

2.6.5 The 1937 Infirmary and Sewing Wing

The records of Ashfield Municipal Council no. 9249/37 note an approval for the construction of a 'New Infirmary and Sewing Building for Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Victoria Street, Ashfield'. The building was constructed 1937/38. As shown in the highly detailed plans it involved the demolition of the old *Bellevue* house, located towards the corner of Seaview and Queen Streets and this 1937 building was substantially constructed on the footprint of the old residence. The two storey building was designed by Clement Glancey as an imposing and dignified structure. It was of two storeys, with hip roof formations and bay windows. The building is shown to adjoin the existing large 'Employments Building' (ie the laundry) at its east side and the existing 'Dormitory Block' at its south-west corner. The building, faced inwards to the complex, that is towards the north, with its rear towards Seaview Street, which was by that time, or soon thereafter to be bounded by the high stone walls.

For the twelve months between demolition of the 1919 chapel and completion of the new chapel, the ground floor of the 1937 Infirmary building was used as a temporary chapel as well as sewing and lace-making room.

A long time resident of the Good Shepherd complex has recounted that the old *Bellevue* mansion was demolished soon after she arrived. That is, within a year or two of 1935. She remembers that that part of the property was surrounded by a high iron fence for some time during the demolition of the old house and the construction of the new sewing and infirmary building.

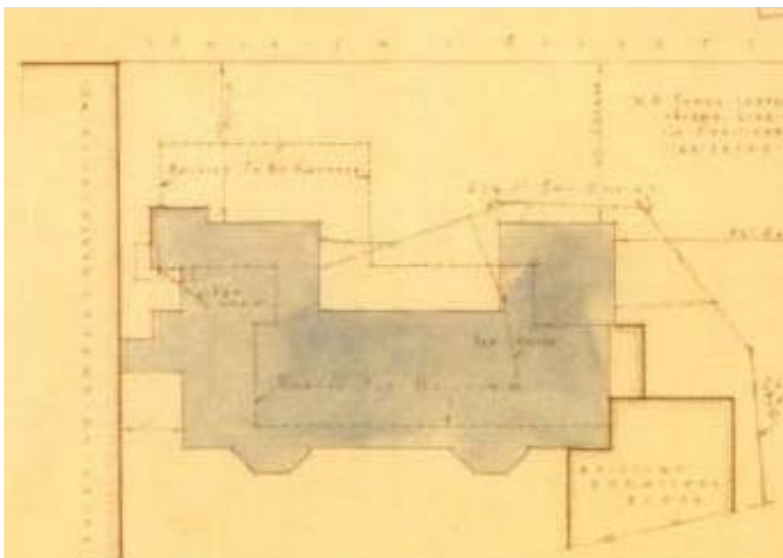


Figure 2.6.26
Plan of the footprint for the new Infirmary and sewing Building, and showing by dotted lines the footprint of the older *Bellevue* Residence which the plans schedule for removal. Note that at the east side, the newer building abuts the 'Employments Building' which is the large laundry, constructed in 1935
(Source: Ashfield Council Archives)

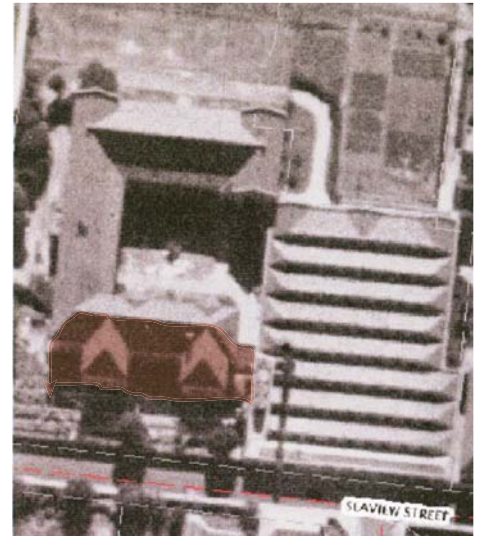


Figure 2.6.25
The 1943 aerial, showing, as shaded the 1937 infirmary and sewing centre, adjoining both the laundry and the 'L' shaped boarding school
(Source: NSW Dept of Lands / RTA 1943 aerial)



Figure 2.6.27
Photographic image taken in 1941; the year in which there was a temporary chapel in the sewing and infirmary building. The 1919 chapel had been demolished and the new chapel not yet completed.
(Source: *Pitch Your Tents on Distant Shores* p216)

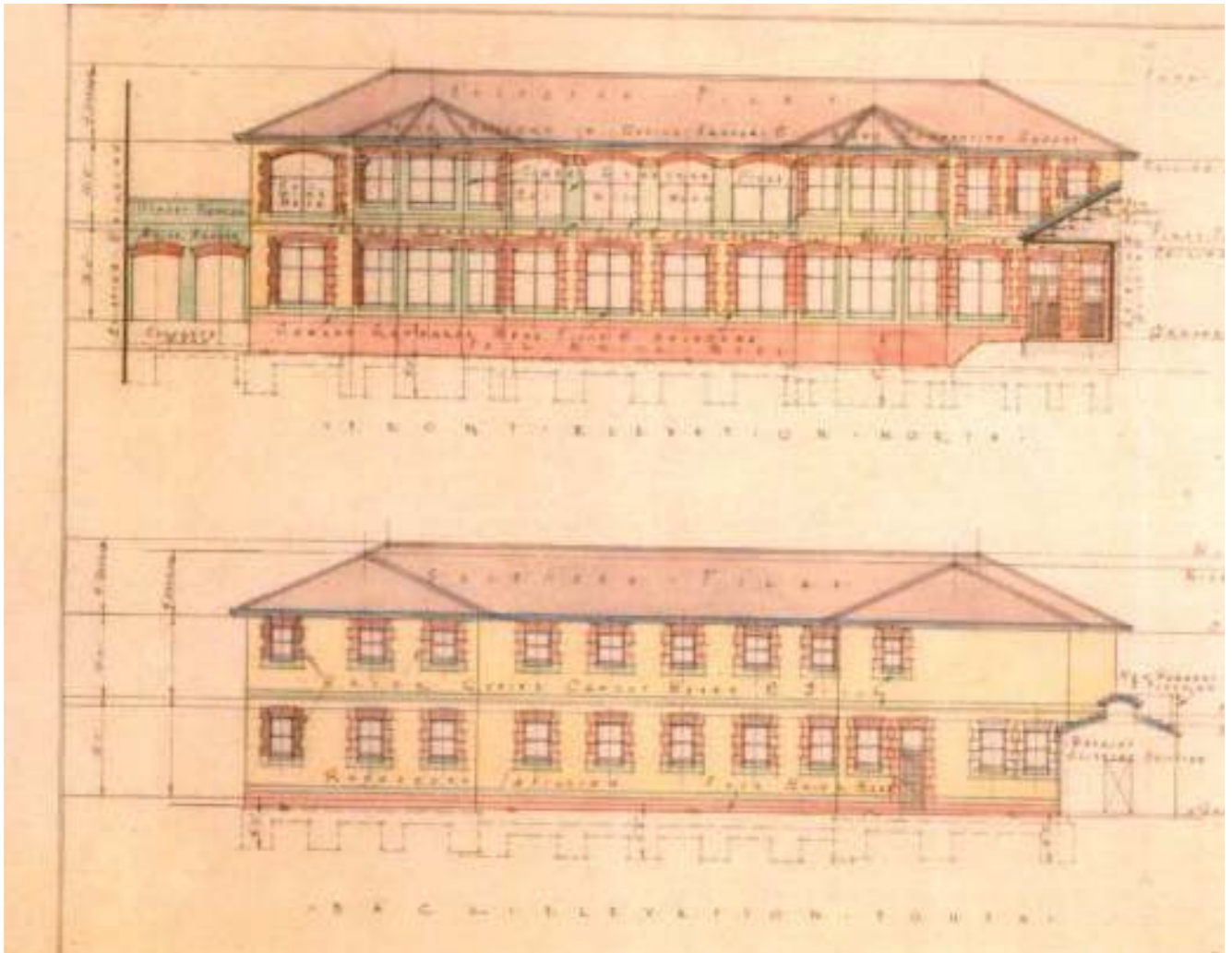


Figure 2.6.28
Significantly, the front facade of this building faces into the courtyard and to the north. The rear backs onto Seaview street
(Source: Ashfield Council Archives)

2.6.6 The 1935 Reception Parlours Annex

Soon after the construction of the large 1935 laundry, a further building was constructed at its east side. At the time of construction it was separate by about a metre from the west wing of the old *Glentworth House*. It was later joined to the rear of the west wing (probably by 1940). This building is still present and it now appears to be part of the residence. It has been variously known as the 'annex', the 'parlours', and also the 'packers dormitory'.

An article in the *Freeman's Journal* of 17 October 1935, which describes the newly completed laundry building, goes on to speak of some further imminently proposed additions to the Good Shepherd Home. These, it says, will consist essentially of a series of "reception parlours - six or seven of them, in which young inmates may meet their friends". It is likely that this building also served as a reception centre for the work of the Sisters, with a processing office that was discrete from both the larger convent building and also from the employment and schooling arrangements. It seems that this building had its own entrance from Seaview Street.



Figure 2.6.30
The 1935 reception parlours structure is indicated by the blue oval. It almost abuts Seaview Street. The shaded area indicates an original entry point from the street. The fenestration around the whole perimeter of this building has been substantially disrupted by infill and re-positioning. The interior has also been substantially disrupted by re-configurations, including the entrance stairways, and removal of most former room divisions, doorways and so forth.

The ground floor of the building largely comprised a number of small parlours, which may still be read in the ceiling detail. The first floor of the building contained what was known as the 'Packers Dormitory'. This was a separate sleeping quarters for older girls who were engaged in the folding, packing and despatch of the finished laundry products. The quarters was located immediately adjacent to the despatch section of the laundry and to its main driveway.

Apart from its general form, this building has been substantially disrupted. Changes in the fenestration are both externally and

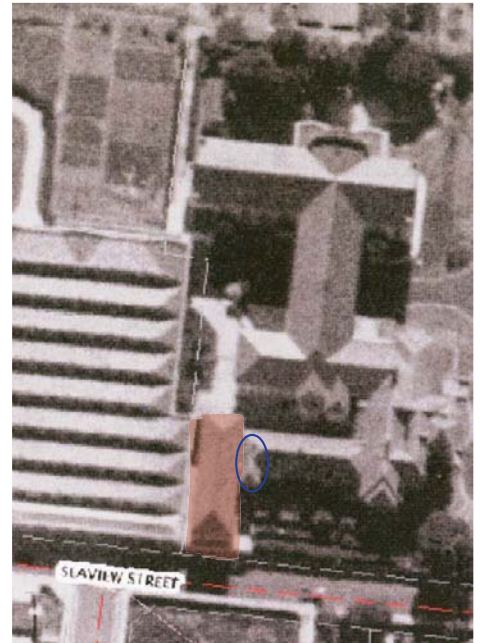


Figure 2.6.29
The 1943 aerial shows the two storey 1935 reception parlours complex (as shaded). It evidences a paved area or portico at its southeast entrance (off Seaview Street) and appears to be attached to *Glentworth House* (see blue oval). The small built nib addition is also present by 1943
(Source: NSW Dept of Lands / RTA 1943 aerial)



Figure 2.6.31
The 1935 reception parlours structure as viewed from the south west. The blue oval indicates a wide entry from Seaview Street into the former laundry which was situated immediately adjacent to this building. The 'packers dormitory' was located on the first floor

internally discernible, with a number having been sealed up, or changed in size or glazing arrangements or converted to doorways. The internal room configuration as well as the internal stairway has been completely changed, with little remaining indication of the earlier configuration. There are now a series of self care units on both the ground and the first floors, many aspects of which seem to be both cramped in size and awkward in fit.



Figure 2.6.32
Much of the original room configurations may still be read in what remains of the original ceilings ‘



Figure 2.6.34
The current entry foyer was in its original presentation only a ground floor room. The original ceiling has been removed and this flight of stairs added later, disrupting original integrity

As noted above, this building was originally separated from the main old *Glentworth House* building by approximately 1 metre. A long time resident has recounted that for some years it was possible to walk between the two buildings. A stairway was later constructed as a connector to the rear of the Convent. The windows at the point of contact for both buildings were filled in. Moreover, returns in the verandah joinery and indents in the original plans indicate a likelihood that the west end (rear) of the west wing of *Glentworth House* was originally of one story. This was probably a laundry section. When the connections were put in place, a second floor was added at this point with a nibbed extension to the south, and then the whole of this west wing was re-slatted.



Figure 2.6.33
The main entrance door to the reception parlours building is located at its southeast corner. It appears to be the original doorway with original terrazzo work step and arched top. The interior of this entry however is substantially changed, with an introduced stairway and some upper floor removal



Figure 2.6.35
The west wall of the 1935 wing, which is situated north-south. The far window at the ground floor level, appears to have been a doorway. There are various other changes

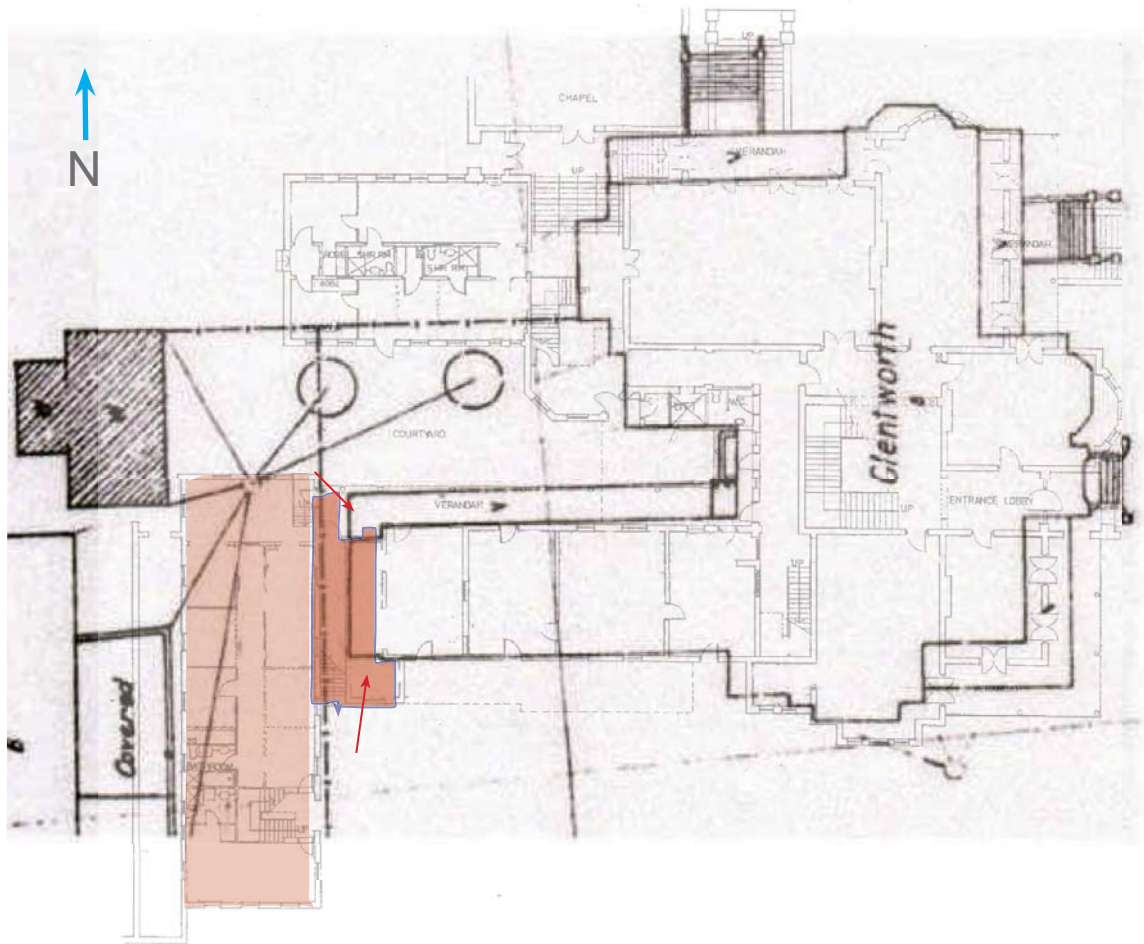


Figure 2.6.36

The footprint and plan of the 1935 reception parlours building rear addition (north/south) superimposed on the 1886 *Glentworth House* footprint. It is likely that the indented wall sections at the west end (rear, and as indicated by the red arrows) indicate a single storey section, most likely a laundry. There were windows at ground floor level in both buildings and we understand that there was a pedestrian walkway between the buildings. Prior to the 1943 aerials the west wing of *Glentworth House* was altered at this point to provide access to the 1935 building addition to the old building and an external stairways. The whole of the roof appears to have been re-slatted at this time

(Source: Sydney Water Archives, PWD 851, Catalogue 1544, 27th March 1886 with overlay of Aevum Plans)

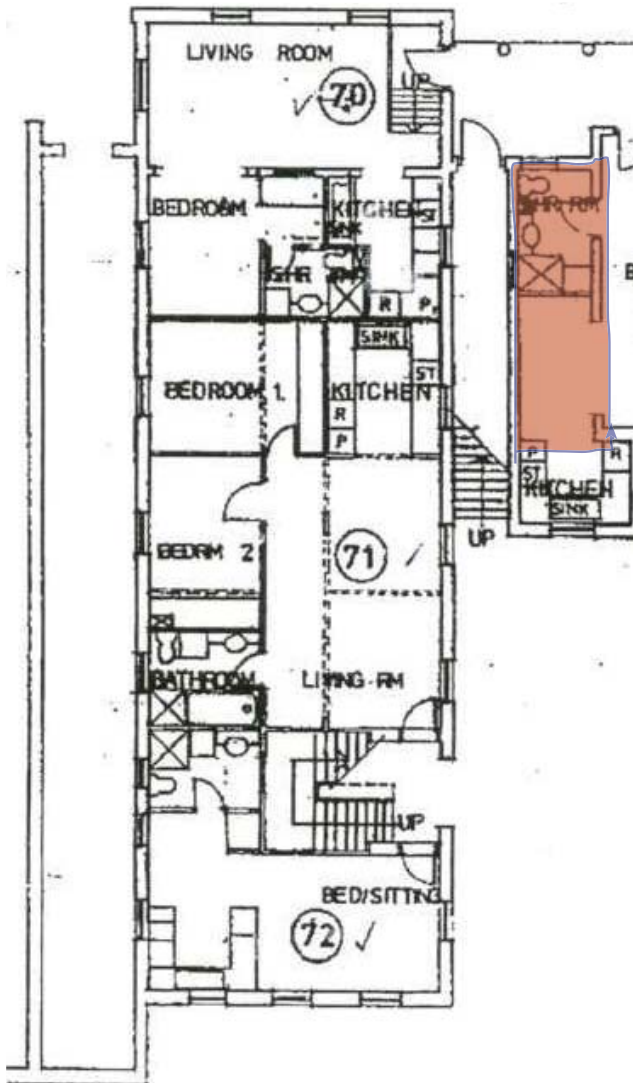


Figure 2.6.37
The ground floor and first floor plans of the 1935 north/south additions at the rear of the original residence: the reception parlours annex. The ground floor was a series of small reception room/ parlours, and perhaps offices, which are still indicated by ceiling patterns. It is unlikely that it had a direct access through to the Convent cloister. Hence the later external stairway addition. The shaded section is likely to have originally been a single storey end to the *Glentworth House* west wing
(Source: *Plans Aevum Archives*)

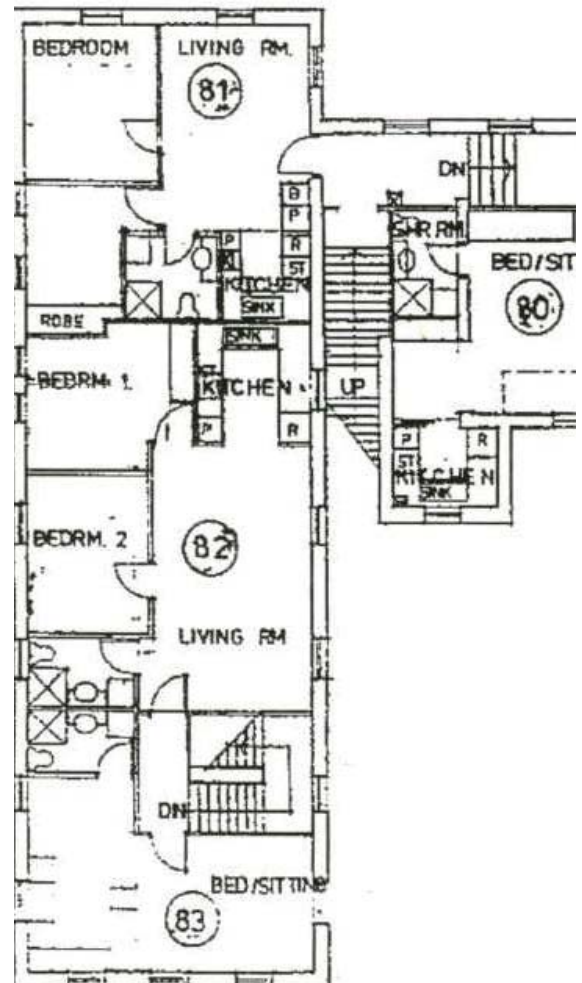


Figure 2.6.38
The first floor plan of the 1935 reception parlours additions (also known as the annex) at the rear of the original residence. The main volume of the upper level was used as the 'packers dormitory' It is unlikely that it had a direct access through to the Convent cloister. The through connection would have been much later, but likely before 1940, since the roof was re-slatted while slate was still available. Bangor slate (Pennsylvania) was specified by Glancey for the Chapel but was unavailable by 1941
(Source: *Plans Aevum Archives*)



Figure 2.6.39
Detail showing the quality joinery work and the copper guttering on the 1935 wing

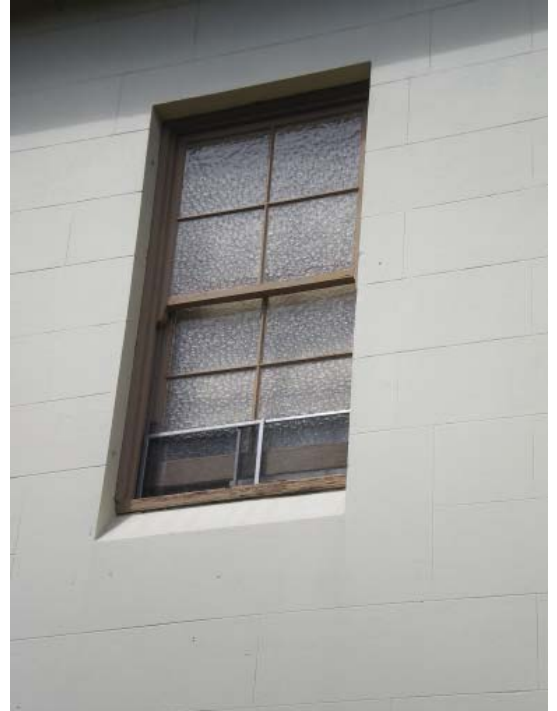


Figure 2.6.40
Typical fenestration in the 1935 wing, shows some original but various glazing and joinery features, much of which is in poor condition under detailed examination.



Figure 2.6.41
The windows in the 1935 reception parlours buildings are generally in a poor state of repair under close examination and in some cases have been replaced unsympathetically with fixed glazing arrangements



Figure 2.6.42
The remnant indication of the previous entrance-way off Seaview Street



Figure 2.6.43
The remnant indication of the previous entrance-way off Seaview Street

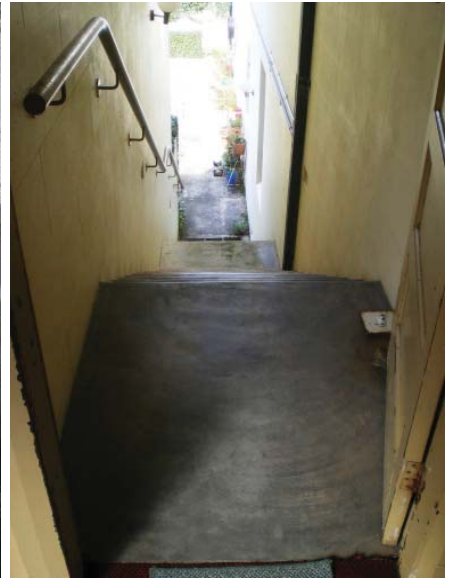


Figure 2.6.44
The stairway and connector section between the old west wing of *Glentworth House* - left, and the 1935 reception parlours building - right. Originally these two buildings were separate, with a walkway in between



Figure 2.6.45
The storage area under the stairway between the two buildings indicates window infill - 1935 reception parlours building.



Figure 2.6.46
The storage area under the stairway between the two buildings indicates window infill - *Glentworth House*, probably the original laundry



Figure 2.6.47
The south west corner of the reception parlours building indicates window infill. Much of the fenestration has been disrupted and evidences maintenance problems



Figure 2.6.48 (a), (b) and (c)

The rear end of the west wing of *Glentworth House* was likely to have been the original laundry area at the ground floor level. It shows evidence of joinery re-configuration as this area was adapted, and then joined to the 1935 reception parlours building. It is likely that the verandah area had a small return in the original plan and was of single storey. The small section of the first floor which now shows level change appears to have been a later addition



Figure 2.6.49

The west interior corner, showing the meeting point of the original west wing with the 1935 wing. Note the irregular spatial articulation, which shows up on the earliest diagrams and may be a feature of the laundry and mangle room arrangement at the rear of the original residence, probably single storey



Figure 2.6.50
The built component marked with the blue oval was a nib added to the west wing of the original building between 1935 and 1940. There are no specific plans or record extant and its original purpose is now uncertain

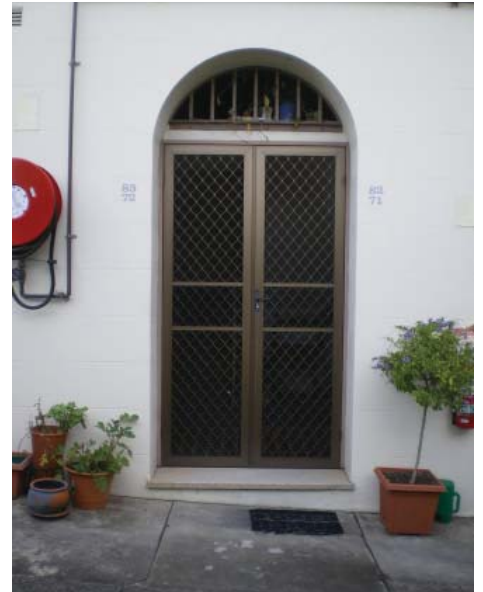


Figure 2.6.51
Detail of the entry way to the 1935 building, fronting a semi-formal concreted space which may have had a canopy cover. The original entrance opening into a single storey lobby. The current stairway was a later addition, necessitating the removal of the floor above.



Figure 2.6.52
The additional built nib as seen from Seaview Street was added before the 1943 aerial. Since the slate tiling is consistent with the 1935 building and since such slate was not available during the war period (since it could not be obtained for the Chapel) it is likely that this section was constructed some time between 1935 and 1940. We understand from interview that there was a walkway between the two buildings for a few years. The overall presentation is relatively seamless



Figure 2.6.53
The additional built component and a small service style stairway from the ground level to the upper level of the Convent building, between the reception parlours annex and the Convent

2.6.7 The 1941 two story 'connector' additions (northwest)

The 1940 plans for the 1941 alterations and extensions include a two storey 'connector' building between *Glentworth House* and the new Chapel. The construction of this component necessitated the demolition of the 1919 Chapel structure, and that footprint was subsumed into the new structure. This superseding footprint is detailed on the blueprint plans. The Journal *'Building'* in its May 25, 1942 edition includes the following description:

Until completion of the new Chapel the ballroom 39 feet by 26 feet in the old home had been used as the Nun's Chapel and the inmates of the institution numbering some 220 occupied a fibro cement building 26 ft by 54 ft. This structure, which was not part of the original home, has been demolished and an addition to the Convent measuring 40 ft by 28 ft consisting of two storeys and containing five bedrooms and bathroom accommodation on the first floor and offices and surgery on the ground floor has taken its place.

This component of the 1941 additions is situated at an interjectory point between major buildings, with level changes between the new Chapel, the ballroom, the external spaces and the new upper level. It thus presents with various sets of stairs. It necessitated the incorporation of a large lobby 'connector' space, that was characterised by an imposing and substantial main stairway and various ancillary stairs that connected the new Chapel and the external verandah space.

This is further complicated at its upper level by the additional ceiling height of the ballroom below. Thus over the particular section of the Ball Room space there is an elevated floor level, which although seemingly unusual, (especially in its interior relationship of floor level to window heights) would have been an original feature of the building. At this time some changes, as detailed in the drawings and comment below, were also made to the rooms above the Ballroom with doorway entrances and wall divisions being modified for sister's accommodation cells. The former old bay window section at the Ballroom was sealed in by a new double doorway arrangement.

Changes were also made to the north facade of *Glentworth House* at this time with the opractical visual effect of the more delicate Victorian verandah space, with its iron roofing and columns being converted into a more classically *Romanesque* masonry presentation. The balance of the fenestration arrangements on the first floor was also changed.

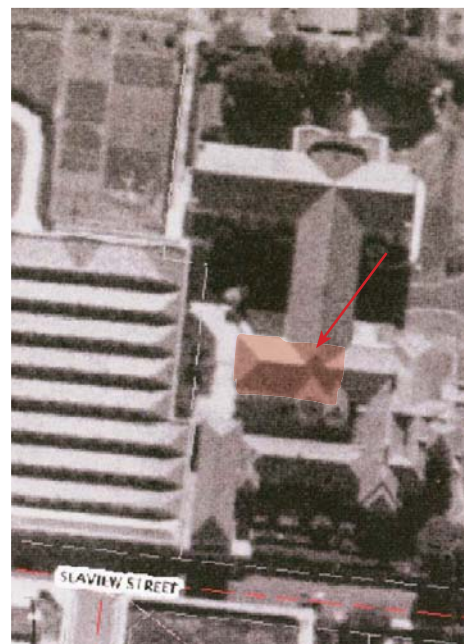


Figure 2.6.54
1943 aerials image showing the 1941 'connector' addition, (as shaded and indicated by the red arrow) which had been built over the footprint of the 1919 chapel
(Source: NSW Dept Lands/RTA 1943 aerial)



Figure 2.6.55
The stairway lobby area within the 'connector' section of the 1941 additions to the Convent (which included the large Chapel). This lobby area facilitates the intersection of various levels and uses within the extended building

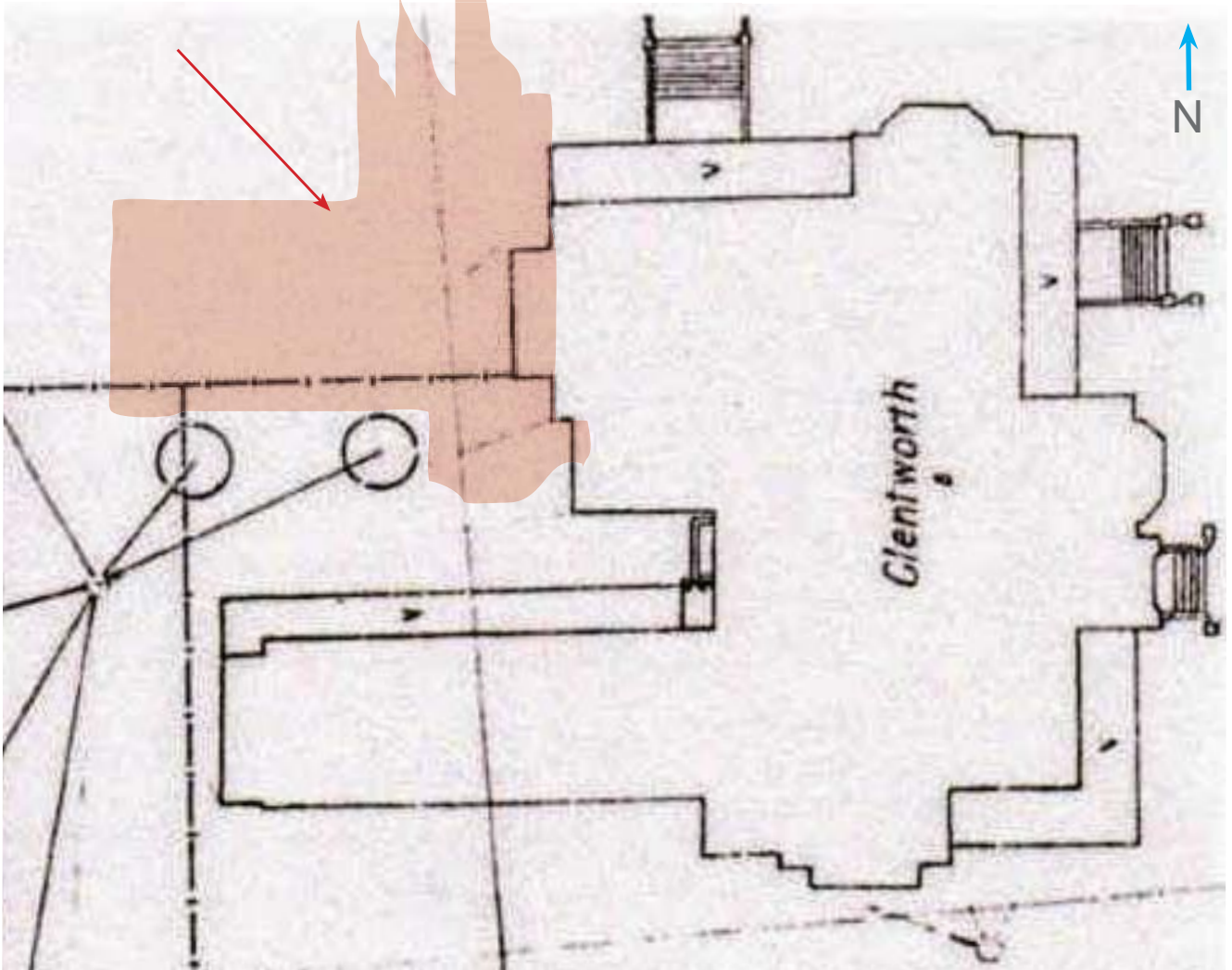


Figure 2.6.56

The 1886 footprint of *Glentworth House*, and showing, as indicated by the red arrow, the shaded outline of the Convent extensions that were added in 1941. These were constructed in the space previously occupied by the 1919 Chapel. The intersection necessitated the incorporation of a large lobby connector space, to link the main Convent building with the new Chapel and the additional rooms, both upstairs and downstairs. These various spaces met here at an intersection between several levels
 (Source: Overlay 1886 Water board Plan)

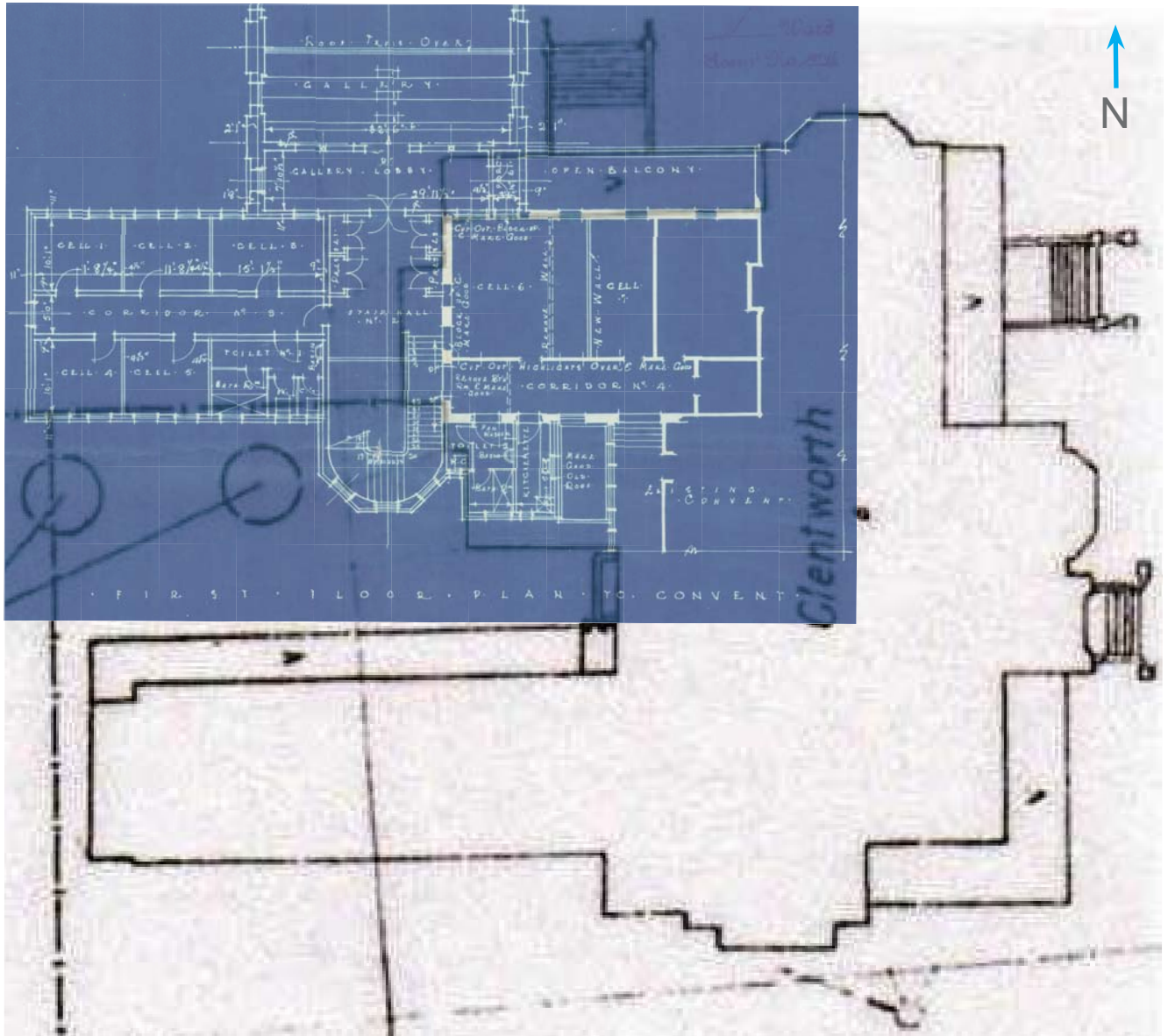


Figure 2.6.58

The original footprint of *Glentworth House* (1886), overlaid with the 1940 blueprint plans for the first floor of the 'connector building'. This building measuring 40ft by 28ft, was additional to the then convent area. It consisted of two storeys, containing five additional bedrooms and bathroom accommodation on the first floor, as well as as and offices and a surgery on the ground floor. It is at this intersection point between the major buildings that there are substantial level changes on each of the floors. Note that the rooms over the original ballroom have a raised floor height, above the original higher ceiling level in that room. Note also that the new wall divisions for the rooms above the Ballroom correspond to the clearspan joists below

(Source: Overlay 1886 Water board plan overlaid with 1940 Glancey blueprint, Ashfield Council archives)

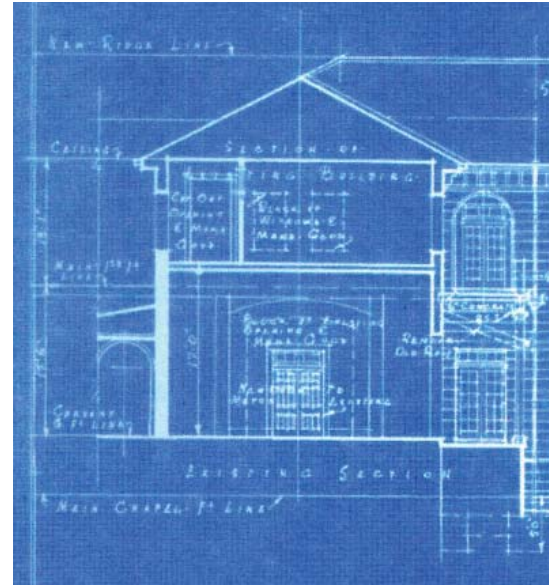
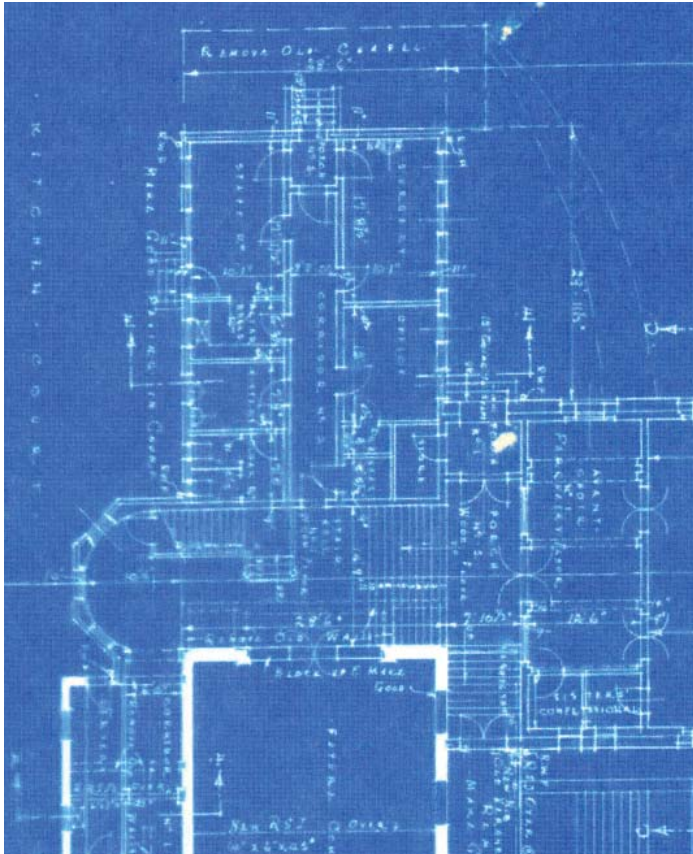


Figure 2.6.59
Through section, showing the relationship of ceiling and floor heights in respect to the ballroom. The original rooms above the ballroom comprised three bedrooms, with wall partitions situated immediately above the clearspan joists. These rooms were accessed from a short flight of stairs raising the floor level above the exaggerated ceiling height of the Ballroom beneath
(Source: Glancey plans, Ashfield Council archives)

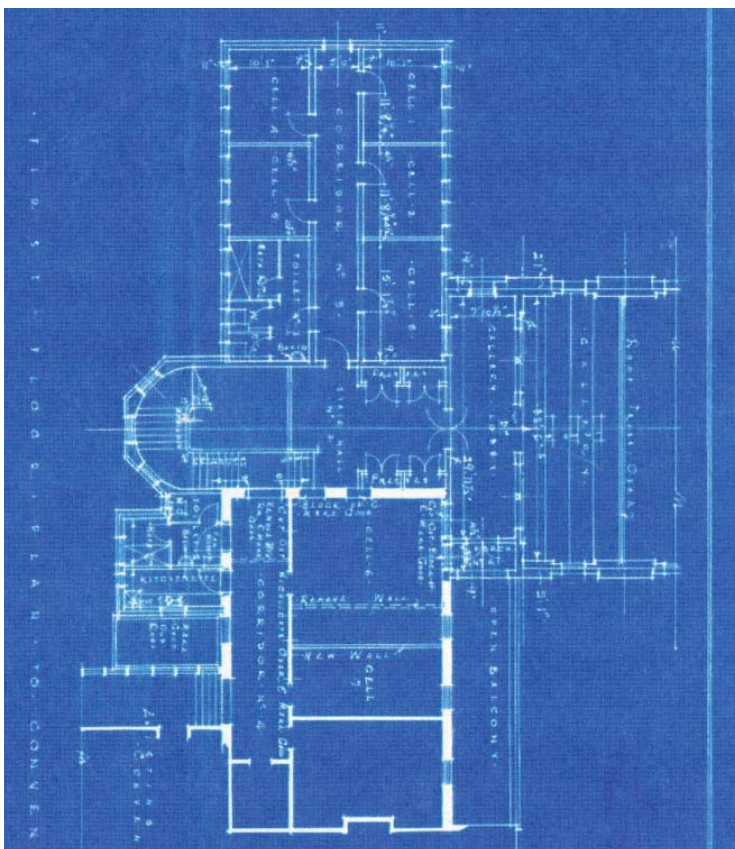


Figure 2.6.60
Above left, the blueprint indicates that the new connector wing (Convent extensions) between the Convent and the Chapel flows directly from what was the former bay window of the ballroom. The connector extension to the Convent was built in the space previously occupied by the 1919 Chapel. The new two storey extension contained medical, office and supplies rooms on the ground floor and sisters bedroom above. This set of bedroom were essentially for the older or sick sisters, being an infirmary area, linked to the infirmary loft for the hearing of mass
(Source: Glancey plans, Ashfield Council archives)

Figure 2.6.61
Left. The upstairs rooms above the ballroom were modified in 1941, with doorways entrances and wall divisions changed for sister's accommodation cells
(Source: 1941 Glancey plans, Ashfield Council archives)



Figure 2.6.62
Historic image of original ballroom with fine presentation and highly detailed finish. Note the extra height of the ceiling, which affected the floor height of the rooms above. Note also the large bay window, which eventually became the extension into the 1919 Chapel and the subsequent Convent additions
(Source: Aevum archival historic photographic material)

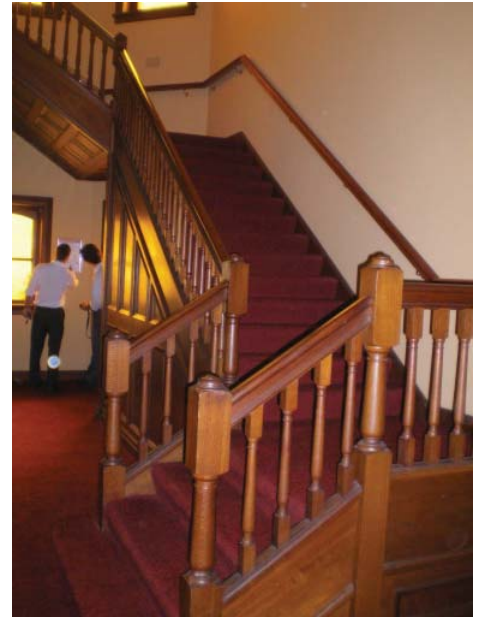


Figure 2.6.63
The stairway within the 'connector' section of the Convent extensions showing quality elements, and constructed in 1941



Figure 2.6.64
The original ballroom as it currently presents, with its high ceiling, joinery features and plaster detail still extant. The column work that frames the large bay window in the historic image above, can be seen in this contemporary image, framing the introduced doorway. This doorway, and probably the walls surrounding it are likely to be in-fill for the former through-way to the old 1919 Chapel. The doorway now leads into the 'connector' component of the 1941 Convent extensions.



Figure 2.6.65
The 'connector' section of the Convent extensions necessitates level changes, up to the original Ballroom level inside the building (right) and up to the modified external verandah (left)



Figure 2.6.66

The north facade of *Glentworth House* showing the adaptations that were made at the time of the construction of the Chapel. The traditional classic verandah (as still exists on the east facade) was removed and a more substantial neo-classical masonry addition was built, with pilasters each side of the verandah opening and very defined string-course work above. The balance of the upper fenestration had been modified by the addition of the window to the far right. The original dentil work is replicated in the under-eaves treatment on the Chapel wall



Figure 2.6.67

Historical comparative photograph showing the north facade in the early 20th century and prior to the addition of the Chapel. The verandah is of a more delicate formation with colour-stripped iron roofing, iron posts and lace-work. Adaptations were made at the time of the construction of the Chapel with the delicate balance modified
(Source: Archives of the Good Shepherd Sisters GL 81079)

Figure 2.6.68

The upper west facade of *Glentworth House*, rear verandah spaces, indicate that this space was enclosed, most likely after 1913, when the residence became a convent and adaptations were made for the cloister and boarding facilities in the original years of the Good Shepherd operation. The slate tiling on the west wing was likely to have been renewed between 1935 and 1940 following modifications to this building at its west end, where it adjoins the 1935 Reception rooms annex

2.6.8 The 1941 Chapel

After acquisition of the property by the Sisters in 1913, a temporary chapel had been established in the former spacious Ballroom of *Glentworth House*. In 1919, a new section of that chapel was linked to the Ballroom through the main west bay window to provide increased accommodation for the growing numbers of girl inmates.

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 was for the resident 'inmates'. The 1940 blueprints specify the demolition of the 1919 chapel and that took place during 1941. The footprint of the 1919 chapel was absorbed into the previously outlined 1941 convent additions.

The large new Chapel (1941) was designed by prominent Sydney architectural firm, Clement Glancey, and there are well detailed blueprint plans dated as November 1940. Though these bear the name of Glancey, the stylistic features of the Chapel bear a resemblance to works that were produced by the noted female architect within his firm, Rosetta Edmunds. Though speculative at the point of this writing, it is reasonable to assume that Edmunds may have been principally responsible for this particular work.

The application to Council for the construction of the Chapel was made in November 1940 and is noted as application 9200/4 ~ Chapel.

During the 1941 construction of the new chapel, the fittings from the previous 1919 Chapel such as statues and Stations of the Cross and so forth were removed to a large open room in the sewing and infirmary building, which became the temporary chapel for that year (as noted earlier in this document).

The 'Blessing and Opening Stone' for the Chapel was solemnly placed by the most Reverend N T Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney in April 1942. The Chapel was therefore constructed over the 15 months between the end of 1940 and early 1942. The new Chapel portrays significant identity with the founder of the religious order, as inscribed throughout, in windows, statuary and the foundation stone. It is notable that there does not seem to be either a foundation stone, or evidence of internal consecration crosses.

With its position on the highest point of the rise, the Chapel presents as a landmark structure from as far off as the northern end of Queen Street, Ashfield.

An account of the building in a 1942 edition of *Building*, reveals the design philosophy of the architect, Clement Glancey, and his response to the specific needs of the *Sisters of the Good Shepherd*. Basically they required a chapel to which they, the Sisters, had their own entrance and space; with the "inmates" having a separate area for worship. Sisters who were confined to bed had the ability to look

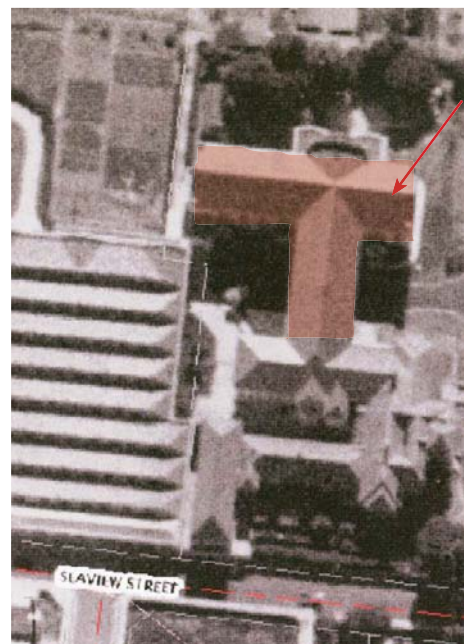


Figure 2.6.69
1943 aerials image showing the 1941 Chapel structure, (as shaded and indicated by the red arrow) which was built directly on to the north facade of *Glentworth House* during 1941
(Source: NSW Dept Lands/RTA 1943 aerial)

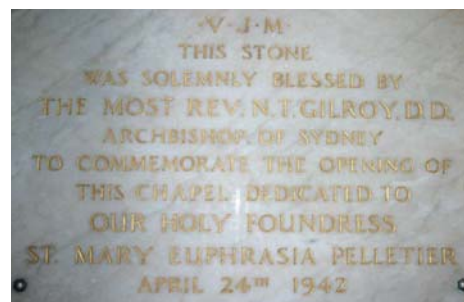


Figure 2.6.70
The Blessing and Dedication Stone, dated for the opening of the present Chapel in April 1942. The apparent absence of a foundation stone or evidence of consecration is of interest



Figure 2.6.71
The Chapel was built in the highly fashionable Classic Romanesque, with Art Deco detailing
(Source: Aevum historic photographic archival material)

down from their rooms and view both the altar and the celebration of Mass. There was a separate area again for members of the public. These various requirements, and the subsequent design initiatives, are described in the following passages from *Building* entitled : 'Good Shepherd Chapel, Ashfield
A Noble Usage of a Fine Old Home'

Architect: Clement Glancey Builder:H. A. Taylor

The new Chapel is attached to the existing Convent which was the residence of the late F Clissold and erected by him many years ago. It was then a most beautiful home and is still a monument to the superb workmanship of the tradesmen of other days. After all these years the building is in a perfect state of preservation, so good that the Sisters had no hesitation in erecting the beautiful new Chapel so that it would harmonise in every way possible with the existing building which is now the Convent. To date no portion of this fine old home has had to be demolished and it still stands as originally built. The beautiful iron entrance gates still bear the initials F. C. as does the brilliant cut embossed plate glass entrance doors. In the preservation of these initials the Sisters are showing their appreciation of the wonderful Convent and property acquired from the late F Clissold Esq.

The article goes on to note, as pointed out above, that until the completion of the new Chapel the Ballroom of the old home had been used as the Nuns' Chapel, while an additional temporary chapel had been used for the girl residents on site, who had numbered up to about 200 by 1940.

The 1940 Chapel is impressive in many aspects. It is of substantial proportion, and while it was said to stylistically complement the old mansion, its built footprint as well as its architectural fittings, such as the windows, provide an obviously significant visual impress from most angles. It does however manage to cleverly blend such disparate styles as the 1880's *Italianate* with classic ecclesiastical *Romanesque* and the then fashionable *Art Deco*. The work is generally of a very high quality both externally and internally, with much of the inlaid terrazzo being undertaken by *Melocco Bros*, who in that era and beyond undertook such significant public works as the Hyde Park War memorial and the Crypt of St Mary's Cathedral. Thus, the sanctuary work is in a high quality and highly detailed work, evident especially in the large altar and reredos with renaissance detail, the inlaid marble-chip mosaic flooring, an the treads and risers in Wombeyan marble.

While the Chapel is fine example of the fashionable Catholic interwar style, in the classic *Romanesque* with *Art Deco* influence, it is unusual in the era before the Second Vatican Council for its arrangement of liturgical spaces. This arrangement resulted from the specific approach to the design brief noted above. For instance, the largest component of those spaces, the girls chapel, looks sideways onto the sanctuary and altar.



Figure 2.6.72
View of the north side of Glentworth House, showing the Chapel extension (circa 1980)
(Source: Aevum archival historic photographic material)



Figure 2.6.73
Detail from the main stained glass window, illustrating the 'Charter' of the order and the founders - Sts John Eudes and Marie Euphrasie.

There are three entrances for three clearly defined user 'groups': the Sisters chapel; a girls chapel and a public chapel. It is also unusual that in such a large and imposing church structure these entrances are so understated. The principal entrance in fact seems to lead through from the convent rather than from outside. The blueprint shows the manner in which the then new Chapel building incorporated the extensions to the Convent through the 'connector' section. The entrance-way from the Convent leads into an Avant Choir with semi circular ceiling, beautifully modelled pilasters and entablature, and with parquetry flooring.

Overall, the various sections of the Chapel have generous proportions, beautifully scaled and detailed in footprint as well as its height and interior volumes. It has five distinct spaces: the Nun's chapel; the resident girls chapel; the public chapel; the sanctuary area; and the two sacristy areas (priest sacristy and work sacristy). There are a number of ancillary rooms/ areas such as the confessionals, the infirmary balcony, the choir loft and the sisters entrance foyer.

The gallery columns are of synthetic stone and the walls are solid plastered with coffered ceilings of fibrous plaster. The general form of the whole ceiling is semi circular with beautifully modelled pilasters and entablature. The whole interior is enriched with model mouldings. There are synthetic stone windows, with glazing in stained glass and amber coloured leadlights. There is high quality parquetry flooring in combinations of tallowood and jarrah, with the remainder of the joinery in silky oak, including the pews. This quality finish and joinery is carried into the sacristy areas. There is a connecting stairway between this sacristy section, the undercroft and the choir gallery above. A notable feature is the rose windows of synthetic stone and stained glass.

Whatever about the architectural and aesthetic merits of the Chapel, its construction also represented a monumental disruption to the original integrity of the purposes and presentation of the site, changing its character irreversibly. This chapel, larger than many parish churches, is a now long-established 'given' for the site. An argument could be made however for some amelioration of its presentation, which may assist towards restoring the visual 'balance' and placing greater focus on the original built elements - particularly *Glentworth House* and its immediate garden spaces. The Chapel is not as delicate a structure as the original home and its external walls have largely been left as un-painted concrete. Aspects of the current landscaping and arboreal features, currently soften the imposition of the structure and further strategies, such as subtle modifications to the directional appreciation could be helpful.



Figure 2.6.74
The main eastern elevation of the Chapel, showing the formal driveway entrance. Note the mature trees to the north, and the open nature of the site, circa 1940s.
(Source: Aevum historic photographic archival material)



Figure 2.6.75
The point of intersection between the historic *Glentworth House* (1886) and the Chapel (1941). Note the fenestration adjustment at the first floor level



Figure 2.6.76

The 1941 Chapel features three wings for congregational divisions between the 'Choir' (nuns Chapel), the resident girls, and the public. Each section/division faced towards the sanctuary area, but with replicated features such as the Stations of the cross. Above the Nun's Chapel is an infirmary section (as indicated by the red arrow) for the sick sisters to attend mass. This has immediate connection with the first floor of the 1941 Convent extensions. Image is probably 1960s

Source: Picture Australia, National Library photographic database pic-an 24493578-v



Figure 2.6.77

The 1941 Chapel features three wings for congregational divisions. This section is for the resident girls. The public section in this image is on the other side of the sanctuary (indicated by the red arrow). Image is probably 1960s

Source: Picture Australia, National Library photographic database pic-an 24493506-v



Figure 2.6.78

View into the nave of the section of the Chapel for the resident girls and showing the confessionals at the rear, ground floor and the choir loft on the gallery level. The choir loft was complete with substantial pipe organ. Image is probably 1960s

Source: Picture Australia, National Library photographic database pic-an 24493563-v

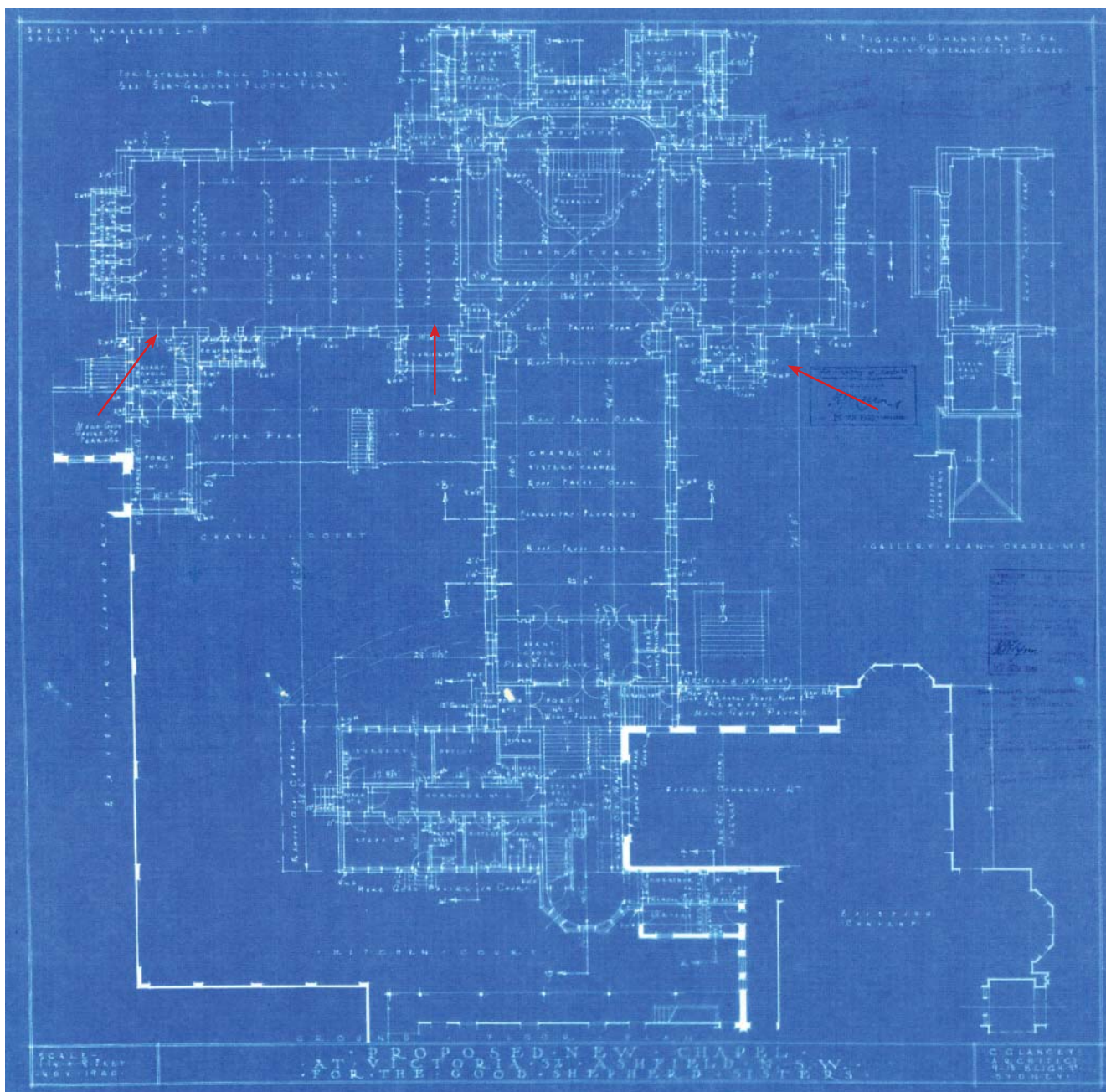


Figure 2.6.79

Image of original blueprint for the 1941 Chapel showing the three entrances, as indicated by the red arrows: resident girls, upper left; the public, upper right; and the nuns bottom centre, through from the Convent. It is unusual that such a large and imposing church structure has such understated entrances as the two at the top for the girls and the public. The Chapel has generous proportions, both in its footprint as well as its height and interior volumes. It has five distinct spaces: the Nun's chapel; the resident girls chapel; the public chapel; the sanctuary area; and the two sacristy areas (priest sacristy and work sacristy). There are a number of ancillary rooms/ areas such as the confessionals, the infirmery balcony, the choir loft and the sisters entrance foyer. The blueprint shows the manner in which the then new Chapel building incorporated the extensions to the Convent. The 'connector' section presents with three stairways: two of these link the Chapel to the level of the old house and to the verandah space of the old house; and a grand stairways leads up to the first floor, linking the new rooms in this extension as well as a through way to the rooms in the old house
(Source: 1941 Glancey plans, Ashfield Council archives)

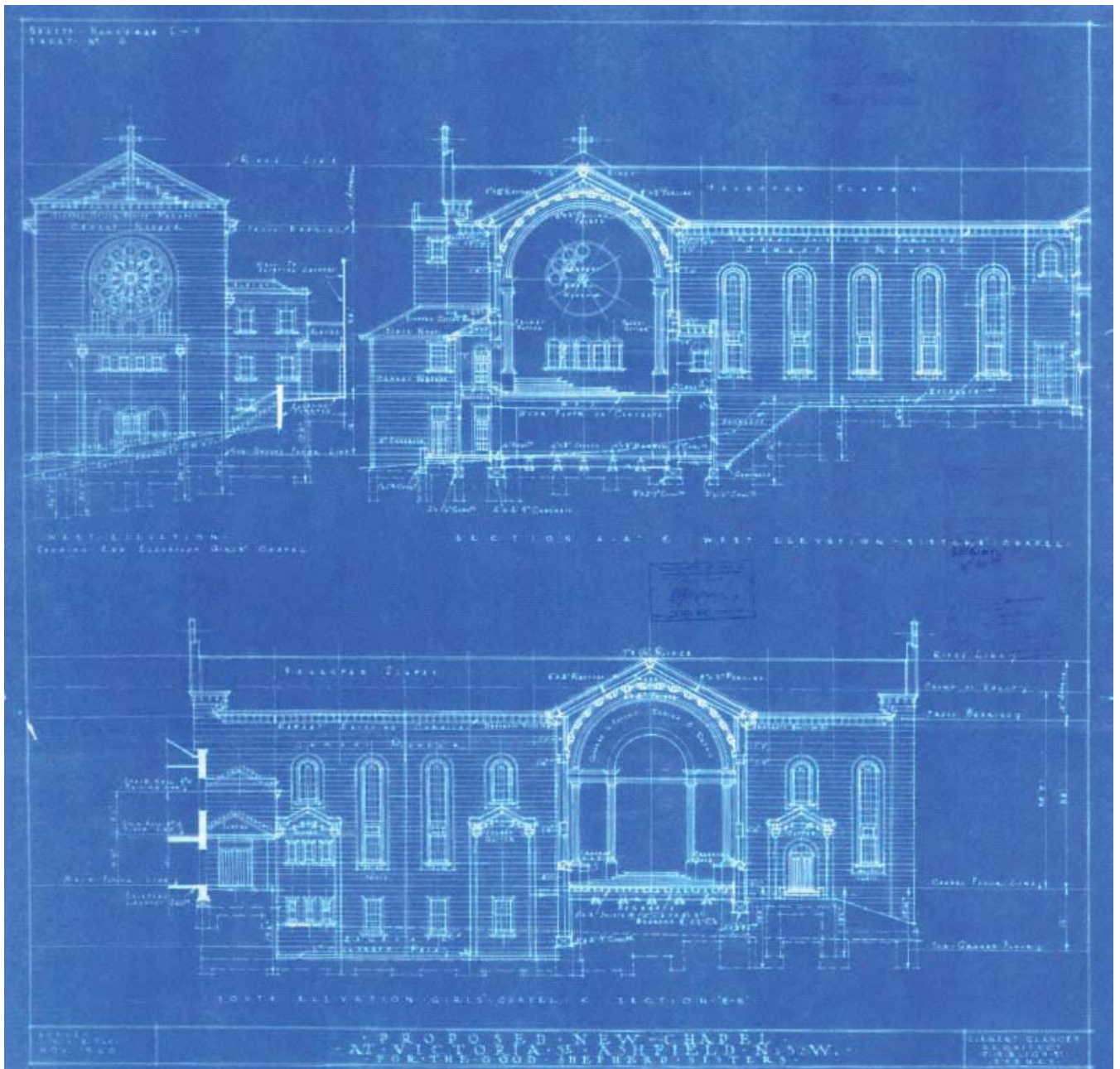
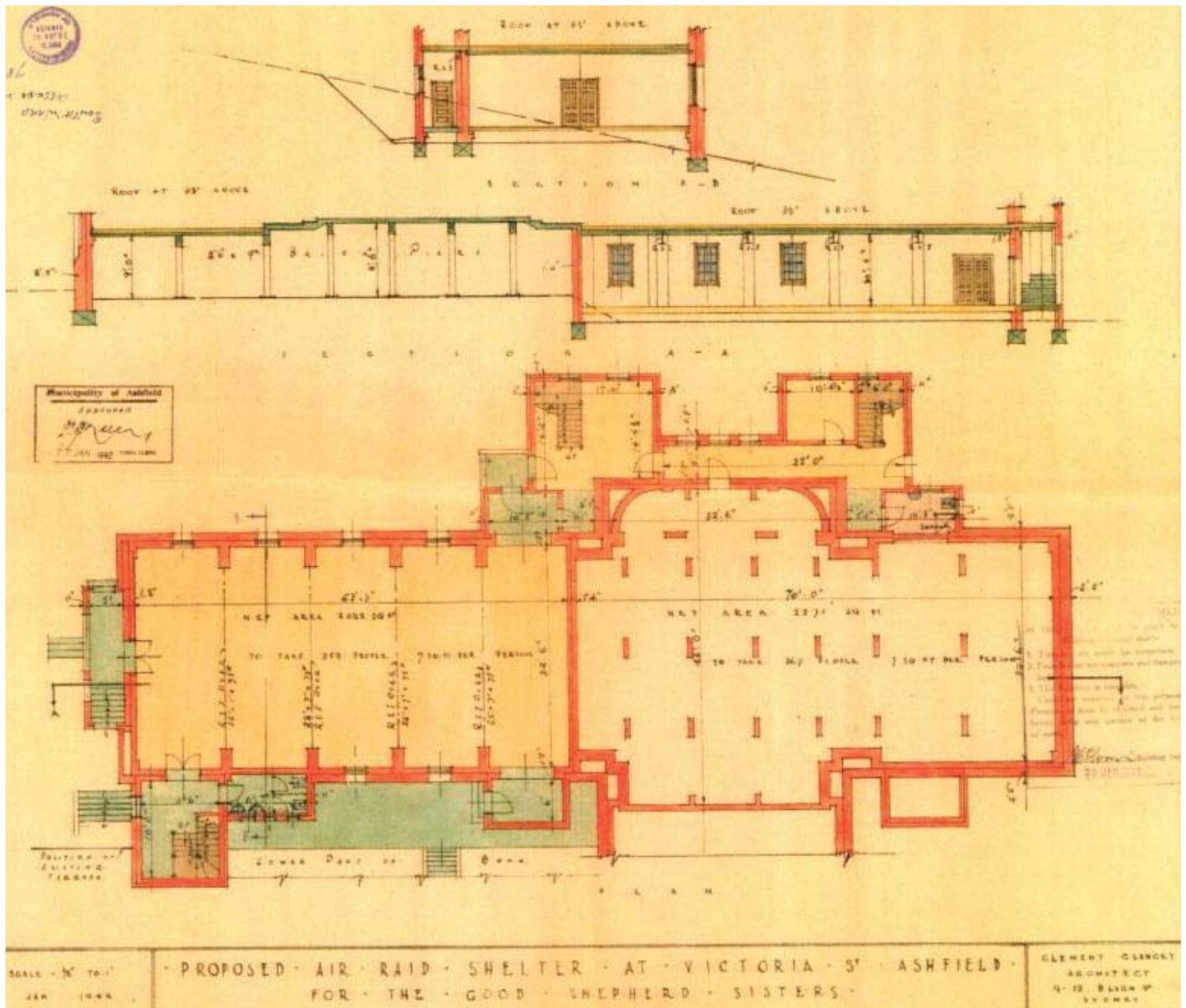


Figure 2.6.80

The elevations and through sections of the Chapel from the original Glancey blueprints provide a good impression of the stylistic detailing, the height and volume of the building and its under-croft. The Chapel is constructed on a site which falls from south to north and from west to east. Thus its main interior floor level is below that of the the old *Glentworth House* and the large under-croft area is accessible at two sides (east and north)

(Source: 1941 Glancey plans, Ashfield Council archives)

2.6.8 (a) The Undercroft



At about the time of the completion of the Chapel in 1942, there was a further building proposal (9523/42) documenting an 'Air Raid Shelter', to be built in the basement of the new Church building for Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The Chapel was being constructed as the Second World War escalated and as the likelihood of an attack on Sydney increased. A central point of assembly and the provision of safe area was becoming a necessity as this building drew to completion, and the undercroft of the Church was chosen as the best place. Such shelters were common during these years. In the Application, the nature of business conducted by the Sisters is listed as a charitable home for girls and women delinquents, with laundry to assist the home. Listed as residents are eight men in various capacities as drivers, engineer, carpenters and gardeners, and with approximately 235 otherwise residing.

Later changes to this area included the insertion of a chaplain's quarters at the western end and the later office fitout for the Sister's of the Good Shepherd.

Figure 2.6.82

The under-croft construction as it presented by the early 1940's was the result of a separate Development Application in 1942 for an Air Raid Shelter 9523/42. The number of residents was listed as 235 (the plan indicates 367 people). This area may be entered either externally or from the Chapel and Convent. Its interior spaces are large and the plan shows two bathroom spaces. In effect however, as indicated by the quality and style of tiling and joinery, it would seem that from the time of its construction this under-croft presented with individual rooms, and generous bathroom and kitchen facilities. It is currently divided into three general sections: A Good Shepherd Reception area with interview rooms and former *Hiberian* archives rooms; a sizeable chaplains quarters; workrooms with machinery and equipment store (Source: 1941 Glancey plans, Ashfield Council archives)



Figure 2.6.83
Archive and equipment store



Figure 2.6.84
The landfall permits exposed access

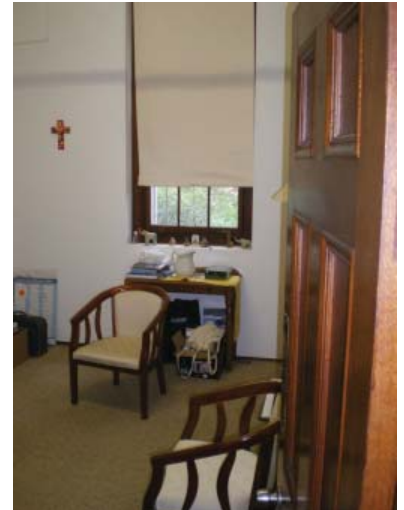


Figure 2.6.85
Interview room, *Good Shepherd Centre*



Figure 2.6.86
The work room section



Figure 2.6.87
Quality timber stair to the Chapel above



Figure 2.6.88
kitchen space chaplains quarters



Figure 2.6.89
Store area



Figure 2.6.90
Hibernian Society Archival room



Figure 2.6.91
The store area, showing ceiling height

2.7 Layout of Grounds, Carriageways, Paths, Fencing, Perimeter Walls & Ancillary Buildings

The 1912 advertisement for the auction of the property (*Sydney Morning Herald* October 9, 1912) states “No better or more highly finished residence is to be discovered around our city” The advertisement describes it as “the gem of the west” and it outlines grounds which comprise well kept lawns, flower garden, shrubbery, hedges, in a highly improved five acres of land, and complete at the rear with a large stable with loft over and four vehicle spaces.

The palisade fencing along Victoria Street, the formal entrance gates and their pilasters, as well as a formal drive configuration curving upwards towards the main house, appear to be original elements of the presentation of the property.

The Victoria Street aspect has been substantially disrupted however by the introduction of smaller built elements, pathways and road-ways. The Victoria Street palisade fencing evidences two different kinds of masonry base. The area near to the main house is characterised by classic bullnose base, while that further to the north is constructed in on a flat stone base.

It may be assumed that this palisade fencing extended around the corner of the property at its southeast aspect as is indicated by the extant corner pilaster, and by the fact that this corner would have originally been the principle aspect towards the property, with the line of site extending across the garden spaces at the corner of Victoria and Seaview Streets, with this area of the site being the predominant formal presentation.

After 1913 that part of the property became a convent enclosure for a semi-enclosed religious order. It is speculative, but reasonable to propose that the high masonry wall along Seaview Street at this southeast corner of the property may therefore be a replacement for earlier palisade fencing.

Other stone perimeter fencing around the property generally is of an unusually substantial nature. While it appears to have been in place by the time of the 1943 aerials, it is unlikely that such an institution as the Good Shepherd home would purpose source and construct in this type of material. Moreover the construction method and nature of the mortar indicate that this stone has been recycled.

A brief technical examination by a stonework practitioner has noted the following points: The stone is generally of uniform dimensions; it has a general uniformity of colour, type and finish; it has a probable single source (quarry); it is constructed with consistent course height; the construction method however indicates a recycling and perhaps a construction over time; the mortar and mortar joints are variable.



Figure 2.7.1
Early 20th century image showing finely presented grounds and gravel drive
(Source: Aevum archives, historic photographic)



Figure 2.7.2
An image from circa 1970s shows the maintenance of the garden spaces
(Source: Aevum archives, historic photographic)



Figure 2.7.3
The main entrance gates as the entrance currently presents, substantial pilasters



Figure 2.7.4
The pilaster at the southeast corner of the property

While at the time of writing it is still speculative, it may reasonably be assumed that the majority of this stone supply existed either on site or was nearby prior to the construction of the perimeter fencing. One such source may have come from the demolition of the old *Bellevue House*, which in some records is described as an 'ancient stone house'. Certainly some evidence for an evolutionary growth of this older residence is suggested by its unusual footprint. There were also a number of ancillary buildings, some of which may have contained stone construction.



Figure 2.7.5

The three diagrams above show from left, the 1886 houses sited at the south end of both lots with open agricultural spaces to the north; the 1941 building pattern confined primarily to the south half of the site with the 'farmlet' activities to the north; and at far right, the 1980s Villa and Hostel development retaining the structure of the quadrants, even though the spatial relationship has been destroyed (Source: Hill Thalys Architecture & Urban projects, 2009)

The overall site in both its origins and its phases of development may be observed as essentially presenting in four quadrants. This basic pattern was established by the original delineation of the registered land parcels, as well as other topographical features - such as a presumed early water-course and a relatively steep slope down to the more rustic agricultural 'farmlet' area. Development of site during the past century has tended to follow this basic quadrant pattern. In this regard the Hill Thalys report points out that like its immediate neighbouring block to the east - Victoria Square, the site logically divides into these quadrants, centred on a communal open space. This structure their report suggests, reflects the historic development of the site (see figures above). This natural progression of quadrants developed out of a pragmatic combination of factors:

- subdivision pattern that divided the block into halves
- ownership pattern that enabled the site to function as a whole
- consistent siting of buildings - southern, higher sections of the two lots
- arrangement and management of services - historically
- farming on the northern, lower sections of the two lots
- the main entry gate for Glentworth House being approximately midway along the Victoria Street boundary
- the construction of a cottage on the Bellevue site approximately midway down the Queen Street boundary
- topography.

While the construction of the villas and hostel has eroded the previously clear quadrant division, it is the one urban element that has been retained at least functionally if not spatially since the 1980s. The Hill Thalys report contends that there is an opportunity to reinstate a much clearer definition of the site into these historic quadrants, and that this could assist the future management and servicing of the site and also improve its spatial arrangement. This is also the view established within this Conservation Management Plan after careful consideration of these issues.

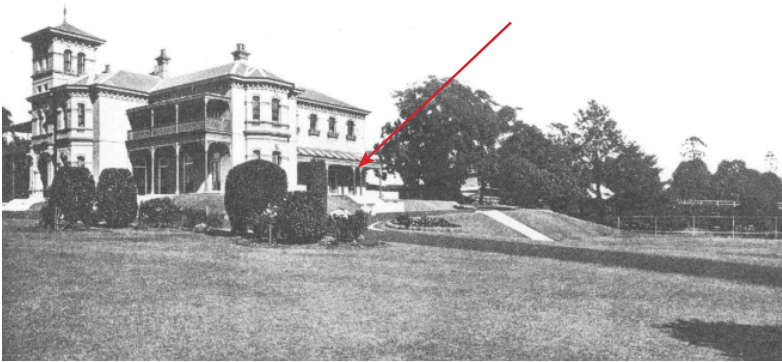


Figure 2.7.6
Historic image of *Glentworth House* taken from the north east in the early 20th century, and showing the driveway through well manicured grounds on sloping embankments. The delicate original north verandah is clearly evident
(Source: *Sisters of the Good Shepherd Archive Ref GL 81079*)



Figure 2.7.7
Historic image of the grounds of *Glentworth House*, early 20th century, looking towards the north east from the corner of the verandah as indicated in the above photo by the red arrow. The whole of the property is obviously well laid out
(Source: *Sisters of the Good Shepherd Archive Ref GL 81080*)



Figure 2.7.8
Historic image of *Glentworth House* taken after the Chapel addition in 1941. It shows the circular drive still in place with the statue of the Good Shepherd in the centre. The pilaster at the southeast corner of the property
(Source: *Sisters of the Good Shepherd Archive Ref GL 81057*)



Figure 2.7.9
View *Circa* 1970s of the interior of the stone perimeter wall along Clissold Street
(Source: Aevum archives, historic photographic)



Figure 2.7.11
The cast iron initials in the original gate denote Frederick Clissold, and not Cardinal Freeman



Figure 2.7.13
The stone perimeter wall encompasses large section of the property

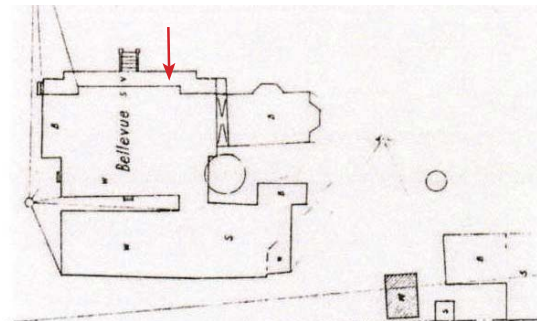


Figure 2.7.15
The unusual footprint of the old *Bellevue* residence suggests the earlier 'ancient stone' building
Source: 1886 Water Board plan



Figure 2.7.10
Current view of the same perimeter wall from Clissold Street



Figure 2.7.12
The palisade fencing extends along the Victoria Street (east) perimeter of the property



Figure 2.7.14
The masonry wall at the southeast corner was likely to have been a post 1913 wall for the Convent cloister

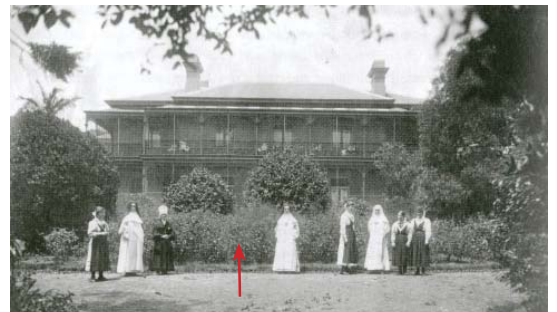


Figure 2.7.16
Image of the old *Bellevue* residence pre-1937 (the red arrow relates to the image direction left in footprint left)
Source: *Pitch Your Tents on Distant Shores* p214



Figure 2.7.17
The stones around the entire perimeter of the complex evidence a single source in their general qualities of colouration etc. Various areas have been re-pointed at different times and with different mortar types



Figure 2.7.18
The general mode of construction consists of double skin with capping stones. If the wall were purpose sourced, the stones would be of single width. The manner of construction typically indicates the stones have been sourced from a previous structure which likely had a similar double skin construction



Figure 2.7.19
The re-pointing is variable in mortar type and the areas undertaken. The original mortar is very soft.



Figure 2.7.20
The stones are quite irregular at various places and constructed with some unusual variation of horizontal and vertical positioning. The original mortar is very soft.

2.8 Summary Overview of Site Development and of Documented Changes to Building Fabric

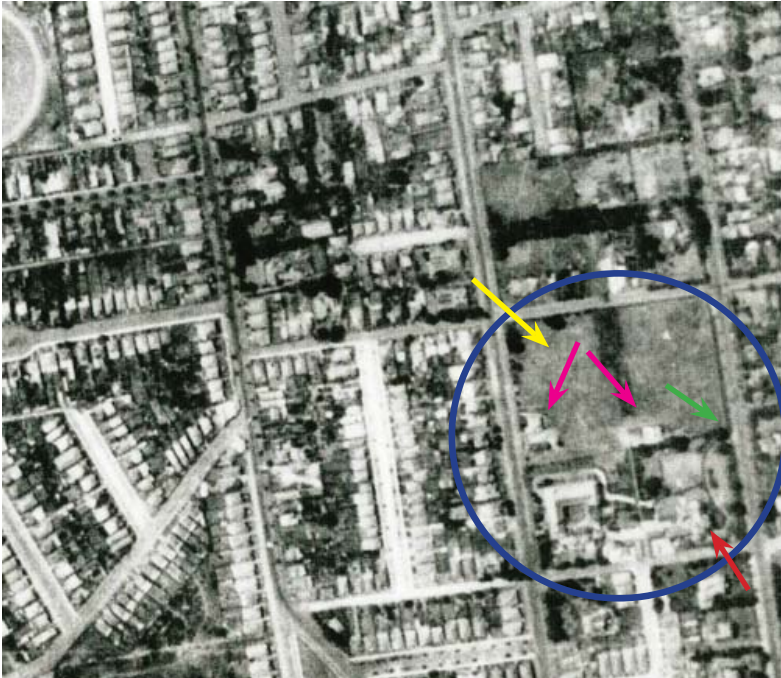


Figure 2.8.1
1930 aerial showing the Good Shepherd complex in its suburban context. *Glentworth House* is indicated by the red arrow; the 'L' shaped boarding school complex by the yellow arrow; the main entrance gate by the green arrow and the ancillary buildings on agricultural land by the pink arrows
(Source: NSW Dept of Lands and RTA)

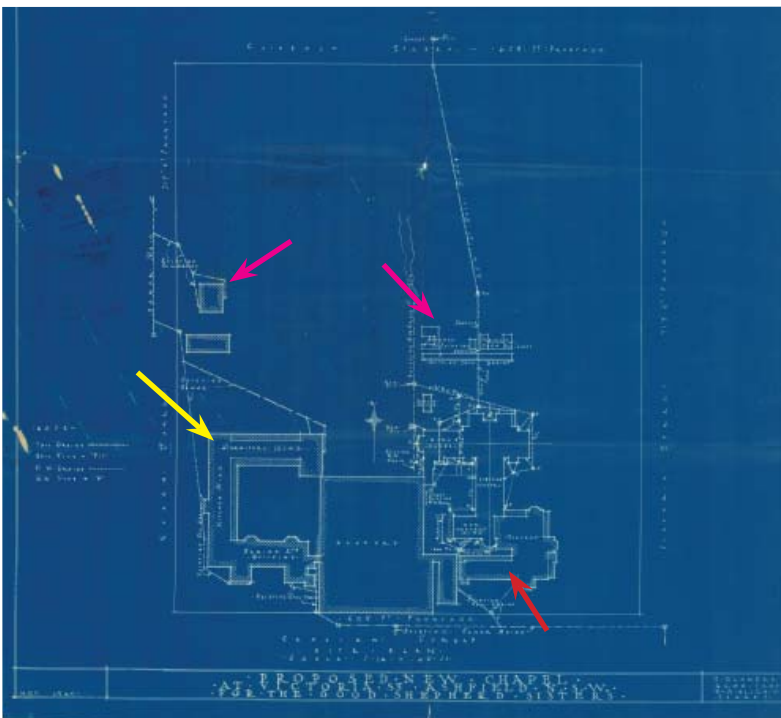


Figure 2.8.2
The November 1940 Glancey blueprint plans show the same set of buildings as the 1930 aerial. As well as utilities, store and equipment buildings, it is understood that there were other cottages for workers, drivers and a chaplain
(Source: Ashfield Council Archives)

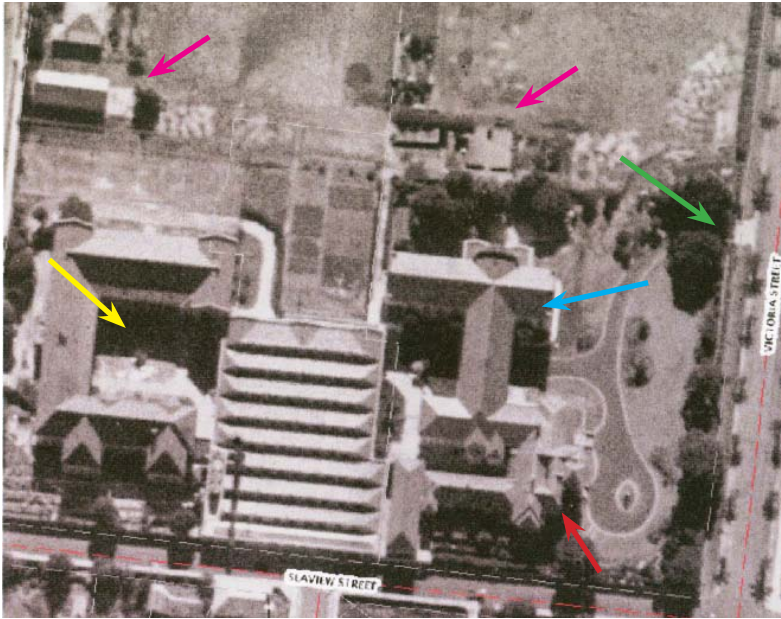


Figure 2.8.3
1943 aerial showing *Glentworth House*, as indicated by the red arrow; the then new Chapel as indicated by the blue arrow; the main original entrance gates as indicated by the green arrow; the boarding school and sewing/infirmiry complex with courtyard, as indicated by the yellow arrow; and the ancillary agricultural and other accommodations as indicated by the pink arrows. To the north of the laundry which was set atop the substantial brick retaining wall, there appears to be vegetable gardens
(Source: NSW Department of Lands/RTA)

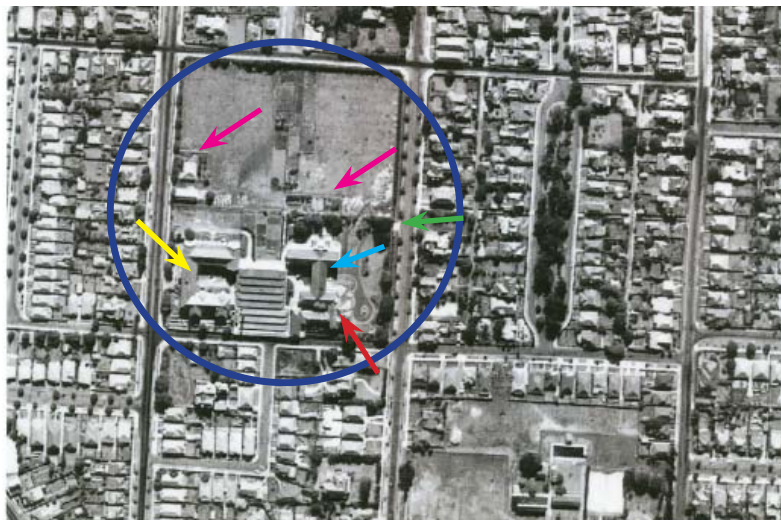


Figure 2.8.4
1978 aerial showing the same set of buildings and within the suburban precinct context. There had been little obvious change in the 35 year period since the 1943 aerial. The agricultural component appears to be still operating as such, including a patch worked area indicating vegetable gardens
(Source: NSW Department of Lands/RTA)

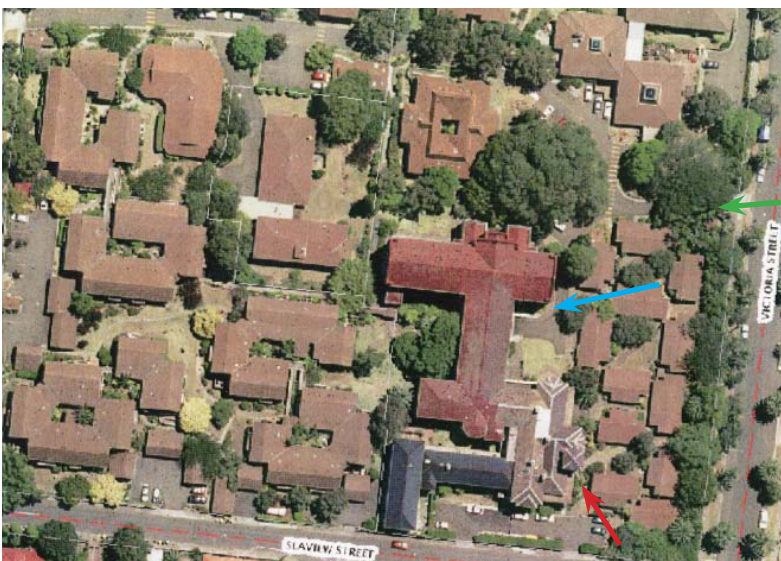


Figure 2.8.5
2007 aerial view after the development of the present retirement complex, showing *Glentworth House* as indicated by the red arrow and the Chapel as indicated by the blue arrow
(Source: NSW Dept Lands SIX Viewer)

The following details show the subsequent changes to existing buildings, and new developments that are recorded in the Archives at Ashfield Municipal Council. As yet there is no record of the initial internal changes to the building. These were presumably effected about the time of takeover in order to re-configure the residence for convent and refuge purposes. The following records date from the period when the site was administered as a school and reformatory facility by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, until its use as the Cardinal Freeman Village.

| Application No | Details |
|----------------|---|
| 9249/37 | New infirmary and sewing building for Sisters of the Good Shepherd |
| 9200/40 | Chapel |
| 9523/42 | Proposed Air Raid Shelter to be built in the basement of the new Church building for Sisters of the Good Shepherd; Nature of Business: charitable home for girls and women delinquents; laundry to assist the home; eight men in various capacities as drivers, engineer, carpenters, gardeners; circa 235 otherwise residing |
| 17/11/1953 | <i>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.</i> <i>Approved Continued use of land and retention of convent</i> <i>Rejected Laundry did not conform with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1951</i> |
| 1288/53 | Alteration to kitchen and stores |
| 1981/56 | Engineer's workshop in laundry |
| 2108/57 | Boiler room building for laundry |
| 2216/57 | Toilet block and dressing room |
| 2791/59 | Swimming pool to be erected in the Clissold/ Queen Street section |
| 3819/61 | Cancelled BA for school room |
| 3831/61 | Two school rooms added to existing building |
| 4017/62 | Recreation rooms added to school rooms |
| 4195/62 | Dining Room with Dormitory added to existing building |
| 4215/62 | Addition of parlour to existing building |
| 4243/62 | Change room and two toilets |
| 5096/64 | Garage on lots 3 and 4 |
| 5502/65 | Addition of two school rooms and a hairdressing salon to existing buildings lots 3 and 4 |

| | |
|----------|---|
| 5652/65 | Additional bathrooms and group rooms to existing buildings lots 3 and 4 |
| 1806/ 77 | 10 October 197, Ashfield Council approves the use of part of the property as a retirement village |
| 60/78 | Alterations and laundry |
| 289/78 | Superseded plans and stormwater details Cardinal Freeman Village |
| 481/78 | Sisters' residence lots 3 and 4 |
| 320/79 | House 1 x 5 bedroom residences and carport corner Clissold and Queen Streets |
| 321/79 | House 1 x 5 bedroom residences and carport corner Clissold and Queen Streets |
| 321/79 | Houses 2 x 5 bedroom residences and carport corner Clissold and Queen Streets |
| 334/79 | Seventeen (17) self-contained units: aged; self-care |
| 74/81 | Stage 3B Glentworth House alterations to provide 25 residential units as part of Cardinal Freeman Retirement Village |
| 213/81 | Convert ground floor area under Chapel to two self-contained units |
| 252/82 | Stage 2C: 12 self-contained units |
| 425/82 | Installation of lift in Glentworth House |
| 495/83 | Nursing home Stage 1, fronting Clissold Street |
| 245/84 | Brick convent for aged nuns built on corner of Queen and Seaview Streets; disused buildings on site (Queen Street boundary); existing buildings – laundry and Chapel |
| 263/84 | Nursing Home Stage 2 |
| 256/85 | Two-storey hostel and 66 self-contained units, Queen Street |
| 257/85 | Six (6) carports |
| 157/86f | Brick storeroom attached to ambulance bay at Nursing Home |
| 126/87 | Cluster 1 and 2 self-care units |
| 185/88 | Stage 3 clusters 5 and 6 self-care units |
| 362/88 | Convert existing crafts room to village administration offices |
| 542/88 | Reconstruction of boundary wall to southern half of Queen Street and part of Seaview Street; alteration of wall opposite self-care units, part of original laundry building (demolished); alteration of brick wall on south side of Glentworth House |
| 63/89 | Activity Centre |