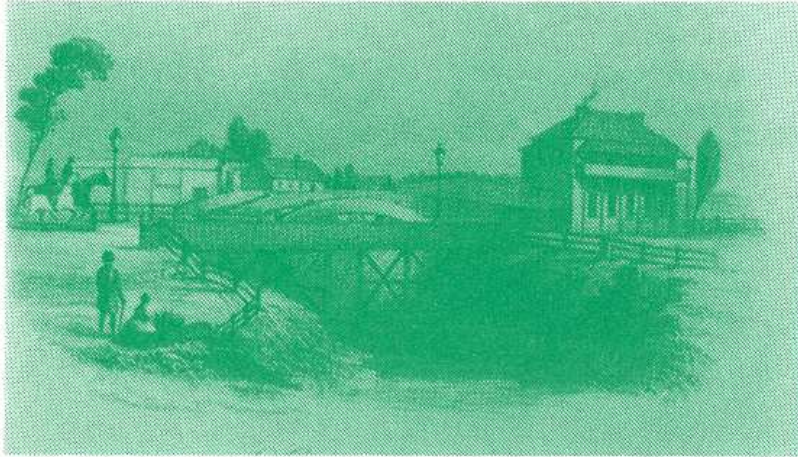


MAITLAND 1835

Maitland Heritage Walk (Eastern Precinct)



The area known (from 1835) as West Maitland was unplanned, with surveying only occurring when land owners subdivided their holdings. The difference can be noted when comparing the East Maitland of today, which was a Government town, well set out and planned, and West Maitland (the present Maitland), with its narrow meandering main street and apparently haphazard main entry. West Maitland was a rough pub area.

The gateway to West Maitland was the crossing of Wallis Creek which divided the then known towns of West and East Maitland. Wallis Creek impeded the flow of land traffic until a bridge was built in 1827. This bridge immediately opened the area up with inns, shops and services congregating around the High Street to take advantage of the passing trade.

By the 1880's, West Maitland had become the mail and banking capital of New South Wales and was one of the most prosperous inland towns. Evidence of this boom time prosperity is apparent for the entire length of High Street with its large imposing Victorian commercial buildings.

The Eastern Precinct area of Maitland has been the gateway to the western regions since the earliest times and this aspect of its history has helped to shape the Maitland of today.