

Table 1. The survey units and survey results.

Survey unit	Soil landscape	Topographic features	Visibility %	Exposure type	Total visibility	Artefacts located
DO 1	Doyalson	Hill top 210m x 150 m = 3.15 ha	10%	Surface scrape by tractor blade due to timber stockpiling	0.315 ha	Nil
DO 2	Doyalson	Undulating slope 600 m x 300m = 18 ha	Negligible		Negligible	Nil
DO 3	Doyalson	Foreshore 780 m x 2m =4.68 ha	20%	Wave action erosion – vertical exposure	0.936 ha	Midden 150 metres long depth unknown large <i>Anadara trapezia</i> .
WY 1	Wyong	Slope 540 m x 150 m to 300 m = about 10.8 ha	1 %	Stock tracks, compressed to approx. 4 cm, pugged soil.	0.1 ha	Isolated artefact Fine grained siliceous, white – grey, blade proximal and distal breaks.
WY 2	Wyong	Foreshore 500 m x 4 m = 0.2 ha	negligible	Weed wash, grass growth	Negligible	Nil
WY 3	Wyong	Minor creekline 360m x aver. 120m = 4.32 ha	negligible	Ploughed and pastured over	Negligible	Nil

## 10. Sites Recorded

Two sites were located within the study area. The first, a midden comprising cockle shell (*Anadara trapezia*), is located on the southern foreshore area. The second, an isolated artefact, was located on a small excavation embankment within the wyong soil landscape on the northern portion of the study area.

**Table 2 Sites located**

Survey unit	Site name	AMG co-ordinate*	Site type	Site condition
DO 3	St Johns 1	6333520N 363680E	Shell midden	Eroding foreshore
WY 1	St Johns 2	6333820N 363720E	Isolated artefact	Disturbed by excavation – on water treatment pond wall.

\* Catherine Hill Bay 92314-S 1:25,000 topographic map. Readings taken with a Magellan 300 GPS

## 11. Analysis

The sites located are an indication of the presence of material that is consistent with the results of similar studies. The midden comprising large *Anadara trapezia* shell is consistent with the midden located on Bardens Bay, west of the study area.

The notably surprising result was the absence of artefactual material in the exposures of the DO 1 survey unit, the ridge top. In this area the humic zone is thin with the scrapes of 10 mm to 1 cm deep exposing the underlying A2 horizon with high gravel content. The area of exposure of this type is about 600 sq metres, located from the highest point down to the east and south. Shell fragments were present in the exposures although too fragmented to determine their origin, particularly given a site history that includes historic groups of people (the sisters) who would have had to use the local resources, as they were poorly funded. If artefacts scatters were present it would be expected that some remnant would have been exposed.

The presence of the artefact within the WY 1 soil landscape and the presence of the middens proves Aboriginal use of the site. The extent of cultural deposit could not be determined on the basis of survey due to very poor visibility. Therefore sub surface testing is required to provide additional information, to test the initial model of site distribution, and provide a basis for development planning.

The site is relatively small, allowing easy access to the resources of Lake Macquarie on the southern and northern sides, access to the estuarine environment of the small unnamed bay into which the creekline drains. It would not be necessary for people to camp on the higher ridge that is an easy walk from the lower areas of the site to the north. Indeed, camp sites down from the ridge on the northern side would be more sheltered from southerly winds, and as this area comprises two soil landscapes, open water and a probably more estuarine bay, it is probable that this area formed the focus of activities.

## **Field Notes 2001 – 2008**

### **April 2002**

Test excavations carried out at the St John of God Site. L1 was placed in what became the southern area of the bluff and stage 5-9 of the Trinity Point Housing project. Doyalson soil landscape. L1. The saddle lying on what is called the “Doyalson soil landscape” – that comprises relic hills and ridges of the Lake Macquarie valley prior to inundation by rising sea levels stabilising about 5,000 years ago. The soil comprises gravely loamy soils overlying a distinct clay B horizon.

L2 was placed in what has become the Trinity Point Marina development area. The context is relic beach ridge forming the northern portion of the property, fronting Bardens Bay. A large portion of this landscape has been covered in fill so the test probes were placed to the west of the fill.

The test pits in each location were 2 metres long, by half a meter wide. The soil was removed in approximately 100 mm deep sections. The probes in L1 were dug until clay or the B horizon was reached. The probes in L2 were excavated until water level was reached (about 400 mm). A material from the probes was put through a 4.5mm sieve.

The results can be seen in Section 3.1 of the main document.

### **Nov 2005 – Jan 2006**

Salvage excavations in stages one to four of the housing development. See section 3.2

### **August 2006**

Historic excavations carried out in the tourist precinct post demolition of the buildings. See section 6.2.

### **6.11.2007**

All registered groups invited on to the site surveyed in 2001. The main open area was walked over however poor weather conditions called a halt to inspection before the foreshore area was inspected. Surface visibility within the marina and tourist development area was virtually zero with heavy grass cover. Where the footprint of previous buildings had been now capped with B horizon soil and clays. At the top of the bluff the area has been capped with clay to contain asbestos.

Effective available coverage zero.

AB advised the groups that we had identified two sites on this land previously – the first was an isolated find which testing nearby in the same landscape unit confirmed to be a larger site tied to the soil landscape unit. #45-7-0228

Likewise the testing at L1 in the Doyalson soil landscape confirmed the presence of artefacts and shell and this soil landscape had also been given a site no. 45-7-0-244

The effective surface visibility can be seen in figures 3 & 4 in the main document.

### **13.5.2008**

At the request of the stakeholders a site visit was organised to supplement the previous visit. The representatives of KLALC and TOs were able walk the entire area of development and the adjacent foreshore reserve. Two additional sites and natural ochre deposits were recorded in the reserve.

## **16.0 APPENDIX H**

### **Extract - Significance Assessment EJE Architects (2001)**

(Section 5.2 to 8) Kendall Grange (St John of God Site) Henry Street Morisset Park NSW 2264  
Project no. 5029 EJE Architects.

### 6.2.3 St. Paul's Residence

Some of the original bedrooms have been adapted and fitted as a bathroom and kitchen and overall the building has suffered unsympathetic additions and has lost its integrity (see Figure 20).

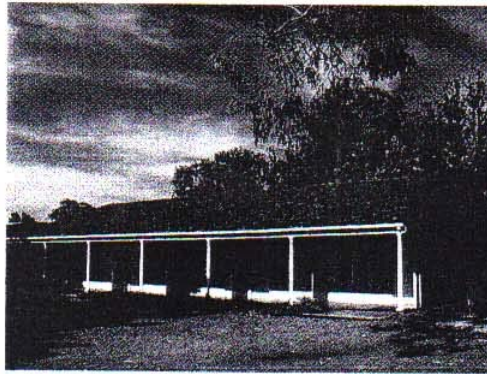


Figure 20: St. Paul's Residence

### 6.2.4 The Boiler Room

This small room has been completely enveloped by later development and additions, and is longer discernable as an original structure. Its integrity has been seriously compromised.

### 6.2.5 The Grotto

The Grotto is in good condition and its aesthetic relationship to the shoreline remains free from unsympathetic development.

### 6.2.6 The Baths

The Baths remain in their original form however their condition is at the point where maintenance and possible restoration is required for their conservation.

### 6.2.7 Landscaping

The pine trees along the southern foreshore and the *Afrocarpus falcatus* (Oteniqua Yellow Wood) trees over to the north of the main administration building are all fine examples of landscaped flora and in good condition. Any possible future redevelopment of the site should consider the retention of these trees.

## 6.3 The Brothers' Period

### 6.3.1 The former Monastery/Hall (now residence)

The former Monastery/Hall has been recently renovated and the additions have masked and confused the original layout of the building to such an extent that its integrity has been considerably compromised.

## **6 Checks - Loss of integrity or condition/ unsympathetic alterations**

### **6.1 Gorrick/Bailey Period**

#### **6.1.1 Landscaping on the eastern peninsula**

The landscaping on the eastern peninsula, including a large Norfolk pine, two fig trees and two palms, have not been degraded by any surrounding development and remain in their original layout revealing the original landscaping and formal gardening set out during the Gorrick/Bailey period.

#### **6.1.2 The foundation stone for the sundial and layout**

Whilst the original metal plate for the sundial has been replaced numerous times, photographic evidence would suggest that the original foundation stone base and surrounding perimeter wall remain in their original place on the eastern tip of 'Bailey's Bluff'. These elements form a part of the original landscaping design from the Gorrick/Bailey period.

#### **6.1.3 A potential European historical archaeological zone covering the site of the original Gorrick/Bailey residence.**

The modern chapel most likely encroaches partly over the site of the original weatherboard house, and the integrity of this potential European historical archeological zone is therefore likely diminished. There remains however some potential in association with the formal gardens and verandah posts which may still exist.

### **6.2 The Little Company of Mary Period**

#### **6.2.1 The former chapel (now workshop)**

This building was completely enveloped in the 1970s with brickwork disguising the original external character of the chapel. Whilst its integrity has been diminished, internally the building still reveals its original use as a chapel to some extent.

#### **6.2.2 Main Administration Building**

The main administration building has suffered unsympathetic alterations in the form of ad hoc additions of rear wings, the enclosure of verandahs, and external fire stairs. Despite these factors, the building is in good condition and the majority of these alterations are superficial and have not altered the original form and layout of the building (see Figures 18 & 19).

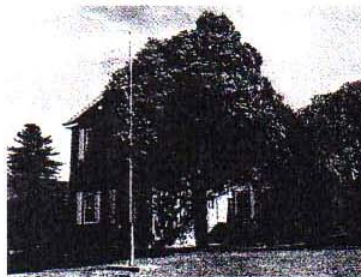


Figure 18: Administration Building



Figure 19: Administration Building



#### **5.4 Importance to a community/cultural group for social/spiritual/cultural reasons**

The site has spiritual and cultural importance to the Catholic Community for its association with both The Little Company of Mary and the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God. All of the buildings and structures associated with these two periods are therefore considered to be significant to the Catholic Community.

Especially significant to the broader community for social reasons, was the period from 1948 until recent when boys with behavioural and developmental difficulties were schooled and cared for at the site.

#### **5.5 Potential to yield information that will contribute to cultural/natural history**

As discussed in Section 4, the area at the eastern end of the peninsula overlooking the bluff has, as a result of this study, been identified as a potential European historical archaeological zone. The original weatherboard house, used as a residence by both the Gorrick and Bailey families, was located within this area and remnants of the verandah post foundations and formal gardens may remain. The site therefore has potential to reveal direct material association with these significant people. It is recommended that any possible re-development of the site take this archaeological potential into consideration, and recording and excavation works be undertaken in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office guidelines *Historical Archaeological Excavations: A Code of Practice (1993)*.

#### **5.6 Possesses rare aspects of cultural/natural history**

The site possesses rare aspects of cultural history for the potential archaeological remains of the original weatherboard house. This relates to the significance of both the Gorrick and Bailey period.

The Grotto is also a rare piece of cultural history for its unique location on the shores of Lake Macquarie and its aesthetic relationship to the natural environment.

#### **5.7 Representative of a principle characteristics of a cultural/natural class of items.**

As discussed in 5.1 the contribution of both the Little Company of Mary and the Hospitaller Brothers of St John of God to the provision of social welfare is significant, and representative of the commitment of such religious orders to the care of certain sectors of the community.

The panoramic views of the lake from the peninsula, and similarly the visual aesthetics of the peninsula from the lake, are of high visual importance as detailed in the Visual Assessment undertaken by Suters Architects (see Appendix B). Such views are representative of the general topography of Lake Macquarie's shorelines.



Figure 7: Inside the former Chapel (current workshop).

### 5.3 Importance in terms of aesthetic/technical/creative characteristics.

The historic landscaping throughout the site, including both the formal landscaping at the site of the original weatherboard house, and the later landscaping by "the Radio gardener expert" during the Little Company of Mary Period, is of considerable aesthetic significance. These significant aspects include the Gorrick Bailey Landscaping and sundial (Figures 8,9,10 & 11); the Grotto (Figures 12,13,14 & 15); the Norfolk Island Pines and Baths along the southern foreshore (Figure 16), the *Afrocarpus falcatus* (Oteniqua Yellow Wood) trees (Figures 17).

The "Grotto", set into the Cliff of the southern side of the peninsula was built and used by the Sisters during the period 1934-1947 and has aesthetic significance for its location on the scenic foreshore of the lake.



Figure 8: Historical Photograph of Gorrick/Bailey Landscaping c.1920.



Figure 9: Contemporary photograph of Gorrick/Bailey Landscaping from similar angle.

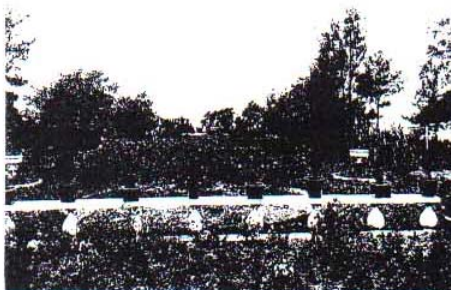


Figure 10: Historical Photograph of Gorrick/Bailey Landscaping c.1920 taken from verandah of "Kendall Grange" out toward sundial on bluff.



Figure 11: Contemporary photograph taken from similar angle out towards sundial on bluff.



## 5.2 Importance in relation to a person, or group of significance

The site is affiliated with several important individual people and religious groups. Firstly is the association of the site with J.A. Gorrick between the years 1908 to 1913. A significant political figure of his time, Gorrick was both an alderman of West Maitland and later winning the seat of Wollombi in 1882. The original weatherboard house (no longer remaining) was built sometime in this period, however it is not certain if the landscaping on the bluff associated with the house (including an established Norfolk Island Pine, four Figs, and two palms, the northern palm being a Canary Island Palm) was established during the Gorrick period, or the following Bailey period. Nonetheless, historical photographs taken c. 1920 include these trees and provide evidence that this landscaping was established sometime prior to this date. These trees are therefore within the identified potential European historical archeological zone.

The site is also strongly associated with Bert Bailey and the making of Australian films. Bailey was a well-known theatrical personality and during the years 1913-1934 lived in the original weatherboard house on the bluff. Bailey made numerous Australian significant Australian films including the famous Dave and Dave series, which were produced on the site.

Whilst the original weatherboard house, lived in by both the Gorricks and Baileys, no longer remains, the site is clearly associated with these significant individuals and substantiated through historical documentation. The landscaping on the bluff provides material evidence of the location of the original house and formal gardens and is easily interpreted when compared with historical photographs of the house and garden (see Section 5.3).

Both The Little Company of Mary and the Hospitallers of St. John of God are two important groups within the Catholic Community. Clear evidence remains of the activities of The Little Company of Mary. Whilst unsympathetic additions have been made to the Main Administration building, its original layout remains, and provides an easily interpreted link to the prior use of the site as a place of rest and convalescence for priests off the mission. The original Chapel has been completely enveloped by unsympathetic 1970s additions and its original external character is impossible to decipher. Internally however, the building reveals its original use as a chapel with the original rafters remaining (see Figures 6 and 7).

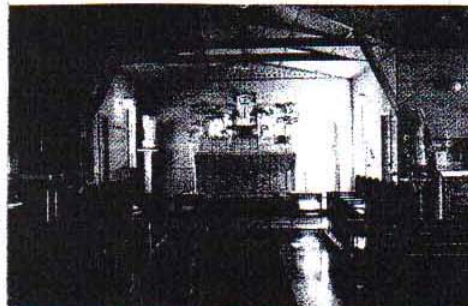


Figure 6: Interior as a Chapel

## 7 Level of significance

The landscaping on the eastern peninsula; the foundation stone for the sundial and layout; and the potential European historical archaeological zone covering the site of the original Gorrick/Bailey residence; are all considered to have STATE significance for their direct associations with the important people J.A. Gorrick and Bert Bailey.

The former chapel (now workshop) and the Main Administration Building are considered to have LOCAL significance for their relation to the social and cultural history associated with the Little Company of Mary and The Brothers of St. John of God.

The St. Paul's Residence is of LOCAL significance having lost some of its original integrity yet remaining a part of the development of the activities of the Little Company of Mary none the less.

The Grotto, baths, and landscaping from the Little Company of Mary Period, are all considered to have LOCAL significance for social and cultural reasons.

The former Monastery/Hall (now residence) on the southern end of the site has been altered to such an extent that it is only considered to be of LOCAL significance.

## 8 Statement of Heritage Significance

As outlined in the history, Kendall Grange is attributed with significance for the variety of uses which have been accommodated for on the site. Two important PERSONS are associated with the site, J.A. Gorrick and Bert Bailey. However it is Bailey, one of the most famous actors, directors, and producers of both stage and film in Australia's history, who endows the site with significance at a STATE level. Kendall Grange is a significant cultural site where landmark Australian films were shot and produced.

Kendall Grange is also important for the themes of RELIGION and WELFARE, for it was the site of two different religious orders devoted to the welfare of sectors of the population in need of care. The buildings associated with The Little Company of Mary and their care of priests off the mission, and the Brothers of St. John of God and their care of developmentally challenged boys, are of LOCAL significance for the contributions both religious orders made to the WELFARE of the population.



17.0 APPENDIX I

Abridged Insite Heritage Excavation Report St John of God (2007)

INSITE HERITAGE PTY LTD  
PO BOX 98  
WANGIWANGI NSW 2267  
PH/FAX 02 49755818

***ABRIDGED***  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION  
FORMER ST JOHN OF GOD SITE  
MORISSET PARK

Prepared For  
**JOHNSON PROPERTY GROUP PTY LTD**

10 October 2007



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ***The Site***

The study property occupies Bluff Point, near the southern end of Lake Macquarie and approximately 8kms east of Morisset, NSW. Known as Kendall Grange or St. John of God Special School, the property housed numerous structures erected 1934-2000. In conjunction with the owners, the Trustees of the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God, Johnson Property Group Pty Ltd propose to redevelopment of the site as a tourism precinct. The proposal involved demolition of all existing buildings and associated infrastructure, with preservation of several heritage features. Council required archaeological heritage to be addressed only in relation to the site of the original house on Lot 38 DP 1076099 (previously DP 755242) as identified by EJE architects. Insite Heritage Pty Ltd was commissioned to address the archaeological potential of this site. Excavation was undertaken in later 2006

### ***Historical Summary***

The site first appears in the historical record in 1875 as a grant of 40 acres to W.C. Browne of Sydney (Portion 38, Parish of Morisset, County of Northumberland). It was transferred to his wife, Jessie, in 1882 then sold in 1899 to C.H. Hillcoat, master mariner of Sydney. Research has revealed no evidence of development prior to ownership by Hillcoat's sister, Cecelia, in 1908-13. Her husband, J.A. Gorrick, was a solicitor who set up practices in Maitland (1871) and Newcastle (1882) and won the state seat of Wollombi in 1882. According to anecdotal evidence the Gorricks erected a timber residence overlooking Lake Macquarie and named it 'Kendal' or 'Kendal Grange'. In 1913 their son-in-law, A.E. (Bert) Bailey, purchased the property. Bailey was the star and co-director of the four *On Our Selection* films made 1932-40. The family resided at the property when not engaged in filmmaking and theatre productions.

After the death of his wife, Ivy, Bailey sold the property in 1934 to the Roman Catholic Church. Described at the time as a working rural property with weatherboard cottage and outbuildings, it was purchased for the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary to establish St Joseph's Convalescent Home for priests. By 1935 the site housed an

administration block, bedroom block, chapel, boiler room, farmer's cottage, staff quarters, garages, farm sheds and a well. A cemetery established in 1940 closed with a ninth burial in 1964. In 1947 the Hospitallers of St. John of God took over and established a rehabilitation centre for mentally retarded boys. Structures erected during this phase included a training centre (1965), an education block (1979), group houses (1987), a chapel (early 1980s?) and a recreation/sports centre (1990-91). Due to financial difficulties the facility closed soon after, with the property operating through the 1990s as a centre for weddings, receptions, conventions and holidays. Historical research did not reveal when the original house was demolished.

### ***Results of the Excavation***

After mechanical removal of overburdens it became clear that the house site had been machined. The basal overburden fill - loam with plentiful structural debris (particularly fibro) - variously sealed house remains, A1 topsoil, A2 subsoil and the B-horizon. House remains consisted of some dry press brick pads/piers (or ghosts thereof) and several services. No subfloor accumulations were found and, excepting for some impressed structural debris, the few patches of intact topsoil within the area were sterile. At the north and east several remains of garden features survived; a concrete path, brick and concrete garden edging and concrete path edging. Stratigraphic contexts were minimal and very few artefacts were recovered.

Although the structural remains locate the house in general terms, delineation of its footprint is very incomplete. One line of piers probably marks a main wall, the cluster of services at the northwest likely indicate kitchen/bathroom/laundry. Brick types are consistent with the Gorrick/Bailey period 1908-1934, but cannot be dated so closely as to confirm anecdotal evidence of construction by the Gorricks 1908-1913. While non-structural artefacts were mostly domestic and are likely to relate to house occupation, the dating is so broad that the phase to which they might belong cannot be identified.

After purchase by the Church in 1934 the house disappears from the available historical record. No doubt it was used by the Sisters, at least initially as their residence and then perhaps for convalescent priests and/or guests. Archaeological data suggest it also stood through much of the Brothers period and was demolished just before erection of the Chapel c1981. What function(s) it may have served is not known, but the possibility of a domestic element makes this phase a potential source of recovered artefacts.



Respecting the house alignment, the paths at north and east probably were laid by the Sisters or Brothers. While these survived the machining, the house area contained much fibro and bricks of the same types used in the piers. Sealed by sand bedding for the Chapel slab, fibro fragments also covered the concrete path and adjacent garden bed of gravel on black plastic. Assuming the fibro (and bricks) came from demolition, the house was still standing when such plastic became available.

# INTRODUCTION

## **1.1 Background**

On behalf of the owners, the Trustees of the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God, Johnson Property Group Pty Ltd received development approval (DA/3010/2004) from Lake Macquarie City Council to begin redevelopment of 'Kendall Grange' near Morisset. On a peninsula overlooking Lake Macquarie, and operating for many years as a Special School, the site was occupied by numerous buildings and features spanning the period 1934-2000. While requiring preservation of several significant features, the development approval permitted demolition of all existing buildings and associated infrastructure.

The complete development site comprises Lot 1 DP 1075443, Lot 2 DP 1075443, Lot 3 DP 1075443, Lot 4 DP 1075443, Lot 38 DP 1076099 and Lot 8 DP 129377 and 59 Lakeview Road, Morisset Park. Council required archaeological heritage to be addressed only in relation to the site of the original house on Lot 38 DP 1076099 (previously DP 755242).

The site had not been the subject of a previous archaeological assessment undertaken by a suitably qualified consultant. The heritage assessment prepared by EJE Town Planning in 2001 included some archaeological assessment and recommendations.<sup>20</sup> It also included the historical research on which the assessment prepared by Insite Heritage Pty Ltd was based.<sup>21</sup>

Assessment identified the site of the original house and its immediate surrounds as a potential archaeological resource. While excavations for foundations and services in this location were thought likely to have truncated or destroyed at least some archaeological remains, site inspection suggested remains may be preserved in some areas. Insite Heritage recommended to the developer that a Section 140 Permit be sought from the NSW Heritage Office. The application (2005/S140/005) was approved on 14 March

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<sup>20</sup> *Heritage Assessment Report: Kendal Grange, Morisset Park* November 2001. See also *Statement of Heritage Impact: Kendall Grange – St John of God Ministry Training Centre* Prepared by Marc Joyce for EJE Town Planning, April 2003.

<sup>21</sup> *Section 140 Application, St John of God, Morisset Park NSW* January 2006.

2006, and archaeological investigations of the house area were undertaken in August 2006.

## **1.2 Site Location**

The site occupies most of a small peninsula near the southern end of Lake Macquarie, approximately 8kms east of Morisset, NSW. While the entire property was known as St. John of God Special School, the original house site is situated on the higher eastern part of the peninsula called Bluff Point.

## **1.3 Heritage Listings**

The study site is not listed in the Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan (LEP), National Trust or State Heritage Registers.

## **1.4 Scope of Study**

The present study constitutes the final report of archaeological investigations of the 'Kendall Grange' site at Morisset Park, NSW.

## **1.5 Aims of the Excavation**

The aim of the excavation was to recover archaeological data pertaining to the site's history. Physical remains potentially would illuminate the date and methods of house construction, the nature of the early (secular) occupations c1908-1934, the nature and extent of early renovations indicated by historical evidence, and whether the house had been retained and occupied during the Church period 1934-2000. Investigations in the vicinity of the house potentially would reveal remains of outbuildings and gardens.

## **1.6 Study Team and Acknowledgements**

The study team comprised Angela Besant (Principal Consultant), Kevin Hickson (Excavation Director) and Michael Parker (Planner). The site history (Section 2.0) was prepared by Rosemary Melville of Hunter History Consultants Pty Ltd. Artefacts were processed by AMAC Group Pty Ltd, including cataloguing by Jeanne Harris and Liz Wyatt.

The present report was prepared by Angela Besant and Kevin Hickson.

Insite Heritage Pty Ltd acknowledges the valuable assistance of Johnson Property Group.



## SITE HISTORY

### **2.1 1875-1908**

The St. John of God property is located on three parcels of land originally purchased by William Charles Browne of Sydney: Portion 38 acquired 9 July 1875<sup>22</sup>, and several allotments in Portions 43 and 44 acquired 24 November 1879.<sup>23</sup> Portion 38, forty acres known as 'The Bluff' or 'Bailey's Bluff', is the subject of this study. It was transferred to Browne's wife, Jessie Campbell Browne, on June 15th, 1882, and was acquired in October 1899 by Charles Henry Hillcoat, master mariner of Sydney.

### **2.2 1908-1913: *The Gorrick Family***

In 1908 Charles Hillcoat's sister, Cecilia Catherine Gorrick acquired the property. Only daughter of Dr. Hillcoat of Bristol, Cecelia was the wife of Joseph Albert Gorrick, solicitor, of Sydney.

J.A. Gorrick was born in 1843 at Wilberforce, and educated at Maitland Grammar School and High School. He was articled to Joseph Chambers in 1861, admitted as a solicitor in 1868 and became a partner in the law firm of W.H. Mullin. He set up his own practice in Maitland in 1871, and in Newcastle in 1882. Gorrick began a career in politics in 1877 when elected an alderman of West Maitland. Three years later he stood unsuccessfully for the Legislative Assembly seat of East Maitland but in 1882 he won the seat of Wollombi.<sup>24</sup>

Albert Gorrick also owned land at nearby Sunshine Point and a house on this site was said to have burned down around the turn of the twentieth century.<sup>25</sup> Gorrick,

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<sup>22</sup> NSW Land Titles Office, Vol.226, Fol.136.

<sup>23</sup> NSW Land Titles Office, Vol.477, Fol.224.

<sup>24</sup> Morrison, W.F., *The Aldine Centennial History of NSW, 1888*, and Martin, A.W. & Wardle, P., *Members of the Legislative Assembly of NSW*, Canberra, 1959, p.87

<sup>25</sup> Leis, S. and Noble, R., *Lake Macquarie: Past and Present*, Lake Macquarie City Council, 1985, p.83.

it was also claimed, built “a timber-structured home” on the 40-acre site at Morisset Point, “over-looking the lovely expanse of Lake Macquarie.”<sup>26</sup>

### **2.3 1913-1934: *The Bailey Family***

In February 1913, Cecilia Gorrick mortgaged “The Bluff” to her son-in-law, Albert Edward (Bert) Bailey, a well-known theatrical personality, and in April of that year the property was transferred to him. A family source suggests that Albert Gorrick had some financial difficulties at the time and that Bert Bailey first helped by taking up the mortgage, and then by purchasing the property. The same source suggests that the house on the property, called “Kendal” or “Kendal Grange”, was already extant, having been built for Albert Gorrick.<sup>27</sup>

Bert Bailey had married Ivy Gorrick in 1902. Their daughter and only child, Doreen Cecilia (Tim) Bailey was born in the same year. Bert and Ivy were members of Edmund Duggan’s Theatrical Company, which Bert had joined as a comedian in 1900 after beginning his career as a singer. Born in New Zealand, he had moved to Sydney with his mother in about 1879.

In partnership with Duggan, he wrote and produced a number of popular plays, including ‘The Squatter’s Daughter’, (produced by Bailey as a film in 1907), ‘The Man from the Outback’ and ‘The Native Born’. Their greatest success was an adaptation of Steele Rudd’s ‘On Our Selection’ stories, produced as a play in 1912 and starring Bert Bailey as Dad Rudd. It was presented regularly on the Australian stage till the 1930s, and performed in London in 1920. In 1932, Bert Bailey co-directed (with Ken G. Hall) and starred in a film version of this play, with great success. Three other films followed - ‘Grandad Rudd’ (1935), ‘Dad And Dave Come To Town’ (1938), and ‘Dad Rudd, M.P.’ (1940) - and were also well received. There is some suggestion that filming took place on the property (though only up to 1934 is likely).

<sup>26</sup> Archives of the Hospitaller Order of St. John.

<sup>27</sup> Interview with Carolyn Keon, 2 September 2001.

Bert Bailey also was part of a very successful theatre partnership with Julius Grant at the Kings Theatre, Melbourne.<sup>28</sup>

Of the Bailey's time at Kendall Grange, it has been written that: "They were bohemians and entertained, in their own fashion, the then prominent members of the footlights ... It has been suggested that the family spent a lot of time at the property when not working on films or plays, and that Bert Bailey kept a cruiser and speedboat on the property's lagoon.'<sup>29</sup> This is confirmed by documents recording the construction of a jetty and slip at the foot of "The Bluff" (or 'Bailey's Bluff' as it is still apparently known.).<sup>30</sup> It seems that the Baileys also kept stock on the property, as the registration of a brand for horse and cattle was made on 21 December 1917.<sup>31</sup>

Photographic evidence from the collection of Bailey and Gorrick papers, acquired by the National Library of Australia in 1979 and 1985, contains an album of undated sepia and hand-tinted photographs of professional quality. The album is described as being of "Kendall Grange", and this is presumably the label given by Doreen (Tim) Bailey in 1979 when she donated the photographs of her former home to the library.<sup>32</sup> A selection of these photographs is included as Plates 2.1-12 (pages19-24).

The house featured in the album is a fairly large, single storied weatherboard structure. It has a long, deep front verandah facing out to 'The Bluff'. A row of 6 massive pylons supported this verandah, in the style of the 'bungalow' popular in the first decades of the twentieth century. The long roof appears to be constructed of corrugated iron. A photograph taken from the verandah shows a sundial towards the edge of the bluff. Although, the original metal sundial subsequently disappeared, the stone base appears to be of early construction and similar to the stonework supporting the verandah of the Bailey residence.

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<sup>28</sup> "Biographical Note", Papers of Bert Bailey, National Library of Australia (NLA) MS 6141, 1831-1967

<sup>29</sup> Leis and Noble, *Lake Macquarie: Past and Present*, p.71.

<sup>30</sup> Legal/Business documents and correspondence of Bert Bailey, 1915-1933, NLA, Series 17, Folder 106

<sup>31</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> Papers of Bert Bailey, NLA, MS 6141, Series 8, Bag No.17.