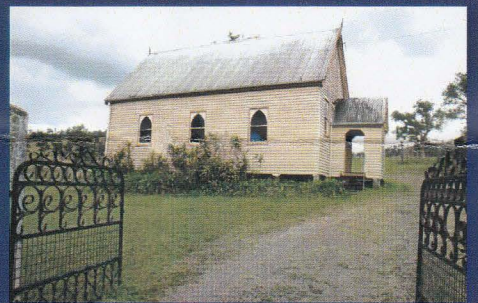
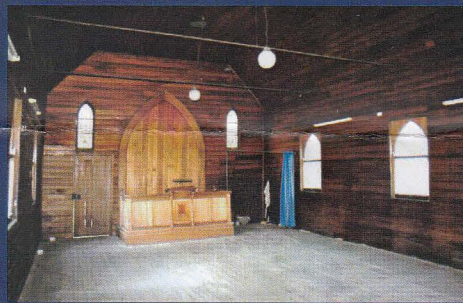


2412 Allyn River Road, ECCLESTON



AUCTION: On Site - Saturday 6th Nov @ 10am

100 + Years Of History On Offer

AUCTION

Our Ref 11H: The original Eccleston Congregational Church (circa 1895), Residence (circa 1914) and Church Hall (circa 1929).

A distinctive piece of local history in a quiet and leafy setting on 2024 square metres (half an acre). The Congregational Church is constructed mostly of red cedar including the studs, weatherboards and lining. The residence consists of 4 bedrooms, lounge room, country style kitchen and bathroom and has recently been rewired. Located only 25km North of the picturesque town of Gresford on the popular Allyn River Road.

Agents comments: This truly unique property that has never previously been offered to the market offers all opportunists an abundance of potential uses that can only be limited by ones imagination.

Kel Sullivan

190 Dowling Street, Dungog

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Est 1880

On the 2nd June 1883 a meeting was held and a call was sent to Rev. R. Williams to be the first minister of the Congregational Church.

The committee was John Hopson, William Jarrett, Francis Wilson, Henry Jarrett, Robert Hipwell, Francis Jarrett, James Lawrie, Sol Hopson, and George Jarrett.

A Sunday School was started 3rd March 1884 with 28 children. On September 14 1884 a church was formed in the old chapel at "Ravenscroft" Eccleston. There were 19 members. This chapel was about 100 ^{yards} ^{up from} ~~yards~~ after Eccleston Bridge on the left hand side coming north. On May 19th 1892 Mr J. N. Sivyer sold half an acre of land to the church for 10 pound (\$20). This was reduced to 5 pound (\$10) providing a pig fence was erected and that Mr Sivyer have a seat in the church for the rest of his life.

This church has cedar studs, cedar weather boards and cedar lining all of which was pit sawed and hand planned. The late Joe Jarrett said the church was built for 19 pound (\$38). We think this may mean the erection ~~only~~. A builder named Snowden ^{was} ~~was~~ of homes at Eccleston. I understand cedar for this church was cut in the forest above the old Mill site - Upper Allyn. The pews are also cedar. The church building was commenced Dec 1894 and was opened for public worship May 8th 1895. An impressive ceremony was held in 1924 when the Memorial Gates were opened in memory of our first minister Rev. Williams - His daughter returned to perform the opening.

A small gate costing Three pound five shillings was bought to correspond with large ones.

In March 1925 a magic lantern night was held to raise money for an organ. On the 19th January 1927 Mr Sol Hopson moved and Mr George Hopson that we have two organists month about, The names were balloted for and Miss Rosa Jarrett and Miss Chris Hopson were duly elected.

On 18th August 1927 a church meeting decided to build our present Hall to be used as a Sunday School Hall. Mr Guy Hopson gave the blocks. Mr Fred Hipwell offered to work for Eleven shillings a day as chief supervision. Mr Ern Hopson gave the iron bars, these were made at Smiths Black Smiths Shop Allynbrook for One pound eleven shillings. The hall was opened 7th November 1929. Seats for the hall were carted from Maitland by Mr Bill Burton for cost of petrol and oil. This was September 1930.

In Rev. Buttles Time - 1936 socials were held to raise money for public conveniences. Rev Buttle was the builder for this project but thanks to the present ladies Guild and voluntary labour the hall now has a septic system.

The old manse was on the other side of the river north from the present manse.

After much discussion tenders were called for a new building, these tenders closed 25th October 1913.

A tender from Deards Brothers Dungog was accepted.

Mr E Hipwell supplied 20 Tallow Wood Blocks 8ft long 6 x 8, these he delivered to the site.

Timber was sawn at a mill owned by Charlie Hopson on the property where Rodney Hipwell lives - Mr E Hipwell's tender of 10 ¢ per 100 super feet to draw timber to The manse site was accepted.

All drawing was done by bullock team. Mr Deards commenced work on the manse 6th December 1913 and completed March 1914 /

On Sunday 25.11.84 the church was filled to overflowing when folks who had been associated with Church life at Eccleston returned to celebrate 100yrs of worship Rev John Brookfield and Canon Johnstone officiated.

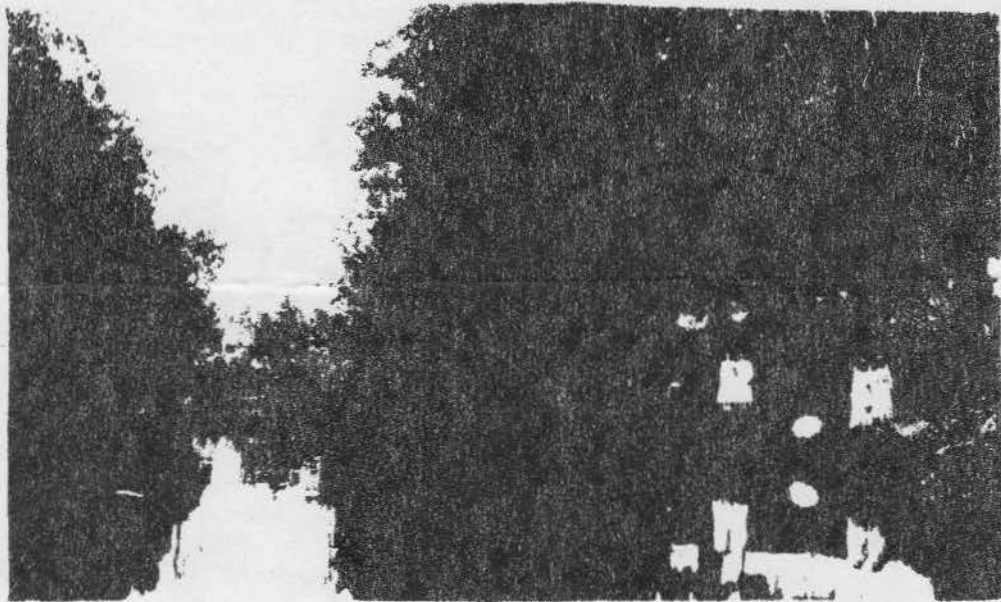
On 25th October 1924 St Pauls Dedicated Ceremony was held

* The church was overflowing with folks from Salisbury, Lostock, Gresford, Allynbrook and Eccleston. At 2.30 The Memorial Gates presented by Mr J Sivyer in memory of his parents was opened. The two churches commensed, combined services 7th July 1968.*

This was just mentioned because from 1968 The Congregational people combined with St. Paul.

Alternate months The services were had until The Congregational Church closed 12-1-66.

CHAPEL CROSSING



Pictured;
Mrs Harcourt
Miss Amy Hopson
Miss Kate Hill