



Figure 47 Left—a group of voluntary aids on the steps of the stables building, undated (probably c1916). Right—Voluntary Aids ‘Finch and Lynch in scullery’ of Graythwaite, undated (probably c1916). Source: Australian Red Cross NSW Division Archives.

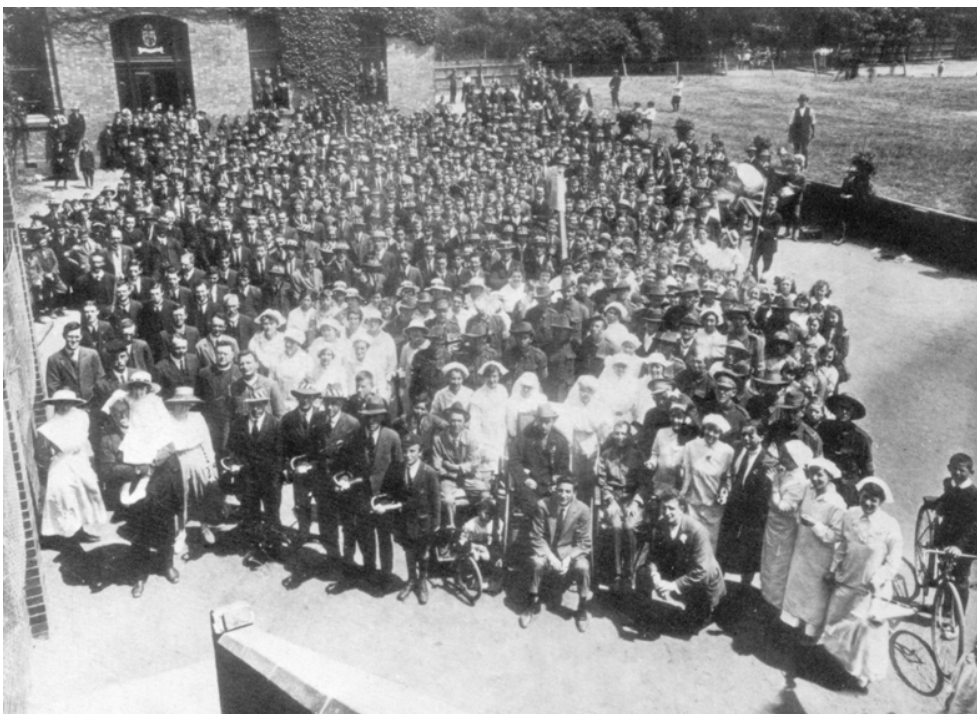


Figure 48 Celebration of Armistice was shared by staff and patients of Graythwaite and the Shore School. Note the relatively small number of men in attendance. The number is consistent with other photographs of 1916-1918, suggesting that the 40 bed capacity was rarely reached. Source: Sherrington 1983, P108.

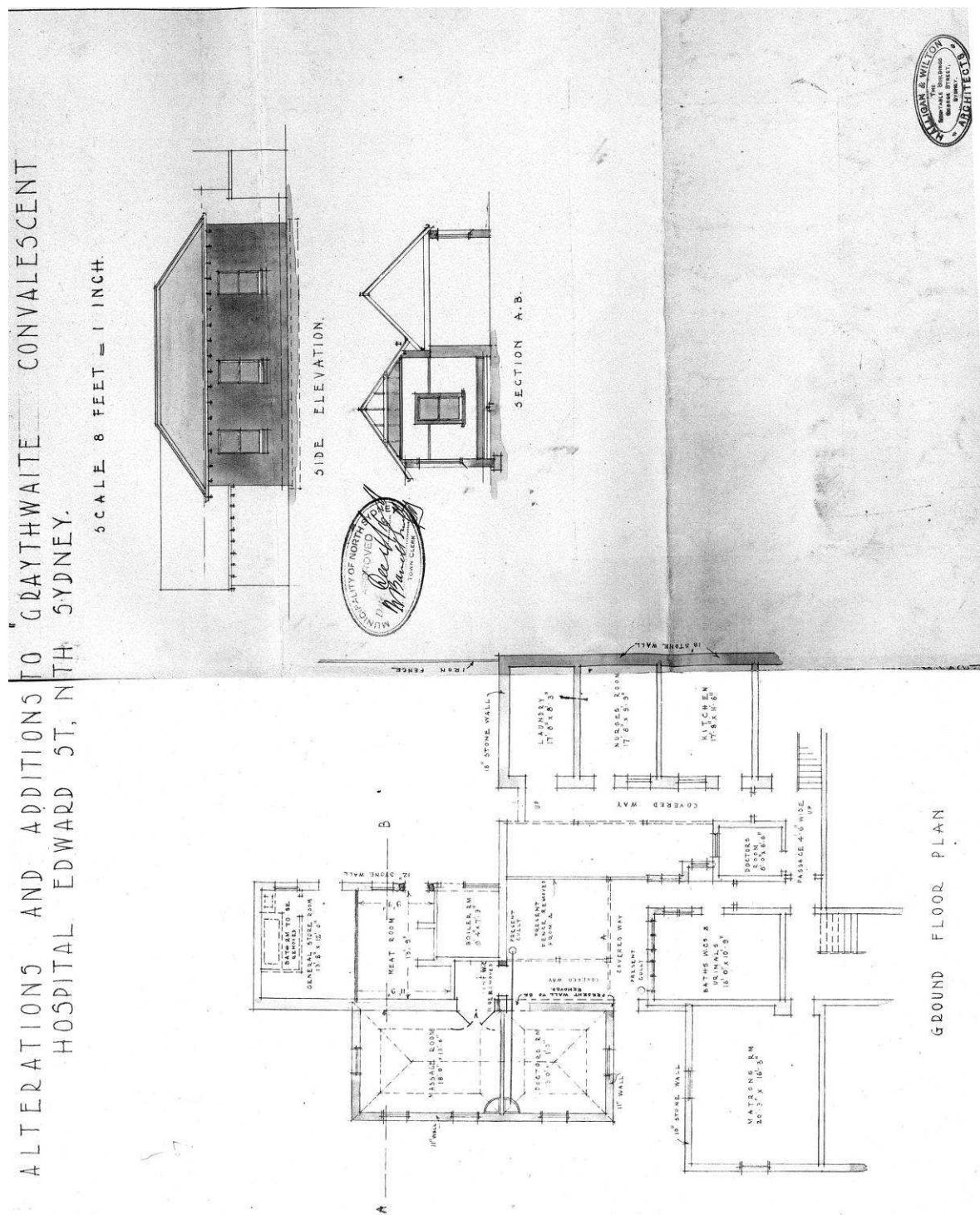


Figure 49 The plans for the building that housed the massage room and doctor's room.  
Source: Stanton Library.

### 1.3.6 Graythwaite Anzac Hostel

In May 1918 the Red Cross agreed with the newly established Commonwealth Repatriation Commission that Graythwaite would be used as a hostel for permanently and totally incapacitated former soldiers.<sup>135</sup> Under the new arrangement, Graythwaite became an important institution in connection with the functions of the Repatriation Commission, which had been formed in March 1918 as part of a coordinated response to the future needs of the fit and disabled veterans of the war.<sup>136</sup> Significantly for the future of Graythwaite, the Department was charged with responsibility for all recurrences of war disabilities after discharge from the AIF, and within months after the Armistice some 10,000 convalescents and invalids returned to Australia,<sup>137</sup> although the actual number of totally incapacitated servicemen was remarkably small at 108 with another 500 seriously incapacitated.<sup>138</sup>

Whereas Graythwaite had hitherto provided temporary accommodation for convalescing patients, in its new role it accommodated men whose injuries necessitated long-term stays and total care. Graythwaite was the first of a planned series of such institutions in Australia,<sup>139</sup> which were known as Anzac Hostels.<sup>140</sup> Under a new funding agreement with the Commonwealth, the Repatriation Commission reimbursed the Red Cross at a daily rate for each case referred for treatment.<sup>141</sup> The hostel also took in men who had not satisfied the Repatriation Commission's stringent assessments but who had war disabilities. The cost of these men's care was met by the Red Cross.<sup>142</sup> The Red Cross guaranteed the Repatriation Commission that it would maintain Graythwaite for the totally incapacitated for as long as required.<sup>143</sup>

The Anzac Hostels system continued the tradition of private donations and the Red Cross continued to raise funds both to give the men the "little extra comforts and luxuries which they had come to depend on",<sup>144</sup> and also to erect and equip a new ward for spinal cases.<sup>145</sup> The new ward was officially opened on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1918 by the Minister for Repatriation Senator Millen. The ward, erected at a cost of around £3,736,<sup>146</sup> was equipped to accommodate thirty patients and attached to it were the necessary administrative offices, and very wide verandahs.<sup>147</sup> This building became known as the Hut.<sup>148</sup> A recreation room was also completed in December 1919 at a cost of around £1,605,<sup>149</sup> with a generous donation of £1,000 from the North Sydney branch of the War Chest.<sup>150</sup> These buildings were designed by architects Halligan and Wilton. An account of these buildings in 1920 noted the patients were accommodated in the Hut with the recreation room attached having windows overlooking the garden and harbour and "into this great, cheerful room men who are bedridden are wheeled in".<sup>151</sup>

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<sup>135</sup> *SMH* 30/5/1918, p8

<sup>136</sup> Lloyd and Rees 1994, p.147

<sup>137</sup> Lloyd and Rees 1994, p.150

<sup>138</sup> *Argus* 7/7/1919, p.7

<sup>139</sup> *SMH* 7/10/1918, p.3

<sup>140</sup> Lloyd and Rees 1994; Graythwaite was referred to as an Anzac Hostel in *SMH* 13/10/1921 p.10

<sup>141</sup> Lloyd and Rees 1994, p.151

<sup>142</sup> Oppenheimer, M., 'Graythwaite – An ANZAC Hostel, 1916-1980,' unpublished paper held by Shore School Archives, May 2007, p.6 (Oppenheimer 2007)

<sup>143</sup> *SMH* 13/10/1921, p.10

<sup>144</sup> *SMH* 13/10/1921, p.1-

<sup>145</sup> *SMH* 18/7/1918, p. 4

<sup>146</sup> British Red Cross Society – Australian Branch – NSW Division, Report and Financial Statement, 1918-19, in Edds 2000

<sup>147</sup> *SMH* 7/10/1918, p.3

<sup>148</sup> *SMH* 13/4/1920, p.10

<sup>149</sup> British Red Cross Society – Australian Branch – NSW Division, Report and Financial Statement, 1918-19, in Edds 2000

<sup>150</sup> *SMH* 25/7/1919, p.8

<sup>151</sup> *SMH* 13/4/1920, p.10

It was in the recreation room where the religious and commemorative services were held, guests greeted, and entertainments performed over the following decades.<sup>152</sup> It seems probable the incapacitated men spent the majority of their time in this room and/or the open verandah taking in the harbour view, a tradition that seems to have continued over the years for the practice was commented on in 1955.<sup>153</sup> These new facilities were erected in the area of the former tennis court to the east of the main house, and a new tennis court was laid to the south-west of the house.<sup>154</sup> Another development of this time was a new lavatory block,<sup>155</sup> that formed part of the new ward development. The new buildings were erected for and funded by the Red Cross and designed by the Society's honorary architects, Halligan and Wilton.<sup>156</sup> The total scope of the developments of 1916-1919 is shown in a survey of the site prepared by the Public Works Department in 1936.<sup>157</sup>

Another outcome of this change in use was the compulsory acquisition in 1919 for £3,600 of the neighbouring property, Upton Grange, by the Repatriation Department to accommodate the nurses and voluntary aid nurses working at Graythwaite.<sup>158</sup> The house, which was built in 1870, was owned by Sarah Hixson (nee Lord) the widow of Francis William.<sup>159</sup> Details on the number of nurses at Graythwaite at any given time are not available. In 1919 staff consisted of the matron, four sisters, three trainee nurses, a resident masseuse and four voluntary masseuses, probably the Society's Voluntary Aids.<sup>160</sup>

It is known that Matron Maher was in charge of the nursing staff at Graythwaite from its opening and she was succeeded by Matron Keith (who retired 1921)<sup>161</sup> and she was assisted by Matron Veenan and Matron Innes.<sup>162</sup> Matron Keith was replaced by Matron Morton who was assisted by Matron V Horswill. Horswill was a veteran of the First World War having served with the Australian Army Nursing Services and remained at Graythwaite until 1960 (with some intervening years spent at Lady Gowrie Convalescent Home), being the sister in charge from 1928.<sup>163</sup>

As some of the incapacitated men at Graythwaite could not physically leave the property and take part in normal life, occupational therapy and entertainment needed to be brought to the men.<sup>164</sup> The first entertainment event staged at Graythwaite in its new role was held on Christmas eve 1918. In attendance at this concert were Governor-General Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson and his wife. A Christmas tree was installed on the verandah of the new ward and supper was served there.<sup>165</sup>

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<sup>152</sup> ie. *SMH* 13/11/1933, p.8

<sup>153</sup> Red Cross Annual Report 1954/55

<sup>154</sup> LD Aerial photograph 1930

<sup>155</sup> British Red Cross Society – Australian Branch – NSW Division, Report and Financial Statement, 1918-19, in Edds 2000

<sup>156</sup> Red Cross Finance Minutes 9/5/1918, 30/5/1918, 6/6/1918, 21/11/1918, 5/12/1918, 8/5/1919

<sup>157</sup> NSW Public Works Department PWD) – Drawing PH84/3

<sup>158</sup> *SMH* 10/1/1919, p.6

<sup>159</sup> National Archives of Australia (NAA) – Series SP948/1 - Graythwaite and Upton Grange Red Cross Hostels. Upton Grange had various tenants over the years inclusive of architect William Wilkinson Wardell and members of the Windeyer family.

<sup>160</sup> Red Cross AR 1918/1919

<sup>161</sup> *SMH* 13/8/1921, p. 14

<sup>162</sup> *SMH* 9/5/1917, p.5

<sup>163</sup> *SMH* 20/3/1941, p.16

Red Cross AR 1927-28, AR 60/61

<sup>164</sup> *SMH* 7/10/1918, p.3

<sup>165</sup> *SMH* 24/12/1918, p.8

The provision of entertainment such as a concert party was a regular feature of life at Graythwaite.<sup>166</sup> The men were trained in a range of crafts that would both secure an income but also provide an amusement for the “otherwise weary hours”.<sup>167</sup> The range of crafts included leatherwork, book binding and cane basket ware, with the products being sold in large quantities across metropolitan and country districts.<sup>168</sup> The craft workshops were located within the building to the north-west of the main house, a building which seems to have been constructed as part of the 1916 alterations and additions.

The care at Graythwaite was done by a detachment of voluntary aid who undertook the menial tasks, cared for the patients, and maintained the house and grounds.<sup>169</sup> The VAs were mostly young women who worked long hours in the most menial of duties. An example of the life of Muriel Doherty has been published and is considered representative. She joined the North Sydney Detachment in 1915 and began work at Graythwaite in early 1916. Here she worked twelve-hour shifts tending to the washing, cleaning of wards, cooking, polishing, cleaning the silver and making beds.<sup>170</sup>

In the years following the end of the war, the Red Cross in general found fewer women willing to volunteer their time, however local women, in particular the Cremorne detachment, continued to volunteer for duty at Graythwaite well into the 1920s, often motivated by the need to ensure the men were not “forgotten”.<sup>171</sup> Other means of remembering the men were the concert and supper parties arranged by the house committee and given once a month, together with dinner and theatre parties staged twice a year. Christmas was celebrated and sacrifice remembered on Anzac Day and Armistice Day.<sup>172</sup> The Anzac Fellowship of Women arranged for musical concerts,<sup>173</sup> and JC Williamson’s brought the men to matinee performances of its productions.<sup>174</sup> There was evidently an esprit de corps between the ex-patients given a Graythwaite Soldiers’ Association was formed.<sup>175</sup>

Another means of raising the profile of the hospital and its patients was by ensuring dignitaries and celebrities visited Graythwaite during their stay in Sydney. The Prince of Wales visited Graythwaite during his visit to Sydney in August 1921 and was said to “have been impressed by the beautiful situation of the hospital, and the splendid work that is being accomplished”.<sup>176</sup> Amy Johnson visited Graythwaite after her solo flight from London to Sydney in June 1930.<sup>177</sup> Patrons of the Red Cross also did their bit; Lady Game consented to be president of the Red Cross of NSW in 1930, and her first visit to a Red Cross institution was made to Graythwaite.<sup>178</sup> She continued to support the hostel over the early 1930s by visiting the men and attending fund raising events, which attracted publicity for the home.<sup>179</sup> During the late 1930s Billy Hughes, the former prime minister and then local member for North Sydney regularly attended events such as the annual Christmas fete and spoke of the courage and sacrifice of the men.<sup>180</sup>

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<sup>166</sup> *SMH* 28/2/1923, p.8

<sup>167</sup> *SMH* 2/4/1920, p.3

<sup>168</sup> *SMH* 13/5/1926, p.4

*SMH* 5/5/1936, p.5

<sup>169</sup> *SMH* 5/8/1919, p.6

<sup>170</sup> Oppenheimer 2007, pp.7-8

<sup>171</sup> *SMH* 28/2/1923, p.8

<sup>172</sup> *SMH* 13/11/1933, p.8

<sup>173</sup> *SMH* 12/11/1932, p.14

<sup>174</sup> *SMH* 27/9/1930, p.9

<sup>175</sup> *SMH* 14/5/1931, p.13

<sup>176</sup> *SMH* 19/8/1921, p.7

<sup>177</sup> *SMH* 12/6/1930, p.11

<sup>178</sup> *SMH* 14/6/1930, p.8

<sup>179</sup> ie *SMH* 16/10/1933, p.4

<sup>180</sup> ie *SMH* 30/10/1939, p.10

These visits do not seem to have been marked by events such as ceremonial plaques, etc., although an oak tree was planted on the visit of Lady Huntingfield in 1938.<sup>181</sup> Newspaper accounts of the annual Anzac Day and Armistice Day events regularly included a short notice on what happened at Graythwaite.<sup>182</sup> There was an RSL sub-branch.<sup>183</sup>

In 1923 the Commonwealth Government reviewed its funding of the hospitals and homes caring for the sick and disabled ex-soldiers with the intention of concentrating all patients in NSW at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick.<sup>184</sup> While the Commonwealth agreed to retain Graythwaite as a hostel for ex-soldiers,<sup>185</sup> it closed Upton Grange, the neighbouring nurses' home in 1924 and relocated the nurses to the upper floor of Graythwaite. Their new accommodation was created by infilling the first floor verandahs and partitioning the former helpers' clubroom and sewing room. The alterations were undertaken on behalf of the Commonwealth by the NSW Public Works Department at a cost of around £166,<sup>186</sup> which undertook repairs at Graythwaite around the same time.<sup>187</sup> Upton Grange was subsequently sold to Shore School for £5,000 and developed as its preparatory school.<sup>188</sup>

By the early 1920s the number of patients at Graythwaite was around 50, although not all had disabilities; in 1922 of the 52 patents 43 were Repatriation Department placements and nine were convalescents funded by the Red Cross.<sup>189</sup> By the mid 1920s this number had diminished.<sup>190</sup> In late 1925 Canonbury at Darling Point was closed and its patients relocated to Graythwaite.<sup>191</sup> Canonbury had been purchased in 1919 by the Australian Jockey Club as a home for totally and permanently incapacitated ex-soldiers and was managed by the Red Cross on behalf of the Commonwealth.<sup>192</sup> The closure of Canonbury brought the number of patients at Graythwaite up to 49.<sup>193</sup> With this number, the two large ground floor wards were reopened, requiring relocation of the four orderlies.<sup>194</sup> However, this number was not sustained for long and the average number of patients over the first half of the 1930s was around thirtyfive<sup>195</sup> and by 1934 the number was down to twenty-six patients,<sup>196</sup> of which about nine were recognised as war veterans and in receipt of an invalid pension.<sup>197</sup>

The fluctuating patient numbers determined the uses of the buildings as demonstrated by the following account of a visit by Lady Game in 1930:

The party first inspected the hut adjoining the main building, which contains the main ward and recreation room. Lady Game chatted to each of the 36 patients in the home. The main building, with its administrative quarters and nurses' rooms, was then inspected.<sup>198</sup>

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<sup>181</sup> *SMH* 14/4/1938, p.5

<sup>182</sup> ie. *SMH* 12/11/1931, p.10

<sup>183</sup> Oppenheimer 2007, p.12

<sup>184</sup> *SMH* 9/2/1923, p.12

<sup>185</sup> *SMH* 13/2/1923, p.9

<sup>186</sup> NAA – Series SP948/1 - Graythwaite and Upton Grange Red Cross Hostels

<sup>187</sup> *SMH* 26/9/1923

<sup>188</sup> *SMH* 8/9/1925, p.10 and NAA – Series SP948/1 - Graythwaite and Upton Grange Red Cross Hostels

<sup>189</sup> *SMH* 13/10/1921, p.10 and AR 1922/23

<sup>190</sup> *SMH* 20/8/1925, p.8

<sup>191</sup> *SMH* 20/8/1925, p.8

<sup>192</sup> *Repatriation*, 25 August 1919

<sup>193</sup> *SMH* 18/12/1925, p.5

<sup>194</sup> British Red Cross Society – Australian Branch – NSW Division, Report and Financial Statement, 1925-26 in Edds 2000

<sup>195</sup> *SMH* 12/8/1927, p.11

*SMH* 14/6/1930, p.8

<sup>196</sup> British Red Cross Society – Australian Branch – NSW Division, Report and Financial Statement, 1934-25, in Edds 2000

<sup>197</sup> *SMH* 22/8/1933, p.3

<sup>198</sup> *SMH* 14/6/1930, p.8

During the 1930s, the administrative uses of Graythwaite extended to hosting some sessions of the annual Red Cross conference.<sup>199</sup>

Over the early 1930s the number of veterans with a Commonwealth invalid pension applying for admission diminished and this had a detrimental impact on the finances of the running of Graythwaite. The decline in numbers was due to natural attrition with many of the patients who entered Graythwaite at the end of war subsequently died at Graythwaite. Examples include Robert Martin (b.1876) who was seriously wounded in 1917 and was admitted to Graythwaite in July 1918 and died there in 1934; Charles W Gunton (born 1890) who had contracted cerebro-spinal meningitis whilst in the camps in 1915 and was admitted to Graythwaite in January 1919 and died there in 1932.<sup>200</sup>

By 1934 the number of patients with an invalid pension had been reduced to six with a further twenty-two patients with disabilities not associated with war service. To counter this decline, the Red Cross sought permission to admit either private patients or take in veterans from convalescent homes as a means of bolstering its finances.<sup>201</sup> The request evidently was successful for by 1937 there were forty-seven veterans, of which only three were supported by an invalid pension.<sup>202</sup> In 1938 the Society sought funds from the NSW Hospitals Commission to rebuild the hospital in some form, but their application was declined.<sup>203</sup>

Perhaps because of the straitened financial circumstances of the 1930s, the NSW Government through the Public Works Department oversaw a programme of repairs and renovations at Graythwaite. This seems to have occurred on a recurrent annual basis with minor outlays, the most substantial being £423 spent on renovations in 1935. As part of this work, the hot water service was renewed in 1937.<sup>204</sup> In 1937 the Public Health Act was amended to enable religious and charitable organisations to secure guaranteed loans from the Hospitals' Commission to undertake alterations and additions. Over the 1938/39 financial year, the Department re-floored three wards, replaced the floor and wallboards in the kitchen.<sup>205</sup>

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<sup>199</sup> *SMH* 17/3/1931, p.4

<sup>200</sup> Oppenheimer 2007, p.10-11

<sup>201</sup> *SMH* 12/6/1935, p.14

*SMH* 8/9/1925, p.10

NAA – Series SP948/1 - Graythwaite and Upton Grange Red Cross Hostels.

<sup>202</sup> *SMH* 5/3/1937, p.7

<sup>203</sup> Red Cross AR 1938/39

<sup>204</sup> Tender for repairs and renovations - £173 *SMH* 7/3/1933, p.7

Tender for repairs and renovations - £55 *SMH* 18/12/1934, p.3

Tender for renovations - £423 *SMH* 11/6/1935, p.3

Tender for repairs and renovations - *SMH* 1/12/1936, p.6

Tender for renewal of water service - £88 *SMH* 31/8/1937, p.6

<sup>205</sup> Red Cross AR 1938/39



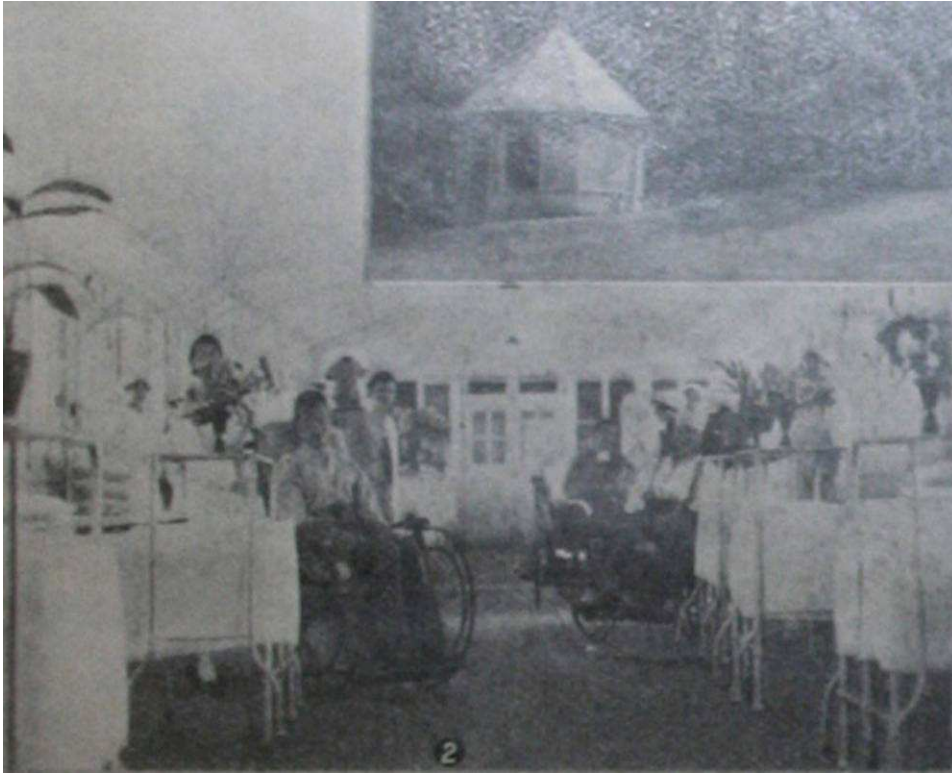


Figure 50 The interior of the ward for spinal cases that was opened in October 1918.  
Source: *Repatriation*, Vol.1 No.1, March 1919, p15.

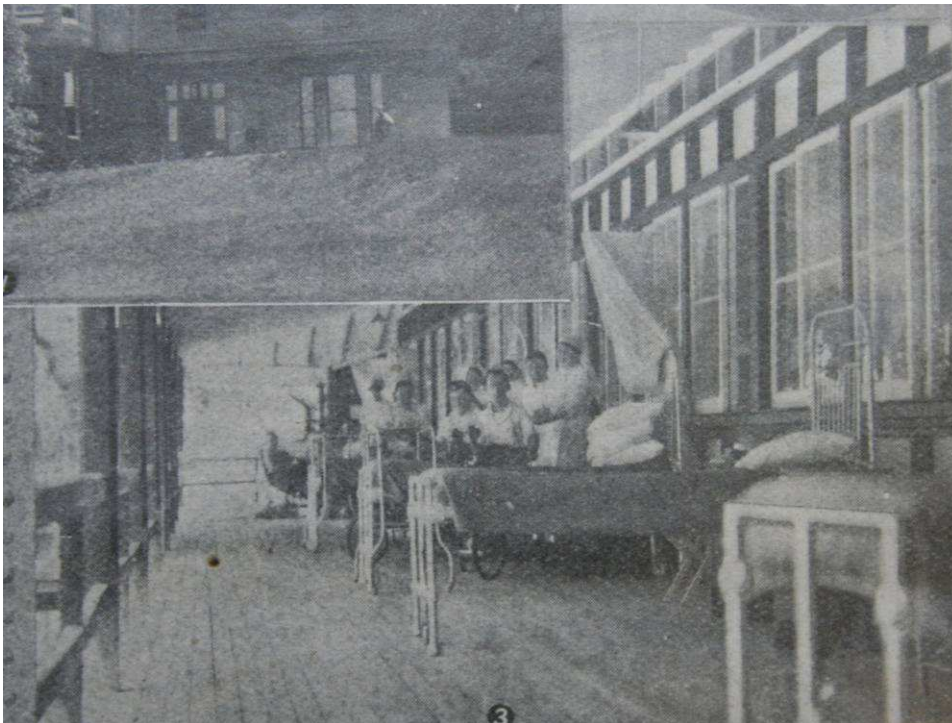


Figure 51 One of the wide sleep-out verandahs that flanked the spinal ward.  
Source: *Repatriation*, Vol.1 No.1, March 1919, p15.





Figure 52 The Hut on Anzac day, 1919—at the time of the influenza outbreak.  
Source: Australian Red Cross NSW Division Archives.



Figure 53 Voluntary Aid Florrie and patient Paddy in front of the Hut, undated (probably c1919).  
Source: Australian Red Cross NSW Division Archives.



**Graythwaite 'Soldiers' Hospital celebrated its 21st anniversary yesterday. The Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Philip Street) is chatting with an inmate.**

Figure 54 The Governor of NSW, Sir Phillip Street, talking to a disabled veteran in the Hut.  
Source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 March, 1937.

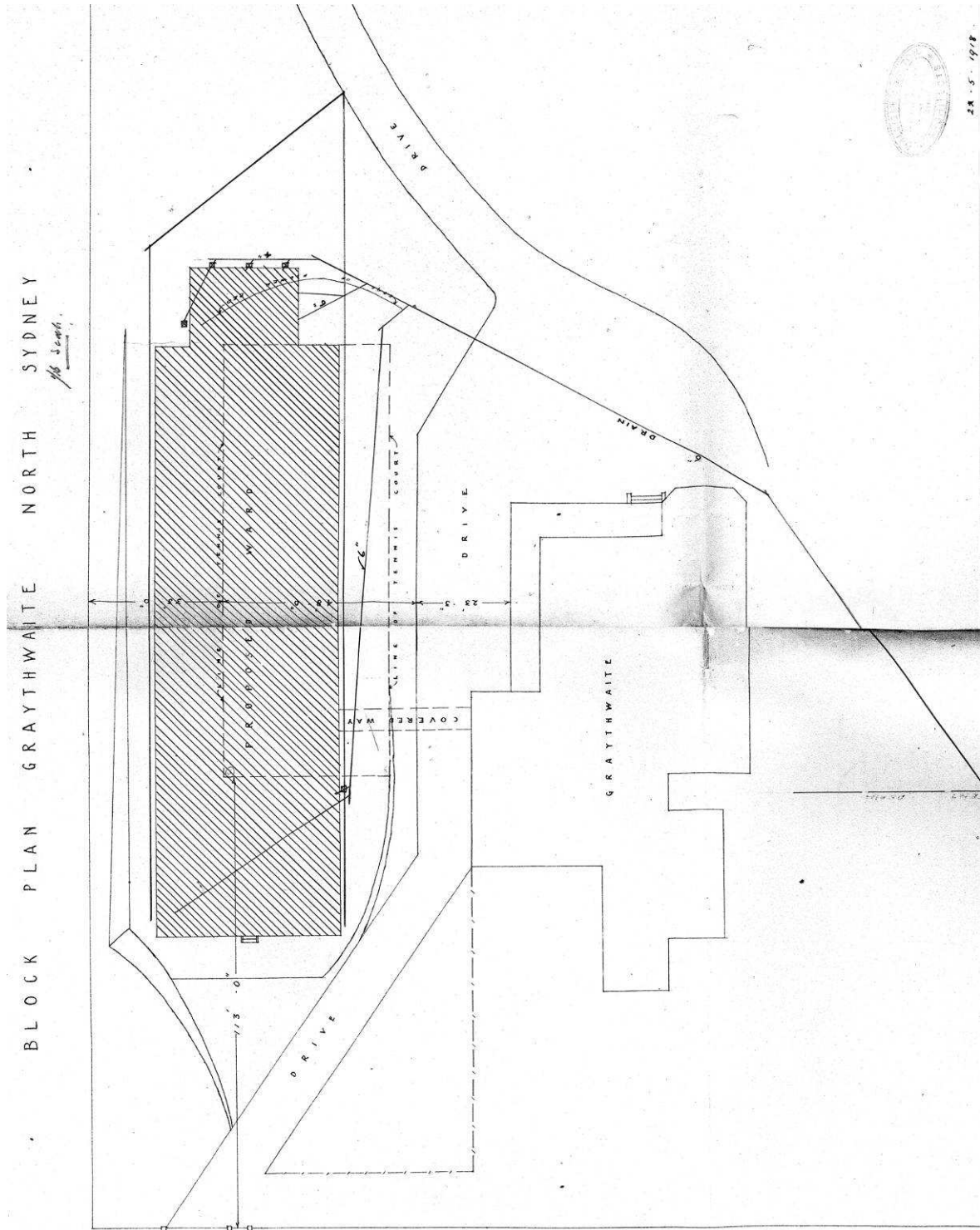


Figure 55 The new ward, known as the Hut, was erected in 1918. The building application was lodged in June 1918. The builder was R Blundell and the architect was Maurice Halligan.  
Source: Stanton Library.

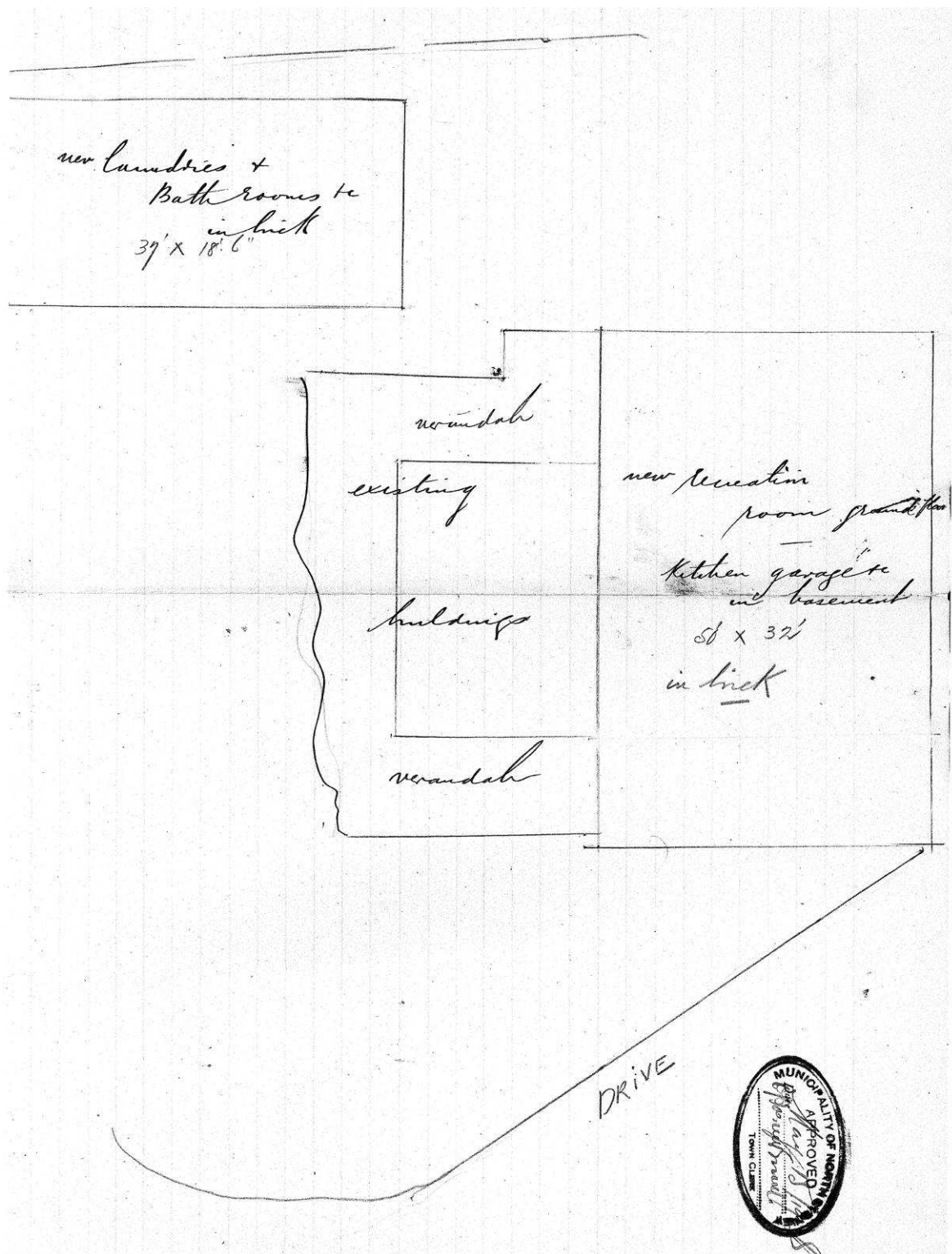


Figure 56 The recreation room and bathroom/lavatory block additions to the Hut were constructed in 1919. The building application was lodged in May 1919. The builder was James Leckie and the architect was Maurice Halligan.  
Source: Stanton Library.

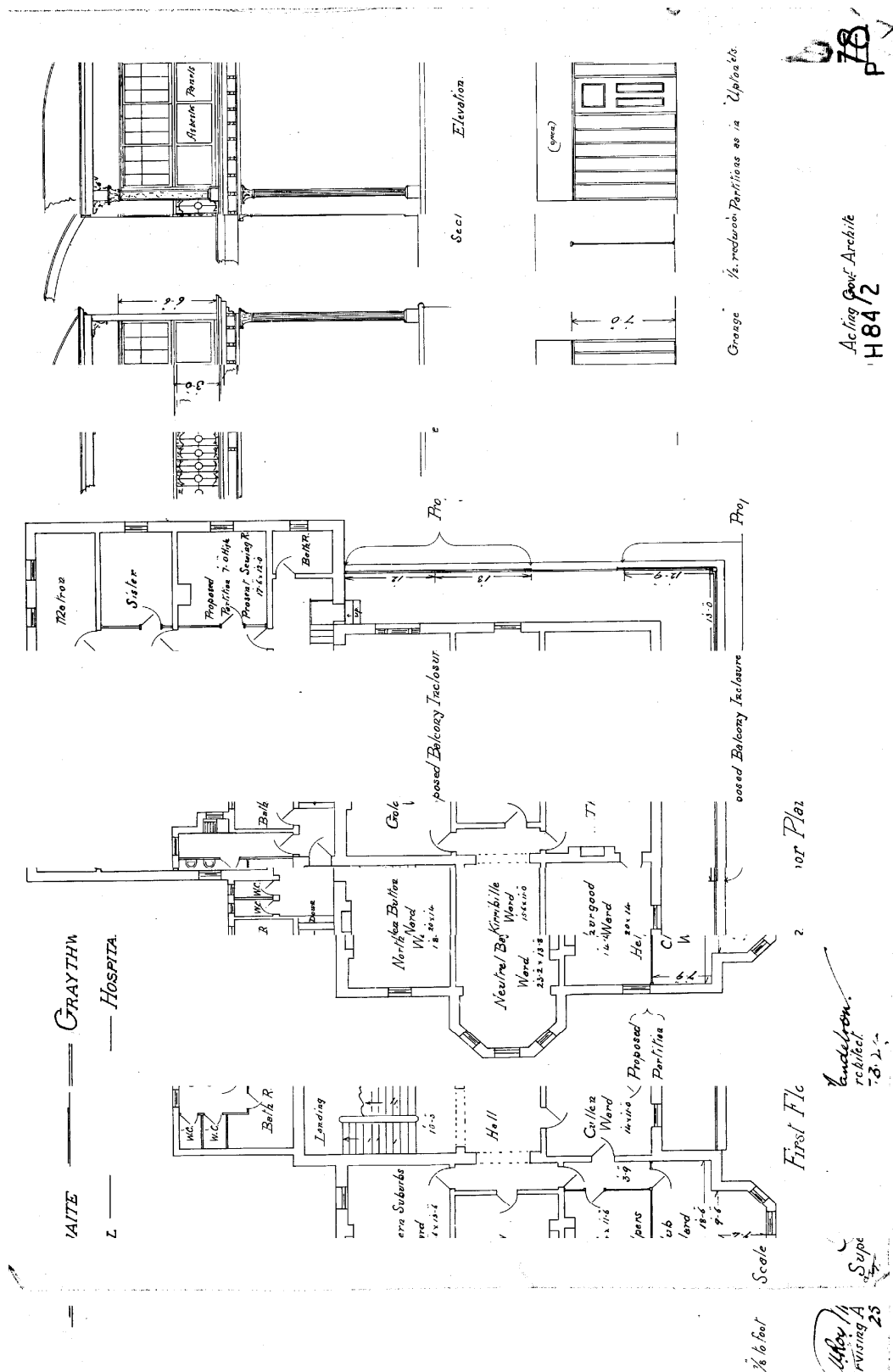


Figure 57 The earliest known floor plan of Graythwaite was prepared in 1924 by the NSW government for works associated with the transfer of the Nurses' accommodation from nearby Upton Grange to the house. The work was done on behalf of the Commonwealth government. The drawing provides unique insight into the building layout after the 1916-1918 alterations. Source: NSW Public Works Department Drawing PH84\_2.

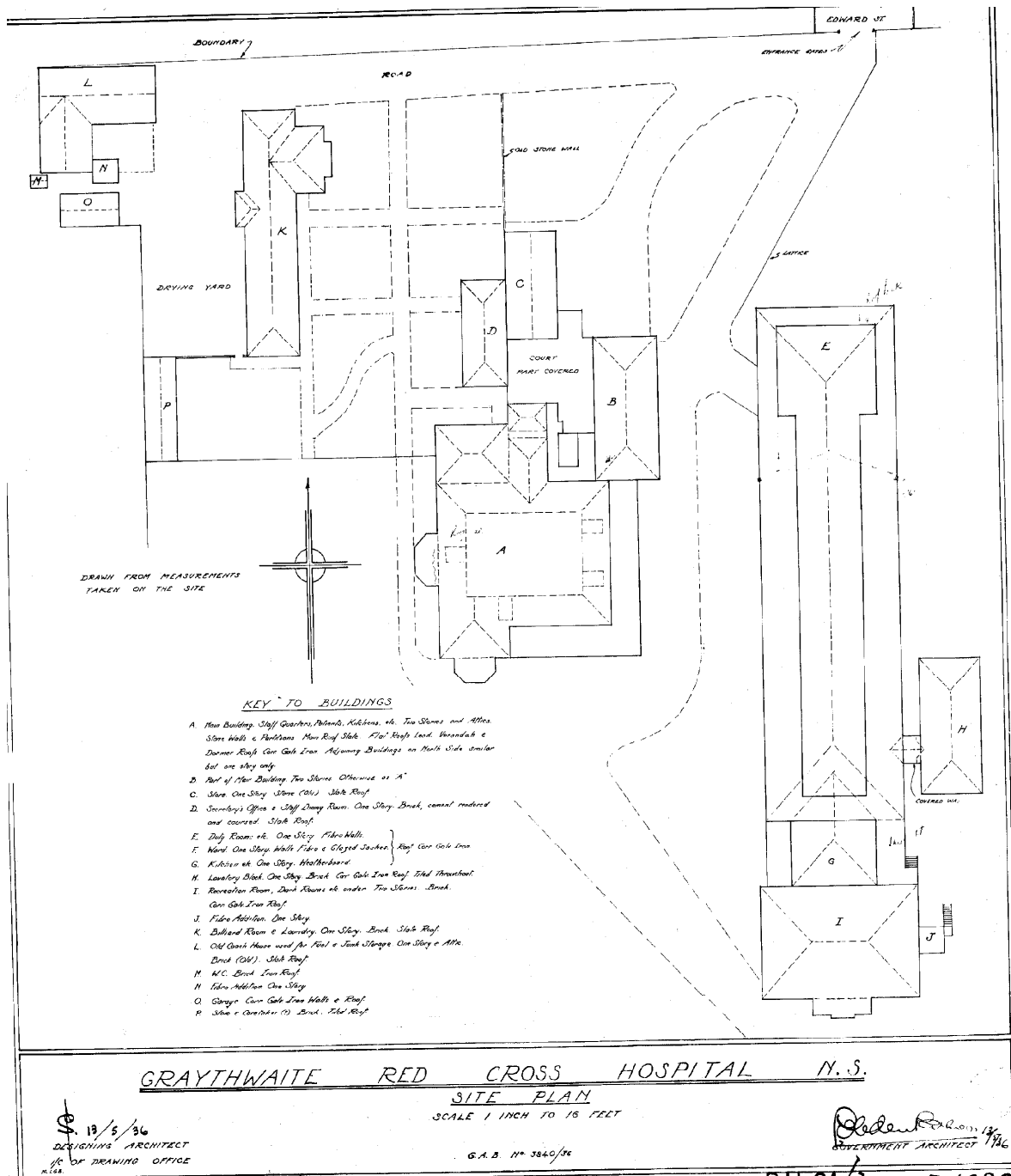


Figure 58 The background to the preparation of this 1936 site plan by the NSW Government Architect is not known but it was probably done for a proposed site development by the Red Cross funded by the NSW Hospital Commission. The drawing shows the layout of the outbuildings and also indicates that much of the inner garden setting from the Dibbs period had been retained.  
Source: NSW Public Works Department Drawing PH84\_3.



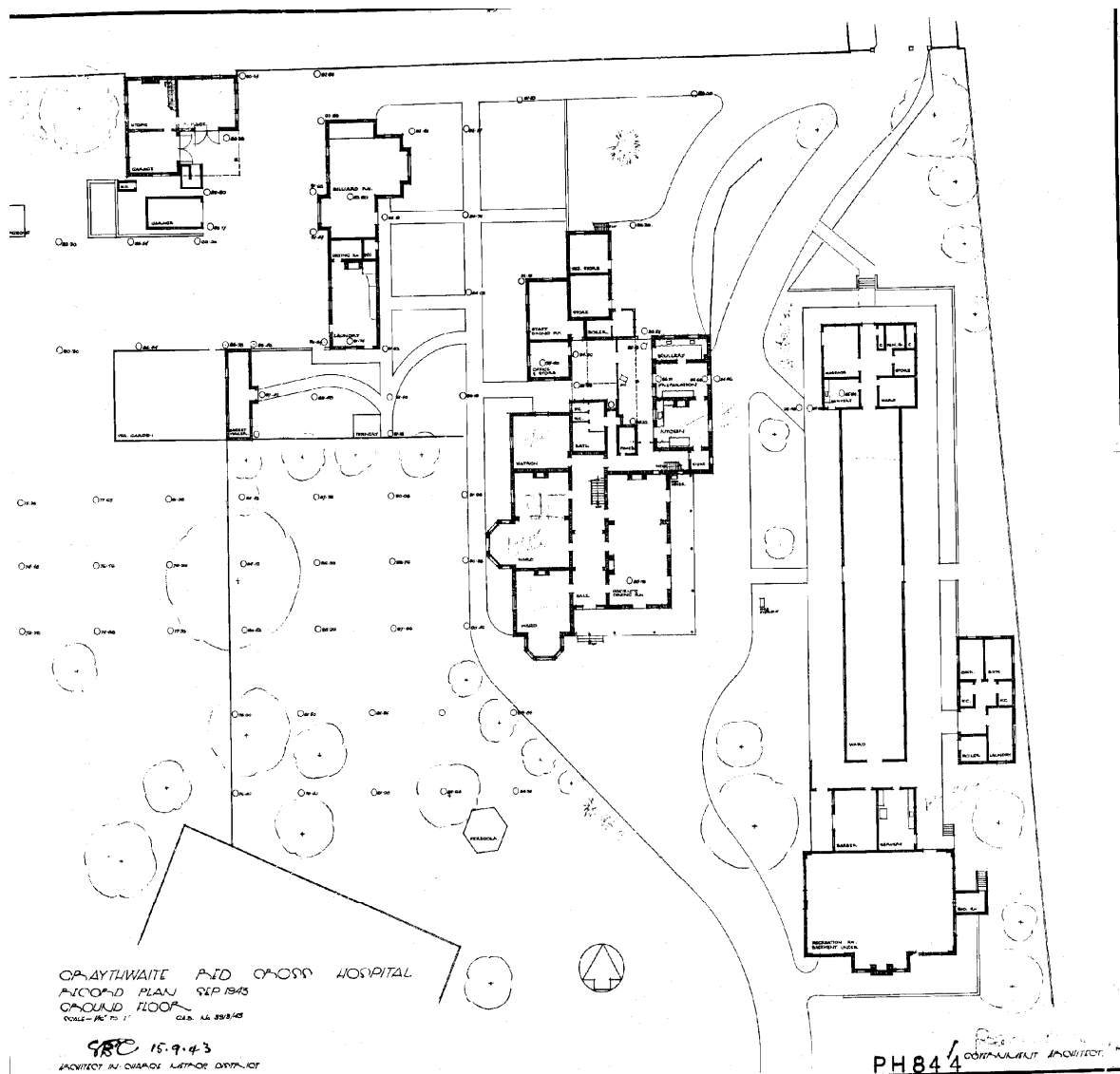


Figure 59 The background to the preparation of this 1943 site plan by the NSW Government Architect is not known but it was probably done for a proposed site development by the Red Cross. The drawing shows the ground floor layout of the outbuildings and room uses.  
Source: NSW Public Works Department Drawing PH84\_4.

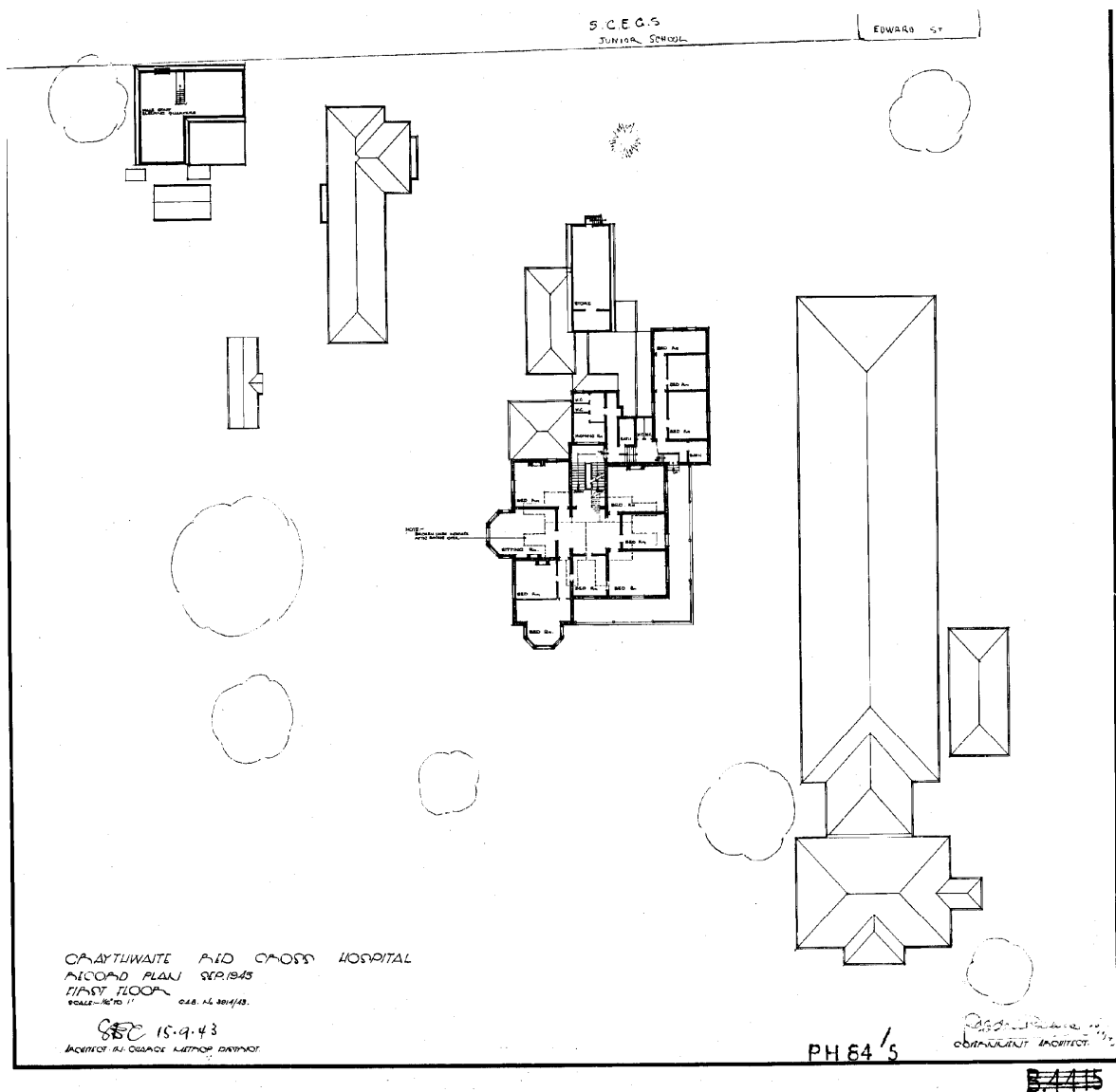


Figure 60 The background to the preparation of this 1943 site plan by the NSW Government Architect is not known but it was probably done for a proposed site development by the Red Cross. The drawing shows the ground floor layout of the outbuildings and room uses.  
Source: NSW Public Works Department Drawing PH84\_5.

### 1.3.7 The Second World War and Its Aftermath

While Australia entered the Second World War in September 1939 the impact of the war was not fully experienced until late 1941 with the entry of Japan into the conflict by the attack on the American naval base at Hawaii, and the Imperial Army's advance down the Malay Peninsula and taking of the British garrison at Singapore in February 1942.

In the early part of 1941 there were fifty-six patients at Graythwaite, all veterans of the First World War, with some thirty being totally and permanently incapacitated, the remainder being temporary convalescing patients.<sup>206</sup> By the end of that year Papua New Guinea was a battlefield and Graythwaite was evacuated as it was assessed to be within a target area in the event of enemy attack.<sup>207</sup> Subsequently, in March 1942 the National Emergency Service took possession of Graythwaite for a place of refuge for local residents in case of an air raid. Slit trenches were dug<sup>208</sup> and a shelter was built within the building necessitating the closure of eight beds.<sup>209</sup> However, as patients remained at Graythwaite throughout the war (it was operating at full capacity in 1942/43) and traditional events such as the Christmas party continued,<sup>210</sup> the restriction seems to have only affected the grounds and some areas of accommodation.

In the early stages of the war the two main military (army) hospitals were Prince of Wales, Randwick and Prince Henry, Little Bay, with the major new purpose designed repatriation hospital at Yaralla, Concord being opened in March 1941.<sup>211</sup> Owing to a shortage of qualified hospital staff, from mid 1943 some totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen were being admitted to Graythwaite by the Repatriation Commission and to this end the Red Cross were contemplating the erection of a new ward to accommodate seventy-five patients with dining and recreation areas. The new ward was to be named the Nancy Consett Stephen Memorial Wing. Consett Stephen had died in July 1943 and was a long serving member of the Red Cross with particular associations with convalescents.<sup>212</sup> The new wing was never built.<sup>213</sup>

Towards the end of the war the Repatriation Commission placed a number of convalescing servicemen in Red Cross homes across Sydney and this intake continued after the war. At Graythwaite some 713 patients were treated in the last half of 1948.<sup>214</sup>

In the years immediately following the end of the Second World War the demand for places at Graythwaite was at its height. The patients were both older convalescent ex-servicemen of the First World War and men from the recent conflict. Over 1952/53 an additional eight bed ward was opened to increase the patient capacity to 54, but by late 1954 there was still an average waiting list of over thirty ex-servicemen wishing to enter Graythwaite, and cases had been known to die while awaiting for admission. Some relief came in 1954 with the opening of a new ward at Lady Gowrie Red Cross Home, which provided fifty new beds for First World War veterans.<sup>215</sup> At an average age of 74, the men once admitted usually remained at Graythwaite until their death.<sup>216</sup>

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<sup>206</sup> SMH 20/3/1941, p.16.

<sup>207</sup> SMH 16/12/1941, p.9.

<sup>208</sup> SMH 2/3/1942, p.4.

<sup>209</sup> British Red Cross Society – Australian Branch – NSW Division, Report and Financial Statement, 1942-43

<sup>210</sup> SMH 21/12/1943, p.3.

<sup>211</sup> SMH 20/3/1941, p.16.

<sup>212</sup> SMH 5/7/1943, p.6.

<sup>213</sup> British Red Cross Society – Australian Branch – NSW Division, Report and Financial Statement, 1943-44, in Edds 2000.

<sup>214</sup> Oppenheimer 2007, p.13

<sup>215</sup> SMH 20/10/1954, p.15.

<sup>216</sup> Red Cross AR 1954/55

Over the mid-1950s, the Government implemented much needed repairs and renovations with some £12,000 being expended by 1958. This work included glazing-in the east verandah of the Hut, painting the exteriors and interiors throughout, erecting a new toilet block to the Hut, and general refurbishing of the ward accommodation.<sup>217</sup> This upgrading of the facilities continued over the 1960s inclusive of a comprehensive repainting in 1966 and roof and verandah repairs.<sup>218</sup> Changes in staff facilities were also implemented. In 1946 a pair of rooms was added to the north side of the Hut, presumably to increase office space.<sup>219</sup> In 1953 the male staff quarters (location not known but possibly the former patients' workshop demolished in 1982) were abandoned and the former laundry/billiard room was converted into modern staff quarters.<sup>220</sup>

The grounds were cleared of undergrowth in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1954 large trees blocking harbour views were lopped,<sup>221</sup> while the lower terrace on Union Street and other areas were cleared of lantana and the grass mown by volunteers.<sup>222</sup> The local scout troop and Shore School boys were engaged in this voluntary work.<sup>223</sup> By the mid-1960s the grounds were considered to be "showing much improvement" with shrubs and annuals being planted,<sup>224</sup> a water lily pond added in 1965, and the overall standard was such that it won a local garden competition.<sup>225</sup>

The engagement of the community with Graythwaite is also witnessed by the reconstruction of the cast iron railing of the widow's walk in 1975 by the North Shore Historical Society. The project was in fact the first restoration project undertaken by the Historical Society and its origins date from 1972. The cast iron railing could have been removed in the mid 1960s when the Public Works Department undertook roof repairs.<sup>226</sup>

Another development of the 1960s was the transfer of land on the Union Street frontage to Sydney County Council in 1965 for the construction of an electricity substation.<sup>227</sup> The Union Street frontage was altered in other ways over the 1960s including removal of the Dibbs' era sandstone and wrought-iron boundary fencing and gate posts and the building of the existing brick walls and gates around 1960. One of the reasons for this alteration was structural damage caused by a Morton Bay fig tree, which was subsequently removed. As the width of the carriage drive was too narrow for modern delivery trucks, it too was altered.<sup>228</sup> The Edward Street frontage was flagged by the Red Cross as being ideal for a local centre/shop for its north shore branches and a proposal was developed to the preparation of design drawings in 1958.<sup>229</sup>

In 1967 a new Torrens Title was issued reflecting the subdivision of the land holding into two lots; Graythwaite being within Lot 2 of DP229912 and with a land area of 7ac Ord 26 ½ per. The right of way from Union Street was resumed by the Minister for Public Works in February 1974,<sup>230</sup> and the existing land title, Lot 2 in Deposited Plan 539853, was established in April 1974.<sup>231</sup>

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<sup>217</sup> Red Cross AR 1957/58

<sup>218</sup> Red Cross AR 1966/67

<sup>219</sup> PWD Drawing PH84/6, dated August 1946.

<sup>220</sup> Red Cross AR 1953/54

<sup>221</sup> Red Cross AR 1954/55

<sup>222</sup> Red Cross AR 58/59

<sup>223</sup> Red Cross AR 62/63

<sup>224</sup> Red Cross AR 67/68

<sup>225</sup> Red Cross AR 65/66

<sup>226</sup> Red Cross AR 67/68

<sup>227</sup> LD Property CT 2633 Vol 151 – Transfer 114505

<sup>228</sup> SRNSW File 4138/4 - Graythwaite Red Cross Nursing Home, fencing & drainage

<sup>229</sup> SRNSW File 4138/4 - Graythwaite Red Cross Nursing Home, fencing & drainage

<sup>231</sup> LD Property CT 12396 Fol. 170

### 1.3.8 A Closing Chapter

As the number of incapacitated ex-servicemen declined with the passing years, the Red Cross reassessed the need for a facility such as Graythwaite. An account published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1973 drew Sydneysiders' attention to the existence of the place in their midst and went on to inform its readers that at Graythwaite there were:

Forty-eight aged and disabled servicemen and about 10 staff members (who) enjoy the pleasant oasis of spreading Moreton Bay figs and jacarandas, the goldfish ponds and vegetable and flower beds and the rough-mown lawn that descends in banks to the humble terraces of Union Street<sup>232</sup>

Since 1970 the Red Cross' hospitals had been under the jurisdiction of the Hospitals Commission (this became the Health Commission in 1973), and in June 1977, Graythwaite officially began to receive civil cases with financial assistance from the Health Commission.<sup>233</sup> The Health Commission also took on the task of planning for the future of Graythwaite and to this end commissioned feasibility studies to transform the hospital into a model nursing home. Comprehensive planning studies were undertaken by the Government Architects Branch of the Public Works Department in 1978.<sup>234</sup>

While little of the recommendations for development (such as a new two storey building in front of the house) were implemented, the studies provide insight into the uses of the buildings towards the end of the Red Cross era. For example, the ground floor of the house accommodated 12 patients, the administrator's office, the patient's dining room, with attached kitchen and storerooms. The first floor was set aside for administration and a conference room, but there is no information for the second floor. The Ward Building (the Hut), then known as the Pavilion, accommodated 43 beds, with the linen stores and nurses' station at the north end, the ablutions block (in a deteriorated condition) on the east side, and the rehabilitation workshops and recreation rooms at the south end. The former billiard room and laundry were used to accommodate male staff as discussed above, and the coach house was disused and in a dilapidated condition. Heating in the wards and dining rooms was by gas heaters and the hot water service was an old oil fired system dating from c1930.<sup>235</sup>

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 1980, the Red Cross handed over Graythwaite to the Home of Peace Hospitals, a charitable organization founded in 1906 under the auspice of the Anglican Deaconess Institution, and as such Home of Peace Hospitals were the first Anglican run hospitals in Australia.<sup>236</sup> In 1994 the Homes of Peace became incorporated and known as Hope Healthcare, and in 2008 Hope Healthcare was acquired by Hammond Care. Under its new managing body Graythwaite Nursing Home provided geriatric services for the lower North Shore area under the umbrella of Greenwich Hospital.<sup>237</sup> The new administrators set about improving the facilities. The Hut was modernised to suit the needs of the elderly patients.<sup>238</sup> A particular change was the refurbishment of the building over 1982/83 to satisfy modern fire safety requirements inclusive of replacing the doors with fire rated doors, new external cladding, providing fire separation between the floors, installing smoke and thermal detectors and emergency lighting.<sup>239</sup> A building, erroneously described as the laundry but probably a Dibbs' era development of 1890 and after 1916 the workshop, was demolished in July 1982.<sup>240</sup>

<sup>232</sup> SMH 24/3/1973, p20

<sup>233</sup> British Red Cross Society – Australian Branch – NSW Division, Report and Financial Statement, 1976-7, in Edds 2000.

<sup>234</sup> SRNSW File H4138/15 - Red Cross Graythwaite Nursing home, site utilisation study, GAB, 5/1980

<sup>235</sup> SRNSW File H4138/15 - Red Cross Graythwaite Nursing home, site utilisation study, GAB, 5/1980

<sup>236</sup> www.adisl.org.au

<sup>237</sup> www.hopehealthcare.com.au

<sup>238</sup> SRNSW File H4138/15 - Red Cross Graythwaite Nursing home, site utilisation study, GAB, 5/1980

<sup>239</sup> SRNSW File H4138/21 - Graythwaite Nursing Home - North Sydney. Fire Protection

<sup>240</sup> SRNSW File 4138/19 - Graythwaite Red Cross Nursing Home upgrading of ablutions block pavilion ward

The nursing home accommodation and facilities comprised four-bed rooms with ensuite, some two-bed rooms, a lounge/recreation room with harbour views and residents' dining room. The range of care comprised respite, transit and convalescent and long-term.<sup>241</sup> A total of 50 beds were available, with around 25 set aside for long-term stay patients, particularly elderly people with dementia.

By the mid 1990s the site also accommodated the Tom O'Neill Day Centre, which provided respite day care for people with dementia.<sup>242</sup> The Day Centre was located in the building to the west of the house that was used from 1916 as the laundry and billiard room.<sup>243</sup> Also located within the site were a number of developmental disability services administered by the Department of Community Services inclusive of the Coach House Programme, which instructed developmentally disabled young people in office administration skills, and a 13-person community support team.<sup>244</sup> The Coach House had been restored by the Government Architects Branch over 1983/84. To the south of this building was a fibro-cement clad garage that was erected in 1928<sup>245</sup> and was removed at the time of the restoration.

The future role of Graythwaite as a place of aged care services was reviewed in early 1995 by the Northern Sydney Area Health Service (NSAHS) and the prospect was raised of disposing of the site and using the funds realised from the sale to enhance health services in the region.<sup>246</sup> By mid 1995 the number of beds available had been reduced from 50 to 28.<sup>247</sup> In 1995 the Health Department contested the Dibbs' Deed of Trust and sought from the NSW Supreme Court to:

...realise the value of the Trust asset by sale and to apply the funds obtained to capital improvements at other Northern Sydney Area locations where NSAHS can fulfil the Trust purpose more efficiently.<sup>248</sup>

The Department returned to this over the following decade.

The Department acknowledged the heritage significance of the place and engaged in 1993 a consulting architect to prepare a conservation plan, which was subsequently endorsed by the NSW Heritage Council in April 1994. This Plan recommended that the historic buildings on the site be restored and identified areas where future development could be considered.

By this time the local council had also become engaged in the debate about the future of Graythwaite. In late 1994 it resolved to prepare a draft development control plan (DDCP) for the site, held a public meeting, and sought statutory planning protection of the site by a Permanent Council Order (PCO) under the *NSW Heritage Act*. By November 1994 the Council had received the DDCP, but the Heritage Council refused the application for a PCO (the site was subsequently listed in the State Heritage Register (a derivation of a PCO) in November 2002).<sup>249</sup>

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<sup>241</sup> 'Graythwaite Nursing Home', undated pamphlet held by Stanton Library

<sup>242</sup> Northern Sydney Area Health Service, 'Planning for aged care services in NSAHS – Graythwaite Nursing Home and Day Care centre', March 1995 held by Stanton Library

<sup>243</sup> SRNSW File 4138/19 - Graythwaite Red Cross Nursing Home upgrading of ablutions block pavilion ward

<sup>244</sup> Northern Sydney Area Health Service, 'Planning for aged care services in NSAHS – Graythwaite Nursing Home and Day Care centre', March 1995 held by Stanton Library

<sup>245</sup> NSMC Building Application 28/344 lodges 26th July 1928 by JM Robertson

<sup>246</sup> Northern Sydney Area Health Service, 'Planning for aged care services in NSAHS – Graythwaite Nursing Home and Day Care centre', March 1995 held by Stanton Library

<sup>247</sup> North Sydney Council, 'Graythwaite Hospital: Nursing Home & Respite Services', February 1996 held by Stanton Library

<sup>248</sup> Northern Sydney Area Health Service letter to North Sydney Council, 20th February 1995 held by Stanton Library

<sup>249</sup> North Sydney Council, 'Graythwaite: Outline of Current Situation', May 1995 held by Stanton Library



In the last years of hospital occupation of the site the public used the site as a park, and a local community group known as the 'Graythwaite Gardening Group' maintained the garden. Public access was closed off in the late 1990s due to illegal entry of construction traffic and dumping of construction materials. From 2001 the site was maintained by Council's 'Street's Alive' programme, and included mowing the large grassed area of the lower terrace adjoining Union Street, attacking weeds and the planting of native vegetation.<sup>250</sup>

The 1993 Conservation Plan was revised in 2000 and re-endorsed by the Heritage Council of NSW.

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<sup>250</sup> 'Graythwaite Save our Heritage Parklands' website: <http://graythwaite.org.au/garden.html>.



Figure 61 The front elevation of Graythwaite in July 1995.  
Source: Stanton Library Image 1679.



Figure 62 The rear elevation of the house in January 1996. The tarpaulins provide evidence of the damage to the roof caused by the collapse of two chimneys. They have since been rebuilt  
Source: Stanton Library Image 494.



Figure 63 The c1833 sandstone stables in 1979. The timber-framed lean-to has since been removed. Note the remnant Dibbs era garden and edging in the foreground.  
Source: Stanton Library Image 52014.



Figure 64 The c1880s coach house c1982. Note the now demolished garage to its left (south) originally constructed c1928.  
Source: Stanton Library Image 149804.





Figure 65 The front elevation of the former workshop in 1982, immediately prior to demolition. The building was constructed in 1891 for Thomas Dibbs and converted in 1916 by the Red Cross.  
Source: SRNSW File Image H4138/19.



Figure 66 Holtermann's residence c1875 with the tower from which many panoramic photographs of the harbour and north Sydney were taken—many of which include the Graythwaite site. This photograph was taken from near Union Street.  
Source: State Library of NSW: ON4-40552.

### 1.3.9 A New Century and a New Outlook

The start of the new century brought about significant change for Graythwaite with the cessation of health care services at the site and the sale of the property to fund healthcare services elsewhere.

In mid-2007 the Supreme Court adjudged the Government's intention to dissolve Dibbs' trust and sell the land in its favour. The proposed sale attracted some criticism from descendants of Thomas Dibbs, although it is known that Dibbs had tried to sell Graythwaite to the School in 1913.<sup>251</sup> Further, Dibbs retained an interest in the affairs of the School after he gifted Graythwaite to NSW—it is recorded that Dibbs was to unveil the commemorative stone of the pavilion at the Old Boy's Memorial Cricket Ground at Northbridge in September 1919.<sup>252</sup> Opposition to the sale was also voiced by North Sydney Council and by members of the local community.<sup>253</sup> The Court ruled the charitable purposes that Sir Thomas Dibbs had intended for Graythwaite could no longer be carried out as the site was no longer being used for its original purpose.<sup>254</sup>

In late 2008 the Supreme Court again adjudged the Government's intention to sell the land in its favour. It ruled on a proposal put by North Sydney Council, the Commonwealth Government, the RSL and the Mater Hospital to establish a new rehabilitation centre on the site and open up the grounds to the public. The successful counter-proposal by the State Government and local area health service was the sale of the site to use the proceeds to build a new rehabilitation facility at Ryde Hospital.<sup>255</sup>

The State Government placed Graythwaite on the market by public tender with the deadline for bids being late August 2009.<sup>256</sup> At this time, the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union placed a green ban on Graythwaite to block any construction work on the site.<sup>257</sup> The highest and winning bid was placed by the Shore School. The School outbid the Commonwealth Government, which had previously offered to buy the site for \$16.8 million.<sup>258</sup> In a last attempt to retain the estate in public ownership the Port Macquarie MLA introduced a private member's bill.<sup>259</sup> The ultimately unsuccessful *Save the Graythwaite Estate Bill 2009* also aimed to ensure public access, preservation of its heritage values, and to impose controls on future development.<sup>260</sup>

## 1.4 Neighbouring Properties with Dibbs family Associations

Graythwaite is adjacent to the Shore School, which is rich with historic associations with Thomas Dibbs. The original School grounds were purchased from Thomas Dibbs in March 1888.

The Shore School site had been part of the estate owned by Bernhard Holtermann who acquired the property in 1873 (it originally formed part of William Miller's Upton). With a fortune amassed by his discovery of a gold reef in 1872, Holtermann built a mansion with tower in 1874.

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<sup>251</sup> Sherington, Geoffrey, *Shore: A History of Sydney Church of England Grammar School*, Sydney Church of England Grammar School in association with George Allen & Allen, 1983, p.87

<sup>252</sup> *The Torch Bearer*, August 1920, p.50

<sup>253</sup> North Shore Times (NST) 17/8/2007, p.9

<sup>254</sup> *SMH* 15/8/2007, p.2

<sup>255</sup> NST 24/10/2008, p.11

<sup>256</sup> Mosman Daily (MD), 27/08/2009

<sup>257</sup> NST 16/9/2009

<sup>258</sup> *SMH* 20/10/2009

<sup>259</sup> NST 16/12/2009

<sup>260</sup> Hansard Transcript NSW Legislative Assembly, 25th February 2010

Dibbs purchased the estate in 1886 after Holtermann's death in 1885. It is at this time that Dibbs apparently put forward the site as suitable for the Shore School.<sup>261</sup> Holtermann's house was adapted to suit the School needs and the first of the purpose-built school buildings was officially opened in July 1889. Holtermann's house was later demolished above the foundations in 1935 for the School House, designed by Rupert V Minnett. The tower was retained and sheathed in new brick work.<sup>262</sup>

The original purchase by the School of the Holtermann estate comprised only the northern two-thirds of the property that Thomas Dibbs acquired in 1886. The balance of the land, near Union Street, was retained by Dibbs and subdivided to provide three residences. The first of these residences is Elsmere which was built c1886 for Dibbs' eldest daughter, Isabel Cecelia, who married Charles William Gaden. The property was sold to David Anderson in 1915 and in 1929 the Shore School purchased it and renamed it Hodges House.<sup>263</sup>

The second house, Yerrowin, was built c1886 for Dibbs' second daughter, Miss Ellen Mary, who did not marry. From 1901 it was leased by RRP Hickson, the Chairman of the Sydney Harbour Trust, and continued to be leased until 1912 when it was purchased by JL Pulling. Pulling, who had been a master at Shore since 1904, renamed the house Bishopsgate. In 1938 the Shore School purchased it and renamed it Barry House.<sup>264</sup> The third house, Marilba, was built in early 1888 for Dibbs' third daughter, Tryphena Agnes, who married Hugh Massie in 1887. Their son, RJA Massie, attended the Shore School and went to war in 1914. The property was sold in 1915 to Thomas Cosh who renamed it Pinwherry. In 1938 the Shore School purchased it and renamed it Robson House.<sup>265</sup>

All of these houses sat within their own allotment and two, Bishopsgate and Elsmere, benefited from a right of way from Union Street. The right of way and allotments were established at the one time in 1886. Dibbs maintained the upkeep of the road while he owned it. When Thomas Dibbs gifted Graythwaite to the State he ensured the properties retained the right of way, but the matter of its upkeep soon proved problematic for the owners and the government as trustee.

According to RJA Massie, all of these houses were designed by the architect William Wilkinson Wardell, who was a life-long friend of Thomas Dibbs.<sup>266</sup> Wardell (1823-1899), in the latter part of his life, was living at Upton Grange (the Shore Preparatory School since 1926). Wardell had trained as an engineer and also studied architecture in his native England and was a friend of the influential architect Augustus Pugin. He migrated to Melbourne in 1858 and came to Sydney in the late 1870s. He took Walter Liberty Vernon (later NSW Government Architect) as a partner in 1884. The partnership was dissolved in 1889. It is therefore possible that the dwellings are actually the work of Vernon.<sup>267</sup>

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<sup>261</sup> Sherington, p.21

<sup>262</sup> Sherington, p.144

<sup>263</sup> Vol. 880 Fol. 44

<sup>264</sup> Vol. 880 Fol. 43

<sup>265</sup> The Torch Bearer, May 1964

<sup>266</sup> The Torch Bearer, May 1964, p148

<sup>267</sup> McDonald D. I., 'Wardell, William Wilkinson (1823-1899)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 6, Melbourne University Press, 1976, pp 354-355.



## 1.5 Historical Aerial Photographs of the Graythwaite Site



Figure 67 A 1930 aerial photograph of the Graythwaite site—the site is shown edged in blue.  
Source: Lands Department Map 3422, March 1930.



Figure 68     A 1943 aerial photograph of the Graythwaite site—the site is shown edged in blue.  
Source: Roads and Traffic Authority, From the Skies CD-Rom.



Figure 69     A 1951 aerial photograph of the Graythwaite site—the site is shown edged in blue.  
Source: Lands Department Sydney 468-8—Run 11, May 1951.



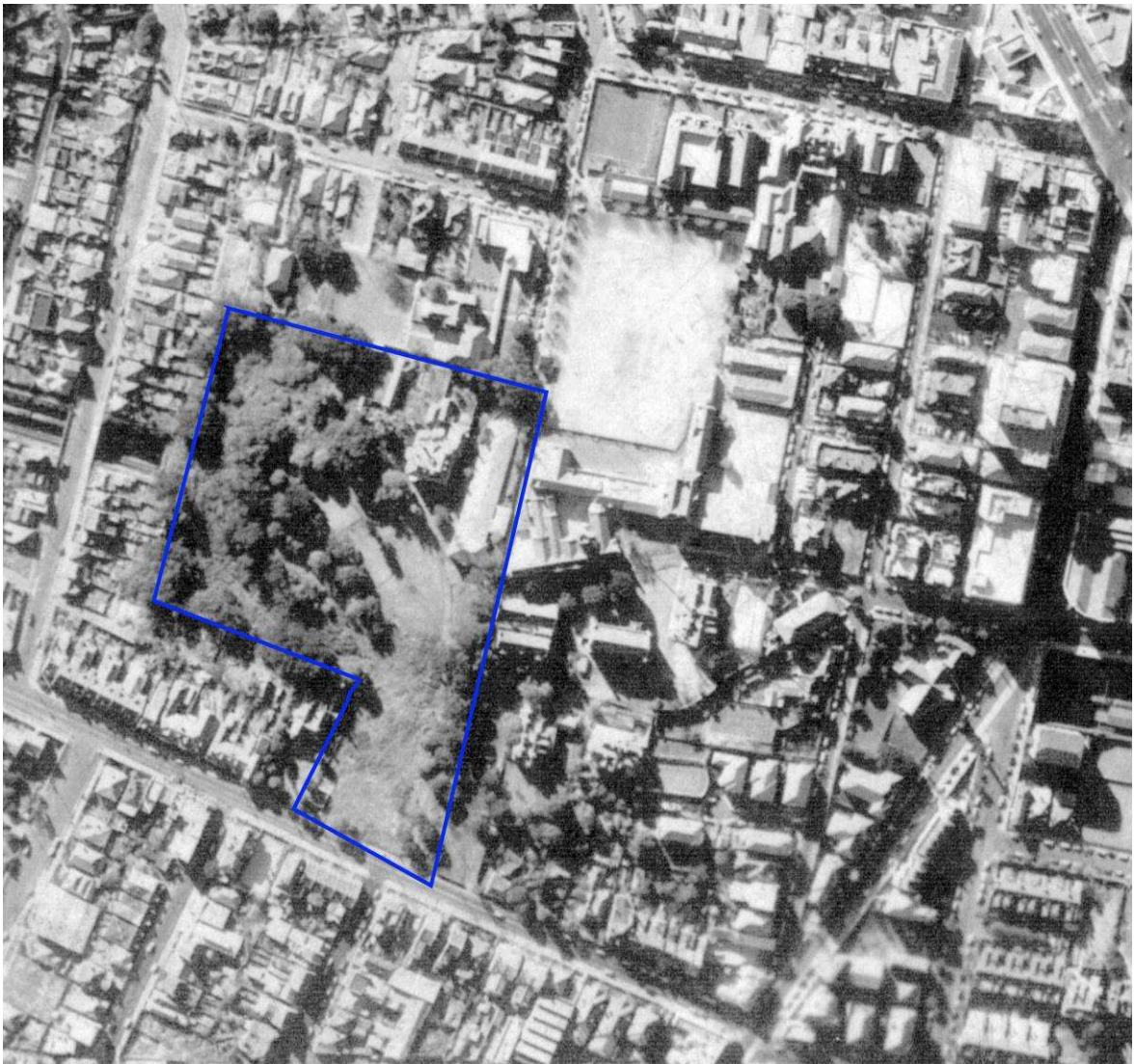


Figure 70     A 1961 aerial photograph of the Graythwaite site—the site is shown edged in blue.  
Source: Lands Department Sydney 1048—Run 32E, 1961.



Figure 71 A 1970 aerial photograph of the Graythwaite site—the site is shown edged in blue.  
Source: Lands Department Sydney 1916—Run 16E, August 1970.





Figure 72 A 1986 aerial photograph of the Graythwaite site—the site is shown edged in blue.  
Source: Lands Department Sydney 3528—Run 21, August 1986.



## 1.6 Evolution of the Graythwaite site boundaries

**1832**

39 acres purchased by Thomas Walker.

Ref: FP 192149 (Roll Plan 388)



**1833**

13 acres sold to William Miller, reducing Walker's land holding to 26 acres in two sites.

Ref: FP 192149 (Roll Plan 388)



**1841**

13 acres of the remaining land is sold to William Lithgow, reducing Walker's land holding to 13 acres.

Ref: FP 192149 (Roll Plan 388)





**1853**

Edwin Mawney Sayers purchased the 13 acres from the Estate of Thomas Walker.



**1873**

Thomas Allwright Dibbs purchased the 13 acres (now considered to comprise around 16 acres) and immediately subdivides the land. The extent of Graythwaite at this time is 5a 1r 32p (2.3ha)

Ref: CT Vol. 172 Fol. 38





**c1874**

George Dibbs added an additional allotment to the land holding of Graythwaite. The purchase was not registered.

**1882**

The extent of the land holding at the time TA Dibbs occupies Graythwaite in 1882.





## 1886

TA Dibbs purchased the neighbouring Holtermann estate in 1886 and moved the location of the eastern boundary a small distance to the east.

Part of the Union Street garden frontage was developed for Kailoa in 1884 to create the home of TA Dibbs' son, Tom Burton Dibbs and his wife. Separate title to Kailoa (in the name of CW Gaden and EA Gaden) issued in May 1888.

A new title for Graythwaite, now 6a 2r 23  $\frac{3}{4}$  per. issued May 1888.

Reference:

CT Vol. 881 Fol. 79

CT Vol. 881 Fol. 88



## 1915

The land gifted to the State by TA Dibbs comprised the 6a 2r 23  $\frac{3}{4}$  per of Graythwaite and a right of way to Bishopsgate across the former Holtermann Estate. The total area in the land title being 7a 0r 21  $\frac{1}{2}$  perches.



Ref: Dealing A206747, CT Vol. 2633 Fol, 151

## 2010

The land holding of Graythwaite was reduced in the 1960s and 1970s to 2.678 hectares by resumption of:

- a small parcel of land on Union Street in 1965 for Sydney County Council electricity substation; and
- the Bishopsgate right of way in 1974 by the Minister for Public Works in favour of the Shore School, although the School had attained rights over this land earlier.

Ref: Dealing K114505 (CT Vol. 10192/23), Dealing K28080 (CT Vol. 10588/230), CT Vol 12396 Fol. 170







### **1.7 Site Evolution Diagrams**

The following site evolution diagrams were prepared by Craig Burton of CAB Consulting Pty Ltd.



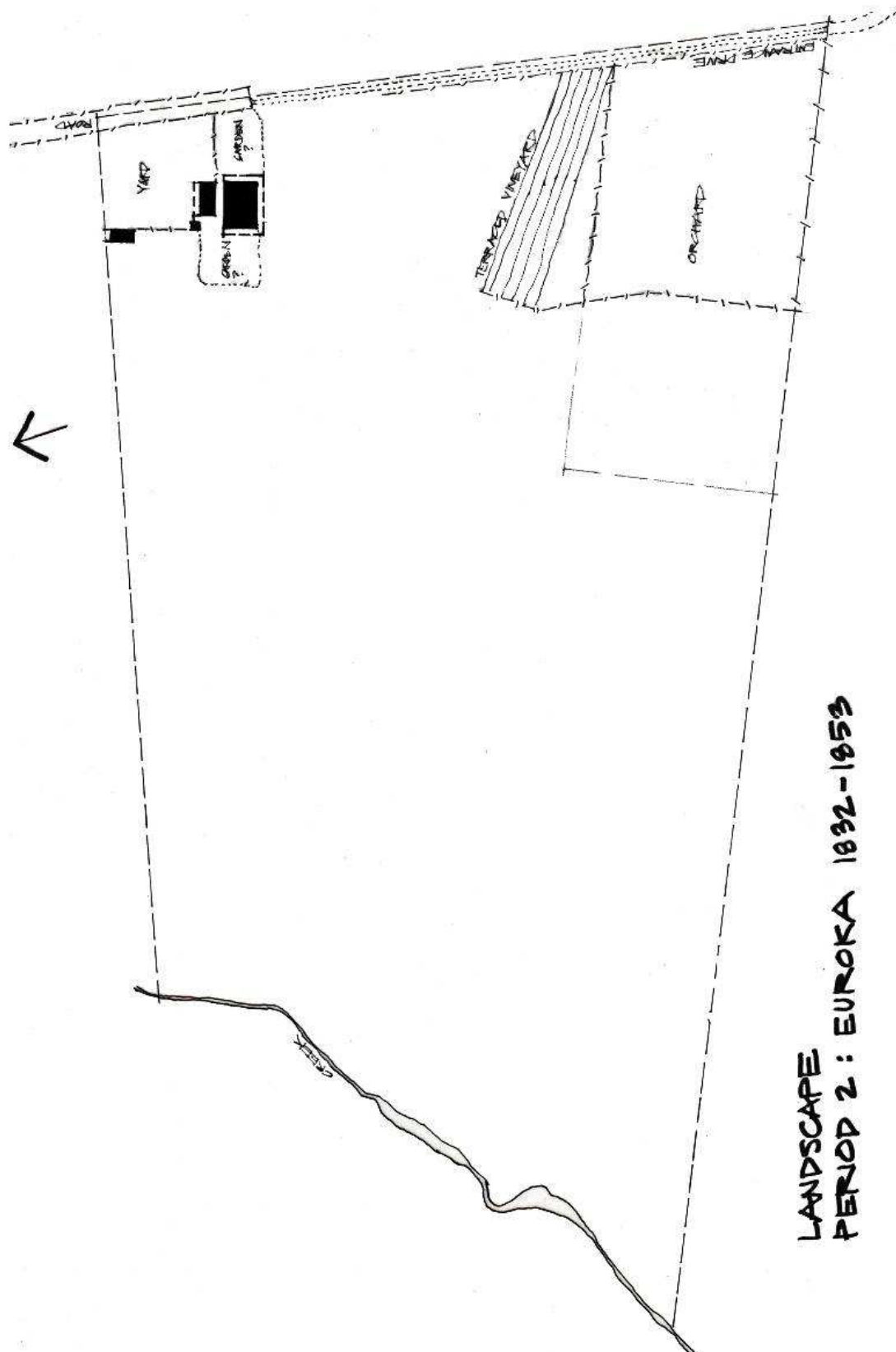


Figure 73 Landscape Period 2: Euroka 1832-1853.  
Source: CAB Consulting Pty Ltd, May 2010.

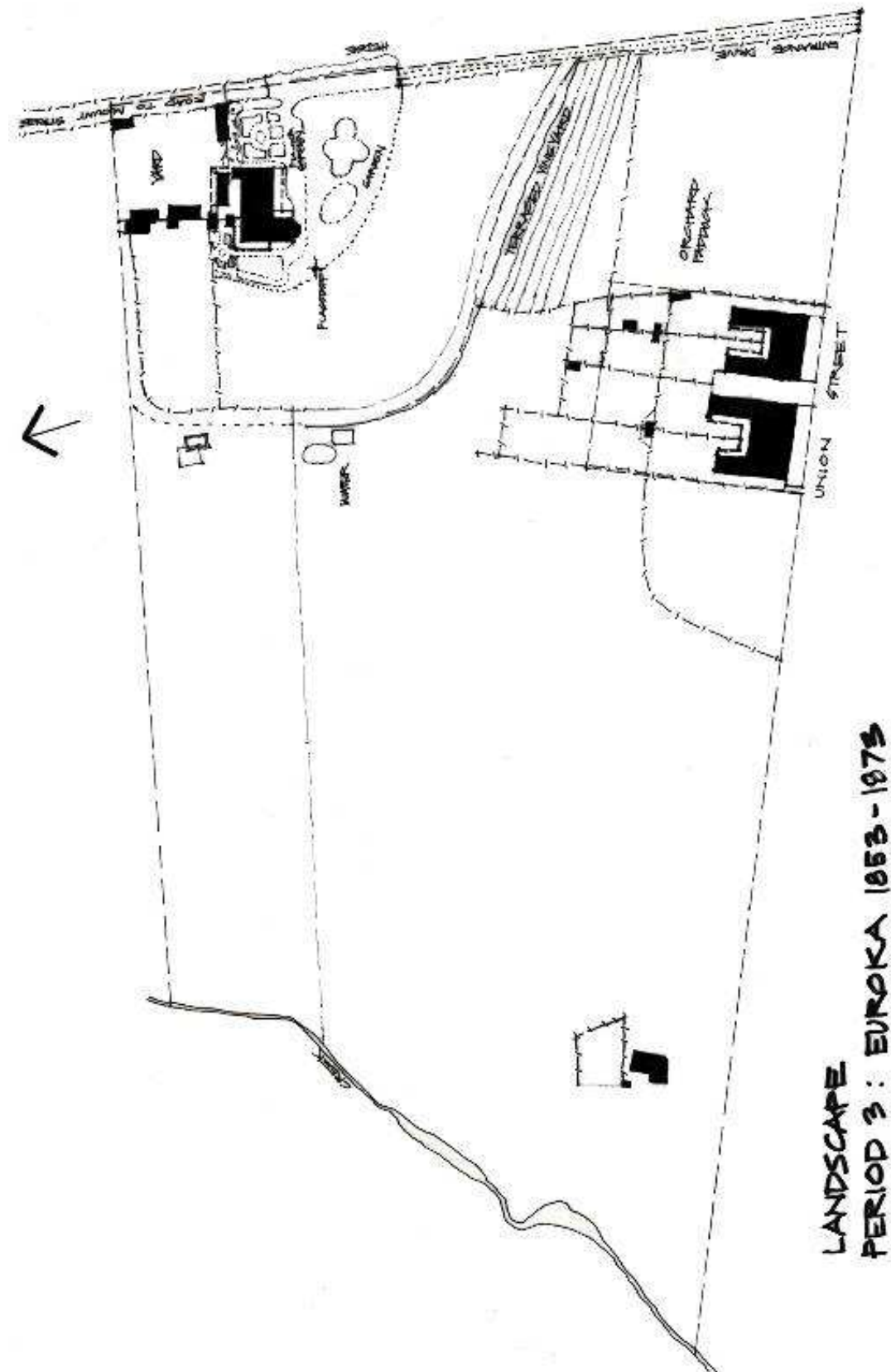
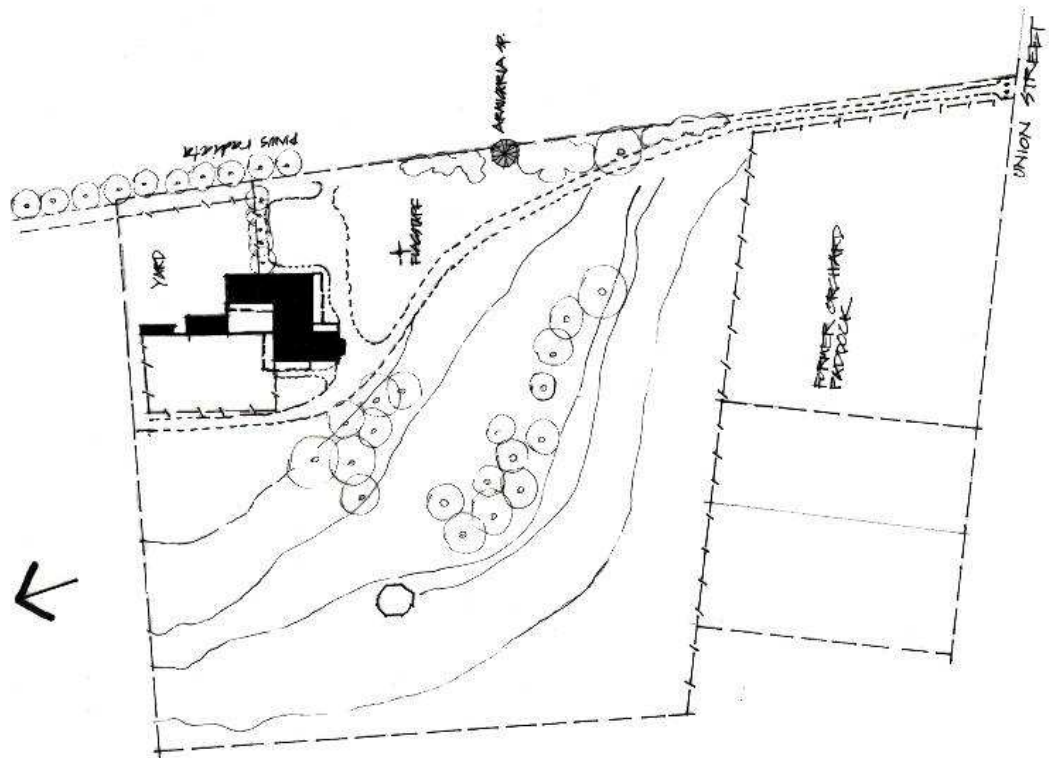


Figure 74 Landscape Period 3: Euroka 1853-1873.  
Source: CAB Consulting Pty Ltd, May 2010.



**LANDSCAPE  
PERIOD 4 : EUROKA 1873-1881**

Figure 75 Landscape Period 4: Euroka 1873-1881.  
Source: CAB Consulting Pty Ltd, May 2010.

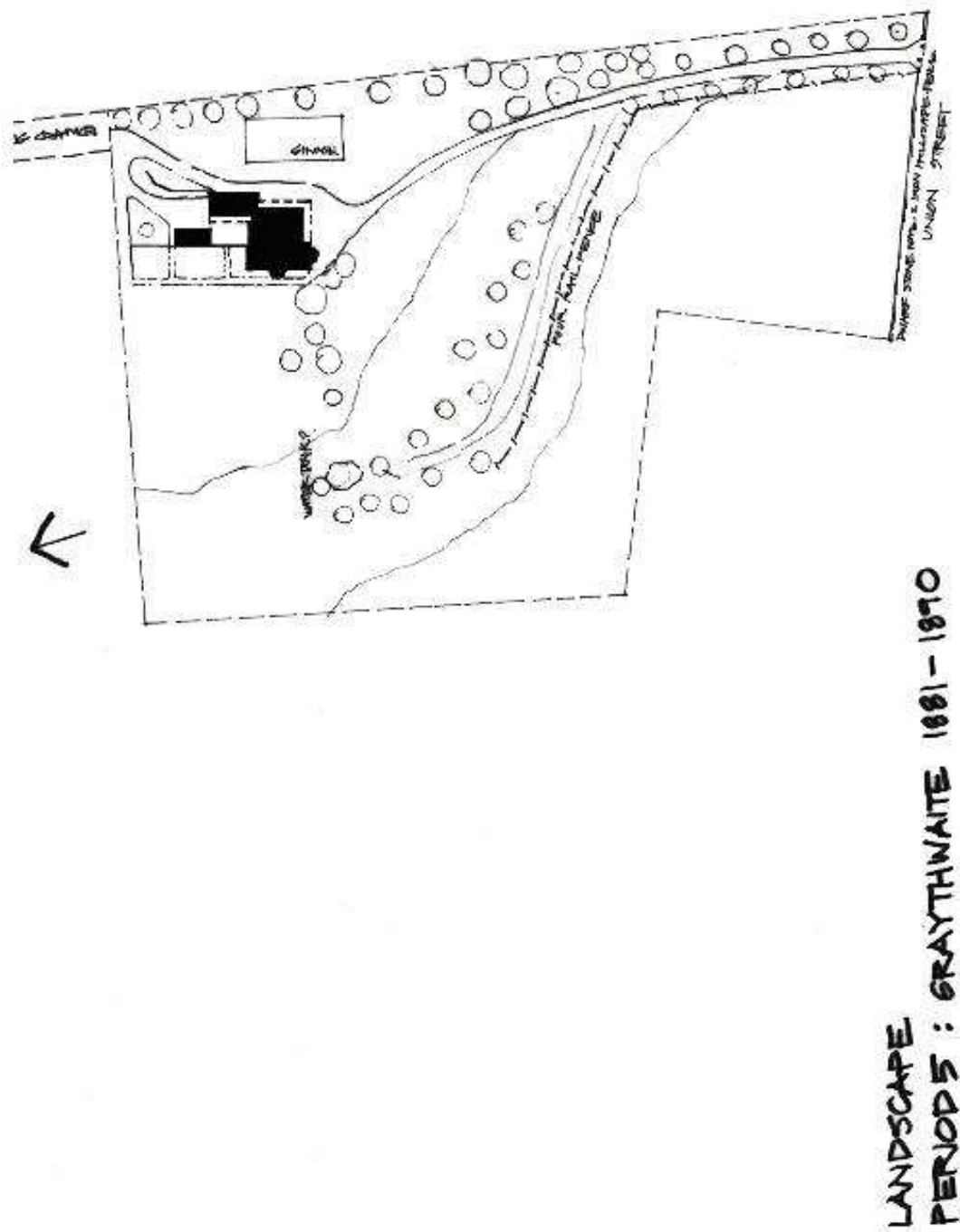


Figure 76 Landscape Period 5: Graythwaite 1881-1890.  
Source: CAB Consulting Pty Ltd, May 2010.



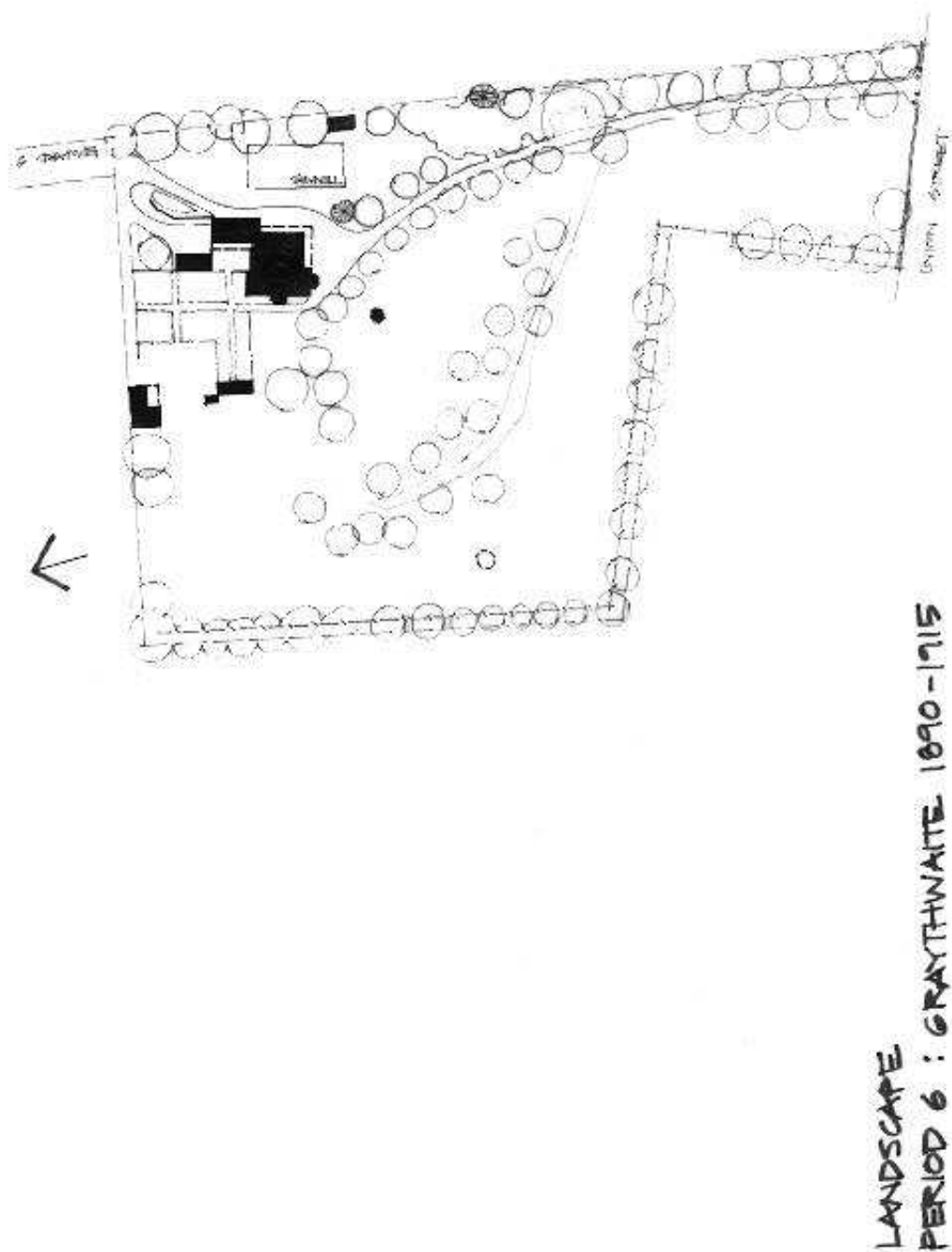


Figure 77 Landscape Period 6: Graythwaite 1890-1915.  
Source: CAB Consulting Pty Ltd, May 2010.

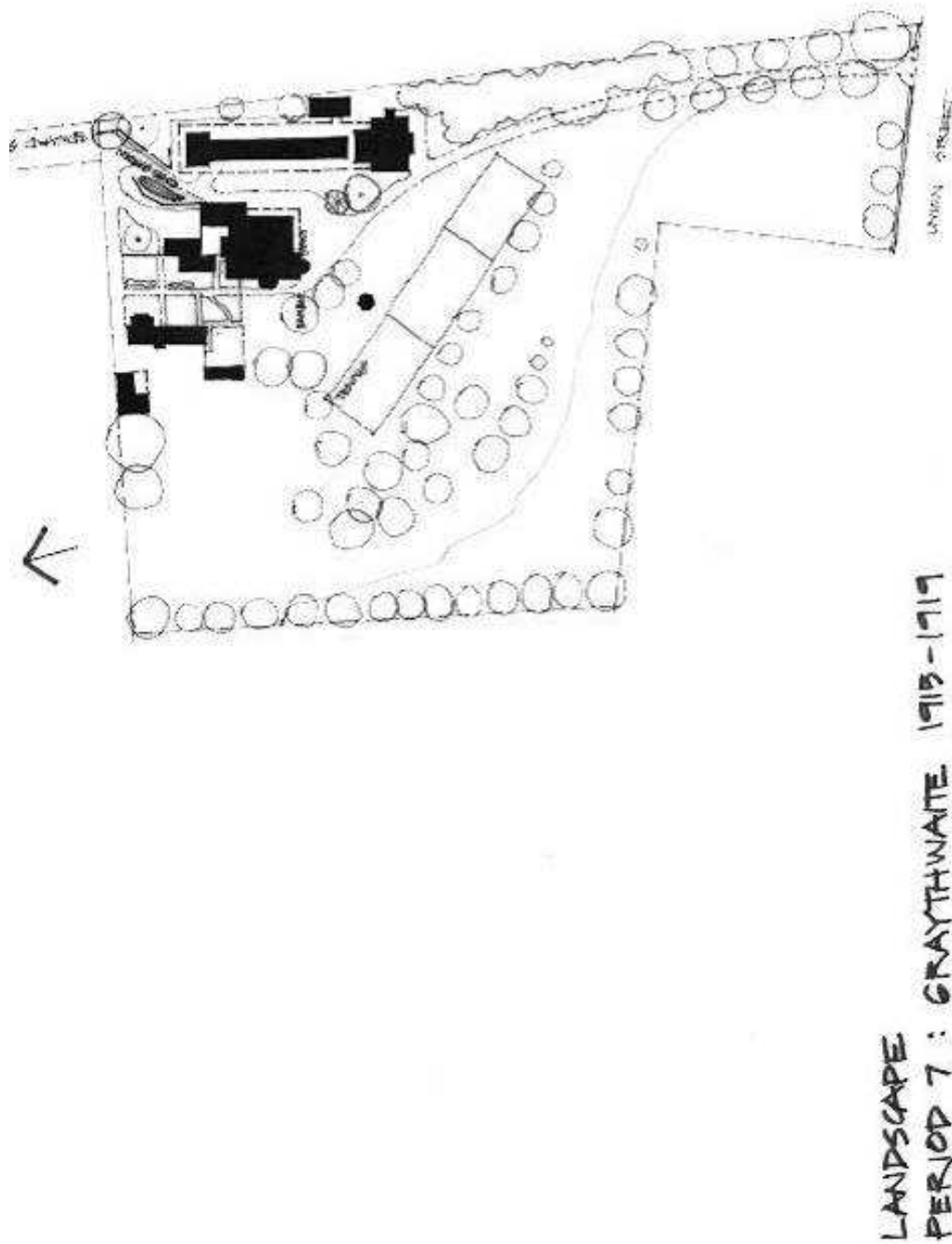


Figure 78 Landscape Period 7: Graythwaite 1915-1919.  
Source: CAB Consulting Pty Ltd, May 2010.

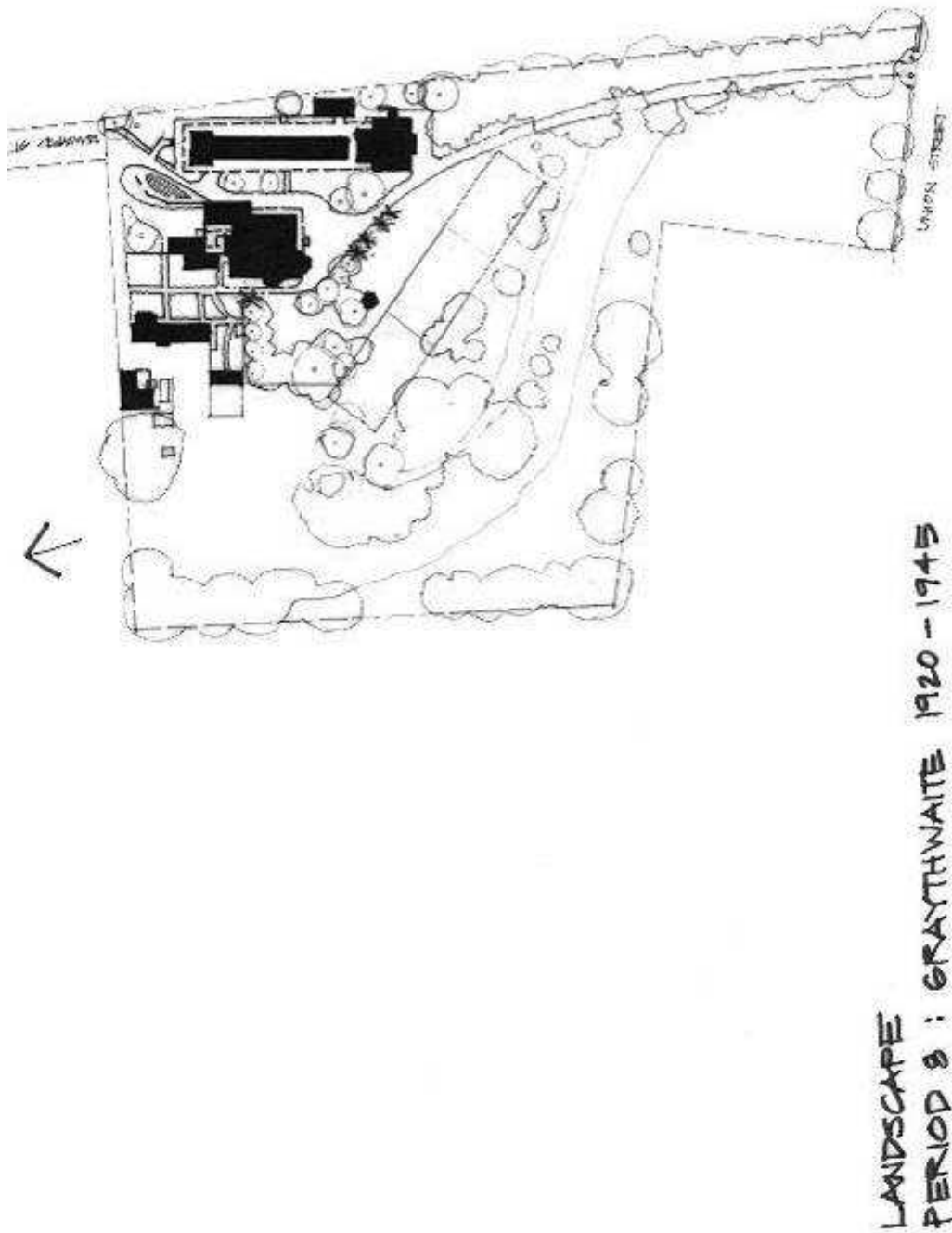


Figure 79 Landscape Period 8: Graythwaite 1920-1945.  
Source: CAB Consulting Pty Ltd, May 2010.

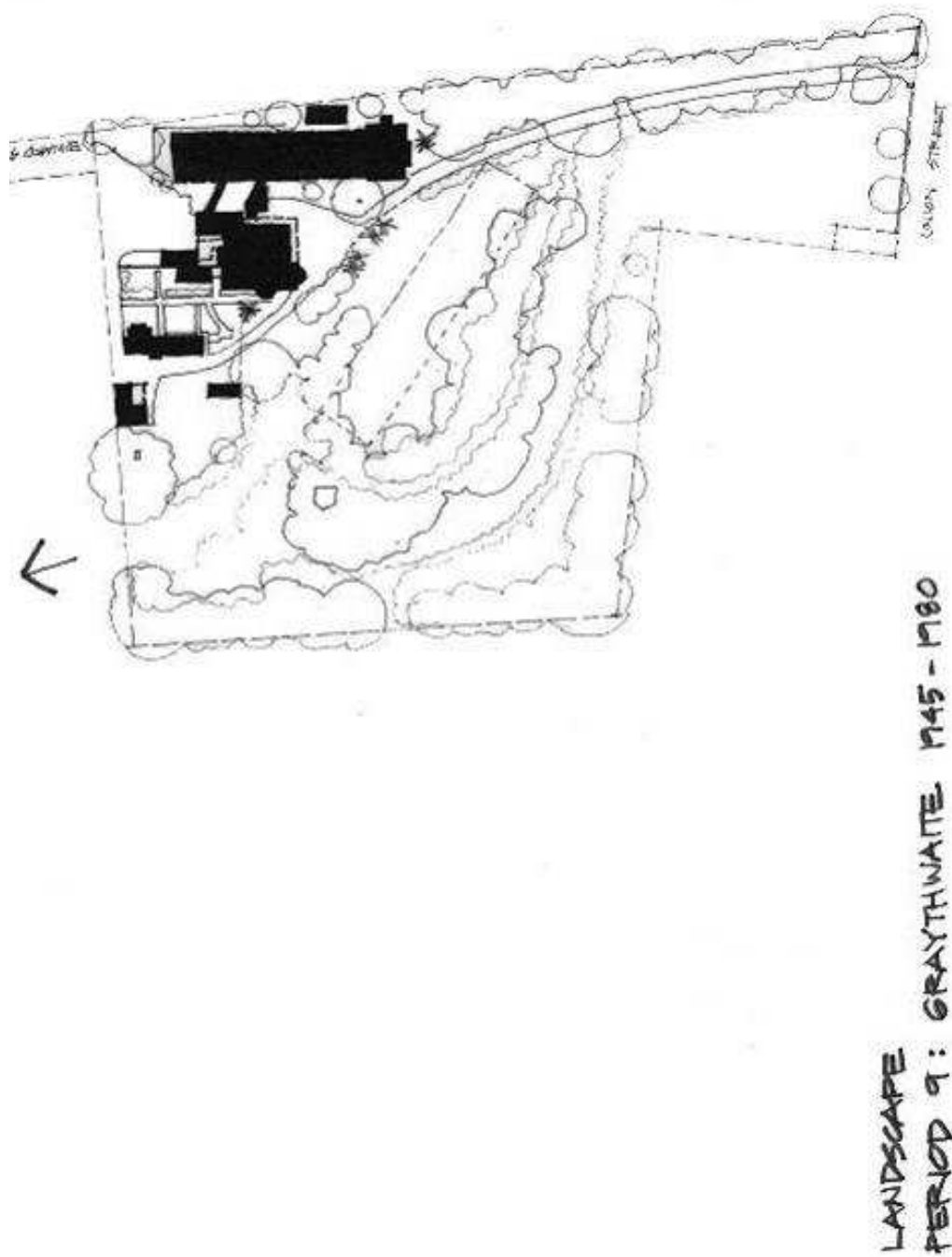


Figure 80 Landscape Period 9: Graythwaite 1945-1980.  
Source: CAB Consulting Pty Ltd, May 2010.

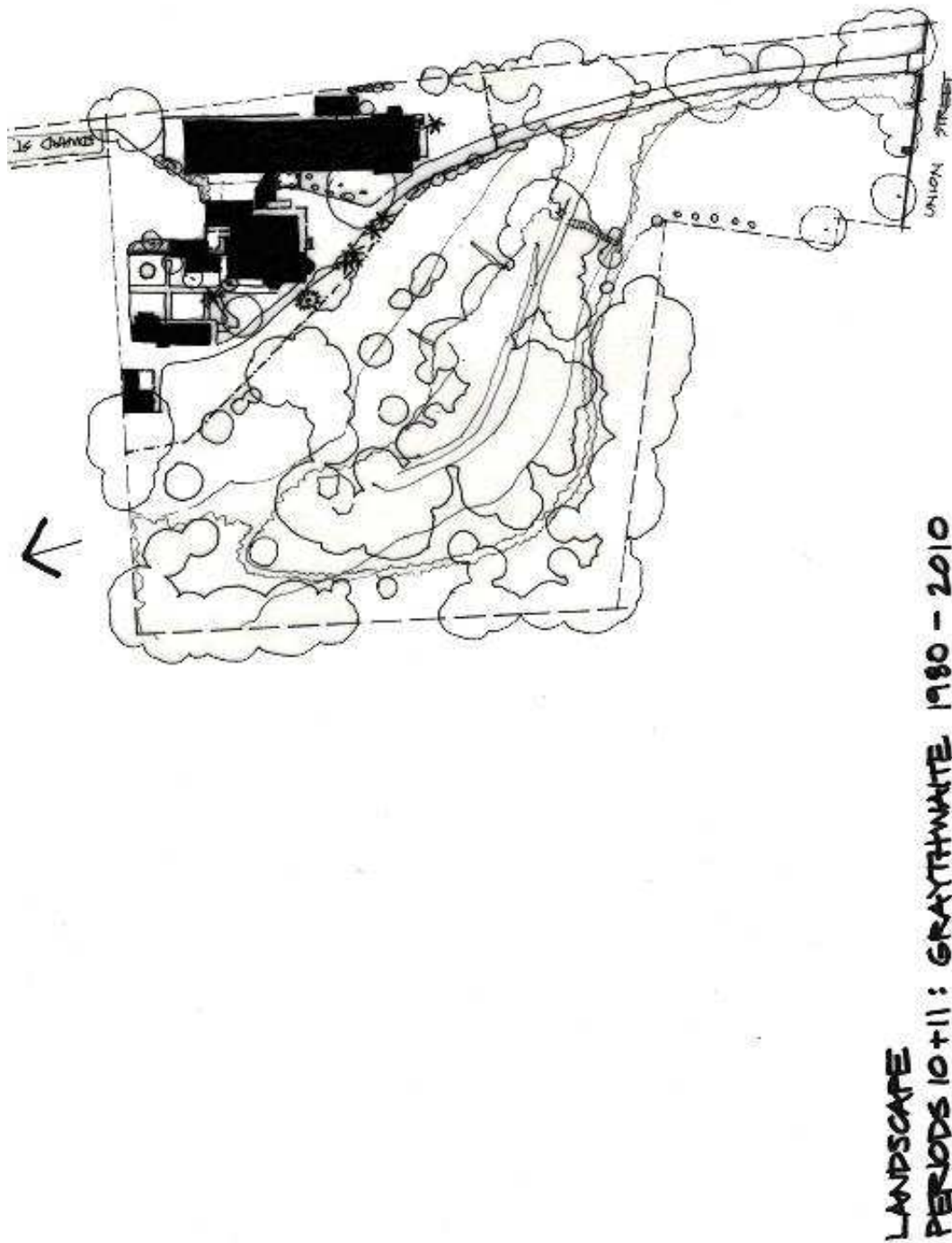


Figure 80 Landscape Period 10: Graythwaite 1980-2010.  
Source: CAB Consulting Pty Ltd, May 2010.

