the oldest miners cottages in Catherine Hill Bay. If the evidence of this map is added to that provided by the *Newcastle Directory* of 1881 - that the houses from Catherine Hill Bay had been removed to Lake Macquarie Heads - then it seems clear that none of the miners' cottages in present day Catherine Hill Bay date from the days of the New Wallsend Company.

The location of the mine manager's residence, on the other hand, is today on the same site as the residence built in 1873, The jetty is only slightly north of the location of the original 1873 structure. Evidence of the original mine

y; AONSW 5/15340: Catherine Hill Bay school files

workings in the face of the cliff south of the jetty can be clearly recognised, and the chains embedded into rock and sand near the jetty and other rusted, barnacle-encrusted iron objects at the water's edge are all clear signifiers of that first mining venture of 1873, even though they almost certainly date from later periods. Four of the streets of the 1875 subdivision have disappeared or were never formed, but Montefiore, Clarke, Lindsley and Hale Streets do survive and although Frazer Street is not a formed road it is the formal street address for a few houses.



Plan drawn and registered in 1875 but annotated in September 1877 to show existing buildings and suitable sites for a school in the New Wallsend Coal Mining Company's "Township of Cowper". (source: AONSW 5/15340: Catherine Hill Bay school files)

Quherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company toi,wi

THE WALLARAH COAL COMPANY

AN ENGLISH COMPANY

In May 1888 the *Newcastle Morning Herald* reported that a new company called the Wallarah Coal Company, with a capital of £100,000, was being offered to the English investing public.¹ A prospectus printed in London announced that the London directors of the company would be William O Gilchrist, Director of the Union Bank of London, William Lund, shipowner, Ernest R Moon, barrister, and Charles Parbury, Director of the Union Bank of Australia. Gilchrist had been born in Sydney in 1843, son of a prominent colonial merchant. Parbury was born in Sydney in 1834, also the son of a merchant, and he had been one of the directors of the company which was involved in coal-mining at Lake Macquarie Heads in 1879.² The Wallarah Coal Company was thus an English company with strong colonial connections.

A Local Board set up to manage the company's affairs in Australia comprised the Hon Samuel Aaron Joseph, John De Villiers Lamb and Robert Saddington. Joseph had been one of the original shareholders and later a director of the New Wallsend Coal Company.³ Lamb and Saddington had been partners with Parbury in his 1879 coal mining venture at Lake Macquarie Heads. The three men had other pastoral and property interests, including several portions of **land at Lake Macquarie. They also had a previous association with William Gilchrist.** When the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company was formed in October 1878 to extract and refine shale-oil at Joadja Creek, Lamb, Saddington, Parbury and Gilchrist were among the major shareholders.'

Newcastle Morning Herald 25.5.1888 p.4

entry for John Gilchrist p.442 *ADB 1788-1850*; *Old Times* April 1903 pp.n-73: entry for John Lamb pp.73-73 *ADB 1788-1850*

Sands' Sydney and Suburban Directory for 1875 p.539; *Sands' Sydney and Suburban Direaory for 18n* p.580

- H W Shaw *The Newcastle Directory 1880/1881* (facsimile edition) Nonh Sydney Library of Australian History 1978 p.58; *Town and Country Journal* 25.8.1883 p.363; entry for John De Villiers Lamb pp.55-56*ADB 1851-1890*; Leonie Knapman *Joadja Creek: the shale oil town and its people* Sydney Hale & Iremonger 1988

Gatherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company lmvn



Section of a map of the Parish of Wallarah, County of Northumberland, third edition 1891, showing portions 10 to 15 conditionally purchased by John De Villiers Lamb and Robert Saddington in 1879, portions 16 to 18 conditionally purchased by Saddington and Charles Parbury in 1879, and portion 20 originally purchased in 1875 by Jacob Levi Montefiore and Thomas Hale for the New Wallsend Coal Company.

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company IOiffi

It seems that Messrs Joseph, Lamb et al had approached Messrs Lund and Moon with a proposal to form a company to mine coal on the land they owned at Lake Macquarie. Lund and Moon sent out an independent expert, Thomas Parton, to inspect the property offered by these gentlemen. Parton was a mining engineer, a Fellow of the Geological Society, and a past president of the South Staffordshire and East Worcester Mining Institute. He reported favorably on the prospects for coal mining in the area. noting that there were "vast supplies of mining timber available on the estate", including spotted gum, ironbark, white mahogany. bloodwood, turpentine, red gum and "every variety of pit timber". It was "also very favourably circumstanced for the shipping trade". Parton added that Catherine Hill Bay was well sheltered and offered good facilities for building a jetty. remarking that the New Wallsend Company's jetty, "not strongly built and of the old type". had stood the test of fourteen years until burnt down about two years earlier.⁵

In May 1888 the Wallarah Coal Company agreed to purchase portions 16, 17, 18, 19 and part of portion 20 of Wallarah Parish from Messrs Lamb. Saddington, Joseph et al for £50,000. The conveyances took place over the ensuing twelve months. excluding the handful of lots in portion 20 that had already been alienated by the New Wallsend company in 1875 and certain allotments reserved for church and school.⁶

The subscription list for shareholders closed in August 1888 with the company formally listed in London in September 1888. Parton was appointed mine manager on September 28 and sailed for Sydney. He arrived in late November and immediately began building a wharf at Catherine Hill Bay, choosing more or less the same location as had the New Wallsend Company in 1873. This was the most sheltered part of the Bay. Parton's wharf extended for a distance of 1020ft and was 30ft above high water mark. enabling vessels of 3000 tons to coal at the shoots.⁷

Parton selected a new site for the colliery, 2½ miles north of the bay and

Wallarab Coal Company Limited (New Soud1 Wales) Prospecrus. 1888

NSW Land Titles Office: Certificates of Title vol.816 fol.182. vol.915 fol.210, vol.915 fol.211

Nei,vcastle Morning Herald 14. 10.1890 p.7

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a compally luwn

north of the seam worked by the New Wallsend company. He built a railway running from the mine to the wharf and set up a sawmill which provided nearly all the timber needed by the company for railway sleepers as well as for use in the mine and in other buildings.' In August 1889 a small group of experienced miners contracted by the company in England arrived in New South Wales and began work on the first Wallarah company tunnel.'

1888-1889: RE-SETTLEMENT OF CATHERINE HILL BAY

Parton chose to re-establish a township at Catherine Hill Bay based on the New Wallsend company's subdivision. The site was, after all, "a beautiful undulating slope overlooking the bay". In July and August 1889, first the United Free Methodist Church and then the Church of England wrote to the company seeking land in the township on which to erect churches. The company was willing to allocate allotments to these churches from those reserved for church and school use. In the same month the *Newcastle Morning Herald* announced that the Post-Master General had decided to open a post office at Catherine Hill Bay under the charge of Mr Charles Charwood.¹⁰ In August too, Robert Saddington, the Sydney-based secretary of the Wallarah Coal Company wrote to the district inspector of schools, offering to sell land to the Department of Public Instruction for a school site.

A formal application for the establishment of a public school was made in September 1889. The population of the district was then about 200, or whom there were likely to be 30 students enrolled in the school. The applicants explained that for £15 a year they expected to be able to rent a weatherboard building then being built for the Church of England. Since the education department had reservations about the future success of the coal company they chose to accept the Church of England offer rather than purchase land from the company to build a school themselves. A lease was signed in October 1889, the Church reserving the right to hold divine service in the building.¹¹

Newcastle Morning Herald 7.2.1890 p.8

ML.MSS 3876/12: Wallarah Coal Company Ltd Local Board Sydney. Minute Books 28.8.1889

¹⁰ *Newcastle Morning Herald* 27.8.1889 p.5

" AONSW 5/15340: Catherine Hill Bay school files

Catherine Hill Bay: latuisaJ.pe uf a company tov.m

[n the same month Thomas Parton wrote to his English principals, r'f.orting that the township had "grown into respectable proportions" with "14 cottages occupied and others in progress". As well as the Church of England then being built and the planned Methodist church. Robert Talbot had returned to Catherine Hill Bay and built "a large store and a large hotel" on his land in Clarke Street. Parton felt able to conclude that "altogether we are developing from bush life to a more civilised one."¹²

In late November 1889 Mr R Stevenson MP, Member for Wollombi, visited Catherine Hill Bay during a tour of his electorate. Parton showed Stevenson over his "magnificent jetty" and led him on an inspection of the various coal seams. Then Stevenson went on to "Mr Tobin's Wallarah Hotel" where an "enthusiastic meeting was held, chaired by Mr R F Talbot, one of the oldest residents of Catherine Hill Bay". It seems that Michael Tobin was the licensee for the hotel built by Talbot on the site of Talbot's earlier *New Wal/send Hotel*.

Stevenson expressed amazement at the almost magical development of the place since his last visit and noted that Parton was having "neat brick and weatherboard cottages erected for the comfort of his men".¹³ The early financial records of the company indicate something of the scale of the investment Parton made in creating the township. By December 1890 he had spent more than £4300 on building miners' cottages and around £700 on his own house which was built of brick. Thousands of bricks were also used in the township, some for cottages but more for chimneys. Some were used in building a bakery oven.¹⁴

In December 1889 the *Newcastle Morning Herald* reported that a ceremony had taken place in Catherine Hill Bay to celebrate the laying of the foundation stone of the United Free Methodist Church with Mrs. Parton, wife of the mine manager, laying the stone. The *Herald* noted that this first stage of the building had been the fruit of nine months of committee efforts. Chairman of the

" quoted in *Newcastle Morning Herald* 10.6.1967 p.7

" *Newcastle Morning Herald* 10.12.1889 p.3

" ML.MSS 3876/49: Wallarah Coal Company Ltd Records Local Board Sydney. Journals. June 1889-December 1900

Committee was Joseph SJW,rring, under manager of the mine and one of the miners who had been sent out from England by the company.

The establishment of the United Free Methodist Church in Catherine Hill Bay so soon after the town's re-settlement was a reflection of the particular religious character of the Newcastle mining district where Primitive. United Free and other Methodist churches were much stronger than in the rest of the colony. The reasons for this strength lay partly in the English regional origins of many of the inhabitants of the colliery townships. Large numbers of miners from Northumberland and Durham had emigrated to the Newcastle district, bringing with them a non-conformist religious practice as well as a radical political traditionu.

[n its report of the laying of the foundation stone the *Herald* explained that the Free Methodist Church did not approve of state aid so would not accept government grants of land. Nevertheless they were establishing new churches throughout the Newcastle district "and in all places where the colliery companies had been asked. allotments had been secured to them. and the same was true of Catherine Hill Bay." The gathering carried a resolution of thanks to the Directors of the Company "for their munificent gift of land and timber".¹⁶

In January 1890 the Wallarah Coal Company made its first shipment of coal" and in February the *Newcastle Morning Herald* carried a feature story on the new company's "gigantic undertaking". The newspaper thought that the development of the colliery marked a new era in coal-mining in the Lake Macquarie district. The newspaper reported that buildings were fast springing up, and that Catherine Hill Bay might be said to be booming. As well as the hotel, two stores, the churches, the school and the post office, tLe community at the Bay .expected that within a few weeks "telephonic communication with Wyee" would be established."

" Ellen McEwen *The Newcastle coalmining district of .VSW. 1860-19()*(, PhD thesis, University of Sydney 1979 pp.260-300

" *Newcastle Morning Herald* 12.12.1889 p.7

" *Newcastle Morning Herald* 1.2.1890 p.2

" *Newcastle Morning HeraJd* 7.2.1890 p.8

Catherine Hill Bay: lat1dscape of a company town

The *Newcastle Morning Herald* sounded one sour note in its otherwise enthusiastic review of the Wallarah Coal Company's progress. This involved a matter of industrial relations. The 120 men and youths working for the company had recently formed a miners' lodge and had been admitted into the Amalgamated Miners' Association. They wished to be paid the same rates paid to other miners in the Newcastle district but one problem facing them in negotiations with management was the situation of some nine miners who were engaged in England under a two years agreement, by which they were bound to work at any wage deemed sufficient by the managers.

This tension came to a head following a stoppage at the mine in late August when some of the miners brought out from England took part in the strike. Thomas Parton chose to prosecute one of these miners, John Sperring, as a test case of breach of agreement. The prosecution was successful. In the meantime Parton had exercised his power to evict Sperring and his fellows from their cottages.¹⁹ Catherine Hill Bay was once again showing its colours as a company town.

The early minute books of the Wallarah company reveal that while the company was prepared to allocate ground to churches and sell land for school purposes, always reserving the mineral rights, it generally wanted "to obtain exclusive control of the property in the vicinity of the company's operations". Wherever possible it bought back allotments that had been sold by the New Wallsend company. It was particularly frustrated by Robert Talbot's refusal to surrender his claim to the land on which the hotel was built.¹⁰

Meanwhile the rising population of the township soon placed pressure on government departments to provide public services. A police presence was the first to be established. By mid-1890 the Police Department had stationed a police constable at Catherine Hill Bay in a brick cottage rented from the company in Clarke Street. The department put up a portable cell next to the cottage.²¹

" ML.MSS 3876/12 Wallarah Coal Company Ltd Records Local Board Sydney. Minute Books 17.9.1890, 1.10.1890, 16.10.1890: *Newcastle Morning Herald* 14.10.1890p.7

ro ML.MSS 3876/12: JO. I. 1889, 1.5.1889. 26.6.1889, 18.9.1889, 2.4.1890, 16.7.1890, 27.5.1891

" AONSW Col.Sec In-Letters: Register 90.8322

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company Lown

By early 1891 the pressure on the Department of Public Instruction to build a proper school came not only from rapid population growth but also from changes in the shape of the town. A map drawn in April 1891 by the Newcastle Inspector of Schools shows the pattern of settlement at this time. The largest group of cottages were clustered along Clarke Street, with a handful in Lindsley Street. There were a few scattered buildings on the extreme south of the settlement, near the United Free Methodist Church, but more significantly there was now a group of buildings near the mine. 2½ miles to the north and some houses on either side of the railway midway between the bay settlement and the mine. This locality was called Middle Camp. Another group of buildings had been erected near the sawmill.

The Department selected a site for the school midway between the settlements and the Wallarah Coal Company agreed to sell land to the Department for £100 an acre. In August 1892 William Kemp, architect for public schools, prepared plans for a brick school building on stone foundations to be erected at an estimated cost of £1225. Since the land had not yet been conveyed by the company to the department, Kemp's plans were shelved. However, the closure of a private school at Catherine Hill Bay later in 1891 added pressure to already inadequate accommodation in the Church of England building. In January 1891 the school moved into the United Free Methodist Church. It was only a temporary solution. By August local MP Stevenson was writing to the Minister of Public Works urging action on the erection of a school, pointing out that the church was neither large enough nor central. Some members of the Church were not happy with the arrangement either since the rent paid was regarded as state aid in another form.²²

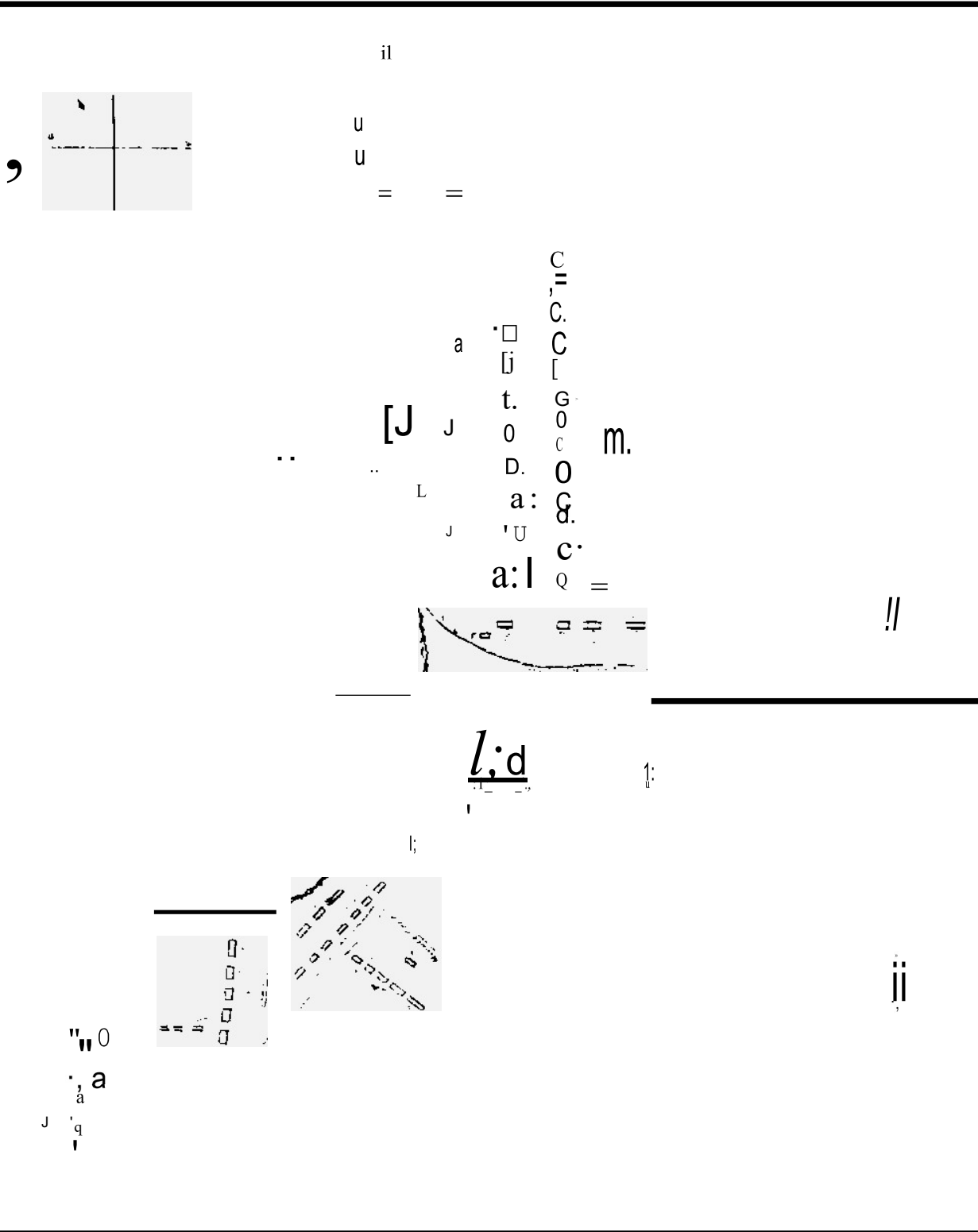
The site for the new school was finally conveyed in September 1892²³ but six months later no move had been made to erect a building on the site. Thomas Boyd, a Lake Macquarie pilot, offered the Department the use of a hall. Boyd was one of the few private landholders in the town, having purchased an allotment on the corner of Hale and Montefiore Streets in 1875.¹⁴

AONSW 5/15340 Catherine Hill Bay school files: ML.MSS 3876/12 Wallarah Coal Company Ltd Records Local Board Sydney. Minute Books 25.2.1891

NSW Land Titles Office: Certificate of Title vol.1069 fol.91

NSW Land Titles Office: Certificate of Title vol.240 fol.95

Catherini: Hill Bay: landscape of a company town



Plan of the school district of Catherine Hill Bay in April 1891. drawn by Newcastle inspector of Schools J McCormack. As well as showing the site selected for a new school. the map shows the railway and jetty, the mine manager's house, United Free Methodist Church and the original school in the Church of England building. (source: AONSW 5/15340 Catherine Hill Bay school files)

Carherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company lawn

Boyd's offer was turned down. The Department had finally given approval for the erection of a new school and teacher's residence. These were to be "cheap buildings" since the chief inspector of schools thought that architect Kemp's estimate of £1225 was "altogether too much to spend in this locality." He suggested instead that the local inspector be authorized to "arrange with the local manager of the colliery company for the erection of suitable buildings, including a residence, at a cost not to exceed £450." The chief inspector pointed out that mine manager Parton was "quite competent to advise and assist in erecting the necessary buildings". Parton, however, was too busy with company affairs and declined to assist." Once again the matter lapsed.

Parton was indeed busy in 1893 opening a new tunnel, known as "B" pit, to the west of the original "A" pit, with the railway running up the gully between them. He may also have been busy promoting the image of the company. In January 1894, the *Newcastle Morning Herald* carried a substantial two-part article on the Wallarah colliery." The newspaper noted that while there was a general stagnation in the coal trade, with hundreds of miners unemployed and 800 men either locked out or on strike. and miners starving in some townships, the Wallarah colliery, by contrast, was one of only two mining townships thriving. The paper suggested that, in having their own wharf, their own ships and their own railway, the Wallarah company enjoyed special advantages. In addition, "all the timber required at the mine. as well as that used in the construction of the buildings which form the township of Wallarah, was procured on the estate" and there was still hundreds of acres of virgin bush remaining which formed a very valuable asset for the company.

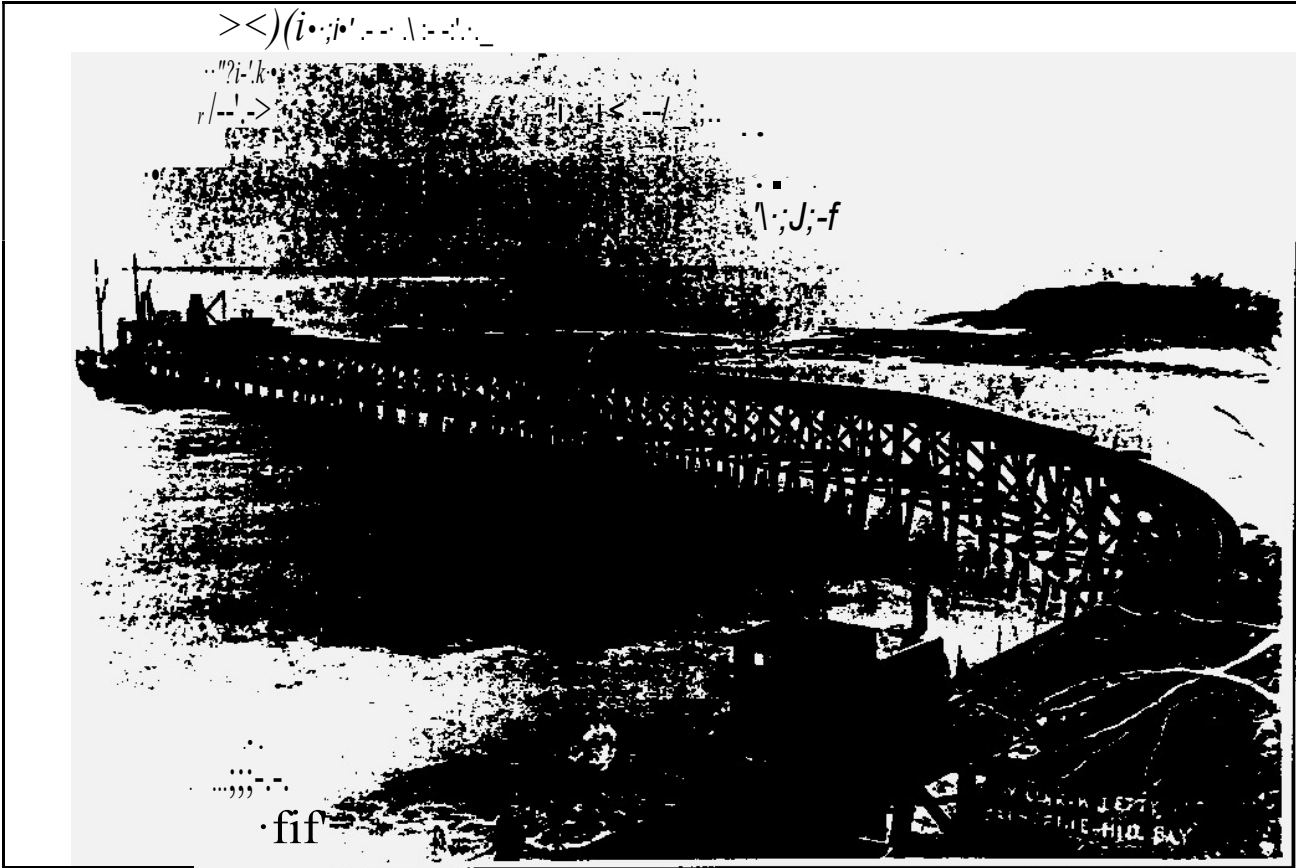
Thomas Parton returned "home" to England in February 1894 for a six-month holiday.²⁷ The *Herald* article was, at very least, a timely piece to show his London-based directors. Parton may also have been responsible for organising the visit of photographer Ralph Snowball to Catherine Hill Bay in early February 1894. Snowball was a former coal-miner who travelled with his camera throughout the Newcastle colliery districts for more than thirty years.

AONSW 5/15340: Catherine Hill Bay school files

" *Newcastle Morning Herald* 20.1.1894 p.6, 23.1.1894 p.3

Newcastle Morning Herald 8.9.1894 p.8

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town



The Wallarah Coal Company's jetty at Catherine Hill Bay. Photograph taken by Ralph Snowball in February 1894. The jetty was central to the operations of the company and was the first structure built by mine manager Thomas Parton after his arrival at Catherine Hill Bay in November 1888. This wharf extended for a distance of 1020 feet and was 30 feet above high water mark, enabling vessels of 3000 tons to coal at the shoots. In 1894 the Company had two colliers "constantly employed in taking coal to Sydney and other ports". It also had 100 hopper-shaped waggons with opening bottoms. These were made in England and sent out in segments. (source: Ken Shilling, Newcastle)

Catherine Hill Bay, landscape of a company town



Inclined skipway running from the mine towards the sawmill at Wallarah colliery. Photograph taken by Ralph Snowball in February 1894. For colliery manager Thomas Parton this photograph would have demonstrated to his English employers two of the great advantages enjoyed by the Wallarah Coal Company over many of its competitors. One was the private railway which meant that coal could be loaded onto skips and easily transported to the company's jetty for shipment to Sydney and beyond. The other was the extensive resource of virgin timber on the company's estate which could be used to supply all the timber used in the mine as well as that used for building company housing. (source: Ken Shilling, Newcastle)

Catherine Hill Bay Precinct Study of a comparative study



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The entrance to "B" pit at Wallarah colliery, with a locomotive used as a winding engine. Photograph taken by Ralph Snowball in February 1894. This was the second adit opened by the Wallarah Coal Company at their Catherine Hill Bay colliery. The first, "A" pit, was begun in August 1889 while "B" pit was opened in 1893, just a few months before colliery manager Parton returned to England for a six-month holiday. The opening of this new tunnel would have been one of highlights of his report to the London company directors in [1894].

{source: Ken Shillm . Newcastle}

Comhermt' Hi!! Bur hmi/scupt' of a , 'OM'WM' town

In its January 1894 article about the Wallarah company the *Newcastle Morning Herald* noted that the residence of the mine manager was "a spacious house". with "well laid out grounds", and erected on a hill overlooking the whole settlement. The township built by the company was "beautifully situated on the northern slope of a hill overlooking the bow-shaped bay" and there were then "30 wooden 4-roomed cottages in the township leased to the employees, each having a plot of ground attached."

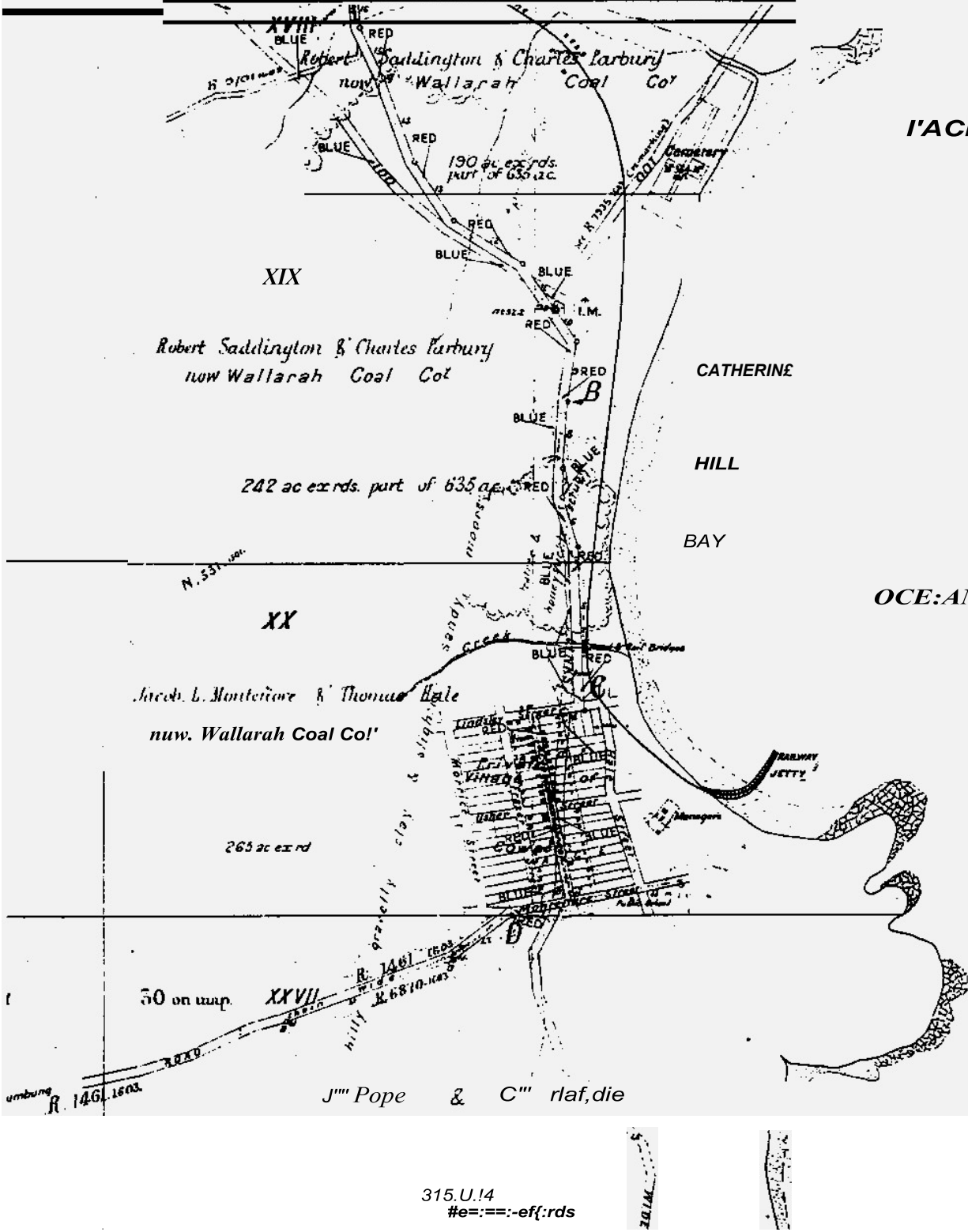
A Lands Department survey of the road through Catherine Hill Bay made in late December 1892 shows that 20 of these cottages were in Clarke Street, lining both sides of the block between Usher and Lindsley Streets. Three cottages are shown in Lindsley Street." The map shows that the only lot in this block without a cottage in late 1892 was the lot on the north-east corner of Clarke and Lindsley Streets. This had been sold in 1875 to John Taaffe jnr, a Lake Macquarie farmer. Like his uncle, Thomas Boyd, Taaffe was one of the few 'speculators' at the New Wallsend Coal Company's 1875 auction.'" The building now existing on this lot was built many years after the company cottages erected in Clarke and Lindsley Streets. Its very difference from its **neighbours testifies to its non-company origins.**

Although the *Newcastle Morning Herald* reported in January 1894 that the Wallarah Company leased cottages to the miners "on easy terms". it also noted that a great many of the men preferred living near the mine, unwilling to face a 2½ mile walk to and from work each day. They had, accordingly, erected huts or "bush cottages" near the tunnels. The newspaper did not mention that **only a few weeks earlier Thomas Parton had threatened to evict all miners who lived in the Wallarah company's houses unless they accepted a reduction in working conditions.**³⁰ It seems likely that some at least of the miners who chose to build huts near the mine were seeking a measure of independence from company control.

²¹ R4602.J603. Ptar., of deviation in road in portions nos.XIV to XX being part of road from Swansea to Catherine Hill Bay Parish of Wall.amt.: County of Northumberland H W Graeme surveyor 1893 Department of La1:ds

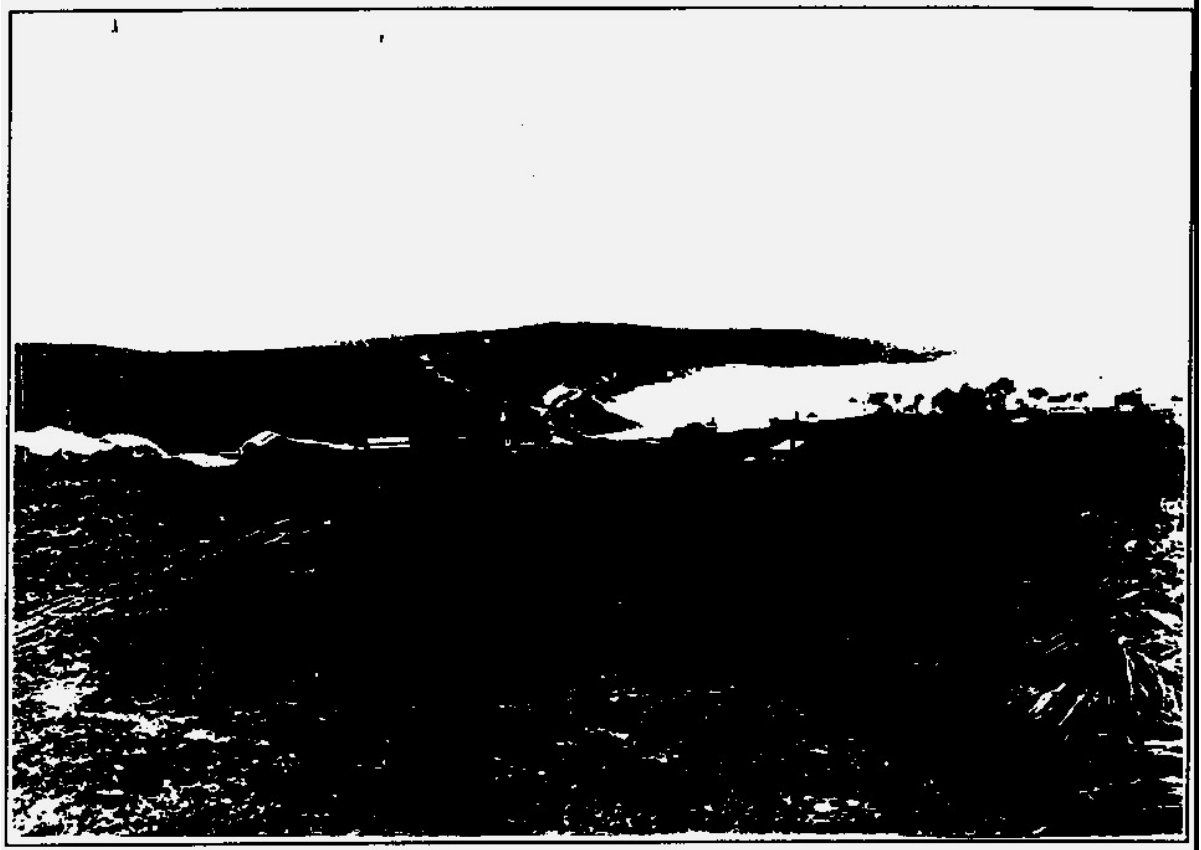
²⁹ Keith H Cloutt::1 Reid's mistake: the story of Lake Macquarie from its discovery until 1890 Lake Macquarie Shire Council 1967 pp.156-157; NSW Land Titles Office: Certificate of Title vol.240 fol.94

³⁰ Newcastle Morning Herald 25.12.1893 p.5



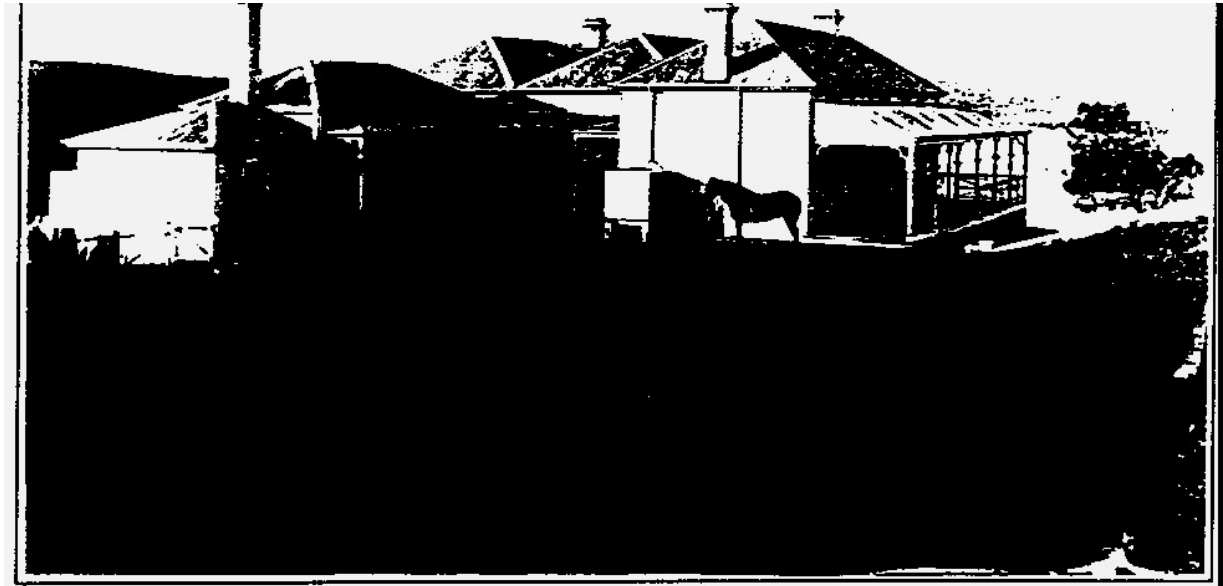
Section of a Lands Department map drawn up in December 1892 to show a possible deviation of the road through Catherine Hill Bay. The plan also shows 20 miners' cottages lining both sides of Clarke Street between Usher and Lindsley Streets. (LTO plan no: R4602.1603)

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company to 1-m



Looking north towards the beach at Catherine Hill Bay. Photograph taken by Ralph Snowball in February 1894. The colliery railway can be seen running above the beach, close to the shoreline. On the left of the photograph are the miners' cottages in Clarke and Lindsley Streets and on the right is the mine manager's house. (source: Matt Diver, Caves Beach)

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town



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"Wallarah House . the residence of the Wallarah Coal Company's mine manager. It was erected on a hill above the jetty and overlooked the whole settlement. Photograph taken by Ralph Snowball in February 1894. The man with the horse is probably Thomas Parton the Company's first mine manager. He was a mining engineer, a Fellow of the British Geological Society, and a past president of the South Staffordshire and East Worcester Mining Institute. This photograph may have been one that Parton commissioned to show his family and friends in England during his six-month holiday in 1894.

(source: Matt Diver, Caves Beach)

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

The *Herald* tempered its 1894 report on the progress of the Wallarah Company with the observation that the town still urgently needed a new school building. **A cemetery was also wanted, the nearest one being twelve miles away at Belmont.** Negotiations had been going on since 1891 between the Department of Lands and the coal company over a proposed cemetery at the Bay. An eleven acre block running alongside the northern end of the beach near Middle Camp was reserved for the purpose and eventually conveyed in December 1893, the company reserving mineral rights under the land." In March 1894 the Newcastle *Herald* reported that the local **MP** had applied for a grant to clear and fence the land dedicated for the cemetery and that trustees had been appointed for the general section and the Roman Catholic portion."

In the same month a "numerously attended public meeting was held in Tobin's Hall" to urge upon the government "the absolute necessity for a new public school." Robert Talbot chaired the meeting and provided an outline of the **situation: children were being taught in the open air, weather-permitting, through the insufficiency of accommodation. There was no weather shed, no lavatory, no cloak and hat room, no fireplace, insufficient furniture and no bell!** The church pews got in the way and the building was "on the most bleak and exposed part of the township. "³³

A man named George Dunn told the meeting that he could not understand the cause of delay in erection of the new school building since the Wallarah Company was no speculative tin-pot affair, but a wealthy English company which had their own line of steamers to supply, besides a large and increasing colonial and intercolonial trade. Another speaker stated that the Wallarah colliery was not like many of the small collieries of the district where expensive schools had been erected and now almost abandoned. The Wallarah company was **"a sound permanent concern with little fear of a collapse."**

The local MP, Stevenson, charged with the task of conveying the concerns of the Catherine Hill Bay residents to the Minister, was dismayed to learn that the **department had no plans to build a teacher's residence and intended to use an**

" NSW Land Titles Office: Certificate of Title vol. I 113 fol.232

³² *Newcastle Morning Herald* 7.3.1894 p.6

³³ *Newcastle Morning Herald* 7.3.1894 p.6

old wooden building no longer required at Leichhardt West Public School in Sydney. Stevenson urged the Minister to reconsider, explaining that there could be no doubt as to the stability of the mine. The company's plant had no equal in the colony.³⁴

In April 1894 alternative tenders were called for the erection of a new public school and teacher's residence of wood or for the erection of a new **wooden residence and the removal and re-erection of the wooden building then** at Leichhardt West. Tenders were accepted for the erection of two new buildings. The residence was more or less finished by early December and schoolmaster Sydney Dodds asked permission to occupy the building at once **since he found it "perfect misery" living in a house with ceilings that he could touch while standing on the floor.** The new school building was completed for the start of the 1895 school year.

The cemetery also received its first burials around this time. In February 1896 George Dunn, the man who had spoken at the public meeting two years earlier, died at the age of 48. He was buried in the Primitive Methodist section **of the cemetery and one month later his infant son was buried with him. In** October of that same year, Enid Atterbury, the young daughter of the town's **doctor. was buried in the same section. Their gravestones are the oldest** remaining in the Catherine Hill Bay cemetery."

A PICTURESQUE PLACE

In the closing years of the nineteenth century a subtle shift took place in the **way some journalists visiting Catherine Hill Bay began to depict the settlement. Until that time most newspaper reporters writing about the place** had focussed on the progress of the mine or on industrial matters. Local **correspondents writing from the Bay focussed on the need for public services and other issues of interest to local residents. Both perspectives were** **unselfconscious. neither view regarding the town as exceptional or unusual.**

And yet the political and economic development of Catherine Hill Bay as a

³⁴ AONSW 5/15340: Catherine Hill Bay school files

" *Catherine Hill Bay gravestone inscriptions* Newcastle Family History Society 1995 p.22

company town meant that the social mix of the settlement was restricted to a narrow range of occupations. The great majority of the population were miners and their families. There were a few tradesmen like blacksmiths and carpenters associated with the colliery and some men employed in auxiliary mining jobs such as water bailers, wheelers and horse-drivers. There were a few engine-drivers and fettlers working on the colliery railway and a few men working in clerical or supervisory positions for the company. Outside the company's employ there were only a handful of public servants - the schoolteacher, postmaster, and policeman - and the publican, the doctor and a few shopkeepers. In these early years of the settlement ministers of religion mostly visited Catherine Hill Bay on circuit.

This very specific social composition of Catherine Hill Bay meant that for visiting journalists who identified themselves as part of a middle class, and who assumed their views and ways of seeing to be the norm, Catherine Hill Bay offered almost no reflection of themselves. It was "other". One such journalist signed himself "Pinxit" and wrote a lengthy account of his visit in February 1897.³⁶ Pinxit described the workings of the colliery, noted the presence of the Post & Telegraph Office, the churches, and Tobin's inn, and reported that the public school building and teacher's residence were "very fine buildings". There was a public hall and several small stores. He thought that the "manager's mansion, occupying a pretty site overlooking the ocean from a nice eminence" had an unmistakable air of comfort and remarked that Mr Parton's office was conveniently situated just below his residence.

He was most struck, however, by the similarity which existed in all the other buildings, the miners cottages, "each house being exactly like its neighbour". He unconsciously revealed his genteel distaste for this institutional similarity by hastening to add that all the cottages were "models of cleanliness and neatness". For Pinxit the idea of company housing was alien.

Pinxit also thought that Catherine Hill Bay was a picturesque place. He added a touch of melodramatic romance to his account of the Bay by telling his readers that those drowned in the wreck of the *Catherine Hill* so many years earlier were two of the Captain's children. Pinxit said that he was shown a post which was once part of a fence surrounding the children's graves. He

³⁶ Mitchell Library: Newspaper cuttings vol.78p.271

suggested that steps should be taken to place another fence around this "sanctified spot" which should be "looked upon as an historic one in the annals of the History of Catherine Hill Bay."

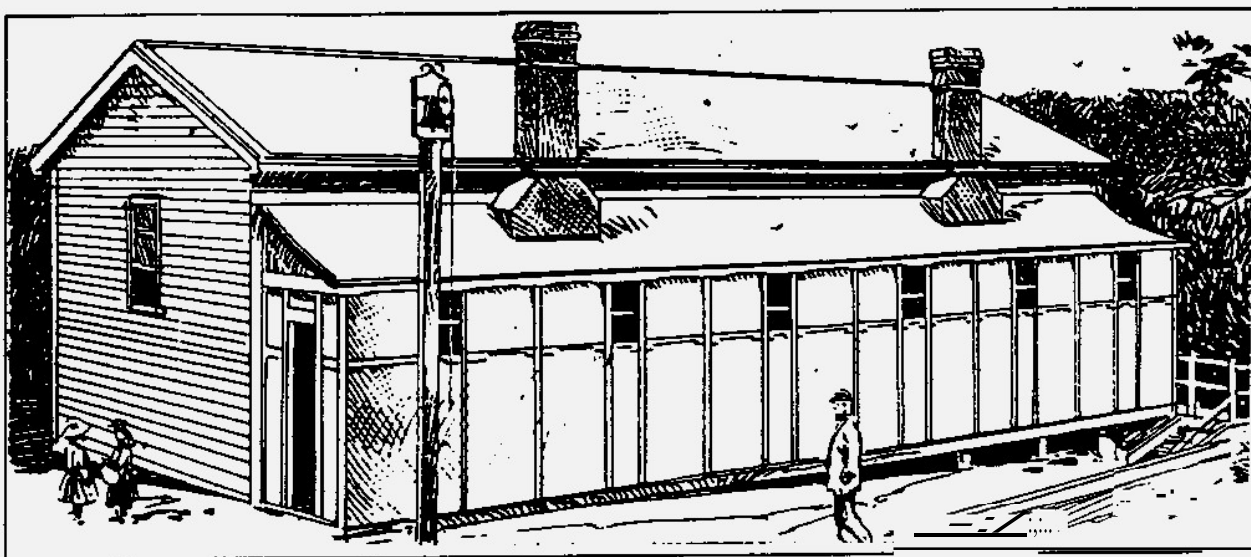
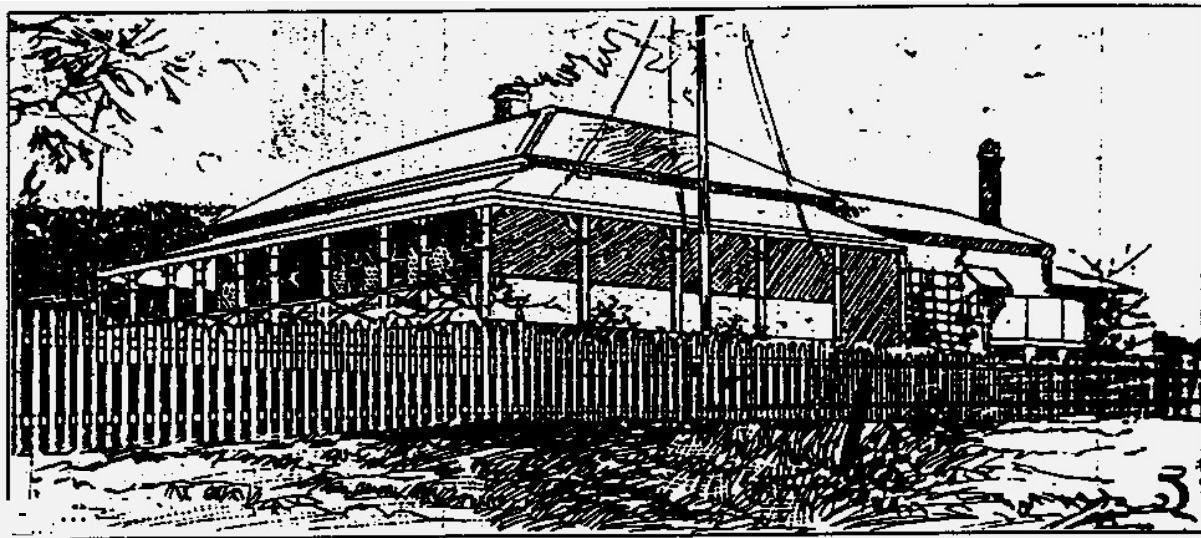
A writer for the *Town & Country Journal* later in 1897 also remarked on the picturesque character of the Bay.³⁷ This journalist told his readers that it was the location of the township between the ocean and the lake, together with the "rugged nature of the country" and the "luxuriant vegetation with which it is clothed" which combined to make the place "eminently picturesque". The article was accompanied by a series of illustrations of the mine and the settlement. With its publication the idea of Catherine Hill Bay as a possible **tourist destination was beginning to emerge.**

It was an idea that sat uncomfortably with the political realities of a company town. In early 1899 several miners involved in a dispute with the Wallarah **Company were issued notices to quit their company houses. A tradesman who refused to supply "free labourers" bought in by the company during the dispute was also forced to quit his company-owned premises. The miners prepared a challenge to the eviction notices based on a legal technicality and nearly all the residents of the Bay travelled to Swansea to hear the cases tried. The miners won. When they returned to the Bay with their wives after their victory the Newcastle *Herald* said that they "walked the land without feeling that they were trespassers."**³⁸

In Pinxit's eyes Catherine Hill Bay was seen as "other" because of its uniform company housing. The tourist gaze, on the other hand, also a middle class perspective and one shared by Pinxit, understood Catherine Hill Bay as "picturesque" by ignoring the company houses and the relations of power between miner and management that these houses embodied.

³⁷ *Town and Country Journal* 11.12.1897 p.29

³⁸ *Newcastle Morning Herald* 15.5.1899 p.6



Illustrations published in the *Town and Country Journal* in December 1897.

Top: The mine manager's residence, built 1889-1890. Bottom: The first purpose-built public school in Catherine Hill Bay, opened in January 1895.

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

3.4.

THE POLITICS OF PUBLIC SERVICES

By the turn of the century a pattern had emerged in the provision of public services at Catherine Hill Bay. Wherever possible the Wallarah Coal Company preferred to lease property to government departments rather than sell land. It agreed to sell only with reluctance and after lengthy negotiation as to the site. **For their part, government departments were reluctant to invest significant amounts of capital in buildings like schools, police stations and post offices in a place where the entire township depended economically on a single company. The consequence was a minimal level of public service provision and even then a level gained only through the organisation and pressure of the local community. The community at Catherine Hill Bay was most active and effective in decisions made around the establishment and location of the school and the post office.**

The school built in 1894 had been located more or less midway between the various settlements at Catherine Hill Bay. In the last years of the nineteenth century the Wallarah colliery workforce outgrew the ninety or so cottages **available for lease from the company. While some miners had erected their own huts near Mine Camp others lived with their families on the shores of Lake Macquarie. In August 1900 they petitioned the Department of Public Instruction for the establishment of a Provisional School at Nord's Wharf. The district inspector of schools supported their petition even though the Catherine Hill Bay school was within the regulation four miles walking distance. He believed that it would be "absolute cruelty to compel children to walk twice a day over the mountains to that school." A small wooden school was built at the Lake and called Wallarah. It opened in September 1901.'**

In the same month the newly-formed Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association begun to campaign for a postal delivery service since the population of the **district was so scattefed. Asked to investigate the matter, a postal inspector reported that Catherine Hill Bay proper comprised about 60 households, Middle Camp 20, Saw Mill Camp 16, and Mine Camp 60. The residents of**

AONSW 5/17989.3: Wallarah school files

Mine Camp thought that their population was actually more than three times that of the Bay and "going ahead fast". They wanted a daily delivery of letters or the establishment of a small receiving office where residents could post and obtain letters and stamps. The postmaster at Catherine Hill Bay estimated that about 180 adults would be benefited by the establishment of a receiving office at Mine Camp and that Henry Hawkes, the storekeeper at Mine Camp, would be an appropriate person, with suitable premises, to manage the office.

An Inspector for the Postal and Electric Telegraph Department recommended that the Department establish a receiving office at Mine Camp and convene the official post office at Catherine Hill Bay into a non-official Post and Telephone Office. Since the post office at the Bay was making an annual loss this proposal would also be more economical. Immediately there were protests from the residents of the Bay and from the managing agent for the coal company in Sydney. The agent pointed out that as the post office was near the hotel there were usually groups of miners standing about. It would not suit the **company for miners to be able to overhear the agent's telephone conversations with the resident manager.**

A "large and representative public meeting" was held in the local hall to protest at the removal of the telegraph instrument and this was followed by a delegation to the Postmaster General's office in Sydney. The Postmaster General's chief clerk reassured the delegation that there could be just as much privacy with the telephone as the telegraph, because the telephone could be **constructed inside "a silence chamber"**.

The delegation was also worried that the department planned to place a woman in charge of the reduced office. They argued that it would be almost **impossible for a woman to deliver telegrams, "as very often they are for ships taking in coal and lying at a jetty which runs out into the sea" and "a lady could not deliver messages to such places where a messenger or the Postmaster could."** The chief clerk had no answer to this concern.

The delegation asked for more time to come up with an alternate proposal to reduce costs, suggesting that probably the Company would be able to provide premises at a much lower rental. In the meantime plans to introduce changes to the Bay post office and to open a receiving office at Mine Camp were deferred.

Galhen'ne Hill Bay: landscape of a company 101-Wt

The Postmaster General's department was irritated by this obstruction to its proposals. In October 1903 the district postal inspector observed acidly that it was remarkable that the coal company did not have its own telephone, "the cost and maintenance of which would be comparatively trifling". He reported that the company's office was only a quarter of a mile from the post office and that on average only two telegrams were delivered each day. The postmaster hoisted a flag on receipt of a telegram for the company, and waited for **someone to collect it.**²

The Department of Public Instruction was also having problems with the residents of Catherine Hill Bay. Despite the fact that the school had been recently enlarged, at least 34 students were travelling about two miles each day over a hilly bush track to attend the Wallarah school at the Lake rather than walk less than two miles on a good road to the Bay school.' There were a **number of reasons for this. First was the spectre of disease. The daughter of the Catherine Hill Bay schoolteacher had died of consumption in April 1900 and his wife was also suffering from the same illness. Some parents refused to send their children to the school as a consequence.** In late 1902 the school **residence was temporarily vacated while schoolmaster Hennessey was given leave to care for his ailing wife.** The Department's Clerk of Works took the opportunity to inspect the building. He found it to be in a very good state of repair, but recommended that it should be thoroughly cleaned and painted internally (one coat) before being reoccupied.'

Two other factors were influencing parents in their attitude to the school. One was that the Wallarah school had an "immensely popular lady teacher" who was credited throughout the district with great teaching ability. Another was **that both Hennessey and his relieving teacher. Mr Tynan, were Roman Catholics whereas Catherine Hill Bay was "a purely Protestant settlement, the residents being almost wholly composed of members of the Church of England and Methodists".'**

Australian Archives (NSW) Series 32: Catherine Hill Bay Post Office files

AONSW 5117989.3: Wallarah school files

AONSW 5/15340: Catherine Hill Bay school files

AONSW 5117989.3: Wallarah school files

By early 1903 the sought-after postal receiving office had been established at Mine Camp and the residents of Catherine Hill Bay turned their attention to **other issues. Some of these were outlined in a two-part article on this** "important mining centre" published by the *Newcastle Morning Herald* in August 1903.⁶ The *Herald* reported that steps were being taken to have an area of land dedicated for a road to the local cemetery. The paper explained that "such a thing as a hearse is unknown here, and coffins are scarce". The cemetery was in a very dilapidated condition "caused by bullock drays going through it" and so tenders were about to be called for refencing it.

The *Herald* noted that the Wallarah Coal Company had just opened a new pit, called the E pit. This tunnel was slightly north-west of Middle Camp, off today's Colliery Road. Two other shafts, "C" near the original sawmill, and "D" not far from the Bay township, had been put down by this time but E was **destined to become the most significant of the company's pits.**⁷

Other signs of growth in the town in 1903 were the existence of a brass band, a Friendly Society, and a School of Arts, all institutions characteristic of the Newcastle district colliery townships. While the *Herald* also mentioned the Progress Association, it considered that there could be little building progress **in a place where most of the residents were tenants of the coal company, on** weekly tenancies. The newspaper explained that "the tenants have the privilege of putting up fences, but they cannot take them down again in the event of the **seven clays' notice being enforced.**" **The newspaper hinted at an emerging** political position against company towns when it suggested that where conditions like these existed, it was to be expected that the place could not grow in anything like the fashion of "the new coal townships to the south of Maitland" where freehold land was available.'

The newspaper noted that the building used by the School of Arts was a two-roomed house rented from the company, **affording inadequate accommodation. The government had been asked to resume a site upon which a permanent**

Newcastle Morning Herald 27.8.1903 p. 7; 28.8.1903 p.3

F Danvers *Power Coalfields & collieries of Australia* Sydney Critchley Parker 1912 p.245

Newcastle Morning Herald 27.8.1903 p.7

structure could be erected. Indeed, in other mining towns the School of Arts was often a substantial edifice and the major public building in the town. As well as playing a community education role the institution was expected to provide meeting space and amenities for other voluntary community organisations like the friendly society lodges, brass band and choir. The low level of income in most colliery townships meant that it was usually difficult for anyone other than the publican to build a public hall and publicans always built their halls next to their public houses making them unacceptable meeting **places for churches, temperance societies and others requiring a quiet atmosphere.**' In Catherine Hill Bay the miners' lodge met in publican Tobin's hall but some of the miners thought it would be "better if a hall could be obtained which was not so near the hotel". A previous company manager was said to have promised to reserve a quarter of an acre for a hall and a site had been surveyed but nothing further had happened.

There was some progress on the post office question. In early 1904 the Wallarah Coal Company offered to provide the Postmaster General's department with a piece of land 40 by 100 feet, in "about the most central site in the township" and to erect premises suitable for use as a post office. The company began building work in July 1904 and the new premises were completed in September.¹⁰

The community next focussed on the need for a Coun House. The *Newcastle Morning Herald* reported in May 1904 that local opinion in Catherine Hill Bay held that the Swansea courthouse should be removed to the Bay, since nearly all of the coun work came from there." The Department of the Attorney General and Justice agreed. The Coun of Petry Sessions was abolished at Swansea in May 1906 and established instead at Catherine Hill Bay in August." The department chose to pull down the Swansea building, remove **the materials to the Bay, and re-erect the building next to the police station in**

Ellen McEwen *The Newcastle coalmining district of NSW, 1860-1900* PhD thesis, University of Sydney 1979 pp.252-254

¹⁰ Australian Archives (NSW) Series 32: Catherine Hill Bay Post Office files

¹¹ *Newcastle Morning Herald* 15.5.1904 p.6

¹² AONSW Chief Secretary's In-Letters: Register 5/2613 no.1906/298; 1906/9693 and Register S/2614 oo.1906/15582; NSW Government Gazette 15.8.1906 p.4648

Clarke Street.¹³

Meanwhile the postal office was again under threat. In September 1906 the residents of the district signed a petition protesting against a renewed proposal to substitute a non-official post office for the existing official one. The Postmaster-General's department found itself in a difficult position. On the one hand the post office brought in only half the minimum revenue required for an **official office. On the other hand, finding someone to run a non-official office** would be difficult since "the feeling of mistrust between the Coal Company and the miners was found to be so strong that only someone independent of both sides could give satisfaction".

Along with the state of wage negotiations between the Wallarah Colliery and the local miners' lodge, concerns about the status of the post office and the lack of an adequate building for the School of Arts were recurrent issues at Catherine Hill Bay for the rest of the decade." A public meeting was held in Tobin's hall in late January 1908 to elect a new doctor but the shire election held at that time didn't cause much stir at the Bay. The *Newcastle Morning Herald* thought that this was because half the population were "birds of **passage" and the other half took little interest in such matters since they owned** no property or land."

Around this time the Department of Public Instruction began planning to move the school to a new site on the Swansea road, between Middle Camp and the E pit. This new site would be more central and would also enable the department to close down the Wallarah school. Mr Tynan, the Catherine Hill Bay teacher, **drew up a plan showing the relative locations of the settlements.**¹⁷

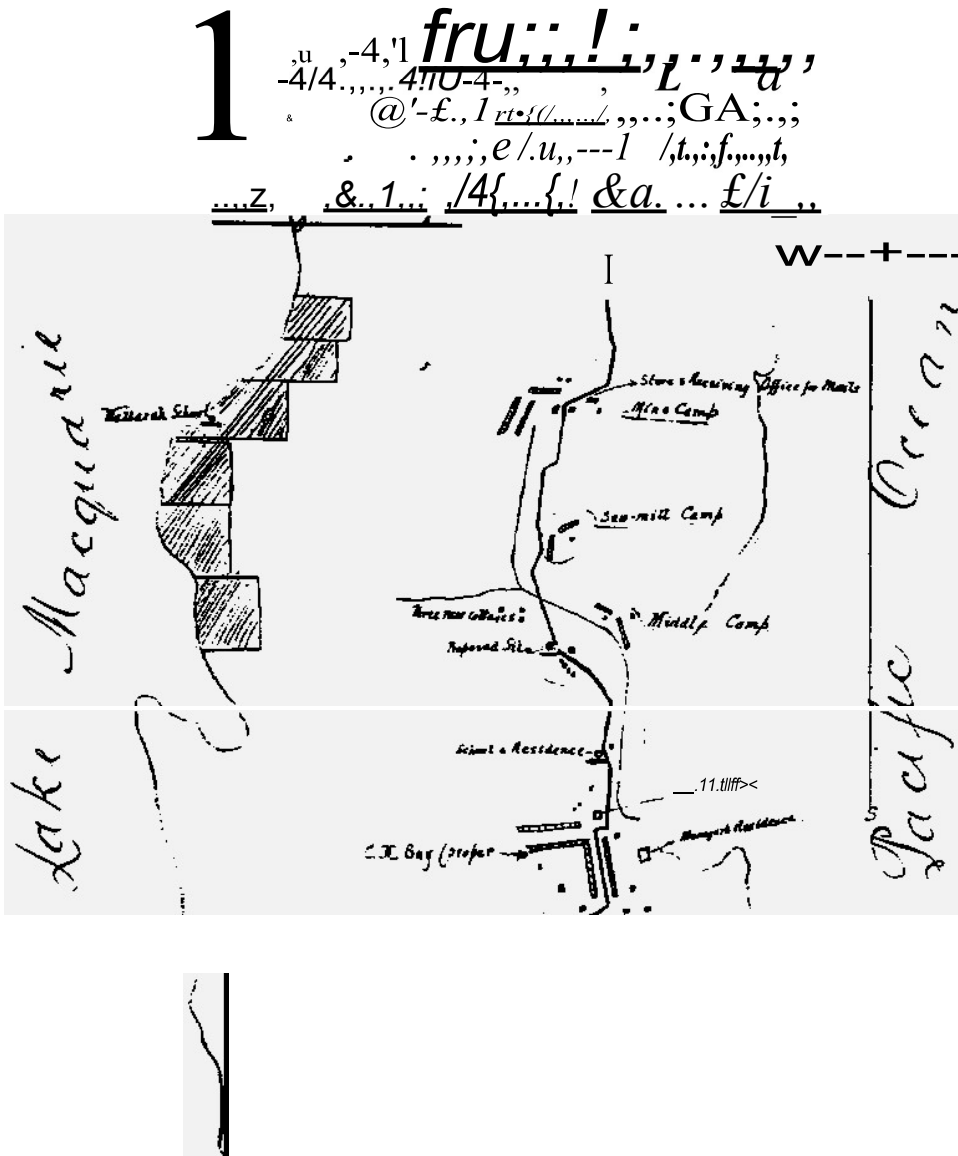
¹³ *Newcastle Morning Herald* 9.6.1906 p.3

¹⁴ Australian Archives (NSW) Series 32: Catherine Hill Bay Post Office files

¹¹ *Newcastle Morning Herald* 17.12.1906 p.4

¹⁶ *Newcastle Morning Herald* 4.2.1908 p.6

¹⁷ AONSW 5/15341. 1: Catherine Hill Bay school files



Plan of Catherine Hill Bay drawn in May 1908 by schoolteacher Tynan showing the location of houses at Catherine Hill Bay, Middle Camp, Sawmill Camp and Mine Camp and settlements on Lake Macquarie, as well as present and proposed sites of the Catherine Hill Bay and Wallarah schools.
(source: AONSW 5115341.1: Catherine Hill Bay school files)

3.5.

MIDDLE CAMP

The Wallarah Company's decision to open a new pit north-west of Middle Camp inevitably led to changes in the shape of Catherine Hill Bay. Schoolmaster Tynan's map shows that in May 1908 most of the existing Middle Camp cottages were near the railway east of the road to Swansea. But it also shows the beginnings of a new settlement along the road itself. and it shows three new cottages built near a new rail line leading to E pit.

The Department of Public Instruction arranged with the coal company to exchange their existing site for a new one at Middle Camp, and intended initially to remove their old buildings to the new site. Some parents opposed the plan to relocate the school but by July 1908 the reformed and renamed Wallarah Progress Association had been won over to the idea. They noted that the company had announced that this locality was to be their focus for future building.' By September 1908 "18 workmen's cottages of a rather good class" were under construction and a "fine new residence" for the engineer had just been completed. A similar house was planned for the company's accountant.²

In December 1908, anticipating the imminent relocation of the school. the Wallarah School of Arts asked for the old buildings. The coal company had already expressed interest in the teacher's residence but the schoolhouse was available and the Department was willing to give it to the School of Arts if in turn the company gave the group half an acre of land. The company saw no reason to do this.

For its part the Wallarah Progress Association had suggested that one way to remove the ever-present threat hanging over the status of the post office would be to do away with the receiving office at Mine Camp and shift the Bay office to a more central site midway between the Bay and Mine Camp. The District Postal Inspector advised against the suggestion, arguing that the existing office was *near* the wharf and convenient for steamers. as well as being close to the colliery manager's office, the hotel. and the police station.

AONSW 5/15341. 1: Catherine Hill Bay school files

Newcastle Morning Herald 22.9.1908 p.6

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

In September 1910 the Progress Association renewed its request for the amalgamation of the postal services into a single official office at Middle Camp. In a letter to the Postmaster-General's Department the Association argued that Middle Camp would ultimately become the main township because the company were building houses for officials, mechanics and other workmen there. New cottages were being erected at the rate of about one every three weeks and a large hall for the use of residents had just been completed.¹ The hall was the company's response to the local need for a meeting place. It was an amenity for the town but an amenity under company control.

Most of the colliery plant was relocated near the entrance to E pit. By 1912 the buildings here included a fitting shop, blacksmith's shop, carpenter's shop, waggon repairing shed and brickmaking plant. A new sawmill was in course of construction and the company had recently erected a "spacious store".⁴

In late 1912 agreement was reached between the company and the Department of Public Instruction over the site for the new school at Middle Camp. Departmental architect **R W** Seymour-Wells completed plans for the teacher's residence in 1913 and plans for the school were completed by June 1914. A tender for the erection of the new buildings, at a cost of £2329, was accepted in March 1915 and the new school completed and opened in October 1915.⁵

While the Wallarah Coal Company increased its investment at E pit and built new miners' cottages at Middle Camp, development of the public infrastructure of the settlement lagged behind. In 1912 the School of Arts was still "penned up in a small building inadequate for the needs of such an institution". At the cemetery sand drifts were causing trouble. At the Bay proper the postmaster wanted a sulky shed for his horse since the post office was "a terrible bleak place" in winter. He was obliged to juggle various responsibilities. In addition to dealing with postal and telegraph business, he took savings bank deposits, acted as electoral registrar, and as registrar for births, marriages and deaths.⁶

Australian Archives (NSW) Series 32: Catherine Hill Bay Post Office files

F Danvers Power *Coalfields & collieries of Australia* Sydney Critchley Parker 1912 pp.253, 257; *Newcastle Morning Herald* 13.7.1912 p.5

AONSW 5/15341. 1: Catherine Hill Bay school files

Newcastle Morning Herald 13.7.1912 p.3



Bullock teams arriving at Wallarah Colliery's E pit around 1910 with a boiler hauled from Goninan's in Newcastle. By 1912 most of the company's plant was concentrated at E pit. Steam was generated by two Babcock & Wilcox boilers and two Cornish boilers. (source: A Beecham, Belmont, published in *Newcastle Morning Herald* 16 November 1983 p.20)

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town



The sawmill at E pit near Middle Camp in 1914. The company's plant here also included a fitting shop, blacksmith's shop, carpenter's shop, a brickmaking plant and a waggon repairing shed. There were large stables for the horses used in the mines and for haulage generally.
(source: Lake Macquarie City Library - LIO!)

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town



13 October 1915 - opening day at the Catherine Hill Bay Public School at Middle Camp. The school enrolment was around 115 at this time and the school boasted a teacher-in-charge and two assistant teachers.
(source: Lake Macquarie City Library -L100)

When the new school was opened at Middle Camp in 1915 the Wallarah Coal Company assumed ownership of the former school site. The Department of Public Instruction had until January 1916 to dispose of the old buildings. There was no shortage of hopeful applicants for one or other of the buildings, including the Methodist minister who asked if he might be able to use the old residence as a Methodist Parsonage. He and his wife had been living in rented rooms for some time, in what he referred to as an "uncomfortable situation". The Police Department was also anxious to secure the premises. The Methodist minister's hopes were dashed when the government resumed the site for police purposes in January 1916. The police moved into the old school buildings bringing with them their old wooden cell from Clarke Street.⁷

The *Wallarah Hotel* was the only significant enterprise at the Bay not directly dependant on the coal company or on hand-me-downs from others. It had come under new management following the death of publican Michael Tobin in 1909 and the new licensee was exploring new markets. In July 1912 the *Newcastle Morning Herald* had carried a feature article on Catherine Hill Bay headlined "picturesque mining town".¹¹ The newspaper observed that although the town was fairly inaccessible by public transport, it had become a popular drive for motorists. For that fortunate minority of car owners magnificent views could be obtained "from the high elevations". The *Wallarah Hotel* had been "considerably improved to meet the tourist needs".

For tourists the relics of a shipwreck sometimes added to the picturesque character of the Bay. In April 1914 the coal company's collier, the *Wallarah*, went ashore on the rocks near the jetty during a strong gale. The crew were rescued but the ship was less fortunate.⁹ The wreckage could still be seen more than twelve months later when a tourist named Walter Martin wrote an article about Catherine Hill Bay for the *Sydney Morning Herald*.¹⁰

Martin was one of the motoring class for whom the drive itself from Newcastle

AONSW 5/1534U r.: Catherine Hill Bay school files; *NSW Government Gazette* :21 January 1916 p.329; AONSW Chief Secretary's In-Letters: Register 1916

Newcastle Morning Herald, 13.7.1912 p.5

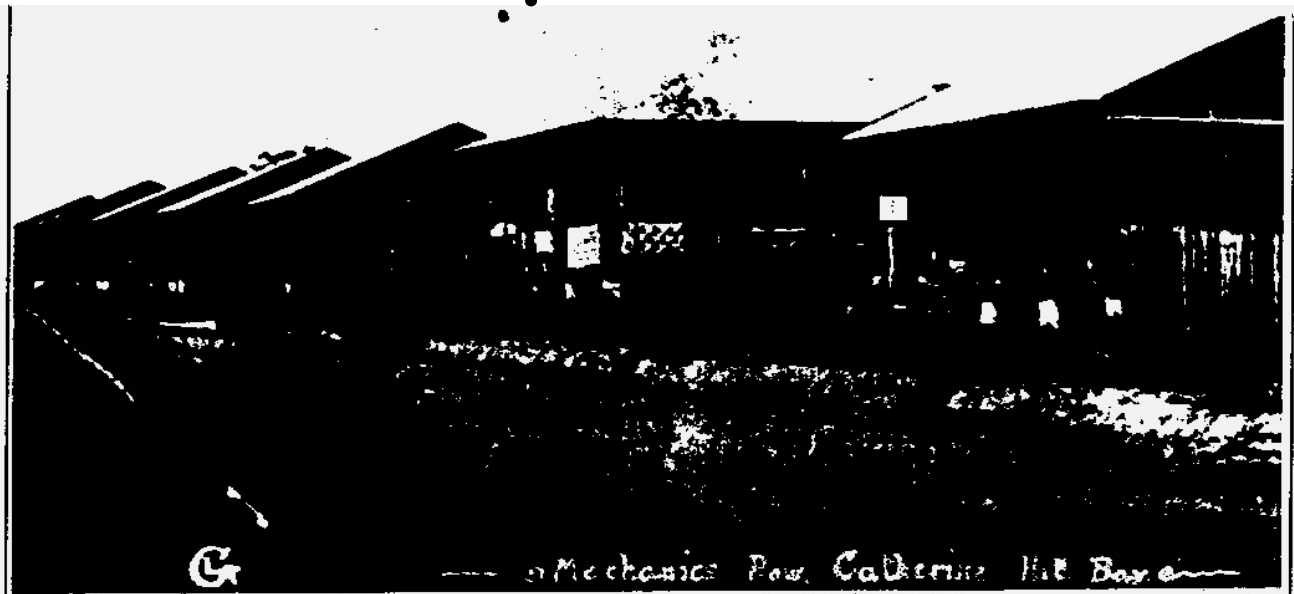
Jack Loney *Australian shipwrecks 1901-1986* Marine History Publications 1987 p.80

¹¹ *Sydney Morning Herald* 18.9.1915 p.7

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

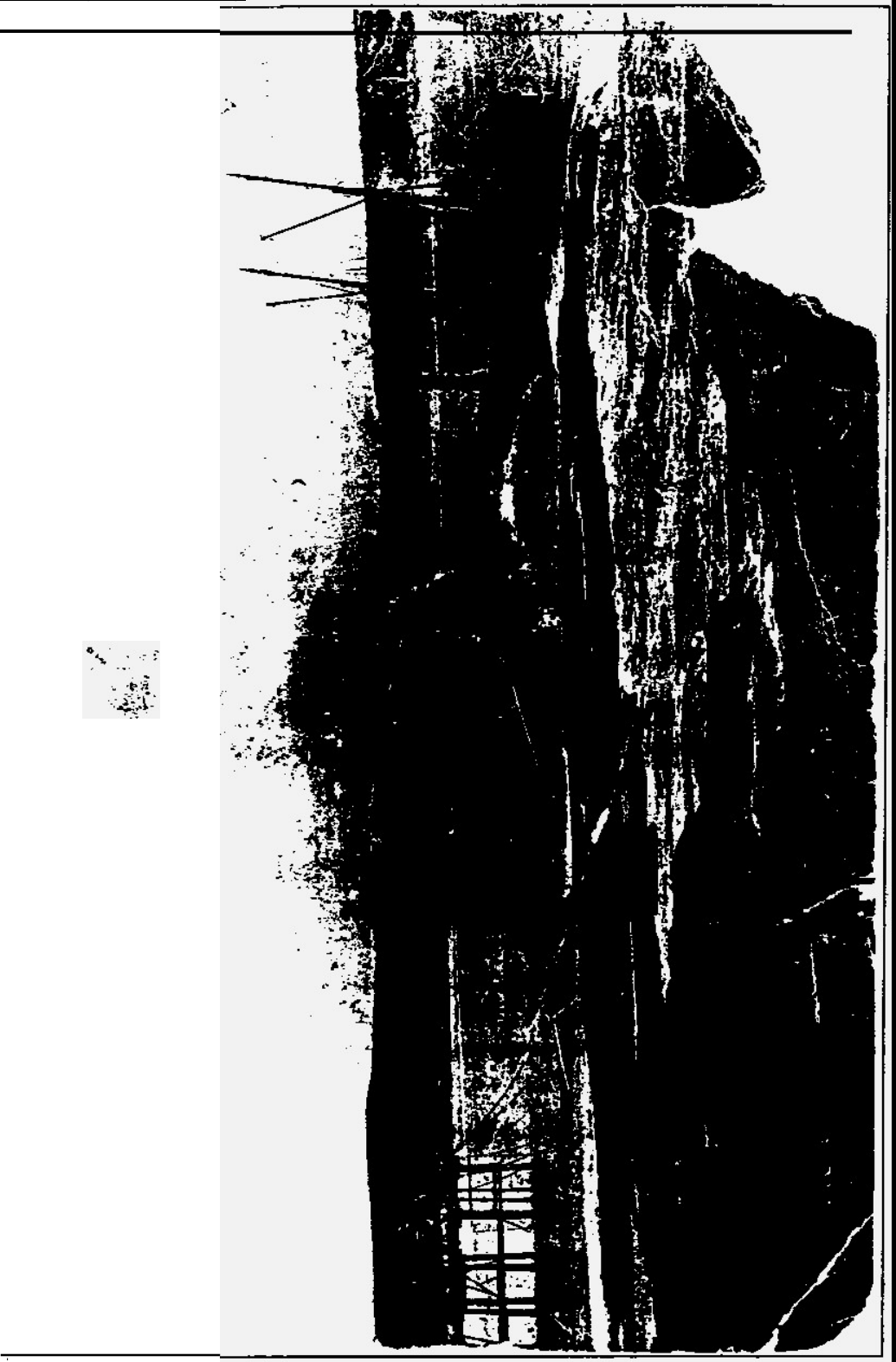
to the Bay *was* the main purpose of an outing. He explained: "the road lends itself to speed. One mounts the crest of each succeeding hill by gently-winding corners. From the crests are seen magnificent views of ocean to the east. with its waves ever rolling shorewards. while to the west stretches in hill and valley the elevated coast lands. clothed with luxuriant vegetation."

Martin thought that the natural beauty spots of the Bay made for picturesque home sites but observed that the town had not been planned to take advantage of these sites. It simply straggled out in a more or less north and south direction. He noted. as other observers had done before him, that the company ownership of the town was reflected in a sameness of construction about all the houses. The miners themselves. however, had appropriated the right to give ironical names like "Paradise Alley. "Federal City" and "Angels Rest" to various sections of the town.



"Mechanics Row, Catherine Hill Bay" around 1914. This photograph showing workers' houses lining the main road through Middle Camp is one of a small number of postcards of Catherine Hill Bay which date from around this time, perhaps intended for sale to tourists. The Wallarah Coal Company erected Rows of uniform comfortable cottages on each side of the main Swansea road but built houses for company officials on more private sites. The caption "mechanics row" carries a hint of satire, a suggestion that this company housing is not the norm and could in itself be the object of tourist interest.
(source: Matt Diver, Caves Beach)

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town



The *Wallarah* aground on the rocks at Catherine Hill Bay 1111 91-1-. Shipwrecks have been a recurrent event in the history of Catherine Hill Bay, beginning with the *Catherine Hill* wrecked at the bay in 1867. (source: Matt Di'ler, Caves Beach)

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3.6.

STRIKES, LOCK-OUTS & ROYAL COMMISSIONS

In August 1917 a rail strike began in New South Wales. The government of the day saw the strike as a conspiracy to overthrow the constitutionally-elected government and to undermine the war effort. It organised volunteers to keep the transport services working. Most major unions interpreted the government's actions as a direct attack on unionism itself and joined the strike. Miners refused to cut or load coal for transport on trains run by strike-breakers. The government then commandeered all coal mines in the state. It rushed through Parliament an "Act to Amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act" to allow inexperienced men to work at the coal face. Then it set out to recruit volunteer labour for the mines.

Eleven collieries on the northern coal field were operated with non-union labour quartered in camps near each of the mines. The largest camp, housing more than four hundred men, was at the Wallarah colliery.¹ The strike-breakers lived and worked under police guard and tensions were high in the communities. A locomotive was deliberately derailed at Catherine Hill Bay in the last week of August. A few days later, in the early hours of the morning of 29 August, two piers of the Wallarah company's jetty were damaged by an explosion. The Acting Premier of New South Wales immediately despatched extra police to Catherine Hill Bay to protect the jetty.'

By the end of August around 250 volunteers had been shipped to Catherine Hill Bay and around forty extra police had been drafted to guard the railway line and an armaments magazine as well as the jetty. The extra police were housed in the old school. Some of the strike-breakers were put up in the Wallarah Hall, the coal company's hall, and workmen and materials were sent by the Public Works Department to the Wallarah colliery to erect suitable quarters for others who were living in tents.³

Robin Golian *The coalminers of New South Wales: a history of the union. 1860-1960* Mellxlume University Press 1963 p.155

Newcastle Morning Herald 30.8.1917 p.4

Sydney Morning Herald 30.8.1917 p.7



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Strike-breakers being escorted along the Catherine Hill Bay jetty by a police guard during the rail strike of 1917. These "volunteers" or "loyalists" were shipped from Sydney on colliers. They left Sydney at midnight on 29th August and arrived soon after dawn and not long after an explosion had damaged two piers of the jetty. The *Sydney Mail* reported that "extra precautions were at once taken to prevent further attempts at sabotage."
(source: *The Sydney Mail* 5.9.1917 p.6)



29th August 1917. Strike-breakers. or volunteers. being transported from the jetty to Middle Camp in coal trucks. The volunteers. who included orchardists. clerks, farmers, cooks, blacksmiths and at least one actor, told the *Sydney Morning Herald* that they were motivated by the same "vital spark" which had **sent thousands of their fellows to the trenches of Europe: "loyalty to country"**. The buildings in the background of the photograph are the jetty-masters house and the mine manager's office. (source: The *Sydney Mail* 5.9.1917 p.7)

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of "company town"



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The scabs' camp at Wallarah colliery in August 1917, located between Middle Camp and the entrance to E pit. The *Sydney Mail* reported that volunteers had been escorted to the camp by police "in the interests of law and order" but that the arrival of the strangers did not create any disturbance on the part of the strikers. The *Sydney Morning Herald*, on the other hand, reported that they had been met by a demonstration of tin-kettling, a traditional English form of expressing popular disapproval. (source: *The Sydney Mail* 5.9.1917 p.7)

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

The railway strike ended officially on 10 September 1917 but the mines **remained idle for another month while harsh terms of settlement were** negotiated between the government and the Miners' Federation. One labour historian has suggested that the 1917 strike left unionists angry and bitter for at least a decade, and that it influenced miners to take a leading part in the swing to the left that occurred in the labour movement at this time.⁴

In the years immediately after the war the coal-mining industry was generally **in a state of crisis. An excess of productive capacity was accentuated by the loss of export markets during the war which were not regained once the war** was over. Before the war the Wallarah Coal Company had been one of the first collieries on the northern coalfield to use coal-cutting machinery. It increased its productive capacity after the war by expanding its land holdings and beginning to mine under Lake Macquarie. It also established a coal bunkering plant at Ball's Head in Sydney Harbour.' At Catherine Hill Bay, as **at other collieries. this overcapacity resulted in extreme intermittency of employment.**

Intermittent employment fuelled the already strong class antagonisms in the industry. In this industrial climate the company town status of Catherine Hill Bay became a political focus for the Miners' Federation and other reformers. In March 1920 a Royal Commission held into the coal mining industry and the coal trade in New South Wales heard testimony from Robert Dick, Medical Officer of Health for the Hunter River Combined Sanitary Districts. He spoke about sanitary services, water supply and housing stock and was particularly **critical of living conditions at Catherine Hill Bay.**⁶

Dick explained that Catherine Hill Bay did not have the benefit of a water supply provided by the Hunter District Water Board so that people at the Bay

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- Robin Golian *The coalminers of New South Wales: a history of the union, 1860-1960* pp.154. 158

NSW Land Titles Office: Certificates of Title vol.I 90 fols.38 & 39, vol.899 fols.1-7, vol.1252 fol.226, vol.1401 fols.198,199 & 201; *Newcastle Morning Herald* 28.8.1924 p.4; *The Shipping and Commerce of Australia* 15.10.1923 p.138

Legislative Assembly New South Wales *Second and final report of the Royal Commission of Enquiry (Mr J.L. Campbell K C) into the Coal-mining industry and the coal trade in New South Wales* Sydney Government Printer 1920 pp.491-492

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

had *to* rely entirely on rain water off roof catchments. The roofs of the houses **were very small and there was insufficient tank storage. Since the whole of** Catherine Hill Bay was privately owned it was outside the jurisdiction of the Lake Macquarie Shire Council to solve the water supply problem.

The Royal Commission heard that the quality of miners' housing was also a particular problem in the privately owned towns of Minmi and Catherine Hill Bay. Robert Dick had strong views about the conditions conducive *to* good housing. He argued that "where a miner has an opportunity of getting the freehold, he erects a very decent house for himself and his family, but where **the tenure only consists of a ground rent of so much a week, he has to be content to live in a shack or hut erected by the mine owners or one which he** has had the temerity *to* put up himself, and which is allowed to get into a more or less dilapidated condition."

Dick reported that he had visited Catherine Hill Bay in 1919 in response to **complaints about the housing conditions of the miners. He found need for** improvement in a great number of the dwellings and had recommended that Lake Macquarie Shire Council take legal proceedings under the Public Health Act against the Wallarah Coal company to effect these improvements. The Shire Clerk had since told him that improvements were being carried out in the locality known as Angel's Rest at Mine Camp and that two men had been **permanently employed in improving the tenements as a result of the notice served upon the company.**

Dick acknowledged that there were also a number of "very decent properties" at Catherine Hill Bay. In fact, he thought, the Wallarah Coal company had set **an example to other coal companies by putting up decent cottages at very fair** rentals for a number of the employees. The company had found that they were **better able to retain their workforce by providing decent cottages so that** "married men with families came there and stayed." Dick described the best class of house provided by the company as "the ordinary wooden cottage **containing 4 or 5 rooms**" and said that these were let at 8 shillings a week. He wasn't able to say whether they had bathrooms but did say that the company had erected all the miners' houses, except for a few shacks.

Robert Dick also had strong views about the value of married life. He thought that some of the problems with housing at Catherine Hill Bay came about

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

because the mine owners had originally put up a type of hut suitable for single men and that they had not in the past recognised that "the proper condition for a man is to be married and to have a family". Dick went on to say that "most of these miners got married and started to have families, but the housing did not expand like a concertina, and the owners would not provide bigger houses". As a result the miner had to make up the additions as best he could. He did that by using any scrap iron or wood that could be got out of the bush or procured from the pit. As a result something that would have been a reasonable place for a couple of "batchers" became quite unsuitable for a family. He conceded that there were, of course, some men who preferred to live by themselves in a shack but insisted that men with wives and families certainly preferred a house.

Robert Dick told the Royal Commission that mining towns other than Catherine Hill Bay also had unsatisfactory company housing. There was some at Rhondda, Hebburn, Whitburn and Greta, and the AA Company had erected a "Pit Row" at Hamilton in Newcastle. Miners at Stanford and Pelaw Main had also been paying ground rent to their employers until the government had resumed the surface of the land and offered miners the opportunity to acquire freehold. Catherine Hill Bay was thus not the only place with company housing on the northern coalfield but, along with Minmi, it was exceptional for **the total control which the company exercised over its houses and land.**

Later in 1920 Robert Dick revisited the issue of Catherine Hill Bay in his annual report to the Director-General of Public Health, noting that although changes had been made during the year there was still room for considerable **improvement. There were a number of "ruinous tenements" which should be demolished, repairs to be carried out on others, and problems to resolve about the disposal of house refuse.** He had spoken to the colliery manager who had **agreed to send a cart round the settlements weekly to collect house refuse and take it to a garbage depot.'**

The improvements made in 1920 were soon seen as insufficient. In his 1924 annual report Robert Dick again felt compelled to name Catherine Hill Bay as

Hunter River Combined Sanitary Districts. Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1920 in *Report of the Director-General of Public Health, NSW for the year ending 31st December 1920* Sydney Government Printer 1921 p.76

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

having some of the worst examples of bad housing on the coalfields.' The **issue reached flashpoint in the township in mid 1924 when a miner was prosecuted by the company for removing five sheets of disused old iron in order to roof a shack in which to live. He was convicted and sacked.**

His fellow miners stopped work in protest and demanded his reinstatement. The *Labor Daily* reported the incident in extravagant language which revealed **the extreme polarisation in the industry between coalminers and coalowners.** The newspaper told its readers that

"the 400 odd employees of the mines who live handy to their work are housed in shanties, by courtesy termed houses, and for which the company deduct rent from their pay envelopes. In spite of the generally disgraceful condition of the houses, the demand exceeds the supply, and many of the men are forced to travel up to ten miles by 'bus, bike or sulky over some of the worst roads in the state. **'Home sweet home' in this mining centre is, in the majority of instances, a decaying, rotten-proofed, propped up, white-ant eaten hovel, according little more than protection in fine weather. and without even the most ordinary conveniences. Whilst in the wet and wintry weather their condition can be better imagined than described.**"

According to the *labor Daily* the miners had made repeated applications for subdivision of some land, so that they could erect their own homes. They had met with blank refusals. The worst houses were those at "Angel's Rest", "Lost Paradise Alley" and "Federal City". These houses were really, according to the paper, "collections of crazily-built, tumble-down shanties ranging from one to four rooms." They had no baths, tubs or coppers, and during dry spells **no water, even for drinking purposes. At Angel's Rest the water was in some cases obtained from an open dam. In the majority of cases one 600 gallon tank had "to fill the bill for all purposes, irrespective of the number of the households. Yet the tenants, said the paper, kept "their wretched homes scrupulously clean" and waged a "continuous war against vermin".**

Hunter River Combined Sanitary Districts. Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1924 in *Report of the Director-General of Public Health, NSW for the year ending 31st December 1924* Sydney Government Printer 1925 p.120

Labor Daily 25.9.1924 p. 1

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

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A polemical report - in both words and layout - from the *Labor Daily* of 25 September 1924, on the condition of miners' housing in Catherine Hill Bay. In the face of victimisation the Wallarah miners stand together as "mates" against the "monopolising coalowners". a wealthy company "whose shareholders are mostly in England. •

For the Wallarah Miners' Lodge the strike centred on an issue of victimisation. In its polemical anxiety to support the Wallarah miners the *labor Daily* represented the entire community at Catherine Hill Bay as victims. They were victims of na monopolising coalownern, a wealthy company whose shareholders were mostly in England. It was a representation at odds with reality in many ways. The very strength of the miners' expression of political grievance through the strike was a measure of the strength of political organisation in Catherine Hill Bay in the 1920s. The miners were not passive victims but active agents in a struggle to change the conditions of their lives.

The strike lasted for eight weeks and did not achieve the reinstatement of the sacked miner. But in July 1925 the *Labor Daily* reported that Wallarah miners could hope for the dawn of a new era in the future because a new bill was about to be introduced in state parliament to enable the government to resume land so that workers could buy on extended terms and build their own homes.¹⁰ The *Newcastle Morning Herald* carried a similar report in October 1925, noting that members of the mining unions at Catherine Hill Bay were organising to campaign around a number of associated issues in the forthcoming shire elect ions.¹¹

While miners at Catherine Hill Bay agitated for land resumption. community organisation around other social and cultural needs also flourished. The *labor Daily* reported in late 1924 that members of Wallarah Miners' Lodge had joined forces with other residents of the district to form a sports club. The Wallarah Miners' Band was hoping to acquire a band room for practice and around this time a tennis club was formed by miners. Club members were busy making new courts at Mine Camp. A cricket club was in existence too. and there were regular motion picture screenings in the Wallarah Hall in Middle Camp. At Christmas time the mine shut down for ten days. There was an annual exodus of miners and their families from the Bay; most choosing to spend the time camping at Lake Macquarie, where fishing, shooting and swimming were the popular pastimes .¹²

¹⁰ *Labor Daily* 3. 7. 1925 p.5

" *Newcastle Morning Herald* 29.10.1925 p.8

" *Labor Daily* 25.11.24 p.5; *Labor Daily* 9.12.1924 p.5; *Newcastle Moming Herald* 12.12.24 p.3; *Labor Daily* 20.12.24 p.5; *Labor Daily* 12.12.24 p.5

No new building activity took place in Catherine Hill Bay in the 1920s but there were some changes in the location of public buildings. The Wallarah Coal Company had protested the resumption of the former school site for the police station in 1916. The land reverted to the company and the government resumed a new site for the police in Clarke Street, directly opposite the *Wallaharah Hotel*, comprising lots 1 to 6 of section F of the original 1875 Township of Cowper subdivision.¹³ But the police continued to occupy the old school buildings for some years, writing letter after letter to officialdom seeking funds to erect new buildings on the Clarke Street site or to re-erect the old buildings on the new site. It was too much to hope for new buildings in Catherine Hill Bay and eventually in May 1924 the old school building and the wocxien cell were removed to Clarke Street.¹⁴

The Methodist church had been in negotiation with the coal company since 1914 about obtaining a new piece of land for the church in a more central location. In addition to its original building on the southern edge of the settlement a small Methodist church had been erected at Mine Camp in 1898. With the development of Middle Camp both buildings were isolated from the main part of the town. In 1921 the original building was removed from Montefiore Street and re-erected on the western side of the road leading to Middle Camp from the Bay proper. A small parsonage was built beside it.¹⁵

A few years later the Church of England building was also relocated from its original site to one near Middle Camp. overlooking the ocean and across the road from the Methodist Church." In 1926 the post office was relocated to a store attached to a private residence in Lindsley Street, more or less opposite the original premises built in 1904. The postal authorities had been having trouble filling a vacancy for the position of postmaster because of the "deplorable condition" of the original postmasters' quarters.¹⁷

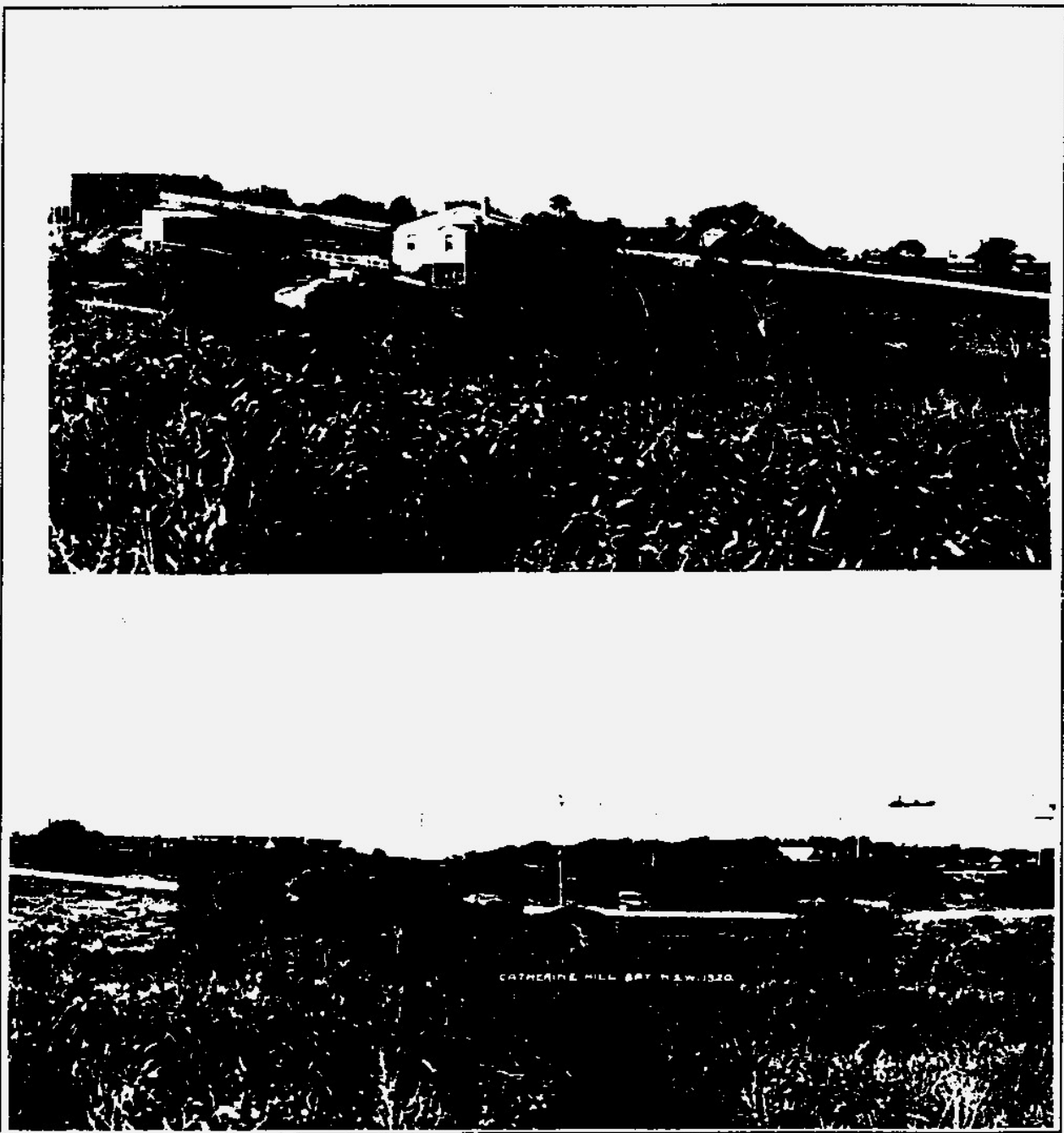
¹³ *NSW Government Gazette* 1.2. L918 p.598

" AONSW Chief Secretary's In-Lecters: Registers 5/2642, 5/2643. 512644. 5/2645, j/2646, 5/2647, 5/2648, 5/2649; *NSW Government Gazette* 10.8.1923 p.3606

" Bill Donne "catherine Hill Bay Uniting Church 1890-1990". typescript

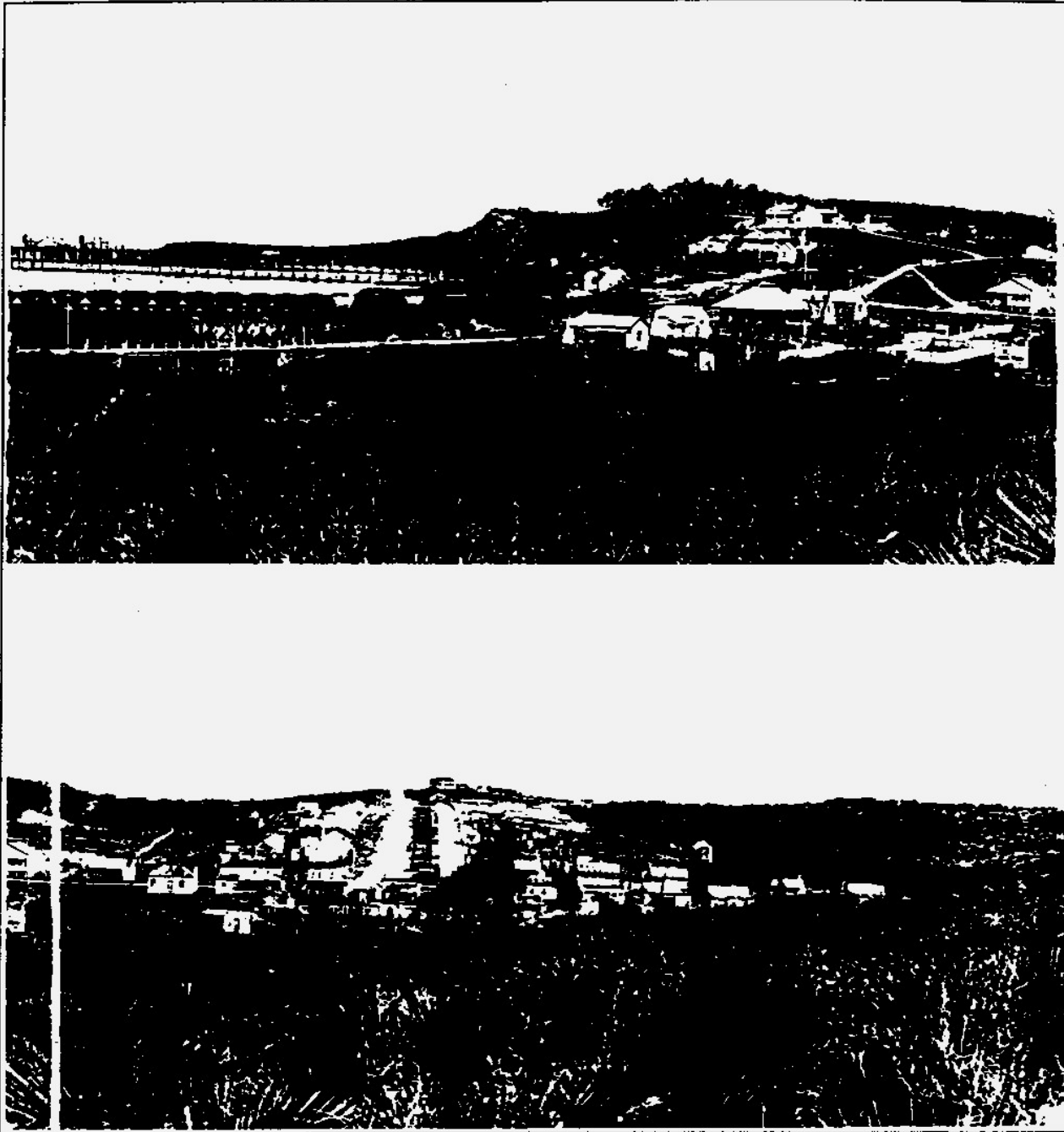
¹⁶ James D Wilson & Margaret Guild Wilson *Swansea Anglicans: the parish history of the church of St Peter's Swansea* Anglican Parish of Swansea 1986

" Australian Archives (NSW) Series 32: Catherine Hill Bay Post Office files



Sections of a panoramic photograph of Catherine Hill Bay taken in 1920 showing, from top left, the 1894-5 school building, the 1894-5 teacher's residence, and a string of coal wagons on the company's railway running to the jetty. In the second section of the panorama a collier can be seen headed towards the jetty but the focal point seems to be the touring car in the middle of the photograph. (source: Mitchell Library, Small Picture File)

Catherine Hill Bm.: landscape of a company town



Further sections of the panorama showing (top) the mine manager's house on the hill above the jetty, with his office on the slope below. On the top right edge of the photograph is the original United Free Methodist church. The final section of the panorama shows rows of miners' cottages in Clarke and Lindsley Streets and on the western edge of the township is the original Church of England building erected in Frazer Street.
(source: Mitchell Library, Small Picture File)

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

From 1917 until 1922 the *Wallarah Hotel* had stagnated in the hands of a licensee with a drinking problem. In 1923 it was extensively remodelled by a new licensee to cater for the ever-increasing tourist traffic.¹³ A newspaper report in January 1923 noted that many motor cars passed through Catherine Hill Bay because it was on the main Sydney to Newcastle road. The Bay was also gaining in popularity as an "out and home" run for motorists from Newcastle. There were two lines of char-a-banes running daily trips to the Bay, with extra trips on weekends and holidays. These were Mroomy, speedy, pneumatic-tyre shod vehicles" and ensured that the Bay became "quite a vogue with tourists and picnickers".¹⁹

But motor char-a-banes notwithstanding, tourism was always external to the lives of the residents of Catherine Hill Bay and, with the exception of its importance to the hotel owner, could have no real impact on the economic life of the town. It was the state of the coal industry that continued to shape development. In February 1929 coalminers across New South Wales were locked-out when they refused to accept a reduction in the coal hewing rate. The lock-out continued until June 1930 and led mining communities into the general world-wide economic depression. By 1933 the numbers employed in coal-mines in New South Wales had dropped from 22,370 to 12,910.²⁰

The thirties weakened Catherine Hill Bay's always tenuous grip on public services. There was talk in 1935 of closing the police station and the Court House. The police station stayed open but the Court of Petty Sessions was abolished in June 1936.²¹ The introduction of mechanisation across the coalfields from the mid-1930s meant that unemployment and intermittency of employment remained an issue in the industry even when the economy began to recover. In 1937 Wallarah colliery became the latest mine on the northern coalfield to be worked under full mechanisation conditions.²²

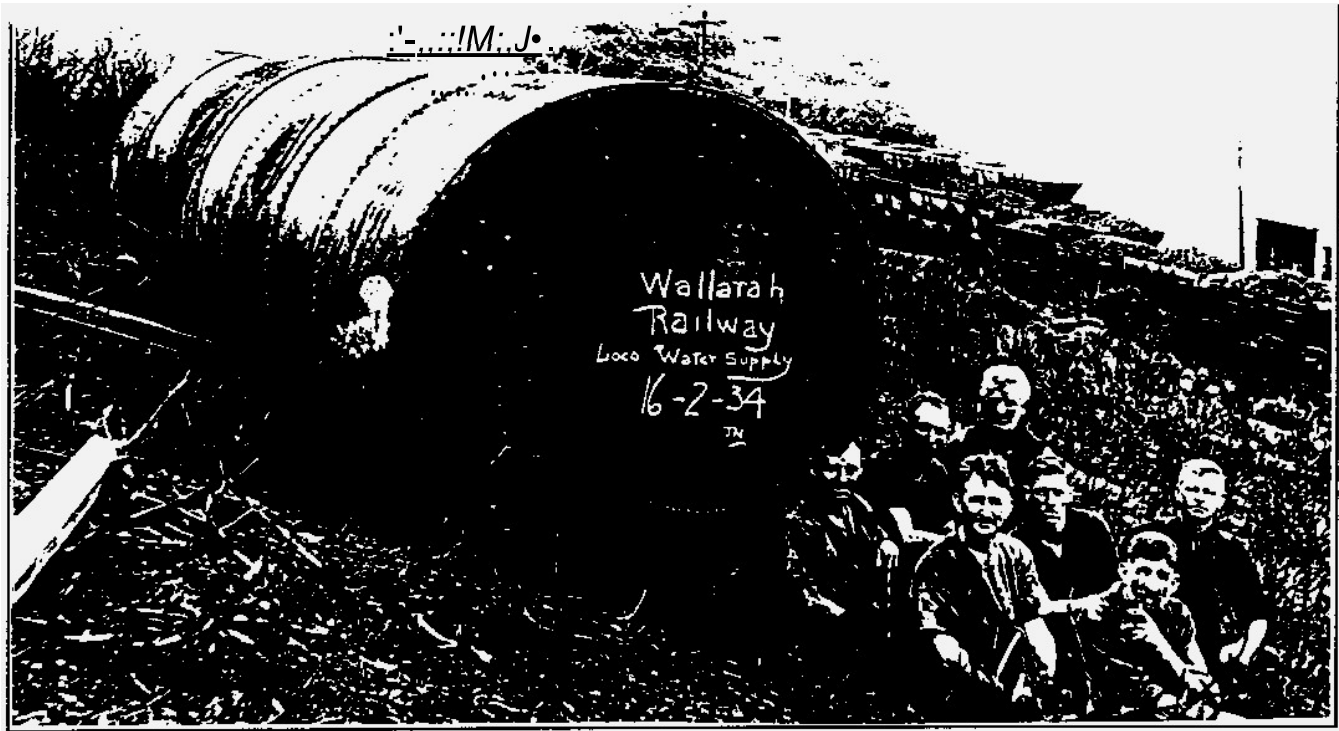
" Letter from Tooth & Co Limited to Mau Diver dated September 1977

" unsourced newspaper clipping dated 17. 1. 1923 in Mau Diver's scrapbook: "Catherine Hill Bay in words and pictures"

Alan Walker *Coal to 'Nn: a social survey of Cessnock* Melbourne University Press 1945 p.10

" *Newcastle Morning Herald* 23.8.1935 p.3; *Newcastle Morning Herald* 3.6.1936 p.3
Newcastle Morning Herald 28. 1. 1937 p.10; *Newcastle Morning Herald* 15.6.1937 p.5

3.7



Wallerah colliery workers posed before a boiler used as a locomotive watering point near the weighbridge sidings of the Wallarah colliery railway in 1934. The men, the coal trucks and the rail line have gone but the boiler remains.
(source: Lake Macquarie City Library - L103)

THE JOINT COAL BOARD YEARS

In the late 1930s, after a decade of industrial unrest on the coalfields, both state and federal governments became increasingly involved in attempts to mediate between capital and labour in the mining industry. A compulsory pension scheme covering all coal and shale mine workers aged 60 or older was legislated in New South Wales in October 1941. The demand for such a pension had been part of a log of claims submitted by the Miners' Federation in 1938 but it had taken the intervention of a Royal Commission in 1940 for coalowners to accept the idea. A demand for paid annual leave had also been part of the 1938 log of claims and had been granted, subject to certain conditions, by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court.'

Pensions and annual leave were award conditions. A less direct approach to the issue of living standards came from the town planning profession. In the United States a new kind of company town had developed in the early twentieth century, based partly on the ideas of the English Garden City movement. These new towns aimed at reducing industrial unrest by offering home ownership and by providing parks, sporting and recreational facilities. One expression of this concept in New South Wales was the planning of Glen Davis as the centre of a shale-oil mining venture in the Capertee Valley.

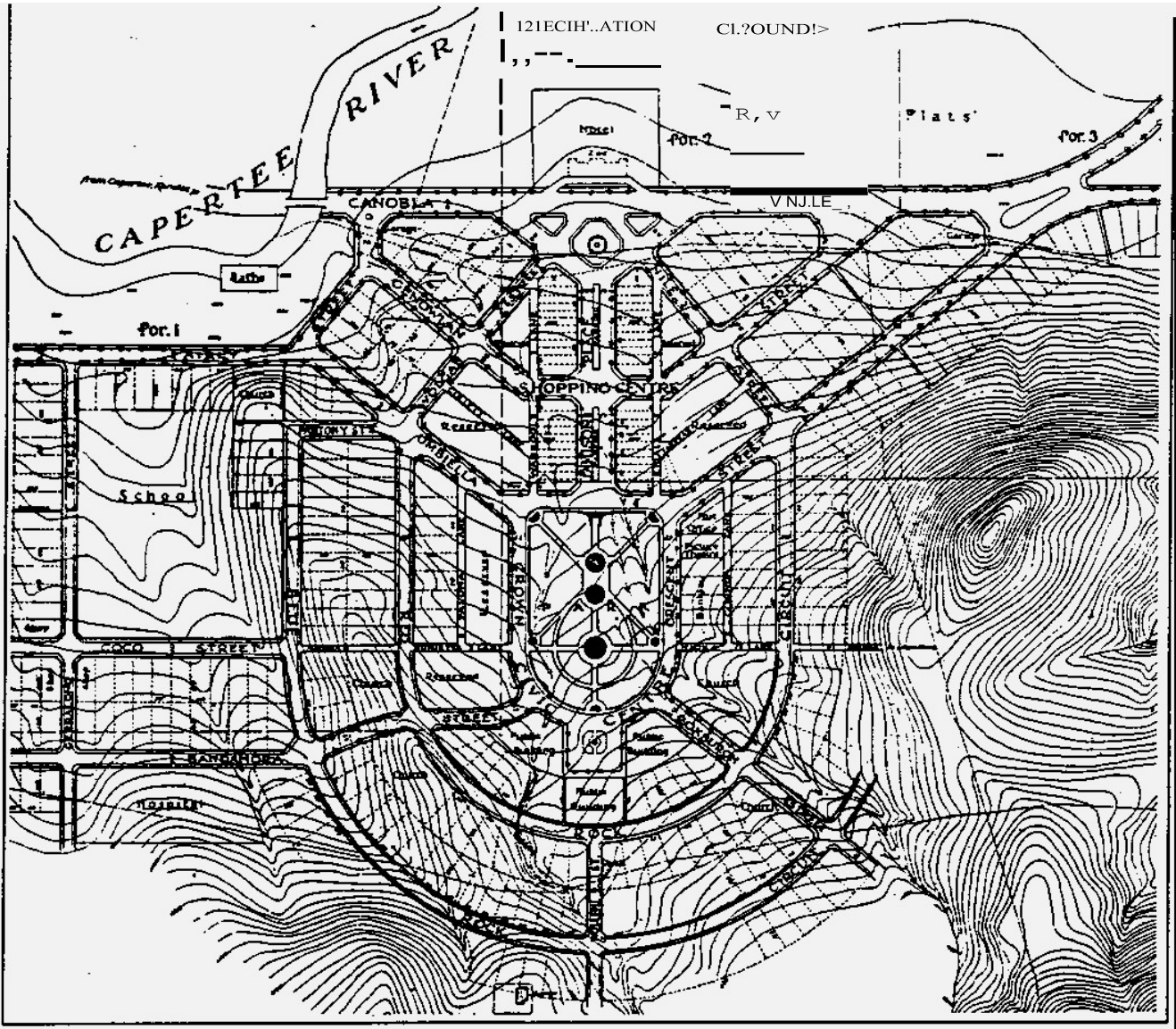
The magazine *Building* published a plan of Glen Davis in November 1939, reporting that a bill had been introduced into the New South Wales parliament "intended to control the development of the town along the most approved town planning lines." Land in the town was to be sold by auction under a covenant which would require the erection of houses of a specified type and value. Sites had been set apart for churches and public buildings and for a commercial centre. A population of 6000 to 8000 was anticipated with control ultimately passing to an elected municipal council.³

The coal miner June 1950 pp.14-15; Robin Gollan *The coalminers of New South Wales: a history of the union, 1861-1960* p.215

Margaret Crawford *Building the workingman's paradise: the design of American company towns* London Verso 1995

Building 24.11.1939 p.99; *Building* 24.5.1940 pp.38-39 & 94-95

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town



Plan of Glen Davis published in *Building* 24 November 1939. Glen Davis was built in the Capertee Valley to service the National Oil Company's shale-oil works. The plan was drawn up by an officer of the New South Wales Works and Local Government Department and included provision for shopping and civic centres, a school, a hospital, several churches, a picture theatre and a swimming baths. A large hotel was positioned on the river flats at one end of the town in the expectation that the town would become a tourist resort, attracting visitors to its "little known scenery and virgin bush lands".

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

Glen Davis was a far cry from Catherine Hill Bay which, as one writer had observed in 1915, had not been laid out by "the town planning committee" .. It represented the new standard of industrial towns by which places like Catherine Hill Bay came to be judged by planners and politicians. And it intersected with a popular perception that company towns like Catherine Hill Bay were un-Australian. This latter idea found expression in the pages of the *Daily Mirror* in November 1941 when Wallarah miners began a stay-in strike over the penalty clause in their holiday award. The strike involved more than 100 men and lasted for a record-breaking 101 hours. It made the front pages of every major Sydney and Newcastle newspaper. The *Daily Mirror's* special correspondent painted a picture of a shanty town, with small unpainted wooden houses, each a replica of its neighbours. The correspondent found these housing conditions strange but thought that an even stranger feature of the town was that it was completely owned "by shareholders who live in England."

It was against this background of welfare planning and popular perception that the Commonwealth Government drew up plans during 1945 for the post-war organisation of the Australian coal industry. Legislation passed by both the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments in 1946 set up an authority called the Joint Coal Board which saw its central objective as ensuring the provision of sufficient coal to meet the expanding needs of Australian industry. It identified one of the limits on production as the antagonism and suspicion prevailing between owners and miners. To deal with this problem the Board involved itself directly in the improvement of pit and community amenities.⁶

Catherine Hill Bay was one of the mining communities targeted for improvement. In August 1947 the Miners' Federation newspaper, *Common Cause*, published a list of demands being made by the Wallarah miners. These included water supply, installation of electric lights in the cottages, road improvements in and around the township, land to be resumed either by the Coal Board or Housing Commission for the erection of modern houses with the option of purchase by tenants, provision of a recreation hall with facilities

Sydney Morning Herald 18.9.1915 p.7

Daily Mirror 25.11.1941 p.9; *Newcastle Morning Herald* 26.11 1941 p.2

Robin Golian *The coalminers of New South Wales* p.227

Catherine Hill Bay: Imuscape of a L.:ompany tol-WI

such as a library, billiards room etc, introduction of a bakery and butchers shops in the township, a sports oval, the provision of a surf boat and life-saving gear, and the immediate installation of a public telephone.⁷ This list reveals that the Bay had lost more than its court house in the depressed decade of the thirties.

In October 1947 a miners' representative told the *Newcastle Morning Herald* that "in several public inquiries and royal commissions on mining, the shocking living conditions at Catherine Hill Bay have been mentioned, but nothing has been done to correct them. "A conference was scheduled for Catherine Hill Bay in November 1947 which brought together representatives of the Joint Coal Board, the unions, Lake Macquarie Shire Council, Hunter District Water Board, Newcastle Electric Supply Department. and the State Housing Commission.

On the eve of the conference, the *Newcastle Morning Herald* ran a feature article about Catherine Hill Bay. It reported that the 763 residents of Catherine Hill Bay were "tired of carrying water from a community tap. and of reading and writing at night by candle or kerosene lamp light." For most residents a bath meant a "tin tub in a back roomn. Some were concerned that the regular summer shortage of water might mean that the local cottage maternity hospital would have to close since the sister had to "hump water from a well to attend a new-born baby. "ii

The *Herald* reported that many of the miners' cottages had "corroded guttering, boards falling from exterior walls, broken brickwork. wood frail from age or termites, roofing iron through which rain pours. broken windows, others that will not stay open. stained walls and uneven floors. • Some houses had no stoves and women cooked over open fireplaces. The *Herald* also explained that since the company would not compensate tenants for renovations, people moving out of Catherine Hill Bay sometimes pulled down their improvements and took them with them.

Common Cause 9.8.1947 p.4

Newcastle Morning Herald 23.10.1947 p.4

Newcascl e Morning Herald 15.11.1947 p.5

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

Miners told the *Herald* reporter that there was "discrimination between themselves and staff men", that staff houses had "electric light, bathrooms and water laid on". *Common Cause* said that the miners and their families had long been taunted by the telegraph poles which by-passed their lamp-lit cottages carrying electricity to flood-light the tennis court at the manager's house on the hill.¹⁰

Soon after the November meeting the General Manager of the Wallarah Coal Company, Clifford Ross, wrote to the London Chairman of the company reporting that the Joint Coal Board had asked them "to carry out extensive repairs and painting of our houses at Catherine Hill Bay". that is. the houses occupied by employees and ex-employees of the company rather than those occupied by officials. He had called tenders for the work. The tenders amounted to £19,310 of which £4,710 represented work on houses occupied by officials. Ross thought it would be unwise to exclude officials' houses when the others were renovated.¹¹

Ross also reported to London that, following the November conference, the company had been asked to "make available an area of land for subdivision into building allotments and for sale to individuals. and it was also suggested that the company might sell the existing houses (other than those required for officials) with a suitable area of land." He had agreed to consider this idea. reporting that "all these houses are now very old" and, even after the repairs and painting, would still be "far from modern". Many of the houses were occupied by ex-employees compulsorily retired under the Miners' Pensions Act. Ross expected that the company's return on the houses would become less and less.

The London Directors were concerned that if the cottages were sold then the company might find itself short of housing accommodation for "our miners", should the houses and land get into the possession of "outsiders".¹² In response to this concern, Ross explained that "for many years the tendency has

¹⁰ *Common Cause* 28.2.1948 p.5

¹¹ CoaJ & Allied Industries Limited Archives: Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association correspondence file 1947•1973, letter no.1395 8.12.1947

¹² CoaJ & Allied Industries Limited Archives .. letter no.267 14.1.1948

been for more and more of our employees to move away from Catherine Hill Bay and live at Swansea or elsewhere where there are larger communities and therefore other attractions. • He added that this tendency commenced after the 1914-1918 war and continued pretty steadily even through the depression of the early 1930's up to towards the end of the last war when the scarcity of housing caused it to stop for the present." Ross thought that selling the company's houses would not have an impact on the company's supply of labour since nearly half of their employees already did not live on company land. He had some thought of avoiding the costs of repairs and painting by offering to sell the houses cheaply instead. However the Joint Coal Board insisted that the repairs be carried out promptly and further insisted that the company wire each house for electricity.¹³

By February 1948 the company had had a change of heart about selling the houses. They felt that they might be "embarrassed" in the future by many small areas being alienated from their ownership. This embarrassment might be caused by their wish to make new entrances to the mine together with new surface buildings etc in or close to the areas sold. There might also be the problem of "complaints of nuisance", particularly if a proportion of the houses or allotments of land were eventually owned by persons not employed by or connected with the colliery.¹⁴

Meanwhile the Joint Coal Board had come up with a plan to set up a developmental company in which the Board and the coal company would be shareholders. The coal company would sell the Board the surface of an area of vacant land and the new company would subdivide it and build houses and provide recreation areas. Clifford Ross thought that the idea had merit. He wrote to London explaining that "if it is successful the class of person occupying the houses should be much improved which in turn would probably improve the class of employee in our service. which would naturally be to our advantage even if it eventually led to the abandonment and demolishing of the present houses owned by us". Ross thought that the Joint Coal Board had more to lose than the Wallarah Coal Company. The Board was, he believed, obviously afraid of the political and industrial repercussions likely to result if

¹³ Coal & Allied Industries Limited Archives... letter no.1400 22.1.1948; letter no.1404 5.2. 1948

¹⁴ Coal & Allied Industries Limited Archives... letter no.1407 13.2.1948

the miners' unions were able to demonstrate that the Board had done nothing to improve their housing and living conditions.¹⁵

In June 1949 a nationwide mining strike began. It continued until mid-August and its impact was far-reaching. Industry ground almost to a halt, unemployment reached a million and soup kitchens dotted the industrial suburbs of cities like Sydney and Melbourne.¹⁶ The Melbourne *Argus* sent a staff reporter named Gordon Williams on a tour of the northern coalfields of New South Wales. He visited Catherine Hill Bay in early July and wrote an account for his paper which was published under the headline: "These miners live in appalling conditions".¹⁷

Williams reported that due to damp the new paint so recently applied was already peeling from the walls of the old brick cottages. While miners could bath in the new washhouse built at the mine under Coal Board pressure, women and children still had to use tin tubs in their kitchens. Williams explained that his brief was not to adjudicate on the merits of the strike but to try to discover "at least some of the things that make the miners industrially restless." He concluded by suggesting that Catherine Hill Bay was one of those things.

The strike was defeated. In Catherine Hill Bay it soon became clear that the Joint Coal Board had also gone cold on the idea of building a new township at the Bay. Their development had been planned to take place over five stages, totalling 550 houses. But in April 1949 they were advised that the costs of water and sewerage works, plus road construction and stormwater drainage, rendered the cost of the scheme "prohibitive". Instead, consideration was being given to the "subdivision of suitable land at South Swansea, where mineworkers could build their own homes under the Co-operative Scheme and would be living in a mixed community and not a 100% mining town. ...

¹⁵ Coal & Allied Industries Limited Archives... letter no.1409 2.3.1948

Phillip Deery (ed) *Labour in conflict: the 1949 coal strike* Canberra Australian Society for the Study of Labour History 1978

¹¹ *Argus (Melbourne)* 4.7.1949 p.5

" Coal & Allied Industries Ltd Archives: Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association correspondence file 1947-1973; *Newcastle Morning Herald* 27.7.1950 p.7

The Board also withdrew a plan to spend £14,000 on a general program of community development at Catherine Hill Bay. They had promised £8000 for a community centre, £3000 for dressing sheds and a lavatory block, £2000 for a bowling pavilion and tennis sheds and £1000 for surf sheds. In May 1950 the *Newcastle Morning Herald* reported that the Coal Board would instead spend only £6324 - on a children's playground, earthworks, a bowling green and tennis courts. According to the *Herald* the Board had decided that Catherine Hill Bay was "not worth developing".¹⁹

The Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association announced that it would itself take up the campaign to persuade the Wallarah Coal Company to sell land for private building and in the early 1950s drew up various subdivision plans. none of which met with the Wallarah Coal Company's approval.²⁰ The sum total of community facilities achieved through the Joint Coal Board program in these years was the bowling green, tennis court and recreation area to the south of today's Northwood Road in Middle Camp. With some financial assistance from the coal company an RSL hall was built on the northern side of Northwood Road in 1952.²¹ It was built piecemeal around an existing one-roomed building which had earlier served as the School of Arts.

Around 1954 the main road through the town was surfaced and named **Flowers Drive in honour of Septimus Flowers, a member of the Joint Coal Board.²²** The main Sydney-Newcastle highway had by-passed Catherine Hill Bay in the **thirties.**

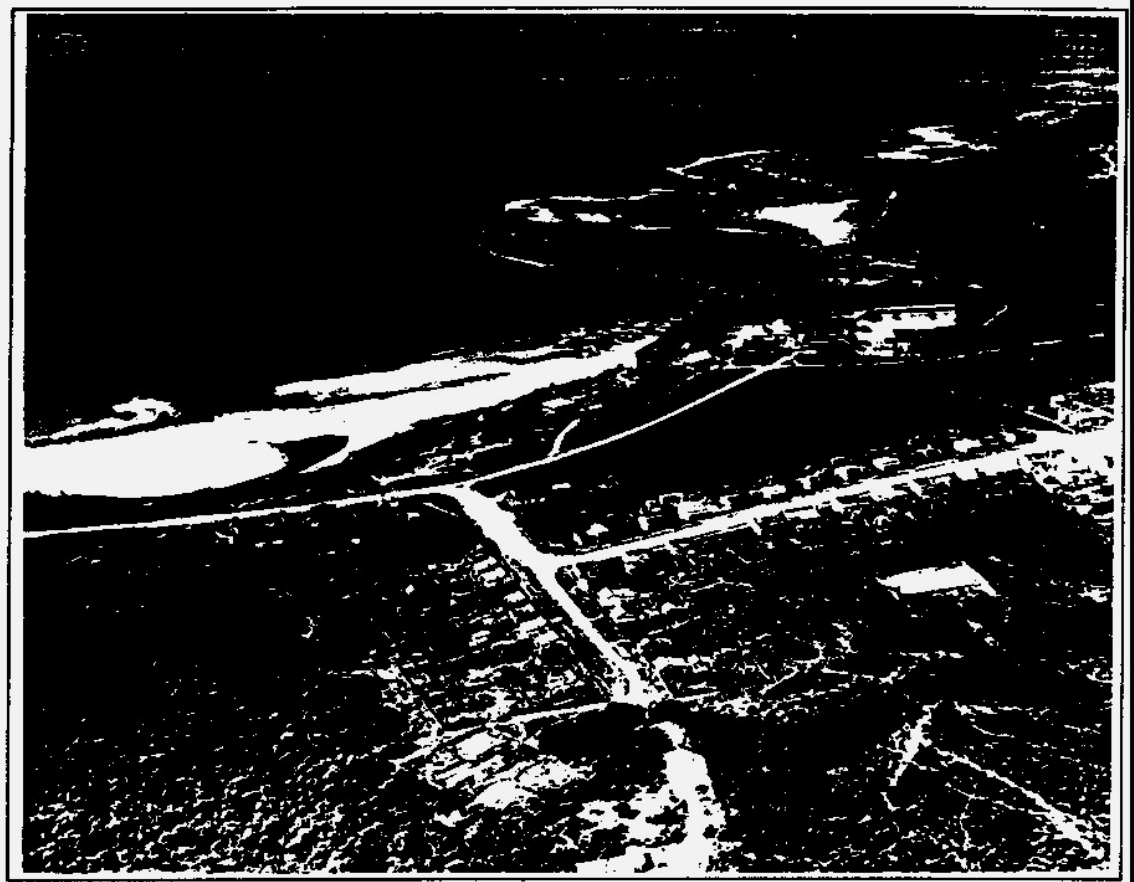
¹⁹ *Newcasrle Morning Herald* 17.7.1950 p.5

²⁰ *Newcasrle Morning Herald* 22.5.1950 p.2; Coal & Allied Industries Limited Archives: Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association correspondence file 1947-1973

²¹ *The coal miner* December 1952 p.15; *Newcastle Herald* 14.5.1990 p. 1

²² *Newcastle Morning Herald* 7.2.1976 p.7

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town



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Aerial view of Catherine Hill Bay in 1950. Most of the houses shown in this photograph were built in the late 1880s and early 1890s. Photograph by Avion Views, Cooranbong. (source: Mitchell Library, Small Picture File)

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

3.8.

COAL & ALLIED INDUSTRIES LTD

The modest public amenities gained for Catherine Hill Bay during the immediate post-war years were the first substantial public works in the town since the erection of the school in 1915. They were also the last. In 1956 J & A Brown Abermain Seaham Collieries Ltd took over the Wallarah Coal Company.'

The new owners began an extensive reorganisation and mechanisation program, concentrating development near Crangan Bay on Lake Macquarie.² Modernisation brought retrenchments. In March 1958 Wallarah miners staged a sit-in strike to protest at the impending dismissal of 200 men from the colliery. The strike lasted 203 hours and during this time a march and mass meeting of more than 20(X) mineworkers and other unionists took place in Catherine Hill Bay in support of the strikers. The protest resulted in a special grant to the Hunter District Water Board to find alternative employment for some of the sacked miners.³ Further retrenchments followed the final closure of E pit at the end of 1963.' The Wallarah colliery railway also closed down completely at the end of 1963, although some sections had already closed some years earlier.

By 1962 J & A Brown Abermain Seaham Collieries Limited had become a division of Coal & Allied Industries Limited and were planning major modifications to their shiploader at Catherine Hill Bay. Thousands of tons of sand and conglomerate were removed from the hill above the jetty to make way for a huge reinforced concrete coal storage bin. In 1964 a 1000-foot long retractable conveyor system was installed to travel and continuously load over the full length of the hatchways of a ship at berth.'

Christopher Jay *The coal masters: the history of Coal & Allied 1844-1994* Sydney Focus Publishing 1994 p.169

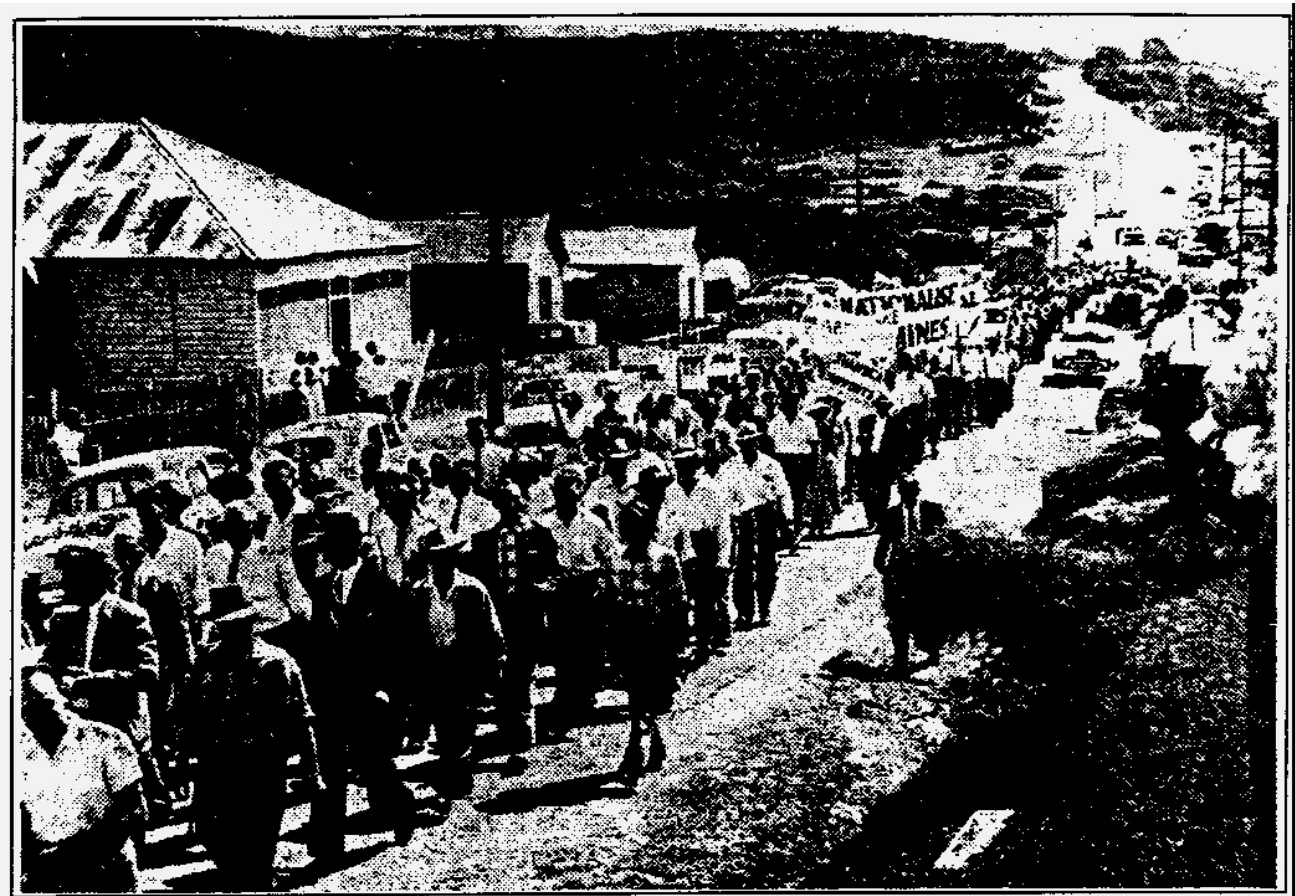
Australian Coal, Shipping, Steel & the Harbour 2.12.1957 p.64

Newcastle Morning Herald 12.3.1958 p. 1; *Newcastle Morning Herald* 18.3.1958 p.3; *Newcastle Morning Herald* 20.3.1958 p. 1

- *Newcastle Morning Herald* 8.1.1. 1963 p.3

The Coal Miner June 1962 p.18

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company IQLLR



17 March 1958. Protest march through Catherine Hill Bay in support of a stay-in strike by Wallarah miners. Faced with the impending dismissal of 200 men from the colliery as a result of re-organisation and mechanisation of the mine, the protest aimed at forcing the state government to provide alternative employment for the sacked miners. When the strike came to an end the strikers and their families held a celebratory dinner at the *Wallaharah Hotel*, just as they had done after their 1941 stay-in strike.
(source: *Newcastle Morning Herald* 18 March 1958)

Catherine Hill Bay: /mid.scape of a company town

In 1964 Coal & Allied also decided to sell company cottages to their occupants. Around 100 houses in Clarke and Lindsley Streets and Flowers Drive were sold with their land. Many of those who bought cottages at this time were retired miners or the widows of miners and, for those who were second or third generation residents of the Bay, home ownership brought problems outside their previous range of experience. They were now liable to pay rates to the local council but found that they got few amenities in return. Only some, for example, had the means to have a septic waste disposal system installed.⁶

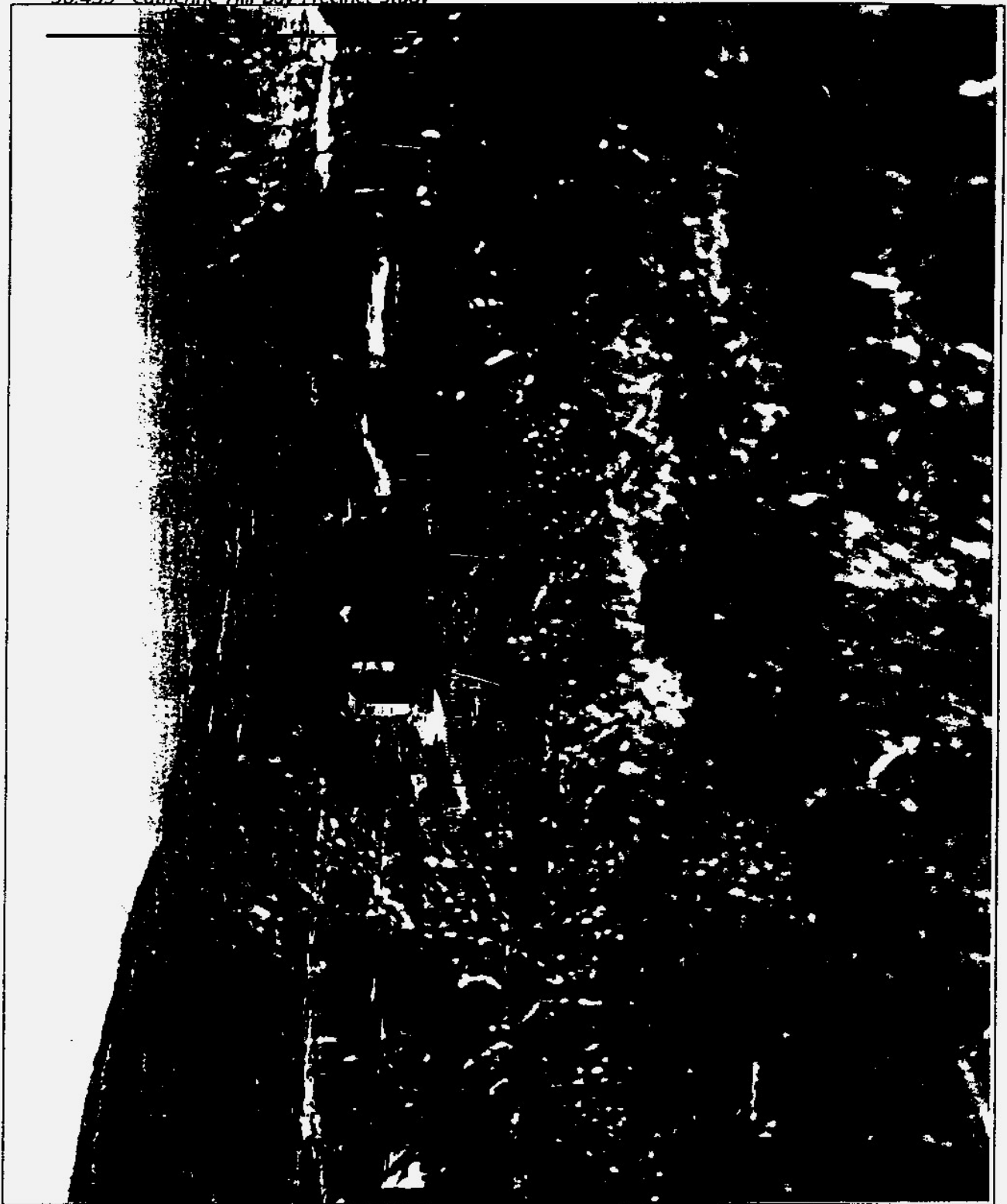
In the little pockets of settlement off the main road near Middle Camp company employees who had built their own houses on company land paid a ground rent. Coal and Allied reached an agreement with these tenants in 1967 guaranteeing their occupancies for their lifetimes. The houses were to be demolished on the death or departure of the original tenant.

In recent years there have been further job losses in coal-mining in the area. 280 workers were retrenched by Coal & Allied in 1992 and more jobs were lost in 1993 following the sale of Coal & Allied's coal-mining operations to a new consortium. A continuing population decline in Catherine Hill Bay meant that the town can no longer support even the few public amenities remaining from those that had been so hard won a century earlier. Dwindling enrolments forced the closure of the school at the end of 1985. The Anglican church and the post office both closed in 1993. All are now private residences.

In late 1994 there seemed to be a reminder of the 'good old days' of company town control when families living on Coal & Allied land in two cottages in "Slack Alley" near Middle Camp were served with eviction orders.⁷ They were relatives of a former company employee, the original tenant who had been granted a permissive occupancy in 1967. But these residents had no industrial recourse to the evictions. The relations of power in Catherine Hill Bay had undergone an important shift and were no longer those of a company town. Coal & Allied now stood as a developer not an employer in its relationship to the community.

Coal & Allied Industries Limited Archives: Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association correspondence file 1947-1973; *Newcastle Morning Herald* 23.6.1966 p.9

Newcastle Herald 13.10.1994 p.5; *Newcastle Herald* 13. L.1995 p.5



The former Anglican church at Catherine Hill Bay, photographed in 1988. The church was moved from its original site to this spectacular location in the early 1920s. It is now a private residence.
(source: Matt Diver "Catherine Hill Bay in words and pictures")

Catherine Hill Bay Precinct Study

leONCLUSION: A SENSE OF HISTORY

The closure of E pit and the colliery railway in 1963 and the sale of miners' houses marked the end of an era for Catherine Hill Bay. Locals and visitors alike began to see to the Bay as an historic place. In 1967 centenary celebrations were held in the town, partly sparked by the publication of a history of Lake Macquarie which told the story of the wreck of the *Catherine Hill* in 1867.¹ The committee which organised the celebrations was also responsible for the erection of Catherine Hill Bay's only public monument, a collection of anchors, grouped together on a concrete block on a small knoll overlooking the beach.

In the 1960s members of the Australian Railway Historical Society made frequent visits to Catherine Hill Bay, taking photographs of locomotives, rail waggons and sidings. In 1973 the Cardiff Heights Progress Association suggested that Catherine Hill Bay should be declared a historic township. The proposal provoked strong opposition within the town. Residents did not want to live in a "goldfish bowl" with "loads of people peering into our homes". Catherine Hill Bay's Progress Association was hoping for the coal company to release land for subdivision so that the town could grow. Local and state politicians were anxious to control development in the town in the interests of tourism. They found the concept of a mining town "where the company has almost total control over the residents in its employ" to be totally "foreign to the Australian way of life".¹

Both views were brought together by journalists writing magazine pieces for their newspapers in the 1970s. Catherine Hill Bay was seen as "both a relic of a neo-feudal past in Australia and part of our heritage". In the early 1980s the National Trust and the New South Wales Heritage Council identified the village as "an outstanding example of an early company mining town". In the interests of cultural tourism planning controls were proposed to preserve the

Keith H Clouten *Reid's mistake: the story of Lake Macquarie from its discovery until 1890* Lake Macquarie Shire Council 1967; *Newcastle Morning Herald* 11.5.1967 p.9

Lake Macquarie Herald 1.3.1973 p.2; *Lake Macquarie Herald* 29.3.1973 p.1; *Newcastle Morning Herald* 23.7.1973 p.2

¹⁰ *Newcastle Morning Herald* 7.2.1976 p.7

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company town

interests of cultural tourism planning controls were proposed to preserve the historic fabric of Catherine Hill Bay, particularly its miners' cottages.

The 'otherness' of Catherine Hill Bay, noticed by journalists as early as 1897, was now official. But whereas in 1897 that unknown writer Pinxit found Catherine Hill Bay picturesque only by closing his eyes to the company houses, now it was the very ability of these houses to represent the relations of power between coalminer and coalowner that made them of interest to the tourist and traveller.

Catherine Hill Bay is not unique as a company town in Australia, although such towns were not the characteristic urban form in the Newcastle coalfields district in the nineteenth century. Nor is the idea of a company town particularly "foreign" and "un-Australian". A number of such towns exist in remote mining regions of the country. Catherine Hill Bay is remarkable not for its singularity as a company town but for the longevity of its survival as such a town. Other nineteenth century company towns like Minmi have disappeared completely. Some, like Joadja Creek in the southern highlands of New South Wales, survive only as ghost towns. More recent "modern" company towns have also disappeared. Little survives, for example, of the grand urban dream of Glen Davis. Yallourn, a town built for the Victorian State Electricity Commission in the 1920s, and planned like Glen Davis using 'garden city' principles, was demolished in the 1970s.¹²

Much has been lost at Catherine Hill Bay. In 1973 a railway historian wrote that it was still possible to walk the whole length of the railway but that most traces of pit-top buildings, screens and yards in the vicinity of E pit had disappeared." In the following years the railway also disappeared and all of tile houses at Mine Camp were demolished. The locality survives now only in memory. There have even been some recent demolitions of heritage-listed cottages in the main street of the town.

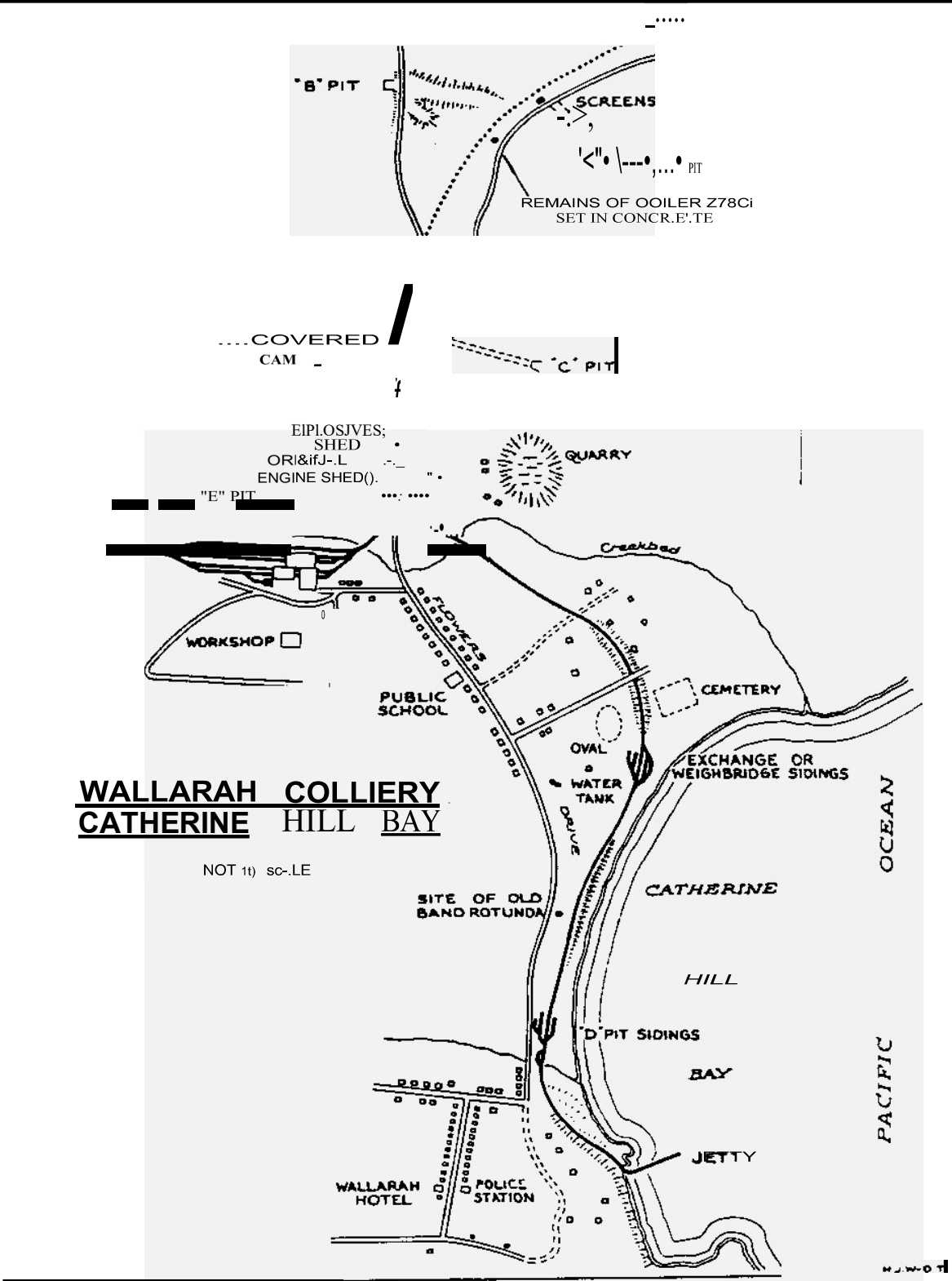
" *Newcastle Herald* 19.5.1982 p. 11; *Newcastle Herald* 12.4. 1983 p.3

" Peter Read *Returning to nothing: the meaning of lost places* Melbourne Cambridge University Press 1996

" HJ Wright, The Wallarah colliery railway, Catherine Hill Bay *Australian Railway Historical Society Bulletin* Vol. XXIV No.424 February 1973 p.29

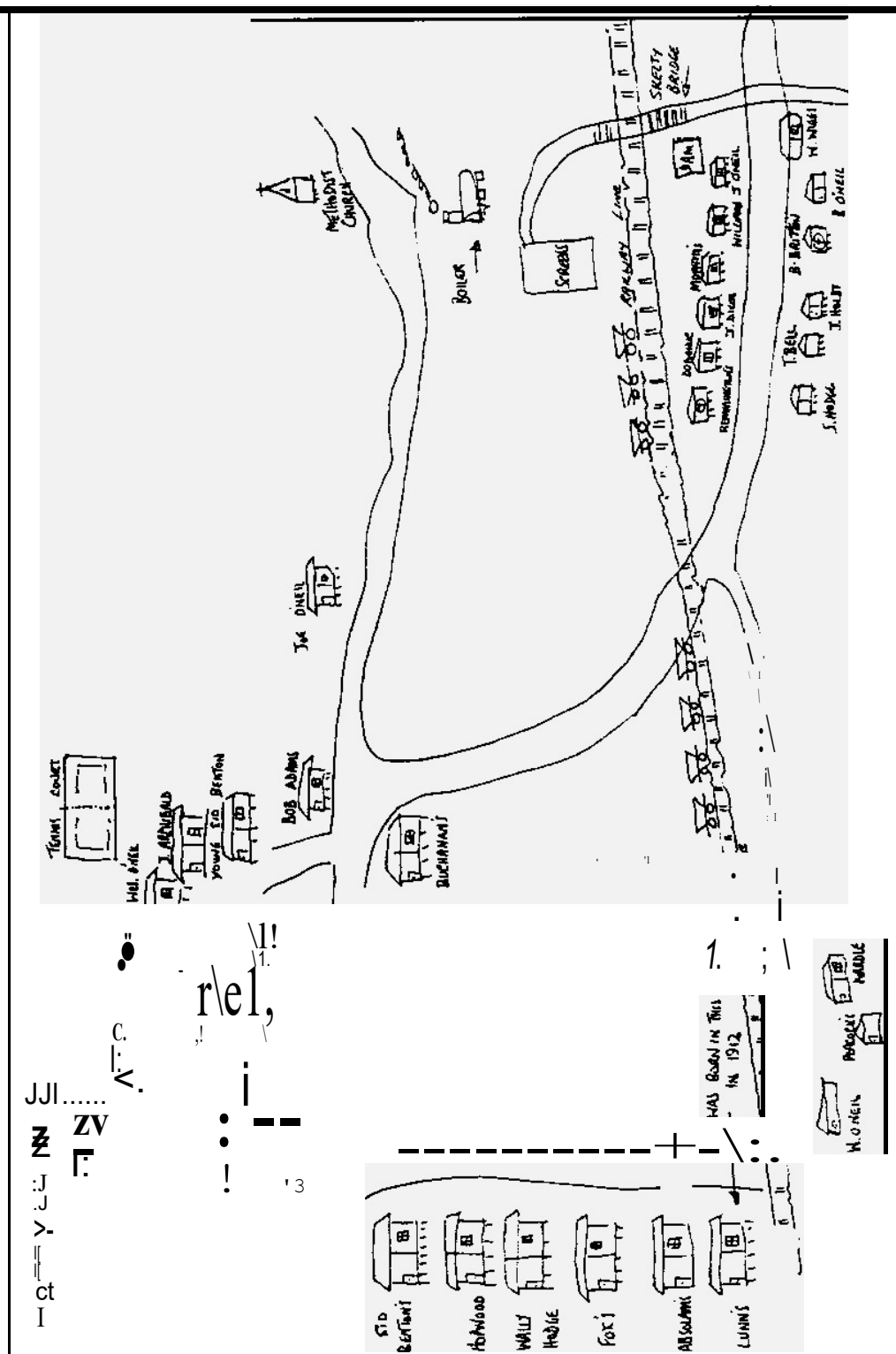
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But much remains. There are still uniform rows of miners' cottages in Clarke and Lindsley Streets and Flowers Drive. These cottages are the most obvious expressions of the company town but not the only ones. The power of the Wallarah Coal Company to control development is reflected also in the relational locations of surviving buildings and structures. The former mine manager's house still sits on its hill with a view over the town, the jetty and the former route of the company's railway. The former jettymaster's house is just down the slope from the manager's house. Other houses built for company officials survive near Colliery Road, separate from the miners' cottages lining the main road, and with more privacy. Some indicators of the path of the colliery railway also remain. One is a boiler installed on the hillside above the site of the former weighbridge sidings. It once served as a locomotive watering point.

Two other structures which are exceptionally significant in the history of Catherine Hill Bay also survive, notwithstanding their own histories of change and alteration. These are the jetty and the hotel. They represent a continuity between the New Wallsend Coal Company's first 1873 settlement at the Bay and the settlement formed by the Wallarah Coal Company in 1888-1889. If the jetty is seen as a symbol of the coal company, then the hotel, as one of the few buildings never owned by the company and as the locale for the miners' traditional 'black pint' and the venue for lodge meetings and celebratory lunches, might be seen to represent the mine workers.



Plan of the former Wallarah colliery railway showing the layout of the extensive sidings at E pit, the weighbridge sidings near the cemetery, another set of sidings at the former D pit not far from the jetty, and the line of the original railway running between A and B pits. (from H J Wright "The Wallarah colliery railway, Catherine Hill Bay" *Australian Railway Historical Society Bulletin* February 1973 p.30)

Catherine Hill Bay: landscape of a company to K/11



A plan of Mine Camp as it was in 1916, drawn from the recollections of a former resident. Mine Camp houses were weatherboard with 4 rooms, an open fireplace, a front verandahs and a tank. The group of houses below the screens was known as Angels' Rest. They were mainly 2-roomed, with an open fireplace and a tank but no verandah. (source: Matt Diver "Catherine Hill Bay in words and pictures")

4. ANALYSIS OF THE CATHERINE HILL BAY AREA

4.1 PATTERNS OF THE LANDSCAPE AND BUILT FORM SUMMARY

The first recorded descriptions of Catherine Hill Bay describe in detail its distinctive topography and site. As the area was developed the unsuitability of large areas of land for settlement and the potential usage of the ground for mining has resulted in the retention of large sections of this landscape. The result has been a dominant landscape setting for the town of Catherine Hill Bay which continues today.

Since the 1980s increased development has alerted Macquarie City Council to the need to protect this unique area.

The first and most familiar impression of Catherine Hill Bay is gained from the south at the corner of Clarke Street and Montefiore Street where the dramatic landforms of the headland and beach dominate the rows of small houses stepping down the hill.

The second and most familiar impression of Catherine Hill Bay is gained from the north along Flowers Drive where the jetty and headlands are sighted. Prior to the rows of small houses in Flowers Drive.

Another key view of Catherine Hill Bay is visible from Flowers Drive looking south to the original Cowper Town Plan defined by Clarke and Lindsley Street which provides an image of the developed character of Catherine Hill Bay. This group of buildings dating back to 1888 link the various stages of the subdivision and development of Catherine Hill Bay which expanded to Middle Camp and Mine Camp

The intersection of Clarke Street and Lindsley Street marks the beginning of Cowper Town which follows the boundaries of the original Plan of Cowper town of 1870 and 1888. Only two of the proposed eight streets have been developed but the street alignment remain as paddocks which act as a constant reminder of development proposed but never realized. While the landscape features provide a strong backdrop, the quality of the streets is derived from the low scale built form and highly consistent pattern of predominantly one storey weatherboard cottages. This reflects their historical association with the company.

The appreciation of the natural topography occurs at three levels. Firstly as the dramatic vista appreciated on arrival to the Catherine Hill Bay Area. Secondly as a general landscape backdrop to development which has occurred predominantly in the lower more sheltered areas. Thirdly as a varied and dramatic juxtaposition of landscapes which range from exposed ridges and cliff forms to sheltered sloping land.

The appreciation of the built environment occurs at four levels. Firstly as part of the dramatic vista where the scale of the town is easily dominated by the topography. Secondly as a collective group of repetitive houses stepping up and down the hills. Thirdly the size and siting of major buildings such as the jetty hotel and service administration facilities is clearly distinguished against the pattern of repetitive houses and the landform. Fourthly the detail and finishes of the individual houses.

4.2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Pattern of Sub-division

The 1875 Plan of Cowper was laid out a rectangular grid which while little developed formed the street pattern for later development. The street plan, hotel, Manager's Residence, Jetty and mines remain from this period.

In 1875 the New Wallsend Coal Mining Company finally discontinued when many of the structures were relocated to Lake Macquarie.

The development along the former Pacific Highway now Flowers Drive reflects the re establishment and the expansion of The Wallarah Coal Mining Company. In 1888 the new Company re-established in Cowper and built a railway to link to a new mine 2 1/2 miles north along which lineal settlement developed. By 1891/3 repetitive workers lines of cottages existed in three separate locations Catherine Hill (Cowper) Middle Camp and Mine Camp. Remnants of the camps, the houses in Cowper and the cemetery remain from this period.

By 1908 the increase of the population at Middle Camp resulted in new uniform cottages erected along the road closer to E pit on Colliery Road. A new purpose built school was located here. The school and houses in Flowers Drive and Colliery Road remain from this period.

While attempts by the Joint Coal Board and Wallarah Coal Mining Company to develop the area for sub-division occurred in 1945 this was not realized. In 1956 The J & A Brown and Abermain Seaham Collieries took over and modernized the operation resulting in reduced staff, the closure of the Colliery Railway in 1962 and the sale of many company houses. Since that date the public facilities of the town have declined and the buildings which housed those services became privatised as residences. The former public facilities such as churches and post office remain although their use has changed. The 1962 privatization of the land has resulted in redistribution of lots, the loss of earlier houses and the erection of new houses of a larger scale and different materials.

Aesthetic Development

The key factor in the appearance of the miners cottages was utility rather than aesthetics. While they possess a strong group aesthetic such as is evident in Victorian terrace development or Federation housing. The individual houses do not have an aesthetic elaboration typical of such styles or development. The houses are small, simple and unpretentious. Because they are so simple the impact of minor changes can be dramatic. Individual properties such as the hotel, police station and individually owned homes were more elaborate than the miners' cottages.

Catherine Hill Bay, Cowper Town, Clarke Street, developed in the 1890's with later gabled type development in Lindsay Street in the 1920's. Catherine Hill Bay Middle Camp developed in the 1910-1930's along Flowers Drive, many houses dating from the 1920's have gable end. Cemetery Road, Cemetery 'Squatters' settlement comprises houses of one storey set at right angles to each other.

Colliery Road comprises a series of 1910-1920's, one storey houses close to street.

Evidence of dwellings at Catherine Hill Bay Mine Camp has not been established.

Individual Housing Types

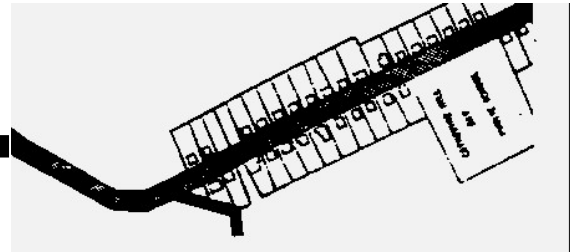
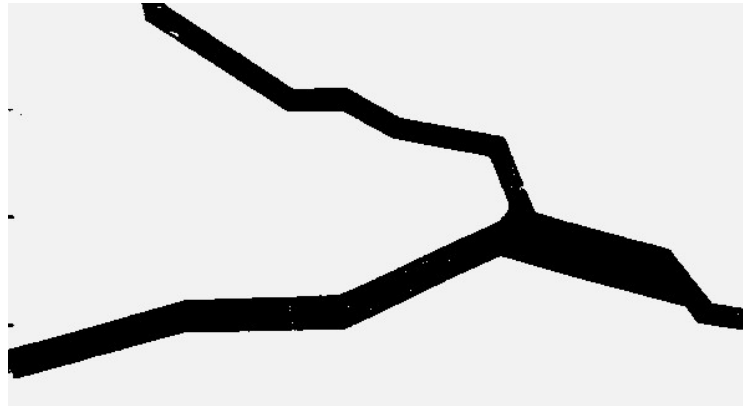
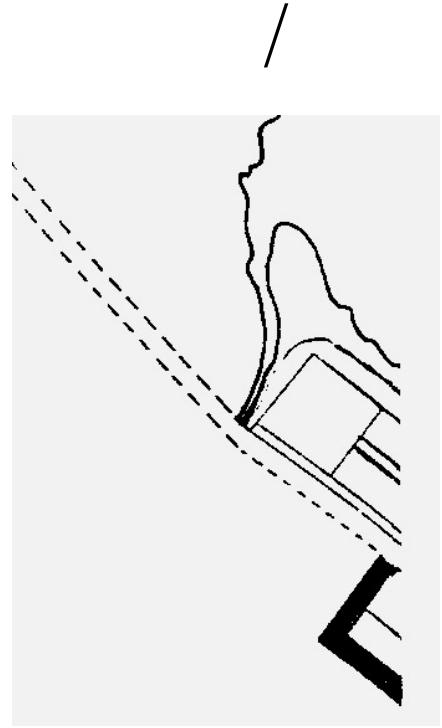
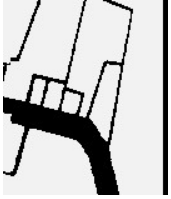
The houses are located on blocks which average fifteen with a three metre set back on one side to provide garage access and a two metre set back on the other. The house average ten metres wide with five metre landscape strips between . Which allows views of the landscape.

The houses are predominantly one storey. Only two, 2 storey developments exist which are detracting.

The houses are simple rectangular shapes, comprising a simple folded plane roof

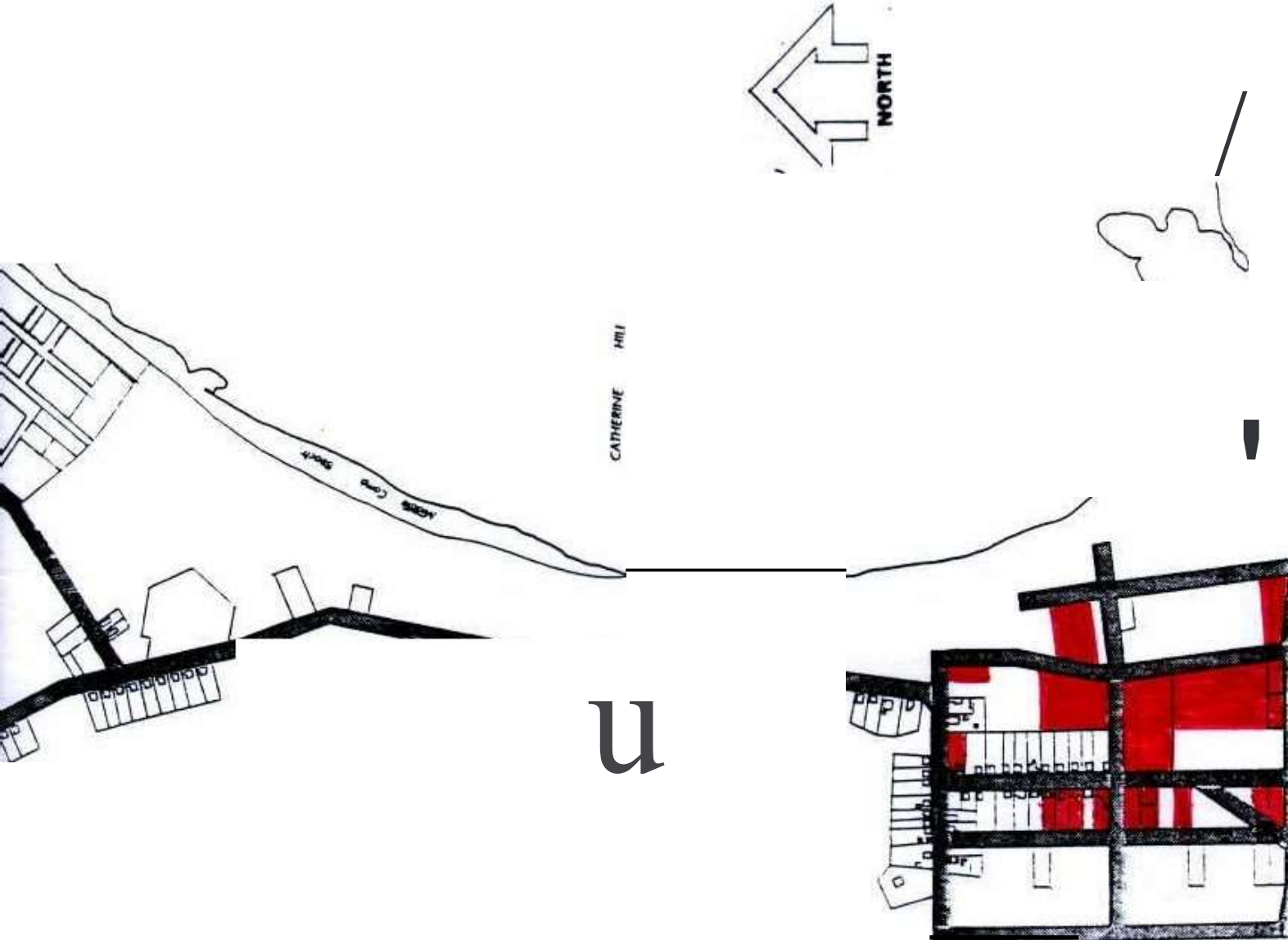
of approximately 30deg which reflects the internal roof side.
Some houses have gables which face the street , some have verandahs which face the street.

Houses on the low side fall away enabling extensions within the existing roof plane. Roofs are predominantly metal although some have been replaced with tiles. The wall finishes are predominantly timber boarding and fibro.



**TOWNSHIP OF COWPER, 1875
LEGEND**

- A Knowles Bakery
- B Constable
- C Mr Talbot's Hotel (Wellarah Hotel CH4)
- D Goulston Davis
- E Land that would be suitable for school site
- F J Tsafe
- G Land that would be suitable for school site
- H Mr Smyth
- I Mr Campbell
- J Mr Campbell
- K Mr Simour
- L Mrs Mayle
- M Miners Houses
- N Miners Houses
- O Patrick O'Neill
- P J Fahey
- Q Mrs Maloney
- R Trevillion Public House
- S Post Office & Store
- T School site suggested by applicant in 1875
- U Mr Aldrick



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County of Durham
1831

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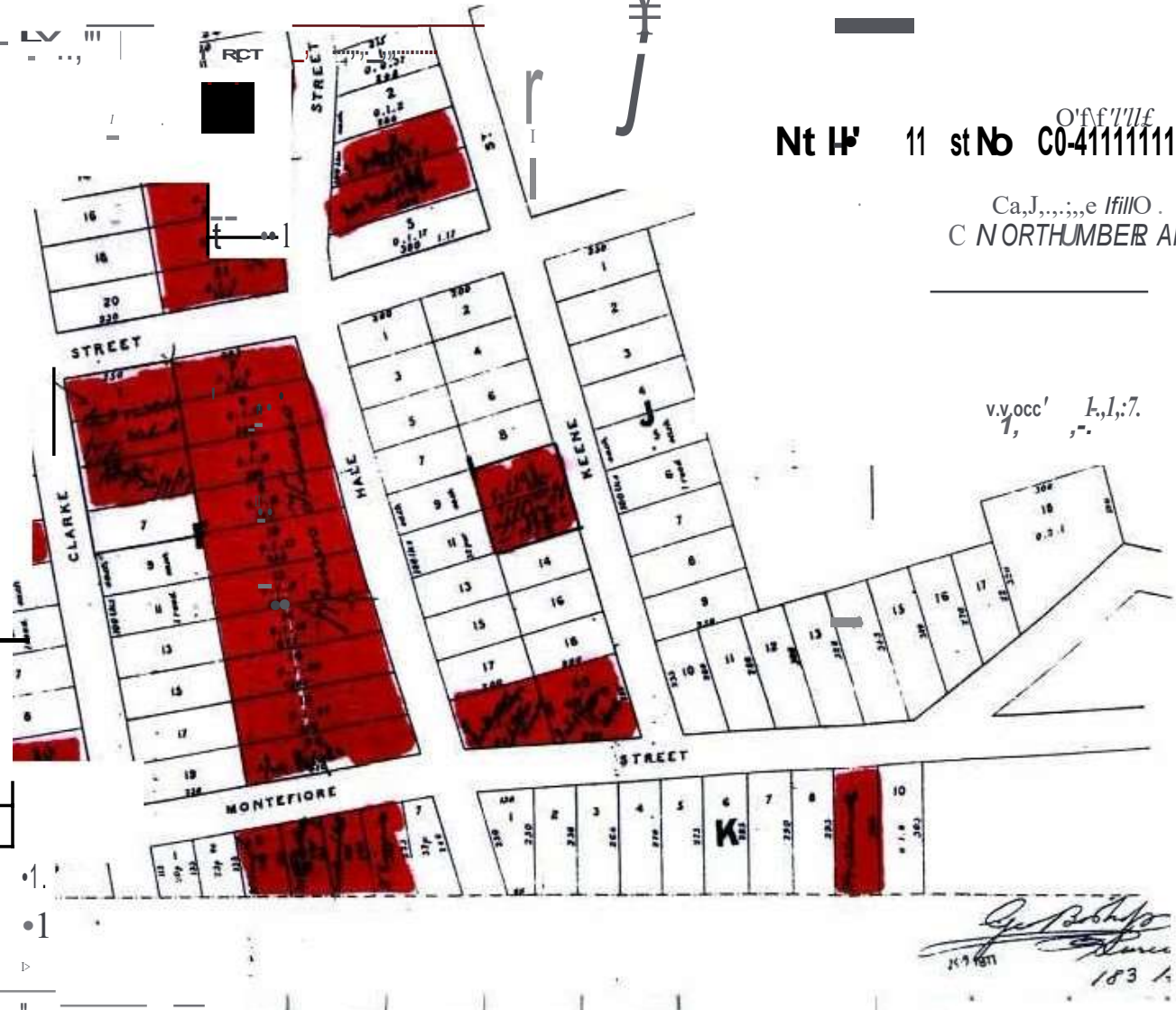


Figure 3: Plan of the Township of Cowper on
New Wallsend Coal Mining Co's Estate Cath
1831

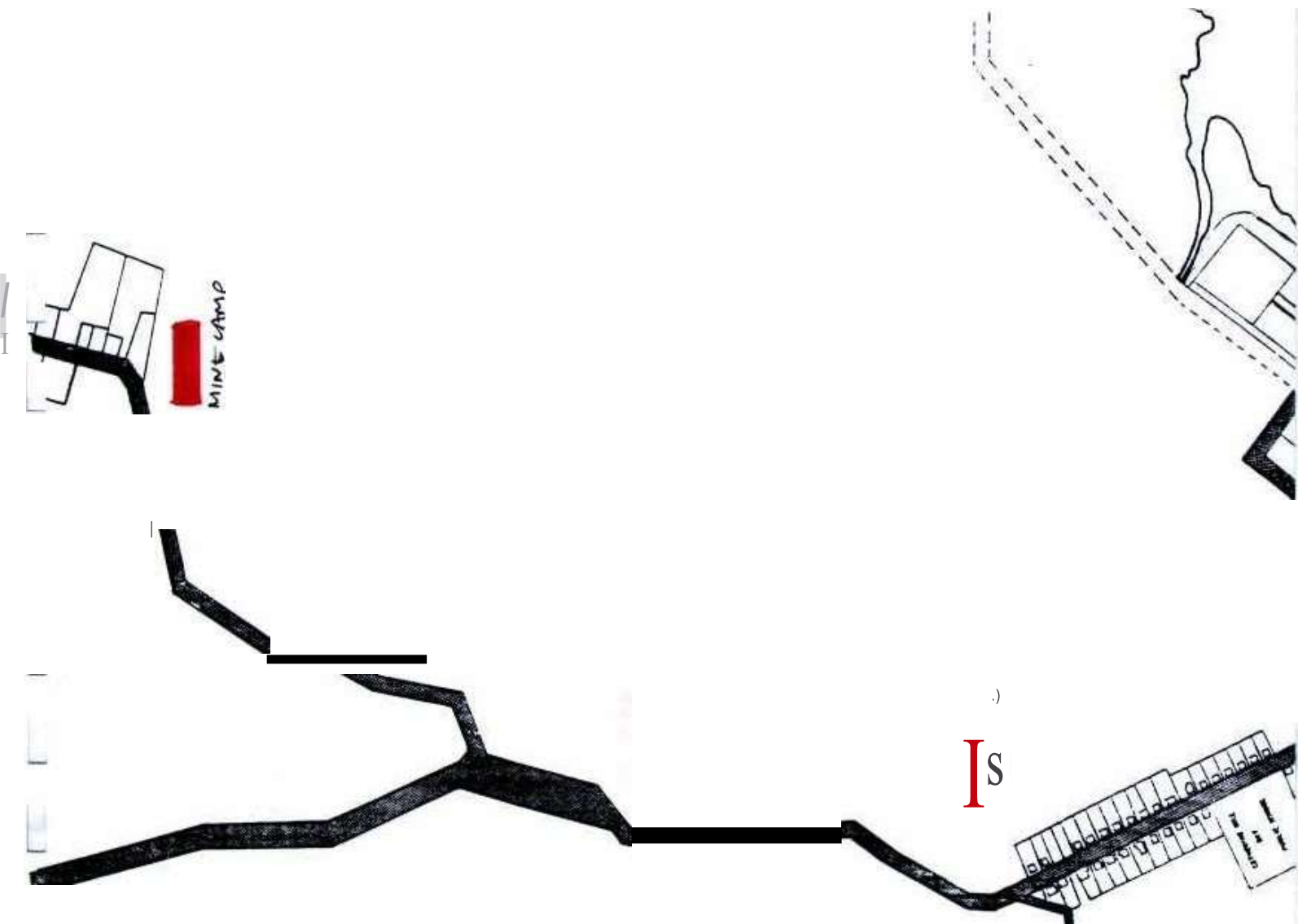
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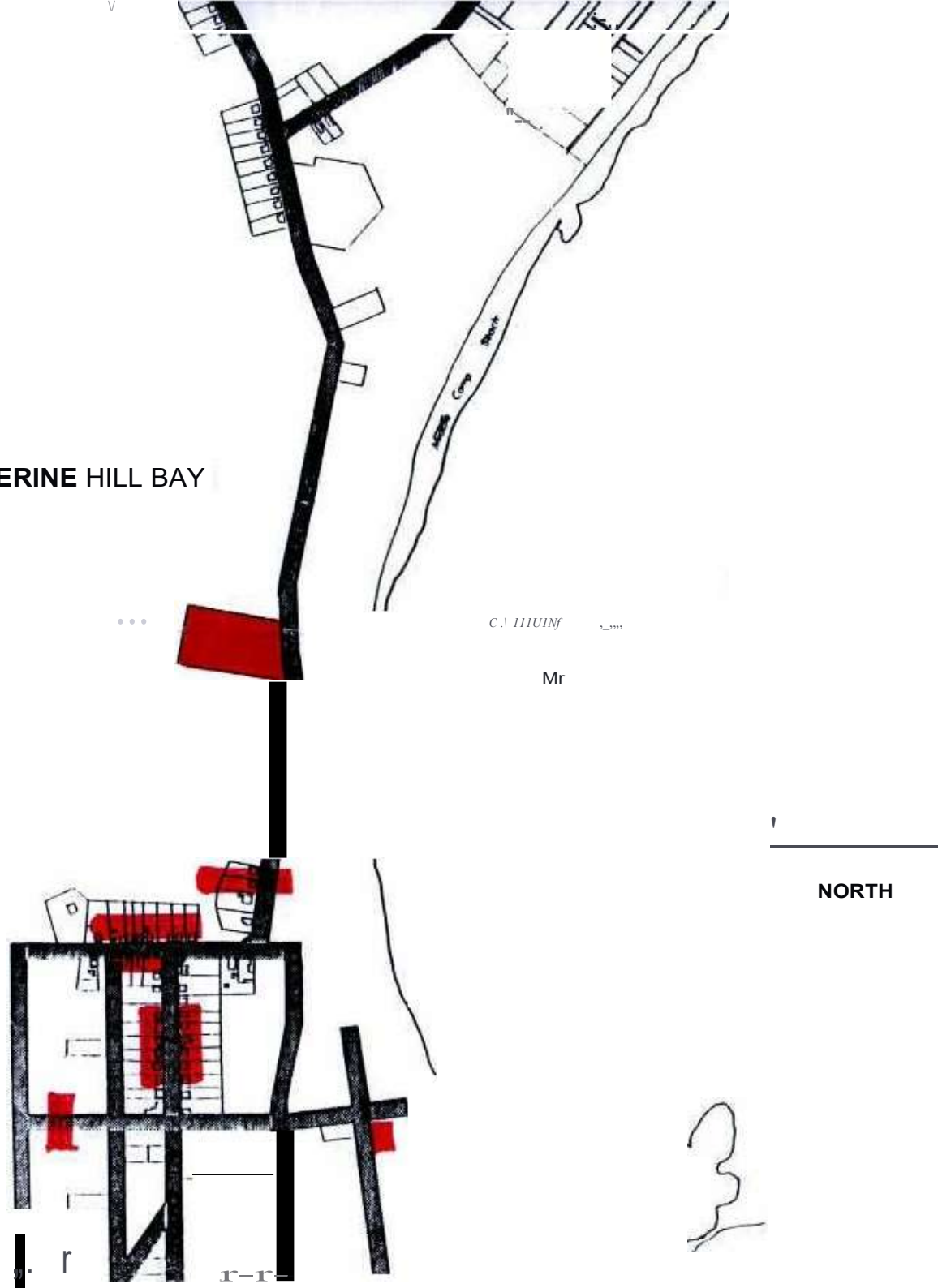
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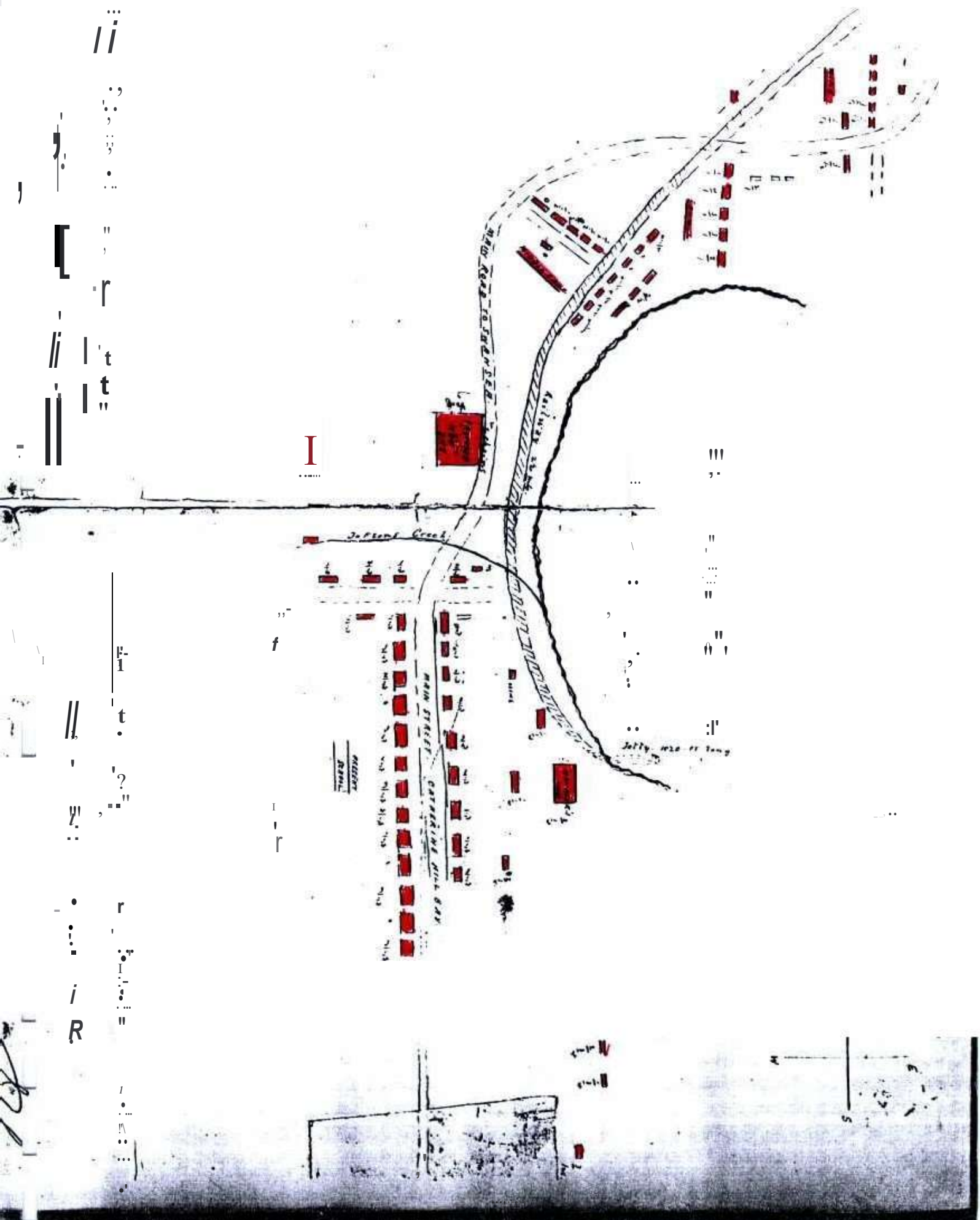
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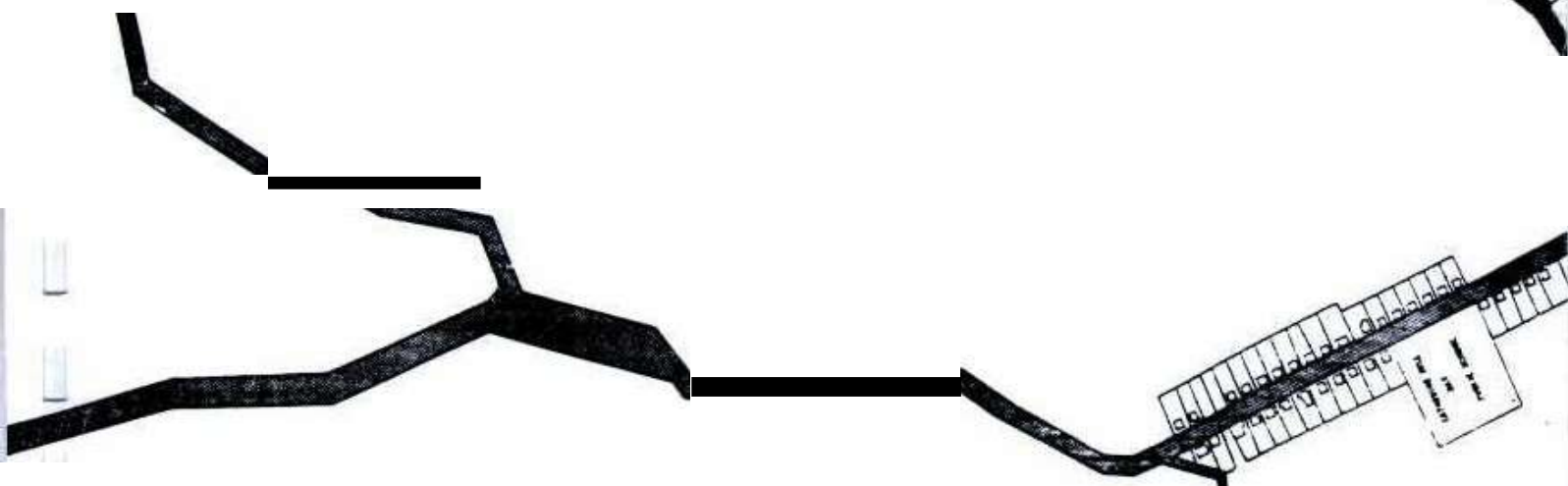
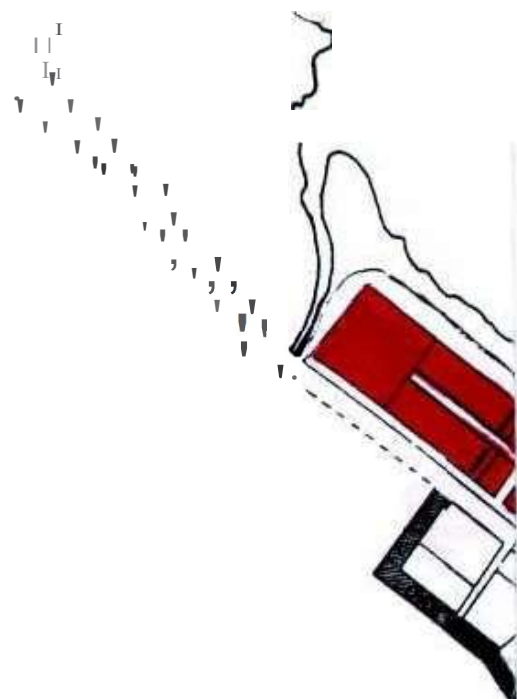


SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CATHERINE HILL BAY
9 APRIL 1891

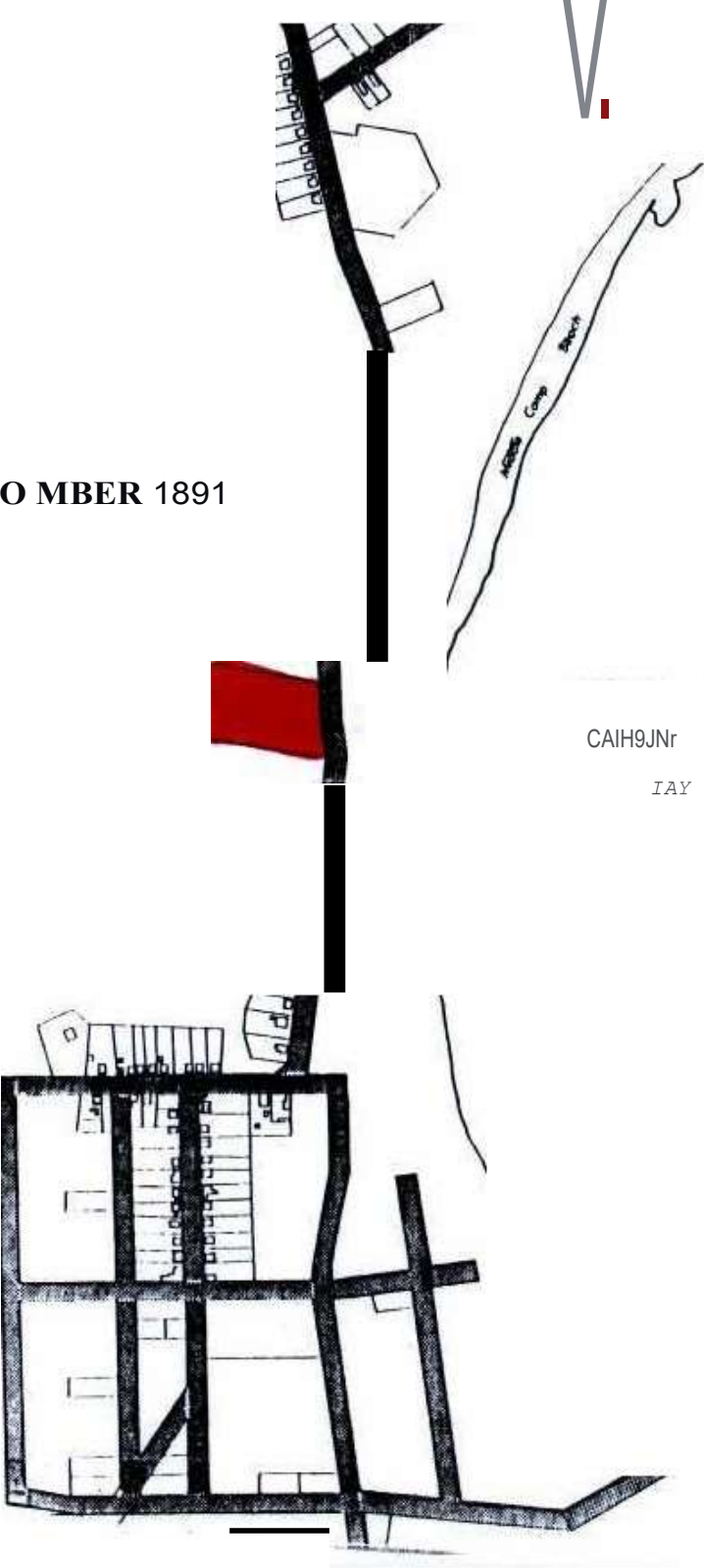








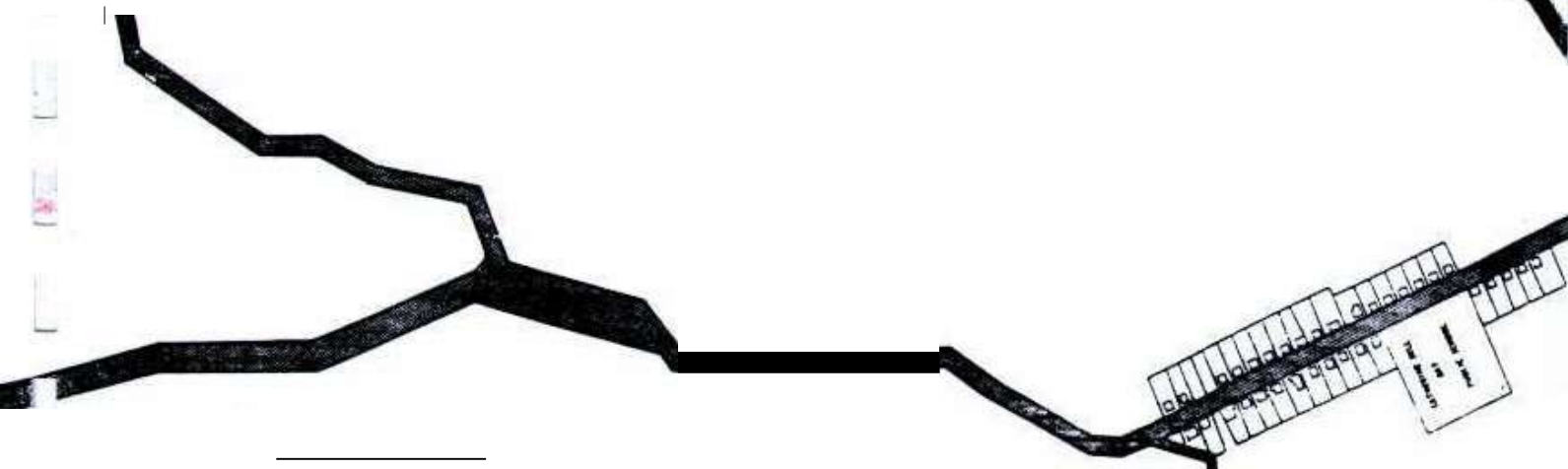
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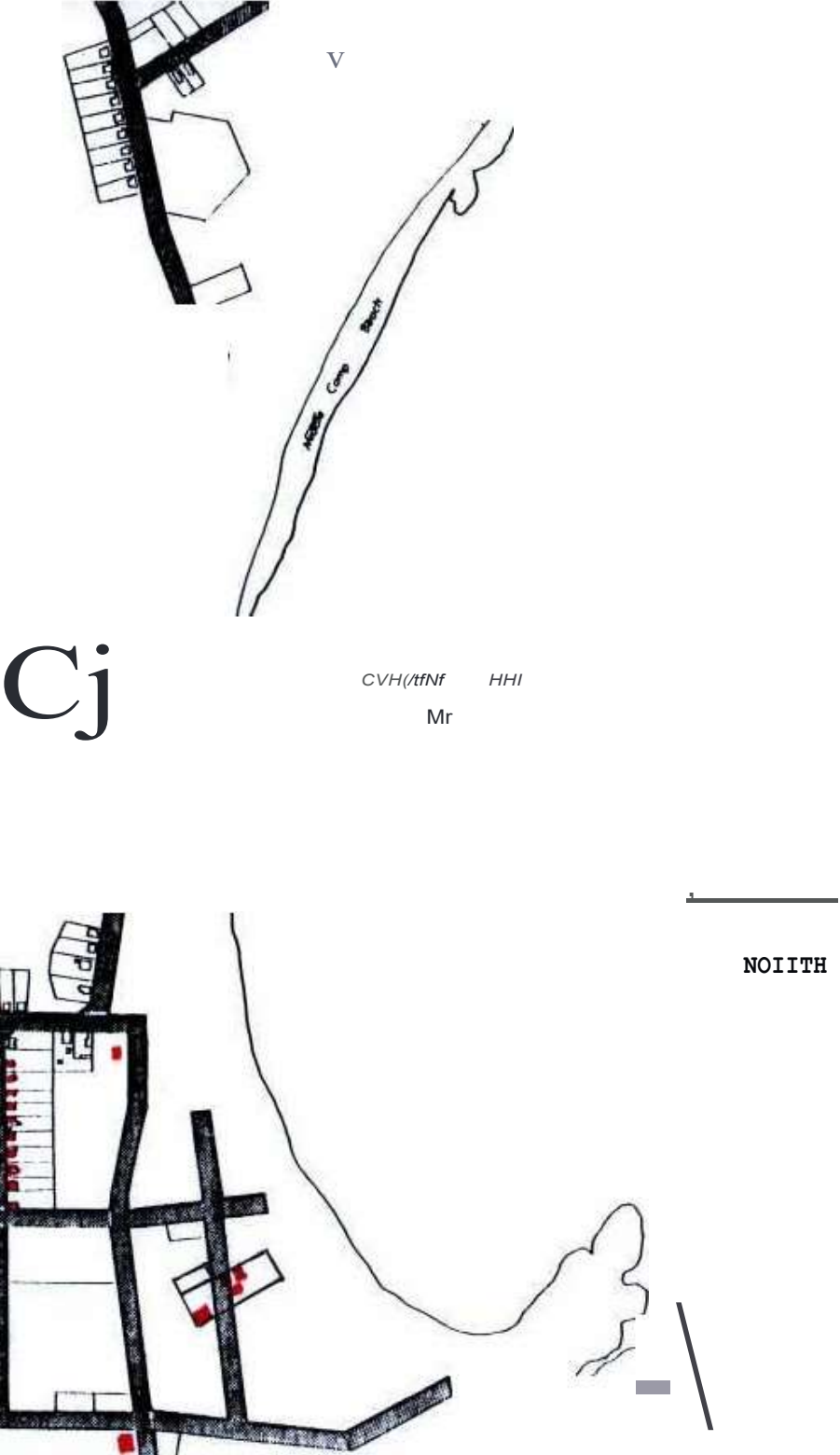
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LANDS DEPARTMENT PLAN, 1893



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Robert Saddlington & Charles Parbury
now Wallarah Coal Co

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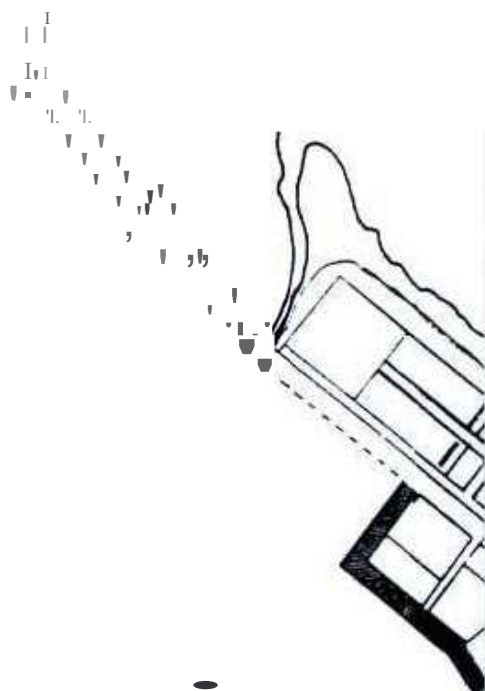
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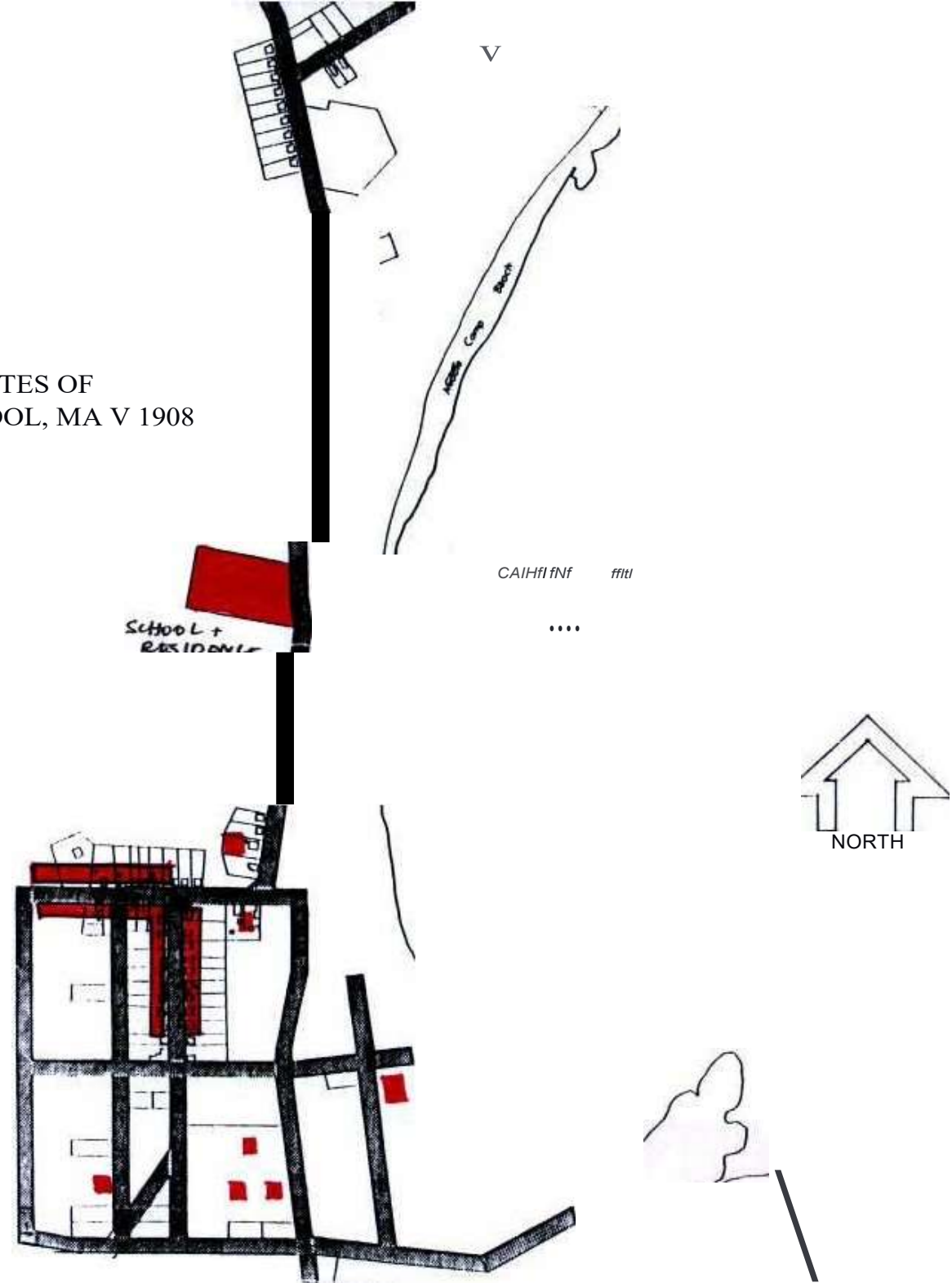
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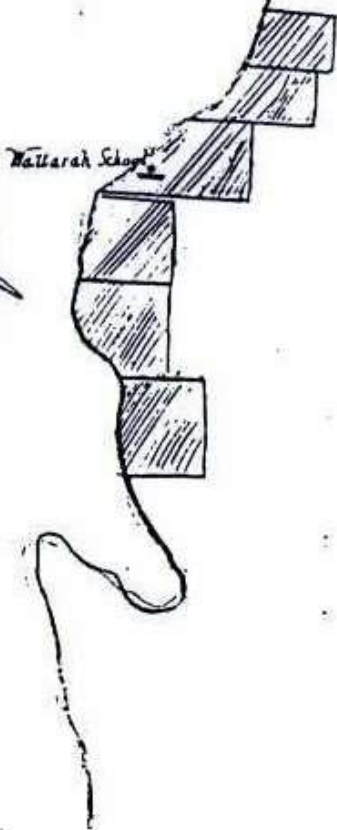
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PRESENT AND PROPOSED SITES OF
CATHERINE HILL BAY SCHOOL, MA V 1908



Plan showing position of Residences
at Lathum Hill Bay, Middle, Sawmill
and other Camps, & settlements on Lake
Macquarie; with present & proposed
sites of L.H. Bay School, & Wallarah School.

Lake Macquarie

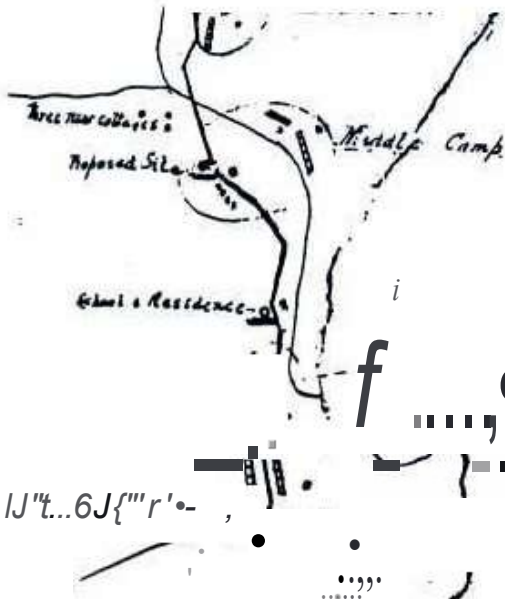


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Lake Macquarie

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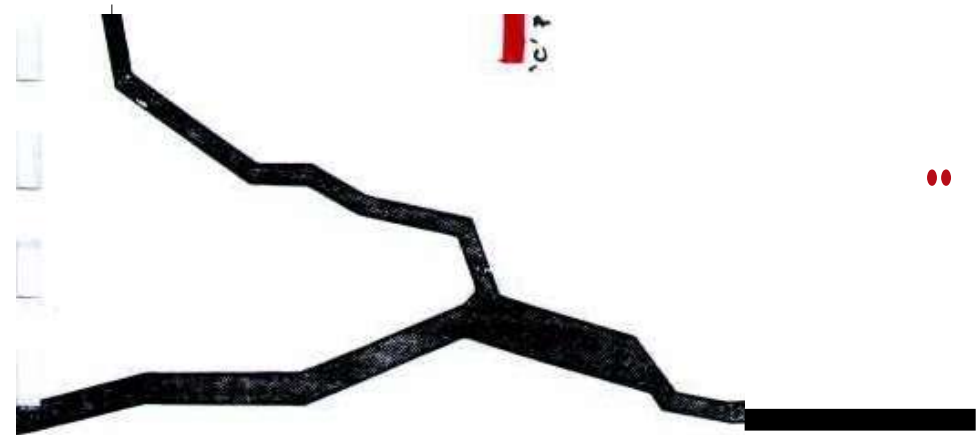
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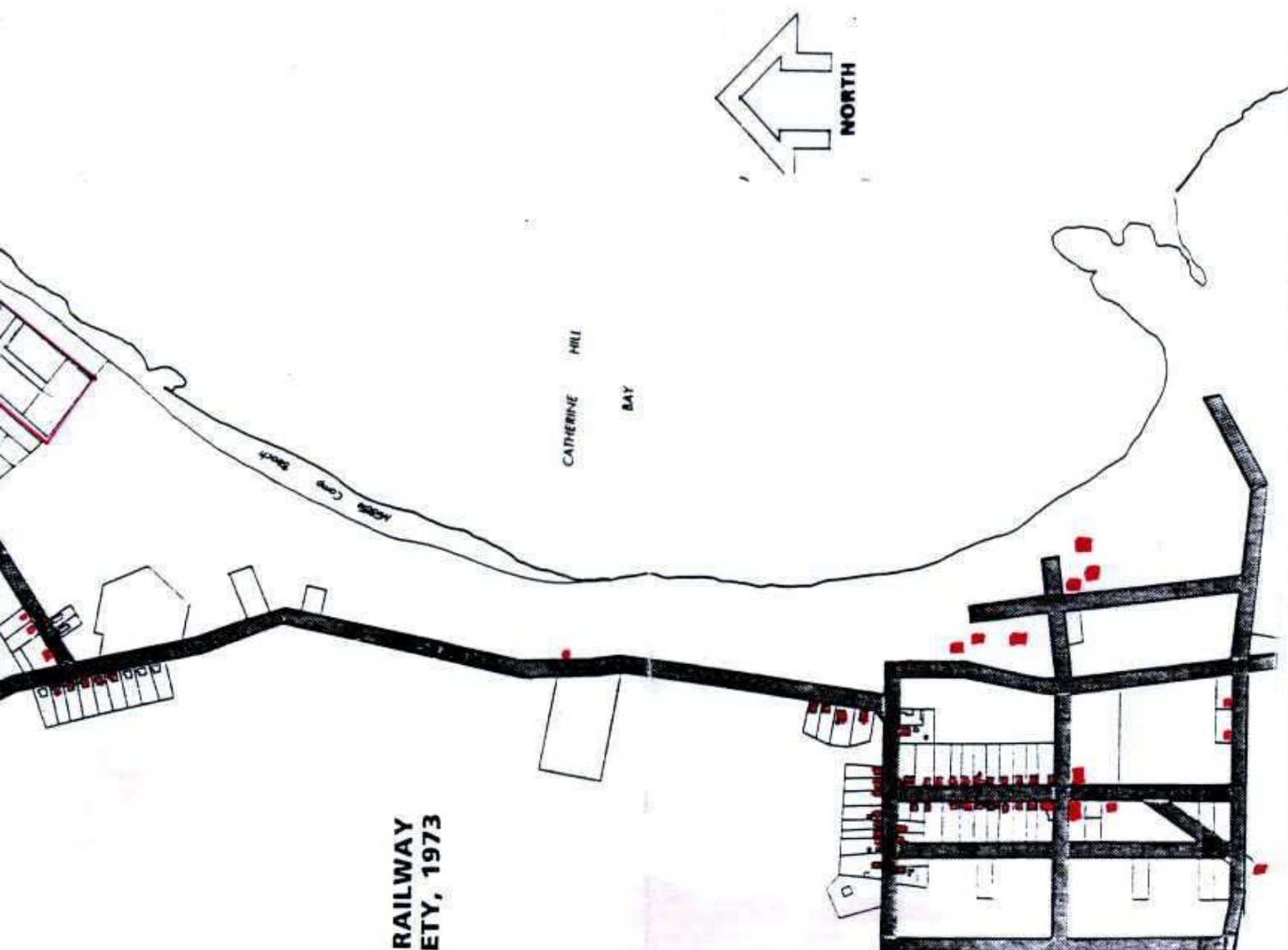


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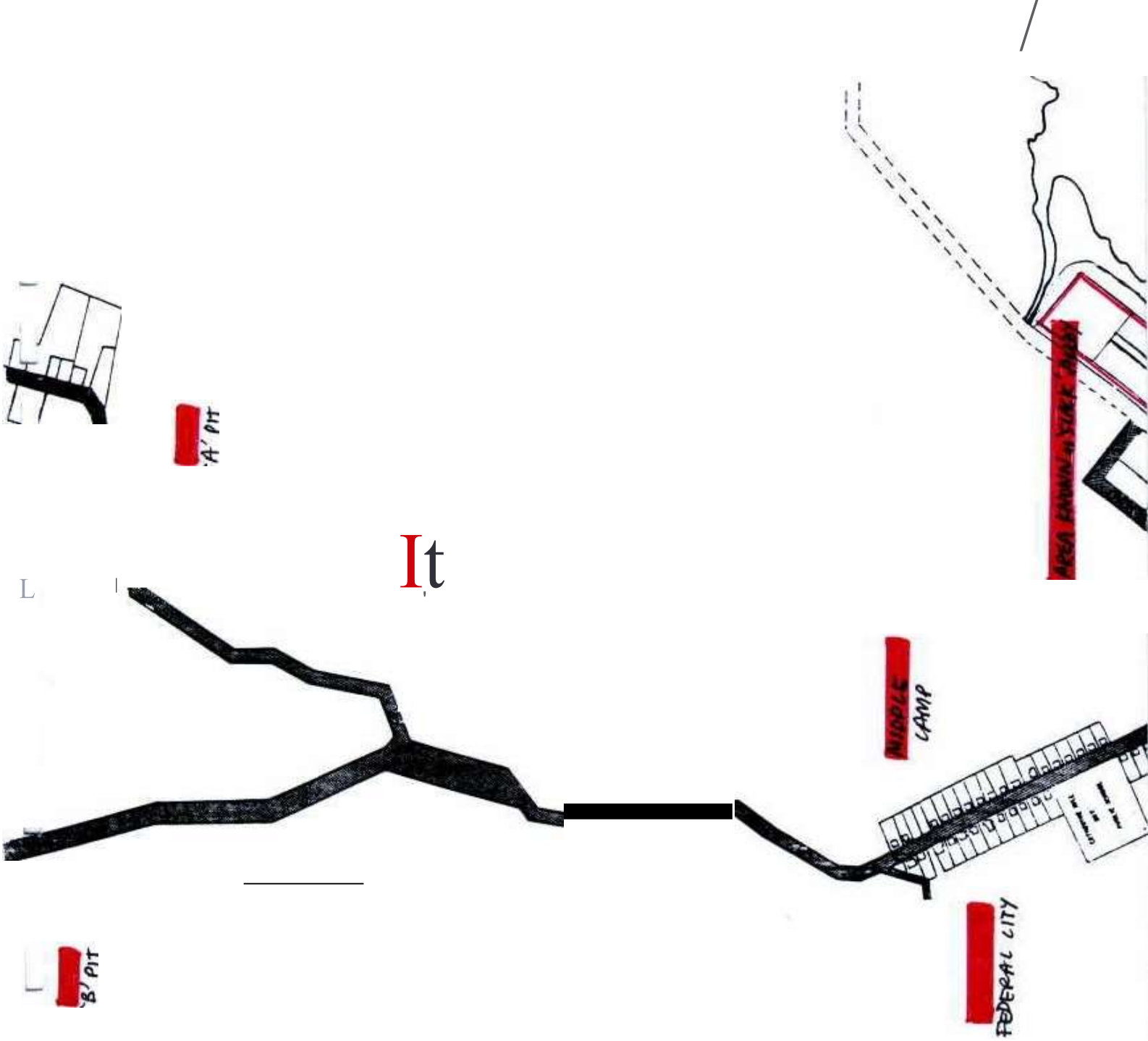


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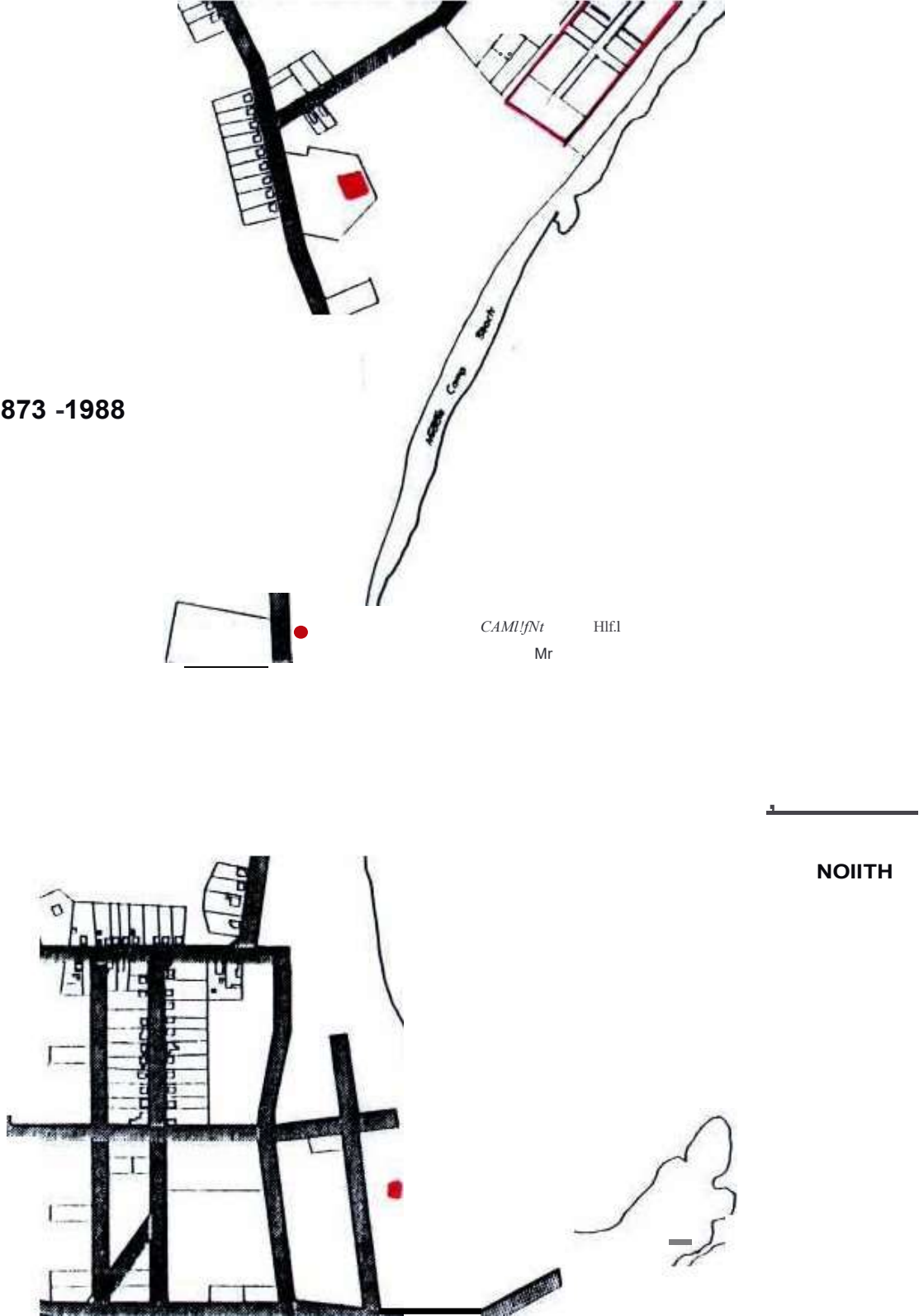


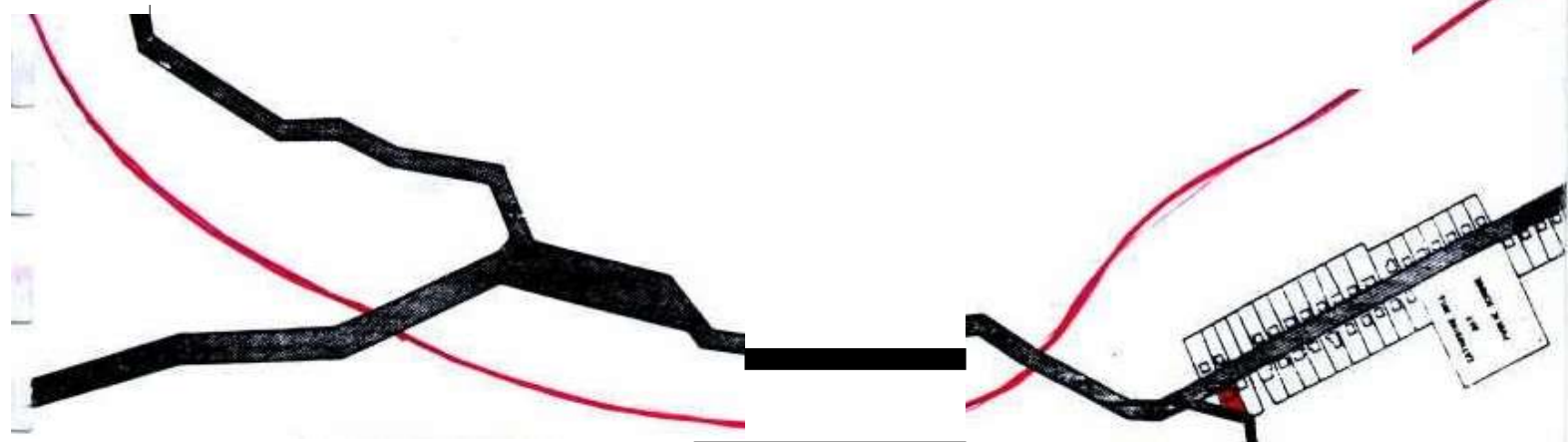


THE WALLARAH COLLIERY RAILWAY
RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1973



CATHERINE HILL BAY AREA, 1873 -1988





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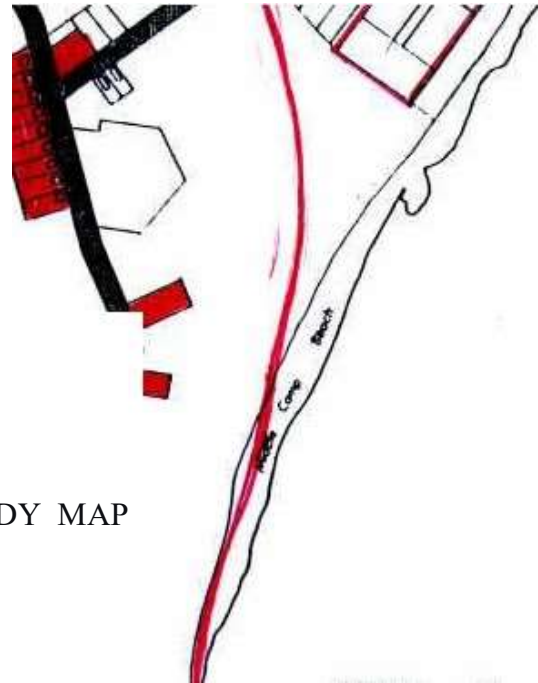
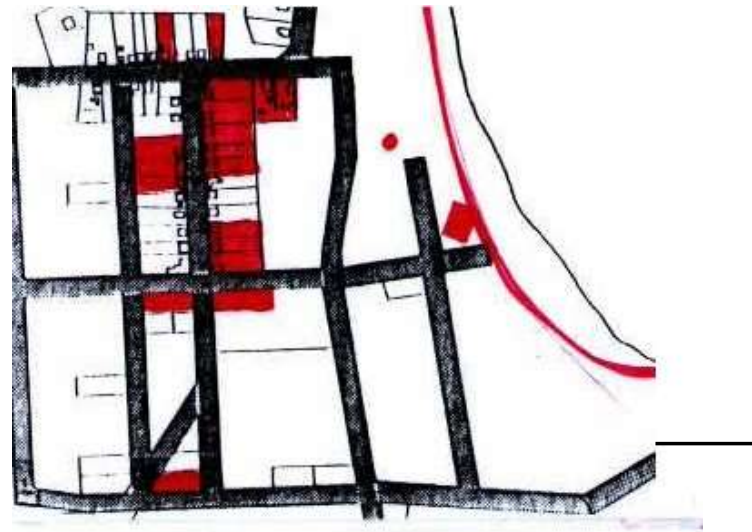
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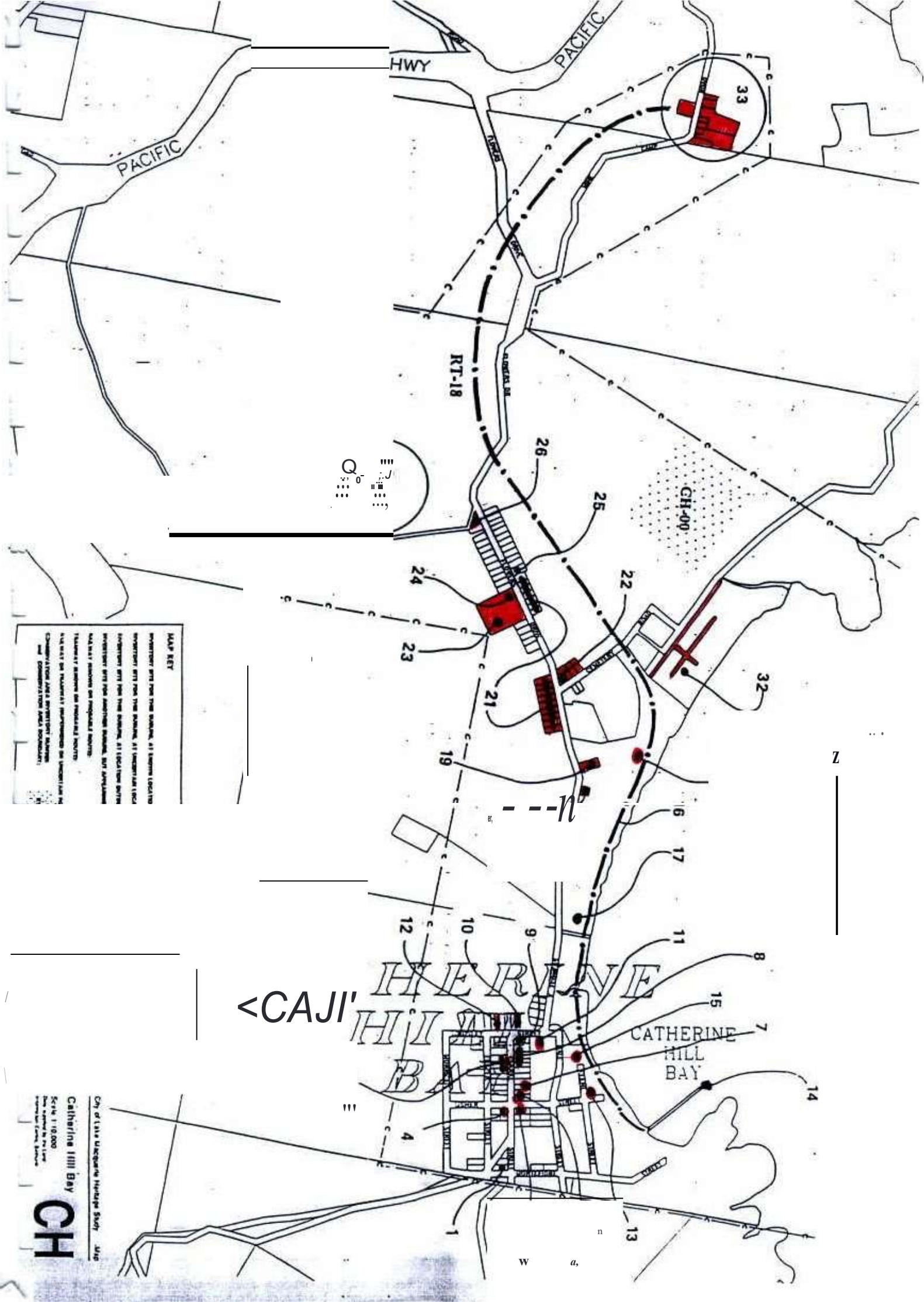
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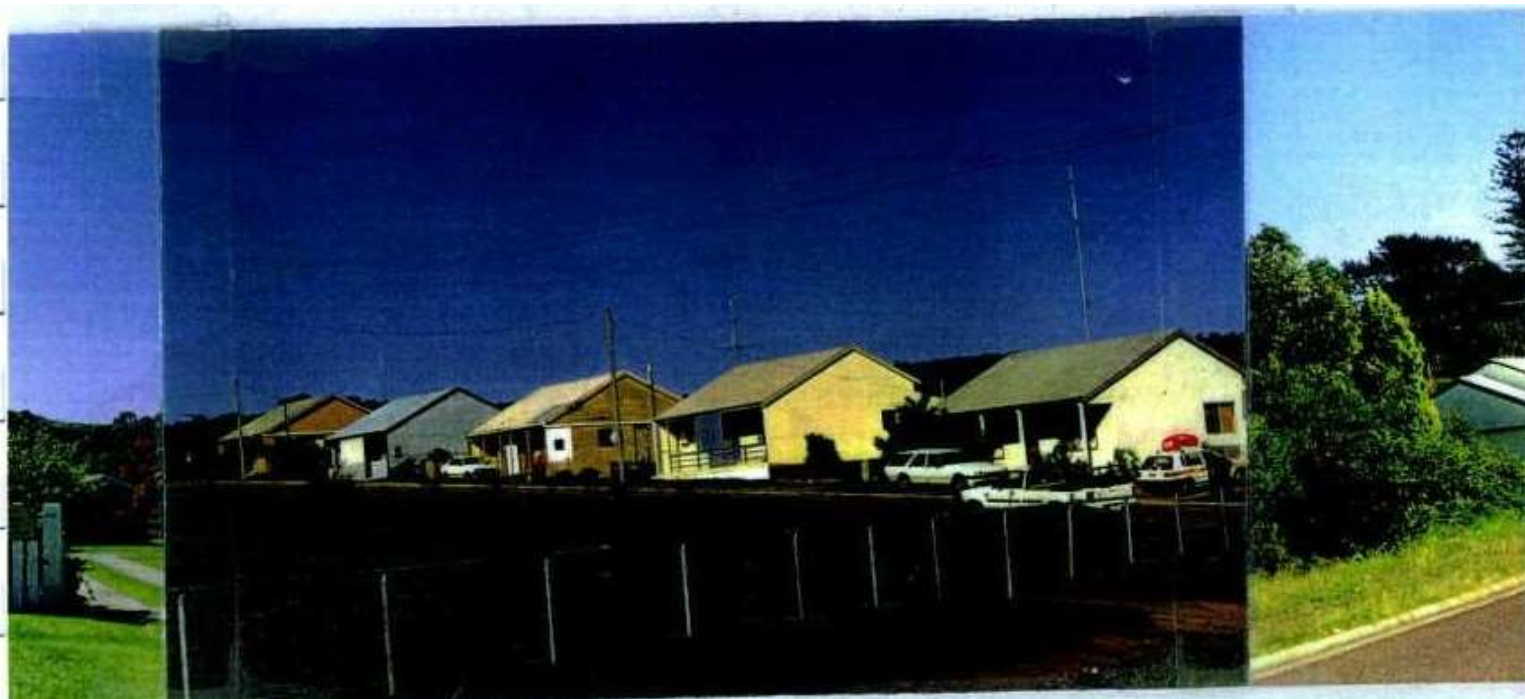
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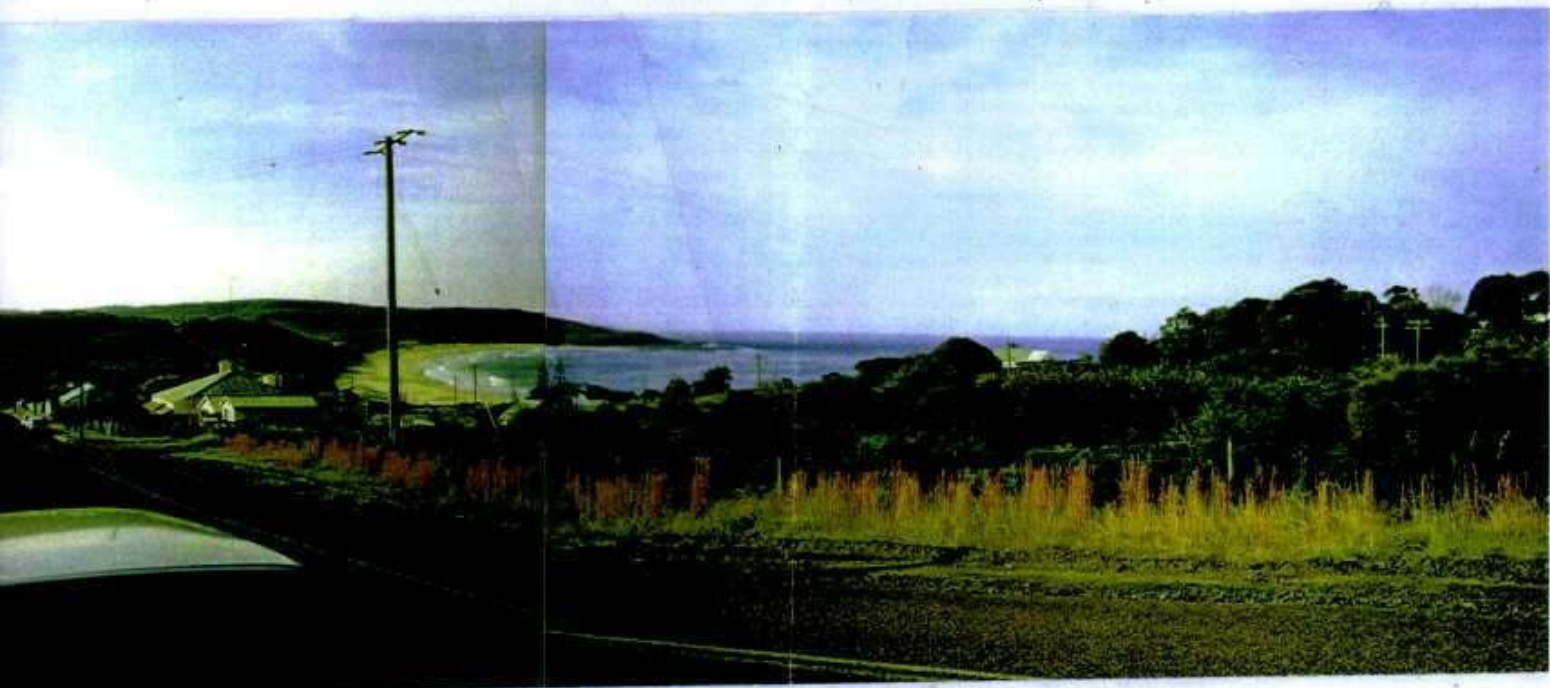


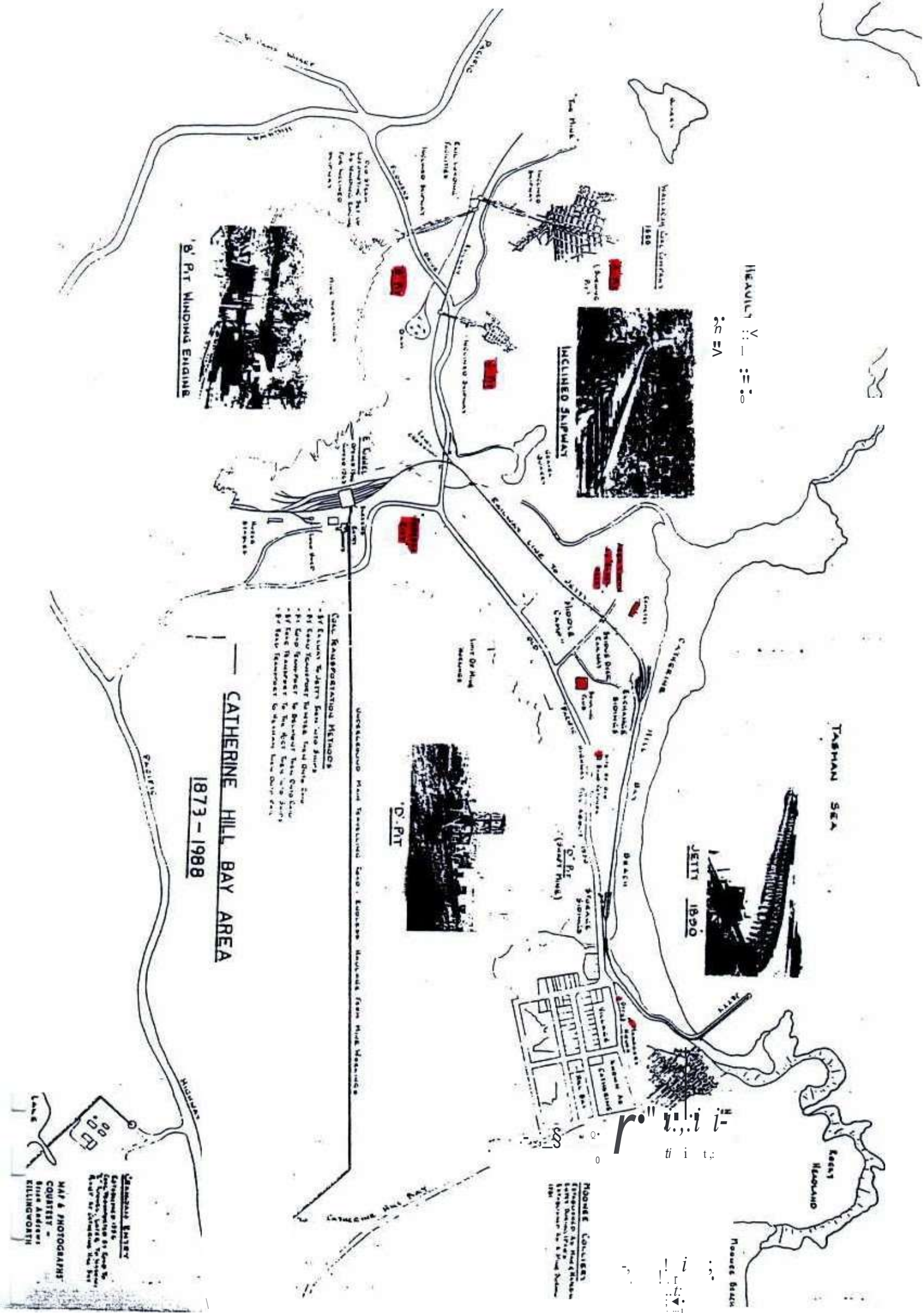
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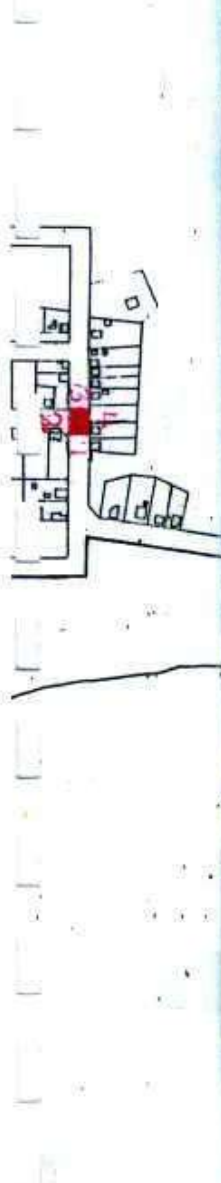
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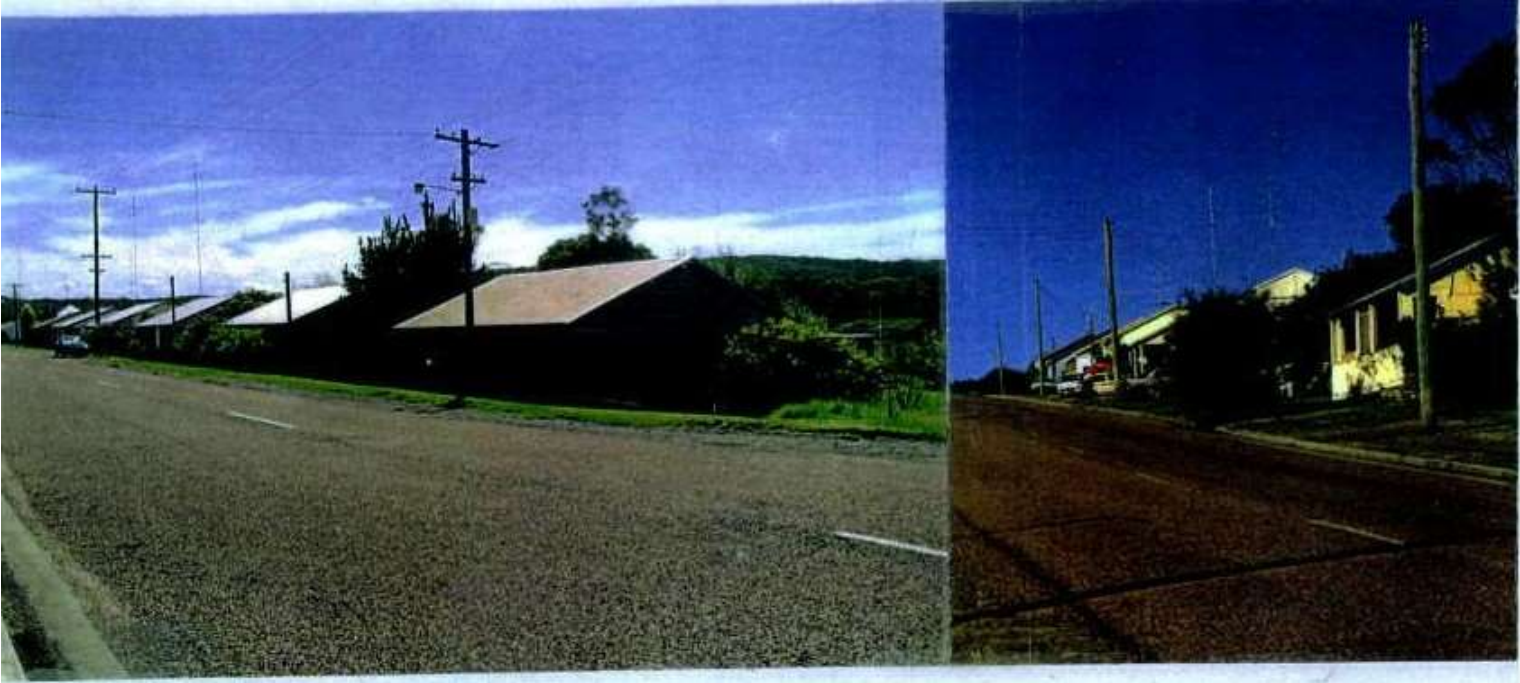














5. DISCUSSION OF STATEMENT CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

5.1. AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE TENDENCY

A statement of cultural significance is a declaration of the value and importance given to a place or item, by the community. It acknowledges the concept of a place or item having an intrinsic value which is separate from its economic value.

There are a number of recognised and pre-tested guidelines for assessing the cultural significance of a place or item established by organisations including among others, the ICOMOS (International Committee on Monuments and Sites, Australia), The National Trust of Australia, The Australian Heritage Commission (Commonwealth Government) and in New South Wales by the State Government, Department of Urban Affairs & Planning.

In the brief for this study the State Heritage Inventory Program (NSW Department of Urban Affairs & Planning) criteria for assessing significance was to be used in the analysis and evaluation criteria of the heritage significance of the study area.

The New South Wales Department of Planning prepared the Heritage Inventory guidelines (1990) and Draft Evaluation Criteria (1992/3) which provides a rational basis for determining the relative cultural values of listed heritage places. It was evolved from the national evaluation criteria adopted by the Australian Heritage Commission for the Register of the National Estate.

5.2. THE NEW SOUTH WALES HERITAGE INVENTORY EVALUATION CRITERIA

Group 1: Nature of Significance

Criterion 1	HISTORIC is concerned with range of context.
Criterion2	AESTHETIC is concerned with creative or technical accomplishments
Criterion 3	SOCIAL is concerned with community regard or esteem
Criterion 4	SCIENTIFIC is concerned with research potential or archaeological
Criterion 5	OTHER is concerned with other special values

Group 2: Degree of Significance

Criterion 6 RARE is concerned with the uncommon or exceptional
Criterion 7 REPRESENTATIVE is concerned with the typical or characteristic
Criterion 8 ASSOCIATIVE is concerned with links and connections.

In the process of modification former categories of the State criterion have been restructured and in some cases deleted. This has particular relevance to this study with reference to the following criteria:

In Group 1 category of criterion which have been modified.

Aesthetic Significance - has been modified •in an attempt to clarify the distinction between 'notions of heritage' and 'conservation' on the one hand, and of 'amenity' and 'design' on the other. (also to temper any tenancy towards elitism in those judgements)• and to fully address the question of "whose aesthetics?" Architectural significance has therefore been deleted as a separate criterion.

Natural Significance - is not used as an attribute of significance, rather it is now used to distinguish between two contexts of place, natural or cultural.

Other Significance - is left as a safeguard for demonstrable special cultural value which in this report has been given the value of 'View'.

In Group 2 category:

The comparative evaluation attributes of Views, Vista, Landmarks, Group and Integrity have been deleted as separate values. Views, vistas and landmarks are now included for consideration in the Rare Criterion and group value in Representative Criterion. Lastly, the degree of integrity is a quality which is to be taken into account in considering each of the eight criterion (listed above).

6. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE - GENERAL

As noted above Catherine Hill Bay is significant for four key themes:
A Mining Company Town, Strikebreaking, A Lost Town, A Historic Town

These themes are the results of different degrees of historic, social and aesthetic significance. Aesthetic significance is further divided into the Built Form and landscape significance.

Catherine Hill Bay because of its location and geological character is significant for the key role played by the nineteenth century company towns in the development of Australian resources.

It is significant for the continuing association to the area with coal mining in the form of the Coal and Allied establishment today. This development is clearly evidenced by remnants of railways, the structures and the extent of untouched landscape typical of mining occupation of the foreshores.

Catherine Hill Bay association with tourism and recreation dates back to reports from the early 1930's. The extensive and varied landscapes are a key factor of the tourist quality of Catherine Hill Bay.

6.1. HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

- Significant for the key role played by the jetty as a form of transportation and site of union disputes.
- Significant for the ability of structures like the jetty and Catherine Hill Bay Hotel to reflect the long term importance of Catherine Hill Bay as a company town.
- Significant for its strong sense of history as evidenced by remnants and structures which commemorate the working activity of the town to the present day.

6.2. SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

- Significant for its ability to reflect a strong sense of place and history through a number of monuments and memorials and significant also for its association with the development of company towns.

6.3. AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE- BUILT FORM

- Catherine Hill Bay Village is significant as a highly intact late nineteenth century company town characterised by a varied range of finishes and scale typified by simple forms of predominantly one storey height.
- Clarke and Lindsley Streets are significant as the site of the earlier unsuccessful subdivision of Cowper Town.

6.4. AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE- LANDSCAPE

- The landform of South Head peninsula is significant both for protecting from the Pacific Ocean and for affording access to a wide spectrum of diverse views of the highest scenic qualities in Australia.

7. CONSTRAINTS

7.1. GENERAL

7.2. CONSTRAINTS ARISING FROM STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

7.2.1. The contributing components which characterise the development of the company town would be retained and conserved.

7.2.2. No new work or activity should be carried out which will detract from or obscure physical evidence of these major themes of development.

7.2.3. No new building or landscaping should detract from key vistas of the Catherine Hill Bay in particular the gateway view from Montefiore and Clarke Streets and Flowers Drive.

7.2.4. The landform continues to dictate the shape and location of the original roads and subdivision pattern. The lack of more land actually suitable for settlement within the study area is also an inevitable constraint on further development.

7.3. CONSTRAINTS ARISING FROM THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE PLACE

Provision of Services

Catherine Hill Bay has always been dependant on its company owned jetty and railway for communication. Since the 1920's access by car has improved its isolation. Today it still lacks reticulated water supply which limits the extent of development.

Natural Constraints

As the shoredunes, wetlands and coastal heath are unsuitable for building development has concentrated in three locations leaving most of the landscape untouched. In the 1920's some planting of exotics occurred.

7.4. CONSTRAINTS ARISING FROM PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

7.4.1. Large expanses are owned by coal & Allied who have no intent to sell or subdivide. Most houses are individually owned.

7.5. CONSTRAINTS ARISING FROM HERITAGE CONTROLS - PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

7.5.1. AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Catherine Hill Bay Conservation Area is not included on the Register of the National Estate nor on the list of items nominated for evaluation. No individual properties which lie within the Catherine Hill Bay Conservation Area are included on the Register of the National Estate.

7.5.2. HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW/NSW HERITAGE ACT

Catherine Hill Bay Conservation Area is not covered by statutory protection provided pursuant to the NSW Heritage Act. 1977. In 1987 the Heritage Council was unsuccessful in listing Catherine Hill Bay Conservation Area.

7.5.3. NATIONAL TRUST (NSW)

Catherine Hill Bay, Conservation Area is listed by the National Trust (NSW) in 1983. Listings in this register imposes no legal restrictions. No constraints apply.

7.5.4. LAKE MACQUARIE COUNCIL

Catherine Hill Bay Conservation Area is listed in the LEP as a Conservation Area. Zoning is limited to existing industrial and residential with the majority of land zoned Scenic Protection.

7.5.4.1. THE LAKE MACQUARIE COASTLINE MANAGEMENT STUDY

- These principles are consistent with the State Government policies regarding the coast.
- A consistent and unified planning and management approach to development proposals along the lake Macquarie Coastline.
- Residential development to be accompanied by tourist development in order to achieve ongoing economic benefit.
- The coastline being in public ownership with public access available to all parts.
- The establishment of a 200-300 meter wide coastal corridor, in public ownership containing the coastal hazard buffer zone and a coastal walk
- The coastal corridor being largely of natural character, linked with natural ecosystems inland to the Lake wherever possible.
- The screening of all development from the corridor by vegetation.
- Significant ecology and history in the Catherine Hill Bay locality.
- The set-back line for most development being the landward boundary of the coastline corridor with the exception of surf clubs, waling trails etc.
- Updating of Local Environmental Plan 1984, preparation of a DCP/s to protect the coastline corridor and provide design guidelines for facilities within the corridor.
- Rezoning requires a Local Study Environmental.
- New development similar in type and scale as existing
- No development on underdevelopment head land

The essential minimum requirement outlined in the study is to secure an adequate corridor under public control to accommodate a coastline walk and associated recreational and conservation opportunities. It is also essential to establish a set-back for buildings on the headland to control visual intrusion.

7.5.4.2 SECTION 117 MINISTERIAL DIRECTION ON PLANNING

Section 90 of the EPA applies

- regarding
- rezoning and
 - development consistency

Managed as one set of controls

NSW Draft Coastal Policy generally requires

No development can occur on undeveloped headland

additions to existing development can occur if consistent in land type and appearance.

- Coastal corridors to be formed to limit access to the coast.

7.5.4.3 HUNTER WATER CORPORATION PLANS

- No plans with the foreseeable future exist to extend the existing services

The current status of control in Catherine Hill Bay is as follows

SEPP

Limited Development within 1 km of low tide

8. POLICY

8.1. ISSUES AND IMPLICATION

We have the ability to direct the future appearance of Catherine Hill Bay

The best method to retain an existing appearance is to retain the restrictions that produced the appearance.

The following summary of issues was presented to the community at the public meetings for discussion

Issue Implication

Retain the existing character

- This does not prohibit development but controls its location and appearance.

Retain key elements which comprise the town

- Understand the role of key elements in history of Catherine Hill Bay
- Observe the changes to the building over time
- Record the changes
- Do as much as is necessary and as little as possible

Restrict development within 1km

- The existing dominance of the landscape will remain

Allow further subdivision

- Increase the number of houses and need for extended services

Limit Set-backs

- Restrict the location of development to maintain existing views between houses
- Consider the nature of development in the set-back, zone e.g. tanks
- Maintain a consistent street

Determine/Nature of Additions and new development/Scale and Form

- Maintain a consistent scale of new development
- Limit the size of development, for example, number of storey, size of plan, height of ridge

Determine Nature of Additions and new development Detail, Material, Colour

- Maintain a consistent appearance to all sites
- Restrict finishes which detract

Maintain and reinforce the Coastal Heathland and Existing exotic landscape

- Actively protect existing vegetation
- Provide a buffer between development and the heathland
- Replant landscape to appropriate to built development
- Encourage landscape related to built development

Retain elements which contribute to an interpretation of the history

- Indicate the original contribute to an interpretation 1875 sub-division of the history
- Indicate the original naming Cowper, Old Pacific Highway
- Indicate the site of the railway and campsites

Determine the type of development

- Tourist development may be restricted
- Residential development may be encouraged

8.2. SUGGESTED POLICIES

As a result of the recent study of Catherine Hill Bay a number of general preferred principles have been identified which will allow controlled development in the area. These are:

- * No development can occur in undeveloped coastline (NSW Coastal Policy)
- * Restricting development to no higher than the existing ridge line.
- * First floor additions or development can occur where impact on the ridge line is minimised.
- * Scale of new development should be compatible with the existing scale (NSW Coastal Policy)
- * Door and Window openings where possible should be retained. Where usage of the building requires new openings these should be of a scale similar to the existing openings.
- * The original detailing and finishes are more consistent with the quality of the area. Where original finishes cannot be kept new finishes which are compatible with existing finishes are more suitable for retaining the character of the area.

While the natural assets of the area are recognised, an appreciation of their quality and extent could be further enhanced by:

1. Reinterpretation of the asset as predominantly natural or cultural landscapes.
2. Better siting of amenities which detract from key views and vistas.
3. Careful location of signage to provide interpretation without impacting on vistas.
4. Consideration of better interpretation of the varied landscapes in terms of form and formation at close and distant views.
5. Consideration of better interpretation of the variety of landscape forms through developing educational walking trails through specific elements.
6. Retention of the dominance of the natural landscapes over built landscape by ensuring that buildings occur below the crest of significant landforms.
7. Retention of the remaining natural edges which are intact and demonstrate the landscape's pre-settlement qualities and reinstatement of modified edges to their original form and quality.

9. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Geo Bishop. surveyor (1875]
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1875 [NSW Land Titles Office]

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H W Graeme. surveyor. 1893
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[Department of Land & Warer Conservation!

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[Department of Land & Water Conservation!

*R970'./603. Plan of road to be declared to be a public road ... from Nord's **Wharf** to Middle Camp Parish of Wallarah County of Nonhumberland 1909*
Department of Lands
[Department of Land & Water Conservation]

N53'./50/. Plan of four portion, of land situate at lake Macquarie Parish of Wallarah County of Nonhumberland
[Depanment of Land & Warer Conservation!

Deposited Plan no. 952963 [19IOJ
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Coal & Allied Industries Limited Archives:
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Ken Shilling, Merewether Heights:
- personal collection of Ralph Snowball photographs

◇ OTHER SOURCES

This study of Catherine Hill Bay has made extensive use of newspaper reports from several newspapers, including the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Newcastle Ou-onicle*, the *Miners' Advocate*, the *Newcastle Morning Herald*, the *Town and Country Journal*, the *Sydney Mail*, the labor *Daily*, *Comnwn Cause* and other titles. Detailed citations **appear where relevant in the footnotes.**

References to biographical sources, in particular to the *Australian Dictionmy of Biography* (ADB) also appear as appropriate in the footnotes.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1

National Trust Survey Sheet

Appendix 2

Figure 4A Zoning/Land Tenure, Lake Macquarie Coastline Management Study

Appendix 3

Vegetation Survey, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

,OW": Oistrict. l.ocallon CATHERINE KILL BAY		Name1lo.nlmcatiQn ol Clauiltcation CATHERINE HILL BAY URBAN CONSERVATION AREA (Incorporating: Precinct 1 - Catharine Hil4 B•y Precinct 2 - Middla Camn).		Stuletleal A,glon HUNTER	
Local Go1i1arn111e111 Al.lhhority & Postal Addreu LAKE !!ACQUAIE HIJNICAL COUNCIL P.O. BOX 2I, BOOLAROO-. N.s.w. 2284,					
.lvthOt'(Sj ol Cl... 1ficeClOn W'.Hatton		Dete ol prvgoul Jam.lary. 1983		011• ol IDDI'O%al 28/3/83	
Boundary dffCrlot1011 (boundary line otne,- than that alo"O Slrfft ,;:e"trellnet mulll be accuntely deKnblld) Precinct 1: G•nerally the brundaries of the existing urban settlement le. rear of properties north-aide Lindsley Street and west-side Flowers Drive centreline Flowers Drive rear of proper ies south-side Lindsley Street and ease and west aides Clarke Street,, to . point of camit.encement. Precinct 2: Generally the boundaries ofcha eleiscing rban settlement, ie. rear of properties on the eas.t and west sides of Flowers Drive from the ca:amencement of the settlement in the north to its end in the south.					

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CatheTine Hill Bay and Middle Camp are adjoining settlements conatructed in the early 20th century to houae coal mine workers. Coal minina: continues today. at the Wallarah Colliery andthe locality is also popular among surfers. The landscape setting ccmbinee rolling hills, scrub and grass covered, sweeping beaches between rocky headlands ,With ch• slag heaps and pitholes of old mine workings and th• buildings, machinery aa.d roeds of current epe:rationa. Each town caziprises essentially ribbon development alonl a main road, The public buildings. school. police station, hotel, are typical of the period of settlement; the houses are timber, in several atand.ardized designs employing many elements of the Australian rural vernacular: symmetrical double-frocted. plan cottu&ated galvanised. i?'on gable roof, full-width verandah under an extension of the main roof, weatherboard cladding, timber lattice-work. Many of th• houaes are unpainted and. have weathered co a.u attractive silver grey. There are minor differences between the deaigna which do not detract fran their unity as a group. It is this l.lnity. together with cha landscape setting (a major tree group at Middle Camp, the curve of the hill at Catherine Hill Bay) which creates the distinctive townscape of these lettlements. Views of the surrounding count-ryside, particularly cowards the coaat (east) are import.ant: these are marred by mine workings, buildings, etc, in some directions (thouah these have a dram.atic quality of their own). Modernization of houses is baiinnini to occur, entailing in moat. cases aeclare mutilation of oxiginal form and decail. It would appear that the mining company, Coal & Allied, is reacquiring buildings for future 'C'edEWelopment and the pre&ent character of the towns may be at risk. InMiddle Ca=p the Bowling Club and a modern shop and residence (2 storey) and at Catherine Hill Bay a shop, the surf club and toilet block are unsympathetic in style and materials to the historic buildings and the land.scape settinS. There are mariy vacant lOtts .ln both towns vhere newDUildings could be intrusive if noc sensicively designed.

Reason(a) for Clysification:

Largely int&ct: l!ltmnples of a typ of developme.nt• the. company town, and a style of building which are ch&racteristic Of Auatralia's development at: the time and valu.eble as evidence of it. The consistent .style and materials of th• buildings. set in a rich andvariedlandscape, form astrong townscape character. Proposals :or change should respect this and the historic evidence it presents.

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1 Clouten H. Keith., Reid's Mistake - The Story of Lake Macquarie fr:xn its Discovery until 1890, Lake Macquarie Shire Council, Halstead Pren, Sydney. 1967.

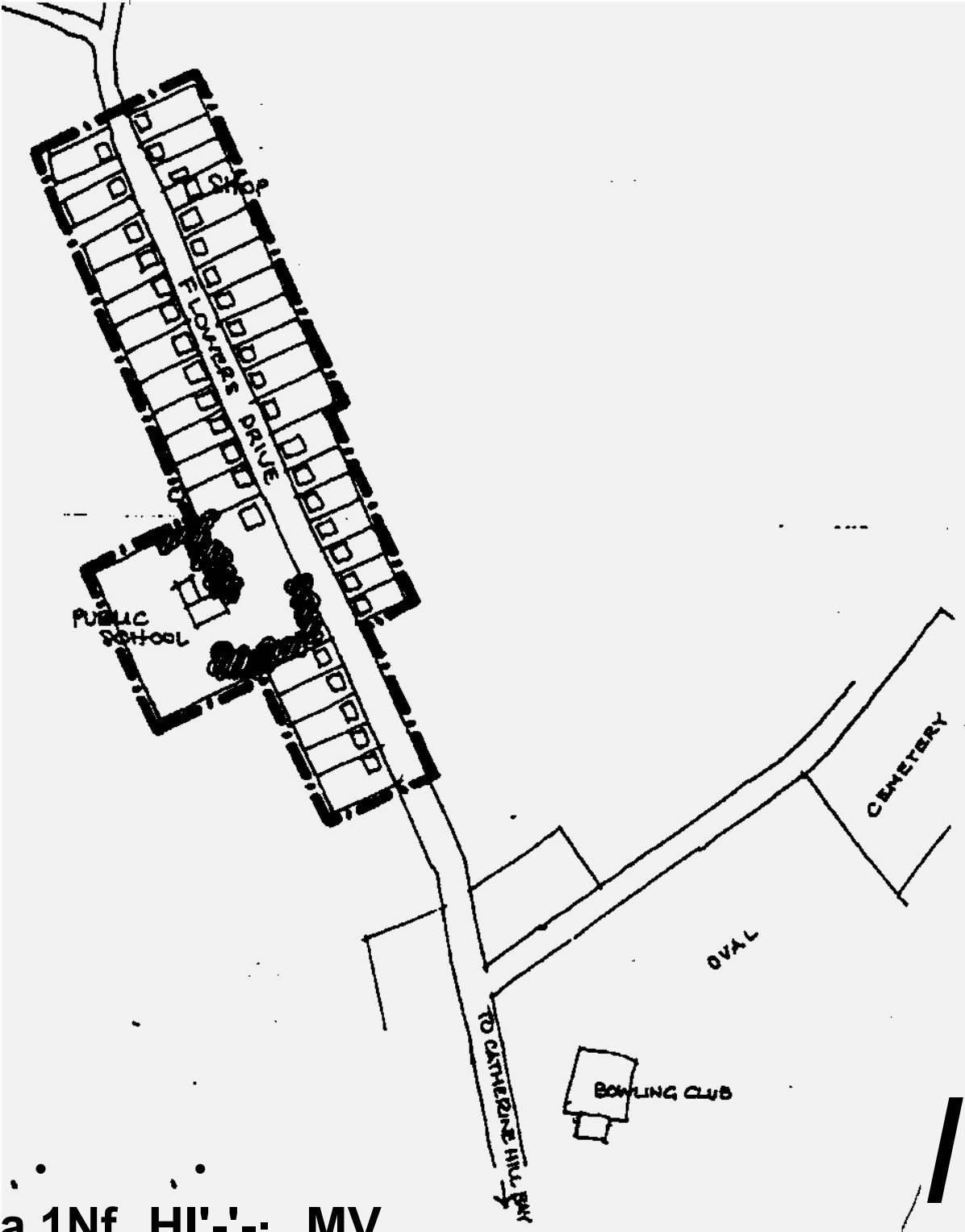
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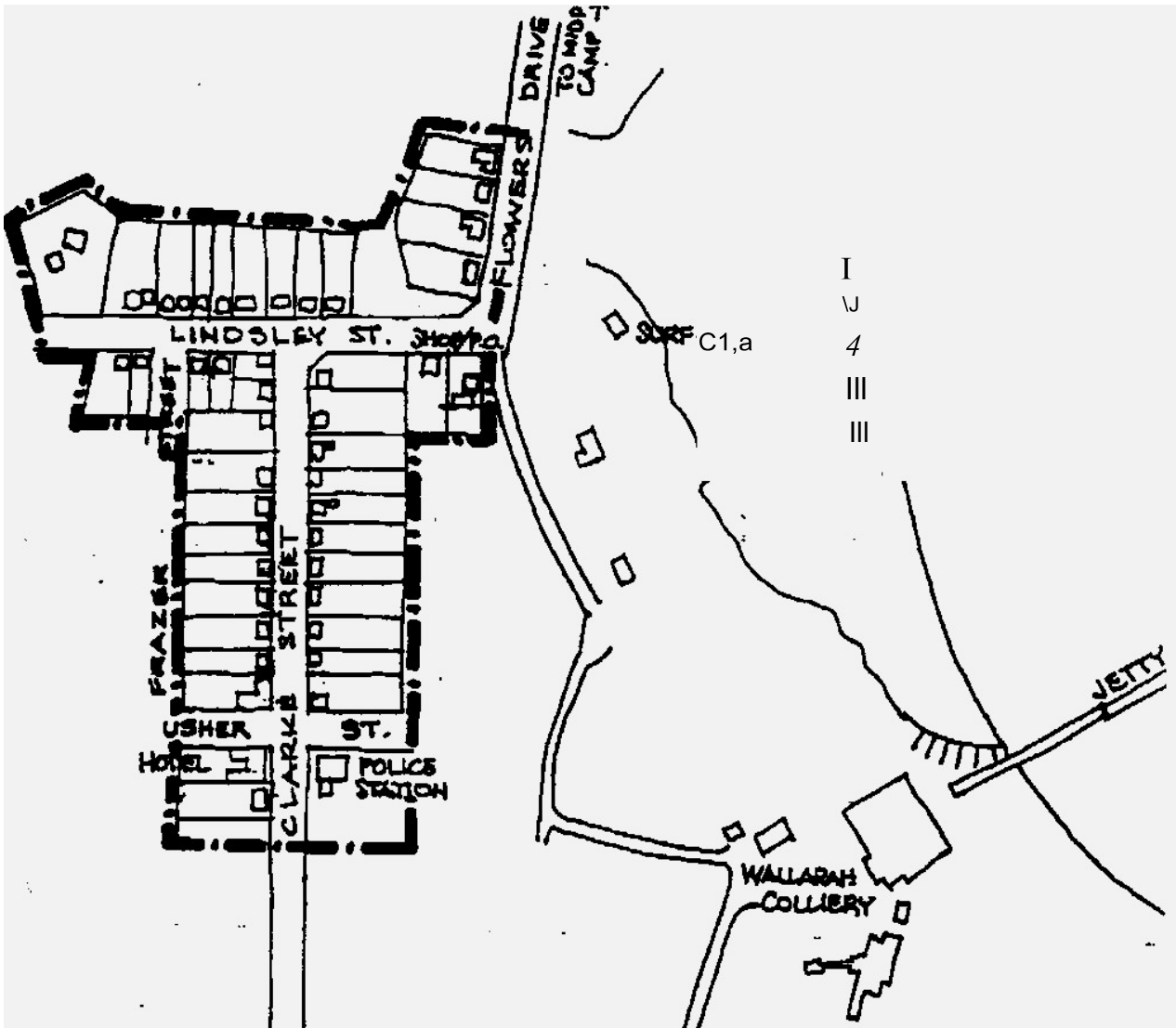
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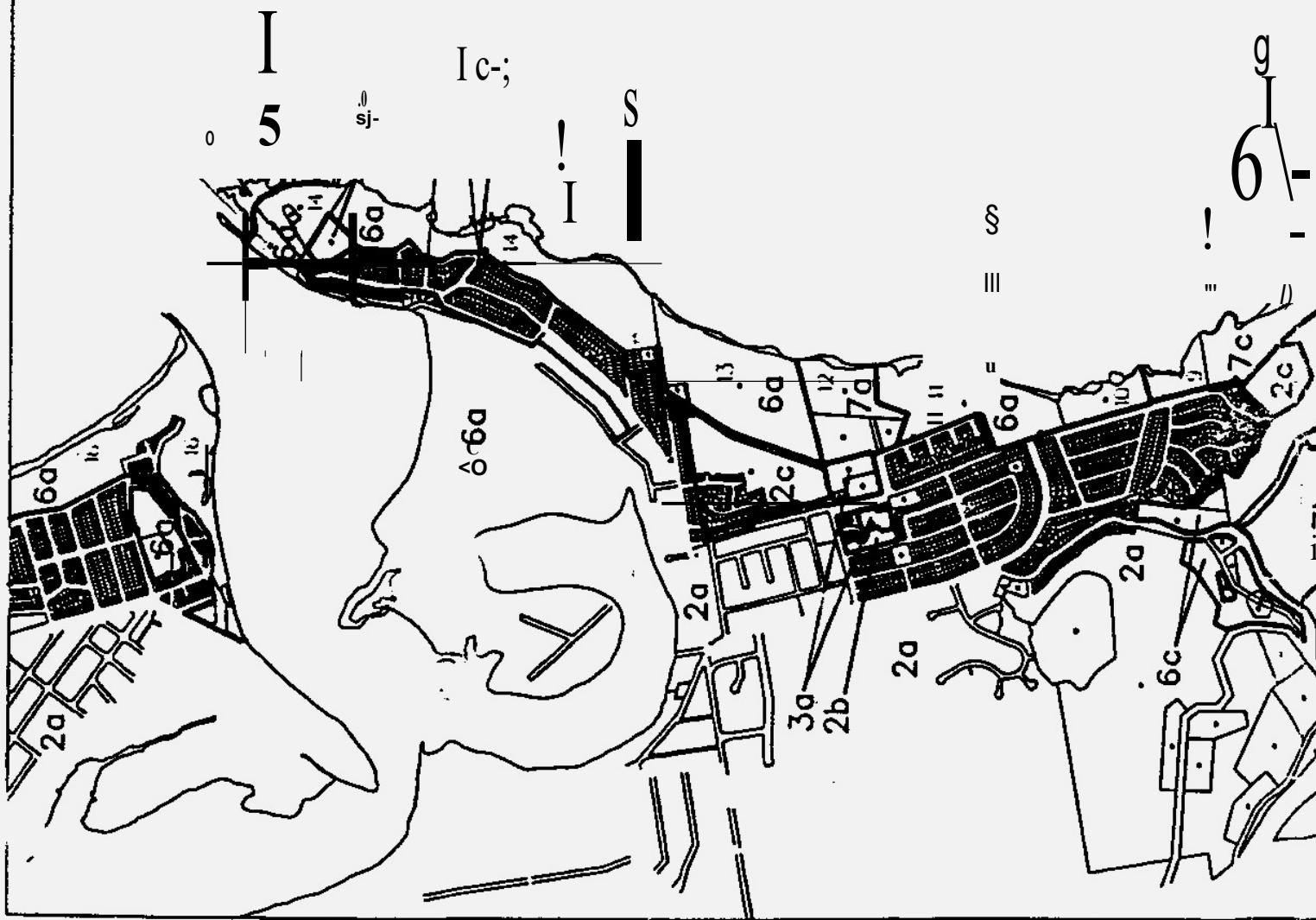
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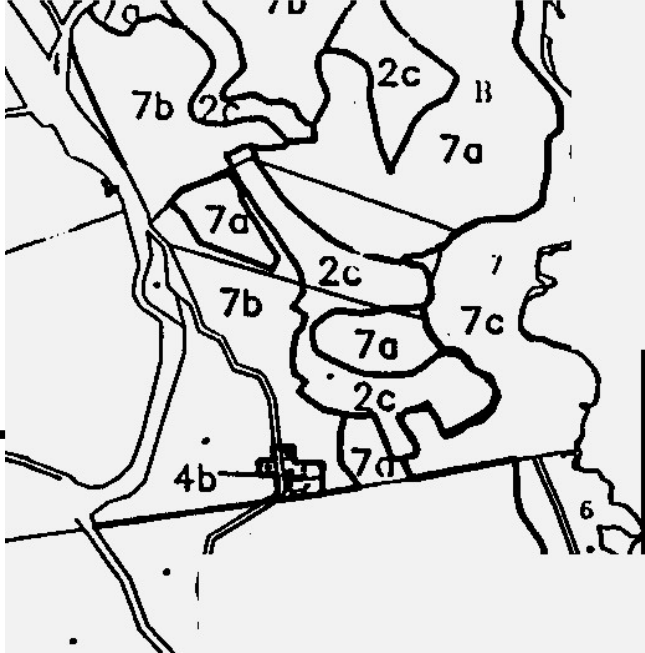
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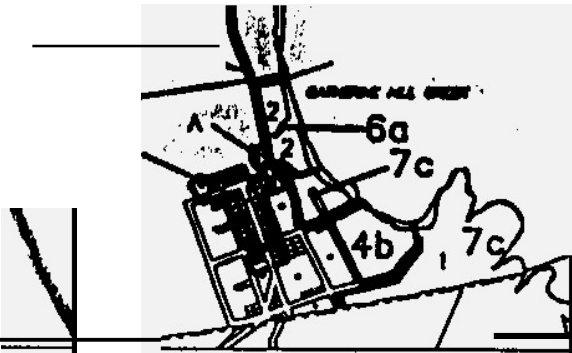
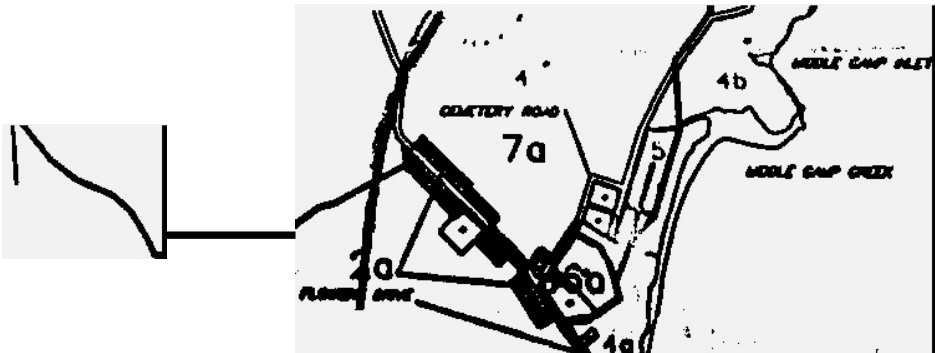
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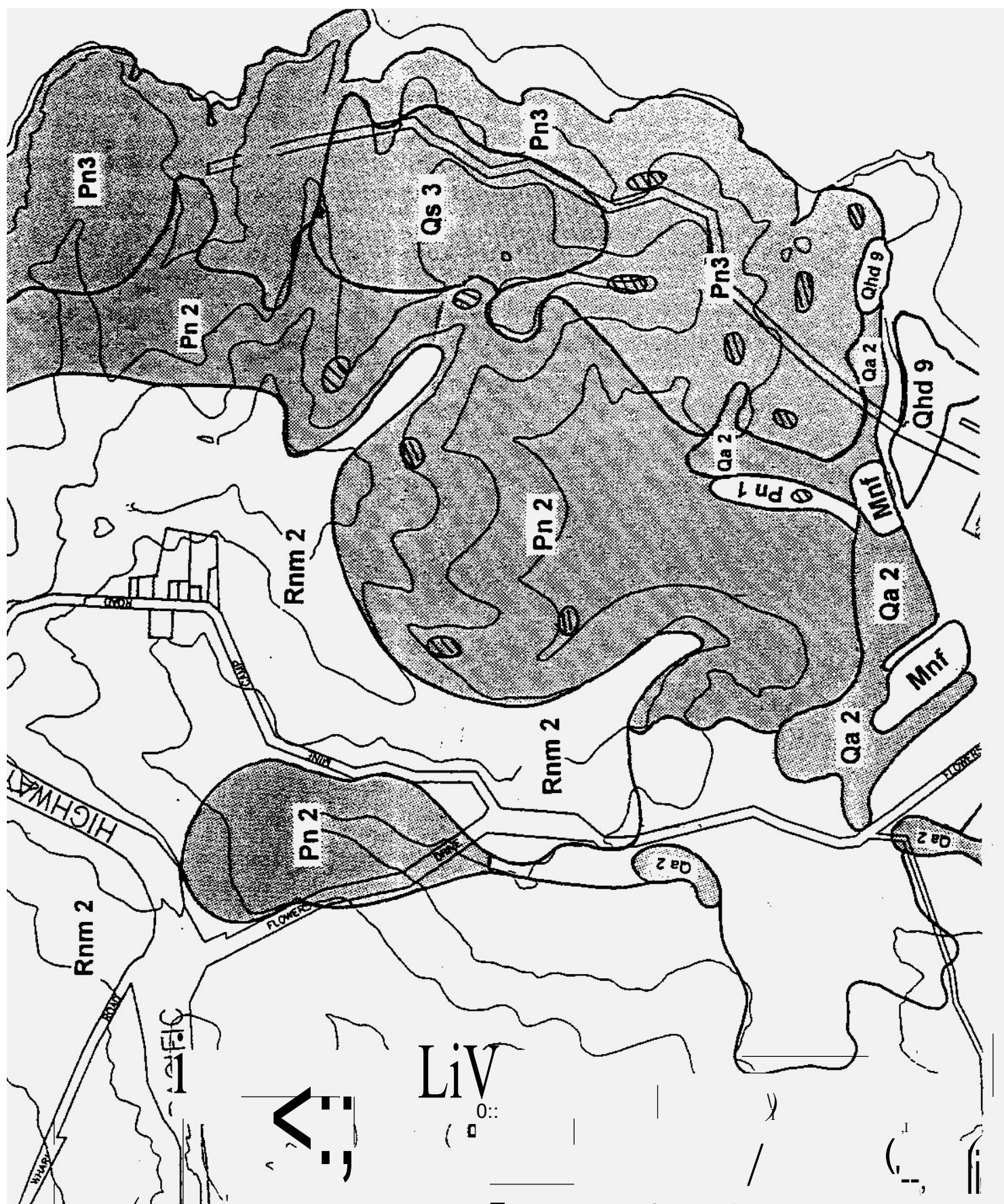
No.	Parcel	Owner/Trustee/Lessee	Zoning
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2	Lot 51 DP 222717	Lake Macquarie City Council	6(a)
3	Lot 52 DP 222717	J R Gayleard	7(a)
4	Lot 53 DP 222717	F J Smith	7(a)
5	Lot 54 DP 222717	F J Smith	7(a)
6	Lot 55 DP 222717	Coal and Allied	7(c)
7	Lot 56 DP 222717	Coal and Allied	7(c), 7(a)
8	Lot 57 DP 222717	Coal and Allied	7(a)
9	Lot 58 DP 222717	Lake Macquarie City Council	7(c), 7(a)
10	Lot 59 DP 222717	Coal and Allied	7(c)

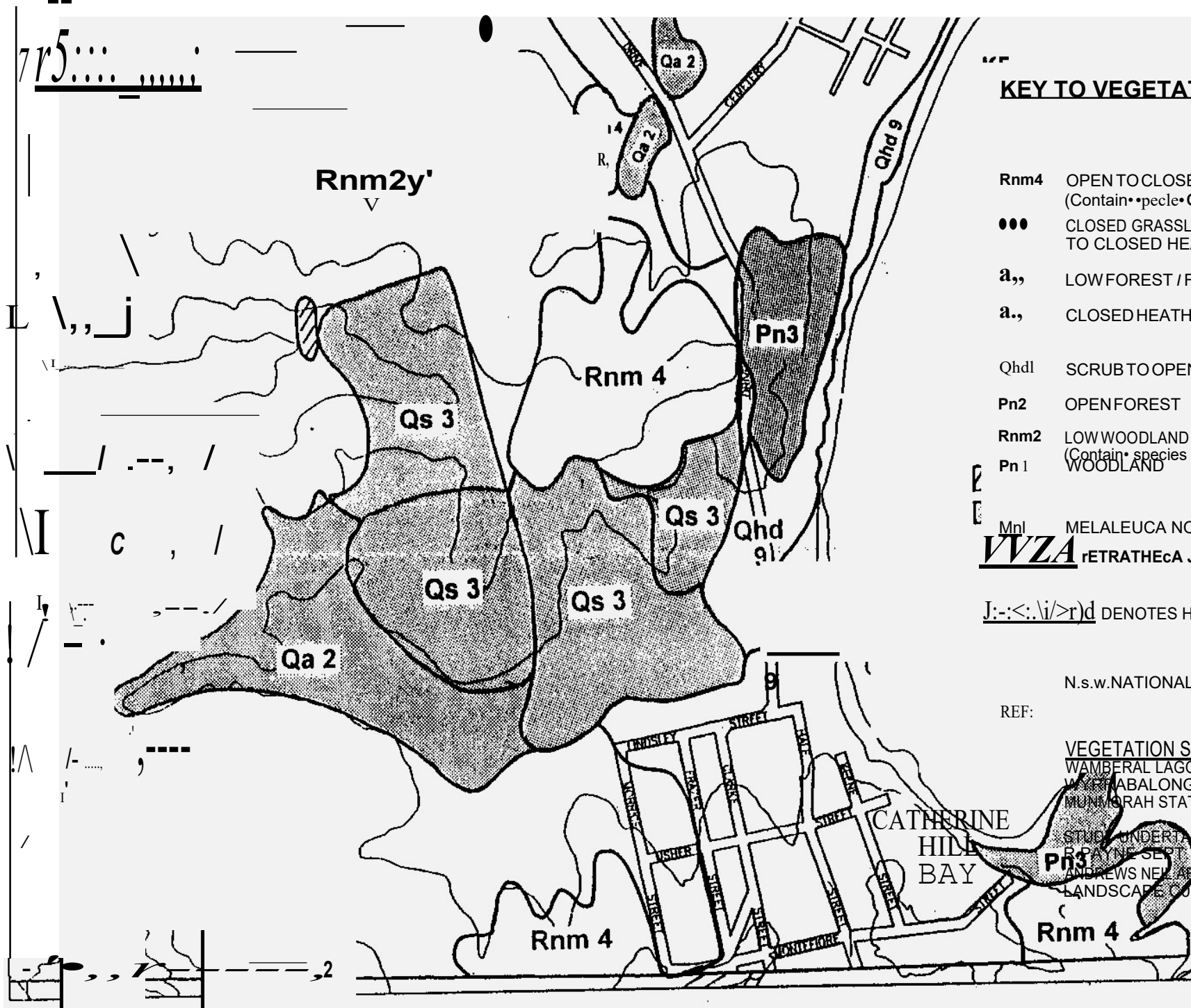


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TO CLOSED HEATHLAND
- Qa2 LOW FOREST / FOREST TO WOODLAND
- Pn3 CLOSED HEATHLAND/ LOW WOODLAND
- Qhd9 SCRUB TO OPEN SCRUB
- Pn2 OPEN FOREST
- Rnm2 LOW WOODLAND TO LOW OPEN FOREST
(Contains species of regional significance)
- Pn1 WOODLAND

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N.S.W. NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WYRRABALONG NATIONAL PARK
MUNIMORAH STATE RECREATION AREA

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R. PAYNE SEPT 1993
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