

trates ordered him to quit the area within 30 days. It was claimed that Watson's occupation of the land was causing great inconvenience to the public as the area overlooked the baths, and the hut blocked the view. Watson, in spite of the court order, refused to move without compensation. Further legal proceedings were then taken against him. Before the court heard the case for the second time, he retired from the scene and demolished his hut.

Watson obtained his living and maintained his family by fishing from Point Franklin (or Franklyn). His property consisted of a six roomed stone house and three-quarters of an acre of land on the Point. He also had a hut on the beach in which he stored his nets and other fishing gear. In 1885 the possibility of war with Russia led the authorities to compulsorily purchase his property and give him 3 weeks to vacate. It has been frequently stated that Watson received £1500 for the land, his house, and as compensation for improvements. He always denied that he received this amount, and publicly stated that the correct figure was £1400. He originally took up the land in 1873, and as apart from a small block did not hold it freehold, but under license. The price paid was the official government valuation. In Watson's eyes the loss was disastrous. Its special value to him lay in the elevated position and closeness to good fishing waters. The cliff look-out was considered to be one of the best in the bay. Fishermen still use the place for this purpose and make a living from their catch.

Forced to find an alternative site to live, Watson eventually purchased two acres of ground from Mr. Gavan Duffy at the corner of what is now the intersection of the Nepean Highway and St. Paul's Road. On this site he built a six-roomed weather-board house which stands today and is called Franklin. His original house still exists, and is occupied by Mr. E.B. Price, the manager of the Lord Mayor's Children's Camp.

After his new house was erected and the family had settled in, Watson commenced construction of his beach hut. He wanted it for storage of nets and gear as his new house and land were out of sight of the bay. His old hut on the Portsea Beach was at this time still being used by other fishermen for