



Building Walka



Key Inquiry Question



What materials and equipment did the engineers and workers use to build the Water Works?



Newspaper Report- 1883

The newspaper report on the following pages gives details of the progress and conditions at Walka.

Task: As a class, read the article and summarise. Research any unfamiliar terms.

*Teacher/s may like to ask comprehension questions to check student understanding.


Hunter River Water Supply Scheme.

The works in progress at Oakhampton in connexion with the Hunter River Water Scheme have reached an interesting stage, and considering their great magnitude the advancement that has taken place is satisfactory. No true indication can be formed at present of the proportions they are likely to assume when completed. It will be recollected that we announced some months ago that the first section of the tunnelling works from the river to a point in the paddock leased

by Messrs. Scobie had been completed, and was ready for the pipes. Messrs. Smith and Burley are now completing their second contract for tunnelling, which extends over eleven hundred feet beyond the first section. The more substantial part of this contract has been finished, and Messrs. Smith and Burley expect to be able to complete the whole in about five weeks. The greater part of the work has been very heavy, there being an extensive seam of rock, which had to be blasted at considerable expense. No less than five shafts have been sunk, and to facilitate operations men had to be employed on night and day shifts for many months. The deepest sinking was forty-two feet, and this was near the end of the second section. The character

of the soil in other places made the work difficult. The contractors were fortunate, however, in having fine weather, and the progress of the work was not interfered with to any extent. The work extended through several hundred feet of rock. The deep cuttings are sloped to an incline, and are covered with turf, which give them an even and neat appearance, besides rendering them capable of sustaining much pressure. Both sections of the work appear to have been faithfully carried out.—Messrs. Blunt and Wakeford are making good headway with their contract, which will embrace the whole of the filter beds, clean water tank, settling tank, dam, and other works, which are likely to extend over a lengthened period. The locality presents a very busy scene just now. At present between forty and fifty men are engaged on the contract, and we are told that a larger number will be employed shortly. Many of the men have brought their families with them, and have built tents on the ground. A few days ago the men struck for the eight hours' system, and the contractors seeing the fairness of the request, cheerfully assented. To use the words of one of the employes:

“ Mr. Blunt and his partner had the matter well arranged before we asked. It was scarcely a strike.” The work is being greatly facilitated by the utilization of horse and cattle power in the scooping process, and in the carting of the earth away. A visit to the locality in working hours will convince one that such works are more quickly executed by contract than under the system of day labour frequently adopted in connection with the Government departments. There is no idleness: all are as busy as bees, and the amount of work got through in a single day is surprising. The contractors are energetic business men, and are constantly superintending operations. The horses employed on the works are fine, upstanding animals, capable of drawing heavy loads. At present the men are engaged on several parts of the land.


Taken from:
Maitland
Mercury and
Hunter River
General
Advertiser
(NSW : 1843 -
1893),
Thursday 26
July 1883,
page 4



Building...

Due to the time period, there are only a few photos of Walka Water Works being built. It was built when the Australian colony was only around one hundred years old.

Work consisted of hard, manual labour. Many areas required digging large holes and tunnels. There were no machines to do the work like there is today. The workers had to dig by hand, using picks and shovels. They relied on horse and cattle power to do the work that machines would do today. A large number of men worked on the Walka Water Works scheme. The article mentioned that some men lived on site with their families in tents.

Task: Discuss and record why there was a need for the workers and their families to live on site?



Photos...

Task: Study the following photos and fill in the Venn diagram to compare and contrast building methods from then and now.



Laying pipes





Filter bed construction 1





Filter bed construction 2





Reservoir construction



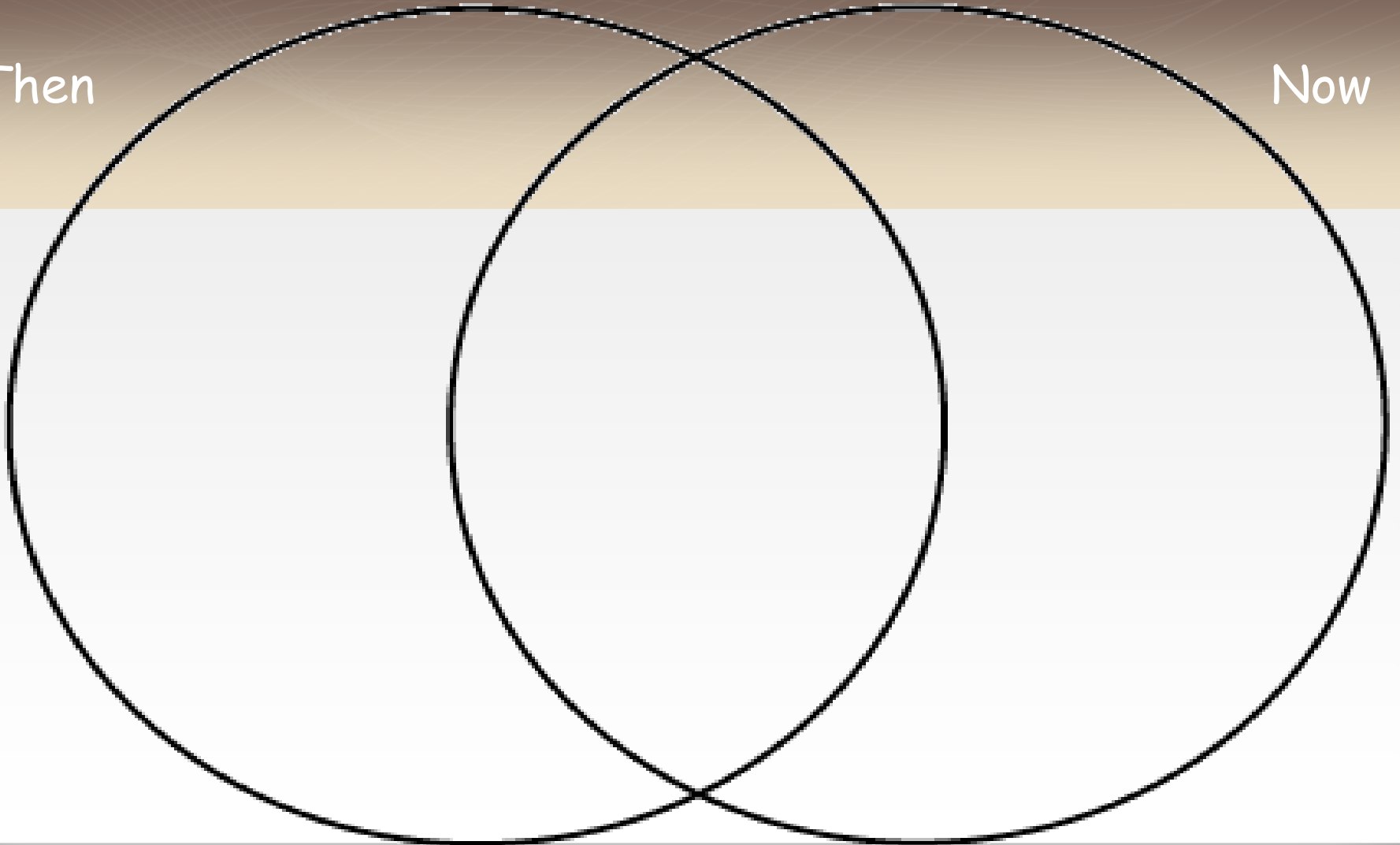


Building Methods



Then

Now





Key Inquiry Question



What were the main
features needed to run
Walka Water Works?



These photos are screenshots from YouTube. Delete if not appropriate. It won't make any difference to this slide.



Walka Water Works site



Walka Water Works fly around 1 3187F3CE 652F 405C B2D2 29211EB5B72E

Copy and paste the links below into a search engine to watch two videos showing the main features of the site.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10Jco8mfnPE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljZNtIzICM4>



Drone @ Walka Water Works

What did you see? **Task:** Make a list on the next slide...



What did you see?

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Task: Based on the video, can you assemble the floor plan of the main buildings? (You might need to watch the video again)

BOILER ROOM
(1913)
*now pavers

WORKSHOP
(1887)

PUMPHOUSE
WEST ANNEX
(1913)

BOILER ROOM
(1887)

PUMPHOUSE
(1887)

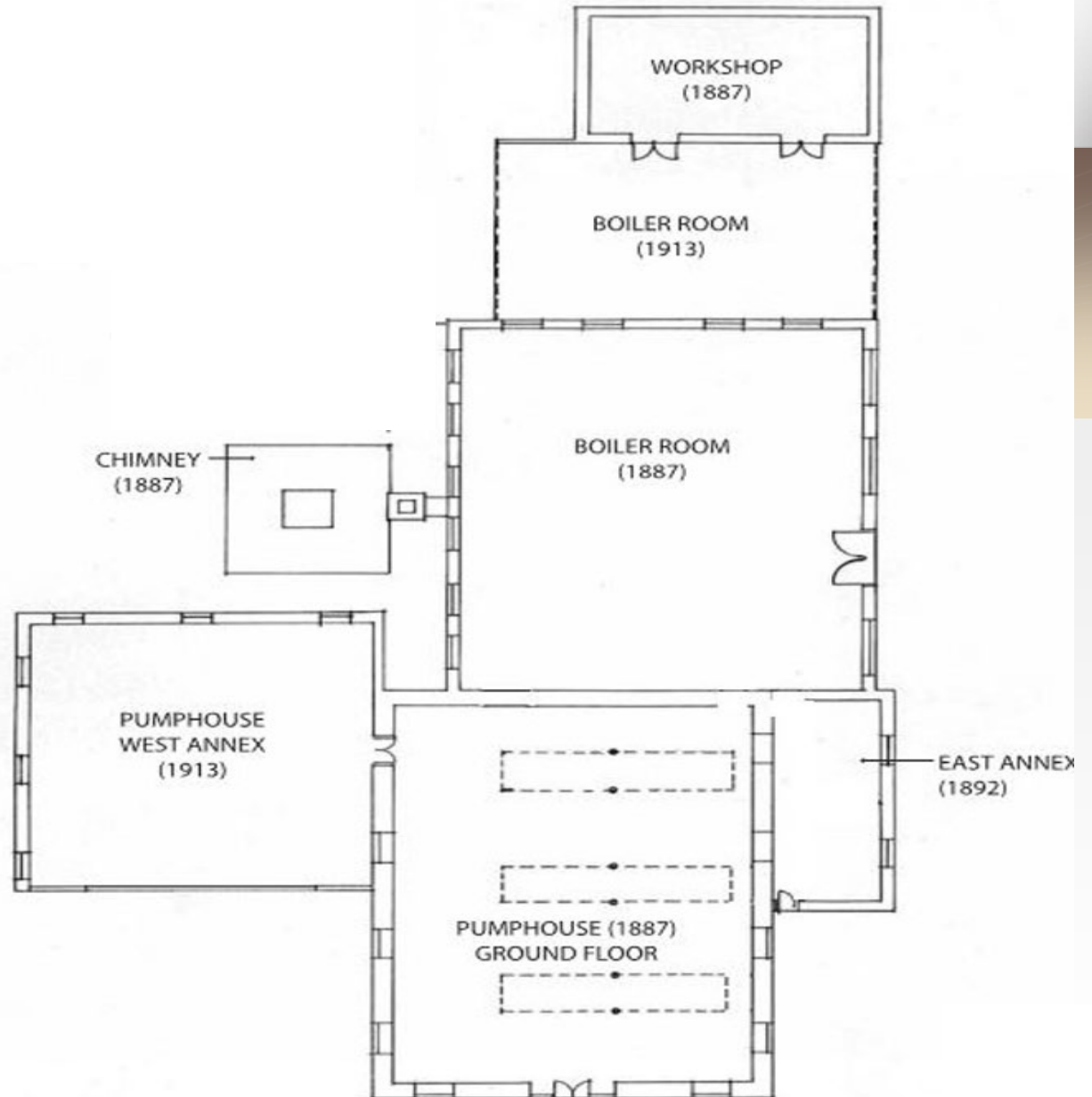
CHIMNEY
(1887)

EAST ANNEX
(1892)



Map of the main buildings

Were
you
close?





How Did it Work?

Copy and paste the link below into a search engine. Go to- Teaching Resources, then "How Did it Work?" Read the overview on pages 2 and 3 to learn about the operations at Walka.

<https://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/our-services/community/education-programs/heritage-education-programs/walka-water-works-education-programs/walka-for-teachers>



THE WALKA WATER WORKS

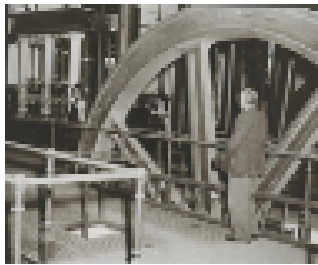
HOW DID IT WORK?

Small Group Task

Due: _____

(2-3 students)

Task: Research one feature of Walka Water Works and present your findings to the class



Presentation:

- PowerPoint Presentation **OR**
- Green Screen Film

Length

- 5-10 minutes

Hint

- Try to talk rather than read!
- **Must** be ready on _____. They will be spread over the week.

Marking:

- Eye contact (eye contact with audience/camera)
- Pace (how fast or slow you speak)
- Stance (the way you stand...no slouching!)
- Volume (how loud or soft your voice is)
- Length (is it between 5-10 minutes?)
- Content (is your information relevant?)

Group Members: _____

Feature: _____





Small Group Task

Students are to read about their feature in the "How Did it Work?" document to begin. They may wish to complete extra research to deepen their understanding.



Table to allocate main features to groups



Main Pump House	Boiler Room	Chimney	Eastern Extension	Western Pump House
Workshop	Settling Tank	Filter Beds	Clear Water Tank	Reservoir

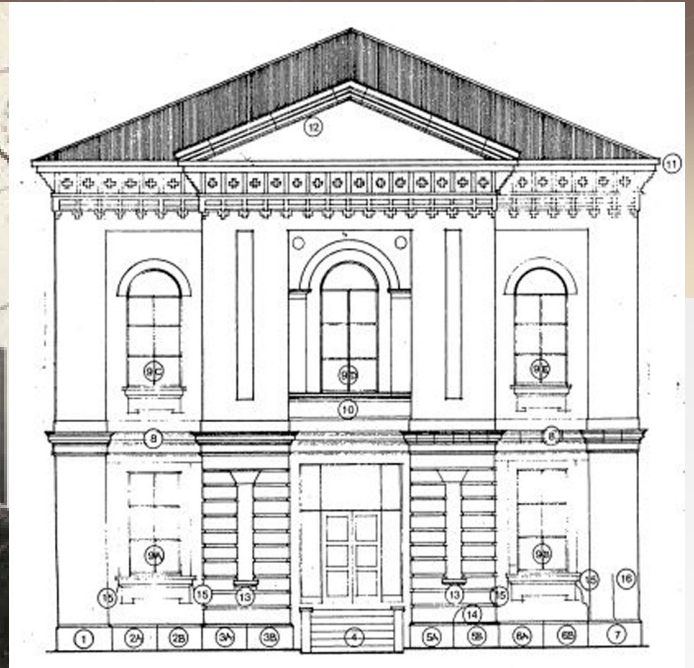
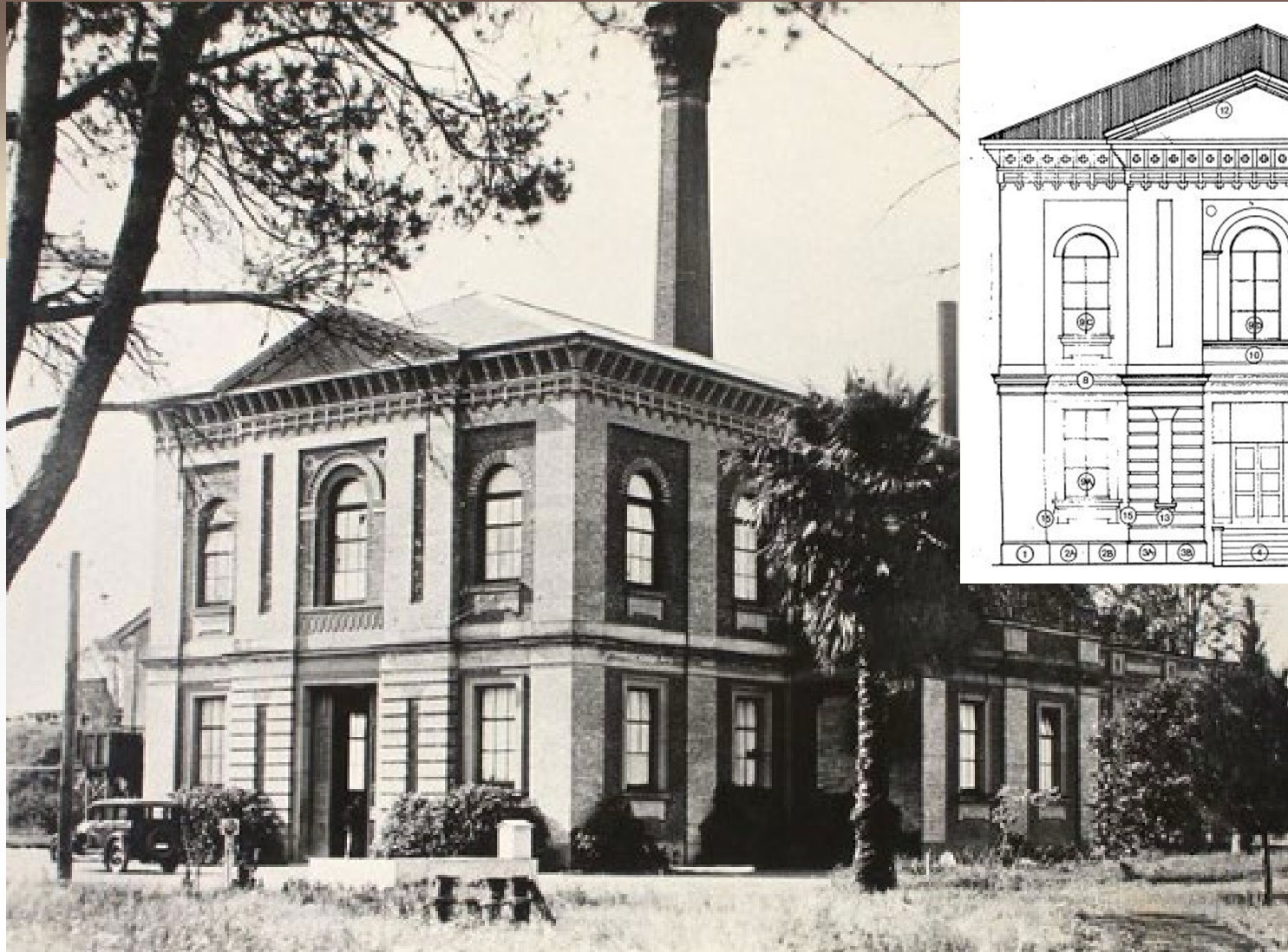


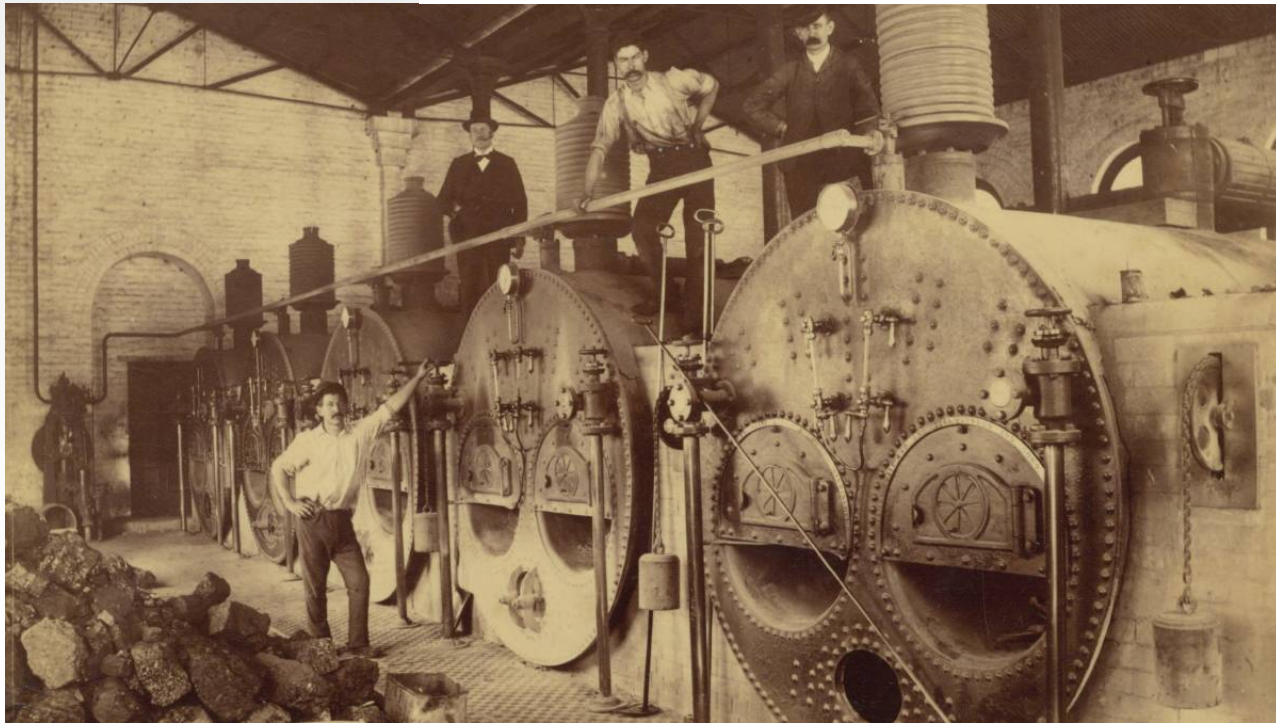
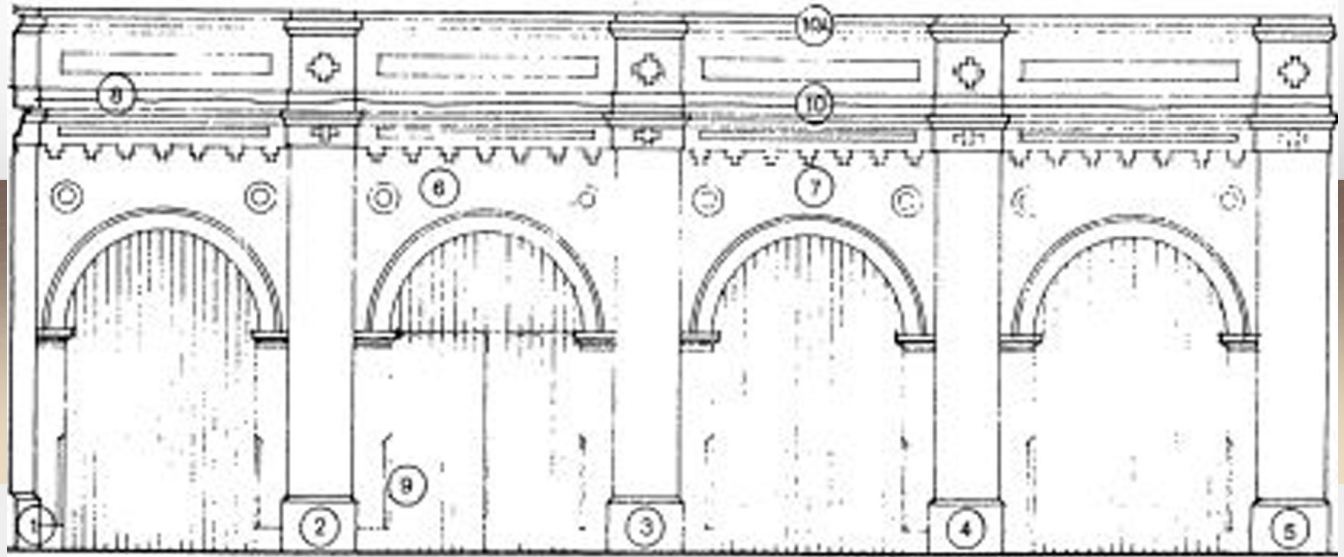
Main Features of Walka

The main features of Walka Water Works can be viewed on the following pages. Images may be used in PowerPoint Presentations or Green Screen Films. Students may wish to present a report, pretending they are in of front of the building or structure.



Main Pump House-1887

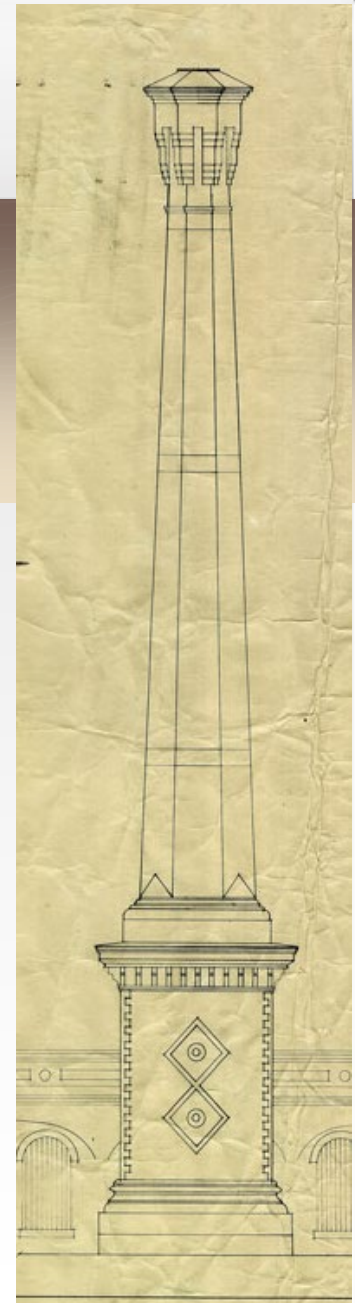
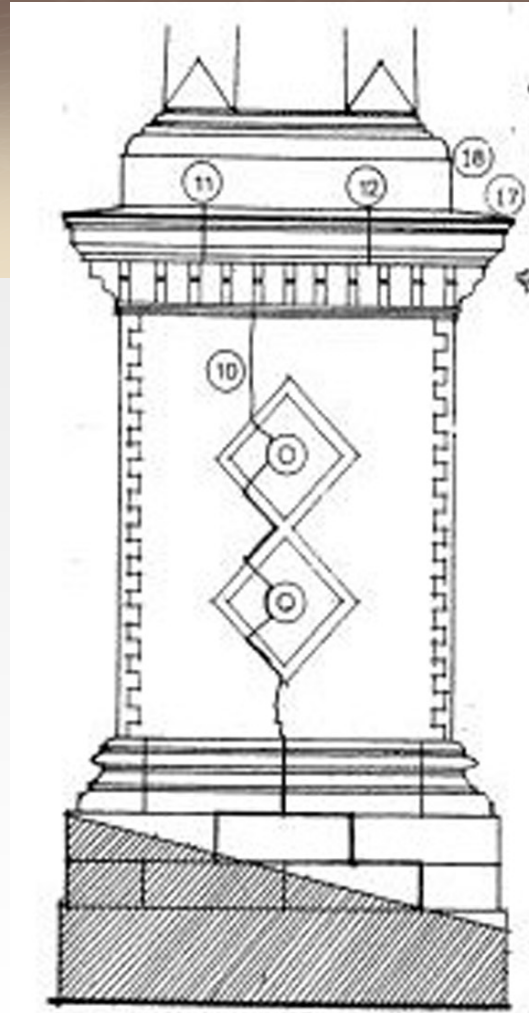
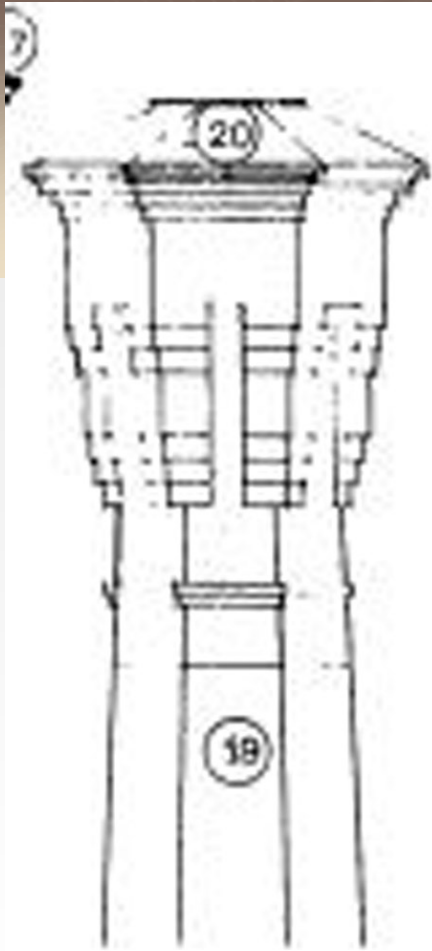




Boiler
Room-
1887

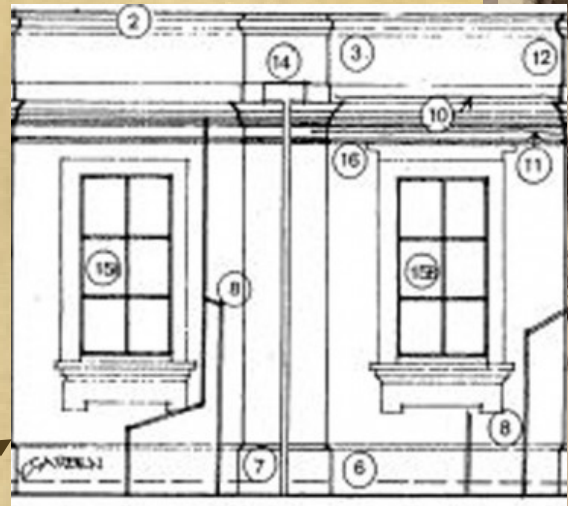
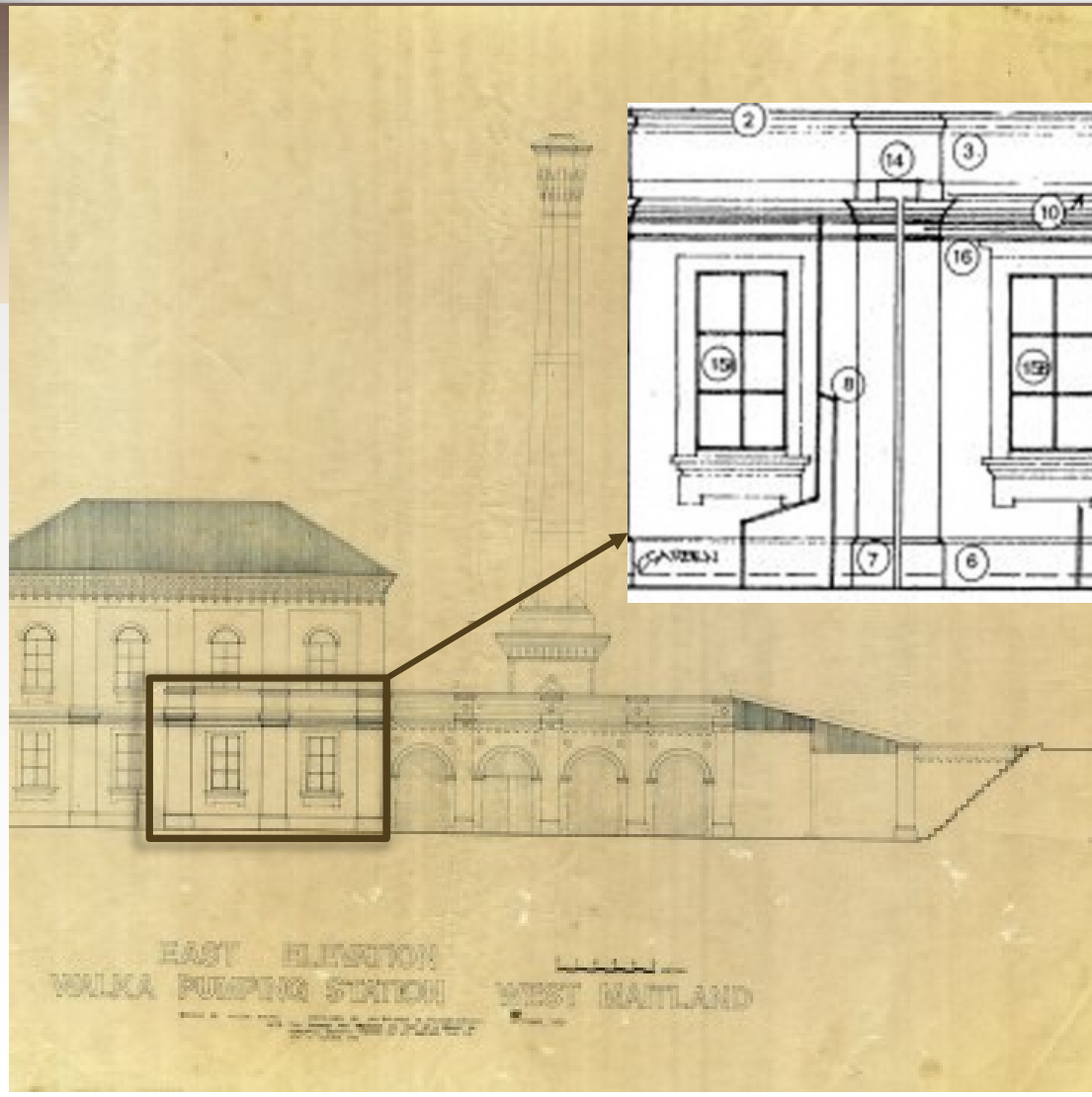


Chimney- 1887



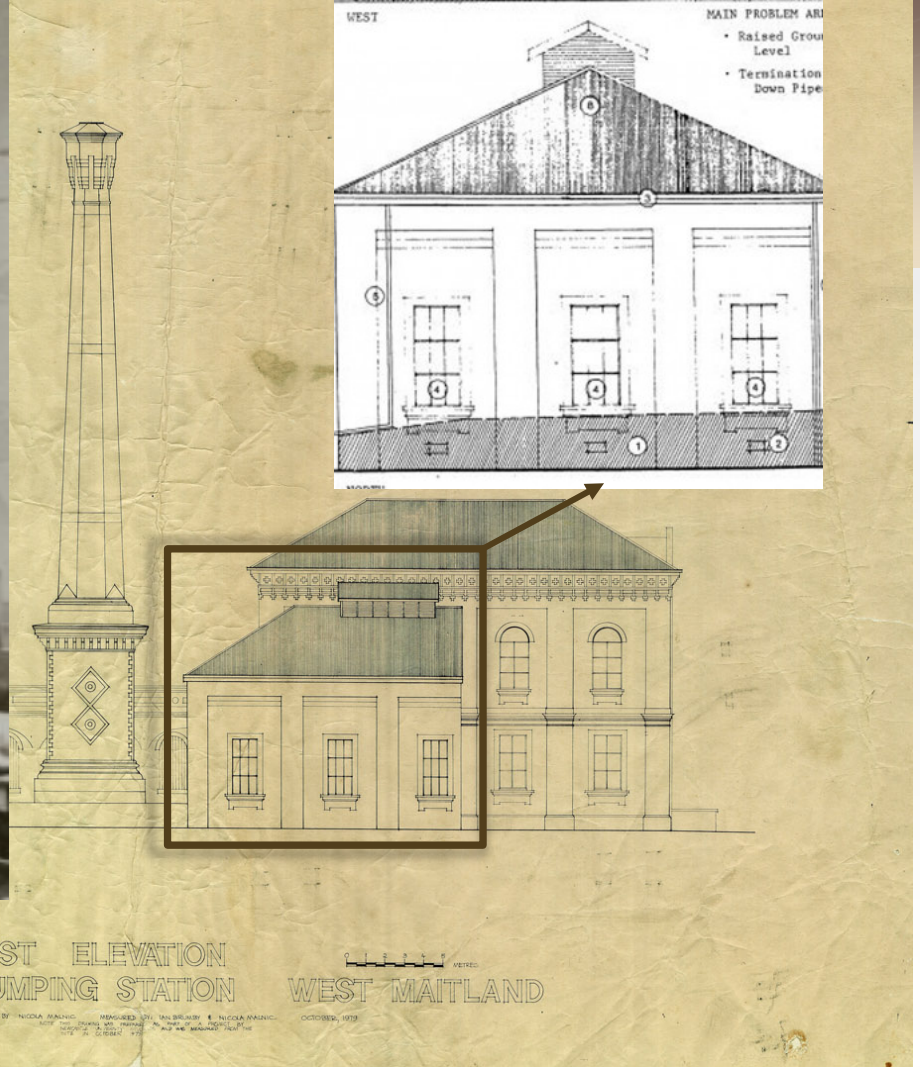
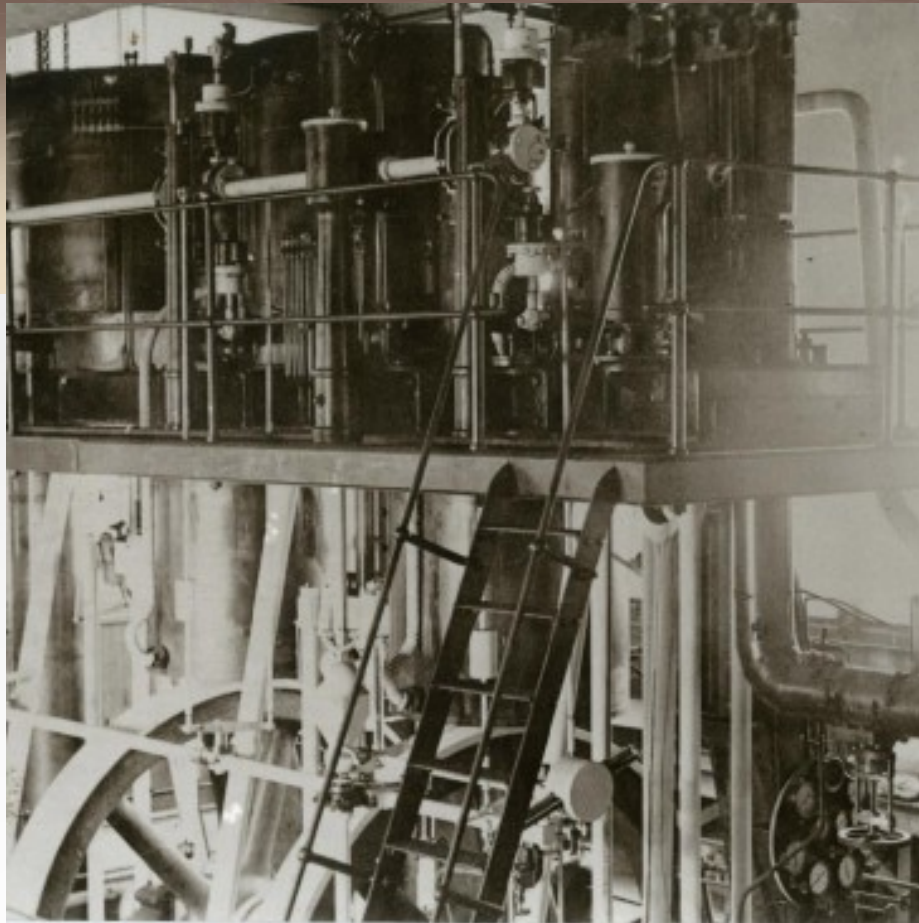


Eastern Extension to Pump House- 1892



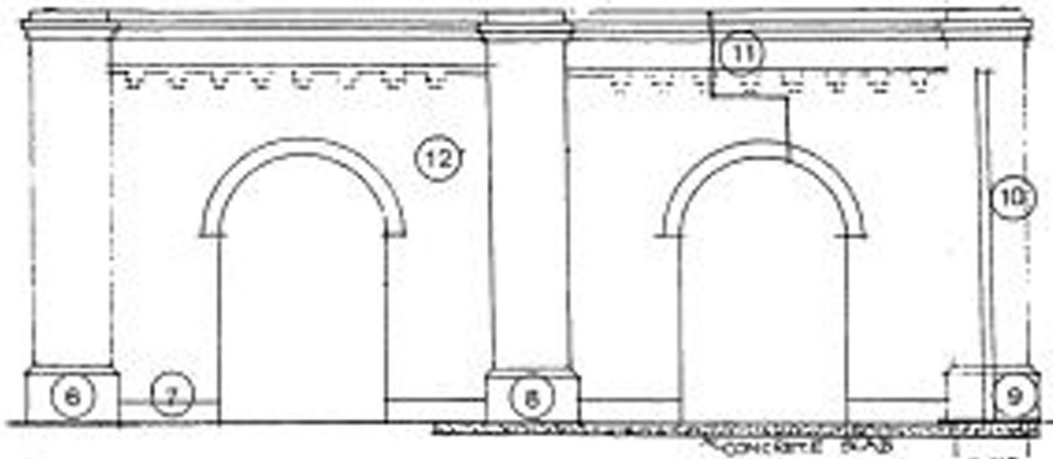


Western Pump House- 1913



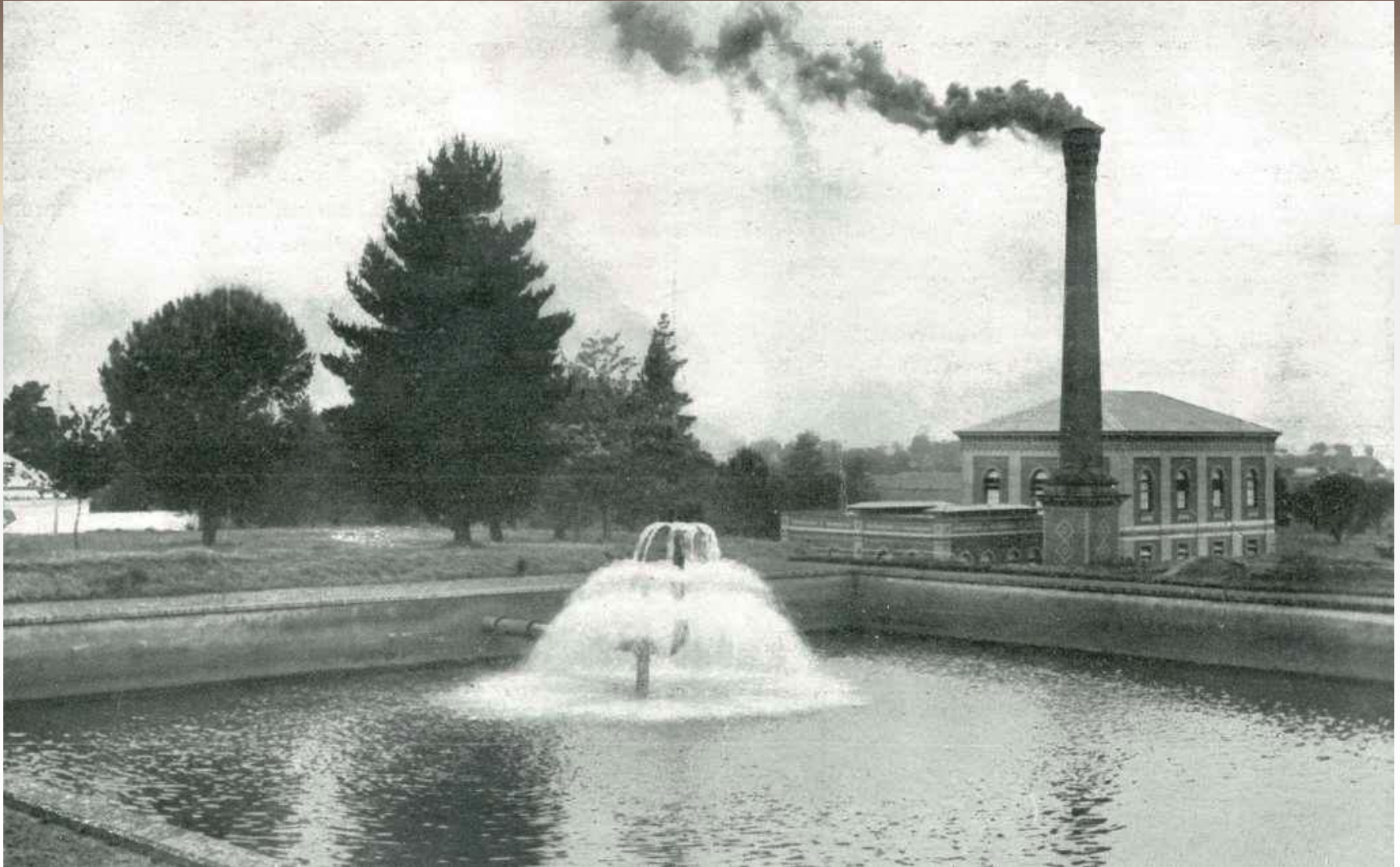


Workshop- 1887



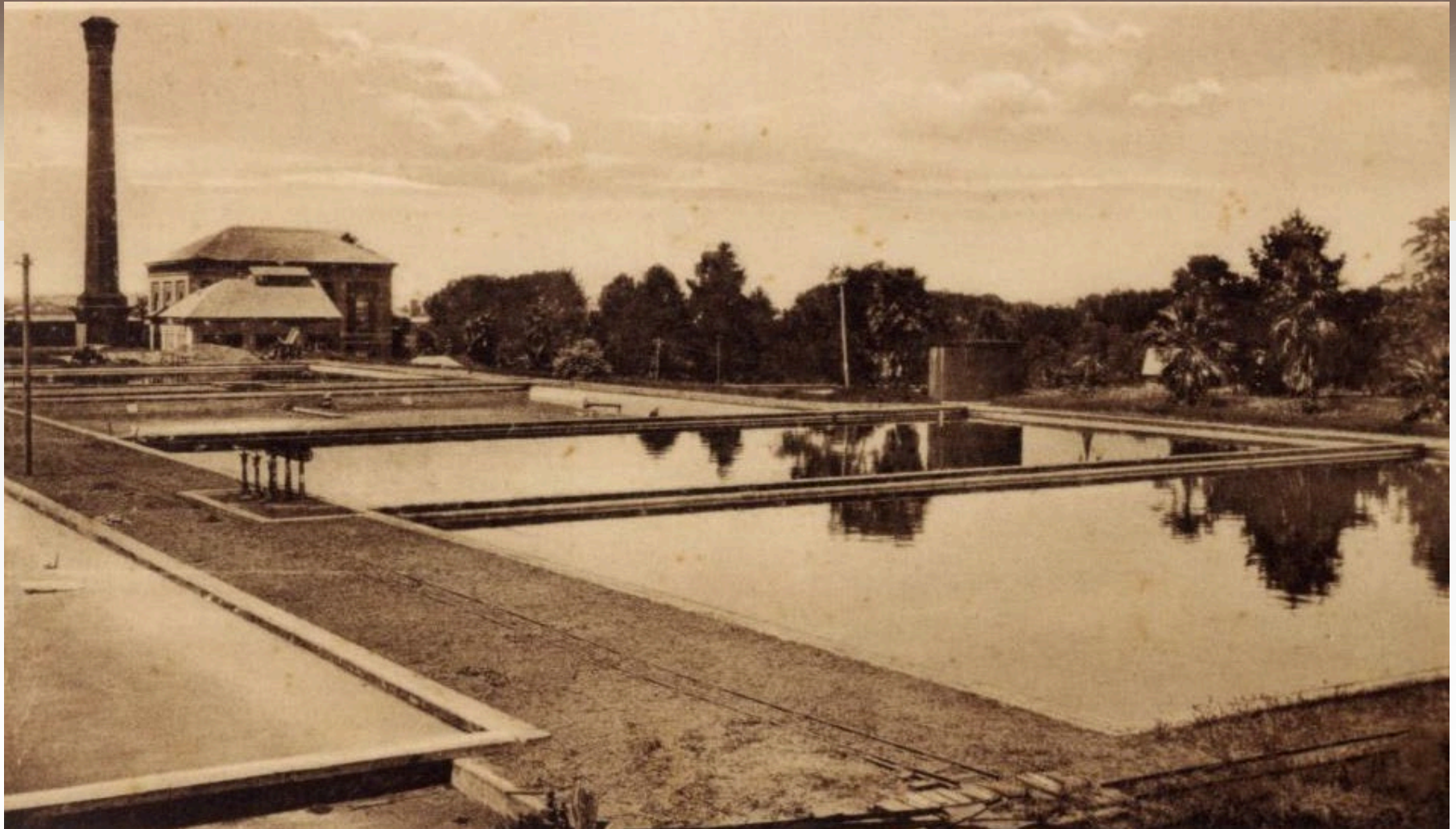


Settling Tank- 1887





Filter Beds- 1887, 1908, 1913





Clear Water Tank- 1887

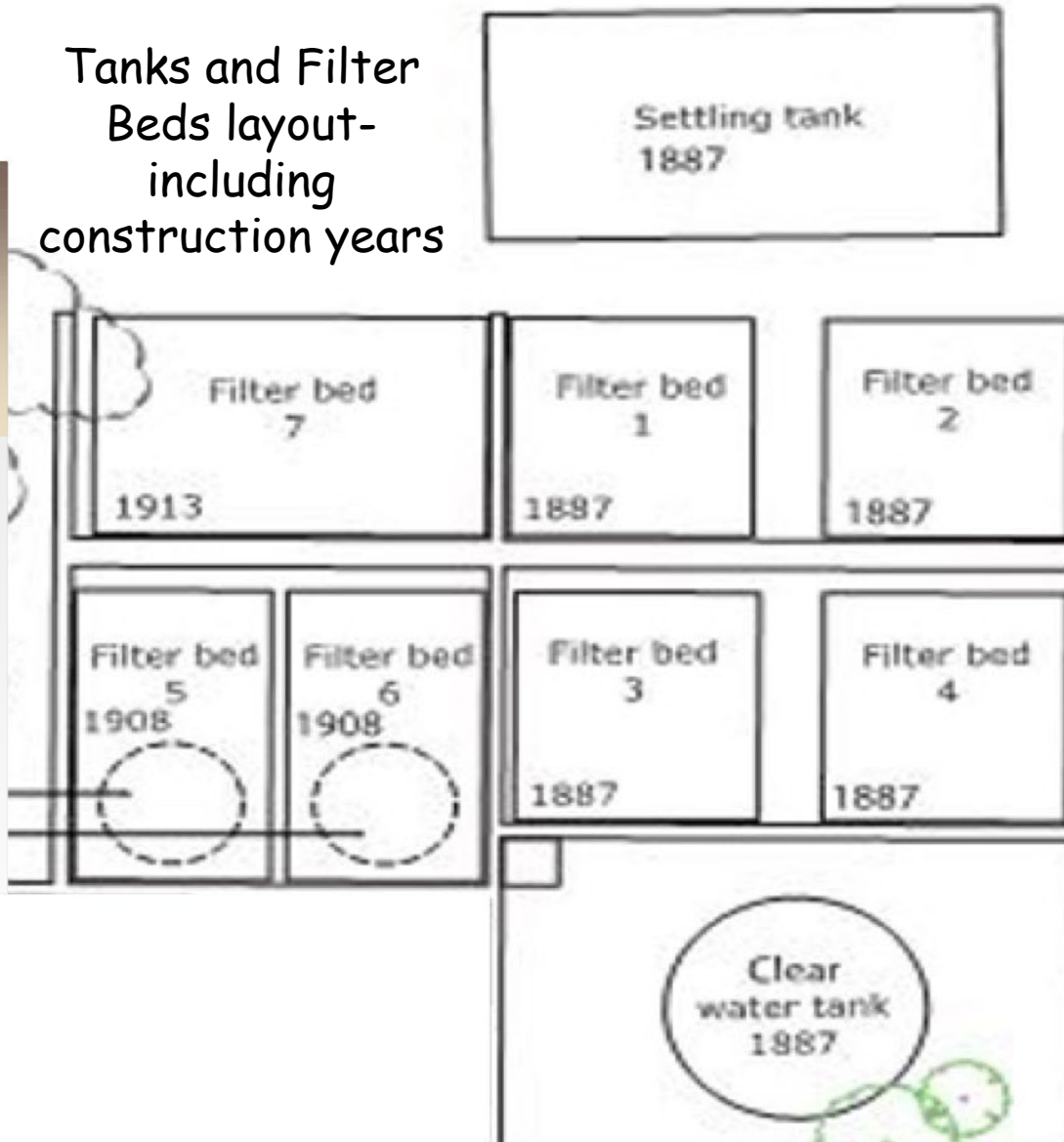




Reservoir- 1887



Tanks and Filter Beds layout- including construction years



2019- Google Earth





Heritage Listed Industrial Complex

Walka Water Works was shut down in 1931.

In 1976 Walka was classified by the National Trust and recognised as one of the largest and most intact 19th century industrial complexes in the Hunter Valley.

In 1984 a trust was formed to reopen the site and restore the waterworks complex.

Task: Why is it important to conserve historic sites such as the Walka Water Works?



Walka Today

Walka Water Works is now known as 'Walka Recreation and Wildlife Reserve' and is managed by Maitland City Council.

To view the brochure which gives details of all activities go to:

[file:///Users/alisonwood/Downloads/walka_a4_brochure_final_1%20\(4\).pdf](file:///Users/alisonwood/Downloads/walka_a4_brochure_final_1%20(4).pdf)

Task: Who has been to Walka? What activities did you do?



maitland
city council

**Walka Recreation
and Wildlife Reserve**