

<i>Month & Year of Topic</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Written & Spoken Presenters</i>
May 1998	Early Oatley Street Names Oatley East Oatley West	Betty Goodger Jan Crane Russell Gibbs

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MEETING OF THE OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP

Held on

FRIDAY. 22 nd MAY, 1998

PAPERS PRESENTED BY

RUSSELL GIBBS

MRS. JAN CRANE

MRS. BETTY GOODGER

ON THE TOPIC

" EARLY OATLEY STREETS AND THE NAMES"

(This is a paper from an unidentified writer apparently contributed for the subject 'Early Street Names of Oatley' meeting 1998.2 (May 1998)

OATLEY WEST.

In the 1880's Peasley, the bushranger (no relation to the Rosa Street Peasley's, the breadcarter) stole cattle and horses from local farms and concealed them in the gully down behind where the Oatley Bowling Club is today. These were then sold to butchers in the district. He lived in a cave at the top of Llewellyn Street. Police, following the cattle tracks to -his hideout, arrested him in the early 1900's.

In 1894, Mrs Saunders and family of "Demerara", 78 Woronora Parade, the only house in Oatley West at the time, held Sunday School and Church services. Ministers who visited and held the services there were Rev. M. Walker (Wesleyan), Rev. R. McKay (Presbyterian) and Rev. A. Killworth Church of England.

A settlement was established in Gungah Bay by the Wrights at the lower end of Waratah Street in 1910.

Oatley West Public School was opened in 1947. The original site gazetted in 1883 for a school in Oatley was a one acre block of land bounded by Acacia, Mi Mi and Woronora Parade. However, this did not eventuate and the land was later divided into building blocks and sold.

In 1888 Myles McRae owned 81 acres adjacent to Oatley Park (then named Peakhurst Park) and ran steers. His land was subdivided following World War I for War Service Homes.

Due to the efforts of the Oatley West Progress Association the road alongside Oatley Park was named Dame Mary Gilmore in a ceremony in 1954. Dame Mary attended and donated a seat bearing an inscription "Given by Dame Mary Gilmore - for tired people". This was placed in the shade of the Lone Pine.

OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP

"EARLY OATLEY STREET NAMES" -Submitted by RUSSELL GIBBS

IMAGINE BEING A MEMBER OF THE ABORIGINE PEOPLE OF THE GWEAGAL GROUP WHICH WERE PART OF THE EORA TRIBE OF SYDNEY REGION, AND YOU WERE FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN THE NOW KNOWN SUBBURB OF OATLEY. YOU WOULD BE HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED BY BUSHLAND AND ENORMOUS TREES. NO MATTER WHERE YOU STOOD THERE WOULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN A SMALL STREAM OF SOME SORT, DEPENDING ON THE SEASON, AND THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN PLENTY OF FOOD. NO MATTER WHERE YOU WERE PLACED THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN GULLIES, HILLS AND VALLEYS, AND AT THE NEARBY POINT, NOW OATLEY, THERE WAS THE CEREMONIAL GATHERING PLACEWHERE FEASTING AND CELEBRATIONS TOOK PLACE.

TO-DAY, STAND ANYWHERE IN OATLEY AND THE SAME CONTOURS OF LAND SURROUND YOU. NO MATTER WHICH DIRECTION, YOU CAN SEE THE ORIGINAL LAND FORMS WITH THE GULLIES , CREEKS AND HILLS WITH THE ROCKY OTCROPS WHICH DO NOT PERMIT EASY ACCESS, AND INDEED HAVE PREVENTED THE CONSTRUCTION OF STREETS.

300 ON THE 14TH OF OCTOBER, 1831 , JAMES OATLEY WAS GRANTED ~~64~~ ACRES OF LAND ADJACENT TO THE GEORGES RIVER. RENT TWO POUNDS AND TENS SHILLINGS. HE HAD TO CLEARAND CULTIVATE 38 ACRES AND MAKE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VALUE OF 50 POUNDS. EIGHT YEARS LATER IN 1839 JAMES OATLEY DIED AND THE LAND PASSED TO HIS SON, FFEDERICK OATLEY, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE FATHERS WILL. FREDERICK SOLD THE LAND TO CHARLES CECIL GRIFFITHS ON THE 23RD MARCH 1881 FOR THE SUM OF TEN THOUSAND POUNDS.

ABOUT THIS TIME, THE ILLAWARRA RAILWAY LINE WAS BEING SURVEYED, AND A SUBDIVISION PLAN WITH BUILDING ALLOTMENTS WAS MADE. NOW WE FIND THAT THE OFFICIAL TERMS OF GRANT INCLUDES A CLAUSE WHICH STATES THAT " ALL LAND WITHIN 100 FEET OF HIGH WATER MARK, ON THE SEA COAST, CREEKS, HARBOURS AND INLETS, ARE RESERVED FOR HIS MAJESTY". IN OTHER WORDS CROWN LAND. CHARLES GRIFITHS APPLIED FOR A RECISION OF THIS CLAUSE AND IT WAS GRANTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LAND TO BE SET ASIDE FOR THE RAILWAY, ROADS, AND APUBLIC RESERVE AT THE OATLEYS POINT. (WE CAN NOW VISIT OATLEY POINT AND REALISE THAT THIS WAS THE ORIGINAL LAND AREA)

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THE OATLEY ESTAE COMPANY WAS FORMED IN 1886, AND PLANS WERE PUT INTO PLACE FOR THE SELLING OF LAND IN THE AREA. IN VIEW OF THE PROPOSED RAIL LINE TO THE AREA GRIFFITHS WAS IN A GOOD POSITION. THE POPULATION OF OATLEY AT THE TIME , 1886, WAS ONLY NINE PERSONS. MORE I IMAGINE IF YOU WERE TO COUNT THE MANY FISHING AREAS OF TEMPORARY DWELLINGS IN THE NEVERFAIL BAY, OATLEY BAY AND GUNGAH BAY.

THE WHOLE OF THIS ILLAWARRA AREA WAS KNOWN AS THE PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, ^{COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND} AND THE HURSTVILLE MUNICIPALITY WAS NOT CREATED UNTIL 1887 , WITH THE KOGARAH MUNICIPALITY CREATED TWO YEARS EARLIER IN 1885.

THE AREA WHICH GRIFFITHS HAD PURCHASED FROM FREDERICK OATLEY WAS BOUNDED ON THE SOUTH AND EAST BY THE GEORGES RIVER, ON THE WEST BY WHAT IS NOW GUNGAH BAY ROAD, AND ON THE NORTH BY THE NOW HURSTVILLE ROAD AND BOUNDARY ROAD. THE NORTHERN AREA WAS HELD BY ROBERT TOWNSON, AND WEST OF GUNGAH BAY RD BY MESSRS FISHER; WHITE , AND STEWART. APPARENTLY LATER IT WAS OWNED BY A MR MCRAE WHO GAVE HIS LAND FOR THE PRESENT SANDY BEACH RESERVE.

THE OATLEY ESTAE STREETS WERE LAYED OUT ON A GRID WHICH DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE SURROUNDING AREA. EVEN TODAY, SOME OF THE ORIGINAL STREETS ARE NOT COMPLETE. THE WHOLE OF THE GUNGAH BAY VALLEY IS AN EXAMPLE. LETITIA STREET HAS TWO LEVELS. ~~AND SO ON.~~ AND SO ON. THE STREET PLAN WAS LAID OUT APPARENTLY IN ABOUT 1886 WITH THE FORMATION OF THE OATLEY ESTATE COMPANY , THE ORIGINS OF THE STREET NAMES ARE NOT KNOWN. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FREDERICK THEY ARE NOT OATLEY'S CHILDREN, AND NOTHING IS KNOWN OF THE GRIFFITHS FAMILY. AS THE MUNICIPALITIES OF HURSTVILLE AND KOGARAH WERE BARELY ESTABLISHED, IT SEEM UNLIKELY THAT THEY WOULD HAVE HAD VERY MUCH INPUT INTO THE NAMING OF THE STREETS.

THE ORIGINAL OATLEY RAILWAY STATION BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1892. THE LINE THROUGH OATLEY WAS RELOCATED IN 1905, FOLLOWING THE LINE DEVIATION BETWEEN MORTDALE AND COMO BRIDGE. THE ORIGINAL STATION BUILDING WAS REASSEMBLED ON THE NEW ISLAND PLATFORM. THIS WAS THE IMPETUS FOR THE NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF OATLEY. INCIDENTLY THE ORIGINAL STATION WAS KNOWN AS "OATLEY'S "

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AS STATED EARLIER, THE LAND GRANT TO JAMES OATLEY WAS MADE ON THE 31ST OF AUGUST, 1833 AND CONSISTED OF LAND IN THE PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND VOL. 882 FOLIO 112 AND AN AREA OF 300 ACRES.

LATER ON BEING SURVEYED IT WAS FOUND TO BE 634 ACRES. I AM NOT SURE IF CHARLES GRIFFITHS PAID ON THE BASIS OF 300 ACRES OR THE 634.

THE FIRST OFFICIAL SURVEYS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES, AS PER THE SURVEYS SHOWN ME BY KOGARAH COUNCIL;

HURSTVILLE MUNICIPALITY-	FEBRUARY	1889
	NOVEMBER ..	1904
	OCTOBER	1908
	SEPTEMBER	1911
KOGARAH MUNICIPALITY	JANUARY	1905
	DECEMBER	1905
	AUGUST	1906
	APRIL	1912

AS MOST OF THESE SURVEYS SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE AFTER THE REALIGNMENT OF THE RAIL LINE IT APPEARS THAT THE TWO MUNICIPALITIES WISHED TO ESTABLISH THE FIRM BOUNDARIES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS.

AS THE LAND GRANT TO JAMES OATLEY DID NOT GO PAST THE PRESENT STREET OF GUNGAH BAY ROAD, YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THE NAMES IN THE AREA ARE FOR PROMINENT PERSONS FROM VARIOUS WALKS IN LIFE. MOST OF YOU ARE AWARE THAT LLOYD STREET AND DOUGLAS HAIG STREET AREA WAS SET ASIDE FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS SETTLERS FOLLOWING WORLD WAR ONE.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE NAMES AND LOCATION OF THE EARLYSTREET NAMES.

ALGERNON STREET STARTED AT LETITIA STREET AND CONTINUED AROUND
OATLEY POINT UNTIL IT BECAME HERBERT STREET.

CLIFTON STREET CLIFTONS WER OATLEY IDENTITIES WHO LIVED IN ANNETTE ST

PHIPPS STREET OLD OATLEY IDENTITIES WHO LIVED IN ALGERNON ST.

DINJERRA CRESCENT LAND DEVELOPED BY A MR. WEST. THE WORD DINJERRA IS
AN ABORIGINAL VERSION OF 'WEST'

WYONG STREET ORIGINALLY CECIL ST.

CHARLES STREET FOR BOTH NAMES REFER CHARLES CECIL GRIFFITHSA
CHARLES ST. FROM OATLEY PARADE TO ANNETTE ST

ANNETTE ST STOPPED AT RUSSELLS STREET

RUSSELL ST FROM ROSA ST. TO KICHENER ST.

KITCHENER ST ORIGINALLY WILLIAM ST (POSSIBLY NAMED DURING WW1)

ASQUITH ST. ORIGINALLY ALICE ST. (POSSIBLY NAMED DURING WW1)

YARRAN ROAD BECAME RIVER ROAD (GUNGAH BAY VALLEY) AT NTH END

WARATAH ST BECAME BOORARA AVE AT STH END (s'be note below)

MYRTLE ST became LAROOL AVE AT THE EASTERN" END

OATLEY STATION ON THE ORIGINAL SITE WAS SITUATED ALMOST OPPOSITE THE PRESENT
OATLEY HOTEL. AND THE EXISTING RESERVE AS FAR AS THE
SCOUT HALL IN NEVILLE ST. WAS THE SITE OF THE RAIL LINE
AND IS NOW ALSO THE POSITION OF THE WATER PIPE LINE FROM
WORONORA. THE PRESENT RAIL LINE MARKS THE BOUNDARY OF
THE HURSTVILLE AND KOGARAH MUNICIPALITIES
BOORARA AVE SO NAMED BY ALD. HEDLEY MALLARD AS HE SAILED ON A SHIP OF THAT NAME
DURING WW1.
DOUGLAS HAIG ST. LLOYD ST. NAMED FOR PROMINENT PERSONS FOLLOWING WW1. LLOYD ST.
WAS ORIGINALLY LLOYD GEORGE ST. AFTER BRITISH P.M.
VICTORY ROAD. BETWEEN YARRAN RD AND LLEWELLYN ST. NAMED IN HONOUR OF WW11 VICTORY.
WINTER PLACE: MYRA PLACE: NEVERFAIL PLACE:- CREATED AS PART OF LAND DEVELOPMENT,
REASON FOR NAMES NOT KNOWN.

MAPS AND INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY

MRS.. JAN CRANE.

On the topic of

"EARLY OATLEY STREET NAMES"

In the advertisement dated 13th December 1890 provision had been made in the subdivision for a Church site and a School site, both on the western side of Woronora Parade. All Saints Anglican Church occupies the church site, but the school site was never used for a school. This was the only site set aside for a school in all of Oatley. There was a formal request in 1912 for a school in east Oatley, but the schools inspector involved considered that, as Mortdale School was less than a mile away it would suffice for Oatley children. It was not until 1926 that a site was provided in east Oatley. In the meantime the School of Arts in Letitia Street had been pressed into service. There are still (1999) some residents who remember attending this temporary educational body. When a school eventually was built in Oatley west in the mid 20th century it was located near Oatley Park.

The 1890 advertisement shows Oatley Parade in Oatley west. Two existing homes in Oatley Parade were demolished when the railway deviation to the west occurred, due to gradient problems, in the 1920's, after which Oatley Parade became part of east Oatley. We have to thank the new deviation for releasing land which became our beautiful parklands near the shopping centre.

The extreme northern end of YARRAN ROAD was swallowed up by the rail deviation and the remaining section north of MULGA ROAD was renamed RIVER ROAD. Which river is referred to here is a puzzle, as the street seems to be well away from any river. Perhaps it is a reference to the former creek, crossed by a wooden footbridge, which then flowed from the eastern side of the railway underpass down through Myles Dunphy Reserve, eventually running into the Georges River. The persistently boggy nature of the grassed area containing a stand of turpentine trees, between River Road and the railway line, indicates still the natural flow of water in the area.

At this stage it has not been possible to locate a source for the name WONOONA PARADE.

"Oatley Station" estate was actively promoted in 1908 on its proximity to the railway, "200 yds. from railway station", £1 per lot deposit and 10/- per month. The only pre-existing cottage and its outbuildings were severed by the subdivision, or had been built as a semi-detached house. The latter seems an astonishing idea given the wealth of land available for houses to be on their own separate blocks. The two buildings diagonally opposite each other on the corner of Wonoona Parade and Mi Mi Street were shops, one owned by the grandfather of Charles Small, Heritage Group member.

An advertisement for "Oatley's George's River" advises that "special trains will convey intending Purchasers direct to Oatley's Platform". James Oatley's grant appears here almost in its entirety, showing the railway line in its original position, which means this auction sale occurred prior to the 1920's. Once again the grid plan shows YARRAN ROAD and WARATAH STREET continuing across the plunging gullies between Mulga Road and Mimosa Street. These gullies have now become public reserves. The short street at the end of the headland has no name, but we know it now as SOUTHERN STREET - a name which needs no explanation as it is the southern most street in Oatley.

Street Names in Oatley West

Information received from *Gladwyn*, Hurstville Council's Local History Centre, indicates that no record of naming of streets has been kept as most developers make their own choices.

The only source available is a collection of land sale advertisements which are illustrated with subdivision plans. Not all of these have dates but they provide some points of interest.

In the 1880's in Australia a new phenomenon was "the Building, Land and Investment Company, through which the little man could invest his few pounds, along with the thousands of the merchants and the parliamentary representatives, in the 'great Australian hobby' of land speculation" (p.54 Joan Hatton and Lesley Muir). These companies would buy up property with the funds invested, subdivide it and advertise the blocks on easy terms for the working man. Some companies were honest, some were not, and both types blossomed during the land boom on the new Illawarra railway line. Previously, prospective buyers were required to travel from Sydney to Botany Bay and then by water, to Oatley, as the area was so inaccessible.

The earliest subdivisions for Oatley west were part of the original James Oatley Grant of 300 acres (1833) which later passed to Charles Cecil Griffiths. In east Oatley streets had been given names of members of the Griffiths family (see Betty Goodyer's contribution on this topic).

The two earliest advertisements proclaim "New Oatley Township", one dated 13th December 1890, the vendors being the National Building, Land and Investment Company. The majority of street names are those of Australian native plants - MULGA, MYALL MI MI, WARATAH, YARRAN, ACACIA, MYRTLE AND MIMOSA. During the lead-up to the Federation of Australia there was strong identification with being Australian, so native flora and fauna were often used as symbols of this connection. For example, many late-Victorian and early-Federation houses included kookaburras, lyre-birds, waratahs and so forth, in stained glass windows, plaster work or wrought iron railings, and this attitude may also have influenced the naming of these streets. Some slight changes to names have since occurred - MULGA STREET changed to MULGA ROAD and GUNGAH ROAD became GUNGAH BAY Road, "Bay" probably included because the road ran almost to the western tip of Gungah Bay.

There is no indication on these early plans whether the name WORONORA PARADE was intended to continue through to the end of the Gungah Bay headland as YARRAN ROAD AND WARATAH ROAD later did but, if so, WORONORA PARADE would have terminated at a point directly opposite where Woronora River feeds into the Georges River, giving a possible explanation for its name. It can be seen that grid street plans were designed in those times even when the terrain was too precipitous for some streets to proceed.

LLEWELLYN STREET would have received its name after WWI. At the end of 1916 the Allies rejected peace terms offered by Germany. To break the Allies sea power, Germany proclaimed that in 1917 it would sink all merchant ships on sight without warning, in order to both reduce the merchant fleet and make merchant seamen refuse to put to sea. During February and March a weekly average of 23 ships were lost and in April, 196 ships of nearly 600,000 tons were sunk. On the night of March 17th, during the Dover Raids, German destroyers and submarines sank the "Paragon" and damaged the "Llewellyn", which managed to survive. It would seem the street was named to celebrate the "Llewellyn's" good fortune.

Not only did steep gullies sever Yarran Road and Waratah Street at a point near Mimosa Street, but at their southern ends Llewellyn Street and Waratah Street were halted due to precipitous land. After WWII this separated section of Waratah Street was renamed BOORARA AVE at the suggestion of Oatley resident - and Hurstville mayor - Hedley Mallard, who had returned from war service on the military transport "Boorara".

VICTORY ROAD does not appear on this plan and was formed after the Second World War half way along the headland, to promote easier access.

The preceding land sales were all contained in James Oatley's original land grant which was bounded on the west by Gungah Bay Road. The remaining sales were of land further west.

In 1893 "splendid" building sites were offered with the great attraction "Oatley Park the southern sanatorium". However we can see on the subdivision the park clearly named Peakhurst Park, a name given at its proclamation, 29th May 1888. It was in fact not renamed Oatley Park until 1922. We see on the advertisement "in conjunction with Myles McRae", who is renowned as the builder of "Kintail" and subdivision of that property is still referred to as "McRae's Estate". He was a member of the Legislative Assembly and an inaugural member of both Hurstville and Kogarah Councils.

McRae was one of the trustees of the park and ran steers on 81 acres which he owned, having his sliprails near the top of Mulga Road. That land is, in fact, the subdivision shown here. The land had originally been obtained in 1859 by John W.A. White at "Lime Kiln Bay". It has proved difficult to trace White's identity. He appears not to be a member of the family of the well-known Surgeon John White, nor is there anything to connect him to the White family of grazing fame in the Hunter and Northern Tablelands areas. However, a group of Tamworth graziers had also sold land to a land and investment society in the vicinity of Hurstville, so White may have been one of that group..

OATLEY PARK ROAD appears as Peakhurst Park Road. There must have been much confusion with also a PARK AVENUE and PARK ROAD; later changes were made to the configuration of the streets due to the precipitous topography, and part of PARK AVENUE became RILEY STREET. An early dairy farm at Oatley on the corner of Letitia and Frederick Streets belonged to a Mrs. Riley, and there is a memorial to Annie Riley in St. Paul's Church of England at Oatley. The street name possibly commemorates this family. Confusion would have been reduced when PARK ROAD (bordering Oatley Park) was renamed DAME MARY GILMORE DRIVE - a seat near the entrance to the park was donated by her.

BAY ROAD is an obvious choice of name as the blocks on the lower side of the road back on to the headwaters of Lime Kiln Bay. WATERFALL ROAD is also an obvious name as the blocks on the lower side are shown in the vicinity of a waterfall. GLEN ROAD is self-explanatory, as it leads to the head of a narrow valley. As yet SEAFORTH AVENUE remains unexplained.

Heritage Group member Owen O'Brien recalls Waterfall Street being known as "the devil's hole". As a boy, Owen accompanied Ernie Lawson, the Postmaster, who was delivering mail there by pony cart. Owen's job was to hold the horse while Mr Lawson headed down the steep ground on foot.

The bay which contains the Sandy Beach swimming enclosure at Oatley Park bore the name BUDGERRIE BAY at that time.

Suburban lots then, were promoted by appealing to different aspects of life than today, when blocks in Oatley are valued most highly for water views and waterfronts. In 1893, Oatley Park Estate was presented as a healthy location "the Southern Sanatorium" "its gentle slopes" and "natural drainage - so essential in the preservation of health" - "dense foliage absorbs the salt moisture which proves so injurious to weak constitutions along the Eastern Suburbs". Except for those backing on to the upper reaches of Lime Kiln Bay, the blocks in this subdivision are, at 44ft. wide, considerably less than the 66ft. measurement which had been standard for Oatley. "In the 1890's when a ten year drought ruined rural industries, trade unions strikes undermined production, investment stopped, workers lost their jobs, and land prices crashed down to an all-time low", causing a period of depression (even referred to in the promotional material). Perhaps it was seen that it would be difficult to sell larger blocks at correspondingly higher prices.

The land shown as "Jew-fish" Point estate is part of the 123 acres originally obtained by Donnelly Fisher who was a successful solicitor from a legal family. He was educated in England. He gained a B.A. (1871) and an M.A. (1875) from Sydney University. He eventually became a partner in the firm in which he served his articles. He was a grandson of William Charles Wentworth and a grand-nephew of Dr Wardell LL.D., the latter being associated with Marrickville. Donnelly Fisher later became Commissioner for South Australia. At the time he obtained the land at Oatley in 1876 the railway line was already under development, so his was a good business decision for a young man of 25 years!

The Jew-fish Point estate promotion has no date but it is thought to have occurred around WWII. It is the last large subdivision in Oatley. In this advertisement blocks are being pushed as "commanding wonderful panoramic views". Gone is the familiar grid plan for the streets follow the contours. This process has particular appeal as, while making more sense topographically, it provides the developer with more blocks of land.

Sole agents for the estate included T M Burke, so BURKE STREET poses no problems in its naming. However, for some reason, most other streets seem to have been named after councillors of Hurstville Council. An A. FREEMAN (AVENUE) was elected to council in 1906, W. T. MACKEN (STREET) elected 1914, becoming mayor in 1921. E.H. BAKER (STREET) was elected 1914 and was mayor 1914, 1917, 1918 and 1922.

MARINE DRIVE is also self explanatory. There is no Raymond elected to council, but a clue may be found. RAYMOND (STREET) might be a misspelling of the name of two councillors: Alfred Rayment was elected 1922, while H.P. Rayment served 1942 to 1948, then 1951 to 1956 and again 1963 to 1966.

LANSDOWNE PARADE cannot be accounted for. There is no councillor called Lansdowne in Hurstville Council during the 108 years between 1897-1995, and no other source has presented itself. There is however a Lansdowne Street in the McRea Estate at Penshurst so it is a name undoubtedly connected with this district.

DOUGLAS HAIG STREET, SHORT STREET and McINTYRE STREET can be seen at the top of the advertisement. They, along with LLOYD STREET were part of Myles McRae's property which, after WWI were allocated for War Service homes, a few of which still stand today. This area was known as *The Soldier Settlement*. There is no advertisement available as these blocks would have been distributed by the War Service Homes Division. SHORT STREET is self-explanatory but no source for McINTYRE STREET has been discovered.

DOUGLAS HAIG STREET was, of course, named after the famous British field marshal, commander in chief of the British forces in France during most of World War I. The heavy battles of the Somme in 1916, fought at the insistence of the French with insufficient artillery and ammunition led, however, to the wearing down of German forces, and their eventual weakening and defeat in 1918. This enhanced Haig's prestige. He was supported by King George V who proclaimed him field marshal in 1916. He was in command at that time of the largest British army that had ever taken the field. Dogged by problems of supply, organisation and training he also had to deal with politicians such as Lloyd George who did not always give support. After the war Haig undertook the welfare of ex-servicemen, organising money collection, and travelling the British Empire in order to improve their circumstances.

Now called LLOYD STREET, it is said that this street was originally LLOYD GEORGE STREET. Lloyd George was Minister for Munitions, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, during WWI. Although there were gloomy forecasts of financial breakdown at this time, he placed British finance in a solid position. There was a great problem of lack of armaments at the front so Lloyd George, as Minister for Munitions, used his powers of oratory and organisation to spur on private armament firms and rally a huge army of workers, leading Britain to victory in what seemed the greatest war of all. Douglas Haig and Lloyd George were two of the leading figures contributing to the success of WWI, one on the political front, the other in the field of war. It is fitting then that their names should be so combined for these two streets. Oddly enough, they were not in agreement. Lloyd George pressed for a unified command of the Allies' armies, a view met with steady resistance from the high military command whose leaders, including Sir Douglas Haig, he profoundly distrusted.

It is well known that our suburb was named after James Oatley who obtained the first grant here. However, he never lived here, preferring to live on his farm at what is now Beverly Hills. As for Charles Cecil Griffiths whose development plans transformed virgin bush to populated suburb, well, his name barely survives today. Only one third of Charles Street was

OATLEY STATION ESTATE OATLEY

20 CHOICE RESIDENTIAL SITES 200 Y^{DS} FROM RAILWAY STATION

Also a * **BRICK COTTAGE**

FOR AUCTION SALE ON THE GROUND **SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH 1908.**

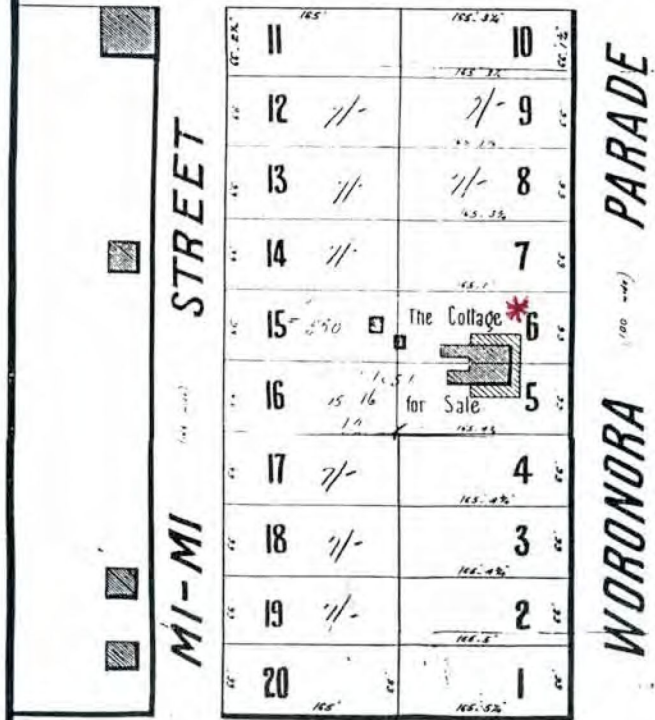
at 3 P.M.

The cottage and its outbuildings were severed by the subdivision

ARTHUR RICKARD & CO. LTD

Auctioneers & Realty Specialists.
84 B PITT ST.

WOONOONA PARADE



Torrens Title.

Terms

For Land.

£1 PER LOT DEPOSIT &
10/- PER MONTH
Interest 5 per cent.

for Cottage

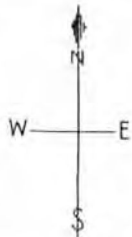
Easy terms announced at sale.

Building Covenant
for protection of Buyers

Buyers need not build or fence, but any building erected on the Estate must be of a value of not less than £150, and when building is erected the Land must be fenced.

To Station 200 Yards
STREET Oatley Station

L. A. Curtis.
Licensed Surveyor under R.P.A.
Australasia Chambers
MARTIN PLACE



This lithograph is subject to Deposited Plan.



NEW OATLEY TOWNSHIP

PLAN OF SUBDIVISION OF PART OF JAMES OATLEY'S 300ac. GRANT

Dated the 31st August 1833. at OATLEY

PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, 11 MILES ON THE ILLAWARRA RAILWAY.

Price from £10 per block. **TITLE TORRENS' ACT.**

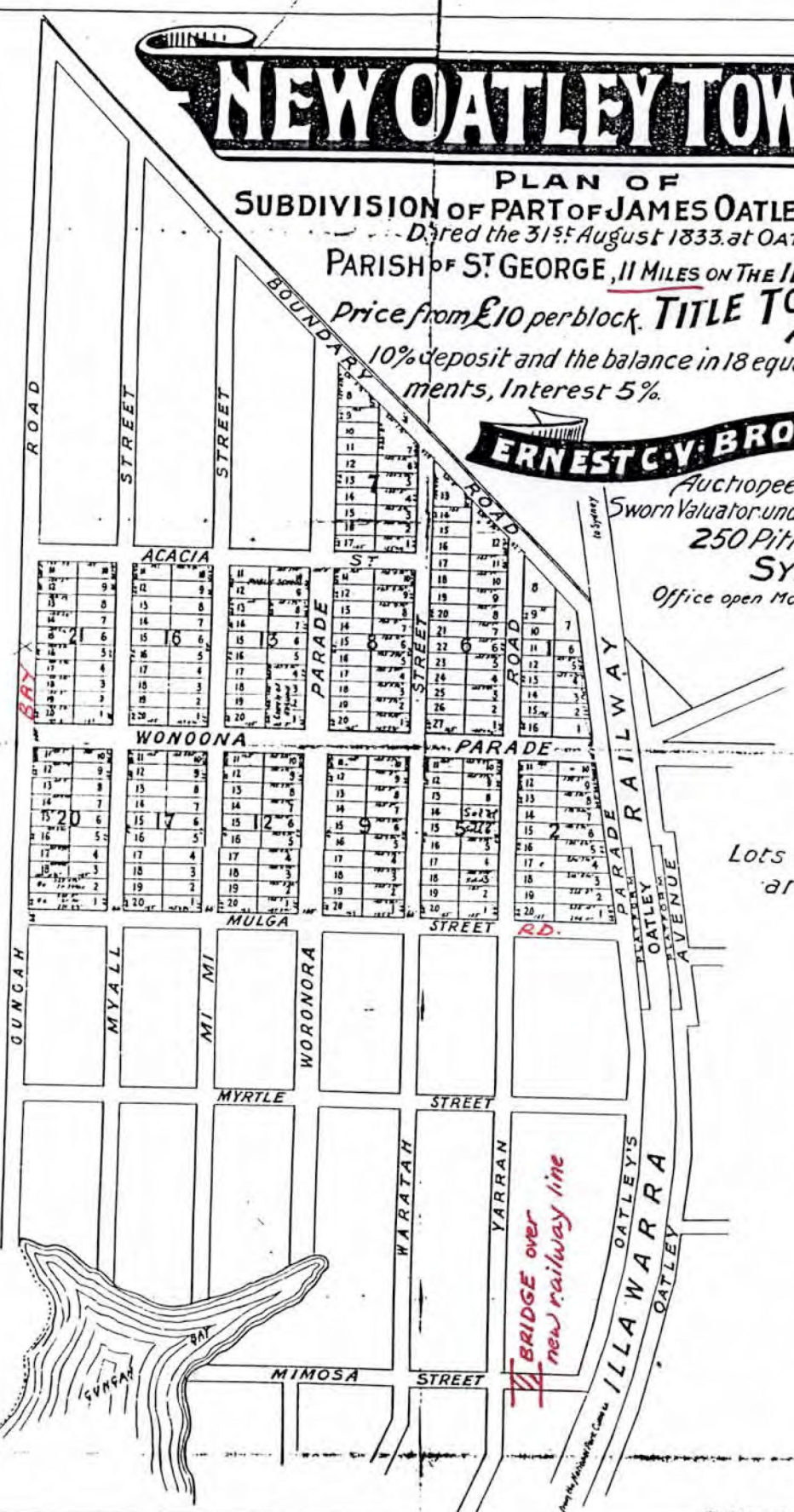
10% deposit and the balance in 18 equal monthly payments, Interest 5%.

ERNEST C. V. BROUGHTON

Auctioneer and Sworn Valuator under the Real Property Act.

250 Pitt Street, SYDNEY

Office open MONDAY till 9 p.m.



Lots colored red are sold.

N13/12

JEW-FISH POINT ESTATE OATLEY

363 Magnificent Residential Sites
Commanding Wonderful
Panoramic Views

SOLE AGENTS
T.M. BURKE
19 Castlereagh St
Sydney

W.J. NAUGHTON
251 George St, Sydney

— AND —
M.S. TRELLOGEN
113 Pitt St, Sydney

TERMS
Nominal Deposit
Plus Government Stamp Duty
— and Payments —
extending over 5 Years
— interest 6% —
on outstanding Balance

STAMP DUTY ON CONTRACTS
In accordance with the Stamp Duties Act
(1915) every agreement for the Sale or
Conveyance of Property in New South Wales
is subject to the duty which is levied on the
agreement with the Government duty.
Stamp to follow a
Contract to be made immediately after the
date of the Stamp Duty and to be paid in
advance from contract a heavy penalty

**TORRENS
TITLE**

*only one
house standing



Solicitors to Estate
Messrs Laurence & Laurence
Bank of New Zealand Chambers
George St, Sydney

Designed & Surveyed
by
Messrs Farley & Farley
Licensed Surveyors
251 George St
Sydney

All Measurements & Easements subject to Deposited Plan

F. Cunningham & Co. Ltd., Litho, Sydney

- A. Freeman elected to Hurstville Council 1906
- W.T. Macken " " " " 1914, Mayor 1921
- E.H. Baker " " " " 1914, Mayor 1914, 1917, 1918, 1922

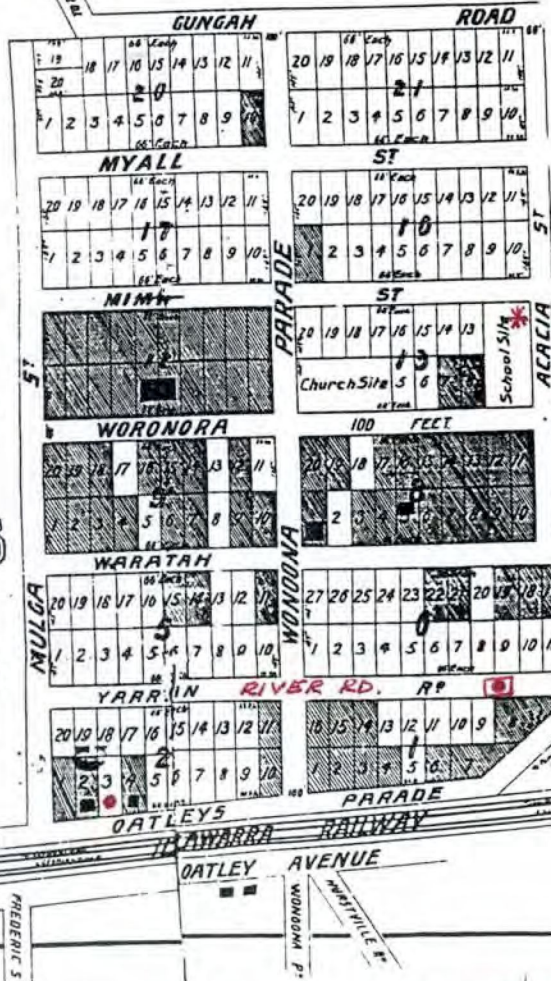
NEW OATLEY TOWNSHIP

AUCTION SALE SATURDAY DECEMBER 13TH 1890.

WATKIN & WATKIN AUCTIONEERS 313 PITT ST SYDNEY

TERMS
 \$5. PER LOT
 DEPOSIT &
 15% PER MONTH.
 INTEREST
 ON HALF YEARLY
 BALANCES

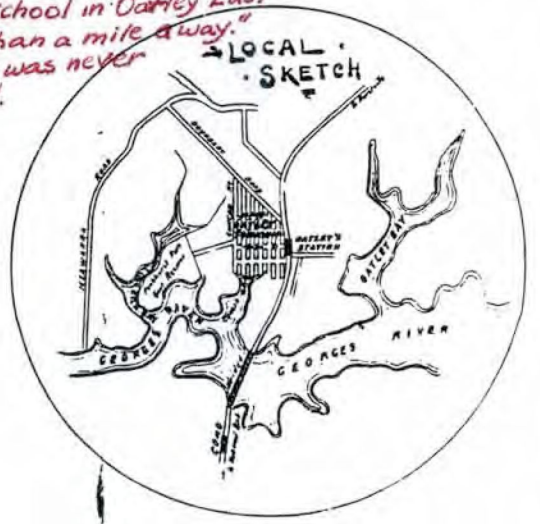
**TORRENS
 TITLE
 SHADED LOTS
 ARE SOLD**



** The only site chosen for a school in Oatley East School in Oatley. In 1912 a request for a school was refused as "Mortdale school was less than a mile away." The site shown here was never used for a school.*

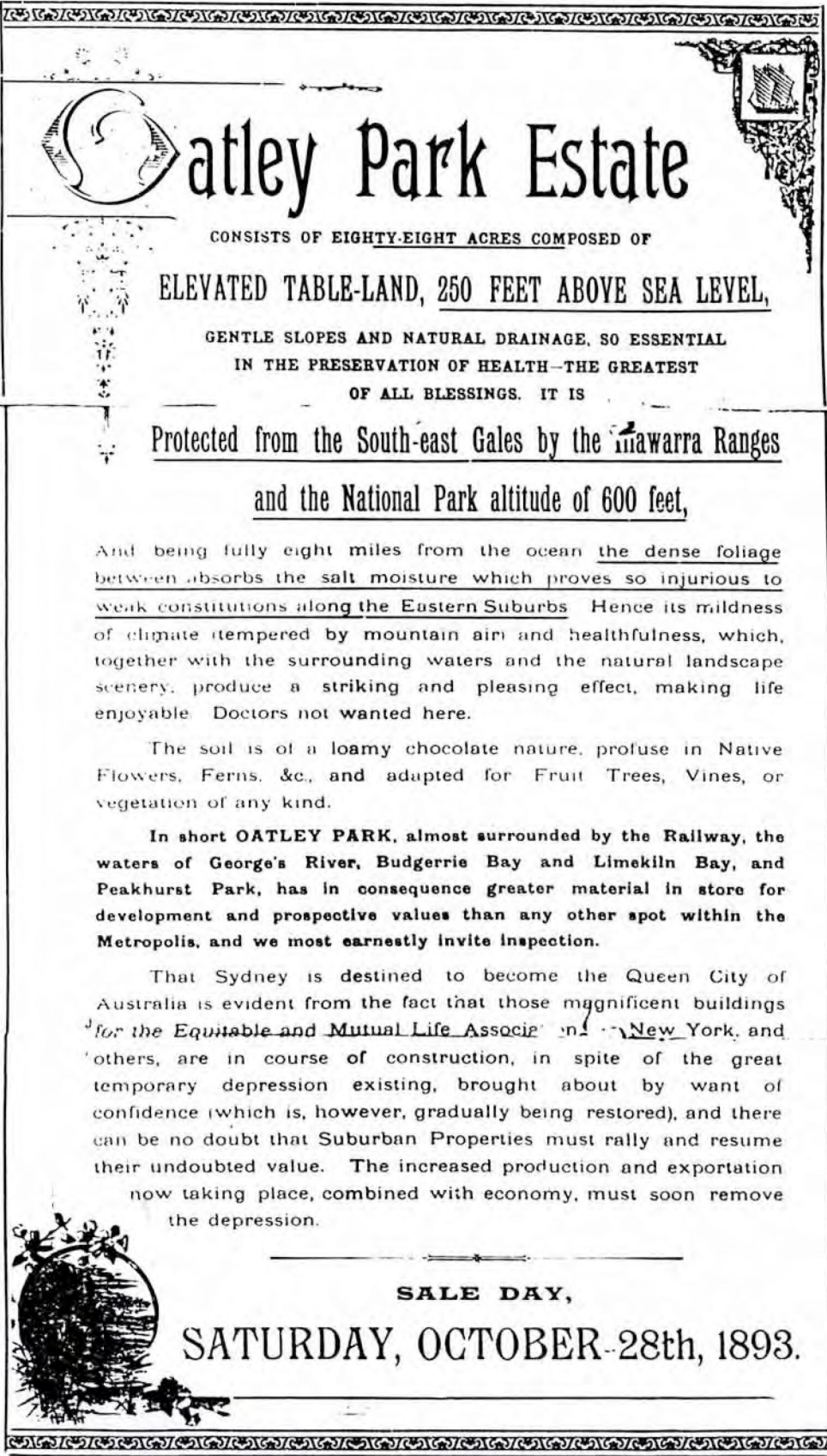
VENDORS


THE
**NATIONAL BUILDING LAND & INVESTMENT
 COMPANY LTD 250 PITT ST**
 JAMES A. TODD, MANAGER



• These 2 houses were demolished when the railway deviation occurred locating the railway on the west of Oatley Pde.

The northern end of Yarran (River Rd) disappeared also.





Oatley Park Estate

CONSISTS OF EIGHTY-EIGHT ACRES COMPOSED OF

ELEVATED TABLE-LAND, 250 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL,

GENTLE SLOPES AND NATURAL DRAINAGE, SO ESSENTIAL
IN THE PRESERVATION OF HEALTH—THE GREATEST
OF ALL BLESSINGS. IT IS

Protected from the South-east Gales by the Hawarra Ranges
and the National Park altitude of 600 feet,

And being fully eight miles from the ocean the dense foliage
between absorbs the salt moisture which proves so injurious to
weak constitutions along the Eastern Suburbs Hence its mildness
of climate tempered by mountain air and healthfulness, which,
together with the surrounding waters and the natural landscape
scenery, produce a striking and pleasing effect, making life
enjoyable. Doctors not wanted here.


The soil is of a loamy chocolate nature, profuse in Native
Flowers, Ferns, &c., and adapted for Fruit Trees, Vines, or
vegetation of any kind.

**In short OATLEY PARK, almost surrounded by the Railway, the
waters of George's River, Budgerrie Bay and Limekiln Bay, and
Peakhurst Park, has in consequence greater material in store for
development and prospective values than any other spot within the
Metropolis, and we most earnestly invite inspection.**

That Sydney is destined to become the Queen City of
Australia is evident from the fact that those magnificent buildings
for the Equitable and Mutual Life Association in New York, and
others, are in course of construction, in spite of the great
temporary depression existing, brought about by want of
confidence (which is, however, gradually being restored), and there
can be no doubt that Suburban Properties must rally and resume
their undoubted value. The increased production and exportation
now taking place, combined with economy, must soon remove
the depression.

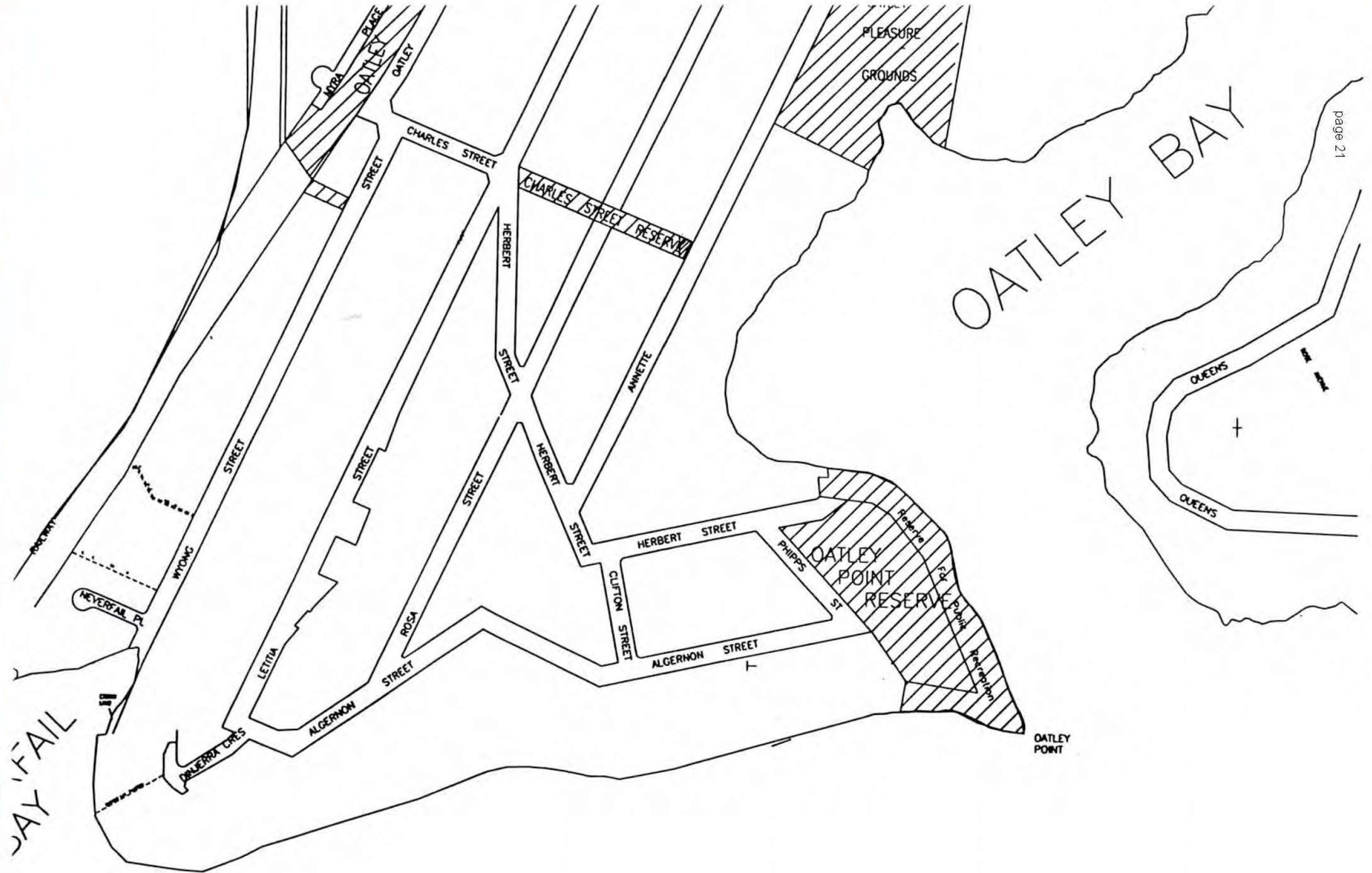
SALE DAY,

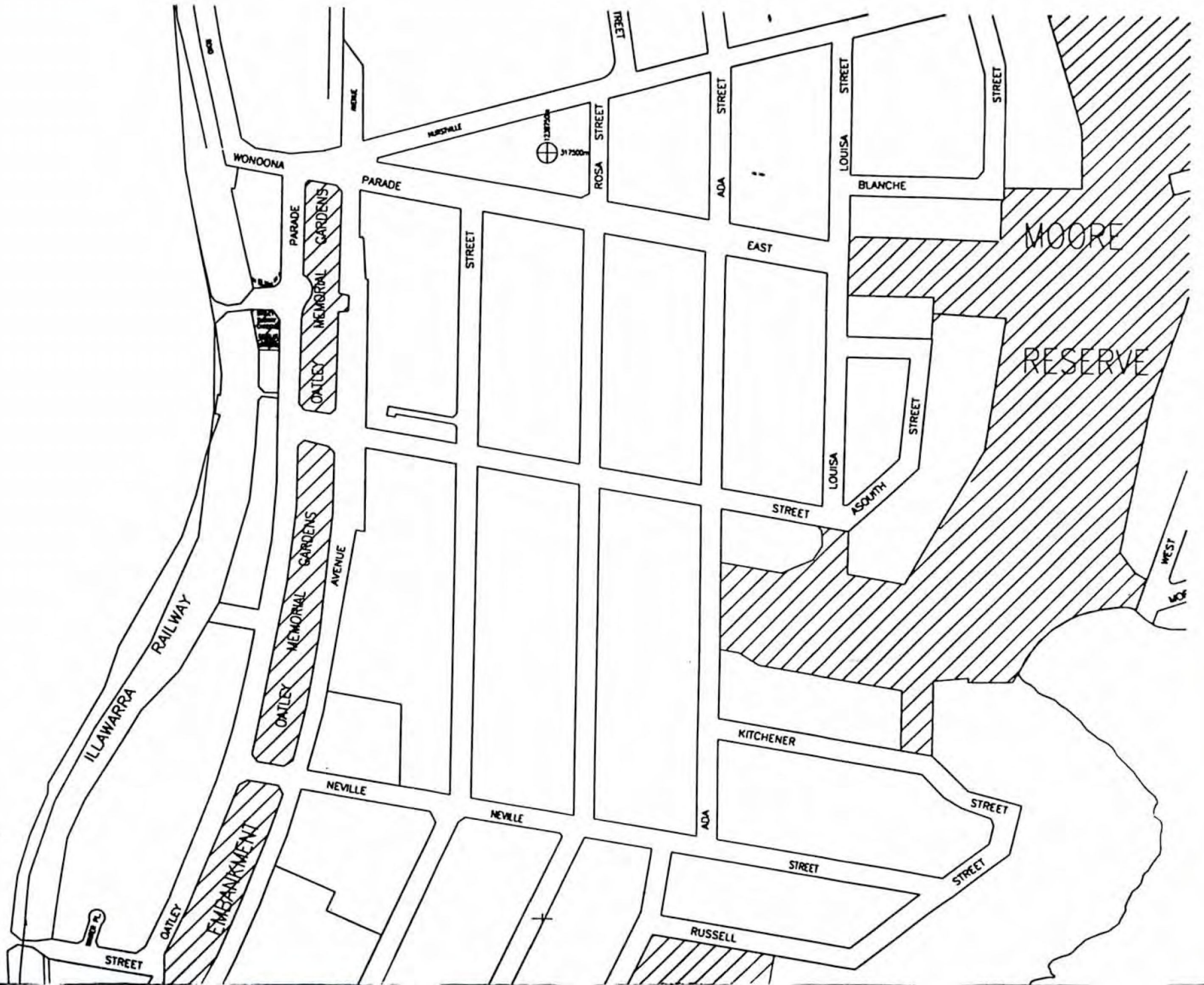
SATURDAY, OCTOBER-28th, 1893.



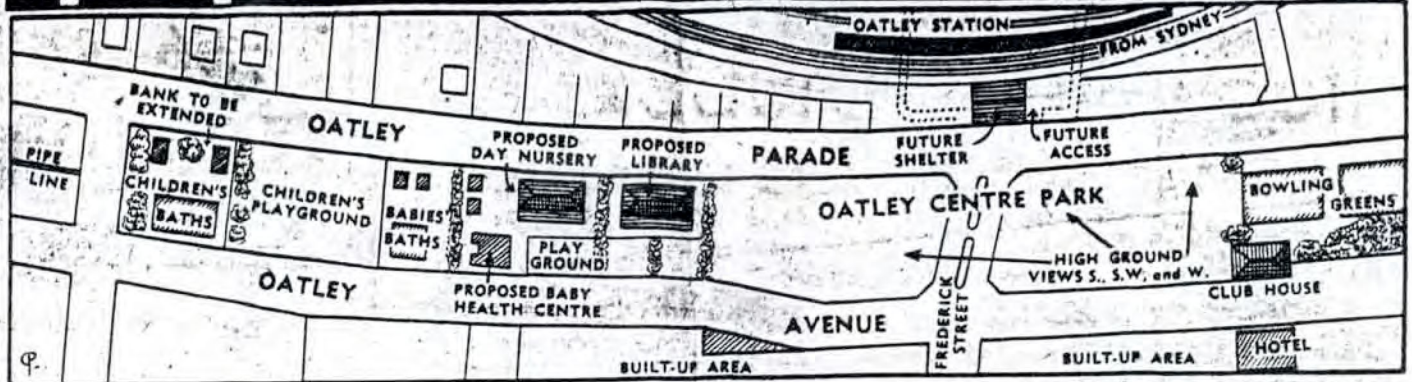
6
HIRSVILLE

See Plan and Local Sketch on other side.





Sydney's first collective centre under way



Plan of the proposed new Oatley Co-operative Community centre—the first of its kind in Sydney. The State Government Co-operative Advisory Council has recommended the setting up of such centres throughout the State.

Club houses, baths, health centres in big community plan

SYDNEY'S first co-operative community society—Oatley Community Co-operative Ltd.—will be registered soon.

It will establish health and recreation centres, library, day nursery, £8000 baby health centre, bowling green, croquet lawn and club-house.

A board of seven directors has been formed. Organiser is Mrs. A. B. York, secretary of the George's River District Co-operative Building Society, Ltd.

Establishment of such centres was recommended to the State Government this week by the State Government Co-operative Advisory Council.

Kogarah Council, Baby Health Centre Organisation, Day Nursery Association, Free Library Movement, Free Children's Library and Crafts Movement, local progress associations and the local branch of the RSL have been asked to take part.

The plan is to operate in a manner similar to co-operative building societies.

Old rail line

Mrs. York said it was hoped to use portion of the old railway line adjoining Oatley-parade.

It formerly belonged to the Railway Commissioner, but had since been handed over to the Kogarah Council.

The scheme, which aims at developing community spirit, provides for:—

- Both children's and babies' baths, and a playground complete with swings, see-saws, sand-trays and all modern playground equipment.
- An up-to-date Baby Health Centre, a day nursery and a library, each under the control

of the organisation directly interested in such undertakings.

- Two large park areas.
- A bowling green and croquet lawn, with a community club house available to all organisations taking part in the scheme and equipped with a theatre for the showing of documentary and educational films.

The society will be registered with the State Registrar of Co-operative Societies, A. B. Sheldon, who said the Co-operative Advisory Council was now advocating the establishment of such centres.

SENATOR SAYS ALL SHOULD RETIRE AT 45

ALL workers should be permitted to retire from industry at 45, said Senator Large last night.

Both he and Mr. D. Mulcahy, MHR, supported pleas for increases in old age and invalid pensions.

"What's the good of talking about the new order if old and invalid people have to live in perpetual fear of tomorrow?" asked Senator Large.

"If workers could retire from industrial activity at 45 it would wipe out acquisitiveness, which is the curse of civilisation, and the cause of most domestic and all national and international troubles."

All pensions, including those of Service personnel, will be reviewed next January, said Mr. Mulcahy.

school
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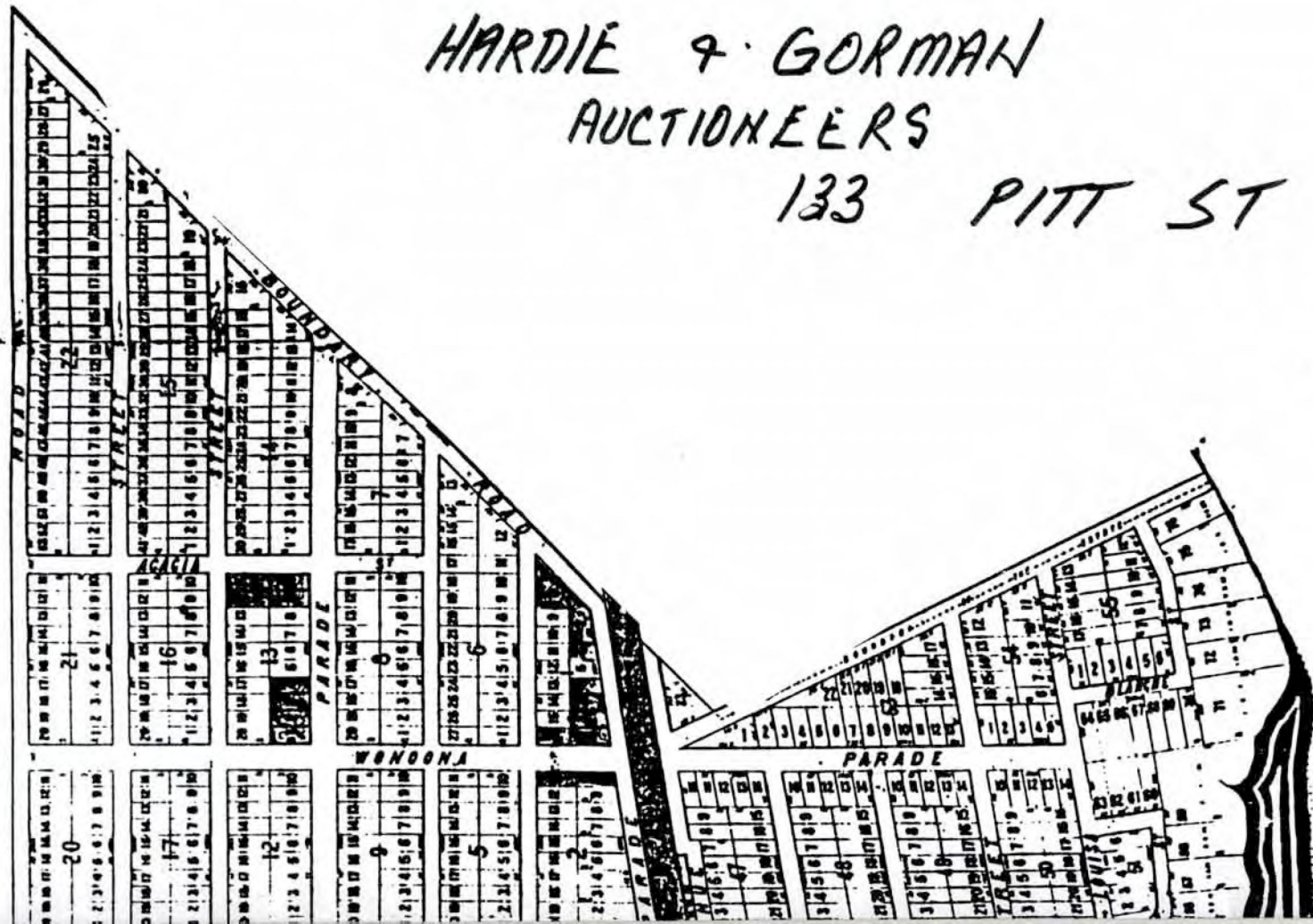
THIS IS THE PLAN OF LAND OFFERED FOR SALE
BY MRS. CECIL BRIFFITHS "DARLEY ESTATE COY" FORMED 1886

DARLEY'S . GEORGES RIVER

HARDIE & GORMAN

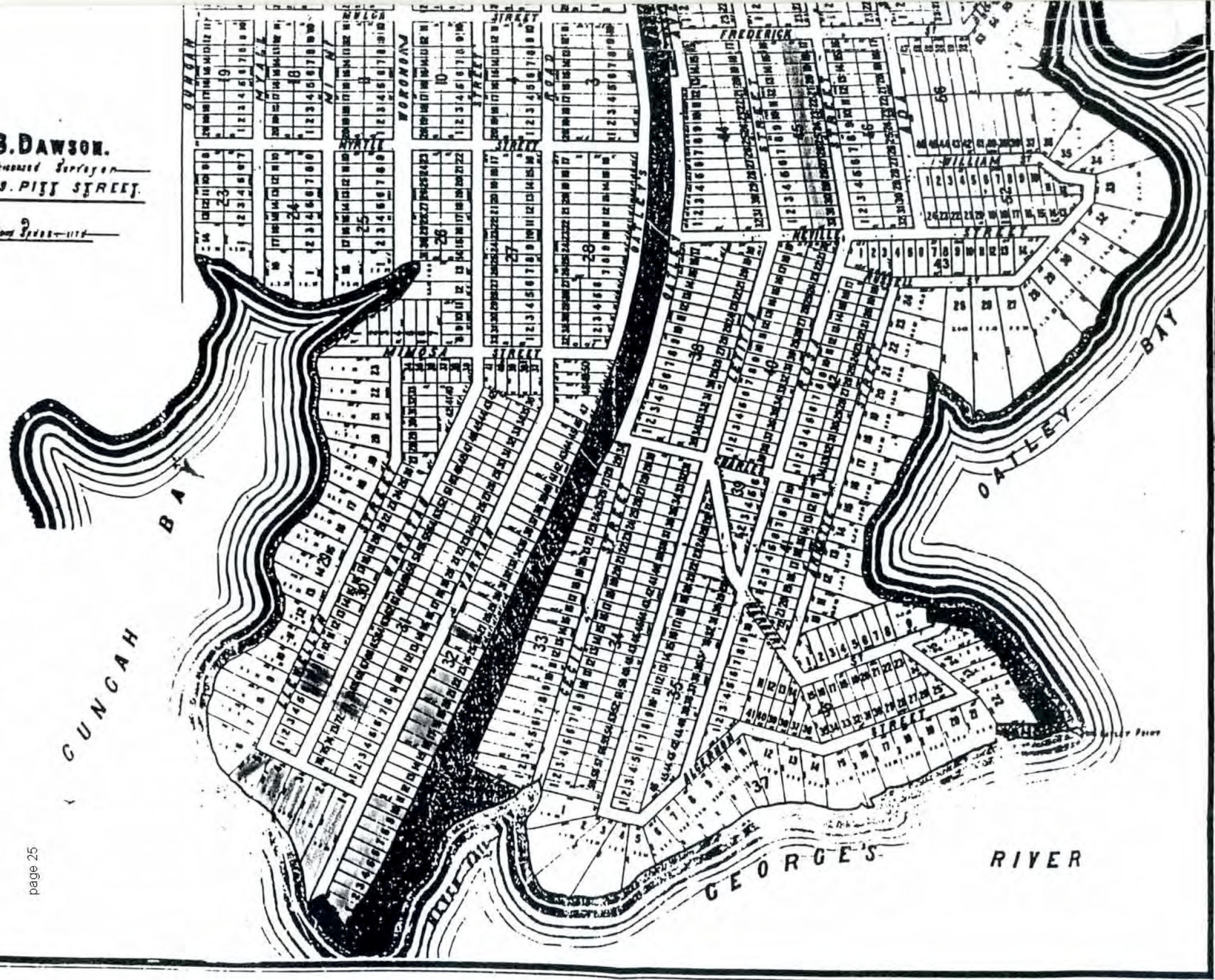
AUCTIONEERS

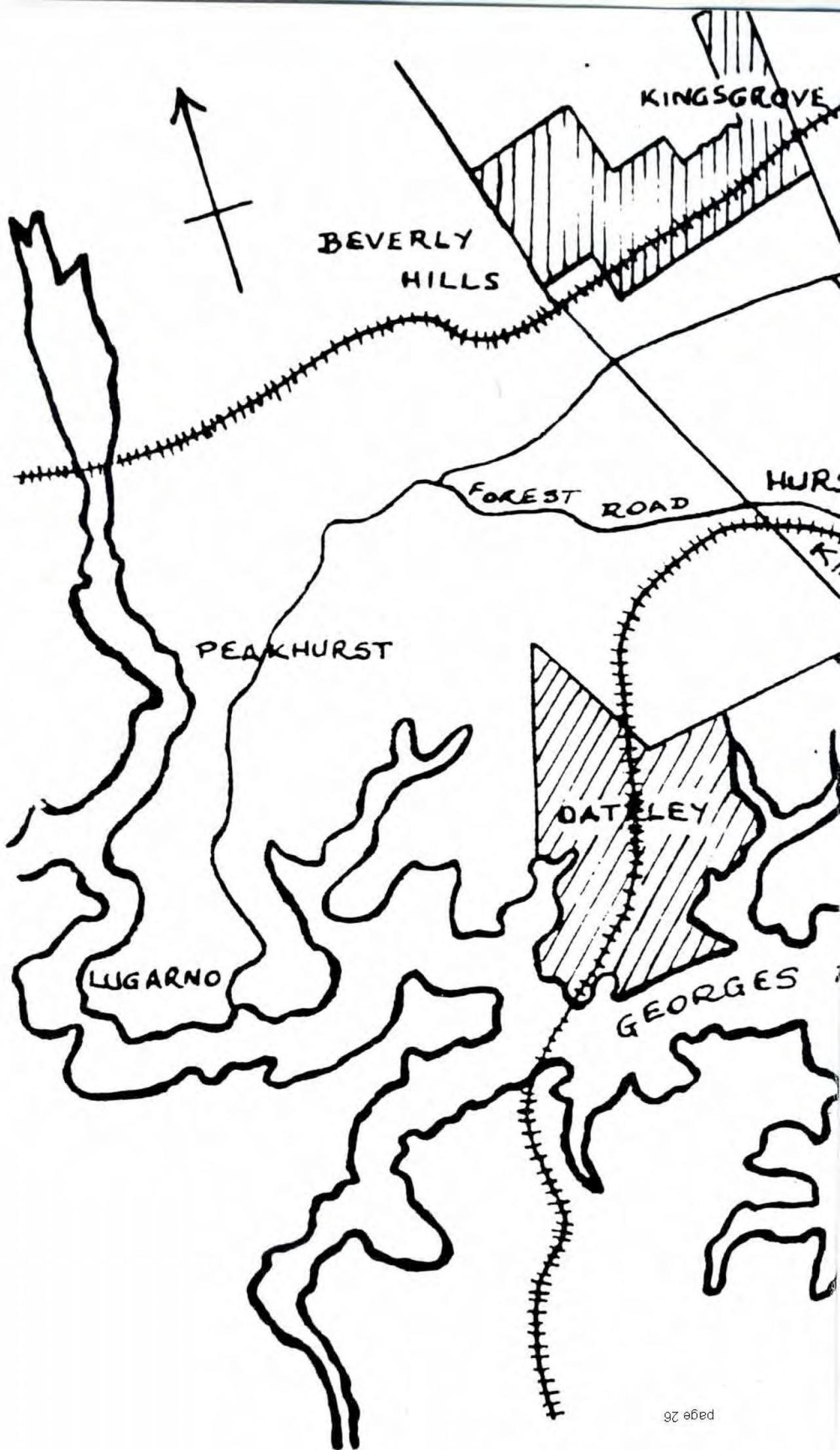
133 PITT ST

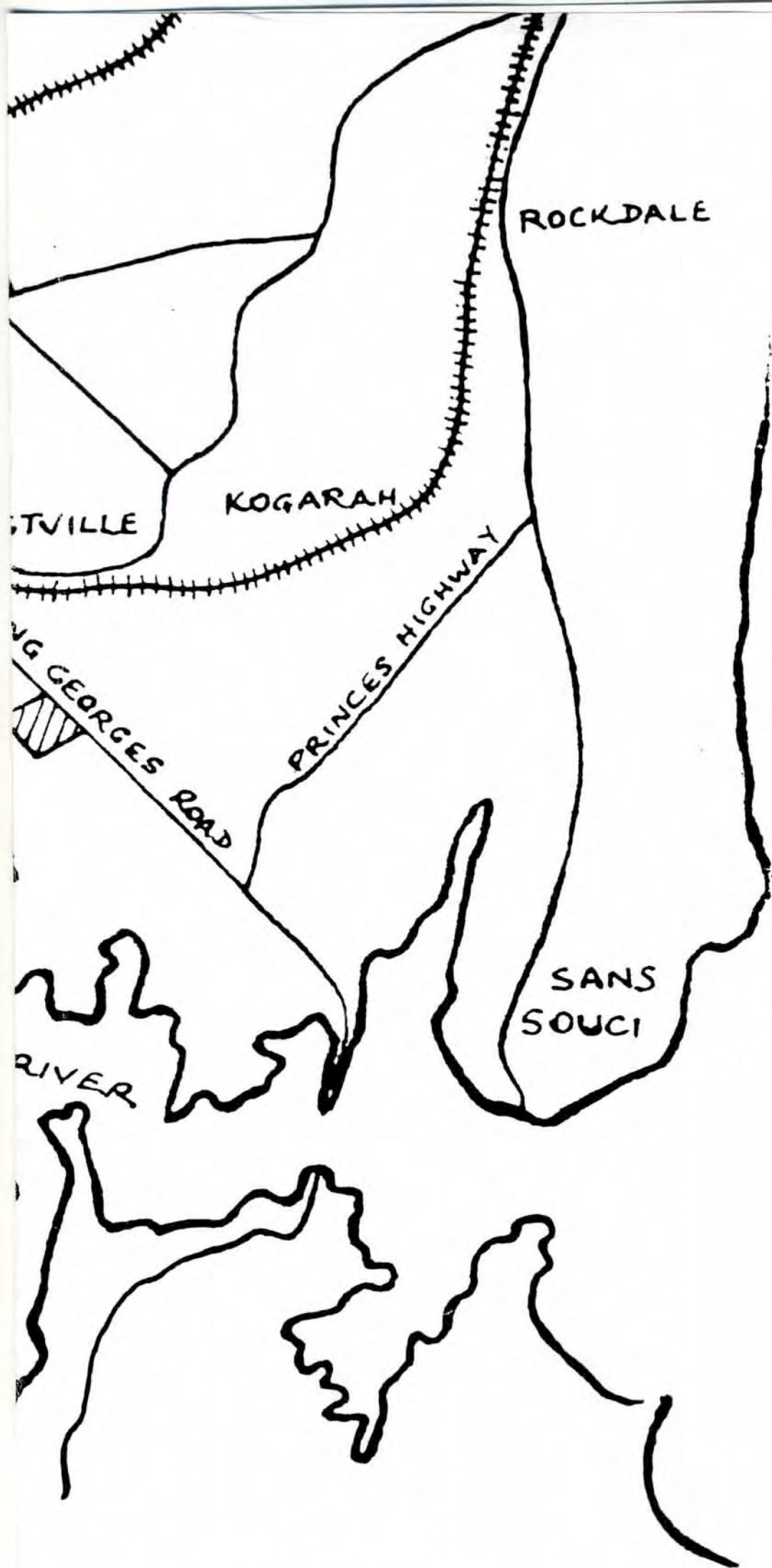


J. B. DAWSON.
— Surveyor —
139. PITT STREET.

— Jan 22nd 1874 —







REPORT TO OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP FRI. 22 May 1998

I submit these notes for the discussion on "Early Oatley Street Names". My research is not yet complete, but I am sure that my findings so far, will be of interest to the Group.

B. GOODGER

STREET NAMES IN OATLEY

BY B. GOODGER

Street names often hint at a good story and their origin may unfold something of our history.

There was an interesting article on Oatley in Jewel's magazine for the Spring Quarter of 1993 p.58 (Step back in history by Debra Banks) but, unfortunately it contained an error. It stated :

"Street names in the area derived from the names of his [James Oatley's] children, Frederick, Rosa, Letitia, Herbert, Ada and Algernon."

Not so! James Oatley and his wife, Mary, had four sons, Robert, James, Frederick and George and a daughter, Emily.

Only James, Junior, and Frederick married to leave descendants. Robert never married and George died in infancy.

James Oatley died in 1839. Of his property in the St George district, James, Junior inherited Snugsborough Park, (modern day Beverley Hills) and Frederick, Needwood Farm, the land that became the suburb of Oatley.

James Oatley (1817-1878) became a coachmaker and a public spirited citizen, becoming Mayor of Sydney in 1862 and serving as a member of the Legislative Assembly 1864-1869. He married Eleanor Johnson. They had nine children :

Frances M.
Josephine
James Napoleon
Maria Louise
William Kelsey
Robert Campbell
Sydney Charles Alfred
Albert
Frederick Thomas Henry.

Frederick carried on his father's watchmaking business in George Street. He married Jane Weedon and they had ten children :

James Thomas
 Frederica Mary
 Alfred Weedon
 Jessie Jane
 Edwin Ernest Allen
 Florence
 Mary Elizabeth
 Frederick Augustus
 Edith Constance
 Heerbert Henry

Frederick died in 1890. He had already sold the land at Oatley to Charles Cecil Griffiths in 1881.

"In 1881 Frederick Oatley sold the 121 hectares to Charles Cecil Griffiths for £10,000. Oatley's Estate Co Ltd was formed and administered by Griffiths and Co, merchants and importers of 10 O'Connell Street, Sydney and the land was subdivided into quarter acre blocks on neatly planned streets bearing family names."

(Oatley. The Working Man's Paradise, by Elaine Howard. 1979 p.17)

"The estate remained intact until March 1881, when it was sold to Charles Cecil Griffiths for £10,000. A subdivision plan for 1400 residential blocks was issued in 1883, the first release in this area for residential development. The carefully planned streets were named after members of the Griffiths family or after Australian plants."

(Development of the suburbs Peakhurst, Penshurst, Mortdale & Oatley, by D.J.Hatton. 1981 p.10)

Charles Cecil Griffiths soon transferred part of the deal to his brother, George Neville Griffiths on June 24, 1885.

The railway reached Hurstville in 1884 and Georges River in 1886.

It is worth reading parts of The Hurstville Story by Pedr Davis for comments such as :

"Engineering tests were made but it soon became clear that ~~the~~ actual routing of the train line was more a political than an engineering decision."

and

"Griffiths knew that surveys were being done for the proposed Illawarra railway line and after the route was announced, he shrewdly outlayed a further £300 and acquired 35 acres of choice waterfront land around Gungah, Neverfail and Oatley Bays."

The name Griffiths survives in GRIFFITHS STREET to the west of Wonoona Parade.

Is it a coincidence that Charles Cecil's brother, George Neville Griffith, was a member of the Legislative Assembly 1882-1885?

Davis also comments :

"The timing was perfect - suggesting that Griffiths knew the decision makers - for the sale almost coincided with the construction of Oatley's first railway station."

The original Oatley's Platform, now buried under Oatley Memorial Gardens, faced CECIL STREET until 1905. Cecil Street is now Oatley Avenue.

Once the railway reached Oatley, the land was subdivided and the streets named.

From subdivision maps I found the following 13 street names in 1886:

north to south, girls' names -

Letitia
Rosa
Ada
Annette
Louisa
Blanche

east to west, boys' names -

Frederick
Neville
Charles
Herbert
Algernon
Russell
William

In a 1906 subdivision map I also found Alice Street.

"An Early Map of Oatley showing streets planned by Griffiths & Co about 1890" shows a larger area and adds a few more names that are significant, George and Richard, though these have not survived to today.

THE GRIFFITH FAMILY

George Richard Griffiths (1802- 1859) was a banker, merchant and commission agent who came to Sydney in 1839. He lived at Orwell in Woolloomooloo and then at Clarens, Potts Point. In 1836 he married Laetitia, daughter of Samuel Chatfield of Surrey. They had eight sons and three daughters :

Frederick . Close	born	1838	
George Neville		1840	in Sydney (297/24)
Charles Cecil		1842	(338/26)
Letitia F.		1843	(2558/27)

William Russell	born	1845
Stanley		1849 (269/34)
Herbert Tyrell		1853

There are two sons and 2 daughters I have not yet found.

FREDERICK CLOSE GRIFFITHS (1838-7/9/1907) married ANNETTE Agnes Willis. They had two children, Gwyneth A.L., born 1885 (226) and Gwendolyn W. born 1886 (21686)

GEORGE NEVILLE GRIFFITHS (1840- 28/4/1905) married ADA Frances and had seven **children** :

Agnes LETITIA	born	1875 (75/00957)
FREDERICK Guy		1876 (76/02572)
ADA Violet		1878 (78/00811)
Noel Eve		1880
John NEVILLE		1881
Florence D		1883
Hugh		1885

CHARLESCECIL GRIFFITHS (1842-1908) (3912) married in 1871 in Melbourne, Fanny LOUISA Vester Tracy. They had four children :

Cyril Tracy	born	1873 in Melbourne.	He died in 1922 as a Lt. Colonel. He is noted as grazier and soldier.
Owen Rhys		1876 (76/01260)	
Ruby Cecil		1878 (78/00487)	She married Mr Pilcher.
Gladys Mary		1879 (79/03497)	She married Mr Lawson.

I have not yet completed my research. I have not yet identified Algernon, Blanche or Rosa. But I am hopeful that I will find that the children of some of the other five brothers or the 3 daughters, may include these names.

NOTE ON GRIFFITH BROS

The records of Griffiths Bros Pty Ltd 1890-1913 are held in Canberra in the National Business Archives of the Australian National University. I have not yet been to Canberra to use them.

Anyone who travelled by steam train will remember the signs along the railway line - X miles to Sydney and Griffiths Tea. It was wonderful advertising gimmick.

Griffith Bros, under various names, have been in business since about 1877 I traced the Griffiths family and businesses through Sands Directory of Sydney from c.1873 to 1929. Griffiths and Co were operating in 1877, as a bonded store and F.G. & C.C.Griffiths as merchants. In 1885 Griffiths & Co were listed as general merchants and importers. Griffiths and Weaver were stock and station agents. In 1893 C.Cecil Griffiths was listed as a sharebroker and manager of Oatley's Estate Co Ltd and Griffiths Bros as tea merchants. Griffiths Bros continued so till 1929, and probably later.

Although no longer in the Sydney telephone book, they are still in the tea business I was recently served a tea bag of "Griffiths Tea ... specially selected and packed by Griffiths, Australia's oldest operating Tea Company,

established 1879." The business address is Oasis Griffith & Co Pty Ltd, Victoria.

REFERENCES

JEWEL (magazine) Spring Quarter 1993 p. 58 Step back in time by Debra Banks

Mr Oatley. The Celebrated watchmaker by D.J.Hatton 1983

Oatley. The Working man's paradise by Elaine Howard 1979 p.17 and map p.8

The Hurstville Story by Pedr Davis 1987 p. 38, 46, 63-64, 110

The Bankstown Line by Lesley Muir 1995 p.5, 8, 9

Campsie's Past by B.J.Madden and Lesley Muir 1989 p.19

Development of the suburbs Peakhurst, Penshurst, Mortdale & Oatley by DF.J.Hatton 1981 p. 10

The Triumph of the speculators by Joan Hatton and Lesley Muir 1984p.79

AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY

Subdivision maps in Mitchell Library re Oatley

Index to Births, Deaths and Marriages in NSW and Victoria Pre-1856 to 1945

Probate Index NSW

Sands Directory of Sydney 1873 - 1929
