

Oatley Heritage and Historical Society

Presentation by Cliff Crane and Alec Leach

May 2015.

Queens Hall May 2015

Cliff Crane photos by Alec Leach and courtesy of Richard Stibbs. Report produced by Rodger Roberson June 2016.

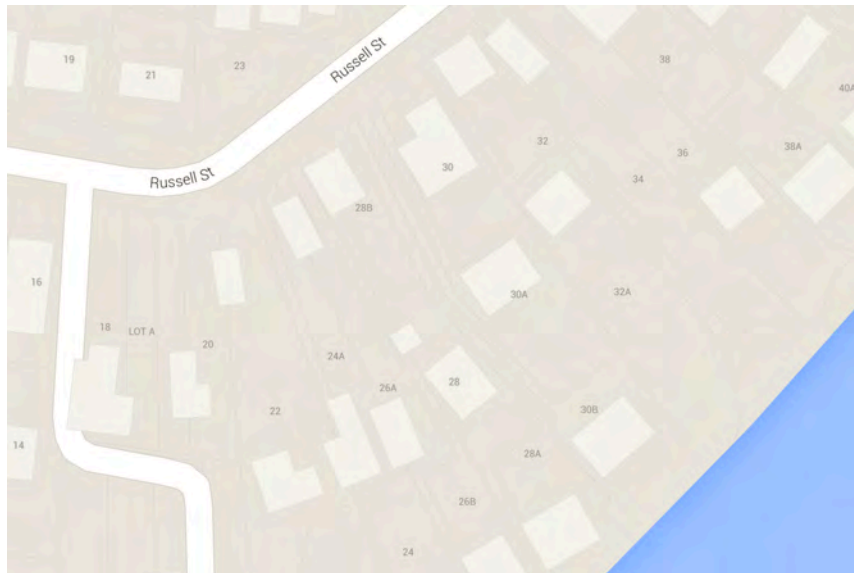
Thanks to Russell Lee of Connells Point for allowing some photos from that side of Oatley Bay and Daphne Pennington for some memories of Queens Hall- she was born in a house on the site that has been demolished. Alan Mckern also allowed Cliff and Alec on to the property for some photos.

Introduction

Queens Hall was an early community building in Oatley. Its stories and reputation had been known for many years. But where was it- had it been demolished to make way for newer constructions. It was known to face Oatley Bay. Most thought is was near the Oatley Pleasure grounds. Well Cliff Crane did some work and found it still intact. It is today tenanted in 3 flats and 30A Russell street.

The three shots below are from Google maps C 2014. They show the big picture and the plans for the subdivision 30 Russell street and the close up of Queens Hall (it is the green roof building in the centre).



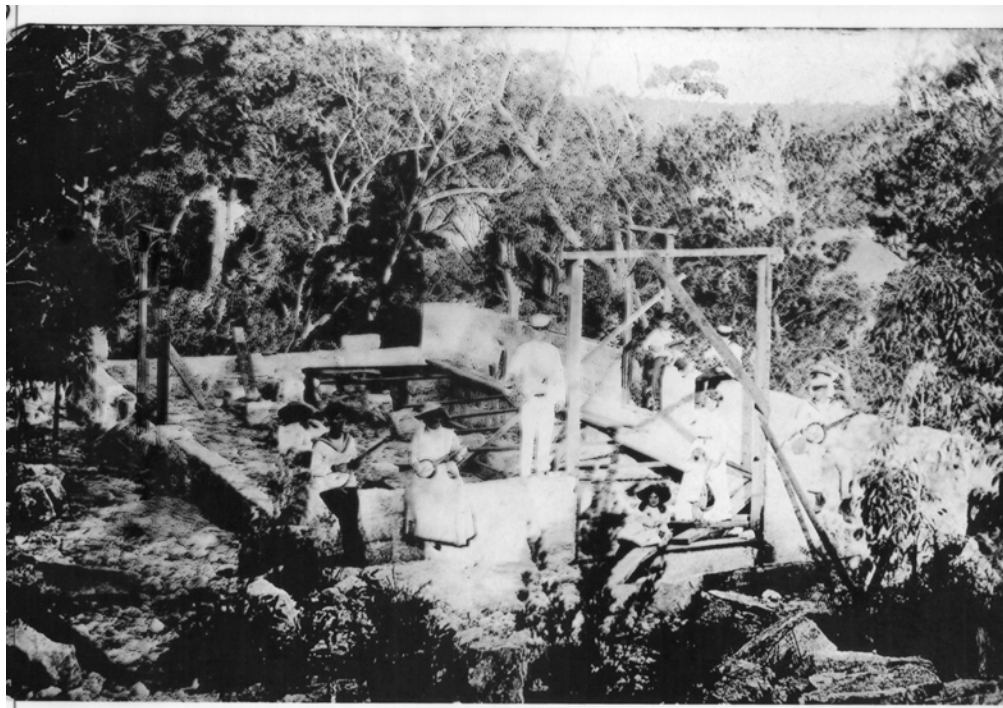


History

The photos below show various aspects of Quuens Hall.



This is likely 1905- band is featured. The owner Richard Hartley Fletcher was a known musician.



Construction 1905? Story is that Richard Stibb's grandfather built it.



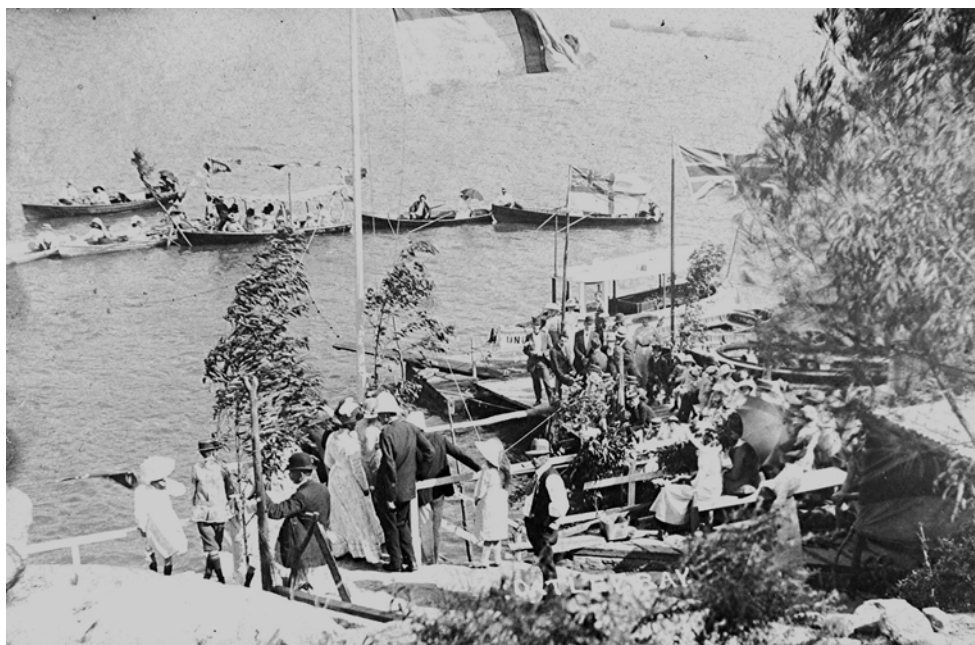
Thought to be Newington School group. C1910. Note the sign on the roof.



The boat sheds and residence on Oatley Bay.



The title says in front of Fletchers Boatshed but this is more around Oatley bay from Oatley Pleasure grounds towards Oatley point. Also says 1906.



The photo above has similar date to previous but this is more likely down in front of Queens Hall. It says 1906.



Unknown date but dress looks like C1910. The sign “Queens Hall” on the roof not visible.

Why did it get the name Queens Hall. Queen Victoria had died in 1901- a memorial?.

The next 2 photos show the residence of R H Fletcher and his boat shed next to the house.





A 1970 photo of Queens hall before the land had been divided into 3 blocks.



R H Fletcher was the owner of the property at 30 Russell Street. He married Alice and she died in 1917 at age 43. They had a daughter Ivy who married Percival Charles Stibbs in 1919 and they lived in

Dunkeld a house in Ada street. The Stibbs family had come to Oatley in 1894.

Richard Fletcher died in 1956 and Ivy in 1970. Richard Stibbs lived on the property from 1960 to around 1970 when sold to Keith Basman who subdivided it and built the very steep road down to the lower properties. Alan Calhoun? purchased the lower property in 1973 and demolished the boatshed and built new house. There are photos of the Calhouns and the demolision but these are not available.

One Richards brothers died in the NT after his attempt to ride a bicycle to Darwin in 1915 and his wife died a little later. There is also a story (unconfirmed and doubtful) that another brother died around the same time on a boat in the Georges River.

Queens Hall was used as a dance venue- Friday nights and 1/6 to enter. Ladies brought a plate of food. This was being held at least until 1922.

Modern photos of the scene are below.







From Connells Point



The green roof is visible.



The End.