

MANILLA & DISTRICT PLACES & SPACES Chronological List

Document in progress – updated August 1-2008

THE JUNCTION of the **Manilla and Namoi Rivers** is situated below the western end of Market Street and is accessible from North Manilla just east of the Mandowa Bridge. It was for generations, a familiar campsite for Aboriginal families of the Gamilaray Nation (also Gamilaroi or Kamilaroi), the large indigenous population inhabiting the Central North-west region of New South Wales. The Junction also marks the route of early teamsters on their way north, as they transported goods by wagon to cattle stations and settlements to the north and the goldfields of Bingara and Bundarra. The settlement here was simply called '**The Junction**' until the 1850s, when a horseback mail service was being established to serve towns in the Northwest. An official name was requested by the Postmaster General and George Veness, first storekeeper and Acting Postmaster of the time named the place **Manilla**, after the river which flows into the **Namoi**.

1853 - JOHN GEORGE RIDEOUT'S BOARDING HOUSE site - *North Manilla* believed located between Manilla & Rowan Streets. Sold to Davis. In turn bought by Thomas Connor.

1854 - GEORGE VENESS' 1ST STORE, WINE SHOP AND DWELLING site of slab construction below the western end of Market Street on the east bank of the Namoi River at The Junction. Established to provide a rest stop for teamsters on way to towns in the north. They followed the road from Norris' Inn at Greenhatches Creek. The store was washed away by the flood of 1864. Veness then rebuilt cnr Market & Namoi Sts.

1850s - CARRIERS CAMPING GROUND - from the river flat near The Junction (eastern bank below Market Street), around the river to the area west of a crossing below Rowan Street.

1863 - THE MANILLA HOTEL/AUSTRALIAN ARMS INN site - *North Manilla* midway between Manilla and Namoi Streets on the riverbank at North Manilla. Built by Thomas Connor at a cost of £1,100, following his purchase of Rideout's boarding House. A detailed advertisement in the Maitland Mercury gave the place for sale in 1865, following inundation by flood. Sold in 1867 to William Hill then to J. Flynn. 1875, a popular place where meetings were held and cricket matches played. Believed demolished 1890s.

1864 - GEORGE VENESS' 2ND STORE & WINE SHOP site – s/e corner Market and Namoi Streets (1860 survey map). In use for 42 years, demolished 1906. Veness' also built cnr Market and Manilla Sts 1885/6.

c. 1968 - TARPOLY MAIL COACH STABLES site - Barraba Road *Upper Manilla*. Destroyed by fire 1908

Pre 1870 - MANILLA'S 1ST RACE COURSE site - Manilla Race Club began holding meetings Durham Court Station west of Manilla Town.

1870 - GEORGE HARRINGTON'S MARKET GARDEN and ORCHARD site - *Town centre* north-east cnr Manilla and Court Street until 1894.

1870s - THE JUNCTION HOTEL/POST OFFICE HOTEL - existing site and the longest continuously operating business in Manilla. *Town centre* Builder Coulton for first owner/licensee Stephen Veness. Southwest cnr Strafford & Manilla Sts. Originally a single story building, in 1902 it was burnt out and rebuilt, a second story being added in 1906. The brickwork is Colonial bond. A.G.Windsor had the licence for a short time in 1913 during which time he changed the name to The Post Office Hotel.

1870s - POLICE DEPOT site - Rushes Creek Road eastern side at Greenhatch Creek, a slab building with bark roof, horse yards and resting paddocks. At this time the road from Tamworth to Manilla followed Greenhatches Creek from near Norris' Inn.

1872 – ARLINGTON – Tamworth Road, east & west sides. Original homestead built by George Coulton, one of first wheat growers in Manilla. Sold to Henry Bignall c.1884.

1872 - UPPER MANILLA SCHOOL site of small building of 13x26ft constructed of split sleepers with bark roof and ceiling. Building replaced 1883. 3rd School built 1903 - restored 2005 by Vietnam Vet Assn.

1873 - 1ST PRIVATE SCHOOL site - cnr Rowan & Strafford Streets Manilla.

Pre1875 - FIRST EUROPEAN BURIAL PLACE - *North Manilla* - Right of River Street before the bend approaching Mandowa Bridge. The area surveyed in 2004, fenced and maintained.

1875 - POLICEMAN'S LODGE WITH LOCKUP site - Court Street between Manilla and Namoi Streets.

First building constructed on large corner block which would later accommodate Court House (1885); Clerk of Petty Sessions Office; Police Station and residence for Officer in Charge of Police (1909); Lockup & Lockup Keeper's Residence; Police Stables and other buildings.

1875 - CARRIERS ARMS HOTEL, KLORI (NORRIS' INN) site – private owner. Timber building constructed by Charles Norris on the old Tamworth road south of present Fossicker's Way

1875 - UNION CHURCH site - *North Manilla* - cnr Manilla & Barraba Streets. Small timber structure - used by various churches and also for first 2 years of state school classes from 1877.

1876 - M.C. MACKENZIE'S 1ST STORE site - Murdo Cameron Mackenzie came from Aberdeen NSW to set up business. The store was a wooden building with residence situated likely n/w corner Namoi and Market Streets, diagonally opposite George Veness' store. First manager was Francis Mackenzie.

1876 - DURHAM COURT HOMESTEAD site - constructed northern side Namoi River, relinquishing association with name Dinnawirindi - replaced 1st homestead washed away by 1864 flood.

1878 - BENNETT'S FOLLY site visible - unsuccessful bridged causeway over the Namoi River below Rowan Street. Site of the drowning of 2 men and horses. Named for local Member of Parliament at the time.

1879 - 1ST OFFICIAL POST OFFICE site - *Town centre* weatherboard shop premises eastern side of Manilla Street midway between Market and Strafford Streets between School of Arts and Mackenzies Store until 1890.

1879 - FIRST MANILLA PUBLIC SCHOOL site - *North Manilla* Coronation Park, top of Manilla Street. A brick school with residence was opened in September 1879 to accommodate fifty children. Five years later another classroom was added. The school closed in 1900 after 21 years, with the opening of a new school in Court Street in 1901. The school building continued as Headmaster's residence until 1938, when it was sold. During demolition in 1939, 4 original documents dated February 26 1879, were found in a bottle set in the foundations. The bricks were recycled for a new home near Crow Mountain Rd.

1880 - MRS CORRIGAN'S WINE SHOP site - Carrol Gap Road (3Km south-west of Borah Crossing)

1881 - MANILLA CEMETERY - *North Manilla* - 2km along Namoi River Road.

Note: Historical and burial details of former Manilla residents, are compiled in the publication, "Manilla's lost Folks" available for viewing at Manilla Museum.

1884 - ROYCE COTTAGE - *Town centre* Manilla Street next to Pioneer Park. Home built for G.H.Royce in 1884, perhaps by TJBowen. Royce was engineer in charge of building the Namoi River Bridge between 1884-86. The IXL Bakery was established in 1908, the premises being extended to include a bakery rooms and shopfront. The Stewart family took over the business that year. It remained a bakery until the 1960s. The building was Heritage listed in th 1980s and now houses Manilla Heritage Museum & Tourism Manilla's Visitor Information Centre.

1885 - SCHOOL OF ARTS and MECHANICS INSTITUTE site - *Town centre* east side Manilla Street, between Strafford & Market Sts, now TOWN HALL COMPLEX. Timber School of Arts built by John McFaydon and opened December 15 1885. A new larger brick building replaced the School of Arts in 1900 and opened under the title of Mechanics Institute - the name change a requirement for Government assistance.

At the same time funds were raised for a separate timber hall beside the new building and this also opened in 1900. This timber hall was destroyed by fire in 1913 and rebuilt in brick, opening in January 1914. In 1923 the large hall was taken over by the War Memorial Committee who had it reconstructed and converted into the Manilla Soldiers Memorial Hall. The small hall then became The Mechanics Institute. Both buildings were renovated in 1959, with amalgamation of the Manilla Municipal and Mandowla Shire Councils. In April 1960 the current Town Hall Complex of Memorial Hall, Library and Small Town Hall was officially opened. The site was upgraded during the 1980s.

1885 - MANILLA COURT HOUSE - current - *Town centre* opened November 7 1885 - southwest cnr Manilla and Court Streets. Built by T.J.Bowen. A larger enclosed porch replaced the first in 1957. Court proceedings continued until 2002, when all cases for Manilla and Barraba were transferred to Tamworth Local Court. The Courthouse remains open limited hours twice weekly.

1886 - BLUETT'S BLACKSMITH SHOP - *Town centre* site east of Namoi Bridge approach - south side. Destroyed by fire, date unknown, immediately replaced by Bluetts Foundry, soon named MANILLA ENGINEERING WORKS. Located in Market street in 1906.

1886 - MACKENZIES STORE - site - *Town centre* Manilla Street between Strafford & Market Sts. When the Namoi River Bridge was opened in 1886, Mackenzies' business was moved from the 1st store, north-west corner of Namoi and Market Streets, to a galvanised iron shop on the east side of Manilla Street north of Strafford Street. In 1898 this was replaced by a large one storey timber building that was destroyed by fire in 1913. This 3rd building was replaced by a modern one on the same site, which was destroyed by fire in 1927 and replaced by the current building. As a large department store, MacKenzies the Family Store, operated until 1982. Architect's plans for this 5th Mackenzie building are held in the Museum archives.

1886 - NAMOI RIVER BRIDGE - current iron bridge built by Royce and Company & opened in March, 1886, G.H. Royce, engineer. Work carried out around the clock, lit by generated power. Pedestrian walkway added 1917.

1886 - VENESS' 3RD STORE - site *Town centre* Like Mackenzie, Veness moved 'with the traffic' when Manilla Street became the main thoroughfare, building n/w corner Manilla & Market Sts in time to accommodate the Namoi Bridge opening celebrations. WH Smith & Co. took over when Geo. Veness died in 1895. Bought by Thomas Priest 1902, who traded as Priest & Lorenz until 1913.

1889 - WESLEYAN/METHODIST CHURCH site - A brick building western side Rowan Street.

1890 - POST OFFICE 2nd site - *Town centre* n/w corner Manilla and Strafford Streets. Land set aside by Postmaster General in 1883. Brick building constructed by TJ Bowen 1889, additions in 1898 and 1908. Underwent major reconstruction 1923. Upgraded 1980s.

1890 - COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY of SYDNEY - 1st site - *Town centre* timber building with shop front on southern side of Royce Cottage until 1894 when the Bank was closed for lack of business. Opened on new site 1898.

1895 - WESLEYAN/METHODIST PARSONAGE site - south-east corner Arthur and Strafford Streets. Oldest existing timber building, private residence.

NORTH MANILLA COMMON - *North Manilla* Barraba Road east side vicinity north of private land to town rubbish tip. Now leased.

1891 - THE ROYAL HOTEL *Town centre* s/e corner Strafford and Manilla Streets. Built 1891 by Bowen for M.C. Mackenzie sale Bought and opened by Oliphant. Burnt out in 1913. Top story burnt out 1978.

c. 1890s - BRICKWORKS site 1 - Elliot & Williams. Kanangra Road (formerly the Stock Route) east side between Halls Creek Road and Reservoir Road (Northbrook area).

1890s - M. GRAY, FAMILY BUTCHER site - *Town centre* likely north-east cnr Court Street & Alexander Lane.

1890s - SMITH & FOSTER, SADDLERS & HARNESS MAKERS site - *Town centre* south-east cnr. Manilla & Strafford Streets to 1905. Jim Smith's daughter married blacksmith Brown's son

1890s - G.M. BROWN'S BLACKSMITH SHOP site - *Town centre* - timber structure rear of the Royal Hotel. Cars put Brown out of blacksmithing business. He ran outdoor picture show at back of Mechanics Institute and a skating rink at rear of Junction Hotel.

1890s - A.C.VENESS' STOCK AND STATION AGENCY - *Town centre* northern end Manilla Street (town) on eastern side. A.C.Veness' stock and Station Agency then Veness' Garage and Ford Dealership. Later Burgess' Garage Currently Pioneer Park.

c.1890s - MANILLA ABATTOIR / "HIGHLANDALE" SLAUGHTER YARDS site - *North Manilla* - 3km east of the bridge on the northern side of Namoi River, viewable from southern side of the river from road above the large weir. Until 2005, site contents consisted of small holding yard, a shed with concrete floor and sides with overhead bars for chains; 2 water tanks and meat room with large overhanging roof and screened windows. All local butchers had their stock processed here until 1965, when all meat was brought from Tamworth.

1893 - A.E. BAILEY'S COACH & BUGGY FACTORY - site. *Town centre* Position of former National/CBC Bank building, eastern side Manilla St between Court and Strafford Streets until 1933, selling to AC Blanch.

1893 - 1ST ANGLICAN CHURCH site - northwest corner of Strafford & Namoi Sts. Services were conducted in this church from 13th April, 1893 until a new church opened in Hill Street in 1914. Became private dwelling, later demolished and its bricks used in new housing in Namoi Street. CWA Rooms opened on site 1960. Anglican Vicarage site - Railway Pde.

1894 - 1ST CATHOLIC CHURCH site - brick building eastern side Rowan Street near Court St.

1894 - UPPER MANILLA HOTEL site - Brick building on 40acres. Destroyed by fire

1894 - O'DELLS CORDIAL FACTORY site - Alexander Lane east of current RSL Club. Sold 1907 to Harry North. Became North Soft Drinks until...

1890 - COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY of SYDNEY 2ND site - *Town centre* Eastern side Manilla Street between Strafford & Court Streets. Builder R.A. Stanfield. From 1922 offices of V.J. Byrnes Stock, Property and Real Estate Agent.

1896 - 1ST CHINESE TOBACCO FARM undetermined site located eastern side Namoi River on Halls Creek Road.

1898 - THE COURT STREET STORE - site current - south-east corner Court and Arthur Streets. Built and opened by James Blaney. Through various ownerships, the longest continuously operating store in Manilla.

1898 - VICTORIA SAW MILL site - eastern side Northbrook Lane above Namoi River. Constructed by JF Wearne, who came from Bingara. Destroyed by fire 1905 and rebuilt. Conducted by others after Wearne's death in 1941.

1899 - THE MANILLA EXPRESS site - *town centre* western side Manilla Street between Court & Strafford Streets. Destroyed by fire, date unknown. First 1899 printing reportedly done in a 'shop near Jackson's Skin Shop'. Early 20c editions (eg1906) printed in shop next to Simpson's Pharmacy.

1899 - CLARK & CROCKER, MANILLA FLOUR MILLS site - A timber building at eastern corner Market & Arthur Streets. T.J.Bowen for Gristing 100 bags of flour per day in 1900. Introduced electricity to Manilla in 1913 between Burrell Street and the mill. Sold to Wilson & Oram 1902. Resold c.1905 to Manilla Milling Co., then to M.C. Mackenzie & Son in 1920 located at railway precinct.

1899 - FIRST EUROPEAN/CHINESE TOBACCO FARM - Property "Clydesville" on Manilla River. Donald MacDonald put down experimental crop which he share-farmed to Chinese farmers. With success, grew to 3 plantations.

1899 - WHITING'S BRANCH SHOP/ W.WHITING PLUMBER site - *Town centre*. A single timber shop east side Manilla Street close to south-east cnr Manilla & Market Street.

1899 - M.MANDELL, STOREKEEPER site - *Town centre*. A timber shop east side Manilla Street close to south-east cnr Manilla & Market Street .

1899 - RAILWAY STATION PUMPHOLE site - south of Low Level Bridge below current Campdraft Ground.

1899 - MANILLA RAILWAY STATION; GOODS SHED; WEIGHBRIDGE AND STATIONMASTER'S RESIDENCE site - railway precinct. The Station opened for service October 1899 and was destroyed by fire 3 months later. Unrestored Goods Shed remains on the site. Stationmaster's house exists in private ownership.

1899 - 2 EARLY SHOPS OF INTEREST - later WOOD'S GARAGE 1ST site - *Town centre* west side Manilla Street north. Currently Split Rock Video. Likely early site of printing of Manilla Express before premises acquired at southern end Manilla St. (1906 Express reference). Shopfront altered c.1920s to accommodate Wood's Garage until moved to south-east corner Manilla & Market Streets in 1950s.

c. 1899 - J.D. KENNEDY, SOLICITOR site - *Town centre*. Timber building Western side Manilla Street south, between Strafford & Market Streets. 2 doors north of Imperial Hotel. Currently Tamworth Regional Council Branch Office site. First firm known as Creagh & Kennedy, Solicitors 1899.

1900 - J.E.SIMPSON'S MANILLA PHARMACY site - Private res. *Town centre* northern end Manilla Street on western side. Later became rooms of Dr Windeyer. Original facade replaced after storm damage 2003.

1900 - 1ST BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES site - *Town centre* Weatherboard building believed north of Royal Hotel on east side of Manilla Street until setup in new premises 1911.

1900 - IMPERIAL HOTEL - *Town centre* - current continuance of original - southwest corner Market & Manilla St. Brickwork is all Stretcher bond. John O'Donoghue opened the Hotel in June, 1900, having purchased the freehold from first owner G.M.Oliphant. 2 shops originally existed with one a barber shop.

1900 - COURT HOUSE HOTEL site - *Town centre* Opened Dec 1, near southeast corner Manilla and Court Streets opposite Rotary Park until c2002.

1900 - MANILLA PUBLIC SCHOOL 2ND SITE - corner Court & Arthur Street. Builder S.Harris, Narrabri. Land formerly occupied by town pound. Official opening for Jan 26 1901 cancelled due death of Queen Victoria. Opened with local officials May 9. Modernised in 1911 to create 3 classrooms, floors levelled and windows enlarged. Additions made throughout 20c. High chimneys and air vents are visible elements of the original building

c.1900s - 1950s - CHINESE MARKET GARDENS – *updating list.*

c.1900s - 1950s - CHINESE TOBACCO FARMS – *updating list.*

Pre1906 - HALL & VILES, BUTCHERS site - south-west corner Court & Rowan Streets

1901 - BURRELL'S BAZAAR site - *Town centre* north-east cnr Manilla & Market Streets. Harry and Emily Burrell established their import emporium. Burrell's Bazaar ran until 1911 when they moved to Sydney. Likely taken over by Miss Algie, as Busy Bazaar, Burrells Corner. Harry Burrell became authority on the Platypus. He published his research in 'The Platypus' in 1927. It remained the primary text until 1980s research by Tom Grant.

1901 - THE CORNER STORE - site - *Town centre_n/e* corner Court and Manilla Streets. Treloar & Co. of Tamworth opened store in April. Dissolved 1903. Henry Stoddart took over control of the Manilla side of the business and Stoddart's Bulk Store & Furniture and Machinery Showrooms were built on the opposite corner. In 1927, Stoddart took C.F. Hayward into partnership. The firm became Stoddart & Hayward Pty. Ltd. Damaged by fire 1927..Others operated the store.and the firm closed in 1975.

1902 - H. BAKER'S COACH & WAGGON FACTORY - BAKER'S FOUNDRY site - *town centre* on land now Rotary Park, north-west cnr Manilla & Court Sts, commenced in 1902. By 1910 the factory was one of the largest of its kind in the State, also making farm equipment and machinery and employing up to forty men. As motor vehicles replaced horse drawn vehicles, the factory became a garage. The building was demolished in 1942/3. Prior to 1902 the land was a stock yard. The land was purchased by Council with a view to establishing a Community Centre. Remained a vacant block until established by Rotarians as Rotary Park in 1960s.

1903 - CANSDELL'S then **ADIE'S ECONOMIC STORE** site - *Town centre* southeast corner Market and Manilla Sts. A general store built by Edward Hill for Levey & Cohen, Wheat Merchants who departed Manilla soon after. Became Cansdells Store. In 1911 A. Adie took up business until 1946, when it was sold to Swinton. Partly demolished in 1950s to create a customer driveway and accommodate J. Wheeler's Wood's Garage which was relocated from 200 Manilla Street.

1904 - PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH site current - a timber building north-east corner Court & Rowan Streets. MANSE built in Court Street 1911. Church removed to adjacent block in Rowan Street to become church hall in 1968 with construction of new building.

1905 - MANILLA HOSPITAL - site current continuance of original - opened May 10. In 1900 Manilla Progress Association moved to secure land and finance for the building of a Town and District Hospital. Money was also raised by public benefits. 1948 fire destroys nurses' quarters with loss of one life.

c.1905 - THE FEDERAL BAKERY site - *Town centre* south -east cnr Manilla & Strafford Streets, previously site of Smith & Foster, Saddlers/Harness Makers.

1905 - 1ST CONVENT- site. Corner Stephen Street in former home of JF Wearne until 1914.

1906 - RAILWAY VIADUCT AND TIMBER TRESSEL BRIDGE -Namoi River and Showground via Court & River Streets - built 1906, separate tendered components of the West Tamworth - Manilla - Barraba Railway line. Last train over in 1980s.

1908 - 1ST MANILLA SALEYARDS - site - western side of River Street south of Market Street. Built 1902 on land supplied by the Government. Last sale held in 1933 handled 30,000 sheep with difficulty. *See also 1936.*

1909 - POLICE RESIDENCE site - brick home built for Manilla's Officer in Charge of Police. Replaced Policeman's lodge & lockup, built on the site in 1875.

1911 - BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES - 2nd site - *Town centre* - Semi-continuance of 1911enterprise to 2001?Stables at rear. Built on land purchased from Stephen Veness in 1905. Bank operations transferred from 1st site (see 1900). Also early site of Smith & Foster, Saddlers & Harness Makers.

1911 - 2ND METHODIST CHURCH - site current as Uniting Church(1977). A brick building southern side Strafford Street, between Rowan and Arthur Streets. Church hall adjacent 1936.

1913 - CHURCH of ENGLAND site current - cnr Strafford & Hill Streets. Replaced 1st Anglican Church (south-west cnr Strafford & Namoi). Tower addition completed 1938.

1912 - C.N. SCOTT, STATIONER - site south west Manilla Street between Strafford & Court Streets. Scott then took over the News Agency following destruction by fire of Annis-Brown's premises in1917. In 1972 the Newsagency was sold and re-established in Mackenzie Chambers.

1914 - 1ST COMMONWEALTH BANK site - *Town centre* - western side of Manilla Street north of Post Office until May 1932. The site formerly occupied by the Government Savings Bank of NSW.

1914 - CONVENT site - current St Michael's School site. Brick structure built Eastern side Rowan Street

c.1915 - STODDART'S BULK STORE site - *Town centre* - south-east cnr Court Street & Alexander Lane.

1920 - 2nd MANILLA FLOUR MILL site - vicinity of Railway & Flour Mill Road. MC Mackenzie took over operation. Destroyed by fire 1929.

1920s - 1st MANILLA FREEZING WORKS - corner Burrell & Arthur Streets. Processed rabbits for export.

19-- 2nd MANILLA FREEZING WORKS - site foundations visible - at railway precinct, north of upright silo on Tamworth Road.

1928 - PALAIS PICTURE THEATRE site - *town centre* - Manilla Street east side 2 doors north of Rotary Park. The building underwent structural alteration over time and became unstable. Demolished 1999.

1928-36 - MACKENZIE CHAMBERS site - 2 story brick building, professional rooms and shops. Builder V. Davis, Newcastle. 170 Manilla Street shop front **MACKENZIES HOLDEN SHOWROOM** during 1950s, currently MANILLA NEWSAGENCY.

176 Manilla Street shop front **THE YORK CAFÉ** site run by Philip Feros c.1920s. Later became THE NAMOI CAFÉ. Currently MANILLA .BAKERY.

2nd level - 174 Manilla Street occupied by Lyons, Barnett, Kennedy SOLICITORS. Also SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE 1946-1988.

1933 - MANILLA WHEAT SILO 1 site - Upright concrete silo of 150,000 bushells capacity erected at Railway site mainly due to destruction by fire of Manilla Flour Mill in 1929.

1933 - MANILLA SWIMMING POOL - site current. Namoi River, construction of the SMALL WEIR (with valve) created a pool 650yds (595Mtr) x 50yds (45.72Mtr) X 5ft (1.52m average depth).

1938 - 2ND CATHOLIC CHURCH site - corner Rowan & Court Streets. Destroyed by fire 1971. Rebuilt 1972.

1932 - 2nd COMMONWEALTH BANK site - *town centre* - western side of Manilla Street north of Post Office. Operated to 1990s - A masonry building for offices and residence. The Commonwealth Bank Currently banking operation..

1936 - 2nd SALEYARDS / V.J. BYRNES site - *North Manilla* bounded by Namoi River and Rowan, Charles and Arthur Streets - When the 1st saleyards became obsolete in 1936, Byrnes commenced selling stock under a franchise offered by the council.

1938 - TOWN CLOCK - *town centre* - installed as part of Manilla Street Beautification Scheme, first planned in 1930. Included removal of pepper trees, tarring of Manilla Street and installation of centre gardens.

1948 - MANILLA WIRELESS STATION - site Tamworth Road 3km from Town. Manilla was selected in 1938 as most satisfactory site in Northern NSW for a National Wireless Station.

1948 - COUNCIL ELECTRICAL DEPOT site - *town centre* - western side Manilla Street between Strafford & Court Streets. Supplied installation services as well as appliances.

MANILLA'S 2ND RACE COURSE site - *North Manilla* - established on private property of VJ Byrnes, 2km east of Namoi River Bridge on northern side of River. Operated until 1958.

1959 - 2nd SAWMILL - site of 1st mill (1898) Northbrook Lane above River. New building replaced 1st mill. Operated under MANILLA SAWMILLS Pty Ltd until 1968 and sale to L & M Callister. Renamed Peel Valley Timbers. Resold to Dick Simmons in 1980. Purchased by Taylor & Gardner in 1984.

1960 - CWA ROOMS site current. Timber building accommodating Country Women's Association replaced 1st Anglican Church.

1960 - KEEPIT DAM - on Namoi River 25km south-west of Manilla upstream from junction of Peel River. First mooted 1896. Designed to store the floodwaters of the Namoi River and supply irrigation for primary producers. Begun 1938, held up for 4 years mid WW2 and degraded works reconstructed. Completed June 1960.

1961 - NATIONAL FITNESS CAMP - LAKE KEEPIT - An initiative of Apex Clubs of Northern NSW

1962 - MANILLA SKI GARDENS - 16 kms off Manilla-Keepit Road.

1968 - 2nd PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH site current - a timber building north-east corner Court & Rowan Streets. MANSE built in Court Street 1911. Church removed to adjacent block in Rowan Street to become church hall in 1968 with construction of new .building.

1972 - 3rd CATHOLIC CHURCH - site current building replaced 2nd Church destroyed by fire 1971.

1987 - SPLIT ROCK DAM - 28 km upstream from Manilla & 70Km from Tamworth. Named for a fissure in a large rock at the dam site. Designed to increase the amount of irrigation water available in the Namoi Basin. Construction started 1984, began to hold water 1987, opened 1988.

CHINESE MARKET GARDENS in MANILLA - Document in progress, see below.

Further knowledge welcome - Contact: manillamuseum(at)gmail.com, (02) 6785 2448

CHINESE MARKET GARDENS in MANILLA. Dates and full details yet to be confirmed.

Sources: A.R. Macleod's Transformation of Manilla. Mrs Queta Beale (Daughter of Clarence (Roy) Sing- Chinese farm history and locations. Other oral sources. Property ownership is undetermined, though probable for sites at North & West Manilla. Share-farming likely on most listed properties along the rivers. 3 early Sing family members grew tobacco, the rest grew vegetables, which were sold locally in family run fruit & veggie shops. Samuel Herald (Sam) SING - Market Gardener. Bill SING (Son of Samuel H). Market gardener. Many Chinese contributed to the early development of Manilla, supplied the town with fresh produce and also found work on European tobacco farms scattered throughout the Manilla District. This history is currently being compiled.

CHINESE MARKET GARDEN SITES - some shared

MARKET GARDEN Site 1 - Sam Sing MARKET GARDEN North Manilla adjacent and to west of Namoi River Bridge - Lloyd Street to Namoi Riverbank between Manilla Street & Namoi Streets. Former site of Manilla Hotel 1863-1890s.

MARKET GARDEN Site 2 - Sam Sing MARKET GARDEN - North Manilla major portion of western half of block bordered by Wimbourne Road & Richardson Street West Manilla.

MARKET GARDEN Site 3 - Bill Sing - MARKET GARDEN North Manilla west of Namoi River Bridge - Lloyd Street to Namoi River bank between Namoi & River Streets. (father of Wayne Sing.)

MARKET GARDEN 4 - Ed Lamont - MARKET GARDEN - West Manilla eastern half of block bordered by Wimbourne Road & Richardson Street West Manilla. Block shared with Sam SING. Ed Lamont. Block recently "The Old Mill" until 2002.

MARKET GARDEN - Thomas Gilbert Sing - MARKET GARDEN - West Manilla minor portion (western corner) of block shared with Sam SING and Ed Lamont and bordered by Wimbourne Road & Richardson Street West Manilla.

MARKET GARDEN SHOP - Sam Sing/Mrs SING North Manilla - timber building, eastern side of Namoi River Bridge approach.

Probable farm site - Sing property to 1970s - West Manilla half block bordered by Boggabri Rd & Richardson St at Sheild Ave. Sold to Clarkson 1970s.

Probable farm site - West Manilla - land to West bank of Namoi River north of Rail-line.