From Frogmore Farm to Werrington Park

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a history of the Werrington site,
University of Western Sydney

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Introduction

The Werrington site (part of the Kingswood/Werrington campus) of the new University of Western Sydney has seen a fascinating progression of Australia's economic, social and recreational history. Names well known in colonial politics are linked with the site and those early days of European history mark the beginning of a sequence of colourful changes. As the years passed, sections of the original land grants were used for prize cattle and stud farming; a golf-course; a motorcycle race track; an airstrip; a guesthouse; an iron merchant's; a hobby farm. The land has been used by the army; it has been the site of an elegant country house; vineyards; gardens; a boys' home; and, from 1989, a university campus.

The Werrington site of UWS lies to the north and south of the Great Western Highway, east of O'Connell Street at Kingswood. The two sections, separated by the Highway, have separate though not entirely distinct histories.

The northern section is undulating, cleared land. Even today, from its two highest points clear views extend to the Blue Mountains without a glimpse of Penrith's urban development. In the nineteenth century an unimpeded

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panorama encompassed Lapstone, Kurrajong and Mt Tomah, stretching as far as Mt Wilson to the west, Pennant Hills to the east, and the Razorback above Picton to the south.

The smaller part of the site lies south of the Highway. Although its history is distinct from that of the northern section, their owners and occupants have from time to time interwoven.

Both sections began their European history as part of land granted—under the names of Frogmore and Coallee—to Mary, daughter of the controversial Captain William Bligh, early in the nineteenth century.

In 1856 the dual land grant (Frogmore/Coallee) was subdivided, and it was not until 1898 that the western portion of Frogmore was reunited. During these years the two original grants followed their separate historical paths. The history of Frogmore, the original grant, is diverse, complicated and fascinating in comparison with the more straightforward story of Coallee. But Coallee also boasts some interesting connections; its surprising link with The University of Sydney, for example, through Thomas Fisher, original benefactor of the great Fisher Library at The University of Sydney, who owned this part of the UWS campus for the five years up until 1871.

The Werrington site and its relation to Frogmore and Coallee

The 83 hectares (205 acres) that comprise UWS's Werrington site, north of the Great Western Highway, all lie within the 600 acres that comprised Frogmore, the land granted to Mary Putland by Governor King in 1806.

Frogmore became Brooklands in the 1920s, and Werrington Park in the 1950s.

The 61 hectares (150 acres) of the southern section (off the Great Western Highway) are a small part of the original Coallee, which was a grant of 1 055 acres made to Mary Putland by Governor Macquarie in 1810.

The Bligh Family and its links with Frogmore

Early in Australia's European history the land that is now dedicated to the University of Western Sydney at its Werrington site was part of two substantial grants made to a young woman whose fortunes are closely associated with the development of the colony.

Mary Bligh was born on the Isle of Man early in 1782. She was the first of six daughters born to the controversial Captain Bligh, who later became Governor

of New South Wales, and finally Admiral. Mary was six years old and still living on the Isle of Man when her father was cast adrift by the Bounty mutineers in 1789.

William Bligh returned to England in 1790, before undertaking a second voyage to the Pacific to collect breadfruit, but after 1794 he was engaged in the Napoleonic naval wars under Duncan and Nelson. At that time, in about 1795, Bligh's family moved to Durham Place in Lambeth, near London's dockland.[1] There, amongst the naval officers Mary met, was a lieutenant, John Putland, whom she subsequently married. When Mary's father was appointed Governor of New South Wales in 1805, John Putland was made Bligh's aide-de-camp and sailed to Sydney with his wife and his father–in–law. Mary's mother and sisters remained behind in Lambeth and, although William Bligh was reunited with his wife and daughters in 1810, Mary did not see her mother again.

Bligh arrived in Sydney with his daughter and son–in–law on 6 August 1806, but did not replace Governor King until a week later. During that week King made three land grants to his successor: 240 acres at Camperdown; 105 acres at Parramatta; and 1 000 acres (Copenhagen Farm) at Rouse Hill, along the road to the Hawkesbury settlements.

Mary Putland was also granted land by Governor King, backdated to 1 January 1806 (Fig 1). Her grant of 600 acres, including the present Werrington site of the University of Western Sydney, was called Frogmore Farm from its beginning, and was defined, after the creation of parishes, as Portion 109, Parish of Londonderry. South Creek ran through the property, which extended eastwards to the modern Queen Street, St Marys. Governor Bligh purchased further land on the Hawkesbury and both his own farms and Mary Putland's farm were managed by his agent, Andrew Thompson, a Scottish emancipist, who was the largest single landowner on the Hawkesbury.

It was alleged that Bligh employed convicts on his own and his daughter's farms; that the convicts were fed from government stores; that the livestock on these farms came from the public herds; and that the offspring from these animals were not returned to the government herds.[2] Two things are clear: Mary Putland's farm, Frogmore, was certainly being exploited for grazing and, secondly, Mary was certainly not resident. She and her husband lived at First Government House in Sydney, where Mary acted as her father's hostess and housekeeper. Mary was fond of entertaining. She had Government House illuminated in August 1807 for the birthday of the Prince of Wales;[3] she is also reported to have shocked the ladies of Sydney by wearing light muslin

dresses instead of the heavier clothing they considered more acceptable. Mary's social life came to an abrupt end in January 1808. John Putland became ill with consumption and died on 4 January. Three weeks later, on the twentieth anniversary of European settlement, the military deposed Governor Bligh.

On the evening of the rebellion, between 6.30 and 7.00 pm, Mary intercepted the soldiers who were acting under Colonel Johnston. Armed only with a parasol, she stood at the gate to Government House screaming: 'You traitors, you rebels, you have just walked over my husband's grave and now you've come to murder my father.' She was dragged aside by some of the soldiers who entered Government House in search of her father. During the next two hours Mary appears to have continued her loud defiance. When her father was eventually apprehended in a back room and taken by chaise to the military barracks, Mary Putland ran after him. William Bligh was imprisoned in an officer's quarters and Mary joined him there. Mary and her father were kept under close arrest for seven days and then, sharing two rooms, were confined to their quarters for over a year. During this time Reverend Henry Fulton, the Hawkesbury chaplain, was a regular visitor and acted as private chaplain to Mary and her father.

In March 1809, William Bligh and Mary Putland were put aboard the "Porpoise" for their return to England. Once aboard, Bligh refused to leave Australian waters and sailed to Van Diemen's Land to seek support from Lieutenant–Governor Collins.

At first Collins welcomed Bligh and his daughter. William Bligh remained aboard ship but for some weeks Mary Putland occupied a suite of rooms at Government House, Hobart. As relations between Bligh and Collins deteriorated, however, Bligh insisted that his daughter return to the ship. In April 1809 Collins refused to allow the colonists to victual the ship so that William Bligh and Mary Putland, living aboard the "Porpoise", remained virtual prisoners from that time. In December 1809, Macquarie arrived at Hobart on his way to Sydney to take up duties as the new Governor; Bligh and his daughter followed him, arriving in Sydney in January 1810.[4]

For the next four months the deposed governor and his daughter lived in a rented house in Pitt Street while Bligh gathered evidence to take to England. After the close confinement of the previous two years, these months were more sociable and there were regular parties each week. Bligh commented at the end of his confinement: 'all my thoughts are to keep up our Dear Mary's health and spirits.'[5] On the evening of their arrival in Sydney in January 1810, Bligh

and his daughter dined with Macquarie's lieutenant governor, Lieutenant–Colonel Maurice O'Connell (1768-1848). The following month O'Connell escorted Bligh and his widowed daughter to inspect their Hawkesbury farms.[6] During this period, a love affair developed between Mary Putland and Maurice O'Connell; as Mary had inscribed on Maurice's memorial in St James's thirty-eight years later, 'he caused the widow's heart to sing for joy'.[7]

Shortly before Bligh was due to sail for England the 27–year–old Mary and the 42–year–old Maurice told Bligh of their wish to marry. Surprised and distressed, Bligh was unable to influence his daughter to change her mind and return to England with him. Reluctantly he consented to the marriage, giving her away at a ceremony at Government House, Sydney, where Governor and Mrs Macquarie did the honours with 'an extraordinary degree of pleasure'. Bligh sailed from Sydney in May 1810, reconciled to the loss of his daughter in the belief that she and his new son–in–law would be 'persons of the utmost importance and consequence to the welfare of the colony'. Doubting that Mary would have survived the 'tempestuous' return voyage, Bligh had left her in a good climate, where she remained 'as a pattern of virtue and admired by everyone'.[8]

Frogmore Farm

Maurice O'Connell and Mary Putland were married on Tuesday, 8 May 1810. The day before the wedding Macquarie granted Maurice 2 500 acres which he named Riverstone and on 27 June 1810 he granted Mary O'Connell 1 055 acres in the District of Evan. The new grant (Portion 47 of the Parish of Claremont) was named Coallee and lay directly south of Mary's Frogmore Farm, extending east over South Creek to Mamre Road. The southern part of UWS's Werrington site consists of 150 acres in the most westerly part of Coallee (Fig 1).

Frogmore : absentee landholding

Following their marriage Maurice and Mary O'Connell lived in Sydney while Frogmore continued to be an absentee landholding; the land grants in western Sydney were neither their family home nor their country residence, but simply served as investments.

After Bligh's departure O'Connell managed his father–in–law's properties at the Hawkesbury, as well as his wife's lands and his own. The grants were not cultivated but horses were run. Maurice O'Connell became one of the founders of horse racing in Australia and was a steward of the Sydney races.

One of Bligh's horses, "Carlo", was probably kept at the South Creek farm, broken in there, and won several races for O'Connell.

Maurice and Mary O'Connell's first child, a son, was born in Sydney in January 1812. Later that year Maurice rented a country estate, Vaucluse, at £25 per annum for four years. Within two years, Lieutenant–Colonel O'Connell and his regiment were transferred to Ceylon. In February and March 1814, the O'Connells' furniture and carriages were sold and Vaucluse was sublet to Captain John Piper. It was twenty–four years before Mary O'Connell was to return to New South Wales.[9]

When the O'Connells left in 1814, Maurice gave the merchant, Richard Jones, his power of attorney and appointed George Thomas Palmer as his agent. In 1824 Major George Druitt, who had arrived after O'Connell's departure, was appointed as O'Connell's agent. Druitt's estate (Mount Druitt) was near St Marys; Druitt managed O'Connell's affairs until Maurice returned to the colony in 1838,[10] no doubt continuing to run bloodstock on Frogmore and Coallee.

Mary and Maurice O'Connell return to Australia

O'Connell served with the British Army in Ceylon and Europe and was knighted in 1834. He was appointed commander of the forces in New South Wales and returned with Lady O'Connell in December 1838. Their eldest child, Maurice Charles, born in Sydney in 1812, had become his father's military secretary. The O'Connells lived at Tarmons, a fine house in Victoria Street, Potts Point.[11]

In mid 1839 O'Connell, on behalf of his wife and her sisters, claimed Bligh's 105 acre grant at Parramatta. The land had been built upon by the government and by private individuals and the O'Connell claim was denied by the colonial government, which maintained that the grants made by Governor King to Bligh and his family in 1806 were illegal. In February 1841 a compromise was reached in which the 1806 grants, including Frogmore, were confirmed and Lady O'Connell and her sisters surrendered any claim to the Parramatta land. The Camperdown grant was soon sold for more than £25 000.[12]

Origin of the district of St Marys

Since the O'Connells' departure from the colony in 1814, Frogmore and

Coallee had been crossed by a busy road leading west over the mountains. The district was usually known as South Creek, being the point where the western road crossed a small creek. In 1837, £500 had been raised by the surrounding farmers to build a church on land provided by the King family of Dunheved. The foundation stone of St Mary Magdalene was laid in 1837 and the church was completed by 1840; by this date the name St Marys was commonly used to describe the district. A regular postal service between St Marys and Sydney was established in 1840.[13]

Maurice and Eliza O'Connell : first residents of Frogmore Farm

Mary O'Connell's two grants along the highway were increasingly desirable as the district of St Marys became more established and for the first time members of the family actually lived on Frogmore for a period. Mary's eldest son, Maurice Charles, and his Jersiaise wife, Eliza le Geyt, were living at Frogmore in August and September 1840. The ostensible reason, mentioned in Sir Maurice's correspondence, was that young Maurice was in need of country air to clear away his migraines. However, while Maurice also had duties to perform as his father's military secretary, his wife continued to spend time at Frogmore. Eliza was often accompanied at Frogmore by Mary Australia Jones of Fleurs, who married Maurice's brother, William Bligh O'Connell, in

1844.[14] There is no doubt that the strategic advantage of showing a family presence on Frogmore in 1840—while King's grant was still under challenge— was as important as Maurice's health problem.

Once the legal challenge was resolved in 1841, it seems possible that Maurice junior assisted in planning the redevelopment of the St Marys estate.

Plans to subdivide Frogmore and Coallee

Maurice's parents, Sir Maurice and Lady O'Connell, were in recurrent financial difficulties and sought to raise cash from their land, first by mortgaging, then by attempting to subdivide both Frogmore and Coallee. In 1841 the two estates were mortgaged for £2 000 at 15% interest. The mortgage was renegotiated in August 1843 from a private mortgage to one with the Australian Trust Company for £1 500 and £7 000 worth of other debts owed by O'Connell.[15]

In April 1842 the Sydney auctioneer, Stubbs, announced plans for the subdivision of 1 000 acres of the O'Connell estate at St Marys. Part was to be divided into 10– or 50–acre lots for use as stock resting paddocks for up–country

settlers and butchers: part of the estate was commonly known as 'the fattening paddock'. Stubbs anticipated that the location of the land would suit settlers from Bathurst and Mudgee as well as purchasers from Nepean and Sydney. The grazing land was already leased at £1 per acre, and higher prices were anticipated at the land sale. Land on the banks of South Creek was to be divided into town allotments. Stubbs promoted St Marys as being an attractive location for a country cottage for wealthy Sydney residents in search of a snug retreat from the smoke and bustle of the metropolis. St Marys was far enough from the city for a country residence but close enough for an early–riser travelling 14 miles by road to the Parramatta steamer to be in Sydney by eleven in the morning.[16] Despite these blandishments, the St Marys estates remained intact.

Sale of Frogmore and Coallee to Sydney solicitor and speculator, Andrew McCullock

In 1847 Sir Maurice O'Connell was succeeded as commander of the forces in New South Wales by Major–General Wynyard. Plans were made to return to England but Sir Maurice died at Darlinghurst on 25 May 1848. Lady O'Connell left the colony after her husband's death and lived in Paris and in London, where she died in 1864.[17]

With O'Connell's death, the family defaulted on the mortgage payments and in October 1854 the Australian Trust Company appointed an attorney to sell their land. The following year, in November 1855, the O'Connell estates of Riverstone (2 500 and 1 000 acre grants), Frogmore (600 acres) and Coallee (1 500 acres), except for 40 acres of land subdivided and sold to create the village of St Marys, were sold to the Sydney solicitor, Andrew Hardie McCullock, for £12 985.[18]

Andrew McCullock specialised in acquiring land near existing or projected railway lines. The first railway from Sydney to Parramatta was completed in 1855 and routes for its extension were under consideration. Proposals included a line to Windsor and a western line to Penrith and Bathurst. The suggested routes ran parallel to the main roads and the old O'Connell estates lay on both routes, the Windsor line at Riverstone and the western line at Frogmore, St Marys.

St Marys railway station, originally called South Creek station, opened in May 1862. Werrington station opened as a private platform known as Parkes in May 1868 and was renamed Werrington in 1893 to avoid confusion with the New South Wales country town of Parkes.

Long before these developments actually took place, McCullock had arranged the subdivision of the Frogmore and Coallee grants into 31 farm allotments and 55 village allotments. The auction sale was announced in December 1855 by Penrith real estate agent, James T Ryan.[19] The two grants were treated as one unit and were divided into 86 lots. The numbers of these lots constitute the basic identification system for the subsequent history of the UWS land at its Werrington site. The present University site embraces Lots 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and parts of 12A and 27 of the original Frogmore, and Lots 28, 29, 30 and 31 of Coallee, as subdivided in 1856 (Fig 2).

Much of the land had been cleared and fenced by the time of the auction, with parts under cultivation; there was one homestead along with several huts. The two focal points on the western part of Frogmore were the hills on Lots 24 and 26, both ideal sites for homesteads. Lot 24 includes the site of the present Werrington Park house.[20]

The sale notice of 1855 indicates a homestead on Lot 24, and the accompanying map shows two separate structures—one presumably a kitchen—located slightly to the east of the present house.[21] However, the location on the map is not necessarily accurate and the homestead of 1855 may very well have been on the site of Werrington Park house.

When Stubbs advertised the subdivision of the whole of the Frogmore and Coallee estates in 1842 he made no mention of any existing buildings and specifically encouraged prospective buyers to build their own cottages.[22] However, young Maurice and Eliza O'Connell, accustomed to the comforts of large Sydney houses, must have had reasonable accommodation available when they stayed on the estate in 1840. Since no–one else would have been likely to have built a homestead there in the intervening years, it is a reasonable supposition that what is shown in the subdivision map of 1855 was already there in 1840, and may well have been built in that year for Maurice and Eliza.

The origins of Werrington Park house

The single–storeyed core of the present Werrington Park house is of brick. It may have consisted of six rooms or, more plausibly, only four arranged along a central corridor running east–west (Fig 3). The original front door, unlike the present entrance, was on the east wall. That is to say, either it was on the narrow end of a six–roomed cottage or, if the core house were four–roomed, it would simply have been on one side of a square, probably a preferable arrangement.

There is serious doubt whether the existing brick core is particularly early: the

iron bars, giving added strength above the twelve–paned sash windows, suggest a mid–Victorian date rather than one of around twenty years earlier (ie, around 1840). So many alterations have been made to the fabric of the house that it is difficult to estimate when particular features may have been added.

Fiona Morley, on the basis of the historical appraisal carried out by the authors of this history as well as her own inspection of the building, came to the conclusion that none of the present house can be dated earlier than the 1880s.[23] The original core of the house is, however, arguably square and compatible in layout with a house that might have been built for the O'Connells in 1840; only an archaeological investigation can settle the matter.

The changing ownership of Frogmore's Lot 24 : the site of Werrington Park house

In January 1856 Andrew McCullock sold Lot 24, including the homestead, to Charles Hadley, a Castlereagh farmer, for £621.[24] Hadley already owned land on the Nepean and may have been interested in acquiring land along the proposed railway line for resting paddocks or simply as an investment. He did not live there but leased it to a number of tenant farmers, as did purchasers of

several other lots. See **Appendix B** for details of leaseholders on Frogmore estate (during the period of Hadley's ownership of Lot 24) listed on the 1869–70 electoral roll.

On 15 February 1881 Hadley sold Lot 24 to a timber merchant of Penrith for £400.[25] The new owner, George Turner, was a member of a family that had been in the St Marys/Penrith district since the 1840s.[26] George Turner owned a timber mill at St Marys. The timber of western Sydney, cut for building and firewood, was a valuable resource in the nineteenth century. Turner may have cut timber from Lot 24 but if, as is likely, it had been used for grazing, farming and viticulture under its previous owner, Charles Hadley, there may not have been much timber left.

George Turner is shown in the 1891 census as living on the Western Road, St Marys, in a household of two males and one female.[27] There is no doubt that he occupied the single–storeyed homestead on Lot 24 that is part of the present Werrington Park. George Turner's great–granddaughter, Mrs Edna Smith, who is now 77 years of age, remembers growing up on the farm during the First World War. Whether or not George Turner built the homestead, however, remains an open question.

Mrs Smith recalls an orchard of pear trees and peach trees on the property, and a vineyard known as the Carrington Vineyard (Fig 4).[28] C H Merz, the lessee of earlier years, is shown in Sands Country Directory for 1884–85 as a vinegrower at Frogmore. Another German had established Sir John Jamison's vineyard at nearby Regentville in 1830, and presumably Merz had created the Carrington Vineyard for Charles Hadley and continued under George Turner. The electoral roll for 1898-99 shows Conrad Merz, described as a farmer, still resident on Frogmore, while a member of the Turner family, William Gerald Turner, appears on the same roll as being resident at the Carrington Vineyard. For details of the other voters on Frogmore listed on the electoral roll of 1898-99, see **Appendix** B.

George Turner served as mayor of St Marys after having been one of the first members of St Marys Municipal Council, incorporated in 1890. Other members of the family operated stores in St Marys and had farms in the district. Several generations of the Turner family are buried in St Marys churchyard.[29]

In 1905, George Turner gave Lot 24 to his son, Jesse,[30] who soon after bought the three lots immediately to the east (Lots 23, 22 and 12A). These three lots had been sold as a group by McCullock on 5 April 1856 to a local farmer, George Hope.[31] Jesse bought the lots from George Hope Jr and Claude

Edenborough for £1 000.[32] Then a man of sixty-one, Jesse farmed the consolidated 176 acres, hiring casual labourers to assist in busy times. He had no tenant–farmers.

In September 1912 Jesse Turner subdivided Lot 12A by selling 12 acres on the southern boundary to George Sheppeard, a Lithgow butcher, for £450. Two years later Sheppeard sold the same 12 acres to Richard Smith, a farmer of St Marys, for £580. This land was bounded on the east by what was then known as Wellington Road (now Werrington Road) and on the south by Gipps Street. It included part of the land on which Thorndale School was built in 1965.[33]

By the time of the First World War Jesse Turner was growing old and had moved to a house in Walker Street, Werrington.[34] He had three sons, but none was in a position to take over the farm. Two sons—one a bank manager and the other a railwayman—were uninterested in farming; the third son (Edna Smith's father) worked at Brelle's tannery at South Creek and could not afford to buy the farm. In 1919, therefore, Jesse Turner agreed to sell the four lots, 12A (less 12 acres), 22, 23 and 24, to Caroline Sutherland for £4 000.

Caroline Sutherland also purchased all the farming implements (except 'two sulkies with harness') for £1 000. The farming equipment included a 4

horsepower boiler and engine; chaffcutter; horse–gear for chaffcutting; culti-vators; harrows and ploughs; hay rakes and knives; pumps; spraying equip-ment and fruit cases; and an egg incubator and brooders. The list suggests that Jesse Turner had maintained a mixed farm with some cultivation, hay making, fruit growing, and poultry.[35]

When Caroline Sutherland completed the purchase of Jesse Turner's 167 acres running from the Great Western Highway north almost to the railway, she also purchased the adjoining 110 acres reaching westward to French Street.[36] Caroline Sutherland was married to Victor Ernest Sutherland, a Parramatta architect. Around the time of Caroline's Frogmore purchases, her husband also acquired small portions of land nearby, remnants of insolvent estates along the railway line.[37]

Caroline Sutherland had been born to Caroline Hilton and her husband, Edwin Charles Ellison, in 1876 at Botany, New South Wales, where her father was a manufacturer. Caroline's marriage to Victor Ernest Sutherland took place in 1900. Two children survived from the marriage—George B Hilton Sutherland, born in 1901, and Sheila M Sutherland, born in 1915.

The Sutherland era at Frogmore/Brooklands

Under the Sutherlands there was a fine herd of prize cattle, as well as stud ponies, on Frogmore. Clifford Moran, who lived near Werrington railway station, recalls breaking in horses on the property, spraying grapes in the vineyard, and picking fruit from the orchard.[38]

On the eastern part of the estate Victor Sutherland began the construction of a speedway for cars and motor cycles, which was known as Brooklands after the famous racing track in England.

In June 1923 the journal *Motor News* reported: '[the] Brooklands track is again open for competition purposes.' The journal published an account of three–lap motorcycle races won by J L Emerson and R N Judd on Douglases. It is not at all clear, though, that this is Sutherland's speedway.[39] Mr Moran, who remembers the property well in the late 1920s, recalls only the final straight and some of the banking as having been completed, and the speedway was certainly not in use in his time. On the other hand, an aerial photograph of 1961 (Fig 5) shows a complete oval track very clearly, and it is possible that some preliminary motorcycle runs were conducted in 1923. At all events, there was competition from the dirt track beside the railway station at nearby Penrith and this, together with the opening of highbanked, spectacular circuits such

as Melbourne's Motordrome (opened in 1924) and Sydney's Maroubra Speedway (opened in 1925), discouraged Sutherland from persevering with the Brooklands circuit.

But Caroline Sutherland died at St Marys on 11 January 1924 at 48 years of age, only five years after her purchase of the Frogmore land. She was buried in St Marys churchyard.[40] On her death Caroline Sutherland's estate passed to her husband. Though Brooklands remained on the rate books into the 1940s as 'speedway under construction',[41] Victor Sutherland steadily lost interest in Frogmore after his wife's death. Parts of the estate were mortgaged; Victor's brother–in–law, George Ellison, took up residence in Brooklands, as it was then known (now Werrington Park), and the Moran family grazed their cattle on the speedway paddock.[42]

During this period of virtual interregnum, young Clifford Moran capitalised on the intense public interest in aviation by using the level land within the speedway oval as an aerodrome for joy-flights in Tiger Moths. On Saturday mornings during the late 1920s, Moran would round up his cattle on horseback, welcome visiting pilots, and sell air tickets to passing motorists, whose attention he attracted with displays of stunt flying. Among the pilots who used Brooklands for this purpose was Keith Anderson, who soon afterwards

(in 1929) lost his life in the search for Charles Kingsford Smith and the Southern Cross.[43]

By 1930 flying at Werrington had largely ceased. Victor Sutherland had now leased the land and the homestead on Lot 24 to Charles Albert Wright, who farmed a 22 acre property called The Cedars just across the Highway from the speedway site.

Brooklands becomes a guesthouse

Wright converted the Brooklands homestead on Lot 24 into a guesthouse and remained in occupation until the sale of most of the Sutherland estate to Alan Creer Williams in the 1930s.[44]

Meanwhile, the western part of Frogmore—Lots 25, 26 and 27—had a quite separate succession of owners.

Lots 25, 26 and 27 of Frogmore : 1856-1898

The three westerly lots (25, 26 and 27), totalling some 119 acres, had been sold

in 1856 by McCullock the developer: Lots 26 and 27 went to James Cummins, a farmer of Sydney, for £448.10.0; Lot 25, adjacent to Frogmore homestead, to a Sydney butcher, George Dempsey.

Cummins sold 54 of his 74 acres after only seven months, to B McDonnell, who in turn sold the land to J Landers in 1858.[45] The remaining 20 acres of Cummins's purchase, down on the flat on Lot 27, were sold in 1861 to Richard Brooks for £160. In 1862 Brooks sold at a profit of £60 to John Moss, who in turn sold the land two years later for a loss of £70, to G T Clarke of Penrith.[46]

Lot 25 had remained in Dempsey's ownership while the neighbouring blocks changed hands, but in January 1873 Dempsey sold his lot to Patrick Sheehan, a St Marys farmer, for £220. After farming there for seventeen years, Sheehan sold the 45 acre lot to a 'gentleman', G W Cotgrave, in September 1890 for the substantial sum of £1 240.[47]

Meanwhile, the adjacent Lots 26 and 27 had continued their more eventful, tenurial history. The larger part of that land, 54 acres bought by Landers in 1858, was sold to Joseph Elijah Williams in 1877. Two years later Williams reconsolidated Lots 26 and 27 by purchasing the final 20 acres from the widow of G T Clarke.[48] Williams, described in the conveyances as a teamster and a

farmer, sold the 74 acres to Francis McMahon of Ulladulla in December 1882 for £1 531.5.0 shillings.[49]

McMahon was a suburban speculator. He subdivided the 74 acres as the Mount Clare Estate, creating, in plan only, a landscape of streets with an operatic theme: Trovatore, Lammermore, Norma, Bohemia and Madeline Streets. The estate was offered for auction but there was only one purchaser, Harriet Wilson, wife of Alfred Wilson, manager of the sleeping cars on the Great Western Railway. Mrs Wilson purchased five lots for £78.7.6. When Francis McMahon died in 1897, Mrs Wilson was still the only person who had purchased land on his subdivision. The following year, 1898, McMahon's widow and son repurchased the lots from Mrs Wilson and sold the entire estate to their neighbour, George William Cotgrave, for £500.[50]

After more than forty years of fragmentation, the western part of Frogmore was once more united.

By the late 1870s this area had become known as Quarry Hill because of the stone quarry on its southern border, close to the Western Road. The name Quarry Hill now refers to the area, within the new campus, on the opposite side of the Highway, a change first recorded in the 1890s.[51]

Frogmore briefly reunited

George Cotgrave retained the northern Quarry Hill intact until 1919 when he sold it to his neighbour, Caroline Sutherland, for £2 500. The rate and valuation notice for 1923 sent to Mrs Sutherland at Carrington (Vineyard), St Marys, noted that Lots 25, 26 and 27 covered 115 acres and included a cottage. The unimproved capital value was £1 725; the improved capital value £2 500.[52] On Caroline Sutherland's death in 1924, Lots 25, 26 and 27, together with Lots 12A, 22, 23 and 24 of the O'Connell estate, passed to her husband (see above, under "The Sutherland era at Frogmore"). Lots 25, 26 and 27 were sold by the mortgage holders in 1928 to John Sydney Jackson, who resold the following year to Edward Thomas Cheeseman.[53]

Quarry Hill becomes Bellevue Park Golf Course

Under Cheeseman and his wife, Lydia, Quarry Hill estate was renamed Bellevue Park and converted to a golf course. Cheeseman had already realised that the rolling parkland with its remaining stands of timber had the potential to become a golf course of distinction. In 1929 he engaged W Corry and Frank Eyre to design an eighteen–hole course with wide fairways, some sporting water hazards and small, couch–grass greens. When constructed, Bellevue Park course was the longest in New South Wales, with one exceedingly long

hole (the ninth, 563 yards) and three others over 400 yards. Par was 71 and the layout of the course encouraged long wood shots from the manicured fairways.[54] It was far superior to the existing Penrith course, which had only nine holes with sand greens.[55]

The hilltop on Lot 25 commanded impressive views, and the golf course clubhouse was custom–built there in 1929. It was a long, single–storeyed building with fourteen rooms, including tea and luncheon accommodation. Midday and afternoon meals were also served under the fine trees that sheltered the clubhouse, beside the tennis court and putting green.

Bellevue Park was known colloquially as the 'Governors' club', not because the Governor played there regularly, but because of a particular, distinctive feature of the clubhouse. A unique gallery housed allegedly authentic portraits of all the Governors of New South Wales, from Governor Phillip to Sir Dudley De Chair, and the individual holes on the course were named after eighteen of these Governors.[56]

It was not a championship course and its activities were not regularly listed in the Sydney golfing world's calendar, but the fine situation of the course and its consolingly wide fairways gave it an assured position in the western

suburbs. Its place in the local community came to a sudden and dramatic end in 1938 when the clubhouse, along with its notable portrait collection, was destroyed in flames.[57]

Iron merchant Alan Creer Williams buys Frogmore land

Charles Wright, the lessee, had converted the Brooklands homestead on Lot 24 into a guesthouse. Wright remained in occupation until the sale of most of the Sutherland estate to Alan Creer Williams in the 1930s (see above, under "Brooklands becomes a guesthouse"). It was Williams who created the modern Werrington Park.

Williams was born at Summer Hill, Sydney, in 1891, the son of Annie Ewing, née Creer, and John Sydney Williams, a chartered accountant.

Alan Creer Williams worked for an English importer, then started his own business importing hardware and building supplies. He later formed a business partnership with a person by the name of McAlister. Together Williams and McAlister established a dealership through which they distributed Australian galvanised iron manufactured by John Lysaght of Newcastle. Other iron merchants had been reluctant to distribute the Australian product

because they were tied as agents of British manufacturers. Later McAlister and Williams took up a franchise to distribute steel from Hoskins's Australian Iron and Steel Works at Port Kembla.

When McAlister died unmarried, Williams continued as sole trader, building up a very successful business and ultimately becoming one of BHP's major distributors of iron and steel. McAlister and Williams (Holdings) Limited was listed as a public company in 1960, with its main subsidiary trading as McAlister and Williams Iron and Steel Pty Limited. The Williams family sold the company to its main competitor, McPherson's Steel on 1 April 1970. Alan Creer Williams Sr died on 6 December 1971, at the age of seventy-nine. His wife, Laura Adelaide Pickette of Rylstone, whom he had married at Manly in 1923, had died the previous year at the age of eighty-three. Their only child, Allan Creer Williams was born in 1924.[58]

It had been the panoramic views and the excellent golf that brought Alan Williams and his wife Laura to St Marys in the 1930s. Though they were members of Roseville Golf Club on Sydney's north shore, they enjoyed country weekends playing golf elsewhere. Bellevue Park became a favourite course and the guesthouse (Brooklands) run by Charlie Wright in the present Werrington Park homestead was singularly convenient.

When Wright discontinued his lease in 1935, Victor Sutherland, widower of Caroline Sutherland and the then owner of the Frogmore land, offered the lots adjacent to the golf course for sale at auction.

Alan Williams attended the auction on the site. No bids were made, and Williams negotiated privately to buy the homestead where he had so often stayed as a paying guest. He also bought 42 acres of Lot 24.[59] However, the fiery fate in 1938 of the Bellevue Park clubhouse on the land adjoining Brooklands soon put an end to Alan Williams's golfing on the property.

Edward Thomas Cheeseman, who had owned Lots 25, 26 and 27 since 1929 and had developed the golf course and clubhouse, subsequently sold the course to the mortgage holder, Central Investors Pty Ltd, for £3 512.

After a short interval in which William Joseph Hammond leased Bellevue Park, Alan Creer Williams acquired the golf course land. Adding Bellevue Park to the homestead and sections of Lot 24 that he already held, Williams thus recreated much of the Sutherland's former estate (with the exception of the flat western portion of Lot 27, which was resumed by the Commonwealth in 1944 for army use).[60] Williams renamed his property Werrington Park: first it had been known as Frogmore, then Brooklands, and now Werrington Park.

The Williams family used the cottage as a weekend retreat, driving up from their Sydney home in Roseville on Friday afternoons and returning to the city on Sunday evenings. Journeys were undertaken in the comfort of Williams's first Rolls-Royce, which he bought while living at Werrington Park.

Major renovations to the Werrington Park homestead

In 1935 renovations to the homestead were urgently required. The verandah was replaced in 1936 but, happily, the appearance of the exterior immediately before this alteration is recorded in a photograph taken in late 1935 or early 1936. The photograph shows Mr and Mrs Williams entertaining a guest in the garden of their newly acquired property (Fig 6). At that time the verandah was clearly late Victorian, presumably the work of the Turner family. It had a bull nosed iron roof and square wooden posts topped with delicate fretwork of a conventional, but pleasing, design. This Victorian work was swept away, together with the turpentine or ironbark floorboards of the verandah, by the Cousins brothers from Blacktown, who installed tallowwood flooring and turned verandah posts, with no decorative fretwork (Fig 7). Inside the house, decayed plaster on walls and ceilings was replaced and extensive wall–papering was undertaken.[61]

The house was still rather mean, with six small rooms and a kitchen on the west side (Fig 3). Alan and Laura Williams commissioned a Sydney architect, C D Leake, to remodel the existing house and build an upper storey.

In two stages, during 1938, the house was transformed. By 1939 the upper storey contained five bedrooms, a large bathroom and two public rooms with polished tallowwood floors; one of these was a supper room, the other a ballroom that ran the entire length of the original single–storeyed homestead (Fig 8).

Downstairs, the reorientation of the main entrance fundamentally altered the house. The front door had been in the centre of the east side. Leake converted the French windows opening onto the verandah from the middle room on the south side, into the new front door. A bedroom became, rather clumsily, the new entrance hall. The earlier entry corridor, running east–west through the centre of the house, was narrow and remained a narrow means of entry from the new square hall to the other ground–floor rooms.

By 1939 the ground–floor rooms consisted of two bedrooms on the eastern end; a library in the central northern position (probably used as a sitting–room before 1938), and a large recreation room that ran the whole western end of the

old house and led into a huge new living–room on the north–western corner of the house (where, in Jesse Turner's time, there had been a conservatory above a well). The old well was converted into a striking wine–cellar, a new bathroom wing was added to the western end of the north verandah (where Turner probably had his outside office), and a breakfast–room adjacent to the kitchen replaced the western end of the south verandah (Fig 9).

The first phase of Leake's work completed the downstairs renovations and extensions as well as three upstairs bedrooms (above the new living–room). The interior finish of this work was highly compatible with the traditional joinery of the earlier house. The second stage, however, which constituted the remainder of the upper storey including the ballroom, utilised much simpler detailing and has been stigmatised by Fiona Morley as 'cheap and dull'.[62]

The exterior of the whole reshaped house was uniformly stuccoed, the structure of the earlier brick cottage being completely obscured by heavy stucco to match the new sections. These new sections were timber–framed with internal fibro cladding and external stucco over chicken wire.

The original house, low–slung and spreading along the breast of the hill, had been transformed into a more imposing country home. It provided a suitable

milieu for the very civilised entertaining of the hospitable Williams family. The son of the family, Allan Williams, talks with affection of the operatic concerts that were held on the balconies of the house during the Second World War for British and American servicemen on leave in Sydney.

The vines in the old Carrington Vineyard were quickly nursed back to productivity after years of neglect. Each summer from 1937 onwards, Laura Williams held an annual charity day, "The Grape Harvest", to which fashionable people came, in fashionable cars, to pick grapes and enjoy an alfresco supper (Fig 10).

Gardens were developed around the house, initially covering one acre, but later extending to five acres of roses and dahlias, hibiscus, bougainvillea, crepe myrtles and blossom trees. The remaining pine trees, on the eastern side of the driveway from the main road, were removed. The present rows of poplars were planted in the 1940s to commemorate those who had died on active service (Fig 11).[63]

Although the produce of the orchard and the vineyard was harvested, Werrington Park was no longer a working farm. A string of horses was maintained for pleasure and a herd of prime Illawarra shorthorn cattle was

built up as a hobby. The field of oats planted by Mr Williams was grown for the sole purpose of providing winter fodder for the horses.[64]

Alan Williams retained Werrington Park until 1954 when he sold the 238 acres to a grazier, Harold Esmond Rudd, for £25 000.

Werrington Park becomes a Home for boys

A few short months after the sale to Rudd, Werrington Park was purchased by the New South Wales Government.[65]

In June 1954, the New South Wales Child Welfare Department acquired Werrington Park as a companion for their Brush Farm home at Eastwood, and May Villa at Dundas. Their purpose was to develop a centre where state wards who were intellectually retarded could receive training in simple rural activities. Werrington Park housed boys aged between fourteen and seventeen, providing school classes and training in practical farm work. A dairy herd supplied the Home with milk and butter; poultry were kept; vegetables were grown; and draught horses were used to teach the boys horse handling.[66]

Initially twelve boys occupied Werrington Park.

Alterations to Werrington Park house during this period

In 1956 a two–storeyed wing with dormitories and bathroom facilities was built on the northern side of the house by the Government Architect. The design of the new wing was acceptably consistent with the early work, and the external render was roughened to resemble the stucco used for Williams's alterations carried out in 1938.

However, the subsequent changes to the two–storeyed house and its environs that Leake had designed for Williams were unfortunate. The tallowwood verandah floor was ripped out and concrete poured in its stead; many of the fireplaces were boxed in and obscured by gas heaters; standard 1950s light fittings were introduced throughout the house; and the colour scheme was institutionalised.

Although the flowerbeds created by Laura Williams had certainly been labour–intensive, the destruction of the twenty–year–old garden was most unfortunate. Only the trees, around which Mrs Williams had planned her garden, and the remains of fountains and statuary, survived to suggest the pleasures the garden must have held during the twenty years in which it covered two hectares of land.

During the 1960s further building in the paddocks extended the Welfare Home's capacity to accommodate 120 boys (who were generally within an IQ range of 40 to 69). By the mid 1960s there were new classrooms; a principal's residence; an administration block; and three separate dormitory blocks, west of Werrington Park house on Lot 25 (Fig 12). One dormitory, built in 1961, was named Coallee (after Mary Bligh's land grant of 1810), and another, 'Dunheved' (after the King family's grant nearby). The third dormitory, for 30 boys, was built on the site of the Bellevue Park clubhouse that had been destroyed by fire in the 1930s. The superintendent of the Home from 1954 to 1972 was Douglas Alfred Brown.[67]

Cobham Remand Centre built on Werrington Park

In 1978 the New South Wales Government announced construction of a children's court and remand centre on the south–eastern corner of Werrington Park. Named after Cobham Hall, the Bligh family's ancestral home in England, it is known as the Cobham Remand Centre.

Mary Bligh's Coallee grant of 1810

The history of Mary Bligh's second grant, Coallee, can be told more briefly.

Coallee (now the southern part of the Kingswood/Werrington campus of UWS) was subdivided—together with Frogmore—by AH McCullock in 1856. The four lots that are now part of UWS—28, 29, 30 and 31—went to two purchasers. Henry Nash bought the western blocks, Lots 28 and 29, and William Cummins (or Cummings) bought Lots 30 and 31. Nash sold his 114 acres to Bryan or Bernard Molloy in 1869. When Molloy died on 19 April 1885, the estate was divided among his eight children and his sons–in–law. This farm was known as Claremont. In the electoral rolls of 1897–8, four Molloys— Bernard, Charles, John and Lawrence—were listed as farmers on Claremont. In 1903 the Molloy family re–divided Lots 28 and 29 into eight blocks each of 14 acres. These eight blocks have now rearranged themselves into two substantial areas occupied by TAFE, Penrith Drive–in Theatre (a block on the south–western corner), and four primarily agricultural areas including a vineyard.[68]

The eastern lots (30 and 31), totalling 111 acres, were not retained by William Cummins (or Cummings), their original purchaser. Cummins was seriously in debt, and in 1862 Alexander Pollock of Douglas Park, near Campbelltown,

obtained a judgment against him in the Supreme Court for the sum of £37.9.9 with a court order for the sale of Cummins's goods and land to repay the debt and court costs. On 31 March 1862 the land was offered for sale at public auction and sold to Alexander Pollock for £2. Prior to purchase, Pollock had mortgaged this land for £500 but defaulted on the mortgage. In February 1866 the mortgagor, Thomas Fisher of Sydney, offered the land at public auction. There were no bidders and the 111 acres passed to Fisher for £600, the amount of the mortgage plus costs.[69]

Thomas Fisher was a Sydney boot and shoe merchant who began diversifying his business interests in the 1860s; as a financier he acquired small properties such as the Coallee lots for lease, and loaned money on the security of mortgages. The sizeable fortune which Fisher created in this way was bequeathed to The University of Sydney; after Fisher's death in 1884 a bequest of over £32 000 was received by The University of Sydney to be used for the establishment and maintenance of the great library known ever since as Fisher Library.[70] This unexpected link between UWS and its assisting University is a happy coincidence, even though Fisher retained title to this part of the Kingswood/Werrington campus for only five years.

Coallee farms after 1871

In 1871 Fisher sold Lots 30 and 31 (reserving two of the 111 acres for his own use) to a yeoman of Sydney, James Fisher (who was not a relative).[71] For the remainder of the nineteenth century these two lots—30 and 31—were known as Fisher's farm. The electoral roll for 1898–99 lists Daniel Albert Fisher, John Joseph Fisher and Thomas John Fisher as farmers at Quarry Hill (in its new southern location). A labourer, Michael Hyde, appears on the roll as resident at Fisher's farm. In 1925 the owner was George Ellison of St Marys, an orchardist. In that year he transferred Lots 30 and 31 to George Ballam Hilton Sutherland, a civil engineer of St Marys. G B H Sutherland was the son of Caroline Sutherland, who had purchased so much of the O'Connell estate on the northern side of the Great Western Highway in the years following the First World War.

G B H Sutherland sold part of the western portion of Lots 30 and 31 in 1926 and the eastern part of the estate passed from his ownership in 1928, when W J Smith exercised his power of sale as mortgagee.[72] By 1939 the western portion of Lot 30 was leased to John Christian Asimus of Fairfield, a vigneron. In 1946 this section was purchased by John Harold Sydney Asimus and William James Calvert.

Allan Williams recalls the Asimus family well. He and Jack Asimus were around the same age, and Allan Williams remembers them both, as boys, keeping the starlings off the grape vines with 12–gauge shotguns. Sylvia Asimus sometimes worked in the house at Werrington Park.[73]

Allan Williams also remembers the Clayton family, who ran a dairy and poultry farm on the southern side of the Great Western Highway in the direction of St Marys. Joe Clayton and his wife had three daughters: Emily, Lillian and Eleanor (known as Trixie). Lillian and her husband were house-keeper and caretaker at Werrington Park. Westward from the Claytons was a slab cottage where an old Aborigine, known as Dan, lived until his death in the late 1930s.

Though the southern part of the new campus has had a succession of owners, it nevertheless has a straightforward history of farming, dairying, poultry-keeping and viticulture, unlike the northern section with its golf course, racing track, airstrip, guesthouse, and military base (Fig 13).

The Werrington site of UWS's Kingswood/Werrington campus has a long, diverse, and often surprising history. The popular myth relating to the site—that it had been granted by Governor Bligh himself to his daughter, Mary, and

that the house now called Werrington Park had been built either by Mary Bligh or by some unnamed predecessor in 1802—held wide currency when the authors volunteered to write this history in 1987.[74] The process of dispelling this mythology has unveiled an equally interesting history in which Frogmore and Coallee, originating as the estates of an absentee landholder and used as cattle–runs and horse–studs, became increasingly involved in the intensive exploitation of an area of critical importance to the growth of the Nepean valley and of the wider western Sydney region. Successive subdivisions and reconsolidations have finally, in the later twentieth century, restored to the area much of the unity that it had enjoyed in the fifty years following the original grants of 1806 and 1810. The northern site is effectively a palimpsest of the region's economic, social and recreational development.

The future

These forgotten histories, obscured by subsequent layers of events, offer an important and timely instance of the potential for local studies open to staff and students of UWS. With Penrith City Council archives nearby, with the immense riches of the State Archives of New South Wales at Kingswood virtually on campus, and with the strong community interest expressed through the Nepean District Historical Society, the Nepean Family History

Society and the Nepean District Historical Archaeology Group, the future for local history at the University, both in the area of continuing education and at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, is very bright.
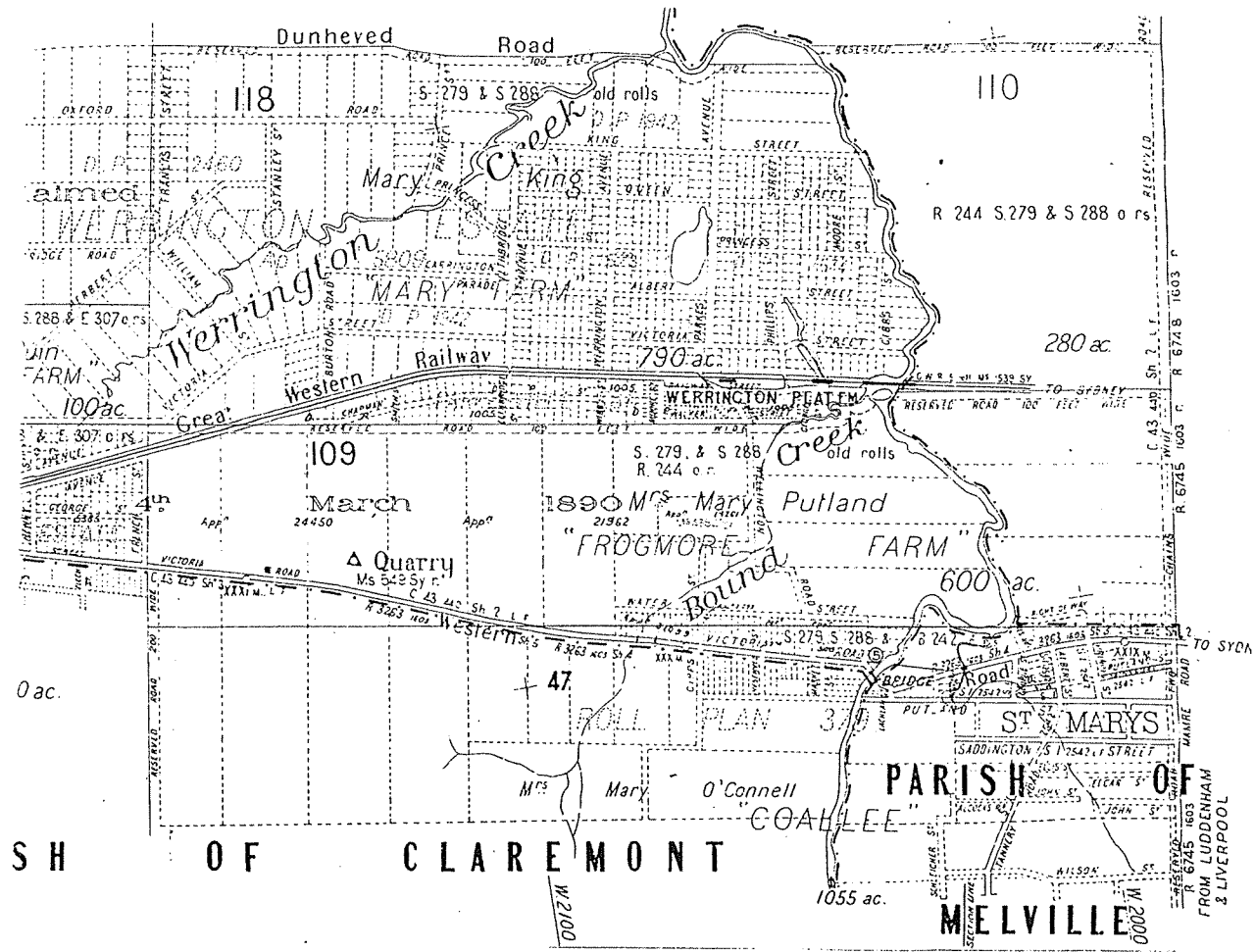
Figure 1
Mary Bligh's farms of Frogmore, granted in 1806, and Coallee, granted in 1810, with the later portion numbers. From the parish map of Londonderry.
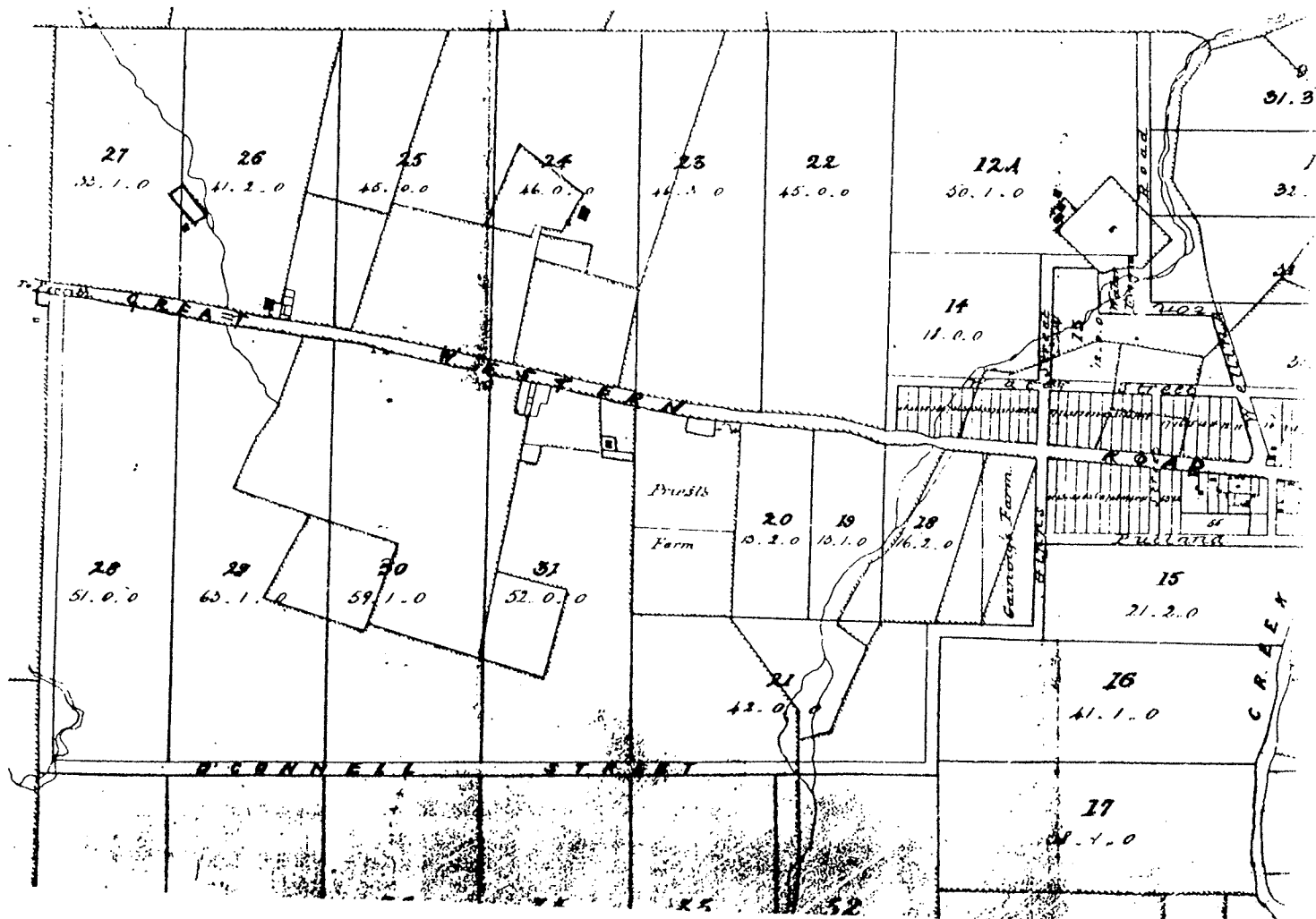
Figure 2
Map made at the time of the sub–division of Frogmore and Coallee in 1855. Existing buildings are shown as black squares or rectangles in portions 12a, 24 (now Werrington Park), 26 and, on the south side of the Great Western Road, 31. The enclosures shown as fenced or hedged lie athwart portions 23 and 24, 26 and 27, and 29, 30 and 31. Mitchell Library, M2 811.11271/1856?/1, reproduced with permission of the State Library of New South Wales.

POSSIBLE EXTENT OF THE VERANDAH

well

⊕ pump

water tank

KITCHEN

CONSERVATORY

PROPOSED LOCATION OF JESSE TURNERS CONSERVATORY. IT WAS REPLACED BY THE WILLIAMS' c.1938 & IS NOW A DINING ROOM. NO EVIDENCE OF THE ORIGINAL REMAINS.

DINING RM.(?)

LIVING RM.(?)

OFFICE

THIS WAS POSSIBLY A SEPARATE ROOM THE EXISTING NIBST BEAM TEND TO SUGGEST THIS AS DOES THE AWKWARD SHAPE OF THE PRESENT ROOM.

BED RM.

DRAWING RM. (?)

PROPOSED LOCATION OF JESSE TURNERS OFFICE. IT WAS REMOVE WHEN THE WILLIAMS' ADDED TO THE HOUSE c.1938 & NO EVIDENCE REMAINS

ORIGINAL FRENCH DOORS OPENING ONTO THE VERANDAH...A TYPICAL COLONIAL FEATURE. LATER BECAME THE MAIN ENTRANCE - NO EVIDENCE REMAINS OF THE ORIGINAL DOORS.

ORIGINAL IRONBARK OR TURPENTINE VERANDAH DECKING...THE ORIGINAL BOARDS WERE FIXED WITH HAND- MADE NAILS.

BED RM.

BED RM.

ORIGINAL TIMBER POSTS WITH DECORATIVE BRACKETS. REPLACED 1956 BY THE WILLIAMS
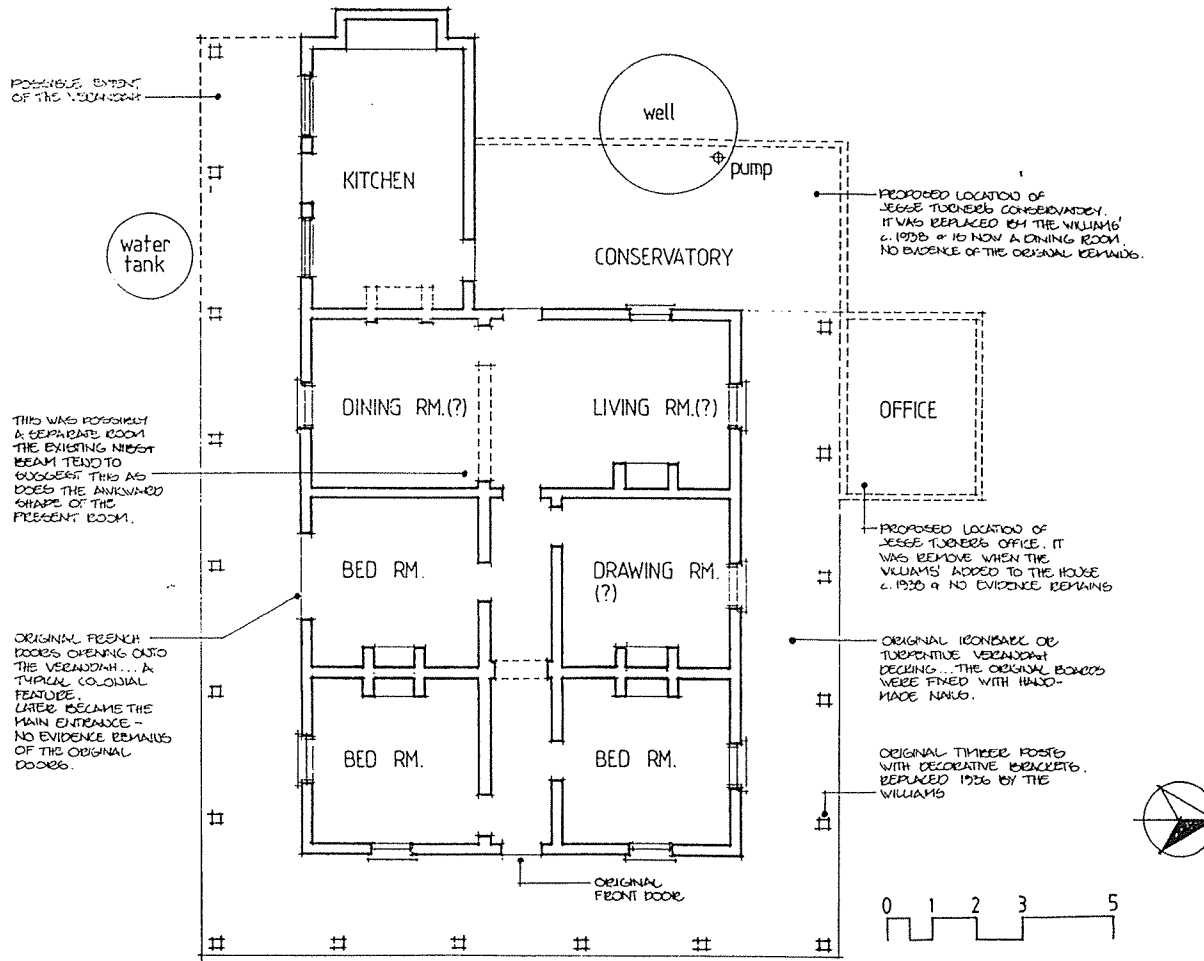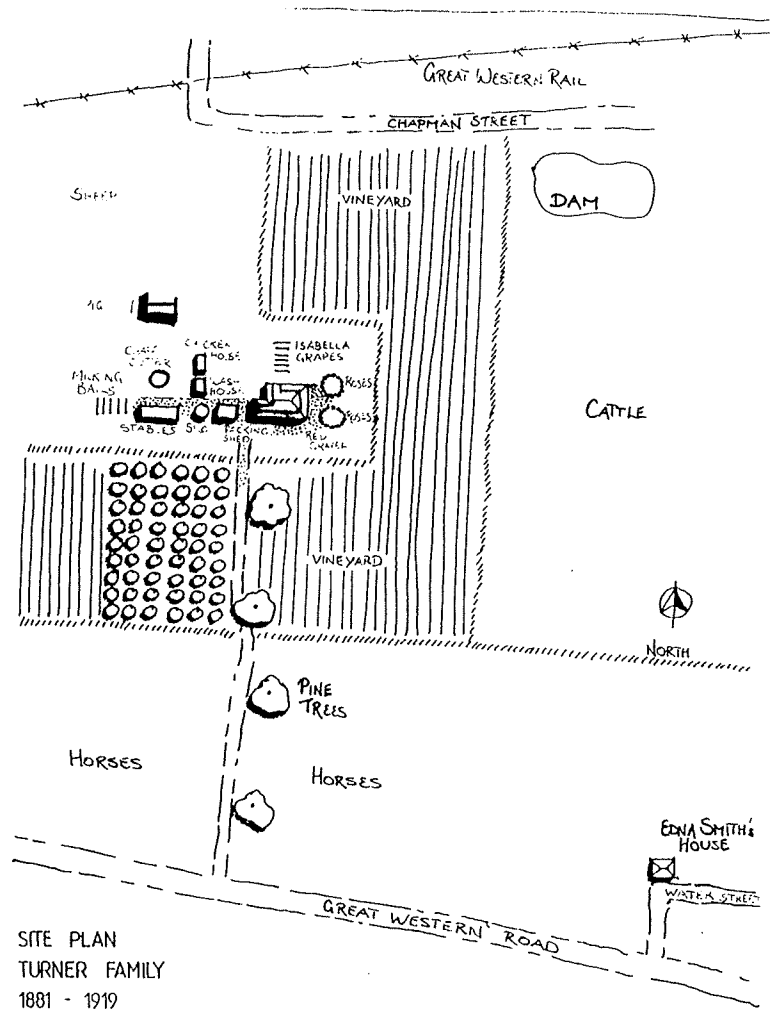
ORIGINAL FRONT DOOR

0 1 2 3 5

Figure 3
Werrington Park house under the ownership of George and Jesse Turner from 1881 to 1919. It retained this ground plan until 1938. Plan by Fiona Morley.

GREAT WESTERN RAIL

CHAPMAN STREET

SHEEP

VINEYARD

DAM

16

CHAFF CUTTER

CHICKEN HOUSE

ISABELLA GRAPES

MILKING BAILS

WASH HOUSE

ROSES

ROSES

STABLES STG

PACKING SHED

REC CANAL

CATTLE

VINEYARD

NORTH

PINE TREES

HORSES

HORSES

EDNA SMITH'S HOUSE

WATER STREET

GREAT WESTERN ROAD

SITE PLAN
TURNER FAMILY
1881 - 1919

Figure 4
Layout of the area around Werrington Park
house in the time of George and Jesse Turner,
1881-1919. Plan by Fiona Morley.

Figure 5
Aerial photograph of Werrington Park estate in 1961, showing on the right the oval track for motor racing constructed by V E Sutherland in the 1920s. By courtesy of the Department of Lands.
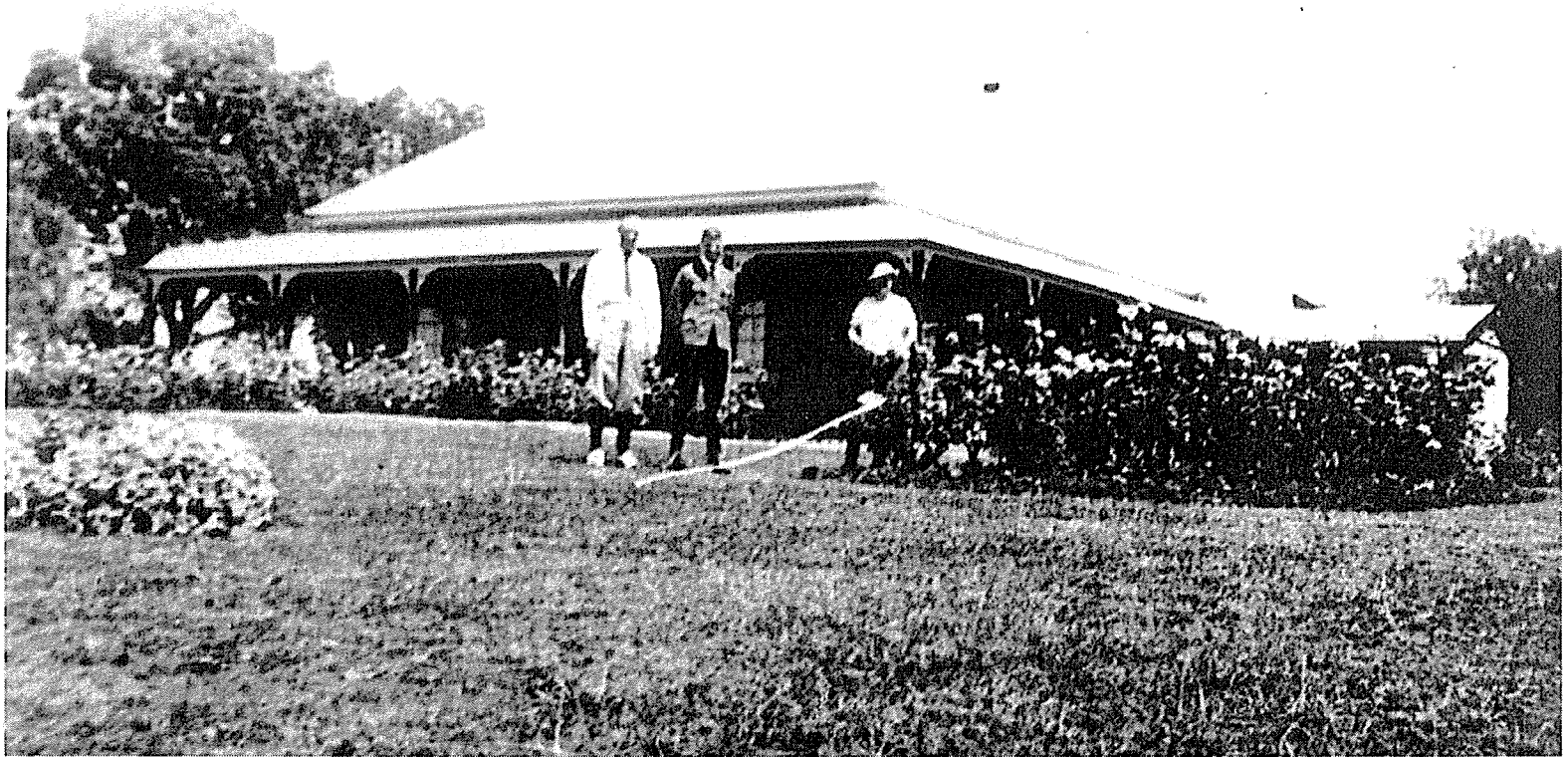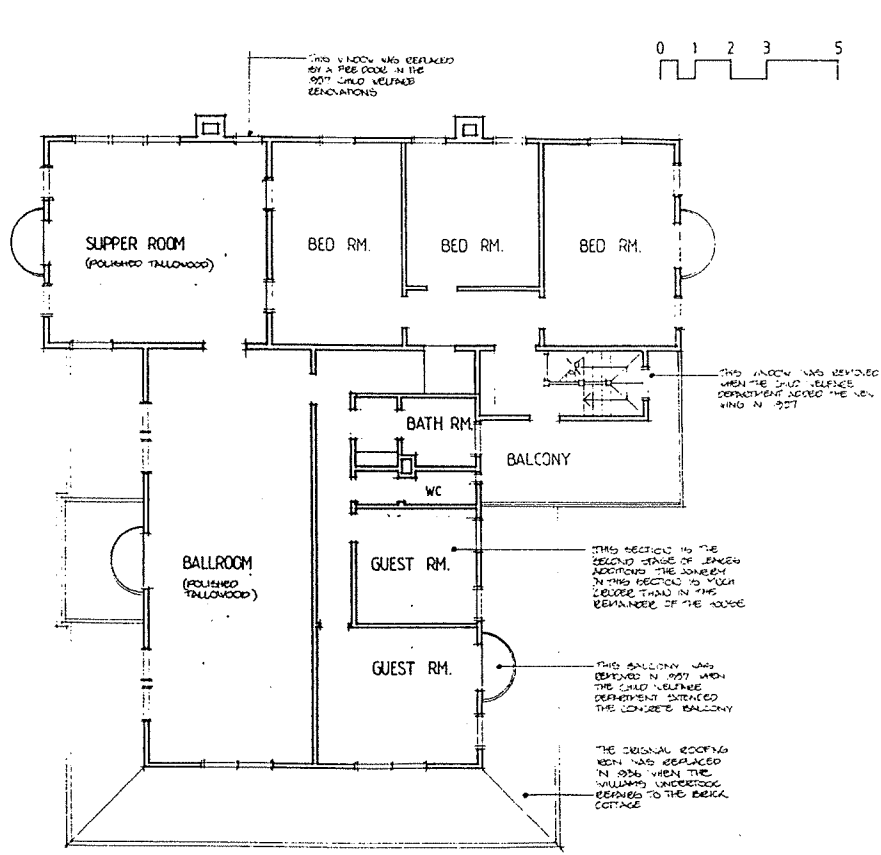
Figure 6
Werrington Park homestead as it was in 1935 before the alterations made by Alan and Laura Williams. This is the only known photograph of the single–storeyed homestead. The bull–nosed verandah and fretwork decoration almost certainly belong to the period of George and Jesse Turner's ownership, between 1881 and 1919. The people pictured in the rather dishevelled garden are, from left to right, the 11–year–old Allan Williams, Alan Williams his father (in plus–fours), an unidentified guest and Laura Williams. Original photograph in possession of Allan C Williams.

Figure 7
Alan and Laura Williams in the garden adjacent to Werrington Park house in the late 1940s. The details of the new verandah installed by the Cousins brothers in 1936 are very clear. Original photograph in possession of Allan C Williams.

SUPPER ROOM
(POLISHED TALLOWOOD)

BED RM.

BED RM.

BED RM.

BATH RM.

BALCONY

WC

BALLROOM
(POLISHED TALLOWOOD)

GUEST RM.

GUEST RM.

0 1 2 3   5

THIS WINDOW WAS REPLACED
BY A FIRE DOOR IN THE
1957 CHILD WELFARE
RENOVATIONS

THIS WINDOW WAS REMOVED
WHEN THE CHILD WELFARE
DEPARTMENT ADDED THE NEW
WING IN 1957

THIS SECTION IS THE
SECOND STAGE OF LEAKE'S
ADDITIONS. THE JOINERY
IN THIS SECTION IS MUCH
CRUDER THAN IN THE
REMAINDER OF THE HOUSE

THIS BALCONY WAS
REMOVED IN 1957 WHEN
THE CHILD WELFARE
DEPARTMENT EXTENDED
THE CONCRETE BALCONY

THE ORIGINAL ROOFING
IRON WAS REPLACED
IN 1936 WHEN THE
WILLIAMS UNDERTOOK
REPAIRS TO THE BRICK
COTTAGE

WERRINGTON PARK   1938
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Figure 8
Plan of the new upper storey designed for
Werrington Park house in 1938 by C D Leake
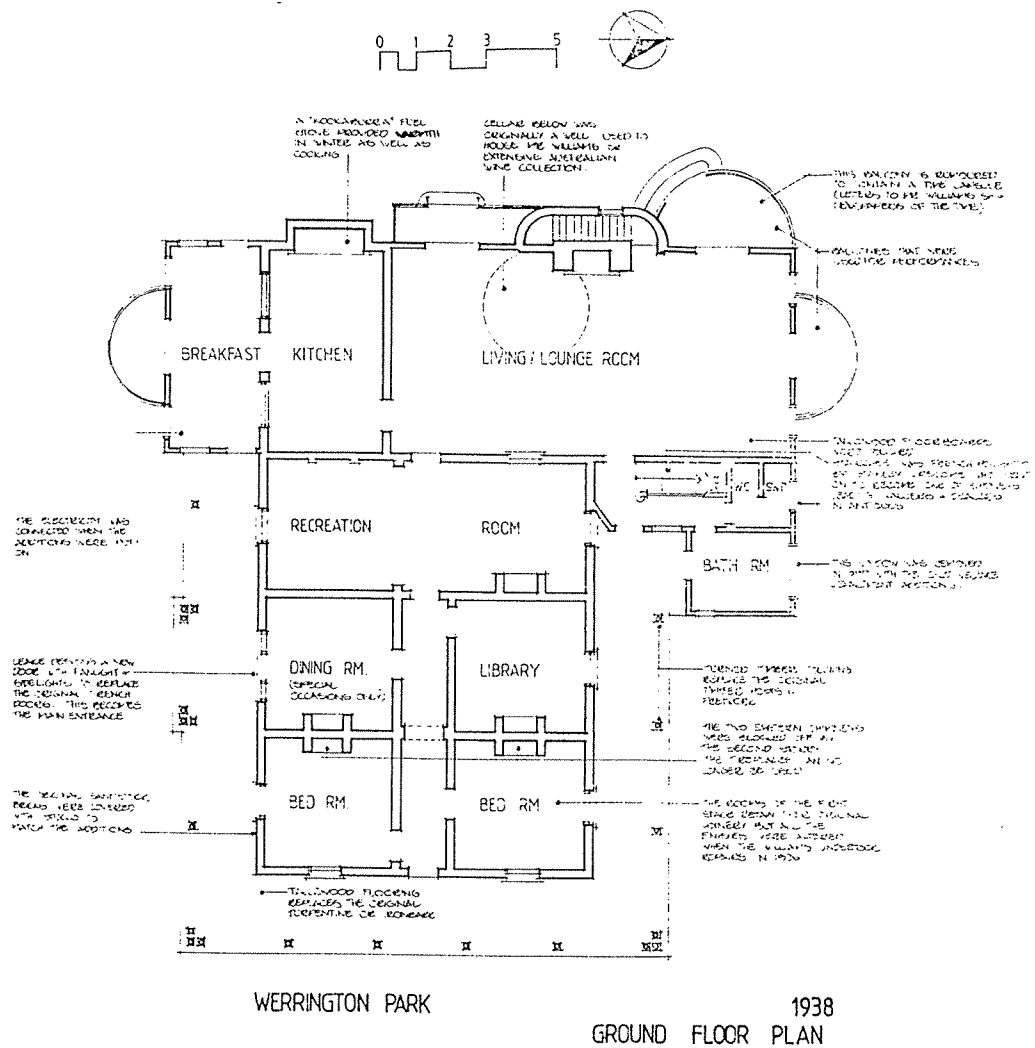for Alan and Laura Williams. Plan by Fiona
Morley.

Figure 9
Ground floor plan of Werrington Park house in 1938 after the alterations and extensions designed by C D Leake for Alan and Laura Williams. Plan by Fiona Morley.

WERRINGTON PARK

1938
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Alan & Laura Williams invite you to

The Grape Harvest

at their country Home, "Werrington Park,"
Werrington, on Saturday, January 30th, 1937
at 4 p.m. Followed by Alfresco supper at
6 p.m.

"Woodlands"
Findlay Avenue
Roseville

R.S.V.P.
By 21st January, 1937

Figure 10
Printed invitation to The Grape Harvest at Werrington Park on 30 January 1937. This was a major social event each year thereafter under Alan and Laura Williams. Original in possession of Allan C Williams.
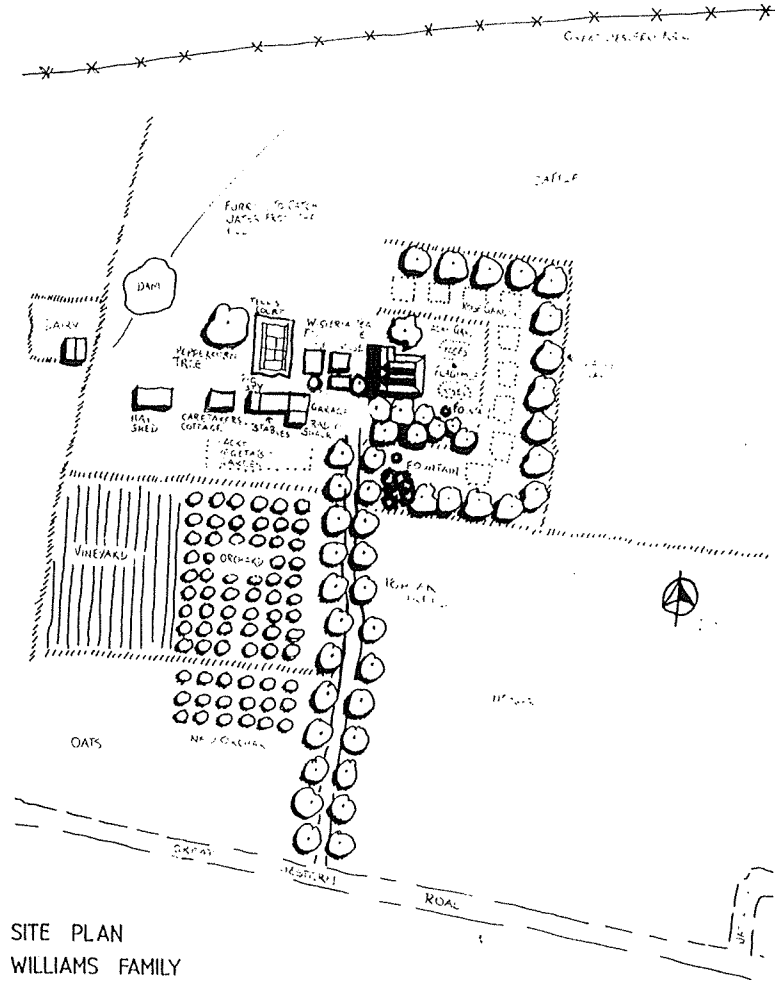
Figure 11
Layout of the area around Werrington Park
house after the changes made by the Williams
in 1935-50. Plan by Fiona Morley.

SITE PLAN
WILLIAMS FAMILY
1935 - 1954

Figure 12
Werrington Park in 1987, showing the development of buildings under the Department of Child Welfare since 1955. This is now the northern part of the new campus of the University of Western Sydney.

DEPT OF EDUCATION

Kingswood T.A.F.E College

EDUCATION DEPT _ T.A.F.E

D.E.P

A & T. PALEOLOGOPOULOS

P. VASSALLO

J. & A. ROHOZYNSKY

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TOTSIS

N. & S. SPYRIDOULIAS

E. & P.D. SPLITHOF

Z. & V. & P. STUART

M. MASGOLO

R. DINNOCENZO

WATER MAIN

GREAT

WESTERN

BOUND

Cobham Remand Centre

WERRINGTON PARK RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Figure 13
The sub–divisions in the southern part of the new campus of the University of Western Sydney as they had developed by 1987.

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29 Freame, *Sweet St Marys*, pp 8, 12; J McD Jones, *Nepean District Cemetery Records*, Penrith (1977), nos 3857–3866.

30 Land Titles Office, Bk 780 no 919.

31 Land Titles Office, Bk 42 no 634. George Hope was one of the first aldermen of St Marys Council in 1890. He died on 30 August 1893, leaving his widow, Mary Ann Hope of St Marys, and his son–in–law, Claude Edenborough, a North Sydney carpenter, as his trustees and executors. Hope divided his estate equally among his children: Mary Ann Edenborough, Claude's wife; William Hope of South Creek, a wood carter; Maria, wife of William Pyne of Albury, a railway employee; Isabella, wife of James Guild of South Creek, a storekeeper, and George Hope of South Creek, a bootmaker. Another son, James Hope of South Creek, was not entitled to any division of the estate because he had held a 120 acre farm belonging to his father since 1881 at a beneficial rental. George Hope senior directed that his farms be sold and the proceeds divided among his eligible children (ref: NSW Supreme Court, Probate Division, Wills 5559/4; Land Titles Office, Primary Application 19261).

32 Land Titles Office, Bk 782 no 223.

33 Land Titles Office, Bk 796 no 253; Bk 1020 no 762; Primary Application 19261.

34 Land Titles Office, Primary Application 19261.

35 Land Titles Office, Primary Application 21962; interview with Edna Smith by Fiona Morley, November 1987.

36 Land Titles Office, Vol 3560 fol 155.

37 Land Titles Office, Deposited Plan 74450 for Primary Application 24450.

38 Interview with Clifford Moran by Ian Jack, 28 December 1987.

39 *Motor News*, 1 v, 6 June 1923.

40 Jones, Nepean District Cemetery Records, no 3827; NSW Death Certificate, Caroline Sutherland, 1924.

41 J Shepherd, *A History of Australian Motor Sport*, Sydney (1980), p 269; W P (Bill) Tuckey, *The Book of Australian Motor Racing*, Sydney and Melbourne (1964), pp 29–30; Penrith City Council Archives, St Marys Council rate–books; Land Titles Office, Vol 3939 fol 48 and Primary Application 21962.

42 Interviews with Edna Smith and Clifford Moran, 1987; Land Titles Office, Vol 3047 fol 231; Vol 3421 fol 196; Vol 3939 fols 48, 49.

43 Interview with Clifford Moran by Ian Jack, 28 December 1987.

44 Land Titles Office, Vol 3939 fol 48; interview with Clifford Moran by Ian Jack, 28 December 1987.

45 Land Titles Office, Bk 44 no 781; Bk 55 no 216.

46 Land Titles Office, Bk 63 no 476; Bk 79 no 655; Bk 90 no 441.

47 Land Titles Office, Primary Application 24450.

48 Land Titles Office, Bk 190 no 987.

49 Land Titles Office, Bk 262 no 72.

50 Land Titles Office, Primary Application 24450; Bk 617 no 472.

51 Electoral rolls, 1897–98.

52 Land Titles Office, Primary Application 24450; Penrith City Council Archives, St Marys Council valuation roll, 1923.

53 Land Titles Office, Vol 3560 fol 155.

54 "The Golf Course with a Hundred Mile View: Bellevue Park, St Marys", *The Golfer*, 1 xxxvi, 24 March 1932, pp 20–1.

55 H Morrison and HBR Meyer (eds), *NSW Golf Annual 1925*, Chippendale (1925), p 190.

56 *The Golfer*, 1 xxix, 4 February 1932, p 11; 1 xxxvi, 24 March 1932, pp 20–1.

57 Interview with Allan C Williams by Ian Jack, 3 July 1987.

58 Interview with Allan C Williams by Carol Liston, 13 October 1987; NSW Death Certificate, AC Williams, 1971.

59 Interview with Allan C Williams by Ian Jack, 3 July 1987.

60 Land Titles Office, Vol 3560 fol 155; Penrith City Council Archives, St Marys Council valuation rolls, 1935–47.

61 Interviews with Allan C Williams by Ian Jack, 3 July 1987 and by Carol Liston, 13 October 1987.

62 Morley, "Werrington Park", BArch thesis, p 239.

63 Interview with Allan C Williams by Ian Jack, 3 July 1987; colour movie film taken by AC Williams senior between 1935 and 1942, originals in possession of AC Williams junior, video copy at UWS.

64 Interview with Allan C Williams by Ian Jack, 3 July 1987.

65 Land Titles Office, Vol 3560 fol 155; Vol 3939 fol 48.

66 NSW Child Welfare Department, *Annual Report*, 1955.

67 Ibid, 1956 onwards.

68 Land Titles Office, Bk 116 no 491; Bk 734 no 274.

69 Land Titles Office, Bk 75 no 701; Bk 79 no 889; Bk 133 no 348.

70 NA Radford and J Fletcher, *In Establishing and Maintaining a Library*, Sydney (1984), pp 13–22.

71 Land Titles Office, Bk 133 no 348.

72 Land Titles Office, Vol 3792 fol 180; Vol 3813 fol 227; Vol 3818 fol 191.

73 Land Titles Office, Vol 3927 fol 200; Vol 4671 fol 155; interview with Allan C Williams by Carol Liston, 13 October 1987.

74 For example, *Uniwest Bulletin*, 3, May 1987, p 1; *The University of Sydney News*, 19 xvi, 30 June 1987, p 129.

Appendix A

Summary of ownership of individual lots following their subdivision in 1856:

Frogmore Lots 12A; 22; 23; 24; 25; 26, and 27, and Coallee Lots 28, 29, 30 and 31 are incorporated within the Werrington site (of the Kingswood/Werrington campus) of UWS.

November 1855 original grants of Frogmore and Coallee—except for 40 acres of land subdivided and sold to create the village of St Marys—sold to Andrew Hardie McCullock.

Treating Frogmore and Coallee as one unit, McCullock subdivided the land into 86 lots (both farm and village allotments).

These Lot numbers (listed above) constitute the basic identification system for the history of the University's Werrington site: the site embraces the following Lots as subdivided in 1856:

Frogmore:

12A: Sold by McCullock on 5 April 1856 to George Hope, local farmer.

Bought (with 22 and 23) by Jesse Turner (son of George Turner) in June 1905, after being given Lot 24 by his father.

In 1912 Jesse Turner subdivided this Lot, selling 12 acres to George Sheppeard a Lithgow butcher for £450.

In 1914 Sheppeard sold his 12 acres to Richard Smith, farmer of St Marys, for £580.

This land includes part of the land on which Thorndale School was built in 1965.

In 1919 Jesse Turner sold Lot 12A together with his other three Lots (22, 23 & 24) to Caroline Sutherland for £4 000. Caroline Sutherland died on 11 January 1924 and her estate passed to her husband, Victor Sutherland.

22:     Sold by McCullock on 5 April 1856 to George Hope (with 12A).

Bought (with 12A and 23) by Jesse Turner (son of George Turner) in June 1905, having been given Lot 24 by his father.

Jesse Turner sold this Lot together with his other three Lots (12A, 23 & 24) to Caroline Sutherland for £4 000. Caroline Sutherland died on 11 January 1924 and her estate passed to her husband, Victor Sutherland (Brooklands car and motorcycle racing track constructed, Lots 22 & 23).

23:     Sold by McCullock on 5 April 1856 to George Hope, local farmer.

Bought (with 12A and 22) by Jesse Turner (son of George Turner) in June 1905, after being given Lot 24 by his father. (The three lots, 12A, 22 and 23, were bought for £1 000.)

Jesse Turner sold this Lot together with his other three Lots (12A, 22 & 24) to Caroline Sutherland for £4 000. Caroline Sutherland died on 11 January 1924 and her estate passed to her husband, Victor Sutherland (Brooklands car and motorcycle racing track constructed, Lots 22 & 23).

24:          Site of Werrington Park homestead; Lot sold in January 1856 by McCullock to Charles Hadley, Castlereagh farmer, for £621; Hadley leased it to tenant farmers, probably for grazing, farming and viticulture.

Conrad Merz, farmer, lessee (shown in directory 1884–5), presumed to have established the Carrington Vineyard on Lot 24 for Hadley and continued under Turner (see below).

15 February 1881 Hadley sold to George Turner, timber merchant of Penrith, for £400. Turner occupied the single–storeyed homestead (Mrs Edna Smith, Turner's great–granddaughter, now 75, grew up on the farm during WW1; Turner may have built the homestead).

George Turner gave the Lot to his son Jesse on 15 May 1905.

Jesse Turner sold this Lot together with his other three Lots (12A, 22 and 23) to Caroline Sutherland for £4 000.

Caroline Sutherland died on 11 January 1924 and her estate passed to her husband, Victor Sutherland.

Sutherland's brother–in–law, George Ellison, took up residence in what was then Brooklands in the late 1920s.

By 1930 Victor Sutherland had leased land and homestead to Charles Albert Wright; Wright converted homestead to guesthouse (Brooklands).

Wright discontinued his lease in 1935 and Sutherland subsequently sold the homestead and 42 acres of Lot 24 to Alan Creer Williams.

Williams held the renamed Werrington Park until 1954 when he sold the 238 acres to Harold Esmond Rudd, grazier, for £25 000.

A few months later Werrington Park was sold to the NSW Government and used by the Child Welfare Department from June 1954 as a centre for intellectually retarded state wards.

25:     Sold in 1856 by McCullock, the developer, to George Dempsey, Sydney
        butcher.

        Patrick Sheehan, St Marys farmer (registered voter in 1898–99), bought the
        property from Dempsey in January 1873 for £220.

        Sheehan sold the 45 acre Lot to GW Cotgrave, 'a gentleman', in September
        1890 for £1 240.

        Cotgrave retained this Lot together with Lots 26 and 27 (which he bought in
        1898), until 1919, when he sold the three lots for £2 500, to his neighbour,
        Caroline Sutherland (who already owned Lots 12A, 22, 23 and 24). Caroline
        Sutherland died in 1924, when the land passed to her husband.

        In 1928 this Lot (25) together with Lots 26 and 27 were sold by the mortgagees
        to John Sydney Jackson, who resold the following year to Edward Thomas
        Cheeseman.

        Cheeseman and his wife, Lydia, renamed Lots 25, 26 and 27 (which had been
        known as Quarry Hill) Bellevue Park. They created a golf course with a
        clubhouse on Lot 25 (burned down in 1938).

        Cheeseman sold the golf course to the mortgagee, Central Investors Pty Ltd,
        for £3 512; for a short interval William Joseph Hammond leased
        Bellevue Park, then Alan Williams bought the land, recreating much of the
        former Sutherland estate.

        Williams renamed the property Werrington Park. He held Werrington Park
        until 1954 when he sold the 238 acres to Harold Esmond Rudd, grazier, for
        £25 000.

        A few months later Werrington Park was sold to the NSW Government and
        used by the Child Welfare Department from June 1954 as a centre for
        intellectually retarded state wards.

26   Sold by McCullock in 1856 to James Cummins, Sydney farmer (together with Lot 27), for £448.10.0.

Cummins sold 26 and part of 27 seven months later to B McDonnell.

McDonnell sold 26 and part of 27 to J Landers in 1858; Landers sold to Joseph Elija Williams, teamster and farmer, in 1877 (Williams bought the remaining 20 acres of Lot 27 in 1879 thus reconstituting Lots 26 and 27).

Joseph Williams sold (together with Lot 27) to Francis McMahon of Ulladulla in December 1882, for £1 531.5.0.

McMahon subdivided the two Lots, creating Mount Clare Estate; he sold only 5 lots of the subdivision, to Harriet Wilson (for £78.7.6). McMahon died in 1897 and the following year his widow repurchased Harriet Wilson's 5 lots, and sold the entire Mount Clare Estate (originally Lots 26 & 27) to George William Cotgrave, their neighbour, for £500 (Cotgrave had bought Lot 25 in 1890).

Cotgrave retained this Lot together with Lots 25 and 27 until 1919, when he sold the three Lots for £2 500, to his neighbour, Caroline Sutherland (who already owned Lots 12A, 22, 23 and 24). Caroline Sutherland died in 1924 when the land passed to her husband and, in 1928, this Lot (27) together with Lots 25 and 26 were sold by the mortgagees to John Sydney Jackson, who resold the following year to Edward Thomas Cheeseman.

Cheeseman and his wife, Lydia, renamed Lots 25, 26 and 27 (which had been known as Quarry Hill) Bellevue Park, and created a golf course.

Cheeseman sold the golf course to the mortgagee, Central Investors Pty Ltd, for £3 512; for a short interval William Joseph Hammond leased Bellevue Park, then Alan Williams bought the land and recreated much of the Sutherland's estate.

Williams renamed the property Werrington Park. He held Werrington Park

until 1954 when he sold the 238 acres to Harold Esmond Rudd, grazier, for £25 000.

A few months later Werrington Park was sold to the NSW Government and, from June 1954, the Child Welfare Department used the property as a centre for intellectually retarded state wards.

27: Sold by McCullock in 1856 to James Cummins, Sydney farmer, (together with Lot 26), for £448.10.0.

Cummins sold part of 27 (retaining 20 acres), together with Lot 26, to B McDonnell seven months later.

McDonnell sold (his part of 27 together with lot 26) to J Landers in 1858; Landers sold to Joseph Elija Williams, teamster and farmer, in 1877.

Cummins sold his remaining 20 acres to Richard Brooks in 1861 for £160; Brooks sold to John Moss in the following year (1862) for a profit of £60; Moss sold to G.T. Clarke of Penrith two years later at a loss of £70. GT Clarke's widow sold to Joseph Elijah Williams in 1879 (thus reconstituting Lots 26 and 27).

Joseph Williams sold (together with Lot 26) to Francis McMahon of Ulladulla in December 1882 for £1 531.5.0.

McMahon subdivided the two Lots, creating Mount Clare Estate; he sold only 5 Lots of the subdivision, to Harriet Wilson (for £78.7.6).

McMahon died in 1897 and the following year his widow repurchased Harriet Wilson's 5 Lots, and sold the entire Mount Clare Estate (originialiy Lots 26 & 27) to George William Cotgrave, their neighbour, for £500 (Cotgrave had bought Lot 25 in 1890).

Cotgrave retained this lot together with Lots 25 and 26 until 1919, when he

sold the three Lots for £2 500 to his neighbour, Caroline Sutherland (who already owned Lots 12A, 22, 23 and 24). Caroline Sutherland died in 1924 when the land passed to her husband and, in 1928, this Lot (27) together with Lots 25 and 26 were sold by the mortgagees to John Sydney Jackson, who resold the following year to Edward Thomas Cheeseman.

Cheeseman and his wife, Lydia, renamed Lots 25, 26 and 27 (which had been known as Quarry Hill) Bellevue Park, and created a golf course.

Cheeseman sold the golf course to the mortgagee, Central Investors Pty Ltd, for £3 512; for a short interval William Joseph Hammond leased Bellevue Park, then Alan Williams bought the land and recreated much of the Sutherland's former estate.

Williams renamed the property Werrington Park. He held Werrington Park until 1954 when he sold the 238 acres to Harold Esmond Rudd, grazier, for £25 000.

A few months later Werrington Park was sold to the NSW Government and, from June 1954, the Child Welfare Department used the property as a centre for intellectually retarded state wards.

The Commonwealth Government resumed the flat western portion of Lot 27 in 1944 for army use; it has remained in the hands of the army ever since that time.

Coallee:

28 & 29:   Henry Nash bought from AH McCullock after the subdivision of Frogmore and Coallee in 1856.

Nash sold in 1869 to Bryan (or Bernard) Molloy.

On Molloy's death in 1885 Claremont, as it was known, was divided among his eight children and his sons–in–law; 1897–98 electoral roll shows Bernard, Charles, John and Lawrence Molloy as farmers on Claremont.

Now occupied by TAFE, Penrith Drive–in Theatre, and agricultural areas including a vineyard.

30 & 31:   William Cummins (or Cummings) bought from AH McCullock after subdivision of Frogmore and Coallee in 1856.

Sold at auction to Alexander Pollock in 1862.

Sold to Thomas Fisher (benefactor of The University of Sydney's Fisher Library) in 1866.

1871 Fisher sold both Lots (reserving 2 acres for his own use) to James Fisher of Sydney (who was unrelated).

Daniel Albert Fisher, John Joseph Fisher and Thomas John Fisher are listed as farmers at Quarry Hill (1989–99); Michael Hyde appears on the electoral roll as resident (at Fisher's farm).

The owner in 1925 was George Ellison, orchardist.

In 1925 George Ballam Hilton Sutherland, civil engineer and son of Caroline Sutherland, bought both Lots. Sutherland sold part of the land in 1926, and lost the remainder in 1928 when WJ Smith, the mortgagee, sold the land.

In 1939 the western portion of Lot 30 was leased to John Christian Asimus, a vigneron. In 1946 this section was bought by John Harold Sydney Asimus and William James Calvert.

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Appendix B

Available electoral details for Frogmore estate

Electoral Roll of 1869–70:
The electoral roll for the Nepean district in 1869–70 registers several leaseholders on the Frogmore estate but does not indicate on which portions.

Electoral rolls note only males, over 21 years of age, and qualified to vote by freehold, leasehold, or residence of more than six months.

On Frogmore there were the Coffey family (Michael, Patrick, Patrick junior and John); the Manning family (Thomas, John senior, John junior and Joseph); Thomas Byrne; Alfred Davis; Patrick English; Richard Heaton; William Kennedy; Peter King; John Levett (a freeholder living at Greendale); Daniel McLaughlin; Henry Conrad Merz; Daniel O'Neil; Samuel Proctor; and Edmund Ryan.

Electoral Roll of 1877–78:
The electoral roll of 1877–78 for Frogmore identified: George Clisshold; Alfred Davis; Richard and Jerome Heaton; Conrad Henry and Phillip Henry Metz (*recte* Merz); both Richard Stapleton senior and junior; Thomas Sullivan, and John and George Zahmliter.

The mobility of leasehold tenure is evident here. Of the fourteen families listed in 1869–70 only three—Davis, Heaton and Merz—figure on the electoral roll eight years later. There is possible confusion on the rolls between Frogmore and a quite separate farm adjacent to Regentville called Little Frogmore; nevertheless the mobility among the lessees is obvious.

Electoral Roll of 1898–99:

Conrad Merz, described as a farmer, was still on the electoral roll in 1898–99 and still resident on Frogmore, while a member of the Turner family, William Gerald, was shown as resident at the Carrington Vineyard.

The other voters on Frogmore in 1898–99 were Patrick Sheehan, who had bought Lot 25 of the property in 1873, and four members of the Heaton family (still there after thirty years), along with four new men: an orchardist called James Pitkin; a farmer, John Hollier; and two labourers, George Baker and Frank Schneider.

In the half–century after subdivision, therefore, the partially cleared grazing land had been transformed into a fairly intensive mixed farm. The farm was trimly fenced along the Highway with post and rail fencing, partly three– and partly four–rail (fencing details are given on the plan of the Great Western Road in 1885, NSW Department of Lands, R 3263.1603).