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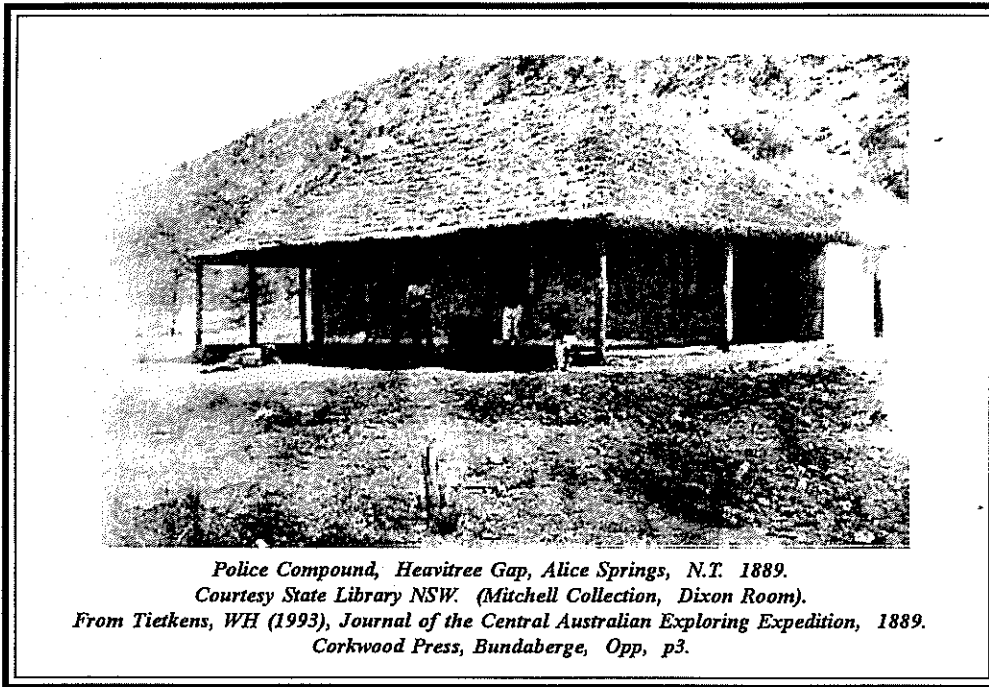
CITATION



Northern Territory Police Museum & Historical Society Inc



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR



*Police Compound, Heavitree Gap, Alice Springs, N.T. 1889.
Courtesy State Library NSW. (Mitchell Collection, Dixon Room).
From Tietkens, WH (1993), Journal of the Central Australian Exploring Expedition, 1889.
Corkwood Press, Bundaberge, Opp, p3.*

HEAVITREE GAP HISTORICAL POLICE STATION

The South Australian Mounted Police were appointed for service in the Northern Territory in 1870, continuing until 1911 when the Australian Commonwealth took over the responsibility.

Separation of the northern and southern regions of the Northern Territory occurred from 1927- 1931 and four years later the mounted force became known as the Northern Territory Police Force.

During the years 1872-1882, a tent camp was located at the Old Telegraph Station, adjacent to the Alice Springs water hole, north of the current town. This camp was established by Mounted Constable Priest from South Australia and remained under his charge until 1886, when the operation was moved to Heavitree Gap. Lot 1044 Town of Alice Springs, Reserve No 1010.₂

The move to Heavitree Gap, dated 21st April 1886 established a permanent police presence in Alice Springs. Up until this time accommodation facilities were minimal, for example tents and bough sheds. When the two room thatched dwelling was construction in 1889 it heralded a gradual change in living conditions for future police officers serving in the Northern Territory. This building was later abandoned and remained in ruin until its complete restoration as an historic building in 1971.₃

References:

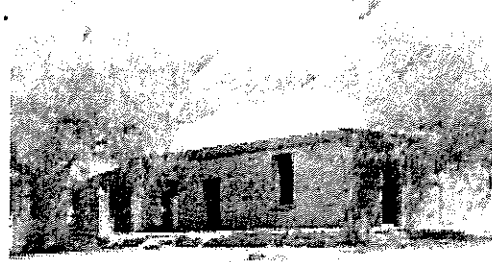
- 1) *1c Southern Division NR 1299 1500 hours 24.8.70 Superintendent of Police. p23.*
- 2) *W.J McLaren, History of the Northern Territory & its Police Forces, Pt 1, 1988. p350*
Heavitree Gap Police Station Historical Reserve. Plan Management Nov 1999. p1.
- 3) *Ibid. p11*

Volume 6, No 6 - December 2000

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE
POLICE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE



*Suggested that this is the original building (remains of its floor are outside the reserve) date circa 1889-90.
Courtesy History Trust S.A.*



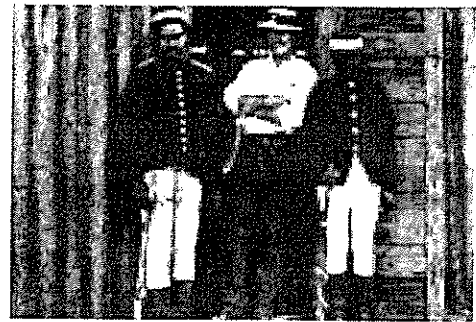
*Heavitree Gap Police Station prior to restoration.
Circa late 1960's
Courtesy Duncan Collection and was supplied by Jill Pridham.
Jill Pridham is the great granddaughter of
Mounted Constable Chance, who served at Heavitree Gap Police
Station from
1889 - 1898.*



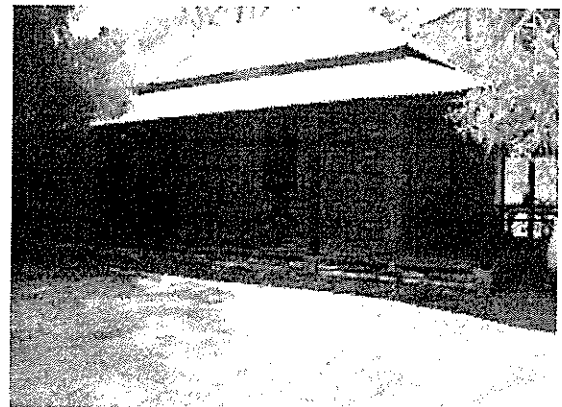
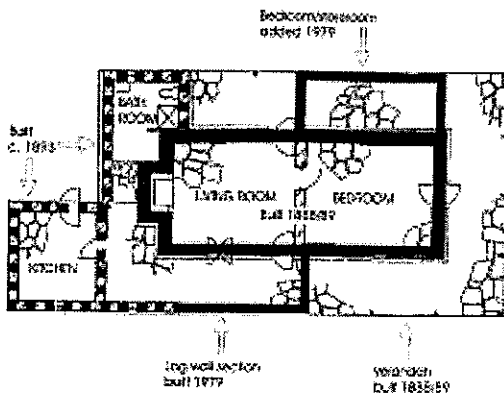
*H.M. Jail Heavitree Gap
Courtesy Bradshaw Collection
State Library S.A.*



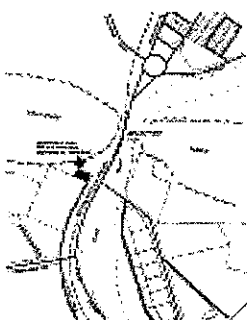
*Police Camp Heavitree Gap. 1908
Courtesy Bradshaw Collection State Library S.A.*



*Mounted Constable Johnson
& Trackers Jacky & Willy 1899.
Courtesy Collison Collection.*



*Heavitree Gap Historical Police Station, 2000
Photo by
Shirl Gillis*



*Floor plan of Heavitree Gap Police Station showing the original building along with all the added on portions and applicable dates.
The map shows the actual location of the building.
Courtesy Conservation Commission of Northern Territory.*

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

We have been researching historical facts about the beautifully restored historical Heavitree Gap Police Station and past serving officers based at this site. Through the search for this historical information, the following unabridged and unedited resume of events was compiled by Mr Keith Mooney-Smith and sent to us. The Photos which we have included are from various collections which we have acknowledged gratefully. If you wished to visit this site you would need to contact, The Conservation Commission of NT.

HEAVITREE GAP POLICE STATION

A resume of events compiled by Keith Mooney-Smith

At its meeting in May 1993 the Northern Territory Heritage Advisory Council accepted a nomination from the National Trust of Australia (NT) in respect of a place described as the Heavitree Gap Police Station located at the southern entrance through the Macdonnell Ranges to the Town of Alice Springs.

The land (Lot 1044) had been Proclaimed a reserve under Section 103 of the *Crown Lands Act* as a site for a historical building on 23 January 1958 (CG No.8 of 6 February 1958) and subsequently declared a reserve under Section 12 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* by notification appearing in NT Gazette No 26A of 30 June 1978. The Reserve was named the Heavitree Gap Police Station Historical Reserve by notification appearing in the NT Gazette No 38 of 21 September 1979.

It was held by the Conservation Land Corporation and administered by the then Conservation Commission.

Processes were put in place which culminated in the site being declared a Heritage Site under the Northern Territory Heritage Conservation Act.

NTGG No. G3 of 19 January 1994 p 4.

As is required under the aforesaid Act, a "Statement of Heritage Value" was approved which read as follows:-

"The former Police Station site at Heavitree Gap, Alice Springs, has special significance to the Territory as a focal point in demonstrating a way of life of the early police and their task of applying Law and Order in a remote and sometimes hostile environment.

Although an initial police camp had been established in 1879 at the Alice Springs

Telegraph Station, the move to the site at Heavitree Gap on 21 April 1886 determined the first officially regarded permanent police presence in Central Australia.

As custodians of Law and Order, the police duties were widely varied and involved undertaking patrols of long duration and covering large tracts of land, most of which was sparsely inhabited.

Up to this point, accommodation facilities provided for both police and prisoners were minimal, consisting of tents supplemented by bough sheds.

When constructed in 1889, the two roomed thatched dwelling became the focal point for a gradual change in living conditions for all concerned which ultimately led to its abandonment when it no longer met those requirements.

Becoming, in 1904, the first official gaol, prison and house of correction in Central Australia until closed in 1909, the site has had a chequered career degenerating to an abandoned ruin till its complete restoration as a historic building in 1971".

I had first sighted the building early in 1964 when arriving in Alice Springs to take up an appointment as Assistant Chief Draftsman with the then Lands and Survey Branch of the Northern Territory Administration. Thirty years later, it was my task to evaluate the site and to prepare a report from a historical and heritage perspective.

The Conservation Commission had already effected a great deal of research including obtaining copies of relevant archive material, particularly that from South Australia, which was used to compile the report .

The construction of the overland telegraph line from Port Augusta to Port Darwin and the siting and building of associated telegraph stations provided numerous bases from which exploration, mining and pastoral pursuits could be engaged. The tracks between stations were well used by travellers going both north and south including those engaged in the illegal sale of liquor.

To counteract the latter activities in July 1873 the South Australian Chief Secretary requested the Commissioner of Police to send troopers to the Peake and Charlotte Waters telegraph stations. The Superintendent of Telegraphs, Charles Todd, immediately requested that a third trooper be sent to be stationed at Barrow Creek.

Although representations were made in July 1875 by Edward Meade Bagot, a pastoralist who held a lease over land surrounding the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, the Commissioner of Police would not agree to another trooper being sent arguing that the area could adequately be covered by patrols north from Charlotte Waters or south from Barrow Creek.

The incidents of cattle killing by aboriginals began to escalate but it was not until February 1879 when two aboriginals accompanying Dr Browne's overland expedition were killed by local tribesmen at Temple Bar Gap in the Macdonnell Ranges did the situation change.

DONOVAN: Alice Springs: p67

On 28 April 1879 a trooper was assigned to the Alice Springs Telegraph Station. It is thought that his initial camp was situated near Middle Park Waterhole downstream from the actual Telegraph Station

SAA GRG5/2 1879 Box 33

A twenty two year old 3rd class trooper based in Adelaide named John Charles Shirley

(1856-1883) with only two years experience in the police force was the first trooper to arrive. He was subsequently promoted to 2nd class in June 1879 and in July 1880 appointed 2nd class mounted constable, the classification of trooper to mounted constable having been changed effective as of 1 July 1880. One year later he was appointed to 1st class and transferred to Barrow Creek.

Note: In November 1883, he and four others died of thirst whilst engaged on a futile search for the murderers of a teamster at Lawson Creek.

William Henry Willshire (1852-1925) a 2nd class mounted constable stationed at Melrose was appointed to replace Shirley in December 1881 taking up official duties on 4 August 1882.

Erwin Wurmbrand (1849-?) a 2nd class mounted constable was transferred to the NT Police in January 1883 and although it is unclear when he arrived in Alice Springs it is well recorded that in November / December 1884 he led an expedition to search for cattle killers in the Hermannsburg / Glen Helen area which resulted in aboriginals being killed.

Note: Research by V T O'Brien reveals that although he joined the South Australian Police in 1879 quoting his occupation as "laborer", he was in fact Count Erwin of Wurmbrand - Stuppach of Brixen, Tyrol, Austria. On 22 December 1882 he was transferred to Beltana then Peake (1883) Barrow Creek (1886) and lastly Palmerston (1888) where he resigned on 30 November 1888.

On 14 November 1884, the South Australian Commissioner of Police had authorised the establishment of a native police force consisting of six aboriginals to be acquired from the surrounding district. Willshire was appointed Officer in charge. With headquarters in Alice Springs, their duty was to patrol the country from the Peake to Barrow Creek in order to protect the settlers from the "outrages of the natives"

SAGG of 17 September 1885 p 831

Note: The same Gazette noted that the necessity for economising expenditure in other departments of the Government service has caused a great many fresh duties to be thrown upon the police constables in country districts. These embraced everything from acting as bailiff, collecting statistics, to being Crown land rangers, customs officers to inspectors of public houses.

It would appear that although the native police had been recruited, no provision had been made to equip them. A letter dated 27 December 1885 from 1st class Mounted Constable Wurmbrand, then at Alice Springs, to Inspector Besley requested a large order of stores which was approved subject to obtaining whatever was available from the police barracks in the first instance.

(PCO 198/1886)

Note: In his letter, Wurmbrand stresses the importance of the work carried out by the Native Police and the fact that sometimes stringent measures have had to be taken both for the protection of settlers and law abiding aboriginals alike. He also rejects the anonymous, unfounded and unjustified reports which charge them with performing their duties with unnecessary severity.

On Wednesday 21 April 1886, using a Government wagon, Willshire, Wurmbrand and five native constables, Peter, Willie, Wilkie, Collins and Fred, shifted all the police property to Heavitree Gap where bough wurleys and a tent for the stores were erected. Such action now constitutes what is regarded as the time when the first permanent police presence was established in Central Australia.

Alice Springs Police Journal entry for 21 April 1886

Note: The land immediately surrounding the telegraph station was limited in its capacity for grazing. Pressure was already being applied for land to be made available for a townsite to accommodate the needs of numerous settlers and others congregating at the station. The availability of a large tract of land suitable for grazing their horses would have been one factor in the decision to move.

Willshire advised his senior officer, Inspector Besley, stationed at Port Augusta, on 18

February 1887 of the move which had occurred eleven months earlier. He referred to the site as Heavitree Gap Police Camp whilst at the same time heading his letter Alice Springs Police Station. He requested 100 pounds to be spent on the erection of a strong hut to be used for storage purposes particularly when away from camp on patrol.

Accommodation now consisted of one large wurley, a log hut and two tents.

Inspector Besley must have anticipated this request as on the 24 January 1887 he had requested approval for the expenditure of 120 pounds for basically the same purposes. The request was considered too vague and the Commissioner of Public Works requested advice as to:-

- (1) absolute requirements
- (2) nature of existing accommodation
- (3) what materials would be needed and
- (4) what definite assistance would the police provide

Besley replied on 25 February that:-

- (1) *Two rooms were required for the police each 14 x 14 x 12 foot high with 12 foot veranda all round. a kitchen and store detached 14 x 14 and 14 x 12 both 10 foot high. a shed 20 x 18 with overhanging roof and low walls on three sides to provide shade and protection for the native constables.*
- (2) *Present accommodation consisted of what they had built themselves from mud and boughs.*
- (3) *Materials were to be stone or pug with roof thatched with rushes, reeds or cane grass.*
- (4) *Under guidance of police, native constables would quarry stone, cut timber carry water and help load the drays.*

The extended requirements would increase construction costs with 200 pounds now needed according to Willshire. Besley requested this amount on 12 March 1887.

An offer to build the station and shed for 126 pounds 18 shillings had been received from Thomas Hanley (1846-?) a sawyer and overland telegraph line inspector. Upon receipt of this advice the expenditure of 125 pounds was approved on 29 April 1887.

(PCO 65/87)

Second class Mounted Constable Robert Hillier (1848-?) was appointed as of 16 August 1887. In the six years since joining the police, he had been transferred fourteen times and was only to remain in Alice Springs until being transferred back to Port Augusta as of 4 July 1889. Hillier was not a model policeman. He had already received various punishments and reprimands and these were to continue until he was eventually dismissed from the force in 1914.

Nothing eventuated in respect of Hanley's proposal to build the station and it was not until 26 March 1888 when 1st class Mounted Constable William Garnet South (1855-1923) was appointed Officer-in-charge did the question of accommodation be reactivated.

Note: Alluvial gold was first located at Paddy's Rockhole, Arltunga in April 1887. By July miners were applying to Willshire for miners rights. Since he did not have the appropriate forms he applied for some to be sent. Willshire was appointed the first Warden for the MacDonnell Range Goldfields, a position he did not want since there was no remuneration attached.

By letter dated 19 March 1888, Inspector Besley informed the Commissioner of Police that there were 150 men on the "Ruby" field which necessitated police patrol the area as often as possible. He requested the appointment of an additional constable to be stationed at Heavitee gap basically to protect the camp whilst other police were away.

Besley recommended that M C South be appointed Officer-in-charge and made Warden of the Goldfield, with a liberal allowance if possible, since Willshire had officially requested that he not be Warden

KANE: A history of the Arltunga Goldfields, p9
SAA GRG 5/2 169/88, SAA GRS1/206/88

South had previously been stationed at the Peake where he had constructed buildings for police use. These were purchased from him for seventy five pounds by the Commissioner of Public Works.

South advised Besley on 10 May 1888 that 125 pounds was not attracting any interest and that 200 pounds was closer to what they would have to pay. He also noted that a new well would be required as the existing sand well was failing. Jobe Swift had agreed to sink and equip a new well for 2 pounds five shillings per foot with an estimated depth to water of 35 feet.

Besley's short telegraphed reply of 28 May 1888 reminded South that the native police were to have done most of the work and that Willshire had had an offer to build the Station for 60 pounds.

Note: The offer Willshire had received was to build a single stone hut. Besley considered that the larger amount of 125 pounds would provide for more suitable buildings and also prove better economy in the long run.

South replied on 2 June 1888 stating that prospective builders did not place much value on the assistance of police and native constable labour, indicating that they would be rarely available to do the work due to their long absences on patrol. Much of the available labour had already migrated to the newly found ruby (actually garnet) and gold fields located approximately 80 miles to the east of Alice Springs. South estimated that 300 pounds would now be required for construction

(PCO 65/87)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bill Wilson



In this, the final edition of *The Citation* for 2000, it is time to reflect on the activities of the Northern Territory Police Museum and Historical Society for the past twelve months.

Unfortunately, heavy work commitments meant that the previous executive were unable to continue leading the Society. We owe those members, Peter Thomas and Garth Macpherson in particular, our thanks for keeping the Society going despite their other activities. Nevertheless, this year has seen the installation of a new executive and two general meetings being held in Darwin. One had two presenters lecture on topics of interest and the second was a film night with a guest lecturer regaling the audience with tales of a policeman's family life in the 1940s and 50s.

The Museum opened its first exhibition in Darwin, which will shortly close and then tour the Territory, first to Alice, then Tennant Creek, Borroloola and Katherine. The second and third exhibitions are now in the planning stage.

We have also taken the first steps towards instituting an oral history programme, whereby long serving members (and former members) will be interviewed on their retirement and the tapes held for posterity and use by researchers into police history.

There are so many other things that have happened, small that they are, which have all helped make our society vibrant and interesting. However, it's the members who count most. Without the help and support of each and every member it would not be the success it is rapidly becoming. So to you all, on behalf of the Committee, thank you for your interest and commitment to YOUR Society.

A noted author, Tom Griffiths, wrote in his book *Hunters and Collectors*, that

'history can take many forms. It can be constructed at the dinner table, over the back fence, in parliament, in the streets and not just in the tutorial room or scholars desk. History is the fruit of both popular and learned understandings, both amateur and professional.'

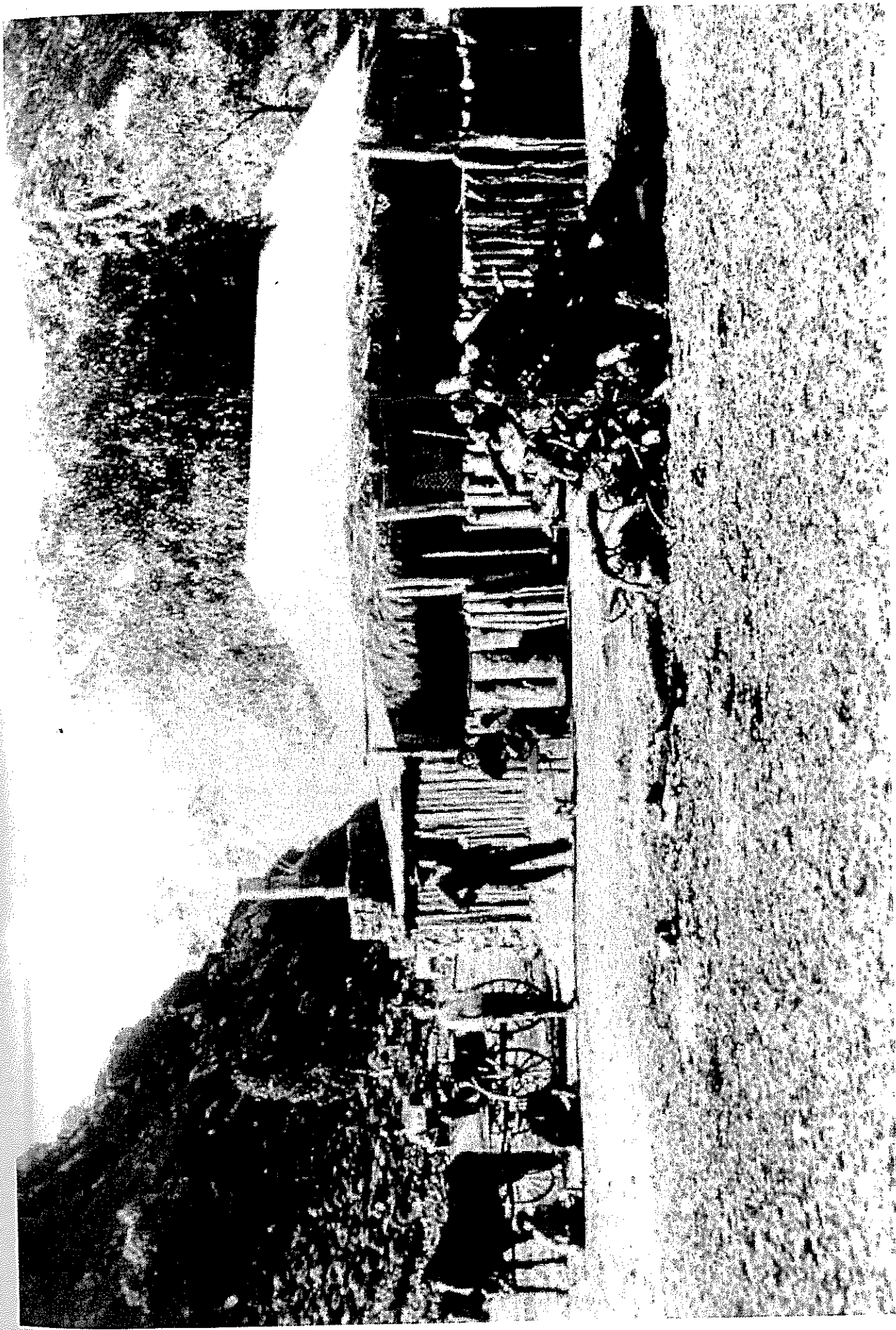
So it is with our Society. Our history can be found in many places, not least of which is in our memories, so please keep those stories and letters coming to *The Citation*.

My thanks to those members who have worked so hard for the Society during 2000 in so many ways, the Committee, the Editor of 'The Citation' and his staff and all the countless others who have helped make the Society what it is today.

On behalf of the Committee I wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2001. We will be in touch again in the New Year.

Bill Wilson

President



*Suggested original building (remains of its floor are outside the reserve) date circa 1889-90
Courtesy History Trust S.A.*

In the meantime, the Stationmaster at Alice Springs, Francis James Gillen (1855-1912) had offered South the use of an old hut. He took up the offer and removed it to Heavitree Gap on 7 July 1888

SAA RN 661 Hartwig

This last report of South's put the Commissioner of Public Works in a quandry. On one hand he had been instructed to conserve funds yet he felt an obligation to provide suitable shelter and accommodation etc for police out in the field.

It was his view, not supported by any recommendation, dated 3 August 1888 that:-

"if the police were really hard pressed for the extra accommodation at the Alice, they would have since buckled to, taken the 125 pounds offered, put their shoulders to the work and erected all the shelter and storage they required, at all events they would have expended the 125 pounds."

South was obviously seeking available alternatives and on 28 August 1888 he advised Besley that Thomas Pope and John Flemming had agreed to build a police station for the original price of 125 pounds subject to a revision of requirements.

The agreement provided for the construction of a:-

"two roomed building length 35 feet 15 feet width, height from floor level to ceiling 11 feet. Foundations 2 feet wide one foot deep walls outside 18 inches, partition 14 inches. Pitch of roof 8 feet. Verandah 7 feet wide all round the house. Floors concrete or flags, if concrete to be well rammed and trowelled to a face. 3 doors and two windows, fireplace 4 foot 6 inches wide by 2 - 6 deep. Outside of building to be well plumbed and pointed, the inside plastered and floated. A shed or store to be if stone 12 feet long 8 feet wide 9 feet high walls on three sides only. If

mulga slabs to be 24 feet long 12 feet wide divided into two rooms gable ends thatch roof joints to be filled in neatly with mortar 2 doors 2 windows."

South also advised Besley that work had commenced several days previously and that 3 December 1888 was the agreed completion date.

Besley sought approval for the work by memorandum of 20 September 1888 and advised that the contractors would:-

- (1) *roof the structure with 26 gauge iron in lieu of thatching for 35 pounds extra*
- (2) *erect 3 miles of 3 wire fence at 55 pounds per mile providing posts and No.8 gauge wire*
- (3) *sink and timber a well to a depth of 40 feet or till water found at 1 pound 18 shillings per foot. 20 feet of troughing, fence and windlass were to be provided.*

Unfortunately, the original approval for the expenditure of 125 pounds had lapsed and only after much shuffling amongst senior officials and Government Ministers was the matter resolved when it was referred to Cabinet who decided that the Minister Controlling the Northern Territory should pay the account.

An amount of 125 pounds was finally paid to South's account for payment to contractors on 7 February 1889.

(PCO 65/87)

Note: South Australian Archives Research Note 661 prepared by M Hartwig, quoting PCO 65/87 as source, indicates that Messrs Pope and Flemming also fenced in a horse paddock for 3 miles at 25 pounds 5 shillings a mile for 3 miles.

By notification appearing in South Australian Gazette No.51 of 29 November 1888 an area of land situated approximately halfway

between the telegraph station and the police station was proclaimed the Town of Stuart.

The completion of the police station prompted Inspector Besley to lodge a requisition on 13 February 1889 for a large amount of stores which he recommended be purchased in Port Augusta. He reasoned that only good quality supplies, including medicines, be sent since they would be packed better with less likelihood of damage in transit on camels. He also intimated that Mounted Constable South intended to take his family with him to Heavitree Gap.

SAA GRG 5/2 157/89

Note: William Garnet South (1855-1923) had married Fanny nee Stevens (1855-1908). They had two children at time of transfer. Garnet Moncrieff (1884-1951) and Robert Leslie Moncrieff (1888-?)

The explorer William Harry Tietkens (1844-1933) named "South's Range" situated at 24 minutes 26 seconds latitude 129 degrees 23 seconds longitude on 19 June 1889 after:

"Mr South, the warden of the goldfields and superintendant of police at Alice Springs, to whom I am much indebted for obtaining the blacktracker, Billy from the ranks of the native police; a more willing, intelligent, industrious and skilful native it would be impossible to have."

SAPP No. 111 of 1890 p18

Third class Mounted Constable Harry Chance (1856-1911) was appointed to Alice Springs as of 25 April 1889. His promotion to second class followed shortly after, being effective as 1 October.

Note: Chance remained until transferred to Hergott Springs (Marree) on 29 November 1892. Shortly before, during a town patrol on 17 September 1892 his left arm was broken and severely lacerated as a result of being bitten by police camel "Mammoth". He returned as of 30 August 1893 remaining till 26 January 1898 whence he was transferred to Beltana. In 1901 he travelled with Messrs Spencer and Gillen from Oodnadatta to Borroloola. An account of the

journey can be found in "Gillens Diary", Libraries Board of South Australia, 1968.

The building complex was enhanced by the addition of a kitchen, fireplace and set oven completed by October 1890 at a cost of 10 pounds.

SAA GRG 38/15/1 p666
Record Book of Public Buildings

By 1890, the incidence of cattle killing by aboriginals was still quite prevalent. Mounted Constable Willshire and his native constables acted in the extreme in an endeavour to curb the practice. Whilst this met with the approval of the pastoralists not so with the missionaries at the Hermannsburg Lutheran Mission.

Matters came to a head in 1891, following a major incident at Tempe Downs. South had reported to Inspector Besley on 1 May that Willshire had entered a native camp situated within 200 yards of Tempe Downs head station, shot four natives then had returned to the station for breakfast before burying the bodies within a quarter mile of the station. The fact that he had not even reported the matter to a magistrate led South to suggest that he had doubts about Willshire's sanity.

SAA GRG 418/91

The matter was investigated by South and Francis James Gillen (1855-1912) the then Stationmaster of the Alice Springs Telegraph Station which resulted in Willshire being charged with murder. He was later acquitted.

NT Dictionary of Biography Vol 1 Entry by R G Kimber for William Henry Willshire pp 317-320

South provided evidence to the Pastoral Lands Commission on 16 April 1891. Speaking from Heavitree Gap he advised that he was conversant and had travelled the country north to Newcastle Waters, west about 180 miles and east about 120 miles.

In concluding his evidence he stated:

"I think it would be well to have a sub-protector of aborigines appointed in the district as a means of communication between the Government and the blacks"

SAPP No. 33 of 1891 pp 126 and 127

Inspector Besley on 12 August 1891 directed that in future a patrol party of one mounted constable and not less than three native constables on horses or camels should travel to Tempe Downs Station each five weeks. Times were to be staggered and patrols increased if it was warranted. The route to be taken was via Owen Springs, Hermannsburg Mission Station, Glen Helen, Erldunda and Henbury Stations.

Note: Precise directions were also given restricting use of firearms, reporting of offences to and by aboriginals, control and training of native police including a total prohibition on their use of "bad words".

SAA GRG 5/2 1891 p 764

Second class Mounted Constable John Mumford Bray Marshall (1858-1917) was appointed to Alice Springs as of 28 September 1892. He was only to stay a short while before being transferred to Innamincka on 16 May 1894

The buildings at Heavitree Gap were roofed with iron in 1893 during which year South claimed that an office, kitchen, two harness rooms, two store rooms, a log hut used as a cell, a horse yard, camel yard and a garden had been added at an estimated value of 100 Pounds but at no cost to Government.

SAA RN 661 Hartwig

Note: South wrote to Besley on 24 July 1893 advising that the iron for the roof had reached Alice Springs but the rafters and wallplates had been completely destroyed by white ants and borers and would need replacing.

A sawyer, Sven Olsen had undertaken to supply suitable timber for 20 pounds. South stated that he

and other police would do the re roofing.

SAA PCO 672/93

Third class Mounted Constable William Bernard Kean (1869-?) was posted to Alice Springs effective as of 26 May 1894. He transferred to Tempe Downs 24 December 1895 and was promoted to second class on 1 April 1898. Shortly after (17 June 1898) he returned to Adelaide.

The Chief Secretary on 20 July 1894 directed that the Commissioner of Police remove South from Alice Springs. First class Mounted Constable Alfred Kelly (1852-1932) was nominated for the position irrespective of the fact that he did not desire to move since his wife was "delicate".

SAA PCO 568/94

Note: South was transferred to Adelaide as of 22 March 1895. Following three years at Mt. Gambier he returned to Adelaide where he was promoted to Senior Constable on 1 August 1904. He transferred to the Aboriginals Department on 1 March 1908. He died in Adelaide May 1923.

South had purchased Lot 57 Town of Stuart in 1891 from his brother, Robert Moncrieff South. He sold it in 1906. From 1903 to 1907 he held Lots 78 and 79, the site of the original Stuart Arms Hotel.

Kelly's posting to Alice Springs was effective as of 25 March 1895. He was promoted to Senior Constable on 1 January 1897 returning to Adelaide 17 June 1898. Kelly was to reach the rank of Inspector shortly before he retired in 1917.

Third class Mounted Constable Charles Patrick Johnston (1871-1907) was initially posted to Alice Springs effective as of 22 January 1898 but went to Arltunga one year later (14 January 1899)

Note: Johnston joined the Northern Territory Police in 1902. He died of sunstroke at Katherine on 4 December 1907

Second class Mounted Constable Charles Edward Brookes (1847-?) was posted to Alice Springs as of 1 July 1898. He was not new to the Northern Territory having first been there in 1874.

Note: Brookes had joined then resigned from the police force several times before his appointment to Alice Springs. He was transferred to Illamurta police camp on 1 May 1905. He last resignation was on 31 December 1912. His wife, Albina Louisa nee Hopkins had given birth to four children whilst they were stationed at Burrundie N T. These were:

1. Ruth Adelaide (28.2.1893)
2. Darwinia Selina May (23.5.1894)
3. Jessie Henrietta Bucle (27.4.1895)
4. Henry Edward Hopkins (10 5.1896)

Brookes, his wife and children are recorded as being at Heavitree Gap Police Station in 1899 in the book written by Doris Blackwell and Douglas Lockwood called "Alice on the Line".

Second class Mounted Constable Isaac Thomas French was transferred to Alice Springs as of 28 October 1901. He married Nellie nee Ledger at Woodville on 13 March 1902 before returning with her to Heavitree Gap. Eugene Ledger French was born at Hermannsburg on 6 December 1902. Isaac was transferred to Quorn as of 28 April 1906.

On 14 December 1904, the building and premises at the police station were Proclaimed to be a public gaol, prison and house of correction under the provisions of the Prison Act of 1869. This remained in force until 2 September 1909 when the Executive Council ordered its closure and the prisoners confined therein were removed to Stuart Town (Alice Springs) public gaol.

Mounted Constable Charles Edward Brookes by letter dated 8 March 1905 informed the Commissioner of Police, Adelaide, that the buildings at Heavitree Gap were all in a dilapidated condition. The plaster had broken away in places, the mantel piece had been eaten by white ants, the windows were broken and the walls required white washing.

He went on to state that the wooden cell erected by Mounted Constables South and Chance several years ago was now useless having been eaten out by white ants. The last batch of native prisoners sentenced to three months were chained to a post with a nightly vigil kept by police officers.

Brookes recommended that the Gaol be moved to the Town of Stuart where cells could be erected to take both native and white prisoners alike.

PCO 156/1905

Frederick John McLeod (1881-?) was initially posted to Alice Springs as a third class mounted constable on 4 December 1905. He was promoted to first class on 1 July 1906.

Nothing much is known about McLeod except that he was fined a pound in 1908 for allowing a police horse to be raced in Alice Springs. McLeod transferred to Beltana on 23 February 1910 before resigning from the police force in 1918.

The Minister controlling the Northern Territory agreed to provide accommodation for the police and a gaol within the Town of Stuart and as a first step requested the Commissioner of Police to provide such details as would permit the provision of estimates.

PCO 156/1905

Frederick Conrad Pflaum (1877-?) a second class mounted constable was appointed to Alice Springs as of 9 July 1905. He had had one years previous experience at Arltunga 1903/1904.

In August 1905 he arrested and severely flogged eight aboriginals suspected of killing cattle. His tracker, Toby, had shot an aboriginal through the side whilst attempting to escape. He did not report the incident and was subsequently recalled in November to Adelaide to face an inquiry which resulted in

his dismissal from the force.

The then South Australian Commissioner of Police in charge of the Far Northern Division which incorporated all stations south of Barrow Creek was Lewis George Madley.

Madley reported to the Government that:
"M/C Pflaum has not only disgraced himself, but has left a lasting stain on the Police Force as a whole. For years it has been a policy of the Department to establish the kindest and friendliest feelings between the Police and the Native Population by just and kindly treatment and I am afraid that it will take years to reestablish this feeling in the Far Northern Division"

CLYNE: Colonial Blue p228

Charles Phillip Hornick Nalty (1841-1913) was a Corporal when taking up duties in Alice Springs as of 29 April 1906. He was appointed as Keeper, Heavitree Gap Gaol, Alice Springs on June 13 the same year. He transferred to Adelaide on 31 August 1908

SAPP No.2 of 1907 (Blue Book) p.70

Note: Nalty had joined the Police Force in 1872. He served in numerous South Australian stations before being transferred to Arltunga in 1902 as a Corporal. On 1 April 1903 he was appointed an Inspector, Central Board of Health, Arltunga and on 1 August 1904 promoted to Sergeant. At his own request he was demoted to Corporal on 1 December 1904

Second class Mounted Constable John Graham Dow (1867-?) was appointed to Alice Springs as of 21 September 1908 and promoted to first class shortly thereafter on 1 June 1909. He and his wife Anna Mary Dow nee Dale transferred to Adelaide as of 4 December 1911.

Note: Dow had had previous experience in the Northern Territory having joined the Police Force and being stationed in Pine Creek from 1893 till 1901. The 1909 Electoral Roll lists Dow as Keeper of the Stuart Town Gaol and his wife as Matron (Gaol).

The new gaol and police station being built in the Town of Stuart was completed in 1909. Proclaimed a public gaol and house of correction by notification appearing in the Gazette of 8 July 1909, it was to remain in use until 3 November 1938.

Stuart Town Gaol, National Trust Booklet (No date)

Although intended to be demolished with the other buildings when the police moved to Stuart, the two roomed stone building, small kitchen and store room were retained as quarters for the junior Constable who, amongst his other duties, attended to the station's plant of horses and camels.

"From 1910 to 1918 it was used as a shelter for goats. It was cleaned out in 1919 to accommodate Stock Inspector Campbell and his wife and when vacated by that officer, was occupied by Constable Littlejohn. The walls and floor were in fair condition. The roof was in a very bad state and required renewing throughout. Since the premises were occupied by Constable Littlejohn all water for domestic purposes has had to be carried from Alice Springs. The Government Resident was instructed to provide for the erection of a new residence at Alice Springs for a married constable on the 1930/31 Works Estimates."

Memo 5 February 1930 re: Police Premises
McLaren Manuscript p 806.

In August 1956, at the first meeting of the newly constituted Reserves Board, the site was suggested for acquisition and by June 1957 necessary actions had been put in place. It was dedicated to them by notification appearing in NT Gazette No 12 of 19 March 1958.

A report was prepared on the condition of the buildings on 10 November 1959 which indicated that the quality of initial construction had been poor and that subsequent crumbling of walls and plaster,

rotting of timbers and theft of materials made it an unviable proposition to restore.

Notwithstanding such advice and the estimated high costs involved, by 1966 the Reserves Board had resolved to proceed with restoration and were seeking ways in which it could be achieved. Work commenced in 1967, being undertaken by local builder, John Taylor, who worked on a wage basis with materials supplied. It was reported as being completed and occupied by a staff member in the Board's Annual Report of 1971, a situation which possibly remains to the present.

It is an impossible task to cover every aspect of the life and times of the people and circumstances surrounding the Heavitree Gap Police Station. By today's standards they were extremely harsh conditions but to them possibly just normal.

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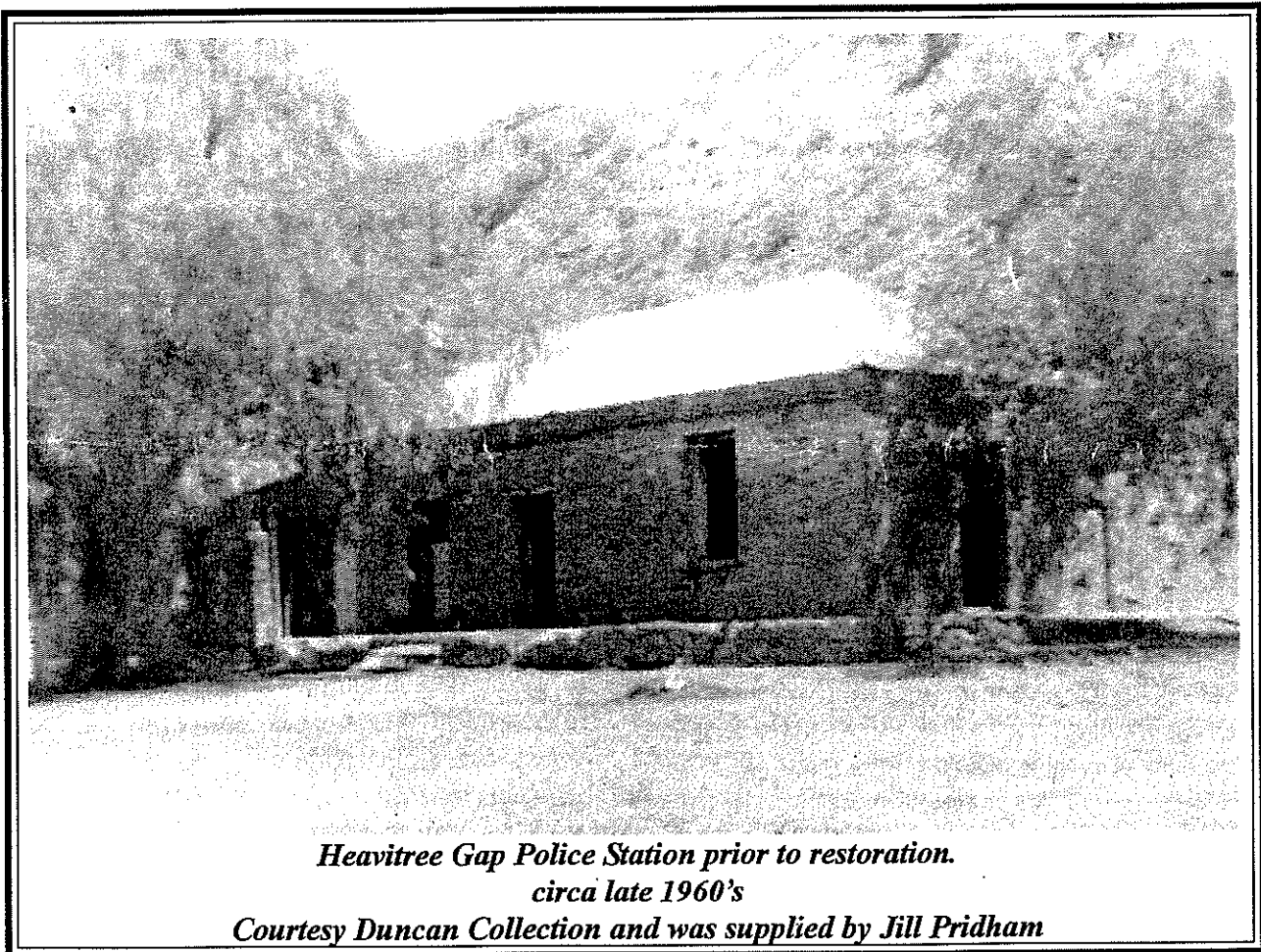
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Heavitree Gap Police Station prior to restoration.

circa late 1960's

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