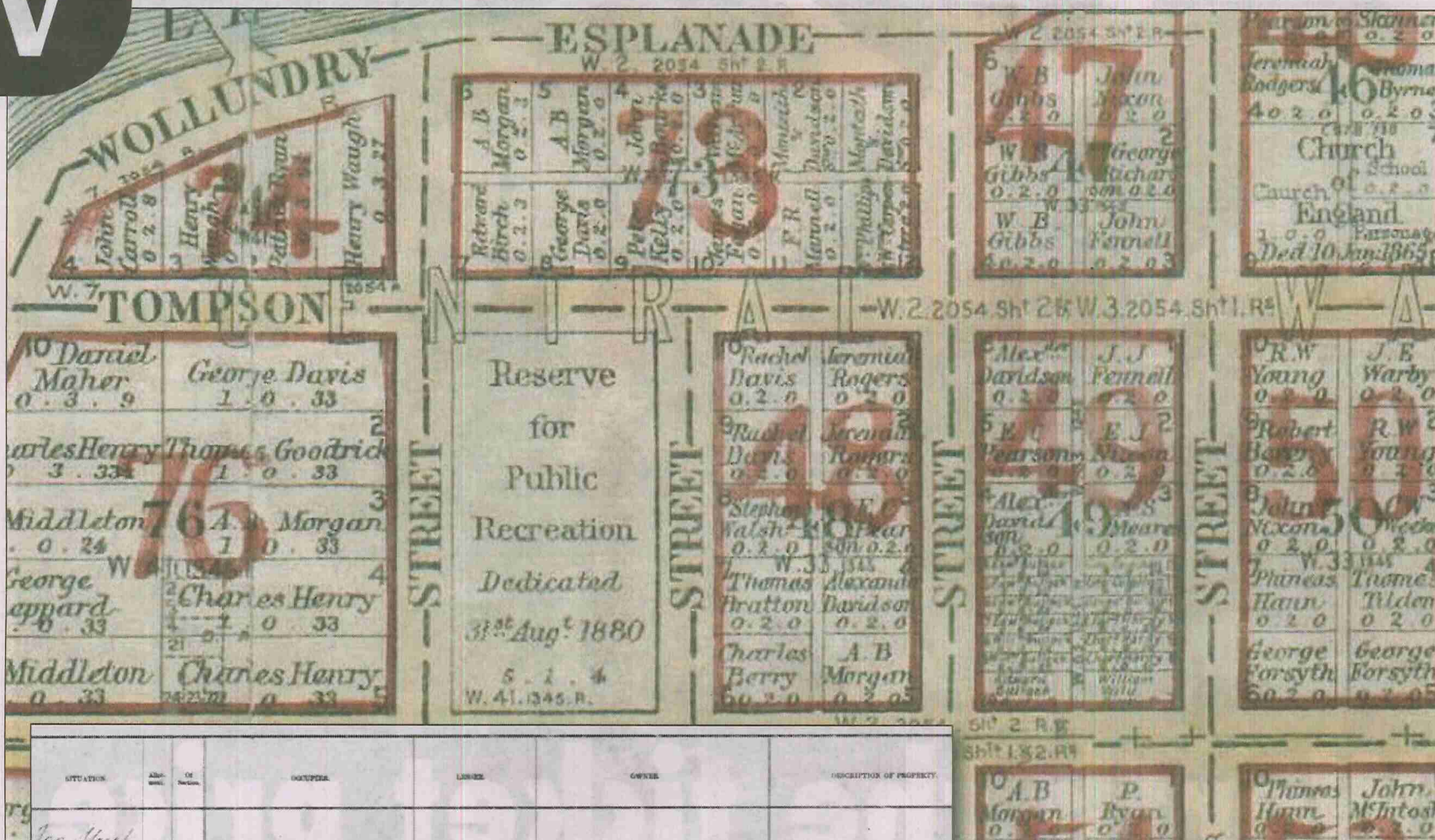


The CSU Regional Archives is extending its opening hours to include the first Saturday of every month. On these days, the archives will be open from 10am to 3pm. This initiative has been put in place to cater for those researchers who are unable to visit the Archives on weekdays during normal business hours. The next Saturday opening will occur on August 4, from 10am to 3pm.



This image shows Allotments 6 to 10 of Section 48 in the Wagga Municipal Council Rate Book of 1900. Both the owner and the occupier of each allotment are listed, as well as a short description of each property. Not shown here are the assessed value of each allotment or the rates that were owed to council for lighting, street watering, sewerage, garbage collection, etc.

what you need to know

The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building on South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with inquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straight-forward inquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information, phone 02 6925 3666, email archive@csu.edu.au, or visit our website at www.csu.edu.au/research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.

Value of section 48

at the archives

Wayne Doubleday



One of the most useful historical resources for historians held at the CSU Regional Archives is the rate and valuation books of our local councils. The genealogical, social and economic information they can provide is considerable.

As an example of just what can be achieved through these records, the following is a small venture into the history of just one street block, Allotments 6 to 10 in Section 48 of Wagga (or as we know it today, 81 to 109 Fox Street).

Newtown

WAGGA was declared a village in 1849 and a survey of the area made to lay out the streets and town allotments.

This survey only laid out streets on the northern side of the Wollundry Lagoon and much of the prime land was occupied by the late 1950s.

So in 1858, the district surveyor PF Adams took action and recommended that a bridge be built at the end of Fitzmaurice Street. Adams, with his assistant, CF Bolton, then drew up a survey of the proposed streets on the southern side of the lagoon.

The first sale of lots in 'Newtown' took place on February 15, 1860. A few months later on August 20, the Fox Street blocks were sold. Lot 6 was bought by Charles Berry; Lot 7 by Thomas Bratton; Stephen Walsh had Lot 8; and Lots 9 and 10 were bought by Rachel Davis.

Each allotment in Section 48 was a standard size, being two roods in area. Of the five allotments in this particular street block, only Lot 10 on the corner of Fox and Thompson streets is still that same size today.

1873

THE very first rate records of the Wagga Council begin in 1873. In May of that year, the valuer noted the following people owned each allotment: Charles Berry still retained Lot 6; George Mair now owned Lot 7; Michael Golden had Lot 8 and David Davis (as trustee for Rachel Davis) had Lots 9 and 10.

George Mair was recorded as occupier of what the valuer described as a slab cottage on his allotment and Michael Golden had a brick cottage on Lot 8.

The other three allotments were still vacant and described as open building sites.

1887

NEARLY a decade and a half later, these five allotments demonstrate just how much Wagga has grown in that short time.

William Hinton, head of the grocery department in Roberts and Copland (later, Copland and Co.) now lived on Lot 6 in a brick cottage. George Mair on Lot 7 had rented his cottage (now constructed of brick) to Thomas Hodnett.

Michael Golden had divided Lot 8 into three residences and leased them out to three men. James Curran, a saddler, and Robert McCook were in two brick cottages, and Michael Naylin leased what the valuer described as a "wood humpy".

Lot 9 had been sold to James Michael Ryan and a brick cottage built there, but Lot 10, now owned by Mrs EG Evans, was still vacant land. Mrs Evans's husband, who had died just a couple of years earlier, had been a building contractor and a council alderman.

1900

BY 1900, visible changes to the streetscape were still occurring, the exceptions being William Hinton, on the corner of Fox and Forsyth, still on Lot 6 with his family and Lot 10, on the other corner, still with no residence, though by this stage Alexander Smith of Kyeamba had purchased the land.

James Michael Ryan left the street and leased his brick cottage on Lot 9 to Eugene O'Sullivan, who had been an alderman on Wagga Council for a couple of years.

O'Sullivan had also worked as foreman of works

for council and had much to do with improving Wagga's roads and footpaths.

George Kelly bought Lot 8 with its two brick cottages (the wood humpy was presumably torn down). In 1900, George Howarth was leasing one of the cottages. Lot 7, now with two brick cottages, was owned by John Lamont. He leased one of these to Matthew Cassidy.

1912

TWELVE years later, a building finally appears in the records of Lot 10 – Alick Smith's "Conjura." Smith's neighbour on Lot 9 was now Margaret Sarah Ryan.

John William Davies, head of the drapery department in Copland and Co (and brother-in-law to William Hinton) now owned Lots 8 and 7, each allotment having two brick cottages. Frederick John McAlister, a postal assistant leased one cottage, Albert Quist leased another, and the Smithurst family was in a third cottage (the fourth was vacant in 1912).

William Hinton now shared Lot 6 with two lessees – LG Iredale and Albert Kelly. Kelly was a merchant who was first associated with Copland and Co, then in 1906 entered a partnership which later became Kelly and Cunningham.

A century on ...

THESE five allotments provide an example of the growth Wagga experienced in its first 60 years. During the following 100 years, a few changes occurred. Lot 9 was divided in 1922, albeit unevenly. The two parts of Lot 8 were split, to create four residences, as was Lot 7. From 1952 until 1974 "Conjura" on Lot 10 became the Home of Compassion.

The CSU Regional Archives has rate and valuation books from many local councils, including Greater Hume, Hay, Junee, Lockhart, Narrandera, Tumbarumba, Tumut, Urana and Wagga. They are available for research.

Compiled by Jillian Kohlhagen

References: Wagga Wagga City Council Rate and Valuation Books, NRS17646 & NRS17647; Morris, Sherry (1999) *Wagga Wagga: A History*; Swan, Keith (1970) *A History of Wagga Wagga; A Biographical Index of Wagga Wagga* by Sherry Morris.