This map of Newcastle, Newcastle Harbor and Stockton shows development at Newcastle City and Stockton. At this point in time we can see that Nobbys has been joined to what is now known as fort Scratchley or Flagstaff Hill (previously Signal Hill).

A Selection of Historical Documents from the NSW State Archives including:
- 1856 Plans of Flagstaff Hill, including two quarries.
- William Keene’s 1854 sketch of Nobbys Island including detail of chert rock and conglomerate.
- William Keene’s 1854 sketch of Flagstaff Hill including detail of a sandstone quarry, chert rock, Dirt Bed Seam, a dyke and the Australian Agricultural Company’s Working Seam.
- William Keene’s stratigraphic sketch of various Coal Seams: Burwood Seam, Dirt Bed, Company’s Working Seam, chert rock and Nobby’s.
- William Keene’s sketch of Copper Company’s Works at Nobbys.

An 1851 Chart showing Bull Beacon at the breakwater, and part of Signal Hill.
An 1853 artwork showing the thin breakwater, including Bull Beacon, with waves coming right up to the edge of the breakwater.
An 1853 artwork showing the breakwater connecting Nobbys, and the Bull Beacon.
An 1856 Chart showing Bull Beacon at the breakwater, and part of Signal Hill.
An 1869 Chart showing Bull Beacon at the breakwater, and part of Signal Hill.
- 1875 harbour chart showing Bull Beacon at the breakwater, and part of Signal Hill.
- An 1882 chart showing Signal Hill, the Breakwater heading to Nobbys and the Hunter River Harbour.
- An 1891 chart showing Signal Hill, the Breakwater heading to Nobbys and the Hunter River Harbour.

CLN Mahlstedt and Gee Surveyors – Newcastle 1886 Plans of Newcastle:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/albums/72157627126833932

- Including detail of various streets in Newcastle city.

*University of Newcastle’s Cultural Collections Flickr page: Images of Newcastle*

Near Newcastle on the Hunter, circa 1841 by John Skinner Prout:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/7587683384/in/album-72157630614192448/

- This artwork overlooks the Newcastle, including the harbour, depicting a few buildings along the edge of the water. There looks to be quite a lot of trees and scrub, although, this looks like it has been partially cleared. Port Stephen’s can be seen in background. A windmill can be seen on a tall headland/hill, which looks to be around the area of the current city.

Harpers Hill, Hunter River, New South Wales. circa 1841 by John Skinner Prout:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/7587687876/in/album-72157630614192448/

- This artwork overlooks sheep grazing in an area of cleared Gumtrees.

Nobbys Newcastle circa 1840s. CLN John Turner Collection

- This artwork is taken from a cleared hill overlooking the city and harbour. Only a few trees remain, with a small number of scattered buildings.
- The breakwater connecting to Nobbys can be seen.

View of Newcastle and the Hunter River from the Obelisk looking north in 1853:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/16480611087/in/album-72157650632473798/
This artwork is later than the previous artwork, and it shows the growth of the city through more buildings, this artwork also shows Stockton Beach and the Christ Church Cathedral. There also appears to be a couple of small cleared areas with animals grazing on them in the bottom right corner.

Panorama of Newcastle from Telegraph Hill NSW (1858 – 1861).
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/4167519793/in/album-72157622957838734/

This artwork shows a panoramic image of Newcastle, including the harbour, and pockets of buildings, as Newcastle expands.

View of Newcastle and Newcastle Harbour in 1865:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/16647874532/in/album-72157650632473798/

A number of ships can be seen in the harbour, Nobby’s is connected to the mainland, and the city of Newcastle is beginning to get fairly built up.

Newcastle Coal Fields, 1865: https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/5124327739/in/album-72157624177753010/

There are pockets of trees, and pockets of cleared land within this image. A couple of buildings, however, mostly tents. Can see images of smoke in the distance. This artwork looks like it is looking back from the city.

Necastle Harbour, NSW, 1866: https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/6912795563/in/album-72157629393544623/

In this drawing, Stockton, Nobby’s (connected to Newcastle) and the Hunter River can be seen.


This artwork shows the city of Newcastle beginning to develop. However, above the city there is a lot of grasslands, with a few shrubs. In the bottom third of the artwork cleared land with sheep grazing can be seen.
Newcastle 1874: https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/6000239634/in/album-72157632915996609

- This artwork is quite useful at providing an overview of Newcastle’s development in the 1870s. There are many ships in the harbour, as well as rail lines coming into the harbour. There are a few scattered buildings surrounding the harbour also.
- The left of the image provides a view from (the current) Fort Scratchley all the way along the cliffs to Merewether (and perhaps even Redhead?)
- The city has been developed, however, surrounding the city is rolling hills where Merewether, Bar Beach, The Hill and the outer suburbs of Newcastle currently are.
- The Obelisk can be seen at the top of the city, with virtually no develop past this point (except for one small pocket with a handful of buildings in a valley some way below the Obelisk.

Panorama of Newcastle 1880s: https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/6349711928/in/album-72157632915996609/

- Similar to the last image, this artwork is useful in providing an overview of Newcastle city, the harbour, Stockton and Nobby’s as it was in the 1880s.
- The image has been annotated.
- Stockton collery can be seen. Nobby’s still appears to be an island, with waves lapping where Nobby’s beach would currently stand.


- In the top right hand corner of the artwork there is a tall/thin stack with smoke coming out of it, and an inlet from the sea.
- Nobby’s breakwater has been constructed, at this time it appears as a thin line of sand linking Nobby to the mainland.
- There is a good overview of the harbour, with many ships and railway lines branching off into the harbour.
Although the city has been developed, there looks to be a small farm? In the middle of the city, and where Newcastle East now stands, there looks to be only sand, with a few scattered buildings.

Nobbies and break wall, Newcastle, NSW, 1887: 
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/4167841186/in/album-72157622957838734/

- The image is looking directly at Nobbies from the breakwater, which is made up of large blocks, which sit underneath a railway track out to Nobbies.

Newcastle, 1889: https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/5124323549/in/album-72157624177753010/

- This image shows the harbour, with a large number of ships.
- There is a smoke stack at Stockton, as well as quite a few smoke stacks towards the top left hand corner of the picture.
- The city is developed, although, there appears to be one or two areas of farmland in the right of the picture.
- The obelisk and the two leading light (beacon) towers can be seen in the bottom half of the image.

Glenrock Lagoon, Merewether, circa 1907: 

- A railway line can be seen along the edge of the coast, and quite a few tree stumps.

Merewether, Newcastle circa 1920s. 
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/7695864642/in/album-72157630864244266/

- Black and white image overlooking Bar Beach and Merewether Beach, the image is similar to the current period. Although, there are less houses on the cliff at Merewether and the development above Merewether baths has not yet been built. It looks as though the Merewether baths are not there yet. There is a layer of land/rock underneath the headland where the baths currently are. There appears to be electricity poles? on Bar Beach, and the carpark above Bar Beach is not as it currently is.
Town Hall Concept Illustration circa 1920s:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/7695864394/in/album-721576308642444266/

- Black and white image of Newcastle’s Town Hall, there appears to be no roads surrounding it, just dirt. However, there are several cars in front of it. There are no buildings surrounding it at this stage.

Nobbys, Newcastle circa 1920s: https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/7695863902/in/album-721576308642444266/

- Black and white image looking from the breakwater up to Nobbys. Nobby’s has a number of buildings on it. The image shows the large slabs of cement used for the breakwater, joining Nobbys to the mainland, which would now be Nobbys beach.

King Edward Park, Newcastle circa 1920s:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/7695863348/in/album-721576308642444266/

- Black and white image, from King Edward Park overlooking Newcastle City Beach, with Nobbys in the distance. The road, although dirt, looks similar to today.

The Dyke, Newcastle circa 1920s:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/7695861990/in/album-721576308642444266/

- Black and white image, can see the Christ Church Cathedral to the left of the image and a large metal triangular structure to right. At the bottom of the image is scrubby bushland, and there does not appear to be much development around City Beach.

The Beach, Newcastle circa 1920s:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/7695862182/in/album-721576308642444266/

- Black and white image, can see some development, although not as much as the current period. Sections of Newcastle East appear to not yet have been developed.
Cliff Walk, Newcastle circa 1920s:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/7695862534/in/album-72157630864244266/

- Black and white image of the cliffs towards City Beach. A path has been cut into the edge of the cliff, approximately half way up the cliff. There is a structure at the top of the path, to the right, which is no longer there. This has been identified as Gibson’s Tea Rooms.

University of Newcastle’s Cultural Collections Flickr page: Geological Images of NSW

Coal Fields


- Drawings of: South Shepherds Hill including conglomerate, two foot seam, chert, four foot seam, grey post with ironstone nodules, ten foot seam, dirty seam and yard seam / Government Quarry including ten foot seam, grey post, dirty seam, yard seam / Signal Hill: including sandstone, conglomerate, grey metal and dirty seam, yard seam and the breakwater / Nobbys Island: including greenstone dyke, conglomerate, two foot seam, dip S, chert, four foot seam and high water mark.

- Section of Newcastle coastline including Lake Macquarie, Newcastle, the Hunter River, Nobbys Island (detached from mainland), Stockton and Port Stephens.

- Map including Newcastle, Stockton, Newcastle coal and copper collieries, copper smelting works, D and E pit, Borehole 2 and Old Borehole.

- Government Quarry layers: Fault, C and F pits, / Borehole’s 1 and 2, and E pit / high water mark at Newcastle, Tomago pit, Ash Island, the channel of the Hunter River and the Old Borehole of A.A. Company.

(List compiled by Brooke Sargent, 21 January 2017. Notes on records by Brooke Sargent, January 2017)