

EAST MAITLAND 1833



East Maitland Heritage Walk

By 1823, several land grants had been made in the vicinity of Wallis Plains and in 1824 a regular boat service began operating between Newcastle and the lower Hunter districts. During this time, the beginnings of a town were being made at West Maitland. This site was generally unsuitable due to the periodic flooding of the Hunter River. After difficulties were experienced in obtaining land for the establishment of a town at Morpeth, Surveyor, G. B. White defined the limits of the government town subsequently known as East Maitland. Within the design of this town there was liberal provision for public buildings, churches, schools and public reserves.

The town was officially proclaimed in 1833.

During the middle of the nineteenth century, the three towns of East Maitland, West Maitland and Morpeth dominated the affairs of the Hunter Valley. They were respectively concerned with administrative and government functions, commercial activities and port and trade activities.

East Maitland was regularly and spaciouly laid out with imposing and solidly-constructed administrative and other government buildings. In comparison, West Maitland was dominated by shops and residences situated along narrow, unplanned streets near the river.