

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE SITE OF THE FORMER POLICE STATION & SERGEANT'S QUARTERS, MANN STREET AND GEORGIANA TERRACE, GOSFORD, NSW 2250.



Remains of the Police Station & Sergeant's Quarters. Photograph by Dr. Edward Higginbotham, 3 July 2014.

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Archaeology • History • & Heritage

A.B.N. 79 072 316 968

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For
Gosford City Council

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Architects	Mr. Sean Johnson, Clive Lucas Stapleton & Partners.
Gosford Public Library.	Mr. Geoff Potter, Local Studies Librarian.
Other original historical research.	Mr. John Lewis and Ms. Pamela Williams.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

This report was commissioned by Gosford City Council on 19 June 2014.

The property comprises the Former School of Arts, on the corner of Mann Street and Georgiana Terrace, Gosford, Lot 1, DP 123370, together with the adjacent block on Mann Street, namely Lot 6, Section 81, DP 758466, which is the site of the former Police Station or Sergeant's Quarters (Figure 1.1).

The Former School of Arts is listed as a heritage item on Gosford LEP 2014 (Figure 1.2).¹ The site of the former Police Station and Sergeant's Quarters is not listed as a heritage item or archaeological site.

Although the site is widely known as the Sergeant's Quarters, the building was originally constructed in 1882 as the Police Station, with the sergeant's quarters attached.

Archaeological Potential - surviving condition.

The analysis of the original topography and terrain around the site of the School of Arts and Police Sergeant's Quarters indicates that there may have been a small extent of terracing into the slope at the Mann Street frontage, though the road has been embanked on fill along its west side (3. Partly Disturbed).

Further downhill from the School of Arts and Police Sergeant's Quarters, the original topography appears to have been little changed, except for minor disturbance caused by the surfacing of yards and piers for timber framed classrooms (2. Minor Disturbance).

This assessment suggests that below ground archaeological remains will survive with either minor to part disturbance (2. Minor Disturbance to 3. Partly Disturbed).

Description of remains.

The School of Arts survives as a standing building, though much altered. There is a new frontage to Mann Street, constructed in 1929, according to the foundation stone. The back or west section has also been partly demolished, leaving only four of the original five bays of the building.

¹ Research of Schedule 5 of the Gosford LEP 2014 at:
<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/viewtop/inforce/epi+42+2014+cd+0+N>

The site of the Police Station and Sergeant's Quarters includes sections of sandstone walling (basement level of east wall, part of south and north walls). Other sandstone blocks appear to mark the west wall and other parts of the north and south walls, but may in fact be a garden feature. There is a sandstone retaining wall between the Sergeant's Quarters and the School of Arts.

The sites of the Police Stables and other outbuildings were located directly to the west of the School of Arts, underneath the present timber framed classroom. The sites are to likely to survive in good condition, but there are no above surface remains.

There are three timber framed classrooms on the site. The one on the Georgiana Terrace frontage retains some beaded tongue and groove timber lining and may be dated to the late nineteenth century. The other two classrooms may have been built in the early to mid twentieth century. All appear to have been moved to this site for reuse as classrooms.

Significance.

The sites are assessed as possessing local significance.

The site of the former Police Sergeant's Quarters or Police Station is significant because it was formerly part of the government precinct at Gosford, where public buildings were concentrated, including the former courthouse and later council chambers. The site was also located in the former Police Paddock.

The surviving sandstone walls of the former Police Station and Sergeant's Quarters indicate aspects of traditional building technology.

The site has the potential to contribute to a number of archaeological research themes in historical archaeology. These include the layout of public buildings in towns in regional New South Wales, the conditions of life and work in public service, the standard of living of public servants and police officers.

The site of the former Police Station and Police Sergeant's Quarters is a rare survival of an archaeological site in Gosford.

The combination of watch house or police station and quarters for the officers and their families is a pattern of development across New South Wales.

Recommendations.

It is recommended that:

1. The site of the former Police Station and Police Sergeant's Quarters, together with the Police Stables and other outbuildings have been assessed as possessing local significance. These archaeological sites should therefore be conserved and listed on the Gosford LEP 2014 as an archaeological site or precinct.
2. The listing of the archaeological site should include both Lot 1, DP 123370 and Lot 6, Section 81, DP 758466.
3. There are a number of trees or saplings around the sandstone ruins of the Police Station and Police Sergeant's Quarters. These will eventually cause damage to the surviving walls, particularly the trees and saplings on the Mann Street frontage adjacent to the sandstone walls. Subject to the advice of a qualified arborist, these trees and saplings should be removed, but their stumps left in the ground, so that no disturbance is caused. The stumps should be poisoned to stop regrowth.
4. The three timber framed classrooms adjacent to the site appear to have been reused at this site. Further analysis should be undertaken to assess their significance.
5. An excavation permit, or a permit exception under sections 140 or 139 (4) of the NSW Heritage Act, should be obtained, prior to any works likely to disturb relics on Lot 1, DP 123370 or Lot 6, Section 81, DP 758466.

1 INTRODUCTION.

1.1 Background.

This report was commissioned by Gosford City Council on 19 June 2014.

1.2 Brief.

The purpose of this report is to identify historical archaeological sites within the study area, to assess their archaeological significance and surviving condition, and to make recommendations for their management and conservation.

1.3 Location of site.

The property comprises the Former School of Arts, on the corner of Mann Street and Georgiana Terrace, Gosford, Lot 1, DP 123370, together with the adjacent block on Mann Street, namely Lot 6, Section 81, DP 758466, which is the site of the former Police Station or Sergeant's Quarters (Figure 1.1).²

1.4 Heritage Listings.

The Former School of Arts is listed as a heritage item on Gosford LEP 2014 (Figure 1.2).³ The site of the former Police Station and Sergeant's Quarters is not listed as a heritage item or archaeological site.

Although the site is widely known as the Sergeant's Quarters, the building was originally constructed in 1882 as the Police Station, with the sergeant's quarters attached.

1.5 Study methodology and limitations.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning *NSW Heritage Manual*, as follows:

1. Historical research.

² Research of Lot and DP numbers from LPI, 13 June 2014.

³ Research of Schedule 5 of the Gosford LEP 2014 at:
<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/viewtop/inforce/epi+42+2014+cd+0+N>

2. Site survey.
3. The assessment of the archaeological significance of the site.
4. Recommendations for management and conservation.⁴

1.6 Author identification.

This report was prepared by Dr. Edward Higginbotham.

The historical research was completed and written up by Dr Terry Kass and forms Chapter 2 of this report and the Bibliography.

⁴ Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. 1996. NSW Heritage Manual.
Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. 1996 (revised 2002). Statements of Heritage Impact.
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NSW Heritage Office. Assessing Heritage Significance. A NSW Heritage Manual Update. 2000.
Heritage Branch, Department of Planning. Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics. 2009.
James Semple Kerr. The Conservation Plan. Australia ICOMOS, 2103



Figure 1.1. Cadastral Map of the Former School of Arts, corner Mann Street and Georgiana Terrace, Gosford, namely Lot 1, DP 123370, together with the site of site of the former Police Station and Police Sergeant's Quarters on Lot 6, Section 81, DP 758466.
Source. LPI.



Figure 1.2. Plan showing the Former School of Arts, corner Mann Street and Georgiana Terrace, Gosford, namely Item 36.
Source. Gosford LEP 2104. Heritage Map HER_015CA.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

2.1 Introduction.

The historical research for this chapter was completed and written up by Dr. Terry Kass, historian.

This report is based upon original research in maps and archives. It is also based upon material supplied by Geoff Potter, Local Studies Librarian of Gosford City Council. It has been greatly assisted by original research supplied by John Lewis and Pamela Williams who have been researching the properties along Mann Street, Gosford. They have kindly made their detailed research available for this report, which has considerably assisted in making this report as comprehensive as it is. Whenever I have used their material I have recorded it in the footnotes in order to demonstrate when I have relied upon their original research. I wish to record my profound thanks to them for making this material available and wish them the best in their endeavours to complete a most interesting and useful project. I look forward to seeing the final publication.

2.2 History of the Site.

At Gosford, two villages competed to become the administrative centre for the district. To the east was a private village. The government village of which Mann Street forms the central spine competed with the private village for decades but it had a major advantage. Official government facilities were set up around what became Mann Street. The government village possessed a watch-house. About 1833, a courthouse was added to it.

Alfred Tasker Faunce of the 4th Regiment was appointed as the Police Magistrate at Brisbane Water on 28 September 1836.⁵ Brisbane Water was gazetted as a place to hold Courts of Petty Sessions on 23 November 1836.⁶

East Gosford had been auctioned as a private town. On 12 May 1841, an auction advertisement claimed that East Gosford already had two hotels, three major stores, and smaller shops, school, bakery, smithy, neat cottages and 12 houses under construction.⁷

⁵ *NSWGG*, 28 September 1836, p 733

⁶ *NSWGG*, 23 Nov 1836, p 897

⁷ *SMH*, 12 May 1841, p 4

Yet the official town already had a courthouse, lock-up, Mr. Holden's house, the parsonage and some huts. A plan of Gosford of 1839 showed the site of the Courthouse plus the Constable's House and Garden. The Constable's House and Garden was situated west of the study site.⁸ Thus, the police were occupying this land by the 1840s (Figures 2.1 and 2.2).

A government wharf was built at the end of Mann Street about 1841.⁹ The initial focus of the official town was the south end of Mann Street near the public wharf.

The first sale of lots in the official town of Gosford was held on 14 January 1841. The most valuable lot was Allotment 1 Section 7 bought by Constable William Smith. Section 7 was the most popular area in the sale. The subsequent depression of the 1840s hampered the sale of further lots.¹⁰ The Census conducted on 2 March 1841 listed 199 people in the town of Gosford plus 25 inhabited houses.¹¹

It is uncertain when the Pound was set up in this area. In 1848, Robert Creighton sketched sites for the proposed new courthouse when he submitted his tender to build it. His rough sketch showed a pound near Mann Street but his sketch does not agree with the current street layout (Figure 2.3).¹²

The original slab watch house built about 1827 to which a courthouse was later added had become too worn out by the late 1840s to suffice. A tender was advertised for a new court and watch house. The tender of George Paton to build it for £345 was accepted on 10 April 1848. The site was at the south-west corner of Section 32. It was completed in 1849.¹³

Wells *Gazetteer* of 1848 listed 16 houses and 53 inhabitants at Gosford.¹⁴ For East Gosford, he supplied no concrete data, but merely 'boosted' the future of that town.¹⁵ The official town of West Gosford eventually defeated the threat of East Gosford. In time, it had important administrative buildings such as the courthouse. It acquired the courthouse, lock-up and later a school in 1877 and post office in 1882 at the end of Mann Street near the public wharf.

⁸ Town of Gosford, 1839, SR Map 85

⁹ *SMH*, 8 Feb 1842, p 3

¹⁰ K Tantari, The historical development of Gosford, Thesis (B.T.P.), University of New South Wales, 1976, p 74-5

¹¹ 1841 Census, in NSW Blue Book, 1841, p 298

¹² Colonial Architect, Correspondence, Brisbane Water, Court and Watchhouse, 1847-9, 1851-61, SRNSW 2/638A

¹³ Colonial Architect, Correspondence, Brisbane Water, Court and Watchhouse, 1847-9, 1851-61, SRNSW 2/638A

¹⁴ W H Wells, *A Geographical Dictionary or Gazetteer of the Australian Colonies*, W & F Ford, 1848, p 187

¹⁵ W H Wells, *Geographical Dictionary or Gazetteer*, pp 159-60

On 29 November 1849, the Gosford Bench of Magistrates wrote to the Colonial Secretary about the Public Pound and Police Paddock, stating that an estimate of the cost of fencing it had been received and requesting that the work be completed. The pound was then in Donnison Street and was the cause of considerable annoyance to the townsfolk.¹⁶

In January 1858, when repairs were being arranged to the court and watch house built in 1848, the plan included a room 14 feet 6 inches by 12 feet labeled as the Constables Quarters. It was included in the specification for the repair work.¹⁷

A plan by surveyor William D Biden of 26 February 1870 of three lots measured on 8 and 9 February 1870 for sale and the Police Paddock showed the Paddock Reserve but recorded no buildings on it (Figure 2.4). The Pound was shown at the south-west corner of Mann and Georgiana Streets, the later site of the School of Arts.¹⁸ Surveyors often only recorded 'improvements' when they were located on the land being measured or were close to the land being surveyed. However, since he showed buildings facing other streets nearby, it is likely that there were none on the police paddock.

On 3 January 1881, the government announced that H Wilson had been awarded the contract to erect what was recorded as the 'police station' at Gosford.¹⁹ In 1892, the Public Works Department gave the year 1881 as the completion date for the Gosford Police station. The value of the building in 1892 was £1,200.²⁰ A press report of 10 August 1882 stated that:

"The new police station, opposite Mr. Worley's store, is a building which would be very nice if it was finished. Unfortunately the authorities have carried out a cheese-paring policy in this case, and have built one-half of the house, intending, I suppose, to finish it when a bachelor senior-sergeant occupies the place."²¹

The *Annual Reports* of the NSW Department of Public Works were checked from 1888 to 1920 to see if there was any information about the completion of the police

¹⁶ Bench Book, 3, p 159, cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

¹⁷ Colonial Architect, Correspondence, Brisbane Water, Court and Watchhouse, 1847-9, 1851-61, SRNSW 2/638A

¹⁸ G.47.1123, Crown Plan

¹⁹ *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 8 Jan 1881, p 61

²⁰ PWD, *Annual Report*, 1892, p 65

²¹ *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 12 Aug 1882, p 327

Sergeant's residence. These reports did not record any works such as the completion of the so-called half-completed Police residence.²²

Reserve 189 for a Pound and Police Paddock was officially notified on 12 December 1885, regularising the existing land set aside for the pound and police paddock.²³ A photograph looking towards the School of Arts shows the rear of the police building facing Mann Street. It has been tentatively dated as 1886 but this is too early as the School of Arts was not then in existence (Figure 2.6).²⁴

Licensed Surveyor J F Finn completed a survey plan of Lot 4 Section 81, as a site for the School of Arts site on 11 March 1886. His plan showed the police building facing Mann Street with a tank adjacent. The Police stables occupied the School of Arts site along with other outbuildings at the rear (Figure 2.8 and detail at Figure 2.9).²⁵

On 24 July 1886, it was reported that the School of Arts would soon be erected. The trustees for the building were George Watt, J W Lloyd, H C Wheeler, William Burns, and W J Chapman.²⁶ Tenders were invited for the erection of an iron building, 60 feet by 30 feet, for the School of Arts on 14 August 1886.²⁷ It was not until 5 February 1887 that the site for the School of Arts was dedicated.²⁸

A street alignment plan completed by surveyor Frederick Arnheim of a number of streets including Mann Street dated 31 March 1888 showed the police station on the site. The School of Arts was not shown. Apparently, it had not yet been built (Figure 2.10).²⁹

Senior Constable Aggett, who had been in charge of the police station at Gosford for 17 years, was reported on 26 October 1897 to be ready for retirement on a pension. His successor would be Sergeant Ogden of Taree.³⁰

The western part of the Police Paddock was excised and gazetted as Reserve 46508 for Public Recreation on 19 April 1901.³¹

²² NSW – Public Works Department, Annual Report, 1888-1920

²³ *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 12 Dec 1885, p 8018

²⁴ Gosford CC photo collection

²⁵ G.52.1123, Crown Plan

²⁶ Gosford Times, 24 Jul 1886, cited in Gosford Times, 17 Dec 1919 as cited in GT 5 Nov 1936, p 2, cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

²⁷ Gosford Times, 24 Jul 1886, cited in Gosford Times, 17 Dec 1919 as cited in GT 5 Nov 1936, p 2, cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

²⁸ Town Map, Gosford, 1888

²⁹ G.1.2511.Sh 1, Crown Plan

³⁰ SMH, 26 Oct 1897, p 3 cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

³¹ Town Map, Gosford, 1908

A photograph dated as 1908 showed the rear of the School of Arts building plus the Police Sergeant's quarters facing Mann Street (Figure 2.13).³²

The Gosford Council meeting of 19 September 1910 received a letter from the Gosford Progress Association about the resumption of the Police Paddock for a park. The matter was held over pending enquiries to the Police Department regarding compensation.³³ The land excised at the western end of the Reserve appears to have set up as a park. On 3 July 1911, Gosford Council dealt with the matter of fencing the Reserve at the Police Paddock. Councillor Kibble moved that the Police Department be asked to remove the fence onto the new boundary. His motion was carried.³⁴

A photograph labeled as a General View of Gosford about 1919 showed the School of Arts building plus the Police Sergeant's Quarters facing Mann Street (Figure 2.15).³⁵

On 17 February 1930, Gosford Council was dealing with a letter from the District Surveyor asking whether there is any objection to the revocation of the reserve for Pound and Police Paddock in Gosford and asking about the disposal of the land. Gosford Council resolved that there is no objection.³⁶

On 9 June 1936, Gosford Council was dealing with a letter of 18 May 1936 from the Director of Education whether there was any objection to the revocation of the reserves for public recreation and for the Pound and Police Paddock. The Council resolved there was no objection.³⁷

In October 1936, the decrepit condition of the Police Sergeant's quarters was raised with R B Walker, MLA. He was told that some of the rooms were reminiscent of cells in the old Berrima Gaol. Walker later promised to make inquiries.³⁸

An article of 20 October 1936 dealt with the Police Sergeant's House and delays in repairs and refurbishment. Repairs and renovations had been approved in May 1935 but the matter had lain dormant until 20 May 1936 when the Department of

³² Gosford CC photo collection

³³ CM (Council Minutes?) 19 Sept 1910, p 9 cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

³⁴ CM (Council Minutes?) 3 July 1911, p 146 cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

³⁵ Gosford CC photo collection

³⁶ CM (Council Minutes?) 17 Feb 1930, p 5 cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

³⁷ CM (Council Minutes?) 9 June 1936, p 4 cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

³⁸ MOL, 6 Oct 1936, p 7 cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

Education communicated it was considering schemes for the school premises. These included the acquisition of the Sergeant's quarters.³⁹

By 24 February 1938, the necessary repairs had been completed. The cottage had been partially re-roofed, repaired and renovated. It was then described as one of the worst buildings in Gosford. It was also asserted that the only way to repair the cottage was to demolish it.⁴⁰

In 1939, the School of Arts was resumed for the Public School. In addition, the Police Sergeant's House, Police Paddock and some land owned by W R White had been resumed as the site for the new Primary School.⁴¹

The resumption was completed and the former Police Paddock incorporated into the public school site on 17 November 1939.⁴² The Police Sergeant's House remained on the site until 1960. In November 1960, it was reported that the Apex Club would demolish the building. It was a disused building in the grounds of the Gosford Public School.⁴³

³⁹ MOL, 20 Oct 1936, p 5 cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

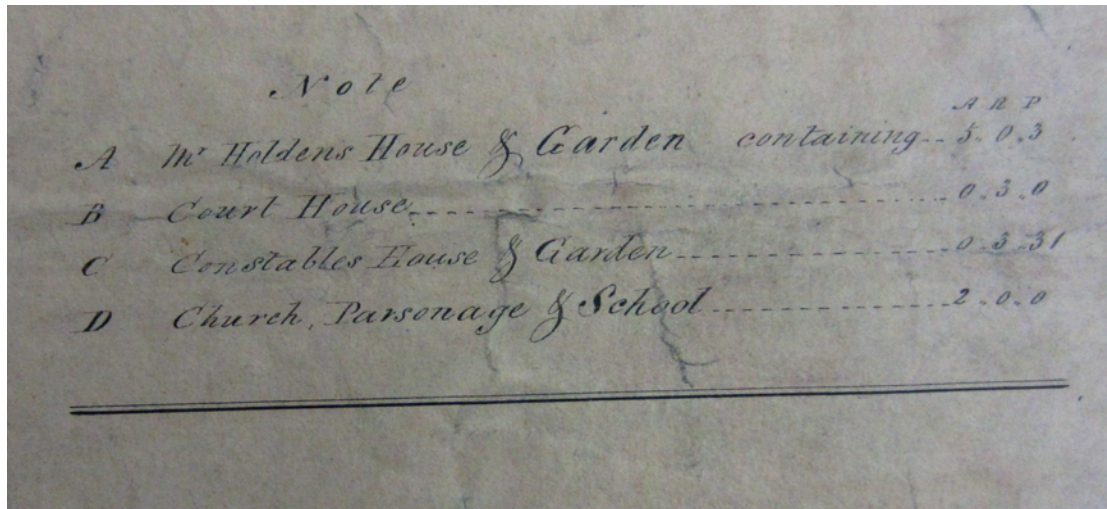
⁴⁰ *Gosford Times*, 24 Feb 1938, p 6 cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

⁴¹ *Gosford Times*, 6 April 1939, p 4 cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

⁴² Town Map, Gosford, 1956

⁴³ *Gosford Times*, 18 Nov 1960, p 1 cited in Lewis and Williams, Notes Police Barracks, 1

2.3 Figures.



	A R P
A Mr Holdens House & Garden containing--	5. 0. 3
B Court House-----	0. 3. 0
C Constables House & Garden-----	0. 5. 31
D Church, Parsonage & School-----	2. 0. 0

Figure 2.1. The table on the earliest town map of Gosford, 1839, showed the area marked C as the 'Constables House & Garden'.

Source: Town of Gosford, 1839, SR Map 85



Figure 2.2. The earliest town map of Gosford, 1839, showed the 'Constables House & Garden' west of the study site.

Source: Town of Gosford, 1839, SR Map 85

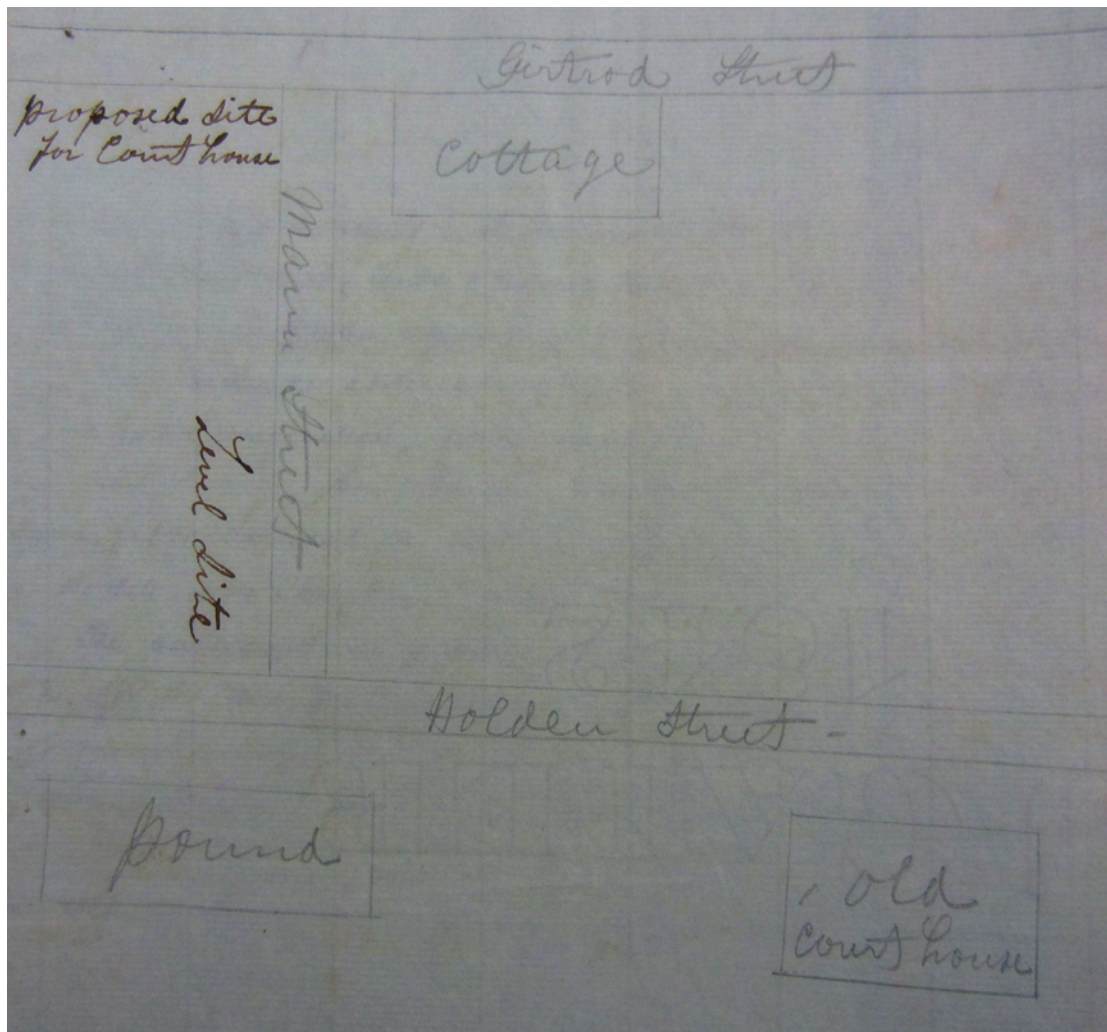


Figure 2.3. Robert Creighton's tender included this sketch.
Source: Colonial Architect, Correspondence, Brisbane Water, Court and Watchhouse, 1847-9, 1851-61, SRNSW 2/638A

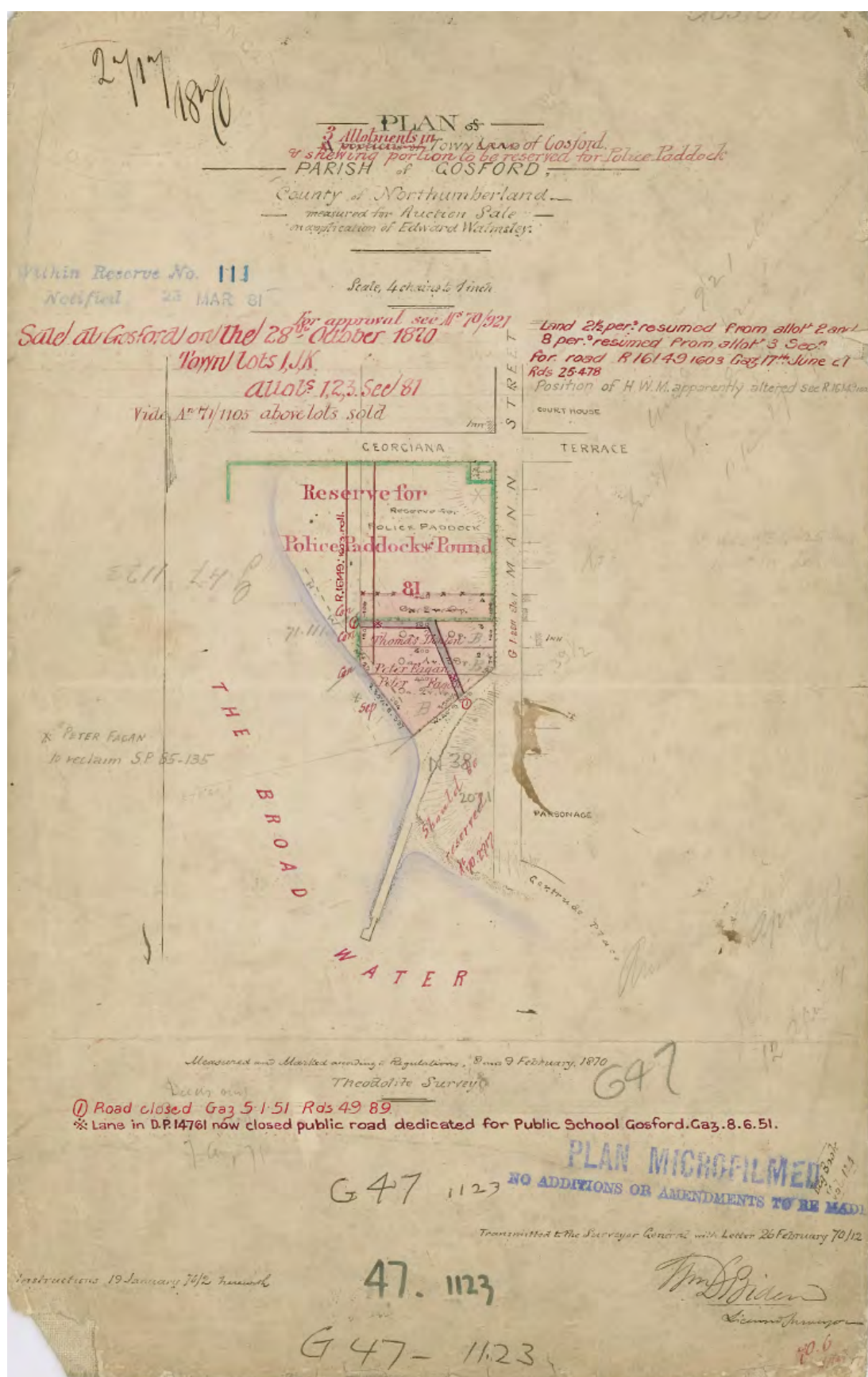


Figure 2.4. The survey of 26 February 1870 showed the Police Paddock but no buildings.
 Source: G.47.1123, Crown Plan



Figure 2.5. Photograph of the Police Sergeant's Quarters with rear staircase and the police stables in the foreground with WC. This photograph is dated to 1887, a year before the School of Arts was built.
Source: Gosford CC photo collection.



Figure 2.6. Photograph showing the School of Arts and other buildings facing Mann Street and Georgiana Terrace. The Police Station and Sergeant's Quarters appears to be the building on Mann Street, hiding part of the School of Arts. Though dated as 1886, this image must be later since the School of Arts had not then been built.
Source: Gosford CC photo collection.

GOSFORD MUNICIPALITY
 GAZ. 25.10.36

PLAN
 Allotment 4 Sec 81 in Town of Gosford
 Parish of Gosford
 County of Northumberland

Proposed to be dedicated as a site for School or Arts in use or
 abandoned 21 Nov 32

Rate 1886-87 1001 allot 4 sec 81 Dedicated 1st Feb 1887
 under Section 108 G.L.A. 1884

Rate 1888-89 1032 allotting Messrs Henry Charles Wheeler
 & William John Chapman, William Burns Joseph William Lloyd
 & John Kenneth Whitneys Trustees of the land at Gosford sit
 apart for a site for school or Arts

Change in trust date 21st Sept 92

Plan approved
 James Deering
 Mayor 1886
 7 April
 E. W. Deering
 1st April 1886

NO ADDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE MADE

Reference to Columns

Column	Section	Area	Area	Area
1	24 th	1	1	1
2	18 th	1	1	1

Reference to Rows

Row	Section	Area	Area
1	24 th	1	1
2	18 th	1	1

Scale 20 Chains to an Inch

52-1123

15

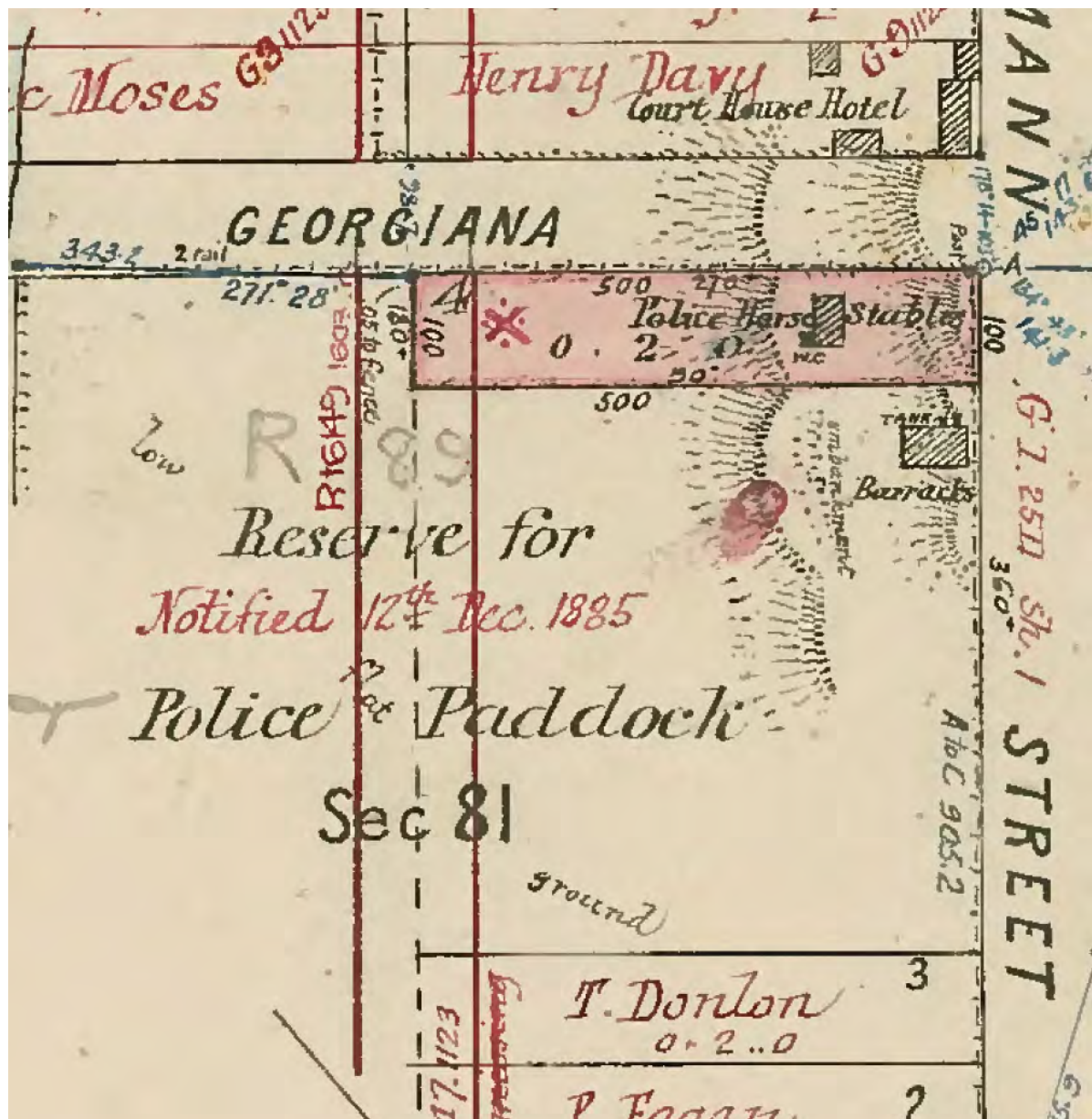


Figure 2.9. An enlargement of the Police residence and the stables.
Source: G.52.1123, Crown Plan

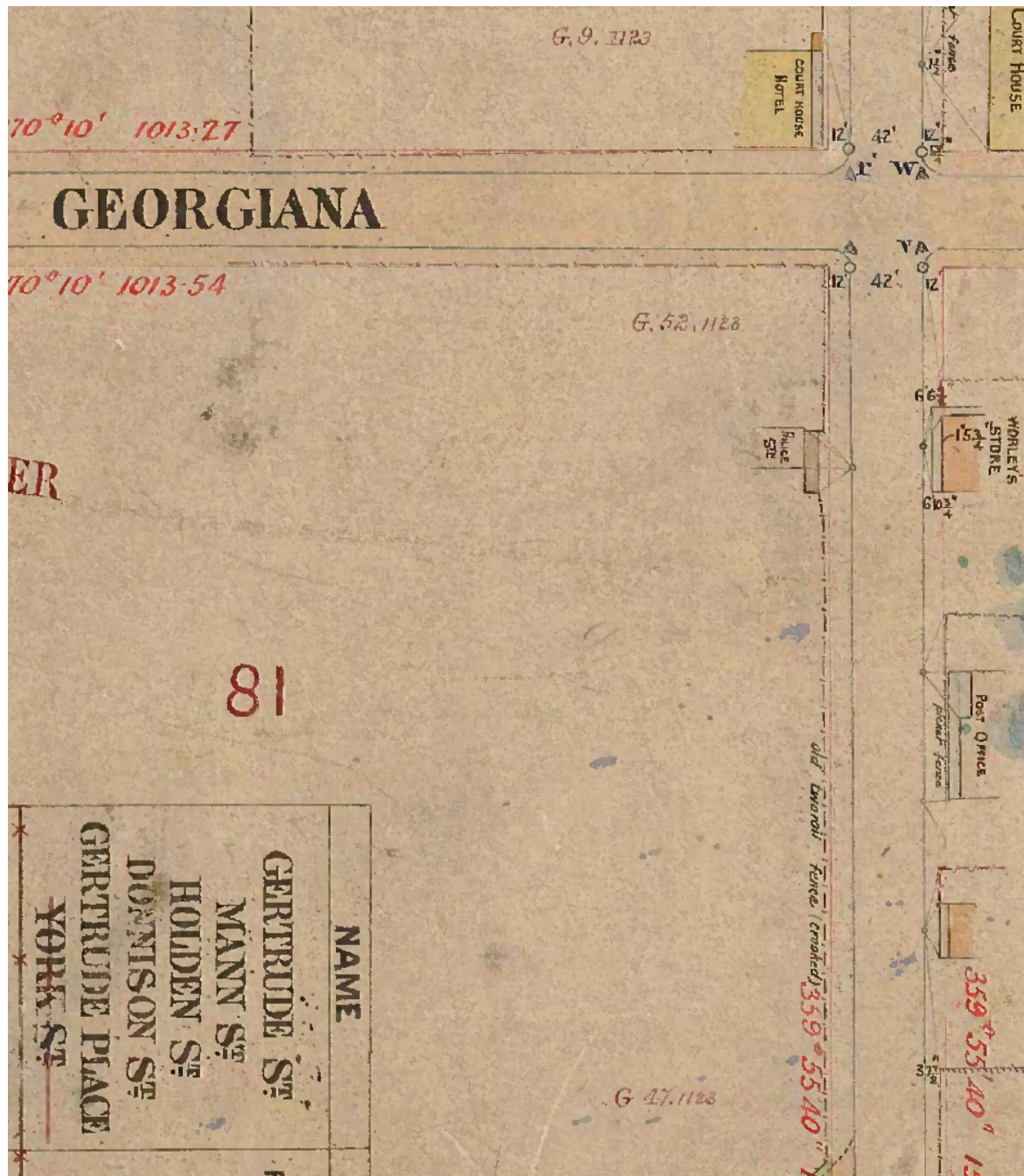


Figure 2.10. Frederick Arnheim's survey of the streets of Gosford dated 31 March 1888 showed the 'Police Stn'.

Source: G.1.2511.Sh 1, Crown Plan



Figure 2.11. This image shows the School of Arts and the Police Sergeant's Quarters from the waterfront and is dated c.1900s.
Source: Gosford CC photo collection



Figure 2.12. This image shows the School of Arts and the Police Sergeant's Quarters looking west and is dated the waterfront and is dated to 1902.
Source: Gosford CC photo collection



Figure 2.13. This image dated as about 1908 showed the School of Arts, the rear of the Police Sergeant's residence and a number of other outbuildings.
Source: Gosford CC photo collection.



Figure 2.14. This image shows the School of Arts and the roof line of the Police Sergeant's Quarters, together with the outbuildings. It is dated to c.1981.
Source: Gosford CC photo collection.

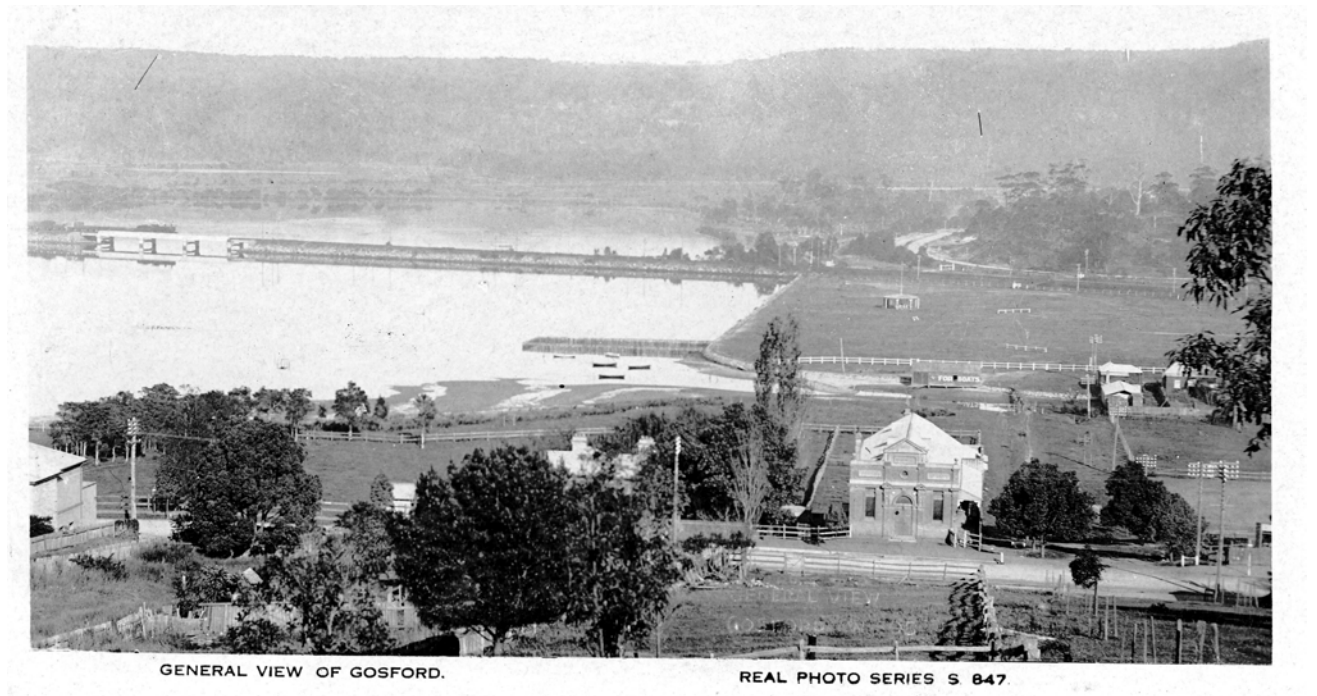


Figure 2.15. This image dated as about 1919 showed the Police Sergeant's residence roof above the trees.
Source: Gosford CC photo collection.



Figure 2.16. This image shows the rear of the School of Arts and the Police Sergeant's Quarters and is dated to c1940s.
Source: Gosford CC photo collection.

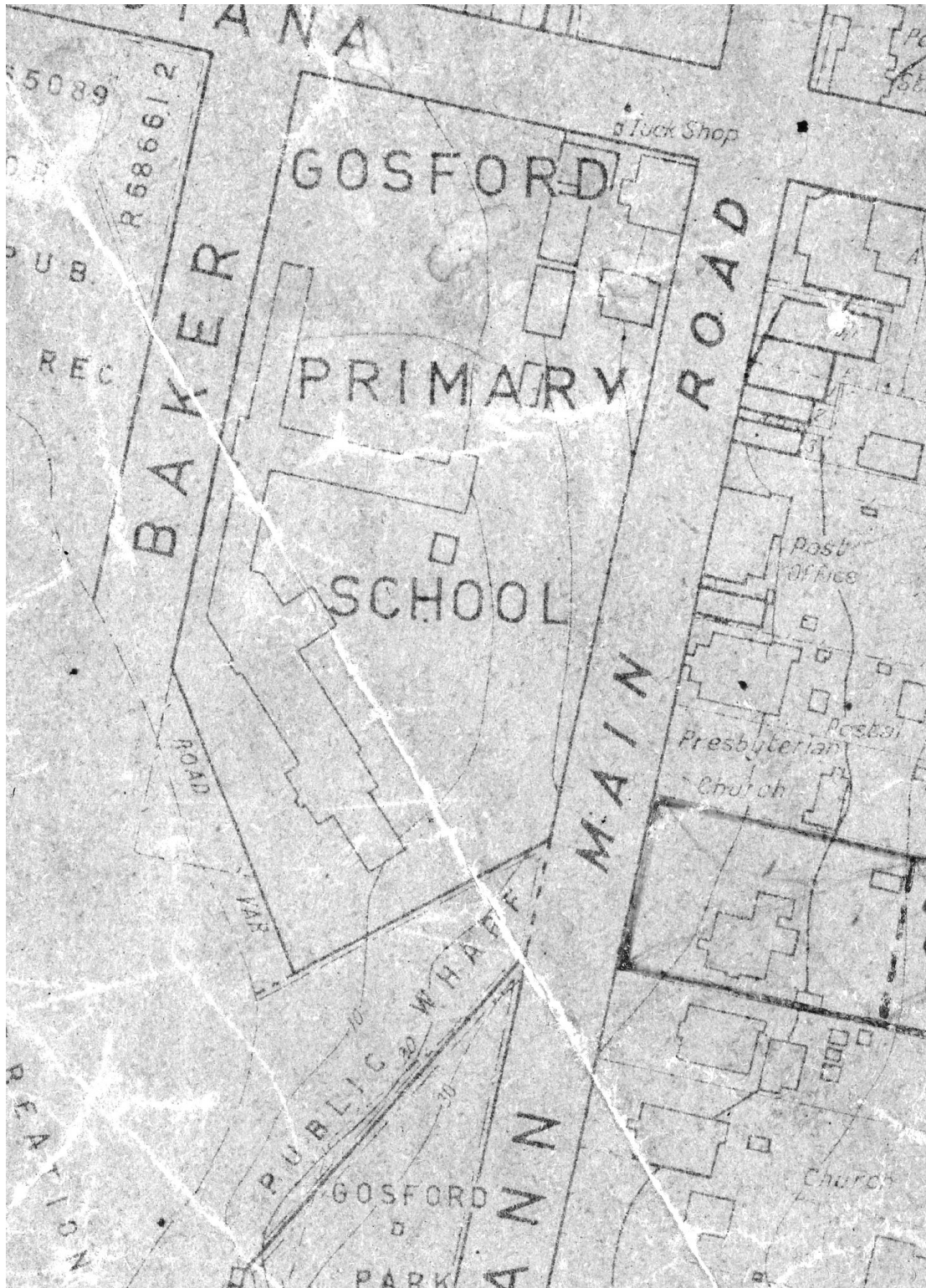


Figure 2.17. Plan of part of Gosford, showing the buildings on the site, c.1954, including the School of Arts, the Sergeant's Quarters and the three classrooms of the primary school. The later school buildings are shown on the south and west of the block.
Source: Gosford CC Library.

3 SITE SURVEY.

3.1 Introduction.

Site survey was undertaken by Dr. Edward Higginbotham on 3 July 2014.

Then purpose of the site survey is to determine the surviving condition (archaeological potential) of the site of the former Police Station, Police Barracks or Sergeant's Quarters, as well as the site of the former police stables and attached WC.

3.2 Site description.

Gosford is located at the northern end of Brisbane Water on a bay named the Broad Water. Mann Street runs north to south towards the bay, while Georgiana Terrace runs east to west across the northern end of the bay. Georgiana Terrace is now truncated by the Central Coast Station and railway, but used to run further towards the west.

The site of the School of Arts and the Police Sergeant's Quarters is located on the west side of Mann Street and the south side of Georgiana Terrace on a hill above the bay. The site slopes downhill towards the west (Figure 3.1).

At first it appears that the site of the School of Arts and Police Sergeant's Quarters is cut into or terraced into the slope, but this may not be the case. It is more likely that Mann Street itself has been terraced into the slope, cut into the hill on its upper eastern side, but on fill along its western side.

Thus the road embankment on the Mann Street frontage may represent fill above the original land surface. The site of the School of Arts and the earlier Police Sergeant's Quarters may therefore be constructed on the original slope or only terraced into the slope by a small depth.

The area to the west of the School of Arts and the Police Sergeant's Quarters appears to have been altered in a minor way by the surfacing of the school yard and three timber framed classrooms.

3.3 The survival of archaeological remains (archaeological potential).

Below ground archaeological remains may have been disturbed by later development or excavation. The following table enables standardised comparisons between sites in terms of the extent of likely disturbance.

Level of Disturbance	Description
1. Undisturbed	An archaeological site may be considered to be undisturbed when there are no visible signs of disturbance.
2. Minor disturbance.	An archaeological site may be considered to have minor disturbance when the only visible evidence of disturbance is: • Domestic or other building with narrow footings and service trenches. • Small scale buildings.
3. Partly disturbed.	An archaeological site may be considered to be partly disturbed when the only visible evidence of disturbance is: • A site or building terraced into a hill slope. • Large building with deep footings and service trenches.
4. Mostly disturbed.	An archaeological site may be considered to be mostly disturbed when the visible evidence of disturbance includes: • A site or building terraced into a hill slope by more than one storey in depth on part of the site. • Basements or semi-basements.
5. Destroyed.	An archaeological site may be considered to be destroyed when the visible evidence of disturbance includes: • Basement excavation in excess of one storey over most or all of the site.

Table 1. Levels of disturbance.

The above analysis of the original topography and terrain around the site of the School of Arts and Police Sergeant's Quarters indicates that there may have been a small extent of terracing into the slope at the Mann Street frontage, though the road has been embanked on fill along its west side (3. Partly Disturbed).

Further downhill from the School of Arts and Police Sergeant's Quarters, the original topography appears to have been little changed, except for minor disturbance caused by the surfacing of yards and piers for timber framed classrooms (2. Minor Disturbance).

This assessment suggests that below ground archaeological remains will survive with either minor to part disturbance (2. Minor Disturbance to 3. Partly Disturbed).

3.4 Description of the archaeological remains.

The School of Arts survives as a standing building, though much altered. There is a new frontage to Mann Street, constructed in 1929, according to the foundation stone. The back or west section has also been partly demolished, leaving only four of the original five bays of the building (Plates 3.1 and 3.2).

The site of the Police Station and Sergeant's Quarters includes sections of sandstone walling (Plates 3.3 and 3.4). The footings of the cellar (one level below Mann Street pavement) survive on the east front as well as parts of the side walls. The sandstone is dimension stone, chisel picked on the exterior, but quarry faced on the interior. The wall survives to a depth of six courses, approximately 1.8 metres high. The lime mortar suggests that this is part of the original building. There is one internal pier on the east wall fronting Mann Street.

A wall butts up against the northern wall of the Police Sergeant's Quarters. It is only three courses high and retains the embankment of Mann Street, towards the south side of the School of Arts. There is a mixture of chisel picked and quarry faced dimension stone. The hard cement mortar suggests this is a late addition (Plate 3.5).

The south wall of the Police Sergeant's Quarters has been truncated. A later section of sandstone wall, L shaped, has been roughly bonded into the older wall and acts as a retaining wall against the Mann Street embankment (Plate 3.6). It is finely constructed with stone that is chisel picked with margins on the interior or exposed face. It has a coping of smoothly rounded stone, which slopes down to the ground level on the south side at its west end. On its exterior face the stone has only been quarry faced with some chisel picking. The interior face is therefore more important and may have provided access to a doorway into the cellar or basement of the Police Sergeant's Quarters.

There are a number of trees or saplings in the vicinity of the above walling. These will eventually cause damage to the surviving walls, particularly the trees and saplings on the Mann Street frontage adjacent to the sandstone wall of the Police Sergeant's Quarters. These trees and saplings should be removed.

The remainder of the north and south walls, together with the west wall of the Police Sergeant's Quarters no longer appear to be visible. There are some sandstone blocks that may at first be interpreted as the footings of these walls, but they are more likely to be a form of garden edging laid out after the demolition of the Police Sergeant's Quarters in the 1960s. The west wall is associated with a concrete dwarf wall that forms the side of a pathway between the classrooms. These reused stones do not appear to be well laid and are not bonded together, suggesting garden usage (Plates 3.7 and 3.8).

The sites of the Police Stables and other outbuildings were also inspected during the site visit. The sites are located directly to the west of the School of Arts, underneath the present timber framed classroom. The timber framed classroom has been built on brick piers. Underneath the building there appears to be remnants of a bitumen yard surface, with topsoil beneath. The site of the Police Stables and other

outbuildings is therefore likely to survive in good condition, but there are no above surface remains (Plates 3.9 and 3.10).

The stables and WC, together with a number of other outbuildings, are shown on the sequence of historical photographs from 1887 through to the 1940s (Figures 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.11, 2.13, 2.14, 2.16). The police stables appear to be shown in each of these photographs until the last photograph of the 1940s. By this time the police stables have been demolished and the School of Arts undergone major changes, including partial demolition.

There are three timber framed classrooms on the site. The one on the Georgiana Terrace frontage retains some beaded tongue and groove timber lining and may be dated to the late nineteenth century. The other two classrooms may have been built in the early to mid twentieth century. All appear to have been moved to this site for reuse as classrooms. Further analysis should be undertaken to assess their significance.

3.5 Figures.

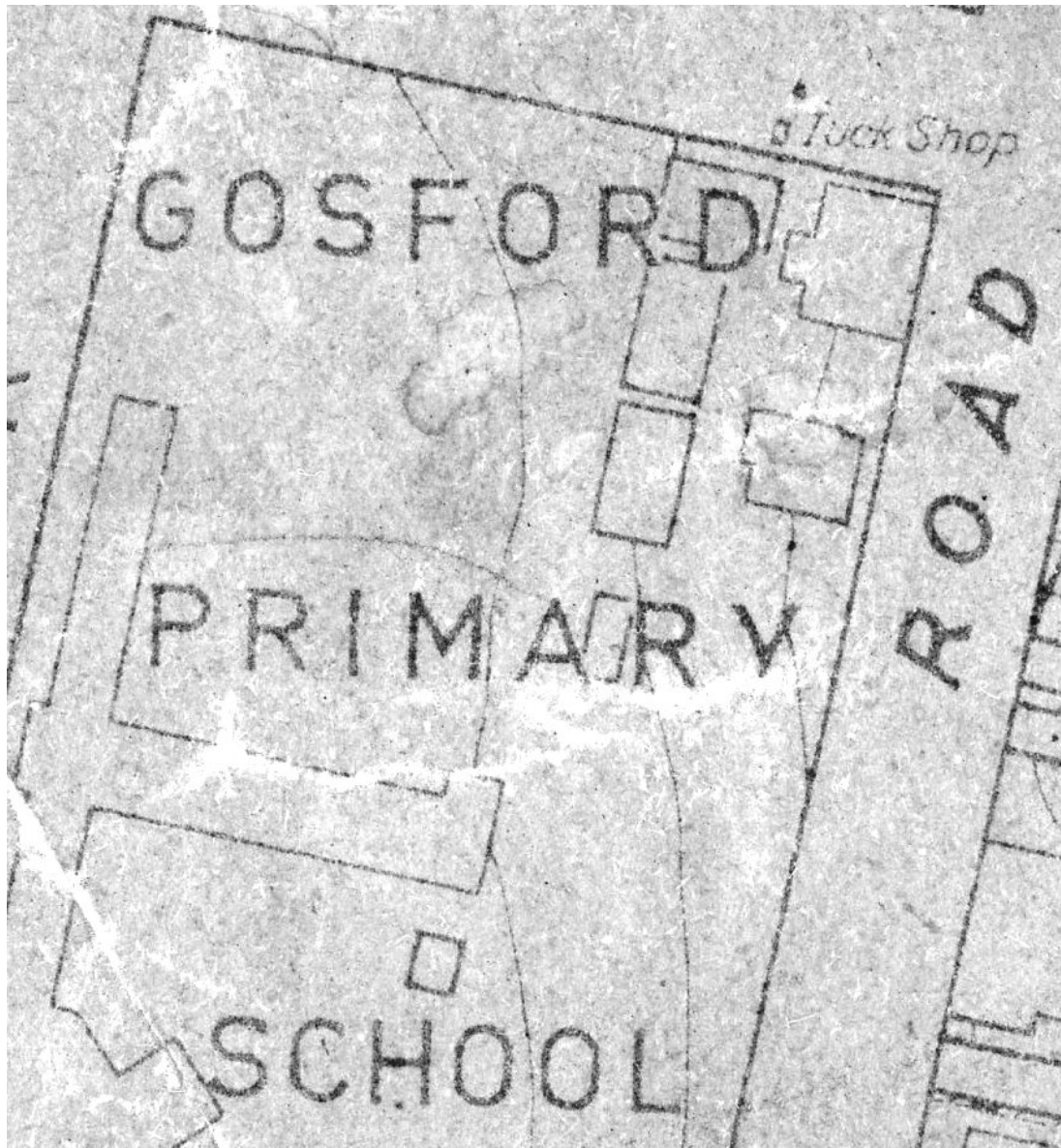


Figure 3.1. Detail of Figure 2.17, showing the buildings on the site, namely the School of Arts on the corner of Mann Street and Georgiana Terrace, the Police Station or Police Sergeant's Quarters further south on Mann Street and the three classrooms of the primary school. The later school buildings are shown on the south and west of the block.
Source: Gosford CC Library.

3.6 Photographs.



Plate 3.1. School of Arts, Mann Street, with new facade built in 1929.
Photograph by Dr. Edward Higginbotham.

Plate 3.2. School of Arts, Mann Street, view of back of building.
Photograph by Dr. Edward Higginbotham.



Plate 3.3. The sandstone footings of the former Police Station and Sergeant's Quarters, fronting Mann Street, north-east corner of building.

Photograph by Dr. Edward Higginbotham.

Plate 3.4. The sandstone footings of the former Police Station and Sergeant's Quarters, fronting Mann Street, south-east corner of building.

Photograph by Dr. Edward Higginbotham.



Plate 3.5. The sandstone footings of the retaining wall between the former Police Sergeant's Quarters and School of Arts, fronting Mann Street,
Photograph by Dr. Edward Higginbotham.

Plate 3.6. The L shaped sandstone wall, attached to the south wall of the former Police Sergeant's Quarters, fronting Mann Street.
Photograph by Dr. Edward Higginbotham.



Plate 3.7. Part of a U shaped arrangement of reused sandstone blocks retaining a grassed area adjacent to the footings of the former Police Sergeant's Quarters and timber framed classrooms.

Photograph by Dr. Edward Higginbotham.

Plate 3.8. Detail of sandstone blocks, part of a U shaped arrangement retaining a grassed area adjacent to the footings of the former Police Sergeant's Quarters and timber framed classrooms.

Photograph by Dr. Edward Higginbotham.



Plates 3.9 and 3.10. One of three timber framed and weatherboarded classrooms on the site. This classroom retains some beaded tongue and groove timber lining and may be dated to the late nineteenth century. The other two classrooms may have been built in the early to mid twentieth century. All appear to have been reused on this site. The building on the Georgiana Terrace frontage is built on brick piers and is likely to preserve the site of the Police Stables beneath. Photograph by Dr. Edward Higginbotham.

4 CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE.

4.1 Current assessment criteria.

In this chapter the cultural significance of the subject site is assessed according to standard criteria.

The State Heritage Register and the State Heritage Inventory were established under Part 3A of the Heritage Act (as amended in 1998) for listing of items of environmental heritage.⁴⁴ The State Heritage Register list items, which are of state heritage significance, while the State Heritage Inventory includes items of local heritage significance.⁴⁵ A number of items listed on the State Heritage Inventory are also of state heritage significance.

To be assessed for listing on the State Heritage Register (state significance) or State Heritage Inventory (local significance) an item will, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, meet one or more of the following criteria.⁴⁶

Criterion a. An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history or

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of the local area's cultural or natural history;

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
• shows evidence of a significant human activity. • is associated with a significant activity or historical phase. • maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity.	• has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes. • provides evidence of activities or processes that are of dubious historical importance. • has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association.

⁴⁴ **environmental heritage** means those places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts, of state or local heritage significance (section 4, *Heritage Act, 1977*).

⁴⁵ **state heritage significance**, in relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to the State in relation to the historical, scientific cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item (section 4A(1), *Heritage Act, 1977*).

⁴⁶ Guidelines for the application of these criteria have now been prepared by the NSW Heritage Office. See inclusion and exclusion guidelines in: NSW Heritage Office. 2000. Assessing Heritage Significance. A NSW Heritage Manual Update.

See also:

Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. 1996. Heritage Assessments. pp. 4-7.

Criterion b. An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history, or
An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area;

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
• shows evidence of significant human occupation. • is associated with a significant event, person or group of persons.	• has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events. • provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance. • has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association.

Criterion c. An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW, or
An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area;

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
• shows or is associated with creative or technical innovation or achievement. • is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement. • is aesthetically distinctive. • has landmark qualities. • exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology.	• is not a major work by an important designer or artist. • has lost its design or technical integrity. • its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded. • has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement.

Criterion d. An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons, or
An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the local area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
• is important for its associations with an identifiable group. • is important to a community's sense of place.	• is only important to the community for amenity reasons. • is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative.

Criterion e. An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history, or
An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the local area's cultural or natural history;

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
• has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information. • is an important benchmark or reference of its type. • provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere.	• only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites. • the knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture. • has little archaeological or research potential.

Criterion f. An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history, or

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the local area's cultural or natural history;

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
• provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process. • demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost. • shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity. • is the only example of its type. • demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest. • shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community.	• is not rare. • is numerous but under threat.

Criterion g. An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's

cultural or natural places; or

cultural or natural environments, or

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's

cultural or natural places; or

cultural or natural environments.

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
• is a fine example of its type. • has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items. • has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity. • is a significant variation to a class of items. • is a part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type. • is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held..	• is a poor example of its type. • does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type. • does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type.

An item is not to be excluded from the Register or Inventory on the ground that items with similar characteristics have already been listed on the Register or Inventory.

In criteria a to g, where an item is deemed to be of local significance, the words "local area" should be substituted for "NSW".

4.2 Grading of significance.

The NSW Heritage Manual describes the methodology for grading of significance for items within a place. This has been further described in "Assessing Heritage

Significance”, published by the NSW Heritage Office in 2000.⁴⁷ Additional information for the grading of significance is also provided in “Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics”, published by the Heritage Branch, Department of Planning in 2009.⁴⁸

Grading	Justification	Status
Exceptional	Rare or outstanding item of local or state significance. High degree of intactness. Item can be interpreted relatively easily.	Fulfils criteria for local or state listing.
High	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates key element of the item’s significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	Fulfils criteria for local or state listing.
Moderate	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item.	Fulfils criteria for local or state listing.
Little	Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret.	Does not fulfil criteria for local or state listing.
Intrusive	Damaging to the item’s heritage significance	Does not fulfil criteria for local or state listing.

4.3 Archaeological significance.

The term ‘archaeological significance’ was defined in the 1980s as the extent to which a site may contribute knowledge, not available from other sources, to current themes in historical archaeology and related disciplines.⁴⁹ ‘Archaeological significance’ is included in Criterion E of the current criteria for assessment.

⁴⁷ NSW Heritage Office. 2000. Assessing Heritage Significance. A NSW Heritage Manual Update.

⁴⁸ Heritage Branch, Department of Planning. 2009. Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics.

⁴⁹ This definition is based upon the following references; A. Bickford, & S. Sullivan, ‘Assessing the research significance of historic sites’, in S. Sullivan, & S. Bowdler, *Site survey and significance assessment in Australian archaeology*, Dept. of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU, Canberra, 1984, pp. 19-26.; S. Sullivan, & S. Bowdler, *Site survey and significance assessment in Australian archaeology*, Dept. of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU, Canberra, 1984, passim.

It is clear that the determination of archaeological significance is closely related and, in fact, dependent upon the development of current research themes in historical archaeology.

The consideration of archaeological significance is further discussed in “Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics.”⁵⁰ These guidelines indicate that it is necessary for archaeological sites to be assessed using more than one significance criterion. They also provide advice on other values, including:

- intactness, or physical condition.
- lifeways, referring to J. S. Kerr’s well known phrase, the “ability to demonstrate” a way of life, custom, etc.⁵¹
- the challenge of potential (surviving condition), namely the difficulties associated with assessing the intactness of a site that is below ground and not visible.
- Changes in significance, namely the possible differences in assessment of significance before and after archaeological investigation.
- Multiple heritage values.

The guidelines also provide assistance with assessing the historical criteria for archaeological sites and relics.

4.4 The heritage significance of the subject site.

The following statement of significance is prepared in accordance with the current assessment guidelines. It concentrates on aspects of archaeological and historical significance.

A. an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW’s cultural or natural history;

The site of the former Police Sergeant’s Quarters or Police Station is significant because it was formerly part of the government precinct at Gosford, where public buildings were concentrated, including the former courthouse and later council chambers. The site was also located in the former Police Paddock.

Level of significance: Local.

B. an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW’s cultural or natural history;

Further research would be required to determine this aspect of significance.

⁵⁰ Heritage Branch, Department of Planning. 2009. Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics.

⁵¹ James Semple Kerr. The Conservation Plan. Australia ICOMOS, 2103, passim. The concept of the “ability to demonstrate” was developed by J S Kerr from the first edition of the Conservation Plan in 1982.

Level of significance: -

C. an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW;

The surviving sandstone walls of the former Police Station and Sergeant's Quarters indicate aspects of traditional building technology.

Level of significance: Local.

D. an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

Further research would be required to determine this aspect of significance.

Level of significance: -

E. an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The site has the potential to contribute to a number of archaeological research themes in historical archaeology. These include the layout of public buildings in towns in regional New South Wales, the conditions of life and work in public service, the standard of living of public servants and police officers.

Level of significance: Local.

F. an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The site of the former Police Station and Police Sergeant's Quarters is a rare survival of an archaeological site in Gosford.

Level of significance: Local.

G. an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's

cultural or natural places; or
cultural or natural environments.

The combination of watch house or police station and quarters for the officers and their families is a pattern of development across New South Wales.

Level of significance: Local.

4.5 Summary of statement of significance.

The statement of significance for the subject site may be summarised as follows:

Criterion	Level
a. Historical.	Local
b. Historical association.	-
c. Aesthetic	Local
d. Social	-
e. Scientific	Local
f. Rarity.	Local
g. Representativeness.	Local

The sites are assessed as possessing local significance.

The site of the former Police Sergeant's Quarters or Police Station is significant because it was formerly part of the government precinct at Gosford, where public buildings were concentrated, including the former courthouse and later council chambers. The site was also located in the former Police Paddock.

The surviving sandstone walls of the former Police Station and Sergeant's Quarters indicate aspects of traditional building technology.

The site has the potential to contribute to a number of archaeological research themes in historical archaeology. These include the layout of public buildings in towns in regional New South Wales, the conditions of life and work in public service, the standard of living of public servants and police officers.

The site of the former Police Station and Police Sergeant's Quarters is a rare survival of an archaeological site in Gosford.

The combination of watch house or police station and quarters for the officers and their families is a pattern of development across New South Wales.

4.6 Grading of archaeological sites on subject property.

The site of the former Police Station and Sergeant's Quarters, together with the sites of the former police stables and other outbuildings, are not graded according to significance.

5 CONSERVATION GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1 Constraints and opportunities (conservation policies and guidelines).

5.1.1 The NSW *Heritage Act* and historical archaeology

The *Heritage Act* contains various legal measures to protect historical archaeological resources.

Where historical research has revealed the location of historical settlement, experience has shown that the discovery of relics is highly likely once the soil is disturbed. When relics are revealed the Heritage Council must be notified. This may involve delay until appropriate arrangements can be made to record the archaeological remains. As a result, developers and others are normally advised that excavation permits must be obtained prior to undertaking works, which involve excavation or the disturbance of historical sites. In this way most delays can be avoided.

The definition of 'relics' under the NSW Heritage Act has recently been changed, as follows:

The new definition is:

'relic means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

- (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and
- (b) is of State or local heritage significance."⁵²

Section 139 of the *Heritage Act* provides that:

- c). A person must not disturb or excavate any land knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit.*
- d). A person must not disturb or excavate any land on which the person has discovered or exposed a relic except in accordance with an excavation permit.*

⁵² Heritage Act, 1977, No. 136, as amended. Part 1. Section 4. Definitions.

If a site is the subject of an order under Section 130, an Interim Heritage Order, or is listed on the State Heritage Register, approval for an excavation permit is required under Section 60 of the *Heritage Act*.

If a site is not the subject of an order under the *Heritage Act* and is not listed on the State heritage Register, an excavation permit is required, in accordance with Section 140.

Section 146 of the *Heritage Act* requires that the accidental discovery of relics should be reported to the Heritage Council of NSW.

A person who is aware or believes that he or she has discovered or located a relic (in any circumstances, and whether or not the person has been issued with an excavation permit) must:

- e). within a reasonable time after he or she first becomes aware or believes that he or she has discovered or located that relic, notify the Heritage Council of the location of the relic, unless he or she believes on reasonable grounds that the Heritage Council is aware of the location of the relic, and*
- f). within the period required by the Heritage Council, furnish the Heritage Council with such information concerning the relic as the Heritage Council may reasonably require.*

When an item of heritage significance comes under the ownership or control of a public authority, the authority is required to record it in a Heritage and Conservation Register, under section 170 of the *Heritage Act*. The purpose of the provision is to alert the authority whenever works are proposed, which might affect the item.

5.1.2 Standard exemptions and exceptions under the *Heritage Act*.

Certain activities on sites listed on the NSW Heritage Register do not require permit application. These standard exemptions under section 57 of the *Heritage Act* were first published in 1999 by the NSW Heritage Office and updated in 2008.

On other archaeological sites, whether or not listed on the NSW Heritage Inventory, there are various situations where an application can be made for a permit exception. Permit exceptions under section 139 of the *Heritage Act* were published in 2002 by the NSW Heritage Office and were again updated in 2008.

These exemptions and exceptions have been recently updated and are available on the Heritage Office web site.⁵³

Apart from the Heritage Act, the requirements of all other legislation are outside the scope of this report.

5.1.3 Interpretation and display.

The ICOMOS Burra Charter states that “the cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment, and be culturally appropriate.”⁵⁴

Opportunities for the interpretation and display of the site should be investigated both during and after the completion of archaeological investigation. Even though many of the remains may be removed there are various strategies whereby artifacts and archaeological remains may be conserved and put on display, thereby achieving a public outcome for the archaeological investigation.

Provision should be made to display the evidence and contribution of the site recovered by historical research and archaeological excavation.

5.1.4 Conservation in situ.

The NSW Heritage Office states in *Archaeological Assessments* that conservation in situ may be appropriate under certain circumstances:

“An archaeological assessment may conclude that the most appropriate management action for the archaeological remains is conservation in situ. This may be because the archaeological features are of such significance or research value that they warrant retention or conservation in the place where they were found.

The procedures for determining appropriate conservation and management actions for such sites are the same as for any other item of environmental heritage.”⁵⁵

⁵³ NSW Government Gazette, Number 110. 5 September 2008, pages 9176-9184. See NSW Heritage Branch website, publications page, permits and application forms:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/publications/permitapps.htm>

⁵⁴ Australia ICOMOS Inc. The Burra Charter. The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance. 1999. p. 8.

The ICOMOS *Burra Charter*, the standard guidelines for heritage conservation, also recommends conservation in situ for heritage items:

- Article 9.1 The physical location of a place is part of its cultural significance. A building, work or other component of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.
- Article 28.1 Disturbance of significant fabric for study, or to obtain evidence, should be minimised. Study of a place by any disturbance of the fabric, including archaeological excavation, should only be undertaken to provide data essential for decisions on the conservation of the place, or to obtain important evidence about to be lost or made inaccessible.
- Article 28.2 Investigations of a place, which requires disturbance of the fabric, apart from that necessary to make decisions, may be appropriate provided that it is consistent with the policy for the place. Such investigations should be based on important research questions which have potential to substantially aid our knowledge, which cannot be answered in other ways and which minimise disturbance of the significant fabric.⁵⁶

The ICOMOS Burra Charter seeks to minimise disturbance of fabric by archaeological investigation, revealing the assumption that the heritage item is to be conserved, rather than subject to redevelopment. The destruction of an archaeological site by redevelopment is therefore outside the scope of the Burra Charter guidelines.

Nonetheless the archaeological assessment guidelines make it clear that items of heritage significance, particularly State significance, may warrant conservation in situ.

5.1.5 Requirements for conservation and archaeological investigation.

The site of the former Police Station and Police Sergeant's Quarters, together with the Police Stables and other outbuildings have been assessed as possessing local significance. The former Police Station and Police Sergeant's Quarters survive as ruins and below ground archaeological remains (Lot 6, Section 81, DP 758466). The

⁵⁵ Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. 1996. Archaeological assessments.

⁵⁶ Australia ICOMOS Inc. The Burra Charter. The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance. 1999. p. 5, 9.

site of the former Police Stables and other outbuildings is located to the west of the School of Arts (Lot 1, DP 123370) and is likely to survive as below ground remains. Both these sites are likely to include relics, as defined under the NSW Heritage Act.

These archaeological sites should therefore be conserved and listed on the Gosford LEP 2014 as an archaeological site or precinct.

The listing of the archaeological site should include both Lot 1, DP 123370 and Lot 6, Section 81, DP 758466.

There are a number of trees or saplings around the sandstone ruins of the Police Station and Police Sergeant's Quarters. These will eventually cause damage to the surviving walls, particularly the trees and saplings on the Mann Street frontage adjacent to the sandstone walls. Subject to the advice of a qualified arborist, these trees and saplings should be removed, but their stumps left in the ground, so that no disturbance is caused. The stumps should be poisoned to stop regrowth.

The three timber framed classrooms adjacent to the site appear to have been reused at this site. The one on the Georgiana Terrace frontage retains some beaded tongue and groove timber lining and may be dated to the late nineteenth century. The other two classrooms may have been built in the early to mid twentieth century. Further analysis should be undertaken to assess their significance.

An excavation permit or a permit exception under sections 140 or 139 (4) of the NSW Heritage Act should be obtained, prior to any works likely to disturb relics on Lot 1, DP 123370 and Lot 6, Section 81, DP 758466.

5.2 Recommendations.

The heritage legislation, conservation policies and guidelines outlined in Section 5.1 can be summarised as a series of recommendations.

It is recommended that:

1. The site of the former Police Station and Police Sergeant's Quarters, together with the Police Stables and other outbuildings have been assessed as possessing local significance. These archaeological sites should therefore be conserved and listed on the Gosford LEP 2014 as an archaeological site or precinct.
2. The listing of the archaeological site should include both Lot 1, DP 123370 and Lot 6, Section 81, DP 758466.

3. There are a number of trees or saplings around the sandstone ruins of the Police Station and Police Sergeant's Quarters. These will eventually cause damage to the surviving walls, particularly the trees and saplings on the Mann Street frontage adjacent to the sandstone walls. Subject to the advice of a qualified arborist, these trees and saplings should be removed, but their stumps left in the ground, so that no disturbance is caused. The stumps should be poisoned to stop regrowth.
4. The three timber framed classrooms adjacent to the site appear to have been reused at this site. Further analysis should be undertaken to assess their significance.
5. An excavation permit, or a permit exception under sections 140 or 139 (4) of the NSW Heritage Act, should be obtained, prior to any works likely to disturb relics on Lot 1, DP 123370 or Lot 6, Section 81, DP 758466.

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G.47.1123

G.50.1123 (no useful data)

G.52.1123

G.58.1123 (no value)

G.71.1123 (no value)

G.1.2511

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