

Taree Police Station

Heritage Assessment and Impact Statement

Report prepared for GroupGSA Pty Ltd

May 2018



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Report Register


The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled Taree Police Station—Heritage Assessment and Impact Statement, undertaken by GML Heritage Pty Ltd in accordance with its quality management system.

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The report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with the GML quality assurance policy and procedures.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

Redevelopment of the current facilities at Taree Police Station (hereafter referred to as 'the station' or 'the study area') has been proposed to assist in meeting current and future operational and functional needs of the station as identified by the Local Area Command.

On the recommendations of a Heritage Issues Review prepared in 2016,¹ GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) has been engaged by GroupGSA Architects Pty Ltd to prepare a Heritage Assessment and Impact Statement (HAIS) for the Taree Police Station redevelopment project. This HAIS has been prepared to accompany the Development Application (DA) to the Midcoast Council.

The report assesses the heritage significance of the Taree Police station, and then assesses the heritage impacts of the proposed development on the significance of the police station, the adjoining courthouse and other heritage items in the vicinity of the proposed development.

1.2 Site Location

The Taree Police Station is located at 79–83 Albert Street, Taree, within the Mid-North Coast Local Government Area (LGA) (Figure 1.1). The Taree Police Station and Courthouse are located on the northwestern side of Albert Street, the site comprising Lots 21, 22 and 23 of DP 50231 (Figure 1.2).

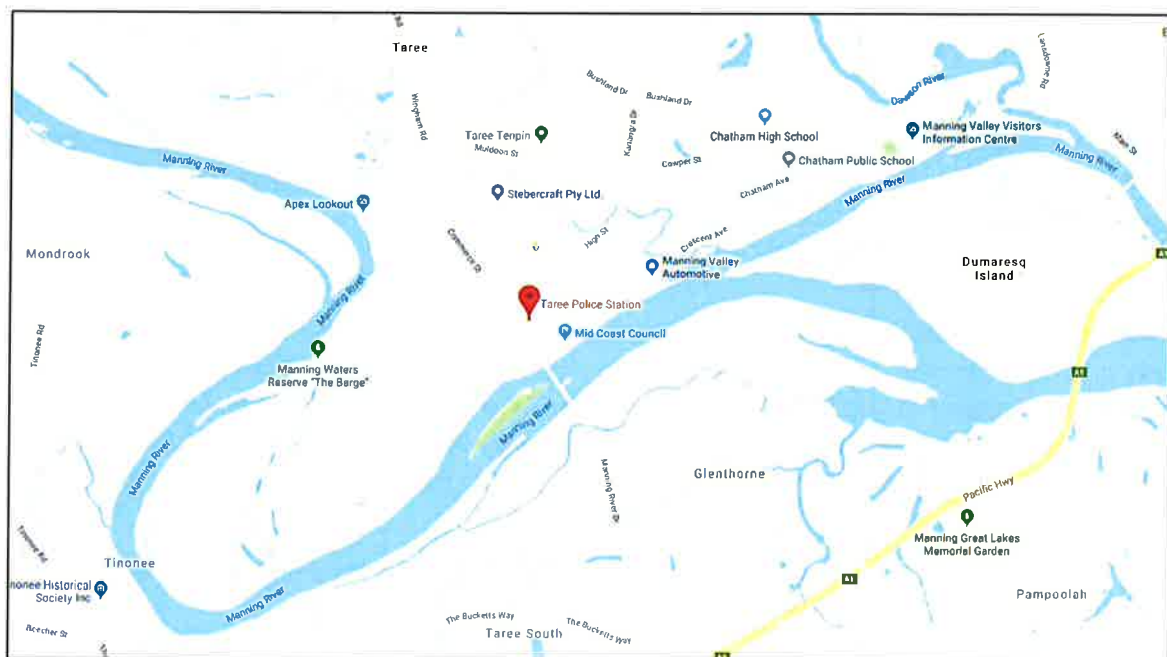


Figure 1.1 Plan showing location of Taree Police Station in Taree. (Source: Google Maps 2018)

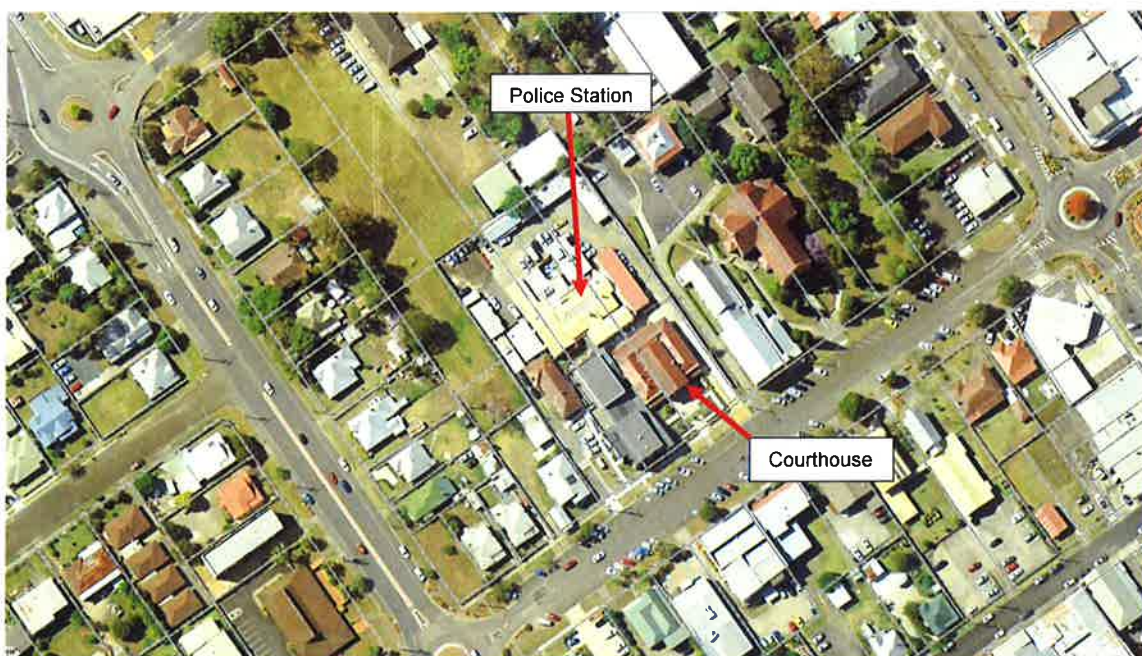


Figure 1.2 Aerial View showing the Taree Police Station and Court House, sitting over three allotments on Albert Street, Taree. (Lots 21, 22 and 23 of DP 50231) (Source: SixMaps 2018, GML overlay 2018)

The station building occupies the rear portion of the property and is accessed by a driveway on the eastern side of the site and a pedestrian path on the western side. The Taree Courthouse, which is on the same parcel of land as the police station, occupies the street front.

The site is bounded on its western side by residential allotments and on its eastern side by Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church. On the northern side of the block there is a parcel of land which remains vacant and the Little Beginnings Preschool.

1.3 Heritage Listing

The Taree Police Station is included in the listing of a heritage item on Schedule 5—Environmental Heritage of the *Greater Taree Local Environmental Plan 2010* (GTLEP2010). The listing is identified as 'Courthouse' (Listing ID: I117) and includes the station facilities within the listing boundary. The station is also located within the Albert Street Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) (Listing ID: C2). There are a number of individual heritage items listed on the GTLEP2010 in the immediate vicinity of the station. The heritage items relevant to this project are identified in Figure 1.3.

The station is also included in the heritage listing for the Taree Courthouse on the Attorney-General's Department Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register.

No items within the study area are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR).

The *Greater Taree Development Control Plan 2010* also applies to the study area.

1.4 Approach

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following heritage guidelines:

- 'Assessing Heritage Significance', a *NSW Heritage Manual* update;²

- 'Statements of Heritage Impacts', guidelines prepared by the NSW Heritage Office;³
- *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010);
- 'Archaeological Assessments', *NSW Heritage Manual* (NSW Heritage Office 1996);
- *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics* (NSW Heritage Branch 2009); and
- the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013* (the Burra Charter).⁴

1.5 Author Identification

This report has been prepared by Catherine Forbes, GML Associate. The archaeological assessments were undertaken by Jodi Cameron, Heritage Consultant, Archaeologist and reviewed by Catherine Snelgrove, Senior Associate.

1.6 Limitations

This heritage assessment focuses on the existing police station buildings and the police occupation of the site since 1863.

The heritage assessment is based on a non-exhaustive desktop study of documentary materials and a single site inspection undertaken 6 March 2018. The history included in the GBA Heritage Pty Ltd, Taree Police Station Project Heritage Issues Review, prepared for Gardner Wetherill + Associates, May 2016, has been adopted and supplemented with a review of drawings held in the Government Architects Office Archives.

No fabric was disturbed to reveal hidden portions of the building that were not clearly visible during the inspection.

The following assessments were beyond the project scope and as such have not been undertaken as part of this heritage assessment:

- Aboriginal cultural values assessment; and
- social values assessment.

1.7 Endnotes

- ¹ GBA Heritage Pty Ltd, Taree Police Station Project Heritage Issues Review, prepared for Gardner Wetherill + Associates, May 2016.
- ² NSW Heritage Office 2001, 'Assessing Heritage Significance', a *NSW Heritage Manual* update, Sydney.
- ³ Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs & Planning 1996, revised 2002, 'Statements of Heritage Impact', Sydney.
- ⁴ Australia ICOMOS Inc, *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013*, Australia ICOMOS Inc, Burwood, VIC, 2000.

2.0 Historical Overview

2.1 Aboriginal History

2.1.1 Ethnohistorical Background

Taree lies within the traditional lands of the Biripi and Worimi groups. Whilst there are varying opinions regarding the boundary between the groups, there is agreement that Aboriginal communities of Purfleet, Taree and Forster are descendants of the Biripi and Worimi people who were attached to land between Cape Hawke and Wallaby Point (Saltwater Reserve).

The fertile region including the alluvial flats of the Manning River, the estuarine areas, swamps and coastal lakes supported Aboriginal life in the region for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans. Fish, shellfish, water birds, reptiles, amphibians and plant stocks supported a rich agricultural economy and a pre-contact population estimated to be in the range of 800–1000 people. These estimates are supported by the observations of surveyor/explorer John Oxley and his party in 1818:

The natives are extremely numerous along this part of the coast; these extensive lakes, which abound with fish, being extremely favourable to their easy subsistence; large troops of them appear on the beaches, whilst their canoes on the lakes are equally numerous. In the morning their fires are to be observed in every direction; they evidently appear to shun us and we have no wish for a further acquaintance.¹

Ethnographic accounts from the 1850s document that Aboriginal women wore cloaks made from animal skins and wove bags and nets from spun bark fibre and the hair of small marsupials. The nets and bags were also made from twine, using a small wooden spindle at one end to spin the fibre. The nets were used for fishing and string bags were used for carrying heavier loads. Europeans observed Aboriginal men wearing waist bands made of animal skins with tassels of small skins and animal tails in front and behind. Weapons carried included long handled clubs, boomerangs, spears, spear throwers and shields.²

The language spoken by the Biripi people has contributed to many place names in the Greater Taree area including Taree itself, from *Taree-bit* meaning native fig—referring to the fruit of the rough leaved fig tree native to the Manning Valley.

2.2 European Contact and Conflict

During the late 1820s, four white migrants acquired land on the Manning River for grazing and growing cattle. However, the major influx of Europeans did not take place until 1833 with the arrival of the cedar tree harvesters, sourcing wood for building and industries in Sydney. The Manning River remained a major source of food for Aboriginal people during this time and some Biripi people also worked with the cedar harvesters in exchange for tea, flour, rum and tobacco. In turn, the Europeans relied on Aboriginal people to lead them to cedar stands, especially the more inaccessible locations along the river.

In 1837 the first parcels of land in the Manning Valley were sold, with settlers taking out leases for grazing stock or purchasing small farms for agriculture. Along with closer settlement and occupation of Aboriginal Country came escalating tensions. Oral history documents that there were at least two massacres of Biripi people by settlers in the Manning Valley during the 1830s. Damper laced with dingo poison was given to a group of Aboriginal people by stockmen who said they had been besieged in a hut. As a result of the poisoning one account describes the result being hundreds of deaths: 'in every creek and in every

gully lay dead blacks.¹³ At Barrington Tops, accounts describe Aboriginal people driven to their deaths over a cliff at Mt McKenzie after the reputed spearing of five shepherds. There may have been another massacre of family groups at Kundle Kundle, six kilometres northeast of Taree, but there is limited documentation to trace this event. Local newspapers also reported armed Aboriginal resistance to settlers during the 1840s, with attacks on cattle and raids on stations to collect material such as nails from fence palings 'which they cut into shot with their tomahawks.'¹⁴

Despite the violent encounters there were also shared spaces occupied by Aboriginal people and settlers. Biripi people assisted Europeans in the clearing of rainforest and bush for cultivation of crops and worked on the river wharves at Taree, Wingham, Tinonee and Cundletown unloading and loading the freight. During the late nineteenth century, there were a number of requests from the Taree Police to the Aborigines' Protection Board for materials for Aboriginal people to repair and operate fishing vessels, documenting their support of the ongoing Aboriginal fishing industry at this time.¹⁵ While at 'Taree' Estate, William Wynter employed Biripi people and from a young age learnt the language and maintained lifelong friendships with Aboriginal people.

2.2.1 Segregation and Survival

The establishment of the NSW Aborigines Protection Board in 1883 initiated the dislocation and removal of Aboriginal people to government reserves and missions. The unwanted presence of Aboriginal people living at Browns Hill camp behind the Taree Estate led to the creation of the Purfleet Aboriginal Reserve on the southern side of the Manning River opposite Taree township. Segregation saw Aboriginal people excluded from public institutions until at least the early 1950s and actively prevented them from residing in the Taree township from the late nineteenth century until the 1960s.¹⁶

However, Aboriginal people still moved between reserves to visit family, creating patterns of 'inter-community visiting [which] persist into the present day.'¹⁷ During the 1950s and 1960s, Aboriginal families followed seasonal work where there was fruit and vegetable picking. Aboriginal men also played a key role in shearing in the region. By 1969, the Aborigines Welfare Board was dismantled and reserves shut down, which saw many Aboriginal families move into Taree. However, Purfleet is an example of a reserve where the community were able to gain ownership of the land after the NSW *Land Rights Act* in 1983.

2.3 Development of Taree

The area around Taree and the Manning Valley was originally within the large million-acre estate of the Australian Agricultural Company, founded in 1826 as a grazing company. Its land extended from Port Stephens north to the southern banks of the Manning River. Despite the large area, most of the Company's activities were concentrated around Port Stephens and the Gloucester Valley, leaving the Manning Valley largely unknown to Europeans. John Oxley had explored part of the area during his expedition south from Port Macquarie in 1818; however, it was not until 1827 that any European settlers began to arrive in the area after the bar at the mouth of the Manning River was finally crossed. Extensive grassy plains along the river soon attracted the first squatters into the area with their sheep and cattle.

From the mid-1830s an increasing number of settlers were taking up land along the Manning River, many as absentee landowners, with small isolated huts for shepherds and their workers. In c1831 William Wynter was granted 2560 acres along the Manning River. Wynter named his estate Taree, reportedly a derivation of a local Aboriginal word *Tarreebit*.¹⁸ Wynter built Taree House and lived on his estate with his wife, four children and a community of 28 convict and free servants including a boat-builder, two shipwrights and four sawyers. By 1834, Wynter was operating a regular shipping line

between Taree and the Manning Valley, Port Macquarie and Sydney transporting cedar amongst other products.⁹

In 1836, another settler—Henry Flett—took up land nearby, marrying Wynter's only daughter, Mary, in c1840. In June 1844 Flett purchased the Taree estate and the couple moved into Taree House with Mary's parents. Flett and Wynter went into partnership together, establishing a Manning River steam ship company in 1854 and beginning the planning for the subdivision of part of the estate for a town. In December 1854 Flett laid out the subdivision for a private town along the banks of the Manning, which he named Taree after the estate. Forty lots were surveyed across 100 acres of the estate, with the first sale on 19 December.

The position of the subdivision on a navigable section of the river made it a popular site, with the establishment of other towns such as Cundletown on the lower river in 1855 and Wingham further upriver creating service centres for the surrounding farms. Due to the township being the highest point on the river that the coastal steamers could reach, it soon established itself as the main settlement and by 1861 had a population of 118 people, rising to almost 500 by 1885 when it was declared a municipality.¹⁰

2.3.1 Taree Police Station and Lockup

A police court was established in Wingham by 1861, covering much of the Manning River district, but the population of Taree was growing fast enough that by 1862 one mounted senior constable and one ordinary constable were stationed there. In 1863, Henry Flett sold Lot 22 of Section 8 (DP50231) to the Crown for the construction of a lockup. With a site secured, the Colonial Secretary's Office requested that money be put on the forward estimates for 1864 for the construction of a police lockup and a hut for quarters for police at Taree. Plans were prepared by the Colonial Architects Office in 1864 for a lockup, residence and a room to serve as an occasional courthouse. The building would include two cells, a police barrack room, courtroom and guardroom. The tender was awarded to James Levick to construct for £600. Levick completed the small brick building with shingle roof in October 1865.¹¹ The simple layout consisted of two cells at one end flanked by the guardroom. The police barrack room was adjacent to this, with a small room for a courthouse located at the front (Figure 2.1).

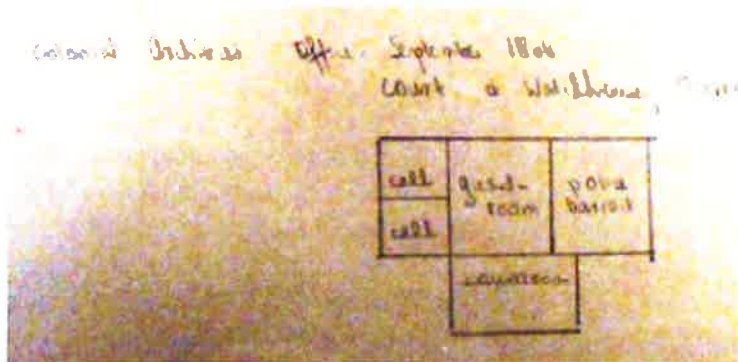


Figure 2.1 Sketch plan for police lockup at Taree, with cells, guardroom, barracks room and courtroom, 1864. (Source: NSW Justice and Police Museum Archives)

In 1873, Flett sold two more lots to the Crown, Lots 21 and 23 of Section 8, allowing for the expansion of the lockup, barracks and court facilities, although it was another nine years before any work began on replacing the earlier buildings. In 1881, the Colonial Architect's Office under James Barnet began drawing up plans for a new courthouse and police office. The new courthouse was built fronting Albert Street with the police lockup to the rear. A police or sergeant's residence was built next to the courthouse, fronting onto Albert Street.

Plans in 1884 for the new police office show a new single-storey, gable fronted brick cottage with decorative quoins on the front façade and around the main entrance. The long, narrow building, which was located directly behind the courthouse, served two purposes: as both a police residence and a lockup, with each function separated from the other. On the northern side a charge room took up the front of the building, which led to a passageway with four cells and an exercise yard at the rear. In the residence—which occupied the southern side—a sitting room and two bedrooms, each with a fireplace, were accessed via a hallway, with a kitchen, pantry and store at the rear. The residential side was accessed from its own entry separate to the police lockup. The exercise yard included a water closet (toilet) for inmates, with an underground tank. A four-stall stable was built in the rear yard area (see Figure 2.2).

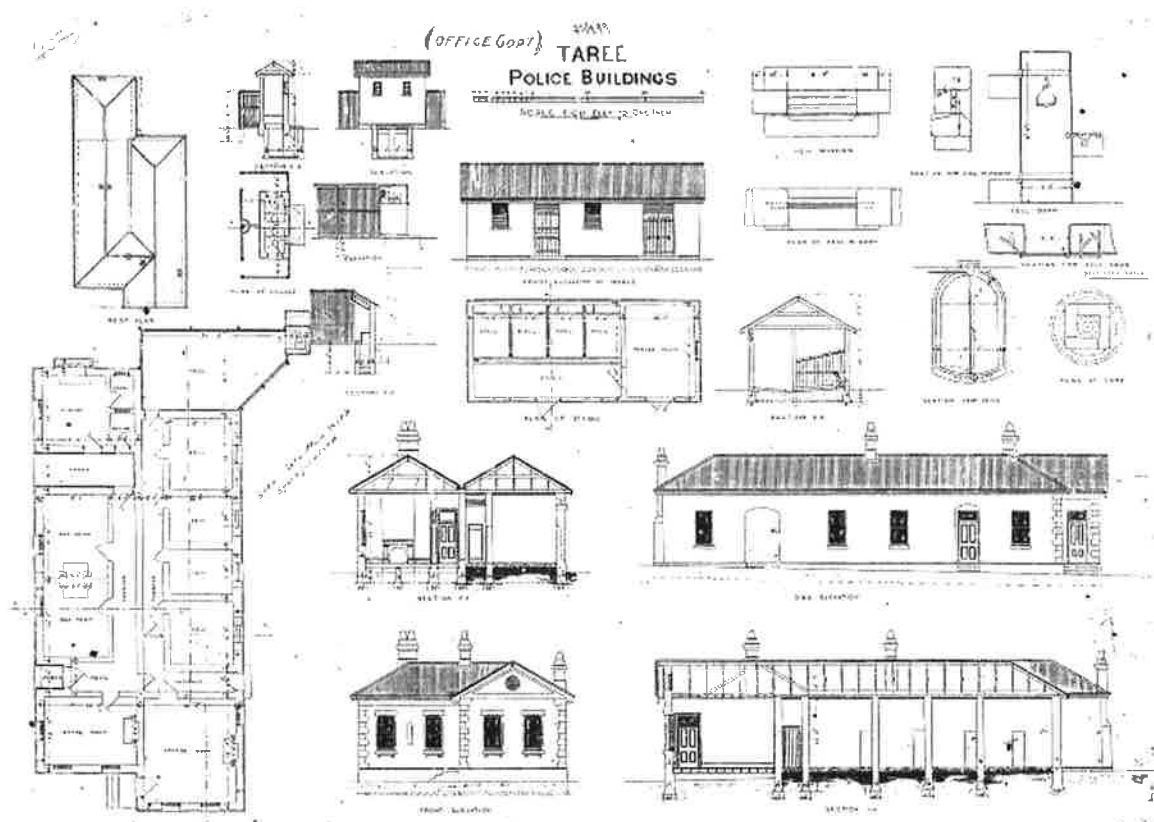


Figure 2.2 Plans for Taree Police Buildings, 1884. The small brick building housed a lockup keeper's residence as well as charge room, four cells and exercise yards for prisoners. The stables, water cistern and privy facilities are also shown. (Source: Plan Services, Department of Finance)

A police residence was later built on the adjoining allotment fronting Albert Street to house the sergeants and officers stationed at Taree. The simple residence consisted of two bedrooms and a large sitting room, with verandahs on each side, a central block including three bedrooms and a dining room either side of a central hallway and a wing including kitchen, bathroom and laundry at the rear. A large underground water tank was at the back of the house (see Figures 2.5 and 2.6). The three buildings together—the courthouse, lockup and residence—made up the small justice precinct (see Figure 2.3).

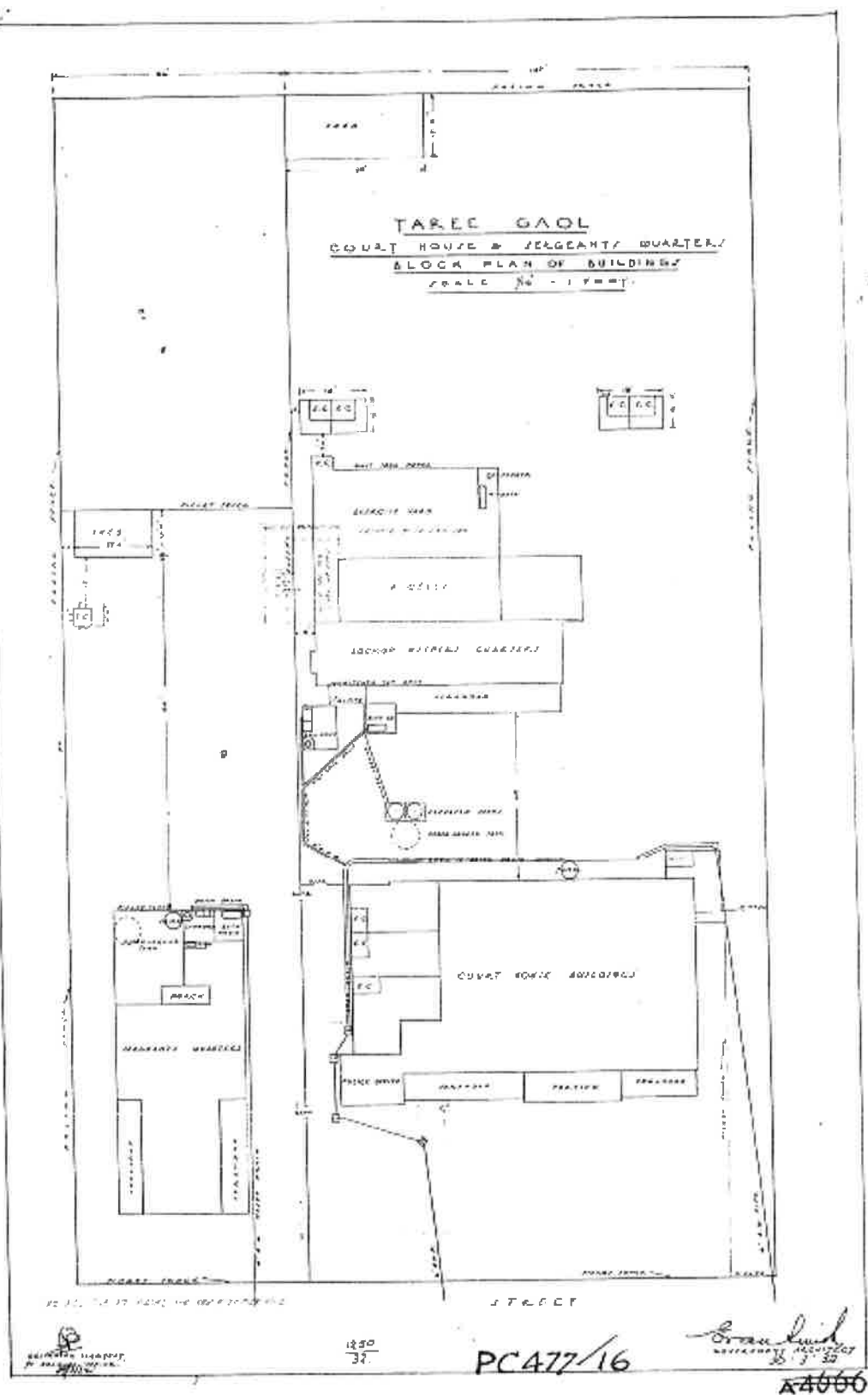


Figure 2.3 Site plan from 1932 showing the Taree justice precinct, including the courthouse and sergeant's residence facing the street, and lockup with lockup keeper's residence behind. The stables are shown as a shed against the rear boundary of the site. (Source: NSW Government Architects Office Archives)

In 1932, the lockup exercise yard was rebuilt with a perimeter wall and new toilet in the rear wall. The yard was open with an iron grille across the top, letting light in but making the yard secure¹² (see Figure 2.4).

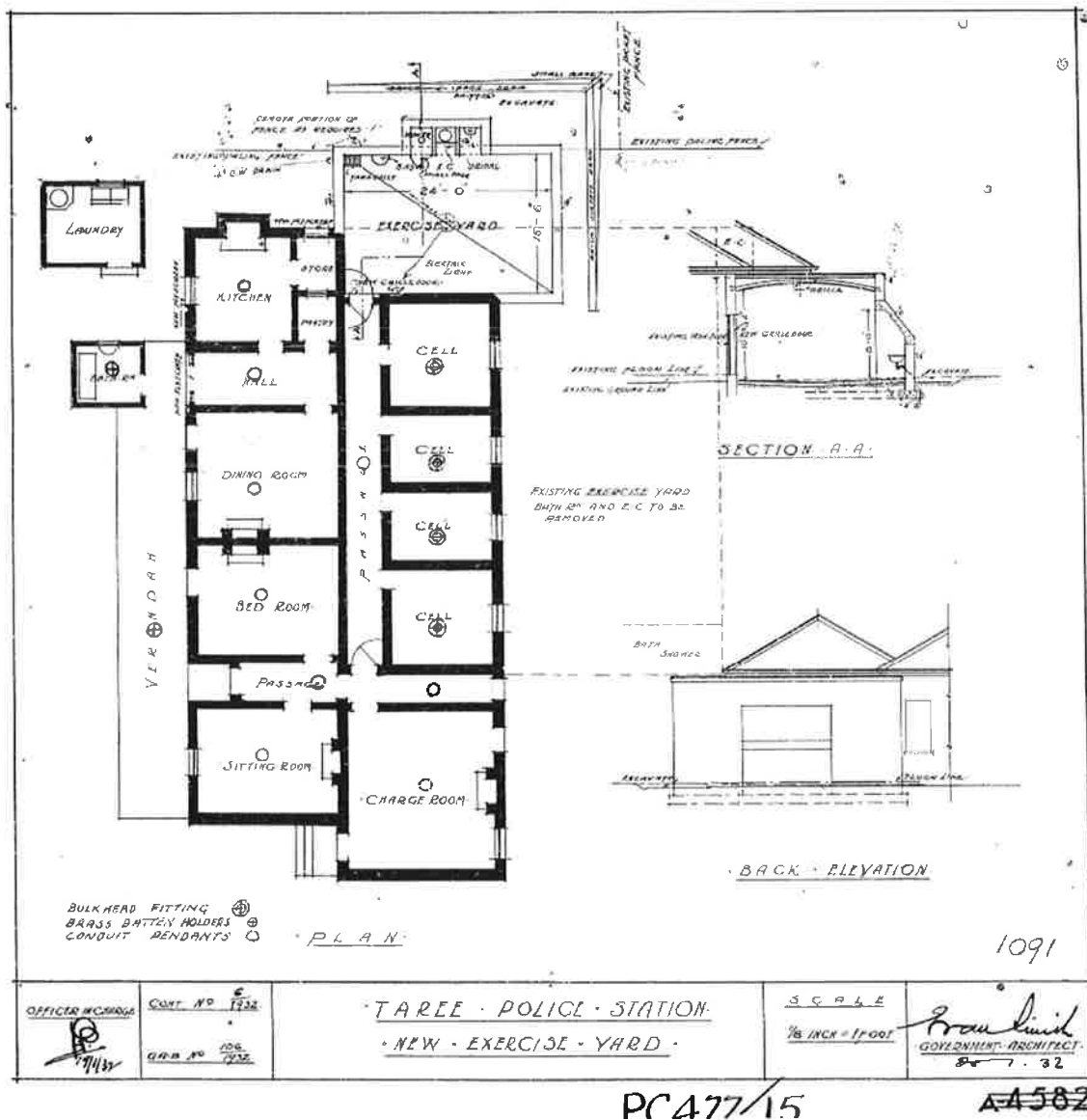
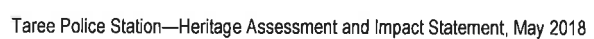


Figure 2.4 1932 plans showing a new, far smaller and fully enclosed exercise yard for the prisoners. (Source: NSW Government Architects Office Archives)



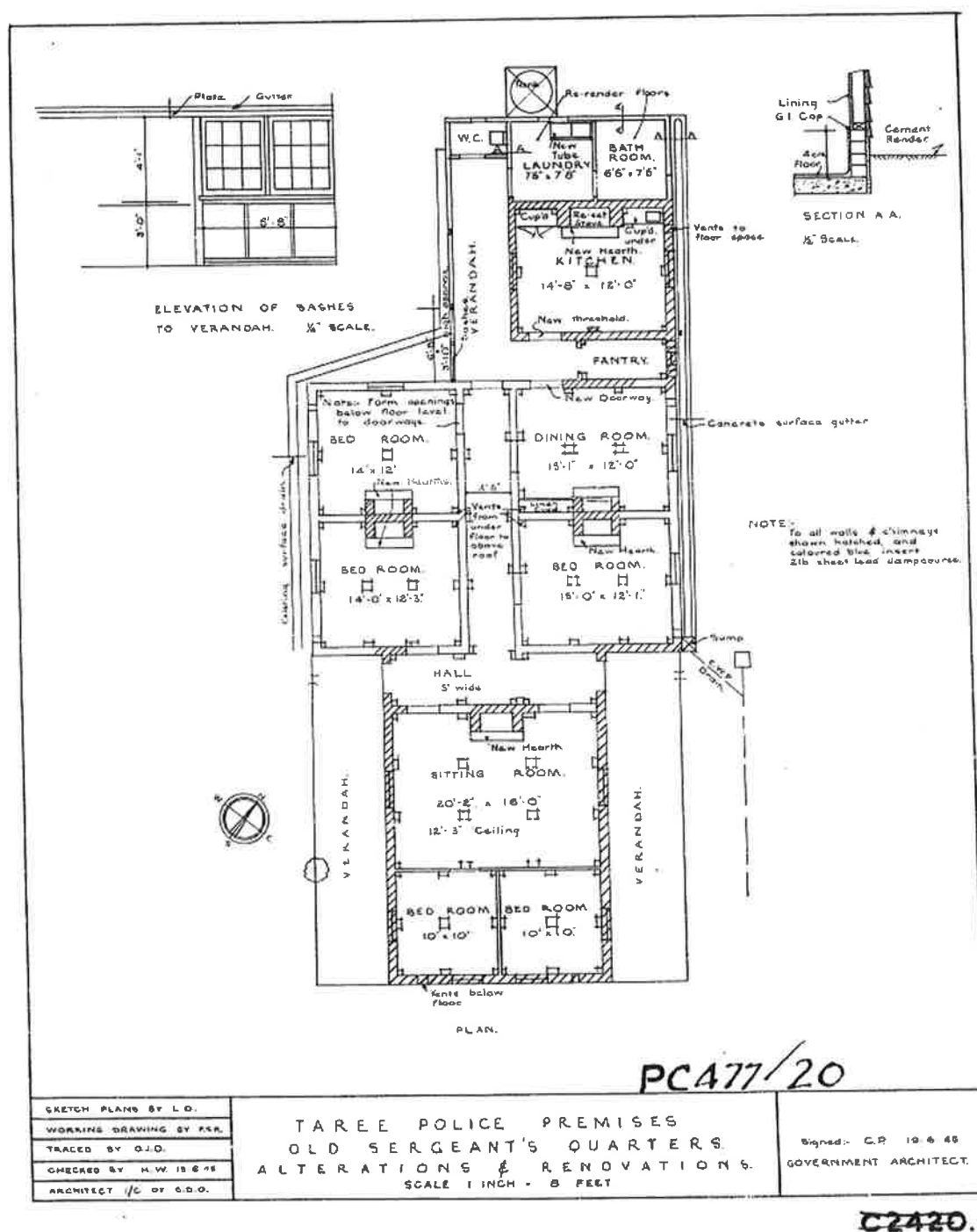


Figure 2.6 Plan of the old sergeant's quarters in 1945, showing repairs and the addition of an enclosed verandah to provide covered access to the kitchen, laundry and bathroom facilities. (Source: Plan Services, Department of Finance)

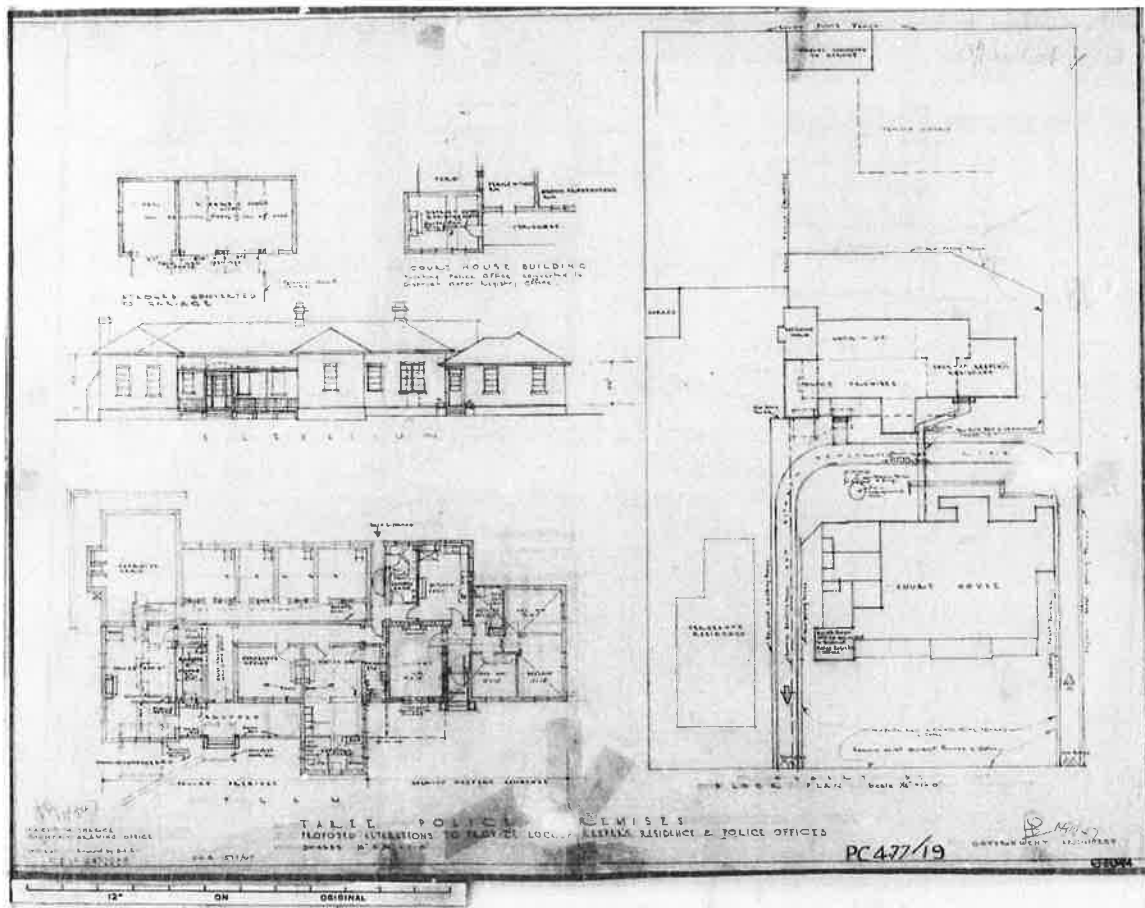


Figure 2.7 1947 plan showing the proposed alterations and additions to Taree Police Station, with residential quarters on the eastern side of the building and a new driveway for police vehicles running around the courthouse. (Source: Plan Services, Department of Finance)

Major works were proposed to the police station in 1947. A new driveway with one-way circulation running from the right hand side of the courthouse to the rear between the court and the lockup and exiting to Albert Street on the left of the courthouse was planned. Inside the court the former police office was to be converted to serve as the district motor registry. The old stables at the rear of the complex were converted to a garage for two police cars and a motorcycle. Inside the lockup, what had originally been built as bedrooms were now shown to be adapted as a sergeant's office and muster room. The charge office and evidence room were shown at the western end of the building, with external access to the four cells and exercise yard. At the eastern end, a new three-bedroom addition was planned, with the former charge room converted to a new kitchen and laundry for the lockup keeper's residence (see Figure 2.7).

Physical evidence and a drawing from 1958 showing far more modest alterations suggest that although the stables were converted to a garage and windows were replaced, the 1947 works to the police station were not completed as shown. Although the 1958 proposal showed the internal hall removed and the residential spaces adapted to police use, it excludes the new bedroom addition. Instead, the sergeant's residence is shown converted to a single-family residence with the kitchen, bathroom and laundry moved into the house and the original kitchen wing removed (see Figure 2.8).

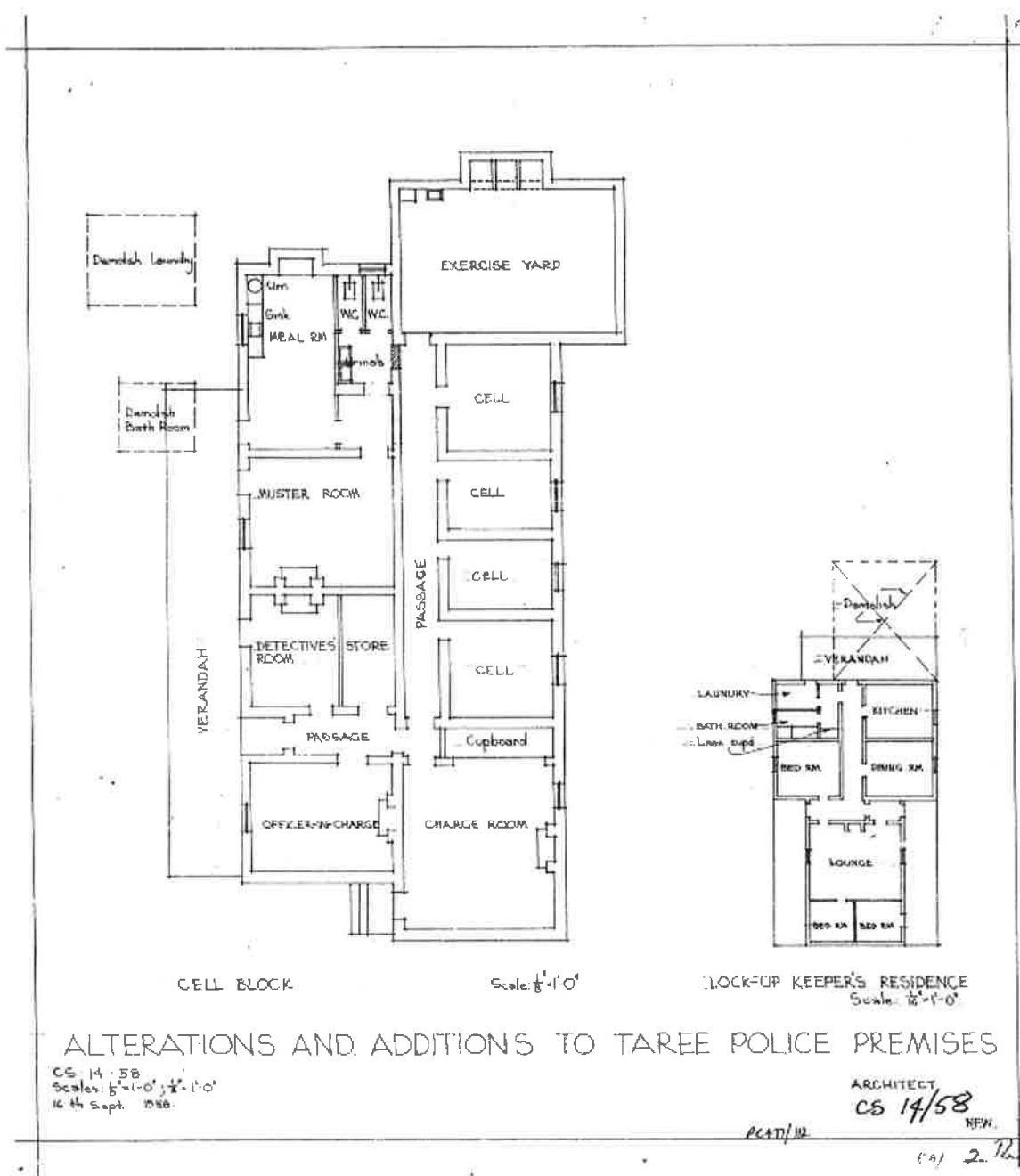


Figure 2.8 1958 plans for alterations to Taree Police Station. (Source: NSW Government Architects Office Archives)

In the 1960s, alterations were proposed for the sergeant's residence. These show that the rear extension added in 1945, including kitchen, laundry and bathroom, was to be removed and internally, the building was reconfigured to accommodate a single-family for the lockup keeper, bringing the kitchen, bathroom and laundry inside the building.¹³ It is not known if these alterations were ever undertaken.

Plans from 1963 show a new police residence replacing the former sergeant's residence, much further back from the road. A new driveway led along the western boundary to a new garage at the rear. These two buildings, although adapted to new uses in more recent years, remain extant on the site (see Figures 2.9 and 2.11).

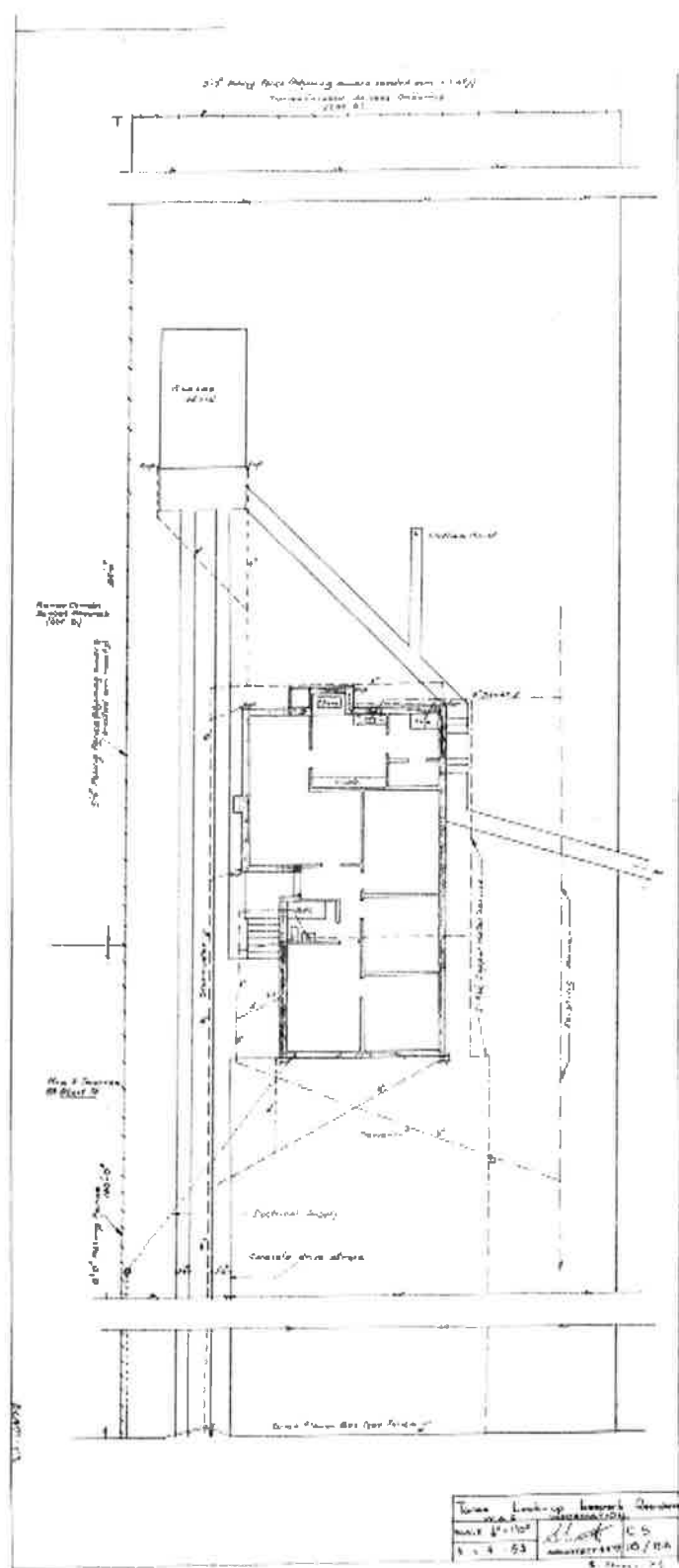


Figure 2.9 Taree lockup keeper's residence and garage, 1963. This building replaced the former Sergeant's residence. (Source: NSW Government Architects Office Archives)

Drawings produced in 1968 show a new addition to the rear of the police station and new cells within the exercise yard. Other minor modifications included reconfiguration of the former kitchen to include toilets and insertion of a large window in the western wall to light a new meal room (see Figure 2.10).

A measured drawing prepared by the local Senior Constable A. Lewis in 1970, however, shows that the work to the cells may never have been carried out. On the other hand, although not shown on the drawing, physical evidence clearly indicates that the rear wing was built (see Figure 2.11).

It is clear that by 1970, the nineteenth-century collection of buildings was becoming too small for the current usage, and a number of schemes were put forward for alterations, additions and new buildings. In 1972, for example, it was proposed to add two additional offices, two cells and a new exercise yard to the lockup. In 1974 a new police inspector's residence was proposed, but it is not clear for which site. It was not built on this site.

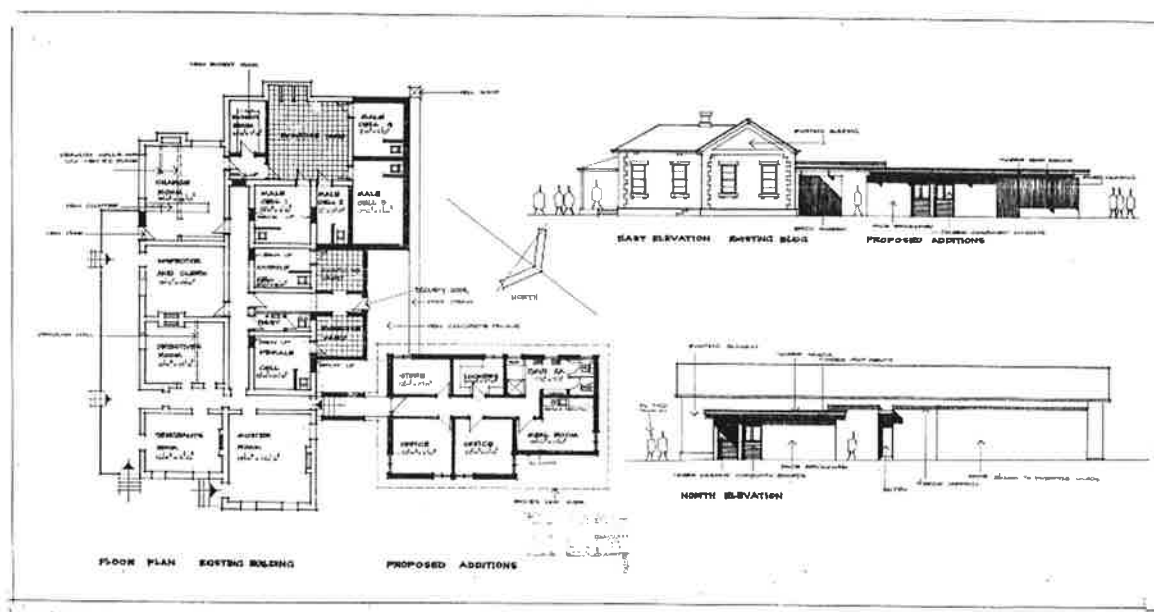


Figure 2.10 This plan from 1968 shows extensive alterations proposed to incorporate the lockup keeper's quarters into the police station, to provide additional cells and add a new administration wing to the rear of the building. The internal hall was removed from the former residential portion of the building and a new verandah was added to the southern side. (Source: NSW Government Architects Office Archives)

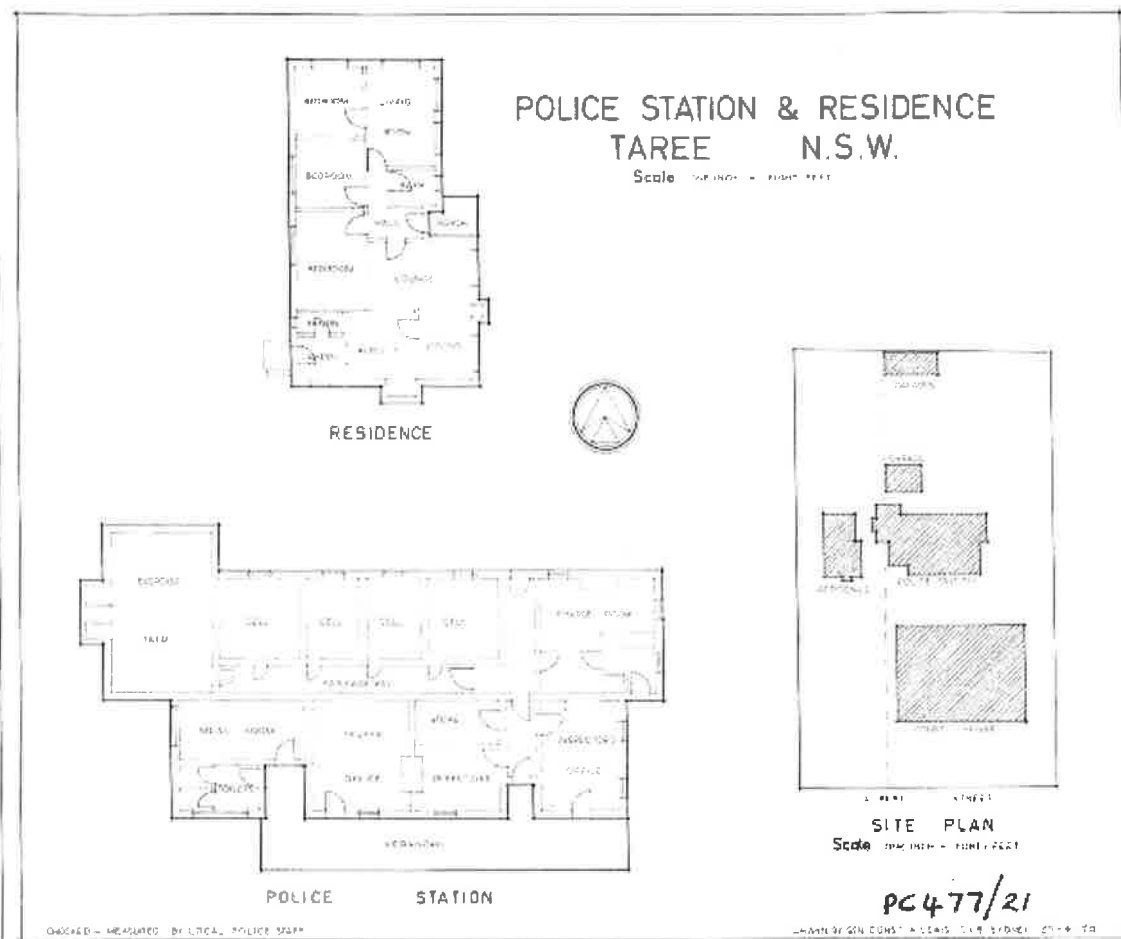


Figure 2.11 Measured drawing of Taree Police Station and Residence prepared by Senior Constable A. Lewis, 23/4/1970. The residence is shown in reverse on the site plan to how it exists on site. (Source: Plan Services, Department of Finance)

In 1994, a major redevelopment of the site was undertaken, with the former lockup at the rear of the courthouse being completely redeveloped. While the basic structure of the original lockup was retained within the new build, the layout was radically altered, with a new police van loading dock added to the rear through which prisoners could be entered into the complex through a new charge room and collection of cells. What had previously been the lockup keeper's residence was converted to a series of lecture rooms, meal rooms, offices, evidence lockers, interview rooms and other uses. The 1960s lockup keeper's residence was adapted to accommodate the scientific unit, later forensics. See Figure 2.12.

In 2002 a demountable building was added to the complex to house the Local Area Command and the charge room complex was upgraded.

In 2012 a major extension to the courthouse added a modern court complex to the site. This new building was built on the left of the site boundary adjacent to the old court building and ran back to the lockup complex and residence buildings behind.

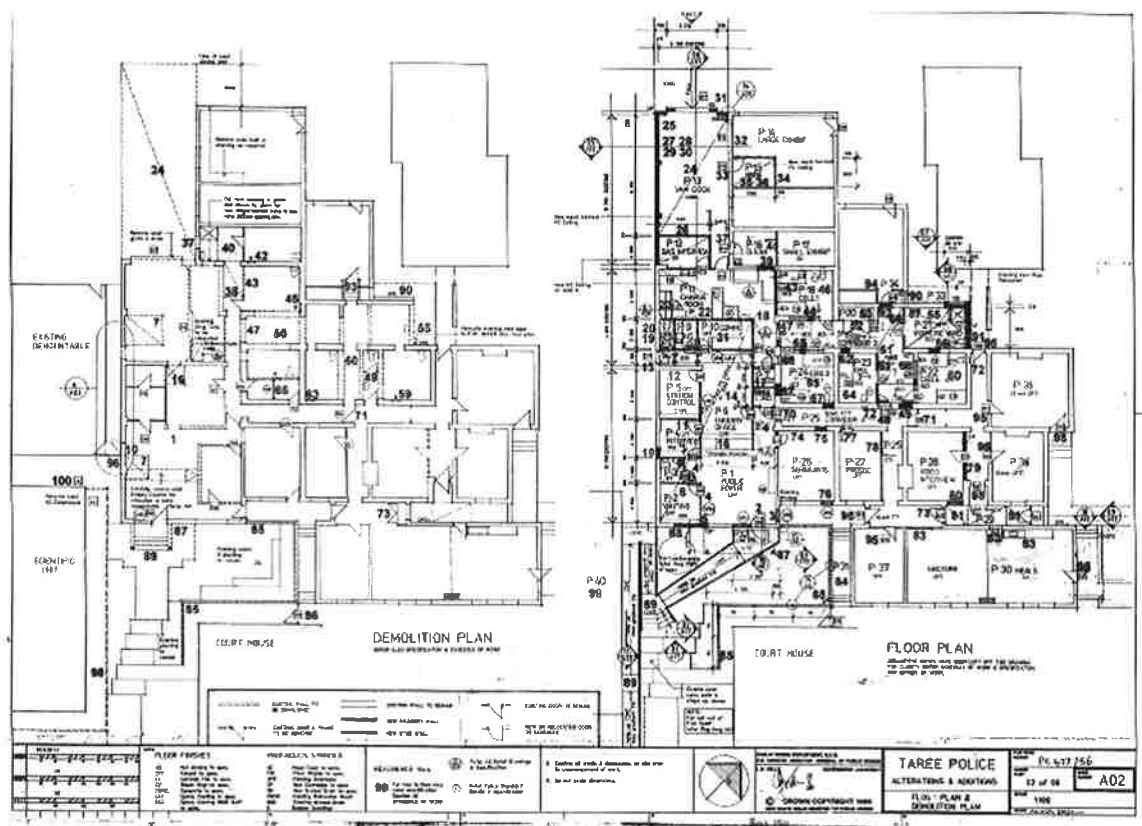


Figure 2.12 1994 plan showing the rebuild of the police station and lockup at Taree. Comparison to Figure 2.2 however, shows that the original building remains inside the new complex, albeit altered over the 110 years of its working life. (Source: Plan Services, Department of Finance)

2.4 Endnotes

- 1 Oxley's journal as quoted in Byrne, D and Nugent, M, Mapping Attachment: A spatial approach to Aboriginal post-contact heritage, Department of Environment and Conservation, NSW, June 2004, p 18.
- 2 Extracts from Klaver, J and Kefferan, KJ, Greater Taree Aboriginal Heritage Study, prepared for Greater Taree City Council, 1991, p 1.
- 3 Byrne, D and Nugent, M, Mapping Attachment: A spatial approach to Aboriginal post-contact heritage, Department of Environment and Conservation, NSW, June 2004, p 22.
- 4 *Maitland Mercury*, 1 March 1848, in Byrne, D and Nugent, M, Mapping Attachment: A spatial approach to Aboriginal post-contact heritage, Department of Environment and Conservation, NSW, June 2004, p 22.
- 5 Byrne, D and Nugent, M, Mapping Attachment: A spatial approach to Aboriginal post-contact heritage, Department of Environment and Conservation, NSW, June 2004, p44.
- 6 Byrne, D and Nugent, M, Mapping Attachment: A spatial approach to Aboriginal post-contact heritage, Department of Environment and Conservation, NSW, June 2004, p 97.
- 7 Byrne, D and Nugent, M, Mapping Attachment: A spatial approach to Aboriginal post-contact heritage, Department of Environment and Conservation, NSW, June 2004, p 41.
- 8 *Taree: A Short Factual History 1854–1954*, Taree Centennial Celebrations Committee, 1954, p 2.
- 9 *Sydney Monitor*, 17 September 1834, p 2.
- 10 *Taree: A Short Factual History 1854–1954*, Taree Centennial Celebrations Committee, 1954, p 17.
- 11 GBA Heritage Pty Ltd, Taree Police Station Project Heritage Issues Review, prepared for Gardner Wetherill + Associates, May 2016.
- 12 Plan Services Plans Room: Taree Lock-Up, New Exercise Yard, July 1932, Plan PC477/15.
- 13 Plan Services Plans Room: Taree Lock-Up Keepers Residence proposed alterations, August 1960, CS 44-60.

3.0 Physical Description

3.1 Introduction

An inspection of the police station (building, former stables and site), the courthouse (external only), the Albert Street Heritage Conservation Area and surrounding heritage items was undertaken by Catherine Forbes on 6 March 2018. All photographs below were taken by GML Heritage unless otherwise indicated.

3.2 Physical Description

3.2.1 Taree Justice Precinct

The Taree justice precinct includes a courthouse and police station. The Taree Police Station is located to the rear and up the hill of the Taree Courthouse, which faces Albert Street. The police station currently has no street frontage, although it is accessed from Albert Street via a driveway on the eastern side of the courthouse and a pedestrian path on the western side.



Figure 3.1 Aerial view showing the existing arrangement of buildings on the site (outlined in blue) and location of the surviving buildings from the 1880s justice precinct, including the courthouse, police lockup, lockup keeper's residence and stables (shown in red). (Source: Six Maps, with GML overlay, 2018)

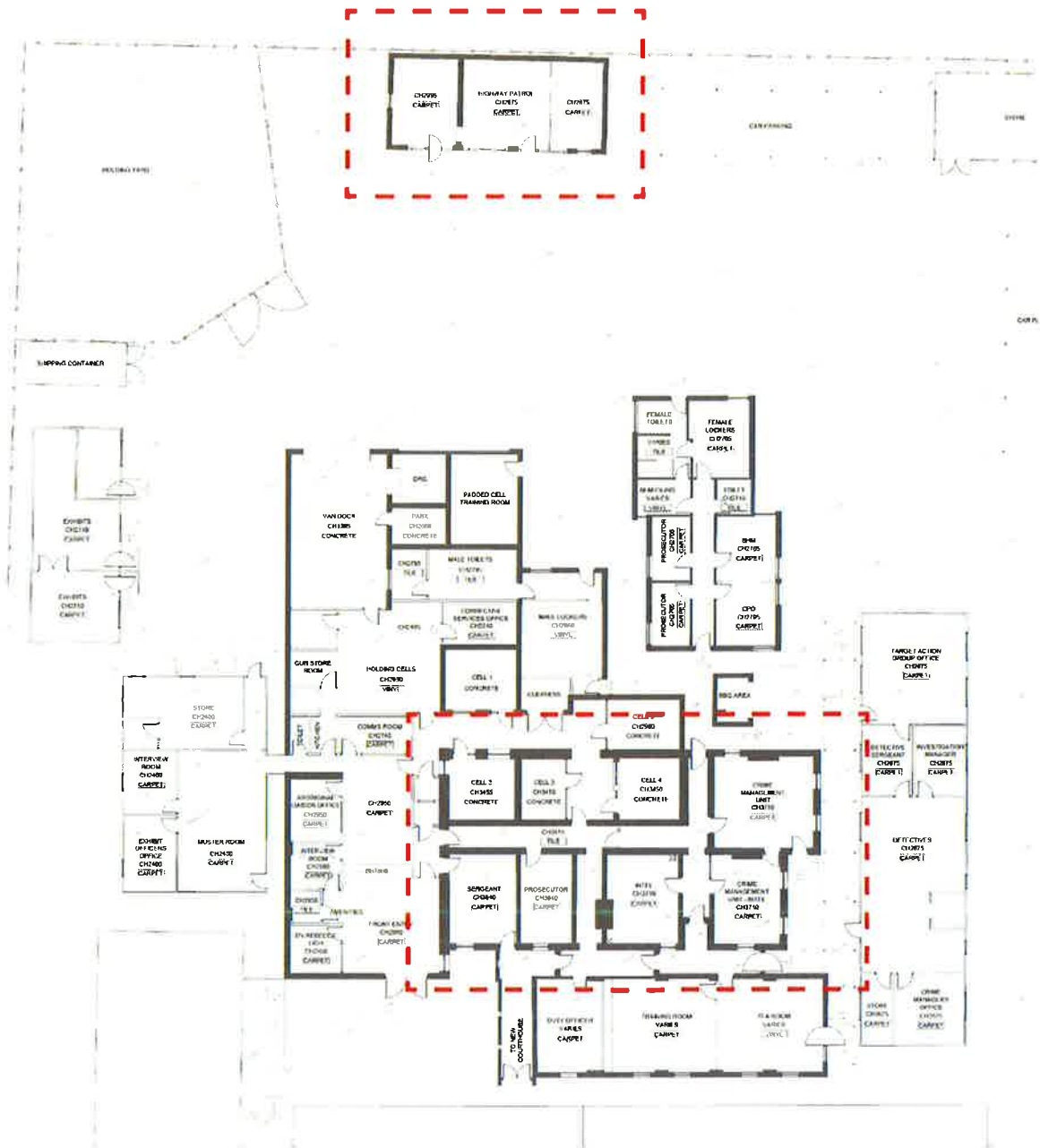


Figure 3.2 Site survey showing current building layout. The original lockup, lockup keeper's residence and stables are outlined in red. All the other buildings shown date from the 1960s onwards. (Source: Brookfield Global Integrated Solutions, 2016, with GML overlay, 2018)

3.2.2 Taree Police Station

The original police station building, comprising the former police lockup and lockup keeper's residence, survives at the heart of the existing police station complex, which includes an agglomeration of both permanent and temporary structures. The original building is barely visible from outside the complex, as it is totally surrounded by later additions and demountable buildings. However, its gabled roof form and chimneys can be seen above the later lower roofed additions (refer to Figure 3.1).

The original structure of the former police lockup and lockup keeper's residence is masonry—brickwork (currently painted) with rendered plinth and band running around the building below the eaves. On the front (eastern) elevation, rendered quoins feature on each of the corners and the window openings have rendered sills with pairs of decorative brackets below and rendered lintels. On all other elevations, the surviving window and door openings have plain rendered sills and splayed and gently arched brick heads. The brickwork appears to have originally been unpainted red face brickwork, contrasting with the rendered trim.

The building features a pair of parallel gabled roofs with a valley gutter between, running the length of the building. The roof is clad in corrugated metal (Colorbond). The roof over the former charge room entrance has a gabled end with a circular vent at the apex, whereas all other ends and junctions are hipped. Three tall chimneys project above the roof. The eaves of the building are boxed with timber boarded linings and quad gutters fixed to the beaded fascia boards.

The windows appear to have all been replaced in the 1940s, as they have horizontal glazing bars as shown in the 1940s drawings, and are inconsistent in proportion with traditional 1880s double hung windows, such as those that survive in the courthouse adjacent. Only four original four-panel doors appear to survive—the entrance to the former residence, the entrance to the former charge room, the rear door to the lockup and one internal door, which leads to the original charge room.

Internally the surviving original floors are timber (carpeted) and the walls are plastered with a cementitious dado running around the lower portion. Several of the floors have been replaced with concrete and flat cement skirtings have been applied in place of the older two-tiered timber skirtings. The ceilings have been replaced with fibrous sheet or plasterboard and have either quad mouldings or plasterboard scotia cornices. No original architraves or sill boards survive. Several circular wall vents survive in a band below the ceiling.

There have been substantial internal alterations to the layout of the building. Within the lockup, none of the original cells survive intact. These have been replaced with modern steel and Perspex enclosures. The fixings of the original iron gate that secured the corridor to the cells provides the only surviving evidence of the original lockup arrangement. The lockup keeper's residence has also been substantially altered with removal of its hallway and reconfiguration of most of its rooms, window and doors. The western wall of the former kitchen has been totally removed. The fireplaces have all been blocked up, with either textured brick fireplace surrounds inserted for space heaters or blocked up totally and plastered over.

Little remains of the former verandah along the southern side of the building. This has been enclosed, refloored and reroofed in subsequent alterations and additions to the building.



Figure 3.3 Eastern driveway entrance to the Taree Police Station from Albert Street. The Taree Courthouse is on the left.



Figure 3.4 The roof of the original lockup and lockup keeper's residence is visible over the roof of a demountable office located adjacent to the original entrance to the police station. View from the adjoining Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church site to the east.



Figure 3.5 Western driveway and pedestrian entrance to Taree Police Station from Albert Street. The recent additions to the Taree Courthouse is on the right.



Figure 3.6 Main entrance to Taree Police Station—1990s additions.



Figure 3.7 Side entrance to police station replacing southern verandah—original lockup keeper's residence located on the right and 1990s meal room on the left.



Figure 3.8 Original entrance front (east elevation) to lockup and lockup keeper's residence, showing rendered detail on front façade, including quoins, plinth, top band, sills and lintels.



Figure 3.9 View along original entrance front to the lockup showing the entrance to the original charge room (left of verandah). The demountable building on the right holds offices.



Figure 3.10 Detail of original lockup building showing rendered detail, eaves and chimney.



Figure 3.11 Rear elevation (north) of original lockup. The brick structure on the far right is the 1968 addition.



Figure 3.12 Bullnose verandah roof bellows to 1990s additions. The chimney is original.



Figure 3.13 Breezeway between original building (left) and 1990s addition (right). The original entrance to the former lockup keeper's residence is on the left. The breezeway replaces the earlier verandah.



Figure 3.14 1990s meal room.



Figure 3.15 Original entrance door to former lockup keeper's residence looking out to breezeway from entrance hall. The original timber floor has been replaced with a concrete slab, the skirting is rendered and the ceiling is plasterboard.



Figure 3.16 Rear door to the former lockup. The opening is original, but the door has been altered. The original floor has been replaced with concrete and tiled.



Figure 3.17 Original internal door to former charge room.



Figure 3.18 The iron frame for the former gate to the cells remains, but the security gate has been removed.



Figure 3.19 Chimney breast of the western room of the central pair of rooms in the former lockup keeper's residence is now located in a passageway that connects the cells to the courthouse. The room has been substantially reconfigured, with windows and doors relocated and replaced. The fireplace has been bricked up.



Figure 3.20 Chimney breast of the eastern room of the central pair of rooms in the former lockup keeper's residence. A rendered dado runs around the original walls.



Figure 3.21 Remnant of original skirting survives in the former charge room (now an office).



Figure 3.22 The fireplaces have been bricked up during the early to mid twentieth century.



Figure 3.23 Windows with horizontal glazing bars appear to have been inserted into original openings during the 1940s.



Figure 3.24 Original wall vents.



Figure 3.25 Evidence of early colour schemes survive below the existing paint finishes.



Figure 3.26 1990s holding cell.



Figure 3.27 1990s charge cell.



Figure 3.28 1990s prisoner's washroom facilities.

3.2.3 Additions to Police Station and Outbuildings

Various additions have been made to the police complex over recent years. The most prominent additions are those from the 1990s, which comprise a new entrance and reception area where the original lockup keeper's kitchen was located, new loading dock, charge room facilities and cells behind, and a new staff meal room/kitchen, which runs parallel to the original buildings, between it and the courthouse. These additions are generally of rendered brickwork and have large gabled roofs of similar

pitch to the original, although the bathroom facilities have a flat roof. Other additions include a flat roofed face brick wing to the rear built in the late 1960s, various washroom and locker facilities for staff to the rear, and numerous ad hoc demountable buildings linked to the main building complex via covered ways.

A separate face brick building with a hipped roof, which is used for forensics, appears to date from the 1970s or 1980s and has been adapted from a previous use (possibly a residence). It is located to the west of the police station on the block previously occupied by the former police sergeants' residences. A weatherboard garage survives against the western boundary of the site adjacent a much larger shed.



Figure 3.29 View of the 1968 addition to the north of the former lockup. A demountable office is located to the east and the roof of the original lockup is visible over the top.



Figure 3.30 The 1968 addition is of brick construction with a flat roof, featuring deep weatherboard fascias and concealed gutter detail.



Figure 3.31 1990s prisoner loading dock at the rear (north) of the police station.



Figure 3.32 Western side of 1990s additions showing demountable buildings and roof of c1970s building, now used for forensics. This is located on the western block previously occupied by the sergeant's quarters.



Figure 3.33 c1970s building accommodating forensics.



Figure 3.34 Mid-twentieth century weatherboard garage associated with second police residence.

3.2.4 Stables

The original stables building survives at the rear of the site adjacent to the northern boundary. It is a simple rectangular face brick building with a gabled corrugated iron roof. It appears from the site evidence that the building was built in reverse to the way it was documented. The building has been adapted as garages and then offices, with the garage door openings infilled with weatherboard clad partitions. There is no evidence surviving of the original horse stalls.

In keeping with the former police lockup, the building has rendered plinth and sills and a splayed brick arched head over the western window opening. The head was previously tuckpointed. The window, however, has been replaced with an aluminium framed window. An original timber framed window appears to have been relocated and had its original glass louvres removed (eastern window in southern wall).

The current fitout includes sheet linings to all the original brick walls, and one stud wall, which has been inserted to divide the space.



Figure 3.35 Former stables building, located against the northern boundary of the site.



Figure 3.36 The large openings from when the stables were converted to garages during the 1940s have been infilled to enable the building's use as offices.



Figure 3.37 Original window opening in the western elevation, showing tuckpointed head and rendered sill. The window has been replaced in aluminium.



Figure 3.38 Original window opening to former stables (south elevation). Glass louvres have been replaced with a fixed sash.



Figure 3.39 Interior of the stables has been relined and refitted as an office.

3.2.5 Taree Courthouse

Taree Courthouse is contemporary with the former police lockup and lockup keeper's residence. The courthouse, which faces the street, is far grander than the lockup. However, it has some similar features to the former lockup, including the hipped and gabled roof forms, circular vents in the gable ends, boxed eaves, rendered plinth, more decorative approach to the main façade, including rendered bands, label moulds and sills, splayed and gently arched window heads on all other elevations, which appear to have been tuckpointed, and rendered window sills.

3.3 Integrity

The former police lockup and lockup keeper's residence has undergone very substantial change since its construction in the 1880s in order to accommodate the constantly expanding and changing needs of the police force in Taree. The building itself is really only identifiable within the police complex by its roof form, chimneys and entrance front (which is now enclosed and not visible from outside the complex) (refer to Figures 3.1, 3.7–3.12). It is very difficult to differentiate the original building from the much-enlarged police complex from within. In addition to the lost fabric (walls, floors, fireplaces, joinery, cell doors, bars, exercise yards), it has also lost many of the key elements that reflected the primary function of the building as a lockup and residence. The internal configuration of the building has been substantially changed with none of the original police cells remaining in any recognisable form. In addition, several of the rooms have been so totally reconfigured that fireplaces (chimney breasts) exist in hallways instead of rooms, and there is little to make the former residence recognisable as such (refer to Figure 3.19).

Thus, although the building has continued to be used for police purposes for more than 120 years, the former lockup and lockup keeper's residence has very little integrity.

Similarly, the stables building retains little evidence of its early function as stables, or even its subsequent function as a garage. Thus, it also lacks integrity.

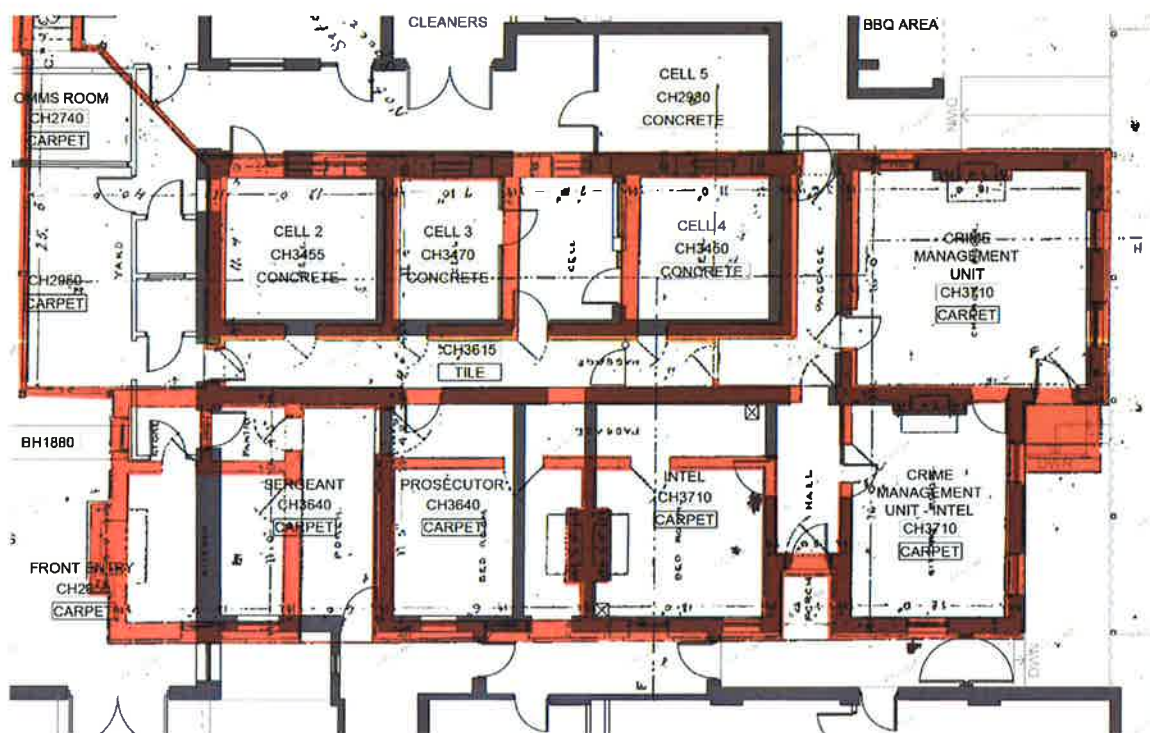


Figure 3.40 Overlay of original 1884 floor plan of lockup and lockup keeper's residence (shown red) and current floor plan of building (shown black). This shows the extent of walls removed, original openings blocked up and new openings created. (Source: NSW Government Architects Office Archives and Brookfield Global Integrated Solutions, 2016)

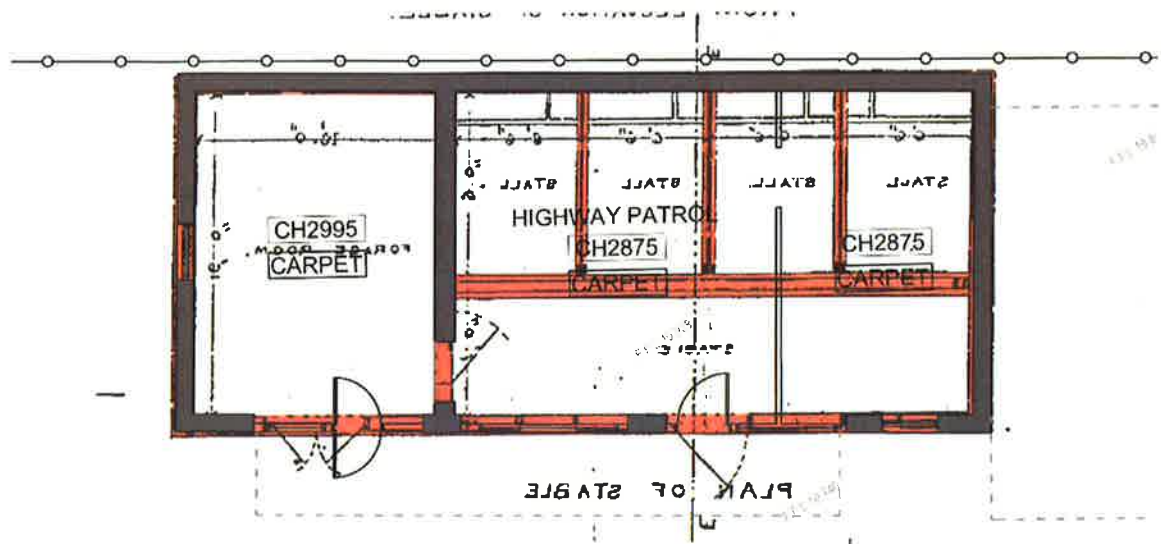


Figure 3.41 Overlay of original 1884 floor plan of stable (shown red) with the current floor plan of building (shown black). Physical evidence indicates that the stables were built in reverse of the original plan, but in all other aspects are consistent. The horse stalls have been removed and the openings in the front wall substantially altered to convert the building firstly to a garage and then later to offices. (Source: NSW Government Architects Office Archives and Brookfield Global Integrated Solutions, 2016)

4.0 Assessment of Heritage Significance

4.1 Current Heritage Listings—Taree Courthouse

Taree Police Station is located on the same site as the Taree Courthouse and is thus shown as part of the listed heritage item in the GTLEP2010. The local heritage listing for the Taree Courthouse (Listing ID: I117) is confusing as it refers to a 'single storey brick and corrugated iron dwelling in Federation style with later additions'.

This statement is not correct and nor is the description of its location. However, the assessment of significance clearly relates to the courthouse, which is identified as being significant for the following reasons:

- *The only civic buildings in Taree which pre-dates the opening of the railway in 1913. Associated with law and order and part of a network of three courthouses in Taree.*
- *The most significant public building in Taree. Best example of Victorian Italianate design in the area. Important streetscape element of Albert street which is the street containing all civic institutions in Taree.*
- *Site of Justice in Taree since 1882.*

The current Attorney-General's Department Section 170 listing for the site refers only to the courthouse. The significance of the courthouse is given as follows:

Taree Courthouse has been associated with the provision of law and justice in the town since 1882. The courthouse dates from a key period of expansion of a major public works program in New South Wales during the last three decades of the nineteenth century. The building is significant for its ability to demonstrate the ongoing importance of Taree in the region, with the building expanded to accommodate additional courts and offices throughout its history.

Taree Courthouse demonstrates some elements of the Victorian Classical style, though the expression of this style has been lessened by successive additions and alterations, and demonstrates the work of three government architects. Taree Courthouse is a landmark building in the town and symbolises the authority and power of the colonial government and justice system.



Figure 4.1 The front of Taree Courthouse, Albert Street, Taree. (Source: GML)



Figure 4.2 The rear and side of Taree Courthouse, viewed from the driveway into the Taree Police Station. (Source: GML)

The current listings do not refer to the Taree Police Station and its stables, despite their being contemporary with the Taree Courthouse and located on the same site as part of the justice precinct established in Taree during the 1880s.

4.2 Assessment of Cultural Significance—Taree Police Station

The heritage assessment is specifically for the Taree Police Station, which incorporates the former lockup and lockup keeper's residence and its associated stables.

4.2.1 Introduction

The *NSW Heritage Manual* guidelines, prepared by the NSW Heritage Office and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (as amended July 2002), provide the framework for the following assessment and statement of significance for Taree Police Station. These guidelines incorporate the five types of heritage values identified in the Burra Charter into a specifically structured framework, which is currently accepted as the required format by heritage authorities in NSW.

The *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) (Heritage Act) expands the five criteria into seven state heritage criteria (Criteria A–G). The criteria serve to maintain consistency with other Australian heritage agencies, minimise ambiguity during the assessment process, and avoid the legal misinterpretation of the completed assessments of listed items. The seven criteria are set out in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1 NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria.

Criterion A	An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural and natural history of the local area).
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 the cultural and natural history of the local area).
Criterion C	An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).
Criterion D	An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
Criterion E	An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
Criterion F	An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
Criterion G	An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or a class of the local area's) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cultural or natural places; or • cultural or natural environments.

In applying the criteria, both the nature and degree of significance for the place need to be identified. Items (attributes) located at a site can vary in the extent to which they embody or reflect the key values of a place and the relative importance of their evidence or associations.

Criterion A: *An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural and natural history of the local area).*

The police have had a physical presence on the current site in Taree since 1863 and have made a significant contribution to maintaining law and order in the Taree district since that time. The original 1863 lockup building appears to have been demolished with the construction of the substantially larger

1884 lockup and lockup keeper's residence. The 1884 building survives at the core of the existing police station, although it has been substantially altered, losing many of the key functional elements that defined its original use.

The site is of local historic significance for its long-term contribution to maintaining law and order in Taree.

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 the cultural and natural history of the local area).*

The NSW Police has had a long term and continuous association with the development of Taree, having established a presence on the current site as early as 1863. Thus, the site has local significance for its association with the NSW Police Force.

Criterion C: *An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).*

The 1884 lockup and lockup keeper's residence was built to the rear of the Taree courthouse, with which it is associated. Thus, it has no street presence. It has always been a much smaller and more subservient building to the courthouse in scale and design. Whilst the courthouse presented a strong and powerful presence in the streetscape, representing the rule of law in Taree, the lockup had a much more utilitarian function and was therefore far plainer in its design and detail. The stables at the rear of the site were also built as a simple utilitarian building. Subsequent alterations and additions to the buildings have removed many of the original features that reflected and defined the original functions of these buildings, and have continued a similar utilitarian approach to their design, with none being of particularly high aesthetic value.

The former lockup, lockup keeper's residence and the stables have no aesthetic significance.

Criterion D: *An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*

A cultural study or detailed assessment of social significance of the site has not been undertaken as part of this heritage assessment. However, it is noted that the police have made a very important and ongoing contribution to the life of Taree since the 1860s. It is acknowledged that the Taree police would have important social and cultural associations with the Taree community, including its Aboriginal community. The social value to the community would be related to the police's role in maintaining law and order within the community and providing a sense of security. For others the police may represent enforcement of law and repression.

The association between the community and the police may or may not extend to the existing building.

Criterion E: *An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

Police activities have been established on the current site since 1863 and appear to represent the first European occupation of the site, being associated with the development of the town of Taree. It is noted, however, that the site lies within the traditional lands of the Biripi and Worimi Aboriginal people. As much of the site appears to have been covered over, rather than excavated for development, there is potential for remains of both Aboriginal and police occupation of the site.

Criterion F: *An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

The Taree police station lockup, lockup keeper's residence and stables was not rare in NSW. Many similar structures were established across the state during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Within Taree, it is the only police station. However, due to a series of major alterations and additions, the original building no longer retains the features that were key to understanding its former configuration and use. Thus, it is not significant under this criterion.

Criterion G: *An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or a class of the local area's)*

- *cultural or natural places; or*
- *cultural or natural environments.*

The 1884 lockup and lockup keeper's residence has been substantially altered since its construction and no longer retains the key elements that defined it as a lockup. Thus, it does not have representative significance.

4.3 Historical Themes

The *NSW Heritage Manual* identifies a specific set of 35 'historical themes relevant to New South Wales' within which the heritage values of the place can be examined. Although the historical themes are general and heritage items are likely to relate to more than one theme, they facilitate an understanding of the historical context of the heritage item. Relevant historical themes for Taree Police Station are summarised in Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2 NSW Historical Themes Related to Taree Police Station.

NSW Historical Theme	Relationship to Taree Police Station
4. Building settlements, towns and cities—Towns, suburbs and villages	The police station was part of the earliest phase of town development in Taree. Along with the courthouse, it formed part of the justice precinct. It is located on the main street of Taree.
7. Governing—Law and Order	The police station (former lockup), together with the courthouse, has been associated with the maintenance, promotion and implementation of criminal law in Taree since 1884. The police have been stationed on the site since 1863.

4.4 Statement of Significance—Taree Police Station

The site of the Taree Police Station is significant for its long and continuous association with the NSW Police Force and the maintenance, promotion and enforcement of law in Taree since 1863. The current justice precinct, comprising the courthouse, police station (former lockup) and the associated stables, has existed on the site since 1884. Although the courthouse makes a major contribution to the civic streetscape of Taree, the police station has never had a street frontage other than through the sergeant's residence. It has always been the more utilitarian and subservient building on the site, being substantially obscured from view by the courthouse. The 1884 police lockup, lockup keeper's residence and stables have been substantially altered and no longer retain the important features that defined their original use, including the original prisoner cells, exercise yard and horse stalls. Thus, although the buildings have strong historical and associative values, their historic fabric has only minor heritage significance.

5.0 Aboriginal Archaeology

Taree lies within the traditional lands of the Biripi and Worimi groups. They have a rich history in the region. Section 2.1 contains a brief history of Aboriginal people living in the area that became Taree, both before and after European occupation.

5.1 Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System

An extensive search of the OEH Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database of latitude and longitude from -31.9927, 152.3305 to -31.8259, 152.5949, with a 1km buffer surrounding the study area, was undertaken on 24 April 2018. The results are shown in Figure 5.1 and Figure 5.2. Table 5.1 provides an overview of the different site features identified within the bounds of the AHIMS search and their frequency.

This search identified 91 Aboriginal sites and no Aboriginal Places. There are currently no registered sites or Aboriginal Places identified within the current study area. The closest AHIMS site is approximately 2.4km east of the current study area.

Table 5.1 Frequency of Site Types Surrounding Albert Street, Taree.

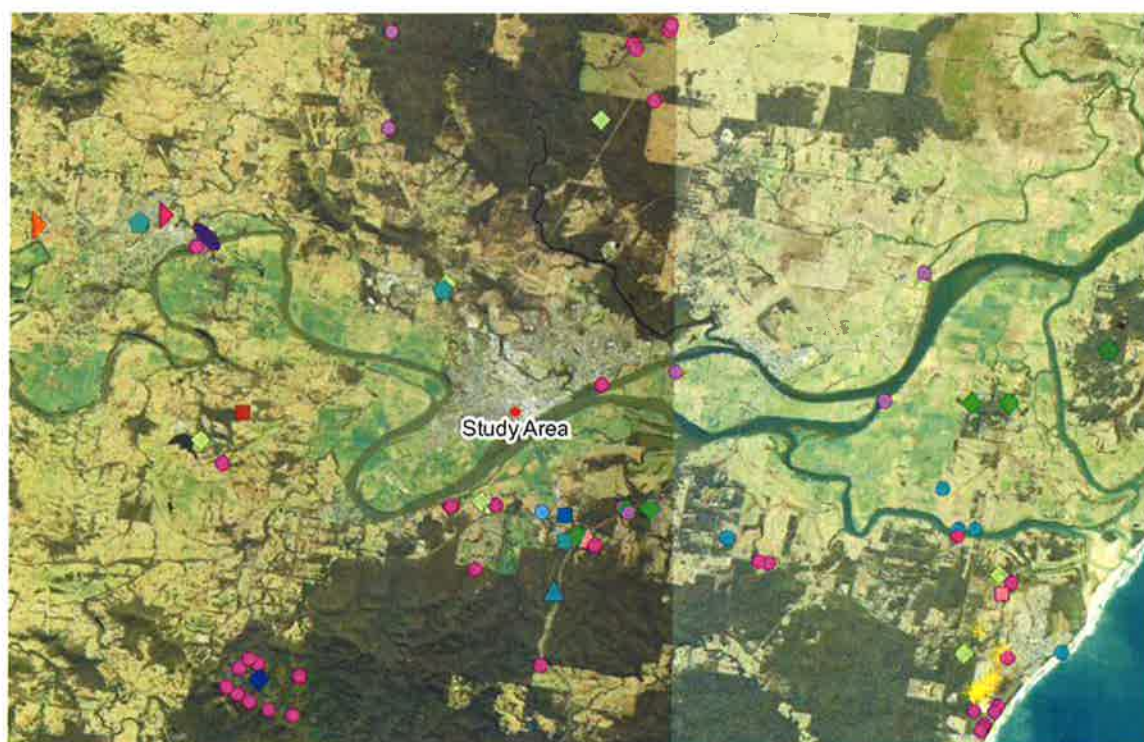
Site Type—Feature	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming—Natural Mythological (Ritual)	1	1.1%
Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming, Aboriginal Resource and Gathering, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	1	1.1%
Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming, Burial	1	1.1%
Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming, Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)	1	1.1%
Artefact	32	35.1%
Artefact—Open Camp Site	9	9.9%
Artefact, Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)—Open Camp Site, Scarred Tree	1	1.1%
Artefact, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	1	1.1%
Artefact, Shell—Midden	5	5.5%
Artefact, Shell—Shelter with Deposit	1	1.1%
Burial	1	1.1%
Burial—Burial/s	2	2.2%
Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth)—Bora/Ceremonial	1	1.1%
Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth), Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)—Bora/Ceremonial, Carved Tree	1	1.1%
Destroyed Artefact	11	12.1%
Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)	9	9.9%
Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)—Carved Tree	1	1.1%
Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)—Scarred Tree	6	6.6%
Not a Site Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth)	1	1.1%
Restricted Site	2	2.2%
Stone Arrangement—Stone Arrangement	1	1.1%

Site Type—Feature	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Water Hole	1	1.1%
Water Hole—Water Hole/Well	1	1.1%
Total	91	100%

The range of different types of Aboriginal archaeological sites found in and around Taree provides evidence of the range of ways that Aboriginal people used this landscape, over a long period of time. The types of sites recorded fall into three categories: those associated with resource (food) procurement, processing and discard; habitation locations; and sites associated with wider Aboriginal traditions.

Of the 91 registered AHIMS sites, 11 have been destroyed and one has been reclassified as 'Not a Site'. Therefore, there are 79 existing sites surrounding the study area. Two of these sites are restricted (that is, the information is confidential and not available except to relevant knowledge holders) and their location is not known. Sites containing artefacts are the most common in this area (49 sites). This is often due to stone artefacts having better preservation rates than many other types of material.

There are many sites in close proximity to the Manning River and its tributaries. Water and the resources associated with bodies of water are important for occupation, and are represented in the archaeological record. There is only one Aboriginal site registered in Taree (30-5-0072—Rail Cutting Site), an artefact site. This does not suggest a lack of Aboriginal archaeological sites in Taree, rather a lack of Aboriginal archaeological investigations.



Key

Study Area
AHIMS Sites

- Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming - Natural Mythological (Ritual)
- Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming, Aboriginal Resource and Gathering, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)
- Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming, Burial
- Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming, Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)
- Artefact
- Artefact - Open Camp Site
- Artefact, Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) - Open Camp Site, Scarred Tree
- Artefact, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)
- Artefact, Shell - Midden
- Artefact, Shell - Shelter with Deposit
- Burial
- Burial - Burial/s
- Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth) - Bora/Ceremonial
- Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth), Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) - Bora/Ceremonial, Carved Tree
- Destroyed Artefact
- Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)
- Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) - Carved Tree
- Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) - Scarred Tree
- Not a Site Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth)
- Restricted Site
- Stone Arrangement - Stone Arrangement
- Water Hole
- Water Hole - Water Hole/Well

0 2.5 5 7.5 10 km



Figure 5.1 AHIMS search. The locations of restricted sites are not provided by OEH. (Source: NSW Globe with GML additions, 2018)



Key

Study Area

AHIMS Sites

- Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming - Natural Mythological (Ritual)
- Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming, Aboriginal Resource and Gathering, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)
- Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming, Burial
- Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming, Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)
- Artefact
- Artefact - Open Camp Site
- Artefact, Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) - Open Camp Site, Scarred Tree
- Artefact, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)
- Artefact, Shell - Midden
- Artefact, Shell - Shelter with Deposit
- Burial
- Burial - Burial/s
- Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth) - Bora/Ceremonial
- Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth), Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) - Bora/Ceremonial, Carved Tree
- Destroyed Artefact
- Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)
- Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) - Carved Tree
- Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) - Scarred Tree
- Not a Site Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth)
- Restricted Site
- Stone Arrangement - Stone Arrangement
- Water Hole
- Water Hole - Water Hole/Well

0 1 2 3 4 km



Figure 5.2 Detailed map of the AHIMS search. (Source: NSW Globe with GML additions, 2018)

5.2 Environmental Context

5.2.1 Landscape

The study area slopes from the northwest, down towards the Manning River. The Manning River is a large river and estuary system travelling from Barrington Tops National Park to the Tasman Sea. At Taree, the river splits and becomes a double delta. There are many tributaries feeding into the Manning River throughout its course. It is a rich ecological environment and would have been a valuable resource to people in the area. The current study area is situated on the slope above the floodplain of the Manning River. The river is currently less than 400m from the study area (Figure 5.3). However, the course of the river would have changed over time and, particularly in times of flooding, would have been much closer to the current study area.

Before European occupation and land clearing, the study area would have contained open forests (dry sclerophyll forests) of the *Eucalyptus pilularis* (blackbutt) suballiance. Other less dominant species would have included *Eucalyptus propinqua* (small-fruited grey gum), *E. acmenoides* (white mahogany), *E. placita* (grey ironbark), *Syncarpia glomulifera* (turpentine) and *Allocasuarina torulosa* (forest oak). The *E. tereticornis* (forest red gum) suballiance with *Callistemon salignus* (willow bottlebrush) and *Melaleuca styphelioides* (prickly-leaf paperbark) are known to occur on lower slopes with impeded drainage. The understorey across this area was typically *Acacia falcata* (falcate wattle), *Pultenaea villosa* (hairy bush-pea) and *Jacksonia scoparia* (dogwood).¹

5.2.2 Geology and Soils

The geology of the study area is Devonian and Carboniferous sediments of the Hastings Block. This is comprised of the Mingaletta Formation (Cm): a thick succession of non-marine sandstone, siltstone, conglomerate, vitric tuff, and minor rhyolite; the Pappinbarra Formation (Ceg): interbedded laminated sandstone and siltstone, massive lithic sandstone, mudstone and tuffs; the Cowangarra Formation (Dlc): cleaved, thinly to medium bedded grey to black laminated fine lithic sandstone, siltstone and slate; and the Koorainghat Beds (Dlbc), Lithic sandstone, tuff, laminite, siltstone. Regolith is moderately fractured weathered rock and kaolinite of moderate strength.²

The Kew soil landscape overlies the geology in the study area (Figure 5.3). Kew is a residual soil landscape and is shallow to moderately deep (25–<100 cm). It contains moderately to imperfectly drained Brown and Yellow Kurosols (Yellow Podzolic Soils and Soloths), occasionally Bleached or Mottled, and Lithic Brown-Orthic Tenosols (Lithosols), as well as shallow to moderately deep (25–<100 cm), imperfectly drained Mottled and Bleached-Mottled, Yellow and Brown Kurosols (Yellow Podzolic Soils and Soloths) and Grey Kurosols (Gleyed Podzolic Soils).³

5.2.3 Modern Land Use and Disturbance

Sections 2.0 and 3.0 of this report detail the modern land use and disturbances to the study area. The periods of land clearing and farming, then subsequent use as police station, do not appear to have caused significant disturbance to the study area. It is likely that the Kew soil landscape is intact underneath the current buildings and hard landscaping.



Figure 5.3 Soil landscapes surrounding the study area. (Source: NSW Globe with GML additions, 2018)

5.3 Assessment of Aboriginal Archaeological Potential

Based on the landforms and history of the study area, it has been identified as having potential to contain Aboriginal archaeology. The study area is in close proximity to the Manning River, a stable water and resource source. The wider area is known to have been used by Aboriginal people in the past. The

historical clearing of the land may have disturbed the surface expression of occupation sites and areas, but is unlikely to have substantially removed this occupation evidence.

Therefore, the whole site has been identified as containing potential for Aboriginal archaeology and further assessments, as detailed in sections 9 and 10 below, should be undertaken before any development is commenced.

5.4 Endnotes

- ¹ Brownlow, JW 1998, Tamworth – Hastings 1:250,000 Metallogenic Map, unpublished digital map.
- ² Brownlow, JW 1998, Tamworth – Hastings 1:250,000 Metallogenic Map, unpublished digital map.
- ³ Brownlow, JW 1998, Tamworth – Hastings 1:250,000 Metallogenic Map, unpublished digital map.

6.0 Historical Archaeology

6.1 Introduction

This section assesses the site's potential to contain historical archaeological resources. This assessment is based on consideration of the current site conditions and examination of historical information related to the development and occupation of the site, including evidence of demolition and construction activities that may have disturbed archaeological remains associated with former site features and activities.

The term 'archaeological potential' is defined as the likelihood that a site may contain physical evidence related to an earlier phase of occupation, activity or development. This term is differentiated from 'archaeological significance' and 'archaeological research potential', which are more subjective statements on the value of the archaeological resource in terms of levels of significance and discussed in more detail in Section 6.3 below.

6.2 Assessment of Archaeological Potential

The following discussion focuses on the potential subsurface archaeological remains such as structural elements, occupational deposits, yards and paths in relation to the historic phases of development and previous ground disturbance within the study area.

The following three main phases of historical development have been identified:

- Phase 1: Taree Estate (c1831–1863);
- Phase 2: Taree Police Lockup (1863–1873); and
- Phase 3: Taree Police Station (1873–Present).

Phase 1: Taree Estate (c1831–1863)

No development was identified within the study area during this phase. Any archaeological remains would have resulted from ephemeral use of the study area, such as timber getting, grazing and other low intensity land uses. Archaeological features could include tree trunks, plough marks, field drains and isolated artefacts. Given previous development on the site for the current building, the potential for such archaeological remains is considered to be nil–low.

Phase 2: Taree Police Lockup (1863–1873)

The police lockup was constructed on Lot 22 of Section 8 (DP50231) during this phase. The small brick building was completed by October 1865 and consisted of two cells at one end flanked by the guardroom. The police barrack room was adjacent to this, with a small room for a courthouse located at the front (Figure 2.1).

Occupation and use of the study area could have resulted in the creation of sealed artefact deposits, including the creation of rubbish pits in rear or side yard spaces, the accumulation of underfloor deposits or artefacts lost or discarded within water closets and wells.

Phase 3: Taree Police Station (1873–Present)

The Lots 21 and 23 of Section 8 were sold to the Crown to expand the police station and court house in 1873.

First stage of development (1873–1932)

The following developments were identified within the study area during this phase (Figure 2.3):

- a new courthouse fronting Albert Street;
- a sergeant's residence fronting Albert Street;
- a new combined police residence and lockup;
- a four-stall stable;
- water closet, with an underground tank; and
- a large underground water tank.

Occupation and use of the study area could have resulted in the creation of sealed artefact deposits, including the creation of rubbish pits in rear or side yard spaces, the accumulation of underfloor deposits or artefacts lost or discarded within water closets and wells.

Modifications and Extensions (1932–Present)

The following developments were identified within the study area during this phase:

- major extensions to the police lockup;
- major extensions to the court house;
- demolition of the sergeant's residence and construction of a new police residence;
- rebuilding of the lockup exercise yard;
- construction of a perimeter wall;
- new toilet;
- new driveway; and
- addition of demountable buildings.

The layout of the property has been significantly altered with the additions and modifications undertaken since 1932. While the 1873 police residence and lockup is retained within the current building, the layout and use has been dramatically changed. This would have resulted in disturbance to the integrity and intactness of potential historical archaeological remains resulting from earlier phases of use, particularly within the footprint of the extensions to the police lockup.

The site inspection (Section 3.0) indicated that the current extensions to the police station were not excavated into the natural slope of the site, rather constructed on footings, with the exposed earth underneath following the natural slope of the site. The majority of the study area has undergone hard

landscaping with very few areas containing exposed soil. It is not possible to ascertain the intactness of potential archaeological remains beneath the hard landscaping.

There is some potential for the construction impacts to be limited to the areas of the later footings and associated areas of construction disturbance. While this form of construction would impact the integrity and intactness of potential historical archaeological remains within the footprint of the extant buildings, the archaeological resource would not have been entirely removed in these areas. More substantial remains, such as wells, cisterns, cesspits, stables, stone road bases and deep rubbish pits, may remain in these areas though probably disturbed to some degree.

Summary

Much of the site's potential for historical archaeological resource derives from its early use as a police lockup and residence from 1863–1932. Evidence of outbuildings including water closets and water tanks have the potential for sealed artefact deposits resulting from their construction and use. There is also the potential for sealed artefact deposits not associated with structural remains across the landscape resulting from dumping activities, such as the creation and use of rubbish pits.

The entire study area has the potential for isolated artefacts resulting from accidental loss or discard during all phases of use, including ephemeral use of the study area prior to 1863.

Figure 6.1 illustrates the assessed levels of historical archaeological potential within the study area. A tabulated summary of the site's potential historical archaeological resource is presented at the end of Section 6.3 following a discussion of archaeological significance.

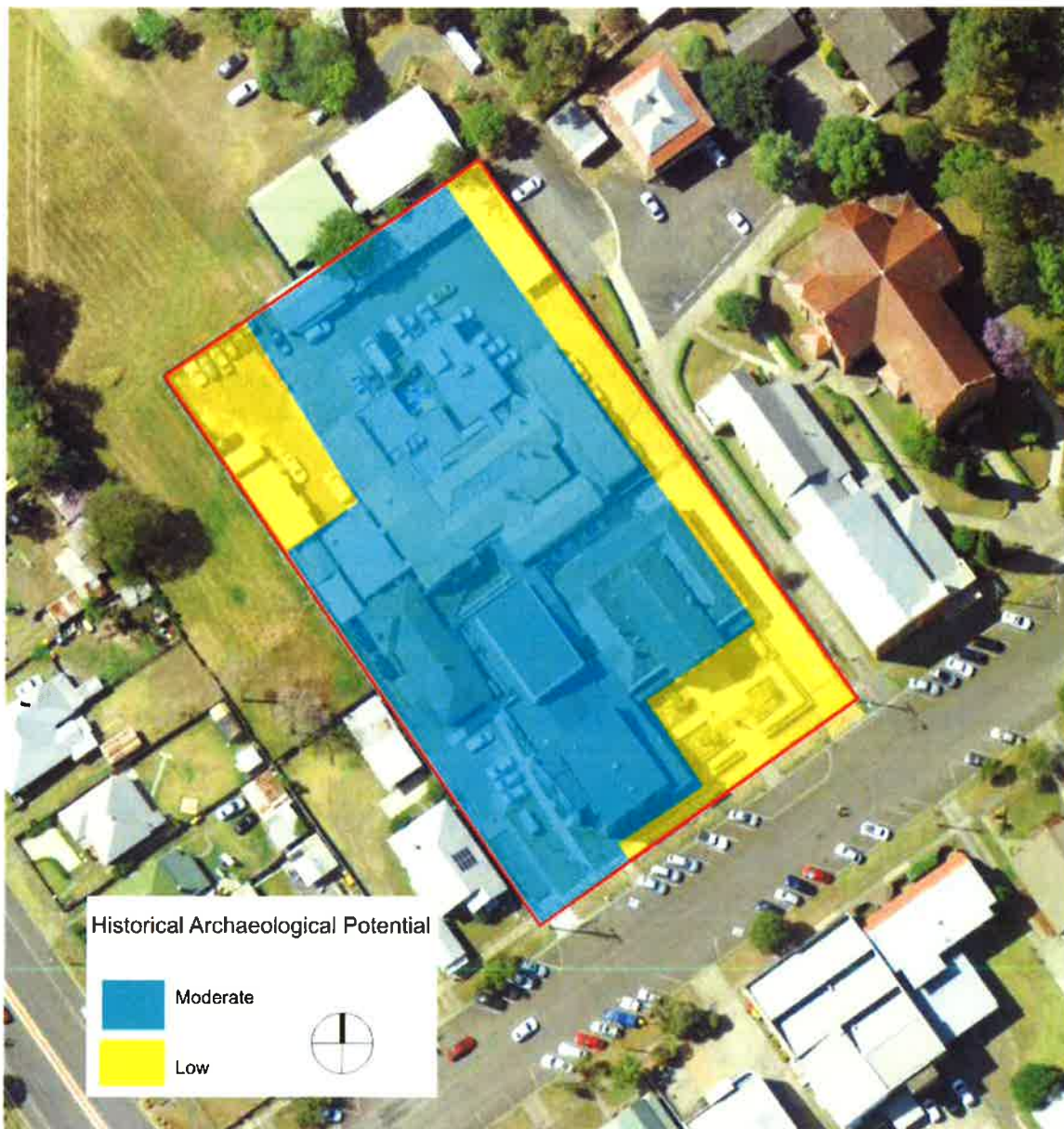


Figure 6.1 Historical archaeological potential within the study area. (Source: NSW LPI with GML additions, 2018)

6.3 Assessment of Historical Archaeological Significance

Archaeological significance refers to the heritage significance of known or potential archaeological remains. In NSW, archaeological remains are managed in accordance with their assessed levels of significance in line with *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*, published by the NSW Heritage Branch (now Heritage Division, OEH) in 2009.

6.3.1 NSW Heritage Criteria

The Heritage Council of NSW established seven criteria for consideration in the assessment of heritage significance.¹ The potential historical archaeological resource of the study area has been assessed against these criteria and our findings are presented in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 Assessment of Potential Archaeological Remains at 79–83 Albert Street Against the NSW Heritage Criteria.

Criteria	Response
<i>(a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area)</i>	The study area is the Taree Police Station operation from 1863–present. The development and expansion of the police station reflects the growth and pattern of development history in the Greater Taree City Council There is potential for archaeological remains associated with the early phases of the police station. Archaeological remains such as rubbish pits, drainage and water management features would relate to the history of the police station. Such archaeological remains would be significant at a local level .
<i>(b) an item has a 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 the local area)</i>	The study area is associated with police and the judicial system in Taree. The study area has continuously maintained this association since 1863. There is potential for archaeological remains associated with police and the judicial system. Archaeological remains such as rubbish pits, drainage and water management features may relate to police and the judicial system. Such archaeological remains would be significant at a local level .
<i>(c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)</i>	The potential archaeological remains from the study area are not likely to meet this criterion.
<i>(d) an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, spiritual or cultural reasons (or the local area)</i>	There are no elements of the study area with identified associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW. Archaeological remains within the study area are unlikely to demonstrate any associations.
<i>(e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area)</i>	The potential archaeological remains from the study area are not likely to meet this criterion.
<i>(f) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area)</i>	The potential archaeological remains from the study area are not likely to meet this criterion.
<i>(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 the local area)</i>	The potential archaeological remains from the study area are not likely to meet this criterion.

6.3.2 Statement of Archaeological Significance

The study area has been identified as having low to moderate potential for historical archaeological remains associated with the early phases of Taree Police Station which has been in operation since 1863. The potential archaeological remains include evidence of the 1865 police lockup, sealed artefact deposits, including the creation of rubbish pits in rear or side yard spaces, the accumulation of underfloor deposits or artefacts lost or discarded within water closets and wells. Such remains, if relatively intact or extensive, would be of local significance for their historical and research value.

Table 6.2 below presents a summary of the potential archaeological features anticipated within the study area, as well as their assessed levels of significance.

Table 6.2 Potential Archaeological Features, Associated Types of Archaeological Evidence and Assessed Significance.

Phase(s)	Possible Archaeological Remains	Location	Potential	Significance
Phase 1: c1831–1863	Land clearing and farming: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • burnt tree boles, plough marks, field drains associated with land clearing; and • isolated or scattered artefacts associated with agricultural work. 	Entire study area	Nil–Low	None
Phase 2: 1863–1873	Taree Police Lockup and associated outbuildings. Potential remains might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wall footings; • floor surfaces; • in situ structural remains of cisterns, wells, drains and water closets; and • sealed artefact deposits within cisterns, drains, wells and water closets. 	Lot 22, DP 50231 Section 8	Moderate	Local
Phase 3: 1873–1930	Taree Police Station and associated outbuildings. Potential remains might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wall footings; • floor surfaces; • in situ structural remains of cisterns, wells, drains and water closets; and • sealed artefact deposits within cisterns, drains, wells and water closets. 	Entire study area	Moderate	Local

7.0 Development Proposal

7.1 Description of the Proposed Works

The proposal development includes demolition of all the existing buildings on the existing police station site, including the 1884 buildings, and construction of a new larger police station building that accommodates the expanding needs of the NSW Police Force in Taree.

The new building comprises two parts: a single-storey portion that will address Albert Street and give the police station a street frontage and visibility within the street; and a two-storey portion located on the site to the rear of the courthouse. The ground floor of the proposed new building will be on the same level as the existing courthouse. Therefore, the construction of the rear building will involve extensive cutting into the existing site.

The new building is of contemporary design and generally comprises two box-like structures of concrete, steel and glass with vertical shading panels along its northern, eastern and western façades. The building will wrap around the western and northern sides of the Taree Courthouse. Driveway access will continue to be provided to the east of the courthouse and will extend to a new parking area to be located along the northern boundary of the site.

A new booster pump for fire services is proposed for installation in front of the courthouse adjacent to the driveway entrance to the police station.

7.2 Documentation

The assessment of heritage impacts is based on the following documentation prepared by GroupGSA.

Drawing No.	Revision	Title
TAR-AR-DA100	A	Location Plan and Drawing List
TAR-AR-DA101	A	Site Plan—Proposed
TAR-AR-DA105	A	Site Plan—Demolition
TAR-AR-DA110	A	Site Plan—Analysis
TAR-AR-DA115	A	Site—Photos
TAR-AR-DA200	A	Floor Plan—Ground
TAR-AR-DA201	A	Floor Plan—Level 1
TAR-AR-DA202	A	Roof Plan
TAR-AR-DA210	A	Entry, Rear Parking, Pump Room and Fire Tank
TAR-AR-DA300	A	Elevations—Southeast and Northeast
TAR-AR-DA301	A	Elevations—Northwest and Southwest
TAR-AR-DA400	A	Sections—Sheet 1
TAR-AR-DA401	A	Sections—Sheet 2
TAR-AR-DA500	A	Shadow Diagrams—Autumn and Winter
TAR-AR-DA501	A	Shadow Diagrams—Spring
TAR-AR-DA520	A	External Finishes
TAR-AR-DA550	A	Perspectives—Sheet 1 of 2

GML Heritage

Drawing No.	Revision	Title
TAR-AR-DA551	A	Perspectives—Sheet 2 of 2
TAR-AR-DA600	A	Signage Plans

8.0 Heritage Context

8.1 Albert Street Heritage Conservation Area

The Taree Police Station and Courthouse are located within the Albert Street Heritage Conservation Area (C2 in the GTLEP2010). The conservation area also includes Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, located to the east of the Courthouse and Police Station, and St Paul's Presbyterian Church, located across the road to the south of the courthouse. Refer to Figure 8.1.

The photographs below have been taken by GML unless indicated otherwise.

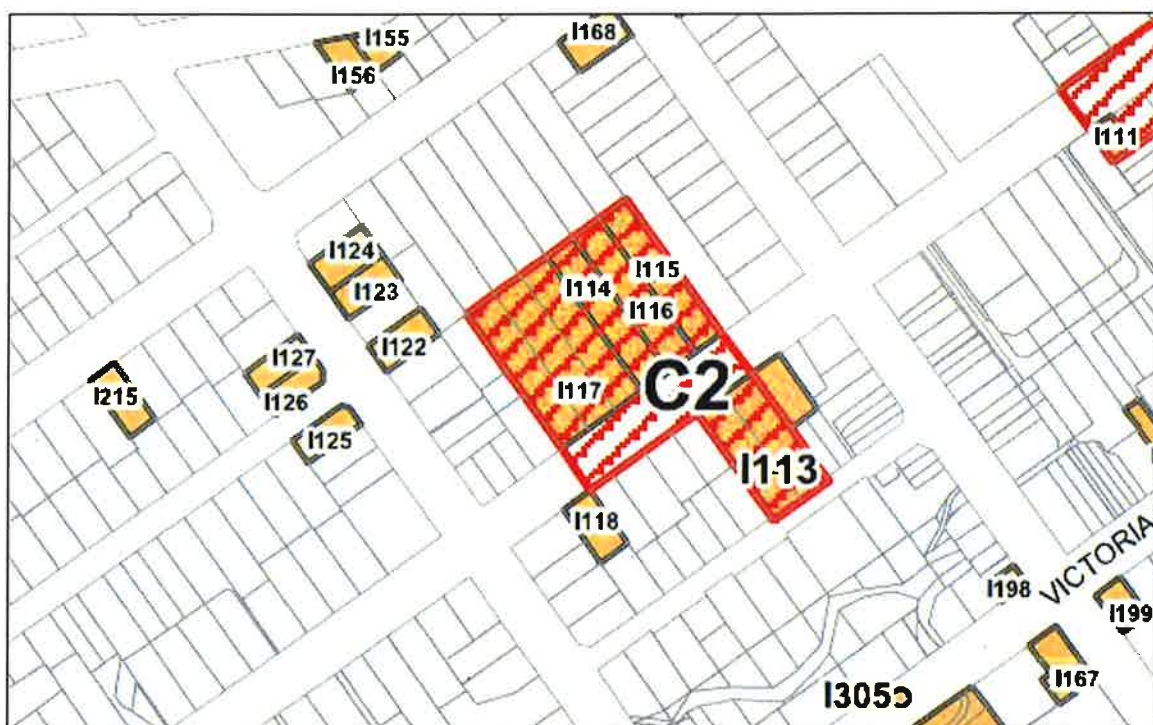


Figure 8.1 Heritage Map—Sheet HER_015G showing heritage items (brown) and heritage conservation areas (hatched red). (Source: Greater Taree Local Environmental Plan 2010)

8.1.1 Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church

Item I114: Former Catholic Church and Hall, Our Lady of the Rosary

This item consists of a simple early twentieth-century Gothic Revival church building (brick with attached piers and corrugated metal roof) and a late 1940s hall, which has a high parapeted red face brick façade facing onto Albert Street. The church is set immediately behind the hall and is not visible from the street.

The two buildings adjoin the courthouse site and the driveway entrance to the police station.

Item I115: Catholic Church

The second church on the site is a very prominent interwar Romanesque style building. It is face brick, with Romanesque detailing and a terracotta tiled roof, and is located at the highest point along Albert Street.

Item I116: Catholic Presbytery

The presbytery is a two-storey face brick Victorian residence with a double hipped metal roof and encircling timber verandahs. It overlooks the police station site, but is separated from it by a broad area of asphalt carpark.



Figure 8.2 View along Albert Street looking towards the courthouse from the east. The interwar Romanesque style Catholic Church (Item I116) is on the right and the 1940s church hall (Item I114) is on the left.



Figure 8.3 View from the rear of the Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church site, adjacent to the police station site boundary, showing the original Gothic Revival style church (Item I114) on the right and the later Romanesque style church (Item I115) on the left.



Figure 8.4 First Catholic Church. (Item I114)



Figure 8.5 The Catholic Presbytery is visible across the carpark. (Item I116)

8.1.2 St Paul's Presbyterian Church

Item I113: St Pauls Presbyterian Church

Located at 64–74 Albert Street, St Paul's Presbyterian Church is a small late nineteenth-century Gothic church of rendered masonry construction with a gabled corrugated metal roof. It has a small entrance porch and decorative barge boards and finials. This is noted as the oldest building in Taree.

Adjacent to the original church is a face brick modernist 1960s church with a steel bell tower.



Figure 8.6 View of St Paul's Presbyterian Church (Item I113) showing both the old and new churches.

8.2 Heritage Items in the Vicinity

In addition to the above church properties, there are several houses in the vicinity of the police station that are included as local heritage items on the GTLEP2010. These include:

- Item I118: Dwelling, 90 Albert Street;
- Item I122: Dwelling, 21 Commerce Street;
- Item I123: Dwelling, 25 Commerce Street;
- Item I124: Dwelling, 27 Commerce Street;
- Item I125: Dwelling, 32 Commerce Street;
- Item I126: Dwelling, 34 Commerce Street; and
- Item I127: Dwelling, 36 Commerce Street.

All are single storey early twentieth century detached weatherboard or brick cottages, generally located on large residential allotments. No. 90 Albert Street is located opposite the police station. The others are separated from the police station site by an allotment currently used as a community garden and a row of large trees.



Figure 8.7 90 Albert Street. (Item I118)



Figure 8.8 Rear yards of houses in Commerce Street (heritage items I122, I123 and I124), showing trees along the eastern boundary providing a visual screen between them and the police station site.



Figure 8.9 25 and 27 Commerce Street. (Items I123 and I124)



Figure 8.10 21 Commerce Street. (Item I122)

9.0 Assessment of Heritage Impacts

9.1 Introduction

This assessment of heritage impacts has been prepared in accordance with the following heritage guidelines:

- 'Assessing Heritage Significance', a *NSW Heritage Manual* update;¹ and
- 'Statements of Heritage Impacts', guidelines prepared by the NSW Heritage Office.²

9.2 Impacts on Taree Police Station

9.2.1 Early Police Station Buildings

Proposal—Demolition

The proposal for the new police station requires demolition of the existing police station buildings, including the remains of the 1884 lockup, lockup keeper's residence and stables. A large modern police station is proposed for the site.

Heritage Impacts

Although the site has been identified as having a significant long and continuous association with the NSW Police Force, the early police station buildings have been found to have been altered to such a degree that their original use is barely recognisable within the existing much larger police complex.

Although the original front façade of the police lockup survives, it is hidden within the existing building complex and is no longer used as the main entrance to the lockup. The double gabled roof form and chimneys of the early police lockup survive, but the internal spatial configuration has been substantially altered. Only the former charge room (now an office) retains a reasonable degree of intactness. The original cells and early exercise yards of the former lockup have been demolished and replaced with much larger modern cells and other facilities required for the functioning of a modern police station. The internal configuration of the former lockup keeper's residence has also been substantially altered with few original features surviving.

The stables at the rear of the site have also been altered and, with removal of the horse stalls during the 1940s, no longer retain evidence of their early use.

The demolition of the early lockup, lockup keeper's residence and stables will have some heritage impact. However, the continued occupation of the site by the NSW Police Force is of primary importance and will be maintained through the proposed new development. This will have a positive heritage impact.

9.2.2 Archaeology

Proposal

The proposal involves extensive excavation of the site for construction of the new building.

Summary of Potential Archaeological Impacts

This impact assessment identifies a range of potential impacts that are likely to result from this type of development on both Aboriginal and historical archaeological potential, including:

- demolition of existing buildings;
- earthworks associated with cutting and levelling of the site;
- excavation for building foundations; and
- excavation for services (sewerage, water supply, communications, power supply and drainage).

The proposed development would most likely involve bulk excavation across the study area. This work would disturb and completely remove any archaeological remains, either Aboriginal or historical.

Excavation for building footings and services, along with more localised excavations and/or grading for the construction of driveways and drains, would also be required. These would have localised impacts and remove any archaeological remains within the footprint of these works, where any remains have not already been disturbed and/or removed during initial earthworks.

Potential Aboriginal Archaeology Impacts

The level of Aboriginal archaeological potential is moderate, based on the limited nature of disturbance to most of the soil profile (containing most of the potential for stone artefacts). Impact through land clearing practices may have impacted a 'plough zone'; however, if objects are present, these would still be of scientific and/or cultural value.

Table 9.1 Potential Aboriginal Archaeology Impacts

Activity	Type of Harm	Degree of Harm	Consequence of Harm
Earthworks associated with cutting and levelling the site.	Disturbing the full depth of the artefact-bearing soil profile.	High impact to an area of moderate archaeological potential, and potential social/cultural values.	Potential to disturb Aboriginal objects.

Potential Historical Archaeological Impacts

Areas assessed as having the potential for significant historical archaeological remains and relics would be impacted by the proposed development. The extent of anticipated ground disturbance in relation to significant historical archaeological remains and relics are illustrated in Table 9.2 below.

Table 9.2 Impacts Arising from Proposed Development at Taree Police Station.

Works	Potential Impacts	Location
Demolition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition of extant buildings will expose and impact archaeological remains. • Demolition would occur across the whole site including areas with low to moderate potential for significant archaeological remains and relics. 	Extant building footprints, entire site.
Earthworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulk earthworks to level the site to lay the foundations would expose and impact significant archaeological remains and relics. 	Entire site

9.3 Impacts on Taree Courthouse

Proposal

The proposal involves construction of a contemporary two storey building immediately to the rear of the heritage listed 1882 courthouse, with a single storey wing wrapping around the western side of the contemporary addition to the courthouse. The new building is much larger in both footprint and bulk than the existing police complex on the site. The driveway on the eastern side of the courthouse is to be retained.

The ground level of the rear portion of the site is to be lowered so that the floor of the new building is level with the floor of the courthouse, to which it is connected for prisoner transfer. The gap between the rear of the courthouse and the new police station has increased in width by approximately two metres.

The new western wing of the police station extends out towards the street to give the new police station a street presence, which it has never previously had. The western wall extends out beyond the front wall of the building to align with the front wall of the new courthouse building. A landscaped courtyard is proposed between the two buildings and is to be partially covered by perforated roof.

The new police station building is contemporary in design and box like in form. There is a clear distinction between the lower and upper storeys, with the lower storey being clad in concrete panels and the upper storey being clad in vertical louvres along its northern, eastern and western sides and black anodised panels along its southern side facing the courthouse.

A carpark with an open single storey carport structure over is shown extending along the northern (rear) and eastern boundaries of the site. It is also set at the lower level and has a retaining wall along its northern boundary.

An open metal fence is shown along the eastern and western boundaries, mounted on a masonry wall. A new booster pump is proposed in front of the courthouse block adjacent to the driveway entrance to the police station.

Impacts on Setting and Views

The courthouse is one of the most important buildings in this section of Albert Street. With the exception of the forensic research building, located on the western allotment of the site, the existing police station is barely visible from the street as it sits behind the courthouse. Refer to Figures 3.3 and 3.5 in Section 3.0, and Figures 9.1 and 9.2 below.

Being two-storey, the new police station is taller than both the historic courthouse and the existing police station buildings. However, it is comparable in height with the new courthouse building.

The new police station is set a long way back from the street behind the historic courthouse. It is also set in from the eastern side boundary of the site behind the courthouse. Together with the lowered ground level of the new building, the visual impact on views of the courthouse from the street will be minimised. On the western side of the site the new two storey building on the rear portion of the site will be substantially obscured from view by the projecting single storey entrance to the new police station and the new courthouse building.

The new police station will have little impact on views of the 1882 courthouse.



Figure 9.1 View of the new courthouse looking east along Albert Street. (Source: GML)



Figure 9.2 View of the historic courthouse (centre) and new courthouse (left) looking west along Albert Street. (Source: GML)



Figure 9.3 The booster pump will be located in front of the garden wall at street level.

The new entrance to the police station, which projects out towards the street, will provide the police with a greater physical presence in Albert Street. This will support their long-term association with the site and the courthouse, strengthening the physical sense of place associated with the justice precinct in Taree. It will also symbolically strengthen the police's historic role in contributing to the upholding of law and order in Taree. Thus, the new entrance will have a positive heritage impact.

The proposed booster pump to be located at the front of the courthouse will be at street level, which is lower than the level of the courthouse, and separated from it by the garden in front of the courthouse and the garden walls. The booster is required to be visible and accessible. However, it will not be in the principle view of the courthouse from the street. The booster will have a minor heritage impact on the setting of the courthouse.

Impacts of Scale and Materiality

The proposed new building is larger than any other building on the site, including the courthouse complex. Thus, the police station will move from being the subservient building on the site to having an equal sense of presence to that of the courthouse. However, even though it will have a single storey wing projecting forward towards the street, it will still primarily be set behind the courthouse.

As discussed above, the large scale of the building will be partially ameliorated by its being set well back on the block behind existing buildings, and by its being set down at a lower level than the existing police station. The new building is unlikely to dominate the courthouse in views from the street.

The scale of the building will have an impact on the site, but due to its placement on the site, this impact should be acceptable.

The proposed building uses a contemporary materials palette that responds more to the new courthouse building than to the original courthouse building. The champagne colour of the vertical sun shading fins responds to the existing colour of the courthouse. The black anodised panels on the wall facing the courthouse respond to the new courthouse building and should provide a neutral and recessive backdrop to the old courthouse. Thus, the materials palette for the new building is acceptable.

9.4 Albert Street Heritage Conservation Area

9.4.1 Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, Former Church and Presbytery

The new police station will be visible from the former Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church and Presbytery, that adjoin the police site on its eastern side. However, the spatial separation between the police station and the existing church buildings, achieved through the substantial setback of the police building from the side boundary that separates it from the church buildings, and the driveway and carpark on the church site, means that the level of heritage impact should be acceptable. Refer to Figures 8.4 and 8.5 in section 8.0 of this report.

The new police building is no higher than the heritage buildings on the church site. The roof of the carport located along the boundary between the two sites is very low (below the level of the boundary fence) due to the set down of the new buildings on the site.

9.4.2 Taree Presbyterian Church

The new police station will generally not be visible from the Taree Presbyterian Church, which is located across the road from the courthouse. Thus, there will be no heritage impact on the church.

9.5 Heritage Items in the Vicinity

9.5.1 Houses in Albert Street

The single storey entrance to the police station is located opposite the heritage cottage located at 90 Albert Street. The height of the new entrance wing to the police station is comparable to that of the single storey heritage cottage and to the cottage immediately adjacent to the police station entrance. The new police station will have minimal heritage impact on the heritage cottage.

The blade wall that extends out towards Albert Street will provide a solid barrier between the police station and justice precinct and the cottage immediately adjacent. The wall will have an impact on the setting of this cottage. Although this cottage is not a heritage item, it is consistent with and contributes to the character of the adjoining residential precinct, which include several heritage items. To reduce the impact of this wall on the cottage, it should not project past the building line of the new courthouse. The wall would then frame the justice precinct and the entrance to the new police station.

9.5.2 Houses in Commerce Street

There are several houses in Commerce Street that are heritage items. None share a boundary with the police station, although the rear boundary of No. 21 Commerce Street is located close to the northeast corner of the site.

The new police station, although large, would be screened from view from these houses by an existing stand of mature trees that exists along the rear boundaries of the properties. Refer to Figure 8.8 of Section 8.0 in this report. Thus, there will be no heritage impact on these houses.

9.6 Endnotes

- ¹ NSW Heritage Office 2001, 'Assessing Heritage Significance', a *NSW Heritage Manual* update, Sydney.
- ² Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs & Planning 1996, revised 2002, 'Statements of Heritage Impact', Sydney.

10.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

10.1 Built Heritage

The demolition of the existing police station complex, including the 1884 lockup, lockup keeper's residence and stables, together with excavation of the site for the new police station will effectively remove all physical evidence of the early police station(s), thus erasing tangible evidence of the site's history. However, the police have played a very important role in the development of Taree and maintenance of law and order. Thus, their continued presence on the site and continued association with the courthouse in a justice precinct is important to maintain. The loss of the physical evidence of their long-term occupation of the site will have some heritage impact, but this may be ameliorated by some historical interpretation of the site's history and associations within the grounds or building of the new police station.

The new police station, although large in comparison with the neighbouring courthouse and other local heritage items, is set well back from the street behind the existing Taree Courthouse and generally not visible from Albert Street. Thus, it will have only minor to no impact on local heritage items in the vicinity. The most affected property will be the former Our Lady of the Rosary Church and presbytery. However, the space between these buildings and the new police station is substantial, and as the new police station will be set lower on the site than the existing police station complex, its height and thus its heritage impact will be reduced.

The police station does present long walls to the properties on its northern and western boundaries. Again, there is a large distance between the police station and the buildings on the neighbouring properties, reducing the visual impact of the building on these properties. A row of large trees screen the police station from local heritage items in the vicinity.

10.2 Archaeology

10.2.1 Aboriginal Archaeology

This report has found that the study area has potential for Aboriginal objects. There are no registered Aboriginal sites within the study area as Aboriginal heritage work has not been undertaken in the area. The proximity of the study area to the Manning River makes it an area rich in resources. Furthermore, the study area has been subject to limited disturbance in the form of land clearing and development.

The current proposed works have the potential to harm unknown Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits within the study area.

The Mid Coast Council Manning Region Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Checklist for Development Applications (Appendix A) was also completed during this assessment. It identified the need to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

In order to proceed with the development as proposed, further investigation is required to determine whether or not Aboriginal objects exist in subsurface archaeological contexts on the site. If so, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will be required under Section 90 of the NPW Act 1974 for the development of the current proposal. This further investigation will require the preparation of a full Aboriginal heritage assessment, with Aboriginal archaeological test excavation (under the archaeological Code of Practice).

No ground disturbance should occur prior to the archaeological investigation, or the award of an AHIP (if required) for the study area.

Required Aboriginal Heritage Management

The proposed works are not characterised as 'low-impact activities', nor would they result in 'negligible or trivial' harm as defined by the Due Diligence Code. As a consequence, further assessment and management of the potential impact to the Aboriginal archaeology is required. This assessment results in the following Aboriginal heritage management recommendations:

- A full Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment should be prepared that conforms to the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*¹ prior to any other ground disturbance works taking place, including:
 - formal Aboriginal consultation, in accordance with the OEH consultation guidelines *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents*, 2010;²
 - preliminary assessment and preparation of an Archaeological Research Design (ARD) for archaeological test excavation under the Code of Practice;³
 - formal field survey accompanied by members from the Aboriginal community;
 - archaeological test excavation, under Department of Environment Climate Change and Water (DECCW, now the OEH), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*;⁴
 - preparation of an Archaeological Technical Report (ATR) which conforms to the Code of Practice;⁵ and
 - contextualisation of potential discovered sites within the intangible values of the cultural landscape through Aboriginal community consultation, in accordance with the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter*, 2013.⁶
- If no artefacts are found during the test excavation an addendum report summarising results, and Aboriginal community consultation undertaken, should be completed.
- Should Aboriginal objects be identified during test excavation, a whole-of-site AHIP should be sought under Section 90 under the NPW Act.⁷

10.2.2 Historical Archaeology

The development history of the study area suggests that it contained a suite of structures and potential features resulting from works relating to the police station and court house. The study area has been assessed as having the potential for historical archaeological relics of local significance for their historical, research and associative values relating to Taree Police Station.

The proposed construction of a police station, with associated earthworks, infrastructure and landscaping, would impact on significant historical archaeological remains and relics.

Potential development impacts to significant archaeological remains and relics could be managed and mitigated through a program of archaeological investigation and interpretation (if sufficiently intact significant archaeological remains were encountered). Impacts to historical archaeological relics require approval under the Heritage Act.

Required Historical Archaeological Management

- An application for an excavation permit under Section 140 of the Heritage Act should be submitted to the Heritage Division (as delegate of the NSW Heritage Council) for approval to disturb the site's historical archaeological relics.
- An Archaeological Research Design (ARD), detailing the proposed methodology for investigation and salvage of the historical archaeological resource, would need to be prepared and submitted to the Heritage Division with the Section 140 excavation permit application. This assessment should also be submitted as part of the application.
- The ARD should propose a strategic approach to the investigation of the historical archaeological resource in order to manage risks and delays over the course of the development program. The ARD should include a flexible archaeological methodology to respond to the needs of the construction program and provide contingency should more significant archaeological remains than expected be found.
- Works should be carried out in accordance with the conditions of the Section 140 excavation permit issued for the site.
- No excavation or other ground disturbance should occur in areas of archaeological potential prior to the issue of a Section 140 excavation permit for the proposed works. Section 140 excavation permits take approximately 4-6 weeks to obtain.

10.3 Recommendations

This heritage impact assessment has determined that the proposed demolition of the existing police station and the design of the new police station are acceptable. We recommend that the conditions of consent for the proposed development application include the following:

- A full Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment be undertaken prior to any demolition or excavation works commencing on site.
- Further archaeological investigations be undertaken and the archaeology of the site be managed in accordance with section 10.2 above. This will require development of an Archaeological Research Design (ARD), detailing the proposed methodology for investigation and salvage of the historical archaeological resource.
- An Interpretation Plan be prepared in consultation with the NSW Police and the local Aboriginal community to facilitate and implement appropriate interpretation of the heritage significance of the place to the local community of Taree and the local Aboriginal community on the site. This may include display of artefacts found on the site during the predevelopment investigations.

10.4 Endnotes

- ¹ Department of Environment Climate Change and Water (DECCW) 2010, 'Part 6—National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974', *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, Sydney.
- ² Department of Environment Climate Change and Water (DECCW) 2010, 'Part 6—National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974', *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, Sydney.
- ³ NSW Department of Environment Climate Change and Water (DECCW) 2010, *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*, Sydney.

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- ⁴ Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) 2010, *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, Sydney.
- ⁵ Department of Climate Change and Water (DECCW) 2010, *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal objects in NSW*, Sydney.
- ⁶ Australia ICOMOS Inc, *The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* 2013, Australia ICOMOS Inc, Burwood VIC, pp 1–10.
- ⁷ *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

11.0 Appendices

Appendix A

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Checklist

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Checklist for Development Applications

Please fill this form in electronically as there are hyperlinks within the text that will assist you to answer each of the questions.

Sections 7 and 8 of the NSW Government [Due Diligence Code of Practice \(DDCP\)](#) for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales can be used to assist you to complete this checklist.

Address of development:

79-83 Albert St Taree (Taree Police Station)

Yes	No	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>1. Is the development proposed in an Aboriginal Place (Declared by the Minister) or are you aware of Aboriginal objects on the land?</p> <p>If "No" proceed to 2 If "Yes" proceed to 6</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>2. Is the development determined to be of "low impact" in accordance with Clause 80B of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation?</p> <p>If "No", proceed to 3 If "Yes", no further assessment required</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3. Will there be ground disturbance or land clearance on previously undisturbed or uncleared land? Refer to Clause 80B of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation for a definition of disturbed land.</p> <p>If "No" no further assessment required If "Yes", proceed to 4</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>4. Conduct an Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) Basic Search, using a 200m radius through the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. Did the AHIMS Basic Search return any results indicating the existence of artefacts on the property or within a 200m radius? Please include a copy of your search results with this form.</p> <p>If "No", proceed to 5 If "Yes":</p> <p>(a) Contact the Purfleet-Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council (PTLALC) in writing (contact details for PTLALC are provided at the bottom of this checklist) and request written information about any known Aboriginal cultural heritage issues within the study area. Please include a copy of the PTLALC correspondence with this form.</p> <p><i>(Note: the PTLALC has 28 days to respond in writing to your request. If no response is received within 28 days, attach a copy of correspondence to the PTLALC with your application).</i></p> <p>(b) Request the AHIMS site card/s from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to gain further information about the identified object; and</p> <p>Proceed to 6</p>

Yes	No	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
✓		<p>5. Investigate Landscape Features. Is the project site within a landform or area that has potential for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage as follows:</p> <p>Within 200m of a natural body of water; or Located within a sand dune system; or Located on a ridge top, ridge line, or headland; or Located within 300 m below or above a cliff face; or Within 20m of or in a cave, rock shelter, or a cave mouth? If "No", no further assessment required. If "Yes", proceed to 6.</p>
	✓	<p>6. Determine in conjunction with the Purfleet-Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council (PTLALC) if harm and/or disturbance to the Aboriginal object/s can be avoided.</p> <p>If "No" proceed to 7. If "Yes", ensure that the statement of environmental effects (SEE) lodged with the development application includes the measures proposed to avoid harm to Aboriginal Heritage, and includes written confirmation on this from Purfleet-Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council (PTLALC). (Note: The PTLALC has 28 days to respond in writing to your request. If no response is received within 28 days, attach a copy of your correspondence to the PTLALC with your application.</p>
✓		<p>7. Employ an archaeological consultant to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application in accordance with the NP&W Act 1974. Contact Council's Regulatory Services Department and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage for more information before proceeding.</p>

Contact Details for Purfleet-Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council:

Telephone: 6552 4106

Address: Lots 1-3 Old Pacific Highway
Purfleet 2430

website: www.ptlalc.com.au

For assistance in completing this form, please contact our Customer Service Centre
between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday

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Gloucester | 89 King Street | PO Box 11 Gloucester 2422 | **6538 5250**
Taree | 2 Pulteney Street | PO Box 482 Taree 2430 | **6592 5399**