

2. DAYLESFORD & HEPBURN SPRINGS :
BACKGROUND HISTORY

2.1 PREHISTORY

Prior to European settlement, the country now occupied by Daylesford and Hepburn Springs was situated in the centre of the vast Wombat forest, which extended over a distance of some sixty kilometres between Creswick, in the west, and Woodend, in the east. The species of tree were predominantly messmate, peppermint, white gum, stringy bark, swamp gum and spotted gum, and were recorded as growing to a height of some thirty five metres with a circumference at the butt of up to 12 metres.(1) Early records of the Mines Department show that the Daylesford district was situated within a rainforest and was therefore subject to heavy rains, this point being brought out in a report of a shower causing the Sailors Creek at Tipperary Point to rise 3.6 metres and flood half of the shops on the east side of Vincent Street.(2) Such inclement conditions, it has been suggested, influenced the choice of the Daylesford, Hepburn and Spring Creek town sites, on high land above the gullies. This is doubtlessly true, but it would certainly not have been the only consideration on the minds of the early town surveyors.

Being a reasonably resource-rich area, central Victoria was inhabited by several aboriginal tribes. Tindale's tribal boundaries map(3) shows that Daylesford was situated at the intersection of tribal areas occupied by the Kurung, Wurundjeri and Jaara hordes. Loddon Aborigines(4), however, refers to the group of aboriginal people occupying the central highlands of Victoria as the Jajowurrong nation. Nevertheless, and irrespective of their tribal origins, the blacks remaining in the area after initial settlement were brought into the care of the Loddon protectorate, at Franklinford, during the 1839-49 period. By 1861, the total black population of the Loddon district had diminished to 15 males, and 8 females.(5)

Today, there are no known prehistoric sites within the Daylesford/Hepburn Springs area, although an unsubstantiated rock arrangement and ceremonial site has been reported at Mt. Franklin(6) to the north.

2.2 THE PASTORALISTS

The first Europeans to pass through the area included Captain John S. Hepburn, who established his homestead at "Smeaton" approximately 15 kilometres west of Daylesford and whose holdings extended east towards Daylesford, in 1838. John Egan visited the area in 1847 and apparently favourably impressed, obtained J.W. Berry's 1840 lease, renaming it the "Corinella" run. It was situated to the north of Hepburn Springs.

Other pastoral runs included the Clowes Brothers "Holcombe" run, which bordered Egan's "Corinella" on its eastern boundary, and which was subsequently sold, in part, to W.E. Stanbridge in September 1852. Stanbridge had purchased the western portion of the Clowes Brothers run, known as "Wombat", which he subsequently developed as "Wombat Park". During the 1840's, the district was threaded with recently formed tracks, linking Hepburn's homestead with the Loddon protectorate station at Franklinford, the junction point for other tracks to run holders to the north and eastward to the "Holcombe" run and beyond. Hepburn's track went by Wombat Ford(7), situated in the vicinity of the present Lake Daylesford before heading north to the Jim Crow Creek. The route of this track is reflected in the present street network of Daylesford, in the manner outlined below and illustrated in Figure 2.1.

In 1849, the Loddon protectorate station at Franklinford was closed, and it was Edward Parker who carried on as a caretaker of the blacks until 1864.

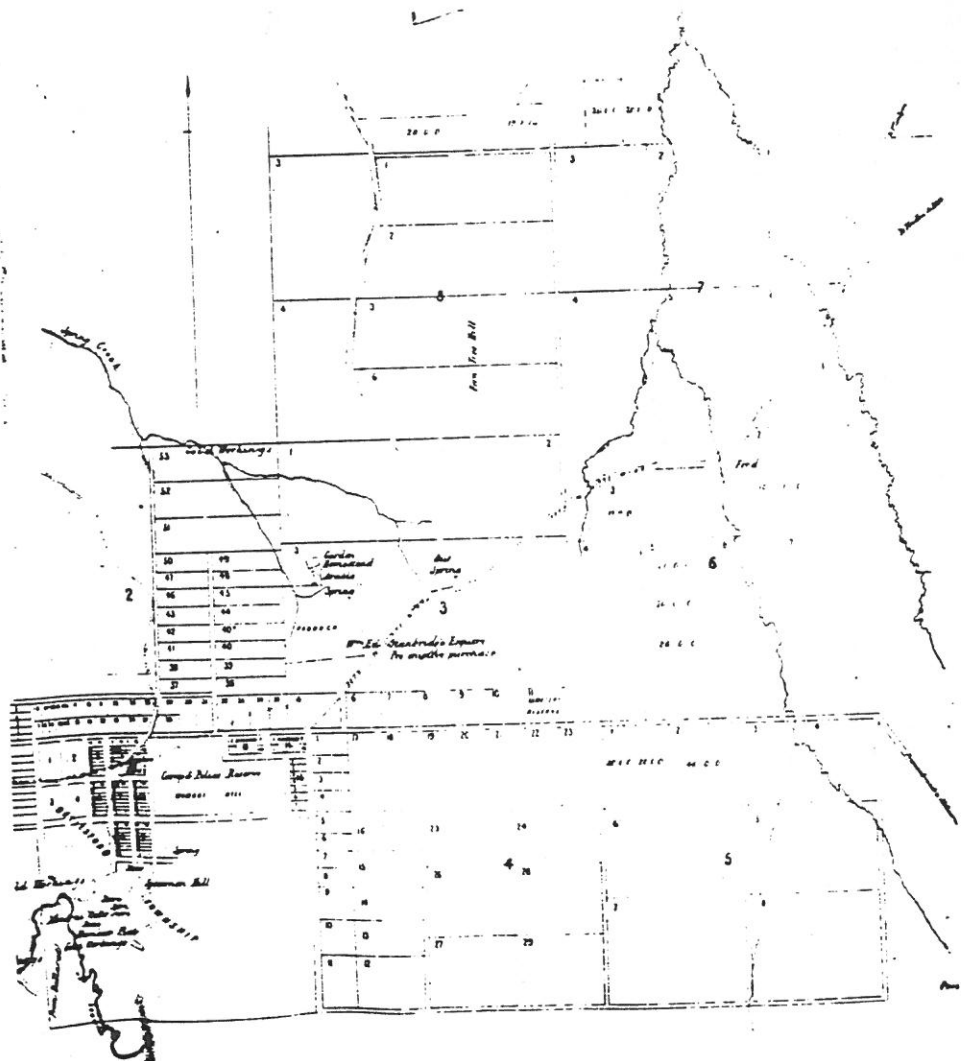
2.3 THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD

It was during the first week of August, 1851, that John Egan discovered gold at Wombat Flat, in the vicinity of the ford. Around the same time, Thomas Connell discovered the precious metal downstream of Egan, to the north of Wombat Creek's junction with Sailors Creek.(8) He discovered it in an area subsequently known as Connell's Gully and which today embraces the more recently established western fringe of urban Daylesford, along the Midland Highway.

Captain Langdon's shepherds, from his nearby run centred on Mt. Prospect, were also making discoveries at this time, and as a consequence of these, Langdon blazed a more direct track to the Wombat field. It ran via the Sailors Falls to meet Hepburn's track on Armstrong ridge.(9) Running down to the ford at Wombat Creek, it crossed this stream and climbed up to the rear of the present fire station, through the post office corner, and north in the general direction of the hospital. It then proceeded to Hepburn Springs, then to the Mt. Franklin Road. A minor detour at the ford took a route along Bleakely Street before rejoining the main track at the present post office corner.

TOWNSHIP OF
DAVLESTOWN,
 SUBURBAN & COUNTRY LANDS
 IN THE
PARISH OF WOMBAT
 COUNTY OF TALBOT.

13120



Map of Davlestown Township, Suburban and Country
 Lands, showing tracks and the Wombat Ford workings
 as surveyed in 1864.
 Surveyed by James L. Lister

The discovery of gold gave rise to the formation of many other routes, but it is of interest to observe, at this point, that the "bones" of the township plan were already in existence, prior to the 1854 survey. Indeed, Figure 2.1 confirms that Leggat Street, Bleakely Street, Albert Street, Vincent Street, Howe Street and Raglan Street were all located along existing tracks, and that the present Burke and Wills Squares, laid down in 1854, have their genesis in this network of bush tracks - a network which adds life to an otherwise monotonous grid iron plan.

Gold was not very plentiful on the Wombat Flat, and prospectors that followed spread out, finding more "colour" in Spring Creek, to the east of the present "Savoia" Hotel, in December 1851.

The year 1852 witnessed slow development, Commissioner Armstrong estimating that only two or three hundred diggers were active in the Daylesford area at this time. (10) Further discoveries were made at Golden Point, towards the north end of Spring Creek, at Doctors Gully, at the north end of Bridport Street, and in Blind Creek. By 1853, gold discoveries along the Cornish axial line south of Houston Street had lead to the identification of the hillside here as "Cornish Hill", the scene of subsequent intensive mining activity, the evidence of which is readily identifiable today.

In 1853, the first locally based gold warden, Mr. J.P. Hamilton, arrived at the east bank of Spring Creek. Finding it in flood, he set up the first police camp in the Daylesford goldfields at the point where his progress had been arrested. Today, Camp Hill, overlooking the Hepburn mineral springs reserve from the north-east, accommodates a camp of a different kind - that of the Hepburn Springs caravan park.

2.4 PATTERNS OF EARLY SETTLEMENT

During this period, amidst the tents and bark humpies erected by the early mining fraternity, a Mr. Rowland, later to feature at Daylesford's early land sales, had erected a store at the Wombat ford. With the diversification of the field, however, he moved operations into the Vincent Street area at the junction of two tracks. (11) By so doing, he preceded many other businessmen whose shops and stores were transferred from diggings to diggings in a constant effort to command more business. (12) Rowland erected a substantial hotel here, near the site of the present post office, which he called the "Daylesford Hotel", after the English spa centre of that name. (13)

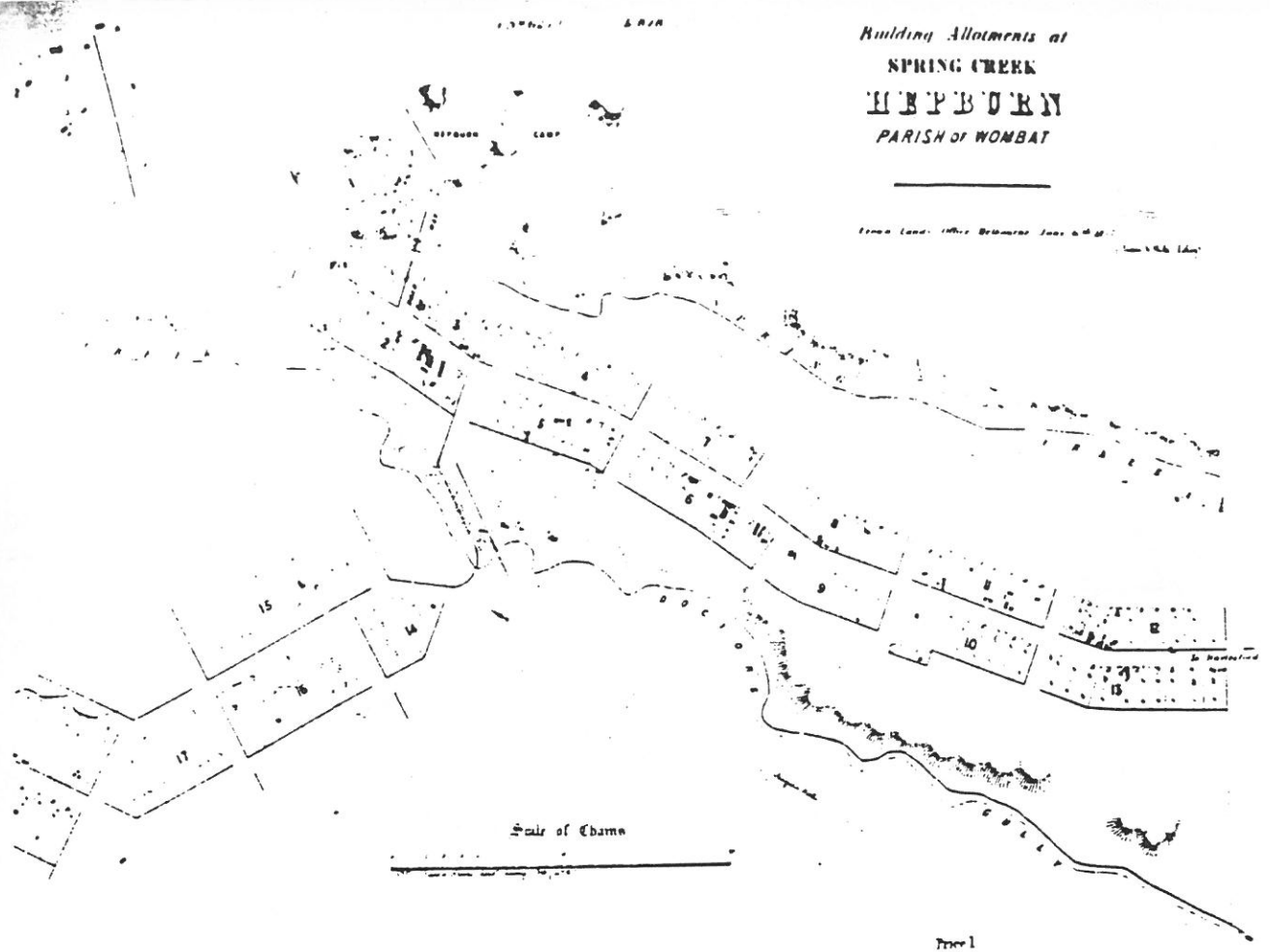


Figure 2.2 Survey Plan: Spring Creek (1857)
 Source: State Library



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Figure 2.2 Survey Plan: Spring Creek (1857)
 Source: State Library

And so, by this early date, the gradual shift in the location of Daylesford's commercial centre from the Wombat Flat to Vincent Street along the old Hepburn Springs track, had begun. Today, most of the old centre has been submerged beneath the waters of Lake Daylesford and there are no known photographs depicting the nature of the stores and temporary dwellings erected there. Figure 2.1, however, published in 1867, records the continued existence of four stores amongst the "gold workings" at the Wombat Creek ford. Nearby on the Ballan Road at the Lake Road turn off, Rachinger and Terrier operated a general store. The National Hotel was slightly to the north, whilst King's Wombat Hotel and the Miners Hall, the Wombat Flat bakery and Westwoods bootery, were nearby. Around them were tent type stores, combining to form Daylesford's first commercial centre.

At the confluence of the Spring Creek and Doctors Gully, settlement was taking place along the Shepherds Flat track, which linked Daylesford in the south with present day Hepburn Springs and Franklinford. The location of areas rich in gold gave rise to a pattern of settlement prompting those areas along the main ridge road south of the creek junction to be designated Spring Creek. Their catalysts were the Golden Point Strike of March 1852 and other alluvial gullies on either side of the ridge. Further north along the Shepherds Flat road, and following the Doctors Gully crossing, the settlement of Hepburn was clustering alongside the rich and intensively worked shallow alluvial field known as the "Old Racecourse", from the miners sportsground which remains behind Bakers Hotel.

In Spring Creek, the first shop to be recorded was built in 1853 for a butcher, by the name of Harrison. Dr. Rosetti's "Union Store" was established in the following year on the site of the present "Savioa" Hotel, and opposite that of Lucini's macaroni factory. Parts of the store serve today as the hotel billard room and other rooms and remain as the oldest building in the district. By 1857, a plan of building allotments had been prepared for the area, recording the existence of some 32 buildings at Spring Creek. Their location is shown on Figure 2.2 and they consisted of the following types of buildings:

Cottages	- 13
Hotels	- 2
Shops/Stores	- 14
Houses & Stores	- 3

Clearly, there were many dwellings unrecorded by this survey, possibly passed over due to their temporary and confusing nature by the early surveyors. The plan shows that although the non-residential properties were scattered throughout the surveyed area, concentrations occurred at Spring Creek just to the north of Eleventh Street, opposite Ninth Street, and in the vicinity of the present "Savioa" Hotel.

At Hepburn, a small commercial centre clustered around Brabant's Hotel and store, immediately to the north of Eighteenth Street. A short distance to the south, Dr. Rosetti was operating a second "Union Store", and the survey plan of 1857 recorded some 13 buildings making up the settlement. Again, many houses went unrecorded, but the building types which were noted are as follows:

Cottages	- 3	Shops/Stores	- 8
Hotels	- 1	Houses & Stores	- 1

In June 1854, Government Surveyor Frazer laid out a township plan for Daylesford of 80 chains square and he used the name "Wombat" on his map. However, newly arrived Victorian Governor, C. Hotham, is believed to have changed this to Daylesford, and the name was first officially used in the Government Gazette of 23rd August, 1855. (14) The plan form is of interest for it is a reflection of several factors, natural and man-made, which contrived to frustrate the Government's intention to impose order over the chaos of the goldfields. The township area was sited at the intersection of the pastoralists' tracks noted in section 2.2 and leading to Ballarat via Armstrong's ridge, in the south, to Spring Creek via Jamieson Street in the north, and to Castlemaine through Stanbridge's "Wombat Park", in the north-east. Their configuration gave rise to Burke and Wills Square, which are high points in the plan, and to Howe Street, which cuts diagonally across the grid iron plan, connecting these two points. The routes of other tracks were also confirmed by the survey, in the manner outlined in section 2.2.

Wombat Hill is the major natural feature of the area and is identified in the original plan of survey as the Camp and Police Reserve. It was not until 1863 following the elevation of community aspirations to a sufficient level, however, that it was gazetted as a site for the public gardens.

The street plan is hemmed in by the gold workings; at Wombat Flat in the south-east, and by the Specimen Hill workings in the south-west. To the north, the Doctors Gully alluvial workings combined with the prevailing steep terrain to preclude development in the north-west. Although residential development was eventually to extend south of Stanbridge Street into the Smiths Creek area, it never wholly embraced the mines of Cornish Hill, and the extension of the grid iron plan into this area never quite matched the preceding disposition of miners' cottages, which even today pay little regard to surveyed street alignments.

Today, Frazer's 1854 plan of survey constitutes one of the most important and simultaneously one of the earliest remnants of old Daylesford. It is the patterns of development within it, however, which form the substance of this study.

In October 1854, the first land sale released town allotments on both sides of Vincent Street, to the south of Burke Square and as far as Stanbridge Street. During the remainder of the decade, land sales were held throughout the township area. By 1860, most of the available land to the east of Bridport Street between Raglan and Victoria Streets (Central Springs Road) had been sold. Sales had also occurred along Armstrongs Ridge, King Street and at Smiths Creek, whilst in the suburban areas, vast tracts to the north of Raglan Street had been released in parcels of two acres, five acres and 9.2 acres.

In the 1860's, activity concentrated along Armstrong's Ridge, in areas to the west of Bridport Street and on smaller sales around Wombat Hill. To the north, this decade embraced the principal period of growth along Vincent Street north towards Spring Creek.

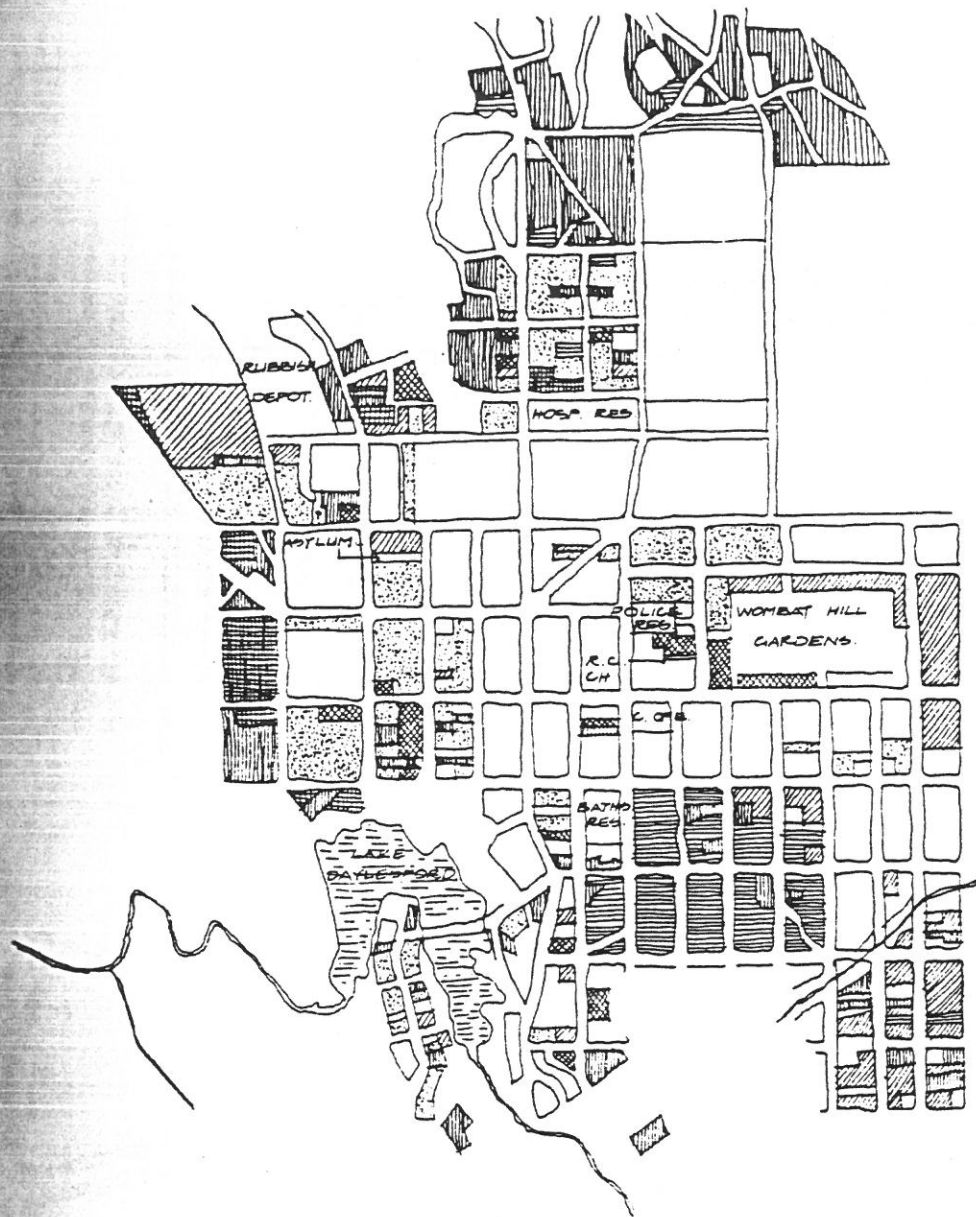
During the 1870's, remnant lots were alienated all over the township area, with concentrations in Hill and Frazer Streets on the slopes of Wombat Hill, and at Smiths Creek. By the late 1870's, however, most of the town and suburban lots had been sold, the notable exception occurring around Cornish Hill, which remains substantially with the Crown to the present day. Figure 2.4 provides a schematic indication of the sequence of alienation outlined above.

Two changes to streets date from these years and are of interest. In the late 1860's, Council purchased land at the north end of Vincent Street, at its T intersection with Raglan Street, to provide a more direct route to Spring Creek than Jamieson Street, then known as the Spring Creek Road. The second alteration took the form of a subdivision of the Camp and Police Reserve at its western end and the formation of Daly Street c.1865. Linked with this step was the alienation of the reserve's Hill Street, Frazer Street and Central Springs Road frontages.

In 1865, the Birtchnell's Directory listed approximately 1000 entries in the Daylesford township area. There were 45 hotels and boarding houses, 8 churches(15), and 256 dwellings occupied by miners alone. Figure 2.5 shows where the latter were concentrated, the most important sub-areas being as follows:

- . Smiths Creek, near Cornish Hill
- . West/Victoria Street corner, near Connells Gully
- . Bridport Street (south), near Wombat Flat
- . Jamieson/Vincent Street North, near Kidds Gully, and
- . the east face of Wombat Hill

In 1865, Daylesford's commercial centre stretched along Vincent Street from Vincent Street North, at Raglan Street, to Wombat Flat, at Bleakley Street(16). It ran along Howe Street to Wills Square and down Albert Street from Bridport Street to Duke Street. Figure 2.6 plots its extent in greater detail and provides an indication of the patterns of land use. At that time, the electric telegraph and post office was situated on the north-west corner of Stanbridge and Vincent Streets. The mechanics institute and library, and Jay's flour mill were a little further south in Vincent Street, and Millar and Andersons drapery store, the largest in the district, was opposite on the

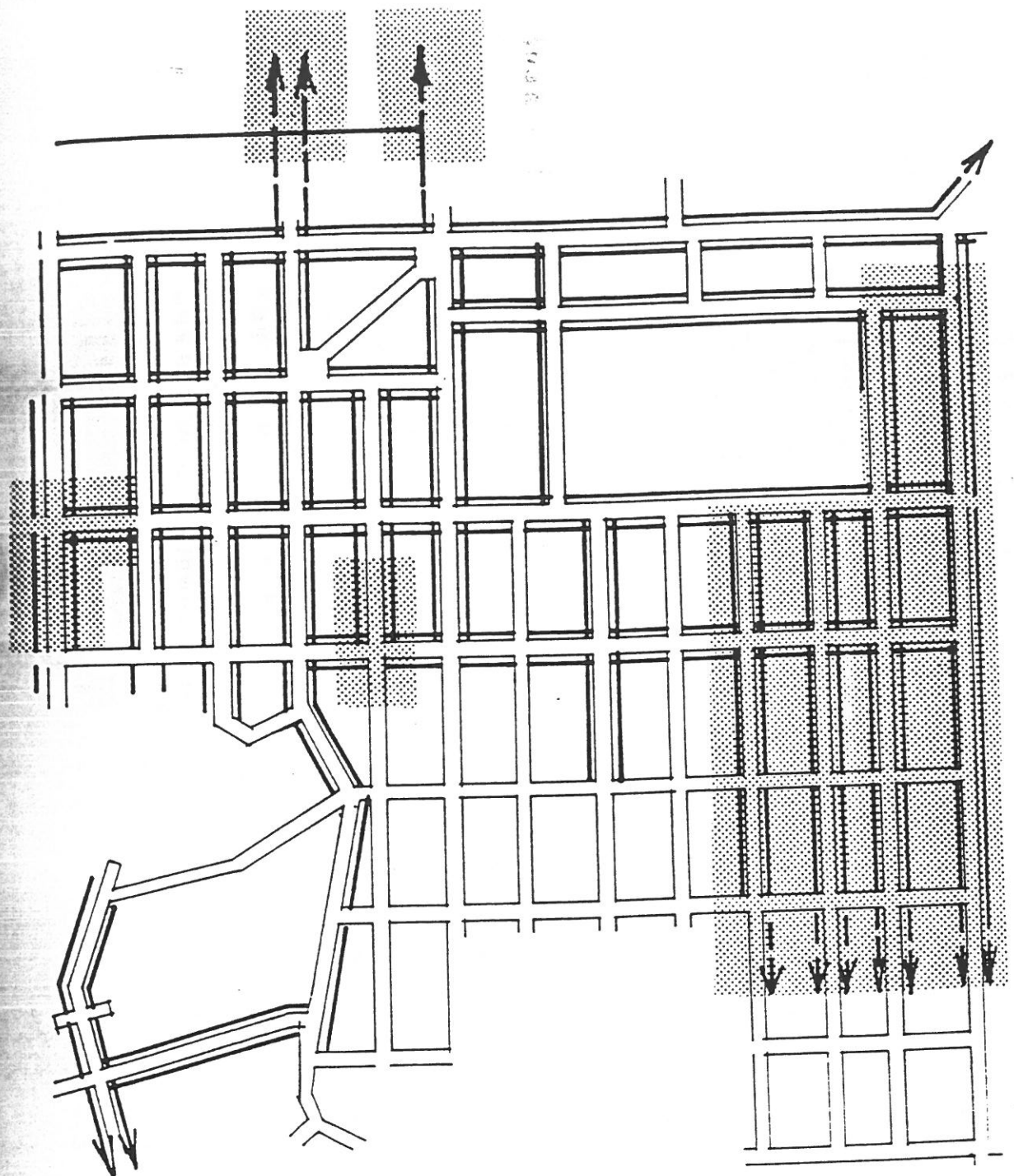


□ 1850's.
 ▤ 1860's.
 ▨ 1870's.

▩ 1880's.
 ▧ 1890's.
 ▦ post 1900.
 ▨ CROWN LAND.

FIGURE 2.4

daylesford township:
 sequence of development






-  AREAS OCCUPIED
PREDOMINANTLY
BY MINERS
-  STREET FRONTAGE
OCCUPIED (APPROX)
-  DIRECTION OF
DEVELOPMENT

FIGURE 2.5

daylesford township: extent of
development: 1865 SOURCE BIRCHNELL'S DIRECTORY

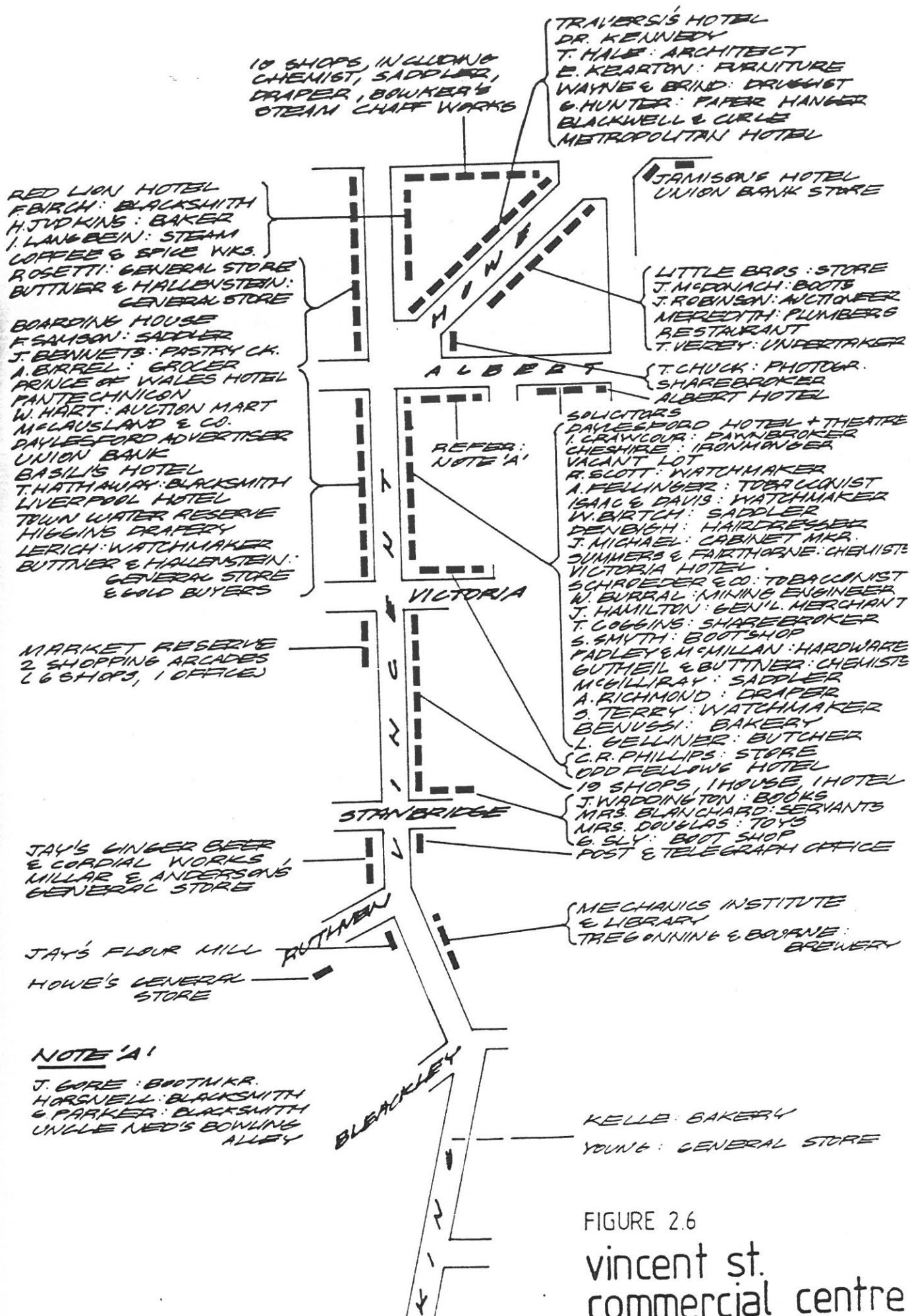


FIGURE 2.6
vincent st.
commercial centre
1860 - 1870

SOURCE: H.T. MATTHEWS: 1100 YEARS OF
DAYLESFORD & OLD MINING HISTORY II
RARE BOOK (1976)

Rathven Street corner. At Victoria Street, the market reserve had been established where the present post office stands, and there were shops and an arcade facing Vincent Street at this point.

The spread of commercial sub-centres within the township was dramatically different to present circumstances. There were small groups of shops, conveniently situated within walking distance of most residential areas, at the following locations:

- . King Street, at Macadam Street
(stores, miners hall and hotels)
- . Bridport Street (1 shop)
- . Millar Street (2 shops)
- . Racecourse Road (12 shops, 3 stores
and 2 hotels)
- . Grenville Street (1 shop)
- . Stoney Creek (1 hotel)
- . Cemetery Road (1 hotel)

In addition, there were breweries, a foundry, dairies, brickyards, slaughteryards, saleyards, the hospital reserve, manufacturies and outposts of the principal churches in such areas as Smiths Creek and Armstrong's Ridge.

By 1861, (16) the colonial census had recorded the following information for the Daylesford area:

Area	Total	Male	Female	Chinese	Aborigines
Daylesford Municipality	1919	1261	658	-	-
Wombat Flat	-	-	-	71	-
Sailors Gully, Stoney and Lankey Creek, Connells Gully, Table Hill	507	355	152	256	-
Blanket Gully, Deep Creek, Italian Gully	150	123	27	-	-
Welshman's and Doctors Gully	298	205	93	-	-
	2874	1944	930	327	-

Casting aside the statistician's distinction between races, the total population amounted to 3201 individuals. Apparently the Chinese community lived in the gold working areas, rather than in the township, and were almost totally male. But in other respects, the European community had attained a measure of permanency, with just under a half of the total population being female.

The topography of the township area presented vantage points for the artist and photographer in later years to record the changing scene. Excellent viewpoints were in Hospital Street, looking south, and from Magazine Hill, looking south-east to Wombat Hill. Figure 2.7 depicts the town in 1880 from Hospital Street, and may be contrasted with the present view which follows. It shows a pattern of development similar to today and confirms that the quarter of a century up to this time witnessed Daylesford's strongest period of growth. Features in the view include Wills Square and the Church precinct, which are remarkably intact today. A horse operated whim can be glimpsed on the slopes of Wombat Hill. It marks the location of one of the Township Lead workings which lead to the demolition of the St. Peters tower soon after the lithograph was made.

Carts and buggies trundle along Raglan Street, which is bordered by split paling fences, whilst at the extreme right intense development marks the Vincent Street Commercial centre. Also, notice the shops leading out of the picture to the left from Jamieson's Hotel, and the dairying and market gardening activities in the foreground. A buggy sets off in the direction of Hepburn Springs along Jamieson Street from Wills Square.

Figure 2.9 depicts the same area from Magazine Hill c. 1905 and is followed by a view c. 1930 and another of contemporary date.

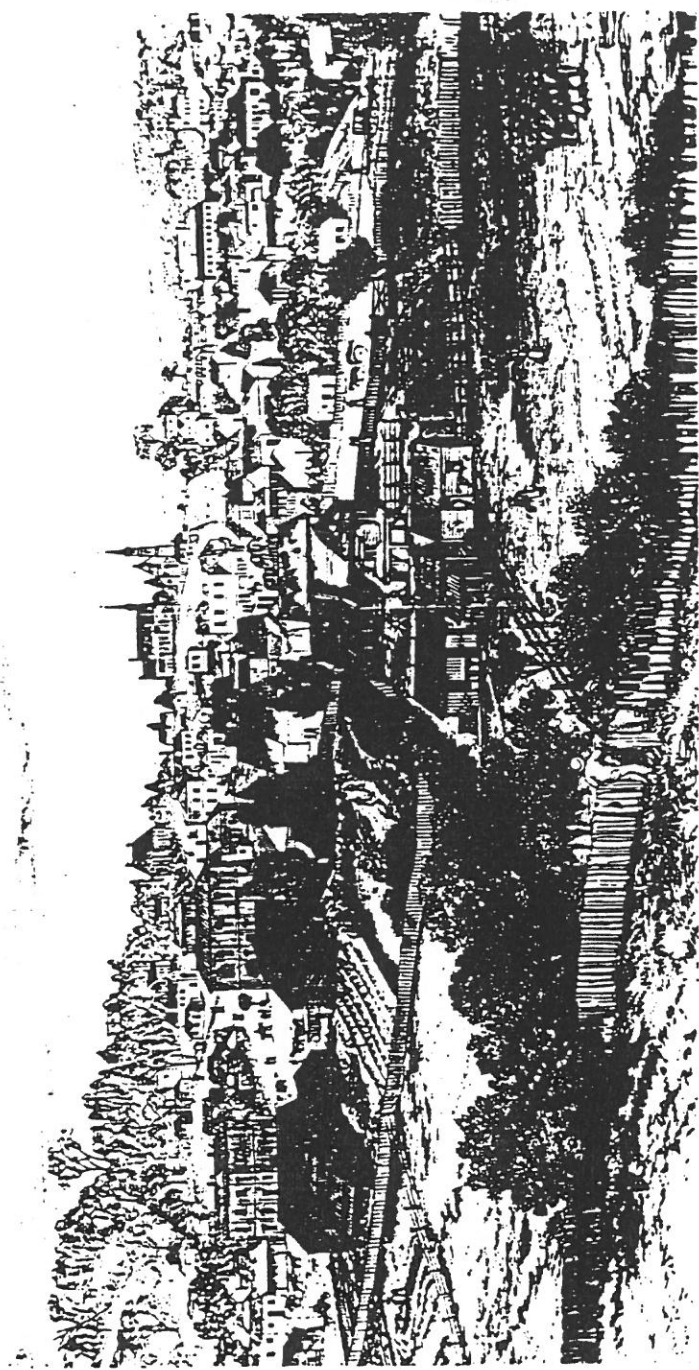


Figure 2.7 Daylesford Township, viewed from Hospital Street: c.1880,
(source: Australian Sketcher 27.5.1880).
(Latrobe Library Collection:State Library of Victoria)

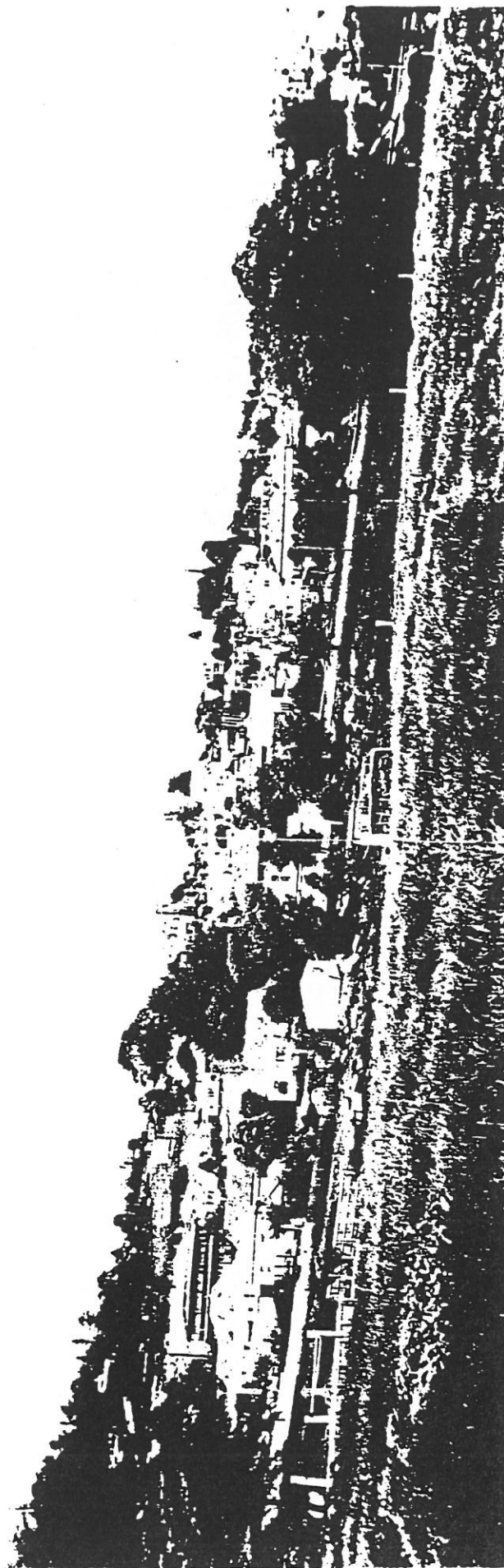


Figure 2.8 Daylesford Township, viewed from Hospital Street: 1984.



PANORAMIC VIEW OF DAYLESFORD.

Figure 2.1 Daylesford 11. 1905
Source: "The Daylesford 11" (1905)

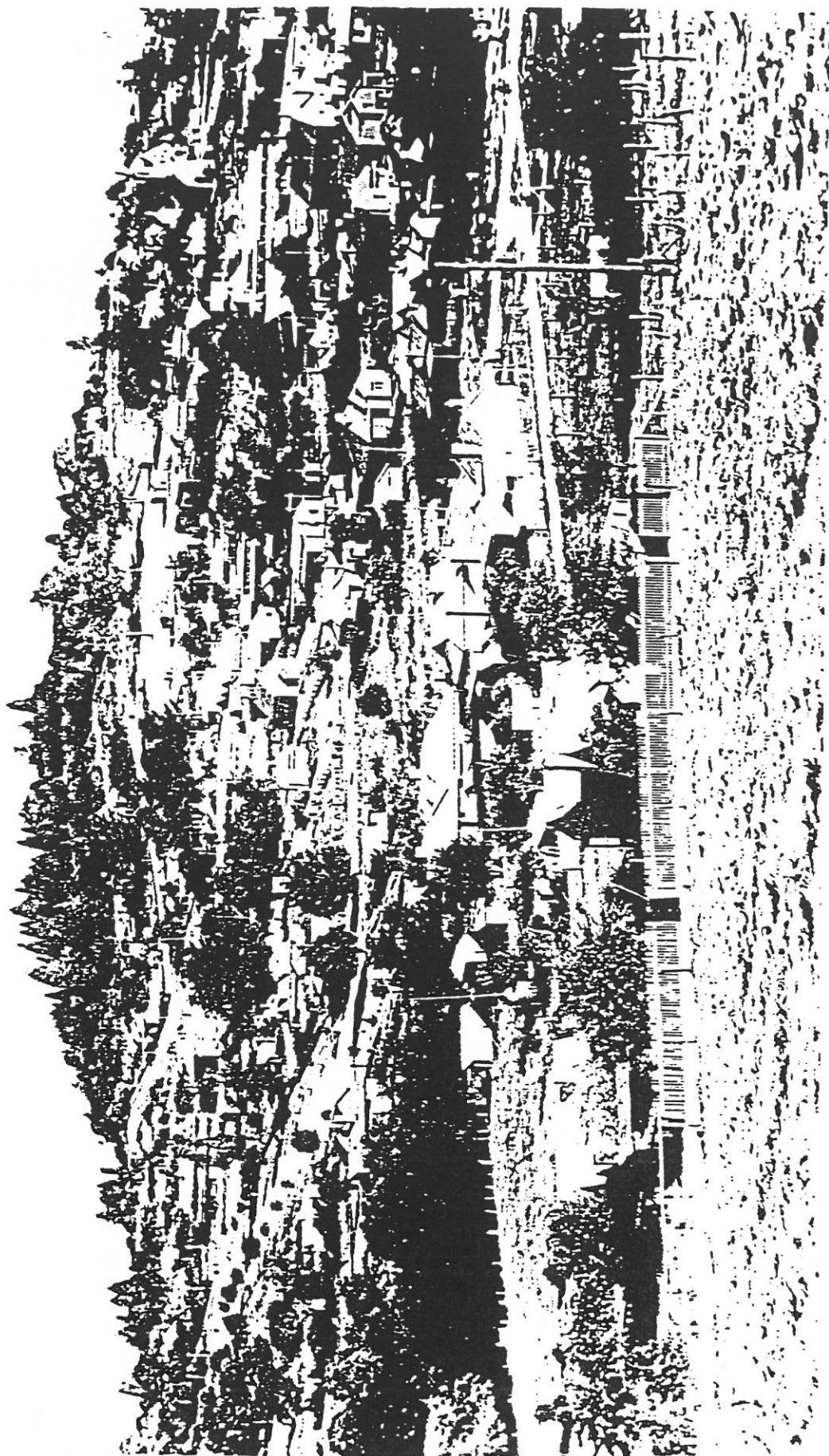


Figure 2.1. Aerial view of the hillside.

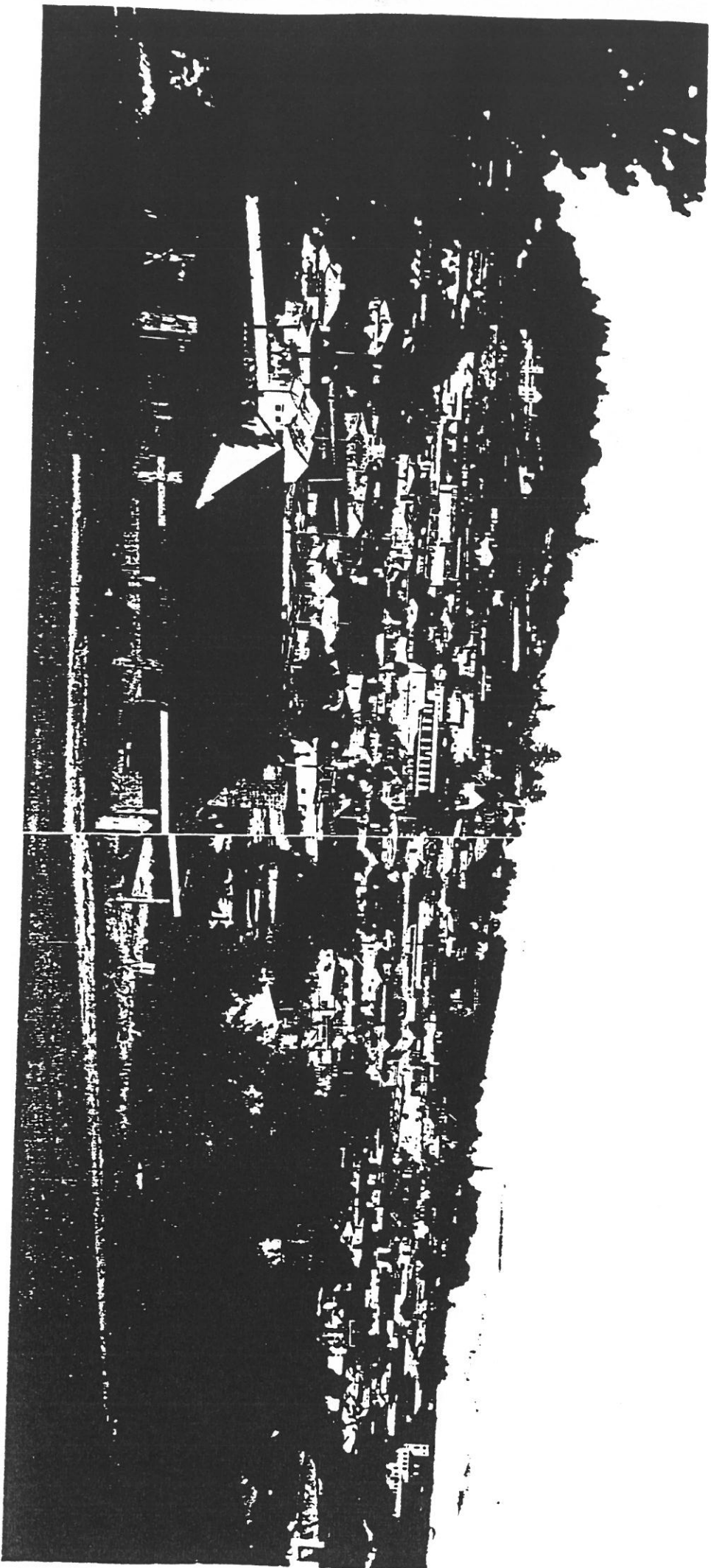


Figure 2.11 Daylesford from Magazine Hill: 1984

The 1857 survey plan, illustrated in Figures 2.2 & 2.3 contain the principal features of the Hepburn and Spring Creek townships. In the 1860's, additional allotments were alienated within the surveyed areas, extending settlement northward along the Franklinford Road and consolidating development in the vicinity of sections 18, 20, 20A and 20B. In Spring Creek, land purchases were effected on Camerons Hill in sections 4 and 7, whilst F. Crippa, owner of "Parma House", acquired land for his vineyards in large parcels either side of the main road and at the rear of the main road blocks. He owned more land than anybody in the community, with extensive frontages to the future Doctors Gully and Hepburn Mineral Springs reserves. With his headquarters in "Parma House", Spring Creek must certainly have appeared to be Crippa's town.

During the 1870's and early 80's, the Vanina's acquired significant holdings in Hepburn, allotment 13 of section 1A being handed over in part to the Catholic Church, where St. Bernards now stands. Further development occurred on the fringes of the settled areas, with an additional section, No. 23, being sold off in the vicinity of the Racecourse reserve.

By the 1880's, it was all over, save for the further development of Camp Hill commencing, after a pause, during the first decade of this century and continuing into the 1950's, some 100 years after the beginnings of settlement.

The location of the initial commercial centres has been noted in section 2.4. There are three bends in the main ridge road in the vicinity of Spring Creek, and for reasons best known to the early settlers, groups of shops were established at each bend. Proceeding from the south and in the vicinity of the Union Store, now the "Savoia" Hotel, further development included a bakery, built by Mr. Lucini of the macaroni factory, and Pozzi's jewellers, built in a large tree. (19) There was a smithy, a shop maker, a general store and a lemonade store, with a butchers shop nearby. Today, Lucini's macaroni factory, and the "Savoia" Hotel are the survivors of this centre.

At Ninth Street, there was a bakery, the "Golden Age" Hotel, erected by a Mr. Hutton, a shop, store and a general store. A little to the south, and on the other side of the street, Mr. Crippa had built a butchers shop on land soon to be occupied by the "Bellinzona" guest house. (20) This centre survives in a totally transformed state, with a small bank of verandahed shops situated on the bend in the road, south of Eighth Street.

North of Eleventh Street and on both sides of the road as it drops down to Spring Creek, a small commercial centre included Samuel Hodges "Mt. Franklin" Hotel, a post office, Jamieson and Company's slabbed store, and Buttner and Hallenstein's, also of Daylesford, store. They have been replaced by guest houses,

including "Wyuna" and "Mooltan", both now closed, whilst to the south at Tenth Street, there is another now defunct commercial centre with the former "Palais Theatre" as its focal point.

At Hepburn, the drawn out centre commencing in the north at Brabant's Hotel and finishing at the Pozzi Brothers bakehouse, was largely burnt out during the 1906 bushfire. The common school situated in the Miners Hall opposite Brabant's and the Mt. Franklin Shire Hall were razed by wind and fire respectively.

Today, the former Hepburn Pioneer Bakery is an important remnant of old Hepburn as is the two storey residence on the corner of Sixteenth Street.

Throughout their history, the twin communities have been populated by significant numbers of Italians from the Swiss border region. Some of the important pioneers have already been mentioned. They ran businesses in the towns and established extensive vineyards, many of which were burnt out in the 1906 fire. The Swiss Mount Reef Gold Mine, situated in Doctors Gully a few hundred metres north-west of the macaroni factory, provides an instance of the involvement of the Swiss-Italians in mining activities. Although their role in the development of Hepburn Springs remains substantially undocumented, their buildings and the names of hotels - "The Savoia" - houses - "Parma House" - and streets - "Swiss Mount Avenue" - are important remnants from the early days.

Following the initial rush and the exploitation of alluvial gold, the 1860's witnessed a change to deep lead mining. (21) An evocative description of the Daylesford township area is contained in the Daylesford Mercury of February 1864:

"The main portion of the town lies a little off the hill (Wombat), whose base is literally studded, for nearly the whole of its circumference, with steam engines, engaged in drawing up to the surface the stores of precious stuff dug out hundreds of feet below, and in draining the shafts and drives, in which men are earnestly searching for the course of the lead. There are about a score such engines at this work day and night; and where, five years ago there was nothing but dense scrub, or thickly timbered land, may now be seen a population of hundreds of men, who have converted some of the gold they have won from the soil beneath into comfortable houses and pleasant gardens; who have surrounded the iron monsters which do their work with vineyards, orchards, and flower gardens, that in many cases vie in beauty and productiveness with cultivated grounds of higher pretensions, and redound greatly to the credit of the workers who have so used the gold they have acquired. A sight of this portion of the Daylesford field repays a journey over the execrable roads by which the town on all sides is approached. The rich chocolate soil of the surface is for the greater part unbroken for mining purposes, except for the shafts; and the Giant Steam, as he finishes his labours, floats into the atmosphere over a scene that, we venture to say, he meets with nowhere else on the goldfields of Victoria."

"Subjoined we give a list of some of the companies by which the district is at present being worked:

Name of Company	No. of Shares	Capital	Date of Registration
		£	1862
Specimen Hill	34	1700	July 31
Great Extended	140	5600	Sept 15
Daylesford	22	1100	Dec 6
Union	20	1000	Nov 29
Exploration	300	9000	Dec 3
Prince of Wales	40	2000	Dec 23
Federal	35	1050	Dec 16
Great Extended	75	1800	Dec 30

"Name of Company	No. of Shares	Capital	Date of Registration
		£	1863
Concord	36	1530	Jan 24
Corinella	48	7200	Feb 13
Perseverance	37	925	Feb 27
Daylesford	48	4800	March 19
Try Again	50	2500	April 30
Exchequer	24	2400	May 22
Alexandra	120	3000	June 19
New Wombat Hill	100	5000	June 30
Nelson	100	4000	July 31
Cornish and York	28	2800	Aug 12
Rise and Shine	28	1400	Aug 21
Excelsior	30	450	Aug 19
Hand of Friendship	24	2000	
Telegraph	32	1600	Aug 10
Fear Not United	72	10800	July 3
Hope	24	624	Aug 28
National	126	3780	Sept 4
Californian	40	1000	Sept 3
Dannebroge	42	2520	Sept 5
Morning Star	32	960	Sept 20
Black Ball	36	1800	July 8
Red, White and Blue	50	2500	Sept 10
Anglo-Swiss	30	1250	Sept 13
Defiance	24	1440	Sept 28
Cræsus	22	660	Sept 23
Tandragee	38	570	Oct 2
Band of Hope	40	1200	Sept 24
North British	16	800	Nov 2
Erin-go-bragh	30	900	Sept 24
St. Leger	48	2400	Nov 2
Newton	100	3000	Nov 6
Prince Llewellyn	36	720	Oct 23
Wallaby	34	3400	Nov 14
Grand Mystery	60	1800	Nov 19
South Eastern	30	1200	Dec 7
White Star	25	1250	Aug 1
Sportsman's Reef	48	1200	Nov 21
Golden Gate	30	600	Nov 27
Great Central	32	640	Dec 18
Argo	40	800	Dec 15
			1864
Great Eastern	100	2700	Jan 16
Concordin	40	4000	Jan 11
Grand Junction	48	1200	
Havelock	60	6000	Jan 29
Royal Standard	108	3080	Jan 23
New Year	40	600	Jan 11
Reliance	24	600	
Bald Hill	50	750	
North Star	64	1600	
Eureka	40	1000	
Scottish and Cornish	30	900	
Dannevirke	64	1600	Jan 29 "

The manner in which the lines of reef cross the township area, from north to south, is indicated in Figure 2.12. Horse raised miners buckets served most of the mines with a whip - an inclined pole over the shaft down to a depth of 40 metres. After this, whims - a vertical drum arrangement with a horse under it walking in a circle were popular during the 1860's. There were 4 steam crushers in use, 4 horse operated crushing machines and 5 water wheel crushers, the latter being occasionally rendered inoperative owing to a lack of running water. There were 106 horse puddling machines, 3 steam pumps and 5 water worked pumps. All in all, 76 quartz reefs were being worked. Also of interest were the water races, running for huge distances around the hillsides, and delivering water to the various miners claims to permit sluicing and puddling activities to operate continuously. By the late 1860's, there were 380 kilometres of water races serving the diggings, included among them being:

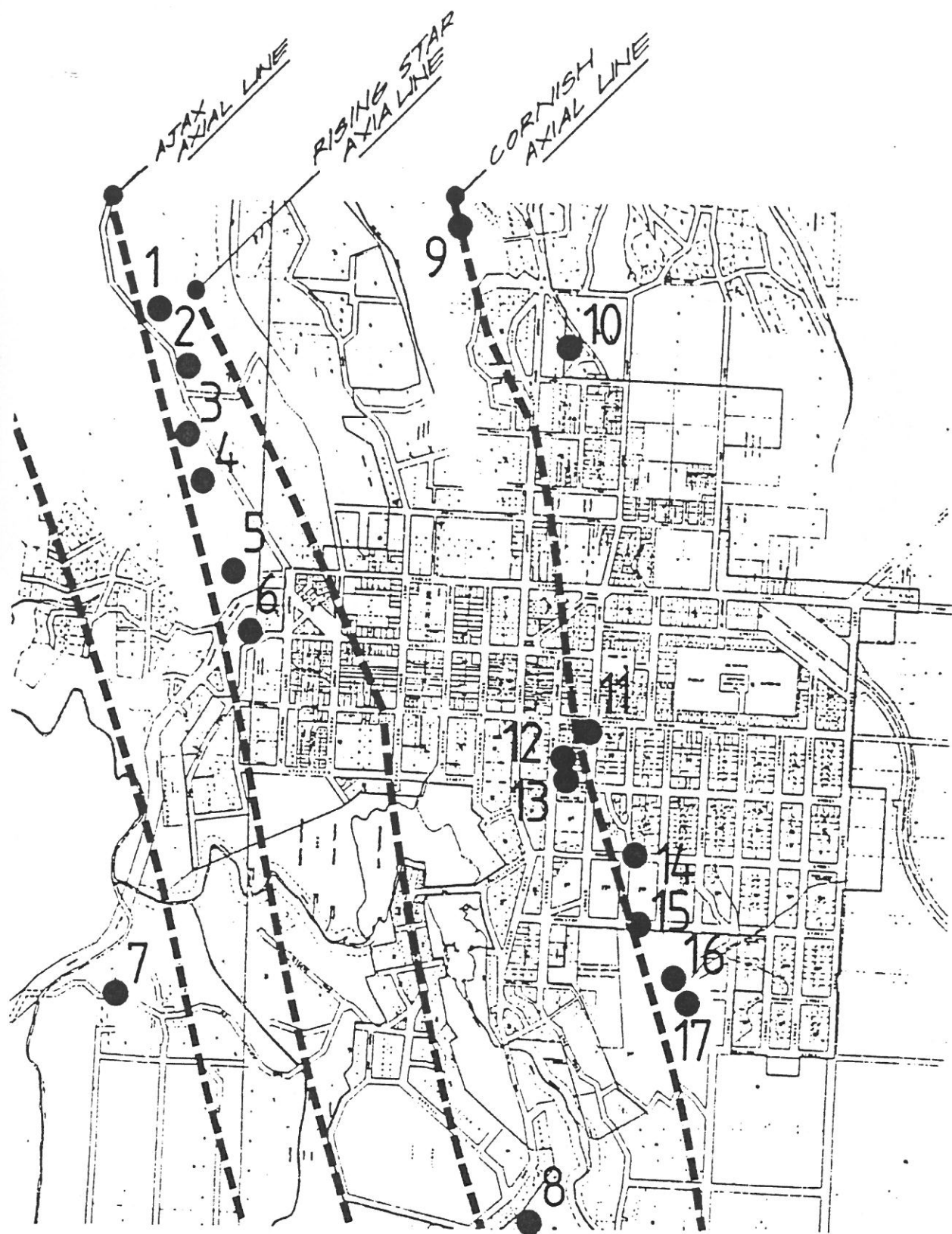
- . Miller's Specimen Hill race
- . Wardell's race, which continued to run water down Vincent Street up until World War 2
- . Dunstan's race (Kidds Gully)
- . Sutton's race (Wombat Creek)
- . Edward's race (Wombat Flat)

The fall of these races was 25 mm in 3 metres, and at times high flumes were used to maintain the correct levels across creeks and gullies. Maddicks recalls that the last example was at the mouth of the Stony Creek, sighted by him in 1930.(22) The races themselves are largely overgrown today, although their potential to serve as walking tracks has been exploited recently along the route between Central, Sutton and the Tipperary Springs.

As the century wore on, the numbers of registered companies and the depths of their workings increased. Their rise and fall is well told in H.T. Maddicks "100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History". Their activities related to the axial lines indicated in Figure 2.12 and were concentrated in the following areas identified by Maddicks:

- . Italian Hill
- . Cornish Hill
- . Connells Gully
- . The Ajax line of reef
- . Specimen Hill
- . Doctor Gully

Gold had been largely worked out along the creeks at Hepburn and Spring Creek by 1859, and there was a general movement north to the Breakneck Gorge.(23) A large Chinese encampment was formed here, containing stores, a hotel, joss house, barbers' shops, and restaurants. It is reputed to have been one of the largest in the State. Buttner and Hallenstein's "Racecourse" Hotel was opposite.



- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 AJAX NORTH | 7 WILLIAM TELL | 12 FEAR NOT |
| 2 AJAX | 8 RISING STAR | 13 ROMAN EAGLE |
| 3 AJAX CENTRAL | EXTENDED | 14 BONNARD'S |
| 4 NTH. NUGGETTY AJAX | 9 JUST-IN-TIME | 15 MITCHELL'S |
| 5 NUGGETTY AJAX | 10 DAYLESFORD | 16 ARGUS |
| 6 NUGGETTY | UNITED | 17 SOUTH CORNISH |
| TRAFALGAR | 11 NORTH CORNISH | |

FIGURE 2.12

axial lines of auriferous reefs: daylesford

SOURCE: DAYLESFORD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mining remained an important industry at Daylesford until the closure of the Ajax mine in 1928. It was followed by a brief period of cyaniding, during the Depression years when half a dozen old mines were reworked, but mostly with indifferent results.

2.8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The growth in the intensity of settlement prompted by the gold discoveries of the early 1850's resulted in a need for various urban services, not the least of which was the requirement for passable roads, bridges and walkways. To meet the need, Road Boards were established for Glenlyon and Mt. Franklin in 1860, whilst the Daylesford Borough was proclaimed in 1859. Figure 2.14 shows the relationship between the three districts and shows also that the townships of Hepburn and Spring Creek were in the district of Mt. Franklin. Council's offices were eventually erected at Glenlyon, Hepburn and Daylesford, respectively.

The initial council, at Daylesford, was made up of Messrs. J.G. Howe, R. Fullerton, W.E. Stanbridge, G. Jay, W. King, R. Knox and P. Millar, the one characteristic which they had in common other than their concern for the district's affairs, being their interests in property within the Borough. W.G. Hart was the town clerk, and Johnston the surveyor.

In 1865, Glenlyon was proclaimed a Shire, and in 1871, Mt. Franklin followed. Although the latter's population was constant at about 2600, during the pre-first World War years, having diminished from 3700 in 1880, the decision to unite the two shires was taken in 1915. The population of the newly formed shire, however, continued to decline to a mere 1869 in 1962, and by order in council, the new Shire of Daylesford and Glenlyon was constituted on 3-5-1966, coming into effect at the end of that month.

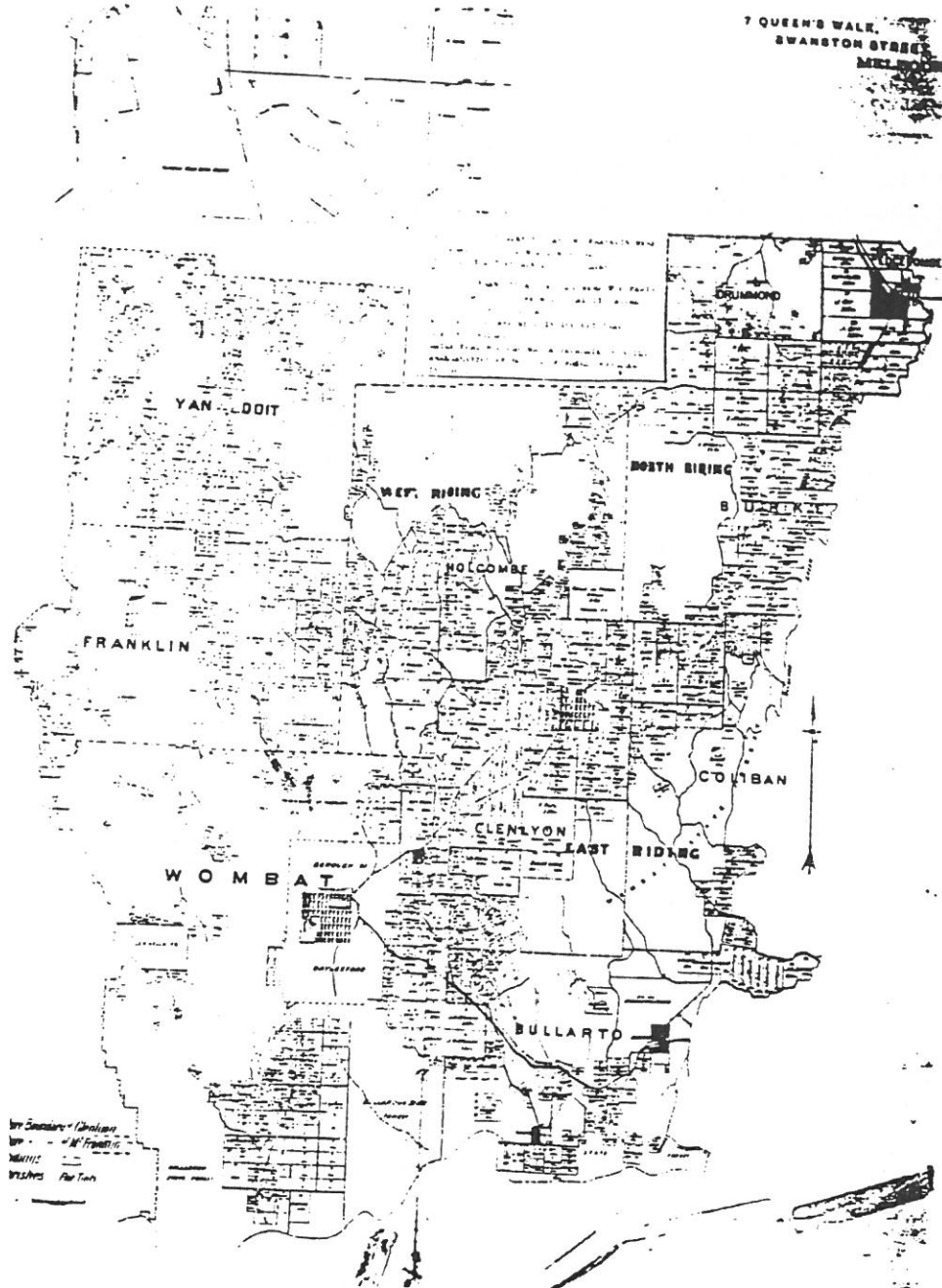


Figure 1.1 Area map showing local government boundaries
Source: Dandenong and District Historical Society

Daylesford was connected with the Bendigo and Echuca rail line on 17-3-1880. Prior to that time, passenger services consisted of coach lines connecting Daylesford with Castlemaine, Malmsbury and Ballarat. Competition was fierce with "great reductions in coach fares" being advertised from time to time.(24) Depots were established at "Jamieson" Hotel, on Wills Square, and at the "Commercial" in Vincent Street. The coaches carried the mail, whilst general goods, traffic and luggage were conveyed by lines of wagons, those of E. Lamb and D. Sayers being two examples.(25) Travel for pleasure was both costly and inconvenient.

Nevertheless, the mineral springs of the district had proven to be a source of interest from the commencement of European man's intervention in the area. Known from the aboriginal days as having certain curative properties, the waters of Spring Creek had been brought to the attention of the government analyst by 1851.(26) He declared that they should be of great medicinal benefit in hepatic, gouty, rheumatic and similar afflictions.

The impact of the gold discoveries eclipsed the significance of the analyst's findings, however, and it was only in 1857 that Messrs. Rosetti and Buttner, concerned about the future of the local springs following the thoroughness of the Chinese miners' sluicing operations, held a public meeting. It resulted in the declaration of the first mineral springs reserve in the valley of Spring Creek on 13-3-1865. Consisting of just over an acre, it was located at the confluence of the creek with Welshman's Gully. It grew in area during the ensuing decades to its present maximum extent of 68 acres. In the 1880's, other reserves were established, whilst the most recent of local importance was the Central Lake Springs Reserve of 1934. Their development and management is well documented in an unpublished paper of the Department of Crown Lands and Survey, entitled "Mineral Springs Reserves in Daylesford and Glenlyon".

Transients were accommodated in boarding houses and hotels from the communities' founding years, and it is the former which paved the way for the district's famous guest houses.(27) The springs, the climate and the ranges of the Wombat Forest combined to attract tourists in increasing numbers following the opening of rail services, and as a consequence, a tourism industry gained strength.(28) The railway, which was to serve the district until 1978, terminated at the foot of the eastern slopes of Wombat Hill in an area which had been alienated progressively over the preceding three decades. It led to the strengthening of the commercial base of the Raglan Street shops, hotels and stores, and although substantially closed today, they remain as the only surviving commercial centre outside of Vincent Street within the Daylesford township.

The station building itself and its grounds will soon become the terminus of the Central Highlands Tourist Railway, whose Sunday market brings back life to this now faded portion of the town.

Maddicks refers to the "established routine for hundreds of families" of spending a two week holiday in the district. They came by train and stayed regularly at the same guest house, some 50 or so remaining until the demise of the goldfields in the late twenties. Although Maddicks attributes their passing to the withdrawal of a supply of relatively cheap part time labour in the form of miners' wives and daughters, it is doubtless also intertwined with the widespread use of the motor car, which encouraged shorter trips further afield.

Around the turn of the century, Daylesford was advertised as "Victoria's most popular summer resort", the illustrated cover of a tourist guide designed and printed by A.W. Cross at his steam printing works in Howe Street being an evocative reminder of this era, and reproduced as Figure 2.14.

Timed possibly to coincide with the passing of the gold mines, the Daylesford Shire Council, under the guidance of Councillor Edwin Trembath, established a lake at the foot of Armstrong's ridge in 1929. It resulted in the flooding of the Wombat Flat workings, the Chinese market gardens, and the diversion of the main road from Ballarat from Ruthven Street to the Bleakley Street causeway. It immediately became a focus for tourist activities and was encircled by a walkway, graced by Jack Power's ferry service, and consolidated by the gazettal of the Central Springs reserve. Nearby, and overlooking the lake, new guest houses were erected, surviving examples of interest being "Mandalay" (now closed) and "Lake View". Today, the tradition continues with the recent opening of The Lake House Restaurant. The great days of the lake, however, have passed.

The guest house era lingered on and in 1939-40, there were a total of 22 in Daylesford, and 18 in Hepburn Springs. By 1951-52, the numbers had dwindled to 14 and 18, respectively (29) and today there are two guest houses in operation:

- "Bellinzona", Main Road, Hepburn Springs
- "New Chalet", Main Road, Hepburn Springs

The architectural style of the guest houses had its origins in the Victorian era, as can be seen at "Tinana House", "Holyrood House" and "Yamba Lodge". It gained strength, however, from the vocabulary of the Edwardian architects and consisted typically of spreading verandahs and balconies with decorative timber fretwork to the valances and balustrades. They featured bayed windows with panels of half-timbering in the gable ends, and complex gabled roof forms. They are at one with their natural environment, which they frequently overlook, and were an inspiration to the designers of holiday bungalows and homes, especially in the Hepburn Springs area, which constitute an important chapter in the district's architectural heritage.

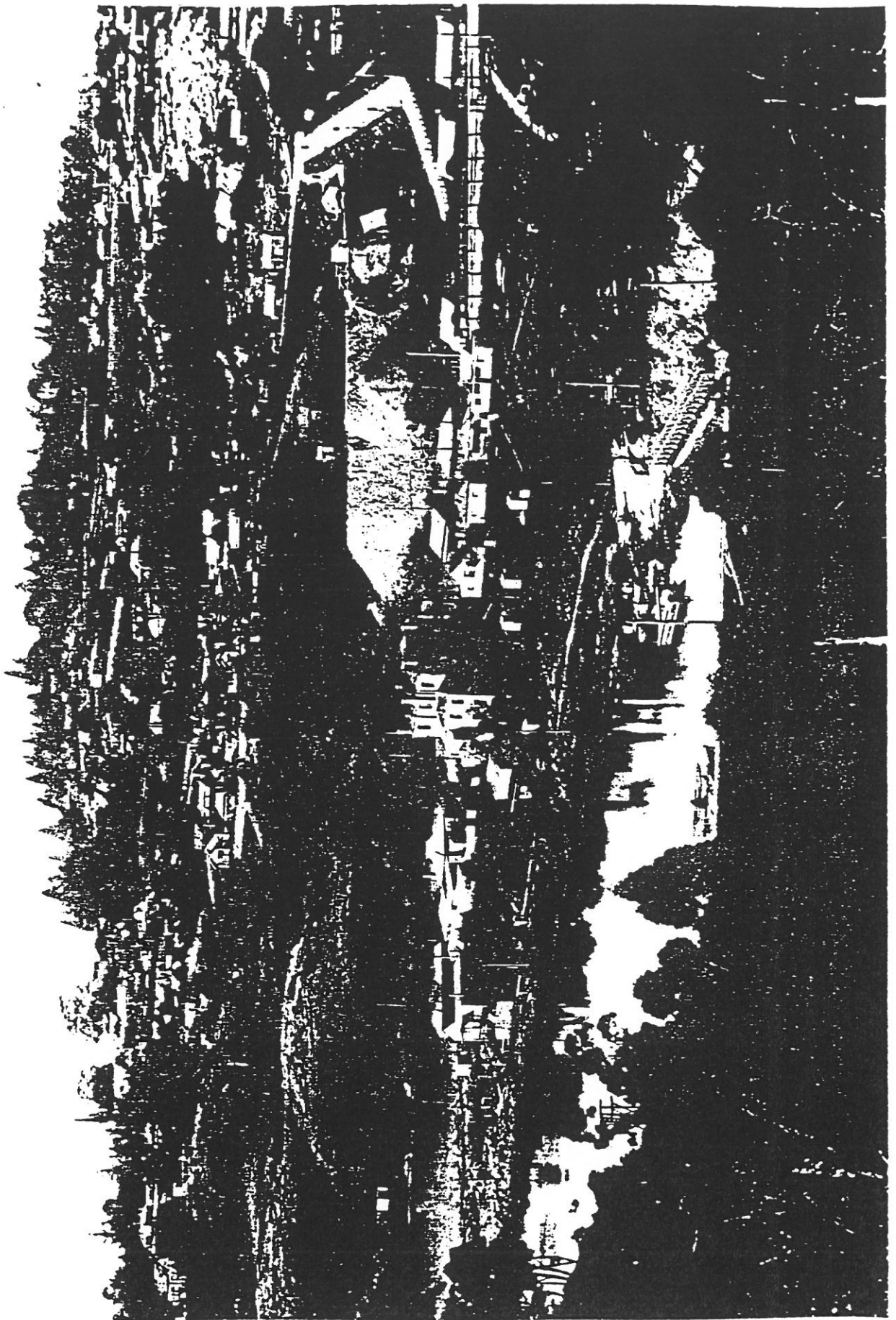


Figure 2.21 Lake Dinglesford, soon after the flooding of the
Korbat Creek Valley in 1926.
Source: Latrobe Library