

The European Development of the Potts Point Area

In 1826, the land was granted to the Macleay family, who set about building Elizabeth Bay House, which still stands today. The remains of the Elizabeth Town village were located downslope from the house, near where the kitchen garden was established. There was no Aboriginal settlement at Elizabeth Bay / Gurrain after the house was built, but Aboriginal people visited occasionally, such as in 1838 when a tribal contest between Aboriginal people from the Shoalhaven and Wollongong was held there. They also continued to live in other settlements nearby at Rushcutters Bay, Barcom Glen, and Woolloomooloo. Visitors to Beare Park today can view historical interpretation about the Elizabeth Town Aboriginal settlement.

Before Governor Darling's land grants in 1825 of Woolloomooloo Hill, "the point" was known by a variety of names, among them Paddy's Point, Jurrageen (or Currageen), and Yarrandabbi. The last two are certainly Aboriginal names, and "Paddy" most likely named after Patrick Walsh, who received a grant of 30 acres from Colonel William Paterson in 1809, (later this grant was rescinded by Governor Macquarie). Darling's land grants consisted of 15 "town allotments" ranging for 8 to 10 acres and were offered to members of the civil service. For in depth details of this period see – James Broadbent's publication *The Australian Colonial House*, (chapter 8, *The Development of Woolloomooloo Hill*) and (chapter 9, *The Villas of Woolloomooloo Hill*).

The First Land Grant

In 1793 Governor Arthur Phillip granted 100 acres to Commissary General John Palmer, the land extending from the bay of Yurong Creek valley (present day Woolloomooloo) to Oxford Street. At this embryonic period of settlement, the entire present-day postcode of 2011 was considered as one area, boundaries were imprecise; included were Potts Point, Elizabeth Bay and Kings Cross. This first landowner, John Palmer acknowledged the importance of the Yurong Creek valley to the Aboriginal people by naming his house Woollamolla, an Aboriginal name, also recorded as Waalamool, Wallamool and Wallamoula. Palmer sold his estate to Edward Riley in 1822, for decades Aboriginal people frequented the estate to camp, fish, hunt and conduct ceremonies. This early First Nations European connection resulted in the naming of both the bay and the valley as Woolloomooloo.