

Find charm —IN URALLA—



HERITAGE WALK

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY CASEY DOGAN
Concept and text by Kent Mayo ©2009

Find charm in Uralla

We'd like you to wander around our little town with your eyes open. There are lots of surprises. And we don't want you to get run over.

We can't offer you mansions. Sorry, but they're all out of town, built by squatters who began to move up onto the tablelands in the 1830s. Despite the climate and the Aniwan tribe they eventually prospered.

A few bark humpies in ragged formation near the creek and the main road, that was Uralla in the 1840s. Gold was discovered at Rocky River in 1852, and by 1856 there were five thousand miners, many of them Chinese, on the goldfields. (See "New Gold Mountain", an exhibition at McCrossin's Mill.)

So the township was surveyed and gazetted in 1855, and the highway officially relocated from Queen Street to Bridge Street.

Local hardwood, split, adzed, or pit-sawn into weatherboards, was used to construct buildings on foundations of adzed tree trunks.

They soon gave way, sometimes literally, to bricks,

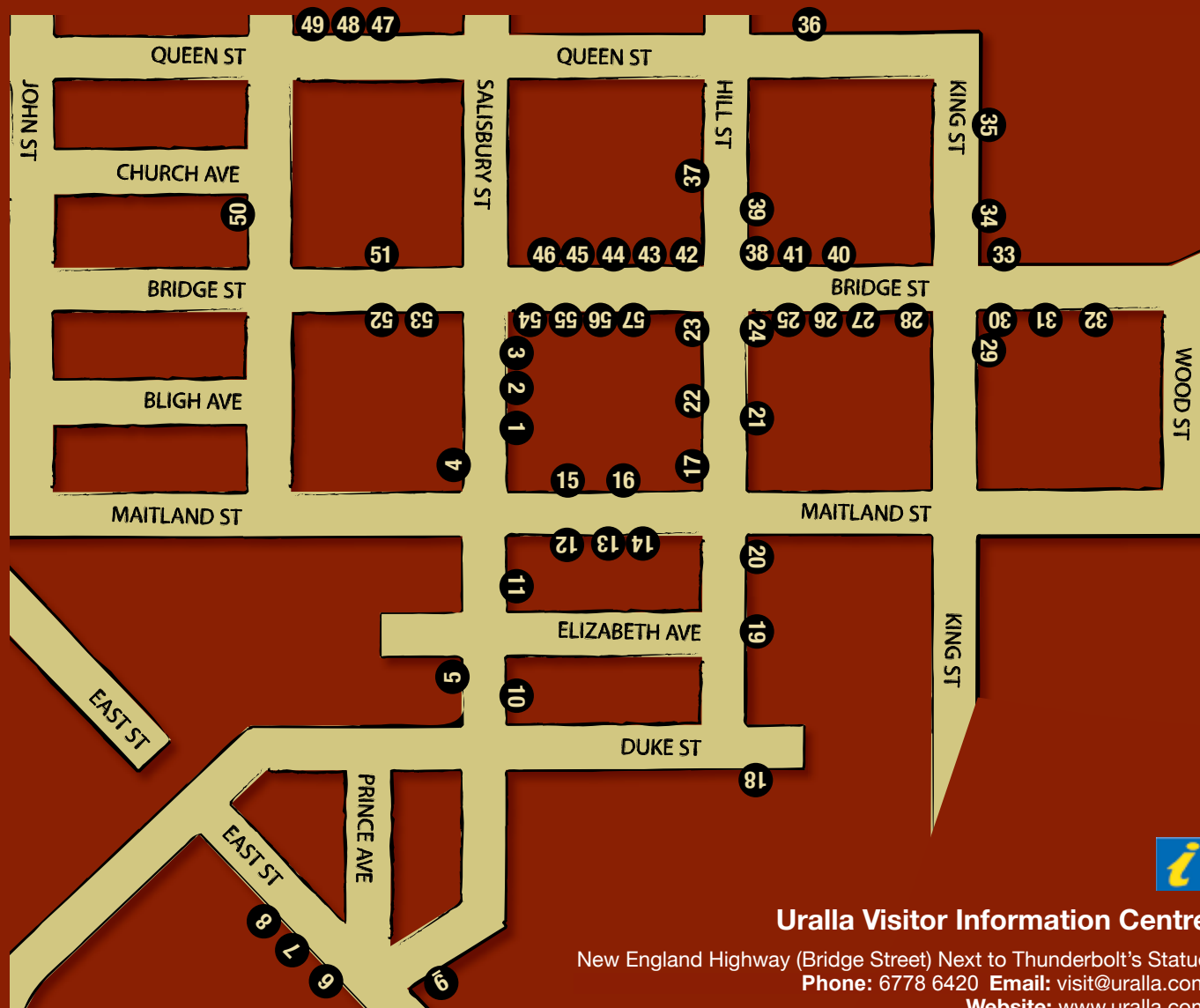
hand made from the clay of creek banks, and freely available basalt and granite. Cedar window sashes and doors arrived by bullock dray from Maitland, and iron lace from the local foundry.

The pioneering McCrossin family, from County Tyrone, Ireland, had begun to make their mark. The arrival of the railway in 1882 was certainly worth the whistle for the 380 residents.

The advent of the motor car made Armidale more accessible and attractive, and Uralla's population remained at around one thousand until the 1960s when Uralla's cheaper land and lower rates became more enticing. Because of that relatively stagnant 40 year period, there were few new buildings. Many of the old ones stood unused, but not abused, preserved by neglect.

In the 1970s newcomers recognised Uralla's quaint heritage collection. Now the new occupants, and the whole community, value Uralla's charm.

You do the same, eh? But keep your eyes open.



Uralla Visitor Information Centre

New England Highway (Bridge Street) Next to Thunderbolt's Statue

Phone: 6778 6420 Email: visit@uralla.com

Website: www.uralla.com

1. *McCrossin's Flour Mill, 1870, Salisbury Sreet*



Built by Alexander Mitchell for John McCrossin. The ground floor walls and verandah footings are constructed of Uralla granite laid in neat rubble courses on huge granite block foundations. The first and second storeys are of red brick and lime mortar. In 1979 the Uralla Historical Society was formed to buy the derelict building, restore it, and convert it to a vibrant museum and function centre. In 1983, visionary architect Peter Myers was awarded the Royal Australian Institute Of Architects' NSW Restoration Award for his work at McCrossin's Mill. A series of nine dramatic paintings, "The Death of Thunderbolt," occupies the ground floor. The museum upstairs is renowned for its empathic, humorous and even bizarre exhibitions. Its collection of Chinese artefacts from the Rocky River goldfields is of national significance. Walk around the back to the Mill's magical gardens. Many locals once believed the "Old Mill" to be haunted. Now it is hauntingly beautiful.

2. *McCrossin's Chaff Cutting Shed, 1881, Salisbury Street*

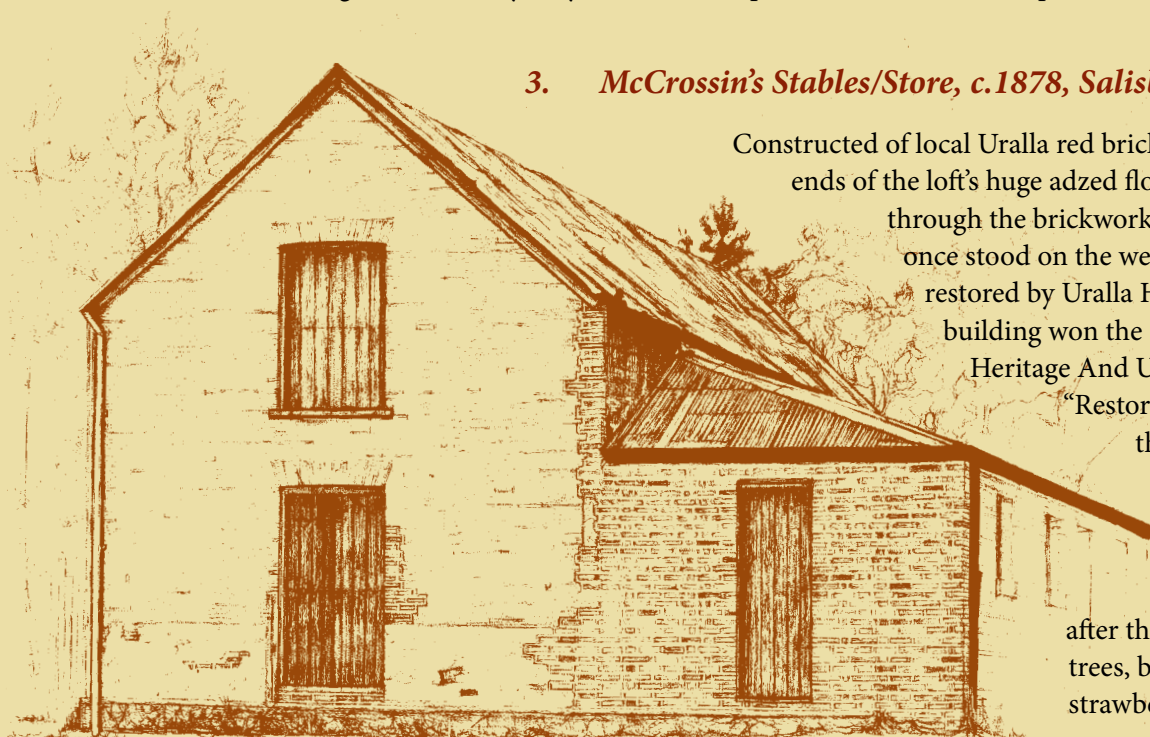
Built by John McCrossin, the shed harnessed power from the Mill's steam engine. Uralla Historical Society completed this restoration in 2004. The project was a winner at the prestigious Energy Australia/National Trust Heritage Awards in Sydney in 2005. Now part of the museum complex, entry is via McCrossin's Mill.

3. *McCrossin's Stables/Store, c.1878, Salisbury Street*

Constructed of local Uralla red brick and lime mortar. The ends of the loft's huge adzed floor joists are protruding through the brickwork where the front awning once stood on the western wall. Owned and restored by Uralla Historical Society, this building won the 1998 New England Heritage And Urban Design Awards "Restoration" section, and also the "Interior Fitout"

section. Wander into the courtyard garden, called "Felicity Forrest"

after the donor of the birch trees, but don't nick all the strawberries.



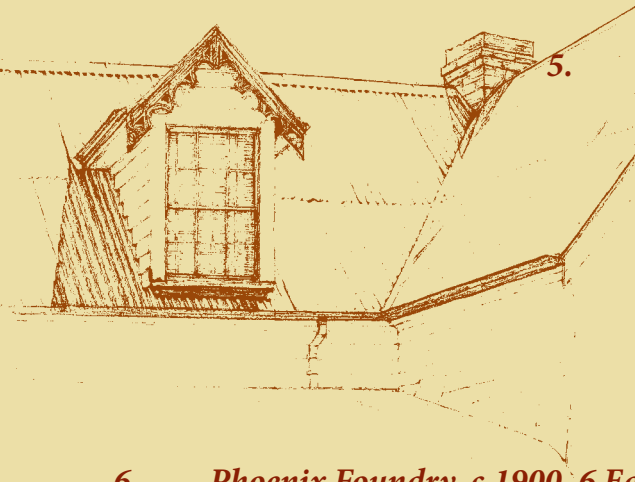
4. *Uralla Literary Institute, 1886, Salisbury Street*

Erected in three stages, this example of Victorian Italianate building contained a reading room, billiard room, and library...to encourage men out of pubs and into books and billiards. It seems the tactic didn't work for very long! The structure features Flemish gables, lintels, sills and concrete quoins. When additions were made, the red Uralla brickwork was matched almost perfectly where the two façades join. Now a private residence featuring a delightful garden all the way down to the creek.



5. *"Gartshore", c.1885, 18 Salisbury Street*

Gothic style, with high gables, dormer windows, and decorative barge boards. The entrance verandah is decorated with cast iron frieze, brackets, columns and palisters. The cedar front door features the original bell and knobs, and is framed with unique stained glass sidelights. The house was built of baltic pine by Mr Ford for Mr David McNeal, who died just before his imposing home was completed. So you'll have to admire the unfortunate man's home on his behalf.



6. *Phoenix Foundry, c.1900, 6 East Street*

The oldest operating foundry in Australia incorporates the original machinery, blacksmith's shop, black sand casting floor, and five thousand cedar pattern pieces. The buildings and contents are of national significance as an industrial site. It was established by Christopher Young (a German migrant who changed his name from Zung) who bought all the equipment from the late Henry Sheldon Goddard's bankrupt "New England Foundry" in Salisbury Street. Les Young continued the family foundry business until 1976, which is why the whole precinct is still intact.



8. *10 East Street, c.1900*

One of three cottages, built with materials salvaged from a demolished hotel, added to the foundry precinct to accommodate C.A. Young's "expanding family", which grew to twelve children.



7. *6A East Street, c.1885*

Originally C.A. Young's home.

9. *Railway Gatekeeper's House, 1882*

Originally there were well over one hundred of these identical cottages in NSW. Less than twenty survive. Note the central chimney and the location of the backyard dunny.

10. *9 Salisbury Street, c.1901*

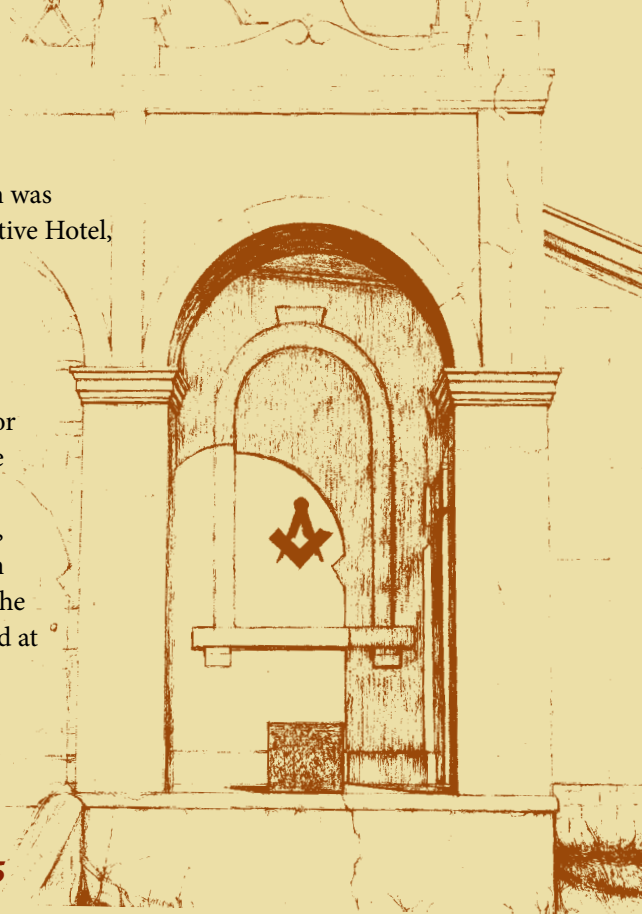
This elegant weatherboard house has had a major alteration to the front c.1920. Note the stunning steeply pitched gable. At one stage the house served as a doctor's surgery and midwifery hospital.

11. 15 Salisbury Street, 1885

This small cottage of red Uralla brick on a stone rubble foundation was constructed for Mr. C.H. Givney, who was licensee of the Locomotive Hotel, which stood on the corner of Duke and Salisbury Streets.

12. Masonic Hall, 1883-1884, Maitland Street

Tenders were called on 24th October 1883 to construct a temple for the Masonic Order, to be built of brick on a stone foundation. The original building with its brick frontage, windows and entrance door may be seen behind the colonnade. The verandah colonnade, featuring four little cappings, was added some years later, and then the ubiquitous fibro! The intriguing granite cubes are a tribute to the masons' ancient craft. The story that ceremonial goats were penned at the rear of the building is utterly unfounded.



13. 26 Maitland Street, 1885

This quaint cottage, of Uralla brick on granite and basalt footings, features a front verandah with cast iron lace frieze under a concave galvanized iron roof. The front door has exquisite etched glass. The cottage was sympathetically extended in 1977 using "sawn slab and batten" construction, typical of many humble houses in the area in the 1880s.

14. 5 Elizabeth Lane, 1885

Of red Uralla brick, creatively enlarged in 2002 using bricks from the demolished 1880's Gostwyck Municipal Council building in King Street.

15. Nos. 35 and 37 Maitland Street, 1889

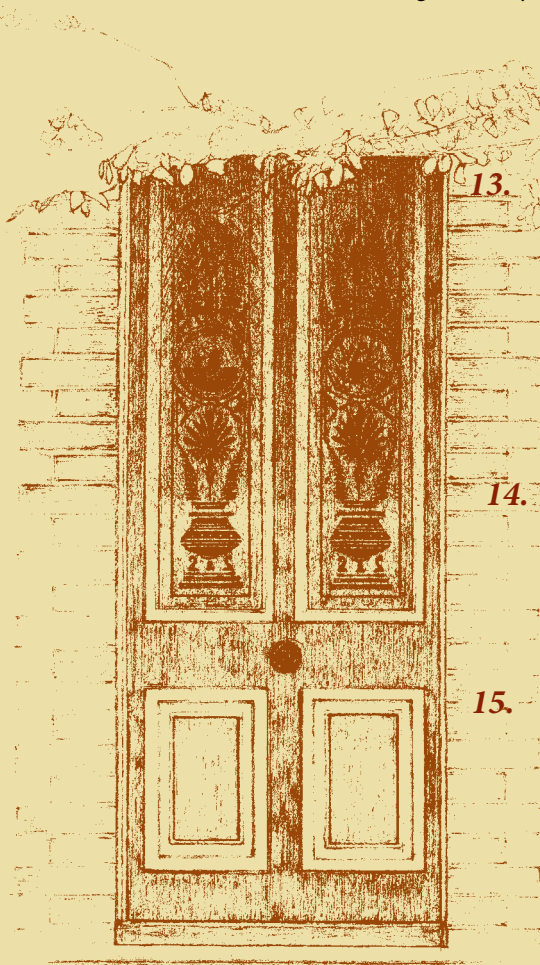
The only pair of two-storey semi-detached houses in the New England area still existing. The houses are identical, although "mirror reversed." The austere verandah is capped with bull-nose galvanized iron. The only other similar local houses were in Armidale, but were demolished in 1975 to provide a concrete parking area for a petrol station!

16. "Foxwood", 1891, 31 Maitland Street

Built by Uralla builder Mr Ford, "Foxwood" is rich in the architectural detail of the Victorian era... complete first floor verandah frieze of cast iron lace, ornamental cast iron columns with decorative brackets, ornamental window surrounds, splendid door, door knocker, sidelights, and a front wall which has tuck-pointing painted on in what was the peculiar fashion of the time. To the rear of this elegant house are two timber buildings, on the left the servants' quarters and on the right the bathroom, ensuring that all the dirt was kept outside!

17. Uniting Church, 1908, Hill Street

Built as the Methodist Church by Mr C.G. Cooper with bricks made and fired in a specially built kiln on Burial Ground Gully. It features a turreted entrance porch and trinity windows supporting coloured lead-light glass. Perhaps the cracks in the wall have been made by God moving in mysterious ways.





18. *Stationmaster's Residence and Railway Station, 1882, Duke Street*

This complex of buildings was constructed under NSW Government Railways contract by Messrs. Seabrook and Brown. Because the highway assumed the role of the railway, the residence is now a private home. The brick "barn" at the rear is a recent construction.

19. *Police Residence, 1891, Hill Street*

This Police residence was built close to the local Court House for convenience. A prisoner lock-up is external at the rear of the residence. No doubt there were plenty of late night sing-a-longs in the cold cells... accompanied by percussion!

20. *Uralla Courthouse, 1885, Hill Street*

During its construction, when the proportions became visible, one correspondent to the local newspaper likened the structure to the "Taj Mahal . . . a lonely shrine – stark in appearance." The entrance steps, beneath the imposing high-arched Victorian portico, are fine examples of Uralla granite. Note the stables building at rear.

21. *Uralla Post Office, 1885, Hill Street*

Built by Mr Edward Scanlon. The western verandah was later enclosed to accommodate the telephone exchange, yesterday's equivalent of talk-back radio.

22. *Store, 1890, Hill Street*

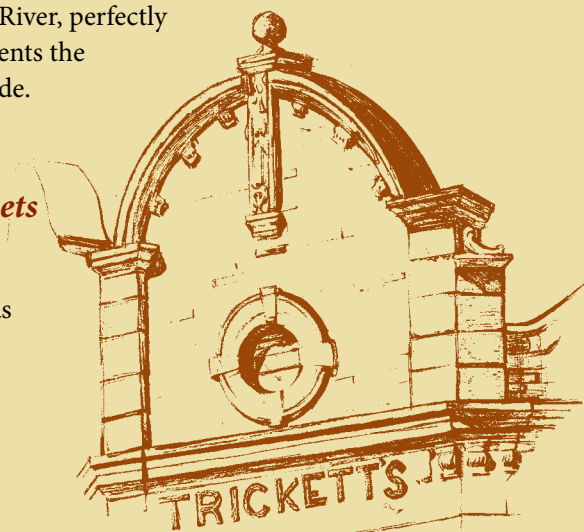
Constructed using Uralla red brick for Mrs Elizabeth Cooper. First leased by J. Watts and used as a roller skating rink (note the small ticket-seller's window in the eastern wall) and later by Obadiah Carter as a general store. The original awning and posts have been removed, but not, as rumour has it, by wayward skaters.





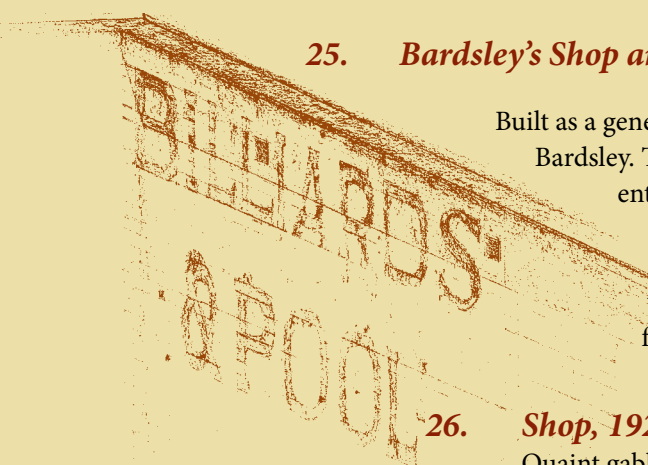
24. *Trickett's General Store, 1910, Cnr Hill and Bridge Streets*

Mr C.E. Solomons, a local businessman, built the corner portion, with its impressive Victorian Italianate decorative parapet. This building was purchased by Fred Trickett in 1920 and extended further along Bridge Street. Fred was a son of Ned "The Slab" Trickett, World Champion Sculler 1876-1880, Australia's first international sporting champion. (See "Trickett's Triumph", an exhibition at McCrossin's Mill Museum.)



25. *Bardsley's Shop and Accommodation House, 1886, Bridge Street*

Built as a general store with family accommodation on the first floor, for Thomas Bardsley. The builder was Mr Elliott and the bricklayer R. Anderson. The private entrance is seen on the right side. This later became the entrance to a billiard room. (Note sign on the southern wall.) The Wallace family later began their business career in Uralla in this shop, whilst raising a family of twelve children. The footpath verandah was removed, leaving a balcony featuring cast iron columns and lace.



26. *Shop, 1920's, Bridge Street*

Quaint gabled weatherboard building with awning, recently re-posted, the first building in the main street to have posts reinstalled. Ironically, the posts were erected by the youngest son of the builder who removed Uralla's main street verandah posts in the 1950's because the consensus was that they were "damaging cars"!

27. *"Clays' House", 1881, Bridge Street*

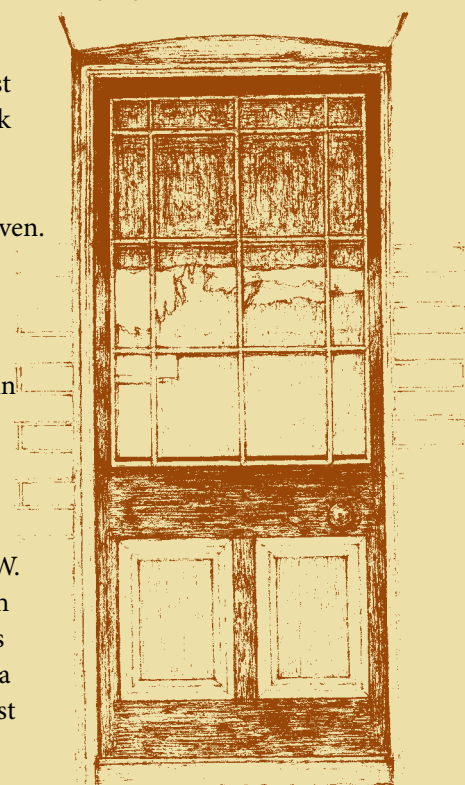
Built by Mr. Dangar of Gostwyck Station as a retirement home for one of his most esteemed workers, Mr Phillip Post. The building features colonial bond brickwork upon a rubble basalt foundation. The verandah aligns the footpath, and the tuckpointing on the front wall has been painted on. Note the lovely glazed cedar door on the left. A detached brick kitchen at the rear contains a cast-iron bread oven. A private residence.

28. *St. David's Presbyterian Church, 1904, Bridge Street*

Originally showing its red brick construction, the exterior was cement rendered in 1909. Now privately owned.

29. *"Eliza", 1887, 37 King Street.*

Of double brick construction on a granite rubble base, it was built by Alderman W. Gibson as the residence for his "Steam Aerated Water and Cordial Factory" which was situated next door. The local foundry still has the hand-carved cedar patterns used to cast the iron lacework. Described in an 1887 issue of the Uralla Times as a "commodious brick residence", an extensive sympathetic addition was built almost exactly one hundred years later by Brendan and Cheryl Nolan.



30. *Commercial Hotel, c.1860, Cnr Bridge and King Streets*

First registered by the Allingham brothers as "The Ship And Anchor" Hotel in 1860, the rear of this building is still supported upon round timber bearers adzed flat on the top to receive floor boards. Uralla is a long way from the ocean, so the publican who named his establishment "The Ship And Anchor" must have been drinking the stuff instead of selling it.

31. *"Wangaleigh", c.1881, Bridge Street*

Originally built as a cordial factory. Victorian brick cottage with bull-nose posted verandah and decorative cast-iron brackets built onto the street alignment. Unusually, the front of the house is not facing the highway. Perhaps the builder drew up his plans at "The Ship And Anchor"?

33. *Blue Trail Garage, c.1864, Cnr. Bridge and King Streets*

Originally built as a retail store for Mr Kirkwood whose flour mill was further down the hill at the rear. Soft red Uralla brick on a rubble basalt foundation. An evocative name, isn't it?

34. *47 King Street, c.1890*

Simple but charming weatherboard cottage. Good things come in small packages.

35. *55 King Street, 1885*

Brick cottage. Note the unusual decorations above the door and windows, and the tall chimneys.

36. *Alma Park, Established 1893, Queen Street*

Officially named on 3rd of August 1893, when Uralla's school children assembled to plant one hundred trees, the first of which was planted by Alma O'Connor, daughter of the Mayor Alderman O'Connor. A case of arboreal nepotism?

37. *"Gunyah", 1905, Hill Street*

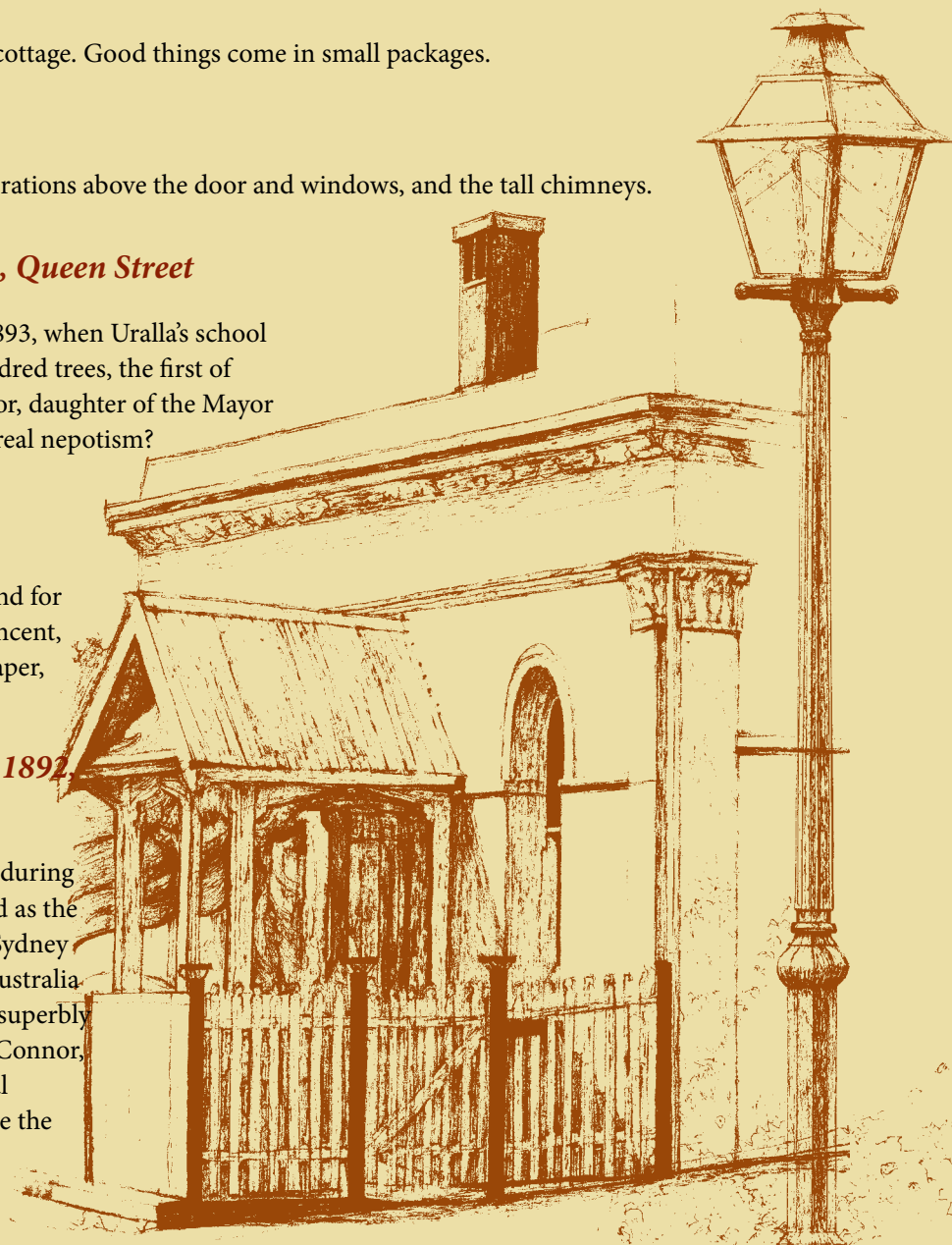
Built for Mrs Christine McCrossin and for many years the home of "Barnes" Vincent, editor of "The Uralla Times" newspaper, (Est. 1876).

38. *Australian Joint Stock Bank, 1892, Cnr Bridge and Hill Streets*

The original bank ceased operations during the 1890's Depression, then reopened as the Commercial Banking Company Of Sydney (1907), then the National Bank Of Australia until 1995. Now a private residence, superbly refurbished by Tom and Marcella O'Connor, with a splendid replica of the original picket fence, and lovely gardens. Note the extraordinary number of chimneys.

32. *St. Joseph's Church, c.1881, Bridge Street, Convent and School, c.1886-1912*

This fine old church is built of red brick lain in English Bond upon a rubble granite foundation. The front features lancet stained glass windows crowned by a glass roundel. The steeply pitched gable roof has concrete capping and distinctive concrete crosses. The delightful stained glass windows are memorials to pioneer families. The turret tower once supported a conical spire. Note the 1914-18 War Memorial on the gate posts. The school buildings have been recently restored and refurbished. There is an interesting dialogue, probably originally in Latin, between the buildings in their composition of styles.





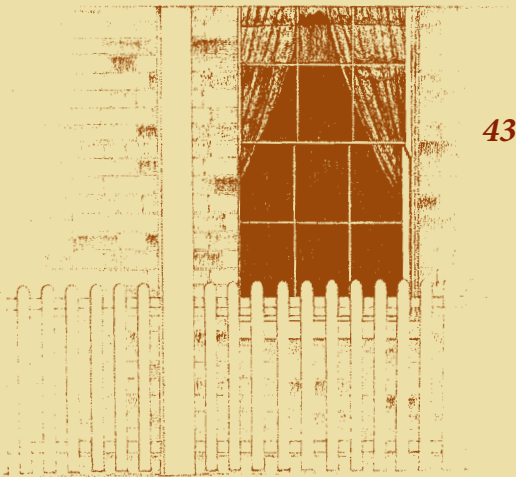
39.

“The Heart Stone”

Walk around the corner into Hill Street to discover that Uralla certainly has a heart. Keep your eyes open because this one is not numbered. (We don’t want the whole world to know.) Half way along the retaining wall is an idiosyncratic basalt heart, presumably a lasting tribute to the stone mason’s beloved.

41. *Gas Lamps, 2000, Bridge Street*

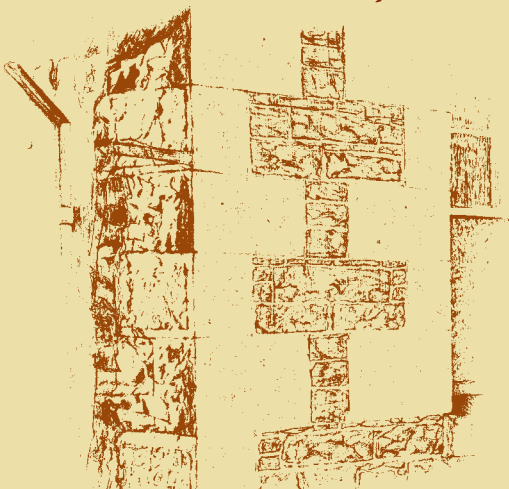
Replicas of main street lighting, 1911-1918. The iron posts were cast from original patterns at G & C Foundry, Uralla, and the lanterns handmade in Uralla by Tony Baldwin. (The other gas lamp is at the bottom end of the street.)



44. *Sid Gillis’ Billiard Saloon and Bike Shop, 1904, Bridge Street*

Quaint weatherboard structure with barrel vaulted upper parapet and clerestory windows, the awning and posts reinstalled by Alan and Fran Lindsay in 2004. Bicycles and billiards? The mind boggles.

45. *Salvation Army Citadel, 1872, Bridge Street*



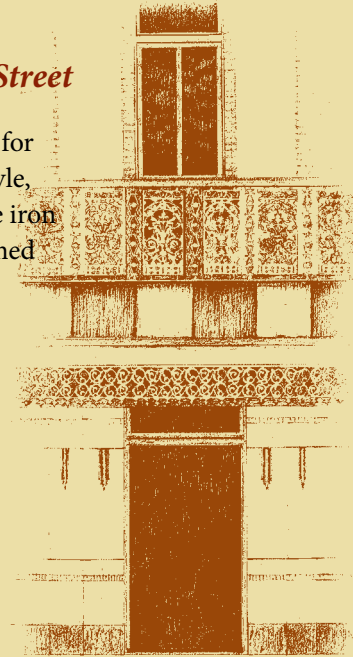
Built for the Sons and Daughters of Temperance Lodge. The woodwork is by Murray and McCrossin and stonework by Maurice Carroll. An amazing palette of materials... brick, coursed and uncoursed granite and basalt and random rubble walls. Used by the “Blood & Fire” Salvation Army from June 1887 until the blood thinned and the fire dwindled in 2002. Now privately owned.

40. *“The Great Northern Hotel”, c.1881, Bridge Street*

A second storey was added in 1904 and the name changed to the “Commercial Hotel.” It is built of Uralla brick, with quoins of Uralla granite, and decorative cast iron posts and lace. Now “The Top Pub.”

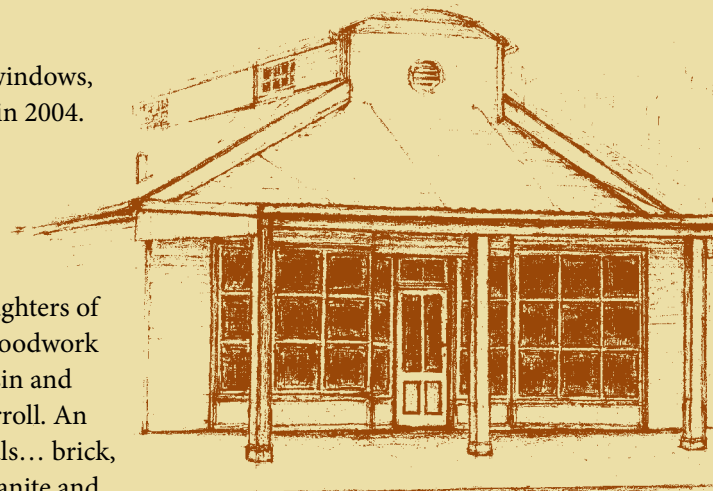
42. *Imperial Hotel, 1909, Bridge Street*

Designed by Hugh J. Scott, Architect, for James Ryan, Esq., of late Victorian style, with impressive façade and decorative iron posts, lace, brackets and frieze. Renamed “The Thunderbolt Inn,” in 1970, the centenary of the bushranger’s death.



43. *Stoker’s Store, 1864, Bridge Street*

Considered to be one of the most significant historical buildings on the whole New England Highway, this was built as an inn by John Kennedy, but never licensed. John Stoker, a tinsmith, operated his business there from 1905, and then his son, Reg, ran a clothing shop. Note the original cedar windows and doors, and the newly shingled roof. In 1980, the then new owner planned to demolish part of the structure, but the NSW Heritage Council issued a Preservation order to prevent this. Within the Uralla community a fierce debate erupted, and went on for years. Given all the “bullets” that were fired and all the hold-ups, the new Bushranger Motel is aptly named! In 1983 a boarded up fireplace in this then derelict building yielded up a “treasure chest” of memorabilia about the Stoker family. “Corporal Cecil Stoker”, an exhibition at McCrossin’s Mill Museum, tells the moving story.



46. *Literary Institute, 1910, Bridge Street*

Built by C. G. Cooper in 1910 and licensed as the Tattersalls Hotel. In 1920, the interior was gutted by fire and abandoned. The Uralla sub-branch of the RSL, the trustees of the old Literary Institute and members of the Country Women's Association had the derelict rebuilt in 1927 and officially recognised as a First World War Memorial Literary Institute. More billiards and books for blokes! Licensed clubs, with their billiards, booze and one-armed bandits, put an end to that well-intentioned institution.

48. *31 Queen Street, c. 1880*

Humble Victorian cottage in almost original condition, consisting of one bedroom, parlour, and kitchen. Built close to the street to avoid the watercourse at the rear.

49. *Public School and Residence, 1868, Queen Street*

Built by Alexander Mitchell for the local school board patrons, to a design supplied by the State Education Department. It was described as a brick building with high gables, and decorative fascia boards. In 1922 it became a private hospital, and then eventually a private hotel, both institutions supervised by the diminutive but assertive Matron McMaugh. It is said that when tourist busloads stayed overnight, the driver was accommodated in the original morgue! Uralla's first swimming pool still remains to the left of the building.

**47. *"Goddard Cottage",
c.1860, Queen Street***

The building facing the street was originally sited with its verandah aligned to the footpath of what was then the Main Northern Road. Uralla's oldest existing cottage, it had deteriorated to a condition of being unfit for human habitation. In 1988, it was carefully dismantled by Kent Mayo, then rebuilt on piers. The boundaries of the present front lawn are formed by the huge adzed tree trunks that were the original footings for this quaint cottage. The other structure is an 1880's "kit home", relocated from a rural property by architect Peter Myers in 1980. Henry Sheldon Goddard, who came to Uralla to install the machinery in McCrossin's Mill, lived here for a time. Note the original street gutters made of columnar basalt from Mt Beef.

50. *St. John's Church of England, 1886-8, Park Street*

The design for this building was suggested by Bishop Turner of Armidale, the architect being Blacket Bros. of Sydney, and the builders Messrs. Seabrook and Brown of Armidale. The bricks were made at Palmer's brickyard in Armidale. The gables are full Gothic pitch, and the roof was originally covered with best Bangor slates. The entrance porch shelters two Gothic doors boarded diagonally and hung on ornate hinges.

51. *Site of Oddfellows Hall, 1888, Bridge Street*

Built for the United Order of Oddfellows as a meeting place and public hall. The centre of the parapet is decorated with the lodge symbols, and urns surmount the end columns. Note the ticket seller's window to the left of the entrance door. It was Uralla's main venue for concerts and dances for many years, and, on regular occasions, various odd fellows settled their differences out the back. It was demolished in 2014 due to fire damage.

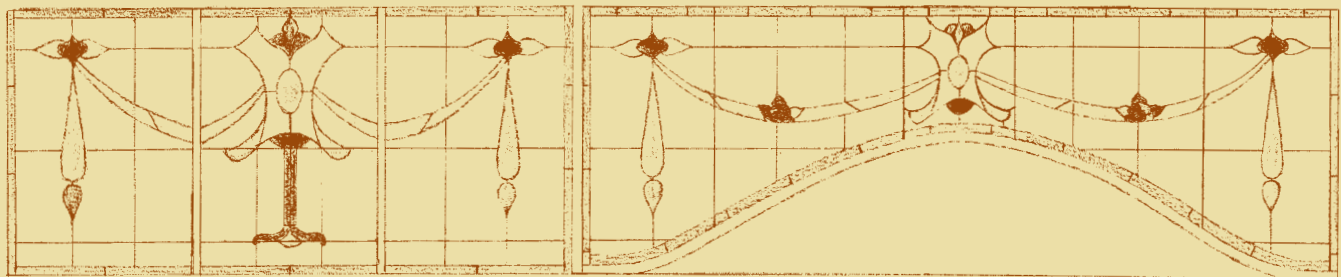
52. *The Royal Hotel, 1909, Bridge Street*

The present building occupies the site of Jimmy Tanco's Chinese fruit shop and Carroll's Court House Hotel c. 1864. In 1891, the name was changed to "The Royal Hotel." This old structure was demolished in 1909 and the present building erected. Now a private residence.



53. 110 Bridge Street, 1883

Built by Mr Scanlon for Joseph Haines who was initially John and Helen McCrossin's store manager (1864-1880) and from 1881 manager of McCrossin's Mill. The site was chosen so that Haines could sit on the northern verandah to keep an eye on the Mill after business hours! ...or so the story goes. It is more probable that the house was set well back to avoid the noise from the Court House Hotel. Brian Christie's meticulous restoration works and clever additions were completed in 2002. Featuring superb cedar joinery, this is undoubtedly Uralla's finest Victorian house.



54. W. Curtis Building, 1904, Bridge Street

This building occupies the site of the first general store in Uralla, John McCrossin's Post Office Store, which opened on January 15th, 1859. When the building was reconstructed in 1904, the builder incorporated "W. Curtis Arcade Est. 1893" in the façade because Curtis had already established a specialist menswear shop elsewhere in the town in 1893. Note the delicate leadlights above the shop windows, and especially the magnificent arched leadlight window, visible only from the outside, in the back wall.



55. Old Bank, 1874, Bridge Street

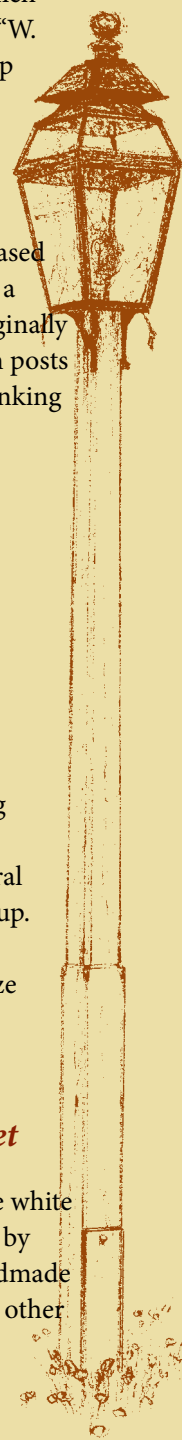
Built in 1874 for John McCrossin and purchased in 1878 by the Bank of New South Wales for a banking office and manager's residence. Originally it had a shingled roof and cast iron verandah posts and decorative cast iron panels. The large banking chamber was added in 1912.

56. Shop, c.1860, Bridge Street

Once occupied by such businesses as "W. Stoker... Tinsmith and Galvanised Iron Worker" and "W. Low... Jeweller and Watchmaker," the original building was extended to front the footpath in 1906, with an awning supported by cast-iron posts and decorative frieze. The unusual brick coursing may be seen from the covered breezeway on the southern side. In this exposed wall several door and window spaces have been bricked up. A portion of the sign "Hairdresser" is still visible. Replica posts and the decorative frieze of cast aluminium were installed by Neville Moore in 2000.

57. Kerosene Lamps 2000 Bridge Street

Replicas of main street lights 1887-1906. The white mahogany poles were handworked in Uralla by Brian Christie in 1999, and the lanterns handmade in Uralla by Phil Barnden in 1999. (Note the other one directly across the street.)





32. Entrance to St Joseph's Church
c. 1881

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