

Gloucester a Tiny Place in 1903



FIRST SALE OF LAND BY GLOUCESTER ESTATE LTD. AT STROUD, 27th NOVEMBER, 1903.

Gloucester in 1903 was a very tiny place. Although the first sale of the Gloucester Estate took place towards the end of 1903 it took a good while for the first buyers to get settled on their properties.

The estate was sold in subdivision and large gangs of men were employed by the syndicate in clearing the country in preparation for settlement and it was some years after the first sale before much difference was seen in the town.

When the first sale took place Gloucester did not contain more than a dozen houses. This was before local government and Church and Queen Streets were just a part of the main road which ran through the town and the other streets only existed on the plan made by the A.A. Company many years before and added to by the Gloucester Estate Ltd.

There was the store and hotel about where Street and Parish now stands a cottage of slab and shingle occupied by Tom Britten, and her

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AN EARLY GLOUCESTER STORE.

slab and shingle place along Church Street occupied by Walter Russell as a saddler's shop, the Gloucester Hotel, then in the cottage behind the present structure.

Across the street was a small shop and a blacksmith's shop opposite the hotel. Next to the hotel was Findlay McInnes and Gorton's old house on the corner and Dan Lindsay's place where the Commercial Bank now stands. The old brick Church of England, built by the A.A. Co. stood alongside the road about a mile from the town opposite the homestead. One or two stockmen's cottages along the main road made up the lot.

LANDMARK RAZED BY FIRES.

An old landmark, Laver's accommodation house, which stood where Mr. Dick Adams now lives was a few years before this time swept away by a big fire which cleaned up all the fences for miles. The old road to the Manning went across the Avon Flats from here. Until a few years ago traces of this old road

few years ago traces of this old road and culverts on the Avon Flats still remained.

After the sale in 1903 and between then and 1906 quite a number of businesses and residences had sprung up. Along Church Street on the western side at the corner of Hume and Church Streets there was a small grocer's shop owned by Mr. Blanch, now of Tea Gardens, next was a house occupied by Mr. Trenbath, built back from the road, next

was the Gloucester Estate office, in which were Carlton and Abbott, the "Advocate" and the first branch of Bank of New South Wales. Across King Street was a barber's shop and a billiard saloon, then came McCluskey, the tailor, the shire office, erected in 1906, Pennington's butcher shop, a small fruit and cordial shop run by George Murphy; on the corner of Church and Denison Street F. Wilk's boarding house next, we think, a blacksmith's shop owned by Hewlett Tate, then H. E. Young's draper's shop, a blacksmith's shop owned by the Gloucester Hotel (Dick Russell being the smith at the time), then there was Charlie Doust's general store and right along the other end of Church Street C. Lostroh's cordial factory and residence.

On the east side of Church Street was Tom Riddell's general store, the City Bank of Sydney (Mr. De Gruchy, manager, who was followed by Mr. Charles), across King Street, the Commercial Hotel, erected about 1904 by Harry Green, a small cottage in which Dr. Wright had his surgery, Tom Britten's old residence, the first branch of the Commercial Bank (Tom Honeyman, manager), W. W. Hawdon, solicitor,

and Dr. Moseley.

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On the corner of Church and Denison Streets was Frank Lumb, tin smith.

Across the street was H. J. Channel, hairdresser, who built the first brick shop in town.

Then there was the old slab and shingle building which was built by old August Reichert as a school building, but was later used by Walter Russell as a saddler's shop. Next to this was the billiard saloon and the new two-storied additions to the Gloucester Hotel completed in 1904.

Across Queen Street was a blacksmith's shop and three small cottages and further up the hill the police station. The first residence built in Hume Street was Mr. Hawdon's and a cottage owned by Dr Findlay, and occupied by Mr. Charles. Across the street was the old A.A. Co. fence wired for sheep. In Barrington Street was the cottage occupied by Mr. Edward Rye, and alongside a cottage erected for Mrs Moylan and occupied by Dick Russell, the blacksmith. Next along the street was Reg Mitchell, the house now occupied by Mr. Joe Atkins.

FIRST CHURCH IN TOWN.

On the hill was the newly erected Presbyterian Church, the first church to be built in Gloucester.

In his history of the Presbyterian Church in N.S.W., loaned to us by Rev. George McLean, Mr. Reg Atkinson says that in 1906 the Presbyterian Church in Gloucester, a wooden building costing £350, was opened by the Moderator, Rev. Kemp Bruce. A smaller church was opened at Invergordon in 1907.

On the other side of Barrington Street, starting from Hume Street, was Dick Oldfield and Mr. Tom

Young, and an old shack occupied by George Murnby. Next was the School of Arts erected in 1904 and a cottage occupied by Fred Wratton. Across Denison Street was Charlie Skinner's workshop. Behind the School of Arts was St. Joseph's Church. The church was built in 1906. Rev. Father Meagher was the first priest.

In King Street on the southern side was Abe Osmond's blacksmith's the street a small shop built by shop and residence and higher up



OLD BUFFER CRICKETERS ON GLOUCESTER PARK — MANY OLD DISTRICT IDENTITIES WILL BE EASILY RECOGNISIBLE.

Mr. Shah, who later on built the brick shop on the top of the hill in Queen Street. There were no buildings on the other side of King Street.

In Denison Street were three cottages occupied by W. Neilson, Frank Single and Charlie Wratten and Tom Pennington's house, at present occupied by Ernie Beattie. Just hereabouts there was a small room used as a chemist shop by a man named Leslie. This was destroyed by fire. Next to the Gloucester Hotel in Queen Street was a cottage belonging to Findlay McInnes, next was the post office and on the corner Gorton's old residence. Across the street where the Commercial Bank now stands was Dan Lindsay, who was in charge of the carrying for the A.A. Coy., from Port Stephens to the Peel. His place consisted of cedar slabs and a shingle roof. Further along the street was Harry Wratten's cottage on the site of Mrs. F. M. Laurie's residence. Round

the corner in Market Street was Lew Myers' livery stables and residence. Further over on the river bank stood the Gloucester Estate

gence. Further over on the river bank stood the Gloucester Estate sawmill and a few huts for the men.

BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWN.

At this period the town was practically bounded by Hume, Barrington, Church and Queen Streets, there being practically no residences outside this area.

The sale yards were just above the railway gates in Queen Street.

The Avon and Barrington butter factory was opened in 1906, on the Barrington Road the other side of the Gloucester River bridge.

When the School of Arts was opened in 1904, Mr. U. B. Hughes set up a school for the town's children there.

Later a brick residence and a school were built in Hume Street and he was the first headmaster to occupy them.

— Gloucester "Advocate"