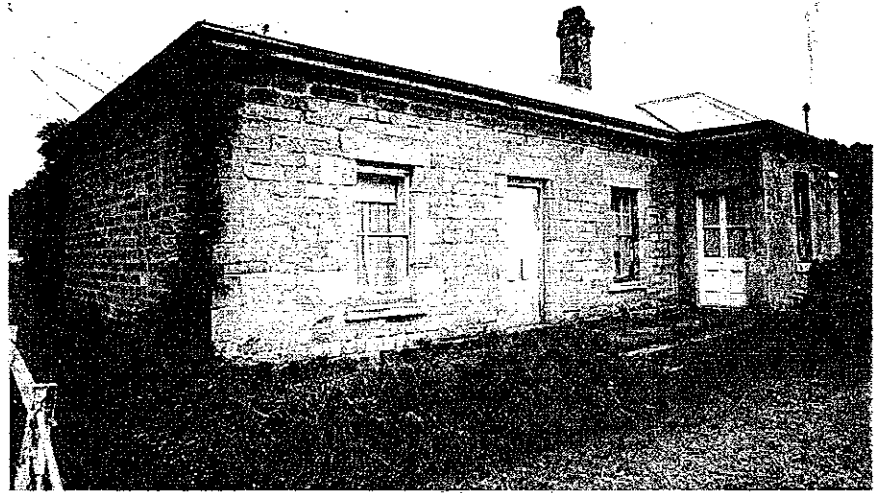


### 19 Batemans Road

John Reeves (see Batemans Road Area), stonemason and farmer, built this stone house of four rooms for himself in 1857 and inscribed the date on the back of the house. The estate held his house, orchard and hut, according to Council records. In 1874 the address is given as Earnshaw's Road, Gladesville. In 1881 the house had been increased to six rooms, with two acres of land. The Municipal Roll of 1893 listed John Reeves as owner of four cottages and a dairy in Bateman Road.



### LAURESTON 22 Bateman's Road

The first Certificate of Title of the land was granted to David Powell in 1866, transferred to Mary Earnshaw (nee Poyntz) in 1867. On her death in 1879, the land passed to David Poyntz and then to James Bell. The house presumably was built by Bell, hospital attendant, who appeared in the Electoral Roll and Sands' Directory in the early 1880s. The house was listed as Amelia Cottage from 1912 to 1914 and as Laureston in 1916. The original front verandah was replaced and heightened in 1917, when a brick addition was built. The large sandstone blocks outside the verandah were the foundation stones of a hut that stood for some sixty years on the site of the present verandah, over a well.

### SURREY

#### 24 Bateman's Road

This house may have been Robert Bateman's hut of about 1840 (other possibilities are 16a and 52 Bateman's Road or the hut mentioned on John Reeves' property). Charles Little, who owned adjoining land when the first rates were assessed in 1861, bought this in 1866. It was then Lots 10 and 11 of the Turner subdivision. In 1873 he sold to Mrs. Earnshaw, who rented it out. In 1887 Robert Thornleigh Earnshaw of Glebe, a minor, sold the property to James



Smith, butcher (nicknamed Hoppy, supposedly after breaking his leg at Lambing Flats gold fields). In 1943 Surrey was sold by the

trustees of Smith's estate for £300. The house originally had dirt floors and still has the shingle roof under the present iron one.

## BATEMAN'S ROAD AREA

Settlement in this area began as early as 1795 with land grants made by Governor Arthur Phillip to John Doody (with Ann Benson), in 1798 to James Everard and Thomas Jones. John Glade, after whom Gladesville is named, purchased land in 1817 from Doody, but a deed was not issued until 1836. Bateman's Road is in an area granted to James Devlin in 1844, but appears to have been settled earlier. The area was settled as good farming land, relatively fertile when compared with many other stony areas around the harbour. Orchards, dairies and vineyards were established, and for a long period the locality supplied a large part of Sydney's fruit and vegetables. The Sydney Gazette in 1803 recorded that "three boats came in from Kissing Point (on the Parramatta River, near Bateman's Road) with several sacks of new potatoes, some vegetables and pumpkins and a supply of poultry". A punt was provided in 1829 linking Kissing Point with Drummoyne.

The area was further developed with the establishment of the asylum, now Gladesville Hospital, in 1835 at Bedlam Point; a little hamlet sprang up at Tarban Creek near the asylum. Some of the inhabitants of Bateman's Road were later employed at the asylum.

On an 1841 map Bateman's Hut is marked on land still held by the Crown, and the hut is also marked on a map of 1857. Bateman paid rates in the first year of the Municipality, 1861, of £4 10s. In 1862 Robert 'Batman' sold one acre of land to Ono Earnshaw, stonemason, for £25. However, the exact location of the hut has not been identified, if indeed the hut still exists. Several houses along the road appear to be old enough, but there are reports of demolished out-buildings which could have been the hut. Municipal records listed houses, cottages, huts; none of the huts seem to have survived, suggesting a primitive structure.

Several separate sources link Bateman with John Batman, Melbourne's founder. If this is so, then Batman's father was a convict, transported to Port Jackson in 1797. Later as a 'ticket of leave' man, he became a timber cutter with his sons and set up a timber yard at Parramatta, where he had settled earlier. Whitham's 'Book of the North Shore', an unpublished manuscript of 1927 states that they were related and also mentions Bateman as the lessee of the punt. Colliss' 'History of Gladesville', 1938, says "moreover Bateman, the puntman, lived first on Bedlam Point and later in a cottage on the Great North Road (Victoria Road), and the road made by the side of his cottage was named after him". The use of the name Bateman's Road was not official until 1891; it was listed earlier in Sands' Directory as Earnshaw Road and before that as Gladesville Road.

One of the earliest settlers in the road was John Reeves, a stonemason who came out from Cornwall in 1850 to build a wall around the asylum from Bedlam Point to Henley. Reeves built himself a stone cottage (19 Bateman's Road) in 1857, and the date is inscribed at the back of the house. He established orchards, a vineyard and a dairy on his estate of 69 acres. For his dairy he leased from Miss Isler an area bordered by Sunnyside, Hillcrest and Isler Streets, then known as Isler Park. The dairy was later relocated in Bateman's Road in Reeves' Paddock (now a town house development). At that time Bateman's Road was only as wide as a lane, and deeply rutted by the many carts using it. One of Reeves' grandsons recalled that the lane was extremely steep and rocky going down to the small bridge and that on milk runs the horses and carts were walked for fear of accident. Reeves later donated ten feet of his land to the Council when a road was built to ensure that a footpath be provided.

The area remained as farming and orchard land, with denser settlement along the major roads until well into the beginning of the century. A photograph taken in 1894 from the tower of St. Joseph's College shows the Bateman's Road area as being very heavily wooded, with small cottages just visible among the trees.

## MENDIP

### 1 Bateman's Road

This land was part of the subdivision of John Reeves' estate, and the house was probably built in about 1891.

