

Aevum Limited



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137 Victoria Street, Ashfield

Conservation Management Plan: Cardinal Freeman Village Heritage Precinct



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has been prepared by Graham Brooks and associates for *Aevum Limited*, the owners of the Cardinal Freeman Retirement Village, Ashfield NSW. It addresses a range of heritage conservation issues associated with a portion of that retirement village site; a portion that has a primary address of 137 Victoria Street Ashfield. That portion of the site that is termed herein as the *Heritage Precinct*. This precinct includes the heritage listed footprint of the historic *Glentworth House* (built in 1885), and its extensions and alterations (undertaken between 1935 and 1941), along with its large adjoining Chapel building (built in 1941). This combined building footprint has heritage status at the local level in the *Ashfield Local Environmental Plan 1985*.

It is further noted that the Ashfield Heritage Study (written for Ashfield Council 1991-1992) has also listed a number of ancillary items within the *Heritage Precinct*, which that study recognised as being contributory to the heritage appreciation of the set of buildings which comprise the heritage footprint. These are the palisade fencing along Victoria Street; the main front entrance gates and pilasters; and the established arboreal features. This CMP therefore also includes and addresses these associated items that are within the immediate curtilage of the heritage listed footprint, deeming them to be essential components of the *Heritage Precinct*.

It is further proposed in this CMP that the *Heritage Precinct* cannot be fully understood or appreciated without substantial historical reference to its more general context within the large block of land bounded by Victoria Street, Seaview Street, Queen Street and Clissold Street. For most of its built history during the past 130 years, this block has had singular ownership and purpose. In the early 1880s an original 10 acre block had a longitudinal north/south division into equal 5 acre halves and two large mansions were subsequently built on each block. Both components however were acquired in total by one owner in 1913 and in practicality of occupation and purpose the land within these four streets has remained a unified parcel since that time.

From 1913 until 1978 the subject site was owned and operated by a Roman Catholic religious order: The Sisters of the Good Shepherd. *Glentworth House* itself was used primarily as a cloistered convent, while its grounds and various associated buildings were used for the social work of the Sisters. That work involved the care of young women and girls, who were deemed to be in the general category of 'wayward'. Large scale residential and educational facilities were constructed on the property, as well as a commercial scale laundry. These buildings were constructed in an evolutionary manner with the south end of the property having the major built footprint. Demolitions of original and subsequent structures were also effected in a phased manner, and while many of the large scale educational and operational structures are no longer present, their original positions have affected development of the whole site. There have been various alterations and additions to the original *Glentworth House*, including a north/south building at the rear (west) of the west wing (1935) adjacent to Seaview Street, and an extension at the north/west corner (1941), which was essentially Convent extension, as well as providing a connection to the then new Chapel complex. Most notably, the additions included the construction of a large-scale Romanesque Chapel, attached to the main house (1941). For over 50 years, the site, which had been a typically flamboyant Victorian Villa showpiece, became re-conceptualised as an inwardly focused institution.

In 1978 the property was sold to the *Hibernian Society*, and the whole site was progressed in the direction of seniors living. Since that time, *Glentworth House*, as well as the two rear (west) extensions have had many of their spaces divided into self care apartments. This has been effected in a substantially reversible manner, with lighter partitioning and smaller scale minimum impact kitchen and bathroom facilities. The Chapel has continued in use as a religious facility for both the local community as well as the Cardinal Freeman Village residents. In 2002, the members of the *Hibernian Society* resolved to demutualise, and in 2004 the name was changed to *Aevum Limited* and that group is currently listed as the owner of the entire site.

This Conservation Management Plan, outlines the ownership, history, evolutionary development and statutory considerations pertaining to the *Heritage Precinct*, in consideration of both the contributory items of its immediate curtilage and its wider site context. After outlining the narration of building, spatial and site changes, as well as their inter-relationships, it will point out how the current presentation is to be read. The CMP will assess the significance and the grading of significance for the current presentation of site. It will then set forth a range of conservation policies, usage options and maintenance considerations for its management into the future.

Introduction

1.0

1.1 Background

This *Conservation Management Plan (CMP)* is for the *Heritage Precinct* located within the Cardinal Freeman Village, 137 Victoria Street Ashfield. It includes the heritage listed footprint of *Glentworth House* (and extensions) and its adjoining Chapel building (LEP Schedule No 53) as well as ancillary contributory elements. The Plan has been prepared for the property's managers, *Aevum Limited*, to establish future use and re-use of these items within the retirement complex.

1.2 Report Objectives

The main objective of this *CMP* is to develop strategies and guidelines that will enable:

- (i) The incorporation and integration of the whole built complex (the heritage listed footprint) within its *Heritage Precinct*, into the Retirement Centre's aims and purposes, so that they become properly and fully integrated as a conserved heritage item within the full retirement centre
- (ii) To identify original features and surviving fabric, and thereby to establish appropriate conservation works and maintenance programmes, as well as appropriate policies for any future plans to upgrade the building

1.3 Report Structure

This *CMP* has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines of *The Conservation Management Plan*, by James Semple Kerr, and *The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, 1999, also known by its more common title *The Burra Charter*. The *Burra Charter* and *The Australian Natural Heritage Charter* both provide definitions, principles and processes, for the conservation of items of cultural significance.

This *CMP* also follows guidelines set out in the *NSW Heritage Manual*. The aim of these documents is to assist with the identification of items of heritage significance. This assessment assists in providing guidance on substance, structure and methodology for the writing of effective conservation management plans.

This *CMP* is divided into sections, dealing with the history of the building and its immediate area, the physical description of the building, the assessments of the building's significance, options for ongoing use of the building including constraints and opportunities, while the final section contains an ongoing maintenance strategy.

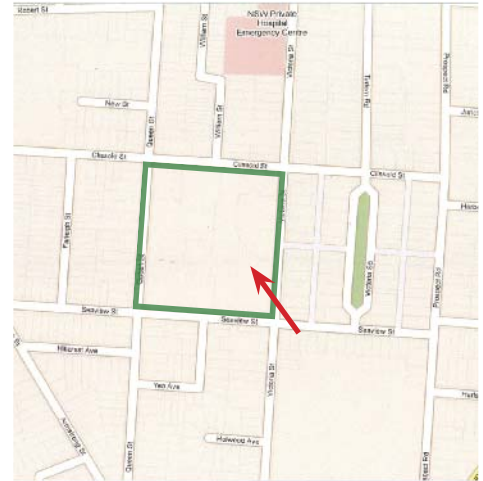


Figure 1.1
Location map showing the whole of the Cardinal Freeman site as defined by the green square, with a red arrow indicating the subject dual heritage suite which comprises the listed heritage footprint
Source: street-directory.com



Figure 1.2
Aerial photograph showing the whole of the Cardinal Freeman site, as defined within the green square, and with the subject listed heritage footprint and wider Glentworth House Precinct generally indicated by the red oval
(Source: NSW Department of Lands 2008)

1.4 Heritage Status and Controls

The Cardinal Freeman Village, as one discrete entity, is not listed on the New South Wales State Heritage Register or on the Ashfield Local Environmental Plan 1985. However, the Ashfield LEP Schedule 7 (Heritage Items) lists *Glentworth House* (137 Victoria Street, Database Number: 1020325) and its adjoining Chapel building (Database Number: 1020329 and Item No. 53) as items of heritage significance with a combined heritage footprint. This heritage footprint also includes two sets of rear additions (west) to *Glentworth House*, being the 1935 Reception Parlours Annex and the 1941 Convent extension. Council's heritage analysis however, further includes a description of the boundary fencing, main entrance gates and the streetscape contribution of the arboreal features of the site.

The listed heritage footprint within the *Heritage Precinct* is in the vicinity of other individually listed heritage items, as well as the nearby Victoria Square Conservation Area. The consent authority must take into consideration any potential impact of proposed works on the heritage significance of the listed heritage item itself (being the total heritage footprint and ancillary items), upon the nearby listed heritage items.

1.5 Site Identification

The whole of the Cardinal Freeman Village site is bounded by Victoria, Clissold, Queen and Seaview Streets, with the formal street address listed as 137 Victoria Street, Ashfield. This site has a Real Property Description of:

- Lot 1 DP 1126717
- Lot 4 DP 717062
- Lot 101 DP 702245
- Lots 6 and 7, DP 717644.

Within the larger property, two items have heritage listing: *Glentworth House* (with its adjoining rear additions) and its adjoining Chapel building. Both these buildings present with frontages to Victoria Street (though compromised by the built arrangements of recent decades), and they are sited towards the south east corner of the larger property. The 1935 additions to *Glentworth House* are also deemed to be part of the heritage footprint of these two items, but with an aspect towards Seaview Street.

The Heritage Precinct includes: *Glentworth House*; its adjoining large chapel; the 1935 and 1941 additions to *Glentworth House*; the area of the front gardens adjacent to Victoria Street; and the palisade fencing along Victoria Street, the entrance gates and pilasters and key arboreal features. This *Heritage Precinct* is entirely contained within Lot 1 DP 1126717. It is noted that within the wider suburban context there are also a number of heritage listed items including listed properties and arboreal features.



Figure 1.3
Aerial view of the property from the north east showing the heritage listed items of *Glentworth House* and Chapel with the 1970s/80s built development in the foreground garden spaces
Source: Sky View Photography, Hill Thalys, 2009



Figure 1.4
Aerial view of the property from the south showing *Glentworth House*, its original west wing, the 1935 Reception Parlours Annex extension (left) and the 1941 Chapel (right) east with the built upon garden spaces in the foreground
Source: Sky View Photography, Hill Thalys, 2009

1.6 Authorship

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has been prepared by Paul O'Donnell, Senior Heritage Consultant, of *Graham Brooks and Associates Pty Ltd* and has been reviewed by the Director, Graham Brooks. Unless otherwise noted all of the photographs and drawings in this report are by *Graham Brooks and Associates Pty Ltd*.

1.7 Report Limitations

This Report is limited to the investigation of the European history of the site. Recommendations have been made on the basis of archival plans viewed and inspection of the existing fabric. Archaeological assessment of the subject site is outside the scope of this CMP. This Report did not conduct an examination of the movable heritage or such provenance of items associated with the operations of the Chapel.

1.8 Documentary and Photographic Sources

Historical information has been compiled from a range of primary and secondary sources. In the course of preparation, the New South Wales Lands Title Office, Sydney Water Board, the State Library of New South Wales, and Ashfield Council Archives and Local Studies Library have been consulted. Additional material has been supplied by the Good Shepherd Sisters, Melbourne; the Archives of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney; and Aevum Limited.

Information relating to site fabric was obtained during inspections carried out by Graham Brooks & Associates in 2008-2009 in preparation of this report and for the Conservation Management Plan for Glentworth House and Chapel that provides more detailed data for the historic buildings.

All contemporary photographs were taken between 2007 and 2009 by Graham Brooks and Associates.



Figure 1.5
Aerial photograph showing that part of the Cardinal Freeman Village site, which in this Report will be referred to as the *Heritage Precinct*. This precinct includes: the original *Glentworth House* (red arrow); the large attached chapel (green arrow); the 1935 additions (yellow arrow); the southeast-front facade garden spaces and palisade fencing (blue oval)
(Source: NSW Department of Lands 2008)

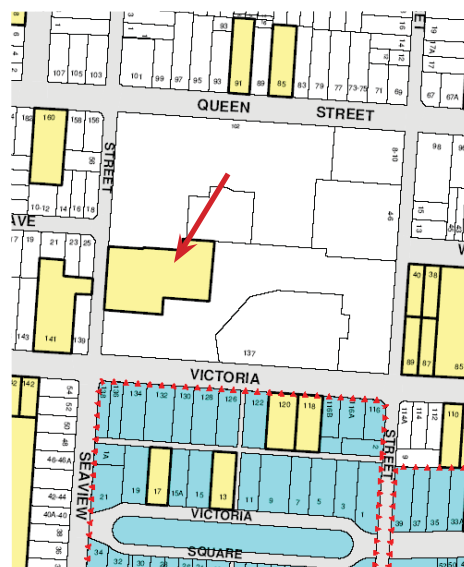


Figure 1.6
The Cardinal Freeman Village site showing the heritage listed footprint, *Glentworth House* and the adjoining Chapel (as indicated by the red arrow), and noting also that the 1935 addition to *Glentworth House* is also part of the heritage footprint. This heritage footprint, which is in the north-eastern corner of the total land parcel also relates to other nearby heritage items and to a conservation area.
(Source: Ashfield LEP Heritage Map 1998)

Historical Summary

2.0

2.1 Brief History of the Locality

2.1.1 Introduction

The following historical outline provides an analysis of the development of the subject site within the overall framework of its context and associations. In particular, the evolution of the site will be considered within the broader context of the development of the surrounding precinct. An analysis of the development of the site's associated structures will also be provided.

The following historical outline has relied primarily on research undertaken in 2006 and 2007 by *Graham Brooks and Associates*. Documentary material for this Report has been sourced from the NSW Department of Land and Property Information; the State Library of NSW (Mitchell Library), Ashfield Municipal Council Archives, and the Archives of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Secondary sources include: S and R Coupe's *Speed The Plough: Ashfield 1788 – 1988* (1988), Sheena and Robert Coupe; and C. Kovesi's 2006 publication *Pitch Your Tents on Distant Shores: a history of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Australia, Aetearoa/ New Zealand and Tahiti*. Other sources include various publications as acknowledged in referenced footnotes.

2.1.2 Historical Overview of Ashfield

The following brief summary, compiled largely by Chris Pratten¹ from the records held by the Ashfield and District Historical Society, gives a succinct picture of Ashfield's early development.

By 1791 a track to Rose Hill (now Parramatta) had been formed more or less along the alignment of present-day Parramatta Road, and in 1793 the first local land was 'granted' to a European settler – the Chaplain of the Colony, the Reverend Richard Johnson. Johnson's grant ran from what we now know as Yeo Park down to Canterbury Racecourse, and he named it Canterbury Park. Johnson was one of the colony's most successful early farmers, and some of his letters survive telling of the wheat and other produce that he grew on his property.

By the 1820s, all the original land grants had been amalgamated into four big estates – Ashfield Park (most of the land between the Grout South [now Liverpool] and Parramatta Roads), Dobroyde Farm (Haberfield and Dobroyd Point), Kables Farm (north Summer Hill and south across the line to present day Smith Street), and Canterbury Estate (south Summer Hill and south Ashfield).

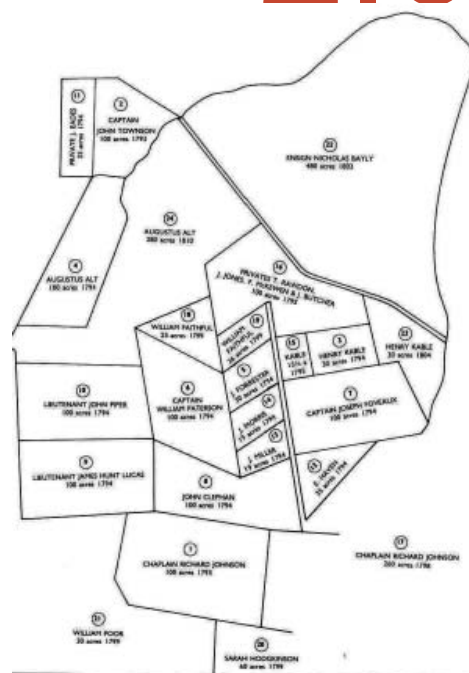


Figure 2.1.1
Map showing the approximate location, size and year of land grants made in the area between 1793 and 1810. The circled numbers indicate the order in which they were issued (Source: *Speed the Plough* p23)



Figure 2.1.2
The James Willis 'Map of Port Jackson and City of Sydney of 1868 shows the emerging suburb of Ashfield (indicated by the red arrow), within the Parish of Concord (Source: *Sydney Takes Shape: a History in Maps*)

¹ Pratten, Chris, *A Short Walk Through Ashfield's Past*, (undated), Ashfield and District Historical Society, pp. 1 -2.

A big boost to residential development came in 1838, when the owner of Ashfield Park, Elizabeth Underwood, subdivided lots along the north side of Liverpool Road, which became known as the Village of Ashfield. Mrs Underwood gave the land on which St John's Church was erected. Elizabeth's village was matched on the south side of the Liverpool Road by a subdivision created in 1841 from the Canterbury Estate by Robert Campbell. But it was the opening of the railway from Redfern to Granville in 1855 that really gave the impetus for the development of Ashfield, with the local station being only one of four intermediate stops along the line.

Further subdivision and urban development was facilitated with the opening of new railway stations at Croydon in 1875 and Summer Hill in 1879. Many of the fine buildings that we can still see in Ashfield today date from the boom years which followed: Carleton (Grosvenor Hospital) in Liverpool Road, Summer Hill (1884); St Andrew's Church, Summer Hill (1885-1905); Glentworth, the centrepiece of Cardinal Freeman Village (1886); Amesbury in Alt Street (1887). But equally important to heritage considerations today are the rows of smaller Victorian and two-storey villas which still line many of the older streets.

2.1.3 Original Land Grants

The first land grant in the area was to Reverend Richard Johnson in May 1793 of 100 acres, and this was subsequently increased in 1798 by another 260 acres in the wake of Johnson's remarkable success at farming. The second grant, made just a few days after Johnson's, was to Captain John Townson of the New South Wales Corps. With Townson serving military duty on Norfolk Island, this land remained substantially uncultivated until its sale to Samuel Terry who in turn sold it to Robert Campbell in 1813. Henry Kable was the third recipient of a grant (30 acres) in the area, effected in January 1794. Kable had risen from convict status to Chief Constable of the colony in the six years since 1788, and was to have another 45 acres added from then up till 1804 by land grants and then another 100 acres by acquisition. Other grants were made in the same area to Thomas Rowdon, John Jones, Francis Mckewen and John Butcher (of 25 acres each) in September 1795.

In February 1794 a land grant of 100 acres was made to Governor Philip's Surveyor General, the distinguished Augustus Alt. This was significant in that Alt, at least as records show, was the first colonist to live in the area and his substantial house was probably the first white dwelling in the area. In 1801 he acquired a further 250 acres, an area that covered most of present-day Ashfield, and in 1810 he was given a further grant of 280 acres in the area.

Almost from the turn of the nineteenth century the original land grants began to change ownership due to departures (such as Rev Richard Johnson's return to England) and also to speculative difficulties. This began the acquisition of large tracts of land in the area by Robert Campbell (1789-1851) who was the nephew of



Figure 2.1.3
Portrait image of Mrs Elizabeth Underwood, who was responsible for much of the subdivision.
(Source: *Speed the Plough* p42)



Figure 2.1.4
The blue circle indicates the approximate location of the subject property, at the intersection of three earlier land titles. A consolidation of various properties was commenced by Robert Campbell after 1910
(Source: NSW Department of Lands, parish maps, Parish of Petersham County Cumberland)

the Sydney merchant of the same name (Campbell's Cove, The Rocks) and who had arrived as representative of the family firm 'Campbell & Co'.² Campbell's nephew was left in charge of family interests in New South Wales for some years after 1811 and with a certain entrepreneurial spirit, purchased and consolidated several other farms in the area, including Alt's 250 acres to make a very large estate of 480 acres. Campbell's father, William Campbell, was known as the 'Laird of Ashfield' in Scotland and Robert is described on his tombstone as "the last of the lairds of Ashfield in Argyllshire. It would appear therefore that this is the derivation of the name 'Ashfield'.³ Campbell the Younger however, perhaps given more to land speculation rather than development, held the land for less than two years. It was sold to John Laurie in 1815, and he in turn sold it to Joseph Underwood in 1817, who by coincidence had come from the parish of Ashfield in Suffolk. By the time that Underwood purchased the property the name 'Ashfield' appeared in the Deed of Indenture.⁴

Underwood consolidated surrounding properties, adding more land to estate over the next two years to make a total of over 605 acres. Then, in the 1820s, Ashfield Park was constructed by Underwood who continued to live in the area until his death in 1833. As mentioned above, the estate was subsequently subdivided by his widow, Elizabeth Underwood, when allotments for the Village of Ashfield were laid out. The roads through the area, and even the main road to Parramatta had been very difficult to establish owing to undulations, waterways and dense scrub, as well as the fear of general insecurity. Most transport to the west was by water, and this remained the case even up to the 1830s. Nevertheless the area progressively became known for gardens and orchards as more farms were established. With the coming of the railway in 1855, when the district was more rapidly subdivided to provide retreats for wealthy Sydney businessmen.

2.2 Brief History of the Development of the Site⁵

2.2.1 Early Ownership of the Site

The subject site comprised portions of three early crown grants: part of the 100 acre land grant to William Patterson on 3rd October 1794; part of the 100 acres granted to John Clepham on the 11th November 1794, and part of nineteen acres granted to John Miller on 9th December 1794.⁶ These eventually become assimilated into the Canterbury Estate, held by the Campbell family. A total of 673 acres, held by Miss Sophia Campbell, was subdivided as Section 8 of the Canterbury Estate.⁷

² Australian Dictionary of Biography,

³ Pollon F. and Healy G., *The Book of Sydney Suburbs*, Sydney, Angus & Robertson 1988, p.8, Ashfield

⁴ Coupe, S & R *Speed the Plough: Ashfield 1788-1988*, Council of Municipality of Ashfield, 1988, p.29

⁵ INHERITage, Heritage Advisors & Consultants, Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement (2005), pages 4 and 5.

⁶ Primary Application No.4353, Land Titles Office.

⁷ INHERITage, Heritage Advisors & Consultants, Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact



Figure 2.1.5
Ashfield Park, from a drawing in the 1820s
(Source: PICMAN Mitchell Library Database)



Figure 2.1.6
Late nineteenth century photograph showing the original Ashfield Railway Station
(Source: State Rail Authority of NSW)

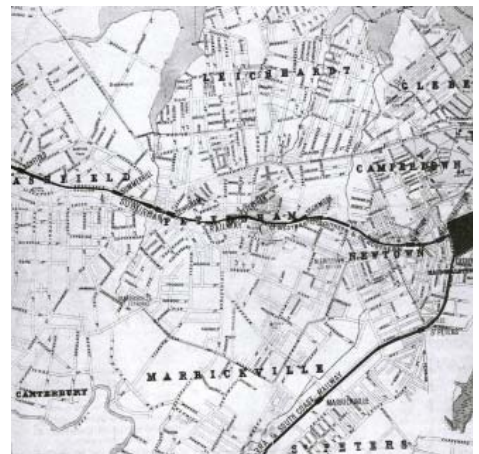


Figure 2.2.1
The Gibbs Shallard 'Map of the City of Sydney and the Suburbs' shows the suburb of Ashfield now relatively established after 'the decade of subdivisions' (1870) and into 'the decade of the builder' (1880s). *Glentworth House* was constructed in 1886
(Source: *Sydney Takes Shape: a History in Maps*)

Ten acres were purchased informally by gardener William Pendall, but this transaction appeared subject to renegotiation, despite Pendall apparently occupying the land. This ten-acre property was then acquired from Sophia Campbell and William Pendall by Thomas Dick, Esquire, in 1866, with a mortgage through the Trustees of the Savings Bank of New South Wales.⁸ The purchase price was five hundred and fifty pounds, paid to Pendall, but with a two-hundred pound share of the sum paid to Sophia Campbell.⁹ A decade later, in 1876, the acreage was sold to Frederick Clissold and George Hill the Younger as tenants in common,¹⁰ with Hill the Younger rapidly selling his share to Clissold that same year.¹¹ The Primary Application shows that the property was valued at £3,200 in 1876.

Half of this ten acre property(5 acres 0 roods 3 and one-quarter perches) and facing onto Queen Street, was transferred on 11th November 1881 to William Seaward,¹² with Clissold retaining the other half facing onto Victoria Street.¹³ Until 1892, Seaward contracted and discharged mortgages with Clissold, then in 1892 contracted a new mortgage with Robert Maddrell of Braidwood. Seaward died in 1894,¹⁴ and his half of the subject property was subsequently transferred in 1900 to William Trotman Seaward, Ann Eliza Seaward (spinster) and John Archibold Atkin, and again in 1901 to Kate Margaret Wynter.¹⁵



Figure 2.2.2
Detail of parish map showing the site. The property comprises the juncture of three separate crown grants. (Source: NSW Department of Lands, parish maps, Parish of Petersham, County Cumberland, early 20th Century)

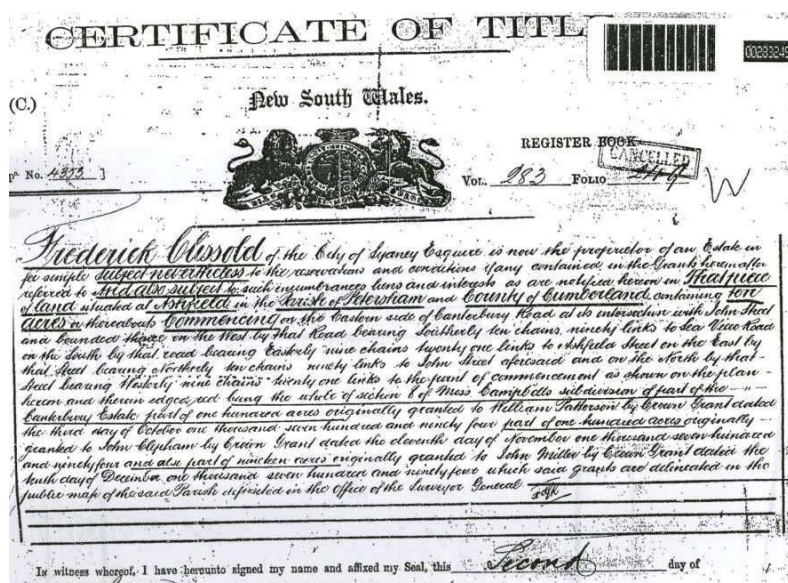


Figure 2.2.3
Image of part of the certificate of title from 1877, showing the transfer of the land bought jointly with George Hill in 1876 to Clissold as sole owner
(Source: NSW Department of Lands)

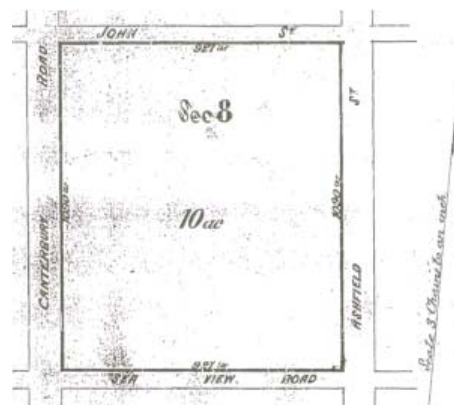


Figure 2.2.4
The ten acres acquired by Clissold and Hill in 1876
(Source: NSW Department of Lands Vol 283 Folio 249 LTO)

Statement (2005), pages 4 and 5.
8 Conveyance No.208, Bk102; Mortgage No.463 Bk110, Land Titles Office (LTO).
9 Ashfield and District Historical Society records, 1988
10 No.94 Bk162, LTO.
11 No.827 Bk.164, LTO
12 Vol.564 F.18, LTO.
13 Vol.558 F.227, LTO.
14 2214/1894, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
15 Transfer No.333818, V564 F.18.

2.2.2 Initial Construction

The owners of the two adjacent five acre sites, namely Frederick Clissold and William Seaward, both constructed magnificent homes on their properties. The first constructed was Seaward's *Bellevue* (circa 1885), with its entry addressing Seaview Street, but also with a fine northern aspect to capture the views north across the landscaped, park-like vista to the north.

The first building on Clissold's property was the extant *Glentworth House* (Designed in 1886 by Morrell and Kemp, Architects, and built by John Jones). There is no record to indicate the presence of any previous buildings on the site prior to the construction of *Glentworth House*. This residence was designed in 1886 by Morrell and Kemp, Architects, and was built by John Jones as a family home for the Clissolds. Although this grand residence was also constructed adjacent to Seaview Street, it was deliberately sited with its formal entry addressing Victoria Street. Like *Bellevue*, the northern elevation of *Glentworth House* included gracious architectural detailing calculated to take advantage of the views north along a similarly landscaped outlook.

Both properties were positioned to take advantage of the views to the east. The high point of Victoria and Seaview Streets is 90 feet above sea level, so that, from the upper storeys, it was possible to see across to Botany Bay in the east and Manly to the north. Two 1886 plans from Sydney Water archival holdings, indicate the siting of both structures, each positioned on the southern, elevated section of the site to gain the maximum benefits from the outstanding outlooks.

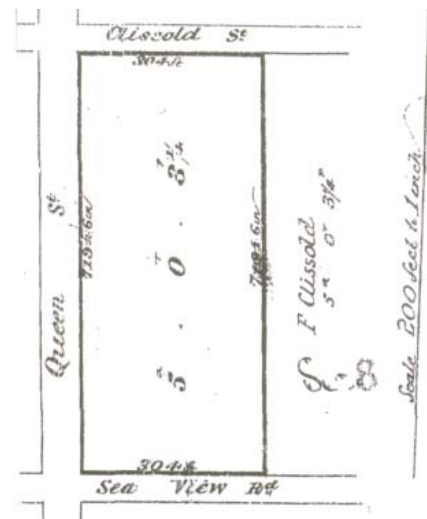


Figure 2.2.5
Plan of the subdivision of the 10 acres, with the 5 acres purchased by William Seaward shown adjacent to Queen Street. F Clissold's name is noted on the remaining 5 acres.
(Source: NSW Department of Lands Vol 564, Folio 18, LTO)

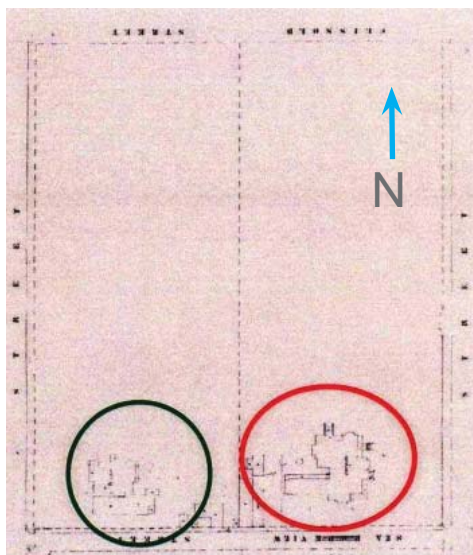


Figure 2.2.6
Footprints of *Glentworth House* (circled red) and *Bellevue* (circled green) in the context of the overall divided land parcel, with both at the highest point

(Source: Sydney Water Archives, PWD 851, Catalogue 1544, 27th March 1886)

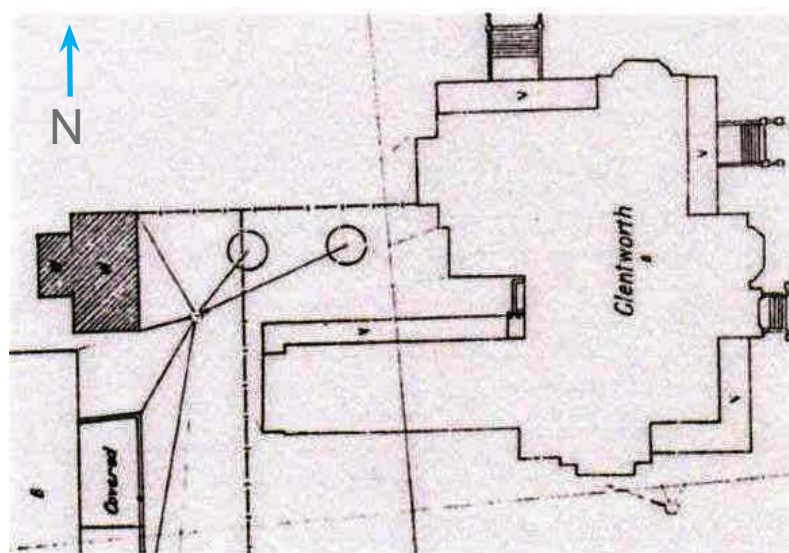


Figure 2.2.7
Detail of Sydney Water Archives 1886 survey, showing footprint of *Glentworth House*

(Source: as above, Sydney Water Archives, PWD 851, Catalogue 1544, 27th March 1886)

2.3 The Frederick Clissold Family and *Glentworth House*

Frederick Clissold was born in Gloucestershire, England in 1831 and came to Australia with his parents as a seven year old in 1838 on the ship “Layton”. He married Caroline Elizabeth Stephen (or Stephenson) on 20th October 1856. Caroline died in 1869 and Frederick then married Annie Broomfield in 1870. The couple lived in the mansion, Mountjoy, in Victoria Street Ashfield between 1871 and 1885. They had a large family of three boys; Frederick, Harold and Harry, and five girls; Annie, Laura, Violet, Jessie and Edith.

The Borough of Ashfield was proclaimed in 1871 and Clissold was one of the first six Aldermen. Clissold was reputed to be a man of great energy and was involved with businesses such as fell-mongering and wool-stapling variously spread between Newtown and Canterbury. He also engaged in numerous sporting enterprises including horse racing and hunting expeditions, undertook large scale land speculation dealing and was a large land holder himself.

Having amassed a considerable fortune Clissold built the commodious *Glentworth House* in 1886/87 as a home for his large family. The residence was of such quality as to warrant mention in *Building and Contractor News* of 24th June 1887.

Externally the mansion presented as an exceptionally fine example of *Italianate* architecture. There was a slate roof with numerous hipped bay extensions; a tower with lace guards and the spire at the top; well profiled chimney stands and pots; verandahs characterised by restrained lace friezes and columns-work; ample but restrained stucco mouldings were variously featured, and especially on the portico under the tower; and there were massive capitals above the double pilaster columns leading to the dentils of the entablature. There was a fine classical entrance with a Georgian circular fanlight and the name ‘*Glentworth*’ was etched in the glass. The side-lights were also glass etched. The house contained about 30 rooms, as well as cellar/kitchen areas beneath, all with many quality features such as: timber panelling; marble fireplaces; inlaid wood floors; and ornate ceilings. The carpenter George Smith who built the magnificent return staircase inscribed the construction date on a piece of timber still in possession of the property owners.¹⁶

Frederick Clissold died in 1892, but his widow and family continued to live at *Glentworth House* for another twenty years. After his death ownership of the property was registered to accountant James Little; widow Annie Clissold; and two of Clissold’s daughters: Annie Eliza Watkins, wife of John Watkins, architect; and Jessie Jones, wife of Alfred Tillotson Jones, Jeweller. Sons Frederick William Clissold and Harold Sydney Clissold were later registered on the title deeds.¹⁷



Figure 2.3.1 (left)
Glentworth House, copy of photographic image taken at about the turn of the 19th/20th century with well manicured lawns and approach
(Source: *Our Beautiful Homes*)



Figure 2.3.2
Copy of a photographic reproduction of the Frederick and Annie Clissold and family, showing the family of eight children
(Source: Aevum archival historic photographic material)

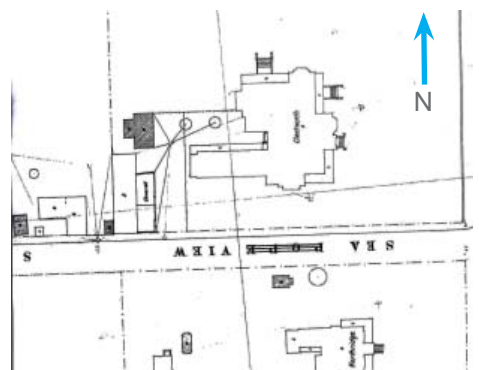


Figure 2.3.3
Footprint of *Glentworth House* and associated buildings (stables and greenhouse) circa 1886
(Source: as above, Sydney Water Archives 1886)

¹⁶ See Ashfield Scrapbook No. 3 Victoria Street, Ashfield & District Historical Society 1978

¹⁷ Vol.558 F.227, LTO.



Figure 2.3.4
Photographic image of the *Glentworth House* Dining room,
probably late 19th century
(Source: Aevum archival historic photographic material)



Figure 2.3.5
Photographic image of the *Glentworth House* Entrance foyer
and main stairway, probably late 19th century
(Source: Aevum archival historic photographic material)



Figure 2.3.6
Photographic image of the *Glentworth House* Billiard room,
probably late 19th century
(Source: Aevum archival historic photographic material)



Figure 2.3.7
Photographic image of the *Glentworth House* front Drawing
room, probably late 19th century
(Source: Aevum archival historic photographic material)



Figure 2.3.8
Photographic image of the *Glentworth House* Ballroom,
probably late 19th century. Note High ceiling and bay window
(Source: Aevum archival historic photographic material)



Figure 2.3.9
Photographic image of the *Glentworth House* Main Bedroom,
probably late 19th century
(Source: Aevum archival historic photographic material)

2.4 Property Sale

In 1911, Annie Clissold moved to Wollstonecraft, and advertising the Glentworth property as available for purchase through Richardson and Wrench, estate agents. An auction note appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald 9 October 1912 for the disposal the property and the advertisement provides a good property description immediately prior to sale.

'MANSION AND BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS

The Gem of the western suburbs. Grounds which comprise, well kept lawns, flower garden, shrubbery and hedges. "GLENTWORTH", a modern mansion standing in the centre of highly improved grounds, in area five acres, . . . of best workmanship ...

GROUND FLOOR: noble hall, vestibule, drawing room, dining room, library, billiard room, lavatory, ballroom, 3 pantries, large kitchen, school room, laundry and mangle room.

FIRST FLOOR: halls sitting/ boudoir; 7 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, (handsomely fitted and finished) linen room, servants quarters. The rooms are remarkably large and well proportioned.

AT REAR is superior stabling of brick, slate roof two stalls and harness room , (loft over), room for four vehicles gas engine room, fuel house 2 cow bails.

No better or more highly finished residence is to be discovered around our city.'

In 1912, with both *Bellevue* and *Glentworth House* on the market, negotiations were set in train by the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Michael Kelly, for the purchase of both properties. The Archbishop, following the designs of his predecessor, Cardinal Moran, was most enthusiastic for the foundation of a similar Sydney home, for the protection and rehabilitation of delinquent girls. He wrote, in the following terms, to the Mother Superior of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Adelaide.

Our City, the chief sea port of the Continent, has 600,000 inhabitants of whom about one fourth are Catholics. Two Refuges have long been carried on by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan; but the number of inmates does not correspond to our need. They will welcome the advent of your Sisters to our city in a quarter remote from their own establishments. A good site is now available and Mother Provincial of Melbourne has seen it. It will be necessary to borrow a part of the price, but this is customary in all our Foundation and our good people in short time will help us to pay off all liabilities. Therefore, dear Mother General, I trust you will recognise that the hour of Divine Providence has come and that you will authorise good Mother Provincial of Melbourne to settle a fine Community among us.

The two properties, with their extensive grounds, impressive internal facilities and beautiful gardens, were ideally suited for the setting up of such a refuge. The Archbishop's invitation was accepted, the properties purchased, for the combined sum of £13,000 from Percival Winter (or Wynter), Auctioneer, who owned *Bellevue*, and from Frederick Clissold's

widow, the owner of *Glentworth House*. The foundation Sisters travelled from Adelaide aboard the S. S. Bombala. Archbishop Kelly officially opened the Ashfield convent on 31 July 1913 took. It was nicknamed the “Jubilee Foundation”, for it was established in the year of the golden jubilee of *Abbotsford*.¹⁸

¹⁸ Kovesi, pp. 214-225.

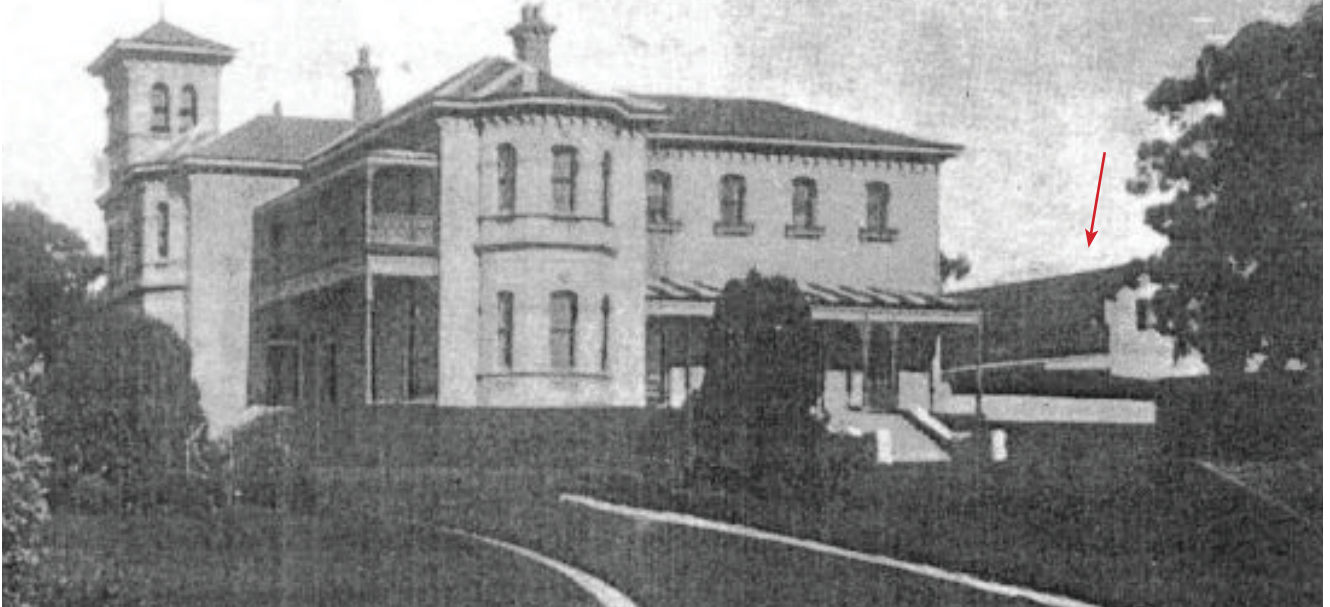


Figure 2.4.1
Early 20th century photographic image of *Glentworth House* showing fine gravelled driveway situated in well manicured grounds. The Mansion presents proud of its site, on earth mounds with gracious external stairways. The red arrow indicates the very large stable building with gabled roof. The stable is reported in a 1912 SMH advertisement to house four vehicles and with loft overhead (Source: *Speed the Plough* p104)

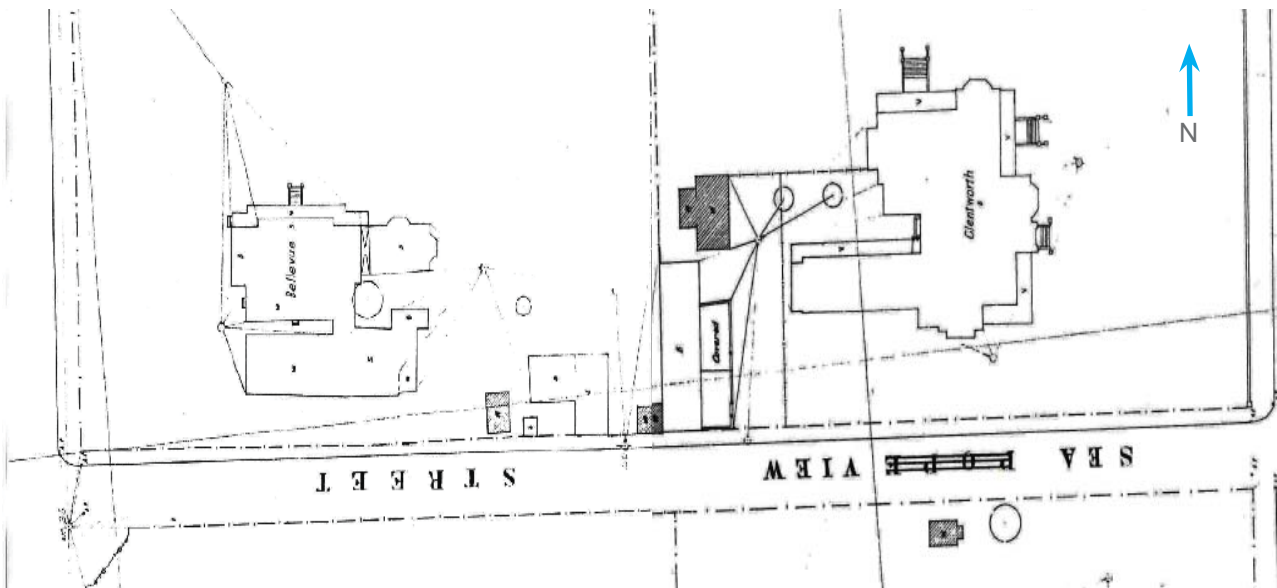


Figure 2.4.2
Plan of the two properties, *Glentworth House* and *Bellevue* as they presented at the end of the 18th century. Note the number of large outbuildings and the unusual shape of the *Bellevue* footprint. This shows the most likely footprint of the property that was purchased by the Sisters in 1913. At the west (rear) of the property there are substantial outbuildings. We know from press records of the day that the rear stabling arrangements were large enough for four vehicles and had an overhead loft. It presents with a covered area towards the residence. The second building (above right) is likely to have been a greenhouse/conservatory. (Source: *Sydney Water Archives*, PWD 851, *Catalogue* 1544, 27th March 1886)

2.4.1 Relationship Between Glentworth House and Bellevue

The documented histories of the two adjacent five acre properties relationship reveal the manner in which the allotments were interlinked despite separate subdivision of the original 10 acre parcel and sale of the 5 acre portions in separate transactions.

The Early Ashfield Council Rate Books had shown Thomas Dick as owning a stone cottage which was sited on lots 3 & 4 Sec. 8, i.e the later more substantially developed *Bellevue* site. This early building is described as facing Queen Street.

It has been noted that the very large mansion recorded in the 1886 survey was of curious design, and it may well have incorporated this previous stone cottage structure. The 1880 Ashfield Council Rate Book recorded Frederick Clissold as owning a "stone two storey house with 11 rooms and a shingle roof on the eastern side of Queen Street" (lots 3 & 4 Sec. 8), but the occupier was listed as W Seaward.

The 1880 Council records confirm that Clissold was living at *Mountjoy* in Victoria Street; he continued to reside there until the construction of *Glentworth House* in 1886/87.

The 1884 Rates Books listed lots 1 & 2 Sec. 8 on the western side of Victoria Street, owned by F. Clissold, as "land with no improvements."

However, lots 3 & 4 Sec. 8 on the eastern side of Queen Street, had then been purchased by William Seaward. They consisted of land with a two storey brick house of 12 rooms with slate roof. This is the only house shown in Queen Street between Seaview Street and Clissold Street.

The 1886 Rate Book mentions F. Clissold as being then present in Victoria Street, between Seaview Street and Clissold Street. Later rates books showed that F. Clissold and W. Seaward continued to live in their respective houses, *Glentworth House* and *Bellevue*, until 1892 when the Rate Book identified Mrs. Annie Clissold as the owner/occupier of *Glentworth House*. The 1894 Rate Book shows that Mrs. Seaward was also widowed by this date, and was listed as the owner/occupier of *Bellevue*.

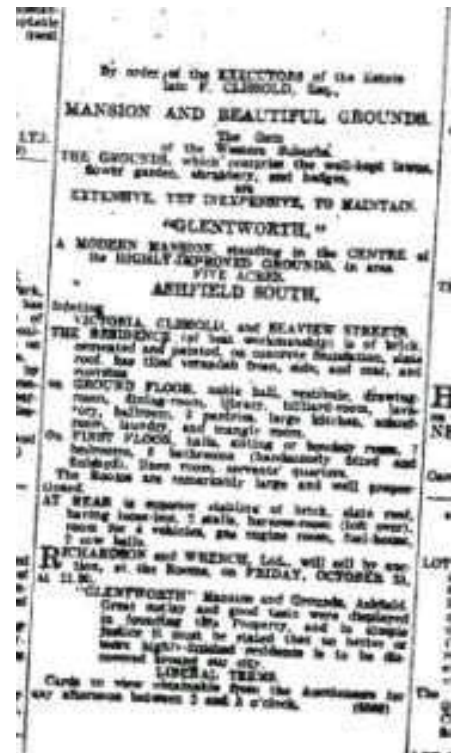


Figure 2.4.3
Sydney Morning Herald advertisement, October 9, 1912, listing the property sale. It notes unusual features: School room and large stables. The mangle room may account for some articulation and height variation at west wing rear.
(Source: State Library NSW archives)



Figure 2.4.4
Photograph of a group of Good Shepherd Sisters, taken in front of the Percival Wynter residence known as *Bellevue*, located on the former Seaward property, and next door to *Glentworth House*. This building was subsequently demolished in about 1935, to make way for a new sewing and infirmary building.

(Source: Pitch Your Tents on Distant Shores p214)

2.5 The Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the Work of the Good Shepherd Home, Ashfield

2.5.1 Background

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd were a semi-contemplative (enclosed) Catholic Institute of Religious Life that had been founded in Angers, France in the mid 1820s and by Rose Pelletier (Mother Mary St Euphrasia), and based on the work of an earlier religious order for sisters (Our Lady of the Charity of the Refuge) established by John Eudes in the 17th century.

In June 1863 the first four Good Shepherd Sisters landed in Melbourne, having been invited by the then Catholic bishop of Melbourne James Goold. The purpose of their coming was to assist women in distressed circumstances in the social upheavals associated with the rapid growth of the gold mining and pastoral industries. The Sisters established a Convent and self-supporting farm of seven acres at Abbotsford, near Melbourne. Within one year of their arrival the Sisters were caring for 32 young women and girls and within three years had 163 in their charge. Their work became quickly renowned and by the early twentieth century there were various foundations in Victoria, Tasmania, West Australia, New South Wales, New Zealand and later South Australia.

The work of the Sisters revolved around the care of young women and girls, deemed to be in the rather wide category of 'wayward'. These youth may for instance be young women who had been through the courts for moral misdemeanours and were termed by society as 'delinquent' (a term that appears frequently in the Ashfield Council Records), or may be young unmarried expectant mothers, placed in the care of the Sisters by families. Alternately they may be young women who found themselves drifting into lifestyles from which they wished some opportunity of reform. By extension, the work was also involved in some neo-natal and child care, education of young children and the work also had alignment with adoption services. Though Roman Catholic in origin and general operation, the Good Shepherd Homes accepted girls from various faith backgrounds.

The press of the era generally touted the work of the sisters as being for the rescue and refuge of young women and girls. Often these girls were referred through the courts. Sometimes they came from broken homes, and sometimes it was a matter of 'out of wedlock' pregnancy. The Sisters had also been in receipt of 'basket babies' left on the doorstep.¹⁹ Various articles in the Catholic Press in particular detail the lifestyle of the Good Shepherd institutions as being highly structured but also sympathetic, and as being conducted in grounds and facilities with a fine state of presentation and good health care. What is readily apparent is that the work had a keen resonance with the faith communities of the era and as a consequence was clearly well supported.

The very rapid growth of the Ashfield facilities serves as a good

¹⁹ Catholic Weekly July 19, 1981



Figure 2.5.1
Etching entitled 'Taking the Veil, Abbotsford Convent' late 19th century
(Source: Picture Australia, National Library of Australia online)



Figure 2.5.2
Young children at the Good Shepherd Institute, Victoria circa 1900
(Source: Pitch Your Tents on Distant Shores p183)



Figure 2.5.3
Girls practising sports at the Ashfield Good Shepherd Home, probably late 1960s
(Source: Picture Australia, National Library of Australia nla.pic.au 24473603)

case in point where sizable purchase debts were paid quickly and substantial new facilities constructed, even during difficult economic and social times. Normally, as soon as one project was completed, another was begun.

Chief activities carried out at Good Shepherd sites in selected Australian cities included establishment of laundries, which provided employment and generated revenue. Following the pattern of the Melbourne operations, a laundry service was begun in Ashfield for the purpose of occupational therapy and for providing maintenance towards the upkeep of the place and its people.

The early Sisters also brought to Australia the art of fine lace-making and this skill was extended to the production of wedding dresses. These were often lent out, along with other fine specific occasions clothing.

From the earliest days of operation of the Good Shepherd homes, the girls were encouraged to attend home training courses. Thus Dressmaking and Domestic Science were included in the curriculum along with Arts and Crafts. The standard of schooling was reportedly high. There was a school set up on each site (including the site at Ashfield) and these schools normally provided education up to School Certificate standard. Their general educational standard was reportedly high. Following upon some of the Victorian initiatives, Ashfield also ran an agricultural facility and a long term resident outlined that there were cow bales, vegetable gardens and an orchard on the Ashfield property. As an extension of the Ashfield work, a farm was later established at Toongabbie, in the outer western suburbs, and a small community of Sisters set up an open house there for schoolgirls, with their own school attached. While it was a successful venture, it lacked funding and the farmland was of poor quality. The Ashfield facility also included a pottery kiln and a bakery

These institutions were also renowned for their concert performances with the arts and musical shows seen as a valuable part of the lifestyle and education that was being offered, and the Ashfield operation was similarly renowned. For 27 years the Directress of the Ashfield institution was Mother Clothilde, a well regarded psychologist and woman of many talents, whose job it was to progressively de-institutionalise the facility, in line with trends towards individualised rehabilitation into society.

From the mid 1950's this represented a new trend that had been commenced in France by the Superior General of the Order Mother Ursula Jung, who was specially noted for her group work with teenagers in that country, and was in fact awarded the *Legion d'Honneur* for her work with youth. At that time there were over 200 girls in the care of the sisters and steps were made first to smaller groups of about 20, with a Sister in charge and then out of the institutional environment altogether into group homes.²⁰

²⁰ Catholic weekly 30.12.79



Figure 2.5.4
Photographic image taken in 1918 of girls working in what was known as the machine room
(Source: *Pitch Your Tents on Distant Shores* p 215)



Figure 2.5.5
Photographic image of residents in the gardens of the Good Shepherd Home Ashfield taken in about the same era
(Source: *Pitch Your Tents on Distant Shores* p215)



Figure 2.5.6
In its final years of operation the home developed a range of cultural and craft skills
(Source: *Picture Australia, National Library of Australia nla.pc-an24095488*)

2.5.2 Acquisition of the Ashfield site by the Good Shepherd Sisters

Both the Clissold and Seaward properties, comprising the two components of Section 8 of the Canterbury Estate, were purchased by the Good Shepherd Sisters from Clissold's wife in 1913. The Sisters were represented by Bridget O'Rourke, Mary Ann Lowry, Elizabeth Curtain, Jane Brazil and Catherine Kennedy (probably the Sister Trustees of the Order). A mortgage was contracted on 5th April to the trustees of the Clissold property.²¹ William Seaward's five acres containing the *Bellevue* residence was purchased at the same time from auctioneer Percival Wynter. The *Bellevue* residence was demolished in about 1935/36 to make way for a new 'Infirmary and Sewing Centre' that was constructed in 1937.

From 1913 until 1978 the whole of the property, bounded by its four streets was owned and operated by The Good Shepherd Sisters. *Glentworth House* itself was used primarily as their convent, while its grounds and various associated buildings were used for the social work of the Sisters.

Subsequent to its purchase in 1913 by the Sisters, *Glentworth House* was extensively altered to accommodate both the needs of the Sisters as well as the needs of their early "wayward" charges and foundling babies; initially few in number.

²¹ V.558, F.227; V.564, F.18, LTO.

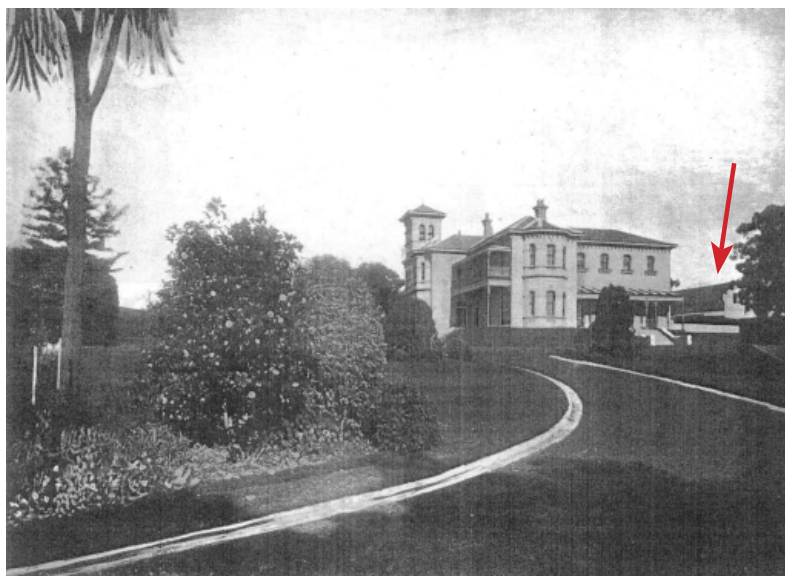


Figure 2.5.8
Early 20th century photographic image. Note the presence of the large stables with roof space for an overhead loft. The date of demolition of these buildings at the rear of the residence is uncertain (Source: *Our Beautiful Homes*)



Figure 2.5.7
Arts and Cultural programs introduced by the 1960s, represented a new direction in institutional care (Source: *Picture Australia*, National Library of Australia nla.pic.au 24473603)



Figure 2.5.9
The statue of the Good Shepherd has stood for many years in the Ashfield grounds and remains in the retirement complex as a tribute to the previous work of the Sisters (Source: *Catholic Weekly* October 1979)



Figure 2.5.10 The Sisters at prayer in the nuns portion of the Good Shepherd Chapel (circa 1960s)
(Source: Archives of Good Shepherd Sisters)



Figure 2.5.11
The large Congregational staff of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (circa 1960s)
(Source: Archives of Good Shepherd Sisters)

2.6 Good Shepherd Development of the Site

Following the purchase of the two Ashfield properties, the general arrangement was structured, in the usual pattern of the operations of the Sisters, to accommodate a convent, a separate dormitory wing, classrooms, an infirmary and health-care facilities, sewing and craft rooms, music and recreational rooms, a commercial laundry and external sporting facilities. The property had already had an agricultural component for some years, and as mentioned above, this was continued the Sisters.

2.6.1 Initial Alterations and Additions

Upon purchase by the Good Shepherd order in 1913 the Glentworth House and Bellevue properties took on one identity, becoming known as *The Good Shepherd Home*, and the properties were rapidly transformed for the work of the order. From that time they became non-rateable; being for religious and charitable works. Therefore a number of the records regarding alterations and additions remain unclear. Some however are extant in the Ashfield local studies library, the Sisters archives, and in the Catholic press of the day.

The main residence, *Glentworth House*, was adapted for use as a convent, however it seems that the changes made to the dwelling were not substantial. The ballroom became the chapel; the billiard room was adapted for use as a refectory, and the former dining room served as the Sisters' community room. The upstairs rooms were the Sisters' cells, with the girls in care occupying the neighbouring house, *Bellevue*.²² It is likely that the original laundry was situated between *Glentworth House* and *Bellevue*. The ancillary buildings at the rear (west) of *Glentworth House* were demolished prior to the large scale 1935 laundry renewal, though the date of their demolition is uncertain.

An article in the Catholic Press of the day, *The Freeman's Journal* (26 March 1914), outlined the arrival of the Sisters in Ashfield and detailed part of their work and also their future plans. A follow-up article on 20 April 1914 noted the opening of new laundry extensions by the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney. This indicates not only the first major building work undertaken on site by the Sisters but perhaps also the political kudos of the then new Good Shepherd venture.



Figure 2.6.1

The original Ballroom in a photograph of the late 19th or early 20th century, and look west. The Ballroom became the first chapel for the sisters and their few residents after the 1913 purchase. The large bay window at the centre of the image was removed in 1919 for the placement of the 1919 chapel extension for the girls chapel, with the Ballroom component remaining as the Sisters chapel

(Source: Aevum archival historic photographic material)



Figure 2.6.2

A number of changes were made to *Glentworth House* after its purchase in 1913 by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The main house was divided in such a manner as to accommodate both the Sisters and their charges. It is likely for instance that some of the enclosing of the verandah spaces occurred at that time to create dormitory space.

22 Kovesi, pp. 214-225.

2.6.2 1919 chapel

After acquisition of the property by the Sisters in 1913, a temporary chapel was established in the former spacious Ballroom of *Glentworth House*. This chapel was contained within the original residence and was probably the only Chapel on site between 1913 and 1919.

Records held in the local studies library at Ashfield note that on 5 September 1919, a building application was made to Ashfield Municipal Council (N04028) for the construction of a Chapel, to be housed in a building adjoining *Glentworth House*. The new building was to be of wood and fibro, set on brick pier foundations and with a painted iron roof.

Given the estimated cost of the building, at £1,400, it was likely that this was a substantial structure, that would serve the general religious needs of the residents until the eventual construction of the existing Chapel in 1941. This 1919 chapel building measured about 28ft wide by 54ft long and the width corresponds to the width of the Ballroom. It abutted the former Ballroom through what had previously been the large west bay window.²³

Between 1919 and 1942 the ballroom of the old home continued to be used as the nuns portion of the chapel complex, while the 1919 section, the fibro cement building, measuring was for the resident 'inmates', who at that time numbered 220.²⁴

The sanctuary area was at its west end, forward of the girl's section.²⁵ It is understood that the Chapel entry was at the north side, and this seems to be indicated by the pathways shown in the 1930 aerial. Confessionals were placed along the south side of the structure.

The 1940 Glancey blueprint plans specify the demolition of this 1919 chapel. This demolition took place during 1941, with the footprint of the chapel being absorbed into the 1941 convent additions.

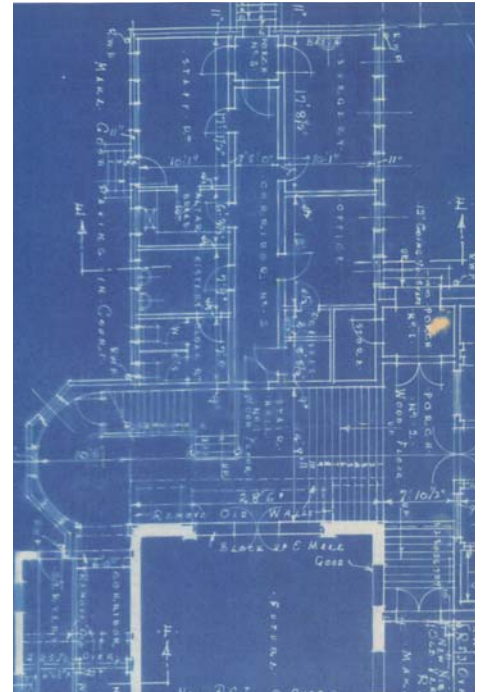


Figure 2.6.3
The 1940 Glancey plans note that the existing 1919 Chapel is to be demolished. It occupied the area over which the Convent extensions and 'connector' were constructed during 1941 (Source; Ashfield Council Archives, Glancey Plans)



Figure 2.6.4
1930 aerial image showing *Glentworth House* as circled in blue, a smaller laundry operation as indicated by the red arrow, the 'L' shaped boarding school as shaded, and the complex arrangement that was Bellevue at bottom left, as indicated by the green arrow (Source: 1930 aerals, NSW Department of Lands)

²³ 'Building' 1942

²⁴ *ibid*

²⁵ Interview with long time resident

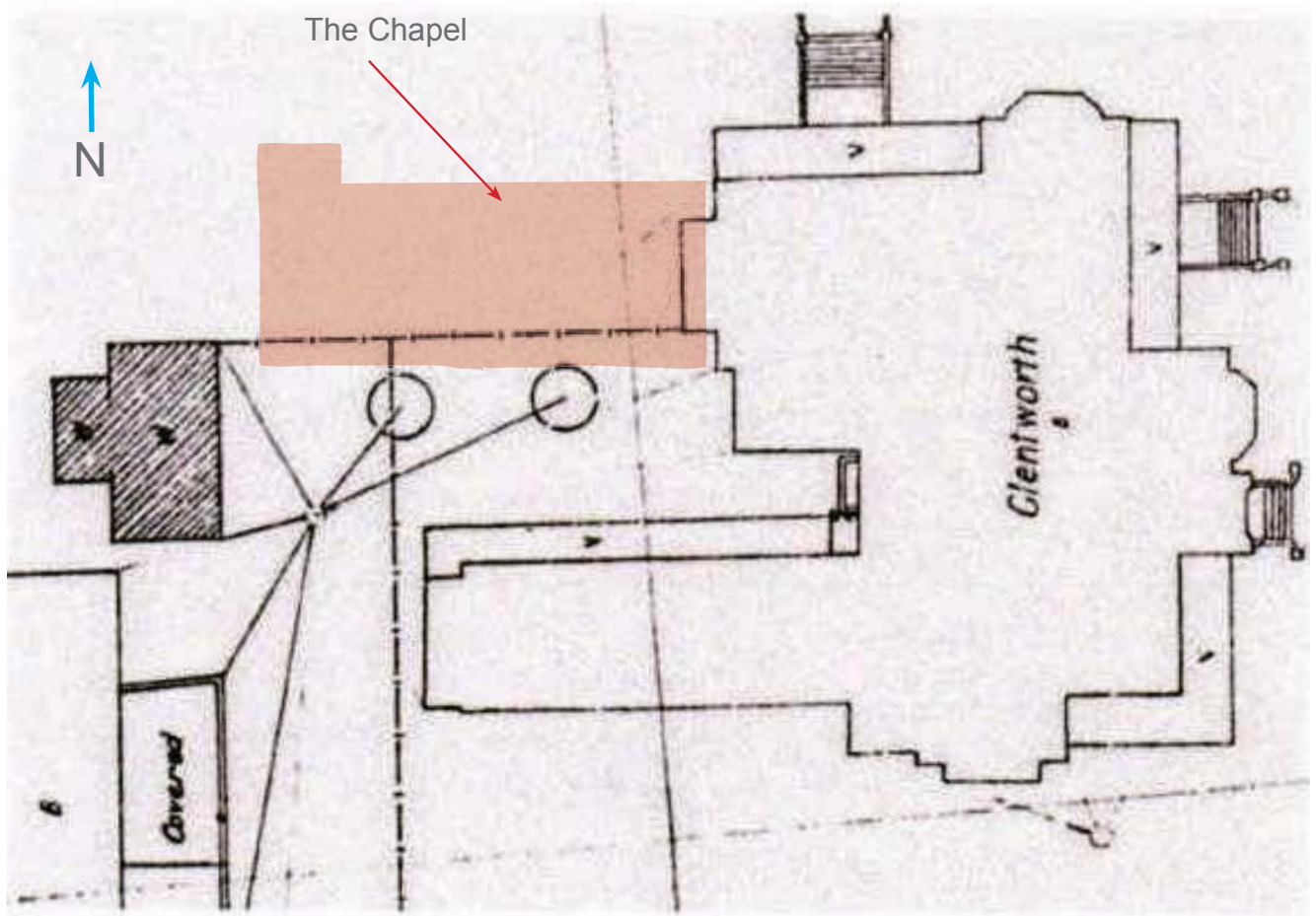


Figure 2.6.5
The 1886 footprint of *Glentworth House*, and showing, as indicated by the red arrow, the shaded outline of the Chapel building which was added in 1919. The Ballroom within *Glentworth House* continued to be used as the nun's section of the chapel. The section of the chapel for the girls, began beyond the former bay window and extended to the west. The sanctuary area was at the west end. It is likely that the small nibbed section at the west indicates the priest's sacristy. It is understood that the chapel was entered from one side (probably the north, according to pathways in old aerials) and as reported by a long-time resident, it had confessionals on the south side
(Source: Overlay 1886 Water board Plan)



Figure 2.6.6
Early 20th century pew, a number of which can be found in the present chapel. They are most likely from the 1919 chapel and were probably re-located to the choir loft after the construction of the 1941 chapel

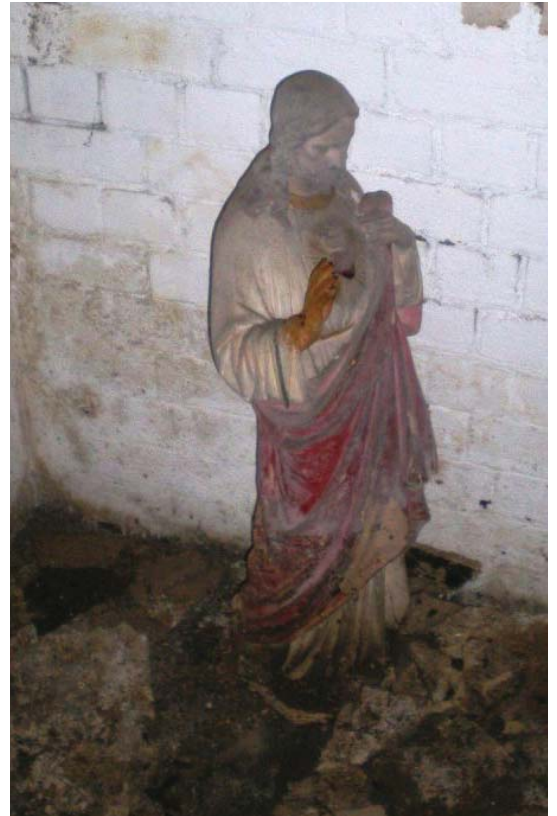


Figure 2.6.7
Statue of the 'Sacred Heart' which was likely in the original chapel and appears in the 1941 photograph of the temporary chapel in the sewing centre, and presently in the basement. It is indicated by the red arrow in the photograph below



Figure 2.6.8
Photograph taken in 1941, the year in which the sewing centre housed a temporary chapel in the large ground floor room. Statuary and Stations of the Cross were brought over from the old 1919 Chapel and as reported by a long-time resident, the work areas were kept flexible and temporary for that year
(Source: *Pitch Your Tents on Distant Shores* p216)

2.6.3 The 1920 'L Shaped College'

Another building application on 29 January 1920 from Mother Borgia of the Good Shepherd Convent and Home, to Ashfield Municipal Council proposed the construction of a three storey College (Application No. 4264).²⁶ The address is listed as Lot 3 Canterbury estate. This coincides with a land parcel immediately to the north of the *Bellevue* residence. The old *Bellevue* house was to remain for about another 15 years, and it is still evident in the 1930 aerial.

While outside the immediate scope of this Conservation Management Plan, the development of this and other substantial buildings on site provides a valuable key to the understanding of the successive building stages of the overall site, each of which have had conceptual and spatial influence one to another.

An article in The Freeman's Journal records :

*At a meeting of the Committee . . . it was reported that all the preliminary work in connection with the erection of the new building had been completed. The contractors were now making satisfactory progress in preparation for the laying of the foundation-stone, which it was hope would be done in the very near future. Owing to the large in crease in the cost of materials and wages, it is feared that the good Sisters will incur a tremendous debt, and the committee regret very much the poor response to the appeal made by the Rev. Mothers for subscriptions. It is causing serious thought to all concerned, for the protection tendered to the children under the care of the Sisters is very necessary for religion and society.*²⁷



Figure 2.6.9
1930 aerial image showing the 'L' shaped school and residential facility that was constructed in 1920, with the old *Bellevue* mansion still in place to the immediate south of the 'L' shaped building
(Source: NSW Dept Lands/RTA 1930 aerial)



Figure 2.6.10
1943 aerial image showing the 'L' shaped school and boarding facility that was constructed in 1920 - as shaded. The old *Bellevue* mansion was demolished some time between 1935 and 1937. Its demolition was recounted by a long-time resident who began residence at the Good Shepherd Home in 1935
(Source: NSW Dept Lands/RTA 1943 aerial)

²⁶ An article in the Freeman's Journal 2 March 1939 speaks of this dormitory wing as being an 'L' shaped building, and the Glancey Plans for the Sewing and Infirmary Building show it as adjoining this dormitory wing

²⁷ Freeman's Journal April 1, 1920

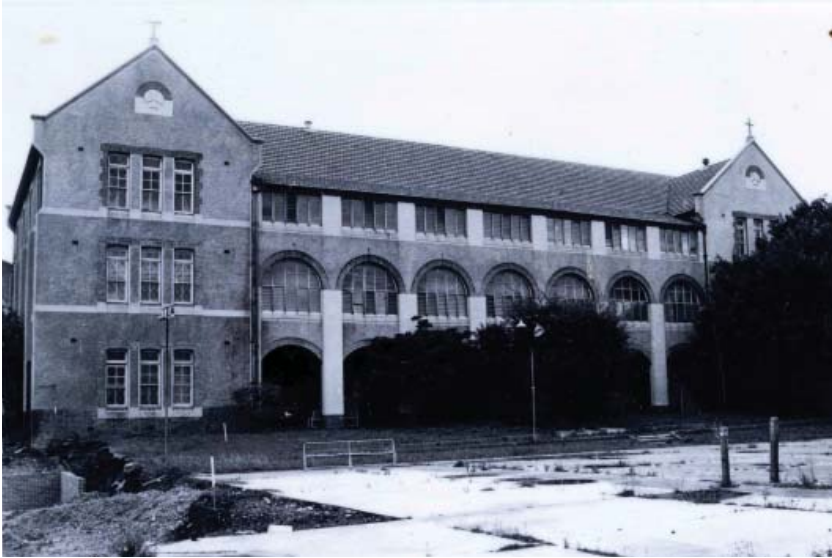


Figure 2.6.11
Photographic image from the mid 1970's of the then closed boarding and schooling component
(Source: Aevum archival historic photographic material)



Figure 2.6.12
View looking west and towards Queen Street circa 1960s at the north side of the boarding component and showing the same playing court, still at that time in use
(Source: Picture Australia. Nat Lib Aust pc-an24493324)



Figure 2.6.13
Image probably circa 1940 looking towards the east facade of the 1920's 'L' shaped boarding School, known as 'Rosemount' with the north facade of the laundry building to the left and the line of the brick wall indicated by the red arrow
(Source: Aevum archival historic photographic material)



Figure 2.6.14
Image probably circa 1950's of dormitory, most likely in the boarding section of this building
(Source: Picture Australia. Nat Lib Aust an24494479-v)

2.6.4 The Ashfield Convent Laundries

An article in the Catholic Press of the day, *The Freeman's Journal* (26 March 1914), outlines the arrival of the Sisters in Ashfield and details part of their work and also their future plans. It seems that a laundry operation was soon established after the arrival of the Sisters and a follow-up article on 20 April 1914 notes the opening of new laundry extensions by the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney. It is likely that the first laundry, which was established in 1913, and then extended in 1914 was situated between *Glentworth House* and the former *Bellevue*. It could be speculated that the first laundry may have begun in the then existing outbuildings, since they already had some power arrangements available. Moreover, the 1930 aerial seems to indicate this location.

A *Freeman's Journal* article of 16 October, 1919, applauds a recent decision of the Industrial Court which facilitated the continued operations of such a facility and show how precariously poised was the industrial future of such operations. It is headlined:

OUR CONVENT LAUNDRIES - The Industrial Court's Sane Decision.

The decision of the Industrial Full Court that the women employed in laundry work at the Good Samaritan institutions at Tempe and Buckingham Street are not "employees" within the meaning of the Arbitration Industrial Acts is not only good law, but sound common sense. It may be true that the institutions do washing and ironing for private customers, hotels and boarding-houses at the ruling prices, and in this way earn money for the support of the inmates who have been rescued from want and worse, and are endeavouring to make a new and happier start in life; and it may be equally true that to some extent the institutions are in competition with the ordinary laundries, which must pay full rates. But it is absurd to argue that the convent laundry inflicts a hardship on other laundries and is advantageous in its business because it is not bound to pay the trade wage. In all probability it costs the Sisters considerably more

... " 28

In 1935 a large and imposing new laundry was constructed which replaced the early laundry operation. It was a very substantial commercial laundry. The reasonably aesthetic principal facade faced the north and the construction featured an industrial saw-tooth roofing arrangement of considerable height. In subsequent documentation, including the Glancey Plans it is referred to as the *Employments Building*. This new building which became the largest single structure on site also represented the major industry of the site. Its operations had far reach into the hospitality industry in Sydney and then soon into the washing arrangements for the Second World War. During that War a very large component of the Khaki uniforms (some thousands per week) were washed and pressed in this laundry operation.

28 *The Freeman's Journal* 16 October, 1919
Figure 2.6.30



Figure 2.6.15
1930 aerial image showing the original laundry operation as circled. The pathway at its north side cuts across towards the old chapel at an angle and a little further down the hill from the later position. Its later position became established by the construction (probably in the 1930's) of the brick brick wall, as indicated below.
(Source: NSW Dept. Lands/RTA 1930 aerial)



Figure 2.6.16
1943 aerial image showing the laundry as shaded, centre of the complex. The red arrow indicates a substantial brick wall, still present
(Source: NSW Dept Lands/RTA 1943 aerial)

It would seem that when this 1935 laundry was constructed, many aspects of the whole site were delineated more clearly for future development and this has had an impact upon the built arrangements on site since that time. The then new 1935 laundry was situated quite proud, on an embankment which it seems was excavated and terraced with a substantial retaining wall and some fencing. This defined traffic. Then the development of the other buildings , which will be outlined in the following pages, followed quite quickly over the next five years or so.

This substantial and high wall, of quality face brick, seems to have been constructed about this time. It remains a significant defining feature of the site, both for traffic movement and for building. The traffic movement is further instituted by fencing and paving. The general effect is to separate the property into higher and lower sections, and at that time to clearly define the laundry precinct within the property.

Council's building records for 17 November 1953 indicate an application by solicitors for Sisters of the Good Shepherd applying for existing use rights of the buildings on the land. "These consist of Institution for delinquent girls in which is carried on the business of a laundry, and a convent building which is residence for 22 Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The records note that while the Continued use of land and retention of convent is approved, Council rejected the proposed continued use of the laundry facility. It was deemed to no longer conform with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1951. It may be presumed however that the laundry operated after that time, either by virtue of agreed modifications or an established time frame for closure. Council records from 1956 and 1957 for instance indicate applications and approvals (1981/56 and 2108/57) for an Engineer's workshop in laundry, as well as for a Boiler room building for laundry.

The laundry which was closed by the mid-1960s had been a principal source of revenue for the operations for the Sisters, apart from charitable donations and bequests to their work. During the life of the operation it was not government funded, even though it ostensibly did much of the government social work of the era, especially by way of referrals from the Courts.



Figure 2.6.17
Photographic image of a Good Shepherd Sister with a young charge outside the ASlbion Street Children's Court
(Source: National Picture Library nla.pic-an 24494874-v)



Figure 2.6.18
Photographic image of a typing lesson, illustrating one of the many activities carried out at the Good Shepherd Home, part from the laundry operation
(Source: National Picture Library nla.pic-an 24494875-v)

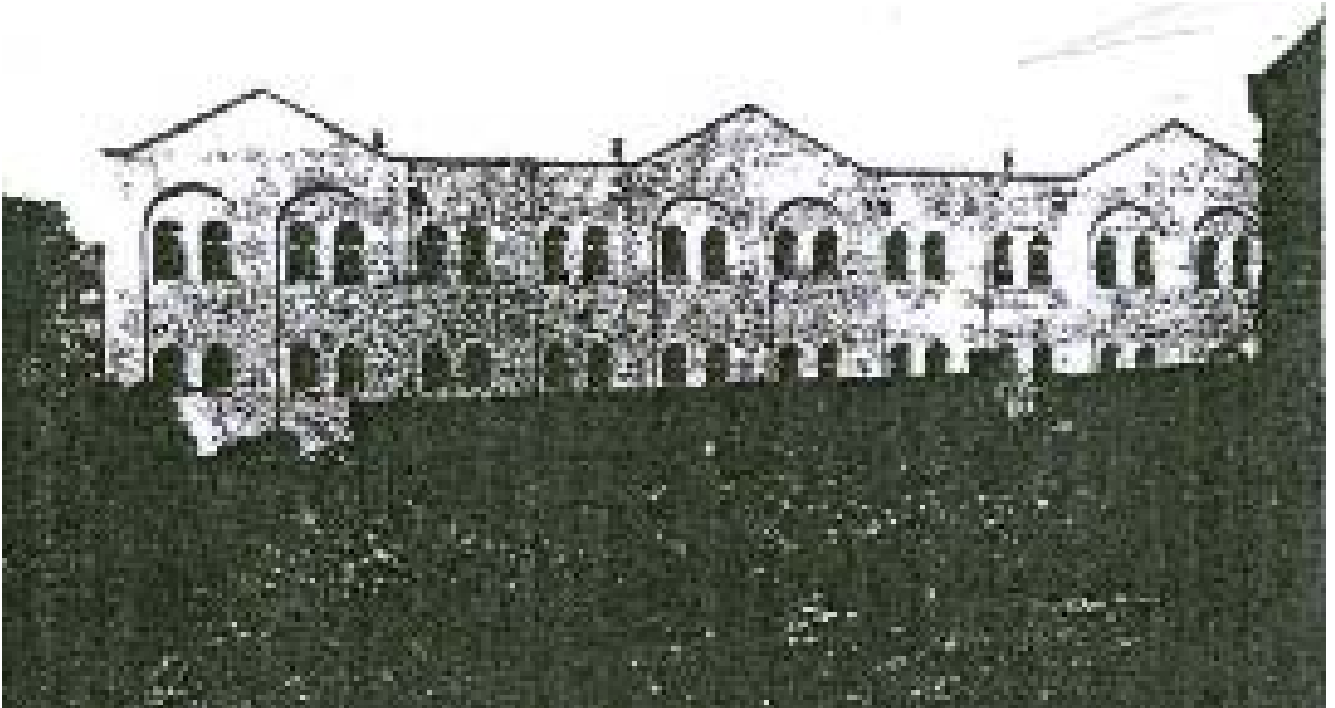


Figure 2.6.19
North elevation of the Good Shepherd laundry, Ashfield, from a photograph taken in 1935 immediately after construction of the laundry
(Source *Freeman's Journal* 17 October 1935)



Figure 2.6.20
1970's photograph showing the south facade of the 1935 laundry. The photo is interesting in being one of the few images obtained to date that shows the south facade of the large industrial laundry. The fenestration elements and wall finish appear to blend with the large Chapel. The prominent siting of the laundry is atop of the high brick retaining wall, which is detailed on the following pages
(Source: *Archives of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd*)



Figure 2.6.21
There is a wide entry way to the west, which was likely the principle entry into the laundry (as indicated by the blue oval). The former laundry almost abutted this building and the street



Figure 2.6.22
View east along the top of the wall and towards the Chapel. The property is intersected by a brick terrace wall typical of interwar construction, which formed a division between the large industrial laundry and the ancillary areas of the property to the north. The pathways along the top of this walled division is evident in the early aerials



Figure 2.6.23
The brick terrace wall from the lower ground and looking west. The height at this point is greater than three metres

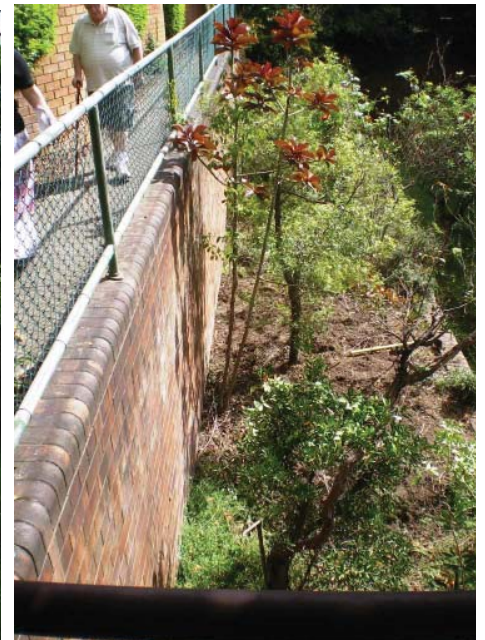


Figure 2.6.24
View to the west along the top of the brick wall, and along the established pathway